

“A Dictionary of Contemporary Figurative Language” is meant to be an appendix to an earlier, more comprehensive work: ED648945, “A Dictionary and Thesaurus of Contemporary Figurative Language and Metaphor 2024.” This appendix simply updates the dictionary of that previous work to better reflect the language used during the 2024 United States presidential election, during which terms like *joy*, *authenticity*, *fascist*, *genocide*, and *they/them* figured prominently. As stated for the previous work, “This is first and foremost a resource for EFL / ESL students. It should also be of interest to teachers, curriculum developers, materials writers, teacher trainers, and lexicographers. And it has attracted interest from experts interested in metaphor detection, natural language processing (NLP), and social-media analysis, some of whom are using the tool of artificial intelligence (AI).” This appendix lacks the thesaurus of the previous work.

# A Dictionary of Contemporary Figurative Language

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# The dictionary of collocations

## A

### ablaze (adjective)

ablaze with passion  
his speech began in a quiet smolder and ended ~

ablaze with speculation  
the Internet was ~ about why...

set the internet ablaze  
he ~ by sipping espresso martinis with Timothee Chalamet

set social media ablaze  
his murder has ~ (of a young rapper)

set Twitter ablaze  
his late-night tweet ~

stay ablaze  
Ja'Marr Chase ensured the feud would ~ (NFL)

♦ "Start a discussion, not a fire. Post with kindness. Read our guidelines here. What do you think?" (A *Newsweek* HYS for online commenters.)

\*\*\* A Texas woman...

♦ "A Texas woman ended up burning down her home in a heated battle with a snake. When the Texarkana resident spotted the serpent in her garden, she doused it with gasoline and set it ablaze. The flaming snake slithered into a nearby brush pile, igniting it and the house in a conflagration..."

### about-face (in an about-face)

in an about face  
~, the President abandoned his plan to...

in an about face from a year ago  
~, Congress voted to expand...

in an embarrassing about face  
~, officials acknowledged that...

### about-face (other)

about face for Pakistan  
his policies, if successful, will mean a real ~

about-face for the government  
the request is an ~ (Afghanistan)

about-face from a year ago  
the space agency's new policy is an ~

about-face on the bill  
he deserves credit for his ~

about face with regard to Israel

he has done an ~

abrupt about-face  
the admission was an ~

belated about-face  
the ~ won't fool the people (by a government)

ecological about-face  
earth has done an ~ (NASA statement)

ideological about-face  
the literature of ~ includes...

about-face came  
his ~ after...

did an about-face  
the military ~

done an about face  
he has ~ with regard to Israel (a leader)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Fall in!" "Attention!" "Left face!" "Right face!" "About face!"  
"Forward, march!" "Road guard... post!" "Column... halt!" "At ease!"  
"Fall out!" (Military commands.)

### about-turn (noun)

about-turn on the subject  
the government's seeming ~ of Islamic law

diplomatic about-turn  
this latest ~ on Syria

sudden about-turn  
athletes are shocked and outraged at Wada's ~

### above (above the fray)

above the fray  
he is trying to stay ~ (a politician)

stay above the fray  
a candidate might ~ while surrogates do the dirty work

### above (above the law)

above the law  
not even the president is ~  
nobody is ~ (judge arrested)  
the ruling showed politicians were not ~  
he acted like he was '~' (Ryan Routh in Greensboro, NC)

### above (hierarchy)

above him in the pecking order  
the fit-again Erik Lamela is ~ (Tottenham Hotspur)

### aboveboard (adjective)

aboveboard  
everything I did was ~

ethically above board  
AI experts cautiously see new platform as ~ (The Shotline)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This might come from the world of cards, and its opposite might be *underhanded*.

## abrasive (adjective)

abrasive and annoying  
he is ~

brilliant and abrasive  
a ~ engineer named...

## absence (groups)

absence of (viewpoint) diversity  
NPR suffers from the ~ (Uri Berliner / too progressive)

absence of women  
the ~ from the seat of power

\*\*\* various groups...

"Lesbian invisibility has been compounded by the absence of women from the seat of power."

♦ *Black Art: In the Absence of Light*. (The 2021 documentary.)

♦ "These erasures—and nene's inheritance of and grappling with them—are the point. It is difficult to make a whole from a hole, but in Torres's hands, we feel the weight of nothingness and the presence of absence." ("A Radical Queer Novel Challenges the Idea of History Itself" by Hugh Ryan, *The New York Times*, November 13, 2023. The review uses words like: *presence*; *absence*; *erase*; *erasure*; *queer*, and *gay*. It does NOT use *invisible* or *invisibilize*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## absolutely (contempo-speak)

absolutely be watching  
you should ~ 'South Side' (HBO Max sitcom)

absolutely need to know  
the Olympic storylines you ~ (2016 Rio)

absolutely shows  
yeah, I think it ~ that... (punditry on NPR)

*Absolutely Everything*  
*The Complete Guide To ~ (Abridged) (!)*

absolutely confident  
I'm ~ that what we're doing is the right thing to do

absolutely dangerous  
that is ~

absolutely horrific  
'~' stories show 'culture in cricket is rotten' (BBC)

absolutely horrified  
official '~' with...

absolutely terrified  
I was ~

absolutely true  
10 ~ stories about...

absolutely ready  
we are ~ to start shipping out vaccines

absolutely exactly

see *exactly* (*contempo-speak*)

absolutely, I mean  
see *I mean* (*filler*)

absolutely just  
see *just* (*filler*)

absolutely kind of  
see *kind of* (*contempo-speak*)

absolutely really  
see *really* (*gushing*)

Absolutely. Well  
see *well* (*filler*)

do absolutely  
I ~ worry about body image stuff  
so I ~ remember my mother saying...

does absolutely  
certainly this ~ intersect with whatever...

I think absolutely  
~ we would have...  
~ it does...

I think, absolutely,  
~ this type of care could be done...

kind of absolutely  
to have this ~ brutal internecine warfare (politics)  
we've to ~ scramble those guys (Arghandab Valley)  
that ~ clean, pressed demeanor that he presents to the world

really, absolutely  
it's ~ spectacular (a free online tool)\  
and that means it is ~ critical (for leopards in Cambodia)  
this Tri-Faith Initiative has ~ moved our hearts

really absolutely  
there was ~ no hope...  
this ~ is paradigm-shifting  
and there's ~ nothing the UK is going to gain...

Totally. Absolutely  
Oh, yeah. ~, Afram says, and giggles...

totally, absolutely  
it's ~ false (politics)  
it's irrevocably, ~ linked to man-induced climate change  
Oh, yeah! No ~. Usually...

Yeah, absolutely.  
~ Look, the act has a very simple agenda  
~ So if Haley can show up... (political punditry)  
~ And also with the legislative change...  
~ I mean, it is a compliment...  
~ And I think that a lot of our creative process...

yeah, absolutely.  
Oh ~

Yeah, I think absolutely  
~. The Trump administration has really...

~, the Paralympics are (modeled on regular Olympics)

yeah. Totally. Absolutely

“Oh, ~,” Afram says, and giggles...

You know, absolutely

~, people of color in this country have...

you know, absolutely

if this were the U.S. and Detroit, ~

♦ “The Olympic storylines you absolutely need to know.” (Storylines from the Rio 2016 Olympics.)

♦ NPR: Those are my favorite! / JB: Oh, yeah! No totally, absolutely. Usually most bands that have blown me away that I've never heard from or seen before that I see that are just in and out I'm just like, 'Holy hell!' (“Touche Amore: A Hardcore Band Finds Comfort In Distance” by Lars Gotrich, NPR, All Songs Considered, December 9, 2011.)

♦ “There's absolutely no risk, none, for the people in Atlanta. If there is a risk, it would be...”

♦ “We have learned absolutely nothing. It's absolutely the truth.”

♦ “What did you see?” / “Yeah, absolutely...” (Typical National Public Radio / NPR.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Absolutely” can be the immediate response to a yes-no question.

♦ “Absolutely” can be the immediate response to a Wh-question.

♦ “Absolutely” can be a response to “Thanks.”

♦ “Banished in 1996, but deserves a repeat nope given its overuse. Usurped the simple ‘yes,’ laments a contributor. Another condemned it as ‘the current default to express agreement, endemically present on TV in one-on-one-interviews.’ Frequently ‘said too loudly by annoying people who think they’re better than you,’ bemoaned an aggrieved observer. ‘Sounds like it comes with a guarantee when that may not be the case,’ cautioned a wary watchdog.” (“Absolutely” is on the Lake Superior State University 2023—Words banned for “misuse, overuse, and uselessness.”)

## absorb (a country, etc.)

absorbed Kyrgyzstan

Imperial Russia ~ and its nomadic tribes

ability to absorb

their language's ~ new words (German)

## absorb (books, culture, etc.)

absorbed books

he ~ by the dozen (self-learning at library)

absorb the culture

a lot of the girls didn't really ~ (US models in Japan)

absorbed a gothic sensibility

he ~ which would imprint itself on his work

absorbed (Islamic) principles and traditions

the young prince ~

## absorb (punishment, etc.)

absorbed the (full ) force

he ~ of the explosion with his body (hero soldier)

absorbed (a lot of) punishment

he ~ in the last round (a boxer)

## absorbed

absorbed into Saudi Arabia

Qatar might well have been ~ (history)

absorbed by the society

they were ~ they invaded (Mongols)

forcibly absorbed

the three Baltic republics were ~ into the Soviet Union

## abundance (amount)

abundance of caution

out of an ~, we are altering the production plan (virus)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word comes from the Latin *unda*, or wave. The root is more obvious in a word like *inundate*. Still, it's a nice way to think of the word.

## abundance (groups)

spirit of abundance

Kisner characterized the signoff as a “~” (big huge love)

joy, abundance, (mutual) aid, and care

disabled people rooted in ~ (Alice Wong / MacArthur)

♦ “She signed off ‘Big huge love.’” (The Irish actor Jessie Buckley to the writer Jordan Kisner. Kisner characterized the signoff as a “spirit of abundance.” From “Monster Talent: In role after indelible role, Jessie Buckley is exploring the darkest corners of human nature” by Jordan Kisner, photograph by Jennifer Cheng, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 4, 2022. “Big.” “Huge.” “Abundance.” “Monster.” “Role after indelible role.” “The darkest corners...”)

♦ “Motivational speakers often tell reps that the ultimate goal is ‘abundance,’ a roomy word that comprehends not just wealth but also family life, charity, and well-being. Knockers (door-to-door salesmen) remove impediments to abundance by continually taking up new disciplines. They pump weights, try intermittent fasting or paleo, adopt Wim Hof breathing techniques, and undertake 75 HARDS, seventy-five-day programs requiring twice-a-day workouts, abstention from alcohol, and immersion in self-help books. It you're betting on yourself, then everything you do to make yourself faster and tougher and more focussed improves your odds.” (“The Hard Sell” by Tad Friend, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ see also *full* (groups), *fullness* (groups), *fully* (groups)

## abuzz (activity)

abuzz with activity

the base is ~ (as US leaves Afghanistan)

gold mining and logging once kept this peninsula ~

abuzz with warnings

a nervous Muslim world is ~ of a threat from the West

had people abuzz

the news ~ this morning (politics)

has the internet abuzz

his flirty interview with Amelia Dimoldenberg ~

kept this peninsula abuzz

gold mining and logging once ~ with activity

## abyss (noun)

financial abyss

there seems to be no way out of this ~

on the brink of a (sectarian) abyss

the country is walking ~ (protests)

on the edge of electoral abyss

his campaign teetered ~, but he is scrambling his way back

fall into an abyss

women ~, and they can't get out (eating disorders)

plunged into a (political) abyss

the country ~ after...

plunges (further) into the abyss

as Greece's blighted economy ~

pulled the (financial) system back from the abyss

the government ~

sliding into the abyss

the country is ~ (economy)

teetering towards the abyss

the city is ~ of bankruptcy

worked his way out of the abyss

he ~ of crime and hopelessness

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In an article in *The New York Times*, "Computers That Trade on the News," Graham Bowley reported that the word *abyss* in an article about the Greek financial crisis caused computers to initiate sell orders. Wall Street mines such words from news articles and Twitter feeds to analyze the market.

## Academy Awards (epithet)

Academy Awards of the publishing world

the National Book Awards, sometimes referred to as the ~

Academy Awards of the culinary world

it's the ~ (James Beard Foundation awards)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The figurative usage of "the Academy Awards of..." can refer to the most minor of contests: freelance writers and copywriter types who wish to hype their subjects have caught on to the expression. and generative AI will no doubt spread it.

♦ This usage may become extinct in our lifetime. In twenty-five years or so, the Academy Awards will probably be a relic of the past, as dead as the Pac 12 in sports, or the current Democratic party. The Academy Awards don't stand for much, anymore.

♦ see also *Oscars* (*Oscars of surfing, etc.*)

## accelerant (noun)

accelerant

Twitter is the ~ for so many to spew outrage

accelerant of (global) conflict

climate upheaval is acting as an ~

accelerants of human misery

jails are ~

described the internet as an accelerant

officials ~ that speeds up radicalization

## accelerate (verb)

accelerating their efforts

states are ~ to ban texting while driving

accelerate learning

pupils use pedal power to ~

crisis has accelerated

as the climate ~, though, it has become clear that...

inflation is accelerating

~, the Bureau of Labor Statistics says

outbreak is accelerating

the measles ~

## accelerator (speed)

AI accelerator

Pentagon steps on ~

political accelerator

he was pressing his ~ to the floor (politics)

keep your foot on the accelerator

~ of what we have been doing (energy policy)

pressing his (political) accelerator

he was ~ to the floor

put his foot on the accelerator

perhaps he didn't quite ~ in the early rounds (a boxer)

step on the accelerator

he can ~ when it matters (Usyk in the ring)

steps on (AI) accelerator

Pentagon ~

♦ "Now, with a Republican administration in control of Washington, Strauss was in the driver's seat, and his right foot was pressing his political accelerator to the floor." (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ see also *brake* (*control*), *gas* (*step on the gas / step off the gas*), *pedal* (*pedal to the metal*)

## accession (noun)

accession to the EU

Turkish ~ seems to be permanently on hold...

accession number

the ~ is a unique identifier (cultural property)

accession process

the ~ is dead (Turkey and the EU)

♦ "The EU pretends to negotiate, Turkey pretends to reform." (Turkish accession to the EU.)

## ace (verb)

aced his job interview

he ~

## ace (noun)

ace

it was time for me to bring out my ~

ace in the hole

my ~ is that I can...

the fear card is his ~ (national security)

our nuclear arsenal is our ~

came up aces

Green's 2018 *Halloween* ~ (good box office)

pull an ace out of his sleeve

he managed to ~ (a winning card, so to speak)

## accompany (attachment)

accompany the tourist invasion

the economic benefits that will ~

## Achilles' heel (noun)

Achilles' heel

security was our ~ (US AID project in Afghanistan)

Achilles' heel of Napoleon's army

the ~ was logistics and supply (1812)

Achilles' heel of the system

the ~ lies...

Achilles' heel of 3-D TV

clunky glasses were the ~ (remedied)

Achilles' heel of the West

the Arabian Gulf is the ~ (oil and Iran)

Achilles heel for Chelsea

this is the ~—marking in the box (soccer)

angioplasty's Achilles' heel

the problem is ~ (regrowth of tissue)

company's Achilles' heel

the ~ is that...

skiers' Achilles' heel

the knees are the ~

proved to be his Achilles' heel

while he excelled in wooing donors, finances ~

## acid (acid debate, etc.)

acid asides

she is famous for her ~ (a comic)

acid blogger

people are disgusted with radio ranters and ~s (civility)

acid debate

the controversy has sparked ~ (religion)

♦ see also *vitriol* (noun), *vitriolic* (adjective)

## acid-tongued

acid-tongued

the ~ comedian (Groucho Marx)

## acolyte (noun)

acolyte of big business

he is an ~ and corporate greed

acolytes of (US) capitalism

he is like most ~

acolytes of the Yale School of Economics

the ~ share a worldview

Obama acolyte

he is an ~ who... (politics)

tones of an acolyte

he described her in ~

swarmed by (young) acolytes

he was ~ (a film director)

## acre (amount)

acres of (color) charts

you would need ~ to denominate Albers's palette

acres of newsprint

the interview generated ~

## acrobat (person)

linguistic acrobats

slang is fine for ~ (who can code-switch)

## acrobatic (adjective)

verbally acrobatic

Clinton was more intelligent, calculating, and ~ (vs. Bush)

## acrobatics (noun)

acronymic acrobatics

the awkwardness of the ~ (LGBTTIQQ2SA)

semantic acrobatics

Macron performed ~ (patriotism vs. nationalism)

verbal acrobatics

there are no ~ to charm (a book review)

vocal acrobatics

a sturdy rhythm section and Olivia W-B's ~ (music)

♦ "A listener dismissed NPR's use of the gender-inclusive term 'pregnant' people as an unnecessary verbal backbend." (NPR's Office of the Public Editor.)

## act (insincere show)

hard-ass act

beneath their ~ they were just teens (young Marines)

maturity act

kids put on this ~ (high school)

own act

they came to believe too much in their ~ (Hitler, etc.)

hard-to-get act

ditch the ~ (relationships)

ditch the (hard-to-get) act  
you should ~

keep up the act  
how long can he ~

put on an act  
con artists know how to ~

putting on an act  
a lot of guys seem nice, but they are just ~  
he's lying, he's just ~  
everyone in high school is to some extent ~

## act (performance)

circus act  
he's a ~ and he's killing boxing

vagabond act  
they morphed their ~ into today's World Tour (surfers)

balancing act  
setting limits, encouraging independence is a real ~

juggling act  
trying to build a team is a hard ~ (basketball)

difficult act  
the King's got a lot more ~ than in the last decade

tough act  
their father is a ~ to follow

## act (clean up one's act)

cleaned up its act  
the CIA director said the company had ~ (security)  
the city has clamped down on violence and ~  
in the 1990s, Manhattan ~

cleaned up her act  
she checked herself into rehab, then ~  
we thought she had ~, but... (athlete)

clean up your act  
you need to ~

## act (development)

final act  
the hostage drama saw its ~ played out (plane)  
the family is trying to interpret his ~ (suicide)

first act  
on the world soccer stage, it was a stunning ~ (loss)  
the ~ has closed with a tremendous finale (Civil War)  
the ~ of the tragedy has been enacted (war)  
you've just seen the ~, the finale is yet to come (trial)

last act  
and then began the long ~ of his life (a writer)

main act  
there was no preparation for the ~ (combat)  
this is only the prologue to the ~ (banks fail)  
the sideshow became part of the ~ (war)  
he quickly became the ~ at the meeting (politician)

second acts  
I think there are ~ in life, people can move on but...

## actually (contempo-speak)

actually is  
now, what that ~, is... (NPR punditry)

actually found it  
I ~ to be surprisingly really useful (non-binary)

actually getting seated  
we were ~ at a table to sit down for dinner...

actually make us happier  
the small joys that can ~

actually might be  
the first time where that ~ the case

actually said  
my mom ~ she had some trouble sleeping (nervous)

actually was (super) powerful  
it ~ (living together before marriage)

actually wrote it  
he ~ while he was in the U.S.

actually necessarily  
the paper doesn't ~ call for action (violent protest)

actually secretly  
it's ~ a dietary superhero (fiber, according to NPR)

actually, quite weirdly  
in English, ~, we can even say... (Lera Boroditsky)

actually quite a horrifyingly  
it's ~ potent disease state (sports gambling)

actually basically  
see *basically* (contempo-speak)

actually do  
see *do* (emphasizer)

actually does  
see *does* (emphasizer)

actually even  
see *even* (contempo-speak)

actually exactly  
see *exactly* (contempo-speak)

actually just  
see *just* (filler)

actually kind of  
see *kind of* (contempo-speak)

actually pretty  
see *pretty* (contempo-speak)

actually really  
see *really* (gushing)

actually so

see *so* (*gushing*)

actually sort of like  
see *sort of like* (*filler*)

actually, you know  
see *you know* (*filler*)

actually very  
see *very* (*contempo-speak*)

definitely actually  
they most ~ crash (snowboarding / SBX)

I mean, actually  
~, Dante, whom I talk about...  
No. ~, I've been performing since I was 6 (Claire Danes)

I mean actually  
~ throwing punches out on the sidewalk (got into a fight)

I think actually  
~ there were only two in the first year... (cases)  
but ~ that they are in the minority  
~ it was the world community that wanted us to...

I think, actually  
it would actually, over time, ~ shrink enrollment  
the overall approach, ~ remains the same, which is...  
well, ~, it has more of a...just a straight Pakistani logic  
20 Republicans or, ~ 19 Republicans...  
yeah, which ~, was a little bit of a blessing because...

probably actually  
its ~ easier to write for other scholars than it is to...  
often ~ their *parents* would get upset... (college)

really actually  
there's not enough income in it to ~ survive (a sport)  
were things ~ ever a dime  
and so I'm ~ optimistic...  
it's ~ quite exciting  
and then I ~ like Pete Buttigieg (politics)  
I think she was ~ willing to die for her beliefs

Well, actually  
~, it was the survivors who...  
~, this morning we saw a really big jump up in spending  
~, they're both...

yeah, actually  
~, your plastic coffee pod may not...

Yeah. So actually  
~ drug crimes... (NPR)

You know, actually  
~, yesterday was five years to the day from...

you know, actually  
I'd like to see CNN, ~ have journalists (like old days)  
it's not like that he was, ~ infectious to anybody...

you know actually  
Well, ~, your corneas look pretty good

♦ "So, we're going to feature on our opening concert on October 14 a concerto by Villa-Lobos that he actually wrote it while he was in the

United States, but..." (Conductor Marin Alsop about one of her upcoming performances.)

♦ "But what do we know about what that actually means now he actually owns the company? Do we know anything about how he..." / "Yeah, I mean he says he thinks..." (NPR punditry.)

♦ "He actually showed us a picture on his phone... Arnold actually works in the insurance industry... You know we were actually talking to Arnold..." (Heard on NPR.)

♦ "This potentially might be the first time where that actually might be the case, and we might..." (A pundit heard on NPR. "Potentially." "Might be." "Actually." "Might be." "Might..." )

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Linguist John McWhorter's analysis of "actually" is interesting, as always. "By the 18th-century, speakers were using it for a judgmental function." "He actually killed the cat." In his FACE typology of MPMs (modal pragmatic markers), he considers it to represent "Counterexpectation: Much to my surprise." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 1, "The Faces of English: Words Get Personal.")

♦ Believe me!

♦ see also *basically* (*contempo-speak*), *definitely* (*contempo-speak*), *obviously* (*contempo-speak*), *really* (*gushing*)

## addict (chess addict, etc.)

chess addicts  
the Internet is great for ~

movie addict  
an adolescent ~

crossword puzzle addict  
he is a ~

bone fishing addict  
hard-core yachtsmen and ~s

total (TV) addict  
I love TV, I'm a ~

generation of (tanning) addicts  
tanning beds spawned a ~

## addict (sex addict, etc.)

anger addict  
he admitted to being an "~" (Harvey Weinstein)

power addict  
he's a ~ (Harvey Weinstein)

sex addict  
he admitted to being a "~" (Harvey Weinstein)

## addicted (enthusiasm)

addicted to his sport  
he was so ~ that he rarely spent a weekend indoors

addicted to fly fishing  
my friend and I were ~ for wild brook trout

addicted to a dating game  
she's a gamer, ~ called One True Prince

passionately addicted  
he was ~ to Beethoven's music (Berlioz)



## addicted (dependency)

addicted to (this kind of) high-paced content  
people have become ~ (TikTok)

addicted to economic growth  
we are ~

addicted to oil  
we are ~ from the Middle East

grow (increasingly more) addicted  
as we ~ to modern technology

## addiction (enthusiasm)

Ives addiction  
my ~ started one summer at music camp...

♦ Laksa fever; "everyone's just contracted this laksa fever"; "the love child of Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean cuisine"; love for laksa; a thing that people love; craving a fix (for laksa); the mania (for laksa); a city obsessed (with laksa); the laksa obsession; the faithful; a giant shrine is erected (for monthlong laksa festival); laksa ice-cream / smoothies / cheesecake / sausage / crocodile dumplings / beer; the Laksa Festival Hall of Fame; the Golden Bowl award for best laksa... ("How laksa fever took hold in this Australian city" by the wonderful writer Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC, October 31. 2023. Life at "The Top End" of Oz. Super!)

## addiction (dependency)

adrenalin addiction  
~ drives reporters from one hotspot to another

entertainment addiction  
corporate greed, ~ and political impotence (the US)

sex addiction  
~ is not yet recognized as a psychiatric disorder

curb (his country's) addiction  
an international accord designed to ~ to coal (Indonesia)

get off our (oil) addiction  
we need to ~ (dependence on foreign oil)

## addictive (adjective)

addictive  
Thai food is ~  
combat can be ~  
comment boards are ~, same with Twitter, FB...

addictive device  
it's an ~ (the smartphone)

addictive (computer) games  
~ are a moral hazard to youth (China)

addictive product  
it's now an ~ (legal sports gambling)

addictive thing  
this is an ~ that hurts the students (laptops in class)

♦ "It's now an addictive product that's being delivered on an addictive device. Everybody essentially has a casino in their pockets now, because they're doing it on their phone." (The writer Michael Lewis about newly legalized sports gambling and, especially, young men.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. In the foreground, there is a rabbi, standing behind a podium, addressing an audience. Behind him is a boy,

sitting in a chair with his hands politely folded. The rabbi is intoning, "We are here to witness Jacob, who screamed at his Xbox for four hours just this morning, become a man." (*The New Yorker*, December 13, 2021.)

♦ "He had been on the Internet every day since his early teens."

## address (verb)

address the problems  
we must ~ that underlie the insurgency

addressed more specific rumors  
she ~ as well (cold case)

address stereotypes  
be prepared to ~ when you hear them

addressed (such taboo) subjects  
he ~ as race and sexuality (Pryor)

addresses this  
is there currently any legislation on tape that ~

addresses the (invisible and visible) wounds  
the center ~ of war

## add up (verb)

added up  
she knew in an instant that it all ~ (signs of glue sniffing)

didn't add up  
her story ~  
when you just use your common sense, it ~ (a juror)  
it just didn't make sense, just ~

doesn't add up  
it ~, it's very suspicious (a suicide)  
wait a second, this ~, there's a problem here

just didn't add up  
why would he do that, it ~ (a disappearance)

## adhere (adhere to something)

adhere to  
they have a code that they ~, blue silence (cops)

adhere to the norms  
countries should strictly ~ of international law

## adjacent (pop-adjacent, etc.)

adjacent to the ballroom scene  
Billy Porter was ~

North Face-adjacent  
~ activewear for people who avoid activity (Hua Hsu)

Tess Monaghan adjacent  
Dream Girl is ~, Tess actually appears (Laura Lippman)

anarchism-adjacent  
~ scholars such as Marshall Sahlins (Alan Jacobs)

bagel-adjacent  
the bialy, a ~ Jewish roll... (*The New Yorker*)

basketball-adjacent  
Harlow's opening medley of ~ bangers (on SNL)

club-adjacent

his ~ pop R&B (Usher)

Disney-adjacent

a theater kid and ~ actor (Olivia Rodrigo)

gross-adjacent

is this behavior supposed to be gross (or at least ~), or...

jazz-adjacent

the song sounds ~, at a minimum, jazzy-ish (Adele)

news-adjacent

Oprah is (according to NPR's David Folkenflik)

pop-adjacent

the accessible, ~ punk of "All Hands On The Bad One"

lockdown-adjacent

2020, for all its ~ loneliness, still had anthems like "WAP"

lychee-adjacent

fresh longan, a ~fruit (Hannah Goldfield / *The New Yorker*)

MAGA-adjacent

not wanting people to shit on my steps doesn't make me ~

music-adjacent

showcasing various ~ pockets of the city (Philly)

porn-adjacent

a series of soft-core, ~ films, I guess you could say...

punk-adjacent

the critically acclaimed, ~ two-tone bands of... (Ska)

Q-adjacent

she latched on to Q and ~ theories (a politician)

restaurant-adjacent

one ~ business is doing well (equipment liquidator)

"rich-adjacent"

Connell gets into an elite university, where he becomes ~

rock-adjacent

a ~ album with producer...

soul-adjacent

soul and ~ music

sports-adjacent

I wrote a ~ love story (fiction)

tech-adjacent

rich, ~ people seem to dominate the E.A. movement

uptalk-adjacent

but his tone was ~ and his smile warm (a salesman)

♦ "Not all Damien Chazelle movies are about (or adjacent to) jazz..." (*Vulture*.)

♦ "An open letter signed by big name artists, art critics and art-world adjacents..." (A creative use of "adjacent" as a noun for a person, from *The Cornell Daily Sun*, "Independent Since 1880." Ithaca, New York.)

♦ "The supposed Israel affiliations and adjacencies of 200 writers..." (The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ see also *centered* (survivor-centered, etc.), *centric* (Afro-centric, etc.), *ish* (androgyny-ish, etc.), *y* (pulpy, etc.)

## adolescence (noun)

during its (starry-eyed) adolescence

A.I. ~, in the sixties... (technology)

podcasting's adolescence

in 2014, ~

in its adolescence

the scandal threatened to kill off the movie industry ~

## Adonis (handsome)

Adonis

the chubby man beat the ~ (Joshua vs. Ruiz / boxing)

adonis body

having the ~ doesn't make a great fighter (AJ)

## adopt (verb)

Adopt A Cow

members of ~ get aged and soft cheeses...

adopt a lantern

people ~, and you can go visit your lantern in Chinatown

adopted the nickname

he ~, "pied piper of R&B" (R. Kelly)

adopted his (slash-and-burn, scorched-earth) politics

Republicans have ~

adopt a road

The Hayes Family / ~ (a sign in Asheville, North Carolina)

♦ "We've done a couple of different initiatives that we're super proud of. One is called "Light Up Chinatown" and we ended up having people adopt a lantern, and you can go visit your lantern in Chinatown. It basically brightens up the street for our elders, you know, walking the streets at night, so that they feel a little bit safer." (Joanne Kwong, President, Pearl River Mart, a notable Chinese department store.)

## adopted (adopted state, etc.)

adopted home

Asheville was her ~

adopted state

my ~ of North Carolina

## adopted

adopted

they want their pet ideas ~ (conservatives)

adopted as a corporate tool

PowerPoint was ~

adopted by companies

ChatGPT has been ~ for a wide range of tasks

adopted country

a road trip across my ~ (James Parker / *The Atlantic*)

## adore (verb)

adore

best of the summer: 6 books the critics ~

adore these Blueberry Popovers

I ~ served with blueberry jam sauce and blueberry butter

adore each other

they really ~ (Bardem about Lucy and Ricky)

adored him

when he walked down the street, people ~ (Mike Tyson)

adored it

I accepted my Gemini soul, in fact I ~ (Kravitz)

adore the vests

plenty of women and non-tech workers ~ (Bobby Allyn)

absolutely adore

I ~ *Succession* creator Jesse Armstrong

I ~ *A Strange Loop* (the musical by Michael R. Jackson)

sort of adore

we ~ our bosses (CEO worship)

\*\*\* **Bethlehem, Lake Ohrid...**

♦ Leonardo da Vinci; Fra Angelico and Filippo Lippi; Botticelli; Bruegel... (Famous artists who painted a "The Adoration of the Magi" or "Adoration of the Kings." Others have painted "The Adoration of the Shepherds.")

♦ O come all ye faithful / Joyful and triumphant / O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem / Come and behold him / Born the King of Angels / O come let us adore Him / O come let us adore Him / Christ, the Lord." (The traditional Christmas song.)

♦ Lake Ohrid is known as the Balkan Jerusalem.

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ John McWhorter in the introduction to his *Words on the Move* has an interesting point to make about the adjective "adorable." It has come to mean "charming" and is ordinarily applied to small things, like babies or their toys. "Curious George is adorable; the Statue of Liberty, not so much."

## adored (reverence)

adored

they are ~ (suicide bombers)

adored and abhorred

tell us your most ~ holiday tunes...

critically adored

the psychological horror was ~ (2019 film *Saint Maud*)

♦ "They are understood here. They are adored. She was, is and will remain a heroine for us." (Chechen woman, speaking of Elza Gazuyeva. See the quote below.)

♦ "Why don't you meet Osama bin Laden, invite him to Brussels or to the White House and engage in talks, ask him what he wants and give it to him so he leaves you in peace? Why don't you do that? You find it possible to set some limitation in your dealings with these bastards, so why should we talk to people who are childkillers? No one has a moral right to tell us to talk to childkillers..." ("Angry Putin rejects public Beslan inquiry," Jonathan Steele in Moscow and Nick Paton Walsh in Beslan, *Guardian Weekly*, 2004. See the Wikipedia article "Beslan school siege." Osama Bin Laden was killed in 2011, Ayman al-Zawahiri in 2022, but *the acknowledged mastermind* of 9/11, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—whose nephew was involved in the original 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center—remains alive and is being held at Guantanamo Bay detention camp.)

## adoring (adjective)

adoring fans

Phillips has been branded "The Yorkshire Pirlo" by his ~

adoring supporters

Trump and Vance were welcomed by 14,000 ~ (2024 RNC)

## adrift (adjective)

adrift in the (new multiparty) sea

politicians, ~, now needed campaign funds

seemed adrift

he ~ without the army for structure (a troubled soldier)

spent years adrift

they had ~ in their diaspora (Somalis in Lewistown)

## adult (and adult in the room)

adults in the room

the cypherpunk kids versus the ~

adult table

Japan wanted to demonstrate it was an adult sitting at the ~

coolheaded adult

he came off as the ~ in the room (Federal government)

♦ "I hope that the adults in the room on both sides of the aisle get together and help to bring the temperature down, but it's far from a guaranteed outcome." (A pundit about events in Slovakia, including the attempted assassination of Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico.)

♦ "Everybody knows that chronological order is for squares and Wikipedia." (A sarcastic comment about Netflix's 10-part biopic *Dahmer—Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, which is *not* presented chronologically.)

♦ "The kid is the innocent here. He did what his parents led him to do. The adults in the room are culpable..." (An online commenter about the OceanGate Titan disaster.)

♦ "She needs to step down, she is way out of her league, adults need to be put in charge." (An online commenter about L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, about the 2025 L.A. wildfires.)

♦ see also *grownup* (and *grownup in the room*)

## adult (adulthood)

*Adulthood*

~ is produced by WNYC Studios (a podcast)

'adulthood' classes

some schools are offering ~ to fill the gap

Adulthood School

"~ Teaches Young Adults Grown-Up Skills" (Maine)

adulthood school

~ teaches skills to fledgling adults

Basics Of 'Adulthood'

"Colleges Teach Students The ~"

♦ Cooking dinner instead of ordering takeout; making one's own craft cocktails; changing a flat tire; making deviled eggs; folding sheets; controlling one's finances; paying bills on time... (Adulthood topics, classes.)

## advance (in advance, etc.)

days in advance  
the killing was planned ~

several days in advance  
models predicted the high pressure ~

what is coming in advance  
we increased our radar so we know ~ (public health)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Earlier times are before later times, and later times are after earlier times, based on the time queue. The person who reaches the end of a trail reaches it earlier than the people following him or her.

## advance (a day can advance, etc.)

day advanced  
as the ~, it got hotter and hotter

morning advanced  
as the ~, the soldiers prepared for battle

## advance (verb)

advanced in jumps  
his career ~

advanced with giant steps  
nuclear science has ~

advanced from guarded to good condition  
the twins ~ (operation)

advance their cause through leadership  
people who ~ or example

advance the cause  
~ of freedom in Africa (US)

advance medicine  
the goal of the partnership is to ~, lower costs

advance our (own negotiating) position  
as we ~

advanced rapidly  
mine technology ~ after World War II

career advanced  
his ~ in jumps

science has advanced  
nuclear ~ with giant steps

efforts to advance  
~ pain research

## advance (noun)

advances in medicine  
the 20th century saw great ~

brehtaking advance  
this is a ~ (legislative act)

great advance  
anesthesia was a ~ in surgery

major advance  
US physicians made another ~ in endocrinology

medical advance  
animal testing has led to many ~s

## advance guard

advance guard of the feminists  
she belonged to the ~ (the sculptor Kathleen Scott)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The French "avant-garde" literally means "advance guard" and is also the basis for the word "vanguard," according to one website.

## aegis (noun)

under his aegis  
he insists the newspaper is not ~  
~, sales soared (Tim Cook / Apple)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ An aegis (pronounced EE-jus) was a breastplate or shield. It is a reference to Zeus' protective shield in Greek mythology. It means protection or sponsorship.

## aegis (Aegis Insurance, etc.)

Aegis Combat System  
the ~ protects ships

Aegis Security Insurance Company  
the ~ focuses on Property and Casualty insurance

## aesthetic (and aesthetics)

aesthetics of bureaucracy  
the art for this article employs the ~ (*The Atlantic*)

aesthetic of (late-twentieth-century) zoo design  
Happy's pen exemplifies the ~ (elephant at Bronx Zoo)

aesthetic of disappearance  
the national history behind her ~ (Cristina Rivera Garza)

aesthetics of (particular) neighborhoods  
the history and the ~ (SoHo, etc.)

aesthetics of roadhouse  
a buddy-cop style with the ~

aesthetics of first-person shooter  
the ~ video games

aesthetics like whimsigoth  
~, and there's also grunge fairycore which is quite similar

aesthetic evolution  
~ in the animal world (the peacock, etc.)

aesthetic maintenance  
~ includes augmented breasts and tan skin (Hooters)

aesthetic roots  
with ~ in BDSM (Isamaya line by Isamaya Ffrench)

aesthetic space  
the ~ of country music (Mali Obomsawin)

aesthetic universe  
the ~ of *Avatar* (the film)

aesthetic and literary  
~ works labeled “dark academia”

aesthetics and styles  
these ~ (of subcultures on TikTok)

aesthetic, the vibe  
for bars, they talk about the ~ (Gen Z TikTok searches)

rap’s (most refined) aesthetic  
Westside Gunn and Conductor Williams are perfecting ~

updated aesthetics  
Hooters’ ~ (from short shorts to more like underwear)

Sandler aesthetic  
the ~ and its defenders (Adam Sandler / Happy Madison)

balletcore aesthetic  
the most literal translation yet of the ~ (pastel ensemble)  
designers like Molly Goddard have embraced the ~

‘Barbie’ (movie) aesthetic  
~ takes Big Apple by storm (NYC / summer of 2023)

chola aesthetic  
the ~ was first forged by the marginalized youths...

Cholo aesthetic  
the ~ derived from Los Angeles Chicano culture

dark academia aesthetic  
I love the ~, the outfits, the vibe, the books...

drainer aesthetic  
the ~... (see quote below)

“farmhouse chic” aesthetic  
“Fixer Upper” is blamed for the spread of the ~ (HGTV)

fashion aesthetic  
cottagecore is a ~ popularized by teens and young adults

femme aesthetics  
Saucy Santana’s unapologetically ~ in a queerphobic industry

gay aesthetic  
a defined ~---at once together, at once defiant...

Gen Z aesthetic  
the teen drama embodies the ~ (*Euphoria* / neon, etc.)

(VSCO) girl aesthetic  
Elle credits Emma Chamberlain with popularizing the ~

“clean girl aesthetic”  
the TikTok ~ has drawn criticism for cultural appropriation

“soft girl” aesthetic  
the ~ began in Nigeria (young Black women)

queer aesthetics  
the evolution of ~ in hip-hop (Saucy Santana, etc.)

stealth-gay aesthetic  
a ~

“torture porn” aesthetic  
horror dominated by a ~ (*Saw*, *Hostel*, etc.)

*Post-Soul Aesthetic*  
*Soul Babies: Black Popular Culture and the ~* (book)

Socio-Aesthetics  
“The ~ of Pink” (by Liz Camp / the color not the singer)

green energy aesthetics  
backlash in Vermont over ~ (wind turbines look bad)

Pretty Little Liars aesthetic  
so, apparently ~ is back (Julia Guerra, InStyle)

Mob Wife Aesthetic  
~ is winter’s hottest trend (big hair, fur, miniskirts, etc.)

“effeminate” aesthetics  
NRTA will ban ~ in entertainment shows (as indecent)

lewd aesthetic  
patrons lean into Hooters’ ~...

pink aesthetic  
Barbie core, the 80s-inspired unapologetically ~

retro aesthetic  
twee stands for a ~ (mods, berets, mini skirts, 1960s, etc.)

twee aesthetic  
while its ~ comes with some ergonomic pain (a console)  
thrifting is core to the ~ (second-hand shops)

wild aesthetic  
efforts to preserve the area’s ~ (ecotourism, etc.)

witchy aesthetic  
whimsigoth, the ~

boho, rock-goddess aesthetic  
why the ~ lives on (BBC / Clare Thorp)

cute, nostalgic rural aesthetic  
a cozy tidy garden and a ~ (cottage-core)

glam-grotesque aesthetic  
the gallery showcased a new ~ (SCREAM)

ragbag, ethnic aesthetic  
they created a ~ (bohemian fashion / 1960s)

sexy, hyper-glam, over-the-top, party-girl aesthetic  
Y2K’s ~

unique, aspirational aesthetic  
Ottolenghi has its own ~ (eating, lifestyle brand)

attitude and aesthetic  
he described the ~ as “trashy” (brat summer)

a look, an aesthetic, and a literary sub-genre  
dark academia is ~ all wrapped up in one

style and aesthetic  
the Barbiecore trend is an homage to her bubblegum pink  
~

values, aesthetics

member of Anonymous share ~

popularization of aesthetics  
the ~ like “little Mexican girl-core”

leans into its aesthetic

the group ~ of celebrating the common folk (music)

♦ “Perhaps in making a conscious effort to separate his sound from the lighter, esoteric side of the drainer aesthetic (see: Bladee), Lean goes full Joy Division by rapping over...” (Yung Lean (feat. FKA twigs), ‘Bliss’ by Reanna Cruz, NPR Music, April 8, 2022.)

♦ In her article “So, Apparently Pretty Little Liars Aesthetic Is Back,” (InStyle, June 8, 2022), Julia Guerra uses the word “aesthetic” six times, not including its use in the title, which she may or may not have written.

♦ “‘Queerbaiting’ essentially boils down to appropriating queer signifiers as an aesthetic only.”

♦ “I think it’s an era that like aesthetically I could really get down with.” (Kemah Bob about the era of Hatshepsut on BBC’s “You’re Dead To Me.” She specifically mentions the colors gold and blue, eyeliner, and cats.)

♦ “I’m so glad you found this restaurant. It’s so aesthetical.” Watch: 9 MINUTES OF ANNOYING TICTOK VSCO GIRLS” (TikTok Compilation)

♦ “Nineteen thousand labiaplasty procedures were performed, according to the Aesthetic Plastic Surgery National Databank.” (The popularity of leggings during the pandemic resulted in an increased number of labiaplasties.)

♦ “Estheticians knead, wax, pluck, rub, and paint people.”

♦ “In the 1960s there were the mods and rockers. The 70s saw the disco and flower power eras, while in the 80s, new romantic style had its heyday. Fast forward to the present...” (‘Soft Girl’: The radical trend millennials love’ by Evie Muir, BBC, 4th December 2022.)

♦ Pastel colours; fluttering butterflies; warm fluffy clouds; slightly cottagecore; super-femme... (The Soft Girl aesthetic / style / trend / philosophy / personal and political act, set of ethics, etc.)

♦ Large hoop earrings; clothes inspired by the Cholo aesthetic; silky, long, straight hair; lightly tanned skin; thin, upturned noses; puffy, pouty lips; heavy, glamorous makeup; a snatched waist... (The “spicy Latina” cliché or “copy-paste Latinas.”)

♦ Berets; miniskirts; A-line dresses; little dresses; colorful printed tights; Mary Jane ballet flats; oversized collars; layered cardigans; tweed; houndstooth; sweet sincerity; cute; nostalgic; kitsch; quirk; faux naivete; indie music... (The twee aesthetic.)

♦ Tweed, corduroy; trousers; blazers; boating blazers; deep dark colors; a bucolic school setting; a small, elite, liberal arts college; studying the classics; libraries; aspirational students; an in crowd; the cool crowd; class obsession; elitism; wealth; exclusivity; secretiveness; a secret society; intrigue; brooding; longing; darkness; sex; sexual entanglements; knives hidden under tweed blazers; blood on sweater vests; hot academics murdering each other... (The dark academia aesthetic, from “Dark academia’s deadly allure and the timeless appeal of prep style,” NPR, It’s Been A Minute, Dec. 16, 2022.)

♦ Wrap sweaters; ballet flats; leg warmers; slick-back hairstyle; pastels; pinks; leotards; unitards; open backs; tulle skirts; en pointe / toe shoes; sweet, feminine, dainty, frilly... (The cottagecore aesthetic.)

♦ “Big hair; furs; miniskirts; sexiness; opulence; confidence... (The Mob Wife aesthetic.)

♦ “Clean girl bun can cause permanent hair loss.”

♦ “According to taste, you will either cheer her majestic gutting of twenty-first-century self-regard, and her stout defense of high aesthetic principles, or agree with the student that she’s ‘a fucking bitch.’” (“Baton Charge: ‘Tar’ by Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*, October 10, 2022.)

♦ “Is boredom an aesthetic now?” (Cheesy dialogue.)

♦ “I don’t have any shame in flaunting a gold-digger aesthetic.” (Linda Andrade, the “Original Dubai Housewife.” Her spending sprees are watched by millions on TikTok.)

♦ “Behind the Art: ‘We need to Take Away Children’ (p. 36), an investigation of the Trump administration’s family-separation policy, is the longest feature *The Atlantic* has published in a single issue in decades. The art for this article employs the aesthetics of bureaucracy—photocopied documents, torn renderings of court filings, and black-and-white photography—to evoke the trove of evidence that Caitlin Dickerson uncovered in her reporting. We found that presenting the information in stark terms made clear how administrative banality masked the callousness at the heart of the policy.” (Oliver Munday, Design Director.)

♦ “It’s weird that all these professors look alike. There is a ‘type’—still dressing like a turn of the last century intellectual, Granny Clampett wire frames and all.” (An online commenter about “Stanford professor who vanished in hike ahead of domestic violence court date is found” by Emily Crane, *The New York Post*, June 12, 2023.)

♦ OLD: fashion, fad, look, style... / NEW: aesthetic...

♦ see also *core* (cottagecore, etc.)

\*\*\* **aesthetics (esthetics), art, literature, etc.**

♦ Aesthetic adventuring (Mondrian); purely aesthetic content (versus politically committed content); aesthetic experience; aesthetic flair (Faith Ringgold); aesthetic form; aesthetic judgment; aesthetic pleasure; an esthetic sublime; aesthetic verity; “in matters of content, the politically committed and the purely aesthetic; sophisticated aesthetics...” (Collocates for *aesthetic* and *aesthetics* used by the great *New Yorker* art critic Peter Schjeldahl.)

♦ Aesthetic consciousness; aesthetic considerations; aesthetic distinction; aesthetic ideology; aesthetic modes; aesthetic necessity; aesthetic (and ethical) significance; aesthetically gratuitous (scenes of punitive and humiliating violence)... (Collocates for *aesthetics*, *aesthetic* and *aesthetically* used by the classicist and literary critic Daniel Mendelsohn.)

♦ Aesthetic judgment; aesthetic preference; aesthetic principles... (Other critics.)

♦ “The question is,...Why does anyone care about Dickens? Why do I care about Dickens? / That kind of question is never easy to answer. As a rule, an aesthetic preference is either something inexplicable or it is so corrupted by non-aesthetic motives as to make one wonder whether the whole of literary criticism is not a huge network of humbug...” (“Charles Dickens” by George Orwell.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Pretentious and trendy words beloved by contempo-speakers and writers include: aesthetic (style, fad); agnostic (don’t know, don’t care, don’t have an opinion); gnosticism (special knowledge); heuristic (rule of thumb); intentional (?); lived experience (what I know to be a fact); performative (insincere, bad); precarity (precariousness); reductive (too simple); solipsistic (egotistical); and transactional (what’s in it for me). Hari Kunzru’s article in *Harper’s Magazine* entitled “Easy Chair” includes the words “epistemological,” “ontological,” and “gnosticism.” The article is about UFOs.

## afford (verb)

afford

doubt is a luxury they can’t ~ (soldiers on way to Iraq)

afford to fall

we can’t ~ further behind

afford to lose

the President cannot ~ Iraq

afford to remain

we cannot ~ passive spectators to such acts...

afford another Somalia

the UN cannot ~

afford the disruption

we can’t ~ that would bring (company policies)

## **aflame (resemblance)**

aflame with fall color  
the maple trees are ~

## **aflame (adjective)**

aflame

the region is ~ (Middle East)  
the Arab world was ~ in March 2011

aflame with (righteous) anger  
at some moments we are ~

aflame with outrage  
Republicans were ~ (politics)

aflame with violence  
in the dying days of apartheid South Africa was ~

aflame with uprisings  
YA novels imagine a world ~

still aflame

his curiosity is ~ (a filmmaker)

set hearts aflame

his verses still ~ (the Persian poet Hafez)

set the social medial world aflame

he ~ after writing... (religion)

set aflame by (recent) comments

the classical music community has been ~ from...

## **afloat**

keep the site afloat

he reassured employees he would find the money to ~

keep the studio afloat

sentiment alone cannot ~ (MGM / debt woes)

keeping the regime afloat

oil is ~

stay afloat

Iran can ~ without Western investment  
he struggled to ~ (low-paying job)  
he got us disaster relief to ~ (politician)  
the economy is struggling to ~

## **after (at a later time)**

after King Hammurabi

King Solomon ruled about 700 years ~

after horses

trains came ~ (technology)

come after

see *come* (*come after* / *at a later time*)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Earlier times are before later times, and later times are after earlier times, based on the time queue. The person who reaches the end of a trail reaches it earlier than the people following him or her.

## **afterglow (in the afterglow)**

in the afterglow

~ that follows the performance, the audience lingers...

in the afterglow of another championship

a decade later, ~, he said... (an athlete)

in the afterglow of (Obama's) election

she found it easier to run ~ (a politician)

in the afterglow of his (first big) role

he moved into the Chateau Marmont ~ (L.A. actor)

in the afterglow of our (rafting) trip

we relaxed and drank wine ~

in the (mellowing) afterglow of victory

~, they don't seem so fierce (elected women)

in the afterglow of their Tony wins

the films received increased business ~

basking in the afterglow

we're still ~ of the president's marvelous speech  
he was ~ of a caretaker's honeymoon period (team)

bask in a (virtue-signalling) afterglow

it's easy to tweet the approved hashtags and ~

♦ A full-page print ad for the Subaru Legacy asks the question, "Can a drive have an afterglow?" In the foreground is the sedan, parked on a scenic overlook. In the background is a dramatic vista of the sea and clouds just after sunset. Of course, the beautiful lingering light is the *actual* afterglow.

## **afterglow (other)**

afterglow of those visits

the ~ has never worn off (celebrity visits restaurant)

afterglow of victory

the ~ was brief (political reformers)

post-World Cup afterglow

how will the ~ be reflected in attendance (US soccer)

happiness and afterglow

the party is flushed with ~ (elections)

♦ see also *glow* (noun)

## **afternoon (at a later time)**

in the afternoon

~, we built igloos...

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The forenoon is before noon, in the morning.

## **aftershock (noun)**

aftershocks from 9/11

the ~ forced the company to cut jobs nationwide (airline)

aftershocks from the (shareholder) revolt

the ~ will be felt across the business world

political aftershocks

the ~ of the 2004 tsunami... (Sri Lanka)



feel the aftershocks

we will ~ of the financial crisis for a long time

## against (opposition)

against everything

I am ~ he stands for (politics)

against it

the Prime Minister is ~ (a proposal)

speak against the war

Oscar winners ~

♦ "As has been the case for most of my life, I listen to Oscar winners speak against war." (NPR's Linda Holmes.)

## against (up against)

up against

this is what cities are ~ (hacked for ransom)

up against a (bureaucratic) juggernaut

I'm ~ that won't stop (immigration status)

up against a history

we were ~ of social injustice (prosecuting O.J. Simpson)

up against "General Winter"

he found himself ~ (Napoleon)

well up against

Mark De Mori is ~ it (a boxing match)

coming up against

it's brilliant when you get a David ~ Goliath (soccer)

ran up against

biographers ~ a wall of privacy

♦ "Mark De Mori is well up against it..." (A commentator about De Mori versus Filip Hrgovic during the buildup to the Day of Reckoning fight event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.)

♦ "This is what we are up against / You deserve an explanation... / The internet we were promised—a place of free, collaborative, and accessible knowledge—is under constant threat... / Most readers don't donate, so your gift matters..." (Wikimedia Foundation / Proud host of Wikipedia and its sister sites.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "What happens when an unstoppable force comes up against an immovable object?" (Politics.)

## age (come of age)

came of age in the pandemic

mRNA technology ~

come of age

will this be the year they ~ (team in Champions League)

## age (age of Trump, etc.)

age of Trump

he covered Democratic politics in the ~

age of fiscal belt-tightening

in an ~

age of edit

we are in an ~ (news, films, music, science, memes, etc.)

age of romantic giants

in an ~ he was a titan (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)

age of social media

in this ~

age of Viagra

this is the ~, and Mr. Trink was its siren (Thailand)

age of technological wizardry

in an ~...

Gilded Age

the sixties were the ~ of rock journalism (excess)

golden age

see *golden age* (and *golden era*)

modern age

the ~ of blockbusters (films)

for the ages

it was a game ~ (an exciting basketball game)

it was a fight ~ (Usyk vs. Fury)

with an eye roll ~, PM Meloni appeared annoyed (Biden)

age (of the steamer) lasted

the ~ 150 years (steamboats on the Yangtze River)

♦ "We live in a subscription age and a numbers age... This is a big, big fight." (The boxing promoter Eddie Hearn at a press conference for Katie Taylor vs. Amanda Serrano, referring to DAZN, ticket sales, and social media buzz, including Twitter.)

## agency (groups)

agency

we want more than representation, we want ~ (an Asian)

language is ~, language is power (Korean girl in US)

it's a story about women having ~ (Amazon's *The Power*)

agency to speak up for ourselves

we really didn't have that ~ (a female soccer player)

agency through hyper-sexualisation

the idea of finding ~ is freeing (film *Poor Things*)

agency, (your) autonomy

to live with mental illness is to fight for your ~

agency or influence

the ruling suggest strongly that he had ~ over decisions

agency, ferocity and encouragement

inspirational declarations of ~ (the TV series *Pose*)

women's agency

sex work and ~

her own agency

Baker managed to have ~ (Josephine Baker in France)

female agency

the "Dinner Party" is about ~ (Judy Chicago)

male agency

notions of female sublimation and ~ (film "fridging" trope)



artistic agency  
she embraces ~ (Billie Eilish)

creative agency  
the requirements labels make on their artists' ~ (pop)

sexual agency  
a patriarchal world view that denied women ~

sense of agency  
having a ~ and choosing to be mean (females)

activism and agency  
to understand ~ in such a context ("radical rudeness")

authenticity, courage and agency  
Kristen inspires leaders to lean into their ~ (a speaker)

power and agency  
the tech industry is where US workers have the most ~  
build ~ in their work lives (through legal resources, etc.)

claim agency  
the online world offers somewhere for them to ~ (Gen Z)

claiming agency  
women are ~ (Judy Chicago / the "Dinner Party")

denied women agency  
a patriarchal world view that ~

have that agency  
we really didn't ~ to speak up for ourselves until now

inclines towards agency  
the language around leadership ~ (gender research)

lost agency  
they felt that they'd ~ in their lives, lost control...

replaces agency (in kids) by learned helplessness  
CRT ~ (critical race theory)

seeking agency  
we're seeking more than just representation, we're ~

support (individual) agency  
as a humanist, a womanist, I ~ (Gazelle Amber Valentine)

take agency  
reclaim desire and ~ over your sexual experiences

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "For Asians, we're seeking more than representation, we're seeking agency. We want to be able to tell our stories and show our characters in all of our splendor and complexity, because that's what it takes for people to actually see us as people... I think Asian Americans are kinda taking charge of our own destiny." (Jeff Yang, author of *Rise: A Pop History of Asia America From the Nineties To Now*. From ABC, GMA, "How movies and TV shows dehumanize and hypersexualize Asian Americans.")

♦ "If a player does not want to get vaccinated, we will stand behind him one hundred percent. Look, players need to have agency when it comes to what they decide to put in their bodies." (Benjamin Watson, Vice President, NFL Players Association.)

♦ "To be agentic is to be confident and decisive." (Gender research.)

♦ "She is sex-positive and makes vivacious, danceable music, perfect for a party or a TikTok challenge. 'Players,' her biggest hit, is a two-minute ditty about young women having the same capacity for

agency—sexual, musical, geographical—as men." (Coi Leray. From "The Future Of Rap Is Female" by Niela Orr, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 13, 2023. "The Hip-Hop Issue.")

♦ "You get to decide what your life looks like." ("A Letter to College Sports" by Cailin Bracken.)

♦ "Young girls have more options now."

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "It's a story about women having agency, feeling safe and confident." (Amazon Prime video series *The Power*.)

♦ "AGENCY [ey-juhn-see] Your ability to make decisions about your own life. / On the island of Madagascar, bold women are ignoring social taboos to take control of their futures. They want agency over their reproductive choices because climate change is making life more and more difficult. One woman told MSI's outreach team, 'There is drought and winds that block out the sun and devastate much of our farmland. Children are dying of malnutrition.' / Empower a woman to choose. / Just \$32 will give four women contraception for a full year and greater agency over their futures. / MSI United States / Make reproductive choice possible. / [msiunitedstates.org](https://msiunitedstates.org) (A full-page advertisement in *The Atlantic* with picture, April 2023.)

♦ "Kristen, a former DEI & Learning executive, inspires leaders to lean into their authenticity, courage and agency." (A speaker. \$10K+)

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ "The great value of Hamalainen's work is a corrective polemic. In restoring historical agency to Native peoples, he joins a number of accomplished historians..." ("On Native Grounds: For much of American history, the tribal nations were on top" by David Treuer, *The New Yorker*, November 14, 2022. Until they weren't...)

♦ "And it was remarkable wandering around these old ex-mining villages, which were once vibrant communities before the miners' strike of 1984... And so the people who lived there felt that they'd lost agency in their lives, lost control in their lives, they were angry and furious..." (Paul Laverty, speaking about the 2023 Ken Loach film *The Old Oak*.)

♦ "[Choose Your own Adventure books] invited kids to exercise some agency [italics mine]..." (Contempo-speak at its clunkiest. From *The New Yorker* in 2022. The series was launched in 1979.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Whatever a woman claims she wants is an expression of female agency." (An online commenter.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "Our military leaders had no choice in the matter." (War. The Gustav Line.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Agency in this sense is almost always a synonym for empowerment and in opposition to a perceived sense of victimhood. It is often affirmation, no matter what the reality is.

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "These abstract words are freely used in the political world... When we hear them, we had best be cautious. Ask questions of ourselves. What has the candidate promised? 'Freedom'? 'Freedom' from what? And 'liberty' to do what? This 'freedom' he is going to give you is already restricted by your obligations to your family, your business, your duties to your community, state, and nation; by your inherited characteristics, by your environment; by your wealth and education, or by the lack of them; and by a thousand laws. What is our candidate going to do about all that? What new kind of 'freedom' can he give us?" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., Chapter 12, "Political Terms and Their Origins.")

## agenda (noun)

### agenda-driven

it was misleading, distorted, and ~ ("woke" criticism)

agenda and narrative

they want the city to burn, it helps their ~

wrecking-ball agenda

they have a ~ that is rooted in nationalism (politics)

hidden agendas

the unwritten rules, ~, and minefields...

creepy agenda

it just makes you look like you have some kind of ~

personal agendas

this is stale news being recycled by those with ~

political agendas

professors and administrators are pushing ~

woke agenda

critics have accused Disney of pushing a ~

fit your agenda

just stating the truth, sorry it doesn't ~

pursue their (own hidden) agendas

factions ~ outside of the law

pushing (political) agendas

professors and administrators are ~

pushing or suppressing agendas

people wonder if the BBC is ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "So, what's on the agenda today?" (Used literally or figuratively. In either case, it's best to start with a doughnut or two and coffee.)

## agile (adjective)

agile development

~ means constantly making small improvements

agile and adaptive

security must be ~ (terrorism)

agile and responsive

government must become more ~ to business

ideologically agile

he was brilliant, funny, and ~ (a politician)

lean and agile

the company is ~

lean, agile and focused

the company is ~ on building better cars

pragmatic and agile

we must be ~ in pursuit of human rights (diplomacy)

smaller, (more) agile and innovative

~ will survive

remains (as) agile (as ever)

her mind ~

## agility (noun)

agility

~ requires quick-minded, flexible leaders (military)

mental agility

skills include physical toughness and ~ (military)

the president has faced questions about his ~ (age, gaffes)

tactical agility

~ is first of all a mental state (military)

## agnostic (adjective)

agnostic to the prevailing political system

China is ~ of the countries it invests in

agnostic about the ideology

we're ~ (of groups we investigate for violence / FBI)

agnostic about the use

the guidelines are ~ of experimental medications (no stance)

agnostic approach

an ~, one biased in favor neither of X or Y

agnostic position

media outlets haven taken an ~ (is interrogation torture)

he himself has maintained the somewhat ~ that...

brand agnostic

what we're enforcing now is ~ (any vaccine will do)

fashion-agnostic

an earth-loving ~ crowd (a meeting of climate activists)

genre-agnostic

this ~ young brother was raised on opera, gospel and funk

the ~ indie scene (Lizzo, etc.)

platform-agnostic

TikTok's ~ algorithm (and lack of data protection)

commercially agnostic

a nonprofit, ~ place for serious genealogy (GED-match)

completely agnostic

the Galileo Project is ~, has no expectations (Avi Loeb)

emotionally agnostic

the phrase itself is ~ ("this changes everything")

"militantly agnostic"

she takes a ~ approach to UFOs (Leslie Kean)

remain agnostic

colleges now ~ to rampant antisemitism (the U.S.)

♦ "For most of this period, the attitude of the press, the courts, and state legislatures was predominantly agnostic. They neither believed nor disbelieved in the claims of the competing groups and tried, when possible, to avoid becoming embroiled in their partisan disputes. When the regulars attacked the divergent practitioners, the press often took the side of the persecuted and called for tolerance." (*The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr, 1984.)

♦ "The painting's quiet default is gender agnosticism..."

♦ "At that time, the Energy Department was agnostic, it didn't have a position one way or the other. What's happened is they've done an update to this report and the Energy Department's position has shifted. It's gone from saying 'Well we don't know' to 'We think it's most likely it did come from a lab, though with low confidence'..." (Michael Gordon, National Security Correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON in the AARP magazine, of all places! A man is addressing another man. He says, "Do you want your eggs scrambled or hard-boiled?" The other man responds, "I don't care. I'm egg-nostic." (Contempo-speak clichés like "agnostic" can be considered dead, buried, and stupid when they appear in a cartoon, especially one in a magazine for the elderly.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The religious meaning of this word has devolved to mean something like, "Not sure, who knows, unwilling to commit, non-committal, no stance, undogmatic, don't care, "Whatever," could care less..."

♦ Merriam-Webster's online entry for this word is excellent.

♦ Pretentious and trendy words beloved by contempo-speakers and writers include: aesthetic (style, fad); agnostic (don't know, don't care, don't have an opinion); gnosticism (special knowledge); heuristic (rule of thumb); intentional (?); lived experience (what I know to be a fact); performative (insincere, bad); precarity (precariousness); reductive (too simple); solipsistic (egotistical); and transactional (what's in it for me). Hari Kunzru's article in *Harper's Magazine* entitled "Easy Chair" includes the words "epistemological," "ontological," and "gnosticism." The article is about UFOs.

## ago (two days ago / gone by)

two days ago  
they left ~

long ago  
in the ~, when I was a girl

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This means "gone by."

## aground (run aground)

run aground  
he was sure the investigation would ~ and find no evidence

run aground on the shoals  
the promises have ~ of changing sex ratios

relationship can run aground  
the author-biographer ~

## Aha! (Aha! moment)

"Aha!" moment  
she says that she had an ~ in 2005 (administrator)

Aha! instant  
the ~ in cognitive science, the Eureka moment...

♦ "The Aha moments that go from insight into action." (Spotlight Tableau GPT / business analytics.)

## ahead (ahead of his time, etc.)

see *time (ahead of his time, etc.)*

## ahead (the future is ahead, etc.)

what's ahead  
gas hits \$5 a gallon, here's how it got here and ~

ahead of her  
when you think about what was ~, it's so sad (tragedy)

ahead of him  
he has a great future ~ (athlete)

ahead of us

the single most important task we have ~  
we've got a good deal of work ~  
our darkest days are ~, not behind us (pandemic)

ahead for you and your baby  
you probably have questions about what is ~

challenges ahead  
prepare students for the ~ (military school)  
Internet "father" Vint Cerf on ~

choices ahead  
he understands the hard ~ (a politician)

days ahead  
there are better ~

road ahead  
no one knows what lies on the ~ (course of war)

STORMS AHEAD  
~ (newspaper)

task ahead  
the ~ for engineers and scientists is to...

book ahead  
it's good to ~ (camping reservations)

lie ahead  
your best days ~  
our best days ~

lies ahead  
no one knows what ~  
I don't know what ~  
we are ready for the struggle that ~ (war)

look ahead  
let's ~ to the future  
let's ~, the way you have to in a chess game (Brexit)  
as we ~ to the elections coming up in November

looking ahead  
~, clouds appear on the horizon (economy)

plan ahead  
it's good to ~

♦ "We're so focused on what's ahead, we're not worried about what's behind us." (The boxer Anthony Joshua, speaking about his rematch with Andy Ruiz Jr. AJ had lost the first match, in a tremendous upset.)

## ahead (before a future event)

ahead of elections  
the increasingly bitter political climate ~ next summer

ahead of the Challenger's launch  
~, analysts could have made hundreds of charts...

ahead of his upcoming trial  
he was back in court ~ (Markeith Loyd / Florida)

ahead of Medvedev's visit  
the admission came ~ to Warsaw

well ahead  
weather forecasters saw it coming ~ of time

## ahead (ahead of schedule, etc.)

ahead of schedule

we are ~

get ahead of the conversation

I'm not going to ~ that will take place (speculation)

## ahead (competition)

ahead of those

Swedish living standards are way ~ in the US

miles ahead

it was ~ of every similar application

million miles ahead

Liverpool are a ~ (of Manchester United / soccer)

two steps ahead

the virus was ~ (of preventative measures)

way ahead

Swedish living standards are ~ of those in the US

light years ahead

she was ~ of her peers

today's tech is ~ of the old techniques (forensics)

come out ahead

I'm going to beat him, I'll ~ (mixed-martial arts)

puts them ahead

their strategy ~ of other banks

## ahead (progress)

far ahead

rich countries are ~ of poor ones in adapting to warming

forging ahead

other countries are ~ (aquaculture)

get ahead

never pass up an opportunity to ~

marching ahead

the science is ~ (genetic tests)

move ahead

mentally ill people struggle to ~ in their lives

we must ~ into the future

moved ahead

he cautiously ~ with privatization

moving ahead

his friends were ~ while he was standing still

plowing ahead

we are ~ (difficult medical research)

pressing ahead

the Russians are ~ with fake social media accounts

we are ~ in our efforts (government official)

push ahead

we are trying to ~

surging ahead

Southeast Asia is ~ (aquaculture)

went ahead

the program ~ and was deemed a success

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Don't get mad, don't get even, get ahead.

## ahead (go ahead)

went ahead with the event

they ~ (in spite of pandemic)

## ailing (adjective)

ailing

businesses are ~ because of government regulation

ailing economy

companies are feeling the effects of the ~

the government is pumping money into the ~

ailing Macs

she tends to ~ (tech worker)

ailing (housing) market

ending the deduction could cripple an already ~

## aim (verb)

aim to please

we ~ (a store motto)

aiming for

and that's what we're ~ (making it easy for shoppers)

aimed for a Friday night liftoff

the space agency ~

aim for a fun, less sanitized view

reenactors ~ of the Old West

## aim (noun)

aim

if the ~ is to destroy vehicles, use mines (military)

their ~ is to trigger fear and chaos (political assassins)

their ~ is to survive (peasants)

aims of the campaign

ridding Iraq of WMD is one of the main ~

aim of the ceremony

the ~ is to... (Swazi reed dance)

aim of that operation

the ~ was to... (Russian military in Chechnya)

aim of the symposium

the broad ~ was to report on and discuss the...

aim of a show of force

the ~ is deterrence (military)

aim of storing

Glen Canyon Dam was finished with the ~ water for...

aim of overthrowing

it has the stated ~ the government (an opposition group)

aim in (my) life  
before Qeis, I had no ~ (a student)

aim in (this) life  
everyone has his own ~, and mine is to be a martyr

nomads' (traditional) aim  
the Tibetan ~ of maximizing herd size (vs. slaughter)

terrorists' aim  
if the ~ was to...

intended aim  
regulating the forces and means toward an ~ (military)

stated aim  
it has the ~ of overthrowing the government

dual aim  
the immunizations have a ~ (protect and prevent)

first aim  
our ~ was to be competitive at the World Cup...

initial aim  
having sex might have been his ~, but... (murderer)

primary aim  
a ~ of ED intervention is to.. (domestic abuse)

strategic aim  
application of military capability in support of ~s

traditional aim  
the Tibetan nomads' ~ of maximizing herd size

ultimate aim  
his ~ is to...

unselfish aim  
most seem motivated by ~s

one aim  
the staff has only ~, turning fantasy into reality

several aims  
President Clinton and his advisers had ~

achieve this aim  
to ~, we will have to...

**aim (take aim at something)**

take aim at (pretty much every) race  
his monologues ~ he can

took aim at America  
other veterans of the Russian-Afghan war ~

taking dead aim  
his company is ~ at... (a competitor)

**aimed**

aimed at Muslims  
a string of attacks by extremist Christians ~

aimed (specifically) at children  
products ~

aimed at the (US) military  
protest ~ have waxed and waned (S. Korea)

aimed at the superstitious  
attention-grabbing advertisements ~ (muti)

aimed at abortion clinics and their workers  
attacks ~ (US)

aimed at Pakistan's foreign community  
an assault ~ (on a church)

aimed at modernizing  
he announced a series of reforms ~ the bureau

aimed at preventing  
mosquito-control programs ~ further cases (West Nile)

aimed at punishing  
laws ~ habitual criminals

aimed at reducing  
regulations ~ noise pollution

## **air (air of authority, etc.)**

air of authority  
you'll carry an ~

air of indifference  
she has a calculated ~ (teen girl)

air of invincibility  
America's ~ is gone (international basketball)

air of make-believe  
diplomacy can have an ~ (protocol, etc.)

air of respectability  
toy drives give bikers an ~

air of sophistication  
she exudes an ~

air of superiority  
he detected an ~

arrogant air  
he had a preppie, ~ about him

carry an air  
you'll ~ of authority

exudes an air  
she ~ of sophistication

## **air (environment)**

air he breathes  
that's the ~ that he has internalized (Nazi website)

**air (take the air out of a room, etc.)**

takes the air out of the stadium  
when something like that happens, it just ~ (neck injury)

**air (anger in the air, etc.)**

in the air

change was ~ (the law)  
spring is ~  
war is ~  
the threat of litigation was always ~ (corporation)

anger in the air  
there is much ~

electricity in the air  
there is a new ~ (after combat and death)

fear in the air  
with the general ~, people are paying off debt, not buying

feeling in the air  
the ~ was he couldn't have done it (charged at courthouse)

### air (up in the air)

up in the air  
the school year ended with her plans ~  
where things go from here is quite honestly ~  
I think it's still ~ a little bit (where athlete will commit to)  
the fate of Twitter is ~ this week (Elon Musk takes over)

up in the air whether  
it's still ~... (making a decision)

still up in the air  
her quest to land an internship is ~  
when they can return to their homes is ~ (wildfires)

remains up in the air  
the reason for the Moon Illusion ~

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Up in the air" can link in certain cases to a phrase like, "Nobody knows how this plane lands" with the idea of resolution and conclusion.

### air (breath of fresh air)

breath of fresh air  
she's a ~ (politician)  
the blog is a ~ (field notes from scientists)  
his lay status is a ~ (new college president)  
I thought he was a ~, but it turns out he is an elitist

breath of fresh air amid all the polite Oscar-bait turns  
Emma Stone is a ~ (2023 film *Poor Things*)

breath of fresh air for the city  
the mayor has been a ~

breath of fresh air after the scandal  
he seemed to be a ~ of Watergate (politics)

unexpected breath of fresh air  
their designs were an ~ (fashion show)

brings a breath of fresh air to the magazine  
she ~ (new editor)

### air (hot air)

hot air  
a plan without action is ~

global warming is ~ (an opinion)

just (a lot of) hot air  
people talk about mine safety, but it's ~

a lot of hot air  
~ blows out of Washington (politics)

full of hot air  
he's ~ (a politician)  
he talks a good game, but he's ~ (a politician)

♦ "The acronym, coined in the early 1990s, is pedagogical vapor." (STEM.)

♦ "Save the applause until we get a result. It's been all talk so far." (Senator Lindsey Graham, during a Senate hearing. See "Zuckerberg apologizes to families of kids harmed online as Senate grills tech CEOs" by Cheyenne Haslett and Alexandra Hutzler, ABC, January 31, 2024.)

### air (into thin air)

disappeared into thin air  
she ~ (wanted for a crime)

vanished into thin air  
it was like she just ~ (woman vanishes)

### air (out of thin air)

appeared out of thin air  
investors have ~

come out of thin air  
ideas just don't ~

emerge out of thin air  
the fear of the undead didn't ~

create credit out of thin air  
the Federal Reserve can ~

create profit out of thin air  
Wall Street can ~

### air (clear the air)

clear the air  
they had a meeting to ~ (athlete and coach)  
an interview so she could ~ about what happened  
if you had any lingering doubts, this should ~

clear the air entirely  
wouldn't that just ~ (making documents public)

### air (expose)

air it out  
you don't have to ~ to the public where everyone can hear

### airbrushed

too slick, airbrushed, propaganda  
many thought the video was ~, to gain support and funding

## aircraft carrier (turn an aircraft carrier)

aircraft carrier

how long will it take, is it a matter of turning an ~ (change)

♦ "When I became president, one of the things I discovered coming into office is you're in charge of a big apparatus... It's an ocean liner and not a speedboat... Trying to change policy is really difficult." (Barak Obama on 2020.)

♦ "It will take time to turn around this metaphorical tanker in midstream." (Saudi-Israeli relations)

♦ "And we've got to reverse that. Not only have we got to stop this supertanker, we've got to turn it round and send it back in the opposite direction." (Anthony Geddes, tree advocate, about farmers who cut down trees to grow crops for food, as opposed to tree planting.)

## aired (and aired out)

being aired

the divorce is over with no dirty laundry ~

being aired out

these are general grievances that are ~ (the Oscars)

## airtight (adjective)

airtight alibi

his lawyers say he has an ~

airtight case

prosecutors believe they have an ~

seemed airtight

his alibi ~

## akin (adjective)

akin to body armor

we see vaccines as ~ (Defense Department)

akin to the Super Bowl

in the mountainous nations, the *Hahnenkamm* is ~ (skiing)

akin to the leftist call

B.D.S. can be understood as ~ to defund the police (Israel)

akin to WrestleMania

that interview was ~ (Bill Ackman vs. Carl Icahn)

akin to drunk driving

not masking is ~ (COVID)

♦ "Facial recognition is akin to nuclear or biological weapons." (Evan Greer of Fight for the Future.)

## alarm (feeling)

alarm

~ as dump sites fill up and overflow...

alarm over the (rotten-egg) odor

there was ~

alarm over (gun) violence

most Americans feel ~

alarm about (the military's) conduct  
the case raises ~ in Iraq (atrocity)

rising alarm

~ over gun violence

reason for alarm

stay calm, there is no ~  
so there was plenty of ~

raises alarm

the case ~ about the military's conduct in Iraq

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "ALARM: to arms! / If we are alarmed at any time, we should spring to arms for that is what the Italian cry *all' arme* meant. In later years the Italians combined the two words into *allarme* and the meaning was extended from the military command itself to the emotion and fright that had been felt on hearing it shouted. Now, very often, alarm has only to do with the warning of the morning *alarm* clock." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. It's a nice way to think of the word. Particularly when it comes to that alarm clock and its snooze button.)

## alarm (warning)

five-alarm fire

see *fire* (five alarm fire, etc.)

sounded alarms

Doctors Without Borders ~ (famine in Niger)

sounding the alarm

groups have been ~ about the Arab drug problem  
they are in emergency mode, they are ~

## albatross (noun)

albatross of debt

the ~ he had been dealing with... (a politician)

albatross for Oakland

the quote has become something of an ~ ("no there there")

albatross for the industry

the Production Code was an ~ (films)

Afghanistan albatross

Trump inherited the ~

lifelong albatross

a parking ticket can become a ~ (racial inequality)

♦ "John James Audubon's racism is the albatross rotting around the necks of those who would hold him in reverence. It is past smelling foul and beginning to reek." ("What Do We Do About John James Audubon?" by J. Drew Lanham. Which begs the question, "What Do We Do About J. Drew Lanham?" The answer: give him a MacArthur Genius Award. See the Wikipedia article "J. Drew Lanham." "This article may be in need of reorganization to comply with Wikipedia's layout guidelines.")

♦ "It has the albatross of the original hanging over its neck in a not super good way." (NPR's Andrew Limbong. Funny!)

♦ "So that sounds to me like you're arguing that the social-welfare state is kind of an albatross around the necks of people who are working hard as you say. But I don't think the numbers support that..." (NPR's Michel Martin interviewing Senator Joe Manchin.)

### \*\*\* Ernest Shackleton...

♦ "During the morning we started a fire in the cave with wood from the top-sides of the boat, and though the dense smoke from the damp



sticks inflamed our tired eyes, the warmth and the prospect of hot food were ample compensation. Crean was cook that day, and I suggested to him that he should wear his goggles, which he happened to have brought with him. The goggles helped him a great deal as he bent over the fire and tended the stew. And what a stew it was! The young albatrosses weighed about fourteen pounds each fresh killed, and we estimated that they weighed at least six pounds each when cleaned and dressed for the pot. Four birds went into the pot for six men, with a Bovril ration for thickening. The flesh was white and succulent, and the bones, not fully formed, almost melted in our mouths. That was a memorable meal. When we had eaten our fill, we dried our tobacco in the embers of the fire and smoked contentedly." (South!: The Story of Shackleton's Last Expedition, 1914-1917 by Ernest Shackleton. From Chapter 9, "The Boat Journey.")

## Alcatraz (Alcatraz of the South, etc.)

Alcatraz of the Rockies

ADX Florence in Colorado, sometimes called the ~

Alcatraz of the South

Angola, the ~ (prison bordered on 3 sides by Mississippi)

♦ "McNeil Island in South Puget Sound is the Alcatraz you've never heard of."

## alchemical (adjective)

alchemical process

by some ~, blame settled on Nancy Spector  
(Guggenheim)

## alchemist (noun)

alchemist of words

an ~, Melville transformed his often mundane sources

## alchemy (noun)

alchemy of timing, biography, and context

the politically crucial ~... (Kamala Harris / 2024)

Urban Alchemy

~ seeks to transform the energy in traumatized urban spaces

## Alexander (Muslim Alexander, etc.)

Muslim Alexander

he conceived for himself an identity as the ~ (Mehmet II)

## alight (activity)

alight with posts

social networking sites are ~ from...

alight with (conspiracy) theories

the blogosphere is ~

\*\*\* the Molucca Sea, the Sikhote-Alin mountains...

♦ "We had now fairly entered the Molucca Sea. After dark it was a beautiful sight to look down on our rudders, from which rushed eddying streams of phosphoric light gemmed with whirling sparks of fire. It resembled (more nearly than anything else to which I can compare it) one of the large irregular nebulous star-clusters seen through a good telescope, with the additional attraction of ever-changing form and dancing motion." (*The Malay Archipelago* by Alfred Russel Wallace.)

♦ "That night the fire-flies were in countless thousands, in millions, it seemed... Suddenly, there was a blinding flash which for an instant lit up the whole countryside, as a large meteor trailed its blazing tail across the sky... As at the wave of a magic wand the illumination of the insects went out... Then suddenly in the herbage there appeared a spark again, and in half a minute the air was again filled with the

thousands of elfin lanterns weaving their ethereal dances." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr. In *Ussuria*.)

## alight (fire)

set the region alight

conflicts could ~ (Caucasus)

## alive (status)

alive

my business is ~, but not thriving

still alive

the talks are ~ (negotiations)

the two teams are ~ in the playoffs (sports)

very much alive

jazz is ~, in Paris...

stay alive

it's tough to ~ in today's economy (a business)

## alive (alive and well)

alive and well

interagency coordination is ~

alive and well in the UK

regional stereotypes are ~

remains alive and well

the movement ~

♦ "The moon lander is "alive and well" but resting on its side." ("Odysseus" IM-1 Nova-C, nicknamed Odie.)

## alive (activity)

alive with activity

the night sky, ~ (satellites, an eclipse, etc.)

alive with rats

the alley was ~ that evening...

alive with rumor

residential areas and offices were ~ (following attack)

ever alive

he was a young man ~ to new ideas

## alive (come alive)

come alive

they ~ (characters in a book / book review)

came alive

the Peruvians ~ in the second half (World Cup soccer)

he ~ in the fourth quarter with 4 catches for 121 yards

come alive at night

rats ~

came alive in the second quarter

the team ~

come alive with activity

the streets literally ~ (Toronto)

comes alive with young musicians

the campus ~ (summer music program)



came alive with a great tube ride  
he suddenly ~ (surfing competition)

comes alive when  
he ~ he talks about his passion

### **alive (keep something alive)**

keep awareness alive  
the need to ~ (of the Holocaust)

keep history alive  
part of our mission is to ~ (Trail of Tears)

keep hope alive  
doctors have a duty to ~

kept the initiative alive  
the administration has ~

keep memory alive  
portraits can ~

keep romance alive  
it's important to ~ (in a marriage)

keep the spark alive  
the dreams of what were ahead helped ~ for me (love)

keep the tradition alive  
he does his part to ~ (sumo in Brazil)

### **all (give something one's all, etc.)**

his all  
he gave it ~

giving her final college gymnastics season her all  
Olivia Dunne is ~

pour your all into something  
when you ~, and it doesn't go the way you planned...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "We gave it everything" = "We gave it our all."

### **allergic (adjective)**

allergic to (small) boats  
for those ~ in stormy seas...

allergic to the concept  
economists are ~ of fairness (reform)

allergic to consensus  
a profession ~ (academic philosophers)

allergic to him  
I'm ~ (the two don't get along)

### **allergy (noun)**

allergy to stardom  
he has an ~ (a successful actor, to Hollywood)

### **alley (Ambush Alley, etc.)**

"Ambush Alley"  
fighting in Nasiriya, nicknamed ~ by the Marines (Iraq)

sniper alley  
this part of town was called ~ (Sarajevo)

Machine Gun Alley  
they called the area ~ (7th Cavalry / Iraq)

RPG Alley  
an ambush on a stretch of road known as ~ (Baqouba)

### **alley (Bat Alley, etc.)**

Bat Alley  
bats have been seen flying down ~ (passage in a cave)

Shark Alley  
a wave rolled along an area known as ~ (Farallones)

### **alley (Cyclone Alley, etc.)**

Cyclone Alley  
Bangladesh sits on "~"

cyclone alley  
Madagascar sits on a type of ~ in the Indian Ocean

Hail Alley  
where Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming meet is "~"

iceberg alley  
the Bonavista peninsula is the province's so-called "~"  
it's been a busy season in ~ (Newfoundland and Labrador)  
A68a has been riding this "~" (Antarctica to South Georgia)  
"~, " the major route (A23a)

"Lightning Alley"  
the corridor is known as ~ (Tampa Bay to Titusville)

tornado alley  
spring in ~ (U.S.)

Tornado Alley  
~ runs from Texas through Oklahoma and Kansas

### **alley (Death Alley / U.S. 61, etc.)**

Blood Alley  
Death Alley, ~, that's what they call it (a highway)

Death Alley  
U.S. 61 is known as ~ (fatal crashes in Missouri)

"hell highway"  
killed returning to the reservation on the ~ (Arizona)

expressway to death  
National highway 8 is known as the ~ (India)

### **alley (Silicon Alley)**

see *Silicon Valley*

### **alley (Cancer Alley, etc.)**

"Asthma Alley"  
the South Bronx is often described as ~ (pollution)

Cancer Alley

they live in a region known as ~ (southwestern Louisiana)  
Louisiana's '~' residents in clean air fight  
this 85-mile stretch of Louisiana, referred to as '~'

“covid corridor”

the commuter corridors have become the ~ (East Coast US)

## alley (up one's alley)

up my alley

now this part is ~ (how to fix a module vs. its function)

right up your alley

you have to read this, it's ~  
check this out, it's ~

## all-star (adjective)

all-star team

with an ~ of lawyers representing them (celebrity divorce)

all-star (legal) team

he had an ~ (rich pedophile)

## alluring (adjective)

alluring

the pitch is ~ (an educational fad)

## ally (groups)

ally

how to be an ~ and nurture a more inclusive world

ally for your fat students

you can be this ~ (a fat teacher)

adult allies

Youth Lobby, a grassroots coalition of young people and ~

Jewish allies

“Dad encourages ~ to display menorah” (Adam Kulbersh)

awkward ally

she could sometimes be an ~ (singer Sinéad O'Connor)

better ally

want to be a ~ in the fight for racial equality and justice

trans and LGBTQ ally

how to be a ~ at work (Gender Reveal / NPR)

self-professed straight LGBTQ ally

he is a ~ (So Gay Rosé brand co-founder)

with an ally

being transgender can be hard, but made easier ~ (work)

employees and allies

a sense of community for our LGBTQ+ ~ (SV Bank)

rivals rather than as allies

you do start to see other people of color as ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “If you're a white person, you're getting to the perimeter, you're putting your body on the f\*\*\*\*\* line right now!” (“Black Protest Leaders To White Allies: ‘It's Our Turn To Lead Our Own Fight,’” NPR, All Things Considered, September 22, 2020.)

♦ “She'd become my ally, she loves her son endlessly.” (The actor Elliot Page about his mother.)

♦ “Ally. I'm Straight, But Not Narrow.” (A slogan superimposed on a Pride flag.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “ally” bandwagon...

♦ “We strive to create a supportive and inclusive space for people to bring their whole selves to work.” (A company's employee resource group for LGBTQIA employees and allies.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Ally Straight Bracelet, Pride Love Wins, LGBTQAI+ Pride Love Wins Tibetan Wrist Wrap Bracelets, Support LGBTQ Community, Boho Rope Bracelet.” (\$6.82 / Etsy.)

♦ “Rainbow ALLY pin—Enamel Badge Gay Flag Pride Sticker Shirt LGBTQ Lesbian Bisexual Trans Support Gift Straight Earrings Button Safe Space / 21,425 reviews: “Just awesome!”; Great addition to my husband's lanyard”; “Beautiful pins for my conference lanyard.” (\$10.60+ / Etsy.)

♦ “It's a Good Day to Be An Ally Sweatshirt, Ally Gift, Proud Ally Sweatshirt, Proud Ally Gift, Pride Parade Outfit, LGBTQ Ally Crewneck.” (\$36.50+ / Etsy.)

♦ “Want to be a better ally in the fight for racial equality and justice? Microsoft Bing / Learn more.” (A message on a Bing screensaver, the purpose of which is to get you to use the Bing search engine instead of Google's.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “She could sometimes be an awkward ally.” (The Irish singer Sinéad O'Connor.)

♦ You can't always rely on your allies...

## ally (other)

ally in curbing the spread

countries hope that technology will be an ~ of the virus

allies in that fight

she didn't have a lot of ~ (trouble between 2 actors)

not as an enemy, but as an ally

Democrats welcome change, ~ (politics)

## allyship (groups)

allyship with male victims

support for Depp is taken as ~ of abuse

allyship with trans folk

objection to Di Martino was framed as ~

allyship & co-conspiratorship

strategies in ~ as a verb... (activism)

performative allyship

see *performative allyship*

sign of allyship

a ~ with male victims of abuse

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Support for Depp is taken as a sign of allyship with male victims of abuse.” (The Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard trial.)

♦ “Well, every American should take [monkeypox] seriously, but there are two kinds of taking it seriously. One is when thinking that you are

at personal risk. And that would be men having sex with men, gay men in the United States, particularly those who are sexually active. Um, other Americans, you know, should have some empathy and some solidarity and help their gay and lesbian neighbors get through this. Uh, many straight Americans rallied to our side during the HIV epidemic. But the Federal government really needs to get its act together because right now we're failing in the response." (Gregg Gonsalves at the Yale School of Public Health. From "How to talk about monkeypox effectively, without stigmatizing gay men," NPR, All Things Considered, August 5, 2022.)

#### analysis

♦ "I mean, if we're honest, allyship is good business at this moment... [R]acial allyship or queer allyship or trans allyship... [Allyship] becomes monetized. It becomes commercialized..." (Author and scholar Mark Anthony Neal. From "Thugs don't dance": iLoveMakonnen and Drake tested rap's norms of masculinity, but only one passed," NPR, Louder Than A Riot Season Two, May 4, 2023.)

### along (further along)

further along

in Europe, the outbreak is a little ~ (Omicron variant)

### alphabet (letters)

alphabet soup of (government) agencies

an avalanche of inspections from an ~

alphabet soup of choices

we have the ~ (federal organizations and their initialisms)

alphabet-soup of law enforcement

the ~ that's here (Louisville protests)

alphabet soup phrases

without resorting to ~ (C-word, N-word, etc.)

alphabet soup of ESC

the ~ (environmental, social, governance)

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "EOD handled the bombs. SSTP treated the wounds. PRP processed the bodies. The 08s fired DPICM. The MAW provided CAS. The 03s patrolled the MSRs. Me and PFC handled the money... / I will remember that our HMMWV had 5 PX. That the SITREP was 2 KIA, 3 WIA. That KIA means they gave everything. That WIA means I didn't." (From the short story "OIF" in *Redeployment* by the brilliant Marine writer Phil Klay. OIF stands for Operation Iraqi Freedom.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Alphabet soup (linguistics)." The article mentions "Franklin D. Roosevelt's agencies of the New Deal," including "CCC," "NLRB," "REA (Rural Electrification Administration)," "TVA," and "WPA."

### alphabet (LGBTQ+)

alphabet people

Christians who don't support or believe in the ~

alphabet soup

he dislikes the ~ (LGBTQ+)

the ~ people (a disparaging comment)

the ~ that has come to be known as "LGBTQ+"

alphabet-soup

the ~ designation for sexual minorities

LGBTQA+ alphabet soup

the Pentagon has embraced the ~ (recruiting)

get on the alphabet's good side

he needs to drum up publicity and ~

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "More groups and resources have appeared for LGBTQIA2S+ folks."

♦ "We had just had a bit of a pause as we have seen someone run on to the pitch holding a rainbow flag." (The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The incident occurred during the Portugal-Uruguay game.)

♦ "Happy to be the B in LGBTQ+" ("Maren Morris comes out as bisexual 4 months after finalizing divorce from Ryan Hurd.")

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The awkwardness of the acronymic acrobatics..." (LBTTTIQQ2SA, etc.)

♦ "The term LGBTQIAA+ is a clear instance of balkanization." (Jonathan Rauch.)

♦ "He needs to drum up publicity and get on the alphabet's good side." (Criticism of the *Harry Potter* actor Daniel Radcliffe.)

♦ "The legislation will protect the country from LGBT values." (Russia's "Answer to Blinken" law that bans gay propaganda.)

♦ "BLM and the LGBTQ+ABCDE crowd..." (A disparaging commenter. BLM is presumably Black Lives Matter, NOT the Bureau of Land Management.)

♦ "LGBTQ+...what happens when they use up the alphabet?"

♦ "Will England be taking the knee at this World Cup to highlight social injustices? If so, does this also cover gingers and baldies?" / "Of course. What do you think the G and B stand for in LGBTQ?" (Inspired repartee on a BBC HYS about the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The snark alludes to a speech given by FIFA president Gianni Infantino in which he said, "At school I was bullied because I had red hair and freckles." Read "Fact check: 11 eye-catching lines from Gianni Infantino's speech in Qatar" by Paul MacInnes, *The Guardian*, 19 Nov 2023. The games were considered a great success by everyone, and those who visited Qatar in person praised the country for its unique culture and wonderful hospitality.)

♦ see also LGBTQ+, pronouns (groups), queer (collocations)

### altar (at / on / upon the altar)

on the congressional altar

even after Minouche Shafik offered up faculty sacrifices

~

on such a remote altar

no clergyman would sacrifice his career ~ (Norfolk Island)

at the altar of (high) capitalism

this movie kneels ~ (the 2023 film *Air*)

at the altar of political correctness

other Roald Dahl classics have been similarly butchered

~

at the altar of disruption

today's tech world worships ~

at the altar of Mammon

nothing's so holy that it can't be sacrificed ~

at the altar of Donald Trump

evangelicals ~

on the altar of (environmental) correctness

he would sacrifice energy independence ~

on the altar of greatness

we are witnessing human flesh ~ (a boxer)

on the altar of (this nation's continued) freedom

the country will never forget your sacrifice ~ (Britain)

on this altar of the gun god  
they are really human sacrifices ~ (mass shootings)

on the altar of that peace  
~ Venice was to be sacrificed (France and Austria)

on the altar of Radicalism  
he sacrificed the South ~ (southern view of Grant)

upon the altar of freedom  
you have laid so costly a sacrifice ~ (Lincoln)

kneels at the altar  
this movie ~ of high capitalism (2023 film *Air*)

laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar  
you have ~ of freedom (President Lincoln)

sacrifice your children on the altar  
don't ~ of bad science (anti-vaxxer propaganda)

sacrifice (energy) independence on the altar  
he would ~ of environmental correctness

sacrifice rights on the altar of terrorism  
we can't ~ (facial recognition)

♦ "Mia from Land O Lakes butter and her buddy the Frito Bandito were simply sacrificed on the altar of corporate wokemanship. (Woke-personship?)." ("Mars shelves M&M spokescandies in latest woke corporate fiasco" by Dan Gainor, Opinion, Fox News, Jan. 26, 2023.)

♦ "The mother of Almog Sarusi, one of the murdered hostages, says you sacrificed her son on the altar of the Philadelphi Corridor..." (A reporter addressing Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Bixby letter." See also the Wikipedia article "Sullivan brothers." You be the judge. Whatever the historical truth, the phrase seems to becoming more and more popular.

## amalgam (noun)

amalgam of (different) influences  
Turkish cooking is an intriguing ~

amalgam of (changing death-penalty) politics  
there is an ~ and concerns about the system

amalgam of speed, timing, work-rate and pressure  
he beat Baranchyk with an ~ (Scot boxer Josh Taylor)

## amazing (groups)

*Amazing*  
*We're ~ 1,2,3!* (Leslie Kimmelman / autism)

Amazing in All Children  
its battle cry is "See ~" (a book about autism)

amazing network  
our ~ of chapters (Audubon Society)

amazing Black students  
I was welcomed by so many ~

amazing woman  
she was an ~ that loved her family (committed suicide)

described as "amazing"  
Aidan Mann was ~ (stabbed to death)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I was welcomed by so many amazing Black students who look just like me, who have the same dreams and aspirations as me as well." (Daya Brown about Duke University. From "Teen accepted to more than 50 colleges, receives over \$1.3 million in scholarships." She wants to study mass communications or film, and she created her own production company while in high school. "I think a lot of people think that if you're smart, you can't be cool. So I found a way to showcase brilliance [and] still have fun while you're doing it.")

♦ "For Asians, we're seeking more than representation, we're seeking agency. We want to be able to tell our stories and show our characters in all of our splendor and complexity, because that's what it takes for people to actually see us as people... I think Asian Americans are kinda taking charge of our own destiny." (Jeff Yang, author of *Rise: A Pop History of Asia America From the Nineties To Now*. From ABC, GMA, "How movies and TV shows dehumanize and hypersexualize Asian Americans.")

♦ "Lizzo performed...that was amazing..." (Priyanka Chopra.)

♦ "The way they work is, it's very femme-forward, very female-positive. They have an amazing female photographer, Vanessa Beecroft, and you just feel like a million dollars on their set. It just feels very modern and very 'female gaze.'" (Nelly Furtado, about her participation in the Best Of Skims advertising campaign.)

♦ "Mrs. Ramsay's work is to make people magnificent—to make them believe in themselves, make them think they can do anything..." ("We're All Invited to the Lighthouse" by Patricia Lockwood, *The Atlantic*, April, 2023.)

♦ "Clearly in this case, his moral compass doesn't matter. And as much as I believe he's amazing and a good person, even if he weren't, that does not matter because..." (Mr Jefferson Bosela, who quit his job to assume the role of family spokesman. See "Shooting of Chris Kaba.")

♦ "It's an election year, and Audubon, and its partner organization the Audubon Action Fund, will be working hard across our amazing network of chapters, state office, and nature centers to keep climate and clean-energy legislation at the forefront of people's agendas." (*Audubon* magazine, Winter 2019.)

♦ "We're going to hear from another amazing Chicago organizer." (The protest-stage announcer, introducing the next speaker at the March on DNC 2024.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "Well, Carl's amazing." (Wink wink, nudge nudge. Snarky, sarcastic male abuse about a weird underperformer who doesn't fit in. A synonym for the old "retarded" or "special." This is a good example of the euphemism treadmill.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Amazing" is a cliché used not only for affirmation but also for self-congratulation. In that way it does double duty for many groups.

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ "Not everything is amazing; and when you think about it, very little is." (Lake Superior State University 2023 Banished Words List—Words banned for "misuse, overuse, and uselessness.")

## Amazon (epithet / biodiversity)

Amazon of the North  
the Great Bear Rain Forest is often called the ~ (BC)

Europe's Amazon  
it has even been called ~ (Drevlians nature reserve)

Ocean's Amazon  
the Coral Triangle has been called the ~

## Amazon (the company)

Amazon

~ has made Jeff Bezos rich

## Amazon (epithet / the company)

Amazon of South Korea

Coupang is often referred to as the ~ (online retailer)

Amazon .com of something

Hastings wanted to create 'the ~' (Netflix)

♦ "Hastings, according to Rudolph, wanted to create 'the Amazon.com of something.' Rudolph suggested home video. Netflix amassed subscribers by mailing out DVDs. It began streaming in 2007." ("Boxed Out: The Passing of prestige TV" by Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*, November 6, 2023.)

## ambassador (role)

ambassador of skateboarding

he serves as the ~ (Tony Hawk)

ambassador for the (Jaguar) brand

she had been the ~ (endorsement / athlete)

ambassador for the Cherokee

she will be an ~ (Miss Cherokee Fair / Eastern Band)

ambassador for marine life

whale sharks are a fantastic ~

ambassador for the sport

he is a great ~ (Vitali Klitschko / boxing)

ambassador for UNESCO

she is a goodwill ~ (a famous film actor)

ambassador to the world

Ali is the goodwill ~ (the boxer)

America's best ambassador

he was ~ (Charles Barkley at the Barcelona Olympics)

Beauty ambassador

Lil Nas X named new Yves Saint Laurent ~

brand ambassador

the reality star is a ~ for the popular clothing brand

Angus Cloud was a ~ for Rockstar Energy Drink

climb ambassador

they are a ~ for clothing brand Patagonia (non-binary)

goodwill ambassador

she is a ~ for UNESCO (a famous film actor)

G-string ambassador

she has acted as the Y2K ~ in the past (Dua Lipa)

L'Oreal "Ambassador"

she was perhaps not unbiased, she was a ~ (Doutzen Kroes)

tourism ambassador

Messi has a role as a ~ for Saudi Arabia (soccer player)

de facto ambassador

he serves as the ~ of skateboarding (Tony Hawk)

global ambassador

he travels the world as a ~ for the NBA (Shaquille O'Neal)

poor ambassadors

Manchester City, ~ for this country (lose to Real Madrid)

tireless ambassador

he was a ~ for Beaujolais Nouveau (Georges Duboeuf)

sees himself as an ambassador

he ~ for his sport (Tito Ortiz and mixed martial arts)

self-described '(edible insect) ambassador'

the ~ promotes the use of insect protein

♦ "I'm just so happy for Caitlin, and I think she represents the university, our sport, she's such a good ambassador." (Iowa Head Coach Lisa Blunder about the remarkable basketball player Caitlin Clark.)

♦ "I'm a modern-day pawpaw ambassador. Pawpaws for the people! It's a movement." (Michael Judd, an edible-landscape designer from Maryland who is also a pawpaw enthusiast, talking to a group of people about...pawpaws. Recorded by Yasmine AlSayyad, Dept. Of Foraging, Pawpaws For The People, "The Talk Of The Town," *The New Yorker*, September 19, 2022.)

♦ "She is now training to become their new ambassador." (Flerken, a half African serval cat and half domestic cat, for the Ark Wildlife Park.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I don't even know what an ambassador really was. When I think of ambassadors I think of living off government money and jet-setting with girlfriends." (The great boxer "Iron" Mike Tyson, on a trip to China to promote boxing.)

♦ Angus Cloud was a brand ambassador for Rockstar Energy Drink and starred in its ad campaign "Fuel What's Next," which champions the idea of what's possible if you follow your passions. He starred for two seasons in the TV show *Euphoria*, playing a drug pusher. He died at age 25 of a lethal combination of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, benzodiazepine, and other drugs. His mother made the call to 911.

♦ "You are attaching your logo to the athlete and should this enter a legal realm, every time he goes into a courtroom, that's your logo walking in on two legs." (A sports analyst about an athlete charged with several counts of sexual abuse. In other words, players are ambassadors for their teams, whether they want to be or don't.)

♦ "Florida removes all references to Aaron Hernandez," AP, July 25, 2013.

## amber (traffic light)

"amber list"

it will not be illegal for Britons to travel to ~ Greece

classified as amber

travel to France, Spain and Greece are now ~ (pandemic)

## amber (in amber, etc.)

stuck in amber

*The Times* can't be ~ if it is going to grow...

♦ "Chairman and publisher AG Sulzberger met with sports staffers Thursday and told them *The Times* 'can't be stuck in amber' if it was going to grow."

♦ "He was the most interesting person on the stage. He was the only one, maybe except Mickey, not playing a role. The whole thing is in amber at this point, and yet these guys are keeping the songbook alive." (A fan of the Grateful Dead about Bob Weir. From "Dead Reckoning: At the Sphere, a fan wrestles with what the Grateful Dead have left behind" by Nick Paumgarten, *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2024.)

\*\*\* stone, amber, peat, permafrost, a glacier, sediment...

♦ Fossils are frozen in time, whether in stone or in amber, in peat or in permafrost, in a glacier or in the long-vanished sediment of an ancient river or sea.

♦ All things “frozen in time” are inherently interesting to people, because they make us think of the past, our own mortality, and eternity.

## ambush (noun)

ambush marketing

critics charged Marta flouted FIFA’s “~” rules

‘ambush’ interviews

they use ~ in the hope of going viral (politics)

by ambush

it’s called ~, it’s not fair (facts change in civil suit)

♦ “Fauci calls on Fox News to fire host who urged ‘kill shot’ in ‘ambush’ interviews” by Rachel Treisman, NPR, December 22, 2021.

♦ “Pray to the comedy gods for a Colbert-Steward tag-team ambush interview of Donald Trump and/or Joe Biden...” (NPR’s Eric Deggans. From “What to watch this summer: Here are the TV shows we’re looking forward to,” NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, June 4, 2024.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “Many kills in modern combat are ambushes and surprise attacks in which the enemy represents no immediate threat to the killer, but is killed anyway, without opportunity to surrender... / Until the twentieth century such ambush kills were extremely rare in combat, and many civilizations partially protected themselves and their consciences and mental health by declaring such forms of warfare dishonorable.” (*On Killing* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman.)

♦ “One day, Klimov and Shaposhnikov had to go right up to the German lines. They climbed over the railway embankment and crept up to a bomb-crater that sheltered a heavy-machine-gun crew and an artillery officer. Pressed flat against the ground, they watched the Germans go about their tasks. One young man unbuttoned his jacket, tucked a red checked handkerchief under his collar and began shaving; Seryozha could hear the scrape of the razor against his wiry, dust-covered stubble. Another German was eating something out of a small flat tin; for a brief moment Seryozha saw his face take on a look of concentrated, lasting pleasure. The officer was winding up his watch. Seryozha felt like asking very quietly, so as not to frighten him: ‘Hey! What time is it?’ / Klimov took the pin out of a grenade and dropped it into the crater... / ‘You’re not a Baptist, are you?’ Old Polyakov once asked this man who had killed a hundred and ten people... / Once Seryozha saw Klimov after he had drunk a captured bottle of schnapps; then he had been quite terrifying—even Grekov had seemed wary of him.” (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

## ambush (verb)

ambush us

desire can ~, take us by surprise (sex)

ambush him with the news

so tonight I ~

## ambushed

feels (a little) ambushed

the family, to say the least (offer to meet son’s killer)

felt ambushed

one man ~ by her appearance

## amen (noun)

chorus of amens

you knew you weren’t going to get a ~

♦ “So I want to bring in brother Berliner. Because that was a brave thing he did... You knew, when you wrote this, you weren’t going to get a chorus of amens...” (News Nation’s Chris Cuomo speaking to Uri Berliner, about the latter’s criticism of NPR. Berliner would end up resigning.)

♦ In certain situations, an “amen!” might be stated as a “hell yeah!” Watch Gretchin Wilson Redneck Woman YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82dDnv9zeLs>

## America (America’s sweetheart, etc.)

America’s Dad

Bob Saget, “~” from *Full House* (TV series)

the rise and fall of “~” (Bill Cosby / *The Cosby Show*)

America’s linguist

John McWhorter, ~

America’s mayor

Giuliani milked the role of ~ (New York City)

Rudi Giuliani, once ‘~,’ gets mugshot in Georgia (politics)

America’s sweetheart

in 2012, Taylor Swift was unequivocally ~

she’d become ~ (1972 / the great Carole King)

he was the son of ~ (Terry Melchor / Doris Day)

it’s about time we recognize Sydney Sweeney as ~

America’s sex therapist

Doctor Ruth, known as “~” (Dr. Ruth Westheimer)

♦ “Indiana limestone has been dubbed “the Nation’s Building Stone.” (See the Wikipedia article “Indiana Limestone.”)

♦ Sports radio! The idea that a particular NFL football team could be referred to as “America’s team” was the subject of a discussion by Tank Spencer and Jeremy Greene of *The Sportsocracy* and a funny rant by Jeremy. If grown American men spent as much time and mental effort thinking and talking about world problems as they do sports issues, every single problem in the world could and would be solved in a week or less!

♦ “[Ben] Bolch on Monday wrote on social media that he ‘failed miserably’ with his choice of words and he wanted to sincerely apologize to the LSU and UCLA programs. The piece referred to UCLA as ‘America’s sweethearts’ and ‘milk and cookies.’ Conversely, it referred to LSU as ‘dirty debutantes’ and ‘Louisiana hot sauce.’ Bolch said he tried to be clever with alliteration but didn’t understand at the time how the connotations were deeply offense.” (“LA Times edits column and apologizes after drawing the ire of LSU coach Kim Mulkey” by Thomas Schlachter, CNN, April 1, 2024. The article quotes Mulkey, “Take your phone out right now and google ‘dirty debutantes’ and tell me what it says. ‘Dirty debutantes?’ Are you kidding me?” The original article was entitled, “UCLA-LSU is America’s sweethearts versus its basketball villains.” The offending parts of the article have been erased.)

## ammunition (and ammo)

ammo for activists

I’ve always called my writing ~ (Naomi Klein)

ammunition for critics

this will provide ~

ammo for critics

all this was ~, who believed...

ammunition for lawsuits

it could be used as ~

political ammunition

the “missile gap” provided ~ to air-power advocates



gather (political) ammunition  
he asked a foreign leader to help him ~ against an opponent

give ammunition  
the video is sure to ~ to critics

## amnesia (noun)

collective amnesia  
a ~ surrounds the Civil War (attitudes to slavery, etc.)  
his participation in the ~ that surrounds those wars...

colonial amnesia  
“~,” the incapacity to remember the stages of coloniality

historical amnesia  
this will deepen our ~ about the Civil War  
the design displays a sense of ~ (a monument)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## amok (run amok)

running amok  
some experts are now worried about AI assistants ~

ran amok  
the regulators sat by while the financial industry ~

run amok  
this is the result of a system ~ (justice)

### \*\*\* the Malay Archipelago...

♦ “Macassar is the most celebrated place in the East for ‘running a muck.’ There are said to be one or two a month on the average, and five, then, or twenty persons are sometimes killed or wounded at one of them... A man thinks himself wronged by society—he is in debt and cannot pay—he is taken for a slave or has gambled away his wife or child into slavery—he sees no way of recovering what he has lost... He grasps his kris-handle, and the next moment draws out the weapon and stabs a man to the heart. He runs on, with bloody kris in his hand, stabbing at everyone he meets. ‘Amok! Amok!’ then resounds through the streets...” (*The Malay Archipelago* by Alfred Russel Wallace.)

## amped (strength)

amped up with (plenty of) chilies  
the dish is ~

amped up audio system  
the car has an ~

## amped (feeling)

amped up  
the importance of the game has both teams ~  
he was so ~ that he didn’t notice...

amped up on sugar and carbs  
kids who are ~ can’t learn as well

amped up men  
she had no business walking through a mob of ~

remain amped up  
after a performance he would ~ (musician)

## amplification (noun)

amplification in the media  
~ can lead to contagion (names of mass shooters)

algorithmic amplification  
~ leads to violence (YouTube)

snap responses, speed, amplification  
the social web is architected for ~

## amplified

amplified in a feedback loop  
the narrative was ~ by the media (Steele Dossier)

amplified by the media echo chamber  
their views are ~ (stock analysts, commentators, etc.)

amplified by the media megaphone  
an analyst, his voice ~, can send a stock soaring or sinking

get amplified  
conspiracy theories ~ by conservative cable news stars

## amplify (verb)

amplified flaws  
the media, desperate to get it out, ~ in the reporting

amplify those ideas  
a conservative media ecosystem helps ~ (alt-right)

amplify their message  
they use social media to ~ (extremists)

amplify his message  
he counted on his critics to ~

amplify (pro-government) narratives  
these networks ~ (the internet)

speaks up and amplifies  
the Koori Mail ~ Black voices (Australian newspaper)

### \*\*\* “Above him was a sounding board...”

♦ “Sullivan stood in the dock [of the Old Bailey] directly facing the witness box. Above him was a sounding board to amplify his voice.” (1851.)

## amp up (verb)

amped up the discussion  
the film really ~ about global warming

amping up their rhetoric  
Republicans are ~ (politics)

amped up the violence  
high tackles led with the helmet have ~ in football

## amputate (remove)

amputate  
~ before the infection spreads (poor players at Man U)

♦ “She was in tears over the abrupt amputation of her social life and turmoil at home.” (A high-school senior talking to her school counselor via Zoom. The student’s school had been closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.)

♦ “I just fell in love with Stumpy (pronounced Stumppyyy). I saw him and I looked him up two years ago and found out he has a Facebook page.” (Oregon eighth-grade history teacher Debby, about the named cherry tree near the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. “Stumpy.” “Debby.” “Cherry.” Cutesy!)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “The arrival of the nurses was the talk of the army, from Scutari to Sebastopol. Florence’s name alone supplied the officers with material for heavy-footed jokes. They referred to her simply as ‘the bird.’ The chief medical officer of the Crimean army, Dr. Hall, summed up the general opinion. ‘It is very droll,’ he said between his teeth, when told of Miss Nightingale’s appointment. / ‘I cannot conceive,’ an eyewitness later wrote, ‘as I now calmly look back on the first three weeks after the arrival of the wounded from Inkerman, how it could have been possible to have avoided a state of things too disastrous to contemplate, had not [Florence] been there.’ / ‘I am a kind of General Dealer,’ [Florence] wrote to Sidney Herbert, ‘in socks, shirts, knives and forks, wooden spoons, tin baths, ... towels and soap, small tooth combs, precipitate for destroying lice, scissors, bedpans and stump pillows.’” (*Florence Nightingale* by Ruth Fox Hume.)

♦ “6. Conservative Surgery in Compound Fracture of Femur. / The military surgeon [must] determine upon the propriety of amputation in compound fractures of the femur, the result of gunshot wounds. / The authorities, both French and English, teach us not to trust these cases to nature, and broadly state that, in the operation alone, there is hope; but the statistics, both in the Crimean campaign and in our own service, prove that the mortality after amputation is enormous, and force us to consider the propriety of conservative practice in this numerous class of surgical accidents. / In various numbers of the Journal [Confederate States Medical And Surgical Journal] the reader will find many interesting observations bearing upon this question, and we submit at this time a consolidated statement of compound fractures of femur treated without operation, compiled from the records in the Surgeon General’s office, from June, 1862, to February 1, 1864, inclusive. We have in this summary, excluded all cases not positively determined, and hence, while the number of observations is greatly reduced, the value of the conclusion is increased in like proportions. / Total number of case, 221—recovered, 116—52 per cent. / Average period of recovery, 104 days—greatest period, 255 days, and least 41 days. Average period where death occurred, 52 days—greatest period, 185 days—least, one day. Average amount of shortening, 1 9-10ths inches—greatest, 5 inches, and least, half an inch. / When we compare directly the results of amputations with the table of cases not operated on, we feel still more disposed to rebel against the authority of Guthrie, McLeod, Larrey, Percy and Dupuytren, and at least hesitate before condemning the shattered limb to instant ablation. Our own statistics are as follows: / 507 cases amputated—250 recovered—50 per cent. / 221 cases not amputated—116 recovered—52 per cent. / The chance for life being more than equal, the value of the leg saved should be considered, and the table throws important light on this point—the average shortening is less than two inches. / Legouest: 1,664 cases amputated—recovered, 123—7 per cent. / 337 cases not amputated—recovered, 117—31 per cent. / Chimborazo Hospital Statistics: 31 cases not amputated—recovered, 19—61 per cent. / These observations prove that whenever, in compound fracture of femur, the result of gunshot wound, there is a doubt as to the propriety of amputation, that we should give the leg the benefit of the doubt—the chances of life being at least equal, and the value of the limb, after recovery, being worth the effort to save it. —Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal.

♦ 1861-1865. The American Civil War. Doctors knew of ether and chloroform but still lacked an understanding of antiseptics and spread infection with dirty instruments and dressings. “After the Battle of Perryville in 1862, water was so scarce that Union surgeons performing amputations almost around the clock did not wash their hands for two days.” (*This Republic of Suffering* by Drew Gilpin Faust.)

♦ “From the stump of the arm, the amputated hand, / I undo the clotted lint, remove the slough, wash off the matter and blood; Back on his pillow the soldier bends, with curv’d neck, and side-falling head; / His eyes are closed, his face is pale, he dares not look on the

bloody stump, / And has not yet looked on it.” (“The Dresser” by Walt Whitman, 1865. “Slough” would be pronounced, “sluff.”)

♦ “Corday also comes across a representative of a new phenomenon, the soldier beggar. Of late it has become usual to see them at restaurants or cafes. They are often wearing medals on their chests, fine medals like the Croix de Guerre, awarded for heroism in the field. They sell picture postcards or sing patriotic songs to collect a little money. / The begging soldier Corday meets on the pavement has an arm missing. He is also drunk. He is meandering through the stream of people, asking one, then another, for a few coppers or for a cigarette at least. And he repeats the same word all the time: ‘Peace... peace...’” (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England. He is writing about World War I.)

♦ In *Seldom Disappointed*, the great Tony Hillerman writes about the seemingly callous banter and traditions of badly wounded soldiers on a hospital ward in Europe during WWII. For example, a soldier has his right arm amputated and when he returns to the ward he is greeted by his comrades as “Lefty!” Hillerman makes the point that, while such behavior seems “barbarous,” it is, in fact, an antidote to self-pity.

♦ “I never, ever in a million years thought I would do a marathon so now I feel like I could do anything. I really believe you’ve got to have goals when you’re injured like this. I’ve seen people at the hospital who don’t have goals, and they just sit there and slip away.” (Army Sgt. John Kieth, after finishing the NYC marathon in a handcycle. An RPG hit his Humvee in Iraq. He was in an induced coma for 2 weeks, and woke up at Walter Reed hospital. Doctors tried to salvage his limb, but after a month Kieth made the decision to have it amputated, after talking to amputees at Walter Reed, who inspired him because they were so active.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## amputated (removed)

amputated from the Syrian body politic  
that an ancient Syrian community could be ~... (Jews)

♦ “That an ancient Syrian community could be amputated from the Syrian body politic because it was *inconvenient* always felt like a frightening precedent.” (*The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria* by Alia Malek.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## analogy (and analogize, etc.)

analogies to the past  
officials downplay ~ (Cold War 2.0)

analogy of the day  
this seems to be the ~ (see quote below)

analogized the controversy  
he ~ to a time when Black men were hanged from trees

mountaineering analogy  
we probably have crested a peak, a ~...

alternative analogy  
I offered him an ~

proper analogy  
the ~ is with...



gift for analogy

*The New York Times* Book Review praised her for her ~

analogies are often drawn

~ between sports and religion (*Passion Plays* by R. Blamer)

carry the analogy further

to ~...

♦ "We probably have crested a peak, this seems to be the analogy of the day, a mountaineering analogy, but the reality is, we've only just begun the descent, and we're still at a very very high altitude, and we know that that descent is going to take us months." (Chris Hobson from NHS Providers, speaking about the COVID-19 pandemic.)

♦ "Gottingen was the scene of Oppenheimer's first real triumph as a young man coming of age. Becoming a scientist, Oppenheimer later remarked, is 'like climbing a mountain in a tunnel: you wouldn't know whether you were coming out above the valley or whether you were ever coming out at all.' This was particularly so for a young scientist on the cusp of the quantum revolution." (An astonishing simile. From *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "In the months before meeting Oppenheimer, [Lawrence] had conceived the notion of building a machine capable of penetrating the so far unassailable nucleus of the atom, which existed, he quipped, 'like a fly inside a cathedral.'" (Another astonishing simile from *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "Roosevelt upped the total to \$10 million on the condition that Finland would not directly purchase arms with it. This 'was like offering a clean shirt to a man asking for a square meal...' (The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40.)

♦ "Eliot's words are everywhere, in other words. The more closely you map 'The Waste Land,' the more it assumes the shape of an isthmus; so much of the past, both public and personal, streamed into its making, and so much has flowed from it ever since." ("On The Rocks: A hundred years of 'The Waste Land,'" by Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022. An isthmus connects two larger pieces of land. By this wonderful analogy, the larger pieces of land are the past and the present.)

♦ "Swooping curves agree with short brushstrokes about as well as an airplane wing agrees with drag."

♦ "[Masterclass] is to a medical degree what an apple is to an orange planet." ("What Is MasterClass Actually Selling?" by Carina Chocano, *The Atlantic*, September 2020. A wonderful example of an analogy focusing on how two things are NOT similar.)

♦ The destruction of the Armenian cemetery in Julfa has been likened to the Taliban's destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas. (Cultural crimes against humanity. In the media, the extinguishment of Nagorno-Karabakh and the lives of its 120,000 inhabitants ("2023 Azerbaijani offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh") was barely mentioned, submerged by the ongoing "Russian invasion of Ukraine," just as the Russian invasion of Ukraine was submerged by the Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "I went to math camp when I was fourteen and came home clutching a Rubik's Cube to my chest... I majored in math in college and went on to get my PhD..." (Cathy O'Neil, author of *Weapons Of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality And Threatens Democracy*. Chapters are titled: Bomb Parts; Shell Shocked; Arms Race; Propaganda Machine; Civilian Casualties; Ineligible To Serve; Sweating Bullets; Collateral Damage; No Safe Zone; and The Targeted Citizen. The *New York Times* Book Review deservedly praised her for her "gift for analogy.")

♦ The book was destined to be for anatomy what Copernicus' work was for astronomy. (Structure of the Human body by Vesalius and De Revolutionibus by Copernicus.)

♦ "Ray and Linnaeus would accomplish for all plants and animals what Mercator and his fellows did for the planet's whole surface."

♦ "Just as the map-makers of the earth started from the self-evident boundaries of land and sea, mountains and deserts, the naturalists, too, found self-evident units among plants and animals."

♦ "What the herbals did for botany the bestiaries did for zoology."

♦ "This dream...is to pedagogy what the perpetual-motion is to physics: always wished for, endlessly proposed, and never demonstrated." (Education and its fads.)

♦ "Latitude and longitude were to the measurement of space what the mechanical clock was to the measurement of time."

♦ "The Atchafalaya Basin is a swampy wilderness that is to crawfish what the Serengeti is to lions." (Calvin Trillin. A wonderful analogy.)

♦ "The incursion in Lebanon in 1982 was to Israel what Vietnam was to the United States." (According to Major M. Thomas Davis, 1985. "W was to X what Y was to Z.")

♦ "But what Sir William Harvey was to physiology, Tyson would be to comparative anatomy."

♦ "The effect which Newton's discoveries had in mathematics, Johnson's work had in this world of words."

♦ "What Portugal was for adventurers in geography, Italy was for history, and Florence was the Sagres." (A triple analogy. Sagres was the port from which Henry the Navigator sent out ships to sail south along the West coast of Africa.)

♦ "We're not going to get rid of porn any more than we're going to get rid of Disneyland even if we don't like the princess trope and that happily-ever-after motif." (Shira Tarrant.)

♦ NPR's Mary Louise Kelly: "Is it correct to say the World Baseball Classic is to Baseball what the World Cup is to soccer?" / Tom Goldman: "It is. Yeah."

♦ Mary Louise Kelly: "All right, with that analogy in mind, we'll leave it there. TV critic Eric Deggans, thank you." (The analogy Deggans had used was, "It's like trying to change the tire on a car while it's running.")

♦ "He has the charm and personality of a rusty nail." (A tennis fan about a famous tennis player.)

♦ "The gaudy, vertiginous fairground ride of a play..." (A favorable review.)

♦ "Frustrating. England trying to string a few passes was like trying to eat paella with your elbows." (An online commenter, following England's loss to Spain in the final of the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup.)

♦ "It's like an orphanage that also has a gruel business on the side." (Employer self-dealing with 401(k) options.)

♦ "The phenomena are always of the same kind. The miners are either immediately destroyed by the explosion, and thrown with the horses and machinery through the shaft into the air, the mine becoming as it were [an enormous piece of artillery, from which they are projected..." (On the Safety Lamp for Coal Miners, with Some Researches into Flame by Humphry Davy, 1818.)

♦ "If we are also able to build a brain scanner that can capture the state of every synapse at a given moment—the pattern of information that neuroscientists call the connectome, a term analogous with genome—then we can upload that pattern into a brain-emulating computer. The result will be, for all intents and purposes, a human mind. An uploaded mind won't dwell in the same environment as we do, but that's not necessarily a disadvantage..." ("The End of Us: Is the reign of human beings on Earth nearing its end?" by Adam Kirsch, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023.)

♦ "Comparing the men's and women's game is crazy." (An online commenter about the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup.)

♦ "Why doesn't Rosen compare Laudor's story to Elyn's? Two Jews who developed schizophrenia and went to Yale Law School; one murdered his partner and the other won a MacArthur genius grant. This reflects a larger failure in Rosen's article..." (The Atlantic, July / August 2023.)

♦ "Fed up with the BBC and other outlets reminding us of 1966. It might as well be 1066. Meaningless." (An online commenter about the hype surrounding England's "Lionesses," defeated by Spain in the final of the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup. To which one reply was, "We lost in 1066 to the French," the reply to that being, "Normans." Perhaps a "reply too far.")

♦ "Like many concerned keepers of the game and its traditions, Sword will often explain the creeping dispassion for baseball in terms of that overcooked analogy about the boiling frog in the pot. 'Part of

what made this so tricky was that the games were getting two or three minutes slower every year rather than half an hour slower, so there was never a point where it felt like a real emergency,' he told me. I offered an alternative analogy, comparing baseball's predicament to a slow-growing tumor that the new rules would surgically excise. 'I'd prefer to go back to the frog,' Sword said. / How did America's beloved old frog find itself in such mortal danger...?' ("How Baseball Saved Itself" by Mark Leibovich, *The Atlantic*, July / August 2023.)

♦ "Michael Irvin analogized the controversy he's in with Marriott to a time when black men accused of harassing white women were hung [sic] from trees." ("Michael Irvin: Woman's hotel accusations turning into modern-day lynching" by Ryan Glasspiegel, *The New York Post*, March 8, 2023.)

♦ Camille Vasquez: You also wrote, quote, "Imagine a powerful man as a ship, like the *Titanic*. That ship is a huge enterprise. When it strikes an iceberg, there are a lot of people on board desperate to patch up holes—not because they believe in or care about the ship, but because their own fates depend on the enterprise." (Taps microphone to illustrate the point.) In this op-ed, you're saying Mr. Depp is a ship, right? / Amber Heard: I'm making an analogy to a powerful man as a ship. / CV: The powerful man you're referring to in this analogy is Mr. Depp, right? / AH: Uh, I was talking about a bigger issue actually than just Johnny... / CV: The iceberg is you in this analogy, right, Miss Heard? / AH: (Obviously surprised) Um, I would not say that, I hadn't, I had not... (exhales) That was not what I intended, no. (The Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

♦ Anastasia Tsioulcas: "The prosecution asked a defense witness...about an org (organization) chart he had made of Kelly's company. It was illustrated like a cartoon octopus, and, in retrospect, that was a pretty unfortunate metaphor for a man accused of running an enterprise intended to lure victims into sex crimes." / Noel King: "That's a really vivid image, isn't it." / Anastasia Tsioulcas: "It really is." ("A Jury In New York Begins Deliberations In R. Kelly's Federal Trial," NPR, Morning Edition, Sept. 27, 2021.)

♦ "Much of life should have quotes around it." (Frank's 'love' for Betty Tran...)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ He was comparable / equivalent / analogous / similar / akin to a lion. He was like a lion. He has been likened to a lion. He was lion-like. He could be lion-ish. He had a leonine presence and demeanor. He was a lion. He was a "lion." He had the courage of a lion. He was a lion of a man. Colleagues referred to him as "the Lion." As a lion could exhibit ferocious violence at times, so could he. He was to the Senate what the lion was to the Serengeti. He was no / not a timid zebra, antelope, or wildebeest. In terms of courage, he was the opposite of a rabbit. (Different ways the language gives us to compare.)

## anathema

anathema to the Koch network  
tariffs and trade wars are ~

anathema to (many) media outlets and academics  
these proposals were ~ (New Consensus think tank)

become anathema  
he has ~ in progressive circles (pro-Israel)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "In church Latin, *anathema* meant the curse of excommunication, but these ecclesiastical anathemas were given so freely at one time that the meaning of the word became extended to any curse, to anything loathed or hated." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## ancestor (go before)

ancestors of (today's) potatoes  
they are the ~ (Peruvian wild potatoes)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Your *ancestor* is one who has 'gone before' you, eventually from the Latin *ante-*, 'before,' and *cedo*, 'go,' while a *predecessor* went

away before you came along, *prae*, 'before,' and *decedo*, 'go away.' The *deceased* is simply one who is *decessus*, 'departed.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 4, "Where Words About Human Beings Come From.")

## anchor (noun)

anchor of the (Egyptian) government  
the military is the ~ right now (2011)

anchor for the development  
the golf course is the ~ (apartments, condos)

anchor babies  
opponents of immigration talk about "~"

anchor tenants  
malls need ~

anchor (entertainment) tenants  
each had ~ (Las Vegas hotels / casinos)

western anchor  
Nanga Parbat is the ~ of the Himalayas

westernmost anchor  
Khe Sanh was the ~ of the line below the DMZ

## anchored

anchored in old ways  
leadership is still ~ (politics)

anchored to the document text  
the selected object is ~ here (text box Microsoft Word)

## ancien regime

ancien regime of Hosni Mubarak  
Morsi replaced the ~

creature of the ancien regime  
to his detractors he was a ~ (politics)

factions of the ancien regime  
negotiations among ~ and Gulf monarchies (Yemen / 2015)

candidates from the ancien regime  
~ (Field Marshal Ahmed Shafiq, Amr Moussa, etc.)

♦ "Despite a fondness for tech-founder posturing and talk of innovation, Weiss appears in Meltzer's portrait as a creature of media's ancien regime, with her print connections and her exquisitely controlled bearing. The subtlety of her commercial strategy stands in contrast to the methods adopted by the denizens of 'Extremely Online.'" ("Makeover: Building a billion-dollar beauty brand in the influencer era" by Molly Fischer, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023.)

## anemic (adjective)

anemic  
earnings have been ~  
sales have been ~  
economic growth has been ~  
turnout was ~ (election)

anemic 1.5 percent  
the rate of economic growth slowed to an ~

anemic attempt

their ~s to address the issue

anemic economy

our ~ is a result of higher taxes (politics)

anemic (job) growth

he produced very ~ (a leader)

anemic recovery

poverty is on the rise in the recession and the ~ continues

anemic response

people are upset by the military's ~ to the provocation

## angel (Angel of the Battlefield, etc.)

Angel of Arnhem

her British patients nicknamed her the ~ (Kate ter Horst)

Angel of the Battlefield

Clara Barton was known as the ~ (Civil War)

“Angel of the Confederacy”

she has been remembered as the ~ (Sally Louisa Tompkins)

“Angel of Dien Bien Phu”

the US press gave her the name ~ (Genevieve de Galard)

♦ “George Silk captured the iconic image of a Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel.” (Papua New Guinea, World War II. See the short documentary *Kokoda Front Line* 1942.)

## angel (Angel of Death, etc.)

see *Angel of Death (literal analogy)* **angel (the Los Angeles Angels, etc.)**

Guardian Angels

*Gardiens de Nuit* is a French version of New York's ~

Hell's Angels

~ member sentenced to 14 years in prison for...

Los Angeles Angles

the ~ are in the American League West (MLB)

## angel (appearance)

princess or angel

I want to be Britney Spears, no more ~ (Halloween girl)

## angel (behavior)

angels

in fairness, the North Koreans have been no ~

angel of vengeance

he sees himself as kind of an ~ (*The Power of the Dog*)

perfect angel

he's a ~ with everyone but us (a 15-month-old)

## angel (snow angel)

snow angels

kids create ~ in the snow

it's a great place to make ~ (Dubai mall)

celestial snow angel

this ~ (Sh2-106, a nebula in Cygnus)

made a snow angel

she ~ and posted it on YouTube (Johannesburg)

make a snow angel

they go outside and ~ after a sauna (Finland)

♦ A New England Patriots football player was once fined \$10,000 for making a snow angel after scoring a touchdown.

♦ In *The Miracle Season*, two small girls—“fearless, generous souls”—are shown making *mud* angels. Their mothers could not have been happy when they got home!

♦ Sh2-106 is also known as the Celestial Snow Angel. It's a nebula in the constellation Cygnus (the Swan), and its shape has also been compared to an hourglass and butterfly.

## angel (superlative)

voice of an angel

she has the ~ (a singer from Isan)

lost an angel

Macedonia and the Balkans ~ (Tose Proeski)

♦ “Macedonia and the Balkans lost an angel.” (Archbishop Stefan, the head of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, about the death in a car crash of the Macedonian pop star Tose Proeski. It was a sentiment felt across the Balkans.)

## angel (angel-faced)

angel-faced child

the ~ who tells lies...

## angel (guardian angel)

guardian angel of Nazare

the ~ (Sergio Cosme, jet ski driver / surfing)

self-appointed guardian angel

Chen Si is the bridge's ~ (stops suicides)

his guardian angel

tell my son I will always be ~ (suicide note)

digital guardian angle

Shearman is grateful he had this ~ (an Apple Watch)

‘guardian angel’ saves family

~ from Kentucky floods

views Elon Musk as her guardian angel

she ~ (actor Gina Carano, blacklisted by Hollywood)

♦ “I think it's pretty incredible what he is doing. A lot of billionaires put their money into buying islands and building bunkers. Elon Musk is using his money to fight massive injustice battles.” (Gina Carano, about being blacklisted by Hollywood. Gina was a MMA fighter before being noticed by Steven Soderbergh and cast in the lead of the 2011 film *Haywire*. Her next role was in *Fast & Furious 6*. Read “Gina Carano on Getting Sacked From Star Wars and Her Grudge Match With Disney” by Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, March 14, 2024.)

♦ “Shearman is grateful he had this digital guardian angel on hand.” (“Body surfer swept out to sea rescued thanks to Apple Watch” by Ben Cost, *The New York Post*, July 16, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ People query Google Search with questions like: How do I know I have a guardian angel? and How do I talk to my guardian angel?

## angel (help and assistance)

### angel

she was an ~ to so many of us (exoneration lawyer)

### “Angel of the Gap”

Australia mourns ~ (Don Ritchie, who prevented suicides)

### angel investor

I raised money from some ~s and venture capitalists  
I'm an ~ and I'm looking for...  
he is a serial entrepreneur and ~

### Antonio Brown's angel

Tom Brady has been ~ (two NFL athletes)

### lay-away angels

generous acts of kindness doled out by so-called ~

### search angel

she is a self-described ~ (helps adoptees find birth parents)

### trail angel

~s provide water, food, even lodging for hikers  
~s figure out where hikers are likely to run into trouble  
~s are a tradition on long-distance footpaths (AT, PCT)  
~s left 30 1-gallon jugs of water and a note  
a ~ left a cooler stocked with soda, water and beer

### angel, benefactor, Godsend

Tom Brady was his ~ (to Antonio Brown / NFL)

♦ Mini-Me: [writes] Are you a clone of an angel? / Foxy Cleopatra: Ohhh how sweet. No, my mini-man, I'm not. / Mini-Me: [writes] Are you sure you don't have a little clone in you? / Foxy Cleopatra: Yes, I'm sure. / Mini-Me [writes]: Would you like to? (The film *Austin Powers in Goldmember*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Lay-away angels are anonymous people who pay for Christmas items put on lay-away at stores. Trail angels leave water, food, and other supplies along trails like the Appalachian Trail for the through hikers, who are not able to carry much.

## Angel of Death (literal analogy)

### Angel of Death

Josef Mengele, the ~ (Nazi doctor at Auschwitz)

### Dr. Death

Philip Nitschke, nicknamed ~ (assisted suicide)

### Merchant of Death

Victor Bout, the arms dealer dubbed the “~”

♦ “Trainers started referring to her as ‘the angel of death’, *The Guardian* has been told, although it was ‘tongue in cheek’ rather than because they suspected her of foul play.” (“Lucy Letby: how did a nurse commit such unthinkable murders?” by Josh Halliday, *The Guardian*, 18 August 2023. In the article, Dr Stephen Breary is quoted as saying, “It can't be Lucy. Not nice Lucy.”)

## angle (from an angle)

### from every angle

I have considered the issue ~

### from a new angle

these conclusions help us look at the tragedy ~

### from ten different angles

I wanted to think through these issues ~ (a writer)

### considered the problem from every angle

I have ~

### look at the tragedy from a new angle

these conclusions help us ~

## animal (different animal, etc.)

### different animal

urban warfare is a ~ than fighting in the open  
the new style of aggressive ad is a ~ (Internet)

### two (very) different animals

the map of the Pacific before and after Cook are ~

### unique animal

considering public education, Maine is something of a ~

### unusual animal

NCTC is kind of an ... (counter-terrorism center)

### completely different animal

a virtual lab is totally different from a classroom, it's a ~

### much different animal

the US military is a ~ than the Taliban forces

### very different animal

the Bundesliga is a ~ from the Premiership (soccer)

### \*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ Bill Whitaker, ABC Correspondent: “This is your first Broadway production. This is a different animal.” / Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Belgian choreographer: “What you call it, an animal?” (From a delightful 60 Minutes interview about *West Side Story*, February 16, 2020.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “That's a different animal.” “That's a different beast.” “That's a different kettle of fish.” Take your pick!

## animal (political animal, etc.)

### human animal

stimulus and response is sufficient to understand the ~

### narrative animals

we are ~, we love a good story (Guillermo del Toro)

### political animal

he's a ~ and will probably go along with Israel (politics)  
Karl is not a ~ (a law enforcement leader)  
I see myself as not a ~ in this job (DNI)

## animal (party animal, etc.)

### playboy and a party animal

he had a reputation as a ~ (a soccer player)

## animal (insult)

### animal

an ~ decided to take her life (murder of coed)  
what do you want to bet this ~ has previous arrests...

this ~ is still going to have life in prison (death penalty)  
these ~s are not people... (insult)

animals come out

all the ~ at night (the 1976 film *Taxi Driver*)

rabid animals

they are ~ that should all be put down (looters, arsonists)

wild animals

they threw my boy in a cage with those ~ (prison)

animals tormented him

those wild ~ until he became mean as they were (prison)

♦ "The thought that he was waiting for some woman to attack her and do what he wanted to do... I was just thinking, what a horrible animal, vile animal, he is..." (The sister of a murder victim.)

♦ "They were vicious, they were animals, you know, to beat him up that way..." (The attack left the boxer Emile Griffith nearly dead. From the affecting and emotionally wrenching documentary *Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story 2005*.)

♦ "The animal that did this is no longer on this earth." (Police solve a cold case. The murderer had died in 2013.)

♦ "Witnesses described the scene as like animals attacking a piece of meat, with one telling the jury it appeared to be a deliberate attempt to kill." (Jack Woodley case: Ten teenagers found guilty of murder," BBC, June 2, 2022.)

♦ "All the animals come out at night... It's sick, venal. Someday a real rain will come and wash the scum off the streets." (Travis Bickle in the 1976 film *Taxi Driver*. Watch: "Someday A Rain Will Come And Wash All the Scum Off The Streets" | *Taxi Driver* | CineClips)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When I have a mad dog in my yard there is only one solution." (A comment on a discussion board about a heinous murderer. The commenter is alluding to vigilante justice.)

♦ see also *beast* (insult)

## anniversary (creation)

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

the ~ of Stephen King's 1974 book *Carrie*

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

♦ see also *birthday* (creation), *old* (a year old, etc.)

## anodyne (adjective)

anodyne answers

she gives ~ to media (a sports star)

anodyne drone

the ~ typing away in her silent cubicle

anodyne names

they often adopt ~ (SoCal Research Club / Antifa)

anodyne title

an article with the ~ "The Value of Science in Prediction"

anodyne and fuzzy

the language of these bills is ~ (culture wars)

so anodyne

that letter was ~ and insignificant (yet caused controversy)

tend to be anodyne

its public comments on due process ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ An anodyne is a drug that soothes pain.

♦ The Merriam-Webster online dictionary does NOT tag this as "disparaging." The Cambridge online dictionary tags this "formal mainly disapproving." Dictionaries are weird.

## anoint (verb)

anointed his (long-time) ally as his successor

he ~ (Nursultan Nazarbayev)

anointed him as the candidate

the Democratic establishment has ~ (Joe Biden)

anoint him as the Democratic nominee

Biden appealed to Sanders backers to ~

anointed (unelectable) Kamala Harris as his replacement

President Joe Biden ~ (2024 U.S. presidential election)

anoint a political heir

he wants to ~

anoint college leaders

the committees that ~ are almost always secretive

anointed him one of the beautiful people

*People* magazine ~

## anointed

anointed "the next Steve Jobs or Bill Gates"

she was ~ by George Shultz (Elizabeth Holmes)

anointed the (art world's newest) star

he has been ~

anointed as the Party's standard-bearer

he was ~ (Hubert Humphrey)

anointed one

he would latch onto people and make them his ~s (a boss)

she went from being "the ~" to being out of favor (job)

get anointed

how exactly did he ~ as the voice of Black America

♦ "He would latch onto people and make them his anointed ones. Then after a period of time, 'Oops, you're no longer my anointed one.'" (An administrator. Who else?)

## answer (respond)

answered with an assault

Syria ~ of its own, killing several dozen Syrians...

answered with tear gas and water cannons

police ~ (after protesters hurl gasoline bombs)

## answer (response)

Answer to Blinken

Russia's "~" law bans gay propaganda

right answer

a ceasefire is not the ~ right now (Israel-Hamas war)



♦ "The answer to bad speech or hate speech—however you want to define that—is always more speech, and it always will be." (Gab CEO Andrew Torba.)

## answer (solution)

answer

the ~ is in front of us

the answer is

~ reform and an awake electorate

answer to social issues

criminalization is frequently America's ~

♦ "There's no excuse for going and killing people... it's not the answer." (The Club Q mass shooting in Colorado Springs, Colorado.)

## answer (Britain's answer to Bill Gates, etc.)

Europe's answer to PayPal

Germans considered it ~ (Wirecard)

North America's answer to Machu Picchu

Chaco Canyon is ~, only older (drought, etc.)

Britain's answer to Bill Gates

he was once seen as ~ (tech tycoon Mike Lynch)

Britain's answer to Ry Cooder

guitarist Justin Adams has been called "~"

Britain's answer to the Tea Party

UKIP has been described as ~ (US)

China's answer to Lord of the Rings

while it might be easy to describe Condo Heroes as ~...

China's answer to Twitter

Weibo, ~

Europe's answer

~ to NASA (ESA astronauts)

Russia's answer to California

#Sochifornia, ~ (Sochi)

tech's answer

Facebook's "supreme court" is ~ to the Hays Office (P.R.)

millennial answer to Tracy and Hepburn

they seemed like the ~ (Kristin Stewart / Jesse Eisenberg)

♦ "It's America's answer to Shakespeare." ("OK: How Two Letters Made 'America's Greatest Word' NPR, All Things Considered, November 20, 2010. Guy Raz interviews Allan Metcalf, author of *OK: The Improbable Story of America's Greatest Word*. The interview and the excerpt from the book are fascinating.)

♦ "Mother, or MU/TH/UR 6000, is the spaceship's computer system, Scott's answer to Kubrick's HAL 9000, from '2001.'" ("Napoleon Complex: Does Ridley Scott see himself in the hero of his epic new film?" by Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*, November 13, 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Both are in the same state of decay; both were the sites of thriving civilizations; both experienced drought and were essentially abandoned... (Comparisons between Machu Picchu and "North America's answer" Chaco Canyon. From "Ancient Culture Prompts Worry for Arid Southwest," NPR, All Things Considered, July 9, 2007.)

♦ The essential meaning is "equivalent."

## antediluvian (old)

antediluvian hangover

it's an ~ from far-off days (a judicial matter)

antediluvian opinions

Irwin suggested that Churchill held ~

antediluvian policy

its ~ of opposing women priests (job advert for vicar)

♦ Lord Judge, former lord chief justice: "In my opinion, the time has arrived when the requirement for the physical presence of a child—witness or victim—within the court building should be regarded as an antediluvian hangover from laughable far-off days of the quill pen and the ink well." (BBC, World at One, "An antediluvian hangover." A child could be asked questions via video conferencing.)

## antenna (noun)

antennae

I walk around with my ~ up, ready for trouble (gang)

antenna for (racial) slights

he has no ~ (Nigerian immigrant in US)

price antenna

his ~ was already on high alert (inflation woes)

## anthem (noun)

anthem

it's been an ~ ever since (Aretha sings "Respect")

anthem of African Americans

it became the ~ ("Say it clear, say it loud...")

anthem of a (celebrity) campaign

Dylan's "Hurricane" was the ~ to release Rubin Carter

anthem of (female and black) empowerment

the video is an ~ (Beyonce's "Formation")

anthems of the (Civil Rights) movement

some of her songs became ~ (Nina Simone)

anthems for women

~ to accept themselves (Lizzo)

anthem among Pentecostals in the Appalachians

the song became an ~ ("There ain't no grave...")

angry young man's anthem

"Custer Died for Your Sins" was an ~

rousing anthem

it's a ~ of encouragement and hope (a song)

club anthem

the supersonic ~ "Tattoo" (Eurovision)

pop anthem

"Queen of Kings," a thunderous ~ (Eurovision)

rock anthem

"Born to Run" is one of the best ~s ever

swamp anthem

a raucous version of the ~ "Sabine Turnaround" (Cajun)

booty-call anthem

Adele's first ~ ("Can I Get It?")

date-rape anthem

it's been referred to as a ~ (an old Christmas song)

strip-club anthem

the song was a ~ called "Money Maker"

feminist anthem

her single has been hailed by some as a ~ ("The Man")

secret national anthem

the ~ of an entire generation ("You forgot the color film")

♦ "It became the national anthem of African Americans." ("Say it clear, say it loud, I am black, and I am proud." Sung by Nina Simone.)

♦ "Big Freedia, queen of the New Orleans 'sissy bounce' scene, released her first EP and is bringing her 'go homo' anthems nationwide on a successful tour." (Tavia Nyong'o, professor of performance studies at NYU and blogger at *Hear is Queer*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "This story is part of American Anthem, a yearlong series on songs that rouse, unite, celebrate and call to action. Find more at [NPR.org/Anthem](http://NPR.org/Anthem)." (National Public Radio.)

## anthemic (adjective)

anthemic single

the album's ~ "FREEDOM" (Jon Batiste)

## anti (antiracist, etc.)

anti-abortion

the Alabama law tops a crescendo of ~ legislation

anti-American

the government has struggled to prevent an ~ backlash

anti-Americanism

the US airstrike resulted in an outburst of ~

anti-bisexual

its hideous, it's awful, it's very ~ (film *Basic Instinct*)

anti-Blackness

the 1619 Project excavates racial inequality and ~ the ~ and colorism that's common among Latinos

anti-blackness

reject white supremacy, anti-immigrant and ~ ideologies

anti-Casteist

how to be an ~

anti-Chinese

~ discrimination in the US (historical)

anticolonial

see *anticolonial (groups)*

anti-consumerism

his ~ was ahead of its time (Travis McGee character)

Anti-Defamation

"White Lives Matter" is hate speech to the ~ League

anti-discrimination

~ laws in education

anti-drug

Angela Dawson was an ~ crusader (East Baltimore)

anti-establishment

the political baggage of its ~ origins (black studies)  
prison terms strengthen ~ views

anti-fat

fight ~ bias

anti-fatness

~ keeps fat people on the margins (Aubrey Gordon)

anti-gay

the two plaintiffs who took on Florida's ~ marriage ban  
~ feeling is entrenched in Uganda  
pathologizing the ~ position ("homophobia")

anti-girlbossery

is all this ~ simply a new way to put women down

anti-government

it was the final act in his ~ crusade (Oklahoma City bombing)

anti-immigrant

reject white supremacy, ~ and anti-blackness ideologies

anti-gun

~ doctors should stay in their lane (stick to surgery)

anti-immigrant

~ feeling

anti-immigration

he's the leading ~ voice in town

anti-intellectual

Breareley has been captured by an ~, illiberal mob (school)

anti-Israel

pro-Palestinian and ~ organizations

anti-lesbian

it's very ~ (the film *Basic Instinct*)

anti-mask

the ~ meltdown has become its own video genre

anti-oppression

align our actions and behaviors with anti-racism and ~

anti-racist

it's not enough to be non-racist, you must be ~  
pedagogy rooted in ~ and anti-patriarchal practices  
how to send an ~ message without appearing performative  
claiming and protecting space is fundamental in ~ protest

*Anti-Racist*

*How to Raise an ~* (by Ibram X. Kendi)

anti-Semitism

the vandalism lays bare the latent ~ that exists in society



anti-terror  
they seek to build an international ~ coalition

anti-vaccine  
California is ground zero of the ~ movement

anti-vax  
people who have burrowed into an ~ rabbit hole

anti-vaxxism  
the lab-leak hypothesis is a xenophobic cousin to ~

anti-war  
there's no such thing as an ~ film

anti-Washington  
capitalizing on a tide of ~ sentiment (politics)

anti-white  
had a history of ~ racism on social media (Darrell Brooks)  
black separatist hate groups with antisemitic and ~ beliefs

anti-whiteness  
~ is the fundamental premise of the left

anti-anti-Zionism  
cases of ~ (doxxing pro-Hamas students, etc.)

anti-Zionists  
frequently ~ let the mask slip (to show their anti-Semitism)

anti-LGBTQ  
there are so many ~ attacks going on around the country in a year of ~ hate

anti-LGBTQ+  
we have seen an onslaught of aggressively hostile ~ bills

anti-bullying  
an ~ crusade (schools)

anti-cockfighting  
successful ~ crusades in Missouri and Arizona

anti-authoritarian  
irreverent, ~ and iconoclastic (*Mad* magazine)

anticolonial  
see *anticolonial* (groups)

anti-foreign  
waves of ~ sentiment convulsed the country

anti-patriarchal  
pedagogy rooted in anti-racist and ~ practices

anti-religious  
the book is ~

anti-Semitic  
we felt the need to come out against ~ tropes

anti-social  
an ~ behavior order (ABSO / the U.K.)

antisemitic and anti-white

black separatist hates groups with ~ beliefs

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Opinion: Tom Hanks Is A Non-Racist. It's Time For Him To Be Anti-Racist" by Eric Deggans, NPR, Opinion, June 13, 2021.

♦ "How To Be An Anti-Casteist" by Gregory Warner, Lauren Frayer, Derek Arthur, NPR, Rough Translation, September 30, 2020.

♦ "I will NO LONGER tolerate ANY racism against me for being a #ProudBrownWoman of #SouthAsian and #Caribbean descent...The fact that I have consistently been made to endure this hateful racism in anti-racist spaces is abhorrently shameful." (Dr. Vanessa Toolsie, who was born in Trinidad of Indian descent, resigning from her position of elected vice president of the Orange County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. From "NAACP leader in Florida quits over 'racist marginalization,'" AP, August 25 2022. Republished on ABC News.)

♦ "ASBOs are simply a badge of honor for lads like this." (A comment about a delinquent. An ASBO is an anti-social behavior order in the United Kingdom.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Antiaircraft; anti-armor; antilanding; antihandling; anti-missile; anti-personnel; antisatellite; antisubmarine; anti-tank; anti-terrorism... (Military "anti-s.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Use the modifiers anti-abortion or abortion-rights; don't use pro-life pro-choice or pro-abortion unless they are in quotes or proper names. Avoid the term abortionist, which connotes a person who performs clandestine abortions." (The Associated Press style book.)

## antibody (noun)

"antibody response" within the government

there was an ~ (rejection of lab-leak theory)

## anticlimax (noun)

sad anticlimax

his last campaign proved a ~ (an admiral)

## anticolonial (groups)

anti-colonial family

he was raised by a strong ~...

anticolonial principles

an analysis informed by ~ (disability studies)

anticolonial translation

the idea of ~ has gained increasing sway (translators, etc.)

♦ "[He] was born and raised in Chicago by a strong anti-colonial family. They..." (People At NPR.)

## antidote (noun)

antidote to adversity

a cheerful disposition and a sunny smile are the ~

antidote to the boredom

provide an ~ of teaching numbers, months, etc.

antidote to criminality

empathy is the ~ (versus idea of "bad seed")

antidote to cynicism

this book is an ~

antidote to the (poisonous) doctrine

he was an ~ of extremism

antidote to self-importance

poking fun at his experience was an effective ~

antidote to violence

violence is not an ~ (capital punishment)

antidote to the darkness and division

it's up to all of us to be the ~ (Michele Obama)

antidotes to hatred and intolerance

caring and sympathy are the best ~

antidote against self-pity

our callousness was an ~ (hospital ward)

antidote for stress

a break from work is a necessary ~ (vacations)

view (Tibetan) Buddhism as an antidote

some Han Chinese ~ to the materialism and greed...

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ In "Seldom Disappointed," the great Tony Hillerman writes about the seemingly callous banter and traditions of badly wounded soldiers on a hospital ward in Europe during WWII. For example, a soldier has his right arm amputated and when he returns to the ward he is greeted by his comrades as "Lefty!" Hillerman makes the point that, while such behavior seems "barbarous," it is, in fact, an antidote to self-pity.

## antique (adjective)

antique

it seems so ~ now... (a sentiment)

## antique (noun)

antique

the revenue system is an ~ (economy)

turned the telegraph into an antique

the telephone ~

## anvil (Vulcan's Anvil, etc.)

Anvil Mountain

~ is a summit in San Juan County, Colorado

~ is a summit in La Paz County, Arizona

Anvil Peak

~ is a summit in Platte County, Wyoming

Anvil Rock

~ is a pillar in San Juan County, Utah

~ is a pillar in Pierce County, Washington

~ is a pillar in Union County, Kentucky

~ is a pillar in Park County, Wyoming

~ is a summit in Yavapai County, Arizona

~ Arch is an arch in Osage County, Missouri

Devils Anvil

~ Peak is a summit in San Diego County, California

Vulcan's Anvil

once rafters see ~... (a mile before Lava Falls)

~ is a 50-foot-tall vertical volcanic plug (Colorado River)

~ is a wonder of nature (mile 178 on Colorado River)

## anvil (shape)

anvil-shaped

the Geneva Spur is an ~ rib of black rock (Everest)

anvil top

a cumulonimbus mass with a dramatic ~

anvil storm clouds

those majestic ~ that form on a hot summer's day

## anvil (military)

hammer and anvil

the ~ is a military tactic involving two primary forces

the "~~" tactic is a single envelopment

in the ~ tactic, the hammer is the maneuver element

## anxiety (noun)

anxieties about AI

the film speaks to our ~ (M3GAN)

anxiety over authenticity

~ be damned...

Anxiety and Authenticity

"~: Are 'super-natives' loving New Orleans to death?"

Gen Z's anxiety

fueling ~ is being exposed to news in a different way

accent anxiety

northerners were particularly prone to '~' (in England)

class anxiety

the raw nerve of English society, ~

climate anxiety

a lot of people are feeling ~

climate change anxiety

here's how to turn ~ into action (NPR's Allison Aubrey)

eco-anxiety

how can I deal with my ~

Election Anxiety

"How To Deal With '~' (NPR / 2016)

election anxiety

~ is real (according to NPR)

gender anxiety

the ~ rippling through America today (NPR)

health anxiety

cyberchondria is a subset of ~ (compulsive searching)

the pandemic definitely made my ~ worse...

math anxiety

Boaler cited Randall Engle regarding "~" (Jo Boaler)

menu anxiety

the young suffer from "~" (UK / language, prices, etc.)

range anxiety

you reduce the cost the ~... (switching to electric vehicles)

rapture anxiety

for some Christians, '~' can take a lifetime to heal (CNN)

vulva anxiety

my ~ grew through my teens (a girl with an “outie”)

long-held anxiety

the ~ that Americans are “falling behind” in math, science

ambient anxiety

stressors included a kind of ~ caused by the pandemic

ecological anxiety

novels of maternal guilt and ~ (*Hum* by Helen Phillips, etc.)

financial anxiety

the film is strikingly fraught with ~ (*Sex and the City*)

moral anxiety

the yuppie was the collective projection of a ~

parental anxiety

economist Emily Oster believes data can ease ~

postnatal anxiety

Lizzie experienced ~ and insomnia

social anxiety

ways to conquer ~

pandemic measures that instill unnatural ~ in people

crucible of anxiety

how to handle the ~ (college admissions)

irritation and anxiety

students express ~ (rising tuition, fewer classes)

stares, fear or anxiety

if you can use public bathrooms without ~...

coping with anxiety

mindfulness can also play a role in ~

devoured by anxiety

she is ~ when she's not working (magazine editor)

ease ‘ringxiety’

constant notifications are ruining your health—7 tips to ~

speaks to our anxieties

the film ~ about AI (M3GAN)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Years later, I have PTSD, I have panic attacks I go to therapy. Finally I’m ready to talk about it and finally heal.” (Gabby, about a sexual assault with a Golden Globe nominee.)

♦ If you can use public bathrooms without stares, fear or anxiety, you have **cisgender privilege**.

♦ “Zoomers especially have developed intense social anxiety around communicating with others in real life, and dating is no different. / Some are even scared to make phone calls, so flirting in real life can feel especially daunting.” (“How Gen Z destroyed flirting: This is how young people try to score a date today” by Brooke Kato, *The New York Post*, July 4, 2024.)

♦ Bohemians; freaks; hipsters; natives; super-natives (recently arrived appropriators, colonizers); newcomers; young people; poseurs; permanent residents; tourists; (post-Katrina) transplants; yuppies; ... (Types and groups of people mentioned in “Anxiety and authenticity: Are ‘super-natives’ loving New Orleans to death?” by C.W. Cannon, *The Lens: Focused on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast*, June 1, 2018.)

♦ Michel Martin: “How does the task force define anxiety?” / Lori Pbert: “That’s a really good point...” (“Behind the new anxiety screening recommendation,” NPR, All Things Considered, September 24, 2022. It’s hard to know what the “point” was.)

♦ Anxiety; anxiety disorders; anxious; apprehension; avoidance; disease (cardiovascular disease, etc.); dread; events (traumatic events, etc.); fearful; fight or flight; heartbeat (increased heartbeat); ill at ease; insomnia; muscles (tightened muscles, etc.); nervousness; pressure (high blood pressure, etc.); problems (financial problems, etc.); sleeplessness; spikes (in blood pressure, etc.); stimulation (mind overtasked with stimulation, etc.); stresses (chronic stresses, etc.); struggling (to sit still, etc.); thoughts (racing thoughts, etc.); threat (anticipated threat, etc.); vigilance; violence (community violence, etc.)... (“What is anxiety” by Rhiu Chatterjee, NPR, Mental Health, Dec. 19, 2022. Just in time for Christmas!)

♦ “I asked her what had struck her most about the poem. ‘The landscapes,’ she said, without hesitation. ‘The rocks and the rivers. All that dryness.’ Not for her the unreal city, or the mob of languages, but a natural world under clear and present threat. “The Waste Land,” in short, can speak to the ecological dread of her generation as it spoke to the social and political anxieties of those who had weathered the First World War. The poem, which is prefaced with the words of a Sibyl, is fated to tell each of us, from one era to the next, whatever it is that we most fear to hear.” (“On The Rocks: A hundred years of ‘The Waste Land’” by Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022.)

♦ “As a millennial with anxiety, I understand fear.” (The nonbinary beauty influence Cyrus Veyssi, explaining why females should not be afraid to share bathrooms with males who identify as female.)

♦ “In a few weeks, some Americans will celebrate the beginning of Donald Trump’s second term. For some others, the next four years will be filled with anxiety over personal safety.” (“Neighbors protecting neighbors: Worried marginalized communities prep for Trump term” by Odette Yousef, NPR, All Things Considered, December 18, 2024.)

\*\*\* jumping on the “anxiety” bandwagon...

♦ “I didn’t know the connective tissue between my brother and my medical trauma and my depression and PTSD and anxiety.” (Elisabeth Finch of *Grey’s Anatomy*, trying to explain her compulsive lying.)

♦ “Constant notifications are ruining your health—7 tips to ease ‘ringxiety.’”

♦ “The ‘Sunday scares’ are eating my joy.” (Anxiety about work week.)

♦ “Hangxiety,” the blues you feel after a night of heavy drinking.

♦ “Beware ‘fanxiety face’: How watching football can give you wrinkles, according to a doctor.” (*The New York Post*.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Nervous about 2024? We can help, with support / We’re preparing for one of the most consequential news cycles of our lifetimes. We need your help to raise \$1.5m to fund our journalism next year and beyond. / \$830,874 of \$1,500,000 goal / Make a year-end gift.” (*The Guardian*.)

♦ “*Joan of Arkansas* is a climate-anxious work.” (By Emma Wiperman, whose writing is concerned with ecology, desire, and queer digital intimacy.)

♦ “Anxiety Relieving Pet Bed.” (An advertisement for MrFluffyFriend, showing a large dog snoozing on a cushion.)

♦ “‘Hardcore science’ or ‘just a sticker’—do anti-anxiety patches actually work?” by Alaina Demopoulos, *The Guardian*, Thu 7 Sep 2023.)

♦ “For me, personally, I wanted to support the students, and the younger generations, I have empathy for what they’re going through.” (“Community member Victoria Van Holder holding a sign offering “free hugs.” From “A year after Michigan State University shooting, museum has preserved memorial items” by Sophia Saliby, NPR, All Things Considered, February 13, 2024. See the Wikipedia article “2023 Michigan State University shooting.”)

♦ “Anxious at the Portland airport? Beni the Llama is here for you, spreading joy” by Katia Riddle, NPR, November 4, 2024.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by social psychologist Jonathon Haidt.

♦ "The people who are counseling young people, I have seen this even in my own institution, dealing with say climate anxiety, they say, 'Yes, it's such a serious problem, it is very good that you're anxious.' Well, no. Your anxiety is not going to save the planet. Your actions are going to save the planet... (Steven Pinker of Harvard speaking to Piers Morgan.)

♦ "More screen time obviously means less time spent cultivating meaningful relationships. Additionally, many young people fall prey to the 'compare and despair' trap that social media presents." (Generation Z, or Gen Zers. The Anne E. Casey Foundation.)

♦ "I watched the Mom do an interview once, and she stated her daughter has anxiety over climate change. That family is a bit of a mess." (An online commenter about "Rep. Katherine Clark's transgender daughter Riley Dowell sentenced for assault on Boston cop" by Victor Nava, *New York Post*, May 3, 2023.)

♦ "They keep sayin' I should get help, but I don't even know what I need, they keep sayin', 'Speak your truth,' and at the same time put it onto me." (Megan Thee Stallion, "Anxiety.")

♦ "For O'Shannassy, there is something comforting about the status anxieties of people who have everything." (The author of *Superyacht Captain*, a memoir. From "The Floating World" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, July 25, 2022.)

♦ To paraphrase Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Sonnet 43, "How am I anxious? Let me count the ways. / I am anxious to the depth and breadth and height / my soul can reach..." (Funny!)

\*\*\* **an international perspective...**

♦ "Every culture possesses what Edward Shorter, a medical historian at the University of Toronto, calls a 'symptom repertoire'—a range of physical symptoms available to the unconscious mind for the physical expression of psychological conflict." In parts of India, patients are said to suffer from dhat syndrome: they complain of impotence and have the delusion that they are losing their semen. In Nigeria, students who can't retain information and report feeling a burning sensation in their heads are sometimes given a diagnosis of 'brain fog.' The illnesses are reinforced by a local belief that the symptoms are a sign of authentic suffering, worthy of expert attention and care." ("The Apathetic: Why are refugee children falling unconscious?" by Rachel Aviv, *The New Yorker*, April 3, 2017.)

♦ "In *Between Us: How Cultures Create Emotions* (Norton), the Dutch psychologist Batja Mesquita describes her puzzlement, before arriving in the United States, at the use of the English word *distress*. Was it 'closer to the Dutch *angst* (anxious/afraid),' she wondered, 'or closer to the Dutch *verdriet/wanhoop* (sadness/despair)?' It took her time to feel at home with the word..." ("Affective Disorder: Some psychologists contend that our emotions are culturally specific. How should we feel about that?" by Nikhil Krishnan, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022.)

♦ "[I]f you have several sources for your personal happiness, only then can you be a good partner. Otherwise, you are—it's a very bad word, and I don't know if it is as bad in English as well, but in German it's really, really bad. You are needy." (A breakup coach.)

\*\*\* **V.K. Arseniev, George W. De Long...**

♦ "Hunger was now torturing us. The Cossacks sat gloomily round the fire and hardly spoke. Several times I asked Dersu how we had taken the wrong trail, and were we on the right road. He answered that he had never been in this district before, that he had nothing to go by and, like me, could only guess. Hoping to forget their hunger a little, the men tried to sleep. If I lay down too, but could not sleep. Anxiety and doubt tormented me. If we did not manage to kill something tomorrow, or reach the Iman, things would be desperate indeed. In the summer a man can carry on without food for several days, but in the winter hunger kills quickly." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "October 30th, Sunday—One hundred and fortieth day. Boyd and Gortz died during night. Mr. Collins dying." (The final entry in Captain George W. De Long's ice journal. From *In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette* by Hampton Sides.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Hangxiety" has a Wiktionary entry: it combines "hangover" and "anxiety."

♦ Wiktionary does not yet have an entry "English terms suffixed with -xiety."

♦ "Anxiety over authenticity be damned, I just want to keep cool." (African / Ankara hand fans. From "Ankara Hand Fans" by Tomi Obaro, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 14, 2022.)

♦ "Don't sweat the small stuff."

♦ "Nobody died."

♦ see also *panic* (*bisexual panic*, etc.)

## Apache (Apache helicopter, etc.)

Apache (Longbow attack) helicopter  
the AH-64D, the ~

♦ "You may have noticed there's a pattern in U.S. Army helicopter names—Apache, Black Hawk, Chinook and others. These crucial aircraft are all named after Native American tribes or figures. / But have you ever wondered why? / The U.S. military has a long history with Native Americans. Armed conflicts between the two were commonly known as the American Indian Wars and were fought intermittently from the time the U.S. was first settled by Europeans to early in the 20th century. But Native Americans also served as some of the fiercest fighters for the United States for more than 200 years. In fact, 32 Native Americans have earned the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor..." ("Why do Army helicopters have Native American names?" by Katie Lange, JBSA News, Nov. 4, 2020. JBSA stands for Joint Base San Antonio. The "and others" as mentioned in the article include the Cheyenne Attack Helicopter, the Comanche Helicopter, and the Lakota UH-72A Light Utility Helicopter.)

## apart (division)

apart  
they reunited after years of being ~

wide apart  
the two sides remained ~

grew apart  
we ~ (divorce)

## apartheid (separation)

apartheid regime  
educational material labels Israel an "~"

political apartheid  
we've got ~ in this country (US politics)

funding of (Israeli) apartheid  
end all U.S. ~... (a banner)

Queers Against (Israeli) Apartheid  
~ (a protest sign)

\*\*\* **various groups...**

♦ "I feel like it's militarized, right, over-policed, enslaved—militia... This is a thing of, 'Black folks can't govern. Black leaders can't govern.' So we'll show you how to run, how to move, how to talk..." (A Jackson, Mississippi resident about the Capitol Police and their jurisdiction in her city. The mayor of Jackson likens the control zone to apartheid.)

♦ "Black attorneys make up less than 5 percent of all attorneys and continue to face horrific experiences in law school and in the legal community." ("Must I Mentor a White Law Student When I Requested a Black Mentee?" The Ethicist by Kwame Anthony Appiah, *The New York Times Magazine*, Dec. 4, 2022.)

♦ "Blackline is a hotline geared towards the Black, Black LGBTQ+, brown Native, and Muslim communities."

♦ “Those (Afro-Americans) are the ones we recruit. And, uh, we want to keep it home. This is a HBUC (historically Black university or college) and we’re gonna stick to that all the way through.” (Gregory Green, head tennis coach at Tuskegee University in Alabama. From “HBCUs recruit international athletes for tennis. Some are calling it into question,” NPR, November 14, 2023. Ari Shapiro, host. Reported by Julien Virgin of member station WABE in Atlanta.)

♦ “This lady actually had the CAUdacity to say black people can be racist too.” (DOD official Kelisa Wing, using a portmanteau for “Caucasian audacity. Of COURSE, Black people can be racist, too. Many are.)

♦ Scott Adams, the creator of the beloved cartoon “Dilbert,” was canceled after suggesting that many Blacks dislike whites, and that white people should stay away from them.

♦ “According to Alina Skibinska and Joanna Tokarska-Bakir, during the 1930s ‘the relations between the communities...began to increasingly resemble apartheid.’” (From the Wikipedia article “Kielce pogrom.”)

♦ “Stand with Palestinian Resistance / End All U.S. Funding of Israeli Apartheid / Party for Socialism and Liberation @PSLDC” (A picture of three people holding up a huge banner. It is interesting that most of the people in the photo are looking at their cellphones, including the four bored cops in the background.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Why do you want to label it as apartheid? What are the consequences of that?... So the question itself and the answers given to it are part of the political conflict.” (Israel and the Palestinians.)

♦ In the U.S., legal and political equality for Afro-Americans has not been accompanied by social equality. This goes in both directions.

♦ “This points to a unique understanding of plurality of Indian society—it is more like a thali (an Indian meal comprising a selection of separate dishes served on a platter), rather than a melting pot.” (Neha Sahgal, a lead author of a Pew study that found Indians support religious tolerance *and* religious segregation.)

## ape (verb)

aped the materialism

regimes which ~ of irreligious others (Sayyid Qutb)

## apex (highest point)

at the apex of the boom

he invested ~

apex (of the fad's popularity) came

the ~ when...

reached its apex

their rivalry ~ last year (two athletes)

## apex (achievement)

apex of their profession

women can still have kids and reach the ~

at the apex of her career

she is ~

## apex (apex animal, etc.)

apex animal

the tuna is an ~

apex predator

mankind is the ~ on earth

orcas are ~s

so-called ~s, like sharks, groupers and jacks

~s have no natural predators of their own

♦ “[T]he world could be radically transformed and humanity deposed from its position as apex cogitator over the course of an hour or two.” (Nick Bostrom—author of the 2014 book *Superintelligence*—about artificial intelligence.)

## apocalypse (noun)

heat apocalypse

hot weather is now referred to as a ~

retail apocalypse

the ~ speeds up (brick and mortar vs. online stores)

*After The Apocalypse:*

*America’s Role in a World Transformed* (A. Bacevich)

♦ “It’ll be the most comfortable apocalypse ever.” (“Bunker mentality: How Mark Zuckerberg, Kim Kardashian, Tom Cruise and other celebs are prepping for doomsday” by Lauren Elkies Schram and Isabel Keane, *The New York Post*, March 9, 2024.)

♦ see also *pocalypse* (*gas-pocalypse*, etc.), *Armageddon*, *geddon* (*chipageddon*, etc.)

## apogee (at an apogee)

at its apogee

the British Empire was ~

at his creative apogee

when he was ~...

## apogee (noun)

apogee of chic

Paris is the ~

apogee of his career

the film was the ~

apogee of excellence

the *Grande Armee* reached its ~ (1805-1807)

apogee of fame

Grant reached a new ~ (after victory at Chattanooga)

apogee of a trend

we have simply reached an ~ (minimalism in fashion)

movement's apogee

it was the ~

ascent, apogee and decline

sport compresses life's natural trajectory of ~

reached its apogee

the island ~ in the early Christian era

## apoplectic (adjective)

apoplectic

I am ~, at a loss for words (abuse of children)

apoplectic about her definition

the man was ~ of marriage (gender inclusive)

apoplectic (with rage) at what

he is ~ he hears on television (street protests)

apoplectic over the impact

exhibitors are ~ of Netflix (independent theaters)

apoplectic with what  
he would be ~ is going on today (dead father)

had diplomats apoplectic  
his phone call with the President of Taiwan ~

went apoplectic  
the Internet ~ (over a provocation about race)

makes him apoplectic  
it's one of those little things that ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## apostasy (noun)

referred to criticism as apostasy  
he ~ (Papandreou)

♦ "Papandreou referred to criticism of some of his individual policies by PASOK members as 'apostasy'—a word that in its original Greek form, *apostassia*, carries a strong theological undertone from the days of Byzantium, when emperors, ruling by Divine Right, were judged 'infallible,' thus making their critics 'heretics' or 'apostates.'" (*Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* by Robert D. Kaplan.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "APO- is a Greek prefix that means 'from,' 'away.' It sometimes appears in the form *aph-*. / The renunciation of a religious faith is an *apostasy*. You 'stand away' from your faith. (*apo-*, 'away,' and *histemi*, 'stand')..." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 22, "The Making of 50,000 Words.")

## apostate (person)

apostate from the (cosmopolitan) elite  
he positions himself as a class traitor, an ~ (Tucker Carlson)

## apostle (Apostle of the Sioux, etc.)

Apostle of the Sioux  
he was known as "The ~" (the Swiss Martin Marty)

## apostle (person)

apostle of LSD  
he essentially became the ~ (Timothy Leary)

apostle of niceness  
he is the ~ (a poetry critic)

apostle of positive thinking  
he is an ~

## apostle (Twelve Apostles, etc.)

Apostle Islands  
the ~ are a group of islands in Lake Superior, Wisconsin

Twelve Apostles  
the ~ are a popular attraction (Victoria, Australia)

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "Apostle Islands," "The islands were renamed the Apostle Islands by New France historian Pierre Francois Xavier de Charlevoix, who renamed them after the 12 apostles (for the 12 largest islands.)" Wikipedians are wonderful.

## Appalachia (and Pineapplachia, etc.)

Pineapplachia  
it's closer to being ~ than paradise (Hawaii)

♦ "it's closer to being Pineapplachia than paradise." (An online commenter about the article, "2 Hawaiian men found guilty of hate crime for attacking white homeowner" by Michelle De Pacina, Yahoo / NextShark, November 21, 2022.)

\*\*\* "We don't mind people settlin' in the area..."

♦ "We don't mind people settlin' in the area. Just don't put your house on a ridgetop so you can look down on us, and don't tell us how you did it back home." (A Southern Appalachians woman.)

♦ "I think 'hillbilly' is the one epithet people are allowed to use. The rest are politically incorrect. If they want to look down upon us, then that is their problem. The ignorance is one-sided, and in that way I've never had a problem with it." (Fred Chappell, North Carolina poet laureate.)

♦ see also *nam* (*Fayettenam*, etc.)

## apparatus (government, etc.)

ensorship apparatus  
the fed-led ~ (Global Engagement Center, etc.)

Party apparatus  
RFK Jr. and the Libertarian ~ shifted to support Trump

security apparatus  
he disappeared within the state ~

big apparatus  
you're in charge of this ~ (the president of US)

♦ "When I became president, one of the things I discovered coming into office is you're in charge of a big apparatus... It's an ocean liner and not a speedboat... Trying to change policy is really difficult." (Barak Obama.)

♦ "How long will it take, is it a matter of turning an aircraft carrier?" (To change or reverse diplomacy and foreign policy.)

## appetite (whet the appetite)

whet audiences' appetites for films  
movie trailers ~

whet people's appetite for spending  
museums try to ~

whet the appetites of fans  
the ad campaign is designed to ~ (TV)

whet the appetites of investors  
the company's performance will not ~

whet appetites for a rematch  
their fight ~ (boxing)

## appetite (appetite for fur, etc.)

appetite to return  
will audiences have an ~ to the teachers (post-COVID)

appetite for adventure  
baby boomers who have an ~

appetite for electricity  
the nation's ~

appetite for fur  
Russia's growing ~ (new wealth)



appetite for gold  
India's seemingly insatiable ~ (jewelry, dowries, temples)

appetite for (royal) gossip  
the tabloids' ~

appetite for a (ground) invasion  
commanders have little ~

appetite for (our) money  
a government that has an endless ~ (taxes)

appetite for oil  
we must reduce our ~

appetite (of the European rich) for porcelain  
the ~ was insatiable

appetite for pornography  
the ~ seems to be insatiable

appetite for profit  
their ~ sharpened by years of drought (farmers)

appetite for scores  
our voracious ~ that we can use to rank our kids (ed)

appetite for sensationalism  
the ~ (on part of broadcast media)

appetite for (crime) stories  
the American public has an insatiable ~ about blacks

appetite for success  
he had an ~ (a poet)

appetite for timber  
China's voracious ~ is deforestating Siberia (Russia)

appetite for cars, cell phones, appliances and services  
the ~ increases daily (China)

appetite for gambling  
North Carolinians appear to have a strong ~

appetite for skateboarding  
the local ~

India's (seemingly insatiable) appetite  
~ for gold (jewelry, dowries, etc.)

nation's appetite  
the ~ for electricity

considerable (public) appetite  
there is ~ for stories of feuds in the entertainment industry

endless appetite  
a government that has an ~ for our money (taxes)

insatiable appetite  
India's seemingly ~ for gold (jewelry, dowries, temples)

little appetite  
commanders have ~ for a ground invasion...

very little appetite  
in the US there is ~ for government restriction

local appetite  
the ~ for skateboarding

low (sexual) appetite  
my boyfriend has a very ~

political appetite  
there is no ~ for banning assault weapons (in the US)

public appetite  
the Y has increased the number of debates to feed the ~  
there is considerable ~ for stories of feuds

sexual appetite  
my boyfriend has a very low ~

strong appetite  
North Carolinians appear to have a ~ for gambling

voracious appetite  
our ~ for scores that we can use to rank our kids (school)  
for the last few years, China has had a ~ for bauxite  
China's ~ for timber is deforestating Siberia

control over his appetites  
he has no ~ (sex)

appetite (for consumer goods) increases  
their ~ daily (China)

feed the (public) appetite  
the Y has increased the number of debates to ~

have (no) appetite  
I ~ for confrontation

increased the appetite  
their breakup only ~ for gossip about her personal life

reduce our appetite  
we must ~ for oil

satisfies the appetite  
nothing ~ for allegory quite like a zombie film

suppress the appetite  
perils and jitters ~ for private and corporate risks

♦ "People often suppose that penal systems recruit sadists. But cruelty is an appetite that grows with feeding..." (*The Fatal Shore* by Robert Hughes, from the chapter "Norfolk Island.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Suspicion is an appetite that is never fully sated." (Misinformation, etc.)

## appetizer (noun)

appetizer  
this is just the ~, the main course will come later (battle)

♦ "There's one of your Whigs for ye!" cried Alan; and then turning to me, he asked if I had done much execution. / I told him I had winged one, and thought it was the captain. / "And I've settled two," says he. "No, there's not enough blood let; they'll be back again. To your watch, David. This was but a dram before meat." ("Siege of the Round-House" from *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson.)

## applaud (verb)

applauded Bush's signing  
the groups ~ of the bill as a milestone



applaud the administration

I ~ for doing that (politics)

applaud his decision

many people ~

applaud her

her fans ~

applaud the person

I ~ who designed the Nutrition Facts label (Burkey Belser)

applaud women

I ~ like Hou who beat on against the current (chess)

\*\*\* **"She hid under the piano in fright..."**

♦ "When guests began applauding, she hid under the piano in fright until her mother assured her that clapping meant approval." (Celeste Holm, who as a precocious toddler in New York City danced to the music of the hotel pianist at the Waldorf-Astoria. She would go on to Broadway.)

♦ "When Younghusband reached Lhasa, he was greeted by hordes of clapping Tibetans. He took it as a gesture of welcome, not realizing that clapping was a traditional way of warding off evil spirits..." (The 1904 British invasion of Tibet.)

## applauded

applauded and denounced

they launched a movement that has been both ~

## applause (noun)

spare me the applause

~, the latest assassination bid was a Secret Service fiasco

♦ "Spare me the applause—the latest Trump assassination bid was a Secret Service fiasco" by Piers Morgan, *The New York Post*, Sep. 16, 2024.

## apple (proverb)

apple

a stone from the hand of a friend is an ~ (Morocco)

red apple

a ~ attracts stones (Turkish)

## apple (Golden Apple / education)

Golden Apple

she received a ~ (a teacher in North Carolina)

♦ "An award-winning elementary school teacher from California was arrested this week for allegedly sexually abusing a former student, according to police." (Sex with a minor.)

## apple (bad apple / rotten apple)

bad apple

one ~ spoils it for everyone else

~s tend to find one another

don't let a few ~s spoil it for the rest of us

"bad apple" argument

I don't buy the ~ (war, combat and atrocities)

few bad apples

it's not just a ~, there is a culture of abuse (gymnastics)

rotten apples

there are ~ in every barrel (bad cops)

work of (a few) bad apples

the Pentagon said the abuse was the ~ (military prison)

♦ "It is galling to many of the families and victims and serving police officers and serving staff in the organization that expressions like 'bad apples' and 'wrong 'uns' were even used. But the culture, sadly, in the Met is all-pervasive, and that the institutional racism, misogyny and homophobia is largely led by what their officers have said... I mean, it is off the barometer." (Baroness Casey speaking to BBC Radio 4 about her report on the Metropolitan Police Service. The Met Police Commissioner, while conceding that failings were "systematic," refused to accept that they were "institutional," as that latter word had various definitions and had become politicized.)

♦ "You have to lower the level to get people in, but that lets in the bad apples."

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Why don't Americans say, "a rotten potato?"

## apple (the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, etc.)

apple

those ~s long ago fell from the Marxist tree (ideas)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The apple doesn't fall far from the tree! (Often said of fathers and sons.)

## approach (winter is approaching, etc.)

date is approaching

the application ~

end is (fast) approaching

the ~

war is approaching

~ in the Arabian Gulf

deadlines are approaching

holiday shipping ~

♦ "When you don't know what's coming down the pike, you worry." (A businesswoman, speaking about government regulation.)

## approach (a number, etc.)

approach 100,000 deaths

as we ~ from the virus here in the U.S.

## approach (a better approach, etc.)

potshot approach

I don't like that kind of a ~ (politics and criticism)

take-no-prisoners approach

the ~ to justice

confrontational approach

his ~ was rejected as a relic of the past (coach)

creative approaches

the competition rewards ~ to... (research)

straightforward approach

her ~ startles many (on pediatric safety)

Carroll's rah-rah style and Stoop's more ~ vary sharply

we take a ~ to business (honesty, integrity)

old and new approaches

NASA will pursue both ~ simultaneously

pillar of the (US) approach

another ~ is to minimize civilian casualties

**approach (the approach of summer, etc.)**

with the approach of summer

its staff swells to 400 ~

♦ "The future is already here." (ChatGPT and all its disruption.)

**approaching (adjective)**

approaching elections

the US has called the ~ unfair

approaching spring

melting snow and ~ brings thoughts of...

**appropriate (groups / verb)**

appropriates the past to support

it ~ their 'just-so stories' about the present (1619 Project)

appropriate stories from India

white filmmakers unfairly ~

appropriating another culture for his personal profit

critics say he is ~ (artist Tim Okamura)

appropriating African culture

white women who wear African garb are ~

appropriate the (checkered kaffiyah) scarf

fashionistas ~

appropriated the language

she cynically ~ of diversity and inclusion to keep her job

appropriated the (abortion rights) slogan

vaccine opponents have ~ "My Body, My Choice"

appropriate the N-Word

how some artists ~ (in order to "take it back")

appropriate and "feminize"

an attempt to ~ the diction of heroic epic

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "'Queerbaiting' essentially boils down to appropriating queer signifiers as an aesthetic only."

♦ "Many scholars now see her poetry as an attempt to appropriate and 'feminize' the diction and subject matter of heroic epic. (For instance, the appeal to Aphrodite to be her 'comrade in arms'—in love." ("Girl, Interrupted" by the classicist Daniel Mendelsohn. About the poet Sappho.)

♦ "Morocco's culture ministry has accused Adidas of appropriating Moroccan culture in its new jerseys for Algeria's football team... / The neighboring nations have a long history of tensions, as they continue to dispute Western Sahara." ("Adidas row: Morocco demands change to Algerian football jersey design" by Malu Cursino, BBC News, Sept. 29, 2022.)

♦ "This is about a legacy white employee who was in danger of losing her job for performance reasons, so she cynically appropriated the language of diversity and inclusion to try and hold onto that job—which if she lost it might have actually gone to a person of color." (An unnamed source, quoted in a *Gawker* article about a woman fired by *The New Yorker*. The woman had presented herself as a

whistleblower and champion of diversity and inclusion for Blacks and women.)

♦ see also *appropriation (groups)*, *coopt (and co-opt)*, *misappropriate (groups)*, *misappropriated*, *misappropriation (groups, etc.)*, *reappropriate (groups)*, *reappropriation (groups)*, *reclaim (groups)*, *reclaimed (groups)*, *take back (take back one's life, etc.)*

**appropriation (groups)**

appropriation of (urban) youth culture

this is an ~ (corporate social media uses the word "bae")

appropriation and authenticity

he navigates the aesthetic pitfalls of ~ (*A Different Man*)

cultural appropriation

~ and preferential treatment (#BlackTikTokStrike)

Mexican restaurateurs in France see it as ~ (French tacos)

3 white women criticized for ~ (mahjong company owners)

criticisms of ~ (Chet Hanks / fake 'Jamaican' accent)

Ariana Grande has been criticized for ~ (AAVE, tats, etc.)

Werowocomoco was widely accused of ~ (restaurant)

phallic appropriation

she becomes masculinized through ~ by...

backlash for (cultural) appropriation

she faced ~ when she posted a selfie...

(cultural) appreciation, not (cultural) appropriation

Miss EmpowHer waist beads are ~

exchange and appropriation

there's an important difference between ~ (Christian yoga)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "How is this still going on? How is Hollywood excluding us but stealing our narratives as well? No more appropriation Hollywood and streamers! Boycott! This f'd up! Plus seriously difficult story to tell without aggrandizement which would b wrong! I don't got a prob with Franco but he ain't Latino!" (John Leguizamo, upset by a casting decision. John Martinez O'Felan, a producer of the film, wrote that Leguizamo's assertions "lack factual substance.")

♦ "Why Don't Asian Lives Matter to Joe Biden and his liberal allies?" (A political ad by Citizens for Sanity on Twitter, published on Oct. 22, 2022, that received 25.5K views. The term echoes "Black Lives Matter.")

♦ "[S]he becomes masculinized through 'phallic appropriation' by taking up a weapon..." (From the Wikipedia article "Final girl.")

♦ "A professor at a Kansas college dressed as Michael Jackson for Halloween has come under fire with some accusing her of cultural appropriation."

♦ "Some people consider use of AAVE by non-African Americans to be a form of cultural appropriation." (Yale Grammatical Diversity Project English in North America.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "appropriation" bandwagon...

♦ "Hernandez described the co-opting of trends as an act of 'stylistic or aesthetic gentrification,' which she said can be traced as far as the 19th century when Cubist artist Pablo Picasso, who is Spanish, took inspiration from traditional African art. / 'The reason he innovated modern art was because he was looking at African masks,' Hernandez said. 'So much Western innovation stems from colonialism. And that's where we get this kind of cultural appropriation.'" ("Hailey Bieber faces accusations of 'cultural appropriation' for 'brownie glazed lips' look" by Amanda Su and Jessica Mendoza via GMA, September 28, 2022. Jillian Hernandez is a professor at University of Florida's Center for Gender, Sexualities,

and Women's Studies Research. There are also interesting quotes from Sandra E. Garcia, a *New York Times* style reporter.)

♦ "Moccasin maker Minnetonka is publicly apologizing for making money off of Native culture." (The company was founded in 1946, as a small business creating souvenirs, including moccasins, for roadside gift stores at a time when more and more Americans were traveling by car. An early partner, Philip W Miller, had come to the US from Poland as a boy, and used money that he saved from running a corner grocery store in Minneapolis to buy into the company. Its footwear was popular with hippies in the 1960s. Like most footwear, it is currently made overseas, in the Dominican Republic and China. Moccasin, Minnetonka and indeed Minneapolis and Minnesota all come from native American languages.)

♦ "NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro asks CNN contributor Jeff Yang about a mahjong company founded by three white women who were criticized for cultural appropriation." ("Texas-Based Mahjong Company Faces Backlash For Cultural Appropriation," NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 17, 2021.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "Gosh, I'm so mad at Greg Abbott, I'm like, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, I'm like Mothers Demand Action, I'm a mother against Greg Abbott, so I wrote down Mothers Against Greg Abbott, and so I just went down there and protested all by myself in front of the Capitol for two and a half hours, I had somebody take my photograph, and I made it public, and it went viral." (Nancy Thompson. Mothers against Greg Abbott—MAGA—signs can now be seen on lawns throughout Texas.)

♦ "'#Sayhername,' the patriots will tweet, delighting in their appropriation of a campaign created for Black women." (Ashli Babbitt.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Cultural appropriation is a very Tumbler Concern." (In 2014. From the brilliant podcast *The Witch Trials of J.K. Rowling*, "Chapter 3: A New Pyre.")

♦ "Appropriation, the most misappropriated word in the English language at this time. Stuff and nonsense." (greatpix about the #BlackTikTokStrike.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ MINE, adj. Belonging to me if I can hold or seize it. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb), coopt (and co-opt), misappropriate (groups), misappropriated, misappropriation (groups, etc.), reappropriate (groups), reappropriation (groups), reclaim (groups), reclaimed (groups), take back (take back one's life, etc.)*

## apron strings

cut the apron strings

he wanted to ~ from my father (a baseball player)

♦ "Do you think you needed to cut the strings from your father?" / "That was the right thing to do to get me to stand up on my own two feet." (A professional baseball player.)

## aquifer (noun)

huge aquifer

I had this ~ underneath of stories (Stephen King)

♦ "I had this huge aquifer underneath of stories that I wanted to tell and I stuck a pipe down in there and everything just gushed out. There's still a lot of it, but there's not as much now." (*Stephen King: The Rolling Stone Interview*.)

## arc (noun)

tragic arc

the episode is the culmination of the book's ~

## archaeology (noun)

archival archaeology

Fara has pulled off quite a feat of ~

♦ "[Patricia] Fara has pulled off quite a feat of archival archaeology. Digging through the records of universities, scientific societies, industrial establishments, newspapers, and personal journals and correspondence, she excavates and pieces together the lives of some of the first women to embark on scientific studies and careers in the modern era." ("The Original Hidden Figures" by Elaine Weiss, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2019.)

## archipelago (noun)

archipelago of (fortified) camps

they moved them into an ~ for political reeducation

archipelago of enclaves

in Kosovo, most Serbs live in an ~ (Strpce, etc.)

archipelago of Jewish museums

Europe is a vast ~ (Jeffrey Goldberg)

archipelago of black sites

he had been tortured in the CIA's ~

Palestinian archipelago

the enclaves have been referred to as the ~ (West Bank)

saw themselves as a small archipelago

they ~ of decency in a rising sea of moral pollution

♦ "Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn famously described Stalin-era prisoner and labor camps as a string of islands—an archipelago—strewn across the Soviet Union's landscape... America's prison archipelago has more islands and more prisoners than Stalin's at its height." (Tye Evans #158293 / Indiana Correctional Facility / 1 Park Row / Michigan City, IN / 46460.)

\*\*\* **the Solomon Islands, Lake Baikal, Si Phan Don...**

♦ Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines are archipelago nations.

♦ The crews of the ill-fated Franklin expedition, searching for a Northwest Passage, perished in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

♦ Alfred Russel Wallace pickled orangutans in barrels and collected butterflies in the Malay Archipelago.

♦ The Solomon Islands archipelago saw fierce fighting during World War II. Guadalcanal is in the Solomon Islands.

♦ Turku, in the Turku Archipelago, in the Gulf of Bothnia, was once Finland's trading gateway to the world. Visiting it is on my bucket list.

♦ Lakes and even rivers can have archipelagos: Lake Baikal contains an archipelago. The Si Phan Don (4,000 islands) is a riverine archipelago in the Mekong River in southern Laos. Those would be wonderful places to visit.

## architect (as verb)

architect a life

~ that feels full, genuine, rich and beautiful (influencer)

architect them

he is able to take all my ideas and ~ (fashion industry)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## architect (creator)

architect of apartheid

a statue of Hendrik Verwoerd, the ~ (South Africa)

architect of the (October 7th) attack

Sinwar was the ~ on Israel (the Israel-Hamas war)

architect of the (nuclear) bomb

Enrico Fermi, known as the "~"

architect of change

she was a legendary ~ (a feminist)

architects of the doctrine

the ~ remain its strongest defenders (military)

architects of the Final Solution

Eichmann was one of the ~

architect of (Iraq's) program

"Dr. Germ," the chief ~ for biological weapons (BW)

Architect of Rock and Roll

Little Richard was the "~~" (Good golly, Miss Molly!)

architect of the war on terrorism

he is the ~

deal's (chief) architect

after the ~ was eased out... (hospital merger)

chief architect

after the deal's ~ was eased out... (hospital merger)

## architected

architected

how society is ~ (social justice)

architected by FDR

he has ended the American era that was ~ (politics)

architected for snap responses, speed, amplification

the social web is ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## architecture (non-building)

architecture of how

the ~ safety is provided (defend police, etc.)

Architecture of Al Qaeda

the ~ (how it is structured, governed, motivated)

architecture of our frontal lobes

the ~ (Dr. Cora Collette Breuner)

information architecture

it's a masterpiece of ~ (the Nutrition Facts label)

♦ "Remember, this a time when the brain is undergoing serious rewiring. The architecture of our frontal lobes, which regulate [sic] emotion, is shifting, says Breuner." ("What your teen wishes you knew about sex education," Life Kit, NPR, February 11, 2020, by Cory Turner and Anya Kamenetz.)

### \*\*\* school shootings in the U.S.

♦ "With gun control far from sight, schools redesign for student safety." (School shootings.)

## area (territory)

my area

biology isn't ~

## arena (in / inside the arena)

in the mental health arena

this has become an issue ~

in the homeland security arena

anyone in the ~ will tell you that...

in the legal one

this will be debated in the political arena, not ~

in the legislative arena

they would lose this battle ~

inside the legislative arena

Republicans have the upper hand ~

in the political arena

these questions will be debated ~, not the legal one

in academic and professional arenas

develop their languages for use ~

our man in the arena

Donald J. Trump is ~, he will never stop fighting for us

lose (this battle) in the legislative arena

they would ~

♦ "'Bae' may be in the extreme get-the-fk-out-of-here phrase arena." ("Where did 'Bae' Come From?" by Natasha Zarinsky, *Esquire*, July 25, 2014.)

## arise (verb)

arise

these are just some of the issues that can ~ (workplace)

we will deal with those cases as they ~ (sex assault)

arises from the ashes

adoption is a miracle that ~ of despair

crisis (of enormous gravity) has arisen

a ~

## aristocracy (noun)

rock aristocracy

all of ~ was coming (to see Cat Sevens and Carly Simon)

Cambridge intellectual aristocracy

the club was his entrée into the world of ~ (Apostles)

♦ see also *cracy* (*gynocracy*, etc.)

## aristocratic (aristocratic wine, etc.)

aristocratic wines

~ at democratic prices (commercial)

## arithmetic

parliamentary arithmetic

Johnson faces exactly the same ~ (as Theresa May)

## arm (twist arms, etc.)

twisted arms to limit

behind the scenes, the US government ~...

twist some arms

the President needs to ~

twisted his arm

threats might have ~ (to reinstate Benzema)

♦ "Techniques to encourage loyalty down the years haven't always been entirely compliant with the outlook of a modern human-resources department. The former labour cabinet minister Jack Straw recalled in his memoirs being grabbed by the 'the goolies' by his whip, a method that led to teary-eyed agreement within moments. More enlightened recent times mean such tales of robust or physical twisting of arms, or indeed anything else, are less frequent..." (Political correspondent Chris Mason, BBC Sounds, Six O'Clock News, "Senior Conservative alleges MPs 'intimidated' by Government whips," 20/01/2022.)

♦ "Cuomo strong-armed rather than cajoled; he used intimidation rather than seduction to get his way." ("New York After Cuomo" by Michael Greenberg, *The New York Review*, October 7, 2021.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Get them by their balls and their hearts and minds will follow." (A saying popular among combat soldiers during the Vietnam War who were cynical about US government campaigns to "win the hearts and minds" of the Vietnamese people.)

♦ "We'll take their hearts and we'll take their minds." (Outpost Restrepo, Korangal Valley, Afghanistan.)

## arm (get one's arms around something)

get his arms around how  
he couldn't ~ to control COVID (ineffectual leader)

get their arms around the notion  
nobody can ~ he would not only kill but decapitate her

get our arms around the pandemic  
we need to ~ and save lives (Gretchen Whitmer)

get our arms around this  
we're going to pull out all the stops to ~ (vaccine rollout)

get our arms around it  
it's important to try and ~ and figure out... (a report)

wrap your arms around all this  
it's hard to ~

try and get its arms around  
this is a crisis the department will continue to ~

♦ "We've got to get our arms around this crisis [COVID] so we can get our arms around our economy and make sure that people are safe. So..." / "Let's wrap our arms around the Spartan community tonight (following a mass shooting on campus)." (Both comments are by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The first seems to relate to control; the second one seems to have a physical basis: a hug, or consolation.)

♦ "Humans just can't fathom a billion dollars. Casually we mix 'billion' and 'million' in the same sentence, but they're apples and Death Stars. And until we get our arms around that, some fundamental stuff about the American economy will elude us." (Contributor Chris Colin, *Wired* magazine, January, 2020.)

♦ "There was no reason for this to happen. I'm still trying to wrap my arms around what happened... I don't know that I ever will." (The father of a tourist murdered in Budapest.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ There is much stupid confusion between arm (get one's arms around something), brain (get one's brains around something), hand (get one's hands around something), head (get one's head around something), and mind (get one's mind around something.) There are multiple possible reasons for this stupid confusion.

♦ see also *brain* (get one's brains around something)

♦ see also *hand* (get one's hands around something)

♦ see also *head* (get one's head around something)

♦ see also *mind* (get one's mind around something)

## arm (wrap one's arm around something / consolation)

wrap our arms around the Spartan community  
let's ~ tonight (mass shooting at MSU)

wrap our arms around each other  
all we can do as a community is ~, love each other

wrap our (collective) arms around the victims' families  
we are devastated by his tragedy and ~ and friends

♦ "We've got to get our arms around this crisis [COVID] so we can get our arms around our economy and make sure that people are safe. So..." / "Let's wrap our arms around the Spartan community tonight (following a mass shooting on campus)." (Both comments are by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The first seems to relate to control; the second one seems to have a physical basis: a hug, or consolation.)

♦ "It's concerning when you have so many deaths back to back, but all we can do as a community is wrap our arms around each other, love each other, ask ourselves what we need to be doing, and then do it." (Newberry, Florida Mayor Jordan Marlow.)

## arm (arm of an organization)

arm of the Kremlin  
as an ~, Gazprom usually gets its way

distribution arm  
Disney's ~, Buena Vista (movies)

commercial arm  
the Indian Space Research Organization has a ~

political arm  
the group's ~

evolved into an arm  
Teach for America has ~ of the charter-school movement

## arm (configuration)

arm of the Mediterranean Sea  
the Ligurian Sea is an ~

twin arms  
in between those ~ of the Solomon Islands archipelago

## arm (link arms)

linked arms  
top scientists ~ to tamp down speculation (pandemic)

## arm (right arm)

Arafat's right arm  
Abu Jihad was ~ (Kalil al-Wazir)

General Lee's right arm  
"Stonewall" Jackson was ~

strong right arm  
the Home Fleet was the ~ of Britain's naval power

## arm (at arm's length)

kept his daughter at arm's length  
he ~ (because she was a manipulative drug addict)

held at arm's length

he was ~ by the US for years (an authoritarian leader)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "DISTANCE, n. The only thing that the rich are willing for the poor to call theirs, and keep." (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## arm (open arms)

open arms, hostility, and indifference

US troops were greeted with ~

greeted us with open arms

they ~

welcomed Disney with open arms

Orlando and Florida ~ (Magic Kingdom)

welcomed the Confucius Institute with open arms

many universities have ~

welcome them (back) with open arms

we will ~ (rebellious soldiers)

♦ "This country has a history of opening its arms. Today, its arms were closed..." (Senator Barbara Boxer, on the failure of the Dream Act that would have given a path to citizenship to young migrants.)

## arm (long arm)

long arm of Iran

Hezbollah is the ~

long arm of the law

no matter how long it takes, the ~ will catch up with you

long-arm statute

they are subject to jurisdiction pursuant to Virginia's ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When workers stayed in boarding houses and ate communally in a dining room, they had to develop a "boardinghouse reach" or risk going hungry!

## arm (up in arms)

up in arms

the locals are ~ (recipients of trash from Rome)

one team is ~ after a controversial call (sports)

up in arms over rising crime

the community is ~

got critics up in arms

her response only ~

## armada (noun)

armada of vehicles

an ~ arrived and stormed the block (mass shooter's house)

small armada

the Eras Tour employed a ~ of cameras and cameramen

♦ Taylor Swifts Eras Tour concert film has reinvigorated the genre of the concert documentary / film. In the past, there were just 3 stationary cameras. Taylor Swift employed a small armada of cameras, over 40 of them, including drones and cranes. Viewers have been wowed.

\*\*\* the Spanish Armada...

♦ "It was Saturday, 30 July 1588, and Philip II's long-expected Armada had arrived off the English Coast..." (*The Spanish Armada* by Colin Martin and Geoffrey Parker. Shakespeare was 24 years old at the time.)

## Armageddon

political "Armageddon"

she would face ~ if his case makes it to a tribunal

turned a Sunday afternoon into Armageddon

the crane collapse ~

♦ see also *geddon* (*chipageddon*, etc.), *apocalypse* (noun), *pocalypse* (*gas-pocalypse*, etc.)

## armchair (armchair traveller, etc.)

armchair analysis

psychiatrists may not engage in ~ (ethics and politics)

Armchair Britain

Today's destination is Cornwall (~)

armchair casuals

he gets far too much stick from the ~ (English football)

armchair critic

the ~s, who have never achieved anything... (sports)

armchair detective

see *detective* (person)

armchair diagnoses

~ (like "toxic" and "narcissist," etc.)

armchair enthusiast

I'm no F1 guru, but am an avid ~ and could see... (crash)

armchair epidemiologists

beware ~ who have a solution to everything (pandemic)

~ with their own version of the facts (COVID)

Armchair Expert

during an appearance on the ~ podcast... (Dax and Monica)

armchair explorers

a tightknit community of ~ (Forest Fenn website)

armchair fans

they are out of town glory supporting ~ (soccer snark)

~ had criticized Southgate's team selection (3 Lions win)

armchair general

~s and studio polemicists propound... (war)

armchair geographers

so, back in England, you had these ~ (Candice Millard)

armchair investigator

he had begun working with another ~ (lab-leak hypothesis)

the ~s are used to a murder being solved in an hour...

~s are endorsing the idea that... (murder of a CEO)

*Armchair Mountaineer*

the ~ by David Reuther (Editor)

armchair pundits



there has been rich fodder for ~ (a boxing match)

### armchair quarterback

it's easy to be an ~, what do you do when... (troubled kid)  
all the ~s who couldn't make it as a police officer...

### armchair reflection

officers are not afforded the luxury of ~ (police shootings)

### armchair traveller

an ~ shouldn't be giving advice about safety (trekking)

### Armchair Voyage

see all episodes from ~ (BBC)

### armchair warriors

I have zero tolerance for ~ (a veteran)  
some shameful ~ on here (BBC HYS boxing)

### armchair travel and adventure

books for ~

### real and armchair

he was popular with ~ sailors alike (Tristan Jones)

### safety of his armchair

said from the ~ (a response to criticism of police)

♦ "Nearly all advice sent to the King by armchair politicians is impracticable nonsense." (*Don Quixote* by Cervantes. Translated by John Rutherford.)

♦ "Some brave keyboard warriors on here tonight." (Sarcastic comment on BBC HYS boxing.) / "So easy for you to say from behind a keyboard." ("Join the Discussion" snark.)

♦ "Does bring out the armchair critics, who have never achieved anything, and think they know football." (Jake 1234 in response to Grover's criticism about coach Gareth Southgate. On a BBC HYS, football.)

♦ "The armchair investigators are used to a murder being solved in an hour, minus commercials. That includes DNA testing. It's not TV or a podcast people. It's not always easy." (A commenter about the 2022 University of Idaho killings.)

♦ "Another keyboard coroner with his expert autopsy analysis from thousands of miles away." (Sarcastic comment on message board about a police shooting.)

♦ "She called out some of the keyboard cowards with reasoned replies." (Social media trolls / cyberbullies.)

♦ "Speaking from both 'an armchair' and with hindsight..." (An opinion on the police response to a school shooting.)

♦ "Law enforcement is paralyzed by this type of Monday Morning quarterbacking..." (A comment about the police response to a school shooting.)

♦ "His wait has prompted a flurry of memes and tweets from couch GMs. (General managers. The 2023 NFL Draft.)

♦ "When we analyze police-involved shootings, we must look to the totality of the circumstances, and we are expressly forbidden from using 20/20 hindsight, because unlike all of us, officers are not afforded the luxury of armchair reflection when they are faced with rapidly evolving, volatile encounters in dangerous situations." (An attorney representing a police officer. From "Family of Donovan Lewis demand accountability after police killing" by Nick Evans, *Ohio Capital Journal*, Sept 2, 2022.)

♦ "In this atlas, Judith Schalansky takes us on a journey to fifty far-flung worlds—from Tristan de Cunha to Clipperton Atoll, from Christmas Island to Easter Island... Armchair explorers... will find themselves in places that exist in reality, but may only be found in the imagination." (*The Atlas of Remote Islands: Fifty Islands I Have Never Set Foot On and Never Will* by Judith Schalansky. It's a wonderful slight atlas, graphically distinguished, that should be on the bookshelf of every household with children.)

♦ Armchair; couch; keyboard; Monday morning; hindsight...

## armed

armed with the information

~, officials tracked down the criminals

armed with a microscope

~, he measured... (a scientist)

armed with her new mobility

the child begins exploring the world ~

armed with vast computing power

~, scientists will try to model a nuclear blast

armed (only) with her five senses

she makes diagnoses ~ (doctor)

armed with (fresh) search warrants

police arrived ~

armed with cash, good will, and local knowledge

they practice "public diplomacy" ~

## armor (protection)

armour of obstinacy and willful ignorance

the Germans are deaf and blind, enclosed in an ~

opponent's armor

she uncovered a critical chink in her ~

chink in his armor

see *chink* (*chink in one's armor*)

♦ "Life would be easier if vaccines offered invincible armor." (Covid pandemic.)

## armory (noun)

armoury of obstinacy and (willful) ignorance

the Germans are deaf and blind, enclosed in an ~

in her armory

slyness and guile are simply not ~

♦ "But Fury's size and everything else in his armoury might be a step too far." (Carl Frampton predicted that Tyson Fury would beat Oleksandr Usyk in their first meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Usyk won. So much for Fury's "armoury.")

## arm-twisting

a lot of arm-twisting

his job requires a ~

## army (Arnie's Army, etc.)

army of (online) fans

the Barbz, the nickname given to Niki Minaj's ~

Arnie's Army

the ~ story (fans of Arnold Palmer)

Barmy Army

the ~ must have been disappointed (English cricket)

Britney Army

the ~ (#FreeBritney)

orange army



Verstappen's ~ guaranteed a unique atmosphere (F1)

### Oranje Army

the "~" has been amazing (Euro 2024 / Holland fans)

### Red Army

at The Old Nags Head, home to the ~ (Manchester)

### Tartan Army

members of the ~ (Scotland's national football team)  
the ~ belts out "Yes Sir, I Can Boogie" in London

### Toon Army

Newcastle United's ~ ("Town" Army)

♦ "At The Old Nags Head, a Man U fan pub, people slump at the bar, morose, staring into their pints." (NPR's Lauren Frayer.)

♦ "Boogie my A\*\*" growled a disappointed Sean Connery, at McLeods Public House on W Main Street, following Scotland's loss to Croatia. 'What have the descendants of Culloden, Pondicherry and Seringapatam, St. Valery, and Tumbledown Mountain come to? It almost makes me wish I could return to Kafiristan!' ("Elderly Scottish Visitor Disappears After Soccer Result," *The Dothan Eagle*, Dothan, Alabama.)

♦ "The Geordies are back in Toon." (Newcastle United 4-1 Paris St-Germain. "It gives you goosebumps the size of coconuts." *That's an odd image!*)

♦ Fans of the "Who Weekly" podcast call themselves Wholigans, they have their own language and inside jokes, and they support the hosts by subscribing on Patreon.

♦ "Hi, are you a Saweetie?" (The rapper greeting people to a private club in West Hollywood.)

♦ "Swifties are famously passionate about the pop star." (Fans of the popstar Taylor Swift.)

♦ Fans of Mariah Carey are "lambs," part of the "Lambily," or "Lamb family."

♦ "Hey, my little tater tots..." (Ophelia Nichols, aka Mama Tot, who has 7.6 million followers.)

♦ "It's part of a boyishness that Musk-eteers really love about him." (Jill Lepore using a term for followers of Elon Musk.)

♦ "Andrew Huberman is such a successful podcaster and wellness guru that his most devoted male followers are known by a teasing nickname: 'Huberman Husbands.'" (According to Miles Klee of the *Rolling Stone*.)

♦ Fans of Harry Styles call themselves Harries, not Stylers. Or is it vice versa?

♦ Fans of Justin Bieber are Beliebers.

♦ Maas' readers, or "Maas-assins..." (Sarah J. Maas)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Are these motherfuckers what all the people are screaming about? My *dog* plays drums better than that kid with the big nose." (The great boxer Sonny Liston at a Beatles' concert. From *King of the World* by David Remnick.)

♦ "Manlits; Manlet Virgins; Deaf; LBGT; Stupid; Dick heads; bitch ass nikkas; Swave Nation; nonexistent; the lamez; test tube babies; babes; 12 year olds; weirdos; Grandchildren of Papi; we stan Tory not Drake; beliebers; Bums; Fools..." ("What's X's fan base called" at Kanyetothe.com.)

♦ The word "stan" is a portmanteau of "stalk" and "fan." Its meaning is "super fan." Merriam-Webster has an entry. There is Stan Twitter, and stans have been known to behave badly on social media in order to protect their idol from criticism.

♦ "naming a fanbase in general is cringe" (Optimus Promethazine, Sep 8, 2016.)

♦ see also *Kingdom* (*Chiefs Kingdom, etc.*), *nation* (*Who Dat Nation, etc.*)

## army (a large group)

### army of emojis

the smiley morphed into a whole ~

### army of fans

an ~ broke out in celebration (#FreeBritney)

### army of followers

he'll have an ~ (Apolo Ohno at Olympics)

### army of (private) investors

an ~ spotted a chance (GameStop)

### army of lobbyists

they hired an ~ and donated generously (politics)

### army of pastors

evangelicals are spreading rapidly through an ~

### army of people

it takes an ~ to get you ready (Sandra Oh / Oscars)

### army of statistics

he bolsters his analysis with an ~

### army of volunteers

he recruited an ~ (Chef Jose "We Fed an Island" Andres)

### army of (human) volunteers

Wikipedia is edited by an ~ (versus Google's AI Overview)

### army of (volunteer) workers

an ~ pounded nails (community playground)

### army of zombies

they band these computers together into an ~ (botnets)

### army of Ph.D.s

the vast ~ now roaming the universities

### army of (poorly paid) migrant workers

an ~ works in Saudi Arabia

### grassroots army

his war chest and ~ make him an unstoppable juggernaut

♦ "I think what people are worried about in this ad is that he says 'army of supporters'... We believe the language 'army of supporters' is not really calling for an army but is calling on people who are normal campaign volunteers." (Sheryl Sandberg, the Chief Operating Officer of Facebook, about a 2020 political ad. Duh!)

## around (still around, etc.)

### still around

it is ~ decades after the vaccine (polio in US)

♦ "It might be a surprise to hear that cassette tapes are even around anymore..."

### \*\*\* Johnny, Waylon, Willie, and Kris...

♦ "I was a dam-builder / cross a river deep and wide / where steel and water did collide / a place called Boulder on the wild Colorado / I slipped and fell into the wet concrete below / they buried me in that great tomb that knows no sound / but I am still around..." (The Highwaymen—Highwayman (American outlaws: Live at Nassau Coliseum, 1990.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMdeg-WKt1U>

## arouse (verb)

aroused suspicions  
what they said ~

## arrive (a time can arrive, etc.)

1972 arrived  
~, and the world didn't end (a doomsday cult)

moment had (finally) arrived  
the ~ where she could do such a project (NPR)

AI has arrived  
~ for Google search (Google's AI Overview)

♦ "The moment had finally arrived where she could do such a project and feel good about it artistically." (NPR.)

## arrive (the equator is arriving, etc.)

arriving again  
the equator is ~ (a moving ship)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When you are traveling on a ship, things can arrive and pass you.

## arrive (attainment)

arrived  
she is, after just one engagement, a new artist who has ~

♦ See also *comer* (*up-and-comer*, etc.)

## arrive at (an answer, etc.)

arrive at your answer  
how did you ~

♦ "I hope you support where I come out (on my decision)."

## arrow (weapon)

arrow in his (presidential) quiver  
he will use every ~ to get his will

arrows in their quiver  
they have more legislative ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Arrow*, *bow*, and *quiver* are three words from archery that are used figuratively.

## arrow (straight arrow)

see *straight arrow* (person)

## arsenal (amount)

arsenal of medicines  
the ~ against biological weapons is limited

arsenal of plays  
every salesman has an ~ to gain an advantage

arsenal of (top-of-the-line) technology  
the team set out last month with an ~ (search team)

arsenal of tools  
their ~ for evaluating applicants (colleges)

arsenal of (fire-fighting) tools  
a growing ~

beauty arsenal  
the ~ you can count on (cosmetics)

growing arsenal  
there is a ~ of fire-fighting tools on the market

brought history into the arsenal  
Erasmus and his followers ~ of the Reformation

### \*\*\* "An arms depot blew up on a military base..."

♦ On Sunday, January 27, 2002, an arms depot blew up on a military base in the densely packed Ikeja area of Lagos. A series of blasts shook the city, and chaos reigned as thousands fled, not knowing what was happening. At a canal several miles away, in the darkness, more than a thousand people drowned in a great crowd stampede. As is common in such stampedes, many of the victims were women and children. Read the Wikipedia article "2002 Lagos armoury explosion." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## arson (noun)

literary arson  
this ~ (Puffin Books rewrites Roald Dahl books)

♦ "Gutless goons...gave their approval to this literary arson." (Puffin Books and the Dahl estate rewrite Roald Dahl based on contemporary "sensitivities.")

### \*\*\* Motives for arson include...

♦ Motives for arson include: fraud; effort to hide another crime; jealousy; revenge; thrill (pyromaniac, juvenile, sexual); riots / vandalism; and terrorism.

## arsonist (person)

puts a blowtorch in the hands of an arsonist  
it basically ~ (a legal ruling / politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Arson is to an arsonist as murder is to a \_\_\_\_\_. (Anticipated answer: murderer.)

## art (work of art)

edible works of art  
her awe-inspiring pie decorations are ~

work of art, a masterpiece  
the winning of the South Pole had been a ~ (Amundsen)

genius, an absolute work of art  
it was ~ (a goal scored by Arsenal captain Aubameyang)

turn the ocean into works of art  
phytoplankton blooms ~ (BBC's Colourful Planet)

♦ "This is the 70th birthday of one of the most important works of art in American history. (Sound of opening music to the TV show *I Love Lucy*.) Yeah, think of it as a work of art..." (Steve Inskeep, introducing "How Desi Amaz Changed Television And Business History, NPR, Morning Edition, Feb 5 2021. By Sonari Ginton. Super!)

## artery (route)

artery  
the ~ poured across the US fueled development (a highway)

artery on the (old) Silk road  
the street was an ~ (Jibek Joly in southern Kazakhstan)

artery of commerce

the Mississippi River is an ~

arteries of (global) trade

it is in all our interests that the ~ are kept free (shipping)

artery of water

the canal is a life-giving ~ (agriculture)

clogged artery

Boston's ~ (the Central Artery)

underwater arteries

these ~ could be vulnerable to attack (undersea cables)

bustling artery

the seventh floor overlooks a ~ (an avenue)

north-south artery

Route One, a ~ (Jerusalem)

rail artery

Gare du Nord is Europe's busiest ~ (Paris)

trade artery

attacks on commercial ships in the global ~ (the Red Sea)

Central Artery

the ~ is clogged with traffic day and night (Boston)

global (trade) artery

attacks on commercial ships in the ~ (the Red Sea)

vital artery

the Grand Canal was a ~ (China)

commercial and military artery

the Gulek Pass has been a major ~ for millennia (Turkey)

## Arthurian (adjective)

Arthurian figure

he became an ~ in Greek popular culture (Constantine XI)

## artisanal (adjective)

artisanal hamburgers

meals ranged from ~ to vegan salads (Twitter mess hall)

artisanal items

using salvaged foods as ingredients in ~

artisanal mezcal

importing ~ for distribution in the U.S. market

♦ "Come 2012, there's a new food vocabulary: authentic, craft, small batch, artisan, rustic and, of course, local. It's the opposite of processed, mass produced and factory farmed..." ("Artisanal And Authentic, The Flavors Of The New Year" by Bonny Wolf, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 1, 2012.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "artisanal" bandwagon...

♦ "Artisanal food shop helps Kosovo war-raped survivors earn income and heal."

♦ Artisanal mining supports poor families in the region (the Congo).

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, "try this genius hack to..." In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

## artisanally

artisanally grown

they are ~ from heirloom seeds (Chimayo chili peppers)

graded papers artisanally

I have ~, as I like say, by hand... (vs. a computer program)

♦ "They're artisanally grown from heirloom seeds originally planted by Pueblo Indians." (Chimayo chili peppers, Chimayo, New Mexico. "It's the soil that makes the chili.")

♦ "I've been teaching for about twenty years and for that whole time I have graded papers artisanally, as I like to say, by hand, on paper, with a pen or a pencil..." (Watch: YouTube Faculty Spotlight, Gina Brandolino, University of Michigan Gina Brandolino was namechecked by NPR's Neda Ulaby for "A priest explains what 'The Exorcist' tells us about evil" by Neda Ulaby, NPR, Morning Edition, October 31, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Microsoft Word underlines "artisanally" as a mistake. (Or, at least, it did in the past.)

## artwash (verb)

artwash the regime

the government brings western influencers to ~

♦ Activists vandalized the Pace Gallery in New York City with graffiti and pasted posters for "art-washing a genocide." (See "Pace Gallery Closes New York Flagship Space for the Day After Being Vandalized with Pro-Palestine Messages" by Alex Greenberger, ARTnews, January 27, 2024.)

## ascend (verb)

ascending to (worldwide) fame

Amy Winehouse was rapidly ~ (the great singer)

ascend to the height

he has managed to ~ of American power

ascended to the heights

she had ~ of stardom (film actor)

ascended the (leadership) ladder

she ~ in Congress (Pelosi)

♦ "While Winehouse was rapidly ascending to worldwide fame, she was also spiraling downward into addiction and tabloid notoriety."

## ascendance (noun)

ascendance of folk music

the 1960s mainstream ~

♦ "The Big Bang had been the Kingston Trio's 1958 surprise #1 hit, 'Tom Dooley...'" (The 1960s mainstream ascendance of folk music. From the wonderful *Girls Like Us* by Sheila Weller.)

## ascendancy (noun)

at its ascendancy

it was the Liberal Hour, when liberalism was ~ (1960s)

## ascent (on the ascent)

on the ascent

India is ~ (militarily and economically)

China is ~, and the US seems on the descent

his career is ~ (an athlete)

seems to be on the ascent

plagiarism ~

## ascent (with the ascent)

with the ascent of the Nazis

her worst political fears came true ~

with the ascent of Chomsky

linguistics changed drastically ~

## ascent (other)

ascent to celebrity

*Julia* examines the famous chef's ~ (HBO Max)

ascent (of his party) to power

the ~ in 1968 led to...

rapid ascent

the company has seen a ~

slow the ascent

action to ~ of their currencies

ascent, apogee and decline

sport compresses life's natural trajectory of ~

## ashes (from the ashes, etc.)

from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire

Turkey rose ~

from the ashes of the Korean War

but ~ we rose (South Korean President)

from the ashes of apartheid

~, Soweto is emerging as a vibrant place...

from the ashes of despair

adoption is a miracle that arises ~

emerged from the ashes

the League ~ of World War I

rose from the ashes

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ~ of WW II

♦ Scott Simon: I remember interviewing him once. This would have been 10 years after the riots. And he told me, 'Ashes don't always mean death. Ashes mean death to yesterday. Ashes may mean life to tomorrow...' / Pastor Steven Johnson: In fact, one of our murals at that first AME is the Phoenix rising from the ashes. (Remembering Reverend Cecil Murray," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 13, 2024.)

## ask (big ask, etc.)

ask is that

really, our ~ we test the alternatives...

ask was

our biggest ~we wanted the conference to...

ask for a positive tweet

I'm not aware of any ~ (Jen Psaki, WH press secretary)

ask for the (young) boxer

this is a brutal ~ (a match in Russia)

ask for (an antiwar) Belgium

it was a hard ~ (troop surge in Afghanistan)

ask from Trump

in a direct ~... (a bill / politics)

ask of Trump

the Polish President went to Washington with a big ~

big ask

what you want is a ~

asking for a change is a ~

he is demanding government documents, a ~

brutal ask

this is a ~ for the young boxer (a match in Russia)

direct ask

in a ~ from Trump, a provision was put into the bill to...

hard ask

it was a ~ for an antiwar Belgium (Afghan troop surge)

important ask

the most ~ I have for Afghanistan is that... (Ashraf Ghani)

massive ask

to beat Man U, you must be perfect, and that is a ~ (soccer)

tall ask

it may be a ~ to replicated his stats from... (NFL)

formal or explicit ask

no ~ was ever made (for celebrity to leave Oscars)

quite the ask

the idea of doing all that is ~ (privacy etiquette / guests)

comes with an ask

it ~, we need help...

♦ "Just lay out what your specific ask is." "Our biggest ask was we wanted..." (Heard on NPR.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The old print dictionary I use does not list "ask" as a noun: the nominal is "asking." Online Merriam-Webster has "ask" as a noun and tags it "chiefly British, informal." At that entry, click on "Related Articles" and then click on "What's a 'Good Get'?" The article is about both "ask" and "get" as nouns.

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## ask (ask for it, etc.)

asking to be killed

he was just ~ (non-compliant, armed / a police OIS)

## asleep (adjective)

asleep

all the governments are ~ (Middle East)

♦ "I hope this film shakes people from their slumber." (The great filmmaker and New York Knicks fan Spike Lee.)

## asleep (at the switch, etc.)

asleep at the switch

the regulators were ~ (oil spill)

asleep at the wheel

see *wheel* (*asleep at the wheel*)

## ASMR

ASMR angel

Charlotte, who is called the ~ (gift wrapping)

ASMR community

John Butler, a beloved member of the ~ (former farmer)

ASMR Dental Examination and Teeth Cleaning

~ (Lizi ASMR / roleplay / 606,106 views)

ASMR moaning

ASMR joi, ASMR roleplay, ~ (porn categories)

food ASMR

~ videos have garnered over 2.4 billion views (TikTok)

Lesbian ASMR

~ kissing, licking and mouth fetish

lewd ASMR

~ (a porn category)

♦ According to a BBC writer, John Butler, the "former farmer" and "YouTube sensation," provided tingly or shivery solace to millions during the COVID pandemic. (BBC, "ASMR: Former farmer, 84, is accidental YouTube star," 14 June 2021.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Relaxing; soothing; feeling of personal intimacy; surrendering yourself to somebody else; softly spoken; lush whispers; hushed tones; Russian and Eastern European accents; sounds; visceral; tingling sensation; scalp; back of neck... (Features of ASMR.)

♦ Merriam-Webster added ASMR in January 2021.

♦ "The Internet has brought a whole community of brain tinglers together, who can upload and share videos and talk about their experiences, to their heart's content." (BBC Radio 4, Seriously, "Brain Tingles.")

♦ "People who don't have ASMR don't really get it... You got to have a lot of subscribers." (An ASMR video-maker.)

## aspirational (adjective)

aspirational

does it apply to the here and now, or is it ~ (diplomacy)

## ass (bougie-ass, etc.)

badass

see *badass* (*power*)

bougie-ass

promote your ~ class bullshit...

old-ass

I can't have that ~ man, he would be stealing...

regular-ass

my parents were ~ Baby Boomers...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wiktionary entry "-ass" and click on "Derived terms." The list is excellent. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ One analyst categorized these words as follows: (1) intensify an adjective ("a big-ass wrench") (2) convert an adjective into a noun for a person with that trait ("He is a stupid-ass") and (3) resembling (that's some Drake-ass shit he's singing).

♦ Many linguists associate this construction with the Black community and AAVE.

## assassination (character assassination)

character assassination

to call him an anti-Semite is ~

calling him a racist is ~

character assassination through silence

inaction can be ~

right-wing character assassination

the film is ~ masquerading as "history"

cleverly orchestrated character assassination

the FBI conducted ~ (US)

anonymous character assassination

early uses of the printing press included ~

political character assassination

it was ~ (a script about John F. Kennedy)

posthumous character assassination

the Jackson estate calls the HBO documentary a ~

cesspool of character assassination

the Web site is a ~ (gossip site in rural towns)

victim of character assassination

he was the ~

accused her of character assassination

he ~

conduct character assassination

I'm not trying to ~

smells of character assassination

the criminal case against him ~

used character assassination

they ~ against him

### \*\*\* Gavril Princip, etc.

♦ "On the morning of the 28th of June, 1914, when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie Chotek arrived here, at Sarajevo railroad station, Europe was at peace. None of the European great powers had been at war with each other for over 40 years... / The July Crisis of 1914 was a 'Month of Madness', not because the men who made it were themselves mad, but because its outcome was completely catastrophic and completely unnecessary... The repercussions of the assassination—comparable to the effect of 9/11—exemplify the transformative power of a terrorist event. But the murders were not a pretext for a war decided in advance—nor did they make conflict inevitable." (Christopher Clark, BBC, "Month of Madness," 23 June 2014.)

♦ "The nineteen-year-old student [Gavril Princip], a Bosnian recruited by Serbia's Black Hand terrorist movement, could not believe his luck. He had been standing on Franzjosefstrasse, bareheaded in the early summer sunshine, depressed over the failure of a comrade, Nedeljko Čabrinović, to kill the royal couple with a grenade earlier in the day. Then he saw their open-top car take a

wrong turn off Appel Quay and pass right by him. The lethal logistics that seem to operate at such moments had transformed error into opportunity. Two point-blank targets presented themselves, and Princip's gun did what it was designed to do." (*Colonel Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris.)

♦ "He became hyper focused on that event." (Thomas Matthew Crooks, who nearly assassinated Donald Trump in 2024.)

## assault (noun)

global assault

Prince Harry argued democracy was under "a"

## assembly line (noun)

well-oiled assembly line

Hollywood was a slick, ~ (in the 1930s)

♦ "There's an unspoken consensus about the stories we should pursue and how they should be framed. It's frictionless—one story after another about instances of supposed racism, transphobia, signs of the climate apocalypse, Israel doing something bad, and the dire threat of Republican policies. It's almost like an assembly line." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

\*\*\* assembly lines are dangerous...

♦ "A woman died last week after she dropped an AirPods under a conveyor and got caught in a chain that moves the machine while reaching for it..."

♦ see also *conveyor belt*

## asterisk (attention)

asterisk next to his name

there should always be an ~ (drugs / a boxer)

asterisk beside this victory

there will forever be a metaphorical ~ (split decision)

with an asterisk

this is justice ~ (exoneration came much too late)

giant asterisk

all 3 shootings, there's a ~ next to them (a policeman)

## astir (adjective)

astir in the world

great things were ~ (the Renaissance)

set the baseball world astir

the news ~

## astray (direction)

gone astray

science has ~, gone off the rails, many times...

♦ "Follow the prophet, don't go astray / Follow the prophet, he knows the way." (A Mormon children's song.)

## astride (position)

astride the Red Sea and the Sahel

Sudan, ~... (geopolitics)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This preposition means to have one leg on either side.

## astronomical (adjective)

astronomical

the odds are ~

astronomical prices

the ~ of the so-called glamour health spas

astronomical (suicide) rate

a nation plagued by an ~ (Japan)

astronomical sum

this is an ~ (salary)

♦ "Their astronomical returns on investments are now falling back to earth." (College endowments / the economy. "Gravity sucks.")

## astroturf (verb)

astroturf the (libertarian) 'Ron Paul Revolution'

did Putin ~ (the *Daily Beast*)

## astroturf (noun)

astroturf (citizens') groups

S.G.I. began creating ~

perpetuate astroturf

corporations and special interest exploit media to ~

grassroots or astroturfs [sic]

we don't know whether this is real ~ (protests)

♦ "Sometimes it's very hard to verify. Sometimes it's very hard to know the motivations of the person... Astro turf, things that appear real but are fake, right, we're in this moment where there's so much fakery..." (Damien Cave, *The New York Times*.)

♦ "Starting in the late seventies, S.G.I. began hiring lobbyists, contracting with advertising firms, creating astroturf citizens' groups, and spending millions of dollars to persuade voters in Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri Oregon, and the District of Columbia to pass lottery initiatives." ("Scratch That: What we've lost playing the lottery" by Kathryn Schulz, *The New Yorker*, October 24, 2022.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Of course, "astroturf" means fake "grassroots."

♦ see also *grassroots* (*grassroots level*, etc.)

## astroturfer (noun)

astroturfers

~ present themselves as grassroots organizations

astroturfers aim

~ to make you think you're an outlier when you're not

astroturfers claim

~ to debunk myths that aren't myths at all

## astroturfing

astroturfing

~ masks the sponsor, who is not grassroots

"~" creates the appearance of a grass-roots campaign

## asylum (insane asylum, etc.)

insane asylum

NYC trains are ~s, so is this thread... (crime)

radical progressive insane asylum

it's a ~ and that's why I left (*The View* / Meghan McCain)

running the asylum

the prisoners are ~ ("woke" universities)



the inmates have been ~ (university activists)

♦ "The prisoners are running the asylum at SFSU... I was ambushed and physically hit twice by a man." (A Riley Gaines tweet. Riley Gaines is a woman and a famous swimmer. The man was wearing a dress. Riley had just given a speech at San Francisco State University about saving women's sports for women.)

♦ Ben Smith of *Semafor*: Do the think the *Times* (*The New York Times*) let the inmates run the asylum for too long? / Joe Kahn of *The New York Times*: I wouldn't use those words. I do think that there was a period of peak cultural angst at this organization, with the combination of the intensity of the Trump era, COVID, and then George Floyd. The summer of 2020 was a crazy period... And those things just frayed nerves everywhere."

## Athens (Athens of Asia, etc.)

Athens of Asia

Samarkand briefly was the ~ (Tamerlane)

"Athens of Cuba"

locals christened it the ~ for its cultural life (Matanzas)

Athens of the North

Edinburg has been called the ~ since the early 1800s

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Wikipedia article "Edinburgh" includes 14 hits for "Athens." That article lists four comparisons: (1) Castle Rock / the Acropolis (2) Leith / Piraeus (3) the Scottish Enlightenment / Ancient Greek philosophy and (4) Greek Revival Architecture / the Greek Temple. Of course, there are many differences! But the epithet makes a good case. Wikipedians are wonderful.

## ati (glitterati, etc.)

glitterati

the ~ of the art, music and fashion worlds... (party)

Tik Tokkeratti

the ~ (used by Kirsten Fleming / NYP)

Twitterati

indignation among the ~ about...

wokerati

she rails against the tofu-eating ~ (UK's Suella Braverman)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Bieberati"? It sounds right!

♦ Type "literati" into Wiktionary, click on "Derived terms," and you will find a nice list that includes "Scouserati"! Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ see also *riat* (*commentariat*, etc.)

## atmosphere (in / within an atmosphere)

in an atmosphere of suspicion

they live ~

in an atmosphere of tension and gloom

people resumed their lives ~ (after rioting)

in a post-Sept. 11 atmosphere

security concerns ~

in a carnival atmosphere

discussion should not have to be conducted ~

in a welcoming atmosphere

have people come together ~ (party)

within the cloistered atmosphere

she felt secure ~ (psychiatric ward)

in this highly charged atmosphere

~ the bombings started (Saudi Arabia)

in a calm atmosphere

~ we tend to win the debate

in an (intensely) partisan atmosphere

~, reform is very difficult (US Congress)

in a safe, discreet atmosphere

exploring her girl/girl fantasies ~ (brothel)

## atmosphere (atmosphere of trust, etc.)

atmosphere

the ~ inside the MGM Grand arena was festive

at the opening of the trial, the ~ was electric

atmosphere of acceptance

promote an ~ for new staff members

atmosphere of (open) access

an ~ at administrative buildings (pre-9/11)

atmosphere of (such sacred) ceremonies

the spiritual ~ (Wicca)

atmosphere of distrust

adding to the ~ was... (Middle East)

atmosphere of (funereal) gloom

an ~

atmosphere of stereotypes

an ~ among the restaurant workers (about who tips)

atmosphere of tolerance

the ~ he had seen on US television (towards gays)

atmosphere of trust

they established an ~ (US company in China)

atmosphere of denial and repression

an ~ (pedophilia and the priesthood)

atmosphere of hopelessness and poverty

Gaza's ~

atmosphere of hostility and distrust

the ~ (Middle East)

atmosphere of a (medieval) market-pilgrim town

the old quarter had the ~ (Lhasa)

atmosphere at Central Command

the ~ was one of confidence

atmosphere on the plane

the ~ remained calm (hijacking)

carnival atmosphere

there was a ~ (peaceful anti-war protest)

family atmosphere



companies used to have a ~  
it's a ~ (Wild West Weekend at historic village)

party atmosphere  
a ~ had taken over  
the ~, the trinket booths (Gay Pride parades)

team atmosphere  
create a ~ (sports)

work atmosphere  
a ~ notorious for backbiting

classroom atmosphere  
he created a ~ in which we could say anything

hometown atmosphere  
creating a ~ for Atlanta's transplants (sports bars)

pressure-cooker atmosphere  
the accusations underscore the ~ in the region

anti-immigration atmosphere  
Sept. 11 has not yet led to a massive ~

accepting atmosphere  
Amigos in the Dominican Republic has an ~ (gays)

inviting atmosphere  
US's ~ makes terrorist activities inevitable

freewheeling atmosphere  
Krasnoyarsk's ~

electric atmosphere  
the ~ in the city when a pride event is in town

friendly atmosphere  
the ~ that originally drew foreigners to Wisconsin

liberal atmosphere  
Khujand had a surprising ~ (Tajikistan)

peaceful atmosphere  
preserving the ~ (synagogue after 9/11)

poisonous atmosphere  
a "~" has descended on the Times (firings)

supportive atmosphere  
this ~ (at a psychiatric hospital)  
a ~ for scholarly development (university)

toxic atmosphere  
political leaders have contributed to a ~ (politics)

volatile atmosphere  
it's a ~ (national outrage over child abuse by clergy)

carnival-like atmosphere  
a ~ outside the soccer stadium

cauldron-like atmosphere  
the energy of the crowd in the ~ (World Cup)

quiet, safe and orderly atmosphere  
promote a ~ (public library)

cost, taste and atmosphere

~ are important in a restaurant

environment or atmosphere  
does this create a new ~ (Supreme Court rules on NCAA)

food, atmosphere, music  
~ (New Orleans)

size, location and atmosphere  
think about company ~ (looking for a job)

atmosphere prevails  
an accepting ~ throughout the Dutch Caribbean (gays)

enjoy that atmosphere  
some people don't ~ (Virgin Galactic vs. SpaceX)

poison the atmosphere  
fear and distrust can quickly ~ (epidemic)

♦ "For me to be here and to sample the atmosphere, I don't think I'll see or hear an atmosphere like this again. The atmosphere was just something that took my breath away... I have never seen anything like this before. I've played at Anfield when there is a superb atmosphere but this is something else, something special." (Alan Shearer on Liverpool's amazing victory against Barcelona in a Champion's League second leg semifinal.)

♦ "The atmosphere was amazing, off the scale, absolutely lunatic." (Steve Bunce about Fury-Whyte in front of 94,000 fight fans at Wembley Stadium.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It was all around us, like the air we breathed."

## atomic bomb

atomic bomb for poor people  
terrorism was the ~ (Pablo Escobar)

cruise missiles and atomic bombs  
your bodies are our new ~ (suicide bombers)

♦ The film director Ridley Scott called AI a "technical hydrogen bomb."

\*\*\* **"Now I Am Become Death, the Destroyer of Worlds"**

♦ "In 1945, news reached the camps that the US now possessed the atomic bomb. According to Solzhenitsyn, this unexpected development gave hope to many prisoners, who began to pray for atomic war." ("On The Prison Highway, The gulag's silent remains," by Ian Frazier, *The New Yorker*, August 30, 2010.)

♦ "I felt no remorse or guilt that I had bombed the city." (Charles W. Sweeney, pilot of the plane that dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki in World War II.)

♦ "I don't feel any guilt or blame about it. I think my view really is if we hadn't done it someone else would have. And it would be with us in any case." (Lilli S. Hornig, who worked on the Manhattan Project. From "The Bomb," PBS, 2015.)

♦ According to General Eisenhower, the four "tools of victory" that won World War II were the bazooka, the jeep, the C-47 Skytrain, and the atomic bomb.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The original target for the second atomic bomb was Kokura. But because Kokura was clouded in, the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. It is strange why "Nagasaki" is not synonymous with "bad luck" or "bad fortune." In the U.S., "Hiroshima and Nagasaki" are simply irreversible binomials, like "bread and butter" and "mac and cheese," and little else. The Gen-Z products of American education may never have heard of either city.

## atomization (noun)

atomization of literary journalism

the ~ and getting paid for it (online reviewers)

atomization of the rap market

the ~

## atrocities (groups)

atrocities against (Venezuela's) sovereignty

this is an ~ (US refuses to withdraw diplomats)

atrocities of slavery

the appalling ~, which stains our history (Prince Charles)

atrocities such as Tulsa

tales about ~ (Eric Deggans)

atrocities exhibition

the art world as an ~ of cult personalities

caste-based atrocities

reporting on ~ (*Khabar Lahariya*)

American-Internment Atrocities

"The Other WWII ~" (NPR)

human rights atrocities

it's a stark account of ~ (detention camps)

tales about atrocities

~ such as Tulsa (Eric Deggans)

redlining and criminal justice atrocities

~ (Andrew Perry / reparations for Blacks)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "This is an atrocity [woman: "Yes it is"] and to the State of Georgia it's an audacity!" [Women: "Yes," "Yes," "mmm..."] (State representative Carl Gilliard, Chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, about the Sapelo Island dock collapse, which killed 7 people.)

♦ "As Moth and Sani traverse the landscape of the South that was the site of so many atrocities committed against their ancestors..." ("This Road Trip Is A Winding, Poetic Journey Through Ancestry, Trauma And Art" by Caitlyn Paxson, NPR, Book Reviews, August 21, 2021. The book under review is *Me (Moth)* by Amber McBride, a "debut YA novel-in-verse.")

♦ "Now, I thought, we'll see him examine how his work—so often focused on the achievements of virtuous white, male Americans—may have made it tougher for tales about atrocities such as Tulsa to find similar space." ("Opinion: Tom Hanks Is A Non-Racist. It's Time For Him To Be Anti-Racist" by Eric Deggans, NPR, Opinion, June 13, 2021.)

♦ "Their experience is framed by a pointed portrayal of the art world as an atrocity exhibition of cult personalities to be sipped like wine by bored, cynical critics and the disingenuous investors of a luxury cartel." ("The Sound of 'Candyman' Comes From A Hauntingly Cyclical History" by DeForrest Brown, NPR Music, August 27, 2021.)

♦ "The [school] board failed to prevent the atrocity that happened down that hallway." (The aggrieved parents of a female student whose breasts were groped by her female teacher at a school in New Jersey. The parents are suing.)

♦ "'Sanctuary,' a bit like 'havens' and 'orphanages,' is a very nasty term that is usually devoid of meaning or certainly devoid of accuracy." (Duncan McNair, the CEO of London-based charity Save the Asian Elephants. From "Elephants are often snatched by poachers who commit atrocities ranging from killing mothers in front of their children to repeatedly stabbing baby elephants into submission." From "Expert warns Americans about elephant tourism after law student, 22, is killed in Thailand: 'Recipe for disaster'" by Andrea Margolis, Fox News, Jan. 12, 2025. Read at *The New York Post*.)

♦ "Trump has been bought for \$1 billion by Big Oil. Just a payoff to kill the IRA and the Green New Deal. We know what will happen. More fires, more climate disasters, more death. The L.A. fires are preview of more coming atrocities." (An overwrought post on X by Senator Ed Markley, Democrat, Massachusetts, about the 2025 L.A. wildfires.)

♦ "January 6th was an atrocity, it was one of the worst moments in American history." (Sunny Hostin, *The View*.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "George Fitch, Christmas Eve, Nanking China, 1937. What I am about to relate is a story which I feel must be told, even if it is seen by only a few. I cannot rest until I have told it, and, perhaps fortunately, I am one of a very few who are in position to tell it. It is not complete, only a part of the whole, and God alone knows when it will be finished. I pray it may be soon, but I am afraid it is going to go on for many months to come. I believe it has no parallel in modern history." (The opening to the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese were killed by the Japanese, and tens of thousands of females were raped.)

♦ "Following the meeting, a Japanese gentleman approached me and said that my statements about the atrocities in Nanking were not true. They could not be true, for Japanese were incapable of such acts..." (George Fitch. From the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*.)

♦ SECTION FIVE Killing and Atrocities: "No Honor Here, No Virtue." Chapter ONE: The Full Spectrum of Atrocity. Slaying the Noble Enemy. Gray Areas: Ambushes and Guerrilla Warfare. Dark Areas: Slaying the Ignoble Enemy. Black Areas: Executions. Chapter TWO: The Dark Power of Atrocity. The Problem: "Righteousness Comes Out of a Gun Barrel [?]. A Solution: "I'll Shoot You Myself." The Lesson and the Greater Problem. The Empowerment (Empowerment Through Death) (Empowerment Through Atrocity) (Terrorism) (Killing Empowerment). Bonding to Leaders and Peers. Atrocity and Denial. Chapter THREE: The Entrapment of Atrocity: Burning Bridges and One-Way Streets. Enabling the Enemy. Chapter FOUR: A Case Study in Atrocity. Chapter FIVE: The Greatest Trap of All: To Live with That Which Thou Hath Wrought. The Price and Process of Atrocity. The Cost of Compliance. And the Cost of Noncompliance. The Greatest Challenge of All: To Pay the Price of Freedom. (*On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society*, Revised Edition, by Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## atrophy (verb)

atrophied

its military capacity has ~ (NATO)

the population ~ (Kirkenes, Norway)

these actors know their influence has ~ (Alec Baldwin, etc.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## attached (attributed)

attached to depression

there is a severe social stigma ~

attached to it

cross burning has a history of racial intimidation ~

attached to that

no undue significance should be ~

## attachment (noun)

attachment to him

younger black folk have less of an ~ (an older celebrity)

## attack (verb)

attacked the government's plans

conservative rebels have ~ (UK / COVID lockdown)

## attack (under attack, etc.)

under attack

the feeling in Egypt was that all Arabs were ~

South Korean culture is ~ (insults about food)

under attack worldwide

he read of how Muslims were ~

come under attack

such practices have ~ as cruel to animals (cages)

his methodology has ~

♦ James Mossman: "You say that you don't care what the critics write about you, your work, yet you got very angry with Edmund Wilson once for commenting on your work, and you let off some very heavy field guns at him, not to say multiple rockets, so you must have cared..." / Vladimir Nabokov: "I never retaliate when my works of art are concerned. Here the arrows of adverse criticism cannot scratch let alone pierce the shield of what disappointed archers call my self-assurance. But I do reach for my heaviest dictionary when my scholarship is questioned..." (Vladimir Nabokov, BBC Author Archive Collection, "James Mossman talks to Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov in this 1970 interview.")

## attack (noun)

attacks on athletes

personal ~ at games (fan abuse)

attacks on their self-esteem and dignity

dealing with ~ (stereotypes, etc.)

attacks against Saudi Arabia

he condemned Western media ~ (Abdullah)

attack ads

we are seeing ~ of every kind (election)

attack mode

she is in a real ~

media attack

he condemned Western ~s against Saudi Arabia

mob attacks

protecting individuals from social-media ~

direct attack

under ~ you could use the quivering-lip approach

latest attack

this ~ stung local parole officials (calls to end system)

personal attacks

~ on athletes at games (fan abuse)

ladling criticism or indulging in ~

lines of attack

Harris prepared ~ aimed at... (politics)

fend off some (major) attacks

he has had to ~ (a politician)

♦ "Harris clearly had spent a lot of time preparing lines of attack aimed at getting under Trump's skin and some of them definitely worked." (NPR's Tamara Keith after the first Harris-Trump debate.)

## attacked

attacked from above and below

the ice is being ~ (floating ice shelf / global warming)

## attend (verb)

attended these protests

violence has ~

## audience (play to the audience, etc.)

see *play* (*play to the audience, etc.*)

## augment (verb)

augers well

this ~ for future attempts to find the wreck (conditions)

## aura (noun)

aura of assertiveness

she projects an ~ and self-confidence

aura of prosperity

Turkish businessmen sported an irresistible ~

aura of an (18th-century English) landscape

the pond possesses the ~

aura of a shrine

the images in the hall add the ~ (SuAnne Big Crow)

aura of unreality

an ~ descended over the mountain (disaster)

aura of doom and gloom

an ~

archive's aura

the exhibit has an ~ of dense, ordered information

romantic aura

the pond possesses the ~ of s landscape portrait

projects an aura

she ~ of assertiveness and self-confidence

punctured Slater's aura

he ~ of invincibility (surfing)

## auspicious (adjective)

auspicious

the timing of the move is ~ as the country is...

auspicious debut

the album is an ~ for the group (good reviews)

auspicious start

it was an ~ to an audacious career (in music)

auspicious time

the news came at an ~ in the U.K.

auspicious politically  
everything is ~, Grant will surely be elected...

less than auspicious  
her arrival in England was ~ (a refugee)  
he was appointed under ~ circumstances

not an auspicious beginning  
this was ~ (a bad date, but they ended up married anyway)

not an auspicious debut  
alas, it was ~ (bad reviews)

♦ "Punxsutawney Phil is predicting six more weeks of winter, but Staten Island Chuck..."

♦ "Every sign points to her having a huge year in 2022..."

♦ "That's a bad sign!"

♦ "Omens of ill-luck will follow those who pay attention to them." (A saying.)

♦ "The Spouter Inn. Peter Coffin. Coffin? Spouter? Rather ominous in that particular connection, thought I..." (*Moby Dick*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This comes from the Latin for *bird* and *see* and means, "The omens are good." At certain times and in certain places, the direction of flight of a bird might determine whether or not a camel caravan set out that day. Romans would cut open a bird and study the entrails. The early Puritans in the US avidly studied nature for signs.

## authentic (groups)

### Authentic

~ is the name of LL Cool J's 13th studio album

authentic casting  
shouldn't '~' apply to all minorities (Mirren cast as Meir)

authentic experiences  
San Pancho is a hippie town, with tourists searching for ~

authentic relationships  
building ~ (Aliza Licht, author of *On Brand*)

authentic self  
see *self* (*authentic self*, *authentic selves*)

authentic voices  
a think tank that centers ~ (the New Lines Institute)

authentic and healthy  
a filtered approach to life is not ~ (BeReal vs. Instagram)

more authentic  
BeReal is a ~ experience than Instagram

super authentic  
everything here is ~... (Nova Music Festival Exhibition)

consistent and authentic  
the Philly Eagles keep ~ with their story (branding)

feels authentic  
trans' right to live any way they ~ and comfortable

present themselves as authentic  
those who ~ and those who expose the inauthentic

♦ see also *self* (*authentic self*, *authentic selves*)

♦ for quotations, see *authenticity* (*groups*)

## authentically (live authentically, etc.)

authentically me  
I love who I am...I'm ~

authentically Polynesian  
Americans didn't know or care much for ~ foods (1950s)  
Tiki bars made no pretense to being ~ (1950s)

authentically be myself  
I could just ~...

authentically listening  
our experience of ~ to people and delivering (suboxone)

authentically representing  
expression is all about ~ your experiences

authentically connect  
the company uses influences to ~ with audiences (beer)

authentically sharing  
she is ~ (Reesa Teesa "Who TF Did I Marry")

authentically visible  
being ~ is an art form, my purpose is to empower you...

boldly and authentically  
Barbiecore celebrates living ~ (Kim Culmone)

participate authentically  
the ability to ~ in public life (trans, nonbinary people)

viewed authentically  
when ~, decency... (MSNBC's Stacey Abrams)

live and exist authentically  
you have the right to ~ as yourselves without fear (gays)

live and love authentically  
as we see more athletes ~ (Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Every member of our community has a right to live and exist authentically as themselves without fear. Hate motivated threats of violence that infringe upon that right are not tolerated in Massachusetts in any capacity." (US Attorney Rachael S. Rollins. From "Man who sent bomb and mass shooting threats to Merriam-Webster over gender-inclusive entries pleads guilty" by Jon Haworth, ABC, Sept 17, 2022.)

♦ "I want to take on that role of being the Black woman that's going to stand up for the girls that may not have a voice...I don't care what anybody has to say about me. I love who I am...I'm authentically me." (Louisiana State University basketball player Angel Reese.)

♦ "Once I started living more authentically in my life, whether that's just how I present myself or coming out to them as trans, I think they've all said to me it's really incredible to see me just live my authentic self and how I've exuded a different level of confidence, and how it just fits with who I am as a person." (Rebecca, born 1995. From "Quinn: Canada's transgender footballer on being 'visible' and playing at the Olympics" by Katie Gornall & Katie Falkingham, BBC Sport, 23 September 2020.)

♦ "More than 96 athletes in the 2023 Fifa Women's World Cup are out today... [R]oughly 13% of the players in the 2023 World Cup identify as LGBTQ+. *Outsports* reports Australia leads the way with 10 openly gay players, which Jackie J dubs 'The Gayest Team 2k23.'" ("Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup: 'Good, queer joy' on and off the pitch" by Aileen Weintraub, BBC, 18th August 2023." See also "Lisa De Vanna's allegations highlight tensions in Australia's *complex* [italics

mine] football culture" by Samantha Lewis, ABC Australia, Analysis, Sport, 18 Oct 2021.)

♦ "One of the best things I was able to learn during my conversation with Rosalia is that expression is all about authentically representing your experiences. No rules, no hesitation..." (Anamaria Sayre, from "Rosalia is unafraid to pull from every corner of the world," All Things Considered, April 24, 2022. During the interview, Rosalia expressed her love for diversity. Just seven months later, Rosalia would be accused on NPR of Latino-fishing, along with Ariana Grande and Chiara King, etc. See "How Latin identity became fodder for content" by Manuela Lopez Restrepo, NPR, Pop Culture, December 10, 2022.)

♦ "'Now I know so much,' she said of royal formality. 'I'm so glad I didn't then because I could just authentically be myself without so much preparedness.'" (Meghan Markle, wife of Prince Harry.)

♦ "That was my inspiration, seeing another Black woman who was a hundred percent authentically herself." (An NBC Nightly News story, about a Black woman who performs with the Radio City Rockettes. She was referring to a *previous* Black woman who had performed with the Radio City Rockettes.)

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "Fashion is a form of self-expression and Barbiecore celebrates living boldly and authentically." (Kim Culmone, senior vice president and global head of design for Barbie and fashion dolls at Mattel Inc. The summer of 2023 was the summer of "Barbenheimer.")

♦ "Being authentically visible is an art form. It's pure energy. My purpose is to empower you to bring that to life." (A speaker. \$5K+.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "'Seeing another black woman who is authentically herself.' What does that mean?" (A commenter at NBC Nightly News, about a Black woman who is a current member of the Radio City Rockettes. That Black woman had referred to a previous Black woman who was a member of the Radio City Rockettes, saying, "That was my inspiration, seeing another Black woman who was a hundred percent authentically herself.")

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *self (authentic self, authentic selves)*

## authenticity (groups)

authenticity

~ is a moving target (cultural identity)

~ is a loaded word when it comes to food

my ~ is my rebellion, it's my F.U. (Viola Davis)

her apparent lack of airs, her ~ (Jennifer Lawrence)

authenticity, empathy, and vision

lead with ~ to create a better future...

authenticity, courage and agency

Kristen inspires leaders to lean into their ~ (a speaker)

unvarnished authenticity

his ~ (the boxer Gervonta Davis)

ethnic authenticity

he examines the problem of ~ in contemporary America

he bridged ~ and canonical modernism (artist Oscar Howe)

appropriation and authenticity

he navigates the aesthetic pitfalls of ~ (*A Different Man*)

hope and authenticity

she is a leader committed to spreading a message of ~

kindness, authenticity, empathy, and inclusion

storytelling that powers ~ (a speaker / \$7K+)

race and authenticity

pop culture holds sway over our conversations about ~

realness and authenticity

his honesty has been framed as a testament to his ~ (actor)

anxiety of authenticity

the ~ is a disease with damaging symptoms (New Orleans)

the specter of cultural appropriation is a symptom of ~

burden of 'authenticity'

chef David Chang on the ~ (food)

evidence of authenticity

her political handicaps became ~ (Kamala Harris / 2024)

idea of authenticity

the ~ and ethnicity

questions of authenticity

he's always been challenged by these ~ (singer Drake)

*Essays on Authenticity*

*The Artificial White Man*: ~ (Stanley Crouch / 2004)

*Quest for Authenticity*

*The Influencer Industry: The ~ on Social Media* (Hund)

struggle for authenticity

Clinton, in her ~, is not alone (she rides NY subway)

anxiety over authenticity

~ be damned...

trade your authenticity for approval

don't ~ (a T-shirt)

harvest authenticity

if either party wants a sweep, the must figure out how to ~

praised her authenticity

he ~ (the father of an 8-year-old transgender)

\*\*\* **various groups...**

♦ "You have to be authentic, I want you to be authentic, your story matters." (Maimouna Youssef to young artists about social-justice music and the new Grammy merit award for "Best Song for Social Change.")

♦ "And I think the other thing about young people, Nic will tell you, if you're not authentic they're going to know it. Authenticity, we hope, will bring young people into the story." (Ibram X. Kendi, quoted in "His mission: changing how we think about racism" by Janell Ross, *Time*, February 27 / March 6, 2023. Kendi has reprised his book *How To Be An Antiracist* with *How to Be a (Young) Antiracist*, co-authored by young-adult novelist Nic Stone.)

♦ "Gypsy people, they're genuine people, you know, they are genuine people." (The boxer Ricky Gorman.)

♦ "Keepin' it real..." (Whatever "real" is.)

♦ "Straight Actors in Gay Roles: The New Blackface?" by Glennisha Morgan.

♦ "Experimental Theatre, Purdue / September 12-October 1, 1967 / Of Mice and Men / by John Steinbeck / Directed by Joe Stockdale." (From the playbill. The character Lennie was played by James Earl Jones and the character Crooks was played by Jones' father, Robert Earl Jones. From *Stages: A Life in the Theatre* by Joe Stockdale. Simply replacing a white actor with a Black actor was not as easy as



it sounds in the context of the play, but Steinbeck was all for it and Robert Earl Jones was overjoyed to play the part.)

♦ “OG, short for original gangster, is a compliment for somebody who is exceptional or authentic.” (AAVE.)

♦ “My son was suicidal, and I knew that celebrating who he was, and his gender and his authenticity was the piece that was going to keep him alive. So we leaned into that celebration. We threw a party the day we changed the name and pronouns.” (A mother.)

♦ “I think it’s just being authentic and being proud of who I am. It just felt good, I guess...” (Megan Rapinoe in 2012 about publicly coming out as a homosexual.)

♦ “The word ‘complicated’ always hovers in the stories of Pretendians.” (“A Professor Claimed To Be Native American. Did she know she wasn’t?” by Jay Caspian Kang, *The New Yorker*, February 26, 2024.)

♦ “[Her] scholarship is foundationally flawed and academically dishonest, as everything she says or writes purports to be said or written by someone with an American Indian perspective, which she has never had and will never have... The TAAF determined that she is Mexican-American and not an American Indian from the United States or Mexico.” (Tribal Alliance Against Frauds /TAAF.)

♦ “As I mentioned, I come from Guam, which is a U.S. Territory, one of the last remaining colonies in the world.” (Craig Santos Perez accepting the 2023 National Book Award for poetry for his book, *unincorporated territory* [amot]). His biography is emblematic of millions of diaspora people in terms of residency, language, and values. Guamanian “Chamorro Warriors” have a storied history of service in the US military; Perez seems to hate the military. Ned Blackhawk, who won the award for nonfiction at the same ceremony for his book *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History*, is similarly emblematic. Both men prominently joined the demonstration at the end of the ceremony calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.)

♦ “Most of the young people here do not know anything about their history. They don’t speak the language. But tell them they are not Circassian, and they will kill you.” (Yinal T’haghapsau, a Circassian who was born in and grew up in Jordan. His great-great-grandfather fled the czar’s armies in the northern Caucasus in the 1860’s. Yinal left Jordan and lived in the Caucasus for a year, but returned to Jordan when he realized how hard it would be to transplant himself in his ancestral country.)

♦ According to Wikipedia, “The Language Movement catalyzed the assertion of Bengali national identity in East Bengal and later East Pakistan, and became a forerunner to Bengali nationalist movements, including the 6-Point Movement and subsequently the Bangladesh Liberation War and the Bengali Language Implementation Act, 1987. In Bangladesh, 21 February is observed as Language Movement Day, a national holiday.” Most Bengalis in East Pakistan spoke Bengali, with its own Bengali alphabet. But the official language of West Pakistan was Urdu, with a Perso-Arabic script. West Pakistan tried to force Urdu on East Pakistan. This was a huge problem. Especially because Eastern Pakistan had 44 million people, versus 25 million in West Pakistan. At the same time, many Urdu-speaking Muslim Biharis from eastern India, who had fled to East Pakistan, found themselves with the wrong language in Bangladesh and became “stranded Pakistanis.” Many were able to immigrate to Pakistan, but, over the course of decades, they became shunned both in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Tens of thousands of them live in camps in Bangladesh as stateless people to this day.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “authenticity” bandwagon...

♦ “London Breed, San Francisco’s Democratic mayor, declared that she was ‘from the hood.’”

♦ “Barak Obama has been knocked for occasionally falling into what some people called a “Blaccent” that his upbringing didn’t entitle him to.” (“For Candidates, An Accent on Authenticity” by Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, October 15, 2008.)

♦ “Since it’s become popular, they don’t call it Obama-care no more.” (Barak Obama making a wry remark at the 2024 Democratic National Convention.)

♦ “The awkward tendencies that her opponents had mocked turned out to be a significant part of her appeal. ‘She seems like a politician I could sit down and have a laugh with,’ one fan known for impersonating her on TikTok declared. Things that had seemed like political handicaps became evidence of authenticity: her fondness for

dull statistics and Venn diagrams, her disregard for what she called ‘lovely speeches,’ her disdain for introspective questions about her ‘moment.’” (“The Ascent: Can Kamala Harris defy her doubters—and end the Trump era?” by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024. No.)

♦ Bohemians; freaks; hipsters; natives; super-natives (recently arrived appropriators, colonizers); newcomers; young people; poseurs; permanent residents; tourists; (post-Katrina) transplants; yuppies; ... (Types and groups of people mentioned in “Anxiety and authenticity: Are ‘super-natives’ loving New Orleans to death?” by C.W. Cannon, *The Lens: Focused on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast*, June 1, 2018.)

♦ “On Love Island, the only way to seem authentic is to submit to the artifice.” (The U.K. reality-TV show.)

♦ That’s a funny thing about being a content creator, though, right? You are trying to make money off your audience, and obviously sometimes you have to behave in ways that you wouldn’t be behaving if the audience weren’t there watching you. You and your audience are just supposed to operate as if that’s not the case. / Yeah, it gets very meta... (“Pokimane” by David Marchese, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 30, 2023.)

♦ “What’s missing matters.” (BeReal vs. Instagram.)

♦ “Social media praised her style, humor, and authenticity.” (Dakota Johnson after appearance on Ellen DeGeneres show.)

♦ Authentic casting; Felicity Jones as Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Jewface controversies; “deaf is not a costume” (Marlee Matlin); impersonation; acting; playing (a minority); caricature; stereotype; “really know it” (an ethnicity / sexuality / gender preference / able-bodied status); respect; disrespect... (Language relating to authenticity from “Why don’t Jews play Jews?”—David Baddiel on the row over Helen Mirren as Golda Meir,” by David Baddiel, *The Guardian*, 12, Jan 2022.)

♦ “The scene floored me because Brownie, played masterfully by the Cayuga actor Gary Farmer, was so familiar to me: a strange, large Indian man, at once unapologetically crazy and tender. I know so many guys like that—older Native men who might seem tough and stern from across the room, but who will talk openly about their rawest feelings when you get to know them.” (“Rez Life: Sterlin Harjo’s genre-mixing, cliché-exploding series captures coming of age as a Native kid like no TV show before it” by David Treuer, *The Atlantic*, September 2022.)

♦ “In each production I saw, the performances laid some claim to post-dramatic authenticity. There was an overwhelming sense that pretending—in the theatre!—has become not just unfashionable but passe. (The German scholar and dramaturge Florian Malzacher has written elegantly about avoiding theatre’s ‘representational trap.’) Everywhere in Avignon we were in communication with ‘the real’: no fourth wall went unbroken; actors almost invariably called attention to themselves as actors. Sometimes they were actually non-actors playing themselves...” (“State Of Play: Politics and ‘the real’ at the Festival d’Avignon” by Helen Shaw, *The New Yorker*, August 5, 2024.)

♦ “I want people coming here to see everything here is super authentic. You can’t fake it. You can’t deny what happened.” (Yaron Ilovich about the exhibit, “The Nova Music Festival Exhibition: October 7th 06:29am—The Moment Music Stood Still.”)

♦ “If either party wants a sweep, they have to figure out how to harvest authenticity. That’s who wins. Trump is authentic. Harris was grown in a lab. People can tell.” (A senior *Democratic* aide, about why Kamala Harris lost to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election. From “Baffled AOC questions voters who split ticket for her and Trump—here’s what they said” by Josh Christenson, *The New York Post*, Nov. 11, 2024.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Customers want to feel what they buy is authentic... Authenticity is becoming the new consumer sensibility.” (Joseph Pine, “What Consumers Want,” TED Talk.)

♦ Authenticity is an important component of advertising, marketing, branding, and rebranding.

♦ “Marta empowers you to be seen and stand out in your industry by leveraging your unique personality and authenticity.” (A speaker. \$1K+.)

♦ “Kristen, a former DEI & Learning executive, inspires leaders to lean into their authenticity, courage and agency.” (A speaker. \$10K +)



♦ “Embrace your role as a leader... Lead with authenticity, empathy, and vision to create a better future.” (A speaker. \$2K+.)

♦ “Forming an authentic connection with your intended audience is a total touchdown.” (The Ad Council.)

♦ “The film portrayed Hawaiian culture with ‘authenticity.’” (The Disney Film *Lilo & Stitch* with Tia Carrere, according to ABC News. Disney is the parent company of ABC News and “Good Morning America.” Related Topics: Disney.)

♦ “Archipelago, in Washington, D.C., is among a wave of new tiki bars across the country. But how do South Pacific islanders feel about tiki kitsch?” (“Let’s Talk Tiki Bars: Harmless Fun Or Exploitation?” by Maanvi Singh, NPR, *The Salt*, September 7, 2016.)

♦ “The entire purpose of [Command Education] is to help students identify and develop their passions and interests. It has to be authentic and cannot be manufactured.” (Christopher Rim, who helps teens get selected by Ivy League schools.)

♦ “Come 2012, there’s a new food vocabulary: authentic, craft, small batch, artisan, rustic and, of course, local. It’s the opposite of processed, mass produced and factory farmed...” (“Artisanal And Authentic, The Flavors Of The New Year” by Bonny Wolf, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 1, 2012.)

♦ Authentic accent; cuisine; experience; music...

♦ “don’t trade your authenticity for approval.” Self love magnet, inspirational quote magnet, self care fridge magnet, authenticity over approval... (Etsy, \$6.75. 25% off. Sale ends in 1 day. Arrives soon.)

♦ “It’s The Authenticity For Me.” The Authenticity Tee Short-Sleeve Unisex T-Shirt, Ships from North Carolina, Returns & exchanges accepted. Five Stars. “I love this shirt and I get tons of compliments on it.” (Etsy. \$17.56+, 20% off. Sale ends on January 1.)

♦ Authenticity Over Approval Hoodie, Motivational Gifts for Woman. (Etsy, \$30.99.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “His treatment of ‘passing’ and his use of Black vernacular made Langston Hughes assume that he was Black.” (James Purdy, a “pioneer of queer fiction.” Also, according to his Wikipedia article, Dame Edith Sitwell thought he was Black.)

♦ “His was a lonely course, incurring resistance even from compatriots who routinely hailed him. As late as 1958, he was denied consideration for a prize in an annual show of Native artists because the new painting that he submitted, ‘Umini Wacipi (War and Peace Dance),’ was declared ‘not Indian,’ despite its indubitable subject matter.” (“Modern Lore: Oscar Howe at the National Museum of the American Indian” by Peter Schjeldahl, *The New Yorker*, July 11 & 18, 2022.)

♦ “On Earth Day, 1971, nonprofit organization Keep America Beautiful launched what the Ad Council would later call one of the ‘50 greatest commercials of all time.’ Dubbed ‘The Crying Indian,’ the one-minute PSA features a Native American man paddling down a junk-infested river, surrounded by smog, pollution, and trash; as he hauls his canoe onto the plastic-infested shore, a bag of rubbish is tossed from a car window, exploding at his feet. The camera then pans to the Indian’s cheerless face just as a single tear rolls down his cheek. / The ad, which sought to combat pollution, was widely successful...and helped reduce litter by 88% across 38 states... / But while Hollywood trumpeted Iron Eyes Cody as a ‘true Native American’ and profited from his ubiquitous image, the man himself harbored an unspoken secret: he was 100% Italian.” (“The True Story of ‘The Crying Indian’” by Zachary Crockett, *Priceonomics*, September 9, 2014. See the Wikipedia article “Iron Eyes Cody.” Astonishingly, the Ad Council still features “The Crying Indian” PSA in its “Our History / The Classics” section, along with its War Bonds, Red Cross, Polio, the Peace Corps, and Crime Prevention campaigns.)

♦ “The man who went through life proudly purporting to be an Irishman was in fact a Yorkshireman, born at the famous St James’s University Hospital, or Jimmy’s, in Leeds, 2 August 1932.” (*Peter O’Toole: The Definitive Biography* by Robert Sellers.)

♦ “Buffy is our family. We chose her and she chose us. We claim her as a member of our family and all of our family members are from the Piapot First Nation. To us, that holds far more weight than any paper documentation or colonial record keeping ever could.” (“Statement from the Piapot Family” about Buffy Sainte-Marie.)

♦ “Every step I’ve taken has gaslighted those whom I love... I am not a culture vulture. I am a culture leech. You should absolutely cancel me, and I absolutely cancel myself.” (Rachel Dolezal, an academic who claimed “identities of color,” including Black Caribbean, North African Blackness, US rooted Blackness, Caribbean rooted Bronx Blackness, Boricua...)

♦ “Something I’ve always wondered is when I’m going to develop the affected-Black-intellectual voice,” Harris said that summer, still stuck in London. He was reflecting on some of his favorite writers and artists of an older generation, and the way that their talk was often as effortfully stylized as their work. He’d been thinking about Andre Leon Talley, the fashion writer and editor whose high diction and baroque syntax became hallmarks of his style—and seemed, moreover, like a way of asserting his belonging in a largely white milieu... / Talk of that voice—I knew what Harris meant without having to ask—got me thinking, perhaps slightly defensively, of my own. / ‘You have it a little bit,’ he said, confirming a fear I’d spoken aloud.” (“Outside Man: Jeremy O. Harris, before and after ‘Slave Play’” by Vinson Cunningham, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023. “Blacks talking white.” The crab-bucket syndrome. Concerns about “authenticity” in the era of hip-hop.)

♦ “Max almost seems blacker than you, Stephen A.” (Terrell Owens. “Max” is Max Kellerman, who is white. “Stephen A.” is Stephen A. Smith, who is Black. Terrel Owens is Black. And the NFL player they were discussing, Colin Kaepernick, the product of a white mother and Black African father, grew up with his mother.)

♦ “It will never stop being funny that a White girl from Boston pretends that she is Spanish.” (Snark about a celebrity wife widely reviled for having a fake Spanish accent.)

♦ “From TikTok trends to mainstream music, popular culture is embracing—and mimicking—Latinos, with some creators actually pretending to be Latinx for social cachet.” (“How Latin identity became fodder for content” by Manuela Lopez Restrepo, *NPR*, Pop Culture, Dec. 10, 2022.)

♦ “Celebrity Chef Gordon Ramsay Gets Slammed For Attempt at Puerto Rican Pegao” by Shayne Rodriguez Thompson, July 6, 2021.

♦ “Jeniffer Lopez is still Jenny From the Block...or is she? New Yorkers are doubting her authenticity.” (“Jennifer Lopez’s go-to bodega order gets ruthlessly mocked by New Yorkers...” by Lauren Samer, *The New York Post*, March 25, 2024.)

♦ “[Lana] Del Rey, born Elizabeth Grant in New York, weathered a now-incomprehensible controversy about ‘authenticity’ (a word that, to paraphrase Nabokov, should only ever be in quotes) upon the 2011 release of her swooning, doomy single ‘Video Games.’” (“In Their Feelings: The indelible, indomitable voices of Miley Cyrus and Lana Del Rey” by James Parker, *The Atlantic*, April, 2023. James Parker is *not* George Packer.)

♦ “Authentic; a real individual; doesn’t beat to the same drum as everyone else; a bit different; speaks his mind; a player with character...” (Nick Kyrgios, the troubled tennis player.)

♦ “Not coming with a filter made him honest as he could be. He didn’t worry about repercussions.” (Terry “Juice” Parker about Ye / Kanye West.)

♦ “What everyone saw at the end of the fight was the real AJ stripped of the PR speak.” (A comment about Anthony Joshua’s bizarre post-fight antics following his second loss to the great Ukrainian boxer Oleksandr Usyk.)

♦ “Well, geez, if gender is just a ‘social construct’ shouldn’t ethnicity be as well? By the progressive tenants of gender identity she should be able to identify as any ethnicity she pleases.” (An online commenter about “Activist Raquel Evita Saraswati has faked her ‘Arab and Latin’ racial identity as far back as 2004: reports” by Ben Kessler, *The New York Post*, February 21, 2023. The article states that the activist has been referred to online as “the new Rachel Dolezal.”)

♦ “As the Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor has observed, self-determining freedom—the idea that I am free when I decide for myself what concerns me, rather than being shaped by external influences—is closely twinned with the powerful modern idea of ‘authenticity.’” (“Ego Trip: The early Romantics and their troublesome legacy” by Nikhil Krishnan (a male), *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022. A brilliant article from a different point of view.)

♦ “ChatGPT use for wedding vows, eulogies stokes dispute over authenticity.” (ABC.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “The FBI raided a Florida art museum on Friday and seized more than two dozen paintings attributed to Jean-Michel Basquiat following questions about their authenticity.” (A news report.) /// HOWEVER... “The result is that the question of authenticity, which seems like it should be cut-and-dried, has come to seem quite fluid. That can create confusion, but also opportunities.” (“The Curious Case of the Contested Basquiats” by Bianca Bosker, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)

♦ Authentic; counterfeit; ersatz; fake; faux; false; genuine; a gimmick; inaccurate (racial portrayals, etc.); inauthentic; manufactured; natural; phoney; play (Indian, etc.); real; spurious; the real thing; trendy; true...

♦ Bots; duped; ersatz; faux; finger-synchers (violin buskers on the street); (deep) fakes; flim-flam artists; forged; hustle (noun and verb); reenactors; “remote access to repair your computer”; scam (noun and verb); scammer; scheme; schemers; sham (companies, etc.); spurious... (Our modern world.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Me...! I always tell the truth, even when I lie.” (The character Tony Montana in the film *Scarface*.)

♦ “When keeping it real goes wrong.”

♦ “I’m the perfect example of when keeping it real go wrong.” (The Philadelphia rapper Beanie Sigel, speaking on N.O.R.E.’s podcast Drink Champs.)

♦ “It evoked feelings of embarrassment, one’s diaries always do that if they have any kind of I think authenticity to them.” (Novelist Thomas Mallon.)

♦ “Anxiety over authenticity be damned, I just want to keep cool.” (African / Ankara hand fans. From “Ankara Hand Fans” by Tomi Obaro, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 14, 2022.)

♦ “Authentic” was Merriam-Webster’s 2023 word of the year (WOTY). See “Opinion: This word of the year has a big problem” by Holly Thomas, CNN, November 29, 2023.

♦ Auda: Son, what fashion is this? / Boy: Harith, father. / Auda: And what manner of Harith? / Boy: A Beni Wejh Sherif, father. / Auda: And is he Harith? / Boy: No, father. English! (To which Peter O’Toole, playing T.E. Lawrence, looks crestfallen in his new togs. From the great 1962 David Lean film *Lawrence of Arabia*.)

♦ CREMONA, n. A high-priced violin made in Connecticut. (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ see also *face* (yellowface, etc.), *self* (authentic self, authentic selves)

## author (person)

author of his own misfortune

he fully accepts he was the ~ (arrested)

author of her misfortune

the court argued she had been the ~

authors of our own life stories

we are not the ~ (addiction versus free will)

## auto da fe

auto-da-fe of Vietnam

the New Left died in the ~ (Louis Menand)

auto-da-fe at the town dump

the ~ (Louis Menand / Paul Newman burns tapes)

retrospective auto-da-fe

she had plenty of fuel for this ~ (biographer burns subject)

♦ “She had plenty of fuel for this retrospective auto-da-fe.” (The wonderful critic Andrei Codrescu reacting badly to Joan Mellen’s biography of Kay Boyle. Mellen “roasted” her subject, something Codrescu disliked. From “A Not-So-Enjoyable Biography” by Andrei Codrescu, NPR, All Things Considered, July 20, 2011. Codrescu is a world treasure. A Romanian-born American.)

### \*\*\* Isabella, Torquemada...

♦ “On 2 January 1492...Abu Abdullah Mohammed XI surrendered his kingdom and retired to Fez... His surrender marked the beginning of the most crucial four months of Spanish history, seeing as they did both the intensification of that relentless course of religious persecution which was to have so disastrous an effect on the strength and vitality of Spain, and the launching of the most celebrated voyage of exploration ever known. / Few rulers in European history have shown themselves narrower or more bigoted than Isabella... The first auto-da-fe was held in 1481, with six victims. By the time of Isabella’s death in 1504 there had been more than 2,000. / Less than three months after the capitulation of Granada, the Queen felt strong enough to push her policy further. Encouraged by her Inquisitor-General Torquemada—who was himself originally Jewish—on 30 March she decreed that all Jews remaining unconverted by the end of June would be expelled from Spain, all their property confiscated. More than 100,000 were driven out, resulting in a vast Sephardic diaspora in northern Europe and the Near East. Several countries—notably the Netherlands—gave them a warm welcome; the Ottoman Sultan Bayezit II went further, sending a whole fleet of ships to their rescue. / Now it was the turn of the Muslims... (*The Middle Sea: A History Of The Mediterranean* by John Julius Norwich. In an astonishing footnote he writes, “Columbus, who was just setting out on his historic voyage from Genoa, was obliged to alter course because the sea ahead of him was so crowded with Turkish ships bringing Jewish refugees to safety.” Norwich also notes that the Muslims, unlike the Jews, tended to convert to Christianity; even so, the *Moriscos* faced suspicion, hatred, and the inquisition.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Louis Menand likes to use the word, and *The New Yorker* likes to publish Louis Menand. Another word *The New Yorker* favors is “lapidary.”

## automata (noun)

became automata

even captains ~, acquiring life only through orders

## autopilot (on autopilot)

on autopilot

he’s ~, his fingers go to the same place (gamer)

he was ~, frantically trying to save him (combat medic)

made on autopilot

a lot of our economic decisions are actually ~

♦ “Diving became this darkness which permeated the rest of my life. I really hated it, but I knew it was my one chance to be special, so I kept going, effectively on autopilot.” (Olympic gold-medal-winning diver Matthew Mitcham.)

## autopsy (analysis)

autopsy of the Cuban vote

so what’s your ~ in Florida (radio show)

post-event autopsy

the ~ has already begun (25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree)

♦ “So what’s your autopsy of the Cuban vote in Florida?” (NPR’s Lulu Garcia Navarro. From “The Cuban Vote in Florida,” NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, November 11, 2018.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

♦ In the old days, people simply analyzed the results. Nowadays, people autopsy, biopsy, dissect, vivisection, or hold a post mortem. Take your pick!

♦ see also birthday (creation), *old* (a year old, etc.)

## autumn (in the autumn)

in the autumn of his life  
he was ~

in the autumn of the year  
but now the days are short, I'm ~ (Sinatra)

## avalanche (noun)

avalanche of (racial) abuse  
they faced an ~ (soccer players after Euro 2020)

avalanche of applications  
it failed to prepare for an ~ (passports)

avalanche of (prejudicial) comment  
the murder trial was nearly derailed by an ~ on social media

avalanche of data  
an ~ given the Russians

avalanche of e-mail  
his most recent column drew an ~ to Salon editors

avalanche of interest  
a Netflix drama series triggered an ~ in the case (murder)

avalanche of misery porn  
this ~ (Will Smith in the 2022 film *Emancipation*)

avalanche of publicity  
the disappearance triggered an ~ (Chandra Levy)

avalanche of (unfavorable) publicity  
the ~ that resulted from... (politician)

avalanche of confusing forms and rules  
he spoke about the ~ (Brexit)

avalanche picked up speed  
as the ~... (calls for politician's resignation)

triggered an avalanche  
the Netflix drama series ~ of interest in the case (murder)

\*\*\* "The entire slope spider-webbed..."

♦ "I made two turns and the entire slope spider-webbed is what we call it, just kind of cracked all the way around me, and the entire slope essentially just drops out from underneath you. Your first instinct is to try to ride it out and try to ski out of it, you know. I thought I was going to make it, and then..." (Jimmy Chin on April Fools' Day 2011. From "The Beast Born Of Snow: What It Feels Like In The Jaws Of An Avalanche" by Peter Breslow, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 3, 2016.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Sometimes we have a disastrous act of nature like an *avalanche* and here again we discover the poetry of language. The first four letters, *aval*, hold the secret. They are found in the French phrase *a val*, meaning 'to the valley,' which is just where an avalanche goes." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. It's a nice way to think of the word.)

## avatar (noun)

avatar of suffering  
the film turns her into an ~ (*Blonde* / negative review)

default avatar

Twitter did away with the egg as its ~

avatars and superheroes  
athletes are seen as ~

create your own avatar  
some online video games allow you to ~

flatten characters into avatars  
revenge thrillers tend to ~ and little else (films)

## avenue (portal)

avenue of advancement  
India's dalits need a new ~

new avenue  
India's dalits need a ~ of advancement

dark sonic avenues  
her songs lure listeners down ~ (Billie Eilish)

## avenue (route)

avenue of attack  
his wrongdoing gave lawyers an ~

fruitful avenue  
this might be a ~ for further research

legal avenue  
pursue all reasonable ~s

reasonable (legal) avenue  
pursue all ~s

all avenues  
Canada will pursue ~ to assist the jailed men

pursue (all legal) avenues  
we will ~

## awake (adjective)

awake to what happened  
everyone seems to be wide ~ (elections)

awake American  
he signs his posts, "an ~"

awake electorate  
the answer is reform and an ~

♦ "We are now awake and paying attention." (An Asian parent who helped lead a campaign that led to the recall of three San Francisco school-board members.)

♦ see also *woke* (groups)

## awaken (awareness)

awakened to the horrors  
on that day, the world ~ of apartheid (South Africa)

awakening in Algeria, Sudan, Morocco, and Jordan  
Arab peoples are also ~ (after Tunisia, Egypt and Libya)

awaken people  
we're trying to do what we can to ~

people are awakening

slowly the ~

## awaken (nature, etc.)

awakening from (its winter) sleep  
nature is ~

taiga awoke  
the ~ (at dawn)

\*\*\* **"The shades of night began to shrink into the bushes and ravines..."**

♦ "The sky turned from black to deep blue, and then grey and cloudy. The shades of night began to shrink into the bushes and ravines. In a few minutes our bivouac was astir again; men started talking; the horses stirred at their ropes; a pica piped on one side, and lower down the gorge another answered it; the yaffle of the woodpecker rang through the forest and the melodious whistle of the oriole. The taiga awoke..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## awakened (adjective)

awakened and empowered  
Nato seems ~ in this moment (an NPR political pundit)

## awakening

9/11 awakening  
part of it was a ~ (desire to "do more" for others)

religious awakening  
the ~ is partly an outgrowth of the war (Bosnia)

spiritual awakening  
she had a ~

## awash

awash with small arms  
Yemen is ~ that have been smuggled in

awash with (at least 10,000) floral bouquets  
the church is ~ (for murdered girls)

awash with (overt) irony  
social media is ~ often tipping into sarcasm

awash with weapons  
the Horn of Africa is ~  
Libya is ~

awash with corruption, venality and graft  
the government is ~

awash in allegations  
India is ~ of corruption

awash in cash  
the company is ~ and looking to buy

awash in flowers, firecrackers and fine foods  
Chinatown is ~ (Chinese New Year)

## away (a week away, etc.)

century away  
the conversion of Constantine was still a ~

world away  
we are in missile range, but a ~ (in Jaffa from Gaza)

faraway  
climate change is not in a ~ future, it's now...

just a mouse click away  
it was ~ (evidence of public shaming)

"One Heartbeat Away  
~: Presidential Disability and Succession" (Birch Bayh)

about five minutes away  
a dystopian future is ~

just a plane away  
we are ~ from having cases here (COVID-19)

just a shot away  
war, children, it's ~ ("Gimme Shelter" / Rolling Stones)

just two weeks away  
we are ~ from the first vote

just a week away  
and now, with the decision ~, the clock is ticking

less than two weeks away  
the conference was ~

♦ "Cyberpunk is a dystopian future that's about five minutes from our current existence." (Mike Pondsmith.)

♦ "Climate change is a reality, it's not off in the distance or faraway future, it's happening right now, all around us where we live."

## AWOL

AWOL from work  
Alex has been ~

Go AWOL  
Eggs ~, And Bakers Scramble... (national shortage)

Goes Awol  
South Carolina Gov. Sanford ~ (2009)

went AWOL  
the Federal government ~ (in defending a health act)

♦ "You were AWOL. You were AWOL. Mr. Secretary. You were AWOL." (Democratic Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois, berating former acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller at a hearing about the January 6 United States Capital attack. Politics. Lovely!)

\*\*\* **basic training, Fort Knox, 1971**

♦ Got the Fort Knox boogie / Got the Fort Knox boogie / What a crazy sound / What a crazy sound / If you want to have a ball / If you want to have a ball / then ya gotta go AWOL / Then ya gotta go AWOL!!! (Marching cadence, Vietnam War training at Fort Knox.)

## ax (ax to fall, etc.)

waiting for the axe to fall  
sitting around ~ (deadlines)

## ax (noun)

budget ax  
many state programs will succumb to the ~ (shortfall)  
the camp may fall to the ~ (for teens)

faces the ax  
the show still ~ (TV)

fall to the (budget) ax  
the camp may ~ (for teens)

succumb to the ax  
many state programs will ~ (budget shortfall)

taking an ax  
he is ~ to spending

♦ "What John Lansing said to me was that it would not be uniform across, he wasn't just going to take a hatchet and do the same across all divisions, he wants to be strategic and thoughtful about how it's done." ("With layoffs, NPR becomes latest media outlet to cut jobs," NPR, All Things Considered, Feb. 23, 2023. "NPR has to deepen and broaden its audience to seek younger and more diverse audience base.")

\*\*\* "When a squirrel could travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River without ever having to revert to the ground..."

♦ Climax, Demon, Endurance, Cock of the Woods, Red Warrior, Hiawatha, Hottentot, Black Prince, Black Chief, Battle Axe, Invincible, XXX Chopper, Woodslasher, Razor Blade, Stiletto, Forest King, Young American, Gorilla... (Late-19th-century model names of axes used to cut down the great North American forests.)

## ax (ax to grind, axe to grind)

ax to grind  
he just has an ~ (criticism)  
sometimes a source has an ~ (journalism)  
this is another letter from somebody with an ~

axe to grind  
he is motivated not by truth but an ~

ax to grind with the CIA  
he has an ~

ax to grind with midwives  
many in traditional medicine have an ~

ax to grind about something  
there are always going to be people with an ~

ideological ax to grind  
he has no ~ (a writer writing about capitalism)

personal ax to grind  
he has a ~ (a critic)

political axes to grind  
unions and companies often have ~

grinds a (political) ax  
it ~ (Southern Poverty Law Center)

♦ "Everyone has an axe to grind and complaining gets you attention from the likes of Yahoo. He is a comedian, you may not like his joke, but it's not intended to harm." (A comment about the comedian Chris Rock.)

## axed (curtailed)

axed  
the event was ~ (because of pandemic)

# B

## babble (noun)

woke babble

the left's ~ (*Latinx, cisgender*, etc.)

psychobabble  
see *psychobabble* (noun)

technobabble  
insider ~ that's impossible to understand (*The Marvels*)

♦ "An MCU film that's littered with insider technobabble and is impossible to understand." (A withering review of the 2023 film *The Marvels*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Blah blah blah...

## babel (noun)

babel of obscure & sometimes meaningless expressions

a ~ (teacher education in ESL, EFL, etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Gobbledygook: The proliferation of jargon in English language teaching" by Joshua D. Bernstein, TESOL Journal, Volume 12, Issue 1, March 2021.

♦ "The problem is that the left controls the commanding heights of the culture: universities, news organizations, Hollywood, art museums, advertising, much of Silicon Valley, and the teachers' unions and teaching colleges that shape K-12 education." ("After Babel: How Social Media Dissolved The Mortar of Society And Made America Stupid" by Jonathan Haidt, *The Atlantic*, May, 2022.)

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Tower of Babel."

## babied

babied as a rookie  
she cannot be ~ (Monica McNutt about Caitlin Clark)

## baby (relationship)

Elam's baby  
the idea may be ~, but he has looked at it critically

his baby  
the Gulf of Mexico is ~  
Cooper refers to his camera, made in 1898, as ~

my baby  
this is ~ and I want to keep growing it (a business)  
it's ~ (Ferrari 458 Italia)

our baby  
this is ~ (fire spotter speaking of his tower)

fur baby  
~s (ABC News)  
baking up homemade treats for your ~ (BeChewy)

gut his baby  
Musk, he worried, was going to ~ (Jack Dorsey / Twitter)

♦ "I don't have kids but I feel that it's like letting your baby go and grow up. So she's on her next step before she goes up to the moon. And you have to do it." (Dafna Jackson, an advisor at SpaceX, after the *Beresheet* spacecraft was shipped to Cape Canaveral, to be launched into space by a Space X Falcon 9 rocket. Sadly, there was a glitch at the last moment, and the spacecraft crash-landed on the moon.)

♦ "I am a childless man, after all, ladies and gentlemen, and my books are my children, I have invested the blood of my soul in them, and after my death it is they and they alone that will carry my spirit and my dreams to future generations." (Uncle Joseph Klausner from *A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz.)

♦ "This is my baby, this is what does the work." (Albert Milton, the deputy boss of a diamond mine in Botswana, speaking about a 720-ton electric excavator crane that can grab 60 tons of broken rock in a single bite.)

♦ "They're all my babies." (Dom Tursi, about the three dozen steno machines from his personal collection on display in the Gallery of Shorthand, in the lobby of the U.S. district courthouse in Central Islip, on Long Island.)

♦ "So I get used to the book's final stage, to its having been weaned from my brain. I now regard it with a kind of bemused tenderness, as a man regards, not his son, but, uh, rather the young wife of his son." (Vladimir Nabokov, BBC Author Archive Collection, "James Mossman talks to Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov in this 1970 interview." Nabokov had been talking previously about the drudgery, work and failures of bringing a book to birth.)

♦ "Twitter's co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey had been initially supportive of Musk buying the company, but in the past few weeks had become unnerved by the controversy and drama. Musk, he worried, was going to gut his baby." (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

♦ "BeChewy provides tips and tricks for the entire pet parent experience, from potty training a new puppy to baking up homemade treats for your fur baby." (An advertisement. "Potty training," not house-breaking.)

♦ "They co-opted our idea. Candy Cane Malört is our baby." (Val Capone, Chicago. You've been warned.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Every monkey is a gazelle to its mother." (Arabic.)

## baby (development)

baby of the publishing world

compared to physical book sales, audio is the ~

baby science

he rescued the ~ of microbe hunting from a fantastic myth

## baby (novice)

babies (together) in the fashion industry

we were ~ and I feel like we grew up together...

baby boxers

two novices, two ~ fighting one another (Steve Bunce)

♦ "Imagine debuting in Cardiff with that sort of crowd... You forget sometimes, she was 20 years old, you know, she's a baby, and she's still developing even physically and mentally and everything..." (The young boxing promoter Ben Shalom talking with Steve Bunce about the boxer Caroline Dubois.)

♦ "So sad to hear of the passing of the beautiful @tatjanapatitz. We were babies together in the fashion industry and I feel like we grew up together. We were in so many shoots together and backstage at shows." ("Cindy Crawford's touching Instagram tribute.)

♦ David Letterman: You're not very old now, are you? / Irene Cara: I'll be 22 in March. / David Letterman: Just a baby... (Kinda creepy...)

♦ "But you know, I'm only 19, and I'm a baby on my own, don't know what life is about, and you're like 28..." ("It Wasn't Friendship At First Sight. 35 Years On, They Found a 'Forever Love,'" by Jey Born, NPR, Morning Edition, May 14, 2021.)

♦ Director Allen Hughes: "Unfortunately his life was cut short at 25, a baby." / Ayesha Rascoe: "A baby, a baby!" ("A new docuseries explores the relationship between rapper Tupac Shakur and his mother," NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, April 16, 2023.)

♦ "She's so young. She's a baaabyyy..." (Jada Pinkett Smith about her 23-year-old daughter.)

♦ "A baby, just a baby." (Ernest Borgnine in the 1979 film *All Quiet on the Western Front*, about an injured inexperienced recruit. Borgnine prepares to shoot him, to put him out of his misery, before two stretcher-bearers appear, put the casualty on a stretcher, and bear him to the rear.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Death devours lambs as well as sheep.

♦ "Even a leopard cub is called a leopard."

## baby (size)

baby AK-47

the Draco is a ~ frequently namechecked in rap

baby carrots

the recipe calls for ~

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Two witches are brewing a potion in a bubbling, boiling cauldron. One witch is holding a bunch of baby carrots in one hand and an oblivious happy laughing dangling baby under her other arm, and she is poised to *drop both the carrots and the baby into the cauldron*. The other witch is consulting the cookbook and is saying, "No, it's a single ingredient—baby carrots." (*The New Yorker*, October 24, 2022.)

## baby (younger)

baby of the family

I lost my brother, the ~ (his age was sixty-five)

## baby (baby face, etc.)

baby face

he grew a full beard to hide his ~

## baby (vocative)

baby

so tell me, ~, do you want me to...

honey, baby, sweetie

he addresses me as ~ and other inappropriate names

## baby (insult)

big baby

stop being such a ~ (said by adult to an adult)

crybaby

see *crybaby* (person)

poor baby

what a tough job to do, ~! (sarcasm)

♦ "Really tricky situation, FA, Prem and FIFA only had 12 years to prepare. You do wonder who ties shoelaces for those in charge." (A sarcastic commenter about "tired, overworked" soccer players at the FIFA Qatar World Cup.)

♦ Baby; big baby; petulant baby; crybaby; Grow up, you baby; it's not all about you; a little boy; a man-child; "the incredible sulk"; selfish; self-centered; self-obsessed; spoilt brat; whiner; preening prima donna; bad loser; "He'll go blind if he keeps winking..."; "News just in.....The world cup is now over for everyone as they were playing with Ronaldo's ball and he has taken it home with him." (World cup soccer snark about a famous player.)

♦ "Bleating millionaire wimps. How about grow a pair." (An online commenter about "tired, overworked" soccer players at the FIFA Qatar World Cup.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Man up!

♦ see also *apron strings*, *brat* (insult), *child* (spoiled child, etc.), *crybaby* (person), *mama's boy* (and *mummy's boy*, etc.)

## babysit (verb)

babysit them

at a certain point you can't ~ (troubled people)



## **babysitter (role)**

babysitter for the world

I'm tired of America being a ~ (illegal immigration)

electronic babysitter

they were the perfect “~” (Disney animated films)

\$40,000-a-year baby-sitter

I'm a ~ (an unhappy corrections officer)

become a babysitter

he does not want to ~ (take a manager's job / soccer)

♦ “A manager is just babysitting somebody's toy.” (An ex-player not interested in managing a Premier League soccer team.)

## **back (support / verb)**

back the Blue

Trump will unapologetically ~ (back the police)

back Obama

will Hispanics ~

## **back (return)**

boobs are back

“~” (Sydney Sweeney)

season is back

and now the ~ (after a hiatus / a TV series)

come back

see *come back*

## **back (back in time)**

“back” in time

they're going ~ (nostalgia)

back in 1999

and this was way ~...

go back

see *go back (verb / time)*

look back

see *look back (verb)*

takes me back

see *take (take us back / time)*

transported audiences back

see *transport (in time)*

## **back (back then)**

back then

~ in Russia, it was a cutthroat business (oil)

I'll admit it, I was fond of the gin myself ~ (Falesa)

## **back (step back, perspective)**

step back

see *step back (perspective)*

## **back (behind somebody's back)**

behind her friend's back

she went after him ~ (dated friend's boyfriend)

went behind my back

he ~

whispered behind her back

people ~

whispered "queer" behind his back

people ~ (student)

badmouth your spouse behind his or her back

don't ~

ridicule (negative) leaders behind their backs

people typically ~

talk about bosses behind their backs

if you want a promotion, don't ~ (gossip)

♦ “Out here, people had a smile on their face and a dagger behind their back.” (Bigotry and discrimination.)

## **back (no way back, etc.)**

no way back

there is ~, the people won't forgive this (protests)

there is ~ (North Macedonia finally negotiates its name)

no way back from this

I think that there's ~ (Cuba cracks down on protesters)

no way back for Egypt and the region

there is ~ (2011)

## **back (scratch somebody's back)**

scratch my back

you ~, I'll scratch your back (mutual aid and assistance)

## **back (back and forth)**

back and forth on that

there has been a lot of ~ (political issue)

## **back (pat on the back / verb)**

pat yourselves on the back

you did well, ~ (praise)

♦ “It was not taunting, he was patting himself on the back and rightly so.” (A commenter about a play by Allen Lazard of the Green Bay Packers during which he blocked three Miami Dolphins defenders, knocking all three to the ground. Following that, he pointed at each one: one, two, three, for which he was fined \$10,609 for taunting, even though none of the 3 defenders saw him.)

♦ “Some observers wondered if the All-Star guard was using finger guns.” (The NBA player Ja Morant, celebrating himself after scoring an ally-oop basket in overtime. He had just been reinstated to play following a long suspension for brandishing real pistols in online videos.)

## **back (pat on the back / noun)**

pat on the back

give yourselves a ~ (praise from teacher)

## **back (get off my back, etc.)**

on the back of these workers

they make a lot of money ~ (Uber in Great Britain)

getting rich on the backs

publishers are ~ of libraries and academics

get off my back  
~ and leave me alone

get them off my back  
try and ~ (superiors)

## **back (carry something on one's back)**

carrying England on his back  
Joe Root is used to ~ (Ashes Test / cricket)

carried the team on his back  
he ~ (football player)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ See the Wikipedia article "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother."

♦ "God makes the back to bear the load." (Said in Ireland. This means God will never give you a degree of suffering that you can't cope with.)

## **back (turn one's back)**

turned her back on Hollywood  
Jamie Lee Curtis ~ (chose to live elsewhere)

turned its back on the victims  
the West ~ (Rwanda genocide)

turned his back to anyone  
he never ~ who needed help (a priest)

## **back (break the back)**

break the camel's back  
see *camel (break the camel's back)*

break your back  
she'll ~ if you're not paying attention to her (basketball)

broke the back of the campaign  
those defeats ~ (primary elections)

break the back of the Covid epidemic  
the vaccine could ~ (live virus BCG)

break the backs of defenders  
the plan is designed to ~ (Baghdad)

break the back of the (German) war machine  
he was destined to ~ (Stalingrad)

broken the back of Hamas  
Israel's punishing war has ~ in the city of Rafah (NBC)

## **back (back to the wall)**

backs are to the wall  
our ~

backs are (really) against the wall  
our ~ (sports tournament)

have our backs against the wall  
when we ~, we come out fighting (Welsh rugby)

## **back (watch your back, etc.)**

guard your back

you've got to ~

watch your back  
~ (a warning)  
sorry I wasn't there to ~ (his brother drowned)

watch his back  
he failed to ~ (leader deposed in coup)

watching my back  
it's good to know that you are ~ (protecting, supporting)

♦ "Sorry I wasn't there to watch your back like a big brother's supposed to." (Chris Eubank Jnr's tweet on the tragic death of Sebastian, the third-eldest child of the great boxer Chris Eubank.)

## **back (have somebody's back)**

got your back  
I've ~

got your literary back  
we've ~ (NPR promotes "The Books we Love")

had my back  
you've always ~, and I'll have yours (Biden and Blacks)

## **back (stab in the back, knife in the back, etc.)**

stab in the back  
what they see as a ~ by their Gulf neighbors (Qatar)  
it's really a ~, trust betrayed (French about Australia)

plunged a knife into Biden's back  
it was he who first publicly ~ (George Clooney)

## **back (get one's back up, etc.)**

got his back up  
a good bowler ~ and we couldn't stop him (Ashes cricket)

got my back up  
his tone just ~

got my back up about the request  
he ~

## **back (courage)**

stiffens his back  
economic pressure just ~ (Daniel Ortega)

stiffened his spine  
he showed signs of going wobbly, but Pelosi ~ (politics)

## **back away (verb)**

back away from the issue  
Democrats are starting to ~ (impeachment)

## **backbiter (person)**

annoying backbiters  
the ~ who had plagued him as an army officer

## **backbiting**

backbiting, exclusion, rumors

girls use ~ (girls bullying girls)

notorious for backbiting

a work atmosphere ~...

competitiveness and backbiting

it was a hellhole of ~ ("Sopranos" writers' room)

\*\*\* **"The little hunter had quietly lay hidden..."**

♦ "There were tracks, clearly enough. It was evident that the little hunter (a sable) had quietly lay hidden behind a branch, and then suddenly flung itself upon the deer... Specks of blood showed that the sable had bitten it, but further tracks showed that the little deer had succeeded in throwing its assailant off. It had galloped on, and the sable, after starting to pursue it, had stopped and climbed up a tree." (Dersu examining tracks in the snow. From *Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## backbone (basis)

backbone of Al Qaeda

Uzbeks and other Central Asians are the ~ in the area

backbone of the (rebel) army

the Dinka tribe, which formed the ~ (southern Sudan)

backbone of the company

these people are the ~

backbone of the (Louisiana) economy

shrimping is the ~ (oil spill)

backbone of the (Chilean) economy

Atacama's copper mining industry forms the ~

backbone of (the Navy's) leadership

surface warfare officers are the ~

backbone of his (political) party

they are the ~

backbone of rigor

in science, sharp criticism is the ~

Backbone of the World

Indians called these jagged peaks the "~" (Glacier NP)

backbone and nervous system

the Nile provides Egypt with a natural ~

financial backbone

the oil pipeline serves as the ~ of the country

infrastructure backbone

Amazon provides the ~ for major firms (servers)

technology backbone

Shopify provides the ~ for businesses to set up a store

transportation backbone

Greyhound is the ~ for people who can't afford...

## backbone (branching system)

backbone of England

the Pennines are commonly described as the "~"

the Pennine hills, sometimes described as the "~"

backbone of all Hind

the Great Road is the ~ (*Kim*)

backbone of the Kamchatka Peninsula

the Sredinny Range, the ~

Guinean backbone

Mount Nimba is part of the so-called ~ (Guinea)

## backbone (courage)

takes backbone

for Republicans, it ~ to stand up to Trump

showed no backbone

the defense ~ when the Jets needed a stop (NFL)

♦ "She has a backbone like a ramrod, she has great character, true character." (President Biden about Kamala Harris. From Biden's address to the nation after Kamala Harris' loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "In order to stand up, one must have a backbone." (David Remnick, squawking from his perch as editor of *The New Yorker* in an article that mentions Jeff Bezos.)

♦ see also *spine* (courage)

## backbreaking (adjective)

backbreaking labor

a coal miner's capacity for ~

backbreaking shift

after a ~ (at a nursing home)

backbreaking work

~ for 50 cents a day

backbreaking and dangerous

it was ~ labor (diamond mining)

## back burner (on the back burner)

on the back burner

that all seems to be ~ now

on the budget back burner

the environment is ~

put the issue on the back burner

he ~ (a politician)

put on the back burner

a lot of the department's works has been ~ (priorities)

remained on the back burner

the tax issue ~ (politics)

sits on the back burner

the climate-change issue ~ in Washington

♦ "I think there has been a vacuum of course recently, I think Iraq has dropped off the radar screen, it's very much at the back burner..." (Laith Kubba about US engagement in Iraq.)

♦ "We shouldn't allow the issue of global warming to be put on the back burner... Or indeed any sort of burner come to that." ("Loose Ends" with Clive Anderson, BBC.)

## back burner (to the back burner)

relegated to the back burner

major problems have been ~ (Saudi Arabia)

pushed (climate) issues to the back burner

the economic crisis has ~

put to the back burner  
our issue are always ~ (Black Voters Matter)

## back down (verb)

back down  
the compromise allows both politicians to ~  
she's an artist who won't ~ or bow to convention

backed down  
faced with a coup, the government ~  
the government ~ and commuted the death sentences

backing down  
she is holding her ground and not ~

back down from a confrontation  
analysts believe he will ~

back down or give her space  
officials didn't ~, they threatened her (Naomi Osaka)

refused to back down  
the protesters have ~

forced him to back down  
a political firestorm ~ (King)

backing down  
she is holding her ground and not ~

♦ "They do listen to us but they're not backing up." (Tahurai Henry, a surfer in French Polynesia, about plans to erect a 3-story judges tower in a coral lagoon for the French summer Olympics.)

### \*\*\* analysis

The physical basis of "back down" is an aggressive animal showing submission, whereas "back up" is an aggressive animal withdrawing.

## backdrop (against a backdrop)

against that backdrop  
~, it's not a huge surprise (attack on consulate)

against the backdrop of the Cold War  
it was ~ that... (Eisenhower speech)

against a backdrop of (ongoing) violence  
negotiations go on ~ (Middle East)

## backed

backed by Iran  
the rebels are ~

backed by the US  
he has been ~ and other countries (Guaido vs. Maduro)

## backfire (verb)

backfire  
the campaign may succeed but it could also ~ (military)

backfire in the workplace  
DEI initiatives can ~ (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

"circle-the-wagons mentality" backfired  
the ~

## background (background noise, etc.)

background noise  
to me it's just ~, not important (attacks on social media)

fade into the background  
many prefer to ~ (teen-model sites on Internet)

faded into the background  
the doctor-patient relationship has ~ (vs. money)

## backhand (verb)

verbally backhanded  
he ~ the journalist (Dan Crenshaw / politics)

## backing (support)

backing from the university  
she received some ~

## backlash (noun)

backlash against (bilingual) education  
today in the climate of ~...

backlash for (cultural) appropriation  
she faced ~ when she posted a selfie...

backlash effect  
the ~ in foreign policy

anti-American backlash  
the government has struggled to prevent an ~ (Yemen)

climate of backlash  
today in the ~ against bilingual education

backlash has started  
the ~

drove (pro-Trump) backlash  
woke overreach ~ (Rich Lowry / 2024 election)

sparked a backlash  
his crusade has ~ (to make school lunches more healthful)

♦ "What are the sets of policies that can move the ball, and which are likely to be counterproductive? There's a lot of political-science research about the backlash effect, where foreign criticism...actually has the opposite effect." (Jessica Chen Weiss, Cornell University. *The Foreign Affairs Interview* with Daniel Kurtz-Phelan.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "backlash" bandwagon...

♦ A backlash against Facebook and technology has been referred to as a *techlash*.

♦ A backlash by drivers of motor vehicles against bicyclists has been referred to as a *bikelash*.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Backlash (sociology)." That article has the following caveat: "This article has multiple issues."

## backlog (amount)

backlog  
prolonging the process and swelling the ~ (visa requests)

backlog of cases  
the FBI has a huge ~ (security clearances)

the ~ exceeded 34,000 (U.K. / asylum)

backlog of planes

because the weather will create a ~ waiting to land...

backlog of work

the NTSB needs to move on to the ~ that...

case backlog

the ~ in courts has reached an unprecedented high

paperwork backlog

reducing the overall INS ~

processing backlog

foster kids remain orphans due to a ~ (adoptions)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The backlog is the large log at the back of a hearth. In the open, it will reflect heat and provide hot coals and help preserve the fire until the morning.

## backpedal (verb)

backpedaling on key demands

China has been ~ (trade dispute)

back-pedaled on everything

she has now ~ she said in her testimony (a trial)

backpedal on the whole idea

they began to ~ of national standards (education)

backpedals on (tax) pledge

top Republican ~

back-pedal from his comments

he continued to ~ (a politician / BBC)

backpedaled after fierce criticism

the coach ~ from Chinese fans, sponsors, and partners

## back seat (take a back seat)

take a backseat to my job

my job and family began to ~

take a backseat to reality

protocol had to ~ (CID investigation)

take a back seat to unseating

issue must ~ the current president

taking a second seat to schedule and cost

safety and quality were ~

## backstabber (person)

backstabber

he's a ~, watch out

he's the worst kind of ~, he poses as a friend

backstabber or turncoat

being a ~ is offensive to most people

two-faced backstabber

he's a ~

traitor, a backstabber and a fraud

former fans have been waiting to call him a ~ (basketball)

## backstabbing (noun)

backstabbing

~ is an art (politics)

back-stabbing and bad-mouthing

~ on the "Survivor" TV show

backstabbing and betrayal

~ remain a function of all our lives

♦ "And evil takes a human form in Regina George. Don't be fooled, because she may seem like your typical selfish, back-stabbing, slut-faced ho-bag. But in reality, she is so much more than that." (The silly 2004 film *Mean Girls*. Mean!)

## backstage (adjective)

backstage advisor

he remains a ~ to Putin

backstage contacts

there have been ~ between them (diplomacy)

backstage diplomacy

~ has turned to more open confrontation

backstage look

the documents and testimony provide a ~ at why...

backstage negotiations

approval of the nominations came after ~

backstage politics

the organization is rife with ~ (sports)

backstage role

the administration playing a ~ in trying to resolve...

he played a pivotal ~ in persuading...

backstage self

we have a private, ~, versus our public self

backstage political struggle

he settled the ~ by choosing... (UN)

backstage lobbying

there has been ~ by Washington (diplomacy)

backstage maneuvering

there has been a lot of ~ (diplomacy)

backstage wrangling

after weeks of ~, the Party has decided...

backstage policy making

he was a master of ~ (Labor Party)

operates backstage

he ~ (an athletic booster)

## backstop (verb)

backstop (FTX) customers

assets still are utilizable to ~ (pay them back)

## backstop (noun)

backstop against the president's worst instincts

he was a ~ (government)

♦ "A backstop; a guardrail; trying to keep the President from going outside the bounds; minimize the damage..." ("John Bolton's Place in Ukraine Policy" by Mara Liasson, NPR, Morning Edition, October 25, 2019.)

♦ "The UK armed forces are not 'spare capacity' for striking workers, the chief of the defence staff has said as he cautioned against relying on the military as the 'ultimate backstop' during industrial action. / Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, the head of Britain's armed forces, said it would be 'slightly perilous' to expect them to be used routinely in the event of strikes by public sector workers. / In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, Radakin said the use of armed forces to provide cover for striking workers would not impede operations, but suggested personnel should be allowed to get on with their day-to-day jobs." (From "Army should not be used as 'ultimate backstop' in strikes, defence chief says" by Sophie Zeldin-O'Neill, *The Guardian*, Sun 18 Dec 2022.)

## backtrack (go back in time)

backtrack

I think we have to ~ a bit (a history discussion)

## backtrack (reversal)

backtrack

the union has had to ~ on its demands

## back up (perspective / verb)

back up

let's ~ and get big picture for a second (NPR)

♦ "Just back up and give us the context. How did we get to this moment." (NPR's Mary Louise Kelly.)

## backward (adjective)

backward Turkey

Ataturk took a ~ and made it modern

backward tack

I am embarrassed by the ~ of this administration

backward traditions

the Prophet (PBUH) did his utmost to eradicate ~

culturally backward

stoning takes place in remote and ~ areas

## backwards (progress)

socially backward

writer Anna Mark's piece is offensive and ~ (Taylor Swift)

step backwards

see *step* (a *step back* / *backwards*)

go backwards

we should not ~ down the road toward nuclear power

sliding backwards

we are ~ to a less enlightened time

move us backwards

the election will ~ economically

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It is strange how we move forward in some things, and stand still in others, and go backwards in yet others." (Msimangu about progress, from *Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.)

## backwards (past)

go backwards

they want to ~ to a romanticized past that never existed

look backward

New Year's day is a time to ~ and forward

some ~ to a (reputedly) glorious past for answers

marching backwards

it feels like this country is ~ to the Middle Ages (religion)

## backwater (noun)

backwater

in 1831, Southampton County was a ~

backwater of the Office of International Affairs

he was transferred into the relative ~

backwater in a (vast Islamic) empire

the region around Kabul was merely a ~

long-ignored (rural) backwater

in ~s

provincial backwater

the town remained a ~

remote backwater

Darien remained a ~

rural backwater

Beijing has brought wealth and modernity to a ~

he wants to bring development to the ~ (a politician)

this is not some ~ (site of a noxious landfill)

sleepy backwater

oil transformed Khartoum from a ~ to a modern city

in a (rural) backwater

she found herself banished to a small hospital ~ (a doctor)

stereotype of Turkey as an (agricultural) backwater

the ~ persists

became a backwater

there were a lot of other reasons that Spain ~ for so long

changed from a provincial backwater to a place

Tikrit ~ of large mosques and wide modern roads (Iraq)

remained a (provincial) backwater

the town ~

## backyard (in somebody's backyard)

in Australia's backyard

a Chinese military presence in ~ (Solomon Islands pact)

in China's (own) backyard

~, Southeast Asia...

in Russia's backyard

Kyrgyzstan is ~ (politics, etc.)

not-in-my-backyard

this is one of those ~ issues (Nimby)



Yes, in My Back Yard  
urban-policy nerds, YIMBYS---... (*The New Yorker*)

## backyard (other)

backyard  
the Sunset Beach wave was my ~ (Hakman)

historical and rightful backyard  
China sees northeast Asia as its ~

## bad (my bad, etc.)

bad  
I just wanted the ~ to go away (trauma)

bad wrong  
something's ~ here (racism / Frye Galliard on NPR)

my bad  
sorry, ~

- ♦ I feel badly for..." (A sports commentator. Should be "I feel bad.")
- ♦ "There's a whole lot of messed up here." (US history / Spike Lee.)
- ♦ "So my bad. I'm sorry." (Whoopi Goldberg of *The View*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we have all taught "good / better / best" and "bad / worse / worst," usually considered by our textbooks as grammar, rarely in terms of actual usage, proverbs, collocation, etc. Pity.

## badass (power)

badass  
'playing like a girl' means you're a ~ (women's soccer)

badass paddler  
supporters lauded him as a true ~ while critics...

total mountain badass  
he's the nicest guy in the world and a ~ (Tommy Caldwell)

Brave, a Badass, a Heretic  
I have been called ~ (a female blogger)

tough and badass  
you don't need to be only ~ to succeed in the mountains

leached *badass* of its badassery  
overuse has ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ "This team taught all of America's children that 'playing like a girl' means you're a badass." (President Obama welcoming the 2015 World Cup-winning women's team to the White House.)
- ♦ "She showed me that you don't need to be only tough and badass to succeed in the mountains, you can be kind and nurturing, hard as nails and still soft and caring." (Professional skier Ingrid Backstrom about ski-mountaineer Hilaree Nelson.)
- ♦ "When you forget just how badass you are—refer to your folder and read them out loud!... Treat yo' self." (Screenshot compliments, shout outs, reviews from co-workers, your boss, clients, friends, and family... Savage by Claudi.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

- ♦ "Be Strong (when you are weak), Be Brave (when you are scared), Be Humble (when you are victorious), Be Badass (EVERYDAY). Affirmation Mug, Inspirational Coffee Mug, Be Humble Be Brave Mug. Ships from North Carolina. New markdown biggest in 60+ days. Sale

ends in 7:15:48. More Colors & Sizes Available. Add to cart.  
\$14.99+." (Etsy.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ "The video stirred up a lot of heat on social media, with supporters lauding McAvoy as a true badass paddler and critics lambasting him for potentially putting his life, and possibly those of EMS workers, at risk should his plunge have resulted in serious injury." ("Opinion: Was Kayaker's trip over Looking Glass Falls reckless? Or just kind of amazing?" by John Boyle, Asheville Watchdog, February 5, 2024. A super article by a journalist's journalist with comments from the right people. To see a super video of an earlier run of the same falls by a different kayaker, watch: [Watch: kayaksession Michael Ferraro runs Looking Glass Falls \(NC, Usa\)](#))

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ See "Badass!: The One Word That Has Become A lightning Rod For Many Female Chefs" by Nina Martyris, NPR, The Salt, November 11, 2019. A link leads to another great article, "We've Hit Peak Badass. It's Gotta Stop" by Jesse Sheidlower, *Daily Beast*, Apr. 14, 2017.

- ♦ Many believe this word comes from the Black community and class it with words like lame-ass, dumbass, etc., including the one made famous by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion.

- ♦ See the Wiktionary entry "-ass" and click on "Derived terms." The list is excellent. Wiktionary is wonderful.

- ♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

- ♦ "Gene Hackman is badass." (The 1988 film *Mississippi Burning*.)

## bad boy (behavior)

bad boys  
she loved ~

'bad boy' of basketball  
he was the ~ (the remarkable Dennis Rodman)

bad boy of chess  
he has a reputation as the "~" (Hans Neimann)

bad boy of Western philosophy  
Nietzsche is the ~

bad boy antics  
Kyrgios became known for his ~ while on the court (tennis)

bad-boy baller  
pics show the ~ at Shotgun Willie's (NBA's Ja Morant)

bad boy chefs  
he was the Elvis of ~ (Bourdain)

consummate bad boy  
she married Paul, who was a ~ (filmmaker Paul Schrader)

notorious "bad boy"  
he is a ~ (Jamie Cail murder / U.S. Virgin Islands)

called "Bad Boys"  
the team was ~ (NBA Detroit Pistons / 1988)

liked bad boys  
Glenn Close told me Mary Beth Hurt always ~

### \*\*\* good girls and bad boys...

- ♦ "Girls liked him." (A "bad boy.")

♦ In the movie musical *Grease*, Olivia Newton-John starred as good girl Sandy Olson, who fell for a bad boy played by John Travolta.

♦ *FBoy Island* is a dating reality TV series hosted by the comedian Nikki Glaser. A man is either a nice guy or a F-boy. A spinoff called *FGIRL Island* is in the works.

♦ "Black-footed ferrets have 'a lot of hair, big bad teeth and a bad-boy attitude.'" (Says Kimberly Fraser, a female federal wildlife official.)

\*\*\* **attitude, delinquency, criminality, etc.**

♦ Swearing at officials; spitting at fans; making obscene gesture... (The "bad-boy" antics of the troubled tennis player Nick Kyrgios, currently a tennis commentator.)

♦ "A bad actor; weird; pretty strange; on a first-name basis with police; cocky guy; grandiose view of himself; felt he was above the law; always running his mouth; smirking; paranoid attitude indicative of drug use; blamed everyone else for his problems; duplicitous; self-aggrandizing; posturing..." (Ryan Routh in Greensboro, North Carolina. He tried to assassinate ex-President Trump in Florida.)

♦ Bad boys, bad boys, watcha gonna do / Watcha gonna do when they come for you? (Cops theme song. Read "The Story Behind 'Cops' Theme Song 'Bad Boys' by Greg Casseus, *Variety*, June 11, 2020. The song came out in 1987. Bob Marley died in 1981. Marley never sang the song.)

♦ "While [Micajah] Harpe was still conscious, Moses Stegall slowly cut off the outlaw's head. Later, the head was spiked on a pole...at a crossroads...that is still known as "Harpe's Head" or "Harpe's Head Road...in Webster County, Kentucky. / In January 1804, Wiley Harpe [was] executed by hanging. [His head was] cut off and placed high on [a stake] along the Natchez Trace as a warning to other outlaws." (The Wikipedia article "Harpe brothers." See also "Micajah "Big" and Wiley "Little" Harpe" by Blythe Semmer, *Tennessee Encyclopedia*. Bad, bad boys they were, no doubt.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "But together 'Blurred Lines' and 'Hold On, We're Going Home' play out an old crisis—the crisis of the compromised good girl—by the book." ("Drake And Pop Music's Good Girl Problem" by Ann Powers, *NPR*, September 18, 2013. An excellent analysis.)

♦ see also *bad girl (person)*, *good girl (person)*

## badge (badge of honor)

badge of honor

playing from memory is a ~ (pianists)

criticism from him is a ~ (politics)

receiving death threats is a ~ (Black Lives Matter)

ASBOs are simply a ~ for lads like this (delinquency)

became a badge of honor

the "one-percenter" label ~ (bikers)

wore its (cutting-edge) approach as a badge of honor

the bank ~ (ended up being hacked)

wore her conviction as a badge of honor

she ~ (the suffragette Susan B. Anthony)

wears the Trump endorsement as a badge of honor

he ~ (won GOP primary)

wore his scorn as a badge of honor

she ~

wore the scorn (of liberals) as a badge of honor

he always ~ (Rush Limbaugh)

wear that as a badge of honor

they ~, as a sign they are right (de-platformed)

♦ "The idea you could hold your liquor and type a new lead on a breaking story was a badge of honor." (The great journalist Pete Hamill, about journalism back in the day.)

♦ "I'd like to personally welcome him to the club, because we receive death threats every day. So, he's officially part of this movement. It's a badge of honor." (Hawk Newsome, co-founder of Black Lives Matter New York, about Norwegian Parliament member Petter Eide. From "Norwegian politician receives threats over Black Lives Matter Nobel Prize nomination" by Bill Hutchinson, 31 January 2021.)

♦ "ASBOs are simply a badge of honor for lads like this." (A comment about a delinquent. An ASBO is an anti-social behavior order in the United Kingdom.)

♦ "Previously it was seen as a badge of courage. 'Oh I haven't missed a day of work in 40 years. I went to work sick.' We don't want people saying that. We want, 'I had symptoms, so I stayed home because I'm considerate of my coworkers.'" (What about those coworkers who have to pick up your slack?)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ Duty, Honor, Country. (The motto of West Point.)

♦ see also *medal (noun)*

## badge (representation)

badge of honor

see *badge (badge of honor)*

capitalist rebel badge

he wears the ~ on his sleeve (Domm Holland, technology)

wore that badge

I was damaged goods, I ~ very early on in my life

## badger (The Badger, etc.)

known as "The Badger"

the man ~ for his aggressive approach (Bernard Hinault)

## badger (verb)

badgered him

the lawyer ~ (trial)

♦ "He claims he locked himself in the plane bathroom and fell asleep to avoid her badgering." (Johnny Depp about Amber Heard.)

## bad girl (person)

bad girl

she was the ~, the girl with the worst reputation

'bad girl' Drea de Matteo

self-proclaimed ~ (*The New York Post*)

bad girl of the roller derby circuit

Ann Calvello was known as the ~

'bad girl' of classical violin

she had a reputation as the ~ (Nadia Salerno-Sonnenberg)

bad-girl memes

the ~ ("living hard without shame")

bad-girl music

Miranda Lambert's fiery ~ music

incorrigible bad girl

this ~ (steals from the rich)

original 'Bad Girl'

Dona Summer, the ~ (disco)

real bad girl

I don't need to deceive you, I'm the ~ (Sky Ferreira)

♦ "It's always the right time to do the wrong thing."

♦ "Tonight it's a good night to sleep with a stranger."

♦ "Living hard without shame."

♦ Unorthodox playing; unconventional attire... (A bad-girl *violinist*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Why do Bad Girls fascinate us so?" ("Eve Harrington: The Bad Giurl, Hollywood Style" by Susan Stamberg, NPR, Morning Edition, January 21, 2008.)

♦ "But together 'Blurred Lines' and 'Hold On, We're Going Home' play out an old crisis—the crisis of the compromised good girl—by the book." ("Drake And Pop Music's Good Girl Problem" by Ann Powers, NPR, September 18, 2013. An excellent analysis.)

♦ Young girls have more options now.

♦ see also *bad boy (behavior)*, *good girl (person)*

## badlands (environment)

badlands of real life

students leave the sanctuary of academe for the boorish ~

## bag (in the bag)

in the bag

it's not ~ yet (Liverpool wins EPL)

the Africa Corps has ceased to exist, it's ~ (W.W. II)

## bag (out of the bag)

see *cat (cat out of the bag, etc.)*

## bag (collection)

bag of narratives

it is out of such a ~ that his book has been fashioned

bag of tricks

he knew any treatment in the whole psychiatric ~ was futile

## bag (pack one's bags)

pack the bags and get out

it's just time to ~ (NATO in Afghanistan)

## baggage (noun)

baggage of marriage

the ~ (gender, religion, culture, etc.)

baggage of the South

the racial ~ (US)

baggage from his (ancestral) past

each comes into the world with ~ (race, religion, class)

baggage and attitude

he dealt with all the ~ we had (poor kids)

soul baggage

they brought these emotions, the ~ (Dr. Tarek El-Ariss)

complicated baggage

soldiers take home some more ~ (from overseas)

generational baggage

Boomers, Xers go to work carrying lots of ~

Kamala Harris doesn't come with the same ~ (as Biden)

historical baggage

the word *crusade* has largely shed its ~ in the West

legal baggage

he doesn't have all the ~ Trump is dealing with (politics)

personal baggage

I had checked no luggage, but I carried some ~

political baggage

the ~ of its anti-establishment origins (black studies)

pseudoscientific baggage

*gay* had a long linguistic history and no ~ (vs. *homosexual*)

psychological baggage

students can arrive with ~ (suicides at MIT)

public baggage

policy differences or other ~ (politics)

racial baggage

the ~ of the South (US)

a lot of baggage

Biden has been around a long time and has a ~ (politics)

cultural and historical baggage

the ~ that rugby lugs (in South Africa)

historical, cultural and religious baggage

the ~ (of marriage)

social and economic baggage

students with ~ (alternative school)

carrying (lots of generational) baggage

Boomers, Xers go to work ~

come with the same (generational) baggage

Kamala Harris doesn't ~ (support for Israel vs. Biden)

freighted with (historical and cultural) baggage

the N-word is ~ (racial epithets)

hold (Biden's border, inflation) baggage

Kamala Harris must still ~ (politics)

let go of the baggage

we must ~ in our minds (the Avalanches)

rid himself of this baggage

Ray ~ (classification and mythical creatures)

♦ "I got him with all his baggage, and he got me with all of mine." (A marriage.)

♦ "When you're an adult, you have baggage. And the baggage gets heavier."

♦ "Schwarzenegger, who is still a Republican, is not without baggage." (The possibility of him working for a Democratic president. The "baggage" includes a personal scandal.)

♦ "Some of them of course were upset, angry, scared, but they brought these emotions, the soul baggage also, and expressed it, but they expressed it in a thoughtful way, and things remained

reasonable throughout." (Dartmouth professor Tarek El-Ariss, about the forums he and Professor Susannah Heschel held for Dartmouth students in the wake of the Saturday, October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas from Gaza on Israel. The Israel-Hamas war.)

## bailout (noun)

bailout

~s are unpopular (of banks, national economies)

## bail out (save)

bail out Mexico

the IMF helped ~ in the 1990s

bailing out (big) banks

the taxpayers are ~

bailed out the company

the government ~ (with loans)

## bail out (leave)

bailed out

high-profile guests have ~ (attending a party)

bailed out of school

he ~ in 2008 (an athlete)

bail out of this treaty

the US may ~ (open-skies treaty)

♦ "What the hell is up? I went out on a limb for you and you just bail?"  
(The silly 2000 film *Bring It On*.)

## bailed out

bailed out by the EU and the I.M. F.

Ireland was ~ in 2010

## bait (lure / verb)

baited children

the company ~, using nursery rhymes (advertising)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You need to bait the hook to catch the fish.

## bait (antagonize / verb)

bait and sass

presidential hopefuls ~ one another (a "debate")

♦ "This was the best handling of Trump by any candidate that's debated him in what Kamala Harris was able to do. You know, she baited him on several things, mentioning the Wharton School economist not liking his economic plan, that's of course where Trump went to school for undergraduate, she talked about his crowds, which really derailed him. There were lots of other examples. Trump took the bait every single time. She sort of flipped the script on masculinity. She really was the Alpha in this debate from beginning to end..." (An excited Domenico Montanaro about the first Harris-Trump debate. From "The major takeaways from last night's debate," NPR, All Things Considered, September 11, 2024.)

♦ "Harris successfully baited Trump, she got him off [snort of disparagement] topic, she [inaudible] provoked him into yelling, and even prominent conservatives have criticized his performance. So, since then, Harris is very much pushing for another opportunity to do that." (NPR's "tough" Danielle Kurtzleben about the first Harris-Biden debate. NPR is *always* happy to quote conservatives in situations like these. Kurtzleben describes herself as "a real piece of work" and "absolutely a girlboss.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Don't take the bait!"

## bait (noun / military)

bait

the Iraqis didn't take the ~ (fire and expose themselves)

## bait (awards bait, etc.)

bait and switch

she acknowledged the ~ (TV show shifts focus)

bait-and-switch

it was a ~ trap (COVID mortgage forbearance)

awards bait

it is transparent ~ ("empowerment" / a film)

clickbait

see *clickbait* (noun)

jailbait

she alleged he often referred to her as "~" (a 17-year-old)

nostalgia-bait

assembly-line, groaner ~ (2023 *What Happens Later*, etc.)

Oscar-bait

the ~ turns we're handed this time of year (conventional)

trade bait

he's an intriguing prospect and might be ~ (an athlete)

take the bait

you can ~ or learn to pick your battles (relationships)  
when it comes to trolls, don't ~ (internet)

rise to the bait

he refused to ~ (speech)

daft from Nunez, got to be calmer and not ~ (gets red card)

rises to the bait

trolls ask stupid questions to see who ~ (Internet)

took the bait

I made a nice feint and he ~ (chess)

the news media ~ (picked up story that was not true)

♦ "Yeah, maybe most guys would take the bait, but the thing is just because a door opens doesn't mean you have to walk through it." (A private eye who uses a beautiful woman to entrap husbands and boyfriends. One woman said, "I'm glad I found out he was a dog, I'm gonna pack up my things tomorrow and just leave, I'm giving back the ring, and I can go on with my life.")

♦ "Make no mistake about it. Trump had a bad night. He rose to the bait repeatedly when she baited him, something I'm sure his advisors had begged him not to." (Brit Hume, a former chief political anchor for Fox News. Broadcast on NPR after the first Harris-Trump debate.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Wiktionary, in colloquial Australian English, a "shark baiter" is "a lone swimmer or surfer far from shore." In the same mordant spirit, many Americans, when hearing the roar or whine of a motorcyclist speeding on a highway, will proclaim, "Organ donor!"

♦ "She swallowed his story hook, line and sinker. He reeled her in..."

♦ BAIT, n. A preparation that renders the hook more palatable. The best kind is beauty." (*A Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ "Don't take the bait!"

## baiter (red-baiter, etc.)

immigrant-baiter

Sarkozy is known to be an ~ despite being an immigrant

*Race-Baiter*

~: *How The Media...* (Eric Deggs / 2012)

race-baiter

Bill O'Reilly called me a '~' on his show (Eric Deggs)

Doug Gottlieb called Stephen A. Smith a "~" (Fox Sports)

red-baiters

he was hounded by the hysterical ~ (Robert Oppenheimer)

## baiting (antagonizing / Jew-baiting, etc.)

Hindu-baiting

her chronic ~ (NPR's New Delhi producer Furkan Khan)

immigrant-baiting

a conservative movement enthralled by ~ Donald Trump

Jew-baiting

he has incited rage for his ~ (Columbia University prof)

race-baiting

~ leftists masquerade as civil-rights champions

scambaiting

the ~ exploits of "Neld Harris"

♦ "The scambaiting exploits of "Neld Harris" have become a YouTube hit."

♦ "Red-baiting has grown to a national sport." (In the 1940s U.S.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Bear-baiting." It is interesting that the article is split between the blood sport and "Hunting bears with bait." The one article should be two *different* articles.

♦ "Stop baiting me!"

## baiting (luring / queerbaiting, etc.)

pedo-baiting

she had been accused of "~" (to look like a child)

queerbaiting

debates over ~ have raged online (Styles, Perry, t.A.T.u.)

he was accused of "~" fans of the show

~ deserves to be called out, but... (forced outing)

Queerbaiting

Cardi B shuts down "~" claims

romance baiting

Valentine's season always sees spikes in ~ (online scams)

♦ "A California mom and OnlyFans model—who has been accused of 'pedo-baiting' by editing her photos to look like a child—has taken her own life." (Diana Deets, aka Coconut Kitty.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "'Queerbaiting' essentially boils down to appropriating queer signifiers as an aesthetic only."

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Queerbaiting." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ The Wiktionary entry for "baiting" has a very nice list of derived terms: be sure and click on "show more" to see the entire list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## baked in (and baked into)

baked in the cake

it was ~ (a man's vice)

baked-in part

business use tips as a ~ of worker pay

baked into the very architecture

racism is ~ of the internet

baked into the cake

these injuries are so ~ of this sport (TBIs / NFL)

baked into the culture

trash talk is ~ of play (basketball)

baked into the political equation

this shows you how much Trump is ~ (politics)

baked into hockey

some level of danger is ~, it's a physical game

baked into it

the code has instructions ~ that... (ransomware)

baked into the system

there's a lot of waste ~ (pandemic and public health)

baked into the (medical) system

racism is ~ (Tuskegee Syphilis Study)

baked into that term

some evangelicals don't like the assumptions that are ~

baked into our social systems and psychology

racism is ~ (Critical race Theory)

baked into the hardware and software

insecurity is ~ of the internet (computer hacking)

## bake in (and bake into)

baked delays into their schedules

airlines have ~ instead of improving operations

## balance (verb)

balance the demands

trying to ~ of work and family

balance a home and a career

for women trying to ~

balance militancy versus moderation

his speech had to ~ (MLK)

balance (energy) needs and the land

an example for how to ~

balance the risk and the benefit

you have to ~ (vaccinations)

balance security and synchronization

~ (special operations / military)

balance civil liberties and national security  
how to ~ in a war on terror

balance tradition with changes  
Inuit leaders try to ~

balance the need (for openness) with national security  
policies to ~

balance the benefits against the difficulties  
you need to ~

balance the human cost against the cost to the animal  
we must ~

balance the need against the risks  
we must ~ (combat rescues)

balance their assignments against their safety  
photojournalists have to ~

how to balance  
an example for ~ energy needs and the land

struggling to balance  
young women ~ work and family priorities

trying to balance  
~ the demands of work and family

♦ "We all have to balance our own wants and needs with the wants and needs of our partner." (Johan Renck, the director of the 2024 film *Spaceman*.)

## balance (in the balance)

in the balance  
lives are ~, this is serious (COVID-19 pandemic)

hanging in the balance  
lives are ~ (tornado forecasting)  
his life is ~ after a drug overdose (a rapper)

hangs in the balance  
Britain's future ~ (elections)

hung in the balance  
his life ~ (penalty phase of trial)

## balance (off balance)

kept the actors off-balance  
he ~ by interrupting their line readings (film)

keep the enemy off balance  
try to ~

throw the Soviets off balance  
an assault to ~ and regain the initiative

throws the show off balance  
his realistic portrayal ~ (a play)

throw the system off balance  
it will ~ (the body)

## balance (tip the balance)

tip the balance of power  
Iran helped ~ in favor of Bashar Asad

tip the balance in Colorado  
Hispanic voted may ~ (politics)

tip the balance in Syria  
Obama took no action to ~

tip the balance against the option  
the three no votes were enough to ~ (politics)

tip the balance towards western coal  
the President's decision could ~ (vs eastern coal)

♦ "The goal of the policy I propose is not to 'tip the scales in favor of boys,' as some fear. Rather, it is to level the playing field in the spirit of equity given the developmental differences between the sexes."

♦ see also *playing field* (*level the playing field*), *scale* (*tip the scales*), *scale* (*put one's finger on the scale*, etc.)

## balance (out of balance)

out of balance  
in a person with depression, these chemicals are ~  
my priorities and life are ~

wildly out of balance  
the sauce was ~, overloaded with... (food)

woefully out of balance  
the system is ~ (politics)

priorities are out of balance  
our societal ~

values (as a nation) are (sadly) out of balance  
our ~

swung (way) out of balance  
the financial sector has ~

## balance (work and job, etc.)

balance in my life  
the ocean represents ~ (Ken Bradshaw / surfer)

balance between modesty and sexiness  
aim to strike a ~

work-life balance  
the demands of the job eroded her ~ (single / Manhattan)

work / life balance  
the generations disagree on authority, teamwork, ~  
workers who value a ~  
know your limits to maintain a happy ~ and avoid burnout

wholeness, balance, wellbeing, health  
pay attention to your ~ (Hozho)

keeps his balance  
he ~ by leaving his work behind when he returns home

maintains her balance  
she ~ by staying firmly rooted at home in Utah (an actor)

strike a balance  
aim to ~ between self-denial and overindulgence

♦ "We are not overexcited when we win and when we lose we are not dramatic. That's why I think the club is so stable." (Pep Guardiola about Manchester City.)



## balance (noun)

balance of chemicals

restoring the normal ~ in the brain (antidepressants)

balance of the region

the dams would disrupt the ecological ~

balance of freshwater and saltwater

a dike collapse could destroy the delicate ~ (estuary)

balance of stability and flexibility

the ankle joint is designed for a ~

balance between existence and annihilation

the ~ was precarious (Homer)

balance between stability and mobility

the elbow joint displays an elegant ~

balance between racing and safety

you have to find a ~ (5 Oceans race)

balance between usability and security

the ~ is a tricky one (computers)

fluid balance

her ~ needs to be restored (medicine)

trade balance

control the ~

basic balance

the ~ of sweet, salty, sour, and bitter (Cambodian cuisine)

delicate balance

a dike collapse could destroy the ~ of fresh / saltwater

ecological balance

the dams would disrupt the ~ of the region

fragile balance

the ~ between production and conservation (natural gas)

sense of balance

we must restore a ~ to the debate (energy / conservation)

ballast and balance

it gave me a sense of ~ (NPR back in the day / not now)

checks and balances

she didn't go through the regular process of ~ (corruption)

balance (of the Supreme Court) has shifted

now that the ~

attain a balance

~ between mission accomplishment and environmental protection (war)

destroy the (delicate) balance

a dike collapse could ~ of fresh and saltwater (estuary)

find a balance

you have to ~ between racing and safety (Velux 5)

restore balance

a decrease in OPEC's output would be needed to ~

strike a balance

~ between what is possible and what is probable (combat)

## balanced

balanced approach

a ~ for the listing of adult items on eBay

a ~ might involve asking... (race, genes and disease)

balanced budget

the ~ amendment

balanced diet

a ~ might not be on the menu

balanced perspective

it is important to have a ~ (safety and study abroad)

balanced and responsible

a ~ approach to development (Arctic)

racially balanced

the show has a ~ cast (theater)

fair and balanced

~ news

## balance of power

balance of power

naked aggression to change the ~ (political)

balance of power between professor and student

the ~ is so slanted (dating)

balance of power in Kashmir

it would have no impact on the ~

shift in the balance of power

there's a ~ (relationships)

impact on the balance of power

it would have no ~ in Kashmir

## balk (verb)

balked at publishing

the network ~ his report

balking at (high sticker) prices

consumers are ~ (auto buying)

## balkanization (noun)

balkanization of the (professional) structure

the ~ continued... (history of engineering)

instance of balkanization

the term LGBTQIAA+ is a clear ~ (Jonathan Rauch)

## Balkanized

Balkanized between universities, drug companies

medical research in the US is ~, and funders

balkanized airwaves

on America's ~, his supporters are... (Dan Bongino)

## ball (play ball)

### play ball

it is often good politics to ~  
he is being punished for refusing to ~  
he has directed officials not to ~ (impeachment enquiry)  
if they didn't ~, it was game over for them (starlets)

### played ball

he would never have ~, he was a man of integrity

### playing ball

helping to oust some third-world leader who isn't ~  
(NSA)

### play ball with the Kremlin

you either ~, or... (business)

### play ball with (party) leaders

many candidates refuse to ~ in Washington

### play ball with me

if you ~, I'll play ball with you

### play ball with newspapers

WikiLeaks may be willing to ~ for now, but...

### reluctant to play ball

the Asians are somewhat ~ (with the U.S. / *The Economist*)

### willing to play ball

she may be ~

### need to play ball

the unions ~ (local hiring)

### refused to play ball

he has ~ with the EPA (politics)

### get Republicans to play ball

Democrats are struggling to ~

## ball (the ball is in somebody's court)

### ball will be firmly in the court of the governors

the ~ to decide how to move forward (pandemic)

### ball is in Russia's court

Blinken says the ~ (U.S. "diplomacy")

### ball is in your court

the ~

\*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ A UK reporter: (Shouting.) Do you think the ball is in your court? / Michel Barnier, then EU Brexit negotiator and as of 2024 the French Prime Minister: (After a pause.) Brexit is not a game, huh?

## ball (take one's eye off the ball)

### took his eye off the ball

some people think Obama ~ (rising unemployment)

## ball (drop the ball)

### dropped the ball in preventing

the US Secret Service ~ the near-assassination (of Trump)

### dropped the ball on this case

a lot of agencies ~ (serial killer)

### dropped the ball in the case

investigators ~

♦ "The university dropped the ball and she paid the price with her life." (Lauren McCluskey, the University of Utah.)

## ball (get the ball rolling, etc.)

### get the ball rolling

we need to ~  
this is a good investment to ~  
sometimes it takes a gentle nudge to ~  
he made attempts to ~ on this very thing

### got the ball moving

she ~ on the impeachment enquiry (politics)

### keep the ball rolling

to ~, we must...

### started the ball rolling

he ~, and other businesses followed suit  
CO2 may have ~, but... (global warming)

## ball (as verb)

### balling

Brock was ~... (NFL quarterback Brock Purdy)

♦ "Man, Brock was balling, put some respect on that man's name, you know, he was runnin', he was throwin'... (Jesse Washington, ESPN, heard on NPR.)

## ball and chain

### huge ball and chain

alcoholism is a ~  
expectations of success were a ~ (a writer with first novel)

## balletic (adjective)

### balletic agility

he relied on his natural talent and ~

## balloon (as transitive verb)

### balloons menu prices

Calif.'s \$20 fast food minimum wage ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## balloon (verb)

### balloon

as our entitlement commitments ~

### ballooned

the number of women (in prisons and jails) has ~  
usage of Zoom has ~ overnight (video-conferencing app)

### ballooning

the debt is ~  
long-term unemployment is ~

ballooned into Wall Street's biggest crisis

the credit squeeze ~ since...

ballooned to \$14.4 billion  
the price tag has ~ (military project)

ballooned to over 300 pounds  
his weight reportedly ~ (a basketball player)

## balloon (puncture a balloon, etc.)

punctured the (helium) balloon  
he ~ of the stock's soaring price

## ballooning (adjective)

ballooning (pension) costs  
he blames the problem on ~

ballooning (national) debt  
voters are alarmed by the ~

ballooning deficit  
the state is faced with a ~

ballooning demand  
~ for oil is bound to be disruptive

ballooning (Medicaid) expenses  
government officials look to curb ~

ballooning problem  
this spotlights the ~

ballooning trade surplus  
China has a ~ with the US

ballooning (cost) overruns  
the State Department agency tried to hide ~

## ballgame (different ballgame)

different ballgame  
piracy is a ~  
it's a ~ when you don't...  
therefore, you have a ~, as they say in America...

whole different ballgame  
this year has been a ~ (Delta variant / COVID)

## ballgame (new ballgame)

whole new ballgame  
we're in a ~  
online journalism is a ~

## ballistic (go ballistic)

go ballistic  
people will ~ when they read that...

went ballistic  
she ~ (upset and angry)  
she confronted her husband with the pictures and ~

## balm (noun)

balm for the afflictions  
his wisdom is a ~ of our age (a poet)

balm for the trauma

her films are a ~ that adolescents feel

## banana (noun)

banana peel  
Iran put a ~ in front of the US and Trump put his foot on it

banana skin  
he's a potential ~ (boxer speaking of tough next opponent)  
Joshua has got past a potential ~ (boxer wins)

♦ "Iran put a banana peel in front of the United States and President Trump put his foot right on it." (Cali Nasir's analysis after an Iranian proxy militia in Iraq killed an American. The resultant US airstrike against the militia resulted in an outburst of Iraqi anti-Americanism, including an attack on the US Embassy in Baghdad.)

♦ "It's a potential banana skin because he's relatively unknown...that's quite dangerous...So I'm taking him very seriously..." (Josh "the Tartan Tornado" Taylor about his upcoming boxing match with Apinun Khongsong. Taylor ended up defeating his opponent with a paralyzing body shot in the first round.)

♦ "I think a banana skin is a disrespectful term for this Welsh team." (Ireland Six Nations rugby captain Peter O'Mahony, about playing underdog Wales. Nervous, son?)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "I slip on a banana peel, that's tragedy. You slip on a banana peel, that's comedy." (Attributed to Charlie Chaplin.)

♦ In "What's So Funny?" by Tad Friend (*The New Yorker*, August 19, 2024), Friend quotes Mel Brooks: "Tragedy is if I cut my finger. Comedy is if you walk into an open sewer and die." Friend also points out the hostile language comedians use to talk about their work: "punch" lines, "breaking up the audience," "killing the audience" with a good joke," etc.)

## banana republic

banana republic  
France is a ~ ruled by uneducated people (Koons' Tulips)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This phrase appeared in 1955. At the time, United Fruit controlled 42% of the agricultural land in Guatemala and was very concerned by the new socialist government which had promised land reform. That government was overthrown by a CIA-supported coup.

## Band-Aid (noun)

Band-Aid  
if it's real and it isn't just a ~... (a proposed program)  
the emergency operation is a ~, a short-term fix (famine)

band-aid solution  
this is just a ~ for a much deeper problem

Band-Aid on a festering infection  
it is a short-term ~ (diplomacy)

put a Band-Aid on a bullet wound  
we'll always ~ (social justice)

♦ "It is neither a cold nor hot war, in those terms' traditional sense. It is a simmering war that sometimes boils over and other times remains warm." (Alan Dershowitz and Andrew Stein. From "Enough with the Band-Aids, Biden—we need to stop Iran now," *The New York Post*, Jan. 17, 2024.)

♦ "You're essentially putting band aids on gunshot wounds." (A teacher about social promotion at a D.C. high school.)

♦ "It was like he was putting a Band-Aid on a bullet wound. He did not have a 'bad' debate, he was visibly unwell." (Joe Biden after his June 2024 debate with Donald Trump.)

## bandit (noun)

real bandits

they are ~, what they are doing (politics / Brazil)

## bandwagon (noun)

legalization bandwagon

voters are not obliged to jump on the ~ (marijuana)

moaner bandwagon

post an opinion, don't just jump on the ~ (sports)

Nuwaubian bandwagon

locals who had climbed aboard the ~ began to jump off

on the (Doncic) bandwagon

I've been ~ for a long time (great Slovenian basketball star)

climbed aboard the (Nuwaubian) bandwagon

locals who had ~ began to jump off (Putnam County, GA)

jumped on the bandwagon

I ~, repeating the things being said around me (regret)

leaped onto the bandwagon

the TV industry also ~ (3-D)

♦ "The BBC is always one of the first on any given bandwagon." (Bob, a sour golfing fan, on a BBC HYS about a story featuring Bryson DeChambeau.)

♦ "That's not the first bandwagon you need to jump on. I think that's completely ridiculous and extremely naïve." (The brother of a young actress / model, about people on social media suggesting that his sister's death was somehow related to COVID vaccines.)

♦ "And having seen *RRR* twice, I'm part of the bandwagon." (John Powers' glowing review of the 2022 Indian film.)

♦ "He called Howard a 'bandwagon jumper.' (An NBA veteran about another NBA athlete who celebrated too much and took too much credit for being on a NBA championship team. Said by the old veteran of the team, "He didn't do nothing.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The bandwagon you hopped on so gladly is hurtling towards a cliff."

## bandwidth (capacity)

mental bandwidth

sports betting took more ~ than I expected

have the bandwidth

we do not ~ to address all the calls (Portland police)

taking up (a lot of) bandwidth

the pandemic is ~ (other problems set aside)

♦ "Putting in the emotional, physical, and logistical labor to care for a child with special needs while maintaining the bandwidth to meet the needs of one's other children can be a significant challenge."

## bane (noun)

bane of my life

the spinal brace quickly became the ~ (injured back)

greatest bane

corruption is the single ~ of our society

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Black henbane is a poisonous plant. Poison plants have had a long relationship with public health, animal husbandry, traditional medicine, witchcraft, and murder.

## bang (with a bang)

ended with a bang

the tournament ~, not a whimper

finish (out his career) with a bang

Tapia has a chance to ~ by... (boxer)

go out with a bang

the players wanted their coach to ~ (by winning)

apparently he wanted to ~ (mass shooter)

hit home with a bang

reality ~

kicking the year off with a bang

deal makers are ~ (mergers)

opens with a bang

the play ~, as...

opened with a bang

the film ~ (good revenues)

returned with a bang

he ~ (athlete has great day)

start (out) with a bang

I wanted to ~, so I...

## bang (bang for the buck, etc.)

bang for the buck from Special Operations

the coalition gets plenty of ~ (war)

little bang for the buck

the report concluded subsidies offered ~

more bang for the buck

employers will get ~ from this program

most bang for the buck

the president will focus on getting the ~ from...

nutritional bang for the buck

greens offer ~

get more bang for the buck

at Wall-Mart, you ~

♦ "You get much more of a bang out of the shot, as it were." (Anthony Fauci, about booster shots.)

## banish (verb)

banishes fear

Captagon fuels conflict, for fighters it ~

## banished

banished to the bullpen

he has been ~ (a pitcher)

banished from the dictionary

American English should be ~ (the Brits)

## banishment (noun)

banishment of Brandon from the team  
the ~ is complete hypocrisy (a religious honor code)

banishment from the halls of academe  
plagiarism can result in the ~

banishment from the league  
it is time to end his ~ (a disgraced athlete)

Hollywood banishment  
'you become unhireable' Carano says of her ~

result in banishment  
plagiarism can ~ from the halls of academe

end his banishment  
it is time to ~ from the league (a disgraced athlete)

♦ "Boop / bop / beep. Seriously? This was the start of the end for me? A 20-year career, the blood, sweat and tears of fighting?" (Gina Carano, about being canceled for her political views. Gina was a MMA fighter before being noticed by Steven Soderbergh and cast in the lead of the 2011 film *Haywire*. Her next role was in *Fast & Furious 6*. Read "Gina Carano on Getting Sacked From Star Wars and Her Grudge Match With Disney" by Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, March 14, 2024.)

## bank (tissue bank, etc.)

food bank  
drop off extra food at a ~

germ bank  
~s around the world keep anthrax

job bank  
an online ~

memory bank  
the bomb can erase the ~s of electronic equipment

milk bank  
~s collect, pasteurize and store donated breast milk  
I'd like to thank every woman who's ever donated to a ~

Organ Bank  
the New England ~, one of several dozen regional centers

plant bank  
a global network of ~s to store seeds and sprouts  
a system of ~s is crucial in responding to climate crises

Seed Bank  
the Millennium ~ Partnership (Kew Gardens)

seed bank  
~s in Afghanistan and Iraq were destroyed during conflicts

Skin Bank  
the New York Firefighters ~ (Hearst Burn Center)

sperm bank  
he got the 50 bucks, but the ~ couldn't protect his identity

♦ see also *library (tool library, etc.)*

## bankrupt (adjective)

bankrupt defense  
it's a ~ (blaming victim for hate crime)

intellectually bankrupt  
our way of managing parole supervision is ~

morally bankrupt  
placating terrorists is ~

## banner (carry a banner, etc.)

carry the banner of the National Front  
she intends to ~ into the 21st century

carrying a banner for female athletes  
she is ~ (Annika Sorenstam)

carrying a banner for black directors  
he said he was not ~ (playwright)

wave the banner of free speech  
when criticized they ~ (Web hosts)

## banner (under the banner)

under the banner of progressive ideals  
school educators have allowed antisemitism to flourish ~

under the banner of the IMU  
armed men ~ invaded Tajikistan

under the banner of the ruling party  
both men will contest the election ~

## banner (behind the banner)

behind the banner of reparations  
they hoped to unite the community ~ (protest)

## banner (banner of Islam, etc.)

banner of Islam  
the youth must hold aloft the ~ (King Abdullah)

banner for artists  
over time Dirty South, not Third Coast, became a ~

hold aloft the banner  
the youth must ~ of Islam (King Abdullah)

hide behind the banner  
scoundrels ~ of patriotism

wave the banner  
they ~ of religion

waving the banner  
he had been ~ of free speech, but... (Musk's X)

♦ NO WAR; TAKE YOUR WAR AND GO TO HELL; BUSH, BLAIR and BERLUSCONI—ASSASSINS; NOT IN MY NAME... (Banners at a march in Florence, during which 300,000 marched to protest the Iraq War.)

## banner (size)

banner ad  
for 10,000 visitors, I made \$330 per ~ (Internet)

banner headline

the newspaper ran a ~ declaring...  
~s trumpeted the news

banner weekend

it was a ~ for HBO this weekend (many viewers)

banner year

2000 was a ~ for genomics

## baptism (noun)

baptism by fire

it was my ~ (new teacher)

baptism of fire

Salk referred to his time with Francis as a "~"

## baptized

baptized in fire and blood

you have been ~ and come out steel (combat)

get baptized

you ~ pretty quickly in this business (death-penalty law)

## bar (bar is set high, etc.)

bar

the ~ is set so high for him (performance)

the ~ is down to "don't do dumb stuff"

♦ "The more we can build the building blocks for that localization, the bar for companies wanting to localize into African languages will continue to go down, it will be easier and easier and less expensive to do." (Oxford Global Languages.)

## barb (trade barbs, etc.)

trading barbs

US and Chinese officials have been ~ (conflict)

## barbed (speech)

barbed letters

the president and the speaker had traded ~ (politics)

barbed question

a reporter interrupted with a ~

barbed satire

it's a ~ about race, class and culture (a film)

## barbaric (behavior)

barbaric power

the people are under the boot of ~

reckless and barbaric

the ~ attack (use of Novichok in England)

## Barbie (and Barbie Doll)

Barbiecore

the ~ trend is an homage to her pink style and aesthetic

Barbieland

the Kens had taken over ~ (The Grace Hopper Celebration)

Barbiemania

~: the movie has turned the world hot pink (2023 film)

## Barbie doll type

well I ain't never been the ~ (Gretchen Wilson)

♦ "In the fall of 2008, Thompson completed her first run as an NFL sideline reporter. During the season, Thompson dyed her hair black to 'rid [herself] of the Barbie thing,' as she is notably blond." (From the Wikipedia article "Charissa Thomson," about the host and sportscaster. After much male commentary, she switched back to being a blonde. Years later, she would admit that during this period she made up stories to tell on camera. Her contemporary female critics who now charge her with giving credence to the stereotype that sideline reporters are just "eye candy" should be a bit more sympathetic, considering the times.)

♦ The basketball player Angel Reese was nicknamed the "Bayou Barbie" when she went to play at Louisiana State University, because of her eyelash extensions and pink fingernails. She liked the nickname.

♦ "I was not allowed to play with Barbies as a kid. I was a pastor's kid, so Barbies were exiled. But now I get to be my free authentic self in the city." (Prima Love—he, she, they—a drag queen and New Jersey native, about her appearance at the Malibu Barbie Beach Party show at NYC's restaurant Peachy Keen, capitalizing on the opening of the 2023 film *Barbie*.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "So they make a movie 'Barbie' and then a good-looking blond woman walks by and some guy says, 'Hi Barbie.' Then he gets fired... [L]et's not get hung up on calling someone 'Hi Barbie' while the Hollywood industry makes its wealth on this movie." (An online commenter about "Sports radio host Dan Geronimo fired after sexist 'Barbie' comments toward female reporter" by Jared Schwartz, *New York Post*, July 30, 2023. See the Wikipedia article "Barbenheimer.")

♦ "Well I ain't never been the Barbie doll type / No, I can't swig that sweet champagne, I'd rather drink beer all night..." (Gretchen Wilson Redneck Woman YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82dDnv9zeLs> Hell yeah!

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Barbie knows that representation matters and is committed to continuing to increase diversity across collections, so that more people can see themselves reflected." (The trans Barbie doll, a Barbie doll with a prosthetic limb, the Ken doll with vitiligo, a Barbie doll with Down Syndrome, etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Is Barbie a feminist icon? It's complicated" by Rachel Treisman, NPR, Morning Edition, July 27, 2023.

## bare (lay bare)

lays bare the (latent) anti-Semitism

the vandalism ~ that still exists in society

laid bare the challenge

the incident has ~ of the alliance (US / Pakistan)

laid bare the whirlpool

his murder ~ of religious violence and extremism

## bare (laid bare)

laid bare

the open secret about Ozy Media has been ~ (fraud)

laid bare in the (feisty TV) debate

the candidates' divisions were ~ (politics)

## bare (verb)

bared the excesses

the rally ~ of his movement

bare the secrets



the press can ~ of government and inform people

## **bare bones (and bare-bones)**

bare-bones budget

we want to have a ~ (saving money)

bare-bones care

under the plan, seniors will get ~ (health)

bare-bones and limited

right now it's ~ (opening park during pandemic)

pared his novel down to its bare bones

he ~ (every word important)

## **bare-knuckle (fight, etc.)**

bare knuckle fight

politics here are a ~ (in San Francisco)

bare-knuckle fights

his ~ against Ivy League Schools (Bill Ackman)

bare-knuckle (boardroom) tactics

he uses ~ in wider war against wokeism (Bill Ackman)

## **bare-knuckled (adjective)**

bare-knuckled approach

he took a ~ to the rarified world of art criticism

bare-knuckled politics

even by the lowly standards of Washington, this was ~

bare-knuckled work

she counted votes and did the ~ that was needed (politics)

## **bark (more bark than bite, etc.)**

more bark than bite

the US is ~

## **bark (bark up the wrong tree, etc.)**

barking up the wrong tree

if you're looking for accuracy, you're ~

they can't go for collusion because they're ~ (a report)

## **bark (verb)**

barked

"Look up," he ~

barked at them to stop

the policeman ~

barked at Rodriguez for running

he ~ over his mound (baseball)

bark commands at the TV

people ~ (voice commands)

## **barnacle (resemblance)**

Barnacle Device

the 'windshield boot' is known as a ~

barnacles of dried gum

~ encrust the undersides of tables and chairs (schools)

urban barnacle

the padlocks cover old bridges in a kind of ~ (Paris, etc.)

♦ [H]e describes today's tax code as 'full of barnacles and crevices and windows and holes. It needs a major reform and restructuring.'" ("Beyond The Tax Deal: Targeting The Code Itself," NPR, All Things Considered, December 18, 2010. The description is enough to cause tryphobia!)

♦ "NYPD uses 'barnacle' windshield boots to force violators to pay."

♦ see also *encrustation* (*affliction*)

## **barnacle (affliction)**

skin barnacles

how to get rid of ~

♦ see also *encrustation* (*affliction*)

## **barnacle (scrape the barnacles, etc.)**

chip away at the barnacles

Pena Nieto will try to ~ slowing the economy (Mexico)

scrapes the barnacles off Homer's hull

Emily Wilson's 'Odyssey' ~

scrub the barnacles

the third-party companies are out of control, so we will ~

♦ "The number of sort of third-party contracting companies that we're using has really gotten out of control, so we're going to scrub the barnacles on that front. It's pretty crazy. We've got barnacles on barnacles. So there's going to be a lot of barnacle removal." ("Elon Musk To Analysts: Stop With The 'boring, Bonehead Questions' on Tesla" by Avie Schneider, NPR, The Two-Way, May 3, 2018.)

♦ "Wilson's project is basically a progressive one: to scrape away all the centuries of verbal and ideological buildup—the Christianizing (Homer predates Christianity), the nostalgia, the added sexism (the epics are sexist enough as they are), and the Victorian euphemisms—to reveal something fresh and clean. Why call them 'handmaidens' when they were slaves? Why insist, as so many translators do, on 19th-century diction when that time had no more in common with Homer's than ours?" ("Emily Wilson's 'Odyssey' Scrapes The Barnacles Off Homer's Hull" by Annalisa Quinn, NPR, Book Reviews, December 2, 2017.)

## **barnacled**

barnacled with myths

the stories of their rise are ~ (US presidents)

barnacled over

each canvas is ~ with paint

child-barnacled

his ~ present (four sons and a daughter from two women)

## **barn burner**

barn burner

his speech wasn't exactly a ~ (politics)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ A "barn burner" is a very exciting game or event. Look up the entry at Merriam-Webster. Go to the "Related Articles" section and click on "Where Does the Phrase 'Barn Burner Come from.'" It explains everything!

## **barnstorm (verb)**

barnstorming the country

Bill Clinton has been ~ on Kamal Harris' behalf (2024)

barnstorming the state

they have been ~ (politicians)

barnstorm every (battleground) state

Harris is going to ~ (2024 U.S. presidential election)

barnstorming for months

after ~... (a politician)

\*\*\* **The Paris Air Show...**

♦ The Thunderbirds (the Air Force); the Blue Angels (Navy and Marines)... (US military flight demonstration teams.)

♦ Thunder Over the Boardwalk (also known as the Atlantic City Airshow); the Paris Air Show; the Farnborough Airshow (Britain)... (Famous airshows.)

♦ "Some 350,000 people are expected to visit the planes and high-tech equipment on display this week, and they began pouring in on Monday morning... The air show is also a magnet for many of the world's arms buyers who come to preview fighter planes and the latest in military technology. Daily flyovers of supersonic jets always transfix the crowd." ( "2019 International Air Show opens in France" with Eleanor Beardsley, NPR, Morning Edition, June 18, 2019.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Barnstorming," and see also the Wikipedia article "Charles Lindbergh." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## Barnum (and P.T. Barnum)

P.T. Barnum of American race relations

she is the ~ (Robin DiAngelo)

Barnum and Bailey flamboyance

King marketed the fight with his customary ~ (boxing)

modern-day P. T. Barnum

he is sort of a ~ (an arena builder and promoter)

brilliant, bombastic Barnum

King was a ~ (the great boxing promoter Don King)

version of P.T. Barnum

he once called [Elon] Musk a "sci-fi ~" (Ashlee Vance)

♦ "P.T. Barnum is laughing his eyes out." (An online commenter who may be confusing "crying his eyes out" and "laughing his head off." Is this an "eggcorn"?)

♦ "If it's true that the show of emotion is the greatest show on earth, then Thompson is a Barnum & Bailey of both pain and joy. Her portrayal of grief in 'Love Actually' (2003), for instance, has become iconic in British popular culture." ("Acting Up: Emma Thompson's third act" by John Lahr, *The New Yorker*, November 14, 2022.)

♦ "He will be remembered as the greatest promoter ever. P.T. Barnum moves to seat number 2 in heaven." (Alan Harper, Don King's press officer. From *Powerplay: The House of Don King*, BBC Sounds.)

\*\*\* **Harvey Leach, Jumbo the elephant, etc.**

♦ "At his first spectacle, in 1835, showman Phineas Taylor Barnum touted Joice Heth as George Washington's 161-year-old nursemaid. Crowds came gawking to see 'the greatest natural & national curiosity in the world.' Barnum profited from the public's hunger for entertainment by planting embellishments and lies in newspapers..." ("Why We Lie," *National Geographic*, June 2017.)

♦ "The 1870s and 1880s were the height of the controversial but enormously popular 'side shows' in America. Hucksters like P.T. Barnum attracted huge throngs by booking fire-eaters, sword swallows, and 'freaks' with assorted medical abnormalities, some bogus, others disturbingly real. There were the 'Wild Men of Borneo' (actually two mentally disabled dwarfs from Ohio), 'Jo-Jo the Dog-Faced Boy' (suffering from hypertrichosis, a profusion of body hair), 'General Tom Thumb' (the world's smallest human), eight-foot giants, bearded ladies, Siamese twins, and people with humongous body tumors attached to their back, face, and scrotum..." (*Bellevue: Three*

*Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky.)

♦ "[Harvey] Leach, who was often billed as the 'shortest man in the world,' had made a name for himself as a performing oddity. In addition to his small stature, one of his legs was eighteen inches long while the other measured twenty-four inches, and when he walked, his arms brushed against the ground like an ape's. According to one of his contemporaries, Leach appeared 'like a head and a trunk, moving about on castors.' / Leach's strange appearance attracted the attention of the American showman and hoaxer P. T. Barnum, founder of the Barnum & Bailey Circus. Barnum dressed the dwarf in the skin of a wild beast and covered the walls of London with placards that read, 'What Is It?' Unbeknownst to Barnum, Leach was so recognizable at that point in his career that people guessed the true identity of this mysterious 'beast' within days. Despite this initial bungle, Barnum retained Leach as a performer, until the forty-six-year-old man died as the result of an injured hip that had become infected." (*The Butchering Art: Joseph Lister's Quest To Transform The Grisly World Of Victorian Medicine* by Lindsey Fitzharris.)

## barometer (noun)

barometer of their abundance

but the catch rate provides a ~ (sharks)

barometers of change

public tours serve as ~ (limited after 9/11)

barometer of (Trump's influence)

the result will be another ~ with the GOP (election)

barometer of (poor) nutrition

childhood anemia, a ~, is higher in India than China

barometer for his team

he has been a ~ (when he is good, team is good)

closely watched barometer

the index is a ~ of home prices

career barometer

actors used the show as a ~ (*Law and Order*)

off the barometer

the racism, misogyny and homophobia is ~ (the Met police)

♦ "Kennan's eighty-page 'personal document' might well have been coauthored with Oppenheimer, reflecting as it did so many of Robert's views. Indeed, both he and Kennan took its reception as a plunging barometer, indicating the approach of violent political storms. Circulated within the State Department, Kennan's memo was quietly and firmly rejected by *all* who read it." (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book. A plunging barometer is a characteristic of a hurricane.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ BAROMETER, n. An ingenious instrument which indicates what kind of weather we are having." (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## baron (power)

drug baron

the notorious ~ Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman

meat baron

he is nicknamed "the ~" (Clemens Tonnies)

## baroque (adjective)

baroque response

her ~ began... (VP Kamala Harris / word salad)

baroque syntax

his high diction and ~ (Andre Leon Talley)

got baroque

the war plan ~, insane, to the point where... (nukes)

## **barracked**

barracked (earlier this month) for sending

the German chancellor ~ weapons (to Ukraine)

## **barrage (noun)**

barrage

no software can eliminate the ~ (popup ads / computers)

barrage of combinations

he reshaped his opponent's nose with a ~ (boxing)

barrage of lawsuits

the campaign has filed a ~ in various states (election)

barrage of (graphic) pictures

Saudis get a ~ of Palestinians suffering...

barrage of questions

I was subjected to a ~

his ~ barely left time for answers

withering barrage

their report came under a ~ of criticism (education)

## **barrel (at the bottom of the barrel)**

at the bottom of the barrel

I did my time ~ (worst job assignment)

finish at the bottom of the barrel

we ~ every year (a sports team)

stuck at the bottom of the barrel

I'm ~ (pay scale)

## **barrel (verb)**

barreled into the Great Lakes and Northeast

winter ~ this weekend (snow)

barreled up the Eastern Seaboard

the hurricane ~

## **barricade (storm the barricades, etc.)**

manned the barricade

Courtois ~ for Real (soccer goalie has great game)

stormed the barricades

he ~, time and again (to hold the church accountable)

storm the barricades of racism

many left their studies to ~ (Martin Luther King)

storm the barricades of (male) resistance

women have to ~

storm the barricades for him

many are ready to ~ (support for an embattled politician)

certain to storm the barricades

shareholders will be ~ (losing money)

ready to storm the barricades

she casts herself as an outsider, ~ (a politician)

## **barrier (noun)**

barriers to access

~ in that market are extremely costly (trade)

barriers to (foreign) ownership

lower ~ of local industries

barriers to participation

a meet with the theme of overcoming ~ (climbing)

barriers to (import) penetration

~ in Japan

barrier between animals and humans

influenza could hop the ~

barriers and stereotypes

coming out and tearing down ~ in "macho" professions

age barrier

no ~, no height bar, no gender gap

class barrier

~s are deepening cultural and racial ones

color barrier

broke rugby's ~ in 1976

gender barrier

she broke a ~ (first Division I female football player)

pain barrier

practicing through the ~ (musicians)

we'd gone through the ~, the sun gave us power (K2)

research barrier

by easily being able to grow the cells, he overcame a ~

trade barriers

the lowering of ~ (globalization)

cultural barrier

despite language and ~s, people came together (protest)

people struggle to communicate across ~s

legal barrier

~s to correcting injustices (death-penalty cases)

racial barrier

it helped to bring down some ~s (basketball)

socioeconomic barrier

debate over the ~ facing black boys (education)

linguistic, cultural and psychological barriers

immigrants face many ~

lowering of (trade) barriers

the ~ (globalization)

glass ceilings and other barriers

~ barring women

stereotypes and other barriers

trying to break down ~ (foreigners)

broke (a lot of) barriers  
she ~ (a famous woman)

lower these barriers  
20 states have passed laws to ~ (expunging criminal records)

overcame a (research) barrier  
by easily being able to grow the cells, he ~

put up (new) barriers  
as many European countries ~ (against immigrants)

bring down some (racial) barriers  
it helped to ~ (basketball)

break down (racial) barriers  
how to ~ in France

get past the sex barrier  
how do I ~ with guys (she waits, he loses interest)

communicate across (cultural) barriers  
people struggle to ~

## **Baryshnikov (Baryshnikov of football, etc.)**

Baryshnikov of football  
he was canonized as “the ~” for his acrobatic receptions  
(Lynn Swann after Super Bowl X)

Big Baryshnikov  
the ~ (Shaquille O’Neal, NBA)

♦ Shaquille O’Neal, one of the greatest NBA players of all time, has been referred to as the Big Baryshnikov.

## **baseline (noun)**

baseline levels  
it drops to ~ (a hormone)

baseline measurement  
exposures may be difficult to interpret without ~

baseline poverty  
will Haiti return to ~ (after earthquake)

baseline study  
tedious ~s

baseline of how  
we do need a ~ things have been in the past (polar ice)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A baseline relates to land surveying.

## **basement (basement price, etc.)**

basement price  
he thinks he can buy the company at a ~

in the basement  
the ratings have been ~ (baseball)

## **basement (hierarchy)**

in the basement for (high-school) graduates  
we’re now ~ (US education and the OECD)

## **basement (concealment)**

internet’s dirty basement  
if you peer into the ~ (conspiracy theories, fake news)

## **bash (verb)**

bashing the democrats  
the president has been ~ on immigration

bash opponents  
“white privilege” is used as a political weapon to ~

♦ “Collect the money Depp, that woman will never quit bashing you. She simply will never quit. Just a different Pam Hupp, Blasey Ford or Smollett.” (An online commenter about the Depp-Heard trial.)

## **bashed (criticism)**

deal with being bashed  
we’ve had to ~ because we’re obese

## **bashing (noun)**

Arab bashing  
the rising tide of ~ in America (post 9/11)

business-bashing  
this will dispel the ~ image of Obama (politics)

class-bashing  
he defended her against ~ critics from *The Village Voice*

gay-bashing  
issues include AIDS and ~  
he thought he’d be safe from ~ (high-school student)  
the ~ televangelist was arrested in a public toilet

Islam bashing  
the rising tide of ~ in America  
detractors describe her comments as “~” (Ayaan Ali)

man bashing  
some women are uneasy with ~

white-bashing  
this casual “~” will result in a backlash (politics)

♦ “The crimes have a chilling street name, ‘Guat-bashing.’” (*Actual violence against Guatemalans.*)

## **basically (contempo-speak)**

basically  
~, these firms, because they...  
so her dad had to move in with her, ~ (self-care)

basically what  
and that’s ~ my crimes are  
and ~ it says is that when...

basically interviewed  
I recently listened to an episode, and they ~ a broker...

basically ran on adrenaline  
I ~ (Alyssa and her job)

basically said  
to which I ~...

basically saying

people were ~...

basically been using  
I've ~ Twitter for 15 years at this point, and...

basically a (real-estate) empire  
so, Crow Holding, it's ~ that manages \$29 billion (NPR)

basically a firearm  
a smart gun is ~ that's always locked by default

basically impossible  
it's ~ to find a queer competent therapist in Missouri

basically talking  
the poem that he wrote was ~ about intersectionality

basically exactly  
see *exactly (contempo-speak)*

basically felt like  
see *feel like (feels like, felt like)*

basically just  
see *just (filler)*

basically kind of  
see *kind of (contempo-speak)*

basically kind of like  
see *kind of like (filler)*

basically like  
see *like (reported speech)*

basically pretty  
see *pretty (contempo-speak)*

basically sort of  
see *sort of (contempo-speak)*

basically sort of like  
see *sort of like (filler)*

actually, basically  
he is really dismissive and ~...he says something like...  
she would ~ be saying...  
~, nothing compared to dogs...

actually basically  
reading is ~ like a math, it's like an equation (Emily)  
the film is ~ a war of images (*Through A Lens Darkly*)  
mitigation, which is ~ keeping people apart... (virus)

eventually basically  
and then the team ~... (NPR sports / Becky Sullivan)

feel like, basically  
see *basically (contempo-speak)*

I mean, basically  
~, the entire hip-hop generation...  
~, it's like, yeah, right before you die

I mean basically  
~, Wisteria Island was their playground (Florida)

I think basically  
~ what the award season is, is...

~, people are at their wits end, and you know, it's...  
~ if a woman comes forward and says...

kind of basically  
DJs were able to ~ help everyone heal

really basically  
I ~ didn't graduate college at all, like...  
and I think that ~ pushed China and Russia together  
it was ~ first on my list to try to...  
it's ~ who gets exposed (coronavirus punditry)

so basically  
~, on a dare, I...

sort of basically  
and it ~ accomplishes the same thing

♦ "Indeed, major global events...happened while she was basically living under a rock." ("A Spanish athlete spent 500 days alone in a cave—for science" by Rachel Treisman, NPR, April 17, 2023.)

♦ Romelus: Well, me, when I have sex with somebody I always film it. This is like...just a one time experience, so. / Detective: Like a trophy? / Romelus: Uh, basically, but not really. ("Behind the OnlyFans porn boom" by Linda So, Andrew RC Marshall and Jason Szep, Reuters Videos, March 13, 2024.)

♦ Are you sure?!

♦ see also *actually (contempo-speak)*, *definitely (contempo-speak)*, *obviously (contempo-speak)*, *really (gushing)*

**bask (verb)**

basking in the afterglow  
while he was ~ of a caretaker's honeymoon period...

basked in the adulation  
the women ~ this week (Filipino national soccer team)

basks in (New York) fame  
resilient Emma Raducanu ~ (US Open winner)

basked in the glow  
she ~ of being a global business celebrity

basking in the glow  
he is still ~ of his election victory (Trump / 2024)  
Donald Trump ~ on Wall Street (rings NYSE bell)

bask in the prestige  
major cities ~ of the Olympics

bask in that smile  
she knows what it feels like to ~ (of a handsome man)

basking in the (media) spotlight  
Don Lemon has been ~ since being fired... (media)

basking in (an Olympic) triumph  
the U.K. is ~

bask in my victory  
I am going to ~ (Tyson "the Gypsy King" Fury)

basking in his victory  
on a hot day, Boris Johnson is ~ (new Prime Minister)

\*\*\* herons, Dr. Auguste Rollier, Lake Bled...

♦ Birds (grey herons); reptiles (lizards, terrapins, snakes, crocodiles); mammals (walruses); insects (butterflies)... (Creatures that bask, or sunbathe, to raise their internal temperature, or for comfort.)

♦ “His worship of the sun began when he was a school-boy in the eighteen-eighties on the shores of the Lake of Neuchatel. He was the pale son of a bookish professor and from his first year in school he didn’t like the way the brown-faced farmer boys could lick the tar out of him. ‘They were flagrantly superior to me,’ Rollier said. From then on he began bathing his bare body lying like a lizard in the sun, began turning himself into an Indian.” (*Men Against Death* by Paul De Kruif. From Chapter 11, “Rollier: The Sun Doctor.” Dr. Auguste Rollier was an exponent of heliotherapy for the treatment of tuberculosis.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article “light therapy” and the picture captioned, “Child patients with external forms of tuberculosis, especially of the bones and joints, laying [sic] on beds on a terrace outside Treloar Hospital in Alton, Hampshire, England, in sunlight as part of their light therapy, ca. first half of the 20th century.”)

♦ Lake Bled in Slovenia is a place where people came to therapeutically “bask” in the sun. Such practices are associated with the Swiss healer Arnold Rikli.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Where the sun is, the doctor ain’t.” (An old Italian mountaineer proverb.)

♦ Animals enjoy basking, and bask for comfort. So do people.

♦ see also *wallow* (verb)

## basket (category)

three baskets

well, there are kind of ~ I would say of coverage

put him in the same basket

do you ~ as Snowden (Julian Assange)

♦ “Well, there are kind of three baskets I would say of coverage.” (NPR’s David Folkenflik. “Well.” “Kind of.” “I would say.” NPR punditry.)

♦ see also *bucket* (category)

## basket case

basket case

Haiti has not always been a ~  
from the standpoint of manufacturing, America is a ~  
the economy is not a ~  
he considered the company a ~ (an executive)  
he was a conspicuous ~ today (emotionally / anxious)

basket-cases of Central Asia

the two ~, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

basket case of a club

a ~, that any decent manager/coach will avoid (Man U)

Europe’s basket case

Ireland used to be ~

absolute basket case

the club is an ~ (Man U sacks Erik ten Hag)

economic basket case

Spain is an ~  
North Korea is now an ~, propped up by China

emotional basket case

the whole experience left me an ~

international basket case

Kissinger described Bangladesh as an ~

looks like a basket case

Biden ~ in shocking debate performance

turning students into emotional basket cases

universities are ~ (reverse cognitive behavioral therapy)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “I do think it’s important that we can instill confidence in our veterans because whether they’re from a big city or a small town, they probably don’t have anybody around them that’s like them. For me personally, I don’t see a lot of amputees whatsoever, especially no quadruple amputees. But I’m very confident in myself and my abilities, where we bring people in here and we give them a network to reach out to other families that have the same situation that they go through every day and let them know that here’s some tricks or adaptive sports or things you can do as a family to make you feel like you’re still a part of everything, you can still keep going.” (Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills. “Soldier who lost four limbs opening retreat to help others,” AP. In the article, he is quoted as saying, “I don’t look at myself and pity myself. I tell people to never give up, never quit, and to always keep pushing forward.” See his Wikipedia article “Travis Mills (soldier).”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A basket case is a person who has had all limbs amputated. Its date of inclusion in dictionaries—1919—means it probably references soldiers severely wounded in World War I.

♦ Words derived from recent warfare include *blitz*, *blockbuster*, *breakthrough*, *breakout*, *basket case*, and *chokepoint*.

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## bastion (noun)

bastion of elitism

he views golf courses as a ~ (Chavez)

bastion of (racial) exclusivity

the sorority is a ~

bastion of progressive government

many see New Zealand as a ~

bastions of groupthink

universities are elitist ~ (progressives, leftists)

bastion of (testosterone-driven) heterosexism

the NBA is a ~

bastion of (southern male) privilege

the private club was once a ~

bastion of religion

Poland is a ~

bastions of free speech

universities are no longer ~

bastion of tradition and authority

the university is a ~

bastion for the militia

the neighborhood is a ~

Democratic bastion

Chicago is a ~

last bastion

Las Vegas casinos are the ~ for smokers  
public-employee unions are the ~ of labor strength



main bastion

the ~ of protection against downstream floods...

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ A bastion can be reduced, or surrounded and starved into submission, or betrayed from within, or simply bypassed / leapfrogged.

## bat (go to bat for somebody, etc.)

coming to bat for NBC

he is ~ against allegations...

go to bat for him

nobody will ~ (a dictator under siege)

## bat (bat zero, bat a thousand, etc.)

bat a thousand

they have to ~, be absolutely perfect...

batting zero

the fact that he's ~ doesn't seem to bother him

♦ "For an offender to get away with a crime, a murder, they have to bat a thousand. They have to be absolutely perfect—if they make one singular mistake, that's all it takes."

## bathing (forest bathing, etc.)

dust bathing

a herd of elephants washing and ~ at a water hole

forest bathing

~ is a national pastime in Japan (shinrin-yoku)

star-bathing

travelers spend to see the Northern Lights and go "~"

travelers seek dark-sky destinations with "~" experiences

sunbathing

naked ~ and teenage brains (Jeremy Vine on BBC Radio 2)

topless ~ in a public place

♦ "Where the sun is the doctor ain't." (An Italian mountaineer proverb that relates to heliotherapy and a traditional treatment for tuberculosis.)

♦ "If water is scarce, take an 'air' bath. Remove as much of your clothing as practical and expose your body to the sun and air for at least 1 hour. Be careful not to sunburn." / "In some situations, you may be able to take a snow bath. Take a handful of snow and wash your body where sweat and moisture accumulate, such as under the arms and between the legs, and then wipe yourself dry." (FM 3-05.70, "Survival," US Army, May 2002.)

♦ "Some people have mistaken 'forest bathing' as a nudist activity." (In North Carolina.)

♦ "It is from Auckland that one goes to Rotorua, the region of the renowned hot lakes and geysers... The government has a sanatorium there, and everything is comfortable for the tourist and the invalid... There should be a rush from Europe and America to that place... / Rotorua is the Carlsbad of Australasia." (*Following the Equator: A Journey Around The World* by Mark Twain. Carlsbad, New Mexico was named after the European spa Carlsbad in Bohemia, now Karlovy Vary in the Czech Republic.)

## baton (pass on the baton)

hand over the baton to my son

today's the day I ~ (boxer retires with injury)

pass on the baton to someone else

it is time to ~ (an elected official)

passed on the baton to them

Tony Pike ~ (running a hotel on Ibiza)

## baton (drop the baton)

dropped the baton

the company ~ on this

## battalion (a large group)

battalions of consultants

Freedman hired ~ who specialized in health care

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Squad; platoon; company; battalion; regiment; brigade; division; corps; army...

## batten (batten down)

battened down

people have ~ (for a hurricane)

battens down for monster storm

Texas ~ (Hurricane Harvey)

batten down the hatches

~ and prepare for another pounding (Hurricane Maria)

battens down the hatches

Europe ~ as Italy deaths rise (coronavirus closures, etc.)

♦ "You'd better tell your friend Oppy to batten down the hatches and prepare for some stormy weather." (J. Robert Oppenheimer, 1953.)

♦ "Yes, it feels to me like a moment where people are sort of battening down the hatches and picking the safe lane." (Film producer Dede Gardner. You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.)

\*\*\* the Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*...

♦ "When suppertime came, the old cook came on deck / sayin' Fellas, it's too rough to feed ya / At seven p.m., a main hatchway caved in, / He said Fellas, it's been good to know ya." ("The Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*" by Gordon Lightfoot.)

## batter (the hurricane battered the city)

battered the city

the hurricane ~ (New Orleans)

batters (parts of eastern) Scotland

Storm Babet ~ (2023)

## battering ram

became the Reagan Republicans' battering ram

Carter's support for gay rights and the ERA ~ (1980)

## battery (recharge one's batteries)

charge my battery

I came here to ~ (leadership school / China)

recharge my batteries

I make sure I take time to ~

I asked for a leave of absence to ~

recharge his batteries

he resigned unexpectedly, saying he wanted to ~

he travels to South America to ~

recharge his batteries in the US

he will ~ (soccer star)

## battery (amount)

battery of tests  
he took a ~

## battle (verb)

battled (in vain) to contain  
as fire-fighters ~ it (museum fire)

battling (the swarms) with insecticide  
authorities are ~ sprayed from airplanes (locusts)

battled for her life  
she ~ on Sunday after a man shot her

battle for supremacy  
cartels ~ in South Africa's taxi wars

battle against a (false) sense of complacency  
we must ~

battling on all fronts  
King was ~ (boxing's Don King, in 1978)

battled addiction  
she has ~ all her life (an actor)

battled alcoholism  
he ~ as a teen

battles (severe) asthma  
he ~, which gets worse in stressful situations

battling the coronavirus  
he is still ~ (sick with the virus)

battled the fire  
for three hours we ~ (grass fire)

battled (ice-glazed) roads  
commuters ~ (freezing rain)

battled the spread  
critics have ~ of agricultural biotechnology

battling the (locust) swarms  
authorities are ~ with insecticide sprayed from airplanes

battled windchills  
they ~ of 20 below (North Dakota)

battle trafficking  
Irmi Basu and her center ~ (sex / Calcutta)

battled in vain  
as fire-fighters ~ to contain it... (museum fire)

cartels battle  
~ for supremacy in South Africa's taxi wars

♦ "A cypher is a circle that breakers form and dance within. Breakers go in a cypher one at a time to dance to the music and battle each other." (2024 Olympic breakdancing.)

## battle (noun)

battle  
for Japan, the ~ is one of national pride (whaling)  
learn to pick your ~s (disciplining a toddler)

battle to curb  
government's ~ the influence of graft (Serbia)

battle in the (culture) war  
these bills are the latest ~ waged over the rights of...

battles of identity  
in ~, language often becomes the front line (Berbers)

battle of wills  
expect another ~ all the way to the final wall (swimming)

battle of (former) champions  
it was a ~ (boxing)

battle of the sexes  
the theme of "I Love Lucy" was the basic ~

battles of the next generation  
the civil rights ~ (animal rights)

battle against AIDS  
celebrate the small victories in the ~

battle against assimilation  
the age-old ~

battle against euphemism and cliché  
the ~ is longstanding and, mostly, a losing one

battle against (entertainment) violence  
a turning point in the ~

battles with (drug and alcohol) abuse  
Ramone discussed his ~

battle with alcoholism  
he had fought a long ~ (a suicide)

battle with AIDS  
she told in a quiet voice of her ~

battle with cancer  
a near-fatal ~  
the general died after a brave ~

battle with Congress  
a new front in the President's ~ is opening

battles with unions and regulators  
waging fierce ~

battle over the bill  
he has spent the last year in a pitched ~ (regulating AI)

battle over the land  
a lengthy court ~

battle over (reproductive) rights  
the ~ (abortion)

battle over the terms  
a legal ~ of the agreement

battle over the best method  
the so-called reading wars—the ~ of teaching reading

battle between his (warring) parents  
trapped in the ~

battle between defenders and detractors  
     the ~ of the traditional canon (literature)

battle between the school system, county  
     the ongoing budget ~

battle (going on) between commerce and creativity  
     there's a constant ~ (country music)

battle for answers  
     the one last battle, the ~ (Agent Orange)

battle for the championship  
     their ~ (basketball)

battles for (championship) crowns  
     their epic ~

battle for minds  
     this is a ~ (post 9/11)

battle for narrative  
     US opinion divided amid ~ over Hamas attack on Israel

battle for public opinion  
     losing the ~

battle for the thermostat  
     the ~ is waged in offices and homes across the nation

battle cry  
     see *battle cry*

battlefield  
     see *battlefield (conflict)*

battleground  
     see *battleground (conflict)*

battle line  
     see *battle line (conflict)*

battle scars  
     showing off ~ (football players)

government's battle  
     the ~ to curb the influence of graft (Serbia)

budget battle  
     an ongoing ~ between the school system, county

court battle  
     a long-running ~  
     he was granted joint custody of his kids after a lengthy ~

custody battle  
     he was the object of a fierce ~

development battle  
     on the losing side of ~s

divorce battle  
     a bizarre last chapter in a ~ (townhouse explodes)

edit battles  
     ~ have contested Wikipedia articles about political events

election battle  
     he is facing a difficult ~ (Germany)

epic battle  
     their ~s for championship crowns (sports)  
     he had an ~ with a mako (fishing)  
     their ~ Saturday night (Ward vs. Gatti / boxing)

kite battle  
     it's time for the rokkaku ~ (kite festival)

turf battles  
     ~ likely to ensue (federal agencies)

visitation battle  
     ~s involving grandparents

textbook battles  
     ~ are legendary in Texas

public relations battle  
     but is losing the ~

uphill battle  
     see *battle (uphill battle)*

VHS-Beta battle  
     the ~ at the beginning of the video era

coming battle  
     he doesn't have any illusions about the ~ (legislative act)

ongoing (budget) battle  
     an ~ between the school system, county

long-running battle  
     the ~ over the rights of ...

pitched battle  
     his entry in the race may lead to a ~ for the progressive vote  
     he has spent the last year in a ~ over the bill (regulating AI)

hard-fought battle  
     he died after a ~ with a lung issue

annual (funding) battles  
     ~ on Capitol Hill

bitter battle  
     she resigned last June after four years of ~s (university)  
     a ~ involving teachers, school officials and the mayor

brave battle  
     the general died after a ~ with cancer

daily battles  
     there are ways to diffuse ~ and teach your toddler

endless battle  
     toilet training doesn't have to be an ~

ferocious battle  
     a ~ is being waged in California (same-sex marriage)

fierce battle  
     waging ~s with unions and regulators

judicial battle  
     this is the latest development in an ongoing ~

legal battle  
a ~ over the terms of the agreement;  
groups have had ~s with the federal government

lengthy (court) battle  
a ~ over the land

long battle  
he had fought a ~ with alcoholism (a suicide)

nightly battle  
how can I get my toddler to brush her teeth without a ~

significant battle  
it has lost a ~ in the PR war (Facebook versus Australia)

long, hard battle  
it's been a really ~ for me (cancer survivor)

age-old battle  
the ~ against assimilation

near-fatal battle  
a ~ with cancer

day in, day out battle  
a ~ with beavers

David-and-Goliath battle  
waging a ~ against Time Warner

heat of the battle  
look, in the ~... (Nick Kyrgios about a tennis match)

heat-of-the-battle (m)  
in the ~ racing (NASCAR)

object of a (fierce custody) battle  
he was the ~

them-vs.-us battle  
it's a ~

aspect of the battle  
redirected their attention to another ~ (anti-whaling)

epicenter of that battle  
Birmingham became the ~ (for civil rights)

object of a (fierce custody) battle  
he was the ~

years of (bitter) battles  
she resigned last year after four ~ (university)

in the (President's) battle  
a new front ~ with Congress is opening

turning point in the battle  
a ~ against entertainment violence

tantrums and battles  
~ (toddlers)

war or battle  
we're not in a ~ with Facebook (government official)

facing a (difficult election) battle  
he is ~ (Germany)

fighting a battle  
he is ~ he cannot win (on social media)

fought a (long) battle  
he had ~ with alcoholism (a suicide)

lose this battle  
they would ~ in the legislative arena

pick your battles  
learn to ~ (disciplining a toddler)

♦ "We all got our daily battles, right?"

♦ "She's fighting a battle between the book and a bottle of Scotch. And the Scotch is winning." (Tom Rodney, Sr., about Nelle Harper Lee.)

♦ "We fight hard, we play for keeps, we take no prisoners. We'll get in the trenches and fight dirty." (Greg Pruett, president of the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance, a gun-rights group. Politics.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Marines don't fight wars, they fight battles." (A Marine captain, Marjah, Afghanistan, 2010.)

♦ "With human corpses, human excrement, and rotting rations scattered across Peleliu's ridges, the blow flies or bluebottle flies underwent a population explosion. Those nasty insects were so large, so gluttoned, and so lazy that some could scarcely fly... It was revolting, to say the least, to watch big fat blowflies leave a corpse and swarm into our C rations... Each morning, just before sunrise, when things were fairly quiet, I could hear a steady humming sound like bees in a hive as the flies became active with the onset of daylight. They rose off the corpses, refuse, rocks, brush, and wherever else they had settled for the night like a swarm of bees. There numbers were incredible." (*With the Old Breed* by E.B. Sledge.)

♦ There was an all-pervasive stench of putrefaction and millions of fat blowflies filled the air. Even Junger, normally so cool, was shaken by what he saw. 'The ploughed-up battlefield was a scene of horror. The dead lay there among the living defenders. When we dug bunkers we saw how the dead lay in layers one above the other. One company after another had been mown down as they made a stand shoulder to shoulder under the drum fire; then their corpses had been buried under the tons of earth hurled up by the projectiles and new men had taken the place of the fallen.'" (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "In its zeal, the Sierra Club has clear-cut a whole national park of words. *Urban*, *vibrant*, *hardworking*, and *brown bag* all crash to earth for subtle racism. *Y'all* supplants the patriarchal *you guys*, and *elevate voices* replaces *empower*, which used to be uplifting but is now condescending. *The poor* is classist; *battle* and *minefield* disrespect veterans; *depressing* appropriates a disability; *migrant*—no explanation, it just has to go." ("The Moral Case Against Euphemism: Banning words won't make the world more just" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023. George Packer is *not* James Parker.)

**battle (uphill battle, etc.)**

long battle  
he had fought a ~ with alcoholism (a suicide)

uphill battle  
it will be an ~ (political reform)  
small businesses have faced an ~ (online vending)  
passage of the monumental law was an ~  
education on overfishing is an ~ (sharks, etc.)  
her poll numbers were underwater and she was facing an ~

facing an uphill battle  
they are ~ (politics)

♦ “This is going to be an uphill battle. So folks, we cannot be our own worst enemies. No, because the minute something goes wrong, the minute a lie takes hold, we cannot start wringing our hands. We cannot get a Goldilocks complex about whether everything is juuuust right.” (Applause. Michele Obama speaking at the 2024 DNC. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## battle cry

### battle cry

the vendors chant their ~, “*Quando luchamas, ganamos*”  
 repeal has been the ~ for years (Obamacare)

### battle cries of our modern crowds

slogans are the ~

### battle cry of public health officials

it has become the ~ (wear a mask to slow the spread)

### battle cry against machismo

their new single is a ~ (Y La Bamba’s “*Mujeres*”)

### less of a battle cry

“lock ‘em up” has become ~ for politicians

### became a battle cry

that word *Perseverance* ~ for us (Nasa Mars mission)

### inspired Obama’s own campaign battle cry

the United Farm Workers of America ~ (*Si se Puede*)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Listen to and watch “Rare Footage of Civil War Veterans Doing the Rebel Yell.” The smithsonianmag.com/videos/ category/history/ what-did-the-rebel-yell-sound-like/

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Slogans are the battle cries of our modern crowds.

## battlefield (conflict)

### battlefields in the culture wars

colleges have increasingly become ~

### media battlefield

the war is being fought on the ~ (Israel-Hamas war)

### public battlefield

he enjoys the ~ (Jill Lepore about Elon Musk)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “Byron visited; so did the Wordsworths—twice—and the architect and collector John Soane and thousands of others. They carried away skulls—Sir Walter Scott had one—and fingers and teeth and bullets and cannon balls... A century later such battlefield tourism would flourish even if its more gruesome collecting tastes were suppressed.” (The site of the Battle of Waterloo, in Belgium. From *The Work of the Dead: A Cultural History of Mortal Remains* by Thomas W. Laqueur.)

♦ Years ago they had marched thousands of miles to legendary battlefields... they had once gone to the ends of the earth and seen beyond the farthest horizon... We looked at these men in blue, existing in pensioned security, honored and respected by all... and we were in awe of them. Those terrible names out of the history books—Gettysburg, Shiloh, Stone’s River, Cold Harbor—came alive through these men. They had been there... and to watch them was to be deeply moved.” (*Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood* by Bruce Catton.)

♦ “People who visit Verdun, the battlefield of Borodino or Malakhov Kurgan at Sebastopol must find it equally strange to find children playing, women doing their washing, carts full of hay and old men carrying rakes. Columns of French soldiers and trucks covered in tarpaulins once passed over fields that are now full of vines; now there is only a hut, a few apple trees and some kolkhoz sheep where

Murat’s cavalry advanced, where Kutuzov sat in his armchair and ordered the Russian infantry to counter-attack with a wave of his tired hand. Nakhimov stood on a mound where now there are only chickens and a few goats searching for blades of grass between the stones; this is where the flash-bombs described by Tolstoy were launched, where English bullets whistled and wounded soldiers screamed.” (Alexandra Vladimirovna Shaposhnikova visits the ruins of her house in the immediate aftermath of the Battle of Stalingrad to find queues of women, small huts, old men unloading planks, shirts hanging up to dry, etc. From *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun (“they bring a knife, you bring a gun”), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... (“How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language,” Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

## battleground (Battle Ground, Indiana, etc.)

### Battle Ground

the town of ~ is near the site of the Battle of Tippecanoe  
 ~ is a populated place in Washington

### Battleground

~ is a populated place in North Carolina

### Battle Ground Bay

~ is a bay in Louisiana

### Battleground Buttes

~ is a summit in Oregon

### Battleground Creek

~ is a stream in Texas  
 ~ is a stream in Georgia  
 ~ is a stream in Arizona

### Battle Ground Lake

~ is a lake in Washington

### Battleground Point

~ is a summit in Nevada

### Battleground Ridge

~ is a ridge in Arizona

### Battleground Tank

~ is a reservoir in Arizona

### Big Battleground

~ Creek is a stream in Georgia

### Indian Battleground

~ Reservoir is a reservoir in Idaho

### Little Battleground

~ Creek is a stream in Georgia

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ All Americans with roots in the U.S. have grown up near a battleground. That battleground might have related to the Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, and the Civil War.

## battleground (conflict)

### battlegrounds of discontent

hospitals have become ~ (poor service)

battlegrounds in the (drug) business  
hepatitis C is one of the fiercest ~ (drug development)

battleground for the future  
the Gulf of Mexico is the ~ of offshore oil drilling

battlegrounds for (freedom of speech) issues  
college campuses are ~

battleground for (culture-war) issues  
the schools have become a ~

battleground blitz  
the Harris-Walz campaign is planning a ~ with stops in...  
both candidates are on a ~ (presidential election)

battleground state  
Ohio is a crucial ~ (elections)  
in the ~ of Pennsylvania, which Trump won in 2016...  
Trump won all the ~s (2024 U.S. presidential election)

latest battleground  
green spaces are the ~ in the disputer (development)

become a battleground  
the state has ~ over the issue (abortion)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

### battle line (conflict)

battle lines  
the ~ are hardening as the rulers dig in (protests)

battle lines are formed  
these ~, solid, and unmoving (impeachment)

battle lines are forming  
the ~ in the dispute

battle lines are hardening  
the ~ over the issue (abortion)

battle lines are being drawn  
the ~ (politics)

battle lines have been drawn  
the ~ (liberals versus conservative)

battlelines were drawn  
the ~ in this dispute (PGA vs. LIV golf)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

### bay (at bay)

hold the Taliban at bay  
the Afghan government will struggle to ~

kept my depression at bay  
the device has ~ (an electrical implant)

keep oil drilling at bay  
we need to ~

keep his furies at bay  
he works hard to ~ (troubled ex-boxer)

keep the Germans at bay  
Red Army units fought desperately to ~

keep hate at bay  
our job is to ~, out of the mainstream (SPLC)

keep monotony at bay  
the breaks in the narrative ~

keep Usyk at bay  
Joshua struggled to ~ (boxing)

kept at bay  
the modern world can't be ~ forever

remains at bay  
inflation ~ (economy)

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "In these summer days of 1940 after the fall of France we were all alone..." (*Their Finest Hour* by Winston S. Churchill, "Chapter XIII, AT BAY, July 1940.")

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to the barking of dogs as they prevent a stranger or wolves from approaching a cabin.

### bay (bay for blood, etc.)

baying for blood  
the fans are always ~ (boxing)

baying for the blood  
they are ~ of Nancy Pelosi (politics)

baying for her blood  
flag-waving patriots are ~ (India)

baying my name  
the nine-year-olds were jeering at me and ~ (a small boy)

baying for vengeance  
he compared the attacks on him to a mob ~

♦ "The Brazil fans are baying for blood—or, more accurately, a yellow card..." (Qatar World Cup. 90+3 mins: Croatia 0-0 Brazil. Nicely qualified.)

♦ "A baying mob cheers a man's murder." (Support for Luigi Mangione, arrested for the murder of a health-insurance executive.)

### beachhead (noun)

beachheads for any foreign government  
US universities should not be ~

new beachhead  
the GOP civil war has reached a ~ (shades of Trump)



get a beachhead  
you ~, like Social Security passes... (progressivism)

reached a (new) beachhead  
the GOP civil war has ~-blood-red Missouri

## beacon (noun)

beacon of hope  
the center will be a ~ (Muhammad Ali Center)  
the school is a ~ (in deprived Detroit neighborhood)

beacon of justice  
the center's reputation as a ~ had taken some hits  
(Southern Poverty Law Center)

beacons of faith and optimism  
the old prairie churches were ~ (US)

beacon of liberty  
the US is a ~, freedom and opportunity

beacon for (high-achieving) students  
the school is a ~ (high school)

beacon for human rights  
she was once seen as a ~ (a political figure)

♦ "Einstein is a landmark, not a beacon." (*Time* magazine, about the great man at Princeton. Some attributed the remark to Robert Oppenheimer. The idea was that Einstein's importance to cutting-edge physics of the time, particularly quantum physics, was nil.)

\*\*\* "From Tyneside to the Cumbrian coast..."

♦ In a project that brought ancient Roman history to life, 500 flaming beacons were lit along the 84-mile-length of Hadrian's wall, from Tyneside to the Cumbrian coast.

## bead (draw a bead / have a bead)

had a bead on the corruption  
he ~, similar to today (Hal Holbrook about Mark Twain)

## beak (Parrot's Beak, etc.)

Eagles Beak  
the ~ is a pillar in Boulder County, Colorado

Eagles Beak  
the ~ is an arch in Maricopa County, Arizona

Le Bec d'Aigle  
~ is a giant rock overlooking the calanque (Eagle's Beak)

Parrot's Beak  
the ~ juts into Vietnam from southeast Cambodia

Parrot's Beak  
the Mano River flows through the ~ area of Guinea

## beak (area)

Parrot's Beak  
the ~ juts into Vietnam from southeast Cambodia

## beans (spill the beans)

spilled the beans  
he inadvertently ~

♦ "The beans were spilled; the cat now being let out of the bag..."

## beans (small beans)

small beans  
compared to ones in Canada, Norway, Chile, they are ~

♦ "U.S. salmon farms are small beans compared to salmon farms in Canada, Norway and Chile."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can say, "It's weak tea." Or, "Pipi de sanzonnet (starling pee)." Or, "Small potatoes." Or, "Small beans..." Take your pick!

## bear (Soviet Bear, etc.)

Soviet Bear  
the ~...

## bear (a bear of an epidemic, etc.)

bear of an epidemic  
he has a ~ on his hands (mayor and coronavirus rates)

\*\*\* actual bears...

♦ ARCTos (Greek); URsus (Latin); MyedVIED (Russian); ORso (Italian); SheONG (Chinese); BRUin (Dutch); MOCKwa (Ojibwe); YOnuh (Cherokee Indian)...

♦ "...the hairs on the backs of our necks [rose up] when we saw evidence for the first time that We Are Not Alone out here... Seeing the tracks was an extraordinary moment in this wilderness and brought home to us the absolute beauty of this environment. We are visitors in a very special place." (Pen Hadow on the 2009 Catlin Arctic Survey. The tracks were made by a polar bear.)

♦ "It may have been a little after midnight when I ran into a bear standing on his hind legs in the middle of my path, growling at me. At this point the sound of the swiftly running waters of the Ganges was so loud that we had neither of us heard the other's approach. Pointing my primitive spear at his heart, I backed step by step so as to keep my eyes fixed on him. Around the first bend of the track I hurriedly lit a fire, and pulling out a burning stick, I brandished it in front of me and moved forward to meet my enemy. But coming around the corner I found the road clear and the bear gone. Tibetan peasants told me later that bears are only aggressive by day. At night they are afraid to attack..." (*Seven Years in Tibet*, Chapter 2 "Escape," by Heinrich Harrer.)

♦ "Officials set up traps in the area to catch the bear alive, but so far there has been no sign of the beast. / It was seen previously in the week eating birdseed in residents' yards."

♦ "Distressed bear cub rescued after its head was trapped in a plastic container."

♦ Pine Mountain is claimed to be the Black Bear Capital of Kentucky.

♦ "I had no idea there were bears in Japan." (An illuminated TexasVulcan on the ABC comments section about a bad-tempered bear that caused havoc in Sapporo, on the island of Hokkaido.)

♦ Upper Bear Paw Road (western North Carolina); Bear Wallow Prong (a stream in Arkansas); Big Bear Lake, California; Bear Tooth (a pillar in Montana); Bears Tooth (a ridge in Montana); Bears Tooth (a summit in Montana)... (Place names with "bear.")

♦ "If approached by a bear, park officials recommend slowly backing away to put distance between yourself and the animal, creating space for it to pass." (Great Smoky Mountains National Park.)

## bear (mama bear)

'mama bear' instinct  
her ~ helped her catch her daughter's killer

mama bear, mom determination  
it's that ~ (she helps find daughter's murderer)

♦ "The heroic Bronx mother who landed on the *Post's* front page as 'Mama Bear'—when she ferociously fought off the creep who sucker-punched her 4-year-old son in Times Square—has fled the city with

her three cubs.” (Dean Balsamini, *New York Post*, Feb 4, 2023.  
“Mama Bear” and her family have moved to South Carolina.)

## bear (bearpit, bear pit)

see *pit* (*bear pit*)

## bear (a weight, etc.)

bear

the death of a child is almost too much to ~

bear that cross

see *cross* (*bear that cross, etc.*)

♦ “And we’ll never be given to endure more than we can bear.”

## bear (bear fruit, etc.)

bore fruit

their protests ~ only after...

borne fruit

British attempts to deter Iran have not ~

bearing fruit

the development program appears to be ~

Bears Fruit

War on Piracy ~

## bearbaiting

form of (human) bearbaiting

a judge summed up the show as a ~ (Jeremy Kyle Show)

♦ see also *pit* (*bear pit*)

## beard (relationship)

“playing each other’s beards”

they have been accused of ~ since they married (celebs)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Beard (companion).” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## bearing (direction)

political bearings

people were losing their ~, and none of it made sense

collect our bearings

we ask for privacy while we ~...

find his bearings

he spent two months trying to ~ and a job (new city)

lose your bearings

when you're homeless, you kind of ~

losing its bearings

the city is ~, it's heritage (development)

lost her bearings

she ~ in the pursuit of fame

get his bearings

it took him a while to ~ (a new job)

get his bearings back

it took him a while to ~ (stunned boxer)

regain my bearings

after the birth of my first child, it took me time to ~

♦ “We are safe and well, however we would ask for privacy for ourselves and our families over the coming days while we collect our bearings and enjoy being reunited with our families.” (Two so-called “travel influencers” released from Iran.)

\*\*\* Joseph Conrad, V.K. Arseniev...

♦ “It was in 1888, when in command of a ship loading in Sydney a mixed cargo for Mauritius, that one day, all of a sudden, all the deep-lying historic sense of the exploring adventures in the Pacific surged up to the surface of my being. / I sat down and wrote a letter to my owners, suggesting that, instead of the usual southern route, I should take the ship to Mauritius by way of Torres Strait... / I passed out of Torres Strait before the dusk settled on its waters. Just as a clear sun sank ahead of my ship I took a bearing of a little island..., an insignificant crumb of dark earth, lonely... But to me it was a hallowed spot, for I knew that the *Endeavour* had been hove to off it in the year 1762 for her captain, whose name was James Cook, to go ashore for half an hour. What he could possibly want to do I cannot imagine. Perhaps only to be alone with his thoughts for a moment... It may be that on this dry crumb of the earth’s crust... he had tasted a moment of perfect peace.” (“Geography and Some Explorers” by Joseph Conrad.)

♦ “We strayed from the path several times, but quickly corrected our mistakes. When we came across a tuft or a hillock, I tried to get a look round, to get my bearings. Dersu took a bunch of reeds and mugwort and bent it down as a patteran. I looked ahead and all round. Everywhere, on every side, extended the endless, waving ocean of grass.” (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr. A patteran is a sign marking a trail. Nowadays a person might use blaze orange flagging tape.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Collocates for the *actual* usage include get / find / take one's bearings, etc.

## beast (‘The Beast’ Mugabi, etc.)

‘The Beast’ Mugabi

John ~ vs. “Marvelous” Marvin Hagler (boxing)

Beasts of the East

they are the ~ again (NBA team Boston Celtics, 2022)

earned the nickname “the Beast”

he has ~ (the boxer Artur Beterbiev)

♦ According to his Wikipedia article, Marshawn Lynch was nicknamed “Beast Mode” for his powerful running style. One of his touchdowns even earned the epithet of the “Beast Quake” and its own Wikipedia article! For the “Beast Quake,” he ran 65 yards for a touchdown, breaking nine tackles, in what is considered one of the greatest NFL runs in history. What a beast!

## beast (no longer human)

become beasts ourselves

and now we have ~...

♦ ““You know, I was once a guard in a camp. I saw prisoners-of-war picking up bits of potato-peel, fighting over a few rotten cabbage leaves. I said to myself: ‘They’re not human beings—they’re beasts.’ And now we’ve become beasts ourselves.” (A German soldier. Christmas Eve. Stalingrad. *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Three, Chapter 35.)

♦ “That period confirmed the ancient proverb, ‘man is a wolf to man.’ Traveler turned off the road at the sight of traveler, stranger meeting stranger killed for fear of being killed. There were isolated cases of cannibalism. The laws of human civilization were suspended. The jungle law was in force. Man dreamed the prehistoric dreams of the cave dweller...” (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

## beast (insult)

beast

this person, not even a person, this ~... (a murderer)

wild beasts

those ~ shot you in the back (said at a funeral)

“savages” and “beasts”

he referred to them as ~

lair of the (Fascist) beast

Germany was the ~ (W.W. II)

turn into (wild) beasts

when we see their faces, we ~, thugs and murderers  
(WWI)

♦ “He had finally tracked the beast to its lair.” (Churchill visits Hitler’s bunker in 1945. From *Churchill: Walking With Destiny* by Andrew Roberts.)

♦ see also *animal (insult)*

## beast (power)

beast

the weather is a ~ today across much of the country  
he’s a ~ (said by NFL player admiringly about another)  
Day two on the Eiger was a ~ (climbing conditions)  
Gronkowski is a ~ (RazB / Super Bowl 55)  
the whole thing is a ~ (a road train in the Outback)  
this place is a ~ (golf tournament / “brutal” conditions)

beast of a machine

the Starship is a stainless steel ~ (SpaceX)

beast of a wave

another bruising encounter with a ~ (Nazare surfing)

beast on the drums

she is an absolute ~ (10-year-old Nandi Bushell)

beasts at major finals

there are teams who are ~ (Euro 2020 in 2021 / soccer)

Beast inside

Beauty outside, ~ (Apple computer advertisement)

beast mode

that marine going ~ with the rammer (Wolfie)

f\*\*\*\*\* beast

how does he do it, he’s a ~ (Marine howitzer rammer)

Cyberbeast

Tesla’s top-tier ~ (*the* truck)

giant beasts

social media is a landscape with some ~ in it (Facebook)

much scarier beast

he’s a ~ now because... (Conor McGregor / MMA)

stubborn beast

Baranchyk, a ~, didn’t fall (exciting boxing match)

such a beast

oh, he’s got it, he’s ~ (Alex Honnold)

beast, a monster

this storm is a ~ (satellite image of a hurricane)

developed into a beast

Giannis couldn’t bang as a rookie but ~ (NBA)

♦ “She is an absolute beast on the drums.” (Ten-year-old Nandi Bushell.)

♦ “Danielle would hoop you up out of your birth certificate. Danielle was a hooping beast.” (Rachal Nolen about former LSU basketball player Danielle Ballard.)

♦ “His lawyer is a BEAST... she is giving her the business... she needs her own show!!!!” (A comment about the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

♦ “Haaland is a beast, he is a goalscoring machine, he lives and breathes goals.” (Alan Shearer about Erling Haaland, one in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

♦ “That Makhmudov, he’s a beast, he’s so dangerous with the right hand.” (A commentator at The Day of Reckoning boxing event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, about the boxer Arslanbek Makhmudov, slated to fight Agit Kabayel.)

♦ “I don’t even know how this man does it, he’s a f\*\*\*\*\* beast, every gun has two people ramming, it’s just this guy alone, he is tearing it up...” (Praise for Wolf, AKA Wolfie, a Marine Corp rammer on a 15-round mission. Watch: [youtube.com/watch?v=CdO\\_0twP\\_CU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdO_0twP_CU))

\*\*\* “Seen eating birdseed...”

♦ “Officials set up traps in the area to catch the bear alive, but so far there has been no sign of the beast. / It was seen previously in the week eating birdseed in residents’ yards.”

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## beast (different beast, etc.)

another beast entirely

compared to our world, Mars is ~

complex beasts

modern airliners are ~ (engineering, computers, etc.)

different beast

distilled alcohol is a ~ from what came before (wine, beer)

he insists his film is a ~ (a sequel, not a reboot)

for their second fight, Fury was a ~ (better / versus Wilder)

rare beast

flavorists are ~s (inventing smells for the food industry)

unique beast

it’s a ~ (Space X’s Starship)

♦ “It’s a unique beast, it’s nearly 400 feet tall, it’s very heavy, it’s made of stainless steel, it uses a lot of engines...” (SpaceX’s Starship.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “That’s a different animal.” “That’s a different beast.” “That’s a different kettle of fish.” Take your pick!

## beat (defeat / verb)

beat you

it was the weather that ~ (Mt. Everest)

## beat (beat oneself up)

beat myself up

I'd ~, sometimes I would cry (a drinking problem)

beat yourself up

if you slip up or hit a plateau, don't ~ (weight loss)

I didn't ask that to get you to ~ (regret or guilt)

beat yourself up over that

don't ~ (a performance error)

beat herself up for not being

she should not ~ around more to help her ailing mother

## beat back (verb)

beat back arthritis

he squeezes a golf ball at night to ~

beat back the epidemic

in an attempt to ~, the government is... (Luanda)

beat back (mounting) skepticism

she is trying to ~ of her qualifications

beat back dirt and disease

their lives, a daily struggle to ~ (Kabul slums)

fighting to beat back

Yahoo and AOL are ~ spammers

attempt to beat back

in an ~ the epidemic, the government is... (Luanda)

## beat down (verb)

beat us down

they have found another way to ~ (fat people)

## beat down (the sun, etc.)

beat down on the (black) rocks

the sun ~ (Kilauea)

beat down relentlessly

the desert sun ~

## beatdown (noun)

beatdown from the Cheoah River

my ~ (kayaking / "no brain, no pain, no problem!")

## beaten (beaten up)

get beaten up

he knows he'll get attacked and ~ (politics)

\*\*\* "They were vicious, they were animals, you know..."

♦ "They were vicious, they were animals, you know, to beat him up that way..." (The attack left the boxer Emile Griffith nearly dead. From the affecting and emotionally wrenching documentary *Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story* 2005.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "He has no idea what beat to a pulp means... Take him out back beat him to within an inch of his life...and he will know the difference between losing money and being beaten to a pulp." (A commenter on the article, "Kanye West Claims He's 'Been Beat to a Pulp' Over Losing Brand Deals, Wants to 'Do Better'" by Miranda Siwak, October 29, 2022.)

## beatification (noun)

beatification

his ~ has taken a long time (writer / literary canon)

## beatify (verb)

beatify all Northerners

she did not demonize all Southerners, or ~ (Stowe)

demonize (all Southerners), or beatify

she did not ~ all Northerners (Harriet B. Stowe)

## beating (take a beating, etc.)

public relations beatings

the embassy's career officers were used to taking ~

4-0 beating

as Wales contemplated the ~ (Euro 2020 vs. Denmark)

dishing out some beatings

the Upper Nantahala has a reputation for ~ (kayaking)

taken a beating

she said her confidence had ~ (athlete)

the industry has ~ recently

the dollar has ~ abroad

its stock has ~ (a company)

took a beating

its reputation ~ in the financial crisis (rating service)

took a (serious) beating

the Democrats ~ in the midterm elections

taken a beating over its (contract) process

the Air Force has ~

taken a beating from the storms

the coastline has ~

taken a beating in the media

he has ~ (an athlete)

♦ "The Upper Nantahala has a reputation for dishing out some beatings..." (Kayaking. It's manky and boney, etc.)

## beat up (storm)

beating up Texas

the rain and flooding is just ~ (ABC News)

## beautiful (groups)

beautiful

I told her she was ~, no matter what others thought

beautiful daughter

the ~: how my mother gave me the courage to transition

beautiful thing

it's a ~ to be able to fight for that (gay / lesbian rights)

beautiful silhouette

it's this ~ of two men holding hands... (gay)

Black is beautiful

Naomi Sims showed the world that ~ (supermodel)

young, beautiful and HIV positive  
to be ~ (2008)

bodies are beautiful  
all ~ (Sami Sheen's OnlyFans account)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Black Is Beautiful' Beer By Black Brewer Helps Pour Money Into Social Justice Reform" by John Burnett, NPR, America Reckons With Racial Injustice, May 31, 2021.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

♦ "Every monkey is a gazelle to its mother." (Arabic.)

## beautiful (adjective)

beautiful  
I think that's ~ (an irony)  
I lean on him and he leans on me, which is ~

beautiful to connect  
it was really ~ with folks who...

beautiful country  
China is a ~

beautiful man  
he describes his father as a gentle man and a very ~

beautiful relationship  
the ~ I saw between my parents

beautiful voice  
what a ~ you have (an actor)

something beautiful  
there is still ~ about that... (the last shall be first)

Keep America Beautiful  
~ (the Crying Indian advertisement / PSA)

♦ Dersu Uzala had a beautiful soul.

♦ "Some people say they are awfully homely, awful bad looking, but to me... they are beautiful fish, just like a beautiful blonde." (Pat Wudtke, 73, in Wisconsin. He has speared sturgeon—living fossils—for 50 years during the state's annual season.)

♦ "Even the ugly sharks are beautiful..." (Shark enthusiast Katherine Rundell, specifically mentioning the goblin shark, which is a living fossil.)

♦ Life asked Death, "Why does everyone love me and hate you?" Death replied, "Because you are a beautiful lie and I am the ugly truth."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we rarely spend much time on this. The old American Language Course textbook (ALC-DLI) showed pairs of pictures. The pair I remember is, "This sofa is ugly. The other sofa is beautiful." We could do more with this word to better reflect its usage.

♦ "Every monkey is a gazelle to its mother." (Arabic.)

♦ see also *ugly (adjective)*

## beaver (verb)

beavered at neural nets  
AI scientists ~ for decades before...

beavered away  
a small army of Canadian zealots was ~ at the case  
our readers have been ~ (a prediction challenge)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The old print dictionary I use does not list "beaver" as a verb. The online Merriam-Webster site lists it as an intransitive verb and notes its first use as 1946.

## beaver (eager beaver)

eager beaver  
she's an ~

♦ David Marchese: It was interesting for me to revisit your work and see what I took to be—and I don't mean this in a condescending way—an eager-beaver quality. I'm thinking of 'The Devil Wears Prada' or 'The Princess Diaries.' Was that quality something you consciously tried to change? / The actor Anne Hathaway: I was not aware of it until this conversation. ("Anne Hathaway Is Done Trying to Please Everyone" by David Marchese, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 28, 2024.)

## beckon (verb)

deep pockets beckon  
the Gulf's ~ (arms sales)

devices beckon  
the line is long and other ~ (tech convention)

## bed (put something to bed)

put to bed  
a successful launch will help ~ memories of the problems

put the game to bed  
Manchester City effectively ~ by halftime

put this (silly) incident to bed  
we need to ~ (sports controversy)

put it to bed  
Grealish squandered chances to ~ (soccer talk)

put questions (about his age) to bed  
his performance didn't ~, but... (elderly politician / debate)

put the tie to bed  
they pushed forward to ~ but... (soccer second-leg game)

## bed (put to bed)

put to bed  
if there were any doubts, they seem to have been ~

put to bed yet  
this matter has not been ~ (COVID 19 origin)

## bed (jump into bed with someone)

jump into bed with the Syrian government  
the Kurds don't immediately want to ~

♦ "And then suddenly overnight in August...it went from a rumor to a fact in 12 hours. I've never known a big fight fall into bed... (Steve Bunce about the first Fury-Wilder fight.)

## bed (lie in one's bed / make one's bed)

made the bed  
the Jets ~, gambled, and now they have to sleep in it  
(injury)

made this bed  
he has ~ and he's got to lie in it (politics)

made their bed  
they've ~ (LIV golfers vs. PGA)

## bedazzled (decorated)

bedazzled case  
a white iPhone with a ~

bedazzled masks  
little girls with ~ (pandemic)  
he sells ~ on Etsy (pandemic)

bedazzled suit  
he's got the pompadour and ~ (an Elvis impersonator)

## bedevil (verb)

bedeviled the governor  
the scandal ~

bedeviled his (own party's) leadership  
he ~ by blocking compromise

bedeviled the (Democratic) nominee  
the story ~ right up until election day

bedevils the people  
corruption ~

## bedeviled

bedeviled by the (sluggish) economy  
he found himself ~ (president)

bedeviled by (technical) problems  
the company has been ~ (autos)

bedeviled by a lack  
the response effort was ~ of organization

## bedfellow (companion)

bedfellow  
hypocrisy is your ~ (an online commenter)

bedfellows  
how Africa's football and politics are ~ (BBC)

unpromising bedfellows  
history suggests the state and steel are ~ (subsidies)

ideological bedfellows  
he and Mr DeSantis are seen as ~ (politics)

natural bedfellows  
Somaliland and Taiwan are ~ (diplomatic recognition)

strange bedfellows  
the bill has made for some ~ (from both parties)

unlikely bedfellows  
a new album combines ~ (romantic / avant-garde)

array of (very strange) bedfellows  
their testimony prompted outrage from a broad ~

examine your bedfellows  
you need to ~ and ask yourself... (manosphere & far right)

made for (strange) bedfellows  
the politics of immigration have always ~

make (strange) bedfellows  
politics can ~

♦ "Their testimony prompted outrage from a broad array of very strange bedfellows. ("Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023. The Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Nor are privacy and open access harmonious bunkmates."

♦ "Better to sleep with a sober cannibal than a drunken Christian." (Ishmael, about sharing a bed with Queequeg. From *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.)

## bedlam (noun)

bedlam  
it was ~, the whole city was on the run (Berlin 1 May 1945)

bedlam of the city  
the ~ recedes (in a courtyard garden)

bedlam in the streets  
there was ~ (World Cup victory)

construction bedlam  
he surveyed the ~ (restaurant being built)

management bedlam  
it's ~ (at Fox News)

political bedlam  
the system breeds ~ (government)

bedlam ensued  
the announcement was made, and ~

bedlam engulfed the fans  
~ (a victory)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Bethlem Royal Hospital." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ "BEDLAM: is really 'Bethlehem' This is a British corruption of the word *Bethlehem*. The priory of St. Mary of *Bethlehem* was founded in 1242. But any Londoner of this day would have called it, in his dialect, 'St. Mary's of Bedlam.' In 1402 the priory was turned into a hospital for the insane, and from the reign of Henry VIII it has been a royal foundation for lunatics. So when the Londoners spoke of the Holy City of Bethlehem they were careful to pronounce it the way we now do to distinguish it from the asylum, *bedlam*..." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## bedrock (noun)

bedrock of who we are  
quality is the ~ (Boeing)

bedrock of our storytelling tradition  
these 100 stories are a ~ (the *Decameron* by Boccaccio)

bedrock belief  
it's a ~ of mine (people have souls, animals don't)

bedrock policy  
keeping employee costs down is a ~ (a retail giant)

bedrock principle



a ~ is civilian control of the military (US governance)  
innocent until proven guilty is one of our country's ~s

#### bedrock right

we will continue to stand up for Israel's ~ to defend itself

#### bedrock standards

we must not abandon our ~ (journalism / objectivity)

#### bedrock value

he brought some ~s to the job (a cop about right / wrong)  
the ~s that make America unique (freedom of religion)

#### bedrock of safety

the ~

### bedroom (sex)

#### bedroom issues

the church doesn't know what it's talking about on ~

#### in our bedroom

we don't want the federal government ~ (criminal sex case)

♦ "Well, he has one girl per book, approximately, and that's one a year. He's a bachelor, and he moves around the world pretty rapidly. And umm I don't see any great harm in that myself." (Ian Fleming speaking about his fictional creation James Bond to Roy Plomley on BBC's Desert Island Discs in 1963.)

♦ "Why should we be afraid of latex, when we see that it can save lives...? I just don't mention [making condoms available] in my report to the bishop." (A Catholic nun in Cameroon, dealing with the AIDS epidemic.)

♦ "We don't want the federal government in our bedroom." (A lawyer for Sean "Diddy" Combs.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Below the navel there is neither religion nor truth."

### bee (busy as a bee)

#### as busy as a bee

he was ~

### bee (queen bee)

#### queen bee of wellness

Belle Gibson was the ~ (*The Whole Pantry*)

#### queen bee, the star

she's the ~ (Regina George / *Mean Girls*)

♦ "She's the queen bee. The star. Those other two are just her little workers." (Regina George. Dialogue from the silly 2004 film *Mean Girls*.)

### beef (conflict)

#### celebrity beefs

filed under "~" (a *New York Post* article)

#### rap beefs

a lot of ~ can spiral out of control (fans, stans, social media)

#### social media beefs

the sport is a shambles, ~ between fighters... (boxing)

#### Death Row-Bad Boy beef

now the ~ started to escalate...

#### active beef

this is a very ~ (Megan Thee Stallion v. Nicki Minaj)

#### my particular beef

~ is with the newspapers (the beloved John Cleese)

#### issues and beefs

tells us about some of the ~ (2021 Oscars)

#### beef started to escalate

now the Death Row-Bad Boy ~...

#### has a beef with someone

if he ~, it should be with the medical staff (an athlete)

♦ "It Looks Like Machine Gun Kelly Moved On From The Eminem Beef, And His Next Target Is Jack Harlow," Yahoo, May 7, 2023.

♦ iLoveMakonnen: I don't have no communication with y'all, right, and then when I see y'all in public it's like, y'all want beef. And I'm like, I don't have no beef with you. So what is the beef about? / Sydney Madden: What is the beef about? / Rodney Carmichael: This question has followed Makonnen for years... (From "Thugs don't dance": iLoveMakonnen and Drake tested rap's norms of masculinity, but only one passed," NPR, Louder Than A Riot Season Two, May 4, 2023.)

♦ "What was the beef, what was the thing...the unfollow..." (Keke Palmer speaking to Bobbi Althoff about Drake.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Beef; diss; a falling out; feud; fight; jabs; personal; social media..." (Megan Thee Stallion versus Nicki Minaj, brought to you by NPR.)

♦ A *New York Post* article about a spat between Olivia Dunne and Breckie Hill is filed under "Olivia Dunne," "TikTok," and "Celebrity Beefs." "Beef" is a category, at least at *The New York Post*.

♦ "These inventive rivalries became known as the Roxanne Wars, which some consider to be the first recorded beef in rap history. In fact, two of the biggest female acts of the 1980s, M.C. Lyte and Salt-N-Pepa, were drawn into the business to capitalize on the popularity of the phenomenon." (The Future Of Rap Is Female" by Niela Orr, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 13, 2023.)

♦ "Beef or barbecue." (A saying in New Orleans, about snitching to the police. If you "beef" or speak to the police, you'll get killed. Better to kick back, relax, enjoy some barbecue.)

### beefed up

#### beefed-up security

Trump has continued on the campaign with ~

#### security has been ~

~ at the Capitol

### beef up (verb)

#### beefed up (border) controls

the US has ~ (against smuggling)

#### beefing up security

U.S. Capitol Police are ~ throughout Washington, D.C.

### beehive (activity)

#### beehive

the military hospital was a ~ (heavily guarded)

#### beehive of activity

inside, these buildings were a ~ (hospital)

the place was a ~ (a city newspaper before the internet)

### beehive (Beehive cluster, etc.)

#### Beehive cluster

M44, the ~

## been through (endure, etc.)

been through anything like that  
we've never ~ in our family (murder)

been through hell  
I've ~

been through this before  
this is not our first rodeo, we've ~ (hurricanes)

♦ see also *get through (endure, etc.)*, *go through (endure, etc.)*

## before (at an earlier time)

before tractors and combines  
then I did plowing and scything, that was ~, you know...

came before  
see *come (come before / at an earlier time)*

## before (at a future time)

before us  
we have hard work ~

best-before  
the ~ dates are usually 3 or 4 months after delivery (beer)

♦ "It's not the first time they did it, but this time it's right in front of the Memorial Day weekend." (An aggrieved war-veteran vendor, shut down in New York City.)

## before (priority)

put country before club  
players should ~ (soccer)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Death before dishonor!

## beg (verb)

begging the Department of Defense to address  
the group has been ~ this issue

she begged her daughter to come home  
she ~

begged the coach to give  
Mom ~ me a chance, and he did (Allen Iverson)

beg you to move  
melodies, groove and beats ~ (*Electric Warrior*)

begged for his life  
he ~

begs the question  
but that ~...

pushed and begged  
he ~ for an evacuation plan (Fall of Saigon / 1975)

♦ "Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene / I'm begging of you please don't take my man." (Dolly Parton. Miley Cyrus.)

## beget (verb)

begat the Freedom Caucus begat Donald Trump  
the Tea Party ~ (NPR's Mara Liasson / 2016)

begat Michael Jordan who begat Tiger Woods  
he created this paradigm that ~ (O.J. Simpson)

beget work  
few living directors ~ that... (filmmaker Roy Andersson)

begets trauma  
trauma ~ (indigenous families in Canada)

begot ingenuity  
scarcity ~ (poor kids devise ways to have fun)

♦ "One falsehood begets another and another in the line of succession, until the father of them all shall have colonized his whole progeny upon the congenial soil of this new Dark Continent." ("COLUMBUS" by Ambrose Bierce.)

## beginning (just the beginning, etc.)

beginning  
it's just the ~ (first picture of black hole in space)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Beginning is easy, continuing is hard." (A Japanese saying.)

## behavior (fire, etc.)

fire behavior  
they are seeing ~ that they've never even been trained for

## behemoth (noun)

behemoths of the seas  
~, cruise liners keep getting bigger (*Icon of the Seas*, etc.)

behemoth among (federal) agencies  
the Department of Defense is a ~

behemoth pickup trucks  
~ roar down Main Street (oil-boom town in Texas)

civil rights behemoth  
it has built itself into a ~ (Southern Poverty Law Center)

online (classifieds) behemoth  
the ~, Craigslist...

economic behemoth  
China has emerged as an ~

political behemoth  
other candidates understand that he is a ~ (Joe Biden)

tabular behemoths  
these ~ catch in the shallows (icebergs / S. Georgia Island)

cutthroat behemoth  
antitrust regulators depict it as a ~ (a tech company)

pop-culture behemoth  
the ~ *Game of Thrones*

social media behemoth  
the ~ has established a 'war room' (Facebook / Meta)

lactating behemoths  
Holsteins are ~ (versus Ankole cattle)

2,300-page behemoth  
it is a ~ (a government act)

four-billion-dollar (accessories) behemoth  
Coach is a ~ (fashion)

built the company into a behemoth  
he ~ (security)

spells the end for a behemoth  
the decision to pull the show ~ that dominated schedules

♦ "The North Atlantic storm was a behemoth—50,000 feet tall and 260 miles wide." (A Category 4 hurricane.)

♦ "The enemy stands 602 feet tall and weighs 15 million tons." (Shasta Dam versus the Winnemen Wintu group, which is opposed to making the dam higher.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Behemoth was a huge land monster mentioned in the Book of Job. Its aquatic counterpart was the Leviathan. Both creatures were controlled by God, and symbolized God's power.

## behind (behind schedule, etc.)

behind on payments  
we were ~

behind schedule  
they were now almost 2 months ~

falls behind  
Faisal ~ (worker at Dairy Queen)

fell behind on a (key) module  
later, as Russia ~ (space station)

fell behind in his mortgage  
he ~ (money woes)

## behind (competition)

behind in the race  
Uber is ~ to develop autonomous vehicles

left behind  
Nokia has been ~ by competitors in the smartphone market

## behind (progress)

behind in school  
he is way ~

behind the (learning) curve  
we were well ~ (for a military operation)

miles behind  
they are ~ Arsenal, Liverpool and City (Man U)

way behind  
he is ~ in school

well behind  
we were ~ the learning curve (for a military operation)

fall behind  
we want to keep up and not ~ (government official)  
the US could ~ China (digital currency)

fallen behind at Fremont  
he had ~ at Fremont, not just in history but... (school)

fell behind by 3 years

our program ~ (space)

lag behind  
women ~ men in the most visible arenas of science

lagging (far) behind  
US students are ~ (education)

left behind  
the poor are ~ (services go to wealthy)

## behind (in the past)

behind  
the team's best days are ~ (sports)

behind her  
now it's all ~ (wild lifestyle)

behind him  
in college, with his high school playing days ~...

behind it  
the 100th mission is ~ (space shuttles)

behind us  
now that this is ~, we can move forward (divorce)  
it is tempting to believe the danger is ~ (terrorism)  
the first phase of the pandemic is ~  
our darkness days are ahead of us, not ~ (pandemic)

long behind  
his best writing days were ~ by then

get the case behind him  
he just wanted to ~ (object of criminal investigation)

left his old life behind  
he ~

leave our colonial past behind  
the time has come to fully ~ (Barbados)

put his old life behind him  
he tried to ~

put their differences behind them  
they sought to ~ (diplomacy)

put their (money) problems behind them  
her new job ~

♦ "Now that *that* is in the rear-view mirror..." (Behind us.)

♦ "That's all water under the bridge."

♦ "We're so focused on what's ahead, we're not worried about what's behind us." (The boxer Anthony Joshua, speaking about his rematch with Andy Ruiz Jr. AJ had lost the first match, in a tremendous upset.)

♦ "He was going to get ahead of his past and hold himself accountable." / "He was going to 'get in front of his past and tell the truth.'" (A Black politician.)

## behind (responsibility)

behind the bombing  
no one knows who is ~

behind the machinery  
he is the brains ~ that makes the wave (Kelly Slater's wave)

behind the (new) policy  
he is a driving force ~ (a doctor)

behind the project  
he was the brains ~

## behind (basis)

behind this decision  
what could be ~

behind these new levels  
what are the causes ~ of stress (colleges)

idea behind the program  
the ~ was to...

logic behind (military) training  
the hidden ~

motivation behind the attack  
the ~ seems to be to...

personalities behind the inventions  
the exhibition is an attempt to bring to life the ~

reasoning behind this  
the ~ is that...

story behind the plaque  
do you know the ~

theory behind this practice  
the ~ is that...

driving force behind development  
economics is usually the ~ (zoning)

driving force behind globalization  
the ~

driving force behind hostess bars  
ultimately money is the ~ (Roppongi)

lies behind  
inequality in incomes ~ the divisiveness of our politics  
what ~ human behavior

## behind (support)

behind it  
the government has to get ~ and the Prime Minister is  
against it (a proposal)

behind you  
I'm ~ (I support you)

get behind the development  
it's time we ~ of renewable energy

## behind (put something behind)

behind me  
they tell me I have to put Nick's death ~ (grieving  
widow)

put her trauma behind her  
she has tried to ~ (rape)

put this behind us  
we've got to ~ and move on with our lives (after disaster)

♦ "Let it go, get it over with, and put it behind us..." (Former Solicitor General Ted Olsen, on allowing Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—the mastermind of 9/11, on which almost 3,000 people died—to plead guilty in exchange for life in prison without parole.)

♦ "You still can't put this behind you, you're still getting death threats..." (Terry Gross, speaking to Christine Blasey Ford in 2024. During that interview on Fresh Air, Gross revealed, "I've gone through similar things that you did of getting smeared, and getting death threats, and having to hide out.")

## behind-the-scenes

behind-the-scenes  
a ~ of world hegemony

behind-the-scenes controversy  
fraught with ~

behind-the-scenes documentary  
a ~ (making of a film)

behind-the-scenes negotiations  
~ failed

behind-the-scenes role  
his ~

behind-the-scenes strategist  
he's been a ~ for the Democrats (politics)

behind-the-scenes workers  
a cadre of ~ (state fair)

behind-the-scenes lobbying  
months of ~

## belch (verb)

belched up  
a great cloud of steam ~ through the hatch (burst pipe)

belched forth smoke, ash and lava  
the volcano ~

belched from the smokestacks  
black smoke ~

belched (diesel) exhaust  
trucks ~

belched smoke  
the engine ~ (coal-fired)

bubble and belch  
tourists flocked to see the lava ~ (Fagradalsfjall)

## Belichick (the racing Bill Belichick, etc.)

racing Bill Belichick  
he's a little bit the ~ (Bob Bufford and Justified)

## believer (true believer)

true believer  
she stood squarely with Donald Trump, she was a ~  
~s say "just give it some time!" (the metaverse)

true believer in the cause  
she was a ~ (Irish Republican Army)

his true believers  
his ~ know... (Trump supporters)

dogged true believers  
the Wikipedia system can put it at the mercy of the ~

progressive true believers  
the ~ who flocked to Mr Sanders in 2016 (politics)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ The Wikipedia article "True believer" is very short and has a link to the Wikipedia article "True-believer syndrome." When older people think of a "true believer," however, they tend to think of *The True Believer* by Eric Hoffer, published in 1951. See the Wikipedia article "*The True Believer*."

## bell (warning)

alarm bell  
civil rights activists sounded the ~s  
she rang suspicious ~s (a female stalker)

warning bell  
spiraling suicide rates sound a ~

"fight or flight" bells  
that type of rhetoric tends to ring the ~ (Jewish Americans)

ring (any) bells  
one case doesn't usually ~ (epidemics)

ringing the alarm bell  
the mayor is ~ as loudly as he can (coronavirus cases)

set off alarm bells  
for Western intelligence, it ~ (Mig-25 "Foxbat")

sounded the alarm bells  
environmentalist have ~ (pollution in Lake Baikal)  
civil rights activists ~

sound a warning bell  
spiraling suicide rates ~

## bell (bells and whistles)

bell and whistle  
\$3,200 for a top of the line model with every ~ (a toilet)

bells and whistles  
it has more ~ than a fire engine (a sports watch)

## bell (bell cow)

see *cow* (*bell cow*)

## bell (ring a bell)

ring a bell  
did that name mean anything to you, did it ~ (murder)

## bell (unring a bell)

unring a bell  
you can't ~ that has already been rung

♦ The bell cannot be unring.

## bell curve (shape)

distribution of a bell curve  
the scores have the ~

## bellwether (noun)

bellwether election  
Democrats are fretting about losing a ~

bellwether of (global) conservation efforts  
island initiatives are a ~

bellwether of (economic) health  
the housing market is seen as a ~ by many (US)

bellwether of (African) progress  
Ghana again became a ~ (peace, democracy)

bellwether for the condition  
small businesses have become a ~ of the US economy

bellwether for the industry  
the labor talks could serve as a ~ (airline unions)

watched as a (potential) bellwether  
the case has been widely ~ (by other defendants)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ A wether is a ram leading a flock of sheep. The shepherd attaches a bell around the ram's neck, to indicate the location of the flock.

♦ Type "bellwether" into search at National Public Radio (NPR) and you get 12 hits. This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## belly (orientation)

belly of the rover  
an umbilical runs to a computer inside the ~ (on Mars)

belly of a tank  
the slug punches a hole in the ~

belly landing  
he questioned whether a ~ would work (space shuttle)

Perseverance's belly  
at present, the aircraft is slung beneath ~ (Mars)

carried a rover called Pragyaan in its belly  
the Vikram lander ~ (India lands on moon's south pole)

## belly flop (noun)

prime-time belly flop  
her speech was a ~

spectacular (primary) belly-flop  
his ~ (Jamaal Bowman / "Don't let the door hit you...")

## bellyful (amount)

bellyful of war  
I've had a ~

bellyful of promises and politicking  
the people of Britain have had a ~

bellyful of deceit, waste and incompetence  
there has been a ~ (New Labour)

## belly-up (adjective)

belly-up

we had plenty of excuses to go ~

went belly-up

the company ~ (failed)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to a dead fish or other animal dead in water.

♦ Things can go sideways, south, belly-up, tits-up, or pear-shaped. Take your pick!

## belong (verb)

belongs to the fifth century

of the great philosophers, only Socrates properly ~

belongs to the past

what happened ~ (a historical injustice)

## below (behavior)

below you

that's ~

## belt (area)

belt of ice

in winter a 600-mile-wide ~ seals off Antarctica

belt of (coniferous) forests

the taiga—the huge circumpolar ~

Bible Belt

Atlanta versus the surrounding ~ (strip clubs)

Black Belt

the ~, an impoverished region of the rural South (US)

banana belt

the lush ~ of southern Ecuador

coal belt

in Mpumalanga, the heart of South Africa's ~

farm belt

Louisiana's ~

mineral belt

a large ~ west of Albuquerque

radiation belt

the ~s of earth

snow belt

few move from the sun belt to the ~ (US)

ecologically diverse (transition) belt

this remote, fragile, and ~ between forest and steppe

circumpolar belt

the taiga—the huge ~ of coniferous forests

semiarid belt

the Sahel, a ~ that spans Africa just below the Sahara

25-mile belt

oil fields clustered along a ~ between Basra, Kuwait

♦ "The ravages of the Rust Belt would cast a shadow on the riches of the Corn Belt." (The U.S. Midwest in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A belt often has a buckle. See *buckle* (attachment).

## belt (below the belt)

belt

he's known for hitting ~ (politics)

## belt (under one's belt)

one expedition (to Gasherbrum II) under his belt

he had ~

7 deployments under his belt

he has ~ (first sergeant)

25 years (of Forest Service work) under his belt

he has ~

6,000 jumps under his belt

a skydiver with ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This expression often collocates with numbers.

## belt (notch in a belt)

notch on his (political) belt

Cuomo needed a scalp, a ~ (politics / Hank Morris)

conviction notch in their belts

prosecutors just want another ~ (convict exonerated)

♦ "Carly had belt-notched all those coveted hotties—Cat Stevens, Kris Kristofferson, Warren Beatty, Jack Nicholson, Mick Jagger, James Taylor..." (*Girls Like Us* by Sheila Weller.)

## belt (tighten one's belt)

tightening our belts this summer

we will be ~ (pandemic ruins tourist season)

♦ "After years of rapid expansion and massive hiring, these leading American businesses are having to tighten their belts. There's plenty of fat to lose." (The *National Review* about layoffs in the technology sector.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Tightens one's belt when having to sacrifice or cut back.)

## belt-tightening

belt-tightening at the Pentagon

he will announce a new round of ~

belt-tightening measures

the school will also take ~ like...

corporate belt-tightening

recent years of ~

fiscal belt-tightening

in an age of ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Tightens one's belt when having to sacrifice or cut back.)

## bemoan (verb)

bemoan the paywall



advocates of open access ~ (academic articles)

## bench (a strong bench, etc.)

deep bench

their ~ of character actors (Robert and Michelle King)

strong bench

they have a ~ (Democratic candidates for president)

## bench (verb)

bench him

the channel decided to ~

## benchmark (at a benchmark)

at or near that benchmark

these year's figures already are ~ (female graduates)

## benchmark (noun)

benchmark

it is a ~ that we must keep in mind

benchmark of skill

I consider the Green Narrows as a ~ (kayaking)

benchmark for toughness

support for capital punishment is a ~ for politicians

benchmark indicator

use objective criteria to establish ~s (environment)

benchmark run

the Green Narrows is a ~ in the Southeast (kayaking)

benchmarks, the milestones

the ~ you speak of in this book, like marriage...

standards and benchmarks

we are working on meeting ~ for curricula (education)

barriers and benchmarks

when it comes to ~, snowboarding has the 1440° spin

established (climbing's new) benchmark

the man who ~ (Tomaz Humar / south face of Dhaulagiri)

performance benchmarks

it ranks first on three of the industry's leading ~

reached (all) the benchmarks

he ~ on or close to schedule (child development)

set the benchmark

she ~ in 1996 (time spent in space)

♦ "The benchmarks I don't worry about that much..." (Teresa Thayer Snyder, former superintendent of Voorheesville school district in upstate New York. She doesn't want schools to get too focused on so-called "lost time" to the COVID-19 pandemic, because the kids learned plenty during the pandemic.)

♦ "Everyone was stunned by the scale of carnage at Shiloh (in spring of 1862 in southwestern Tennessee), which posted a new benchmark for mass slaughter." (*Grant* by Ron Chernow.

\*\*\* the round metal USGS plaques...

♦ The round metal USGS plaques on mountaintops are benchmarks that indicate height above sea level.

♦ Seal rocks; tsunami stones; hunger stones... ("Sea Change: What the search for sea level tells us about living on our changeable planet" by Brooke Jarvis, *The New Yorker*, August 26 2024.)

## bend (bend over backwards)

bends over backwards to be cooperative

the staff ~

bends over backwards being polite

he ~

bending over backwards to comply

we are ~ with the rules

## bend (verb)

bend to demands

Shiites refuse to ~ by Sunnis that...

bend to (contemporary progressive) pieties

he refuses to ~

bend (in any way) to economic pressure

he won't ~ (Daniel Ortega)

bend the government to their will

local leaders who wish to ~

refuse to bend

Shiites ~ to demands by Sunnis that...

caused him to bend

the threat ~ but not break

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A reed bends but does not break.

## beneath (behavior)

beneath me

that's ~

beneath the dignity

is anything ~ of the Obama White House (politics)

beneath you

that's way ~ (her reaction to his rude proposal)

## beret (Brown Beret, etc.)

Brown Beret

the Texas ~s (No Justice, No Peace)

## Bermuda Triangle

Bermuda Triangle of airspeed

transonic is the unknown, it is the ~ (flying)

legal Bermuda Triangle

this is a ~, trying to figure out who's at fault

## berserk

went berserk

the elephant ~ and killed its trainer

the 200-pound chimpanzee ~ and was shot dead by police

he hit a home run, and the crowd ~ (sports)

she ~ and stormed out (angry and upset)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Elephants; chimpanzees; crowds; females... (Things that can go berserk.)

## berth (a wide berth)

give her a wide berth  
I always ~ (a boss)

## beside (support)

beside me  
life is so cruel without you ~

## besiege (verb)

besieged (northern) Mexico  
violence has ~

besieged NBC with calls  
they ~ (to kill a story)

## besieged

besieged by email  
she has been ~

besieged by lobbyists  
Congress is ~

besieged by the media  
he was ~

besieged by questions  
doctors have been ~ from patients

besieged by reporters  
he has been ~

besieged by (corruption) scandals  
his government has been ~

besieged borough  
more food relief is needed across the ~ (Bronx / pandemic)

besieged politicians  
the ~ have started a counterattack (politics)

## besity (infobesity, etc.)

“infobesity”  
~ is affecting our brains and lives (information overload)

toe-besity  
liposuction for ~, on fat toes...

## bespoken (adjective)

bespoken media production  
this season of Amazing Sports Stories is a ~ for the BBC

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to the Wiktionary entry “bespoken,” this adjective is obsolete and means “betrothed or engaged to be married.”

## bestial (adjective)

bestial wretchedness  
he sees out his days in a state of ~ (retirement)

## bestiary (noun)

nautical bestiary  
silhouettes of sailing junks, different sizes and designs, a ~

## best (best Fury, etc.)

best  
I was on a mission to be the ~ (USWNT Carli Lloyd)  
the burning desire to be the ~ (basketball)  
it's ~ to leave it alone

best of the best  
they are the ~ (pilots)

best days  
your ~ lie ahead  
the team's ~ are behind (sports)

best Fury  
I truly hope the ~ turns up (versus Usyk / boxing)

best life  
see *best life* (and *best lives*)

best shapes  
they achieve their ~ ever (YouTube weight loss ad)

best version  
international soccer never displays the ~ of clubs, players

my best  
I'm doing ~ (trying hard in difficult situation)

absolute best  
she was doing her ~ in trying circumstances

very best  
we will do our ~ to...

at best  
gamification is thoughtless ~ and diabolical at worst  
the evidence is flimsy ~

at his (electrifying) best  
he was ~ (an athlete)

at its best  
Italy was not ~ (soccer)  
the restaurant is fringe Berlin ~

brings out the best  
he ~ in his actors (a director)

doing her best  
she is ~ to...

doing my best  
I'm ~ (trying hard in difficult situation)

gets the best  
he ~ out of his players (a coach)

knows best  
father ~

♦ “It's about me feeling my best.” (Modeling clothes.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we all know how we present this. "Good, better, best," with the attendant grammar exercises. "Best" deserves better!

## best life (and best lives)

best life on Instagram  
the highlight reel of your ~

healthiest life  
live your ~ (*New York Times* subscriber-only newsletter)  
your ~ Edge-On-Hudson (condos and luxury apartments)

highlight reel of your best life  
the ~ on Instagram

*Dress Your Best Life*  
fashion psychologist Dawnn Karen, author of ~

live my best life  
I got to go and ~ playing football (Jill Scott)

live your best life  
where you can find support and information to ~ (library)

lived their best lives  
they believe women ~ before the gains of feminism

living her best life  
Miley Cyrus is ~ at the Grammys  
Natalie Portman ~ after her divorce (looks, feel great)

lives its best life  
onstage is where rap ~... (Danyel Smith)

### \*\*\* social media, popular culture...

♦ "Cause ain't no next life, so right now I'm tryna live my best life."  
(Rapper Danny Brown.)

♦ "You have a list of resolutions to start living your best life in 2023."  
(Drink less, find love, help others, quit smoking, save money, get fit, enjoy life, take a trip, find new job, lose weight, join gym...)

♦ "She is living her best life at the \$16,000-per-night presidential villa."  
(Taylor Swift in Melbourne for her Eras Tour.)

♦ "Travis Kelce is living his BEST LIFE dancing to "Look What You Made Me Do."  
(The Eras Tour in Singapore.)

♦ "Tiger Woods' ex-wife, Elin Nordegren, is living her 'dream' nearly 15 years after their split."  
(*The New York Post*.)

♦ "I'm living in my time now."

♦ "It was amazing. It was like, oh my gosh. Finally, we saw him. Finally, we know he's good. He's living his best life. He's happy. He's healthy, and it was just a relief."  
(Terrie Drewry, Auburn, California. Five years previously, her pet donkey had run off. She believes a viral video of a donkey filmed with a elk herd is hers. From "Escaped pet donkey found 'living best life' with elk" by Rachel Looker, BBC News, Washington, June 23, 2024. To paraphrase the great boxing promoter Don King, "Only in California!")

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Live Your Best Investment Life."  
(An advertisement for AllianceBernstein.)

♦ *Dear Girls: Intimate Tales, Untold Secrets and Advice for Living Your Best Life* by comedian Ali Wong.

♦ A photo shows a cute little girl in a cute pink T-shirt, on which "Live Your Best Life" is repeated in several colorful lines. Cute!

♦ Best Life Ever sticker / waterproof laminated sticker / Bible inspired sticker... / "I am so excited to make spa gifts for the sisters and this is going to make them extra special. Thanks so much!" (Etsy, \$2.50+.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "He was a patriot; he was proud of his son and he was excited to have a new daughter-in-law. He was living his best life last night... He

worked hard and he played hard." (A family member of Allen Ray McGrew, 41. From "'Showboating' South Carolina father killed after lit firework he placed on his head explodes: report" by David Propper, *The New York Post*, July 5, 2024. The victim was dressed in a stars and stripes outfit and top hat. He'd been drinking for several hours.)

♦ "Gone are the days of showing the highlight reel of your best life on Instagram. Now, it's trendy to celebrate your worst moments. What attracts eyeballs in today's social media market is tears, and content creators are incentivized to be vulnerable for views." ("How TikTok has become a dangerous breeding ground for mental disorders" by Rikki Schlott, *New York Post*, March 12, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The concept of the best life serves as a social script. Do these things in this order, and you'll end up happy or fulfilled or at the very least on par with the same kind of lives your peers are leading." (*An Ordinary Age: Finding Your Way in a World That Expects Exceptional* by Rainesford Stauffer.)

♦ "Positive affirmations encouraging you to live your best life can be found almost everywhere. / But what if you don't feel like it? For mental health advocate and author Dave Tarnowski, society's penchant to push what he calls 'toxic positivity' felt like brainwashing." ("Pushing back at a culture of relentless 'toxic positivity'" by Terry Ward, CNN, Thu May 2, 2024.)

♦ see also *positivity* (*body positivity*, etc.)

## bet (all bets are off)

all bets are off  
~ (election)

## bet (hedge one's bets)

hedging our bets  
we are ~, working with both parties (diplomacy)

## bete noire (black beast)

his (obstreperous) bete noire  
~, Major Ross...

progressive bete noire  
~ J.K. Rowling...

## betray (reveal, show)

betrayed no emotion  
he ~ while the charges against him were read

betrayed an erosion  
the recrimination ~ of confidence (Israeli raid)

betrayed a hint  
neither man ~ of anxiety

betray a (profound) ignorance  
animal rightists ~ about nature (opinion)

## betray (fail)

betrayed him  
he got clipped and his legs ~ (a boxer)

betraying him  
after so many years, his body was ~ (an athlete)

betrayed that trust  
we trusted the university with our daughter's safety, it ~

## betrayed

betrayed by (bad) leadership

he had been ~

## between (come between, etc.)

come between them and their mom

the only thing that would ~ was death (mom murdered)

## bewail (verb)

bewailed what they called

defense contractor ~ declining weapons spending

## bewitch (verb)

bewitched all

she ~ with a mesmerizing performance

\*\*\* **magic charms, a live chameleon...**

♦ "Suspected 'witch doctors' arrested over attempt to 'bewitch' Zambia's president. The pair were found with magic charms, including a live chameleon, the police say." (BBC.)

## bewitched

bewitched by her charm, intelligence, and charisma

they were all ~ (Elizabeth Holmes / Theranos)

## bewitching (adjective)

bewitching city

*Kim* is a perfect companion to a ~ (Lahore)

## Bhopal (Australia's Bhopal, etc.)

Australia's Bhopal

Wittenoom is ~ (asbestos contamination)

♦ "Something lethal has been released into the air. Without warning, Jack and his family are living through a public-health disaster. A month before the book appeared, an industrial accident in India had killed thousands of people; it seemed DeLillo had almost foretold the disaster." ("White Noise Used to Be Satire: What was once mildly absurd is now funny because it's true" by Jordan Kisner, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This usage may become extinct in our lifetime. The "industrial accident in India" referred to in the quote above was Bhopal, of course. Most elderly Americans remember the incident and the name of the city where it occurred; for them, it is an metonym, just as Chernobyl still is for a slightly younger generation. But it seems these allusions are dying.)

## bible (enthusiasm)

Bible of Boxing

*The Ring* magazine, the ~...

bibles of (backpacking) seekers

those ~ everywhere (*A Time of Gifts*, etc.)

bible of sports

ESPN used to be the video ~, now it's a woke wasteland

Hippie Bible

the hippies called it a ~ (*The Whole Earth Catalog*)

*Sound Effects Bible*

Rick Viers, author of *The ~*

♦ "The hippies called it a Hippie Bible..." (Stuart Brand, a co-founder of the *Whole Earth Catalog*. You could learn how to make guitars, fix a motorcycle, and raise goats...)

♦ "That was Luigi. We met at his house at two, with our good boots on our feet, but no backpacks, no rope (about whose use none of us had any real notion anyway; but we knew—having studied the Alpine Club guidebook—the theory of the double rope, the respective merits of hemp and manila, the technique for rescuing someone from a crevasse, and other fine points), a hundred grams of chocolate in our pockets, and (may God forgive us!) wearing shorts." ("Bear Meat" by Primo Levi. Translated from the Italian by Alessandra Bastagli.)

## Bible (authority)

Bible of (psychiatric) diagnosis

according to the ~, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual

Bible of the (social-media) movement

the ~ is Clay Shirky's "Here Comes Everybody"

bible of psychiatry

the DSM—the ~ (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual)

bible for educators

the text became a ~ (*The Uses of the University*)

psychiatrists' bible

the ~, DSM...

fashion bible

*Vogue's* rise to dominance as the world's ~

show bible

a writer's room to produce a pilot and a "..."

*Vagina Bible*

the ~ by gynecologist Jen Gunter

so-called bible

the DSM, the ~ of psychiatry...

psychiatric bible

the DSM is the ~ for mental disorders

♦ "I'm a big believer that the script is your bible, and the script and a good one tells you everything that you need to know. And I just committed to the script..." (The actor Ray Liotta speaking to Fresh Air's Terry Gross about the film *Goodfellas*.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The DSM is the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

## bible (hand on the bible, etc.)

hand on a Bible

~, but you must come clean with me...

## big (as noun)

do big

we don't just think big, we ~ (an Amazon advertisement)

## big (as adverb)

go big

see go big (verb)

love big

we're gonna ~, like she did (dead in school shooting)

loved big

he ~, he was an exceptional boy (a murdered teen)

## big (go big)

see *go big* (verb)

## big (big love, etc.)

big congratulations

~ to Liam (boxer Chris Eubank, Jr.)

*Big Friendship*

~: *How We Keep Each Other Close* (by Ann Friedman)

big love

~ to the community, you're all incredible (an influencer)

big praise

~ to the referee to step in (and stop boxing match)

big respect

it gave me a ~ for food (wartime privation)

~ to you, your team... (Chris Eubank Sr to Liam Smith)

big thanks

~ to hosts Aza & Aubrey (Drunken Monkey Pub Crawl)

♦ "She signed off 'Big huge love.'" (The Irish actor Jessie Buckley to the writer Jordan Kisner. Kisner characterized the signoff as a "spirit of abundance." From "Monster Talent: In role after indelible role, Jessie Buckley is exploring the darkest corners of human nature" by Jordan Kisner, photograph by Jennifer Cheng, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 4, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Language to express the size / intensity of emotions in a "spirit of abundance..."

♦ see also *abundance* (groups), *hard* (love hard, go hard, etc.)

♦ see also *enormously* (exciting, etc.), *great* (great hatred, etc.), *huge* (huge gratitude, etc.), *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing)

## big (big fan, etc.)

big crossword guy

my stat teacher was like a ~

## big (big boy)

see *big boy* (person)

## big (significance)

big decision

my first ~ turned out to be one of my best (politics)

big fight

we want a ~, a marquee fight (Eddie "Who else" Hearns)

big name

see *big* (*big name*, etc.)

Big One

see *Big One* (*earthquake*, etc.)

big questions

even when the plan is published, there will be ~...

biggest terrorists

he's one of the ~ (Yahya Sinwar / killed)

so big

I knew this was huge, this was ~ (photojournalist)

## big (big name, etc.)

big names

some ~ have not made official announcements yet  
a who's who of ~ were present (at Aretha's funeral)

big names from the world of boxing

we have asked ~ for their opinions (about a boxing match)

big enough name

he was still a ~ that his latest book sold well, but...

## Big (comprehension, scope)

Big data

~ is a field that treats way to analyze... (Wikipedia)

Big Data

the dangers of the ~ revolution (Cathy O'Neil's book)

Big History

~ has long been out of favor in academic circles  
the glib tendentiousness of ~

big-idea

both have written ~ books (Naomi Klein, Naomi Wolf)

Big Physics

"~ and New Ideas" by Melvyn J. Shochet (*Science*, 1993)

Big science

~ (see the Wikipedia article)

deep ecology

books about ~

♦ Big History; "all-encompassing explanatory histories"; "high-wrought" theory; grand narratives; popular history (Jared Diamond, etc.); the standard textbook version... ("Free For All: Is it time to rethink everything we've been taught about the origins of 'civilization'?" by Gideon Lewis-Kraus, *The New Yorker*, November 8, 2021.)

♦ "Now, today, science is all about the Big, we've taken the low-hanging fruit, and the facilities that chase the big questions now are themselves very very big indeed..." (The great BBC science correspondent Jonathan Amos about the Square Kilometre Array / SKA. It will be made up of two giant radio astronomy observatories in Australia and South Africa. In addition, it will utilize enormous computing power.)

## big bang ("Big Bang" of country music, etc.)

big bang

the ~ had been the surprise hit, "Tom Dooley" (folk)

big bang of the beginning

the ~ of country music is supposed to be in 1927

Big Bang reforms

what they call the ~ of 1986 (City of London / finance)

Big Bang of Black Twitter

and that was sort of the ~ ("you know you're black when")

legislative "big bang"

it is a ~ on par with the creation of the euro ("Fit For 55")

“Big Bang” of country music  
the sessions at Bristol became known as the ~

♦ The “Big Bang” of country music was 1927. That’s the year of the Bristol sessions when both the Carter family and Jimmie Rodgers recorded in Bristol, Tennessee. The rest is history.

♦ “The Big Bang had been the Kingston Trio’s 1958 surprise #1 hit, ‘Tom Dooley...’” (The 1960s mainstream ascendance of folk music. From the wonderful *Girls Like Us* by Sheila Weller.)

♦ “I think we were all sort of siloed in these sort of individual communities, like, like HBCU Twitter, or NBA Twitter and it really was when ‘you know you’re Black when’ was a hashtag and that sort of blew up across the timeline... ‘You know you’re Black when you don’t go outside when it’s raining’... and then everyone hopped on that thread, and that was sort of the Big Bang of Black Twitter.” (Prentice Penny on MSNBC.)

## big bang (in a big bang)

go out in a big bang  
he wanted ~ (suicide)

## big boy (person)

big boy  
he’s a ~, he knows what he said...

big boy’s club  
the whole situation is like a ~ (Megan Thee Stallion)

big boy pants  
see *big boy pants*

big-boy pants  
see *big boy pants*

big boy (press) conference  
his aides had promoted it as a “~” (Joe Biden)

really big boys  
they haven’t played against the ~ yet (Italian soccer)

♦ “Woah, whoa Anthony, he’s a big boy, he knows what he said, what’d ‘ya say, funny how...” (A tense moment in the film *Goodfellas*.)

♦ “Arsenal can thank their lucky stars it was only 4. It could have been eight. Men against boys.” (Manchester City 4-1 Arsenal.)

♦ At Joe Biden’s press conference, which his aides touted as a “big-boy conference,” Biden referred to his vice-president—Kamala Harris—as Donald Trump. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Hey, I’m a big boy, it’s no big deal, whatever, I’m fine...” (Disappointment.)

## big boy pants

put on the big boy pants  
he needs to ~ and act as commander in chief

put on our big boy pants  
we ~ and get on with it (Robert Page / Welsh soccer)

put his big-boy pants on  
the president needs to ~ and acknowledge that he lost

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is often used as a taunt.

♦ “Need to” often collocates with this expression.

♦ see also *grow up* (*grow up!* etc.)

## big brother (relationship)

Instagram’s big brother  
he came from ~, Facebook (Mosseri)

role of the big brother  
he was playing the ~ (making things better for athletes)

calls Taiwan its “big brother”  
Somaliland ~ (mutual diplomatic recognition)

thought of him as a big brother  
his players ~, he took an interest in their off-field lives

\*\*\* “Sorry I wasn’t there to watch your back...”

♦ “Sorry I wasn’t there to watch your back like a big brother’s supposed to.” (Chris Eubank Jnr’s tweet on the tragic death of Sebastian, the third-eldest child of the great boxer Chris Eubank.)

## Big Brother (oppression)

Big Brother intrusion  
why cave in to such a ~ on your privacy

♦ “The Ministry of Truth is Facebook, Google, and cable news. We have met Big Brother and he is us.” (“Doublethink Is Stronger Than Orwell Imagined: What 1984 means today” by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, July 2019.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Doublethink; memory hole; unperson; thoughtcrime; Newspeak; Thought Police; Room 101; Big Brother; the Ministry of Truth... (Language from *1984* by George Orwell that is a part of our language.)

## big daddy (authority)

big daddy  
people say China is the “~” and will soon “own”  
Myanmar

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This phrase and its meaning is recognized by Merriam-Webster.

♦ Big Daddy is a character in Tennessee Williams’ *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

♦ He’ll take care of you; efficient and effective; a father figure; father-like; autocratic; patriarchal; capable of instilling fear; of showing wrath and compassion; loved and loathed; angry; powerful... (A political pundit about a country’s leader.)

## big girl

big-girl major  
I need to have a ~, I’ll become a scientist...

big-girl pants  
see *big girl pants*

## big girl pants

put your big-girl pants on  
you need to ~ and deal with it

♦ “You need to put your big-girl pants on and deal with it, pull them up and get out there and show them what you got...”

♦ “The pantsuit is now 0 and 2 in presidential elections.” (The columnist Kirsten Fleming.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is often used as a taunt.

♦ “Need to” often collocates with this expression.

♦ see also *grow up* (*grow up!* etc.)



## big gun (and heavy gun)

### big gun

they didn't have their ~s tonight (injured players)  
he has brought in another ~ to help in his Senate bid

### heavy guns

he is bringing out his ~ (wife and family / scandal)

### spiked their guns

Spallanzani had ~ with a simple fact (science dispute)

♦ "When you wheel out your biggest gun to take down the incumbent president, it frees Biden to be a lot more positive tonight." (Political strategist Paul Begala, speaking about Obama's direct criticism of Trump at the 2020 Democratic Convention.)

♦ "There is a sense from a lot of people watching Euro 2024 that the big guns have not fired, that the star players have not sparkled, and the top teams have underwhelmed." ("Why football at Euros is different to what we're used to" by Nedum Onuoha, BBC, 3 July 2024.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Big guns" refer to artillery, the King of Battle. Artillerymen have been traditionally referred to as Redlegs. They tend to be hard of hearing.

♦ "The Turks have 12-inch guns at Aqaba, Sir. Can you imagine what that means?" (*Lawrence of Arabia*, the 1962 film.)

♦ "The Japanese are now nearing the halfway mark from Shanghai and we have already heard the rumble of big guns... / I am writing this to the tune of big guns just outside of the city. Japanese advance guards have reached the walls in several places..." (From the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*.)

♦ "This is the battle for Tumbledown Mountain, with the Scots Guards and the Gurkhas going in on Monday morning in the early hours. The big guns have been talking to each other, and now it's the troops on the ground who are moving in." (A BBC reporter covering the 1982 Falklands War.)

## bighearted (and big-hearted)

### big-hearted personality

he was known for his ~

### bighearted, (supremely) patient man

he was a ~ (speech therapist)

## big league (and big leagues)

### big-league hotel

it's a ~ with a celebrity chef

### big-league philanthropy

~ has its critics (Gates, Buffet, Zuckerberg, etc.)

### big-league politician

he's a ~

### drafted into the big leagues

many internet celebrities may never be ~ (stardom)

## Big One (earthquake, etc.)

### The Big One

so the next eruption could be ~ (Mount Fuji)

♦ 2009, 2004, 1998, 1983, 1974, and the Big One in 1969... (Years for legendary surf on the North Shore of Oahu.)

## big shot (person)

### big-shot (Hollywood) director

he's a ~

### children of big shots

~ and university admissions

### protozoological big shots

before he was thirty Schaudinn was one of the ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The linguist John McWhorter has interesting things to say about this word (as always), including the way we pronounce it. "[I]n one of those snappy, naughty little pre-Production Code movies (*Skyscraper Souls*, 1932), someone disparages someone else for wanting be a 'big SHOT,' not a 'BIG shot.' The expression was newer then—someone at the time was still referring, on some level, to an actual shot in the sense of a gunshot or cannon shot. Note that we today would rarely even think of big shot as referring to a shot..." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 5, "Lexical Springtime: Words Mate and Reproduce," subsection "The Backshift in Real Life.")

♦ McWhorter's point "that we today would rarely even think of big shot as referring to a shot" is well taken. Of course, one goal of *this* work is to *recover* the meanings of clichés, particularly military ones. Why would we *not* want to know the etymology of words and expressions and use them in an intelligent and considered way?

## big sister (relationship)

### big sister

I was like a mother hen to them, I was like ~  
(skateboarder)

### big sister to young rockers

Judy Collins was a kind of ~ (place to crash, etc.)

## big up (as verb)

### big his career up

he's just trying to ~

### big himself up

he's just trying to ~ by using someone else's grief

### big yourself up

do you really need to ~ by...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The online Merriam-Webster site lists "big-up" as a transitive verb and dates its first use to 1943.

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## bigwig (person)

### show's bigwigs

the ~ wanted me, so... (Chevy Chase about *Community*)

### social media bigwigs

the ~ were grilled... (Senate hearing)

### these three bigwigs

DreamWorks was founded by ~...

### psychiatric bigwigs

the ~ of Europe...

♦ "DreamWorks was founded in 1994 by Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenbach and David Geffen, these three bigwigs..."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Even today we occasionally speak of a person who ranks himself over-importantly as a bigwig. In the England of the 18th century a

man of distinction was spotted by his large, powdered wig... In our times a bigwig is more apt to be a stuffed shirt." (*Word Origins And their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## bilge (noun)

bilge

he has lost credibility for writing that ~

\*\*\* **Indeed the hold was a disgusting, odiferous place...**

♦ "Indeed the hold was a disgusting, odiferous place... It reeked of salted fish, spoiling stores, and stagnant bilge water. This revolting perfume grew more wretched during bad weather..." (*The Last Voyage of Columbus* by Martin Dugard.)

♦ "[In periods of bad weather] the *Batavia's* pumps simply brought up filth and water from the bilges, 'fuming like hell and reeking like the devil' as one contemporary put it... When the stern of the *Batavia* was salvaged in the 1970s, archaeologists discovered large quantities of a black, phosphate-rich substance inside the hull. Analysis revealed the presence of gristle and cereal husks, suggesting the black mass was a layer of human feces deposited in what had probably been the bilges..." (*Batavia's Graveyard* by Mike Dash. A Dutch East India Company (VOC) ship circa 1628.)

## bill (butcher's bill, etc.)

"butcher's bill"

the Duke of Wellington used to call it the ~ (casualties)

butcher's bill to be paid

there's a ~, and it accrues to bin Laden (embassy bombings)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "At the beginning of the Battle of the Somme, on July 1, 1916, the British Army suffered 60,000 dead and wounded—in one day. It was arguably the worst butcher's bill in military history." ("Why World War I Resonates," by William Boyd, *The New York Times*, Jan. 21, 2012. By contrast, the Battle of Shiloh, the bloodiest battle of the Civil War up to that time, resulted in 23,000 casualties in two days and shocked the nation.)

♦ "Everyone was stunned by the scale of carnage at Shiloh (in spring of 1862 in southwestern Tennessee), which posted a new benchmark for mass slaughter. Deeming it the war's bloodiest battle, Grant commented 'that the Fort Donelson fight was, as compared to this, as the morning dew to a heavy rain.' Men who survived it could never scrub its harrowing imagery from their memories. Americans found it hard to comprehend the dimensions of the losses, which were beyond any historical precedent. Of more than one hundred thousand soldiers who pitched into the fray, twenty-four thousand had been killed or wounded [or captured or were missing]—a casualty count dwarfing that of the battle of Waterloo. Shiloh's casualties eclipsed the total of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War combined. William Hillyer conveyed the spreading tableau of death that greeted him and Grant: 'For miles and miles wherever we rode we found dead bodies scattered through the woods in all directions.' As Grant wrote memorably, 'I saw an open field...so covered with dead that it would have been possible to walk across the clearing, in any direction, stepping on dead bodies, without a foot touching the ground.' / Shiloh peeled away any lingering aura of romance from the war, showing the sheer destructive power of modern combat. An array of technical advances, such as the conical minie ball that ripped through flesh and bone or rifled muskets and cannon that displayed greater accuracy and range, ensured bloodier battles than ever before. No less hardy a soul than Sherman remarked that the corpse-littered battlefield 'would have cured anybody of war.' Combat had been pushed to extremes of cruelty that banished any remnant of civilized behavior. 'Men lost their semblance of humanity,' wrote a reporter, 'and the spirit of the demon shone in [the soldiers'] faces. There was but one desire, and that was to destroy.'" (*Grant* by the brilliant biographer Ron Chernow. The death toll would be eclipsed in later Civil War battles. As with most wars, the human carnage made it impossible for either side to negotiate a settlement.)

♦ William Tecumseh Sherman: Well, Grant, we've had the devil's own day, haven't we? / Ulysses S. Grant: Yes. Lick 'em tomorrow though.

(The night of the first day of the Battle of Shiloh. From *Grant* by Ron Chernow.)

♦ "An army's bravest men are its cowards. The death which they would not meet at the hands of the enemy they will meet at the hands of their officers, with never a flinching." ("What I saw of Shiloh" by Ambrose Bierce. Union soldiers executed for cowardice.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "The Gulf War was 30 years ago and we're still there messing around. I don't know what the answer is but the people who profit sure aren't paying the bills." (Kbbp11, March 3, 2021, about the rocket attack on al-Asad airbase, March 3, 2021.)

♦ "There are bills that I can't pay." (Listen to: Toby Keith—American Soldier (Radio Edit))

## billboard (noun)

billboard for what

Walmart is a ~ employment practices should be

## Bill Gates (Britain's Bill Gates, etc.)

known as "Britain's Bill Gates"

Lynch, once ~... (tech tycoon Mike Lynch)

## bill of health (clean bill of health)

clean bill of health

the bank was given a ~ (by auditors)

gives them a clean bill of health

the E.P.A. still ~ (chemicals in tap water)

give investments a clean bill of health

analysts felt pressured to ~ or lose business

received a clean bill of health

the reservoir ~ from inspectors (prior to collapse)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This phrase probably relates to ships in foreign ports. Such ships would be in quarantine until port officials determined that the crew was not carrying an infectious disease.

## billy club

psychological billy club

it's a ~ to coerce a person (lie-detector test)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ Wikipedia redirects "billy club" to the Wikipedia article "Baton (law enforcement). According to that article, "Batons are legal for sworn law enforcement and military in most countries around the world."

## bind (in a bind)

leaving cities in a bind

a police shortage is ~

put it in a bind

Pakistan's support for militants has ~

## bind (constraint)

double bind

too sweet or too shrill, the ~ for women

the magazine found itself in an agonizing ~ (religion)

♦ "Our expectations of a good woman and a good leader are at odds... (The linguist Deborah Tannen, speaking about Hillary Clinton. If women fulfill our expectations of a person in authority, then they're respected but they're not liked. If they fulfill our expectations of a woman, they're liked but they're underestimated.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “A double bind is a situation where you have two requirements you must fulfill. But anything you do to fulfill one actually violates the other.”

## bind (constrain)

bind her

she questions the traditions that ~

## bind (connect)

bind

the ties that ~

bind the characters

the ties that ~ gradually become clear

binds us to where

making wine ~ we are (California)

build and bind

book clubs can help ~ communities

## binding (adjective)

binding changes

there are these legally ~ from Brussels (Brexit)

non-binding referendum

Puerto Rico voted for US statehood in a ~

ironclad, waterproof, bulletproof, (legally) binding

we need ~ guarantees (Sergey Ryabkov / diplomacy)

## binge (on a binge)

on a building binge

China has been ~ for decades (infrastructure)

gone on a (hiring) binge

the company has ~

## binge (other)

binge

the ~ is over (spending by elected officials)

the ~ was epic and so is the hangover (housing market)

binge of (skate-park) construction

the city continued the ~ (NYC)

binge flying

London seeks to curb “~” (airport expansions)

binge economy

it was a ~ (the 1980s)

gone on a (spending) binge

the Democrats have ~

## biography (non-human, etc.)

*Biography of a Global City*

*Shanghai Nightscapes: A Nocturnal ~*

*Biography of George Orwell's 1984*

*The Ministry of Truth: The ~* (by Dorian Lynskey)

*Biography of a Poem*

*The Waste Land: A ~* (by Matthew Hollis)

“biography of the grain”

*Amber Waves* presents itself as a ~ (Catherine Zabinski)

biography of a movie

his book is, essentially, the ~ (*Shooting 'Midnight Cowboy'*)

*Biography of a Poem*

*The Waste Land: A ~* (the book by Matthew Hollis)

*Tree Biography*

trees featured in *The Great British ~* (Mark Hooper)

♦ “The human relationship with wheat is the subject of Catherine Zabinski's short book *Amber Waves*, which presents itself as a 'biography' of the grain, although she reminds us on page three that 'wheat isn't a person' in case we were liable to be confused.” (Flour Fixated” by Bee Wilson, *London Review of Books*, 24 September 2020.)

♦ *A Biography of Loneliness: The History of An Emotion* by Fay Bound Alberti, 2019. (According to the author, the word loneliness was “negligible” before 1800. That's interesting!)

♦ “And the teacher also was prompted to share her own math biography with the students as kind of an example...” (U.S. pedagogy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

## biopsy (analysis)

biopsy that

one way you could kind of ~ or look at it... (a subject)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, people simply analyzed the results. Nowadays, people autopsy, biopsy, dissect, vivisection, or hold a post mortem. Take your pick!

## bird (early bird)

early bird

see *early bird* (person)

## bird (rare bird)

rare bird

*Fallen Leaves* is a ~ (the 2023 Finnish film)

♦ “*Fallen Leaves* is a rare bird, a refined art movie that's also a crowd pleaser.” (The 2023 Finnish film *Fallen Leaves* by the director Aki Kaurismaki.)

## bird-dog (verb)

bird-dogged him

we ~ at press conferences (Chicago protester / mayor)

## birds and the bees

talk about the birds and the bees

I finally had that ~ with my son

know about the birds and the bees

does she ~

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Two millennial (or Zoomer) parents are standing at the open door of their son's bedroom. Inside the room, their son is on his bed, raptly glued to his cell phone, with a slight smile on his face. The mother is saying to her husband, “I think it

might be time to text him the Talk." (*The New Yorker*, September 19, 2022. Glenn Nissan.)

## bird's-eye (bird's-eye view)

bird's-eye view of the battlefield  
drones give commanders a ~

bird's-eye view from a plane  
you get a ~

♦ "Ten years later he likened his own position as minister to riding 'comfortably on an elephant, whose trunk could pick up a pin or uproot a tree with equal ease, and from whose back a wide scene lay open.'" (Winston Churchill, Minister of Munitions of War in 1917. From *Churchill: Walking With Destiny* by Andrew Roberts.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This has morphed to "helicopter view," a "3,000-foot perspective," "the 30,000-foot level," "the 40,000-foot level," and "maybe you have to look at things from 20 billion miles up to get this kind of perspective."

## bird (birds of a feather)

birds-of-a-feather analysis  
~ would indicate that he is a good bet (algorithms)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Birds of a feather flock together.

## birth (create)

birth Android and CashApp  
he helped to ~ into our world (Bob Lee)

## birth (creation)

birth of Pakistan  
since the ~ in 1947

movement's birth  
the city of their ~ (Kandahar / Taliban)

nation's birth  
Sunnis have dominated politics since the ~ in 1920 (Iraq)

given birth  
Atlanta has ~ to a new generation of rappers (US)

## birthday (creation)

France's birthday  
July 14 is ~

100th birthday  
the big guy is celebrating his ~ (statue of Vulcan / AL)

175th birthday  
the institution's ~ (the Smithsonian Institution)

celebrate its 300th birthday  
as Old North Church prepares to ~ (Boston)

♦ "It's Alexa's birthday!" (Yahoo Life Shopping. Alexa is Amazon's voice service.)

♦ "*White Noise* was originally published against the backdrop of the Cold War... It turned 10 as the AIDS epidemic in the U.S. began to wane, as personal computers began appearing in American homes... It turned 20 as the War on Terror was truly getting under way. It is turning 38 as it becomes a movie that will be available for streaming via Netflix..." ("White Noise Used to Be Satire: What was once mildly absurd is now funny because it's true" by Jordan Kisner, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023.)

♦ "Her infectious megahit "All I Want for Christmas Is You" turned thirty in October. (Mariah Carey.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

♦ see also *anniversary (creation)*, old (a year old, etc.)

## birthed (created)

birthed in the mid to early 2000's  
the movement was most likely ~ by two men (MGTOW)

## birthplace (the birthplace of democracy, etc.)

birthplace of democracy  
Greece, the ~

birthplace of the Ganges  
the Uttarakhand region, the ~ and its major tributaries

birthplace of Islam  
Saudi Arabia, the ~

birthplace of humanity  
Africa is the ~

birthplace of country music  
Bristol, Tennessee has been called the ~ (1927)

birthplace of Chinese maritime shipbuilding  
the Pagoda Anchorage has been called the "~" (Mawei)

birthplace of (extreme) skiing  
the Tuckerman Ravine is known as the "~ in the US" (NH)

birthplace of the French tacos  
it is among several contenders for the ~ (Vaulx-en-Velin)

### \*\*\* Uttarakhand...

♦ Uttarakhand has forests, glaciers, and water springs. (The Indian state that is the birthplace of the Ganges River.)

## birthright (noun)

lifeblood and birthright  
pumping oil and gas is considered both a ~ (Texas)

## bit (champ at the bit)

champing at the bit to start  
he was ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Many people say, "Chomping at the bit." An eggcorn?

♦ Type "chomp at the bit" at NPR and you get 59 results, including "Chew On This: Is It Chomping Or Champing?" by Mark Memmott, NPR, Editorial Guidance, June 9, 2016.

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

## bit (bit between its teeth)

get the bit between his teeth  
Whyte will ~ (Dillian Whyte / boxing)

got the bit between his teeth alright  
he's ~ (T.E. Lawrence and Damascus / the film)

## bite (resemblance)

biting  
inflation is soaring, and living costs are ~ (economy)

bit into him  
the lash ~again and again (*Call of the Wild*)

bit into her neck  
the cord ~

began to bite  
as the cold of November ~ (Stalingrad / W.W. II)

## bite (bite him in the end, etc.)

bite him in the end  
this might turn around to ~ (leader unleashes nationalism)

## biting (adjective)

biting cold  
once the ~ arrives

biting (social) critic  
he was a ~

biting sanctions  
these are the most ~ every imposed

♦ see also *gnawing* (*gnawing doubt, etc.*), *grinding* (*grinding poverty, etc.*), *pinching* (*adjective*), *stabbing* (*stabbing pain, etc.*)

## bitten (enthusiasm)

bitten by the bug  
and so I really got ~ (acting, in high school)

bitten by the action bug  
as a boy, he was ~

bitten by the cycling bug  
as a youth he played soccer before he was ~

## bitter (person)

bitter  
he isn't ~, just wiser

bitter (Liverpool) fans  
Congratulations, MC, lots of ~ on here today (BBC HYS)

bitter, angry and hostile  
he was ~ (sick man with undiagnosed illness)

angry, bitter  
I've talked to amputees that went through a real ~ stage

became bitter  
he ~ to the point of suicidal (soldier back from Iraq)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we all know how we teach this. As a set: sweet / sour / salty / bitter, that relates to the taste of food. We seldom mention that all four of those adjectives can relate to character and personality and commonly do.

♦ Don't be bitter, be better!

## bitter (bitter weather, etc.)

bitter cold  
they escaped into the ~ (house fire in winter)

bitter winds  
~ from Manchuria

bitter (Balkan) winter  
the ~

## bitter (a bitter blow, etc.)

bitter battles  
she resigned last June after four years of ~ (university)

bitter blow  
the defeat was a ~ for Serbia and Montenegro (soccer)

bitter (political) climate  
the increasingly ~ ahead of elections next summer

bitter (international) controversy  
despite the ~ (oil project)

bitter disappointment  
he proved to be a ~ (a judge)  
but a ~ awaited us... (expedition)

bitter dispute  
they are locked in a ~ over Kashmir

bitter end  
she maintained her innocence to the ~  
it's a ~ to a pioneering, powerful career (prison)

bitter enemies  
Ethiopia and Eritrea, ~... (fighting proxy war in Somalia)

bitter fact  
car-jacking is a ~ of life

bitter feelings  
Iranians have ~ towards Saddam Hussein

bitter irony  
in a ~, female military personnel guard captured Taliban

bitter memories  
helped erase ~ of the 1994 players strike (baseball)

bitter negotiations  
flight attendants are engaged in ~ with the company

bitter (late-night) negotiations  
after ~

bitter (family power) struggle  
he is kept on the throne because of a ~

bitter taste  
the ~ of regret (bad decisions)

bitter truth  
one of the ~s of the war in Ukraine is that...

bitter and long-running  
the bloody culmination of a ~ feud (cop / citizen)

long and bitter

a ~ family feud over the estate of Jimi Hendrix

♦ "Remember the Democrats' sweet taste of victory? Well, for Republicans, it's been bitter, and they want to spit it out." (NPR's elite political punditry.)

## bittersweet (adjective)

bittersweet

the recognition was ~ (combat soldier who survived)

the victory was ~

## black (Black Sea, etc.)

Black Bay

~ is a swamp in Columbus County, North Carolina

Black Bayou

~ is a stream in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana

Black Bluffs

the ~ are cliffs in Chouteau County, Montana

Black Canyon

~ is a valley in Yavapai County, Arizona

Black Island

~ is an island in Penobscot County, Maine

Black Mesa

~ is a summit in Mohave County, Arizona

Black Mountain

~ is a summit in Otero County, New Mexico

Black Sea

Turkey has coast on the ~

Black Volta

the ~ is a tributary of the Volta River

♦ The White Volta's main tributaries are the Black Volta and the Red Volta.

♦ The Black Mountains in North Carolina are part of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Mount Mitchell, the tallest peak east of the Mississippi, is one of the peaks in the Black Mountains. According to the Wikipedia article "Black Mountains (North Carolina)," "The range takes its name from the dark appearance of the red spruce and Fraser fir trees that form a spruce-fir forest on the upper slopes which contrasts with the brown (during winter) or lighter green (during the growing season) appearance of the deciduous trees at lower elevations." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## black (warning)

black diamond

only expert skiers should try a double ~ trail

black flag

don't swim or boat if you see a ~ at the beach

black (rainstorm) warning

it was the city's first ~ this year (Hong Kong)

♦ "Hong Kong has three levels of rainstorm warning, with black being the highest. The second highest is red. The third highest is amber."

## black (feeling)

black depression

he fell into a ~

black dog

see *dog* (*black dog* / *mental health*)

black mood

still the ~ clung to Scott

♦ Amy Winehouse - Back to Black - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJAfLE39ZZ8>

## black (covert)

*Black Ops*

she is the author of ~ *Advertising*

"black" operations

~ are typically covert and sometimes illegal

black sites

he had been tortured in the CIA's archipelago of ~

## black (black day, etc.)

black day

it was a ~ for democracy (Zimbabwe)

his resignation was a ~ for British diplomacy

401 jobs slashed on ~ for Fife (*the Courier*)

Black Friday

~, 1929, when the New York stock market crashed...

Black Monday

~ brought down the curtain on the yuppie era (1987)

Black Summer

Australia's ~ (2019-2020 bushfire season)

Black Sunday

the ~ dust storm of April 14, 1935 (US)

Black Thursday

the Second Schweinfurt Raid, the USAAF's ~ (Oct, '43)

## black (while black, female, brown, Muslim, etc.)

Skittish while Muslim

"Running while brown. ~" (NPR. Code Switch.)

Spoken Up While Female

I have persistently SUWF—aka ~ (Erin Overbey vs. NYer)

play classical music while Black

what it can look like to ~ (NPR)

being royal while black

~ (the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan / NPR)

being transgender in public

a definition of Drag that means ~

being watched while black

the play is about ~ (*Fairview*)

Birding While Black

~ (Jason Ward / Christian Cooper / NPR)

*Birding While Indian*



~: *A Mixed-Blood Memoir* (by Thomas C. Gannon / 2023)

‘Canvassing While Black’  
the ~ incident (Janelle Bynum, Oregon representative)

coping while black  
~ (race-based trauma)

“Driving While Black”  
the new PBS documentary, ~ (history)

driving while Black  
~ is still a crime in Louisiana (Eugene W. Collins)

DWB (driving while black)  
an episode of Law & Order titled “~” (Oct. 7, 1998)

*Driving While Brown*  
~ by Jude Joffe-Block

existing while black  
the challenges of ~ (NPR)

Farming While Black  
she details her experiences in her new book, ~ (NPR)

Geocaching While Black  
he writes about encountering racism on his blog, ~ (NPR)

having mental crises while Black  
they’ve been killed ~ (Kimberle Crenshaw)

living while black  
what it’s like ~, in Japan (NPR)  
getting a citation for ~ (King Anyi Howell / NPR)  
claims police are called on people for simply ~

PWI-ing While Black  
~ was created for the NPR Student Podcast Challenge

rappin’ while Black  
~ will definitely land you in the surveillance line-up

Reporting While Brown  
“~ in The Summer of Trump” (Gene Denby)

Rowing While Black  
“A Most Beautiful Thing: ~” (NPR)

running while black  
he was 25 years old, and ~ (Ahmaud Arbery / NPR)

“running while black”  
there has been a lot more conversation about ~ (Arbery)

Running while brown.  
“~. Skittish while Muslim.” (NPR Code Switch)

sleeping while black  
Breonna Taylor was ~

Talking While Female  
“~” (Narrated by NPR’s Selena Simmons-Duffin.)

*Traveling While Black*  
her new book, ~ (Nanjala Nyabola / NPR)

*walkin’ while Black*

~ was likely to get you stopped and frisked (NYC)

walking while Trans  
you know, there’s the phenomenon of ~ where...

Watering flowers while Black  
“~: A pastor shares his story of wrongful arrest” (NPR)

*Living and Dying While Black*  
*The Beast Side: ~in America* (by D. Watkins)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “You can’t walk while black. With Ahmaud you can’t jog while black... Driving while black. But Breonna Taylor was sleeping while black in the sanctity of her own home.” (Civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump.)

♦ “Black women have been killed in many of the same circumstances as their brothers, fathers and sons. They’ve been killed driving while Black, being in their homes while Black, having mental crises while Black.” (Kimberle Crenshaw.)

♦ DWB (driving while black); LWB (living while black)... (Text.)

♦ “Watering while Black: anatomy of a pastor’s Alabama arrest” by Jay Reeves, AP, September 1, 2022. The story (and its headline) was carried by such national news outlets as abc news, msn.com, usatoday, yahoo, NPR, latimes, etc. According to the AP site, “Reeves is a member of AP’s Race and Ethnicity Team.” NPR ran its own brief story, “Watering flowers while Black: A pastor shares his story of wrongful arrest” with Jonathan Franklin, September 1, 2022. You be the judge.

♦ “She’s in jail *because she talked in America* [italics mine]. She’s a dark-skinned Black woman who is unapologetically Black and radical.” (Sybil Dione Rosado, attorney for Brittany Martin, found guilty of breaching the peace in a high and aggravated manner in South Carolina.)

♦ “You know, there’s the phenomenon of *walking while trans* [italics mine] where specifically like Trans women of color while just existing oftentimes get the police called on them just for like being Trans.”

♦ “A year ago today, [the Palestinian-American journalist] was killed *while doing her job* [italics mine]...reporting in the West Bank.”

♦ “Outside lay the body of a man killed for *being in his home* [italics mine].” (An ABC report on Ukraine-Russia War.)

♦ “Women speak out about safety *while running* [italics mine] after abduction and murder of Memphis jogger.” (The jogger Eliza Fletcher in Memphis in 2022.)

♦ “WE ARE SICK & TIRED OF HAVING TO WATCH OUT FOR MEN *JUST BECAUSE WE BREATHE* [italics mine].” (A comment on the murder of the jogger Eliza Fletcher in Memphis in 2022.)

\*\*\* less polemical, politicized expression

♦ “Like the murder of Sarah Everard in the UK last year, [the murder of Ashling Murphy] has reignited the debate about safety of women as they *go about their everyday business* [italics mine].” (“Ashling Murphy: Irish police arrest man on suspicion of teacher’s murder” by Lisa O’Carroll, *The Guardian*, 18 Jan 2022.)

♦ “She said she hopes the city will do more to make sure residents are safe just *walking down a street* [italics mine].” (“Another NYC woman sucker-punched on street in attack that left her with broken jaw” by Yaron Steinbuch, *The New York Post*, March 29, 2024. Franz Jeudy, 33, her attacker, was arrested and released without bail. Skiboky Stora has also been arrested for randomly harassing and punching women. Mallik Miah was arrested for punching Mikayla Toninato.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Google Ngram, “while Black” become popular in 2019.

♦ Type in “while black” at NPR search and you will get 222 results (and counting) including, “‘The Violin Conspiracy’ shows what it can be like to play classical music while Black” by Asma Khalid, Gus Contreras, and Patrick Jarenwattananon.

♦ See the Wikipedia article “List of people killed while running.” According to the article, “This list includes people that were murdered while running for exercise.” Laken Riley, the nursing student

murdered in 2024, is on the list. Eliza Fletcher, murdered in Memphis in 2022, is on the list. So is Mollie Tibbets, murdered in Brooklyn, Iowa, in 2018. And Karina Vetrano, murdered in Queens, New York City, in 2016.

## blackball (verb)

blackball him

he has accused teams of colluding to ~ (an athlete)

## blackballed

blackballed by league owners

the truth is he was ~ (NFL player Colin Kaepernick)

get you blackballed

right-of-center views will ~ (in U.S. academia)

## black belt (person)

black belt adversaries

our ~ (FBI Director Chris Wray about threats)

bureaucratic black belt

he was a skilled infighter, a ~ (State Department)

♦ "At the moment, where [AI] is most dangerous, is taking what I would call a kind of JV criminal actors or foreign actors and making them varsity level. What I'm more concerned about is the day which is coming fast where AI is going to be good enough to take the sort of black belt adversaries and make them that much more effective." (FBI Director Chris Wray.)

## black box (noun)

black box

the military is a ~, you never know what's going on

~s whose inner workings are mysterious (brains)

it's really a ~ (human embryo research vs. rats, mice)

the FCC is a ~, they don't tell you what they are doing

big black box

it's the ~ we're going to try and look into (investigation)

♦ "We don't understand how the algorithm is being used or how it's devised either. The term that people keep coming back to is a black box." (David Folkenflik about the "trending news" people get on Facebook.)

## black eye

black eye for Rupert Murdoch

what a ~ (scandal)

black eye for the sport

when judges cheat, it's a ~ (Olympic figure skating)

brought a black eye to the sport

they have ~ (swim coaches photograph nude girls)

puts a black eye on the sport

it really ~ (cyclist admits to doping)

take a black eye for this

I don't think Cleveland will ~ (fan riot)

gives us (all) a black eye

it ~ (hunter on hunter who shot a tame deer)

## black hat (bad)

white hat-black hat

they have this ~ mentality (social groups)

## black hole

legal black hole

he is being kept in a ~ (arrested)

black hole for communication

Afghanistan was a ~ (no infrastructure)

in a black hole

I was ~ (unable to easily communicate)

♦ "It's a black hole." (State law prevents releasing information from a state mental hospital. Loss of federal funds means no federal oversight.)

♦ "This is the problem of spying. You are always in one particular silo within that particular organization in a black hole of information like Afghanistan, so you are really focusing on one area but you are blind sometimes basically to other activities happening around." (Aimen Dean.)

♦ "I know... one of the best things that the prison system is good at doing is hiding behind the walls." (Paul Taylor, "the man who started the Strangeways Prison riot." The riot occurred in Manchester, England, in 1990.)

♦ "There has been a complete communication blackout in Gaza." (War / no cell phone, internet connectivity. One newspaper reported, "Gaza 'disconnected from the planet.'" The situation lasted for 34 hours.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In an astronomical black hole, the gravity is so strong that not even light can escape. In other words, nothing gets out.

♦ "Prisons are inherently secretive."

♦ see also *dark* (go dark, etc.)

## blacklist (verb)

blacklist the (Chinese) company

the decision to ~ was seen as a bargaining ploy (tariffs)

## blacklist (noun)

"blacklist" of conservative publications

Global Disinformation Index created a ~

## blacklisted

blacklisted

his books have been ~ (disgraced French author)

## Black Mirror

Black Mirror

it's all very ~, isn't it (deep fakes and journalism, etc.)

Black Mirror stuff

this is some real-life ~ (facial recognition)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Wikipedia article "*Black Mirror*" refers to *The Twilight Zone* twelve times. Will "Black Mirror" ever replace "Twilight Zone" as an allusion?

♦ see also *Twilight Zone*

## black out (verb)

blacked out

I ~ (alcohol)

## black sheep

black sheep of the band

Dennis was already the ~ (the Beach Boys)

black sheep of the family

he's the ~

I was the ~ and took the wrong direction (gang)

black-sheep brother

invite the ~ to the wedding

## black swan (rarity)

black swan of this event

we've got this ~ where we had to... (pandemic)

black-swan candidate

Trump is a one of a kind, a ~ (said in 2016)

“black swan” events

the unexpected ~ posed challenges (election campaign)

~ are rare but unpredictable

black swan event

a US default is such a ~ that it has never happened before  
the community suffered a single ~ but is safe (crime)

black-swan event

this is a ~, and... (COVID-19 pandemic)

“Black Swan” possibilities

the reports identifies some ~ that could disrupt...

“Black Swan” theory

the ~ of risk (economics and disasters)

fifty other black swans

we're lucky we haven't seen ~ (markets stable /  
pandemic)

beware the black swan

you must ~ (a highly unlikely unpredictable event)

see a black swan

I never in my life thought I'd ~

♦ “Black swan” events that hurt Bernie Sanders in his bid to be the Democratic nominee for president in 2019-2020 included: (1) his heart attack (2) Trump's impeachment trial, which meant Sanders had to take time off from campaigning and (3) the coronavirus pandemic that made it impossible for him to hold large rallies of his supporters.

♦ “Everything has been hit. I never in my life thought I'd see a black swan. This is a black swan.” (“The ‘Undertaker Of Silicon Valley’ Stays Busy As Startups Lay Off Thousands” by Bobby Allyn, NPR, All Things Considered, April 20, 2020. The COVID pandemic.)

♦ “A movie like *The Color Purple* could be treated like a Haley's Comet, an outlier striking at just the right moment, every once in a while.” (Hollywood.)

♦ “A rare and unexpected ‘black swan’ weather event may have led to the *Bayesian's* speedy demise.” (The superyacht sank near Palermo, Sicily.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Effects of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You observe 5,000 white swans. You conclude, “All swans are white.” Then Captain Cook goes to Australia, and he notices black swans.” (A problem with observation and inductive reasoning.)

♦ A “five-sigma event” has only a one-in-3.5 million probability of happening.

## black tulip (rarity)

black tulip for cricket collectors

it's the ~

♦ “It's the rarest book in cricket history. It's the Black Tulip for cricket collectors. There are only five known copies, there's no copy in the British Library...” (*All the Grand Matches Between 1771 and 1791*, at auction for \$250,000.)

## blah (and blah blah blah / speech)

blah-blah-blah-blah-blah

centering people's humanity, ~, it was vapor (politician)

just “blah, blah, blah”

Greta Thunberg has said the UN climate summits are ~

♦ “Campaigner Greta Thunberg has said the UN climate summits are just ‘blah, blah, blah’—meaning all talk and no action.”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “He has an unfortunate tic, when speaking about grave topics, of trailing off his sentences and adding filler words like *blah blah blah* and *all that stuff*.” (“Arnold's Last Act” by Mark Leibovich, *The Atlantic*, April 2023.)

♦ Also, sometimes, “Yada, yada, yada.”

## blank (fill in the blanks)

fill in the blanks

they want to ~, connect the dots, figure out... (probe)

## blanket (verb)

blanketed (much of) the Northwest in ash

the eruption ~ (volcano)

blanketed the city with (orange) dust

the huge sandstorm ~ (Beijing / 2010)

blanketed the Southeast

forests ~ before European settlers arrived

blanketed the area

federal, state and local police ~ (manhunt)

blanketed (several) cities

snow and ice ~

blanketed the island

ash and smoke have ~ of St. Vincent (eruption)

blanketed mountains

snow ~ in the UAE, a rare occurrence

## blanket (under a blanket)

under the blanket of snow

polar plants and animals ~

## blanket (cover)

blanket of ash

a ~ covered the orange and lemon trees (eruption)

blanket of clouds

a ~ hid Pumori, Ama Dablam, and other lesser peaks

## blanket (blanket amnesty, etc.)

blanket amnesty

he has offered a ~ to the soldiers (New Guinea)  
he does not favor a ~ for illegal immigrants

blanket guarantee  
is that a ~ that...

blanket policy  
airlines handle it on a case-by-case basis, without a ~

blanket statement  
it is a ~ that is just not right

## blanketed

blanketed by (lush) forests  
Haiti was once ~ (now 90% deforested)

blanketed with floating sand and dust  
Northern China ~

## blaring (headlines, etc.)

blaring headlines  
~, fleshy photos and breathless coverage (a tabloid)

## blasphemous (adjective)

consider my words blasphemous  
I know that many of you will ~, however... (opinion)

## blasphemy (noun)

committing blasphemy  
is he ~ by... (analysis of war strategy)

## blast (criticize)

blasted him for taking  
they ~ this position (politics)

blasted his predecessor by name  
Obama finally ~

blasted her  
her critics ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "ESPN insider blasts on Luka Doncic for fouling out." (Ordinarily, there would be no particle after "blast," but this usage could be a sign of things to come. See on (*brag on*, etc.) in this dictionary.)

## blast (blasted the Bahamas, etc.)

blasted the Bahamas with (maximum sustained)  
winds  
Hurricane Dorian ~ of 185 m.p.h.

## blasted apart

canon has been blasted apart  
but that ~ (doctors withhold prognosis)

## blast radius (noun)

blast radius  
its ~ was the entire world (NotPetya worm)

blast radius of gentrification  
the project has created a ~ (Galataport / taxes and rent)

blast radius from their theory

the ~ would sow elections chaos (Supreme Court  
argument)

in the blast radius

Tom Brady got caught ~ (Anthony Brown controversy)

blast radius wasn't contained

the ~ to social and hip-hop media circles (KL's  
"Control")

♦ "Brady just happened to be the blowback. He got caught up in the blowback, Skip, the collateral damage, that's what Brady is. And so, it was a blast radius. He dropped the bomb, 'I got BA [Bruce Arians], I got the Tampa medical staff, I got...' and Tom Brady and Guerrero, they got caught up in that, Skip, the blast radius. (Shannon Sharpe talking with Skip Bayless on their great sports show "Undisputed" about the Antonio Brown controversy of January 2022.)

♦ "A longtime member of the local residents' association who has lived here for most of her life, Eginlioglu says the project has created a blast radius of gentrification, increasing her property taxes and causing rents to rise even faster than they had been already during the recent economic crisis and rapid devaluation of Turkey's currency the lira." ("The Loathe Boat: the honking cruise ships 'ruining' Istanbul's port" by Ruth Michaelson and Cansu Yapici, *The Guardian*, 2 Sep 2023.)

♦ "CNN's Kaitlan Collins calls Hunter Biden pardon a 'political timebomb' that left Dems in 'the blast radius'" by Taylor Herzlich, *The New York Post*, Dec. 3, 2024.)

### \*\*\* "On the Safety Lamp for Coal Miners..."

♦ "The phenomena are always of the same kind. The miners are either immediately destroyed by the explosion, and thrown with the horses and machinery through the shaft into the air, the mine becoming as it were an enormous piece of artillery, from which they are projected; or they are gradually suffocated, and undergo a more painful death, from the carbonic acid and azote [nitrogen] remaining in the mine, after the inflammation of the firedamp; or what, though it appears the mildest, is perhaps the most severe fate, they are burnt or maimed, and often rendered incapable of labour, and of healthy enjoyment of life." (*On the Safety Lamp for Coal Miners, with Some Researches into Flame* by Humphry Davy, 1818.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "This design (compartmentalized ammo) helps the M10 Booker avoid a 'jack in the box' explosion..." (One in which the turret of the tank is blown off and deposited upside-down next to the hull.)

♦ "How was it? it was scary. I heard the sound of it. Then the sound faded. Then it hit this house. I was thrown to the ground by a blast wave. It was all over in a mere second." (A drone attack.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Thermobaric weapon." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *shock wave* (noun)

## blather (noun)

patriotic blather

~ like "*Dulce et decorum est / Pro Patria mori*"

## blaze (blaze a trail, etc.)

see *trail* (*blaze a trail*)

## blaze (in a blaze of glory)

went out in a blaze of glory  
he ~ (Custer)

## bleat (verb)

bleating on about the World Cup

I see Lineker is ~ saying... (virtue signalling, hypocrisy, etc.)

bleats away about (desperately) needing

he ~ to... (criticism of a celebrity)

## bleed (verb)

bled across borders  
the crisis has ~ (terrorism)

bleeding into everything  
politics is ~ (*Dancing with Stars* kerfuffle)

bleed into work  
don't let the issues in your personal life ~ (employment)

bleed over into other things  
does that delusional disorder ~

bleeds into their personal lives  
inevitably their work ~ (FBI hunters of serial killers)

bleeding us dry  
this price war is ~ (destroying our profits)

bleeding cash  
Airbus is ~, chief executive warns

bleeding jobs  
US manufacturing have been ~

bleeding money  
the school was ~ (troubled charter school)

## bleed (bleed black and gold, etc.)

bleed (craft) beer  
we ~ (BrewDog)

bleed (Chicago Cubs) blue  
if you prick me, I'll ~

bleed yellow  
we say they ~ (school-bus drivers who enjoy job)

bleed black and gold  
LAFC fans “~” for the team and players

## bleed (noun)

talent bleed  
the conventional explanation for ~ is... (military)

stanch the (talent) bleed  
if the Army hopes to ~, it needs to...

## bleeding

financial bleeding  
you need to stop your ~ now

stanching the bleeding  
opening up ~ of its tourism sector (Dubai / pandemic)

## blemish (noun)

blemish on the game  
his injury was the only ~ (sports)

blemishes against him  
I'm a massive fan, but there are those two ~ (boxer / drugs)

ugly blemish  
the Charlottesville tragedy was “an ~” on the US (2017)

## blend (mixture)

blend of fear, anger, need, and love  
their relationship was a toxic ~

## blend in (verb)

blend in  
Tom Wolfe did not ~ (clothes, writing)

easily blend in  
drug traffickers ~ (Atlanta)

♦ “It's not trying to blend in. It's trying to stand out.” (A developer about a proposed 1,600-foot tower in midtown Manhattan.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Better to blend in.

## blessed

blessed  
with sun and wind, California is ~ (renewable energy)

blessed with (over) 100 waterfalls  
Sri Lanka is ~

blessed with good looks and money  
she wasn't just ~, she was also smart

## blessing (sanction)

blessing of the board  
the bid is expected to get the ~

his blessing  
to acquire public credibility, ~ was essential

with the city's blessing  
~, cars pair up for duels (legal drag racing)

given the vote its blessing  
the election board has ~

## blessing (benefit)

blessing  
the seasonal flooding of the Mekong is a ~, not a curse

blessing or a bane  
oil can be a ~ for a country (corruption, etc.)

blessing and a burden  
patients see choice as both a ~

blessing and a curse  
these gems have been a ~ (Sierra Leone diamonds)  
the annual rains are a ~ for the subcontinent (floods)

blessings as well as its scourges  
celebrity's ~

mixed blessing  
progress has been a ~

## blight (verb)

blighted (Aboriginal) communities

alcohol and poverty have ~ (Northern Territory)

blights the present  
history ~ (Balkans)

## blight (noun)

moral blight  
“whiteness” is not a ~ (race)

urban blight  
the group is devoted to fighting ~ (buildings)

## blighted

blighted economy  
as Greece's ~ plunges further into the abyss

blighted neighborhoods  
the city's ~

blighted by coal dust and noise  
their lives are being ~

## blind (noticing, understanding, judging)

blind to the fact  
we are not ~ that people are frustrated with our party...

blind to merit  
the military personnel system is nearly ~

“blind” to genocide preparations  
the report said France had been ~ (Rwanda)

blind to race, religion and ethnicity  
the state is ~ (French ideal)

blind to (all) reason and decency  
terrorists are ~

blind spot  
see *blind spot*

blind, deaf and dumb  
terrorists are ~ to all reason and decency

colorblind  
~ justice under the law is enshrined in our system (US)  
the ~ application of the rule of law

♦ “Willful blindness is something we have said can constitute knowledge.” (Justice Sonia Sotomayor of the U.S. Supreme Court.)

♦ “Weird scoring from the judges especially the partially sighted one that awarded it to Joshua.” (A snarky comment on the second fight between Oleksandr Usyk and Anthony Joshua.)

♦ “A blindfold gerbil on the moon could see it was a penalty.” (A disappointed Scottish fan about Hungary 1-0 Scotland at Euro 2024.)

♦ “It’s horrific that somebody died. It would be even worse if the sport stood with its fingers in its ears and its eyes closed.” (Ice hockey broadcaster Seth Bennett, about the interest in neck guards following the death of hockey player Adam Johnson in Sheffield, England, after his neck was slashed by Matt Petgrave.)

### \*\*\* Taha Hussein

♦ “However, it was not long before he learnt the reason of all this, for he perceived that other people had an advantage over him and that his brothers and sisters were able to do things that he could not do and to tackle things that he could not. He felt that his mother

permitted his brothers and sisters to do things that were forbidden to him. This aroused, at first, a feeling of resentment, but ere long his feeling of resentment turned to a silent, but heartfelt, grief—when he heard his brothers and sisters describing things about which he had no knowledge at all. / Then he knew that they saw what he did not see.” (*An Egyptian Childhood* by Taha Hussein, translated by E.H. Paxton, from *The Days*, the American University in Cairo Press.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## blind (hard to see, hidden)

blind curve  
~ (sign)

blind drop  
please scout ~s (kayaker Edward Lee Green)

blind spot  
see *blind spot*

face blind  
some people are ~ (can't recognize familiar faces)

♦ “Edward Lee Green / 1953-Dec. 27, 1998 / Outstanding musician, adventurer, loving father, beloved friend. His unique talents will be forever missed by those who knew him. / Died as a result of pinning at Crack-in-the-Rock Rapid Dec. 23, 1998 on the Raven Fork in Cherokee, NC. / Please Scout Blind Drops. / Jesus said, “I am the way...” John 14:6.” (Monument at Dillsboro put-in on the Tuckasegee River in western North Carolina.)

## blind (disregarding evidence, logic)

blind faith  
he had this ~ in me (defensive coach)

blind hatred  
terrorists are driven by ~

blind prejudice  
criticism of Qatar smacks of ~ (*The Economist*)

blind optimism  
hope is not ~ (Barak Obama)

## blind (not controlled by intelligence)

blind draw  
one judge becomes a substitute in a ~

## blind (fly blind)

flying blind  
the psychiatrist is ~ (treating soldiers with drugs)  
the US economy is ~ (during government shutdown)

♦ “We are flying partly blind. It’s like having, maybe, thirty flashlights that you’re just arbitrarily shining at different locales around the United States, and the rest of the country is in the dark.” (Identifying mutations of the COVID virus. Dr. David Relman of Stanford University.)

## blind alley (noun)

ran into blind alleys  
he ~ (a scientist)

lead him down blind alleys



his dribbling skills would ~ (young soccer phenom)

## blind date

blind date

I was on a ~ with this great guy

## blinded

blinded by love

I was so ~ that I didn't see the problem in front of me

## blinder (noun)

narrow blinders

it takes self-awareness to view the world without ~

blinders fell from her eyes

she recalled how the ~ (she thought he loved only her)

viewed through the blinders

every issue is ~ of a particular interest (government)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Blinders are the same as blinkers.

## blindfold (noun)

America's blindfold

~ was finally coming off (COVID spreading in US)

## blinding

blinding sandstorm

another day of ~s and battlefield confusion (Iraq)

a ~ in Baghdad forced the postponement of...

blinding whiteout

a snowstorm caused a ~ (50-vehicle pileup)

## blindly

blindly committed

the IMF is ~ to the policy of...

## blindness (awareness)

apparent blindness

~ followed by staggering realization (pro-Palestine)

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## blindness (face blindness, etc.)

eyebrow blindness

do you suffer from "~"

~ is so real (TikTok claim)

the term ~ was coined by TikTok content creators...

face blindness

prosopagnosia, known as ~

seablinde

what the strategist Seth Cropsey calls ~ (see quote below)

time blindness

~, the inability to keep track of time

♦ The actor Brad Pitt *believes* he may suffer from prosopagnosia, known as face blindness. According to his Wikipedia article, "Formally, however, Pitt has not been diagnosed with prosopagnosia."

♦ "In my writings I have sought to underscore sea power's importance and the reliance of our economy on the sea... Despite my experience, I was never able to convince my mother... Her perspective is consistent with a phenomenon that the strategist Seth Cropsey has called seablinde... But the very success of this project (power exerted to maintain the freedom of the seas in recent times) now threatens its future. Seablinde has become endemic. ("America's Future Is At Sea" by Jerry Hendrix, *The Atlantic*, April, 2023.)

♦ "The term, coined by content creators on TikTok, refers to the act of shaping your brows in accordance to what's in fashion, rather than what works best for your face." ("Do you suffer 'eyebrow blindness'? Here's what it is and how you can beat it" by Brooke Steinberg, July 2, 2024.)

♦ "I bet the time blindness goes away when it's time to clock out." (A snarky commenter about "Woman doubles down on 'time blindness,' insists it's a real condition after backlash," *New York Post*, August 2, 2023. The woman, who struggles to be on time, was seeking an "accommodation" at a trade school. Her video generated 500,000 comments.)

## blindsided (verb)

blindsided Israel

Hamas ~ with its attack from Gaza (Israel-Hamas war)

## blind side (from the blind side)

blind side

fire team approaches the bunker from its ~ (combat)

## blindsided

blindsided by his action

we were ~

blindsided by Johnson's announcement

the Lakers were clearly ~ ("Magic" Earvin resigns)

blindsided by the (referendum's) passage

the world's business leaders were nevertheless ~ (Brexit)

blindsided by (nude-photos) leak

Jennifer Lawrence ~

## blind spot

blind spot

the murder occurred in a ~ (no surveillance cameras)

it's a ~ so enormous we barely notice it (future)

rivals of the U.S. are aware of this ~ (NSA surveillance)

deserts can produce ~s (radio signal strength)

blind spots and groupthink

the media bubble ~ (politics)

ethical blind spot

he has an ~ regarding the appearance of impropriety

created a (major) blind spot

home testing has ~ (COVID data)

## blink (conflict)

blink

America will not ~ in the fight against terrorists

there's a conflict here and somebody has to ~ (politics)

blink first  
who will ~ in this third set (tennis / Wimbledon)

blinks first  
so it becomes a case of who ~ (the West vs. Iran)

blinked and then backed down  
Obama ~ (Syria crosses red line)

♦ "It's a bit of a staring contest and both sides are going to lose a little bit." (Nancy Pelosi decides to visit Taiwan against Biden's wishes.)

## blink (in the blink of an eye)

in the blink of an eye  
and ~ it let go (cougar attack)  
my family disappeared ~ (pandemic)  
flowering plants conquered the world seemingly ~  
a young family was destroyed ~ (an awful car crash)

## blink (light)

blinked its lights  
a Mercedes ~

## blinker (adjective)

blinkered denial  
his ~ of what is obvious tells us all we need to know

blinkered narrow-mindedness  
if only the Western media could shed its ~

## blinkers (noun)

pulls away the blinkers  
she ~, widening the focus (*The Gun, the Ship, and the Pen*)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Blinkers are the same as blinders.

## blip (noun)

blip  
the drop may simply be a "~~" (deaths from virus)

blip of cases  
we don't want these ~ to become resurgences of cases

blip of coverage  
after a mere ~, it fell off the front pages (club fire)

blip on the radar screen  
Ecstasy is no longer a ~ (the club scene)

blip on the (campaign) radar  
foreign policy was barely a ~ (2019 electioneering)

blip on the (historical) radar  
the industry is such a small ~ right now

blip in the data  
is it a trend or just a ~

blip in the history of the United States  
in some ways, Prohibition seems like a ~

blip or a lasting feature  
economists disagree over whether it is a short-term ~

blip or a trend  
is his loss a ~ (electoral defeat)

blip or a lasting trend  
is the record number of women candidates a ~

blip or a hint of the future  
are falling oil prices a ~

short-term blip  
it may be a ~ or a lasting feature (wage inflation)

temporary blip  
the figures suggest a recovery, not just a ~ (economy)  
his success was still dismissed as a ~ (young politician)

slight blips  
police report only ~ in security plans

tiny little blip  
the Wuhan virus will be "a ~ on the horizon" (prediction)

barely a blip  
for the young, the nuclear test is ~ (not important)

just a blip  
the decrease in the daily death toll may be ~ (pandemic)

movement or a blip  
is it a ~ (voters elect socialist mayor in US)

ignored the movement as a blip  
many ~ that would never break into the mainstream  
(gays)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Oscillographs and radar screens have blips.

## blistering (adjective)

blistering attacks  
many groups have issued ~ on her (a journalist)

blistering comment  
a ~ came from....

blistering hot  
there was little wind and the weather was ~ now...

blistering pace  
the final days are moving at a ~ (2024 U.S. election)

blistering speech  
Greta Thunberg gave a ~ at the climate summit

\*\*\* analysis

♦ On NBC news, a news reader looked into the camera, spoke to hundreds of thousands of viewers, and said, "How he survived the wilderness and blistering cold."

## blitz (verb)

blitz (battleground) states  
candidates ~ (prior to presidential election)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "And *blitz*, that swift and destructive attack of overwhelming power, is snipped from the German word *Blitzkrieg*, which means 'lightning war.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ Words derived from recent warfare include *blitz*, *blockbuster*, *breakthrough*, *breakout*, *basket case*, and *chokepoint*.

## blitz (campaign)

blitz by the White House

the news precipitated a public-relations ~

blitz of (negative) advertising

there has been a ~ (politics)

blitz surrounding her (latest) album

the promotional ~

blitz chess

Carlsen beat Karpov in a game of ~

advertising blitz

a lavish ~ (for Microsoft software)

battleground blitz

the Harris-Walz campaign is planning a ~ with stops in...

both candidates are on a ~ (presidential election)

campaign blitz

Obama starts ~ for Harris in critical battleground state

media blitz

a local ~ keeps her picture on the front pages (missing)

fact-checking Kamala Harris's '~' (BBC)

publicity blitz

a ~ arranged by advisers (for a politician)

public-relations blitz

the news precipitated a ~ by the White House

promotional blitz

the ~ surrounding her latest album (singer)

on a (battleground) blitz

both candidates are ~ (presidential election)

waging a (full-scale media) blitz

he has been ~ (ex-politician promotes his book)

\*\*\* "London could take it..."

♦ "I was glad that, if any of our cities were to be attacked, the brunt should fall on London. London was like some huge prehistoric animal, capable of enduring terrible injuries, mangled and bleeding from many wounds, and yet preserving its life and movement... The Anderson shelters were widespread... Later the Morrison shelter was developed... Many owed their lives to it. For the rest, 'London could take it'. They took all they got, and could have taken more. Indeed, at this time we saw no end but the demolition of the whole Metropolis... At this time anyone would have been proud to be a Londoner. The admiration of the whole country was given to London, and all the other great cities in the land braced themselves to take their bit as and when it came and not to be outdone. Indeed, many persons seemed envious of London's distinction, and quite a number came up from the country in order to spend a night or two in town, share the risk, and 'see the fun'. We had to check this tendency for administrative reasons." (*Their Finest Hour* by Winson S. Churchill. The Blitz, 1940-1941.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "And *blitz*, that swift and destructive attack of overwhelming power, is snipped from the German word *Blitzkrieg*, which means 'lightning war.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ Words derived from recent warfare include *blitz*, *blockbuster*, *breakthrough*, *breakout*, *basket case*, and *chokepoint*.

## blizzard (consciousness)

"blizzard of everything"

a life lived online in the ~ (Patricia Lockwood character)

feeling their way in a blizzard

financial analysts are ~, squinting through the snow

## blizzard (noun)

blizzard

with the ~ in full fury, I sent out a tweet (a Twitter storm)

blizzard of (personnel) announcements

this week's ~ (by President-elect Trump in 2024)

blizzard of (red, white and blue) confetti

a ~ (New Years in Time Square)

blizzard of fire

there was a ~ at the intersection (combat)

blizzard of intruders

we are constantly faced by a positive ~ (pathogens)

blizzard of punches

he has withstood a ~ (a boxer)

he would throw a ~ (prior to fight / Muhammad Ali)

blizzard of (new) regulations

businesspeople have been affected by a ~

blizzard of speculation

there has been a ~ (honeymoon murder)

blizzard of facts and figures

it is included in a ~ that obscures...

Scorsesian blizzard

there is a ~ of directors' names (during an interview)

\*\*\* V.K. Arseniev...

♦ "The blizzard was what we called a *purga*, during which the temperature can drop well below zero, with the gale so violent that it will lift roofs off houses and uproot trees. Walking during a *purga* is out of the question. As a rule every blizzard is accompanied by loss of life. / Around us the scene was unbelievable... / We shrank back in our tents and sat in silent awe..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "In the early part of the last century (the 1800s) *blizzard* had the meaning of 'a blow, a loud noise or blast,' and its possible relative '*blizzer*' was a dialectical word which meant a flash of lightning. The meaning of *blizzard* as we know it was born about 1880 when the North suffered from a blasting winter. *The New York Nation* said in 1881: 'The hard weather has called into use a word which promises to become a national Americanism, namely *blizzard*. It designates a storm (of snow and wind) which we cannot resist away from shelter.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ The idea of great forces of nature striking, beating, and lashing is quite a conventional one. For a list of such words, see the glossary entry in this work for *storm*: *force*.

## bloat (size)

government bloat

the blue ribbon commission aims to slash ~ (DOGE)

## bloated (size)

bloated budget

the US must resolve its ~

bloated bureaucracy

the ~ isn't keeping us safer (national security)

bloated inbox

a ~ is a familiar headache

bloated and inefficient

our intelligence agencies are ~

refugee-bloated

a ~ population

## block (around the block)

been around the block

he has ~ and fought for world titles (a boxer)

been around the NBA block

he has ~ a time or three (older veteran player)

## block (obstacle)

writer's block

but sometimes ~ hits and I can't think of a way to start

♦ "The log jam broke." (Writer's block.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old physical dictionary I use, there is no entry for "writer's block" but there *is* an entry for "writer's cramp." The online Merriam-Webster dictionary has entries for both. Dictionaries are weird.

## block (out of the blocks)

quick out of the blocks

Liverpool were ~ in the second half (soccer)

## blockbuster (noun)

blockbuster

the modern age of ~s (films)

blockbuster antidepressant

Prozac, its ~ (drug company)

blockbuster (IMAX) film

the ~ *Everest*

blockbuster hits

books read by younger women have become ~ (films)

blockbuster (fraud) suit

the agency brought a ~ against the company

blockbuster writer

such ~s as...

♦ "Adaptations of popular books, particularly those read by younger women such as *Twilight* and *The Hunger Games*, have become blockbuster hits." (*It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover was a New York Times bestseller. Twenty million copies sold. One *billion* tags at #booktok.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Blockbusters were high-explosive bombs dropped on cities in World War II.

♦ Words derived from recent warfare include *blitz*, *blockbuster*, *breakthrough*, *breakout*, *basket case*, and *chokepoint*.

## blogosphere (in the blogosphere)

in the blogosphere

the videos appear to be firmly entrenched ~

## blogosphere (other)

blogosphere

the ~ is alight with conspiracy theories

far-right blogosphere

the "frog" meme is widely associated with the ~

percolating (for years) around the blogosphere

the argument has been ~

## blood (death)

drenched Russia in blood

he has ~ (Stalin)

## blood (blood represents life)

blood and tears

enough of ~, enough (Palestinian-Israeli conflict)

treasure and blood

how much more can we give in ~ (foreign wars)

## blood (in one's blood)

in Katherine Brunt's blood

cricket is ~ (England)

in her blood

Caroline Dubois was born with boxing ~ (UK boxer)

in his blood

he has politics and showmanship ~ (Gov. Andrew Cuomo)

it was in his genes, ~ (Calvin Klein sketches as kid)

newspaper ink was ~ (the journalist Lou Cannon)

in my blood

it wasn't ~ (working in family business)

this place is ~ (High Street resident / Newark)

the city is ~ (Baghdad)

from when I was born basically, the Oilers were ~

(hockey)

in our blood

cricket is ~ (A Pakistani fan)

the love of jade is ~ (a Han Chinese)

gets in your blood

it ~ (helping others at Arlington National Cemetery)

♦ "The city is in my blood, the ruins of its palaces, the mosques and the river." (An Iraqi, speaking of Baghdad.)

♦ "Mohammed Aly Square is my aunt. Rue Cherif Pasha is my first cousin, and the Rue de Ramleh my second. How can I leave them?" (The poet Constantine Cavafy, quoted in "As Good as Great Poetry Gets" by Daniel Mendelsohn.)

♦ "He has aviation fuel running through his veins." (Said of an ex-RAF, ex-BA pilot who flies airshows.)

♦ "It's in Larry Page's blood and Google's DNA to believe that A.I. is the company's inevitable destiny..." (2017.)

♦ "The music is really in the veins of these people." (Opera and the residents of Parma, according to the beloved NPR reporter and journalist Sylvia Poggioli.)

♦ "There's some black and orange somewhere in my blood." (A fan of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team.)

♦ "From when I was born basically, the Oilers were in my blood." (Shelina Gwaduri, an Edmonton Oilers fan.)

## blood (identity)

family blood

our ~ says never give up, continue on (Nik Wallenda)

drop of Russian blood

there was not a ~ in her veins (Catherine the Great)

♦ "I may be from Tampa, but my blood is in Cuba... I have a lot of family still left in Cuba." (Kevin Morejon, protesting in Florida.)

♦ "If you were born in Naples, football is part of your blood. Our blood is [Napoli] blue, it's not red." (A happy fan after Napoli drew with Udinese to become the 2022-23 Serie A Champions.)

## blood (in cold blood)

shoot her (3 times) in cold blood

how could he ~....

## blood (smell blood)

scent blood

Mr Prayuth's enemies ~ (Thailand)

smell blood

they ~ (victory in tournament)

smells blood

the opposition Labor Party ~ (vote of no confidence)

smell blood in the water

Republicans ~

♦ "Once he smelt blood, Hrgovic followed up with a barrage of right hands." (Filip Hrgovic versus Mark De Mori at The Day of Reckoning in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Super!)

## blood (bay for blood)

see *bay* (*bay for blood, etc.*)

## blood (blood in one's eyes, etc.)

with blood in their eyes

other soldiers, ~, came up and threatened to shoot him

♦ see also *mist* (*red mist*), *red* (*see red*)

## blood (blood on one's hands, etc.)

see *hand* (*bloody hands, etc.*)

## blood (out for blood)

out for blood

she is ~ (vindictive)

## blood (draw blood)

drawn blood

nobody has ~ yet (chess match with 8 draws)

## blood (blood boils)

blood boils

my ~ when I see violations (traffic)

made my blood boil

well, that ~, that this white woman felt so entitled...

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "It boils my blood when people say..." (Funny! It should be, "It makes my blood boil when people say..." An eggcom?)

## blood (blood runs cold)

made my blood run cold

and then he said something that ~ (violence)

## blood (young blood, etc.)

fresh blood

the king might reshuffle his cabinet to inject ~

young blood

the US must add ~ to its veteran roster (women's soccer)

## blood (blue blood)

see *blue blood*

## blood (bad blood)

bad blood

the ~ started early (politics)

bad blood between them

there is ~

## blood (effort)

blood and iron

see *iron and blood* (*effort, sacrifice*)

blood and sacrifice

all the ~ we made up to his point is for nothing (war)

blood and treasure

we have wasted an enormous amount of ~ in Afghanistan

it's a complete waste in terms of ~ (Afghanistan)

President Johnson reflected on the cost in ~ (Vietnam War)

we need to pull out and save American ~ (Afghanistan)

blood, sweat and tears

he gave the franchise 20 years of his ~ (Kobe Bryant)

blood, treasure and effort

after so many years, and so much ~ (US in Afghanistan)

iron and blood

see *iron and blood* (*effort, sacrifice*)

sweat and blood

a lot of ~ went into it (making a film)

## bloodbath (military)

10-day bloodbath

it was a ~ (combat)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "The battle that followed began at 1400 hours on December 6 and ended on December 15, barely a mile north of where it had begun. It was a ten-day blood bath that cost the Regiment over a hundred and fifty battle casualties. / The opening attack was made in broad

daylight by Charley Company under cover of the strongest artillery support Division could muster. It was a devastating barrage...but the enemy replied with equal violence and within minutes Charley was being pounded into the saturated valley floor under a titanic upheaval of mud and steel. Dog, coming up behind, tried to avoid the worst of that holocaust..." (*And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat. World War II. Italy.)

## bloodbath (literal analogy)

unleashed a bloodbath  
the bombing of the Mosque of the Gold Dome ~

## bloodbath (figurative)

bloodbath  
there's going to be a ~ (a football game)

'Blood Bath'  
political fighting could make redistricting a ~ (Texas)

bloodbath in tech stocks  
there was a ~ (Dow)

bloodbath at ABC News  
last week's ~ (50 staffers laid off)

three-round bloodbath  
round one of what would be a ~ (new management)

partisan bloodbath  
he turned the hearings into a ~ (politics)

economic bloodbath  
his policies will create an ~ for the auto industry  
he predicted an ~ for the automotive industry (Trump)

♦ "That's a Mark Stoops team. They're going to be physical. He's a defensive coach. They run the rock. I've always said our kids are the most sore they've ever been after playing Kentucky. It was that way last year. It was a blood bath last year up there and it'll be the same way." (Georgia football coach Kirby Smart about playing unbeaten Kentucky. "The rock" refers to the football.)

♦ "And that was just round one in what would be a three-round bloodbath." (Elon Musk buys Twitter, fires half of employees.)

## blood brother (connection)

blood brothers  
soldiering and drinking have always been ~

## bloodhound (noun)

bloodhound  
he's a born ~ who lives to track the scent of malfeasance

## bloodletting (noun)

bloodletting at *Sports Illustrated*  
the ~ continued Friday... (firings, resignations, etc.)

## blood sport (noun)

blood sport  
when law and politics were a noble pursuit, not a ~

blood sport of politics  
I would not be deterred by the ~ (Hillary R. Clinton)

blood sport of (party) politics  
the ~ drives the US media

bloodsport of (Red vs. Blue party) politics  
the ~ drives the US media

bloodsport of vengeance and repressed desire  
tennis is visualized as a ~ (2024 film *Challengers*)

tabloid blood sport  
she became the target of ~ (Britney Spears)

Washington blood sport  
even by the standards of ~, this was bare-knuckled politics

equivalent of blood sport  
this steel ~ (demolition derbies)

turned campaigning for Oscars into a blood sport  
he turned ~ (the film producer Harvey Weinstein)

♦ Arizona Senator John McCain called MMA "human cockfighting" in 1996. But he grew more accepting as safety rules became a part of the sport.

\*\*\* dog fighting, bullfighting...

♦ Blood sports include dog fighting, bullfighting, fox-hunting, cockfighting, and bear-baiting.

## bloodthirsty (adjectivity)

bloodthirsty zeal  
the ~ of revisionist history

## bloody (guilt)

hands are bloody  
his ~ (a politician)

## bloody (conflict)

bloody (intraparty) quarrel  
it's not what Republicans wanted, a ~ (politics)

## bloom (verb)

bloomed in the role  
she truly ~ (an actor)

bloomed into an international incident  
the case has ~

bloomed into a showroom  
his small home shop has ~

bloomed during the last decade  
interest has ~ (new literature theory)

bloomed as a teenager  
she ~ (physically)

bloomed intellectually  
that year our daughter ~ (in a gifted class)

bloomed late  
their careers both ~ (successful athletes)

career has bloomed  
his ~

membership has bloomed  
~ (in professional social networks)



paranoia bloomed  
his ~

relationship bloomed  
their ~

romance bloomed  
in this emotional wasteland, ~ (divorce)

### **bloom (bloom has faded, etc.)**

bloom is off the rose  
at 30, the ~ of both grownup life and their careers

bloom had faded  
as soon as the first ~ of my work... (a writer)

### **bloomer (late bloomer)**

late bloomer  
as someone who has always considered himself a ~...

### **blossom (verb)**

blossomed  
he has ~ after a slow start (a Chelsea soccer player)

blossomed into (real) depression  
my uncertainty had ~ (the future)

blossomed into (full-blown) panic  
the thought ~

blossomed into warfare  
simmering resentments ~ (two politicians)

blossoming in the Middle East  
a revolutionary spirit is ~

blossom out of control  
the consequences can ~ (problems on 767 jetliner)

blossomed all over the country  
now citizens' groups have ~

groups have blossomed  
now citizens' ~ all over the country (Siberia)

love (for yo-yos) blossomed  
his ~ again

### **blot (noun)**

blot on his record  
his racial ideas appear to modern eyes as a ~ (Churchill)

blot on our reputation  
renditions and torture will long remain a ~ (US in Iraq)

### **blow (bitter blow, etc.)**

blow  
this is not a ~ but a boost

blow to the city  
the decision is an embarrassing ~

blows to this community  
a string of crushing ~

blow to our defense  
losing him, it's a huge ~ (football)

blow to the environment  
loss of the reefs will be a major ~

blow to the regime  
loss of the airport was a huge psychological ~ (war)

blow to the city's reputation  
the violence is a ~ (Rio / carnival)

blow to the (farmworkers) union  
the Supreme Court's decision was a mortal ~

body blow  
see *blow* (*body blow, etc.*)

dagger blow  
we must deal sharp ~s to the terrorists

knockout blow  
see *blow* (*knockout blow*)

crippling blow  
his death dealt a ~ to his network (a terrorist)

crushing blow  
a string of ~s to this community

devastating blow  
loss of the coral reefs would be a ~

embarrassing blow  
the decision is an ~ to the city

stinging blow  
the death of a donor dealt the hospital's reputation a ~

bitter blow  
the defeat was a ~ for Serbia and Montenegro (soccer)

final blow  
they saw the confrontation as the ~ (firing)

huge blow  
losing him, it's a ~ to our defense (football)

major blow  
loss of the reefs will be a ~ to the environment

mortal blow  
the law would strike a ~ to a system that... (athletics)  
the Supreme Court's decision was a ~ to the union

psychological blow  
the takeover was a huge ~ to the regime (airport)

sharp (dagger) blow  
we must deal ~s to the terrorists

string of (crushing) blows  
a ~ to this community

soften the blow  
he tried to ~ (economic news)  
Boeing will try to ~ for them (supply chain)

deal a blow against the enemy

we will ~

dealt a (heavy) blow

the offensive has ~ to Hamas (Israel attacks Gaza)

## **blow (body blow, etc.)**

body blow to the organization

he called Gogic's arrest a ~

body blow to the home team

the goal was a ~ (soccer)

body blow to Manchester United

make no mistake, this is a ~ (loss to Middlesbrough)

body blow for Biden

it's been a ~ (politics)

Body Blow for Assad's regime

"A ~" (title of article)

social and economic body blow

it's been a ~ for Wales (Tata Steel layoffs in Port Talbot)

## **blow (knockout blow)**

knock-out blow

he was unable to land a ~ on Amy Klobuchar (politics)

knockout blow

the air campaign failed to deliver a ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

the ~ was delivered when... (investigation / indictments)

deliver a knockout blow

the air campaign failed to ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

land a knock-out blow

he was unable to ~ on Amy Klobuchar (I should hope not!)

## **blowback (noun)**

blowback from friends

she got ~ at the NYT (Nellie Bowles, about Bari Weiss)

blowback risk

the ~ to Sanders is real (a political endorsement)

explosive blowback

the group faced ~ when it... (Southern Poverty Law Center)

legal blowback

the ~ forced the company into bankruptcy (opioids)

Alex Spiro helped Musk fend off the ~

political blowback

you can't attack Wall Street without ~

getting blowback

she is already ~ on how and when schools should reopen

received blowback

Diana Taurasi ~ for her Caitlin Clark comments

♦ "Brady just happened to be the blowback. He got caught up in the blowback, Skip, the collateral damage, that's what Brady is. And so, it was a blast radius. He dropped the bomb, 'I got BA [Bruce Arians], I got the Tampa medical staff, I got...' and Tom Brady and Guerrero,

they got caught up in that, Skip, the blast radius." (Shannon Sharpe talking with Skip Bayless on their great sports show "Undisputed" about the Antonio Brown controversy of January 2022.)

♦ "All of this blowback is sour grapes, it's whiny..." (A female sports commentator. You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.)

## **blow-by-blow (a blow-by-blow account, etc.)**

blow-by-blow account

he gave me a ~ of what had happened

## **blowhard (person)**

blowhard

don't worry about him, he's just a ~

## **blow-in (noun)**

blow-in

he is not quite a native but he's not a ~, an outsider

## **blown away (feeling)**

blown away

I was ~

prepare to be blown away

~ (a TV ad for a new movie)

## **blown away (destruction)**

blown away by a team

Manchester United were ~ in full cry (MU 0-7 Liverpool)

## **blow off (verb)**

blew him off

at first, she said, she ~ (dismissed him)

## **blowout (noun)**

blowout

the fight was a ~ (easy victory)

## **blow over (verb)**

things blow over

we'll be gone until ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Every storm has a silver lining...

## **blowtorch (noun)**

taking a blow torch towards that agenda

we are ~ (politics)

♦ "President Trump is going to hit the Justice Department with a blowtorch, and Matt Gaetz is that torch." (Steve Bannon about President-elect Trump's selection of Matt Gaetz to be the Attorney General of the Department of Justice, 2024. In the end, Gaetz withdrew his nomination.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It basically puts a blowtorch in the hands of an arsonist." (A Supreme Court legal ruling / politics.)

## **blow up (destroy / disrupt)**

blown up the internet

the nursing community has ~ rallying to her cause (nurse)

blow up the norms  
he did more to ~ than any five majority leaders (politics)

blew up social media  
the issue was a hit and ~ (Eilish on British *Vogue* cover)

blow up the system  
we want to ~ (anti-Nancy Pelosi young democrats)

blow up Wall Street  
the guy who helped ~ (Michael Osinski)

blew up the Senate  
this is the guy who ~ in the Obama years (McConnell)

## blow up (blow up on TikTok, etc.)

blew up  
the case ~ (attention paid to child abduction)  
it had a signature dance that ~ with it (song “Hot Boy”)

blown up  
the elite drinking cup has ~ (#Stanley Cup / 7 billion views)

blew up on TikTok  
his song ~

blowing up on our help line  
this is such a popular scam, it is ~ (rental cars)

blowing up on TikTok  
I want to talk about an artist who is ~ (Blanco Brown)

blew up with congratulations  
coaches’ phones ~

blowing up with messages  
his phone has been ~ from friends and colleagues

blowing up with texts  
my phone starts ~ from Cari (I hate you, etc.)

blew up from other schools  
my phone ~, “Are we in danger...” (superintendent shot)

♦ “Women’s boxing is blowing up and I’m super proud to be one of the girls.” (The boxer Amanda Serrano talking with the great boxing commentator Steve Bunce.)

♦ “I want to take you through a 52-part TikTok series that has been blowing up and that has consumed me for the last 24 hours.” (A podcaster about “Who TF Did I Marry” by Reesa Teesa.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## blowup (attention / noun)

song’s massive blowup  
the ~ is partially thanks to TikTok

## blow up (blow up in one's face)

blow up in his face  
it could ~ (if he ignored the infraction)

blown up in our face

this has ~ (supporting Somali warlords)

## blow up (emotion)

blew up  
I couldn’t take it anymore and I just ~

blew up over the issue  
a recent city council meeting ~ (immigration)

### \*\*\* the *Pulaski*, the *SS Sultana*, etc.

♦ One hundred forty people were killed when a boiler blew up on a steamship in 1838. (See the Wikipedia article “Steamship *Pulaski* disaster.” Wikipedia is wonderful.)

♦ “Most of the new passengers were Union soldiers, chiefly from Ohio and just released from Confederate prison camps such as Cahawba and Andersonville. The US government had contracted with the *Sultana* to transport these former prisoners of war back to their homes.” (From the Wikipedia article “*Sultana* (steamboat),” about the Mississippi River steamboat paddlewheeler that blew up on April 27, 1865, killing an estimated 1,800 of 2,400 aboard. Three of the ship’s four boilers exploded, and the ship sank near Memphis.)

♦ “All was dark and quiet on Black Tom Island in New York Harbor, not far from the Statue of Liberty, when small fires began to burn on the night of July 30, 1916. Some guards on the island sent for the Jersey City Fire Department, but others fled as quickly as they could, and for good reason: Black Tom was a major munitions depot, with several large ‘powder piers.’ That night, Johnson Barge No. 17 was packed with 50 tons of TNT, and 69 railroad freight cars were storing more than a thousand tons of ammunition... / Just after 2:00 a.m., an explosion lit the skies—the equivalent of an earthquake measuring up to 5.5 on the Richter scale, according to a recent study. A series of blasts were heard and felt some 90 miles in every direction, even as far as Philadelphia. Nearly everyone in Manhattan and Jersey City was jolted awake, and many were thrown from their beds. Even the heaviest plate-glass windows in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn shattered, and falling shards of glass preceded a mist of ash from the fire that followed the explosion. Immigrants on nearby Ellis Island had to be evacuated... / The Statue of Liberty took more than \$100,000 worth of damage... Onlookers in Manhattan watched as munition shells rocketed across the water and exploded a mile from the fires on Black Tom Island... / Investigations eventually determined that the Black Tom explosions resulted from an enemy attack—what some historians regard as the first major terrorist attack on the United States by a foreign power.” (“Sabotage in New York Harbor” by Gilbert King, *Smithsonian Magazine*, November 1, 2011.)

## blowup (conflict)

blowup  
there’s going to be a ~ (controversy)

## blue (out of the blue, etc.)

out of the blue  
I was thinking of calling her when ~ she called me  
pulmonary edema can, ~, strike down the best climber

absolutely out of the blue  
her disappearance was ~

totally out of the blue  
then something ~ happened... (a murder investigation)

bolt from the blue  
see *bolt from the blue*

appear out of the blue  
a thunderstorm can ~

appears out of the blue  
an electrical problem ~ (HomeWire)

came out of the blue

nobody could do anything about the pandemic, it ~  
came (quite) out of the blue  
the "genius award" ~ (John D. MacArthur Foundation)  
comes out of the blue  
it ~ and you don't know when it will hit you (pandemics)

♦ "She furrowed her brow. It was a question from left field... / Now they were the ones thrown a curveball... / This was another question out of the blue..." (A well written police procedural.)

\*\*\* **The Seymour girl's high school softball team...**

♦ "In southern Indiana lightning struck a ball field, injuring four members of the Seymour girl's high school softball team. One of the girls was in critical condition, while the other three sustained non-critical injuries... The skies were reportedly clear at the time of the strike."

## blue (politics)

blue state  
is Iowa at this point a red state or a ~

blue zones  
an Italian village in one of the world's few "~"

♦ "Is Iowa at this point a red state or a blue state?" "Iowa is still a purple state." (US politics, as talked about on NPR.)

♦ "An Italian village in one of the world's few 'blue zones' is offering villas for \$1 to Americans who were sent into a tailspin after Donald Trump's decisive presidential election win [in 2024]." (Commune di Ollolai, central Sardinia.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Red, R, Reagan, that's why we chose red." (A network broadcaster during the 1984 presidential election, explaining why states that had gone for Reagan were colored red on a national map. Democratic states were colored blue.)

## blue (the blue / police)

blue line  
the ~ (the police)

in blue  
I have the backs of our men and women ~ (a senator)

back the Blue  
Trump will unapologetically ~ (back the police)  
all good citizens ~ (support the police)

♦ see also *wall (blue wall, etc. / police)*

## blue (feeling)

broken and blue  
and so if I seem ~, walk on by (Dionne Warwick)

feeling blue  
I'm ~

♦ "But when I'm down, and feeling blue, I close my eyes so I can be with you." Watch: Irene Cara – Out Here On My Own (from FAME)

## blue blood

fellow blue-bloods  
North Carolina and ~ Kentucky, Duke (basketball teams)

## blueprint (noun)

blueprint  
they had to figure it out for themselves, there was no ~  
FDR didn't have a ~, he was an experimenter (New Deal)

blueprint of hyperpop  
Pop 2 is considered to be the ~

blueprint about what  
there is no ~ to do next

blueprint for change  
the plan is a ~, for action

blueprint for a better future  
clean energy is a ~

blueprint for reforming  
his ~ education has some good points

administration's blueprint  
the ~ calls on states to adopt new standards

budget blueprint  
his ~ would slash private and corporate taxes (politician)

education blueprint  
the president will send his ~ to Congress

draw up a blueprint  
leaders met to ~ for economic cooperation

## blues (the blues)

coronavirus blues  
five glimmers of hope to beat the ~ (BBC)

## blue whale

blue whale  
it's what a journalist might call a ~ (a story)

♦ "So it's this vital, forgotten buried event that's what journalists might call a blue whale, it's this event that sounded and sank in the past, dwelled unspoken for years and decades, and then it resurfaced in our present time, specifically in the wake of the Pulse Nightclub Shooting... And it sings this really strange song of a very different past..." (Robert W. Fieseler, speaking about his book *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation*.)

♦ see also *black swan*

## bluff (verb)

bluffing  
is the party ~, will they really do it (politics)  
she thinks I'm ~ but I'm not

bluffing on Brexit  
the EU is not ~

bluffing over the terms  
we are not ~ (diplomacy)

bluff his way out of it  
he managed to ~ (a sticky situation)

## bluff (noun)

call your bluff  
you're lucky she didn't ~ (negotiations)

## blunt (speech)

blunt  
he is ~ (speech)

blunt talk

his ~ has won praise (Donald Trump)

♦ "I used to use the word "incompetent." Now I just call them stupid."  
(Donald Trump.)

## blush (embarrassment)

saved Welsh blushes

his header ~ (soccer)

♦ "That was a massive goal from Niclas Fullkrug, really saved the German blushes. A real flattering result for Germany in the end..." ('Fullkrug saved German blushes' by Raphael Honigstein, German football journalist on BBC Radio 5 Live. FT: Switzerland 1-1 Germany, Euro 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone blushes in embarrassment.)

## board (on board)

on board with (Mursi's) changes

if the military is ~...

on board with the plan

she is not really ~

bring people on board

they've gone out of their way to ~ (developer)

climbing on board

many voters are ~ (politics)

get the managers on board

we need to ~ (workplace flexibility)

hopped on board

other companies have ~ (normcore fashion, music, etc.)

jumped on board

Harvard ~ last month (sex / romance policy)

keep them on board

it was hard to ~

♦ "He had the television deals, the hotel deals, the casino deals, he had an awful lot of people falling over him, so really, if you weren't on the King ship, you'd get stuck on an island, and you wouldn't be part of the business going forward." (The great boxing commentator Steve Bunce talking about the great boxing promoter Don King. From *Powerplay: The House of Don King*, BBC, Sounds. Super!)

♦ "Thomas Hughes was on board when the Vietnam ship went down..."

## board (off the board / euphemism)

off the board

the two other members of the ISIS cell are already ~

## boast (verb)

boast of its (statistically high) success rate

every summit allows a company to ~ (Mt. Everest)

title boasts

*All the Grand Matches* is what the ~ (rare sports book)

## boat (boat of science, etc.)

boat of science

he rocked the ~ (Pasteur)

♦ "[He] splashed up a great wave of excitement about microbes that rocked the boat of science for thirty years." (Pasteur. From *Microbe Hunters* by Paul De Kruif.)

## boat (in the same boat)

in the same boat

all the teams are ~ (concerns about fuel)

## boat (rock the boat)

rock the boat

they can be expected to ~

rock (Mr. Erdogan's) boat

the EU does not want to ~ (immigrants)

rocked the boat

he ~ of science (Pasteur)

rocks the boat

if anyone ~, it's not going to be me

♦ He wasn't there to rock the boat, he intended to sink it.

## boat (slow boat to China)

proverbial slow boat to China

what must have seemed the ~...

\*\*\* communication B.T. (before texting)...

♦ "News of King George II's death in 1760 took six wave-tossed weeks to reach her subjects in colonial America..." (*Atlantic: Great Sea Battles, Heroic Discoveries, Titanic Storms, and a Vast Ocean of a Million Stories* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ Word of Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga on October 17, 1777, reached ... King George III in England on December 2, and Benjamin Franklin in France on December 4. (*Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution* by Nathaniel Philbrick.)

♦ The February 1779 death of Captain Cook, killed by natives on a beach in Kealahakua Bay, Hawaii, during his third Pacific voyage, took over a year to reach London.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I'd love to get you, on a slow boat to China, all to myself, alone."

## boat (burn one's boats)

burned the boats

we ~, the only way home was through them (sports)

♦ "Joe Rogan in 'Joe Rogan: Burn the Boats.'" (His Netflix stand-up comedy special. "There's no coming back from this.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Point of no return." Cortes *supposedly* began his conquest of Mexico by burning his boats; the *Bounty* mutineers *certainly* burned the *Bounty* after reaching Pitcairn Island. Wikipedians are wonderful.

## boatload (amount)

boatload of (false) accusations

no apology, just a ~ and mischaracterizations

## body (body of the plane, etc.)

body of the device

the needle retracts into the ~ after use (safety syringe)

## body (body economic, etc.)

body economic

his description of the ~ had appeal (Adam Smith)

body politic  
see *body politic*

**body (body of literacy, etc.)**

body of world literacy  
the magazine is an open running sore on the ~

sore on the body  
the magazine is an open running ~ of world literacy

**body (black bodies, etc.)**

black body  
“The Trial and Massacre of the ~” (Daniel Black)  
~s are treated as commodities in this country  
~s vs black greatness, black genius (slavery)

black bodies on stage  
~ singing, dancing, expressing joy (a musical)

black bodies in *Beloved*  
the many ~—muzzled, mutilated, burned, hanged

black bodies killed by white hands  
the unspeakable pain of ~

black bodies and black suffering  
a country built on ~ (the US / Ta-Nehisi Coates)

bodies and stories  
there are other ~ that encapsulate black queerness

stolen bodies  
the richest men in America made their riches off our ~s

Asian body  
what it’s like to live in an ~ (in the US)

fat body  
maneuvering through spaces and institutions in a ~

*Pregnant Bodies*  
*Policing* ~ (book by historian Kathleen Crowther)

queer and trans bodies  
the Aymara femme devil performed by ~ (Sasha Geffen)

audacity of bodies  
the ~ that dare move and live in the face of death (Blacks)

criminalization of (black) bodies  
the ~ and brown bodies and...

violence against (black) bodies  
images of ~

relationship between police and (black) bodies  
the often precarious ~ (Timmhotep Aku)

objectification and commodification of (Black) Bodies  
~ (*Caul Baby* by Morgan Jerkins)

mind and body  
attempts to control the ~ of Black people

built on (Black) bodies  
this entire country was ~ (Regina King / *Harper’s Bazaar*)

destroy the (black) body  
in America, it is traditional to ~, it is heritage... (literally)

made their livings with their bodies  
he was raised among people who ~ (Black / factories, etc.)

normalizing violence against (Black) bodies  
we’re ~ once again (a dockside brawl)

police (Black) bodies  
the ways in which we sort of ~ in white spaces

put (Black) bodies in her visuals  
Bey has continued to make an effort to ~

stolen his body  
this is character assassination after they’ve already ~

dominate and control our bodies  
white America is a syndicate to ~ (Blacks)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “The employment of carriage whips, tongs, iron pokers, handsaws, stones, paperweights or whatever might be handy to break the black body, the black family, the black community, the black nation.” (Ta-Nehisi Coates.)

♦ “All our phrasing—race relations, racial chasm, racial justice, racial profiling, white privilege, even white supremacy—serves to obscure that racism is a visceral experience, that it dislodges brain, blocks airways, rips muscle, extracts organs, cracks bones, breaks teeth. / You must always remember that the sociology, the history, the economics, the graphs, the charts, the regressions all land, with great violence, upon the body.” (*Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.)

♦ “All this (Jim Crow, the Great Migration) reinforced what slavery had originally established: the Black body’s place at the bottom of the social order. This racist positioning became institutionalized in innumerable ways, and it persists today.” (“Black Success, White Backlash” by Elijah Anderson, *The Atlantic*, September 2023.)

♦ “The scourge of police and state violence against black bodies and brown bodies and immigrant bodies and people of color in this country.” (“‘Invisible No More’ Examines Police Violence Against Minority Women” by Cheryl Corley, NPR, November 5, 2017.)

♦ “That all comes back to my literal body and space and agency and words.” (Chaedria LaBouvier.)

♦ “In the Southern states of the United States, where Black bodies could frequently be seen hanging from trees.” (Maimouna Youssef about Billy Holiday and the song “Strange Fruit.” Approximately 4,000 Blacks were lynched in the South between 1877 and 1950.)

♦ “The celebration of the margins—black bodies in motion, women’s voices centered, black queer voices centered—is what ultimately vanquishes the state, represented by a NOPD car.” (“We Slay, Part 1” by Zandria F. Robinson @ New South Negress about Beyonce’s “Formation.”)

♦ “Melina Abdullah, a friend of Patrisse Cullors and co-founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, described the focus on narcotics as an ‘assassination of Keenan’s character after they’ve already stolen his body.’” (“A cousin of a prominent Black Lives Matter founder died after being tased by police” by Emily Olsen, NPR, January 14, 2023.)

♦ “To weaponize a panel of Black bodies of color to do your filth is insane. This is insane And this is how institutional white supremacy works.” (Chaedria LaBouvier, calling out a Guggenheim Museum panel during a Q&A. From “The Scapegoat” by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. “Weaponize.” “Black bodies.” “Of color.” “Institutional white supremacy.”)



♦ “My belief is that we should be centering the voices and the experiences of the most marginalized people and communities at all times. So when I think about what fat liberation looks like to me, I think about centering the voices of those who live in and who maneuver through spaces and institutions in a fat body.” (Zyahna Bryant, activist, who has partnered with the soap and beauty company Dove to promote fat liberation, or size freedom.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “In October 2022, Cross generated controversy over Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa’s recent concussions. During her October 8 broadcast, Cross said Tagovailoa’s treatment showed that white NFL coaches fail to protect ‘Black bodies.’ In fact, the Dolphins’ head coach, Mike McDaniel, is biracial and Tagovailoa is of Samoan descent.” (From the Wikipedia article “Tiffany Cross.”)

♦ “Lee is a longtime downtown experimentalist, and many of her work’s subjects—race, class, the body—are also crucial to Harris; he was excited to work with her. But she had extensive notes on ‘Slave Play,’ which Harris mostly declined to take. / Their dispute culminated in a formal complaint process...” (“Outside Man: Jeremy O. Harris, before and after ‘Slave Play’” by Vinson Cunningham, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023.)

♦ “This piece of public art, unveiled Friday, immediately garnered mixed reactions. In a long Twitter thread, *Washington Post* columnist Karen Attiah criticized the monument, saying that the artist ‘reduced’ the Kings to ‘body parts,’ adding: ‘For such a large statue, dismembering MLK and Coretta Scott King is...a choice. A deliberate one.’ Attiah continued: ‘Boston’s Embrace statue perfectly represents how White America loves to butcher MLK. Cherry-picking quotes about love and violence. While ignoring his radicalism, anti-capitalism, his fierce critiques of white moderates. MLK in his fullness—is still too much for them.’” (From “New MLK statue in Boston is greeted with a mix of open arms, consternation and laughs” by Anastasia Tsoulcas, NPR, Culture, January 17, 2023.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “Body found in Memphis identified as abducted jogger Eliza Fletcher.”

### \*\*\* analysis...

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ OLD: Afro-Americans, Black people, Blacks... / NEW: Black bodies...

♦ Wikipedia has no entry for “black body” with this usage.

## body count (literal analogy)

coronavirus body count

with a ~ exceeding... (politics)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ For Vietnam veterans, “body count” is associated with the Vietnam War. It was one of McNamara’s metrics for success. (In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Coronavirus body count” is polemical. Better to simply write, “coronavirus death toll...”

♦ Wikipedia has a short article “Body count.”

♦ Read the Wikipedia article “McNamara’s fallacy.”

## body count (figurative)

professional body count

there has been quite a ~ (firings, replacements)

♦ see also *casualty* (noun)

## body politic

body politic

Republicans kowtow to the ~

body politic versus the body natural

the ~ and how it related to sovereignty and Kings

China’s body politic

the damage that the British did to ~ was echoed in...

Syrian body politic

an ancient community could be amputated from the ~

diseases of our body politic

more fundamental causes of the current ~

scar upon the body politic

homelessness is a ~

cleavages in the body politic

we have these ~ (Barak Obama speaking in 2020)

sore in the body politic

Bloody Sunday became a running ~ (Ireland)

injecting poison into the body politic

they are ~ (Fox News, etc.)

plaguering the body politic

he presents a litany of ills that are ~

poisoning our body politic

the media is ~, and hurting our entire country

♦ “Mungiu is offering an anatomical scan of the Romanian body politic. But not only the Romanian one...” (“This Romanian film about immigration and vanishing jobs hits close to home” by John Powers, NPR, Fresh Air, May 2, 2023.)

♦ “That an ancient Syrian community could be amputated from the Syrian body politic because it was *inconvenient* always felt like a frightening precedent.” (*The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria* by Alia Malek.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## bog down (verb)

bog down U.S.-China relations

Pelosi continues to ~

bog down the plot with earnest morality lectures

the author doesn’t ~ (a book)

talks bog down

Iran nuclear talks ~ as deadline approaches

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “BLT 1/3 began to bog down when their A Company came under heavy rocket and mortar fire...” (The Vietnam War.)

## bogeyman (and boogeyman)

bogeyman of many

Venezuela has become the ~ on the right (politics)

Islamist bogeyman

the US is obsessed with the ~ (foreign policy)

became a bogeyman

Bible John ~ (Glasgow serial killer)

creates a boogeyman  
the myth ~ to stir up fear and repression (white anarchists)

## **bogged down**

bogged down in (federal) bureaucracy  
the plan got ~ (to restore the Everglades)

bogged down in (scientific) squabbles  
the test has been ~ and bureaucratic foot-dragging

bogged down in the (UN) system  
the US is ~

bogged down by red tape  
rescue efforts got ~ (Kobe earthquake)

overloaded, bogged down  
hospitals are ~ (epidemic)

get bogged down  
if they ~ at some bottleneck like the Hillary Step (Everest)

got bogged down  
the plan ~ in federal bureaucracy (environment)  
rescue efforts ~ by red tape (Kobe earthquake)

\*\*\* The mules exhausted themselves...

♦ "Making our way through the submerged forest was no easy job. The mules sank up to their knees in the mud, fell into deep holes, and exhausted themselves. / It was not till dusk that we managed to reach the hills on the right side of the valley. The mules were dead beat, but the men were still more tired." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## **boil (affliction)**

perpetual boil  
this ~ needs to be lanced (diplomacy)

two boils  
~ were lanced today (fired from *The New York Times*)

## **boil (initiation)**

emotions are boiling  
~ (Tea Party advocates in US)

tension are boiling  
~ (police shooting and verdict)

makes my blood boil  
it ~ (removal of fairy doors from forest)

## **boil down to (verb)**

boil down to  
but what does all this jargon ~

boils down to  
eventually it all ~ do I want a car or...

boils down to this  
it all ~...

boil down to the following  
your options ~...

boils down to cost  
the matter ~...

boiled down to the fact  
today it ~ we didn't get the bounces (loss / soccer)

boils down to one (major) issue  
the debate usually ~...

boil down to a (chronic) lack  
others say Metro's problems ~ of rail cars

boiled down to choice and safety  
the issue ~ (midwifery)

boiled down to two (simple) things  
his allure ~: money and power (drugs)

## **boilerplate (noun)**

boilerplate  
some of the charges seemed routine, almost ~ (crime)

boilerplate about "common sense and compromise"  
there was nothing new, just ~

boilerplate element  
it contained the ~s of any rejection letter

boilerplate ideologies  
they just repeat the ~ of their respective sides (a talk show)

boilerplate language  
ABC added basic ~ about the falsity of both claims (guest)

boilerplate motion  
it's a ~ filed by many defendants

boiler-plate points  
he made all the ~ (a politician)

boilerplate sentimentality  
the production is steeped in ~ (a play)

boilerplate statement  
the auditor's report was little more than a ~

boilerplate (opening) statement  
it began with a ~ (pro-Hamas student protest)

boilerplate stuff  
the ~ you'd expect in any trial (jury-selection questions)

boilerplate "thoughts and prayers"  
the statement offered the ~ to the victim's family

legal boilerplate  
the warning was mere ~ (company's filing)

upbeat management boilerplate  
it was written in the idiom of ~

♦ "Along with host Augusta Dell'Omo, Natalie takes us on a deep dive into... Michael takes us on a deep dive into...; Sophie takes us on a deep dive into...; Simon takes us on a deep dive into...; Ashton takes us on a deep dive into...; Ashley takes us on a deep dive into...; Julia takes us on a deep dive into... (Right Rising / RR on Stitcher. That's a lot of divers and diving! The repetition shows how a figurative

expression can go from novel to cliché to the kind of boilerplate language you might find in a disclaimer or label that is too boring to read. Guests break down, unpack, unpick, discuss, walk us through, give us an overview of, and help us with their respective topics.)

♦ see also *buzzword* (noun), *doublespeak* (noun), *ese* (legalese, etc.), *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language* (types), *lip service* (pay lip service, etc.), *newspeak* (noun), *speak* (NASA-speak, etc.), *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing), *talk* (mediator talk, etc.), *word salad*

## boiling point

reached a boiling point  
the crisis has ~

sent (racial) tensions to a boiling point  
his death ~ (Amadou Diallo, shot by police)

## boil over (verb)

boiling over  
as the #MeToo movement was ~, he was cooked (a chef)

anger boiled over  
his ~ Monday when he... (student shoots professors)

crisis was boiling over  
the energy ~

party boiled over  
a ~ (violence)

rage boiled over  
~ at the visit of Spain's king and queen (Valencia flood)

resentment boiled over  
her ~ and we had a big fight (husband / wife)

streets are boiling over  
the ~ (Egyptian protests)

about to boil over  
the situation is ~

♦ "It is neither a cold nor hot war, in those terms' traditional sense. It is a simmering war that sometimes boils over and other times remains warm." (Alan Dershowitz and Andrew Stein. From "Enough with the Band-Aids, Biden—we need to stop Iran now," *The New York Post*, Jan. 17, 2024.)

## bold (groups)

bold declaration  
Devon Gilfillian's latest album is a ~ of Black joy

bold name  
a group with a ~ ("No Sex for Fish" / NPR)

bold gender-bending  
Olga Neuwirth's ~ opera...

bold and beautiful  
hear Solange's ~ 'A Seat At The Table'

bold and controversial  
she took a ~ step (Mayor Lori Lightfoot / no whites)

bold, determined and unapologetic  
her ~ personality (Shirley Chisholm)

"aggressive," "bold" and "radical"  
her approach has been called ~ (Lina Khan of the FTC)

beautiful, bold, black  
Ali represents what ~ manhood can be (the boxer)

unapologetic and uncompromising and bold  
it was time to be ~ (cannabis taxes fund Black reparations)

Be Bold  
the ~ initiative (Misty Copeland)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I was just awestruck, how assertive you were, you being this really bold, bold woman." (Folashade Alao about her mother Margaret Powell.)

♦ "Minneapolis' Bold Plan To Tackle Racial Inequity And Climate Change." (NPR.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Presidents Day / Bold Savings / Latest Tech / Live Limited-quantity Deals." (An advertisement for Dell Technologies.)

♦ "TikTok's new beauty filter, called Bold Glamour... (A viral sensation.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Soviet submarine commanders had to be bold and aggressive." (In the Black Sea, due to the shallow depth of the waters, German mines, German destroyers, and German sub-hunters. From "Soviet Storm: World War II in the East.")

## boldly (groups)

boldly claim  
being able to ~ "I slay" is radical resistance (Beyonce)

boldly protesting  
women in Iran are ~ the compulsory hijab

boldly and authentically  
Barbiecore celebrates living ~ (Kim Culmone)

boldly and fearlessly  
the foundation strives to empower women to live ~

stands boldly  
she ~ in her uniqueness (Amythyst Kiah)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Fashion is a form of self-expression and Barbiecore celebrates living boldly and authentically." (Kim Culmone, senior vice president and global head of design for Barbie and fashion dolls at Mattel Inc. The summer of 2023 was the summer of "Barbenheimer.")

## Bolshevik

bolshevik against the science  
Jules Bordet was a little ~ of his master, Metchnikoff

little bolshevik  
he was a ~ against the phagocyte science (Bordet)

"saboteur" and "Bolshevik"  
he was called a ~ (lexicographer Philip Babcock Grove)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. Stalin visited his old mother and regaled her with stories about how nice the Kremlin was, how deep the carpets, how nice the furniture. His old mother listened, and her brows knit. "But Soso," she said. "What if the Bolsheviks come back?"

## bolster (verb)

bolster our forces against the enemy  
we must ~

bolsters his analysis with an army  
he ~ of statistics

bolster their arguments  
to ~ the Egyptians... (NTSB investigation)

bolster its (missile) capabilities  
China wants to ~

bolstered its capabilities  
the Coast Guard has ~ for port security

bolster their case  
to ~, FBI officials have prepared a... (terrorism)

bolster (babies') health  
living with a dog or a cat may ~ (germs)

bolster morale  
hot food and the Internet ~ (US military in Iraq)

bolster the myth  
this has helped to ~ that children... (intersexed)

bolstered the notion  
archaeological expeditions ~ of... (archaeology)

bolster patrols  
the Highway Patrol has hired 150 new officers to ~

bolster his reputation  
he was just shooting off his mouth to ~

bolster security  
funds to ~ for nuclear weapons and waste (terrorism)  
we have got to ~ at our schools (school shootings)

## bolstered

bolstered by the courage  
~ of their teammate, they won the game easily

bolstered by (a handful of) studies  
his insights are ~

bolstered by the work  
his conclusions were ~ of...

findings are bolstered  
experts say the ~ by the fact that...

## bolt from the blue

bolt from the blue  
talk about a ~... (surprise)

bolt-from-the-blue  
any US military action will look like a ~ act of aggression

♦ "Talk about a bolt from the blue; I'm shocked by this; to say that I am in shock is an understatement; a true shock; a real shock; a big shock; devastated; gutted; stunned; heartbroken; really really surprised; wow; didn't expect this!; didn't see this coming; unexpected news; OMG; No way!; Noooooooooooooooooooooo!; holy \*\*\*\*... (Online commenters about Jurgen Klopp stepping down from Liverpool.)

\*\*\* the Seymour, Indiana, girls' high-school softball team...

♦ "In southern Indiana lightning struck a ball field, injuring four members of the Seymour girl's high school softball team. One of the girls was in critical condition, while the other three sustained non-

critical injuries... The skies were reportedly clear at the time of the strike."

## bolt-hole (and bolthole)

bolthole  
Hamas' top brass chose the hospital as it ~ (Gaza)

bolthole for the world's shadow elite  
it provides a ~ (the UAE)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The woodchuck, feeling threatened, bolts to its hole.

## bomb (review-bomb, etc.)

glitter bombed  
gay-rights activists had "~" at rallies (politics)

love-bombed  
Finch ~ her with texts and sentimental gifts

photobomb  
see *photobomb* (verb)

review-bomb  
audiences were so offended they proceeded to ~ the game

WhamBomb!  
~ (see the Wikipedia article "Whamageddon.")

## bomb (literal analogy)

bomb cyclone  
West Coast braces for '~' (CNN Weather Center)

"lava bomb"  
a ball of solidified molten rock, also known as a ~

weather bomb  
Vancouver Island feeling the wrath of the coastal ~

♦ "Any excuse to say Bomb cyclone and I am ON. BOARD."  
(#BombCyclone)

♦ 'Lava bomb' speeds down Cumbre Vieja volcano (© Harri Geiger @ HarriGeiger. Super!)

## bomb (figurative)

time bomb  
see *time bomb* (person), *time bomb* (ticking time bomb, etc.)

ticking bomb  
we must control it, it's a ~ (online influence campaigns)  
he was a "~" planning to carry out attacks (a terrorist)  
he was a ~ for any woman involved with him...

rhetorical bomb  
he had no qualms about throwing ~s (politics)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "An IRA bomb on remembrance Sunday in 1987 killed 12 people." (In Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.)

## bomb (roach bomb, etc.)

bug bombs  
a New York City woman set off 21 ~ inside her apartment

roach bombs

you can buy rat-resistant trash cans and ~ (at a store)

♦ "A New York City woman set off 21 bug bombs inside her apartment, causing an explosion that collapsed her five-story building, injuring 14 people."

## bomb (code bomb)

"code bomb"

after he was demoted, he inserted a ~ (hacker)

## bomb (nuclear bomb)

'nuclear bomb' (council) bill

the ~ could boost room costs (New York City hotels)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I felt no remorse or guilt that I had bombed the city." (Charles W. Sweeney, pilot of plane that dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki in World War II.)

♦ "I don't feel any guilt or blame about it. I think my view really is if we hadn't done it someone else would have. And it would be with us in any case." (Lilli S. Hornig, who worked on the Manhattan Project. From "The Bomb," PBS, 2015.)

♦ Edward G. Uhl helped invent the bazooka in 1942. It was devastatingly effective against German tanks, able to penetrate more than 4 inches of a tank's armor plate. General Eisenhower hailed the bazooka as one of the four "tools of victory" that won World War II. The others were the jeep, the C-47 Skytrain, and the atomic bomb.

♦ "Afterwards, the President [President Truman] was heard to mutter, 'Blood on his hands, dammit, he hasn't half as much blood on his hands as I have. You just don't go around bellyaching about it.' He later told Dean Acheson, 'I don't want to see that son-of-a-bitch in this office ever again.' Even in May 1946, the encounter was still vivid in his mind, he wrote Acheson and described Oppenheimer as a 'cry-baby scientist' who had come to 'my office some five or six months ago and spent most of his time wringing his hands and telling me they had blood on them because of the discovery of atomic energy.'" (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "In 1945, news reached the camps that the US now possessed the atomic bomb. According to Solzhenitsyn, this unexpected development gave hope to many prisoners, who began to pray for atomic war." ("On The Prison Highway, The gulag's silent remains," by Ian Frazier, *The New Yorker*, August 30, 2010.)

♦ "The wailing over Hiroshima finds no echo in Japan. The Japanese know that Hiroshima was an important headquarters and staging area and a legitimate target. They are very glad that something, anything, happened to stop the insane war. However, with sufficient propaganda, they might in time be induced to feel that they were greatly wronged. Hiroshima, by the way, is largely rebuilt." ("Playing Down the Bomb: Blackett Versus the Atom" by I. I. Rabi, *The Atlantic*, April 1949.)

♦ see also *option (nuclear option)*

## bomb (drop a bomb)

dropped this bomb

Assange ~ without providing any evidence

dropped a truth bomb

Tina Fey came on as a guest and ~

dropped that little bomb in there

you just kind of ~ that you yourself got COVID (NPR)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I remember I went down into this hole for another scoop of dirt, and then that's when the bomb hit. I looked at the man I was digging this hole with; half his body was gone. And I looked up at the trees and I could see body parts on the limbs on the trees, and I shook myself out of it and I stood up, and it was so quiet." (Private Manuel Orona, Hill 875, Dak To, Vietnam War. The 500-pound bomb from a Marine plane caused the worst friendly-fire incident of the Vietnam War.)

## bomb (fail)

bombed

his previous movie had ~

bomb at a comedy club

so badly does he ~...

bombing at the box office

*Emancipation* starring Will Smith is ~

♦ "I'm interesting in all the bombing you have to go through..." (NPR's Scott Simon interviewing the comedian Sarah Silverman in 2013.)

## bomb (F-bomb, etc.)

F-bombs

her language is full of ~

f-bomb

dropping an ~ will likely hurt and help O'Rourke (NPR)

N-bombs

the cop is a stock baddie, tossing ~... (a play)

drop F-bombs

they ~ with children in the crowd (Boston Celtics fans)

peppered with F-bombs

the song was ~ (Gayle / "abcdefu")

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ The WMC FBomb is "An intersectional teen feminist media platform created by and for socially conscious youth." The "WMC" stands for "Women's Media Center."

♦ "Written with the help of two Nashville songwriters, the chorus of 'abcdefu' makes the childlike appeal of pop songwriting explicit—teenage angst by way of nursery rhyme. 'A-B-C-D-E, F-U,' Gayle sings. 'And your mom and your sister and your job...Everybody but your dog, you can all fuck off.' Though the song was peppered with F-bombs, it seemed easy for radio programmers to swap in 'eff' in censored versions." ("Extremely Online: Gayle, and the rise of meta-pop" by Carrie Battan, *The New Yorker*, October 10, 2022.)

♦ "Dropping an f-bomb at a campaign rally will likely hurt and help O'Rourke." ("Motherfucker." NPR punditry.)

♦ "Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday dropped the f-bomb on the White House Web site as she discussed how minorities should advocate for themselves." (The audience was delighted and laughed and applauded.)

♦ "But F-bombs, they used to kind of keep from showing you in those moments but now it's kind of for the world to see. So that's just the way it is." (NFL Quarterback Tom Brady, about his expletive-laden tirade at his offensive line, shown on TV for all to see and hear.)

♦ FOYFP. (The English footballer Jill Scott to Sydney Lohmann at the Euro 2022 final versus Germany at Wembley. "Fuck off you fucking prick." She would later say, "I do apologise for the swearing." But her cursing was widely praised by females.)

♦ LFGM. (Let's fucking go Mets. Pete Alonso.)

♦ "LFG!" (High-pitched whooping. Female soccer players and fans.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "F-bomb" bandwagon...

♦ "DROP THE F\*BOMB Talk To Your Kids About Fentanyl Fentanyl is being used to make counterfeit pills and is being laced into other illicit drugs. Make sure your teens know the facts. / Learn the facts on fentanyl and start a life-saving conversation with your teen. / DropTheFBomb.com (The ad council. A full-page ad in *The Atlantic*, November 2023.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Golden Knights' William Karlsson joins social disaster of sports stars freely using F-bombs." (The great sports journalist Phil

Mushnick of *The New York Post*. He truly deserves the epithet "the conscience of sport.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Rude words are a constant, but their ability to cause offense is in flux."

♦ View "John McWhorter on Cursing, Anti-Racism, and Why 'We Need to Stop Being So Afraid,'" YouTube, ReasonTV. It is a fascinating interview with a distinguished linguist who is always interesting. As the introduction says, "McWhorter's latest volume to hit store shelves is *Nine Nasty Words*, a study of how curse words such as "fuck" and the N-word became commonplace, unsayable, or something in between. [ReasonTV] talked with McWhorter about the shifting status of curse words and accusations of systemic racism in contemporary America."

♦ see also *freaking* (*F*, *effing*, *fricking*, *frickin'*, *friggin'*, etc.), *word* (*P-word*, etc.)

## bombard (verb)

bombarded principals with messages  
parents ~ (worried for kids)

bombard him with complaints  
the young men he employed would ~

bombarded Friedel from all directions  
Mexico ~ (soccer)

## bombarded

bombarded with notices about today's deadline  
her neighborhood has been ~ to file for compensation

bombarded with emails from opponents  
lawmakers were ~

bombarded with faxes from around the world  
the president's office was ~ from around the world

bombarded with complaints  
the company was ~

bombarded by (job) offers from companies  
he was ~

bombarded by hateful emails  
she is being ~

bombarded by (visual and auditory) stimuli  
we are constantly ~

bombarded by (so many unspecific) warnings  
citizens have been ~ (terror)

bombarded by new ideas  
in 1999, China was being ~ (due to Internet)

## bombardment (noun)

bombardment of (food) advertising  
the constant ~ (health)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "A grey, watery dawn broke at last behind the German lines; the bombardment, surprisingly slack all night, brisked up a little. 'Why the devil don't they send them over quicker?' The Actor complained. 'This isn't my idea of a bombardment...'" / "Shell shortage. Expected it," was Thomas's laconic reply. / We were told afterwards that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> a German aeroplane had bombed the Army Reserve shell-dump and sent it up. The bombardment on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and on the day of the battle itself, compared very poorly with that of the previous days... / No orders could come through because the shell in the signals dug-out at

Battalion Headquarters had cut communication not only between companies and Battalion, but between Battalion and Division. The officers in the front trench had to decide on immediate action; so two companies of the Middlesex, instead of waiting for the intense bombardment which would follow the advertised forty minutes of gas, charged at once and got held up by the German wire—which our artillery had not yet cut... / We went up to the corpse-strewn front line... Fortunately at this moment the Adjutant appeared. He was now left in command of the Battalion, and told Thomas that he didn't care a damn about orders; he was going to cut his losses and not send 'A' and 'D' over to their deaths until he got definite orders from Brigade. He had sent a runner back, and we must wait. / Meanwhile, the intense bombardment that was to follow the forty minutes' discharge of gas began. It concentrated on the German front trench and wire. A good many shells fell short, and we had further casualties from them. In No Man's Land, the survivors of the Middlesex and of our 'B' and 'C' Companies suffered heavily... / Samson lay groaning about twenty yards beyond the front trench. Several attempts were made to rescue him. He had been very badly hit. Three men got killed in these attempts; two officers and two men, wounded. In the end his own orderly managed to crawl out to him. Samson sent him back, saying that he was riddled through and not worth rescuing; he sent his apologies to the Company for making such a noise. / We waited a couple of hours for the order to charge... Finally a runner arrived with a message that the attack had been postponed... / At dusk, we all went out to rescue the wounded, leaving only sentries in the line. The first dead body I came upon was Samson's, hit in seventeen places. I found that he had forced his knuckles into his mouth to stop himself crying out and attracting any more men to their death..." (*Good-Bye To All That* by Robert Graves.)

♦ Allenby: (Pointing to the map.) Pound them, Charley. (Thumping his fist on the chalk board.) Pound them. / (The scene changes. It is night. Artillery flickers on the horizon like the aurora borealis.) / Ali: God *help* the men who lie under that. / Lawrence: They're Turks. / Ali: God *help* them. (From the 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*.)

## bombed (love bombed, etc.)

glitter bombed  
queer activists ~ him (a protest)

glitter bombed during speech  
Britain's potential next prime minister ~ (October 2023)

love-bombed with support  
I've only been ~ (Oberlin's lacrosse coach Kim Russell)

♦ "In an exclusive interview, Crystal Hefner reveals she was 'love bombed' by 'misogynist' Hugh Hefner."

## bombing (noun)

glitter bombing  
~ is an act of protest (see the Wikipedia article)  
~ is usually reserved for anti-gay, Republican politicians

love bombing  
"~" and dating (manipulation)  
"~" can also relate to job recruiting (manipulation)  
what are some red flags of '~'  
doing 'too much too soon' could indicate ~  
the best way to navigate ~ is to recognize it's happening  
the ~ feels good at the beginning...

love-bombing  
the guilt, the shame, the anger, the ~, the fear (abuse)  
~, overpromising, underdelivering (recruiters / jobs)

review bombing  
"~," when hordes of angry fans assign the lowest rating  
*Bros* suffered from mass ~ (the queer film)

truth-bombing  
viewers of CBS were treated to an uncomfortable ~



water-bombing

firefighters battled the wildfires with ~ planes (Gironde)

Zoom-bombing

there has been an increase in so-called ‘~’

Zoom bombing

the ~ was an attack on free expression

♦ Love bombing; the love bomber... (Love bombing.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I remember I went down into this hole for another scoop of dirt, and then that's when the bomb hit. I looked at the man I was digging this hole with; half his body was gone. And I looked up at the trees and I could see body parts on the limbs on the trees, and I shook myself out of it and I stood up, and it was so quiet." (Private Manuel Orona, Hill 875, Dak To, Vietnam War. The 500-pound bomb from a Marine plane caused the worst friendly-fire incident of the Vietnam War.)

## bombproof (adjective)

bombproof

your pro should be ~ (climbing)

bombproof roll

you need a ~ (kayaking)

## bombshell (noun)

bombshell

dropping a real-life ~ from his past

bombshell of a story

what a ~ (the horse Justified failed doping test)

bombshell claim

the ~ came on cross-examination (murder trial)

bombshell lawsuit

the ~ was filed last week...

economic bombshell

the president dropped an ~ when he announced...

new bombshells

stayed tuned for ~ (entertainment TV)

political bombshell

he must steady a party battered and bruised by a ~ (DUP)

amid the bombshells

his children feel bad for their father ~ (celebrity)

bombshell landed

perhaps the most jaw-dropping ~ just 3 days ago (trial)

dropped his bombshell

he ~ (a lawyer)

fired (back) a bombshell

she ~ (divorce back-and-forth)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

## bonanza (noun)

bonanza of waves

the storm has created a ~ for surfers (hurricane)

bonanza for credit card companies

the move away from cash has been a ~

propaganda bonanza

the attack was a ~ for the insurgents

marketing bonanza

his success has been a ~ (Japanese ballplayer)

commercial bonanza

the drug has been a ~

financial bonanza

the ~ from Turkmenistan's gas fields

## bond (noun)

invisible bonds

the ~ that weave a country together into a single polity

## bone (close to the bone, etc.)

close to the bone

his arrest hit ~

## bone (cut something to the bone, etc.)

cut his rations to the bone

Shackleton had taken risks, he had ~

pared his novel down to its bare bones

he ~ (every word important)

pared to the bone

the delegation has been ~ (government trip abroad)

♦ see also *pared (pared to the bone)*

## bone (racist bone, etc.)

bone in my body

I have not one evil ~

political bone

he doesn't have a ~ in his body (a military man)

racist bone

there's not a ~ in my body

I don't have a ~ in my body

to the bone

Marcos Llorente, a Blanco ~ (Real Madrid player)

to his bones

though he was an autocrat ~, he was not a fascist

♦ "When it comes to matters of morals, I'm Catholic right down to my little toes." (The abortion issue.)

## bone (throw a bone to someone)

throwing them a bone

she is just ~ hoping they'll support her (politics)

## bone (bone of contention)

bone of contention

a big ~ is Biden's embrace of "Buy American" (Canada)

## boo (verb)

boo

some of you may cheer and others will ~...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Do not boo. Vote." (Barack Obama at the 2024 DNC. He was talking about booing Donald Trump. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## boo (noun)

boo birds

the ~ have savaged him (a poor NFL quarterback)

cheers and boos

the judge's decision drew ~

## booby trap

booby trap of missteps

their fraudulent marriage creates a ~ (plot of book)

booby traps for unwary workers

many 401(k) plans have options that are ~

party booby traps

holiday ~ (ethics laws and partying / government)

budgetary booby trap

legislators concocted a ~ and must now defuse it (cuts)

political, ideological and geopolitical booby traps

the Middle East is such a mess of ~

overcome a booby trap

cooks had to ~ (the stink of Brussels Sprouts)

♦ "He took responsibility for and poured resources into improved public schools when most mayors thought schools were political booby traps." (Scott Simon's wonderful tribute to Richard M. Daley. From "Chicago's Recommended Daley Allowance, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, September 11, 2010.)

♦ "Someone could get nailed for two beers and a bacon wrap. Nobody wants to be the example... I'm just going to avoid them this year." (A House GOP aide, about ethics "guidance" from House and Senate ethics committees, that could turn simply attending a party into a "booby trap" that could "blow up in one's face.")

♦ "They're trying to grab the House, and we've got barricades, picket fences and booby traps to defeat that." (A Kentucky Democrat, presumably speaking figuratively.)

### \*\*\* non-military...

♦ "Booby traps: Man in Maine killed by own device."

♦ "New technologies in cars are potential booby traps for first responders."

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I found a piece of red detonating cord between my legs. That's when I knew I was screwed." (Gunnery Sgt. Michael Burghardt, aka "Iron Mike" and "Gunny," just before getting blown up by a trap while investigating an IED in Ramadi. Incredibly, he was not too badly wounded. A photo of him "flipping off" whoever detonated the trap became famous on the Internet.)

♦ "Victim-operated improvised explosive devices, known as VOIEDs, have various switches known as pressure plates. The idea is that the bomb is detonated by an unsuspecting individual by completing the circuit when pressure is applied or removed to the switch. / A power

source supplies electricity between the switch and the detonator and by completing the circuit, the main charge explodes..." ("A U.S. Marine, A Curious Boy And An Unfathomable Moment" by AP investigative reporter James LaPorta, at NPR, September 9, 2021.)

## booby-trapped

booby-trapped email

most ransomware attacks begin with a ~

## book (rule book)

rip up the rule book

its willingness to ~ (*Fast & Furious* franchise)

♦ "Lot of the reasons why we're doing stuff was too...was just, a freedom to do an activity and there was no coaches and parents involved, you know, it was just, you know, definitely no rule book, you know? Same as the world. It didn't come with a manual." (The great snowboarder Terje Haakonsen, one in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

## book (close the book)

closed the book on a NFL future

he has ~ (athlete)

close the book on this

we need to ~ and move on

## book (books and covers)

judge a book by its cover

you can't ~

♦ "I mean you can't judge a book by its cover, you have to read a little bit, to find out what the chapters are, to see what the substance of the book is." (The great boxing promoter Don King. During his spell at the Marion Correctional Institute in Ohio, he improved himself by reading. The rest is history. Or, as he himself would say, "Only in America!")

♦ "If you read the book past its cover, Tim Walz is anything but a middle-of-the-road Middle American." (Dan McLaughlin, senior writer, *National Review*. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## book (open book)

open book

the rookie driver is a refreshingly ~ (interviews, etc.)

## book (by the book)

by-the-book

he was strictly ~ (a soldier)

## book (throw the book at somebody)

"throw the book" at anyone

he vowed to ~ responsible

threw the book at him

the judge ~

## book (life is a book)

book of life

a man's ~ should be considered, not just one chapter (trial)

what is the ~ itself but man's war with nature (wild beasts)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Every time a language dies, it's the equivalent of a bomb being dropped on the Louvre." (The linguist Lera Boroditsky, attributing the quote or sentiment to the linguist Ken Hale. This sounds very much

like "When an old man dies, a library burns to the ground." A variation is "When an elder dies." And that is generally attributed as "African.")

♦ "It is a book as old as time: a good young person makes a mistake, chapter two is a good, young person is full of remorse. Chapter three is a good young person learns from the mistake and becomes a better person." (Australia Olympic team boss Ian Chesterman, following the bad behavior of some Australian athletes at the Tokyo Olympics.)

## bookend (development)

hormonal bookends

a woman's ~ (puberty and period / menopause)

## bookworm

bookworm

I admit it, I'm a ~

## boom (jade boom, etc.)

jade boom

the ~ has been fueled by the Chinese

boom and bust

Argentina is used to ~ (the economy)

## boom (increase)

booming

business is ~

## boomerang (verb)

boomeranged on him

it ~ (controversy)

boomerang (back) on us

it could ~

## boomerang (noun)

boomerang kids

millennial ~ may consume resources, finances and time

♦ "He has been hit by a boomerang launched by himself." (PM Boris Johnson.)

## booming (adjective)

booming popularity

the ~ of audiobooks coincides with the rise of podcasts

## boost (verb)

boost the economy

it will ~ (medical tourism)

boost his image

this will ~ in the public eye (a fallen celebrity)

boost (sagging) morale

they turned to sports to ~ (soldiers in war zone)

boost scores

schools are under relentless pressure to ~

boosted my spirits

it ~

## boost (noun)

boost of expertise

big business can offer a ~ (vaccination campaign)

boost from the private sector

public health can get a ~ (outsourcing)

give a boost

the deal would ~ to health programs (federal spending)

## boot (Italy's boot, etc.)

boot of Italy

the ~ ( *Io Stivale* )

Italy's boot

Taras and Croton, on the heel & instep, respectively, of ~

instep of Italy's boot

the road reached the Ionian Sea at the ~ (Taranto)

toe of (Italy's) boot

the town of Riace lies near the ~ ('the global village')

♦ "If you look at that boot of Louisiana, the regions that will get hit the hardest are at the ball of the foot. Those sparsely populated parishes facing the Gulf like Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Plaquemines." (John Burnett reporting on Hurricane Ida.)

♦ The state of Missouri has a bootheel region, based on its shape.

## boot (oppression)

boot

as the ~ is removed from the neck of the people

boot of the Americans

Latin America felt the heavy ~ (Guatemala / 1950s)

under the boot

the people are ~ of barbaric power (Albania)

has its boot on the neck

the government ~ of the company

## boot (shake in one's boots)

shaking in their boots

a lot of HR folks are ~ (mass resignations / COVID)

## boot (get the boot)

got the boot

he ~ after making the final four (a dance contest)

## boot (soldier)

boots on the ground

we needed ~ (soldiers abroad to fight terrorism)

we have increased our ~ (US-Mexico border)

## boot (too big for one's boots)

get too big for their boots

politicians are not allowed to ~ (Swiss referenda)

## boot camp (education, etc.)

boot camp

'~' helps caregivers manage stress (daylong workshop)

boot camp for people to learn  
 she runs a 2-day ~ the tools and algorithms...

two-day bootcamp  
 this ~ will also include... (freelancing / Jamie Lauren Keiles)

three-day (sustainability) “boot camp”  
 a ~ run by the James Beard Foundation (cooking)

Publishing Bootcamp  
 “~: Everything You Can’t Google About Freelancing”

application boot camp  
 Top Tier Admissions’ “~” costs \$16,000 (for high-schoolers)

Beauty Bootcamp  
 ~--Hooters Employee Handbook

brain boot camp  
 older folks get modest memory boost from ~

Breakup Bootcamp  
 Renew ~is run by Amy Chan, the “Chief Heart Hacker”

econ bootcamps  
 those ~ had a big impact (for federal judges)

fitness boot camp  
 fans of Malibu ~ The Ranch (Michelle Obama, etc.)

language boot camp  
 the ~ for Mormon missionaries

*Life Purpose Boot Camp*  
 ~: *The 8-Week Breakthrough Plan* (by Eric Maisel)

Stanford University ‘boot camp’  
 the ~ teaching Congressional staffers about AI (HAI)

werewolf boot camp  
 so they asked to do a ~ (actor Emma Myers)

academic book camp  
 professor launches ~ (algebra)

conducts (free) boot camps  
 Ed Butowsky ~ for players (financial literacy / athletes)

holds a boot camp  
 “This group ~ to help left-leaning orgs meme-ify politics”

♦ “In the middle of January 2023, Morgan Sword and his team invited me to a Scottsdale, Arizona, resort to attend a special ‘boot camp’ that MLB had organized for the game’s 76 full-time umpires to get acclimated to the new rules.” (“How Baseball Saved Itself” by Mark Leibovich, *The Atlantic*, July / August 2023. The “bootcamp” is also referred to as a retreat.)

♦ “What happens when you take some of the most powerful people in America—federal judges—and you teach them economics? / In the 1970s, an academic named Henry Manne had a radical idea. He wanted to show judges the power, the clarity, the logic of economics. So he invited the judges on trips to fancy resorts—all expenses paid—where they would mingle and take lessons from famous economists...” (“Econ’s Brush with the Law,” NPR, Planet Money, September 23, 2022. At one point, the presenter uses the term, “econ bootcamp.” The intensity and total immersion, the reshaping of an individual, and the relatively short duration is what such a “boot

camp” has in common with a real one. Everything else... Not so much!)

♦ The Congressional Boot Camp on AI is run by the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI (HAI). It’s a 3-day course, at the end of which participants—many of them Congressional staffers—receive a Stanford University certificate of completion.

♦ “So we went after those kids from the very beginning, many basic math skills. The multiplication table, 1 through 15 became a way of life for them every single day, starting at 10 o’clock until 2, it was all algebra, algebra, algebra, basic math, basic math, basic math.” (Daryao Khatri, a physics professor at the University of the District of Columbia. From “Professor Launches Academic Boot Camp,” NPR, Tell Me More, May 7, 2014.)

♦ “A four-day “application boot camp,” run by a company called Top Tier Admissions, costs \$16,000 (plus room and board). During the sessions, the high school juniors develop their essays, learn how to ‘ace’ their interviews, and create an ‘activity sheet’ to sum up all the awards, sports, club activities, and community work that admissions officers are eager to see.” (*Weapons Of Math Destruction* by Cathy O’Neil.)

♦ “Now, legal groups are responding by training a new generation of activists to sue.” (“Welcome To Voting Rights Boot Camp” by Carrie Johnson, NPR, Politics, April 7, 2014. In a similar activist vein, “Opposition Research Boot Camp: Learning to Dig For Political Dirt” by Tamara Keith, NPR, It’s All Politics, April 1, 2013. And, more recently, “This group holds a boot camp to help left-leaning orgs meme-ify politics” by Elana Moore, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, January 20, 2024. NPR writers seem to like the word, “bootcamp.”)

♦ “So they asked me to come in and do, you know, werewolf boot camp, and I was like, ‘Ok, what does that mean?’” (Emma Myers. From “‘Wednesday’ star Emma Myers went to ‘werewolf boot camp’ for the Netflix Series: ‘I’ve never done so much parkour in my life’” by Eammon Jacobs, *Insider*.)

♦ “NYC wingwoman LLC, a relationship coaching service based in New York City, offers matchmaking, wingwoman services, 1-on-1 Coaching, and intensive weekend bootcamps.”

♦ Boot camps for juvenile delinquents; boot camps to help veterans cook healthier food; boot camps to fight childhood obesity... (Boot camps for anything you can think of!)

♦ WRETCHED EXCESS. “Service members are known for their discipline and their ability to stay cool under fire. Veteran and financial planner Steve Repak says those skills are crucial to managing everyday finances. He speaks with host Michel Martin about his book, *Dollars and Uncommon Sense: Basic Training for Your Money...*” (“A Military Boot Camp For Your Money,” NPR, Money Coach, November 15, 2012.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “Avery is truly loved by so many. Loving on her brothers and learning how to live with Avery’s loss is our only focus right now.” (Eric and Kelly Koonce, the parents of Cadet 4th Class Avery Koonce, 19, found dead in her dormitory at the United States Air Force Academy.)

♦ “In one particularly egregious example, a cadet was implicated in the rape of another cadet in Chase Hall. The Academy’s Staff Judge Advocate...expressed concern that handling the matter administratively and discharging the cadet would send the student body a message ‘tantamount to the declaration of “open season” on women.’ Contrary to his advice, the cadet was administratively discharged from the Academy without military justice action.” (“Fouled Anchor” Investigation—Final Report. The United States Coast Guard Academy.)

♦ Misery, Agony, and Heartbreak... (The three hills that recruits marched up and down at Fort Knox, Kentucky, for recruit training during the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

♦ “Got the Fort Knox Boogie / Got the Fort Knox Boogie / What a crazy sound / What a crazy sound / If you want to have a ball / If you want to have a ball / Then you got to go AWOL / Then you got to go AWOL! / Sound off / One Two...” (Recruit training, Fort Knox, the Vietnam War.)

♦ “Raheel Siddiqui died after he threw himself off the barracks stairwell, falling 40 feet, while going through boot camp in 2016, an investigation into his death found.” (“Family seeks Supreme Court in

\$100M lawsuit for Parris Island Marine recruit's death" by Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, Feb 6, 2020. The Supreme Court declined to hear the case.)

♦ "I asked Mario D'Aliesio, branch head of behavior health for Marine and Family Programs at Camp Pendleton, whether he found the string of suicides shocking or disturbing. / 'Does it seem shocking? I don't know,' he said." ("Over Six Years, There Have Been More Than 30 Suicides at Camp Pendleton" by Will Huntsberry, *Voice of San Diego*, July 19, 2022. The story was completed with assistance from the USC Annenberg Center for Health journalism.)

♦ A D.I. screaming and spitting in your face, route marches, K.P., fatigue details, AWOL, drugs, blanket parties, the gas chamber, suicide attempts in the latrine, Correctional Custody (CC)... (Boot Camp.)

♦ "Here's a little song I wrote / I want to sing it note for note / Don't worry, be happy / In every life, we have some trouble / When you worry, you make it double / Don't worry, be happy... (Watch: Jarhead (2005): Most Memorable Scenes!

♦ Watch on YouTube: Forest Gump is the BEST soldier because he doesn't think (Best Scenes)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

## bootleg (adjective)

bootleg copy

he bought a ~ of Microsoft Windows

## bootlegger (person)

digital bootlegger

new tools to go after ~s (a legislative bill)

\*\*\* the great 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*; *Copperhead Road*...

♦ Lee Dollarhide: (to Doolittle): If you're born in Kentucky you've got three choices: coal mine, moonshine or move it on down the line. (From the wonderful 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*, with Tommy Lee Jones and Sissy Spacek. In another memorable scene the moonshiner / bootlegger Lee Dollarhide meets his fate...after hearing a click.)

♦ Years back in Bryson City, North Carolina, commercial establishments on Main Street had signs on their plate-glass windows: "No leaning against the glass."

♦ Outside of Bryson City, North Carolina, the writer Horace Kephart—author of *Our Southern Highlanders* and *Smokey Mountain Magic*—died in an auto accident, apparently on the way back from the Cherokee Indian reservation after purchasing bootleg whiskey. He's buried in Bryson City, North Carolina, with a wonderful view of the Great Smokey National Park, which he helped establish for the benefit of millions of visitors every year. Half of the people in Bryson City have never heard of him, half have, and of the half who have heard of him, half approve of him, and half don't.

♦ "I learnt a thing from Charlie, don't you know / You better stay away from Copperhead Road." (Watch and listen: Steve Earle- *Copperhead Road* (Official Music Video)

## bootlicker (noun)

bootlickers of the patriarchy

do not believe those ~ (Sasha Geffen)

♦ If a dog can't bite, it licks. (An insult.)

## boot out (verb)

boot out the IMF

Chavez helped Argentina ~

## border (proximity)

border on the absurd

his arguments ~

bordered on miraculous

the last-minute goal ~ (sports)

bordered on obsession

his pursuit ~

bordered on panic

her response ~

border on racism

his comments ~

borders on rudeness

this ~

## border (doctors without borders, etc.)

Barbers Without Borders

TRAP Medicine— ~

Basketball Without Borders

he took part in the ~ (BWB) Africa Camp in SA

Doctors Without Borders

~ sounded alarms (famine in Niger)

~ addresses charges of racism within its ranks (NPR)

MSF, the acronym for ~ (Medicines Sans Frontieres)

~ to take legal action against Bollywood film

Dub Without Borders

Adrian Sherwood: ~ by Sami Yenigun, NPR, 2012

*Food Without Borders*

*Chocolate: A ~* (Alejandra Garcia, NPR, 2009)

*Lawyers Without Borders*

~? (NPR's Michele Kelemen / universal jurisdiction)

Martyrs Without Borders

"Mohammed Hafez on ~" (Fresh Air, July 23, 2007)

Plumbers Without Borders

~'s main goal in Haiti is to teach (plumbing)

*Radio Without Borders*

~: *Larry Lange, Eleni Mandell, Josh Rouse & More* (NPR)

Reporters Without Borders

Reporters Sans Frontieres, or ~...

~, known as RSF...

Soccer Without Borders

~ uses soccer to reach underserved youth

*'Tables Without Borders'*

~ *Opens Restaurant Kitchens to Refugee Chefs* (NPR)

Translators Without Borders

Alyssa Boulares, crisis response manager for ~

*Clowning Without Borders*

~ *Aims To Give Refugees Another Way To Heal* (NPR)

♦ "Happy World Plumbing Day! We Celebrate By Interviewing...A Plumber" by Linda Poon, NPR, Goats And Soda, March 11, 2015.

♦ "Barbershops offer a unique setting for removing key barriers such as cost, literacy, proximity, and trust." ("Importance Of Colon Cancer Screening Among Black Men Highlighted After Chadwick Boseman Death," wbur, Here & Now, August 31, 2020.)

♦ "[The show evolved] into his Conan Without Borders specials." ("After 28 Quirky Years, Conan O'Brien Is Leaving Late Night" by Eric Deggans, NPR, Television, June 24, 2021. Cuba, Armenia, South Korea, etc.)

♦ "We see business without borders. You should have the ability to do business with anyone, anywhere. When business speaks a global language, the barriers disappear, and we believe technology can help. It inspires us to create software that brings companies closer to their customers and partners, regardless of language or location. Microsoft.com/potential. Your potential. Our passion.™ Microsoft. (A 2-page ad after the cover of *Smithsonian*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Okay. Anything you can think of can be "without borders." Doctors, reporters, clowns, barbers, translators, plumbers, lawyers... Good marketing.

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## borderland (noun)

borderlands of science

a broad humanistic interest led him to pioneer on the ~

## born (born teacher, etc.)

born to do it

she was ~ (the UK boxer Caroline Dubois)

born athlete

the kid was a ~

born bloodhound

he's a ~ who lives to track the scent of malfeasance

born teacher

he was, it seemed, a ~

born worrier

~s versus people who are carefree

natural-born

~ genius is often deliberate technique (teachers)

she is a ~ leader

there are no ~ salesmen

## born (creation)

born

how to let peace be ~ despite the difficult labor pains  
the Red Guards were ~, and a period of madness began...  
Macedonia was where Slavic Christianity was ~  
it's where the Red Cross was ~ (Geneva, Switzerland)

born of war

the Taliban were ~ (fundamentalist movements)

born in the 1970's

the shadowy Baluchistan Liberation Army, ~ (Pakistan)

born in the Swiss Alps

On was ~ (On is a company that makes running shoes)

born in ancient Greece

the Olympics, ~ and reborn in Athens in 1896...

born in New Orleans, Louisiana

Satch(mo), both you and jazz were ~, right (Roy Plomley)

born in (great) jubilation

South Sudan, ~, is plunging into a vortex of violence

born on 23 May 1991

the *Koori Mail* was ~ (indigenous Australian newspaper)

born on platforms

it was ~ associated with far right extremism (QAnon)

born on the kitchen table

the *Chicago Defender* was ~ of its publisher in 1905

born on the (New York) subway

the Guardian Angels were ~ about 40 years ago (crime)

born from Wounded Knee

he thinks of everything that's been ~

born out of frustration or ignorance

his comments were ~

born digitally

the material wasn't ~ and must be hand-scanned

conceived, born and raised

*Nature* was ~ to serve polemic purpose (the magazine)

phrase was born

the ~ in a Facebook post in 2013 ("Black Lives Matter")

star was born

a ~ (Tom Daley at Beijing Olympics)

♦ "Six months after *Hotcakes* and Sally [Sarah] were born, James released his fifth Album, *Walking Man...* (Carly Simon's album, the baby, and James Taylor's album. From *Girls Like Us* by the fine writer Sheila Weller.)

♦ "Icebergs are born to wither and melt away." (BBC "How a colossal block of ice became an obsession" by Jonathan Amos, 15 Jan 2022.)

♦ *Born On The Fourth of July* was Marine Ron Kovic's affecting 1976 autobiography. It was made into a 1989 film directed by Oliver Stone and starring Tom Cruise.

## born-again

born-again Christian

his conversion from hell-raiser to ~

born-again conservative

he is a ~

sound like a born-again

I hate to ~, but it has changed my life (hypnotism for...)

## born-on (adjective)

born on date

best consumed within 110 days of the ~ (Budweiser)

## boss (the Boss / epithet)

known (by his crews) simply as "The Boss"

he was ~ (Shackleton)



### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Boss." Shackleton is noted. So is Bruce Springsteen. Wikipedians are wonderful. Not mentioned: Stalin was known as "the Boss." Frank Sinatra was *not* referred to as "the Boss," he was known as "The Chairman of the Board."

## bottle (British English / verb)

bottled it again

he ~, he cannot handle the pressure of a big moment

bottled it against Italy

he ~ in Euros (England manager / soccer)

bottle a (title) challenge

3 points from 4 games, that's how you ~ (Arsenal FC)

♦ "Call him Pepsi Guardiola, because he knows how to bottle it." (Soccer snark after Manchester City snatches defeat from the jaws of victory against Real Madrid.)

♦ "Of course he bottled it...else he may have won a trophy.." (A sour sufferer of the "Robert Falcon Scott" syndrome about England-France at the World Cup in Qatar.)

## bottle (British English / noun)

bottle and guts

fair play to Chisora who is showing plenty of ~ (boxer)

♦ "No bottle no fight." (Soccer snark against Liverpool FC.)

♦ "Once your bottle's gone it's gone, AJ needs to pack it in." (Boxing snark.)

♦ "Doubts about their character—"bottle" to use the vernacular..." (Phil McNulty about "gutless" Chelsea. Arsenal 5-Chelsea 0.)

♦ "He's got the 'stones' to make risky decisions." (A football coach.)

♦ see also *grit* (political grit, etc.)

## bottled up (emotions)

bottled up inside

he must have a lot of fright and anxiety ~ (soldier)

bottled up rage

the ~ of black people (the rapper Bobby Sessions)

kept them bottled up

these things I internalized, I ~ (Andre Leon Talley)

## bottleneck (the Bottleneck, etc.)

the Bottleneck

the climbers came to the infamous passage called the ~  
~, an hourglass-shaped gully beneath a serac (on K2)

Bottleneck Pass

~ is a gap in Aleutians West Census Area, Alaska

Bottleneck Peak

routes up ~ include Tippin The Bottle (Utah)

Bottleneck Wash

~ enters from the left (into Granite Creek, Arizona)

## bottleneck (noun)

bottleneck

Native Americans hunted the pronghorn at this ~  
the Panama Canal has become a ~ (too narrow, etc.)  
opening this ~ is critical (shortage of nurses)

bottlenecks on highways

traffic ~

bottlenecks in the (nation's) power grid

~ can cause outages

transportation bottleneck

it's really going to be a ~ (lack of trucks)

genetic bottleneck

blood samples reveal a ~ (too few Amur tigers left)

at some bottleneck

if they get bogged down ~ like the Hillary Step (Everest)

become a bottleneck

the Step has frequently ~ (Hillary Step / Everest)

remove (refining) bottlenecks

industry must ~ (oil)

### \*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ "We will have more eh neck bottles, traffic jams, and that is a dangerous thing." (The remarkable Ecuadorian mountain guide Carla Perez on a relatively crowded K2 in 2019.)

## bottle up (emotions)

bottles things up

she ~

bottle it up and put it away

you kind of ~ (male on male abuse)

bottle up your emotions

you're trained to ~ and keep pushing (a Marine)

♦ "When you internalize your emotions and you don't tell anyone, you don't go to anybody, these emotions only build up in you and, at a certain point it's like pouring water into a container, eventually it's all going to spill over and it's going to flood." (A 16-year-old girl about how persistent bullying could lead to a school massacre.)

## bottle up (impe)

bottled up the Russian Far Eastern Fleet

the Japanese ~ at Port Arthur (1904)

## bottom (at the bottom)

at the bottom of the barrel

do their time ~ (worst job assignment)

at the bottom of the (economic) pyramid

new jobs are coming ~ (poorly paid jobs)

at the bottom of the pecking order

we were ~ (biker club)

## bottom (hit bottom)

hit bottom

we may have ~ (unemployment)

hit rock bottom

the moment you ~ and admit to yourself... (addiction)

he was a person who had ~

things had ~ (bad relationship)

before you can get better, you have to ~ (addiction)

hitting rock bottom

livestock prices are ~

♦ "And so rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life." (The remarkable J.K. Rowling in her remarkable speech at Harvard University.)

## **bottom (get to the bottom of something)**

get to the bottom of where  
he was never able to ~ the money had gone

get to the bottom of the error  
state officials said they would ~

get to the bottom of this case  
we want to ~

get to the bottom of this mystery  
no one wants to ~ quicker than... (crash)

get to the bottom of that  
we're never ever going to ~ (a boxing issue)

get to the bottom of things  
we need to ~ (a murder investigation)

get to the bottom of this  
we will ~ (investigation into fatal stampede)  
I want to ~ (US sits by during genocide in Rwanda)  
we'd really like to ~ (mystery illness)

get to the bottom about what happened  
we need to ~ (congressional investigation)

## **bottom (no bottom)**

no bottom to his willingness  
there is ~ to abuse his power (politics)

## **bottomless (adjective)**

bottomless  
the well of outrage is ~ (fundamentalists)

bottomless thirst  
China has a ~ for oil and gas

## **bottom line**

bottom line  
what it is going to mean for the ~ (sanctions)

## **bouillabaisse (mixture)**

bouillabaisse of his forebears  
Lil Nas X is a ~ (George Michael, Elton John, etc.)

## **bounce (verb)**

bounced from one idea to the next  
I ~ (what to do this summer)

bounced around Southwest Asia  
he ~ (a terrorist)

bouncing around  
he was ~ a lot back then (rootless)

bounces in and out of bankruptcy  
everybody ~ (airlines)

bounced between homes  
his family ~ (rootless)

## **bounce back (verb)**

bounce back  
the love and support of someone who helps them ~  
she was always able to ~ (Whitney Houston)

bounced back  
I matured and ~ (a boxer)

bounce back from (natural) disasters  
modern economies ~ (Kobe earthquake, etc.)

bouncing back from the pandemic  
the economy is ~ (UK)

bounce back from setbacks  
the UFC has been able to ~

bounce back quickly  
resilient people ~ from failure

## **bounce back (noun)**

tremendous bounce back  
we're going to see a ~ (lifting COVID restrictions)

## **bound (destination)**

college-bound  
~ high-schoolers are making their final deliberations

## **bound (constrained)**

bound by a (strict) code  
they are ~ of ethics (education consultants)

bound by the rules  
he did not feel ~ that governed most men

bound by the (military's) code of silence  
he didn't feel ~

desk-bound  
the Chairman oversaw only the 1,600 ~ officers

duty-bound  
nurses are ~ to report what they think is abuse

earth-bound  
the more ~ reality of everyday politics (vs. activism)

fogbound  
the plane crashed in ~ mountains

fog-bound  
a pileup on a ~ stretch of freeway killed eight (France)

hidebound  
*see hidebound*

homebound  
the ~ elderly  
he takes meals to a ~ invalid

honor-bound  
I am ~ to pay him back

house-bound  
she is ~

ice-bound  
Siberia's ~ expanse  
the climate of ~ coastal regions

leather-bound  
~ books

muscle-bound  
a ~ frat boy

snowbound  
we were ~  
Nigata Prefecture is ~ for months (Japan)

spellbound  
see *spellbound*

tradition-bound  
the Marines are the most ~ of the services

tradition-bound  
the Navy was run by ~ admirals

wheelchair-bound  
the ~ author

feel bound  
he didn't ~ by the military's code of silence

## **boundless (adjective)**

boundless courage  
Israel's soldiers have shown ~ (Israel-Hamas war)

boundless energy  
he was known for his ~ and tireless volunteerism

boundless enthusiasm  
he didn't share his ~

boundless love  
President Biden says he has '~' for his son

boundless optimism  
a ~ in the power of technology (computing)

## **boundary (division)**

boundaries of the (doctor-patient) relationship  
a psychiatrist may relax the normally strict ~

boundaries between plant species  
the ~ are far more porous than among animals

boundaries between news and opinion  
the breakdown in the ~ (at the *New York Times*)

boundary expressions  
lexicographers must deal with these ~

racial boundary  
Hispanic is an ethnicity crossing ~s

strict boundaries  
a psychiatrist may relax the ~ (doctor-patient)

social, cultural and religious boundaries  
his teachings transcend all ~

boundaries blur  
when ~

boundaries were disappearing  
the ~ (between commentary and news at the NTY)

transcended (racial) boundaries  
his work ~ (playwright August Wilson)

♦ "Viruses laugh at border walls." (Public health.)

## **boundary (behavior)**

boundary  
the usual ~s keep getting crossed (politicians)

boundaries of their (famed) tolerance  
the Dutch are rethinking the ~ (drugs, sex, squatting)

boundary violation  
it was a definite ~ and a super-scary event

pushes boundaries  
he ~ (the comic Dave Chappelle)

relax the boundaries  
a psychiatrist may ~ of the doctor-patient relationship

♦ "People push the boundaries more and more and act like they are innocent. Kinda the equivalent of a toddler holding the finger an inch away saying 'I'm not touching you' over and over saying they are not doing anything." (Leon, commenting on the Yahoo article, "20-year-old claims bar manager 'humiliated' her because of her 'inappropriate' shirt: 'I wasn't topless'" by Katie Mather, September 1, 2022.)

## **bounded**

bounded on the east  
the plateau is ~ by an escarpment of 100m

bounded (on the east) by an escarpment  
the plateau is ~ of 100m

plateau is bounded  
the ~ on the east by an escarpment of 100m

## **bounds (no bounds, etc.)**

knows no bounds  
the hypocrisy of the NCAA ~

overstepped his bounds  
he's a creep who ~ (gossip)

overstepping their bounds  
Homeowner's Associations are ~

## **bound up**

bound up in the myths  
Indians are ~ white Americans have created

## **bouquet (collection)**

bouquet of memories  
this record brings back a particular ~ (Melvyn Bragg)

bouquet of tests  
Kerala is doing a ~, diagnostic, pooled... (pandemic)

## boutique (noun)

boutique (mountain guide) service  
Madison Mountaineering is a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, “try this genius hack to...” In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

## bow (and bow down)

bows before legend  
rational explanation often ~ (folklore)

bowing to cancel culture  
they are ~

bow to the inevitable  
we will have to ~

bowed to the inevitable  
he has ~ (minister under attack resigns)

bowed to pressure  
he has ~ from industrialists (a politician)

bow (down) to (government) pressure  
he thought the Washington Post would ~

bowed to (public) pressure  
he finally ~ to do something

bow (down) to Russia  
for cheap gas, we should ~ (a Moldovan taxi driver)

bowed to someone  
they ~ who wasn’t even in office (Republicans / Trump)

bowing to the U.S.  
the Turks are not ~ (arms dispute)

back down or bow  
she’s an artist who won’t ~ to convention

## bow (take a bow)

take a bow  
Graham Potter and team ~, well done (win over ManU)

## bow (weapon)

strings to his bow  
he has many ~ (MMA / Francis “the Predator” Ngannou)

strings to their bow  
Guardiola’s side have many ~ (Manchester City soccer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Arrow, bow, and quiver* are three words from archery that are used figuratively.

## bowels (noun)

bowels of the prison

a tiny, dark room in the ~ (solitary confinement)

bowels of Madison Square Gardens  
we’re now walking through the ~ (radio show)

bowels of the Los Angeles Superior Court  
I found in the ~ a lawsuit... (O.J. Simpson trial)

bowels of the ship  
he gathered his men in the engine room in the ~

deep in the bowels  
scientists walk around ~ of the CDC (Atlanta, Georgia)

## bowl (Vietnam’s rice bowl, etc.)

grain bowl  
Punjab is India’s “~”

rice bowl  
the Mekong Delta, Vietnam’s ~

## bowl (America’s salad bowl, etc.)

“Salad Bowl of the World”  
the city bills itself as the ~ (Salinas, California)

America’s salad bowl  
the Salinas Valley is known as ~ (greens)  
the Salinas Valley is nicknamed ~  
Northern California’s Salinas Valley is often dubbed ~

## bowl (salad bowl / mixture)

mixing bowl  
the club was a ~ (young musicians learn from elders)

kaleidoscopes, mosaics, and salad bowls  
the melting-pot metaphor has been replaced by ~

melting pot, a (beautiful) tapestry, or a salad bowl  
is the United States a ~

reimagined as a salad bowl  
the melting pot was being ~ (ethnic identity, etc.)

♦ Argentina was once described by a Polish émigré as “batter that has not yet become cake.” (“Another New World” by Larry Rohter, *The New York Review*, June 10, 2021.)

♦ “This points to a unique understanding of plurality of Indian society—it is more like a *thali* (an Indian meal comprising a selection of separate dishes served on a platter), rather than a melting pot.” (Neha Sahgal, a lead author of a Pew study that found Indians support religious tolerance *and* religious segregation.)

♦ “Williams has taken the Slovenian flag, a samosa and Carniolan sausage to space in celebration of her Indian and Slovenian heritage.” (From the Wikipedia article “Sunita Williams.” Super!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Macedonia [was] the inspiration for the French word for ‘mixed salad’ (*macedoine*).” (*Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* by Robert D. Kaplan.)

## bow out (verb)

bow out  
he has refused pressure to ~ (a politician)  
it would have been a good time for him to ~ (a boxer)

♦ “This is a pretty special way to bow out if this is indeed his swan song.” (Commentary about the great and beloved boxer Amir Khan,

who lost his match to Kell Brook by TKO in the sixth round in a packed Manchester arena.)

## box (box somebody into a corner)

boxed himself into a corner  
he has ~ on tax increases (a politician)

## box (in / out / outside the box)

out-of-the-box  
how ~ can I go (actor takes strange roles)

out-of-the-box destination  
Milwaukee resonated as an ~ (2024 RNC)

out-of-the-box idea  
she came up with an ~

think out of the box  
we have to think ~ (WHO and Ebola)

think outside the box  
she learned how to ~

fit it (neatly) into a (single conceptual) box  
“data” escapes attempts to ~ (cloud, stream, mine, etc.)

## box (labeling)

box ticking  
he fits their ~ agenda perfectly (AJ as BBC commentator)

Eurovision box  
they didn't try to fit into a ~ (an Italian group)

conventional political boxes  
I have not always fit comfortably into ~... (politician)

broken out of a lot of boxes  
I've ~ in my career (actor-filmmaker Elizabeth Banks)

fit into a box  
I don't ~...

forces autistic people into a box  
the world often ~

put them in a box  
we don't want to brand people, to ~ (legacy students)

♦ “I have not always fit comfortably into conventional political boxes. Maybe you've noticed that... [Laughter from audience.] Democrat, Republican, Liberal or Conservative, because...” (Senator Joe Lieberman.)

♦ “There's a real pressure on us to be in boxes, and I would not be kept in a box during segregation, and I don't like boxes now. I think that's quite unfortunate. I wasn't raised that way. I was raised trying to get out of them.” (Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in a 2007 ABC News interview.)

## box (tick a box / requirement)

box-ticking exercise  
this is just a ~ to silence criticism

tick-box exercises  
~ that really have no clinical value (NHS bureaucracy)

tick both boxes  
trying to ~ was always the goal (to make a film popular)

ticked all the boxes  
he had ~ he needed to (to travel / COVID)

ticks all the boxes  
Tyson Fury ~ (the boxer)

ticks every box  
her game ~ (Emma Raducanu)

ticking a box  
it's not just an exercise of ~ anymore, it's taken seriously

♦ “Their performance ticked every box and then some...” (Arsenal 5-Chelsea 0.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Often, “ticks all the boxes” means “satisfies all requirements for success.” But a person might also “tick all the boxes” for psychopathy!

## box (tick a box / diversity)

boxes of (so-called) diversity  
there are easy ways to tick the ~ and not critically engage

diversity box  
she ticks almost every ~ going (see quote below)

ticked the diversity boxes  
less qualified candidates who ~

ticks off (just about) every box  
she ~ that liberals might want in a nominee (SCOTUS)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “The media (and we all know the leanings) thought this was Christmas / Ons (and none of her fault) ticks almost every diversity box going and the BBC would have been wetting itself in anticipation...” (An online commenter about the defeat of Ons Jabeur by Marketa Vondrousova at Wimbledon 2023. Another commenter posted, “Well done Marketa / Beat Jabeur, the crowd and the commentators.”)

♦ “Her LinkedIn ticks off every far-left box.” (NPR's CEO Katherine Maher.)

## box (check the box, etc.)

box to be checked  
the FAA was just another ~ (profits over safety)

Oscar boxes  
Oppenheimer checks all those big ~ (epic, biopic, etc.)

checked a box  
it feels like they ~ by having the vigil (Dartmouth College)

check the boxes  
it seemed like an exercise to ~ (bureaucratic formality)

checked a lot of boxes for my dream next thing  
this ~ (Anthony Weiner about his company)

check-the-box exercise  
it's merely a one-week ~ (mental health / policing)

check-the-box holiday  
a paid holiday vs. just a ~ (Juneteenth)

tick in a box  
I don't think it is a procedural ~ (cold case investigation)

♦ “Check, check, check, and it was a no-brainer...” (The popular NFL player Cam Newton returns to the Carolina Panthers. Or as Newton himself said, “You know where I’m here, and this ain’t for no ploy.”)

♦ Epic; a biopic of a famous person; a serious movie; historical; great director who deserves but hasn’t won an Oscar; a quality film; popular; did big box office... (“*Oppenheimer* checks all those big Oscar boxes.”)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “It feels like they checked a box by having the vigil in May and that they just want everyone to move on now.” (A Dartmouth student, unsettled by the deaths of four students. Two were suicides.)

♦ “This should be a wake-up call for every agency across the country, do not rest until wellness is truly a priority, not a checkbox.” (The “First H.E.L.P.” group.)

## box (check the box / diversity)

checks certain boxes

she isn’t qualified at all, but ~ (the federal government)

check off (multiple) boxes

it would ~ for ethnic and racial diversity

\*\*\* **various groups...**

♦ “Do news rooms lack diversity? Well, it depends what boxes you want to check.” (Chris Cuomo speaking with Uri Berliner about the latter’s criticism of NPR. NPR’s Washington, DC, staff consists of 87 democrats and 0 republicans.)

♦ “She got grants, and she got fellowships, and she checked boxes, and she got positions.” (A Pretendian, known for her beadwork and other Native American signifiers and her loud laughter at gatherings and pow-wows.)

♦ “You’re only here because we had to check a box.” (Women in Army special forces.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “I know the Rooney Rule [is] essentially a checkmark... that doesn’t really require you to give any actual attention or intent to hiring Black coaches.” (Mat Hostetler, “Sometimes It Rains” podcast.)

♦ “Malcolm is all too obviously present to fill the biracial slot...” (“A Whole Lotta Pain” by Daniel Mendelsohn.)

♦ “I see my company (NPR) trying to better represent America with the voices we put on the air, and I’m looking at my own sourcing, and I get too much credit. Every voice I bring to the airways from India is a person of color. Check the box, you know. That’s diversity from my bosses’ point of view. But I’m looking at different types of diversity in India and thinking...caste.” (NPR’s Lauren Frayer, whose reporting on India has been controversial.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “It’s about not having to label everything, not having to clarify what boxes you’re checking.” (Harry Styles, about his sexuality.)

## boxed (boxed in, boxed into)

boxed in

she’s not about to be ~ (a singer and her style)

boxed into a category

being an advocate without being ~ (Cola Boyy)

## box office (noun)

box office for *Sea of Love*

~ was brisk from the outset (the film with Al Pacino)

## boy (type)

boy

see *boy (insult)*

boy’s club

see *boys’ club (boy’s club, boys club)*

mama’s boy

see *mama’s boy (and mummy’s boy, etc.)*

blue-eyed boy

see *boy (blue-eyed boy)*

bad boy

see *bad boy (behavior)*

big boy

see *big boy (person)*

F-boy

a ~ versus a “nice guy” (TV reality show FBoy Island)

good boy

we have to present ourselves as the ~ (a businessman)

Old Boy

see *Old Boy (Old Boy network, etc.)*

golden boy

see *golden boy*

softboi

he plays Romeo as an inexperienced ~ (Kit Connor)

♦ see also *girl (type), guy (good guy, etc.), joe (average joe, etc.), lady (crazy lady, etc.), man (big man, little man, etc.), mister (and Mr., Missus, Mrs.)*

## boy (insult)

men against boys

Arsenal versus Manchester City, ~ (Man City 4-Arsenal 1)

## boy (blue-eyed boy)

blue-eyed boy of publishing

audio is the ~ at the moment (audio books)

♦ “Mount must be Southgate’s love child.” (Soccer snark.)

♦ “He [was] a charismatic personality he was the blue-eyed boy, he was Mary Whitehouse’s lawyer, he was in the public domain, everybody knew about him, he was a QC, very eloquent.” (A victim of John Smyth. From “Independent Learning Lessons Review John Smyth QC,” Keith Makin Independent Reviewer, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024. This is also referred to as the Makin report.)

## boyish (adjective)

boyish appeal

he’s twenty-eight, and his ~ is rushing past its sell-by date

charmingly boyish

at thirty-nine, he could still seem ~ (J. Robert Oppenheimer)

## boys’ club (boy’s club, boys club)

boy’s club

the upper echelon of music is still a ~  
economics still stands alone as a ~

boys club of comedy

he wants to change the ~ (Guy Branum)



“boys club” culture  
sexual misconduct and a general ~ (media company)

boys’ club network  
she describes the Academy as a ~ (the Grammys)

good-old-boys  
see *Old Boy* (*Old Boy network, etc.*)

break into journalism’s boys club  
booze and bawdy jokes helped her ~ (Connie Chung)

break through the (sportswriting) boys’ club  
the battle to ~

break up the boys’ club  
the push to ~ at the Fed

confronted (Rock’s) boys club  
they ~ (music)

♦ “This whole situation in the industry is like a big boy’s club... I’m telling on one of y’all friends, now you’re all about to hate me.” (Testimony by Megan Thee Stallion at trial.)

♦ “There’s a boys club culture at Scotland Yard that’s allowed predatory behavior against women to flourish.” (The Baroness Casey Report on the Metropolitan Police Service.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “If I want to join this boy’s club, you better be able to take the blows.” (The remarkable actor Michelle Yeoh, on learning and doing martial arts stunts with men. She received an Oscar for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in 2023. Super!)

## brace (verb)

brace yourself  
~ for bad news  
~ for economic turbulence (world drowning in debt)

brace for (yet another) election  
Israelis ~

bracing for more fallout  
Washington is ~ from the scandal

braced for a typhoon  
the Philippines ~ that could trigger flooding

## braced

braced for a long siege  
the demonstrators are ~

braced for a (tropical) storm  
Florida is ~

## Brahmin (person)

Brahmin Caste  
the ~ of New England (Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.)

brahmin elite  
they are an insular, intermarrying ~ (Bohemian Bourgeois)

Brahmin Left

some call them the ~ (Hollywood creatives, academics, etc.)

Boston Brahmin  
~ has a Wikipedia article

♦ “They have coalesced into an insular, intermarrying brahmin elite.” (“How The Bobos Broke America” by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “And this is good old Boston, / The home of the bean and the cod, / Where the Lowells talk only to Cabots, / And the Cabots talk only to God.” (“Boston Toast” by John Collins Bossidy.)

## brain (noun)

brains behind the machinery  
he is the ~ that makes the wave (Kelly Slater’s wave)

brains behind the project  
he was the ~

brain drain  
see *brain drain* (and *brain gain*)

mathematical brain  
he is the ~ behind the striking timepieces (sundials)

Broke Our Brains  
“How Civilization ~” (Derek Thomson / *The Atlantic*)

## brain (on the brain)

sex on the brain  
not that men need help getting ~

## brain (get one’s brains around something)

get our brains around what  
to understand that we have to ~ the department does...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ There is much stupid confusion between arm (get one’s arms around something), brain (get one’s brains around something), hand (get one’s hands around something), head (get one’s head around something), and mind (get one’s mind around something.) There are multiple possible reasons for this stupid confusion.

♦ see also *arm* (get one’s arms around something)

♦ see also *hand* (get one’s hands around something)

♦ see also *head* (get one’s mind around something)

♦ see also *mind* (get one’s mind around something)

## brainchild (noun)

brainchild of a Ladakhi engineer  
the ice stupa is the ~ (Sonam Wangchuk)

brainchild of Ted Turner  
24-hour news was the ~ (CNN)

brainchild of a (16-year-old high school) student  
the stunt was the ~ (viral news story)

brainchild like STEM  
a ~ has many fathers (education / Charles E. Vela, etc.)

Mat Damon’s brainchild  
*The Last Duel* is ~ (the film)

♦ “A brainchild like STEM has many fathers, and one who has credibly claimed paternity is Charles E. Vela...” (Education.)

## brain-dead (adjective)

brain dead

Macron described NATO as “~”

‘Brain Dead Liberal’

“Why I Am No Longer a ~” (article by David Mamet)

“brain dead” and “morons”

he labeled complaining residents as ~

♦ “*Porgy and Bess* is a buncha good songs but has nothing to do with race relations, which is the flag of convenience under which it sailed.” (The great playwright David Mamet, from “Why I Am No Longer a ‘Brain Dead Liberal,’” *The Village Voice*, March 11, 2008.)

♦ “Democrat politicians really do believe that the average US citizen is completely brain-dead.” (A comment on a discussion board.)

## brain death (noun)

brain death of Nato

what we are currently experiencing is the ~ (Macron)

♦ “You have to look at the background and see exactly which bits of Nato Macron was criticizing.” (Sophie Pedder, Paris Bureau Chief of the *Economist*, talking on NPR about Macron’s description of NATO as “brain dead.” Angela Merkle labeled Macron’s description “drastic words.”)

## brain drain (and brain gain)

brain drain

the agency has suffered a severe ~

"brain gain"

out-of-state students lead to a ~ (at Chapel Hill, NC)

reverse brain drain

the US is seeing a ~ as foreign students go home

## brainstorm (verb)

brainstorm ideas

~ for his current script

brainstorm solutions

meet key people and ~ to the challenges you face

brainstorm everything

if we tried to ~ that could possibly go wrong, we'd...

## brainstorm (noun)

latest brainstorm

his ~ is to open a chain of "As Seen on TV" stores

## brain trust

medical brain trust

he compared notes with the NFL's ~ (concussions, etc.)

## brainwash (verb)

brainwashed him

the cult had ~

## brainwashed

brainwashed to believe

they have been ~ that everything is about race (CRT)

brainwashed by the media

he says his co-worker has been ~ (politics)

♦ “I didn’t see things clearly because I was on a mission to be the best.” (Carli Lloyd, the USWNT legend, who blames her personal coach for the reason why she didn’t talk to her family for 12 years, from 2008-2020. According to Carli, her coach was narcissistic, manipulative, controlling, and brainwashed her.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “She may have been coerced, brainwashed or even drugged.” (A terrorist.)

♦ “He’s a human being; we should treat him the same as we treat any other G.I.... I don’t think it’s the boy’s own fault. No doubt at the time—I never seen him or never met him—No doubt he was young and he wasn’t trained properly.” (Charles E. Kelly, World War Two veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, when he was asked by Mike Wallace, newsman, “How do you think that we should treat US Army turncoats?” like Samuel David Hawkins, who had just returned back to the US from China in 1957.)

## brainwashing (noun)

feels like brainwashing

it ~ (positive affirmations, etc.)

♦ “I didn’t see things clearly because I was on a mission to be the best.” (Carli Lloyd, the USWNT legend, who blames her personal coach for the reason why she didn’t talk to her family for 12 years, from 2008-2020. According to Carli, her coach was narcissistic, manipulative, controlling, and brainwashed her.)

♦ “Positive affirmations encouraging you to live your best life can be found almost everywhere. / But what if you don’t feel like it? For mental health advocate and author Dave Tarnowski, society’s penchant to push what he calls ‘toxic positivity’ felt like brainwashing.” (“Pushing back at a culture of relentless ‘toxic positivity’” by Terry Ward, CNN, Thu May 2, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to the Wikipedia article, “The term ‘brainwashing’ was first used in English by Edward Hunter in 1950” in the context of the Korean war.

## brainworm (obsession)

dads with brainworms

it’s a movie for ~ (see below)

♦ “Rolling Stone called it ‘a superhero movie for dads with brainworms.’” (The 2023 film *Sound of Freedom*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Wiktionary entry is excellent: a delusion, obsession, ingrained or unquestioned idea (sometimes derogatory); figurative; slang. From the 2010s.

♦ “It’s not going to catch on beyond a certain crowd.” (The linguist John McWhorter, speaking specifically about the term “LatinX.”)

## brake (control)

emergency brake

they are pulling the ~ (COVID shutdown)

hit the brake

you still have to ~ if you want to stop at some point

let up on the brakes

policy makers feel like it’s time to ~ (and cut interest rates)

pump the brakes

some voters want them to ~ (impeachment)

moderates are saying, hey, let’s ~ (slowdown of demands)

somebody needed to tell her to ~ and to stop pushing to...

when you're caught up in something, it's hard to ~ (cult)

tapping the brakes a bit  
the Fed is ~ on the economy

pump the brakes on its Racial Equity Center  
the company confirmed that it will ~ (Walmart)

put the brakes on your feelings  
you ~ to avoid confrontation (Japanese "Gaman")

put the brakes on (economic) growth  
industrialists fears the unions would ~

slammed the brakes on that decision  
he has ~ (a sports matter)

tap the brakes on spending  
something is causing shoppers to ~

tap the brakes on spring break  
high gas prices may ~

tapping the brakes (a bit) on the economy  
the Fed is ~

♦ "You still have to hit the brake if you want to stop at some point. Because there is a wall there, and you are driving toward the wall, right? So if you want to stop before the wall, you have to start braking. So that's where we are. We don't accelerate anymore, which is good, but we don't brake it." (Pierre Freidlingstein at the University of Exeter. The good news is, the world might reach peak greenhouse gas emissions in the next couple of years, and then emissions would start to decline. The bad news is, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will, apparently, require reducing greenhouse gases to...wait for it...drumroll...zero.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Our brain knows we shouldn't stomp on the gas, but our foot does it anyway."

♦ see also *accelerator (speed)*, *gas (step on the gas / step off the gas)*, *pedal (pedal to the metal)*

## branch (taxonomy)

branches of Buddhism  
the various ~ (Zen, Tibetan, etc.)

branches of Christianity  
the Armenian Church, one of the most ancient ~

branch of Islam  
the Hazara are members of the Shiite ~ (Afghanistan)  
discrimination against adherents of the Shi'a ~  
the Salafiya ~ regards Shiites as non-Muslims  
the Ismailis are a minority within the minority Shia ~

branches of Islam  
the centuries of enmity between the Sunni and Shiite ~

branch of Shia Islam  
Ismailism is a ~

branches of biology  
ecology is one of the hardest ~ (it's so complex)

branches of the (Hawiye) clan  
the many ~ (Mogadishu)

branch of government  
judges constitute a third ~

branch of knowledge  
theology was accepted as the supreme ~

branches of the military  
special operations forces from various ~

branch of physics  
quantum mechanics is a ~

branch of engineering  
he felt the oil industry ~ suited his personality

branch of the Bani Hassan  
Al-khalayleh is a ~ (Jordan)

branch bank  
each of the four corners has a ~ (NYC)

branch library  
or any other ~

ordnance branch  
he is in the ~, which provides ammunition

service branch  
veterans from all four ~s

Salafiya branch  
the ~ of Islam regards Shiites as non-Muslims

Shi'a branch  
discrimination against adherents of the ~ of Islam

Shia branch  
the Ismailis are a minority within the minority ~

various branches  
special operations forces from ~ of the military

adherents of the (Shi'a) branch  
discrimination against ~ (in Saudi Arabia)

♦ "The Russian diaspora is no longer a branch of Russia; it is no longer clear which is the branch and which the trunk." (Mikhail Zygar, a White-Russian émigré self-exiled in Berlin.)

## branch (of a river, canyon, etc.)

West Branch  
~ South Prong Alafia River (Florida)  
~ South Fork South Eden Canyon (a valley in Utah)

## branch out (verb)

branch out  
I just thought I'd ~ (make new friends)

branched out into (food) wholesaling  
he ~ (a businessman)

## brand (verb)

brand them apostates  
Sunni Arab extremists ~ (Iraq's Christians)

branded all Chechen rebels baby killers  
he ~ (post-Beslan)

brand Trump a fascist  
the left loves to ~

branded his accusers liars  
he ~ (convicted sex abuser)

branded him a racist  
he lost that gig, too, after the *Times* ~ (Doug Adler / ESPN)

branded the extradition "unlawful"  
the Russians ~

## brand (non-product)

brand of nationalism  
the Scottish National Party promotes a "big tent" ~

brand of politics  
what makes Chicago's ~ so distinctive

Brand America  
it's hard to overstate the reputational damage to ~ if...

on-brand  
so this is very ~ for him (NPR punditry / politics)

political brand  
your particular ~ (identity, values)

dragging our brand down  
she is ~ (one Republican about another)

♦ "A brand can communicate something, how you wear your pants can communicate something, the portfolio of colors that you choose to adorn yourself with can communicate something..." (Branding and shoes, clothing, pens, politics, authenticity, identity, etc.)

♦ Shankar Vedantam: "I want to talk a moment about a non-business, non-consumer setting, uh, Republicans and Democrats don't think about their political parties as brands, but it sounds like they almost relate to them in the way people relate to brands... And I'm wondering, is the animosity we see in the country between Republicans and Democrats less to do with ideology and more about brand loyalty." / Americus Reed: "Political parties are indeed brands." ("I Buy, Therefore I Am: How Brands Become Part Of Who We Are," NPR, Hidden Brain, July 1, 2019.)

♦ "She is a total waste of time. She is a horrible leader. She is dragging our brand down." (One U.S. Republican senator about another.)

♦ "We've got to take a sober, humble, and honest look in the mirror and rebrand ourselves based on what we truly value." (Matthew McConaughey after a visit to the White House to meet President Biden and talk about the Uvalde school shooting.)

♦ "Part of the United States being a superpower is its soft power, it's the films, it's the human rights, it's the dream. The United States is losing on its brand, it's losing on its soft power." (An aggrieved Palestinian woman about the Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "Because heat is invisible, and silent, it doesn't have the drama of the hurricane, and the tornado, and the flood, it needs extra identification and branding." (Kathy Baughman McLeod, "a high-energy leader with a passion for local cultures," at the Atlantic Council. From "Naming heatwaves may help warn of the risks associated with them," NPR, Morning Edition, June 13, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Many Americans now think of conflict as two sides of a sports game and identity as a brand. How did this happen?

♦ "Shrink it and pink it." (Marketing to women.)

## brass (leader)

Detroit Lions brass  
~ went wild in their war room (glad about draft pick)

top union brass

maybe the ~ aren't for Trump, but... (hardhat worker)

♦ "Hamas' top brass chose the hospital as its bolthole." (Israel-Hamas war.)

## brat (insult)

petulant brats  
no room in team sports for arrogant egotists and ~

spoilt brat  
disgusting ~ behaviour (a poor loser / boxing)

arrogant narcissistic brat  
good riddance to the ~ (criticism of a soccer player)

♦ bye brat. You were a GOAT but your head is now far too big. (Criticism of a great soccer player.)

♦ "Brilliant performance by Brighton, I know it was only Liverpool, but you can only spank what's in front of you." (Sureditch on a BBC HYS. 1056 thumbs up.)

## brave (the brave)

favours the brave  
fortune ~ (Super Bowl crypto ad with Matt Damon)

## brave (verb)

braved the weather  
several hundred people ~ for a screening

## brave (girls and women, etc.)

brave book  
Bari Weiss has written what must be judged a ~ (blurb)

braver than I am  
he's a lot ~, he's been living in a small town being trans...

bravest (new) character  
she is the ~ on TV (the Muppet Julia, who is autistic)

bravest (red carpet) looks  
Taylor Swift's ~

brave plaintiffs  
the two ~ who took on Florida's anti-gay marriage ban

brave thing  
it is so, so scary to do the ~... (Sophia Bush)

brave (widower) type  
the press wanted him to be this very ~ (Joe Biden)

Brave, a Badass, a Heretic  
I have been called ~ (a female blogger)

brave and bold  
this album is so ~ (Rodney Carmichael / Tierra Whack)

bravest, most terrifying  
Amy M. Holmes is one of the ~ writers working today

extraordinarily brave  
she made the ~ decision to create a new show... (*I May Destroy You*)

how brave  
~ he is at being so outwardly gay (a pop star)

incredibly brave

it's ~ that she has revealed her truth (depression)

so brave

this album is ~ and bold and like just hella human

bold or brave

I don't think it's ~ (Superman's son is bisexual)

emotional, brave, raw

it's ~... (Demi Lovato's new album *Holy F*\*\*\*)

called Flo-Jo's style "brave"

Jamaica's Grace Jackson ~ (outfits, fingernails, etc.)

need to be brave

girls coming through ~ (Lisa De Vanna about lesbians)

called the professor extraordinarily brave

she ~ for leading the charge against the cancel mob

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I have been called Brave, a Badass, a Heretic..." (A female blogger who has written for the Huffington Post, ScaryMommy, the Houston Moms Blog, etc.)

♦ "Choosing yourself, and acknowledging that you are worthy simply because you are breathing—that is a brave thing." ("A Letter to College Sports" by Cailin Bracken.)

♦ *Warrior: My Path To being Brave* by Lisa Guerrero. (According to her Wikipedia article, her given name is Lisa Coles.)

♦ "It's a very very strong thing you've done...To lay it all open. I think that's a phenomenally brave thing to do... Did it feel scary?" (BBC *Young Again* with *Kirsty Young*, "6. Jada Pinkett Smith," released on 07 Nov 2023.)

♦ "There's not a lot of women I've worked with that are brave in the way that Anne is brave...she was very original." (Alec Baldwin in an Instagram tribute about Anne Heche.)

♦ "She's brought us alongside her and has encouraged us and educated us and told us like, 'Be brave, live brave.' And, to me like that that is her legacy." (Becky Sauerbrunn's tribute to Megin Rapinoe.)

♦ "He's a lot braver than I am—he's been living in a small town, being trans, for 10 years, and he's not afraid of people. He did not want to be anonymous. He wanted pictures of himself published with the article." ("Jamie Lauren Keiles Follows the Surgical and Philosophical Journey of Phalloplasty" by Celia Ford, July 26, 2022. A rare usage of "been being.")

♦ "What makes Lil Nas X so extraordinary is how brave he is at being so outwardly gay within the urban music world." (Elton John.)

♦ "It is so, so scary to do the brave thing, to say, 'I'm just not happy.'" (Sophia Bush. From "Sophia Bush: 'I Finally Feel Like I can Breathe'" by Sophia Bush, *Glamour*, April 25, 2024. Sophia Bush.)

\*\*\* sickness, illness...

♦ bibleexpert: He died after a "brave" battle with cancer. Dropping bombs on Iraq, on the other hand, didn't require quite as much bravery. / James to bibleexpert: The Air Force and Navy drop bombs the Army fights on the ground and that takes brave men and women. / Lake Life to bibleexpert: Speaking of bravery, a coward behind a key board criticizing a much greater man than he could ever be is pathetic. / bibleexpert to Lake Life: How did you assess that I'm a "coward"? (ABC's "Join the Discussion," about the death of an Army general who died of cancer.)

\*\*\* getting up early, vulnerability, decisions...

♦ "Good morning, everyone. It's very brave of you to all be up this early." (Ramtin Arablouei and Rund Abdelfatah.)

♦ "She has been brave enough to show her vulnerability." (A gay man about the elderly Madonna and her latest tour.)

♦ "It was a very brave move by Hammer [Productions] because it was so out there, and a lot of people thought, 'wow, what is this film.'" (Cult actress Caroline Munro, about the film *Dracula AD 1972*. Ms.

Munro got a part in it after a studio boss spotted her on a billboard advertisement for Lamb's Navy rum.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Be Strong (when you are weak), Be Brave (when you are scared), Be Humble (when you are victorious), Be Badass (EVERYDAY). Affirmation Mug, Inspirational Coffee Mug, Be Humble Be Brave Mug. Ships from North Carolina. New markdown biggest in 60+ days. Sale ends in 7:15:48. More Colors & Sizes Available. Add to cart. \$14.99+." (Etsy.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Why is this brave? What's brave about not being brave?" (Talk radio host Clay Travis about the gymnast who quit her Olympic team because, as she explained, "I was like, I am not in the right headspace." The gymnast was widely praised as brave.)

♦ "They said it's a bold new direction. I say [DC Comics is] bandwagoning. I don't think it's bold or brave... If they had done this 20 years ago, perhaps that would be bold or brave." (Dean Cain, commenting on DC Comics decision to make Superman's son bisexual.)

♦ "The same formula again and again. I want to post pictures of myself in bathing suits. When I get criticized I'll say I want to do it for others and for body positivity. When I get criticized for that, I will show sadness that the world doesn't support mental health and I'm a victim, and finally I'll get praised for being so brave for living my own truth." (Bob Loblaw. A BBC HYS about "SI Swim model Natalie Mariduena wants to 'be an example' of 'body normalcy'" by Stephanie Nolasco, August 20, 2022.)

♦ "Young girls have more options now."

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "There wasn't anything so fine about it. Just fought for my life. A rabbit would have done that." (Henry Johnson, World War I, the Argonne. See the Wikipedia article "Henry Johnson (World War I soldier)." Fort Polk is now named for him. Previously, it had been named for General Leonidas Polk, killed in action by a cannonball in the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. The name "Leonidas" is associated with a great Greek warrior: see the Wikipedia article "Leonidas I.")

♦ "An army's bravest men are its cowards. The death which they would not meet at the hands of the enemy they will meet at the hands of their officers, with never a flinching." ("What I saw of Shiloh" by Ambrose Bierce. Union soldiers executed for cowardice.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word 'erroneously' is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move," Subsection "But That Isn't What It's Supposed to Mean!")

♦ Women commend women for being brave. Certain sorts of men praise women for being brave. Queers extoll queers for being brave, especially for coming out publicly, it's how they welcome them into the fold. Contempo-speakers use "brave" just because everyone they hear is using it. All these groups, of course, have their agendas, psychologies, etc.

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *hero* (person, child, queer, dog, rat, etc.)

## brave new world

brave new workers

~, how workers adapt to the changing economy

Woke New World

most people are just not into this ~ (online commenter)

brave new streaming world

we live in a ~ (a filmmaker)

brave new world of business  
Wal-Mart and the ~

brave new world of 'editing' human genes  
the ~ (CRISPR)

in the brave new world  
it's a detective story ~ that we live in (hacking)

♦ *Brave New World* was published in 1932. The book creates a dystopian future world, the only goal of which is stability based on the principles of science and social science. Huxley wrote it as a parody of H.G. Wells' books on utopias.

♦ "So sad to see a masterpiece erased and replaced by the exact practice it warned against." (An online commenter about the Peacock 2020 TV series *Brave New World*. The series was cancelled after one season of nine episodes.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Most people are just not into this Woke New World." (An online commenter.)

## bravery (groups)

bravery  
his fear, and his ~, is not in doubt (John A. Symonds)

bravery and courage  
that takes ~ (Simone Biles prioritizes her wellbeing)

act of bravery  
when someone is openly queer in public, it is an ~

showed enormous bravery  
he ~ (Muhammad Ali refuses induction)

♦ "It takes huge bravery to say what she's saying." (Simon Biles withdraws from Tokyo Olympics event to prioritize her wellbeing.)

♦ "Her bravery for always standing in her truth, spreading her message of love and acceptance, will continue to have a lasting impact." (A tribute to the actor Anne Heche.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "It's bravery for the left, it's not bravery for the world." (Fox anchor Todd Piro, about DC Comics making Superman's son bisexual.)

## brawl (noun)

political brawl  
the government's ~s with the Muslim Brotherhood  
this is turning into a ~ (funding)

public brawl  
he knew he would lose in a ~ with a Naval officer

scientific brawl  
his appetite for ~s is increasing with age (scientist)

## brazen (adjective)

brazen  
the company was ~ (bribes)

brazen brothels  
this NYC avenue is overrun by ~ (*New York Post*)

brazen play  
they orchestrated a ~ (political corruption)

so brazen  
he's gotten ~ that... (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The origin of this word relates to brass.

## breach (verb)

breached (parts of) the agreement  
Iran has already ~ since the Trump administration...

breached a (2012) agreement  
the question of whether Facebook ~ over user privacy

breached article 16  
Hong Kong supporters ~ of the FIFA Disciplinary Code

breached a (a key, bust seldom tested "morality")  
clause  
PBS argued that he ~

breached confidentiality  
the Board members who contacted the press ~

breached its contract  
reports that the startup ~ (Philly Fighting COVID)  
Parler claimed the tech giant breached ~ by...

breached their (fiduciary) duties  
the Board members willfully ~ to the union

breached EU Law  
Dutch rules ~ on protecting nature from...

breached his obligations  
the court ruled Snowden ~ to the intelligence agencies

breached the terms  
Iran has since ~, enriching uranium past the limit

breached a certain threshold  
schools would have to shut down if infections ~

## breach (noun)

breach of etiquette  
the ~ was startling  
she was chastised for a ~ (teen golfer at tournament)

breach of the peace  
acts causing a ~ are prohibited (city park)

breach of (academic) politics  
the ~ destroyed his university career

breach of (investigative) protocol  
it is the worst ~ (leak about case)

breaches of respect  
~ are sometimes met with vicious reprisal (surfing)

breaches of the rules  
police were guilty of ~ on questioning suspects

breach of the (truce) treaty  
we urge the North to apologize for the ~

breach of trust  
Gordimer accused Roberts of ~ (over biography of her)  
charges include bribery, fraud and ~ (a Prime Minister)  
charges include misappropriation of Nissan funds and a ~



breaches of Islamic law  
they police the streets on the lookout for ~

breach in the public health system  
the closure creates a serious ~

breach with President Yeltsin  
how do you avoid a major ~ (diplomacy)

data breach  
the latest ~ (from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs)

safety breach  
China closed the lab after a ~ (SARS)

security breach  
a series of ~s on the Internet  
the CIA's handling of the ~  
a ~ of customer information (40 million credit-card holders)  
reports on ~s in airports

computer-security breaches  
many companies have detected ~

substantial and significant breaches  
police were guilty of ~ of the rules on questioning suspects

guilty of breaches  
the police were ~ of the rules on questioning suspects

detected (computer-security) breaches  
many companies have ~

jump into the breach  
the company enlisted him to ~

step into the breach  
the Germans and French have offered to ~ (intel)

stepping into the breach  
zoom fatigue set in months ago, but audio is ~

stepped into the breach  
ordinary citizens have ~ (disaster relief)

♦ "We showed we were willing to stand in the gap." (Sherrilyn Ifill of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, about the "challenge of 2020.")

♦ "Those who stormed this Capitol, and those who instigated and incited, and those who called on them to do so, held a dagger at the throat of America, and American democracy... I will stand in this breach, I will defend this nation, I'll allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of democracy." (President Joe Biden, in a speech on January 6th, 2022.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "The trenches having been opened and the works carried on in the usual manner, the artillery at length began to make a breach, and after a three days' cannonade having made such an opening in the massive wall that it was reported practicable by Colonel Wellesley, orders were issued for storming the place... / Crossing the rocky bed of the Cavary, under a terrible fire of cannon, jingalls, and musketry, the glacis and ditch were soon crossed... / Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlop was here wounded when half way up by a *sirdar* of Mysore, who met him scimitar in hand. Parrying a cut with his sabre, the colonel slashed open his antagonist's breast, and mortally wounded him. The *sirdar* made another cut that nearly hewed off the head of the colonel, and falling back into the breach was instantly bayoneted. Dunlop reached the summit, and then fell from loss of blood... / Within seven minutes from the time the assault began, the British standard was

waving on the outer bastion of the fortress..." ("Seringapatam, 1799," from *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

## breached

breached during the pandemic  
IEPs have been ~ (education / a lawsuit)

breached by a (crippling) cyberattack  
the elections office was ~ (Florida in 2016)

breached lease  
he does not want to continue in a ~ (a landlord)

database was breached  
the FBI is investigating how the ~

information is breached  
when consumer's personal ~

privacy has been breached  
those whose digital ~ have little resort

♦ "Cynthia responded to that and said, 'You wanted to make her squirm a little.' / The fortifications had been breached, to continue the military metaphor, and Cynthia charged right through. She said, 'In fact, General, you knew your daughter was not the victim of some rapist...'" (*The General's Daughter* by Nelson DeMille. The author is noteworthy in the way he explicitly notices language and dialect.)

## bread (noun)

breadbasket  
see *breadbasket* (*Pakistan's breadbasket, etc.*)

breadcrumb  
see *breadcrumb* (*evidence*)  
see *breadcrumb* (*verb*)  
see *breadcrumbed*  
see *breadcrumbing* (*leading someone on*)

bread and butter  
see *bread and butter* (*livelihood*)

bread-and-butter  
see *bread-and-butter* (*adjective*)

sliced bread  
see *bread* (*sliced bread*)

## bread (sliced bread)

since sliced bread  
this is the greatest thing ~

♦ "Hang on I thought BBC said this Man Utd was the greatest thing since sliced bread." (An online commenter about Liverpool 7-0 Man Utd. A commenter to the commenter replied, "And today they was toasted.")

♦ "Funny how so many people who thought he was the greatest thing since sliced bread have changed their tune now." (Boxing snark about Anthony Joshua.)

♦ The greatest invention in human history is not the wheel, and it's certainly not sliced bread. As much of the nation broiled this week in temperatures in the high 90s and beyond, can there be any doubt that our most wondrous piece of technology is the air conditioner? / It was way back in 1902 that Willis Carrier created the Apparatus for Treating Air... ("An ode to AC" by William Falk, Editor, *The Week Magazine*.)

\*\*\* **"Holding the flat, four-pound loaf against her chest..."**

♦ "After the plates had been polished clean with bread that my mother used to cut holding the flat, four-pound loaf against her chest, the

pudding came out, and let me tell you my mother's puddings would make you hold your breath to eat..." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn.)

♦ Otto Frederick Rohwedder of Davenport, Iowa, invented a bread slicing machine, and commercially sold sliced bread was first sold in 1928.

## bread and butter (livelihood)

bread and butter

positive stories are our ~ (*Koori Mail* newspaper)

bread and butter of prime-time TV

medical dramas are the ~ (2020)

bread and butter to reporting

making sources is ~

bread and butter for our family

well it *is* still the ~ (tobacco farming)

Ngannou's bread and butter

mixed martial arts is ~, where he made a name for himself

earn its bread and butter

science has to ~ (practical applications)

♦ "Well it *is* still the bread and butter for our family and many families throughout this region right here." (A tobacco farmer in Calloway County outside of Murray, western Kentucky.)

♦ "Democrats were once the party of the farm, and then the factory floor. Now they're called the party of the faculty lounge. That's how associated they've become with higher education, and how distracted from what was once their bread and butter." (Ron Elving. From "Week in politics: Democrats reckon with a bruising defeat, Trump in the White House," NPR, Weekend Edition, Saturday, November 9, 2024.)

## bread-and-butter (adjective)

bread-and-butter model

the company's ~

## breadbasket (Pakistan's breadbasket, etc.)

breadbasket of Europe

the area is often called the ~ (Russia / Ukraine)

breadbasket of India

the Punjab is the ~ (Sikhs)

breadbasket to the Revolution

the Mohawk Valley acted as the ~ (U.S.)

breadbasket of the Confederacy

the Shenandoah Valley was known as the ~ (Civil War)

Afghanistan's breadbasket

the broad Shomali Plain that was once ~

Brazil's (southern) breadbasket

~ flourishes (vs. Amazon)

Pakistan's breadbasket

Punjab is known as ~ for its agriculture

country's breadbasket

Northern India, the ~ (larger farms, grain)

nation's breadbasket

the Great Plains are the ~ (western Kansas, etc.)

♦ "The Indus brings bread to our table. It is one of the longest rivers in the world, and it is also one of the wildest." (Wajahat Malik, filmmaker and leader of the Indus Expedition 2022.)

♦ (1) Russia (2) Canada (3) U.S. (4) France (5) Ukraine... (The five largest exporters of wheat. Canada and the U.S. owe a great debt to hardy and fast growing varieties of wheat brought over from Russia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.)

♦ see also *granary* (*Granary of Mexico*, etc.)

## breadcrumb (evidence)

"bread crumbs" to follow

there are fewer ~ as time goes on (missing person)

breadcrumbs for the police

he would leave few ~ (a serial murderer)

bread crumbs to the crime scene

her clothes were ~ (Central Park jogger)

breadcrumb trail

an electronic ~ lets users backtrack (GPS)

clickstreams are the digital ~ which Amazon follows

digital breadcrumbs

police followed the ~ left behind by the victim and suspect

trail of (digital) breadcrumbs

the leaker left a long ~ (Pentagon documents / 2023)

"Q drops" or "breadcrumbs"

these messages became known as ~ QAnon conspiracy)

♦ "We don't know precisely what the predicate was but we sure have a whole lot of bread crumbs that led to this moment." (NPR's David Folkenflik about the firing of Don Lemon by CNN.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A breadcrumb trail is an allusion to the fairy tale of Hansel and Gretel. The children's horrid mother wished to get rid of them in a time of famine. She led them deep into the forest but the kids were able to return home by following a trail of small white stones they had dropped along the way. The second time, they had no time to collect stones, so they dropped crumbs of bread. But the birds ate the crumbs, and the kids were lost. They eventually come to a gingerbread house where a cannibal witch imprisoned them...

## breadcrumb (verb)

breadcrumbing you

he's just ~ by hinting at a new position for you

## breadcrumb

breadcrumb

how to know you're being ~

## breadcrumbing (leading someone on)

breadcrumbing

~ is a modern term for intermittent reinforcement

~ is leading someone on (at work or in a relationship)

♦ A boss might breadcrumb you by hinting at a reward that he never intends to give you. Or a person you're interested in might breadcrumb you by texting you just enough to make you think she is interested in you. Sound familiar?

## break (break the silence, etc.)

breaks silence

freed teen ~ (kidnapped)

broken my silence

I wouldn't be here today if I hadn't ~ (addiction)

## **break (destroy / disrupt)**

break capitalism

a super intelligent machine could ~ (AI)

broke the internet

what ~ (Facebook issues, etc.)

broke the Democratic Party

how Ted Kennedy ~

broke the Senate

many critics think that McConnell ~ (US politics)

*Broke the World*

*Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who* ~ (Liaquat Ahamed)

♦ "How Civilization Broke Our Brains" by Derek Thompson, *The Atlantic*, January/February 2021. "Derek Thompson is a staff writer at *The Atlantic*." The motto of *The Atlantic* is "Of no party or clique." *The Atlantic* dates back to 1857.)

## **break (resistance / verb)**

break Russians

you can't ~

♦ "This is basically a war between NATO and the USA versus Russia. But they don't realize they are fighting against Russians here. You can't break Russians. The worse it is, the stronger they get." (Deki. From the 2018 documentary film *A Sniper's War*.)

## **breakdown (nervous breakdown, etc.)**

mental breakdown

her first ~... (Nicole Linton, fatal traffic incident killed 5)

total breakdown

he suffered a ~ and ended up in a psychiatric hospital

on the edge of a (nervous) breakdown

I'm ~

## **breakdown (failure)**

breakdown in communication

there was a ~

breakdown from start to finish

the security at the rally was a ~ (assassination attempt)

total breakdown

there was a ~ between workers and managers

## **break down (explain)**

break it (all) down for us

they will ~ (TV news analysis)

♦ "To break it all down for us, we have..." (A gushing NPR host.)

♦ Type "break it down for us" at NPR and you get 85 results and counting. For "break it down for" and you get 116 results and counting. For "break it down" you get 592 results and counting...

## **break down (functioning)**

authority broke down

political ~

discipline can break down

in a crisis, ~ (first responders)

fire ~ upon contact (military)

negotiations broke down

~ and resumed and broke down again

social order is breaking down

the ~ (in the wake of a great natural disaster)

law and order has broken down

~ in Sudan

system broke down

the state-of-the-art communications ~

## **break down (destroy)**

break down (trade) barriers

the European Union seeks to ~

break down the resistance

the operation seeks to ~ in Balad (military)

break down stereotypes

we must ~ about Muslims

break down the stigma

we must ~ of adoption

breaks down blood clots

the enzyme ~ (medicine)

help break down

study abroad can ~ stereotypes and prejudice

## **break down (emotionally)**

break down

he would ~ and start sobbing about his dad

broke down

when police arrested her, she ~

broke down in tears

she ~ as she told her sad story

broke down into tears

Walter Cronkite ~ on national television (Kennedy)

broke down in his tent

he ~ and wept for 45 minutes (climber)

## **break down (divide)**

breaks down into (many small-unit) battles

combat in urban areas ~ (military)

breaks down into two (different) categories

the issue ~

breaks down features into elements

facial-recognition devices ~

broke down its data by age  
the company ~ as well as income

break down ounces into gram  
midsize dealers ~ (illegal drugs)

### **breaker (deal-breaker, etc.)**

deal-breaker  
it was a ~ in that respect (surprise rough sex)

rule breaker  
she is a classically trained ~ (a musician)  
he made a name for himself as a self-styled ~ (musician)

silence breakers  
*Time* announced the ~ as their person of the year (2017)

### **breaking point (at the breaking point)**

at the breaking point  
they are ~ (financially)

at a breaking point  
the system is ~ (immigration)

### **breaking point (to the breaking point)**

stretched to the breaking point  
we are ~ (police chief facing layoffs)  
the Army and Marines are ~ (US in Iraq)  
fire crews are ~ (California wildfires)

### **breaking point (other)**

breaking point  
every man has his ~ (the film *Shawshank Redemption*)

### **breakneck (adjective)**

breakneck rate  
Boeing has been churning out the popular model at a ~

### **break off (verb)**

broke off the attack  
the mountain lion finally ~ (on 70-year-old man / CA)

broke off his engagement  
he ~ to the former Playboy model

broke off (diplomatic) relations  
Venezuela then ~ in response

broke off (business) ties  
it ~ with... (two companies)

broke off (diplomatic) ties  
Ecuador ~ with Colombia

break it off  
until I got the nerve to ~ with my then-girlfriend

### **break out (verb)**

broke out in celebration  
an army of fans ~ (#FreeBritney)

fight broke out  
the ~ on Alexanderplatz square

typhus broke out  
~ in the ships anchored on the Motherbank

### **breakout (breakout sessions, etc.)**

breakout rooms  
Zoom ~ (online video conferencing)

breakout session  
a ~ has been scheduled... (TESL convention)

♦ Teacher education sessions and educational conferences are well known for their "breakout" sessions followed by the blessed break for lunch.

#### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ The old physical dictionary that I use gives two definitions for "breakout." The first is escape from enemy encirclement or from a prison. The second is a skin eruption. It has no entry for "breakout session." The Merriam-Webster online dictionary mentions "breakout" (session) at "breakout." In addition, it has a separate entry for "breakout session." Dictionaries are weird.

♦ Words derived from recent warfare include *blitz*, *blockbuster*, *breakthrough*, *breakout*, *basket case*, and *chokepoint*.

### **break through (verb)**

break through  
it's difficult to predict which words will ~ (into dictionary)

### **breakthrough (noun)**

breakthrough  
research failures are finally being outnumbered by the ~s

breakthrough in the (murder) case  
we are hoping for a ~

breakthrough in special effects  
it was a ~ (the 1927 film *Napoleon*)

breakthroughs in medicine  
the new research might lead to ~

breakthrough in (stalled) talks  
a ~ on a bill that... (lawmakers)

breakthroughs in (armor) technology  
revolutionary ~ (military)

breakthrough cases  
experts are monitoring ~ among the vaccinated (COVID)

breakthrough infection  
a ~ doesn't necessarily mean the vaccine is failing

breakthrough lead  
even a \$2.5 million reward has not produced a ~

breakthrough moment  
it was a ~ for a young man (Federer beats Sampras in 2001)

breakthrough pain  
a "rescue dose" for sudden, severe ~ (morphine)

breakthrough year  
he is having a ~ (baseball player)

research breakthrough

~s have reduced the cost  
~s have led to new treatments for stroke

diplomatic breakthrough  
the U.N.-sponsored gathering is a ~

revolutionary breakthroughs  
~ in armor technology (military)

scientific breakthrough  
it's a ~

technological breakthrough  
the first ATMs were a ~ (1970s)

chance of a breakthrough  
climate policy is gridlocked, with no ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In dictionaries, this word dates to 1918—World War I—when soldiers struggled and died to break through enemy defenses.

♦ Words derived from recent warfare include *blitz*, *blockbuster*, *breakthrough*, *breakout*, *basket case*, and *chokepoint*.

## breath (take one's breath away)

took my breath away  
it ~ (a huge inflated medical bill)  
she ~ ("It must be love")

took your breath away  
it ~ (an exciting boxing match)

takes your breath away  
the canyon always ~ (Grand Canyon in winter)

fairly took my breath away  
the book review was so spiteful it ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone's breath is taken away by something.)

## breath (hold one's breath)

held their breath  
everyone ~, to see what she was gonna do (raped)

holding their breaths  
people are ~ (waiting for a remedy)

holding its breath  
the world is collectively ~ (Japan nuclear disaster)

holding my breath  
I was ~ walking to the mailbox... (worried about a bill)

holding their breath  
people are ~, waiting to see what happens next

## breath (take a breath, etc.)

take a deep breath  
this is a moment to ~ and think through things (crisis)

take a deep breath and take the long view  
it's a good time to ~ (hope during pandemic)

♦ Keep calm and carry on. (Great Britain, World War II.)

## breath (catch one's breath, etc.)

allow everyone involved a chance to catch their breath

a quiet interlude designed to ~ (a performance)

♦ "The mauling happened during a part of the show called 'The Rapport,' a quiet interlude designed to allow everyone involved a chance to catch their breath." (From "The Original Tiger Kings: The Improbable Rise And Savage Fall Of Siegfried & Roy" by Chris Jones and Michael J. Mooney, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. The mauling was of Roy (black hair), by Mantecore (white hair), a tiger.)

## breath (last breath, final breath, etc.)

last breath and bullet

we will fight back with our ~ (The Jenin Brigade)

## breathe (caves breathe, etc.)

breathe

all caves ~

## breathe (live, eat and breathe, etc.)

live, eat and breathe

I used to ~ cricket, now I can take it or leave it (Bazball)

## breathing space (and breathing room)

breathing room

provide ~ to consider the options

a little breathing room

the Turks are giving the Saudis ~ (to reply)

we have ~ to establish alternative energy sources

breathing space

travel bans can give you ~ (to prepare for virus)

gives the Postal Service "breathing room"

the rate increase ~

## breathless (adjective)

breathless coverage

blaring headlines, fleshy photos and ~ (the media)

## brehtaking (adjective)

brehtaking action

he defeated his longtime rival in 6 rounds of ~ (boxing)

brehtaking advance

this is a ~ (legislative act)

brehtaking performance

she gave a ~ (skater)

brehtaking power

American prosecutors have ~

brehtaking speed

the cars go at ~s (racing)

brehtaking view

a front porch with a ~ of the mountains

the skyway provides ~s of the southern Appalachians

## breed (create)

breeds (political) bedlam  
the system ~ (government)

breeds corruption  
the ruling ~ (campaign finance)

breeds the desire  
success ~ for more success (school)

bred jealousy  
success has ~ elsewhere (sports)

breeds peace  
strength ~, right (US still in S. Korea, etc.)

Breeds Peril  
Yellowstone Bison Thrive, but Success ~ (article)

breed resentment  
the primitivist ideologies of indigeneity can ~

bred (more) success  
success ~ (diplomacy)

breed further success  
that success would ~ (MGM gym)

## breed (type)

breed of enthusiast  
roller coasters inspire a peculiar ~

breed apart  
the war made them a ~ (W.W. II veterans)  
they are a ~ and make no sense (white settlers)

breed of athlete  
a pole vaulter is a very special ~ (danger)

different breed  
they are a ~ to those who... (big riders / surfing)

new breed  
the ~ of explorers (Blacks / National Geographic)

peculiar breed  
roller coasters inspire a ~ of enthusiast

rare breed  
he's one of a ~ of technical divers

same breed  
they are the ~, aren't they (boxing promoters)

special breed  
it's a dangerous job that takes a ~  
a pole vaulter is a very ~ of athlete (danger)

♦ "Some professors are jerks, and students should learn the identifying marks of the latter breed early on." (Taking sexual advantage of students.)

♦ "There's a new breed of explorer... We down here ya' all." (Will Smith in the official trailer for "Welcome To Earth" by National Geographic, on Disney Plus.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Chingachgook warned me about people like you... He said, 'Do not try to understand them. And don't try to make them understand you.'

That is because they are a breed apart and make no sense." (The 1992 film *Last of the Mohicans*.)

## breed (dying breed, etc.)

dying breed  
he is the last of a ~ (race car driver)  
moderates are a ~ (politics)  
they're a ~ now, aren't they travel agents...

*Old Breed*  
*With the ~: At Peleliu and Okinawa* (World War II soldiers)

old breed  
Phil Mushnick is one of the ~ sports journalists

the last of a (dying) breed  
you can say he is ~ (the filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola)

## breeder reactor (noun)

breeder reactor for extremism  
the Punjab has been called a ~ (Pakistan)

## breeding ground

breeding ground for (religious) extremism  
mosques are a ~ (Pakistan)

breeding ground for (would-be) jihadists  
Zarqa is a ~ (Jordan)

breeding ground for (serial) killers  
the Pacific Northwest is a ~

breeding grounds for terrorism  
the refugee camps are prime ~  
the Sudan and Somalia, ~

breeding ground for viruses  
the Internet is a ~

\*\*\* **"It was a holocaust..."**

♦ "[B]y the eighteen-thirties fur seals in the southern ocean were virtually extinct, and sea-lions and sea-elephants were dying out as well. / The main attack was now diverted to the whales... The first comers in the South Pacific hardly needed to go to sea at all; the whaler simply set up a shore factory in some estuary where the animals were known to breed and then attacked them from small boats. There were dozens of such places: the Bay of Islands in New Zealand, the Derwent Estuary in Tasmania, all the coves and inlets along the deserted coasts of southern, western and eastern Australia... / In the Derwent River estuary where it had once been dangerous to sail in a small boat because of the numbers of right whales there—mostly pregnant mothers either calving or about to calve—a massacre went on year after year until the animals were wiped out. And so the hunt went on from May to October in all the breeding and mating grounds along the New Zealand and Australian coasts... / In these conditions it was not long before bay whaling—the taking of whales in their off-shore breeding grounds—was practically finished and the hunt was then continued in the open sea..." (*The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead.)

♦ see also *rookery* (noun)

## breezy (speech)

breezy and anodyne  
"Gutsy" is ~ (on Apple TV)

breezy, anything goes  
the ~ plot (Justin Chang about *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*)



♦ “Recently I got to do something I’d only dreamt of. Talked to an astronaut who’s hanging out on the International space station, that global party house and space lab orbiting the earth 16 times a day... Astronaut food! Which in my book is definitely as important as all the science.” (Regina Barber on NPR. From “An astronaut tells NPR what life is like on the ISS,” NPR, All Things Considered, Jan 17, 2023. Whoo-whoo! LFG!)

♦ “I don’t think we’ll ever be able to do presidential politics with just two white guys ever again.” (Breezy pejorative political punditry by Ali Vitali (female) on NPR. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ “It definitely smells like a campfire out there.” (NPR reporting on the 2024 Park Fire, one of the top-ten wildfires in the history of California. Breezy!)

♦ “She is here to lay out something of a radio map for us, hey there, Diaa, so before we get to the fighting, would you give us the big map? Afghanistan, of course...” (Breezy language heard on NPR.)

♦ “It’s not a sexy job per se, right? It’s not a job that is chill...” (Jessica Malaty Riveria’s breezy contempo-speak assessment of the legacy of “the elderly” Dr. Anthony Fauci, on NPR.)

♦ “Yeah, you would think, right? I mean, it’s definitely...” (Stellar punditry from NPR’s Pien Huang.)

♦ “Yeah, the Nobel Lit Prize is often criticized for being too Western or too [inaudible]...” (NPR’s Andrew Limbong, who also used “hyped” and “stoked” in his report on Nobel recipient Han Kang.)

♦ (AC) “Welcome to both of you.” / “Thank you, thank you.” / “Hello, Hello.” / (AC) “Hello, Hello.” (Ailsa Chang and two guests on NPR.)

♦ NPR’s “A” Martinez: That’s NPR’s pharmaceuticals correspondent Sydney Lupkin. Thanks. / Sydney Lupkin: You bet!

♦ “Breezy and anodyne.” (“Chelsea and Hillary Clinton’s ‘Gutsy’ Is a Toothless Girlboss Vanity Project” by Laura Bradley, *The Daily Beast*, Sept 9, 2022.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “As you may have guessed, gentlemen, our objective remains Rome. Can’t let the Hun spend the rest of the winter there all nice and comfy-cosy. So we shall jolly well turf him out. Over on the left...here...the Yanks will burst through the Bernhard Line and streak up the Liri valley past Cassino and pop into Rome from the south. Our chaps...over here...will smash across the Sangro and gallop up the coast to Pescara then make a left hook into the mountains and pounce on Rome from the east. Our part of the show will open with a colossal crack at the mouth of the Sangro River... First Canadian Division will spearhead the advance after the breakthrough has been made. We’ve bags of tanks and guns so it should be plain sailing, what?” (*And No Birds Sang* by the great Canadian writer Farley Mowat.)

## brew (mixture)

witches' brew

at one time, the US military was a ~ of racism

lethal brew

driving fatalities result from a ~ of... (India)

toxic brew

their illnesses resulted from a ~ of contaminants

we fight this ~ of stupidity and... (US exceptionalism)

## brew (activity)

brewing

this issue has been ~, and they knew it would bubble up again

brewing in Nasiriyah

another humanitarian crisis may be ~ (Iraq War)

controversy is brewing

a ~

crisis (in Haiti) has been brewing

~ since...

problem is brewing

a new ~ (too little space at Metro stations)

revolution is brewing

a ~ (against bilingual education)

storm was brewing

outside, the ~ (protests against the government)

tensions are brewing

~ between supporters and opponents

## bride (Bride of the Red Sea, etc.)

Bride of the Sea

Venice, the ~

Bride of the Red Sea

Jeddah, the ~ (Saudi Arabia)

## bride (war)

young bride

in the morning I was nervous like a ~ (prior to combat)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “In the morning I was nervous like a young bride. I hadn’t been in combat for 20 years. The first battle is no joke. But now I have confidence in my regiment and I feel happy. Very happy.” (Brigade Commander Serpilin. From *The Living and the Dead* (1964 film) directed by Aleksandr Stolper based on the 1959 novel *The Living and the Dead* by Konstantin Simonov. Simonov, the great Soviet war correspondent, poet, and novelist, is famous for his poem “Wait for Me.” It became a talisman for millions during World War II: it was reprinted, hand-copied, memorized, recited, and carried in pockets by millions of soldiers and civilians alike. “Wait for me and I’ll return, only wait very hard... / Only you and I will know how I survived; / It was because you waited as no one else did.” Simonov survived the war.)

♦ “When old soldiers see reserves being moved up to the front, they say, ‘It looks like a wedding.’” (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part One, Chapter 53. Like Konstantin Simonov, Grossman was a war journalist.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Willie and Joe are lying prone behind rocks with their rifles pointed towards the smoking ruins of a deserted Italian or French village. An exhausted Joe is saying to Willie, “Let B Comp’ny go in. They ain’t been kissed yet.” (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II. Mauldin wrote, “Most people in Italy and Sicily gave us a rousing welcome in all their towns and cities, but nowhere was there such excitement as in Rome. We got awful cynical about it, because the enthusiasm seem to stop, and the complaints seemed to start, twenty-four hours after everybody was kissing everybody else. When were we going to bring shoes and food and clothes and phonograph records? Who was going to pay for Uncle Antonio’s bombed vino shop, and why did we have to shell Aunt Amelia’s ristorante?” Bill Mauldin survived World War II. Ernie Pyle did not.)

♦ “My goodness gracious, Squib, you should have seen yourself!” he told me some time later. “You popped out of that dust cloud as white as a rat in a flour barrel, and with the silliest expression on your face... like a girl who’s just been kissed for the first time.” / If kiss it was, then it was very nearly the kiss of death. Seven men were wounded by the explosion and two killed. We survivors had been incredibly lucky.” (*And No Birds Sang* by Marley Mowat. Italy. World War II.)

♦ cherry A ‘cherry’ is American military slang for a new arrival, a soldier who had not yet experienced combat in Vietnam. (Glossary of Vietnam War terms. Of course, taking a girl’s “cherry” means taking her virginity.)

♦ “The linkage between sex and killing becomes unpleasantly apparent when we enter the realm of warfare. Many societies have long recognized the existence of this twisted region in which battle, like sex, is a milestone in adolescent masculinity. Yet the sexual

aspects of killing continue beyond the region in which both are thought to be rites of manhood and into the area in which killing becomes like sex and sex like killing." (*On Killing* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman.)

♦ see also *wedding (war)*

## bridge (noun)

bridge between the diaspora and the continent  
explore your roots, build a ~ (Ghana)

mirror and a bridge  
we are a ~ to culture at large (TikTok)

build bridges to the Taliban  
he has sought to ~

burned some bridges  
he's ~ in the tennis world (troubled athlete)

serves as a bridge  
the Public Editor ~ between the newsroom and the public

## bridge (verb)

bridge the divide  
they want to ~ and find common ground (gun control)

bridging the divide  
ballet and baseball are ~ (Cuba and the US)  
~ won't be easy (NFL players' protests)

bridge the gap  
~ between the life you lead and the life you want to live

bridge the rupture  
US diplomats are trying to ~ (Middle East)

## bridge (air bridge, etc.)

bridge between the Middle East and Anatolia  
Turkey is a ~ (eastern Turkey / Van)

air bridge  
the ~ is important (food drops to starving refugees)  
Egypt poured men and materiel into Yemen over an ~  
she will fly out of Sanaa as part of this medical ~  
the ~ over the Hump (India to China / W.W. II)

Arctic Bridge  
Arctic warming could revitalize the so-called ~

trans-Atlantic bridge  
they have been trying to reestablish that ~ (Mafia / heroin)

## bridge (water under the bridge)

water under the bridge  
it's ~ now

## bridge (a bridge to sell)

sell that same bridge over and over again  
they are happy to ~ (N. Korean promises)

## bridge (a bridge too far, etc.)

a bridge too far  
the idea is ~ (a bad idea that goes too far)

I hope he wins, but my head says it will be ~ (Amir Khan)  
he didn't ask them to wear a mask, that was a ~ (staff)

a bridge too far for the national DSA  
recognizing the humanity of Jews is ~ (socialists)

bridge too far for some viewers  
its use of racial slurs is an understandable ~ (Tarantino)

fight too late  
it seemed to be a ~ (Amir Khan vs. Kell Brook)

failure too far  
this will be one CL ~ for him ("Pepsi" Guardiola / Citeh)

a foul too many  
Christian Romero commits ~ and is booked (soccer)

a game too far  
it was, in some respects, ~ for England (World Cup)

a lie too far  
this was a ~... (politics)

a risk too far  
maybe it was a ~ (a boxer about a loss)

a step too far  
this could just be ~ (Khan vs. Crawford)  
this approach is ~ (media coverage)  
this may be ~ (substituting "bae" for "babe" / 2014)

a trick too far  
it was, however, ~ for King... (see quote below)

one step too far  
I think Tyson Fury would be ~ for Oleksandr Usyk

one task too far  
uniting his party is perhaps one ~ (PM Rishi Sunak)

goes a bridge too far  
he then ~ and concludes with the following... (theology)

♦ "Christian Romero commits a foul too many, though, and is booked." (Argentina versus Croatia at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. As opposed to, "Christian Romero commits one too many fouls, though, and is booked.")

♦ "There's plenty of learning to do. He's a tough fighter. Maybe it was a risk too far." (A classy Joe Joyce, after his second loss to Zhilei "Big Bang" Zhang.)

♦ "But Fury's size and everything else in his armoury might be a step too far." (Carl Frampton picks Tyson Fury to win against Oleksandr Usyk in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Fury lost but, unsurprisingly, was classy in defeat.)

♦ "Jen Psaki is still cleaning up on Aisle Biden—but this was a lie too far." (US representative from California Darrell Isa, about a falsehood in Psaki's book *Say More*.)

♦ "It was an utter outrage [to not recognize Buster Douglas as the champion]. It was, however, a trick too far for King, the master magician and the manipulator, because the WBC and the WBA retreated from their position..." (From *Powerplay: The House of Don King*, "Episode 7: Buster Douglas Knocks Out Don King," BBC Sounds. With Steve Bunce and Lennox Lewis.)

♦ "Recognizing the humanity of Jews seems a bridge too far for the national DSA." (Democratic Socialists of America.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ These usages echo the title of the great 1977 Richard Attenborough film *A Bridge Too Far* about Operation Market Garden

during World War II. Its meaning has come to mean "overreach." The actual operation was a noble and heroic attempt to end the war early. It nearly succeeded. The unintended consequences were horrible, however, in the parts of Holland that weren't liberated: they included the Dutch famine of 1944-1945. Market Garden started September 17, 1944. Anne Frank was apprehended on 4 August 1944, and she died in Bergen-Belsen, perhaps in March, 1945.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ How many young people nowadays who hear or use the expression or a variation know about the film or the World War operation? As a young Gen Z woman once exclaimed to me, about her knowledge of the Vietnam War, "That happened before I was born!"

♦ see also *far* (*too far*)

## bridge (we will cross that bridge when we come to it)

bridge

that's a ~ she can cross at a later date

cross that bridge

we will ~ when we come to it

we will ~ and that decision will be made

we're going to ~ when we get to it on Friday

## bridge (burn one's bridges)

burn bridges

you never want to ~

burned some bridges

he's ~ in the tennis world (troubled athlete)

burned that bridge

but he ~ when he accused... (a soccer player)

## bridge-building (through bridge-building)

resolve issues through bridge-building

they sought to ~

## bridge-building

bridge-building visit

the admission came ahead of Medvedev's ~ to Warsaw

## bridgehead (noun)

bridgehead

Hong Kong is not a ~ to subvert the mainland (China)

establish a bridgehead

hackers are keen to ~ on internal networks

## bridle (verb)

bridled against it

Biden ~ (becoming a public symbol of grieving)

bridle against (received) norms

the film does not ~ (the pieties of the Cold War)

bridal at criticism

he has a tendency to ~ (a politician)

"bridle" the executive

impeachment is designed to ~ if he engages in excesses

photographers bridle

~ as NFL announces policy

♦ "Freddy is cussedly almost seethingly willful. She's a born refuser, who bridles at people telling her what she ought to do." (The movie critic John Powers about the main character played by first-time actor Park Ji-min in *Return to Seoul*. As Powers says, "In fact, her work here is more fascinating than any of this year's Oscar nominees for acting.")

## bridle (mechanical bridle, etc.)

mechanical bridles

3 ~ hold the rover under the descent stage (Perseverance)

## bright (adjective)

bright

her future is ~

brighter

the future for the company has never been ~

bright idea

it's not easy to turn a ~ into a genuine business

## bright (bright side)

bright side

see *side* (*bright side*)

## brighten (verb)

brightened the mood

the glad tidings ~ of Lincoln (military victories)

## brilliance (superlative)

flashes of brilliance

this was a performance of heart, quality and ~ (soccer)

he produced occasional ~ when he returned (soccer player)

## brilliant (technology)

"brilliant" bomb

~s are the smart bombs of the future

~s strike some as the ultimate nightmare

from dumb to smart to brilliant

~ bombs (military)

♦ "Brilliant" bombs are in the future." (Low Cost Autonomous Attack Systems.)

## brilliant (superlative)

brilliant (medical and military) career

after a ~

brilliant hacker

he is a ~ (computers)

brilliant idea

I had a ~

brilliant job

who did such a ~

brilliant (new) plan

a ~ to...

brilliant scientist  
she's a ~ who...

brilliant and abrasive  
a ~ engineer named...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Not everything is 'brilliant' and 'fantastic'. (An online commenter about the commentators for the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup.)

♦ "Not everything is amazing; and when you think about it, very little is." (Lake Superior State University 2023 Banished Words List—Words banned for "misuse, overuse, and uselessness.")

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

## brim (verb)

brimming with patriotism  
he staged a revival meeting ~

brims with irony  
his account ~ (a book)

## bring (verb)

brought joy to the citizens  
the musical ~ of an anxious nation at war ("Oklahoma!")

bring perpetrators to justice  
we need to ~ (sexual abuse)

brought the South Pole into the public consciousness  
Shackleton ~ (in the UK)

brought the (bitter) rift to the surface  
the incident ~ (between military and government)

brought gusts  
the storm ~ of almost 100 mph

brings (political) pain  
Trump knows economic meltdown ~ (coronavirus)

brought its own problems  
the solution has ~

brought territory  
trade had ~, territory war, war an Empire (Great Britain)

brought (150mph) winds  
the storm ~ (a hurricane)

brought invasions and plague  
the third century ~ (to the Roman Empire)

## bring (the future can bring something)

see *future (the future can bring something)*

## bring (bring it)

bring it  
if you're gonna sing it, you gotta ~ (gospel music)

brought it  
people were looking for a new realism, and he ~ (Brando)

bringing the brawl  
Ryder though is ~ and has done all night (boxing)

brought it in Game 1  
Cassidy Hubbarth talks about who ~ (NBA finals)

♦ "It's all about that dog that he gonna bring to the fight." (A boxer speaking about what makes a winning boxer.)

♦ "We know what he's going to bring, like he always comes forward, puts on pressure, throws big bombs..." (Joseph Parker about an upcoming match with Derek "Del Boy" Chisora.)

♦ "I'll bring it. Don't worry." (A silly Kirsten Dunst. Silly dialog from a silly scene in the silly 2000 film *Bring It On*.)

## bring around (verb)

bring Londoners around  
what will ~ (to support the Olympics)

## bring back (restore)

bring back the death penalty  
~, bring back the police...

bring the beaver back  
efforts are underway to ~

bring him back  
nothing we can do can ~ (executed for murder)

♦ An animal might become extinct in a specific area, and then be reintroduced. Beavers—millions of which ended up as hats—were exterminated in Massachusetts, then reintroduced many decades later and now have achieved nuisance status under protection laws. Many people would like to re-exterminate them.

## bring down (verb)

bring down some racial barriers  
it helped to ~ (basketball)

brought down his own career  
he ~ with drugs (a baseball player)

bring down the (whole) edifice  
any crack in the system would ~ (dictatorship)

## bring up (a subject, etc.)

brought up Honnold  
Caldwell, sitting on the deck that night, ~... (climbers)

brought up the (new California sport) climb  
when I ~ (in conversation with a climber)

## brink (on the brink)

on the brink of collapse  
the government is ~

on the brink of default  
the country is teetering ~ (Greece / economy)

on the brink of disaster  
the country is ~ (economy)

on the brink of a (polio) epidemic  
West and Central Africa are ~

on the brink of failure  
the meeting was ~ (UN)

on the brink of insolvency

the factory is teetering ~

on the brink of unconsciousness  
he was ~ (trapped caver)

on the brink of stardom  
he has been hovering ~ (a film actor)

on the brink of (another) summit bid  
10 days later, ~ (climbing)

hovering on the brink  
he has been ~ of stardom (a film actor)

teetering on the brink  
the factory is ~ of insolvency

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ **"We say:** Planet on the *brink*? Those folks at WaPO surely must be living on a different planet than this one; Earth is not even *close* to any 'brink.' Of course, climate warriors have been screaming 'the end is nigh' for some 48 years. / Their problem is that there's no way now to be more alarmist." (*The New York Post* Editorial Board, July 20, 2023. *The Washington Post* article was titled, "Floods, fires and deadly heat are the alarm bells of a planet on the brink." *The New York Post* Editorial Board included that headline in an end-of-the-year tribute to the most absurd claims of 2023, remarking, "Any time you see the phrase 'planet on the brink,' you can be sure you're reading pure hype.")

♦ OLD: moving closer to... / NEW: on the brink of...

## brink (to the brink)

push Iraq to the brink  
he urged them not to ~ of confrontation

take us to the brink  
his demented policies ~ of World War III (Biden)

## brink (back from the brink)

back from the brink  
Wall Street is ~

step back from the brink  
they must ~ (rioters battle soldiers)

bring them back from the brink  
we must ~ of extinction (endangered animals)

pull his friend back from the brink  
he tried to ~ (drug intervention)

## brinksmanship (noun)

brinksmanship  
there's a lot of ~ involved (negotiations)

## bristle (emotional arousal)

bristled at questions  
the senator ~ about his patriotism

bristles at the suggestion  
she ~ that she encouraged cheating (an educator)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Piloerection is a sign of emotional arousal. In chimpanzees, it will cause the hair on their shoulders to stick straight up. At the same time, chimpanzees might hoot and throw pebbles.

## bristle (with security, etc.)

bristling with security  
the courthouse is ~

## British (British of South America, etc.)

British of South America  
people used to say we are the ~ (Chileans)

## brittle (emotionally brittle, etc.)

angrier and more brittle  
she seems ~ (emotions)

emerged (emotionally) brittle  
he ~ (from a turbulent childhood)

becoming (more) brittle  
our most intimate relationships are ~ (#toxic)

## broad (adjective)

too broad  
for some the brush stroke was ~ (cancel culture includes Abraham Lincoln)

## broadcast (verb)

broadcast  
the verb 'to ~' should hew to its agricultural origins...

♦ "The BBC's mission, Reith decided, was to 'inform, educate and entertain.' The verb 'to broadcast' should hew to its Biblical and agricultural origins: seeds of knowledge and culture were to be dispersed far and wide, on rocky places and on fertile soil. 'The Sower,' a modernist stone sculpture, by Eric Gill stands in the lobby of the BBC's current headquarters, which was built in 1932." (From "London Calling: The power—and vulnerability—of the BBC" by Sam Knight, *The New Yorker*, April 18, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As with the verb "cast," the principal parts of "broadcast" are all the same: broadcast / broadcast / broadcast. It's the same for "forecast."

♦ see also *sow* (verb)

## broadside (noun)

broadside against China  
Secretary of State Mike Pompeo launched another ~

broadside against the 2015 same-sex marriage decision  
Thomas and Alito issued a ~ on Monday when...

broadside' against fellow lawmaker  
Tiller backs challenger in 'extraordinary ~ (politics)

Twitter broadside  
Senator's Grassley's ~ at Obama...

Trump's broadsides  
it's unclear if ~ will have much sway...

ferocious broadside  
he launched a ~ against Jeff Sessions (politics)

legal broadside  
she leveled the fiercest ~ yet against the Sackler family  
aimed another broadside

he ~ at Pelosi (President Trump)

## level broadsides

Democrats ~ at Romney's wealth (politics)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Hood, in the *Zealous*, took the station, and from the port-holes of his seventy-four poured such a tempest of shot upon the *Guerrier*, that in twelve minutes he riddled and totally disabled her... Passing gracefully and swiftly to windward of the *Zealous*, [the *Orion*] fired her larboard guns so long as they could be brought to bear upon the *Guerrier*, then passing inside the *Goliath*, by a single broadside she shattered and sunk a frigate, *La Serieuse*, which annoyed her, sending her to the bottom in an instant with all hands on board, 250 men... / By this time the sun had set. The *Audacious*, under Captain Gould, was pouring a crashing fire into the *Guerrier*... The *Theseus*, Captain Miller, following next, swept away the remaining masts of the *Guerrier*..." / The victory was ours; the loss to the French was terrible... (The Battle of the Nile, 1798, also known as the Battle of Aboukir Bay. Only four French ships escaped. From *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant. Crowds of Arabs and Mamelukes on shore celebrated and cheered on the destruction of their enemies.)

## Broddingnagian (adjective)

Broddingnagian Embassy

the US is downsizing its ~ in Iraq

Broddingnagian stadium

Albert Speer's ~ (1935-1937)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The allusion is to the satire *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift. The same book contributed *Lilliputian* to the language.

♦ Elena Tapia in "Primary Metaphor and the Fantastic" analyzes *Gulliver's Travels* and other fantastical works of literature, including *Alice and Wonderland*, through the lens of conceptual metaphor in order to explain what it is that makes them so fantastic. Even better, her paper is freely available to all at ERIC ED472663.

## broken (failure)

broken

our food-safety system in this country is ~ (salmonella)  
there is no question in my mind that the system is ~  
the economy is ~, and Obama can't fix it  
what is ~ (teachers, parents, students / education)  
the judiciary is ~, the law needs to change

broken home

he comes from a ~

broken life

put back the pieces of a ~ (schizophrenia)

morally broken

the Republicans are ~

politically broken

the Democrats are ~

♦ "Both major political parties are broken. The Republicans, having given themselves over to a cultish obedience to an authoritarian, are morally broken. The Democrats, having failed to respond convincingly to the economic troubles of working people, are politically broken." (David Remnick, squawking from his perch as editor of *The New Yorker*. From "It Can Happen Here" by David Remnick, "The Talk Of The Town," *The New Yorker*, November 18, 2024.)

## broken (English, etc.)

broken Arabic

reporters asked him in ~ if...

broken English

the Peruvian liaison officer spoke ~

♦ "When asked how he usually feels before a big fight, Oleksandr Usyk—in fractured English—once famously replied: 'I am feel. I am very feel.'" (The great Ukrainian-Cossack boxer who has captured the hearts of fight fans around the world.)

## broken (feeling)

broken

his brain is ~, he's a damaged human being

broken man

he left high-spirited, but he returned a ~ (war)

left (absolutely) broken

his family had been ~ by his death

♦ "You must not think of him as a man who had been broken... He had been hurt, he was wounded, but he was still the same man in great spirits. He thought the best spirit of resistance is joyfulness." (An acquaintance of Boris Pasternak in his last years.)

♦ "His brain is broken, he's a damaged human being." (Public defender Melisa McNeil, during the penalty phase of Nicholas Cruz, Parkland School Shooter.)

## broken-hearted

broken-hearted

a ~ man

## bromide (noun)

bromide

this is sound advice as far as it goes, but it's a ~

## broom (broom of reform, etc.)

broom of reform

I will grab the ~ and sweep this state clean

new broom

if the new manager is not a ~, United... (soccer)

♦ "If the new manager is not new broom, United could face years of under achievement." (An online commenter on a BBC HYS about the sacking of Erik ten Hag.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Michele Rhee was an educational crusader. As chancellor of the Washington, D.C. school system, she was given a mandate to "clean house." She appeared on the cover of *Time Magazine* with a broom. But community members felt like they had been compared to dirt, and she ended up having to resign her position.

## brother (my brothers, etc.)

brothers

the Serbs and Russians are ~ (Kosovo)  
our sisters the plants, our brothers the animals (a Navajo)

brother of igneous volcanoes

mud volcanoes are the poor ~ (attention, research, etc.)

brothers in perseverance

they were ~ (two otherwise dissimilar artists)

brother from another mother

he was my ~ (David Grohl about Taylor Hawkins)

brothers to us

the Syrians are ~ (Iraqi Christian refugee)



brother in arms

see *brother (brother in arms / military)*

brother Berliner

so I want to bring in ~ (News Nation's Chris Cuomo)

brothers and sisters

I love my Browns ~ but I'm done with the team (NFL fan)

blood brother

see *blood brother (connection)*

“iron brother”

Chinese diplomats refer to Pakistan as their ~

fraternity brothers

he died after chugging whiskey with ~ (initiation)

Big Brother

see *Big Brother (oppression)*

big brother

see *big brother (relationship)*

poor brother

mud volcanoes are the ~ of igneous volcanoes (research)

band of brothers

they are more than a fun-loving, bike-riding ~ (gang)

♦ “So I want to bring in brother Berliner. Because that was a brave thing he did... You knew, when you wrote this, you weren't going to get a chorus of amens...” (News Nation's Chris Cuomo speaking to Uri Berliner, about the latter's criticism of NPR. Berliner would end up resigning.)

♦ “I still love my fellow long suffering Browns brothers and sisters but I am done with the team.” (A disgruntled NFL fan.)

♦ “He does definitely seem to have a screw loose...; He does not seem in his right mind; He seems out there; He's mentally warped; The brother needs help; Alcohol and drugs...” (The great sports commentator Stephen A. Smith about the troubled boxer Ryan Garcia.)

♦ “For me to pounce on him now would be an exercise in cruelty, because that brother is not right.” (Sports discussion about a troubled NFL player.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ “I could feel the unity of tens of millions of brothers and sisters, rising to join the fight, creating a living dam to block the invaders' path...” (*Life and Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ “Beside my brothers and my sisters, I will proudly make a stand.” Watch: Toby Keith—American Solider (Radio Edit)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “In the old days, people might think of and address others as brothers, fellow human beings, fellow Americans, citizens, comrades, native sons, friends, children of God, etc. Nowadays, Millennials and Gen-Zers live in a universe of “randos.”

♦ “[A]ll the men ever born are also my brothers...” (The American poet Walt Whitman, 1819-1892.)

## brother (brother in arms / military)

brother in arms

the soldier's reflexive instinct to protect his ~

♦ “Welcome Home, brother!” Watch Delta Company Vietnam Music, 1967-1968

## brotherhood (noun)

brotherhood of the sea

we have seen what the ~ means (international rescue)

brotherhood of firefighters

the ~

brotherhood of submariners

the ~

brotherhood, loyalty, courage, and self-sacrifice

the virtues of ~

brotherhood, service, sacrifice

~ (Rangers)

mountaineering brotherhood

the ~ and mutual respect (U.S. and Nepal)

Sufi brotherhoods

Chechnya's ~

sign of brotherhood

it is considered a great ~ among them (trading names)

have a (long) brotherhood

Columbia and Venezuela ~ (Cucuta Constitution, etc.)

♦ “The code, the brotherhood, the three hours we come together as one...” (Sports talk, about a player who controversially quit on his team during a game. Coaches often say, “There is no “I” in “team.” Players retort, “There's an “I” in “win.” So much for “brotherhood”!)

♦ “The mountaineering brotherhood and mutual respect of our nations...” (Arguable, especially in this day of sponsorships, commercial mountaineering, “mountain” diplomacy, etc. There's the stink of “U.S. State Department” in this. But “Denali Expedition with the US-Nepal Friendship Team” *looks* like brotherhood. Or, as Mark Parella would pronounce it with his Boston accent, “SUPE uh!”)

♦ “Thus I traveled to the easternmost cape of the island, where I visited with a chief, whose name was Ameyro, with whom I swore fraternal friendship, giving him my name and taking his, which is considered a great sign of brotherhood among them. I bought from him a very good canoe, giving him in exchange a very fine brass helmet which I was carrying in a bag, also a coat and one of my two shirts.” (Diego Mendez in Jamaica, 1503. From *The Last Voyage Of Columbus*, Chapter 21, by Martin Dugard, 2005.)

♦ “We have seen in deeds, not words, what the brotherhood of the sea means.” (A Russian Navy official, on the successful rescue of sailors aboard a sunken mini-sub. The British, Japanese, and Americans had all rushed to help.)

♦ “With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.” (Martin Luther King, Jr., from the “I Have a Dream” speech. Read the 2023 book *King: A Life* by Jonathan Eig.)

♦ “My hope is that this site contributes to making more people visit our museum and that the pilgrimage to the Island of Gorée provides an impetus to an enhanced brotherhood able to exorcise the demons of the past.” (Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, 2005, speaking about the island opposite Dakar, ruled in succession by the Portuguese, Dutch, English and French. Almost all the slaves from Africa were sold to Europeans by Africans.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ see also *sisterhood (noun)*

## brought up

brought up to feel

I was ~ proud of the Empire

brought up harsh, strict

I was ~, but just normal discipline (boxer Conor Benn)

## bruise (verb)

bruised feelings

but the decision has ~ here (by church, to...)

bruised some egos

he ruffled some feathers and ~ (a general)

## bruised

left the Administration bruised

the experience ~ (diplomacy)

## bruising (adjective)

bruising (political) attacks

after days of ~ on his tax returns and his record...

bruising election

it was a ~

bruising encounter

another ~ with a beast of a wave (Nazare surfing)

bruising encounter

he was finding college a ~ (depression, etc.)

## brush (characterization)

same brush

it is wrong to paint them all with the ~ (a few bad cops)

brush stroke was too broad

for some, the ~ (cancel culture includes Abe Lincoln)

## brush aside (verb)

brushed aside their hosts

the Titans ~ (NFL football)

## brush off (verb)

brushed off concerns

he ~ about his security

brushed off their concerns

he angrily ~ (a manager)

brushed off his protest

they ~

## brush-off

gave me the brush off

she ~

## brush up against

brushed up against this story

I was amazed I had never ~ (author / camels in US)

## brutality (noun)

brutality of storms

the suddenness, the ~ now, it is different (NYC mayor)

## bubble (verb)

bubbling here

there has been a long-term democracy moment ~

bubbling (just) under the surface

conflict is ~

bubbled to the surface

all those feelings and emotions ~ again (abuse)

## bubble (bubble canopy, etc.)

bubble canopy

its ~ gave a superb, all-around view (a plane)

## bubble (activity)

investment bubble

their current popularity is an ~ (NFTs)

stock bubble

but now that the ~ has burst (1990s)

dot-com bubble

the ~

housing bubble

the ~ will eventually pop (housing market)

in an (influence) bubble

we are in ~ (the advertising industry)

boom and bust of (Iceland's tourism) bubble

the ~

bubble has burst

but now that the stock ~... (1990s)

bubble burst

then the ~, and investors lost fortunes (stocks)

bubble has deflated

Iceland's tourism ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Bubbles always burst.

## bubble (isolation)

bubble of this isolated leadership

Trump pierced the ~ (North Korea)

bubble of affluent cosmopolitans

Said inhabited a ~ (in Cairo)

bubbles and (self-reinforcing social-media) silos

our filter ~

Canberra bubble

he and the whole ~ face a much more persistent issue

Washington bubble

NPR needs to get out of the ~

filter bubble

the term ~ was coined by Eli Pariser (Wikipedia)

tailored web searches put users in a ~

our ~s and self-reinforcing social-media silos

their own bubble

they can't see outside of ~ (Facebook leaders)

information bubble

liberal journalists have constructed their own '~'

~s are powerfully self-reinforcing (the media)

media bubble

the ~ caused blind spots and groupthink (politics)

the insular American ~

blue bubble

leftists live in a ~ (political journalist Mark Halperin)

insular (Silicon Valley) bubble

that ~ burst when... (Google's woke image generator)

overprotective bubble

so many parents now raise their children in an ~

in a bubble

the people who live ~ (partisan, cultural identity)

he is an arrogant footballer living ~ (soccer snark)

bubble burst

that insular Silicon Valley ~ when... (image generator)

built a bubble around herself

she had ~ that was cutting her off from reality (a boss)

live in a bubble

the people at Facebook ~

live in a (blue) bubble

leftists ~ (political journalist Mark Halperin / 2024)

lives in a bubble

she ~, away from reality the rest of us face (a celebrity)

living in a bubble

he is an arrogant footballer ~ (soccer snark)

pierced the bubble

Trump ~ of this isolated leadership (North Korea)

get out of the (Washington) bubble

NPR needs to ~

♦ "Sixty-eight percent of tweets between journalists who work at The Washington Post, NPR, [and the] New York Times... are to each other." ("How Journalists Congregating Into 'Microbubbles' Affects Quality Of News Reporting," NPR, All Things Considered, August 12, 2020. "NPR's Mary Louise Kelly talks with Nikki Usher, a journalism professor...")

♦ "By their nature, information bubbles are powerfully self-reinforcing, and I think many *Times* staff have little idea how closed their world has become, or how far they are from fulfilling their compact with readers to show the world 'without fear or favour.'" ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ "Officially, the groups are all independent. In practice, everyone seems to be everyone else's co-author, drinking buddy, former mentor, or romantic partner." (Groups like Justice Democrats, Sunrise, and Data for Progress. From "The Left Turn" by Andrew Marantz, *The New Yorker*, May 31, 2021.)

♦ "I feel like podcasting is still small enough...but podcast is still small enough where we all know each other. In the sense like we either went to each other's wedding, or we interned together, or we used to work for so-and-so, or we went to college with them... We've all made projects for each other, too." (Podcast producer Jesse Baker, interviewed by podcast producer Carolina Groppa.)

♦ "Thom kind of lives in his own world, of his own making. I call it the champagne bubble. That's why I'd never wear anything other than Thom. Why would you want to leave the bubble?" (The jewelry designer and former model Sarah-Jane Wilde about the fashion designer Thom Browne.)

♦ "All these things add up to a blue bubble that they just can't see." (Mark Halperin, political journalist, about leftists and the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A shocked young man, his cellphone ringing, is saying to his equally shocked woman, "Oh, God, outside is calling." (*The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023. Millennials and Zoomers, of course, don't phone.)

♦ see also *incestuous* (adjective)

## **bubble (quarantine)**

"Bubble Boy"

the ~ was described in a documentary in the mid '70s  
gene therapy to treat ~disease (SCID)

bubble experiment

for the NHL, the ~ paid off (sports goes on in pandemic)

quarantine bubble

some TV shows have continued to shoot in ~s

social bubbles

the pros and cons of ~ or pods... (COVID-19)

one-way 'bubble'

~ opens between Australia and New Zealand (Covid-19)

COVID-Free Bubbles

sleep away camps offer ~ for remote learning

in a bubble

when you're ~ for 100 days, it's tough (COVID-19)

in the Bubble

David Vetter became "the Boy in ~" (1984)

in the (NBA) bubble

what it's like to be one of the chefs cooking for athletes ~

created a bubble

the college has ~ to keep COVID-19 out

stay in their "bubble"

NBA playoffs are underway as players ~

♦ Beijing will be "bubble-ized," there will be "bubble-ized" flights... (A sports columnist about the Beijing Winter Olympics.)

## **bubble up (verb)**

bubble up

the Troubles continue to ~ in unexpected places (Ireland)  
this issue has been brewing, and they knew it would ~ again

## **bubbling (adjective)**

bubbling, unsolved mystery

his case remained a ~ for years (Kim Philby)

## **bubbly (personality)**

chatty, bubbly and (unfailing) polite

~, she is comfortable in the spotlight (Emma Raducanu)

♦ "Fly Me To The Moon is a fizzy rom-com..." (The 2024 film *Fly Me To The Moon*.)

## buccaneer (person)

individualist, a buccaneer

Amundsen was an ~ (not a public servant)

buccaneers, outsiders, (political) pirates

they want to be seen as ~ (opposition researchers)

## buck (verb)

bucked his party

he ~ (John McCain / politics)

## buck (the buck stops here, etc.)

buck stops with the Secret Service

the ~ who failed to protect Trump

♦ "The buck stops with the 7000-strong Secret Service whose primary job is to protect US presidents." (The near-assassination of Donald Trump.)

♦ "The Secret Service has a leadership problem, and it falls on you. And although I appreciate your hollow words that 'the buck stops here,' I was actually hoping for some answers. Director Cheatle, you must answer to the American people if you want to stay in charge." (Michigan representative Lisa McClain addressing Kimberly Cheatle, the Director of the U.S. Secret Service. From the "Secret Service director testifies in House hearing on attempted assassination of Trump," 22 July, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Buck passing." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## bucket (category)

police bucket

maybe this shouldn't be in the ~ of things

neat buckets

the motivators don't fit into ~ (mass-casualty incidents)

'toxic' bucket

lumping all workplace issues into the same ~

essential and nonessential buckets

it's hard to put things in ~

divide things into three buckets

Biden and Pope Francis can ~ (issues)

put them in the same bucket

but with Snowden & Assange, I do ~

♦ "So remind us what are some of the plot points in the aftermath of 2020 that prosecutors could argue broke the law." / "Well, there are a few main buckets based on public court documents..." (Political punditry—"plot points" and "buckets"—concerning Donald Trump, heard on NPR in 2023.)

♦ see also *basket* (category)

## buckle (give way)

buckled

instead of doubling down on the policy, he ~

## buckle (attachment)

buckle on the strap

Vicksburg was the ~ that held the Confederacy together

buckle of the Bible Belt

they landed at the ~ (Fujianese workers in Oklahoma City)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A belt often has a buckle. See *belt* (area).

## buckle up (buckle in, strap in, etc.)

buckle in

~, everybody, this is going to a really long 2-parter series

buckle up for this journey

so I need all of you to ~ we're about to go on (podcast)

♦ "So I need all of you, including you, Candice, to buckle the f\*\*\* up for this journey we're all about to go on." / "Okay, I'm buckled in... I am ready." (A podcast episode about "Who TF Did I Marry.")

♦ "2024...Strap in...it's going to be an incredible year!" (Riyadh Season sports events in Saudi Arabia. Super!)

## bud (nipped in the bud)

nipped in the bud

the plot had been ~ at the zero hour

sedition has been ~ (a plot)

## budding

budding adventurer

the ~ claimed she was not afraid (Abby Sunderland, 16)

budding career

her ~ came to a screeching halt (a Nike runner)

budding ("heritage language") movement

the ~ in education

budding relationship

they managed to keep their ~ a secret (guy / girl)

budding romance

the innocence of a ~ (teens)

## budge (verb)

budge

the negotiators won't ~, they are immovable

budging

Ukraine wants a boycott, but ballet companies aren't ~

## budget (attention budget, etc.)

attention budget

ads take a toll on the user's ~ (internet)

## buffet (noun)

buffet of injustices

that place was a virtual ~ (Southern Poverty Law Center)

♦ "It was like a buffet table laid out for me, about interesting and strange stuff. I was very lucky..." (Hari Kunzru about attending Wadham College, University of Oxford. "Hari Kunzru, Giving Day 2022 Series.")

## buffeted

buffeted by the news

for readers ~... (pandemic)

## bug (verb)

bug me  
don't ~

bugs me  
it ~ to no end (an unsolved child disappearance)

♦ "She kept bugging him and bugging him and he kept saying no and finally..." (What do you think happened?)

♦ Don't bug me!

♦ Stop bugging me!

♦ Bug off!

♦ For quotations about the battle between actual bugs and people, see *pest (person)*. Many of those quotations are funny.

## bug (enthusiasm)

acting bug  
he took some drama classes and developed an ~

skating bug  
he caught the ~ at age 8 (ice-skater Rudy Galindo)

China bug  
I caught the ~ (Evan Osnos)

ballet bug  
if she hadn't been bitten by the ~...

fitness bug  
the ~ was not confined to yuppies

travel bug  
she said she got the ~ from her father...

bitten by the bug  
and so I really got ~ (acting, in high school)

bitten by the (cycling) bug  
as a youth he played soccer before he was ~

caught the (skating) bug  
he ~ at age 8 (ice-skater Rudy Galindo)

get the (acting) bug  
when people ~, there's really nothing you can do about it

♦ "I have to say I was a seventeen-year-old freshman at Harvard, sitting in a lecture hall right around the corner, in Harvard Hall, and I was taking a class on contemporary Chinese politics, and I caught the China bug..." (From "Evan Osnos delivers the 2013 Joe Alex Morris Jr. Memorial Lecture" on YouTube. As he says, he began to study Mandarin, flew to Beijing, and the city "astonished" him, he found it absolutely "irresistible." Of course, so did Matteo Ricci, and so many others...)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ First there was the bug (insect). Then there was the bacillus or virus, which you could figuratively "catch," or which could figuratively "bite you." (Presumably, the third iteration of "bug" is of enthusiasm.)

♦ see also *flu (enthusiasm)*

## build (create)

build an (international anti-terror) coalition  
they seek to ~

build confidence  
rehearsals ~ and improve performance (military)

build his confidence  
he needs time to ~

build my confidence  
rehearsals ~ and improve performance (military)

built a (drug-trafficking) empire  
he ~ in the Caribbean

built a (nationwide freight-hauling) empire  
Johnnie B. Hunt, who ~

build the future  
the motto was *Pro futuro aedificamus*—we ~ (school)

build a (secure) future  
~ for their children

build interest  
Leslie's dunk will ~ in the WNBA

build a (16-point) lead  
~ (basketball)

built a good life  
we ~ together

build muscles  
some bodybuilders use GHB thinking it will ~

build opposition  
he participated in clandestine meetings to ~

build (a series of working) partnerships  
~ (federal agencies)

built a (fragile) present  
they ~ out of pieces of the past (Balkans diplomacy)

build rapport  
a personable style of communication that aims to ~

builds (close) relationships  
the chaplain ~ with prisoners (prison)

built her reputation  
she ~ as an educator over two decades (fired)

build a reputation  
you can't ~ on what you are going to do (Henry Ford);  
Cotto continues to ~ (the boxer)

build (deductive) skills  
~ early in doctors' training

build (company) solidarity  
he pays for Caribbean cruises to ~

build a team  
trying to ~ is a hard juggling act (basketball)

build (community) ties  
people don't stay long enough to ~

building a better tomorrow  
we are ~

build trust  
you can ~ by... (dealing with kid's separation anxiety)

build a (peaceful) world community  
they seek to ~

built her reputation over two decades  
she ~ (an educator)

building a case one block at a time  
they are ~ (for conspiracy)

build self-esteem  
some argue that the best way to ~ is to...

anger is building  
the ~ here (oil spill)

aims to build  
a personable style of communication that ~ rapport

trying to build  
~ a team is a hard juggling act (basketball)

failure to build  
his government's ~ a healthy economy

time to build  
he needs ~ his confidence

hard to build  
the company's reputation, ~, easy to destroy

## building block

building block of society  
the tribe is the ~ (rural south Iraq)

use the experience as a building block  
you can ~

## build up (verb)

building up  
a lot of anger is ~

## built

built around the church  
his life was ~

## built in

built in  
is there an assessment tool that is ~

downtime built in  
their jobs have extended ~ (firefighters)

built-in incentive  
stock options provide a ~

## bulb (dim bulb, etc.)

brightest bulb  
he is not the ~, his IQ is in the seventies...

dim-bulb crooks  
~ whose stupidity makes them more dangerous

dim-bulb gangsters  
he faces off against a gang of ~ (some film)

considered to be a dim bulb  
he's widely ~ (a politician)

♦ "Despite sitting at the low-wattage end of the dim-bulb scale..."  
(Stupid.)

\*\*\* The brain is a power-hungry organ...

♦ "While the brain is one of the most power-hungry organs of the human body, it still has a modest power consumption of around 12 watts." (Kevlin Henney, "Scaling False Peaks.")

♦ see also *light bulb* (and *lightbulb*, *bulb*)

## bulge (shape)

youth bulge  
population trends will dramatically increase the Yemeni  
~

## bull (bull in a china shop)

bull in a china shop  
she's a ~

bull-in-a-china-shop reputation  
he showed a tactical skill which belied his ~ (politician)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. There is a funny cartoon in *The New Yorker*, Feb. 1, 2021. Somehow a bull has become an employee in a China shop. The bull is standing behind the counter, carefully holding a cup by its hooves in order to display it to a customer. Two people are looking on and one is speaking. The "Finalists" for the best caption are (1) "You were right—putting him on commission changed his attitude" (2) "Now he breaks stereotypes instead" and (3) "He doesn't charge as much as he used to." Suggested, respectively, by J.F. Martin, Naples, Fla.; Ray Joyce, Acton, Mass.; and Alex Merrett, London, England. Funny!

## bulldog (person)

bulldog attorneys  
Harvard called in ~ to protect Dr. Claudine Gay

♦ "In the Big Rock Candy Mountains, all the cops have wooden legs, and the bulldogs all have rubber teeth, and the hens lay soft-boiled eggs." (Harry "Haywire Mac" McClintock's hobo song. Heard in the 2000 film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*)

♦ see also *pit bull* (person)

## bulldoze (verb)

bulldoze her off the stage  
Trump will try to ~, but if she holds her ground (debate)

bulldoze through the concerns  
government targets will ~ of local communities (housing)

bulldozed him  
Wilder then fell again as Fury ~ (boxing)

bulldoze me  
he tried to ~, but I resisted...

bulldozing values  
critics say he is ~ that Americans hold dear (politics)

## bulldozed

bulldozed through the parliament  
the bold reforms were ~ (India)

## bulldozer (epithet)

nicknamed "the Bulldozer"  
he was ~ for his toughness on corruption (John Magufuli)



## bulldozer (noun)

expect a bulldozer  
if you took on Joe McCarthy, you could ~ coming your way

## bullet (velocity)

bullets of sound  
acoustic weapons can fire ~

bullet train  
at the controls of a Japanese ~

## bullet (shape)

bullets, needles, prisms, columns  
snowflakes come in shapes: ~, stars, cups, and plates

## bullet (magic bullet)

see *magic bullet* (noun)

## bullet (silver bullet)

see *silver bullet* (noun)

## bullet (dodge a bullet)

dodged a bullet  
we ~ here (car bomb ignites but fails to explode)

dodged a (big) bullet  
we ~ (hurricane misses refineries)

dodged a (very chaotic and expensive) bullet  
we ~ (Boston rejects 2024 Olympics)

## bullet (take a bullet for somebody)

take a bullet for the president  
he has said he would ~ (a lawyer)

♦ "I've never seen an athlete in my generation take the bullets in the way he has taken the bullets. Metaphorically speaking, he is a martyr." (The broadcaster Craig Mitch about Raheem Sterling, and the latter's efforts to fight racism in football and the media.)

♦ "I'm ride or die brother—I'd jump on a grenade for you." (An Elon Musk supporter.)

♦ "Roosters are protectors and providers for their hens, they take the bullet for their ladies in a heartbeat, and will watch the sky for hawks while hens busily scratch and peck for the goodies on the ground." ("All You Need To Know About Rooster Spurs," The Happy Chicken Coop.)

♦ see also *ride or die* (slang)

## bullet (bite the bullet)

bite the bullet  
we're going to have to ~ (pay the tariff)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Bite the bullet." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## bullet (violence)

ballot box, not the bullet  
we must sort out our differences with the ~ (Biden)

## bulletproof (adjective)

bulletproof  
your logic is ~  
our story was ~ (investigative reporter)  
the case against him needed to be ~ (expensive lawyers)

ironclad, waterproof, bulletproof, (legally) binding  
we need ~ guarantees (Sergey Ryabkov / diplomacy)

seemed bulletproof  
he ~ just a few weeks ago (politician under fire)

## bullied

bullied by a liberal media  
we won't be ~ (politics)

bullied by trans moralism  
we won't be ~

bullied by the north  
southerners complain of being ~ (Sudan)

getting bullied  
Twitter is ~ by the government

♦ "Democrats learn the hard way we won't be bullied by trans moralism" by Rich Lowry, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 11, 2024.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

## bullpen (group)

"bullpen" of comic-book writers and artists  
Marvel's famed ~....

## bull's-eye (shape)

"bull's-eye" rash  
the disease is characterized by a ~ (Lyme disease)

## bull's-eye (target)

bull's-eye on his back  
he has a ~ (a wanted terrorist)

put a bull's-eye on the city  
the hurricane has ~ (New Orleans 2012)

put Trump in the bull's-eye  
it's time to ~ (President Joe Biden)

♦ Lester Holt: Well let's talk about the conversation this has started, and it's really about language, what we say out loud and the consequences of those. You called your opponent an existential threat, on a call a week ago you said it's time to put Trump in the bull's-eye. There's some dispute about the context, but I think you appreciate the word crosshairs... / President Joe Biden: [Interrupting.] I didn't say crosshairs, I was talking about focus on. Look, the truth of the matter was, what I guess I was talking about at the time was, there was very little focus on Trump's agenda. / LH: Yeah, the term was bull's-eye. / JB: It was a mistake to use the word, I didn't mean, I didn't say crosshairs, I meant bull's-eye, I meant focus on him, focus on what he's doing, focus on his policies, focus on the number of lies he told in the debate, focus, I mean, there's, there is a whole range of things that... Look, I'm not the guy that said I wanna be a dictator on day one..." (President Joe Biden's interview at the White House with Lester Holt, NBC News, on Monday, July 15, 2024, two days after Trump's near-assassination, on Saturday, July 13, 2024. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ see also *cross hair* (in the cross hairs)

## bully (verb)

bullied colleagues

there are charges that she ~ (administration)

bully the (national) judiciary

his comments are a shameless effort to ~

bully the president into backing down

the Republicans are trying to ~ on reform

let the US bully it

China will not ~

## bully (person)

bully in their region

Israel was the classic ~ (Egyptians / 1973 war)

bullies on the block

the Patriots are no longer the ~ (NFL football)

bully tactic

the letter is a ~ (impeachment trial)

Hollywood bullies

other ~ are being sidelined, but not...

internet bullies

people who have been harassed by ~

regional bully

many see Saudi Arabia as a ~ (its neighbors)

technological bully

Google's co-founders reviled Microsoft as a ~

stood up to the (schoolyard) bully

he ~ (student vs. record-industry lawyers)

\*\*\* **"A boy shall learn to fight, or let him put skirts about his knees..."**

♦ A boy shall learn to fight, or let him put skirts about his knees. This boy has never been taught to fight, but he shall have his first lesson to-night. We will see if the National Schools can beat a Morgan... Now, a good straight left is the bully's downfall. That is lesson one from the book. Like this." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn. Huw had been beaten up by a bully after his first day in class at a new school.)

♦ Female teacher at a high school in North Carolina: Gesim was in a fight. / Male ESL teacher: Did he win? (Wrong response. Awkward.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Add 'online bullying' to the list of phrases rendered completely meaningless by applying it to everything." (An online commenter about Sydney Sweeney, who considers nude screenshots of her online to be "bullying." Which does not prevent her from exposing her breasts.)

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

## bulwark (resemblance)

sandstone bulwark

the Ennedi is a ~ in the middle of the Sahara (Chad)

## bulwark (protection)

bulwark against (Republican) excesses

he was a ~ (a politician)

bulwark against (religious) extremism

he had been a ~ (deposed leader)

bulwark against (government) tyranny

the Second Amendment is a ~ (right to bear arms)

bulwark against vice

playgrounds provide a ~ (urbanization)

bulwark of stability and democracy

India represents a ~ compared with Pakistan

## bump (speed bump)

speed bumps

there have been a few ~ (negotiations)

speed bump of the land

so as soon as it gets over the ~ (hurricane / Yucatan)

hit a speedbump

his investigation ~ when he met with...

♦ "This is just a speed bump, Steven, I'll make it better." (Relationship issues. From the funny 1996 film *The Cable Guy*.)

## bump (bump in the road, etc.)

bump in the road

this is just a ~ (personal setback)

it was just a ~ of their ideal lives

bumps in the road to toilet training

many families encounter ~

encounter bumps in the road

many families ~ to toilet training

## bump (increase)

bump in business

the films saw a ~ following their Tony wins

bump in earnings

the company has seen a ~

## bumper (bumper crop)

bumper crop

what a ~ (of works / Public Domain Day)

## bumpy (adjective)

bumpy ride

consumers are in for a ~ this year (customer service)

bumpy road

the economy is on the ~ to recovery

## bunker (noun)

bunker mentality

England must discard its ~ after Chennai defeat (cricket)

\*\*\* **How Zuckerberg, Kardashian, and Cruise are prepping for doomsday...**

♦ "It'll be the most comfortable apocalypse ever." ("Bunker mentality: How Mark Zuckerberg, Kim Kardashian, Tom Cruise and other celebs are prepping for doomsday" by Lauren Elkies Schram and Isabel Keane, *The New York Post*, March 9, 2024.)

♦ Two Earth Sheltered (Bunker) Homes on +/-7 acres in the beautiful Paradise Valley of SW MT... Over 300 feet long underground, with 2 floor levels living area, and a basement storage area. Many small BR, with options for bunk beds; 1 master suite. 11 toilets, 7 showers, 15 sinks. 2 alcohol cook stoves/ovens... \$1,550,000, Survival Realty. (An advertisement for a bunker. From "Bunker Mentality: Shopping for a home at the end of the world" by Patricia Marx, *The New Yorker*, September 2, 2024.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "When we dug bunkers we saw how the dead lay in layers one above the other." (*The Storm of Steel* by Lieutenant Ernst Junger, quoted in *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter Englund.)

## buoy (verb)

buoy the movement

Trump's rhetoric continues to ~

## buoyant (feeling)

buoyant

the Russian mood is definitely ~

the German fans are ~ and singing (soccer game)

buoyant about ending

they were ~ their opponents' unbeaten streak (sports)

buoyant mood

the members of the expedition were in a ~

buoyant music

she loved the musical's ~

buoyant optimism

he expressed ~ that...

buoyant and hopeful

her depression had lifted, and she felt ~

buoyant, lively (m)

it was a ~ performance (music)

felt buoyant

people who have ~ in the economy (housing market)

## buoyant (personality)

buoyant 70

he is a ~ (years of age)

buoyant confidence

she projects a ~

buoyant personality

she has a ~ given her circumstances (illegal immigrant)

buoyant temperament

she has a ~

## buoyant (strong)

buoyant

voters supported him while the economy was ~

Asian economies remain resilient, even ~

buoyant demand

the offering has seen ~ from investors

buoyant (job) growth

we are seeing rapid, ~

keeps prices buoyant

the rarity of such collectibles ~

## buoyed

buoyed with hope

he seemed ~

## burden (verb)

burden his wife with (toilsome and difficult) work

a man should not ~, based on her abilities and custom

burden our grandchildren with this debt

it is wrong to ~

## burden (noun)

burden

some view stress as a challenge rather than a ~

that's a big ~ to carry (guilt, responsibility)

burden of expectation

she suffers from the ~

burden of guilt

they share a ~

burden of history

the special ~ that contemporary Greece has to deal with

burdens of leadership

the ~ are heavy (politics)

burden of the past

future generations won't suffer the ~

burden of proof

the ~ is on the FDA to show...

the sedition charge requires a high ~

burden (of paperwork) on researchers

the ~ can be great

debt burden

she couldn't get out from under her crushing ~

~ keeps poor countries from healing their sick

tax burden

the ~ still falls on the shoulders of regular Americans

the local ~ on the mall store

financial burden

we must reduce the ~s on patients (health care)

a wedding can be a huge ~ (Arab countries)

heavy burden

he carries a ~ of responsibility (ruler)

the ~ of this mammoth job (Man U manager)

the stigma of AIDS is still a ~

physical and emotional burdens

the ~ of child-rearing (on grandparents)

blessing and a burden

patients see choice as both a ~

burden falls

the ~ on the shoulders of those least able to bear it

the ~ primarily on women (health-care decisions)

carry the burden

some kids ~ of extra responsibility (autistic sibling)

ease the burden

how can we ~ of the poor

get out from under her crushing (debt) burden

she couldn't ~

shoulder the burden

locals must ~ after regime change (Rumsfeld)

shoulder the (financial) burden

the government should ~

shouldering a (heavy) burden

he has been ~ for Golden State all season (Stephen Curry)

## burgeoning (adjective)

burgeoning influence

they wish to allay fears about its ~

burgeoning momentum

a 3-week break stopped Baylor's ~ (basketball)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This verb form relates to the new growth of buds and branches. It's a nice way to think of the word.

## buried (dead and buried, etc.)

dead and buried

the peace process is ~

Spurs looked ~ when Ziyech scored against them, but...

Switzerland were ~ but kept fighting (Euro 2020)

they looked ~ at half-time, but never write off this team

## buried (concealment)

buried

it's the past, it's ~, we don't want to dig it up again

buried in the archives

the information was ~

buried in the past

it is ~...

buried in a (158-page) report

the information is ~

buried in the navigation bar

the link was ~ (poor Web site design)

buried facts

~ about the (plutonium) contamination

buried secrets

~ have teeth (Ad for Truth be Told TV series)

stay buried

the past did not ~ (The Troubles and Brexit)

♦ "Secrets, long buried, sometimes don't stay that way." (Dateline NBC.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The past is sometimes best left buried."

## buried (buried in debt, etc.)

buried in debt

are you ~

buried in work

homicide detectives were ~ (leads)

buried under a (huge) mountain of debt

they were ~

buried away

she was ~ in the U.S. Department of Agriculture

## burn (reputational burn, etc.)

reputational burn

the ~ of this is enormous (crypto company collapses)

## burn (crash and burn)

see *crash* (*crash and burn*)

## burn down (verb)

burn down the neo-liberal global economic order

citizens around the world seem eager to ~

## burned (impressed)

burned into our (collective) consciousness

fairy tales or folktales ~

## burned (hurt)

burned by their (past) investments

they were ~ in failed projects (tech industry)

got burned

many investors ~ (fraud)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Once burned, twice shy!

## burned-out (and burnt-out)

burnt out from years

he felt ~ of working on...

## burner (front burner)

put the environment on the front burner

they seek to ~ (election)

put having more fun on the front burner

maybe it's time to ~ (ad for a cruise ship)

## burning (burning desire, etc.)

burning desire

the ~ to be the best (basketball)

he has a ~ to get the facts (human rights investigator)

burning question

she has one ~ (what did my son die for in Iraq war)

burning righteousness

she pays a price for her ~ (a play)

## burning (slow-burning)

slow-burning rebellion  
the nation is in the grip of a ~ against the regime

slow-burning war  
the Troubles, the ~ in Northern Ireland

## burnish (verb)

burnished his credentials  
his work in Beijing ~ (a politician)

burnished his reputation  
his sermons have ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ If you burnish something, you rub it until it shines.

## burnished

burnished and tarnished  
reputations were ~ (2021 Trump impeachment trial)

## burn off (verb)

burn off her (abundant) energy  
your toddler needs to ~

burn off stress  
exercise is a great way to ~

## burn out (verb)

burn out  
he warns that troops will "~" and leave the service

burned out  
what happens to adjuncts once they've ~

burn out from the environment  
people who ~ (technology and computers)

burn out or fade away  
playboating didn't ~ (whitewater rodeos, etc.)

## burnout (noun)

burnout  
the new IN thing is "~" (a *Times-Picayune* columnist)

*Women's Burnout*  
~: *How to Spot It, Reverse It, Prevent It* (a book)

competitive burnout  
he quit the tour, citing ~ (a surfer)

digital burnout  
with the Web, people started talking about "~"

avoid burnout  
maintain a happy work / life balance and ~

contribute to burnout  
three key factors ~...

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ The concept of "burnout," originally coined to describe the way many drug addicts felt in the late 1960s, has been expanded to *Achilles in the Bronze Age*. (See "It's Just Too Much" by Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, May 24, 2021. An excellent article by an excellent

writer. The use of modern contempo-speak in a historical context is a form of presentism.)

## burn through (verb)

burning through cash  
Boeing has been ~ at a significant rate

## burrito (shape)

"burritos"  
~, long, sand-filled tubes covered by heavy fabric

sand burritos  
~ contribute to beach loss (Sunset Beach, Oahu)

## burrow (burrow into)

burrowing into the coal industry  
Communists are ~, newspapers and shipyards

burrowing their way into the computer networks  
hackers were ~ of government agencies (SolarWinds)

## burst (activity)

burst of negotiating  
the crisis signaled a fresh ~

burst of recognition  
you're getting a ~ (an old Blues singer)

## burst (burst into tears, etc.)

burst into applause  
the staff ~ (teachers)

burst into laughter  
she ~

burst into tears  
I ~, assuming...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The principal parts of the verb are the same: burst / burst / burst.

## burst (burst into violence, etc.)

burst into violence  
lingering tensions ~

♦ The principal parts of the verb are the same: burst / burst / burst.

## burst on / onto the scene, etc.

burst into our consciousness  
she's ~ (tennis player Emma Raducanu)

burst into the headlines  
the conservatorship ~ this week (#FreeBritney)

burst on the scene  
he ~ in 1991 (independent politician Ross Perot)

burst onto the stage  
he was one of several poets who ~ in the 60s (Russia)

## bury (conceal)

buried it  
the Coast Guard sat on it and then they ~ (a report)

buried the report

Harvard found the same thing but ~ (race issue)

bury it

catch and kill is buying the rights to a story to ~

bury the truth

the government is trying to ~

bury (radio) listings

newspapers ~

♦ "I and many of us we were angry very upset that this was a document that spelled out exactly what the culture was, provided a road map of how we can improve the culture, and the coast guard sat on it, and then they buried it." (Retired Coast Guard Commander and whistleblower Kimberly Young-McLear, a Black Queer woman, about the report "Culture of Respect (COR) Integrated Process Team (IPT) Phase I Report.")

## bury (bury oneself in something, etc.)

buries herself in her phone

whenever they're together, she ~ (teen and father)

## bury (kill)

bury any chance

annexation moves would ~ of peace (Middle East)

## bus (throw somebody under the bus)

threw him under the bus

the police chief ~ (a policeman)

threw us under the bus

I felt like he ~ (a politician)

♦ In a 2013 playoff game in Alabama, the McAdory High School football team played the Pinson Valley High School "Indians." The McAdory cheerleaders prepared a "bust thru" banner which read, "Hey Indians. Get ready to leave in a Trail of Tears. Round 2." Following criticism, school officials later apologized for the banner and sought to deflect responsibility: "The person who would normally be responsible for approving such signs is out on maternity leave" and "The cheerleading squad will be disciplined." Of course, throwing the girls and their pregnant leader under the bus only provoked further criticism!

♦ "NPR has not really responded to the community's concerns beyond passing the blame to the individual producer." In other words, NPR simply through the producer under the bus. ("An Analysis of NPR's Depiction of Hindus in 2019" by Vamsee Juluri, *Pragyata*, September 17, 2019. An excellent article worth reading and thinking about.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "We used to talk about making somebody a scapegoat, or throwing them to the wolves. Now we're more like to talk about throwing them under the bus. Our linguist Geoff Nunberg has been tracking the phrase, that's become the linguistic megastar of this year's political season." (The wonderful Fresh Air host Dave Davies. From "Primaries Toss Some 'Under the Bus,' Fresh Air, NPR, April 22, 2008. Davies is introducing the linguist Geoff Nunberg.)

♦ In 2019, NPR's All Things Considered gave the expression a "1-Minute Listen" with examples, dates of usage, and its use in a rap song. ("The Origins Of 'Throw Him (Or Her) Under the Bus,'" NPR, All Things Considered, November 11, 2019.)

♦ You can be thrown to the sharks. Or thrown to the wolves. Or thrown under the bus. Or hung out to dry. Or crucified. Or have your head stuck on a stake. Or be made a scapegoat. Take your pick!

## bus (get on the bus, etc.)

getting on the bus late

you are ~

♦ "If you are just now gnashing your teeth about what has happened to *Sports Illustrated*, you are getting on this bus very, very late."

## bus (control / allegiance)

bus driver

~ means that it is your team (= you lead it / NBA)

he must win a championship as the "~" (sports talk)

on the bus

you're either ~ or not on the bus, and I'm driving the bus

driving the bus

I am ~ to make sure we get this country back on track

it doesn't really matter who is ~, Ole, Rangnick, Ten

Haag

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is like the politician who said, "This is my truck, and in my truck we go by my rules."

## bus (park the bus)

park the bus for so long

you can only ~ before getting found out (soccer)

parked bus on edge of own box

first 70 mins we ~ (Leicester City fan, about loss)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Parking the bus" in soccer is a defensive tactic and often considered a negative tactic.

## busy (active)

busy with groups of hikers

unlike the previous day, the path was ~

busy hurricane season

it's expected to be a ~

## bust (oil bust, etc.)

oil bust

historic oil bust delivers a gut punch to Texas county

boom and bust

Argentina is used to ~ (the economy)

## butcher (verb)

butchered his presentation

he ~

## butcher (Butcher of Baghdad, etc.)

the Butcher

the rank and file troops call him ~ (Ukrainian general)

Butcher of Baghdad

ridding the world of the ~ (Saddam Hussein)

Butcher of Ethiopia

General Rodolfo Graziani, the ~ (Yekatit 12, 1937)

Butcher of Fezzan

the Arabs called him "the ~" (Graziani, 1930-34, Libya)

Butcher of Khan Yunis

Yahya Sinwar, the ~ ( Hamas leader / Gaza)



butcher of Mosul

the execution of Shukair Farid, "the ~" (Iraq)

Butcher of the Monks

the general became known as the ~ (Zhao Erfang)

quisling butcher

he was a ~ (Croatia / Jasenovac)

criminals and butchers

the terrorists are ~ (Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia)

cast Grant as a "butcher"

Southern historians ~ (revisionism)

nicknamed the Butcher

the general, ~, seized power in a coup (Gwangju Uprising)

♦ "The Duce will have Ethiopia, with or without the Ethiopians." (The Italian General Rodolfo Graziani.)

♦ AVENUE DU BOUCHER BUGEAUD (A defaced street sign in Paris. Thomas Robert Bugeaud was instrumental in the subjection of Algeria in the 1830s and 40s.)

♦ "The duke, though not much of a general, was undoubtedly a man of courage, of energy, and steadiness of purpose; but his manners were boisterous and brutal, his temper hasty, harsh, and tyrannical, his passions coarse and violent. He was detested by the people of England, who believed him capable of any atrocity; while the deeds that were to come in Scotland gained him the name of 'The Butcher,' and have stamped his memory to the present hour with an infamy that is indelible." (The Duke of Cumberland, who led the King's forces at Culloden in 1746. From *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

♦ "So they were had into the palace and showed the whole art of the sword for two hours at a stretch, before King George and Queen Carline, and the Butcher Cumberland..." ("I Hear Of Red Fox" from *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson.)

♦ "When I asked Basem Naim, a member of Hamas's leadership, about Sinwar's nickname among Israeli authorities—the Butcher of Khan Younis—he told me, 'I think this is nonsense. That is the first time I have ever heard this.'" ("Notes From Underground: The life of Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas in Gaza" by David Remnick, *The New Yorker*, August 12, 2024. The Israel-Hamas war.)

## butchery (war)

butchery in the gully

the ~ ended only when units of Third Brigade came up

survived the day's butchery

the soldiers who ~ are forever marked by it

♦ "It was the Somme in miniature. To the Finns who witnessed these attacks, it seemed beyond belief that any army, no matter how fatalistic its ideology or inexhaustible its supply of manpower, would continue to mount attack after attack across such billiard-table terrain. / In some battles the Finnish machine gunners held their fire until the range was down to fifty meters; the butchery was dreadful. In a number of cases Finnish machine gunners had to be evacuated due to stress. They had become emotionally unstable from having to perform such mindless slaughter, day after day." (Taipale. From *Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War Of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter.)

## butterfly (shape)

butterfly ballot

the ~ confused many voters (2000 presidential election)

"butterfly" mines

PFM-1 ~ scattered from the air (Afghanistan)

children think ~ are toys

## butterfly (social butterfly)

social butterfly

she's a ~

## butterfly (butterflies in stomach)

had butterflies in my stomach

I ~ (a nervous performer before a performance)

♦ "They'll be excited, there will be some butterflies, some early jitters..." (A team in the MLB playoffs.)

♦ "As I sped down Kentucky Highway 62, the butterflies in my stomach stood at attention." (That's an exuberant image! You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphor, or you can have friends.)

## button (push a button / action)

big button

we pressed the ~ with rescue helicopters, the Red Cross...

easy button

we never had any time for that, we just pushed the ~

push the button

officials must decide when to ~ (COVID circuit-breaker)

♦ "We pressed the big button with rescue helicopters, rescue dogs, the Red Cross, the civil defense, fire, health and police." (A Norwegian, speaking in Norwegian, about eight homes that were swept into the sea by a mudslide. His speech was translated by the BBC, which showed the video of the astonishing event. Amazingly, nobody was injured in the disaster.)

♦ "We never had any time for that, we just pushed the easy button." (US in Afghanistan.)

♦ "We threw everything at it, search teams, dogs, aerial units, the whole nine." (A kidnapping. "The whole nine" stands for "the whole nine yards.")

## button (push a button / emotion)

buttons

he knows what ~ to push (to provoke reaction)

he knows how to push ~ (Jake Paul / boxing)

pushes South Africa's racial buttons

rugby ~

pushed my button

that's what ~ too far (a suspension)

push people's buttons

I like to ~ (George Carlin / comedian / taboos)

he likes to ~ (get them upset)

♦ "You gotta push guys' buttons, I live rent free in AJ's head, I got his button." (The provocateur Jarrell "Big Baby" Miller, from Brooklyn, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for the Day of Reckoning boxing card.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I live rent free in someone's head" is quite the cliché / taunt nowadays. It refers to having psychological control over someone. In other words, being able to push someone's buttons. A sign of our times.

## button (pause button)

hit the pause button

we need to ~ (gene editing)

it never really ended, we just ~ (Korean War)

## button (panic button)

panic button

I was scared, I hit the ~

hit the panic button

it's not time to ~ yet

## button (hot button)

hot buttons

he addresses love, expectation, and other ~ (writer)

he addresses jealousy, grief, and other ~ (writer)

he addresses disappointment, fidelity and other ~

hot-button issue

another ~ at the WTO was dumping

let's talk about some of the ~s (politics)

hot-button subject

it's a ~ (racism and bias)

## buttness (verb)

buttness Ethiopia against threats

a better approach is to ~ to its survival by...

buttness its argument

Eritrea produced Italian colonial-era maps to ~

buttnessed his case

he has ~ with science's latest discoveries about...

buttness European influence

the pipeline will ~ all the way to Azerbaijan

## buttness (resemblance)

buttnesses of (dark, gabbro) rock

these peaks and ~ are called the Black Cuillin

## buttness (Castle Buttness, etc.)

Buttness Point

~ is a point in New Zealand

~ is a cape in Aleutians West Census Area, Alaska

Castle Buttness

~ is a peak in KwaZulu-Natal

Porcupine Buttness

the ~ is a series of promontories (Western Cape)

♦ East Buttness (ridge); South Buttness (ridge); West Buttness (ridge)... (Denali Borough, Alaska.)

## buy (time)

see *time* (*buy time*, etc.)

## buy (buy into something)

buy in to the company

workers who ~ (enthusiasm vs. apathy)

bought into the bravado

he initially ~ (claims of a corporation)

bought into the (e-wallet) concept

parents that have ~

buy into the stereotype

does this guy ~ that Asian women are generally weak

## buy (accept)

buy their argument

do you ~ that...

buy the (Democrats') semantic argument

even some on the left don't ~ (bank rescue isn't bailout)

buy the "bad apples" argument

I don't ~ (combat, war, and atrocities)

buying his excuses

his colleagues are not ~ (ethics violations)

buy it

Tyer didn't ~ (an explanation)

## buy-in (noun)

buy-in

~ is acceptance, support, participation (employment)

employee buy-in

companies that demand ~

~ is a major part of some corporate cultures

buy-in from parents

we didn't have enough of a deep ~ (school)

loss of buy-in

several factors can lead to a ~ (enthusiasm turns to apathy)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A BBC Worklife article about buy-in included the following expressions: get on board; drinking the Kool-Aid; go all in...

## bypass (verb)

bypass Congress

the President will try to ~ to get what he wants

bypass the gatekeepers

the internet allowed people to ~ who controlled music

## buzz (sound)

buzz with the sound

forests ~ of chain saws

## buzz (activity)

buzzing with anticipation

the students were ~ (school assembly)

buzzing with excitement

the city is ~ ahead of next month's World Cup

buzzing with questions

my mind was ~

buzzed with possibilities

my mind ~

buzzed with rumors

the school ~

buzzing with shoppers  
Rockefeller Center is ~

## **buzz (attention)**

buzz  
the ~ this year is that...

buzz about the (new) hotel  
there was a lot of ~ (a Japanese robot hotel)

buzz about the Nationals  
there has been a lot of ~ (sports team)

buzz and excitement and a coming together  
there's a ~ for the city (Super Bowl LVI (56) / Cincinnati)

audience buzz  
the TV show is getting critical acclaim and ~

water-cooler buzz  
the ~ is underway (a controversy)

all the buzz  
New BEE STING TENDERS are ~ (ad for Cracker Barrel)

most buzz  
which story is getting the ~

negative buzz  
the group survived the initial ~

generated quite some buzz  
this has ~ in the last 24 hours or so (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Buzzword* has morphed to *fuzzword* (social-justice language, feminism, etc.)

## **buzz (sensation)**

beer buzz  
I like a good ~ in the morning

euphoria or buzz or high  
inhaling to get a sensation of ~ (toluene abuse)

♦ "I like a good beer buzz in the mornin' / And Billy likes to peel the labels from his bottles of Bud..." (Watch and listen to: Sheryl Crow- All I Wanna do-YouTube)

## **buzzed (buzzed about, etc.)**

buzzed about  
this is a company that is ~ and for good reason

## **buzz saw (noun)**

hit the buzz saw  
we were one of them that ~ (industry loses funding)

ran into a buzz saw  
Minnesota went to Iowa and ~ (football loss)

walked into a whole bunch of buzz saws  
he ~ (promoted above his level, forced to resign)

\*\*\* *Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood...*

♦ "Up to about the time of the Civil War, trees were cut down by axes, which was slow, laborious work. The arrival of the crosscut saw speeded this process immeasurably, and the cant hook and peavey, perfected in the pineries of Maine at about the same time, made it much easier to handle the logs... In the same way the equipment at the sawmills was vastly improved... and the mill's capacity for processing logs was almost unimaginably increased... So over most of the state of Michigan the forest was destroyed." (*Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood* by Bruce Catton.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Merriam-Webster, a buzz saw is the same as a circular saw, and its first known use was in 1847.

## **buzzword (noun)**

buzzwords about things  
~ like attachment styles ("therapy TikTok")

buzzwords like *accredited*, *internationally recognized*  
~ (the TEFL industry)

buzzword-laden  
Kendall's ~ corporate-speak (the TV series *Succession*)

preferred buzzword  
his ~ was "hardcore" (Elon Musk)

commonly used buzzwords  
one of the ~ at Twitter was "psychological safety"

psychobabble buzzwords  
an hour and a half of ~ (an online celebrity therapy session)

nonprofit and social justice buzzwords  
all the ~ (Race2Dinner, a for-profit)

just a buzzword  
is Web3 the future of the Internet or ~  
it's ~ everyone uses ("toxic" workplace)

sacred buzzwords  
~ like "learning styles" and "learner centered" (education)

usual buzzwords  
there is a heavy helping of the ~ (Cornell University)

become a buzzword  
mindfulness has ~ in current mainstream culture

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Politics, Pundits And The Problem With The Word 'Pivot'" is a very nice opinion piece by Scott Simon. (NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, June 11, 2016. Simon rightly characterizes the word as a buzzword.)

♦ "To keep class discussion buoyant, lecturers are told to 'encourage students to practise the verbalisation aspect of knowledge'. Multiple 'learning outcomes', sacred buzzwords before the pandemic, have been supplemented with 'learner journeys', promising against the odds a positive experience as well as a realistic hope of achieving something." ("Diary: On Quitting Academia" by Malcolm Gaskill, *London Review of Books*, 24 September 2020. "In May, I gave up my academic career after 27 years...")

♦ "Kyle was not an active shooter, that is a buzzword the state wants to latch onto because it excuses the actions of that mob." (Defense attorney Mark Richards, an attorney defending Kyle Rittenhouse. The jury found Kyle not guilty on all counts.)

♦ "The kids haven't read anything longer than a TikTok. They know everything by way of buzzwords. They learn these words like

'colonizer...'" (The comedian Bill Maher, speaking to John Cleese on the former's podcast, *Club Random*.)

♦ "They think we're supporting genocide, we're supporting colonialism. They know the keywords but they don't really know what they mean." (A Jewish merchant in New York City. The Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Buzzword* has morphed to *fuzzword* (social-justice language, feminism, etc.)

♦ The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) will utilize artificial intelligence to target buzzwords in its effort to eliminate divisive DEI ideology in the federal government.

♦ see also *boilerplate* (noun), *doublespeak* (noun), *ese* (legalese, etc.), *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language* (types), *lip service* (pay lip service, etc.), *newspeak* (noun), *speak* (NASA-speak, etc.), *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing), *talk* (mediator talk, etc.), *word salad*

## buzzy (adjective)

buzzy campaign

Skims dropped another ~ starring Kim Cattrall...

buzzy (electric vehicle) market

skeptics take aim at ~

buzzy new restaurant

this ~...

buzzy (new) role

Anne Hathaway talks ~

buzzy (dining and nightlife) scene

a historically gay neighborhood that's home to a ~

buzzy (new AI) technology

ChatGPT is a ~ (as is GPTzero)

## by (death by chocolate, etc.)

death by a thousand cuts

see *cut* (*a thousand cuts*)

death by PowerPoint

see *death* (*death by PowerPoint, etc.*)

Holocaust by Bullets

Ukraine's forgotten "~"

trial by TikTok

Amber Heard and Johnny Depp's "~"

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military

♦ "Eighty years on, how should the desire to move on be balanced with the need to remember?" ("Ukraine's forgotten 'Holocaust by Bullets,' BBC, 27 Sept 2021.)

## bygone (adjective)

bygone days

reliving ~ of going to drive-in movie theaters (pandemic)

bygone era

hallmarks of a ~

he dressed and sounded like he had stepped out of a ~ in modern-day America, there is no such thing as a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Ago* also means "gone by."

## byproduct (noun)

byproduct of (Mexico's) culture

domestic violence is an ugly ~ of machismo

byproducts of the war

renditions and torture are ~ (US in Iraq)

ugly byproduct

domestic violence is an ~ of Mexico's culture of machismo

## Byron (epithet)

Byron of the antipodes

the 33-year-old ~ (D'Arcy Wentworth)

## byzantine

byzantine (Third World) bureaucracy

solutions have been impeded by a ~

byzantine formula

fees are calculated according to ~s

byzantine (asylum) process

he navigates a ~ to finally get a court hearing

byzantine regulations

~ are difficult for the outsider to navigate (Egypt)

the ~ are stifling

byzantine tax law

he relied on Smith's knowledge of ~

Byzantine twist of fate

in a ~...

often-byzantine

navigating America's ~ health care systems

## C

## cadence (noun)

cadence, (that) frequency

it's just getting into that ~... (grooming habits)

flight cadence

vehicles will have a ~ of once per week (Virgin Galactic)

launch cadence

the Falcon 9 vehicle contributed to a faster ~

faster (launch) cadence

the Falcon 9 vehicle contributed to a ~

steady cadence

his schedule involves a ~ of events and activity (Trump)

♦ "SpaceX's Falcon 9 vehicle contributed to lower prices, a faster launch cadence, and has helped attract investment..."

♦ "It's just getting into that cadence, that frequency..." (Advice to men about trimming neck hair. A "neckbeard" is a pejorative word for a type of man.)

♦ "The former president's schedule involves a steady cadence of outdoor events and activity." ("U.S. Secret Service July 13- Mission

Assurance Report Summary." The report also speaks about "a never ending high operational tempo.")

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ I want to be an Airborne Ranger / I want to be an Airborne Ranger / I want to live a life of danger / I want to live a life of danger / I want to kill the Viet Cong / I want to kill the Viet Cong / Sound off / One two / Sound off / Three four / Bring it on down / One two three four one two THREE FOUR! (Vietnam War-era cadence at Fort Knox. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

♦ Wiii-iiide River / Wiii-iiide River / River of Saigon / River of Saigon / Wiii-iiide River / Wiii-iiide River / Oh! One more river to cross / Oh! One more river to cross... (Vietnam War-era cadence at Fort Knox. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

♦ Go to Cam Ranh Bay / Go to Cam Ranh Bay / Chasing Charley all the way / Chasing Charley all the way / Wiii-iiide River / Wiii-iiide River / Oh! One more river to cross / Oh! One more river to cross... (Vietnam War-era cadence at Fort Knox. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

## Caesar (Chinese Caesar, etc.)

Chinese Caesar

the “~,” the precocious King Cheng (c. 221 BC)

## cage (rattle a cage)

rattle our cage

don’t ~

rattle cages

the government is willing to ~ to get things done

rattled cages at *The New York Times*

she was a dissenting voice that ~ (Bari Weiss)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “Justice will be served and the battle will rage / This big dog will fight when you rattle his cage...” Toby Keith    Courtesy Of The Red, White And Blue (The Angry American) (Official Music Video)

## cage (like a cage)

silent cage

nonspeakers with autism are locked in a ~

gilded cage

see *gilded cage (prison)*

locked in a (silent) cage

nonspeakers with autism are ~

♦ “Then there is the other idle man, who is idle in spite of himself, who is inwardly consumed by a great longing for action, because he seems to be imprisoned in some cage. A just or unjustly ruined reputation, poverty, fatal circumstances, adversity—they are what make men prisoners. And the prison is also called prejudice, misunderstanding, fatal ignorance of one thing or another, distrust, false shame. One cannot always tell what it is that keeps us shut in, confines us, seems to bury us, but nevertheless, one feels certain barriers, certain walls. Such a man does not always know what he can do, but he feels by instinct: Yes, I am good for something; my life has an aim after all; I know that I might be quite a different man! There is something inside of me; what can it be? / Do you know what frees one from this captivity? It is...” (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

♦ “As the girl ages, she starts to realize she’s really a Rapunzel who’s trapped in a tower and longs to experience the outside world.” (“‘Poor Things’ review: Emma Stone is a sex-crazed science experiment” by Johnny Oleksinski, *New York Post*, December 11, 2023. Three out of four stars.)

## cage (jail, prison)

threw my boy in a cage

they ~ with those wild animals...

## cake (icing on the cake, etc.)

cherry on the top of my career

you want to talk about a ~ (an actor)

icing on the cake

for a career in the sciences, the Nobel Prize is the ~

icing on the Treble cake

it’s the ~, sweet...

“put the icing on the cake” of his performance

he then scored a goal to ~ (soccer)

♦ “You want to talk about a cherry on the top of my career...” (The extraordinary Jenifer Lewis, talking to Sam Sanders about her role on *Blackish*. (“From ‘Black-ish,’ Jennifer Lewis: ‘The Mother of Black Hollywood,’” NPR, it’s been a minute, Nov. 28 2017. It is an enjoyable and uplifting interview.)

♦ “So amusing to read the ridiculous vitriol aimed at City on here. It’s the icing on the Treble cake—sweet.” (An online commenter on a BBC HYS. CTID.)

♦ “I’m not even sure I’d call it the icing on the cake. It’s like the cherry on the icing.” (A tax credit for paid family leave.)

♦ see also *icing (noun)*

## cake (have one’s cake and eat it, too)

you can’t have your cake and eat it too

~ (cheating on your spouse)

♦ He wanted to have his cake and eat it, too. (Have a wife *and* a mistress.)

\*\*\* **delightful usage...**

♦ “I try and have my cake and eat it a little bit.” (The writer Richard Osman, about writing and plots.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This means to enjoy the good parts of a situation without have to deal with the downsides of that situation.

♦ Literally, the cliché seems to make no sense. Read “‘Have Your Cake and Eat It Too’ by Ben Zimmer, On Language, *The New York Times Magazine*, Feb. 18, 2011. Basically, you can’t eat a piece of cake and still possess it. In his article, Zimmer relates the saying to the Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, and he mentions the wonderful Russian proverb, “You can’t sit on two chairs.”

♦ Can you have your cake and eat it, too?

♦ You can’t have your cake and eat it, too.

## caked (mud caked on roads, etc.)

caked on roads, pavements, and buildings

mud ~ (2024 Valencia flood)

## cakewalk (dance)

cakewalk

this election is not going to be a ~ for...

England are well placed, but it has not been a ~ (cricket)

no Indy 500 is a ~, it’s a massive challenge (motorsports)

military intelligence suggested the campaign would be a

~

cakewalks

there are not a lot of ~ on the schedule (a sports team)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ For the history of this word, see “The Extraordinary Story Of Why A ‘Cakewalk’ Wasn’t Always Easy” by Lakshmi Gandhi, NPR, Code

Switch, Race and Identity, Remixed, December 23, 2013. The title says it all.

## California (California of Europe, etc.)

California of Europe

Portugal, the ~ (beaches, wine, laid-back lifestyle, etc.)

## calculus (noun)

calculus of subsidizing

for China, the ~ green industries is quite different

complicated calculus

it is a ~ (universities try to reopen during pandemic)

cynical (political) calculus

the racist language they used was part of a ~ (politicians)

economic calculus

the recent rise of shale drilling has changed the ~

mental calculus

he committed an instant ~ (a sports player)

new calculus

for many Mexicans looking north, a ~ favors home

political calculus

the recent ~ hasn't resulted in a winning calculus

regional calculus

the ~ has swiftly and dramatically altered (diplomacy)

shrewd calculus

Vladimir Putin's ~

strategic calculus

we cannot change Pakistan's ~

moral and financial calculi

the ~ (a degree in humanities / the underclass)

part of our calculus

that was ~, if we... (war strategy in Afghanistan)

altering the calculus

changes in Cairo are ~ of the entire region

changed that calculus

her string of stumbles ~ (that she could win easily)

## calibrate (adjust)

calibrate its use

it must ~ of force (a country)

## calibrated (adjusted)

calibrated to the moment

his temperament was exquisitely ~ (soldier)

## Caligulan

Caligulan dissoluteness

Toghon Temur Khan, a man of ~ (last Mongol Emperor)

## call (Orwell called, etc. / sarcasm)

Orwell called

~, he says he wants his 1984 manuscript back

the 60s called

~, they want their chauvinist back

the 90s called

~, and they want their definition of 'cool' back

♦ "Wonderful double speak from the @AP. Orwell called, he said he wants his 1984 manuscript back....." (An online commenter about the AP's proscription of "pro-life, pro-choice, or pro-abortion" unless they are in quotes or proper names. As a writer once wrote, "Much of life should have quotes around it.")

♦ "My hope is that the Competition Committee looks at this in the next set of meetings, and, you know, we take the dresses off." (Ex-quarterback and NFL Hall of Famer Troy Aikman about a roughing-the-passer call he disagreed with. He was accused of being sexist, and one commenter posted, "The 60s called, they want their chauvinist back.")

♦ A 50-year-old female teacher revealed on social media that many parents at her primary school were swingers and she thought that made her school "cool." A commenter enquired to ask what was "cool" about swinging, which caused the teacher to reply, "You're uncool..." To which another commenter responded, "The 90s called, and they want their definition of 'cool' back."

## call (the mountains are calling, etc.)

mountains calling him

he longs to return to Patagonia, there are so many ~

## call (call to arms)

call to arms for everyone

this is a ~ who may have a hospitalized relative

call to arms against the epidemic

the report was a ~ (Koop / AIDS)

troll call to arms

her followers saw it as a ~ (criticism)

wake-up call, cri de coeur, call to arms

his book is a ~ (about language)

## call (close call / judgment)

close call

this was not a ~, there was no case (a judge)

scientific close call

this was a ~, and it was my call to make

♦ "This was a scientific close call, and it was my call to make." (CDC director overturns her advisory panel.)

## call (the right call)

right call

he remains convinced that he made the ~ (a judge)

## call (call of duty, etc.)

call of duty

his extraordinary heroism, above and beyond the ~

call of fads

don't give in to the siren ~ (tattoos you can live with)

call of the wild

it heard the ~ and disappeared (a pet deer)

call to action



boredom should be a ~

call to duty

men and women who feel the ~

God's call

he has answered ~ to preach the Gospel (Billy Graham)

clarion call

his legacy is a ~ to pursue creative freedom (Dirk Bogarde)

siren call

don't give in to the ~ of fads (tattoos you can live with)

answered the call

she ~ of duty and lost her life (RCMP officer)

♦ "Chou has not abandoned the mountains entirely, though. He still feels their call." (The remarkable Chou Yeh-Cheng of Formosa. From "Can Taiwan become Asia's next great hiking destination?" by Joe Henley, BBC, Travel, 14 December 2021.)

## call (appeal)

calls (for the FBI) to share

~ information

calls for the abolishment

Iraqi leaders have rebuffed ~ of the death penalty

calls for democracy

universal ~ and human rights

calls for his head

there have been ~ (a government official)

call for help

that night they got a ~ (climbing)

call for jihad

his out-and-out ~

call for a (mass) protest

a ~ against anti-Semitism and racism (France)

calls for (peaceful) protests

despite ~, trouble broke out

calls for resistance

~ emanate from mosque loudspeakers (Iraq)

calls for revenge

rival families would issue ~

call for equal rights

the ~ was heard all over the country (civil rights)

calls for democracy and human rights

universal ~

heed his call

I wish more gays would ~ (gays shouldn't assimilate)

rebuffed calls

Iraqi leaders have ~ for the abolishment of the death penalty

♦ "Calls for him to quit were shouted from mountaintops and echoed in the valleys." (The great sports journalist Phil Mushnick of *The New York Post* after NFL quarterback Tua Tagovailoa suffered yet another

concussion during a game. Mushnick noted how those calls quickly went silent as the NFL entered a new week, and how hypocritical such calls were. Phil Mushnick truly deserves the epithet "the conscience of sport.")

## call (wake-up call)

wake-up call

this death is a ~

the oil spill has been a ~

wake-up call to world leaders

Greta's message is a ~ everywhere (Greta Thunberg)

wake-up call to the Saudis

the bombings are a ~ (terrorists)

wake up call for the colonized world

it was a bit of a ~ (Russo-Japanese War for Egypt, Indians)

wake-up call, cri de coeur, call to arms

his book is a ~ (about language)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Maybe it is a wake-up call, or maybe we'll just hit the snooze button."

## call (cattle call)

political cattle call

all the Democrats will try to stand out at the ~ (Iowa)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the theater world, a cattle call is a mass audition.

## call for (appeal)

calls (out) for (decisive) action

the crisis ~ (terrorism)

called for a ban

he ~ of anti-personnel mines

call for (immediate) intervention

these situations may ~ (medicine)

calls for the removal

another option ~ of the population (Nauru)

called for a summit

Yeltsin ~ among the superpowers

## call for (a recipe can call for something)

calls for flour

when a gravy, sauce, soup, or stew recipe ~

## calling card

calling card

the way he positions his victims is his ~

the way the body was left amounted to a ~ (murder)

bravado, cunning and carelessness are his ~s

her openheartedness has always been her ~ (a singer)

toxic comments and blown deals are his ~s (Kanye West)

calling card of many (neo-Nazi) groups

the swastika is still the contemporary ~

calling card of a monstrous storm  
debris everywhere, tossed and scattered, the ~ (hurricane)

calling card for one's personality and lifestyle  
weddings serve as a ~

grim calling card  
mesothelioma has become the substance's ~ (asbestos)

microscopic call cards  
touch DNA, the ~ we leave behind (murder)

became his calling card  
the film ~ in Hollywood (an actor)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A calling card was a visiting card. Calling cards were once very important in the days of "society." They would include a name, perhaps an address, and a lady's "day at home." Cards were left at balls, receptions and teas. Those arriving in a new city might inform members of society there by sending calling cards.

## call out (verb)

calls out trolls  
Taylor Swift ~ questioning if she's bisexual

call his teammates out  
he isn't afraid to ~ publicly (NFL quarterback)

called them out  
the students ~, we go on the ground and rallied (protest)

## callout (criticism)

callout  
not every ~ escalates into a full-scale dragging

callout question  
well, that is a bit of a ~ (aggressive BBC interviewer)

callouts, draggings, and pile-ons  
some Y.A. books are targeted in intense social-media ~

## calm (emotion)

calm in a sea  
he is ~ of performative-anger posers (election candidate)

calm atmosphere  
in a ~, we tend to win the debate

oasis of (relative) calm  
it provides an ~ within Iraq (Kurdish region)

keep calm  
~ and carry on

remained calm  
the atmosphere on the plane ~ (hijacking)

stay calm  
~, there is no reason for alarm

♦ Keep calm and carry on. (Great Britain, World War II.)

♦ Keep calm and chive on. (KCCO.)

♦ "Keep calm and revel on." (Justin Chang's review of Steve McQueen's 2024 film *Blitz*.)

♦ Keep calm and wear a mask. (The COVID-19 pandemic.)

♦ keep calm and f\*\*\* off. (On handbags, backpacks, etc. / Etsy.)

♦ Keep Calm and Call Drew! (Drew Cochran, criminal defense, Maryland State Bar. The exclamation mark seems to contradict the message.)

## calm (activity)

calm  
right now, things are ~

calm before the storm  
this is likely to be the ~ (lull in computer hacking)  
this is still the ~ (pandemic cases)

## calm (verb)

calm traffic  
the aim is to ~ (low traffic neighborhoods / LTNs)  
a radar speed display, or "speed trailer," can ~

♦ "Roundabouts are one example of the modern effort to make urban roads safer by reducing speeds. Other tactics include traffic calming and road diets, such as the narrowing of Charlotte Street from four lanes to three." ("Embrace the age of roundabouts" by Bill McGoun, Columnist, *Asheville Citizen Times*, Sunday, August 1, 2021.)

## calvary (suffering)

calvary of fatigue, brain fog, imbalance  
she has endured a ~... (mysterious illness)

### \*\*\* calvary is NOT cavalry...

♦ "Ken Melvoen was a helicopter crew chief with the first Air Calvary." ("Memorial Day Comes As Troops Fight In Afghanistan" by NPR Staff and Wires, May 30, 2011.)

♦ "The horses from the Household Calvary Regiment were taken into Hyde Park..." (BBC.)

♦ "He filled his band's ranks with a calvary of women." (An eggcorn? Funny!)

## calve (verb)

calved from the Ronne ice shelf into the Weddell Sea  
a giant iceberg has ~ (A-76)

calved from the east of the continent  
D28 ~ (Antarctica)

calve (immense serac) avalanches  
hanging glaciers ~ (Everest base camp)

calve icebergs  
tidewater glaciers ~

calve underwater  
glaciers can ~, causing an iceberg to leap up

## calving

calving of icebergs  
the ~ by glaciers

calving of an iceberg  
the ~ can create a huge wave

## camel (camel's nose in the tent, etc.)

camel's nose in the tent  
he sees the decision as the ~ (a judicial case)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “In August 1942 a single reinforced US Marine division splashed ashore on Guadalcanal Island... [Ernest J.] King knew full well that it would also be the camel's nose under the tent. That once you put one division ashore...it would have to be supported, and supplied, and reinforced. It would draw more equipment and men and materiel like a black hole into Guadalcanal and that is exactly what did happen.” (The Guadalcanal Campaign violated the “Germany First” US policy and almost failed for lack of materiel. From “World War II at Sea: A Global History,” presented by Craig L. Symonds to the New-York Historical Society, May 17th, 2018.)

## camel (break the camel's back)

broke the camel's back

this was the straw that ~ (a shooting leads to riots)

breaks the camel's back of economic globalization

the pandemic could be the straw that ~

broke the camel's back for him

the investigation is basically the straw that ~ (politics)

♦ “This for me was like the one drop that made the bucket overflow.” (Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, after receiving a red card for berating a referee's assistant.)

♦ “We probably are seeing the result of a lot of long time increased ocean warming there, it's just been melting and melting. And then last week's warming probably is something like, you know, the last straw on the camel's back.” (“A previously stable ice shelf, the size of New York City, collapses in Antarctica.”)

♦ “You know at some point there's a straw that breaks the camel's back.” (A Supreme Court Justice, about an argument.)

♦ “It appears that the threat of taking her child using child protective services was the last sanity straw that was broken.” (It seems to conflate “the straw that broke the camel's back” and the related “the last / final straw.”)

\*\*\* a camel will remember an abuser...

♦ Never abuse a camel, for the camel has a wonderful memory and will never forget an insult. Long after you have forgotten what you did to the camel, the camel will grab your shoulder and crush it. Every Bedouin knows this.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ An inconsequential event, after a series of indignities, causes an extreme reaction.

♦ see also *straw (last straw / final straw)*

## cameo (noun)

celebrity cameos

the film featured a cavalcade of ~

necklace of (burnished) cameos

his book affords a ~ (*Germany: Memories of a Nation*)

♦ “Confusing Batman Cameos” by Jay Martel, *The New Yorker*, September 26, 2022. In this humor piece, Batman intrudes in: (1) Top Gun: Maverick (2) Waiting For Godot (3) Casablanca (4) the relationship between Freddie Mercury and Paul Prenter (5) The Glass Menagerie and (6) Hamlet. FUNNY!

♦ “2023 was the year of the mic-drop cameo at the movies” by Dan Heching, CNN.

## camouflage (verb)

camouflage my disability

growing up, I was always trying to ~ (polio victim)

## camouflage (concealment)

camouflage

“boring” is his ~ (criticism of a vice president)

‘social camouflage’

~ may lead to underdiagnosis of autism in girls

## camp (division)

camps of advisers and loyalists

frictions between their ~ (politicians)

two camps

there will be ~, just as there are now (a debate)

the fault lines break people into ~ (computers)

split into (rival) camps

our fear that America is ~ (Red / Blue)

## camp (math camp, etc.)

training camp

the actors took part in a breath hold ~ (*Avatar* sequel)

band camp

Oh, and this one time, at band camp, I... (American Pie 2)

boot camp

see *boot camp (education, etc.)*

cowboy camp

after “~” training, the cast would come to Nic's Bar...

math camp

I went to ~ when I was 14 (*Weapons of Math Destruction*)

Mathcamp

Bankman-Fried attended Canada/USA ~, a summer program

Sleep Camp

“~: Miami luxury resort offers high-tech snoozing (NYP)

♦ “I went to math camp when I was fourteen and came home clutching a Rubik's Cube to my chest... I majored in math in college and went on to get my PhD...” (Cathy O'Neil, author of *Weapons Of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality And Threatens Democracy*. Chapters are titled: Bomb Parts; Shell Shocked; Arms Race; Propaganda Machine; Civilian Casualties; Ineligible To Serve; Sweating Bullets; Collateral Damage; No Safe Zone; and The Targeted Citizen. *The New York Times Book Review* rightly praised her for her “gift for analogy.”)

## can (kick the can down the road)

kicked the can down the road

they just ~ (negligent doctor not dealt with)

kicked the can down the road for a year

they ~ (a troubled NFL team)

♦ “We just continue to kick the can down the road, and the problem gets worse and worse.” (The high cost of education, rising tuition and costs, the burden of student debt, the inequality of the debt, etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important profound things.

## canal (birth canal, etc.)

birth canal

push the baby through the ~

a woman can die if her baby becomes stuck in the ~

alimentary canal

the ~ extends from the mouth to the anus

anal canal

the sigmoidoscope is introduced into the ~

auditory canal

sound waves go through the external ear into the ~

\*\*\* the Grand Canal (China), the Erie Canal, etc.

♦ "On a turnpike four horses could draw in a day three thousand pounds a distance of 18 miles; on the canal four horses could draw in a day a boat loaded with two hundred thousand pounds of goods a distance of twenty-four miles." (The US in 1825. From *A New American History* by W.E. Woodward.)

♦ "The implications for Chicago became obvious from the moment the first pickaxe was thrown. Connect the lake to the Mississippi, and trade would commence as never before. The city consequently began to attract immigrants in huge numbers: in the dozen years it took to finish the canal, the population rose from zero to twenty thousand. Six years later it had tripled. It reached a million people by 1890—and all due to William Gooding, several thousand Irishmen and other workers brought over from New York State and around the world, and twelve years of backbreaking labor..." (*The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ A canal across the Isthmus of Kra would link the Pacific and Indian Oceans and bypass the Malacca Strait. A Transaqua Canal through the Central African Republic could transport water from the Congo River basin to the Lake Chad basin and replenish the shrinking Lake Chad. The Aral Sea could be refilled with water from the Volga and Ob Rivers via two canals. A sea canal bisecting Adam's Bridge would eliminate the trip around Sri Lanka. A Red-Dead Canal would replenish the Dead Sea and provide hydroelectric power for desalination... (Dreams of canals...)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There is but one way to enter life, but the gates of death are without number."

**canary (canary in the coal mine / cave)**

canary in the coalmine

brook trout are the ~ (for water quality)

Jews are the ~ and they are raising the alarm (hate, etc.)

canaries in the coal mine

they are the ~, super-sensitive to warming (corals)

canary in the cave about rationing challenges

it's the ~ (changes to who gets a transplant kidney)

canary in the coal mine for disconnected societies

Japan's lost generation could be the ~ (*hikikomori*)

canary in the coal mine in terms of a free speech problem

antisemitism at Harvard is also the ~ (Sam Lessin)

\*\*\* *The Road to Wigan Pier...*

♦ "In the room where we changed our clothes there were several cages of canaries. These have to be kept there by law, to test the air in cases of explosion. They are sent down in the cage, and, if they do not faint, the air is all right. / The Davy lamps give out a fair amount of light... Each lamp when full will burn for 8-12 hours, and they are locked, so that if they go out down the pit they cannot be relighted. Miners are searched for matches before going down the pit." (*"The Road to Wigan Pier Diary,"* 31 January-25 March 1936, by George Orwell.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I think the canary has been dead for quite a while."

**cancel (groups, etc.)**

cancel

we don't have to ~, to dismiss or silence... (books)

cancel John Audubon

will the National Audubon Society ~

CancelColbert

the #~ hashtag is trending (2014)

cancel Harry Potter

~, drag her (J.K. Rowling)

cancel Walt Whitman

should we ~

cancels or erases

I want to assure people this in no way ~ history

♦ "Every step I've taken has gaslighted those whom I love... I am not a culture leech. I am a culture leech. You should absolutely cancel me, and I absolutely cancel myself." (Rachel Dolezal, an academic who claimed "identities of color," including Black Caribbean, North African Blackness, US rooted Blackness, Caribbean rooted Bronx Blackness, *Boricua*...)

♦ "In our current moment of racial reckoning, Faulkner is certainly ripe for rigorous scrutiny." (Drew Gilpin Faust, once the president of Harvard University, currently a contributing writer for *The Atlantic*.)

♦ "Gen Z cancels LOL in favor of new acronym: IJBOL." ("I just burst out laughing," pronounced eej-bowl. I just burst out laughing.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See "The strange journey of 'cancel,' from a Black-culture punchline to a White-grievance watchword," by Clyde McGrady, *The Washington Post*, April 2, 2021.

♦ "Cancelling is what comes out of Black discourse, it's what comes out of Black Queer discourse... If this had remained something that just stuck within Black communities, within Latinx communities, then this wouldn't really be a story. But because it has crossed over..." (Meredith Clark, who teaches media studies at the University of Virginia. From "Cancel Culture Debate Has Early '90s Roots: Political Correctness," NPR, All Things Considered, July 9, 2021.)

♦ "Good point. 'Cancel' alludes more power than they have. they're just boycotting." (On a discussion board.)

**cancel culture (groups, etc.)**

cancel culture

~ is leading us to an Orwellian dystopic society

cancel-culture cops

the miserable ~ have come for Snow White's dwarfs (2024)

cancel culture people

the ~, the woke people... (the beloved John Cleese)

"cancel culture" and "language orthodoxy"

she shares her thoughts on ~ (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)

left-wing cancel culture

the case has provoked allegations of ~ (France)

constitutional cancel culture

this is ~ (Trump's second impeachment trial)

victims of cancel culture

the Free Speech Union supports people who are ~

pushback against cancel culture

a ~ (students are rethinking university education)

♦ "I realize I'm in the crosshairs of the woke mob right now, so before the final nail gets put in my cancel culture casket, I'd like to set the record straight..." (The NFL's Aaron Rodgers, employing nice alliteration.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Honestly, I think we should probably retire the phrase 'cancel culture' at this point. Because it's losing its meaning...when people just use it to mean, 'I resent your drawing attention to my crazy ideas.'" (Mona Charen, the *Bulwark*.)

♦ "Straight white people have to worry about cancel culture. Almost no one else does." (An online commenter.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It was ironic, it was arch, so it felt like, 'Oh My God! they're using this against us!'" (Ruth Perry, who founded the Women's Study Department at MIT in 1984, about the term "political correctness." From "How Cancel Culture Became Politicized—Just Like Political Correctness," NPR, All Things Considered, July 26, 2021.)

♦ "The philosopher Oliver Traldi has described the phenomenon often known as 'cancel culture' as a combination of 'widespread precarity, unclear social norms, distributed surveillance, and the presence of lots of small and fervent groups which can organize to exert a great deal of pressure on people through social media." ("The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November 2022.)

## cancellation (groups, etc.)

### cancellation

many Broadway pros aren't too torn up about his ~

### cancellation culture

this ~ is the SJW McCarthy moment (of Walt Whitman)

### fourth or fifth cancellation

I must have been on my ~ by then (J.K. Rowling vs trans)

### aggressive unnecessary cancellations

one of the most ~ in Hollywood history (see quote below)

### act of cancellation

the ~ is still mostly conceptual or socially performative

♦ "You won't find a perfect person in me, but you will find a person who was doing her absolute best under one of the most aggressive unnecessary cancellations in Hollywood history." (Gina Carano, about being cancelled and blacklisted by Hollywood. From "Gina Carano on Getting Sacked From Star Wars and Her Grudge Match With Disney" by Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, March 14, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Lynchings and running people out of town on a rail after having tarred and feathered them have all been replaced by doxing, swatting, pile ons, and cancellation. Ain't we civilized!

## cancelled (groups, etc.)

### cancelled

Chris should not be ~ (the comedian Chris Rock)  
this holy priest is ~ while... (a bishop about Frank Pavone)

### cancelled no more

the program got cancelled, but she is ~ (Mary Funk)

♦ "sorry, henry david Thoreau—ya (sic) cancelled" (Gerry Canavan of Marquette University, Wisconsin. According to a ratemyprofessors comment, "His Afrofuturism class is uber-interesting and a piece of cake...")

♦ "John James Audubon's racism is the albatross rotting around the necks of those who would hold him in reverence. It is past smelling foul and beginning to reek." ("What Do We Do About John James Audubon?" by J. Drew Lanham. Which begs the question, "What Do We Do About J. Drew Lanham?" The answer: give him a Macarthur Genius Award. See the Wikipedia article "J. Drew Lanham." "This

article may be in need of reorganization to comply with Wikipedia's layout guidelines.")

♦ "It hasn't been cancelled, to use a common parlance." (English culture writer Alice Vincent about *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt.)

♦ "'Philip Guston Now' isn't cancelled, just postponed." (The art exhibit / retrospective.)

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ "The program got cancelled, but she is cancelled no more." (The presenter for Blue Origin's *New Shepard* flight, referring to "Wally" Funk. The media almost exclusively referred to her by her nickname. Her real name seemed to have gotten cancelled in all of the publicity, hype, and sentimentality—Mary Wallace Funk. "Mary," of course, is not as cute as "Wally.")

♦ "I dreamed of being an astronaut by looking at Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin when I was 13 years old. What if Ed [Dwight] had actually flown? What a difference it would have made in my life because, during that time, I didn't see anyone that looked like me." (The astronaut Bernard Harris—who flew on two NASA Space Shuttle missions—about the elderly Ed Dwight's trip on New Shepard in 2024. According to Ed Dwight's Wikipedia article, "While delivering newspapers, he [was inspired to fly when he] saw a picture of Air Force pilot Dayton Ragland, a Black man from Kansas City, on the front page of *The Call*."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "I shudder, I really shudder, at the thought that great swathes of art and literature would suddenly be under pressure to the point of being outlawed because sentiments that a character might have expressed normally 100 or even 50 years ago have made the whole work toxic. Do I want *Huckleberry Finn* to be altered or put on some kind of restricted list? The answer is no." (The playwright Tom Stoppard. From Talk by David Marchese, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 4, 2022.)

♦ "Some nights at the bar I would descend into discussions with cosmologists and other[s]... and discover that Doctor Seuss meant more to them than a menagerie of imagined animals and a vivid and troublesome cat." ("The Science of Dr Seuss," BBC, Sounds, with Robin Ince. Seven Doctor Seuss books were cancelled in 2021.)

## cancer (noun)

### cancer

this is a ~ that has been allowed to metastasize (issue)  
government corruption is a ~ that destroys from within

### cancer of our time

fake news is the ~

### cancer on our society

Wall Street is a ~

### cancer on the Internet

Facebook is a ~ (parent of teen)

### cancer has metastasized

the ~ into a regional crisis (terrorism)

### cut out this cancer

there is a need to ~ that we found (misconduct)

### considers hacking a cancer

the Chinese government ~ to the whole society (Internet)

♦ Adam Gopnik—in a remarkable piece of vitriol published by *The New Yorker*—ruminated on cancer and the U.S. in his "reflection." Read "As Bad As All That: Donald Trump and the unmaking of America" by Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024.

## cancerous (adjective)

### cancerous growth

how can we stop the ~ of hate radio

## candle (candle of hope, etc.)

### candle of hope

we need to light a ~ (victims of mass shootings)

### digital candle

an attendee holds up a ~ on her phone...

♦ "An attendee holds up a digital candle on her phone as a moment of silence is taken for the victims during a vigil at the University of Idaho..." (Caption of a picture.)

### \*\*\* Florence Nightingale and the Crimean War...

♦ "She became the center and the hope of the sick men's lives. Their letters home were filled with her, and through these letters her name became a byword in thousands of English homes. 'What a comfort it was to see her pass even,' wrote one of her men, in the most famous of all letters about Florence Nightingale. 'She would speak to one and nod and smile to as many more; but she could not do it to all, you know. We lay there by hundreds. But we could kiss her shadow as it fell, and lay our heads on the pillow again, content.'" (*Florence Nightingale* by Ruth Fox Hume. Florence Nightingale was known as 'the lady with the Lamp.' She was not, in fact, a nurse. She was an administrator, logistician, statistician, advocate, reformer, educator, founder, writer, supplier of stump pillows, etc.)

♦ "Lo! in that hour of misery / A lady with a lamp I see / Pass through the glimmering gloom, / And flit from room to room. / And slow, as in a dream of bliss, / This speechless sufferer turns to kiss / Her shadow as it falls / Upon the darkening walls." ("Santa Filomena" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The title means, "Saintly Light," and the poem is a tribute to "the Lady with the Lamp," Florence Nightingale.)

### \*\*\* We stopped killing whales for oil...

♦ "We stopped killing whales for oil only when kerosene and finally electric bulbs provided better and cheaper lighting."

♦ "We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles." (Thomas Edison, December, 1879.)

♦ see also *flame* (*life is a flame*)

## can do (ability)

### 'can do' attitude

the ~ that defines Hong Kong

## candy (noun)

### eye candy

see *eye candy* (noun)

### "goose candy"

replacing Kentucky blue grass, called ~

### man candy

Regina would be nothing without her high-status ~

### mantel candy

the Oscar is the world's most desirable piece of ~ (films)

### tranny candy

~ (internet porn)

♦ "By the mid-'30s, the statuette of a nude bronze man sketched in 1928 by the legendary MGM designer Cedric Gibbons had become the world's most desirable piece of mantel candy."

♦ "Regina would be nothing without her high-status man candy." (Silly dialogue from the silly 2004 film *Mean Girls*.)

## cannibal (the Cannibal, etc.)

### Cannibal

his nickname is "the ~" because he chews up his rivals

### Cannibal

in snowy weather, 'The ~' took off... (Eddy Merckx)

♦ "Timothée Chalamet has reunited with *Call Me By Your Name* director Luca Guadagnino for this budding cannibal romance..." (Nicholas Barber's review of *Bones and All*.)

### \*\*\* Armin Meiwes, Jeffrey Dahmer...

♦ "The victim responded to a posting placed by Mr. Meiwes on the Internet seeking a person willing to be killed and eaten." (Armin Meiwes killed the willing victim in 2001, ate parts of his body, and was sentenced to a few years in prison. There was an uproar about his "light" sentence, and he was re-sentenced to life in prison.)

♦ "Jeffrey Lionel Dahmer, also known as the Milwaukee Cannibal..." (Wikipedia.)

♦ "Observers noted that Pearce did not fit the stereotypical image of a cannibal." (Wikipedia article "Alexander Pearce.")

## cannibalism (noun)

### democrat cannibalism

~ is a beautiful thing to watch (politics)

### cultural cannibalism

~ (poet Oswald de Andrade / 1928)

♦ The modernist Brazilian poet Oswald de Andrade, in his 1928 "Cannibalist Manifesto," wrote about Brazil's propensity for "cultural cannibalism" (*canibalismo cultural*), or the mixing of various cultures to create something new, which he considered a very good thing indeed.

♦ "Like Saturn, the revolution eats its children." (See the Wikipedia article "Jacques Mallet du Pan.")

♦ "America must not devour her own children." (1950s anticommunist hysteria.)

♦ "They eat their own; they get eaten by their own; they cannibalize themselves, please don't stop; Woke cannibalism! Sweet!; democrat cannibalism is a beautiful thing to watch... (Snarky comments at Breitbart about infighting at *The Washington Post* that led to a suspension and a firing.)

♦ "Hollywood eating its own. Love it." (An online commenter about the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike.)

### \*\*\* the Boyd massacre, the Cutter...

♦ "In 1809 [the Maoris] captured the vessel *Boyd*, further up the coast, and killed and ate its crew..." (The *Boyd* massacre in New Zealand. From *The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead. See the Wikipedia article "Boyd massacre.")

♦ "In 1849, the crew of the American ship *Cutter* was killed and eaten by the Pouma clan. Cannibalism was widespread throughout New Caledonia." (Wikipedia article "New Caledonia.")

♦ "I collected here a great many specimens of the beautiful *Paradisaea Guilielmi*, in my opinion one of the most exquisite of all the *Paradisaea*; also a great number of rare and new papilios. After spending a few days here we returned to Simbang in time to catch the *Ysabel*, which took us back to Stephansort." (*Through New Guinea and the Cannibal Countries* by Herbert Cayley-Webster, 1898.)

♦ In World War I, the western part of the Island of New Guinea was controlled by the Dutch (neutral), the southeast was controlled by Britain, and the northeast was controlled by Germany. Hermann Philipp Detzner wrote a book about his adventures: *Four Years Among the Cannibals in the Interior of German New Guinea under the Imperial Flag, from 1914 until the Armistice*.

### \*\*\* survival cannibalism...

♦ "When an Edwardian anthropologist told her Nenets hosts the story of Captain Oates's heroic 'I am just going outside; I may be some time,' they refused to believe her. Scott, they objected would surely have eaten him." (*The Shaman's Coat* by the great journalist Anna Reid. This refers to survival cannibalism.)

♦ "That period confirmed the ancient proverb, 'man is a wolf to man.' Traveler turned off the road at the sight of traveler, stranger meeting stranger killed for fear of being killed. There were isolated cases of cannibalism. The laws of human civilization were suspended. The jungle law was in force. Man dreamed the prehistoric dreams of the cave dweller..." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)



## cannibalize (verb)

cannibalized (canonical) art history  
he ~ (the figurative painter Robert Colescott)

cannibalizing other formats  
that fear that e-books were ~ in the book world

cannibalizing the sale  
library lending is ~ of e-books (borrowed for free)

‘Corsa Cannibals’  
~ can strip Vauxhall Corsas of their parts in just minutes

♦ “‘Corsa Cannibals’ can strip Vauxhall Corsas of their parts in just minutes.” (The U.K.)

## cannibalized

cannibalized  
the buildings had been ~

## cannon (loose cannon)

loose cannon  
there are a lot of ~s out there (crazy people)  
police are calling him a ~ (man on crime spree)  
had he appointed a ~ who would wreck the system

## cannon fodder (military)

used as cannon fodder  
the prospect of being ~ makes many conscripts defect

♦ “There is a very real sense in which the modern world—our world—was born between 1914 and 1918. Something changed in human sensibility. Soldiers wouldn’t be willing to engage in such slaughter. Toward the end of the first World War, even, tolerance for past norms had begun to end. In 1917, much of the French Army mutinied and refused to attack. They would defend but not attack. The days of cannon fodder were over forever as a result of that war...” (“Why World War I Resonates,” by William Boyd, NYT, Jan. 21, 2012. At the beginning of the Battle of the Somme, on July 1, 1916, the British Army suffered 60,000 dead and wounded—in one day. It was arguably the worst butcher’s bill in military history.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Merriam-Webster dictionary gives 1847 for the first use.

## cannon fodder (other)

cannon fodder  
West Ham has been ~ for years now (EPL)  
written off as ~, they triumphed (World Series)

cherry picked cannon fodder  
all his early fights were ~ (the boxer Anthony Joshua)

## canon (literature)

canon of (English) literature  
certain authors occupy a central place in the ~

canon of “great books”  
who decides what the ~ is (literature)

standard canon  
defenders of the ~ often agree to its expansion (literature)

traditional canon  
the battle between defenders and detractors of the ~

parallel, oppositional canons  
establish ~ of work by women, gays...

concept of the canon  
many would repudiate the ~ entirely (literature)

## canon (other)

culinary canon  
a native ~ embraces rice, persimmons, corn, bison (US)  
vegetables are certainly part of his ~ (Niklas Ekstedt)

canon has been blasted apart  
but that ~ (doctors withhold prognosis)

## canonical (adjective)

canonical  
his Cold War scholarship is ~ (John Lewis Gaddis)

canonical example  
it was a ~ of what a computer couldn’t do

canonical greats  
reissuing the work of ~ like Kurt Vonnegut (publishing)

canonical rules  
it breaks many of the ~ of the series (a film)

canonical songs  
they cover some of Waits’ ~

canonical (theatrical) works  
~ such as those of Shakespeare

## canonize (verb)

canonized him  
since his suicide, his fans have ~ (an author)

## canter (noun)

canter  
at a ~, take us through the voyage... (radio show)

at a canter  
he should beat Jake Paul ~ (Tommy Fury)  
City won ~ versus a strangely passive West Ham  
City ended winners ~ (won easily)

win (the league) by a canter  
Man City will ~ (soccer)

♦ “Humphrey, the whole national health service is an advanced case of galloping bureaucracy.” / “Certainly not. Not galloping. A gentle canter at most.” (The TV series *Yes Minister*, “The Compassionate Society.” Funny!)

## canter (verb)

cantering to their first league title  
Liverpool is ~ since 1990 (soccer)

## canyon (resemblance)

urban canyons  
narrow ~ created by the form and arrangement of buildings

## canyon (division)

massive generational canyon  
the data reveal a ~ (attitudes)

## cap (tip one's cap)

tip their cap to Duke Ellington  
younger musicians like Sonny and Max Roach always ~

## cap (feather in one's cap)

another feather in its cap  
this moon touchdown is ~ (Jaxa / 2 asteroid landings)

with this feather in their cap  
they want to go to elections ~ (BJP / India)

## cape (superhero)

put on his (hero) cape  
Mohammed Salah ~ to lead Liverpool to a comeback win

wear capes  
not all heroes ~, some have white paws (therapy dogs)

♦ "Rodri showed the world that gunslingers don't always wear cowboy hats." (The online commenter Amin Yashed about Man City 3-1 Red Star. Smart use of language.)

♦ "Not all heroes wear capes. Some of them have white paws..." (Therapy dogs.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Not all heroes wear capes, and Chris definitely was a hero to this community. He just didn't have a cape." (The cousin of a police officer killed in the line of duty.)

♦ "Warriors don't always carry guns." ("Why We Serve." Native American women veterans, to include nurses during the Vietnam War.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ see also *superhero (groups)*

## capital (value)

capital in the bank  
any study, any work you do on your voice is ~ (an actor)

creative capital  
how the hip-hop generation aimed to own their ~

cultural capital  
leveraging the ~ of barbershops to promote wellness  
Pierre Bourdieu, Jean-Claude Passeron coined the term ~  
the humanities' loss of ~ (in academia, versus STEM)

human capital  
we must invest in ~

knowledge capital  
start accumulating ~ (veteran and entrepreneur Ben Faw)

political capital  
he is willing to spend ~ on the issue  
when you're president you have a limited amount of ~  
why would Obama spend his time and ~ defending...

symbolic capital  
the desire to acquire ~ (vs. knowledge / TESOL acronyms)

reputational and moral capital  
Harvard has lost its ~ (protesters support Hamas)

capital evaporated  
in the last 2 weeks his political ~ (resigned)

converted into social capital  
identity-based suffering, or merely the claim, can be ~

lost its (reputational and moral) capital  
Harvard has ~ (protestors support Hamas)

♦ "If you just become a knowledge machine, you're going to start accumulating an incredible amount of knowledge capital. And at that point, it's only a matter of time until you cash that in for financial capital." (The veteran and entrepreneur Benjamin Faw.)

♦ "As a Black woman, I see things through color... race is a lens for me, and it's a lens that my children experience as well and I think for someone to say, 'Well, I don't see skin color, I just see who you are,' I think you're leaving out a really big part of who I am, you're leaving out my cultural capital." (Gina Parker Collins, founder of RIISE. From "The Trials of Critical Race Theory," CBSN Originals.)

♦ "Others, though, suggest that the humanities' loss of cultural capital has been hastened by the path of humanities scholarship itself... Now, you might write a paper about how the text enacts a tension by both constructing and subtly undermining the imperial patriarchy through the descriptions of landscape. What does this have to do with how most humans read?" ("The End Of The English Major" by Nathan Heller, *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023.)

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematicize*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ "Jackson believes that social media, a gathering threat for many years, tore open our collective reality in 2020; it created 'an alternate universe' in which identity-based suffering—or merely the claim to such, however implausible or vicarious—could be converted into social capital. In the theater world in particular..." ("The Radical Self-Awareness of Michael R. Jackson" by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)

♦ "Leveraging the cultural capital of barbershops to promote wellness." (trapmedicine.org / barberswithout borders. "Are you a barber interested in partnering with us?")

♦ "Maybe I'll lean into the pain narrative, write that and get a good advance, ya'll pay me for that, right." (Fantasy author L.L. McKinney.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu wrote "The forms of Capital" in 1986. He talked about economic, cultural, and social capital. Cultural capital is knowledge, social capital is your network.

## capital (capital of the world, etc.)

capital of the dancing world  
it boasted it was the ~ (Barrowland Ballroom / Glasgow)

world's capital  
the ~ of advanced yachting (Monaco / megayachts)

world's turkey capital  
Cuero, Texas, the ~ (disputed by Worthington, MN)

"cherry capital of the world"  
Traverse City bills itself ~ (Northwestern Michigan)

cowboy capital of the world

they call it the ~ (Stephenville, Texas)

**Crawfish Capital of the World**  
Breaux Bridge is the ~ (Louisiana)

“Gem Capital of the World”  
Franklin, North Carolina, the ~

**golf capital of the world**  
Myrtle Beach, the ~ (South Carolina)

**Granite Capital of the World**  
Elberton is billed as the ~ (state of Georgia in US)

**hockey capitals of the world**  
Toronto, one of the great ~...

**iceberg capital of the world**  
Ilulissat is sometimes called the ~ (Greenland)

“Live Music Capital of the World”  
Austin bills itself as the ~ (Sixth Street, etc.)

**Loon Capital of the World**  
Mercer, Wisconsin promotes itself as the “~”

“ostrich capital of the world”  
Oudtshoorn, the ~ (South Africa)

**perfume capital of the world**  
Grasse is known as the ~ (France)

**Shark Bite Capital of the world**  
Volusia County, Florida, has been dubbed the ~

**stabbing capital of the world**  
Alice Springs now holds the unenviable title of ~ (2008)

**Storytelling Capital of the World**  
Jonesborough bills itself as the “~” (Virginia)

**waterfowl hunting capital of the world**  
Katy, Texas, ~

**capital (Black Bear capital, etc.)**

**capital of America**  
San Francisco was the car-break-in ~

**Capital of (the fucking) California**  
so that was like the big Crip ~ really (DVI Tracy)

**capital of Canada**  
Thunder Bay is the murder ~

**Capital of Christmas**  
Bethlehem is the ~, it’s supposed to be the best time...

**capital of crime**  
Detroit has a reputation as the ~

**capital of the White emigration**  
France was the world-wide ~ (from Russia / White emigres)

**capital of happiness**  
it’s unofficially known as Brazil’s ~ (Salvador de Bahia)

**China’s outdoor barbecue capital**

some online influencers are calling Zibo ‘~’

**Back Bear Capital**  
Pine Mountain is claimed to be the ~ of Kentucky

**car-break-in capital**  
San Francisco was the ~ of America

**cardoon capital**  
Vaulx-en-Velin is known as the ~ of France

**coal capital**  
Blackwater, the ~ of Queensland (Australia)

**Crip capital**  
so that was like the big ~ of the fucking California really

**gem capital**  
Ratnapura is known as the ~ of Sri Lanka

**Golf Capital**  
Crossville the ~ of Tennessee

**lightning capital**  
Nasa has declared it Earth’s ‘~’ (Catatumbo, Venezuela)

**murder capital**  
Thunder Bay is the ~ of Canada

**poultry capital**  
Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, the ~ of India

**surf capital**  
Scheveningen is known as the ~ (Holland)

**shark attack capital**  
New Smyrna Beach is known as the ~ (Florida)

**Trout Capital**  
boosters say Jackson County is the North Carolina ~

**Whale Capital**  
the town calls itself the ~ of Iceland (Husavik, Iceland)

**next crypto currency capital**  
Texas is becoming the ~

**financial capital**  
an earthquake rattled Italy’s ~ of Milan (no injuries)

♦ “It’s like maybe like thirty-five hundred inmates, half the line was Crips, so that was like the big Crip capital of the fucking California really, so, you know, no red allowed...” (Keefe D reminiscing about DVI Tracy. Watch YouTube Keefe D—Full Interview, UrbanCityTV)

♦ “Bethlehem is the capital of Christmas, it’s supposed to be the best time of the year.” (Rev. Munther Isaac, pastor of Bethlehem’s Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church. The Israel-Hamas War.)

♦ “Some online influencers are calling Zibo ‘China’s outdoor barbecue capital.’”

**capital punishment**

**capital punishment**  
this was the political equivalent of ~ (calls for resignation)

**career capital punishment**  
an apology should have sufficed, not ~

## capstone (noun)

capstone of his career  
the banking overhaul was the ~ (politician)  
he wants health-care legislation to be the ~ (politician)

capstone of the peace treaty  
the independence vote is the ~ (Sudan)

capstone to his agenda  
the ratification of the treaty was the ~ (president)

capstone to his career  
his present job is the ~ (service to his homeland)

capstone for the neighborhood  
it will be the ~ (architectural project)

capstone achievement  
a role that great actors rise toward as a ~ (King Lear)

capstone doctrine  
the directorate that writes ~ for the US Army (ISR)

capstone (warfighting) doctrine  
AirLand Operations is the Army's ~

legal capstone  
the case puts a ~ on a historic election (court)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Two pillars often support a capstone, which is the stone at the top.

## captive (held captive, etc.)

captive to its own delusions  
the Party was a ~

captive to its past  
America, once forward looking, is now ~ (1619, etc.)

held captive  
an anxious nation suddenly ~ by crisis (a pandemic)

## captivity (noun)

live in captivity  
child stars ~ (US female celebrities)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Animals in captivity are not themselves."

## capture (verb)

captured him on a phone in the airport  
security cameras ~ (terrorist)

captured it on video  
no one had ~ until now (citizens videoing cops)

captured Oscars  
it ~ for best picture, director and actor (film)

captured (people's) attention  
I think he's ~ (boxer Jarrell "Big Boy" Miller in Riyadh)

captured (national) attention  
the case has ~ (Joshlin Smith, in South Africa)

captured (the world's) attention

airstrikes in Baghdad ~

capture headlines  
it goes on every day but doesn't ~

captured my heart  
the first time I saw him, he ~ (an orphan)

captured my imagination  
that speaks to me, that ~ (a quotation)  
the mountain ~ (Machhapuchhare)

captured the imagination  
the job of fire watcher has long ~  
he has ~ of fans (an athlete)  
the young Mancini has ~ of boxing fans everywhere  
climbing films have ~s of movie goers (*Free Solo*, etc.)

captured imaginations  
theories about what happened have ~ for decades  
(Earhart)

captured the (public's) imagination  
what has most ~ is...  
he is riding on a new artistic wave which has ~

captured the (public) imagination  
the film character ~ (Dirk Bogarde as Simon Sparrow)

captured the (nation's) imagination  
her rise and sudden downfall ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

capture the loyalty  
it has managed to ~ of working women (WNBA)

captures our minds  
the story encapsulates how outrage ~ (viral online clip)

capture ("impulse") moviegoers  
advertising to ~

captures the plight  
Scott Adams's Dilbert ~ of the cubicle slave (cartoon)

capture market share  
~ while the market is small

captures (satellite) signals  
the GPS receiver ~

captures the uncertainty  
she ~ that comes with big life changes (a songwriter)

captured the (post-pandemic) zeitgeist  
the notion of quiet quitting has ~

captured the hearts and minds  
he has ~ of Americans (Olympic athlete)

failed to capture  
they ~ audio of the landing, but... (Perseverance / Mars)

♦ "Now that we have captured your imagination, don't make us come after the rest of you. (A clever TV advertisement from the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation promoting tourism on their reservation in Cherokee, North Carolina.)

♦ "President-elect Donald Trump pulled off an electoral map feat no candidate has achieved in four decades capturing all seven key swing states that have become pivotal to securing a White House

victory." ("Trump first candidate in 40 years to sweep key 2024 swing states" by Chris Nesi, *The New York Post*, Nov. 7, 2024.)

### \*\*\* escaped animals and a horrible pun...

♦ "California Highway Patrol Captures Runaway Emu After 30 minutes... The Highway patrol said no one was hurt..." / "A [Chapel Hill] emu on the run in North Carolina was most recently seen jumping on the hood of a car. It's been loose for weeks..." (NPR. So many emus on the run. Emu?)

## capture (noun)

### carbon capture

Wyoming has invested heavily in ~ (coal)  
there are two types of ~ (point-source and direct air)

### hard capture

~ is complete (SpaceX crew capsule docks with ISS)

### regulatory capture

this is an example of ~ (Boeing and FAA)

♦ "We can confirm hard capture is complete." (SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule attaches itself to the International Space Station.)

## captured

### captured by an anti-intellectual, illiberal mob

Brearely has been~ (the school / obsession with race)

### ideologically captured

*Scientific American* has been ~ by the far-left wing

## caricature (noun)

### caricature, a stereotype

he is a ~

### criticism, accusation, memes, caricature

she shrugged off the ~ (Dolly Parton)

♦ "The NAACP said that it was problematic... but, if you're looking at the Zulu Club within the tradition of masquerading and masking, painting one's face is a part of Carnival, or it's a part of a masquerade, and the Zulus will say that they could not afford masks. It was cheaper and it was accessible for them to actually paint their faces black... I mean, it's a caricature, it's Mardi Gras, it's like everything is exaggerated, if you look at even Mardi Gras Krewe's that are traditionally white, they also have these caricatures of white people and European features, and so, it's an exaggeration. And while it's connected to minstrelsy historically, I think that it was more rooted in this idea of a masquerade, a mask. People are really dismissive [of outsiders protesting the Zulus' black face], to be honest with you. I think that New Orleans understands New Orleans' traditions. The city has been very insular, right? A lot of our traditions have just existed without the participation and the scrutiny of people outside of New Orleans, and so I think that for the average black person in New Orleans, including those members of my family, they just simply do not connect the Black Face in Zulu with minstrelsy or making a mockery of black people and most certainly are not looking at it as an offensive tradition." ("In New Orleans, The Fight Over Blackface Renews Scrutiny Of A Mardi Gras Tradition," NPR, All Things Considered, 3 March 2019. The Zulu Club was founded in 1909.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It is fatal for a caricaturist to see too much."

## carapace (protection)

### carapace of privacy

he wore a ~ (Kenneth Branagh)

### subjects' protective carapaces

her job is to cut her ~ down to the bone (a journalist)

## armoured carapace

I wished I was inside its ~ (a Sherman tank / combat)

♦ "Branagh was reminiscent of Eric /Thompson in other ways, too. He created the same seclusive climate around himself, wore a carapace of privacy, which Thompson compared to a walnut: 'hard to pry open.'" (The actor Kenneth Branagh. From "Acting Up: Emma Thompson's third act" by John Lahr, *The New Yorker*, November 14, 2022.)

### \*\*\* chelonians, crustaceans, arachnids...

♦ A carapace is the exoskeleton of a chelonian like a turtle, or a crustacean such as a lobster, crab, shrimp or prawn, or an arachnid (8-legged creature vs. a 6-legged insect) like a spider or scorpion.

## carcass (noun)

### carcass of a tank

he stood by the burned-out ~

## card (in the cards)

### in the cards

that's not ~

if you're a Congolese, you know a life of comfort is not ~  
a permanent revival is just not ~ (the coal industry)

## card (guilt card, etc.)

### compassion card

Democrats are playing the ~ (unemployment benefits)

### elitism card

she played the ~ (Sunny Hostin about Trump voters)

### evidence card

they had the race card, we were playing the ~ (O.J. trial)

### gender card

stop playing the ~, the fact you're a woman... (politics)

### guilt card

the ~ works—if they have any guilt (Internet suck sites)

### nationalist card

playing the ~ is a convenient tactic across North Africa

### race card

he played heavily on the ~ (Peru)  
some accused the lawyer of playing the ~ to the jury  
they had the ~, we had the evidence card (O.J. trial)  
he'll probably pull out the ~ next (a boxer who lost)

### sympathy (get-out-of-jail) card

no ~ for this case, go straight to jail

### get out of jail card

no sympathy ~ for this case, go straight to jail

### political cards

but the New Left never had any ~ to play (students)  
he played his ~ right and got a plum job

### policy and philosophical cards

they will have to show their ~ (party in power)

♦ "She played the elitism card in slamming white "uneducated" female Trump voters." (Sunny Hostin on ABC's *The View*.)

## card (play one's cards)

played his cards very carefully

he ~, negotiating a deal that... (Ahmed Zaki Yamani)

play my cards right

if I ~, I could be head cheerleader

played his (political) cards right

he ~ and got a plum job (Secretary of State)

## card (hold one's cards close)

holds his cards close to his vest

he ~ and knows just when to play them (an official)

## card (dealt cards)

dealt some cards

they were ~ they can't play (under-privileged)

♦ "They were dealt some cards they can't play to this day. Fortunately, I was dealt cards and somehow managed to play the right hand." (Olympic champion speaking of his heroin-addict mother and step-father.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's not the cards you're dealt, it's how you play your hand."

## card (strong card)

strong card

we don't have ~s but... (negotiations)

fear is a ~, if not a trump card (national security / politics)

his only ~ is that he...

it would be a ~ to play, but not perhaps a winning one

literature was never his ~

strong card in Afghanistan

he is the Pakistan Army's ~ (network leader)

Administration's (last) strong card

the ~ is to maintain economic sanctions against...

hold one strong card

we ~

## card (trump card)

trump card

this was her ~ (an endorsement for her)

fear is a strong card, if not a ~ (national security / politics)

pulled his trump card

the assistant prosecutor ~ (damning evidence at trial)

## card (hold all the cards)

hold all the cards

when prosecutors ~, can any defendant get a fair trial

## card (cards on the table)

cards on the table

~, I can't say... (I won't lie to you)

## card (the cards are stacked against us, a stacked deck, etc.)

get more cards stacked against you

you couldn't ~ (Fauci about the pandemic / US divisions)

## card (winning card)

our winning card

we are betting on them, Americans are ~

## career (noun)

career of the metaphor

a case study of the ~ (*weaponization*)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

## caretaker (role)

caretaker government

the ~ is fragile and weak

Israel's ~ can only make limited decision (2019)

caretaker manager

a ~ will be appointed

he met with ~ Michael Carrick (the new interim manager)

caretaker PM

Hassan Diab is currently serving as ~ (Lebanon)

caretakers of the land

farmers are ~

## car keys (take away the car keys, etc.)

take away the car keys

there was a need to ~ (from a fading Joe Biden)

♦ "We were all prepared for 'This is so sad, we're going to have to take the car keys away from Grandpa.' We were not prepared for the scenario where you try to take the keys away from Grandpa and Grandpa points a gun at your head." ("Life Of The Party: The Democrats seem rejuvenated by their new candidate. Why was it so hard to get one?" by Andrew Marantz, *The New Yorker*, September 2, 2024.)

♦ "We did nothing. We gave Putin a license to continue! Well, I'm revoking his f—license!" (President Joe Biden, about Putin's annexation of Crimea in 2014, according to *War* by Bob Woodward.)

♦ "Donald Trump is filling his cabinet but the Senate is jangling the keys." (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe. The Senate has the responsibility to confirm or not confirm Trump's candidates.)

♦ Joe Biden; Netanyahu... (Figures about whom some people have said, "We must take away their car keys.")

### \*\*\* "An enquiry calls for changes..."

♦ "An enquiry calls for changes in the way licenses are renewed for drivers over eighty, after a toddler was killed by a motorist with undiagnosed dementia." (BBC Six O'Clock News, 22/10/2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Taking the car keys away" is something adult children must think about when it comes to their aging parents. But it has become an ageist trope among millennials and Zoomers who wish to push older figures from their positions of power.

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...



♦ see also *seat (in the driver's seat)*

## car keys (throw someone the car keys, etc.)

handed the keys to a blockbuster

and whereas men were ~ after a single indie breakthrough

threw him the keys to the magazine

Bush ~ (Larry Bush / Jacob Plitman / *Jewish Currents*)

♦ "And whereas men were handed the keys to a blockbuster after a single indie breakthrough, this rarely happened for women." (Film industry.)

♦ see also *seat (in the driver's seat)*

## carnage (military)

carnage and intensity

the ~ of the resulting battle... (Battle of Shanghai / 1937)

carnage, wreck and ruin

the decks of both ships are a scene of "~"

scale of carnage

everyone was stunned by the ~ at Shiloh (US Civil War)

♦ "Nearly the whole of the Highland wounded were destroyed by the butt-end of the musket, or the bayonet. On the day after the battle, the houses of the peasantry were searched, and every wounded Highlander who could be found was dragged out and murdered in cold blood. To be found wearing tartan was sufficient to ensure death. In one place seventy-two were butchered together. In another, forty were enclosed in a hut, which was then fired, and all within were burned to death. The whole road to Inverness was strewn with the bodies of the slain..." (*British Battles On Land and Sea* by James Grant. Culloden, 1746.)

♦ "John J. Hardin, an Indiana volunteer, found it 'dreadful...to see the poor soldier just thrown in a ditch and covered over without any box.' / Burials like these dehumanized the dead and appalled many of the living. A Union chaplain observed that in pit burials bodies were 'covered over much the same as farmers cover potatoes and roots to preserve them from the frost of winter; with this exception, however: the vegetables really get more tender care...' Frequently, corpses were quite literally naked... Soldiers desperate for clothing robbed the dead... and thieves and scavengers appeared on battlefields immediately after the end of hostilities... / Soldiers worried that the piles of dead might include those still living, unable to speak..." (*The Republic of Suffering, Death And the American Civil War* by the great American historian Drew Gilpin Faust.)

♦ "On Sept. 19, 1862, just two days after the Battle of Antietam, Alexander Gardner, an employee of the photographer Mathew Brady, began documenting the battle's grim aftermath. One of Gardner's photographs, titled 'Dead Horse of Confederate Colonel: both killed at Battle of Antietam,' depicted a milky-white steed lying on the field in an eerily peaceful repose...[The Horse] very likely belonged to Colonel Strong, and it became something of a landmark among the Union soldiers left on the field because of its strangely peaceful appearance. Gen. Alpheus Williams wrote, 'The number of dead horses was high. They lay, like the men, in all attitudes. One beautiful milk-white animal had died in so graceful a position that I wished for its photograph. Its legs were doubled under and its arched neck gracefully turned to one side, as if looking back to the ball-hole in its side. Until you got to it, it was hard to believe the horse was dead.' / Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. saw the horse four days after the battle while searching for his wounded son. Later, Holmes examined Gardner's photograph and said it was the same horse." ("The Dead of Antietam," by Terry L. Jones, *The New York Times*, September 24, 2012.)

♦ "Soon we strike the scene of conflict. As we emerge from a body of woods, our eyes are met by the sight of scores of dead and wounded Federal Zouaves, whose blood-red pants mark them out conspicuously wherever they lay on the sloping field and little meadow before us. Over these we rush at a double-quick and on the opposite hill we see a battery of artillery which our men have just captured. The pieces are still pointed towards us, but around them

are strewn numbers of the enemy, dead and wounded. At one of the pieces, as our line passes between them, we see what can never be effaced from our memory—a pile of artillery horses, all harnessed together, shot down manifestly just as they were in the act of moving a gun, one or more apparently dead, the others living, but bleeding profusely and writhing in apparent agony, the sight presenting a horrible spectacle of war." (*War Talks of Confederate Veterans*, compiled and edited by Geo. S. Bernard, Petersburg, VA.)

♦ "The carnage and intensity of the resulting battle earned the fight for Luodian the nickname 'grinding mill of flesh and blood.'" (From the Wikipedia article "Battle of Shanghai." This was the 1937 battle.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The word *carnage* moved up to us through Italian and French from the Latin term *carnaticum* signifying "flesh" or "meat." Once *carnage* meant the time for eating meat and was also the name for the flesh thrown to the dogs after a hunt. Later on, the word was applied to the heaps of carcasses on a battlefield, finally to any massacre or butchery." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## carnage (non-military)

carnage

the ~ left behind in the dot-com bust

carnage in football

~ pays (Georgia Tech wins 222-0 / a "slaughter")

carnage in the oil industry

low prices cause ~

American carnage

this ~ stops right here (President Trump)

convention carnage

TV brought the ~ into our living rooms (Chicago 1968)

jobs carnage

~ mounts: 17 million file for unemployment (COVID)

ratings carnage

MSNBC declined to comment on the ~

complete carnage

~ in coastal areas (Typhoon Rai / property damage)

economic carnage

they should be spared the worst of the ~ ("Frugal Four")

as the ~ from the coronavirus pandemic continues...

greater carnage

Obama and Clinton saw even ~ (midterm losses)

Young Thug, Carnage and Meek Mill

~ ("feasting and beasting")

brunt of the carnage

Black communities face the ~ (illegal drug overdoses)

extent of the carnage

in the coming days we'll see the ~ (pandemic)

carnage that ensues

novels about marriages failing and the ~

carnage being waged

NPR conveniently skips the ~ (social justice demos)

let the carnage begin

so ~ (review of Roman Polanski's 2011 film *Carnage*)

♦ “Mothers and children trapped in poverty in our inner cities, rusted out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape of our nation, an education system flush with cash but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of all knowledge. And the crime, and the gangs, and the drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country of so much unrealized potential. This American carnage stops right here and stops right now.” (President Trump, from his inaugural address, Friday, January 20, 2017. NPR’s Mara Liasson characterized Trump as “bitter,” “bleak,” “dark,” “divisive,” “hard-edged,” and “negative.” Listen to “How Trump’s Inauguration Speech Compares To His First Year In Office” by Mara Liasson, NPR, All Things Considered, January 18, 2018.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “The word *carnage* moved up to us through Italian and French from the Latin term *carnaticum* signifying “flesh” or “meat.” Once *carnage* meant the time for eating meat and was also the name for the flesh thrown to the dogs after a hunt. Later on, the word was applied to the heaps of carcasses on a battlefield, finally to any massacre or butchery.” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun (“they bring a knife, you bring a gun”), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... (“How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language,” Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

## Carnegie Hall (epithet)

Carnegie Hall of Broadway  
onstage at the Shubert Theatre, the ~

♦ “Thialf Oval in the Netherlands is the Yankee Stadium of speed skating.” (NPR’s Tom Goldman.)

## carnival (noun)

carnival  
boxing has always been a bit of a ~, a con (Jake Paul)

carnival of hysteria  
the ~ hampered the investigation (U.K. Nicola Bulley case)

ugly carnival  
it was an ~...

♦ “The carnival of hysteria over Nicola Bulley shows us the very worst of human nature.” (See the Wikipedia article “Death of Nicola Bulley.”)

♦ Jock Colville, Churchill’s private secretary, in Bayeux, witnessed the humiliation of *les tondues* (shorn women, also referred to as horizontal collaborators) in the aftermath of World War II. (“An ugly carnival” by Antony Beevor, *The Guardian*, Thursday 4 June 2009.)

♦ Tyburn Fair (execution day at Tyburn gallows); the Hanging Psalm (Psalm 51, which the condemned had to recite at the foot of the gallows); the dismal ditty (a conventional speech of repentance following the Hanging Psalm, optional); “He died with Cotton in his ears” (Cotton was the name of the praying sexton at Newgate Prison); the Paddington spectacles (Tyburn was in Paddington Parish, and this refers to the hood put over the condemned persons head); dancing the Paddington frisk (spasmodic jerking after the drop); the three-legged mare (the Tyburn gallows had three posts, linked by cross-bars); the wooden mare and “to ride a horse foaled by an acorn” (the Tyburn gallows were made of oak)... (*The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia’s Founding* by Robert Hughes. The public executions took place in a carnival-like atmosphere.)

## carpet (verb)

carpets the (rolling) highlands in emerald and gold  
cheatgrass ~

carpeted the meadow  
flowers ~

## carpet (a carpet of flowers, etc.)

carpet of ash  
a ~ covered the city (eruption)

carpet of (low-rise) buildings  
a ~ cover the seven hills (Istanbul)

carpet of color  
wildflowers create a ~ (Arctic summer)

carpet of flowers  
a ~ has been left (a memorial for dead fans)

carpet of frogs  
there was a ~ (on a road in Greece)

lush carpet  
the bird nests in the ~ of moss and vines (in a crater)

thick carpet  
a crew laid down a ~ of insulation

carpet of wildflowers  
the ~ in subalpine meadows (Mt. Rainier)

## carpet (under the carpet, etc.)

brush it under the carpet  
they will try to ~

brushing it under the carpet  
it’s a whitewash, they’re ~ (education / PS752)

sweep it under the carpet  
we can’t any longer ~ (educational issue)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “The problem with brushing things under the carpet is that they are still there and one day someone is going to lift that carpet up and all you are going to feel is shame and embarrassment.” (A celebrity who committed suicide, who had been trolled mercilessly on social media.)

♦ see also *rug* (*under the rug*)

## carpet (Operation Magic Carpet, etc.)

Operation Magic Carpet  
service members were repatriated by ~ (1945-1946)  
Operation on Wings of Eagles, also known as ~ (1949)  
the White Helmets were rescued in ~ (2018)

## carpet (magic carpet / other)

magic carpet  
a ~ made of steel (a train)

magic carpet into a (serious intellectual) life  
librarians were her ~

magic carpet away  
Azerbaijan is a magical land, just a ~

♦ “On a train, I sit on the top of a two-story magic carpet...” (Nat Read, who has ridden every mile on the Amtrak rail network. From “A loyal Amtrak rider says his best travel memories happened aboard trains,” NPR, All Things Considered, August 4, 2023. With Sacha Pfeiffer, host.)

♦ "Feel the wheels rumbling 'neath the floors / And the sons of Pullman Porters / And the sons of Engineers / Ride their fathers' magic carpet made of steel..." (City of New Orleans. Arlo Guthrie at Wolf Trap, 1993. With Pete Seeger onstage. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYjOMiki6qs>)

## carpetbagger (person)

carpetbagger

Canada's Olympic team has the most ~s (born elsewhere)

carpetbagger politicians

~ adopt Florida as their native land

East Coast carpetbagger

he is an ~ (Montana politics)

gentrifying carpetbaggers

he accuses his neighbors of being ~

opportunistic carpetbagger

he accused her of being an ~ (politics)

social carpetbagger

he's a ~, always code-switching to blend in

♦ "He is a carpetbagger disconnected from the state's residents and culture." (Politics.)

♦ "Her strategy drew howls of carpetbagging." (A politician who chose to run for reelection in a different district.)

♦ "He calls himself an activist investor, and I would call him a carpet bagger, and one who is trying to spread a climate of fear that pushes studios to want to make only tent poles... He's trying to manipulate the market... Hedge fund guys do not create jobs, and we do." ("George Clooney To Hedge Fund Honcho Daniel Loeb: Stop Spreading Fear At Sony" by Mike Fleming Jr, *Deadline*, August 2, 2013.)

♦ "But, of course, the new South had embraced all of this [commercial strips, huge parking lots, motels, fast-food places, discount store, car dealers, nightclubs, etc.], not quickly, as we had done up North, but embraced it nonetheless. And in some strange way, the garish commercial strip was now more associated with the South than with anywhere else in the country. The carpetbaggers have finally taken over." (*The General's Daughter* by Nelson DeMille.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Isn't it interesting how a Southern Reconstruction-era slur against Northerners *persists* as a slur?

♦ See the Wikipedia entry "Carpetbagger." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## carpeted

carpeted with flowers

the meadow was ~

carpeted with wild blueberry plants

the tiny island is ~

carpeted (at the base) with starfish and mussels

we drifted into an inlet alongside cliffs ~

carpeted eastern Washington

old-growth forests once ~

## carried away

get carried away

it is no time to ~ (panic over virus)

## carried off (died)

were carried off

one third of the population of Europe ~ (the Black death)

## carrot (reward)

carrot

offering ~s and wielding sticks to persuade people to...  
amid the ~s, there will be some sharp sticks

carrot of membership

the EU is dangling the ~ in front of the two countries

♦ "The carrot of a clash is dangling." (Oleksandr "the Ukrainian Cossack" Usyk versus Tyson "the Gypsy King" Fury.)

## carrot-and-stick

carrot-and-stick approach

it requires a ~ (a zoning alternative)  
using a ~ to the millions moving into the fire zone  
commanders say a ~ is necessary (military occupation)  
under his ~, poorly performing services will not limp on...

♦ "The carrots do not work much. Now, we're seeing more pressure coming from the other side." (Dr. Arthur Caplan, about requiring COVID vaccinations in the US.)

## carrousel (noun)

carrousel of helicopters

this constant ~ flying over the reactor (Chernobyl)

## carry (carry me away, etc.)

carry me away

I let my emotions ~

carry the memory of my half-brother with me

I ~ every day (murdered)

carry the pain

families still ~ 19 years later (9/11 memorial)

## carry (transport)

carry this loss

while I will ~ for a long time, it will motivate me

carries some privilege

any white person ~ due to their skin color

carries a (maximum) sentence

Count Fourteen ~ of 20 years imprisonment

carry viruses

smuggled pangolins have been found to ~

carry weight

such recommendations do ~ (a government taskforce)

## carry (assist)

carried this team

he ~ like we needed him to (Olympic basketball)

carried the team on his back

he ~ (football player)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ See the Wikipedia article "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother."  
Wikipedians are wonderful.

**carry on (verb)**

carry on

I got injured, but you still got to ~

**cart (cart off)**

carted (31) Christians off to the station  
police ~

carted him (off the field) on a stretcher  
they ~ (injured player)

**cartwheel (do cartwheels, etc.)**

doing cartwheels  
the NBA must be ~ (glad about exciting post-season  
games)

**carved out**

carved out of the Middle East  
Jordan was ~

carved out of the Maasai land  
the Masai Mara was ~

carved out by the British  
Jordan was ~

carved out in the 1920's  
Jordan was ~

**carve out (verb)**

carve out an Islamic state  
they want to ~ in Mindanao

carve a Muslim state out of the south  
the group is fighting to ~ (Mindanao)

carve out a future  
young Brazilians are trying to ~

carve out her own lane  
she has managed to ~ (singing, fashion, etc.)

carve out (decent) lives  
homesteaders tried to ~ (North Dakota)

carve out a living  
wolves are forced to ~ on the steeper slopes

carved out (new) markets  
some entrepreneurs have ~ by selling...

carve out a new role  
Britain wants to ~ (post-Brexit)

♦ Carve out, fashion, shape...

**Casanova (Serbian Casanova, etc.)**

Casanovas in the rear  
they cursed the ~ who tried to make off with soldiers'  
wives

determined bovine Casanova

a feat impossible for even the most ~ (insemination)

Serbian Casanova

Dusko Popov, a ~... (a double agent for MI6)

♦ "Casanovas who have clocked up serious bedroom mileage; Lotharios with thousands of notches on their bedposts; The Sun's shagger of the Year; three- and foursomes; 'And their mothers...'; [He] has kept the traffic between the sheets busier than the M25; 4,600 bedpost notches; his bulging little black book; 'I don't pay prostitutes for sex, I pay them to leave...'" ("The Lovers' League" by Lauren Windle, *The Sun*, 14 August 2016.)

♦ "Well, he has one girl per book, approximately, and that's one a year. He's a bachelor, and he moves around the world pretty rapidly. And umm I don't see any great harm in that myself." (Ian Fleming speaking about his fictional creation James Bond to Roy Plomley on BBC's Desert Island Discs in 1963.)

♦ The NBA player Wilt Chamberlin famously boasted of having intercourse with over 20,000 women

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "I was hardly Casanova, but I was a tad more experienced than she was..."

**cascade (verb)**

cascade through generations  
negative attitudes ~

**cascade (noun)**

cascade of decisions  
the computer models triggered a ~ (transportation)

cascade of disasters  
we have seen a ~ lately

cascade of (damaging) events  
head injury can initiate a ~

cascade of honors  
throughout this time there was a ~ (an academic scholar)

cascade of problems  
the events combined to create a ~

cascades of white death  
the 22 natural avalanche chutes are ~ (pass and highway)

set off a cascade  
the decision has ~ of accusations and counter-accusations

trigger a cascade  
these chemicals ~ of allergic symptoms (food allergies)

**cascade (a cascade of hair, etc.)**

cascade of strawberry-blond hair  
she has pale skin and a ~

**cash in (verb)**

cashing in  
the economy is growing, but not all are ~

cash in on the experience  
a failure is a man who blundered but is not able to ~

cash in on his fame  
opportunists who want to ~ (sex-abuse accusers)

cash in on those investments

early success could position her to ~ (her hard work)

♦ "They are monetizing, they know what the game is." (A lawyer for a singer accused of sex abuse.)

## cash (money)

cash cow

see *cow* (*cash cow*)

cash machine

see *cash machine* (*noun*)

## cash machine (noun)

cash machine

Hearn must find himself another ~ (AJ loses second time)

♦ "The Glazers treat Manchester United like a cash machine." (Gary Neville.)

♦ see also *cow* (*cash cow*)

## Cassandra

Cassandra

for years he was a ~, his message ignored...

Cassandra of the Internet Age

"I Talked to the ~" (Michael Goldhaber)

♦ "Go Ahead! regardless of the consequences and indifferent to the value of human life." (A diarist in the 1840s about science, technology, and the use of steam for power.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Cassandra was a daughter of King Priam of Troy. Apollo wooed her and gave her the gift of prophecy. But she jilted the God. And so Apollo cursed her: he did not take away her gift of prophecy, but he made sure that nobody would ever believe her.

## cast (cast of candidates, etc.)

cast of candidates

a whole new ~ will be onstage at their debate (politics)

## cast (cast doubt)

cast doubt on the (confession's) accuracy

the defense ~

cast doubts on such assumptions

the hearings ~ (politics of abortion)

cast doubts on plans

the difficulties could ~ to reopen New Orleans

cast (any) doubt on (Hamilton's) skills

she said she did not want to ~

casts (serious) doubt on another theory

the new finding ~ that had...

casts (some) doubt on a (popular) theory

the report also ~ that...

## cast (light)

cast a beam

reflectors ~ (lighthouse)

cast a (dark) shadow

the tragic accident ~ over US-Korean relations

## cast (other)

cast blame

officials can ~ only so much before the backlash starts

cast a curse

somebody must have ~ on his camel

cast discredit

the government alleges the paper ~ on the courts

cast a net

the authorities have ~ for the escapees

cast a pall

Chen's death ~ over the mountain (climbing)

cast a spell

at times he seemed to ~ on the ball (Ronaldo)

## cast (characterize)

cast Grant as a "butcher"

Southern historians ~ (revisionism)

cast the debate as a class struggle

they have ~

cast the problem as a health issue

she has ~ (TV violence, etc.)

## cast (characterized)

cast as a hero

a guard ~ was recast as a villain (Richard Jewell)

## cast aside (verb)

cast your fears aside

and you ~ (song)

cast security aside

at 48, he ~ to pursue his passion (left his profession)

## castaway (person)

Hollywood castaways

mix with ranchers, fishermen and ~ (Livingston, Mont.)

homeless castaways

a dystopian future where children are ~ (a song video)

life's castaways

she gives ~ the gift of merriment (film *River of Grass*)

society's castaways

—hookers, addicts, the homeless...

\*\*\* **Alexander Selkirk...**

♦ A castaway usually becomes one by shipwreck. In cases of mutiny, a person or persons might be cast adrift or left marooned on a deserted shore. Alexander Selkirk is a famous example of a voluntary castaway. Believing the ship he was sailing on to be unsafe, he requested that he be put ashore on one of the Juan Fernandez Islands in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile. He spent 4 years 4 months on the island before being rescued. He probably inspired Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*.

♦ Classic castaway stories include *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Swiss Family Robinson*. The TV show *Gilligan's Island* ran for 3 seasons. The film *Cast Away* with Tom Hanks was very popular. People

remember his companion, Wilson, a soccer ball, and the scene where he removes a rotten tooth with an ice skate.

♦ Tromelin Island in the Indian Ocean got its name from the captain who rescued a group of castaways from that place. The whole story is quite amazing!

## caste (noun)

caste society

America as a ~

caste system

lodgings follow a kind of unwritten ~ (officials)

the airlines use a ~ (paying more gets better treatment)

warrior caste

Marine pilots are an insular ~

professional military caste

the ~ will retain its grip (in time of war and conscription)

♦ "It's a caste system, and we are the untouchables of academia." (An adjunct professor.)

♦ "But what's happening now, it has to do with the huge gap between our educated [a slight pause] caste, you might say, and less educated caste. There's great distrust now between the two groups. We know all about that..." (Columbia University Mark Lilla, author of *Ignorance and Bliss: On Wanting Not to Know*.)

\*\*\* "India seems to have originated everything..."

♦ "Major Sleeman reveals the fact that the trade union and the boycott are antiquities in India. India seems to have originated everything. The 'sweeper' belongs to the bottom caste; he is the lowest of the low—all other castes despise him and scorn his office. But that does not trouble him. His caste is a caste, and that is sufficient for him, and so he is proud of it, not ashamed... A footnote by Major Sleeman's editor, Mr. Vincent Arthur Smith, says...'The sweepers cannot be readily coerced, because no Hindoo or Mussulman would do their work to save his life, nor will he pollute himself by beating the refractory scavenger.' They certainly do seem to have the whip-hand... Just like a milk-route; or like a London crossing-sweepership." (*Following the Equator: A Journey Around the World* by Mark Twain.)

## castle (protection)

castle

a man's home is his ~

castle doctrine

Texas has a ~ which extends to your vehicles (force)

~ is similar to "stand your ground" (deadly force)

♦ "Unlike a lot of people that criticize NPR, you're not throwing stones from outside the castle." (Bari Weiss talking with Uri Berliner. From "NPR Editor Speaks Out: How National Public Radio Lost Americans' Trust," Honestly with Bari Weiss.)

♦ "Warning / Castle Doctrine / "No Duty to Retreat" (A sign / decal / sticker.)

\*\*\* a riddle...

♦ Green castle, red window, black people dancing inside... What is it? (A riddle told in Saudi Arabia.)

## castle (epithet)

Castle

the Smithsonian is popularly known as the ~ (D.C.)

## castle (White Castle, etc.)

White Castle

~ is an oasis for late-night customers (hamburgers)

## castle (Castle Peaks, etc.)

Castle Arch

~ is an arch in Wolfe County, Kentucky

Castle Butte

~ is a summit in Garfield County, Montana

Castle Canyon

~ is a valley in Coconino County, Arizona

Castle Cape

~ is a cape in Lake and Peninsula Borough, Alaska

Castle Cliff

~ is a cliff in Washington County, Utah

Castle Island

~ is an island in Kennebec County, Maine

Castle Mountain

~ is a summit in Larimer County, Colorado

Castle Peaks

the ~ are peaks in Queensland, Australia

Castle Rock

~ is a pillar in Custer County, South Dakota

~ is a summit in San Juan County, Utah

Castle Valley

~, Utah, is east of Arches National Park

Baboons Castle

the ~ is a mountain in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)

New Castle

they were arrested in ~, Indiana (a town)

Storm Castle

~ is a summit in Montana

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This word often appears in geographical place names: Castle Islet; Castle Mountain; Castle Pass; Castle Peak; Castle Point; Castle Rock, etc.

## castrated

castrated on the evening news

~ (see red text below)

♦ Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, in her press release announcing that she would not run for reelection as mayor, decried the possibility of Atlanta officials being "*castrated* on the evening news." One would assume the word was "castigated," but no correction was ever made. And it is just possible that's what she meant to say.

## castration (noun)

"castration" of the CIA

they also lament the ~ by the 1975 Church Committee

## casualty (literal analogy)

casualty

two bass boats collided at night and there was a ~

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ There were great husky men crying with the pain of gaping wounds and dreadfully swollen, discolored trench feet, who sank down



exhausted the moment they stopped. There were strings of from eight to twenty blind boys filing up the road, clinging tightly and pitifully to each other's hands, and led by some bedraggled limping youngster who could still see... I wonder if I'll ever be able to look at marching men anywhere again without seeing those blinded boys, with five and six wound stripes on their sleeves, struggling painfully along the road." (*Sister: The War Diary of a Nurse* by Helen Dore Boylston.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Two bass boats collided at night and there was a casualty." (This would be better written as "and one person was injured." "Casualty" generally refers to warfare, violence, or disasters. And so "casualty" would not apply to the collision of two bass boats at night.)

♦ Deaths from COVID have been described as a *body count*. (This strikes a very wrong note. Body count is ordinarily associated with warfare, especially the Vietnam War when counting the number of enemy dead became a metric of "success.")

♦ "Mass casualty events," on the other hand, has become a part of American's lexicon. (Violent school shootings, large-scale disasters, etc.)

♦ In the US, a badly injured car-crash victim is transported by ambulance to an emergency department (ED), commonly referred to as an ER or emergency room. In the UK, they go to Accident and Emergency (A&E), often referred to as the casualty department.

♦ "The thousands of automobile *casualties* that happen each year are things that are decided by chance, and *casualis*, Latin parent of this word, meant 'dependent on chance.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ Casualty insurance is a defined term. See the Wikipedia article "Casualty insurance." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## casualty (figurative)

casualty of the (real-estate) boom  
the development was an early ~

casualty of the current political climate  
she says she's a ~ (politics)

casualties of Covid-19  
this is one of the biggest ~ (great boxing match, no fans)

casualty of his own faith  
he became a ~ (Columbus and geography)

casualties of the internet  
RIP to the great magazine era, one of the unfortunate ~

casualty of the (slimmed-down) plan  
the proposed sum is an apparent ~ (\$ for VA hospitals)

casualty of early stardom  
he could have become Basquiat, a ~ (Jean Michel Basquiat)

casualty of the culture wars  
she is yet another cautionary ~ (Gina Carano blacklisted)

too many casualties  
there have been ~ (man touches female athletes)

among the casualties  
So, I was ~ today at *Sports Illustrated* (mass layoff)

one of the first casualties  
the low price of petrol has become ~ (pandemic recovery)

♦ "So you were like a casualty of the circumstances." (Gang-banging in L.A. Took a beating because of an incident the previous night that he was not involved in.)

♦ "The FTA was actually supposed to boost India-Canada trade to much higher levels... That's one casualty." (A commentator about

sour relations between India and Canada, after Canada claimed India had been involved in the murder of a Sikh separatist on Canadian soil.)

♦ see also *body count* (figurative)

## cat (cat and mouse)

see *game* (*game of cat and mouse*)

## cat (cat out of the bag, etc.)

cat was (already) out of the bag  
the ~, it already spread (virus)

♦ "Once that digital cat was let out of the file-sharing bag, so to speak..." (Napster, returned to the bag by lawyers, and thrown off a bridge into a river.)

## catalogue (list)

catalogue of failures  
the report describes a ~ (an air crash)

catalogue of problems  
it's one of a ~ caused by unplanned overdevelopment

## catalyst (noun)

catalyst  
he was the ~, not the cause of the problem  
this is a bill that will jump start, jolt, be a ~ (business)  
the ~ for the government shutdown was...  
Auschwitz was the ~ that made him into a great writer

catalyst of the team  
he's been the ~

catalysts in this conflagration  
Lincoln and his cronies were the ~ (US Civil War)

catalyst for change  
disaster can be a ~  
art can be a ~

catalyst for (economic) growth  
the software industry could be a ~ (India)

catalyst for a (cultural) shift  
snowboarding was a ~ in the world of skiing

catalyst for moving  
the Morton case is going to be a ~ reforms forward (law)

economic catalyst  
she said the museum would be an ~

served as a catalyst  
the crash served as a ~ to mend relations (Poland-Russia)

## catalyze (verb)

catalyzed them to come forward  
other accusers said that she ~ Me Too Movement)

## catapult (verb)

catapulted Western Europe to (global) dominance  
the industrial revolution ~

catapulted him to fame  
his admission ~

catapulted Obama into the White House  
the type of voter who ~

catapulted into the ranks  
the company has ~ of top tech companies

catapulted over (more veteran) officials  
she ~ (government promotion)

catapulted from an unknown to a superstar  
he ~

## catapulted

catapulted to the forefront  
he has been ~ of the death-penalty debate

catapulted to stardom  
she was plucked from obscurity and ~ (talent show)

catapulted out of obscurity  
he was ~ (a politician who won an election)

catapulted into the limelight  
after the broadcast, he was ~ (sports doping)

catapulted from obscurity to (prime-time) fame  
he was ~ (an actor)

## cataract (noun)

cataract of (verbal) gaffes  
he has unleashed an endless ~ (President Biden)

cataracts of fire and steel  
Germany fell upon Russia in ~ (Churchill)

## catch (catch the imagination, etc.)

catch the (national) imagination  
his account of the aerial voyage would ~

caught FitzRoy's imagination  
but it was the sea that had ~

caught the (national) imagination  
his account would be published in the *Times*, where it ~

caught my interest  
it really ~ so I started researching (a mine disaster)  
the team ~ after I watched the game against Celtic

♦ "Now that we have captured your imagination, don't make us come after the rest of you. (A clever TV advertisement from the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation promoting tourism on their reservation in Cherokee, North Carolina.)

## catch (marriage)

seemed the perfect catch  
when she met him, he ~ (marriage / murdered by him)

## catch (catch and release)

catch and release  
they basically had a ~, they should have been arrested  
why the repeated ~, was he an informant

pattern of catch and release  
it supports the ~ (interference to protect informant)

## Catch-22

in a Catch-22  
he's ~ (the rapper Bobby Shmurda and police protection)

## catchment (noun)

catchment area  
about 1/3 of the state falls within our ~ (medical examiner)  
the ~ of these books is huge (NCERT textbooks / India)

## catch on (verb)

catch on  
I thought the slogan would ~, but it didn't...

## catch up (his past caught up to him, etc.)

caught up to him  
his past finally ~  
the allegations have trailed him, and today the claims ~  
by 2008, the truth had ~ (Bernie Madoff)

## catch up (catch up to something)

catching up to men  
women are ~ in their number of partners

catching up to science fiction  
reality is finally ~ (AI)

catching up in submarines  
China is ~ (to the US)

## catch up (catch up with something)

catch up with the technologies  
standards have begun to ~ (biometrics)

catch up with the outside world  
Fanning Island is anxious to ~ (Kiribati)

♦ "Let's keep moving, guys. Keep the line tight and keep it moving. United 8114, I need you to catch up with the group." (An air-traffic controller, directing planes.)

## catchy (attention)

catchy headlines  
these are ~

## catechism (noun)

Cold War catechism  
the ~ dictated that...

## catfish (person)

America's biggest catfish  
how three women caught ~

♦ *There Is No Ethan: How Three Women Caught America's Biggest Catfish* by Anna Akbari.

## catfishing (noun)

catfishing  
~ is easy to do on the internet

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Catfishing." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ "I'm just messin' wit 'cha, man"; irony; mockery; sarcasm; shitposting; LULZ; 4-Chan; 8-Chan; trolling; catfishing; swatting; queerbaiting; vishing; 1 Hacker Way; "Here's to the Crazy Ones"; "Mission Accomplished"; the Affordable Care Act; QAnon; the okay sign with the fingers...

## cathedral (Cathedral Cave, etc.)

### Cathedral Cave

large elliptical cupolas have been found in ~ (Australia)

### Cathedral Mountain

we visited ~ (Tasmania)

### Cathedral Room

~ is 204 feet high (Marvel Cave, Missouri)

## cathedral (resemblance)

### cathedral of water

the 16th-Century cistern has been likened to a "~-"

### calcite cathedrals

these flooded caves are spectacular ~ of stalactites...

♦ The Palombaro Lungo, a manmade 16<sup>th</sup>-Century cistern, has been likened to a "cathedral of water." (Matera Sassi, Italy.)

## cathedral (Big Snowbird Creek, etc.)

### cathedral

mountains are truly ~s ("Big" Jim Whittaker)

it's my church, it's my ~ (Yosemite on foot in winter)

### cathedrals of American culture

gaining admittance to the high ~ (the Met, etc.)

### cathedrals of (late 19th- and early 20th-century)

#### design

Berlin's *Hallenbader* are veritable ~

### cathedral of the Russian underground

the club was a religion, the ~ (the Leningrad Rock Club)

### cathedral of stock-car racing

Daytona track, the ~...

### cathedral of Mexican popular music

El Tenampa is a sort of ~ (Plaza Garibaldi / Mexico City)

### cathedrals for fly fishermen

the waters here are ~ (Montana)

### cathedral to the sport

Gold's Gym in Venice, this ~ (bodybuilding / California)

♦ It's not unusual at any time of the day to see a power-company truck, a pizza delivery van, or the vehicle of a public official parked in one of the cutouts alongside Big Snowbird Creek outside Robbinsville in Graham County, western North Carolina. Presumably, the employees are on their lunchbreaks or coffee breaks...

## catnip (attraction)

### catnip of big oil money

the ~ is sort of wafting around...

### catnip to (post World War I) audiences

adultery and divorce were ~

### catnip to screenwriters

it has proved ~ (*The Turn of the Screw*)

### catnip for (avid) travelers

lost and abandoned places are ~

### box-office catnip

he was ~ (Dirk Bogarde)

### cinematic catnip

the Cinderella story has been ~ (*Pretty Woman*, etc.)

### theatrical catnip

he is ~ (Shakespeare's character Richard III)

### catnip of big oil money

the ~ is sort of wafting around...

♦ "The catnip of big oil money is sort of wafting around and everybody is interested in this infusion of capital." (Oil money in tennis, soccer, etc.)

♦ "Rumors became the catnip that drove reporting." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

## caught (other)

### caught in the middle

civilians are ~ (war)

### caught in the open

3 people ~ suffocated in the dust storm (Kansas / 1935)

### caught in a (lightning) storm

they were ~ on a mountainside

### caught in a (ferocious) storm

they were ~ near the summit of Les Droites

### caught in a rip current

if you become ~, swim parallel to shore

### caught in the drift ice

we'd be ~, but it was all right (fishing)

### caught in a crossfire

three soldiers were ~

### caught on film

unsuspecting women ~... (Internet porn)

### caught on the back foot

police admit they have been ~ by the protests

### become caught

if you ~ in a rip current, swim parallel to shore  
the straps of his river sandals ~ on a rock

## caught out

### caught out by public reaction

he seemed to be ~ (a leader)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Many associate this with the game of cricket.

## caught up (in or by something)

### caught up (again) in drugs

they go back out on the streets and get ~

caught up in the film

I was ~ and didn't hear the door open

caught up in a web

~ of drug addiction and crime

caught up in red tape

his expedition got ~

caught up in the drinking

I just got ~ and the drugs and fighting

don't get caught up in that

~ (weight loss / low self-esteem)

got caught up in red tape

his expedition ~

## **cauldron (the Cauldron, etc.)**

the Cauldron

the Stalingrad pocket, or ~ (World War II)

♦ "And so [Hitler] ordered Paulus to remain inside what would thereafter be referred to as the Stalingrad Pocket to history and the Cauldron to the men who fought there." (The Battle of Stalingrad, Wars of the World, YouTube.)

## **cauldron (Devils Cauldron, etc.)**

Devils Cauldron

the ~ is an area in Monterey County, California

Devils Cauldron

the ~ is a bay in Tillamook County, Oregon

Devils Cauldron

the ~ is a bay in Ashland County, Wisconsin

Witches Cauldron

the ~ is a glacier in Petersburg Borough, Alaska

the NW face of the Devils Thumb rises from the ~

Witches Cauldron

the ~ is a crater in Klamath County, Oregon

## **cauldron (noun)**

cauldron

it's going to be a ~ in there on Saturday (boxing match)

cauldrons of contagion

wet markets are ~ (coronaviruses, etc.)

cauldron of (internal) controversy

the Republican party is a ~

cauldron of grievances

a ~ bubbles beneath the surface

cauldron of noise

the Lusail Stadium was a ~ (Argentina v. Mexico in Qatar)

cauldron of socialization

the school bus used to be a ~

cauldron of (sectarian) violence

the country has become a ~

cauldron of war, violence and brutality

the US has hurled Afghanistan into the ~

witch's cauldron

the US is a ~ of unemployment and poor education

bubbling cauldron

the country has become a ~ since Ben Ali left (Tunisia)

simmering cauldron

you've got this ~ of hatred and revolution (Paris)

ethnic cauldron

the Balkans are a confused, often violent ~

red-hot cauldron

the Middle East is a ~ (protests, etc.)

revolutionary cauldron

many emerge from the ~ to become conservatives

send its children into that cauldron

a humane society would not ~ (war)

## **caustic (adjective)**

caustic characterization

the leaked cables contained ~s of world leaders

caustic comment

she made a few ~s

caustic observation

she offered some ~s about their qualifications

caustic remark

they direct a lot of ~s and mockery

caustic welcome

he got a ~ (politics)

blunt and (sometimes) caustic

he defended his ~ style (governor)

## **caustically**

caustically critical

she is now ~ (about school reform)

once a supporter, she is now ~ (an educator)

caustically funny

she is ~ (comic)

caustically intelligent

he is ~

caustically witty

his song is ~

caustically described

she ~ him as a figurehead

caustically dismiss

some scientists ~ his claims

said caustically

but he ~, "On a political level, ...

## cavalcade (noun)

cavalcade of (Nashville) artists  
she is joined by a ~ (an album)

cavalcade of (celebrity) cameos  
the film featured a ~

cavalcade of evidence  
this is just the start of a ~ undermining the president

cavalcade of arm gestures  
his every sentence is punctuated by a ~ (a politician)

cavalcade of people  
there's going to be a ~ saying you were wrong

♦ "We stood up now and then to get our circulation going, and it was always the same: the wind was always blowing, there was always a semblance of moon... and in front of the moon a fantastic cavalcade of ragged clouds..." ("Bear Meat" by Primo Levi, translated by Alessandra Bastagli.)

## cavalier (adjective)

cavalier attitude  
he had a ~ towards going to war (a hawk)

cavalier and disrespectful  
Pelosi said Barr was ~ (at a Senate hearing)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The root is from *caballus*, Latin for horse, with the meaning of supercilious. The rider has traditionally been dominant over the man who walks.

## cavalry (mechanized cavalry, etc.)

Air Cavalry  
the U.S. Army's 1st ~ Division (Vietnam)

mechanized cavalry  
today's ~ means mobility and speed (military)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Dismounted troops; "Let's saddle up"; Air Cavalry (US / Vietnam); the 1st Cavalry Division (US); Hussars (UK); Dragoons (UK); Lancers (UK); Royal Horse Artillery (UK / Afghanistan); Cuirassiers (FR); Chasseurs (FR); Spahis (FR); Horse Guards (CAN); Light Horse (AUS); Mounted Rifles (AUS)... (Modern military vocabulary and names related to cavalry and horses.)

♦ "It was only fitting and proper that airmobile operations should have been first tried in combat by the First Cavalry Division, of World War II and Korea fame. Riding helicopters instead of horses or mechanized vehicles, it was renamed the First Cavalry Division Airmobile." (Vietnam. Commonly referred to as the First Cavalry Division. The patch is iconic.)

♦ "We were going to Vietnam as "straight leg" infantry, not as a mechanized infantry battalion." (No APCs. The First Infantry Division, known to all as the Big Red One.)

♦ "Tanks had replaced the cavalry of former wars with a vastly more powerful and far-ranging weapon, and in many aspects their manoeuvres resembled naval warfare, with seas of sand instead of salt water. The fighting quality of the armoured column, like that of a cruiser squadron, rather than the position where they met the enemy, or the part of the horizon on which he appeared, was the decisive feature. Tank divisions or brigades, and still more smaller units, could form fronts in any direction so swiftly that the perils of being outflanked or taken in rear or cut off had a greatly lessened significance. On the other hand, all depended from moment to moment upon fuel and ammunition, and the supply of both was far more complicated for armoured forces than for the self-contained ships and squadrons at sea... / The personal interventions of the two Commanders-in-Chief were as dominant and decisive and the stakes

on both sides were as high as in the olden times." (*The Grand Alliance* by Winston S. Churchill. "Operation 'Crusader': Ashore, Aloft, and Afloat.")

♦ Before "mechanized infantry" it was "motorized infantry."

♦ "There was now a dramatic episode which recalls 'Jeb' Stuart's ride round McClellan in 1862 on the Yorktown Peninsula in the American Civil War. It was however executed with an armoured force which was an army in itself..." (Rommel's Raid Nov. 24-28, Second Battle of Sidi Rezegh. From *The Grand Alliance* by Winston S. Churchill. "Operation 'Crusader': Ashore, Aloft, and Afloat.")

♦ "Once, after a gunnery exercise, Novikov and Getmanov had stopped in front of the winning tank. As he answered their questions, the soldier in command had gently caressed the side of the tank. Getmanov had asked if he had found the exercise difficult. / 'No, why should I? I love my tank very much. I came to the training school straight from my village. The moment I saw her, I fell in love. Impossibly in love.' / 'So it was love at first sight, was it?' said Getmanov. He burst out laughing. / There was something condescending in Getmanov's laughter—as though he were criticizing this young man's ridiculous love for his tank." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. It's World War II. An old cavalry sergeant's jeep has broken its axle. The old sergeant has turned his back to his busted- down jeep, his left hand covers his eyes in grief, and his right hand is pointing a .45 behind his back at the engine, as if he were putting his beloved horse out of its misery. (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II. The text about the cartoon reads, "Once I thought I did a very funny cartoon. It was a picture of an old-time cavalryman shooting his jeep, which had a broken axle. It is one of those cartoon ideas you think up rarely; it has simplicity, it tells a story, it doesn't need words. It is, I believe, the very best kind of cartoon... I shall keep reviving that cartoon until somebody appreciates it.")

♦ see also *warhorse* (and *war horse*)

## cavalry (noun)

cavalry  
the ~ has come, God bless you all (military aid in disaster)  
the ~ is on the way (regulation of online abuse)

called in the cavalry  
he ~, the FBI, ATF, State Police, US Marshalls (murder)

♦ "He claimed his newspaper had ridden heroically to the rescue of the campaign."

♦ "They mobilize the air tankers, the smoke jumpers, the elite hotshot crews to these big fires... They're the cavalry, so to speak." (The U.S. Forest Service.)

### \*\*\* cavalry is NOT calvary...

♦ "Ken Melvoen was a helicopter crew chief with the first Air Calvary." ("Memorial Day Comes As Troops Fight In Afghanistan" by NPR Staff and Wires, May 30, 2011.)

♦ "The horses from the Household Calvary Regiment were taken into Hyde Park..." (BBC.)

♦ "He filled his band's ranks with a calvary of women." (An eggcorn? Funny!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no cavalry, no one will magically appear and save you." (The need to be self-reliant when mountain climbing.)

♦ see also *day* (save the day)

## cave (isolation)

cave  
unless you are living in a ~, you know...

### \*\*\* Saknussem's Well, etc.

♦ "It's a bit like mending the plumbing. You have to get into awkward positions and fiddle with things that lie in muddy water." (Extreme caver Richard Gregson about what it feels like underground.)

♦ The Arm Pit, the S Hole, the Bile Duct, the Breached Birth Canal, the Brown and Ugly Passage... (Named passages in the Wind River Cave in Wind River National Park.)

♦ The Entrance Chamber; the Elephant Shaft; the Giant's Staircase; Saknussem's Well (from Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth*); the Salmon Ladders; Skyline Traverse; the Widomaker (a delicately balanced boulder); the Swim Gym; Through the Looking Glass (a viselike breakdown passage); Nightmare Falls; Wet Dreams (a beautiful drop-pool stream); the Exclusion Tubes; Mad Man's Falls... (Named locations in Cheve (CHAY-vay) cave in Oaxaca State, Mexico. From *Blind Descent* by James M. Tabor.)

♦ The Great Hall of the Bulls, the Shaft of the Dead Man, the Chamber of Felines, the Painted Gallery, the Lateral Passage... (Named areas of the Lascaux Cave in France.)

♦ Siphons, soda straws, moon milk... (Cave features.)

♦ Air rappels and rappelling off the end of a rope; ascenders failing on muddy rope; foot-hang; flooding; drowning; murderous locals; fatal falls; squeezes and getting stuck; premature burial; asphyxiation; hypothermia; hurricane-force winds; electrocution; earthquake-induced collapses; poison gasses; walls dripping sulfuric or hydrochloric acid; rabid bats; snakes; troglodytic scorpions and spiders; radon; microbes that cause histoplasmosis and leishmaniasis; the Ebola virus; strangulation by one's own vertical gear; rope failure; running out of light; getting lost; claustrophobia; anxiety; insomnia; hallucinations; personality disorders; the Rapture; oxygen toxicity (diving); zero visibility from silt (diving); falling out of a portaledge; starvation... (Hazards related to caving, from *Blind Descent* by James M. Tabor.)

## cave (verb)

caved

instead of doubling down on his policy, he ~

caving to the hard right

he is ~ (politics)

caved to the wokeists

the Boy Scouts of America has ~

cave to threats or fear

he did not ~ (from MS-13 members)

caved before political pressure

Harvard has ~ (antisemitism)

caved under pressure

my own university quickly ~ (a "woke" issue)

cave in

see *cave in* (verb)

## cave in (verb)

caved in

I ~, just as Jean knew I would (and admitted the truth)

cave in to his fears

he refuses to ~ (a stock-market investor)

cave in to (Serb) pressure

Europe will ~ (diplomacy)

caved in under the weight

the regime finally ~ of its impossible contradictions

♦ The following is how Callum Robinson, in his book *Ingrained: The Making of a Craftsman*, describes having his hopes for a lucrative contract dashed over a phone: "I've heard it said that miners working deep underground prefer wooden pit props to modern materials like iron or steel. Timber lacks metal's strength, but it creaks and moans if the load becomes too great. Wood warns you when it's about to break, giving you a fighting chance to escape. The others simply

crumple and your world caves in. I hear no warning, only a click, a dial tone, and the hammer-thudding of my own heartbeat."

## cavernous (adjective)

cavernous headquarters

as we left the ~, only we were in the lobby (pandemic)

## ceasefire (noun)

Ceasefire on Immigration

Clergy Urge ~ (politics)

ceasefire in the war

there needs to be a ~ of words (dispute)

judicial ceasefire

the DA's office has offered to declare a ~ (drop charges)

## ceiling (glass ceiling)

glass ceiling

the ~ is alive and well on Wall Street

glass ceiling for women in politics

there is a perceived ~ (Massachusetts)

glass ceilings and other barriers

~ barring women

Japan's glass ceiling

she has helped to crack ~ (Toshiba team leader)

Oscars' glass ceiling

Kathryn Bigelow broke the ~ (Best Director)

unbreakable glass ceiling

it was like being hit on the head with a big sheet of ~

age barrier, (no) gender gap, (no) glass ceiling

no ~

break the glass ceiling

success is the best way to ~

broke the (Oscars') glass ceiling

Kathryn Bigelow ~ (first woman Best Director)

raise the glass ceiling

quotas could ~ (employment)

shatter that glass ceiling

women can ~ once and for all

shattered that glass ceiling

we ~ (a female politician)

♦ "Kim O'Grady, an experienced management consultant in Perth, Australia, couldn't figure out why his resume was generating no job leads for more than four months, said Susanna Kim in ABCNews.com. He finally realized that companies were turning him down because his gender-neutral first name led them to assume he was a woman. 'I pictured all the managers I had over the years and, forming an amalgam of them in my mind, I read through the document as I imagined they would have,' he wrote on his blog. The truth became immediately apparent. 'It was like being hit on the head with a big sheet of unbreakable glass ceiling,' he said. After putting 'Mr.' before his name on his resume, he quickly landed a job. 'The sad reality is this shows we all know how real and invasive sexism is,' O'Grady wrote this week." ("A name exposed a familiar truth," *The Week Magazine*.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "ceiling" bandwagon...



♦ Related is the glass cliff. That refers to putting a woman or minority in a position of power in a bad organization, in which they are bound to fail.

♦ "There are studies that suggest that women are more likely to get jobs at a point at which a company is in crisis. And I wonder if you think that might be an issue as well." / Jill Abramson: "It definitely was bad times, I mean it was very soon after I became executive editor that we had one of the biggest waves of staff reduction which, you know, creates pain and misery throughout a newsroom." ("Transcript: Former 'New York Times' Editor Jill Abramson Addresses Book Allegations," NPR, All Things Considered, February 7, 2019.)

♦ "The 'Tear The Paper Ceiling' Campaign to raise awareness..." (The Ad Council and its STARs, which stands for "Skilled Through Alternative Routes." The "paper" ceiling refers to workers who are blocked from advancement because they lack a bachelor's degree.)

♦ "The concrete ceiling describes the additional barriers that women of color face, compared to white women, when it comes to workplace advancement." (3 Ways To Transform Your Workplace To Be More Equitable" by Janice Gassam Asare, Senior contributor, *Forbes*, October 25, 2023. "Concrete floor" is mentioned as a related idea in the Wikipedia article "Glass ceiling.")

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ *The Glass Ceiling: Why it Pays to be Privileged* by Sam Friedman.

♦ Shattered Glass Ceiling Necklace, Broken Glass Pendant, Congratulations, Graduation, Achievement, Empowerment Jewelry. "Worry less about fitting into Glass Slippers and more about Shattering Glass Ceilings." Only 1 left and in 10 carts. "My friend absolutely loved this necklace!" (\$20.00 / Etsy.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "There's Hillary Clinton, who keeps banging against the glass ceiling like that annoying moth outside your window." (Martin Gurri, about politics.)

\*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ "Women that feel this roof of glass, they need to fight and struggle the roof of glass to be successful in their life..." (A Swedish woman.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Neither "paper ceiling" nor "concrete ceiling" are listed as yet in the "Derived terms" section of the Wiktionary entry for "ceiling." However, that list *does* include many variant sorts of ceilings that are barriers to advancement, for example, "pink ceiling" and "bamboo ceiling." Wiktionary is wonderful.

## ceiling (debt ceiling, etc.)

debt ceiling

politicians battle over budget deficits and the ~

biological ceiling

120 years old is the ~ for human longevity

## ceiling (high point)

ceiling and the floor

his numbers have been durable, the ~ (president's popularity)

## celebrate (groups)

celebrate women in birding

she founded World Girl Birders, to ~

celebrate Hamas in the name of 'decolonization'

U.S. students ~ and 'progressivism'

celebrate my body

I'm able to ~ (a *Sports Illustrated* model)

celebrate Black children

her books for very young readers ~

celebrate diversity

building joyful, equitable communities that ~ (queer)

celebrate your differences

her goal is to help you acknowledge, accept and ~

celebrate these differences

every child is different, and you know, we should ~

celebrate their differences

*Wicked* encourages people to ~ (Cynthia Erivo)

celebrates Black excellence

in Newark, a drive-in movie theater ~

celebrates itself

the night Hollywood ~ (the Oscars)

celebrate Juneteenth

Americans ~ after it becomes a national holiday  
NPR employees ~

celebrate (Black History) Month

this week we ~ with an episode featuring...

celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month

Alt. Latino and Tiny Desk ~ (NPR)

celebrates Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

how NPR ~

celebrated multiculturalism

Elizabeth never ~ in a meaningless, smarmy way

celebrate their (childhood) neighborhood

2 cousins ~ in 'Dream Street' (a children's book)

celebrate my sexuality

I'm a sexual being, and I wanted to ~ (singer Ari Gold)

celebrates powerful women

on 'Celia,' Tiwa Savage ~

celebrates the cultural heritage, triumphs, adversities

Black History Month ~ that are part of our history

celebrates all shapes and sizes

a growing body positivity movement ~

celebrate, educate, and empower

we ~ African American/Diverse people (arts & counseling)

celebrate and (we) honor

we ~ the women who made history...

accepts and celebrates

*Sports Illustrated* ~ you for being you (swim model)

centered and celebrated

a museum that ~ queer stories (LGBTQ+ VR Museum)

preserve, celebrate

she uses social media to ~ Inuit throat singing

rouse, unite, celebrate and call to action

American Anthem, songs that ~ (NPR)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “The thin ideal is definitely a white ideal... So celebrating a thin white body as the ideal body is a way to ‘other’ and demonize Black and brown bodies, bigger bodies, anyone who doesn’t fit into that norm. So this is really about maintaining systems of white supremacy and patriarchy...” (Journalist Virginia Sole-Smith. Interview highlights. From “Diet culture can hurt kids. This author advises parents to reclaim the word ‘fat,’” NPR, Fresh Air (Tonya Mosley), April 25, 2023.)

♦ “My son was suicidal, and I knew that celebrating who he was, and his gender and his authenticity was the piece that was going to keep him alive. So we leaned into that celebration. We threw a party the day we changed the name and pronouns.” (A mother.)

♦ “What I wanted to do in this book was to create those kind of poems of celebration for places and people that were denigrated, right? So they’re also poems of reparation for me.” (Joshua Bennett. From “Owed”: Poems That Celebrate Denigrated Places And People,” NPR, All Things Considered, September 23, 2020.)

♦ “How to properly celebrate Juneteenth in the age of commercialization” by Destinee Adams, NPR, Race, June 20, 2022.

♦ “Sandra Oh on celebrating Pixar, puberty and periods.”

♦ “Well, it’s a moment we’re celebrating.” (Tom Goldman on NPR, about two Black quarterbacks starting Super Bowl 2023.)

♦ “This is why I love *Wicked*, because I think it encourages people to celebrate their differences. I think that the things that make you different, the things that you feel that make you outside of normal, are actually the things that make you special. And I would keep growing into those things. Don’t be afraid to be all of yourself. And if you’re around people who don’t celebrate those things, you’re around the wrong people.” (The queer actor Cynthia Erivo, b. 1987.)

♦ “U.S. students celebrate Hamas in the name of ‘decolonization’ and ‘progressivism.’” (The Hamas attacks on Be’eri Kibbutz, Nir Oz Kibbutz, the Re’im music festival massacre, etc.)

♦ “I heard the chief monarch of a thieving raping genocidal empire is finally dying. May her pain be excruciating.” (Uju Anya of Carnegie Mellon University, about Queen Elizabeth II. Carnegie Mellon is a private research university in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, established in 1900 by Andrew Carnegie.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “It’s kind of disappointing to see our work getting attacked by someone we thought would celebrate it.” (Film producer John Martinez O’Felan, responding to criticism by John Leguizamo about a casting decision. “I don’t got a prob with Franco but he ain’t Latino!” Leguizamo had written on Instagram, along with a call to boycott O’Felan’s film.)

♦ “The Florida Gators are no longer celebrating Aaron Hernandez. / The University Athletic Association, which funds the school’s athletic programs, has removed all reference to Hernandez in and around the football stadium. The latest and most public one came Thursday when construction workers pulled up a granite plaque commemorating Hernandez as a first team All-American selection in 2009. The brick was cemented into the ground outside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. / ‘We didn’t feel it was appropriate to celebrate Aaron Hernandez,’ the UAA said in a statement. ‘We put together an immediate plan after the initial news broke to remove his likeness and name in various private and public areas in the facility, such as the South End Zone team area, locker room, football offices, Heavener Complex Kornblau Lobby and the brick display entrance to the football facility. / We were able to implement some of the changes immediately, and this (brick removal) was a more complex process to complete with our vendors.’” (“Florida removes all references to Aaron Hernandez,” AP, July 25, 2013.)

♦ Who gives a fuck; I’m not sure why we’re celebrating this; Who.the.fuck.cares; Why is this a celebrated achievement; attention where I guess... (Members of the climbing community respond to an article about the first non-binary climber to send a 5.14 trad at East Coast Fist Bump in Sedona, Arizona.)

♦ “Already, conscientious objectors—bakers, florists, Web designers—have had to spend years and fortunes trying to defend their right not to celebrate same-sex marriages.” (*National Review*, December 19, 2022.)

♦ “Megyn Kelly celebrated MSNBC’s decision to fire Tiffany Cross.” (Kelly had referred to Cross as “the most racist person in all of TV.”)

♦ A “Celebrate Diversity” T-shirt sold on Etsy shows a variety of weapons, from handguns to assault rifles.

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Fashion is a form of self-expression and Barbiecore celebrates living boldly and authentically.” (Kim Culmone, senior vice president and global head of design for Barbie and fashion dolls at Mattel Inc. The summer of 2023 was the summer of “Barbenheimer.”)

♦ Celebrate Minds of All Kinds T-shirt. Floral Autism Shirt Celebrate Minds Of All Kinds Shirt Neurodivergent Shirt Inclusion Shirt. Arrives soon! Get it by Dec 27-Jan 7 if you order today. 35% off. Sale ends on January 13. “Super cute and very soft!” (\$9.62+ at Etsy.)

♦ Celebrate Diversity Waterproof Vinyl Sticker or Magnet. LGBTQ Ally Inclusive Decal. Notebook Laptop Water Bottle. Fridge Magnet. Gift. “Very cute and very gay.” Sale ends in 5:03:24. Returns & exchanges not accepted. Cost to ship: \$7.23. Enjoy free shipping to the US when you spend \$35+ at this shop. Ships from: Canada. (\$3.89+ at Etsy.)

♦ “IN OUR HOME / IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES ARE WELCOME / BLACK LIVES MATTER / WOMEN ARE IN CHARGE OF THEIR BODIES / LOVE WINS / DISABILITIES ARE RESPECTED / ALL RELIGIONS ARE EMBRACED / DIVERSITY IS CELEBRATED.” (A yard sign. 36x24”. “Love this! Shipped fast and it is really bright and readable.” \$42.99. Etsy.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “Swiss Celebrate Tradition Of Blowing Up Snowman To Ring In Spring.”

♦ People in Damascus have been celebrating the fall of Syria’s President, Bashar al-Assad.

♦ “We all want to be here together, we all want to experience something where we celebrate the amazing life of our queen...” (David Beckham, having stood 12 hours in line to see Queen Elizabeth II lying in state.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, Americans celebrated Independence Day, national holidays like Veterans Day, military victories and the end of wars (“V-J Day in Times Square” photograph), important men and women, and customs. Nowadays, some find the “V-J Day in Times Square” photograph controversial... Various groups celebrate themselves and their particular customs.

## celebrated (groups)

celebrated

Black lives are ~ in her extraordinary quilts

connected, celebrated and supported

all employees are ~ (LGBTQ+ / Silicon Valley Bank)

♦ “Harry Potter star Tom Felton has been trolled by trans rights activists after praising JK Rowling and saying her work should be celebrated.”

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “He was celebrated as a scourge of Nazis, Communists, and subversives.” (“When J. Edgar Hoover Was a National Hero” by Jack Goldsmith, *The Atlantic*, December 2022.)

♦ “Fosters / Australia’s Famous Beer Brand / Founded In Australia / Brewed In The USA / Celebrated Worldwide.”

## celebration (groups)

celebration of what

exercise is now a ~ my body can do (lost 4 dress sizes)

*Celebration of Stimming*

*Flap Your Hands: A ~* (by Steve Asbell)

celebration of (Boston’s unique) accents

a ~

celebration of (Black) artists

the Black Opry is a ~

celebration of (Indian-American) cuisine

*Bollywood Kitchen* is a ~ (a cookbook)

celebration of cultures

it's a ~ (a dress worn at a Met Gala)

celebration of diversity

*Waiting for the Waters to Rise* is a ~ (a book)

celebration of (vulva) diversity

the ~ (Ellie Sedgwick / *Flip Through My Flaps*)

celebration of heritage

the event is a ~ (Nottingham Carnival, W. London)

celebration of (gay-marriage) law

in New York, a ~

celebration of the margins

the ~ (Blacks, women, queers)

celebration of (Haitian) music

Rasmanbleman (Red Moon) is a ~ (an album)

celebration of (indigenous) resilience

the forest will be renamed as a ~

celebration of (uninhibited) self-expression

queer joy is a ~ free from expectations...

celebration of women

*In Defense of Witches* is a ~ (a book)

celebration of (Southern) rap

the South got something to say: a ~

celebration of love, inclusion and strength

it's a ~ (Jon Batiste's "FREEDOM")

celebration of uniqueness, individuality,

representation

Pride is a ~ and so much more...

Neurodiversity Celebration

~ Week (BBC sport / "share your experiences")

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "There can be celebration and joy, and also purpose in protest." (Jennifer Pizer, Lambda Legal.)

♦ "The celebration of the margins—black bodies in motion, women's voices centered, black queer voices centered—is what ultimately vanquishes the state, represented by a NOPD car." ("We Slay, Part 1" by Zandria F. Robinson @ New South Negress about Beyonce's "Formation.")

♦ "We're all sinners. These pilgrims teach us how to be joyful and tolerant." (A Ukrainian, about the annual pilgrimage of Hassidic Jews to Uman, Ukraine. The pilgrimage is known for drunkenness, fighting, nudity, etc.)

♦ "Tinku is a sublime, beautiful act. There's a predisposition in all of us to do Tinku. I believe that denying that impulse is harmful." (An Indian festival of street brawling and drinking in Bolivia.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "celebration" bandwagon...

♦ "It's world sleep day, a celebration of an activity we don't do enough." (NPR.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ *Flap Your Hands: A Celebration of Stimming* by Steve Asbell.

♦ *In Defense of Witches* is a celebration of women. (A book.)

♦ "Pride Invitation-Rainbow Drinks LGBTQ Pride Celebration Party Digital Invite... Editable Template Instant Download..." (Etsy. \$6.97. 25% off. Sale ends on October 1.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "You couldn't even see the beach in places." (Cleaning up tons of trash after a Brighton Beach "Pride" weekend. Trash included broken glass bottles, cans, plastic bags, food wrappers, disposable barbecues, feather boas, parts of costumes, nitrous oxide cannisters, and balloons which can be deadly to wildlife.)

\*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "LeBron James, Lakers have champagne-soaked celebration after In-Season Tournament win."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word 'erroneously' is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move," Subsection "But That Isn't What It's Supposed to Mean!")

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

## cement (verb)

cemented it in the public consciousness

the book really ~ (*Helter Skelter* scenario / Manson Family)

cemented his position as front-runner

he has ~ in the race (politics)

cemented his status as Britain's best rapper

the show ~ (Glastonbury)

cemented her legacy

she ~ as one of the best female MMA fighters in history

cement her surge

she is looking to ~ in opinion polls (politician)

## cemented

cemented in the American consciousness

how did this narrative become ~ (Manson Family murders)

## cemetery (things)

cemetery, the graveyard

here we are in the ~ of ships (Moynaq, Uzbekistan)

bell cemeteries

collection points, known as *Glockenfriedhofe*, or ~

spacecraft cemetery

Point Nemo, also known as the ~ (remote Pacific Ocean)

♦ Between 1939 and 1945, 175,000 bells across Europe were taken by Nazi Germany. They were transported to collection points, known as *Glockenfriedhofe*, or bell cemeteries, the biggest of them in Hamburg. ("The seizing of Europe's bells" by Stephen J. Thorne, *Legion: Canada's Military History Magazine*, November 21, 2018.)

♦ see also graveyard (things)

## cemetery (literal analogy)

biggest cemetery

the ~ in the world (the Mediterranean)

♦ "The Mediterranean has been described as the biggest cemetery in the world." (Migrants.)

♦ see also *graveyard* (literal analogy)

## center (center their voices, etc.)

center the movie on Bobby

it was a clever move to ~ (queer visibility)

center the voices of AAPIs

we ~ (the literary magazine *Slant'd*)

centered the (interwoven) intersectionalities

she ~ inherent in our fight for equality (Urvashi Vaid)

center myself

it's not to ~, it's not... vanity, but... (Chaedria LaBouvier)

centers female pleasure

as the culture adopts a sexual politic that ~ (female hip-hop)

center their voices

this was an opportunity to ~ in this conversation

centered and celebrated

a museum that ~ queer stories (LGBTQ+ VR Museum)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ The New Lines Institute is a think tank that centers authentic voices.

♦ "My belief is that we should be centering the voices and the experiences of the most marginalized people and communities at all times. So when I think about what fat liberation looks like to me, I think about centering the voices of those who live in and who maneuver through spaces and institutions in a fat body." (Zyahna Bryant, activist, who has partnered with the soap and beauty company Dove to promote fat liberation, or size freedom.)

## center (center her family, etc.)

center her family

she has chosen to ~ (politics)

prioritizes and centers

she ~ her kids

## center (society)

center

you drive people from the ~ towards the fringes (extremism)

## centered (survivor-centered, etc.)

centered around the Black American person

representation ~ (Bethany C. Morrow)

centered on equity

a global response that is ~ (monkeypox)

centered on whiteness

two shows so ~ (an Eric Deggans' review)

advocacy-centered

helping LTAs become ~ organizations (ELT)

African-centered

the decline of ~ schools is a loss (Detroit)

Asian American-centered

Reappropriate, an ~ race and gender blog

Black-centered

one of the most influential ~ films (Super Fly)

a burgeoning, ~ film and theater movement (NYC)

mentorship and building ~ community

female-centered

fast-paced, ~ adventure (The Testaments)

gay-centered

gay kids connecting on ~ sites (All Tech Considered)

human-centered

I believe in ~ AI to benefit people (Fei Fei Li)

immigrant-centered

local Asian and ~ groups joined forces to...

indigeneity-centered

~ organizing... (indigenous peoples)

monogamy-centered

~ media suggests that... (versus a "Throuple")

patient-centered

~ health care ("gender-affirming care")

survivor-centered

Special Victims Division is ~ and trauma-informed

trans-centered

we pulled together a really strong ~ education campaign

White-centered

the narratives are still pretty ~ (an Eric Deggans' review)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The celebration of the margins—black bodies in motion, women's voices centered, black queer voices centered—is what ultimately vanquishes the state, represented by a NOPD car." ("We Slay, Part 1" by Zandria F. Robinson @ New South Negress about Beyonce's "Formation.")

♦ "The ways that whiteness is centered in the workplace are endless." ("3 Ways To Transform Your Workplace To Be More Equitable" by Janice Gassam Asare, Senior contributor, *Forbes*, October 25, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis...

♦ "He's the sort of guy who would announce his own engagement during his best friend's wedding ceremony." (Self-centered.)

♦ "It's not all about you."

♦ see also *adjacent* (pop-adjacent, etc.), *centric* (Afro-centric, etc.), *me* (like me, look like me, speak like me, be like me, etc.)

## centering (white centering, etc.)

white-centering

~ is often left unexamined and unchecked (DEI)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "White-centering can be thought of as a system that prioritizes white dominant culture to the detriment of non-white groups and cultures.../ White-centering has been given many names including the white gaze and whiteness as the default." ("3 Ways To Transform Your Workplace To Be More Equitable" by Janice Gassam Asare, Senior contributor, *Forbes*, October 25, 2023.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Centering people's humanity, blah-blah-blah-blah-blah, it was vapor." (A commenter about a politician.)

## center of gravity

center of gravity of Europe

Vienna had become the musical ~, drawing to it...

center of gravity for so many important developments

Asia and China are going to be the ~ in the 21st century

industry's center of gravity

the ~ has since shifted to Europe (fashion / from NYC)

left's center of gravity

elite schools are the ~ (antisemitism, wokeism, etc.)

political center of gravity

Buffalo is not the ~ in New York State

## centerpiece (noun)

centerpiece

its ~ is the Inc. record label (a studio)

a ~ of their argument is... (scientific evidence)

centerpiece of the Circumpolar North

the Arctic Ocean is the ~

centerpiece of his agenda

he has made it the ~ (crime bill)

centerpiece of our (domestic) agenda

health care is the ~

centerpiece of her campaign

her support of Medicare was the ~ (politician)

centerpiece of their culture

the camel is the ~ (Arab Bedouins)

centerpiece of their lives

for many people, work is the ~

centerpiece of their plan

city officials see the pier as the ~ to unify various sites

## central (adjective)

central

the military is ~ (in Egyptian society)

## central nervous system (basis)

central nervous system of modern life

the internet is the ~

## centric (Afro-centric, etc.)

Afrocentric

so-called "~" hair styles

Anglocentric

the conventional ~ narrative is that... (the Alamo)

body-centric

minimize ~ content in your feed (females)

the algorithm is pushing ~ content to you (girls, etc.)

buttocks-centric

an extremely ~ bit of choreography for "Rude Boy"

customer-centric

Earth's most ~ company (Amazon)

Dunne-centric

fans held up signs... (teen boys / LSU's Olivia Dunne)

ethnocentric

I'm ~, I think my race is the superior one

Eurocentric

he upends the ~ narrative (In the Forest of No Joy)

the ~ narrative will always discount African trauma

this ~ stereotype ignores the diversity of a group...

heterocentric

Miller's ~ assumptions are widely shared

London centric

the ads only appeal to a ~ audience

member-centric

a ~ approach to prepare... (webinar / register today)

neighborhood-centric

he ran an anti-establishment, ~ campaign (mayor)

pop-centric

shamed for being a Black woman who made ~ music

queer-centric

the ~ podcast 'Hot White Heist' (Nick Quah)

~ publications like LGBTQ Nation

reader-centric

BookTok, the ~ corner of TikTok (#ACOTAR)

tech-centric

CNET a ~ website, has reportedly been using AI...

woman-centric

she keened in a way that was ~ and matrifocal

womancentric

films I labeled ~ (Bob Mondello on NPR / 2016)

zither-centric score

*The Third Man*'s ~ score (NPR's Linda Holmes)

actor-director-centric

we were focused on creating an ~ process (*Avatar*)

♦ "She keened in a way that was woman-centric and matrifocal." (The Irish singer Sinead O'Connor.)

♦ see also *adjacent* (pop-adjacent, etc.), *centered* (survivor-centered, etc.)

## centricity (heterocentricity, etc.)

heterocentricity

unexamined ~ (Adrienne Cecile Rich)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Microsoft Word marks "heterocentricity" as a spelling error: "no reference information." Wikipedia has no entry. It is recognized by Wiktionary.

## cesspit (noun)

cesspit of snarky poison

you know how social media and Twitter in particular is a ~

cesspits of arguments, misinformation

the comment threads are absolute ~

## cesspool (noun)

cesspool

the neighborhood is a ~ that breeds crime

cesspool of corruption

college sports are a ~

cesspools of fraud

the federal mortgage agencies are ~

cesspool of hate

the website is a ~

cesspool of negativity

the Internet can be a ~ (consumer reviews, comments)

cesspool of character assassination

the Web site is a ~ (gossip site in rural towns)

cesspool of crime, homeless encampments, and drug use

Democrat rule has turned the streets into a ~ (San Fran)

reality-show cesspool

it's hard to stand out in the ~ (TV)

ethical cesspool

he is disgusted by the ~ of Albany (New York politics)

moral cesspool

this is indicative of the ~ that is America (nudity on TV)

notorious cesspool

comments sections are ~s (online)

political cesspool

finally somebody was doing something to clean up the ~

social cesspool

the tenements are ~s (1903)

clean the cesspool

they are trying to ~ (Web)

drain this (stinking) cesspool

he wants to ~ (New York politics)

## Ceuta and Melilla

linguistic Ceutas and Melillas

stranded like ~ (fuzzy semantics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This shows a various nice grasp of geography and history.  
Exclaves are interesting.

## chaff (separate the wheat from the chaff)

separate the wheat from the chaff

we need to ~ (real cases vs. imagined of a syndrome)

separating the wheat from the chaff

G-2 had great difficulty ~ (military intelligence)

## chain (configuration)

chain of camps

the porters established a ~ up the mountain

chain of islands

the southern end of the ~ known as Lofoten (Norway)

chain of mountains

this great ~ (Caucasus Mountains)

human chain

policemen formed ~a (Hajj)

arriving police formed a ~ (rescue boys in river)

professors formed a ~ to block the cops (protests)

island chain

a nearby ~ was evacuated (typhoon)

an ~ that is part of the Antarctic peninsula

mountain chain

the Rwenzori ~ includes Africa's third highest peak

750-mile chain

a ~ of rugged mountains (the Caucasus)

divided into four chains

Tonga is composed of 140 islands ~

## chain (chain of events)

chain of events

the ~ that caused the airliner to crash

problems in this ~ (conception and infertility)

chains of events

describing hypothetical ~, he noted if...

chain of critical events

disasters are triggered by a ~ (engineering, crashes, etc.)

bizarre chain of events

in a ~, a passenger was killed... (NJ Transit Train)

surprise and sadness at the ~ (astronaut arrested)

fatal chain of events

the ~ began at 10:04 (car wreck)

falling debris started the ~ (loss of shuttle Columbia)

hypothetical chains of events

describing ~, he noted if...

## chain (oppression)

people's chains

we must break the shackles of an oppressed ~

invisible chains

she was exploited by “~” (sex trafficking)



## chain (other)

chain of command

see *chain of command* (and *chain*)

chain of custody

drug screeners must follow the ~

chain of evidence

a ~ ties him to the crime

the ~ must be preserved (rape)

chain of (massive) explosions

Lagos struggled to recover from a ~ (ammo dump)

chain of transmission

we need to break the ~ (COVID-19)

chain of trial and error

behind every discovery is a long ~ (astronomy)

cold chain

the ~—keeping the vaccine refrigerated (for measles)

food chain

see *food chain*

supply chain

they have a very efficient ~ (Wal-Mart)

the army's ~ across the open desert is vulnerable to attack

there's a whole ~ that feeds the production of the plane

link in the (global) chain

you're only as secure as the weakest ~ of information

predators in the chain

they were the top ~ (Iraqi terrorists)

break the chain

we need to ~ of transmission (COVID-19)

## chain of command (and chain)

chain of command

contact your immediate ~ if you believe...(military)

requests go through the normal ~ (military)

he forwards the report through the ~ (military)

the information went up the ~ to President Bush

program's chain of command

the ~

launch-control chain of command

those in the ~ (NASA)

top-down chain of command

older workers are used to a ~ (business)

military chain of command

federal military forces remain under the ~

level in the chain of command

the highest appropriate ~ must address...

disregard for the chain of command

his ~ could have gotten him fired (government)

chain of command (soon) broke down

the ~ (Suvla Bay / Gallipoli)

complained (for months) to the chain of command

he ~ about the poor gear

come down from the chain of command

a memo had ~ that said...

forwarded it on up the ladder

the intelligence officer immediately ~ (a letter)

run it up the chain

Irving told him he'd have to ~ (a request for troops)

went outside of his chain of command

he was removed after he ~ (Navy captain)

♦ "You can jump the chain of command if you want and take the consequences, you can disobey the chain of command and take the consequences, but there is no, no situation where you go to the media..." (Acting SECNAV Thomas Modley on his decision to reassign Captain Brett Crozier from command of the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.)

♦ "Miller's incursions extended to the communications department. For example, he requested photos of detained immigrants with tattoos, presumably to suggest that most of those crossing the border were hardened criminals. When he faced pushback, Lauren Tomlinson, a senior DHS communications aide, told me, 'a phone call would go to someone else further down the chain, and the next thing you know, they've got the photos.'" ("We Need to Take Away Children" by Caitlin Dickerson, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022. The Federal government. Usually a person jumps the chain of command, but you can also descend the chain of command. Federal politics during the Biden presidency.)

♦ "Chain of command is everything, and it was not there." (A responder to the Uvalde school shooting. In law enforcement, the IC is the incident commander, and the OIC is the officer in charge.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Martin Sheen character: "Who's the commanding officer here?" / Heavily involved machine gunner: "Ain't you?"... / (Later) Martin Sheen character: "Hey soldier. Do you know who's in command here?" / *The Roach*: "Yeah." View on YouTube: *Apocalypse Now: the Do Long Bridge Roach Scene*

## chain reaction

chain reaction

the ~ can go on for centuries (cyanide pollution)

chain reaction of car hitting car

a ~ (traffic pileup)

chain-reaction accident

a ~ that involved 125 vehicles (fog in Georgia);

low visibility caused a number of ~s (dust storm)

chain-reaction crash

the ~ happened in a snowstorm (highway)

chain reaction wreck

16 cars had a ~

chain reaction, a snowball effect

this will create a ~ (falling in a crowd crush)

## chainsaw (noun)

take a chainsaw to regulations

he wants to ~ (politics)

## chalice (poisoned chalice)

poisoned chalice

the United job is a ~ (English soccer)

the prime ministership has been a ~ (Truss resigns)

poisoned chalice of naval command

Baltaoglu vanished, and the ~ passed back to Hamza Bey

poisoned chalice of a job

it's a ~ (Thomas Tuchel sacked by Chelsea)

poisoned chalice for whoever takes over

the job is a ~ next (Man U sacks Erik ten Hag)

poisoned chalice club

Manchester United join Chelsea as a ~

biggest prize and a poisoned chalice

the job is both the ~ (being the mayor of Rome)

poisoned chalice passes

so, the ~ to some other poor unfortunate (Man U manager)

inherit a poisoned chalice

the next U.S. Speaker will ~ (politics)

wants this poisoned chalice

they'll be lucky to find anyone who ~ (as manager)

♦ "It is not yet clear who will succeed Ms Lambrecht in a job which is considered such a poisoned chalice that many refer to it as 'the ejector seat.'" (The position of Germany's Defense Minister.)

♦ "6 managers since Fergie. They'll be lucky to find anyone who wants this poisoned chalice." (An online commenter after Erik ten Hag was sacked at Manchester United.)

## challenge (TikTok, etc.)

blackout challenge

parents sue TikTok over deaths of 2 girls following '~'

'door-kicking' challenge

masked strangers are terrorizing homeowners in ~

'Footloose' dance challenge

Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick do the ~

headline challenge

the ~ is very artificial (*Love Island*)

internet challenges

~ have been a growing source of panic (injuries / fatalities)

internet drug 'challenge'

15 students in Mexico treated for ~

Keepy Uppy Challenge

Euro 2020 ~ (soccer / see Wikipedia "Keepie uppie")

Ledyard Challenge

his friends said he didn't engage in the famous "~" (died)

online challenge

he may have been taking part in an ~ that went wrong

python challenge

a ~ has done little to reduce the invasive species (Florida)

TRY NOT TO LAUGH Challenge

99% lose this ~ (BabiezTV)

YouTube challenge

girl arrested for falsely reporting friend was kidnapped in ~

video challenges

~ can harm people and even cause death (FDA)

\*\*\* social-media challenges, fraternity traditions, etc.

♦ The blackout challenge encourages social media users to choke themselves until they pass out. Twelve-year-old Archie Battersbee may have been participating in this challenge. See the Wikipedia article "Archie Battersbee case."

♦ "Fifteen grade school students in Mexico have been treated after apparently taking part in an internet 'challenge' in which groups of students take tranquilizers to see who can stay awake the longest." (AP. Guanajuato State.)

♦ The milk crate challenge; the Benadryl challenge; the blackout challenge... (Dangerous social-media challenges.)

♦ Silly and unappetizing; very unsafe; inhaling the medications while cooking could cause high levels of the drugs to enter your body; it could hurt your lungs... (The FDA about a challenge that encourages people to cook chicken in NyQuil. The FDA had previously called attention to the Benadryl challenge, which also involved an over-the-counter medicine.)

♦ "[Gallagher's] friends insisted he did not engage in the famous 'Ledyard Challenge.'" ("Dartmouth graduate who died near campus bridge identified as police launch investigation" by Clara McCourt, Boston.com, August 9, 2022. The Ledyard Challenge is a 'beloved Dartmouth summer tradition' that is also a 'calculated risk'—a student drowned while participating in the challenge in 2005. In the Ledyard Challenge, a Dartmouth student streaks (runs naked) across the bridge to Vermont, and then swims back across to Hanover, New Hampshire, avoiding legal loopholes in both states. Gallagher was in town to attend the delayed Class of 2020 commencement ceremony, postponed by the pandemic. He was 24 years old.)

♦ "Authorities are blaming a social media challenge for an alarming rise in car thefts." (Hyundai and Kia cars.)

♦ "Car crash that killed 4 teens in Buffalo may be linked to TikTok challenge." (The "Kia challenge." Stealing a car and then joyriding in it.)

♦ "NYC subway-track deaths soar, driven by social-media dares."

♦ "Chandra, who didn't know the teens, testified at trial that one of the boys rang his doorbell and exposed his buttocks before running away..." ("California man guilty of killing 3 after 'ding dong' prank," the Associated Press, April 28, 2023.)

♦ "The teens were participating in a dangerous TikTok challenge where social media users use flammable aerosols to create miniature flamethrowers." ("TikTok challenge leaves teen disfigured with nearly 80% of body burned.")

♦ "Challenges like a sculpting contest in which couples try to accurately re-create the male partner's erection out of modeling clay..." ("Trouble in Paradise" by Anna Peele, Vanity Fair, July / August 2022.)

♦ Dares, pranks, challenges...

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "STRAIGHT PEOPLE GO SEE BROS CHALLENGE." (An advertisement campaign to drum up box office for the gay romcom. The film's marketing roll-out was budgeted higher than the production of the film.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Now he's doing the hospital challenge!!!" (A typical disparaging online commenter about a high-school boy who did one of the TikTok "fire" challenges, resulting in an induced coma, multiple debridement surgeries, multiple skin grafts, etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ World War I (gassed); the flu pandemic; dangerous agricultural labor; the depression and hunger; World War II... (The challenges faced by my grandfather...)

## chameleon (change)

chameleon way

in her ~, she's Indian, then Black (politics)

cultural chameleon

he's a ~ (Jack Harlow / demographics)

style chameleons

celebrities tend to be ~, changing their looks...

political chameleon

he was a ~ who charmed France (Jacques Chirac)

she's a ~ in a treacherous landscape (Kamala Harris)

social chameleon

I was a ~, I went from group to group...

describe Liz Truss as a (political) chameleon

you ~, what do you mean by that

♦ "One of his nicknames was the Chameleon, his career was a stylistic kaleidoscope." (The musician Chick Corea.)

♦ Ari Shapiro: You describe Liz Truss as a political chameleon. What do you mean by that? / Ben Judah: Liz Truss has made her career by telling whatever audience she was right in front of at a given time what they wanted to hear. ("The United Kingdom's next prime minister could be a foreign policy hardliner," NPR, All Things Considered, September 2, 2022.)

♦ "I'm so glad I was a Canadian in a way, because the Canadian can take the best of the British, and the best of the American school, and uh we're rather good at that, we're kind of like chameleons, in that respect, that's why there's so many good Canadian comics." ("Remembering 'Sound of Music' Star Christopher Plummer," NPR, Fresh Air, Feb 12 2021, originally broadcast in 2007.)

♦ "She is a chameleon. She pretends to be one thing in front of one audience. She pretends to be something different in front of another audience." (Kamala Harris. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "Folks talking about my voice can step right off. Any kid who grew up in a distinct linguistic culture & had to learn to navigate class environs at school/work knows what's up. My Spanish is the same way." (The politician Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who was criticized by some for affecting a new accent during her address to the 2024 Democratic National Convention.)

### \*\*\* chameleons from the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania

♦ "[Chameleons] can camouflage themselves well... but they ultimately did not outsmart the X-Ray machine." (Smuggled chameleons from the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania discovered in a suitcase at the Vienna airport.)

♦ "Suspected 'witch doctors' arrested over attempt to 'bewitch' Zambia's president. The pair were found with magic charms, including a live chameleon, the police say." (BBC.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "That little lizard the chameleon who changes its colors derived its name in the beginning from the Greek *Khamaileon*, from *khamai*, 'dwarf,' and *leon*, 'lion.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. It's a nice way to think of the word.)

## chameleonic (adjective)

chameleonic

her transformation was so ~ (Taylor Swift's *The Man* vid)

chameleonic and controversial

to the public, she's been a ~ celebrity (Angelina Jolie)

surprisingly chameleonic

the series has proved ~ (*Fast & Furious* films)

## champagne (money, celebration, etc.)

champagne corks

the metaphoric ~ will be popping at Nato (accessions)

do you hear ~ popping in the Kremlin (EU elections)

Champagne Johnny

his high living earned him the nickname ~ (John Osborne)

champaign lifestyle

she led a ~ built on lies (Anna Sorokin)

champagne socialist

~s are far removed from reality (politics)

champagne wishes

"~ and caviar dreams" (*Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*)

♦ "He wants champagne on beer money." (An online commenter about the owner of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.)

♦ "Does Gary not understand that most of these players came to the EPL for more money. They are now leaving for the same reason. Neville is a champagne socialist and not a very bright one." (A BBC HYS commenter about players going to Saudi Arabia. 1897 thumbs up. 324 thumbs down.)

♦ "Collaborating with these gentry was a mixed crowd of wide-minded, wide-mouthed Liberals, who darkened council with pious but disintegrating catch-words, and took care to live very well indeed." (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ "The bubbly was flowing..."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Well I ain't never been the Barbie doll type / No, I can't swig that sweet champagne, I'd rather drink beer all night..." (Gretchen Wilson—Redneck Woman—YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82dDnv9zeLs> Hell yeah!)

## champion (verb)

championing women's voices

we have been ~ (a publisher)

## champion (noun)

champion of social justice

he was a ~

champion of justice and equality

she was a giant in the law, a ~ (RBG)

its champions

each one has ~ (translations of Dante's *Divine Comedy*)

## championed

championed by authors, consultants, and startup

gurus

gamification is ~

♦ "Now that Donald Trump is returning to the White House, what happens to key policies championed by President Biden? NPR White House correspondent Asma Khalid has been looking to how..." (NPR host Michel Martin.)

## change (sea change)

sea change for Saudi Arabia

it's a ~ (ending reliance on oil)

political sea change

there has been a ~ in Virginia (election)

### **change (pocket change)**

pocket change for most oil and gas companies

the fine is ~ (methane emissions)

### **channel (direct)**

channeled (corporate) donation to Texas state races

he ~ (a convicted politician)

channeled his fears in music

he ~ (sickness therapy)

channel his (mental) illness to stay

he learned how to ~ functional

channels (more) money to (local) health centers

his plan ~ (reform)

channeled her unhappiness into writing

she ~

### **channel (through channels)**

through administrative channels

submit requests ~ (military)

through diplomatic channel

India informed the US ~s that...

through operational channels

send NBC reports ~ (military)

through proper channels

a request has to go through ~

submit requests through administrative channels

informed the US through diplomatic channels

Spain ~ that...

go through proper channels

a report has to ~

### **channel (back channel)**

back-channel operation

he was alarmed by a ~ in Ukraine (diplomacy)

supply chains, ~s, costs and cycle times

### **channel (distribution channel, etc.)**

distribution channel

a new ~ has arisen (e-commerce)

supply chains, ~s, costs and cycle times

### **channeled**

channeled to paramilitaries

US dollars have been ~

channeled through the I.S.I.

Pakistan wants talks with the Taliban to be ~

channeled to militants

it is not clear how much money is ~

channeled and exploited

people's anger is being ~ by corporate interests (politics)

### **chaotic (adjective)**

chaotic

Fury's life has been ~

chaotic home

they were raised in a ~ with lots of siblings

### **chaperone (role)**

worldly chaperone

he positioned himself as the grownup in the room, the ~

### **chapter (close a chapter, etc.)**

close a chapter

the decision helps ~ on a painful period (Baylor University)

close a (tragic) chapter

the resolution will help ~ in Balkan history (apology)

close that chapter

we want to ~ in the department (remedy for racism)

it was time to ~ of my life (quit job)

close this chapter

it is time to ~ in our history (discrimination)

close this (dark) chapter

we would rather ~ of our history and move on

### **chapter (other)**

chapter

I'm definitely glad that ~ is over (in a career)

chapter of the (euthanasia) debate

ending that ~

chapter of history

we are spectators in a ~ (a significant labor dispute)

chapter of their lives

as they venture into this next ~ (retirement)

chapter of your life

it's kind of sad to end a ~ (breakup of band)

chapter of our (not-so-recent) past

that troubling ~

chapter in a career

fans witnessed another bizarre ~ that... (Mike Tyson)

chapter in his life

he started a new ~

chapter in the (still-unfolding) story

a ~

concluding chapter

the play was the ~ in a spellbinding story (series of plays)

troubling chapter

that ~ of our not-so-distant past

bizarre chapter  
fans witnessed another ~ in his career (a boxer)

dark chapter  
we would rather close this ~ of our history and move on

darkest chapter  
his capture was one of the country's ~s of the war

final chapter  
the war against terrorism is not near its ~

last chapter  
a bizarre ~ in a divorce battle (townhouse explodes)

latest chapter  
the ~ in the long, checkered history of...  
this ~ has only tightened the family bonds (injury)  
this is the ~ in the tragedy that is Haiti (epidemic)

new chapter  
he is poised to write a triumphant ~ (Obama)

next chapter  
as they venture into this ~ of their lives (retirement)

painful chapter  
it was a ~ in Indian history (white boarding schools)

terrible chapter  
what has been a ~ in the church history (abuse)

dark and forgotten chapter  
it was a ~ in history (Kinkaseki POW camp / Taiwan)

succession of chapters  
the lives of athletes are a ~ (playground, NBA, China)

chapter (of Alpine rescue history) was written  
a ~ (Riesending cave rescue / 2014)

begin the (next) chapter  
he will ~ of his distinguished career

close a chapter  
the decision helps ~ on a painful period (Baylor University)

close a (tragic) chapter  
the resolution will help ~ in Balkan history (apology)

close that chapter  
we want to ~ in the department (remedy for racism)  
it was time to ~ of my life (quit job)

close this chapter  
it is time to ~ in our history (discrimination)

marks a new chapter  
his win ~ in American history (election)

write more chapters  
it's been a storybook season, hopefully we can ~ (team)

write a (new) chapter  
the protests could ~ in Arab politics

write his most glorious chapter  
on Sunday he could ~ (Raheem Sterling, Euro 2020)

♦ "It closes the chapter but hasn't ended the story, has it? I mean, clearly there will be further trials connected to the violence of 2015... Even during this trial there was more violence..." (BBC Newshour for 16 Dec 2020, "Fourteen people convicted in Charlie Hebdo trial.")

♦ "For the Anglican communion around the world, Justin Welby's resignation will, it's hoped, draw a line under what has been a terrible chapter in the church history..." (Home Editor Mark Easton, BBC Six O'Clock News, 12/11/2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It is a book as old as time: a good young person makes a mistake, chapter two is a good, young person is full of remorse. Chapter three is a good young person learns from the mistake and becomes a better person." (Australia Olympic team boss Ian Chesterman, following the bad behavior of some Australian athletes at the Tokyo Olympics and on their way home.)

## character (non-human)

character in all his films  
Scott has described the 'environment' as a ~ (Ridley)

character in her work  
fashion is as much a ~ as everyone else (music videos)

character and a symbol of dislocation  
Hong Kong itself becomes a ~ (*Expats* / Nicole Kidman)

becomes a character  
the music is woven into the documentary and ~

♦ "Hong Kong itself becomes a character and a symbol of dislocation." (Amazon Prime's *Expats*.)

♦ "The year is 1925, and the place is Montana, which is played onscreen by Campion's native New Zealand. Whether it fulfills the role convincingly...is a question that only Montanans will be qualified to answer." ("All In The Family: *The Power of the Dog* and *King Richard*" by Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*, November 29, 2021. Consider the 2003 film *Cold Mountain*. Most inhabitants of western North Carolina who loved the book by Charles Frazier and looked forward to the movie had their hearts broken when much of the film was shot in Romania.)

♦ "Scott has described the 'environment' as a character in all his films... / To play the role of Waterloo, Scott's team scouted dozens of fields in England—"trotting around in Wellington boots in muddy fields, avoiding cowpats," Max recalled—before settling on a farm in Berkshire." ("Napoleon Complex: Does Ridley Scott see himself in the hero of his epic new film?" by Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*, November 13, 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

## charade (noun)

Charade of Changing the World  
Winners Take All: The Elite ~ (a book)

stop this charade  
we need to ~ ("rubber rooms" for bad teachers)

## charge (in, into, ahead, etc.)

charged ahead  
the president ~ with his plans to...

charging forward  
she is ~ with a civil case (a lawyer)

charging into (one of the country's) leading debates

the leading philanthropy is ~ (Mellon / monuments)

### charge (lead the charge, etc.)

leading the charge

Republicans are ~ (for fiscal responsibility)

the young people are ~ (new media)

led the charge

he disappeared when he should have ~ (a politician)

led the (political and rhetorical) charge

the NRA ~ (guns and 2nd Amendment)

led the charge to go

Republicans ~ to war with Iraq

leading the charge to make

she is ~ mandatory (systemic racism / high schools)

led the charge to overturn

he ~ the ban

led the charge for restricting

the three organizations have ~ immigration

led the charge against the notion

he ~ of human-caused global warming

led the charge against charter schools

school boards have ~

led the charge for (educational) reform

he ~

led the charge for (greater) regulation

Democrats have ~

### charged (highly charged, etc.)

charged with desperation and despair

the words, recently so ~...

charged atmosphere

there was a highly ~ in Kenosha (rioting)

charged language

true and misleading information, emotionally ~

charged moment

it was a particularly ~ in American life (2020)

emotionally charged

true and misleading information, ~ language

highly charged

these are ~ issues (protests)

there was a ~ atmosphere in Kenosha (rioting)

in this ~ atmosphere the bombings started (Saudi Arabia)

particularly charged

it was a ~ moment in American life (2020)

so charged

recently ~ with desperation and despair...

♦ "The words 'I'm hungry,' recently so charged with desperation and despair, only slowly reverted to their old function of expressing an ordinary desire for lunch." (Leningrad by the great writer Anna Reid.)

♦ see also *loaded*

### charisma (attraction)

a lot of charisma

he has ~ (a politician)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ According to AI Overview, "The word 'charisma' was first recorded in English in the 1600s. It was originally used in a religious context to describe a spiritual quality or given by the Holy Spirit. Today, the word 'charisma' is used to describe a social grace..." ("Generative AI is experimental.")

### charm (verb)

charmed New Yorkers with his humor

the mayor ~

charmed everyone with her culture, grace and beauty

she ~

charmed her with his good humor

he ~

charmed his way into homes and shops

he ~ (the photographer Peter Skaer)

charm the pants off (just about) anyone

he could ~ (politician Ronald Reagan)

charmed the audience

he ~ (a dancer)

charmed fans

Baghdatis ~ at the 2006 Australian Open (tennis)

charms people

with his gentle manner, he ~ wherever he goes (a boxer)

charmed reporters

while he has ~, others find him abrasive

charmed and impressed

she ~ colleagues with her low-key style and commitment

### charm (noun)

charm bracelet

her ~ spelled out "LOVE"

one of the year's hottest jewelry fads is the ~

charm campaign

Sudan's ~

charm school

beauty pageants and charm schools

charm and beauty

for centuries, visitors praised Basra's ~

charm, warmth and vivacity

stories of her ~ are innumerable

period charm

set in 1980, the show has a certain ~

\*\*\* **magic charms, a live chameleon...**

♦ "Suspected 'witch doctors' arrested over attempt to 'bewitch' Zambia's president. The pair were found with magic charms, including a live chameleon, the police say." (BBC.)



## charmed (charmed life, etc.)

charmed circle

teachers compete to enter the ~ of tenured academe  
they spend their time in a ~ (acquaintances, etc.)

charmed existence

he enjoyed a ~, and then his family was poor

charmed life

she led a ~ (affluent)

charmed run

their ~ finally ended (sports team)

charmed years

for a few ~, he was on top (success)

♦ Traditional medicine and psychiatry may relate to black magic, the evil eye, an evil spirit, a ghost, magic, muti, sorcery, a spell, voodoo, or witchcraft. In Chad and the Sudan, a hijab is a pouch of goatskin or cowhide containing verses of the Qur'an. Traditionally in the desert, hijabs guard a child against the evil eye and protect against scorpions. A vehicle may be adorned with hijabs. Practitioners of traditional medicine include the inyanga, medicine man, sangoma, shaman, sorcerer, traditional healer, witch, witch doctor, and yerbero.

## charmed (charmed by something, etc.)

charmed by the architecture

he was ~ (buying a house)

charmed by the (rugged) beauty

we were ~ of New Mexico

charmed by his speeches

voters were ~ and inspired by his vision (Obama)

charmed by the terrain

the young artist was ~ (the desert)

charmed by her good-heartedness

we were ~

## charming (people)

charming

he was cute, he was ~, he was very athletic... (psycho)

utterly charming

she could be ~ (a narcissist)

## chart (verb)

chart its own course

Iraq is free to ~

chart a (fresh) course

helping convicted felons ~

charted a (new) course

President Obama has ~ for the next two years

chart the future

Iraqis will ~ of Iraq

chart a new path

the leader is trying to ~

chart a new way

we need to ~ forward (politics)

## chase (verb)

chase after their dreams

artists and actors ~

chase (small) effects

studies ~ (unable to replicate)

chase headlines

scientists who manipulate data and ~

## chase down (verb)

chase it (all) down

but what is the implicit comedy of that song, if you ~

## chasm (noun)

chasm between Africans and African-Americans

the ~ (in Ghana)

widen into a chasm

the cracks could ~ (politics)

## chatter (signals intelligence, etc.)

far-right chatter

experts tracking ~ online said...

speculation and chatter

there's a lot of ~ on social media (an issue)

jump in (suspicious) chatter

there has been a ~

## chatterbox (person)

chatterbox

I was a ~ (MLB's Keith Hernandez playing first base)

♦ A box full of chatter...

## cheap (words are cheap, etc.)

cheap

words are ~, let's see what they do

♦ "Talk is cheap, budgets show the true willingness to act." (A congressman.)

♦ "Talk is cheap. All eyes will be on what AJ does with his hands and not his mouth." (Boxing.)

## cheap (life is cheap, etc.)

cheap on those streets

life is very ~ (parts of Essex County, New Jersey)

getting (very) cheap

life is ~ (gang violence)

## cheap shot

cheap shot

he may have thought his ~ was funny, but it wasn't

his comment was a ~, totally unwarranted (insult)

his insinuation is unsubstantiated and a ~

~s get cheap laughs

cheap shot against him

that was a real ~ (a comment in newspaper)

cheap shot against the White House  
she has taken a ~ (political commentary)

cheap-shot artist  
he's a clever ~ (a political comedian)

cheap shot and dirty trick  
he has bashed him with every ~ in the book (politics)

takes a cheap shot  
she ~ at him when she says...

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ In sports, a cheap shot refers to an unnecessary and vicious hit on a defenseless player.

**check (in check)**

in check  
we have to keep North Korea ~

**checkmate (verb)**

checkmate the West's harshest sanctions  
the Kremlin can ~

**checkmate (noun)**

checkmate  
your American critics say you have run out of moves, ~

**checkbook**

open their checkbooks  
a few companies may ~ (reparations for slavery)

**checkpoint (at a checkpoint)**

at progress checkpoints  
assign a grade or points ~ (projects / schools)

**cheer (verb)**

cheer  
some of you may ~ and others will boo

**cheer (noun)**

cheers and boos  
the judge's decision drew ~

**cheerlead (verb)**

cheerlead for big projects  
volunteers are less likely to ~ (Peace Corps)

**cheerleader (person)**

cheerleader  
Roger Ver is its most visible ~ (Bitcoin Cash)

cheerleaders for the Pentagon  
some say they served as ~ (reporters)

cheerleader for the city  
he is a ~ (mayor of Las Vegas)

cheerleader for the industry  
she was a ~, no matter what it was selling (Louella Parsons)

cheerleader for the superiority  
she is a ~ of all things American

cheerleader for war  
he was the exile ~ (an Iraqi)

cheerleaders for war  
women have often been ~ (Spartan mothers)

cheerleader role  
he is in the ~, he wants the economy back up (pandemic)

**\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "In Aristophanes' comic play, *Lysistrata*, the women go on sex strike as a way of ending the Peloponnesian War. Do you think we would be as warlike if women were in charge?" [Delighted laughter and clapping from the audience.] / "It's such a good question. My brief answer is no. [Nervous laughter from audience.] You know, the Peloponnesian war, it was the Spartan mothers who said, 'Come back bearing your shield or on it....' I'm not sure that women are by nature kinder or gentler." (Margaret MacMillan, "War and Humanity," the Reith Lectures, BBC.)

♦ "Wars are almost always begun with gaiety and lightness of spirit, with cheers and songs. The day after the surrender of Fort Sumter the entire land, both North and South, blazed with an ardent and confident patriotism, although the patriotism of the South was precisely opposite to that of the North. The streets of the cities were colorful with flags and smart uniforms. Ladies waved handkerchiefs and threw kisses. The barrooms did the largest day's business in the history of the nation, up to that time... The churches were kept open all day for the saying of bloodthirsty prayers. God, as usual, was on both sides." (A *New American History* by W.E. Woodward.)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Cheerleaders are dancers—who have gone retarded." (The silly 2000 Film *Bring It On*.)

**cheer on (verb)**

cheered him on  
everybody ~ (musician who abused underaged girls)

cheering her on for years  
her mother and father have been ~ (a tennis phenom)

**Che Guevara**

"Africa's Che Guevara"  
the murder of the man known as ~ (Thomas Sankara)

found an unlikely Che Guevara  
in Pospisil, the P.T.P.A. ~ (tennis reform)

**Chekhov (Chekhov's gun, etc.)**

Chekhov's gun of the American experiment  
after Bush v. Gore, ISLT became a potential ~

potential Chekhov's gun  
the case became a ~... (law)

♦ "After Bush v. Gore, I.S.L.T. became a potential Chekhov's gun of the American experiment—a relatively obscure one, gathering dust in a corner... ("Minority Rules: The once fringe legal theory that became a threat to democracy" by Andrew Marantz, *The New Yorker*, June 12, 2023. I.S.L.T stands for the independent-state-legislature theory.)

**\*\*\* Chekhov's trip to Sri Lanka...**

♦ "Chekhov's trip to Sri Lanka left an indelible mark on him." (Of course it did!)

♦ "He is a Quixote, an obstinate fanatic, a maniac..." ("Neighbors" by Anton Chekhov, translated by Constance Garnett.)

♦ "Chekhov took a Volga cruise for his honeymoon in 1901. His wife was Olga Knipper, the actress for whom he wrote *The Cherry*

*Orchard*. He was however, already suffering from consumption, and his doctors had ordered a 'koumiss cure'. Koumiss is fermented mare's milk, the staple of all steppe nomads and remedy for every kind of sickness." ("The Volga" from *What Am I Doing Here* by Bruce Chatwin.)

♦ George Orwell; John Keats (at age 25, who also lost his mother and his brother to the disease); Joseph Rodman Drake (an early American poet, considered part of the Knickerbocker group); Anton Chekhov (dead at the age of 44); the three Brontës; Camus; Bukowski... (Famous writers who contracted tuberculosis.)

♦ "And so, Vityenka, I got ready. I took a pillow, some bedclothes, the cup you once gave me, a spoon, a knife and two forks. Do we really need so very much? I took a few medical instruments. I took your letters; the photographs of my late mother and Uncle David, and the one of you with your father; a volume of Pushkin; *Lettres de mon moulin*; the volume of Maupassant with *Une Vie*; a small dictionary...I took some Chekhov—the volume with 'A Boring Story' and 'The Bishop'—and that was that, I'd filled my basket. How many letters I must have written to you under that roof, how many hours I must have cried out at night—yes, now I can tell you just how lonely I've been." (Anna Semyonovna to her son Viktor Pavlovich Shrum, about her removal to the ghetto, knowing full well that the course of her life was leading to an anonymous interment in some pit in the "holocaust by bullets." Her son would keep the letter in his pocket. From *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part 1, Chapter 18.)

♦ "Don't you dare say anything against Chekhov!" said Marya Ivanovna. 'He's my favorite writer.'" (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part I, Chapter 64.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Playwrights: If you introduce a gun in the first act, it must go off by the third act. See the Wikipedia article "Chekhov's gun." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## chemistry (noun)

chemistry of the team

he insists the ~ is fine (troubled NFL team)

chemistry between client and therapist

~ is crucial (psychotherapist)

chemistry between a boxer and a trainer

the ~ is crucial

Dream Team's chemistry

the ~ turned out to be the hallmark to their success (1992)

screen chemistry

the two actors have so much ~ (movie)

on-screen chemistry

they had great ~ (Donna Reed and John Wayne)

team chemistry

his top priority is to improve ~ (sports)

good chemistry

teams, actors, orchestras require ~

are teams good because they have ~

do teams have ~ because they are good

~ sometimes trumps outright talent (sports team)

sparky, opposites-attract chemistry

Johansson and Tatum have a ~ (2024 *Fly Me To The Moon*)

lack of chemistry

a ~ is blamed for failure

wealth of chemistry

a ~ is credited for success

chemistry can trump talent

good ~ (sports teams)

feel the chemistry

I didn't ~ with him... (a boxer about a trainer)

have chemistry

in sports, good teams ~

hurt the (team) chemistry

he ~ (an athlete)

♦ "It's really chemistry for me. And I didn't feel the chemistry with him." (The great boxer Lennox Lewis, about a trainer. Lennox followed his instincts and chose a different trainer.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Chemistry is when you hang around each other when you don't have to. That's us." (Chris Weber, speaking of the Sacramento Kings, the NBA team.)

## Chernobyl (rainforest Chernobyl, etc.)

Party's Chernobyl

a few thought COVID might be the Communist ~

rainforest Chernobyl

Texaco created a ~ (toxic waste in Ecuador)

## cherubic (adjective)

cherubic preteen

a ~ with a gentle smile

## chess (noun)

playing chess

he was ~ (Larry Bird of the NBA)

♦ "He was playing chess and everybody else was playing checkers. He was three moves ahead of everybody else." (Tommy Heinsohn, Celtic broadcaster, about the great Larry Bird from French Lick, Indiana.)

## chess (chess game)

see *game (chess game)*

## chessboard (noun)

*North Korean Chessboard*

"The ~: What Next for The Main Players" (Wapo)

complex geopolitical chessboard

trying to figure out Putin's next move on a ~

strategic chessboard

Truman and the Soviets were arranging pieces on a ~

off the board

the two other members of the ISIS cell are already ~ (one killed, one in prison)

moves on the chessboard

these were big ~ in Asia (US versus China)

pawns on a chessboard

they must stop being used as ~ (migrants)

square in (Europe's Military) Chess Board

Sweden's Gotland is a crucial ~

removed Mary from the chessboard  
Elizabeth's statecraft eventually ~ (history)

shift its pieces around the chessboard  
the U.N. has had to ~ (troops in DRC)

♦ "The Democrats wrote the rules, then set up the chessboard. We are now playing in the chessboard with the rules they set up." (Voter drop-boxes, which became controversial during the 2020 presidential election.)

## chess match (noun)

chess match  
so far this match has been a ~ (Arguello vs. Ray Mancini)

## chest (beat one's chest, etc.)

chest-thumping cartoons  
liberals dismiss conservatives as ~

chest-thumping passion  
his ~ with a full-throttle style (Jurgen Klopp)

thump his chest  
of course he's going to ~ during an address to parliament

thump his chest about that  
I think he likes to kinda ~ a bit (a politician)

stand up and beat their chests  
terrorists want to take credit, they want to ~

♦ "And so I think he likes to kinda thump his chest about that a bit... When people are looking at turning the page and moving on, the new candidate, the new future, somebody younger, brighter, shinier, it allows him to say, 'Yeah, I'm the guy that beat the guy,' which is a pretty big claim." (David Urban, former Trump campaign consultant, speaking about Joe Biden on NPR. Biden would end up giving way as the Democratic presidential nominee to Kamala Harris, who would end up losing the election to Donald Trump.)

### \*\*\* In the NBA...

♦ In the NBA, when one player slam-dunks on another, it is seen as a sign of dominance. The dunker generally takes the opportunity to posture, often clenching his fists, pushing his chest out, and baring his teeth. The one who has been dunked on reels away in defeat, his posture lowered. The dunker's teammates often jump up and down, wave towels or place them over their heads, and hoot.

♦ The mascot for the NBA team the Phoenix Suns is Go the Gorilla.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Thumps one's chest in a show of dominance or bravado.)

## chew (and chew up)

chew barbed wire in Flanders  
is there an alternative to having our armies ~

chews up his rivals  
his nickname is "the Cannibal" because he ~ (cycling)

chewing our way  
we were reduced to "....inch by inch" (combat)

♦ "His nickname is "the Cannibal" because he chews up his rivals." (The great Eddy Merckx)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Are there not other alternatives than sending our armies to chew barbed wire in Flanders?" (Winston Churchill, in a letter of advice to Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith. The alternative was Gallipoli.)

♦ "I think there will be no home leave for a long time. I don't expect to see Hanna and the children this year. The Fuhrer has ordered us to hold Rome at all costs. This shouldn't be too hard if you have any idea of the kind of country here. It is made for defence and the Tommies will have to chew their way through us inch by inch, and we will surely make hard chewing..." (From the letter of a dead German to a friend on the Russian front. From *And No Birds Sang* by Marley Mowat. Italy. World War II. See the quote directly below.)

♦ "The prophecy contained in the dead paratrooper's letter became a harsh reality, as winter drew in. Our approach to Campobasso...slowed to a crawl in the face of increasingly tough enemy opposition, rugged terrain and steadily worsening weather. Veritably, we were reduced to 'chewing out way...inch by inch.'" (From *And No Birds Sang* by Marley Mowat. Italy. World War II.)

♦ "No, they will fight more actively with empty bellies, and, besides, it would be a bad omen. You remember what a dessert they got to their dinner at Falkirk." (The Duke of Cumberland—"the Butcher"—on whether to allow his army its noontime meal prior to the Battle of Culloden. From *British Battles On Land and Sea* by James Grant. Culloden, 1746.)

## chew over (verb)

chew it over with relish  
the old women ~ (a bit of gossip)

♦ "The speech has just finished—and we'll be chewing over what's in it..." (BBC live news coverage of King's Speech.)

♦ see also *ruminate* (verb)

## Chicago (China's Chicago, etc.)

Chicago of China  
six hundred miles up the Yangtze lies Hankow, "the ~"

China's Chicago  
the city they call ~ (Wuhan)

modern-day Chicago  
the leaders of Chongqing hope to turn it into a ~ (2007)

♦ "With all these fake Chinese Chicagos, how can anyone use the phrase, "the Chicago of China" with any confidence or authority? Fact is, nobody can." ("The Chicago(s) of China" by Lauri Apple, the *Chicago Reader*, August 17, 2010. Her delightful article mentions Chongqing (Chungking, the "Chicago on the Yangtze"); Hankow (now part of the larger area of Wuhan, also on the Yangtze River); Zhengzhou (Chengchow, on the Yellow River, referred to as the "Chicago of the East"); and Shanghai. She includes a link to "Chinese City's 'Chicago' Hopes Face Obstacles," the *Wall Street Journal*, July 27, 2007, which lists good and interesting reasons why Chongqing deserves the epithet.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ US newspaper readers knew Hankow as the Chicago of China in 1918 and also in the 1930s. The city was mostly forgotten until the 2019 COVID pandemic, associated with Wuhan.

## chicken (game of chicken)

see *game* (*game of chicken*)

## chicken (chicken and egg)

see *chicken and egg*

## chicken (chickens come home to roost)

chickens are coming home to roost  
but the warnings were ignored, and now the ~

chickens coming home to roost  
this is a sort of ~ (political battle)

chickens would come home to roost so soon

Kennedy never foresaw that the ~ (Malcolm X)

they came home to roost

these chickens took a very long flight before ~ (scandal)

### *Justice of Roosting Chickens*

*On the ~* (notorious book blaming the West for 9/11)

♦ "You can do something stupid to get out of a jam and get away with it, but the chickens come home to roost." (The Canadian clinical psychologist Jordan Peterson.)

♦ "Yep, could be called a 'shooting pandemic'... Unfortunately the planets are lining up and the chickens are coming home to roost." (Fredrika Wade to Rick Chase on ABC's "Join the Discussion" about the latest mass shooting.)

♦ "We misuse our military power, and the chickens came home to roost."

♦ "The hate is coming home to roost."

♦ "I never forgot what NATO did to Serbia." (Deki. From the 2018 documentary film *A Sniper's War*.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The legend of the "Brazen Bull" is instructive and cautionary. Perillus of Athens invented and built it for Phalaris, Tyrant of Sicily. Its first victim was its inventor and its owner ended up within it. See the Wikipedia article "Brazen bull."

♦ "This rude automaton is a tiger, killing and about to devour a European, who lies prostrate under the savage beast. In the interior of the tiger there is a rude kind of organ, played upon by turning a handle, like our street hand-organs, and the notes produced are intended to represent the growls of the tiger and the moans of the dying man." (Charles Macfarlane, in *Our Indian Empire*, quoted by James Grant in *British Battles on Land and Sea*. Tipu Sultan, the Tiger of Mysore, met his end at the Battle of Seringapatam, 1799.)

♦ Karma; what goes around comes around; live by the sword, die by the sword; you made this bed, now lie in it...

♦ see also *medicine (a taste of one's own medicine)*

## chicken and egg

chicken and egg

this is the ~ that has plagued rural America (housing)

chicken and the egg

it's kind of the ~ (support for a losing team)

chicken and egg problem

it's a ~

chicken-and-egg problem

it's a ~ (plants need oil, oil refineries need power)

chicken-and-egg question

a ~ for you... (what caused what)

chicken/egg scenario

of course, this is a ~ (reading and higher IQ)

chicken and egg situation

so, there's kind of this ~ (NPR political punditry)

chicken or egg thing

it's kind of a ~, what comes first...

♦ "Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Thanks for clearing that up!"

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. God is sitting on his throne on a cloud in heaven, and far off in space the small orb of the Earth is just visible. A chicken stands in front of the throne, next to an egg. God is commanding the chicken, "Make sure that both of you get there at the same time."

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. "My pal Billy P. ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon to see which came first." (The great sports journalist Phil Mushnick, who also has a sense of humor.)

## chicken-hearted

chicken-hearted

he is ~ (afraid)

## chicken out (verb)

chickened out

he ~ and never gave her the letter

## chieftain (noun)

corporate chieftain

~s who sell off shares of their companies (ethics)

banking industry chieftain

a former ~

## child (spoiled child, etc.)

West's spoiled child

Israel is the ~

petulant child

he's a ~... (a boxer)

♦ "He's a petulant child in a hulking body builder's frame." (A BBC HYS commenter about Anthony Joshua after Joshua's second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

♦ "That is a really childish comment but you probably think it is clever. How old are you?" (A commenter on a BBC soccer HYS.)

♦ "Fernandez should be playing in the under 8's." (An online commenter about Man Utd 0-7 Liverpool.)

♦ "10 year olds can manage it, but not the grown ups? Really?" (An online commenter about the soccer rule that says a player must not touch a referee.)

## child (child of the Soviet Union, etc.)

child of the Victorian era

Churchill freely conceded that he was a ~

child of Soviet and post-Soviet Russia

he was a cynical ~

child of Bill Cosby

I was a ~, he was part of the wallpaper of Black America

children of the same (foul) spirit

they are ~ (domestic and international terrorists)

child of the underground

I, too, was a ~ (Zionist Palestine)

## child (bastard child)

bastard child, the second class citizen

creative non-fiction is no longer the ~ (literature)

♦ "He was now Fortune's pet instead of her stepson." (Change in fortune to good fortune from awful fortune.)

## chill (calm / adjective)

seems so chill

Peter ~...

♦ "Peter seems so chill, and I'm like in panic mode here..."

## chill (and chills / feeling)

chill

I get ~s thinking about it (an exciting event)

gives me chills

that song always ~

♦ "That song always gives me chills." (Listen to: Justin Moore The Ones That Didn't make It Back Home)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the U.S., Northerners get goose bumps and Southerners get chill bumps.

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone suddenly feels cold and shivers in response to something.)

## chill (oppression / noun)

sent a chill through the academic world

the sentences ~ (police arrests)

## chilling (adjective)

chilling

the accusations against him are ~ (a terrorist)

chilling account

he has written a ~ of the murder (writer)

chilling development

it is the latest ~ in this chilling case (sniper murders)

chilling effect

this will have a ~ on the coal industry (project vetoed)

these bills will have a ~ (Internet regulation)

chilling incident

there have been two ~s (religious attacks)

chilling message

it was a ~

chilling street name

the crimes have a ~, "Guat-bashing" (Guatemalans)

## chilly (adjective)

chilly toward women's soccer

England has been ~

chilly reception

she received a ~ (a politician)

chilly response

he got a ~ from... (meeting / law-enforcement officers)

## chime in (verb)

chimed in that

he ~ he does the same thing (conversation)

chimed in on the controversy

readers ~

chimed in with his own statement

he has ~

chimed in from Haiti

he ~ (a reporter)

## chimera (noun)

chimera work

UNC has no oversight of the ~ (virus)

## chimeric (and chimerical)

chimeric coronaviruses

the NIH grant was used to construct two ~

chimeric virus

a ~ is one that combines fragments of different viruses

♦ "Proponents of what became known as gain-of-function research claimed it would help prevent pandemics by highlighting potential threats. Critics argued that creating pathogens that didn't exist in nature ran the risk of unleashing them." ("Risky Business" by Katherine Eban, *Vanity Fair*, June 2022.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ CHIMERICAL. "In their mythology the Greeks had a fire-eating monster called a *chimaira* that was believed by some to have the body of a goat, the head of a lion, and the tail of a serpent. When this word finally came into English we began to use it in a poetic way. A *chimera* with us can be a foolish fancy. When we speak of a scheme as being *chimerical*, we mean that it is visionary and won't work, that it is as much of a fantastic figment of the imagination as the old *chimera* itself. It may be comforting to know that a hero by the name of Bellerophon eventually slew this terrifying but imaginary beast." (*Word Origins and Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 3, "These Words Came from Proper Names.")

## chin (take something on the chin)

took the news on the chin

she ~ (Naomi Wolf)

## chin (chin up, etc.)

chin up ladies

~ (England loses)

♦ "We've been here before. The media convincing the public that all we have to do is turn up to the final and collect our trophy. Chin up ladies." (An online commenter on a BBC HYS about Spain's victory against England in the final of the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup. To which a commenter responded: "'Chins' would be more appropriate, judging by the shape some of them are in...")

## Chinatown (the film)

"forget it, Jake, it's Chinatown"

a fatalistic ~ notion...

♦ Watch: Chinatown (1974) Ending-"Forget it Jake, It's Chinatown"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjSshSvQWQA>

♦ see also town (*Chinatown, etc.*)

## chink (chink in one's armor)

chink in her opponent's armor

she uncovered a critical chink in her ~

chink in his armor

she found a ~

the one ~ has been... (an athlete)

he has not been able to find a ~ (tennis)

## chink (flaw)

chink in conditioning

any ~ could mean defeat (Olympic swimming)



chink of vulnerability  
he hasn't shown a ~

### chip (bargaining chip)

bargaining chip  
the proposals are on the table as a ~

bargaining chip in (peace) negotiations  
the fleet was a ~ (World War I)

used as a bargaining chip  
he was kidnapped to be ~ with Washington

### chip (chips fall, etc.)

let the chips fall where they may  
let's have the hearing and ~ (investigation)

let the chips fall where they will  
I'll say what I have to say, and ~ (Jordan Bernt Peterson)

chips may fall  
the ~ in ways that are uncomfortable for all sides

### chip away (verb)

chip away at the barnacles  
Pena Nieto will try to ~ slowing the economy (Mexico)

chip away at an employee's confidence  
he uses insults to ~ (bad boss)

chip away at our information  
these companies will never stop trying to ~ (Internet)

chip away at Trump's lead  
Harris is trying to ~ on the issue (immigration)

chip away at personal privacy  
big tech companies continue to stifle speech and ~

chipping away (at the edifice) with hammer or chisel  
lawyers are ~ (of personal responsibility)

### chloroform (noun)

chloroform in print  
Young Adult Literature is ~ (paraphrase of Mark Twain)

### chocolate (African Americans)

'chocolate cities'  
~ should be viewed as America's heartland (Ernest Owens)

peak Chocolate City  
in the nineteen-eighties, D.C. was peak ~ (Jazmine Hughes)

### choir (preach to the choir)

preaching to the choir  
they are ~ (sympathetic audience)  
we are ~ (a drug program / parents)

"preaching to the choir" problem  
the genre has a ~ ("cli-fi" books, films)

### choirboy (behavior)

choirboy  
he was a ~ compared to some of Hernandez's other friends

### choke (verb)

choking on its own success  
China is ~ (pollution)

choke on those words  
Sanders would ~ (perfect is the enemy of good)

### choke (fail)

chokes during pressure  
she ~ (an athlete)

### choke chain (noun)

choke chain around its neck  
the Kim regime has an international ~, and we can tug it

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old dictionary I use, there is no entry for "choke chain" but there is an entry for "choke collar." Dictionaries are weird.

### choked

choked with emotion  
..., he said, his voice ~

choked with people  
the prisons are ~ who stole to eat (Mexico)

choked with traffic  
crowded intersections ~ (Brooklyn)

boulder-choked  
the ~ Cheoah River in Graham County, North Carolina

briar-choked  
as a boy, he explored the ~ woods behind his house

cholesterol-choked  
he needs an operation for his ~ arteries

smoke-choked  
the firefighters ascended the ~ stairwell

traffic-choked  
it has been an average, ~ rush hour (Los Angeles)

weed-choked  
behind the house was a ~ garden  
the footbridge cross a ~ stream

### chokehold (noun)

chokehold on television  
Homer and Bart have had a ~ ever since... (Steve Inskeep)

chokehold on the zeitgeist  
the film *Barbie* had a ~ (NPR's Aisha Harris)

♦ "I used the word chokehold as a metaphor for how law and public policy work to keep black men down." (Georgetown University Professor Paul Butler about his book, *Chokehold: Policing Black Men*.)

\*\*\* **capable men to the rescue...**

♦ "I grabbed his arm and put him in a choke hold. ...I'm just happy I was able to get him down to the floor." (David Gonzalez, a former corrections officer, about subduing a madman aboard JetBlue Flight 191.)

♦ "'Then I grabbed the AK-47 (Kalashnikov), which was at his feet, and started muzzle-bumping him in the head with it,' Skarlatos said. 'Everybody just started beating the guy while Spencer held the chokehold until he went unconscious.'" ("Obama: Trio Who Thwarted Paris Train Attack 'Represent The Very Best Of America'" by Laura Wagner, NPR, *The Two-Way*, September 17, 2014.)

♦ See the Wikipedia entry "Daniel Penny." ("This article may incorporate text from a large language model.")

## chokepoint (military)

choke points, bridges, tunnels  
identify ~ (military)

choke point or kill zone  
as the enemy moves into the ~

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Words derived from recent warfare include *blitz*, *blockbuster*, *breakthrough*, *breakout*, *basket case*, and *chokepoint*.

## chokepoint (noun)

chokepoints in the Northwest Passage  
include one off Barrow, Alaska, and in Canada

choke points on interstates  
~ and state highways

world's choke points  
the ~—the Suez and Panama Canals, the Bab el Mandeb  
the ~—the Straits of Gibraltar, and the Malacca Strait

oil choke point  
Hormuz is the most important ~ in the world

important chokepoint  
it is one of the world's strategically ~ (Strait of Hormuz)

migratory chokepoint  
the Central Valley is an incredibly important ~ for birds

## choose (chose me, found me, etc.)

domesticated humans  
some say wheat ~

chose him  
history, in its many meanings, ~ (John Hope Franklin)

chooses me  
the part ~, I don't choose it (actor Peter O'Toole)

chose me  
golf ~, it's the most fun thing I have (Aditi Ashok)  
tennis ~ (Bernard Tomic)

found me  
boxing ~, I didn't have to look for it (Bilal Fawaz)

found him  
Tommy has never sought notoriety, it just sort of ~

shape us  
we shape our buildings and afterwards they ~

♦ "Tennis chose me. It's something I never fell in love with." (The extraordinary Bernard Tomic.)

♦ "History, in the many meanings of the term, chose him." ("John Hope Franklin: Race & the Meaning of America" by Drew Gilpin Faust, *New York Review*, December 17, 2015.)

## chop (get the chop, etc.)

get the chop  
players need to take accountability and ~ as well (Man U)

getting the chop  
kids' shows are ~ as Netflix swings the ax  
(programming)

♦ "Chop (get the chop); he had to go; time to prune the tree; put out of his misery; sacked; amputate..." (Online commenters, about Manchester United sacking Erik ten Hag.)

## chopping block (on the chopping block)

on the chopping block  
their heads will be ~ the next election (politics)  
my neck is ~ (accountability)  
many social services are ~  
their collective-bargaining rights are ~ (teachers)

put the school on the chopping block  
officials have ~ (underperforming)

## chopping block (other)

keep the program off the chopping block  
supporters are trying to ~

saved from the chopping block  
19 schools were ~

taken off the chopping block  
some bus routes will be ~

## chops (expertise)

chops to do the job  
she proved she had the ~ (Pelosi / politics)

acting chops  
the film only rarely allows Elba to show his ~ (*Beast*)

curatorial chops  
she proved her ~ (an art show)

narrative audio chops  
NPR is looking for editors with ~ (job advertisement)

foreign-relations chops  
any candidate will have to show their ~ (election)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Read "A language column that will bust your chops" by Merrill Perlman, *Columbia Journalism Review*, January 3, 2020. Her articles about words are wonderful.

## chops (lick one's chops)

licking their chops

energy companies are ~ at the prospect of new oil pipelines  
these guys are ~, they want to eat up the defense (NFL)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When does this actually happen? (That someone licks one's chops in anticipation.)"

## chord (evidence)

chord of jealousy  
some Russians detect a ~ (attitudes to immigrants)

## chord (strike a chord)

struck a chord with her book  
she clearly ~

struck a chord with the (American) public  
these cases have always ~ (capital cases)

striking a strong chord  
his message is ~ with voters (about corruption)

striking the wrong chord  
I'm terrified of ~ (a writer and cultural appropriation)

## choreographed

meticulously choreographed  
the Jan. 6 hearings were ~ (politics)

♦ "Instead, the Jan. 6 hearings were meticulously choreographed... Unlike typical congressional hearings, these would have a script. 'Every word was intentional,' one senior staff member recalled. 'Nothing was spontaneous.'" ("Inside the Jan. 6 Committee" by Robert Draper and Luke Broadwater, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 1, 2023.)

## chorus (chorus of critics, etc.)

chorus of (outraged) denunciation from liberals  
the term brought a ~ (Asianization)

chorus of critics  
every four years a ~ calls for an end to conventions

Greek chorus  
the media becomes a ~, oracles of doom (doubts about...)

joined a chorus  
she ~ of Democrats who have called on Mr. Barr to resign

led a chorus  
Iran's Javad Zarif ~, calling the picture inappropriate

♦ "Eli Manning has veered from the chorus on the turf vs. grass debate... Manning... zagged to the other side." (Creative sportswriting.)

## chorus (resemblance)

dawn chorus  
birdlife, we had this incredibly vibrant ~ (extinction)

## Chris Farley (Chris Farley of silent cinema, etc.)

Chris Farley of silent cinema  
"Fatty" Arbuckle was the ~ (beloved, pratfalls, etc.)

## christen (verb)

christened it the "green hell"  
travelers ~ (Mato Grosso)

christened the plane the A320neo  
Airbus ~

## Christmas

Christmas  
May is the ~ of the limousine business (proms)

Christmas list  
see *Christmas* (*Christmas list*)

## Christmas (Christmas list)

Christmas list of unrelated progressive spending  
the bill is a ~ (politics)

## chum (noun)

chum for the folks  
it's ~ who read political news online...

chumboxes  
Outbrain and Taboola specialize in ~ (clickbait)

internet chum  
he pulled up a Blogspot page bloated with ~

political chum  
Biden and his allies use that as ~ ("fund the police")

♦ "It's chum for the folks who read a lot of political news online and tend to have slanted information diets." (Brendon Nyhan, political science professor at Dartmouth College, about fantastic memes, satire, comedy, jokes, parody AI images, and deep fakes, for example, Donald Trump astride a lion, or Trump dancing with Elon Musk. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A mysterious gut doctor is begging Americans to throw out 'this vegetable' now. But, like, which?" by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *Vox*, May 8, 2019. It's a brilliant article.

♦ see also *clickbait* (noun)

## chunk (amount)

chunk of that traffic  
people in the US are the biggest ~ (to PornHub)

## church (noun)

church  
it's my ~, it's my cathedral (Yosemite on foot in winter)

♦ "It has become my church, my therapists, my playgrounds, and my gym." (Bradley Noone, a 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division veteran about Camp Hale, recently designated a National Monument. Bradley served in Afghanistan.)

## Churchillian (adjective)

Churchillian expressions  
he was fond of ~ like "our flesh and blood..." (a Zionist)

## churn (move)

churned up the coast  
a winter storm ~

churn through the (criminal justice) system  
millions of people ~

## churn out (verb)

churn out books  
she continued to ~, among other pursuits (comic)

churn out so much content  
there is pressure to ~ (films post-COVID)

churn out (unneeded advanced) degrees  
universities continue to ~

churn out jobs  
small firms also ~ (economy)

churns out (around six and a half gallons of) milk  
the cow ~ a day

churns out misinformation  
the rumor mill ~

churning out the (popular) model  
Boeing has been ~ at a breakneck rate (a plane)

churn out products  
factories ~

churn out great product  
I ~ (Questlove)

## cide (ecocide, etc.)

domicide  
“~,” or the widespread destructions of homes (conflict)  
“~” doesn’t appear in the Geneva Conventions

ecocide  
~, should killing nature be a crime...

femicide  
~ is not tracked in the U.S.  
~ cases jumped 145% (Mexico)  
“Italian women call for action against ‘~’” (NPR)  
Biden’s open border has infected US with ‘~’ plague

Francocide  
~, the murder of French people by immigrants

genocide  
see *genocide* (noun)

gynocide  
deliberate ~ (historic European witch persecutions)

Scholasticide  
the event was called, “Stop ~” (Duke University)

scholasticide  
“~,” the systematic destruction of Palestinian education  
Karma Nabulsi coined the term “~” in 2009  
the “~” protest included a song, poems, candles, pictures

suicide  
see *suicide* (career suicide, etc.)

♦ “I’m drunk asf and don’t play with me right now lmfao.” (A text message of filicide suspect Persia Nelson, 24, Schenectady, New York. Her daughter was Halo.)

♦ “There’s a name for the killing of women because of their gender: femicide.” (Mexico.)

♦ “Some researchers and human rights advocates say the destruction amounts to ‘domicide,’ or the widespread or systematic destruction of homes, often during conflict.” (“What is ‘domicide,’ and why has war in Gaza brought new attention to the term?” by Becky Sullivan, NPR, February 9, 2024.)

♦ *Domicide: Architecture, War and the Destruction of Home in Syria* by Ammar Azzouz.

♦ “Genocide = Ecocide.” (A protest sign held by a student at Yale University. The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ “At least he’s putting words to the problem.” (A Frenchman at an Eric Zemmour rally about the term ‘Francocide,’ or the murder of French people by immigrants.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Femicide” seems to relate to husbands, boyfriends, partners, either current or former, who murder a female. It also seems to be a particular problem in places like South America or Southern Europe, and in other areas with “macho” cultures.

♦ A mother or father who murders his or her son or daughter is a filicide. Filicide seems to be on the increase in the United States.

## Cinderella

Cinderella of Tech  
she was hailed as the ~ (Sophia Amoruso)

Cinderella Man  
the real-life ~ (Steve Bunce talks about Maxi Hughes)

Cinderella story  
T.M. Landry school has become a viral ~

Cinderella team  
France will play Morocco, the ~ of the tournament (Qatar)  
we’re a ~, they say we don’t belong (NCAA championship)

### \*\*\* sports

♦ “They didn’t consider themselves to be a Cinderella, an underdog... (A College football team.)

♦ “FAU doesn’t want to be called a Cinderella because they believe they are good enough to be here and good enough to keep winning.” (The NCAA college basketball tournament. A cute headline in *The Washington Post* reads, “FAU doesn’t want the slipper, it wants March Madness crown.”)

♦ “The Diamondbacks’ Cinderella story isn’t ready to turn into a pumpkin quite yet.” (An underdog MLB sports team continues to win against the odds in the post-season tournament.)

♦ “The Bucks had the best regular season record, it was the Miami Heat that beat them, and then they took game one of the Knicks on the road in New York, I’m like, they’re the lowest seeded team left, so are the Heat the slipper-wearing Cinderella team of the playoffs?” (A Martinez, from “NBA playoffs enter round 2 with no clear favorite,” NPR, Morning Edition, May 2, 2023.)

### \*\*\* popular culture

♦ The Cinderella story has been cinematic catnip... (The 1990 film *Pretty Woman*; the 1998 film *Ever After*; The 2001 film *Princess Diaries*; the 2002 film *Two Weeks Notice*; the 2002 film *Made In Manhattan*; the 2004 film *Ella Enchanted*; etc.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “T.M. Landry school has become a viral Cinderella story, a small school...whose predominantly black, working-class students have escaped the rural South for the nation’s most elite colleges. A video of a 16-year-old student opening his Harvard acceptance letter last year has been viewed more than eight million times.” (“Louisiana

School Made Headlines for Sending Black Kids to Elite Colleges. Here's the Reality" by Erica L. Green and Katie Benner, *The New York Times*, Nov. 30, 2018.)

♦ "It's been six years of trying times—so strange when one day you're Cinderella, so to speak, and then in 0.6 seconds, you're Quasimodo." (The actor Johnny Depp, about how people's attitudes towards him have changed.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This story might relate to unjust oppression and triumphant reward; a persecuted heroine; remarkable fortune; the cruelty of a stepmother and stepsisters; a fairy godmother; someone whose attributes are unrecognized; unexpected recognition and success after obscurity and neglect; good character, etc.

♦ The 2018 T.M. Landry school "viral Cinderella story" is instructive...

## circle (verb / predation)

circling

his rivals are ~ (politics)

the vultures are already ~ on the web (health of official)

## circle (a circle can close)

circle is closing

the ~ (around Saddam's regime / Iraqi Freedom)

a ~ (memories of Holocaust dim)

a ~ (Israeli Holocaust survivor returns to free Berlin)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This expression seems to relate to the completion of a development, to something being finished.

## circle (full circle)

full-circle moment

it's very much this ~ (vagaries of fate)

comes full circle

this week she ~ (ends career where it started)

## circle (vicious circle)

see *vicious circle*

## circle (run circles around somebody)

running circles around us

China is ~ (in technology)

## circle (go in circles)

going in circles

we're just ~

## circle (virtuous circle, etc.)

virtuous circle

it's a ~ (see red text below)

♦ "The bottom of the river is developing a coat of the right kind of weed. The clearer the water, the more the weed grows, and then the weed filters the water to make it even clearer—it's a virtuous circle." (Bill Francois of the Paris fishing federation, about the Seine River in Paris, which will feature in the 2024 Paris Olympics, fingers crossed... Super!)

♦ see also *loop (noun / other)*, *spiral (increase)*

## circle (social circle, etc.)

souffle circles

I didn't run in ~, my family ate cornbread...

## circle back (judgment)

circled back to you

this has all ~ (sex abuser gets long sentence)

## circled

circled by a (jogging) trail

the park is ~

circled with (high) walls

the towns are ~ (Palestine)

## circuit breaker (noun)

circuit breaker

a ~ is a short period of tightened restrictions (COVID)

circuit breakers

can ~ stop rumors on Facebook or Twitter

used as "circuit breakers"

lockdowns should be ~ (pandemic)

## circus (media circus, etc.)

circus

this case was a ~ (O. J. Simson trial)

the ~ that is now our political system (New Age candidate)

boxing is a ~ at times (sanctioning bodies / rankings)

circus of the literary circuit

he found the ~ insufferable

circus act

he's a ~ and he's killing boxing (a troubled boxer)

circus trick

oh my gosh, that girl is doing all those ~s (porn)

2019 circus

the ~ led directly to casualties (crowding on Mt. Everest)

travelling circus

the heavyweight division is little more than a ~ (boxing)

walking circus

he is seen as a ~ by some (a flamboyant boxer)

media circus

he became the attention of a ~

publicity circus

he is a one-man ~ (Richard Branson)

unbelievable circus

most Americans won't watch this ~ (government hearing)

♦ "The heavyweight division used to be the pinnacle of the sport but now it's little more than a travelling circus where the ring masters behind the scenes lift your wallets by putting on a clown show." (Captain Y-Fronts, on BBC's HYS about the Fury-Schwarz fight.)

♦ "The circus is back in town, might be a new ringmaster but the clowns are still all there." (Manchester United 1-Brighton 2.)

♦ "Tottenham is a circus and the clowns are in charge." (Soccer snark.)

♦ "The thing that keeps the whole circus moving is money." (The English Premier League / soccer.)

♦ “Celebrity trials are relatively frequent, and they are often media circuses.” (Harvey Weinstein, Danny Masterson, Johnny Depp versus Amber Heard, Gwyneth Paltrow, etc. From “Gwyneth Paltrow’s Trial Is Her Best Role in Years” by Naomi Fry, *The New Yorker*, March 30, 2023.)

♦ “Oh my gosh, that girl is doing all those circus tricks...” (A female consumer of porn.)

\*\*\* “**Fraulein Jeanette and Her Amazing Bareback Riders...**”

♦ “On July 30, 1883, John and Anna Wilson’s Great World Circus, long expected and universally welcomed, finally arrived in Batavia. / They had been to Batavia many times before, the canny Scotswoman Mrs. Wilson well knowing they could be certain of a grand colonial crowd... / And so every imaginable act was on hand: tightrope-walkers, fire eaters, a pigeon charmer, an American who could somersault over eight horses, the Nelson Family of Acrobats, Hector and Faue the Lords of the Trapeze, Fraulein Jeanette and Her Amazing Bareback Riders, William Gregory the Gymnast King, the Well-Known Sweetheart from Earlier Years, Miss Selma Troost... / John Holtum, known around the world as the Cannonball King, was perhaps the stellar attraction...” (*Krakatoa* by Simon Winchester, who mentions two other incidents that occurred during that visit. First was a tremendous bar fight that broke out between members of the circus at the Hotel des Indes, “said to be the grandest hotel in the entire Dutch empire.” Second was an incident at the same hotel involving a Miss Lochart and a small elephant. She had moved the elephant into her rooms, and it had gone berserk.)

## cis (affix)

cis-Alpine

~ Italy (versus trans-Alpine Italy)

cisgender

~ (versus transgender)

cislunar

we’ve kicked open the door for a ~ economy (IM-1)

♦ “We’ve kicked open the door for a robust thriving cislunar economy in the future. That’s compelling.” (Steve Altemus, Chief executive officer and co-founder of Intuitive Machines, about its lunar lander, IM-1 / *Odysseus* / *Odie*.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ In Latin, *cis-* means “this side of” and *trans-* means “the other side of, beyond.” As viewed from Rome, “cisalpine” means “on this side of the Alps” and “transalpine” means “across / on the other side of the Alps.”

## citadel (the Citadel, etc.)

Citadel LLC

~ is one of the world’s largest asset managers (\$35 billion)

the Citadel

~, the Military College of South Carolina

Operation Citadel

~ was the German attack that initiated the Battle of Kursk

## citadel (noun)

citadel of our democracy

the Capitol is the very ~

citadel of segregation

whites detected a crumbling in the ~ (the South)

citadels of free inquiry

universities are supposed to be ~ but... (campus censorship)

attacks on citadels

this was only one of Valla’s ~ of orthodoxy

## citizen (as verb)

citizen

“to ~” is to participate, understand power

“to~” is to value the collective, invest in relationships

How To Citizen

his podcast is ~, he uses it as a verb (Audi Cornish)

♦ “First, to citizen is to participate. It’s a verb, not a noun, not an adjective. It’s to show up. All right?” (“How To Citizen With Baratunde,” a production of iHeartRadio Podcasts.)

## civil war (noun)

civil war within the world

it’s nothing less than a ~ of football (proposed ESL league)

GOP civil war

Missouri emerges as new beachhead in ~

\*\*\* **an international perspective...**

♦ “Washington just felt like Baghdad... / I was just so struck with the America I’d lived in had become unrecognizable from the America I fell in love with. It was in such a state of disunion, a state of cold civil war, really. Such a polarized nation...” (“Journalist Nick Bryant reflects on life at a crossroads,” *abc listen* presented by Geraldine Doogue, Fri 3 Sep 2021. A 21-minute listen. A first-rate account by an educated, international, professional man with a wife and kids.)

## claim (stake a claim)

staking his claim to be the moderate

he is ~ (a politician)

laid claim to the feminist mantle

she has ~

## claim (kill)

claimed the life

a devastating accident ~ of Jacopo Venzo (cycling)

claimed (an estimated) 10,000 lives

a killer heat wave ~ (France)

claimed (more than) 16,000 lives

the virus has ~

## claim (take)

claimed another big scalp

Palace ~ (victory against Tottenham Hotspur)

claim a seat

the drive was on to ~ at the table (minority poets)

claimed victory

he ~ in a photo finish (Mathieu van der Poel)

## claim (groups / verb)

claim their humanity

he was trying to encourage Black sanitation workers to ~

claim ownership

Native American tribes ~ of land (national parks)

claim their joy



*Renaissance* gives people permission to ~ (ballroom)

claim their rights

they were ready to ~ as American citizens (Black soldiers)

claim their share

Black voters would still have to ~ of reparations...

claim (their own) space

previously marginalized groups ~ in pop culture (NPR)

claim their spaces

those who've worked to ~ (LGBTQ musicians)

claim their stories

“‘After Sappho’ brings women in history to life to ~” (NPR)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Granting reparations in this way would empower African Americans but gifts nothing: Black voters would still have to claim their share of reparations at ever election...” (We used to count black Americans as 3/5 of a person. For reparations, give them 5/3 of a vote” by Theodore R. Johnson, *The Washington Post*, August 21, 2015.)

♦ “Indigenous peoples claim their lands because they were there first or have occupied them since time immemorial. They are also groups that have been conquered by peoples radically different, ethnically or culturally, from themselves. They have thus been subordinated by or incorporated into alien states that treat them as outsiders and, usually, as inferiors... Indigenous or tribal peoples are among the world's most underprivileged minorities, facing the constant threat of genocide or ethnocide. (David Maybury-Lewis, founder of the group “Cultural Survival.”)

♦ “Here's the basic problem. Bedouin claim ownership of about six percent of the land in Negev, Israel rejects that claim.” (From “Bedouins Fight Israel's Efforts to Move Them” by Eric Westervelt, NPR, All Things Considered, August 9, 2007.)

♦ The Canadian War Museum is Canada's national museum of military history. It is one of the world's most respected museums for the study and understanding of armed conflict. The Museum is located in Ottawa, Ontario. I would like to acknowledge that the land on which the museum is located is on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. The Canadian War Museum emphasizes the human experience of war throughout its galleries...” (Caroline Dromaquet, Director General, Canadian War Museum Virtual Tour, YouTube.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ Joseph Glidden's design for barbed wire wasn't the first, but it was the best. / There was a reason [people] were so hungry for it. / A few years earlier, President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Homestead Act of 1862. / The act specified that any honest citizen—including women, and freed slaves—could lay claim to up to 160 acres (0.6 sq km) of land in America's western territories. All they had to do was build a home there and work the land for five years. / But the prairie was a vast and uncharted expanse of tall, tough grasses, a land suitable for nomads, not settlers. It had long been the territory of the Native Americans...” (“‘The devil's rope’: How barbed wire changed America” by Tim Harford, BBC, 7 August 2017. In that article, Tim Harford writes: “The English 17<sup>th</sup> Century philosopher John Locke—a great influence on the founding fathers of the United States—puzzled over the problem of how anybody might legally come to own land. Once upon a time, nobody owned anything.” Inclosing an area with barbed wire helped a person to “own” it. It's an excellent article.)

♦ “Indigenous leaders and activists have mixed feelings about land acknowledgments. While some say they are a waste of time, others are working to make the well-meaning but often empty speeches more useful... They've been parodied on TV, in series like *Reservation Dogs*...” (“So you began your event with an indigenous land acknowledgement. Now what?” by Chloe Veltman, NPR, All Things Considered, March 15, 2023.)

♦ “If it becomes routine, or worse yet, is strictly performative, then it has no meaning at all. It goes in one ear and out the other.” (Kevin Gover, about indigenous land acknowledgments.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ MINE, adj. Belonging to me if I can hold or seize it. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

**clamor (verb)**

clamoring for an investigation

they have been ~ of the investigators (politics)

clamor for playlists and show lineups

listeners ~ that reflect diversity (Blacks, gays, etc.)

**clampdown (noun)**

clampdown

flights have been cancelled since the ~ began (eruption)

clampdown by the authorities on credit

a new ~ could hurt domestic demand

clampdown on opponents

the arrest are part of a broader ~

government clampdown

the ~ includes a strict curfew

major clampdown

security forces engaged in a ~

vicious clampdown

the ~ has estranged millions from the regime

promoted a clampdown on intellectuals

the government ~

**clamp down (verb)**

clamp down on criminal activity

we must ~ in the informational sphere (ransomware)

**clap (noun)**

claps from 49 people

~ for “A message from Coinbase CEO...”

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “I applaud you!”

**clap back (contempo-speak / verb)**

claps back at (Lightfoot's) comments

Chicago alderman ~ about his father

clapping back at criticism

she is ~ of her looks (an actor)

claps back at critics

Kristin Davis ~

claps back at haters

she ~ over her wrestling name (Scissor Melong)

clapped back at an Instagram hater

Jennifer Meyer ~ who claimed...

clapped back at the person

she ~ for being sexist (accused her of wearing vulgar dress)

claps back at (body-shaming) trolls  
Sydney Sweeney ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the "clap back" entry at Merriam-Webster. Click on "related articles" and then click on "What's a 'Clapback.'" The article states this AAVE word literally meant to shoot someone.

**clap back (contempo-speak / noun)**

satisfying clap back

Oh this is a very ~ (Greta Thunberg vs. Andrew Tate)

♦ "Sam [Sanders of NPR] has been writing recently about tweetstorms, and we used that as part of a broader conversation about the culture place and execution of the 'clapback' (whether it still needs quotation marks is up for debate, but we'll play it safe)." ("Pop Culture Happy Hour: 'Fate Of The Furious' Plus Clapbacks and Feuds" by Linda Holmes, NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, April 21, 2017.)

♦ Andrew Tate's response to Greta Thunberg's clap back has not gotten the credit it deserves. It was, "How dare you?!", which Greta herself had said previously, in a different context, and which is a meme. Funny! Who can keep up?

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the "clap back" entry at Merriam-Webster. Click on "related articles" and then click on "What's a 'Clapback.'" The article states this AAVE word literally meant to shoot someone.

**clarify (verb)**

clarify details

law enforcement attempted to ~ Thursday (Uvalde)

**clarity (adjective)**

clarity on how

we need full ~ such a tragedy happened (Flight 752)

clarity of purpose

without scrutiny, there could be no ~ (war)

**clash (verb)**

clashed with the network

but he ~ and resigned (a reporter)

clashes with these local laws

what happens when free speech ~ (Twitter in India, etc.)

**clash (noun)**

clash

the ~ showed how a small spark could ignite another war

clash with Henry Kissinger

he left government after a ~

clash between barbarism and civilization

it's a ~ (Netanyahu about Israel-Hamas war, Iran)

generational clash

this is a ~ between two progressives (politics)

maritime clash

the ~ has hardened opinion

wild clash

a ~ erupted during a motorcycle rally

**claw (verb)**

fought and clawed

once you've ~ your way up the tenure ladder (academia)

scratch and claw

she is going to ~ for the maximum she can get (politics)

**claw (noun)**

claw of the pincer

he wanted to see the southern ~ on the map (war)

tooth and claw

Nature, red in ~

♦ "In those days, nothing could be worse than to be an animal without claws or teeth yet no inclination to be devoured." (*The Betrothed* by Alessandro Manzoni.)

**clay (noun)**

soft clay

he is ~, you can manipulate him (politics)

**clean (verb)**

clean the cesspool

they are trying to ~ (of the Web)

clean our shame

kill yourself and ~ or we will kill you first (honor killing)

**clean (computer / verb)**

clean

confirm tracker removal ~

**clean (come clean)**

came clean

he ~ and confirmed what many had suspected

come clean

if you're a sinner, ~ (a preacher)

instead of letting the questions fester, why not ~

come clean about the origins

they have refused to ~ of the coronavirus

come clean with the information

they should ~ they have (nuclear power plant)

♦ "If boxing wants to come clean they should refuse to sanction this rubbish." (Ngannou versus Joshua)

**clean (a clean record, etc.)**

clean

my name is ~ (falsely convicted, then exonerated)

she has been ~ for two years (an addict)

clean of corruption

he is widely viewed as ~ (government)

clean (final) draft

the writer finally produced a ~ (on a typewriter)

clean money

it's hard to separate dirty money from ~ (sports)

clean, evocative prose

he crafts imaginative narratives using ~

clean (driving) record

I have a ~

## clean out (verb)

clean them out

if there are any VC in there, that will sure as hell ~

## cleanse (make clean)

cleanse language of any trace

~ of privilege, hierarchy, bias, or exclusion

cleansed him of his sins

being Obama's vice-president ~ (Joe Biden)

♦ "The murk of the trenches cleansed his rhetoric of cliché." (Wilfred Owen.)

## cleanse (violence)

cleanse the area of agents

we must ~

cleanse the Foca area of Muslims

the purpose of the Serb campaign was "to ~"

cleansing their enemies

they are ~ (government loyalists against protesters)

♦ "All the animals come out at night... It's sick, venal. Someday a real rain will come and wash the scum off the streets." (Travis Bickle in the 1976 film *Taxi Driver*. Watch: "Someday A Rain Will Come And Wash All the Scum Off The Streets" | *Taxi Driver* | CineClips)

## cleansing (ethnic cleansing)

victims of ethnic cleansing

they claim they are the ~

## clean up (speech)

cleaned up the language

they have ~ to make Mark Twain available to schools

♦ "I shudder, I really shudder, at the thought that great swathes of art and literature would suddenly be under pressure to the point of being outlawed because sentiments that a character might have expressed normally 100 or even 50 years ago have made the whole work toxic. Do I want Huckleberry Finn to be altered or put on some kind of restricted list? The answer is no." (The playwright Tom Stoppard. From Talk by David Marchese, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 4, 2022.)

## clean up (improve)

clean up your act

you need to ~

clean up your document

review and ~ (text document)

clean up its image

in a drive to ~, the club holds charity events (bikers)

clean up L.A.

he unsuccessfully ran on a law-and-order platform to "~"

clean up the mess

he has had to ~ the previous administration created

we need to ~ in government (politician)

cleaning up this mess

we're ~ (diplomacy)

clean up (Mexico's human rights) record

Fox has promised to ~, but...

clean up her reputation

if the book is seen as an attempt to ~...

clean up their resumes

even engineers have learned to ~

clean up the sport

it may be impossible to ~ of cycling (Tour de France)

clean up the (education) system

it will be difficult to ~

♦ "Jen Psaki is still cleaning up on Aisle Biden—but this was a lie too far." (US representative from California Darrell Issa, about a falsehood in Psaki's book *Say More*.)

## cleanup (cleanup operation, etc.)

cleanup operation

she was a victim of a government ~ against the rebels

## clear (crystal clear)

crystal-clear

it was ~ that...

crystal clear

the Second Amendment is ~

crystal-clear

the trouble is the show doesn't have a ~ message

## clear (perception)

clear picture

confused parents have no ~ of their kids

clear seeing

the crystal was the symbol of the mind and of ~ (Navaho)

## clear (clear conscience)

clear conscience

you can sell them to widows and orphans with a ~

## clear (in the clear / into the clear)

out of the woods and into the clear

we are not ~ yet (pandemic)

♦ An ABC news reader, speaking about a resurgence of COVID, warned, "Another reminder that we are not out of the clear just yet." Surely, she meant, "out of the woods and into the clear."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "You can only go halfway into the darkest forest, then you are coming out the other side." (Chinese.)

## clear (unambiguous)

clear

it was not ~ how many would take the advice

it is not ~ if...  
 it's not ~ how long the warming cycle will last  
 make it ~ that it was nobody's fault  
 as many writings of the frontier era make ~  
 the specific target of the threats was not ~ (terrorism)  
 dirty air is often blamed, but its role isn't ~ (asthma)  
 the cause of the blast was not immediately ~

clear to him  
 what was ~ was invisible to others (native tracker)

clear how  
 it's not ~ one would deter an attack like 9/11

clear whether  
 he did not make ~ he supported a timeline or a deadline

clear if  
 it is not ~ they are using any sterile technique at all

clear directions  
 the nurse must give ~ (when delegating tasks)

clear evidence  
 we see ~ that...

clear goal  
 the decisive use of force with a ~ (military)

clear indication  
 the results from this testing provided the first ~ of...

clear link  
 no ~ between thimerosal and autism has been found

clear objectives  
 establish ~ (warfare)

clear (but unstated) objective  
 the ~ was to...

clear proof  
 the company had ~ the drug was dangerous

clear provenance  
 museums should refuse antiquities without a ~

clear sign  
 take it as a ~ he's not interested

clear signal  
 no ~s from the miners had been heard since... (cave-in)

clear strategy  
 we need a ~ to achieve those goals (Iraq)

clear threat  
 the town seemed under ~ of destruction (wildfire)

clear warnings  
 the pilot missed ~ and crashed (airport)

clear warnings  
 signs should give ~ of the end of the detour (military)

clear directions and instructions  
 did the nurse give ~

clear guidelines

have ~ on what behavior is not acceptable

clear, concise (m)  
 the commander issues ~ orders and guidance

clear, concise, and complete  
 make the text ~ (military message)

clear and consistent  
 be ~ (disciplining a toddler)

clear and convincing  
 there is no ~ proof that...

clear and present  
 experts see a ~ danger (terrorism / Olympics)

clear and thorough  
 explains information in a ~ manner (nurse assistant)

clear, unambiguous  
 provide ~ instructions (teachers)

become clear  
 it has ~ that reversing it will require... (global warming)

make clear  
 as many writings of the frontier era ~  
 he did not ~ if he supported a timeline or a deadline

make it clear  
 ~ that it was nobody's fault

made his position clear  
 he ~

## clear-eyed (adjective)

clear-eyed about the risks  
 we are ~

## clear up (verb)

clear (all) this up  
 he could ~ by releasing the records (controversy)

## click (verb)

clicking  
 the team is ~

## click (and clicks / noun / computer)

get clicks  
 extremists and political opportunists trying to ~

get clicks for the beeb  
 ~ (BBC / see quote below)

♦ "Nobody pays any attention to this gibberish outside of media looking for clicks. Which of course worked on me." (Clicker's remorse.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Have those commenting on the ratings not worked out that you are falling into a trap? / It's a pointless exercise, there for the trolls and tribal fools to manipulate (and get clicks for the beeb). / They then get more clicks when you whine about them. / Can't believe anyone even looks at them TBH." (A commenter about some soccer game. "The beeb" is the BBC.)

## clickbait (noun)

### clickbait

- ~ is being replaced by subscriber bait (paywalls)
- ~ will be with us always

### clickbait headlines

NPR is posting fewer ~ (Elizabeth Jensen / 2017)

### clickbait stories

the mandate was writing ~ to pump up traffic for ad revenue

### video clickbait

“ripped from the headlines” docs can function as ~

### forms of “click bait”

catchy headlines and other ~ (information and warfare)

### dismissed the claims as clickbait

McGraw’s personal attorney ~

### referred to the article as “clickbait”

he ~ (a sports controversy)

- ♦ ‘Explosive sex’ wins top wildlife photo award (BBC)
- ♦ Scientists discover clitorises in female snakes (BBC)
- ♦ Do Dolphins living near Wales have a Welsh accent? (BBC)
- ♦ Farmer survives crocodile attack by biting back (BBC)
- ♦ Gorilla Behaves Weird, Then Staff Notices His... (Yahoo)
- ♦ A Tasty Looking Moon And Sharing Caring Chimpanzees (NPR)
- ♦ “Hundreds of golden retrievers gather in the Highlands.” (BBC, “Most Watched.”)
- ♦ “4,000 beagles find their forever families.”
- ♦ “I’m spoiling my dying dog with hotel stays and steak dinners—it’s like losing a child.” (The New York Post.)
- ♦ “Airlines hate when you do this (but can’t stop you)!” (Substitute anything for “Airlines.” Tiresome.)
- ♦ Space sleeping bag to stop squashed eyeball disorder (BBC)
- ♦ Teachers ‘should not be crawling on ice for money (ABC)
- ♦ “Want to quickly spot idiots? Here are five foolproof red flags.” (The first foolproof red flag is if you click on this.)
- ♦ “You’ve been spreading butter wrong your whole life.”
- ♦ “Have you been pooping wrong your whole life? Doctor reveals ‘hack.’”
- ♦ “Is your neighbor a serial killer? Beware of these warning signs.”
- ♦ Canada’s 6,000-year-old ‘Silk Road’ (BBC. The article is about the Nuxalk-Carrier Grease Trail in British Columbia, which is 279 miles long.)
- ♦ “Yet another clickbait title and I fell for it.” (An online commenter reacting to an article about Sydney Sweeney.)
- ♦ “Ridiculous clickbait. BBC is in the gutter with everyone else.” (An online commenter, about yet another useless article about Manchester United.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ “In the disinformation world, we know that those questioning headlines are just clickbait.” (For example, “Can you have sex while pregnant?” Many pregnancy apps not only spread misinformation but also have the malign intent to make money off of pregnant women.)
- ♦ “A mysterious gut doctor is begging Americans to throw out ‘this vegetable’ now. But, like, which?” by Kaitlyn Tiffany, Vox, May 8, 2019. It’s a brilliant article.
- ♦ Occasionally, excellent articles and authors are defiled by outlandish clickbait headlines. A good example is “Space telescope records baby star’s first screams” by Jonathan Amos, science

correspondent, BBC, November 3, 2023. Amos is a superb science reporter.

- ♦ “Threading the needle of writing a good headline while avoiding the clickbait trap comes down to honesty, Lorenz told *The Dispatch*. ‘The best way to be honest is to have a conversation with yourself, which is, “If I was shown this headline and I clicked into the story, would I be disappointed in what I’m getting on the other end of it?”’ (“The Writer of This Article Also Wrote This Headline and That’s Rare: Everything you need to know about headlines and the art of writing them” by Ryan Brown, *The Dispatch*, June 12, 2021.)

♦ see also *chum* (noun)

## cliff (glass cliff)

### got pushed off a glass cliff

she ~ (set up to fail)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ This is a variation of the glass ceiling. It refers to putting a woman or minority in a position of power in a bad organization, in which they are bound to fail.

## cliff (fall off a cliff, etc.)

### eviction cliff

the bill will prevent them from falling off an ~ (relief)

### fiscal cliff

the country is headed off a ~ of runaway spending

### on the edge of the cliff

we’re ~, we don’t have much time to back away (diplomacy)

### dropped off a cliff

I noticed that sales just ~ (online fake negative reviews)

### fall off a cliff tomorrow

we’re not going to ~ in terms of vaccine efficiency

### fell off a cliff

but then demand ~ (poor economy)

### fallen off a cliff

venture capital investing ~ (low returns)

### fallen off an economic cliff

we have just ~ (recession)

### going over a cliff

the economy is ~

### heading over a cliff

Joe Biden is asleep at the wheel and we’re ~ (politics)

### push American off a (fiscal) cliff

political paralysis may ~

- ♦ “He has put himself on a one-way road heading toward a cliff and there is no turning back.”

- ♦ “Social Media made everyone narcissistic. I feel like the world went off a cliff around 2007/2008.” (An online commenter about four maternity nurses who got fired for disparaging patients on TikTok.)

## cliffhanger (noun)

### legal cliffhangers

~ include a Hail Mary pass in 2009 (Death Row case)

### \*\*\* A real life cliffhanger...

- ♦ A real life cliffhanger. The dangerous rescue caught on camera... Take a look at this. It’s a chopper rushing to save a man clinging for

life on the side of a cliff in San Francisco. See him holding on high above the beach." (NBC News.)

## climate (work climate, etc.)

climate of cooperation

a ~ between the media and police

climate of fear

there is still a pervasive ~ (Basra under Baath control)

climate of (growing) hostility

coming of age in a ~ to immigration

climate of intimidation

an election marred by low turnout and a ~

climate of violence

a ~ has always run through American politics

climate of fear and anxiety

people are living in a ~

climate of fear and intimidation

people live in a ~ (Iraq / Baath party)

climate of backlash

today in the ~ against bilingual education

climate review

Harvard College conducted what it referred to as a "~"

climate or (school) culture

in education circles, this is known as school ~

Zimbabwe's poisonous political climate

the report details ~

command climate

our ~ surveys measure toxic leadership (military)

you are accountable for true ~ (military officers)

investment climate

the nanotechnology ~ is warming up

work climate

a negative ~ is created

classroom climate

establish a ~ that supports learning

create a ~ that is accepting, comfortable, and

noncompetitive

revenue-driven climate

UCLA is in a ~ (coach fired for losing record)

bitter (political) climate

the increasingly ~ ahead of elections next summer

negative (work) climate

a ~ is created

new climate

in this ~ (Black Lives Matter, race, DEI, etc.)

poisonous (political and rhetorical) climate

politics suffers from a ~

political climate

the increasingly bitter ~ ahead of elections

a reporter asked him if he was afraid, given the ~

racial climate

the ~ in our country today

social climate

the ~ is bad there (a black / U-Michigan)

tense climate

the ~ following the terrorist attacks

toxic (command) climate

he fostered a ~ (military)

create a (classroom) climate

~ that is accepting, comfortable, and noncompetitive

fostered a (toxic command) climate

he ~ (military)

improve (class) climate

~ through incentives or rewards (teachers)

maintain a climate

we struggle to ~ that meets our expectations (rape in military)

♦ "In 2009, Sullivan had become the first Black person to be appointed a faculty dean at Harvard College, and he presided over Winthrop House, an undergraduate residence. Dozens of students protested his defence of [Harvey] Weinstein and called for his resignation as dean. Although a majority of the law-school faculty signed a petition defending Sullivan, Harvard College conducted what it referred to as a 'climate review' of Winthrop House, and on May 23rd announced that Sullivan's position as dean would not be renewed, adding that his dismissal was not directly caused by his representation of Weinstein." ("Harvey Weinstein's Last Campaign" by Ken Auletta, *The New Yorker*, June 6, 2022.)

♦ "In education circles, this is known as school climate or school culture. Whatever you call it, the research is clear..." ("Is there an adult at school that cares about you.")

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON (that is not so funny, actually). In the *Chicago Tribune*, on August 2, 2012, the Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Dick Locher published a cartoon that relates the weather to the US climate of violence. It shows a TV weatherman, pointing to a weather map of the US with highs and lows. The caption reads, "LIGHT TO MODERATE GUNFIRE WITH OCCASIONAL SHOWERS OF AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRE COUPLED WITH INTERMITTENT GUN SALES ACTIVITY AND SCATTERED DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS."

## climax (noun)

climax

antagonism reached a ~ in 1994 (illegal immigrants)

climax of the Hajj

the Standing on Mount Arafat is the ~

climax of my career

covering Hajj is the ~ (a journalist)

climax of the (religious) festival

Shia pilgrims flocked to Karbala for the ~ (Ashura)

climax of the pilgrimage

the short trek to Mount Arafat, marking the ~

marks the climax

the ceremony ~ of the summer season (battlefield)



nearing a climax  
the drama is ~ (who to select as goalkeeper)

reached its climax  
partisan politics ~ with the impeachment

### **climb (scale)**

climbed a (well-worn) immigrant ladder  
Chaudri ~ (dishwasher, cab driver)

way to climb  
the people of Africa have a long ~

### **climb (increase)**

climbed to 612  
as Los Angeles' murder count ~ for the year

climbed to 40 degrees  
as the temperature ~

climbed in velocity  
the wind suddenly switched in direction and ~ (ship)

climbed 21%  
Nokia earnings ~

climbed to \$70  
the price of a barrel of oil ~

continued to climb  
as gasoline prices ~ last week

continues to climb  
the online population ~

started climbing  
in the 1980s the numbers of TV deaths in the US ~

earnings climbed  
Nokia ~ 21%

### **climb (roads, etc.)**

climbs the (green) slopes  
Highway 37 ~ of Haleakala (Hawaii)

### **climb down (verb)**

climbed down from his decision  
he has ~ to expel US diplomats

climb down from all this  
how do you ~ (diplomatic problem)

### **climbdown (noun)**

climbdown came  
the ~ after threats from FIFA (no "OneLove" armbands)

### **climber (social climber, etc.)**

determined climber  
he was a ~ (a young drug lord)

### **cling (verb)**

cling on  
he tried to ~ by offering new elections

cling to the belief  
some parents ~ that vaccines cause autism

cling to their faith  
the people here ~ (after Uvalde school shooting)

clings to her  
it's a deeply embarrassing episode that still ~ today  
(singer)

cling to hope  
families ~ as the search for survivors continues

clung to his innocence  
a large minority ~ (guilty verdict)

cling to their own language  
in this region of China, where Tibetans ~ (Qinghai)

clinging to life  
he is in the hospital, ~  
he is critical and ~ (shot)  
a teen girl is ~ after an SUV driver struck her

clings to life  
Paret in coma, ~ (Benny Paret / boxing)

clung to the marriage  
she ~ for longer than she should have

cling to the past  
it's foolish to ~ (an opinion)

clinging to power  
how is he ~ (Maduro)

cling to their language and customs  
the Berbers in the Kabylia region ~

clung to the hope  
some convicts ~ of a last-minute pardon

clung to the traditions  
Trinidad has ~ of carnival

clung to the (fading) values  
he ~ of honor and omerta (mobster)

### **clingy (adjective)**

possessive and (more) clingy  
he got more ~ towards her (abusive relationship)

### **cloak (conceal)**

cloaks itself in "Christian" values  
the party cynically ~

cloak a bully's identity  
the Internet can ~

### **cloak (under a cloak)**

under a cloak of secrecy  
she arrived in Yemen ~ (government official)

### **cloak (in a cloak)**

in the cloak of journalism

gossip is dressed ~

in the cloak of reform and patriotism  
scoundrels shroud themselves ~

### **cloak (cloak of secrecy, etc.)**

cloak of legality  
judges twisted the law to give a ~ to crimes

cloak of respectability  
a deal built on rank expediency needed a ~ (Kenya)

cloak of secrecy  
the White House has reaffirmed the ~ (Area 51)  
the air force hung a ~ over the mission (X-37B)

cloak for (business-friendly) politicians  
reform can provide a ~ to appear respectable

invisibility cloak  
Tor's protocol is a kind of digital ~

cover themselves in the (righteous) cloak  
they ~ of religion (blasphemy laws)

reformer cloak  
he has donned the ~

constitutional cloak  
club members wrap themselves in a ~ (men only club)

hung a cloak (of secrecy) over the mission  
the air force ~ (X-37B)

### **cloaked (covered)**

mist-cloaked  
the dispute centers over the ~ region of Tawang (India)

### **cloaked (concealed)**

cloaked in the mantle  
blasphemy laws are ~ of religion

### **cloak and dagger**

cloak and dagger meetings  
there were ~ (private business negotiations)

cloak-and-dagger precautions  
they took elaborate ~

### **clobber (verb)**

verbally clobber  
Rock used his comedy special to ~ Smith for slapping him

### **clobbered (by rain, etc.)**

clobbered by (relentless) rain  
San Diego has been ~

### **clock (turn back the clock)**

turn back the clock  
you can't ~ (return to the past)  
maybe we can ~ (relationship)  
we don't want to ~ (plunging vaccination rates)

turn the clock back  
how do you ~ at this point (Gibraltar and sovereignty)

turn back the clock some twenty years  
one needs to ~ to understand how... (history)

turn back the clock (about) a hundred years  
when we ~...

turn back the clock on aging  
a wrinkle cream that promises to ~

turn back the clock on (racial) progress  
they accuse him of helping to ~ (a judge)

turn back the clock on voting rights  
they are trying to ~ (Supreme Court rejects early voting)

try to turn back the clock  
are we going to stay quiet as they ~ (a protest)

### **clock (types)**

body clock  
the best way to follow your natural ~

ticking (biological) clock  
her pursuit to satisfy the ~

biological clock  
jet lag and the ~  
her ~ is ticking (motherhood)

reproductive clocks  
men's ~ are also ticking as they age (low sperm counts)

### **clock (race with the clock, etc.)**

in a race with the clock  
we are ~

racing the clock  
we are ~ trying to prevent another tragedy (serial bombs)  
they were ~, tying up their oyster boat (hurricane)

### **clock (clock winds down, etc.)**

clock is winding down  
the ~ to the strike deadline

clock has run out  
now the ~ (Brexit negotiations)

clock runs out  
concerns about what happens when the ~ (diplomacy)

### **clock (clock is ticking, etc.)**

clock in the back of your head  
you have this ~ of how much time you can spend (Everest)

ticking clock  
he filed the notice to gain the advantage of a ~ (legal)  
they are also facing a ~ since... (an investigation)

clock is ticking  
and now, the ~ (to a royal wedding)  
the ~ (legal decision setting a deadline)

clock is ticking on his benefits  
the ~ (unemployed)

clocks are (also) ticking  
men's reproductive ~ as they age (decreasing sperm counts)

♦ "The urgency of this moment is clear. The clock is no longer just ticking, it is banging." (Vice President Kamala Harris at COP28.)

### **clock (around the clock)**

work around the clock  
we will ~ to fix the problem

### **clock (reset the clock)**

clock has been reset  
the ~ (deadline extended)

### **clock (run the clock, etc.)**

run out the clock  
the strategy is to punt to the courts and ~ (politics)

run the clock down  
all the Giants had to do now was ~ (NFL game)

♦ "Do they think they're winning and they just have to not screw it up, and are they running the clock?" (Republican operative Dan Senor on Biden's debate strategy and election campaign. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

### **clockwork (noun)**

clockwork universe  
the metaphor of a ~ (Bishop Nicole d'Oresme)  
the ticks and tocks of a ~ (savagery)

understand the (entire) clockwork  
now we ~ better than ever before (Polarstern MOSAiC)

### **clog (noun)**

clog  
such ~s affect users (distributed denial of service)

clog disappeared  
highway officials added one lane and the ~ (traffic)

### **clogged**

clogged with people  
Mexico's courts and jails are ~ like Hurtado  
the roads were just ~ (refugees / convoy of tears)

clogged with rubbish  
alleyways ~

clogged with traffic  
the Central Artery is ~ day and night (Boston)

clogged with (cheap Chinese) motorbikes  
streets are ~

clogged artery  
Boston's ~ (the Central Artery)

clogged roads  
he is perturbed by ~ (Seattle)

Mercedes-clogged

we snaked our way through the ~ streets

snow-clogged  
a ~ mountain pass  
keeping commuters off ~ streets and highways (blizzard)

traffic-clogged  
at the intersection of a ~ street

streets are clogged  
~ with cheap Chinese motorbikes (Ho Chi Minh City)

### **cloister (verb)**

cloistered himself in his (hotel) room  
he ~ (from reporters)

### **cloistered**

cloistered atmosphere  
she felt secure within the ~ (psychiatric ward)

cloistered place  
the Senate chamber is a ~ (the US Capitol)

cloistered world  
this is sort of a ~ (the Lego fan community)

remain cloistered  
the Wakhis ~ in their world of wind and ice

### **close (close to, etc.)**

close to losing  
I was ~ my temper

### **close (future)**

close  
the deadline is ~

### **close (feeling)**

close  
we're very close (relationship)

close family  
we're such a ~ (ethnic Puerto Rican-American)

keeps memories of her late grandfather close  
she ~

♦ "You don't get close to your lieutenants because they're going to die." (A captain. Heavy combat. The Vietnam War.)

♦ "My father is a good guy, but we are not close." (Kamala Harris.)

### **close (and close-run)**

close-run thing  
reaching the depots in time was often a ~ (in Antarctica)  
that was a pretty ~ (death sentence commuted)  
I think it will be a ~ (vote of confidence / Parliament)

nearest-run thing  
the ~ you ever saw in your life (Wellington / Waterloo)

### **close call (danger)**

close call  
I could have died, it was a ~

## close-minded (adjective)

called his critics close-minded  
he ~

## close shave

close shave  
it was a ~ (a narrow escape)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Death is as close as your jugular and as far away as the ends of the earth." (Fate.)

## closet (secret)

closet homosexual  
some people speculate that Hitler was a ~

closet radical  
he is a ~ (accusation of one politician by another)

closet rapist  
who would have thought he was a ~ (Harvey Weinstein)

family closet  
ghosts and phantoms from the ~

in the closet  
living ~ brought her pain (a lesbian)

skeleton in the closet  
see *skeleton (secret)*

emerging from the closet  
more and more gay celebrities are ~

pushed back into the closet  
the fear of being erased or ~ (gays in education)

♦ The actor Ian McKellen: Well, as with Jimmy [the role he plays in the 2024 film *The Critic*], I was open with my friends, I wasn't deep in some closet. But, there was just a subject that you didn't talk about. As you had to do. You kept quiet by the fact that you would be punished if you broke the rules... / NPR's Leila Fadel (sighing) That's how it was then... / Ian McKellen: It's just a slight brake on your freedom of speech. / Leila Fadel: Or a huge one! ("Ian McKellen relishes Machiavellian role in new film 'The Critic'" NPR, Morning Edition, September 13, 2024.)

## clothes (the emperor has no clothes)

emperor has no clothes  
look, the ~, you got nothing (a consulting firm)  
it's been obvious for years now that this ~ (Tottenham FC)

♦ "Democrats disgracefully tried to pretend their emperor had new clothes, when they all knew he had none." (A comment by Piers Morgan, after the Biden-Trump debate in June, 2024.)

♦ "This is the Emperor's New Clothes in real life. But it is not a children's book or a joke. The world is at great risk, and a Biden second term is a grave threat to global security and prosperity." (Billionaire hedge fund tycoon Bill Ackman.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is an allusion to the 1837 story "The Emperor's New Clothes" by Hans Christian Andersen, about the child who exclaimed, "The King has no clothes!"

♦ "Out of the mouths of babes!"

♦ "Shame on you for telling the truth!"

## clothes (deception)

dressed in scientific clothes  
exploration now had to be ~

## clotheslined

get clotheslined  
you can ~ by a fence, cable, bar, swing, or a person

## cloud (verb)

clouded his judgment  
drugs ~

## cloud (cast a cloud)

cloud has been cast  
a ~ over much of his work (fabricated data)

## cloud (under a cloud)

under a cloud  
she has left the Olympics ~

under a cloud of suspicion  
he lived ~

under a cloud of uncertainty  
they continue to work ~

under a legal and ethics cloud  
he is ~ because of the affair (politician)

lived under a cloud  
he ~ of suspicion

get out from under the cloud  
he couldn't ~ of suspicion

## cloud (dark cloud, etc.)

cloud  
I had a ~ over my head  
there is a ~ over the White House

coronavirus storm clouds  
given that these ~ have gathered...

dark cloud  
there are still ~s on the horizon (economy)

economic cloud  
he acknowledged ~s on the horizon

ethical cloud  
he left under an ~ (government)

storm clouds  
if there are some ~ on the horizon, they could come...

clouds have gathered  
given that these coronavirus storm ~...

cloud has been lifted  
the ~ over this presidency

cloud (hanging over the President) has been removed  
the ~ by this report

♦ "I had a cloud over my head, and I knew that was a cloud that wasn't going to go away." (Problems at work.)

## cloud (resemblance)

cloud street  
~s can indicate thermals (hang gliding)  
~s are rows of cumulous clouds

bat cloud  
radar can estimate the number of bats in a ~

## cloud (consciousness)

clouds of depression  
antidepressants can help part the black ~

part the (black) clouds  
antidepressants can help ~ of depression

## cloud (sign)

war clouds  
as ~ gathered over the region (Iraqi Freedom)

clouds gathered  
but ~ quickly... (problems)

## clouded

clouded by drugs  
his thinking was ~

clouded in mystery  
his past is ~

## cloudy (consciousness)

cloudy with drugs  
his mind was ~

## cloudy (certainty)

become cloudy  
news can ~ when information is controlled (rumors)

## clout (noun)

clout of financial journalists  
the ~ can affect the corporate bottom line

Washington's clout  
~ is fading (diplomacy)

economic clout  
Boeing has tremendous ~ (economy, jobs, etc.)

global clout  
China's ~

immense clout  
the business network carried ~ with investors

## cloth (cut from the same cloth, etc.)

cut from different cloth  
scientists are not ~ (self-interest)

cut from a different cloth  
entrepreneurs are ~

cut from the same cloth  
you and he don't seem to be ~ (husband and wife)  
he is ~ as Steve Jobs (entrepreneurship)  
Hussein, Gaddafi, Assad, Chavez, Kim, they're all ~  
you and I, we are ~

## clown (verb)

clowning around  
stop ~

## clown (person)

clowns  
plane was designed by ~ supervised by monkeys  
(Boeing)

clown show  
the current heavyweight division is a ~ (boxing snark)

class clown  
he was the ~, always dancing, singing, and joking  
he survived bullies by acting as the ~ (Richard Pryor)

utter clowns  
the upper echelons are ~ (Maine State Police)

overrated, overhyped clown  
he's an ~ (said by a boxer about another boxer)

clowns are in charge  
Tottenham is a circus and the ~ (soccer snark)

♦ "The circus is back in town, might be a new ringmaster but the clowns are still all there." (Manchester United 1-2 Brighton.)

♦ "Tottenham is a circus and the clowns are in charge." (Soccer snark.)

♦ "The heavyweight division used to be the pinnacle of the sport but now it's little more than a travelling circus where the ring masters behind the scenes lift your wallets by putting on a clown show." (Captain Y-Fronts, on BBC's HYS about the Fury-Schwarz fight.)

♦ "Fury is a clown, his days are numbered, the circus is over." (An online commenter about Usyk-Fury.)

♦ "The upper echelons of the Maine State Police Major Crimes Unit and Command Staff are utter clowns and I wouldn't hire them to manage the morning rush at Dunkin Donuts much less an investigation of this size." (A Facebook post by a veteran local cop about the 48-hour manhunt for mass murderer Robert Card.)

♦ "Everyone involved is a buffoon." (Politics.)

### \*\*\* the Batavia Cricket Club vs. Clown's First Eleven

♦ "There were dozens of clowns; and on August 22 the Batavia Cricket Club staged a match against the Clown's First Eleven, all of them wearing their circus costumes. The Cricket Club won, handsomely." (The clowns were members of John and Anna Wilson's Great World Circus, which arrived in Batavia on July 30, 1883. From *Krakatoa* by Simon Winchester.)

## club (noun)

boy's club  
see *boys' club* (*boy's club*, *boys club*)

## coach (noun)

### coach

many ~s are savvy in “therapy speak” (life coaches, etc.)

### certified coach

a ~ focused on empowering others (Linkedin)

### Dating Coach

Imad Jbara is a ~ for NYC Wingwoman LLC  
New York City ~ Connell “Hitch” Berrett)

### parenting coach

Los Angeles ~ Oona Hanson

### women’s coach

Danielle Bayard Jackson is a friendship educator and ~

### boundary coach

Kami Orange, ~ (how to set interpersonal boundaries)

### brain coach

Jim Kwik, a “~” who sells speedreading workshops

### breakup coach

Dr. Andrea Liner, a clinical psychologist and ~  
the ~ Natalia Juarez (appeared on Good Morning America)  
German ~ Elena-Katharina Sohn...  
~s, heartbreak dieticians, get-over-him getaways (females)

### burnout coach

I’m a ~, here are tips for a better work-life balance

### business success coach

Dan Pena, a self-styled “~”

### career coach

~ answers questions about job hunting during pandemic  
~ shares tips on how to work from home (pandemic)  
Ken Coleman calls himself “America’s ~”  
~ and resume writer Laura DeCarlo... (on NPR)  
a ~ unlocks the secret to acing your job interview

### communication coach

she’s a speech therapist and ~

### dialect coach

to help Jessie with her accent, she sees a ~  
the acclaimed ~ Joan Washington (acting)

### dialogue coach

Frawley Becker was the ~ on the film  
Brian Peek wasn’t just a ~ to child actors

### Executive Coach

~ and Learning and Development Consultant (Linkedin)

### flirt coach

“~” Benjamin Camras, 38 (dating apps)

### influencer coach

~ Samantha Dixon

### lactation coach

the postnatal resort has massage and ~s (Ahma & Co.)

### leadership coach

with over 20 years of experience as a transformational  
~...  
she is a ~, business owner and strategy consultant...

### life coach

how this ~ gets students into Ivy League schools...  
Alden Cass, a psychologist and ~ (addiction, mental health)  
what happens when a ~ takes over your life (a cult)

### memory coach

my secret confession as a speed reading ~ (David Kilpatrick)

### mental health coach

Lyra Health ~... (Linkedin)  
everyone’s got a ~, a cook, a trainer (a Hollywood film)  
Matt is also a ~ (as well as PE instructor)

### Mental Health Coach

a ~ (Heather)

### mindset coach

how to become a 6-figure ~ in 2024  
influencers like Toronto “~” Alicia Tghilian

### neurodiversity coach

Sullivan is a ~ (autistic and agender)  
she’s a 37-year-old ~ (autistic and agender)

### performance coach

FTX’s former in-house ~ George Lerner (Bankman-Fried)  
Andrew Herr, an elite ~ who’s worked with pro athletes  
I’ve got a ~ that works with all the big dogs on Wall Street

### relationship coach

she acted as her fans’ ~, advising them on their heartbreaks

### sleep coach

Camilla Stoddart, a ~, advises smiling (to get back to sleep)

### sober coach

my ~ failed me (an alcoholic)

### sobriety coach

Weinstein sent drafts of his statement to a ~ (sex addiction)

### success coach

the self-described “~” (the influencer Andrew Tate)

### voice coach

she still works as a ~ in Manhattan (Atarah Hazzan)

### weight loss coach

I’m a ~, these 3 foods could sabotage your goals...  
I’m a ~, I would never buy these 3 foods (clickbait)

### Health & Wellness Coach

a National Board Certified ~ (Heather)

### Leadership and Resilience Coach



as a ~, she enjoys supporting others (Heather)

### financial coach

new parents get help from a trained ~ (pediatric clinic)

### ontological coach

Valerie Mrak is a certified ~ (Mrakulous Productions)

### vocal coach

her mother worked as a ~ (singing)

♦ Life coach; wellness coach; business coach; weight loss coach; mindset coach; health coach; relationship coach... (Various coaches mentioned in "Life coach or therapist? Know the differences" by Emily Hemendinger, NPR, September 10, 2024.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Imad Jbara is a Dating Coach for NYC Wingwoman LLC, a relationship coaching service based in New York City. 'NYC Wingwoman' offers matchmaking, wingwoman services, 1-on-1 Coaching, and intensive weekend bootcamps. Imad services 100+ clients, men and women, to improve their dating lives through authentic communication skills. He has a BA in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth."

♦ "Being playful through improv is the secret weapon to becoming a better dater." (New York City dating coach Connell "Hitch" Barrett, 52, founder of Dating Transformation. Payment plans for every income level.)

♦ "In addition one of Heather's passions is coaching, and as a National Board Certified Health & Wellness Coach, Mental Health Coach, and Leadership and Resilience Coach, she enjoys supporting others in enhancing their well-being and emotional intelligence to make desired changes in their lives. She is also a Certified Nature and Forest Therapy guide..."

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Jeff had simply signed up for a life coach, so how did it go so wrong for him? What happens when a life coach takes over your life? Catrin Nye and her team expose control, intimidation and fear at a sinister life coaching company." (*A Very British Cult*, "1. Lighthouse," BBC Sounds.)

♦ "What can I teach him if he does things I can't even imagine?" (A coach, about 16-year-old soccer player Lamine Yamal Nasraoui Ebana, known for his 304 zip code celebrations. "The future won't wait!")

♦ "Lot of the reasons why we're doing stuff was too...was just, a freedom to do an activity and there was no coaches and parents involved, you know, it was just, you know, definitely no rule book, you know? Same as the world. It didn't come with a manual." (The great snowboarder Terje Haakonsen, one in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Alicia Tghilian in Montreal, Canada, is a "mindset coach." To paraphrase the great boxing promoter Don King, "Only in Canada!"

## coach (verb)

coached her on how to answer  
the sheriff ~ to the FBI

coached women on what to say  
they ~ during visa interviews (birth tourism operators)

## clumsy (speech)

clumsy remarks  
her ~ (Jill Biden)

clumsy term  
it's a very ~ ("systemic racism")

clumsy words  
I apologize for the anger I caused by my ~

clumsy writer  
at first she was a ~

♦ "The fact that a speechwriter wrote this, thought it was perfect for the first lady and didn't expect Latinos to take offense says it all." (Susanne Ramirez Arellano, journalist and cultural critic, NBC Think, July 13, 2022.)

## coal (rake somebody over the coals)

rake him over the coals  
let's not ~s for a remark he made 30 years ago

## coalface (and coal face)

coalface  
this is the real ~ that we're dealing with

♦ "It's quite tough sometimes when I have phone calls from players I used to play with and against and they're in a really dark place. There have been a few where we've had to get professional help to their house on a Sunday evening. This is the real coalface that we're dealing with with some of these players." (Former Wales forward Alix Popham about serious brain injury, including early onset dementia and probable CTE, in rugby players. Wales is traditionally known for its coal mines and miners.)

### \*\*\* a tour of Crippen's mine...

♦ "After a few hundred yards of walking doubled up and once or twice having to crawl, I began to feel the effects in a violent pain all down my thighs. One also gets a bad crick in the neck, because though stooping one has to look up for fear of knocking into the beams...Presently I had to stop for a minute to rest my knees, which were giving way... / I had not realised before that the men operating the coal-cutter are working in a place rather less than a yard high. When we crawled in under the roof to the coal face we could at best kneel, and then not kneel upright, and I fancy the men must do most of their work on their bellies. The heat also was frightful—round about 100 degrees F so far as I could judge. The crew keep burrowing into the coal face, cutting a semi-circular track, periodically hauling the machine forward and propping as they go... Even to drag the thing forward as the seam advances must be a frightful labour, seeing that the men have to do it practically lying down. Up near the coal we saw a number of mice, which are said to abound there... / On the way back my exhaustion grew so great that I could hardly keep going at all, and towards the end I had to stop and rest every fifty yards... The few miners whom we met down the pit could move with extraordinary agility, running about on all fours among the props almost like dogs. / (*The Road to Wigan Pier Diary*, 31 January-25 March 1936, by George Orwell.)

## coarse (speech)

coarse word  
it's a ~ (*asshole*)

## coast (coast is clear)

coast is clear  
let's wait 2 weeks until we say the ~ (epidemic)

## coast (coast to victory, etc.)

coasted to victory  
the team ~

## coast (noun)

third coast  
Atlanta is the ~ of rap (vs. LA, NY)

♦ "Atlanta artists and producers were trying to establish the local scene as the 'Third Coast.' / 'We wanted to make y'all eat this Southern fried chicken,' says Breeze. 'Not chicken cordon bleu. Not pineapple chicken.' / So Breeze sat down with the pen. Someone made the West wild, he reasoned. He was going to make the South dirty. Over time Dirty South, not Third Coast, became a banner for

artists throughout the region." ("Derivation of Dirty South" by Tony Rehagen, *Atlanta Magazine*, Nov 1, 2012. The *dirty* in Dirty South reflects the *soil* of the South, the red clay, etc.)

♦ "Sometimes called the 'Third Coast' of the US, this place is nowhere near an ocean." (A Microsoft screen picture of *Chicago*.)

## **cobble together (verb)**

cobbled together a coalition  
they could ~ with other smaller left-wing parties

cobbled together a living  
for a while she ~ acting and waitressing

cobbled together a resume  
I ~ and was invited to interview

cobbled together a video  
he ~ with claims of an 'amazing cancer cure'

## **cockroach (insult)**

cockroach  
he is an autocrat, a "~, " despoiling the country (a leader)

## **cocktail (noun)**

cocktail of (psychoactive) drugs  
he downs a daily ~ (mental illness)

cocktail of (childlike) qualities  
he had this whole ~ (Paul Reubens as Pee-wee Herman)

cocktail of things  
it's a ~, it's never one thing (what makes serial killers)

cocktail of ash, acids, aerosols  
the cloud, a toxic ~ (pollution / S. Asia)

Disney's cocktail  
~ of morality, stereotypes and magic (animated films)

drug cocktail  
new ~s make living with HIV a reality

Molotov cocktail  
see *Molotov cocktail*

toxic cocktail  
the cloud, a ~ of ash, acids, aerosols (S. Asia)

♦ "Phase 4 (of the inquiry) has pulled back the curtain on the decades of the great post office cook-up and coverup. The disdain and dislike of sub-postmasters by the post office and their employees, a refusal to investigate the Horizon system because of what that would reveal, what an awful cocktail. A Molotov cocktail." (A lawyer for a group of the sub-postmasters. See the Wikipedia article "British Post Office Scandal.")

## **cocoon (verb)**

"cocoon" in their homes  
they were asked to ~ (elderly in Ireland during pandemic)

♦ "Wordplay games force introverted men to de-cocoon." (A New York City dating coach.)

## **cocoon (isolation)**

cocoon of high expectations  
it was a ~ and harsh discipline (black school)

cocoon of seclusion

she maintains a ~ through the burqa (in public / Afghan)

cocoon of sorrow, rage and despair  
he began to emerge from the ~ that had enveloped him

digital cocoon  
she gets lost in her ~

ideological "cocoons"  
the digital age makes it easy to spend your time in ~

security cocoon  
he was wrapped in a tight ~ (president)

spiritual cocoon  
I was in a ~ (a nun in her pre-social justice period)

emerge from the cocoon  
he began to ~ of sorrow, rage and despair

peel away the (thick) cocoon  
I started to ~ I had built around my life (gay comes out)

## **cocoon (resemblance)**

cocoon of air bags  
it bounced down in a ~ (Mars "Spirit")

## **cocooned**

cocooned in (protective) boxes  
three of the volumes, ~... (T.S. Eliot Foundation)

cocooned in privilege  
a metropolitan elite ~ (Great Britain)

cocooned in a (dignified) silence  
the stadium is now ~ (memorial to dead fans)

## **coffer (noun)**

campaign coffers  
she'll have to replenish her ~ quickly

## **coffin (literal analogy)**

coffin or the suitcase  
it is the choice between the ~ (Algerian Civil War)

♦ "Suitcase or prison." The headline of a *Le Monde* article, on why Algerian human-rights campaigners feel impelled to emigrate. From an article in *The Economist*, November 19 2022.)

## **coffin (nail in the coffin, etc.)**

coffin of the Voting Rights Act  
the case could put the final nail in the ~

standards coffin  
the nails went into the ~ when... (education)

Razor Ruddock's (career) coffin  
Tommy Morrison put the final nail in ~ (boxing)

nail in the coffin of the party  
the immigration issue will be the final ~

final nail in the coffin  
that was the ~

nail in the coffin came

the ~ when the army dropped him (a leader)  
coffin isn't nailed shut  
the ~ on her possible return to the series (tennis)  
driven "a big nail in the Coffin"  
Grant thought his victory had ~ of rebellion"  
(Chattanooga)

put the (final) nail in the coffin  
he ~ when he... (sports victory)

♦ "I think that was the final nail in the coffin... that the church could no longer offer to subsidize these schools. But that was just the final straw..." (Decline of Catholic schools.)

♦ "I realize I'm in the crosshairs of the woke mob right now, so before the final nail gets put in my cancel culture casket, I'd like to set the record straight..." (The NFL's Aaron Rodgers, throwing three perfect on-target spirals of alliteration.)

♦ "David Denby in *New York* magazine was just one of the many critics who hammered their own personal nails into the coffin." ("Al Pacino looks sallow and exhausted..." From *Al Pacino: A Life On The Wire* by Andrew Yule.)

## cog (cog in the machine, etc.)

cog  
Evans was a ~ (one of thousands of government workers)

cogs in that machine  
he creates a machine and the players are just ~ (ten Hag)

cog in the (Norwegian pedagogical) machine  
he thinks of himself as a ~

cogs of a (bloodthirsty) war machine  
making soldiers into the interchangeable ~

cog in a (vast, capitalist) machine  
everyone was just a ~, it was brutal (1930s Hollywood)

cog in the machinery  
he was a fossilized bureaucrat, a ~ for decades

important cog  
I had always felt I was an ~ in the medical machine

interchangeable cogs  
making soldiers into the ~ of a bloodthirsty war machine

vital cog  
Reynolds remains a ~ in the Joshua operation (boxing)

♦ Alice Evans was just a cog, a "mote among drab-seeming thousands...only a cow bacteriologist buried away in the U.S. Department of Agriculture... nothing more than a pleasant-looking girl bacteriologist, anonymous among insignificant boy and girl microbe hunters...destined to no famous end...plodding...her specialization...Ford-factoryish." (And yet, she made an important contribution to science. From *Men Against Death* by Paul De Kruif.)

♦ "On the playing field of medicine, with all its established positions and specialized players, I felt increasingly like the man from the moon, the man playing left-out. Nobody dwelled on what it was like to be in my shoes, they were merely thankful that they were not. / This was a new situation for me. I had always felt I was an important cog in the medical machine. An underpaid cog, perhaps, but still part of the team..." (*My Own Country: A Doctor's Story* by the remarkable Abraham Verghese, who selflessly took care of HIV-AIDS patients in the U.S. in the 1990s. Kerala, southern India, is famous for exporting such exceptional people. In Verghese's case, it was via Ethiopia.)

♦ "In today's Premier League, competing systems and processes grind a way to a result. The players are cogs in the machine. / The

noughties though, was a time of alpha ball-strikers..." ("The slow death of the screamer" by Mike Henson, BBC Sport. Super!)

♦ see also *machine* (*publicity machine, etc.*)

## cognitive dissonance

cognitive dissonance  
~ was not pathology, it was policy (US in Afghanistan)  
the ~ was exhausting (inability to reconcile before, after)

♦ "I distinctly remember the NFL game between the Vikings and the Green Bay Packers was on the TV the whole time. It's just so American, [our] capacity for cognitive dissonance. If it's something that we love, we can look past the evils because we love it." (Reid Forgrave, author of *Love Zac*, interviewing the family of Zac Easter. Zac, age 24, shot himself in the chest and donated his brain to science. A football player, he was diagnosed with CTE.)

♦ "I guess we all deal with cognitive dissonance in sports in our own way." ("The cognitive dissonance of Fox's NFL Theme Song, 'Injury Version'" at hillmansburger.com.)

♦ "In the memoir, the juxtaposition of their testimonies with Newman's self-analysis produces a sort of cognitive dissonance." (The actor Paul Newman said he was nothing special. Others said differently. From "Becoming Paul Newman" by Louis Menand, *The New Yorker*, October 24, 2022.)

♦ "But when a reader who knows Laxness only from 'Independent People' encounters his contemporaneous political writing, in which mere human beings seem to count for nothing compared with the success of the socialist project, the cognitive dissonance is enough to crash the operating system of the brain." ("A Rower on the Open Sea: The rediscovery of Halldor Laxness" by Salvatore Scibona, *The New Yorker*, July 11 & 18, 2022.)

♦ "this is a perfect example of the zeitgeist of cognitive dissonance permeating our devolving society." (An online commenter about "NJ transgender woman transferred from women's only prison after impregnating 2 inmates, report says" by Stephen Sorace, Fox News, July 17, 2022.)

♦ "A man who spent decades in prison before starting a new chapter as a high-profile advocate for criminal justice reform has been arrested and charged in the brutal murder and dismemberment of a Bronx man. / Sheldon Johnson, 48, was arrested..." ("Formerly incarcerated advocate for NYC criminal justice reform arrested for murder" by Zoe Sottile, Sabrina Souza and Mark Morales, CNN, March 8, 2024. Prior to his arrest, he had spoken of his "journey through the criminal justice system" on the Joe Rogan Show, where he had described himself as "a product of intergenerational incarceration." On his *LinkedIn* profile, he claims to be a co-founder of the group Formerly Incarcerated Citizens Against Recidivism (FICAR), which is "geared toward dismantling recidivism and stemming the pipeline of mass incarceration.")

♦ Foreign supporters of groups who commit atrocities are often unable or unwilling to believe that the side they support could commit atrocities and deny they ever took place. The cognitive dissonance is too great.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Didn't expect it, doesn't compute...

♦ OLD: What! I can't believe it...! / NEW: cognitive dissonance...

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Cognitive dissonance," which is tagged as "social psychology." Even better, read the Wikipedia article *When Prophecy Fails*. Wikipedians are wonderful.

## coin (a word, etc.)

coined the phrase  
Gwen Ifill ~ "Missing White Woman Syndrome" (NPR)

coined the slogan  
Maria Corina Machado has ~ "Volver a Casa"  
(Venezuela)

coined the term  
Pauli Murray, who ~ Jane Crow... (according to NPR)

Carol Summers ~ “radical rudeness” in 2006 (NPR)

## coined the word

he ~ “cyberspace” in a 1982 short story (William Gibson)

♦ In his 1949 novel *Heliopolis* [German author Ernst] Junger coined the term *psychonauts* to refer to people who used drugs to explore their minds.” (“Psychonauts” by Mike Jay review” by Elizabeth K. Gray, *History Today*, 9 September 2023.)

♦ A relatively recent trope about racism in the US is the idea of “weathering.” That’s the idea that racism “weathers” people, affecting their health, etc., in ways that are not equitable. Black Americans “live sicker and die quicker.” Arline Geronimus of the University of Michigan coined the term for chronic stress.

♦ “You’ve probably heard the ‘male gaze’ or the ‘white gaze,’ but what about the ‘coded gaze’? Computer scientist Joy Buolamwini coined the term while in grad school at MIT...” (“If you have a face, you have a place in the conversation about AI,” expert says,” NPR, Fresh Air (Tonya Mosley), November 28, 2023.)

♦ Christy Pichichero, speaking on NPR about “discriminatory gaslighting,” confessed, “That word (gaslighting) has been a bit trendy, in the last couple of years,” to which Lulu Garcia-Navarro immediately responded, “It certainly has!” (“Imposter Syndrome, Or Something Else? Historian Talks ‘Discriminatory Gaslighting,’” NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, May 9, 2021. An entire academic career can be made by coining a new term.)

♦ “I’d really like to see “misogynoir” retired someday as something we don’t need to use or only think about in the past because we’ve done the work to create a world where misogynoir doesn’t exist.” (Sociologist Moya Bailey, who coined the term, speaking about the Megan-Tory trial. From “Megan’s Rule: Being exceptional doesn’t make you the exception,” NPR, Louder Than a Riot, Season 2 Episode 1. By Gabby Bulgarelli, Rodney Carmichael, and Sidney Maddon.)

♦ “I try to cry quietly so that I don’t take up more space.” (Robin DiAngelo. She coined the term “White fragility” which has been characterized as silence, defensiveness, argumentation, certitude, and pushback.)

♦ “Psychologists have come up with a term—solastalgia—for the feeling that occurs with the disappearance of what’s perceived as the normal, stable, healthy, natural world. The Australian philosopher Glenn Albrecht, who coined the term, identifies it as a suffering at the loss of solace, ‘a deep emotional response to the desolation of a loved home environment.’ The condition of solastalgia, then, is primarily one of grief, environmental grief, mourning for the death of home, which is the place of solace. (‘Stephen McRae seems to be a man who refused to ignore such emotion,’ Albrecht told me.)” (“The Machine Breaker: Inside the mind of an ‘ecoterrorist’” by Christopher Ketcham, *Harper’s Magazine*, November, 2023. There is a Wikipedia article “Solastalgia.”)

♦ Pierre Bourdieu and Jean-Claude Passeron coined the term “cultural capital.”

♦ Karma Nabulsi coined the term “scholasticide.”

♦ Raphael Lemkin coined the word “genocide.”

♦ The psychologist Herbert Freudenberger coined the term “burnout.”

♦ “In 1992, Neal Stephenson coined the term *metaverse* in his novel *Snow Crash*.” (“The Coming Worlds: The Metaverse is still under construction, but it’s sure to change our lives” by Matthew Ball, *Time*, August 8/August 15, 2022.)

♦ In 1981, philosopher Jean Baudrillard coined the term “hyperreality.”

## \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type “coined the” into Search at NPR, and you get 484 results and counting. Some of the words, terms, and phrases are familiar. Others, though, are similar to what the linguist John McWhorter said about the term LatinX: “It’s not going to catch on beyond a certain crowd.”

♦ An academic can make her entire career by coining a term that catches on, either in her discipline or with the public.

## coin (side of a coin)

two sides of the same coin

obesity and hunger are ~ (nutrition)

affluence and poverty should not be ~

## coin (double-sided coin)

double-sided coin

it’s a ~ (trust can help or hurt you)

## coined

coined in the early 1980s

the term “serial killer” was only ~

coined in the early 1990s

the acronym, ~, is pedagogical vapor (STEM)

## cold (feeling)

cold feeling

a ~ just came over me

cold and hard

administrators can seem ~ (high school)

cold and impersonal

the big city can be ~

cold and calculating

she is ~

emotionally cold

I’m pretty much ~ (a marine)

## cold (in the cold)

left out in the cold

the West will be ~ (by Russian diplomacy)

leave (excellent) workers out in the cold

requirements for degrees ~

## cold (cold case, etc.)

cold case

~s can rip open the wounds of the past

gone cold

his trail had ~ (crime)

went cold

the case ~ for a decade (murder solved by DNA)

## coldblooded (and cold-blooded)

cold-blooded one

it was a “one-off incident,” a hot-blooded crime, not a ~

seemed as coldblooded

Biden ~ as Nixon (Afghanistan / Vietnam withdrawal)

## cold feet

cold feet

the Saudi leaders were getting ~

she got ~ (bride-to-be who disappeared)

cold feet about testifying

he was getting ~

getting cold feet

he was ~ about testifying

got cold feet

he ~ (a reporter's source)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This means "reluctance" and "an unwillingness to continue." There is much discussion of this idiom on the internet. Don't go down that rabbit hole.

## coldhearted (adjective)

coldhearted person

she is a ~

coldhearted or cowardly

their decision was not ~ (climbers)

## coldly

coldly dismissed

she was ~ by the all-male institutions (explorer)

watched coldly

diplomats ~ as the family was dragged away

## cold shoulder (noun)

cold shoulder from members

I received the ~

received the cold shoulder

I ~ from the members of the group

gave the cold shoulder to the Russians

Georgia let the US help and ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Some say this refers to offering a visitor a cold shoulder of meat, as opposed to a more hospitable hot meal. This must have been before the invention of the microwave.

## cold war

cold civil war

America is in a state of ~ (black vs. white history)

cold war and zero-sum

the bill is full of ~ thinking (Chinese criticism of US)

tech cold war

this ~ matters (US vs. Huawei and 5G network)

long-running cold war

a ~ between news and opinion (at Fox News)

♦ "It is neither a cold nor hot war, in those terms' traditional sense. It is a simmering war that sometimes boils over and other times remains warm." (Alan Dershowitz and Andrew Stein. From "Enough with the Band-Aids, Biden—we need to stop Iran now," *The New York Post*, Jan. 17, 2024.)

## collapse (verb)

collapsed mentally and physically

Cherry-Garrard had ~ (in Antarctica)

regime collapsed

his ~ in less than a fortnight (Bashar al-Assad)

## collapse (noun)

collapse

the system will reform itself or face its own ~

collapse of the (oil) boom

but with the ~

collapse of communism

since the ~ in 1991

collapse of the (cod) fishery

the ~

collapse of the (Iraqi) government

the situation could lead to the ~

collapse of (stock) prices

with the ~ (Silicon Valley)

collapse of talks

the ~ between...(two companies)

collapse of Taliban rule

since the ~ (Afghanistan)

collapse in their self-esteem

men who experienced a near ~ (financial crisis)

company's collapse

an internal probe into the ~ shows...

colony collapse

a new bee problem, called ~ disorder (honeybees)

price collapse

because of the ~ of commodities (sub-Saharan Africa)

catastrophic collapse

secrecy can make a system prone to ~

economic collapse

engulfed Russia (following fall of communism)

prone to (catastrophic) collapse

secrecy can make a system ~

on the brink of collapse

the government is ~ (Northern Ireland)

on the edge of collapse

the air travel network teeters ~ (Unfriendly Skies)

on the verge of collapse

the provincial government is ~ (Iraq)

probe into the (company's) collapse

an internal ~ shows...

collapse engulfed Russia

economic ~ (following fall of communism)

faced collapse

the company asked for government intervention as it ~

lead to the collapse

the situation could ~ of the Iraqi government



## collateral damage (noun)

### collateral damage

we don't want to talk about the ~ he has done (behavior)

### collateral damage in trade wars

farmers are tired of being ~

### collateral damage of (pandemic-era) measures

considering the ~ (kid's education, mental health, etc.)

### 'collateral damage' of the (#MeToo) movement

Piven called himself ~ (sexual misconduct)

### collateral damage of the pandemic

mental health has been the ~ (CEO of CVS Health)

### collateral damage on the Swiss financial market

the bankruptcy of Credit Suisse would have had a huge ~

### acceptable collateral damage

the white poor were ~ (see quote below)

### cultural collateral damage

the ~ was felt at the orchestra (tour cancelled)

♦ "Many of the devices the southern states used (to disenfranchise emancipated Blacks)—poll taxes, literacy tests—disenfranchised poor whites as well. It was not the first or last time that the white elite would see the white poor as acceptable collateral damage in the fight for white supremacy." ("The Next Reconstruction" by Adam Serwer, *The Atlantic*, October 2020.)

♦ "Her ambition was voracious and it brooked no interference. If there was collateral damage on her way to riches and fame, so be it." (*Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou. The final two sentences of the Epilogue.)

♦ "Brady just happened to be the blowback. He got caught up in the blowback, Skip, the collateral damage, that's what Brady is. And so, it was a blast radius. He dropped the bomb, 'I got BA [Bruce Arians], I got the Tampa medical staff, I got...' and Tom Brady and Guerrero, they got caught up in that, Skip, the blast radius." (Shannon Sharpe talking with Skip Bayless on their great sports show "Undisputed" about the Antonio Brown controversy of January 2022.)

♦ "Parents and the left are in an all-out war, and the kids are collateral damage" by Andrea Peyser, Opinion, *New York Post*, August 21, 2022.)

♦ "I think we do forget that, and that was something I was really at pains to try and look at, the collateral damage, the wives, the children, the friendships that gradually get destroyed, the teaching jobs, all sorts of things." (Olivia Lang speaking about her book *The Trip To Echo Spring*. Her book is about six great American writers who struggled with alcoholism: Hemingway; Fitzgerald; John Cheever; John Berryman; Tennessee Williams; and Raymond Carver. Truman Capote might have been included, also the great American poet and writer James Dickey.)

♦ "*War* sounds dramatic, but that's what it feels like, being caught in the middle of, and my business is collateral damage." (An English businesswoman losing orders and facing complaints due to industrial action by postal workers.)

♦ In a report about the rescue of a failing bank, the words "collateral damage," "contagion," and "domino effect" were all used.

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Nine boys collecting firewood to heat their homes in the eastern Afghanistan mountains were killed by NATO helicopter gunners who mistook them for insurgents, according to a statement on Wednesday by NATO, which apologized for the mistake. / The boys, who were 9 to 15 years old, were attacked on Tuesday... The victims included two sets of brothers. A tenth boy, Hemad, 11, survived. / Hemad said his mother had told him to go out with other boys to collect firewood because 'the weather is very cold now. We were almost done collecting the wood when suddenly we saw the helicopters come. There were two of them. The helicopters hovered over us, scanned

us and we saw a green flash from the helicopters. Then they flew back high up, and in a second round they hovered over us and started shooting. They fired a rocket which landed on a tree. The tree branches fell over me and shrapnel hit my right hand and my side.' Hemad explained that the tree saved his life by covering him so that he could not be seen by the helicopters, which, he said, 'shot the boys one after another.' / A villager named Ashabudin spoke of one of the victims, Khalid, 14, the only male in his family. 'He was studying in sixth grade of the orphanage school and working because his father died four years ago due to a long-term sickness. His father was a day laborer. He has 13 sisters and two mothers. He was the sole breadwinner of the family. I don't know what will happen to his family, to his sisters and mothers. They are all female and poor.'" (Petraeus Apologizes for Deaths of 9 Afghan Boys," by Alissa J. Rubin and Sangar Rahimi, *The New York Times*, March 2, 2011.)

♦ "The mission received reports...of a strikingly high percentage of patients with severed legs... The amputations mostly occurred at waist height in children, generally lower in adults... Where the amputation took place, the flesh was cauterized... The patients... had no shrapnel wounds... The Mission understands such injuries to be compatible with the impact of DIME weapons." (From the Goldstone Report on Israel's "Operation Cast Lead" in Gaza in late 2008 and early 2009. DIME weapons are a focused blast explosive full of a dense inert metal like tungsten. They were developed by the US Air Force to minimize collateral damage.)

♦ "I remember I went down into this hole for another scoop of dirt, and then that's when the bomb hit. I looked at the man I was digging this hole with; half his body was gone. And I looked up at the trees and I could see body parts on the limbs on the trees, and I shook myself out of it and I stood up, and it was so quiet." (Private Manuel Orona, Hill 875, Dak To, Vietnam War. The 500-pound bomb from a Marine plane caused the worst friendly-fire incident of the Vietnam War.)

♦ "Miss Minnie Vautrin. A proper lady to the core. She believes in her girls and guards them the way a hen guards her chicks. I shall never forget her..." (From the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*. Read the Wikipedia article "Minnie Vautrin.")

♦ Raise a glass to Sgt Gareth "Dad / Bull" Thursby, Thomas Wroe, and Kingsman Ryan Ward, Alma Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When the elephants fight, the grass gets trampled."

♦ "No war is free of mistakes." (Collateral damage, friendly fire, accidents...)

## collide (verb)

### collide with (ancient) traditions

modern mores often ~ (Africa)

### generations collide

when ~ at work (boomers / Gen X)

## collision (noun)

### collision between the human and animal world

the bear's death highlights the ~

### collision of cultures

the dispute was a result of a ~ (temple bell vs. condo)

### collision of (all these different) cultures

it was a ~ (1930s Shanghai)

## collocation (language)

### NOUN plus wrong verb

### heart started like beating

so my ~ (college coed about home invasion / thudding?)

### marriage formed

the ~ a few years ago (*was brokered* / *was consummated*)



**NOUN plus wrong preposition**

accusations of her

we had been hearing terrible ~ for decades (*about?*)

attention on this

there's a lot of ~ (*about?*)

battle of social media

we're fighting a ~ (*with?*)

habit (very very young) on (jus') makin' sure

I mean I just made a ~ I... (*of?*)

perception on the LGBTQ community

I could tell their ~ was... (*of?*)

rumors on me

I'm tired of people starting ~ (*about?*)

**NOUN plus wrong adjective**

blistering cold

how he survived the wilderness and ~ (NBC News)

high amount

a ~ of kids... (wrong on at least two levels)

high odds

the ~ against her (*long odds?*)

thick ties

Jay-Z, who has ~ to the football league... (*New York Post*)

**NOUN plus wrong verb**

making a party

we are ~ (South Florida / *having, holding, throwing?*)

make the steps

I was finally able to ~ (*take the steps?* / Trans)

**VERB plus wrong preposition**

arrived to

when officers ~ the 12<sup>th</sup> floor (arrived *at?*)

when we ~ Black Star Square in Ghana...

exhausted many Americans of medicine

the pandemic has ~ (David Wallace-Wells)

fasting from

~ food and drink (*abstaining?* / an academic)

punched from

I was ~ a random man on the street (*by?*)

say on it

there's nothing I can ~ (say *about* it?)

steer clear from

~ him (steer clear *of* him?)

talked down upon

I see a lot of women being ~ (*to?*)

teased him of

some Swifties ~ his "dad" moves (Jaclyn Hendricks)

thought on it

I came up with a plan, but then I ~ more... (thought *about?*)

**VERB plus wrong adjective**

sound big

now, you might think five hours, that doesn't ~ (*long?*)

**ADJECTIVE plus wrong adverb**

heavily acclaimed

in the ~ film... (*widely?*)

**ADJECTIVE plus wrong complement**

interest to make

he expressed ~ Iceland part of the U.S. (in making)

**ADJECTIVE plus wrong preposition**

bored of

and then the otter got ~ me and... (a surfer / *with?*)

capable to

~ (capable *of?*)

careful on

you got to be ~ who your friends are (careful *about?*)

consistent of

injuries ~ a fall from NYC high-rise (*from?* *with?*)

embarrassed of

we were ~ the fact that we lost (OSU coach Ryan Day)

judgmental of

not need to be ~ truth, eh? (Queer)

nervous to

he is ~ to campus (nervous about returning / NYP)

convinced on

one person wasn't ~ that (convinced *of?*)

exhausted at

I'm so ~ these white folx (*by?* *with?* / *tired of?*)

excited for

the extra level of protection, that's what we're ~ (*about?*)

she's ~ school every morning...

I'm actually really really ~ this election (UPenn coed)

excited of

they were so ~ my return (Chicagoan in Guinea Bissau)

intent to

those who are ~ attacking (on?)

involved on

I don't think she should get ~ nothing that's being said

respectful of

it means being ~ your parents (*to?*)

**wrong PREPOSITION plus noun (prepositional phrase)**

in military bases

Afghans are living ~ (*on* / *at?*)

on accident

he knocked her phone out of her hand ~ (*by* accident)

I found out about her ~ (NYT bestseller Ariel Lawhon)

on chance  
for a seminar ~ she reads *Nadja* (Jennifer Wilson / NYT)

on Walmart  
we see you ~, we're gonna stop and talk to you (at?)

on Camp 2  
tents are pitched ~ (*at?* / photo caption / Mount Everest)

on their homes  
assess the damage ~ (damage *to?* / NPR's Leila Fadel)

in the end of the day  
so, ~ I guess... (*at* the end of the day?)

in a (2004 Suzuki) motorcycle  
Collins, ~... (*on* a motorcycle)

in a later time  
I will take any and all questions ~ (*at?*)

nearby of  
when the stars were ~ one another (*near* one another?)

amid low visibility  
jet crashed while approaching airport ~ (*in?*)

on shallow water  
he was ~ (reporter meant *in* / report of a downing)

on another hand  
but, ~, there is still... (on *the* other hand?)

into sunbathers  
cicadas were falling from the sky ~ (*onto?*)

**"on" today, "on" tomorrow**

on tomorrow  
we will have a staff meeting ~

on today  
a heavy airstrike ~ (AP / NBC / MSM / astonishing)

**mangled cliches**

adding fire to the fuel  
I'm just ~ (adding fuel to the fire)

boils my blood  
it ~ when people say... ("makes my blood boil")

beats to his own drum  
he ~ ("marches to the beat of his own drum")

close the wagons  
we're seeing them ~ ("circle the wagons")

expression of speech  
it was an ~ ("figure of speech")

fear has been actualized  
my worst ~ (realized?)

out of the clear just yet  
another reminder that we are not ~ (out of the woods!)

pit in my stomach

I feel that same ~ (feeling in the pit of my stomach)

rocket surgeon  
he's not a ~ (rocket scientist / brain surgeon / Funny!)

thorn in the eye  
it was kind of like a ~ for South Carolina (an eggcorn!)

♦ "The marriage between crypto and sports *formed* a few years ago and has only strengthened since..." sounds odd to me. Marriages don't ordinarily "form" in the sense that ice forms, for instance. "Consummated" might be more natural. A marriage *can* certainly strengthen, though.

♦ "The lawsuit alleges that the women felt uneasy by Langford."

♦ "Atlanta man arrested *on* after arriving to hospital with gunshot wounds." (*The New York Post*.)

♦ "Kyler is his own individual. He's his own person, he beats to his own drum." (One NFL player about his quarterback. Presumably, "marches to the beat of his own drum.")

♦ "I'm just adding fire to the fuel." (NFL player Ja'Marr Chase, denigrating another team.)

♦ "We're seeing them close the wagon so to speak..." (Michele Steele, ESPN, on NPR. Presumably, "circle the wagons.")

♦ "It doesn't matter what we all do as black women, we're still going to be swept underneath the rug. That's why it boils my blood when people say it's not about race, because it is." (WNBA's MVP A'ja Wilson, about Caitlin Clark. Ordinarily stated as, "It makes my blood boil.")

♦ An ABC news reader, speaking about a resurgence of COVID, warned, "Another reminder that we are not out of the clear just yet." Surely, she meant, "out of the *woods* and *into* the clear."

♦ "He's not a rocket surgeon." (The redoubtable Jeremy Greene of *The Sportsocracy*, the beloved sports radio show. Conflates "rocket scientist" and "brain surgeon.")

♦ "Simple tic for tac, these women knew who he was..." (An unsympathetic commenter about an allegation of sex abuse in Hollywood. Should be "tit for tat.")

♦ "I don't think she should get involved on nothing that's being said." (LeBron James about the WNBA's Caitlin Clark.)

♦ "It was an expression of speech." (Instead of "a figure of speech." "Crazy Plane Lady" Tiffany Gomas about her viral American Airlines meltdown: "That motherf-ker is not real.")

♦ "I feel that same pit in my stomach as so many of you today do." (Governor Jared Polis of Colorado, expressing grief after a mass shooting at a gay bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This usage is becoming increasingly common. Is it an eggcorn?)

♦ "From Carlin he headed south in a zigzag on rough dirt roads, avoiding cops and people, feeling the pit in his gut grow." ("The Machine Breaker: Inside the mind of an 'ecoterrorist'" by Christopher Ketcham, *Harper's Magazine*, November, 2023.)

♦ "When we arrived to Black Star Square in Ghana..." (Attributed to Rashad Robinson, the president of the racial-justice advocacy group Color of Change. Quoted in the article "In Search of Kamala Harris" by Astead W. Herndon, *The New York Times Magazine*, October 22, 2023.)

♦ "Eli Manning has veered from the chorus on the turf vs. grass debate... Manning... zagged to the other side." (Good sportswriting.)

♦ "The incident happened in the popular bar-strewn area of Milan called Navigli." ("Strewn" sounds odd to me.)

♦ "So you know how to *take* the reservation, you just don't know how to *hold* the reservation, and that's really the most important part of the *reservation*." (Great dialogue from *The Seinfeld Show*. Comedy based on collocation. Watch *Seinfeld-The Car Reservation-YouTube*)

♦ In the audio, the speaker in Crossville, Tennessee says, "We see you *on* [*italics mine*] Walmart, we're gonna stop and talk to you..." But the transcript reads, "We see you *at* [*italics mine*] Walmart..." ("MIT, Yale, and other elite colleges are finally reaching out to rural students," NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 7, 2023.)

**\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “First, NPR needs to get the little things right. If it can't, what does that say about the accuracy of the bigger issues?... / Second, errors of grammar and usage tend to break the listener's concentration. If a listener stops to wonder if he or she really heard an error or a syntactical lapse, then whatever else the reporter or announcer was saying is lost because the listener's train of thought has been derailed.” (“Listeners' Language Concerns” by Jeffrey A. Dvorkin, NPR Public Editor, March 29, 2005.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “If you're hanging out in South Florida, you might hear someone say that they are making a party instead of throwing a party. Or that they are getting down from the car instead of getting out of one. You might find these expressions just a little odd but researchers say these adaptive phrases, translated word for word from Spanish, are part of a new dialect of English.” (“A new South Florida dialect is forming in real time,” Ayeshia Rascoe, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, June 18, 2023. It's possible that this is not simply first-language interference but is being picked up by second generation immigrants and even being acquired by larger speech communities e.g. the general public. Similar story: “New dialect known as ‘Miami English’ appearing in Florida, linguists say—here's what it sounds like” by David Landsel, *The New York Post*, Feb. 2, 2024.)

♦ *On today, on yesterday, on tomorrow...* (The website “Pain in the English: Proofreading on Demand” at [painintheenglish.com](http://painintheenglish.com) has a wonderful article about this entitled “On Tomorrow.” The online commenters say everything there is to say about the usage.)

♦ “Arrive At or ‘Arrive To?: A Very Nerdy Analysis,” Merriam-Webster. Parts of this article are well written, and it states that “arrive to” (a destination) has become increasingly common from the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The article does not try to explain why this is happening, or amongst which demographics, or what it means for the language.

♦ “Embarrassed of the fact that...!” (For an excellent analysis of this, read “Embarrassment of prepositions” by Patricia T. O’Conner and Stewart Kellerman, *Grammarphobia*, April 14, 2014. It's an excellent analysis at an excellent site.)

♦ “There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

♦ “But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?” (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. “The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.”)

♦ “One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs.” (“Politics And The English Language” by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## Colonel Blimp

Colonel Blimp-ish figure

in person, Fisher cuts a ~...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The cartoon appeared in 1934.

## colonial (groups)

Colonial Agnosia

“Silence Will Fall: The Cultural Politics of ~”

colonial amnesia

“~,” the incapacity to remember the stages of coloniality

*Colonial Aphasia*

~: *Race and Disabled Histories in France* (A.L. Stoler)

*Colonial Blindness*

~: *The Occupation of the Middle East* (T. Al-Barghouti)

colonial blindness

there are over 12 million Google hits for “~”

colonial lens

the model of trans when viewed through a ~ (Sasha Geffen)

Colonial Power

Resist ~ By Any Means (protest sign / Israel-Gaza war)

colonial record keeping

~ (present-day birth certificates / indigenous Americans)

colonial retaliation

help protect Palestinians from “~” (Israel-Gaza war)

colonial rule

the attacks are justified by 75 years of ~ (Israel-Hamas)

colonial settlers

education material describes Israelis as “~”

colonial violence

he condemned Harvard for welcoming agents of ~  
feigning indigenous identity is a form of ~ (pretendians)

colonial and imperialist

build a path forward free from ~ domination (Gaza)

colonial, white supremacist

we refuse to platform ~ perspectives (Wing Luke Museum)

hurtful, ignorant, colonial—and racist

the accusations are ~ (about Buffy Sainte-Marie)

settler-colonial

the website claims Zionism is a racist ~ ideology  
a ~ genocide against indigenous people (indigenous)  
the ~ racist state of Israel (protest speaker at 2024 DNC)  
the racist ~ terrorist state of Israel (DNC protester)

anticolonial

see *anticolonial (groups)*

neocolonial

see *neocolonial (groups)*

postcolonial

see *postcolonial (groups)*

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Buffy is our family. We chose her and she chose us. We claim her as a member of our family and all of our family members are from the Piapot First Nation. To us, that holds far more weight than any paper documentation or colonial record keeping ever could.” (“Statement from the Piapot Family” about Buffy Sainte-Marie.)

♦ “He condemned Harvard for welcoming agents of colonial violence.” (Josh Willcox of Harvard's Palestine Solidarity Committee, 2023.)

♦ “But we know that this murder [of George Floyd] is only the latest in a long string of Black lives and Black people whose labor has been exploited, whose lives have been stolen by a state and a system that is built on settler-colonial genocide against indigenous people...” (Charlotte Kates of Samidoun, the Samidoun-Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity network. March 24, 2024, Columbia University.)

♦ “We stand in solidarity...; We condemn...; We mourn...; We assert...; We (wholeheartedly) endorse...; We (unequivocally) endorse and amplify...; We hail...; (Therefore,) we pledge to...” (CUNY Community Statement of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.)

♦ *Colonial Blindness: The Occupation of the Middle East is a Return to the Age of Classical Colonialism* by Tamim Al-Barghouti. The colonial master sees Palestine but not the Palestinians, Iraq but not the Iraqis, etc.)

♦ "Silence Will Fall: The Cultural Politics of Colonial Agnosia." (The title of a talk by Jodi Byrd.)

♦ "Within Our Lifetime, which promoted the march past Memorial Sloan Kettering, does not concern itself with what the political establishment calls 'optics.' To Within Our Lifetime, a medical institution funded by a supporter of Israel is not an innocent bystander. And the Hamas terrorist attacks can be seen as justified in the context of 75 years of colonial rule." (The "Within Our Lifetime" group.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The use of impairment rhetoric is absolutely striking: colonial *agnosia*; colonial *amnesia*; colonial *aphasia*; colonial *blindness*...

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including *amnesia*; *amputated*; *aphasia*; *autistic*; *blind*; *crazy*; *cripple*; *crippled*; *deaf*; *deformed*; *lame*; *limping*...

## colonialism (data, etc.)

### carbon colonialism

to some environmentalists, the mangrove project is '~'

### data colonialism

this is called ~ (zero-rating WhatsApp)

### digital colonialism

the company engages in "~~" (WhatsApp)

## colonialism (groups)

### neocolonialism

see *neocolonialism (groups)*

### Zionist Colonialism

~ in Palestine (by Faye A. Sayegh)

### tools of colonialism

one of the first ~ is to separate the people from the land

### extraction, colonialism, and violence

let's stop using metaphors that celebrate ~

### occupation and colonialism

we will continue to resist ~ (March on DNC 2024)

### #86colonialism

a black T-shirt that read '~~' on the back

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Bearstail, like the rest of the staff, wore a black T-shirt that read '#86colonialism' on the back. Eighty-six, in kitchen slang, indicates that a dish is sold out. A month earlier, Bearstail, who is a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, in North Dakota, had moved from Fargo to Minneapolis to work at Owamni. His previous job was at a Red Lobster. 'Sometimes I have to pinch myself,' he said." ("Tribe To Table: A Minneapolis restaurant reconceives Indigenous cuisine" by Carolyn Kormann, *The New Yorker*, September 19, 2022.)

♦ "Colonialism itself is a taking—it is about taking resources, land, culture and language and children. Now, it's taking identity." (Crystal Fafard, a lawyer from Yellow Quill First Nation in Canada, speaking about pretendians.)

♦ "And we will end Zionism, we will return back home, and we will continue to resist occupation and colonialism." (A speaker at the March on DNC 2024.)

♦ "This next song is inspired by the land-back movement and the climate-justice movement. As we know, all of the struggles are connected, and one of the first tools of colonialism is to separate the people from the land, and to separate people's ability to sustain themselves through the land, umm..." (Chicago singer Jamila Woods on the stage at the March on DNC 2024.)

♦ "I heard the chief monarch of a thieving raping genocidal empire is finally dying. May her pain be excruciating." (Uju Anya of Carnegie Mellon University, about Queen Elizabeth II. Carnegie Mellon is a private research university in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, established in 1900 by Andrew Carnegie.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "They think we're supporting genocide, we're supporting colonialism. They know the keywords but they don't really know what they mean." (A Jewish merchant in New York City, cleaning up after being vandalized.)

### \*\*\* These were smart men...

♦ "These were smart men, they saw the handwriting on the wall." (Native American chiefs. Many Native Americans sent their children off to boarding schools, like the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, in the hope that their children would have a better future. Some did. Some didn't. One graduate of the school was Jim Thorpe, and one of his teachers at Carlisle was the poet Marianne Moore.)

♦ Compiler's note: My grandfather was alive as a child when Indians in full regalia would knock on the door, requesting food... (The rural area outside of Allegan, Michigan.)

♦ "Brothers, my blood is red with Siwash, but my heart is white... A great truth came to me when I was yet a boy. I learned that to your kind and you was given the earth; that the Siwash could not withstand you, and like the caribou and the bear, must perish in the cold. So I came into the warm and sat among you, by your fires, and behold, I became one of you..." ("Grit of Women," by Jack London.)

♦ "India had the start of the whole world...It would seem as if she should have kept the lead, and should be to-day not the meek dependent of an alien master, but mistress of the world... But, in truth, there was never any possibility of such supremacy for her. If there had been but one India and one language—but there were eighty of them! Where there are eighty nations, and several hundred governments, fighting and quarreling must be the common business of life... / It was the division of the country into so many States and nations that made Thuggee possible and prosperous..." (*Following The Equator: A Journey Around The World* by Mark Twain. Chapter XLIII. Mark Twain later quotes a "Captain Vallancy" about the Thuggee problem: "The day that sees this far-spread evil completely eradicated from India, and known only in name, will greatly tend to immortalize British rule [italics mine] in the East." About the killing of girl babies, Mark Twain wrote, "It was the dread of this prospective ruin (providing for the wedding of a girl) which made the killing of girl-babies so prevalent in India in the old days before England laid the iron hand of her prohibitions upon the piteous slaughter [italics mine]." About Suttee, Twain wrote, "Major Sleeman...made a brave attempt on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 1828, to put down Suttee on his own hook and without warrant from the Supreme Government of India. He could not foresee that *the Government would put it down itself* [italics mine] eight months later." Mark Twain was profoundly impressed and affected by his trip to India—of course he was! India gained independence in 1947.)

♦ "The grudge match was established in 1933 by Colonel Evelyn Hey Cobb, a polo-loving British political agent, in an effort to unify the region." (The 3-day polo match that takes place annually at Shandur Pass in northwest Pakistan. From "Extreme Polo" by Paul Raffaele, *Smithsonian*, January 2007, pg. 64.)

♦ "King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga introduced rugby, sumo wrestling and field hockey to his subjects." (Tonga became independent in 1970.)

♦ "It's our passion now, I can't be happier playing cricket." (A young Syrian woman in Lebanon. Through cricket she also learned English. Expatriate Indians and Pakistanis often come together through their mutual love of cricket.)

♦ "The Aussie captain taught the men the game of soccer. The men wear tree bark around the waist trimmed with grass for the bustle." (New Guinea. World War II.)

♦ Technology transfer; the establishment of Western educational institutions; improvements in public health, sanitation, and medicine;

great public works, to include bridges and railways; the creation of judicial systems and the rule of law; the creation and formation of native bureaucracies, civil services, elites, professional militaries, and governments; education in western languages such as English and French, providing access to Western culture; the introduction of Christianity; the adoption of sports such as polo, cricket and soccer; the suppression of customs such as Thuggee, Suttee, female infanticide, execution by elephant, Lingchi, cannibalism, etc... (Some of the benefits of colonialism. Fifty-six nations make up the modern Commonwealth of Nations.)

♦ "I should ask you for five shillings to buy a black god-daughter. It's a new thing a missionary priest started last term. You send five bob to the nuns in Africa and they christen the baby and name it after you. I've got six black Cordelias already, isn't it lovely?" (The ten- or eleven-year-old Cordelia. From "John Gielgud reads *Brideshead Revisted* by Evelyn Waugh.)

♦ "The Swiss Martin Marty was known as 'The Apostle of the Sioux.'"

♦ "You may have noticed there's a pattern in U.S. Army helicopter names—Apache, Black Hawk, Chinook and others. These crucial aircraft are all named after Native American tribes or figures. / But have you ever wondered why? / The U.S. military has a long history with Native Americans. Armed conflicts between the two were commonly known as the American Indian Wars and were fought intermittently from the time the U.S. was first settled by Europeans to early in the 20th century. But Native Americans also served as some of the fiercest fighters for the United States for more than 200 years. In fact, 32 Native Americans have earned the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor..." ("Why do Army helicopters have Native American names?" by Katie Lange, JBSA News, Nov. 4, 2020. JBSA stands for Joint Base San Antonio. The "and others" as mentioned in the article include the Cheyenne Attack Helicopter, the Comanche Helicopter, and the Lakota UH-72A Light Utility Helicopter.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Food desert. It's a term I've used myself..." ("Let's Stop Using Metaphors that Celebrate Extraction, Colonialism, and Violence: Earth, Justice, and Our Classrooms" by Bill Bigelow, Rethinking Schools, Fall, 2022, Volume 37, No. 1.)

## colonialist (groups)

Christian colonialist

the ~ construction of men... (Sasha Geffen)

♦ "The Christian colonialist construction of men as inseminating subjects and women as reproductive objects does not extend into ancient history, nor does it govern every facet of the present." (*Glitter Up the Dark: How Pop Music Broke the Gender Binary* by Sasha Geffen.)

## colonialization (groups)

decolonialization

see *decolonialization (groups)*

form of colonialization

he called poverty in Kenya a "new ~" (Pope Francis)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Older people think of colonialization in terms of history—the *actual* colonialization of Africa and Asia, etc., particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century—not of anything connected to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## colonist (groups)

settler colonist

the faculty-taught lie that Israel is a '~' project (academia)

## colonization (groups)

colonization of beauty

reflect on the ~ and reconsider the Eurocentric beauty ideals

colonization of one's self and one's sex  
actively carrying out the ~ ("pick me" girls)

sex colonization

the pathology of ~ (sociologist Kathleen Barry)

ideological colonizations

gender ideology, today, is one of the most dangerous ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The thing about colonization is this: It is predicated upon gaslighting everyone, both those colonized and those colonizing, into a mental prison which maintains colonization is best and the colonizer is superior. After colonization, after the colonizer has left, the colonizer is still a part of us; our cultures have become a new thing." ("Within A Legacy Of Colonization, 'Postcolonial Love Poem' Empowers Native Voice" by Hope Wabuke, NPR, Book Reviews, March 6, 2020. Wabuke reviews *Postcolonial Love Poem* by Natalie Diaz.)

♦ "Being uncomfortable with the human body is colonisation / brainwashing. It's just a body. We all got em." (Zoe Kravitz, about the revealing Saint Laurent crystal mesh dress she wore to the 2021 Met Gala. Presumably she is referencing the missionaries who clothed indigenous peoples in places like Tahiti, etc.)

♦ "Beware of the new ideological colonization that tries to destroy the family. It's not born of the dream that we have from God and prayer—it comes from outside and that's why I call it a colonization." ("Pope Warns Of 'Ideological Colonization'; Praises Catholics in Caucasus" by Rebecca Hersher, October 2, 2016. Pope Francis opposed rich countries foisting gender theory, contraception and gay marriage on poorer countries in return for development aid.)

♦ The government is allowing the Islamic colonization of Western Europe." (The mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik.)

## colonize (take)

colonize Chatwin into the gay world

she felt a gay biographer might ~ (Bruce Chatwin's widow)

colonized my medicine cabinet

I discovered that she had ~...

colonized (nearly every academic) discipline

leftists have ~ (U.S. universities)

colonized nearly every other genre

Marvel, meanwhile, has ~ (M.C.U. / including comedy)

♦ "It's just that I'm half-English and sometimes the English in me colonizes everything else." ("Is it really offensive to say 'the French'?" by Arwa Mahdawi, Opinion, *The Guardian*, 30 Jan 2023. Funny!)

♦ "British English has been colonized by American English."

♦ "Pioneer species like brown sedge colonize disturbed sites."

♦ I guess I knew it wouldn't work out when I discovered that she had colonized my medicine cabinet with her feminine hygiene products...

♦ Shawn Hill (Co-founder of The Greater Harlem Coalition): On Point (a supervised injection site in East Harlem) came in as a kind of colonizing project. The community was not informed or given the opportunity to discuss the issue. / Gina Bonilla, Research Associate 2: (After interview was over) Jesus Christ... When he said the whole part about they came in to colonize I almost lost it. I almost flipped my laptop over... (Yale Medical Researcher Caught On A Hot Mic. "Director Ryan McNeil Proposes Selectively Finding Harlem Research Subject 'Who Suck,' Greater Harlem Coalition.)

♦ "Kathy Hochul colonizing Long Island with housing order, NY GOP pols say" by Zach Williams, *New York Post*, Feb 3, 2023. (The article is about Governor Kathy Hochul's "imperial-like" plan to increase Nassau County's density and turn the county into New York City's "sixth borough.")

♦ A FUNNY STORY. "I was in the Tatte Bakery & café... In the back behind the stairs there is a small space with a few chairs and a

couch. Since there was no space large enough for the 8 people in the group I said, 'let's colonize this area' indicating that we should take the available seats and expand as people left. My colleagues from Harvard were aghast... I have training in microbiology, they were political. I thought it was funny, they thought I should be more careful." (The online commenter "Some Dude" in *The Harvard Crimson*.)

## colonize (groups)

colonizing us again

now white people's descendants are ~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "It's genocide again of Native Americans. Now (white people's) descendants are colonizing us again by claiming to be us." (Kathy Griffin, a member of the Cherokee Nation. From "Met Museum's 'Apache' curator is accused of lying about Native American roots" by Will Potter, *Daily Mail*, 28 May 2024.)

♦ "Some Okinawans feel that Japan and the U.S. have colonized and sacrifice them." (In the present day.)

♦ see also *decolonize* (verb)

## colonized (groups)

colonized takes

~ on indigenous ingredients (restaurant politics)

♦ "In August, Siebert left Owamni. Some employees felt that she hadn't been the right fit—that she pushed specials featuring colonized takes on Indigenous ingredients. 'I do have a European background in cooking, but so does Sean,' Siebert said. 'He taught himself how to decolonize his own food, and I was still in the process of that.' Soon afterward, a bartender was fired, in part for drinking on the clock..." ("Tribe To Table: A Minneapolis restaurant reconceives Indigenous cuisine" by Carolyn Kormann, *The New Yorker*, September 19, 2022.)

♦ "I too come from a colonized country." (The pro-Palestinian Mexican actress Melissa Barrera. Mexico declared its independence from Spain in 1810 and achieved it in 1821. Its neighbor to the north, the U.S., was also a colony. The U.S. declared its independence from Great Britain in 1776 and achieved it in 1783.)

\*\*\* The Russo-Japanese war...

♦ "The Russo-Japanese War inspired the colonized world." (Egypt, India, etc. The Russo-Japanese war was fought between 1904 and 1905. Egypt became independent in 1922. India in 1947.)

## colonizer (groups)

colonizer's influence

one cannot fully eradicate the ~ (Hope Wabuke)

resistance against the colonizers

~ (Israel-Hamas war)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The kids haven't read anything longer than a TikTok. They know everything by way of buzzwords. They learn these words like 'colonizer...'" (The comedian Bill Maher, speaking to the beloved comedian John Cleese on the former's podcast, *Club Random*.)

## color (verb)

color the residents (of the Gulf Coast) unimpressed

~ by the government reaction to the disaster

colors his perspective

he is a wealthy small businessman, and that ~

colors his thoughts

his negativism ~

colors his views

his vegetarianism ~ of certain countries

## color (color outside the lines, etc.)

color outside the lines

back then, you could ~ (boxing marketing)

## color (communities of color, etc.)

colors

all races, creeds and ~ have racists in their groups

color barrier

Jackie Robinson broke the ~ (baseball)

race, creed, or color

it's got nothing to do with ~ (death penalty convictions)

activists of color

vegan ~

authors of color

some ~ write historical romance about people of color

children of color

the mental health crisis among American ~

communities of color

failing water systems in ~ (Flint MI, Jackson MS, etc.)

promote financial literacy amongst ~

~ are overpoliced

create spaces for artists, especially LGBTQIA ~

consumers of color

corporations sell Juneteenth branded products to ~

deals with Black celebrities expand their ~

dancers of color

Alvin Ailey and ~

farmers of color

~ are still waiting on billions in debt relief

girls of color

four young ~...

identities of color

Rachel Dolezal claimed "~" with...

immigrants of color

NPR's new series featuring ~

kids of color

anxiety and depression among ~ surging

neighborhoods of color

'pharmacy deserts' are common in Chicago ~

owners of color

there are few ~ in the NFL

people of color

satisfaction surveys don't track how well hospitals treat ~

~ crying out for help has [sic] always been ignored...

missing person cases involving ~

~ are more likely to be killed by police

this is not a safe space for ~ (sorority disbands)



misidentifying ~ in majority white spaces (work, media)  
the creator reclaims the genre space for ~ (a horror film)  
a less than welcoming place for ~ (NPR)  
you do start to see other ~ as rivals rather than as allies

#### person of color

'Dr. Who' casts a ~ in the main role (Ncuti Gatwa)  
NASA can't put the first ~ on the moon until 2025  
mall shooting revives talk of what attracts a ~ to  
extremism

#### Professionals of Color

TESOL ~: Past, Present, Future (TESOL 2023)

#### skin of color

dermatologists advancing better care for ~

#### students of color

the pandemic widened the education gap for ~  
welcome and safe space to ~ (high schools)  
a peer mental health program for ~ (Well Being In Color)

#### voters of color

to build support among ~... (politics)

#### women of color

criminalization of pregnancy and ~  
few ~ are pilots  
4 NPR hosts quit last year, 3 were ~  
~, we've got to stand together for Vice President Harris

#### Womxn of Color

she won WWU's ~ Empowerment Faculty Award

#### workers of color

~ are disproportionately affected

#### youth of color

the generational cycle of incarceration and ~

#### skin color

white ~ equals entitlement and privilege

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "To weaponize a panel of Black bodies of color to do your filth is insane. This is insane And this is how institutional white supremacy works." (Chaedria LaBouvier, calling out a Guggenheim Museum panel during a Q&A. From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. "Weaponize." "Black bodies." "Of color." "Institutional white supremacy.")

♦ "He had to deal with being the only young person of color in Narcotics Anonymous meetings."

♦ "People of color at 'New York Times' get lower ratings in job reviews, union says," by David Folkenflik, NPR, August 23, 2022.

♦ "Absolutely. So we have our community going missing at an alarming rate. Typically, when families are going to law enforcement, their cases are often dismissed. Our children are classified as runaways and runaways does [sic] not meet the criteria to initiate an Amber Alert. And when it's adults, oftentimes their disappearance is associated with some sort of criminal activity. And it really dehumanizes and desensitizes the fact that these are valuable members of our community." ("Ebony Alert' legislation could help address racial disparity in missing persons cases, advocates say" by ABC News, May 3, 2023.)

#### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "How do I become something I don't see?" From this simple question, The Delta Project was born. The Delta Project exists to break the generational cycle of incarceration by reconnecting youth of color and their families to community relationships through

mentorship, coaching and storytelling. Help young men see what they can become. Take action. thedeltaproject.co/action. (A full-page advertisement for The Delta Project in *The Atlantic*.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Look, I mean voters of color don't talk about voters of color. Who the hell lives in communities of color? The people I know live in neighborhoods. Right, so there's this whole you know sort of rhetorical lexicon the left of the Democratic party has become obsessed with and insists on using. Which basically just alienates normie voters, including normie non-white voters. I mean, we have people in and around the Democratic Party talking about how all white people have white privilege, and how this is a white supremacist society, and so on, and I just don't think this is the way people think about the world, including you know normie non-white voters." (The political scientist Ruy Teixeira. From "Hispanic and minority voters are increasingly shifting to the Republican party," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 23, 2022.)

♦ "I don't know of a single person that thinks of themselves as a 'person of color.' I really don't..." (James Carville, sounding honestly regretful on "Conversations with Bill Kristol.")

♦ "People of color"? What an incredibly ignorant and offensive thing to say. Just exactly who are the people you believe do NOT have a color? There are none... Ditch the racist rhetoric. America deserves better, and you should KNOW better." (An online commenter.)

♦ "some of the most racist people I've met or known have been of color." (An online commenter.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "White, Black, brown, yellow, red, we all bleed red." (The military. In general, the military has been ahead of society at large in terms of race relations.)

### colored

#### colored by their relationship

countries' views are ~ with Iran (on an issue)

### colorful (language)

#### colorful language

we learned and delighted in ~ (New York City)  
I apologize for my ~ (expletives)

### colorful (politician, etc.)

#### colorful history

Eagles fans have a ~ (Philadelphia)

#### colorful (British) politician

the ~ Boris Johnson

### colorism (groups)

#### colorism

how ~ haunts *In The Heights* (Lin-Manuel Miranda film)  
~ within U.S. Latino and Latin American culture  
she recalls experiencing racism and ~ growing up  
Thandiwe Newton opened up about ~ in the film industry  
the anti-Blackness and ~ that's common among Latinos  
*Other People's Skin* highlights ~ in the Black community

#### colorism in the (Black) community

*Other People's Skin* highlights ~ (a book)

#### colorism and racism

~ exist among Latinos from every country

#### anti-Blackness and colorism

the ~ that's common among Latinos

♦ "Alpha Kappa Alpha, in particular, has long had a reputation for colorism. In a 2011 study of stereotypes among members of

historically Black sororities, published in the *Journal of Sorority and Fraternity Life Research and Practice*, participants described A.K.A.s as 'classy, rich...delicate, pretty, dainty, snobby...and light skinned with long hair.'" ("Alpha Girls: Inside the tight-knit world of Kamala Harris's sorority" by Jazmine Hughes, *The New Yorker*, October 28, 2024.)

## colors (true colors, etc.)

true colors

he didn't show his ~ until after the wedding (abusive)

peoples' true colors

hardships often bring out ~

showed his true colors

he ~ with his shameful, dishonest attacks on a great man

he ~ by walking out on his team with five minutes left

♦ "His true colours have come out once again, he just can't help himself, can he." (A BBC HYS comment about Anthony Joshua's bizarre post-fight antics following his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

♦ "We weren't trying to indulge in provocation. We have a lot of respect for the haka. But by nailing our flags to the mast, we wanted to show how proud we were of wearing our country's colours." (French rugby captain Rafael Ibanez after his team stood toe to toe with the All Blacks as the latter did the Haka prior to their quarter-final of the 2007 Rugby World Cup. The game, played in Cardiff, Wales, ended 20-18. Watch: SUPER Haka! New Zealand vs France, Rugby World Cup 2007)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "At 10:30 p.m., the decks of both ships are a scene of 'carnage, wreck and ruin,' in Jones's words. Captain Pearson strikes his colors. It is an act of utter humiliation, for Pearson had been so intent on not surrendering that he had personally nailed the flag to the rail so that it would become a permanent part of his ship.../ 'If you have struck, haul down your ensign,' [Commodore John Paul Jones] barks at Pearson. / Pearson rips down the flag, its fabric tearing loudly as it separates from the nails holding it in place. / *The Serapis* is boarded." (*Killing England* by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard.)

♦ "Captain Pearson was now under the necessity, which must ever prove painful and humiliating to a British seaman, of ordering the colors to be struck, on which the firing ceased; and with his first lieutenant he was escorted on board *Le Bon Homme Richard*, where he was received with the courtesy his courage merited, by the famous Paul Jones. / The frigate which had also engaged the *Serapis* was the *Alliance*, 40 guns and 300 men; so every way the contest had been most unequal..." (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant, "Flamborough Head, 1779." The account goes on to say, "Upon Captain Pearson's return to England, His Majesty conferred upon him the honour of knighthood..." Whereas, John Paul Jones "was permitted to close an adventurous and extraordinary life in obscurity and penury, at Paris, in 1792.")

♦ "The *Lion* was so battered and pierced that she was afterwards sunk as unserviceable at St. Lucia. Her captain, Timothy Edwards, had been posted for his bravery in the action with the *Valeur*, and was popularly known in the fleet as 'Old Hammer and Nails,' from a habit he had of nailing his colours to the mast before going into action..." (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant, Chapter XXXVIII, "Sea-Fights Off Ushant And Grenada, 1779.")

♦ "Bearing on, the fleet came to anchor in the recent scene of Nelson's glory, the Bay of Aboukir...; the fleet consisted of 175 sail of all kinds. / Broken and squally weather rendered the attempt to land impracticable for a week; and in the meantime a French frigate, which, by capturing some British ships, had become acquainted with our private signals, and daringly accompanied the expedition as if she formed part of it, suddenly shot ahead of the fleet, and, hoisting the tricolour, ran safely into the harbour of Alexandria, with a reinforcement for General Menou." ("Alexandria, 1801" from *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

♦ "Duncan Gordon Boyes, Royal Navy, Midshipman of Her Majesty's Ship *Euryalus*... He carried a Colour with the leading company, kept it in advance of all, in the face of the thickest fire, his colour-sergeants having fallen, one mortally, the other dangerously wounded...The Colour he carried was six times pierced by musket balls." (From the

citation, in the *London Gazette*, for Boyes' Victoria Cross, for his actions at Shimonoseki, Japan, in 1864. Born in Cheltenham, Glos., England, Boyes joined the Royal Navy at the age of 14. He received his VC at the age of 17. Later, he was kicked out of the navy for ill-discipline and went to New Zealand. Suffering from depression and alcoholism, he committed suicide at the age of 22.)

♦ "These colors don't run." (A T-shirt with an American flag.)

♦ see also *standard-bearer*

## colossal (adjective)

colossal (national) disaster

the situation is a ~ (nuclear-power-plant failure)

colossal failure

it was a ~

colossal misunderstanding

the message led to a ~

colossal problem

we have ~s

## colossus (noun)

colossus

Weir was a ~, what an inspiration (Scottish Rugby)

Antarctic colossus

the ~ is melting at a rapid rate (Thwaites Glacier)

business colossus

the rise and fall of a ~ (Carlos Ghosn)

trading colossus

the East India Company was a ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In Latin, the word for a gigantic statue was "colossus." The Colossus of Rhodes was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The Statue of Liberty is a true colossus. And so the title of the poem by Emma Lazarus: "The New Colossus."

## Columbus (Chinese Columbus, etc.)

Chinese Columbus

but Cheng Ho, the ~, had no successors (isolation)

found its Columbus

in Dr. Schliemann the science of classical antiquity ~

♦ "Ali never doubted that his victory against Sonny Liston in Miami was legitimate and repeatable. 'In Miami I was Columbus,' he would say. 'I was traveling to the unknown. I had to be cautious because I didn't know what to expect. Now I know.'" (*King of the World* by David Remnick.)

## comatose (adjective)

comatose

"~, " the term for servers using energy but doing no work

comatose demeanor

his ~ at a G-7 meeting generated criticism

comatose state

the system is in a ~ (healthcare in Zimbabwe)

politically comatose

they pronounced him ~ (a politician who later revived)

## comb (verb)

combed the area on hands and knees  
police ~

combed the foothills in a (futile) search  
they ~ for the girl

comb (former) battlegrounds for artifacts  
hobbyists ~ (Civil War buffs)

combed the (city's famed) canals for bombs  
authorities ~ (Venice)

combing the roadsides for evidence  
volunteers were ~ (murderers)

combed the slope for signs  
Anker ~ of his missing friends (avalanche)

comb (Arabian) Desert for suspects  
unmanned US planes ~

comb the seas for bluefin tuna  
fishermen from New Zealand to Libya ~

comb through (decades-old) cases  
detectives are beginning to ~, hoping...

comb through (international travel) records  
analysts began to ~ (terrorism)

combed (abandoned) buildings  
police ~ (for missing woman)

combed the school  
the Jackson County Health Department ~ (rash)

combed the region  
police ~

combed the countryside  
volunteers ~, on A.T.V.'s and on horseback (for girl)

combed the foothills  
they ~ in a futile search for the girl

## combat (verb)

combat the disease  
he ordered a broad mobilization to ~ (SARS / China)

combat (street) homelessness  
it remains the principal tool to ~ (supportive housing)

combat boredom and tension  
they play Monopoly to ~ (soldiers / Iraq)

tool to combat  
it's the principal ~ street homelessness (supportive housing)

## combat (noun)

political combat  
he relished ~ (a politician)

waging (political) combat  
he has been ~ with Democrats (politics)

♦ "In our social media age, disagreement can feel like combat." (A cultural critic.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The preparations [by the French for the great offensive in Champagne at the end of September 1915] include the distribution of a completely new piece of equipment—the steel helmet... The French army is the first to introduce this novelty. As with quite a few other 'new' pieces of equipment (steel shields for the trenches, spiked clubs for assault troops, sharpened infantry spades and all the different kinds of hand grenade) they remind one of earlier centuries and reveal how, paradoxically, the hypermodern can be a return to the past." (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

♦ "Fear and filth went hand in hand." (*With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa* by E. B. Sledge.)

♦ The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is the only award many veterans bother to wear...

## combative (adjective)

combative moments  
this triggered several ~ today (a House hearing)

got combative  
he was apologetic but he also ~ at times (at a hearing)

## combustible (adjective)

combustible (recent Carter) interview  
perhaps the most ~ aired over the weekend

## come (winter is coming, etc.)

coming  
the future is ~, whether we like it or not  
a time is ~ when all will suffer under the terror...

coming our way  
a new kind of war is ~

come again  
it's a time and style that will not ~ (Mississippi steamboats)

came around  
I didn't get to sleep that night till the morning ~

comes around  
when the anniversary ~ every year (9/11)

coming up  
a big week is ~ (politics)

coming next  
what is ~ is using machine learning (medicine)

come and go  
see *come and go* (time)

good days are coming  
the worst part is behind us, we are seeing a new dawn, ~

♦ "Every year, we know it's coming, the birds sing differently..." (Kay Oxendine, a member of the Haliwa Saponi Tribe in North Carolina, about the spring powwow season.)

♦ "About the year, my folks would say, 'This year,' or 'next year,' but I couldn't discover what they meant. I used to wonder what it meant, when they said, 'A year.' Sometimes they would say, 'One year,' or 'Two years,' and sometimes, 'Many years.' I wondered what a year was, and where it was. I used to think, 'It must be around here.' But I couldn't see it. I always thought that the year must have arms and legs and a head. It must have a body like an animal. I used to wish

that I could see it when it came around. But I never saw the year."  
(*Old Man Hat, A Navaho Autobiography.*)

## come (a time comes along)

came a time

then ~ when the meat supply ceased...

came along

nobody saw a virus until the electron microscope ~

comes along

just when things are improving, this new crisis ~

Knott came along

before ~, fishermen caught lobsters the same way...

psychoanalysis came along

until ~, the accepted antidote to hysteria was rest

time came

when the ~, Russian industrialization turned the tide of the war

♦ "Like most creatures of the Wild, the grey cub early experienced famine. There came a time when not only did the meat-supply cease, but the milk no longer came from his mother's breast." (*White Fang* by Jack London.)

## come (come before / at an earlier time)

came before me

I am very thankful for the women who ~ and helped...

## come (come after / at a later time)

come after me

I hope the women who ~ will get more chances to succeed

## come (occur, develop)

come

it should not have ~ as a complete surprise (oil bust)  
with Empire had ~ immense problems of security (UK)

come along

see *come along* (appearance)

came in the evening

the phone call ~

came with the airing

the final straw ~ of *The Shop*

came with a (heavy) price

fame ~

comes every year

influenza is an old enemy, one that ~

♦ "It seemed like there was light at the end of the tunnel, and then the Delta variant came along, the Omicron variant came along..."

## come (come a long way)

come a long way

we have ~ (a business)

we have ~, but we have much further to go

we have ~, but not far enough

we've ~, when I first got here, this team wasn't where it is

come a long way in race relations

we have ~, but we keep going backwards

come a long way since the 1990s

Kosovo has ~

come a long way from its (humble) beginnings

the company has ~

come a long way in four decades

the sport has ~

♦ "We were very poised, we stayed together, we knew we could do it. We've come a long way; when I first got here, this team wasn't where it is." (Jaylyn Sherrod about her team's basketball win over the defending national champion LSU Tigers.)

## come (to come)

to come

more hearings are ~

yet to come

there are changes ~ (global warming)

it does make you wonder what is ~ (politics)

the best is ~

sure to come

change is ~

decades to come

we are left with this legacy for ~

future to come

they are waiting for the ~, but it's already here

generations to come

these issues will affect ~

what we do will echo through ~ (2020 election)

months to come

there will be ups and downs in the ~

more (Inside Edition) to come

there is ~

things to come

this is a sign of ~

past, present, and to come

other artists ~...

## come (for a time to come)

for years to come

the problem will occupy botanists ~

for decades to come

he may last ~ (a leader)

for centuries to come

shrinking coastlines will be the new normal ~

## come (see something coming)

saw it coming

see *see* (see something coming)

## come (come out swinging)

came out swinging  
the president ~  
she ~ against her critics

came out swinging hard  
Ramaswamy ~ (in a political debate)

## come after (and come for)

coming after our children  
they are ~ (culture wars)

come after your guns  
everybody's trying to ~ (gun control)

come after their studios next  
we're going to ~ (a demonstrator)

come after you  
if you speak up, the immigration system will ~ (an activist)

coming for you  
we're ~, the party is over (cops versus gang)

## come along (appearance)

came along  
and when the war ~, they went South (West Pointers)

come along very often  
opportunities like this don't ~ (quite job for a better one)

## come and go (currency)

come and go  
trendy eateries ~  
fashion trends ~ (normcore)  
at seventy-three, Najib has seen wars and skirmishes ~

come and gone  
technological fads have ~ in schools  
I admire AJ but his time has ~, my money is on Usyk

came and went  
other American intelligence warnings ~

## come and go (time)

came and went  
four more years ~ (murder investigation)

come and gone  
the years have ~ (old family photos)

year has come and gone  
a ~ since we heard the news about Billy Joe...

2021 has come and gone  
well, ~

two p.m. came... and went  
~, nothing happened (a deadline)

## come away with (verb)

came away with

the message I ~ is that...

## come back (to bite, haunt, etc.)

come back  
I never thought it would ~ again (convicted of cold case)

come back to haunt  
what you do on the computer can ~ (queries)

come back to bite the president  
a lot of that conduct and those words may ~

come back to bite us  
this will ~ (no test to get driving license)

come back to haunt the Ethiopians  
such tactics may ~ (torture / rebels)

come back to haunt you  
gossip can ~

♦ "Be careful about sharing intimate gossip in a party situation—you may find it comes back to haunt you..."

## come back (resiliency)

came back to level it  
the defending champions ~ (Olympic basketball)

come (roaring) back into the public consciousness  
the case has ~ after the Netflix series (Menendez brothers)

come back stronger  
I'm going to ~ than ever

## come back (from extinction, etc.)

coming back  
the Atlantic cod is ~ after strict catch limits  
the Automat might be ~, its prices not... (New York City)

♦ An animal might become extinct in a specific area, and then be reintroduced. Beavers—millions of which ended up as hats—were exterminated in Massachusetts, then reintroduced many decades later and now have achieved nuisance status under protection laws. Many people would like to re-exterminate them.

♦ I love it when an animal comes back. Good for the animals! May they be fruitful and multiply and repopulate their historic ranges! It thrills me when a right whale—hunted to the brink of extinction by whalers for their oil and baleen—is spotted in the Azores, or when a cloud leopard—still wearing its beautiful hide and possessing its claws—is spotted in Bangladesh. It gives me mordant cheer to know that Korean tigers are thriving in the no-man's-land of the DMZ between North and South Korea, safe from people who would otherwise eat their meat and grind their bones into powder for medicines and aphrodisiacs. / Alas, these sightings are only hints of what once was and will never be again.

♦ Flora and fauna; viruses; technologies; indigenous peoples; languages; old ways of life, traditions, and forms of recreation; cultural sounds... (Things that can seem to have disappeared but also can come back, sometimes with the help of reintroduction, de-extinction, protection, and promotion.)

♦ see also *return (animals, etc.)*

## comeback (noun)

comeback kid  
he's not the ~, he's Lazarus (a politician)

comeback trail  
they are on the ~ after serious injuries (skiers)

the genre is on the ~ (hard rock music)

small comeback

cassette tapes are making a ~

spark for his comeback

the rivalry was the ~ (a rapper)

made a comeback

he ~

♦ "It might be a surprise to hear that cassette tapes are even around anymore..."

♦ "That catchphrase—"Is it live, or is it Memorex"—persisted but the cassette tape? well, less so. Cassettes, though, are making a small comeback, thanks in part to..." (National Audio.)

♦ Turning setback to comeback...

## come down on (verb)

came down (hard) on his critics

President Trump ~

## come down to (verb)

comes down to greed

a lot of this just ~

## come forward (verb)

came forward

dozens of women ~ and said... (sex abuse)

come forward

she decided to ~, despite the publicity (accusation)

police have appealed for any witnesses to ~

come forward with allegations

4,000+ people have ~ of sexual assault (Australia)

## come from (origin)

comes from dishonesty

nothing good ever ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You don't harvest grapes from planting thorns. (An Arab proverb.)

## come from (emotion)

coming from

he understood where their anger was ~ (an official)

I just want people to understand where you're ~ (mom died)

## come from (analysis)

come from

where did all this ~ (stigmas and stereotypes)

## come out (the truth, etc.)

coming out

people ask why I'm ~ now (male on male historical abuse)

now the truth is ~ (an expose that was quashed)

## come out (as nonmonogamous, etc.)

came out

when I ~ I was mainly nervous (Meta VR advertisement)

when I ~, there was a lot of really negative reaction

when I ~ it was kind of unsafe for me (Meta VR ad)

come out of the closet

see *closet* (*secret*)

came out as a lesbian

Louisa recently ~ on Instagram (Meryl Streep's daughter)

comes out as nonmonogamous

Georgia lawmaker ~

♦ "Bakhtiari said that too often stories like theirs will come out 'in a scandal.' / 'But we're openly showing it and proud of it,' Bakhtiari, 34, said during a video interview, as Brown and Al-Khayyal sat on either side. 'It should be destigmatized. It's a very valid familial structure that people should embrace.'" ("Georgia lawmaker comes out as nonmonogamous: 'I'm in love with two wonderful people'" by Jo Yurcaba, NBC, Sept. 28, 2022.)

♦ "In 'Unshrinking,' a writer discusses coming out as fat and pushing back against bias" by Mara Gordon, NPR, March 13, 2024.

## come out (against something)

come out against anti-Semitic tropes

we felt the need to ~

## comer (up-and-comer, etc.)

up and comer

I know he's an ~ so... (Ray Mancini about Connor Benn)

up-and-comers

there's a long list of ~ bringing fresh sounds to the city

up-and-comer from Chattanooga

in 2013, Rashad was still a relatively unknown ~

up-and-comer artist

~ Gemma Laurence (sapphic folk music / wlw)

Republican up-and-comer

from Texas underdog to ~ (Ted Cruz / politics)

♦ See *up-and-coming* (*and up and coming*), *arrive* (*attainment*)

## come to (come to an answer, etc.)

come to

what decision did they ~

came to his decision

he asked for an assessment and that's how he ~

## come to (development)

come to mean

"gaslight" has ~ a type of psychological manipulation

came to a head

it all ~ in December (conflict)

come to a (prickly) stalemate

the debate has ~ (prescription v. description / language)

coming to

impeachment is crazy, what is this ~ (politics)



## come through (verb)

still came through

Italy was not at its best but it ~ (a Euro 2020 game)

came through for people

I ~ (the great Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini / Youngstown)

## come up (appear)

come up

that's an option that has ~

## come up with (discovery)

come up with nothing

they have dug through and ~ (investigation)

## come up on (a date, etc.)

coming up on a new trial

he is ~

## coming (in the coming months, etc.)

in the coming months

a series of reports is expected ~

in the coming years

such events will become more frequent ~ (droughts)

## coming out (party, etc.)

coming out party

this was his ~ to set up big money (Brit boxer fights in US)

## come with (and come along with / attachment)

comes with being

her poems involve the cultural baggage that ~

come with its territory

his book avoids the pitfalls that ~ (a biography)

come along with that

there are questions that ~ (athlete's drug-taking)

come with the sudden wealth

leeches ~ (pro athletes)

## comfort food (figurative)

nostalgia comfort food

consumers are demanding ~ (popular culture, film, TV, etc.)

\*\*\* You crave it...

♦ (1) "You crave it." (A Native American on the delight of fry bread.)  
(2) "Fry bread is found on dinner tables, at lunch stands, at powwows and festivals all across Indian country." (3) "At the powwow you are sure to find / everybody's in that proud proud red line." (For fry bread. From the song, "Fry Bread line" by the Jim Boyd band.) (4) "Fry Bread Power." (Message on a T-shirt.)

♦ "The only people who don't like poutine are people on a diet. It's the first thing you want when you go back, a real late-night post-drinking thing." (Siobhan O'Connor, on the "gloppy, caloric layering of French fries, fresh cheese curds and gravy that is Canada's junk-food shame.")

♦ "A tall, middle-aged woman of distinctly Soviet aspect sternly paced the kitchen, cross-examining the staff on their preparations. Then she came across a glass of *toplennoe moloko*, milk that has sat in a hot *pech* [a traditional peasant oven] for several hours until it is the color of crème brûlée and has the faintest suggestion of caramel. She drank it down in a few long gulps. 'Oh, that is so good,' she said, closing her eyes and wiping off the milk mustache with the back of her wrist. 'That's the taste of childhood.'" ("The Borscht Belt, Rediscovering Russia's lost culinary heritage" by Julia Ioffe, *The New Yorker*, April 16, 2012.)

♦ "Our foods do more than nourish our bodies. They feed our souls. When I eat Inuit foods, I know who I am. I feel the connection to our ocean and to our land, to our people, to our way of life. When I travel outside our homeland, my metabolism often goes wrong. Coming home and turning to Inuit food, I am all right again, within hours. When many other things in our lives are changing, our foods remain the same, and they make us feel the same as they have for generations. (Ingmar Egede, in Nuuk, Greenland.)

♦ "African expatriates like Edward Lama Wonkeryor, a lecturer at Temple University, have long turned to bushmeat as a home comfort: During his earliest trips from Liberia to this country, in the 1970s, he mother would carefully wrap parcels of bushmeat—monkey, bush hog or lion, smoked so it would keep—and slip them into his suitcase. He would save them for occasions like weddings and christenings, or when he wanted to feel smarter. / 'If I were going to take the Graduate Record Examination or the Law School Admissions Test, definitely I would eat bushmeat beforehand...' ("A Taste of Monkey, and Maybe of Prison," by Ellen Barry, *NYT International*, Nov. 17, 2007, A17.)

♦ "Prahok is the taste of Cambodia. If there is no prahok, we are not Cambodians... Prahok is the Khmer identity... It is like butter or cheese for Westerners... Prahok is equal in value to rice... It is so important for our daily lives, we use it in every soup... it is our most necessary and best-liked food..." (Prahok, the crushed, salted and fermented fish paste that is a staple of Cambodian cuisine. It is produced between December and March, and the fish are often crushed underfoot, like grapes. Farmers from the countryside visit rivers to trade rice for prahok.)

♦ A lunch counter; stools; a cash register; regulars; inexpensive, filling no-frills comfort food; buildings originally built to resemble railroad dining cars; night workers; politicians (who often attend diners to get votes); a comforting culinary experience that is less expensive than other restaurants; coffee and burgers served at a breakneck pace; nothing fancy; traditional establishments; tan booths; leather booths; beige walls; satisfying and greasy diner food; egg creams; cherry-lime rickeys; pancakes; omelets; Greek dishes; a retro 1950s look... (Characteristics of diners, from "New York City's classic diners survive," by Jonah Flicker, BBC, 19 July 2012.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Do you have a favorite comfort food that you eat when you are sad, weak, sick, hungover, homesick, cold, or want to take your mind off your troubles?

## command (deserve and get)

commands (an annual) rent

the space ~ of \$800 a square foot

commands respect

she ~ (a veteran teacher)

commands the highest prices

sweet crude ~... (oil)

## common denominator

common denominator

music is a ~ (vs. class, race, ability)

## commodity (noun)

commodity

in Hollywood, sex was a ~ (Harvey Weinstein's lawyer)

most precious commodity  
time was now Scott's ~, and time was running out

questionable commodity  
for all his talent, he is still a ~ (athlete)

scarcest commodities  
time is one of your ~ (owners of small businesses)

limited and precious commodity  
time is a ~

treat virginity as a commodity  
men should not ~

## community (groups)

communities of color  
failing water systems in ~ (Flint MI, Jackson MS, etc.)  
promote financial literacy amongst ~  
~ are overpoliced  
create spaces for artists, especially LGTBQIA ~

communities of victimhood  
NPR seeks to perpetuate ~

community of women and gender-expansive folks  
there's a ~ who believe you and love you

community standards  
"Libs of TikTok" violated ~ (on Facebook)

community and sympathy  
I found ~ online (gender dysphoria)

racially marginalized communities  
people from poor, immigrant, and ~

Black community  
I used it in the way it's used in the ~ (Lizzo about "spaz")  
~s face the brunt of the carnage (illegal drug overdoses)  
~s are not a monolith

black community  
the black body, the black family, the ~, the black nation

Latino community  
what the shooting in Uvalde has meant for the ~ (NPR)  
host more mental health conversations in the ~

Latinx community  
within Black communities, within ~s

queer community  
*Muna* (the band) represents all things joyful in the ~

indigenous community  
this is a 'death warrant' for ~s (COVID policy)

mental health community  
the plan was a big deal in the ~ (mobile units, etc.)

furry community  
the ~ still endures negative stereotypes (cosplay / fetish)

remarkable and resilient community  
this ~ (Dr. Sharon E. Roberts about "furries" / cosplay)

LGBT community

suicide prevention in the ~

LGBTQ+ community  
Kendrick Lamar's new song divides the ~

joyful, equitable communities  
building ~ that celebrate diversity (King Arthur Baking)

in community  
people who are not ~ with us (LGBTQ+)  
be ~ with us (Jules Gill-Peterson, John Hopkins)

colorism in the (Black) community  
*Other People's Skin* highlights ~ (a book)

platform and an audience and a community  
building a ~ on Twitter

building (joyful, equitable) communities  
~ that celebrate diversity (King Arthur Baking)

create a (sense of) community  
~ for our LGBTQ+ employees and allies (SV Bank)

divides the (LGBTQ+) community  
"Kendrick Lamar's new song 'Auntie Diaries' ~" (NPR)

empower the (Deaf) community  
she hopes her appearance can ~ (Raven Sutton)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "To raise funds for trans communities, an artist has pledged to do 1,000 pansy tattoos." (The tattoo artist Cedre Csillagi. They call their project "A Thousand Pansies." To get the tattoo, participants must donate \$500 to a designated charity. From "To raise funds for trans communities, an artist has pledged to do 1,000 pansy tattoos" by Halisia Hubbard, NPR, Culture, Nov. 25, 2022.)

♦ "For me, there were so many Trans people who were not in the history books. Many trans people that people who are not in community with us will never know about." (Angelica Ross, actress & activist, she/her.)

♦ "You know, when we talk about our children—I know for this group, we all believe that when we talk about the children of the community, they are a children of the community." (Vice President Kamala Harris / word salad.)

♦ "Community is the greatest weapon against overwhelming grief." (A Hamas supporter at Princeton University. "Community is a weapon...")

♦ "Blackline is a hotline geared towards the Black, Black LGBTQ+, brown Native, and Muslim communities."

♦ "My belief is that we should be centering the voices and the experiences of the most marginalized people and communities at all times. So when I think about what fat liberation looks like to me, I think about centering the voices of those who live in and who maneuver through spaces and institutions in a fat body." (Zyahna Bryant, activist, who has partnered with the soap and beauty company Dove to promote fat liberation, or size freedom.)

♦ "At a time when there are calls for greater scrutiny of the police, today's developments will be viewed with concern by *some communities* [italics mine]." (BBC Six O'Clock News, 24/09/2023. The "Shooting of Chris Kaba.")

♦ "But there's been a strong reaction from the Black community, many of whom feel they've been failed by the system." (BBC Six O'Clock News, 22/10/24. See the Wikipedia article "Shooting of Chris Kaba.")

♦ "The community is well convinced he was disloyal. The city does not miss him. The lesson of his death has had a wholesome effect on the Germanists of Collinsville [Illinois] and the rest of the nation." (The report in a local paper on the murder of Robert Prager, a German immigrant, who was lynched in Collinsville, Illinois, now a suburb of St. Louis, on April 4, 1918. He was stripped naked and made to walk

down Main Street singing patriotic songs. The drunken mob broke beer bottles at his feet, so that he walked barefoot on glass shards to the tree from which he was hanged. The mob believed him to be a German spy. Eleven men were put on trial for his murder, and all were acquitted. From "During World War I, U.S. Government Propaganda Erased German Culture," NPR, All Things Considered, April 7, 2017.)

♦ "There are other players saying, 'What about us?'" (Sheila Johnson, America's first Black woman billionaire, about Caitlin Clark's success.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "While regrettable instances do happen in the sex-positive community, we have very specific rules and procedures put in place to keep safety in the forefront." (New York City's Hacienda sex club, responding to a number of complaints.)

♦ "Look, I mean voters of color don't talk about voters of color. Who the hell lives in communities of color? The people I know live in neighborhoods. Right, so there's this whole you know sort of rhetorical lexicon the left of the Democratic party has become obsessed with and insists on using. Which basically just alienates normie voters, including normie non-white voters. I mean, we have people in and around the Democratic Party talking about how all white people have white privilege, and how this is a white supremacist society, and so on, and I just don't think this is the way people think about the world, including you know normie non-white voters." (The political scientist Ruy Teixeira. From "Hispanic and minority voters are increasingly shifting to the Republican party," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 23, 2022.)

♦ "The crowd rose to its feet—but it felt more like an act of politeness. Unlike in Orlando, where the audience was at rapt attention, the version of Harris in Boston more resembled the version I saw in Munich. It served as a reminder that Black communities are not a monolith and that their assumed kinship to Harris—or to the Democratic Party—cannot be taken for granted." ("In Search of Kamala Harris" by Astead W. Herndon, *The New York Times Magazine*, October 22, 2023.)

♦ "There were a lot of people saying, it's best just to leave this particular issue alone. I got told I was *bringing the community down* [italics mine] by talking about these issues, and they didn't want me to talk about this or raise these issues." (Mohammed Shafiq, Ramadan Foundation. From *The Betrayed Girls: The Rochdale Scandal—2017 Documentary*. See also the Wikipedia article "Rochdale child sex abuse ring." Also, "The heroes who helped bring down the Rochdale grooming gangs" by Frankie Elliott, *Daily Mail*, 16 January 2024. See also the report, "Independent assurance review of the effectiveness of multi-agency responses to child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester, Part Three, The review into Operation Span and the investigation of non-recent child sexual exploitation in Rochdale" by Malcolm Newsam CBE and Gary Ridgway, January 2024.)

♦ "'Community' is one of those words that have been hijacked and ruined, like 'preferred,' 'appropriation' and 'equity,' among others." ("Sorry, progressives: There is no 'trans community'" by Rich Lowry, Opinion, *The New York Post*, April 3, 2023. "Preferred" is not entered in this work, but presumably it refers to collocations such as "preferred pronouns" and "preferred gender identity," and "preferred words" as determined by NPR, the AP Style Guide, universities, etc.)

♦ "[O]bscure 'experts' who purport to speak for vaguely defined 'communities'..." ("The Moral Case Against Euphemism" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023.)

♦ "Texas mall shooting revives talk of what attracts a person of color to extremism," NPR, Morning Edition, May 12, 2023.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There are all sorts of Black people, we are not monolithic." (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe.)

♦ "'Black America' is a ridiculous abstraction." (The linguist John McWhorter.)

♦ "The Hispanic community is not a monolith." (Sunny Hostin of *The View*.)

♦ "For a small town this one sure has a lot of assholes." (A bumper sticker seen on a pickup truck.)

## companion (noun)

companion of time

change is a constant ~ (said by a diplomat)

companion to a (bewitching) city

for me, the book was a perfect ~ (Kaplan / *Kim* / Lahore)

companion for 105 days

the wind was a pretty constant ~ (Antarctica)

constant companion

exhaustion is a ~ (work at nursing homes)

cruelty is their ~ (untouchables / India)

constant companions

thirst and hunger were their ~

modern life and ancient traditions are ~ (Bangkok)

a camera and tape recorder were his ~ (a filmmaker)

near companion

death was always a ~ (diseases / British Raj)

turns a poem into a companion

memorization ~ (Billy Collins)

♦ "It's a respected companion." (Fear. The ski mountaineer Hilaree Nelson.)

## compass (within / outside the compass)

within the compass of that subpoena

if there are papers that are ~

♦ "Keep within compass and you shall be sure to avoid many troubles which others endure." (An illustration of a virtuous woman, inside the legs of a compass. The compass is not a navigational one, but the one used to inscribe a circle, the drawing tool. The idea is that correct behavior is circumscribed by precise boundaries.)

♦ "Slowly, her world was becoming more circumscribed." (Friends and mentors die, etc. She becomes more and more isolated from the larger world.)

## compass (moral compass)

moral compass

a friend with a stronger ~ (told police of crime)

so many are intelligent, with decent ~s (teens / dating)

~ can point you in the right direction

his own inner moral compass

he had lost sight of ~

strong moral compass

her proper, small-town upbringing had given her a ~

moral compass was (badly) askew

there's no question that her ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

moral compass had shifted

the ~ 180 degrees (seduction is abuse)

moral compass went off course

tell us about a time your ~

lacks a moral compass

he is a menacing creature who ~ (a dictator)

lost its moral compass

has a whole generation ~

lose their moral compass

they are so mired in bad fortune they ~

set my moral compass high

my mother ~ (Kamala Harris)

♦ “The world’s MORAL COMPASSES have become DEMAGNITIZED thus producing an UNSTABLE society that is LOST and RUNNING AMOK.” (Karan Prather on the Breitbart website about the latest school shooting. Possibly one metaphor too far...)

♦ “Clearly in this case, his moral compass doesn’t matter. And as much as I believe he’s amazing and a good person, even if he weren’t, that does not matter because...” (Mr Jefferson Bosela, who quit his job to assume the role of family spokesman. See the Wikipedia article “Shooting of Chris Kaba.”)

♦ “[B]oth Mr. Riach and the captain were singularly patient. I could not but fancy they were making up lee-way with their consciences, and that they would scarce have been so good with me if they had not been worse with Ransome.” (*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The metaphor of a moral compass is a very trendy cliché in writing and speaking nowadays, and it is obvious that almost everyone utilizing the word has never needed, owned or used an actual handheld compass. The compass doesn’t waver, the compass *needle* does. The compass doesn’t go off course, the *user* of the compass does. What in the world does it mean to “realign” a compass “once wires get crossed,” or to be “tuned in to” your moral compass, as though the compass were a radio? What does it mean to “set the moral compass high?” Is there *really* a compass or something like it *inside* us? Are compasses ordinarily distinguishable as “strong” or “weak”? How can a compass “waver off true north” when its sole job is to *indicate* north! Read or listen to “Resetting Your Moral Compass After An ‘Ethical Slip,’” NPR, Talk of the Nation, April 8, 2013.

♦ You can point out people’s odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.

## compass (other)

trusted her own compass

Williams has always ~ (the actor Michelle Williams)

## competence (metaphoric competence, etc.)

competence-based

~ education (CBE)

~ programs define learning in terms of specific skills

communicative competence

grammar, vocabulary and ~ (language education)

cultural competence

medical schools don’t focus on ~ (healthcare)

the need for greater diversity and ~ (in education)

an important component of ~ (Fisekcioglu, 2022)

metaphoric competence

“The development of a ~” (Regina Gutierrez Perez / Regina Gutiérrez Pérez)

pragmatic competence

the ability to understand a speaker’s intended meaning is ~

social competence

students with “~ deficits” (autism, etc.)

♦ “Knowing something about the fights—being good with your hands, or maintaining an opinion about the welterweight division or fixed

bouts or how to beat a southpaw—was a very common piece of equipment in the tool box of American cultural competence, especially the section of it devoted to masculinity.” (Carlo Rotella, quoted in “‘Money’ And ‘Canelo’ Punch It Out For Black And Latino Fans” by Gautham Nagesh, NPR, Code Switch, September 13, 2013.)

♦ “The Eskimos were right!” (An excited scientist in a helicopter in 1994, noticing a bow whale swimming with a group of beluga whales. This is but one example of traditional ecological knowledge.)

♦ “‘The NYT thinks that Travis Kelce invented the fade,’ Hill responded alongside a facepalm emoji. ‘When you have zero cultural competency on your staff, this is how you end up with stories like this.’” (“New York Times lampooned for piece on Travis Kelce’s haircut, critics feel it offered ‘zero cultural context’” by Brian Flood, Fox News, February 5, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See “The development of a metaphoric competence” by Regina Gutierrez Perez / Regina Gutiérrez Pérez, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla. Compilers note: The entire point of this dictionary and thesaurus is to develop such competence in our English Language learners.

♦ “Beware, Monsieur, of the memory of the illiterate man!” (“The Bull That Thought” by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ “Ability has no school.” (Turkey.)

♦ “Time teaches more than books.” (*Po but siklos bersentar sar lilehtar* / Roma.)

♦ “A whale-ship was my Yale College and my Harvard.” (*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.)

♦ see also *literacy* (noun), *literate* (adjective), *illiterate* (adjective)

## complex (euphemism / adjective)

complex

the pair’s issues are ‘~’ (celebrity gossip)

his relationship with this father was ~ (James Baldwin)

complex (football) culture

Australia’s ~ (lesbians)

complex (rock-and-roll) icon

the ~ (Little Richard, *I Am Everything*)

complex life

the ~ of Leonard Bernstein (married, bisexual)

nuanced and complex

the challenges Brockton High School is facing are ~

♦ “Lisa and Rhali: We see you and we hear you.” (Football Australia (FA) chief executive James Johnson, responding to their accusations of “women protecting women who abuse women.” From “Lisa De Vanna’s allegations highlight tensions in Australia’s *complex* [italics mine] football culture” by Samantha Lewis, ABC Australia, Analysis, Sport, 18 Oct 2021.)

♦ “Bradley Cooper’s ‘Maestro’ fully captures Bernstein’s charisma and complexity.” (The headline for Justin Chang’s review.)

♦ “Throughout the past year, as multiple complex situations arose...” (“Our Throuple Fell Apart. What Are the Rules of the Breakup?” Name withheld, The Ethicist, Kwame Anthony Appiah, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 30, 2023.)

♦ “The challenges Brockton High School is facing are nuanced and complex.” (The once exemplary school outside Boston has become so violent and out of control that the school committee requested that the National Guard be sent in to guard the hallways and help maintain good order and discipline.)

♦ “We’re headed in a direction where we want people to feel more comfortable bringing their lived experiences into the hosts’ chairs.” (Sarah Gilbert, NPR’s vice president over its newsmagazines. From “NPR hosts’ departures fuel questions over race. The full story is complex” by David Folkenflik, NPR, media, January 12, 2022.)

♦ “Too many times we think of things like ‘this is racism’ and ‘this is mental health,’ and they’re separate. But in reality, it’s really *complex* [italics mine] and they inform one another.” (Kristi Oshiro, an assistant professor at Belmont University who has studied racism and its impact on athletes. From “Why mental health matters for athletes—even as they give their all to win” by Leah Asmelash, CNN, July 26, 2022.)

♦ “The thing that is so extraordinary about this installment of the series is that it explores the feminine or the female and the masculine and the male that is in all of these character including the women in a way that is so *complex* [italics mine].” (Jodie Foster about the TV show *True Detective: Night Country*.)

\*\*\* **complicated, sensitive, problematic, schizophrenic, etc.**

♦ “Complicated” may also be used as a euphemism, for example, “It’s a complicated legacy,” speaking about Martin Luther King, Jr.’s politics and his sexual predilections. Or “For People Of Color, Relationships With Police Are Complicated” by Gene Demby, NPR, Morning Edition, August 15, 2014. Or “Is Being A ‘Girl Boss’ a Bad Thing? It’s Complicated” by Paige Skinner, *Los Angeles Magazine*, May 13, 2021. Or, “Bonus: Remembering the iconic, complicated Andre Leon Talley,” NPR, Code Switch, Jan. 23, 2022. Or, “Is Barbie a feminist icon? It’s complicated,” by Rachel Treisman, NPR, Morning Edition, July 27, 2023. Or, “Bill Cosby’s Huge, Complicated Post-‘Cosby Show’ Legacy” by Gene Demby, NPR, Code Switch, September 20, 2014.

♦ “And really, Mandalit, he remained a very fascinating and complicated figure.” (“The cultural legacy of OJ Simpson: football player, actor and murder suspect” by A Martinez, Mandalit del Barco, NPR, Morning Edition, April 12, 2024.)

♦ “Sensitive” may also be used as a euphemism, as in the following: “Social media platforms are being weaponized by far-right groups and individuals who are exploiting *sensitive* [italics mine] public and social issues.”

♦ “Problematic” also fits the bill. Consider the following: NPR’s Debbie Elliott: What might this mean for UN aid operations in Gaza? / NPR’s Greg Myre: Yeah, Debby, it’s very problematic...” (“Israeli military claims an underground tunnel links Hamas with the UNRWA,” NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, February 11, 2024.)

♦ Or consider the following: “There is a part of it that is a little problematic because of what it says about the worth and the marketability of the players who are already there.” (Sports journalist Jamele Hill about the WNBA’s Caitlin Clark.)

♦ “Also on view is a problematic portrait bust of a Black man—from Arneson’s ‘Black Series (1988-1989)—a representation of a racial stereotype...” (“Funk You Too! Humor and Irreverence In Ceramic Sculpture” by Jennifer Krasinski, *Goings On About Town*, “Art,” *The New Yorker*, June 12, 2023.)

♦ Or “schizophrenic”? “League executives admit their marketing efforts have been schizophrenic.” (The Women’s National Basketball Association, about fans who are “fluid,” “progressive,” and “eclectic.”)

♦ Or “difficult”? “And I’m like, ‘Wait a minute.’ The same people, all of us, that played in college, we’re the same people in the WNBA. So if you liked us in college, like why didn’t you follow us in the WNBA? And it is [long pause] probably one of the more interesting and maybe more difficult questions to answer [ending with high upspeak]. I have my theories...” (Sue Bird, talking with Terry Gross about why the popularity of women’s NCAA basketball doesn’t translate to the WNBA.)

♦ Or what about the following: “The dynamic between them becomes *harder to parse* [italics mine].” (Bob Mondello’s review of the 2024 film *Femme*. About the film, he writes, “these vibrantly conflicted characters” who are “performing who they are.”)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “The word ‘complicated’ always hovers in the stories of Pretendians.” (“A Professor Claimed To Be Native American. Did she know she wasn’t?” by Jay Caspian Kang, *The New Yorker*, February 26, 2024.)

♦ IYKYK...

♦ see also *elephant (elephant in the room, etc.)*, *lip service (pay lip service, etc.)*

## complex (military-industrial complex, etc.)

action industrial complex  
Hollywood’s ~

celebrity industrial complex  
by the 1950s, he was a big face in the ~ (Dirk Bogarde)

celebrity-media complex  
the ~ has always found room for nepo babies

Censorship-Industrial Complex  
the ~ (Global Engagement Center / State Department)

Civil Rights Industrial complex  
members of the ~ always blame the judicial system

college-industrial complex  
the ~’s next trick (college admissions)

conspiratorial-industrial complex  
a ~ has eroded American democracy

deadline-industrial complex  
we buy in to the ~

DEI industrial complex  
a multi-billion dollar ~ in corporate America

Democrat-media complex  
the full ~ was on display (politics)

Democrat-Media Complex  
the ~ lives in the past... (historical debate)

fertility industrial complex  
the dark side of the ~ (US)

illness industrial complex  
he will work to take on the ~ (in Trump administration)

literary-industrial establishment  
he objected to the ~ (analysis, schools, etc.)

“Lolita” industrial complex  
the ~ (film adaptations, fashion shows, podcast, etc.)

media-industrial complex  
the best-of-the-decade ~ (2019-2020)  
she represents the ~ (Kristen Hentschel)

medical-industrial complex  
Duke University Medical Center—a ~... (Abraham Verghese)

migrant-industrial complex  
NYC’s ever-expanding (cost of immigrants to city)

movie industrial complex  
its CGI feats put the superhero ~ to shame (*Avatar* sequel)

nonprofit-industrial complex  
we got a crash course in the ~ (drag queen)

pharmaceutical industrial complex  
Aaron Rodgers talked about the ~ (vaccinations)



prison industrial complex

the ~ is profit driven (for-profit incarceration)  
what she refers to as the “~” (Angela Davis UC Santa Cruz)

progressive-media-government complex

all the petty potentates of the ~

public-health-industrial complex

had the ~ listened... (criticism of Covid restrictions)  
that’s the ~ closing ranks (more criticism)

reconciliation-industrial complex

reframe cheating as abuse and push back against “the ~”

romance-industrial complex

a word tragically co-opted by the ~ (“love”)

tech-industrial complex

Biden warned against a “~” in his farewell address

Wedding Industrial Complex

“Breaking down the Jennifer Lopez ~ Canon” (NPR)

‘Wellness-Industrial Complex’

breaking down the ~ (the podcast *Maintenance Phase*)

wellness industrial complex

I refer to SoCal as the ~ (health food, pseudo-science, etc.)

tragedy-industrial complex

the printed press and its ~ (the film *Ace in the Hole*)

♦ “Dwayne Johnson is one of the most likable hulks in Hollywood’s action industrial complex.”

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “The term the wedding-industrial complex entered the vernacular in 2007, around when Rebecca Mead published her takedown of the wedding industry, *One Perfect Day*.” (“Confessions of a Luxury-Wedding Planner: Lies, panic, and ponies” by Xochitl Gonzalez, *The Atlantic*, July / August 2023.)

♦ Some of these “complexes” can be analogous to what some refer to as “the Deep State.” See the Wikipedia article “Deep state in the United States.” Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ Dwight D. Eisenhower used the term “the military-industrial complex” in his Farewell Address to the Nation on January 17, 1961.

♦ “There is no military-industrial complex: it’s just the industrial system operating under one or another pretext.” (The linguist Noam Chomsky.)

♦ see also *industry* (noun)

## complex (like syndrome)

Bambi complex

the ~, a dangerous desire to regard nature as benign

god complex

the sniper had a ~ (DC sniper)  
there’s a little bit of the ~ (CIA does what it wants)

‘white savior’ complex

Hollywood’s ~ (the 2009 film *The Blind Side*)

♦ “Unsurprisingly, ‘Bambi’ has long been unpopular among hunters... Nor is the film a favorite among professional wilderness managers, who now routinely contend with what they call ‘the Bambi complex’: a dangerous desire to regard nature as benign and wild animals as adorable and tame, coupled with a corresponding resistance to crucial forest-management tools such as culling and controlled

burns.” (“Eat Prey Love: The unsettling book behind a classic children’s movie” by Kathryn Schulz, *The New Yorker*, January 24, 2022.)

## conceived

conceived, born and raised

*Nature* was ~ to serve polemic purpose (the magazine)

## concierge (person)

concierge-style

a ~ (health care) start-up with offices in...

Book Concierge

NPR’s annual literary recommendation tool ~

♦ “She helped conceive and create NPR’s first-ever Book Concierge.” (Camila Domonoske.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Wealthy Bobos expect to be catered to by Sherpas, concierges, elementary schools, universities, etc. (Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

## concoct (verb)

concocted such a (wild artistic and musical) gumbo

few have ~ (Van Dyke Parks)

concocted an (escape) plan

she ~ (to get away from a cult)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The means “cook together,” from the Latin *con-*, “together,” and *coquo*, “cook.” As such, it is congruent with *cook up*.

## concoction (noun)

plot-driven concoction

*State of Terror* is a ~

## concrete (noun)

concrete

their thinking becomes less ~ and more abstract (kids)

concrete actions

what are the ~ you’re gonna take (an activist)

concrete evidence

for now, there was no ~ linking... (terror attack)

concrete examples

some ~ will illustrate this point

concrete information

he didn’t give any ~ about the crime

concrete offer

I haven’t gotten any ~s (job search)

concrete question

unable to answer ~s about...

concrete results

we need ~ from this conference (U.N.)

## concretize (verb)

concretize what’s going on

trying to ~ today (racial attitudes)



concretize (possible) approaches  
steps designed to ~ to the problem of...

concretized the connection  
Foucault further ~ between knowledge and power

concretized a Palestinian national identity  
the Nakba ~ post-1949

concretizes it  
if everybody knows about it, it ~ (death of a person)

concretize the opinion  
the bumper sticker helps to ~ of the driver (or “firm up”)

concretize these points  
to help ~, consider a few data... (*National Review*)

concretized our solidarity  
the connection ~ (Ferguson / Gaza) (BLM / Hamas)

concretize or literalize  
I want to ~ something that is happening (an author)

♦ “PLEASE SET ASIDE SOME TIME TO READ THIS OUTSTANDING, ENGAGING PIECE ON COLONIALISM, THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE MECHANICS OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE... IT CONCRETIZES A LOT.” (The favorable comment from @ MirandaKSMassie in *The New York Times Magazine*, August 14, 2022, about a previous article by Abrahm Lustgarten.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines this as simply “to make concrete, specific, definite.”

♦ Wikipedia redirects “Concretization” to “Abstract and concrete,” which it relates to metaphysics.

## concretized

concretized  
once a clear definition is ~ (academia)

## condemn (verb)

condemned his men to march or die  
he had ~ (Robert Falcon Scott / logistics)

condemned Scott as a “sentimentalist”  
Meares ~ (Antarctica)

## conductor (person / music)

sees himself as a conductor  
he ~ managing the orchestra of his farm’s ecosystem

♦ “Dairy farmer Tyler Web sees himself as a conductor managing the orchestra of his farm’s ecosystem.” (An advertisement from NPR for sponsor Organic Valley, a co-op of small organic family farms. Lots of birdsong and mooing.)

## conduit (noun)

conduits for contributors  
Visa and PayPal refused to be ~ (to WikiLeaks)

conduit for refugees from Tibet  
the passes into Sikkim became a ~ after 1950

conduit between publishers and consumers  
originally the company was to be a ~ (Amazon)

communications conduit

he acted as a ~ (terrorist messenger)

media conduit  
the group acts as a ~ for the ALF

vital conduit  
the Gulf of Aden is a ~ for Middle East oil

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ metaphors (specific metaphors cited) Conduit Metaphor. See COMMUNICATION IS OBJECT EXCHANGE / COMMUNICATION IS OBJECT EXCHANGE 15, 16, 69, 84, 132, 180 (*Figurative Language* by Barbara Dancygier and Eve Sweetser.)

## confetti (noun)

turned the insulation into confetti  
the machine-gun fire ~ (an aircraft)

## conflagration (noun)

financial conflagration  
proprietary trading added tinder to the ~ (2008)

added tinder to the (financial) conflagration  
proprietary trading ~ (2008)

avoid a conflagration  
the US and the UN are seeking to ~ (in Sudan)

ignite a (larger) conflagration  
Somalia could ~ across the Horn of Africa

provoked a conflagration  
nationalists ~

## confluence (noun)

confluence of agendas  
a “~” between Algeria and the West (terrorism)

confluence of (natural and manmade) disasters  
the ~ (war, drought, etc.)

confluence of events  
the odd ~ (volcanoes erupt on same day)  
the ~ occurring in Iran is very sad (Hillary Clinton)  
a ~ brought the Web site down  
where is this ~ taking all of us (news-show host)

confluence of factors  
a ~ has contributed to the spike in lethal violence (U.S.)

confluence of (several) factors  
a ~ is likely responsible (falling crime rates)

confluence of two problems  
many cities struggle with the ~ (coronavirus / homelessness)

odd confluence  
the ~ of events (volcanoes erupt on same day)

♦ “Many different streams of migrants were to make their confluence in the future United States. But the British stream flowed first and remained foremost. From the beginning its leaders were out of sympathy with the Government at home...” (*A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, Volume 2, “The New World,” by Winston S. Churchill.)

\*\*\* the Mohawk River...

♦ "The Maquas, the Mohaugs, the Mohawk, many and one, / Depending on your angle and when you were born. / Our creeks and kills belong to us and to none else; / The Chuctanunda, Potash Creek, Burch, / Briggs Run, Kayaderosseras, the Sandsea Kill, / Schoharie, Otsquago, Alplaus and the Stony; Garoga, Canajoharie, the Sauquoit and the Flat; / They all make one river, friend, / The Maquas, the Mohaugs, the Mohawk, many and one, / Many yet one, compounding a thousand streams / That drain these hills..." (A poem recorded in *The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop.)

## conga line

conga line of headlamps  
climbers create a long ~ in the dark (Mt. Everest)

conga line of storms  
a ~ is heading towards the US

## connect (verb)

connect  
two lonely teens meet and try to ~

connect the distant parts  
migrating birds ~ of the world

## conquer (verb)

conquer social anxiety  
ways to ~

conquer coronavirus  
how Iceland clamped down to ~

conquered (some of the world's) deadliest diseases  
the science and medical innovations that ~

conquer their fears  
students ~ at the outdoor adventure center

conquer her stage fright  
he helped her to ~

conquered Yosemite's Half Dome  
how two skiers ~

conquer hate  
only love can ~ (arguable)

conquering Hollywood  
digital de-aging is ~

conquered the world  
he ~ of American entertainment (Marvin Hamlisch)

conquered all in Middlesbrough  
she ~ (Miley Cyrus / 2019)

love conquer  
can ~ travel bans (coronavirus pandemic)

♦ "Here's how to conquer the responsibilities on your to-do list."  
♦ "Conquer anywhere, anytime!" (An email from Microsoft Copilot.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Veni, vidi, vici." (Julius Caesar.)

## conscious (aware)

conscious of the value  
people are more ~ of relationships (post-9/11)

conscious of what  
I've always been very ~ I eat, how much I exercise

conscious (and unconscious) beliefs  
their ~ (stereotyping)

conscious decision  
some people make a ~ to go missing, start a new life

conscious and unconscious  
their ~ beliefs (stereotyping)

budget-conscious  
~ parents

celebrity-conscious  
Los Angeles is America's most ~ town

cost-conscious  
a ~ chef

ecology-conscious  
an ~ audience

fashion-conscious  
~ customers

party-conscious  
his move could alienate ~ Democrats (politics)

safety conscious  
kayakers are usually ~

safety-conscious  
NASCAR is extremely ~ (auto racing)

security-conscious  
this year's Academy Awards will be the most ~ ever

status-conscious  
~ people are stuck up

style conscious  
Gabriella was ~ and had expensive taste

technology-conscious  
in ~ San Francisco

weight-conscious  
data on nearly 500 ~ women

earthquake-conscious  
Japanese are the most ~ people

environmentally conscious  
an ~ business  
in an ~ world

ethically conscious  
ethically conscious investors

## conscript (noun)

unwilling conscripts  
historians have become ~ in toxic culture wars

warriors and conscripts  
its ~ are always looking for new battles (culture wars)

♦ “And the thing about the culture wars is that its warriors and conscripts are always looking for new fields of battle. Sport provides them in spades. Just look at the debate right now over transgender athletes.” (“How cash and culture are shifting the goalposts for sports journalism,” *Journo*, 14 July 2022. The Judith Neilson Institute.)

♦ “The judge hearing the...case expressed doubt about whether any of the lower-level functionaries who had been press-ganged into the scheme really had a choice.” (“Too Many Crooks” by Rachel Maddow, *The New Yorker*, November 18, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “An army *conscript* has had his name ‘written’ down ‘with’ others and is thus entered on the enlisted roll by compulsion. (*con-*, ‘with,’ and *scribo*, ‘write’).” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## constellation (noun)

constellation of folks

C-PAC is this ~ (pundits, politicians, conspiracists, etc.)

constellation of symptoms

the ~ at the end of life

he had another patient with the same bizarre ~ (AIDS)

### \*\*\* Kemble's Cascade...

♦ “Greek constellations (myths), Latin constellation names and Arabic star names.” (*Stargazing: Astronomy Without a Telescope* by Patrick Moore.)

♦ Deneb; Aldebaran; Altair; Alpheratz; Mirzam; Adhara; Shedir; Sadr; Mebsuta; Mekbuda; Rasalhague; Betelgeuse; Alnilam; Algol; Al Suhail al Wazn... (Ninety percent of star names are Arabic.)

♦ It took him a very long time, but he finally identified it, from the shore of the Red Sea south of Jeddah: Kemble's Cascade, a brilliant white rivulet among the stars that made him think of Appalachian streams... He went to sleep very satisfied and slept soundly, only waking for a moment to feel the dew precipitating on his body. In the morning he woke well rested, refreshed, and relaxed.

## construct (social construct, etc.)

construct

DEI is a ~ first embraced by academia...

constructs of Blackness

overfamiliar ~ infect his expression

construct of “compulsory heterosexuality”

the ~ or “comphet”

construct of (human) society

fault is just a “~”

construct of race and power

the institutionalized ~

man-made construct

a ~ that needs to be enforced (freedom of the seas)

artificial construct

this notion of genre is an ~ anyway (Rachel Yoder)

new construct

it's a relatively ~...

psychological construct

the “Locus of control” is a ~ with a long history of research

racial construct

the article calls professionalism a ~ (UCLA Law Review)

religious constructs

witches are bound up with many ~

social construct

gender is a ~ (versus biology)

race is a ~ and difficult to pin down (mixed races, etc.)

many academics have argued that race is a ~

social and cultural constructs

biological sex and heterosexuality are merely ~

gender, race, religion, and other (social) constructs

negative generalizations involving ~ (LLMs)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Biological sex and heterosexuality are merely social and cultural constructs. (1990s queer theory.)

♦ “Deep belief in racial equity work and challenging the institutionalized construct of race and power. Intentional career focus on increasing my depth of knowledge of the intersection of social welfare, social justice and ‘access’ as a civil right...” (A licensed clinical social worker describing herself on LinkedIn.)

♦ “The ‘influencer’ phenomenon is purely a construct of our social media based society.” (Annabelle Ham.)

♦ “He clearly felt sorry for himself, but recognized that others might feel even sorer for themselves. He really didn't like to blame himself for anything; he didn't particularly like to blame anyone else, either. ‘I'm a utilitarian,’ he wrote. ‘Fault is just a construct of human society. It serves different purposes for different people. It can be a tool to discourage bad actions; an attempt to recover pride in the face of hardship, an outlet for rage, and many more things. I guess maybe the most important definition—to me, at least—is how did everyone's actions reflect on the probability distribution of their future behavior.’” (Sam Bankman-Fried. From *Going Infinite: The Rise And Fall Of A New Tycoon* by Michael Lewis.)

♦ “You know, this whole teenager-coming-of-age thing, I mean it's a relatively new construct. They came up with it in the 50s, so...” (The silly 2009 film *I Love You, Beth Cooper*, with Paul Rust and Hayden “Hello” Panettiere. Free with ads on YouTube.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Well, geez, if gender is just a ‘social construct’ shouldn't ethnicity be as well? By the progressive tenants of gender identity she should be able to identify as any ethnicity she pleases.” (An online commenter about “Activist Raquel Evita Saraswati has faked her ‘Arab and Latin’ racial identity as far back as 2004: reports” by Ben Kessler, *The New York Post*, February 21, 2023. The article states that the activist has been referred to online as “the new Rachel Dolezal.”)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “Because freedom of the seas, in our lifetime, has seemed like a default condition, it is easy to think of it—if we think of it at all—as akin to Earth's rotation or the force of gravity: as just the way things are, rather than as a man-made construct that needs to be maintained and enforced.” (“America's Future Is At Sea” by Jerry Hendrix, *The Atlantic*, April, 2023.)

♦ “Like the metre, the minute, or the meridian that runs through Greenwich, England, ‘sea level’ is best thought of as a social and historical construct, the result of an inherently arbitrary decision taken by generations of people doing their best to make sense of a strange and chaotic world. Von Hardenberg's history is a story not of the way sea level has changed over time but, rather, of the ways in which humans have understood, and made use of, sea level as a concept, a marker of where we stand in the world.” (“Sea Change: What the search for sea level tells us about living on our changeable planet” by Brooke Jarvis, *The New Yorker*, August 26 2024. Wilko Graf von Hardenberg is the author of *Sea Level: A History*.)

## constructed (socially constructed, etc.)

constructed, reconstructed, read and misread

the many way in which black masculinity is ~ (rap)

socially constructed

gender is ~

race is ~

rights are always ~ (legal rights for environment)

♦ "There's a great deal of hope in knowing that all of the inequality we see has been constructed. That means it's not natural. It's not innate. It doesn't have to be that way." (Nikole Hannah-Jones, on ABC, talking about the Hulu docuseries based on the 1619 Project.)

## construction (of gender, etc.)

construction of men

the Christian colonialist ~ (Sasha Geffen)

construction of race

the story of the social ~

construction of reality

we're always in a constant state of social ~ (an academic)

false construction

the ~ of race to divide people (white mom, Black dad)

social construction

issue regarding the ~ of gender (feminism)

Christian colonialist construction

the ~ of men... (Sasha Geffen)

♦ "The Christian colonialist construction of men as inseminating subjects and women as reproductive objects does not extend into ancient history, nor does it govern every facet of the present." (*Glitter Up the Dark: How Pop Music Broke the Gender Binary* by Sasha Geffen.)

## consume (emotions)

consumed him

guilt and shame ~ (financial infidelity)

## consume (consumption)

consumed books

Melville ~ and was consumed by them

consuming the media

people are ~ differently nowadays

consumed no news

many had ~ about the case (jurors)

consumed online

what they ~ warped and narrowed their vision of the world

## consume (destroy)

consumed 4 Turkish divisions

Yemen ~ in the 19th century

## consumed (emotion)

consumed by (righteous) anger

she is ~

consumed by envy

I was not ~, but it was there (a boy)

consumed by an uncontrollable rage

someone ~ (girl stabbed 40 times)

consumed by thoughts of revenge

he was ~

## consumed (destroyed)

consumed in confidence

your wisdom is ~

consumed by a fight

today will be ~ over the rules of the trial

## consumer (of information, etc.)

consumers of culture

we're not just ~ but producers of culture (U.S. Muslims)

consumers of information

I want people to be critical ~

consumers of media

~ in a capitalist, money-obsessed country love a fraudster

consumers of (social) media

the rules will have implications for U.S. ~ (data privacy)

consumers of news

it would be a disservice to ~ for me... (Bernard Shaw CNN)

consumers of (fake) news

what is going on with ~

consumers of (mobile) technology

Blacks and Latinos are heavy ~

main consumers

women are the ~ of true crime narratives

fans and consumers

girls have always been crucial ~ of rock (music)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "These customers of yours are *consumers*, and therefore ravenous creatures, since Latin *consumo* means 'eat up completely.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From the chapter "Romance Behind Business Terms.")

## consumption (noun)

media consumption

~ and loneliness in the midst of hyper-connection

public consumption

everything is on social media, for ~ (a scandal)

♦ "While they've mostly shed their fusty reputation, documentaries still give the impression of being more nutritious than the average TV treat."

## contagion (noun)

contagion

if the ~ spreads widely... (failing economies of states)

contagion of meaninglessness

this ~ (the word *progress* applied to Afghan War)

contagion of stupidity

he described what happened as a ~ (mass beach brawl)

'turnover contagion'

a chain reaction known as ~ (mass resignations)

### social contagion

~ and peer influences (friends / transgender-identification)

TikTok mental health explosion is a modern version of ~

### risk of contagion

regulators were worried about the ~ (Silicon Valley Bank)

### lead to contagion

amplification in the media can ~ (names of mass shooters)

♦ A report on the Credit Suisse Bank failure and bailout used the words "collateral damage," "contagion," and "domino effect."

## contagious (emotion)

### contagious

the girl's lack of ambition was ~ (to high-school boy)

feelings are ~

she had a laugh that was ~

overconfidence can be ~ (teams)

winning is ~ (sports teams)

his boldness and confidence were ~ Alex Honnold)

### contagious energy

he is a versatile player who brings a ~ (NBA)

## contaminate (verb)

### contaminated the inquiry

the media ~ (Amanda Knox)

### contaminate the interrogation

interrogators can ~ by providing details

## contamination

### contamination

~ is the primary factor in wrongful convictions

## contaminated

### contaminated

confessions are ~ when interrogators supply details

## contest (noun)

### contest of measure and countermeasure

it's a grim ~ (IEDs / Iraq)

### popularity contest

he was bound to lose the ~

### grim contest

it's a ~ of measure and countermeasure (IEDs / Iraq)

### lose the (popularity) contest

he was bound to ~

## contour (noun)

### contours of it

we know some basic ~ now (from the Muller Report)

### basic contours

we already knew the ~ of both sides' arguments (politics)

an email statement confirmed the incident's ~ but no more

## control (in control)

### in control of his emotions

he is not ~

### more in control

I always enjoy leading and it helped me feel ~ (kayaking)

### felt (very much) in control

she ~ (a positive job interview)

## control (out of control)

### out of control

the \$100 billion timber industry is ~

the perception that juvenile violence is ~

he's ~ (behavior)

our wireless bills are ~

### out-of-control drivers

laws against ~

### out-of-control person

an ~

### out-of-control quality

a wild, nervy ~ to his writing

### out-of-control rebel

the angry, ~

### out-of-control shopper

an ~

### out-of-control (urban) sprawl

~ (Austin)

### blossom out of control

the consequences can ~ (problems on 767 jetliner)

### feel out of control

badly designed intelligent technology makes us ~

### getting out of control

things were ~

the situation seems to be ~

### got out of control

they were away and the kids ~

### spinning out of control

digital downloading and copying is ~

his personal life seemed to be ~

Nairobi is ~ (crime)

### spinning (faster) out of control

Hernandez was ~

### spun out of control

the argument ~

### spiraled out of control

Rye's junior prom ~ (drunk teens)

### spiraling out of control

in danger of ~

spiral out of control

medical expenses can often ~

his life seemed to ~ (drug addict)

## control (under control)

under control

everything is ~

I've got everything ~

## control (behavior)

under control

he can get his erratic behavior ~

get his (erratic) behavior under control

he can ~

## control (out of one's control)

out of your control

some things are ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "God's in charge."

♦ "Man plans, God laughs."

♦ "It was written." (Arabic.)

♦ "Trust in God, but don't forget to hobble your camel at night."

## conversation (groups, etc.)

conversation

is this mainly a ~ that takes place among a select group

there's never a ~ about it (race and slavery in the U.S.)

conversations where

we're having these dishonest ~ children... (race)

have these ~ people can you know choose mental health...

conversation about what

a new chapter in the American ~ racial justice / inequity...

conversation about whether

the result will provoke a ~...

conversation about race

it's time to retire the "serious ~" (SCAR)

her work helped change the national ~ (1619 Project)

conversation about these shows or plays

collectively, the industry must have ~ that are

problematic (the rape and murder of girls and women)

conversations on Black Language education

she is a national leader in ~ (a Black academic)

conversation on police reform and race

his death jumpstarted a national ~

conversation between Black men

a ~ (ABC News with T.J. Holmes)

conversation around Native Hawaiians

he is working to change the ~

water cooler conversation

see *water cooler* (*digital water cooler*, etc.)

thousand conversations

this acutely argued book will engender a ~ (blurb)

growing conversation

there has been a ~ about the mental health of athletes

broader conversation

there's a ~ happening around Critical Race Theory

there's a ~ taking place, there's a hot debate... (CRT)

"courageous conversations"

the office hosted a series of ~ about race (education)

cultural conversation

it's provoked a conversation that has dominated the ~

(#FreeBritney)

difficult conversation

the ~ about Bill Cosby

environmental conversation

she brought the ~ to petrolheads (Leilani Munter)

familiar conversations

he tells stories that follow ~ into unfamiliar territory (ad)

fearless conversations

the ~ about race you've been waiting for (NPR)

~ about race (CODE SW!TCH® RACE. IN YOU FACE.)

hard conversations

I had to have these kind of ~ with myself about...

(marriage)

honest conversation

it's time for a more ~ (linguist John McWhorter)

intentional conversations

~ between partisans could be a catalyst for national

healing

national conversation

her work helped change the ~ about race (1619 Project)

the ~ has become so binary and simplistic

her reporting always advances the ~ (NPR's Tovia Smith)

necessary conversation

engage in a ~ about how to avert these risks

open conversations

we have to start having more ~ about this (ageism)

parallel conversations

I think we need to have two ~ (about Elon Musk's Twitter)

public conversation

make this a public shaming and ~ (online petition site)

ridiculous conversation

but ultimately this is a ~ (a teacher who used racial slurs)

sophisticated conversation

society has to have an even more ~ about how the roots of...



tricky conversations  
it's important not to shy away from ~ (reintroducing wolves)

uncomfortable conversation  
you have to be ready to have the ~

gatekeeper of (public) conversation  
Twitter has become this ~ (India, Turkey, etc.)

part of the (national) conversation  
the video became ~ over police responses

rise of conversations  
with the ~ around police brutality...

layers in this conversation  
there are so many ~ around the way it's being discussed

weight in this conversation  
it's crazy he has ~ at all (Clooney about an investor)

conversation has (really) given us space  
the ~ to say, "I don't agree with what's going on"

conversation go next  
where does this ~ (sports and mental illness)

conversation has to translate  
when ~ (policing reform)

conversation is long overdue  
this ~ (about porn and the U.S.)

add something (of substance) to the conversation  
journalist scrutiny would ~ (Ronan Farrow)

advance the conversation  
I wrote the book to encourage and ~ about race

advances the (national) conversation  
her reporting always ~ (NPR's Tovia Smith)

belongs in the conversation  
he will have to win to prove that he ~ (MMA)

bring families into the conversation  
discretion in terms of when to ~ (school counselors)

brought the environmental conversation to petrolheads  
she ~ (Leilani Munter)

changed the conversation  
the #MeToo movement ~ around sexual assault

change the (national) conversation  
her work helped ~ about race (1619 Project)

dominated the (cultural) conversation  
it has provoked a conversation that has ~ (#FreeBritney)

dominating the conversation  
inflation is really ~ right now (politics)

drive more conversation  
it's important we help ~ about these drugs (son died)

elevate the conversation

the more we ~ of how Black women are maligned...

encourage (and advance) the conversation  
I wrote the book to ~ about race (Rachel Dolezal)

enter the conversation  
where exactly did that word ~ ("manliness" / politics)

erase me from my own (Defacement) conversation  
mediocre bitch... trying to ~ (Chaedria LaBouvier)

have this conversation  
we think it's time to ~  
those who have been reluctant to ~ (trans people in sports)

host more (mental health) conversations  
Camila Cabello wants to ~ in Latino community

lead the (national) conversation  
we will continue to ~ on gun safety reform (Gov. Newsome)

left out of the conversation  
the hospitality industry has been ~ about ending lockdown

move the conversation forward  
the way to ~ is for others to talk about it

open up conversations  
we start to question it, we ~... (progressives)

opening up a conversation  
it is ~ for people (about mental health)

prompt conversations  
we hope our expert report will ~ among... (a think tank)

provoke a conversation  
the result will ~ about whether...

provoked a conversation  
the documentary has ~ about tabloids and celebrities

provoking the conversation  
I'm glad he's asking the questions and ~ (about Bill Cosby)

rate the quality of this conversation  
how would you ~ (very toxic / toxic / neither / healthy / very healthy)

retire the ("serious) conversation  
it's time to ~ about race" (SCAR)

spark conversation  
it will ~ and educate people (Aboriginal flag on bridge)

spark conversations  
the shootings should ~ about mental health, violence...

sparked a conversation  
his death has ~ around the treatment of sumo wrestlers

start these conversations  
workers can ~, move these conversations, ignite that fire

stay in the conversation

making you wonder is how he ~ (politics / Trump)

take on this (national) conversation

as we continue to ~ about systematic racism and...

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "[W]e are spending a lot of time on erasure, and these are great conversations to have with children..." ("Born on the Water" puts the '1619 Project' into kids' hands," NPR, All Things Considered, February 17, 2022.)

♦ "We need you to talk. We need you to stop sitting around the dinner table acting like everything's great because it's not. Just because you aren't experiencing it doesn't mean it's not happening. Your role in this is to help change the system." (Jillian Hanesworth's advice to white people about systemic racism. From "Buffalo's poet laureate calls for change" by Raquel Maria Dillon, NPR, Race, May 17, 2022.)

♦ "White silence is complicity. If you are white, today is the day to start a conversation in your community." (NPR's CEO Katherine Maher, in 2020.)

♦ "That was a direct result of her uplifting our space during her conversation." (Fawn E. Pochel, who identifies as First Nations Ojibwe, about a speech by Cutcha Risling Baldy at Dominican University that resulted in \$200 in "unexpected" donations to the First Nations Garden.)

♦ "Yes! but some of those people—like your student—might say, well, this is how we change, we start to use language that strikes people to their ear as different, they start to want to understand why, we start to question it, we open up conversations, and this is how progressives want to progress [pronounced PRO-gress / like the noun] our society." (NPR's Manoush Zomorodi. From "The debate over 'LatinX' and how words get adopted—or not," NPR, TED Radio Hour, May 24, 2024.)

♦ "But the rest of the kids, we had to have a conversation, about, you know 'You see a gun, run, run, run.' And, that was a hard conversation to have... This is not something that we can keep doing. We can't keep on having this conversation." (Rabbi Tamar Manasseh, a Black woman, about gun violence on the South Side of Chicago. From "A Chicago rabbi was a committed advocate for gun safety. A recent attack changed that," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 6, 2024. Gun violence has become so dangerous on a particular corner that she has washed her hands of it, and urges others to do the same for their own safety.)

♦ "[Her case] is opening up this space to have these conversations where people can you know choose mental health over you know necessarily you know showing up to work when they're feeling miserable." (ABC, "Naomi Osaka Steps Away.")

♦ "I think it's more than a conversation now, I think it's a movement. (Osaka, Biles, etc., about mental "health.")

♦ "It does open up a conversation because it's her using her voice and her platform to really call out systemic change, which she has done before. I think she can show other girls and women who look like her how to empower them to stand up for themselves in ways that I think we haven't always been able to see." (C. Vaile Wright, PhD, a clinical psychologist and the American Psychological Association's Senior Director of Health Care Innovation, about Naomi Osaka and mental health.)

♦ "I want to change the conversation for the better. Everyone should reconsider the ways they think and talk about athletes."

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "In any event, what all committeemen like to call 'conversations' could now go forward." (January 1, 1635. Martin Gerritsen gets down to trade business with the Oneida Indians on the Mohawk River. From *The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop. His wonderful book, which is just one book in a wonderful series, is about the river.)

♦ "We should have that conversation; We need to have that conversation; What an interesting idea, I think we should have that conversation..." (Excellent ways not to say yes or no, to make no commitment, while at the same time sounding sympathetic.)

♦ "It is becoming an idiotic buzz word." (John Schreiber, in 2011! National Public Radio (NPR) never got the memo, apparently.)

♦ "The 'good' conversation versus the 'sexual assault' conversation." (About Bill Cosby.)

♦ "Isn't it silly to think you can uncomfortable conversation yourself to empowerment and/or riches?" (Noah Berlatsky. A very creative use of "conversation" as a verb. 2024.)

♦ "Why It's Time To Retire The 'Serious Conversation About Race,'" with Damon Young, 1A, WAMU, NPR, July 16, 2020.

♦ "Much of the conversation about antisemitism has nothing to do with antisemitism, it's actually about influencing and controlling the conversation inside the Jewish community. It's an arms race to define what is antisemitism in the Jewish community, which is, of course, stupid and it's a waste of resources." (Andres Spokoiny, president of the Jewish Funders Network. From "Dark money, questionable partners behind new group fighting antisemitism" by Arno Rosenfeld, *The Forward*, April 22, 2021.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Of course, one man's negotiation is another man's conversation is another man's ransom." ("A Metaphor Meltdown At The White House," NPR, It's All Politics, Ari Shapiro, October 10, 2013.)

♦ "It's commonplace today to speak of our 'national conversation.' This metaphorical phrase seems almost insincere, especially when you consider that it necessarily entails the three subjects normally considered conversationally taboo: politics, religion, and money. These subjects sow division. And so it seems unlikely that any 'national conversation' will meet Emerson's standard of 'wise, cultivated, genial conversation' amounting to 'the last flower of civilization.' Let's hope it's not the last flower." ("Conversation As One of the Fine Arts" by Bryan A. Garner, *National Review*, August 1, 2022.)

♦ The tenor and implied message of many of these "conversations" is that you need to change the way you think and talk. End of conversation!

♦ CONVERSATION, n. A fair for the display of the minor mental commodities, each exhibitor being too intent upon the arrangement of his own wares to observe those of his neighbor." (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ "This is a ridiculous conversation."

♦ "It's time for a more honest conversation."

♦ "Shut up!"

♦ see also *talk* (talk about something / groups, etc.)

## convert (person)

backcountry converts

many are ~ (at Bluebird Back Country skiing resort)

out for converts

he is a culinary evangelist ~ (chef)

won many converts

he ~ to his ideas

\*\*\* "I've got six Black Cordelias already, isn't it lovely?"

♦ "[Conversion] was one of the things that made Christianity quite distinct in the ancient world. It had to do with the nature of the Christian religion. Christians from the very beginning believed that it was Jesus' death and resurrection that could make a person right with God. And that if a person was not right with God, they would pay an eternal penalty, there would literally be hell to pay if somebody didn't convert. And so Christians believed that their religion was the only right religion and that people had to practice their religion or else they would go to hell. Moreover, Christians maintained that they were to follow Jesus' teaching of love—love your neighbor as yourself. Well, if your neighbor is going to go to hell by not believing what you believe, and you love this person, then you need to make them see the error of their ways and you convert them to your faith. And so that's what the Christians were doing from the very beginning, trying to convert others so they could join the church and avoid the terrors of hell." (Bart Ehrman, from "Author Traces Christianity's Path From 'Forbidden Religion' To A 'Triumph,'" NPR, Fresh Air, March 20, 2018.)

♦ "Civilisation, too, is steadily advancing, and nowhere are the missionary prospects more encouraging than in this island, where for a time the balance seemed to waver between the horrors of heathenism and the corrupt and idolatrous practices of the Church of

Rome... It is little creditable to a powerful Protestant nation, such as that of Great Britain, that no efficient protection should be afforded to British missionaries, laboring to convert the heathen, against the brutality of French soldiers and the arrogance of Popish priests..." (The Loyalty Islands. *Missionary Life in the Southern Seas*, from the chapter titled, "Romish Outrages," by James Hutton. Priests are described as illiterate fanatics who display their cloven feet by erecting chapels in Protestant villages, and luring converts with grog and tobacco.)

♦ "The purpose and end of all missionary work is to lead men and women to Jesus Christ. Is the medical work in China doing this? The mission boards... were slow to comprehend that medical work rightly conducted as truly missionary work as any other and one of the surest evangelizing agencies. It is said of Peter Parker that he 'opened China at the point of the lancet.' The military governor of a certain province was so impressed by the spirit of the hospital where he was a patient, that when he left it he began attending the mission services in his city and soon became an earnest Christian... At the Yale-in-China hospital in Changsha plans are now being made to do follow-up work in the homes of the patients." (*New Life Currents in China* by Mary Ninde Gamewell.)

♦ "No Christianos!" whispered Remigio, our bigot steersman, in whose mind the doctrines he had been taught in the former Mission of Trinidad had fallen on but too fertile ground. He meant it as a protest against any intercourse with his unbaptized naked cousins. He, whose ancestors less than two centuries ago must have presented about the same appearance, could not discover any worse fault in them than they were 'no Christians,' while his own Christianity, of which he thought so highly, barely went beyond hearing mass, mumbling his rosary, and singing endless litanies." (Caripuna Indians in the Madeira Valley. From *The Amazon and Madeira Rivers* by Franz Keller.)

♦ In Ecuador in 1956, five American Christian missionaries were killed by members of an Amazonian tribe (the Aucas). Valerie Shepard's father, Jim Elliot, was one of the five men on the mission into the jungle." ("Killed for Christ in the Amazon," BBC, 22 Feb. 2017.)

♦ "I should ask you for five shillings to buy a black god-daughter. It's a new thing a missionary priest started last term. You send five bob to the nuns in Africa and they christen the baby and name it after you. I've got six black Cordelias already, isn't it lovely?" (The ten- or eleven-year-old Cordelia. From "John Gielgud reads *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh.)

## conveyor belt

conveyor belt of assistants

a ~ rotates in and out (an abusive Hollywood assistant)

conveyor belt of houseguests

a ~ didn't staunch the loneliness

talent conveyor belt

he is just one to come off the club's ~ (Lochend boxing)

♦ The Lochend Boxing and Fitness Club welcomes anyone. It has produced many fine boxers, Josh Taylor being but one.

♦ "To examine his case is to watch a conveyor belt leading in a single direction..." ("This Is Not Justice: The story of C.J. Rice" by Jake Tapper, *The Atlantic*, November 2022.)

\*\*\* conveyor belts are dangerous...

♦ "A woman has died after becoming trapped in a conveyor belt in a baggage area at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport."

♦ see also *assembly line* (noun)

## convulse (verb)

convulsed in a spasm

for 3 minutes the casino ~ of violence (biker riot)

convulsing with change

Ethiopia has been ~

convulsed India

globalism and capitalism has ~

convulsed the country

waves of anti-foreign sentiment ~

## convulsed

convulsed by nationwide protests

the US has been ~

convulsed by (ethnic) strife

the area is ~

## convulsion (noun)

financial convulsion

a breakup of the EU would cause a ~

## cooked up

cooked up at Eglin Air Force Base

the planes were armed by a new bomb ~

## cookie jar (noun)

cookie jar of jobs, concessions, contracts

Daly wants to protect the ~ (politician)

got caught with his hand in the cookie jar

he ~ (corruption)

## cook up (verb)

cooked up a plan

he and Tomaz ~ to climb Nuptse by a new route

cooked up the story

they ~ to get the reward (murder case)

♦ "Phase 4 (of the inquiry) has pulled back the curtain on the decades of the great post office cook-up and coverup. The disdain and dislike of sub-postmasters by the post office and their employees, a refusal to investigate the Horizon system because of what that would reveal, what an awful cocktail. A Molotov cocktail." (A lawyer for a group of the sub-postmasters. See the Wikipedia article "British Post Office Scandal.")

## cool (cool off / activity)

cool off

his career began to ~ (a singer)

## cool (feeling)

maintain their cool

they need to ~ (a team)

## cool down (verb)

cool down

I got a postponement, it will give things a chance to ~

♦ "Let me take my own advice and cool the temperature in the room a little bit." (An upset Michael Van Der Veen at Trump's impeachment trial in 2021. He paused, sighed, and then continued in a less emotional tone of voice.)

## coolheaded (and cool-headed)

coolheaded killer

he is a ~

## coolly (adverb)

coolly

she looked at me ~

## cool off (verb)

cooled off

he regrets what he did now that he has ~

## coop (fly the coop)

flying the coop to Mastodon

Twitter users are ~

## cooped up

cooped up in the White House

an active man, he felt ~ (President Grant)

cooped up (in his study) since six o'clock

he's been ~ this morning

cooped up indoors

he loved the outdoor life and hated being ~

## coopt (and co-opt)

coopt and control

elite, white-led institutions ~ the historical narrative...

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "It was ironic, it was arch, so it felt like, 'Oh My God! they're using this against us!'" (Ruth Perry, who founded the Women's Study Department at MIT in 1984, about the term "political correctness." From "How Cancel Culture Became Politicized—Just Like Political Correctness," NPR, All Things Considered, July 26, 2021.)

♦ "My body, my choice": How vaccine foes co-opted the abortion rallying cry" by Rachel Bluth, NPR, Public Health, July 4, 2022.

♦ "Our Bodies, Our Sports." (Women who oppose Trans women in sports.)

♦ "All Eyes On Rafah" versus "Where were your eyes on October 7." (The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "Driving while black" becomes "Talking while Female" (NPR's Selena Simmons-Duffin). "Running while brown" becomes "Skittish while Muslim" becomes "being transgender in public."

♦ "Homophobia" becomes "transphobia" becomes "fatphobia" becomes "hot phobia."

♦ "The National Council for Behavioral health, a nonprofit organization of mental health care providers, calls trauma a 'near universal experience' for people with mental and behavioral health issues." ("Not Just For soldiers: Civilians With PTSD Struggle To Find Effective Therapy" by Caroline Covington, NPR, May 20, 2019.)

♦ "They co-opted our idea. Candy Cane Malört is our baby." (Val Capone, Chicago. You've been warned.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ There are a lot of groups in the United States with various agendas, all vying for attention, money, possession, and control, who are very sensitive about being coopted.

♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb)*, *appropriation (groups)*, *misappropriate (groups)*, *misappropriated*, *misappropriation (groups, etc.)*, *reappropriate (groups)*, *reappropriation (groups)*, *reclaim (groups)*, *reclaimed (groups)*, *take back (take back one's life, etc.)*

## co-opted (and coopted)

co-opted by the far right

anti-establishment critiques of the far left become ~

become co-opted

anti-establishment critiques of the far left ~ by the far right

## cop (good cop, bad cop)

played the good cop to King's bad cop

Boies ~ (*Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou)

## cop (continuity cop, etc.)

see *police (and cop, etc.)*

## copybook (noun)

copybook case

it was a ~ of child abuse (born with cleft palate)

## copycat (noun)

copycat of a terrorist attack

the shooting was initially feared to be a ~

copycat acts

officials feared publicity would trigger ~

copycat films

*The Omen* (1976) inspired sequels and ~

copycat Hollywood

audiences starved for originality in ~

copycat threats

students charged in rash of ~ after Oxford High shooting

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Merriam-Webster identifies the first known use as 1896. Others identify first use as 1887. The idea of a *copycat crime* seems to come from the 1960s and seems to have achieved acceptance by the 1980s.

## core (basis)

true down to the core

Hey I'm solid, Hey I'm steady, Hey I'm ~

at its core

~, this issue all boils down to money

♦ "Hey I'm solid, Hey I'm steady, Hey I'm true down to the core." Listen to: Toby Keith *American Soldier* (Radio Edition)

## core (cottagecore, etc.)

balletcore

she brought ~ to the Met Gala red carpet

the ~ aesthetic (a pastel ensemble)

~ can be red carpet or casual

Barbie core

~, the 80s-inspired unapologetically pink aesthetic...

Barbiecore

the ~ trend is an homage to Barbie's pink style and aesthetic

~ is the summer's latest fashion trend (2023 film)

~ celebrates living boldly and authentically (Kim Culmone)

Bloomcore

~, the floral homeware trend taking root in our living rooms

cottagecore

~ is a fashion aesthetic (teens, young adults)  
~ enthusiasts shared videos of themselves baking bread  
lesbians have particularly been fond of ~  
~ was a reaction to the pandemic (COVID)

#### cringecore

~ (TV / *Nathan for You*, *The Rehearsal*, etc.)  
a new genre of cringe comedy called ~

#### Digicore

~ is made up of mostly queer people of color

#### fairycore

whimsigoth, and grunge ~, which is quite similar

#### litcore

Zadie Smith hats, Fellini tops, the rise of ~

#### little Mexican girl-core

the popularization of aesthetics like “~”

#### Nardcore

he was part of the ~ scene in Oxnard (Cola Boyy)  
~ is a hardcore punk movement (Oxnard suburbs)

#### nightcore

~ is a genre that increased the pitch and tempo of songs

#### slowcore

the ~ trio Codeine... (music 1990)

#### tenniscore

‘~’ trend serving sporty, elegant looks...

#### thrift-core

a shift from label obsession to ~

♦ *Grandmacore, farmcore, goblincore, fairycore...*

♦ *see also aesthetic (and aesthetics)*

### corkscrew (verb)

corkscrewed above the airport

he took off and ~ until we reached 8,000 feet (plane)

### corkscrew (shape)

corkscrew ascents and descents

~ to evade fire (Iraqi Airways)

### corner (spring is just around the corner)

Halloween is around the corner

~ and guess what that means

victory is around the corner

officials insist ~ (war)

spring is just around the corner

~ and I can't wait

just around the corner

planting season is ~

Christmas is ~

### corner (in remote corners, etc.)

in the corners of the internet

the theories began ~ and made it into mainstream news

in the dark corners of cyberspace

~ (child pornography)

in some corners of the humanities

there is resistance to such analysis ~

in the (more) paranoid corners of the Internet

he posted messages ~

in many corners of the West

uranium mining boomed ~

in some corners of the book world

there is opposition ~

### corner (other)

from all corners of the (political) spectrum

he received criticism ~

shines light into some of the darkest corners

the book ~ of M15

ventured into remote corners

he ~ (a photographer)

come from every corner

the men and women of the IDF ~ of Israeli society

♦ “The men and women of the IDF come from every corner of Israeli society, every ethnicity, every color, every creed.” (The Israel-Hamas war.)

### corner (turn the corner)

turned the corner

we have ~ (economic upturn after downturn)

this month he ~, and made a profit (businessman)

so has America finally ~ (economic downturn)

turned a corner

United fans hoped their club had ~ (loss after 3 wins)

turn the corner on unemployment

we are beginning to ~

beginning to turn the corner

we are ~ on unemployment

♦ “More corners turned than every car running in every grand prix last season.” (A snarky BBC HYS commenter in response to the article “Aston Villa 1-2 Man Utd: ‘Momentum’ with Red Devils as they hunt down top-four rivals” by Simon Stone, BBC, 11 February 2024. A person quoted in the article suggested that Manchester United had “turned a corner.”)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ You can turn a corner, only to run into another wall...

### corner (round the corner)

round the corner

as we ~ to the final two months before election day...

♦ *see also homestretch (noun)*

### corner (in a tight corner, etc.)

tightest corner

United somehow got out of the ~ in Paris (soccer win)

backed ourselves into a corner  
we've sort of ~ (war strategy)

boxed himself into a corner  
he has ~ on tax increases (a politician)

painted himself into a corner  
he has ~ (world leader)

### corner (in one's corner)

in my corner  
she supports me, she's ~

### corner (cut corners)

cut corners  
oil companies ~ to maximize profits

cut any corners  
in this business we don't ~ (helicopter tours)

#### \*\*\* TRAIL ETIQUETTE...

♦ "Shortcutting" switchbacks is when a person tries to shorten their route by leaving the trail to skip to the next section of the trail. / While tempting, shortcuts result in unsightly and damaging changes to the landscape. Shortcuts exceed the grade (or intended steepness of the trail) resulting in grooves that increase erosion / This erosion damages vegetation and also impacts the designed trail by redirecting water to run down the hillside in unplanned ways..." ("Trail Etiquette" by Respect Marquette County, Jul. 25, 2022. Marquette, Michigan. Super!)

### corner (corner cases, etc.)

edge and corner  
it doesn't take long to find ~ cases (grammar rules)

### cornered (adjective)

felt cornered  
the boss ~ and that person ended up quitting (pay dispute)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "If you bait a cornered dog, he will bite."

### cornerstone (noun)

cornerstone of the BBC  
impartiality is a ~

cornerstone of the collection  
the painting will be the ~ (a new museum)

cornerstones of the economy  
blue-chip companies, once considered ~... (recession)

cornerstone of identity  
Egyptians increasingly emphasize Islam as the ~

cornerstone of (US) policy  
Egypt is the ~ in the Middle East

cornerstones of terrorism  
unemployment creates one of the ~ (Prince Talal)

cornerstone of (addiction) treatment  
Alcoholics Anonymous remains the ~ in the US

cornerstone of Roma life  
child marriage is a ~ (tradition)

cornerstone of academic culture  
peer review is a ~ (publishing)

cornerstone of the scientific method  
replication is a ~

emphasize Islam as the cornerstone  
Egyptians increasingly ~ of identity

### cornucopia (variety)

cornucopia of (political) books  
this fall's ~ features two kinds...

cornucopia of candidates  
the debates have featured a ~ (Democratic politics / 2020)

cornucopia of goods  
a ~ flooded the American marketplace (post-WWII)

cornucopia of (educational) opportunities  
colleges have traditionally offered a ~ (in good times)

cornucopia of shit  
it's a ~ basically (dialogue / *Words On Bathroom Walls*)

make a cornucopia  
climate change could ~ out of frigid, unproductive land

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ From *cornu*, Latin for horn, and *copia*, plenty: the horn of plenty. Based on a Greek myth involving the goat Althea who nursed the infant Zeus.

### coronation (noun)

veritable coronation  
the Chicago convention was a ~ of Grant (Republicans)

### corps (group)

AmeriCorps  
~ is the national equivalent of the Peace Corps

American Climate Corps  
the ~ was launched in 2023 by the Biden administration

Climate Corps  
we launched ~, like AmeriCorps or Peace Corps (Biden)

Peace Corps  
she was raped while serving in the ~

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Squad; platoon; company; battalion; regiment; brigade; division; corps; army...

### corral (verb)

corralled her family  
she ~ (husband and 8 kids / and fled house / war)

corral multiple fires  
fire crews rushed to ~

corralled a group  
five people were arrested after cops ~ of squatters who...

corral him  
Georgia has to find a way to ~ (Bryce Young / football)



corral the far left  
can she ~ in her party (politics)

corral all 50 members  
he is still trying to ~ to agree... (politics)

corral their models  
scientists need real-world data to ~ (for realistic outcomes)

corral the (necessary) support  
he is still working to ~ for his bid to be speaker (politics)

corrals (a range of) voices  
*Women on Food*, a book that ~ (Charlotte Druckman)

corral wildfire  
winds frustrate effort to ~ near lake Tahoe

corralled politicians, executives, and officials  
for nearly six months, she ~ (Deborah Bix / pandemic)

paywalls corral readers  
~ like cattle into the subscriber pen

♦ "So, what we did was, just get shoulder to shoulder...and started pushing the people back to the other side of the airstrip, corralled them there... That turned into two and a half days of a constant bitter struggle..." (Marine Lt Col Chris Richardella on the events of August 15, 2021, at the Kabul airport.)

\*\*\* "Cow escapes trailer, gallops down highway..."

♦ "Wild new video shows a deer in the elementary school over the weekend, jumping on bookcases and desks while forcing a team of cops to try and corral it."

♦ "Cow escapes trailer, gallops down highway."

♦ Movin', movin', movin', / Though they're disapprovin' / Keep them dogies movin', rawhide! / Don't try to understand 'em, / Just rope 'em, throw, and brand 'em, / Soon we'll be livin' high and wide... / My heart's calculatin' / My true love will be waitin' / Be waitin' at the end of my ride..." (The song "Rawhide.")

## corralled

corralled in left field  
the speedy cat was ~

♦ "The speedy cat evaded the grounds crew before being corralled in left field." (Yankees vs. Baltimore Orioles at Yankee Stadium.)

## correct (political correctness)

see *political correctness (groups)*

## correct (politically correct)

see *politically correct (groups)*

## corridor (route)

commuter corridors  
the ~ have become the "covid corridor" (East Coast)

"covid corridor"  
the commuter corridors have become the ~ (East Coast)

drug corridor  
Interstate 44 is a ~ (Missouri)

migration corridor  
the Bering land bridge served as a ~ for people

travel corridor  
the region is a ~ for illegal immigrants

ventilation corridors  
natural landscape features can function as ~ (heat / cities)  
~ are very relevant for large, dense coastal cities

pedestrian and bicycle-friendly corridors  
~ (urban planning)

I-95 corridor  
heroin goes down the ~ to secondary markets (from NYC)

maritime humanitarian corridor  
3 more grain ships departed through the ~ (Ukraine War)

## corridor (area)

wildlife corridor  
nature preserves provide a ~ for birds and animals

high-technology corridor  
the metro services Northern Virginia's ~

commercial corridor  
the Metro revitalized the sagging ~ between...

green corridor  
in places the ~ is only 50 feet wide (along river)

strategic corridor  
Georgia is a ~ for Western oil companies

31-mile corridor  
deforestation occurs in a ~ on either side of roads

tiny corridor  
oil exports are squeezed through this ~ (Strait of Hormuz)

## corridor (Siliguri Corridor, etc.)

corridor between the Eastern and Western hemispheres  
the Aleutian Islands form a natural ~ (W.W. II)

Gansu Corridor  
the ~ between Suchow and Chang 'an (Xi'an / Silk Road)

Hexi corridor  
the narrow, 600-mile defile known as the ~ (Gansu)  
the ~, the passageway for traders from the outer west...

"Lachin corridor"  
the ~ links Stepanakert to Armenia

Lachin Corridor  
the ~ connects Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh

Neum corridor  
a 9km-long section of Bosnian coastline known as the ~

Philadelphi Corridor  
the ~, an oxygen line for Hamas weapons smuggling (Gaza)

Siliguri Corridor  
the ~ is also known as the Chickens Neck

National Heritage Corridor  
the Blackstone River Valley ~

Wakhan Corridor  
the ~ (Afghanistan)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Philadelphia Corridor." The Israel-Hamas war.

## corridor (corridors of power)

corridors of power  
ordinary Americans are kept out of the ~ (politics)

Australia's corridors of power  
allegations of a toxic work culture in ~

in the corridors of power  
the religious right is flexing its muscles ~  
the fine line between persuasion and intimidation ~

access to the corridors of power  
the reporter has unrivalled ~ (Bob Woodward)  
he loved his ~ (a media person)

gain admittance to the corridors of power  
once women ~

kept out of the corridors of power  
ordinary Americans are ~

## corrosive (adjective)

corrosive for democracy  
rich contributors are ~ (money)

corrosive effect  
corruption was perhaps the most ~ of communism

corrosive role  
the ~ of money in politics (rich special-interest groups)

## corrupting

corrupting force  
the tabloids portrayed her as a ~

## corruption (noun)

moral corruption  
TV and radio promote ~

## coruscating (adjective)

coruscating observations  
he had room to make his ~ (TV)

## cosmetic (adjective)

cosmetic measures  
it's "greenwashing," minor ~ (aviation industry)

cosmetic things  
it's not enough to do some ~ (solving a problem)

♦ "You don't even need glasses to see and analyse where the problems are. It's not enough to do some minor amendments—cosmetic things. In medicine you would say this is an operation of the open heart." The problem for Rangnick was that not everyone at United agreed such surgery had to happen." (Manchester United: The problems facing Erik ten Hag at Old Trafford" by Simon Stone, BBC Sport, 30 October 2023.)

## \*\*\* analysis

♦ Women are always looking for something new in cosmetics.

## cost (verb)

cost them  
the editor knew all along it would ~ (controversy)

cost me my hand  
one tiny wound ~ (a firefighter)

cost him his job  
the revelation ~ (child porn on computer)  
his failure to deliver on his promise ~ (a coach)

costs you nothing  
it ~ but your time (a free Internet program)

costing teachers their jobs  
budget cuts are now ~

cost him his life  
his drug habit very nearly ~ (a musician)  
his diligence ~ (a police officer)

cost the climbers a shot  
helping the other group ~ at the summit

cost him his (boxing) title  
his refusal to serve ~ (Muhammad Ali)

cost Unsoeld his toes  
that night ~ (high-altitude bivouac)

cost the state thousands of jobs  
his economic policies have ~

cost you an arm and a leg  
this vacation getaway won't ~

cost the team big time  
the mistake ~

cost the lives  
the civil war ~ of 100,000 Maya Indians (Guatemala)

cost her votes  
the proposal could ~ in a general election (politics)

## cost (at a cost)

at the cost of his life  
Sfc. Ashley's bravery ~ was in the highest traditions of..

at enormous cost  
gold is wrung from the earth ~

even at the cost  
they are desperate to flee their country ~ of their lives

## cost (at all costs, etc.)

at all costs  
Czech hedgehogs symbolized "defense ~" in the USSR

protect (passengers) at all costs  
air marshals must ~

hold Stalingrad at any cost

we are to ~, Comrade Stalin knows best

## **cost (cost time, etc.)**

see time (cost time, etc.)

## **cost (other)**

costs of Vietnam

the ~ remain with us (troubled vets, sons, etc.)

cost of his life

absorbing the grenade blast at the ~

cost of war

let us not forget the terrible ~

costs of war

the ~ and the price of peace (soldiers)

costs of gambling

the hidden ~ (divorce, etc.)

cost to having

there is a ~ an overload of choice

hidden costs

the ~ of gambling (divorce, etc.)

environmental cost

war has not only a human cost, but a tragic ~ as well  
gold is wrung from the earth at enormous ~

human cost

war has not only a ~, but a tragic environmental cost

political cost

both leaders are paying a ~ at home for... (foreign policy)

reputational cost

the wars have carried a ~ (civilian casualties)

tragic (environmental) cost

war's ~

financial and human cost

the ~ was enormous (the Ugandan Railway)

## **costly (adjective)**

costly

you have laid so ~ a sacrifice... (Lincoln)

politically costly

it's ~ to criticize Jews (US elections)

## **couch (casting couch)**

casting couch

Hollywood's seedy underbelly, the ~

spoke out against the casting couch

she ~ (Maureen O'Hara)

## **cough (snark / noun)**

\*Cough\* AJ

~ (reply to an online commenter)

♦ Commenter 1 (AJ): Yarde's gum shield kept falling out of his mouth—to get a breather. Could they not have glued it on... /

Commenter 2: Too many fighters rely on the old juice in the ring. Then they gas because their lungs can't cope with the extra muscle. /  
Commenter 3: \*Cough\* AJ. (Wicked boxing snark on a BBC HYS about Beterbiev vs. Yarde.)

## **cough up (verb)**

cough up more money

the US wants its allies to ~ (for world defense)

## **countdown (noun)**

countdown

the ~ starts now (ad for big game in future)

## **counted out (boxing)**

counted out

he was ~, but... (Trump wins Republican primary)

## **counterattack (verb)**

cold counterattacked

then the ~... (Antarctica temperatures fall)

## **counterattack (noun)**

counterattack

the Embassy began a ~

the besieged politicians have started a ~ (politics)

preparing a counterattack

the gas industry was ~

## **counterbalance (verb)**

counterbalance his dependence

he is trying to ~ on the US by dealing with China

counterbalance Western media

Al Jazeera was founded to ~

## **counterbalance (noun)**

counterbalance to industry

the FDA is the ~

counterbalance to the presidency

the Supreme Court is a ~

counterbalance to the US press

Al Jazeera is an excellent ~

counterbalance to the liberal Western order

he wants to establish Russia as a ~ (Putin)

counterbalance to corporate power

unions are a ~

generational counterbalance

the mothers of nominees provided ~ (Academy Awards)

liberal counterbalance

she will serve as a ~ to the conservative wing

## **counterweight (noun)**

counterweight

the international media is biased, there must be a ~

counterweight against Britain and France

he needed a ~ (Bismarck at the Berlin Conference)

counterweight to Iran

US forces remain as a ~ (on the Arabian Peninsula)

political counterweight

he was there to serve this ~ function (Joe Biden)

## count on (count on me, etc.)

count on me

you can always ~

♦ "You can always count on me, for sure, that's what friends are for."  
Sung by Dionne Warwick, Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder, and Elton John. Watch: Dionne Warwick-That's What Friends Are For (277M views 11 years ago)

## coup (power)

coup

I was fired, it was basically a ~ by... (political job)

the impeachment process is a ~ (President Trump)

board coup

she had survived an aborted ~ and was back in power

boardroom coup

the son deposed his father in a ~ (Budweiser beer)

the ~ was shrouded in mystery (Tata / India)

Reuters called it "a ~" (by Bill Ackman)

parliamentary coup

the opposition leaders are calling this a ~ (Venezuela)

## coup (achievement)

publicity coup

Kipchoge's achievement is a ~ for Ineos (marathon)

public relations coup

it's a bit of a ~ (Modi visit Moscow / NPR punditry)

diplomatic coup

the conference was a ~ for Iran

great coup

workers hailed the decision as a ~ (unionization)

pulled off a (massive) coup

the Clippers ~, by signing... (the best free agent / NBA)

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## coup de grace (deathblow)

coup de grace

facing down Biden was the ~ on her evening (politics)

courtroom coup de grace

his political adversaries were hoping for a ~ (report)

## coupled

coupled with love

high expectations ~ is a gift (child-rearing)

## courage (groups)

courage not to go

it's about ~ to the Vietnam War... (Ken Burns on Ali)

extraordinary courage

PM David Cameron praised her ~ (Megan Bhari / charity)

incredible courage

we think Amber has demonstrated ~

true courage

he's shown ~ by acknowledging where he is at (troubled)

in awe of my courage

many said they were ~ to follow my dream (female blogger)

authenticity, courage and agency

Kristen inspires leaders to lean into their ~ (a speaker)

find the courage

they had to ~ to come forward (female gymnasts)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "My children can have an example of what courage looks like in real time, not in history." (Dr. Carl L. Hart of Columbia University, author of *Drug Use for Grown-Ups*, about being a regular heroin user.)

♦ "We think Amber has demonstrated incredible courage..." (Larry Komp, attorney for his client Amber McLaughlin, 49, the first openly transgender woman to be executed in the U.S.)

♦ "Still, Hutchinson was the only witness, female or male, around whose testimony an entire hearing would be built. She was visibly nervous. Muldavin told her that her coming forward to testify was a show of courage that women and girls would look up to: 'You're going to be iconic.'" ("Inside the Jan. 6 Committee" by Robert Draper and Luke Broadwater, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 1, 2023.)

♦ "I know this has been a difficult decision for him. He's shown true courage by acknowledging where he is at and acting on it. We will support him in any way we can..." (Wallabies coach Dave Rennie about Australian captain Michael Hooper, who determined he was not in the right 'mindset' to play and returned home.)

♦ The mascot of the North Carolina Courage, currently based in Cary, North Carolina, is a lioness, to "reflect the team as a group of professional women."

♦ "Logging 50 hours of supervised driving time, an Illinois requirement, takes a lot of time, patience and courage." (Dana Westreich Hirt, a Parent Coach "helping increase positive outcomes and decrease anxiety.")

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ A "crass exploitation play... I think this is just a play to pump up the audience, the way lots of things are put on television to attract eyeballs—not because of the validity but because of whatever the kind of gawker factor is." (Bob Costas on Caitlyn Jenner receiving the 2015 Arthur Ashe Courage Award.)

♦ "The ferocity—and, if you were a supporter [italics mine], the courage—of LaBouvier's denunciation simply made the Guggenheim the most high-profile art-world target during a summer of discontent." (Chaedria LaBouvier. From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## courageous (groups)

courageous to go take a penalty

it's ~ (USWNT captain Lindsey Horan, after Sweden loss)

courageous conversations  
the office hosted a series of “~” about race (education)

Courageous Conversations  
“~: Racism and Linguistic Well-being in ELT” (TESOL)

visible, courageous and present  
LBGQT folks have been so ~

call courageous  
she put on a performance I think it's safe to ~ (Simon Biles)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## **courageously**

courageously sharing  
the NFL family is proud of Carl for ~ his truth (gay)

## **course (over the course / time)**

over the course of the next month  
Alabama will experience a steep increase in cases ~

over the course of a month  
anxiety following a trauma that fades ~ isn't depression

## **course (run its course, etc.)**

run its course  
Carley's relationship with Russ had ~

## **course (on course)**

on course for victory  
they looked ~ when... (sports)

## **course (off course)**

steers us off course  
sometimes life ~

veer off course  
it is easy for a dictionary user to ~ as they try to...

went off course  
tell us about a time your moral compass ~

get back on course  
academia needs to right the ship and ~ (radicals)

♦ “Now-on-strike donors like Columbia alum Robert Kraft, Harvard's Bill Ackman and so on should expect to *stay* on strike for a very long time until the boards of their alma maters not only commit to righting the ships, but show major progress in getting back on course.” (“The rot in US academia extends to most of every faculty” by Post Editorial Board, *The New York Post*, April 23, 2024. The Israel-Gaza war.)

## **course (on a collision course)**

on a collision course  
the two countries are ~

on a collision course  
people and the natural world are ~

on a collision course with his boss

he was ~ (Navy top brass)

on a collision course with the clerics  
the royal family is ~ (Saudi)

on a collision course for the finals  
they are ~ (two teams)

## **course (change course, etc.)**

course correction  
the country is heading in the wrong direction, we need a ~  
we can't move forward without a ~ (bribery scandal)  
this could create a real ~ in the tech industry (fraud trial)

fresh course  
helping convicted felons chart a ~

changed the course  
their testimony has ~ of the investigation (police)

chart a (fresh) course  
helping convicted felons ~

charted a new course  
he has ~ and tacked to the center (politician)

corrected course  
the agency has ~ on asylum detentions

change course  
he didn't hesitate to ~ (a politician)  
we are skeptical that Iran will ~ (diplomacy)

## **course (stay the course)**

stay the course  
he vowed to ~ (general leading war)  
it is unacceptable to ~ (pandemic response)  
they are urging the PM to ~ (U.K. politics)

stays the course  
once he makes up his mind, he ~ (businessman)

## **course (reverse course)**

change course  
he was forced to ~ (government policy)

reversed course  
Iran ~ and reopened its nuclear labs  
the President ~ and grounded the plane (Boeing problem)

## **course (development)**

course of the conflict  
we cannot predict the length or the ~ (military)

course of the disease  
we can sometimes slow the ~  
the challenge is to identify patients earlier in the ~

course of HIV infection  
the ~ is characterized primarily by latency

course of the war  
during the ~ (Gulf War)

disease course

we are here to help them through the ~

relentless course

as the epidemic follows its ~ (AIDS)

length of the course

we cannot predict the ~ of the conflict (military)

follow its (relentless) course

if we sit back and let the epidemic ~...

run its course

the common cold will ~ within seven days

slow the course

we can sometimes ~ of the disease

### **course (course of action, etc.)**

course of action

we thought the best ~ was to...

I could think of no other ~

is this the right ~ (government policy)

similar course

see if other schools should follow a ~ (sex ed)

safest and wisest course

the ~ to follow (alcohol and pregnancy)

follow a (similar) course

see if other schools should ~ (same-sex classes)

took the (politically risky) course

he ~ of prosecuting a member of government

### **course (course of justice, etc.)**

course of justice

he was charged with perverting the ~

take its course

the law must ~

### **court (verb)**

courting Hispanics with (Spanish) advertising

the company is ~

courting danger with his rhetoric

he is ~ (racist stereotypes)

courting rebellion by pushing ahead

he is ~ with his plan (political party)

courted adventure

when she was young she ~ (hitchhiking, etc.)

court controversy

he has been known to ~ (Joe Rogan)

court (resource-rich) countries

China, India ~ like Nigeria and Kazakhstan

courted death

he ~ with his use of drugs and wild lifestyle

courting (economic) disaster

we are ~

courting its favor

both Democrats and Republicans are ~ (N.R.A.)

courting veterans

for-profit colleges are ~

court the Black vote

Democratic politicians ~ and then fail to follow through

courting (younger) voters

the party is ~ (politics)

court (Hispanics) aggressively

Democrats need to ~ (identity politics)

courted and won

he ~ popular acceptance (a musician)

actively courted

they ~ publicity (two feuding pop stars)

aggressively courting

he has been ~ endorsements (running for office)

assiduously courted

he has ~ mainstream support (a politician)

feverishly courting

she has been ~ black voters (identity politics)

publicly courting

the president has been ~ him (a politician)

quietly courting

he has been ~ contributors (for a political run)

### **court (in the court)**

in the world court

they have been convicted ~ of public opinion (doping)

in the (world) court of public opinion

they have been convicted ~ athletes / doping)

tried in the court

he has been ~ of public opinion

### **court (hold court)**

held court for 90 minutes at the press conference

he ~ (the great boxing promoter Don King)

### **court (other)**

court of public opinion

the ~ condemned him

### **court (the ball is in someone's court)**

ball is in Russia's court

(see *ball* (*the ball is in somebody's court*))

### **courthouse (Devil's Courthouse, etc.)**

Courthouse Butte

~ is a summit in Yavapai County, Arizona

Courthouse Butte



~ is a summit in Sweetwater County, Wyoming

#### Courthouse Falls

~ is a waterfall in Transylvania County, North Carolina

#### Courthouse Gap

~ is a gap in Rabun County, Georgia

#### Courthouse Knob

~ is a summit in Buncombe County, North Carolina

#### Courthouse Mountain

~ is a summit in Yuma County, Arizona

#### Courthouse Ridge

~ is a ridge in Transylvania County, North Carolina

#### Courthouse Rock

~ is a pillar in Wasco County, Oregon

#### Courthouse Rock

~ is a summit in Powell County, Kentucky

#### Courthouse Towers

the ~ are pillars in Grand County, Utah

#### Devil's Courthouse

the first person to climb ~ (a rock outcropping)

#### Devils Courthouse

the ~ is a summit in Transylvania County, North Carolina

#### Devils Courthouse

the ~ is a ridge in Jackson County, North Carolina

#### Majlis al Jinn

the ~ (the assembly of the devils, a cave in Oman)

♦ Courthouse Rock (pillar / Wasco County, OR); Courthouse Rock (summit / Grant County, OR); Courthouse Rock (summit / Powell County, KY); Courthouse Rock (summit / Wheeler County, OR); Courthouse Rock (summit / Morrill County, NE); Courthouse Rock (pillar / Las Animas County, CO); Courthouse Rock (summit / Grand County, UT); Courthouse Rock (cliff / Braxton County, WV); Courthouse Rock (summit / La Paz County, AZ); Courthouse Rock (pillar / Mariposa County, CA)...

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A landscape configuration that suggests an amphitheater looking onto a "platform" or up to a "dais" might suggest a "courthouse" to the imagination. According to Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., the word *court* comes from the Latin *cors*, "an enclosed place." In my travels, I have discovered two of these magical spots. One is in the mountain about Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in North Carolina. The other is under the water of the Red Sea on a reef south of Jeddah.

♦ Stories and legends naturally adhere to Devil Courthouses, but a consistent thread is that such a place is where the Devil "holds court." This may suggest either a royal habitation such as a castle, a place of judgment, or both.

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Courthouse and Jail Rocks" about the two rock formations in Nebraska. Wikipedians are wonderful.

## courtship (noun)

#### courtship of Africa

both India and China have stepped up their ~

#### economic courtship

Sino-Israeli ties, strong after a decade of ~...

#### stepped up their courtship

both India and China have ~ of Africa

## cousin (relationship)

#### cousin

open-wheel racing and its stock-car ~, NASCAR

#### cousin of Ebola

Lassa fever is sometimes described as a ~

#### cousin of estrogen

BPA is a chemical ~

#### cousin to smallpox

Vaccinia, a ~ which can cause illness

#### cousin of Turkish

Uighur is a ~, but it's an Arabic script (the language)

#### dictionary's cousin

it's like the ~ (the thesaurus)

#### its cousin

fame and ~, paranoia (male rappers / Danyel Smith)

#### American cousins

our ~ speak the wrong kind of English (Brits)

#### British cousins

tell our ~ I'll meet them in Eindhoven (WWII)

#### Nepali cousin

K2 and its ~, Mount Everest

#### potato cousins

incredible ~ still survive in the Andes (wild potatoes)

#### chemical cousin

BPA is a ~ of estrogen

EPO and its ~s became rampant in sports

#### closest cousin

*denial* is associated with its ~, *addiction*

#### distant cousin

it's a ~ of true cinnamon (bark of cassia tree)

#### larger cousin

the mudpuppy looks a lot like its ~, the Eastern Hellbender

#### older cousin

archaeology and its far ~, tomb robbing

#### ugly cousin

sarcasm is anger's ~

the Razzies are the "~ to the Oscars" (the worst films)

#### xenophobic cousin

the lab-leak hypothesis is a ~ to anti-vaxxism and ...

#### white concrete cousin

the Obelisk, a ~ of the Wash. D.C. Monument (Buenos Aires)

♦ "The mudpuppy is relatively rare and looks a lot like its larger cousin, the Eastern hellbender." (WNC anglers: Seen any mudpuppies lately?" by Karen Chavez, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, USA TODAY Network, Sunday, December 27, 2020. Hellbenders are also known as "snot otters" and "water dogs." They are living fossils.)

## cover (under cover)

under cover of darkness

the attacks began ~

the convoys move both in daylight and ~ (Iraq)

living under cover

Al-Khilewi, who was granted asylum, is now ~

## covered up

covered up

his pedophilia had been known for years but ~ (priest)

## cover up (verb)

cover up his crime

he smashed his own head and face to ~

covers up violations

Saudi Arabia ~ of human rights abuses

covered up (security) shortcomings

the FAA ~ for years (airports)

covered up (widespread) doping

officials ~ by... (sports)

cover up the killing

their attempts to ~ were unsuccessful (Saudi police)

covered up for the (cheerleader) coach

cops allege the school's principal ~

covered up for him

when they finally did land in court, she ~ (abuse)

cover up for "honor killings"

deaths are ascribed to suicide in order to ~

covered it up

the Army ~ (contamination from weapons depot)

tried to cover up

they ~ what they had done... (tribal vengeance)

he also ~ the crime... (tribal vengeance)

## coverup (noun)

cover-up

a ~ to conceal the affair

cover-ups and corruption

investigations marred by official ~ (Mexico)

government coverup

charges of a ~

failed cover-up

prison terms for colluding in the ~ (mine disaster / China)

politically motivated cover-up

a ~

official coverups

investigations marred by ~ and corruption (Mexico)

allegations of a cover-up

officials will investigate the ~ (China / storm)

charges of a (government) coverup

they have been ~

mystery and cover-up

dealing with the UFO ~

denied a cover-up

local officials have ~ (no typhoon warning)

♦ "Phase 4 (of the inquiry) has pulled back the curtain on the decades of the great post office cook-up and coverup. The disdain and dislike of sub-postmasters by the post office and their employees, a refusal to investigate the Horizon system because of what that would reveal, what an awful cocktail. A Molotov cocktail." (A lawyer for a group of the sub-postmasters. See the Wikipedia article "British Post Office Scandal.")

## covey (group)

covey of bureaucrats

what's needed is a ~ to better govern the country

covey of (industry) tycoons

a ~ and their wives assembled

## cow (bell cow)

bell cows

give the running backs a chance to be ~ like they want

♦ "You have yet to give the running backs a chance to be bell cows like they want." (Emmitt Smith about running backs in the NFL.)

♦ "It's wonderful. I'm very proud of him. Respect it a great deal. But Barak Obama does not represent Lynn Swann. To think that one Black man represents the values and issues for all of Black America is just absolutely wrong. Where's the freedom in that? Where's the choice? So, if America thinks, and the Democratic Party thinks, that we stick a bell around Barak Obama's neck, and he becomes the bell cow for all of Black America, it is absolutely wrong and the worst thing that we can do as a race to move forward." (Lynn Swann, the great ex-NFL receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers, speaking about Barak Obama's nomination in 2008. From "Roundtable: Athletes Politically Active Off The Field," NPR, News & Notes, September 11, 2008. About Swann, one admiring commentator wrote, "star power and a storied life of successes.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Recognized by Wiktionary, with excellent quotations and citations. Wiktionary is wonderful. The online Merriam-Webster dictionary has an entry for the figurative use, but tags it "slang" for "leader," and provides no examples of usage. Dictionaries are weird.

## cow (cash cow)

cash cow

brand AJ fails again, he's a ~ and nothing else (boxing)

cash cow for universities

online education is a ~

cash cow for publishers

textbooks are the last ~

cash cow of (American) ballet

the *Nutcracker* is the ~

Boeing's (long term) cash cow

~ is the 737

company's cash cow

the drug is the ~

Microsoft's cash cow

Windows is ~

as a cash cow

he needed Clay ~ and recruitment vehicle (boxer)

lost his cash cow

King had ~ (Mike Tyson goes to jail for rape)

♦ "The league is far from being a cash cow." (The WNBA, as opposed to the NBA.)

♦ see also *cash machine* (noun)

\*\*\* Tilly Alcartra, "the Queen of Holsteins..."

♦ Asa W. Morris in California owned the legendary Tilly Alcartra, known as "the Queen of Holsteins" for her milk production. Her biography is amazing. Was she a victim of an anthrax outbreak, destroyed and buried along with thousands of other cows to prevent the spread of that disease?

## cowboy (person)

Cocaine Cowboys

the cartels' ~ turned the market (1970s Florida)

## cower (verb)

cower in the face of (NCAA) abuses

universities ~ (sports)

cowered before demands

the publishing industry has ~ to cancel books

♦ "Columbia University administrators seemed poised to take a brave stand against ongoing student protests Monday—and then totally wimped out, cowering in the face of student activists." (The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ If a dog can't bite, it licks. (An insult.)

## coy (adjective)

coy about the idea

China has been ~ (of an East Asia Community)

coy about the year

she is ~ of her birth

coy on the subject

he has been ~ (about retiring)

a bit coy

he's a ~ about how much he can raise (a politician)

surprisingly coy

politicians can be ~ about asking direct questions

being coy

she is not ~ about wanting to win (a politician)

playing coy

many possible candidates are ~ about running

remaining coy

most potential candidates are ~ for now (presidency)

## coyote (predation)

gangs of "coyotes"

~ smuggle people in from Mexico

## cozy (adjective)

cozy with Boeing

the FAA was too ~

cozy relationship

he has a ~ with the prince

too cozy

the agency was ~ with the company

♦ "There's a great coziness or familiarity between all the parties." (The U.S. and Boeing.)

## crab (crab in a bucket, etc.)

crabs in a barrel

oh, ~, I say, to hell with them all (St. Simons Island)

crab mentality

~ is, "If I can't have it neither can you"

crab-basket quarrels

he had managed to avoid the ~ and ignore the slights

crab bucket syndrome

when others hold you back is the ~

♦ "Ladies, we are supposed to be rooting for one another not pulling one another down." (Britney Spears about Alyssa Milano.)

♦ "Something I've always wondered is when I'm going to develop the affected-Black-intellectual voice," Harris said that summer, still stuck in London. He was reflecting on some of his favorite writers and artists of an older generation, and the way that their talk was often as effortfully stylized as their work. He'd been thinking about Andre Leon Talley, the fashion writer and editor whose high diction and baroque syntax became hallmarks of his style—and seemed, moreover, like a way of asserting his belonging in a largely white milieu... / Talk of that voice—I knew what Harris meant without having to ask—got me thinking, perhaps slightly defensively, of my own. / "You have it a little bit," he said, confirming a fear I'd spoken aloud." ("Outside Man: Jeremy O. Harris, before and after 'Slave Play'" by Vinson Cunningham, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023. "Blacks talking white." The crab-bucket syndrome. Concerns about "authenticity" and "Blackness" in the era of hip-hop.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Filipinos notice this behavior in the Philippines. Crabs in a bucket or pot instinctively grab at things above them. Thus, no crabs can climb out of a pot.

## crack (attempt)

crack at it

we'll take another ~

## crack (verb)

cracked

their relationship ~ under the pressure

## crack (verb / emotion)

cracked

I ~ under the pressure

## crack (division)

crack

the ~s could widen into a chasm (politics)

crack in the coalition

the Arab League statement is a worrying ~ (Libya)

cracks in (military) solidarity

there have been few ~ (Venezuela political unrest)

cracks could widen

the ~ into a chasm (politics)

## crack (flaw)

cracks

the ~ were beginning to show (troubled corporation)

cracks in Bierenbaum's façade

~ started to appear (surgeon convicted of murder)

## crack (fall through the cracks, etc.)

dropped through the cracks

Cho had ~ of the university bureaucracy

fell through the cracks

she ~ (foster system)

## crack (slip through the cracks, etc.)

slipped through the cracks

he has ~ (terrorist)

many sex sites have ~ (Internet)

## crackdown (noun)

crackdown on corruption

the government has launched a ~

crackdown against (unlicensed) Internet Cafes

authorities kicked off a nationwide ~ (China)

draconian crackdown

he has presided over the most ~ on leaks in US history

racist crackdown

Tunisia's ~ on migrants (NPR)

## crack down (verb)

crack down on party-goers

Florida police ~ on spring break

cracked down on the opposition

the government has ~

cracking down on immigration

they are ~

cracking down on both men

judges are ~ (investigation)

## cracy (gynocracy, etc.)

aristocracy

see *aristocracy* (noun)

cheerocracy

Courtney, this is not a democracy, this is a ~

gerontocracy

a ~ is generationally unjust

the U.S. has been described as a ~

gynocracy

what the manosphere calls the ~

hip-istocracy

L.A.'s lustrous ~ (*Girls Like Us* / Sheila Weller)

meritocracy

the modern ~ is a resentment-generating machine

Sportsocracy

The ~, your lunchtime dose of dumbassery (sports radio)

The ~ with Tank Spencer and Jeremy Greene

The ~, "Welcome to the Democratic Republic of Sports!"

talentocracy

the marriage elevated them to the pinnacle of the U.K. ~

technocracy

call Silicon Valley what it is, authoritarian ~

♦ Courtney, this is not a democracy, this is a cheerocracy. / You are a cheer-tator, Torrance. (Silly dialogue from the silly 2000 film *Bring It On*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In Greek, "*kratos*" is "rule" or "power."

♦ "The first thing we knew we had a *bureaucracy* made up from *bureau*, a 'writing-desk' and the Greek word *-kratia*, 'rule'; hence, rule or government by a flock of writing desks..." (*Word Origins and their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## cradle (strangled in the cradle, etc.)

kill any (climate-change) bill in its cradle

he will ~ if he has a chance (legislator)

strangled in its cradle

Bolshevism must be ~ (Winston Churchill on Russia)

strangle the experiment in its cradle

if nobody watches, it will ~ (TV show)

strangle the (nascent) industry in its cradle

the policy could ~ (AI safety bill / SB 1047)

♦ "I think the critics felt, we mustn't knock this new venture too much, we've waited so long for a national theatre we can't kill it at birth." (William Gaskill, about Peter O'Toole as Hamlet at the Old Vic, 22 October 1963. Directed by Laurence Olivier.)

## cradle (cradle of Islam, etc.)

coronavirus cradle

Wuhan, the ~, has partially reopened

"Cradle of (U.S. Navy) Aviation"

Pensacola is known as the ~

cradle of Islam

Saudi Arabia is the ~

cradle of civilization

the Caucasus was a ~

cradle of (ancient) civilizations

the plateau is a ~

cradle of (Chinese) civilization

Hubei and Henan provinces, the ~

the Yellow River is known as the ~

cradle of (Serbian) civilization

Serbs claim Kosovo as the ~

cradle of independence

Dolores Hidalgo is known as the ~ (Mexico)

## cradle (symbol)

cradle-to-grave  
the ~ work force

from the cradle to the grave  
she gave advice on problems people face ~

## craft (ringcraft, etc.)

Bushcraft

Discover ~ aims to help women learn bushcraft skills

court craft

she was nicknamed 'the Magician' for her ~ (tennis)

icecraft

the subtle science of snow and ~ (Edmund Hillary)

junglecraft

he was very adapted at ~ (a Tamil Nadu bandit)

ringcraft

the ~, the intelligence, the mentality... (a boxer)

spellcraft

her rigor and ~ (Karina Longworth / podcaster)

spycraft

technology is redefining ~ for a new era

stagecraft

he is vigilant about the ~ of statecraft (SecDef)  
it was a highly charged piece of ~ (by President)

statecraft

conservatism requires skilled ~ (foreign affairs)

tradecraft

some of the ~ was damn sloppy (CIA)  
per policy, we cannot discuss ~ (A.T.F.)

witchcraft

villagers said it was ~ (Prey Rognieng / Cambodia)

♦ "She was nicknamed 'The Magician' for her court craft. (The tennis player Aga Radwanska.)

♦ "The ringcraft, the intelligence, the mentality, just think about it." (Oleksandr Usyk's performance against Anthony Joshua.)

## crank up (verb)

cranked up the pressure on the manager  
a defeat would have ~ (soccer)

cranked up the crazy

they've ~ at MSNBC (coverage of the 2024 RNC)

## crap (noun)

dog whistle crap

he called concerns about Afghan refugees "~~"

♦ "He called worries about Afghan refugees 'dog whistle crap.'" (Gov. Tony Evers of Wisconsin, about the Afghan refugees at Fort McCoy, after 2 refugees were charged with crimes.)

## crash (crash and burn)

crash and burn

so what role did he play in making it all ~ (politics)

crashed and burned

you know the Democratic Party has ~ when...  
she has ~ trying to discuss policy (Kamala Harris)

♦ "While the Twitter Blue rollout was turning into a *Hindenburg*-level flameout..." (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

♦ "Trudeau complained of 'Russian disinformation,' as if that were to blame for this optics *Hindenburg*." (A Canadian political kerfuffle. The reference is to the *Hindenburg* airship disaster on May 6, 1937.)

\*\*\* the *Hindenburg*...

♦ "It's starting to rain again. It—The rain had slacked up a little bit. The back motors of the ship are just holding it just enough to keep it from—it burst into flames. It burst into flames. And it's falling. It's crashing. Watch it. Watch it. Get out of the way. Get out of the way. Get this Charlie, get this Charlie. It's crash—and it's crashing. It's crashing. Terrible. Oh, my. Get out of the way, please. It's burning and bursting into flames, and it's falling on the mooring-mast. And all of the folks agree that this is terrible. / This is the worst of the worst catastrophes in the world. And all the people. It's crashing. Oh, 400, 500 feet into the sky. It's a terrific crash, ladies and gentlemen. There's smoke and there's flames now, and the frame is crashing to the ground, not quite to the mooring-mast. All the humanity and all the passengers screaming around here. I told you, it—I can't even talk to people whose friends are on there. Oh, I can't talk, ladies and gentlemen...." (Herbert Morrison's eyewitness broadcast on radio of the crash of the *Hindenburg* in Lakehurst, New Jersey, on May 6, 1937.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Oh Quenty-queue, oh Quenty-queue.." (Theodore Roosevelt mourning in a stable of horses the death of his youngest son, Quentin. From "World War I Letters Show Theodore Roosevelt's Unbearable Grief after the Death of his son" by Andrew Carroll, *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 3, 2017.)

♦ "The death of his beloved 'Quenikins' devastated Roosevelt. Months after the news had reached him at Sagamore Hill, friends had glimpsed him alone in his barn one day, his arm around his horse's neck, sobbing..." (*River of Doubt* by Candice Millard. Within 6 months Theodore "Teddy / T.R." Roosevelt would be dead, at the age of 60.)

## crash (car crash)

car crash of an interview

this was a ~ (sexual abuse)

slow-moving car crash

Biden's presidency has become a ~ (Piers Morgan)

walked away from more car crashes

he has ~ than any other sitting president

♦ "7.5 million followers??? Guess everyone is signing up to watch the train wreck go over a cliff. Same reason people slow down to look at car accidents. Don't get it." (A comment about a wellness check carried out by police on Gabbie Hanna, a Millennial online personality who goes by the name "Trauma Queen.")

## crash (crash down)

came crashing down

she was the youngest female billionaire before it all ~  
his empire ~ (a company)

## crash (crash course, etc.)

crash course

an eight-day ~  
he took a ~ in genetics

crash diet

~s can be dangerous

## **crash (population crash, etc.)**

crash and bleed-out

what they call the ~ (Ebola virus)

computer crash

the data disappeared after 2 ~s (voting records)

population crash

a ~, part of the natural cycle

likely to cause an unprecedented ~

stock-market crash

the ~

ecological crash

you're going to see an ~ (marmots / Mongolia)

## **crash-land (verb)**

crash-landed on (hard) facts

his theory ~ and common sense

crash-landed in Suffolk County

10 cold cases had suddenly ~ (Gilgo Beach murders)

## **crat (Trump-o-crat, etc.)**

educrat

how the rise of woke “~s” is destroying higher education

Trump-o-crat

disgraced ex-Illinois governor now a ~ (Blagojevich)

♦ At Wiktionary, type in “-crat,” then click on “Derived terms,” and you will get a comprehensive list of words, including “Trumpocrat.” Wiktionary is wonderful.

## **crater (verb)**

cratered

demand and prices have ~ (oil)

cratered oil prices

massive supply with almost no demand ~ (pandemic)

travel cratered

global ~ during the pandemic

## **crave (fans crave the bout, etc.)**

craved it

the media wanted it, fans ~ (a boxing matchup)

crave stories, memories, (behind-the-scenes) morsels

fans crave ~ (podcasts by athletes)

## **crave (verb)**

so craves

the legacy he ~ will suffer (sports doping)

craved fame

he ~

## **crawl (activity)**

crawling with reporters

our hotel was ~

## **crawl (time can crawl, etc.)**

crawl

boredom makes time ~, interest makes it race

minutes crawled by

the ~

## **crawl (skin can crawl, etc.)**

crawling

my skin is ~ (disgust)

## **crawl (noun)**

crawl to (Aug.12) peak

Perseid meteor shower begins slow ~

crawl phase

having accomplished the ~ (military training)

crawl, walk, run

instruction should follow a ~ sequence (military)

news crawl

run a ~ across the bottom of the screen (TV)

slow crawl

Perseid meteor shower begins ~ to Aug. 12 peak

slowed to a crawl

the market for initial public offerings has ~

the storm's movement has ~

slow to a crawl

the ambush was set where the convoy had to ~

brought to a crawl

traffic was ~ in Cincinnati (snow and ice)

## **craze (noun)**

craze of the 80's

the cocaine ~

craze in the 1920s

tree sitting was a national ~, like phone-booth stuffing

craze in Japan

platform shoes are the ~

craze in clothes, music, illegal drugs

the latest teen ~

craze for (sudoku) puzzles

the worldwide ~

cocaine craze

the ~ of the 80's

crossword craze

the First World War was the start of the ~

dance craze

the mambo fueled a brief but intense American ~ (1940s)

fitness craze

cash in on the ~



teen craze

the latest ~ in clothes, music, illegal drugs

cowboy craze

the '80s ~ (urban cowboys)

snake meat craze

snakes are disappearing due to the nationwide ~ (China)

tail-fin craze

the designer behind the ~ (cars)

extreme sports craze

encouraged by the ~

Internet craze

the ~ is causing distortions

worldwide craze

the ~ for sudoku puzzles

skateboarding craze

a few years later the ~ was over

Stanley drinking cup craze

the ~ shows no sign of abating

current craze

the ~ is tread and shred (exercising)

international craze

its triumph as a full-blown ~ in the 60's (folk music)

latest craze

the ~ is... (sports)

national craze

tree sitting was a ~ in the 1920s, like phone booth stuffing

new craze

platform shoes are the ~ in Japan

♦ Laksa fever; "everyone's just contracted this laksa fever"; "the love child of Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean cuisine"; love for laksa; a thing that people love; craving a fix (for laksa); the mania (for laksa); a city obsessed (with laksa); the laksa obsession; the faithful; a giant shrine is erected (for monthlong laksa festival); laksa ice-cream / smoothies / cheesecake / sausage / crocodile dumplings / beer; the Laksa Festival Hall of Fame; the Golden Bowl award for best laksa... ("How laksa fever took hold in this Australian city" by the wonderful writer Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC, October 31, 2023. Life at "The Top End" of Oz. Super!)

## crazed (sex-crazed)

sex-crazed

college students are often portrayed as ~

## crazed (crazed fans, etc.)

crazed fan

~s scoured the Web ("Blair Witch Project")

cricket-crazed

the ~ countries of the former British Empire

media-crazed

the ~ public...

soccer-crazed

the World Cup is a huge even in ~ countries

seafood-crazed

in this ~ country, tuna is king (Japan)

## crazy (behavior)

crazy

you must be ~...

are you ~ or what...

crazy boss

coping with a ~

crazy town

another ruling from ~ (the Fifth Circuit Court)

crazy and hostile

Boston Celtic fans are ~ (NBA)

crazy and wild

it was ~ (wedding in non-traditional location)

too crazy

his ideas were rejected as ~ by the grant process (a scientist)

stupid, crazy or not cool

"gay" as an adjective to describe anybody ~

wild and crazy

he was ~, young and dumb

wild and crazy

the NFL has its ~ side

act crazy

scream and run or ~ (date-rape-prevention strategies)

acting crazy

you got so many kids out here ~ (South LA gangs)

drive me crazy

I need a lover who won't ~

drive you crazy

I like to tease you and ~

driving me crazy

the itch is ~

rejected as (too) crazy

his ideas were ~ by the grant process (a scientist)

♦ "It's going to be chaos with Republican leadership. And, sadly, the crazy caucus has grown among the Republicans." (Representative Adam Schiff, Democrat-California, on the possibility of losing his position as chair of the House Intelligence Committee after Republicans took control of the House of Representatives.)

♦ "The Fifth Circuit is ready to adopt the politically most conservative position on almost any issue, no matter how implausible, and no matter how much defiling of precedence it takes. Not every one of them was delivered from crazy town [chuckles from the audience]. But it would be shocking if at least some of those decision are not reversed." (Irv Gornstein, director of the Georgetown University Supreme Court Institute, speaking before an audience.)

♦ "In 2012, Nina Totenberg of NPR was criticized by mental-health advocates for asking the question, "So, is your client a nut case?"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Nothing says loco quite like Keith Olbermann." (The political commentator who labeled Donald Trump "a terrorist.")

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

♦ To say that she is half-crazy is to be half-right.

♦ You must be crazy!

♦ "He's nuttier than a peach-orchard boar."

## crazy (enthusiasm)

crazy to do

you have to be a little ~ it (ice canoeing / Quebec City)

crazy about that dog

she's ~ (a woman and a pit bull)

crazy about her

I'm ~ (man about his female friend)

crazy about hunting

he was ~ and loved to gather trophies

basketball-crazy

the Philippines is a ~ country

Internet-crazy

~ Americans

boy crazy

girls may become "~" (preadolescence)

a little crazy

you have to be ~ to do it (ice canoeing / Quebec City)

get crazy

I can't ~ about... (don't care, not moved by...)

goes crazy

while the rest of the world ~ over the World Cup

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The word *balletomane* comes from the Russian for ballet and mania.

## crazy (and mad / as adverbs)

crazy ambitious

that sounds ~, I understand that (Abigail Disney)

Crazy Delicious

he served as a judge on Netflix's ~

crazy jealous

he'd be ~ and paranoid about what I'd been up to

crazy strong

the winds are ~ up there (Mount Everest)

mad respect

crazy stuff, ~ for everyone sending it that day (surfing)

mad impressed

I was ~ by that (a scene from a movie)

mad crazy

some people go ~ about him (gay talk)

mad funny

he called him a snake ~ bc (because)...

♦ "I was mad impressed by that." (Jimmy "I'll mispronounce your name" Whisman about the scene in the 1994 film *The Chase* in which Charlie Sheen and Kristy Swanson have sex in the driver's seat while fleeing the cops. The film predated by a few month's O.J. Simpson's low-speed chase of the same year.)

## crazy (as noun)

crazy

was it just her ~ showing, or did she have help (drugs)

crazy in the world

with all the ~ today... (see quote below)

bit of crazy

a ~ can be good (Morocco WC coach Walid Regragui)

in between the crazy

~, she likes to... (biography of mom with 3 kids)

battled his crazy

AB's talent has constantly ~ for years (the NFL player)

cranked up the crazy

they've ~ at MSNBC (2024 RNC coverage)

get the crazy out of me

it took 31 years to ~... (Anne Heche)

married crazy

it started when he realized he ~ (erectile dysfunction)

understand crazy

you can't ~ (Nashville suicide bomber)

♦ "I'm not crazy. But it's a crazy life. I was raised in a crazy family and it took 31 years to get the crazy out of me." (Anne Heche, speaking to ABC News. Her 2001 memoir is called *Call Me Crazy*. She died after she crashed into a house in her car, setting car and house and herself on fire. Crazy...)

♦ "Do we have the results back from the blood samples? Was she drunk, was she high, what was in her system. Was it just her crazy showing, or did she have a little help?" ("Nicole Linton Was Involuntarily Committed Multiple Times Before LA Crash, Attorney Said" by Kui Mwai, yahoo news, August 16, 2022.)

♦ "That's how crazy works..." (A disparaging observation / remark.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Gentlemen like Sam restore my faith in humanity. With all the crazy in the world today, it's great to see guys like Sam just doing what they can to save someone they've never met from harm. I raise my glass to you sir." (An online commenter.)

## cream (superlative)

cream of (Irish country music) artists

Daniel O'Donnell introduces the ~

France's intellectual *crème de la crème*

~ have attended the elite Ecole Nationale d'Administration

## creature (creature of habit, etc.)

creature of his era

he was a ~ (Frank Kameny)

creature of Fleet Street

a former ~ ... (a new TV interviewer)

creature of habit

he is a ~

creature of the hollers

when we meet Raylan Givens, he's a ~ (*Justified*)

creature of the Senate

Biden really is a ~, he's served there for decades...

creature of the theater

he was a ~ (George M. Cohan)

creatures of their own time

like Luther, they were ~ (slavery and Southern Baptists)

funny creatures

actors are ~ ("My dear boy, why don't you try acting?")

rare creature

she's a Beethoven figure, a genius, a ~ (precocious student)

unique creature

he was a ~ in absolutely every department (Marlon Brando)

♦ "Crowds are very dynamic creatures and can change rapidly." (A bullet point on a Minneapolis Police training slide.)

## creature comfort

creature comforts

our campsite and all its ~ (Mt. Everest guided trip)

## creep (mission creep, etc.)

creep of politics into the newsroom's journalism

this ~ (at *The New York Times*)

Christmas creep

"Why stores are starting the '~' earlier than ever"

mission creep

there's a real ~ in what tech companies are doing  
the interagency entity underwent ~ (federal government)

nudity creep

'~' in streaming TV reveals more of its stars

"torture creep"

interrogators get sneaky, thus ~

mission drift

that's too big an issue, it's ~ (saving environment *and...*)

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ In *Churchill: Walking With Destiny*, Andrew Roberts says that Churchill, in 1940, "vigilantly guarded against *mission-creep*." That phrase struck a very wrong note with me. Luckily, Wikipedia has an entry: "The phrase first appeared in 1993, in articles published in the *Washington Post* and in the *New York Times* concerning the United Nations peacekeeping mission during the Somali Civil War." Roberts *could* have put the phrase in quotation marks, or added "in what is today called X," as he rightly did when he used "groupthink" in another part of his book, but for some reason he didn't. This is a form of presentism.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Reasonable missions have a way of creeping...

## creep (verb)

creep westward

the storm continues to ~ at 1 mph (hurricane)

## creep up (numbers)

crept up

gradually the thermometer ~ towards -20 degrees C.

## crescendo (noun)

crescendo of anti-abortion legislation

the Alabama law tops a ~

steady crescendo

the ~ of questions led him to release a statement...

## cricket (sound)

clackers or "crickets"

whistles, bells, sirens, ~, and horns (military signals)

## crickets (silence)

crickets

no blacks were involved, so ~

crickets chirping

hello, where are you on this violence, ~ (criticism)

crickets on the Supreme Court

but after the decision, it was essentially ~ (gun rights)

♦ Bailey Olive: "In the last two days there has been a mass shooting in Chicago and Philadelphia, too but they are, like this one, not one white involved, so crickets." / Bluejay to Bailey Olive: "Did you hear that from voices in your head?" / bibleexpert to Bailey Olive: "So crickets? Then how did you find out about them?"

♦ "But after the landmark decision and an adjunct case two years later, it was essentially crickets at the court on the subject of how far states may go in regulating guns." (Nina Totenberg, "High Court To Hear 1st Major Gun Rights Case In More Than A Decade, NPR, Morning Edition, April 27, 2021.)

♦ "As Carole sat down at the grand piano... and curled her hands over the keys, the noise receded to cricket-hearing silence." (The great Carole King. From *Girls Like Us* by Sheila Weller.)

♦ "Check out playgrounds today: when I grew up, 50s and 60s, had 100 kids playing in the playground...Now..Crickets in most." (A comment on an article about body positivity, weight, models, etc.)

♦ "It's radio silence from Kamala and Kamala World." (A political donor, about the Vice President and her plans post-Biden.)

♦ "There isn't a peep from the left." (Crickets...)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The slang expression "crickets" has come to mean silence, based on the sound of crickets in films to indicate dead silence.

♦ see also *mute (speech)*, *silence (society's silence, etc.)*

## cri de coeur

wake-up call, cri de coeur, call to arms

his book is a ~ (about language)

## crime (fashion crime, etc.)

no crime

it's ~ to be selfish sometimes

it's ~ for those who were right to feel a little superior

fashion crime

wearing socks with sandals is considered a ~

## criminalization (groups)

criminalization of rap lyrics

the Change.org petition addresses the ~

criminalization of prostitutes and insane people

her dissertation examined the ~ and the “mad narratives...”

## criminalize (groups)

criminalize

we ~ poverty and mental illness

## criminalized (groups)

criminalized

Black creativity and artistry is being ~ (RICO)

## cringe (verb)

cringing

I was ~, he embarrassed himself so badly (boxer AJ)

cringed when I heard

I ~ what he said (a comedian)

laugh and cringe

what makes you ~ reveals your hidden biases

makes some cringe

a 9/11 key chain ~ (9/11 Memorial store)

## cringe (as adjective)

cringe

the writing is usually ~ (by non-specialists)

I nearly had to turn it off it was ~ (AJ vs Usyk)

cringe comedy

~, without the laughs (a review of a movie)

cringe o meter

this might have broken the ~...Wow (Kamala Harris)

so cringe

this is ~ (Kahn pose in NYT mag photo)

super cringe

~ (Anthony Joshua's behavior after 2<sup>nd</sup> loss to Usyk)

♦ “Cringe. If they had term worse than ‘cringe,’ I’d use it here.” (A commenter about a “dirty / creepy old-man President.”)

♦ “Around that time, I also learned—from watching the British version of ‘The Office’—that the word ‘cringe’ could be an adjective, as in the phrase ‘so cringe.’” (“Affective Disorder” by Nikhil Krishnan, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “There’s no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## cringe-worthy (adjective)

cringe-worthy

the ~ beginnings of a relationship

the video was criticised as being tone deaf and ~

finds the self-promotion cringeworthy

he ~ (a climber about climbing videos / documentaries)

♦ Pathetic and cringeworthy; cringeworthy to watch... (Anthony Joshua's bizarre post-fight antics after his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

## cringey (adjective)

cringey

it was ~ because it was true (TV series *In Living Color*)

in the ~ first 20 minutes of the movie... (negative review)

cringey behavior

she isn't the only woman who has encountered such ~

cringey jokes

there were a few ~ (U.S. presidential “debate”)

cringey sex

while having ~ with Robert... (the film *Cat Person*)

cringy video

making fun of a ~

cheesy but not cringy

ahhh, the era when movies were ~ (2011 *Monte Carlo*)

scary and disturbing and cringey

this is actually so ~

♦ “Brenda isn't the only woman who has encountered such cringey behavior.” (Men who spread their legs on planes, or “manspreading.”)

♦ “Who wrote this script? Have they met literally a single male human [?]” (A commenter about a campaign advertisement for Kamala Harris targeting “real men.” The ad has been ripped as the “cringiest political ad ever.” The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## cripple (verb)

cripples networks

they sow malware that ~ (ransomware gangs)

crippled the city

23 inches of snow ~

cripple his presidency

Biden's critics say this will ~ (Afghanistan withdrawal)

cripping our society

unemployment is ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## crippled

crippled by (economic and political) troubles

Zimbabwe remains ~

crippled reactor

the damage at the ~ is worse than thought

remains crippled

Zimbabwe ~ by economic and political troubles

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## crippling

crippling blow

his death dealt a ~ to his network (a terrorist)

crippling fear

~s of loss and disaster (children of divorce)

crippling poverty

the ~ among mountain people (United Nations)

crippling, paralyzing

I do not favor ~ sanctions (Russian President)

finds it crippling

he ~ to be aware of what other designers have done

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## crisis (mid-life crisis)

unpredictable mid-life crisis

democracy isn't dying, but it's having an ~

## critical mass (noun)

'critical mass' of allegations

the ~ prompted NBC to cancel the Cosby project

critical mass of companies

but I do think that there is a ~ making pledges...  
(activism)

critical mass of people

a ~ began to believe that...

critical mass in the culture

her personality has achieved a ~ (Miley Cyrus / James Parker)

reach critical mass

if the protests don't reach ~, the regime won't change

reached a critical mass

awareness may have ~ (something or other in the EU)

♦ "Inclusive language is not about critical mass, it's about possibility." (NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride, about the use of "pregnant people" versus "pregnant women.")

## Cromwellian (adjective)

Cromwellian air

his railings lent a ~ to his leadership

## crooked (adjective)

crooked

the election was ~

crooked books

crooked auditors certified the ~

crooked business

insurance is a ~

crooked cops

the force must root out ~

crooked dealer

~s take advantage of young soldiers (autos)

crooked employers

~ pay less, and make workers work more

crooked governors

two ~ in a row have been sent to prison (Illinois)

crooked politician

~s steal our money

straight and crooked

he knew the difference between ~ work (a farmer)

## crop (noun)

crop of (American) offspring

the first postwar ~

good crop

we've got a ~ that's just behind her (boxing prospects)

## crop (remove)

crops empire out of the picture

the story ~ (a history of W.W. II)

## crop up (verb)

cropped up in its Proton rockets

the Russians must fix problems that have ~

problem cropped up

the ~ just hours before liftoff (space shuttle)

questions crop up

legal ~, too

continually crop up

look for keywords that ~ in ads

## cross (cross someone)

cross him

he got even with people he perceived to have ~ (a boss)

## cross (a bridge can cross a river, etc.)

bridge crosses the river

a ~ there

## cross (bear that cross, etc.)

bear that cross

I'll ~ with honor

♦ "And I will always do my duty / Not matter what the price / I've counted up the cost / I know the sacrifice / Oh, and I don't wanna die for you / But if dying's asked of me / I'll bear that cross with honor / 'Cause Freedom don't come free." Watch: Toby Keith—American Solider (Radio Edit)

## crossfire (noun)

rhetorical crossfire

the purpose of the bill has been lost in the ~

caught in the crossfire

sensible people are ~ (far left and right / gun control)

## cross hair (in the cross hairs)

in the cross hairs

another Arab dictator is ~ (Bashar al-Assad of Syria)  
he is ~ (a wanted terrorist)

in the crosshairs of a (Justice Department) lawsuit

Google is ~

in the crosshairs of the woke mob

I realize I'm ~ right now (NFL's Aaron Rodgers)

in the crosshairs of the NCAA

it's not the first time USC's basketball program has been ~

in regulators' crosshairs

the firm is ~ (for fraud)

in the (trade war) crosshairs

the company is ~

in our crosshairs

he's ~ (a pedophile)

found himself in the crosshairs

he has ~ between the left and the right over... (economy)

end up in the crosshairs

I don't want to ~ of somebody who wants to clean house

♦ "Trump in the Crosshairs: Will the former President be prosecuted?" by Jane Mayer, A Reporter at Large, *The New Yorker*, March 22, 2021.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In 2011 in the US, the figurative versus literal meaning of this word caused a political controversy when the politician Gabby Giffords was shot. The opposition had indicated her district on a map with a cross-hairs icon. In 2019, Roger Stone apologized to Judge Amy Berman Jackson for posting an Instagram photo of her next to a rifle scope's crosshair. In 2022, a court heard a case involving the original icon and *The New York Times*. The USS *Gabrielle Giffords* is named after Gabby Giffords, and her husband is Mark Kelly, astronaut. The original shooter was mentally ill, with access to a gun.

♦ In 2024, the rhetorical use of "crosshairs" became controversial once again, following the assassination attempt on ex-president Donald Trump at a campaign rally. Prior to the near-assassination, President Biden had said, "It's time to put Trump in the bull's-eye." In an interview after Trump's near-assassination, President Biden seemed to make a distinction between "crosshairs" and "bull's-eye" when he said, "I didn't say crosshairs." The 2024 U.S. presidential election.

♦ see also *bull's-eye* (target)

## cross-pollination (cross pollination)

cross-pollination

there's so much ~, hyping each other (Black Hollywood)

cross-pollination of languages

the natural ~ where they intersect

cross-pollination of networks and sports

the ~ has ended independent long-form sports journalism

cross-pollination between the classics and pop culture

that ~ has characterized my writing (Daniel Mendelsohn)

## crossroad (Crossroads of the World, etc.)

Crossroads of America

since 1937, Indiana's state motto has been "The ~"

crossroads of the Pacific

the ~ (Honolulu)

Crossroads of the World

the ~ was packed with tourists and revelers (Times Square)

crossroads for Africa, Asia, and Europe

Zanzibar is a small island that is also a major ~

at the (strategic) crossroads of Europe and Asia

Adrianople, ~

♦ London 9490 miles; San Francisco 2090 miles; Tahiti 3366 miles; New York 6720 miles; Los Angeles 2230 miles; New York 6720 miles; Manila 4870 miles; Sydney 4420 miles... (The famous "Crossroads of the Pacific" sign in Honolulu circa 1941.)

♦ Beirut; Santiago; Moskva (19613 km); Cairo; Houston Texas; Vukovar (km 13.877); Munster 13,794 km, Rio de Janeiro 4.101 kms... (Signposts in Punta Arenas, Chile, near the tip of South America and the traditional gateway to the Antarctic.)

♦ "North Pole; Copenhagen (4 hrs 15 min); Los Angeles (6 hrs 45 min); New York (4hrs); Moscow (5hrs 20 min); Rome (5 hrs 40 min); Paris (4 hrs 25 min); Frankfurt (4 hrs 40 min); London (3 hrs 35 min)..." (A signpost in Nuuk, Greenland. Nuuk wishes to attract tourists.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wikipedia has a very nice entry at "fingerpost." The iconic fingerpost from the beloved US TV show M\*A\*S\*H shows the directions and distances from that little base in Korea to places in the larger world. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "Sign Post Forest," the signpost forest in Watson Lake, Yukon, "was started by a homesick GI in 1942." We've all been there before!

♦ Panama has been called the crossroads of the world. It was certainly a crossroad between Spain and its Pacific Empire. Otherwise... Meh. These crossroad designations are often Chamber of Commerce hallucinations.

♦ see also *road* (path, direction)

## crossroad (at a crossroad)

at a crossroads

his career is ~

the South was ~ (Civil War)

South Sudan is ~ (elections for secession)

America is ~ (midterm elections)

at a crossroads of history

we meet today ~ (Netanyahu addresses Congress)

at a midlife crossroads



he is at a ~ (a character in a film)

at a political crossroads

he finds himself ~ (president)

at a crossroads of his presidency

he is ~

stands at a crossroads

the US ~ (support or non-support for dictators)

♦ "We're at a crossroad, and there is a right side." (Wearing masks during the COVID pandemic.)

♦ see also *road (path, direction)*

## crossroad (other)

crossroads in his life

he'd reached a gloomy ~

crossroads fight

this is a ~ for Andy Lee (vs. John Jackson / 2014)

crossroads moment

the government is at a ~ (crisis)

♦ see also *road (path, direction)*

## crow (verb)

crowed that

he ~ he had forced the president to decide (politics)

crowding about its (online holiday) sales

the company was ~

absolutely crowing

she was ~ after the vote (of no confidence / France)

♦ "Foreign Minister Erko was vilified as a crowing rooster, a writhing serpent, and a phobic rat." (*Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter.)

\*\*\* "The Song of Hiawatha" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow...

♦ "On the tree tops near the cornfields / Sat the hungry crows and ravens, / Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens, / With his band of black marauders. / And they laughed at Hiawatha, / Till the tree-tops shook with laughter... // 'Kahgahgee, my raven!' said he, / 'You the leader of the robbers, / You the plotter of this mischief, / The contriver of this outrage, / I will keep you, I will hold you, / As a hostage for your people, / As a pledge of good behavior!'"

## crowd (society)

crowdsourcing

~ can get you many things...

certain crowd

it's not going to catch on beyond a ~ (the word LatinX)

follow the crowd

be honest with yourself and don't ~

## crown (superlative)

'worst traffic' crown

~ passes from L.A. to new city (New York-Newark)

jewels in the crown

they are the ~ of public education (elite NYC high schools)

contending for that crown

Don Bongino is ~ (king of right-wing media)

## crowned (verb)

crowned at the (party) convention

the eventual Democratic nominee will be ~ in July

## crown jewel

crown jewels of the RAF

the Red Arrows are among the ~

crown jewel of their empire

the building is the ~ (a business)

crown jewel of the system

Banff is the ~ (Canadian National Parks)

crown jewel in this collection

Treasury is the ~ (of U.S. cabinet appointments)

## crucible (noun)

crucible of anxiety

how to handle the ~ (college admissions)

crucible of power

Kandahar has been the main ~ in Afghanistan since...

crucible of suffering

in this ~ (Arctic exploration)

crucible of (free-market) thought

he got his degree from the University of Chicago, the ~

crucible of (Nobel Prize) Winners

the *Institut Curie* became a ~, producing 4 more

crucible for young actors

it was a noted ~ (the Pasadena Playhouse / Hoffman, etc.)

war's (hottest) crucible

the British were sent into the ~ (Sangin, Afghanistan)

## crucified

crucified by the media

she has been ~

\*\*\* "In the old days..."

♦ "In the old days, Yamamoto would have had to commit ritual disembowelment." / "No, he wouldn't have been given the honor! He would simply have been crucified!" ("The Emperor's Code: Breach Of Protocol Spurs Debate in Japan" by Lucy Craft, Nov. 13, 2013.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be thrown to the sharks. Or thrown to the wolves. Or thrown under the bus. Or hung out to dry. Or crucified. Or have your head stuck on a stake. Or be made a scapegoat. Take your pick!

## crucifixion (noun)

media crucifixion

Des Christy of *The Guardian* called it a '~' (BBC's Wogan)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The Bayonet Tree got its name when one of Herkimer's men was crucified on it. George Walter lay beside a spring, pretending to be dead while an Indian ran a scalping knife around his skull, tearing off, finally, hair and skin from the bloody head. The Senecas captured Robert Crouse, the tallest and strongest man in Tryon County. They

trussed him up, and then, in order to cut him down to their size, they whittled his legs off below the knees, cut the ropes holding him, and told him to walk." (*The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop. His book is about the Mohawk River.)

## crucify (verb)

crucify cops

lawyers, politicians stand ready to ~ for taking action

crucify him

the media will be quick to ~ when his form dips (soccer)

crucify me

they are going to ~ this season (on a reality show)

I feel like this town is gonna ~ (murder trial)

## crude (speech)

crude language

he used ~ to deride the investigation (politics)

he used unusually ~ for a public appearance (politician)

## cruel (adjective)

cruel

football is ~ sometimes (play better but still lose)

cruel disease

it's a ~, but it was especially cruel to him (AIDS)

cruel sea

they face the ~

cruel sport

it's true, it's a ~ (a boxing career)

*Cruel Way*

*Everest the ~* by Joe Tasker (a book)

cruel and absurd

life is ~

unjust, cruel

an ~ world

♦ "[T]he poem has already entered the language. This time last year, for instance, if you had opened the business section of the London *Sunday Times*, you would have found an article with the headline 'I never like buying shares in September—it's the cruellest month for stocks.' (Eliot, who worked at Lloyds Bank from 1917 to 1925, might have frowned at this financial counsel, though what would have vexed him sorely is the lack of an apostrophe.) You may not know "The Waste Land," and you may not like it if you do. But it knows you." ("On The Rocks: A hundred years of 'The Waste Land'" by Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022. Of course, the allusion is to "April is the cruellest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing / Memory and desire, stirring / Dull roots with spring rain.")

## crumb (amount)

crumb of comfort

if the team were looking for a ~... (loss)

crumbs of hope

the ~ were so few and far between (a singer)

♦ "When I think back now to those years, I'm flabbergasted. What the hell was keeping me going? The crumbs of hope were so few and far between." (The singer Sam Ryder on his life before recognition.)

## crumble (verb)

crumbled

their relationship has ~ (enmity)

in 1968, the Democratic Party ~ (Nixon elected)

crumbling

the regime is ~ (protests)

life crumbled

my ~

marriage (to Charlie) was crumbling

her ~ (the great Carole King)

began to crumble

in the off-season, his world ~ (troubled pro athlete)

his world ~ last October, when...

## crunch (crunch time)

crunch time

in terms of the school year, it's ~ (tests)

as we head into November, ~ (college football)

it was ~, end of the month (military recruitment)

this is ~, we're in the home stretch (election

campaigning)

crunch time in the fields

it's ~ (harvesting Christmas trees)

crunch time in college football

it's ~

in crunch time

the team is ~, trying to reach the playoffs...

comes down to crunch time

I think when it ~ he will choose... (athlete must pick college)

♦ "Crunch-time culture is rampant throughout Oberlin College." (Deadlines.)

## crunch (cash crunch, etc.)

budget crunch

most states are in the middle of a horrific ~

cash crunch

the agency found itself in a ~

the bank faced a ~ (Silicon Valley Bank shut down)

power crunch

the ~ has eased (after previous rolling power outages)

stave off a cash crunch

options to ~ include bankruptcy protection

## crunch (crunch the data)

crunch the data

the pandemic may have peaked, depending on how you ~

## crusade (on a crusade)

on a crusade to document

he is ~ underage model sites

## **crusade (in a crusade)**

act in (his anti-government) crusade  
it was the final ~ (Oklahoma City bombing)

engaged in an (undercover) crusade  
she has ~ to document teen porn sites

## **crusade (noun)**

crusade to improve  
her ~ the city parks she loved (M.M. Graff / NYC)

crusade of violence  
a ~, intimidation and harassment (animal rights)

crusade for a bargeway  
the ~ on the Red River

crusade for Ms. Katz  
finding terrorists has become a ~ (on Internet)

mothers' crusade  
the ~ (to find serial killer of their daughters)

anti-government crusade  
it was the final act in his ~ (Oklahoma City bombing)

anti-bullying crusade  
an ~ (schools)

anti-cockfighting crusade  
successful ~s in Missouri and Arizona

moral crusade  
a harsh and intolerant ~

personal crusade  
he used his seniority to further his ~s (politician)

political crusade  
a grieving mother's ~ (son killed in Iraq)

signature crusade  
he made health-care reform the ~ of his career

successful (anti-cockfighting) crusade  
~s in Missouri and Arizona

undercover crusade  
she has engaged in an ~ to document...

unlawful crusade  
stop an ~ of violence, intimidation, harassment

harsh and intolerant (moral) crusade  
a ~

crusade has sparked a backlash  
his ~ (make school lunches more healthful)

engaged in an (undercover) crusade  
she has ~ to document...

## **crusader (role)**

crusaders for change  
articulate ~ (victims of child abuse by clergy)

crusader for peace

she is a ~ (against war in Iraq)

crusader for human rights and harmony  
he was a ~ among creeds and races (Tutu)

crusader for miners' rights  
Mother Jones, a ~

environmental crusader  
Erin Brockovich, the ~ who...

anti-drug crusader  
Angela Dawson was an ~ (East Baltimore)

## **crush (love)**

crush on him  
I had the biggest ~

## **crush (destroy)**

crushed Brazil 3-0  
France ~ in the final (soccer)

crush (Chechnya's) bid  
the latest campaign to ~ for independence

crush dissent  
the government justifies the tactics it uses to ~

crushed (political) protest  
he has ~ (King Mswati)

crush the rebels  
Ethiopian officials vowed to ~ (Ogadenis)

crush the rebellion  
the government vows to ~ (in Darfur)

crushed the revolt  
Hussein's loyal military units ~ (Iraq / Shiites)

crush the uprising  
a swift military response would ~

vowed to crush  
Ethiopian officials ~ the rebels

## **crush (confidence, spirit, etc.)**

crushes (a child's) confidence  
nothing ~ faster than unkind words

crush the human spirit  
realities in life that almost ~

## **crush (verb / accomplishment)**

crushed it  
dude, we ~ today, bro... (kayaking Rhondu Gorge)  
the first famous Cuban in the US that ~ (Desi Arnaz)

crushing it  
we are ~ in the five-star-review game (a hair product)  
N.K. Jemisin is ~ (Hugo Award winner)

crushing the market  
these German hearing aids are ~ (an internet ad)

crushing that market

SpaceX is ~ (space)

crushing it academically

he's an excellent student, he's ~

♦ "They are killing it, they are crushing KFC." (Chick-fil-A versus Kentucky Fried Chicken, according to a professor of marketing at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, also known as Wharton Business School. The University of Pennsylvania is a private Ivy League university in Philadelphia, established in 1881.)

♦ "Science is awesome, now go crush that test." (The 2009 film *Fired Up!*)

♦ "7-year-old girl who slayed the makeup game is back." (An online ad from Brightly Creative.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## crushed (feeling)

crushed

when she heard the restaurant had closed, she was ~

I was ~ (gay coach loses support)

## crushed (destroyed)

had been crushed

how I felt like all of my dreams ~

must be crushed

stubbornness ~, and crushed it shall be (kids)

## crushing (adjective)

crushing blows

a string of ~ to this community

crushing (debt) burden

she couldn't get out from under her ~

crushing debt

they are in ~ and facing financial ruin

crushing defeat

Stalingrad ended in a ~ for the Germans

## crutch (noun)

crutch

sleep is a ~ (military-training bravado)

crutch of metaphor

people lean on the ~ (technology)

victim crutch

we'd be far better off without the ~ (race)

permanent crutch

a crutch can become a ~ (controlled economies)

using the word as a crutch

people mocked Harris for ~ ("holistic, holistically")

lean on the crutch

people ~ of metaphor (technology)

use genetics as a crutch

alcoholics ~ to explain their behavior

turned assistance into a crutch

the welfare state has ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## cry (verb)

cried the Chicago Herald and Examiner

"Radio Fake Scares Nation," ~

♦ "Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact," declared *The New York Times*. "Radio Fake Scares Nation," cried the *Chicago Herald and Examiner*. "US Terrorized By Radio's 'Men From Mars,'" said the *San Francisco Chronicle*. ("The Halloween myth of the War of the Worlds panic" by Professor W Joseph Campbell, BBC, 30 October 2011.)

♦ see also *scream* (*scream "premium," etc.*)

## cry (made me cry, etc.)

made me cry

what she said ~ (not literally true)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone cries in response to something.)

♦ If I didn't laugh, I'd cry.

## cry (cry foul, etc.)

crying foul

Democrats are ~

## cry (cry for help)

heartbreaking cry for help

a ~

## cry (rallying cry)

rallying cry

"economic empowerment" has become the ~

its "best in the world" ~ (U.S. Olympic skiing team)

his comments are more of a ~ than a concrete plan

rallying cry in education

the ~ has been...

battle cry

see *battle cry*

♦ "My body, my choice": How vaccine foes co-opted the abortion rallying cry" by Rachel Bluth, NPR, Public Health, July 4, 2022.

## crybaby (person)

crybaby

don't be a ~

crybaby in the schoolyard

Carl Ichan called Bill Ackman "a ~" (two billionaires)

cry-baby scientist

Harry Truman described J. Robert Oppenheimer as a ~

just a crybaby

she is ~ looking for sympathy (celebrity trial)

just another crybaby

he is ~ hiding behind his lawyer's skirt

called Musk a 'crybaby'

Dan O'Dowd ~ (the Dawn Project)

♦ "[President Truman] later told Dean Acheson, 'I don't want to see that son-of-a-bitch in this office ever again.' Even in May 1946, the encounter was still vivid in his mind, he wrote Acheson and described Oppenheimer as a 'cry-baby scientist' who had come to 'my office some five or six months ago and spent most of his time wringing his hands and telling me they had blood on them because of the discovery of atomic energy.'" (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "He dishes it out often, but gets crybabyitis any time it's his turn to take it." (A comment about two feuding tech CEOs.)

♦ "Neymar is a real crybaby. One minute he's fouling someone and then the next he's playing the victim. No one is allowed to touch him." (Marco van Basten in *Le Parisien*.)

♦ Baby; big baby; petulant baby; crybaby; Grow up, you baby; it's not all about you; a little boy; a man-child; "the incredible sulk"; selfish; self-centered; self-obsessed; spoilt brat; whiner; preening prima donna; bad loser; "He'll go blind if he keeps winking..."; "News just in.....The world cup is now over for everyone as they were playing with Ronaldo's ball and he has taken it home with him." (World Cup soccer snark about a player.)

♦ "My hope is that the Competition Committee looks at this in the next set of meetings, and, you know, we take the dresses off." (Ex-quarterback and NFL Hall of Famer Troy Aikman about a roughing-the-passer call he disagreed with. He was accused of being sexist, and one commenter posted, "the 60s called, they want their chauvinist back.")

♦ "Dump Rodgers, she's a prima donna, and doesn't get the TEAM culture." (Shade against the great future Hall of Famer Aaron Rodgers of the NFL Green Bay Packers, using a female pronoun!)

♦ "Really tricky situation, FA, Prem and FIFA only had 12 years to prepare. You do wonder who ties shoelaces for those in charge." (A sarcastic commenter about "tired, overworked" soccer players and the Qatar Soccer World Cup.)

♦ "Bleating millionaire wimps. How about grow a pair." (An online commenter about "tired, overworked" soccer players and the Qatar Soccer World Cup.)

♦ "So, in the eyes of her classmates, Nelle's taking on the job of guardian angel to Truman Streckfus Persons... was further proof of her particularity: Truman, as surely as every kid at Monroeville Elementary knew that night followed day, was a sissy, a crybaby, a mamma's boy, and so on. Moreover, if he had worn a sandwich board to school with the words HATE ME painted on it two feet tall, the advertisement would have been redundant. His clothes extended that invitation from a block away. It was the 1930s, the Great Depression...A girl in a flower-print dress of cotton made from a fifty-pound flour sack had nothing to be ashamed of then... Consequently, when Truman's Aunt Jennie, the owner of a millinery in town, outfitted Truman in Hawaiian shirts, white duck shorts, blue socks, sandals, and Eton caps from the best department stores in Mobile and Montgomery, he looked, as one teacher expressed it, 'like a bird of paradise among a flock of crows.' The implied insult to the other children could not be ignored. Boys gave him his comeuppance by rubbing cockleburs into his fine blond hair and bruising his milky skin." (*Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* by Charles J. Shields. It's a wonderful portrait of an amazing women.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "'Mama's boy' is a flex, not an insult." (According to NPR's Neda Ulaby. See the Wikipedia article "Neda Ulaby.")

♦ Man up!

♦ Grow a pair!

♦ see also *apron strings*, *baby (insult)*, *brat (insult)*, *child (spoiled child, etc.)*, *mama's boy (and mummy's boy, etc.)*

## cry out (verb)

cries out for attention

it ~ (immigration policy)

cried out for a canal

the narrow isthmus for centuries ~ (Corinth)

crying out for a Grealish

I think this game is ~ (Euro 2020 final)

cried out for a (legal) remedy

the injustice ~

crying out for positive stories and new stars

athletics is ~ (running)

## crystal ball

crystal ball

I don't have a ~ (speaking about what might happen)

stock analysts are fortunetellers looking into ~s

## cub (noun)

cub reporter

I was a ~ at the time (mid-70s England)

## cudgel (noun)

cudgel against people of color

when civility is used as a ~

cudgel and a smear

in recent years, the term 'racist' has become a ~ (Harvard)

political cudgel

they use the term as a ~ against liberals (*cancel culture*)

rhetorical cudgel

the word *socialism* has often been used as a kind of ~ (US)

turned into this kind of a cudgel

eventually the term was ~ and mockery (*politically correct*)

use the rising rates of fatness as a cudgel

we ~ to get folks to lose weight (and spend money)

wielded COVID-19 as a cudgel

he ~ against China (Trump)

♦ "Identity politics are at the root of the problem. No one wants to be called sexist or anti-LGBTQ+ or some other 'ist.' But what is really unbearable is to be called racist. If a Harvard student—or teacher—thinks there is an chance of being called racist, he or she will clam up... [I]n recent years, the term 'racist' has become a cudgel and a smear, especially amplified on the internet." (Evan Thomas '73. From Letters, *Harvard Magazine*, March-April, 2024.)

♦ see also *stick (noun)*

## cue (noun)

taken cues from Trump

his campaign has ~

## cul-de-sac

cul de sac

his job was another ~ for him (unable to be creative)

gone down cul-de-sacs

they've got it wrong, taken wrong turns, ~ (a company)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Google's AI Overview, "The French phrase *cul de sac* literally translates to 'bottom of a sack.'"

♦ see also *dead end (noun)*, *impasse (noun)*

## cull (noun)

cull

the ~ includes plans to... (news job cuts)

BBC's (brutal) cull

~ (headline / 450 job cuts)

mass cull

a ~ will affect follower numbers (Twitter bot accounts)

## cull (verb)

cull the (primary) field

Iowa will ~ (2020 election caucus)

## cult (noun)

cult of the outlaw

its air of Western romance and ~ (Wyoming)

## cult (cult following, etc.)

cult classic

his book became a ~ among academics (*Orientalism*)

cult following

the film has a ~ (*Caddyshack*)

cult objects

these bikes are ~ for a reason (Rivendell bicycles)

## cultivate (verb)

cultivates allies

he assiduously ~ (a promoter and businessman)

cultivated a (*laissez-faire*) approach

the unit ~ (psychiatric ward)

cultivate the habit

~ of proper hand washing

cultivated that image

he probably ~ (James Le Mesurier / T. E. Lawrence)

cultivated informants

he ~ on the streets (military intelligence)

cultivating a relationship

the Russian agent was ~ with a prominent Democrat (US)

cultivate (long-term) relationships

~ with preferred customers

cultivated a role

she ~ of her own (versus her husband's role)

cultivate their (financial) support

we must grow our audience and ~ (WBUR)

cultivate a (less conformist) taste

give her the courage to ~ (teens)

cultivate trust

the killings are a blow to the alliance's efforts to ~

cultivated a circle of (devoted) friends

she ~

## cultivated

carefully cultivated

their ~ image was exposed (royals)

## cultivation (noun)

cultivation of the mind

~ versus career training (the humanities)

## curate (verb)

curate examples

~ (lexicography / ColloCaid)

curate lists

sites like MTV ~ (of songs)

curates the narrative

he carefully ~ around his exploits to enlarge them

curated NPR's home page

he wrote and edited feature news coverage and ~

curate information

~ (lexicography / ColloCaid)

studied and curated

at the Harvard College Observatory, women ~ the night sky

♦ "I curated it like I curate a show or DJ gig." (Questlove, touting his documentary *The Summer of Soul*.)

♦ "Gen Z, the new curators of our country's youth culture..." (An ABC report on doxing, activism, protest, etc.)

♦ "Curate your social media feed to limit content that makes you feel bad."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Merriam-Webster online site has an excellent article in its Usage Notes entitled, "Can You 'Curate' Anything? Or can it only be art?"

♦ Some *contempo-speak* internet language is just odd. Like, "*Curating 'friendscapes' post-Covid...*"

## curated

curated for you

trending meme templates, ~

curated by enthusiasts

it's ~ from around NPR Music (the Heat Check playlist)

curated by NPR

great reads, thoughtfully ~ (the Books We Love)

curated examples

carefully ~ (lexicography / ColloCaid)



curated list

we create a ~ of 100 books (a reader poll)

curated selection

the Drudge Report provides users with a ~ of links (news)

Tribeca-curated

membership offers year-round access to ~ events...

artistically curated

young people crowd its ~ cafes (Matanzas, Cuba)

carefully curated

~ examples (lexicography / ColloCaid)

in our digital age of ~ content (performative friendship)

highly curated

the duo is building ~ pop sounds (Magdalena Bay)

lovingly curated

*On Girlhood* is a ~ anthology celebrating... (Liveright)

meticulously curated

The Wing is a ~ space (private women-only club)

perfectly-curated

the ~ Instagram profile of the wellness blogger

non-curated

~ concordances (lexicography / ColloCaid)

♦ "Like cruise ships or nursing homes, New York's luxury buildings have waged an amenities arms race, trying to lure buyers with perks such as a pool with an underwater soundtrack curated by Carnegie Hall..." ("Can A Building Be Too Tall?" by Bianca Bosker, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023.)

♦ "Designed for the cultured, connected, and curious, Tribeca Membership offers year-round access to Tribeca-curated events, including..." (Love the alliteration...)

♦ "View the incredible work of X and over a hundred handpicked, independent artists... Shop online 24/7 at (a website)..." (A full-page ad in *Harper's Magazine* that did NOT use "curated.")

♦ OLD: we have selected / handpicked / chosen some wines you might like... / NEW: we have curated a list of wines you might like...

## curation (noun)

lexicographic curation

~ (ColloCaid)

♦ "Developing a writing assistant to help EAP writers with collocations in real time" by Ana Frankenberg-Garcia, Robert Lew, Jonathan C. Roberts, Geraint Paul Rhees, Nirwan Sharma, 10 August 2018. "This research is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK, ref. AH/P003508/1." Funded value £563,356.

## curb (kick somebody to the curb)

kicked to the curb

executives are now ~ for bullying (toxic workplaces)

♦ "Toxic twosome these 2 are. Everyone is kicking them to the curb. I see they're disliked even by their so-called friends." (Online snark about a celebrity couple.)

## curdle (corruption)

curdled

on her second day, however, the atmosphere ~

curdled into arrogance

his confidence ~ (a politician)

curdled into queasiness

my initial excitement ~

curdle into resentment

their joy will ~ (sports fans)

♦ "What started out as indifference and apathy soon curdled into obstinance, willful ignorance and corruption." ("How Not to Catch a Killer: For 13 years, the police failed to scrutinize the man now accused of the Gilgo Beach murders" by Robert Kolker, *The New York Times Magazine*, October 22, 2023.)

## cure (verb)

cures

spanking causes more problems than it ~

cure the men of their loneliness

the bar scene fails to ~

cures fears

real knowledge of what's outside one's garden ~

"cure" homosexuality

you can't ~

cures problems

aid often causes rather than ~ (in Africa)

♦ "Ten Hag still has many ills to cure but he is at least prescribing the sort of medication that is returning Manchester United to something like their former health." (Phil McNulty, Chief football writer for the BBC. Five of the words in that single sentence relate to health.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "But talking cures no ills..."

## cure (noun)

cure

the ~ would be worse than the disease (solution)

cure for boredom

poor, uneducated youths use heroin as a ~ (Butuo)

joining a club is a good ~

cure for (the world's) problems

a ~

magic cure

there is no ~ (for kid fire-setting behavior)

miracle cure

there's no ~ on the horizon (brain tumors)

disagree on the cure

experts and leaders ~ (world economy)

use heroin as a cure

poor uneducated youths ~ for boredom (Butuo)

## cure-all

technological cure-all

all too often planners seek ~s (computer security)

## curiosity (bi-curiosity, etc.)

bi-curiosity

Alana divulged her desire to explore her '~'

♦ “Alana, 27, and Kevin, 33, had been dating for three years when Alana divulged her desire to explore her ‘bi-curiosity.’” (They would go on to form a Throuple.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Curiosity killed the cat.”

## curious (bi-curious, etc.)

“bi-curious”

~ is now considered uncool (in 2014)

Buddhist-curious

our gatherings will appeal to the ~

“canna-curious”

the new product is for the ~ (seltzer with THC)

crypto curious

Gensler’s class on Blockchain is popular with the ~

conservative-curious

conservatives and ~ people (NPR’s Stephen Fowler)

firearm curious

we’re looking to bring the ‘~’ into the fold (NRA)

sober curious

why Gen Zers are growing ~ (hangovers, mental health)  
cheers to a Dry January and a ~ lifestyle (New Year’s)

trans-curious

~ means to be interested in one’s potential transness

Trump-curious

he went from free-market conservative to ~ contrarian

♦ “Bay Curious is a podcast about the unexplored San Francisco Bay area. Each week we take a deep dive into the mysteries that make this area quirky, delightful and, at times, dysfunctional...” (KQED Podcast.)

♦ “The pawpaw-curious arrived and sat in a semicircle around Judd.” (Yasmine AlSayyad, Dept. Of Foraging, Pawpaws For The People, “The Talk Of The Town,” *The New Yorker*, September 19, 2022.)

♦ “The North Koreans, I call them crypto-curious, they do everything, they try everything...” (An *FBI agent* investigating the Axie Infinity crypto theft.)

\*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ “Although it might not be entirely fair to describe Charles as feudalism-curious, his world view does appear to incorporate an implicit defense of his monarchical position.” (“King Me: Charles tried to be a philosopher-prince. But a British monarch must keep quiet” by Rebecca Mead, *The New Yorker*, May 8, 2023. Such use of contempo-speak is a form of presentism. Other examples from her article include, “In time, they grew closer, partly because of a mutual love of art. It can happen”—about the marriage of Charles I and Henrietta Maria in 1625—and “primogeniture is a bummer”—about Prince Andrew. She also mentions that “There are no glamorous teenage or twentysomething royals for the TikTok generation to scroll through...” Mead is certainly *au courant* for a 56 year old!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Bi-curious” is the title of a Wikipedia article. Merriam-Webster also lists it and gives first use to 1984. It is also listed by Wiktionary.

♦ “Trans-curious” is listed in the Wiktionary and tagged “LGBT.”

♦ People who grew up hearing “bi-curious” and “trans-curious” will now put curious after...anything. Trendy!

## curiouser and curiouser

curiouser and curiouser

it was all about to get ~

## Curiouser and Curiouser

“~: Curiosity Rover Finds Piles of Silica on Mars”

♦ “Large animals that hopped, foxes that flew, fish that climbed—this was the world of Edward Lear and his *Book of Nonsense*.” (Cook and his men in Australia, on first contact with kangaroos, flying foxes, and mud-skipper. From *The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead. *The Book of Nonsense* by Edward Lear was published in 1846. *Alice in Wonderland* was published in 1865. Cook encountered Australia in 1770.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “Although the weather was growing rapidly colder, no winter clothing had been received from London. Many units were now at half strength or less, the remaining soldiers reduced to skin and bone. The guns were rationed to two shells a day. Munro’s first sight of Suvla Bay confirmed his worst fears. ‘Like Alice in wonderland,’ he was heard to murmur, ‘curiouser and curiouser.’ The following day he sent Kitchener his recommendation.” (Lt. Gen. Sir Charles Monro had been sent to advise on whether the Gallipoli Peninsula should be evacuated or not. From *The Middle Sea* by the wonderful historian John Julius Norwich.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This is an allusion to *Alice in Wonderland*.

## currency (worth)

currency

friendship is ~ and Gen Z is going broke  
attention has always been ~ (the attention economy)

currency in its negotiations

China can use its relationship with Korea as ~ with the US

online currency

friendship in 2023 has become ~

gaining currency

terms like “systemic racism” are finally ~, thank goodness

♦ “Attention has always been currency, but as we’ve begun to live our lives increasingly online, it’s now *the* currency.” (“I talked to the Cassandra of the Internet Age” by Charlie Warzel, *The New York Times*, Feb. 4, 2021. The attention economy.)

## current (swim with the current, etc.)

swimming with the scientific currents

Newton was ~ of his time (vs. Galileo)

\*\*\* whitewater, rip currents...

♦ In whitewater, if you fall out of your raft, or wet-exit from your kayak, always swim with your feet facing downstream. Swim aggressively headfirst only to rescue or save yourself, for example, to make an eddy, or avoid a strainer...

♦ If you are caught in a rip currents, try to swim at a right angle to the current. And relax!

## current (swim against the current, etc.)

beat on against the current

I applaud women like Hou who ~ (competitive chess)

swim against the current

he had to ~ his entire life  
they thought he would somehow ~ (have just one wife)

swim against the current of chaos

how is it possible to ~ in life and still remain calm

swim against the current fiscally  
the economy has shrunk, so it is hard to ~, so to speak  
♦ "It isn't easy to swim against such a polluted current but here I am."  
(Politics.)

## current (noun)

current of fear  
a deep ~ is running through Iraq's Christian minority  
current of racism  
the underlying ~ is still very real  
underlying current  
the ~ of racism is still very real  
deep current  
a ~ of fear is running through Iraq's Christian minority

## current (feeling)

current passes  
no ~ between this Macbeth and Lady Macbeth (Coen's film)

## curse (Curse of Caricola, etc.)

Curse of the Bambino  
the ~ finally ended in 2004 (Boston)  
Curse of the Billy Goat  
the ~ mortified Cubs fans for decades (Chicago)  
Curse of Caricola  
the club has since been haunted by the ~ (own goal)  
Fat Joe curse  
people speculate about a "~" (New York Yankees)  
Forbes 30 under 30 'curse'  
the ~ (see quote below)  
Kardashian Curse  
the "~" derails the lives of the men who enter their lives

Sports *Illustrated* cover jinx  
the ~ (see the Wikipedia article)

♦ "Pava LaPere's grisly murder sparks fresh fears of Forbes 30 under 30 'curse'" by Jesse O'Neill, *New York Post*, Sept. 28, 2023. Murder, suicide, and fraud. One online commenter noted, "30 under 30 is the new 27 club." That alludes to famous entertainment celebrities and stars who died age 27. See the Wikipedia article "27 Club.")

♦ "Then we go to New York, and this guy, he used to be fat and he isn't fat anymore. His name is Joe. He came out and sang, and we didn't need to play anymore, because after that performance, we had already won." (Los Angeles Dodgers baseball player Enrique Hernandez, trolling the New York City / Bronx rapper Fat Joe. Fat Joe sang before Game 3 of the 2024 World Series, which the Yankees lost at home. Allegedly, during Game 5, Fat Joe appeared on the Jumbotron in LA when the Yankees were up five to zero. The Yankees would go on to lose that game and the World Series. It is now suspected that the New York Yankees suffer from a Fat Joe Curse.)

## curse (noun)

curse  
the bureaucracy, already a ~, is getting worse (Russia)  
it's my gift, and my ~ (an athlete about his personality)  
curse of Somalia

clan rivalries have been the ~  
curse of capitalism  
materialism is the ~  
curse of the taigá  
the ~, flies (gnus / Ussuria)  
oil's (historic) curse  
~ (a hollow economic boom, followed by bust)  
salmon's curse  
it is the ~ to be so nutritious (bears, eagles, etc.)  
resource curse  
Venezuela suffers from the ~ (has energy, blackouts)  
break the so-called ~ (wealth siphoned off by corruption)  
terrifying curse  
"The ~ of Ellen DeGeneres' Oscars selfie 10 years later"  
blessing and a curse  
these gems have been a ~ (Sierra Leone diamonds)  
the annual rains are a ~ for the subcontinent (monsoon)  
gift and a curse  
having a good platoon, it's both a ~ (combat medic)  
break the (Alabama) curse  
it seemed Georgia would not be able to ~ (2022 / football)  
break the (so-called) resource curse  
~ (mineral wealth siphoned off by corruption)  
carries a curse  
for women climbers, K2 ~  
comes with a curse  
many believe the position ~ (Grateful Dead keyboardist)  
\*\*\* sports...  
♦ "Jaguars' Trevor Lawrence breaks hex, finally wins at Superdome."  
\*\*\* ships and boats...  
♦ "We approached the hull, where a bottle of spumante hung from a ribbon in Italian colors. Two members of the family pulled back the bottle and slung it against the yacht. It bounced off and failed to shatter. 'Oh, that's bad luck,' a woman murmured beside me. Tales of that unhappy omen abound. In one memorable case, the bottle failed to break on *Zaca*, a schooner that belonged to Errol Flynn. In the years that followed, the crew mutinied and the boat sank; after being re-floated, it became the setting for Flynn's descent into cocaine, alcohol, orgies, and drug smuggling. When Flynn died, new owners brought in an archdeacon for an onboard exorcism." ("The Floating World: Outrageously luxurious superyachts are attracting political scrutiny—and buyers in record numbers" by the brilliant writer Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, July 25, 2022. About Errol Flynn, one appreciative woman is reputed to have said, "He was hung like a horse and could go all night.")  
\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...  
♦ "Mud is a curse which seems to save itself for war." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II.)  
\*\*\* John Lennon's stolen watch, the stolen gems, etc.  
♦ "The watch never seems to have given anyone peace and happiness for long." (His Patek Philippe 2499. From "In Search of Lost Time" by Jay Fielden, *The New Yorker*, June 24, 2024.)  
♦ See the Wikipedia article "Blue Diamond Affair."  
\*\*\* analysis

♦ "About the breaking of a bottle to baptize a new megayacht or warship, has nobody thought to fabricate a flimsy, thin-skinned bottle for just this purpose? Considering the cost and the stakes, really? WTF!" (An online commenter.)

♦ see also *evil eye*

## **cursed**

cursed with allergies

I am ~

cursed with droughts

the area is ~

cursed by weak leadership

the country is ~

cursed team

it seemed that Brazil was a ~ (soccer)

seemingly cursed

she belongs to a ~ family

felt cursed

he ~ by the poker gods

\*\*\* analysis

♦ I have been cursed with an adventurous life.

♦ "If you hurt a monkey, you will be cursed." (Japan.)

## **curtain (pull back the curtain, look behind the curtain, etc.)**

looked behind the curtain

I ~ to see what data the apps were collecting (on kids)

pull back the curtain

he is expected to ~ on the president's business dealings

pulled back the curtain on the coverup

Phase 4 has ~ ("British Post Office Scandal")

pulled back the curtain on his secret life

the video has ~

pulled back the curtain on dozens

he ~ of failed analyses (scientist)

pulls back the curtain on the media

the *Confider* ~ (*Daily Beast* newsletter)

pulled back the curtain on spycraft

he wrote novels that ~ to reveal how things really got done

pulled the curtain back on who

this database ~ was responsible (corporate opioid pushing)

## **curtain (the con man behind the curtain, etc.)**

con man behind the curtain

Americans have now seen the ~ (politics)

♦ "It's kind of, don't look behind the curtain, you know?" (Noam Chomsky about the "culture wars" that beset the United States.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This is a reference to the beloved 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*.

## **curtain (lower the curtain, etc.)**

final curtain

this might be the ~ for the Gypsy King (boxer's final fight)

brings down the curtain

Black Monday conventionally ~ on the yuppie era (1987)

lower the curtain on his (half-century) career

it's just about time to ~ in American politics (election)

## **curtain (curtain wall, etc.)**

curtain walls

old castles and modern buildings may utilize ~

## **curtain call**

made a curtain call

he ~ and tipped his hat (baseball)

brought winter back for a curtain call

the spring snowstorm ~

## **curtain raiser (noun)**

last night's curtain raiser

after ~, VAR took center-stage (start of soccer season)

season curtain-raiser

Iowa is the primary season ~ (US elections)

## **curtains (the end)**

curtains for the (main) franchise

Fast X: Part 2 may be ~ (Fast & Furious)

## **curve (behind / ahead of the curve)**

ahead of the curve

we have been ~

stay ahead of the curve

we need to ~ (deep-fake videos / fake news)

## **curveball (noun)**

curve ball

this is a ~ that we don't believe they saw coming

latest curveball

the ~ in the winding saga (murder, trial, etc.)

legal curveballs

she's optimistic but braced for more ~

throws a curveball

nature always ~ (Covid vaccine)

throws a curveball at you

every day is different, every fire ~ (wildfire fighter)

♦ "She furrowed her brow. It was a question from left field... / Now they were the ones thrown a curveball... / This was another question out of the blue..." (A police procedural.)

♦ "Oh, golly. Every day is different, that's part of the fun, you never know what you're going to get. Every fire throws a curveball at you." (A Federal wildland firefighter.)

## cushion (verb)

cushion the blow  
the official tried to ~ (son grievously wounded in war)

## cushion (noun)

cash cushion  
corporations are sitting on ~s

economic cushion  
his savings provided him with an ~

financial cushion  
did you save a ~ for yourself

## cusp (on the cusp)

on the cusp of adulthood  
her child died ~  
she plays high schoolers ~ (an actor)

on the cusp of (finally) getting  
Golding was ~ a book deal (*Lord of the Flies*)

## custodian (role)

custodian of this democracy  
we should expect the president to be the ~

custodians of hope  
we can be ~ (environmental activism)

custodian of this lost history  
she saw herself as a ~

custodians of America's pastime  
the various ~ (BASEBALL)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques."

## cut (road cuts, etc.)

cut inland  
the Via Appia itself ~ and headed further east

## cut ( a person from a team, etc.)

cut Hernandez  
the Patriots ~ (NFL team and player)

## cut (budget cuts, etc.)

deep cuts  
he wants to make ~ in programs for the poor

## cut (cut the budget, etc.)

cutting the cord  
people are ~ (paid TV subscriptions)

cut taxes  
he wants to ~ (a politician)

## cut (cut both ways)

cuts both ways  
the Western concept ~ (human rights)

## cut (a thousand cuts)

death by a thousand cuts  
he's suffering ~ (a prosecutor with weak case)  
a ~ is the future (restricting right to abortion)  
it's ~ (and now the price of *beer* goes up!)

death by 1,000 paper cuts  
EPA regulations amounted to "~"

suicide by a thousand cuts  
the company is committing ~ (failing)

♦ "I mean, talk about death by a thousand cuts, this has been obvious for literally months." (An online commenter about Manchester United's sacking of Erik ten Hag.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This references an *actual* form of torture. See the Wikipedia article "Lingchi." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## cut down (killed)

cut down  
he was ~ in his prime (killed in battle)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Death traditionally has been associated with reaping, "cutting down," sickles, and scythes. The Grim Reaper, for example, is often shown carrying a scythe.

## cute (as noun)

whole lot of cute  
a ~ to end the broadcast (NBC's Lester Holt / pandas)

## cut off (verb)

cut off (diplomatic) relations  
Venezuela ~ Colombia

## cut off (speech)

cut me off  
I tried to tell her but she ~

## cut short (verb)

cut short  
his life was tragically ~

## cutthroat (competition)

cutthroat behemoth  
antitrust regulators depict it as a ~ (a tech company)

cutthroat business  
back then in Russia, it was a ~ (oil)

cutthroat game  
he wasn't there to play the ~ (*Survivor*)

'cutthroat' (dating) scene  
NYC's ~

cutthroat techniques  
he's using the same ~ he honed at his hedge fund

cutthroat world  
in the ~ of college admission applications

so cutthroat

admissions are ~ right now (colleges)

♦ "Drama, ghosting and tales of misery on NYC's 'cutthroat' dating scene: 'We're all out for ourselves.'" (The New York Post.)

## cutting edge (on the cutting edge)

on the cutting edge

Californians are ~ (exercises)

on the cutting edge of outbreak surveillance

the Medical Center is ~

## cutting edge (other)

cutting-edge drug

a ~ like Zofran

cutting-edge field

the ~s of computer engineering

cutting-edge research

the chase to produce ~

cutting edge can grow dull

his life reminds us that the ~ (Hugh Hefner)

## cyber (affix)

cyber-Botoxed

his uncanny, ~ counterpart (actor "de-aged" in a film)

cyber activity

conventional ground operations married with ~ (warfare)

cyberattack

the elections office was breached by a crippling ~ (2016)

the ransomware ~ on Change Healthcare

Ukraine has been a punching bag for Russian ~s for years

Cyberbeast

Tesla's top-tier ~ (the truck)

cyberbullies

social media trolls, or ~

cybercafes

Beijing declares war against ~

cyberchondria

~ is a subset of health anxiety (compulsive searching)

cyberconflict

the ~ SolarWinds Hack

cybercrime

a ~ investigation

cyberdrugstores

the new world of ~

cyber Geneva Convention

we need to develop a kind of ~ (hacking)

cyberharassment

sexual ~, also known as 'revenge porn,' is illegal in Florida

cyber insecurity

NSA official calls U.S. ~ a 'chronic disease'

cyber landscape

so how are kids supposed to navigate the ~ (information)

cyber news

tech and ~ from... (Hillicon Valley)

cyberpunk

~ is a dystopian future (Mike Pondsmith)

cybersecurity

Dick Clarke, a former ~ czar

many companies resort to a fingers crossed approach to ~

NPR's ~ correspondent...

cybersex

~ addicts risk jobs, marriages...

cyberspace

in the dark corners of ~ (child pornography)

he planted his flag in that stretch of ~ (defended business)

how to develop a "~ literacy"

cyber underground

the ~ was abuzz with rumors

cybervandalism

the recent rash of ~

Obama called the Sony Pictures hack an act of "~"

cyberwarfare

are we prepared for ~

♦ At Wiktionary, you can check for: cyber / cyber- / Category:English terms prefixed with cyber-. That list lists 528 terms! And they all have their own entries, with examples of usage. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## cyclone (noun)

cyclone of chaos

disinformation experts are bracing for a fresh ~

## Cyclops (creature)

Cyclops eye

the dim ~ of the military

♦ "[The Soviets] turned the dim Cyclops eye of their military on the people themselves. They destroyed any village the mujahidin were spotted in. They carpet-bombed the Panjshir Valley..." (From *Fire* by Sebastian Junger, the chapter entitled "The Lion In Winter (2001)," about the great Ahmad Shah Masoud, the Lion of Panjshir.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the *Odyssey*, Odysseus outwits the Cyclops Polyphemus and ends up blinding him, in a great win for the "nobodies."

## cylinder (fire on all cylinders, etc.)

firing on all cylinders

the team was ~ (won championship game)

imagine Tyson ~ (the boxer Tyson Fury)

we weren't ~ (a relationship)

it was a fantastic month, the economy was ~

she was ~ (Vondrousova beats Svitolina / tennis)

humming on all cylinders

her program is ~ (coach Dawn Staley, SC Gamecocks)

## czar (and tsar)

czar of the movies



Hays's first major act as "~~" was to ban Arbuckle

climate tsar  
John Kerry, the Biden administration's ~

coronavirus czar  
Dr. Ashish Jha, new White House ~

diversity czar  
the ~ for MIT's computer science college

energy czar  
he plans to appoint an '~~' (to promote production)

homelessness czar  
she has already appointed a ~ (mayor of Los Angeles)

rat czar  
New York City crowned Kathleen Corradi its first ~

cybersecurity czar  
Dick Clarke, a former ~

Covid-testing Czar  
Dr. Tom Inglesby, the ~ at the White House

anti-trust tsar  
the president might create an ~ (and break up Big Tech)

served as the (diversity) czar  
Anderson ~ until last year (MIT computer science)

♦ "He's a former leak Czar at the Department of Justice." (NPR's "A" Martinez introducing Brandon Van Grack to talk about the latest government security leak.)

## D

### daddy (noun)

big daddy  
see *big daddy* (authority)

granddaddy  
see *grandaddy* (and grandfather)

Zaddy  
see *zaddy* (noun)

### dagger (insert the dagger, etc.)

dagger to this Cameroon side  
that is a ~ (third English goal in World Cup)

dagger blows  
we must deal sharp ~ to the terrorists

3-point dagger  
he sealed the deal with a ~ with 5 seconds left (basketball)

inserted the dagger  
he ~ with a 15-foot-jumper (basketball)

put the dagger in  
you get a chance to shoot the three, ~ (basketball)

♦ "Out here, people had a smile on their face and a dagger behind their back." (Bigotry and discrimination.)

♦ "Leroy Jones [carried] a rusty shank of disdain for the lassitude of white America."

♦ "Quoted sources suggested... that more than one knife was out for him." (PM Boris Johnson / politics.)

♦ "Those who stormed this Capitol, and those who instigated and incited, and those who called on them to do so, held a dagger at the throat of America, and American democracy... I will stand in this breach, I will defend this nation, I'll allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of democracy." (President Joe Biden, in a speech he gave on January 6th, 2022.)

♦ "Antwerp was often described as a 'dagger pointed at the heart of England.'" (The Napoleonic wars.)

♦ "Korea is a dagger pointed at the heart of Japan." (Japan fights Russia for control of the Korean Peninsula during the Russo-Japanese War.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A rich, stupid city man insulted a Bedouin. Twenty years later, the Bedouin wiped the man's blood from his dagger, thinking regretfully, "Why was I in such a hurry to kill him?"

### dam (psychological dam, etc.)

air dam  
shave one inch off their front ~ (NASCAR)

deflection dams  
avalanche fences and ~

dental dams  
male condoms, ~, and female condoms (public health)

psychological dam  
a flood of memories burst through the ~ he had built

crack in the dam  
this bill was the ~... (right-to-repair bill / PIRG)

dam has broken  
the ~ (Democrats call on Biden to resign)

♦ "I could feel the unity of tens of millions of brothers and sisters, rising to join the fight, creating a living dam to block the invaders' path..." (*Life and Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

#### \*\*\* Johnny, Waylon, Willie, and Kris...

♦ "I was a dam-builder / cross a river deep and wide / where steel and water did collide / a place called Boulder on the wild Colorado / I slipped and fell into the wet concrete below / they buried me in that great tomb that knows no sound / but I am still around..." (The Highwaymen—Highwayman (American outlaws: Live at Nassau Coliseum, 1990. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMdeg-WKt1U>)

### dam (water over the dam)

water over the dam  
technically all of us are living on Indian land, but it's ~

### damage (collateral damage)

collateral damage  
see *collateral damage* (noun)

### damage (noun)

damage to Amanda  
the TV show is causing real ~ (a murder case)

ongoing damage  
there is an ~ (a TV show about murder case)

threat of damage

there is a ~ (to a murder case, by a TV show)

## damaged (mental illness)

this very damaged woman

what a life of turmoil, abuse and sadness ~ has lived

damaged and lonely

she was almost 40, ~...

## damage control

damage control

he is not a seasoned politician who knows how to do ~

attempted damage control

she attempted ~ a day after her message sparked the vitriol

do damage control

the CEO went on CNBC to ~ (about product safety)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "It wasn't the Exocet that sank HMS *Sheffield*, it was poor damage control." (The Falklands War.)

## damn (damn with faint praise)

damned him with faint praise

critics ~ (a film actor)

♦ "There is much to be said for failure. It is more interesting than success." (Max Beerbohm.)

## damning (adjective)

damning

the verdict was ~ as the team finished sixth (Olympics)

damning (internal) documents

~ leaked by a whistleblower

## dampen (verb)

dampen a man's (sexual) arousal

the smell of a woman's tears will ~ (a study)

dampen the (smoldering) discontent

they couldn't ~

dampen the enthusiasm

heavy security didn't ~ of fans (Olympics)

the weather did not ~ at the fair

dampened (people's) spirit

the wet weather has ~ (France)

## dampening (adjective)

dampening effect

this will have a ~ on reporting (nurse convicted of error)

## damper (noun)

damper on our sex life

taking care of a baby put a real ~

## dance (coordination)

dance between the telescope and the dome

it's a ~, they work together (Giant Magellan Telescope)

♦ "But Panasonic's top leaders were hesitant. They had never had that type of partnership, and Musk (understandably) did not strike them as an easy guy to dance with." (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

## dance (dance with death, etc.)

dance with death

high-altitude climbing is a constant ~ (K2, etc.)

## dance (resemblance)

dance across the flats

whirling dust devils ~ (Nevada)

heat waves danced

down in the valley the ~

## dance (dance around something)

dancing around partisan gerrymandering

the Supreme Court has been ~ for years

danced around the issue

he ~

dance around it

we ~, but I want to come back to it (women's language)

## dance (last dance)

last dance

Phil Jackson called that season the ~ (Jordan's Bulls)

last dance at the World Cup

this is his ~ (the great Lionel Messi in Qatar)

Last Dance scenario

that sets up a potential ~ this season (two NFL players)

## dandelion (character)

dandelions

most kids tend to be like ~, fairly resilient and able to cope

orchid or a dandelion

is your child an ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Compare with *teacup* and *snowflake*. In the old days, such people were compared to plants: a *shrinking violet*; a *pansy*; a *wallflower* or *wilting flower*. The modern update on that is *orchid* (versus a *dandelion*).

## dangle (verb)

dangled this inducement

he ~ (diplomacy)

dangled military aid as a way to press

he ~ Ukraine to...

dangled a White House visit as leverage to get

officials ~ Ukraine to...

## Dantesque (adjective)

Dantesque horror

it was a scene of ~ (surgery during genocide)

♦ "Had the museum looked more closely at LaBouvier's feed, its board might have seen her complaints as part of a longstanding

pattern of excoriating others who were interested in *Defacement* or Basquiat, even when they sought out her opinion. Back in June 2017, LaBouvier had complained about a 'lightweight' Basquiat exhibition in London, which did not feature *Defacement*, by tweeting that a curator involved was a 'mediocre bitch...trying to erase me from my own Defacement conversation' and that she belonged to a 'special ring of yoga-feminist hell.' When the woman emailed offering to thank LaBouvier in the exhibition's acknowledgments, she tweeted: 'Lol, #bitchplease.'" (Chaedria LaBouvier. From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. "Erase." "Conversation.")

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "It's Dante, it's inconceivable, it's an inferno." (An Israeli reminiscing about the 1973 tank battle around Hushniya, in the Golan.)

♦ "We lack the vocabulary of such pain." (U.S. Attorney Raj Parekh paraphrasing Dante's *Inferno*, about El Shafee Elsheikh, an ISIS "Beatle." Presumably Parekh is referring to *Dante's Inferno*, Canto XXVIII 3-5.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It is *another* path that you must take / if you would leave this savage wilderness."

## Danton

### raging Danton

his views were still liberal, he was no longer a ~

## daredevil (person)

### daredevil

more executives should be ~s (risky hobbies)

### daredevils and cautious persons

~ and everything in between

### hot dog, a daredevil

he's not a ~, he takes it seriously (Stockton Rush)

### thrill-seekers, daredevils, and adrenaline junkies

the psychology of ~

### \*\*\* Sam Patch, Alexander Chernikov, Mike Metzger...

♦ "Samuel Patch was America's first daredevil." (See the Wikipedia article "Sam Patch." He died jumping from the High Falls of the Genesee River in 1929 in front of 8,000 people.)

♦ "Up there you feel that you're standing on the line between life and death—your life is hanging by a thread—that if something goes wrong you may die... What's the point of being scared? [Death] is inescapable. It comes to us all." (The remarkable Siberian daredevil Alexander Chernikov, a then 23-year-old living on the outskirts of Barnaul, 4,000 kilometers east of Moscow. He specialized in jumping off of buildings into snowbanks.)

♦ "While I was still at a high altitude, I flew into my own shadow, which the morning sun was casting onto a cloud together with a rainbow. I don't think anyone has experienced that before." (The great Felix Baumgartner, AKA "Fearless Felix" and "B.A.S.E. 502," after jumping out of a plane over Dover, free-falling and gliding in a special wing suit across the English Channel, and landing by parachute in France.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "People love to see people crash." (The great Mike Metzger, a pioneer of freestyle motocross. He once sustained 4 concussions in two months, has broken his back 3 times, has broken his arms and legs, and lost a testicle after crashing.)

♦ "[Muhammad] Ali... peeked out the window, where a crowd stood waiting to see a young man named Gary Wells attempt to jump the water fountain at Caesars on a motorcycle, the same jump that had almost killed stunt rider Evel Knievel. Ali turned away. / 'I don't want to see nobody get his head ripped off,' he said. 'They encourage him, but I know what people want to see when they watch something like that.' / Ali... lay down on this bed and his rubdown man, Luis Sarria, closed the curtains... / An hour later, the young man on the motorcycle missed his landing ramp and nearly killed himself

crashing into a brick wall at eighty-five miles an hour." (*Ali: A Life* by the great writer Jonathan Eig. His latest book is the 2023 *King: A Life*, about Martin Luther King Jr.)

## dark (in the dark)

### in the dark on that

we were ~ (Iran nuclear purchases)

### in the dark about how

the US was ~ events would unfold (diplomacy)

### in the dark about the fraud

they claimed to be ~

### completely in the dark

our communications are down, we're ~

### groping in the dark

doctors were really ~ (cures for infection in the 1800s)

### keep the opposition in the dark

it's a way to ~

### kept families in the dark

the nursing home ~ (Covid pandemic / war veterans)

### kept the public in the dark

he denied he ~ about... (official)

### kept in the dark

lawmakers complained they were ~ (politics)  
many officials were ~ about the journey (secret visit)  
he thought that the Pope was being ~ regarding key events  
even her father was ~

### left in the dark

transparency was never there, the community was ~  
she ghosted me and I was ~ (as to why)

## dark (dark mood, etc.)

### dark

that period of life was a ~ (a struggling writer)

### darkest chapter

his capture was one of the country's ~s of the war

### dark decade

the so-called ~ (1992 onwards / Algeria)

### dark history

Germans remember their ~ (the Holocaust)

### darkest hour

we are now in the ~ of our political existence  
the U.S. will stand by Israel in its ~ (2023)

### dark imagery

but given the ~ of his words... (Lester Holt about Trump)

### dark mood

she returned in a ~

### darker mood

a ~ is setting in, it's not a happy place at the White House

### dark name

Antwerp was to be a ~ among British military failures

dark obsession

his hatred for him had become a ~

dark place

see *place (mental)*

dark predictions

there are ~ that Boeing will lay off even more workers

dark secret

I realized that people are carrying around ~s (pastor)

dark side

see *side (dark side)*

dark space

see *space (mental)*

dark stuff

there's just a lot of ~ in your head (bad things happen)

dark times

you keep on going even through the ~ (musician)

dark tradition

the Pacific Northwest's ~ of serial killers

dark truth

there is ~ in what you are saying (a harsh conclusion)

dark, complicated

the HBO show follows the ~ lives of a groups of teens

dark and honest

Vasily Grossman's ~ account of the battle of Stalingrad

got very dark

I was a no-hoper kid, things ~ for me (Simon Reeve)

looks (very) dark

his future ~ indeed

## dark (go dark, etc.)

completely dark

he went ~ the following day (Rinson Jose, Norta Global)

go dark

a lot of radio stations would ~ without public funding

gone dark

he had ~ (investigative reporter unable to contact source)

several of the hospitals have ~, it's difficult to reach people

went dark

the station's FM signal ~ (shut down by government)

when he tried to pull out his money, Mitchel ~ (a conman)

a month after the disaster the OceanGate website ~

live or die, survive or go dark

they can decide which Web sites ~ (Web hosts)

♦ "Under Israeli bombardment, communications go dark, return, and go dark again." (An NPR journalist, in Israel, unable to phone her contact in Gaza.)

♦ "[S]everal (of the hospitals) have gone dark already, so it's very difficult to reach people there directly. But we do know that..." (NPR's Aya Batrawy, in Cairo, reporting on hospitals in Gaza. Presumably, she had no cellphone access.)

♦ see also *black hole*

## dark (concealment)

dark art

see *dark art (noun)*

dark money

these so-called ~ groups

dark web

on the ~, he shared tens of thousands of images (paedo)

drugs, death and the ~

he tried to buy grenades and Semtex on the ~ (a terrorist)

## Dark Ages (in the Dark ages)

in the dark ages

in those days, medical knowledge was ~

~, when you and I were growing up (rotary phones)

in the dark ages of (personal) computing

~, if you wanted to...

in the predigital dark ages

~, before computers...

keep (medical) science in the dark ages

the fundamentalists would ~

take us back to the dark ages

the fundamentalists would ~

## Dark Ages (other)

Dark Ages of ignorance

the Republican's stem-cell policy represents the ~

ideological dark ages

this is a step forward from the ~ (education issue)

out of the dark ages

we're ~, women have equal rights (surprise rough sex)

dark age had begun

the electric vehicle ~ (1920 / gas engine triumphs)

return to the dark ages

this is a ~

sinking into the dark ages

the country is ~ (immigration)

brought our country out of the dark ages

he ~ (Sultan Qaboos bin Said)

## dark art (noun)

dark art

the methods used have always been a ~ (party obedience)

dark arts of diplomacy

the ~...

dark arts of the sport

the ~ (soccer / crotch grabs, etc.)

♦ "Black books, dark arts, and quiet words..." (How political parties enforce obedience.)

♦ "Natalegawa's stories constitute a primer on the dark arts of diplomacy, including the value of ambiguity, the cultivation of personal relationships with fellow leaders, creative word and punctuation choices, the profligate use of the passive voice—and just showing up." ("Does ASEAN Matter? A View From Within," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2019.)

## Dark Continent

dark continent of the atom

man had opened the ~ (Hiroshima)

## dark (Dark Matter, etc.)

Dark Matter or Dark Energy

the Standard Model can't explain ~ (physics)

## darken (verb)

darkened

his outlook ~

darken his mood

the stressful process seemed to ~ (troubled soldier)

## darkness (depression)

in darkness

there are a lot of people still ~ (the boxer Tyson Fury)

climb out of this deep darkness

that was the moment I started to ~ (Mark Whetu)

found my way out of that same darkness

I once ~ ("A Letter to College Sports" by Cailin Bracken)

navigate my way out of the darkness

I was able to ~ ("A Letter to College Sports")

## darknet (computers)

darknet

the "~," a private swath of the Internet

the ~ is beyond the reach of law enforcement

building the "darknet"

Freenet is one of several technologies that are ~

join a darknet

to ~, a potential user must be trusted (file sharing)

## Dark Star

Dark Star of obligation

expectations have produced a massive ~ (US weddings)

## darling (noun)

darling of the (Obama) Administration

the solar company Solyndra was a ~ (failed)

darling of conservationists

the spoon-billed sandpiper has become a ~

darling of the family

Zygmunt, bright second child and only son, was the ~

darling of the judges

Alvarez brushed off the notion that he is the ~ (boxing)

darling of Wall Street

rapid growth made the company the ~ (addictive pain meds)

darling of Silicon Valley

she was the ~ who could do no wrong (Elizabeth Holmes)

biscuit darling

Lesley Riley, "the ~" (founder of Mama's Biscuits)

dot-com darlings

Auctionata was one of Germany's ~ (disruptive / failed)

tech darling

Theranos was on the cusp of becoming a ~

indie darling

it hits similar beats as movies by other ~ directors

progressive darlings

he won the endorsements of ~ Sanders, Warren and...

## dart (throw darts, etc.)

throw more darts

he logged back in to ~

## dart (dart about)

darts about

the staff ~

## David Copperfield (as verb)

'David Copperfield' their way

they're trying to ~ out of terrible policies (politics)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "They're trying to 'David Copperfield' their way out of terrible policies." (Politics. The allusion is to the great illusionist, not the great novel by Charles Dickens! It is a creative use of a name as a verb.)

## Darwinian (adjective)

Darwinian

the process is ~ (casting boys for a popular play)

Darwinian competition

women live in ~ with one another for rich men

Darwinian reality

the ~ of capitalism (investing during pandemic)

Darwinian situation

street hailing can create ~s (cabs)

Darwinian system

it's a very ~, Marty was out for himself (career)

Darwinian (insurance) system

sick people are further stricken by a ~ (US)

Darwinian view

this ~ of the workplace is widespread

Darwinian world

the ~ of the bond market

## dashboard (noun)

national test dashboard

the CDC launched its ~ two weeks ago (pandemic)

see the dashboard

go to the state's website to ~ (coronavirus info)

## daughter (Everest's daughter, etc.)

Everest's daughter

on “~,” as Mt. Pumori is known...

## daughter (noun)

daughter of Hope and Fear

Religion is a ~ (Ambrose Bierce)

daughter roots

the roots produce offshoots called ~ (fig tree bridges)

## daughter (daughter of Brooklyn, etc.)

daughter of Brooklyn

she told the audience that she was a proud ~

## David (David and Goliath, etc.)

David

a ~ in a situation where there's a Goliath (politics)

I'm essentially the ~ taking on the Goliath

(whistleblower)

David-and-Goliath affair

major league bat making is a ~ (Louisville Slugger is #1)

David-and-Goliath battle

waging a ~ against Time Warner

David versus Goliath situation

this is definitely a ~ (a coach of a team)

David vee Goliath story

well, it's a classic ~, isn't it (US beats Pakistan in cricket)

David overcame Goliath

despite long odds, ~ (American independence)

David coming up against Goliath

it's brilliant when you get a ~ (Leicester City football)

♦ “We felt like David, without a slingshot.” (A naval officer facing the Japs in the Leyte Gulf.)

♦ see also *Goliath (Bible)*

## dawn (verb / comprehension)

dawning on him

it was ~ that...

dawn on me

it didn't ~ at the time that...

dawned on her

it eventually ~ that...

dawning on us

it was slowly ~ the Germans had killed them all  
(Holocaust)

## dawn (verb / start)

2021 dawned

they were hoping for better times as ~

♦ “A new day is dawning on the horizon.” (The Democrat Nancy Pelosi. The final 3 words fall flat.)

## dawn (from / since the dawn)

from the dawn of Japanese TV

~, every sumo tournament has been broadcast live

since the dawn of the Petroleum Age

~ more than a century ago...

## dawn (noun)

dawn of a new (pandemic) age

it's the ~

dawn of a new era

today marks the ~ (a political speech)

this is the ~ in human spaceflight (SpaceX Crew Dragon)

Midway was the ~ in naval warfare (World War II)

dawn of the Roaring Twenties

it was the ~ and Dempsey was just getting started

(boxing)

false dawn

there have been many ~s leading to frustration (unity)

it may be a building block or a ~ (a rare Man U win)

the Old Trafford side have had some ~s, difficult years...

new dawn

the worst part is behind us, we are seeing a ~, hold on...

♦ “All right, friends, you have seen the heavy groups, now you will see morning maniac music. Believe me. Yeah. It's the new dawn.” (Grace Slick at Woodstock. (Try: Jefferson Airplane Somebody to Love (Live at Woodstock Music & Art fair, 1969)

## day (have one's day)

had its day

the German shepherd has ~ (the dog breed)

had their day

cats have ~ (on the Internet)

## day (today is my day, etc.)

my day

today is ~ (a happy Joseph Parker after beating Wilder)

## day (win the day, carry the day)

carried the day

so Michigan's defense really ~ (college football champs)

won the day

even if the government ~, it is unclear if...



## day (in the old days, etc.)

early days of YouTube

it was a viral sensation, 2010, the ~ (Usman Ahmed)

in Nelson's day

cannons didn't recoil inboard, as in ~ (the Armada)

in his day

he was admired by millions ~ (Walter White / NAACP)

in its early days

radio astronomy was still ~

in my day

~, this would never have been allowed

in the better days

we were in Beirut, Beirut ~, and we were playing cards  
(O'Toole and Sharif)

in the old days

the reverence accorded ~ to Joe Hill (Kentucky)  
~ it was known as Happy Top (area of Andrews, NC)  
~ racial hatred was common  
~ costumes were very heavy (ballet at the Mariinsky)  
~, before salt blocks for sheep... (Navaho)

in the old old days

back ~ of TV, before streaming or cable...

in the old days of coal

this couldn't have happened ~ (mountaintop removal)

in the "bad old days"

~ of Times Square (porn sleaze)

life in the old days

~ was perhaps not so good

♦ "In my day, this would never have been allowed." (An outraged online commenter about the Canadian Kayla Lemieux and her Z-cup breasts.)

♦ "We were in Beirut, Beirut in the better days, and we were playing cards..." (The actor Peter O'Toole about him and the actor Omar Sharif.)

## day (old days)

old days

many are speaking fondly of the ~  
just think back to the ~ when people didn't have...

bad old days

memories of the ~ of Suharto (Indonesia)  
this is a step backwards to the ~ of the 1980s (policy)

good old days

I heard quite a bit of talk of the so-called ~, when...  
in the ~, which was just a few months ago (Brexit)

return to the "old days"

what he really wants is a ~ (Pakistani Christian)

faces from the old days

seeing the familiar ~ (a windsurfer)

spoke (fondly) of the old days

he ~ (reminiscing)

♦ "Just the one minute of added time. Like the good old days." (A commentator at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The tournament was notable for the amount of extra time attached to all periods of play.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The good old days were never that good."

## day (back in the day)

back in the day

~, a teacher could keep a bottle of whiskey in her desk  
the first time I heard it was ~, with my Mum (Billy Jean)

listened to back in the day

that's the music I ~

## day (days of yore)

days of yore

the parents yearned for those ~ (when the family was rich)

## day (latter-day)

latter-day Mary Magdalene

a sexually adventurous mother, a ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Of present or recent times."

## day (day after tomorrow)

day after tomorrow

it feels like it might be the ~ but there's still 2 years to go

today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow

we are well prepared ~ (German response to pandemic)

## day (at the end of the day)

at the end of the day

but ~ the true beauty of the stone remains  
but ~ they support our lives (sheep / herders)  
but ~, he has been repudiated (politician loses election)  
~, you can't put a price on that (happiness in career)

## day (early / late in the day)

early in the day

it's still ~ (the progress of a war)

late in the day

it's rather ~ to be suggesting a change to the plan

## day (the day after)

lays out a plan for the day after

the Egyptian proposal aims to end the war and ~

## day (of one's day / of its day)

astronauts of their day

whalers were the true ~

spaceships of their day

whaling ships were the ~

moonshot of its day

the Brooklyn Bridge was the ~

Panama of its day

the Miracle Canal was truly a ~ (Qin dynasty)

♦ “Entrepreneurs in the auto industry and other innovators made the Midwest the Silicon Valley of its day.” (“Recovering The Heartland” by Hendrik Meijer, *National Review*, December 19, 2022.)

## day (of the day)

government of the day

we occupy the towns to show that the ~ is unfair (IS)

problem of the day

if they don’t react to whatever the ~ is... (politicians)

topic of the day

what the media tells us is the ~ (criticizing the media)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Restaurants might have a soup du jour, or soup of the day. It is freshly made, changes daily, often reflects the seasons, and encourages customers to return regularly by adding an element of anticipation and surprise. Much like the news of the day!

## day (the light of day)

saw the light of day

the report never ~ (government)

seen the light of day

the story might not have ~ if...

## day (these days)

these days

~, when Chevron signs a contract...

Africans ~ are quicker to express their anger

but few people are buying baskets ~ (famine)

~, we eat once or twice a day (Zimbabwe)

many marginally qualified climbers flock to Everest ~

## day (those days)

those days

~ are obviously long gone (dumb workers)

~ are over (no running water)

that was the way we operated in ~ (journalism)

## day (dark day)

darkest days of the pandemic

the ~ could lie ahead

dark day in the history

it’s a ~ of the church (pedophilia scandals)

darkest day in the club’s history

it was the ~ (Munich air disaster / Manchester United)

dark day for Muslims

a leading Swiss Islamic group said it was “a ~” (referendum)

## day (a new day)

bright new day

Hubert Humphrey promised America a ~

new day has come

a ~

♦ “A new day is dawning on the horizon.” (The Democrat Nancy Pelosi. The final 3 words fall flat.)

♦ “All right, friends, you have seen the heavy groups, now you will see morning maniac music. Believe me. Yeah. It’s the new dawn.” (Grace Slick at Woodstock. Try: Jefferson Airplane Somebody to Love (Live at Woodstock Music & Art fair, 1969)

## day (save the day)

saved the day

NASA’s Lidar ~ (range finders failed / lunar landing)

saving the day

we’re not ~ but we add capacity (field hospitals)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Call in the cavalry!

## day (glory days, etc.)

“Those were the days”

I don’t look back and think, ~

glory days are back

the ~ at this hotel (restored 1891 hotel)

return to better days

I want to help my hometown club ~ (soccer)

## day (early days)

early days for the organization

it’s still ~

early days for making

it’s still ~ a direct comparison (a new virus)

early days still

it’s ~ and you cannot write them off (Man City falters)

in the early days

it’s still ~, there’s a lot we don’t know (Omicron variant)

## day (day has arrived, etc.)

day has arrived

the big ~ (heavy-weight boxing match)

## day (modern day)

modern-day Noah’s Ark

Norway’s Global Seed Vault is a ~ for plant seeds

modern-day P. T. Barnum

he is sort of a ~ (an arena builder and promoter)

modern-day hermits

in Japan half a million people live as ~ (*hikikomori*)

modern-day lepers

we treat them like ~ (fat people)

## day (call it a day)

call it a day

it’s time to ~ (a boxer retires)

♦ “He needs to call it a day before he takes too much damage. Heavyweight boxing might need to call it a day too if it can’t get the best fighters to actually fight each other.” (An online commenter about Joe Joyce’s second loss to Zhilei “Big Bang” Zhang. The 107 upvotes indicated that this comment struck a chord among fight fans.)

## day (last day / final day / death)

until her last day  
she believed he would be caught ~ (Michelle McNamara)

## daylight (division)

daylight between the two men on the issue  
there is not much ~

no daylight  
there is ~ between Israel and the US (Israel-Hamas war)

♦ "When there is such daylight, it pushes the deal further away."  
(Division between the U.S. and Israel. A hostage deal to free  
remaining Israeli hostages from Hamas captivity in Gaza. The Israel-  
Hamas war.)

## daze (in a daze)

in a daze  
he was ~ (news of murder)

## dazzle (verb)

dazzled the delegates  
he ~ (a politician)

dazzled him  
the kid ~ (Zion Williamson, basketball player)

## de (defund, etc.)

decentering  
see *decentering* (*decentering whiteness, etc.*)

defund  
~ the police

dename  
it's time to ~ Winthrop House (*The Harvard Crimson*)

## dead (status)

dead  
reform is ~

dead and buried  
the peace process is ~  
Spurs looked ~ when Ziyech scored against them, but...  
Switzerland were ~ but kept fighting (Euro 2020)  
they looked ~ at half-time, but never write off this team

all but dead  
the Cape Horn route was ~ (due to the Panama Canal)

deal is dead  
the ~ (boxing negotiation)

appears to be dead  
Joshua versus Fury now ~ (Usyk beats Joshua / boxing)

♦ "[T]he many moving tributes to cursive leave me convinced that it is far from dead, and not going quietly." (The great historian Drew Gilpin Faust's response to letters about her October 2022 article "Gen Z Never Learned To Read Cursive: How will they interpret the past?" in *The Atlantic*. Cursive writing used to be taught in the third grade.)

## dead (functioning)

dead

the rocket has been ~, following the laws of gravity...

went dead  
the line ~ before a reporter could get more details

## dead (feeling)

felt (kind of) dead  
I ~ inside (mundane job, etc.)

## dead (activity)

dead  
we got downtown, but it was ~

## dead (dead on arrival)

dead on arrival  
a month ago the initiative looked ~  
the film is ~ (critic did not like film)

dead on arrival in the Senate  
Democrats say this proposal is ~ (politics)

## dead (dead in the water)

dead in the water  
the initiative is now ~  
the Iran nuclear deal is not quite ~ but... (trouble)  
that ship is ~ (a legal case)  
they economy was ~, they were doomed to failure

## dead (rise from the dead)

rose from the dead  
they ~ (a winning football team)

## dead (dead and gone)

dead and gone  
it won't make much difference to the ~

## dead end (noun)

dead ends  
most of the tips turned out to be ~ (investigation)

dead-end job  
characters with ~s  
whiling away productive years at a ~

dead end scientifically  
drugs to remove amyloid may be kind of a ~  
(Alzheimer's)

disappointing dead ends  
there were many ~ (hunt for missing girl)

wrong turns and dead ends  
the series had some ~ (a TV show)

led to dead ends  
attempts to find his birth mother ~

led to a dead end  
every lead ~ (missing hunters)

♦ see also *cul-de-sac*, *impasse* (noun)

## deadening (effect)

mind-deadening  
~ checks

sound-deadening  
install ~ windows

## dead heat

dead heat  
the presidential run-off is a ~, too close to call

statistical dead heat  
he is in a ~ with Bernie Sanders (election)

## deadly

politically deadly  
if the accusations are true, this would be ~ for him

## dead man walking

dead man walking  
Steve Nash was a ~ from day 1 (sports talk / coach fired)  
we all said he was a ~ (Erik ten Hag, sacked by Man U)

## dead weight

deadweight  
get rid of Pogba, he is ~ 80% of the time (soccer snark)

## deadwood (and dead wood)

deadwood  
as the lowest-ranking official, I felt like ~

cut away the dead wood  
BBC is very slow to ~

♦ "BBC is very slow to cut away the dead wood—always has been. They just let them die of old age or be arrested." (An online commenter's reply to "why is Sam [Samantha] Smith continuing to commentate? She is so irritating!")

## deaf (adjective)

blind, deaf and dumb  
terrorists are ~ to all reason and decency

♦ "It's horrific that somebody died. It would be even worse if the sport stood with its fingers in its ears and its eyes closed." (Ice hockey broadcaster Seth Bennett, about the interest in neck guards following the death of hockey player Adam Johnson in Sheffield, England, after his neck was slashed by Matt Petgrave.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## deal (done deal)

done deal  
just three weeks ago, his nomination looked like a ~

## deal (close the deal)

close the deal in the playoffs  
they were a good team, but they could never ~ (NBA)

## dean (person)

Dean of American Cookery  
Turgeon nicknamed Beard "the ~"

dean of Middle Eastern correspondents  
she has been described as the ~ (Liz Sly)

dean of our generation  
Rachael was the ~ of grandchildren (a family)

dean of grindhouse  
he became the ~ (Roger Corman / NPR's Neda Ulaby)

dean of American medicine  
William H. Welch, known as the ~  
William Osler, the ~... (diagnostician / internal medicine)

dean of American landscape painters  
Asher Brown Durand, the ~ (after death of Thomas Cole)

dean of legal reporters  
she is the ~ covering the Supreme Court (Nina Totenberg)

♦ "Wilson, the dean of southern studies, has given us a monumental interdisciplinary and multicultural reassessment of a fabled and oft-troubled region." (A blurb for a book in *Harper's Magazine* "celebrating the newest releases from Ferris and Ferris Books. Learn more about Ferris & Ferris Books at... (a website)."

♦ "Rachael was Uncle Jimmy's oldest daughter, and thus the dean of our generation of grandchildren. All of us, even Lindsay, looked up to Rachael, so her advice carried enormous weight." (*Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. Rachael suggested J.D. Vance join the Marines.)

## death (Death Valley, etc.)

nicknamed the Korangal Valley 'Death Valley'  
troops ~ (Kunar Province, Afghanistan)

## death (to death)

love her to death  
I ~ but she gets a little crazy... (a brother about sister)

love it to death  
I grew up with doo-wop and Motown, and I ~

scared me to death  
it ~

bored to death  
I'm ~, let's do something

scared to death  
I was ~ during the encounter

thrilled to death  
I was ~ at his success

## death (to the death)

fight to the death  
see *fight to the death* (verb / conflict)

## death (death by PowerPoint, etc.)

death by a thousand cuts  
see *cut* (a thousand cuts)

“Death by hydrofracture”  
the iceberg experienced ~ (A68)

death by possession  
sideways passing and its attempt to inflict ~ (Spanish soccer)

death by PowerPoint  
they call it ~ (not *another* slide)

Death by Chocolate Trifle  
this ~ recipe is rich, decadent, and crazy delicious

## death (cheat death)

cheated death  
by recovering from such severe wounds, she ~

♦ “Vanderbilt was also a member of what a Minnesota newspaper called the ‘Just Missed It’ club, a fortunate group whose roster included Theodore Dreiser, Guglielmo Marconi, and J.P. Morgan, all of whom had planned to sail on the *Titanic* but for one reason or another had changed their minds. / Shortly before [the *Lusitania*’s] departure, Vanderbilt was standing on the ship’s promenade decking, talking with Captain Turner and Charles Frohman, when one of the ship-news men approached and asked Vanderbilt if he thought he’d be as lucky this time as he had been in deciding not to sail on the *Titanic*. Vanderbilt smiled but said nothing.” (When the *Lusitania* sank, Alfred Vanderbilt was never found, despite a \$5,000 reward offered by the Vanderbilt family. So he escaped his fate, only to meet it later on. From *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can tempt fate. Some innocuous action or event might seal your fate. Then you will meet your fate. If you are lucky, you can cheat or escape your fate. Some think they can determine their fate. Fate can be kind. More likely, fate will be unfair, unkind, or cruel. It’s best to accept your fate.

♦ Cattle die / Friends die / Thou thyself shalt die / I know a thing / That never dies / Judgement over the dead

## death (decline and death)

death of journalism  
digital journalism is the ~

death by a thousand cuts  
he’s suffering ~ (a prosecutor with weak case)  
a ~ is the future (restricting right to abortion)

deathbed  
see *deathbed* (noun)

death march  
see *death march* (noun)

death rattle  
see *death rattle*

death spiral  
see *spiral* (death spiral)

death and rebirth  
the primordial pageant of ~ of light (solar eclipse)

social death

ostracism is a form of ~ (academia)

valley of death  
see *valley of death* (figurative)

dying a slow death  
VHS is ~ (film fans prefer DVDs)

## death (Angel of Death, etc.)

see *Angel of Death* (literal analogy)

## deathbed (noun)

on its deathbed  
American democracy is in peril and may even be ~

## deathblow (noun)

death blow to my enterprise  
I realized it was the ~

deathblow to our hopes  
we were dealt a ~

death blow for the archive  
fines from lawsuits could amount to a ~ (Internet Archive)

campaign’s death blow  
the ~ came weeks earlier, in Michigan (elections)

deliver a deathblow to the militants  
the army is trying to ~

dealt a deathblow to both ideas  
the financial meltdown ~ (foreign policy)

dealt the hospital a deathblow  
Hurricane Katrina ~

## death march (noun)

death march for the future of U.S. human spaceflight  
the president’s proposed NASA budget begins the ~

♦ “The president’s proposed NASA budget begins the death march for the future of U.S. human spaceflight.” (Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama, after President Obama cancelled NASA’s Constellation program at the end of 2009. Of course, this didn’t turn out to be true. Elon Musk and SpaceX proved the senator utterly wrong.)

♦ “*Blonde* feels like a slow-motion death march.” (The film critic Justin Chang’s negative review of the 2022 film.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The phrase is used much like the word “adventure.” You might visit the Boundary Waters area and have a real adventure with bears, or you might find yourself saying, “My trip to the grocery store turned into a real adventure!”

♦ See the Wikipedia entry “Death March.” There have been many.

♦ Older Americans associate the phrase “Death March” with the Bataan Death March of World War II.

## death rattle

death rattle of the American dream  
dystopian rap is the ~

## death sentence (figurative)

melting “death sentence”

Greenland's ice faces ~ (global warming)

economic death sentence

the bill would be an ~ for Maine's lobster industry

### death sentence (literal analogy)

death sentence

he thought it was a ~, but... (accidental needle stick)

death sentence for whales

getting tangled in fishing gear can be a ~

automatic death sentence

H.I.V. is no longer an ~

no longer a death sentence

AIDS is ~ (antiretrovirals)

### death warrant (literal analogy)

signed his own death warrant

he effectively ~ by planning attacks (terrorist killed)

signed his death warrant

when he signed those accords, he essentially ~ (Sadat)

♦ "I just signed your death warrant." (A judge, sentencing a man to a long term that meant he would die in prison.)

### death warrant (figurative)

death warrant of capitalism

the president has signed the ~ (a senator against FDR)

'death warrant' for indigenous communities

the strategy amounts to a ~ (COVID / Maori)

death warrant for the Trans-Pacific Partnership

on his first day in office President Trump signed the ~

death warrant for us

anything over 2 degrees is a ~ (Marshall Islands / climate)

### debris (noun)

debris of a failed season

fans have been left to sift through the ~

sorting through the debris

Democrats are ~ left by Republican wave (election)

### debt (in somebody's debt)

in his debt

America is deeply ~ (a US politician)

in your dept for visiting us

we are ~ (Russian President)

deeply in his debt

America is ~ (a US politician)

### debt (obligation)

debt of gratitude

we can never repay the ~ owed to our nation's veterans

I owe a ~ to... (writer / acknowledgments)

debt to society

he has paid his ~ (released from prison)

debt to soldiers

the nation's ~ who fight abroad

debt to the (Hollywood) musical

the choreography owes a clear ~ (filmmaker John Woo)

nation's debt

the ~ to soldiers who fight abroad

sleep debt

racking up a large ~ during the week

one of the first signs of ~ is irritability

paid his debt

he has ~ many times over (44 years in prison)

owes a (clear) debt

the choreography ~ to the Hollywood musical (film)

repay the debt

we can never ~ of gratitude owed to our nation's veterans

♦ The vast majority of Americans give credit where credit is due.

### debutant (noun)

debutant Joe Burrow

it was heartbreak for ~ (close loss in his first NFL game)

boxing debutant

former UFC star and ~ Francis Ngannou (vs. Tyson Fury)

tournament debutants

the US team showed no mercy against the ~

youngest-ever Bundesliga debutant

he became the club's ~ (Kai Havertz)

♦ "[Ben] Bolch on Monday wrote on social media that he 'failed miserably' with his choice of words and he wanted to sincerely apologize to the LSU and UCLA programs. The piece referred to UCLA as 'America's sweethearts' and 'milk and cookies.' Conversely, it referred to LSU as 'dirty debutantes' and 'Louisiana hot sauce.' Bolch said he tried to be clever with alliteration but didn't understand at the time how the connotations were deeply offense." ("LA Times edits column and apologizes after drawing the ire of LSU coach Kim Mulkey" by Thomas Schlachter, CNN, April 1, 2024. The article quotes Mulkey, "Take your phone out right now and google 'dirty debutantes' and tell me what it says. 'Dirty debutantes'? Are you kidding me?" The original article was entitled, "UCLA-LSU is America's sweethearts versus its basketball villains." The offending parts of the article have been erased.)

### decapitate (verb)

decapitate al-Qaida

our goal is to ~, to dismantle it

decapitate the nation's military center

he told undercover agents he wanted to ~ (Pentagon)

decapitate any future discussion

imposing new sanctions would ~ with Pakistan

decapitate the cartels' leadership

he has deployed troops to ~ and reclaim their territory

decapitate the management

it's just an effort to ~ (media leader / security law)

decapitated a terrorist organization



we ~ by killing him (targeted killing)

decapitate me professionally

the NFL tried to ~ (the renowned Dr. Bennet Omalu)

decapitate (the agency) and eviscerate (its capacity)

opponents worked to ~ to execute the law (politics)

♦ "Don't simply uncork your bottle, decapitate it!" (*Sabrage*.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "One of the medics I'd met had responded to the strike; it had been the first time, he said, that he'd seen shrapnel decapitate somebody." ("Underworld: The unrelenting horrors faced by infantrymen on the Zero Line" by Luke Mogelson, *The New Yorker*, May 29, 2023.)

## decay (verb)

trust (in the value of American universities) is

decaying

~ (student protesters support Hamas)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Now we've found out that he's under some kind of realization that the whole process that got him up there [into space] had decayed, was born out of decay; it has decayed him, and he's in the process of decaying." (David Bowie about his character Major Tom. From *The Complete David Bowie*.)

## decay (noun)

truth decay

what some people call "~~"

♦ "And maybe most importantly and disconcertingly, what we've seen is what some people call 'truth decay.' Something that's been accelerated by outgoing President Trump. This sense that not only do we not have to tell the truth, but the truth doesn't even matter." (Barack Obama. Watch: Barack Obama: The 2020 60 Minutes interview)

## decayed (adjective)

old and decayed

the software is ~ (legacy software)

## decaying (adjective)

decaying democracy

they see the trial as a symbol of ~ (rights groups)

\*\*\* I'm a romantic...

♦ "I'm a romantic. I loved the old harbor with its working tugs, its decaying piers and vague sense of ruin. It was just so beautiful. The new version with all its parks is generic and sanitized—a 'noose of green.' It's as if someone had an idea of how a waterfront should look and came up with a cookie-cutter plan for the whole city." (Ben Gibberd, author of *New York Waters: Profiles from the Edge*. Quoted in "Wet and Wild" by Tony Perrottet, photographs by Gina LeVay, *Smithsonian*, May 2017.)

## decenter (decenter norms, etc.)

decenter (white workplace) norms

measures we can put in place to actively ~ (DEI)

actively decenter

~ white workplace norms (DEI)

## decentering (decentering whiteness, etc.)

decentering whiteness

~ in the workplace (DEI)

process of (actively) decentering

what can be done to start the ~ whiteness in the workplace

♦ *Decentering whiteness in the workplace: A Guide for Equity and Inclusion* by Janice Gassam Asare, PhD.

♦ "I would say this: It's obvious that the senator has no idea what decentering whiteness actually means..." (Janice Gassam Asare, PhD., responding to criticism by U.S. Senator J.D. Vance.)

## deck (deck is stacked)

deck is stacked against them

the ~

deck is stacked on every hand

what if the ~ (justice for the poor)

## deck (re-shuffle the deck)

re-shuffle the deck

it's totally going to ~ (effects of political controversy)

## declare (verb)

declared *The New York Times*

"Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact," ~

label (printed on the interior of the pocket) declares

a ~: "the only kind made by White Labor" (Levy Jeans)

♦ "Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact," declared *The New York Times*. / "Radio Fake Scares Nation," cried the *Chicago Herald and Examiner*. / "US Terrorized By Radio's 'Men From Mars,'" said the *San Francisco Chronicle*... ("The Halloween myth of the War of the Worlds panic" by Professor W Joseph Campbell, BBC, 30 October 2011. "Declared." "Cried." "Said.")

## decode (verb)

decodes what it means

*Want Me* kinda ~ to reclaim desire for yourself

## decolonial (groups)

decolonial theory

Blackness, queer theory, ~ and affect theory...

♦ "Her research interest lie in Blackness, queer theory, decolonial theory and affect theory." (Taryn Jordan.)

## decoloniality (groups)

decoloniality

~ requires us to interrogate the colonial past

~ signals a profound turn in theory and philosophy...

Decoloniality and Justice

"Towards ~" (IGDC annual lecture 2023)

race, coloniality, gender, and sexuality

interest in ~ (in academic Slavic studies!)

obstacles to decoloniality

the ~ include... (decoloniality and development)

centers decoloniality

discourse and practice that starts with and ~ (development)

♦ "Towards Decoloniality and Justice: when the past pushes unfinished into the present." (The subject of the IGDC annual lecture 2023, presented by Uma Kothari. She is a professor of migration and

post-colonial studies, the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, U.K.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word is not recognized by Merriam-Webster. Wiktionary has an entry: "A form of critical theory associated with decolonialization." Finally, Wikipedia has an entry for the term, with the proviso: "This article **may be too technical for most readers to understand**. Please help improve it to make it understandable to non-experts, without removing the technical details. (December 2023.)"

♦ "Decoloniality" is a good example of how academics will squeeze out every possible form of a term that English offers them in order to be "progressive, more radical, and creative." In an academic presentation about coloniality, for example, the presenter talked about those of us who are "solidaristic" with "solidaristic principles" versus those bad people who are "anti-solidaristic." She also stumbled over the pronunciation of "decoloniality" a few times while reading from her text.

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like intersectionality, heteronormativity, cisgender, problematize, triggering, and Latinx..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYN...

## decolonialization (groups)

decolonialization

a form of critical theory associated with ~ (decoloniality)

represents decolonialization

a powerful man who ~ (an Oglala Lakota chef)

♦ "I think that a lot of people appreciate the face that Sean puts out front. He's the epitome, right? Long braids, a powerful man who represents decolonialization." ("Tribe To Table: A Minneapolis restaurant reconceives Indigenous cuisine" by Carolyn Kormann, *The New Yorker*, September 19, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like intersectionality, heteronormativity, cisgender, problematize, triggering, and Latinx..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ Wiktionary has an entry for "decolonialization." And Wiktionary defines "decoloniality" as "a form of critical theory associated with decolonialization."

## decolonization (groups)

discourse of decolonization

the ~ (Princeton academic Eddie Glaude Jr.)

decolonization, DEIA, and antiracism

~ in ELT (the TESOL 2023 Convention)

'decolonization' and 'progressivism'

U.S. students celebrate Hamas in the name of ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "U.S. students celebrate Hamas in the name of 'decolonization' and 'progressivism.'" (The Hamas attacks on Be'eri Kibbutz, Nir Oz Kibbutz, the Re'im music festival massacre, etc.)

♦ "black power & intersectional feminism & gender self-determination & solidarity with muslims & indigenous sovereignty & decolonization & disability justice & queer kinship & migrant justice & fat freedom & collective liberation" (A black T-shirt with white lettering worn by Stephanie Lyn Kaufman-Mthimkhulu, Director of Project LETS. "Disability and Mad Justice cultural worker. Community Educator.

Organizer. Parent. Conflict Intervention. Facilitator. Care Strategist. Writer... Hire me.")

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "young people parrot empty catchphrases about decolonization" (An online commenter about the Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Decolonization is conventionally thought of as the *actual* independence movements and struggles following World War II. When I think of decolonization, I think of Algeria, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, etc., not of anything connected to the 21st century.

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like intersectionality, heteronormativity, cisgender, problematize, triggering, and Latinx..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

## decolonize (verb)

decolonize the campus

reaction to Hamas massacre shows it's time to ~

"decolonize" their collections

the idea that museums needed to ~

decolonize education

~ (a mug, for sale on Etsy for \$17.00)

decolonize the (birding) experience

I'm seeking to ~ (Tykee James, a "Birding activist")

decolonize his own food

he taught himself how to ~ (an Oglala Lakota chef)

decolonize the (Thanksgiving) meals

I've tried to ~ by eating a variety of food (a Potawatomi)

decolonizing her own mind

she's sort of '~' (Nigerian designer Bubu Ogisi)

decolonize museums

what does it mean to "~" (a webinar)

decolonizing philanthropy

we are ~ (a group accused of corruption)

Decolonize This Place

Amin Hussain, a founder of the radical activist group ~

♦ "I'm seeking to decolonize the birding experience." (Tykee James, a "birding activist" and co-founder of Freedom Birders. From "Monuments And Teams Have Changed Names As America Reckons With Racism. Birds Are Next" by Jeff St. Clair, NPR, June 5, 2021.)

♦ "I've tried to decolonize the Thanksgiving meals by eating a variety of food." (A Potawatomi who works for NPR.)

♦ "In August, Siebert left Owamni. Some employees felt that she hadn't been the right fit—that she pushed specials featuring colonized takes on Indigenous ingredients. 'I do have a European background in cooking, but so does Sean,' Siebert said. 'He taught himself how to decolonize his own food, and I was still in the process of that.' Soon afterward, a bartender was fired, in part for drinking on the clock..." ("Tribe To Table: A Minneapolis restaurant reconceives Indigenous cuisine" by Carolyn Kormann, *The New Yorker*, September 19, 2022.)

♦ "Decolonize is not a metaphor." (Jewish Voice for Peace, a radical anti-Israel activist group according to the ADL.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ Decolonize Patch—"I bought these as stocking stuffers for my teenagers. Shipped out fast and great quality." (\$3.00+. Etsy.)

♦ “Dismantle racism abolish white supremacy decolonize education” mug. (\$17.00. Etsy.)

♦ “Decolonizing Myself” Shirt. Human Rights Tee, Equal Rights TShirt, Indigenous Equality Top, Antiracist Decolonize Gift, No Human is Illegal. Sale ends in 4 days. 20% off. 11,860 five-star reviews. “Perfect! I’m a repeat customer.” (\$20.39+. Etsy.)

♦ “Decolonize Education” Sweatshirt. (\$21.76+. Etsy.)

♦ “DECOLONIZE / Black Lives Matter / No Ban No Wall / Smash Patriarchy / Ni1+ / Stand Up Fight Back / Not 1 More Deportation / RESIST / smash patriarchy / MNI WICONI” women’s T-shirt. Base price \$17.09. Was \$20.10. Delivery + \$5.00. Estimated tax + \$1.66. Estimated Total\$23.75. Visit site...

♦ “Decolonize Your Mind” Sweatshirt. 30% off, Sale ends in 2 hours, free shipping... (\$29.40. Etsy.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “The Harvard online course catalog has a search box. Type in ‘decolonize.’ That word...is in the title of seven courses and the descriptions of 18 more.” (“Reaping What We Have Taught” by Harvard Professor Harry R. Lewis, Contributing Opinion Writer, *The Harvard Crimson*, January 8, 2024.)

♦ “Reaction to Hamas massacre shows it’s time to decolonize the campus” by Steven F. Hayward, *New York Post*, Oct. 22, 2023.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The Wiktionary definition is: “(transitive) To free from colonial influence.”

♦ Slogans are the battle cries of our modern crowds.

♦ “Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like intersectionality, heteronormativity, cisgender, problematize, triggering, and Latinx...” (“How The Bobos Broke America” by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *colonize (verb)*

## decolonized

decolonized

there are persistent demands the curriculum be “~”

decolonized rule

Owamni breaks its ~ with coffee, beer, and wine

describes the food as decolonized

Sherman ~ (Owamni restaurant, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like intersectionality, heteronormativity, cisgender, problematize, triggering, and Latinx...” (“How The Bobos Broke America” by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## decolonizing (noun)

decolonizing research

the topic of ~ (IGDC annual lecture 2023)

decolonizing therapy

she embraces a practice of ‘~’ (Eden Teng)

♦ “The Healing Humanities: Decolonizing Trauma Studies from the Global South.” (An upcoming Princeton University class to be taught by Assistant professor Satyel Larson.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “Within academia there’s a lot of focus on decolonizing the university, decolonizing the curriculum, decolonizing knowledge, decolonizing research...” (Professor Uma Kothari, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, U.K.)

♦ “Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like intersectionality, heteronormativity, cisgender, problematize, triggering, and Latinx...” (“How The Bobos Broke America” by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## decompression (noun)

decompression

after a day at work, all I’m thinking about is ~

decompression time

it’s real important to have ~ (rescued POWs)

## deconstruct (verb)

deconstructed the (show’s) finale

the creators and producers ~

## deconstruction (noun)

pop deconstruction

her podcast is an intensive project of ~ (diet culture)

## decry (verb)

decried the move

the oil and gas industry ~, saying... (a windfall tax)

decried the sale

groups have ~ of these dangerous products (infants)

decried ‘nativism’ and ‘bigotry’

the ex-president ~

## deep (adverb)

deep into

see *into (be into something)*

delves deep

the story ~ into what he sees as...

dig deep

see *dig deep (analysis)*

dig deep

see *dig deep (determination)*

dive deep

see *dive deep (analysis)*

## deep (person)

deep

she’s ~ (opposite of *shallow*)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “Still waters run deep.”

## deep (deep past, etc.)

deep past

apparently, in the ~, Neanderthals...

questions about the ~ are hard to answer  
the Great Rift Valley acts as a history book of the ~

deep in winter  
a hike ~...

♦ "Deep into the rat race, far from the finish line of retirement."

## deep (emotion)

deep alienation  
she began to feel a ~

deep care  
he was remembered for his "~" (James "Buster" Corley)

deep desire  
bound by a ~ to have meaning in our lives

deep passion  
she had this ~ for issues she cared about

deep sense  
they have a ~ of sadness

run (especially) deep  
fears of Moscow ~ in Poland (2009)

runs deep  
Wright's admiration for the marines ~ (correspondent)  
the sense of allegiance to the Catholic Church ~  
resentment of the US ~ (Arabs)  
support for the insurgency ~ (Kandahar)

runs deepest  
in places where anti-American sentiment ~ (Iraq, etc.)

## deep (deep sleep, etc.)

deep in thought  
we drove in silence, both of us ~

deep coma  
he was in a ~ for 16 days, and he was tube-fed...  
when EMTs brought him to the hospital, he was in a ~  
the 3-drug cocktail puts the prisoner into a ~ (execution)

deep depression  
a lot of athletes fall into a ~ after the Olympics  
he sank into ~ and thought about ending his own life  
he fell into a ~, and his addiction spiraled out of control

deep sleep  
he fell into a ~

## deep (situation)

deep in debt  
he was ~

deep trouble  
he was in ~ before he won (an exciting tennis match)

neck deep  
see *neck-deep* (in debt, etc.)

## deep (extent and scope)

deep connections  
he had ~ in Washington with politicians (Biden)

deep dive  
see *dive* (*deep dive*)

deep divide  
the ~ between the haves and have-nots (*The White Tiger*)

deep ecology  
books about ~

deep (foreign affairs) experience  
he had this ~ (a politician)

deep expertise  
scientists with ~ in relevant fields...

deep knowledge  
what makes them such good cooks is a ~ of food  
he may have ~ about him, but he is a proven liar (politics)  
she integrated her ~ of folk music into the opera

deep play  
find your ~ ("Rest actually takes hard work" / TIME)

deep roots  
they have ~ in the community (Croats / Louisiana)

deep work  
~, as Cal Newport calls it...

deep-work  
more ~ time, less times in meeting (4-day work week)

skin-deep  
see *skin-deep*

♦ A Cognitive Study of Spatial Metaphors in English "Deep" and Chinese "Shen" by Yanting Wu is a wonderful paper. It is available online at ERIC at EJ1342324.

## deep (in deep)

in deep  
he is ~ and I can't get him out (financial problems)

getting in deeper  
you're ~ every moment you're gone (*Thelma and Louise*)

## deepen (verb)

deepened the mystery  
the new information ~

## deeply

deeply in his debt  
America is ~ (a US politician)

deeply embarrassing  
it's a ~ episode that still clings to her today (singer)

deeply troubling  
the allegations are ~

deeply disappointed  
he was ~ that...

deeply entrenched  
lighting fireworks to celebrate is a ~ custom (Peru)

deeply moved

to watch them was to be ~ (old soldiers)

deeply troubled

he was a ~, haunted by demons (Timothy Treadwell)

deeply woven

Arab Americans are ~ into the fabric of America

deeply loyal

like many in the force, he is ~ to her (Dame Cressida Dick)

## deep-rooted (adjective)

deep-rooted problems

the company must overcome its ~

## deer (deer in the headlights)

deer in the headlights

the first time I was a ~ (MMA fighter wins rematch)

♦ “Anthony Joshua lacked ambition, and he was like a deer in the headlights from the start, and he never wanted to get going.” (Carl Froch, commenting on Usyk-Joshua.)

## defang (verb)

defanged the (country’s once-feared religious) police

he has ~ (MBS in Saudi Arabia)

defang them

he wants to demystify deadlines in order to ~ (a writer)

defang the consumer watchdog

the administration wants to ~

## deficit (noun)

attention deficit

children diagnosed with ~ hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

information deficit

there’s an ~ right now (vaccine controversy)

innovation deficit

the US has an ~ (less funding for science, etc.)

nature deficit

suffering from ~ disorder (forest bathing)

trust deficit

the UN chief says the world has “~ disorder” (Guterres)

## define (verb)

defines himself in opposition to those around him

he ~

define me

I refuse to let it ~ (sex abuse)

I won’t let this event define me (drugged, blacked out)

defined my youth

I loved the Spice Girls, they ~ (actress Lilly James)

## definitely (contempo-speak)

definitely make me laugh

they ~ (a cashier at checkout counter about senior citizens)

definitely your next binge

‘Sort of’ is ~ (HBO Max series)

definitely a dream

Yeah, that’s ~ of mine (play basketball in the pros)

definitely something

it was ~ that I for sure noticed (“fur sure”)

definitely famous

from ‘almost famous’ to ~, Billy Crudup is...

definitely actually

see *actually* (contempo-speak)

definitely do

see *do* (emphasizer)

definitely does

see *does* (emphasizer)

definitely kind of

see *kind of* (contempo-speak)

definitely maybe

see *maybe* (contempo-speak)

definitely not

see *not* (*not happy, not good, not OK, etc.*)

definitely obviously

see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

definitely pretty

see *pretty* (contempo-speak)

definitely probably

it’s ~ more difficult (a white male athlete, interviewed)

definitely really

see *really* (*gushing*)

definitely sort of

see *sort of* (contempo-speak)

definitely very

see *very* (contempo-speak)

absolutely, definitely

and sure enough, ~, they contained...

he’s ~ not going to run (politics)

Almost Definitely

“Fragile Rock: ~ The World’s First Puppet Emo Band”

Almost Definitely

“Beyonce’s Baby Is ~ Cooler Than...” (NPR)

I think definitely

~ that we are self-aware students, no need to baby us

~ things changed for the better, I felt like...

~, one of the inspirations is... (music)

just definitely

I would ~, you know, recommend...

I was ~ a fan of the music and culture

people who are ~ in love with...

like, definitely

it was ~ a homophobic environment

like definitely

artists are ~ dabbling in other genres

it's ~ a massive historical moment in my journey (award)

really definitely

but it ~ felt like it...

really, definitely

it was ~, clearly time for us to...

sort of definitely

you got the impression that they were ~ enjoying...

♦ "It really is definitely a pattern." (An NPR pundit.)

♦ "The 'Weird' Al Yankovic (definitely not-at-all exaggerated) biopic" (NPR headline.)

♦ "It definitely smells like a campfire out there." (NPR reporting on the 2024 Park Fire, one of the top-ten wildfires in the history of California. Breezy!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "'Yep. Nope. Very definitely.' Kathryn Schulz, a writer for *The New Yorker*, heard that seemingly-contradictory response to a question recently..." ("No, Yes, Definitely: On The Rise Of 'No, Totally' As Linguistic Quirk," NPR, All Things Considered, April 12, 2015.)

♦ "He chuckles particularly, he says, over the discovery that society seems to consider the word 'definitely' so necessary to a sophisticated conversation, when the fact happens to be that the average English scrubwoman or 'dustman' uses it continually." (Wilfred J. Funk of Funk & Wagnalls. From the article "Ten Overworked Words" in the newspaper *The Day*, New London, CONN., Thursday Afternoon, April 1, 1937. The more things change, the more they stay the same.)

♦ see also *actually (contempo-speak)*, *obviously (contempo-speak)*, *really (gushing)*

## deflate (emotion)

deflated a nation

the loss ~ where... (Mexico / soccer)

deflates them

having pumped the rookies up, he now ~ (NFL)

## deflate (pressure)

deflated some criticism

by admitting his mistakes, he has ~ (politician)

deflate (unrealistic) expectations

he would try to ~

deflate a stereotype

people can ~ by embracing it (Hillbilly Days Festival)

## deflated

deflated

does your job or land of one have you feeling ~

bored and deflated

he sounds ~ despite the Zolof

## defrock (verb)

"defrock" Oppenheimer

Lewis Strauss & his like-minded friends had managed to

~

♦ "For a few years after World War II, scientists had been regarded as a new class of intellectuals, members of a public-policy priesthood who might legitimately offer expertise not only as scientists but as public philosophers. With Oppenheimer's defrocking, scientists knew that in the future they could serve the state only as experts on narrow scientific issues." (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

## defuse (verb)

defuse her anxiety

try to ~ (separation anxiety / toddler)

defuse crises

promote regional stability and peace and ~ (military)

defuse (volatile) crises

he was sent in to ~ (FBI hostage negotiator)

defuse the disagreement

he is trying to ~ among his allies (coalition)

defuse the issue

the first thing to do is ~ by backing off... (toddlers)

defuse the situation

he tried to ~ (and got shot)

Melissa Arnot intervened to ~ (on Everest)

the agents attempted to calmly ~ (at an airport)

he tried to ~ by...

defused the situation

tribal elders ~

defuse tensions

the US has urged the Russians and Georgians to ~

a move to ~ between the traditional rivals (China / Japan)

## deleted (groups)

deleted from history

women who have been ~ (scientists, politicians, artists)

## delicious (adjective)

delicious to watch

it was ~ as the returns came in (Trump's 2024 victory)

delicious dollop

his concern for disclosure is a ~ of hypocrisy (politics)

delicious irony

it was, of course, a ~ since...

delicious novels

here are three ~ (romance)

delicious (Gothic) romance

a ~ strikes just the right balance (book review by Caitlyn)

delicious, raunchy

Bridgerton is a ~ tale (wealth, lust, and betrayal)

how delicious

you have something to confide, ~ (two women)



♦ *Roumeli* is a stew in which the ingredients, delicious as many are, never quite blend." ("The End of the Road" by the great classist Daniel Mendelsohn.)

### \*\*\* food and sex, sex and food...

♦ 9 1/2 *Weeks* (strawberries); Tom Jones (*chicken bones, apples, oysters*); *Jamon Jamon* (prosciutto or Serrano ham); *Women in Love* (figs). (Films that associate food with sex, and vice versa.)

♦ "In their hotel room she was staggered at the sight of a watermelon of incredible size. It was Komarov's housewarming gift, and to her it was symbol of his power and wealth. When he thrust a knife into this marvel, and the dark green globe split in half, revealing its icy, sugary heart, she was frightened, but she dared not refuse a slice. The fragrant pink mouthfuls stuck in her throat, but she forced herself to swallow them." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The significance of sex and food is reversed between the Siriono and us Westerners: the Sirionos' strongest anxieties are about food, they have sex virtually whenever they want, and sex compensates for food hunger, while our strongest anxieties are about sex, we have food virtually whenever we want, and eating compensates for sexual frustration." (The Siriono Indians live in Bolivia. From *The World Until Yesterday* by Jared Diamond.)

## delirious (adjective)

delirious (Korean) fans

millions of ~, aptly known as the Red Devils (soccer)

delirious celebration

scenes of ~ at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium (World Cup)

♦ "Can we play you every week!" sang the delirious Brighton fans." (Brighton 3-Man Utd 1 at Old Trafford. Brighton's starting eleven, which cost 17 million pounds, beat Manchester United's, which cost 347 million. As *The Guardian* described it, Brighton fans were "cock-a-hoop.")

## delirium (noun)

delirium of his fans

he raised an arm aloft to acknowledge the ~ (a boxer)

## deliver (verb)

deliver a deathblow

the army is trying to ~ to the militants

deliver despair

they promise hope and ~ (a Mexican gang)

deliver on his promise

his failure to ~ cost him his job (a coach)

deliver a knockout blow

the air campaign failed to ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

delivered a (passionate) response

she ~

deliver tonight

anything can happen in boxing, boy did they ~

## Delphic (adjective)

Delphic pronouncements

he hands out index cards inscribed with ~ (self-help guru)

## deluge (noun)

deluge

the trickle became a ~ (customer orders)

deluge of (electronic) data

how to organize and search through a ~

deluge of (holiday) orders

companies couldn't handle the ~

deluge of refugees

Tunisia is struggling to cope with a ~

deluge of tips

the public has responded with a ~ (hunting terrorists)

## deluged

deluged with advice

you'll be ~ (about how to potty train your toddler)

deluged with complaints

they are being ~ from residents and merchants

deluged with questions

Hale has been ~ about Islam (9/11)

deluged with (thousands of) requests

the office was ~ (for a pamphlet)

drug-deluged

a ~ neighborhood

## delusion (under a delusion)

under no delusion

I'm ~ this will stop everyone from cheating, but...

## delusion (other)

mass delusion

a ~ renders drivers blind to their faults (a study)

the "better-than-average effect" points to a ~

delusion, denial and fantasy

they seek refuge in ~ (the Middle East)

## demand (verb)

demand your attention

Mr. Whitfield, there is a matter that ~

## demand (noun)

demand of history and destiny

none of us can escape the ~

## demented

demented policy

the Republicans are committed to a ~ of failure

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## demesne (control)

gang's demesne

children serve as lookouts on the frontline of the ~

## demic (infodemic, etc.)

epidemic

see *epidemic* (noun)

infodemic

the WHO has called the spread of misinformation an “~”

twindemic

flu this winter raises fear of a ‘~’ (flu + Covid)

triple-demic

the so-called “~” of flu, RSV and COVID-19  
Thanksgiving gatherings could accelerate a “~”

quad-demic

what to know about ‘~’ of COVID, flu, RSV, norovirus

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary has an entry for “infodemic.” Wiktionary is wonderful.

## demise (death / actual)

demise

he discharged one round, causing his ~

demise of a subject

this officer-involved shooting resulted in the ~

## demise (political demise, etc.)

demise of the (old-style) demolition derby

the ~ (at county fairs, etc.)

coal’s demise

~ was predicted in the 1980s

show’s demise

a corporate spokesperson confirmed the ~ (CNN)

political demise

the recall vote resulted in his ~

political and personal demise

the ~ of congressman Jackson

rise and demise

the ~ of the league (US Football League)

rumors of my demise

~ may be a little exaggerated (politics)

faces its demise

the mental health model ~ (the Trieste model)

♦ “For years, flapper information displays, known as Solari boards, were a fixture in railway stations, airports and bus terminals. Now, most are gone. New Haven’s board is the last of its kind on the Metro-North line. But officials say it’s hard to maintain, and they’re replacing it with two electronic panels.” (“Train Station Board’s Demise Is Sign Of The Times” by Diane Orson, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 3, 2010.)

## demolition (noun)

demolition of Anthony Joshua

his stunning, five-round world title ~ (Daniel Dubois)

demolition job

a packed Manchester arena witnessed a ~ (boxing)  
this was an absolute ~ (Liverpool 4, 0 ManUre)

## demon (mental health)

inner demons

due to ~, it didn’t work out (talented football player)

personal demons

her life has been plagued by drugs and other ~  
he certainly had some kind of ~ (Nashville bomber)

drugs and other (personal) demons

her life has been plagued by ~

fight those demons

I had hoped he’d be able to ~ (dead of overdose)

get rid of the demons

he has to get a rematch and ~ (boxer who lost in upset)

had (similar) demons

we both ~ (a boxer, a trainer, and drugs)

haunted by demons

he was a deeply troubled man, ~ (Timothy Treadwell)

shake her demons

she couldn’t ~ (singer dies of drug overdose)

stared down his (personal) demons

he ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When minorities OD they’re labeled junkies. When celebrities OD they have “demons” Move on nothing to see here (An online commenter.)

## demon (affliction)

demons of the past

we must exorcise the ~ (Island of Gorée and slavery)

demons of (political) disorder, extremism, and cruelty

WWI unleashed the ~

threatening demon

another ~ of the Greek male, feminism...

exorcise the demons

~ of the past... (history)

unleashed the demons

WWI ~ of political disorder, extremism, and cruelty

♦ “I’m not a saint but I’m not a demon or anything either.” (A man acquitted of the murder of Tina Fontaine, an indigenous girl.)

## demonic (adjective)

demonic explosion

there was a ~ (ethnic conflict)

## demonization (noun)

demonization of a black Muslim woman

over-the-top ~ (Omar Ilhan)

## demonize (verb)

demonizes the West as uniquely imperialist

academia ~ (in the United States)

“demonize” the rich  
he promised not to ~ (politics)

demonize all Southerners  
she did not ~, or beatify all Northerners (Harriet B. Stowe)

demonize (all Southerners), or beatify  
she did not ~ all Northerners (Harriet B. Stowe)

“other” and demonize  
celebrating a thin white body as the ideal is a way to ~ us

♦ “Demonize government, make government into the enemy, demonize journalists, make them the enemy.” (Politics.)

## demonized

demonized in the press  
Ms. Maxwell has been ~ (trial)

idolized and demonized  
he has been alternately ~ by the press (a boxer)

♦ “I think the name Chiang Kai-shek has been demonized without public debate or discourse. His achievements...” (A Taiwanese man.)

## den (den of thieves, etc.)

den of dysfunction  
they described its presidency as a ~ (politics)

den of spies  
Vienna has long been a ~

## dent (noun)

dent in spending  
they want to make a big ~ and the deficit

making a dent in that (appalling) statistic  
they are ~ (death in childbirth)

put a dent in the deficit  
he wants to ~ (a politician)

## depression (mental illness)

depths of depression  
as one nears the penultimate ~ (before suicide)

touchstone of depression  
loss in all of its manifestations is the ~

fell into a depression  
she ~

fell into a (deep) depression  
he ~, popping pain pills and swilling tequila

♦ “When I was first aware that I had been laid low by the disease, I felt a need, among other things, to register a strong protest against the word ‘depression.’ Depression, most people know, used to be termed ‘melancholia,’ a word which appears in English as early as the year 1303 and crops up more than once in Chaucer, who in his usage seemed to be aware of its pathological nuances. ‘Melancholia’ would still appear to be a far more apt and evocative word for the blacker forms of the disorder, but it was usurped by a noun with a bland tonality and lacking any magisterial presence, used indifferently to describe an economic decline or a rut in the ground, a true wimp of a word for such a major illness. It may be that the scientist generally held responsible for its currency in modern times, a Johns Hopkins Medical School faculty member justly venerated—the Swiss-born

psychiatrist Adolf Meyer—had a tin ear for the finer rhythms of English and therefore was unaware of the semantic damage he had inflicted by offering ‘depression’ as a descriptive noun for such a dreadful and raging disease. Nonetheless, for over seventy-five years the word has slithered innocuously through the language like a slug, leaving little trace of its intrinsic malevolence and preventing, by its very insipidity, a general awareness of the horrible intensity of the disease when out of control. / As one who has suffered from the malady in extremis yet returned to tell the tale, I would lobby for a truly arresting designation. ‘Brainstorm,’ for instance, has unfortunately been preempted to describe, somewhat jocularly, intellectual inspiration. But something along these lines is needed...” (*Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* by William Styron.)

♦ “I didn’t know the connective tissue between my brother and my medical trauma and my depression and PTSD and anxiety.” (Elisabeth Finch of *Grey’s Anatomy*, trying to explain her compulsive lying.)

## depth (substance)

depth and experience  
the soccer team has ~ at virtually all positions

♦ “In terms of being analytical, many students are suffering from this syndrome of the internet generation of skimming everything on the surface, horizontal reading it’s called, and not going into depth...” (Niklas aka “The Social Media Professor” Myhr—pronounced Mear, rhymes with “beer,” a Swede—at Chapman University, southern California.)

♦ “They think we’re supporting genocide, we’re supporting colonialism. They know the keywords but they don’t really know what they mean.” (A Jewish merchant.)

♦ “From breadth through depth to perspective.” (Motto of State University of New York at Binghamton.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “A little knowledge is a dangerous thing!”

## depth (out of one's depth)

out of our depth  
we were way ~ (ignorance)

out of their depth  
they realized they were ~ and consulted psychiatrists

out of my depth in this matter  
I’m ~ (lacks expertise)

out of his depth during engineering discussions  
he was ~

## depth (depths of winter, etc.)

in the depths of (the arctic) winter  
they had to find a way to survive ~

## depth (extent)

depths of their bitterness  
grasp the ~ (Turks on death fast)

depth of its (fiscal) distress  
accounting obscured the ~ (hospital)

depth of his knowledge  
they came away impressed with the ~

depth of your sorrow  
we cannot imagine the ~ (daughters murdered by MS-13)

## deranged (adjective)

deranged nutcase

this Jennifer Rubin woman sounds like a ~ (columnist)

### 'deranged' rant

Jennifer Rubin has been eviscerated over her ~

♦ "Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin has been eviscerated over her 'deranged' rant about President-elect Trump's cabinet picks—in which she wildly claims that Republicans 'want to kill your kids.'" ("Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin blasted for 'deranged' rant claiming Republicans 'want to kill your kids'" by Patrick Reilly, *The New York Post*, Nov. 20, 2024.)

### \*\*\* NYPD cops told deranged suspect to drop knife 38 times...

♦ "NYPD cops told deranged suspect to drop knife 38 times before 'friendly fire' subway shooting that injured 3: officials" by Jorge Fitz-Gibbon and Matt Troutman, *The New York Post*, Sep. 18, 2024.)

♦ OLD: "Ice Pick Nick" (NYC), a madman, a maniac, a deranged vagrant, a crazy person, a violent mentally ill vagrant, a mentally ill person... / NEW: an emotionally disturbed person (EDP), a mental consumer (Memphis Police), "disturbance / CIT (crisis intervention / the police)," a vulnerable person...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## descend (verb)

descended into mob rule

the confirmation hearing ~ (protests)

descended into violence

a peaceful mass rally ~

## derail (verb)

derailed AGAIN

the hype train ~ (England soccer / Qatar 2022)

derailed his career

laziness ~ (athlete)

derail a professor's career

it's just as likely that a student can ~ these days (sex)

derailed my life

assault by fashion mogul Peter Nygard '~' says victim

derail (health-care) reform

the Republicans tried to ~

derail her story

he is trying to ~ (a celebrity)

derail our strategy

the insurgents will not ~

derail this (vulnerable economic) upturn

a conflict with Iran could yet ~ (in US)

### \*\*\* the great 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*...

♦ Mr. Webb: Well, she's late. Reckon she might've jumped the tracks. / Loretta Lynn: Oh, Daddy, them things [trains] don't do that. Do they? / Mr. Webb, grimly: They've been known to. (From the great 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*.)

## derailed

derailed

the hype train was ~ (a Y.A. book, by sensitivity readers)

derailed by an avalanche

the murder trial was nearly ~ of prejudicial comment on social media

career and life were derailed

her ~ when she met Ray...

♦ "I will not be derailed and I will continue to love this life." (Female athlete tears ACL.)

## dervish (activity)

dervish of activity

in the weeks before the election, Milley was a ~

## descend (descend on)

descend on Iowa

candidates ~ ahead of crucial caucus (election)

descend on London

a million tourists will ~ (Olympics)

## descendant (come after / down)

descendants of the (US-backed) mujahedeen

some consider the Taliban the ~

direct descendant

the death penalty is the ~ of lynching

modern descendant

*colatura di alici*, a ~ of ancient Roman fish sauce

♦ "The death penalty is the direct descendant of lynching. It is state-sponsored racism, and we have an opportunity to end this today." (Democratic Delegate Jay Jones of Virginia.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ de- = "down," "down from," "away."

## descent (decline)

descent into alcoholism

she herself began a gradual ~

descent into (pugilistic) dementia

his slow and steady ~ (Mike Quarry)

descent into despair

her public ~ (suicide at MIT)

descent into intolerance

this is a sad milestone on our ~ (murder)

descent into (Webcam) pornography

he described his ~

broadcaster's descent

the ~ into the fever swamps of identity politics (NPR)

public descent

her ~ into despair (suicide at MIT)

slow and steady descent

his ~ into pugilistic dementia (Mike Quarry)

## desecrate (verb)

desecrate (Republican) pieties

both men ~ (Trump / Tucker Carlson)

## desert (verb)

deserted the village for the (big) towns  
his own grown children have ~ (Indonesian Borneo)

deserted him  
his smooth putting stroke ~ ("the yips" / golfing)

## desert (food desert, etc.)

abortion desert  
after leaving a so-called ~, this doctor worries about...

child-care deserts  
about half of Americans live in ~

Contraception Deserts  
America's ~ (NBC Nightly News)

food desert  
~s have little access to fresh food (urban areas)  
~s are poor areas bereft of fresh-food grocers

food-desert  
the ideal store for ~ residents is a chain supermarket

"fresh food deserts"  
nutritious food is hard to find and expensive in ~ (Bronx)

gene deserts  
the '~' unravelling the mysteries of disease  
~ are one of the most perplexing areas of medical science

green desert  
that's a ~, nothing living in it ("rewilding" agriculture)

higher education "deserts"  
13 million people live in ~ (long commutes)

internet deserts  
~ in rural America make it hard for people...

library desert  
countless families live in ~s (no reachable library)

maternity care deserts  
one-third of U.S. counties are ~ (a report)  
'~' force families to relocate for childbirth (rural areas)

news desert  
Youngstown is a ~ (*Daily Vindicator* ceases)  
she tracks ~s (no local news)  
he tried to fight back against the encroaching ~, but...

news "deserts"  
~ are growing (local newspapers go out of business)

'pharmacy deserts'  
~ are the new front in the race to vaccinate (COVID)

transit deserts  
traveling to or from the various "~" (boroughs of NYC)

food and health care deserts  
many people live in so-called ~ (US)

contraceptive deserts  
~, where women don't have access to birth control...

cultural desert  
the third- and fourth-tier cities are no longer ~s

dental desert  
~, where there is little or no access to NHS care (U.K.)  
the area is known as a ~ (NHS care / UK)

digital deserts  
rural communities are stuck in ~ (broadband)

♦ "Gene deserts, swathes of the genome that initially appeared to contain nothing of relevance..." (David Cox, BBC.)

♦ "Also tonight, the issue of contraceptive deserts, places where any women don't have enough access to birth control. According to a reproductive rights non-profit..." (NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, November 1st, 2024. On the eve of the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "We don't want what's referred to as 'cold spots' where some courses are just not available to students." (U.K. education. In the U.S., it's more likely this would be referred to as a desert.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ It did not take long after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, leaving it to each state to determine its policy, for the term "abortion desert" to appear.

♦ "Food desert. It's a term I've used myself..." ("Let's Stop Using Metaphors that Celebrate Extraction, Colonialism, and Violence: Earth, Justice, and Our Classrooms" by Bill Bigelow, *Rethinking Schools*, Fall, 2022, Volume 37, No. 1.)

♦ For quotes about deserts, see *desert (environment)*.

## desert (environment)

turning huge swathes of rainforest into desert  
the illegal gold mining is ~ (Peru)

### \*\*\* the Nafud desert, the Sahara, the Taklamakan, etc.

♦ "The view from the highest range of these dunes, the Hills of the Singing Sands, is unforgettable. Dawn is the best time to climb: the sky (like the lake) is invariably crystal-clear, the robin's egg blue of early morning. The lower dunes rise and fall and glitter, immense sharp-sculptured waves of pale yellow crystal, as far as it is possible to see. The sun rises fast over a white-hot horizon. To the west, toward the trackless wastes of the Taklamakan and Lop deserts, all is still dark, but cloudless, and the summits of the distant dunes are tricked out with gold as the sun catches their edges." (*The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ "The living glow of the desert dawn wrapped a blue turban around the mountain's lofty peak" (From *Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

♦ "The green was heaven's gift in the desert." (A desert pasture with fodder for a camel. From *Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

♦ "In the desert, the soul empties and clears and becomes free and brave in the process. And so it enables you to defy the endless open space, challenge the horizon, and explore the emptiness that leads beyond the horizon, beyond the desert void. It invites you to face the other world, the hereafter. It was here, only here, in the labyrinths of never-ending desert plains, that the extremes converge—open expanse, horizon, and desolation—to form a firmament that expands outward, toward eternity, toward the afterlife." (*Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni. The desert plays a central role in the three Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.)

♦ "This processional way greater than imagination." (Wadi Rumm. *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Chapter LXII, by T.E. Lawrence.)

♦ "Two days later an old man came into our camp. He was limping, and even by Bedu standards he looked poor... The Rashid pressed forward to greet him... I wondered at the warmth of their greetings... Bin Kabina said to me: 'Once he was one of the richest men of the tribe, now he has nothing except a few goats... His generosity ruined him. No one ever came to his tents but he killed a camel to feed them. By God, he is generous!'" (*Arabian Sands* by Wilfred Thesiger.)

♦ "The Bait Kathir prayed at dawn. A little later, I would hear bell-like notes as someone pounded coffee in a brass mortar, varying his

stroke to produce the semblance of a tune..." (*Arabian Sands* by Wilfred Thesiger.)

♦ "I know the desert well, / The night, the mounted men. / The battle and the sword, / The paper and the pen." (Mutanabbi.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Food desert. It's a term I've used myself..." ("Let's Stop Using Metaphors that Celebrate Extraction, Colonialism, and Violence: Earth, Justice, and Our Classrooms" by Bill Bigelow, *Rethinking Schools*, Fall, 2022, Volume 37, No. 1.)

## despair (groups)

despair

let us not forget the ~ we have felt (Michele Obama)

climate despair

"5 ways to deal with ~" (Angela Haupt, *TIME*)

joy, despair and anxiety

"Teens share the ~ of college admissions on TikTok"

♦ "Forget climate anxiety: many people are in flat-out climate distress..." ("5 ways to deal with climate despair" by Angela Haupt, *TIME*, February 26, 2024.)

♦ "But, as we embrace this renewed sense of hope, let us not forget the despair we have felt, let us not forget what we are up against." (Michele Obama at the 2024 DNC.)

### \*\*\* the Siege of Leningrad...

♦ "The mental adjustment took longer. It was a continual surprise to encounter no queues at food shops—'like a man who braces himself to pick up a heavy suitcase,' wrote Ginzburg, 'and finds it empty.' The words 'I'm hungry,' recently so charged with desperation and despair, only slowly reverted to their old function of expressing an ordinary desire for lunch." (*Leningrad* by the great writer Anna Reid.)

♦ see also *grief* (groups)

## destabilize (verb)

upend and destabilize

sports podcasts often ~ stereotypes about black athletes

## destabilizing (adjective)

destabilizing effects

Michael Goldhaber warned of the attention economy's ~

destabilizing standoff

US officials scrambled to defuse the ~ (in Iraq)

## destigmatize (groups)

destigmatize being lonely

Gen Zers are doing their best to ~ by talking about it

destigmatize (mental) illness

a crisis hotline, a campaign to ~... (veterans)

destigmatize periods

free bleeding trend is positive because it helps ~

clarify and destigmatize

my goal was to help ~ autism (Julia / Sesame Street)

## destigmatized (groups)

destigmatized

it should be ~ (nonmonogamous)

♦ "Bakhtiari said that too often stories like theirs will come out 'in a scandal.' / 'But we're openly showing it and proud of it,' Bakhtiari, 34, said during a video interview, as Brown and Al-Khayyal sat on either side. 'It should be destigmatized. It's a very valid familial structure that people should embrace.'" ("Georgia lawmaker comes out as nonmonogamous: 'I'm in love with two wonderful people'" by Jo Yurcaba, NBC, Sept. 28, 2022.)

## destroy (emotion)

destroyed him

it just ~, he would melt down in my office (death of father)

## destroy (verb / accomplishment)

destroyed the course

she ~ (a skier who skied brilliantly)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## detached (emotions)

completely detached

emotionally I was ~ (denial)

## detangle (verb)

detangle from technology

our lives are impossible to ~

## detective (person)

detectives

editors are gatekeepers, not ~ (fraudulent studies)

armchair detective

an ~ is a fictional character who solves crimes

Kar is the typical ~ (a murder investigation)

the ~s out there on social media (a quadruple murder)

~s who had read the story ("In the Footsteps of a Killer")

~s and internet sleuths are sharing their own theories

~s and keyboard warriors piled on (Nicola Bulley case)

keyboard detectives

~ might disagree with me (a murder case)

## dethrone (verb)

dethrone New Zealand

they produced a fine performance to ~ (rugby)

dethroned Anthony Joshua

he ~ with an incredible performance (Usyk)

dethrone the champs

this is the start of their quest to ~ (NBA)

dethrone (cultural) gatekeepers

the digerati effort to ~ (Web)

dethrone the king

Yildirim will be attempting to ~ (Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez)

## dethroned

outboxed and dethroned



Taylor had been ~ in his own backyard (still got decision)

## detonate (verb)

detonated (national) outrage  
the manner of his killing ~ (hate crime)

primed to detonate  
the film was ~ this weekend (open)

ready to detonate  
a blast is ~ (the Kyoto Protocol)

self-detonated  
she ~ in 2020 (Kamala Harris runs for president)

## detonator (noun)

detonator  
that letter was the ~ (a relationship)

♦ "She was handling unstable explosives, and that letter was the detonator." (A relationship.)

## detour (noun)

inexplicable detour  
to me, it's an ~ that your life took...

♦ "To me, it's an inexplicable detour that your life took." (A musician works as a currency trader.)

## detox (and detoxification, etc.)

digital detox  
CEO Marc Benioff took a 10-day '~' (on Polynesian resort)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to a BBC article, the term "digital detox" first occurred in 2010. Related terms and phrases in that article included "tech obsession," "tech abstinence," and "detangle from technology."

## Detroit (India's Detroit, etc.)

India's Detroit  
Chennai is ~, an auto-industry hub

## devastated (emotion)

devastated  
everyone was ~

devastated for my teammates  
I'm absolutely gutted, I'm ~ (athlete makes mistake)

## devastating (feeling)

devastating blow  
loss of the coral reefs would be a ~

devastating course  
the cholera epidemic is now waning, having run its ~

devastating incident  
this ~ that happened (police shooting)

devastating rape  
the ~ of Indonesia's forests

devastating turn

and then the case took a ~ (missing woman found murdered)

beyond devastating  
this is ~ (hospitals ban visitors during pandemic)

## devil (Lady Devils, etc.)

*Devil's Playground*  
*The* ~ (book by James Traub / Times Square circa 2004)

Devil Dogs  
leathernecks, jarheads, ~ (U.S. Marines)

Lady Devils  
~ Take 5 Set Win Over Andrews (Bryson City, NC)

Red Devils  
Korea's fans, aptly known as the ~  
the ~ (Manchester United fans)

## devil (Devil's Falls, etc.)

Devils Anvil  
~ Peak is a summit in San Diego County, California

Devil's Backbone  
the road is called El Espinazo del Diablo—the ~...

Devil's Backbone  
the ~ on the Great North Road (Sydney)

Devil's Bridge  
~ Trail (Sedona, Arizona)

Devils Cauldron  
the ~ is an area in Monterey County, California

Devils Cauldron  
the ~ is a bay in Tillamook County, Oregon

Devils Cauldron  
the ~ is a bay in Ashland County, Wisconsin

Devil's Courthouse  
the first person to climb ~ (a rock outcropping)

Devil's Elbow  
the ~ trail parallels the river (Panthertown, NC)

Devils Eye  
the ~ is an arch in Washington State

Devil's Falls  
~ (Wales)

"Devil's Glacier"  
as the ~ it remains to this day on the maps (Antarctica)

Devil's Gulch  
the family was found dead in the ~ area of the forest

Devils Gut  
the ~ is a gut in Martin County, North Carolina

Devil's Highway  
the ~ (a 5-turn section on bobsled track)

Devil's Highway

the ~ runs between Yuma and Ajo, Arizona

#### Devils Hole

the ~ (both a cave and a North Sea undersea feature)

#### Devil's Home

the ~ (a stony hill / Udehé)

#### Devils Horn

~ is a summit in Yakima County, Washington State

#### Devils Neck

the ~, a cape on the Cache River, Woodruff Co.,  
Arkansas

#### Devils Nest

~ is a swamp in Bladen County, North Carolina  
~ is a summit in Richland County, North Dakota  
~ is a summit in Mitchell County, North Carolina  
~ is a flat in Mendocino County, California  
~ Creek is a stream in Blount County, Tennessee

#### Devil's Nose

the ~ (a section of the Mokelumne River)

#### Devils Nose

~ is a cape in Monroe County, New York  
~ is a summit in Calaveras County, California  
~ is a summit in Hawkins County, Tennessee  
~ is a cliff in Sauk County, Wisconsin  
~ is a ridge in Morgan County, West Virginia

#### Devil's Path

the ~ (bleak desert terrain in the Southwest of the US)

#### Devils Prong

the ~ is a stream in Macon County, North Carolina

#### Devil's Pulpit

the ~ (an outcrop in a gorge)

#### Devils Pulpit

~ is a cliff in Calloway County, Kentucky  
~ is a pillar in Washinton County, New York  
~ is a pillar in Carbon County, Pennsylvania  
~ is a bend in Contra Costa County, California  
~ is a summit in Hood River County, Oregon  
~ is a summit in Shoshone County, Idaho  
~ Historical Rock is a pillar in Jasper County, Georgia

#### Devil's Staircase

the ~ Wilderness is named after a waterfall (Oregon)

#### Devils Stairs

the ~ are rapids in Curry County, Oregon

#### Devils Table

~ is a summit in California

#### Devils Table

~ Rock is a summit in Montana

#### Devil's Throat

~ is a must (Iguazu Falls)

#### Devils Throat

~ is a crater in Hawaii County, Hawaii

#### Devils Throne

~ is a summit in Idaho

#### Devils Thumb

the ~ is a striking summit on the Alaska-BC border  
the NW face of the ~ has never been climbed  
the NW face of the ~ rises from the Witches Cauldron  
the NW face of the ~ is 6,700 feet

#### Devil's Thumb

are pets allowed at ~ Ranch Resort & Spa (Colorado)

#### Devils Tower

~, the otherworldly butte in northwest Wyoming

#### Devils Turnip Patch

the ~ is a flat in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

#### Little Devils Table

the ~ is a summit in Elko County, Nevada

#### Big Devils Table

the ~ is a flat in Elko County, Nevada

#### Espinazo del Diablo

El ~ (the Devil's Backbone, a road in Durango, Mexico)

#### Majlis al Jinn

the ~ (the assembly of the devils, a cave in Oman)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ There are Devil's Backbones in New Zealand, Ireland and South Africa.

♦ "Devils Elbows" are all over the place. They are mainly bends in rivers.

♦ It seems as though almost every physical part of the devil and all of his accoutrements and appurtenances and impedimenta can be found... in the earth's topography!

♦ You may be an atheist, or a product of the enlightenment in which the devil no longer exists. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

♦ see also hell (Hell's Gate, etc.)

### devil (behavior)

#### devil

he can be a real ~ at times (a toddler)

#### comma-shaped devils

a man-killing dose of those ~ (cholera microbes)

### devil (deal with the devil)

#### devil's bargain

the ~ was that...

#### make a deal with the devil

you want something so badly you're willing to ~

♦ "The devil's half of the bargain was that Siegfried & Roy could become the grandest version of themselves only by surrounding themselves with the instruments of their potential destruction." (From "The Original Tiger Kings: The Improbable Rise And Savage Fall Of Siegfried & Roy" by Chris Jones and Michael J. Mooney, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. Roy was famously mauled by the tiger he and Siegfried called Mantecore.)

### devil (evil)

#### devil personified

he was the ~ (a serial killer of women)

Japanese devils

one of the other ~ saw my baby brother... (Nanking 1937)  
the ~ kept making incursions into the Safety Zone

♦ "One of the other Japanese devils saw my baby brother bawling on the ground, went over and skewered him clean through the buttocks with the bayonet, then picked him up and tossed him away." (The brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*.)

## devotee (person)

devotee of (a particular) theory  
he's no ~ (a coach)

orchid devotees  
as other ~ will attest...

trout fishing devotees  
~ worship Snowbird Creek (Graham County NC)

## devour (devour the classics, etc.)

devoured these books  
I ~ (on mountaineering and travel / Heinrich Harrer)

devoured the classics  
I ~

devoured *Dracula*  
he had ~ by the age of five

devoured these films  
this generation of adults ~ as children (Disney)

devoured (HG Wells') *War of the Worlds*  
as a child, Brunner ~ (the writer)

devour Christie's work  
readers continue to ~ (Agatha Christie)

devoured them  
he stumbled onto books and completely ~ (Melville)

## devour (destroy)

devoured hundreds of acres  
the fire ~

devoured 20,000 buildings  
the fire ~ (Great Chicago Fire of 1871)

devoured a pine forest  
a wall of fire ~ and threatened villages (the Gironde)

## devoured (by an emotion, etc.)

devoured by anxiety  
she is ~ when she's not working (magazine editor)

devoured by guilt  
Caldwell was ~ (the climber Tommy Caldwell)

## diabolical (adjective)

diabolical  
gamification is thoughtless at best and ~ at worst

## diagnosis (noun)

diagnosis  
the ~ is wrong, and the prescription is malpractice

diagnosis for America's ills  
it has made equality a ~ (the Democratic Party)

American diagnosis  
they share the ~ but not the prescription (Quad nations)

## dial down (and dial back)

dial it back  
don't drink every day, ~ (alcohol)

dial back the craziness  
it's time to ~ a notch...

dial back arrests, incarcerations  
we need to ~ (reform)

dial down the rancor  
we need to ~

dial down speculation  
they reviewed the investigation in an attempt to ~

refused to dial down  
he has ~ his wolf-warrior diplomacy

♦ "Two months ago, it seemed that authorities were going to dial back the craziness of the Everest season a notch or two. It's turning into the contrary. More helicopters than ever are soaring about Everest Base Camp, the Khumbu Icefall and even toward the Valley of Silence, which is no longer so silent." ("Drones, More Helicopters Than Ever Buzz Over Everest Skies" by the reliable reporter Angela Benavides, Explorersweb, April 29, 2024. Helicopters are lifting supplies to Camp 2.)

## dialed in

dialed in  
if he gets back ~, he can help his team (troubled athlete)

♦ "I mean, this is like a nine-year-old girl who's like super dialed in, knows Clark's game, the family's watching games together..." (NPR's sports correspondent Becky Sullivan about a girl named "Autumn" who likes and is inspired by the WNBA's Caitlin Clark. Like, cute!)

## dialed up (increased)

dialed (way) up  
it was a Trump rally, but it was ~

♦ "Well, it was a Trump rally, but it was dialed waaay up in intensity." (NPR's political correspondent Danielle Kurtzleben, electioneering for Kamala Harris during the 2024 U.S. presidential election on National Public Radio. Kurtzleben describes herself as "a real piece of work" and "absolutely a girlboss.")

## dialogue (global dialogue, etc.)

global dialogue  
we are hoping to change the ~ around mental health

## dial up (increase)

dialed up (violent) rhetoric  
Democrats ~ against Trump before assassination attempt

dial it up to eleven  
you see an effort to ~ every night (media "rage inflation")

## dial up (order)

dial up more passing plays  
why didn't Klint Kubiak ~ (NFL game)

## diarrhea (and diarrhoea / speech)

### verbal diarrhoea

the constant ~ from the know it alls (commentators)

♦ "Can we have a mute button on the commentators please. Lets just listen to the crowd and normal match noise you get. Why do we have to listen to the constant verbal diarrhoea from the know it alls." (An online BBC HYS commenter about the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup.)

## dice (noun)

### roll of the dice

publishing is a constant ~, a gamble

it's a ~, I suppose (correctly controlling development)

### throw of the dice

the substitution was a late ~ (soccer)

### roll the dice

the Air Force is going to ~ (new plane)

okay, if you want to ~, go ahead (take the chance)

we're going to ~ and see what happens

you know I like to ~, but this is going too far

I don't think we should ~ and take that risk

every time we go out, you ~, it's life or death (*Hurt Locker*)

♦ "Macron's decision to call the snap election elicited shock and cliches: he was playing with fire, rolling the dice, holding a gun to the country's head." ("The Battle For France" by Lauren Collins, *The New Yorker*, December 16, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A lady doesn't leave her escort: / It isn't fair, it isn't nice. / A lady doesn't wander all over the room / And blow on some other guy's dice." (Frank Sinatra sings "Luck Be A Lady.")

## Dickensian (adjective)

### Dickensian character

he was a ~, a poor immigrant adopted, then rejected

### Dickensian childhood

his ~ may have fueled his ambition (poverty)

she survived a ~

### Dickensian poverty

she lived in ~

### Dickensian (rags-to-riches) story

the film is a ~

### Dickensian tenements

he rose out of the city's ~ (India)

### Dickensian times

these are ~ indeed (class and class mobility)

### Dickensian world

a ~ of haves and have-nots

### Dickensian warehouses

its orphanages became famous as ~ (Romania)

♦ "It's a hard-knock life for us / it's a hard-knock life for us..." (The wildly successful musical *Annie*, based on the 1885 poem by James Whitcomb Riley, known as "the Hoosier Poet." Everyone involved in the production and audience gets to go home and eat what they want.)

♦ "This adaptation feels staler than Miss Havisham's wedding cake." (Cute writing by Hollie Richardson about Steven Knight's TV adaptation of *Great Expectations*.)

♦ "Today the book reads unevenly and, in a strange way, un-Dickensianly. It billows, it sags, it contracts suddenly to a point of diamond hardness..." ("David Copperfield's Wild Ride: Armando Iannucci's mad, loving, and brilliant adaptation of Dickens's novel" by James Parker, *The Atlantic*, September 2020. James: please go immediately to your doctor and have yourself checked out for Mad Hatter's disease. James Parker is *not* George Parker.)

♦ "Please sir, can we have no more: NYC must nail ringleaders behind 'Oliver Twist' child Thieves." (A *New York Post* editorial, 2023. Cute writing.)

### \*\*\* "Then children began to die..."

♦ "Then children began to die. / The processions over the mountain were long at first, and sometimes two and three a day. Then they grew shorter, and the hymns fewer, for the people had no strength. / July, August, September, October. / November. / The cold was on us and the snow was thick in the very first week. People were burning wood, and some of the men went down to the colliery to get coal and were stopped by the watchmen, but they took no notice and loaded up. Next morning, police came by brake and went to live in the lamp house. Two men who were caught were taken over the mountain and had six months in jail. So those who had no money for coal went up on the mountain for wood, and since all the people in other valleys were looking for wood, there was soon no wood to be had, except standing trees. But they were green and not to be lit by anything but a fire. / More and more children were dying, and now women were dying, and men. No more were coffins built by Clydach. A sheet had to do, and did. / Two, three, and four families went into one house to eat and have warmth together. Windows were boarded to keep out cold. Even Mr. Gruffydd had trouble to keep the men from a riot, and going down to the colliery and killing the police..." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn. The Welsh coal miners were on strike.)

## dictate (verb)

### dictated (just) one course of action

military logic ~

### dictate the narrative

we will not let Trump ~ (politics)

## did (emphasizer)

### did do

what she ~ was use her instincts to...

Oh, we ~ something...

what our editors ~ was remind colleagues...

the company did do some inappropriate things

even if you ~ everything right, it still wouldn't matter

### did need

but we ~ to slow the process down (politics)

but we ~ to understand that the legacy of...

### did want

did you think that they really ~ to hear from you

but I ~ to let you know that...

so I ~ to do big stunts

one of the reason why I ~ to write this book was because...

the tweet confirmed that he ~ to see some change...

but I ~ to ask you about North Korea because I think...

I know it can't be easy, but I ~ to ask you about the night...

### did feel like

see *feel like* (*feels like*, *felt like*)

did kind of  
see *kind of* (*contempo-speak*)

did really  
see *really* (*gushing*)

did so  
see *so* (*gushing*)

did sort of  
see *sort of* (*contempo-speak*)

actually did  
it ~ make a huge difference in the world of...  
the group ~ serve meals to underserved kids...  
time to reflect on what jobs they ~ want  
she ~ not pick up the sport until...  
he ~ believe in something

definitely did  
the program ~ influence the way that I approach art and...  
he ~ say the “i-word” (“indict” or “indicted”)  
I ~ take a few minutes pause to think about that...  
she ~ not want to call the police  
he ~ encourage me  
we ~ not stick to our original itinerary

kind of did  
actually, they ~ make a movie of Rick Ankiel...

really did  
I ~ do a school project on Sasquatch (NPR host)

really, really did  
and they ~ share, nearly 100 wonderful responses...

actually really did  
the CFPB ~ lead the charge here... (consumer protection)

♦ “We had to create a space that was more of a neutral zone, where I wasn’t always accusing him and feeling angry and he wasn’t always feeling like I didn’t appreciate what he did do, because men do do work...” (“Did do.” “Do do.”)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Do” and “does” and “did” as emphasizeers provide yet a further way to emphasize, or gush.

♦ see also *do* (*emphasizer*), *does* (*emphasizer*)

## die (hyperbole)

dying to meet him  
I’m just ~

die from boredom  
we were just about ready to ~

dying back here  
can we turn up the AC, I’m ~ (car)

died laughing  
I nearly ~

innovate or die  
“~” has long been the mantra in the computer world

♦ “Another frequent request was that slow walkers die a slow and painful death.” (New York City sidewalk etiquette. Perhaps not figurative.)

## die (non-human)

die  
the fire would not ~ (civil rights)  
where do statues go when they ~ (cancel culture)

Die  
*How Democracies* ~ (by Steven Levitsky, Harvard U.)

died  
the rumors never ~ (of marital infidelity)

dies  
no good thing ever ~ (*Shawshank Redemption*)

died in France  
*Alfie* ~ (the film *Alfie*, which did not do well in France)

dying at a rate of 2 each week  
US newspapers are ~

die hard  
dreams ~  
old habits ~  
race-based voting traditions ~ here

DEI is dying  
~, as big companies wake up... (Rikki Schlott)

dreams die  
~ hard

flirting is dying  
I think ~ (Gen Z)

habits die  
old ~ hard

project died  
the ~ before it got off the ground

traditions die  
race-based voting ~ hard here

come to die  
Washington, D.C. is a city where ideas ~

go to die  
South Georgia is where many big icebergs ~  
it’s a graveyard where all good things ~ (US Senate)  
the hidden life of garbage and where old PCs ~  
this is where huge ships ~ (Indian scrap yards)  
this is where championships ~ (football / Iowa)

goes to die  
Florida is the place where woke goes to die (Ron DeSantis)

needs to die  
the phrase “people of color” ~ (Damon Young)

seemed (to many people) to be dying  
New York in 1968 ~ (crime, closed theaters, etc.)

♦ “Every time a language dies, it’s the equivalent of a bomb being dropped on the Louvre.” (The linguist Lera Boroditsky, attributing the quote or sentiment to the linguist Ken Hale. This sounds very much like “When an old man dies, a library burns to the ground.” A variation is “When an elder dies.” And that is generally attributed as “African.”)

♦ "I think flirting is dying. If someone thinks you're cute, they just ask for your Instagram these days and then DM you or swipe up on your story to show they're interested." (Nikki Sanjongo, 24, Los Angeles. Heard on NBC news.)

♦ "The balance beam is where Russia's gold medal hopes have gone to die in recent years." (Commentary about the Tokyo Olympics.)

♦ "You know, the cowboy in me just ain't gonna die." (A 92-year-old black ex-rodeo rider.)

♦ "Soldiers who die are taken to a holding area, where they are made to do manual labor to underscore the point that dying is never fun." (Military training.)

♦ "Internet Explorer, the love-to-hate-it web browser, has died at 26."

♦ "Why the #DiedSuddenly movement must die."

♦ "DEI is dying, as big companies wake up to an obvious truth: Dividing people divides people." ("Walmart ditches DEI, because, duh, dividing people doesn't bring them closer together," by Rikki Schlott, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 26, 2024.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. "I'll tell you a funny thing about [the 1966 film] *Alfie*. Well, I had a very close friend who was a Frenchman. And *Alfie* died in France, it was the only place in the world where it died. And I said to this very close French friend of mine, *Alfie* died in France, you know. He said I know it did. I said why do you think that is, and he said no Frenchman could believe that an Englishman could seduce ten women." (The great actor Michael Caine speaking about the 1966 film *Alfie*. From "TimesTalks: Michael Caine: Five Favorite Films, The New York Times" on YouTube. The sentence, "*Alfie* died in France, it was the only place in the world where it died," must present quite a problem in natural language processing!)

\*\*\* a riddle...

♦ "When I eat, I live. When I drink, I die. What am I?"

\*\*\* "It is very hard to die in a modern ICU..."

♦ "It is very hard to die in a modern ICU [intensive-care unit] these days. This can make it harder for families to accept that there is no chance a fatally ill patient will recover." (End of life issues, "pulling the plug," religion, ethnicities, health-care costs, etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Cattle die / Friends die / Thou thyself shalt die / I know a thing / That never dies / Judgement over the dead

## die (the die is cast, etc.)

die is cast

there is nothing more, the ~ (eve of battle)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "*Dice*, of course is the plural and *die* the singular form of the word for those little cubes that are used in games... Even today hundreds of loaded dice, be they clay, wood, or bone, are still being dug out of Roman ruins." (*Word Origins and their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 18, "Your Favorite Sports and Their Word Histories.")

## die down (verb)

hype dies down

once the media ~ (elections)

opposition has not died down

~ (Chechnya)

wind had died down

the ~

gunfire died down

after the ~...

eventually died down

the uproar ~ (dismissal of coach)

## die out (end)

fire is dying out

we've used up all our wood, and the ~

faded or died out

knowledge of the language has ~ (Cherokee)

## diet (noun)

diet of him

none of us wanted a steady ~ (a dominant golfer)

diet of left hooks and right hands

he fed Mayorga a steady ~ (De La Hoya)

media diet

the questionnaire focused on each juror's ~ (trial)

social-media diet

how to manage your ~ (Life Kit / Mayowa Aina)

steady diet

none of us wanted a ~ of him (a dominant golfer)

fed on a (steady) diet

we are ~ of gruesome news (terrorism, etc.)

fed Mayorga a (steady) diet

he ~ of left hooks and right hands (De La Hoya)

served up a steady diet

evangelists ~ of jargon stew (the Ethereal Summit)

♦ "If it means swallowing some humble pie, and it means eating some of your words, I can't think of a more excellent diet." (Prime Minister David Cameron, on his coalition government formed with the Liberal Democrats.)

♦ "In the course of my life I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet." (Winston Churchill about the volte-face in his attitude to Nehru, from dislike to complete approval.)

♦ Man U have been force-fed their fair share of humble pie and it's done them good. Now, as a neutral, I see their recovery under Ten Hag. Good for them (A commenter on a BBC HYS.)

## dig (search for)

dig deep

see *dig deep* (determination)

dig deep

see *dig deep* (analysis)

digging for (more) information

we are ~ (TV news story)

dig beneath the surface

documentaries are the ideal way to ~ of sports

## dig deep (determination)

dig deep

they had the determination to ~, overcome adversity...

dug deep

Italy was less than perfect, but Mancini's side ~ (soccer)

dig deep to avoid

they had to ~ a heavy defeat (Wales / Euro 2020)



♦ "I don't think Beterbiev has ever had to dig as deep as he's had to dig tonight." (A commentator after the exciting Beterbiev versus Yarde boxing match.)

## dig deep (analysis)

dig deeper

~ (command to a detective)

dig (a little) deeper

as we ~, we discover...

dig deep into the story

in this series we ~ of his senseless murder (podcast)

dug deep into the science

he has ~ of spices

## digest (verb)

digest the facts

it was hard to ~

digesting the news

veterans are still ~ that all troops will leave Afghanistan

hard to digest

her decline is still ~ (GBM)

fully digest

it will take some time to ~ (Fury loses to Usyk)

♦ "How do you think this will be processed going forward, how do you think what has happened will you know sort of be metabolized?" (NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro. From "'Jewish Telegraphic Agency' Commemorates Members Of the Community Lost to COVID-19," NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020.)

## digestible (adjective)

digestible form

he did a good job distilling the big issue into a ~ (debate)

## dig in (verb)

digging in

he is ~ (embattled leader)

he is firing back and his legal team is ~

♦ "He likes to fight, he digs in, and he doesn't give up." (The billionaire activist investor Bill Ackman.)

## dig into (verb)

dug into actions

investigators ~ and uncovered crimes

digs (deep) into their lives

he ~ until they... (TV therapist Phil McGraw)

dig into a word's history

it's fun to ~ (etymology)

dug into the community's past

residents ~ (local history)

dig into this

now to ~ more... (talk show)

♦ "You know what, we need to dig in a little bit deeper, so this year we decided to go underneath the covers and peel back some of the layers." (Megan Bigelow, about a survey of Portland, Oregon women in technology.)

## dignity (groups)

dignity of work

job-shaming and the ~ (celebs in menial jobs)

right to dignity

the Palestinian people's ~ and self-determination

peace and safety and dignity

these people deserved to live lives of ~ (war dead)

self-esteem and dignity

dealing with attacks on their ~ (stereotypes, etc.)

♦ "I also spoke with President Abbas, the Palestinian Authority and reiterated that the United States remains committed to the Palestinian people's right to dignity and to self-determination. The actions of Hamas terrorists don't take that right away." (President Biden's address to the nation from the Oval Office on Thursday, October 19, 2023.)

♦ "A shared project, a sense of dignity, and a sense of agency goes a long way in motivating vulnerable populations..." ("Israel Could Lose" by Jon B. Alterman, csis.org, November 7, 2023. Notice the employment of the contempo-speak buzzwords "dignity," "agency," and vulnerable.")

♦ "As someone who truly lives the politics of human dignity..." (Chaedria LaBouvier. From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Dignity" is NOT mentioned in the U.S. Declaration of Independence or the U.S. Constitution, or in the Pledge of Allegiance. The contemporary usage of "dignity" as a human right seems to stem from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. See the Wikipedia article "Dignity." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ "Old age ain't for sissies."

## dig out (verb)

dig our way out of this problem

we must think how we will ~

dug herself out of the hole

she finally ~ (financial)

## dig through (verb)

digs through (bargain) bins

he ~ for rare music tapes

dig through my crates

I'm gonna ~ for your old funky tapes

dug through the (old case) files

he ~ (police)

dug through a pile of (shiny) rocks

they ~ at a gem stand

## dig up (verb)

digs up documents from Web sites

she ~

dug up (a lot of) information at the library

I ~

dug up this citation from an old magazine

he has ~

dig it up

it's the past, it's buried, we don't want to ~ again

## **diluted (weakened)**

heavily diluted

calls for his power to be ~ (Zuckerberg of Facebook)

## **dim (decline)**

hope is dimming

I imagine that ~ (survivors in collapsed building)

memories dim

~ over time (criminal cases)

star (of Lucy Lunsford) dimmed

how the ~

## **dim (the dim past, etc.)**

dim and distant

the ~ past

## **dim (overshadow)**

dim the event

every year some crisis threatens to ~ (awards show)

## **dim (hope, etc.)**

hope dimmed

~ for two lost, injured whales (swam upriver)

hope dimming

is your ~ as you watch things play out

optimism dimmed

their ~ fairly quickly (government watchdogs)

## **din (attention)**

add their voice to the din

students are eager to ~ (campus sex policies)

heard above the din

she is doing her best to be ~ (running for president)

you don't get ~ by arguing politely or with ambivalence

♦ "Was this that? Where is that conversation right now? I mean in this particular moment... Okay! How come?... Shore... What does that look like?" (NPR.)

♦ "This is it's so funny just because I mean literally yesterday you were doing..." (The Gayly Prophet podcast.)

♦ "Like everything else with the state's case and investigation, it's full of sound and fury, but signifying nothing." (The lawyer for Hannah Gutierrez-Reed. He also referred to a "Star Chamber.")

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "[Life] is a tale / told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, / signifying nothing." (*Macbeth* by Shakespeare.)

## **dinosaur (noun)**

dinosaur

pull those old ~s from the shed (retro rodeo / kayaking)

many like to argue that libraries are ~s (WRONG!)

the network news anchormen are ~s

we're ~s (rely on old technology)

it's a ~, a concrete monster (an old sports stadium)

she thinks I'm a ~, which I am, I guess (generations)

they said I was behind the times, a ~ (early critic of...)

DVDs are really ~s (Netflix ends DVDs by mail)

dinosaur comment

it's a ~ (Eddie Hearn about something Bob Arum said)

dinosaur feminist

I'm sounding like a ~, but...

dinosaur mentality

he has a ~ (Michail Antonio about Roy Keane)

dinosaur radios

those ~ (the German military / SEM 80-90)

dinosaur times

we met during ~ on Yahoo Groups

footballing dinosaur

fans call him a ~ (Coach Allegri / Juventus / poor tactics)

walking dinosaur

it's like I'm a really cute ~ (older actor Lucy Lawless)

called the (downtown) landmarks dinosaurs

the mayor has ~

go the way of the dinosaur

frats and sororities should ~ (yet another hazing death)

remain a dinosaur

times change, you either ~ or move with the times

(boxing)

viewed the (conventional) machines as dinosaurs

they ~ that would soon be rendered extinct

♦ "It's clear that there are still a few crusty old misogynists clinging on. St Barnabas Church would surely be a much better place if it had a woman priest. Some of the local people who have left might return, but we now see that the dinosaurs have won yet again." ("Male only vicar job advert 'misogynistic,'" BBC, 27 September 2018.)

♦ "Behind dusty oaken doors / six robed dinosaurs / conspired to wage a holy war / over our bodies." (Reina del Cid's "My Country 'Tis of Thee (Land of Inequity).") From "5 protest songs that have taken on new meaning post-Roe" by Ari Shapiro, Noah Caldwell, Jonaki Mehta, NPR, Music, July 2, 2022.)

♦ "As I'm becoming more and more of a dinosaur in this league at 31 years old, I've got to do every little thing I can to get the ball to go just a little bit farther." (Baltimore Ravens kicker Justin Tucker, about his record 66 yard field goal. He took an extra step or two back to get more power.)

♦ "Sunny and Elizabeth viewed [that lab's] conventional machines as dinosaurs that would soon be rendered extinct by Therasos's revolutionary technology, so they called it 'Jurassic Park.'" (*Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou.)

♦ "And I mean it's also embarrassing to German soldiers if they are coming to an exercise or into common missions with armed forces of other NATO countries and ours are coming with those dinosaur radios." (SEM 80—90 German military radios in 2023. A 1980s analog radio system, not digital, not encrypted.)

### **\*\*\* "We're really in a golden age of dinosaurs..."**

♦ "We're really in a golden age of dinosaurs." (Finding new species, computer modeling, theories about dinosaur behavior based on birds, shows like *Prehistoric Planet* with David Attenborough, etc.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "For a group of reptiles that went extinct 65 million years ago, dinosaurs are really good at staying in the news."

♦ "Birds can be seen as evidence that the dinosaurs have not become extinct."

## dip (decrease)

dip  
temperatures should start to ~ by the end of the week

## dip (a route can dip)

dipped southeastward  
the route ~ through the Dzungarian Gap

## dip (noun)

dip in (American) deaths  
after a ~ last spring, fatalities are rising

## diplomacy (noun)

model of diplomacy  
a woman who had been a ~ began to cry

politeness and diplomacy  
~ are often the enemies of action (vs. being rude)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "DIPLOMACY, n. The patriotic art of lying for one's country." (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## diplomat (noun)

best diplomat  
sport is the ~ we have (Qatar hosts event)

## diplomatic (adjective)

more diplomatic  
you should have been ~

## direction (in every direction)

lurks in every direction  
danger ~

## direction (a new direction, etc.)

in another direction  
I'm going ~

in a new direction  
a study that takes stress research ~

## direction (the right / wrong direction, etc.)

in a bad direction  
their fears demographic changes are heading ~ (U.S.)

in the right direction  
they are going ~  
they are heading ~ (a company)  
the talks are moving ~ (negotiations)  
the trends are moving ~  
we're moving ~ (research on brain tumors)  
I trust you will get the team pointed ~  
from what I hear, it's a step ~  
the decision is a small step ~

in the wrong direction  
this is a step ~  
Washington is headed ~ (politics)  
70 percent of the public believes the country is heading ~  
they are going ~ (a losing sports team)  
Washington is headed ~ (politics)  
he was a 1st-round draft pick heading ~ (performance)  
the numbers are heading ~

## direction (course / on a course)

direction of (scientific) research  
who determines the ~

direction of his life  
he wanted to change the ~

direction in their lives  
those who lack purpose and ~

future direction  
China's ~

in a direction of hope, unity, conviction  
he said he would take Britain ~, and common purpose

change the direction  
he wanted to ~ of his life

determines the direction  
who ~ of scientific research

follow the direction  
the investigation will ~ the evidence leads...

led you in that direction  
and what ~ to start writing (an actor)

take Britain in a direction  
he would ~ of hope, unity, conviction, and...

take Britain in a historic new direction  
we will ~ (elections)

## direction (purpose)

purpose and direction  
those who lack ~ in their lives

## direction (symbol)

directions  
~ are historically metaphors

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The cardinal points are always, historically, metaphors. West is the area of promise for Westerners—follow the sun. The allure of the north—it's the gate to Heaven, as native people say. The fear of the south starts with Captain Cook. The east is always behind you, you know where you came from." (The photographer Thomas Joshua Cooper, from "The Ends of the Earth" by Dana Goodyear, *The New Yorker*, October 7, 2019.)

### \*\*\* north

♦ "As the sky breaks open its fans around him, and shimmers / And into its northern gates he rises / Snarling, complete, in the joy of a weasel..." ("For the Last Wolverine" by James Dickey. A beautiful description of the aurora borealis.)

♦ "Gog and Magog were generally located in the extreme north." (Early maps, based on the Bible.)

♦ "The destination, and the real north of life is that you're here only for a short time." (The Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro.)

♦ "He painted the North as a promised land." (Robert Sengstacke Abbott of the *Chicago Defender*.)

♦ see also *north* (*numbers*)

### \*\*\* south

♦ "I'm goin' way down south... / Way down to Mexico way... / Ain't no hangman gonna / He ain't gonna put a rope around me..." ("The Jimi Hendrix Experience—Hey Joe (1967)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUPifXX0foU>)

♦ see also *south* (*numbers*), *south* (*go south, etc.*)

### \*\*\* east

♦ "The East signified luck to the ancient soothsayers; the sunrise represented life and the beginning of things. These old time prophets judged the future by the flight of birds. If the sacred birds flew east when the priests released them from their cages, it meant good fortune. This superstition was taken over by the Christians [in the architecture of early churches]. In these ancient Roman augurs, however, if the sacred birds happened to fly west it presaged disaster, for the early fathers associated the setting sun with death and destruction." (*Word Origins and their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ "With the morning came the minatory prayers, the hoarse clanging bells and the procession westward along the busiest streets of London, from Newgate to Tyburn, the present site of Marble Arch. Each condemned man sat in the cart facing the rising sun, with a noose bound to his chest." (*The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding* by Robert Hughes.)

### \*\*\* west

♦ "Why care for these dead bodies? They really have no friends but the worms or fishes. Their owners were coming to the New World, as Columbus and the Pilgrims... I saw their empty hulks that came to land; but they themselves, meanwhile, were cast upon some shore yet further west, toward which we are all tending, and which we shall reach at last..." ("The Shipwreck" by Henry David Thoreau, writing about the Irish immigrant ship *St. John*.)

♦ "It's a mile to your objective now, but it's a mile of thrills... A one-pounder in a hedge scares you with several well-placed shots before it 'goes west' [is destroyed]." (A member of a tank crew in World War I.)

♦ "The Montana doctor, McCray, had tried to find a serum to guard his fellow citizens and one morning woke up with bloodshot eyes and an ache in his bones. In ten days McCray had gone West to join McClintic..." (McCray died, as had McClintic before him. From *Men against Death* by Paul De Kruif.)

♦ "At Annezin, we found everything in confusion. 'We're standing-to—at half an hour's notice for the trenches,' they told us. We packed up hastily, and in a few minutes the whole Battalion was out in the road in fighting order. Our destination was the Hohenzollern Redoubt, new trench maps of which were now issued to us. The men seemed in high spirits, even the survivors of the show: singing to the accompaniment of an accordion and a penny-whistle. But once, when a 'mad-minute' of artillery noise began, they stopped and looked at each. / 'That's the charge,' Sergeant Townsend said sententiously. 'Many good fellows going west at this moment; maybe chums of ours.'" (*Good-bye to All That* by Robert Graves. World War I. The Western Front.)

♦ "Things have changed so much since Sicily. Too many pals gone West... Pray God we get a decent break. We need it worse than you could ever know..." (*And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat. World War II. Italy. The Moro River.)

♦ "New York's two greatest rivers, the Hudson and the Mohawk, join about a mile below the falls of the latter, at Cohoes... / Rather than river's end, let this be, for us, river's beginning. Men have always looked upstream when they came to the Mohawk, for upstream was west. Let us head west, then, with that low-lying barge, the *Seneca*, heavy with gasoline, as it climbs the first water-stairs on its way to ports on the Great Lakes." (*The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop.)

♦ "Go West, young man." (For opportunity, and to satisfy America's Manifest destiny. Attributed to Horace Greeley. See the Wikipedia article "Go West, young man." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

♦ see also *west* (*go west / obsolete*)

### \*\*\* a riddle...

♦ I walk east, west, north and south / I have a tongue, but I don't have a mouth. What am I? (Answer: a pair of boots.)

## dirt (worthless)

dirt

his name is ~ in the journalism world (disgraced)

## dirt (political dirt, etc.)

political dirt

this is top-grade ~

dig up dirt

he hired a firm to ~ on his accusers and reporter

reveal some dirt

critics hoped the report would ~ on the President (politics)

sought political dirt

he ~ from a foreign source (politics)

## dirty (dirty people, etc.)

dirty human being

he's a great competitor but just a ~

♦ "He's a great competitor but just a dirty human being." (The MMA fighter Leon Edwards about Colby Covington, after Covington's "trash talk" got too personal. Edwards would go on to defeat Covington in the ring.)

## dirty (dirty energy, etc.)

dirty coal

we need clean energy, not ~

dirty money

how easy it is to hide ~ in the UK (Pandora Papers)  
it's hard to separate ~ from clean money (sports)

dirty truth

the ~ is that they are... (social-media companies)

♦ "Boxing is a very dirty business, the sport can be full of broken promises." (The boxer Savannah Marshall.)

## dirty (behavior)

dirty player

he is not a ~ (an NFL teammate about a dirty player)

dirty tricks

Democrats have always had double standards over ~

dirty war

in the 1970s, Argentina fought a "~" against subversion

"dirty war"

the ~ in Northern Ireland (English against the IRA)

done so dirty

he was ~ in how he was smeared...

get dirty

we're all in the mud and have to ~ (intelligence)

playing dirty

he is ~ (a politician)

some online retailers are ~ (fake negative reviews)

## dirty (sex)

dirty

what she did was ~ (sex)

♦ "[Ben] Bolch on Monday wrote on social media that he 'failed miserably' with his choice of words and he wanted to sincerely apologize to the LSU and UCLA programs. The piece referred to UCLA as 'America's sweethearts' and 'milk and cookies.' Conversely, it referred to LSU as 'dirty debutantes' and 'Louisiana hot sauce.' Bolch said he tried to be clever with alliteration but didn't understand at the time how the connotations were deeply offense." ("LA Times edits column and apologizes after drawing the ire of LSU coach Kim Mulkey" by Thomas Schlachter, CNN, April 1, 2024. The article quotes Mulkey, "Take your phone out right now and google 'dirty debutantes' and tell me what it says. 'Dirty debutantes?' Are you kidding me?" The original article was entitled, "UCLA-LSU is America's sweethearts versus its basketball villains." The offending parts of the article have been erased.)

## dirty (dirty word)

dirty word

Obama has made *profit* seem like a ~

♦ "'We are gonna show f-king AIPAC the power of the motherf-king South Bronx,' the potty-mouthed congressman said." (The eloquent New York Representative Jamall Bowman rallying his base. "Don't let the door hit you on the way out.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Rude words are a constant, but their ability to cause offense is in flux."

## dirty laundry

dirty laundry

the divorce is over with no ~ being aired...

aired a lot of the group's dirty laundry

the bankruptcy trial ~

exposed some of our dirty laundry

this video ~, as Latinos (colorism)

hung their dirty laundry out to dry

he dug into their claims and ~

sorting through (weeks of) dirty laundry

Depp-Heard jury still ~

♦ "*Dirty Laundry* (on Dropout), a dishy game where groups of friends have to guess each other's dirty little secrets." (Lily Du.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Don't air your dirty laundry" is an internet meme.

## disappear (from the scene, etc.)

disappear

you turn 35, and you ~ (Doree Shafrir, author)

disappeared

taco trucks ~ (gentrification)

disappeared into obscurity

he ~, he just faded away... (L.A.'s William Mulholland)

disappeared into (relative) obscurity

the group ~ the following year

disappeared from online learning

students who ~ (during the COVID pandemic)

disappeared from the limelight

after the success of those films, he largely ~

disappeared from the scene

accused of plagiarism, he ~ (composer Osvaldo Golijov)

## disappear (extinction)

disappeared

since 1970, roughly 30% of North American birds have ~

## disappear (oppression)

disappearing into prisons

many of those arrested are ~ (Nicaragua /

incommunicado)

## disappear (oppression / transitive verb)

disappeared (six of) the opposition candidates

he has ~ (Daniel Ortega)

## disappear (as transitive verb)

disappear the bruises

just eating the nice parts of the apple doesn't ~

disappear problems

prisons do not ~, they disappear human beings

disappear race

dark-washing characters won't ~ (Namwali Serpell)

♦ "Just eating the nice parts of the apple doesn't disappear the bruises." (An article by Raven Smith at *Vogue* about the murder of the 16-year-old transgender girl Brianna Ghey in England. Raven Smith has been described as "the UK's wittiest millennial writer." Watch "Raven Smith reads from RAVEN SMITH'S MEN—live at Hay Festival Tales 2022.")

♦ "Prisons do not disappear problems, they disappear human beings. And the practice of disappearing vast numbers of people from poor, immigrant, and racially marginalized communities has literally become big business." (Prison abolitionist Angela Davis, distinguished professor emerita at UC Santa Cruz. From "History Is A Weapon: Masked Racism: Reflections on the Prison Industrial Complex.")

♦ "Dark-washing characters won't disappear race, nor will believing that brown kids are our future. / Yet this kind of magical thinking will no doubt continue to meet with success in an era obsessed with the conviction that we are all in a moment of racial reckoning." ("A World Without White People: Mohsin Hamid's empty parable of race transformation" by Namwali Serpell, *The Atlantic*, September 2022. A negative review of *The Last White Man*. Serpell gives a superb inventory of works relating to the "tradition of stories about race transformation" going back to 1931, yet astonishingly leaves out *Black Like Me* (1961). Namwali Serpell is an English professor at Harvard.)

♦ "By the time he walked away, the man had already disappeared two of the shrimp and was about to get to work on the quesadilla." ("The Iceman" by Emma Cline, *The New Yorker*, August 23, 2021.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Prisons do not disappear problems, they disappear human beings." (A T-shirt, available for sale on the internet.)

## disappearance (oppression)

Involuntary Disappearances

the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or ~

murders and disappearances

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "One day Larisa Feodorovna went out and did not come back. She must have been arrested in the street at that time. She vanished without a trace and probably died somewhere, forgotten as a nameless number on a list that afterwards got mislaid, in one of the innumerable mixed or women's concentration camps in the north." (*Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ Female BBC reader: "Huge crowds have gathered at the notorious Sednaya Prison near Damascus, a day after the toppling of President Assad, to try and find evidence of loved ones who went missing under the former regime. Thousands of prisoners were released from the jail by rebels yesterday, but former inmates have suggested other detainees were still locked in secret underground cells. The hopes of anxious relatives appear to have been dashed by the Syrian campaign group The Association for the Detainees and the Missing, which said it had found the entire complex to be empty. Our correspondent Barbara Plett-Usher has spent the day at the prison." / Barbara Plett-Usher: "Outside Sednaya Prison, everyone has a desperate story to tell of loved ones jailed for years. With the fall of the regime, thousands of people are taking the chance to find those who are still missing... Rebels freed thousands of prisoners here on their march to Damascus, but many people believe others are still trapped in underground cells. There's a search underway to try to find them. (Sounds of shouting.) We squeezed through the door into the prison on a surge of excitement. For a moment, they thought they had made a discovery, but it was a false alarm. They're searching the bowels of the prison, looking for tunnels that lead to hidden cells. Many are convinced an underground prison exists..." (BBC Six O'Clock News, 09/12/2024.)



since cholera appeared in Haiti in October of 2010, it's been rampant in Cite Soleil." ("Can Vaccines Break Cholera's Deadly Hold on Haiti," by Robert Siegel, NPR, All Things Considered, February 7, 2012.)

♦ "Los Angeles—The hepatitis A outbreak in California that has claimed 17 lives may not have peaked and could take a year or more to abate, health officials said Thursday. / The contagious, liver-damaging illness has infected at least 568 people since November, mainly in San Diego, Santa Cruz and Los Angeles counties. / People without symptoms can carry the illness, and health officials suspect that transients in San Diego County spread it through other homeless populations around the state... / Hepatitis A spreads when someone comes in contact with an infected person's feces—sometimes when hands are not properly washed after going to the bathroom or by changing diapers. The virus can then spread through food, objects, sex or sharing drug paraphernalia... / Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable disease. Health officials say the most effective way to fight the contagious liver disease is by vaccinating at-risk populations, which include first responders, food handlers, health care professionals, service workers who interact with the homeless, workers in substance abuse programs and public transit employees, CBS affiliate KFMB reports." ("California's hepatitis A outbreak may linger for years, experts say," October 6, 2017.)

♦ "Initially the word *disease* was introduced to try to force open the doors of hospitals and otherwise get medical treatment for people with addiction... The term is messy." (Carl Erik Fisher, author of *The Urge: A History of Addiction*, a memoir and history. From "The Urge" says calling addiction a disease is misleading," Jeevika Verma, NPR, Morning Edition, January 20, 2022.)

## disease (enthusiasm)

disease

it's a bit of a ~ (Jay Leno about collecting cars)

sickness for flight

his wife accused him of having a ~ (Mark Stucky)

♦ "When Jay Leno was 19, he showed up at a mechanic shop in his hometown of Boston and started doing odd jobs. After 3 days, the manager realized Leno wasn't on the payroll and hired him. Now that he is rich and famous, he owns so many cars, he has lost count... The comedian's motor pool consists of about 105 cars, plus 85 motorcycles, he guesses... They include a hot rod built around a V12 tank engine. 'I take my Model T to work all the time,' he said. 'I enjoy the pursuit of the unusual driving experience. It's a bit of a disease.'"

## diseased

fundamentally diseased

the tax code is ~

## disequilibrium (noun)

fallen into disequilibrium

academic publishing has ~ and needs a new approach

## dish (revenge is a dish best served cold)

dish

revenge is a ~ best served cold

♦ A rich, stupid city man insulted a Bedouin. Twenty years later, the Bedouin wiped the man's blood from his dagger, thinking regretfully, "Why was I in such a hurry to kill him?"

♦ "It must be understood that neither by word nor deed had I given Fortunato cause to doubt my good will. I continued, as was my wont, to smile in his face, and he did not perceive that my smile now was at the thought of his immolation." ("The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe. A just-as-creepy-and-nefarious contemporary version is Thomas McGuane's short story, "Balloons.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "If you dig a hole for your brother, you will fall down in it." (Said in Saudi Arabia, about revenge.)

♦ He who seeks revenge digs two graves.

## dish (gossip / verb)

dish family secrets

she continues to ~ (a "celebrity")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary lists this usage as "informal, slang."

♦ Gossiping and lying go together.

## dish out (verb)

dished out abuse to the children

nuns ~

dishes out advice to millions

she ~ of people

dished out a beating to Margarito

Pacquiao ~ (boxing)

dished out (ice-cold) revenge on his enemies

he ~ (a media magnate)

## disinfect (verb)

disinfect the computers

French police were able to ~ (a global pirate botnet)

## disinfectant (noun)

disinfectant of public scrutiny

gangs operate where the ~ struggles to reach (poor areas)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Sunlight is the best disinfectant."

## disintegrate (verb)

families have disintegrated

~ (as jobs have moved out of area)

marriage had disintegrated

evidence indicated that their ~

respect is disintegrating

when human ~ (the song "Eve of Destruction")

began to disintegrate

as Enron's house of cards ~ (bankrupt company)

## disintegration

disintegration of authority

the ~, courtesy and the English language (email, etc.)

## dismantle (verb)

dismantle (legal and de facto) discrimination

the government should ~

dismantled the (social) safety net

he ~ (Pinochet / Chile)

dismantle the old order

he hopes to use EU membership to ~

dismantle the (terrorist) threat

a campaign to identify, disrupt and ~

dismantle the ‘strong Black woman’ trope  
Black women are working to ~

identify, disrupt and dismantle  
a campaign to ~ the terrorist threat

## **dismember (verb)**

dismember Turkey  
a nation taught of how the West tried to ~

## **dismembered**

dismembered into a scattered collection  
the Byzantine empire was ~ of states and colonies

♦ “The Byzantine empire was dismembered into a scattered collection of Frankish states and Italian colonies.”

## **dismemberment (noun)**

dismemberment of the Chinese nation  
the treaty would begin the ~ (1842 Treaty of Nanking)

## **Disneyland**

NOT Disneyland  
Venice is ~ (Italian mayor about surfers on canals)

calls the record a “Black Disneyland”  
he ~ (Terrace Martin / *Drones*)

see it as (just) this Disneyland  
they ~ that’s there for their enjoyment and pleasure (Bali)

turn this site into Disneyland  
we as a royal commission will never ~ (Elijah’s Hill)

♦ “Sometimes foreigners don’t completely understand that Bali is still a home for people. They see it as just this Disneyland that’s there for their enjoyment and their pleasure.”

♦ “It is an extremely important place, not a playground or theme park like Disneyland.” (Sammy Wilson about Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.)

\*\*\* an outbreak of measles traced to Disneyland...

♦ “Ninety-five people are now confirmed to have come down with the measles, part of a growing outbreak that originated at Disneyland [in California].”

## **dispirited (adjective)**

dispirited voters  
many ~ stayed home

## **dissect (verb)**

dissected the Patriots with his arm and mind  
he surgically ~ (Aaron Rodgers / New York Jets)

dissected the case  
she ~ in a book (a murder)

dissected his sound  
I really ~ (a singer)

dissect every rumor  
blogs are always ready to ~

dissecting, analyzing  
we are ~ the blood-testing company Theranos

surgically dissected  
he ~ the Patriots (Aaron Rodgers of the New York Jets)

research and dissect  
the hosts ~ someone’s leap into stardom (*Who? Weekly*)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, people simply analyzed the results. Nowadays, people autopsy, biopsy, dissect, vivisection, or hold a post mortem. Take your pick!

## **dissection (noun)**

Pauline Kael’s dissection  
~ was fully up to her usual standards (a negative review)

## **dissolve (verb)**

dissolve into anarchy  
celebration could ~ (Gaza)

dissolves into predictability  
the movie’s unpolished charm ~

## **dissolve (break up)**

dissolved in a wave of dissension  
the team ~ (World Cup soccer)

## **dissolve (fade away)**

culture dissolved  
the hunting ~ and many Sami became settlers

## **dissolve (emotions)**

dissolved into tears  
when his Mom tried to leave, he ~ (toddler)

## **dissolve (terminate)**

dissolve her marriage  
a judge may ~ (Islam)

dissolve Parliament  
he is considering giving himself the power to ~

dissolved the system  
in 1993 Yeltsin ~ of village councils

## **dissolved (ended)**

have her marriage dissolved  
she has the right to ~ (Muslim ruling)

## **dissonance (noun)**

cognitive dissonance  
see *cognitive dissonance*

## **distance (verb)**

distance himself from (unpopular) restrictions  
he tried to ~ on abortion (first Trump-Harris debate)

distanced themselves from him  
colleges have ~ (college admissions fraud)

distanced themselves from the star  
companies and organizations have ~ (Morgan Waller)

## distance (noun)

distance between the two sides  
the ~ is so great that... (politics)

no distance  
there is ~ between us (in our opinions)

## distance (feeling)

emotional distance  
his ~ has caused problems

## distance (time)

distance of time  
when I think of Bombay now, at this ~...  
she can joke about it with the ~

at this distance  
~, one cannot say... (a historian)

in the distance  
climate change is a reality, it's not off ~...

♦ "Climate change is a reality, it's not off in the distance or faraway future, it's happening right now, all around us where we live."

## distance (go the distance)

go the distance  
they just couldn't imagine that he could ~ (Trump / 2016)

## distant (feeling)

distant father  
she didn't get support, love or acceptances from her ~

grown distant  
she hand her son had ~

## distant (past)

distant America  
rare film is a glimpse of a ~ (*Daughter of Dawn* 1920)

distant dream  
retiring at 60 has become a ~

not-so-distant history  
the ~ of radio jingles

## distant (future)

distant future  
see *future (in the future)*, *future (in the distant future)*

seems distant  
a deal ~ (politics)

## distant (separation)

distant from our everyday experience  
climate change seems ~

## distant (relationship)

distant cousin  
she is a ~

## distant (a distant second, etc.)

distant second  
Biden was a ~ in Nevada (electoral election)

## distaste (noun)

distaste for such associations  
he has a ~

## distill (verb)

distill the big issue into a digestible form  
he was able to ~ (a politician at a debate)

## distress (mental, etc.)

distress or despair  
if you are experiencing ~ and need support...

mother's distress  
I did not understand my ~ (a child)

economic distress  
people are mired in ~

environmental distress  
~ (gold mining, oil extraction, etc.)

fiscal distress  
accounting obscured the depth of its ~ (hospital)

mental distress  
we develop new language around ~ (Project LETS)

moral distress  
I didn't know it, but I was experiencing ~ (a doctor)  
~ and moral injury were first used in a military setting...  
~ explains feelings of guilt, sadness and defeat (healthcare)

deep financial distress  
she was in ~ (a court-appointed private lawyer)

anguish and distress  
~ plays to the gallery (aggrieved groups)

chaos, distress and horror  
psychiatric hospitals, referred to as snake pits for their ~...

fear and distress and anger  
terrorists know that headlines sow ~

harm or distress  
we had no intention to cause any ~ (BBC apology / gays)

♦ "I am distressed and disappointed with the tenor of this conversation."

♦ "We deeply regret the distress that this has caused." (Allegedly homophobic comments by a speaker.)

♦ "Distressed bear cub rescued after its head was trapped in a plastic container."

♦ OLD: debt... / NEW: financial distress...

\*\*\* a child's point of view,,,

♦ "There were far-going Arab dhows on the pearly waters, and gaily dressed Parsees wading out to worship the sunset. Of their creed I knew nothing, nor did I know that near our little house on the Bombay Esplanade were the Towers of Silence, where their Dead are

exposed to the waiting vultures on the rim of the towers, who scuffle and spread wings when they see the bearers of the Dead below. I did not understand my mother's distress when she found 'a child's hand' in our garden, and said I was not to ask questions about it. I wanted to see that child's hand." (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling, which he wrote "Looking back from this my seventieth year." At the time, he was a boy of perhaps four, in 1869.)

♦ "On the whole...young children between five and thirteen really seemed to enjoy air-raid nights. They were full of excitement, and you would take them out of bed wrapped in blankets and give them unexpected meals. It was a little grim when one knew the reality to hear from infant lips, 'Oh, Daddy, I do hope there'll be an air-raid to-night.'" (*Queer People* by Basil Thomson, head of the Criminal Investigation Department at Scotland Yard. World War I.)

♦ The covers of *The New Yorker* Magazine are *always* wonderful and inciteful, and the cover of the June 24, 2024 magazine is no exception. It shows two carefree adults, walking along the sidewalk enjoying life and acting like kids. In front of them is a brown-haired pre-pubescent girl, looking care-worn and distressed. ("Eternal Youth." by Adrian Tomine.)

### \*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ "In *Between Us: How Cultures Create Emotions* (Norton), the Dutch psychologist Batja Mesquita describes her puzzlement, before arriving in the United States, at the use of the English word *distress*. Was it 'closer to the Dutch *angst* (anxious/afraid),' she wondered, 'or closer to the Dutch *verdriet/wanhoop* (sadness/despair)?' It took her time to feel at home with the word..." ("Affective Disorder: Some psychologists contend that our emotions are culturally specific. How should we feel about that?" by Nikhil Krishnan, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Every horror that could make war hideous attended this retreat; distress, conflagration, death in all modes... And the spirit of cruelty smote even the brute creation, for the French general, to lessen incumbrances, ordered beasts of burden to be destroyed, and the inhuman fellow charged with the execution hamstrung 500 asses, and left them to starve. They were found so by the British; and the mute, sad, deep expression of grief and pain visible in the poor creatures' looks excited a strange fury in the soldiers—no quarter would have been given at that time..." (Napier on combat against the French in 1811 on the Iberian Peninsula. Quoted in *British Battles on Land and Sea*.)

♦ "After weeks of incessant but minor cannonading, the grand attack was made on the 13th of September, 1782... / By evening the ship cannonade began to slacken; rockets, as signals of distress, were seen soaring into the air, while boats were rowed about the disabled men-of-war, in which our artillery must have made the most dreadful havoc, for, during the short intervals of cessation, a strong, indistinct clamour, the mingled sound of groans, and cries, and shrieks, came floating upward to the ears of the garrison... (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

♦ "Eternal Father, strong to save, / Whose arm hath bound the restless wave, / Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep / Its own appointed limits keep; / O hear us when we cry to Thee, / For those in peril on the sea." (The Navy Hymn. See the Wikipedia article "Eternal Father, Strong to Save.")

♦ See the Wikipedia article "SOS."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to the Wikipedia article, the term "moral distress" originated in the 1980s in reference to health-care workers. Through "concept inflation" or "co-option," the construct has since been applied to soldiers, police, firefighters, EMTs, legal defenders and lawyers, people in child and adult protective services, and even to veterinarians, leading inevitably to the construct's disparagement: "moral injury Olympics."

♦ In the old days, ships foundering at sea or being blown onto a rocky coast were in distress. Nowadays, *anyone* can feel distress, for *any* reason. A pair of *jeans* can be distressed.

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## ditch (remove, get rid of, etc.)

ditch the "woke" policy

Microsoft is the latest major company to ~ (DEI)

## ditch (stuck in a ditch, etc.)

stuck in a ditch

while our students are ~, the world is moving ahead

get out of the ditch

we're just spinning our wheels, hoping to ~ (war)

pull the government out of the ditch

he seeks to ~ (a politician)

## diva (person)

diva behaviour

critics branded her decision "~" (a tennis player)

diva role

she chose to perform her ~ to the hilt (celebrity trial)

talented but troubled diva

the ~ wore out his welcome (football player)

called the player a "diva"

Bruce Arians ~ (Antonio Brown)

## dive (analyze)

diving into the details

she has been ~ of the bill

dive deep

see *dive deep (analysis)*

♦ "NPR Congressional correspondent Kelsey Snell has been diving deep in the details of the bill, she has resurfaced, and she joins us now, 'Hey Kelsey.'" (Mary Louise Kelley, NPR, All Things Considered.)

## dive (noun)

stock market's dive

the ~ proved temporary

## dive (deep dive)

deep dive into how

Megan takes us on a ~ far-right actors (the radical right) for a ~ COVID-19 may have first begun...

deep dive into what

a ~ is known about the coronavirus

NPR takes a ~ the Mueller report reveals...

her new album takes a ~ it means to love (Jill Scott)

deep dive into (plant-focused) diets

his latest cook is a ~

deep dive into everything

"13: A Taylor Swift Fan Podcast" is a ~ Taylor Swift

deep dive into her life

investigators and reporters would be doing a ~ (murdered)

Deep Dive Into The Science

'Invisibilia' Team Takes A ~ Of Desire

monthly deep-dive

BTM takes a ~ behind the scenes of the arts and sciences

do a deep dive

let's ~ right into this (news show)

did a (really) deep dive

these researchers ~ to analyze alcohol consumption

takes a deep dive

OPB Politics Now ~ into the hottest political topics

takes us on a deep dive

Michael ~ into the rallies undertaken by the far right

♦ "The OPB Politics Now podcast offers the inside scoop, in-depth analysis, insight, rousing conversation, and, of course deep dives into the hottest political topics of the week." (Of course!)

♦ "Natalie takes us on a deep dive into... Michael takes us on a deep dive into... Sophie takes us on a deep dive into... Simon takes us on a deep dive into... Ashton takes us on a deep dive into... Ashley takes us on a deep dive into... Julia takes us on a deep dive into... (Right Rising / RR on Stitcher.)

♦ "About 35,000 people tour the mine every year, and Guy-Levar expects pent-up demand to take this deep dive into Minnesota history." ("Deep dive." Get it? From "Underground tours resume at Minnesota's oldest iron mine" by Kaniel Kraker, NPR, Morning Edition June 25, 2024. The Soudan Mine.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ There is a lot of deep-diving and there are a lot of deep dives and deep divers! The overuse shows how a figurative expression can go from novel to cliché to the kind of boilerplate language you might find in a disclaimer or label that is too boring to read. Guests *do deep dives, break down, unpack, discuss, walk us through, give us an overview of, and help us* with their respective topics.

## dive deep (analysis)

dive deep into policy issues

his willingness to ~ (Buttigieg)

dives deep into lives

*The Pioneers* ~ of Northwest Territory settlers

## dive in (verb)

dive (right) in

too many friends just ~ giving advice before...

dove into politics

he ~

dove into peacekeeping

Clinton ~ and failed (diplomacy)

## diverse (groups)

diverse dolls

Mattel has released a range of more ~ (vitiligo Ken, etc.)

neurodiverse

people use the term ~ to recognize the rich differences...

racially and sexually diverse

while the supporting cast is both ~...

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ A hearing aid; a prosthetic limb; a wheelchair; the skin condition vitiligo; transgender; gender neutral; a Barbie doll with Down Syndrome... (New Barbie and Ken Dolls that are more diverse.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "While the supporting cast is both racially and sexually diverse, the characters are sometimes reduced to easy punchlines in a movie that focuses on two gay white cis men..." (Justin Chang's review of the 2022 film *Bros* on Fresh Air.)

♦ "Yanagihara's cast is as carefully diversified as the crew in one of those 1940s wartime bomber movies, however twenty-first-century their anxieties may be... Malcolm is all too obviously present to fill the biracial slot." ("A Whole Lotta Pain" by Daniel Mendelsohn.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "An ineffective, woke, unaccountable military is an affront—at every level—to the young men who actually pull the triggers. Their job gets more difficult, less satisfying, and a lot more chaotic. And then people die, just so Generals and politicians can say that their force is more 'diverse' than ever. Joes know where to point the finger—and it's a middle finger." (Pete Hegseth, author of *The War On Warriors: Behind The Betrayal Of The Men Who Keep Us Free*. In 2024, President-elect Donald Trump selected him to be his Secretary of Defense.)

## diversity (groups)

diversity

we believe now ~ is our superpower (Ed Zelich / Charleroi)

diversity in policing

does ~ address police brutality

diversity problem

the great outdoors has a ~ (*Christian Science Monitor*)

diversity, equity, and inclusion

embed ~ (DEI) more intentionally in TESOL activities

Gender diversity

"~ is welcome here" (sign on Twitter HQ toilets)

model diversity

~ and the ever-changing face of fashion

viewpoint diversity

NPR suffers from the absence of ~ (Uri Berliner)

vulva diversity

society's silence on ~ (writer Ellie Sedgwick)

aural diversity

a Public Editor bemoaned the lack of ~ on NPR (2005)

horizontal diversity

~ lets people in but not necessarily up (at NYT, etc.)

ideological diversity

~ (Democrats *and* Republicans)

linguistic diversity

the benefits of ~ (Francis Blanchette)

appreciate the ~ that surrounds you (Francis Blanchette)

neurodiversity

~ recognizes the rich differences...

she's a 37-year-old ~ coach (autistic and agender)

share your experience of ~ in sport (BBC)

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

this is ~ (BBC Sport)

*Neurodiversity*

*Unmasking Autism: Discovering the New Faces of ~*

vertical diversity

~ lets people rise (vs. simply letting them in)

boxes of (so-called) diversity

there are easy ways to tick the ~ and not critically engage

appreciation for the celebration

messages from people sharing their ~ of vulva diversity

celebration of (vulva) diversity

the ~ (Ellie Sedgwick / *Flip Through My Flaps*)

drive for diversity

the ~ at flagship universities (US)

respect for diversity

build inclusion, belonging, and ~ (Georgetown Law)

reflect diversity

playlists and show lineups that ~ (music)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "We need [a woman in Formula 1], we need diversity. (Caitlyn Jenner.)

♦ "There is a lack of representation of Black people in mountaineering and in high-altitude mountaineering." (Philip Henderson, leader of the Team Full Circle Everest, an American / Kenyan group, in 2022.)

♦ "Bringing diversity to Maine's nearly all-white lobster fleet," NPR, All Things Considered, Sept. 15, 2022.

♦ "Very few architects are Black. This woman is pushing to change that." (By Venessa Romo.)

♦ "Ideological diversity is often a dog whistle for anti-feminist, anti-POC stories about meritocracy." (NPR's CEO Katherine Maher.)

♦ "The screen flashes to five faces. Those invited. All white faces. But the criticism around who got a seat at the table goes a lot deeper than just a lack of diversity." ("Biden's meeting with historians over threats to democracy draws criticism" by Sandhya Dirks, NPR, All Things Considered, Sept. 1, 2022.)

♦ Economic injustice; the fragility of the social contract; white entitlement; indigenous and environmental dispossession; environmental crisis; sexual harassment; rape; cross-cultural irony; racial diversity and identity; her tween self; punk; sorta-bleak; sorta-gross; less loveable; "antics seem designed to alienate the reader"; raw; less compromising; 8-panel orgy of micturition (urinating); depressive; acid; ever-caustic captions; ambiguous characters; grotesque violence; horror; yucky... (Themes and adjectives from "These fall graphic novels reflect the diversity of the genre" by Etelka Lehoczky, NPR, Book Reviews, Oct 1, 2022. Lovely!)

♦ "We believe now diversity is our superpower." (School Superintendent Ed Zelich in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, about Haitian immigrants.)

♦ "I've had thousands of messages from people sharing their appreciation for the celebration of vulva diversity." (Ellie Sedgwick, author of *Flip Through My Flaps: An Exploration of the Vulva*. From "34-year-old reveals sad reason she had 'vulva anxiety'" by Mary Madigan, News.com.au, Nov. 14, 2024. This appeared in *The New York Post*.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "SCIENCE DEMANDS DIVERSITY." (A full-page advertisement in *The Atlantic* (October 2020) for Genentech, A member of the Roche Group. Learn more at: [gene-com/diversity-inclusion](https://www.genentech.com/diversity-inclusion).)

♦ "Barbie knows that representation matters and is committed to continuing to increase diversity across collections, so that more people can see themselves reflected." (The trans Barbie doll, a Barbie doll with a prosthetic limb, the Ken doll with vitiligo, a Barbie doll with Down Syndrome, etc.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I see my company (NPR) trying to better represent America with the voices we put on the air, and I'm looking at my own sourcing, and I get too much credit. Every voice I bring to the airways from India is a

person of color. Check the box, you know. That's diversity from my bosses' point of view. But I'm looking at different types of diversity in India and thinking...caste." (NPR's Lauren Frayer, whose reporting on India has been controversial: "At first glance I thought this was India." She was also a co-host of the culturally insensitive "Love Commandos.")

♦ "The way diversity at Riverdale was being practiced was to diminish people." (A parent who removed his children from the school.)

♦ Appallingly, blatantly, completely, excruciatingly, obviously, overwhelmingly, predictably, ridiculously, shamefully, typically, unbelievably BIASED... (Adverbs for "biased" on a BBC HYS about the women's tennis final at Wimbledon, 2023. One commenter posted, "Czechmate BBC." Another posted, "Well done Marketa / Beat Jabeur, the crowd and the commentators." These commenters detected a bias for Jabeur because she is Muslim. See the following quote.)

♦ "The media (and we all know the leanings) thought this was Christmas / Ons (and none of her fault) ticks almost every diversity box going and the BBC would have been wetting itself in anticipation..." (An online commenter about the defeat of Ons Jabeur by Marketa Vondrousova at Wimbledon 2023.)

♦ "Yanagihara's cast is as carefully diversified as the crew in one of those 1940s wartime bomber movies, however twenty-first-century their anxieties may be... Malcolm is all too obviously present to fill the biracial slot." ("A Whole Lotta Pain" by Daniel Mendelsohn.)

♦ "What is all this talk of diversity when no diversity of opinion is allowed?" ("Woke" universities.)

♦ "I don't want to hear one more peep out of them about diversity, equity, and inclusion. I don't wanna see any more of our C-suite execs recommend books for women's history month. There were tangible actions they could've taken and they chose to perform these values. No thank you." (An underpaid employee with an Asian name who was repeatedly turned down for a raise. She finally applied for her job as a new hire at a higher salary, and her posts went viral.)

♦ "Go woke, go broke." (The Dylan Mulvaney "Bud Light" marketing fiasco.)

♦ "They stand for DEI, which really means division, exclusion, and indoctrination and it is wrong." (Florida Governor Ron DeSantis about Democrats.)

\*\*\* an international perspective

♦ "This points to a unique understanding of plurality of Indian society—it is more like a *thali* (an Indian meal comprising a selection of separate dishes served on a platter), rather than a melting pot." (Neha Sahgal, a lead author of a Pew study that found Indians support religious tolerance *and* religious segregation.)

\*\*\* the Olympics

♦ "The Olympic Games are universal. They stand above all differences that divide us. The Olympic Games unite humanity in all our diversity. In our fragile world, where division, conflict, and mistrust are on the rise, the Olympic Games always build bridges. They never erect walls." (Mr. Thomas Bach OLY, the President of the International Olympic Committee, speaking on October 18, 2021 in Ancient Olympia, Greece, at the marvelous torch-lighting ceremony for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. See YouTube #Beijing2022 Olympic Flame Lighting Ceremony! Beautiful and inspiring during the COVID period. Full credit to China.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Diversity can underwrite many agendas."

♦ "The positive effects of diversity training rarely last beyond a day or two, and a number of studies suggest it can activate bias or spark a backlash." ("Walmart ditches DEI, because, duh, dividing people doesn't bring them closer together," by Rikki Schlott, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 26, 2024.)

♦ "Our strength is *not* in our diversity, but in our unity and in our love for each other, our families, and, most of all, our nation." (Pete Hegseth, author of *The War On Warriors: Behind The Betrayal Of The Men Who Keep Us Free*. In 2024, President-elect Donald Trump selected him to be his Secretary of Defense.)

♦ see also *inclusion (groups)*, *representation (groups)*



## divide (noun)

divide between him and his coaches  
the ~ grew (an athlete)

left-right divide  
another election isn't going to change the ~ (politics)

great divide  
they stood on two sides of a ~ (Old and New Hollywood)

impossible divide  
that may be an ~ to cross

cultural, gender and political divides  
the battle rubbed raw the country's ~ (politics)

generational and ideological divide  
this exposes a ~ (in the Democratic party)

divide (between him and his coaches) grew  
the ~ (an athlete)

bridging the divide  
ballet and baseball are ~ (between Cuba and the US)

bridge the divide  
they want to ~ and find common ground (gun control)

divide to cross  
that may be an impossible ~

\*\*\* Joe Cocker sings "The Great Divide"...

♦ "Nights are long / And the wind is howling down / Into the hollows / Somewhere deep inside / I can hear you calling out / Across the great divide..." (Joe Cocker, "The Great Divide.")

\*\*\* analysis...

♦ "Great divides" are geographical: watersheds; continental divides...

## dividend (pay dividends, etc.)

dividends of peace  
the ~ are all around us (Belfast / Good Friday Agreement)

dividends in good-will  
the new policy is paying ~

huge dividends  
the concept has paid ~ (military uses drones to kill)

political dividends  
his wooing of Jews will pay ~

paying dividends  
the new policy is already ~

paid dividends  
England's pressure ~ when Owen scored (soccer)  
his sacrifices have ~ (a boxer)

## divorce (noun)

divorce  
Brexit was a ~, which was nothing to celebrate

Web divorce  
NBC and Microsoft agreed to an amicable ~

diplomatic divorce  
a trade war could lead to a ~ (US and Canada)

ugly divorce  
the UK and the EU are having an ~

## divorce (verb)

divorced themselves from nature  
cities have ~ (environmentalists)

divorce yourself from the past  
you can't ~ (why a man helped a felon)

## dizzying (adjective)

dizzying (new) evidence  
~ in human evolution provokes debates

dizzying changes  
~ to our understanding (evolution)

dizzying developments  
the ~ in Puerto Rican politics

♦ "This has been the most dizzying, jaw-dropping, eyeball-popping, head-spinning news conference I have ever attended. And I was at Bill Clinton's news conference in 1998 when he faced the press for the first time over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky." (An over-caffeinated John Sopel for the BBC, following a press conference with President Trump on Monday, April 13, 2020. Sopel would make a good sports commentator in the mold of John Madden or Stephen A. Smith.)

## DNA (in the DNA)

in their DNA to dive and moan  
it's almost ~ (soccer snark about Italians)

in the DNA of the country  
conspiracies are ~ (conspiracists)

in the English DNA  
losing is ~ (soccer snark)

in her DNA  
maybe tribalism is just ~ (politics)

in its DNA  
the FBI had politics ~ back to its creation in 1908

in my DNA  
he insisted, "stopping isn't ~" (boxer Anthony Joshua)

in my family DNA  
it's ~, I'm a loyal Democrat (Evan Bayh / politician)

in our DNA  
~, we are a company that builds tech to connect (Meta)

in their DNA  
winning is ~ (Brazilian soccer team)  
challenging death is ~ (Wallenda family)

not in my DNA  
it's ~ (to be the center of attention)

not in our DNA  
surfing is ~, but... (Scottish surfing)

in our DNA or mainstream consciousness

surfing isn't ~ yet, but this is changing (Scotland)

inscribed in our DNA

some places are ~ (Lake Ohrid, the Balkans)

♦ "It's sort of in our genetic makeup if you're from Pueblo." (In Colorado. The Arkansas River flood of 1921.)

♦ "It's in Larry Page's blood and Google's DNA to believe that A.I. is the company's inevitable destiny..." (2017.)

♦ "Surfing isn't in our DNA or mainstream consciousness yet though, but this is changing." (The optimistic Mark Boyd, Scottish surfing champion, about surfing in Scotland. Drizzly fog and mist—smur / smirr. Freezing cold water. Thick wetsuits, to include hoods. Absolutely deserted beaches and coasts. No one else in the lineup. It actually doesn't sound like surfing at all.)

♦ "I love being involved in other people's projects. I never had an urge to be the center of attention, and I still don't. It's not in my DNA." (Jimmy Kimmel, host of his late-night chat show.)

♦ "It's in our DNA, we just have to waken it up." (The Menominee Nation in Wisconsin reintroduces buffalo to the prairie.)

## DNA (other)

nation's DNA

confrontation and conflict are hardwired into the ~ (US)

musical DNA

the depth and complexity of their own ~ (Egypt)

part of your DNA

as a football player, ~ is hard work and effort

share the same DNA

he believes the kitchen and bath industry ~ (House of Rohl)

## do (emphasizer)

do believe

I ~ that what we're dealing with is...

I ~ that book banning is gunna go away...

do decide

we ~ what stories get covered (NPR)

do do

and I ~... that (comedian Sarah Silverman)

but you ~ things interacting with a touchscreen device

there are people who ~ the work (Black representation)

but if you ~ it early these measures work

and they ~ that...

do (naturally) gravitate

we ~ toward...

do know

but I ~ that for a sparkly moment I felt like... (Sophia Bush)

but since we ~ what's happening, it's really really...

do practice

we ~ non-discrimination... (teacher)

do think

but I ~ it's not OK when you... (ingratitude)

you can of course do that but I ~ he needs to know...

do want

what we ~ to underscore is we do need to...

and I ~ to say I actually kind of liked...

do absolutely

see *absolutely* (*contempo-speak*)

do feel like

see *feel like* (*feels like, felt like*)

do kind of

see *kind of* (*contempo-speak*)

do really

see *really* (*gushing*)

do so

see *so* (*gushing*)

do sort of

see *sort of* (*contempo-speak*)

actually do

I ~ believe it is the most important...

I ~ believe it's on the wane

I ~ believe that tomorrow could be better

I ~ want to ask you another question about that (NPR)

things that we ~ want to do... (first do italicized)

actually really do

there are only 3 hours that you ~ need to be in class

people ~ perpetuate the existence of...

I ~ think I could do it (Gillian Flynn)

definitely do

I ~ think that there is a...

kind of do

and I ~ take precautions now...

now, we ~ shape popular culture, but...

really do

some students ~ do better in a smaller environment (gays)

our relationships ~ seem to be more brittle (#toxic)

there are some people who ~ seem to be better at this

the measures ~ seem to be working (NPR punditry)

people ~ seem to be enjoying themselves

people ~ seem friendlier...

I ~ love a lot of these movies (2024 Oscars)

really, really do

but I ~ believe it's passed on (intergenerational trauma)

I ~ value that... (a strong work ethic)

I ~ believe there is a presence there of excellence

if we ~ believe in nonviolence... (Ta-Nehisi Coates)

very much do

tariffs ~ raise profits...

♦ "I think what we do want to underscore is we do need to..." ("Do" as *emphasizer* used twice!)

♦ "We had to create a space that was more of a neutral zone, where I wasn't always accusing him and feeling angry and he wasn't always feeling like I didn't appreciate what he did do, because men do do work..." ("Did do" and "do do.")

♦ "And I do want to say I actually kind of liked the segment because J.Lo has this huge smile on." (= I liked it because she was smiling.)

\*\*\* *analysis*

♦ "Do" and "does" and "did" as *emphasizers* provide yet a further way to *emphasize*, or *gush*.

♦ “Do-do” speech...

♦ see also *does* (*emphasizer*), *did* (*emphasizer*)

## do (do history, etc.)

doing (so-called) crime

people ~ (Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah)

do grammar

if you’re one of those who would rather eat lint than “~”

do hair

how to ~ for Black women

do (intellectual) history

but Claremont doesn’t ~ (Katherine Stewart)

do (speculative) history

I don’t ~ (the writer Erik Larson)

do it

let’s ~...

do (daily) journalism

the *New York Times* taught me how to ~ (in the past)

doing life

she gushed that she loves “~” with him (her husband)

did the meetings

after we ~ (a female)

doing music

you don’t get a lot of him actually ~ (2023 film *Maestro*)

do opinion

the newsroom officially does not ~ (but does at NYT)

do writers’ rooms

they don’t really ~ in the U.K. (Donald Glover explains split with Phoebe Waller-Bridge)

do a shot

come home at three, ~ of whiskey, and fall into bed

do this

let’s ~...

do you

you ~, I do me...

do amazing

I think Vic ~ (one NBA player about another)

do complicated

but the Claremont Institute doesn’t ~ (*The New Republic*)

do big

we don’t just think big, we ~ (an Amazon advertisement)

♦ “If you’re one of those who would rather eat lint than ‘do grammar...’” (*Doing Grammar* by Max Morenberg, Third Edition.)

♦ “Ten Hag does not do hyperbole, but he does do blunt analysis.” (“Aston Villa 1-2 Man Utd: ‘Momentum’ with Red Devils as they hunt down top-four rivals” by Simon Stone, BBC, 11 February 2024.)

♦ “I am ready, let’s do this.” (John Oates at the start of his interview with Jewly Hight. 874 views. And counting...)

♦ LFG... (High-pitched whooping. Women’s soccer.)

♦ “Been doing Cowboy shit all day.” (A T-shirt worn by Taylor Sheridan, on horseback, on the set of *Yellowstone*.)

♦ You do you, I do me... (See the Yale Grammatical Diversity Project in North America.)

## do (let’s do this, etc.)

let’s do it

~...

let’s do this

~...

♦ “Are you ready? Okay. Let’s roll.” (Todd Beamer. See the Wikipedia article “Todd Beamer,” the Wikipedia article “Let’s roll,” and the Wikipedia article “United Airlines Flight 93.” Wikipedians are wonderful.)

♦ Let’s do it; Let’s do this; Just do it; Get at it; get some; let’s rock and roll...

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ If a crowd of strangers is shouting “Do it!” at you....: Don’t. do. it.

## doctored

doctored

the photo has been ~

## dodge (verb)

dodged a (big) bullet

we ~ (hurricane misses refineries)

dodged a question

he also ~ about whether...

dodged the question

Karine Jean-Pierre ~ (White House press secretary)

dodged questions

both candidates ~, reverting to talking points (debate)

dodges questions

he ~ about where he gets his ideas

dodged a long prison term

she ~ (Anita Vestal)

## dodo (noun)

going the way of the dodo

privacy may be ~ (Facebook, government, etc.)

white-male secretaries of state seem to be ~

the dealmakers are ~ (U.S. Congress)

gone the way of the Dodo

pay phones have ~

pension plans have ~

kind of gone the way of the dodo

the notion that we are the indispensable power has ~ (U.S.)

♦ “It’s hard to put into words. To me they are a symbol of strength, endurance and the failure—the absolute failure—to go the way of the dodo bird. They were teetering, but now they’re back.” (Horse Capture Jr, a member of the Aaniiih Tribe, about the bison. From “Big Money Is Building A New Kind Of National Park In The Great Plains” by Nate Hegyi, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, December 8, 2019.)

\*\*\* **the dodo, the Wake Island Rail, the passenger pigeon, Carolina parakeets, the ivory-billed woodpecker...**

♦ “Mauritius is an island... deep in the Indian Ocean, a few hundred miles to the east of Madagascar... Among the strangest creatures on Mauritius was the dodo. Biologically speaking, the dodo was a flightless pigeon—but huge: as big as a modern farmyard turkey, with a great hooked beak, a bewildered expression, and tiny wings and downy chick-like feathers: a singularly daft-looking animal. / So long as Mauritius remained undiscovered and uninhabited, the dodo thrived. But in the fifteenth century, at the start of the great age of discovery, the first European sailors arrived. Passing ships then stopped regularly at Mauritius for fresh water and fresh meat—not least from the giant Mauritius tortoises. The sailors also ate dodos... By 1681—barely two hundred years since the first European ships made landing—the dodos had been exterminated. Indeed, they have become the world’s favorite symbol of extinction: ‘dead as a dodo.’ To be sure, it probably wasn’t the sailors that finished them off. European rats, which ate their eggs, and other creatures that the ships brought with them, including monkeys, probably did the trick.” (*The Tree: A Natural History Of What Trees Are, How They Live, And Why They Matter* by Colin Tudge.)

♦ “This fabulous bird used to visit Michigan in numbers beyond belief... A newspaper reported in 1878 that from three to six tons of birds, plucked and packed in barrels of ice, were shipped south every day... It was a good business while it lasted.... [T]he last passenger pigeon in North America died in its cage in an Ohio zoo.” (*Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood* by the great writer Bruce Catton.)

♦ The small corpses of Carolina parakeets were used whole by milliners to adorn women’s hats. (Last known representative of its species died in February 1918.)

♦ “The Wake Island Rail became a victim of World War II. It was hunted and eaten to extinction after the Japanese forces who occupied this island in 1941 became cut off from the supply route in 1944.” (From the Wikipedia article “Wake Island Rail.”)

♦ “Is the ivory-billed woodpecker extinct?”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Birds can be seen as evidence that the dinosaurs have not become extinct.”

## does (emphasizer)

does do

Ten Hag doesn’t do hyperbole, but he ~ blunt analysis

does have

Rachael ~ a quirky style (breakdancer Rachael Gunn)

does open up

it ~ a conversation because...

does absolutely

see *absolutely (contempo-speak)*

does kind of

see *kind of (contempo-speak)*

does really

see really (*gushing*)

actually does

the act of giving ~ improve your happiness  
but I think it ~ come from a deeply misogynistic tradition  
this is a bill that ~ cut spending (government)  
funny enough, toothpaste ~ less work than you think

actually really does

it ~ work...

it ~ make a difference (Professor Corey Robin)

definitely does

and so it ~ have implications for...

he ~ represent a change of direction for the show

it ~ matter, what do you think

kind of does

it ~ give people this insight into...

it ~ makes sense that you would...

really does

she ~ seem like someone who could...

it ~ seem like a crisis

it ~ seem to matter...

really really does

it ~ sound the alarm (decline in college enrollment)

but sometimes it ~ feel as if the world is at stake...

but his book ~ (enter the realm of spy thrillers)

so Mitt Romney ~ need to... (political punditry)

♦ “Do” and “does” and “did” as emphasizees provide yet a further way to emphasize, or gush.

♦ see also *do (emphasizer)*, *did (emphasizer)*

## dog (afflict)

dog him

his health problems continued to ~

dogged him

asthma has ~all his life (the great boxer Shannon Briggs)

dogged her

her criminal record ~

## dog (dogs of war)

calling up the dogs of war

the US is ~ (against Russia in 2022)

♦ “‘War Dogs’ Cries Havoc And Lets Slip The Dudes Of War,” NPR, Movie Reviews, Mark Jenkins, August 18, 2016. (Clever!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article “The dogs of war (phrase).” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## dog (dogfight)

see *dogfight (noun)*

## dog (big dog)

big dog

I’m the ~ here, whatever I say, goes...

big dogs on Wall Street

I’ve got a performance coach that works with all the ~

♦ “He’s a young puppy, I’m a big dog here, whatever I say, goes.” (Magic Johnson talking trash about Michael Jordan at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The team was famous for its chemistry.)

♦ “Justice will be served and the battle will rage / This big dog will fight when you rattle his cage...” Toby Keith Courtesy Of The Red, White And Blue (The Angry American) (Official Music Video)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Everyone wants to be the big dog.”

## dog (mad dog / epithet)

‘Mad Dog’ Marcio Freire

~ dies in surfing accident in Nazare, Portugal

“Mad Dog” Mattis

General ~ earned his spurs on the battlefield

Jim ~ was fiercely protective of his troops

Zinovy “Mad Dog” Rozhestvensky

Admiral ~ (he had a fiery temper / Russo-Japanese War)

“mad dog of the Middle East”

Reagan called him the ~ (Gadhafi)

♦ “The Mad Dogs challenged the notion of what was possible.” (A tribute to the great Marcio Freire and his group of Brazilian big-wave surfers.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.”

## dog (attack dog)

attack dog

normally the vice-presidential nominee would be the ~

attack dog for the president

he has been an ~

attack dog for the Republicans

he is the ~ on the committee (impeachment trial)

♦ “Norman Tebbit, her minister and loyal Rottweiler...” (For Margaret Thatcher.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “In the Big Rock Candy Mountains, all the cops have wooden legs, and the bulldogs all have rubber teeth, and the hens lay soft-boiled eggs.” (Harry “Haywire Mac” McClintock’s hobo song. Heard in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*)

## dog (insult)

“Dogs!”

~ they yelled at the riot police (protesters)

mad dog

all he is, is a ~ now (ex-marine kills cop)

called him a dog

Chavez had ~ in the week of the fight (boxing)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In certain countries or with certain groups of people, calling someone a dog is a deadly insult.

## dog (sex)

found out he was a dog

I’m glad I ~ (her fiancé)

♦ “Yeah, maybe most guys would take the bait, but the thing is just because a door opens doesn’t mean you have to walk through it.” (A private eye who uses a beautiful woman to entrap husbands and boyfriends. One woman said, “I’m glad I found out he was a dog, I’m gonna pack up my things tomorrow and just leave, I’m giving back the ring, and I can go on with my life.”)

## dog (dog won’t hunt)

dog will hunt

I don’t think that ~ (legal challenge to president)

## dog (dog in the fight)

our dog in the fight is the fair trial

~ for Mister... (prosecutor to judge)

have a dog in the fight

I don’t think you ~ at this point (judge to prosecutor)

he doesn’t ~ (a witness in a trial)

don’t have a dog in this fight

I am neither white or black, so I ~ (reader comment)

♦ “As someone who doesn’t really watch F1 or have a dog in the fight...” (An online commenter about watching the inaugural Las Vegas race. He enjoyed it.)

♦ see also *horse* (*horse in the race*)

## dog (black dog / mental health)

black dog starts howling

I gotta get out before my ~ (madness, not melancholia)

black dog returns

he might be useful to me if the ~ (a German doctor)

fend off the black dog

I am trying to hold on to my senses, to ~ (madness)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The “black dog” is often associated with Winston Churchill. One website claims, “The phrase was later popularized by Winston Churchill, who was often quoted as referring to a ‘black dog’...”

♦ However, Andrew Roberts in his book *Churchill: Walking With Destiny*, downplays the idea that Winston was clinically depressed, much less manic depressive. He mentions that Winston only used the term *once* in his writing. He also explains that the term was “used by Victorian and Edwardian nannies to describe their charges as out of sorts or ill-tempered.”)

♦ “‘Ridley once told me that he has been dogged by deep depression his whole life,’ Sammon said. ‘He calls it “the black dog,” which is what Churchill called it.’” (“Napoleon Complex: Does Ridley Scott see himself in the hero of his epic new film?” by Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*, November 13, 2023.)

## dog-and-pony show (noun)

did a dog-and-pony show

other legislators ~

## dog-eat-dog

dog eat dog

the rag trade was ~, survival of the fittest (clothing)

dog-eat-dog world

in a ~

♦ “The majority of the country doesn’t want to see a dog-eat-dog world where everybody is angry all the time.” (Barack Obama, urging Democrats to preach hope and unity.)

## dogfight (noun)

dog fight

we knew it was going to be a ~ (NBA playoff game)

dogfight

fighter-bombers execute mock ~s

it’s a ~ (competition for market share)

Sergio Aguero scored 64 minutes into the ~ (soccer)

dogfight among experts over the cause

there has been a ~ of the crash

## dogged (hounded)

dogged by accusations

like “Slave Play,” the novel was ~ of sadism (*A Little Life*)

dogged by controversy

the company has been ~ (KBR)

dogged by questions

he is being ~ about whether he... (politics)

dogged by rumors

he has been ~ of drug and alcohol abuse (NASCAR)

he has been ~ of excessive drinking (a politician)

dogged with poor health

he had been ~ his entire life

## dogged (determined)

dogged determination

our ~ sent an important message to our enemies

dogged persistence

justice arrives through ~ (social justice)

dogged (Iraqi) resistance

a day of fierce fighting and ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

## doghouse (in the doghouse, etc.)

Tom's doghouse

Gronkowski fell into ~ (NFL football)

in the doghouse

he's ~ (in trouble with his wife)

in the coach's doghouse

he started out ~ because of weight problems

## dogleg (shape)

dogleg bend

wood with a natural ~ to it (for head of golf club)

dogleg turn

an icy, rutted ~ (downhill skiing)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A dogleg is an abrupt angle or sharp bend. *Dogleg* is also an intransitive verb. Golf courses often have doglegs.

## dogma (noun)

Republican dogma

the plan contains every ~ about political economy

centuries of (medical) dogma

he turned ~ topsy-turvy

trapped by dogma

don't be ~ (Steve Jobs / Apple Computer)

## doldrums (noun)

in the doldrums

a stock market ~ (the 1970s)

in the doldrums of middle age

she strives, ~, to defeat her own disappointment

stuck in the doldrums

the economy is ~

lead us out of the doldrums

it's Obama's job to ~ (poor economy)

mired in the doldrums

we remain ~ (poor economy)

went back into the doldrums

it would break my heart if Wales ~ (2019 Rugby)

\*\*\* the great *retourschepen Batavia*, "one the greatest vessels of her day..."

♦ "By the last days of December the ship had reached the southern limit of the Horse Latitudes, which lay at 25 degrees north. By then, it would appear, the ship was short of either food or, more likely, drinking water, since Pelsaert made the decision to put in at Sierra Leone. Doing so was a violation of the VOC's sailing instructions... / From Sierra Leone, the little fleet put back out into the Atlantic and headed south toward the equator. Here the winds grew less predictable again... If a ship sailed east out of the [safest route], she risked becoming becalmed in the Gulf of Guinea. If she ventured too far west, she would rot in the windless seas off the coast of Brazil... / There was little wind and the weather was blisteringly hot now... Planking warped in the heat, and the sun softened the tar... Wax melted below decks, causing candles to ooze and run... The men wore only loincloths when they had to go below... / It was not until March 1629 that, south of the doldrums at last, Pelsaert's fleet picked up the northeast trade winds..." (*Batavia's Graveyard* by Mike Dash.)

## dollar (million dollar question, etc.)

million dollar question

the ~ is how quickly...

the ~ to me is why...

that's the ~

"million dollar" smile

Lewis was a gentle giant with a ~ (a cop)

♦ "That's the \$100 question, we don't know what happened after she got out of her car." (A police official about the "Carlee Russell disappearance hoax." The low amount might well indicate sarcasm.)

## dollar sign (noun)

dollar signs in their eyes

companies with ~

see \$\$\$ signs

he can only ~ (a boxing promoter)

## dollop (noun)

dollops of envy

I must admit large ~ for both groups (young Obama)

dollop of (international) intrigue

a Picasso, a yacht, and a ~

big dollop

her new album features jazz with a ~ of swing rhythm

delicious dollop

his concern for "disclosure" is a ~ of hypocrisy (politics)

generous dollop

the film adds a ~ of Jack Nicholson

### \*\*\* Khichuri...

♦ "Ma would serve it with a dollop of ghee and some spicy mango pickle and sweet potato fries on the side."

## dom (memedom, etc.)

fandom

the Potter-verse ~ has not dwindled over the years



fiefdom

see *fiefdom* (control)

guydom

Jason Segel explains the mysteries of ~

kingdom

see *kingdom* (control)

memedom

the dog remains immortal in the ~ (Question Hound)

Muscledom

John Grimek, "The Monarch of ~" (the bodybuilder)

officialdom

the presentation gave the accusations the veneer of ~ (UN)

## dome (shape)

granite dome

Half Dome is a ~ (Yosemite National Park)

salt dome

~s can rise to the surface

heat dome

experts are blaming what's known as a ~ (for heatwave)  
the central US is baking in a ~ (2021)

## dome (Iron Dome, etc.)

Iron Dome

many rockets were intercepted by the ~ air-defense system

## dome (Half Dome, etc.)

Castle Dome

~ is a summit in Cochise County, Arizona

Clingmans Dome

~ in Swain County is worth the visit (Great Smokies NP)

Craggy Dome

~ is near Asheville, off the Blue Ridge Parkway

Half Dome

~ is a granite dome (Yosemite National Park)

## domino (domino effect, etc.)

damaging domino effect

a series of minor setbacks created a ~ (suicide)

set off a domino effect

this ~ (economic collapse)

toppled a lot of racist dominoes

it ~ (boycott)

dominos began to fall

the ~ (fallout over athlete's death, firings, etc.)

♦ "The left started the dominoes falling, and now it has no way of stopping them." ("Hands up, don't shoot," "Defund the Police," and increased crime.)

## done (over)

done

after the Battle of the Bulge, the Germans were ~

## done and dusted

done and dusted

I thought the Troubles were ~ (Northern Ireland and Brexit)

another episode ~ and in the can (a podcast)

the game was ~ (but France blew its lead against Swiss)

## Don Juan

Nordic Don Juan

Gran was tall, well-built, flamboyant, a ~

## donkey (insult)

donkey

he's as stubborn as a ~

donkey job

it's a ~

"led by donkeys"

~ is a British expression for incompetent leadership

\*\*\* **"I dislocated my arm while trying to pull a donkey"**

♦ "It is difficult to force or frighten a donkey into doing something it sees as contrary to its own best interest." (A comment on the alleged "stubbornness" of donkeys.)

♦ "Donkeys are often shown in a silly light, as though they're somehow ridiculous."

♦ "They have a hard life and work their entire lives." (Ethiopian donkeys.)

♦ "Without a donkey, my wife and I become the donkeys." (A saying of Ethiopian farmers. Ethiopian women are extraordinarily fond of their donkeys.)

♦ "Modestine [was] a stubborn, manipulative donkey he could never quite master." (From the Wikipedia article "Travel with a Donkey in the Cevennes," which is the title of a work written by Robert Louis Stevenson. Wikipedians are wonderful.)

♦ "I dislocated my arm a few months ago while pulling one of the donkeys." (A stubborn Jordanian at Petra.)

♦ "Neither do I know if it would be right for me to refute such an accusation by following such advice as of becoming a baker, for instance... [I]t would be at the same time a foolish answer resembling more or less the action of a man who, when reproached with cruelty for riding a donkey, immediately dismounted and continued his way with the donkey on his shoulders." (*Dear Theo: the autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh* edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. Nasreddin decided to visit a market in a faraway town. He placed his son on top of his donkey and proceeded. Along the way, he saw a man pointing at him and shouting, "Look at that. That healthy young man is riding while his poor old father walks!" Embarrassed, Nasreddin quickly changed places with his son. But a ways farther, a group of women rebuked Nasreddin. "Why do you ride and make that poor boy walk," one said. Confused, Nasreddin dismounted, and he and his son both walked. A ways farther, a group of people pointed at him, shouted, and laughed. "Look at that!" one person said. "Neither that country man nor the boy has the wit to ride on the back of their donkey!" Nasreddin and his boy immediately mounted the donkey. But a ways farther, an old man rebuked them. "You abuse your poor donkey by both of you riding him and will earn a poor award in Paradise!" he shouted. "One must ride and the other walk!" At the faraway town, the people were astonished when Nasreddin and his son arrived. Both were on foot, hoisting a stout branch between them... from which hung the donkey!

\*\*\* **analysis**

- ♦ Better the ass that carries you than the horse that throws you.
- ♦ It is better be the head of a donkey than the tail of a horse.

## doomed

doomed  
is longhand ~ (handwriting)  
who on earth would want to take this job, it's ~ (Man U)

doomed to fall behind  
they are ~ (certain categories of students)

agenda could be doomed  
the president's climate change ~ (Build Back Better)

## door (Durdle Door, etc.)

Door  
The ~ is a gap in Emery County, Utah

Door County  
~, Wisconsin

Back Door  
~ Gulch is a valley in Fremont County, Colorado  
~ Spring is a spring in Travis County, Texas

Barn Door  
~ Gap is a gap in Strafford County, New Hampshire

Durdle Door  
~, the natural arch on Dorset's Jurassic Coast

Golden Door  
~ Cove is a bay in Mohave County, Arizona

Iron Door  
The ~ is a cape in Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska

Open Door  
The ~ is a pillar in Teton County, Wyoming

Stone Door  
~ is a pillar in Grundy County, Tennessee

White Door  
~ Canyon is a valley in Wasco County, Oregon

♦ According to the Wisconsin Historical Society, "Door County took its name from the straits between the mainland and Washington Island, locally known as Death's Door, a translation from the French voyageur term, 'La Porte des Morts' (the door of the dead)." The waters of the strait could be dangerous. This is one explanation for how Door County got its name.

## door (back door / computer)

backdoor  
a ~ is a little portal into the software (SolarWinds hack)

backdoors to their networks  
private encryption keys are the ~ (tech vs. cops)

## door (behind closed doors)

behind closed doors  
they are conducting business ~ (politics)  
~, without any sunlight whatsoever... (hearings)

♦ "The only way that I have been able to get anything done is behind closed doors, by hoarding favors, by bribing, by wheedling..." (The character played by Donald Sutherland in the great film *Citizen X*.)

## door (closure)

shut its doors  
he notified the charter school that it must ~...  
the processing plant recently ~ (coronavirus cases)

## door (kick open the door, etc.)

kicked open the door  
we've ~ for a...

♦ "We've kicked open the door for a robust thriving cislunar economy in the future. That's compelling." (Steve Altemus, Chief executive officer and co-founder of Intuitive Machines, about its lunar lander, IM-1 / Odysseus / Odie.)

♦ "We have to know that sometimes people will open the door for you and leave it open. Sometimes they won't. And then you need to kick that fucking door down." (The Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris. She cackled, and her audience laughed appreciatively.)

## door (opportunity)

doors of opportunity  
many died opening the ~ (civil rights)  
opening the ~ to all God's children (Martin Luther King)

doors in life  
many ~ open automatically for you when you're rich

open door  
baseball offers a very good ~ for a better life (Latinos)

closes one door  
if God ~, he opens a thousand others (Turkish proverb)

doors (in life) open  
many ~ automatically for you (when you're rich)

knocking at the door  
opportunity is ~ (the boxer Daniel Dubois)

open doors  
going to school will ~ for you  
money tends to ~

opened doors  
it ~ I had never imagined (employment with Ford)

open all doors  
good clothes ~ (a proverb)

opened the door  
it ~ to a decent education for blacks (court decision)  
it ~ to what could be done (penicillin and transplants. etc.)

## door (portal)

doors of the spirit world  
the Shaman's aim is to throw open the ~ (Korea)

opened the door  
he ~ to the rave world for us

## door (back door / front door)

rear door  
I was back in Central Europe, albeit at the very ~ (Transylvania)

“back door” communication  
the Cape Horn Route provided ~ (Japan-Germany WWII)

created back doors  
are the hackers lying in wait, having ~ to come and go

### **door (back door / illegality)**

back door for Russian spying  
Italy has become somewhat of a ~

created back doors  
are the hackers lying in wait, having ~ to come and go

going out the back door  
all those fish are ~ illegally (poaching)

♦ “So where did you get it?” / “It fell off the truck.” (Stolen, fenced goods...)

### **door (and doorway / access)**

doorway to access  
all children in Maine have a ~ a public education

open-door  
I have an ~ policy (boss)

opened its doors  
Saudi Arabia has ~ to foreign tourists

banging on the door  
they are ~ of city government (Yimbies)

keep the door open  
I wanted to ~ with him (an interviewer)

breaking down doors  
she was ~ herself (a precocious college student)

broke down doors  
she ~ in comedy (Phyllis Diller)

found the doors barred  
those trying to escape to the US ~ (to them (Jews))

had (many) doors slammed in his face  
he ~ (a black American)

kicks down the door  
Dick Gregory ~, and Bill Cosby followed

♦ “I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” (From the famous Emma Lazarus poem “The New Colossus,” which is inscribed on a brass plaque and mounted inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.)

### **door (knock at / on the door)**

outside the door  
it’s not as if war is just ~ (Sweden)

knocking on the door  
death was ~

knocked at my door  
the opportunity has ~ and I took it (boxer takes fight)

knocking at the door  
we’re ~ (a team a game away from the playoffs)  
they are ~ (a pressing soccer team)  
opportunity is ~ (the boxer Daniel Dubois)

♦ “It’s not as if war is just outside the door.” (Ex-prime minister of Sweden Magdalena Andersson, about a warning from military commander-in-chief General Michael Byden who said Swedes should prepare mentally for the possibility of war. The national children’s rights hotline Bris reported worried calls from kids, who had heard about the possibility on TikTok.)

### **door (at someone’s door, etc.)**

leadership’s door  
she placed much of the blame at the ~ (Labor defeat)

manager’s door  
he is injured and that has to come to the ~ (soccer)

laid the blame at Churchill’s door  
many ~ (the Battle of Leros / Dodecanese)

### **door (get one’s foot in the door)**

get his foot in the door  
he lied on his resume to ~

### **door (open the door, etc.)**

open door  
the 1st virus weakens, the 2nd then has an ~ to sicken

open a door  
appeasement may ~ to peaceful co-existence, or...

opens the door to future lawsuits  
Monday’s decision ~ (Supreme Court)

door opens  
once that ~, who knows what will happen

### **door (hold the door open, etc.)**

hold the door open  
he seemed to ~ for a change in Germany’s policy

### **door (leave the door open)**

left open the door  
the US has ~ for storing nuclear waste in the US

leave the door open  
he seemed to ~ to the possibility of a change

left the door open  
it ~ for an insanity defense

leave the door open for the possibility  
he appears to ~ of a pardon

### **door (close a door, etc.)**

close the door  
it’s wrong to ~ on promising research (human cloning)

closed the door on the investigation  
we haven’t ~ (Delphi murders)

door has closed  
the ~ on reform...

### **door (shown the door, etc.)**

shown the door  
official after official in the Department was ~

♦ "If you want to advocate for a political cause or attack the work of your colleagues, there's the door." (A *New York Times Magazine* newsroom insider about a journalist fired for her activism.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Don't let the door hit you on the way out!" ("Good riddance!")

## door (check something at the door, etc.)

checked her lithe beauty at the door  
Zellweger ~ to become Pam Hupp (*The Thing About Pam*)

check their Zionism at the door  
young Jews are being asked to ~ of the progressive cause

## doormat (person)

muse and doormat  
the muddy line between collaboration & codependence, ~

become a doormat  
she allowed herself to ~ (woman-woman relationship)

made herself into a doormat  
she ~, she has nobody to blame but herself

## doorstep (on / at the doorstep)

at the doorstep of an (NFL) title  
they are ~

on the doorstep of the EU  
for a month he's ~ (a migrant vlogging his journey)

on Baghdad's doorstep  
coalition forces are poised ~

on Russia's doorstep  
an invasion army quietly assembled on ~ (1941)

on death's doorstep  
he's ~ (very sick)  
the economy is ~

on its doorstep  
Saudi Arabia discourages liberalization ~ (Qatar)  
Turkey seeks to contain the crisis unfolding ~ (Syria)

on our doorstep  
another storm behind Fred will be ~ by mid-week

poised on (Baghdad's) doorstep  
coalition forces are ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

## dormant (adjective)

long-dormant  
the ~ volcano has erupted (La Soufriere / St. Vincent)

## dose (amount)

dose  
it's the ~ that makes the poison (emailing, etc.)

dose of criticism  
the president received a fair ~ for his speech

dose of humility

we all need a good ~ (debate and opinions)

dose of inspiration  
he provided the team a ~

dose of reality  
he needs a ~ (selfish teen)  
many teenagers could use a strong ~

dose of sanity  
we could use a ~

dose of wisdom  
they got a ~ from the coach  
he brings a ~ to the government

dose of goodwill  
the project has earned the US a ~ (foreign aid)

dose of good news  
we could all use a ~

double dose  
a ~ of fantastic news from Vicksburg and Gettysburg (war)

healthy dose  
he uses research and a ~ of imagination (writer)

heavy dose  
in Copenhagen he ingested a ~ of Aristotle (Tycho Brahe)

small doses  
I could only read it in ~ (a book)

strong dose  
many teenagers could use a ~ of reality

provide a dose  
recent advances ~ of hope for sufferers

♦ "University students need a healthy dose of 'no.'" (For disruptive protests, rule-breaking, antisemitism, etc.)

## dot (connect the dots)

connect the dots  
I must ~  
we couldn't ~ (terrorism)  
why didn't we ~  
it's impossible to ~ looking forward  
people are starting to ~ (climate change)  
this report helps us ~ (climate change)

connecting the (proverbial conspiracy) dots  
why some people are ~

fill in the blanks, connect the dots  
they want to ~, and figure out what's going on (probe)

♦ Steve Inskeep: I don't want to connect these dots too firmly yet, Carrie, but I want to note what some of the dots are... What would it mean if these dots were more firmly connected? / Carrie Johnson: I think we're going to need to wait and see... rather than speculate... There's been a lot of bad reporting in this case, we've got to be careful. / Steve Inskeep: But what we do know is those dots are there, and that the Muller investigation continues. / Carrie Johnson: Yes, that's right." (Vague and ominous dots. From "News Brief: Paul Manafort, Parkland Shooting, Spying Charges," NPR, Morning Edition, 14 February 2019.)

♦ “So he’s identifying dots, not yet connecting the dots, which seems prudent at this early stage...” (More dots from NPR’s Steve Inskeep.)

♦ “Until we can put the dots together in the coming weeks to months, there is no certainty at all that what we’ve seen is even what’s going on in the other places.” (More suspicious dots from NPR. From “Could a ‘funky’ pathogen be sickening dogs? Scientists search for clues” by Will Stone, NPR, All Things Considered, November 23, 2023. Expressions from the article include: could; could be; may be... /// the possibility /// search for clues; put the dots together; wrap our heads around... /// not clear; murky; mysterious; puzzling; strange; atypical; no certainty at all that... /// appears (to be); appears (similar to) /// investigate; yet-to-be-identified /// we just won’t know until...; as far as [he] can tell...)

♦ “They are essentially laying the dots out there for their listeners to connect. And when you connect those dots, it becomes far more plausible to use violence.” (A liberal pundit / expert upset about something Steve Bannon said on talk radio.)

♦ “A lot of people are able to connect the dots with end-time prophecy and knowing what is going on.” (Deborah Yah on YouTube.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ You’re dotty...

## dot (verb)

dot the lake

floating restaurants ~ (Tonle Sap)

## dotted (arrangement)

dotted with surveillance) cameras

Times Square is ~

dotted with (observatory) domes

the mountain is ~ (telescopes)

dotted with (small mangrove) islands

a shallow lagoon ~ (Khor al-Beidah)

dotted with (thousands of) kites

the sky is ~ of different colors and styles

dotted with monuments

the area is ~ to him (Lorca)

dotted with the ruins

a valley ~ of 16th-century fortresses (Georgia)

dotted with smokestacks

he looked out on hills ~ (Zarqa)

ice-dotted

~ rivers

island-dotted

the Aegean, the ~ region (sailors rarely far from land)

monastery-dotted

a beautiful, ~ land (Montenegro)

## double down (verb)

doubled-down on staying

Biden ~ in the presidential race, despite calls to step aside

doubling down on its decision

the government is ~

double-downed our efforts

we ~ to not have it happen again

doubled down (at the White House) and tripled down

the president ~ on Twitter (political dispute)

♦ “They were doubling down, they were really going for it.” (Ex-Prime-Minister Liz Truss and her advisor on cutting taxes and raising spending.)

## double-edged (sword)

double-edged sword

opium and its derivatives are a ~

science is a ~ and can be used for good or evil

for Pakistan, success of this kind is a ~ (terrorists)

double-edged sword of biotechnology

the ~ (germ warfare)

## doublespeak (noun)

double speak

wonderful ~ from the @AP (don’t use “pro-life,” etc.)

use (euphemistic) doublespeak

flight attendants ~ to avoid terms like “hijacking”

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Doublespeak” and the Wikipedia article “Newspeak.” Both are related to George Orwell, particularly *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *boilerplate* (noun), *buzzword* (noun), *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language* (types), *lip service* (pay lip service, etc.), *newspeak* (noun), *speak* (NASA-speak, etc.), *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing), *talk* (mediator talk, etc.), *word salad*

## doublethink (noun)

Doublethink

“~ is Stronger Than Orwell Imagined” (George Packer)

doublethink

we stagger under the daily load of ~ (politics)

progressive doublethink

~ has grown worse in reaction to the right-wing kind

\*\*\* **analysis**

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## doughnut (cars, etc.)

do doughnuts

spectators have blocked streets as cars ~ (Fort Worth)

## doughnut (doughnut-shaped)

doughnut-shaped

a tokamak, the large ~ machine

## dove (person)

dove

he is not a ~, but he opposes attacking Iran

## dovetail (verb)

dovetails with contemporary anxieties

the film ~ (a zombie movie)

dovetailed with (energy) plans  
construction plans have not ~ (China)

dovetailed with US policy  
reports by US cyber-security companies appear to have ~

dovetail with his (warped) view  
he denigrates ideas that don't ~ of what America should be

## dowager (old)

dowager of the medium  
the podcast, which at five years old is practically a ~

♦ "Ebony Magazine turns 76 tomorrow." (Once a pillar of the Black community, this great magazine has fallen on hard times, and is now only available online. You would think some US philanthropist would endow a print version in perpetuity.)

♦ "The old theory had ceased to be something fundamental and all-embracing. It didn't turn out to be a mistake or an absurd blunder, but simply a particular instance accounted for by the new theory... The purple-clad dowager had bowed her head before the new empress..." (Viktor Shtrum, theoretical physicist. From *Life and Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

## down (feeling)

down time  
my life is a roller coaster and this is a ~

get me down  
it doesn't ~ (criticism)

## down (decline)

down  
it's a long way ~

down market  
a ~ is as much an opportunity as an up one

## down (functioning)

down  
the system is ~

## down (down for something)

down to fight anyone  
I'm ~, whenever, and whoever (a boxer)

down for this  
are you ~

down for that  
if you're ~, then...

♦ "I really like rom-coms, so I'm down with this resurgence..." (The 43-year-old Leila Fadel of NPR speaking to the 53-year-old Linda Holmes.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be down for something or up for something with the same meaning. English is crazy.

## down (down through the centuries, etc.)

down through the centuries  
the voice of Herodotus can be heard speaking ~ (writings)

down through the generations  
dancers pass their knowledge ~ (ballet)

down the generations  
that voice still echoes out ~ (the filmmaker John Ford)

down hundreds of years  
the saint's feast day had been kept ~ of worship

on down  
the legend lives on from the Chippewa ~ (Gordon Lightfoot)

come down (to me) through time  
it's like hearing a voice that has ~ (bard recites Gesar)

handed down  
see *handed down* (by ancestors, etc.)

passed down  
see *passed down* (by ancestors, etc.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Barbara Dancygier and Eve Sweetser have a wonderful discussion of up-down metaphors for time in *Figurative Language*, and give "high / low Middle Ages" as a French example. They mention that the metaphor might relate to "reverence for the past" in French and Chinese. But the basis for the metaphor might also relate to topography. Sound travels farther in all directions from a high point like a mountain peak, as people of mountain cultures know, from Tibet through Afghanistan and Switzerland to the Southern Appalachians.

♦ This is an instance of up-down metaphors for time and contrasts with *up* (*up to now*, *up to date*, etc.). Time seems to come down from the past and then up to the present. Perhaps this reflects a cyclical view of time, or simply a hilly topography.

## downbeat (adjective)

downbeat about the direction  
voters were ~ of the country (on the wrong track)

downbeat about the (presidential election) results  
democrats were decidedly ~ (2016 presidential election)

downbeat assessments  
such ~ of America's democracy (problems, etc.)

downbeat narrative  
the ~ (pessimistic / war)

appear downbeat  
doctors ~ on health law (not cheerful about it)

## downdraft (noun)

downdraft of debt  
the hopelessness of families caught in a ~

downdraft in the markets  
concern about Europe helped to lead the big ~

economic downdraft  
the powerful ~ started with the failure of Lehman

severe downdraft  
the fund could be damaged again by a ~ (money)

bucking the downdraft  
some candidates are ~ (elections)



caught in the downdraft  
media companies have been ~ of advertising revenue

\*\*\* **downdrafts, wind shears, microbursts...**

♦ Many things can cause downdrafts. Wind shears, microbursts, and helicopters spring to mind. Terrain features and large buildings can affect winds.

## downfall (noun)

downfall  
their greed will be their ~

contributed to his downfall  
his protectiveness may have ~

♦ The front cover of *The Economist* for November 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 shows asteroids or perhaps comets plunging to Earth on a Western desert landscape and is titled, "Crypto's Downfall." "On the cover" explains: "The collapse of FTX has dealt a catastrophic blow to crypto's reputation and aspirations. Is this the end?" (No.)

## downhearted

downhearted  
it made you ~

## downhill (go downhill, etc.)

downhill direction  
they are going in a ~ (sports team)

going downhill  
education has been ~

goes downhill  
the health of children with the disease ~

gone downhill  
things have ~ in the last few years (polarized society)

went downhill  
their relationship ~  
things ~ from there

spiraled downhill  
at home, he ~ (troubled soldier back from Iraq)

♦ "He got laid off... He went downhill, way downhill, he gave up on himself...He drunk [sic] every day, all day, and one day..."

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ How can *downhill* mean something easily accomplished and also mean decline and failure? J.P. Postgate, Litt.D., Prof. of Comparative Philology, addressed this question in an Inaugural Address delivered at the opening of the Session 1896-7, at University College, London. He said its relationship to the meaning of easiness was an obvious metaphor. As for decline, he explained that at the time of Plautus, who used the word in both senses, "Roman waggons and carriages had no efficient brakes." In addition, Postgate mentioned that when Plautus used the word for decline or failure, it was always in contrast with a flatter level.

♦ "Winter horseshoes are equipped with little spikes that give a horse traction on snow and ice, and prevent it from slipping. Without them, a horse can neither tow a wagon uphill, nor use them as brakes on the way down. In the Russian winter of 1812, this spelt disaster for Napoleon's reduced force. Horses in summer shoes would have 'fallen down underneath whatever it was they were towing,' in the words of Bernie Tidmarsh, one of Britain's leading farriers. 'They wouldn't have got any grip going downhill any more than they would have going up,' he says. 'The end result would have been broken legs and mutilated limbs.' In some cases the horses were butchered for food while still alive by starving soldiers." ("Napoleon's failure: For the want of a winter horseshoe," by Saul David, BBC, 8 February 2012.)

## downhill (easy)

all downhill  
the hard part was over, and it was ~

## downplay (verb)

downplay his own gifts  
he does not ~, but... (a politician)

downplayed the need  
he has ~ for widespread testing (pandemic)

downplays the (important) role  
this comment ~ that dogs play as sentries

♦ "More recently, we have approached the Israel-Hamas war and its spillover onto streets and campuses through the 'intersectional' lens that has jumped from the faculty lounge to newsrooms. Oppressor versus oppressed. That's meant highlighting the suffering of Palestinians at almost every turn while downplaying the atrocities of October 7, overlooking how Hamas intentionally puts Palestinian civilians in peril, and giving little weight to the explosion of antisemitic hate around the world." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

## downshift (verb)

downshifting to stall speed  
the economy is ~

## downside (noun)

downside  
modern agriculture has a ~

downside of the electoral college  
another ~ is...

downsides to 5G  
are there any ~ (geo locating, facial recognition, etc.)

big downside  
outsourcing has a ~

## downstream (orientation)

downstream  
Nasa sets the goals, it no longer designs everything ~

downstream in their education  
grad students who were further ~

downstream business  
Chevron's ~ posted profits (refining, marketing)

downstream consequences  
depression and PTSD have a number of ~, including suicide

downstream effects  
dental cavities have other ~ (on overall physical health)

downstream impact  
the technology can have a ~ (GM autos)

downstream industries  
are squealing ~ (steel tariffs)

downstream operations

Chevron will merge its chemical arm with ~  
downstream processing  
a lot of ~ will be done by China (rare earths)

♦ "Everything downstream everything past that early perceptual process, will be affected..." (The linguist Lera Boroditsky.)

♦ *Mitigating the Downstream Impact of US-China Competition on American Democracy* by Jessica Chen Weiss, Cornell University.

### \*\*\* Noland Creek...

♦ The trailhead for the Noland Creek Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is almost at the end of The Road to Nowhere out of Bryson City, western North Carolina. In a little over a mile you will cross four wooden bridges. On the first, look to your left, and the current is going away. On the second, coming towards you. On the third, going away. On the fourth, coming towards you. Now that's twisty! It's a wonderful walk, in every season.

♦ Upstream; downstream; river right (kayaking); river left (kayaking); the left bank; the right bank; the north / south / east / west bank; the headwaters; the upper reaches; the middle reaches; the lower reaches... (Orientation, position on a river.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the oil business, oil and gas fields are upstream assets (source), pipelines are midstream, and refineries and retail outlets are downstream.

♦ In the area of health, upstream interventions are things like wireless scales for weighing people, and free rides to medical appointments. These measures are largely preventative in nature and save money in the long run. Downstream outcomes are things like hospitalizations and surgeries.

♦ see also *upstream (orientation)*

## down to earth (adjective)

down-to-earth ("anyone-can-do-it) approach  
her ~ to the work of social justice (bell hooks)

down-to-earth honesty  
his ~

down to earth and unassuming  
he was one of the most ~ people

grittier, more down to earth  
it's a ~ story... (a film)

proud and down to earth  
her ~ mom

straightforward, down to earth  
he demonstrates ~ cooking

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In *Metaphors We Live By*, Lakoff and Johnson mention a fascinating metaphor: *mundane reality is down*. The example they give is "down to earth." Language that might illustrate this metaphor, besides *earthiness*, could include *grassroots*; a *worm's eye view*; "she has *stars in her eyes*" versus the mature girl who has *both feet on the ground*; journalists *on the ground*; the teacher who spent 34 years *in the trenches*, actually teaching; the leader with a willingness to *dive into the weeds* to explore detailed elements; people from *all walks of life*, *earth-bound* (reality), etc.

## downtrodden (adjective)

downtrodden for decades  
Detroit has been ~ (losing NFL team)

## downturn (noun)

downturn in business  
hotels have experienced a 90 percent ~ (war)

economic downturn  
the company foundered during the ~

## doyen (squad leader)

doyens of (India) cinema  
Benegal, one of the ~ (1976 film *Manthan*)

doyen of (American film) critics  
the ~ Pauline Kael raved, "O'Toole is astounding..."

doyen of inaction movies  
Andersson, the ~ (*New Yorker* review of the filmmaker)

doyenne of the Squad  
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the ~ (US politics)

## draconian (adjective)

draconian  
the punishments for food theft were already ~

draconian charges  
she faces ~, including sedition (Nuttan Mahattana)

draconian (budget) cuts  
he will not give in to ~ (president)

draconian crackdown  
he has presided over the most ~ on leaks in US history

draconian measures  
if hospital cases spiral, more ~ may be needed  
(pandemic)

draconian rigor  
laws should be applied with ~ (immigration)

draconian justice and rule  
many Afghans prefer the ~ meted out by the Taliban

criticised as draconian  
his radical left-wing policies have been ~

## Dracula (noun)

Dracula  
they're ~ (the Boston Red Sox / comebacks)

Dracula-esque  
he sports a ~ widow's peak (Black Adam)

full Dracula  
the Marvelverse has Leto going ~

♦ "It's like a Dracula movie. Every 20 years or so, it surges up out of the coffin. You have to drive the stake back through the thing and make it go away again. But it never really goes away. It keeps coming back." (Cornell University anthropologist Terence Turner, about the Belo Monte dam project on the Xingu River, in 2008. The dam was approved and has since been constructed.)

♦ "[It's like] putting Count Dracula is charge of the blood bank." (Republican Meg Whitman, about Jerry Brown and the labor unions together negotiating pay rises and pensions. In other words, Brown and the unions will suck taxpayers dry. Funny!)

♦ "He had devoured *Dracula* by the age of five." (The *book*, not the creature.)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. Bill: You've heard of Blacula, the black Dracula. Well, we have a Jewish Dracula. / Seth: What's his name? / Bill: Sidney Applebaum. ("Nick Kroll And John Mulaney Relive Raging

Hormones And First Kisses In 'Big Mouth,'" NPR, Fresh Air, March 1, 2018.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Dracula is associated with bats; stakes through the heart; coming back from the dead; sucking blood; heliophobia; coffin-sleeping with arms crossed over the chest; not having a reflection in a mirror; and a Goth aesthetic: a widow's peak; teeth; cape; white skin, etc.

♦ The Dracula sneeze is when you sneeze into the crook of your elbow.

♦ "World Dracula Day was May 26 and people in Whitby, England, came out in force." (Of course they did...)

♦ see also *heart (stake through the heart, etc.)*, *vampire (noun)*

## draft (verb)

drafted into a trade war

they have been ~ that was not of their making (farmers)

## drag (drag on the economy, etc.)

drag on the economy

Brexit uncertainty has been a ~

higher taxes are not necessarily a ~

## drag (verb)

drag her knees through the playoffs

Staley is set to ~ (WNBA)

dragged her butt out of bed

she ~ (teen waking up)

## drag (contempo-speak / verb)

drag Grant

fans took to social media to ~ (a-hole, jerk, douche, etc.)

drag her

cancel Harry Potter, ~ (J.K. Rowling vs. trans folk)

drag the movies

is it OK for actors to ~ that kick-started their careers

♦ "Jacob Elordi's hatred for *The Kissing Booth* has sparked a debate about whether it's OK for actors to drag the movies that kick-started their careers." (Ellen Durney.)

### \*\*\* "Murder of James Byrd Jr."

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Murder of James Byrd Jr." Jasper, Texas.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "YouTubers are constantly dragging each other because we see ourselves reflected in the other." (Natalie Wynn at ContraPoints.)

## drag (drag somebody into something)

dragged you into this

I shouldn't have ~ (dangerous situation)

drag some along kicking and screaming

he may have to ~ (a reform police chief)

drag us into a war

Hezbollah is going to ~ (a Lebanese man)

## drag down (verb)

drag Lara down with you

don't ~

dragging the country down into the gutter

they are ~ of rancor and vitriol (politics)

## dragged (contempo-speak)

dragged for an inadequate response

UPenn has been ~ to campus antisemitism

get dragged

I really need Abel to ~ for this nasty scene in *The Idol*

### \*\*\* "Murder of James Byrd Jr."

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Murder of James Byrd Jr." Jasper, Texas.

## dragging (contempo-speak)

callouts, draggings, and pile-ons

some Y.A. books are targeted in intense social-media ~

♦ Incel; breeding weak men by design; literally retarded; coward; a soft dribbly mouth little mess; brain dead; scum; scumbag; soyboy trash; POS; narcissistic little prick; airhead; typical Reddit user; loser; everything that's wrong with society social media generation; piece of garbage; disgrace to Canadians... (And on and on and on... An internet dragging.)

♦ "Dr. [Mahendra] Amin 'suffered public hatred, contempt, scorn, and ridicule, including stalking, being called names, and receiving hateful comments, death threats, and bomb threats...'" (A lawsuit against Rachel Maddow and others at MSNBC.)

♦ see also *pile-on (noun)*

### \*\*\* dragged by a horse...

♦ "She's been bucked off before. Dragged, too. But nothing that's kept her out of the saddle." (A nine-year-old girl in west Kansas who participates in youth rodeo.)

### \*\*\* "Murder of James Byrd Jr."

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Murder of James Byrd Jr." Jasper, Texas.

## dragnet (noun)

dragnet

the largest ~ in American history (Eric Rudolph)

dragnet for the murderer

authorities cast a ~

DNA dragnet

authorities have conducted a ~ (Louisiana serial killer)

international dragnet

authorities cast an ~ for... (accused rapist)

conducted a (DNA) dragnet

authorities have ~ (Louisiana serial killer)

### \*\*\* "Bottom trawling bulldozes through reef habitats..."

♦ "All but one of the reefs I've looked at has been very badly damaged by bottom trawling—where a fishing net is dragged along the sea floor. Bottom trawling bulldozes through reef habitats that are thousands of years old." (Dr. Jason Hall-Spencer, a marine biologist working on Census of Marine Life.)

♦ "The president [of Palau] also called for an end to bottom trawling, a fishing method that can destroy valuable seafloor ecosystems such as coral reefs."

## dragnet (cast a dragnet)

cast a dragnet for the murderer

authorities ~

## dragon (Dragon's Jaw, etc.)

Dragon's Back

the ~ is a ridge in KwaZulu-Natal

#### Dragon's Jaw

the North Vietnamese called it the ~ (US bridge target)

#### Dragon Head

~ Peak is in Wyoming

#### Dragontail

~ Peak in Washington...

#### Dragon Lake

both Michigan and Minnesota have ~s

#### Dragon Point

both Florida and Alaska have ~s (capes)

#### Dragon Shoal

~ is a reef off Rakhine, Myanmar

#### Snow Dragon

~ Mountain is in New Hampshire

#### Black Dragon

~ Creek in Utah...

#### Blue Dragon

~ Flow in Idaho is a lava flow

♦ The Drakensberg is the highest mountain range in South Africa. Its name means, "the Dragon Mountains."

### dragon (resemblance)

#### dragon of the bush

the ~, a carrion-eating monitor lizard (the goanna)

### dragon (affliction)

#### dragon slayer

Biden went from the ~ to... (politics)

♦ "Biden went from the dragon slayer to the one who brought the dragon back." (Presidential historian Tevi Troy.)

### drag on (verb)

#### drag on for a while

this is going to ~ (a controversy)

#### dragged on (in this way) for four more hours

the meeting ~ (lawyers and reporters)

#### dragged on for months

the crisis has ~ now (pandemic)

#### drag through Christmas

US shutdown looks set to ~

#### case dragged on

the ~ without any arrests

#### negotiations drag on

~ (Brexit)

#### quarantine drags on

frustration and exhaustion as the ~ (COVID-19 lockdown)

#### war drags on

as the ~ (casualties)

### drain (remove)

#### drain spiritual energy from the land

they worry that the drilling will ~ (Medicine Lake area)

#### drain the Kingdom of \$16 billion

expatriates ~ each year (Saudi Arabia)

#### drained out of him

eventually, the fight ~ (abuser)

#### drained his finances

what really ~ was the roll-call bribe (Mexico prison)

#### drained him

his anger seemed to have ~, and he slumped

#### strength drained away

as their blood thickened and their ~ (climbers)

### drain (an emotion, etc.)

#### drained out of him

eventually, the fight ~ (abuser)

#### drained him

his anger seemed to have ~, and he slumped

#### strength drained away

as their blood thickened and their ~ (climbers)

### drain (noun)

#### drain of experience and manpower

the departures meant a great ~

#### drain on the kingdom's economy

banning women from driving causes a tremendous ~

#### drain on resources

responding to a terrorist event causes a tremendous ~

#### brain drain

see *brain drain* (and *brain gain*)

#### economic drain

it's going to be a huge ~ (spending on weapons)

#### time drain

place limits on TV watching, as it is a great ~

#### swirling down the drain

the country is ~ (Somalia)

### drain (go down the drain, etc.)

#### swirling down the drain

the country is ~ (Somalia)

### drained (attenuation)

#### drained of color

under an overcast sky the prairie looked ~

### drained (feeling)

#### drained and shaken

I left feeling ~ (tour of Auschwitz)

#### physically drained

he was out of oxygen, ~, and alone (climber on Everest)

physically and mentally drained  
you're ~ and then, boom...

end up (emotionally) drained  
you ~ (search for missing child)

## drama (tense drama, etc.)

drama  
bring the ~ to an end (mine rescue)  
figure skating is known for its ~

drama of (athletic) competition  
choking and the ~

hijack drama  
the ~ saw its final act played out (Medina)

hostage drama  
one ~ may be over, but...

wildlife drama  
a compelling ~ (mountain pond)

life-and-death drama  
they watched their own ~ unfold on satellite TV sets

sporting drama  
the ending was wild, the ultimate in ~ (an NFL game)

tense drama  
a joyous end to a ~ (mine rescue)

end to a (tense) drama  
a joyous ~ (mine rescue)

bring the drama to an end  
~ (mine rescue)

drama (that) is unfolding  
the US should stay out of the ~ in Egypt (protests)

watched their own drama unfold  
passengers ~ on satellite TV sets (JetBlue Flight)

## drama (lesbian drama, etc.)

drama queen  
*see drama queen (person)*

Antonio Brown drama  
and you thought the ~ was over (ongoing sports story)

baby daddy drama  
tragic deaths & ~ (celebrity news)

lesbian drama  
~ is the best (a snarky comment about soccer players)

relationship drama  
#toxic posts are popular because ~ is good entertainment

sense of drama  
such a high-flung ~

start drama  
Dave Chappelle is a great comedian, stop trying to ~

♦ "He has always surrounded himself with some sort of drama, really surrounded himself with drama this time that got him in real trouble. He posted to his social media followers..." (Sports talk about the NBA player Kyrie Irving.)

♦ "Lesbian drama is the best." (An online commenter about Lia, Kaitie, Caitlin and Ruesha. 2023 World Cup soccer.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Geese have such drama. There are archrivals and jealousy and retribution..."

## drama queen (person)

drama queen  
Nikki is fussy, she's a ~ (sister)  
~, always stirring the pot, wants attention (Gabbie Hanna)

drama queens about their routines  
baseball players are ~ (Harrison Bader, New York Mets)

over paid drama queens  
just get on with it you ~ (soccer players)

little drama queen  
Lol, ~ got caught, good try at the spin though (politics)

♦ "If it's that bad, stop and chose another career. Sick of hearing all the whinging. If you take the Kings shilling then just get on with it you over paid drama queens." (A commenter about "tired, overworked" soccer players and the Qatar Soccer World Cup.)

♦ "He's an oversharing trauma queen." (An online commenter about a celebrity.)

## dramatic (the dramatic)

flair for the dramatic  
he displayed a ~ (traffic commissioner)

## dramatic (dramatic child, etc.)

dramatic child  
I was a very ~ (threats, etc.)

## dramatic (effect)

dramatic action  
this sort of ~ (invasion of Kuwait)

dramatic event  
this ~ (the eruption of a volcano)  
during that season's ~s (on Mt. Everest)

dramatic (new) evidence  
even in the face of ~

dramatic example  
the dying Aral Sea is the most ~ (ecological damage)

dramatic feature  
Karchner's most ~ (a cave)

dramatic photograph  
French TV showed a ~ of the plane in flames

dramatic return  
the ~ of this national symbol (the bald eagle)

dramatic turn  
the case took another ~ when... (murder)

dramatic twist

this was a ~ in the trial (Trump's second impeachment)

dramatic cityscape

the ~ of steel and lights (Hong Kong)

dramatic turnaround

in another ~ (football coach's fortunes)

### **dramatic (extent)**

dramatic changes

he can be counted on to make few ~s

dramatic decline

the ~ in fatality rates (boating)

dramatic improvements

in the absence of ~ in the fortunes of Nigerians

dramatic increases

manufacturing has seen ~ in productivity

dramatic results

the controversial cancer drug didn't produce ~

dramatic (dust) signatures

rapid movement causes ~ (military)

### **dramatically**

changed dramatically

the racial makeup of Canarsie ~

declined dramatically

Lake Chad's area has ~ since the 1960s

fallen dramatically

infection rates here have ~ over the past month (COVID)

### **draw (attract)**

drew people from all direction

Rome ~ (history)

drawn criticism from whistle-blowers

the company has ~

drawn criticism for being derivative

her videos have also ~ (music)

drawn an outpouring

her film has ~ of both praise and outrage

drawn swarms of protesters

the meetings of the World Bank have ~

drawn rave reviews

his new pitch has ~ (a pitcher)

drew cheers and boos

the judge's decision ~

drawing both praise and scorn

their efforts are ~

### **draw (luck of the draw)**

luck of the draw

there is a ~, we are on a wheel (how judges get cases)

### **draw (late / early on the draw)**

late on the draw

you were very ~ (to take action)

### **draw alongside**

drew alongside the railway line

the road ~

### **drawbridge (protection)**

Drawbridge Diaspora

"Suella Braverman and dangers of the ~"

Drawbridge mentality

the Wikipedia article, "~"

their own drawbridges

countries pulling up ~ (Internet sovereignty)

drawbridge came up

I arrived just before the ~ (France bans travelers from UK)

pull up the drawbridge

Americans want to ~, bring the troops home

### **draw in (verb)**

drew so many people in

the conspiracy theory ~

### **drawing board (on the drawing board)**

on the drawing board

also ~ is...

### **drawing board (other)**

going back to the drawing board

we're ending the council and ~ (Google ATEAC)

### **draw near (winter is drawing near, etc.)**

night draws near

the ~

time is drawing near

the ~

### **drawn in**

drawn in

just as Daniel was leaving Larry's orbit, others were ~

### **drawn into**

get drawn into

we want people to ~ the tent of conservation

### **drawn to**

drawn to a Web site

"eyeballs," or the number of people ~

drawn to (conspiracy) theories



I've always been ~ like this

drawn to Ralph Waldo Emerson  
as a teen, Nietzsche was ~'s "Promethean individualism"

## dream (verb)

dream about  
this is what guys like myself ~ (NFL rookie)

dream of dancing  
in Russia, all ballerinas ~ at the Mariinsky

dream of finding  
scientists and capitalists ~ a drug that could...

dreams of returning  
my father ~ to his birthplace

Dream Big  
~ Again (Donald Trump)

dreamed big  
she has always ~ (Lizzo)

## dream (fever dream, etc.)

fever dreams about Russian collusion  
they fill their airtime with ~ (MSNBC, CNN, etc.)

fever-dream projections  
"~" regarding pedophilia (conspiracy theories)

partisan fever dream  
the case amounted to a ~ (politics / lawfare)

♦ "The fuchsia fever fantasy..." (The 2023 film *Barbie*.)

\*\*\* typhus...

♦ "During his fever Davy later said that he had a repeated hallucination of a beautiful, tender, unknown woman who nursed him, held him and had 'intellectual conversations' with him. '[When] I contracted that terrible form of typhus fever known by the name of jail fever... there was always before me the form of a beautiful woman... This spirit of my vision had brown hair, blue eyes, and a bright rosy complexion... Her figure was so distinct in my mind as to form almost a visual image...[but] as I gained strength the visits of my good angel, for so I called it, became less frequent.'" (*The Age of Wonder* by Richard Holmes.)

♦ "He began to get better. At first he took everything for granted, like a halfwit. He remembered nothing, he could see no connection between one thing and another and was not surprised at anything. His wife fed him on white bread and butter and sugared tea; she gave him coffee. He had forgotten that such things did not exist, and he enjoyed their taste like poetry or like fairy tales, as something right and proper for a convalescent. Soon, however, he began to think and wonder." (*Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak, from the section, "The Moscow Encampment." Zhivago was recovering from typhus. His half-brother had provided the luxuries.)

## dream (noun)

dream  
my ~ had been to play in the final... (World Cup)  
our ~ is to save enough to buy a one-family home  
its banking system is still more a ~ than fact (Russia)

dream that  
it was a ~ I never thought would come true (immigrant)  
first the ~, then the doubts, then the commitment

it was his dream to drive

~ a bus since he was 9

it was (always) his dream to end up  
~ in the United States

it had been a dream (of hers) to canoe  
~ in Algonquin Park

dream of El Dorado  
what local newspapers call "the ~" (jobs in Europe)

dreams of (artistic) greatness  
he had all these ~

dream of hers  
it had been a ~ to canoe in Algonquin Park

dreams of marriage  
their ~ were delayed yet again (Pakistani man, cousin)

dream of peace  
the ~ has often turned into a nightmare of war (Africa)

dreams of a better tomorrow  
~ for our children

dreams of holy war  
~ vanished in the flames (Afghanistan)

dream of attending  
he sacrificed his ~ college to finance his brother's studies

dream of becoming  
it was a jolting blow to his lifelong ~ a fighter pilot

dream of developing  
his ~ a practical turbine-powered car

dream of turning  
he had a ~ a town into a metropolis (William Mulholland)

dreams for the future  
they talked about their own ~ (Wilma Mankiller)

dream car  
they got their ~ for thousands less  
the Suby is a young athlete's ~ (Subaru Outback Limited)

dream (surfing) destination  
Indonesia or other ~s

dream guy  
new dating services guarantee a ~

dream home  
completing his ~

dream house  
he talked of a ~ and a dream car  
on Wednesday, their ~ was destroyed (wildfire)

dream job  
his ~ secured, he is now...  
Notre Dame was his ~ (coach)  
your man tanked the interview for his ~

dream lover  
at a restaurant with my ~

~, come rescue me, take me anyway you want me

"dream sheets"  
we were handed ~ (requests for military schools)

dream ship  
a fantastic ~

dream store  
invited her to help him open his ~

dream trip  
this is a ~ (extended canoe trip)

dream vacation  
~s and weekend getaways

dream wedding  
the fairy-tale star of her ~

dream world  
it was her ~

dream, fantasy, or vision  
the only way to keep a ~ intact or rosy

dream and nightmare  
every surfer's ~ (Condition Black / huge surf)

designer's dream  
her (fashion) show is a ~

everyone's dreams  
~ are different—like the former pilot who swam...

immigrant's dream  
he had realized the classic ~

kid's dream  
it is most any ~ of the perfect place to eat dinner

promoter's dream  
Ali was a ~ (poetry, quips, putdowns, predictions, etc.)

skateboarder's dream  
20 competitors on a course that's every ~ (street)

Everest dreams  
Walter Mittys with ~ need to keep in mind... (climbing)

Pakistani dream  
the ~ of a weak Afghanistan under Islamabad's sway

boyhood dream  
he fulfilled his ~ of sailing...  
for some, ~s come true (an astronaut)

childhood dream  
she has realized her ~

fever dream  
see *dream* (*fever dream*, etc.)

laboratory dreams  
these ideas are still ~ (nanotechnology / foods)

rock dream  
he realized he wouldn't be living the ~

secret dream  
the ~ of any woman...

lifelong dream  
it's an opportunity for him to fulfill a ~  
it was a jolting blow to his ~ of becoming a fighter pilot

complete dream  
it's a ~ (reaching the semifinals of World Cup)

sweet dreams  
you hug her and kiss her and wish her ~

age-old (Pakistani) dream  
the ~ of a weak Afghanistan under Islamabad's sway

car of my dreams  
a tiny red Miata, the ~

man of (your) dreams  
find the ~  
ask the ~ out on a date

man of her dreams  
she had a star-crossed affair with the ~  
and then she met the ~

blow to his (lifelong) dream  
it was a jolting ~ of becoming a fighter pilot

hopes and dreams  
do you have ~ beyond tomorrow morning  
his ~ have to do with...  
the TV show represented my ~ (Mary Tyler Moore)

plans, hopes, dreams, and ambitions  
adults often resent death because it affects ~ (nursing)

potential and dreams  
a chance to fulfill their ~ (SuAnne Big Crow Center)

dreams come true  
I guess ~ (player on tournament victory)  
can their ~...

dream had consumed them  
the ~ (climbing K2 together)

dreams die  
~ hard

dream gone askew  
their ~, they...

dream (vacation) turned into a nightmare  
their ~

dreams (of holy war) vanished  
~ in the flames (Afghanistan)

abandoned the dream  
I ~ as preposterous (climbing Mt. Everest)

achieve your dreams  
we will help you ~ (teen modeling Web site)

achieved my (goal and) my dream  
I ~ (Vitali Klitschko / boxer)

chase their dreams  
 tonight will inspire people to ~ (Olympic successes)  
 we are boys who, with great sacrifice, ~ (F1 driver)

chase his dreams  
 he is a hero for taking the risk he did to ~ (Antoine Hubert)

dream a new dream  
 you are never too old to set another goal or to ~

exceeded their (wildest) dreams  
 what they actually saw ~ (astronomers)

find your dream  
 follow every rainbow, 'till you ~ (song)

fulfill his dream  
 he wants his young friend to ~ (to become world champ)

fulfill (some of) his dreams  
 so, either way, I did ~ (son, speaking of father)

have a dream  
 I ~ (Martin Luther King Jr.)

lived her dream  
 she ~, then died in a lonely hotel room (Anna Nicole)

living his dream  
 he is now truly ~ (professional windsurfer)

living the dream  
 we thought we were ~, but... (blacks in north / US)

pursue her dream  
 she quit her job to ~ of becoming...

pursue a dream  
 people who switched courses late in life to ~

realize your dream  
 how does it feel to ~ (award show)

sacrificed his dream  
 he ~ of attending college to help his brother

go after your dreams  
 it's important to ~ because life is short (skateboarding)

give up the dream  
 no one expects them to ~, either (for independence)

given up his dream  
 he had almost ~ of being an opera singer (Paul Potts)

give up those dreams  
 maybe it's best to ~ (a musician)

give up on my dream  
 I'm not one to ~ (disappointed "American Idol")

give up on her dream  
 she doesn't want to ~ of being a "real" professor (adjunct)

allow the dream to die  
 he wouldn't ~ (an athlete)

take your dreams away

don't let anyone ~

turned the dream into a nightmare  
 the loans have ~ (home ownership)

make your dreams come true  
 it will ~ (how-to-kiss book for teens)

make their dreams come true  
 they feel that they can ~ with hard work and...

make that dream a reality  
 she can now afford to ~ (an Indian able to buy an AC)

abandoned the dream as preposterous  
 I ~ (climbing Mt. Everest)

♦ "Each day as I go through the hospitals with younger colleagues, they give me of their dreams and I give them of my experience, and I get the better of the exchange." (William J. Mayo, M.D.)

♦ "Why do people talk about dreams so much in sports? Dream seasons. Dream matchups. Dream opportunities..." ("NBA "The Dream Team 1992" full documentary, narrated by Ed Burns.)

♦ "Playing video games for a living is a dream for many." (Amazon's Twitch, etc., and online streamers.)

♦ "It's my dream, and I don't use that phrase lightly. Dreams shouldn't be that easy to achieve." (Tim Howell, who had hoped to wingsuit jump from the Lhotse Ridge during the 2024 Everest climbing season. Clouds prevented him from jumping.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Dear Abby: My husband and I just bought our dream home, but I don't like him anymore."

## dredge up (verb)

dredging up old allegations  
 they are ~

dredge up wild beliefs  
 they ~ from online fever swamps (a podcast)

dredged up (painful) memories  
 the fires have ~ of how black churches were razed (arson)

## drenched

blood-drenched allegory  
 the film is a ~

drama-drenched  
 ~ retellings of scorn and mockery (epic sports failures)

neon-drenched  
 the seedy, ~ combat zone of massage parlors

sun-drenched  
 in the ~ deserts of California

## dressed (dressed up, etc.)

dressed in scientific clothes  
 exploration now had to be ~

dressed up as control  
 it is curiosity ~ (Netflix and interactive shows)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Good clothes open all doors."

♦ "Clothes make the man, naked people have little or no influence on society." (Attributed to Mark Twain.)

♦ "Fine feathers make fine birds."

## **dressing down (noun)**

public dressing down  
the impact of this ~ was critical

## **dress up (verb)**

dress that up  
however you ~, that is the fear...

dress up incompetence as heroism  
it is less disturbing to ~ (Scott and the South Pole)

## **drift (consciousness)**

drifted in and out of (bizarre) hallucinations  
he ~ (K2 climber in distress)

drifted in and out of (fitful) sleep  
I ~ (high-altitude bivouac)

drifted off  
I was exhausted and ~ in short order (went to sleep)

## **drift (sound)**

drifted in  
funeral music ~ through our windows

drifts outside  
music from the choir ~

drifted (in) through our windows  
funeral music ~

drift across the cuts and trails  
they can hear the sound of hammers ~

♦ "A warm wind from the south blew in through the casements.  
Locomotives at their distant stations roared like sea lions." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak, "The Hour Of The Inevitable.")

## **drift (move)**

drifted back  
but some laborers have since ~ (to Sichuan)

drifted to the left  
Biden has ~ since getting elected

drift into oblivion  
he admitted he would likely ~ (boxer)

drifted into construction work  
he ~

drifted (apart) from his parents and siblings  
he had ~

drifted from job to job  
for the next several years he ~ (famous actor)

drifted through a series of jobs  
he then ~

drifted about the country  
disdaining regular employment, he ~

drifting (closer) to towns and cities

most Nukak clans are ~ (Colombia)

## **drift (movement / noun)**

drift in the (US) approach  
evidence of a ~ in Afghanistan

leftward drift  
the ~ of the Democratic Party

## **drift (drift apart)**

drifted apart  
we ~ (a relationship)

drifted apart from his parents and siblings  
he had ~

## **drill (drill down, etc.)**

drill deeper  
we need to ~ into their claims (government claims)

drill down  
they can ~ and address the problem (regulators)

drill down into the rankings  
it doesn't really make sense, until you ~

drills down (very) deep  
she ~ on these issues (a political analyst)

## **drink in (verb)**

drank in every (tiny) detail  
I ~ of her office

drank in knowledge  
he ~ from every person and place he met

drank in the scene  
I ~ (a town)

drank in the (stunning) sights  
I ~ (a trip abroad)

drank in the vistas  
we ~ and toured the pastures

## **drip (and drip-drip, etc.)**

drip-drip  
this isn't ~, it's a flood (sexual harassment)

drip-by-drip  
he describes retinitis pigmentosa as a '~~' vision loss

drip of (negative press) coverage  
the president was not pleased with the continuing ~

drip of these transcripts  
we had a ~ being released all week long (politics)

drip drip of propaganda  
the effect of this slow ~ was that... (ethnic cleansing)

drip, drip, drip of (plagiarism) allegations  
the ~ has kept the story in the headlines (at Harvard)

drip drip drip of (leaked) emails

the ~ (that hurt Hillary Clinton's chances)

drip drip drip of revelations

this ~ (a Royal scandal)

'drip drip' effect

the ~ of gender-stereotyping (children)

drip-drip effect

it's a ~ (online anti-Semitism)

drip-drip way

virginity corroded my self-esteem, in a ~ (an adult)

constant drip-drip

this ~ distorts all your feelings (effects of anti-Semitism)

constant drip-drip-drip

the ~ of stuff (leading to criminal conviction)

daily drip

there has been a ~ of new disclosures (impeachment)

slow drip

the ~ of vote counting revealed his leads were dwindling

steady drip

this ~ as life is draining from England (Extinction Rebellion)

steady drip-drip

an increasingly ~ of irritations

steady drip, drip

the ~ of casualties (Iraq)

described the build-up as a "slow drip"

the official ~ (troops on border with Ukraine)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Chinese water torture." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## drip-fed

drip-fed information

we have been ~ over a long period of time

drip-fed to the media

every day leaks are ~

## drive (verb)

drives the FAA

data, science, and risk analysis ~

drove the (pro-Trump) backlash

woke overreach ~ (2024 U.S. presidential election)

## drive (drive somebody to do something)

drove him to do

necessity and poverty ~ this (mercenary / revolutionary)

## drive-by (conflict)

drive-by media

when social media becomes source material in ~

♦ Rush Limbaugh used the term to describe the initial media coverage of the 2019 Lincoln Memorial confrontation.

♦ "I feel very misled, and it is shameful *The New York Times* would use my words to hurt my daughter." (The 78-year-old mother of Neera Tanden. She had thought the interview would result in an article that would be "a nice story about Neera." At least one columnist described it as a "blatant hit piece.")

♦ see also *hatchet job* (noun), *hit job* (noun)

## driven (adjective)

agenda-driven

it was misleading, distorted, and ~ ("woke" criticism)

incredibly driven

she was ~ and never gave up

## drive on (resiliency)

drive on

~, soldier, drive on...

## drool (verb)

drooling over the possibility

networks have been ~ of landing an interview with...

makes venture capitalists drool

his pitch ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone drools in anticipation.)

## drop (prices dropped, etc.)

dropped by (up to) 70%

tourist arrivals ~

## drop (drop in sales, etc.)

drop in sales

the company is suffering from a ~

## drop (drop a case, etc.)

dropped (international) coverage

newspapers have ~

drop the idea

we must ~ the US is Johnny Appleseed spreading democracy

charges have been dropped

the ~

let the matter drop

maybe we should ~

♦ "I think it's wrong to pursue this, maybe we should let it drop." (A criminal investigation.)

## drop (product launch)

drop

the "~" is the release of a highly exclusive line

the ~ resulted in pandemonium outside stores (fashion)

drop every Tuesday and Friday

new episodes ~ (*True Crimes News The Podcast*)

dropped (this morning) for (a whopping) \$1, 018

the shoes ~ (endorsed by Lil Nas X)

drop culture  
social media is central to ~

product drop  
the ~ is a sales tactic

monthly drops  
Burberry announced a series of ~ (24 hours to buy)

sudden (product) drops  
~ generate more social media buzz

year of the drop  
2017 was the ~ (limited release / time limit to buy)

lined up for the drop  
a thousand people ~ (pop-up fashion display)

set to drop  
*Bruised* is ~ on Netflix in November (the film)

### drop (a product, etc.)

dropping emails  
Wikileaks was ~ (Hillary Clinton)

dropped this week  
the trailer for one of the most anticipated films of the year  
~

drops 'Late Night Talking' music video  
Harry Styles ~ (releases, debuts)

set to drop  
the evening before her album is ~

♦ "When we were promoting the show before it had aired, or dropped, or whatever they say at Netflix." (Christina Applegate, showing perhaps a little exasperation with "contempo-speak.")

### drop (drop in the bucket, etc.)

drop in the bucket  
in relationship to its annual revenue, it was a ~ (a fine)  
the numbers are a ~ compared to the southern border  
the league's own contribution was a ~ compared to...

drop in the ocean  
that is a ~, given the amount United spent on players

### drop out (verb)

dropped out of the race  
he ~ (a politician)

dropped out of the labor force  
discouraged job-seekers have ~

### drought (in a drought)

in a sexual drought  
I've been ~ for a while

in the middle of a drought  
the team is ~ (losing)

\*\*\* "Who in the desert had never tasted drought?"

♦ "I weep for my country. When you can plow, you can hope. Right now, there is no hope." (Mostafa Imam, on drought in Swaziland.)

♦ "In February, when the food ran out, Ezlina Chambukira started selling her precious possessions one by one. First, her goat. Then an old umbrella. Then two metal plates and a battered pail. When she had nothing left, she started praying for a miracle... It is harvest time, but crops are withered and many people are eating banana roots and pumpkin leaves." ("Meager Harvest in Africa Leave Millions at the Edge of Starvation," June 23, 2003, by Rachel L. Swarns.)

♦ "Who in the desert had never tasted drought? Who had not been driven into exile by famine? Such things were the inescapable fate of the desert—and all the songs of the desert were an expression of this grief, drought, and homelessness." (*Gold Dust* by the great Ibrahim al-Koni.)

### drought (play-off drought, etc.)

drought of victories  
Clinton faces a painful ~ (Hillary in 2008 vs. Obama)

13-year (playoff) drought  
they have broken a ~ (NFL team)

15-year (World Series) drought  
the Yankees finally ended their ~ (in 2024)

goal drought  
by his standards, that was a ~ (3 games / Messi)  
there were goal floods and ~s (Qatar FIFA World Cup)

Love Drought  
her Grammy Awards performance of "—" (Beyonce)

decade of (post-season) drought  
the team has endured a parching ~ (Phoenix Suns)

end a (44-year) trophy drought  
Spain had a chance to ~ (Euro 2008 / soccer)

♦ "The snowstorm comes amidst an ongoing what they call 'snow drought.'" (An overheated female weather forecaster about a spring snowstorm in Minnesota following a winter with low winter snow totals. Wikipedia doesn't have an entry for "snow drought.")

### drove (herd or flock)

out in droves  
tourists are ~ (summer)

fleeing in droves  
major advertisers have been ~ (from Twitter)

leaving in droves  
Italy's youth are ~

showed up in droves  
people ~ to donate blood (mass shooting)

turned to BBC in their droves  
people have ~ during the pandemic

turn out in droves  
Democrats predicted minority voters would ~

turned out in droves  
voters have ~

\*\*\* Sherrill's Inn Hickory Nut Gap...

♦ In the 1800s up to 175,000 hogs passed through Asheville, western North Carolina, each fall on their way south to South Carolina from Tennessee. Drovers also drove great herds of turkeys, ducks, mules, horses, cows, flocks of sheep, etc. along the road. Inns and stands grew up along the route to accommodate both men and animals at night. Local people grew corn to feed the animals and established ferries and bridges. And towns grew up as people prospered. The film



*The Journey of August King*, based on the book by John Ehle, gives a flavor of life in those times.

## drown (verb)

drown

I feel like I'm treading water and will soon ~ (a teacher)

drowning in crime

Detroit is ~

drowning in debt

I'm ~ for a piece of paper I never received (college debt)  
the world's ~, brace yourself for economic turbulence

drowning in (medical) debt

he is one of the millions of Americans ~

drowning in its own garbage

Lebanon is ~

drowning in (kitchen) gizmos

in an age when we are ~...

drowning in a sea

I'm ~ of acronyms (nuclear weapons)  
if you're ~ of medical bills...

drowning in crime and desperation

small towns were ~ (the opioid crisis)

drowning in bitterness and booze

she is a former rocker who is ~ (a film)

♦ "Our hopes and dreams drown in their empty words and promises."  
(Greta Thunberg during a Youth4Climate event in Milan, Italy.)

\*\*\* "Turn Around, Don't Drown"

♦ In 2009, over one hundred people died in flash floods in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, one of the driest countries on earth.

♦ In Saudi Arabia, in the interior of the Arabian Peninsula, people drown when flash floods fill wadis. They drown in flooded underpasses. They drown in water tanks on top of roofs. Babies can drown in pails. In addition, Saudi Arabia has 2,640 miles of coastline on the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. Saudi students studying abroad have drowned.

♦ "None of us could swim," Robinson said. "They were yelling 'help me, help me. Somebody please help me.' It was nothing I could do but watch them drown one by one." (Six Teens Drown in Louisiana River; 7th Rescued," by CBSNews, August 4, 2010.)

♦ "Turn Around, Don't Drown." (Slogan to discourage drivers from disregarding "Road Closed Due to Flooding" signs and trying to cross flooded bridges.)

♦ "Teach my children how to swim because they can find someone who will write for them any time but they cannot find anyone to swim for them at the moment of danger."

♦ "Teach your children swimming, archery and horse riding." (Hadith / Ibn Umar.)

## drown out (verb)

drowned out his (in-ring) interview

boos ~ (a boxer who won a split decision)

## drowned out

drowned out by the Internet drumbeat

the explanation is sometimes ~

drowned out by the thunder

informed voices were ~ of the partisan lynch mob

## drum (beat the drum / bang the drum, etc.)

beating the drum on this problem

he has been ~ since...

beating the drum about this

the Biden administration has been ~ (COVID masking)

beating the drum against big government

she is ~ (a politician)

pounds the drum for the power of the people

the film ~ to make things right (politics)

## drum (march to the beat, etc.)

marches to the beat of his own drum

Stef ~ and I love that about him

♦ "Kyler is his own individual. He's his own person, he beats to his own drum." (An NFL player about his quarterback.)

## drumbeat (noun)

Internet drumbeat

the explanation is sometimes drowned out by the ~

drumbeat of accusations

there is a ~ (against the Catholic Church / pedophilia)

drumbeat of contempt

the daily ~ for our nation's Founders, military (campuses)

drumbeat of criticism

here in Washington we have just heard a ~ (Afghanistan)

drumbeat of news

there has been a steady ~ about the dangerous chemical

drumbeat of war

the ~ has grown louder in the past few days

drumbeats of war

the ~ are filling our nation

drumbeat of (terror) warnings

the recent ~...

drumbeat of "venture capital is dead"

there has been a ~, and it's getting louder

drumbeat (of calls) for his resignation

there has been a deafening ~ (a politician)

extremist drumbeat

militants were encouraged by the ~ in Cairo

deafening drumbeat

there has been a ~ of calls for his resignation (politician)

drumbeats (of war) are filling our nation

the ~

drumbeat of war has grown louder

the ~ in the past few days

drumbeat is intensifying

the ~ to toughen up laws regarding sexual predators

became the drumbeat

his talking points ~ of NPR news reports (Adam Schiff)

♦ "The drumbeat of war is sounding loud and the rhetoric has gotten rather shrill." (Michael Carpenter, US Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Europe, about the Ukrainian crisis in January, 2022.)

♦ Ari Shapiro: "Well, do you hear the drums of war beating?" / Eleanor Beardsley: "You know what? I don't..." (Eleanor Beardsley reporting from Kharkiv / Kharkov, 25 miles from the Russian border. From "The view from border city Kharkiv, Ukraine, as Russian troops appear ready to invade," NPR, All Things Considered, Jan. 13, 2022. Eleanor is beloved for her wonderful reportage from *France*. Yo, NPR! France is calling and they want Eleanor back! #ReturnEleanorToFrance.)

## drummed out

drummed out of the party

he has been ~ (politics)

## drummer (different drummer)

different-drummer commitment

he offers a ~ to civility (versus political bickering)

out-of-step, against-the-grain, different-drummer

~ types

march to a different drummer

his willingness to ~ is his biggest liability (politics)

marching to a different drummer

they are often ~ (kids with ADHD)

they are ~ and choosing colleges with different profiles

♦ "Kyler is his own individual. He's his own person, he beats to his own drum." (One NFL player about his quarterback.)

## drum up (verb)

drum up (public) demand

he is trying to ~ for his invention

drum up interest

she was able to ~ on Facebook (for her company)

drum up publicity

promoters are keen to ~ by any means (boxing)

drum up support

we are trying to ~ for the project

they are trying to ~ for the law

candidates are actively campaigning there to ~ (election)

## drunk (adjective)

drunk on power

he is ~

## dry (come up dry)

come up dry on leads

we have ~ (thefts of goats)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to a well that fails to produce water or oil.

## dry run

dry run for the All-Star Game

the stadium manager says the game will be a ~

dry run of the course

participants registered for a ~ (race with obstacles)

do a dry run

did terrorists just ~ at a Marine base (Camp Lejeune)

made a dry run

he ~ in a wind tunnel (parachutist)

arranged for a dry run

he ~ to make sure everything worked (technology)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ There are quite a few theories for the origin of this relatively recently coined phrase. One idea is that it relates to drills by fire departments without water being pumped. It came to prominence in the military during World War II. Origins can be very difficult to pin down.

## dry up (verb)

jobs dried up

when the war ended, the ~

money dried up

the ~

overtime has dried up

~ (for immigrant workers)

work dried up

other ~, and old friends stopped calling (disgraced)

## duck (avoid)

ducked out of the (post-race) interview

he ~ (auto racing)

duck the (tough) issues

we won't ~ (a politician)

ducked the question

he ~ (State Department "official")

duck (the more challenging) questions

he hoped the court would not ~

ducked and ran

when asked questions about trans people, she ~ (politics)

♦ "So when I call you and you don't pick up, and then you tell me you'll call me later and you don't want to have a grown-man conversation about it, and you always pick up any other time, I got a problem with that... Right now, I feel like you're ducking me." (An ex-NFL player and sports commentator about trying to contact an NFL player.)

## duck (move / verb)

ducked into the office

she ~ right away to see what was up

duck into a bathroom

the young women ~ to change out of their jeans

## duck (ducks in a row)

getting their ducks in a row for a recession

chief executives are ~

## duck (sitting duck)

sitting duck  
see *sitting duck*

## dud (noun)

dud  
the product was a ~ (marketing)

dud of a book  
this disappointing ~ starts with a good premise

## duel (noun)

duels for the ball  
he was engaged in 20 ~ (Paul Pogba vs. Germany)

tense duel  
the two were locked in a ~ for days (Tour de France)

pair up for duels  
with the city's blessing, cars ~ (legal drag racing)

♦ "Griezmann has competed in the most duels (six) and won the most duels (four)." (Halftime analysis of France versus England at the FIFA Qatar World Cup.)

\*\*\* **Alexander Hamilton vs. Aaron Burr...**

♦ Brigadier General Lucius M. Walker was shot and killed by Brigadier General John S. Marmaduke in a duel on September 7, 1863, as the Union forces were attacking Little Rock, Arkansas, during the U.S. Civil War. See Walker's Wikipedia article.

♦ "Smollett states that the admiral [Knowles] himself did not escape without censure. Two of his captains were reprimanded; but Captain Holmes, who had displayed uncommon courage, was honourably acquitted. The admiral fought a bloodless duel with Captain Paulett, of the *Tilbury*; but Captain Innes and Clarke met by appointment in Hyde Park, with a case of pistols each. The former was mortally wounded, and died next morning; the latter was tried and condemned for murder, but received His Majesty's pardon." ("Tortuga, 1748" from *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

## dueling (adjective)

dueling ad  
~, each side accusing the other (politics)

dueling hashtags  
~ (#IStandWithJK Rowling vs #ICantStandJKRowling)

dueling protests  
we are expecting ~ today (pro- and anti-government)

## dug in

dug in  
both sides are ~ and neither side will move (politics)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "We will weed out the rebels, but they are dug in."

♦ "A-10 Warthogs destroyed 10 Iraqi T-55 tanks dug in a defensive posture."

## dull (adjective)

grow dull  
his life reminds us that the cutting edge can ~ (Hefner)

## Duh! (exclamation)

Duh!

can I just tell you, ~

duh  
because, ~, dividing people doesn't...

♦ "Can I just tell you. *Duh!* How much did that study cost? Because I could have told you that for free." (NPR host Michel Martin. From "'Girl Talk' vs. 'Boy Talk' with Michel Martin, NPR, Tell Me More, July 23, 2007. It's a wonderful segment from the good old days of NPR.)

♦ "DEI is dying, as big companies wake up to an obvious truth: Dividing people divides people." ("Walmart ditches DEI, because, duh, dividing people doesn't bring them closer together," by Rikki Schlott, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 26, 2024.)

## dumb (technology)

dumb mines  
~ versus smart mines (that self-destruct / self-deactivate)

from dumb to smart to brilliant  
~ bombs (military)

## dump (verb)

dumped him as her lover and business partner  
she ~ in 2016

dumped the editor  
she ~ and replaced him with... (magazine)

dump her (3,928) shares  
he told her to ~ (of stock)

dumped her stock  
just before she ~ in December... (insider trading)

dump you  
she's going to ~ (get out of the relationship)

## dumped

dumped  
she worries about being ~ and getting a bad reputation

dumped Gottlieb for Brown  
five year later, he ~ (editor / editors in chief)

dumped by him  
you may get ~ later (relationship)

dumped by his girlfriend  
he was ~ of nine years...

get dumped  
you may ~ by him later... (relationships)  
most men who ~ think their girlfriends...

## dunk (dunk on someone)

dunk on the site  
Barstool's Portnoy took the opportunity to ~ (Deadspin)

♦ In the NBA, when one player slam-dunks on another, it is seen as a sign of dominance. The dunker generally takes the opportunity to posture, often clenching his fists, pushing his chest out, and baring his teeth. The one who has been dunked on reels away in defeat, his posture lowered. The dunker's teammates often jump up and down, wave towels or place them over their heads, and hoot.

## dunk (slam dunk)

see *slam-dunk (and slam dunk)*

## Dunkirk (non-military)

liken it to Dunkirk

I ~... (Federal reserve responds to economic crisis)

♦ "I liken it to Dunkirk. It was time to get in the boats and get the people, not to check the inspection records and things like that. Just get in the boats and go." (Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell. From "Jerome Powell: Economy Is Better Thanks to 'Dunkirk'-Like Rescue By Fed, Congress" by Scott Horsley, NPR, March 25, 2021.)

## Dunkirk (military)

Dunkirk spirit

Londoners displayed a ~ (1996 Docklands bombing)

digital Dunkirk

this massive ~ trying to get everyone out (Afghanistan)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ The "digital Dunkirk" refers to the chaotic two weeks in August of 2021 when the US left Afghanistan. Many individuals, organizations, and particularly serving and former military men used social media to help Afghans get to evacuation points and then get through security perimeters and onto planes flying out. It's a fascinating analogy, and a sign of the times.

♦ "When the North Vietnamese closed the Hai Van Pass, people had to come out by ocean, and so it was almost another Dunkirk." (Homer Smith, US Defense Attache, about early 1975, as Vietnamese refugees and soldiers fled from the North to the South.)

♦ Elderly Americans vividly remember watching on TV the chaotic scenes as the U.S. evacuated its embassy in Saigon in 1975.

♦ "They were surrounded by troops led by Rommel... And being from these ancient Scottish regiments with a very noble tradition, they wouldn't surrender... And in the end it was every man for himself and they all tried to scatter and break through the lines..." (The actor Hugh Grant wonderfully explaining the Battle of St. Valery, "the Other Dunkirk," to Terry Gross. From "No More Mr. Nice Guy: Hugh Grant Embraces the 'Blessed Relief' Of Darker Roles," NPR, Fresh Air, July 23, 2021.)

♦ About St. Valery, Winston Churchill wrote in *Their Finest Hour*, "The fate of the Highland Division was hard, but in after years not unavenged by those Scots who filled their places, re-created the division by merging it with the 9th Scottish, and marched across all the battlefields from Alamein to final victory beyond the Rhine... Some lines of Dr. Charles Murray's, written in the First World War, came into my mind, and it is fitting to print them here..." He quotes twelve lines, the last four being, "For gallant loons, in brochs an' toons, / Are leavin' shop an' yaird an' mill, / A' keen to show baith friend an' foe / Auld Scotland counts for something still."

♦ Many forget that British troops were sent to France *after* Dunkirk, and they too had to be evacuated. As Churchill writes, "We repeated now on a considerable scale, though with larger vessels, the Dunkirk evacuation." About the disaster of the liner *Lancastria*, Churchill writes, "When this news came to me in the quiet Cabinet Room during the afternoon I forbade its publication, saying: 'The newspapers have got quite enough disaster for to-day at least.' I had intended to release the news a few days later, but events crowded upon us so black and so quickly that I forgot to lift the ban, and it was some time before the knowledge of this horror became public." See the Wikipedia article "RMS *Lancastria*."

♦ The runway at Pitomnike saw chaotic scenes as the last flights out left Von Paulus' encircled and doomed Eighth Army to its fate.

♦ The World War II Russian evacuation of the Crimea across the Kerch Strait, and, two years later, the German evacuation of Sevastopol to western parts of Ukraine, Romania, and Bulgaria, have both been referred to as "Dunkirk-like."

♦ Read "On the Quai at Smyrna" by Ernest Hemingway.

## dust (dust settles)

let the dust settle

we will ~ and then make our decisions

♦ "It took a long time for the dust to settle, as we say." (Some linguistic kerfuffle!)

## dust (collect dust)

collect dust

the case was left to ~

## dust (bite the dust)

bit the dust

many of these mom-and-pop stores ~ (failed)

bites the (desert) dust

English language program ~ (Vinnell Arabia)

bitten the dust

another affair had ~ (two film stars)

destined to bite the dust

the project seems ~ (military project)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In old Western films, cowboys, Indians and soldiers were often shot off their horses and fell into the dust.

## dust (leave somebody in the dust)

left Microsoft in the dust

the iPhone and Android ~ (phones)

## dust (fairy dust, etc.)

fairy dust

~ from the "Mom wand" makes life easy for them (kids)  
that something special, that star quality, that little bit of ~  
you can find ~ in every situation, no matter how difficult

star dust

can Hollywood ~ revive Wrexham (actors buy soccer club)

sprinkle (tech company) fairy dust

it's a property company trying to ~ over itself

touched with fairy dust

everything he does is ~ (a musician)

♦ "It's not like you sprinkle blockchain dust over it and it's O.K." (Problems with cryptocurrencies.)

♦ "Graham Potter is now sprinkling his magic on this Brighton team and is getting the best out of every player including Neal Maupay." (Liverpool supporter right here, 27 Sept 2021.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "You can never tell when the bad fairy might pay you a visit and sprinkle the f\*\*\*-you-up dust." (A saying enjoyed by special-forces types.)

## dustbin (noun)

dustbin of history

the Afghans will send the Americans to the ~ (Taliban)  
the P-word should be consigned to the ~ (Britain)

creative dustbin

it should be consigned to the ~ ("fridging" film trope)

consigned to history's dustbin

his political theories have been ~

sweep conversion therapy into the dustbin

we are happy to ~ of history

♦ "We're going to resign them to the dustbin of history." (Netanyahu about Hamas, answering a reporter's question if he would resign over Israel's conduct of the Israel-Hamas war.)

## dwarf (size)

dwarf chameleon

Madagascar has produced a group of ~s

dwarf pine

at high elevation, one finds many ~s

## dwarf (verb)

dwarfed all others

the Yankees' payroll ~ (baseball)

dwarfs any other (economic) relationship

the US / EU partnership ~

dwarfs spending

the ad expenditure ~ on other efforts (public health)

dwarfs (all other) threats

an Iranian bomb ~ to Israel

dwarf his other work

the study is likely to ~ in statistics

dwarfs previous ones

the current oil spill ~ (Gulf of Mexico)

## dwelt (location)

dwells in your hearts

I know the love of the constitution ~ (politics)

dwelt in the past

don't ~ (romance)

## dyed-in-the-wool

dyed-in-the-wool optimist

she's a ~

## dying (dying industry, etc.)

dying breed

he is the last of a ~ (race car driver)

moderates are a ~ (politics)

dying industry

nuclear energy may be a ~

## dying (dying seconds, etc.)

dying seconds

they clinched the final in the ~ with a drop goal

## dynamite (Michael "Dynamite" Dokes, etc.)

"Dynamite" Dokes

Michael ~, former WBA heavyweight champion

'Semtex' Daley

Paul ~ retires in style with fierce knockout win (MMA)

"Kid Dynamite

~ Blows Up" (by David Remnick, July 6, 1997)

♦ "In Loving Memory of Michael M. Dokes "Dynamite" WBA Heavyweight Champion of the World 1982 First Round August 10 1958 Final Round August 11, 2012." (The beautifully engraved headstone of the boxer.)

♦ The great boxer Daniel Dubois' nickname is "Dynamite," and he is also referred to as "Triple D."

## dynamite (noun)

dynamite for the (party's) base

what he said is ~ (a gaffe / faux-pas)

political dynamite

he was convinced he had ~ (a conspiracy theorist)

## dynamite (a dynamite cast, etc.)

dynamite cast

he brings out the best in a ~ (a film director)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## dynamo (driving force)

absolute dynamo

Guro Reiten was the best player and an ~ (2023 World Cup)

## dynasty (sports dynasty, etc.)

dynasty

we like ~s, to cheer for and against them (sports)

political dynasty

she was a descendant of one of the nation's oldest ~s

football dynasty

Coach Bowden built a ~ (at Florida State University)

cheerleading dynasty

she leads a ~ (14 NCA National Championships)

fallen dynasty

he rescued a ~ (Larry Bird and the Boston Celtics)

built a dynasty

they had ~ that had won three Super Bowl championships

## E

## eagle eye

eagle eyes of (U.S. spy) satellites

the ~

## ear (Ear of the Wind, etc.)

Ear of the Wind

the ~ is a natural arch in Monument Valley, Arizona

the ~ is an arch in Navajo County, Arizona

Ear Rock

~ is a pillar in McKinley County, New Mexico

#### Dog Ear

~ Lake is a Lake in Tripp County, South Dakota

#### Hounds Ear

~ is a populated place in Watauga County, North Carolina

#### Lop Ear

~ Creek is a stream in Greenlee County, Arizona

#### Moose Ear

~ Lake is a lake in Barron County, Wisconsin

#### Mule Ear

~ is a pillar in San Juan County, Utah  
~ Peaks are summits in Brewster County, Texas

#### Pigs Ear

~ is a populated place in Elk County, Pennsylvania

#### Rabbit Ear

~ Mesa is a summit in Union County, New Mexico

♦ On the Isle au Haut In Knox County, Maine, there is an Eastern Head and a Western Head. Off the Eastern Head there is a Eastern Ear Island with its Eastern Ear Ledge (a bar), and off of Western Head there is a Western Ear Island with its Western Ear Ledge (a bar). That's symmetry! These places are part of Acadia National Park.

### ear (have somebody's ear)

has the ear of the president

he ~

have the ear of (many) political leaders

they ~ (activists)

has the president's ear

he ~

### ear (attention)

sympathetic ear

he offers a ~ to kids (juvenile offenders)

lent an ear

Michael unselfishly ~ to friends in need

offers a (sympathetic) ear

he ~ to kids (juvenile offenders)

### ear (surveillance)

ears

the walls have ~

eyes and ears

(see *eyes and ears*)

♦ "What you see here, what you do here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here." (Los Alamos and the Manhattan Project.)

### ear (ear of corn, etc.)

ears of corn

women roasted ~ (Kisumu)

sun's ears

polar explorers call the circles of prismatic colors the ~

### ear (fall on deaf ears)

fall on deaf ears

calls to end the fighting that seem to ~ (Middle East)

sometimes the warnings ~

fell on deaf ears

his warnings ~ (Gerhart Riegner / Holocaust)

his call for lifting sanctions ~ (a politician)

complaint after complaint ~

police appeals for information ~ (murders of prostitutes)

his desperate appeal ~ (Haile Selassie / Italian invasion)

falling on deaf ears

the appeals are ~ (Russia)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

### ear (turn a deaf ear)

turned a deaf ear to that argument

Congress has ~

### ear (music to one's ears)

music to Moscow's ears

this was ~ (Macron says NATO is brain dead)

### earful (amount)

getting an earful

he has been ~

### early (timeliness)

early in the investigation

as of now it's ~

early in the (democratic presidential primary) process

it's still very ~

### early bird (person)

early bird

I'm not an ~ (grumpy in the morning)

♦ "I have a unique combination of being an early bird and a night owl." (A go-getter young NPR female.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The early bird catches the worm.

### earn (verb)

earned him the epithet

his bouts with mental illness ~ "Mad King" (George III)

earned her pilot's license

she ~ (Bessie Coleman)

earned a variety of nicknames

the jail ~ over the years (Rikers Island)

earned (global) praise



the public mental health model in Italy ~ (Trieste)

earned my respect

he ~ by just being such a fair, wonderful person  
he also forever ~ by making it a point to...

earned his spurs

he ~ on the battlefield (a combat veteran)

earned this

I ~ (became an Eagle Scout)

♦ "Home of Emmett Till Earns Landmark Designation in Chicago" by Dustin Jones, History, NPR, January 28, 2021.

♦ "I know we work our butts off and desperately are trying to make the best records we can every time, and try to put the best shows on. That's all we have any control of. I think we've been lucky, too. But we've definitely—we've earned our stripes, I think. I don't know, we feel very satisfied and happy with finally getting a little bit of attention, because we were in the shadows for so long." ("The National: 'We've Earned Our Stripes,'" NPR, Music Interviews, All Things Considered, June 12, 2013.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "You don't win medals or awards in the Military. You don't win the MOH you earn it by your actions. You don't win a Purple Heart. You earn it by being wounded." (An online commenter about a story told by President Joe Biden.)

♦ "Who 'wins' a Purple Heart? You're awarded the Purple Heart. That's the prize nobody wants to win." (An online commenter about a story told by President Joe Biden.)

♦ "Howe served in Europe as an Army artillery soldier during the Second World War, almost never speaking of the experience except sardonically. (His unflagging goal, he remarked was to avoid earning a Purple Heart.)..." ("Modern Lore: Oscar Howe at the National Museum of the American Indian" by Peter Schjeldahl, *The New Yorker*, July 11 & 18, 2022.)

♦ see also *prestige* (adjective), *privilege* (groups / noun), *red carpet* (treatment), *rope* (velvet rope)

## earth (to the ends of the earth, etc.)

ends of the earth

he took the faith of his nation to the ~ (Livingstone)

scoured the Earth

Bill Whitman ~ for rare fruit (collector, popularizer)

## earth (close to the earth, etc.)

much more close to the earth

their concerns are much more mundane, ~ (voters)

come back to earth

but let us now ~, and look at the potential of...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In *Metaphors We Live By*, Lakoff and Johnson mention a fascinating metaphor: *mundane reality is down*. The example they give is "down to earth." Language that might illustrate this metaphor, besides *earthiness*, could include *grassroots*, *a worm's eye view*, "she has *stars in her eyes*" versus the mature girl who has *both feet on the ground*, *journalists on the ground*, the teacher who spent 34 years *in the trenches*, actually teaching, the leader with a willingness to *dive into the weeds* to explore detailed elements, people from *all walks of life*, *earth-bound* (reality), etc.

♦ "I dreamed a thousand new paths...I woke and walked my one."

♦ "Men trip not on mountains but on molehills."

♦ "Before dinner, let us explore the southern plains and climb the northern mountains. After dinner, there are snakes in the southern plains and tigers in the northern mountains." (Chinese.)

## earthiness (character)

earthiness

her public persona belies her ~ (she swears, etc.)

## earthquake (effect)

earthquake

his death was an ~ that shook the world (Osama)

cultural earthquake

a massive ~ split the country wide open (US / 1960s)

political earthquake

I think it's going to be a ~ (elections)

'political earthquake'

~ in Ireland as nationalists win (a seismic change)

hardly an earthshaker

the loss to Brazil in a Wembley friendly is ~... (soccer)

♦ People speak of social ferment in countries with a huge base of young people as "youthquakes."

♦ "The youthquake of the '60s, the counterculture..."

♦ "This is seismic." (Mark Chapman, BBC Radio 5 Live presenter, on Saudi Arabia 2-Argentina 1 at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Mashallah! Another commentator said, "Saudi Arabi's victory was off the Richter scale.")

♦ "My question was surely just a spark but the response was an earthquake." (The remarkable Italian journalist Riccardo Ehrman, who will always be associated with the fall of the Berlin Wall.)

♦ "Just as behind the apparently fixed contours of a landscape lie great historic shifts and upheavals in the earth, so behind the seeming permanence of a social order lie the past struggles of classes and other groups negotiating for advantage." (*The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr.)

♦ "A sense of insecurity, as during an earthquake, pervaded the minds of men." (*Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad.)

\*\*\* "The sensation produced by an earthquake is never to be forgotten."

♦ "The sensation produced by an earthquake is never to be forgotten. We feel ourselves in the grasp of a power to which the wildest fury of the winds and waves are as nothing; yet the effect is more a thrill of awe than the terror which the mere boisterous war of the elements produces. There is a mystery and an uncertainty as to the amount of danger we incur, which gives greater play to the imagination, and to the influences of hope and fear. These remarks apply only to a moderate earth-quake. A severe one is the most destructive and the most horrible catastrophe to which human beings can be exposed." (*The Malay Archipelago* by Alfred Russel Wallace.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's always hard to attribute a cause to an earthquake with absolute certainty." (Dr. Cliff Frohlich, Associate Director of the Texas Institute for Geophysics, The University of Texas at Austin.)

## earthshaking (adjective)

earthshaking experiment

the ~ has rocked the scientific community

earth-shaking transformation

China's economy has experienced ~s in recent decades

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Often expressed as "seismic."

## earworm (noun)

earworm

this song has always been an ~ ("Red Beans and Rice")

♦ “Donald Trump’s campaign speeches have plenty of phrases that get repeated so much they stick in your head like an earworm.” (NPR punditry.)

## Easter egg

### Easter eggs of white nationalism

Alex Wagner claimed the speech had ~ (MSNBC)

### Easter eggs in music video

Taylor Swift reveals secret ~

### easter eggs and jokes

there’re ~ throughout (*The Every* / Dave Eggers)

### secret Easter eggs

Taylor Swift reveals ~ in music video

### full of easter eggs

Taylor Swift’s “The Man” music video is chock ~

### pregnant with Easter eggs

it’s ~ (the book *D C-T!* by Avillez and Young)

### allusions and Easter eggs

the series has included ~ from previous episodes (TV)

♦ The Official State of Minnesota Proclamation proclaiming Wednesday, May 22, 2024 as “Wolves Back Day” celebrates the Minnesota Timberwolves’ victory over the Denver Nuggets in Game 7 of the NBA playoffs. It also contains an Easter egg. The first letters following each “Whereas” spell out “BRINGYAASS.” “Bring ya ass” is what Anthony Edwards told the great sports commentator Charles Barkley when Barkley said, “I have not been to Minnesota in probably 20 years.” Read “Minnesotans of all stripes are cashing in on Anthony Edwards’ Cheeky tourism slogan” by Eder Campuzano, *Star Tribune*, May 22, 2024. Or listen to “Minnesota Nice’ has been replaced by a new, cheeky slogan for the state” by Peter Cox, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, May 26, 2024. “Bring ya ass” achieved nationwide virality for a few days. Unfortunately, the Minnesota Timberwolves got crushed in their next series. So much for these “viral” moments.)

♦ “The only reason why I can’t [tell you which tattoos honor Patrick Swayze] is because they’re supposed to be, like, Easter eggs. They’re like, ‘Oh, don’t say! Go look for them.’ Press pause and look, you’ll find them. They’re just a little ode to him.” (Jake Gyllenhaal about his role in the 2024 Amazon film *Road House*, which is a remake of the 1989 original featuring Swayze. The UFC great Conor McGregor is also in the remake. Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Gray starred in *Dirty Dancing*, of course. To this day, enthusiasts of all ages visit the “Dirty Dancing” cove on Lake Lure in western North Carolina to celebrate the film. Swayze also starred in the very good 1991 film *Point Break*, directed by Kathryn Bigelow.)

♦ “Good morning. I’m A Martinez. If you’re a college student, reading your syllabus could be a good way to start off a semester. A University of Tennessee professor recently taught his students that blowing it off could cost you. His name is Kenyon Wilson, and just to see who was reading closely, he added an easter egg to the course outline. It said, ‘Free to the first who claims’ with a locker number and combination. In it, a fifty dollar bill, no strings attached, but of course... nobody claimed it. It’s Morning Edition.” (“Tennessee professor hid a cash prize on campus. The clue was in the syllabus,” NPR, Morning Edition, December 20, 2021.)

♦ “In Detroit you have WONDR and MOTWN, above St. Louis there are waypoints for ANNII and LENXX.” (Steve Trimble of *Aviation Week*, talking about the names of aviation waypoints. From “Unusual Names Of Waypoints Used For Airplanes’ Navigation,” NPR, All Things Considered, May 26, 2020.)

♦ “Navigation waypoints on this highway in the sky will honor Helge, Mylius, Uroa, Per, Frithjof and Lasse (six of Amundsen’s Greenland dogs) and Jimmy Pigg, Snippets, Bones, Jehu, and Nobby (five of Scott’s Manchurian and Siberian ponies.)” (“Polar Sidekicks Earn a Place on the Map” by John Noble Wilford, *The New York Times*, September 30, 2010.)

♦ “James enjoyed hiding references to heroin use in his lyrics, he once told one of his dope dealers...” (James Taylor. From *Girls Like Us* by Sheila Weller.)

♦ “There are a bunch of things that are intriguing to me about the new movie. One of them is that there are a few of what I took to be Anne Hathaway psychological Easter eggs sprinkled throughout the film...” (Dave Marchese interviewing a bemused Anne Hathaway. From “Anne Hathaway Is Done Trying to Please Everyone” by David Marchese, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 28, 2024.)

♦ “Occasionally one could test a plagiarist. I had to invent a tree, with name to match, for a man who at that time was rather riding in my pocket. In about eighteen months—the time it takes for a ‘test’ diamond thrown over wires into a field of ‘blue’ rock to turn up on the Kimberley sorting-tables—my tree appeared in his ‘nature-studies’—name as spelt by me and virtues attributed. Since in our trade we be all felons, more or less, I repented when I had caught him, but not too much.” (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ “thewhoreswillbebusy.” (The first letter of each line of Oliver St. John Gogarty’s patriotic poem, “Ode of Welcome,” to the Irish soldiers returning home from the Boer War.)

♦ Search “Sean Connery” in this work.

## easy (sex)

### easy

she’s ~

♦ Mac: What is *easy*? / Valerie: This is *easy*. (Silly dialogue from the silly film *Earth Girls Are Easy* with Geena Davis.)

♦ “I was a bit of a slapper at Uni.” (A UK woman.)

## easygoing (adjective)

### easy-going attitude

Atlanta’s ~ toward skin and vice

### easygoing personality

he has one of those ~s

### easygoing country boy

an ~ from Kentucky

### good-natured and easygoing

elephants are ~ (according to keeper at zoo)

♦ “No camel route is long with good company.” (A Turkish proverb.)

## eat (eat one’s words, etc.)

### eat those words

I’ll make you ~ (competition)

### eat your words

so called experts and pundits, ~ (Usyk beats Joshua)

♦ “In the course of my life I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet.” (Winston Churchill about his change in attitude towards Nehru, to one of complete approval.)

♦ “If it means swallowing some humble pie, and it means eating some of your words, I can’t think of a more excellent diet.” (Prime Minister David Cameron, on his coalition government formed with the Liberal Democrats.)

♦ “What was Neville saying about Messi not inspiring...? Suppose those words would be his supper tonight.” (An online commenter about Argentina 2- Mexico 0. The FIFA World Cup in Qatar.)

## eat (mental health)

### eat away at

see *eat away at (mental health)*

### eat up

see *eat up* (mental health)

eat you alive  
that darkness will ~ (journalist investigates sex crimes)

eating my joy  
the “Sunday scares” are ~ (anxiety about work week)

eaten your soul  
and then you are lost, he has ~ (accommodating a boss)

♦ “And you sit there [inwardly] eating yourself to death and crying yourself to death.” (Sexually abused by a pastor.)

## eat (destroy)

eat up  
see *eat up* (destroy)

eat their own  
see *eat* (eat one’s own, etc.)

eating away the banks  
the current is ~ of the river

eat through the (plastic) sheeting  
the chlorine will ~

eat into the flesh  
necrotic ulcers are deep, open wounds that ~

eat you alive  
it’s there to ~, no pity (Nazare / big-wave surfing)

## eat (endure)

eat only sorrow and misery  
I ~ (a Kurdish expression)

eaten some heavy shots  
Khan has already ~ (Khan vs. Brook / boxing)

eating them  
Lewis is throwing right hands, and Tyson is ~

♦ “When my Dad decided the whole fatherhood thing was a buzzkill for his creativity, we had to take the shit sandwich we’d been served and make it edible. So I cooked...” (The 2020 film *Words On Bathroom Walls*.)

♦ “Just when you think you’ve got your ration of shit-happens someone heaps on another helping.”

♦ James Mossman: I’m told that Tolstoy once said late in his life that life was a tough [?] of which one was obliged to eat slowly. Would you agree with him? / Vladimir Nabokov (laughing delightedly): “I’ve never heard that story, it’s a very funny one. The old boy was sometimes rather [a word that sounds like degustation]. No, my own life is fresh bread with country butter and alpine honey.” (Vladimir Nabokov, BBC Author Archive Collection, “James Mossman talks to Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov in this 1970 interview.”)

♦ “We wouldn’t be here at all if it wasn’t for the artillery. The Germans would have eaten us up long ago.” (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ “Are there not other alternatives than sending our armies to chew barbed wire in Flanders?” (Winston Churchill, in a letter of advice to Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith. The alternative turned out to be Gallipoli.)

♦ “No, they will fight more actively with empty bellies, and, besides, it would be a bad omen. You remember what a dessert they got to their dinner at Falkirk.” (The Duke of Cumberland—“the Butcher”—on whether to allow his army its noontime meal prior to the Battle of Culloden. From *British Battles On Land and Sea* by James Grant. Culloden, 1746.)

## eat (eat one’s own, etc.)

eat their own  
“SWOs ~” is a common Navy refrain (jealousy)  
liberals ~ over the most minor slights

♦ “They eat their own; they get eaten by their own; they cannibalize themselves, please don’t stop; Woke cannibalism! Sweet!; democrat cannibalism is a beautiful thing to watch... (Snarky comments at Breitbart about infighting at *The Washington Post* that led to a suspension and a firing.)

♦ “The new age needed only the hide of the Revolution—and this was being played off people who were still alive. Those who then slipped into it spoke the language of the Revolution and mimicked its gestures, but their brains, lungs, livers and eyes were utterly different.” (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

## eat (eat and breathe, etc.)

eat and breathe  
these guys ~ cycling (Giro d’Italia)

live, eat and breathe  
I used to ~ cricket, now I can take it or leave it (Bazball)

♦ “Larry slept it, ate it, drink it, eat it, it was all basketball for him.” (An admiring comment about the great basketball player Larry Bird, aka “The Hick from French Lick.”)

## eat (eat and sleep, etc.)

eating and sleeping  
he has been ~ boxing, work, work, work (training)

## eat away at (mental health)

ate away at me  
it ~ (an unpleasant truth)  
my anxiety ~, like ants consuming their prey, bit by bit

eats at me  
something’s missing here, and it ~ (patriotism / WWII)

eating away at your mental health  
if social media is ~, please stop (advice to athletes)

eat away at you  
secrets ~  
the loneliness can ~ (conflict reporter)

eats away at me  
that I will never face him in court ~ (sex abuse)

eaten away at me  
it would have ~ (not confronting his brother)

eat away at America’s sense of security  
the sniper attacks ~ (D.C. area)

## eaten (eaten by, etc.)

eaten by rising ocean water  
the coastline is being ~

eaten alive  
see *eaten alive* (by debt, etc.)

eaten up  
see *eaten up* (by rage, etc.)

get eaten

they ~ by their own (progressives)

\*\*\* **Armin Meiwes; the crew of the American ship *Cutter*...**

♦ "The victim responded to a posting placed by Mr. Meiwes on the Internet seeking a person willing to be killed and eaten." (Armin Meiwes killed the willing victim in 2001, ate parts of his body, and was sentenced to a few years in prison. There was an uproar about his "light" sentence, and he was re-sentenced to life in prison.)

♦ "In 1849, the crew of the American ship *Cutter* was killed and eaten by the Pouma clan. Cannibalism was widespread throughout New Caledonia." (Wikipedia article "New Caledonia.")

## **eaten alive (by debt, etc.)**

eaten alive by debt

I was ~

get eaten alive

don't ~ by debt (an advertisement)

## **eaten up (by rage, etc.)**

eaten up inside

whenever I thought about it, I found myself in a rage, ~

## **Eaton (Eaton of Africa, etc.)**

"Eaton of Africa"

the so-called ~ (Kamuzu Academy in Malawi)

## **eat up (consume)**

ate it up

the crowd ~ (a campaign speech well received)

eat this stuff up

people who watch the History Channel and ~ (UFOs)

eating up (so much) bandwidth

the number of attacks is ~ that...

ate up comic books

I ~ as a kid

ate up every line

the crowd ~ (election rally)

eating up the mist

the sun was ~ (*Lord Jim*)

eat the sun

plants essentially ~ (photosynthesis)

ate up its own weight

the artillery ~ in shell in 3 or 4 minutes (Boer War)

ate up \$5 billion

the program ~

## **eat up (destroy)**

eat up your mind

meth will ~ (methamphetamine addiction)

ate up entire neighborhoods

rivers ~ (floods)

eaten us up long ago

the Germans would have ~

♦ "We wouldn't be here at all if it wasn't for the artillery. The Germans would have eaten us up long ago." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

## **eat up (mental health)**

eat you up

playing such a demanding role could ~ (Tina Turner)

eat him up

this will ~ bad (boxing champ loses in shock defeat)

eating him up

he kept quiet, but it was ~ (sexually assaulted)

eat me up

I knew the shame would ~ otherwise (without confessing)

eating me up

it was ~ (reveals hidden past to family, world)

## **ebb (decline)**

ebbed away

for at least 9 days they lay in their tent, as their lives ~

ebb and flow

see *ebb and flow* (verb)

fighting ebbed

the ~ Tuesday (Ubaydi)

## **ebb (at a low ebb)**

at a low ebb

the militant's fortunes in Iraq are ~

## **ebb (on the ebb)**

on the ebb

his racing career is ~

## **ebb (movement)**

ebb and flow

see *ebb and flow* (noun)

## **ebb (development)**

ebb and flow

see *ebb and flow* (noun)

## **ebb and flow (verb)**

ebb and flow

gang killings ~ but never stop (Los Angeles)

the fight continued to ~ (Joe Cordina v Edward Vazquez)

ebbs and flows

the number of cases ~ (West Nile virus in US)

## **ebb and flow (noun)**

ebb and flow

the ~ of passengers (D.C. metro)

ebbs and flows

there have been ~ in the pace of attacks (war)

ebb and flow of the war

the ~ (Angola)

## **ecclesiastical (adjective)**

ecclesiastical stature

the "Twining memo" gained ~ among ufologists

## **echo (verb / effect)**

echo and echo and echo

war and trauma can just ~ (lack of closure)

echoes (now) through every talk show

the bitter debate that ~ and coffee shop

♦ **Echo; resonate; reverberate...** Take your pick!

## **echo (noun / effect)**

echo of this vote

the ~ will be loud and long (anti-Hispanic vote)

misled by the echoes

we're ~ (of history)

## **echo (repeat / verb)**

echo what

first, let me ~ the President said (speeches)

echoed Templeton

the State's Attorney Joe Hettel ~... (opinion)

echoes allegations

the report ~ that the company...

echoed the language

he used terms that ~ of Adolph Hitler (politics)

echoed the (the teacher's) statement

many school employees ~ that...

echoes the style

the painting closely ~ of his friend Henri Matisse

♦ "You know, the assault on Israel echoes nearly 20 months of war, tragedy and brutality inflicted on the people of Ukraine." (President Biden in an address to the nation on Thursday, October 19, 2023.)

## **echo (in an echo)**

in an echo of (the president's) position

~, Michael Chukwu told BBC that....

## **echo chamber**

echo chamber

it's an ~where lost souls talk up and amp up one another

echo chamber of social media

in the fact-challenged ~, beliefs and biases are confirmed

media echo chamber

their views are amplified by the ~ (stock analysts, etc.)

online political echo chambers

~ have exacerbated America's divisions

social media echo chamber

another example of the ~ that amplifies all offence

pushes people (deeper) into their own echo chambers

the amount of outrage on social media ~

leapt from echo chambers (of social media) to

headlines

the movement ~ in the news (a conspiracy theory)

## **echoed**

echoed by NASA

Boeing's conclusion was ~ in its mission reports

echoed by (many) Central Asians

her view is ~

echoed by (many) Americans

that sense of patriotic pride is ~

echoed by others

such criticisms have been ~ who...

echoed by (numerous) others

comments ~... (protesters)

echoed in academic circles

you raise a good point that has been ~

view is echoed

his ~ by many Central Asians

## **eclipse (verb)**

eclipsed fishing as (the state's major) revenue source

mining long ago ~ (Nauru)

eclipse electric tanning beds

some predict sunless tanning booths could ~

eclipsing the feudal landowners

the middle class is finally ~

eclipses (all) others

in Havana, one feature ~ of the city (the Malecon)

eclipse all other European palaces

the Czar wanted to ~ (Peterhoff / Peter the Great)

eclipsed that of 1962

the 1970 quake ~ (Peru)

## **eclipse (noun)**

eclipse of Cantonese

older people affected by the ~ in China and the world

beginning of his eclipse

it was the ~ (Napoleon)

driven the German shepherd into eclipse

overbreeding has ~ (the dog breed)

gone into total eclipse

for decades before his death he had ~ (Herman Melville)

## eco (affix)

### eco-activist

- ~ Greta Thunberg
- ~ Joseph Dibee

### eco-anxiety

- how can I deal with my ~

### ecocide

- ~, should killing nature be a crime...

### eco-city

- artistic renderings of the ~

### Ecodefense

- "~: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching"

### eco-drama

- this mysterious Japanese ~ (2024 film *Evil Does Not Exist*)

### eco-incarceration

- what Shah calls ~, 'reinforcing Adivasis' marginalization

### eco-house

- they were ordered to pull down their ~

### ecophilosophers

- ~ and activists...

### ecosystem

- see *ecosystem* (noun)

### Ecotage

- The Role of ~ in Radical Environmentalism*

### eco-terrorist

- the ~ movement (Burn Wild, BBC Sounds)
- Elon Musk blames '~s' for suspected arson at Gigafactory

### eco-therapy

- she specializes in art therapy and ~ (climate despair)

### eco-warrior

- Dave Foreman, ~, has died (Earth First!)

### eco-conscious

- 80 curated "~" products (Primark Wellness)

### eco-friendly

- ~ motels
- an ~ way to wrap gifts (furoshiki)
- making lawns more ~

♦ see also *green* (environment)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Go to Wiktionary, type in "eco-", then click on "derived terms," and you will get a magnificent list. Surprisingly, "ecotage" has not yet been listed, but it is only a matter of time. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## ecosystem (noun)

### ecosystem of corruption

- he exposed an ~ at the bank

### ecosystem of (extremist) groups

- the ~ in the region (Afghanistan, etc.)

### ecosystem of hate

- far-right parties fan an ~ (Australia)

### ecosystem of people

- there is an ~ who serve professional athletes

### ecosystem of support

- designers rely on a complex ~ (garment district)

### ecosystem of entrepreneurs, engineers, investors

- the ~ and other players is growing (NYC tech scene)

### city's (political) ecosystem

- he's definitely not a product of the ~ (new mayor)

### multibillion-dollar ecosystem

- there's a ~ of collecting this data (on kids)

### business ecosystem

- smart executives cannot control but can influence the ~

### disinformation ecosystem

- Facebook banned a significant chunk of the ~

### Hollywood ecosystem

- major change within the ~ was on the horizon (2001)

### Internet ecosystem

- this regulation will do damage to the ~

### innovation ecosystem

- many factors created the ~ to nurture the Internet
- talent acquisition and furthering the ~ (cryptocurrency)

### locker-room ecosystem

- how a player fits into a delicate ~ (NFL / personal conflicts)

### media ecosystem

- a conservative ~ helps amplify those ideas (alt-right)

### Y.A. ecosystem

- some readers don't care about the politics of the ~ (books)

### closed ecosystem

- can the iPhone thrive in Apple's ~

### self-correcting ecosystem

- the Internet is a ~ (controversy)

### commercial ecosystem

- the garment district is a ~

### financial ecosystem

- he benefited from the burgeoning ~ (NYC)

### political ecosystem

- he's definitely not a product of the city's ~ (new mayor)

### fragile and interconnected ecosystem

- this ~ (garment district)

### global social-media ecosystem

- the alt-right has turbocharged this ~ of hatred

### product of the (city's political) ecosystem

- he's definitely not a ~ (new San Francisco mayor)



fit into the ecosystem

help me understand how he ~ of protesters in Portland

♦ "Well, you know, this is so fascinating, first of all, the fact that you use that term, "Batchelor Nation." So what I take from that is it isn't just a show anymore, it's like a whole, what? ecosystem?" Who's in Batchelor Nation, is it like everybody who watches the show, who was a part of it, what does that mean?" (Michel Martin wants to know. From "Racism Controversy Rocks 'Bachelor' Nation, NPR, All Things Considered, Feb 20, 2021.)

## Eden (noun)

garden of Eden

see *Garden of Eden*

eagles' Eden

this ~ (Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve / Alaska)

leads me through Eden

Rob ~ (Dales Gorge in Western Australia)

## Edenic (adjective)

Edenic setting

it was an ~ (nature)

♦ "It was hard to imagine a less Edenic setting for the wellspring of a great paradisiacal metropolis." (The headwaters of the Los Angeles River in Canoga Park, behind the town's high school.)

## edge (over the edge)

over the edge

in my opinion, this is ~ (a controversial song)

## edge (push something over the edge)

pushed some farmers over the edge

drought has ~

push them over the edge

just a tiny temperature rise can ~ (coral bleaching)

pushed the system over the edge

the hiring freeze has ~ (corrections)

## edge (on edge)

on edge

the city is ~ (a series of murders)

everybody was ~ (serial bomber on the loose)

already on edge

the news terrified women ~ (murders of lesbians)

## edge (on the edge of a cliff, etc.)

on the edge of (electoral) abyss

his campaign teetered ~, but it is scrambling back

on the edge of the cliff

we're ~, we don't have much time to back away (diplomacy)

on the edge of collapse

the air travel network teeters ~ (Unfriendly Skies)

on the edge of extinction

they're ~ (orangutans)

on the edge of a (nervous) breakdown

I'm ~

lived on the edge

he ~ (Timothy Treadwell)

teeters on the edge

the air travel network ~ of collapse

♦ On the edge for you is the middle of the road for me." (Bumper sticker on snowboarder's car.)

## edge (at the edge)

at the (extreme) edge of complexity

this is ~ (a brain operation)

at the edge of starvation

meager harvests leave millions ~ (Africa)

## edge (lose one's edge)

losing his edge

some observers think he may be ~ (chess grandmaster)

## edge (rough edges, etc.)

smooth (capitalism's) rough edges

her policies aim to ~ (a progressive)

## edge (edge cases, etc.)

edge cases

~ in grammar and syntax

in ~ like this, principles are tested (journalism)

edge habitats

~ hover between domesticated and wild (zoonotic diseases)

edge and corner

it doesn't take long to find ~ cases (grammar rules)

## edict (noun)

edict from on high

an ~ banned any mention of sex (Woman's Weekly)

his edicts

~ and his "my way or the highway" (recall election)

## edifice (noun)

edifice of (city and state) finance

much of the ~ is jury-rigged

edifice of the state

the ~ is in danger of crumbling

"climate science" edifice

the whole ~ is exposed and will collapse (opinion)

narrative's edifice

the intelligent building of the ~ (book review)

imperial edifice

the bureaucracy is an ~ built on feudal foundations

once-impregnable edifice

the ~ of the regime's authority is starting to crumble

meticulously built edifice

science is a ~

cracks in the edifice

early ~ appeared in the 1990s (economy)

edifice could collapse

and so the whole ~ (economy)

edifice would crumble

the ~ if...

bring down the (whole) edifice

any crack in the system would ~ (dictatorship)

tear down the edifice

the right has used religion to ~ and secular morality

chipping away at the edifice

lawyers are ~ of person responsibility (neuroscience)

## Edison (Edison of the Internet, etc.)

Edison of the Internet

Bill Joy is sometimes called the ~

## edit (verb)

edit DNA

they developed the tools to ~

edit any genome

we can ~ (Crispr-Cas9)

## edited (genes, etc.)

gene-edited

he created the world's first ~ human babies

## editing (noun)

genome editing

the technology of ~ (Crispr-Cas9)

## eer (affix)

Bioneers

~, a Revolution from the Heart of Nature

let ~ be your hub for information and action...

Brexiteers

can she win over ~ (English Prime Minister)

buccaneer

see *buccaneer* (person)

cricketeer

Shane Warne, the iconic sportsman and ~

engineer

he's a military ~

healthineers

~

imagineers

~

mountaineer

ski~ Hilaree Nelson (sports)

Mountaineers

Tuscola ~ coach Zah Shepherd... (culture)

muleteer

during the war, he served as a ~ (World War I)

Musk-eteers

~ love his boyishness (Jill Leport about Elon Musk)

mutineer

see *mutineer* (person)

pioneer

see *pioneer* (person)

profiteers

war ~

puppeteer

see *puppeteer* (noun)

scrutineers

independent ~ (UK)

volunteer

an army of ~ workers pounded nails...

## \*\*\* analysis

♦ Go to Wiktionary, type in "-eer," and then click on "derived terms," and you will get a magnificent list. "Imagineer" is not yet entered, but it is only a matter of time. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## effervescent (personality)

effervescent personality

her ~ has endeared her to fans (Emma Raducanu)

## egg (put all one's eggs in a basket, etc.)

have all of our eggs in one basket

in terms of our marketing budget, we don't ~ (Free

People)

put a lot of eggs in this basket

the president has ~ (support of a country)

put all your eggs just in the DNA basket

you have to be careful not to ~ (murder investigation)

put all its eggs in one basket

North Korea ~ (keeping COVID out / no preparation)

putting all their eggs in one basket financially

they are ~ (new Navy destroyer)

♦ "I think the risk here is that we are putting all of our eggs in one basket, we're only focusing on boosting with vaccines, I think the issue is people are looking for a silver bullet, and, boosters are not a silver bullet to COVID." (Ominous reporting heard on NPR on September 6, 2022.)

♦ "Manchester City cannot put all their Champions League title hopes on Erling Haaland." (Soccer.)

♦ "The Jets put all their eggs in one basket and now they're all scrambled." (The NFL Jets acquired the great Aaron Rodgers to revitalize the team, but sadly Rodgers suffered a season-ending injury in his first game, and his backup underperformed.)

♦ "One of the biggest lessons learned from this situation is that when we put all of our eggs in one basket, when that basket tips over, all the eggs crack, and there's none left. We're scrambled at that point."

(Douglas Hoey, CEO of the National Community Pharmacists Association, about the ransomware cyberattack on Change Healthcare that resulted in a payment crisis. Healthcare in the U.S. is for-profit.)

♦ “We essentially have a many-eggs-in-one-basket kind of situation and that allows us to fortify that basket, like we have really good security software, but it does mean that when that security software fails, it causes a lot of broken eggs.” (Craig Shue, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, about the CrowdStrike outage. To which his interviewer said, “Broken eggs that are still being cleaned up.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When was the last time you put eggs into a basket and carried them somewhere? When was the last time you put *anything* in a basket? Don't we all carry things in plastic bags nowadays? And don't we only buy beautiful baskets at folk-art centers? And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## egg (golden egg)

laid the golden egg

they will kill the golden goose that ~ (ESL soccer)

♦ “Perhaps, if he will husband his resources, and not kill, with overwork, the mental goose that has given us these golden eggs, he may one day rank among the brightest of our wits.” (A favorable review of Mark Twain's first book, *The Jumping Frog and Other Stories*.)

## egg (chicken and egg)

see *chicken and egg*

## eggshell (noun)

eggshell of trust

it shatters the ~ (Pilots Union vs. Boeing)

## eggshell (walking on eggshells)

walking on eggshells

for over 10 years, I spent every day ~ (domestic abuse)

I was ~ (interviewing Malala Yousafzai)

## eight ball (behind the eight ball, etc.)

way behind the eight ball

we are ~ (Patty Murray about pandemic response)

## Einstein (intelligence, or lack)

Einstein

you don't need to be ~ to know what that means (snark)

footballing Einstein

he has never been considered a ~ (a player-coach)

no Einstein

they're ~ (snark)

favorite Einsteins

one of our ~, Jessica Murguia (Dreamforce San Fran event)

♦ “The Einstein Trust Layer is a secure AI architecture, natively built into the Salesforce Platform. It allows teams to benefit from generative AI without compromising their customer data.” (Sure...)

♦ “Yeah rest your main goal scorer in a game we need to win. Any other great ideas Einstein?” (A sarcastic commenter on a BBC HYS, about an upcoming match at the FIFA Men's World Cup in Qatar.)

♦ “What did you think, super genius. We thought it would be funny.” (Sarcasm from the silly film *I Love You, Beth Cooper* with Hayden “Hello” Panettiere. Super!)

♦ “Can I just tell you. *Duh!* How much did that study cost? Because I could have told you that for free.” (The wonderful NPR host Michel Martin. From “‘Girl Talk’ vs. ‘Boy Talk’ with Michel Martin, NPR, Tell Me More, July 23, 2007. It's a wonderful segment by a great host from the good old days of NPR.)

♦ “Thankfully, you don't have to be Alan Turing to break the code.” (Apple's iMessage invisible ink.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “They're no Einstein.” (Snark.)

♦ “No kidding, Einstein.” (Snark.)

## eject (verb)

eject the Iraqis out of Kuwait

our intention was to purely ~ and destroy... (Gulf War)

## elastic (adjective)

elastic definition

this ~ (of harassment)

elastic term

the word is an ~ (for nomads and pastoralists)

## elbow (up to one's elbows)

up to my elbows in work

I was ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be up to your elbows in work. Or up to your neck in work. Or up to your eyeballs in work. Take your pick!

## elbow (force)

elbowed him out

the company ~

elbowed him aside

she ~ (politics)

elbowed aside its competitors

the company has ~

elbowed her way into the (heavily male) club

she ~ (a profession)

elbowed into the lineup

women have ~ on the North Shore (surfing)

## elbow (sharp elbows, etc.)

sharp elbows for President Trump

she had some ~ (political speech)

sharp-elbowed intervention

the book was a ~ in the debate between historians...

sharp elbows and a lot of self-regard

Gorsuch has somewhat ~ (the Supreme Court judge)

♦ “Thick-skinned, sharp-elbowed, ball-busting New Yorkers...” (With hearts of gold...)

## elbow (Elbow Lake, etc.)

Elbow Lake

we visited ~ (Becker County)

Elbow Cay

we sailed to ~ (Bahamas)

## Elbow Point

~ is a point in Quezon, Philippines

## Betsys Elbow

~ is a bend in Beaufort County, North Carolina

## Devil's Elbow

the ~ trail parallels the river (Panthertown, NC)

## Devils Elbow

~ is a bar in Lincoln County, Maine

~ is a bay in Trigg County, Kentucky

~ is a bend in Greene County, Tennessee

~ is a cape in Coos County, Oregon

~ is a channel in Pinellas County, Florida

~ is a cliff in Tioga County, New York

~ is a flat in Pershing County, Nevada

~ is a gap in Washington County, Idaho

~ is a lake in Gulf County, Florida

~ is a populated place in Grand Traverse County, Michigan

~ is a ridge in Napa County, California

~ is a summit in Union County, Pennsylvania

♦ Elbow Pass contains Elbow Lake, which is the origin for the Elbow River, which flows to Calgary, where it merges with the Bow River. (Alberta, Canada.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Our direct, straightforward ancestors had a sense of direction as well as purpose and time, and consequently seem to have honored the bends in waterways that "meandered" and violated the straight line from point A to B with the name of the devil. By *far*, bends on rivers have attracted the name of the "Devil's elbow."

♦ see also *knot* (the Pamir Knot, etc.)

## elbow (the Elbow of the Andes, etc.)

### "Elbow of the Andes"

Amboro National Park, at the ~ (Bolivia)

## elbow (shape)

### elbows

~ can change the direction of piping

## elbowed (elbowed out, etc.)

### elbowed out of the ecosystem

single-property hosts are being ~ (Airbnb)

## "El Chapo" (Asia's El Chapo, etc.)

### 'Asia's El Chapo'

~ is set to be extradited to Australia (Tse Chi Lop)

~ extradited to Australia

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is currently jailed at ADX Florence, "the Alcatraz of the Rockies." El Chapo means "shorty."

## El Dorado

### skier's eldorado

the sastrugi ceased, it was a smooth sea of snow, a ~

### new El Dorados

the traffickers that service them flock to the ~ (oil and gas workers)

## African El Dorado

Timbuktu became this idea of an ~ (age of exploration)

## dream of El Dorado

what local newspapers call "the ~" (jobs in Europe)

## equivalent of "a new El Dorado"

the newspaper described the islands as the ~ (guano)

### \*\*\* "Over the Mountains of the Moon..."

♦ "Gaily bedight, / A gallant knight, / In sunshine and in shadow, / Had journeyed long, / Singing a song, / In search of Eldorado." ("Eldorado" by Edgar Allan Poe.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "I suppose it is not very charitable of me, but I must say that to this day I feel a malicious pleasure at the many disappointments of those pertinacious searchers for El Dorado who climbed mountains, pushed through forests, swam rivers, floundered in bogs, without giving a single thought to the science of geography. / Not for them the serene joys of scientific research, but infinite toil, in hunger, thirst, sickness, battle; with broken heads, unseemly squabbles, and empty pockets in the end. I cannot help thinking it served them right. It is an ugly tale..." ("Geography and Some Explorers" by Joseph Conrad.)

## electric (feeling)

### electric

at the opening of the trial, the atmosphere was ~

### electric performance

despite another ~ from Mia Hamm... (soccer)

### electric quarterbacks

the game showcased a pair of ~ (NFL)

## electricity (feeling)

### electricity is

but the real ~ two iconic actresses on the same stage

### 'electricity' between two people

the ~, that special spark (lovers)

### electricity in the room

tears, shouting, there was real ~ (politics)

♦ "No current passes between this Macbeth and Lady Macbeth." (An unfavorable review of Joel Coen's 2021 film *The Tragedy of Macbeth*.)

## electrified

### electrified by the rise

they were ~ of Trump

### electrified and galvanised

the post ~ his supporters (President Trump)

### \*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ "We're British so we don't have electrified rooms, people don't buzz like they do in America." (A response to the question, "What was the mood like in the room?")

## electrify (verb)

### electrified (many) people

she ~ (a politician at a convention)

### electrified the region

Tunisia's uprising ~ (2011)

electrified the movie world

he ~ with the *Sixth Sense* (movie director)

\*\*\* "We'd all go around flipping the switch..."

♦ "I wanted to be at my parents' house when the electricity came. It was in 1940. We'd all go around flipping the switch, to make sure it hadn't come on yet. When they finally came on the lights just barely glowed. I remember my mother smiling. When they came on full, tears started to run down her cheeks." (A farm family that got electricity from the Rural Electrification Administration.)

♦ "I'll never forget how scared I was when Pa took me to the first [electrified and blinking] Christmas tree there in our little church. That tree just jumped at me as I went in, it was so bright and wonderful; the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life. When my name was called to come up for my gift it about scared me to death. Instead of going on up like the others had, I just clung to Pa's legs and wouldn't budge. Pa had to go up with me, holding on to my hand." (Alma Covel, a textile worker, interviewed in the 1930s about her childhood. From "How the Christmas Tree Got Its Lights," by Alexis Madrigal, *The Atlantic*, Dec. 24, 2010.)

## electrifying

electrifying

flamenco is ~

electrifying in victory

he was ~ (sports)

electrifying best

he was at his ~ (an athlete)

electrifying and polarizing

he has been both ~ (a union leader)

## elegiac (adjective)

elegiac voice

the work has an ~ (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark*)

hauntingly elegiac

the chorus and the chords that made the song so ~

## elegy (noun)

elegy for those bygone days

the book is an ~

*Hillbilly Elegy*

~: *A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* / J.D. Vance

♦ *I'll Be Gone In The Dark* by Michelle McNamara is truly an elegy. For the victims. For the writer. For the pre-computer age when forensic science was in the Dark Ages. For policing before "Defund the police!" became a rallying cry and honest detectives devoted their lives to solving a crime.

♦ "Call me Shawn, call me Calvin, call me Bobby Lee / That bridge you crossed over is named after me / And not far behind was my roadside shrine / Where I met my fate in cruel duty's line..." (A song commemorating Western North Carolina State Troopers who died in the line of duty. "Shawn" is Trooper David Shawn Blanton, Jr. "Calvin" is Master Trooper Calvin Eugene Taylor. And "Bobby Lee" is Trooper Bobby Lee Coggins. "As you go your route on the King's Highway / Think of the Troopers who guard your way / As the mourning stars fade into the dawn / Sing along with me a noble Trooper's song.")

♦ "Some day, they're gonna write a blues for fighters. It'll just be for slow guitar, soft trumpet and a bell." (Sonny Liston. His biography, published in 1963, was titled *The Champ Nobody Wanted*.)

♦ see also *requiem* (noun)

## elephant (elephant in the room, etc.)

elephant in the pew

pornography is the ~ (Christians addicted to porn)

elephant in the room

one ~ no one wants to discuss is...

this is the ~ that nobody is talking about

the condition of these banks has been the ~ (future of EU)

that really is the ~ here... (context to political story)

there is always that ~, when you are different it is

obvious

the ~ that Harris has been quiet about (no economic plan)

elephant in the room for all those meetings

the ~ was Russia (India-U.S.)

elephant in the room is to deal with his issue

the ~ of gender verification (trans in sports)

elephant not in the room

he is the ~ (Trump absent from debate)

4ft 8in, 105lb elephant in the room

there's no point in talking around the ~ (Simone Biles)

giant elephant (here) in this room

is there not just a ~, something we need to discuss...

real elephant in the room

the ~ here is that 60% are Black voters... (politics)

red elephant in the room

Lydia Ko names the ~ (menstruation / sports)

elephant in the room wears No. 2

the ~ (an underperforming quarterback / NFL)

address the elephant in the room

let's ~ (sexual misconduct)

but before we do this, we need to ~ (murder case)

they did not ~, the filibuster... (politics)

see the elephant

nobody wants to ~

talk about the elephant

maybe we should ~

talk about the elephant in the room

are we ever going to ~

♦ "Well, I mean, the elephant in the room as well, also, is that, although... (An overstimulated BBC pundit makes an elephant disappear.)

♦ "So we're all just going to ignore the \$400B meme stock in the room? We literally had Congressional hearings over the \$30B runs of \$GME and \$AMC, but just [crickets] today." (A tweet from prominent short-seller Jim Chanos about the 21,000% rise in the price of AMTD Digital, a largely unknown Hong Kong-based fintech.)

♦ "There are elephants in rather a lot of rooms just now." (An online commenter about extreme weather, global climate change, etc.)

♦ "This year's Golden Globes MC Jerrod Carmichael wasted no time in addressing the elephant in the room. 'I'm here because I'm Black.'" ("After 2 years of controversy, the Golden Globe Awards were back on TV," NPR, Morning Edition, Jan. 11, 2023.)

♦ A Black social-media commentator, defending the player Angel Reese, compared the coaching of Kim Mulkey at LSU to "running a

plantation." Reese is Black, Mulkey is white. Nowadays, race is often "the elephant in the room."

♦ "Nobody wants to address the elephant in the room but [a named NBA player] is FAT and out of shape." (An online commenter.)

♦ "You know, he still of course is going to be you know the elephant who is not in the room. He's going to likely dominate all parts of the conversation..." (NPR's Franco Ordóñez, about Trump's absence from a debate. The elephant is one of the Republican Party's symbols.)

## elephant ("The Blind Men and the Elephant")

skin of the elephant

it's a little bit like touching the ~

♦ "It's a little bit like touching the skin of the elephant, and you can be accurate in the spot you touch, but you might be missing ninety-nine percent of the reality of the elephant." (Richard Haass, the head of the Council on Foreign Relations, chatting with NPR's Steve Inskeep about misinformation.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Many elderly people in the US read the beloved John Godfrey Saxe poem "The Blind Men and the Elephant" when they were children. The line I remember to this day is "...each was partly in the right, and all were in the wrong!"

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Blind men and an elephant." It links the poem to ontology.

## elephant (seeing the elephant)

extent of the elephant

from a plane I could see the entire ~ (a huge wildfire)

piece of this elephant

I'm just seeing a small ~ (a huge wildfire)

see the elephant

his two brothers marched off "to ~" (Civil War)

### \*\*\* "The elephant rides pretty smoothly and it's pretty tall..."

♦ "I had lots of things to carry me across the river. Sometimes I could use a camel, sometimes I could get a boat. But if I knew there was critical timing involved...I would try to arrange in advance for the elephant. The elephant rides pretty smoothly and it's pretty tall. Usually I got on with a ladder, but you could step on its trunk and it would put you on its back. I was always a little nervous about that." (May Guinan, sent to Uttar Pradesh from the CDC in the campaign to eradicate smallpox, on how she would cross a river to get to her headquarters in Lucknow. Another method involved mounting a bicycle, which was then carried on the shoulders of two men. From *The Invisible Fire* by Joel N. Shurkin.)

### \*\*\* Maharajah, Jumbo...

♦ "An elephant which refused to board a Victorian train, forcing a 10-day trek from Edinburgh to Manchester, has finally arrived at the city's station. / *The skeleton* [italics mine] of Maharajah, an Asian elephant bought from a circus by Belle Vue Zoo in 1872, has gone on display on the concourse of Manchester Piccadilly. / The pachyderm and its trainer had to make the 220-mile walk [from Edinburgh to Manchester] after Maharajah refused to get into a carriage. / Maharajah, and trainer Lorenzo Lawrence, became local legends after making the journey from Scotland. / On arrival, Lawrence decided to stay in Manchester with the elephant and became head elephant-keeper at the zoo for over 40 years. / Maharajah died, aged 18, in 1882. / His skeleton was sold to Manchester Museum." ("Maharajah the elephant arrives at Manchester station 147 years late," BBC, 4 June 2019. It seems rather macabre to me to display the skeleton of an animal in a train station...)

♦ The word 'jumbo' comes from the name of an Ethiopian elephant who was brought to the US in 1882 by P. T. Barnum and displayed in Barnum's circus. The poet and etymologist John Ciardi tells Jumbo's story on NPR, "Jumbo's Big Adventure Popularizes a New Word," April 20, 2006.

♦ "The Big Top is coming down—for good," said Tamara Lush in the Associated Press. Feld Entertainment, owners of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, has announced that 'The Greatest Show on Earth' will close in May after a 146-year run. So ends a colorful chapter in the American story... So what killed the circus? Rising transportation costs hurt; so did a 14-year legal battle with activists who claimed circus employees abused elephants. Though Feld ultimately prevailed in court, last year the company released all its elephants to a Florida preserve and 'ticket sales plummeted.' Technology is another culprit: Today, when we have a virtual fantasy world literally in the palm of our hand, 'The Greatest Show on Earth' doesn't seem so great. / 'There is plenty of room for sadness,' said *The Republican* of Springfield, Mass., in an editorial. 'One of America's most enduring and endearing traditions,' the traveling circus brought wonders of the world to small towns across America. Perhaps time has passed the Big Top by. But for more than a century, these shows brought joy to countless millions..." (Ringling Brothers: The circus leaves town." *The Week*, 27 January 2017.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "British Expedition to Abyssinia," the campaign was a rescue and punitive mission to what is now Ethiopia. Led by Sir Robert Napier and fought by the Bombay Army, it culminated with the British seizure of the fortress of Magdala in 1868 and the suicide of the then leader of Abyssinia, Emperor Tewodros, also known as Emperor Theodore. Harold G. Marcus characterized the whole mission as 'one of the most expensive affairs of honour in history.' It was a triumph of British engineering, and the logistics included over 40,000 animals, among them forty-four trained elephants from India, which carried the heavy artillery on the march into the Ethiopian highlands. In Rudyard Kipling's "Toomai of the Elephants," Kala Nag, the elephant mentioned at the beginning of the short story, was a veteran of the mission: "He had been hoisted into a ship at the end of a steam-crane and taken for days across the water, and made to carry a mortar on his back in a strange and rocky country very far from India, and had seen the Emperor Theodore lying dead in Magdala, and had come back again in the steamer, entitled, so the soldiers said, to the Abyssinian War medal."

♦ "On the 27th, our flotilla was seen standing up the river, at nine in the morning, with all sails set. On beholding these, the Burmese made a sortie again on Campbell's right; and the most remarkable feature in this movement was the appearance of seventeen war elephants in the van, each bearing a howdah full of matchlock men. / Covered by his horse artillery, Campbell charged the bulky animals with his cavalry; the men in the howdahs were speedily shot, and no sooner did the elephants feel themselves unrestrained by the hand of their drivers, 'than they turned their stunted tails to our dragoons, and walked back to the fort with the greatest composure.' / Passing the latter with trifling loss, the flotilla, with its steam-vessel—a source of amazement and terror to the superstitious Burmese—anchored close to the left of Campbell's column." ("Kemendine and Donabue, 1824-5," *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

♦ According to historian John Julius Norwich, Hannibal led 37 elephants over the Alps, and Norwich notes that the Carthaginians must have had some secret way with elephants, as African elephants are generally considered to be untamable, unlike their Indian counterparts.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "During the American Civil War the soldier's first experience in combat was called 'seeing the elephant.'" (*On Killing* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. A search of the works of Ambrose Bierce, however, finds no mention of this usage. Nor does it appear in the *Red Badge of Courage*.)

♦ "The phrase 'seeing the elephant' is a distinct piece of American verbiage that dates to the 1830's and describes gaining knowledge from a particular experience. It was like going to town to see an elephant which had long been heard of but never seen to that point in a person's life. The phrase really came into vogue as people went West in search of a better life, adventure, and riches. The escape from plain boredom from the familiar surely did give them new insight into a greater world, hence the mythical elephant..." ("Seeing the elephant" by Kevin Kilpatrick, *Center Post-Dispatch*. This sounds plausible, but he includes no examples of usage in speech or written texts.)

♦ See the Wikipedia entry "Seeing The Elephant." It seems plausible but lacks examples of actual usage in speech or written texts.

♦ Errors become facts on the internet.



## elevate (verb)

elevate rap from a fad to an art form  
he helped ~ (Tupac Shakur)

♦ "Elevate Your Love Life. No apps. No online profiles. Just strategic dating. As the nation's leading luxury matchmaking firm, ... (An advertisement in *The New York Times Magazine*.)

♦ "Level up your grooming game, your balls will thank you." (A Manscaped advertisement.)

## elevated (level)

elevated level  
~s of testosterone (sports)

elevated blood pressure  
a pregnant patient with abnormally ~

severe, high, elevated, guarded, low >  
(terror alert system)

## elevation (noun)

his elevation  
a press release announced ~ (publishing company)

## elf (Elves Chamber, etc.)

Elf  
~ is a populated place in Clay County, North Carolina

Elves Chamber  
the ~ contains calcite formations (Marvel Cave)

Elves Chasm  
the ~ is a valley in Coconino County, Arizona  
the ~ is between miles 116 and 117 on the Colorado River  
the ~ is a shaded, fern lined grotto

Elf Cove  
~ is a bay in Sitka, Alaska

Elf Creek  
~ is a stream in Shoshone County, Idaho

Elf Island  
~ is one of the Aleutian Islands (Alaska)

Elf Lake  
~ is a lake in Lane County, Oregon  
~ is a lake in Gallatin County, Montana

Elf Point  
~ is a cape in Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska  
~ is a cape in the Chugach Census Area, Alaska

♦ According to AI Overview, "Elves Chasm is a shaded grotto and waterfall in the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona."

\*\*\* the Amazon, Iceland, northern Georgia (U.S.)

♦ The *curupira* is a mischievous red-haired elf who has feet that face backwards and takes delight in making tracks that lead travelers astray. (The Amazon.)

♦ Residents of Hafnarfjörður sometimes dress up as elves. (Iceland.)

♦ According to a legend attributed to the Cherokee Indians, the Tallulah Gorge in northern Georgia (the state in the U.S., not the republic) was inhabited by a race of "little people."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "My philosophy is, you don't have to see everything you believe in because many of your greatest experiences happen with closed eyes." (A person from Iceland, about the existence of elves.)

## elixir (effect)

elixir  
he thought it would be the ~ to save the company

## Ellis Island (Ellis Island of the West, etc.)

Ellis Island of the black migration  
the Illinois Central station, the ~ to Chicago

Ellis Island of the Southwest  
El Paso is often referred to as the ~

Ellis Island of the West  
Angel Island was nicknamed the ~ (San Francisco Bay)

\*\*\* "Their first taste of America was the kindness of strangers..."

♦ "But despite the tragic aura, the most striking thing about the hospital [on Ellis Island] is today how humane it was. The state-of-the-art facility, based on a design by Florence Nightingale, offered free health care to every third-class immigrant, many of whom were peasants who had never seen a doctor in their life or eaten such nutritious food. Of the million or so patients who stayed there, only 3,500 died; the vast majority were granted entry. / 'Their first taste of America was the kindness of strangers.'" ("Wet and Wild" by Tony Perrottet, photographs by Gina LeVay, *Smithsonian*, May 2017. The map is superb.)

## Elon Musk (epithet)

Elon Musk of his era  
Sergey Korolyov, the ~ (rocketry, spaceflight)

Elon Musk, shooting-for-the-heavens  
this is a wholly ~ type thing (Andrei Doroshin)

Vietnamese Elon Musk  
maybe you could compare him to a ~ (Pham Nhat Vuong)

## elusive (adjective)

elusive  
the truth is ~ (crime)

## Elvis (Afghanistan's Elvis, etc.)

Elvis of (bad boy) chefs  
he was the ~ (Bourdain)

Afghanistan's Elvis  
they called him ~, he sang from the heart (Ahmed Zahir)

Ethiopian Elvis  
the ~ Alemayehu Eshete...

\*\*\* Austin Butler...

♦ "Butler got called out on social media for his 'cringe' lingering 'Elvis' accent at the 2023 Golden Globes. / 'I don't think I sound like him still, but I guess I must because I hear it a lot,' Butler said at the time." ("Cindy Crawford also has an opinion on Austin Butler's 'never-ending' Elvis accent" by Lauren Samer, *The New York Post*, July 25, 2024.)

## emasculated (adjective)

got emasculated by Tom Brady

and once Bruce Arians ~, completely undercut...

♦ Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, in her press release announcing that she would not run for reelection as mayor, decried the possibility of Atlanta officials being “castrated on the evening news.”

♦ “I circumvent the system. I *circumcise* the system.” (The character Shaw from *South Side* on HBO Max.)

## emasculating (adjective)

emasculating insult

the term ‘mama’s boy’ is widely viewed as an ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “‘Mama’s boy’ is a flex, not an insult.” (According to NPR’s Neda Ulaby. See the Wikipedia article “Neda Ulaby.”)

## embark (embark on something)

embark on new adventures

it’s time for me to ~ (she quits NPR)

embarks on a new chapter

he ~ in life (David Greene leaves NPR)

embarked on a (bold) course

he ~ intended to lead Pakistan... (Musharraf)

embarks on a (120-mile) journey

in the winter the pronghorn antelope herd ~

embarked on a big night out

they ~ (social)

embarked on a path

China ~ of reform (economy)

embarked on his (morning) run

he ~

embarked on a (hacking) spree

he ~

embark on another

it is better to finish one thing before you ~

♦ “Now, however, I have launched my boat...” (Begun painting, as opposed to drawing.)

\*\*\* “The inscrutable river coursed northward...”

♦ “The inscrutable river coursed northward into the jungle, sixty-five feet wide, swift, deep, black, and silent. Goodbyes were exchanged. Roosevelt, Cherrie, and Dr. Cajazeira took their places in their canoe... (Setting off on the Duvida River in Brazil. From *Colonel Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris.)

♦ “Powell’s men slid their four boats into the Green River on Monday, May 24, 1869... Powell’s men...would not emerge from their own unprecedented epic for ninety-eight days of nearly perpetual terror, hunger, cold, and wonder...” (*The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ “I received my instructions in the middle of March 1906, and on 17 May we left... It was a brilliant sunny day with a cloudless sky, although the air was heavy with moisture. Everybody was in the best of humour.” (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ “I left Tangier, my birthplace, on Thursday, 2nd Rajab 725 [June 14, 1325], being at that time twenty-two years of age [22 lunar years; 21 and 4 months by solar reckoning], with the intention of making the Pilgrimage to the Holy House [at Makkah] and the Tomb of the Prophet [at Madinah]. (The great traveler Ibn Battuta.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Beginning is easy, continuing is hard.” (A Japanese saying.)

♦ see also *set out* (and *set off*)

## embargo (noun)

“embargo”

the photo had an ~ or scheduled release time (publishing)

## embattled

embattled CEO

the company has replaced its ~

embattled (accounting) industry

the ~ (fraud)

embattled singer

the ~ was hounded by reporters (sex abuse)

## embed (verb)

embed DEI (more) intentionally

~ in TESOL activities (diversity, equity, and inclusion)

## embedded

embedded in football

violence is ~

embedded in the language

the snobbery of people that is actually ~ (Wilfred Funk)

embedded in our lives

it’s so ~ (screens, smartphones, computers, etc.)

embedded into (Colombian) culture

bullfights are ~

embedded reporter

he served as an ~ in Afghanistan

♦ “Those who walk on foot have always been considered inferior to those who ride... In a more forthright manner we speak of the humble foot soldiers who are supposed to walk and of the footman who used to run, not walk, in front of his master’s carriage. / This sharp social distinction between the walkers and riders introduces us to a fascinating angle of human attitudes, to the snobbery of people that is actually imbedded in our language...” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 6, “Sources of Words of Attitudes and Emotions.”)

## ember (and dying embers, etc.)

dying embers

nothing created until the ~ of the game (Euro 2024)

breathe the embers (of Biden’s candidacy) back to life

some Democrats joined Sanders in trying to ~

♦ “In the meantime campus activity resumed on a much quieter note with the opening of the new semester on January 22. But perhaps the fires were only banked: Garber’s appointment of Derek J. Penslar...ignited further protest...” ( “John Harvard’s Journal: News About The University” by John S. Rosenberg, *Harvard Magazine*, March-April 2024.)

## emblem (emblem of freedom, etc.)

emblem of freedom

the bushranger became the ~ in a chained society (Oz)

## emblematic (adjective)

emblematic of the city

my style was very ~ (Ray Mancini / Youngstown)

## embody (verb)

embodied classical music

Bernstein ~ for several generations of listeners

embodied all those qualities

Quixote ~ (love, passion self-destructive, crazy, etc.)

embodied the resolve

the Iron Brigade ~ of Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana

embodied the fire and fragility

she ~ (the singer Sinéad O'Connor)

## embrace (verb)

embracing who

he is ~ he is and taking control of his life

embraced the cause

he ~ (reparations for US slavery)

embrace democracy

if Palestinians ~, confront corruption and reject terror

embrace the future

a split over whether to preserve the past or ~ (Swazis)

we must ~ (trade and business issue)

embraced globalization

two nations that have ~ (Chile, Mexico)

embraced its image

the company has ~ (Starbucks)

embrace Soviet imports

the young began to ~, including vodka (Inuit)

embraced Islam

I recently ~ and this is my first Hajj

embraced it

every supervisor has ~ or paid lip service to it (change)

embrace inclusive language

~ and encourage others to do the same

embraced (for itself) the legacy

Gazprom has ~ of Peter the Great (skyscraper)

embrace reform

he urged Wall Street to ~ (Obama)

embrace risk

there is a subset of us who ~ (aviators / astronauts)

embracing the role

Alabama is ~ of the favorite (football)

he ~ of provocateur (a writer)

embracing (palliative care) specialists

more doctors are ~ as partners

embraced his (Internet) strategy

still, investors have not ~

embrace strength

Juju Chang, AANHPI women discuss how to ~

embrace (new) technology

schools are among the first to ~ (surveillance)

embrace (an uncomfortable) truth

we must ~ (US corrections)

embraces change and innovation

he ~ (a high-school principal)

embraces violence and sexuality

the show ~ (Harley Quinn)

embraced the blog world

some restaurants have ~ (instant marketing)

embrace the gift of science

we ~, which is a gift from God (Jews / reproduction)

embrace nor reject

he will neither ~ another quest for the presidency (Gore)

reluctance to embrace

America's ~ the metric system

came to embrace

I ~ multiple identities (a man from Lebanon)

♦ "No, we weren't [expecting this storm]. But he said [pointing her drink at her husband], you know what, let's just embrace it, and, um, everything will be fine." (A family from Tennessee, visiting New Orleans during tropical storm Claudette. The storm caused flooding and spawned several tornados. In Alabama, a fiery 18-vehicle crash killed 10 people, one adult and nine children.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Step in / lean in and embrace it...

## embraced

embraced by Hollywood

he has been ~ (a writer)

embraced by the masses

that kind of message isn't going to be ~

embraced by physicians

until the 1960s, that approach was ~

embraced by (some) teenagers

surveillance is not only accepted but also ~

embraced by thrill seekers and martial-arts adepts

parkour has been ~

## embroider (verb)

embroiders the truth

he sometimes ~ (a politician)

## embryo (noun)

embryo settlements

England's ~ in North America (1600s)

embryo town

in a sketch, one sees the ~ of Hobart (1805)

## embryonic (adjective)

embryonic European Common Market  
he refused to join the ~ (Churchill)

embryonic stage  
I'm still a novice, in the ~ of my career (a boxer)

## emerge (verb)

emerging  
a new world is ~ (nationalism)

emerged  
a four-way race has ~ (election)

emerged that  
it ~ she had...  
new hope came this week when it ~ the U.S. offered...

emerged from the ashes  
the League ~ of World War I

emerge from the (revolutionary) cauldron  
many ~ to become conservatives

emerged from a turbulent childhood  
he ~ emotionally brittle

emerge from the cocoon  
he began to ~ of sorrow, rage and despair that had enveloped him

emerge from his brother's shadow  
he was desperate to ~ (Mike Quarry)

emerged as a (top talent) incubator  
the art gallery has ~ (Damascus)

emerged as a pathology  
Nazism ~ of an inflation-wracked country

emerge in 2017  
allegations against Weinstein began to ~

emerges early  
empathy, the key emotion, ~

patterns emerge  
~ (VICAP cold-cases investigations)

picture emerged  
a different ~ of the risks...

portrait emerges  
a Jekyll and Hyde ~ of SEAL accused of murder

## emerging (adjective)

emerging artists  
he had been in Singapore, to meet ~ (a curator)

Emerging Journalist  
he was named "~ of the Year" (by a national association)

emerging technology  
she is an expert in human behavior and ~

emerging writers

the magazine's greatest achievement was publishing ~

## emollient (soothing)

emollient phrase  
it's a more ~ ("research incident" vs. "lab leak")

## emperor (Exmoor Emperor, etc.)

Exmoor Emperor  
the giant red stag known as the ~

## emperor (power)

network and its emperor  
the social ~, Mark Zuckerberg

## empire (enterprise)

empire in the Caribbean  
he built a drug-trafficking ~

empire of Facebook and Twitter  
the only empire of America is the ~ and social networks

family's (business) empire  
his place in the ~

banana empire  
the fourth biggest ~ in the world (Noboa / Ecuador)

business empire  
his place in the family's ~  
his ~ encompasses... (Elon Musk)

cocaine empire  
he helped run a \$1 billion ~ (Colombia)

construction empire  
his late father's ~

department store empire  
Marshall Field's ~

sex abuse empire  
cheerleading boss ran ~ before suicide (Scott Foster)

nationwide (freight-hauling) empire  
Johnnie B. Hunt, who built a ~

gambling empire  
police uncovered a ~ (video poker)

publishing empire  
its vast ~

drug-trafficking empire  
he built a ~ in the Caribbean

freight-hauling empire  
Johnnie B. Hunt, who built a nationwide ~

criminal empire  
he runs a ~ from his Italian restaurant in Queens

vast (publishing) empire  
its ~

\$1 billion (cocaine) empire  
he helped run a ~ (Colombia)

place in the (family's business) empire  
his ~

built a (nationwide empire  
Johnnie B. Hunt, who ~ (freight-hauling / trucks)

built a (drug-trafficking) empire  
he ~ in the Caribbean

dismantled an empire  
changes since Ferguson effectively ~ (Man U failures)

♦ "This great agricultural empire is important to the entire United States." (The Imperial Valley of California. From the introduction to the 1949 film *Border Incident*.)

## empower (groups)

empower them to stand up for themselves  
she can show other girls and women how to ~

empowered me to show my pregnant belly  
she ~ (Amy Schumer about Bridget Everett)

empowered you as a woman  
it just ~

empower Mexican Americans and other Latinos  
~ to demand equal rights and recognition

empowers LGBTQ+ clients  
'queer gym' ~, both physically and mentally

empower the (Deaf) community  
she hopes her appearance can ~ (Raven Sutton)

empowered millions  
she ~ (Shireen Abu Akleh / Palestinians, women, etc.)

celebrate, educate, and empower  
we ~ African American/Diverse people (arts & counseling)

support, uplift, and empower  
feel empowered, and ~ others as well (art)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I often get asked if the [book] bans 'changed how I would write' or 'turned me off from continuing to write.' They have not. The have only empowered me to keep telling more stories..." ("Author George M. Johnson: We must ensure access to those who need these stories most," NPR, January 11, 2023. "George M. Johnson is an author and activist. George wrote *All Boys Aren't Blue* and *We Are Not Broken* and has a new book, *Flamboyants*, forthcoming.")

♦ "That HBCU taught me that my voice was just as important as everyone else's. It empowered me to be confident in my intelligence and my womanhood and everything that there was about me, so that when it was time for me to..." ("Faces of NPR HBCU Edition: Nikki J. Jones" by Sommer Hill, February 22, 2022.)

♦ "As a 6 foot, 10 inch female, my job is to empower other tall women." (Maci Currin.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "empower" bandwagon...

♦ "Local journalism empowers communities, one story at a time. SUBSCRIBE NOW." (*The Journal & Courier*, West Lafayette, Indiana.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "empowher" T-shirt. EmpowHer Shirt, Women Empowerment Shirt, Woman Business Shirt, Lady Boss Shirt. Sale ends in 6 days. 30% off. In 7 carts. Ships from Georgia. "I got a few compliments wearing this!" (\$10.50+. Etsy.)

♦ "Our mission is to empower refugees through culinary education." (Chef Alexander Harris of Emma's Torch, in an advertisement for Amazon's virtual assistant Alexa.)

♦ "We empower those who act. Those who see the correlation between things above [shot of a wave breaking] and things below the surface [shot of a breaking wave seen from under the water]. Those who navigate risk [shot of Laird Hamilton paddling out] with a heightened awareness of what's possible. Constant assessment, determine the best position, catch the perfect wave. [Shot of Laird photo-slutting a wave.] CME Group. Where risk meets opportunity." (CME Group TV spot, 'Those Who Act' Featuring Laird Hamilton.)

♦ "Marta empowers you to be seen and stand out in your industry by leveraging your unique personality and authenticity." (A speaker. \$1K+.)

♦ "[The ride] empowers warriors to find solace, healing, and strength through movement." (The website of the Wounded Warrior Project's Soldier Ride DC. See the Wikipedia article "Wounded Warrior Project." Investigate charities carefully before donating.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Y'all supplants the patriarchal *you guys*, and *elevate voices* replaces *empower*, which used to be uplifting but is now condescending." ("The Moral Case Against Euphemism" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023. The replacement of "empower" by "elevate voices" is a good example of the euphemism treadmill.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## empowered (groups)

empowered to stay well and well informed  
listen and become ~ (the podcast News Over Noise)

empowered by her deeds  
we can all be ~ (Harriet Tubman)

empowered look  
Janelle Monae's sheer dress over a bikini created an ~

so empowered  
I'm hoping when you hear it you feel ~ (Villano Antillano)

feel 'empowered'  
Taylor Swift helped her ~ to re-record album (Ashanti)

Feel Empowered  
"Student: Men Need To ~, Too" (Tell Me More, 2009)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "empowered" bandwagon...

♦ "Stay Informed, Stay Empowered. / As a new administration prepares to assume power, it's our job to report on what they DO with that power. We know you have questions and need reliable, independent journalism to navigate what's next. It's why we're here. But we can't do it alone. [Heart symbol] DONATE NOW." (National Public Radio / NPR. 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## empowering (groups)

empowering about it  
there's something really ~ (pose of "Fearless Girl" statue)

empowering to me  
using my voice has been very ~ (an elite athlete)

inclusive and empowering  
make our language more ~ (no gender assumptions)

positive, safe and empowering  
our goal is to create a ~ space where... (Morphe cosmetics)

felt empowering  
but I did it, and it ~ (changed name after divorce)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Beyonce's illusion bodysuit by Loewe is nothing short of empowering."

♦ "Our goal is to create a positive, safe and empowering space where..." (Morphe cosmetics.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Empowering or sexist? Lingerie ad featuring female Olympians in black bras, skimpy panties sparks debate." (*The New York Post*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## empowerment (groups)

empowerment  
more ~, more representation (Beyond Inclusion)

empowerment in expressing myself through dressing  
I find ~ (a young female NPR employee)

Empowerment (Faculty) Award  
she won WWU's Womxn of Color ~ (Regina G. Barber)

empowerment club  
she was inspired to create an ~ (17-year-old schoolgirl)

empowerment tale  
an exploitive male fantasy posing as an ~ (HBO's *The Idol*)

"economic empowerment"  
~ has become the rallying cry

female empowerment  
she uses the language of ~ to justify her own acts of violence

my own empowerment  
~, not power, but empowerment as a woman (Lady Gaga)

More than empowerment  
"~" (hype for Women's soccer)

anthem of (female and black) empowerment  
the video is an ~ (Beyonce's "Formation")

statement of empowerment  
it's a ~ ("you fight like a girl" / a female boxer)

symbol of empowerment  
designers and celebrities present the body as a bold ~ (skin)

flip victimhood into empowerment  
the art exhibit is designed to ~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I just felt like that's so insulting when people say, 'Oh you don't fight like a girl.' No, fightin' like a girl is not an insult, it's a statement of empowerment." (The Cleveland boxer Morelle McCane.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Dell Technologies. Back to School. AI empowerment. Powerful tech. AI that empowers."

♦ "The Feminine as Armor... When I wear what I want, draping my body in a Valentino gown paired with V-logo combat boots, I am power-filled... I am a divine feminine rebel, ready for battle. Proceed with caution because this bitch is free." (A full page ad for Valentino in *The New Yorker Magazine*, April 26 & May 3, 2021. Words by Janet Mock.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Still, the larger concerns about *The Idol*—is it an exploitive male fantasy posing as an empowerment tale, or an ode to power, wealth and fame masquerading as a critique of it—are tough to judge from the first episode. Put simply, not enough happens to truly know where this story is headed just yet." ("HBO's 'The Idol' offers stylish yet oddly inert debut episode" by Eric Deggans, NPR, June 5, 2023.)

♦ "You get to decide what your life looks like." ("A Letter to College Sports" by Cailin Bracken.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Young girls have more options now."

♦ "Empowerment" is often used as the flip side to "victimhood."

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## emptiness (depression)

emptiness  
something in me broke and I felt nothing except ~

## empty (depression)

empty inside  
catching her killer won't change anything, I'm just ~

♦ "It felt like I was empty, I had thoughts of suicide." (Bullied in school.)

## empty (empty words, etc.)

empty apology  
her ~...

empty blockbusters  
all the ~ now filling TV screens these days

empty gestures  
they are essentially ~ with very little to no effect

empty promise  
for laid-off workers, ~s of new jobs (US)  
she got so many powerful people to believe in an ~  
'Never Again' must never be an ~

empty suit  
he's an ~... (a politician)

empty threat  
such talk no longer passes as an ~ (school massacres)  
insiders worry they are not ~s (diplomacy)

empty words  
another meeting is over, and all that is left are ~ (U.N.)

boastful empty  
he is just another ~ fraud...



vague or empty

~ threats are worse than useless (school discipline)

♦ "Yeah, let's get real emotional and pass laws based on emotion rather than common sense. Trey Gowdy is an empty suit. He got rich in Congress while doing nothing." (An online commenter about a politician.)

♦ "For Israel, 'Never Again' must never be an empty promise." (The Israel-Hamas war.)

## empty-handed

empty-handed

she departed ~

people leave the video store ~

Liverpool will finish this season ~ (Man City)

## encore (noun)

encore

what would she do as an ~ (fashion designer)

encore of a lifetime

he was hoping for an ~ (Magic Johnson / 1992 Olympics)

encore career

older workers embark on ~s

many ~s build on work and life experiences

enjoying an encore

the U-2 spy plane is ~

bring them back for an encore

we don't want to ~ (politicians)

♦ Nowadays, concertgoers may be offered a chance to choose the encore by text message, using their cellphones. Not everyone thinks this is a good idea.

## encounter (difficulties, etc.)

encounter bumps

many families ~ in the road to toilet training

encounter the "honeymoon shocker"

couples who ~ (a snoring spouse)

## encounter (kill)

catch (him) and encounter (him)

we will ~ (police)

♦ "We will catch the rapist and murderer, and encounter him." ("Hyderabad rape suspect found dead: Is it murder or suicide?" by Geeta Pandey, BBC News, Delhi, Sept 18, 2021. This refers to extrajudicial murder by police who "encounter" a suspect.)

## encouraging (adjective)

certainly encouraging

the data are ~

## encrustation (affliction)

encrustations of (unflattering and beatifying) hearsay

trying to excavate Thoreau from beneath the ~

♦ see also *barnacle*

## encrusted

myth-encrusted

Scott, the ~ Englishman (Robert Falcon Scott)

myth-encrusted version

that ~ of history (that newspaper brought down Nixon)

## encyclopedia (amount)

encyclopedia of sins

Europe has blamed the Jews for an ~ (Jeffrey Goldberg)

## encyclopedia (knowledge)

encyclopedia of knowledge

he was remembered as the resident ~ (cooking school)

encyclopedia of (cheating) tips

he is an ~

veritable encyclopedia

he is a ~ of musical knowledge (Vic Galloway)

walking encyclopedia

he was a ~ of rhythms (a drummer)

he is a ~ on the history of rock and roll

## encyclopedic (adjective)

encyclopedic in breadth

the book is ~

encyclopedic knowledge

he had an ~ of theater songs (composer)

she has an ~ of criminal law

he had an ~ of Asian culture (Lockwood Kipling)

encyclopedic museum

~s have huge, permanent collections

## end (go off the deep end)

go off the deep end

she might ~ (sex)

went off the deep end

she ~

## end (deep end)

deep end

she was thrown in the ~

push us off the deep end

they ~ (a non-academic Norwegian boarding school)

## end (no end in sight, etc.)

end is in sight

luckily, the ~ (end to pandemic quarantine)

no end in sight

there is ~

no 'end' in sight of NFL wokeness

~ (End Racism message)

no end in sight for the (government) shutdown

there is ~

## end (the end)

the end of it

but that was not ~ (a religious affair)

## end (come to an end, etc.)

came to an end

my career ~ for a while (drug problem)

come to an end

it's been a good run, but it's ~ (Blog of the Nation)

coming to an end

is the nightmare finally ~ (politics)

nearing an end

Zach Wilson's days with the Jets are ~ (NFL)

bring the drama to an end

~ (mine rescue)

## ended (his life was ended, etc.)

ended

he would have been somebody if his life wasn't ~

♦ "He would have been somebody if his life wasn't ended." (A young man who was murdered.)

## endemic (adjective)

endemic in the NFL

race is ~ (lawsuit)

endemic in the start-up world

NDAs are ~ (secrecy)

endemic (drug) violence and corruption

he condemned the country's ~

\*\*\* **babesiosis...**

♦ "In three states—Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire—case numbers increased so much that the CDC says babesiosis should be considered endemic."

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Interesting the use of the word 'endemic' in this article. There's still debate as to whether COVID can be eradicated. But apparently we are past the point where that might've been possible for these spying pixels. Marketing people and their nefarious techniques are, it seems, harder than a virus." (The online commenter "ubercurmudgeon" about a BBC article on spying pixels.)

## endgame (noun)

end game

what's the ~ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

endgame

could he get to the Sudan in time to see the ~ (Mahdi)

endgame to our involvement

an ~ in Afghanistan

endgame (to our involvement) in Afghanistan

an ~

uncertain endgame

Iran is a factor in the ~ in Afghanistan (diplomacy)

## end run (noun)

end run around the Vacancies Act

this seems to be an ~ (politics)

end run around the union

union leaders have denounced the plan as an ~

end run around the public's wishes

liberals are pursuing ~ (politics)

regulatory end run

a ~ around the FDA (Theranos)

try an end run

they plan to ~ to prove their theory (virology)

## enemy (conflict)

enemy

I felt like time was my ~ (child stranger abduction)

the *Fitzgerald* was now at war, the ~ the sea (sinking)

Democrats welcome change, not as an ~ but as an ally

we must stand like in wartime, except now the ~ is a

virus

nature is not an ~ to be conquered (Norwegian explorers)

uncertainty is the ~ (attempts to get hostage released)

enemies of action

politeness and diplomacy are often the ~

enemy of business

instability and uncertainty are the ~

enemy of the good

don't let the perfect be the ~

enemy of warmth

sweating is the ~ (the Arctic)

enemy number one

~ is the sun (skin cancer)

number one enemy

time is the ~ during active shooter response

hidden enemy

landmines, the ~

sworn enemy

Levi was a ~ of denial in all its forms (Primo Levi)

dangerous enemy

sweating is a ~ (Arctic clothing)

formidable enemy

time is always the most ~ in an epidemic

mortal enemy

unlawful command influence is the ~ of military justice

old enemy

influenza is an ~, one that comes every year

shifty enemy

we're dealing with a really ~ (Omicron virus strain)

strongest enemy

overconfidence was his ~ (Francois Botha vs. Tyson)

invisible, horrible enemy

defending our nation from this ~ (COVID-19)

invisible sneaky enemy

it's microscopic, fast and mysterious, an ~ (virus)

considered dust to be an enemy

I have long considered ~ (an asthmatic allergic to dust mites)

sees the press as an enemy

she ~ (LSU coach Kim Mulkey)

♦ "As I always say, don't let profound be the enemy of interesting." / "Hold on while I call the Nobel Prize Committee." (The last panel of a great Non Sequitur cartoon by Wiley Miller, June 20, 2021.)

♦ "The enemy stands 602 feet tall and weighs 15 million tons." (Shasta Dam versus the Winnemen Wintu group, which is opposed to making the dam higher.)

♦ "It's microscopic, fast and mysterious, an invisible sneaky enemy. (Saudi journalist Maha Akeel, writing about COVID-19.)

♦ "We are fighting malaria as we are fighting the Maoist rebels. The mosquitoes are deadlier than the Maoists since we are more vulnerable to their attacks. Mosquitoes are killing more security forces than the rebels." (Akhileshwar Pandey, president of the Jharkhand police association, on the deaths of more than 100 policemen and soldiers from cerebral malaria. The police and paramilitary forces are stationed in forest camps.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The enemy of my enemy is my friend."

♦ "Keep your friends close, and your enemies closer."

♦ "An enemy will agree, but a friend will argue."

♦ "One hundred friends are too few; one enemy is too many."

♦ see also *friend* (noun)

## engine (engine room)

engine room of growth for the industry

streaming is the ~ (Spotify, etc. / music)

engine rooms of a government

he takes us into the ~ under attack by its own leaders

in their 'engine room'

they have race winners ~ (Team Ineos / Sky)

♦ "They put together a joint command operation, a boiler room... The boiler room functioned as a nerve center." (A political campaign.)

### \*\*\* Machinery Hall and the Grand Central Engine...

♦ "But the most extraordinary thing about Machinery Hall was the great motor that powered everything else. The Grand Central Engine, sometimes simply called the Centennial Steam Engine, was the largest engine in the world... Constructed by the brilliant American engineer George Corliss, it supplied free steam power to the more than eight thousand smaller machines on display throughout the hall. / Visitors from other countries were enchanted by the technological prowess marshaled in Machinery Hall... The Times of London gushed, 'The American invents as the Greek sculpted and the Italian painted: it is genius.'" (The 1876 Philadelphia World's Fair. From *In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette* by Hampton Sides.)

♦ Back room, boiler room, engine room, war room, nerve center... Take your pick!

## engine (person)

better engine

he's probably got a ~ because he's a smaller frame (boxer)

great engine

he was quick, he's got a ~, he could run all day

ridiculous engine

Del Boy's got this ~ now, he's fitter, slimmer, smarter

♦ "He was quick, he's got a great engine, he could run all day." (The young footballer Jamie Vardy.)

♦ He had a non-stop motor, no-quit attitude, and willingness to... (A football player.)

♦ "If Usyk keeps a high pace and makes Joshua miss with a lot of shots, that will work to Usyk's advantage as he has probably got a better engine." (Former world champion George Groves, about Oleksandr Usyk vs. Anthony Joshua.)

## engine (driving force)

engine

he was the ~ that helped Pittsburgh's offense go (NFL)

engine of growth

Punjab is the ~ for Pakistan

engine of prosperity

Harlem could be an ~

engine of (upward) mobility

education was the most reliable ~ (blacks)

engine for prosperity

the US economy is a fantastic ~

economic engine

biotechnology could be the state's new ~

AI could be a massive ~ (for states)

economic and industrial engine

Lombardy is Italy's ~

restart the engine

he could ~ of Federal capital punishment (DOJ AG)

## engineered

engineered by the ETA

the explosion was ~ (terrorism)

## engineering (noun)

social engineering

Radio 2 became committed to ~ (BBC)

## engraved (impression)

engraved in my heart

your faces are ~

## enmeshed

enmeshed in corruption

he is ~

## enomics (and nomics)

Cold-o-nomics

"~" by Stacey Vanek Smith, Cardiff Garcia

DACA-nomics

~ (NPR / Latino USA)

Gastro-Nomics

"~: Hunting for A Good Meal..." (Selena Simmons-Duffin)

## Pandemoc-onomics

“~: Lessons From the Spanish Flu” (Planet Money)

## tip-onomics

they will talk about ~ (see quote below)

## Truss-enomics

and now ~ lies in tatters (U.K.)

♦ “Roben Farzad host of Public Radio’s ‘Full Disclosure’ joins *Here & Now*’s Celeste Headlee to talk all things tip-onomics. This article was originally published on WBUR.org...” (“Tip-flation sees some restaurants asking for 30% tips,” NPR, *Here & Now*, August 23, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See “Meanings of -nomics in English: From Nixonomics to coronanomics” by Gordana Lalic-Kristin (Gordana Lalić-Kristin), Nadezda Silaski (Nadežda Silažki), and Tatjana Durovic (Tatjana Đurović). Its subtitle is “How -nomics has extended its original meaning to additional senses.” It’s a perfect paper, available online.)

♦ At Wiktionary, type in “-nomics,” then click on “English terms suffixed with -nomics,” and you will find a comprehensive list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## enormously (exciting, etc.)

### enormously emotional

it was ~ (the ending of a great film)

### enormously exciting

it was ~ because we were finding things... (fossils)

### enormously worrying

it is ~ (nuclear powerplant in war zone)

### enormously distressed

we are ~ by the news and our thoughts and prayers...

### surprised me enormously

it ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Language to express the size / intensity of emotions in a “spirit of abundance...”

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, “The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy.”

♦ see also *big* (*big love, etc.*), *great* (*great hatred, etc.*), *huge* (*huge gratitude, etc.*)

## enrich (verb)

### enrich education

different perspectives, stories, and experiences ~

## enshrine (verb)

### enshrine abortion

the move to ~ (in the French constitution)

### enshrines (beach) access for all

the act ~ (California)

### enshrine (very particular) ideologies

rankings ~ (of colleges, etc.)

### enshrines free speech

the US ~ in its constitution

## enshrined

enshrined in the Constitution

a common misperception is that this principle is ~

### enshrined in the first amendment

the right to freedom of speech is ~ of the US constitution

### enshrined in law

the right to maternity leave is now ~ (Switzerland)

### enshrined in textbooks

false claims have been ~ (medicine)

## ensnare (verb)

### ensnared a former ambassador

the expanding investigation has ~ (FARA violations)

### ensnared dozens of executives

the scandal has ~

### ensnared scores of investors

his scam lasted for years and ~

### ensnared them

their own greed ~

## ensnared

### ensnared in the downturn

Seattle has been ~ (economy)

### ensnared in the inquiry

he has been ~ (politics)

### ensnared in a (public-relations) nightmare

he wound up ~

### ensnared in legal proceedings

he spent a huge amount of time ~

### ensnared in the scandal

he was ~ (a lobbyist)

### ensnared in a love triangle

she was ~

### ensnared by blood feuds

thousands of innocents have been ~ (Albania)

### ensnared by a traffic jam

I was ~ on my way to work

### ensnared by the investigation

he is the most prominent executive to be ~

### ensnared by a (bizarre online extortion) plot

he was ~ (catfished)

### became ensnared

he ~ in a tax inquiry

### got ensnared

she ~ by fast food at the age of six (McDonald’s)

### found himself ensnared

he has ~ in allegations of corruption

## ensnarled (involvement)

### ensnarled in the (developing racial) unrest

Lutheran authorities worried Graetz might become ~

## **entangled (involvement)**

entangled in history  
to live in Moscow is to be ~

entangled in the probe  
another associate of the President has become ~

entangled in the Syrian War  
he became ~ (James Le Mesurier)

## **enter (enter a new era, etc.)**

entering a new era  
we are ~ (warfighting / cheap but effective drones)

## **enthralled**

enthralled by media coverage  
the public was ~ (a murder case and trial)

kept Mr Nikai enthralled  
it is China's economic power that has ~ (Japan)

## **enthraling (adjective)**

enthraling bout  
the ~ ended in a draw (boxing)

## **entranced**

entranced by one player  
lots of people are ~ in particular (Zion Williamson)

## **entrancing (adjective)**

entrancing  
it was ~ (a video of the Mongol Derby)

## **entrenched**

entrenched in Atlanta  
Mexican drug traffickers are firmly ~

entrenched in Uganda  
anti-gay feeling is ~

entrenched on opposite sides  
Democrats and Republicans are ~ of the issue (abortion)

entrenched attitudes  
~ still make it difficult to report rape (Mexico)

entrenched bureaucracy  
the VA is an ~

entrenched insider  
he is a Washington outsider facing down ~s

entrenched interests  
powerful ~ will thwart him

entrenched leader  
the protests have toppled ~s in Egypt and Tunisia

entrenched practice  
she is seeking asylum from Guinea's ~ of FGM

entrenched problems  
the next police superintendent will have to take on ~

entrenched or sedimented  
deeply ~ expectations of gendered existence (feminism)

culturally entrenched  
child-rearing traditions are ~ (diapers, etc.)

deeply entrenched  
lighting fireworks to celebrate is a ~ custom (Peru)

firmly entrenched  
Mexican drug traffickers are ~ in Atlanta  
the videos appear to be ~ in the blogosphere

well entrenched  
Wal-Mart's reputation is ~

even more entrenched  
denial is becoming ~ (in politics)

become (deeply) entrenched  
conspiracy thinking has ~ in American society

## **entwined**

entwined in our lives  
our devices are so ~ (smart phones, screens, computers)

became entwined  
the moment when the lives of two strangers ~ (photo)

## **envelope (push the envelope)**

push the envelope  
trendsetters ~ (eco-friendly motels)  
entertainment continues to ~ (sex and kids)

pushed the envelope  
the company has always ~ (oil drilling)

pushing the envelope  
he was always ~, looking for a good time

pushing the envelope  
he was always ~, looking for a good time

pushes the envelope on safety  
the race often ~ (Giro d'Italia death in 2011)

push the envelope on what  
they are trying to ~ is possible... (Google)

pushing the edges of the envelope  
we are ~ in everything that we do ("Butch" Wilmore)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ This expression seems to have originated with test pilots and flying.

## **envision (envision the future, etc.)**

envisioned the end  
it was not how he ~ of his character (TV show)

## **envy (self-promotion envy, etc.)**

Christmas envy  
a lot of us have ~ (comic Jack Black)

insurrectionist envy  
democrats have ~ of the Capitol riot (Michael Moore)

lottery envy  
~ in the 5 states... (Powerball)

Marvel envy  
“~” and “shared universes” (the *Hollywood Reporter*)

self-promotion-envy  
that can trigger a ~ spiral (someone’s Facebook page)

Tea Party envy  
why liberals have ~ (politics)

*Spiritual Envy*  
~: *An Agnostic’s Quest* (a book by Michael Krasny)

wedding envy  
~ is as old as weddings themselves (Xochitl Gonzalez)

♦ “You’ll find yourself envy-surfing Zillow listings on your phone while you watch.” (Glen Weldon, NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, about *The Adam Project*.)

♦ “Powerball’s \$1.5 billion jackpot is driving lottery envy in the 5 states where people can’t buy tickets” by Kim Chandler, Mark Thiessen and The Associated Press, November 4, 2022.)

## epic (noun)

epic  
to a climber, “~” means “near total disaster”

epic battle  
their ~s for championship crowns (sports)  
hooked makos diving into boats during ~s with anglers  
their ~ Saturday night (Micky Ward vs. Arturo Gatti)

epic bout  
wondering if an ~ was in store (boxing)

epic breakout  
Jimmy Fastenrath was at the Marines’ ~ from Chosin (Korean War)

epic chronicle  
Robert Caro’s ~ of the life and times of Lyndon Johnson

epic confrontation  
the expedition was not supposed to be an ~ with death

Epic Conquest  
“East of the Sun, the ~ and Tragic History of Siberia”

epic day  
this was an ~ (satisfied motorcyclist)  
tales of an ~ at Waimea Bay (surfing)

epic fail  
her ~ is still a raw nerve among Democrats (Hillary)

epic failure  
he stands at the precipice of ~ (politician)

epic game  
its ~ against the Soviets (hockey)  
Syracuse won an ~ (6 overtimes)

epic party  
remembering swells and ~s (surfing milieu)

epic proportions

it was a catastrophe of ~ (1928 St. Francis Dam fail)

epic rivalry  
Muhammad Ali’s ~ with Joe Frazier (boxers)

epic scale  
the ~, and epic inefficiency, of its coal economy  
both of them liked to do things on an ~ (government)

epic (playoff) series  
O’Neal wouldn’t allow this ~ to end early (NBA)

epic terms  
Mendes saw the material in larger, ~ (comic books)

epic (surf) wave  
an ~ had formed over Brookmont Dam (kayaking)

Everest epic  
accounts of the 1963 ~ resonated loud and long

gangster epic  
this grandly stylized ~ (John Woo / A better Tomorrow)

## epicenter (noun)

epicenter of (countercultural) attitudes  
Laurel Canyon became an ~ (1960s)

epicenter of that battle  
Birmingham became the ~ (for civil rights)

epicenter of youth culture  
the ~ (Shimokitazawa in Tokyo)

epicenter of the disease  
in Nigeria, the ~ in Africa (polio)

epicenter of the (new) disease  
New York City, the ~ (AIDS)

epicenter of the epicenter  
it was really the ~... (see quote below)

epicenter of the epidemic  
Gorakhpur, the ~ (Japanese encephalitis)

riot’s epicenter  
South-Central, the ~ (LA)

global epicenter  
Vegas is boxing’s ~

♦ “I’m inside the corridors of the Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital. And it was really the epicenter of the epicenter, absolutely overwhelmed in the first wave, the scenes that woke the West up to what was in store for them... The mental scars still run very deep... and will take a generation to fade.” (BBC Correspondent Mark Lowen in Bergamo, Dec. 23, 2020.)

## epidemic (noun)

epidemic  
amid that ~, one single infection was fateful (NotPetya)  
this is an ~ we can control (school shootings)

epidemic of crack  
the neighborhood is recovering from an ~

epidemic of fear  
an ~ has spread over about 130 villages (black magic)



epidemic of loneliness

we've heard a lot about an ~ (intimacy / companion bots)

epidemic of piracy

there has been an ~ off the coast of Somalia

epidemic of violence

an ~ which is rapidly spreading

there's an ~ that is sickening the soul of this nation

epidemic proportions

underage drinking has reached ~

NFL's (domestic violence) epidemic

study and rectify the ~ (players beat their partners)

crack epidemic

the nineteen-eighties issued in the ~

loneliness epidemic

can we combat America's ~ (public health)

cheating epidemic

some blame schools for the ~

this ~ and the 'essay mills' who profit from it

hidden epidemic

sex trafficking is a ~ (US)

silent epidemic

the ~ of America's problem with guns (suicide)

stem the epidemic

we have done nothing to ~ of violence

verge on an epidemic

mental health problems that ~ (colleges)

\*\*\* **Murderous epidemics were routine...**

♦ "Murderous epidemics were routine in the lightly sanitized, pre-antibiotic world."

♦ "No one knows how many thousands of Comanches died in the cholera epidemic of 1849."

♦ "Typhoid is epidemic along the entire Susquehanna Valley, lasting the year round. / Dr. Edson describes the streets as still reeking with filth, and says that disinfectants are still apparently unknown to the majority of the people there." ("The Plague At Plymouth," *The New York Times*, May 17, 1885.)

♦ "New York City had seen its share of epidemic disease. From the Dutch settlement forward, infectious outbreaks were a common part of daily life." (*Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky.)

♦ "Most of the adult male leaders in Samoa died during the 1918 epidemic."

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Epidemics follow war.

♦ Endemic, epidemic, pandemic...

## epitaph (noun)

epitaph for his campaign

the ~ may be that... (losing politician)

career epitaph

the lone word on his ~ might have been 'pioneer'

\*\*\* **"This be the verse you grave for me..."**

♦ "This be the verse you grave for me: / Here he lies where he longed to be; / Home is the sailor, home from sea, / and the hunter home

from the hill." ("Requiem" by Robert Louis Stevenson. The words are engraved on Stevenson's monument, on Mount Vaea, on the island of Upolu, Samoa.)

♦ "Soon after the end of the war a dossier was found in the archives of the Munich Gestapo relating to the investigation into an underground organization in one of the concentration camps of Western Germany. The final document stated that the sentence passed on the members of the organization had been carried out and their bodies burnt in the crematorium. The first name on the list was Mostovskoy's. / It was impossible to ascertain the name of the provocateur who had betrayed his comrades. Probably he was executed by the Gestapo together with the men he betrayed." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Two, Chapter 40.)

♦ "Hurbinek was a nobody, a child of death, a child of Auschwitz... Henek...sat beside the little sphinx... / Hurbinek died in the first days of March 1945, free but not redeemed. Nothing remains of him: he bears witness through these words of mine." (*If This Is A Man* by Primo Levi.)

♦ "One day Larisa Feodorovna went out and did not come back. She must have been arrested in the street at that time. She vanished without a trace and probably died somewhere, forgotten as a nameless number on a list that afterwards got mislaid, in one of the innumerable mixed or women's concentration camps in the north." (*Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

## equality (groups)

equality and freedom

ensuring America lives up to its foundational values of ~

Animal Equality

the animal rights group ~

his ~ colleagues in Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain and...

gender equality

she has pushed for ~

Homosexual Equality

the Gay Liberation Front and the Campaign for ~

marriage equality

we should reconsider ~ (gay marriage / SCOTUS)

justice and equality

she was a champion of ~ (RBG)

unity and equality

his message of ~ (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

visibility, representation and equality

thanks to increases in ~, more LGBTQ folks can come out

steps towards equality

we have made some toddler ~, and then we fall back

equality matters

~ (BBC)

made equality a diagnosis

it has ~ for America's ills (the Democratic Party)

prevent equality

the sports argument is the latest salvo to ~ (trans)

talk about equality

we're still in a place where we have to ~ (female sport)

♦ "With protests unfolding almost daily throughout the country, one hopes this isn't just rinse and repeat—lament the dead, demand justice, another cop kills another unarmed Black person, and so on." ("Pharoahe Monch, Styles P Call Fight For Equality 'Same S\*\*\*, Different Toilet'" by Marcus J. Moore, NPR Music, June 5, 2020.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Our candidate promises that his 'world peace' will be based on 'equality' among nations. What on earth does that mean? 'Equality' in what respect, we must ask? In wealth? In power? In prestige? In raw materials? Will Bolivia be the equal of Russia? Will we be the equal of Korea? Will they raise the unequals up to our level? Or will they drag us down to their level? And how will we like it when we get there? If such a thing as 'equality' really existed, which it doesn't, how would a specific candidate get it for us, or for the nations of the world? And when? Tomorrow? Next year? In ten years?" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 12, "Political Terms and Their Origins.")

♦ "The law, in its majestic equality, forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal their bread. This equality is one of the benefits of the Revolution." (Anatole France, *The Red Lilly*.)

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## equate (verb)

equates not getting the COVID shot to drunk driving  
he ~ (a politician)

## equation (noun)

changed the equation  
the added sanctions don't seem to have ~ (diplomacy)

## equilibrium (noun)

equilibrium between mankind and nature  
how to restore ~

equilibrium of our (hyper-globalized) world  
the delicate ~ (war)

emotional equilibrium  
trolls try to disrupt your ~ (Internet)

mental equilibrium  
she works hard to maintain her ~ (video celebrity)

precarious equilibrium  
maintain a ~ that will prevent... (Isaiah Berlin / society)

equilibrium returns  
when you peel off from the herd, your ~ (a politician)

achieve equilibrium  
the goal is to ~ (diplomacy)

maintain some equilibrium  
the dramas teach you to think and ~ (gentle parenting)

reached an equilibrium  
eventually they ~ (dose and side effects)

regain (emotional) equilibrium  
songs about trying to ~

## equity (groups)

### equity

~ is the product of an invisible legal revolution

equity in the entertainment industry  
in a report on ~, McKinsey & Company notes that...

equity activists  
the Democratic Party and its ~

Equity Affairs  
the Office of ~ (Wake County public-school system)

equity issue  
shade is an ~ (Mayor Eric Garcetti of LA / trees)  
moving the SAT online is not going to eliminate ~s  
transgender health care is an ~, not a political one

Equity Language  
the Sierra Club's ~ Guide discourages using the words...

equity language  
~ fails at what it claims to do (the writer George Packer)  
the gap between ~ and ordinary speech (*Latinx*, etc.)  
~ has a willed, unnatural quality (so-called "people-first")  
~ demands conformity (bureaucratic and moral)

equity-language  
~ guides are proliferating... Cancer Society, etc.)

equity-themed  
a session at an ~ teachers' conference

equity and inclusion  
the culture of ~ at Georgetown Law

heat equity  
~ reduces the inequitable distribution of risk  
~ is an environmental justice issue  
~ is the right to have thermally safe environments

Period Equity  
Rutgers University has a ~ Project (menstruators)

tree equity  
American Forests has championed "~"  
American Forests has piloted a ~ score (U.S. cities)

environmental equity  
climate justice and ~

menstrual equity  
advocates for ~ oppose a sales tax on menstrual products

racial equity  
everything has a ~ component to it (White House)  
a \$1B pilot project to build ~ in America's roads

thermal equity  
~ includes heat and cold (vs. heat equity)

broadband and digital equity  
the director of ~ (Baltimore)

diversity, equity, and inclusion  
embed ~ (DEI) intentionally in TESOL activities

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ Equity is “removing the predictability of success or failures that currently correlates with any social or cultural factor.” (National Equity Project.)
- ♦ “We have increasing social disparities.” (STDs / public health.)
- ♦ “San Francisco’s Latinos disproportionately affected by monkeypox.” (NBC Latino.)
- ♦ “Initiatives to reduce *disadvantage* [italics mine] among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”
- ♦ “[Francoise] Brounger says we will know we have equity ‘when we see mediocre women getting through the executive ranks, because I can tell you there are a ton of mediocre men.’” (“Pinterest paid its most senior woman \$22.5M for gender discrimination. There’s a lot more to the story” by Janice Min, *Time Magazine*, April 12 / April 19, 2021.)
- ♦ “Newsom, like Biden, was also under significant pressure to appoint a Black woman in the role after he made a public pledge to do so in 2021, amid speculation about Feinstein’s possible retirement. Such pledges have become more common in liberal politics, a way to signal solidarity with an increasingly diverse electorate, and a go-to move for white male Democrats in particular.” (“In Search of Kamala Harris” by Asteed W. Herndon, *The New York Times Magazine*, October 22, 2023.)
- ♦ “I help English teachers tackle native speakerism.” (Marek Kiczowski. From “Teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) vs Teaching English as a Lingua Franca (ELF).” Kiczowski runs the TEFL Equity Advocates & Academy.)
- ♦ According to the American Forests’ website, “But a map of tree cover in America’s cities is too often a map of income and race. That’s because, due to decades of redlining and other discriminatory policies, trees are often sparse in neighborhoods with more low-income families and people of color.”
- ♦ “The Nobels Overwhelmingly Go to Men—This Year’s Prize For Medicine Was No Exception,” NPR, by Nell Greenfieldboyce and Madeline K. Sofia.)
- ♦ “Few Black men become school psychologists. Why that matters.” (NPR.)
- ♦ “Bringing diversity to Maine’s nearly all-white lobster fleet,” NPR, All Things Considered, Sept. 15, 2022.
- ♦ “Orchestras have traditionally been a pretty white space.” (Diversity, equity and inclusion / DEI.)
- ♦ “Anthony Tommasini, formerly the New York Times’s chief classical-music critic, has proposed that orchestras stop ‘blind auditions’. He hopes that making visible the race of musicians applying for jobs will increase the number of non-white performers, but this would mean, as he acknowledged, ending a practice that from the 1970s helped raise the number of women in orchestras.” (“Classical music: Airs and Graces,” *The Economist*, November 19th, 2022.)
- ♦ “Tennis being a predominantly white sport...” (Coco Gauff speaking about Serena Williams. Both are Black professional tennis players.)
- ♦ “We need [a woman in Formula 1], we need diversity. (Caitlyn Jenner.)
- ♦ “Why are there no openly gay male MMA fighters?” (BBC.)
- ♦ “Who is the outdoors for, who gets to enjoy these wild places.” (PBS / America Outdoors. This follows on tropes like “Birding while Black” and “there is a lack of representation of Black people in mountaineering and in high-altitude mountaineering,” etc.)
- ♦ “Lor Sabourin became the first non-binary climber to send 5.14 trad with East Coast Fist Bump in Sedona, Arizona.”
- ♦ “I care a lot about period poverty.” (Syria Chippalthurty, 17, from Houston. “Period poverty” refers to the lack of access to menstrual products and education.)
- ♦ “Equity-language guides are proliferating among some of the country’s leading institutions, particularly nonprofits.” (The American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, the National Recreation and Park Association, the Columbia University School of Professional Studies, the University of Washington, the Sierra Club, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Stanford

University (“Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative”), a division of the University of Southern California’s School of Social Work... Mentioned in “The Moral Case Against Euphemism” by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023. He writes brilliantly about the language.)

♦ “I really think about “sleep equity” as an access issue. What we find in society is that caregiving roles or shift work—working when your body would rather be sleeping—disproportionately falls on people of color, Black people, other people of color.” (Lauren Whitehouse, an assistant professor of psychology and cognitive neuroscience at the University of Kentucky. From “More than a third of U.S. adults don’t get enough sleep. Here’s how to get the rest we need,” Sacha Pfeiffer, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022.)

♦ “There is plenty of room in the world for mediocre men, but there is no room for mediocre women.”

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Equity is everywhere. The Biden White House even has something called the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity.” (“The Inequality of ‘Equity,’” by Christopher Caldwell, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

♦ “The myth that Black and brown are moving together in equity...” (Los Angeles politics.)

♦ “I don’t want to hear one more peep out of them about diversity, equity, and inclusion. I don’t wanna see any more of our C-suite execs recommend books for women’s history month. There were tangible actions they could’ve taken and they chose to perform these values. No thank you.” (An underpaid employee with an Asian name who was repeatedly turned down for a raise. She finally applied for her job as a new hire at a higher salary, and her posts went viral.)

♦ “If the girl pop stars like Britney and Christina, if they can be sexual and flaunt their sexuality around I don’t see why I can’t either.” (Singer Ari Gold, 2007.)

♦ “so there are more stories, validation about 43 year old women having consensual sex with 15 and 17 year old men—gender is the point—than 43 year old men having unconsensual sex with...anyone under the age of 18?” (An online commenter, about a woman who had sex with boys.)

♦ “*Equity* is a fig-leaf term for lowering standards.” (The linguist John McWhorter.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Access (lack of access, etc.); disparity (racial disparities in education, etc.); disproportionate (disproportionate number of African-Americans, etc.); disproportionately (a disproportionately high rate, disproportionately burdening, affects women disproportionately, etc.); gap (gap between whites and blacks); inequity; parity; rates (suffer from higher rates); systemic; systematic; underrepresented (underrepresented accent groups), underserved (underserved communities, historically underserved); uneven (uneven growth and development)... (Words and phrases that typically occur with *equity*...)

♦ “If we’re rolling our eyes at African-Americans, then we should be rolling our eyes at everyone else.” (Amani Nuru-Jeter.)

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ OPTIMISM, n. The doctrine, or belief, that everything is beautiful, including what is ugly, everything is good, especially the bad, and everything right that is wrong. It is held with greatest tenacity by those most accustomed to the mischance of falling into adversity... Being a blind faith, it is inaccessible to the light of disproof—an intellectual disorder, yielding to no treatment but death. It is hereditary, but fortunately not contagious.” (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## equivalent (noun)

equivalent of Area 51

this could be China’s ~ (airfield in Lop Nur area)

equivalent of “a new El Dorado”

the newspaper described the islands as the ~ (guano)

equivalent of “mechanical doping”

the shoes are the ~ (Nike shoes at Tokyo Olympics)

equivalent of a conscientious objector  
he views himself as the ~ (refuses to get vaccinated)

equivalent of the full-court press  
a decoy deadline is the productivity ~ (deadlines)

equivalent to a slap on the wrist  
this is the ~

no equivalent  
there's ~ of the Geneva Conventions for this tech yet

food equivalent  
it's the ~ of the "Mona Lisa" (Jiro's in Japan)

mental health equivalent  
advocates envision 988 as the ~ to 911

software equivalent  
it's the ~ of cancer (code to unlock iPhone)

Twitter equivalent  
Benet gave Justice the ~ of a fist-bump (bro-ing up)

French equivalent  
she won a Cesar, the ~ of an Oscar (Kristen Stewart)

legal equivalent  
the case is the ~ to nails on a chalkboard (problems)

literary equivalent  
it is the ~ of potato chips (a VERY interesting book)

political equivalent  
this was the ~ of capital punishment (calls for resignation)  
it was the ~ of a food fight (presidential debate)

♦ "By using sports terms, one could say the atmosphere has been exposed to doping, which means we have begun observing extremes more often than before." (Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, about the weather.)

♦ "A vessel like the *Prince* was the eighteenth-century equivalent of an Amazon truck, its delivery times calculated in years instead of days or hours." ("Old Money" by Lauren Collins, *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2024. A grade of "F" for this superfluous and silly comparison.)

♦ "You're brave. You would've protested the Vietnam War and ended it. And this is the modern equivalent to that, so thank you all." (A bizarre equivalency from Karen Read to her supporters. See the Wikipedia article "Killing of John O'Keefe.")

## era (time)

era of judging  
the ~ 4-year-olds is over (educational testing)

vaccine era  
back in December and January in the beginning of the ~

waterbed era  
he was hired right in the beginning of the ~ (cold case)

four-belt era  
Scotland's first undisputed world champion in the ~

Tin Foil Hat Era  
welcome to the ~ (conspiracy theories / 2024)

bygone era

in modern-day America, there is no such thing as a ~

golden era  
the ~ of whaling, from about 1820 to 1860  
the ~ of boxing was the 80s and 90s (20th century)

change of era  
it was a ~ in tennis (Federer beats Sampras in 2001)

end of an era  
is it the ~ for James (the great NBA player LeBron James)

era is coming to an end  
an ~ (Gareth Southgate's tenure as England's manager)

entering a new era  
we are ~ (warfighting / cheap but effective drones)

♦ "This era is bereft of talent. Last good HW era finished at Holyfield & Lewis. It's been crap ever since." (A boxing fan.)

## erase (groups, etc.)

erase me from my own (Defacement) conversation  
mediocre bitch... trying to ~ (Chaedria LaBouvier)

erased women as public beings  
laws that ~ (Afghanistan)

erase the refugee camp  
it's an attempt to ~ (Israeli incursion in Jenin / PA)

erase our existence  
they are trying to ~ and make us invisible (LGBTQ)

erase the legacy  
they seek to ~ of discrimination and lived experiences

erase the past  
they are desperately trying to ~ and we won't stand for it

erase his past  
he would like to ~ (a gang member)

erase us and our families  
they are trying to ~ (Don't Say Gay Bill)

cancel or erases  
I want to assure people this in no way ~ history

dehumanise and erase  
stories ~ the multiplicity of black people's existence

obscure or even erase  
teaching online will ~ my presence (a black female)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "There are so many anti-LGBTQ attacks going on around the country and a lot of them are really about trying to erase our existence and to make us invisible, and to make our young people invisible and our elders invisible." (Michael Adams, CEO of SAGE.)

♦ "They tried hard to erase me, I mean erase my name, erase my position, erase my songs, erase my face, erase the memory of me, but they couldn't." ("Iranian Singer Googoosh Raises Her Voice To Keep Her Nation's Culture Alive," NPR, All Things Considered, Sept 29, 2021.)

♦ "I felt like books were almost in some passive way, judging me for being who I was, simply by erasing me from the idea, like from the

canon in and of itself, right? If I'm not shown or if I don't exist in a story, then that means that somebody doesn't find my life valuable enough to talk about, right? So why would I engage in something that's not engaging with me?" (Jason Reynolds, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, an award which is presented bi-annually by the Library of Congress.)

♦ "Hey my sweet sister. Let's please not allow this business to erase our talent with giving grey areas and technicalities. Take a moment and know the history. DON'T BE A PART OF ERASING IT. I wish you the best. (Mo'Nique Worldwide responding to a tweet by Rebel Wilson.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "erase" bandwagon...

♦ "And where [sic] Trump, and his MAGA Republican right wingers, seek [sic] to erase history, we Democrats continue to write history and make more history." (Someone at the 2024 DNC. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Petrovsky-Shtern told me, 'From a purely historical standpoint, there is no comparison' between the Holocaust and the Russian invasion of Ukraine... But, he added, 'from the point of view of rhetoric, the comparison makes sense. [Zelensky] is saying, 'They are coming to erase us.'" ("The Memorial: A Holocaust atrocity was about to be commemorated. Then came another war" by Masha Gessen, *The New Yorker*, April 18, 2022.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## erased (groups, etc.)

erased

so much history about queer life has been ~ (POC)

erased from public discourse

this moment in history has been all but ~

erased from history

the battalion of black women ~ ("Six Triple Eight")

erased from Kansas

we've been virtually ~ and are invisible (Kaw Nation)

erased from American teaching

knowing your history has essentially been ~...

erased and invisible

being ~ from conversations (non-binary gestation parent)

erased or pushed back into the closet

families and teachers can be gay without being ~ (Florida)

particularly erased

older women are ~ (TV & films / Geena Davis Institute)

lost or erased

the rediscovery of ~ black cemeteries raises many issues

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "We refuse to be invisible, we refuse to be erased. (A Pride parade.)

♦ We're not going anywhere; we're here to stay; we're in your face; we're present and not absent; you will not erase us... (Demonstrators, chants, signs, and banners.)

♦ "Justin Torres's genre-defying new book, "Blackouts," explores what it means to be erased and how to persist after being wiped away." (Hugh Ryan's review of the book in *The New York Times*. The book won the 2023 National Book Award for fiction.)

♦ "Oftentimes we don't use the word *lost* or *abandoned*, we are really saying erased, physically erased from the landscape for other purposes." (Antoinette Jackson, Chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of South Florida, about a Black cemetery. From "Thank God you found me": Florida officials unearth

a fourth forgotten Black cemetery," NPR, All Things Considered, Dec 20, 2021.)

♦ "Knowing your history has essentially been erased from American teaching, how do you preserve your history and culture?" (Sommer Hill interviews Devin Mellor, "Faces of NPR: Devin Mellor," Dec. 1, 2021.)

♦ "Six Triple Eight: The battalion of black women erased from history" by Oprah Flash & Amy Johnston, BBC, July 5, 2023. The Google query, "How many Americans served in World War II?" returns the answer, "16 million."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## erasure (groups, etc.)

*Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood*

*Girlhood Interrupted: The ~* (a book by Jamilia Blake)

erasure (of women & BIPOC) from American history  
the ~ is a feature of white supremacy

erasure of my existence

I hear that call as a complete ~ (Dahlia Belle, Black trans)

erasure upon erasure

Torres layers ~ (Hugh Ryan's review of *Blackouts*)

society's erasure

frustrated by ~, the Lesbian Avengers fought back (NPR)

self-erasure

~ and self-display (eating disorders)

black erasure

the term ~ is real and not an exaggeration (Questlove)

I want to make sure that ~ doesn't happen (Questlove)

black equestrian erasure

the history of ~

Black and LGBTQ erasure

students are resisting ~ in the whitest county in California

bi-erasure

there is a lot of bi-phobia and ~ that exists in society

non-binary erasure

saying "girls and boys" is ~

cultural erasure

Bilozaze was as immersed as ever in that history of ~ art to help people survive genocide and ~ (native women) all the racial implications inherent in ~ (music) ~, or broke conventions of genre, gender and identity... mass detention, forced labor and ~

purposeful erasure

the data isn't there because they don't collect it, this is ~

theft and erasure

the ~of one's own history

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The term black erasure is real and not an exaggeration." (According to Questlove.)

♦ "We have 100+ statues and portraits in the Capitol. Almost all of them are of white men. The erasure of women & BIPOC from American history is a feature of white supremacy." (A tweet attributed to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez by *The New York Post*.)



♦ “For many years, when our tribal leadership would go to them and push for resources and highlight this issue, they’d say, ‘but where’s your data?’ But we know the data isn’t there because they’re not collecting it. This is purposeful erasure.” (Abigail Echo-Hawk, director of the Urban Indian Health Institute.)

♦ “In the piece, Elizabeth’s last name is spelled ‘Keckley’...[b]ut the woman herself signed her name ‘Keckly.’ The erasure of her spelling in the pages of her own memoir may be an indication of how little control this formerly enslaved autobiographer had over her manuscript’s publication...” (“What’s In A Name?” by Jennifer Fleischner, *The New Yorker*, April 14-20, 2021.)

♦ “Think about what that means. They didn’t even cast a Black gay actor, or a Black gay character. It’s played by a straight (laughing) Italian American man. So just like process that... that erasure.” (“Bonus: Remembering the iconic, complicated Andre Leon Talley,” NPR, Code Switch, Jan. 23, 2022. The commentators are discussing the idea that Stanley Tucci’s character in the 2006 film *The Devil Wears Prada* represents Andre Leon Talley.)

♦ “I think it’s really important to have that visible representation on a larger level. The world around you has been shaped by erasing trans people from history and from culture.” (Nico Francis, they/them)

♦ “The opposite of inclusion is erasure... Not everyone who is pregnant identifies as a woman.” (NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride, about the use of “pregnant people” versus “pregnant women.” FTM trans, and various binaries, or female children, for example, might get pregnant but not identify as a woman.)

♦ “to erase the erasure, to rewrite an almost-history of invisibility / But why stop there?” (“The Teacher” by Jacqueline Woodson, *Smithsonian*, December 2017.)

♦ “The history has been obfuscated and obliterated...” (An attempt to rename Chicago’s oldest house from “the Henry B. Clarke House” to the “Louis Henry Ford House.”)

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ “STOP BISEXUAL ERASURE” T-shirt. Stop bisexual erasure shirt, bisexual t-shirt, bisexual pride, anti biphobia shirt, floral bisexual, bisexual flowers... Sale ends in 20:03:15 (and counting down). 25% off. “Love it It’s soft, beautiful, comfy. Everything.” (\$26.93+. Etsy.)

♦ “[W]e are spending a lot of time on erasure, and these are great conversations to have with children...” (“‘Born on the Water’ puts the ‘1619 Project’ into kids’ hands,” NPR, All Things Considered, February 17, 2022.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “They have often been rendered invisible by the global lens and have seldom received their due.” (“How Climbers Reached the Summit of K2 in Winter for the First Time” by Adam Skolnick and Bhadra Sharma, *The New York Times*, Jan. 19, 2021. The writers’ claims are ludicrous, but good tempo-speak.)

♦ “Malay accused of ‘erasing’ Sherpa’s act of courage.” (On Mount Everest. See “Expedition company refutes Sherpa’s account of heroic Everest rescue” by Maroosha Muzaffar, *Independent.co.uk*. The case of Gelje Sherpa.)

♦ “The Florida Gators are no longer celebrating Aaron Hernandez. / The University Athletic Association, which funds the school’s athletic programs, has removed all reference to Hernandez in and around the football stadium. The latest and most public one came Thursday when construction workers pulled up a granite plaque commemorating Hernandez as a first team All-American selection in 2009. The brick was cemented into the ground outside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. / ‘We didn’t feel it was appropriate to celebrate Aaron Hernandez,’ the UAA said in a statement. ‘We put together an immediate plan after the initial news broke to remove his likeness and name in various private and public areas in the facility, such as the South End Zone team area, locker room, football offices, Heavener Complex Kornblau Lobby and the brick display entrance to the football facility. / We were able to implement some of the changes immediately, and this (brick removal) was a more complex process to complete with our vendors.’” (“Florida removes all references to Aaron Hernandez,” AP, July 25, 2013.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## erode (verb)

eroded to a dangerous degree  
America’s military superiority has ~

eroded her (work-life) balance  
the demands of the job ~ (at Manhattan Hedge Fund)

erode (“traditional”) beliefs  
modernization need not ~ in the supernatural (sangomas)

erodes (social) cohesiveness  
an epidemic ~

erode confidence  
corrections and retractions ~ in science (journals)

eroded (public) confidence  
the accident has ~ in aviation safety

eroded their (political, spiritual and cultural) power  
British policies further ~ (Maasai)

erodes the (moral) underpinnings  
capitalism ~ of society

erode (indigenous) Tibetan culture  
critics fear the railroad will ~

threaten to erode  
divisions ~ France’s tradition of equality (Muslims)

confidence (in him) has eroded  
public ~ markedly (leader of country)

credibility erodes  
~ when attention to detail falters (NPR journalism)

grip (on this country) may be eroding  
the king’s ~

## eroding

eroding (ring) skills  
questions about his ~ (Mike Tyson, the boxer)

## erosion (noun)

erosion of (intelligence) assets  
citing the ~

erosion of confidence  
the recrimination betrayed an ~ (Israeli raid)

erosion of (Aboriginal) culture  
the historic ~

erosion of privacy  
each new ~ (Internet)

erosion of profits  
with the ~ (US sheep industry)

erosion of support  
he faces an ~ (a politician)

erosion of (sexual) values  
it’s wrong to blame popular culture for the ~



erosion of viewership

broadcasters alarmed at the ~

erosion of (NASA's) technical skills

experts point to an ~

ratings erosion

the two TV game shows are facing serious ~

physical and cultural erosion

American Indians try to reverse decades of ~ (diet, etc.)

blame popular culture for the erosion

it's wrong to ~ of sexual values

## error (unforced error)

unforced error and a self-inflicted wound

he described it as an ~ (politics)

## ersatz (substitute)

ersatz past

nostalgia for an ~ that is largely an artifact of Hollywood

ersatz (vision) quest

they weren't on some ~ (nomads)

ersatz spiritual

an ~ that quotes a nonexistent Bible verse

suspected to be ersatz

sexuality that they ~

♦ "Billie Holiday made a single, wry nod to gospel in 'God Bless the Child,' an ersatz spiritual that quotes a nonexistent Bible verse." ("Billie Full Of Grace" by Tracy Fessenden, NPR, August 20, 2019.)

♦ "The extremist group set up ersatz police forces and courts..." ("Islamic State Dumped At Least 6,000 Bodies In Mass Graves In Iraq, U.N. Says" by Bill Chappell, NPR, November 6, 2018.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Substitute coffee; fake aluminum; imitation rubber; paper bandages; wooden buttons; tobacco made of dried roots and dried potato peel; shoes soled with wood; meat substitutes... (Ersatz products in Germany during World War I. From "Mass Slaughter on a Personal Level," by Dwight Garner, NYT, November 10, 2011. The article is a review of *The Beauty and the Sorrow: An Intimate History of the First World War* by Peter England.)

♦ "[Our hosts] gave us some fat pork, corn bread, and a kind of coffee, made, I think, out of burned peas. But it was warm... Hunger made that breakfast the most delicious we had in six months." (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby, about his service during the Civil War.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This means *substitute* in German. It rose to prominence in World War One: ersatz coffee (from acorns), ersatz flour (made from potatoes), etc. Currently, it means "artificial imitation" or "fake" or "facsimile" or "not authentic."

♦ 139 hits at NPR Search and counting... (Usages seem to be figurative.)

## erupt (feeling)

erupts in anger

just then he ~ and... (drunk)

erupted in celebration

the Fire Hall ~ (rescue of miners)

erupted in cheers

when he came across the finish line, we all ~

erupts into cheers

the crowd of soldiers ~ (Bagram)

erupted with joy

the Yankees' dugout ~ (sports)

cheers erupted

more ~ (rescue of coal miners)

panic erupted

the victims were trampled to death when ~ (Hajj)

## erupt (verb)

erupted in Kinshasa

fighting ~ (Congo)

erupted in Lagos

violence ~

erupted on message boards

squabbles ~ (online investments)

erupted during a (motorcycle) rally

a wild clash that ~

erupted in protest

Lebanon ~ when Hariri was murdered

erupt in violence

political races in the Niger Delta frequently ~

erupted in civil war

Libya has ~

erupted into violence

Haiti, which ~ three weeks ago

long-simmering ethnic tensions have ~

erupt (quickly) into (violent) free-for-alls

rallies can ~ (Kenya)

Egypt is erupting

~ (protests)

chaos erupted

~ in the diner (Seacrest Diner attack)

the ~ at a security checkpoint (at an airport)

conflicts erupt

when ~, MSF sends teams of surgeons...

controversy erupted

~ when a white fraternity performed a skit...

crisis erupts

the US will need to strike preemptively before a ~

fire erupted

more enemy ~ and he dove for cover behind a rock

hotspots erupt

coronavirus ~ across country

lawlessness erupts

when disasters occur, ~

protests erupted  
~ (Korea)

riots erupted  
the ~ after Japan scored (in Moscow / World Cup)

squabbles erupted  
~ on online-investor message boards

trouble erupted  
some minor ~

trouble will erupt  
bikers have been wondering if ~ in Sturgis (rally)

violence erupted  
last year ~ in France's small towns (Beurs / Rebeus)

gunfire erupts  
~, and bodies sprawl everywhere

warfare erupted  
gang ~ in Compton as the Bloods sought revenge...

fighting erupted  
the ~ July 20 between... (rival political gangs)  
~ in Kinshasa (Congo)

caused (racial) tensions to erupt  
the altercation ~

\*\*\* **Krakatoa, Vesuvius, Mount St. Helens, Mount Etna...**

♦ Sounds from the eruption of Krakatoa volcano in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra in 1883 were heard up to 3,000 miles away, but not by everyone, due to peculiarities of sound waves and the atmosphere.

## eruption (noun)

eruption of violence  
the ~ has dashed hopes (Middle East)

eruption of (gun) violence  
the ~ across the country, with kids caught in the crossfire

eruption of gunfire  
he heard the ~ (combat)

## ery (badassery, etc.)

assholery  
prestige TV is prime territory for ~ (writers' rooms)

badassery  
despite such ~, she never really...  
overuse has leached *badass* of its ~  
she regarded her burns as the stigmata of ~ (Tamar Adler)  
the film features the ~ of Michelle Yeoh (*Everything...*)  
~, well done... (Kayaking Looking Glass Falls, Ferraro)

boogery  
~, drama... (unpleasant things while hot-girl walking)

bullshittery  
do what you want but spare us the ~ (a Canadian / Loblaw)

dumbassery  
your lunchtime dose of ~ (the Sportsocracy sports radio)

dumbf\*\*kery  
~ like this is actually illegal (in Germany / baby names)

f\*\*\*ery  
the ~ of society that results in school shootings

girlbossery  
The Wing, considered a hub of ~ (women-only social club)  
is all this anti~ simply a new way to put women down

radio-productery  
and you approached this in a very ~ way (podcaster)

nerdery  
an utterly uneventful day of academic ~ (Katherine Maher)

screwery  
that normal day-to-day for ~ (criticism of Big Pharma)

shithousery  
~, the dark arts in soccer (see the Wikipedia article)

spoil-ery  
now we'll get into the more ~ aspects of the film...  
our discussion will be so ~, right? (about a film)

spoillery  
there is a plot turn too ~ to reveal

TERFery  
accusations of ~ are sufficient to intimidate many people

trickery  
the government has tried a lot of legal ~  
Amazon's non-consensual subscriptions and cancellation  
~

whataboutery  
there's a lot of ~... (raising a different issue)

wokery  
Beckham doesn't preach ~ (vs. Neville, Lineker)  
Bud Light fiasco should wake up corporations to drop all  
~

wordnerdery  
she's celebrated for bringing ~ to the masses (a crossword constructor)

♦ "Badassery. Well done." (An impressed online commenter about a video. Michael Ferraro not only ran Looking Glass Falls. He hands rolled at the bottom. He hands-paddled and chased down his paddle. Snap-rolled, I think. Rolled *under* a tree blocking the river. And he did it all in style! Super! As Michael said, "Clean line, plugged it deep, and it was good." Watch: [kayaksession Michael Ferraro runs Looking Glass Falls \(NC, Usa\)](#))

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Strong Language, A swearsy blog about swearing." ([stronglang.wordpress.com](#) has a very nice entry for f\*\*\*ery. The comments are particularly good, especially the one by a person who lived in Jamaica for many years.)

♦ "We've Hit Peak Badass. It's Gotta Stop" by Jesse Sheidlower, *The Daily Beast*, Apr. 14, 2017.

## escalate (verb)

escalated the situation

those cops ~ (an online commenter / a police OIS)

violence escalated  
the ~ on Saturday (protests)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This word comes from the escalator. As such, it is relatively recent.

## escape (mental health / verb)

escape  
I daydream to ~

desire to escape  
women confess their own secret ~ (to Toby Dorri)

escapes from his anxiety  
he ~ by performing (an actor)

struggled to escape  
she ~ her mother's shadow

♦ "You can rent an underground cave to escape from election news."  
(In New Mexico.)

## escape (mental health / noun)

escape from all the chaos on land  
surfing is an ~ (Bethany Hamilton)

his escape  
books, movies and his car were ~ (Bret Easton Ellis)

my escape  
basketball was always ~ (playing it)

soothing escape  
the album is a ~ from the rush of everyday life

mental escape  
when I need a ~ from a stressful situation, I fantasize...

running was his escape  
~ from a home that was a prison (Frank Shorter)

offer an escape  
books that ~ (during the pandemic)

♦ "Living a life of mental illness, they call it—I like to say mental superpowers—you know, basketball was always my escape."  
(Former NBA player Delonte West, bipolar disorder.)

♦ "She's also started telling her own story in public. She's given just a handful of speeches, but each time she's been met with a line of women coming up to her afterward, confessing their own secret desire to escape. Her story resonates, she says, because so many women wonder if they wouldn't do the same thing. They feel pressure to smile and pretend their life is fine, even when trapped in a bad relationship or a bad job or any number of circumstances that seem beyond their control. Toby thinks these women are inspired by her not only because she had the guts to leave, but also because she tells her story without shame." ("Toby Dorri's Great Escape" by Michael J. Mooney, *The Atlantic*, October 2020.)

♦ "I left Saint Louis. I descended the steps of this fire-escape for a last time and followed, from then on, in my father's footsteps, attempting to find in motion what was lost in space—I travelled around a great deal. The cities swept about me like dead leaves, leaves that were brightly coloured but torn away from the branches." (*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ We all need an escape...

## escapism (noun)

escapism and community  
Harry Potter provides a form of ~ for them (fans, stans)

♦ "Both say the wizarding world provides a form of escapism and community for them." (Two Harry Potter content creators, one female, one male, both in their thirties!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Escapism is not escape."

## ese (legalese, etc.)

bureaucrat-ese  
this is kind of ~ big time (government guidelines)

critic-ese  
the clichés of ~ (food critics / Aaron Timms)

crosswordese  
the puzzle was a beauty, with a minimum of ~

diplomat-ese  
translating 'unacceptable' from the ~

Educationese  
"A Parent's Guide to ~" (*Psychology Today*)

legalese  
these instructions from the judge, they're ~  
the language is ~ (equity activism)

lexicographese  
~, such as 'the act or state of X', 'characterised by Y',  
etc.

medicalese  
~ is entered at Merriam-Webster and Wiktionary  
what did my doctor just say, ~ translations

parentese  
researchers call this ~ (talking baby talk to an infant)

slopestyle-ese  
the trick is a B-Spears, in ~ (snowboarding)

New York-ese  
his characters speak fluent, mid-20th century ~

Senate-ese  
the two old Senate hands sometimes slip into ~

wonk-ese  
"we're de-risking" he says in perfect startup ~

♦ "When most adults, even older children, see an infant, they shamelessly slip into baby talk: Whooose a prettee baabee? Such a cutiee. Their speech gets smoother, slower, higher pitched and sing-songy. Researchers call this altered form of speech 'parentese,' but almost everybody does it—an uncle, a neighbor or the nice lady at the grocery store..." ("Scholars confirm what it'sy bitsy babies around the world already know" by Susan Brink, NPR, *Goats And Soda*, August 4, 2022.)

♦ "Those instructions [from the judge], I'm a lawyer and I couldn't understand them... They've gotten to be too much. They're legalese." (Mark Richards, Kyle Rittenhouse's attorney, speaking to Ailsa Chang. From "Kyle Rittenhouse's defense attorney discusses the trial and acquittal," NPR, *All Things Considered*, Nov. 19, 2021.)

♦ "The assertions are strident, and the vocabulary is esoteric ('harm,' 'insurrection') as if it were translated from a foreign language. In a sense, it is. The language is legalese, and it is designed to build a

foundation upon which a company can be held liable under civil-rights law in an American court. This activist tactic has been widely misunderstood." ("The Inequality of 'Equity,'" by Christopher Caldwell, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

♦ "Barney the Bear is a secure test item..." (A North Carolina ESL supervisor, stressing the necessity of keeping the stuffed Teddy bear locked up before using it to test LEP first graders for the yearly high-stakes test. Teachers had complained that the bear frightened some children, and wondered if they might introduce the bear to the children prior to the test. The answer: "No! Barney the Bear is...")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ About the word "parentese." Wikipedia redirects "parentese" to "Baby talk." Merriam-Webster does not recognize the word. Neither does Wiktionary.

♦ Search for "-ese" at Wiktionary, however, and you get a wonderful list of words that incorporate that suffix, including "motherese," which is the same thing. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ "Gobbledygook, or the circumlocutions of bureaucratic language, is intentionally difficult to understand."

♦ see also *boilerplate (noun)*, *buzzword (noun)*, *doublespeak (noun)*, *funny language*, *language (types)*, *lip service (pay lip service, etc.)*, *newspeak (noun)*, *speak (NASA-speak, etc.)*, *supersizing (linguistic supersizing)*, *talk (mediator talk, etc.)*, *word salad*

## essence (noun)

essence

his ~ rather than his show-biz surface...

essence of the (scientific) method

the ~ lies in the repeatable result

essence of motherhood

the ~ is to nurture, protect, love

essence of childhood

the ~, of course, is play (*Childhood* by Bill Cosby)

## etch (verb)

etched their mark

his companies ~ on city skylines (developer)

etched itself into my memory

the photo ~

etched him in my mind

that experience has forever ~

## etched

etched in their faces

I could see despair and suffering ~

etched in the (tribe's permanent) memory

the crime will remain ~ (murder of tribal cop)

etched in the (country's) memory

the murders are ~

etched in stone

reform is not yet ~

none of the rules are ~ (about health)

nothing is ever ~ (planning)

etched into the landscape

some journeys are ~ of our lives (Lake Ohrid)

etched on his face

he stood over him with concern ~ (boxing)

etched by the weather

her face is ~

## ether (into the ether)

disappeared into the ether

any trace on social media has ~ (a company)

## eulogy (noun)

eulogy

NPR's Rob Schmitz has this ~ (for Credit Suisse Bank)

eulogy for social studies

it is time to write the ~

written Leon Edwards' eulogy

the broadcasting team already had ~ (UFC 278)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

♦ "The eulogist is always a calumniator." ("COLUMBUS" by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ "EULOGY, n. Praise of a person who has either the advantages of wealth and power, or the consideration to be dead." (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## eunuch (noun)

moral eunuch

modern cities are run by ~s (weak on crime)

## eureka (moment, etc.)

eureka moment

but the ~ came when...

this was a ~, he realized what he needed to do...

Eureka moment

the Aha! instant in cognitive science, the ~

his eureka

the workaday math relevant to ~ (Einstein)

♦ "I'm put in mind of Einstein having to fill in the workaday math relevant to his eureka." ("Stilled Life: The photography of Wolfgang Tillmans" by Peter Schjeldahl, *The New Yorker*, October 10, 2022.)

♦ "And then came this crucial moment...a eureka moment, and the light went off in Semmelweis' head... This was the final bit of evidence that he needed... and it was at this point that everything came together...and all of the sudden it made perfect sense and he knew that he had the answer." (The great Ignaz Semmelweis autopsied his good friend Jacob Kolletschka and connected lack of hand hygiene with puerperal (childbed) fever. While today he is known as "the saviour of mothers," at the time his ideas were dismissed by the medical establishment. As John Snow's ideas had been dismissed, and Thomas Aitchison Latta's. From BBC, Sounds, Great Lives, "Ignaz Semmelweis.")

♦ "We were returning to the bungalow for tea and suddenly he shouted, 'That's it! It must be a sphere...large enough to hold two people... It will be made of steel lined with thick glass. It will contain a proper store of solidified air, concentrated food, water... One might go to the moon!" (*The First Men on the Moon* by H.G. Wells.)

♦ "He walked on down the dark, empty street. Suddenly an idea came to him. Immediately, with his whole being, he knew it was true. He had glimpsed a new and improbable explanation for the atomic phenomena that up until now had seemed so hopelessly inexplicable; abysses had suddenly changed into bridges. What clarity and simplicity! This idea was astonishingly graceful and beautiful. It seemed to have given birth to itself—like a white water-lily appearing out of the calm darkness of a lake. He gasped, reveling in its beauty...

/ And how strange, he thought suddenly, that this idea should have come to him when his mind was far away from anything to do with science, when the discussions that so excited him were those of free men, when his words and the words of his friends had been determined only by freedom, by bitter freedom." (Viktor Shtrum makes his breakthrough in theoretical physics. From *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part I, Chapter 64.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word is Greek and translates as, "I found it!" Its utterance is associated with the scholar Archimedes and hydrostatics. The word is the state motto of California and refers to the discovery of gold and the California Gold Rush.

## evangelical (adjective)

evangelical about camels

Lauren Brisbane is ~ and their milk (in Australia)

evangelical certainty

she speaks in staccato bursts of ~ (death penalty)

## evangelist (person)

"evangelist of science"

he is a self-described ~

evangelist for veterans' care

he is the President's ~

evangelist for energy efficiency

he has been an ~ (Nobel Prize winner)

evangelist for the idea

I really became an ~ (E.O. Wilson / inclusive fitness)

developer evangelist

she is a ~ who teaches programming to girls

open-source evangelist

Bruce Perens, an ~ (computing)

Web evangelist

I come from print, I'm not much of a ~ (newspapers)

culinary evangelist

he is a ~ out for converts (chef)

## evaporate (verb)

common sense is evaporating

~ at an alarming rate (see quote below)

enthusiasm (seemed to have) evaporated

Scott's ~ (for skiing in Antarctica)

forces evaporated

despite their vows to fight to the death, their ~ (rebels)

good will has evaporated

the ~ (government)

revenue has evaporated

~ in the digital-music industry

♦ "Common sense is evaporating from society at an alarming rate." (An online comment about "NJ transgender woman transferred from women's only prison after impregnating 2 inmates, report says" by Stephen Sorace, Fox News, July 17, 2022.)

## eve (on the eve, etc.)

on the eve of destruction

we are ~

on the eve of 1914

periods that precede great upheavals such as Europe ~

reached the eve

we've ~ of destruction (Phil Mushnick about youth sports)

♦ "The Eastern World, it is exploding / Violence flaring, bullets loading / You're old enough to kill, but not for voting / You don't believe in war, but what's that gun you're toting / And even the Jordan River has bodies floating..." (Watch Barry McGuire Eve of Destruction YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfZVu0aU0I>

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Eve" relates to "evening."

## even (contempo-speak)

actually even

the US pushes countries to ~ create obstacles (asylum)

we ~ found two of the...

I don't think someone like Francis ~ now gets it (abuse)

in lots of cases they maybe didn't ~ pay any money

and we ~ suspect that he meant me because he once...

offenders who have not ~ committed a new crime

kind of even

we will be ~ more transparent (a young lady)

there are people that ~ resent the Olympics (rules)

it's ~ surprising to us (K-Pop blows up)

like even

they're there ~ in the parking lot (police at Rolling Loud)

sort of even

helping them ~ reframe and start to see...

## even-handed (adjective)

even-handed policy

he's striven to maintain an ~

## evening (decline)

evening of my life

if I can choose where to pass the ~, it will be Kyirong

in the evening of life

what am I called, ~ (an 81-year-old man)

♦ "Do you think we too shall be at the evening of our life before we know it? If we feel the days are flying past us faster and faster, it sometimes does me good to believe so, and to remember that 'Man proposes and God disposes.'" (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

## evergreen (adjective)

Evergreen Athlete

Leilani Munter has won the BBC's ~ Award

evergreen debate

it's an ~ (when to put up Christmas lights)

evergreen efforts

his ~ have seen him score 500 club goals (“Ibra”)

evergreen forward

Zlatan Ibrahimovic and that other ~, Cristiano Ronaldo

evergreen gossip

he is still remembered by Brits with a taste for ~ as...

evergreen topic

articles on this ~ (Foreign Service reform)

evergreen tracks

soul music is timeless, these are ~ (soul singer Al Green)

evergreen quarterback

the ~ has already won six Super Bowls (Tom Brady)

evergreen question

the ~, “What does it all mean?” (pop culture)

how to limit and control the power of the State is the ~

**everything (everything Taylor Swift, etc.)**

everything Taylor Swift

“13: A Taylor Swift Fan Podcast” is a deep dive into ~

Everything West Texas

it’s ~ with Floyd Miller (a podcast)

everything Iron Maiden

“Bruce Dickinson talks ~, and a whole lot of other things”

**everything (my everything, etc.)**

my everything

she was my world, ~ (murdered)

**everything (and everything)**

and everything

when I would go and talk to him, he would listen ~

**evil (non-human)**

evil disease

we will once and for all beat Covid 19, this ~ (politics)

**evil eye**

parting evil eye

she gave me a ~

gave him the evil eye

I turned and ~ (“Don’t Call Me ‘Mamacita’”)

giving us the evil eye

sing off tune, and believe me, Ike was ~ (backup singer)

♦ “The [camel] opened his jaws as far as they would go, and froth, mucous and black bile spilled out. Ah, black bile—sign of the evil eye. The soothsayers all agreed on that. So, he had been envied for his [camel]. The evil eye had been behind everything that had happened. According to the teaching of the soothsayers, envy is stronger than poison. And the eye of the envier is deadlier than a poisoned arrow, the blow of a sword, or the thrust of a dagger. It’s deadlier than any weapon. So when did the envious thugs cast their eye on him?” (Ukhayyad realizes the source of his camel’s sickness. From *Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

♦ “King Alfonso of Spain was reported to have the evil eye. In 1923 he paid an official visit to Italy. Several sailors of the fleet sent to greet him were washed overboard; there was an explosion in one of the submarines; an ancient cannon fired in the King’s honor blew up, killing its crew; and a naval officer with whom the King shook hands collapsed and died shortly afterward. / During the King’s tour of Lake Gleno a dam burst, drowning 50 people and making 500 homeless. / The Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, who was terrified of the evil eye, refused to meet Alfonso personally...” (Reader’s Digest “Strange Stories, Amazing Facts.”)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Traditional medicine and psychiatry may relate to black magic, the evil eye, an evil spirit, a ghost, magic, muti, sorcery, a spell, voodoo, or witchcraft. In Chad and the Sudan, a hijab is a pouch of goatskin or cowhide containing verses of the Qur’an. Traditionally in the desert, hijabs guard a child against the evil eye and protect against scorpions. A vehicle may be adorned with hijabs. Practitioners of traditional medicine include the inyanga, medicine man, sangoma, shaman, sorcerer, traditional healer, witch, witch doctor, and yerbero.

♦ “If looks could kill!”

**eviscerate (verb)**

eviscerated the book

Latino writers have ~ (cultural appropriation)

eviscerated the prosecution’s case

she ~, point by point (a judge)

eviscerated world leaders

she ~ in a passionate speech (Greta Thunberg)

♦ “[I]nternet culture...jumps at the opportunity to eviscerate someone to varying degrees of deservedness.”

**eviscerated**

eviscerated by liberal judges and politicians

the justice system has been ~

eviscerated for (controversial) foul call

referees ~ (basketball)

eviscerated over her ‘deranged’ rant

Jennifer Rubin has been ~ about President-elect Trump

♦ “Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin has been eviscerated over her ‘deranged’ rant about President-elect Trump’s cabinet picks—in which she wildly claims that Republicans ‘want to kill your kids.’” (“Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin blasted for ‘deranged’ rant claiming Republicans ‘want to kill you kids’” by Patrick Reilly, *The New York Post*, Nov. 20, 2024.)

**evisceration (noun)**

Anfield evisceration

this was an ~ (Real Madrid 5-2 Liverpool)

four-page evisceration

Pauline Kael’s ~ of *Blade Runner* (a bad review)

**evolution (noun)**

evolution from shock jock to political pundit

his ~ (Charlamagne tha God)

evolution of artificial intelligence

it was a landmark moment in the ~



## evolve (evolve the sport, etc.)

evolve the sport

we must ~ (a young boxing promoter)

## exactly (contempo-speak)

exactly

what does that mean, ~

what, ~, does it mean for a...

what ~ does an editor do

she speaks out, but what ~ is she saying

so what ~ is...

what ~ is K2, the synthetic cannabinoid

what, ~ are U.S. interests in...

what is it ~

what is it for, ~

what ~ are they

but how ~...

where ~ is...

exactly how

we still don't know ~ it works

exactly what

he might be ~ she needs

here's ~ the administration is saying about..

but ~ means "yes" (sex on campus)

exactly why

that's ~...

exactly picky

Neanderthals weren't ~ eaters

exactly just

see *just* (filler)

absolutely exactly

I'm ~ who they want, middle class white lady (politics)

actually exactly

and that ~ what my parents advised me to do

I think it's ~ the right time

it's ~ what's been predicted by scientists (climate scientist)

I think it is ~ how we contemplate the mystery...

basically exactly

we actually chalked out ~ where... (Richard Rosendale)

kind of exactly

that's ~ what happened

so, TRANSCOM is ~ what it sounds like (NPR punditry)

he looks ~ like what you want an exec to look like

and that's ~ the problem is...

sort of exactly

interestingly, that's ~ what happened when...

yeah, exactly

~, but let's go... (non-answer to question)

Yeah, I mean, exactly

~ (I would have died like Jimi Hendrix if...)

♦ "And that's kind of exactly the problem is once you make a black movie without thinking about..." (Shani Hilton. From "The Trouble With Assessing 'Black Films,'" NPR, All Things Considered, December 28, 2013.)

♦ "So is that kind of exactly the business you're talking about?" / "That is exactly it, and you've just really perfectly summed it up..." (wbur / 2014.)

♦ ARI SHAPIRO: OK...What exactly is TRANSCOM? / JENNA MCLAUGHLIN: So TRANSCOM is kind of exactly what it sounds like..." ("How an Illinois military base transports an unprecedented flow of weapon to Ukraine," NPR, All Things Considered, August 24, 2022.)

♦ "A Campus Dilemma: Sure, 'No' Means 'No,' But Exactly What Means 'Yes'?" by Tovia Smith, NPR, All Things Considered, June 13, 2014.

♦ "19 People who Have Zero Filter and said Exactlyyyyyy What They Felt During A Breakup," BuzzFeed.

## excavate (verb)

excavated the (basic) facts

step by careful step, news organizations ~ (politics)

excavates her history

Chow ~ (*Seeing Ghosts: A Memoir*)

excavates the idea

Jon Savage ~ of the teenager (*Teenage: the Creation of Youth Culture*)

excavates the legacy

Kotlowitz ~ of racism and violence (*An American Summer*)

excavate some meaning from it

I began to interrogate my predicament and to try to ~

excavates racial inequality and anti-Blackness

the 1619 Project ~ (Nikole Hannah-Jones)

♦ "[Patricia] Fara has pulled off quite a feat of archival archaeology. Digging through the records of universities, scientific societies, industrial establishments, newspapers, and personal journals and correspondence, she excavates and pieces together the lives of some of the first women to embark on scientific studies and careers in the modern era." ("The Original Hidden Figures" by Elaine Weiss, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2019.)

## excite (verb)

excited curiosity, speculation and fear

it ~ (the submarine from *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*)

## exclamation point

put an exclamation point on that round

he ~ (strong finish to MMA match)

put a (major) exclamation mark on her career

she has ~ (Sawa Homare / football)

puts exclamation point on big day

Lilly King ~ for U.S. swimming

## excommunicated

excommunicated

one scientist had been ~, but the lesson was clear ("Oppie")

excommunicated from government circles

while Oppenheimer was ~, he became a symbol to liberals

excommunicated from the movement  
he has been ~

excommunicated from the priesthood  
he was ~ of economists

excommunicated by the Wyoming Republican Party  
she has essentially been ~ (Liz Cheney)

## executed (animals, etc.)

executed at close range with a spear gun  
Kostis was ~ (a Mediterranean monk seal)

♦ "The most recent thing on his track record is he murdered the sports desk," fumed another *Times* employee." (A disgruntled employee at *The New York Times* about AG Sulzberger, who outsourced the sports desk in 2023.)

♦ "Happy was born in 1971 and was kidnapped as an infant from a herd in Thailand." ("The Elephant In The Courtroom" by Lawrence Wright, *The New Yorker*, March 7, 2022.)

♦ "The dogs were killed as they were being transported to an adoption event." (Actually, the dogs died because the AC failed in their trailer.)

♦ "Authorities in New South Wales in Australia have approved the shooting of thousands of wild horses by gunmen in helicopters to control their population." (BBC Six O'Clock News, 27/10/2023. "By gunmen in helicopters" should simply be "from helicopters." A rare mistake by the BBC.)

♦ "Britain's loneliest sheep in hiding after rehoming row," BBC, Nov. 2023.

♦ "Squatting next to a bear you just murdered is such a weird flex." (A female who is not a hunter, apparently.)

♦ "The mountain lion was dispatched." (A statement from the Sheriff's Office, about a California mountain that killed one man and severely wounded the man's brother. Killed, in other words.)

## exhale (verb)

exhale  
that does not mean Florida can fully ~ (hurricane track)

exhaled  
she broke up with her boyfriend, and her parents ~ (relief)

exhaling  
today everybody is sorta ~ (crisis averted)

begin to exhale  
if the troops return to the barracks, people will ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone exhales in relief.)

## exhausted (condition)

exhausted  
our armed forces are ~

exhausted with its wars  
the US is ~ in Iraq and Afghanistan

exhausted and broken  
an ~ post-war Britain in 1948

## exhausted (groups)

exhausted with the culture of country music  
I was ~ not creating space for people who look like me

exhausted to the point where...  
I'm ~ I'm like maybe...

exhausted and embarrassed  
I hate this game every 4 years, we're ~ by it (Oran Routh)

exhausted and heartbroken  
everyone is ~ (Arielle Angel of the *Currents* staff)

emotionally exhausted  
Valery Bertinelli taking social media break after feeling ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ (NPR's Michel Martin): Thank you so much for talking with us. I imagine this just has to be exhausting. (Aly Raisman): Thank you for having me on. You know, this is one of the moments where right now I'm definitely, I'm definitely feeling it, I'm definitely exhausted, but that's that's what surviving and healing looks like. You know, there are some moments where I feel okay and then other moments....

♦ "I'm exhausted with these white folk..." (Kelisa Wing, DEI officer, the Department of Defense.)

♦ "I'm exhausted to the point where I'm like maybe it's just time to move on." (Panama Jackson, columnist for TheGrio, about Ye / Kanye West.)

♦ "I hate this game every four years... We're exhausted and embarrassed by it all." (Oran Routh about electioneering. His father, Ryan Wesley Routh, tried to assassinate Donald Trump.)

♦ OLD: fed up with... / NEW: exhausted...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ see *tired (groups)*, *weariness (groups)*

## exhausting (groups)

exhausting  
all of the debate is "~" (a biracial athlete / how Black)  
it's ~ (female coach fighting for equity with men)

exhausting and embarrassing  
racism is ~ (microaggressions)

overwhelming and exhausting  
it was more ~ than anything I've experienced before

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Fighting for LGBTQ rights and advocating for oneself can be exhausting."

♦ "It's exhausting and especially in England." (English singer Sam Smith about abuse he has faced since coming out as variously gay / genderqueer / non-binary.)

♦ NPR's Michel Martin: Thank you so much for talking with us. I imagine this just has to be exhausting. / Aly Raisman: Thank you for having me on. You know, this is one of the moments where right now I'm definitely, I'm definitely feeling it, I'm definitely exhausted, but that's that's what surviving and healing looks like. You know, there are some moments where I feel okay and then other moments....

♦ "Coming out constantly can be exhausting. Most of the time, the fact that I don't necessarily 'look queer' to most people means dealing with peoples' assumptions anew at ever job I take... [E]ach new crew of coworkers means having to come out over and over again. Sometimes I don't have the time or energy to correct their

assumptions, which can make it awkward if it turns out to be an ongoing gig. If I explain that I'm gay, which most people accept, at some point I'll still have to engage in explaining that my spouse is non-binary to avoid them being misgendered. Repeatedly negotiating these incorrect assumptions is tiring and the effect is cumulative..." ("Why queer visibility in baking matters" by Camilla Wynne, King Arthur Baking, June 14, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see *tired (groups)*, *weariness (groups)*

## exhausting (mental health)

exhausting treadmill

it's an ~ (trying to manage time to meet deadlines)

♦ "Why modern dating is exhausting. Can online dating burnout be stopped?" (BBC.)

## exhaustion (groups)

'Exhaustion' Of Being A Woman

"Bridget Kearney Taps Into The ~ In New Song" (NPR)

exhaustion, exasperation and outrage

songs brimming with ~ over the state of the world

fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion

the profound ~ that Black and Brown Americans

experience

feelings of exhaustion

people expressed ~ over having to...

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Others joined in expressing feelings of exhaustion over having to call out such careless oversights, which are much more common in stories about people of color." ("Ai Wong's divorce news causes another case of #wrongasian" by Vanessa Romo, NPR, April 13, 2022.)

♦ "And the song and the video really represented not only the spirit of resistance, but the exhaustion that overcomes people when, you know, life itself requires resistance." (NPR music critic Ann Powers. From "5 protest songs that have taken on new meaning post-Roe" by Ari Shapiro, Noah Caldwell, Jonaki Mehta, NPR, Music, July 2, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see *weariness (groups)*

## exhaustion (other)

moral exhaustion

beneath the pep talks is a rueful sense of ~

♦ 'Exhaustion' Can Signify A Lot More Than 'Tired,'" by Linton Weeks, NPR, Politics, July 14, 2012. (Mental illness, alcoholism, etc.)

## exhume (verb)

exhumes skeletons

Poland ~ in its Communist closet

♦ "Holy Grail of shipwrecks' to be exhumed off Colombia with \$20 billion sunken treasure." (The Spanish galleon *San Jose* sunk by the English in 1708.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Orders were orders—all graves were to be dug up and all bodies burnt... / The *brenners* threw down their spades, tied old rags round their mouths and noses and picked up their hooks again... 'Good day, grandad! So you're seeing the sun again! My! You are heavy... Don't clutch your mother like that, my child, she won't leave you now...'" (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ "President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said during the observances of the Day of Memory of the Victims of Genocide that this is the best time to condemn the murder of Polish civilians by Ukrainians during and just after World War II and to build proper graves from them, so the relatives and Poland's state can honor them." ("Poland marks WWII-era massacre by Ukrainian nationalists," *The Associated Press*, July 11, 2022." See the Wikipedia article "Massacres of Poles in Volhynia and Eastern Galicia.")

♦ "The worst thing about Cassino [Town] was the smell. The stench was absolutely horrible because every time a mortar bomb went off, it raised a stench..." (The British para James "Jim" Knox, fighting with the New Zealanders. The stench was caused by the mortars' explosive exhumation of decomposing bodies and body parts from the rubble.)

## exile (in exile)

in exile

you're in the inner circle, or you're ~ (politics)

he's no longer ~, but... (access to President)

living in exile

they have been ~ (falsely accused by DA)

♦ "Elisabeth Finch, disgraced and in exile, explains what made her do it." (Elisabeth Finch, *Grey's Anatomy* writer.)

## exile (noun)

exile

its ~ from high-school curriculums is hard to explain (book)

period of exile

the political party can look forward to a long ~

self-imposed footballing exile

his ~ (Zinedin Zidane)

exile has been ended

his international ~ by Didier Deschamps (Karim Benzema)

♦ "Its exile from high-school curriculums is hard to explain." (*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane. Actual literature has been mostly exiled from American schools in order to promote YAL, or "young adult literature.")

## exiled

exiled from wealth and social standing

in his eyes, the family had been ~ (poor)

## exist (verb)

exists in society

anti-Semitism still ~ (desecration of Jewish graves)

exist back then

body cameras didn't ~ (policing)

exist in the world of tomorrow

fixed-wing aircraft will still ~ (military)

never existed

they want to go back to a romanticized past that ~

approach exists

no one-size-fits-all ~ (the COVID pandemic)

♦ "Under the earth's crust there exists such an enormously great world, in absolute darkness, that we can with some justice speak of a new continent." (Alfred Bogli.)

♦ Sorry, you've reached a page that doesn't exist." (The internet.)

## exist (groups)

exist

to ~, to come out now, it is a sign I am resisting  
it is good to show we ~ (trans)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ To exist, to come out now, it is a sign I am resisting." (Luca Kumahara, a FTM trans ping-pong player.)

♦ "Because BG represents, simply by existing, as a Black queer woman... This shows to the world..." (Chiney Ogwumike of the LA Sparks about the release of Brittney Griner from Russia in exchange for Viktor Bout.)

♦ "There's something about having a place on the spectrum and feeling othered by the world but still just being here, no matter what, that really just like over the years kinda strengthens your skin." ("Transgender and non-binary people are up to six times more likely to also have autism" by Lesley McClurg, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 15, 2023.)

♦ "Festival-goer claps back at 'revolting' male body-shamers: 'Fat people exist!'" (*The New York Post*.)

♦ "The Freedom to Exist spotlights trans stories." (ABC.)

♦ "As a pastry chef, I craved a space that was explicitly queer, where I could relax and, perhaps, even just *be*." (Pastry chef and author Camilla Wynne. From "Why queer visibility in baking matters" by Camilla Wynne, *King Arthur Baking*, June 14, 2022.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "exist loudly" T-shirt. Exist Loudly shirt comfort colors feminist Tshirt fundamental rights, women empowerment Tee smash the patriarchy RBG shirt equality feminism. Sale ends in 13:33.23 (and counting down). Arrives soon. Get it by Jan 8-14 if you order today. Item quality Five stars. Shipping Five stars. Customer Service Five stars. "Absolutely loved it! Fits well!" 10% off. In 20+ carts. (\$22.95. Etsy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## existence (groups)

existence on this team

your ~ immensely adds to it (a Trans athlete)

black people's existence

stories dehumanise and erase the multiplicity of ~

Lesbian Existence

"Compulsory Heterosexuality and ~" (Adrienne Rich)

trans existence

the possibility of a ~

deny (transgender people's) existence

it's an attempt to ~ (laws to define man and woman)

eradication of our existence

the ~ (the Trans Radical Activist Network / TRAN)

erasure of my existence

I hear that call as a complete ~ (Dahlia Belle, Black trans)

erase our existence

they are trying to ~ and make us invisible (LGBTQ)

fight for its very existence

a community that is being forced to ~ (trans)

honors (queer people's) existence

Queer Gym ~

invisibilize and delegitimize our existence

society tries to ~ (Liniker Barros)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Rise up and defend us. Acknowledge us, oh God, before the whole world. Give us also the right our existence!" (*The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall, 1928. Lesbianism wasn't in fact illegal at the time.)

♦ "If they want to identify a text that is at the start of the awareness in culture of the possibility of a trans existence, it's got to be *The Well of Loneliness*." (Professor Laura Doan.)

♦ "Choosing yourself, and acknowledging that you are worthy simply because you are breathing—that is a brave thing." ("A Letter to College Sports" by Cailin Bracken.)

♦ "Your existence on this team does nothing but immensely add to it with your team work and motivation. We got you!" (LA Sweat supports the transgender woman Tiffany Thomas.)

♦ "Ahead of Trans Day of Visibility, I rise in honor of a community that is being forced to fight for its very existence." (U.S. Representative for Massachusetts Katherine Clark, House Minority Whip.)

♦ "There are so many anti-LGBTQ attacks going on around the country and a lot of them are really about trying to erase our existence and to make us invisible, and to make our young people invisible and our elders invisible." (Michael Adams, CEO of SAGE.)

♦ "There's no debate to Trans people's existence, full stop. It's not a debate, we're real. To debate our existence over and over again, I think it's appalling." (The actor Elliot Page.)

♦ "A trans woman wants to be recognized as a woman... Validation that they are a woman is tantamount to their existence." (An online commenter.)

♦ "You know, there's the phenomenon of walking while trans where specifically like Trans women of color while just existing oftentimes get the police called on them just for like being Trans."

♦ "We wanna focus on the joy, the stories, the culture, the celebration of us existing and being human. That's it." (Virginia teacher Deana Forbes about Black History Month in her African- American Studies class at Freedom High.)

♦ "Respectability politics never actually liberated the oppressed. Whether you're a creative or an audience member, power can be had in reclaiming the stereotypes that challenge your very existence." (From "Queer villains, erotic noir, 90s pulp. 'Basic Instinct' and the backlash, rewind," NPR, Pop Culture happy Hour, Nov. 13, 2022.)

♦ "Vengeance means fighting back with vehemence. We are fighting against false narratives, criminalization, and eradication of our existence." The Trans Radical Activist Network—TRAN—about the Trans Day of Vengeance Protest in Washington, D.C.)

♦ "Eradicate their existence; legislating hate; hate against children..." (State senator Michaela Kavanaugh of Nebraska, filibustering the LB574, "Let them grow" act. She has threatened to "burn the session to the ground.")

♦ "I am not leaving my home. I will die standing. My existence in itself on this land is resistance." (A Palestinian in the northern Gaza strip, ignoring calls by the Israeli military to evacuate to the south.)

♦ "We know our cause is something to fight for, our living and our being is a form of our resistance, and we keep doing it." (Tamar Haddad, the head of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) women's empowerment program and Still We Rise (ASWR), speaking from Jerusalem about the Israel-Hamas war. From "In solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, Bethlehem skips Christmas festivities" with Asma Khalid, NPR, Morning Edition, December 25, 2023.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "QUEER EXISTENCE IS RESISTANCE" sticker. Queer Existence is Resistance Retro Pride Sticker. Celebrate the joy of queer existence with this "Queer Existence is Resistance vinyl sticker... It's perfect for adding a splash of colour to your laptop, water bottle, or phone case. "Love the Sticker! So good :)" (\$2.62+. Etsy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## exit (and Brexit, etc.)

### Brexit

~ was a divorce, which was nothing to celebrate

### Megxit

yes, it's been almost three years since ~ (Meg and Harry)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Megxit." Wiktionary, too, has an entry for "Megxit."

♦ As of 18 Dec 2022, Merriam-Webster had no entry for "Brexit" or "Megxit."

♦ At "Brexit," Wiktionary has a comprehensive list of "related terms," such as Bayxit, Calexit, etc. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ As of 18 Dec 2022, Microsoft Word underlined "Megxit" as an error and suggests "Meggett (no reference information)," "Megi (no reference information)," and "Exit (Departure, Door, Depart)."

## exit (noun)

### exit

I'm not surprised by his ~ (resignation)

### exit clause

Hamilton had an ~ after one season, and he took it (F1)

### no possible clean exit

there was ~ (combat)

### rush for the exits

the withdrawal is a hasty ~ (Afghanistan)

### rush for the exits

US troops will not "~" (in Afghanistan)

### rushing to the exit

the Biden administration is ~ (Afghanistan)

### urging an exit

his generals and the prime minister were ~ (a leader)

## exodus (war, immigration, etc.)

### exodus of civilians

he expects a further ~ (war)

### immigrant exodus

Italy fears an ~ on a biblical scale (from Libya)

### Polish Exodus

it was called the ~ (see quote below)

### led to a (huge) exodus

Germanization of Metz ~ of the French

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "When the war ended, the family returned to Poland, only to find their home occupied by strangers. Throughout Poland, a toxic mix of economic depression and still-ripe bigotry had reignited a fresh wave of anti-Semitic discrimination. In the summer of 1946, a false rumor spread that Jews in the southeastern Polish town of Kielce had kidnapped and held a young Polish boy hostage. An angry mob, whose perpetrators included police officers and soldiers, brutally murdered 42 Jews and left some 40 more injured. Many Jews became convinced they could never again call Poland home. So desperate were they to flee that their hasty departure—an estimated 100,000 in all—was called the Polish Exodus." (Escape From Austria" by Rebecca Frankel, *Smithsonian*, January / February 2023. See also the Wikipedia article "Kielce pogrom.")

♦ Listen to Exodus Main Theme London Festival Orchestra and Chorus. Music from the 1960 film.

## exodus (vacation, etc.)

### exodus of staff members

the magazine has been bled by an ~

### exodus of (top) executives and (anxious) advertisers

he faces an ~

### exodus (of women) from the (science) fields

her paper examines the ~

### exodus of doctors, engineers, scientists

Venezuela suffers from an ~ and other professionals

### management exodus

the company has seen a ~

### retail exodus

the ~ has been spurred by crime, homelessness (San Fran)

### vacation exodus

the ~ brought Beijing to a standstill (Autumn Festival)

### X-odus

it's become known as the ~ (from X after Trump win)

### annual exodus

"mudik" is an ~ in Indonesia (visiting the countryside)

### led to an exodus

Musk's changes have ~ (from Twitter, now X)

### prompted a (small) exodus

the score ~ towards the exits (sports)

♦ "It's become known as the X-odus." (Disappointed progressives leaving X, formerly known as Twitter, following Trump's victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election, according to National Public Radio's "A" Martinez.)

♦ see also *migration* (#TwitterMigration, etc.)

## exorcise (verb)

### exorcise

Baathism remains a ghost that Iraq can't ~

### exorcise the demons

we must ~ of the past... (history)

### exorcised that ghost

European leaders thought they had ~ (Berlusconi)

## exoticized (groups)

### exoticized (facial) features

~ ("spicy Latina" cliché)

### exoticized, otherized or (utterly) ignored

we are ~ (Emel Mathlouthi)

### othered, objectified, exoticized, coerced

we are ~ (Asian women)

## expedition (fishing expedition)

fishing expedition

the government claimed the investigation was a ~  
(politics)  
traffic stops that became ~s (police and Latinos)

fishing expedition for information

it appears to be a ~, casting a very broad net

## expense (at the expense)

at the expense of Arabs

Turkey's growing regional role will not be ~

at the expense of the animals

owners cut costs and corners ~ (ranches)

at the expense of (naive) consumers

sophisticated consumers can profit ~

at the expense of the family

but all this success was ~... (working women)

at the expense of the poor

privatization further enriches the rich ~

at the expense of his life

his actions ~... (Medal of Honor)

at the expense of troop levels

shifting troops to Baghdad will come ~ elsewhere

at Owner's Expense

Violators will be Towed Away ~ (airport)

at your expense

it will be ~

profit at the expense of naive consumers

sophisticated consumers can ~

## experiment (noun)

experiment

the US is often referred to as an ~

thought experiment

my book is a ~ (*Break it up*, about political succession)  
compromise is a noble ~ (gays / religion)

“Jurassic Park experiment”

they condemned the plan as a public ~ (GM mosquitos)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “A fool, you know, is a man who never tried an experiment in his life.” (Erasmus Darwin to Richard Lovell Edgeworth.)

## expiration date

expiration date

the conflict has no ~ (Gaza)

*America's Expiration Date*

~: *The Fall of Empires and Superpowers*

♦ “They are both well past their sell-by-dates.” (A commenter about Ronaldo and Messi at the FIFA Qatar World Cup.)

♦ “he was a great player but now past his sell by date.” (An online soccer commenter.)

♦ “Twenty-four seven. It's non-stop work. There's always another mission. There's always another goal. It's an ongoing war.” (The soundbite of an Israeli soldier in Gaza during the Israel-Hamas war. The BBC reader had set up the honest soldier's remark with, “The conflict has no expiry date.”)

## expire (die)

expired

he has since ~, he is no longer alive, okay... (died)

## explain it to me like I'm 6 (sarcasm)

explain it to me like I'm 6

what's going on, ~

speak slow so I can understand

and ~

♦ “What is going on? Explain it to me like I'm 6.” / “somebody got mad that somebody retweeted something some people don't like, then everyone picked a side and got even madder, then the guy who retweeted something got a 5 game suspension and was forced to apologize, now there's a race war.” (Two online commenters on the Kyrie Irving NBA controversy.)

♦ “Just why exactly do I need to know this person's sexual orientation? And speak slow so I can understand.” (An online commenter, reacting to “Why queer visibility in baking matters” by Camilla Wynne, King Arthur Baking, June 14, 2022.)

## explode (destroy / disrupt)

exploded

it's been a year since the economy ~

explode this notion

I'm really trying to ~ of genre (Rachel Yoder)

## explode (emotion)

explodes

she ~ (becomes angry)

made my mind (kind of) explode

so what ~ when I first heard about this was... (surprise)

## explode (initiation)

explode into violence

he let his anger ~

exploded in violence

months of protests that ~ late Thursday

exploded with support

the Internet ~ for Hanson

intifada exploded

in 1987, when the first ~ through Gaza and...

situation exploded

the whole ~ (divorce / violence)

violence could explode

~ after the traditional mourning period (Caucasus)

starting to explode

the whole punk-rock scene was just ~

## explode (increase)

exploded



for some reason it took off, it ~ (Plague of Justinian)

exploded in popularity  
rafting and camping ~ (below a dam)

exploded in the past decade  
wakeboarding has ~

exploded in the United States  
the sport has ~ (soccer)

exploded in the '90s  
Pokémon ~

exploded in the last few years  
the black market has ~ (for Venus flytraps)

enrollment has exploded  
UMUC's ~, from 21,100 to 30,700 this year

interest (in cookie decorating) has exploded  
~ in recent years

number (of affinity groups) exploded  
the ~ at the company (at NPR, 2020)

popularity exploded  
his ~

population has exploded  
the town's ~ in the last decade (increased)

population (of Niger) has exploded  
the ~ (increased dramatically)

use (of Ecstasy) is exploding  
the ~

Internet modeling has exploded  
~ in all forms (teen modeling)

caused the (mouse) population to explode  
the hunting of snakes has ~

## **explode (onto the scene, etc.)**

exploded onto the scene  
she ~ last year (a singer)

## **exploding (adjective)**

exploding population  
the world's ~  
ensuring flood control for South Florida's ~

## **exploration (noun)**

exploration of her life  
it's an ~ (a film)

*Exploration of the Vulva*  
*Flip Through My Flaps: An ~* (by Ellie Sedgwick)

## **explore (analyze)**

explore your background  
before we get into the specifics, why don't we ~ (a trial)

explore the intersection

she founded DVP to ~ of race, ethnicity, gender identity...

explore this  
let's ~... (the topic of tariffs)

explores the lives  
his book ~ of Native Americans

explores the (counterintuitive) notion  
he ~ that... (decision-making)

explore the possibility  
~ of a negotiated settlement (Middle East)

♦ "She founded DVP to explore the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender identity, and disability." (Alice Wong, a 2024 MacArthur Fellow.)

## **explore (discover)**

explored (several) fantasies  
we ~ with each other (Internet)

explore my (secret) fantasies  
my website allows me to ~

explores matters  
the film ~ of love, sex, and commitment

exploring its options  
Twitter says it's ~ under Indian law

explore the web site  
~, there's a lot there...

explore the Bard's life and work  
we will ~ (BBC program)

♦ "Explore the web site, there's a lot there..." (Tom Glass, Editor-in-Chief of English Teaching Forum Magazine since 2017. The U.S. State Department. Watch Get to Know the FORUM team: Editor-in-Chief, Tom Glass)

## **explorer (person)**

explorer of the past  
he was a pioneer ~ (Francesco Petrararch)

explorer of race, memory and discrimination  
meet Jessie Yaros: an ~ (neurobiology and behavior)

Dora the Explorer  
~ is one of the most recognized Latinx characters on TV

Internet Explorer  
~ will die next year (the blue "e" icon)

new (space) explorers  
robots, not humans, are the ~

explorer and enthusiast  
remembering Anthony Bourdain, ~ (Linda Holmes)

♦ "What does Dora Explorer explore?" (Google search: People also ask...)

♦ "[Spallanzani] conceived himself the hero of a new epic exploration, he compared himself—in his writings even—to Columbus and Vespucci. He told of that mysterious world of microbes as a new universe, and thought of himself as a daring explorer making first groping expeditions along its boundaries only... His genius whispered to him that the fantastic creatures of this new world were of some

sure but yet unknown importance to their big brothers, the human species..." (*Microbe Hunters* by Paul De Kruif.)

### \*\*\* "Geography and Some Explorers"

♦ Christopher Columbus; Vasco Nunez de Balboa; Abel Tasman; James Cook; Sir John Franklin; Mungo Park; Dr. Heinrich Barth; David Livingston... (Explorers mentioned by Joseph Conrad in his essay "Geography and Some Explorers.")

♦ "Shackleton will live forever as one of the greatest explorers of all time, not just because of what he achieved in exploration but for the way he did it, and the way he looked after his men. His story is timeless and will be told again and again; and I'm just one of the many disciples who'll keep telling it for as long as I can." (Marine scientist and shipwreck hunter David Mearns. It's a wonderful encomium for a wonderful man known by his crews simply as "The Boss.")

♦ "An eight-year-old boy from the city of Astrakhan in southern Russia has won social media fame after setting off on an around-the-world trip. / The boy's mother contacted the police after finding a note from her son saying he had left to 'travel around the world'. / A few hours later, a search team found him walking down a street equipped with encyclopaedias, a toy, money from his piggy bank and a banana, the Russian Interior Ministry reported on its official website." (BBC "Boy, 8, found after leaving home to 'travel the world'" by Katherine Zeveleva, 3 April 2019.)

♦ "A US college outdoors club is being disbanded because its activities, which include hiking, running and backpacking, are deemed too risky." (BBC, "US college says outdoors too risky for outdoors club," April 25, 2018.)

♦ "What are called UAVs or AUVs, autonomous vehicle systems. That's what's going to be the force multiplier, that's what's going to accelerate everything... I envy the generation in middle school right now. I'm gonna be eclipsed by some kid in eighth grade that's going to have the technologies to do a thousand times more exploration than I have been able to do because of the advent of new technologies where they don't have to physically do it..." (Robert "Bob" Ballard.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON (that is not so funny, actually). In *The New Yorker* magazine (November 15, 2021), there is a cartoon. It shows a young boy in bed in a typically messy young boy's room, with pictures of planets on the wall and a planetary globe on a bedside table. His mother is putting him to bed, and the young boy is saying, "I used to want to be an astronaut, but now I think I'd rather be a billionaire space tourist."

## explosion (violence, etc.)

explosion of violence

both sides shared the blame for the ~

this ~ follows weeks of simmering tension (Jerusalem)

## explosion (sound)

explosion of gunfire

he heard the ~ (combat)

## explosion (increase)

explosion of (arctic) flowers

May and June bring an ~

explosion of studies

we have seen an ~ examining violent video games

explosion in (graphics) technology

the ~

explosion in (cellphone) use

the ~ has had an impact on 911 operations

explosion of (international) trade and travel

the ~ that's occurred

AIDS explosion

the potential for an ~ in the country (India)

crime explosion

the ~ (in Venezuela)

information explosion

there is a tremendous ~ today

potential for an (AIDS) explosion

the ~ in the country (India)

## explosive (power)

explosive burst

you load the dart in the mouthpiece and exhale in an ~

## explosive (growth, etc.)

explosive growth

the ~ of the textile industry

the ~ in technology over the past few decades

keeping up with the ~ of scientific data (storage)

explosive rate

condo conversion sales have been increasing at an ~

## explosive (violence, etc.)

explosive mix

put them together, and it was an ~ (government figures)

explosive situation

they discussed the ~ in the Palestinian territories

## express (Biden express, etc.)

Biden express

not that everyone has come on board the ~ (election)

## express (Pineapple Express, etc.)

Pineapple Express

the ~ is the source of moisture into southern California

the ~ is an atmospheric river (into southern California)

## express (Tokyo Express, etc.)

Anzio express

planes went out to seek the '~, ' that huge gun... (Italy)

Tokyo Express

JFK lost PT-109 in an attack against the ~ (WW II)

the ~ brought Japanese troops and supplies to

Guadalcanal

♦ "Planes went out to seek the 'Anzio Express,' that huge gun... The planes would report the Express destroyed and an hour later she would come in on schedule." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, *World War II*, the Anzio beachhead, Italy.)

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "New Georgia Sound," "During the Pacific War of World War II, the New Georgia Sound was known as 'The Slot' by Allied combatants due to its geographical shape and the amount of warship traffic that traversed it. The Japanese naval efforts to resupply their garrison on Guadalcanal were referred to as the Tokyo Express." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ "Before he left the dugout, his phone dinged with a new message from the officer. Kaban and Cadet were to shoot the S/P.G.-9 every hour until dawn... 'The key is regular strikes,' the officer said. 'It's crawling with infantry over there.' / Birds were chirping in the trees—the sun had risen. Possibly because of Kaban and Cadet's efforts,

the Russian assault had not materialized..." ("Underworld: The unrelenting horrors faced by infantrymen on the Zero Line" by Luke Mogelson, *The New Yorker*, May 29, 2023.)

## expressway (expressway to death, etc.)

expressway to death

National highway 8 is known as the ~ (India)

## extinct (adjective)

almost extinct

moderate Republicans and conservative Democrats are ~

near-extinct

the old sound recordings turn ~ machines into music

totally extinct

ticket-splitting isn't ~ (voting during election)

going extinct

old-school conglomerates are ~ (General Electric, etc.)

went extinct

the lautenwerck almost ~ (the music instrument)

it's time that these events ~ (monkey rodeos / abuse)

♦ "I think Jeramiah Lockwood is an arbitrator between the generation that is seeing cantorial music die in the congregation and the younger generation that's seeing the potential of cantorial music to be re-discovered." (Hankus Netsky, professor at the New England Conservatory of Music. From "A group of Orthodox Jews in Brooklyn is reviving the golden age of cantorial music," *Morning Edition*, August 3, 2022.)

\*\*\* "This fabulous bird..."

♦ "This fabulous bird used to visit Michigan in numbers beyond belief... A newspaper reported in 1878 that from three to six tons of birds, plucked and packed in barrels of ice, were shipped south every day... It was a good business while it lasted.... [T]he last passenger pigeon in North America died in its cage in an Ohio zoo." (*Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood* by the great writer Bruce Catton.)

♦ The small corpses of Carolina parakeets were used whole by milliners to adorn women's hats. (Last known representative of its species died in February 1918.)

♦ "A tiny pink peanut is not a white rhinoceros. Nor is it a green turtle or a Bengal tiger. But..." ("The Lost Ancestral Peanut Of The South Is Revived" by Jill Neimark, *NPR*, *The Salt*, December 29, 2016.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Peoples; languages; customs; technologies; animals... (Things that can go extinct.)

♦ "For a group of reptiles that went extinct 65 million years ago, dinosaurs are really good at staying in the news."

♦ "Birds can be seen as evidence that the dinosaurs have not become extinct."

♦ see also *species* (*vanishing species*)

## extinguish (verb)

extinguish (negative) behaviors

a discipline plan to ~ (school)

## extinguished (a life)

extinguished

it is a young life that has been ~ (Swedish rapper Einar)

♦ "Like most creatures of the Wild, the grey cub early experienced famine. There came a time when not only did the meat-supply cease, but the milk no longer came from his mother's breast. At first the cubs whimpered and cried, but for the most part they slept...reduced to a coma of hunger...while the life that was in them flickered and died

down. When the grey cub came back to life...he found...only one sister remained to him. The rest were gone. [And] the food had come too late for her. She slept continuously, a tiny skeleton flung round with skin in which the flame flickered lower and lower and at last went out." (*White Fang* by Jack London.)

## extracurricular

extracurricular activities

prying into employees' harmless ~

extracurricular uses

~ of the office computer

## extremely (contempo-speak)

extremely extremely extremely dangerous

those things being legislated for are ~ and... (NPR)

extremely enthusiastic

it's really easy to find people who are ~ about (NPR)

extremely hyper-intelligent

Dede is this ~ person...

extremely overwhelming

it was ~, like...

extremely kind of

see *kind of* (*contempo-speak*)

extremely not

it's ~ good

my grandmother is ~ boring

media for kids that is ~ for me (Kathryn VanArendonk)

extremely sort of

see *sort of* (*contempo-speak*)

like, extremely

I know that can be, ~ discouraging...

obviously extremely

it is ~ dispiriting...

it's ~ troubling...

and it was ~ painful...

he is careful, calculating, shrewd, ~ intelligent

very extremely

that would be like obviously ~ interesting (male academic)

he talks about Donald Trump in this ~ complimentary way

very, extremely

he grew up in "a ~ religious household" (trans male)

very very extremely

so his number of tables is ~ limited (restaurant)

it's a ~ stressful job (a prissy maître d')

it's a name I'm ~ proud of ("Mr. Hockey" Gordie Howe!)

♦ "Dede is this combination of an extremely like hyper-intelligent person (light upspeak) but also a hyper-empathetic person." (Filmmaker Berry Jenkins about film producer Dede Gardner.)

♦ *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*. (The 2019 film about the serial killer Ted Bundy, which actually focuses on his charisma and appeal to women.)

## eye (verb)

eyed me suspiciously  
he ~

## eye (the Blue Eye of Siberia, etc.)

Blue Eye of Siberia  
Lake Baikal, known as the ~

Ol' Blue Eyes  
Frank Sinatra as known as “~”

♦ Frank Sinatra was known as “Ol' Blue Eyes.” He was also known as “The Chairman of the Board.”

## eye (the Eye of Kuruman, etc.)

Eye of the Eagle  
the ~ is an arch in Wyoming

Eye of Kuruman  
the ~ is a natural spring (Die Oog / S. Africa)

Eye of the Moon  
~ is an arch in New Mexico

Eye of the Rabbit  
~ is an arch in Arizona

Eye of the Sun  
the ~ is a natural arch in Monument Valley, Arizona

Eye of the Whale  
~ Arch is an arch in Utah

Eye of Zastron  
The ~ is in the cliffs of Vulture Mountain (Aasvoelberg)

Birds Eye  
~ Lake is a lake in Minnesota

Bulls Eye  
~ Butte is a summit in Oregon

Camels Eye  
the ~ is an arch in Arizona

Cats Eye  
~ is an arch in New Mexico

Devils Eye  
~ is an arch in Washington

Suns Eye  
~ is an arch in Arizona

Alligator Eye  
~ is a summit in Michigan

Buckeye  
~ Creek is a stream in Georgia

Coon Eye  
~ Branch is a stream in Kentucky

Eagle Eye  
~ Mesa is a summit in Colorado

Goose Eye

~ Mountain is a summit in Maine

Hawkeye  
~ is a populated place in Iowa

Hog Eye  
~ is a populated place in West Virginia

Needle Eye  
~ is an arch in South Dakota

Shut Eye  
~ Creek is a stream in Mississippi

Big Eye  
~ Wash is a stream in Arizona

Blue Eye  
~ Spring is a spring in Alabama

One Eye  
~ Canyon is a valley in Utah

Red Eye  
~ Ridge is a ridge in Tennessee

Sleepy Eye  
~ Creek is stream in Minnesota

Sore Eye  
~ Point is a cliff in Arkansas

White Eye  
~ is a populated place Alaska

♦ The Eye (Die Oog) in Kuruman is the largest known natural spring in the southern hemisphere. And there is also an “Eye” in the town of Zastron, also in South Africa. In the latter case, the Eye is part of a rock formation and has an interesting creation story!

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “The Alligator Eye is a bluff... From the water, some say it looks like an alligator’s eye. You may have to use your imagination a bit to see the eye...” (Michigan.)

♦ White Eye seems to have been named after the name of an Indian chief. White Eye is a small community on the Yukon River in Alaska.

## eye (resemblance)

eye  
I was here when the ~ came right over the island

eyes of the coconut  
pierce two ~ with a sharp object

eye of the storm  
the ~ passed over Portsmouth (hurricane)

hurricane's eye  
police rescued 5 families when the ~ passed over

needle's eye  
see *needle (eye of the needle, needle's eye)*

storm's eye  
Gulf Shores, where the ~ blew ashore (hurricane)

defined eye  
a minimal hurricane with 75 mph winds and a ~

## eye (side eye, stink eye, etc.)

get the stink-eye

if you don't have a nice lawn, you ~ from your neighbor

give the stink eye to the man

she turned to ~ (woman with crying baby)

give people the stink-eye

I ~ if they're using their cellphone while driving

give us the side eye

it's no mystery why our friends ~ (U.S. hypocrisy)

♦ "I learned the throwing of a proper stink-eye from my mother, thank you very much, and I would put my stink-eye up against anyone's."  
(NPR's Linda Holmes, Pop Culture Happy Hour.)

## eye (believe one's eyes)

believe my eyes

I couldn't ~

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A New Yorker cartoon shows a pirate ship at sea. A sailor, forced to walk the plank, is in the middle of an exuberant back flip. The pirate captain, who is wearing an eyepatch, is watching in astonishment on the deck. The caption of the cartoon is, "I can't believe my eye!"

## eye (poke someone in the eye, etc.)

poke the voters in the eye

he continued to kind of ~ (politics)

stick a finger in Trump's eye

she welcomed the opportunity to ~ (her vote for governor)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ One thinks of Odysseus and Polyphemus...

♦ You'll blink if I poke you in your damn eye!

## eye (roll one's eyes)

roll her eyes

she did ~, clearly I was getting on her nerves...

shaking my head and rolling my eyes

I'm just ~ (Boeing debacle of 2019-2020)

the shooter is now the victim, ~

♦ "I completely respect him... I know he can be bit of a character... I've rolled me eyes a couple of times at things he done and said."  
(Ben Davison talking about the great boxer Dillian Whyte.)

♦ "When I conferred with Dr. X... I could almost hear his eyes roll over the phone."

♦ "Do you have sheet music on this stuff?" For a wonderful rolling of the eyes, watch: YouTube, "Time of My life" (Final Dance)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In academia, eye-rolling can be considered a sign of patriarchy and a micro-aggression.

♦ see also *eye-roll* (*dismissal*)

## eye (met our eyes, etc.)

met our eyes

an unusual sight ~ (on a wilderness trip)

## eye (more than meets the eye)

meets the eye

there is more to him than ~

a closer look at the numbers finds less there than ~

## eye (catch one's eyes)

caught my eye

she ~ (attraction)

caught his eye

a large display of toothpaste ~ (in a store)

deviations from Islamic social norms also ~

caught Jean's eye

when I ~ again, I nodded towards...

## eye (public eye)

in the public eye

this will boost his image ~ (a fallen celebrity)

out of the public eye

he has created a new life ~...

came to the public eye

it never ~ (campus espionage)

remained in the public eye

Wilma Mankiller has ~ (Cherokee leader)

brought windsurfing into the public eye

he ~

fell out of the public eye

she ~ for a year but returned... (an influencer)

vanished from the public eye

he ~ for nearly six weeks before reappearing (Korea)

## eye (attention)

eyes of the nation

the ~ are on Indianapolis today (a mass shooting)

eyes of the world

soon, all the ~ would be upon it (Stalingrad / WWII)

Eye on America

features like ~ (network news)

eyes and ears

they were all ~ (Germans at a Oglala Sioux powwow)

it's a show for the ~ (gambling at casino)

all eyes

~ were on Kate (performance)

~ will be on Queen Elizabeth (her husband's funeral)

once again ~ are on the Dallas district attorney (crime)

wary eyes

her ~ took me in at a glance

prying eyes

she retreated there from ~

wandering eye

he was a lecher with a ~

wandering eyes

~ and other suspicious test activity (cheating)

keep an eye on

is there anything else to ~ (elections)

## eye (stars in one's eyes)

stars in her eyes

she has ~ (not practical)

she had ~ and a sense of her own destiny (Theranos)

♦ "Fledgling actresses with stars in their eyes who will do anything..." (Hollywood.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In *Metaphors We Live By*, Lakoff and Johnson mention a fascinating metaphor: *mundane reality is down*. The example they give is "down to earth." Language that might illustrate this metaphor, besides *earthiness*, could include *grassroots*; a *worm's eye view*; "she has *stars in her eyes*" versus the mature girl who has *both feet on the ground*; journalists *on the ground*; the teacher who spent 34 years *in the trenches*, actually teaching; the leader with a willingness to *dive into the weeds* to explore detailed elements; people from *all walks of life*, *earth-bound* (reality), etc.

## eye (open eyes, etc.)

eyes wide open

we want him to make his own decision, ~

eye opening

it was very ~ for me (kids' comments)

with eyes (wide) open

the decision was made ~ (foreign policy)

go into this with our eyes open

it is critical that we ~ (elections)

keeps an (eagle) eye out for infractions

he ~

keep an eye out for you

I'll ~ (watch for your arrival)

keep my eyes open

I ~ (for opportunity)

keep your eyes open

~ (warning)

opened my eyes to the opportunities

the experience ~

opened my eyes to so much

it ~ (a new experience / job)

open your eyes to the reality

~ that there is big-town crime here (Taos)

roving eye

my husband has a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A stranger has big eyes but sees nothing." (An African proverb about traveling and travelers.)

♦ "We see nothing truly till we understand it." (John Constable, 1776-1837, about clouds.)

♦ see also *see* (*perceive*)

## eye (closed eyes, etc.)

eyes closed

people didn't go into this with their ~ (Brexiteers)

## eye (for the eyes)

feast for the eyes

it was a ~

sight for sore eyes

he was a ~

## eye (eye candy)

see *eye candy* (*noun*)

## eye (on the eyes)

easy on the eyes

he's quite good looking, ~ (Omar Kamal, Nablus)

hard on the eyes

she's ~, shudders... (discussion board snark)

## eye (goal)

eye

he had his ~ on the nomination (Ted Kennedy)

dollar signs in their eyes

companies with ~

♦ "I think they had dollar signs in their eyes." (The great climber Tommy Caldwell talking about being taken hostage by members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan while he and his group were climbing in Kyrgyzstan.)

♦ "Keep your eye on the prize, hold on." (A moving song from the Civil Rights era of the 1960s.)

## eye (turn a blind eye)

turn a blind eye

cops ~ (NYC street prostitution)

cast a blind eye on his conduct

the university ~ (sexual misconduct)

turn a blind eye to his (intense) abuse

the university could no longer ~ of one of its students

turned a blind eye to the concerns

UKA whitewashed its review and ~ (sports doping)

turn a blind eye to the consequences

loggers learn to ~ of clear-cutting

turn a blind eye to polygamy

local officials ~ (southeastern Turkey)

turn a blind eye to the problem

we cannot ~

turned a blind eye to terrorism

they have ~

turn a blind eye to cruelty and crime

the state should never ~ (honor killings, etc.)

turns a blind eye to predators and harassers



this culture that ~ (entertainment)

bribed to turn a blind eye  
officials were ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "In order to cooperate, you have to turn a blind eye to realities."

## eye (bat an eye / eyelash)

bat an eye  
the students don't ~ at the sight of fast-food-delivery robots

bat an eyelash  
he didn't ~

## eye (perception)

in the eyes of the US  
it has done a bit to improve its standing ~ (a country)

in the eyes of his competitors  
~, he is the best (mixed-martial arts)

in the eyes of the public  
Muhammed Ali is still the champion ~

in the eye of the beholder  
beauty is ~

with his geologist's eye  
~, he found a field nearby and found...

with a practiced eye  
he watches ~ (an anthropologist)

with fresh eyes  
people are looking at his issue ~ (foreign aid)

with new eyes  
a student may see home ~ (after studying abroad)

with a suspicious eye  
those who come to Jerusalem are watched ~

with suspicious eyes  
sportswomen are looked at ~ (homophobia)

to the (outside) eye  
the system appears medieval ~ (Afghanistan)

to a (trained) eye  
the data reveals a disturbing pattern ~

to the (untrained) eye  
it may look complicated ~ but...  
clues not apparent ~ (police)

to (Mexican) eyes  
~ the US has more than its share of everything...

to modern eyes pesty (adj),  
his racial ideas appear ~ as a blot on his record (Churchill)

eyes of an expert  
what is most important is the experience of the ~

child's eyes

he came in with ~, and he was really curious (film director)

leaders' eyes  
countries whose ~ are fixed on domestic voters (summit)

painter's eye  
the workings of a ~

Mexican eyes  
to ~ the US has more than its share of everything...

keen eye  
a ~ is the result of training and practice (landmines)  
recognizing traps demands intuition and a ~

watches with a practiced eye  
he ~ (an anthropologist)

see home with new eyes  
a student may ~ (after studying abroad)

looking at this issue with fresh eyes  
people are ~ (foreign aid)

looked at with a suspicious eye  
sportswomen are ~ (homophobia)

watched with a suspicious eye  
those who come to Jerusalem are ~

## eye (an eye for an eye)

eye for an eye-style  
a crowd gathered to demand ~ justice (Pakistan)

stick a finger in Trump's eye  
she welcomed the opportunity to ~ (her vote for governor)

## eye (subterfuge)

throw smoke and dust in the eyes  
they are trying to ~ of the investigators (lawyers)

## eye (surveillance)

eyes  
the special forces were the ~ that were out there (Gulf War)

eye in the sky  
you can put an ~ (drone / UAVs)

eyes of Boston Harbor  
we're asked to be the ~ (a Yacht club, terrorism)

eyes of (U.S. spy) satellites  
the eagle ~

Dragon Eye  
the portable ~ (an unmanned aerial vehicle / military)

robot eye  
a ~ attached to the Internet, which visitors could control

robotic "eye"  
a free-flying ~ that can circle the space station

sets of eyes

the robots could serve as extra ~ (PSA)

under the (watchful) eyes of their mothers  
the cubs hunt ~

under the (watchful) eyes of (security) officers  
he was constantly ~

have eyes on that money  
we don't ~ (charitable contributions)

keep a (close) eye on her  
we have to ~

keep a (close) eye on them  
we ~ (detainees)

keep a (good) eye on her  
I have to ~

keep a (watchful) eye on players  
coaches must ~ (heat stroke in summer)

taken out his eyes  
once we had ~... (Saddam's Air Force)

got out from under the father's (controlling) eye  
when she ~

♦ Positive controls provide a means to put "eyes" on a target.  
(Military.)

♦ "The Five Eyes" is the intelligence sharing partnership between  
Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the USA. (New  
Zealand.)

## eye (eyes and ears / surveillance)

eyes and ears  
the public is our ~ (police manhunt)

eyes and ears of the Americans  
interpreters were the ~ (the Taliban)

"eyes and ears" of the commander  
the Air Cavalry Team is the ~ (military)

eyes and ears of the (battalion) commander  
we serve as the ~ (scout/snipers)

eyes and ears of the community  
"Amber" alerts mobilized the ~ (child kidnappings)

eyes and ears of the outside world  
African Union monitors serve as the sole ~ (Darfur)

ears and eyes in the sky  
the NSA, Uncle Sam's ~

eyes and ears on the ground  
he worked under cover as Al Jazeera's ~

keeping our eyes and ears open  
we're definitely ~

♦ "Keep your head on a swivel." "If you see something, say  
something." (Situational awareness.)

## eye (eyes and ears / attention)

eyes and ears

they were all ~ (Germans at a Oglala Sioux powwow)  
it's a show for the ~ (gambling at casino)

## eye (see eye to eye, etc.)

see eye to eye with my (new) boss  
I don't ~

see eye to eye with the founder  
he didn't ~ on the direction of the business

see eye to eye  
we will never ~  
they don't always ~ (European leaders)  
they might ~ (two leaders)

## eye (naked eye)

naked-eye observer  
an inexperienced ~ (sky phenomena)

naked-eye light phenomena  
~ in the sky

naked eye, binoculars or telescope  
don't look at the sun with the ~

invisible to the naked eye  
trace evidence looks at microscopic evidence ~

visible to the naked eye  
the comet should be ~

## eyeball (up to one's eyeballs)

up to their eyeballs in (dangerous) chemicals  
these fish are ~ (tomcods in New York and New Jersey)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be up to your elbows in work. Or up to your neck in work.  
Or up to your eyeballs in work. Take your pick!

## eyeball (attention)

eyeball  
"~s," or the number of people drawn to a Web site

bring more eyeballs to boxing  
these YouTubers are really corny and stuff, but they ~

brought a ton of eyeballs to her sport  
her sex appeal has ~ (Danica Patrick)

♦ "[Caitlin] Clark is to hoops what Serena Williams was to tennis, or Tiger Woods to golf. They also may be racial outliers in their sports but, more importantly, they moved the needle. They brought seismic change: eyeballs, fanfare and a unique style of play." ("Barkley was right about people being 'petty' over Caitlin Clark—but he called out the wrong voices" by Kirsten Fleming, *The New York Post*, May 23, 2024. This paragraph is noteworthy for its very good analogy and wealth of figurative language: *hoops, outliers, moved the needle, seismic, eyeballs, fanfare*. Good writing.)

## eyeball (eyeball-popping)

eyeball-popping conference  
an ~ (politics)

♦ "This has been the most dizzying, jaw-dropping, eyeball-popping, head-spinning news conference I have ever attended. And I was at Bill Clinton's news conference in 1998 when he faced the press for the first time over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky." (An over-caffeinated John Soper for the BBC, following a press conference

with President Trump on Monday, April 13, 2020. Sopel would make a good sports commentator in the mold of John Madden or Stephen A. Smith.)

## eyeball (sight)

map, eyeball, and stars

troops were still navigating by ~ (pre-GPS)

## eyebrow (raise eyebrows, etc.)

raised eyebrows

it ~ last month when... (officer criticizes another officer)

his comments ~

a seaside town in Japan has ~ after it...

the report ~...

his decision ~

raises an eyebrow

the timing ~

raise one eyebrow

the public will ~, not both (the Hur report / politics)

raised no eyebrows

the marriage ~ (professor / student)

raised (so many) eyebrows

he ~ with his announcement

raising scientific eyebrows

that's one of the strange things that's ~

the other issue that is ~ is how the virus has mutated

raised some eyebrows in government

it was a decision that privately ~

raised eyebrows for a number of reasons

this late disclosure has ~ (BBC)

instantly raised eyebrows

the timing of the murder ~

eyebrows lift

their ~, they can't quite hide their disapproval

eyebrows raised

there were some ~ when Bale was left out of the game

♦ "I was just really sort of eyebrow raised... (Disbelief. Heard on *Who? Weekly*.)

♦ "Everybody's eyebrows hit the ceiling." (Something Queen Elizabeth II said in private to a group of people.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Raises one's eyebrows when surprised.)

## eyebrow-raising (adjective)

eyebrow-raising claim

her ~ aroused skepticism in scientific circles

eyebrow-raising ideas

he voiced some ~ about women (upset)

eyebrow-raising tweet

President Trump issued an ~ Friday morning

eyebrow-raising words

Justice Scalia has used some ~ (argle-bargle, etc.)

## eyebrow-raising (noun)

a little bit of eyebrow-raising

there's ~, how will you regulate this

some eyebrow-raising

there is ~ to be had in the fine print (a report)

## eye candy (noun)

eye candy

many go to auto shows looking for ~ (classic cars)

eye candy for philistines

the work is ~ (Koons' Bouquet of Tulips)

blond eye candy

there's lots of ~ Down Under (Oz)

♦ "Most sports talk shows feature women dressed in what I would term provocative and inappropriate attire—eye candy, so to speak..." (An online commenter.)

♦ "She gives credence to the stereotype that sideline reporters are just 'eye candy.'" (Criticism of host and sportscaster Charissa Thompson, who admitted to making things up as a sideline reporter.)

♦ "In the fall of 2008, Thompson completed her first run as an NFL sideline reporter. During the season, Thompson dyed her hair black to 'rid [herself] of the Barbie thing,' as she is notably blond." (The host and sportscaster Charissa Thomson. From the Wikipedia article "Charissa Thomson." After much male commentary, she switched back to being a blond. Years later, she would admit that during this period she made up stories to tell on camera. Her contemporary female critics who now charge her with giving credence to the stereotype that sideline reporters are just "eye candy" should be a bit more sympathetic, considering the times.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ If ya ain't selling it, don't put it in the window.

## eye-catching

eye-catching

the figures were ~ (# of excess deaths / pandemic)

eye-catching glow

she projected a happy, ~

eye-catching moves

he's got ~ (a very good lacrosse player)

eye-catching (white) suit

a curvy Southern belle in an ~

eye-catching win

she had an ~ at Indian Wells (a tennis player)

## eye-opener

eye-opener

the visit was an ~

it is an ~ in several ways ("Lan Yu," filmed in Beijing)

## eye-opening

eye-opening

the new information was ~ (a murder investigation)

## eye-popping

eye-popping (stock) performance

years of ~

eye-popping \$46 million  
he pulled in an ~ (campaign contributions)

eye-popping, jaw-dropping  
it was an ~ confirmation... (Biden's debate performance)

## eye-roll (dismissal)

eye roll for the ages  
with an ~, Italian PM Giorgia Meloni appeared annoyed

biggest eye-roll  
that is the ~ I've ever seen you do

become an eye-roll  
the term has ~ (*woke*)

♦ see also *eye* (*roll one's eyes*)

## eyesore (noun)

eyesore  
the tower is an ~ (on a mountain)  
the cell tower near Yellowstone's Old Faithful is an ~  
the armory is an ~ right now and needs a facelift

armory is an eyesore  
the ~ right now and needs a facelift

tower is an eyesore  
the ~ (on a mountain)

criticized as an eyesore  
the cell tower has been ~ (in Yellowstone)

# F

## fabius (as verb)

fabiused [our affairs] into a very disagreeable posture  
he has ~ (criticism of General George Washington)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The name of the Roman general Fabius Maximus was once a byword for caution and delay in warfare. He led Rome against Hannibal. The Fabian Society is named after this general. Fabians are socialists who advocate a gradual reform of capitalism, as opposed to Marxists, who would overthrow it. The Fabian Society was formed in England in 1884 and exists to this day.

♦ see also *Hannibal* (*American Hannibal, etc.*)

## fabric (fabric of society, etc.)

fabric of (accepted) conduct  
cheating is woven into the ~

fabric of democracy  
people living and working together is the ~

fabric of our nation  
their legacy is woven through the ~ today (gen WW I)

fabric of our society  
this division tears at the very ~ (elite vs. underclass)

city's fabric  
violence has become a part of the ~ (Baltimore / drugs)

cultural fabric

rodeo is sewn deep into the ~ (the Great Plains)

social fabric  
the stress of collapsing economies can tear the ~ apart  
we have to consider the ~ of Lebanon (politics)

part of the fabric  
I don't remember it being ~ (a sports tradition)

part of the (city's) fabric  
violence has become a ~ (Baltimore / drugs)

fraying the fabric  
logging and roads are ~ of nature

eat away at the fabric  
these are things that ~ of our city (hate crime against gays)

tearing at the fabric  
this is ~ of people's lives (oil spill)

threaded itself into the fabric  
the gang has ~ of the village

woven into the fabric  
cheating is ~ of accepted conduct  
Arab Americans are deeply ~ of America

## fabricate (verb)

fabricated her story for money and fame  
he claimed she ~ (sex-abuse trial)

fabricated his account  
there was no reason to believe that he ~ (crime)

fabricate data  
the fear that doctors who own company stock will ~

fabricated evidence  
he ~ that he had cloned human cells (scientist)

fabricated the figures  
many questioned whether the medical examiner had ~

fabricated (various) Black identities  
she ~ (an academic)

fabricated and falsified  
MIT said he ~ data in a scientific paper;  
he ~ research findings (breast-cancer researcher)

♦ She fabricated various Black identities, including Black Caribbean, North African Blackness, US rooted Blackness, Caribbean rooted Bronx Blackness, *Boricua*... (The academic Rachel Dolezal.)

## fabricated

fabricated data  
a large study was based on ~ (published cancer study)

inaccurate, incomplete or fabricated  
~ evidence

## fabrication (lying)

fabrication  
the quote was a ~

fabrication and plagiarism  
he committed widespread ~ in news articles

## facade (noun)

façade of (mutual) esteem  
the two men masked their hostility by a ~

façade of normalcy  
it was a total ~ (US intelligence fail in Afghanistan)

facade of respectability  
he lifted the ~ to reveal the hypocrisy

cracks in Bierenbaum's façade  
~ started to appear (surgeon convicted of murder)

maintained a façade of negotiation  
the government began planning military action while it ~

peered behind the facade  
the center's reputation took hits from reporters who'd ~

♦ "The EU pretends to negotiate, Turkey pretends to reform." (Turkish accession to the EU.)

♦ "They had to keep this façade up for the American public of joy when none of us saw the joy." (The Kamala Harris campaign. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## face (identity and nature)

face of boxing  
he changed the ~ (Muhammad Ali)

face of fashion  
model diversity and the ever-changing ~

face of war  
the true ~ in all its joylessness and hopelessness

changing face  
the ~ of a rural Colorado community (immigration)

changing the face  
they are ~ of competitive skateboarding (Sky, Bombette)

## face (yellowface, etc.)

blackface  
"~, " when white actors portray Black characters (history)  
the ugly history of ~ (NPR / Code Switch)  
"US Soprano offended by ~ pulls out of Italy opera"  
(NYP)

Blackface  
"Barnes & Noble 'Diverse Editions' Are 'Literary ~"  
(NPR)

brownface  
"~" in US entertainment (Al Pacino as Tony Montana, etc.)  
"~" is similar to the term "blackface"  
*Jonah from Tonga* has sparked a discussion on "~"

Jewface  
recent ~ controversies (Helen Mirren as Golda Meir, etc.)  
the term ~ (when a Jew watches non-Jews play Jews)

redface

yellowface or brownface or blackface or ~...

white face  
this is ~, why not cancelled (*White Chicks* film)

white-face  
Blacks can use ~ and make fun of whites (*White Chicks*)

*Whiteface*  
*Jay Gatsby: A Black Man in ~* (2017 / by Janet Savage)

yellowface  
"~, when people attempt to look Asian  
the past and present of "~"  
is there more ~, or are we just more aware of it  
in some respects ~ and blackface are the same (Erin Quill)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The images last year from the Asian fraternity that dressed up in blackface for a party (and filmed it!) were so disappointing." (Leilani Nishime.)

♦ Eye makeup that makes one look vaguely Asian; wearing kimonos or qipaos; mincing steps; tittering behind fans, excessive bowing; evil characterizations... (Yellowface.)

♦ "Why don't Jews play Jews?"—David Baddiel on the row over Helen Mirren as Golda Meir" by David Baddiel, *The Guardian*, 12 Jan 2022.

♦ "On Earth Day, 1971, nonprofit organization Keep America Beautiful launched what the Ad Council would later call one of the '50 greatest commercials of all time.' Dubbed 'The Crying Indian,' the one-minute PSA features a Native American man paddling down a junk-infested river, surrounded by smog, pollution, and trash; as he hauls his canoe onto the plastic-infested shore, a bag of rubbish is tossed from a car window, exploding at his feet. The camera then pans to the Indian's cheerless face just as a single tear rolls down his cheek. / The ad, which sought to combat pollution, was widely successful...and helped reduce litter by 88% across 38 states... / But while Hollywood trumpeted Iron Eyes Cody as a 'true Native American' and profited from his ubiquitous image, the man himself harbored an unspoken secret: he was 100% Italian." ("The True Story of 'The Crying Indian'" by Zachary Crockett, Priceonomics, September 9, 2014. See the Wikipedia article "Iron Eyes Cody." Astonishingly, the Ad Council still features "The Crying Indian" PSA in its "Our History / The Classics" section, along with its War Bonds, Red Cross, Polio, the Peace Corps, and Crime Prevention campaigns.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The NAACP said that it was problematic... but, if you're looking at the Zulu Club within the tradition of masquerading and masking, painting one's face is a part of Carnival, or it's a part of a masquerade, and the Zulus will say that they could not afford masks. It was cheaper and it was accessible for them to actually paint their faces black... I mean, it's a caricature, it's Mardi Gras, it's like everything is exaggerated, if you look at even Mardi Gras Krewe that are traditionally white, they also have these caricatures of white people and European features, and so, it's an exaggeration. And while it's connected to minstrelsy historically, I think that it was more rooted in this idea of a masquerade, a mask. People are really dismissive [of outsiders protesting the Zulus' black face], to be honest with you. I think that New Orleans understands New Orleans' traditions. The city has been very insular, right? A lot of our traditions have just existed without the participation and the scrutiny of people outside of New Orleans, and so I think that for the average black person in New Orleans, including those members of my family, they just simply do not connect the Black Face in Zulu with minstrelsy or making a mockery of black people and most certainly are not looking at it as an offensive tradition." ("In New Orleans, The Fight Over Blackface Renews Scrutiny Of A Mardi Gras Tradition," NPR, All Things Considered, 3 March 2019. The Zulu Club was founded in 1909.)

♦ "Where Caucasians seem to get bothered and confused by colorblind casting is they believe it means that they, Caucasians, now get to play any other race because the next Cinderella on Broadway

is going to be African-American. / They feel it is a quid pro quo: you get to be in a show, then we get to play you in a show. But *that is not how it was ever supposed to work* [italics mine]. And it is a bastardization what is supposed to be happening." (Erin Quill, who blogs about diversity in casting, about colorblind casting.)

♦ "But what if they made Black Chicks with Zack Efron and Seth Rogan. Would they need that comedy too, I wonder?" (As opposed to the Wayans brothers hilarious film, *White Chicks*.)

♦ "White Chicks is hella FUNNY! Need part 2!!!!" (An online commenter.)

♦ "*Deadspin* quietly tweaks viral story on 9-year-old Chiefs fan's 'blackface' after his parents threaten legal action" by Olivia Land, *The New York Post*, Dec. 8, 2023.)

♦ see also *authenticity (groups)*, *self (authentic self, authentic selves)*

## face (public face, etc.)

face of climate denial

President Trump has become the ~ (Al Gore)

face of (sideline) protests

he became the ~ (NFL's Kaepernick)

face of resistance

he was one ~ to the Nazis at Stalingrad (Vasily Zaitsev)

international face

he was the ~ of Iraq (Tariq Aziz)

public face

he is the ~ of the proposed community center

he has become the ~ of the hospital (chief of trauma)

Yamani became the ~ of the oil embargo (1973)

the Defense Secretary is the ~ of the Pentagon

## face (look something in the face)

looked their tragic history in the face

the Americans had never ~

## face (in one's face)

in your face

some of these feminists can be really ~ (a Swiss woman)

racism can be covert and underhanded, versus ~

in each other's face

the coaches want the players ~ (to call out mistakes)

in-your-face president

he is an ~

get in people's faces

she was not afraid to ~ (a politician)

♦ "Why are we firing them, why are we blaming them, attacking and demonizing them, why are we in their face?" (The unvaccinated.)

♦ We're not going anywhere; we're here to stay; we're in your face; we're present and not absent; you will not erase us... (Different groups.)

♦ "Running while brown. Skittish while Muslim." (NPR. Code Switch. Race. In Your Face.)

♦ "He was the originator of getting in your face and talking trash." (Orlando Woolridge about the great NBA star Larry Bird, the Hoosier from French Lick, Indiana.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A variation is, "to be in one's grill." (AAVE.)

♦ Get out of my face!

## face (fall on one's face, etc.)

fall on their faces

I hope the Browns continue to ~ (NFL snark)

fall flat on your face

you can ~ (comedy improv like Chicago's Second City)

## face (face facts, etc.)

face your problems

you have to ~ head on

face facts

it's time to ~

face the facts

she urged her youngest daughter to ~

faced the reality

he finally ~ that the agency was bumbling (C.I.A.)

## face (baby face)

see *baby (baby face, etc.)*

## face (brave face, etc.)

game face

see *game (game face)*

best face

he tried his best to put his ~ forward

brave face

she put on a ~ in the midst of horror (nurse)

putting on a brave face

his allies are ~ (politics)

put your best face forward

sometimes you just have to ~

put a brave face on this awful situation

they are trying to ~

## face (egg on one's face, etc.)

have egg on their face

Australia ~ (goalie blunder at Qatar World Cup)

♦ "The enlightened peace-and-love progressives of Silicon Valley don't just have egg on their faces, they have blood on their hands." ("YouTube Banned Me, But Not the Hate Imams" by Michelle Malkin, Opinion, Townhall, Jun 07, 2017.)

## face (face anger, etc.)

face anger

leaders ~ across Nigeria

faces the ax

the show still ~ (TV)

face (tight) budgets

schools ~

face the challenge



soldiers must ~ of combat with leadership, initiative, skill

faces a charge

he ~ of theft by deception

facing charges

they are ~ of murder and aggravated assault

faced collapse

the company asked for government intervention as it ~

face danger

once you ~ over and over you lose your fear

face death

they still ~ by beheading (Saudi Arabia)

face my death

a nursing staff that will help me ~ (dying)

face discrimination

their children ~ in Somali schools (Somali Bantus)  
many Israeli Arabs say they ~

face (widespread) discrimination

laborers from rural areas ~ (in large cities)

faces a (potential rabies) epidemic

the city ~

faces eviction

the business ~ when its lease expires (nightclub)

faces a (terrible economic) inheritance

the government ~ (Britain)

face (tough) penalties

some young abusers do ~ (animal abuse)

face (strong family) pressure

they ~ to be dutiful sons

faces a (rough) road

President Obama ~ (politics)

faces (potential) sanctions

Missouri ~ (sports)

faces (big) test

US ~ in ambitious troop rotation

faced a (new) threat

the Rangers ~ (mortars / Takur Ghar)

face forced marriages

five girls ~ (Pakistan / result of vani tradition)

## face (in the face of)

in the face of adversity

motivate soldiers to fight on ~  
the belief that men must be strong ~ (emotions)

in the face of authority

the defiant gesture ~

in the face of change

this marriage tradition is disappearing ~ (Yupiks)

in the face of danger

we will not blink ~ (military)

in the face of (harrowing) danger

his heroic actions ~ (military)

in the face of death

all fear of embarrassment or failure fall way ~

in the face of failure

the team has demonstrated resilience ~  
why do some persist ~ while others give up

in the face of their fury

the ceasefire meant little ~

in the face of a (major) threat

what would they do ~ (military)

in the face of (faculty) unrest

~ (at a college)

blink in the face of danger

we will not ~ (military)

wilt in the face of threats

we will not ~

## face (fly in the face)

fly in the face of notions

the 2000 census findings ~ of...

flies in the face of (social) convention

his work ~ (an artist)

fly in the face of the facts

his findings ~

fly in the face of power

artistic works that ~ (an award)

fly in the face of conventional wisdom

his findings ~ (scientist)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Have you ever been "dive-bombed" by a bird protecting its nest or territory? Perhaps that is the basis for this expression.

## face (blow up in one's face)

blow up in his face

it could ~ (if he ignored the infraction)

blown up in our face

this has ~ (supporting Somali warlords)

## face (slap in the face, etc.)

slap in the face

see *slap* (*slap in the face, etc.*)

spit in the face

see *spit* (*spit in the face / noun*)

## face (concept)

private face

he had a public face and a ~

public face

I have taken a lot of trouble with my ~ (Noel Coward)

true face

Iranians hide their ~ (speech)

national, ideological and political face

so much ~ was involved (building a huge dam)

loss of face

easing him out of power without a ~

hide their (true) face

Iranians ~ (speech)

save face

dictators always need to ~ (repression)

♦ "During the second scourge of plague in 1917, a Chinese doctor in a Shansi city saved a desperate situation after a well-meaning foreigner had given an example of how not to handle a Chinese official at a time of crisis. Foreigner: You must close the city gates at once. / Official: No, it can't be done. / Foreigner: Why? / Official: Trade cannot stop. The people have to go in and out to market. / Foreigner: But do you want every one to die of the plague? / Official: (Shrugs.) / Foreigner: If you do not order the gates closed I will report you to Peking and have you removed from office. / Official: That will please me. I do not like this office. I wish to give it up... / (Later.) Official (to a female Chinese doctor): What do you want? / Chinese doctor: Nothing just now. I am studying the situation. / Official: Has the plague stopped? / Chinese doctor: No, it is getting worse. / Official: Should the gates of the city be closed? / Chinese doctor: You are the one in authority. It is for you to decide. / Official: They shall be shut at once!" (*New Life Currents in China* by Mary Ninde Gamewell.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The mind thinks something, the heart feels something else, the tongue says something else, and manners do something else. It doesn't mean people are lying. They are just dealing with you with a different character." (Muhammad Atrianfar, an Iranian newspaper publisher, on the complexities of communicating with his fellow Iranians.)

♦ "*Honne* or *tatmae*?" (A Japanese expression for the difference between one's public facade and one's real feelings.)

♦ see also *face-saving* (concept)

## face (smiley face)

smiley-face

~ stickers

putting a happy face on everything

he was still ~ (politics and the pandemic)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Two young men are sitting at a table. The man on the left is a portrait of despair: His elbows are on the table, his head is bowed, and his hands are on the top of his head, so that you can't see his face. Across the table, his nerdy Zoomer friend is saying, "Maybe try turning the mug around so its inspirational message faces you?" On the table is a mug. Looking closely, you can see that the "inspirational message" on the mug is the yellow smiley face. The upspeak indicated by the question mark in the caption is priceless. (*The New Yorker*, November 7, 2022.)

## face (red face, red-faced, etc.)

red-faced

I am ~ (= embarrassed)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone's face reddens in embarrassment.)

## face (poker face)

poker face

Heller, who has no ~, couldn't hide her frustration

♦ "Heller, who has no poker face, couldn't hide her frustration from her producers on the day of the screening." (The film director Marielle Heller.)

♦ see also *poker-faced* (adjective)

## face (face-palm, face palm)

face-palm bad

my idea is bad, like you know, ~

face-palm moment

it was truly a ~ (politician unwittingly reads joke names)

♦ "My idea is bad, like you know, face-palm bad." (The successful (relatively) young creative holds her palms to her eyes, feigning embarrassment but smiling.)

♦ "Classic HYS trope—a fan of another team says something sporting and pleasant, so somebody immediately jumps in to say they can't possibly be a real fan. Real face palm moment."

♦ "Holy Facepalm" left a "What do you think?" comment about a picture of EmRata wearing a tiny giraffe-print string bikini. Cheeky!

♦ "Great face-palm from the CNN host as Lemon and Ramaswamy fight!" (An online commenter.)

♦ "'The NYT thinks that Travis Kelce invented the fade,' Hill responded alongside a facepalm emoji. 'When you have zero cultural competency on your staff, this is how you end up with stories like this.'" ("New York Times lampooned for piece on Travis Kelce's haircut, critics feel it offered 'zero cultural context'" by Brian Flood, Fox News, February 5, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Facepalm." It's a meme, an emoji, etc. Apparently, mandrills do it, too. Who knew? Wikipedians are wonderful.

## Facebook (the Facebook of knitting, etc.)

Facebook of knitting

Ravelry is often called "the ~" (millions of accounts)

## faceless (adjective)

faceless bureaucracy

try as he may, he cannot penetrate a ~

## facelift (noun)

undergo a (major) facelift

the museum will ~ (Guggenheim)

## face-saving (concept)

British face-saving

this is just an exercise in ~

face-saving compromise

he has quietly argued for a ~ that would...

exercise in (British) face-saving

this is just an ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ For quotations, see *face* (concept).

## face up (face up to something)

face up to the need

the government was forced to ~ for urban planning

face up to this problem

soccer must ~ and tackle it (fan racism)

## facing (future-facing, etc.)

business-facing

National Economic Council, a ~ unit of the White House

consumer-facing

~ artificial intelligence could take advantage of the public

foreign-facing

GCC was intended to be a ~ entity, not censor Americans

front-facing

he didn't want to be 'too ~' (stayed behind the scenes)

future-facing

Polachek has a ~ sonic playfulness (vs. retro style)

outward-facing

doing the ~ communication, like a press secretary

~ media such as webpages, social media account (gov't)

public-facing

I don't understand why my story is on such a ~ stage

it's a very ~ role (White House press secretary)

♦ "We are future-facing and always innovating." (Oxford University Press. *Of course* you are...)

♦ "I don't understand why my story is on such a public-facing stage." (Elisabeth Finch of *Grey's Anatomy*. *Of course* you don't...)

♦ see also *forward-looking*

## factory (creation)

factory of extreme weather

the supercell can be a ~

factories for (left-wing) political activism

California schools are ~

factory for the production

it operated as a ~ of knowledge (universities)

disease-factory

packing our kids into a ~ (schools / pandemic)

dream factory

Los Angeles, the ~ (1980s / drugs, films, clubs)

show-business factory

the ~ that churned out iconic hits like the Amanda Show

## factory (glue factory)

sent to the glue factory

it's time for Maguire to be ~ (disgruntled football fan)

♦ "Yeah, he's eventually been put out of his misery, I suppose." (Manchester United sacks Erik ten Hag.)

## fade (verb)

faded into irrelevance

the group has ~

fades into obscurity

he may not mind if his name ~...

faded into the past

episodes of violence which have long ~

fade into the background

many prefer to ~ (teen-model sites on Internet)

faded into (grim) determination

my earlier feeling of achievement ~ as we struggled...

fades out of boxing

my hope is that Tyson just ~ (the boxer)

faded after a few weeks

her latest book got lousy reviews and ~

fades over the course of a month

anxiety following a trauma that ~ or so isn't depression

faded from the scene

the anti-crime campaign ~ in most urban areas

faded from sight

the Rebel Flag ~ when the South was defeated...

fading fast

America's reputation is ~ (Iraq)

faded steadily

a trauma that ~ over the course of a month

applause faded

as the ~ and he approached the lectern...

enthusiasm faded

his initial ~ (an employee)

fame faded

the ~ (a writer)

hopes faded

~ for 102 miners trapped in a flooded coal mine

his ~ (Montagnard in Cambodian refugee camp)

impression (soon) fades

but our initial ~ as... (of a film character)

memories fade

~... (time)

~ and memories change (a defense lawyer)

memories (of Katrina) have faded

but ~... (New Orleans)

memory (of the Hayman fire) fades

as ~ (wildfire)

stigma is fading

the TV appearance of teen victims suggests the rape ~

threat (of war with Spain) faded

as the ~

old ways have been fading

the ~ (Inuit)

begins to fade

if we offer hope, then the stigma ~ (HIV and retrovirals)

starting to fade

old ways of life are ~ as the Arctic thaws

♦ "TO LET / CARRIAGES COUPES HANSOMS VICTORIAS LIGHT WAGONS / HORSES BOARD BY THE MONTH." (A fading "ghost sign" on an old brick wall in New York City.)

## fade away (verb)

faded away

he disappeared into obscurity, he just ~ (a civic leader)

fade away quickly

their recent memories ~ (the elderly)

memories fade away

their recent ~ quickly (the elderly)

support fades away

as his ~... (leader of a country)

burn out or fade away

playboating didn't ~ (whitewater rodeos, etc.)

## fail (a big fail, etc.)

Amazon fail

an ~ is a learning experience (restaurant delivery)

debate fail

after his ~ last week... (a politician)

stunning fail

it was a ~ (Boeing's software problems with Max plane)

big fail

I think it's a ~ (an ad campaign)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old dictionary I use, the only use of *fail* as a noun is in the expression, "without fail."

♦ "[A] failure and a fail are not the same thing. *Failure* is not, in terms of how it is used in actual speech, simply the act of failing. It once was, but over time it has taken on a whiff of personal condemnation. *Failure* suggests, more readily, a rather large-scale, tragic kind of failing; one thinks of an assessment of a person's entire career, marriage, or life, of a head hung low, and the plays of Arthur Miller. 'Epic failure!' then, is a little mean. In modern English, the actual word for simply 'a failing,' with no ominous hint of therapy sessions or a gun going off offstage, is 'a fail.' It's certainly handier for people playing video games or rating one another's sales volume." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move." As McWhorter notes, "A linguist's first observation must be that English speakers have been transforming verbs into nouns this way for a good thousand years.")

## fail up (groups / verb)

failing up

our industry is famous for specifically men ~

♦ "Our industry is famous for specifically men failing up. It's like, 'He got that movie? Didn't he just... The last movie, he just...? Didn't that bomb?' And they give him another [chance]. That's great, but I couldn't do that. I don't get a second chance." (The actor Eva Longoria.)

♦ "And whereas men were handed the keys to a blockbuster after a single indie breakthrough, this rarely happened for women." (The film industry.)

♦ During the 2024 U.S. presidential election, many Democrats disparaged Donald Trump as an example of white privilege who had been allowed to "fail up."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The idea that someone else "failed up" is a pernicious notion. It reflects simple naked greed, competition and jealousy.

## faint-hearted (the faint-hearted)

faint hearted

academia, like war, is not for the ~

this is a tough business model, it's not for the ~ (a pub)

filmmaking is not a world for the ~ (Scorsese)

faint-hearted

politics is a hard business, it has never been for the ~

## fairy (fantasy)

fairy of false hope

the ~ did her worst in Stuttgart (soccer)

fairy dust

see *dust* (*fairy dust*, etc.)

bad fairy

you can never tell when the ~ might pay you a visit

♦ "The Scottish fairy of false hope did her worst in Stuttgart..." (Hungary 1-0 Scotland, Euro 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "You can never tell when the bad fairy might pay you a visit and sprinkle the f\*\*\*-you-up dust." (A saying enjoyed by special-forces types.)

## fairy (Fairy Bridge, etc.)

Fairy Bridge

we floated under the ~ (a natural arch on Buliu River)

Fairy Castle

~ is a pillar in Bryce Canyon, Utah

Fairy Dell

~ is a valley in Nevada

Fairy Ladder

we visited ~ Falls near Dix Mountain

Fairyland

~ Canyon is a valley in Bryce Canyon

Fairy Queen

the Palace of the ~ is a pillar in Bryce Canyon

### \*\*\* Pakistan, the Amazon, North Carolina...

♦ "They resemble humans, but their mouths are wider and their legs are much longer than ours, with the feet facing backward. They have wings to fly through the air, and are clad in green robes." (Mashraf Khan, the royally appointed wizard of Hunza, speaking of the snow fairies that, in Hunza tradition, inhabit the surrounding mountains in northwest Pakistan. Mashraf says that they have a king and a queen, and the queen makes prophecies, such as 'A girl will die a month from now, falling into the river to the north.' Mashraf says he dances with the fairies. People watch him dancing, but the fairies are invisible.)

♦ The *curupira* is a mischievous red-haired elf who has feet that face backwards and takes delight in making tracks that lead travelers astray. (The Amazon.)

♦ "Over there, so Myra used to say, the Little People dwell in caves on the mountainsides and under the waterfalls. They are a tiny folk,

hardly reaching to a man's knee, but well formed and featured, with long hair reaching nearly to the ground. / They are fond of music and of dancing. Sometimes, on a summer day, when all else was silent about the cab, we would hear a far-off mysterious throbbing somewhere in that glen, and Myra would say to me 'Listen: it is the Little People beating their drums!' / She said they were kind to mortals who think kindly of them; but they play tricks on busybodies and other folk that they do not like. If a man gets too curious and spies on the Little People when they are at their games, or tries to enter their caves without being invited, or pokes behind the small waterfalls with a stick, they will cast a spell upon him so that he loses his way in the woods and goes wandering about in a daze. / When one finds anything pretty in the woods or among the rocks he must say 'Little People, I want to take this,' for it may belong to them, and if he does not ask permission they will stone him away from the place. / Myra used to hint to me that old Grandpa Dale brought most of his bright crystals and colored stones from over there; and so, she said, he must be a great friend of the Little People, or they would not let him find such things, or would make them dissolve and fade away before he could take them out of the glen." (*Smoky Mountain Magic* by Horace Kephart.)

♦ According to a legend attributed to the Cherokee Indians, the Tallulah Gorge in northern Georgia was inhabited by a race of "little people."

## **fairy godmother**

see godmother (*fairy godmother*)

## **fairy tale (happy)**

fairytale ending

this was not the ~ his glittering career deserved (soccer)

fairytale ending for the club's greatest goal scorer

there was no ~ (Manchester City bottles final)

fairy-tale romance

they had a ~

fairy-tale wedding

and after the ~ things did get bad

modern day football fairy tale

it's a ~ (the Jamie Vardy story)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Not every story has a fairytale ending."

## **fairy tale (fantasy, delusion)**

fairytale economics

he has accused his rivals of ~ (tax cuts)

fairytale land

Mr. Binger must live in ~ to think that... (a prosecutor)

fairy-tale thinking

it's hard to tell if this is ~ or an evil plot (gamification)

just a fairy tale

at first the coronavirus was ~, a rumor in the camp...

Black fairytale

he called it "the first ~" (1988 film *Coming to America*)

Hollywood fairy tale

the ~ that representation equals change (inclusion)

## **faith (noun)**

blind faith

he had this ~ in me (defensive coach)

lose faith

I began to ~ in him

## **faithful (the faithful, etc.)**

the Laker faithful

obviously ~ will give us a lot of energy (LeBron James)

the pickleball faithful

the ~ have looked to the town for assistance (courts, etc.)

## **fall (noun)**

fall of the (police) state

with the ~

fall of the (Assad) regime

the ~ is a victory for all Syrians (2024)

fall of the Soviet Union

in the chaotic period following the ~ (nuclear arms)

fall from grace

it was a stunning ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

stunning fall

now to the ~ of a CEO

dramatic fall

it was a ~from grace (Hollywood mogul)

hard fall

Indonesia's economy has taken a ~

imminent fall

diplomats predicted Taylor's ~ (Liberia)

took a fall

religious coexistence ~ under Gen. Zia ul-Huq

## **fall (rise and fall)**

see *rise and fall*

## **fall (fall from power, etc.)**

fallen from favor

she has ~ (a replaced Broadway director)

fell from power

he ~

stand or fall

see *stand (stand and fall / fate)*

## **fall (defeat)**

fell to the Incas

the Chimu Kingdom ~ (Peru)

fall to the opposition

eastern Libya was first to ~

fell in the first round

4 giants ~ (World Cup soccer)

fell without a shot

the rebel forces evaporated, and the city ~

city fell

the rebels fled and the ~ without a shot

### **fall (fall ill, etc.)**

fall ill

their duty status at the time they ~...

those who do ~ become infectious days earlier (dengue)

they began to ~ with mysterious symptoms

### **fall (fall into a coma, etc.)**

fell into a (fatal) coma

he ~ after drinking bourbon (fraternity member)

fell into a (deep) depression

he ~, popping pain pills and swilling tequila

fall into a funk

it's easy to ~ about Russia's future

the jobless aren't the only people who can ~ over work

fell into a (deep) sleep

he ~

fall into a dream state

its victims ~ (tokoloshe)

### **fall (fall into a rage, etc.)**

fell into a depression

she ~

fell into a (deep) depression

he ~, popping pain pills and swilling tequila

fell into panic

I ~ (a student)

fell into rages

he ~ (after traumatic brain injury)

### **fall (on Friday, etc.)**

fell on a school night

Halloween ~

### **fall (night fell, etc.)**

dark had fallen

full ~ by now

night had fallen

~ by the time we set up camp

### **fall (silence fell, etc.)**

fell into (an uncomfortable) silence

they ~

silence fell

a ~

### **fall (numbers)**

fell 50%

attendance ~

fall to (abnormally low) levels

causes the blood sugar to ~

fell to 165 pounds from 198

his weight ~ (injured bedridden skier)

fell to 16 below zero

temperatures ~

fell to single digits

his popularity ratings ~

fell to 190 million kilograms

the country's tea exports ~ (India)

fell steadily

AIDS cases ~ as new, more effective drugs took hold

attendance fell

~ more than 50 percent (at a museum)

cases fell

AIDS ~ as new, more effective drugs took hold

exports fell

the country's tea ~ to 190 million kilograms (India)

population has fallen

Malaysia's wild-tiger ~ from 3,000 to 500 (2008)

ratings fell

his popularity ~ to single digits

temperatures fell

~ to 16 below zero

weight fell

his ~ to 165 pounds from 198 (bedridden injured skier)

ridership fell

~ as tourism slumped (cabs)

viewership has been falling

~ (the Olympics)

blood pressure falls

~, the pulse is rapid and weak (shock)

death rates (per vehicle mile) have fallen

### **fall (money)**

fell 6 percent

revenues ~ (a company)

fell by 0.6%

construction spending ~ in November (US)

income fell

its ~ because of... (a company)

prices have been falling

disk ~ (computers / storage)

prices (subsequently) fell

oil ~ as low as \$10 a barrel

revenues fell

~ 6 percent (a company)

shares fall

profits rise, but ~ at G.E.



stock fell  
the ~ even though the company...

spending fell  
construction ~ by 0.6% in November (US)

continue falling  
commission prices are likely to ~

### **fall (fall into place)**

falling into place  
all the pieces to this investigation are ~

### **fall (fall short)**

fall (far) short of acceptance  
we'll see improvement, but it will ~

fall short of demand  
the teacher supply will continue to ~

fell (7,000) short of its (recruiting) goal  
the Navy ~

fell (far) short of the (UN) goals  
the plan ~ for combating...

falls short of its hype  
the city ~ (Seattle)

fell short of its promises  
Facebook ~ to...

falls short of requirements  
improvise where the logistics system ~ (war)

falls short of (professional) standards  
a doctor can be admonished if he ~

fell short of its (enlistment) target  
the Navy ~

fall short of torture  
methods that ~, such as sleep deprivation

fell (far) short of meeting  
it ~ the Congressional intent (government plan)

fell 7,000 short  
the Navy ~ of its recruiting goal

### **fall (fall on / upon)**

fell upon hard times  
she ~

fallen on hard times  
the team has ~ (losing record)

### **fall (an emotion can fall)**

rose and fell  
hope ~ as the hours passed (mine-rescue attempt)

### **fall (fall in love)**

fell in love with America  
I ~ (an exchange student)

fall in love with the (area's) seascapes  
artists ~ (northern Jutland)

fell in love with (tribal) carvings  
Andre Breton ~ from Oceania (artist)

fell in love with the sport  
like a lot of boys, he ~ straightaway (Ben Raemers)

fallen in love with climbing  
he had ~ after taking a NOLS course

fell in love with cycling  
she ~ while on a holiday in Turkey (an Iraqi female)

♦ "What can I say, I'm in love with birds." (A birder.)

♦ "To meet a walrus is to fall in love with a walrus." (A walrus researcher.)

♦ "I love maps, and when you get hooked, you get hooked." (W. Graham Arader III, a preeminent map dealer of old American maps.)

### **fall (weight)**

weight (of the tragedy) fell  
the full ~ over the neighborhood (AIDS)

burden falls  
the ~ primarily on women (decisions)

### **fall (fall into a category, etc.)**

fall into (3) categories  
pattern injuries ~ (ED)

falls into the (choking-agent) class  
chlorine is a chemical that ~ (ED)

fall into (two) groups  
field services ~—essential and nonessential (war)

fell into (two) groups  
he believed people ~: prey and predator

falls into the (latter) group  
don't worry if your child ~

### **fall (fall into the hands, etc.)**

fallen into the hands  
regions that have ~ of the insurgents

fall into (enemy) hands  
the material could ~ (military)

fell into (rebel) hands  
the stronghold of Korhogo ~

falls into the (company's) lap  
consumer data ~

fall into the hands  
weapons that may ~ of terrorists (NBC, etc.)

fall into the (wrong) hands  
it could ~

fall into enemy hands  
he feared the machine gun could ~

fell into the wrong hands

if the information ~

### **fall (fall into chaos, etc.)**

fall into an abyss

women with eating disorders ~ and can't get out

fell into (bloody, lawless) chaos

Afghanistan ~

fall into a (relentless) cycle

sufferers ~ of compulsive scratching

fallen into disrepair

the property had ~

fallen into disuse

many fire lookout towers have ~

fall into the habit

it is easy to ~ of using stereotypes to prejudge people

fell into the life

their children ~ of American teenagers (Somalis)

fell into a pattern

he ~ and was caught (criminal)

fall into prostitution

homeless kids often ~ as a form of "survival sex"

fell into the trap

the Marines ~ (ambush in Anbar Province)

fallen into a trap

the Bush administration has ~ (by invading Iraq)

fell into drug abuse

she ~, self-mutilation and promiscuity (teenager)

fell into a state of disrepair

the terminal ~ (Grand Central Terminal)

easy to fall into

it is ~ the habit of using stereotypes to prejudge people

### **fall (devolve)**

falls to the sheriffs

the ultimate responsibility for safety ~ (of jailed inmates)

responsibility (for safety) falls

the ultimate ~ to the sheriffs (of jailed inmates)

### **fall (fall off the radar screen, etc.)**

fell off the charts

the song rose to number 3, then ~

fell off the radar screen

both men ~ (terrorists)

### **fall apart (emotionally)**

falls apart

he ~ at the merest hint of frustration (toddler)

fell apart

he ~ and turned to heroin (after being molested)

I ~ and started using drugs

### **fall apart (verb)**

fell apart

my life ~ after I discovered...

their relationship ~ (married couple)

the case ~ (criminal trial)

fallen apart

the case against him has ~

argument falls apart

but then his ~

arrangement fell apart

less than 2 years later, the ~

life fell apart

my ~ after I discovered...

marriage fell apart

she described how her perfect ~

plans can fall apart

even the best of ~...

things fell apart

that's what happened in Africa, ~ (aid projects)

### **fall behind (competition and progress)**

fall behind

we want to keep up and not ~ (government official)

the US could ~ China (digital currency)

"falling behind" in math and science

the long-held anxiety that Americans are somehow ~

fallen behind at Fremont

he had ~, not just in history but... (school)

fell behind by 3 years

our program ~ (space)

doomed to fall behind

they are ~ (certain categories of students)

keep up and not fall behind

we want to ~ (government official)

### **fall down (verb)**

fell down

he ~ and now he's getting back up (redemption)

### **fallen (dead)**

fallen detective

the NYPD paid tribute to its ~ (killed in line of duty)

### **fallen (the fallen)**

living and the fallen

may God bless them, the ~ (speech to military)

### **fall for (verb)**

fell for it

it was a scam, but more than 400 people ~

fell for opera  
a gramophone and Mozart, or how I ~

fell for each other  
in college, they instantly ~ (romance)

fall head over heels  
you will ~ for this book

stupidly fell for  
how we ~ for STEM (education)

♦ "Any woman who grew up during the late 1960s and '70s will fall head over heels for Sheila Weller's *Girls Like Us*." (*Ladies' Home Journal*.)

## fall guy (noun)

fall guy  
he says he was forced to be the '~' (fired)

## fall off (verb)

rates fall off  
~ rapidly after the peak (meteor shower)

## falloff (noun)

falloff in travel  
there has been a ~ to and from Bali (terrorism)

## fallout (effect)

fallout of an (Iraqi) war  
they are worried about the ~ (Egyptians)

fallout from the allegations  
the firm faces continued ~ (fraud)

fallout from the incident  
the ~ was unexpected and severe

fallout from the resignation  
the newspaper is still coping with the ~ of...

political fallout  
he faces the potential for ~ (politics)

psychological fallout  
the ~ to those who served in Vietnam

mental-health fallout  
the ~ has yet to peak (Gulf of Mexico)

contain the fallout  
the US seeks to ~ from the murders of civilians

bracing for (more) fallout  
Washington is ~ from the scandal

### \*\*\* Chernobyl...

♦ "Some seventy per cent of the fallout landed on Belarus and created an unprecedented public-health crisis." (The Chernobyl disaster of 1996, Ukraine.)

## fallow (adjective)

fallow  
the economy is still ~ (lack of growth)

fallow period

she was enduring a ~ and fighting irrelevance (comic)  
she endured ~s in her personal life (relationships)  
the following 7 years were a ~ (a bacteriologist)

fallow stretch  
Disney has seen a ~ at the box office (films)

fallow territory  
FIFA sees the US as ~ for soccer's growth

fallow time  
it was a ~, a frustrating time for him

more fallow  
the intervening years have been ~ (after Calzaghe / Wales)

lay fallow  
his analysis ~ for half a century (economics)

lie fallow  
I feel I have written myself out & ought to ~ (G. Orwell)

lying fallow  
the pier has been ~ for a long time (development)

## fall through (verb)

adoption fell through  
if the ~ and they often do...

deal fell through  
but the ~ because...

plans had fallen through  
~ (for a shared meal)

sale fell through  
the ~ (protests)

talks fall through  
should the trade ~

## false flag (subterfuge)

false flag for the election  
is it a Likud ~ (a provocation)

"false-flag" attack  
the regime called it a ~ by the rebels against their own side

false flag operation  
a ~ is right out of their playbook (military tensions)  
the apparent attack could have been a ~ (Ukrainian claim)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Broken and squally weather rendered the attempt to land impracticable for a week; and in the meantime a French frigate, which, by capturing some British ships, had become acquainted with our private signals, and daringly accompanied the expedition as if she formed part of it, suddenly shot ahead of the fleet, and, hoisting the tricolour, ran safely into the harbour of Alexandria, with a reinforcement for General Menou." (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant, "Alexandria, 1801.")

## falter (verb)

negotiations faltered  
he threatened China with new tariffs as ~

plans have faltered  
their ~

## family (group)

family  
policing is a ~ (Sgt Matt Ratana)

family of nations  
Russia had no place in the ~ (18th century)

rugby family  
our thoughts and those of the entire ~ are with the family

member of the (European) family  
do we want to remain a ~ or wander lost (EU)

drive Greece out of the family  
the EU is a heartless stepmother trying to ~

## family (gang / group)

Mafia family  
New York's biggest ~

## family (plants)

onion family  
the ramp, a member of the ~

orchid family  
the ~ has more than 40,000 species

plant family  
120 ~s and 300 species (Botanical Gardens)

## family (animals)

families of Arabian horses  
there are five great ~

dolphin family  
killer whales, or orcas, are the largest members of the ~

pinniped family  
monk seals are the oldest in the ~

equine family  
the donkey, mule, and zebra are all members of the ~

## family (viruses)

family of coronaviruses  
a new strain from the ~ is to blame (SARS)

family of viruses  
it is a ~ that... (coronaviruses)  
dengue is from the same ~ that causes yellow fever

viral family  
monkeypox is a member of the same ~ as smallpox

## family (products)

family of engines  
the JT8D-200 is from the same ~ used on midsize jets

notebook family  
the ~ that's won over 800 awards (computers)

combat vehicle family  
each member of the future ~

member of the (future vehicle) family  
each ~ (military)

## family (languages)

linguistic family  
40 ethnic groups belonging to 3 ~s (Africa)

## family tree

family tree  
the roots of his ~ lie in Ireland

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ MONKEY, n. An arboreal animal which makes itself at home in genealogical trees. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## famine (noun)

feast to famine  
it was ~ in a couple of weeks (laid-off tech worker)

go from feast to famine  
you ~, bologna to steak back to bologna (coal miner)

### \*\*\* "His wife was called Itusarssuk..."

♦ The Great Irish Famine ("The Great Hunger, 1845-1852); The Russian famine of 1921-1922 (Volga and the Urals); the Ukraine famine of 1932-33...

♦ "'Well,' said the old man, 'if you'd been here during collectivization, you'd have kicked the bucket in no time. You know why I stayed alive? Because I know plants. And I'm not talking about things like acorns, linden leaves, goosefoot and nettles. They all went in no time. I know fifty-six plants a man can eat. That's how I stayed alive. It was barely spring, there wasn't a leaf on the trees—and there I was digging up roots. I know everything, brother—every root, every grass, every flower, every kind of bark. Cows, sheep and horses can die of hunger—but not me. I'm more herbivorous than any of them.'" (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Two, Chapter 50.)

♦ "His wife was called Itusarssuk. She loved children because once, during a hunger period, she had to kill four of her own to spare them from the death of starvation... / Itusarssuk was highly respected because of her deed. She had loved her children enough to kill them so as to free them from further sufferings." (*Book of the Eskimos* by Peter Freuchen.)

♦ "Who in the desert had never tasted drought? Who had not been driven into exile by famine? Such things were the inescapable fate of the desert—and all the songs of the desert were an expression of this grief, drought, and homelessness..." (From *Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

♦ "Like most creatures of the Wild, the grey cub early experienced famine. There came a time when not only did the meat-supply cease, but the milk no longer came from his mother's breast. At first the cubs whimpered and cried, but for the most part they slept...reduced to a coma of hunger...while the life that was in them flickered and died down. When the grey cub came back to life...he found...only one sister remained to him. The rest were gone. [And] the food had come too late for her. She slept continuously, a tiny skeleton flung round with skin in which the flame flickered lower and lower and at last went out." (*White Fang* by Jack London.)

### ♦ see also starvation (noun)

## fan (verb)

fan the flames  
see *flame* (pour gas on the flames, etc.)

fanning civil war  
Iran and Syria have been ~ in Iraq

## fan (shape)

### alluvial fan

a vast ~ extends out into the Bay of Bengal

♦ "As the sky breaks open / Its fans around him and shimmers / And into its northern gates he rises / Snarling complete in the joy of a weasel / With an elk's horned heart in his stomach..." ("For the Last Wolverine" by James L. Dickey. A beautiful description of an aurora, which resembles a fan both in shape and movement.)

## fanatic (person)

### fitness fanatic

he is a ~

### health fanatic

he is a fitness trainer and a ~

### jade fanatic

Hu Xianli, a self-professed ~ from Zhejiang Province

### sports fanatic

she describes herself as a ~ (Miss USA)

### camel racing fanatic

a ~ bought a racing camel for \$2.7 million (UAE)

### self-professed (jade) fanatic

Hu Xianli, a ~ from Zhejiang Province

### describes herself as a sports fanatic

she ~ (Miss USA)

♦ Reda The Elephant (Tunisia); Petit Bamba (Ivory Coast); Spike Lee (New York City)... (Internationally famous sports fans.)

♦ "Fans—or Directioners, as we were quickly named." (Fans of the boy band One Direction / 1D.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Fan* began to be used in the US around 1900 by sportswriters writing about baseball enthusiasts, and the Hollywood movie industry would spin off *fan* magazines.

♦ "In Latin *fanaticus* means 'of the temple,' and so 'inspired by divinity.' Nowadays a fanatic is one who is moved by a frenzy of enthusiasm over something. We moderns for our convenience have whittled *fanatic* down to the three-letter word *fan*—a person who works himself into frenzy of enthusiasm over, say, baseball..." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 16, "Terms of Religion and Their Beginnings.")

♦ "My motto is, 'Be fit, not fanatic.'" (Exercise in moderation.)

## fanatical (close-minded)

### fanatical detractors

Trump's most ~ (the President-elect / 2024)

♦ "'Trump derangement syndrome,' a pejorative term used to describe Trump's most fanatical detractors." (For example, *Washington Post* columnist Jennifer Rubin; *The New Yorker* editor David Remnick; Yale University history professor Timothy Snyder; MSNBC's Rachel Maddow; *The New Yorker* writer Adam Gopnik, etc.)

## fanaticism (enthusiasm)

### sneakerhead fanaticism

it's a masterly satire of ~ ("The Day the Jordans Drop")

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "These were as brave men as ever walked the earth...destroyed, not conquered, by machinery." (Winston Churchill, about the Battle of Omdurman. From *Churchill: Walking With Destiny* by Andrew Roberts.)

## fanboy (person)

### fanboy journalism

BBC's ~ goes into overdrive (Man U wins a match)

### fanboy status

he's made no secret of his ~ (judge for another / SCOTUS)

## fanfare (attention)

### with much fanfare

her appointment was announced ~ (air force)

### with little fanfare

the question was added to the forms ~ in 2008

### with little (advanced) fanfare

he visited smaller towns, ~ (a presidential candidate)

♦ "[Caitlin] Clark is to hoops what Serena Williams was to tennis, or Tiger Woods to golf. They also may be racial outliers in their sports but, more importantly, they moved the needle. They brought seismic change: eyeballs, fanfare and a unique style of play." ("Barkley was right about people being 'petty' over Caitlin Clark—but he called out the wrong voices" by Kirsten Fleming, *The New York Post*, May 23, 2024. This paragraph is noteworthy for its very good analogy and its wealth of figurative language: *hoops, outliers, moved the needle, seismic, eyeballs, fanfare*. Good writing.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Fanfare* is from French, and means a short and lively sounding of trumpets.

## fan out (verb)

### fanned out from Moscow

"politically literate" young Bolsheviks ~ to the rural areas

### fanning out over the country

census workers are ~ (India)

## fantasy (dream)

### fantasy was that

my ~ I could...

### my fantasy

you are the most beautiful woman in the world, you are ~ that was ~ growing up (to be a chess grandmaster)

### living my fantasy

I guess I'm ~ (a music groupie)

♦ "Someday, we're gonna have us a little house and a couple acres, and a cow and a pig and chickens. And have rabbits. We're gonna have a big vegetable patch and we're gonna have a rabbit hutch. And down in the flat we'll have a little field of alfalfa. Yeah, you get to tend the rabbits. When it rains, in the winter, we'll just say hell with going to work, and we'll just build a fire in the stove, and we'll just sit there, and we'll listen to the rain." (George speaking to Lennie. From the 1992 film *Of Mice and Men*, with Gary Sinise and John Malkovich, screenplay by Horton Foote, based on the novella by John Steinbeck.)

♦ "Wait till I get to California! I'm gonna reach up and pick me an orange whenever I want it! Or some grapes—now-now-now—there's something I ain't never had enough of. I'm gonna get me a whole big bunch of grapes off 'en the bush, and I'm gonna squash them all over my face and let the juice drain down off my chin. (Stuttering) M-M-M-Maybe I'll get me a whole washtub full of grapes and just sit in 'em and scrounge around in 'em until they're all gone. I sure would like that. Yes, sir, I sure would like that. Yeah." (From the great 1940 John Ford film *The Grapes of Wrath*, based on the novel by John Steinbeck.)

♦ "In the Big Rock Candy Mountains, all the cops have wooden legs, and the bulldogs all have rubber teeth, and the hens lay soft-boiled eggs. The brakemen have to tip their hats, and the railroad bulls are blind. There are birds and bees and cigarette trees, and lemonade springs where the bluebird sings, Oh I'm bound to go where there ain't no snow, where the rain don't fall and the wind don't blow, in the Big Rock Candy Mountains." (The hobo song written by Harry "Haywire Mac" McClintock. Heard in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride!"

## fantasy (fairy tale, etc.)

fantasy land

it's ~, brother, enjoy it (Logan Paul vs. Mayweather)

feminist fantasy

I fell headlong into the frantic ~

♦ "I fell headlong into the frantic feminist fantasy of *State of Terror*... The twist here is the gender of the action figure, who's barking commands and sweating her mascara off in the effort to save American democracy. Not only is she female, but she's a late middle-aged Secretary of State named Ellen Adams..." (Maureen Corrigan *loves* Hillary Clinton's book.)

## fantasy (delusion)

fantasy

these charges are a ~ cooked up by the prosecutors

fantasy science

the company was based on ~ (Theranos)

delusion, denial and fantasy

they seek refuge in ~ (the Middle East)

## far (farther on / time)

200 years further on

~ again, he enthuses about the Bauhaus (German history)

## far (far from, etc.)

far from where

we're still so ~ we need to be (testing for COVID)

far from the finish line

deep into the rat race, ~ of retirement

far (away) from the next scandal

he was never ~ (John McAfee)

far from over

the criticism and handwringing is ~ (foreign-policy issue)

the legal saga was ~

far from perfect

she was ~ as the USA finished second (gymnastics)

♦ see also *way* (a long way from, etc.)

## far (progress)

go far

together we will ~

get this far

I never thought I would ~ (immigrant success)

gone too far

we've ~ to turn back now (politics)

not go far enough

she said the law did ~ (Greta Thunberg)

gone (quite) a distance

we have ~ in creating a better Afghanistan

how far he can go

he's looking to see ~ (a politician)

♦ "There's no point coming this far, to only come this far." (The #filterdrop campaign.)

♦ "So far, so good!" (Not too many problems.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. The cartoon shows a bunch of lemmings following one another off a cliff. The caption is, "Turn back!?" "Now that we've come this far!?!!" The cartoon is at the Wikipedia article "Lemming." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## far (too far)

bridge too far

see *bridge* (a bridge too far, etc.)

a bit too far

he takes his theory ~

way too far

this ideology has gone ~

going too far

revoke her license, but being sent to jail is ~ (a nurse)

gone too far

he conceded that he had ~ (behavior)

counterterrorism measures have ~

all this talk about rights has ~

went too far

he claims the officer ~

she ~ (bad behavior gets her in trouble)

OSHA stepped out of its lane, it ~ (a legal case)

pushed the limits too far

she has ~ (nudity)

pushed religion too far

the Islamists ~ (a Somali)

erred too far

we have ~ on the side of caution

swung too far

the pendulum has ~ and they want to push it back

♦ "Donald Trump won by uniting those who think liberal rulers have gone too far." (The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## farce (noun)

farce

this was a ~, window dressing (Savoy plebiscite)

courtroom farce

the trial was less a drama than a ~

political farce

meanwhile, a ~ took place at Stormont



farce and tragedy

man walks a narrow line in nature between ~ (Antarctic)

become a farce

the law has ~ (anonymity destroyed by social media)

descended into a farce

the organizational plans have ~ (Olympic security)

follow tragedy with farce

this will undermine them, you will ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When Marx wrote that history repeats itself, "the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce," he was specifically comparing Napoleon Bonaparte to his nephew, Napoleon III. Victor Hugo disparagingly referred to Napoleon III as Napoleon the Little. Ambrose Bierce wrote, "When literary France groveled at the feet of the third Napoleon Hugo stood erect." Winston Churchill had a somewhat more favorable view of Napoleon III: "For more than twenty years this amiable, dreamy figure was to play a striking and not always ineffective part upon the European scene."

## farewell (leaving)

farewell to comedy

it is her ~

fond farewell

*Belfast* is a ~ to Branagh's childhood (the film)

## farewell (death)

bid farewell

friends, family ~ to Haskins (funeral)

## far-flung (adjective)

far-flung parts

you have been to so many ~ (a birder)

## farm (computers)

bitcoin farms

Malaysia police crush ~ with steamroller

~ even sell unused power back to the grid (Texas)

click farms

Vietnam's shadowy '~' (to boost traffic, engagement)

content farm

Demand Media is a ~

~s employ freelance writers

~s supply articles based on search-engine queries

~s are nothing new but ChatGPT is a force multiplier

link farms

~ exist to try to game PageRank (Google)

troll farm

propagandists at a Russian ~ used social media to...

computer server farm

his Websites were connected to the same ~ in Russia

## farm (enterprise)

body farm

the ~ has revolutionized forensic anthropology

cadaver dogs will train at the ~ (North Carolina)

octopus farm

"World's first proposals alarm scientists" (BBC)

oyster farm

Texas ~s collect their first harvest (2023)

tank farm

one of the facility's two ~s was destroyed (chemicals)

lightning ignites Cuban oil ~

wave farm

the world's first ~ off Portugal (generating electricity)

wind farm

a 20-megawatt ~ with 13-16 windmills

the ~ contains some 4,000 individual windmills (CA)

Wind Farm

the Gray County ~ in Kansas

wave energy farm

the US has awarded a permit to conduct testing for a ~

♦ see also *ranch* (*enterprise*)

## far-off (time)

far-off days

the ~ of the quill pen and the ink well

## far-reaching

far-reaching

his predictions are ~ and broad

far-reaching changes

Congress is expected to make ~ in the law that...

far-reaching consequences

the finding could have ~ for how patients...

far-reaching importance

something of ~

far-reaching and broad

his predictions are ~

## farsighted (adjective)

heroic and farsighted

his dedication to space flight was ~ (Von Braun)

## fascism (insult)

fascism

the word ~ has no meaning (George Orwell)

fascism and repression

we need to be united in the fight against ~ (*In These Times*)

schizo-fascism

he referred to this as ~ (Yale historian Timothy Snyder)  
so there's this odd business, which I call ~ (Snyder)

♦ "For roughly the entirety of Trump's political career, his detractors have debated, exhaustively and exhaustingly, whether the 'f' word is reasonably applied to him..." ("Fascist, fascism." From "Listen to Trump" by Charles Homans, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 28, 2024.)

♦ “Trump Is Speaking Like Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini” by Anne Applebaum, *The Atlantic*, October 18, 2024.

♦ “Fascism isn’t the totalitarian ideology having a moment in America right now. It’s communism...” (“Communism is doing surprisingly well in the 21st century, including America” by Daniel McCarthy, *The New York Post*, Dec. 17, 2024. At U.S. universities, colleges.)

♦ “[Wicked] Part 1’ is nakedly about radicalization in the face of careerism, fascism, propaganda.” (Filmmaker Adam McKay about the 2024 musical fantasy film *Wicked*. He believes the film—based on the 2003 Broadway musical *Wicked*, based on the 1995 novel *Wicked*, based on the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, based on L. Frank Baum’s 1900 book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*—could be banned in 3-5 years. “Toto, I’ve a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.”)

\*\*\* **Marxism, communism, socialism, Trotskyism...**

♦ “Fascism is the reaction of capitalist rulers to labor organizers. Fascists are the army of the Bourgeois. When the police and military and parliamentary screens are not enough to support the bourgeois dictatorship, fascism arrives.” (*In These Times*, 2024.)

♦ “We need to be united in the fight against fascism and repression.” (The website of the magazine *In These Times*. “As a 501(c)(3), *In These Times* does not support or oppose any candidate for public office.”)

♦ “Broadly speaking, Communist propaganda depends upon terrifying people with the (quite real) horrors of Fascism. It also involves pretending...that Fascism has nothing to do with capitalism. Fascism is just a kind of meaningless wickedness, an aberration, ‘mass sadism’, the sort of thing that would happen if you suddenly let loose an asylumful of homicidal maniacs. Present Fascism in this form, and you can mobilise public opinion against it, at any rate for a while, without provoking any revolutionary moment. You can oppose Fascism by bourgeois ‘democracy’, meaning capitalism...[F]or the moment we have got to fight against Fascism without enquiring too closely what we are fighting for.” (“Spilling the Spanish Beans” by George Orwell, *New English Weekly*, 29 July and 2 September 1937.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ “It’s not like we’re occupiers. We’re defending our land and fighting against fascism.” (A fighter in the Donetsk. From Olga Schechter’s remarkable 2018 documentary film *A Sniper’s War*.)

♦ “Gentlemen. I am 25 years old and I have killed 309 fascist occupants (invaders) by now. Don’t you think, gentlemen, that you have been hiding behind my back for too long?” (Lyudmila Pavlichenko. From “Eleanor Roosevelt and the Soviet Sniper” by Gilbert King, *Smithsonian Magazine*, Feb 21, 2013.)

♦ “The ingenuity of Hobart’s vehicles continued. Many Churchills trundled onto the Normandy beaches carrying a fascine—a huge bundle of sticks that could be dropped into a ditch and allow a tank to drive across. Tanks had already used such a technique during the trench warfare of World War One, but the concept was nothing new—fascinies had been used to bridge ditches right back to Roman times.” (“The strange tanks that helped win D-Day” by Stephen Dowling / Graphic by Nigel Hawtin, BBC, 6 June 2016.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “Many political words are similarly abused. The word *Fascism* has no meaning except in so far as it signifies ‘something not desirable’.” (“Politics And The English Language” by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ “FASCISM: *based on a bundle*. If you will look on the back of the American dime, you will see the mark of the *Fascist*. The term *Fascism* comes from the Italian *Fascismo* and this in turn is built on the Latin *fascis* which meant a bundle, usually a bundle of sticks or rods. This bundle, with the ax protruding, was the symbol of official power that was carried before all Roman magistrates. Benito Mussolini resurrected it for his own use.” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 12, “Political Terms and Their Origins.”)

## fascist (insult)

fascist and tyrant-in-waiting

the article painted Trump as a ~ (Anne Applebaum)

fascist government

you have a ~ in Italy (NPR’s Steve Inskeep)

fascist insurgency

far right wing of the Republican party might be called a ~

demi-fascist

the country was sliding into the hands of a ~ (Trump)

semi-fascist

an increasingly loony, dark, ~ faction... (Republicans)

f-king fascists

my Gen X is full of ~ (journalist & editor Laura Helmuth)

American Fascist

“~” by Timothy Snyder, *The New Yorker*, Nov. 18, 2024)

definition of fascist

he certainly falls into the general ~ (Kelly about Trump)

brand Trump a fascist

the left loves to ~

called a fascist

George W. Bush was ~, too... (politics)

labelled fascists

enemies are always ~ (Ivory Tower communists)

♦ “For roughly the entirety of Trump’s political career, his detractors have debated, exhaustively and exhaustingly, whether the ‘f’ word is reasonably applied to him...” (“Fascist, fascism.” From “Listen to Trump” by Charles Homans, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 28, 2024.)

♦ “Certainly uh the former president uhh... is... in the far right area [inaudible] authoritarian... ahh uh admires people who are dictators, uh he has said that, um so he certainly falls into into the general definition of of fascist, for sure.” (John Kelly, former Trump White House Chief of Staff and a former Marine general, on NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, October 23, 2024. Kelly became a fierce Trump critic after leaving the White House.)

♦ “Now, in the final days of the campaign, she’s ramping it up to portray him as an American Mussolini.” (Kamala Harris / Donald Trump.)

♦ “Another night at the Garden: How Trump’s rally echoed one in 1939,” Column by Philip Bump, *The Washington Post*, October 28, 2024.

♦ “Trump Is Speaking Like Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini” by Anne Applebaum, *The Atlantic*, October 18, 2024.

♦ “Because you write about populism, I want to stay on this topic for a moment and look at the rest of Europe. You have a fascist government in Italy, you have right wing parties in France and Germany...” (NPR’s Steve Inskeep, speaking to former British PM Tony Blair. From “Tony Blair urges leaders to ignore ‘waves of populist opinion,’” NPR, Morning Edition, September 10, 2024.)

♦ “Deeply conservative and reticent figures who have long working experience with Trump—such as his former chief of staff John Kelly and the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley—have gone on the record to declare him a fascist, a peril to national security, and yet they cannot seem to dissuade Elon Musk, Stephen Schwarzman, Paul Singer, Timothy Mellon, and a line of other plutocrats from backing him.” (David Remnick, squawking from his perch as editor of *The New Yorker*.)

♦ “I apologize to younger voters that my Gen X is full of fucking fascists.” (An upset Laura Helmuth, editor-in-chief of *Scientific American*. In the publication’s 179-year history, it has only twice endorsed a candidate for president. In 2020, it endorsed Biden over Trump. In 2024, it endorsed Harris over Trump. Laura Helmuth is very much a product of her age and education. See the Wikipedia article “Laura Helmuth.”)

♦ "It's an enormous set back because the fascist won a lot of working class support." (The politician Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, in an Instagram video, after Donald Trump's election in the 2024 U.S. presidential election. Many of her supporters split their tickets to vote for Trump. Does that make them lumpenproletariat?)

♦ "The far right wing of the Republican party might justifiably be called a fascist insurgency." (Thomas Hummel, *Tempest Magazine*, A Revolutionary Socialist Collective.)

♦ "Timothy Snyder is the author of "American Fascist" ("Reprise," *The New Yorker*, November 18, 2024). The "American Fascist" referred to in his title is Donald Trump. In his very short article, he uses "fascist" or "fascism" 47 times! He claims that "fascism is now in the algorithms, the neural pathways, the social interactions..." His last sentence is, "Fascism can be defeated, but not when we are on its side." Snyder is the Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University.

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "Is Russia Really 'Fascist'? A Comment on Timothy Snyder" by Marlene Laruelle, *PONARS Eurasia*, September 5, 2018.

♦ "Kamala Harris has officially ended the 'joy' phase of her campaign and has entered the 'Trump is a fascist' stage." ("Never mind joyless Harris' tired slur—surging Trump is no fascist" by Rich Lowry, *The New York Post*, Opinion, Oct. 24, 2024.)

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\*\*\* **analysis**

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♦ "It would be good generally if people could stop using Nazi Germany as a kind of bad things emoji. Better to explain and use detail. Save Nazi Germany. Keep it in your back pocket for those occasions when only Nazi Germany will do." ("Why there are no winners after the BBC's two-footed tackle on Gary Lineker" by Barney Ronay, *The Guardian*, 10 March 2023.)

## **fashion (out of fashion)**

fallen out of fashion  
empathy has ~

## **fashion (noun)**

political and intellectual fashions  
they have picked up the latest ~ (overseas Indians)

## **fashion (verb)**

fashioned a knife out of wood  
researchers have ~ that's three times sharper than steel

## **fat (chew the fat)**

chewed the fat for about 15 minutes  
we ~, then finally the General said... (getting serious)

## **fat (adjective)**

getting fat  
the regime is ~ while the poor suffer

## **fatal (adjective)**

fatal to an athlete's career  
a doping ban can be ~

fatal contradictions  
there were two ~ in the American project (Afghan war)

fatal mistake  
he called it a "pretty ~" (election prospects)

\*\*\* **"She made a fatal mistake. Literally."**

♦ "She was probably a good nurse in many ways, but she made a fatal mistake. Literally." (A nurse who injected the wrong drug, which killed her elderly patient. The case was controversial because the nurse was criminally charged and convicted.)

## **fatally (fatally wounded, etc.)**

fatally wounded  
the campaign is ~ (politics / election)

## **fat cat (money)**

fat cat  
plutocrats, ~s... (rich politicians)

fill the pockets of the fat cats  
FIFA have sold football down the river to ~

## **father (verb)**

father and god-father  
he had been imported to ~ the bill (C.P. Ilbert / Ilbert Bill)

## **father (Father of Waters, etc.)**

father of floods  
the Yellow River was known as the "~~"

Father of Waters  
the ~ again goes unvexed to the sea (Mississippi River)

♦ "Down the Yellowstone, the Milk, the White and Cheyenne; / The Cannonball, the Musselshell, the James and the Sioux; / Down the Judith, the Grand, the Osage and the Platte, / The Skunk, the Salt, the Black and Minnesota; / Down the Rock, the Illinois, and the Kankakee, / The Allegheny, the Monongahela, Kanawha, and Muskingum; / Down the Miami, the Wabash, the Licking and the Green, / The Cumberland, the Kentucky, and the Tennessee; / Down the Ouachita, the Wichita, the Red, and Yazoo. // Down the Missouri, three thousand miles from the Rockies; / Down the Ohio, a thousand miles from the Alleghenies; / Down the Arkansas, fifteen hundred miles from the Great Divide; / Down the Red, a thousand miles from Texas; / Down the great Valley, twenty-five hundred miles from Minnesota, / Carrying every rivulet and brook, creek and rill, / Carrying all the rivers that run down two-thirds the continent-- / The Mississippi runs to the Gulf." (Narration from *The River* by Pare Lorentz, 1938, a New Deal government-financed documentary.)

♦ The Mississippi River is referred to as "The Father of Waters." The Mekong River, on the other hand, essentially means, "Mother of Rivers."

## **father (father of progress, etc.)**

father of progress  
necessity is the mother of invention, discontent is the ~

♦ "One falsehood begets another and another in the line of succession, until the father of them all shall have colonized his whole progeny upon the congenial soil of this new Dark Continent." ("COLUMBUS" by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ “None of these men are ever likely to acknowledge their paternity of the debacle that followed.” (The triumph of the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021.)

## father (father of India, etc.)

### *Pater Patriae*

Captain Arthur Phillip, the ~ of Australians

father of the nuclear age

Enrico Fermi, ~

fathers of Modern Anesthesia

the ~ (Crawford W. Long and William T.G. Morton)

father of online anonymity

cryptographer David Chaum, who is considered the ~

father of landscape architecture

America's ~, Frederick Law Olmsted

father of Roman architecture

Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, considered by many to be the ~

father of Kansas City barbecue

Henry Perry, known as the “~” (Missouri)

Father of Bibliography

he earned his title as the ~ (Konrad Gesner)

Father of German Blitzkrieg

Heinz Guderian had a reputation as the ~

father of bluegrass

the legendary ~, Bill Monroe

father of the atomic bomb

the man known as the ~ (J. Robert Oppenheimer)

Father of the (Pakistani) bomb

Abdul Qadeer Khan, the ~ (nuclear bomb)

father of (English) caricature

Hogarth is rightly recognized as the ~

father of American musical comedy

he is considered the ~ (George M. Cohan)

father of Conceptualism

Marcel Duchamp, the intellectual ~ (Calvin Tomkins)

father of containerization

Malcolm P. McLean, the ~

father of CPR

Peter Safar, the “~”

father of (English) Criticism

John Dryden is considered “the ~”

Father of democracy

President Lee Teng-hui, Taiwan's “~”

father of the English dictionary

Samuel Johnson, the ~ (England)

father of science fiction

Jules Verne, conventionally considered the ~

fathers of flight

the Wright brothers are considered the ~

father of Genetics

the man known as “~” (Gregor Mendel)

Father of Modern Chinese Geology

dignified by the title of the ~ (Li Siguang)

father of English grammar

Lindley Murray came to be known as the ~ (in the U.S.)

father of modern gynecology

James Marion Sims was known as the “~” (fistula)

Father of Indian Industry

Jamshedji Tata is regarded as the legendary ~ (Parsee)

father of Impressionism

he is often called the ~ (Manet)

father of India

Mohandas K. Gandhi, the ~ (from Gujarat)

father of the Internet

Vint Cerf is often called “The ~”

fathers of (Angola's) independence

Holden Roberto, one of the ~

father of American copyright law

he became known as the ~ (Noah Webster)

father of American literature

William Faulkner called him “the ~” (Mark Twain)

“father” of modern Swedish Literature

he is considered the ~ (August Strindberg)

father of tropical medicine

Patrick Manson, the ~

father of Australian medicine

the “~” helped reform the system (William Redfern)

father of Modern Medicine

William Osler, “~” (diagnostician / internal medicine)

father of microbiology

Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, the ~

“father of mindfulness”

Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk and ~

father of the (modern innocence) movement

he is considered the ~ (Jim McCloskey, Centurion)

Father of Country Music

Jimmie Rodgers is known as “the ~”

father of the (Bengali) nation

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is often called the ~

father of neurosurgery

he was hailed as the ~ (Harvey Cushing, brain surgeon)

father of Pakistan

Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the ~

father of America's national parks

Teddy Roosevelt is considered the ~ (1906 Antiquities Act)

father of Acadia National Park  
George B. Dorr, the “~”

father of America’s postwar containment police  
George Kennan, the ~ against the Soviet Union

“father” of India’s nuclear programme  
the ~, Homi J Bhabha

father of Iran’s nuclear program  
Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the ~

father of modern protozoology  
I’ve seen him referred to as “the ~” (Fritz Schaudinn)

father of cognitive psychology  
Ulric Neisser, considered the ~

father of realism  
Henrik Ibsen is often referred to as “~” (theater)

father of virtual reality  
Microsoft’s Jaron Lanier, known as the ~

father of whitewater rescue  
Slim Ray, the ~... (also Les Bechdel)

fathers of the (modern) assault rifle  
he is considered one of the ~ (Sergei Gavrilovich Simonov)

father of skyscrapers  
Louis Sullivan, known as the “~”

father of modern surgery  
John Hunter, the ~

father of Russian field surgery  
N.I. Pirogov, known as the ~...

Father of plastic surgery  
Johann Friedrich Dieffenbach, the “~”

father of the Glock Switch  
Jorge Leon, the ~ (Venezuelan / sear device)

father of the tank  
it is plausible to describe him as the ~ (Winston Churchill)

father of (biological and mineralogical) taxonomy  
Carl Linnaeus, the ~ (Swedish)

father of tiramisu  
Ado Campeol, dubbed “the ~” by Italian media, has died

father of modern Turkey  
Mustapha Kemal “Ataturk,” the ~, was also a Macedonian

father of (modern) hot-air ballooning  
he was the ~ (Ed Yost / propane)

father of modern dairying  
William D. Hoard was called the “~” (“Hoard’s Dairyman”)

father of modern figure skating  
Jackson Haines, the ~ (born in 1840)

“father of trekking”  
he is fondly remembered as the ~ in Nepal (Jimmy Roberts)

father of modern sledge travelling  
Parry was indeed the ~ (Sir Edward Parry)

father of global warming  
James Hansen, who is sometimes referred to as the ~ (NYer)

Internet ‘father’  
~ Vint Cerf on challenges ahead

founding father  
see *founding father* (noun)

godfather  
see *godfather* (*Godfather of Soul*, etc.)

grandfather  
see *granddaddy* (and *grandfather*)

♦ “A brainchild like STEM has many fathers, and one who has credibly claimed paternity is Charles E. Vela...” (Education.)

♦ “I found it to be quite bizarre actually, he called himself the father of IVF.” (Kamala Harris, about Donald Trump. Politics.)

♦ “People also ask: Who is the father of surfing?” (Google.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Is Dave Asprey *really* “the father of biohacking”? See the Wikipedia article “Dave Asprey.” You be the judge.

♦ Gandhi is often referred to as the Father of India. Gandhi himself referred to his mentor Dadabhai Naoroji as the Father of the Nation. Every father has a father!

♦ Who teaches me for a day is my father for a lifetime.

♦ see also *mother* (*mother of NPR*, etc.)

## Father Time

Father Time  
there is no stopping ~

father time  
~ catches up with everyone (a boxer)

Father Time remains undefeated  
Woods said previously that ~ (golfer Tiger Woods)

defied father time  
Zlatan has ~ to continue to excel (Zlatan Ibrahimovic)

outrun Father Time  
it’s impossible to ~ (boxing and age)

♦ “Father Time is the baddest man on the planet and remains undefeated.” (A fan of boxing, about the announcement of a fight between “Iron” Mike Tyson and the YouTuber Jake Paul.)

**fathom (verb)**

fathom the magnitude  
she didn’t ~ of the problem (immigration)

difficult to fathom  
his demeanor made the attack even more ~ (murderer)

hard to fathom

the military's longer game plan is ~ (coup in Myanmar)

## fatigue (internet fatigue, etc.)

booster fatigue

everyone's tired of getting shots, we all have ~

COVID 19 fatigue

people have ~ (ending restrictions too early)

compassion fatigue

we are all vulnerable to ~

feedback fatigue

I am suffering from such a serious case of ~

franchise fatigue

after nine films, there is a danger of ~

franchise-fatigue

at this stage in his ~ cycle (Inkoo Kang / *The New Yorker*)

front-runner fatigue

a kind of ~ sets in (the Oscars / *Saving Private Ryan*)

image fatigue

the issue of ~ (polar bears represent climate change)

internet fatigue

I think we all get ~ (during the COVID lockdown)

Marvel fatigue

audiences suffer from ~ (Marvel Cinematic Universe)

negotiation fatigue

we have been warning about ~ for a long time (boxing)

Olympic fatigue

there's a lot of ~ (viewership down)

politics fatigue

~ is when you're sick of talking about politics

pop-up fatigue

~ may have contributed to the error (fatal medication error)

the hidden dangers of EHR ~

screen fatigue

car buyers complain of "~~" (infotainment systems, etc.)

EV makers as adding buttons and knobs to combat ~

superhero fatigue

are you feeling ~ (Marvel's 32<sup>nd</sup> film)

tipping fatigue

many complain of "~~" (restaurants, etc.)

Ukraine fatigue

amongst European allies, there's evidence that ~ is spreading

zoom fatigue

many are suffering from ~ (pandemic)

fatigue set in

zoom ~ months ago, but audio is stepping into the breach

♦ "I find it really annoying when they send me those emails, I never review anything... You just buy the smallest thing and you're asked to review it. You know, you buy a metre of string and you're asked to review it. I mean, it's ridiculous." (BBC, Sounds, Business Daily, "Feedback Fatigue," 25 Oct 2017.)

♦ "Question eight. 'Was our delivery service awesome, just what the doctor ordered, or well and truly hit the spot.' Well, there's no negative option! You see, this is what they do. By the time you've spent 25 minutes answering their short survey, they shut down all dissent in the hope that you'll just give up and that way they'll never receive any negative feedback!" (*Ed Reardon's Week: Series 14: "You're Cancelled,"* BBC, written by Andrew Nicolds and Christopher Douglas. It's hilarious!)

♦ "With the moral injury, that was going on with the officers, because of the scrutiny from the public, umm, uhh... I'm sure you've heard of the term compassion fatigue and secondary trauma, we felt it..." (Andy Carrier, clinical social worker, who counseled Uvalde school-shooting officers.)

## faucet (noun)

faucet of sound

there's no turning off the ~ in Louisiana

money faucet

finally, the European Central Bank turned on the ~

turn on the faucet

many wish to ~ and shower the country with easy loans

turned their faucets off

they just all ~ at exactly the same time (ad firm loses clients)

opened that faucet wider

the Federal Reserve has steadily ~, hoping to keep the money flowing

## fault (fault line)

fault line

the ~s break people into two camps (computers)

race is the ~

society's fault lines

invasion and occupation expose a ~

Sunni-Shiite fault line

the ~ originated in the deserts of Iraq in the 7th century

sectarian fault line

Jurf as-Sakhr sits right on a ~ (Sunni / Shiite)

fault line has cracked wide open

a long-standing ~ (in a royal family)

exposed (deep) fault lines

the referendum has ~ in Latvia (with ethnic Russians)

exposed a (stark) fault line

the Smollett case has ~ between Chicago, county and state

lays bare the fault lines

the report ~ that divide this group (Amish)

♦ "The [Evan] Bayh defection coming on top of the stunning Democratic loss seen in Massachusetts reveals a threatening fault line running under the political scene. And we can expect further aftershocks..." (The great Daniel Schorr from "Bayh Exit Highlights Public Rejection Of Politics," NPR, All Things Considered, Feb 18, 2010.)



♦ “Some psychological damage remained, however, not least a vulnerability that ran through his personality like a geological fault, to be revealed at the next earthquake.”

♦ “That was that fault line. You were either a Kennedy or a Johnson.” (LBJ’s administration. LBJ might hire or consult with but not completely trust a “Kennedy.”)

## Faust (noun)

second Faust

Nansen, the tortured driven soul, a ~

♦ see also *Faustian* (adjective), *soul* (sell one’s soul to the devil, etc.)

## Faustian (adjective)

Faustian

we have this bargain, you can call it ~ if you want (tech)

Faustian bargain

Obama made a ~ with the Republicans to...

he accused them of striking a ~ to regulate...

they entered into one ~ after another (Hollywood media)

it was a ~ if there ever was one (Oppenheimer/ A-bomb)

Faustian capitalism

the yachts tell a whole story about a ~

Faustian figure

this ~ died in London (Hitler’s architect Albert Speer)

he casts von Neumann as a ~ who transgressed the limits

Faustian pact

as with any ~, she ended up the loser in the bargain

♦ “The yachts tell a whole story about a Faustian capitalism—this idea that we’re ready to sell democracy for short-term profit. They’re registered offshore. They use every loophole that we’ve put in place for illicit money and tax havens. So they play a role in this battle, writ large, between autocracy and democracy.” (“The Floating World: Outrageously luxurious superyachts are attracting political scrutiny—and buyers in record numbers” by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, July 25, 2022.)

♦ “And like Faust, Robert Oppenheimer tried to renegotiate the bargain—and was cut down for doing so. He had led the effort to unleash the power of the atom, but when he sought to warn his countrymen of its danger, to constrain America’s reliance on nuclear weapons, the government questioned his loyalty and put him on trial.” (Like Galileo Galilei, like Captain Alfred Dreyfus. From *American Prometheus* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Selling one’s soul to the devil for something; sacrificing spiritual values for power, knowledge, and material gain...

♦ “As with any Faustian pact, she ended up with the short end of the high-stakes bargain.” (She suffered the bad effects of the situation, she ended up in a worse position.)

♦ Meeting the devil or his representative (Mephistopheles) at a crossroads and becoming a great musician has become a trope; such a meeting occurs in the Coen brothers’ great 2000 film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, and Robert Leroy Johnson means something special to Lee Child’s hero Jack Reacher. See the excellent Wikipedia article “Crossroads (folklore)” and the Wikipedia article “Deal with the Devil.”

♦ “In a Faustian bargain, there’s little suspense about how things will end.” (Helen Shaw.)

♦ Michelangelo; Jimi Hendrix; Stevie Ray Vaughan; Erling Haaland...

♦ see also *Faust* (noun), *soul* (sell one’s soul to the devil, etc.)

## favorite son

favorite son

he was welcomed to Ireland like a ~ (Obama)

Australia’s favorite sons

the death of one of ~ has shocked the country

♦ “The death of one of Australia’s favorite sons has shocked the country.” (Shane Warne, the iconic sportsman and cricketer. A consolation is that he died on holiday in a wonderful country.)

## fealty (noun)

fealty

that ~, that blind loyalty... (to a politician)

fealty to the Constitution

Republicans took control of the House with a show of ~

fealty to Israel

she has criticized those who demand that she show ~

fealty to her mother

she was torn between her ~ and her thirst for freedom

ideological fealty

over-the-top institutional declarations of ~ (DEI / academia)

show of fealty

it was a ~ to the Constitution (a ceremony)

out of fealty

~ to Day-Lewis, he wouldn’t elaborate... (privacy)

flattery and fealty

he went through the requisite motions of ~ (politics)

pledge fealty

Cornell University requires faculty to ~ to DEI (wokeism)

show (true) fealty

her unwillingness to ~ to him was untenable (politics)

## fear (of criticism, etc.)

fear of abuse or discrimination

without ~ (gays)

♦ “The purpose of the Gay Football Supporters’ Network (GFSN) was to give gay football fans a space to meet and discuss the game they loved without fear of abuse or discrimination.”

## fearless (girls and women, etc.)

*Fearless*

~, Taylor Swift’s second studio album (2008)

fearless with love and life

she is also ~ (Mia Farrow about Carly Simon)

fearless conversations

the ~ about race you’ve been waiting for (NPR)

~ about race (CODE SW!TCH® RACE. IN YOU FACE.)

“Fearless Girl”

the ~ statue created by Kristen Visbal

fearless novel

*Quartet in Autumn*, a ~ (by Barbara Pym)

fearless and adept

the world knows her as a ~ interviewer

fearless, generous

those ~ souls (*The Miracle Season* / very young girls)

fearless, independent

our ~ journalism (*The Guardian*)

fearless and unapologetic

*Positions* is ~ (Ariana Grande)

exceptional and fearless

Sarah is an ~ journalist

fierce and fearless

that ~ personality got you to your dream (women's soccer)

frank and fearless

comedianne Sommore is ~

fun fearless female

she won Cosmo's ~ award (Belle Gibson / Whole Pantry)

YOUNG AND FEARLESS

~ (a pink T-shirt worn by female of S. Asian heritage)

feel fearless

when you need to ~ this fall... (women's fashion)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I just like how fearless she is..." (Eight-year-old Harper, about her favorite soccer player, Megan Rapinoe.)

♦ "Female, Fearless & Black." (A T-shirt worn by former pro basketball player Sheryl Swoopes.)

♦ People have named their children after Sommore.

\*\*\* "fearless" journalism...

♦ Forward. Jewish. Fearless. Since 1897. (*The Forward* digital magazine.)

♦ "More than 1.5 million people in 180 countries now fund our fearless, independent journalism. Will you support us?" (*The Guardian*.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "I truly hope you enjoy this series. And I hope that for those who have been reluctant to have this conversation, this somehow feels safe. Be fearless." (The disgraced drug cheat Lance Armstrong, touting a discussion about trans athletes on his podcast, *The Forward*.)

♦ *Tomi Lahren Is Fearless*. (The opinion show on OutKick. Tomi is a female. Her name is pronounced like "Tommy.")

♦ "[Her book] was described as 'fearless' by British writer Zadie Smith." (New York writer Raven Leilani, winner of 2021 Dylan Thomas Prize.)

♦ "The real achievement of these years was 'Quartet in Autumn,' a fearless novel about the bleak aging of four office workers..." ("Reading The Leaves: What the novelist Barbara Pym knew about tea and sympathy" by Thomas Mallon, *The New Yorker*, June 6, 2022.)

♦ "The 1993 drama *Fearless*, for which she earned an Oscar nomination." (Rosie Perez.)

♦ "12 Fierce Accessories to get you through every occasion when you need to feel fearless this fall." (Glamour X, Nine West.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

**fearlessly**

fearlessly forward

he looks back—and ~... (a poet)

fearlessly paving

jazz is about ~ new ground for the future

fearlessly explores

Maddie ~ new foods (9-month-old Gerber Baby)

fearlessly fought

he ~ those who were hurting the poor (Harry Reid)

boldly and fearlessly

the foundation strives to empower women to live ~

attacks the problem fearlessly

she ~ and with consummate art (writer Nella Larsen)

keep creating fearlessly

just ~ (Thundercat, real name Stephen Bruner)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Ensure carefully and dream fearlessly." (An advertisement for American Family Insurance.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

**fearlessness (groups)**

fearlessness of the female spirit

it's about the ~ (Fearless Girl statue by Kristen Visbal)

♦ "When Kamala meets a young person, you can feel her passion, you can feel her heart, and you can feel her fearlessness. That is what defines a commitment to children. Being willing to fight fiercely for every child." (Karen Bass, Mayor of Los Angeles, at the 2024 DNC.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

**feast (noun)**

feast for the ears

our ringside commentary team is a ~

feast for the eyes

it was a ~

feast of great music and chat

they present a ~ (a radio show)

feast of arts and culture

he dives into the ~ on offer in North Yorkshire (BBC)

feast to famine

it was ~ in a couple of weeks (laid-off tech worker)

feast or famine

freelancing is ~ (lost job to pandemic)

visual and musical feast

it is a fast-paced ~ from start to finish (a stage show)

\*\*\* Diamon Jim Brady...

♦ Diamond Jim Brady was a notorious gourmand. See "Whether True or False, a Real Stretch," by David Kamp, *The New York Times*, December 30, 2008, which includes quotations about Brady from *America Eats Out* (1991) by John Mariani.

\*\*\* "You know what's good...?"

♦ "You know what's good? Instant mashed potatoes mixed with ramen noodles. Now, that's good." (A hiker at the "Fontana Hilton" trail hut on the Appalachian Trail. Hikers can eat only what they can carry.)

♦ "[Our hosts] gave us some fat pork, corn bread, and a kind of coffee, made, I think, out of burned peas. But it was warm... Hunger made that breakfast the most delicious we had in six months." (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby, about his service during the Civil War.)

♦ First he built a fire against a fallen tree trunk... Then he cut a branch of dogwood that forked into three tines, leaving the stem for a handle. On the fork he laid a chunk of his hard corn bread and fastened it in place with limber twigs woven crosswise. He impaled a slice of fat salt pork, on a sharpened stick, broiled it over the coals, and held his bread under it to catch the dripping grease and get warmed through. / Youlus ate as voraciously as a hound, meantime drinking his black coffee without sugar and getting supreme enjoyment from it... If some well-meaning but misguided genii had carried him off on a magic carpet and set him to feast at a king's table, Youlus would have sniffed and growled at every dish placed before him and would have bragged about his 'old corn bread and sow-belly.'" (*Smoky Mountain Magic* by Horace Kephart.)

## feather (ruffle feathers)

ruffled some feathers

he ~ and bruised egos (a general)

ruffle feathers in history departments

she is the latest revisionist to ~

ruffled feathers in Washington

he ~ with his warnings (a diplomat)

♦ "This will ruffle some feathers. We need to know what is going on with the measurement. The fact that we have two other experiments that agree with each other and the Standard Model and strongly disagree with this experiment is worrying to me." (Professor Ben Allanach, a theoretical physicist at Cambridge University. From "Shock result in particle experiment could spark physics revolution" by Pallab Ghosh, BBC, April 7, 2022.)

♦ "Jarrell 'Big Baby' Miller has been ruffling a few feathers this week." (In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for the Day of Reckoning boxing card, part of Riyadh Season.)

## feather (feather in one's cap)

see *cap* (*feather in one's cap*)

## febrile (adjective)

febrile atmosphere

he postponed the trial so it could take place in a less ~

the ~ of the city was... (siege of Constantinople)

reflecting the ~, some alleged that...

the ~ on social media...

febrile energy

the play has the ~ of the wilder parties of your youth

febrile (political) environment

in that ~ (Arab Spring)

febrile minds

in the ~ of anti-Semites, Jews were... (stereotypes)

febrile mood

the physical assaults reflect the ~ in politics (France)

febrile nationalism

Modi seeks to hold power in a climate of ~ (India)

## fed (supplied)

fed questions from the Biden campaign

he was ~ ahead of the interview (Civic Media)

fed a (steady) diet

he was being ~ of far-right content and conspiracy theories

## fed up (adjective)

fed up

he got ~ and quit the team

~, his wife challenged him to...

people really felt ~ (government corruption)

fed up with being stereotyped

pensioners are ~ on TV as grumpy or sweet

fed up with being told

Pimblett ~ to get a haircut (the MMA star)

fed up with (growing) hordes

people are ~ of homeless people begging on their streets

fed up with incumbents

the electorate is ~ (elections)

fed up with the police

people are ~ (slow response times)

fed up with their (justice) system

polls show that Mexicans are ~

fed up with the (preferential) treatment

inmates are ~ she's been getting (a jailed celebrity)

fed up with the lack of progress

the commission, ~, gave both parties a year to accept

fed up with what's going on

people are ~ (protests)

fed up and (kind of) at the end of his rope

he was pretty much ~

furious and fed up

we are rightly ~ (about something or other)

## feed (feed automatically, etc.)

feed automatically

remaining towels ~ for next use (from canister)

auto feed

~ function (paper shredder)

## feed (fuel)

feeds a climate

reject language that ~ of hate (politics)

feeds the insurgency

government corruption ~

feed extremism

how poverty may ~ (Morocco)

feeds itself

the internet ~... (gossip, controversy, etc.)

feeds lawlessness and instability  
Afghanistan's immense opium harvest ~

feeds fears, prejudices, and hate  
the powerful ways modern media ~

♦ "The internet feeds itself. I don't need to contribute, I think it's significantly well-nourished." (Film director Alivia Wilde at the Venice Film Festival with her film, *Don't Worry Darling*.)

## feed (direct)

feed intelligence to airlines  
the US will now ~ (terrorist watch lists)

## feed (supply)

fed Mayorga a (steady) diet  
he ~ of left hooks and right hands (De La Hoya)

fed the Germans (fake) gossip  
Elvira Chaudoir ~ (World War II)

feeds the (fast farm) empire  
the canal ~ of the Imperial Valley

feeds the production  
there's a whole supply chain that ~ of the plane

force-feed  
see *force-feed* (and *force feed*)

## feed (satisfy)

feed the (public) appetite  
the Y has increased the number of debates to ~

tap, feed and nurture  
he wants to ~ this anger (politician appeals to base)

## feed (feed on / off something)

fed on his antics  
the tabloid media have ~ for years (a celebrity)

feed on fear  
they ~ of immigrants (extremists)

feeds on itself  
fear ~

feed on one another  
these cycles of outrage ~ (social media)

feeds off such (public) anger  
the group ~ (collateral damage)

feeds off ignorance  
he's the type who ~ (a radio commentator)

feed off the misery  
there are predators who ~ of the refugees

feed into and off of  
they ~ of the anger of people (preachers)

♦ "If they suck us dry, what's left to feed off of?" (AI search versus news media sites, which will go out of business without ad revenues or, in the case of Wikipedia, donations. Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## feed (feed into)

feed into a (broader public) discontent  
concerns about unions ~ with powerful institutions

feeds into (the deepest) fears  
his speech ~

feed into the Owyhee  
these streams ~ (Idaho river)

feeds into stereotypes  
his article ~ of American Muslims

feeds into the white manifest destiny thing  
the propaganda story ~

feed into and off of  
they ~ of the anger of people (preachers)

## feed (a drip feed, etc.)

drip feed of leaks  
his resignation triggered a ~ in subsequent days

drip feed of outrage  
there's a constant ~ (social media)

## feed (a video feed, etc.)

feeds off the Web  
TVs can receive video ~

video feed  
tap into the ~ between... (two cities)  
TVs can receive ~s off the Web

live feed  
monitored a ~ from their console video screens  
reporters in another room reported on the ~ (Oscars)

## feedback (noun)

feedback  
the company takes ~ from them  
your ~ will help us  
~ makes clear the connection between...  
give your team members ~ they can act on

feedback on their strengths and weaknesses  
tests give them ~ (students)

feedback about their performance  
give corrective ~ (teachers)

feedback loop  
see *feedback loop* (noun)

consumer feedback  
user-opinion sites offer ~

customer feedback  
text mining software to analyze ~

corrective feedback  
give ~ about their performance (teachers)

immediate feedback  
achievement is higher when kids receive ~ (school)

regular feedback

~ is more desirable than sporadic feedback (schools)

sporadic feedback

regular feedback is more desirable than ~ (schools)

give (corrective) feedback

~ about their performance (teachers)

provides feedback

the teacher ~ (during seatwork assignments)

## feedback loop (noun)

feed-back loop

fires release carbon into the atmosphere in a ~ (warming)

self-reinforcing feedback loops

~ of name recognition, funding (academic publishing)

design-manufacturing feedback loop

Tesla's ~ gave it a competitive advantage (Elon Musk)

complex feedback loops

~s (AI / computers)

grotesque feedback loop

the ~ between President Trump and Fox News (NPR)

unfortunate feedback loop

in the 70s, we saw this ~ (wage-price inflation)

wonderful feedback loop

it's this ~ (ecology)

amplified in a feedback loop

the narrative was ~ by the media (politics)

♦ "As birds return to breed, they also poo. This adds nutrients to the soil, which in turn helps the plants to grow back stronger. Tall plants then help burrowing birds hide from predatory skuas. 'It's this wonderful feedback loop,' says (Justin) Shaw." ("From 300,000 rabbits to none: a Southern Ocean Island is Reborn" by Zoe Kean, *The Guardian*, 10 August 2022. Macquarie Island.)

♦ "[A] researcher's career depends on his or her work being cited widely and perceived as important. This triggers the self-reinforcing feedback loops of name recognition, funding, quality applications from aspiring PhD students and postdocs, and of course, accolades. / [T]he biases of the editors (and the reviewers they call upon to evaluate submissions) exert a major influence on the collective output of entire fields... Savvy researchers tailor their studies to maximize the likelihood that their work is accepted." ("As a scientist, I'm not allowed to tell the full truth about climate change" by Patrick T. Brown, *The New York Post*, Sept 5, 2023. Reprinted from *The Free Press*.)

♦ "Feedback loops, inbreeding, and monoculture." (When LLM output found on the Internet is fed into LLMs as input.)

♦ "The existence of so many amplifying feedbacks—and the possibility of crossing multiple tipping points—increases the risk associated with every additional bit of warming, though by how much, exactly, no one can say. In a paper published last year, a group of scientists from Europe and the U.S. identified twenty-seven positive, or intensifying, feedback loops in the climate system and only seven negative, or dampening, ones. (A key negative feedback—the so-called Planck feedback—involves the fact that a warmer planet radiates more energy out to space.) They warned that feedback loops could feed on one another and that this could result in a 'sequence of climate tipping points being exceeded, producing 'climate cascades.'" ("When The Ice Melts" by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, October 14, 2024. She fairly notes, "There is, in principle, nothing wrong with a warmer world, or even one whose climate bounces around. At many points in history, the Earth has been much hotter than it is today.")

♦ see also *loop* (noun / other)

## feel (I feel you, etc.)

feel me

I didn't expect anything, you ~ (RMR / "rumor")

my style is no style, you ~ (Denzel Curry)

feel you

I ~ (empathy, understanding)

♦ "Growing up, I was just an oddity no matter where I went, you feel me?" (Alabama Shakes frontwoman Brittany Howard.)

♦ see also *right* (right? / polemical), *you know* (filler)...

## feel (as noun)

feels

this is making me feel all the ~ (a tribute)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## feeler (put out feelers, etc.)

put out feelers about him

several clubs have ~ (an NFL player)

put out feelers on social media

in June, the brothers ~ (for a climbing trip)

have all our feelers out

we ~, and there's a lot of options

## feeling (sinking feeling)

sinking feeling

I had a ~ (on a date)

sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach

I had a ~ (about to lose)

## feel like (feels like, felt like)

feel like

and I was kinda like, I ~... (The Gayly Prophet podcast)

feels like

everybody kind of ~ now they can't...

felt like

I ~ I kind of realized...

feel like, basically

and they ~, they're getting squeezed from all sides

feel like maybe

see *maybe* (contempo-speak)

basically felt like

we represented everyone who ~ an outcast, didn't fit in

I ~ more like a white kid... (Arab-American)

did feel like

it ~ I was letting people read my diary

it ~ an aspect of...

I ~ it was special, you know

we ~ pioneers

do feel like

I ~maybe having an openness and vulnerability...  
while I ~ my voice can...  
and I ~ some people do avoid me... (doubled up!)\  
if you ~ responding...  
I ~ there should be...  
but I ~it's noteworthy that...

do sort of feel like

you ~ you're out in the wilderness (long COVID)

does feel like

content really ~ you could... (Rachel Treisman)  
but it ~ the last straw...  
but it ~ a tipping point...  
it ~ this conversation...  
it ~ you're a bit caught in the middle...  
it ~ something that...  
it ~ a performance for the benefit of men (feminist)

just kind of felt like

and I ~, 'Oh, hi, Maranda!'  
I ~, you know, for several years, I...

just kind of felt like, you know

see *you know* (filler)

kind of feels like

everybody ~ now they can't...

kinda felt like

it ~, 'well...'  
this year we ~ we has some normalcy

kind of felt like

I ~ I had this second coming out to myself  
that's what it ~...  
I've always ~ an outcast  
like it ~ a bad break up  
I ~ I was communicating more deeply  
because now I ~ a human  
I ~ it went everywhere and I was embarrassed (a tweet)

really actually kind of felt like

I ~ I was getting to know her... (character in book)

really do feel like

we ~ we're standing up for democracy  
you ~ you're in and amongst good people  
I ~ he did... (a female)

really does feel like

it ~ it's apart from the world (prison)  
the word "lottery" ~ the right word (chance)  
it ~ we've crossed some sort of threshold this year...  
the crescendo ~ a band raging against...  
something that ~ it was made in France (*Blood Ties*)

really feels like

the show ~ it's made for parents (Bluey)  
you know, it ~ comic books are so much more diverse...  
it ~ the ice has broken...  
it ~ a battle for second place (politics / election)  
it ~ the perfect storm (foes of democracy / Shannon Bond)

it ~ a downgrade... (a video game review)

I'm a person who ~ I need to have the last word (female)

it ~ world is my oyster (Jessica)

it ~ hallowed ground (retracing Ralph Waldo Emerson)

the land itself ~ the greatest and most powerful teacher

really felt like

I ~ I knew her (tribute to dead TikTok)

sort of feel like

you do ~ you're out in the wilderness (long COVID)

♦ "I felt like I kind of realized who I was by being with him—or like, I felt like I was allowed to be who I was, and I didn't feel like I needed to be anybody different." (A contemporary woman about her relationship with her *husband*.)

♦ "I kinda felt like it went everywhere and I was kind of embarrassed." (A viral tweet that hurt her feelings.)

♦ "Are you sure?!"

## feet (think on one's feet)

think on their feet

they must be able to ~ (Green Beret trainees)

## feet (get back on one's feet, etc.)

back on its feet

I wanted to see it ~, get it up and running (a town)

landed on his feet

he ~ (fired, but found a better job)

land on my feet

my family calls me Kat because I always ~ (survivor)

get back on its feet

the department is beginning to ~ (university)

get back on their feet

people need help to ~

get back on your feet

this will help you ~ (medicine)

get back on our feet

after we ~, after the economy gets going again  
(pandemic)

got (back) on his feet

he finally ~ financially

## feet (drag one's feet)

dragging its feet

the Pentagon has been ~ (on legalizing gays in military)

dragging its feet on steroids

the players union must stop ~ (MLB)

dragged its feet on carrying out

Japan's Parliament has ~ laws...

♦ "All I can really tell you is the Secret Service, FBI are basically dragging their feet. They're stonewalling us. We're not getting squat..." (Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), about the bipartisan Senate investigation into the near-assassination of Donald Trump in 2024.)

## feet (hold somebody's feet to the fire)

hold their feet to the fire



you've got to ~ (to get them to act)  
we're going to work hard to ~ (Congress grills tech CEOs)

hold the airline's feet to the fire  
he vowed to ~ (a regulator)

### feet (knock somebody off their feet)

knocked me off my feet  
her response ~

### feet (stand on one's own two feet)

stand on their own two feet  
nobody knows when they will be able to ~ (Iraqi army)

### feet (get one's feet wet)

get her feet wet  
it's a chance for her to ~

\*\*\* "In the Kulumbé valley there is no trail..."

♦ "In the Kulumbé valley there is no trail... The very first big rock forced us to cross to the other bank... We had not gone another half-mile before we were compelled to ford the river again, back to the right bank, and then once more to the left, and again and again. The water was cold. It made our knees ache, as though squeezed in a vice... In the evening I counted up the fords. Over a distance of ten miles we had forded the stream thirty-two times, not counting the half-mile walk in the water through the gorge." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

### feet (feet first)

feet first  
the soldiers came out of the hospital, ~ (yellow fever)

### feet (lay blame at the feet, etc.)

at the feet of the president  
Democrats have been laying the blame ~ (politics)

falls at the feet of the president  
this ~ (responsibility)

lay every problem at the president's feet  
she tries to ~

### feet (master / protégé)

sat at the feet of black stride piano players  
George Gershwin ~

### feet (wipe one's feet on somebody)

wipe their feet on Russia  
without harsh steps, they might think they can ~

### feisty (adjective)

feisty (TV) debate  
the candidates' divisions were laid bare in the ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A feist is a small hunting dog, used in the Southern Appalachians to hunt bear. They can range through the laurel and rhododendron more easily than larger dogs.

### fell (verb)

felled many a great scientist

contamination has ~

fells Navy skipper  
video scandal ~

### fellow traveler (noun)

fellow-travelers such as Sam Harris  
but Sapolsky and skeptical ~ want to... (free will)

fellow-travelers on Bluesky and Reddit  
among the ~, celebration was common (of Luigi Mangione)

fellow travelers, useful idiots  
their ~ are chanting... ( Hamas support groups in US)

intellectual fellow travelers  
their ~... (rightists / politics)

♦ "Has the Council already taken any measures to bring about a change in this intolerable situation?" ("Persecution of homosexuals in the Palestinian autonomous areas," written question E-1346/03 by Ilka Schroder (GUE/NGL) to the Council. The European Parliament. 1.4.2003. 2003.)

♦ "For all we know, Iran is funding the anti-Israel protests that are going on right now outside this building—not that many, but they're there—and throughout the city. Well, I have a message for these protesters: When the Tyrants of Tehran, who hang gays from cranes and murder women for not covering their hair, are praising, promoting and funding you, you have officially become Iran's useful idiots." (Netanyahu addresses the U.S. Congress in 2024. The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Wikipedia article "Fellow traveler" explains the term nicely. It is very much associated with the Bolshevik revolution. Its general meaning is "supporter" *versus* a party member. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see *ally* (groups)

### fence (division)

good fences  
~ make good neighbors

♦ "Something there is that doesn't love a wall..." (The first line of "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost. Twice his neighbor says, "Good fences make good neighbors.")

### fence (mend fences)

mending fences  
he is ~ (trying to re-establish broken trust)

mend fences with the Arab countries  
he started to ~ (Abdullah of Jordan)

mend fences with Great Britain  
the State Department is trying to ~

### fence (on the fence, etc.)

on the fence  
he is trying hard to stay ~ (between Russia, US)

got off the fence  
this week he ~...

♦ "He was on the fence, this week he got off the fence." (A musician declines offer to play at SXSW. Too corporate. Doesn't pay well. Backed by military and defense contractors...)

## fence (straddle the fence)

straddling the (diplomatic) fence  
the Yemeni leader is ~ (US vs. Iraq)

came off his fence  
on 7 July, Bernadotte finally ~ and began marching

## fence (fence-sitting)

fence sitting and handwringing  
this is not a time for ~ (failure to condemn terrorism)

## fence (fence-straddling)

fence-straddling politician  
he's just another ~

## feral (behavior)

feral  
he's out on his own, he's ~, not under supervision (a child)

## ferment (verb)

fermented in Cavani over time  
the idea for these characters had ~ (1974 *The Night Porter*)

## ferment (noun)

ferment and activity  
there is a great deal of ~ in Iran

cultural ferment  
it was a time of ~ (Russian poetry)

## ferocious (groups)

ferocious achievements  
~ for a woman at the time (a NYC gourmet, oenophile)

ferocious (new) album  
Flotard has released a wonderfully ~

ferocious beasts  
envisioning teen girls as ~ (*Man-Eaters* by Chelsea Cain)

ferocious performances  
~ by conductor Andris Nelsons (Gewandhaus Orchestra)

ferocious rapper  
~ Megan Thee Stallion returns with a royal guest

ferocious (new) single  
Juan Manuel Torreblanca's ~

prickly, ferocious  
her ~ Sylvie is the secret to *Loki*'s success (Di Martino)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Alexia, a punky Tank Girl played by ferocious newcomer Agathe Rousselle..." ("Titane: The most shocking film of 2021" by Nicholas Barber, BBC, 15th July 2021.)

♦ "As a teenager, I studied its lessons carefully and now, even as an emerging adult, I learn something new with every relisten: how to say no, when to push myself, when to hold back, be gentle, be ferocious, where I can hold space for grief and growth." ("Beyonce's '4' Taught

Me How To Become And Embrace Being An Emotional Woman," NPR, Latesha Harris, June 24, 2021.)

♦ "I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the fire, 'cause I am a champion, and you're gonna hear me roar." (Lyrics of song "Roar" sung by Katy Perry.)

♦ "We are women, we are strong and powerful, hear us roar." (An abortion-rights activist in Ohio.)

♦ "He found himself with a tiger by the tail." (Al Pacino with the actress Tuesday Weld.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "After ferocious fighting, Guderian was forced onto the defense." (During World War II, at Smolensk.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Simply by envisioning teen girls as ferocious beasts, Cain finds a hundred ways to mock our culture's fear of powerful women." ("In Wildly Satirical 'Man-Eaters,' teen girls turn into ferocious panthers" by Etelka Lehoczky, NPR, March 6, 2019.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## ferocious (other)

ferocious battle  
the ~ for Hue (Vietnam War)

ferocious criticism  
those who broke ranks are facing ~ (impeachment vote)

ferocious cross-examinations  
an aggressive trial lawyer with a flair for ~

ferocious fighting  
~ is taking place in Lashkar Gah (Helmand province)

ferocious fires  
~ burned through the Santa Monica Mountains

ferocious heat  
~ continues to affect many parts of Europe

ferocious reputation  
he is a local military commander with a ~ (Afghanistan)

ferocious (American) response  
there is going to be a ~ (diplomacy)

ferocious (diplomatic) row  
her detention led to a ~ between China and Canada

ferocious storm  
they were caught in a ~ near the summit of Les Droites countries in the Caribbean that have to deal with ~s

ferocious (running) style  
Barber's ~ made him a fan favorite (NFL)

ferocious wildfire  
~ destroys 8,000 acres (California)

ferocious winds  
~ have fueled the fire (California)

more ferocious  
the media attacks were ~ than ever (on Labor Party)

### \*\*\* "The mother bear..."

♦ "The mother bear gets ferocious if another bear even wanders near her family." (Katmai National Park.)

## ferociously

enforced ferociously  
the regulations were ~

## ferocity (groups)

ferocity of physical desire  
I miss the ~ (embracing menopause)

ferocity and joy  
the group could have fed the Oscars a jolt of ~ (music)

ferocity, (that) spirit  
she has that ~ (Lyla Kohistany)

punk ferocity  
she combined ~ with advanced technique (jaimie branch)

Candy Ferocity  
~ of *Pose* (FX TV series)

so much ferocity  
there's ~, such commitment to the message (music)

blithe ferocity  
he drops names with a kind of ~

with equal ferocity  
she loves and hates him ~

agency, ferocity and encouragement  
inspirational declarations of ~ (the TV series *Pose*)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "[Angelica Ross'] breakthrough role came in 2018, as Candy Ferocity in Rya Murphy's FX drama series *Pose*." (Wikipedia.)

♦ "She's a maniac, maniac on the floor / And she's dancing like she's never danced before." (The film *Flashdance*, 1983.)

♦ "Her eyes are alight with ferocity, as she raps, dances, and sings..." (Lalisa Manobal, aka Blackpink's Lisa)

♦ "The ferocity—and, if you were a *supporter* [italics mine], the courage—of LaBouvier's denunciation simply made the Guggenheim the most high-profile art-world target during a summer of discontent." (Chaedria LaBouvier. From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## ferocity (other)

ferocity of the ambush  
commanders were stunned by the ~ (Afghanistan)

ferocity of the eruption  
scientists were caught off guard by the ~

ferocity of weather  
we don't normally get that sort of ~ (Storm Eunice / UK)

war's ferocity  
the fate of one family illustrates Gaza ~ (2009)

with such ferocity  
he threw punches ~ (Mike Tyson)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Tyson Fury now has an energy drink out called 'Ferocity,' there's a plug..." (5 Live Boxing with Steve Bunce.)

## farrago (confused mixture)

farrago of nonsense  
he dismissed the row as a ~ (politics)

♦ "Fish and milk and tamarind juice." (An Egyptian expression for an unappealing mess.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In Latin, mixed fodder or a mixture.

♦ The rarely used *gallimaufry* has the same meaning. It is the Middle-French word for a meat stew, and it has the present-day meaning of a mix or jumble of things.

## ferret out (verb)

ferretted out the (hidden) information  
they ~

ferret out the truth  
we have just begun to ~ (a lawyer)

ferret out (potential) bias and prejudice  
procedures are inadequate to ~ (jury selection)

### \*\*\* black-footed ferrets...

♦ "Black-footed ferrets have 'a lot of hair, big bad teeth and a bad-boy attitude.'" (According to Kimberly Fraser, a federal wildlife official.)

## fertile (adjective)

fertile in writers  
Australia is ~ whose books faithfully mirror life

fertile field  
Donald Trump was plowing a very ~ (Mara Liasson)

fertile ground  
Russia is a ~ for spammers

fertile soil  
that chaos was the ~ for a growing insurgency (Iraq)

## fest (gabfest, etc.)

bore fest  
terrible woeful game, ~ (Barca 1-Real Madrid 0)  
what a ~ (announcement of a heavyweight fight)  
the English PL ~s (versus European teams)

crapfest  
what a self-indulgent ~ (Gender and Sexuality Studies)

cry fest  
Megan and Harry having a ~ and requiring an apology

fright-fest  
the movie is a ~  
this comic ~ (*Renfield* with Nicolas Cage)

fright fest  
this ~ is not based on a fairy tale (Disney's *Bambi*)

gabfest  
marital squabbles, sibling ~s  
those boozy late-night ~s

gripe fest  
his e-mail is part thank-you, part ~ (Tyler Perry)

hate fest  
we are required to attend these ~s (DEI / education)

interruption-fest  
the ~ did not go unnoticed on Twitter (political debate)

lie-fest  
her Oprah ~... (disparagement of a celebrity)

love fest  
the press just has a ~ due to his race (a tennis player)

raunch-fest  
~s like *The House Bunny* and *Easy A* (actor Emma Stone)

screamfest  
where did AOC get the new accent during her ~ (DNC)

shite fest  
~ (announcement of Whyte v. Joshua / boxing)

shoutfest  
histrionic ~s like *Crossfire* (the TV show)  
a guest on a cable-news ~

slugfest  
it was an absolute ~ between these two fighters (boxing)

snooze fest  
the 2024 Oscars were a giant ~—again...

snoozefest  
Fury beat a very out-of-sorts Vladimir Klitschko in a ~  
the convention was a ~ (politics)

snooze-o-rama  
at Sunday night's ~ (2024 Oscars)

snore fest  
another ~ (announcement of Whyte v. Joshua / boxing)

squee fest  
it's a giant ~ (*Smart Bitches, Trashy Books*)

subsidy-fest  
an option would be to imitate America's ~ (*The Economist*)

trauma-pa-looza  
it was a ~ (Prince Harry's online therapy session)

tweet-fest  
NFL reporter Josina Anderson then chimed in on the ~

whine fest  
Harry & Meghan is a 'disrespectful ~' (the docuseries)

whinge fest  
the interview was a ~ (British English)

Yawn fest  
~ (announcement of Whyte-Joshua rematch)

yawn fest  
another ~ interrupted by the odd bit of excitement (F1)

hug- and kissfests  
the out-in-the open ~ (petting parties / 1920s)

♦ Whinge feast? Is that like a table filled with platters of whinges? /// Sounds tasty! /// hot whinges with fries! /// Pint of bitter to wash it down? /// With whinge sauce for dips and a "whine" aperitif.../// With sour grapes to finish /// chicken whinges with sour cream /// surfeit with crow... (Witty online responses to an online commenter who typed "whinge FEAST" when presumably he meant "whinge-FEST." In British English, "to whinge" means "to complain, to whine about," etc. In American English, the idea would be likely expressed as a "gripe fest." The original commenter was responding to the article, "Cristiano Ronaldo to leave Manchester United with immediate effect," BBC Sport, 22 Nov 2022.)

♦ "It was a trauma-pa-looza." (A disparaging online commenter about Prince Harry's online therapy session with Gabor Mate.)

♦ "Yeah, footballpalooza today, right?" (A football commentator, meaning, "Lots of good football games to watch.")

♦ "We have no choice but to go forward. That's life... We can't sit down and have no pity party." (Football coach Deion Sanders after a tough Colorado loss.)

\*\*\* **Mardi Gras, Tinku, Carnival of Ivrea, Janadriyah...**

♦ "In a tradition that goes back 110 years, members of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, who are for the most part African-Americans, blackened their faces for their annual Mardi Gras parade. They also put on costumes featuring grass skirts, feathers, and bone necklaces..." ("In New Orleans, The Fight Over Blackface Renews Scrutiny Of A Mardi Gras Tradition," NPR, All Things Considered, 3 March 2019. The Zulu Club was founded in 1909.)

♦ "Tinku is a sublime, beautiful act. There's a predisposition in all of us to do Tinku. I believe that denying that impulse is harmful." (An Indian festival of street brawling and drinking in Bolivia.)

♦ "If you are born here it's in your heart, and I will do it for as long as my body allows it. It's not violent, but it is a way to release your own inner violence. You come out here and you get it all out, and for the next three months you're fine." (Mario Bianchi, on the Historic Carnival of Ivrea, during which thousands of citizens take over the town and hurl oranges at one another.)

♦ The Janadriyah festival promotes the culture and heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It takes place outside of Riyadh over a period of two weeks, and it includes camel races, regional and international pavilions, artists, singers, poets, dancers, musicians, foreign dignitaries, and the bestowing of honors and prizes. If you can attend, do so. Ahlan Wasahlan!

♦ see also *palooza* (*Lollapalooza*, etc.)

## fester (verb)

fester  
better to correct now than to let the situation ~

fester on the internet  
hate and violence ~

festering for years  
these problems have been ~

fester for so long  
circumstances were allowed to ~ (*The New York Times*)

fester online  
hateful sites ~

hatred festers  
~ in the Middle East

resentment festered  
that ~ (mother / daughter)

secrets fester  
~ between Mick and Linda

## festering (adjective)

festering dispute  
he was murdered over a ~

festering sore  
the conflict has remained a ~ left untended (Middle East)

## fetish (noun)

fetish for manufacturing  
they both share a ~ (politicians)

fetish for rigidly hierarchical and abusive workplaces  
the ~ seems to have abated in recent years (cooking shows)

have a fetish for big food  
it's no secret Americans ~ (triple-decker cheeseburgers)

makes a fetish of period detail  
the show ~ (*Mad Men* / early 1960s)

makes a fetish of transparency  
the media ~

turned him into a fetish  
the Republicans have ~ (Ronald Reagan)

♦ "That's why I find the TikTok fascination with it—and there are these sort of videos that lust after Henry for instance—and it's interesting that it has become this point of almost fetish." (English culture writer Alice Vincent about *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt.)

♦ Food is a fetish at NPR (along with its myriad other fetishes). Chefs, restaurant employees, baristas, "foodways," multicultural food, food trucks, food and sex...

### \*\*\* *Two Trips to Gorilla Land and the Cataracts of the Congo*

♦ "Every house is stuck inside and outside with idols and fetishes, interpreters of the Deity, each having its own jurisdiction over lightning, wind, and rain; some act as scarecrows; others teach magic, avert evils, preserve health and sight, protect cattle, and command fish in the sea or river. They are in all manner of shapes, strings of mucuna and poison-beans; carved images stuck over with feathers and tassels; padlocks with a cowrie or a mirror set in them; horns full of mysterious 'medicine,' iron-tipped poles; bones; birds' beaks and talons; skins of snakes and leopards, and so forth. We shall meet them again upon our travels." (*Two Trips to Gorilla Land and the Cataracts of the Congo Vol. 2* by Richard F. Burton, 1876.)

♦ Fetish-bag; Fetish dolls; Fetish house; fetish medicines; Fetishman; Fetish Rock; fetish worshipers; fetishism; (a) fetish of (superior) power; (crucifixes mixed with) native fetishes; portable fetish; valuable fetish (a collector); idols and fetishes; invoking the Fetish (during war-time); (the natives) hold it "Fetish" (a pool in the bush); obtain a fetish (collector); (to) put in fetish (= to set aside)... (Collocations for "fetish" from *Two Trips to Gorilla Land and the Cataracts of the Congo Vol. 2* by Richard F. Burton, 1876.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Nowadays *fetish* has lost its superstitious meaning and we use the word to describe any object of blind reverence. We may even speak of making a *fetish* of cleanliness, punctuality, gold bangles, or silk neckties." (*Word Origins and their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 16, "Terms of Religion and Their Beginnings.")

## fetishistic (adjective)

fetishistic interest  
I've had this almost ~ in *The New Yorker* (Wes Anderson)

## fetishistically

moves almost fetishistically  
Burns' camera ~ over the manuscript page (Hemingway)

## fetishization (noun)

fetishization of (street) art  
there is an almost kind of ~ these days (Banksy, etc.)

fetishization of (Afro-Americans') hairstyles  
white media's ~ trivializes Blacks

fetishization of mental illness  
the weird ~ (girls "do" Tourette's syndrome on TikTok)

fetishization of people of color  
exploring the ~ (see quote below)

fetishization of (black) trauma  
this ~ epitomizes an industry (entertainment)

fetishization of wealth  
economic despair and the ~

rights fetishization  
~ or rightsism (Jamal Greene / *How Rights Went Wrong*)

exotification and fetishization  
the ~ of Asian women

hypersexualization and fetishization  
the history of ~ of Asian women in the US

stereotypes and fetishization  
the promotion of ~ ("copy-paste Latinas")

♦ "*Loves You* by Sarah Gambito (January): Gambito invents a new form, the recipe-poem, as a means of exploring the fetishization of people of color." ("I Reject Walls": A 2019 Poetry Preview" by Craig Morgan Teicher, NPR, Books, January 21, 2019.)

## fetishize (verb)

fetishized superior, elegant, covetable product design  
both companies ~ (Polaroid, Apple)

fetishize (military) funerals  
we ~ so we can continue to allow our kids to be killed

fetishize identity  
wokeness tends to ~

fetishizes her own nudity  
she ~ as she monetizes it (a model)

fetishize female pain  
we love to ~ (Emily Ratajkowski)

fetishized their struggle  
Latinx critics said she ~ (*American Dirt*)

fetishize the work  
we ~ of great artists as somehow mythical (music)

fetishized peoples' skin color  
Latinx critics said she even ~ (*American Dirt*)

fetishize women of color  
songs that ~ (negative comment)

fetishizes higher arts and literature

TikTok's 'dark academia' trend ~

♦ "I always said we fetishize plots sometimes. For me, books is just character. It's not what happens in the book, it's why do I care what happens in the book." (The writer Richard Osman about writing.)

♦ "We love to fetishize female pain." (Emily Ratajkowski. As examples she mentioned society's fascination with dead girls and serial killers, and she also mentioned Andrew Dominik's 2022 film *Blonde*.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ 'fetishize' on her Word of the Day Calendar. Kudos to Ms. Ratajkowski for using it in multiple sentences. (Online snark from commenter "Derek.")

## fetishized

fetishized

when inaccessible language is ~ (TESOL jargon)

identity is ~ (thin white girls love Lizzo)

the kind of male musculature the Nazis ~ (Superman)

Brazil has always been ~ (beaches, music, women)

fetishized for her throwback curves

she is ~ (vs. bony angularity of traditional models)

fetishized by white culture and white men

we are really ~ in particular (Margaret Cho)

fetishized in movies

firearms have been ~ like no other object (uh, cars?)

fetishized rock stars

~ like Bob Dylan (negative attitude)

fetishized, appropriated and vilified

how minority cultures are ~, often all at the same time

fetishized and stigmatized

Atlanta's most ~ commodity (trap music / Traplanta)

fetishized and vilified

the legacy of Black music being ~

racially fetishized

~ sex, child abuse and racist stereotypes (*A Strange Loop*)

eroticized, exoticized, fetishized

we are ~ (*The Baddest Bitch in the Room* by Sophia Chang)

feared and fetishized

red hair has been ~ for hundreds of year (fashion trend)

glamorized, fetishized, or it was stigmatized

it was ~ (suicidal depression / negative attitude)

hyper-masculinized, fetishized, pitied or feared

we're ~ (black men, according to NPR's Sam Sanders)

hypersexualized and fetishized

Asian women have been ~ in American society

pathologized or fetishized

Rainbow Rowell's plus-sized romantic characters are not ~

♦ "I am not sure if when a white gentleman says I am beautiful, it's because they mean it or I am being fetishized."

## fetter (noun)

shake off the fetters

to ~ of tradition and radically remake...

♦ "The Frenchman came to remove our fetters but he took our boots, too." (Poland, 1812.)

## fettered

fettered by calls and e-mails and errands

I like to not be ~

fettered in any way

do you think your colleagues are ~

mentally fettered

his subordinates were ~ (by Naval discipline / orders)

## feud (verb)

feuded with the intelligence community

he ~ throughout his presidency (US President Trump)

## feud (noun)

feuds

the music industry thrives on ~

feuds in the entertainment industry

there is considerable public appetite for stories of ~

feud between (next-door) neighbors

a ~ led to a confrontation

family feud

a long and bitter ~ over the estate of Jimi Hendrix

this exposes a real ~, a generational divide (Democrats)

academic feud

this ~ began to poison the project (undersea mapping)

diplomatic feud

the ~ between Russia and the U.S.

medical feud

the bitter ~s that plagued doctors through the late 1800s

political feud

the ~ between London and Paris

public feud

sisters get embroiled in a ~

flare-up of their long-running feud

the latest ~ (2 NASCAR drivers)

♦ "A scientific gang fight; furor; fierce outcry; fierce criticism; objections; personal attacks; leading the charge against someone (and his theory); savage mockery; allegations of hubris; condemnation of a scholarly paper as dreck (trash, rubbish); bearing a grudge; resentment; tarring someone as being a charlatan; claims of distorting what others scientists are saying; claims of willful misrepresentation..." (A scientific dispute involving academics. From "E. O. Wilson's Theory of Everything" by Howard French, *The Atlantic*, November, 2011.)

♦ Bitter feuds; divisions; hatreds (sectarian and personal); sectarianism; a maelstrom of professional ill will (Philadelphia); animosity; denunciations; fraternal hatred; resentment; conspiracies; schisms; coups; ousting... (Doctors and medical schools in the 1800s. From *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr.)



♦ “A Mahometan and a Jew might as well attempt to worship the Supreme Being in the same temple, and through the medium of the same ceremonies, as two physicians of opposite principles and practice, attempt to confer about the life of the same patient.” (Benjamin Rush, about the medical feuds during the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A happy academic with a goatee is in the spotlight on a stage behind a podium at an awards ceremony in a great hall, addressing a packed audience of distinguished guests. He is saying, “None of this research would have been possible without all the bitter professional vendettas that kept me going.” (*The New Yorker*, December 13, 2021.)

♦ In the US, there has been a longtime feud between people on the East Coast and the West Coast as to which coast has the better sports teams, rappers, food, etc. Meanwhile in Atlanta, Georgia, rappers think of themselves as being the “Third / Dirty Coast.” With the rappers, this feud is not always good natured.

\*\*\* Dante put Mosca dei Lamberti in hell...

♦ Dante put Mosca dei Lamberti in hell as a sower of discord for the role he played in igniting the feud between the Amidei and Buondelmonti in Florence.

♦ The Howards and the Turners; the Hatfield and the McCoys; the Lincoln County Feud; the Frenches and Eversoles; the Martins and Tollivers; the Bakers and Howards... (Famous Appalachian family feuds.)

♦ The Sutton-Taylor feud was the longest and bloodiest in Texas. (According to the Texas State Historical Association *Handbook of Texas*, in an article written by C. L. Sonnichsen: “Persons who wished to live in the area had to take sides, there was constant pursuing and lying in wait...”)

♦ “Don’t get me wrong: I have nothing against the Campbells, but I would not stay a night in the company of one.” (Said by a MacDonald recently, referring to a massacre of MacDonalds by Campbells after the Campbells had accepted the MacDonalds’ hospitality. The murders took place in 1692.)

♦ see also *vendetta* (noun)

## fever (fever tree, etc.)

fever tree

yellow-tinged trunks of the ~ glow (Kruger Park)

## fever (behavior)

fever dream

see *dream* (*fever dream, etc.*)

fever pitch

all of these issues have reached a ~ (politics)

the steady buildup of hype has reached a ~

fever swamp

see *swamp* (*fever swamp*)

cabin fever

~ plagues Vermont all winter

people are getting ~

in the depths of a long winter, kids will develop ~

launch fever

one thing we have to guard against is ~

lottery fever

~ draws people from surrounding states (to buy tickets)

partisan fever

Washington’s well-known ~ (vs. decorum and discretion)

spring fever

September is the evil twin of ~

summit fever

they call it “~” (failure to summit not an option)

~ can lead to disaster (Denali / Mt. McKinley)

war fever

every few decades, the US catches a case of foreign “~”

“go fever”

we do not want to get ~ (shuttle launches)

patriotic fever

crowds energized with ~ (the Olympics)

yellow fever

some men have ~ (lust for Oriental women)

fever (in his party) might finally be breaking

it looked to Romney as if the ~ (support for Trump)

develop cabin fever

in the depths of a long winter, kids will ~

\*\*\* “A classic malaria attack has three stages...”

♦ “A classic malaria attack has three stages. (1) Cold stage (chills): rising fever, patient feels cold, ashen color, temperature is increasing rapidly, patient seeks additional covering with blankets. (2) Hot stage: patient throws off all blankets, looks red and congestive, very warm, high temperature, splitting headache and severe neck pains. (3) Sweat stage: patient suddenly breaks out in perspiration, clothes and bed are wet with sweat, temperature falls off quickly, patient feels better, often gets appetite back and falls asleep. An attack lasts 10-12 hours.”

## fever (enthusiasm)

Cristiano Ronaldo fever

it’s fair to say ~ has hit Old Trafford (soccer)

football fever

get ready for ~ (English Premier League start)

Oshin fever

a kind of ~ raged worldwide (1980s Japanese TV series)

soccer fever

Germany has *Fussballfiebers*—~ (2006 World Cup)

Super Bowl fever

not everyone is caught up in ~

vacation fever

with ~ reaching new highs... (post-COVID)

World Cup fever

~ in Riyadh is palpable (Qatar FIFA World Cup)

♦ Laksa fever; “everyone’s just contracted this laksa fever”; “the love child of Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean cuisine”; love for laksa; a thing that people love; craving a fix (for laksa); the mania (for laksa); a city obsessed (with laksa); the laksa obsession; the faithful; a giant shrine is erected (for monthlong laksa festival); laksa ice-cream / smoothies / cheesecake / sausage / crocodile dumplings / beer; the Laksa Festival Hall of Fame; the Golden Bowl award for best laksa... (“How laksa fever took hold in this Australian city” by the wonderful writer Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC, October 31. 2023. Life at “The Top End” of Oz. Super!)

## fevered (adjective)

fevered speculation

details derived from rumor and ~ (mass murder)

grew (even more) fevered

anticipation ~ as word spread that...

## feverish (adjective)

feverish activity

it is now the scene of ~ (a disaster)

feverish labor

the end result of years of ~ (the A-bomb)

feverish talk

the ~ of an imminent attack has ebbed (military)

## feverishly

feverishly courting

she has been ~ black voters

working feverishly

we are ~ (disaster relief)

the US is ~ behind the scenes (diplomacy)

worked feverishly

doctors ~ to save him

### \*\*\* the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1878...

♦ "Hughes, Dr. E. W., b. 15 March 1819, d. at his post of duty, 31 Aug 1878." (A marker in what is referred to locally as "the Yellow Fever" cemetery in Granada, Mississippi, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, east of the railroad tracks. The Yellow Fever epidemic of 1878 devastated New Orleans and Memphis, infecting at least 120,000 and killing between 13,000 and 20,000 people.)

## fever pitch (noun)

reached a fever pitch

speculation ~... (possible military action)

## few and far between

few and far between

we are ~ (a Parsi)

## fication (adultification, etc.)

adultification

the ~ of Black girls

that accelerates the ~ of everything (kid actor Keri Russell)

beach-read-ification

his impulse toward the ~ of the Frankfurt School...

commodification

horrendous ~ of the enslaved woman's reproductive system

Disneyfication

the '~' of Bob Marley's religious beliefs

exotification

the ~ and fetishization of Asian women

gamification

see *gamification* (noun)

gentrification

longstanding concerns about ~ in Boyle Heights

hippie-ification

Dracula AD 1972's ~ of the Bram Stoker legend

HR-ification

the ~ of language (therapy speak / human resources dept.)

memefication

the ~ of the force (the U.S. Space Force)

musification

the ~ of the Holocaust (*The New Yorker* / Masha Gessen)

objectification

she has ZERO right to complain about ~ (a TikTok)

*Oprahfication*

*Stories of Oprah: the ~ of American Culture* (book)

nice-ification

there's been a sort of '~' of the devil, from blue to red...

queerification

"folx" is the deliberate ~ of a word (queer v. non-queer)

yassification

~ makes a person's face look "ideal" (FaceApp filter)

~ memes on Twitter

youthification

Martin Scorsese used what he called "~" (*The Irishman*)

objectification and commodification

~ of Black Bodies (*Caul Baby* by Morgan Jerkins)

♦ "It is the Schitt's Creek-ification of comedy." (Glen Weldon talking about the TV show *Loot*.)

♦ "There's been a sort of 'nice-ification' of the devil." (According to Rev. Dr. Gabrielle Thomas, on NPR.)

♦ "[H]is impulse toward the beach-read-ification of the Frankfurt School doesn't extend that far..." ("Fellow-Travellers by Thomas Meaney, *The New Yorker*, December 2, 2024. According to "Contributors," Thomas Meaney is the editor of *Granta*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Is "adultification" a real word? The spell checker for Microsoft Word underlines *Adultification* in red and suggests *Dulcification* (noun form of *dulcify*). Merriam-Webster does not recognize it as a word. Wikipedia has an article titled "Adultification bias" with the proviso, "The examples and perspective in this article may not represent a worldwide view of the subject."

♦ "-fication, a suffix related to *facere* ("to make").

♦ see also *ization* (*marginalization, etc.*)

## fiddle (second fiddle)

plays second fiddle

when you worry about your family, the other stuff ~

played second fiddle to the Ambassador's Road

during this period the Burma Road ~ (China)

play second fiddle to UFC

boxing had to ~

plays second fiddle to his wife

these days, Joe always ~ (Jill Biden and Anthony Bernal)

## fiddle (while Rome burns, etc.)

Nero Fiddles League

Roger Goodell, commissioner of the ~ (NFL snark)

## Progressives fiddle

~ while NYC burns (*The New York Post*)

♦ "Roger Goodell, commissioner of the Nero Fiddles League—does nothing." (The great sports journalist Phil Mushnick about the NFL's tolerance and encouragement of vulgar fans. The "Nero Fiddles League" is, of course, the NFL. Phil Mushnick truly deserves the epithet "the conscience of sport.")

## Fiddler's Green

### Fiddler's Green ceremony

they lifted their glasses in a ~

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Cmdr. Robert Ramirez has crossed the bar for the final time, he is off to sea, never to return." (An online commenter's tribute to a Navy SEAL.)

♦ "Caravan, a moment of silence on the third toast..." (The haunting Soviet Afghan War Song. Try searching for "Soviet Afghan War Song Caravan." And read *Zinky Boys* by Svetlana Alexievich.)

♦ Raise a glass to Western North Carolina State Trooper David Shawn Blanton.

♦ Raise a glass to Sgt Gareth "Dad / Bull" Thursby, Private Thomas Wroe, and Kingsman Ryan Ward. Alma Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Yorkshire Battalion.

♦ Raise a glass to Geno Krupa. You died too young, and you left a real hole down here. (Joe, Jordan, all his loved ones, all his friends, etc.)

♦ Raise a glass to Miss Minnie Vautrin. "A proper lady to the core. She believes in her girls and guards them the way a hen guards her chicks. I shall never forget her..." (View the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*. Read the Wikipedia article "Minnie Vautrin.")

♦ "Rest in peace, soldier brave, God is nigh." (To the sound of Taps.)

♦ "After talking to my fellow paratroopers and drinking a toast to the memory of our departed comrade, I began to understand that his death had magnified our own belief in the danger, nobility, and superiority inherent in our elite unit. Instead of being diminished by his loss we were strangely magnified and empowered by it. This phenomenon is not limited to, although it is always present in, elite fighting groups. Nations celebrate their costliest battles, even losing ones—the Alamo, Pickett's Charge, Dunkerque, Wake Island, and Leningrad are examples—due to the bravery and nobility of the sacrifices involved." (*On Killing* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman.)

♦ 12. (U) RECOMMEND COMNAVSPCWARGRU ONE consider administrative action to address alcohol being on the USS LEWIS B. PULLER... [I]t is likely an unauthorized bottle of liquor was onboard the USS LEWIS B. PULLER and possibly used to share a toast by members of C-Platoon in honor of their fallen comrades contrary to Navy regulations." (Subj: Command Investigation into the Facts and Circumstances Surrounding the Loss at Sea of Two Task Force Three Personnel on or about 11 Jauary [sic] 2024.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Fiddler's Green," specifically the section "In the United States Military."

♦ Justin Moore *The Ones That Didn't Make It Back Home*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHvx5D-zDfo>

♦ see also *Valhalla (military)*

## fiefdom (control)

### fiefdom of his ship

a captain was a monarch of the floating ~ (1777)

### gangster fiefdoms

this new system of ~ (warlord spec in Afghanistan)

### individual fiefdoms

Chicago's 50 aldermen are mini-mayors of their ~

### personal fiefdom

the Rainbow Coalition is his ~ (Jesse Jackson)

### rival fiefdoms

the two groups were ~ (criminal investigation)

### theoretical fiefdom

everybody wants to create their own little ~ (research)

### one-man fiefdom

his department was a ~ that he defended from the outside  
he ran a ~, he called the shots (Curtis Institute of Music)

### runs his or her own fiefdom

the cabinet secretary generally ~ (without interference)

## field (verb)

### fielding calls

he had been ~ about the accident most of the night

## field (fertile field, etc.)

### fertile field

Donald Trump was plowing a very ~ (Mara Liasson)

## field hand (person)

### field hands of academia

adjunct faculty are the ~

## fiend (behavior)

### fitness fiend

I'm a ~ (an NFL player)

### text messaging fiend

California girl is ~ (14,528 in one month / 2009)

## fierce (girls and women / groups, etc.)

### fierce accessories

13 ~ to get you through every occasion (fashion)

### fierce advocate

she was a ~ for women's athletics (a soccer player)

### fierce (animal) advocate

Lindsey was a ~ and a talented actress

### fierce Abigail Breslin

moving performances by Damen and a ~ (*Stillwater*)

### fierce enthusiasm

she was known for her ~ for sci-fi and comics

### Fierce Five

they were known as the ~ (2012 US Olympic gym team)

### fierce honesty

her album gives musical form to ~ and emotional freedom

### fierce (fashion) matriarch

the story of a ~ (Ethel Kerr)

### fierce performance

Kathryn Hunter delivers a ~ (*The Tragedy of Macbeth*)

### 'fierce poise'

with ~, she poured beauty (artist Helen Frankenthaler)

fierce (political) views

how she gained her ~ (Ani DiFranco)

fierce women

we're standing up for ~ (politics)

*Fierce Little Thing*

~ is the story of a young girl

fierce and fearless

that ~ personality got you to your dream (women's soccer)

fierce and heartwarming

she is a ~ hero (Afghan woman scores high on test)

*Fierce, Loving*

*Shut It Down: Stories from a ~ Resistance* (by Lisa Fithian)

fierce and productive

she has done "~" work to organize (Eva Longoria)

First Lady of Fierce

the ~ Michelle Obama (charge d'affaires Karen Decker)

famous, fierce and fashion forward

RuPaul, ~

fast and fierce

Flo-Jo was ~ (track outfits, fingernails, etc.)

tender but fierce

she is a ~ writer (Margo Jefferson on Jordan Kisner)

vulnerable and fierce

Plaza is both ~ (Aubrey Plaza / *Emily the Criminal*)

from classic to fierce

~, there isn't a red carpet look Taylor hasn't tried

looks fierce

she always ~ (Regina Gorge / the 2004 film *Mean Girls*)

make herself look fierce

piercings to ~ (an 18-year-old queer Latinx mestiza)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ *I Am... Sasha Fierce*. (The 2008 studio album by Beyonce.)

♦ [high pitched whoop] / [girls whooping] / [girls squealing]... (Closed captions.)

♦ LFG. (The "battle cry" of the US Women's national soccer team.)

♦ "WeWork founder Adam Neumann and his woo-woo wife Rebekah..."

♦ "Mean-mugging" is a meme. (Looking "fierce.")

♦ "We're standing up for fierce women who raised me to never back down from a tough fight." (Politics.)

♦ "Now that's what I call fierce! You're a star." (Michelle Obama in a tweet about Nia Dennis and her "the Culture" gymnastic routine.)

♦ "Both of you are mighty, I gotta say, both of you, and you're bringing it to us again, thank you so much..." (Robin Roberts introducing a travelogue on Washington State featuring Becky Worley and Ginger Zee.)

♦ "Chrissy Metz, 40, Shows Off Massive Weight Loss In Fierce New Photo." (Promoted: Swift Verdict.)

♦ "I imagine the term 'fierce' was coined after meeting him." (Actor and supermodel Milla Jovovich on the death of Andre Leon Talley, fashion industry icon and author of *The Chiffon Trenches*.)

♦ "That fierce [Rosé] persona—it's fun when that happens, when I can turn on this whole different character." (Roseanne Chaeyoung Park, aka Blackpink's Rosé.)

♦ "Madonna's daughter, Estere, 11, strikes fierce pose at tour opener."

♦ "Melina, a scientist who may know a little something about how an army of young girls could be coerced into becoming assassins..." (Bob Mondello reviewing Marvel's *Black Widow* for NPR.)

♦ "What would happen if teenage girls had the ability to electrocute at their fingertips?" (Amazon Prime video series *The Power*.)

♦ "There was a poster for One Million Years B.C. where she was in a—guess you'd call it a fur bikini (light upspeak)—and she's standing there looking fierce." (NPR movie critic Bob Mondello, on the death of Raquel Welch. Using contempo-speak to describe historical events is a form of presentism.)

♦ "Her title has an echo of drag terminology, in which 'fierce' is a term of approbation." (*Fierce Desires: A New History of Sex and Sexuality in America* (Norton) by Rebecca L. Davis, a professor of history and of women's and gender studies at the University of Delaware. From "Love's Labor's Lost: The forgotten history of sex in America" by Rebecca Mead, *The New Yorker*, September 2, 2024. "Approbation" means approval or praise.)

♦ "I take her to the checkpoint and try to get her to say, 'You're a donkey, you're a donkey' to the soldiers but she is always frightened that they will shoot her." (A Palestinian mother trying to train her 11-year-old daughter to be "strong and not afraid.")

♦ "[Kamala] Harris was mesmerizing when gracefully fierce, questioning Brett Kavanaugh at his confirmation hearing, or defending Joe Biden to Anderson Cooper, or debating an addled, bellowing Trump." ("The Back Came For Us" by Lorrie Moore, *The New Yorker*, November 18, 2024.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "fierce" bandwagon...

♦ "She is a passionate animal advocate and fierce in the fight against cancer." (The *biography* of a meteorologist welcoming her to a different media market.)

♦ The website fiercehealthcare (a dotcom) has sections for Fierce Pharma; Fierce Biotech; Fierce Healthcare; and Fierce Life Sciences Events. That's fierce!

♦ "A 'fierce queen' named '128 Grazer' has been crowned the fattest bear of all Katmai National Park in Alaska." ("This is how a mama bear won Fat Bear Week, Katmai National Park officials say" by Julia Jacobo, ABC News, October 12, 2023. "Since releasing her cubs, Grazer was able to focus on self-care and getting fat.")

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Renee Ballard, a fierce young detective fighting to prove herself." (A blurb to promote a book.)

♦ "12 Fierce Accessories to get you through every occasion when you need to feel fearless this fall." (Glamour X, Nine West.)

♦ "'Snapped up this designer trench at Marshalls. Shoulda cost a lot more.' Stay fierce. Fabulous Brands. Feel Good Prices." (An advertisement for Marshalls with music by the Pom Poms: "Look at me, look at me, look at me...")

♦ "*Shy* by Max Porter is a short fierce novel..." (NPR's Scott Simon. The following text appears on the website: "Sign up for the NPR Books newsletter. Get NPR editors' recommendations, author interviews, and more. Email address. SUBSCRIBE.")

♦ "In her 1987 memoir, *Fierce Attachments*, Vivian Gornick describes her relationship with her unhappy and demanding mother."

♦ "Gatorade Fierce. Grape. Naturally Flavored with Other Natural Flavors. Bold and Intense. Water, sugar, dextrose, citric acid, natural flavor, sodium citrate, salt, monopotassium phosphate, modified food starch, glycerol ester of rosin, blue 1, red 40."

\*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "She was a fierce, fierce woman who wanted him at all costs" was written by a female in 2008, and it is the traditional idea of a "fierce" woman: a determined, predatory woman who knows what she wants (a particular man) and will stop at nothing to get him. See *maneater* (*female*). A variation is a "cougar," an older woman who stalks younger men.

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "When black ladies go bald they look fierce [sic], when white women do it we look like Kemo [sic] patients. (NoMoreFalseGods to Loves\_Trees.)

♦ "Young girls have more options now."

♦ STOP. SAYING. "FIERCE!" (SkepDoc, commenting on "The 33 Fiercest Moments From Beyonce's Halftime Show" by Lauren Yapalater, BuzzFeed, Feb. 4, 2013.)

♦ "In the mellowing afterglow of victory, they don't seem so fierce." (Elected women.)

♦ "Death only comes once, I'm not afraid of them killing me." (Photojournalist Roya Heydari, who fled Afghanistan and is currently in France.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Gentlemen. I am 25 years old and I have killed 309 fascist occupants (invaders) by now. Don't you think, gentlemen, that you have been hiding behind my back for too long?" (Lyudmila Pavlichenko. From "Eleanor Roosevelt and the Soviet Sniper" by Gilbert King, Smithsonian Magazine, Feb 21, 2013.)

♦ "Only then was I able to attach the name to an actual body, but I was inwardly astonished. I had imagined that the students who had been so unwavering in the face of the authorities and had resisted a principal with strong backing would, of course, be bold and fierce. Yet she often smiled and her manner was gentle." ("In Memory of Liu Hezhen" by Lu Xun.)

♦ Assault; attack; battle; charge; combat; counterattack; defense; engagement; fight; firefight... (Words modified by 'fierce' in the Medal of Honor citations for the Vietnam War.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Young girls have more options now.

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *badass (power)*, *beast (power)*, *fearless (girls and women, etc.)*, *ferocious (other)*, *fiercely (girls and women / groups, etc.)*, *girlboss (noun)*, *savage (adjective)*

## fierce (other)

### fierce

it's ~ our there (buying a home)  
competition for jobs is ~

### fierce battles

waging ~ with unions and regulators

### fierce (custody) battle

he was the object of a ~

### fierce criticism

the coach backpedaled after ~ from Chinese fans...

### fierce defender

it helps to have a wise friend and ~ like AARP (an ad)  
your wise friend and ~ (an advertisement for AARP)

### fierce (price) wars

~ have reduced profits

### fierce winds

~ downed the transmission line (Hurricane Ida)  
~ felled trees and damaged power lines (Storm Darragh)

### fierce and noisy

Tunisians are locked in a ~ debate about Islam in politics

### fierce and ugly

a ~ about in-person learning (during the pandemic)

### pretty fierce

the environment of Jupiter is ~ (Margaret Kivelson)

### so fierce

the frenzied rumors have become ~ that...  
she feels a stab of love ~ (mother for husband, kids)

### competition (for clinical training slots) was fierce

~ (nursing bottlenecks)

### turned fierce

that's when the weather ~ (climbing K2)

♦ "It's a jungle out there!"

## fiercely (girls and women / groups, etc.)

### fiercely expressive

even her silences are ~, she's flinty, tough, guarded (film)

### fiercely independent

~, Poppy is hardworking, temperamental and stubborn...  
~ journalism shapes a fairer world (and so do your cliches)

### fiercely real

her performance is ~ (the 2022 film *Men*)

### fiercely resilient

as the emotional yet ~ Maren, Russel is the real star here

### fiercely tough

she played Emily Maitlis, the ~ journalist (2024 film *Scoop*)

### competed fiercely

I ~ and made it to the finale

### fight fiercely

being willing to ~ for every child (politics)

### worked fiercely

we were both raised by mothers who ~ to provide for us

### loved and lived fiercely

Kyle ~ (tribute to TikTok dead age 36)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "When Kamala meets a young person, you can feel her passion, you can feel her heart, and you can feel her fearlessness. That is what defines a commitment to children. Being willing to fight fiercely for every child." (Karen Bass, Mayor of Los Angeles, at the 2024 DNC.)

♦ "On 'All Stars' season three of the series, I competed fiercely and made it to the finale." (The drag superstar Shangela, also known as D. J. Pierce. The "All Stars" season refers to "RuPaul's Drag Race" franchise.)

♦ "Hello there, I'm Jennifer and welcome to *Simply + Fiercely*... I'm passionate about helping other women just like me."

♦ "All who knew you, loved you fiercely." (An expression of grief on Facebook for a murdered young woman.)

♦ "Kyle loved and lived fiercely." (A tribute to a TikTok dead at the age of 36.)

♦ Contempo-speakers are hired to represent elderly politicians. And so a Joe Biden representative said, "He believes fiercely in an agenda that will..."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## fierceness (groups)

fierceness

you see a ~ that's coming from the girls...

fierceness of work, men and taking care of themselves

it gave a voice to women balancing the ~ (an album)

♦ "You see a fierceness that's coming from the girls that are coming up now, that's because we understand we ain't got nuttin to lose. I already done lost that job, I already done lost that job." (Angelica Ross, about Trans representation in media / entertainment. According to her Wikipedia article, "Her breakthrough role came in 2018, as Candy Ferocity in Rya Murphy's FX drama series *Pose*.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## fiery (character)

fiery (clubhouse) leader

he is their ~ (an athlete)

fiery preacher

the ~ has died at 91

fiery temper

he had a ~

fiery temperament

the son inherited his father's ~

fiery and brash

she is ~

## fiery (speech)

fiery

North Korean rhetoric is often ~ (anniversaries, etc.)

fiery debate

heated words were exchanged during the ~

fiery denunciations

the charges resulted in ~ of labor unions

fiery exchange

there was a ~ between Jean-Pierre and reporters (politics)

fiery (1965) manifesto

his ~ "The Revolutionary Theatre" (LeRoy Jones)

## fight (noun)

dog fight

see *dogfight* (noun)

food fight

see *fight* (*food fight*)

without a fight

Amazon is unlikely to give up ~ (v. Reliance in India)

allies in that fight

she didn't have a lot of ~ (trouble between 2 actors)

weapon in the (COVID) fight

it is the third ~ (third vaccine approved)

rearing for a fight

Dees is still ~ (head of Southern Poverty Law Center)

♦ "While I concede this election, I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign." (Kamala Harris, in her concession speech at Howard University—an HBCU—following her loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Hit 'em with a left, hit 'em with a right, it's a fight, it's a fight, it's a fight, fight, fight!" (Stirring music lyrics to a video of the great boxer Naseem Hamid.)

♦ "Hold tight are you ready for the fight of your life."

## fight (verb)

fighting to beat back

Yahoo and AOL are ~ spammers

fight to the death

see *fight to the death* (verb / conflict)

fight like hell

they're not taking the White House, we're going to ~

fighting for his life

he has been ~ (hospital seeks to unplug ventilator)

fighting urban blight

the group ~ (buildings)

fight incessantly

people ~ online...

♦ "It's an uphill battle... We're gonna fight him in congress, we're gonna fight in the courts, and I believe that a large segment of the American public will fight the president on this." (Democratic representative Joaquin Castro of Texas, channeling his inner Winston Churchill.)

♦ "I want the Democrats to raise their hands if they have ever given a speech that says 'take...back,' 'fight for your country.' Who hasn't used the words *fight* figuratively, and are we going to put every politician in jail, are we going to impeach every politician who has used the words *fight* figuratively in a speech? Shame!" (Senator Rand Paul.)

♦ "These are the metaphorical rhetorical uses of the word *fight*. We all know that, right? Suddenly the word *fight* is off limits? Spare us the hypocrisy and false indignation. It's a term used over and over and over again by politicians on both sides of the aisle." (Michael Van Der Veen, defending President Trump at his second impeachment trial.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "It's quite clear that Iranians are willing to fight to the last Arab." (Paul Salem, Middle East Institute, Washington.)

♦ "The Americans will fight to the last Ukrainian."

## fight (food fight)

food fights

you can't be proud when you have ~ breaking out in the White House (politics)

procedural food fight

the trial will kick off with a ~ (impeachment trial)

equivalent of a food fight

it was the political ~ (presidential debate)



- ♦ "America doesn't want a food fight." (U.S. Presidential "debates.")
- ♦ Watch "Animal House Food Fight" on YouTube. Both the beloved actor John Belushi and the beloved Catholic nun Mother Theresa are ethnic Albanians. Shqiptar!

\*\*\* **"The largest food fight in Italy..."**

♦ "If you are born here it's in your heart, and I will do it for as long as my body allows it. It's not violent, but it is a way to release your own inner violence. You come out here and you get it all out, and for the next three months you're fine." (Mario Bianchi, on the Historic Carnival of Ivrea, during which thousands of citizens take over the town and hurl oranges at one another.)

## fighter (person)

real fighter

she's a ~, she has led the fight for the prisoners...

street fighter

can hope and unity beat Trump, or do you have to be a ~  
some wonder if he is the ~ they want or need (candidate)

- ♦ "I understand the spirit of a fighter, I've also been a fighter my whole life, my whole career." (Halle Berry, promoting her 2020 film *Bruised* which is about...a fighter.)
- ♦ CEO Margaret Low of WBUR, in a staff memo announcing "a significant reorganization" to include layoffs, wrote that that it was necessary to be "in fighting shape to deliver on big ambitions."
- ♦ Sound bite of Christopher Waller, a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors: I feel like an MMA fighter who keeps getting inflation in a chokehold, waiting for it to tap out. Yet it keeps slipping out of my grasp at the last minute. / NPR's Scott Horsley: Waller insisted, though, he and his colleagues are not going to let inflation out of the Octagon until prices are completely under control. / Steve Inskeep: (laughing) I appreciate the metaphor. Thank you for extending it, BUT, if... (Heard on NPR.)
- ♦ "I tried to keep his spirits up, saying that this was just Round One in a long-term fight. 'More like the end of round #3...and they are winning 6-10 every round,' he wrote." ("Coin Toss: A Welshman has lost the key for half a billion dollars' worth of bitcoin" by D.T. Max, *The New Yorker*, December 13, 2021.)
- ♦ "We still have our guard up, we're still in the ring fighting for safety, we just now have some space between us and the opponent." (Captain Dennis Tajer of the Allied Pilots Association, about 5G and its effect on aviation. From "An airplane pilot details the issue 5G could have on flights," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, Jan 22 2022. Tajer shows real knowledge of boxing!)
- ♦ "Let me tell you something. I've been in the fight business my whole life. I know fighters. Ladies and Gentlemen, Donald Trump is a fighter, and I know he will fight for this country." (UFC President Dana White at the 2016 Republican National Convention.)
- ♦ "Boxing is like life, really, but like accentuated, isn't it... It's bittersweet, it's horrible, it teaches you lessons, really brutal lessons, there's no protection inside or outside the ring, and I fell in love with it..." (The young boxing promoter Ben Shalom speaking with the great boxing commentator Steve Bunce.)
- ♦ "Man... knows how to fight and win." (A stirring speech in Olympia, Greece, prior to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. See YouTube #Beijing2022 Olympic Flame Lighting Ceremony! Beautiful and inspiring during the COVID period. Full credit to China.)

\*\*\* **boxing as a skill, an art, learning to box, self defence...**

♦ "Now, look you here, Huw, my son. You are growing to be a man. It is a man's place to take punishment and give back more than he takes if there is a head on him. But sometimes he will have to take a hiding in the first ten rounds to give a bigger hiding in the next ten. But if you must have a hiding, make up your mind to a hiding. Have your hiding and learn from it. It is one thing to have a hiding, but quite another to be beaten. Never be beaten, boy. A hiding, yes, but never beaten. Come for more. Come always for more. And come for more until you are giving the hiding. Is it?... So long as he shall die with his blood in front of him, I will lift my head. A boy shall learn to fight, or let him put skirts about his knees. This boy has never been taught to fight, but he shall have his first lesson to-night. We will see if the National Schools can beat a Morgan... Now, a good straight left is the

bully's downfall. That is lesson one from the book. Like this." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn. Huw had been beaten up by a bully after his first day in class at a new school.)

\*\*\* **Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes, Nino Benvenuti, Emile Griffith...**

- ♦ "Joe Frazier is my friend... If I had \$4 left in my wallet, two of those would go to Joe." (Larry Holmes, after a reporter asked him if he had paid for an operation that Joe Frazier needed but couldn't afford. Larry wouldn't admit to it, but he had.)
- ♦ "Nino is a beautiful person and a great champion. It is so wonderful to see him again. We had three fights and they were all close. Maybe I won them; maybe he won them. The most important thing is that we are still good friends." (Emile Griffith speaking of Nino Benvenuti.)
- ♦ "Ingemar Johansson and Floyd Patterson became good friends who flew across the Atlantic to visit each other every year." (From the Wikipedia article "Ingemar Johansson.")
- ♦ "It became a racist fight. Larry Holmes is not a racist, I'm not a racist, and it was billed out to be. I believe that that was part of the promotion to make hate... Now, that got created by many things, I'm sure, and Don King would be part of putting that together." (Gerry Cooney about his fight with Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace on June 11, 1982, in Las Vegas, Nevada. It went 13 rounds before Cooney's trainer threw in the towel. Racial tensions were so high that Cooney ran accompanied by an FBI agent, and snipers were posted on the rooftops around Caesars Palace. The Wikipedia article for the fight says, "[P]romoter Don King and manager Dennis Rappaport began on the most massive and racially toned campaigns in boxing history..." Of course, Cooney was "The Great White Hope." A very old story. Holmes and Cooney ended up becoming good friends, not unusual for boxers, who are quickly forgotten by a fickle bloodthirsty public and, at the end—often in the throes of one kind of dementia or another—have only one another's help and friendship to depend on.)
- \*\*\* **"Some day, they're gonna write a blues for fighters..."**

- ♦ "The best fight I've ever seen, praying that Mick Conlan is ok." (An online commenter, BBC.)
- ♦ "[Muhammad] Ali... peeked out the window, where a crowd stood waiting to see a young man named Gary Wells attempt to jump the water fountain at Caesars on a motorcycle, the same jump that had almost killed stunt rider Evel Knievel. Ali turned away. / 'I don't want to see nobody get his head ripped off,' he said. 'They encourage him, but I know what people want to see when they watch something like that.' / Ali... lay down on this bed and his rubdown man, Luis Sarria, closed the curtains... / An hour later, the young man on the motorcycle missed his landing ramp and nearly killed himself crashing into a brick wall at eighty-five miles an hour." (*Ali: A Life* by the great writer Jonathan Eig. His latest book is the 2023 *King: A Life*, about Martin Luther King Jr.)
- ♦ "Mike's wife gradually turned into his caretaker, feeding him, bathing him, sitting him down on the toilet while she was in the shower so he couldn't wonder off. His decline accelerated in 2005, and Ellen was forced to move him into a full-time care facility. In June his heart slowly stopped beating over the course of several days, like a heavy bag coming to rest after one final punch. The man who couldn't stop fighting finally did." ("Boxing in his Brother's Shadow, He just Wouldn't Quit," by Jonathan Mahler, *The New York Times*, December 31, 2006. Mike Quarry suffered from pugilistic dementia. His more famous brother, Jerry Quarry, suffered from the same disease. As boys, they pounded one another to earn their father's respect, and Jerry worked Mike's corner during fights.)
- ♦ "Some day, they're gonna write a blues for fighters. It'll just be for slow guitar, soft trumpet and a bell." (Sonny Liston. His biography, published in 1963, was titled *The Champ Nobody Wanted*.)

## fight to the death (verb / conflict)

fighting this to the political death

she is ~ (campaigning for presidency)

♦ see also *match* (*death match*)

## fig leaf

fig leaf to cover

democracy is only a ~ the powers of capital

fig leaf for its (geopolitical) ambitions  
the US uses the UN as a ~

fig leaf for imperialism  
democracy is a ~

fig leaf for (US) occupation  
the Afghan elections are a ~

fig leaf for politicians  
the reform bill is a ~ opposed to any serious action

fig leaf for (US) withdrawal  
"Vietnamization" was a ~

fig leaf for profiteering  
philanthropy is often a ~

fig-leaf term  
"equity" is a ~ for lowering standards

very small fig leaf indeed  
"communist influence" was now a ~ in the surveillance

under the fig leaf of comedy  
he hides his conservatism ~

♦ *"Equity is a fig-leaf term for lowering standards."* (The linguist John McWhorter.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Clement XIII (1693-1769) covered the genitalia of the Vatican's nudes with fig leaves.

## figurehead (noun)

figureheads  
the old play-writing establishment and its ~

figurehead of the Somali community  
she became a ~ in Canada

saw Ancelotti as the figurehead  
Moshiri saw ~ who would fulfil his aspirations (Everton)

## filling (content)

filling  
the ~ is always a surprise (Twilight Zone episodes)

♦ "There was a signature tone to the stories, the same dark chocolate coating—but the filling was always a surprise." (Charlie Brooker, creator of *Black Mirror*, about the older *Twilight Zone* series.)

## filter (honesty)

had no filter  
she ~

lose their "filter"  
people with bipolar disorder may at times ~

♦ "Not coming with a filter made him honest as he could be. He didn't worry about repercussions." (Terry "Juice" Parker about Ye / Kanye West.)

♦ "I went to one of his fights. St. Nicholas Arena. That was the first time I saw him fight. He sent me flowers, and the first date he took me to a movie. And the lady I used to live with was my chaperone, you know, I wouldn't go out alone. In those days you didn't go out alone with guys. He didn't speak English at all. And I hardly spoke Spanish. Oh, we got along all right! And then we fell in love. I wanted to dance, I didn't really want to get married. I was only nineteen. And then, it happened, I got pregnant, and we had to get married. That's

life." (Lucy Paret, Benny "Kid" Paret's wife. From the affecting and emotionally wrenching documentary *Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story 2005*.)

## filter (verb)

filters the news  
the country ~

## filtered

filtered approach  
a ~ to life is not authentic or healthy (BeReal vs Instagram)

## filth (insult)

trash, filth, and sleaze  
locals use words like ~ (an annual motorcycle rally)

### \*\*\* Filth and public health...

♦ The horrors of the so-called 'filth' diseases of the 19th century—such as typhoid, dysentery, typhus and cholera—eventually led to huge campaigns to clean up cities, particularly to separate sewage from drinking water.

♦ "Haiti is now in the throes of the worst ongoing cholera outbreak in the world. In 15 months, it has sickened more than half a million people and killed roughly 7,000. / In the Port-au-Prince slum of Cite Soleil, 56-year-old Antonina Tanis says there are no toilets in her neighborhood. / Tanis: (Through Translator) We don't have no toilet at all. We do it in the sea. / Beaubien: By the sea, Tanis is referring to Brackish tidal canals that flush in and out of the Cite Soleil. Residents perch on a cement ledge over one of the canals when they have to relieve themselves. The slum is also known for flying toilets, a practice of going to the bathroom in a plastic bag and then letting it fly out the window. / Ever since cholera appeared in Haiti in October of 2010, it's been rampant in Cite Soleil." ("Can Vaccines Break Cholera's Deadly Hold on Haiti," by Robert Siegel, NPR, All Things Considered, February 7, 2012. Cholera may have been brought to Haiti by U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Late Sunday, riot police sprayed putrid-smelling water to break up Palestinian protests." (AP, "Israeli troops kill Palestinian in West Bank clashes," Feb 13, 2022.)

♦ "In combat, cleanliness for the infantryman was all but impossible. Our filth added to our general misery. Fear and filth went hand in hand..." (*With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa* by E. B. Sledge.)

♦ "First and last there were, I think, eight thousand cases of Typhoid in Bloemfontein. Often to my knowledge both 'ceremonial' Union Jacks in a battalion would be 'in use' at the same time. Extra corpses went to the grave under the service blanket. / Our own utter carelessness, officialdom and ignorance were responsible for much of the death-rate. I have seen a Horse Battery...be assigned, by some idiot saving himself trouble, the site of an evacuated typhoid-hospital. Result—thirty cases after a month. I have seen men drinking raw Modder-River a few yards below where the mules were staling...The most important medical office in any Battalion ought to be Provost-Marshall of Latrines. / To typhoid was added dysentery, the smell of which is even more depressing than the stench of human carrion... / It is possible, though I doubt it, that first and last we may have killed four thousand Boers. Our own casualties, mainly from preventable disease, must have been six times as many." (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ "Everything that [Florence Nightingale] had urged and entreated in her reports was now done. Orders began to fly. Someone had finally appeared in Scutari ready to take responsibility for something! The sewer under the hospital was cleaned out; the drains were opened; the floorboards were disinfected; the rats were driven out; the water supply was purified. It had taken six months of misery before these things were done, but the commission, Florence later said, 'saved the British army.' The effect was felt immediately. The death rate in the

hospital quickly dropped from 420 to 22 per thousand." (*Florence Nightingale* by Ruth Fox Hume. Florence Nightingale was known as "the Lady with the Lamp." She was not, in fact, a nurse. She was an administrator, logistician, statistician, advocate, reformer, educator, founder, writer, supplier of stump pillows, etc.)

## filthy (bad)

filthy habit  
smoking is a ~

## filthy (slang)

filthy  
that dunk was ~ (NBA)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This can mean amazing, awesome, cool, formidable, very good. It is generally used as a compliment.

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## filthy (filthy rich)

filthy lucre  
I am not immune to the lure of ~ (a writer)

filthy rich  
there's rich and then there's ~

## filthy (corruption)

filthy business  
greed has turned our health-care system into a ~

filthy mess  
we must clean up this ~ (Wall Street)

filthy politics  
we have seen eight years of ~

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Twice as many Civil War soldiers died of disease as of battle wounds. The war, Union surgeon general William A. Hammond later observed, was fought at the "end of the medical middle ages." Neither the germ theory nor the nature and necessity of antiseptics was yet understood. A wave of epidemic disease—measles, mumps, and smallpox—swept through the armies of volunteers in the early months of war, then yielded precedence to the intractable camp illness: diarrhea and dysentery, typhoid and malaria. Ether and chloroform had made military surgery a more plausible and widespread response to wounds, but lacking an understanding of antiseptics, physicians routinely spread infection with unclean instruments and dressings. After the Battle of Perryville in 1862, water was so scarce that Union surgeons performing amputations almost around the clock did not wash their hands for two days. (*This Republic of Suffering* by the great historian Drew Gilpin Faust.)

♦ "With human corpses, human excrement, and rotting rations scattered across Peleliu's ridges, the blow flies or bluebottle flies underwent a population explosion. Those nasty insects were so large, so glutted, and so lazy that some could scarcely fly... It was revolting, to say the least, to watch big fat blowflies leave a corpse and swarm into our C rations... Each morning, just before sunrise, when things were fairly quiet, I could hear a steady humming sound like bees in a hive as the flies became active with the onset of daylight. They rose off the corpses, refuse, rocks, brush, and wherever else they had settled for the night like a swarm of bees. There numbers were incredible." (*With the Old Breed* by E.B. Sledge.)

## filthy (sex)

filthy joke

he cracked ~s

filthy mind  
people who see sex in this have ~s  
old people have ~s, too

filthy piece of trash  
the book is a ~ ("*Lolita*" by VN)

called the play filthy  
Comstock ~ (*Mrs. Warren's Profession* by GBS)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Get your mind out of the gutter!" (A preoccupation with sex.)

## filthy (language)

too filthy  
the play was deemed ~ for theatres (Pinter's *Landscape*)

## finale (noun)

finale  
you've just seen the first act, the ~ is yet to come (trial)

## find (a date can find us, etc.)

finds us in Newman  
dawn the next day ~ (Western Australia)

found the travelers in Rome  
August 12 ~

## find (discover)

found that  
we ~ the language became more hostile (a study)

## find (find oneself in a place, etc.)

found myself doing something  
any time I ~ that didn't feel like the intended path...

found ourselves among other journalists  
we ~ and aid workers scrambling to escape

found ourselves trying  
we ~ to...

found ourselves cooped up  
we ~ for a while (pandemic)

find yourself in a situation  
you could ~ where you keep boosting... (vaccines)

### \*\*\* "I woke to find myself alone in a dark wood..."

♦ "Midway in our life's journey, I went astray / from the straight road and woke to find myself / alone in a dark wood..." (*The Inferno*, translated by John Ciardi.)

♦ "Over the pass we dropped at once into a gulch. The place was extraordinarily broken. Deep screes, encumbered with boulders and trunks, streams and rocks, all thickly overgrown with a carpet of moss; the whole scene reminded me vividly of a picture of Walpurgis Night. It would be hard to imagine a wilder and more repellent scene than that grim gorge." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## find (hope, etc.)

found Jesus in prison  
John Ellis Sparks ~ (Alabama murderer)

## **fine-tune (verb)**

fine-tune a search  
you can ~ by using wildcards (computers)

fine-tune scripts  
she can ~

fine-tuned the work in progress  
together they ~

## **finger (shape)**

pokes its finger  
they met where the Gulf of Issus ~ into Asia Minor

## **finger (Finger Lakes, etc.)**

Finger Bay  
~ is a bay in Alaska

Finger Butte  
~ is a summit in Arizona

Finger Canyon  
~ is a valley in Utah

Finger Cove  
~ is a bay in Clark County, Nevada

Finger Glacier  
~ is a glacier in the Hoonah-Angoon Census Area,  
Alaska

Finger Lakes  
the ~ produce an excellent Riesling (New York State)

Finger Mesa  
~ is a summit in Colorado

Finger Point  
~ is a cape in Sitka, Alaska

Finger Ridge  
~ is a ridge in Knox County, Tennessee

Finger Rock  
~ is a pillar in Tulare County, California

Devils Finger  
~ is an island in Alaska

Elizabeths Finger  
~ is a pillar in Idaho

Three Finger  
~ Lake is a lake in Morrison County, Minnesota

Five Finger  
~ Bay is a bay in Keweenaw County, Michigan

Big Finger  
~ Lake is a lake in Deschutes County, Oregon

Broken Finger  
~ Peak is a summit in Inyo County, California

Crooked Finger  
~ Prairie is a flat in Marion County, Oregon

Little Finger  
~ is a summit in La Plata County, Colorado

Middle Finger  
~ Lake is a lake in Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska

Sore Finger  
~ Creek is a stream in Williamson County, Texas

## **finger (middle finger)**

“middle finger” to everyone  
the mass party was a ~ who had suffered (pandemic)

middle finger to social norms  
he intended his haircut to be a ~ (the mullet hairstyle)

middle finger to the patriarchy  
the vengeance is not just personal, it's a ~ (women)

middle finger in the face  
it's a ~ of every American (political rhetoric)

middle-finger salute  
Verstappen gave Hamilton a ~ (F1)  
Kyrie hit the shot and gave the ~ to the Celtics fans  
the new bicycle lanes are a big ~ to us residents...

one-finger salute  
LeBron James got a *double* ~ from a brazen child

one-fingered salute  
the youths' ~ to ideology (girls' dress / Iran)

gave fans a one-finger salute  
he ~

gives the middle finger  
she ~ to haters (a singer and her lyrics)

leaves behind a middle finger  
he's boarding a plane while he ~ to Cleveland (sports)

seen as a middle finger  
it was ~ to America (Muhammad Ali refuses induction)

threw out a one finger salute  
he ~

♦ “Berlin’s tourism authority has launched an ad campaign featuring an elderly woman giving the middle finger to people who refuse to wear masks... / But the campaign has proved controversial, with some in Germany calling it insulting.” (“Coronavirus: Berlin ad sticks middle finger to mask rule breakers,” BBC, October 14, 2020.)

♦ “We should note that you did give someone the middle finger as you were leaving this event, you say it was out of frustration and you regret it...” (An otherwise sympathetic NPR interview with a public-health official about a public meeting.)

♦ “Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving has been fined \$50,000 by the NBA for ‘making obscene gestures on court...’ in their opening play-off game.” (He gave the middle finger to Boston Celtic fans. Surely a mitigating circumstance...)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ “It was like a middle finger sticking out.” (Outpost Restrepo, Korangal Valley, Afghanistan.)

♦ “An ineffective, woke, unaccountable military is an affront—to every level—to the young men who actually pull the triggers... Joes know where to point the finger—and it’s a middle finger.” (Pete Hegseth, author of *The War On Warriors: Behind The Betrayal Of The Men*)

*Who Keep Us Free.* In 2024, President-elect Donald Trump selected him to be his Secretary of Defense.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I don't get it. (Dumfounded.) Yes, I do get it. (Exasperated.) Part of social justice under this idea of being offended is that you prove you're a good person by sticking your middle finger up at very dead people in order to show that you disagree with their views." (The linguist John McWhorter about the renaming of campus buildings. "John McWhorter: Pitfalls in the Policing of Language—YouTube." Watch and listen to: [youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE))

♦ see also *flip off (verb)*

## finger (slip through one's fingers)

slipped through his fingers  
the Super Bowl has ~ again (NFL's Aaron Rodgers)

slipped through their fingers  
he ~ (a criminal)

## finger (in the snap of a finger)

went from 0 to 60 in the snap of a finger  
he ~ (car driver)

♦ "Everything happened just like that... (he snaps his fingers four times.) I was just shootin'." (Markeith Loyd. See the Wikipedia article "Markeith Loyd.")

## finger (snap one's fingers, etc.)

snap their fingers  
can they just ~ and make this happen (policy)

snap your fingers  
if you could ~ and change one thing, what would it be

♦ "There will be no snap of the fingers to make the virus disappear." (It will become endemic, here to stay.)

## finger (point a finger)

finger of blame  
he points the ~ at his business partner (trial)

finger of guilt  
pointed the ~ in this man's direction

accusing finger  
it's easy to point an ~  
the ~ has been pointed in every direction

pointing accusing fingers at white doctors  
a lot of black people today are ~

pointing fingers at the company  
people are ~

pointed the finger (of guilt) in this man's direction  
circumstantial evidence also ~

pointing the finger in a very specific direction  
they are ~ as to who's responsible for this

point fingers and criticize  
a lot of people want to ~ (disaster relief)

right to point fingers  
the US has no ~

\*\*\* the "infamous" Tuskegee Syphilis Study...

♦ "A lot of black people today are wringing their hands and pointing accusing fingers at white doctors from the public health service." (Janie Taylor, "Origins of the Infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study," NPR, August 7, 1972. It's a *seven*-part series available in its entirety at NPR. Type "Janie Taylor" in search at NPR, and all *seven* of her reports should be available. Should access change, try searching at NPR for "The digital preservation of this audio has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities" and then search through the at present 112 results for the seven episodes: "Was The Tuskegee Syphilis Study Unethical?" / "Why Weren't Tuskegee Syphilis Study Patients Given Penicillin As Treatment?" / "Were Participants Informed Of The Purpose Of Tuskegee Study?" / Tuskegee Syphilis Study Patient Believed He Was Being Treated" / "Nurse Who Worked 39 Years For The Tuskegee Syphilis Study" / "Former Director For Tuskegee Syphilis Study Believes Work Was 'Completely Ethical'" / "Origins Of The Infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study."

♦ See also "Stop Blaming Tuskegee, Critics Say. It's Not An 'Excuse' For Current Medical Racism" by April Dembosky, NPR, March 23, 2021.)

## finger (lift a finger)

lift a finger for him  
I wouldn't ~

## finger (put one's finger on something)

puts his finger on (one of the chief) difficulties  
he ~ of the movement (can't define itself)

## finger (cross one's fingers, etc.)

fingers crossed  
~, we go to Sunday full of energy (Liverpool FC)  
it's ~ that it continues... (noisy neighbors quiet down)  
~, we'll be at base camp in about 3 days (Everest)

fingers crossed approach  
many US companies resort to a ~ to cybersecurity

keeping my fingers crossed  
I was ~ (mass shooting survivor)

♦ "It's coming home... Hopefully (Fingers crossed). Realistically... probably not... but hey after almost 18 months of misery let's all get behind them and enjoy it. You never know!" (A BBC HYS writer on the eve of England vs. Ukraine at Euro 2020.)

♦ "Well, wouldn't that be lovely! It depends I guess... Yeah. Fingers crossed!"

## finger (no-no finger, finger gun, etc.)

finger gun  
some wondered if he was using ~s (NBA celebration)

finger signs  
visiting players taunt home crowds with "shush" ~ (NFL)

no-no finger  
defensive backs shake a ~ for the TV cameras (NFL)

♦ "Some observers wondered if the All-Star guard was using finger guns." (The NBA player Ja Morant, celebrating himself after scoring an ally-oop basket in overtime. He had just been reinstated to play following a long suspension for brandishing *real* pistols in online videos.)

♦ He: "How'd we do, boss?" / She: (Finger guns her approval). / He: (Suggestively) Really... / She: Yeah. / He: Holster that. / She: (Holstering her finger gun) It's holstered. It's done. Forget. You never saw it. / He: (Thumbs up). (Silly dialogue from the silly 2024 film *The Fall Guy*, Official Trailer.)

♦ "She made the finger-gun gesture with her left hand while a banner reading BANG was released. (Beyonce during her 2024 NFL

Christmas halftime show. The NFL penalizes football players from making the gesture with a 15-yard penalty.)

## finger-pointing

finger pointing

there was much ~

there is plenty of ~ going on (blame)

finger-pointing

~ began even before the fighting ended

finger pointing about what went wrong

there was a lot of ~ (Democrats / 2024 election)

finger-pointing among Democrats

her loss led to a round of ~ (election)

finger-pointing and accusations

a lot of ~ (NASA failure)

finger-pointing and (political) posturing

we must put behind us ~ and solve this problem

political finger-pointing

the ~ has begun over whether more could have been done

years of (squabbling and) finger-pointing

after ~ (UN conference)

hand-wringing and finger-pointing

the battle led to a lot of ~ in Washington (war)

squabbling and finger-pointing

after years of ~ (UN conference)

finger-pointing has begun

the political ~ over whether more could have been done

♦ "Anytime a party loses a lot of seats, there's finger-pointing. But, you know, go ahead, point fingers. From your point of view, what went wrong for the Democrats?" (NPR's Michel Martin, talking to Senator Joe Manchin about Donald Trump's victory over Kamala Harris in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## fingerprint (noun)

computer fingerprint

every visit leaves a ~

digital fingerprint

the program leaves none of the traditional ~s (malware)

genetic fingerprint

a person's nearly unique ~

Saudi fingerprints

~ are everywhere (politics)

unique (genetic) fingerprint

a person's nearly ~

♦ "Mr Impelido and Mr Mangune's fingerprints are all over the national team." (The Filipino women's national soccer team, which delighted and impressed the world at the 2023 World Cup. Super!)

## fingertip (at one's fingertips)

at his fingertips

he has helicopters and jets ~ (Vice President)

## fingertip (to one's fingertips)

to his fingertips

he was "The Baron" ~

## finger-wagging

finger-wagging

this ~ sparked a reaction (mask-wearing)

## finished (over)

finished

wasn't a great fight and AJ showed he's ~ (boxing)

## fire (a question, etc.)

fire the same questions

they would ~ over and over again (police interrogation)

fire away

if you've got any questions, ~ (boxing press conference)

fires back

Angel Reese ~ as rumors swirl (LSU basketball)

## fire (conflict)

racial fires

he is stoking the ~ (politician)

on fire

the Middle East is ~ (protests, regime change)

extinguish a fire

he was trying to ~ that would not die (civil rights)

lit the (prairie) fire

this became the spark that ~ (a political issue)

stoking the (racial) fires

he is ~ (politician)

## fire (through the fire, etc.)

through the fire

Harris has been ~ and knows what it feels like

no way, I've been ~ (politician about running again)

through the fire of (suicidal) depression

I have lived ~

pass through the fire

once children ~ of adolescence

♦ "I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the fire, 'cause I am a champion, and you're gonna hear me roar." (Lyrics of song "Roar" sung by Katy Perry.)

## fire (substance)

fire

where there's smoke, there's ~

## fire (criticism)

heavy fire

he has been taking ~ from his rivals (Democratic politics)

incoming fire

he's going to take all this ~ (a politician)



she was surprised by all the ~ she got (politics)

took (incoming) fire

I ~ on social media for that...

trained (rhetorical) fire

he ~ on the press (Vice-President Spiro Agnew)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "1st LT. Marm led his platoon through withering fire... [H]e moved quickly under heavy fire... [H]is platoon was receiving intense fire... [H]e deliberately exposed himself to draw its fire... [T]he weapon did not silence the enemy fire... [D]isregarding the intense fire directed on him and his platoon, he charged..." (From the MOH citation for Walter Joseph Marm, Jr. U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). place and date: Vicinity of Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam, 14 November 1965.)

## fire (under fire)

under fire

his judgment has repeatedly come ~

he is ~ after an unconfirmed report surfaced...

she displayed coolness ~ (political debate performance)

under fire for not arresting

the FBI is coming ~...

under fire for his policy

he has come ~ (visas)

under fire from (human rights) groups

Egypt recently came ~

come under fire

mink farms have ~ for skinning minks alive

his judgment has repeatedly ~ (a prosecutor)

## fire (draw fire, etc.)

drawing fire

the plan is ~

face fire

he is going to ~ from his fellow candidates (debate)

## fire (fire back)

firing back

Smollett is ~ and his legal team is digging in

fired back at her attackers

she ~

## fire (friendly fire)

friendly fire

see *friendly fire (military)*, *friendly fire (literal analogy)*

## fire (flash fire)

flash fire of hope

he ignited a ~ (Obama)

## fire (hold somebody's feet to the fire)

see *feet (hold somebody's feet to the fire)* **fire (on fire / feeling)**

on fire

the team came out ~ (playing well)

Erling is ~ (the great Norwegian Erling Haaland)

♦ "Erling is on fire and Kevin... The connection was perfect." (Pep Guardiola, about Luton Town 2-6 Manchester City. Haaland scored five of the goals, four of which were assisted by Kevin De Bruyne.)

## fire (fire and desire, etc.)

fire in my belly

I didn't have that ~ (to become president)

fire and desire

they have some young players with ~ (soccer)

competitive fires

he admitted his ~ had been banked (pro athlete)

## fire (light a fire under somebody)

light a fire under him

we need to ~ (motivation)

lit a fire under that boy's ass

whatever it was, something ~ (*Shawshank Redemption*)

## fire (fuel on the fire, etc.)

fire of (toxic) political warfare

this will pour fuel on the ~

added fuel to the fire

former president Trump has only ~ with his comments

adding fuel to the fire

the US is adding ~ (by sending weapons to Ukraine)

heaping more logs on the fire

he thought we needed to say something, and so we kept ~

pour fuel on the fire

this will ~ of toxic political warfare

poured gas on the fire

the president ~ with a provocative tweet (sports issue)

a tweet ~ when... (sports dispute)

throws gas on the fire

Palin ~ in Iowa (politics)

threw kerosene on an already blazing situation

his cheap shots ~

drain the fuel away

the military alone will not ~ from the jihadists

♦ "Furiously pumping the bellows is New York nonprofit The People's Forum." (And Manolo De Los Santos. At Columbia University. The protests related to the Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "I'm just adding fire to the fuel." (NFL player Ja'Marr Chase, denigrating another team. "Adding fire to the fuel"? Mmmm.)

♦ "Yeah, I generally think this is a fairly minor deal. At the same time, it could actually backfire on Bill Barr. Because, if he thinks it's necessary to pre-spin this, that means that there's something in there that needs to be pre-spun. And if he's too heavy handed about that, it can actually just throw gasoline on the daily media feeding frenzies that we have [inaudible]." (The commentator Jonah Goldberg on "Before Mueller Report Is Released, Republicans And Democrats Take Sides," NPR's Morning Edition, April 18, 2019. "Throw gasoline on a feeding frenzy"? Mmmm.)

## fire (play with fire)

playing with fire

you better be careful, you're ~

I was ~, it was just a matter of time before I got caught

♦ "I hope they appreciate the degree to which they are playing with fire." (Diplomacy.)

♦ "Macron's decision to call the snap election elicited shock and clichés: he was playing with fire, rolling the dice, holding a gun to the country's head." ("The Battle For France" by Lauren Collins, *The New Yorker*, December 16, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Play with fire, and you'll get burned."

## fire (catch fire)

caught fire

none of these websites have taken off and ~

the youth movement ~ (US / counterculture)

his campaign ~ in the spring (politics)

his senate race ~ in 2018 (politics)

her campaign never ~ or even showed signs of a spark

catches fire

around 2015, suddenly the movement ~ (flat earthers)

interest (in Dante) caught fire

Harvard was where his ~ (the poet John Ciardi)

## fire (hang fire)

hung fire

for almost two months, Scott's plans ~

hung fire for eight minutes

the way you ~ at the beginning (he delayed the start)

hung fire for a while

the case has ~ (Pakistan refuses to release diplomat)

hang fire until the 111th Congress convenes

both bills will likely ~ (a delay)

die, hang fire, or are lost

the bills ~ in limbo (in the US Senate)

## fire (five alarm fire, etc.)

five-alarm fire

this should have been a ~ in the White House, but...

the June debate was a ~ for Democrats (Biden vs. Trump)

5-alarm fire

there's no ~ (water drought not an emergency)

10-alarm fire

you'd think it would be a ~ (warnings about AI)

♦ "I've been trying to tell everyone, 'The barn's on fire! The barn's on fire!'"

## firebomb (noun)

rhetorical firebomb

this was a ~ that he deliberately detonated ("lynching")

## firebrand (person)

firebrand congressman

the ~ has withdrawn from consideration for the post

firebrand Republican

the ~ from Florida...

liberal firebrand

~ Elizabeth Warren took center stage at the heated forum

he is not known as a ~ (a Democratic politician)

## fired up

fired up

I'm ~ and ready to go to the finals (victor)

feeling fired up

I am ~ (Barak Obama at the 2024 DNC)

## firefight (and fire fight)

firefight

Joshua backed off, wary of a ~ (against Usyk / boxing)

here we see the ~ that we anticipated (boxing)

firefight ensued

but Skeete was clearly dazed and a ~ (boxing match)

continue the firefight

Khan needs to take control rather than ~ (boxing)

♦ "Here comes the firefight that we knew was going to happen." (A boxing commentator about furious action.)

## firehose (amount)

firehose of disinformation

I think the greatest threat is this ~ (CISA official / election)

## fire up (verb)

fire up the Democratic foot soldiers

she wants to ~ (politics)

fire up the Democratic base

he wants to ~

## firestorm (noun)

firestorm of controversy

the pandemic has created a ~ here (mandates, etc.)

firestorm of criticism

the government is trying to respond to a ~

he was fired after a ~ (a comic from SNL)

firestorm of envy

it would create a ~ (a transfer)

firestorm over his allegations

the ~ shows no sign of abating

media firestorm

his threat to burn the holy book caused a ~

political firestorm

his report created a ~ (Robert K Hur Feb. 2024 report)

viral firestorm

the wrongly edited footage set off a ~

political and public relations firestorm

his firing ignited a ~ (free-speech issue)

at the center of a firestorm

she is already ~ (CEO of NPR)

at the center of a (political) firestorm

the oil leak has put BP ~ (oil spill)

created a firestorm

the book has ~

ignited a (national) firestorm

he ~ with his blog post

set off a firestorm

he ~ of opposition when he...

found himself in a firestorm

he ~ after key investor withdrawals (hedge fund)

whipped the criticisms of the press into a firestorm

this ~ (a public statement)

\*\*\* **"For the first time in my life I beheld a raging forest fire at close quarters..."**

♦ "For the first time in my life I beheld a raging forest fire at close quarters, a fearful spectacle! Enormous cedars, gripped by the flame, were blazing like colossal torches. Beneath them, on the ground, was a sea of fire. Everything was burning, grass, fallen leaves, trunks, logs, stumps. We could hear living trees groan and burst from the heat. The yellow smoke rolled upwards in enormous billows. Waves of fire raced over the ground. Tongues of flame wound round the stumps and licked the red-hot rocks... I saw a wild boar make his way across the river, a big snake swim sinuously over, and a woodpecker flew from tree to tree like a mad thing, while a nutcracker never ceased its raucous chatter..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## firing line (noun)

take him out of the firing line

the best thing was ~ to clear his head (a soccer player)

♦ "The best thing was take him out of the firing line to clear his head. I am a firm believer where the mind goes, the rest will follow." (A comment about Erik ten Hag giving Jadon Sancho an extended break from Manchester United.)

see also *line of fire*

## firing squad

circular firing squad

his poll numbers fell further following the ~ (Biden / 2024)

literary firing squads

and then come the ~ (Amos Oz about criticism)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "The twelve soldiers, under the command of an officer, stood in front of the condemned man. The sentence [for desertion to the enemy] was read and the provost-marshal drew a cap over the man's eyes. Then the officer gave the stern commands: 'Get ready, aim, fire!' Eleven bullets struck the young man; still he was not dead. The provost-marshal was obliged to use his own revolver, to put him out of pain. Scenes like this jarred my nerves much more than a battle. And now, when more than a quarter of a century has passed since this took place, it causes a shuddering sensation to think of it; still more to write all the circumstances of such a dreadful spectacle."

(From *Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. He served through the Civil War.)

♦ "An army's bravest men are its cowards. The death which they would not meet at the hands of the enemy they will meet at the hands of their officers, with never a flinching." ("What I saw of Shiloh" by Ambrose Bierce. Union soldiers executed for cowardice.)

♦ "During the first world war, there were more than 300 British soldiers who were executed for desertion... which is considerably more people—several times the number—of German soldiers who were executed for similar offenses during the war. The Germans became far more draconian during World War II. There has been a long battle in recent decades for getting posthumous pardons for these men and it has become a proxy battle about how the war itself is to be remembered." (Adam Hochschild, talking about his book, *To End All Wars*. From "Tracing The Divides In The War To End All Wars," NPR, Fresh Air, April 27, 2012.)

♦ "Dawn. The whole company is standing waiting in a small woodland glade. The firing squad is also there, as is the doctor. And the priest, who is trembling with fear at what is to happen. The first of the two prisoners arrives..." (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England. [Footnote: The Italian army executed just over 1,000 of its own men during the war, which is far more than the number executed in the British army (361), not to mention the German army (48). Over 15,000 Italian troops were condemned to life imprisonment for crimes against military discipline and many of them remained in prison long after the war was over, in some cases until 1945. The Italian commander-in-chief, Luigi Cadorna, insisted on 'iron discipline.'"]

♦ "One day, just as we were sitting down to dinner, three men were brought to the door of the tent by the Provo. The case against them was clear, and I had nothing for it but to decide that they should be led away and hanged in some place where they might be seen by the whole column in its march next day. I had a good many guests with me on that occasion, and they seemed dreadfully shocked and could not eat their dinner. I didn't like it much myself, but, as I told them, I had no time to indulge my feelings, I must do my duty. Well, the dinner went off rather gravely, and next morning, sure enough, three men in uniform were seen hanging from the branches of a tree close to the high road. It was a terrible example and produced the desired effect. But you may guess my astonishment when, some months afterwards, I learned that one of my staff took counsel with Doctor Hume, and as three men had just died in hospital, they hung them up and let the three culprits return to their regiments. I suppose I was angry at first. But as I had no wish to take the poor fellows' lives and only wanted the example, and as the example had the desired effect, my anger soon died out and I confess to you, that I'm very glad now that the three lives were spared." (Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, during the Peninsular War of 1807-1814.)

♦ Read the novella "Billy Budd" by Herman Melville. Hanged.

♦ Watch the emotionally affecting 1980 film, *Breaker Morant*.

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Eddie Slovik." The U.S. Army. World War II.

## firewall (computers)

firewall

upgraded the ~ that was supposed to keep hackers out

firewall program

you can download a good ~ (computer)

firewall software

Windows XP includes basic ~ (Internet security)

firewall, network and browser (m)

flaws in its ~ settings (Windows)

Great Firewall

the ~ of China can censor the Internet

high-security firewall

~s that protect secret data (computers)

## firewall (other)

firewall

black voters are his “~” (they will vote for him)

firewall against Nancy Pelosi’s agenda

we are the ~ (Trump Republicans)

firewall hopes

his ~ aren’t unfounded (politician needs black vote)

firewall state

his campaign needs a good result in his ~

build firewalls

bankruptcy courts can ~ around a company’s assets

## fireworks (conflict)

fireworks

this congressional hearing was notable for its ~

♦ Domenico Montanaro: And I never quite heard at a debate another candidate call another fellow colleague ‘scum,’ and that’s what Nikki Haley did, and it was really kind of surprising to hear... / Leila Fadel: So some fireworks there... (Heard on NPR.)

## firmament (noun)

public-health firmament

nobody in the ~ was doing anything (early days of AIDS)

literary firmament

he became a nova in Florence’s ~ (Dante)

stars of the (democratic foreign-policy) firmament

they are the ~

part of the (political) firmament

he has just been ~ for so long (Joe Biden)

place in the (current Democratic) firmament

he doesn’t occupy the ~ that Schiff does

star in the (neoconservative) firmament

Bloom had become a ~

star in the (Lincoln) firmament

General Grant was a rising ~

firmament has changed

the ~ rapidly (the PGA versus LIV Golf)

star has dimmed in the Hollywood firmament

his ~ (bad behavior)

## first (metaverse-first, etc.)

metaverse-first

Facebook turned itself into a ~ firm (Meta)

## first lady (of Brazilian jazz, etc.)

first lady of Brazilian jazz

Leny Andrade, known as the ~

“The First Lady of Southern Cooking”

Miss Edna Regina Lewis was fondly known by many as

~

## fish (verb)

fishing for information

she was ~

fishing for referrals

he is always ~ (a businessman)

♦ “As long as men height-fish, income-fish, marital status-fish, I will keep hood fishing!!!!” (“What is ‘hoodfishing’? The sneaky new trend singles are trying to cast a wider net in NYC” by Deirdre Bardolf, *The New York Post*, Aug. 10, 2024.)

\*\*\* magnet fishing, or fishing with magnets for metallic objects...

♦ Magnet fishing became popular in the U.S. during the pandemic. People used magnets to fish iron objects from lakes, rivers, and oceans. The powerful magnets depend on the rare-earth metal neodymium, which is mostly mined in China. (“Magnet fishing got people hooked, but China and green tech are threatening its future” by Fernando Alfonso III, NPR, National, August 11, 2022.)

## fish (big fish)

big fish

the arrest is big progress because he is a ~ (LRA leader)

the first ~ to testify was Vincent “Fat Vinnie” Teresa

bigger fish

red tape across Europe enables the ~ to slip away (crime)

big fish in a small pond

back home, I was a ~ (a model now in Miami)

go find a place where you can be a ~ (resign)

get the big fish

the only way you can ~ is through the little fish (crime)

♦ “The [BBC], once a shark in the media pond, is now a mere sardine in a media ocean.” (Clever writing from BBC Six O’Clock News, 26/05/2022.)

## fish (small fish)

small fish

he was a ~ (an elderly Nazi)

## fish (prey)

found his fish

he ~ (a pool shark in a poolroom)

♦ “Back home I was a big fish in a small pond, but in Miami I’m just a minnow surrounded by sharks.” (A model.)

\*\*\* “The Chinese employ the following method...”

♦ “The Chinese employ the following method of catching fish. They build a dam across a stream with stones from one bank to the other, leaving an opening in the middle. The water trickles between the stones, but the fish find their way down the main stream through the opening, where they are caught in an enclosure built of osiers. The Chinese visit it two or three times a day and like that catch plenty of fish.” (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ “In the creeks the water was well frozen. The ice was smooth as a mirror, clean, and transparent. Through it we could clearly distinguish the shallow parts and the deep pools, the weeds, stones, and waterlogged trunks. The natives cut some holes through the ice and let down a double net. When it was dark they lit their rush torches and ran in the direction of the holes, every now and then hammering on the ice with their mauls. Terrified at the light and noise, the bewildered fish dashed forwards and were caught in the nets.” (An Udehé fishing trip. From *Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You need to bait the hook to catch the fish.

## fish (fish out of water)

fish out of water

I was a ~ out there (rookie NASCAR driver)

fish out of water in Miami

Raylan Givens, ~ (the 2010-2015 TV series *Justified*)

## fish (different kettle of fish)

different kettle of fish

we're a ~ (southeastern vs west Michiganders)

Holmes was a ~, he didn't like people all that much...

different kettle of (royal) fish

King Charles is a ~... (Alan Rusbridger)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "That's a different animal." "That's a different beast." "That's a different kettle of fish." Take your pick!

## fishbowl (in a fishbowl)

living in a fishbowl

she hated ~ (a celebrity)

works in a fishbowl

everyone in media today ~ (criticism, etc.)

## fishbowl (other)

fishbowl

his office was a ~

## fisheye (fisheye view, etc.)

fisheye view

a ~ from Spirit's navigation camera shows... (Mars)

## fishing (Latino-fishing, etc.)

Asianfishing

cultural mimicry like Blackfishing or ~ (Latino-fishing)

Blackfishing

"From Blackface To ~" (NPR, Code Switch, 2019)

hoodfishing

~, or pretending to live in New York City (dating apps)

Latino-fishing

~, pretending to be Latino (Manuela Lopez Restrepo)

Rosalia is a key name in any discussion of ~ (Spanish star)

catfishing

see *catfishing* (noun)

sadfishing

see *sadfishing* (noun)

♦ "How Latin identity became fodder for content" by Manuela Lopez Restrepo, NPR, Pop Culture, December 10, 2022.

♦ "As long as men height-fish, income-fish, marital status-fish, I will keep hood fishing!!!!" ("What is 'hoodfishing'? The sneaky new trend singles are trying to cast a wider net in NYC" by Deirdre Bardolf, *The New York Post*, Aug. 10, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary does not at yet have an entry for "-fishing." At its entry for "fishing," on the list of "derived terms, you will find "Jonah fishing" and "compliment fishing." Wiktionary *does* have entries for "blackfishing" and "sadfishing," but not yet for "hoodfishing." Merriam-Webster has an entry for "blackfishing" but not for "Latino-fishing." Dictionaries are weird.

## fishtail (verb)

fishtails

the vehicle ~ under hard steering (rollover accidents)

## fishy (something smells fishy, etc.)

something fishy

cops were pretty sure that ~ was going on

he noticed ~ (a scam)

smells fishy

something ~

smelled (very) fishy

the timing ~ (article causes stock to plunge)

noticed something fishy

he ~ (a scam)

♦ "Doesn't pass the smell test." "Something is fishy about the story." "Something fishy here about her." "At first, the story just smelled funny, now it reeks." (Online commenters. See the Wikipedia article "Carlee Russell disappearance hoax.")

♦ "There's something dead up the branch." (A Southern Appalachians expression. A branch is a watercourse like a creek or a stream.)

## fissure (noun)

deep fissure

the resignations revealed a ~ among Afghan leaders

## fist (armored fist, etc.)

armored fist

the ~ of the tank-heavy 1991 Persian Gulf War

♦ "Paulus could gather his forces into a single fist." (At Stalingrad. World War II.)

## fist (a boss with an iron fist, etc.)

ran the company with an iron fist

he ~

treated with an iron fist

some patients are ~ (mentally ill, etc.)

♦ "High up in their nests, they rule over their kingdom with an iron claw..." (Australian magpies in spring. The males are notorious for "swooping" people.)

## fist (a leader with an iron fist)

iron fist of a brutal dictator

my grandparents fled the ~

rule with an iron fist

strong men use popularism and charisma to ~

rules with an iron fist

he ~ (a dictator)

ruled Syria with an iron fist

he ~ for almost a quarter of a century (Bashar al-Assad)

## **fist (wave one's fist)**

waving her gen X fist at millennials  
maybe she is ~ to get off her lawn (Meghan Daum)

## **fist bump (noun)**

equivalent of a fist-bump  
Benet gave Justice the Twitter ~ (bro-ing up / support)

## **fit (adjective)**

fit to stand trial  
a psychiatrist determined that she was ~

## **fit in (verb)**

fit in  
he ~ well (a teammate)

## **fitness (ability)**

fitness to practice  
aging doctors' ~ has come under question

fitness for office  
some question his ~

fitness of Thomas  
the association split on the ~ for the Supreme Court

reproductive fitness  
~ is a factor in evolution

spiritual fitness  
the Army now assesses the ~ of troops (US)

spiritual-fitness  
soldiers are suing to eliminate the ~ assessment (US)

## **fix (verb)**

fix it  
the economy is broken, and Obama can't ~

fix relations  
the US is trying to ~ (with Pakistan)

♦ FTFY = fixed that for you. Often used sarcastically.

## **fix (daily fix, etc.)**

daily fix  
news junkies can get a ~ (Web site)

weekly fix  
it's Fight Talk, your ~ of boxing news (BBC boxing)

♦ Laksa fever; "everyone's just contracted this laksa fever"; "the love child of Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean cuisine"; love for laksa; a thing that people love; craving a fix (for laksa); the mania (for laksa); a city obsessed (with laksa); the laksa obsession; the faithful; a giant shrine is erected (for monthlong laksa festival); laksa ice-cream / smoothies / cheesecake / sausage / crocodile dumplings / beer; the Laksa Festival Hall of Fame; the Golden Bowl award for best laksa... ("How laksa fever took hold in this Australian city" by the wonderful writer Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC, October 31. 2023. Life at "The Top End" of Oz. Super!)

## **fizzle (and fizzle out)**

fizzled out in the playoffs

the team ~

fizzle fast  
most memes ~ (but not Florida Man)

investigation fizzled out  
the police department's ~ (a murder)

♦ "How the economy went from sizzle to fizzle."

## **flabby (adjective)**

flabby reasoning  
but this is ~

## **flag**

false flag  
see *false flag* (subterfuge)

red flag  
see *red flag* (warning)

white flag  
see *white flag* (surrender)

## **flag (rally around the flag)**

rallied around the flag and their president  
many Russians have ~

rally-round-the-flag effect  
sometimes there has been a ~ for a president

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "About ten thousand wounded soldiers were in the care of thirty or forty surgeons. Still, a fellow worker described Barton as a cheerful spirit, seeming to be everywhere in her blue dress and white apron. He remembered that she sometimes encouraged the men to join her in singing 'Rally Round the Flag, Boys.'" (*Clara Barton: Civil War Nurse* by Nancy Whitelaw. Historical American Biographies. Of course, "the Angel of the Battlefield" was not always cheerful in her life. But in the face of horror, she knew how to put on a brave face.)

♦ "Yes we'll rally round the flag, boys, we'll rally once again / Shouting the battle cry of freedom / We will rally from the hillside, we'll gather from the plain / Shouting the battle cry of freedom!" (The "Battle Cry of Freedom," also known as "Rally 'Round the Flag.")

## **flag (false flag)**

see *false flag* (subterfuge)

## **flag (raise a flag, etc.)**

raised the Beaujolais flag  
he ~ all over the world (Georges Duboeuf)

## **flag (plant one's flag)**

plant my flag  
this is what should happen, this is where I ~, we must do this

planted his flag in that stretch of cyberspace  
he ~, declaring that... (defending his company)

planting their flag about what  
this is them ~ they're going to do now (celebrity couple)

♦ "It's disheartening to see him plant a flag on this hill." (A popular-culture critic criticizing a very great comedian for making comments referencing transgender people, and for refusing to back down and apologize for those comments.)



## flag (flag of convenience)

flag of convenience

race relations is the ~ under which it sailed (Broadway)

♦ “*Porgy and Bess* is a buncha good songs but has nothing to do with race relations, which is the flag of convenience under which it sailed.” (The great playwright David Mamet, from “Why I Am No Longer a ‘Brain Dead Liberal,’” *The Village Voice*, March 11, 2008.)

## flag-bearer

party's flag-bearer

the decision shortened his run as his ~ (politics)

## flagellation (noun)

self-flagellation

~ versus self-congratulation (debate over US history)

## flagpole (run something up the flagpole)

run it up the flagpole

when you ~ for review...

running up the flag pole

the administration is ~ the idea of a tax that... (just an idea)

## flagship (superlative)

flagship campus

the university of Illinois' ~ (at Urbana-Champaign)

flagship dealership

Mercedes-Benz USA is building a ~ (330,000 sq/ft)

flagship fund

investors are withdrawing from his ~

flagship imprint

he will control the company's ~, Simon & Schuster

flagship (public) institution

the university is a ~

flagship plank

this was the ~ of Labour's economic policy (scuttled)

flagship product

the car competes with similar ~s

flagship restaurant

he is moving his ~ to the Left Bank (Guy Savoy)

flagship shows

CBS has announced major changes to its ~ (anchors, etc.)

flagship (E-commerce) site

the company's ~

flagship (Orion) software

SolarWinds has updated its ~

flagship store

Ralph Lauren's new ~ on Madison Avenue

Macy's ~ in Herald Square

flagship universities

the drive for diversity at ~ (US)

flagship venture

the probe is a ~ of the European Space Agency

\*\*\* “**God gave us victory, but Nelson died!**”

♦ “The helm was then ported, and the *Victory* run with terrible force on board the *Redoubtable*... / On the other side Captain Harvey, in the old *Temeraire*, 98 guns, fell on board the luckless *Redoubtable*; but another ship of the enemy fell on board the *Temeraire*, 'so that those four ships formed as compact a tier as if they had been moored together, their heads lying all the same way.' / This compelled the crew of the *Victory* to depress the guns of the middle and lower decks, and fire with lessened service of powder, lest their balls should pass through the *Redoubtable* and injure the *Temeraire* beyond... From both sides of the *Victory* the cannonade was unremitting; her larboard playing upon both the *Bucentaure* and the towering *Santissima Trinidad*.” (“Trafalgar, 1805,” from *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ HMS *Victory* was Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar. J.M.W. Turner's great painting “The Fighting Temeraire” (1839) is an elegy for the great ships of the line. But they live on in the language. They live on!

## flak (criticism)

flak from those

journalists often take ~ they criticize

flak for the photo shoot

yeah, I do catch ~, and I totally don't care

flak and responsibility

I'm the manager and I'll take the ~ (Ole Solskjaer)

heavy flak

she had taken ~ for suggesting... (an academic)

brunt of the flak

the head coach is taking the ~ (Scotland / Euro 2024)

catches flak

Obama ~ for remarks on working class

take the flak

I'm the manager and I'll ~ and responsibility (Ole Solskjaer)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun (“they bring a knife, you bring a gun”), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... (“How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language,” Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

♦ “[W]e received the word *flak* from a German contraction. It is made up of *Flieger*, ‘aviator,’ *Abwehr*, ‘defense,’ and *Kanonen*, ‘guns.’ Here we have the origin of the anti-aircraft fire that our airmen had to face.” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 13, “War Words and Their Histories.”)

## flame (life is a flame)

flame flickered (lower) and (at last) went out

the ~ (death)

♦ “Like most creatures of the Wild, the grey cub early experienced famine. There came a time when not only did the meat-supply cease, but the milk no longer came from his mother's breast. At first the cubs whimpered and cried, but for the most part they slept...reduced to a coma of hunger...while the life that was in them flickered and died down. When the grey cub came back to life...he found...only one

sister remained to him. The rest were gone. [And] the food had come too late for her. She slept continuously, a tiny skeleton flung round with skin in which the flame flickered lower and lower and at last went out." (*White Fang* by Jack London.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "The gust that breathes life into some flames, blows others out."  
("From 'The Baltic Seas'" by Tomas Tranströmer.)

♦ see also *candle* (*candle of hope, etc.*)

## **flame (moth to a flame, etc.)**

see *moth* (*a moth to a flame, etc.*)

## **flame (keeper of the flame, etc.)**

keeper of the (poet's) flame

Valerie Eliot, the ~... (T.S. Eliot)

## **flame (in flames)**

up in flames

with yet another relationship ~, all bets are off (marriage)

go down in flames

I'm watching you ~ failing)

shot down in flames

its strategy has been ~ (a political party)

## **flame (pour gas on the flames, etc.)**

fan the flames

this senator sought to further ~ of division

they just ~ to get clicks (the media online)

fanned the flames

he has ~ of white supremacy in this nation (politics)

he has ~ of the controversy

fanning the flames

his policies are ~ (of Arab rage)

he is ~ of hostility towards Muslims (a politician)

fuel the flames

don't ~ (a controversy)

pouring gas on the flames

it's not just Scarborough ~ (politics / MSNBC)

pouring gasoline on the flames

he didn't start the fire, but he is guilty of ~ (anti-vaxxer)

stoking the flames

extremists are ~ of intolerance

ignite and fan the flames

it's a way to ~ of an epidemic (wildlife markets)

## **flame (conflict)**

flames of division

this senator sought to further fan the ~

flames of hostility

he is fanning the ~ towards Muslims (a politician)

flames of intolerance

extremists are stoking the ~

flames of revolt

Libya is going up in the ~

flames (of strife) flickered out

as the ~ in the US (the Civil War ends)

## **flameout (noun)**

Hindenburg-level flameout

the Twitter Blue rollout turned into a ~ (Elon Musk)

complete flameout

he had a ~

## **flame out (verb)**

flame out

it's a trend that's unlikely to ~ (vaping)

## **flank (side)**

flanks of a mountain

half a mile up on the ~, the Yangtze looked like...

## **flank (protection)**

left flank of the culture wars

it has taken up the ~ (Southern Poverty Law Center)

♦ "When it comes to outflanking its adversaries in Asia, concedes a senior American official, 'America sucks'." (*The Economist*.)

## **flare (noun)**

send up a flare

if engineers spot a problem, they can more easily ~

## **flare (verb)**

flares in the Delta

political violence regularly ~ (Nigeria / oil, etc.)

flared on (Russia's) border

fighting ~ with Georgia today...

flared for a third day

Christian-Muslim violence ~ in Kaduna

flared into violence

pent-up frustrations have ~ (Nigeria)

flared with a new ugliness

racial hatred has ~

flared sporadically

sectarian violence has ~ across the country (Nigeria)

conflicts will flare

generational ~ (baby boomers vs. Gen X, etc.)

fighting flared

~ on Russia's border with Georgia today...

issue has flared

the ~ in the wake of 2 incidents (fans invade field)

tempers flare

the appropriate response when ~ in business meetings

tempers flared

at airports, ~ (weather delays)

~ as the team wilted (sports)

tempers are flaring  
~ over the oil spill

tensions (with Georgia) flared  
the latest ~ on July 27 when...

uprising flared  
an ~ after the cancellation of a general election (Algeria)

caused tempers to flare  
police said the hot weather ~

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Tempers were flared and strong words were exchanged between us." (An eggcorn? The use of the passive sounds odd.)

## flare up (verb)

flare up  
a few years ago his asthma started to ~

battles have been flaring up  
biker ~ around California and the West...

controversy flared up  
since the ~ over the issue (eating dog meat)

unrest flared up  
serious ~ following the killing of protesters

## flare-up (noun)

flare-up  
drawing lessons from the ~  
Muslim prayers at the shrine passed without a ~

flare-up of their (long-running) feud  
the latest ~ (2 NASCAR drivers)

border flareup  
a war, a skirmish, a ~

current flareup  
the ~

latest flare-up  
the ~ of their long-running feud (2 NASCAR drivers)

war, skirmish, or a (border) flareup  
a ~

## flash (noun)

flash and glitz  
the trappings of showbiz ~ (Hollywood)

## flash in the pan

flash in the pan  
this is not a ~ (success of tennis player Emma Raducanu)

flash-in-the-pan trends  
~ or the tides of social media (vs. longevity / fashion)

## flashpoint (noun)

flashpoint of the (civil-rights) era  
Philadelphia, Mississippi was a ~ (murders)

flashpoint of resistance

Fallujah has been a ~ to occupation (Iraq)

flash point of (two) wars  
Kashmir has been the ~

flashpoint in this debate  
the ~ was...

flashpoint in the (national) debate  
the case has become a ~ over immigration (Laken Riley)

flashpoint for (racial) antagonism  
the book was a ~

flashpoint for violence  
the area has become a ~ (in Jerusalem)

flashpoint issues  
the ~ of our times (guns, abortion, religion)

political flashpoint  
her murder has become a ~ (by illegal immigrant)

become a flash point  
his suicide has ~ (teacher and education)

## flatfooted (caught flatfooted)

caught the army flatfooted  
the insurgency ~ (Iraq)

caught flatfooted  
the Defense department can't be ~ (contingency plans)  
we were ~, we never saw it coming (Uber's success)

## flation (lunchflation, etc.)

greedflation  
why Canada grocers are accused of '~'  
high grocery prices don't automatically mean ~ (NPR)

inflation  
see *inflation* (noun)

lunchflation  
'~' price rises hit hungry workers

shrinkflation  
~, less in the package for the same price (food, etc.)

skimpflation  
~, skimping on the quality of a product or service  
~ is an even sneakier form of shrinkflation

stagflation  
the "stag" part of ~ is *stagnation*

tip-flation  
~ sees some restaurants asking for 30% tips

tipflation  
~, being asked to tip more...  
so-called ~ has resulted in tipping rage (NPR)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Go to Wiktionary, type in "inflation," then click on "derived terms," and you will get a nice list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## flatline (verb)

flatlined

the show was stale, we had ~ (lost popularity)

flatlined with inert sexual chemistry

the film ~ between... (a bad review)

caused her relationships to flatline

fame ~

♦ "Arsenal: Freddie Ljungberg has flatlined and lifeless Gunners are heading south," by Phil McNulty, Chief football writer, 15 December 2019.

## flatten (verb)

flatten you

the fever, aches and chills can ~ fast (ad for flu medicine)

## flattened (emotion)

flattened

you will be ~ by the end of the movie, you'll be floored

## flavor (flavor of the month)

flavor-of-the-month

the requirements have a ~ feeling (demands on nurses)

## flavor (regional flavor, etc.)

flavor of old Istanbul

he highlights the rich ~ (novelist Jason Goodwin)

flavor of youth

no other book better catches the ~ in wartime

local flavor

crowds prefer musical theater with a ~ (Singapore)

regional flavor

the race has a ~ now (running)

American flavor

audiences are enjoying the festival's ~ (ballet in Cuba)

Southern flavor

the one-man show is rich with ~

1970s flavor

all the running added to the game's ~ (football)

\*\*\* **Walrus flippers with sea cabbage...**

♦ "Walrus flippers with sea cabbage. It's delicious food." (Ludmilla Ainana, a 66-year-old woman, reminiscing on the food she ate at coastal camps as a child.)

♦ "Squirrel soup with a lot of hot peppers is very popular." (Hmong maintain their hunting tradition in the US.)

♦ "Wasna, a patty Lakota elders used to fashion from the kidney fat and meat of bison mashed with chokeberries..."

♦ "You crave it." (A Native American on the delight of fry bread.)

♦ "When you eat them they squirm in your mouth and then you bite them." (Grubs from the Sago tree in Papua New Guinea.)

♦ "Australian Aborigines like witchetty grubs."

♦ "The staple food in this region is tsampa. This is how they prepare it..." (*Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer, from the chapter, "The Village of Happiness.")

♦ "Ahh, I had that back on the farm in Cuba"; "I had that when I was a kid in Panama"; "Oh! I had this in Cha Nang"; People from the Philippines want Caribous; Jamaicans want Julies; people from India want Alphonse; *langras* from Benares (tart); *dussehris* from Lucknow (sweet and smooth); *chusnis* (for those who prefer to suck)... (Mangoes.)

## flawed (adjective)

flawed

the studies turned out to be ~

he was not a mean man but he was ~

## flawless (adjective)

flawless

his performance was ~ (sports)

## fledgling (adjective)

fledgling democracy

support for Nigeria's ~

Iraq's ~ seems to be coming of age

fledgling firm

most of these ~s will fail (dot-coms)

fledgling government

foreign aid to help the ~ (Afghanistan)

fledgling (electronic publishing) market

the ~

fledgling sport

if the ~ can take off (snowkiting)

fledgling space station

the three batteries were ferried to the ~

♦ Man: That's pretty good for a fledgling charity. / Woman: 'Fledgling'? I'm impressed. (Silly dialog from an episode of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.)

♦ "Television was a fledgling, barely out of the nest, when I began..." (The beloved actress and comedienne Betty White, "the First Lady of Television," known to many for the TV series *The Golden Girls*.)

## flee (verb)

flee the heat and humidity

they ~ (Egyptians go to the coast)

## fleeced

getting fleeced

we are ~ (universities, by academic publishers)

## fleet (amount)

fleet of ambulances

a ~ converged outside the school (a school shooting)

## flense (verb)

flense useful details off a rotten mass of lies

queer historians have had to ~

\*\*\* **whales, walruses, seals...**

♦ "Before oil, there was whale oil."

♦ "We stopped killing whales for oil only when kerosene and finally electric bulbs provided better and cheaper lighting."

♦ "We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles." (Thomas Edison, December, 1879.)

♦ “The first great oil fortunes in the United States were established not by Texans poking into the hard-baked earth, but by New England mariners roaming the seas in search of whales... Blacksmiths made whaling irons and harpoons, rivets, and nails; coopers made casks; boatwrights fashioned sturdy whaleboats from local timber; outfitters stocked all manner of goods for voyages that often lasted three or four years; artisans fashioned sails and rigging; managers and clerks tabulated profits and losses, expenses, insurance costs, and wages, and kept track of the ever-changing price per barrel of oil. For the sailors there were boarding houses, saloons that sold delirium and death, dance halls, and brothels. An equally furious and busy industry dedicated itself to converting oil and whalebone into lamp oil, watch oil, candles, hairpins, and corsets. America ran on the by-products of slaughtered whales. Whale oil greased the nation’s machines and illuminated its nights. Their oil lubricated watches, clocks and guns. Wealthy young women wore corsets of whalebone and perfume containing ambergris, a waxy substance found in the whale’s intestines. At the top of a sperm whale’s head was a case containing up to 500 gallons of pure, fine oil, just waiting to be scooped up. At the end of a long voyage, a fortunate ship might groan back toward home port bulging with 4,000 barrels of oil—worth more than \$100,000. (*Hetty: The Genius and Madness of America’s First Female Tycoon* by Charles Slack.)

♦ “Throughout the 1870s, American whaling vessels had taken as many as 125,000 walrus from the Bering Strait region. The slaughter had proved to be a lucrative sideline to the whaling business. The whalers cooked the animal’s blubber into oil and hacked off the tusks to sell in ivory markets as far away as England and China. In a single season in 1876, more than 35,000 Bering walrus were killed... the whalers could render more than twenty gallons of oil from the blubber of a single mature bull.” ...” (*In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette* by Hampton Sides.)

♦ “The results of Cook’s intrusion into Tahiti and Australia had been bad enough for the native peoples: for the Antarctic animals it was a holocaust. His account of his voyage in the *Resolution* was naturally of intense interest to the whaling and sealing industry in the northern hemisphere, where the catch was already diminishing in the closing years of the eighteenth century. Here now was news of a magnificent hunting ground in the far south: seals and whales by the million, all ready for the taking. From Le Havre in France and Hull in England, and from New Bedford and Nantucket in America, the whaling and the sealing fleets set out. / No one will ever know how many whales and seals were killed in the southern ocean in the ensuing fifty years. Was it ten million or fifty million? Figures become meaningless; the killing went on and on until there was virtually nothing left to kill, nothing at any rate that could be easily and profitably killed. / The sealers came first. With the aid of Cook’s charts they found their way down to the desolate islands he had discovered, and then went on to explore many new coasts and islands on their own account. There was a devastating simplicity in their methods: they clubbed the animals to death... / In the South Shetlands a single ship would expect to take as many as 9,000 seals in three weeks, and there is a record of two ships and sixty men demolishing 45,000 in one season. And since every pelt was worth a guinea—in some markets like Canton in China very much more—there was every inducement for the slaughter to go on to the better end. An end, however, there had to be; and by the eighteen-thirties fur seals in the southern ocean were virtually extinct, and sea-lions and sea-elephants were dying out as well. / The main attack was now diverted to the whales, and in an age that needed oil for its candles (not to speak of the whalebone for such articles as umbrellas and women’s corsets), this was an even more profitable trade than sealing... The first comers in the South Pacific hardly needed to go to sea at all; the whaler simply set up a shore factory in some estuary where the animals were known to breed and then attacked them from small boats. There were dozens of such places: the Bay of Islands in New Zealand, the Derwent Estuary in Tasmania, all the coves and inlets along the deserted coasts of southern, western and eastern Australia... / In the Derwent River estuary where it had once been dangerous to sail in a small boat because of the numbers of right whales there—mostly pregnant mothers either calving or about to calve—a massacre went on year after year until the animals were wiped out. And so the hunt went on from May to October in all the breeding and mating grounds along the New Zealand and Australian coasts... / In these conditions it was not long before bay whaling—the taking of whales in their off-shore breeding grounds—was practically finished and the hunt was then continued in the open sea. Pelagic whaling—the taking of whales in the ocean—was a more arduous business... / By 1846 America had

735 whalers operating out of the New England coast, and each of them averaged 100 whales, or 300 tons of oil, on every voyage. They came south round the Horn and out into the Pacific where their bases in the tropics were Hawaii and Tahiti, and in the south, the Bay of Islands in New Zealand, Sydney and Hobart town in Tasmania. It was a tremendous killing. Eyre on his walk along the Great Australian Bight found the shore at Fowler’s Bay ‘literally strewn in all directions with the bones and carcasses of whales’, and he estimated that there were 300 American and French vessels operating on that coast alone. For meat they killed the kangaroos on Kangaroo Island, and for women they raided the native tribes ashore.” (*The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ To strip of blubber or skin: flense a whale. Dutch / Danish / Norwegian.

## flesh (inside)

fruit’s flesh

the mango skin ripping away from the ~...

white flesh

foods with ~ include apples and pears

delicious, crisp, yellow flesh

Ashmead’s Kernel has ~ (the apple)

♦ Foods with white flesh include apples, pears, bananas, cauliflowers, and cucumbers. Eating them may reduce the risk of a stroke. Or may not. Who really knows?

## flesh and blood

flesh and blood

when he discusses a film, it becomes ~

## flesh out (verb)

flesh it out

this is a skeleton, you need to ~ (an essay)

♦ “You can put flesh back onto bones.” (James Holland, author of *The Savage Storm: The Battle for Italy 1943*, about the use of diaries in his work.)

## fleshed out

fleshed out by his experience

his approach is ~ of being in the White House

fleshed out in the House investigation

adding more detail to a narrative that has been ~ (politics)

fleshed out quickly

the program contains little of substance and must be ~

## flex (bragging)

small flex

I predicted them to win, ~ (“you deserve the flex”)

weird flex

squatting next to a bear you just murdered is such a ~

hottest new flex

hyper-realistic toupees are the ~

describes her album as a flex

she ~ (sole producer, plays many of the instruments)

deserve the flex

you ~ (said to a man whose prediction turned out right)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "This is not a flex. This is a waste. Rich people can't read the room." (An online commenter about the influencer Linda Andrade, aka the "Original Dubai Housewife," who spent \$2.5 million in a week. She is the wife of a Dubai millionaire.)

♦ "Squatting next to a bear you just murdered is such a weird flex." (A female who apparently doesn't hunt.)

### \*\*\* sports...

♦ In the NBA, when one player slam-dunks on another, it is seen as a sign of dominance. The dunker generally takes the opportunity to posture, often clenching his fists, pushing his chest out, and baring his teeth. The one who has been dunked on reels away in defeat, his posture lowered. The dunker's teammates often jump up and down, wave towels or place them over their heads, and hoot.

♦ "It was not taunting, he was patting himself on the back and rightly so." (A commenter about a play by Allen Lazard of the Green Bay Packers during which he blocked three Miami Dolphins defenders, knocking all three to the ground. Following that, he pointed at each one: one, two, three, for which he was fined \$10,609 for taunting, even though none of the 3 defenders saw him.)

♦ "Some observers wondered if the All-Star guard was using finger guns." (The NBA player Ja Morant, celebrating himself after scoring an ally-oop basket in overtime. He had just been reinstated to play following a long suspension for brandishing *real* guns in online videos.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ A grinning Black Dad tugs at his too tight yellowish retro Tee shirt, which reads "Spring Break 93." He says, "Your father knows about saving. Everything I'm wearing, I've had since boot camp." A loud buzzer sounds for "wrong answer." The words appear on the screen, WEIRD FLEX. / The Black Dad's cute daughter says, "And I just saved on my car insurance for driving safe with USAA." An ecstatic voice sings. The words appear on the screen, GOOD FLEX. / The Black Dad shouts about his Tee shirt, "And it *still* fits! (It doesn't.) A voice says, "Weird flex. Good flex. Flex with our annual mileage discount. Insurance that flexes with you." (A cute online advertisement for USAA Auto Insurance. The web site address to contact includes "autoflex.")

♦ "This is how we flex." (An advertisement For Samsung phone.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Boasting, bragging, showing off, celebrating, etc. This usage probably refers to bodybuilders and their poses. It seems analogous to the lexicalized "take a bow" or "pat yourself on the back." Some shoot "finger guns" and then pantomime blowing smoke away from the barrel of a pistol. Others kiss the back of their hand or their fingertips to express admiration for themselves—the Bruno Mars' "Uptown Girls" "Gotta kiss myself, so pretty" flex. The great boxer Naseem Hamed would kiss his bicep after a knockout. A "mike-drop" is a kind of flex.

♦ Sometimes flexing and a "power move" are synonymous: "Fame is so powerful that renouncing it can seem like the supreme power move." Or, "It also feels, let's be real, like a bit of a power move," about an RADA-trained actor and her voice during an interview.

♦ "Mama's boy" is a flex, not an insult." (According to NPR's Neda Ulaby. See the Wikipedia article "Neda Ulaby.")

## flex (power, etc.)

flexes a lot of (political) influence  
Boeing ~ in Washington, D.C.

flex its muscles  
see *muscle (political muscle, etc.)*

## flexible (adjective)

flexible  
natural gas is not as ~ a commodity as oil

flexible approach  
a ~ allows mission crews to modify plans (military)

flexible (retirement) plan

a more ~...

flexible (work) schedule  
everyone would like a ~, but...

flexible and convenient  
a ~ way to get your college degree

more flexible  
people's moral codes are ~ than generally understood

fast and flexible  
the air Volcano is ~ (military)

rigid versus a flexible  
commanders must weigh the benefits of a ~ plan

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A reed bends but does not break.

## flexible (character)

flexible  
being ~ is an important survival skill (new economy)

flexible in their ability  
some elderly are less ~ to change their attitudes

flexible leader  
agility requires quick-minded, ~s (military)

quick-minded, flexible  
agility requires ~ leaders (military)

## flimsy (adjective)

flimsy charges  
prominent political leaders were jailed on ~

flimsy at best  
the evidence is ~

## flinch (verb)

flinch in our coverage  
it was important not to ~ (AIDS)

flinched from responsibility  
he never ~ (President bush on Donald Rumsfeld)

## flip (verb)

flip towards Trump  
I saw a lot of people ~ (a Hispanic voter / 2024)

flip the blame  
they try to ~ (sex abuse)

flipping the script  
older gymnasts are ~ (gymnasts are usually girls)

flipped seats  
she is one of those Democrats who ~ in 2018

flip victimhood into empowerment  
the art exhibit is designed to ~

## flip-flop (verb)

flip-flopped on increasing



Biden ~ the refugee cap

## flip-flop (noun)

flip flop on the presidential candidate  
his ~ gave me whiplash

## flip-flopping (reversal)

reputation for flip-flopping  
he has a ~ (a politician)

## flip off (verb)

flipped off the camera with both hands  
she ~ (a spoiled young internet influencer)

♦ see also *finger* (middle finger)

## flipped

flipped  
my life got ~, turned upside down

## flirt (verb)

flirting with bankruptcy  
we're ~

flirted with disaster  
he ~

flirt with the freezing point  
Chicago and Detroit will ~ (weather report)

## flit (verb)

flitting from one issue to another  
a butterfly mind, ~...

## float (a plan, etc.)

floated bankruptcy  
Musk has ~ as a possible option for Twitter

float names  
Macron continued to ~ (for position of Prime Minister)

float (immigration reform) plan  
Democrats ~

floated that possibility  
officials ~ prompting angry denials (origin of virus)

♦ "Macron continued to float names. So did the media. They were all over the place, in terms of both profile and ideology: younger, older, inexperienced, experienced, rural, urban, left, right, completely out of left field... / Finally, on September 5<sup>th</sup>, Macron announced that he had come to a decision: the new Prime Minister would be Michel Barnier, a septuagenarian political hand... It was kind of like bringing back Bob Dole." ("The Battle For France" by Lauren Collins, *The New Yorker*, December 16, 2024.)

## floated

floated  
one of the ideas that is being ~ is...  
the idea was first ~ in 1898 (Indian cricket team)  
the idea has been ~ for 20 years (a US space force)

floated as a possible presidential contender  
she was ~ in 2016 (politics)

## flock (verb)

flocked to Karbala for the climax  
Shia pilgrims ~ of Ashura

flocking to *The Guardian* for quality news  
millions are ~ every day (once free to all)

flock to Bahrain and Dubai to celebrate  
Saudis ~ the New Year

flocked to cooling centers  
New Yorkers ~ (heat wave)

flock to their summer homes  
out-of-towners ~ (New Hampshire)

flocked to Parker  
black teenagers from all over ~ (a Birmingham school)

flocked to the polls  
Southern Sudanese ~ (vote on succession)

flocking to Scotland  
why surfers are ~ (BBC Travel)

flocking to the slopes  
people are ~ (French ski season reopens / pandemic)

flocked to cafes and places  
people have ~ with functioning Wi-Fi (nationwide outage)

1.5 million people flocked  
~ to watch the procession (Wellington's funeral / 1852)

## flog (criticize)

flog CNN  
Trump has a reason to ~ (CNN leaked interview questions)

\*\*\* *The fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding...*

♦ *The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding* by Robert Hughes details the practice of flogging. Men would be flogged to death, survivors might have the white bones of their shoulder blades in the back permanently exposed, and the flogger would work spattered with blood and bits of flesh. Two hundred strokes were common.

## flood (amount / verb)

flooded the state with ads  
the union ~ (elections)

flood the market with (boring) options  
businesses that ~

flood all forms of the media with depictions  
they ~ of sex (ads)

flood the country with (good) governance  
the strategy is to ~ (USAID / Afghanistan)

flooded highways with (coal) trucks  
China's policy has ~ (electricity)

flooding south  
guns are ~ (to Mexico, from the US)

flood the area  
as undocumented workers ~ (a town in Arkansas)

flooded the National Mall  
crowds ~ (rally)

flooded (neighboring) states  
2 million Iraqis have ~ (Jordan, Egypt, etc.)

applications (for asylum) flooded in  
19,000 ~ (Zimbabweans in S. Africa)

## **flood (move)**

flooded onto the island  
as thousands of new workers ~ (Sakhalin)

flooded into (booming) Shenzhen  
millions of jobseekers ~ (China)

flooded into Uzbekistan  
70,000 ethnic Uzbeks have ~ (from Kyrgyzstan)

## **flood (flood of refugees, etc.)**

flood of beggars  
at the end of each Hajj, Jeddah is invaded by a ~  
a ~ around mosques and markets asking for money

flood of calls  
I've had a ~ from people who say...

flood of (passenger) complaints  
a ~ (plane flights)

flood of (genetic) data  
aided by a ~

flood of emotions  
when I read the letter, a ~ came back to me

flood of (cheap) heroin  
Uzbek volunteers fight a ~

flood of (newly unleashed) hormones  
caught up in a ~ (middle schoolers)

flood of (Chinese) immigrants  
Tibetan exiles fear the rail line will unleash a ~

flood of (conflicting) information  
the public was being inundated by a ~ (epidemic in US)

flood of (new) inmates  
new prisons for the ~ (US)

flood of leads  
the media attention generated a ~ (criminals on loose)

flood of memories  
the trial has brought back a ~ (murder)  
a ~ burst through the psychological dam he had built

flood of misinformation  
social-media companies have little incentive to stop the ~

flood of (uniformed) officers  
a ~ washed over the thicket (body)

floods of refugees  
fighting has sent new ~ across the border

flood of (new accommodation) requests  
if there's a ~ (SAT)

flood of tourists  
controlling the ~ visiting Kartchner Caverns

flood of waste  
short-term projects to stem the ~ (Kabul)

goal floods  
there were ~ and goal droughts (FIFA World Cup / Qatar)

became a flood  
the trickle of surrendering soldiers ~

become a flood  
it's a constant trickle that threatens to ~ (email inbox)

inundated by a flood  
the public is being ~ of conflicting information

stem the flood  
projects to ~ of waste (Kabul slums)

unleash a flood  
Tibetan exiles fear the rail line will ~ of Chinese

### **\*\*\* Nanga Parbat, the Hatu Pir spur, Tarbela gorge...**

♦ "The breaching of an 1841 rockslide that temporarily blocked the Indus River resulted in probably the largest flood in recorded history. Models indicate the flood had a peak discharge of about 540,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s." ("The World's Largest Floods, Past and Present: Their Causes and Magnitudes," USGS, 2004.)

♦ "Sometime during the early part of June 1841, at two in the afternoon, a wall of water, mud and rocks roared out of the Tarbela gorge of the Indus River and overwhelmed a Sikh army encamped near the river. At least 500 soldiers perished immediately and the plain was 'sown with barren sand' (Abbott, 1848, p. 231.) That previous January, at the same time as a large British army was being shot down in nearby Afghanistan, an earthquake brought down the Hatu Pir spur of Nanga Parbat mountain into the gorge of the Indus River. The resulting dam backed water up over 150 m deep and as much as 30 km upstream to the confluence of the Hunza and Gilgit Rivers. Even though a note of warning on birch bark was sent downriver to warn of the rising hazard, no one at the mountain front seems to have understood the implications. The resulting flood devastation was but one more of a long line of outbreak floods that repeatedly sweep down the Indus from the high Himalayas." (Geomorphic Development Of The Western Himalayas by John F. Shroder, Jr, Department of Geography and Geology, University of Nebraska, Geol. Bull. Univ. Peshawar, 1989, Vol. 22, pp. 127-151.)

♦ "The river was a fearful sight. The speed of the current made one's head swim. It looked just as though the banks were racing past in the opposite direction to the water. The entire valley, from hill-side to hill-side, was filled with water. Monsters of the forest, their roots underwashed, crashed into the flood, dragging with them huge clumps of earth and many a shrub and sapling growing in it. Then the torrent picked up this fallen mass and swung it onward. With savage bursts the waters raced down the valley. Where some obstacle held it up the spot was marked by a cloud of yellow foam. Bubbles rose from the pools, floated down-wind, burst, and were replaced by fresh ones." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ ...it is a river which is likely to be frozen solid from December until March, with ice piled in great packs and jams at perhaps thirty localities—piled mountain high with great ice blocks thrown into the most jagged contortions by reason of the grinding pressure brought to bear; then comes the annual "spring thaw" in which the Allegheny rids itself of the frozen constipation in one vast bowel movement which is a frightening spectacle to behold—urged by an enema of

melting snow and drizzling rains which rile all the creeks to flood tide and cause a never-ending roar from each gully and ravine. The river stirs uneasily at first, winces, then with no warning whatever delivers itself of ice, drift, flotsam and jetsam, trees, logs, houses, barns, haystacks, cornshocks, barrels, dead pigs, bloated horses, boxes, barrels, packing crates, and other impedimenta which it has warehoused during the winter—all of the hodge-podge starts moving to the tune of thunderous cannonading of ice jams breaking, and one jam swoops down upon another, and with a continued crashing and rending the mighty discharge is on its way, now taking out bridges, piers, sometimes whole villages, with the natives of the bottom lands fleeing for the hills and terrified livestock jumping fences and racing away for Egypt... " (Fredrick Way, Jr., "The Allegheny," 1942. The account is wonderfully scatological!)

♦ Last time we held the levy / But the Mississippi claimed her valley / She backed into Tennessee, and Arkansas, and Illinois, and Missouri / She spread her arms over thousands of acres of land / and she left farms ruined, stock drowned, houses torn loose / nineteen-three, nineteen-seven, nineteen-fifteen, nineteen-sixteen, nineteen twenty-two, nineteen twenty-seven, nineteen thirty-six, nineteen thirty-seven / We built a hundred cities and a thousand towns / But at what a cost. [Scenes of a dog marooned on a rooftop; inundated houses; aerial views of flooded countryside and of flooded cities] (Narration from *The River* by Pare Lorentz, 1938, a New Deal government-financed documentary.)

♦ "Well, I say, you're a good 'un,' the policeman remarked... 'Sorry I've got to take you back to Dawson, but I only 'ope they won't be 'ard on you.' / 'Not so fast.' The Kid smiled curiously. 'We ain't under way yet. When I go I'm going down river, and I guess the chances are you'll go along... Come on outside, and I'll show you... Fill your pipe, first—this is pretty good plug—and enjoy yourself while you can. You haven't many smokes before you... See that bend down there? That's where she'll jam millions of tons of ice. Then she'll jam in the bends up above, millions of tons. Upper jam breaks first, lower jam holds, pouf!' He dramatically swept the island with his hand..." (And that is exactly what happens. The upstream jam goes out first, the downstream ice holds, and the Kid, the policeman who believes he is taking the kid back to Dawson to face justice, and the few others—men and dogs—on the island are all killed. According to the story, "And to Donald was vouchsafed a sight such as no man may see and live. A great wall of white flung itself upon the island. Trees, dogs, men, were blotted out, as though the hand of God had wiped the face of nature clean." The creepy story, "At the Rainbow's End" by Jack London, from *The God of His Fathers*.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When the flood gauge is underwater, it's really high." (A town official. *Duh!*)

## flooded

flooded with (e-mail) messages  
the company was ~

flooded with ads, calls and pamphlets  
voters were ~ (elections)

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Phones are flooded with dozens of air-raid alerts each day." (The Ukraine.)

## floodgate (open the floodgates / sluice gates)

opened the floodgates  
the court's ruling ~, raising questions about whether...

opened the sluice gates  
these events suddenly opened the ~, and the thing moved with a rush (government policy)

opened the floodgates to (million-dollar) contracts  
in the 1970's, Steinbrenner ~ (baseball)

open the floodgates to people

this will ~ who want to beat the system

opened the floodgates to more upheaval  
the miners' action has ~

## floodgate (other)

floodgates of memory  
as he began to write, the ~ opened (Leigh Fermor)

floodgates of the past  
his dark moods open up the ~ (a boxer)

floodgates for misuse  
the ~ are wide open (euthanasia law)

emotional floodgates  
once he starts telling his story, the ~ open

floodgates opened  
I told him to use street language and the ~ (writing class)  
in his 60s the ~ with an outpouring of poems (Geoffrey Hill)

floodgates were flung (wide) open  
in 1985, the ~ when... (guided climbs up Mount Everest)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Floodgates control the level and flow of water, particularly in dams. If the water level gets too high behind a dam, engineers will open the floodgates to lower the level of the reservoir. Floodgates can also keep tidal surges out.

## floodtide (noun)

floodtide of (school-age) children  
sub-Saharan Africa's 45 countries face a ~

floodtide of filth  
a ~ has engulfed the newsstands (pornography)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ At floodtide, the water is coming in towards the beach or coast.

## floodwaters

stop the floodwaters  
we are trying to ~ (immigration)

## floor (pelvic floor, etc.)

pelvic floor  
her ~ was so weak that she peed all over the set (actor)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Here's a wonderful riddle: What has bridges, canals, cavities, clefts, fissures, floors, isthmuses, lakes, mounds, orbits, pipes, pits, roofs, tubes, vestibules, and walls, but is not anything related to the earth or a building? A hint: the answer is closer than you think. Answer: the human body! This riddle makes us realize that the body has many parts resembling terrain features and infrastructure.

## floor (low point)

ceiling and the floor  
his numbers have been durable, the ~ (president's popularity)

## floor (dance floor)

literary dance floor  
there's room on this ~ for everyone (website)

## floor (have the floor / attention)

had the floor at that time  
a lot of social justice ideologies ~ (May, 2020)

## floored (emotion)

floored  
you'll be flattened by the end of the movie, you'll be ~

floored when  
I was ~ I heard the news

floored by this decision  
many are ~ (released from prison on technicality)

## flop (verb)

movie flopped  
the ~ miserably around the world

♦ "The movie flopped miserably around the world, save for France and Italy..."

## flop (noun)

flop  
the movie was a ~

## Florence (Florence on the Elbe, etc.)

Florence on the Elbe  
nearby Dresden, then known as ~

Greek Florence  
here, Constantinople rebuilt itself as a ~ (Mystras)

♦ "Here for a fragile moment, Constantinople rebuilt itself in miniature as a Greek Florence." (Mystras, in the Peloponnese.)

## Florence Nightingale (our Florence Nightingale, etc.)

our Florence Nightingale  
~ is Sally Tompkins (the Confederacy)

♦ Florence Nightingale was known as "the Lady with the Lamp." She was not, as is commonly thought, a nurse. She was an administrator, logistician, statistician, advocate, reformer, educator, founder, writer, supplier of stump pillows, etc.

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A medic with a red cross on his helmet and on his aid bag is on foot, leading a wide-eyed mule, its long ears flared, by its bridle down a mountain track. On the mule's back sits a casualty, being evacuated to an aid station in the rear. The medic is saying to the casualty, "I calls her Florence Nightengale." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin. World War II. Mules had to be used in the hilly and mountainous terrain on the hard slog up the Italian Peninsula.)

## flotilla (flotilla of icebergs, etc.)

flotilla of icebergs  
Spalte Glacier has become a ~ (breaks into pieces)

## flounder (verb)

floundering  
his campaign has been ~ (election)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Flounder* may come from *founder*. The literal use of *flounder* means to struggle to move or to thrash about.

## flourish (verb)

flourish in the netherworld  
these falsehoods ~ of internet pranksters and trolls

flourished from his first day  
he ~ (in his new job)

black market flourished  
wages plummeted, and the ~

## flow (flow of the lesson, etc.)

flow of the lesson  
disciplinary actions should not interrupt the ~ (ed)

even flow  
establish an ~ of aircraft into maintenance... (military)

interrupt the flow  
disciplinary actions should not ~ of the lesson (ed)

## flow (go with the flow, etc.)

go with the flow  
just ~ (don't get upset, anxious, worried, etc.)

## flow (move)

flow across the (southwest) border  
drugs ~ (from Mexico into US)

flow into theater  
as corps forces ~ (military)

flow through Dubai  
drugs from Afghanistan and Iran ~

flow from the RAS to the ...  
supplies ~ (military)

flow around the obstruction  
legitimate traffic could ~ (Internet)

flow south  
the wealth from our land continues to ~ (Canadian Inuit)

flowing normally  
traffic is ~

flow smoothly  
the right aperitif will make your picnic ~...

money is flowing  
military ~ to Boeing, Lockheed Martin and...

supplies flow  
~ from the RAS to the... (military)

kept flowing  
with only a few exceptions, traffic ~ (protest)

started flowing  
after the merge lane was lengthened, traffic ~ normally

keeps the (combat) information flowing  
this ~ rapidly to... (military)

## flow (increase)

ebb and flow

gang killings ~ but never stop (Los Angeles)

the fight continued to ~ (Joe Cordina v Edward Vazquez)

## flow (noun)

flow of arms

stop the ~ into Macedonia

flow of capital

the ~

flow of the crowd

the ~ pushed him down the stairs (nightclub crush)

flow of (illegal) drugs

the ~ into the US (from Mexico)

flow of goods

improve the ~ to its stores (a retail chain)

flow of information

control of the ~ (politics)

supports the free ~ (computers)

managing the ~ is another critical task (military)

flow of insurgents

shut down the ~ into Kashmir

flow of intelligence

try to improve how they manage the huge ~ (F.B.I.)

flow of materiel

intercept the ~ along Vietcong supply routes

flow of migrants

slowing the ~ (from Mexico to U.S.)

step up naval patrols to reduce the ~ (Italy and Libya)

flow of money

the ~ around the globe

flow of (government) money

the dwindling ~ (to hospitals)

flow of pilgrims

security forces tried to ensure a smooth ~ (Hajj)

flow of supplies

it is prudent to start the ~ now (military)

flow of traffic

police directed the ~ around the accident scene;

regulate the ~ on MSRs (MPs / military)

flow of (pedestrian) traffic

the ~ can be regulated

flow of (illegal Chinese) workers

a more recent ~ (into France)

flow of E-mail

today's high-volume ~

flow of natural gas

Russia failed to restore the ~ (to Georgia)

the disruption in the ~ from fields in Siberia

flow of paperwork

an endless ~

flow of drugs and alcohol

stemming the ~ into Saudi Arabia

flow of goods, services

the ~ and investment capital (globalization)

flow of patients and visitors

control the ~ so that... (ED post terror event)

flow (of traffic) on MSRs

regulate the ~ (MPs / military)

flow (of arms) into Macedonia

stop the ~

flow (of alcohol) into Saudi Arabia

the authorities want to stem the ~

flow (of money) around the globe

the ~

flow through Boston

the project will improve traffic ~

flow (of information) between ACTs and troops

the ~ (military)

Flow Control

nicknamed, in typical FAA-speak, "~" (planes aloft)

cash flow

concern about the company's ~

cash-flow

the ~ situation

he may have ~ problems

information flow

our economy is one that is increasingly based on ~

logistics flow

Figure 5-4 shows the ARSOA ~ (military)

traffic flow

solutions include rerouting ~

high-volume flow

today's ~ of E-mail

dwindling flow

the ~ of government money (to hospitals)

accelerated flow

the ~ of information in combat (laptops, com, etc.)

endless flow

an ~ of paperwork

free flow

supports the ~ of information (computers)

paper flow

the ~ between headquarters and the field

smooth flow

security forces tried to ensure a ~ of pilgrims (Hajj)

control of the flow

~ of information (politics)

ebbs and flows

there have been ~ in the severity of the attacks (war)

tempo and flow

the ~ of the game probably will come down to... (soccer)

trickle, flow, gush

we had a theory called, "~" (to rescue hostages)

flow has slowed

the ~ to a trickle (migrants)

cut off the flow

efforts to ~ of diamonds through Taylor's network

facilitate the flow

ways to ~ of passengers through security (airports)

manage the (huge) flow

try to improve how they ~ of intelligence (F.B.I.)

reduce the flow

step up naval patrols to ~ of migrants

regulate the flow

~ on MSRs (MPs / military)

shut down the flow

~ of insurgents into Kashmir

slow the flow

the objective is to ~ of forces into the area of operations

slowed the flow

controllers ~ of planes into O'Hare (labor dispute)

stanch the flow

he asked the elders to help ~ (of Somalis to Lewiston)

stem the flow

the authorities want to ~ of drugs into Saudi Arabia

flow of arms

stop the ~ into Macedonia

## flower (wilting flower, etc.)

wilting flower

Joni's feistiness surfaced, she was not a ~

## flower (verb)

flowered intellectually

Islam ~ (early centuries)

## flowering

flowering of creativity

this apparently abrupt ~ (European cave drawings)

## flowing

flowing (black) abaya

she remained shrouded in a ~ (Doha)

flowing (white) beard

a farmer in a ~ trotted by on a tiny donkey

## flu (enthusiasm)

Oxford flu

interest in quantum computing has been called the ~

### \*\*\* Spanish flu...

♦ "He played taps over the bodies of more than three hundred young men who died of the flu on a single troopship bound for France and were buried at sea." (Reported in the obituary of a World War I veteran in Andrews, North Carolina. Just months before the Armistice, the generals requested reinforcements and the President honored the request knowing that thousands of soldiers would die of the flu in the crowded ships and camps.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ First there was the bug (insect). Then there was the bacillus or virus, which you could figuratively "catch," or which could figuratively "bite you."

♦ see also *bug (enthusiasm)*

## fluctuate (verb)

morale fluctuated

~ (during Mao's Long March)

♦ Up and down, side to side, like water or a wave.

## fluencer (momfluencer, etc.)

dermfluencer

young skincare fanatics led the '~' trend

Foodfluencer

"~" Zhanna Samsonova, dead age 39

gemfluencer

~s share their shopping secrets...

kidfluencers

advertisers spend millions on rising rugrat '~'

Momfluencer

~... (see the Wikipedia article)

newsfluencer

the accuracy, accountability and independence of ~s

~s are the future of journalism

what can ~s learn from legacy media...

♦ "'I see my body and mind transform everyday,' Samsonova had gushed while describing her restricted eating regimen." ("Foodfluencer" Zhanna Samsonova, known on social media as Zhanna D'Art, dead age 39.)

♦ Beauty influencer; Democrat influencer (Stuart Max Perelmutter); Gen Zer influencer; mental-health influencer (teen girls and young women); mortgage influencer; parenting influencer (Ruby Franke); self-help influencer for men; social-media influencer; TikTok influencer; travel influencer; (a 15-year-old) wannabe influencer; "wellness" influencer; yoga influencer...

### \*\*\* Carlo Acutis...

♦ "The site went live only days before his death at the age of 15, it earned him the nickname, 'God's influencer.'" (Willem Marx about Carlo Acutis. From "London-born teen to be made saint for spreading



church teachings on internet," NPR, All Things Considered, May 24, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The 'influencer' phenomenon is purely a construct of our social media based society." (Annabelle Ham.)

♦ There is a Wikipedia article "Momfluencer."

♦ Type in "-fluencer" at Wiktionary and click on "Derived terms" and you will see a rather short list of "influencers." The list includes "finfluencer," "kidfluencer," and "skinfluencer."

## fluent (ability)

fluent in the language

Jake Paul was ~ of YouTube

fluent in the subject

she seemed not really very ~ (foreign policy)

fluent internet

she learned how to speak ~ (Meriem Derradji)

looked (much less) fluent

but the team ~ in the second half (Tottenham Hotspur)

♦ "The urban population, perhaps a quarter of the country, is energized by a contingent of sophisticated young people—fluent not just in Dari and Pashto but also in smartphones, the Internet, and travel to the West." ("Comment: What We Left Behind In Afghanistan" by Dexter Filkins, *The New Yorker*, August 22, 2021.)

## fluff (substance)

piece of FLUFF

what a ~ (a commenter about an article)

## fluid (adjective)

fluid situation

this is a ~ and bears very close watch (politics)

fluid and confusing

the situation on the ground is ~ (rebellion)

## fluid (gender fluid, etc.)

age fluid

Rosie is described as ~ (the novel *We Solve Murders*)

gender fluid

some think the Pharaoh might have been ~

gender-fluid

~ people

sexually fluid

I wanted all the characters to be just 100% ~ (an author)

bisexual, fluid

Blow sees his orientation as ~, but...

♦ "Blow now sees his orientation as bisexual, fluid, but with more of an attraction to women than men." ("After Childhood Abuse, 'Times' Columnist Says He Chose Life Over Vengeance," NPR, Fresh Air, Author Interviews, September 24, 2014. Terry Gross interviews *New York Times* columnist Charles Blow.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "I knew I wanted in my book for all the characters to be just 100% sexually fluid." (Olivie Blake about her book *The Atlas Six*.)

## fluidity (gender fluidity, etc.)

gender fluidity

ways to navigate ~

sexual fluidity

gender fluidity has roots in the notion of ~

social and sexual fluidity

themes of ~ (his gayness is a given)

## flurry (activity)

flurry of (diplomatic) activity

we've seen a ~

flurry of (law-enforcement) activity

there was a ~ from agencies all over (murder of girls)

flurry of trial balloons

his office floated a ~

flurries of requests

officials sent him ~ (a filmmaker)

flurry of texts

he sent out a ~ to emphasize how serious he was...

flurry of social media posts and retweets

Trump responded with a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word is often used to describe snow and leaves in the wind.

## flush (remove)

flush them out

security services launched an operation to ~ (criminals)

flushed (some of the organization's staff) from the city

the violence ~ (UN in Yemen)

## flush (busted flush)

busted flush

the Prime Minister is now a ~ (U.K. politics)

## fly (on the fly)

adjust on the fly

they are used to having to ~ (wildfire fighters)

crafted untried solutions on the fly

the FED, having to act with unimaginable speed, ~

do it on the fly

I wasn't going to ~ with all that consequence (climbing)

figured it out on the fly

we kind of ~ (retired vets evacuate Afghans)

figuring it out on the fly

everyone is ~ (FEMA's response in heat emergencies)

get science on the fly

we are having to ~

learn on the fly

he had to do it all by himself, ~ (programming website)

make (good) decisions on the fly  
he can ~ (a football player)

make it up on the fly  
you kind of ~ (a coach dealing with problems)

♦ "He moves really fast. You might have five big scenes in one day, which means you're on the fly." (Vanessa Kirby about working for Ridley Scott in the 2023 film *Napoleon*. Scott shot the movie in just 61 days.)

♦ "If I told you I knew what I was doing, I would be lying to you. You kind of make it up on the fly. There's no one who can guide you through something like this." (A basketball coach managing to win games with only seven healthy players following a raft of injuries.)

♦ "A lot of it was almost building a plane mid-flight, you know?" (The wonderful actor Colin Farrell about creating the character of John Sugar for the AppleTV+ series *Sugar*.)

♦ "It's like trying to change the tire on a car while it's running."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Birds can do astonishing things "on the fly." Not to mention their ability to fly in, among, and through the densest foliage. Perhaps this is the physical basis for the cliché and other clichés like "to fly in the face of."

♦ "On the run." "On the fly." "On the wing." "On the hoof." Take your pick!

## fly (fly into a rage, etc.)

flew into a (jealous) rage  
he ~ (murderer)

flew into a (jealous) rage after finding  
he ~ a text message...

flew into a rage over her refusal  
he ~ to cooperate

## fly (activity)

flying off the rack  
fur is ~ worldwide (fashion industry)

fly off the shelves  
skin-whitening products ~ (Philippines)

flying off the shelves  
her tell-all book is ~  
toilet paper and milk were ~ (coronavirus panic)

flying off (store) shelves  
the new product is ~

flying all over campus  
rumors were ~ (students charged with rape)

flying around  
there are plenty of gruesome rumours ~

flew between them  
letters ~ (writer / publisher)

rumors flew  
~ (campus gossip about surveillance cameras)

rumors fly  
~ in small communities (Red Lake Reservation)

rumors were flying  
~ all over campus (students charged with rape)

## fly (constraint)

let his imagination fly  
he let his ~ (a poet)

## fly (time flies)

time flies  
see *time* (*time flies*)

## fly (fly on the wall)

flies on the wall  
thank you for letting us be ~ (a documentary maker)

fly-on-the-wall reporter  
he was a ~

## fly (fly in the ointment)

fly in the ointment  
the ~ though is... (emergence of variants / vaccines)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Typhoid declined significantly in the early 20th century in the industrial nations. However, the disease remained a serious threat in times of war. Troops in the Second Boer War (1899-1901) in South Africa were seriously affected by typhoid. In the Spanish-American War of 1898 there were over 20,000 cases of typhoid and 1,500 deaths among a total of 100,000 troops. Walter Reed (1851-1902)—the head of the army's typhoid commission—inspected army camps in the US where typhoid was rampant, and found the state of sanitation to be appalling. He also demonstrated how flies could spread typhoid from the filthy latrines to the mess tents."

## focus (verb)

focusing on target genes  
he is ~ for schizophrenia

focus on her mental health  
she left her marriage to ~ (Annaleise Easlea)

## focus (noun)

focus of the day  
the ~ differs within the strands of Christianity (Epiphany)

political and policy focus  
Republicans should keep the ~ on promoting job creation

ongoing focus  
there is an ~ on these economic issues (White House)

## focused

pork-focused  
a young crowd populates this ~ eatery (Williamsburg)

## fodder (cannon fodder)

cannon fodder  
see *cannon fodder* (*military*)

## fodder (tabloid fodder, etc.)

fodder for comedy  
his ridiculous ideas are ~

fodder for content  
"How Latin identity became ~" (NPR)

fodder for debate  
his legal woes are more than ~ (politics)

fodder for some (lively) discussions  
she was perfect ~ in the newspapers (a celebrity)

fodder for (cruel) mockery  
her life became ~ (#FreeBritney)

fodder for clicks, likes, and views  
these images became ~ (GIF reactions / digital blackface)

campaign fodder  
his gaffe has given Democrats ~

meme fodder  
her dress was easy ~ that the Internet ate up

tabloid fodder  
his five marriages provided endless ~  
the story is overblown sensational ~ (celebrity gossip)

made-for-streaming fodder  
~ (the 2024 film *Wolfs*)

late-night punchline fodder  
they became household names and ~ (Menendez brothers)

plenty of fodder  
her critics found ~ in the interview to use against her

political fodder  
that term has become ~ (“concentration camp”)  
his struggles became ~ when his dad ran for president

rich fodder  
there has been ~ for armchair pundits (a boxing match)

found (plenty of) fodder  
her critics ~ in the interview to use against her (politics)

providing (new) fodder  
he is ~ in the question over... (politics)

used as fodder  
the academic paper was ~ for conspiracy theorists

**fog (fog of war, etc.)**

fog of battle  
in the ~ initial reports are often confusing

fog (and friction) of war  
in the midst of the ~

fog and friction  
soldiers must show initiative in the ~ of battle

fog and a friction  
there is a ~ to war (civilian deaths)

casualties of the fog of war  
innocents are sometimes the ~

attributed the tragedy to the fog of war  
an official ~ (lost convoy)

♦ “An entertaining and timely look that gives readers the tools to cut through the ideological fog obscuring the dangers of the Big Data

revolution.” (*In These Times* review of *Weapons Of Math Destruction* by Cathy O’Neil.)

♦ “The fog of war is especially thick in Gaza...” ( Hamas casualty statistics. The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The term, “fog of war,” was coined in the era of black-powder rifles.

**fog (mental fog, etc.)**

fog of pain  
he listened, in a ~

fog lifts  
as soon as you make the mental shift, the ~ (probability)

brain fog  
fatigue, ~, shortness of breath (lingering COVID)

“cognitive fog”  
symptoms include ~ (mysterious “Havana Syndrome”)

put me in a fog  
the medications ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Wikipedia redirects queries for “brain fog” to “Clouding of consciousness.”

**foggy (adjective)**

recollection is foggy  
my ~ (testimony at trial)

**fold (verb)**

fold its case  
the House is not going to ~ (against Trump)

administration has folded  
the ~

**fold (to / into the fold)**

gaming’s fold  
smartphones and social media brought new users into ~

brought him back into the fold  
Damenech ~ (soccer player on national team)

brought Egypt back to the (Arab) fold  
he ~ (Mubarak)

drew many into the (gang's) fold  
money and power ~ (prison)

**folded in (and folded into)**

folded into the (Q) theories  
vaccine rhetoric starts to get ~ (Momfluencers)

**fold in (verb)**

fold in the voices  
we will absolutely ~ of our critics (Time’s Up)

**folk (and folks / folx / groups)**

gender-expansive folks  
there’s a community of women and ~ who love you

genderqueer folks

the voices and presence of ~

### LGBTQ folks

~ have been so visible, courageous and present  
thanks to visibility, more ~ can come out  
more ~ can come out and live as our authentic selves

### LGBTQIA2S+ folks

more groups and resources have appeared for ~

### Black Folx

an unapologetic focus on ~ in these places and spaces

### trans folks

why are y'all triggered by ~

### white folx

I'm so exhausted at these ~ (by? with?)

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Black folk have always been aware that we've been excluded and othered. Even in spaces we've managed to create for ourselves, [non-Black] people violently infiltrate and occupy these spaces with no respect to the architects who built it." (Eric Louis, age 21, a Black TikTok "creator" who helped to organize the #BlackTikTokStrike, to protest cultural appropriation and preferential treatment.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "[Condolences] to the families who lost...three folks who are military folks...fighting on behalf of this administration" – *White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, Monday. I We Say: 'Military folks'? Please.* / The dead [whom] KJP was referring to were US soldiers killed in an Iranian-backed attack. / And they certainly weren't fighting for Team Biden—but for the nation." (*The New York Post* Editorial Board.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "'Folx' is the deliberate queerification of a word." (To express queer versus non-queer.)

♦ "While the word *folks* is already gender-neutral, the term 'folx' is used to specifically display inclusion of gender-queer, transgender and agender folks." ("What It Means To Include 'X' In Words Such As Womxn, Folx, and Latinx" by Gabrielle Smith, SHAPE, December 17, 2020.)

♦ Mary Louise Kelly of NPR enjoys referring to people as "folks." She's folksy!

♦ Merriam-Webster has an entry for "folx." Click on the "related articles" link to see the article "We Added New Words to the Dictionary for January 2021: An update of 520 new words, from 'ASMR' to 'silver fox.'" The words are nicely categorized. "Folx" is categorized as "Words About Identity."

### follow (result, sequence)

#### followed

where he went, violence and death ~ (Qasem Soleimani)

#### follows weeks

the explosion of violence ~ of simmering tensions

### follow (it follows that, etc.)

#### follows that growth must be a good sign

and so it ~ (economics)

#### follows that the sight of it frightens many

and so it ~ (blood)

#### follows that we have to bear them

if school shootings continue, it ~ (no solutions)

### follow (at a later time)

#### followed the horse

the car ~

### follow (the facts, etc.)

#### follow the facts

we will ~ and go where they take us

#### follow the science

"~" has been a refrain from Democrats (pandemic)

will the diplomats ~ on climate change (COP26)

we are urging them to ~ (environmental activists)

♦ "I guess the 'follow the science' party needs to learn about science." (An online comment to "NJ transgender woman transferred from women's only prison after impregnating 2 inmates, report says" by Stephen Sorace, *Fox News*, July 17, 2022.)

### follow (afflict)

#### follow me for life

the Internet was full of trash that threatened to ~

#### following him since 2007

this scandal has been ~ (Sarkozy)

### follow (follow a feeling or emotion)

#### follow my instincts

I can't do anything if I don't ~ (Saudi intellectual)

#### followed a (gut) instinct

I ~ and chose to run the rapid (kayaker)

#### followed his passion

he ~ (a windsurfer)

#### follow your passion

that's part of the spirit of mountaineering, to ~

#### followed my curiosity and intuition

I ~ (the young Steve Jobs / Apple)

♦ "I should have followed my instincts, not my generals!" (President Trump, about the "endless war" in Afghanistan.)

### follow (a path, route, road, etc.)

#### follow in Qeis's path

he vowed he will ~ (suicide bomber)

#### follow its (relentless) course

if we sit back and let the epidemic ~...

#### follow the direction

the investigation will ~ the evidence leads...

#### follow his lead

in a note, he urged his supporters to ~ (suicide bomber)

#### followed his (father's) path

he eventually ~ (seminarian)

#### follow their (mothers') paths

often, young prostitutes ~ into the sex trade

#### follow in his (murderous) footsteps

he is determined his son will not ~

follow in the footsteps

Aborigines must ~ of their ancestors

## follow (argument)

follow you

I don't ~

♦ see also *go (argument)*

## follow (a road can follow, etc.)

follows the shore

a road ~ of the lake

## follower (on social media, etc.)

6 million followers

she has over ~ (an online influencer)

my followers

~ want me to...

♦ "My followers want me to do videos of him." (The great MLB player Keith Hernandez, referring to his great silver cat Hadji. As Hernandez himself said, "I never expected Hadji to become more famous than myself.")

♦ see also *fanatic (person)*

## following (sequence)

following items

click on the ~ on the View menu (computers)

following reasons

he has been compared to Obama for the ~ (Sagbo)

## following (at a later time)

following days

in the ~ the soldiers rested from battle

## follow-through (investigation, etc.)

follow-through

now we're seeing some ~ (investigation)

## FOMO (fear of missing out)

FOMO factor

the controversy raised its ~ (opening box office / film)

bizarro FOMO

consider it a kind of ~ (speed-reading)

digital FOMO

I feel under pressure to not miss out, a kind of ~

waves of FOMO

there are ~ coursing through the industry (invest in A.I.)

getting FOMO

I was ~ about it...

♦ "When I was talking to our team about this, I suddenly started to think about the pressure I feel under to not miss out, a kind of digital FOMO." (Nihal Arthanayake, presenter of "Information overload: Are we drowning in content?" for the BBC.)

♦ "Consider it a kind of bizarro FOMO but for cultural life." (Nicholas Quah about his need for speed-reading.)

♦ "I was getting FOMO about it, and I didn't want to have FOMO at my own wedding." ("Emily Harrington and Adrian Ballinger have an

epic adventure wedding" by Alexandra Svokos, GMA, January 5, 2022.)

♦ "As much as you try, you can't fully ignore it. As long as you see it, you are going to internalize it. So I don't read my Instagram comments anymore..." (Freeskier Eileen Gu, about mental health and social media.)

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "No Mo' FOMO: don't miss the top new stories on Catapult." (An advertisement.)

\*\*\* **jumping on the "FOMO" bandwagon...**

♦ "FOGO, our fear of growing old..."

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The Wikipedia article "Fear of missing out" is excellent. Wikipedians are wonderful.

## food (food for thought)

food for thought

what you said is ~

## food (meat)

food for every dude at 130

you're going to be ~ (a losing boxer)

## food (comfort food)

see *comfort food (noun)*

## food chain

food chain

he is working his way up the ~

higher up the food chain

you need to ask somebody ~ (Hollywood)

at the top of the chain

the wolf is at the ~ and it's very important (Iberian wolf)

at the (very) top of the food chain

women ~ at the studios (executives)

working his way up the food chain

he is ~ starting with small fry (a prosecutor)

## fool's errand

fool's errand

it's really been a ~ to try and predict when, if, or how...

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Hazing inexperienced sailors by sending them on a fool's errand is a hallowed maritime tradition.

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Fool's errand." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## fool's gold

fool's gold

a degree nowadays is ~ (no job, debt)

mining for a fool's gold

let's not revert to ~ (a poor solution to a problem)

paying (high) prices for fool's gold

we are ~ (involvement in overseas war)

chasing fool's gold

the state is ~ legalizing (gambling vs. social costs)

♦ "He's fools' gold, far more trouble than he's worth. (A controversial NBA player.)

### **foot (on the right foot / on the wrong foot)**

on the right foot  
start the new year ~

on the wrong foot  
their relationship began ~  
we started the season ~ (sports)

got off on the wrong foot  
I think he ~, but... (politics)  
yes, Romney "~" in Britain (*Wall Street Journal*)

started off on the wrong foot  
he ~ by trying to...

### **foot (on the back foot / on the front foot)**

on the front foot  
many people were ~ ready to criticize

on the back foot militarily  
the Mau Mau were now ~

on the back foot from the moment  
the Lakers were ~ Anthony Davis hobbled off... (NBA)

on the front foot from the start  
you will see a team ~ (Arsenal v Porto, second leg)

caught on the back foot  
police admit they have been ~ by the protests

placed on the back foot  
he hates being ~ and having to defend himself publicly

♦ "The [Republican] campaign would much rather be talking about the gaffes that Joe Biden made. But instead they're on their back fence... pardon me, their back foot here! I spoke to..." (Heard on NPR's All Things Considered.)

### **foot (back foot / front foot)**

get off the back foot  
we have to ~, we have to lead (Beto O'Rourke)

### **foot (one foot / the other foot)**

one foot (firmly) planted in the commercial world  
their strategy is to have ~ and the other in...

♦ "Their strategy is to have one foot firmly planted in the commercial world and the other in the defense business." (Boeing.)

### **foot (put a foot forward)**

put America's best foot forward  
an opportunity for us to ~ forward (Olympics)

put her best foot forward  
she was determined to ~

### **foot (put one's foot down)**

put her foot down  
she ~ and refused to settle for less

put his foot down  
he ~ about another interview (said "No")

### **foot (under the foot)**

under the foot of white men  
we both live ~ (a gay man about cisgender women!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be under someone's thumb. Or under their foot. Or heel. Or under the yoke... Take your pick!

### **foot (foot in the door)**

get his foot in the door  
he lied on his resume to ~

### **foot (foot in both worlds, etc.)**

foot in both worlds  
people with a ~ (Chinese students in US)

### **foot (shoot oneself in the foot)**

see *shoot* (*shoot oneself in the foot*)

### **foot (orientation)**

foot of the bed  
his pillow had slipped off the ~  
she'd curl up at the ~ and fall asleep (a cat)

foot of the gallows  
the condemned recited the Psalm 51 at the ~ (Tyburn)

foot of the glacier  
the dogs were supposed to turn back at the ~  
ponies could only be taken to the ~  
their bodies were found at the ~ (years later)

foot of the memorial  
citizens leave objects at the ~ (Vietnam War Memorial)

foot of the stage  
they pushed their way to the ~ (crowd stampede)

foot of the stairs  
he stood at the ~ and looked up...

foot of the tree  
a small shrine at the ~ is filled with offerings (Japan)

at the foot of the Himalayas  
hills, deep valleys and fast-flowing rivers ~

at the foot of the Ko'olau Mountains  
he grew up in Waimanalo, ~ (Cyril Pahinui)

at the foot of the Statue of Liberty  
the Immigration and Nationality Act was signed ~ (1965)

at the foot of the Washington Monument  
the demonstrators rallied ~ (Washington, D.C.)

\*\*\* analysis



♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we have all taught "foot." It's a part of the body with an irregular plural. But unless we are teaching "English for Podiatrists (EFP)," our students will more like encounter "foot" in terms of measurement or orientation. By the way, all of those language specialties—English for Academic Purposes, English as a Lingua Franca—are nothing more than T-shirt slogans.

## football (conflict)

football between Republicans and Democrats  
the issue has become a political ~

political football  
the Anthem protests became a ~ (NFL)  
AstraZeneca has become a ~ in a European blame game

cultural, political footballs  
this has become one of those ~ (culture war kerfuffle)

become a (political) football  
the issue has ~ between Republicans and Democrats

playing (political) football  
they are ~ with women's health (politics)

♦ "To me, one of the things that's...most dangerous for Jews is when we become a political football where both our needs, our safety, our humanness is completely erased." (The journalist Julia Ioffe.)

## football (spike the football)

spike the football  
we don't want to ~ too early (public health emergency)

spike the football on the five-yard-line  
the president has been very careful not to ~

♦ "I think he'll get it done. I think the president has been very careful not to you know spike the football on the five-yard line, and not declare victory before he has it in hand." (Getting a paid-family-leave bill through Congress.)

## foot-dragging

foot-dragging by (school) officials  
so why the ~ (reform)

bureaucratic foot-dragging  
the test has been bogged down by squabbles and ~

## foothold (noun)

foothold  
US forces established a ~ in...

foothold in the Caribbean  
eliminate lymphatic filariasis from its last ~

Arctic foothold  
the eight countries with ~s

dangerous foothold  
a subpopulation can offer the virus a ~ (Covid, etc.)

last foothold  
eliminate malaria and lymphatic filariasis from their ~

gains a foothold  
stop coronavirus before it ~

give socialism a foothold  
~, and nothing can arrest the slide to perdition

grabbed a foothold  
they ~ and moved on from there (military action in Gaza)

## \*\*\* analysis

♦ "No one knows how many mountain goats fall to their deaths."

## footing (position)

emergency footing  
all parts of the UK are on ~ (pandemic)

war footing  
land forces could shift to a ~ on short notice

put the nation on a war footing  
President Kennedy ~ (Cuban Crisis)

## footing (solid footing, etc.)

on solid (financial) footing  
he has never been able to put the review ~

## footing (find one's footing, etc.)

find their footing  
politicians struggled to ~ in the new political landscape

found its footing  
her campaign stumbled out of the gate but has since ~

find her footing  
she struggled to ~ as a newly separated woman

regain our footing  
we are struggling to ~ (a political party)

regained his footing  
since then, Biden has ~ (elections)

## footnote (noun)

fleeting, feel-good footnotes  
they could turn out to be ~ to the pandemic ("freedges")

made a footnote  
they have largely been ~ (hip hop group the Sequence)

separate the footnotes from the milestones  
it can be hard to ~ (journalism)

## footprint (noun)

footprint  
Hezbollah has its ~ everywhere here (Tyre)  
our ~, the influence of the US in the world, will diminish

"footprint" of a credit card  
the camera has the ~, weighing just 5.6 ounces

"footprint" of oil infrastructure  
limiting the ~ (Arctic oil)

footprint on the environment  
we might lighten our collective ~

footprint overseas  
he wants to shrink the military and reduce its ~

footprint or signature  
they don't have a ~ (terrorists)

city footprint

this will affect the entire ~ (urban-renewal project)

consumption footprint

the enormous ~ of someone living in the state right now

noise "footprint"

they should have a smaller ~ than... (airplanes)

terrain footprint

the Stinger missile has a small ~

online footprint

his other ~ includes a site... (Web sites)

he has hardly any current ~ (Michael Goldhaber)

combat service support (CSS) footprint

the Stinger has a small ~

digital footprint

investigators are examining the case's "~"

the ~ led cops to the suspect's house (cell-phone towers)

your ~ could live forever (collection of information)

some Gen Z girls are concerned about their ~s (sexting)

industrial footprint

concerns about the ~ (drilling in Arctic)

large footprint

the ~ created when the minefield is fired (war)

due to the ~ when the minefield is fired...

larger "footprint"

a tire with a ~ on the road has more rolling resistance

light footprint

the coalition has limited its ambitions and kept a ~

military footprint

we must reduce our ~ in Iraq (a politician)

small footprint

the Stinger missile has a ~

expanding its footprint

it is ~ in several parts of Africa (a terror group)

reduce our (military) footprint

we must ~ in Iraq (a politician)

shrink its footprint

as the US military begins to ~ in Afghanistan

\*\*\* "The reconstruction of jungle events from signs on the ground..."

♦ "The reconstruction of jungle events from signs on the ground has always held great interest for me." (*Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow (Viceroy of India 1936-1943). It is a wonderful account of hunting man-eating tigers and leopards. The Jim Corbet National Park is in Uttarakhand. Tigers live there.)

♦ "How me lost pipe? Means me got old, or head now no good, or what...?' / He did not finish his phrase, stopped in the middle of a word, stepped back, stooped, and examined something on the ground at his feet. I stepped up to him. He was looking round with a rather worried air, and whispered: / 'Look-see, captain! This is Amba! He go behind us. That very bad, very. Track quite fresh. Him quite near now.' / I looked, and there saw the perfectly distinct and fresh impressions of an immense cat's paw, standing out sharply printed in the muddy track. That I remembered clearly, and, besides, Dersu

could not have missed them. It was clear that the brute had come along since we had passed, in the same direction as ourselves, that he was following on our heels. / 'Him near, hid there,' said Dersu, pointing towards the right. 'He stood still here long time, when we stopped hunt pipe. We come back, he jump quickly one side. Look-see, captain, no water in track.' / I looked. Although there were puddles all round, the water had not yet found its way into this quite fresh pug-mark. There could be no doubt that the great brute had stood there and then, hearing our returning steps, had sprung into the thicket and vanished behind some fallen tree. / 'Him not go far. Me know well. Wait, captain! / We stood there silently a few minutes in the hope that some sound would betray the presence of the tiger, but there was the silence of the grave. In that silence I felt mystery, and fear..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## foot soldier (duty)

foot soldiers for justice

hundreds of ~ marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge

foot soldiers for Martin Luther King

he was one of those ~ (Reverend James Orange)

foot soldiers in a (vast right-wing) conspiracy

they were recast as ~ (government lawyers / prosecutors)

movement's foot soldiers

the ~ are less inhibited (alt-right)

Democratic foot soldiers

fire up the ~ (for a coming election)

movement foot soldier

at other moments, she sounded like any ~ (activist)

♦ "That declaration of war makes Liz Chaney a key general in a rear-guard action against the former president. The problem for her is that there are few if any foot soldiers ready to follow her lead." (BBC, Six O'clock News, 12/05/21.)

♦ "Families of the victims of the Oct. 7 attack allege both the AMP and SJP are propaganda fronts recruiting 'uninformed, misguided and impressionable college students to serve as foot soldiers for Hamas.'" (The Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ It's common now for social activists to refer to the marchers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama as "foot soldiers."

♦ "Those who walk on foot have always been considered inferior to those who ride... In a more forthright manner we speak of the humble foot soldiers who are supposed to walk and of the footman who used to run, not walk, in front of his master's carriage. / This sharp social distinction between the walkers and riders introduces us to a fascinating angle of human attitudes, to the snobbery of people that is actually imbedded in our language..." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 6, "Sources of Words of Attitudes and Emotions.")

## footstep (in the footsteps)

in the footsteps of their ancestors

Aborigines must follow ~

in his father's footsteps

he was going to follow in his ~

in their parents' footsteps

too young to be thinking about following ~

in his murderous footsteps

he is determined his son will not follow ~

follow in the footsteps

Aborigines must ~ of their ancestors

follow in his (murderous) footsteps  
he is determined his son will not ~

### footstep (retrace one's footsteps)

retraced my footsteps in Haiti  
one year after the earthquake, I ~ (journalist)

### footstep (conceal one's footsteps, etc.)

digital footsteps  
TOR drags branches behind your ~

### footwork (noun)

clever footwork  
some companies are getting by with some ~ (pandemic)

### for (support)

for you  
I am ~

### force (show of force)

political show of force  
a campaign kick-off is a ~

### force fed

force fed their fair share  
Man U has been ~ of humble pie

♦ Man U have been force-fed their fair share of humble pie and it's done them good. Now, as a neutral, I see their recovery under Ten Hag. Good for them (A commenter on a BBC HYS.)

### force-feed (and force feed)

force-feeds diversity and the woke messaging  
Hollywood ~ (*The Rings of Power*)

♦ see also *throat* (ram something down the throat)

### fore (come to the fore, etc.)

come to the fore  
issues of race have ~ (2020 presidential election)

bringing those voices to the fore  
so it's ~ (diversity & inclusion / Archibald Prize)

brought to the fore  
it has ~ some ethnic tensions (Elia Gonzalez case)

### forefather (noun)

land of our forefathers  
this is the ~

pilgrim forefathers  
our ~

inherited from its forefathers  
many issues Haiti grapples with today were ~

passed down by forefathers  
the crunk-rap tradition ~ like Three 6 Mafia...

### forefront (center)

at the forefront of this mind

Fury just needs to have boxing at the ~

to the forefront of the (death-penalty) debate  
he has been catapulted ~

♦ "Fury just needs to have boxing at the forefront of his mind and let other people worry about the media obligations. He just needs to focus on boxing, and he will be back with a bang." (Carl Frampton about Tyson Fury's subpar performance against Francis Ngannou.)

### foreground (noun)

move to the foreground  
as the midterm elections ~ (news cycle)

moved into the foreground  
money has ~ (doctor-patient relationship)

pull nuclear energy into the foreground  
we need to ~

pushed the instrument into the foreground  
he has ~ (African musician)

### foreground (verb)

foregrounded his virtues  
he has lied about his crimes and ~ (a flawed individual)

foregrounds warfare  
Colley ~ (*The Gun, the Ship, and the Pen* / constitutions)

### forenoon (at an earlier time)

in the forenoon  
~, we built igloos

on the forenoon  
~ of the second day... (*Kidnapped* by R.L. Stevenson)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This means before noon, in the morning. Earlier times are before (in front of) later times. So this seems to be the time queue.

### forerunner (noun)

forerunner of music videos  
"illustrated songs" were a ~ (vaudeville circa 1900)

forerunner of topical, stand-up comedy  
Mort Sahl was a ~

forerunner to the final solution  
this was seen as a ~ (Kristallnacht / Germany)

forgotten forerunners  
chapters are dedicated to ~ (re-memorizing)

### foresight (noun)

foresight  
his ~ was miraculous (a prediction)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In this use, it seems that the future is ahead, and approaching. Contrast with *forefather*.

### forest (a forest of cranes, etc.)

forest of (empty) bottles  
a ~ spread across the tables...

forest of cranes

I saw a ~ and, beyond them, skyscrapers

forest of stalactites

a hanging ~ (Kartchner Caverns)

kelp forests

the ~ off of California

the Great Southern Reef and its ~ (Australia)

the underwater ~ off the southwest tip of Cape Town

stalagmite forest

she threads her way through a ~ (underwater cave)

## forever (forever chemicals, etc.)

“forever” chemicals

the discovery of so-called ~ in the soil (agriculture)

‘forever chemicals’

detecting ~ like PFAS is costly and difficult

forever hero

remembering and honoring our ~ Police Officer

Fitzgerald

forever home

the statue’s ~ will be the Coachella Valley

he now gets to stay in his ~ (an adopted giant swamp rat)

forever legend

her legacy would have been intact as a ~ even had she not...

forever love

you’re my ~

forever prisoner

the ~ (Abu Zubaydah)

forever wars

see *forever war*

forever favorite

goodbye to my ~ arena (basketball player Caitlin Clark)

♦ Alex Gibney’s new documentary about Abu Zubaydah is named *The Forever Prisoner*. (HBO Max.)

♦ “Remembering and honoring our forever hero, Police Officer Fitzgerald.” (A tweet by the Temple University Police about a murdered officer.)

♦ PS Resorts, a hospitality organization, has decided “Forever Marilyn’s” forever home will be the Coachella Valley.” (“Giant Marilyn Monroe Statue Returns to Palm Springs, But Its Backside Faces Backlash” by Matt Guilhem, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, May 16, 2021.)

♦ “You’re my forever love.” (“It Wasn’t Friendship At First Sight. 35 Years On, They Found a ‘Forever Love,’” by Jey Born, NPR, Morning Edition, May 14, 2021.)

♦ “He now gets to stay in his forever home.” (A rescued giant swamp rat that was the focus of a legal battle between a Louisiana family and wildlife officials. The coypu, also known as a nutria, got to stay with the family. All’s well that ends well!)

## forever war

forever war against the media

he has waged a cultural ~ (Ishmael Reed)

“forever war” of race

the ~ (Drew Gilpin Faust / see quote below)

## Forever War With Mental Illness

*Bi-Polar General: My ~* (Ret. Gen. Greg Martin)

♦ “Foreign policy is domestic policy... We’ve got to turn the page on the forever wars.” (Jake Sullivan, Biden’s national security adviser.)

♦ “Tired of forever wars, the U.S. weighs options if Russia invades Ukraine.”

♦ “Biden pledged to end the forever wars.”

♦ “Trump promised to end the ‘forever wars.’”

\*\*\* **presentism, history in contempo-speak...**

♦ “His book represents his own meditation on the meaning of the ‘forever war’ of race not just in American history and literature, but in our fraught time.” (“What to Do About William Faulkner” by Drew Gilpin Faust, *The Atlantic*, September 2020. Which begs the question, “What to Do about Drew Gilpin Faust?” The answer: make the former President of Harvard a contributing writer at *The Atlantic*. The use of modern contempo-speak in a historical context is a form of presentism. To her credit, however, she *does* put the term in parentheses.)

## forge (verb)

forge an agreement

we will do our very best to ~ (politics)

forged checks

she graduated to cocaine and ~ to support her habit

forge compromise

how hard it will be for him to ~ (a diplomat)

forged (new American) heroes

each test has ~ (natural disasters, mass shootings, etc.)

\*\*\* **“The Fifty, as it’s called...”**

♦ “Approaching Alcoa’s 50,000-ton forging press at the Cleveland Works facility feels a bit like approaching an alp... The Fifty, as it’s called, broke down three years ago, and there was talk of retiring it for good. Instead, it was overhauled and is scheduled to resume service early this year. One of the great machines of American industry has been reborn. / If the logistics could somehow be worked out, the Fifty could bench-press the battleship *Iowa*... [It was one of four presses and six extruders] built during the now-forgotten Heavy Press Program (1950-1957). Eight of those ten forges are still working today, and Alcoa expects the Fifty to keep working until 2064.” (“Iron Giant, One of America’s Great Machines Comes Back To Life,” by Tim Heffernan, the *Atlantic*, March 2012.)

## forged

forged from (nearly) a decade

doctrines ~ of fighting in both wars

forged in her own adversity

she was ~ (overcame a rare medical condition)

forged in the furnace

he is ~ of Parris Island and San Diego (a marine)

forged document

the terrorist groups have coordinated in acquiring ~s

forged notes

~ and other bogus documents

forged (immunization) records

many legal visitors carry ~ (Hajj / Saudi)

forged (immigration) stamp  
falsified passports and ~s (Singapore)

forged passports  
foreign nationals entering the US with ~

forged transcripts and (recommendation) letters  
~ (college)

## forge on (resiliency)

forges on in the shadow of tragedy  
the community ~ (Uvalde, Texas)

## fork (a trail can fork, etc.)

forked  
the trail ~, one branch following the stream, the other...

## fork (the Forks of the Ohio, etc.)

Forks of the Missouri  
Three ~ (in Montana)

Forks of the Ohio  
the ~, where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers join

Forks Of the Tennessee  
the Holston and French Broad form the ~ (East Knoxville)

♦ Properly named geographical features with "Forks" include streams and rivers (by far the most), valleys, ridges, summits, and glaciers (also referred to as "lobes"). They are commonly distinguished simply by the cardinal directions: North, South, East, or West. Also, Middle.

♦ Forks are often sizable tributaries. For example, Big Elk Creek in Montana has a North Fork Big Elk Creek (a tributary) and a Middle Fork Big Elk Creek (a tributary), along with many other tributaries, of course.

♦ There seems to be no "Forks of the Mississippi." But if there were one, it would be the confluence of the Missouri and the Mississippi. The Missouri is considered to be the longest river in the United States.

♦ The Little Tennessee River joins the Tennessee River just downstream from Knoxville.

♦ There seems to be no "Forks of the Amazon."

♦ Missouri Headwaters State Park is in Montana. The park encompasses the confluence of the North Fork (Jefferson River), the Middle Fork (Madison River), and the South Fork (Gallatin River), which the three together create the Missouri River. In July 1805 Lewis and Clark, traveling up the Missouri River, reached the area and camped there. Faced with a decision, they decided to proceed up the Jefferson River.

## fork (at a fork, etc.)

fork in the road  
see *road* (*fork in the road, etc.*)

at a fork in his career  
he's ~

## fork over (verb)

forked over three hundred million dollars  
the Saudis reluctantly ~

forked over billions of dollars  
American taxpayers had ~ in economic aid (to Greece)

## formula (script)

formula to satisfy  
officials are seeking a ~ both sides (diplomacy)

formula for creating  
he has to learn the American ~ (politics)

formula for maintaining  
there is no neat ~ this balance (secrecy / press)

magic formula  
there is no ~, but try... (predicting NCAA winner);  
we don't have a ~ for predicting wildfires

same formula  
the ~ again and again (see quote below)

simple formula  
her long, ludicrous career has followed a ~ (feminist)

standard formula  
the ~ of a romantic comedy

followed a (simple) formula  
he long, ludicrous career has followed a ~ (feminist)

seeking a formula  
negotiators were ~ to keep the talks going (diplomacy)

♦ "The same formula again and again. I want to post pictures of myself in bathing suits. When I get criticized I'll say I want to do it for others and for body positivity. When I get criticized for that, I will show sadness that the world doesn't support mental health and I'm a victim, and finally I'll get praised for being so brave for living my own truth." (Bob Loblaw. A BBC HYS comment about "SI Swim model Natalie Mariduena wants to 'be an example' of 'body normalcy'" by Stephanie Nolasco, August 20, 2022.)

## fort (hold down the fort)

hold down the fort  
~ until reinforcements can be hired, trained (a company)

♦ "Amid the most beautiful scenery on the western shore of Lake Champlain stand the now lonely and grass-covered ruins of the once great fort of Ticonderoga, whose trenches have been so often traced in blood during the French, British, American, and Indian conflicts in the State of New York. The remains are still considerable, the stone walls being in some places thirty feet high. They are situated on a green eminence, just north of the outlet into Lake Champlain from Lake George, which was named by the Indians of old the Horican... / Mount Defiance lies about a mile south of the fort, and Mount Independence about half a mile distant, on the opposite side of the lake, around which are wooded hills that in some places rise to a thousand feet in height..." ("Ticonderoga, 1758," from *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant. In this particular battle, the French successfully "held down the fort" against General Abercrombie and the British. "On no regiment did the slaughter fall so heavily as on the Black Watch, which had a ghastly roll of 647 killed and wounded, of whom 26 were officers belonging to some of the best families in the Highlands." A year later, the British under Wolfe would defeat the French at Quebec and win Canada for the Crown.)

## fortress (noun)

fortress  
terror concerns have turned public buildings into ~s

fortress mentality  
a ~ that protects the home folks while... (public health)

neighborhood fortress  
it is a ~ (a high school in South-Central LA)

## fortuneteller (person)

### fortuneteller

are these things probable, I don't know, I'm not a ~  
stock analysts are modern-day ~s looking into crystal balls  
the latest pronouncement from the ~s (stock analysts)

### modern-day fortune tellers

they are ~ promising riches (stock analysts, etc.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In Canto XX of *The Inferno*, the fortune tellers and diviners have their heads screwed on backwards, so that as they walk forward they can only see backwards, and their tears run down their buttocks. About Amphiaraus, Virgil tells Dante: "In life he wished to see too far before him, / and now he must crab backwards round this track." (From the great translation of *The Inferno* by John Ciardi. Would all our modern-day media hosts, pundits and commentators suffer this fate!)

## forum (public forum, etc.)

### Ski Diva forum

MissySki on the ~

### English Teaching Forum

the ~ magazine

### in the (public) forum

those with agendas or axes to grind ~

♦ "Unfortunately with these public squares, these forums where people can speak, you're going to get riffraff." (The owner of a Web-hosting service, about hosting a controversial website. Sounds like the downtowns of most Democrat-controlled cities, nowadays.)

## forward (look forward to)

see *look forward to* (verb)

## forward (every year forward, etc.)

### forward

going ~, who can predict what will happen (boxing)

### every year forward

we will probably see this ~

### from this day forward

~, you will be known as Muhammad Ali

### jumps (backward and) forward

she ~ in time to illuminate... (a historian)

### look forward

New Year's day is a time to ~ and backward

### move forward

as we ~, we will see... (politics)

♦ In Canto X of *The Inferno*, Dante is curious as to why the heretics can foresee the future, but know nothing of the present, for example, if somebody is currently dead or alive. Farinata Degli Uberti, the great Tuscan war chief, explains: "We see asquint, like those whose twisted sight / can make out only the far-off... / When things draw near, or happen, we perceive / nothing of them..." (From the great translation of *The Inferno* by John Ciardi.)

## forward (path forward, etc.)

### path forward

as of today there is no clear ~ (politics)

### way forward

unless the Paris meeting can find a ~, Iran...

hopefully, negotiators can pick up the pieces and find a ~  
what I believe is the ~ (Joe Biden)

♦ "Folks, America cannot go back. I'm here tonight to show what I believe is the way forward, because I know how far we've come." (President Joe Biden's 2024 State of the Union address to Congress. Kamala Harris, campaigning to be president in 2024, also made the idea of moving forward and not going back a rallying cry during the 2024 U.S. presidential election. Both were no doubt channeling John Lewis—a congressman from Georgia and civil-rights icon—who in 2018 said, "We've come too far, we've made too much progress, and we're not going back. We're going forward.")

## forward (move forward, go forward, etc.)

### go forward

drilling projects continue to ~  
this will not help us as we ~

### moved us forward

inventions that ~

### move forward

we just want to ~, and hopefully change will come

### moving forward

we are ~ in a cautious way (diplomacy)  
things aren't ~, we're stuck (refugees)  
things are ~ and they're moving quickly (many projects)  
we are ~ with solutions on many issues (politics)

### move forward with her life

she wants to ~ (abuse victim)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It is strange how we move forward in some things, and stand still in others, and go backwards in yet others." (Msimangu about progress, from *Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.)

## forward (bring something forward, etc.)

### bring that (important) narrative forward

how can they ~

## forward (come forward)

### see *come forward* (verb)

## forward (future forward, etc.)

### forward-looking

see *forward-looking*

### forward-thinking

Judy is such a ~, independent spirited young girl

### fashion forward

RuPaul, famous, fierce and ~

### fashion-forward

~ men, take note (tiny pants)

### femme-forward

they are very ~ (Nelly Furtado about "Best of Skins")

### future-forward



their music is a ~ experiment

phlegm-forward

it's a very ~ language (Dutch)

reproductive rights-forward

it's ~ in there (at a 2024 DNC party)

technology-forward

the company has taken a ~ approach

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "I'm pretty tech forward, but most of the crypto stuff sounds pretty nuts to me."

## forward-looking

forward-looking approach

a ~ to marketing

♦ see also *facing* (future-facing, etc.)

## forwardness (noun)

female forwardness

her appealing expression of ~ (music)

sex-forwardness

the sly acknowledgment of her ~ (song lyric)

## fossil (noun)

fossil

my computer is a ~ (very old)

fossil word

"spick" is a ~ only found in "spick and span"

living fossils

sturgeon are ~ (Wisconsin)

Lake Ohrid is known for its species of ~

archaic or a fossil

some modern stylists have called it ~ (*beho(o)ve*)

make fossils of their practitioners

famous styles often ~ (NOT Joan Didion)

viewed as troglodytes

debating literary lions now ~...

♦ "Chairman and publisher AG Sulzberger met with sports staffers Thursday and told them *The Times* 'can't be stuck in amber' if it was going to grow."

**\*\*\* living fossils...**

♦ "Some people say they are awfully homely, awful bad looking, but to me... they are beautiful fish, just like a beautiful blonde." (Pat Wudtke, 73, in Wisconsin. He has speared sturgeon—living fossils—for 50 years during the state's annual season.)

♦ "It was quite horrific looking." (A beautiful frilled shark.)

♦ "Even the ugly sharks are beautiful..." (Shark enthusiast Katherine Rundell, specifically mentioning the goblin shark, which is a living fossil.)

♦ "The mudpuppy is relatively rare and looks a lot like its larger cousin, the Eastern hellbender." (WNC anglers: Seen any mudpuppies lately?" by Karen Chavez, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, USA TODAY Network, Sunday, December 27, 2020. Hellbenders are also known as "snot otters" and "water dogs." They are living fossils.)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "For a group of reptiles that went extinct 65 million years ago, dinosaurs are really good at staying in the news."

## fossilize (verb)

fossilises

an organisation that does not change ~

## fossilized

fossilized bureaucrat

a ~, a cog in the machinery for decades...

fossilized method

low voter participation indicates a ~ of outreach (Latinos)

fossilized understanding

she is an out-of-touch relic with a ~ of race and gender

calcified and fossilized

everyone is so partisan, our political views have become ~

## foundation (noun)

foundation of identity

in Egypt, nationalism and Arabism once were the ~

foundation in (native-language) literacy

a solid ~

foundation of (modern) research

being able to replicate results is the ~ (medicine)

foundation for success

brand loyalty is the ~ (business)

education is the ~ (life)

foundation narrative

the ~s of particular Native Nations (US)

foundation story

the Long March became a ~ for Communist China

solid foundation

a ~ in native-language literacy

foundation (of the lithium-ion battery) was laid

the ~ during the oil crisis of the 1970s

foundations (of the postwar order) are cracking

the ~ in Europe (economies)

build a foundation

we help people ~ for the rest of their lives (ad for school)

built a foundation

we've ~ of distrust (Iran / US)

lay a foundation

you ~ for a sense of community

laid a foundation

we ~ to talk about those issues (diplomacy)

poured the (social justice) foundation

Obama ~ (an opinion)

rests upon a foundation

our global role ~ of unmatched military power (US)

♦ "And so rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life." (The remarkable J.K. Rowling in her speech at Harvard University.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The writer who wrote, "Obama poured the social justice foundation" is to be commended. He has a very specific mental image of laying a foundation for a modern house or building, using concrete, poured out by concrete mixer truck. It is doubtful that most people who use the term "foundation" or "foundational" have any image in their heads whatsoever as to what an actual foundation is. Or as a contemporary speaker ignorant of grammar would probably say, "No idea as to what is an actual foundation."

## foundational (adjective)

foundational for getting

empathy was ~ the most accurate statement (sex assault)

foundational in teaching and learning

collocation is ~ language

foundational for American democracy

liberal arts education is ~

foundational to the narrative

education is ~ of social mobility in this country

foundational to a free society

privacy, including privacy online, is ~

foundational element

a ~ of US society is that we are a cultural melting pot

foundational myths

as the US awakens from one of its ~ (that it is classless)

foundational narrative

their work threatens the ~ of Polish Society (Holocaust)

foundational part

Shakespeare is a ~ of himself as an actor (Denzel Wash...)

foundational question

"what is school for?" is the kind of ~ that arises when...

foundational trauma

the ~ of its 20<sup>th</sup> century (Russian Civil War / pop history)

foundational values

ensuring America lives up to its ~ of equality and freedom

## funder (verb)

fundered

the TV channel quickly ~

two previous tried have ~ in the courts

the plan ~ with depressed stock prices

the company ~ during the economic downturn

Spain's economy has ~

foundering on the shoals

he finds himself ~ of issues around race (a politician)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Flounder* may come from this word. The literal use of *funder* was often used for horses and is still used for boats.

## founding father (noun)

founding fathers of (the New) Baseball

Sword and Epstein, two of the ~ (new rules / 2023)

founding fathers of (modern US) football

this 1990 team would become the ~ (soccer)

founding father of (Chicano) Literature

Rudolfo Anaya, a ~, dies at 82

founding father of rock-and-roll

Fats Domino, a ~, has died at age 89

founding father of (modern) Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew, the ~ (the influential Asian politician)

♦ "In an episode called 'Our Founding Chefs,' one scene takes place in Thomas Jefferson's kitchen at Monticello." (Food writer Stephen Satterfield, *High on the Hog*.)

## fountain (resemblance)

fountains of (bright red) lava

~ and towering clouds of ash

## fountain (source)

fount of instability

Iran is the ~ in the region

fountain of Islam

they come and drink from the ~ (mosque)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This might also be expressed using the slightly older form of the word, "fount."

## fountainhead

fountainhead of freedom

England was a ~ (Enlightenment)

fountainhead of (chamber) music

the festival was a ~ in America

fountainhead of ideas and discovery

the university has historically been a ~

fountainhead of ideals and law

Lincoln saw the Declaration of Independence as the ~

poetic fountainhead

Shakespeare was a ~

## Fountain of Youth

looking for the fountain of youth

women and men are ~ (cosmetics, surgery, etc.)

♦ "We have grown up in a society that has always pursued the Holy Grail, the fountain of youth." (Madeline Di Nonno, president of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, about ageism, particularly towards older female actors.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ There is no real proof that Ponce de Leon sought the Fountain of Youth in America.

## fox (subterfuge)

fox

the ~ is in the henhouse, and we invited it in

wily old fox

he is a deeply experienced ~ of a general (Kesselring)

put the fox in charge of the henhouse

the FAA ~ (safety of Boeing planes)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "They're going to burn the forest to kill the fox." (An Iraqi, speaking of US invasion to rid Iraq of Saddam. The more things change, the more they stay the same.)

## foxhole (military)

dig foxholes

we used our entrenching tools to ~

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. In one Willie and Joe cartoon drawn by Bill Mauldin, a dogface is excavating a hole into the vertical side of a cliff and explaining to another bemused doggie, "It's a horizontal foxhole." In another Mauldin cartoon, two infantrymen in their foxhole are regarding a tank going by and the one is telling his buddy, "I prefer ours. It looks to me like those moving foxholes would just attract attention."

♦ In *Life and Fate* by Vasily Grossman (translated by Robert Chandler), Novikov says, "But what's there to love about it [the tank]. It offers a magnificent target. Anyone can put it out of action. It makes an appalling din that gives its position away to the enemy and drives its crew around the bend. And it shakes you about so much you can hardly even observe, let alone take aim."

♦ Winston Churchill noted during the Blitz, "[T]he law of diminishing returns operates in the case of the demolition of large cities. Soon many of the bombs would only fall upon houses already ruined and only make the rubble jump. Over large areas there would be nothing more to burn or destroy, and yet human beings might make their homes here and there, and carry on their work with infinite resource and fortitude."

♦ James E. Parker, author of *Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of The Vietnam War*, says to Dunn, his friend and fellow grunt, "That tank looks like a big metal building, looks like it would draw fire. And it's loud. You hear that thing today?"

♦ "There are no atheists in foxholes." (Father Cummings, Bataan.)

♦ "I always wondered who invented the absurd lie that proclaimed there were 'no atheists in foxholes.' Where else could atheism better thrive than in the killing fields where homicide was honored? In the Third General Hospital at Aix, the poker game was as religious as things got." (The wonderful Tony Hillerman, from *Seldom Disappointed*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The dismounted infantryman knows where his shelter is, and where his safety lies. The cognitive linguist's "mundane reality is down" might be paraphrased by the soldier as "safety is down." As in the ground. Uniforms for MOUT are pixilated, to look like rubble. Keep your head down...

## foxhole (Keynesians in a foxhole, etc.)

foxhole atmosphere

a ~ of relentless resistance (Tucker Carlson on Fox)

an apocalyptic sensibility and a ~ (right wing)

in a foxhole

we're all Keynesians ~ (gov't intervention for crises)

in the foxhole

~, when you're in those battles... (an NBA player)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ During a time of a serious epidemic, religiosity rises. People become more religious. And that actually is generally reversed, when the epidemic goes away. You know, they say there are no atheists in foxholes, well, we're under a barrage right now, so you know people get religious, but then afterwards, you know, their religiosity sort of returns to baseline..." (Nicholas Christakis, "Denial And Lies Are

'Almost An Intrinsic Part Of An Epidemic,' Doctor Says," NPR, Fresh Air, October 29, 2020.)

## fracture (failure)

fracture in politics between elites and nationalists

there is a ~ (European Union)

fractures have opened

even in local governments, ~ on the left

## fractured (separated)

fractured

the cartels are ~ and fighting over territory (Mexico)

fractured mess

the Democratic party is a ~ that can't get anything done

## fragile (groups)

fragile male

~ (an online commenter's taunt)

♦ In MENS football it is, and always will be MAN of match. What is the beeb come to? /// Fragile male /// Cheers cis male /// Just trying to imagine having such a tenuous grasp of your own masculinity that 'player of the match' makes you feel undermined./// Player of the match, really? Was the previous term that problematic?... (Commenters on a BBC HYS. Some, or all, for that matter, might be simply trolls. Might even be the *same* troll! Such is our world today...)

## fragile (weak)

fragile

the ceasefire is ~ (Israel / Gaza)

fragile economy

Bosnia's ~ was hit hard by the global financial crisis

fragile and weak

the caretaker government is ~

## fragile (feelings)

fragile ones

enact measures to protect athletes, especially the ~

emotionally fragile

he was an ~ young man (suicide)

♦ "As wave after wave of pain and outrage swept through the *Times*, over a headline that was not damning enough of Trump or someone's obnoxious tweets, I came to think of the people who were fragile, the ones who were caught up in Slack or Twitter storms, as people who had only recently discovered that they were white and were still getting over the shock. Having concluded they had got ahead by working hard, it has been a revelation to them that their skin colour was not just part of the wallpaper of American life, but a source of power, protection and advancement. They may know a lot about television, or real estate, or how to edit audio files, but their work does not take them into shelters, or police precincts, or the homes of people who see the world very differently. It has never exposed them to live fire. Their idea of violence includes vocabulary." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

## fragility (white fragility, etc.)

fragility of Black masculinity

the ~, and the threat that queerness poses (rap music)

*White Fragility*

Robin DiAngelo's book ~ (2018)

institutional white fragility

it's an act of censorship caused by ~ (Shaun Leonardo)

racism, antiracism and white fragility

people are scooping up books about ~

exhibit "fragility"

white people become defensive and ~ when challenged

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Maybe nothing is more clearly defined by rap than the fragility of Black masculinity, and the perceived threat to masculinity that queerness poses." (Rodney Carmichael. From "Thugs don't dance": iLoveMakonnen and Drake tested rap's norms of masculinity, but only one passed," NPR, Louder Than A Riot Season Two, May 4, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Fragility* (white fragility, etc.), *moral panic* (noun), *panic* (bisexual panic, etc.), and *phobia* (*fatphobia*, etc.) are often used by groups with agendas to mischaracterize and disparage their opponents.

♦ "Linguist John McWhorter Says 'White Fragility' Is Condescending Toward Black People," NPR, Morning Edition, July 20, 2020.

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

♦ see also *moral panic* (noun), *panic* (bisexual panic, etc.), *phobia* (*fatphobia*, etc.)

## fragility (feelings)

fragility and herd behaviour

they exhibit ~ (journalists at the *New York Times*)

fundamental fragility

accept and be honest about our ~ (Simon Reeve)

fire and fragility

she embodied the ~ (the singer Sinéad O'Connor)

♦ "We're confronted by so many images of perfection now, and I think, as much as we can, it's a good thing for us to accept and be honest about our fundamental fragility." (Simon Reeve, traveler. He is talking about failings and insecurities.)

## frame (noun)

'-phobia' frame

antagonizing your ideological opponent is built into the ~

♦ "Antagonizing your ideological opponent is built into the '-phobia' frame, and activists have sparred over whether that catalyzes progress or impedes it." ("How '-Phobic' Became a Weapon in the Identity Wars" by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 26, 2016. It's a brilliant article.)

\*\*\* "The Building of the Ship"

♦ "Thus," said he, "will we build this ship! / Lay square the blocks upon the slip, / And follow well this plan of mine. / Choose the timbers with greatest care; / Of all that is unsound beware; / For only what is sound and strong / To this vessel shall belong. / Cedar of Maine and Georgia pine / Here together shall combine. / A goodly frame, and a goodly fame, / And the Union be her name! ("The Building of the Ship" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.)

♦ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Building of the Ship" is a terrific poem. Franklin Delano Roosevelt wrote out by hand the following lines from it in a message he sent to Winston Churchill, and Churchill used those same lines in a speech broadcast to the English people: "Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State! / Sail on, O Union, strong and great! / Humanity with all its fears, / With all the hopes of future years, / Is hanging breathless on thy fate!"

## frame (characterize)

frame what happened to young players

leaders are trying to ~ (football tragedy)

frame the story as a religious issue

they ~ between locals and outsiders

framed it as a character study

she has ~ as opposed to an attack (*Nomadland*)

frames Aboriginal identity in a narrative

the "deficit narrative" ~ of negativity

framing the story

Bayless is taking issue with the way Smith is ~ (sports)

frame each other and themselves

most of the answers were really aimed at trying to ~

♦ "As a metaphor, that framing is already mainstream." (Immigration as an "invasion" of the U.S.)

♦ "There were a lot of questions about policy but most of the answers were really aimed at trying to frame each other and themselves." (NPR's Tamara Keith after the first Harris-Trump debate. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "That I framed it all in terms of epistemology and decision theory—I did that purposefully... It was instrumental." (A famous female academic philosopher.)

## frame (in the frame / involvement)

in the frame already

he was born in Innsbruck, so he was ~

♦ "He was born in Innsbruck, so he was in the frame already." (The great climber Hermann Buhl.)

## framed (characterized)

framed

once a story has been ~, it's hard to change the narrative

framed as allyship

objection to Di Martino was ~ with trans people (*Loki*)

framed as racism

criticism is ~ or bullying

## franchise (noun)

regional franchises

Al-Qaeda still has its ~

## Franken (Frankenfoods, etc.)

Frankenbird

a bizarre ~ known as the turducken

Frankencar

people admire the parked ~ (Simone Giertz's Truckla)

Frankenfood

~ has been included in the Oxford dictionary (2000)

Frankenslogan

~ was the word she used (criticism)

Frankenstorm

weather forecasts deliver threats of ~s (hyperbole)

## frankenbiting

~ stitches images and audio together (editing, etc.)

♦ “*The New York Post* dubbed her the ‘Bride of Wildenstein’ for her apparently extensive plastic surgeries...” (Celebrity snark.)

♦ “In the end, we settled on ‘A free people demand to know’ (subject to a grammar check by our copy desk, which gave its assent). Success was short-lived—mercifully, no doubt. Late that evening, Bezos dispatched an email in the ‘not what you’re hoping for category,’ as he put it. He had run our consensus pick by his then wife, MacKenzie Scott, a novelist and ‘my in-house wordsmith,’ who had pronounced the phrase clunky. ‘Frankenslogan’ was the word she used.” (How *The Washington Post* got its motto, “Democracy Dies In Darkness.” From “Eight Years at *The Washington Post* by Martin Baron, *The Atlantic*, September 2023. A much better motto would be, “Democracy Dies Behind A Paywall.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type in “franken-” at Wiktionary, then click on “Derived terms,” and you will get a list which includes “Frankenbite,” recorded in this entry as “Frankenbiting.” Wiktionary is wonderful.

## Frankenstein (Frankenstein Cliff, etc.)

### Frankenstein

~ was tough (named rapid / kayaking)

### Frankenstein

~ is a populated place in Osage County, Missouri

### Frankenstein Cliff

excellent views along ~ (near a waterfall)

### Frankenstein Cliff

~ is a cliff in Carroll County, New Hampshire

### Bride of Frankenstein

first rapid is ~ (Green River Narrows / kayaking)

### Son of Frankenstein

we got to ~ (named rapid / kayaking)

### \*\*\* the Green River gorge, outside of Saluda, North Carolina...

♦ “And there it is. A sight that never gets old. It’s the gates of the Narrows. First rapid is Bride of Frankenstein. Not too much to it. And waiting just below is Frankenstein, a manky, jumbly banger rapid that you really need to get right...” (The Green River Narrows, North Carolina. Super!)

## Frankenstein (product)

### "Frankenstein" foods

concerns about the safety of the so-called ~

### Frankenstein hybrid

2 coronavirus variants can give birth to a ~ (NPR)

### Frankenstein machine

this ~ was called a “six-blade” (stacked)

### “Frankenstein” vehicles

the limo crash raises safety questions about ~

### Frankenstein’s monster

Ducournau has sewn together a ~ from disparate ideas  
the song is a ~ of pop genres (“Can I Get It?”)

♦ “When two coronavirus variants meet inside one person, a Frankenstein hybrid can be born.” (NPR Morning Edition, Michaela Doucleff, March 23, 2022. With a graphic that is perhaps meant to be the Bride of Frankenstein by Francesco Zorzi.)

## Frankenstein (a monster)

### Frankenstein experiment

a ~ gone wrong

### higher education's Frankenstein

the NCAA has become ~, terrifying its overseers

### create a Frankenstein

it gets out of hand, they ~ (extrajudicial killings)

♦ “And now it’s grown so much, how do you control it? BA [Bruce Arians] thought they could control it. Even Tom [Brady] thought he could control it until, guess what, it got so big, even he couldn’t control Frankenstein. And then Frankenstein started consuming. Mike Tomlin can’t control it, Jon Gruden... even Coach Belichick... This is who AB [Antonio Brown] is.” (Shannon Sharpe talking with Skip Bayless about the great NFL player Antonio Brown on “Undisputed.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The oppression of Frankenstein’s monster in the sentimental film versions seems irrational and cruel. Less so if you read Mary Shelley’s harrowing and creepy novel!

## Frankenstein (as verb)

### Frankenstein them back together

you could ~ if you had the right parts (blown up MRAPS)

### Frankensteins various takes together

he ~ to get a flawless rendition (music producer)

### Frankensteining alternatives

he has been ~ (Michael McAlpine / body parts)

### Frankenstein one

Waller set out to ~ (a Fresnel lens for a lighthouse)

♦ “Michael McAlpine has been Frankensteining alternatives.” (“It’s Alive! 3D-Printing Body Parts” by Rebecca Heilweil, *Wired*, December 2018.)

♦ “When American public schools macramé’d together the words *language*, *arts*, and *English*, starting in the 1970s, they created a tangle: ELA.”

## fraternity (noun)

### fraternity of test pilots

death wasn’t unusual within our ~

### horrible fraternity

he said his past put him in a ~ (rapper Mystikal)

### small fraternity

the Las Vegas boxing community is a ~

### member of the fraternity

I’m proud to be a ~ (a retired boxer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “He said his past put him in a horrible fraternity.” (The rapper Mystikal.)

## fray (verb)

### fray the fabric

logging and roads ~ of nature

### frayed (US-China) ties

many issues have ~

### badly frayed

the incident ~ inter-Korean relations

bond frayed  
their ~ almost to the breaking break

coalition frayed  
the ~

consensus is fraying  
the political ~

fibers (within the tendons) fray  
the ~ (tendinopathies)

nerves are fraying  
~ as the lockdown continues (coronavirus)

relationship frayed  
the ~ over the past year (diplomacy)

began to fray  
relations between the countries ~ in November

beginning to fray  
tolerance is ~

### fray (above the fray)

above the fray  
he is trying to stay ~ (a politician)

### fray (conflict)

2020 fray  
he is joining the ~ (running for president)

### frayed (degraded)

frayed by his rejection  
their longtime alliance has been ~ of the bill

frayed by scandals  
taxpayer confidence has been ~

frayed relations  
Obama has worked hard to repair his ~ with...  
he wants to rebuild ~ with neighbor Argentina

frayed (political) system  
the two leaders promised to reform the country's ~

frayed ties  
Obama is trying to smooth ~ with business leaders

badly frayed (m)  
he sought to mend ~ relations between the two countries

seriously frayed  
the social safety net is ~

grow (yet more) frayed  
an already strained social compact will ~

### frayed (emotions)

frayed nerves  
he experienced ~ and growing exhaustion  
he tried to smooth the ~  
he wasn't the only person with ~ (war)

become frayed

nerves can ~ in the blasting Antarctic winds

### freaking (F, effing, fricking, frickin', friggin', etc.)

F bomb  
see *bomb* (*F-bomb*, etc.)

F you  
~

effing do it  
we should just ~

Robert Frickin' Redford  
he was portrayed by ~

Elon-freaking-Musk  
he's ~ (yes, he is...)

two thousand fricking twenty-two  
so they have these big smokestacks, and it's ~

Abso-freaking-lutely  
asked if he could, he responded, "~" (a politician)

unfreaking  
the Libs of TikTok posting read, '~ believable'

freaking adult  
not one ~ did anything to protect her (upset godmother)

freaking God  
he has more money than ~ (a retired doctor)

frigging legend  
he's F. Murray Abraham, he's a ~... (a Hollywood type)

frickin' wind  
I cussed that ~ for 50 years (a North Dakota farmer)

frickin' kidding  
are you ~ me (said to Jeremy Sides / Exploring with Nug)

frickin' shooting  
they are ~ people with paintballs (a riot)

friggin' generous  
wow, that was so ~, unbelievable... shit! (Amanda)

freaking scary  
~, but I'm going to do it...

ever freakin' made  
I'd love to help you make more money than you have ~

shut the F up  
there's just a lot of ~ and sing (Sheryl Crow, 2024)

♦ "So you're in school. Be in school. Get your frickin' education. Barack and I, all through this presidency, through the lies and the stuff they said about us, all we could do was wake up every day and do our jobs. Let our jobs and our lives speak for itself." (The former first lady Michelle Obama counseling a Native American student who felt uneasy being in school with students wearing Trump hats. From "'Becoming' Offers A Revealing But Selective View Of Michelle Obama," NPR, Morning Edition, May 6, 2020. Eric Degans.)

♦ "Oh, man. What a freaking moment." (Abby Wambach, about the goal she scored that tied the game with Brazil in 2011. The cross was provided by Megin Rapinoe.)



♦ "We got screwed, there was not a freakin thing we could do about it." (A *political* advertisement in the U.S. in 2022.)

♦ "The first person I dated after my divorce seemed like a great guy. And then I found out he was a freaking Democrat!" (Angela Hammontree. From "Politics increasingly a deal-breaker on US dating scene" by Jason Armesto, BBC News, Washington, Nov. 2022. Jason is a journalist in Brooklyn, and has 346 followers on LinkedIn.)

♦ "Tom Brady isn't sure what he's going 'to f-king do' yet with NFL future." (*New York Post*.)

♦ "Get bent! 1st Amendment allows me to say what I want. GFY" (An online commenter about something or other.)

♦ "There's just like a lot of shut the F up and sing." (Sheryl Crow speaking to Debbie Elliott on NPR's Morning Edition.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ fekin; f\*\*\*\*\*; effin'; effing; forkin... (Same thing.)

♦ "Rude words are a constant, but their ability to cause offense is in flux."

♦ View "John McWhorter on Cursing, Anti-Racism, and Why 'We Need to Stop Being So Afraid,'" YouTube, ReasonTV. It is a fascinating interview with a distinguished linguist who is always interesting. As the introduction says, "McWhorter's latest volume to hit store shelves is *Nine Nasty Words*, a study of how curse words such as "fuck" and the N-word became commonplace, unsayable, or something in between. [ReasonTV] talked with McWhorter about the shifting status of curse words and accusations of systemic racism in contemporary America."

♦ Type "frickin" in search at NPR, and you will get 1,412 results and counting. Glen Weldon of Pop Culture Happy Hour uses it a lot, just as he seems to enjoy using words ending in a long e, like "poopy" and "thingy."

♦ see also *bomb* (*F-bomb*, etc.), *word* (*P-word*, etc.)

## freakish (adjective)

freakish powers

her ~ (Miley Cyrus, constantly evolving / compliment)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## freak show (noun)

leave behind the freak show

the party must return to its center and ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* Jo-Jo the Dog-Faced Boy, Joice Heth, Harvey Leach...

♦ "The 1870s and 1880s were the height of the controversial but enormously popular 'side shows' in America. Hucksters like P.T. Barnum attracted huge throngs by booking fire-eaters, sword swallows, and 'freaks' with assorted medical abnormalities, some bogus, others disturbingly real. There were the 'Wild Men of Borneo' (actually two mentally disabled dwarfs from Ohio), 'Jo-Jo the Dog-Faced Boy' (suffering from hypertrichosis, a profusion of body hair), 'General Tom Thumb' (the world's smallest human), eight-foot giants, bearded ladies, Siamese twins, and people with humongous body tumors attached to their back, face, and scrotum..." (*Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky.)

## free fall (in free fall)

in free fall

his life was ~

house prices continue to be ~ nationwide

the economy is ~, economic meltdown (Zimbabwe)

in free fall at colleges around the country  
enrollment in the humanities is ~ (2023)

in a (moral) freefall

we are ~ (culture wars)

♦ "Today, the roller coaster is in free fall." (Enrollment in the humanities—English and History—versus enrollment in science and engineering, which is shooting up.)

♦ "Every form of institutional trust is in free fall." (In government, higher education, big business, tech firms, media, the entertainment industry, unions, etc.)

♦ "Wandsworth is in free fall." (The London Prison. Filthy; vermin infested; stressed and careless staff; 30-44% of staff is unavailable to work on any given day; hard to hire new staff; rookie guards need to be trained up and cause security issues; morale is awful; lax security, etc.)

## free fall (other)

free fall in (air) travel

the ~ post-9/11 (due to fears of terrorism)

company's (financial) free fall

the ~ (into bankruptcy)

stock-market free fall

the ~ was harrowing to watch

financial free fall

the company's ~ (into bankruptcy)

mental freefall

he went into a ~ (murderer)

moral free fall

we are in a ~ (culture wars)

## free-for-all (control)

free-for-all

space is a ~ right now (space pollution)

free-for-all of people

it is a ~ suggesting that...

free-for-all on what

it's a bit of a ~ the government can do (facial recognition)

## freeze (verb)

freeze assets

~ of terrorists

frozen its (nuclear) tests

North Korea has ~

## freeze (computers, etc.)

computer freezes

if your ~...

## freeze (position of body)

hold the freeze

patrol members ~ until signaled to do something else

## freeze (activity)

freeze on (U.S.) aid

if that's the case, should there be a ~ (politics)

freeze on (high-level) contacts  
the European Union recently ended its ~ with Iran

freeze on (all state) hiring  
it would put a ~

price freeze  
a ~ until 2002 (public utilities)

hiring freeze  
a ~ is often a last-ditch effort to reduce staff...

60-day freeze  
he asked for a ~ (on aid to Russia / politician)

freeze began to thaw  
the ~ when...

put a freeze on (all state) hiring  
it would ~

### freeze out (verb)

frozen Tomaz out of funding  
the Alpine Association had ~ (climber)

### freighted

freighted with (historical and cultural) baggage  
the N-word is ~ (racial epithets)

### freight train (force)

unstoppable freight trains  
hurricanes are the ~ of weather (wind and water)

freight train (just) runs you over  
once he gets going, the ~ (a boxer)

♦ "I think I see the light at the end of the tunnel. And this time, it is not a freight train." (A restaurateur, about the end of COVID restrictions.)

♦ "This man is a destructive force. Unstoppable..., the freight train just runs you over." (Artur Beterbiev beats Anthony Yarde / boxing.)

\*\*\* **The Marshall Tucker Band...**

♦ "I'm gonna take a me a southbound, all the way to Georgia Lord, till the train run out of track..." Watch: The Marshall Tucker Band Can't You See 9/10/1973 Grand Opera House (Official)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The sound of a tornado is often compared to the sound of a freight train.

### frenzied (adjective)

frenzied rumors  
the ~ have become so fierce that...

### frenzy (feeding frenzy)

media feeding frenzy  
it was a ~

social media feeding frenzy  
the information generated a ~

### frenzy (other)

media frenzy  
such was the ~ around the trial (national attention)

global frenzy

the ~ (over Taylor Swift's Eras Tour)

center of a (media) frenzy  
he is now the ~ (accusations of sex abuse)

whipped the snow into a frenzy  
the winds ~ (ground blizzard)

working themselves into a frenzy  
the fans are ~ (World Cup)

### fresh (fresh evidence, etc.)

fresh approach  
we need a ~ to this problem

fresh attempt  
the time seemed ripe for a ~ (scientific ballooning)

fresh attention  
the case has garnered ~ after new evidence was unearthed...

fresh blood  
the king might reshuffle his cabinet to inject ~

fresh burst  
the crisis signaled a ~ of negotiating

fresh concerns  
the floods have sparked ~ over... (N. Korea)

fresh effort  
a ~ is underway to refloat the ship

fresh evidence  
they said there was ~ available (politics)

fresh (scientific) evidence  
~ is turning this case on its head

fresh outsider perspective  
a ~ on US politics (*The Guardian*)

fresh start  
the group helps the homeless and others get a ~ in life

fresh search warrants  
armed with ~ police arrived...

memory (of war) is fresh  
the ~

### freshman (adjective)

freshman Democrat  
the 29-year-old ~

### Freud (sex)

Freud of the botanical world  
Linnaeus was the ~ (all about sex)

### friction (conflict)

friction  
get along enough to avoid ~ in the office  
the ~ of 37,000 US troops (anti-Americanism in Korea)  
in one step to reduce ~... (US forces)

friction between cyclists and motorists  
~ who have to share the road

friction between the LAPD and the residents  
decades of ~ (LA)

friction between pedestrians and motorists  
the road network has created ~

frictions between their camps  
~ of advisors and loyalists (politicians)

friction between you  
there was obviously a lot of ~ (antagonism)

friction of differing opinion  
you lose the ~ (NPR)

avoid friction  
get along enough to ~ in the office

♦ "The way that the place operates is really congenial, but in that congeniality what you lose is the friction of differing opinions and people saying 'no, I don't agree with that, you know, I don't agree with that policy, where's the evidence' or the things that people do when they have really intellectually honest disagreements, I think we lose a lot of that." (Uri Berliner talking about NPR with Bari Weiss. From "NPR Editor Speaks Out: How National Public Radio Lost Americans' Trust," Honestly with Bari Weiss. Read "I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

## friction (impedance)

friction  
government rules are only one kind of ~ to free markets  
does e-commerce reduce ~, add convenience and...

trade friction  
~ is channeled into the WTO's dispute settlement process

points of friction  
troops would pull back from ~

fog and a friction  
there is a ~ to war (civilian deaths)

remove all the friction  
digitization cannot ~ from a customer's life (FinTech)

♦ Friction, it turns out, is the parent of the profit margin. The more you move toward a perfect market mechanism the fewer opportunities there are for anyone to make money." (E-commerce.)

## frictionless (adjective)

frictionless travel  
the airlines' attempts to create ~

♦ NPR's A Martinez: So these ten-minute-long (TikTok) videos, what are they competing with? / Niklas aka "The Social Media Professor" Myhr—pronounced Mear, rhymes with "beer," a Swede—at Chapman University, southern California: I think it is an alternative to podcasts ... but it's a little more burdensome for somebody to open up a separate app and find the right podcast, the right episode, to listen to something engaging when they are just getting on with their lives. / A Martinez (laughing): Are we really, professor, at a point where it is actually burdensome to move your finger an inch to get to another app to watch something else? / Niklas Myhr: Well, you may remember that some people used to drive across town to get a five dollar discount on a pair of shoes. Today, an internet user finds it burdensome to scroll down and google beyond the sponsored results on the phone. So it is... I don't think it's a question of laziness necessarily, people want content consumption experiences that are frictionless." ("TikTok is known for short videos but other types are

going viral too," NPR, Morning Edition, March 1, 2024. "Is TikTok the new TV?" Others have wondered, "Is TikTok the new Google?")

## friend (noun)

friend  
technology is not our ~ today (glitches during trial / judge)  
social media was not our ~ on that day (school swatting)  
we will be your ~, not your slave (PM Imran Khan to US)  
the WHO, CDC and FDA are not your ~s (commenter)  
time might not be their ~ (war in Ukraine)  
complexity simply isn't your ~ when...

friends and allies  
Kosovo needs more ~

Marine's (best) friend  
the tank was a ~ (Second Battle of Fallujah 2004)

soldier's (best) friend  
why the A-10 Warthog is a ground ~

best friend  
I grew up an only child, so my ~s were books (Lucy Yu)

no friends left  
the NCAA has ~ (on the left or on the right)

becomes a friend  
ultimately, in cold case murders, time ~ (new technology)

made friends with it  
it's part of me, I have ~ (Billie Eilish about Tourette's)

♦ "'Friends' is a loaded word in prison. So many people have been betrayed by their 'friends.' What we have around us are more associates, close associates." (A death row inmate in a Texas prison.)

♦ "You got to be careful in the boxing business on who your friends are." (The great boxer Lennox Lewis.)

### \*\*\* proverbs, sayings, expressions, quotations...

♦ "Friends are thieves of time."

♦ "When a friend asks, there is no tomorrow."

♦ "A friend to everybody is a friend to nobody."

♦ "A stone from the hand of a friend is an apple." (Morocco.)

♦ "Friends are better than money." (That is because if you need money, you can ask your friend.)

♦ "Lend your money, lose your friend."

♦ "A friend in need is a friend indeed." (This means that in bad times most of your friends will abandon you, but a true friend will stick with you and help you. But a *true* friend will die for you.)

♦ "We have no friends but the mountains." (Kurdish.)

♦ "One hundred friends are too few; one enemy is too many."

♦ "With a friend like you, who needs enemies!"

♦ see also *enemy* (conflict)

## friendly (adjective)

friendly to life  
salt in very high concentrations is not very ~ (Mars)

friendly atmosphere  
the ~ that originally drew foreigners to Wisconsin

friendly face  
fraud often hides behind a ~

friendly fire  
see *friendly fire (military)*, *friendly fire (literal analogy)*

friendly ground  
don't assume Ireland will be ~ for the pope (sex abuse)

friendly microbes  
there are things called ~ (digestion, etc.)

friendly neighbors  
Azerbaijan and Armenia are not ~

"friendly skies"  
the ~ have become unfriendly (air travel)

friendly and enemy  
~ thermal and optical signatures (military)

### **friendly (queer-friendly, etc.)**

animal-friendly  
shelters, doggy day cares and other ~ places

bike-friendly  
places with ~ infrastructure

bird-friendly  
~ chocolate harvesting practices such as agroforestry

child-friendly  
promoting witchcraft in a ~ format (Harry Potter)

coal-friendly  
~ Kentucky must embrace renewables

climate-friendly  
~ farming is just being aware of the soil

dementia-friendly  
Bruges is the most ~ city in the world (Belgium)  
in the UK, a number of towns and cities have become ~  
Fareham has the country's first ~ high street

Dementia Friendly  
San Antonio has earned the designation "~ City"

dog-friendly  
track down ~ cafes and hotels (a Web site)  
pet-friendly bars can now serve ~ beer

eco-friendly  
trendsetters are visiting ~ resorts  
aquamation is an ~ alternative to traditional cremation

female friendly  
lack of ~ farm tools may pose safety hazard

Gay-Friendly  
"Chicago Proposes ~ High School" (NPR / Corley / 2008)

gay-friendly  
Fort Lauderdale faces threat to ~ ranking (2007)  
~ TV through the years (2005)  
five gay, or ~ characters (2021)  
Beirut has ~ bars and drag shows (Lebanon)  
plans to open a Chick-fil-A in ~ Palm Springs, CA

gun-friendly  
in ~ Montana

kid-friendly  
~ shows for desperate parents (Linda Holmes)  
a ~ name, like "Shake out the yuck" (mental health)

migrant friendly  
Mexico City falls short of its ~ hype

pedestrian-friendly  
some ~ street chances may stay after the pandemic ends

pet-friendly  
~ bars can now serve dog-friendly beer  
a ~ hurricane shelter in Sarasota County, Florida

queer-friendly  
a ~ punk scene that loved to dance (Big Freedia)  
New Orleans Bounce, a ~ hip-hop variant  
she reads her son ~ books  
LGBTQ travelers promoted the island as ~ (Bali)  
Chelsea was a ~ place in the 1960s and 70s (rent boys)

far-right-friendly  
the ~ social-media platform Parler...

environmentally friendly  
ensure that products are more ~ (fashion industry)  
encourage more ~ travel (carpooling, public transport)

♦ "The undercover FBI agent posed as a 'taboo-friendly' 30-year-old man." (University of the Pacific professor Rod Githens arrested in a pedophile sting.)

♦ see also *welcoming (groups)*

### **friendly fire (military)**

friendly fire  
they were killed by ~ (soldiers)

### **friendly fire (literal analogy)**

friendly fire shooting  
a controversial police ~ left a cop, two bystanders injured

♦ "NYPD cops told deranged suspect to drop knife 38 times before 'friendly fire' subway shooting that injured 3: officials" by Jorge Fitz-Gibbon and Matt Troutman, *The New York Post*, Sep. 18, 2024.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The usage of "police friendly fire shooting" is unusual.

### **frigid (adjective)**

frigid reception  
the idea had met a ~ from France and Britain

### **fringe (configuration)**

fringe of islets  
the lagoon, with its distant ~

broad fringe  
a ~ of sea ice builds each austral winter

### **fringe (edge)**

fringe of the storm  
wind and rain from the ~ lashed the state

fringes of the solar system  
unmanned vehicles are zipping to the ~

desert's (southern) fringe  
the ~

southern fringe  
the desert's ~

eastern fringes  
this country on the ~ of Europe (Ukraine)

southern and eastern fringe  
the arc of deforestation along the ~ of the Amazon

outer fringes  
icy rocks found on the ~ of the solar system

**fringe (on the fringe)**

on the political fringe  
both groups arose ~ (Occupiers, Tea Party)

operate on the fringes  
the gangs ~ (versus established gangs)

**fringe (versus mainstream)**

fringe Berlin  
the restaurant is ~ at its best

fringe books  
we are seeing fewer ~ and new authors (publishing)

fringe cult  
he joined a ~

fringe dwellers  
every society has its ~

fringe idea  
animal liberation is no longer the ~ it once was

fringe minority  
the so-called “~” is actually the government (Elon Musk)

fringe territory  
their most recent article veered into ~ (UFOs / NYT)

criminal fringe  
the "one percenters" are the ~ of the biker world

lunatic fringe  
the group is part of the ~

militant fringe  
Turkey has been at war with the ~ of the Kurds

radical fringes  
he is a figure on the most ~ of the movement

violent fringe  
they are members of a nationalist, sometimes ~

from the fringes into the mainstream  
social media can push conspiracies ~

## fringed

fringed by (mountain) peaks

the Salar de Uyuni is ~ (salt flat in Bolivia)

fringed with coral reefs  
Kenya's southeast coastline is ~

palm-fringed  
a beautiful, ~ beach...

## frog (frog in boiling water)

frog in the boiling water  
ignoring the need to fix entitlement programs is the ~  
don't be the ~ and think this is okay... (politics)

♦ “In this series, you’re gonna hear people who 20 years ago sensed we were in a pot of water slowly reaching a boiling point and chose to take things further...” (The podcast *Burn Wild*, BBC Sounds, about the eco-terrorist movement.)

♦ “Are we frogs? Are we being boiled and don’t know it yet?” (A Californian, discouraged by fires, drought, and record temperatures.)

♦ “Like many concerned keepers of the game and its traditions, Sword will often explain the creeping dispassion for baseball in terms of that overcooked analogy about the boiling frog in the pot. ‘Part of what made this so tricky was that the games were getting two or three minutes slower every year rather than half an hour slower, so there was never a point where it felt like a real emergency,’ he told me. I offered an alternative analogy, comparing baseball’s predicament to a slow-growing tumor that the new rules would surgically excise. ‘I’d prefer to go back to the frog,’ Sword said. / How did America’s beloved old frog find itself in such mortal danger...?” (“How Baseball Saved Itself” by Mark Leibovich, *The Atlantic*, July / August 2023.)

♦ “Don’t be the frog in the boiling water and think this is okay.” (Tim Walz, about something Trump may or may not have said.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This fable illustrates the danger of changes that occur slowly.

## front (get in front of an announcement, etc.)

get in front of it  
we’ll announce it later today, I don’t want to ~

got out in front of Obama  
Biden ~ on gay marriage

## front (in front / competition)

get in front of it  
the nationwide quarantine is an effort to ~ (coronavirus)

## front (the future is in front of us)

in front of her  
she had her whole life ~ (committed a murder)

## front (in front / proximity)

in front of me  
I was so blinded by love that I didn’t see the problem ~

in front of us  
the answer is ~  
we have these issues ~

## front (conflict)

front in the (overall) struggle  
his indictment could be a new ~ to get at what happened

legislative front

do you think something will get done on the ~ (politics)

#### new front

a ~ in the president's battle with congress is emerging  
fake 1-star reviews are the ~ of review manipulation

#### two-front

he's fighting a ~ campaign (Bernie Sanders)

#### on all fronts

the oil spill is being attacked ~

#### on several fronts

our efforts are advancing ~ (oil-spill cleanup)

#### on that front

how are you doing ~ (protective supplies / COVID)

#### battling on all fronts

King was ~ (boxing's Don King, in 1978)

♦ "All quiet on the Tom Brady front." (*New York Post* gossip.)

♦ "It remains all quiet on the deliberative front." (Jurors consider verdict for third day.)

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. World War I.

♦ "The collapse of France and the destruction of the French armies and of all counter-poise in the West ought to have produced some reaction in Stalin's mind, but nothing seemed to warn the Soviet leaders of the gravity of their own peril. On June 18, when the French defeat was total, Schulenburg reported: 'Molotov summoned me this evening to his office and expressed the warmest congratulations of the Soviet Government on the splendid success of the German Armed Forces.' This was almost exactly a year from the date when these same Armed Forces, taking the Soviet Government by complete surprise, fell upon Russia in cataracts of fire and steel. We now know that only four months later in 1940 Hitler definitely decided upon a war of extermination against the Soviets, and began the long, vast, stealthy movement of these much-congratulated German armies to the East. No recollection of their miscalculation and former conduct ever prevented the Soviet Government and its Communist agents and associates all over the world from screaming for a Second Front, in which Britain, whom they had consigned to ruin and servitude, was to play a leading part." (*Their Finest Hour* by Winston S. Churchill, Chapter VI, "The Rush For The Spoils.")

### front (front and center)

#### front and center

the wave of sex-abuse scandals will be ~ conference)

#### front and center on his mind

clearly this topic is ~

### frontier (noun)

#### frontier of crime

Silk Road was the new ~, a digital-era Wild West (drugs)

#### frontier between barbarism and civilization

this is a humanity problem on a modern-day ~ (a war)

#### final frontier

direct flights represented the ~ (Australia to London)

#### latest frontier

Oklahoma is the ~ in the marijuana gold rush

#### next frontier

deep fake videos are the ~ in fake news

the Metaverse is the ~ (according to Mark Zuckerberg)

#### push the frontiers

the US has always wanted to ~ (physics, etc.)

### front line (on the front line)

#### on the front lines

state and local law enforcement ~

the dedicated people ~ (social services)

she tells what it's really like ~ (nurse in pandemic)

in the fight against smoking, New Zealand is ~

#### on the front lines of this battle

he is ~ (agency fighting spam phone calls)

#### on the front lines of this disease

health care workers ~ (COVID-19)

#### on the front lines of movements

Black feminist leaders ~ today

#### on the front line of (interpersonal) violence

doctors are ~ (EM)

#### on the front lines of the drug crisis

they have been working ~

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "They get awfully sick at the big-print headlines in some of the papers—'The Hill 60 Thrill!' 'Thrill, indeed! There's nothing thrilling about ploughing over parapets into a machinegun, with high explosives bursting round you,—it's merely beastly,' said a boy this evening, who is all over shrapnel splinters. / Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 A.M. [1915]—This is Der Tag. Could anybody go to bed and undress? / I have been cutting dressings all night. One of the most stabbing things in this war is seeing the lines of empty motor ambulances going up to bring down the wrecks who at this moment are sound and fit, and all absolutely ready to be turned into wrecks." (*Diary of a Nursing Sister on the Western Front: 1914-1915* by Kate (Katherine) Evelyn Luard.)

♦ "When Liberty's in jeopardy / I will always do what's right / I'm out here on the front lines / sleep in pace tonight." Watch: Toby Keith—American Soldier (Radio Edit)

### front line (other)

#### front line

in battles of identity, language often becomes the ~

#### frontline

the CDC is the ~ in any public health emergency

#### front lines of COVID-19

medical students are rushed to ~

#### front line of the (culture) war

the judiciary committee is the ~ (U.S. politics)

#### frontline in the fight

this is the ~ against a deadly global trade (poaching)

#### front-line caregivers

nurses are the ~

#### become the front line

in the battle to contain the contagion, these labs have ~

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ There were great husky men crying with the pain of gaping wounds and dreadfully swollen, discolored trench feet, who sank down exhausted the moment they stopped. There were strings of from eight



to twenty blind boys filing up the road, clinging tightly and pitifully to each other's hands, and led by some bedraggled limping youngster who could still see... I wonder if I'll ever be able to look at marching men anywhere again without seeing those blinded boys, with five and six wound stripes on their sleeves, struggling painfully along the road." (*Sister: The War Diary of a Nurse* by Helen Dore Boylston.)

## front-runner (noun)

front-runner

he is the ~

the ~ Barak Obama (politics)

front-runner in the race

he has cemented his position as ~ (politics)

front-runners for the job

there are two ~

front-runner for a (future Supreme Court) nomination

he is a ~

front-runners and underdogs

~ loved him (a race-car driver)

## frostily

replied frostily

Cynthia ~, "It's disgusting"

## frosty (adjective)

frosty

US relations with Cambodia have long been ~

frosty handshake

they shared a ~ after their match (two tennis rivals)

frosty relationship

he has a ~ with Netanyahu (diplomacy)

♦ "Already frosty relations between the US and Russia *soured* [italics mine] even further." You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.)

## frothy (substance)

frothy page-turner

the ~, the one book everybody is reading...

## frown (verb)

frown on those things

we ~

frowned upon homosexuality

he came from a religious background that ~

## frowned upon

frowned upon by some

skateboarding is still ~

## frozen (movement)

frozen to the spot

we were all ~

## frozen (emotion)

frozen with fear

well, I was terrified, I was ~ (in an acting class)

frozen with fear and grief

I knew if I watched it I would be ~ (a video)

## frozen (development)

frozen in time

the Framers did not expect the Constitution to be ~

frozen conflict

~s don't remain frozen forever (Nagorno-Karabakh, etc.)

## frozen (frozen in time)

frozen in time

Vietnam's Ha Giang Province remains ~

Trans-Dniester is a place ~ (Transnistria / Tiraspol)

it was a unique environment, sort of ~ (military reservation)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ What things are frozen in time? Countries like North Korea and Bhutan and Transnistria seem like such places. Certainly places like Australia when Cook visited or New Guinea when the first whites arrived in the highlands in the 1930s must have seemed frozen in time, and other remote places, such as northern Burma.

♦ Cataclysms can lock places in time, like Pompeii and Herculaneum by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, and Chernobyl in the Ukraine by the failure of a nuclear reactor.

♦ Fossils are frozen in time, whether in stone or in amber, in peat or in permafrost, in a glacier or in the long-vanished sediment of an ancient river or sea.

♦ Demilitarized zones, like the one between North and South Korea, or between Ethiopia and Eritrea, can be frozen in time, often to the advantage of the wildlife.

♦ In the U.S., military reservations, some taken over in the First World War, have been frozen in time. The small communities that existed on them were simply left to decay in place.

♦ The Great Smoky National Park has been frozen in time since its creation. The small communities were left to decay, so that only the foundations of buildings remain. Its old-time cemeteries, however, like the Proctor Cemetery, are still kept up or "V-upped" by descendants annually on Decoration Day.

♦ Areas flooded by dams are frozen in time. This is the case with Lake Fontana in North Carolina, where drowned bridges, trees, and even buildings may reappear when water levels drop.

♦ All places "frozen in time" are inherently interesting to people, because they make us think of the past, our own mortality, and eternity.

♦ see also *time capsule* (noun)

## frozen (activity)

frozen funds

is it time to release the ~ (sanctions)

## frozen out (excluded)

frozen out of discussions

they have been ~ about how the law will work (veterans)

## fruit (product)

fruits of the field

the first ~ have been mundane (nanotechnology)

fruits of my labor

she carefully examined the ~ (a woodcarver)

fruits of that work

you are now seeing the ~ (war planning)

bore fruit

their protests ~ only after...

♦ "We took this tree with a lot of ripe fruit on it and shook it hard and out came radar and atomic bombs." (J. Robert Oppenheimer speaking to a Senate committee in late 1945.)

♦ "Southern trees bear a strange fruit / Blood on the leaves and blood at the root / Black bodies swinging in the Southern breeze / Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees" ("Strange Fruit" lyrics sung by Billy Holiday.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You don't harvest grapes from planting thorns. (An Arab proverb.)

## fruit (low-hanging fruit)

low-hanging fruit

for people who want to consume less plastic, straws are ~  
vacant lot greening is a piece of ~ (simple, low cost)  
the expulsion of intelligence officers is ~ (symbolic only)  
pick some ~ that can be accomplished (in tax reform)  
he explores deeper cuts and textures, rather than ~  
(music)  
these are the easiest targets, the ~ (the poor / payday lenders)

low-hanging fruit of international health

cataract surgery is the ~ (just \$75 per patient)

low hanging fruit for the betterment of your health

these are steps that are ~ (advice)

pick that low-hanging fruit clean

they ~ (film about old women reentering the dating scene)

go-to, reflexive, low-hanging-fruit

~ complaints (about *American Vandal* season two)

## fruitful (adjective)

fruitful approach

I decided that wasn't a ~ for me

fruitful avenue

this might be a ~ for further research

fruitful discourse

there hasn't been much ~ lately (politics)

fruitful place

this is a ~ to do business (a city)

fruitful relationship

they had a long and ~ (two companies)

artistically fruitful

their relationship was ~

less fruitful

subsequent efforts were ~

more fruitful

I think it would be ~ if we...

long, fruitful

in the course of a ~ career, he... (a poet)

prove fruitful

negotiations could ~ if...

♦ The Smucker's Company had a very cute full-page ad on the back of the January 21, 2019 *Christian Science Monitor Weekly*. It showed 12 bottles of their iconic jams and jellies in three rows with the dates of their introduction below them, and the title read, "Fruitful Since 1897." The pun incorporates the figurative and the literal. A classic and classy ad from an American icon!

## fruition (noun)

came to fruition

the plan never ~

## fruitless (adjective)

largely fruitless exercise

comparing these rates is a ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Is it fruitless to even try?"

## fry (small fry, big fry, etc.)

big fry

the president of the University of Arizona, a ~... (ironic)

small fry

he is starting with ~ (a prosecutor)

small fry team

he grew up with Adams and played on the same ~  
(football)

♦ "He is working his way up the food chain, starting with small fry." (A prosecutor.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "These fry are very small..."

♦ see also *minnow* (noun)

## frying pan (jump from the frying pan into the fire)

jumps from the frying pan into the fire

like one who ~

## fuck, etc.

see *bomb* (*F-bomb*, etc.), *freaking* (*F*, *effing*, *fricking*, *frickin'*, *friggin'*, etc.), *word* (*P-word*, etc.)

## fuel (verb)

fuel (Internet) abuse

depression, obsessive-compulsive disorders can ~

fuels conflict

Captagon ~, for fighters it banishes fear...

fueled (much of the ) corruption

his bribes ~ in the state

fuel the (ongoing) debate

the results are likely to ~ over how... (cancer)

fueled the debate

those differences in point of view ~ (Confederate flag)

fueling U.S Israel-Gaza debate

how social media is ~

fuels the diaspora

poverty ~ of Malians

fuel the flames

see *flame* (*pour gas on the flames, etc.*)

fueled (public) interest

journalism ~ (an Arctic rescue)

fueled an (overblown political) narrative

poor photo selection ~ (#defundNPR)

fueled the notion

the photo ~ that NPR is trying to tilt the narrative

fuel this pandemic

infections among the unvaccinated continue to ~

fueled a (growing) panic

Tuesday's developments ~ in Japan (nuclear catastrophe)

fuel racism

newspapers are helping to “~” (Kick it Out / soccer)

fueling his (inner) rage

a cause that is ~ (environment)

fueled in him a sense of self-importance

the militia ~

## fuel (pour fuel on something, etc.)

added fuel to the fire

former president Trump has only ~ with his comments

adding fuel to the fire

the US is ~ (by sending weapons to Ukraine)

adds fuel to every fire

he ~ (politics)

adds (fresh) fuel to a (longstanding) controversy

his role in the new ad ~

pour fuel on the fire

this will ~ of toxic political warfare

pour fuel on the flames

the documents are likely to ~ of a strained relationship

♦ “I’m just adding fire to the fuel.” (NFL player Ja’Marr Chase, denigrating another team.)

## fuel (noun)

fuel

the taunts were the ~...

hurricane fuel

water above 79 degrees is ~ (Gulf of Mexico)

any more fuel

she would not give the issue ~ (“no comment”)

♦ “Everyone was angry. We took that as fuel. We showed with a quick start in second half that we wanted to put things right and we did with two beautiful goals.” (Erik ten Hag, about Man U 2-1 Brentford.)

## fueled

fueled by the Chinese

the jade boom has been ~

fueled by local issues

the conflict is ~ (IS in Mozambique)

fueled by a movie

the fury is ~ (anti-US protests by Muslims)

fueled by the occupation

anti-American sentiment ~ of Iraq

fueled by (Internet) pornography

soldiers who come home with sexual addictions ~

alcohol-fueled

an epic, ~ party...

he died at an ~ party (fraternity)

rum-fueled

the ~ party culminates Fat Tuesday (Trinidad)

whiskey-fueled

a ~ high

ignited and fueled

opposition was ~ by the church (innovation)

stoked, fueled, and manipulated

hatred can be ~ (Bosnia)

♦ “While I concede this election, I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign.” (Kamala Harris, in her concession speech at Howard University—an HBCU—following her loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## Fuji (Mount Fuji of the US, etc.)

Mount Fuji of the United States

Mount St. Helens, known as the ~ (for its beauty)

## fulcrum (noun)

fulcrum moment

the Capture of Istanbul was a ~ in the Middle Ages

court’s fulcrum

he was the ~, able to cast the decisive vote

♦ see also *hinge* (*hinge event, etc.*), *point* (*tippling point*), *turning point* (*noun*)

♦ see also *ground zero* (*noun*), *zero* (*place and time, etc.*)

## full (adjective)

full of choppers

a sky ~ and a jungle full of danger (Vietnam War)

full of danger

a sky full of choppers and a jungle ~ (Vietnam War)

full life

she led a ~

full story

I am sure we have not heard the ~ (MSM)

## full (full Sarah Brightman, etc.)

full Dracula

the Marvelverse has Leto going ~

full James Bond

in Chapter 4 John Wick goes ~ (travel, guns, etc.)

full Sarah Brightman

Polachek still occasionally goes ~ (virtuosic vocals)

full QAnon

her turn to ~ has come at a cost (media star)

♦ "Normal time is done. If England are going to save themselves they are going to need to go all Dutch on us." (A BBC commentator about England-France. The reference is to Holland-Argentina, which had been played the day before.)

♦ see also *peak* (*peak Netflix, sexy, etc.*)

## full (groups)

full

so let me say, my heart is ~ today (Kamala Harris)

♦ "Good afternoon! Good afternoon. Good afternoon everyone. Good afternoon. Good afternoon. Good afternoon. Thank you 'all, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you. So let me say, and I love you back, and I love you back... So let me say, my heart is full today. My heart is full today. Full of gratitude for the trust you have placed in me, full of love for our country, and full of resolve. The outcome of this election is not what we wanted, not what we fought for, not what we voted for... Look, I am so proud of the race we ran, and the way we ran it, and the way we ran it..." (Kamala Harris' concession speech at Howard University—an HBCU. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I became arrogant. I became too demanding. I became full of myself."

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ see also *abundance* (groups), *fullness* (groups), *fully* (groups)

## full-bore (and full bore)

coming in full bore

it was an all call, SWAT, FBI, everyone ~ (mass shooting)

## full-court (full-court press, etc.)

full-court press in Washington

there was a ~ (foreign lobbying campaign)

full-court press from our department

there is a ~ (search for missing child)

full-court press to capture him

there was a ~, once they knew his identity (a bomber)

full-court press (by the administration) to contain

it has been a ~ the company (tariff dispute with China)

full-court response

this is the time for a ~ (US monkeypox emergency)

equivalent of the full-court press

a decoy deadline is the productivity ~ (deadlines)

## full-fledged (adjective)

full-fledged atrocity

a ~ would be difficult to ignore

full-fledged (academic) discipline

it is not yet a ~ with departments of its own (services science)

full-fledged gangsters

ties to ~

full-fledged member

China will become a ~ (WTO)

the first steps in becoming a ~ of the Hells Angels

full-fledged stroke

people who have had ~s

full-fledged bantamweight

moving up to ~

full-fledged drug dealer

a ~

full-fledged comeback

a ~

## fullness (groups)

in his fullness

MLK ~ is still too much for white people (Karen Attiah)

in our fullness

we have to be able to be seen ~ (artist Judy Chicago)

in the fullness

occupy the space ~ of who she is (Black women)

in their fullness

our stories are misrepresented or not represented ~ (Blacks)

represented in their fullness

oftentimes Black women are not ~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I think it had a lot to do with me being a Black woman, period. And having seen how historically, you know, if our stories, you know, have been presented to the world, oftentimes they're misrepresented or their not represented in their fullness or there's just like a sliver of us being presented." (Katori Hall speaking about the great American-born Tina Turner, birth name Anna Mae Bullock, a Swiss citizen since 2013.)

♦ "I think the superpower of a Black Woman is to occupy the space in the fullness of who she is." (The actress Aisha Hinds.)

♦ "This piece of public art, unveiled Friday, immediately garnered mixed reactions. In a long Twitter thread, Washington Post columnist Karen Attiah criticized the monument, saying that the artist 'reduced' the Kings to 'body parts,' adding: 'For such a large statue, dismembering MLK and Coretta Scott King is...a choice. A deliberate one.' Attiah continued: 'Boston's Embrace statue perfectly represents how White America loves to butcher MLK. Cherry-picking quotes about love and violence. While ignoring his radicalism, anti-capitalism, his fierce critiques of white moderates. MLK in his fullness—is still too much for them.'" (From "New MLK statue in Boston is greeted with a mix of open arms, consternation and laughs" by Anastasia Tsioulcas, NPR, Culture, January 17, 2023.)

♦ "There has to be more room for us as artists. We have to be able to be seen in our fullness in terms of our own artistic agency, and we're a long way from that." (The artist Judy Chicago.)

♦ "This is about what it means to become whole again. This is about living and hope and fullness and the regaining of self. This is about courage." (The writer Carvell Wallace, author of *Another Word for Love*.)

\*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "Whole-heartedness...? Emotion?"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ IYKYK.

♦ The clientele knows.

♦ see also *abundance (groups), full (groups), fully (groups)*

## full on (adjective)

full-on character

he is a ~ (the boxer Sunny Edwards)

full-on engagement

it was just ~ (a blind rock climber)

full-on migraine

what we've got coming this weekend is a ~ (winter storm)

full-on (international espionage) operation

he mounted a ~ against the reporter

full-on moral panic

"stranger danger" bloomed into a ~ (the US in the 1980s)

full on, scary, hard

that was ~ (the Bottleneck on K2)

straight-up, full-on

~ sex talk (Argentinian TV)

## full on (personality)

so full-on

he was ~, performative and calculating (personality)

## full out (adjective)

full out

it's gonna be ~, it's called "No Limit" (a Vegas show)

## full stop

full stop

this is right-wing terrorism, ~

these companies know everything we do ~ (tech)

Period. Full stop.

the political rhetoric in this country is too heated. ~

## full-throated (adjective)

full-throated defense

his speech was a ~ of his actions (military withdrawal)

## fully (groups)

living fully

I would love to have some of those years back ~ (gay)

large and fully

did I ~live, one hundred percent, no... (trans)

♦ "I was just living by the rules of the day. Going through the journey in stealth. I was too busy trying to protect myself. Did I live large and fully, one hundred percent? No, and I would love to have some of those years back living fully." (Sandra Caldwell, actress, she / her, a trans woman.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ see also *abundance (groups), full (groups), fullness (groups)*

## fulminate (speech)

press fulminated

the Western ~ (against use of force in China)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This relates to striking and lightning.

## fumble (verb)

fumbled this moment

Boeing has ~ (failed to ground its plane after crashes)

fumbled the disaster response

the government ~

## fumble (noun)

diplomatic fumble

it was his latest ~

♦ Touch Down / Field Goal / First Down / Fumble ("What's your take on this story?" The rating system for *New York Post* sports stories.)

## fumbled

fumbled attempt

a ~ to reform small business taxes

## fume (verb)

fuming about the (split-decision) verdict

he is still ~ that went against Pacquiao (boxing)

## funeral (one's funeral)

funeral

go ahead and do it, it's your ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I'd rather not be at my own funeral, but I think there is no way of preventing it, really." Eric Idle. Listen to: "Inheritance Tracks Eric Idle."

## funereal (adjective)

funereal

the mood was ~

funereal black

they are clad in stark ~ (a music video)

funereal gloom

an atmosphere of ~

funereal silence

events will take place in ~ (pandemic / no fans watching)

mournful, funereal, keening

the music is ~ (for a film)

turned funereal

the watch party quickly ~ (the Biden-Trump debate)

## funnel (a road can funnel through, etc.)

funneled through the Monastir Gap

the road ~ (Via Egnatia)

## funnel (direct)

funneled arms to the mujahedeen

the CIA and Saudi Arabia both ~  
funnel (tax) dollars to the poor  
he wants to ~ (a president)  
funneled money to charities  
he ~ with terrorist ties  
funnels the wildlife to the overpass  
three miles of fencing ~ (Utah animal crossing)

## funnel (shape)

funnel cloud  
heavy rains, hail, reports of ~s  
the tornado's distinguishing feature is a ~

tornado funnel  
~s in Oklahoma

## funneled (directed)

funneled (primarily) to corporations and the wealthy  
the 2017 tax cuts, ~... (politics)

funneled into the (digital) currencies  
how much money is being ~ (cryptocurrencies)

funneled into four other organizations  
the money was ~ (a charity scam)

funneled into a fenced pen  
the cattle were then ~ (an auction)

funneled through the (little-known) nonprofit  
private money ~ (political donations)

## funny (as noun)

legacy of funny  
they've had a ~ (the comedy show SNL)

find the funny  
he was able to ~ and laugh about it... (malicious gossip)

## funny language

\*\*\* it is February, etc. / time

it is February  
~ (it's cold and snowy)

this year started the way it has started  
~ and it has affected me... (Novak Djokovic)

this year is this year  
last year was last year and ~ (sports commentating)

\*\*\* the future

we shall see what we shall see  
~ (the great Spike Lee)

what will be will be  
you have to learn to let go, it's gone, and ~

it's gonna be what it's gonna be  
we should all just go home, ~ (*Foxfire*)

whatever is in store for us is in store  
~, if we're going to be cool again that's what it'll be

the results are gonna be the results  
~ (if we don't love harder / gun violence in Baltimore)

\*\*\* the past

last year was last year  
~ and this year is this year (sports commentating)

what you saw, you saw  
~ (a bystander video)

we all saw what we saw  
~, you can't undo that (a comment about Joe Biden)

he did what he did  
it was my dad's decision, ~ (his father was arrested)  
and then ~ (boxer pushes another at press conference)

yelled what he yelled  
he went back to his seat and ~ (a celebrity)

I've said what I've said  
~ about Number 10 and the events of 12 months ago

\*\*\* happiness cliches

today is my day  
~ (a happy Joseph Parker after beating Deontay Wilder)

I'm living in my time  
~ (like "best life")

you gotta live your life  
~ (take time off from work to party and have fun)

\*\*\* advice cliches

you shouldn't start a business just to start a business  
~ (military veteran and entrepreneur Benjamin Faw)

\*\*\* life and death

we're born when we're born  
~, it's kind of what it is (wishing one were younger)

everybody's got to live  
~ (said about the mentally ill, beggars, etc.)

when you die, you die  
~ (finality, fate, etc.)

when your number's up, it's up!  
~ (death)

\*\*\* it is what it is, etc. / existence / reality / ontology

"It is What it Is"  
his latest album ~, was released... (Thundercat)

it is what it is  
I take precautions, but hey, ~ (delivery worker / pandemic)  
~, this has happened, and... (cancer diagnosis)  
~, but I'm not concerned about it (athlete / lack of rest)  
it kind of stinks seeing baseball change, but ~  
I grew up on the internet, which is kind of trash, but ~  
my wife and I have gotten multiple death threats, ~  
~, it's just boxing (no excuses for knock-out loss)  
I saw stuff, it happens, who's perfect, it's cool, it ~ (sex)  
~, we don't know what it means, where it leads to...  
~, until it isn't!!!!



it is what it is, get over it and move on  
 ~ (Confederate monuments)

it is what it is, so they spend the night together  
 you know how this happens, ~ (infidelity)

it is what it was  
 ~ and it's my mistake and I paid for it (Jeremy Renner)

it was something that was  
 ~, I had no control over (violent confrontation)

it is how it is  
 but ~ (a soccer issue)

same old same old  
 a return to the ~...

same old, same old  
 ~ (Scotland at Euro 2024)

same shit, different day  
 ~ (nothing has changed in a bad situation)

this is what it is  
 so I guess ~, huh (music to be murdered by)

that is how it is  
 ~, the reality that many of you are facing, this is the world

cigar is just a cigar  
 sometimes a ~ is just a cigar (vs. a phallic symbol)

victim is a victim  
 sometimes a ~ (versus co-dependent, etc.)

a tiny pink peanut is not a white rhinoceros  
 ~ ("The Lost Ancestral Peanut Of The South is Revived")

\*\*\* I am who I am, etc. / identity / nature

I am what I am  
 ~, God help me, a 77-year-old white man, but...  
 ~, love me or hate me, I'm gonna be Stephen A. Smith

I am who I am  
 ~, I am not changing  
 ~, I can't pretend... (a celebrity)

I am the age I am  
 ~ (an older writer)

McArthur was, well, McArthur  
 but ~, a problematic personality... (WWII)

we feel how we feel  
 but ~ (feelings of fatigue at home / pandemic)

they are what they are  
 both these women will get out worse, ~ (from prison)

man's a man  
 a ~, after all (sex)

trans women are trans women  
 what is it about ~ that is offensive...

trans women are women

~ (the male-to-female transgender swimmer Lia Thomas)

trash is trash  
 she'll be back in the system, ~ (released early from prison)

bad guys are bad guys  
 ~, the Army is the Army, orders are orders...

liberals are going to be liberals  
 what a shocker, ~ (discussion board snark)

he is who he is  
 on the other hand, ~

I was being me  
 ~ (strange behavior)

it's just baseball being baseball  
 ~ (new see-through uniforms)

that's just Joe being Joe  
 ~ (character and personality)

Julie, being Julie  
 ~, was defending a teammate (got in trouble for it)

brands being brands  
 such examples seem trivial, harmless—~

you be you  
 everyone is saying "~" and "you do you" (a woman)

you do you  
 ~, I do me...

the Knicks, being the Knicks  
 ~, won the game, then lost the series (sorry, Spike)

Elon Musk is behaving like Elon Musk  
 and, you know, ~, right, uh... (Ronan Farrow)

Cleveland, continuing to *Cleveland*  
 ~ (NFL snark / usage as verb to mean "fail")

crazy will do what crazy does  
 ~ (a woman)

and then he does what he does  
 ~ on Sunday (commits a bad act)

he did what he does  
 ~, which is to score goals (a hockey player)

\*\*\* oppression is oppression / definition

business is business  
 ~ (takes a hard line)

democracy is democracy  
 look, ~ (a young Palestinian craving change)

family is family  
 you know, ~ (may or may not have your best interests)

golf is golf  
 ~ (response to criticisms of LIV golf)

"Love is Love"  
 ~ (the "Freedom to Marry" Campaign)

love is love  
 ~, love is love (Whoopi Goldberg)  
 ~ (gay, queer, non-binary, etc.)

oppression is oppression  
 ~ across the world (Black Lives Matter and Hamas)

rape is rape  
 this was not transactional, ~  
 it shouldn't even be an apology, ~

rule is the rule  
 the ~ (NFL's overtime rule / sudden death)

rules are the rules  
 the ~, you gotta...

sports are sports  
 ~, politics is politics, they shouldn't be mixed (Olympics)

war is war  
 ~ (Operation Adelaide, search / destroy, Ong Dong jungle)  
 ~, they deserve what they get...

win's a win  
 we played poorly but a ~ (soccer)

disgusting is disgusting  
 I'm not excusing his comments, ~, you can't tolerate that

good is good  
 ~, with a brush or a needle (artist Sophie Taeuber-Arp)

it means what it means  
 ~ (the word "coachable")

we country, but we ain't *country*  
 it means ~ (the Dirty South)

hoax hoax  
 the unfounded Russian Investigation is a "~" (anti-Trump)

office office  
 not the home office, the ~ (office at home / Dana / female)

war war  
 a Cold War, a trade war, or a ~...

\*\*\* negative existence

June isn't really June  
 ~ anymore (James Qillaq, Inuit hunter, Arctic warming)

2022 isn't 2021  
 ~ (vaccinations and the pandemic)

'sport' is not sport  
 today's professional ~

a terabyte isn't what it used to be  
 ~ (greater storage nowadays)

there's no there there  
 see *there* (*there is no there there, etc.*)

if you're not there, you're not there

we're focused on the guys who are here, ~ (training camp)

the story is the headline...or often isn't  
 welcome to ABC where ~ (criticism)

you can choose to go there, or not  
 ~ (randonauting)

\*\*\* if / fate, fortune & chance

if you know, you know  
 ~ (I.Y.K.Y.K.)

if she never works again, she never works again  
 ~ (the pop star Britney Spears)

if it's your day, it's your day  
 ~ (death while climbing)

if I get knocked out I get knocked out  
 ~ (the great boxer Dillian Whyte, all in)

IYKYK  
 the name Alix Earle is an ~ situation

nothing will change if nothing changes  
 ~ (speaking up / not being afraid)

\*\*\* logically impossible

I can't wait!  
 ~ (said while waiting)

I was shocked, but not shocked  
 ~, if that makes any sense (2023 Hamas attack on Israel)

I do and I don't  
 ~, maybe I know a little, maybe not anything...

it is and it isn't  
 well, I would argue ~ (NPR's Danielle Kurtzleben)

it is and it's not  
 ~ (NPR reporting / punditry)

it's a little like baseball, but not really  
 ~ like baseball at all (cricket)

I can never say never  
 ~ (a writer, about writing another novel, vs. TV or film)

find food where it isn't  
 I'll show you where to ~ (scrounging during war)

you've reached a page that doesn't exist  
 sorry, ~ (internet search)

this account doesn't exist  
 ~, try searching for another (internet)

this message was deleted  
 ~ (a commenter's comment on the internet)

nobody said yes  
 ~...

REAL FAKE  
 ~ (CISA graphic novel /cisa.gov)

ugly sharks are beautiful

even the ~ (a shark enthusiast)

dress up as elves  
residents of Hafnarfjörður sometimes ~ (Iceland)

**\*\*\* sarcasm**

wildlife in Yellowstone are, indeed, wild  
~ (woman convicted of bothering bear with cubs)

I'd call the police, but they are the police  
“~,” he chuckled, but it was forced...

stupid actor says something stupid  
headline: “~” (a sarcastic comment)

there is jargon, and then there is jargon  
~ (academic writing)

who knew?  
it turns out that not everyone has a physics degree, ~

**\*\*\* current situation**

situation is the situation  
the ~, everyone is frustrated but we are bound by the rule

today's world is today's world  
~ and everything is out there in public (Twitterstorm)

we are where we are  
until we do that, ~ (stopping ransomware attacks)  
~ (Mary Louise Kelly of NPR about Afghan situation)  
~ because...

where I am where I am  
so much peace knowing where I am supposed to be, ~

**\*\*\* until; and then...**

it was an unremarkable day, until it...wasn't  
~ (Dateline NBC)

we were right till we weren't  
~, built a home and watched it burn (Miley Cyrus)

until they weren't  
impeachments used to be rare things, too, ~ (SCOTUS)

it's meaningless, until it's not  
~ (Dateline NBC)

it was meaningless, until it wasn't  
~ (a matter between two families)

it was a good time until it wasn't  
~ (her childhood / Dateline NBC)

a very good bank until it wasn't  
SVB was ~ (failed 2023)

it's all good until it isn't  
~ (a drowning on the Nantahala River)

he was just a good guy with a gun...until he wasn't  
~ (comment by gun-control advocate about mass shooter)

he was alive until he wasn't  
~ (2021 trial)

he was supposed to be the candidate until he wasn't

~ (Joe Biden)

it is fine, until it isn't  
~ (climate change)

character is invisible until it's not  
~ (joined the marines after 9/11)

it was an arrangement that worked until it didn't  
~ (an open relationship)

you loved being a college professor, until you didn't  
~ (an NPR interviewer)

her bosses had her back until they didn't  
she says ~ (a Levi's executive)

feel safe until they don't  
I think all children ~, you know? (Timothy Ware-Hill)

look the same, until they don't  
~ (corrosive change in the U.S.)

they are always the team to beat  
~ until somebody beats them (NFL Kansas City Chiefs)

he said he was gone and then wasn't  
~ (retired, unretired)

**\*\*\* except**

history is told by the winners—except when it's not  
~ (review of the film *The Last Duel*)

Rick *never* left the mountains, except when he did  
~ (flew from Idaho to New York City)

she should have been here too except she wasn't  
~ (murdered Lauren McCluskey / University of Utah)

**\*\*\* conclusion / finality / the final word**

that's that  
Usyk did his job, and ~ (he won the match)

that's that on that  
~ (WNBA's Chennedy Carter)

that was that  
and ~ (game over after team makes mistakes)

it is what it is  
~ (until it's NOT!)

facts are the facts  
the ~, so when I talk facts, I talk facts (Oscar De La Hoya)

nothing is over until it's over  
~ (voting and an election)

the gas is where it is  
~ (natural gas, Russia, Europe, and the US)

we get what we get  
~ (NASA buys off-the-shelf cameras for *Perseverance*)

you get what you get  
~ (an idiot provokes Mike Tyson on a plane)

the investigation will take us where it takes us

~ (cops)  
 come away from it with what they will  
 people will ~ (war films)  
 loved the things she loved  
 she just ~ (an enthusiast)  
**\*\*\* strong, bold statement / affirmation / polemical**  
 I believe in belief  
 see, I believe in hope, ~ (the “Ted Lasso” effect)  
 the problem with football is football  
 ~ (NPR’s Scott Simon)  
 the best way to regulate behavior  
 ~ is to regulate behavior  
 Chisora can break your heart  
 ~ before he breaks your heart (“Del Boy” / the boxer)  
 I am sick and tired of being sick and tired  
 ~ (DC police chief about a spate of gun violence)  
 burned out on burnout  
 even Freudenberg said he was ~ (he coined the term)  
 the way to shore up American democracy  
 ~ is to shore up American democracy, that is, to...  
 dividing people  
 ~ divides people (Rikki Schlott about DEI programs)  
**\*\*\* do, doing, one’s actions**  
 he had to do what he had to do  
 Usyk did his job, ~ (beat Anthony Joshua)  
 ~ (Andre Leon Talley / racism)  
 you gotta do what you gotta do  
 ~ (no choice)  
 Joshua has got to do what he has got to do  
 ~ (boxing)  
 I’m going to do what I’m going to do  
 I thought about it, ~ (Mills Lane stops Tyson-Holyfield II)  
 crazy will do what crazy does  
 ~ (a woman)  
 and then he does what he does  
 ~ on Sunday (commits a bad act)  
 he did what he does  
 ~, which is to score goals (a hockey player)  
**\*\*\* can, ability, etc.**  
 we can only do what we can do  
 ~ (limitations, constraints)  
 China can do this now because it can  
 ~ (flexing military might)  
**\*\*\* knowing, epistemology**  
 I don’t know what I don’t know  
 ~ but what I *do* know is that... (female speaker)

you don’t know what you don’t know  
 ~ (facts about a crime)  
 we don’t know what we don’t know  
 ~, that’s what the investigation is all about (cops)  
 I realize ~  
 there’s a difference between knowing, and knowing  
 ~, you know, umm, so... (L.L. McKinney)  
 you know when you know  
 there is this sense, ~ (who you like / subjectivity)  
**\*\*\* just / = only**  
 stupid radio promotion is just a stupid radio  
 promotion  
 sometimes a ~ (Chicago’s Disco Demolition Night)  
 cigar is just a cigar  
 sometimes a ~ (no need for Freudian analysis)  
**\*\*\* still / starting, going, continuing**  
 those who were alive were still alive  
 the battle had only just begun, ~ (Stalingrad)  
 the men still alive were still alive  
 they had withstood the assault, ~ (Stalingrad)  
**\*\*\* sufficiency, insufficiency & excess**  
 enough is enough  
 ~, today you will hear the truth from me...  
**\*\*\* just because**  
 just because you’re on your own on the internet  
 ~ doesn’t mean you’re on your own (spying pixels)  
**\*\*\* when**  
 when big dog does what big dogs do  
 ~ (poop)  
 when he snaps, he snaps  
 ~ (a violent teenager / juvenile delinquent)  
**\*\*\* funny, odd, strange...**  
 clean girl bun  
 ~ can cause permanent hair loss (the “aesthetic”)  
 boobs are back  
 ~ (where did they go? / Sydney Sweeney)  
 he has the president’s ear  
 ~ (the president listens to him)  
 “I’m good, thanks”  
 ~ (= No)  
 The Dead Sea is Dying  
 ~ (the Middle East / lack of water)  
 the whole box was dead  
 ~ (birds shipped by USPS)  
 you never know when you’re going to show up  
 ~ and not look like you anymore (MMA / ageing)  
 Barney the Bear is a secure test item  
 ~ (a North Carolina ESL supervisor)

space is hard  
~ (Virgin Orbit “Start Me Up” detumescent in Cornwall)

Iowa is in a different place  
~ (on the abortion issue)

cars do doughnuts  
spectators have blocked streets as ~ (Fort Worth, Texas)

Vagina Whisperer  
Sara Reardon is known as “the ~” (“Only in America!”)

homelessness czar  
she has appointed a ~ (Fagin?)

Khan’s chin is not there  
the world knows ~ (boxing)

unicorns are ubiquitous in Scotland  
~ (the symbol)

Wolves are swarming all over them  
~ (a commentator about the EPL soccer club)

he had devoured Dracula by the age of five  
~ (the book)

Barbie had a chokehold on the zeitgeist  
~ (the 2023 film)

Nicole is thrashing the Bahamas  
~ (the named hurricane)

this is an ant I grew up with in my back yard  
~ (a researchers about a surprising finding about ants)

John Ellis Sparks found Jesus in prison  
~ (please return him immediately!)  
~ (no more Easter?)

he ate his last meal three times  
~ (last-minute stays of execution / a death-row inmate)

President Lyndon B. Johnson was a huge Alamo-head  
~ (Alamo history buff)

her parents passed away just as she started blowing up  
both of ~ (Megan Thee Stallion)

Fusetti is known as the midwife of clowns  
~ (teacher and actor Giovanni Fusetti, Padua)

among naked hikers, there is disappointment  
~ (Appenzell Innerrhoden prohibits naked hiking / CH)

Time is the new Onion  
~ (the two magazines)

they have been papped together  
~ on quite a few occasions (two celebs, by paparazzi)

you have to own your body  
~ (Model Natalie Mariduena)

I’ve lived in a suitcase for two years  
~ (a chess player who travels a lot)

phalloplasty journeys  
no two ~ are the same (Jamie Lauren Keiles)

hard-nosed Berliners and queer refugees  
~ (!!!)

I am not a robot  
~ (CAPTCHA)

Bobo got throat  
~ (the sport of surfing)

I’m told you pickled somebody on Friday  
~ (the sport of pickleball)

soldiers who die will do manual labor  
~ (military training with lasers / like paintball)

Alfie died in France  
~, the only place in the world where it died (the film)

inmate found dead for 7th time  
Rikers Island ~ this year (7 *different* inmates)

there are a lot of Gods in Taiwan  
~ (NPR’s Emily Fang)

**\*\*\* you had your chance to say something and you totally blew it**

the coronavirus is something that is there  
~ (female punditry)

the Omicron virus is REEE•ly, REE•LY contagious  
~ (NPR’s Selena Simmons-Duffin)

really, really real  
these forest fires are ~ (heard on NPR)

we definitely had a hurricane hit us last night  
~ (the mayor of Lake Charles, on ABC)

it does certainly look like a big windstorm came through  
~ here (NPR reports on Hurricane Ida)

American politics are what American politics are  
what can Joe Biden do, given that ~ (NPR’s Steve Inskeep)

like our school, like the ceilings. like they’re gone  
~ (like a high school girl, like being interviewed, like...)

I would liken us a little bit to a bit of a wounded lion  
~, if you like (Sally Munday, UK Sport)

**\*\*\* not so funny**

put on a Warhawk leotard  
one of the “greats” to ever ~ (murdered coed)

**\*\*\* miscellaneous, uncategorized**

epicenter of the epicenter  
the hospital was the ~ (Queens, NYC / COVID)

best of the best  
a group of cocky “~” pilots... (*Top Gun: Maverick*)

same old same old  
he was a bit more aggressive this time but the ~ (boxer)

♦ Democrats, and Michele Obama, used the phrase, "It is what it is," to taunt, mock, and criticize President Trump at their national convention in 2019. Trump had used the phrase when talking about coronavirus.

♦ "The Omicron virus is REEEE•ly, REEEE•ly contagious." (Selena Simmons-Duffin of NPR. Type in "really, really" in the search box at NPR and you get 6,574 hits and counting.)

♦ "The game ended in a sidelines-clearing brawl, because of course it did." (College football game in US.)

♦ "As he ended the message, Schwarzenegger brandished his famous Conan sword. Because of course he did." (An online video after the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol.)

♦ "How much quieter it would be online if it weren't so loud."

♦ "I don't think there's any way to go right to the Supreme Court with something like this, and what the this is has not been made clear." (A political pundit on NPR.)

♦ "Usyk did his job, he had to do what he had to do, and that's that, and Joshua has got to do what he has got to do." ("Tyson Fury 'absolutely wounded' by Anthony Joshua's loss to Oleksandr Usyk," BBC, Sept. 30 2021.)

♦ "I would liken us a little bit to a bit of a wounded lion, if you like." (Sally Munday, the chief executive of the funding agency UK Sport.)

♦ "She is one of the most strongest, most delicate people I've ever met." (Will Smith's Academy Awards speech, broadcast to millions.)

♦ "Space is hard." (The Virgin Orbit mission dubbed "Start Me Up" fails from Cornwall.)

♦ "It's basically impossible to find a queer competent therapist in Missouri."

♦ "A trans person pursuing phalloplasty has to wade into complicated waters." / "No two phalloplasty journeys are the same." (Jamie Lauren Keiles. Noted.)

♦ "She has already appointed a homelessness czar." (The mayor of Los Angeles. Is it Dicken's Fagin from *Oliver Twist*?)

♦ "The OG Yield Curve Whisperer." (A triumph of trendy headline creation that somehow manages to include OG, "whisperer," and economics. NPR.)

♦ "And *Alfie* died in France, it was the only place in the world where it died." (Michael Caine speaking about the 1966 film.)

♦ "Soldiers who die are taken to a holding area, where they are made to do manual labor to underscore the point that dying is never fun." (Military-training language.)

♦ "I think the dance between those two things will always be a thing." (Tiana Kaye Blair, an artist-in-residence at the Dallas Theater Center.)

♦ Estheticians knead, wax, pluck, rub, and paint people.

♦ "I met a pancake in the West Cell..." (The full quote is: "I met a pancake in the West Cell, an enormous open laboratory space at M.I.T. which resembles an airplane hangar. What with all the pancakes and doughnuts being tested there, the West Cell has come to be called the West Cell Diner." ("Green Dream: Is limitless clean energy finally approaching?" by Rivka Galchen, *The New Yorker*, October 11, 2021. The "pancake" is an H.T.S. magnet, in the form of a stacked array.)

♦ "You be you, Daddy." (Barack Obama's daughters.)

♦ "You do you" has attracted the interest of *The New York Times*, the great writer Colson Whitehead, and the Yale Grammatical Diversity Project in North America. "You do you, I do me."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ HOW TO RESPOND TO A PERSON WHO SAYS, "IT IS WHAT IT IS. You say, "Until it isn't." Savor the reaction. You will change that person's life forever.

♦ Much of this "funny" language seems philosophical is some way. It would be interesting if a philosopher examined and analyzed these entries.

♦ see also *teacher* (*teacher's teacher*, etc.)

♦ see also *new* (*orange is the new black*, etc.)

♦ see also *no* (*no Jack Kennedy*, *no Mardi Gras*, etc.)

♦ see also *boilerplate* (*noun*), *buzzword* (*noun*), *doublespeak* (*noun*), *ese* (*legalese*, etc.), *gobbledygook*, *language* (*types*), *lip service* (*pay lip service*, etc.), *newspeak* (*noun*), *speak* (*NASA-speak*, etc.), *supersizing* (*linguistic supersizing*), *talk* (*mediator talk*, etc.), *word salad*

## furnace (Furnace Creek, etc.)

Furnace Creek

a temperature of 54.4C was recorded in ~ Death Valley

Fiery Furnace

the is a pillar in Grand County, Utah

## furnace (noun)

furnace of an atmosphere

who can survive in this ~ (important soccer game)

furnace of fight night

the ~... (Day of Reckoning boxing card / Riyadh Season)

China's four "furnaces"

Chongqing is one of ~ (hot and humid in summer)

forged in the furnace

he is ~ of Parris Island and San Diego (a marine)

thrown into a furnace

I was ~

turned into a furnace

Mexico City has ~ (high temperatures)

## furnish (give)

furnished them with all the information

the report ~

## furniture (contents)

furniture of the novel

you've got none of the usual ~ (films vs. novels)

mental furniture

art was so much a part of his ~ that...

his ~ is ordinary, much of it from U.S. pop culture...

♦ "Because this was China, it was wartime, and everyone sent off to live in [Chungking] had been forewarned that a stiff upper lip was a sine qua non, stoicism was part of the furniture, and fatalism went with the territory." (*The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the newspaper business, "furniture" refers to the various elements on a print or web page that accompany the article and its photos, such as the headline, picture captions, the explanatory text below a headline, the dateline, pull quotes, crossheads, and the lead or lede.

## further (further along, etc.)

further along than us

they are ~ (Italian soccer team)

## fury (creature)

keep his furies at bay

he works hard to ~ (troubled ex-boxer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The furies are part of Greek mythology.



## fuse (noun)

fuse of (voter) anger

his COVID restrictions lit a ~ (recall election)

short fuse

our society has a ~, just waiting for a spark

that ~ got him in trouble (troubled Iraq veteran)

even in the best of times, John had a ~ (a businessman)

fuse was (now successfully) lit

the ~, and the British media...

lit the fuse

that was the match that ~ (precipitating cause)

that really ~, and the collapse began (tainted election)

## fusillade (noun)

fusillade of denials and (legal) threats

AdVon responded to our reporting with a ~

fusillade against an “Obama judge”

Trump’s latest ~

## future (the future)

the future

Daniel Dubois is undoubtedly ~ (heavyweight / KOs AJ)

the future of the Internet

is Web3 ~ or just a buzzword

the future (combat vehicle) family

each member of ~

embrace the future

a split over whether to preserve the past or ~ (Swazis)

we must ~ (trade and business issue)

imagine a (not-so-distant) future

they ~

saw the future

he ~ and he set out to build it (Jeff Bezos, Amazon)

♦ “He’s the future, he’s the present, he’s the everything.” (An admiring sports pundit about the NBA’s Victor Wembanyama.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we are used to teaching the future as a “tense,” as part of a grammar lesson. We hardly ever teach it as a word with its collocations: “We all want a *better* future for our children,” “Who knows what the future *holds*,” “But that’s *in* the future,” etc. Nor do we ever teach the future as a variety of concepts, with all their associated language. This dictionary and thesaurus can help.

## future (of the future)

currency of the future

he has bolstered Bitcoin’s image as the “~” (Nayib

Bukele)

wave of the future

online banking is the ~

♦ see also *new (orange is the new black, etc.), next (next Steve Jobs, etc.)*

## future (the future can bring something)

bring

nobody knows what the future will ~

we don’t know what the future may ~

brings

you don’t know what tomorrow ~

## future (in the future)

in the future

I might go there ~ (visit a place)

in your future

if climbing Mount Everest is ~, please contact our office

## future (in the distant future)

not-so-distant

they imagine a ~ future

in the distant future

the movie is set ~

in the not-too-distant future

the series is coming to Netflix ~

my decision will be made ~

in the not too distant future

we hope to improve this feature ~

set in a not-too-distant future

it’s a show ~ (space tourism)

## future (where the future lies, etc.)

future lay

he saw where the ~ and learned how to fly (Amundsen)

♦ “We’re moving toward a time *when* COVID won’t disrupt our daily lives, *where* COVID won’t be a constant crisis.” (White House Covid Advisor Jeff Zients.)

## fuzzy (boundaries, etc.)

fuzzy

the boundary lines on the continuum can often be ~

fuzzy semantics

~ looks at fuzzy concepts and fuzzy language

fuzzy term

it’s a bit of a ~ (“hybrid warfare”)

anodyne and fuzzy

the language of these bills is ~ (culture wars)

soft and fuzzy

~ words muddle ideas about justice (Rie Kudan)

♦ “Kudan said that she turned to ChatGPT to help mimic the way that ‘soft and fuzzy words’ muddle ideas about justice. ‘In recent years, we find ourselves in a situation in which words have expanded without limit, and permitted unlimited interpretations. I want to use the words with care, and to think about the positive and negative aspects of language.’” (Rie Kudan, winner of the Akutagawa Prize for *The Tokyo Tower of Sympathy*. About five percent of her book consists of sentences generated by AI and recorded verbatim, to prove her point.)

## G

### **gab (verb)**

gab  
all she does is ~

### **Gab (the company)**

Gab  
~ is an American company that acts like one  
~ became a favorite of many fringe voices (alt-right)

### **gadfly (person)**

diplomatic gadfly  
he is a kind of ~ (a Lebanese businessman and advisor)

political gadfly  
he is a ~ and host of his own internet radio show  
she was a ~ who took on the powerful politicians

hippie and gadfly  
he was the resident ~

♦ "Kevin Lindke, a frequent gadfly of the Port Huron, Mich., government..."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Gadflies might be any one of several large flies, including horseflies.

### **gag (gag order, etc.)**

gag order  
the judge has issued a ~  
the judge put him under a ~

### **gaggle (press gaggle, etc.)**

gaggle of protesters  
a ~ have gathered outside the court (Vancouver)

did a gaggle  
the president ~ from the North Lawn

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to a press conference by the president or press secretary that is impromptu, informal, unscripted and unfettered. An actual gaggle refers to a flock, especially of geese, and especially on the ground.

♦ "Geese have such drama. There are archrivals and jealousy and retribution..."

### **Galapagos (Galapagos of Europe, etc.)**

Galapagos of Europe  
Lake Ohrid, the '~~' (endemic species / living fossils)

Galapagos of the North  
the Pribilofs are known as the ~  
St. Paul Island, known as the "~~" (Pribilof Islands)

Galapagos of the Far North  
Wrangel Island just might be the ~

"Galapagos of the Indian Ocean"  
its biodiversity has earned it the nickname ~ (Socotra)

Galapagos of the Orient

the islands' nickname of "the ~" (Bonin Islands)

Galápagos of Russia  
Unesco's citation refers to Lake Baikal as the "~~"

Galapagos of North America  
the Channel Islands are sometimes referred to as the ~ (California)

Galapagos of the Poles  
South Georgia Island is often referred to as "The ~"

American Galápagos  
the ~ (Hawaiian Islands Marine National Park)

Canadian Galápagos  
islands referred to as the "~~" (Haida Gwaii)

♦ "It's just the abundance of wildlife that we hear stories or read historical accounts of, but really seldom see in kind of our modern age. And so [St. Paul Island] really is a place where I've felt the wonder, the spectacle of nature." (Donald Lyons, director of conservation science with the National Audubon Society's Seabird Institute, about the Alaskan island.)

### **galaxy (noun)**

galaxy of actors  
his films drew performances from a ~ (director)

galaxy of (Western) media figures  
he introduced her to a ~ (Charlie Rose, etc.)

### **gale (strong wind)**

political gales  
the PM is confronted by ~ and economic ones

♦ "The Prime Minister is confronted by political gales and economic ones that appear to quicken by the week... As I say, it's politically and economically gusty." (BBC Six O'Clock News, 09/06/2022.)

### **Galen (Galen of Islam, etc.)**

"Galen of Islam"  
Muslim physicians bestowed the title ~ on Avicenna

### **gall (verb)**

galls his critics  
what ~ is...

truly galls  
what ~ them is...

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "They knocked out a number of interlocking machine-gun nests that had been galling them for hours..." (Combat.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Trees, animals, and humans can develop galls. A gall in a human is a raised boil.

♦ In the past, amputees would apply a mixture of Ichthammol and penicillin to sores caused by their prostheses. The same compound was used to treat sores on a mule.

### **gallery (play to the gallery)**

plays to the gallery  
the representation of emotion ~ (humiliation, anguish, etc.)

obviously playing to the gallery

he was ~ (a presidential press conference)

## gallery (cheering gallery)

cheering gallery

Obama still has his ~

## Gallipoli (a Gallipoli of an interview, etc.)

Gallipoli of an interview

I knew this would be a ~

♦ "I knew that this would be a Gallipoli of an interview, and that Mattis would be playing the role of the Ottoman gunners. But I had to try." ("The Man Who Couldn't Take It Anymore" by Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Atlantic Monthly*, October 2019.)

\*\*\* "It is one of the many ironies of Gallipoli that..."

♦ "It is one of the many ironies of Gallipoli that, after the chaos and confusion that had blighted the whole operation from the beginning, the final evacuations were models of superb organisation and planning... [Gallipoli] was a brilliant concept which should—and could—have succeeded... With Constantinople occupied, it is doubtful whether the Russians would ever have signed a separate peace—and the Russian Revolution might never have occurred... Had the campaign succeeded—as it so very nearly did—the Great War would probably have ended three years earlier, and a million lives would have been saved." (*The Middle Sea: A History Of The Mediterranean* by the wonderful historian John Julius Norwich.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ No battle is free of mistakes.

## gallop (verb)

gallop together

fiddle and banjo ~ at a break-neck pace

## gallop (haste)

gallop through a thousand years

Rady, in his ~ of Habsburg rule... (a historian)

statistical gallop

the census shows the ~ of Christianity across Nepal

## gallop (sound)

murmurs, rubs, and gallops

note the presence of ~ (lung sounds)

## galloping (speed)

galloping pneumonia

~ is an aggressive infection, abrupt and overwhelming walking pneumonia versus ~

galloping or surging

so-called ~ glaciers can travel 250 feet per day

♦ "Humphrey, the whole national health service is an advanced case of galloping bureaucracy." / "Certainly not. Not galloping. A gentle canter at most." (The TV series *Yes Minister*, "The Compassionate Society.")

## galvanize (verb)

galvanized people to take up

the movies ~ the cause (wrongful convictions)

## gambit (noun)

gambit

asylum has become a ~, they all have a script

unwise and diversionary gambit

this is an ~ (diplomatic move)

series of gambits

an escalating ~ by rival powers in the Gulf

## gamble (verb)

gambled everything on getting

he ~ his dictionary published

## gamble (noun)

gamble

we were in Tonga on a ~... (windsurfers)

gamble on agriculture

Saudi Arabia's ~ has sucked precious aquifers dry

Saudi Arabia's gamble

~ on agriculture has sucked precious aquifers dry

political gamble

he represents a ~ (choice of vice president)

daring gamble

he called the initiative "a ~" to make... (space flight)

technological gamble

the plan relies on 4 highly speculative ~ (restore Everglades)

gamble paid off

the ~

took the gamble

he ~ (migrant / Senegal to Canary Islands)

## game (game the system, etc.)

game PageRank

link farms exist to try to ~ (Google)

game the (asylum) process

they ~ (skip out on court dates)

gaming the system

parents are ~ to advantage their children (admissions)

game or spam

people trying to ~ the system (credibility metrics)

## game (in / into the game)

in the game

we will continue to be ~ (US surveillance)

back in the game

we are ~

get (back) into the (dating) game

ways to ~ (self-help)

## game (late in the game)

late in the game

it's pretty ~ to be...

it's kind of ~ to be talking about this

## game (get one's head into the game)

get your head into the game  
hey, ~... (coach to player)

get my head (back) into the game  
he reminded me to ~ (Afghan combat)

## game (at the top of one's game)

at the top of his game  
he is ~  
he was ~ when he was shot and killed (a comic)

## game (A-game)

modeling A-game  
Cardi B is bringing her ~ (Skims advertising campaign)

## game (throw somebody off their game)

throw guests off their game  
he and his co-hosts like to ~ (The Breakfast Club)

## game (game-changer)

game-changer  
a free Iraq is going to be a ~, an agent of change  
tissue can grow in 3 dimensions, which is a ~ (in space)

game changer  
it could be a ~ (a drug treatment)

game changer for our profession  
this is a ~

geopolitical game-changer  
nuclear weapons are a ~

## game (game face)

game face  
she had on her ~ (a law-enforcement officer)  
suit up and put on his ~ (NASCAR driver)

## game (chess game)

chess game  
it really is a ~ (trying to catch terrorist)  
let's look ahead, the way you have to in a ~ (Brexit)  
it's a ~, and we have to look several moves ahead (Brexit)

political chess game  
the politicians play ~s (at expense of laborers)  
they use human beings as pawns in a ~ (hostages)

psychological chess games  
winning ~s (interrogations of terrorist suspects)

## game (guessing game)

guessing game  
how the weather will affect operations comes down to a ~

comes down to a guessing game  
how the weather will affect operations ~

## game (waiting game)

see *waiting game*

## game (numbers game)

numbers game  
CIA case officers admit to a ~  
dating is entirely a ~  
the business plan was just a ~  
job hunting is a ~ (developing contacts, etc.)  
the ~ continued (changing numbers, recalculating)

play the numbers game  
smugglers ~, the law of averages

## game (blame game)

blame game  
what he did is what matters, not the ~ (trial)

## game (rhetorical game, etc.)

rhetorical games  
I'm not going to evade the question and play ~  
~ are compulsory in official parlance (foreign policy)

## game (game of hide and seek)

game of hide-and-seek  
a very serious ~ (Palestinian student-terrorist)

## game (game of chicken)

geopolitical game of chicken  
it's a ~

♦ "You can think of the US-Russia confrontation as a geopolitical game of chicken." (Steve Inskeep, NPR, about Ukraine.)

\*\*\* "So, you are wanting to play chicken?"

♦ "So, you are wanting to play chicken? I have never yielded. Never!... (Nervously) Ah, so, you are not a coward. Very brave." (Silly dialogue from the silly 1985 movie *King Solomon's Mines*, involving a game of chicken and two antique planes.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The hard part of playing chicken is knowing when to flinch."

## game (game of cat and mouse)

game of cat and mouse  
informers engage in a constant ~ with the authorities  
college officials find themselves in a new ~ (cheating)  
this protracted ~ has frustrated Israel's military (M. Deif)

cat-and-mouse game  
the ~ with the virus writers will continue forever  
the ~ Iraq played with U.N. inspectors  
the ~ with the virus writers (computing)  
it's a ~ (campaigning for an election)  
it's a classic ~ (terrorists trying to evade capture)

enjoying their game of cat and mouse  
they were ~ (Iraqi terrorists in a BMW)

♦ "When the tiny mouse outsmarts the wicked cat, the chairman smirks with pleasure." (*Arafat: In the Eyes of the Beholder* by Janet Wallach and John Wallach. Everyone enjoys watching Tom & Jerry cartoons.)

## game (various other games)

game of (high-altitude) climbing  
the high-stakes ~

game of measure and countermeasure  
EFPs are the latest twist in a lethal ~

game of whack-a-mole  
see *whack-a-mole and whack a mole*)

waiting game  
see *waiting game*

Great Game  
Azerbaijan was a pawn in the ~ for territory and power

lethal game  
EFPs are the latest twist in a ~

five-star-review game  
we're crushing it in the ~ (a hair product)

rules in this game  
there are no set ~ (starting an Internet business)

rules of the game  
our understanding of the ~ (diplomacy)  
this time we will change the ~ (Israel bombs Hezbollah)

play the game  
mistakes are the price you pay to ~ (NYC publishing)

stay on top of my game  
I have to ~...

keep the game interesting  
to ~, the plays will be performed in repertory

❓ **"Craig Kelly was a hero to all of us, but his death seems to be just a part of the game." (Reaction of a snowboarder to Craig Kelly's death in an avalanche.)**game (project, scheme, plan)

game of 'gotcha'  
they were playing a ~ rather than trying to help

games of dominance and submission  
~ (relationships)

game of wink and nod  
he is playing a risky ~

childish game  
he was playing a ~

head games  
victimized by others' or your own ~

cutthroat game  
he wasn't there to play the ~ (Survivor)

dangerous game  
speaking truth to power is a ~

she is playing a very ~ when she suggests... (politics)

long game  
their ~ is to be the last candidate standing

silly game  
stop playing your ~s

just a game  
they know I won't shoot them, now it's ~ (Israeli sniper)

playing a game  
she's ~ that could blow up in her face

play games  
we don't ~, we don't bullshit (windsurfer Poles)

## game (social interaction / life)

game of life  
he sees poker as a model for the ~

game of wink and nod  
he is playing a risky ~

dating game  
the ~ isn't as fun as it used to be (famous actor)

mating games  
social skills that underlie more serious ~ in years to come

competitive game  
for young women in Beirut, dressing fashionably is a ~

part of the game  
it's all just ~ (job interviewing)

stages of the (dating) game  
in the early ~

rules of the (dating) game  
trying to figure out the ~

♦ "School...is a game, it's just not a terribly well-designed game. Right, there are levels, there are C, there are B, there's A, there are statuses, I mean, what is valedictorian, but a status? If we called valedictorian a you know 'White Knight Paladin level 20,' I think people would probably work a lot harder. Uh, so so so school is a game..." ("The game layer on top of the world," Seth Priebatsch, TEDxBoston 2010.)

♦ Fake it until you make it; hyping a product to get funding and VC; boundless optimism; evangelizing; overstating forecasts; overpromising; vaporware; the hockey-stick forecast; revising numbers upward; secrecy; NDAs; you either build it or you buy it... (The Silicon Valley startup game.)

♦ "They were dealt some cards they can't play to this day. Fortunately, I was dealt cards and somehow managed to play the right hand." (Olympic champion speaking of his heroin-addict mother and step-father.)

♦ "I had no clue what the rules were, what the game even was—or that there was even a game." (The computer scientist Richard Wallace, who suffers from bipolar disease.)

♦ "The world increasingly feels like a game we can't stop playing." (*You've Been Played* by Adrian Hon.)

♦ "the challenge; the seduction; the arrangement; let the games begin..." (The trailer for the silly and sexy 1999 film *Cruel Intentions* with Sarah Michelle Gellar, Ryan Phillippe, Reese Witherspoon, and Selma Blair.)

♦ "What good is sitting alone in your room / Come hear the music play / Life is a cabaret, old chum / life is a cabaret." (The musical *Cabaret*.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "It is not a Nintendo Game, it is a tough battlefield where people are risking their lives..." (General Norman Schwarzkopf Jr briefing the press in 1991. The Gulf War.)

## game (situation)

game changed

then, suddenly, the whole ~ (a riot that turns deadly)

## gamed (manipulated)

gamed

any credibility metric is going to be ~ (academia)

♦ see also *played (manipulated)*

## game of thrones

Game of Thrones saga

power in Scotland faces a ~ next week (BBC)

very game of thrones

it's all very ~ (the history of Val d'Aran)

♦ "Somebody called it the 'Red Wedding.'" (ABC News president Kim Godwin, firings, and an alleged "culture of fear" and "score-settling.")

♦ "Power in Scotland faces a *Game of Thrones* saga next week as rivals circle the first minister." (BBC.)

## game plan

game plan

she reminded them of the ~

Clinton's game plan

~ is taking shape

his game plan

~ went out the window (a boxer)

military's (longer) game plan

the ~ is hard to fathom (coup in Myanmar)

had a (pretty good) game plan

we ~ but the problem was... (police)

## gamification (noun)

gamification

the word "~" is a curious one... (Tom Chatfield)

~ offers only a simulacrum of choice

~ is championed by authors, consultants, startup gurus...

~ is thoughtless at best and diabolical at worst

~ is simply behaviorism (stimuli and responses)

"gamification" of modern life

*You've Been Played* is about the ~ (Adrian Hon)

Gamification in ESL

~ (TESOL Arabia 2023)

flash deals, gamification and (rock-bottom) prices

~ ("Temu is as addictive as sugar")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The word 'gamification' is a curious one. Superficially, its meaning is clear enough. To gamify something is to make it like a game, usually by wrapping game-like elements around it: points, missions, in-game rewards; a profile, avatar or fantastical environment. By

doing this, the thinking goes, the activity in question is made more engaging and enjoyable. Everyone is a winner! Yet the very essence of a game is that it's voluntarily undertaken, and that it confers satisfaction through a mixture of luck, skill and meaningful choice. None of these things are much in evidence in the context of an Amazon warehouse, no matter how many virtual dragon races take place within it." ("Why your life could be part of someone else's game" by Tom Chatfield, BBC, 21 September 2022. Chatfield points out quite rightly that this usage is more like a euphemism for an oppressive regime or organization.)

## Gandhi (Gandhi of the Balkans, etc.)

Gandhi of the Balkans

he was known as the ~ (Ibrahim Rugova)

## Gandhian (adjective)

Gandhian engineering

India is promoting ~ (low cost)

~ challenges convention (cars)

Gandhian tactics

he advocates the use of ~ against Israel

## gap (noun)

budget gap

we need to close the ~

falls into a gap

he ~ between disciplines

## gap (the Monastir Gap, etc.)

The Gap

~ and the wreck of the *Dunbar* (Sydney)

Cumberland Gap

the ~, the first great gateway to the west (US)

Darien Gap

migrants risk their lives to cross the ~

Ljubljana Gap

Churchill wanted to move through the ~ into Austria

Mohawk Gap

the ~, with the Adirondacks north and Catskills south...

Monastir Gap

the ~, a north-south opening in the mountains

♦ "At Cumberland Gap, the first great gateway to the west, follow the buffalo, the Native American, the longhunter, the pioneer... all traveled this route through the mountains into the wilderness of Kentucky." (The National Park Service about the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. See the Wikipedia article "Longhunter." Merriam-Webster recognizes the phrase as *long hunter*.)

♦ "It might fairly be claimed that New York City owes its very existence as a world-class city to the presence and human exploitation of the Hudson-Mohawk Gap." (*The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ "The South Pass of the Rockies was the great gap through which the bulk of emigration flowed." (Southwestern Wyoming.)

♦ Atoah Gap; Axe Gap; Bearpen Gap; Bee Gap; Beech Gap; Bellcollar Gap; Big Fat Gap; Black Gum Gap; Cable Gap; Calphen Gap; Cherry Log Gap; Chestnut Log Gap; Deep Gap; Flint Gap; Green Gap; Hard Slate Gap; Haw Gap; I U Gap; Locust Licklog Gap; Lucy Gap; Obadiah Gap; Plankroad Gap; Saddle Tree Gap; Santeetlah Gap; Snowbird Gap; Stecoah Gap; Stratton Gap; Tatham Gap; Walnut Hollow Gap; Wildcat Gap; Yellow Creek Gap;



Yellowhammer Gap...(Beloved places in Graham County, western North Carolina.)

♦ "Now God be thanked that the name of a hill is such music, that the name of a river can heal." (*Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.)

## garbage (data)

garbage in, garbage out  
~ (GIGO)

## garbage (garbage fire / dumpster fire)

dumpster fire  
the ~ my brain was slowly becoming (schizophrenia)

garbage fire  
the daily ~ of our social-media accounts (Twitter, etc.)

tire fire  
what a ~ from Zucker downward (a scandal at CNN)

dumpster fire for so many people  
the comments section is a ~ (Facebook)

dumpster fire of the Left  
Princeton is a ~ (Gender and Sexuality Studies / GSS)

♦ "To call this season a dumpster fire would be an insult.....to dumpster fires." (NFL Las Vegas Raiders snark.)

♦ "NFL overtime rules are so trash. Which is honestly an insult to trash." (NBC Philadelphia Sports reporter Taryn Hatcher.)

♦ "What an absolute bin fire." (An online BBC commenter about the Ngannou-Fury boxing match. Fury was knocked down, the fight ended in a split decision, and a few believe Ngannou deserved the win.)

## garbage (waste)

garbage compromise  
this is a ~ (politics)

'garbage' slur  
Biden's ~ could cost Kamala Harris (2024 election)

anti-Semitic garbage  
they need to get the ~ out of their textbooks

bunch of garbage  
everybody thinks we're enemies, that's a ~

piece of garbage  
why feed, clothe and house this ~ (give him death penalty)

stuffed with garbage  
your heads are ~ from books (versus experience / war)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Yes [we are writing more than ever] because the internet makes it so easy, and that's why you get so much garbage." ("Harold Evans Makes Himself Clear," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, May 13, 2017.)

♦ Garbage in, garbage out (GIGO). (Computer programming, ChatGPT, statistical modeling, political polling, etc.)

## garden (the Garden of France, etc.)

Garden of France  
the Loire Valley is known as "the ~"

## garden (resemblance)

coral garden  
fragile ~s were discovered at depths of about 1,000 feet

rock garden  
technical paddling through ~s (kayaking)

sculpture garden  
plans for a ~ to honor American heroes

## garden (Cactus Garden, etc.)

Cactus Garden  
cavers called the new find the ~ (stalagmites)

## Garden of Eden

Garden of Eden  
when I first visited Borneo in the 60s, it was a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Mormon Bible locates the Garden of Eden near Independence, Missouri.

## gargantuan (size)

gargantuan (distribution) centers  
server farms, ~, tens of thousands of trucks... (Amazon)

gargantuan characters  
they were both ~ (in the Scottish climbing community)

gargantuan (financial technology) company  
Ant Group, the ~ founded by Jack Ma

gargantuan crane  
a ~ plucks a rust-colored container from a cargo ship

gargantuan (sextuple-platinum breakout) single  
Jack Harlow's ~ ("WHATS POPPIN")

♦ "That morning, Paul's fellow lumberjacks were astonished to see him eat only a smallish breakfast of a dainty dozen eggs, a simple side of ham, a poor pound of bacon, a finicky foot of bear sausage, a small skillet of hash browns, a tiny trough of grits, but ten or so breakfast Burraidors, barely a half barrel of gravy poured over his biscuits, a paltry fifty or so cartwheel-size apple granola pancakes, and a tiny tub of bread pudding topped with a piddling pond of warm cream and hardly a half-acre of wild huckleberries. / 'Why, for God's sake! What has happened to your appetite, Paul!' his fellow-lumberjacks cried out in consternation and concern. 'Is the grub no good? Shall we run off the cooks, and kidnap a new bunch? Are you feeling poorly?' / 'By God! My appetite seems to have deserted me,' Paul said grimly. 'No doubt during the night. But it can't have got far, and I'll track it down and get it back or my name's not Paul Bunyan!'" ("When Paul Bunyan Lost His Appetite But Recovered It" by Samuel Langhorne Clemmons.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Gargantua, a kindly giant in French folklore, was the giant prince with a huge appetite and loud voice in Rabelais's 16-century satiric novel.

## gas (step on the gas / step off the gas)

stepped off the gas  
perhaps fatigued, he ~ and allowed Pulev to... (boxing)

take our foot off the gas  
now is not the time to ~ (social distancing / pandemic)  
if we ~ and stop all this work... (vaccines for COVID)

took his foot off the gas  
 today he ~ (president decides to delay plan)

took its foot off the gas  
 with a 30-point lead, the team ~

put her foot down  
 she drove to the edge and then ~ (Ducournau / *Titane*)

had your foot on the gas  
 you've ~ for two years now (public lectures)

kept his foot on the gas  
 the Compton emcee and singer-songwriter has ~

stepped on the gas  
 they have ~ (election manipulation)  
 UConn ~, ending Syracuse's glimmer of hope (sports)

♦ "It's all gas and no brake." (Because of the pandemic, there was only a short period of time between the just-finished football season and the new football season.)

♦ "Ducournau has driven to the boundaries of conventional cinema—and then put her foot down." ("*Titane*: The most shocking film of 2021" by Nicolas Barber, BBC, 15th July 2021.)

♦ "He's a Ferrari without brakes." (Said about a talented but troubled Indiana University basketball player, who was arrested for speeding through the center of Bloomington.)

♦ "Maybe Joshua is getting advice from his corner to step on the gas and get this job done." (BBC commentator Carl Froch on Jermaine Franklin v. Anthony Joshua.)

♦ "They do get a little lazy, they do take their foot off the gas..." (A boxing commentator about Cuban boxers who relocate to the United States.)

♦ "You still have to hit the brake if you want to stop at some point. Because there is a wall there, and you are driving toward the wall, right? So if you want to stop before the wall, you have to start braking. So that's where we are. We don't accelerate anymore, which is good, but we don't brake it." (Pierre Freidlingstein at the University of Exeter. The good news is, the world might reach peak greenhouse gas emissions in the next couple of years, and then emissions would start to decline. The bad news is, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will, apparently, require reducing greenhouse gases to...wait for it...drumroll...zero.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Our brain knows we shouldn't stomp on the gas, but our foot does it anyway."

❓ **see also accelerator (speed), brake (control), pedal (pedal to the metal)gas (run out of gas)**

ran out of gas  
 he ~ (a losing boxer)

**gas (substance)**

gas machine  
 he's known as a ~ (a politician)

**gas (pour gas on something, etc.)**

see *flame (pour gas on the flames, etc.)*

**gasket (blow a gasket, etc.)**

blew a gasket  
 I asked a guy at the post office to wear a mask and he ~ Pitino ~ and called out all of his players (an upset coach)

**gaslight (verb)**

gaslighted its own employees  
 the company has ~ (union organizers lose vote)

gaslighted her  
 her husband ~ for years

gaslight society  
 Weinstein is trying to ~ again (sex predation)

gaslight you  
 when confronted, his standard reflex is to try and ~

gaslight us into thinking  
 she did ~ she was a woman of color (Jessica Krug)

gaslight, gatekeep, girlboss  
 ~ (the malign girlboss ethos)

medically gaslight

you can no longer body shame or ~ us (Olympic swimmer)

♦ "Every step I've taken has gaslighted those whom I love... I am not a culture vulture. I am a culture leech. You should absolutely cancel me, and I absolutely cancel myself." (Rachel Dolezal, an academic who claimed "identities of color," including Black Caribbean, North African Blackness, US rooted Blackness, Caribbean rooted Bronx Blackness, *Boricua*...)

\*\*\* **"He was sharing a hotel room in Fort Worth with..."**

♦ "He was sharing a hotel room [in Fort Worth] with his father-in-law Yellow Bear. Before retiring, Yellow Bear 'blew out' the gaslight before going to bed, a mistake that Indians often made. Before the night was over, he was dead of asphyxiation, and Quanah, who remained unconscious for two days, barely survived." (Circa 1900. From *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches* by S.C. Gwynne.)

♦ "I keep my work together, all in order to help me to pass the examinations; I consult Mendes in everything and arrange my studies according to what he has done, for I should like to do it in the same way. The study of Latin and Greek is very difficult, but still it makes me feel happy, and I am doing what I longed to do. I may not sit up so late in the evening any more, Uncle has strictly forbidden it, still I keep in mind what is written under the etching by Rembrandt, 'In the middle of the night the light diffuses its radiance,' and I keep a small gaslight burning low all night. I often lie looking at it, planning my work for the next day." (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Gas Light* was a 1938 English play by Patrick Hamilton. It is about an abusive and criminal husband who tries to convince his wife that she is crazy. The word has come to mean a certain sort of psychological manipulation. It can appear in a series like, "gaslighting, lying, and manipulation."

**gaslighting (noun)**

gaslighting narrative  
 I don't like it when a ~ is given to me (online commenter)

gaslighting, lying, and manipulation  
 she described his ~ in the workplace as cruel

gaslighting, manipulative, and cruel  
 it was ~ (Megan Rapinoe)

discriminatory gaslighting  
 ~ (Christy Pichichero)

so gaslighting

I thought it was ~ when... (politics)

abuse and gaslighting

I didn't understand his psychological ~

charisma and gaslighting

through various means including ~... (John Smyth abuse)

♦ "There was some weird gaslighting shit that went on where people equated freedom and saying the word "freedom" to like right-wing bigotry and hate is so strange." (Joe Rogan about vaccines and the pandemic.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "gaslighting" bandwagon...

♦ Christy Pichichero, speaking on NPR about "discriminatory gaslighting," confessed, "That word (gaslighting) has been a bit trendy, in the last couple of years," to which Lulu Garcia-Navarro immediately responded, "It certainly has!" ("Imposter Syndrome, Or Something Else? Historian Talks 'Discriminatory Gaslighting,'" NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, May 9, 2021. An entire academic career can be made by coining a new term.)

♦ 'Ghostlighting' is the sadistic new dating trend creating trust issues. The dreaded combo of manipulation and a disappearing act is a one-two punch for singles in the market for love." (The New York Post. A combination of "gaslighting" and "ghosting.")

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Listening to Alan's revelation, she'd felt herself drifting further and further away, until it was almost as if she were a character in a novel or a TV series. Maybe it was the words he chose: she had a strong aversion to the casual use of terms like 'gaslighting,' 'projecting,' and 'narcissism...' / She'd been hurt but not devastated when things ended with Alan..." ("Attila" by Nell Freudenberger, The New Yorker, August 5, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Merriam-Webster word of the year (WOTY) for 2022 was *gaslighting*.

♦ "Gaslighting" is on the Lake Superior State University 2023 Banished Words List—words banished for "misuse, overuse, and uselessness."

## gaslit (and gaslighted)

gaslit by the medical community

we are being ~ every day (Long Covid)

gaslit by her husband and fertility doctor

she suspects that she is being ~ (*False Positive* film)

gaslit and bullied

this felt like I was being ~ (Britney Spears)

blackmailed and (totally) gaslit

female athletes are emotionally ~ (trans athletes)

feeling gaslit

she was ~ even before she started (at Pinterest)

♦ "Female athletes are emotionally blackmailed and totally gaslit into silence." (The female swimmer Riley Gaines about trans women swimmers like Lia Thomas.)

## gasp (very "gasp," etc.)

very 'Gasp!

the coverage has been ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone gasps when astonished.)

## gasp (last gasp, dying gasp, etc.)

dying gasp

this is not really a revival, as much as a ~

last gasp

that fuss he made at the Capitol was a ~

last gasp of an era

the ~ when tech didn't rule our lives (a film)

♦ "This is not really a revival, as much as a dying gasp." (A contemporary recording of "Golden-age" cantorial music.)

## gate (Gates of Hell, etc.)

known as the Gates of Hell

the Darvaza gas crater, ~ (Turkmenistan / Karakum)

## gate (Iron Gate, etc.)

Gates of Samburu

the ~ is a pass in the Rift Valley of Kenya

Bab al-Mandab

the ~, the "Gate of Tears" (Red Sea)

Hells Gate

the Fraser River narrows at ~ (in British Columbia)

Hell's Gate

~, the second big rapid (Lower Meadow River)  
the Nahanni bends through a constriction called the ~

Hell's Gates

the sandbar at the mouth of ~ was silting up

Cilician Gates

from Tarsus the route fed through the narrow ~

Dzungarian Gate

the ~ is a pass between Xinjiang and Kazakhstan  
the route dipped through the ~ (Altai and Tien Shan)

Moravian Gate

the ~ linked southern Europe and the Baltic Sea (a pass)

Golden Gate

the ~ Bridge crosses the harbor

Iron Gate

the ~ is a gorge on the Danube River

♦ "And there it is. A sight that never gets old. It's the gates of the Narrows. First rapid is Bride of Frankenstein. Not too much to it. And waiting just below is Frankenstein, a manky, jumbly banger rapid that you really need to get right..." (The Green River Narrows, North Carolina.)

♦ The Golden Gate is the *strait* that connects San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean. Hence the name of the famous and iconic bridge.

## gate (Watergate, etc.)

Scobie-gate

"How the Palace got stuck in ~" (BBC / Omid Scobie)

♦ "There is also the unfortunate name of the company that built the Titan submersible: OceanGate, which thanks to its suffix, intrinsically smacks of scandal." ("Commentary: As those aboard the Titan submersible suffered, social media laughed" by Jessica Gelt, Los Angeles Times, June 22, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary has a comprehensive listing. Search for “-gate,” and click on “English terms suffixed with -gate.” “Scobie-gate” is not included, but it’s only a matter of time. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## gate (obstacle)

gates

the ~ are closed, there is no way out of here (Gulf War)

gate to this little police-state

Sydney Harbor was the ~ and it had to be kept locked

\*\*\* analysis

♦ If you open a gate, always remember to close the gate. (Rural wisdom.)

## gate (society)

gate of no return

it was a ~ (Jiayuguan / exiled)

gate into Europe

Melilla became a ~, just like the Balkans

outside the gates

Turkey is still ~ (admittance to European Union)

♦ “The westernmost entrance of the fort, the most distant from the Chinese center, is known as the Gate of Sorrows, and through it were sent all those doomed to be exiled. For those dispatched through it by imperial edict, it was a gate of no return, and it was popularly known simply as ‘China’s mouth.’” (*The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester. Jiayuguan fort.)

## gate (portal)

gates of death

the ~ are without number

♦ “There is but one way to enter life, but the gates of death are without number.”

## gate (out of the gate)

out-of-the-gate smash

the song was an ~

first out of the gate

CNN was ~ with its story about...

right out of the gate

he encountered problems ~

slow out of the gate

he was ~, taking a month to get a campaign ad on TV

straight out of the gate

he attacked Mr Trudeau ~ (election debate)

charged out of the gate

they ~ with their hit song... (musicians perform)

stumbled out of the gate

her campaign ~ (a politician)

♦ “Senator Klobuchar is out of the gate at 1pm.” (Senate hearings. Snark?)

## gate (beat at the gate, etc.)

gates of Beijing

Omicron is beating at the ~

## gatecrasher (person)

gatecrasher

the ~ was arrested (party)

## gatekeeper (person)

gatekeeper

editors say they are ~s, not detectives (academic fraud)

gatekeepers of the Tony Awards

just 30 theater professionals are the ~ (nominators)

gatekeepers of (TV) comedy

the ~ make up a small clique (bookers like Eddie Brill)

gatekeeper of (public) conversation

Twitter has become this ~ (India, Turkey, etc.)

gatekeepers of (literary) culture

book publishers have long seen themselves as the ~

gatekeepers of the (global) Internet

the ~ should treat all users equally (congestion)

gatekeeper to (the nation's) colleges

the SAT as a major ~ and universities... (scoring errors)

gatekeeper for information

we do not want to act as a ~ (Swisscom official)

gatekeeper role

they can play a ~ (building landlords vs. cable providers)

grammatical gatekeepers

copy editors are the ~ of the media world (Wikipedia)

objective gatekeepers

clinical researchers should function as ~, but...

political gatekeeper

Facebook refuses to be a ~ (untrue stories)

cultural and political gatekeepers

the digerati effort to dethrone ~ (Web)

monopoly gatekeeper

Google is the ~ to the Internet

assistant and gatekeeper

she serves as his ~ (his wife)

hit makers, gatekeepers and fact checkers

career prospects for ~ may be in doubt (Internet)

bypass the gatekeepers

the internet allowed people to ~ who controlled music

dethrone (cultural) gatekeepers

the digerati effort to ~ (Web)

dethrone (political) gatekeepers

the digerati effort to ~ (Web)

challenges gatekeepers

anything that ~ is a good thing (e-publishing)

seen themselves as the gatekeepers

book publishers have long ~ of literary culture

serves as a gatekeeper

he ~ for those how want to meet her (a diplomat)

♦ "It's time to break the cycle of censorship and gatekeeping." (The liberal media.)

## gateway (gateway to India, etc.)

gateway of the Danube delta

Tulcea, the ~ (Romania)

Gateway of India

the ~ (Mumbai monument / see the Wikipedia article)

gateway to the Caucasus

the Germans captured Rostov-on-Don, the ~ (WW II)

gateway to China

Hsenwi, which straddles the road to Muse, the main ~

gateway to the Crimea

the Perekop Isthmus, the ~

gateway to Europe

the Iberian Peninsula was an ideal ~ (drugs / Portugal)

gateway to Everest

Tibet's second city, Shigatse, famously known as the ~

gateway to India

the main ~ has always been the northwest mountain passes

gateway to Japan

Kyushu was the ~ (closest island to Asian continent)

gateway to Makkah

Jeddah, the ~, Islam's holiest city

gateway to the Sahara

in Tamanrasset, ~ (Algeria / Tuaregs)

gateway to the (legendary) Spice Islands

the Sunda Strait, the ~ (the Moluccas)

gateway to the (Annapurna) Circuit

Pokhara is known as a ~

gateway to the heartland

the Mohawk Trail was the ~ of North America

Gateway to the North

Edmonton is known as the "~~" (Alberta, Canada)

gateway to the reef

Cairns is a ~ (the Great Barrier Reef / Australia)

gateway to the (Everest) region

the town of Lukla, the ~

gateway to the West

the Mohawk River, the ~

gateway to the world

Turku was once Finland's trading ~

gateway to the July 1st glacier and to the Gobi Desert

Jiuquan is a ~ (Gansu Province, China)

gateway between Pakistan and Afghanistan

the Khyber Pass, the ancient ~

gateway for drugs

in 1977, Florida was the ~ into the United States

gateway for drug smugglers

Baluchistan has been a major ~ from...

gateway for drug traffickers

southeastern Iran is a major ~ from...

cocaine gateway

how Antwerp became the ~ to Europe

mountain gateway

finally the ~ opened, and the plain lay spread out below

ancient gateway

the Khyber Pass, the ~

major gateway

SE Iran is a ~ for drug traffickers from...

southern gateway

Maun serves as the ~ to the delta (Okavango / Botswana)

## gateway (portal)

gateways to prehistory

trash heaps might be ~ (archaeology)

gateway into dream life

a direct ~

gateway drug

some believe marijuana is a ~

"gateway theory"

the ~ that pot can lead to harder drugs

important gateway

Yale Law School serves as an ~ to the Washington elite

guard the gateway

teacher certification programs ~ to public-school teaching

♦ "Rap was almost a gateway drug to soul and R&B." (Louis Theroux about music in the 1970s. Inheritance Tracks Louis Theroux.)

## gauge (noun)

gauge of malnutrition

the percent of kids under 5 who are underweight is a ~

critical gauge

it is a ~ of malnutrition (underweight kids under 5)

good gauge

a ~ of a business's health is the backlog of orders

\*\*\* "When the flood gauge is underwater..."

♦ "When the flood gauge is underwater, it's really high." (A town official. *Duh!*)

## gauntlet (lay down a gauntlet, etc.)

gauntlet of (very misogynistic) questioning

they had to undergo this ~ (Britney, Lindsay, etc.)

laid down the gauntlet to Republicans

Obama has ~ by asking Congress to...

run a gauntlet of home supporters  
Brighton players had to ~ (at Crystal Palace)

thrown the gauntlet down to City  
Jurgen Klopp's side have ~ (soccer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A gauntlet was a glove worn with Medieval armor to protect the hand.

## gaze (male gaze, white gaze, etc.)

gaze of 21st-century fame  
the 24/7 ~ (murders of young rappers)

Westerner's gaze  
these references to cash crops and to the ~... (a novel)

female gaze  
"In 'Women Painting Women,' the ~ is front and center"  
the '~' is an analogue of the 'male gaze'  
it just feels very "~" (Nelly Furtado / Skims photoshoot)

coded gaze  
what she calls the "~" (computer scientist Joy Buolamwini)

male gaze  
for centuries, artists' ~ saw women as objects of desire  
a male dominated industry and its ~ (1990s Hollywood)

supervisory gaze  
the ~ interrupts... (Anna Shechtman, "Black-And-White")

white gaze  
representation does not take into account constantly the ~

*White Gaze*  
*Surviving the ~* (memoir by Rebecca Carroll)

white-male gaze  
the so-called ~ is everywhere and nowhere in her novel

under the (watchful) eye of the male gaze  
those ~ feel objectified or shamed if...

pandering to the white gaze  
wanting to look white, ~ ("Black Ivy" fashion)

appeals to the male gaze  
she doesn't dress or wear her hair in a way that ~ (butch)

based off of the male gaze  
our understanding of our own sexuality is completely ~

catering to the male gaze  
the outfits have come under fire for ~ (Hooters)

defies the male gaze  
women are making art that ~

oriented toward a 'white gaze'  
some Blacks said the play was ~ (*Slave Play*)

push back against the male gaze  
women in hip-hop ~ (the way men think they should be)

see themselves through this male gaze  
women are starting to ~ (TV and Hollywood rape)

look at violence against women through a female gaze  
we should ~ (TV and Hollywood)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "When I jog through upscale white neighborhoods near my home in Connecticut, white people tense up—unless I wear my Yale or University of Pennsylvania sweatshirts. When my jogging outfit associates me with an Ivy League university it identifies me as a certain kind of Black person: a less scary one who has passed inspection under the 'white gaze.'" ("Black Success, White Backlash" by Elijah Anderson, *The Atlantic*, November 2023. The Sterling Professor of Sociology and of African American Studies at Yale was born in Pemiscot County, Missouri, in 1943.)

♦ "White-centering can be thought of as a system that prioritizes white dominant culture to the detriment of non-white groups and cultures.../ White-centering has been given many names including the white gaze and whiteness as the default." ("3 Ways To Transform Your Workplace To Be More Equitable" by Janice Gassam Asare, Senior contributor, *Forbes*, October 25, 2023.)

♦ Straight men look at and judge women and others. They criticize women and others who do not conform to their notion of what they should be or how they should act. Women feel objectified by this attention, and shamed if they don't "give men what they want to see." Women and others are increasingly and unapologetically acting and making art in ways that defy this 'male gaze.'

♦ "She shaved her head in an explicit rejection of the male gaze..." (The Irish singer Sinead O'Connor, according to NPR's Anastasia Tsoulcas.)

♦ "Marilyn was objectified, scrutinized and judged—mostly by male writers, biographers and historians..." ("Reframed' revisits Marilyn Monroe's life and legacy, from an all-women point of view" by David Bianculli, Jan 14, 2022.)

♦ "Daniels sees the world through the kind of white gaze that Hall, for one, questions and dismantles." ("Hide And Seek: Acting Black and white onscreen" by Hilton Als, *The New Yorker*, March 1, 2021.)

♦ "It is really important to remember that we have very limited representation and presence isn't the same thing as representation centered around the Black American person the Black American community and it does not take into account constantly the white gaze." (Bethany C. Morrow, author of *So Many Beginnings: A Little Women Remix*, speaking with Lulu Garcia-Navarro on NPR.)

♦ "For Anders, although his newly brown skin is a constant physical reminder that he's no longer who he used to be, the greatest change may be in his psyche. He's now acutely aware of otherness and being observed, how he moves in the world and how he takes up space. When he returns to work...he's both drawn to and repulsed by the only other dark-skinned employee, who, unlike him, has always known what it's like to be treated as both invisible and hypervisible." (Cady Lang's *Time* review of *The Last White Man* by Mohsin Hamid, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Exit West*. This paragraph deftly weaves together several tropes relating to inclusion and exclusion.)

♦ "There is plenty of room in the world for mediocre men, but there is no room for mediocre women."

### \*\*\* jumping on the "gaze" bandwagon...

♦ "'The 'female gaze,' a term often invoked by and about Sciamma, is an analogue of the 'male gaze,' popularized in the nineteen-seventies to describe the implied perspective of Hollywood movies—the way they encouraged a viewer to see women as desirable objects... For Sciamma, the female gaze operates on a cinematographic level..." ("Now You See Me: Celine Sciamma's feminist quest for a new grammar of cinema" by Elif Batuman, *The New Yorker*, February 7, 2022.)

♦ "In 'Women Painting Women,' the female gaze is front and center," Susan Stamberg, NPR, May 12, 2022.

♦ "In a piece for *Vogue Scandinavia*, Swedish Eurovision winner Loreen made the case for the naked dress as a way to push back against the male gaze."

♦ "You've probably heard the 'male gaze' or the 'white gaze,' but what about the 'coded gaze'? Computer scientist Joy Buolamwini coined the term while in grad school at MIT..." ("If you have a face, you have



a place in the conversation about AI,' expert says," NPR, Fresh Air, November 28, 2023. An entire academic career can be made by coining a term that catches on.)

♦ "Connie Converse is a person with a life ripe for the writer's gaze." (Worthy to be written about.)

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "How Olivia Dunne turned the male gaze into a gymnastic empire" by Lauren Mechling, *The Guardian*, Feb 28, 2023.)

♦ "The way they work is, it's very femme-forward, very female-positive. They have an amazing female photographer, Vanessa Beecroft, and you just feel like a million dollars on their set. It just feels very modern and very 'female gaze.'" (Nelly Furtado, about her participation in the Best Of Skims advertising campaign.)

♦ "Fuck The Male Gaze" Black long sleeve shirt. Shows a picture of Britney Spears with a rifle next to a rottweiler dog. Red heart shapes down both sleeves. Made by StayKindCompany, ships from Canada. Returns & exchanges not accepted. "This shirt is so badass!" (\$28.97. Etsy.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "And when the world's gaze moves on..."

## gear (high gear, low gear, etc.)

other gears

if he needs it, he's got ~ to move up to (a tennis player)

in full gear

the community will move to get the relief effort ~

get the (relief) effort in full gear

the community will move to ~

go up a gear

Wow, opponents score, Manchester City ~ (soccer)

kick the militia movement into high gear

Waco helped ~ (inspired Timothy McVeigh, etc.)

moved into (high) gear

American-led efforts to save the talks ~ (Mideast)

moves up a gear

Djokovic ~, drilling a backhand... (tennis)

shifted into high gear

conservative talk-show hosts ~

stuck in low gear

Farias outworked her as Ryan seemed ~ (boxing)

♦ "China has only one gear, and it's forward." (Change, development, progress, etc.)

♦ "And yet, [Villa] were over-run as the City machine suddenly hit top gear, roared forward thunderously by fans whose mood had changed from despair to expectation." (Manchester City scores three goals in final minutes to win EPL on final day.)

♦ "And the pressure that Beterbiev puts you under... He's got you in fifth gear when you only want to be in second at this point, he's got you in fifth early, you know..." (Cut man Russ Amber about his fighter Beterbiev versus Yarde. The fight started fast, never flagged, and ended decisively.)

♦ "They moved from second to third gear and I now feel, at full time, there is an extra two gears they could have gone to but they didn't." (Izzy Christiansen, commentating about Manchester United's 3-0 win against Leicester.)

♦ "AJ is still stuck in third gear and he doesn't want to get out of it. I don't know why." (BBC commentator Carl Froch at the Jermaine Franklin versus Anthony Joshua fight.)

## gear (kick into gear, etc.)

kick into gear

that's when you see him ~ (boxer gets ready for bout)

the investigation was about to ~ (of a serial rapist)

kicked into gear

the worm only ~ when... (cyberwarfare)

## gear (throw sand in the gears, etc.)

throw sand in the gears

this bill will ~ of commerce

they can ~ (Iraqi spies)

throwing sand in the gears

Trump appointees are ~ (hobble, dismantle, cripple)

## gear (switch gears, shift gears, etc.)

shifting gears

he isn't pulling up stakes, just ~ (Conan O'Brien)

shifted gears to a different investigative strategy

we have ~ (Delphi Indiana murders)

switch gears

how hard it is to ~ for many adjuncts

I'm going to ~ here... (change the subject)

♦ "Switching gears, I'd be remiss if I didn't ask you about..."

## gear up (verb)

gears up for 2012

as the White House ~ (election)

gearing up for a battle

Republicans are ~ (politics)

gearing up for the future

we're ~ (companies exploiting the Arctic)

## geddon (chipageddon, etc.)

Armageddon

see *Armageddon*

Avoggedon

~ strikes Philadelphia (free avocados)

'bee-mageddon'

bogus ~ is another fake environmental catastrophe

car-mageddon

oblivious to the screeching ~ around her (film *Day Shift*)

Chipageddon

the shortage of semiconductors is nothing less than a ~

NPRmageddon

Patrick Jarenwattananon @ ~

pharmageddon

"~" is coming (walkout over work conditions)

phosphogeddon

scientists warn of '~' as critical fertiliser shortages loom

poolmageddon

I call it ~, it's a chlorine crisis...

### Tumblegeddon

“~: A Utah town was taken over by Tumbleweeds”  
(NPR)

### Tumblemageddon

~! (tumbleweeds bury homes, cars / *The New York Post*)

### Whamageddon

~ (see the Wikipedia article)

♦ “I call it poolmageddon. It's a chlorine crisis” (Rudy Stankowitz, columnist for PoolPro Magazine, about a shortage of chlorine. From “A Chlorine Shortage Could Spoil Pool Season This Summer,” NPR Weekend Edition Sunday, May 9, 2021.)

♦ Listen to “Avoggedon strikes Philadelphia: one nonprofit gives away thousands of avocados” by Sam Yellowhorse Kesler, Sarah Handel, Ailsa Chang, and Sacha Pfeiffer, NPR, Strange News, All Things Considered, October 20, 2022. “Those pitted wonders...” Two minutes, 29 seconds.)

♦ NPR had a headline, “Tumblegeddon: A town in southern Utah was taken over by Tumbleweeds.” Referring to (presumably) the same event, *The New York Post* hyped the event as “Tumblemageddon.”

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ An online BBC article about a shortage of semiconductors entitled “How will ‘chipageddon’ affect you?” prompted the online commenter Timbob to snark, “Surely ‘Chipocolypse’ would have been better than ‘Chipageddon.’”

♦ “Bogus ‘bee-mageddon’ is another fake environmental catastrophe scam creating buzz” by John Stossel, *The New York Post*.

### gem (noun)

#### gem of a book

he has written a ~

#### gem in the Middle East

Oman is a ~

#### gems inside British boxing

we’ve got some ~ (Costello & Bunce)

#### whitewater gem

this spectacular ~ (Tallulah Gorge / kayaking)

#### hidden gem

the road reveals many ~s (N7 in France)

#### architectural gem

the Al-Bayt stadium is an ~ (Qatar FIFA World Cup)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Culture gems become cultural relics.” (The decline of baseball in the U.S. and attempts to fix it.)

♦ see also *jewel* (noun)

### gender (groups)

#### gender-affirming

a trans child seeking ~ care  
the bill bans youth from receiving ~ health care (Utah)

#### gender affirming

~ surgery is a medical crime

#### gender nonconforming

transgender, non-binary, and ~ people

#### gender non-contentedness

researchers tracked the ~ of children (Univ. of Groningen)

~ appears to be associated with poorer mental health

#### gender questioning

schools can refuse admission to those who are ~ (U.K.)

#### gender binary

you want to move people away from thinking about the ~  
the ~ has served white supremacy (Sasha Geffen)

#### gender confusion

she was accused of bringing ~ into the class (to kids)

#### gender discourse

the tense discourse surrounding ~ in South Korea

#### gender discrimination

many men in South Korea claim to be victims of ~

#### Gender diversity

“~ is welcome here” (sign on Twitter HQ toilets)

#### gender dynamics

writer says ~ are shaping the war in Ukraine (NPR)  
the shifting ~ of superhero adaptations (female heroes)

#### gender dysphoria

a psychiatrist told her she had ~ (a MTF / m2f trans)

#### gender equality

the fight for ~ at MIT

#### gender expectations

people who don’t conform to traditional ~

#### gender exploration

~ is an ongoing journey for Schevers (can’t make up mind)

#### gender expression

we take into account the person’s current ~ (prisons)  
your ~ should make you feel at home in your body  
your ~: clothes, hair, accessories, etc.

#### gender identity

trans people put in prisons that don’t align with their ~  
surgery to affirm her ~ (MTF / m2f trans)  
Tumbler has generated hundreds of ~s  
the shooter’s ~ remains unclear (Audrey “Aiden” Hale)  
trans athletes who want to join teams that align with their ~

#### Gender Identity

“When Students Change ~ and Parents Don’t Know”

#### gender journey

they have shared their ~ on social media (Emma Corrin)

#### gender laws

the UK government has blocked changes to ~ in Scotland

#### gender nonconformity

opponents of ~

#### gender norms

Trans people or anyone who doesn’t conform to ~  
dressing in a way that doesn’t conform to ~ (Drag)

genderqueer  
the voices and presence of ~ folks

gender reassignment  
Russian parliament bans ~

gender rebellion  
music shelters ~ (Sasha Geffen / *Glitter Up the Dark*)

gender theory  
surrogacy and ~ are grave threats to human dignity (Pope)

gender studies  
Rapinoe is your next coach—they will focus on ~ (snark)  
~ is more an ideological movement than academic discipline

Gender Therapy  
“The Battle Over ~” (Emily Bazelon / NYT)

gender transition  
her personality blossomed during her ~ (Amber McLaughlin)

gender transgression  
~ at the Super Bowl halftime show (Prince)

gender-critical  
discriminated against due to her ~ beliefs (Maya Forstater)

gender critical  
~ views are protected as a belief (U.K.)

gender-diverse  
~ kids are at high risk for mental-health issues (+50%)

gender expansive  
Black women and Black ~ folks

gender-expansive  
there’s a community of women and ~ folks who love you...

gender fluid  
one of the federal government’s first openly “~” employees

gender neutral  
names that are ~ (Max, etc.)  
she called for ~ awards (Best Artist, etc.)

gender-neutral  
~ language like “pregnant people”  
the ~ word “Latinx” is banned in Arkansas documents  
women dominated the ~ acting categories (indie films)  
the ~ terms “Latinx” and “Filipinx”

gender and power  
the film deconstructs ~ (Showtime’s *George & Tammy*)

affirmed gender  
trans women who have transitioned to their ~ (MTF trans)

God and gender  
the pastor’s sex change has raised questions about ~

match their gender  
they seek to get moved to prisons that ~ (MTF trans)

transitioned from one gender to another  
celebrities who have ~ (ABC)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “While the word folks is already gender-neutral, the term ‘folx’ is used to specifically display inclusion of gender-queer, transgender and agender folks.” (“What It Means To Include ‘X’ In Words Such As Womxn, Folx, and Latinx” by Gabrielle Smith, SHAPE, December 17, 2020.)

♦ “LatinX is based on an idea that you want to move people away from thinking about the gender binary... It’s not going to catch on beyond a certain crowd.” (The linguist John McWhorter. From “The debate over ‘LatinX’ and how words get adopted—or not,” NPR, TED Radio Hour, May 24, 2024.)

♦ “Dear Abby: My brother is divorcing his husband and it’s awkward.”

♦ “Emily Bazelon’s article ‘The Battle Over Gender Therapy’ uncritically used the term ‘patient zero’ to refer to a trans child seeking gender-affirming care, a phrase that vilifies transness as a disease to be feared.” (“For the attention of Philip B. Corbett, associate managing editor for standards at *The New York Times*.”)

♦ “Not every woman can get pregnant. Pregnant children are not women. Trans men and non-binary people get pregnant.” (Charlotte Shane defending her use of the term “impregnable people” as opposed to “women” or “women and trans men,” in the letters section of *Harper’s Magazine*, founded in 1850 / Vol. 345, No. 2071, December 2022.)

♦ “A lot of readers, both trans and cis, really want you to say, in the first sentence of the story, ‘As a trans person...’ But by saying as a trans person, it cedes ground to the idea that I need disclaimers about my point of view. There’s a little bit of sick and twisted pleasure I get from saying, ‘I’m not going to do that...’ / That said, there are certain claims that I can make as a trans writer...” (“Jamie Lauren Keiles Follows the Surgical and Philosophical Journey of Phalloplasty” by Celia Ford, July 26, 2022.)

♦ “S\*\*\* My Trans D\*\*\*.” (Vile sexualized abuse directed towards J.K. Rowling by a trans woman. From the podcast, “The Witch Trials of J.K. Rowling.”)

♦ “Listen hockey doesn’t give a flying F about pronouns... It’s physical.” (A commenter about an odd case that created a minor online controversy. A very large trans female knocked a much smaller trans male down. The latter slid head first into the boards and was concussed. This happened at “the Team Trans Draft Tournament” in Middleton, Wisconsin.)

♦ “Something has changed in America. Among more and more people, gender is understood not as an inevitable, unchanging characteristic acquired at birth, but as a language, a technology, a system of communication with a full range of expression.” (*Glitter Up The Dark: How Pop Music Broke the Gender Binary* by Sasha Geffen.)

### \*\*\* writing, journalism, literature...

♦ It is a shibboleth that girls will read adventure books featuring a male hero, but boys will not read books featuring a female hero.

♦ Entire books have been written in the gender neutral unnamed “you.”

♦ “Would I know them [an actor], Tony says. / I think so, you say. / Tony only blinks back at you. / So, they say, is that what you were crying about. / Yeah. / Been there, your driver [Tony] adds... / The two of you lean over your noodles.” (“Arrivals” by Bryan Washington, *The New Yorker*, July 11 & 18, 2022.)

♦ “If they don’t have something lined up by Feb. 6, Tu faces having to leave the country.” (NPR. “They” and Tu are one and the same person.)

♦ “Medical treatments involving children that shift—which is to say affirm—their gender.” (“The New York Times’ coverage of transgender people sparks newsroom divide,” NPR, All Things Considered, Feb. 25, 2023.)

### \*\*\* people’s names...

♦ “Kim O’Grady, an experienced management consultant in Perth, Australia, couldn’t figure out why his resume was generating no job leads for more than four months, said Susanna Kim in ABCNews.com. He finally realized that companies were turning him down because his gender-neutral first name led them to assume he was a woman. ‘I pictured all the managers I had over the years and, forming an amalgam of them in my mind, I read through the document as I imagined they would have,’ he wrote on his blog. The truth became immediately apparent. ‘It was like being hit on the head with a big sheet of unbreakable glass ceiling,’ he said. After putting ‘Mr.’ before his name on his resume, he quickly landed a job. ‘The sad reality is this shows we all know how real and invasive sexism is,’ O’Grady wrote this week.” (“A name exposed a familiar truth,” *The Week Magazine*.)

♦ On December 25, 2009, the great jazz pianist Marian Petrescu (a Romanian male) appeared on Marian McPartland’s Piano Jazz radio program. Marian McPartland is female.

♦ “Kim Kardashian West and Kanye West have named their new-born daughter, delivered by surrogate on Monday, Chicago West...” / West was raised in the US city Chicago... / [Kim Kardashian’s] daughter North is now four years old and her son Saint is two.”

♦ The Wikipedia article “Curtis Sittenfeld” reveals her to be Elizabeth Curtis Sittenfeld. Her Wikipedia article does not explain why she goes by the name of Curtis, but she is a superb writer, nonetheless.

♦ A young woman published a hit novel using initials instead of her first name, and this was considered “commercially savvy.” (In 1984.)

♦ Kimberly McCoy is a woman. Professionally she goes by the name Berly McCoy. (NPR, an Assistant Producer. Her pronouns are she/her.)

♦ Joyce Kilmer, the author of the beloved poem “Trees,” was a man, not a woman. He was born in New Jersey. During World War I, he was deployed to France with the “Fighting 69th” and killed in action. The Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in Graham County, western North Carolina, is the largest tract of old-growth forest east of the Mississippi—minus the chestnut trees, of course, destroyed by a blight. Also, many of the great stands of Hemlocks have been destroyed by the wooly adelgid. Joyce is ordinarily a female name nowadays.

♦ “Doris Miller earned the Navy Cross for his actions during the Japanese attack on Hawaii’s Pearl Harbor in 1941. / He was named Doris, as his mother had thought she was having a girl, but often went by the nickname ‘Dorie.’” (“Doris Miller: US Navy aircraft carrier to honour black sailor,” BBC, 19 January 2020. Dorie was on the *West Virginia* during the attack on Pearl, and he was killed when a Jap sub sank the aircraft carrier he was serving on, the *Liscombe Bay*, at the Battle of Makin in November 1943.)

♦ Ashley Williams is a man. He is a Black or mixed man, of Jamaican descent through his father. His mother is Welsh. He was born in England, but qualified to play for the Welsh national soccer team through his maternal grandfather.

♦ Alex (Alexandra) Scott is a female English sports presenter, pundit, and former pro soccer player. Her mother is British and her father Jamaican.)

♦ Domonique Davis is a female basketball player for Arkansas State. Both Dominique Davis and Dominique Davis are male U.S. football players. Notice the differences in spelling: o, i, e.

♦ NAMES. Alex (Alexandra); Alexis; Ali (Alison); Alix; Andee; Andi; Archie (Archana); Ari (Ariana); Avery; Barrie (pronounced like Barry); Bennett; Billie; Blake; Bobbi; Bobbie; Bobby (short for Barbara); Bodhi; Braden; Berly (short for Kimberly / female); Blake; Casey; Chandler; Charlee; Charlie; Charly; Chase; Cori; Dana; Dani (pronounced “Danny”); Danni; “Daniel” (actually Danielle, but pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, heard on NPR); Darian (a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader); Dayle; Dree (female); Drew; Dylan; Elliot; Elliott; Freddie; Georgie; Geri; Glenn; Hayden; Jackie (Jacqueline); Jaden; Jay; Jess (short for Jessica); Jesse; Jessie; Jodi; Jody; Joey; Jordan; Jordin; Jordyn; “JR” (“JR” Payne, coach of the Colorado Buffaloes, whose father nicknamed her after J.R. Ewing, the character on the TV show *Dallas*) (the UK’s Suella Braverman’s birth name was Sue-Ellen, from the *Dallas* character, according to *The Sun*); Karsen; Kasie; Kelley; Kelly; Kendall; Keri; Korbin; Kris; Kyle (Kyle Richards, named after the male Kyle Rote, a football player on the New York Giants); Kylie; Landon; Maddi; Madison; Mallory; Max (short for Maxine) (short for Maxima); Mickey; Micki; Mikey; Morgan; Nat (short for Natalie); Noah (Noah Cyrus);

Riki; Rikki; Riley; Ronnie; Ryan; Rylee; Sage; Sam (short for Samantha); Sami; Sammi (short for Samantha); Sammy; Shawn; Shelby; Shelli; Sidney; Sunny; Sydney; Sydni; Taylor; Teddi; Teddy; Toby; Tomi (“Tommy” / female); Tommi; Toni; Weslie; Wyatt... (Often a woman nowadays.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ International commenters have noted the confusing nature of American names nowadays. They are not alone. Most Americans are confused!

♦ “Transgender and non-binary people are up to six times more likely to also have autism” by Lesley McClurg, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 15, 2023.

♦ “Activists seek to erode the legal definition of sex and replace it with gender.”

♦ “She felt a gay biographer might colonize Chatwin into the gay world.” (Bruce Chatwin’s widow.)

♦ “Everybody wants to be a Gay icon now. Well, I don’t.” (Natalie Wynn at ContraPoints.)

♦ “this is a perfect example of the zeitgeist of cognitive dissonance permeating our devolving society.” (An online commenter about “NJ transgender woman transferred from women’s only prison after impregnating 2 inmates, report says” by Stephen Sorace, Fox News, July 17, 2022.)

♦ Nowadays, “Kaycee at the Bat” is a “fierce” high-school girl soft-ball player in a form fitting white uniform on a team referred to as the Lady somethings or other. (A reference to the poem “Casey at the Bat” by Ernest Thayer.)

♦ “Just remember. Trans means “not.” (A helpful online commenter.)

♦ “Aiden, Brayden and Grayden all just happen to be trans.” (A disparaging online commenter.)

♦ 16,497 comments...and counting. (“A Biden administration official is on leave after they were charged with stealing a Vera Bradley suitcase worth over \$2,000 from a Minnesota airport” by Natalie Musmeci, Yahoo, November 29, 2022. The story is about one of the federal government’s first openly “gender fluid” employees.)

♦ “Wasn’t ‘Reality Winner’ a man in real life?” (A online commenter about Sydney Sweeney’s role in Tina Satter’s film *Reality Winner*. It is possible he is confusing Reality Winner with Chelsea Manning. Or maybe he is just trolling. Who knows nowadays?)

♦ “I predict on 1st Feb the Gypsy Queen will break a toe nail and the fight will be off.” (An online commenter about Oleksandr Usyk versus Tyson Fury, aka the “Gypsy King.” Boxing snark. The fight was postponed, though, after Tyson Fury suffered a cut over his eye during training camp.)

♦ “Dump Rodgers, she’s a prima donna, and doesn’t get the TEAM culture.” (Shade against the great future Hall of Famer Aaron Rodgers of the NFL Green Bay Packers, using a female pronoun!)

♦ “If you watched [Kamala Harris] being interviewed by Allison Cooper...” (“Trump refers to CNN’s Anderson Cooper by a woman’s first name,” AP, October 26, 2024.)

♦ “Americans across the spectrum of race, gender and creed have had enough of this woke garbage.” (Piers Morgan.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. “Young lady came up and she said, ‘Vince,’ which I thought she was introducing herself to me. She said, ‘Can I get an interview after you tee off?’ And I was like, ‘Sure.’” (Everette Sands. And thus he was interviewed by the pretty young reporter Lauren Withrow, who thought she was interviewing the famous ex-NFL player Vince Young, at the BMW Charity Pro-Am in South Carolina. Funny! Nowadays, it is not unusual at all that a young lady might be named Vince, or refer to herself as “Vince.”)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. A young man out on the town looking to pick up a pretty girl found himself in a jazz club, even though he knew absolutely nothing about jazz and, honestly, didn’t really even like it. He finally found a pretty girl to chat up, and at a certain point in their conversation—which seemed to be going very well, from his point of view—the pretty young woman said, “Do you like Billie Holliday?” To which the young man enthused, “I love him!” (Wrong answer!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ NSF grant EEC-1764103, for \$349,311.00.

♦ “There was a time when to name a girl Amber was like naming her Isabella or Chloe today. It had a hint of novelty and panache...Starting in the late 1940s, the name Amber was a novelty because of a best-selling novel (*Forever Amber*)... / Yet today, scenes like that are ordinary not only in the movies but on much of television; to make an impression, things must get even more creative.” (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter.)

♦ See also *name (groups)*.

♦ See also *say (say his name, say period, etc.)*

♦ For a list of female first names ending in long “e,” see *y (pulpy, etc.)*

## gendered (groups)

gendered

the term “rent boys” is ~ (Chelsea FC, London)

how toys became ~

gendered existence

deeply sedimented expectations of ~ (feminism)

gendered language

~ (like “pregnant women”)

gendered nature

there was an increasingly ~ to the online conflict

gendered norms

~ still shape the workplace

traditional societies where ~ are defined by a binary

gendered office

we’re trying to survive in a ~ (8 young female assistants)

gendered power

the everyday negotiations of ~ in relationships

gendered (language) rules

social resistance to ~ (Swardspeak, pronouns, etc.)

gendered stereotypes

~ of what makes a good leader (the male style)

gendered violence

~ courses through “The Dominant Animal” (K. Scanlan)

the 41<sup>st</sup> Australian to die as a result of ~ (Lilie James)

gendered and specific

there were both ~ attacks on your expertise (female)

deeply gendered

headlines reveal ~ and damaging stereotypes

heavily gendered

~ experiences...

misgendered

see *misgendered (groups)*

superstitious, uncivilized, gendered, and racialized

the ~ Other...

became gendered

how toys ~...

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “We should keep gendered language to reflect heavily gendered experiences.” (NPR’s Office of the Public Editor, explaining why it is still possible to use “pregnant women” instead of “pregnant people.”)

♦ “Ms James is the 41<sup>st</sup> Australian woman this year to die allegedly as a result of gendered violence, according to the Counting Dead Women project.” (Lilie James, Australia.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “I have studied this matter. Most of the couples who visit a big shopping center start quarrelling with each other within an hour and a half.” (Sergei Y. Klyuchnikov, a psychologist in Moscow, on Russia’s long New Year’s holiday. *Duhl*)

♦ “The history of clothing has been very gendered...” (Fashion writer Derek Guy.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus.”

♦ The “Battle of the Sexes” has been a feature of life since the dawn of time.

## gene (in one's genes)

in his genes

laziness is not ~

it was ~, in his blood... (Calvin Klein sketches as a kid)

in their genes

the English will always have an excuse ~ (soccer)

♦ “Gratitude for being spared two world wars is, says Markus Haefliger, politics correspondent with the Tagesanzeiger newspaper, ‘almost in our genes...that makes neutrality so important for Swiss people.’” (“Ukraine war sees Swiss challenge their age-old neutrality” by Imogen Foulkes, BBC News, Geneva. In World War II, strict neutrality didn’t work out so well for Belgium.)

♦ “It’s sort of in our genetic makeup if you’re from Pueblo.” (In Colorado. The Arkansas River flood of 1921.)

## gene (other)

“acting gene”

his father told the BBC that his son had inherited the ~

daredevil gene

flying appealed to his ~ (Elon Musk gets pilot’s license)

entrepreneurial genes

she didn’t just inherit ~, but medical ones, too (family)

inherited the “acting gene”

his father told the BBC that his son had ~

## generation (products, etc.)

fourth generation

the Max was to be the ~ of the 737 family (Boeing)

## Geneva Convention (cyber, etc.)

cyber Geneva Convention

we need to develop a kind of ~ if you will... (hacking)

digital Geneva Convention

some are calling for a ~ (cyberwarfare)

equivalent of the Geneva Conventions

there’s no ~ for this tech yet (Pegasus spyware, etc.)

♦ “We need to develop a kind of cyber Geneva Convention if you will that establishes norms and standards worldwide and if a country or a group violates those norms, then you have worldwide sanctions, worldwide response.” (Senator Angus King of Maine.)

♦ “There’s no equivalent of the Geneva Conventions for this tech yet. (Ronan Farrow about Pegasus spyware, etc.)



## genie (initiation)

### genie

- the ~ is out of the bottle (cloning)
- can the ~ every be put back in the bottle (flat-earth belief)
- once that ~ is out of the bottle, it's hard to put it back

### atomic genie

- he campaigned to push the ~ back into the bottle

### micro-entertainment genie

- you can never put the ~ back in the bottle (TikTok)

### nationalist genie

- once the ~ has been let out the bottle...

### genie is (well and truly) out of the bottle

- the ~ with no going back (bazball in cricket)

### genie (of racial hatred) has been unleashed

- the ~ (Ivory Coast)

### put the genie back in the bottle

- you can't ~
- I don't see how they can ~ (kid's programming and ads)

### put the anti-vaccine genie back in the bottle

- there is no easy way to ~ (COVID / 2021)

### stuff the genie back into the bottle

- it's too late to ~

♦ "The toothpaste is out of the genie." (A wonderfully creative and funny conflation of "the genie is out of the bottle" and "you can't put the toothpaste back in the tube." From "Football and its insufferable broadcast coverage are back" by Phil Mushnick, *The New York Post*, August 26, 2023.)

♦ "It seems unlikely the cork can be put back in the bottle." (Legal weed in Thailand.)

♦ "As director of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton and as chief scientific advisor of the new Atomic Energy Commission, Oppenheimer campaigned to push the atomic genie, if not back into the bottle, at least into international control." (*American Prometheus* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "Once the nationalist genie has been let out of the bottle, it can develop a life of its own. In extreme moments, foreigners or ethnic minorities can be the first victims."

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The TV series *I Dream of Jeannie* (1965-1970), starring Barbara Eden as the genie, caused many a boy's wet dream. It has been said that *I Dream of Jeannie* was the greatest recruiting advertisement ever for the military and the Air Force.

♦ see also *toothpaste* (*put the toothpaste back in the tube*)

## genie (knowledge)

### lighting-design genie

- again he has shown himself to be a ~

### Phrasebuilder Genie

- Oxford ~ (2003)

## general (General Winter, etc.)

### General Frost

- ~ was a character in a British cartoon (1812 Moscow)

### "General Winter"

- he found himself up against ~ (Napoleon)

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "No Finnish unit, however small, went into battle without sufficient artificial warmth for every man. Frontline dugouts were equipped with small, efficient stoves that burned with a hot, steady flame and gave off the merest whisper of smoke. Just behind the front lines the Finns lived and worked in shellproof dugouts roofed over with layers of logs and earth and completely camouflaged. Inside these dugouts the walls were lined with furs and skins. Men could rest in snug comfort when they returned from patrol duty or a period of combat. When a Finnish soldier was wounded, he was usually back in the comfort of a warm aid-station bunker within the hour... / For many of the encircled Soviet troops, just staying alive, for one more hour or one more day, was an ordeal comparable to combat. Freezing, hungry, crusted with their own filth... for them the central forest was truly a snow-white hell... In the forest the Russian soldiers had to face what they called *Belaya Smerť*: the White Death. It came silently, when men became so numb with cold and fatigue that they just lay down in the snow and went to sleep, or it came violently, in the form of a sniper round fired from an invisible Finn hundreds of meters away... Aside from the field kitchens, the invaders' only source of warmth was campfires... [When a Russian soldier was wounded he] knew only an intensification of misery, cold, and pain." (*Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter.)

♦ "Under ordinary wintertime conditions, by late February, the ice over the gulf would have become too unstable and too dotted with thin spots, to support heavy vehicle traffic. But this year, it remained frozen as solid as ever, capable of bearing the weight of trucks, light tanks, and up-to-medium-caliber field artillery. 'General Winter' had turned traitor." (The Gulf of Viipuri. From *Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter. The frozen ice was to the Russian's advantage.)

♦ "Ukraine War Disrupted by Powerful Blizzard" by Aila Slisco, *Newsweek*, Nov 28, 2023.

#### \*\*\* Russian famine of 1921-1922...

♦ Weather helped cause the famine (drought), and weather helped delay the relief (thaw), and a return to cold weather helped the relief. (The Great Famine of 1921-22 in Russia. From "America's Gift to Famine Stricken Russia," PBS, American Experience. American A.R.A. relief to Russia.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ New military technology begets new military countermeasures in an endless cycle. But "General Winter" continues to have an oftentimes determining impact on military operations.

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## general (Bobby Knight, "The General," etc.)

### "The General"

Coach Bobby Knight, ~ as Hoosiers fondly remember him

## general (floor general, etc.)

### floor general

- he is their ~ (Draymond Green / NBA)

## genocidal (groups)

### genocidal attacks

- Israel's ~ in Gaza (see quote below)

### genocidal empire

- the chief monarch of a ~ (Uju Anya about Elizabeth II)

### genocidal intent

- it is quite clear they do have ~ (Hamas)

### genocidal lunatic

- my Wikipedia entry paints me as a ~ (a conservative)



genocidal rhetoric

the overtly ~ (“transgenderism must be eradicated”)

‘genocidal’ speech

what constitutes ~

genocidal war’

after nearly six months of Israel’s ~ (Hanna AlShaikh)

Zionist, racist and genocidal

PEN America offers approval for a ~ (Israel)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “I heard the chief monarch of a thieving raping genocidal empire is finally dying. May her pain be excruciating.” (Uju Anya of Carnegie Mellon University, about Queen Elizabeth II. Carnegie Mellon is a private research university in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, established in 1900 by Andrew Carnegie.)

♦ “After nearly six months of Israel’s genocidal war, the toll has been devastating.” (Hanna AlShaikh, Palestine Project Coordinator, Arab Center Washington.)

♦ “Please join over 1,400 people and sign this #Gaza2024 statement telling President Biden that we will not vote for him in 2024 if he continues to support Israel’s genocidal attacks in Gaza.”

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “It can be really hard to figure out if violence is genocidal, especially in the context of active conflict.” (Associate professor of human rights Kate Cronin-Furman at University College London.)

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## genocide (groups)

genocide

the ~s at the formation of the US (Steven Salaita)

gentrification is ~ (a T-shirt)

genocide of Palestinians

the US supports Israel in the ~ (“Crackhead Barney”)

Genocide Of Palestinians

Democrats Fund The ~ (protest sign at 2024 DNC)

genocide of our people

residential schools were the ~ (First Nations People)

*Genocide of Colored People*

*Open Season: Legalized ~* (book by the lawyer Ben Crump)

Genocide in Gaza

chanting and protesting against the ongoing ~

genocide of Palestinians in Gaza

Netanyahu is carrying out the ~ (politician Rashida Tlaib)

Genocide Joe

protestors with signs reading, ‘~’ (President Joe Biden)

today at the DNC, the keynote speaker is no other than ~

genocide profiteers

they are ~ (Google, according to employee protesters)

genocide and war

that meeting represents ~ (2024 DNC protest speaker)

*Legalized Genocide*

*Open Season: ~ of Colored People* (lawyer Ben Crump)

settler-colonial genocide

the ~ against indigenous people (and Palestinians)

trans genocide

stop ~ (trans day of vengeance protest)

actual genocide

we demand PEN America take an actual stand against an

~

cultural genocide

monks were immolating themselves, a “~”

the policy aimed at “~” (residential schools / Canada)

the razing of the Armenian cemetery in Julfa is a ~

the policies of ~ (against Native Americans)

complicit in this genocide

the U.S. is ~ (Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib)

akin to a genocide

something ~ was unfolding (Bangladesh in 1971)

investment in genocide

end war profiteering and ~ (a protest banner at USC)

Tech for Genocide

the “No ~ Day of Action” protest (at Google)

Googler Against Genocide

the protesters all wore “~” T-shirts...

stand against genocide

taking a ~ should not be a fringe issue (DNC protest)

incitement to genocide

~ is a crime under Israeli law

*extinction and genocide*

he uses words like ~ (Roger Hallam of XR)

white supremacy, genocide, and violence

the destructive harms of ~ (Wing Luke Museum walkout)

art-washing a genocide

activists vandalized the Pace Gallery for ~

genocide is continuing and escalating

as the ~ (#freepalestine)

amount to genocide

Russia’s attacks on energy infrastructure ~

amounts to genocide

violence against indigenous women and girls ~

called a “genocide”

violence against indigenous women was ~ (Canada / 2019)

characterize Israel’s war against Hamas as

“genocide”

she would not ~ (Alice Wairimu Nderitu)

charge you with genocide

hey, Dems, you can’t hide, we ~ (a chant, with drumming)

committing genocide

Israel strongly denies that it is ~ in Gaza  
every protest is justified as Israel is ~ (Abdullah Akl)

constitutes a genocide  
the mass internment, forced labor, sterilization ~

divest from genocide  
activist have been calling for universities to “~”

Divest from Genocide  
~ (a sign held by a protestor at Vanderbilt University)

fund a genocide  
our tax dollars ~ (a poster / Israel-Hamas war)

funding genocide  
“Google, Google, you can’t hide / you are ~”  
(employees)

labelled the Holodomor famine a genocide  
Pope Francis ~

perpetuate a genocide  
when you ~ for over 75 years... (student Hamas supporter)

speak out against genocide  
students’ rights to ~ and ongoing occupation of Palestine

spends your tax money on genocide  
the US ~ (the Israel-Hamas war)

stand against genocide  
we ~ (a banner / a Hamas supporter)

supporting genocide  
they think we’re ~ (a Jewish merchant in NYC)

survive a genocide  
the Palestinians of Gaza are trying to ~ (March on DNC)

witnessing a genocide  
we are ~ (Machaela Cavanaugh)

paved the way for genocide  
white men who ~...

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ “The destruction of the cemetery has been widely described by Armenian sources, and some non-Armenian sources, as an act of cultural genocide.” (From the Wikipedia article “Armenian cemetery in Julfa.”)
- ♦ “It’s genocide again of Native Americans. Now (white people’s) descendants are colonizing us again by claiming to be us.” (Kathy Griffin, a member of the Cherokee Nation. From “Met Museum’s ‘Apache’ curator is accused of lying about Native American roots” by Will Potter, *Daily Mail*, 28 May 2024.)
- ♦ “The killing of bison, it was very much part of the public policy that the United States had against indigenous people, very much part of the policies of cultural genocide.” (Rosalyn LaPier, environmental historian.)
- ♦ “#Israel’s bombardment of #Gaza provides a necessary impetus to reflect on the genocides that accompanied the formation of the United States.” (Steven Salaita, 2014. See the Wikipedia article “Steven Salaita hiring controversy.”)
- ♦ *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People* by the lawyer Ben Crump.
- ♦ “[This is a] moment in which the statues of white men who paved the way for genocide and fought to defend slavery are being taken

down by cheering crowds.” (“Looking For Frederick Douglass” by Clint Smith, *The Atlantic*, September 2020.)

- ♦ “It’s very important. What we say here is important. Trying to deny what is going on is not going to be tolerated by me. We are witnessing a genocide.” (Machaela Cavanaugh of the Nebraska State Legislature, fighting a bill that would ban gender-affirming therapies for children.)
- ♦ “we want more than visibility / trans day of vengeance / stop trans genocide... (A digital flyer on Twitter for a protest at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.)
- ♦ “Christian bigots like you *genociding* [sic, italics mine] us.” (One line from a vile transgender tweet.)
- ♦ “Stop Trans Genocide.” (A banner at a demonstration.)
- ♦ “We demand PEN America wake up...and take an actual stand against an actual genocide.” (“Over 600 writers have signed this open letter to PEN America” by Dan Sheehan, lit hub, February 9, 2024. The open letter refers to “Israel’s genocide of Palestinians.” The open letter also states: “We demand... We demand... We demand... We demand... We demand... We demand...”)
- ♦ “Genocide = Ecocide.” (A protest sign held by a student at Yale University. The Israel-Hamas war.)
- ♦ Activists vandalized the Pace Gallery in New York City with graffiti and pasted posters for “art-washing a genocide.” (See “Pace Gallery Closes New York Flagship Space for the Day After Being Vandalized with Pro-Palestine Messages” by Alex Greenberger, ARTnews, January 27, 2024.)
- ♦ “He believes a jeno (genocide) is happening and he doesn’t like it.” (Some random blogger who refers to Jewish people as “ishes” and Palestinians as “palos.” Bizarre!)
- ♦ “I, Lieutenant Glenn Litton of the Alliance carried out countermeasure in necessitated response to America’s involvement with Genocide and Oppression of Palestinians along with attacks towards Yemen.” (A message left by Glenn Litton, who shot two kindergarten children at the Feather River Adventist School in Oroville, California, before committing suicide. From “California man who shot 2 kindergarteners had lengthy criminal history, mental health issues: police” by Louis Casiano, Christina Shaw, Fox News, December 6, 2024.)
- ♦ “AOC says no one should be ‘tossed out of public discourse’ for accusing Israel of genocide” by Chris Michael, *The Guardian*, Mon 29 Jan 2024. The Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is quoted as saying, “large amounts [sic] of Americans concerned” use the word.
- ♦ “[S]he studied biomedical engineering with a minor in resistance to genocide, according to a profile on the college website.” (“USC student’s graduation speech cancelled in Israel-Gaza hate row” by Max Matza, BBC News, April 17, 2024.)
- ♦ “In Syracuse, New York, President Biden was greeted by around 100 protestors with signs reading ‘Genocide Joe’ and other slogans.” (BBC. The Israel-Hamas war.)
- ♦ “Today at the DNC, the keynote speaker is no other than Genocide Joe, whose administration gave unlimited bombs and bullets to Israel.” (A speaker at the March on DNC 2024.)
- ♦ “And the Democratic party, when they ousted Genocide Joe, they thought we wouldn’t be here today. They hoped we wouldn’t be here today. And while his ouster is a victory that I think we should claim, it is not enough. We want an end to the genocide, not just new leadership of a genocide.” (A speaker at the March on DNC 2024. He was introduced as “one of the founding members of the Anti-War Action Network.”)
- ♦ “Hey, Dems, you can’t hide / Hey, Dems, you can’t hide / We charge you with genocide / We charge you with genocide...” (A protest chant with drumming at the March on DNC 2024.)
- ♦ “This battle did not start on October 7 [2023], and the genocide did not start on October 7.” (Charlotte Kates of Samidoun, about the Israel-Hamas war.)
- ♦ “But we know that this murder [of George Floyd] is only the latest in a long string of Black lives and Black people whose labor has been exploited, whose lives have been stolen by a state and a system that is built on settler-colonial genocide against indigenous people...” (Charlotte Kates of Samidoun, the Samidoun-Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity network. March 24, 2024, Columbia University.)

♦ “Some protesters in the anti-Israeli group held up a rainbow flag with the words ‘no pride in genocide’ painted on it.” (“Hundreds of anti-Israel protesters bring Philly gay pride parade to a halt.”)

♦ “Voted for trump and you, not genocide Harris. Dems need bernie!” (A reply to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who had requested of her 8 million Instagram followers, “People who support both Trump & me OR voted Trump/Dem, tell us why.”)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “GENTRIFICATION IS (“RENEWAL” is crossed out) GENOCIDE” T-shirt. Free shipping. Arrives soon! Get it by Jan 7-15 if you order today. Returns & exchanges accepted. Add to cart. “I LOVE this shop!! The tee shirt is really nice and very high quality. I already have one and had to buy another for my Sister!! Thanks for the stickers and pins...I will definitely be shopping here again. I'd give this shop 10 stars if I could....” (\$25.00+. Etsy.)

♦ “STOP THE GENOCIDE” cap with a clenched fist in Palestinian colors. Stop the genocide unisex distressed cap, human rights hat, free Palestine, save Gaza, save children ceasefire, end the apartheid, end war. Made with 100% cotton twill for high-end comfort and durability, these custom distressed hats bring all the style and practicality one needs in daily life. The low profile along with the d-ring closure on a self-fabric hideaway strap ensures both proper protection from the sun and that perfect, adjustable fit. (\$28.97. Etsy.)

♦ “STOP GENOCIDE” T-shirt. With a picture of the Palestinian flag. STOP GENOCIDE. Palestine flag unisex shirt. Free Palestine. Free Gaza. End apartheid. Support Gaza. Palestine Freedom. Palestinian. RebelCraftsStudio. Product Description: This classic unisex jersey short sleeve tee represents the pinnacle of comfortable, versatile casual wear. Meticulously crafted to deliver exceptional comfort and enduring style, the garment offers a perfect blend of functionality and aesthetic appeal. “Absolutely LOVE this print! It's really unique, but is exactly what I was looking for!” (\$39.99+. Etsy.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “They think we’re supporting genocide, we’re supporting colonialism. They know the keywords but they don’t really know what they mean.” (A Jewish merchant in New York City.)

♦ “The Nile, the Euphrates, the Atlantic, the Dead Sea, the Caribbean...” (Students in the U.S. who approve of the chant, “From the river to the sea,” about which river and which sea are referenced. See the article, “From Which River to Which Sea?” by Ron E. Hassner, Opinion, *The Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 5, 2023.)

♦ “She Fled Rwanda To Survive—But Does Not Like The words ‘Refugee’ Or ‘Genocide,’” NPR, Goats and Soda, April 19, 2019.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “There is a strict legal definition of what qualifies as genocide.” (“The politics of calling the Russia-Ukraine war a genocide,” wbur, April 19, 2022.)

♦ “History’s worst genocide, the Holocaust...” (Netanyahu in his 2024 address to the U.S. Congress, about the Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Raphael Lemkin.” He coined the word.

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ see also *cide* (*ecocide*, *etc.*)

## George Floyd (as verb)

George Floyd me  
they’re trying to ~

♦ “Please, please, please, please, please. They’re trying to George Floyd me.” (Keenan Anderson, quoted in “A cousin of a prominent Black Lives Matter founder died after being tased by police” by Emily Olsen, NPR, January 14, 2023.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “The number of people *in the theater world* who used George Floyd’s dead body to pivot to inequity in the theater world is the most hair-raising thing I’ve ever seen in my life.” (“The Radical Self-Awareness of Michael R. Jackson” by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)

♦ “Should The Late George Floyd Be A Black American Hero?” by B. Robinson, *The Tennessee Tribune*, July 23, 2021.

## germinate (verb)

gestated and (finally) germinated  
it was something that ~ into this thread I explored in my novel

## Gestapo (Gestapo of Patterson, etc.)

Gestapo of Patterson  
the police were the ~ (BBC’s *The Hurricane Tapes*)

## gestate (verb)

gestated and (finally) germinated  
it was something that ~ into this thread I explored in my novel

## gestation (film, etc.)

seven-year gestation  
the film had a ~

## gesture (groups)

‘Gesture’ politics  
she labeled our anti-racism message as ~ (taking a knee)

♦ “The politics are mostly gestural; leftism as fashionable posturing; sanctimony literature; self-promotion and the airing of performatively righteous opinion...” (Criticism of a writer.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “I don’t believe in gestures, I believe in substance, I believe in doing things that make a practical difference.” (Prime Minister Boris Johnson, asked if he would “take the knee.”)

♦ see also *performative* (*groups*)

## get (as noun)

big get  
a ~ for an aspiring songwriter (a record contract)

biggest interview “get”  
this might be the ~ of the year for TV news...

excellent get  
he could be an ~ if Houston makes him available via trade

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The old print dictionary I use lists three uses of “get” as a noun: the young of an animal; a begetting (no example of use given); and something to do with the sport of tennis. Online Merriam-Webster DOES have “get” as a noun with the meaning, “acquisition.” At that entry, click on “Related Articles” and then click on “What’s a ‘Good Get’?”

♦ “There’s no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## get (and get it / understand)

gets how  
he really ~ Twitter works (Elon Musk)

get it  
I ~  
I don’t ~  
I didn’t ~  
I understand, actually, I actually ~, I get it, umm, but...  
so, I ~, one hundred percent...

gets it

this guy ~ (understands)

here's a guy who ~ (cleric who fights sex abuse)

get the skepticism

I totally ~

totally get

they felt betrayed, which I ~

♦ "I'm not a good, likeable victim, I get it." (Amber Heard about losing Johnny Depp's lawsuit.)

♦ "Megyn Kelly blasts Joe Rogan for drinking Bud Light: 'He's not getting it.'" (*The New York Post*.)

♦ "I don't get it. (Dumfounded.) Yes, I do get it. (Exasperated.) Part of social justice under this idea of being offended is that you prove you're a good person by sticking your middle finger up at very dead people in order to show that you disagree with their views." (The linguist John McWhorter about the renaming of campus buildings. "John McWhorter: Pitfalls in the Policing of Language—YouTube." Watch and listen to: [youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE))

♦ "I don't get this at all... He's really punting it. That's a head scratcher to me." (A sports commentator, about a football game.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ metaphors (specific metaphors cited) Conduit Metaphor. See COMMUNICATION IS OBJECT EXCHANGE / COMMUNICATION IS OBJECT EXCHANGE 15, 16, 69, 84, 132, 180 (*Figurative Language* by Barbara Dancygier and Eve Sweetser.)

## get (get somewhere)

get there

how did Apple ~ (a trillion dollars)

we're never going to ~ if... (politics)

get here

how did we ~ (explain how we arrived at such a situation)

what has been going on, how did we ~

how did we ~ (Qatar: Saudi embargo 'to be lifted')

## get (not get anywhere, get nowhere)

get anywhere

without defeating corruption, we won't ~ (government)

through force, we won't ~

getting anywhere

we're not ~, three years is too long (Delphi IN murders)

gotten nowhere

they have tried asking for records but have ~ (politics)

gotten nowhere or grown worse

some countries have ~ (hunger levels)

## get across (verb)

get across

key elements that the politician wants to ~

## get along (verb)

get along

to ~, you've got to go along (it's the way of the world)

you want to ~ to go along in D.C. (lobbyists / regulators)

## getaway (noun)

weekend getaway

dream vacations and ~s

a romantic ~ as a Valentine's Day present

romantic getaway

last summer, for a ~, we...;

romantic (weekend) getaway

a ~ as a Valentine's Day present

vacation getaway

this ~ won't cost you an arm and leg

## get away (get away with something)

got away with it

Hunter ~ (President Biden pardons his son)

get away with stuff

he could ~ (Bill Cosby)

would have gotten away with it

if he had done it elsewhere, he ~ (a murder)

♦ "How long do you honestly believe that people in power like you will get away with it? How long do you think you can continue to ignore the climate crisis...without being held accountable? You get away with it now, but sooner or later people are going to realize what you have been doing all this time. That's inevitable." (Greta Thunberg.)

## get away (escape)

got away

that 2008 season is the one that ~ (team lost)

the books that ~ (under the radar, underappreciated, etc.)

total failure, the mountain that ~ (expedition failed)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Fishing lore is full of tales about 'the one that got away,' and fishermen have been known to exaggerate the size of their catch." (Tove Danovich. *Duh!*)

## get by (verb)

get by

people are just trying to ~ (Asheville / 2024 Flood)

## get in / get into (involvement)

got into movies

little by little, I ~ (an actor)

get into the specifics

I'm not going to ~ on the investigation

get into that

a lot of no comments, a lot of we're not going to ~

the police chief said he did not want to ~ (an argument)

got into trouble

he ~ at university

## get on with (get on with something)

get on with it

okay, let's ~ (sports during pandemic)

got on with it

the Queen has always just ~ (death of husband)

## get out (and get out of)

get out

I wanted to ~ but I didn't know how (gang)  
get out of your comfort zone  
~, we have to challenge ourselves (Simon Reeve)  
get you out  
you do bad things, and I got to ~ (*Of Mice and Men*)

### **get out (get out from under)**

get out from under her (crushing debt) burden  
she couldn't ~  
get out from under the cloud  
he couldn't ~ of suspicion  
got out from under the father's (controlling) eye  
when she ~...  
get out from under its debt  
the city is trying to ~ (Detroit)  
get out from under (US) sanctions  
Iran wants to ~

### **get over (overcome)**

get over the sense of failure  
I know I will ~  
mentally get over  
once you can ~ I'm going to be cold... (skiing)  
♦ "Let it go, get it over with, and put it behind us..." (Former Solicitor General Ted Olsen, on allowing Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—the mastermind of 9/11, on which almost 3,000 people died—to plead guilty in exchange for life in prison without parole.)  
♦ "Like I'm a slow griever, it takes me a really long time to get over things." (Christine Blasey Ford, speaking to Terry Gross on Fresh Air in 2024. Ford has a new book out.)

### **get over oneself**

get over yourself  
~, like you have insight into... (sarcasm)

### **get through (endure, etc.)**

get through (almost) anything  
with the right outlook, you can ~ (life)  
get through the episode  
I somehow managed to ~  
got through the interview  
I somehow ~ (for a job)  
get through it  
I think she'll ~, she's a very strong personality (athlete)  
get through that (transition) period  
help the economy ~ (Russia)  
get through the (degree) program  
working while they try to ~  
get through this  
the Lord will give us the strength to ~  
get through this somehow  
we'll ~

get you through rough times  
develop better coping skills to ~  
time to get through (all) this  
it takes ~, just be patient...

strength to get through this  
the Lord will give us the ~

way to get through it  
if you want to find a ~ all, maybe...

♦ "How do I get through one night without you..." (LeAnn Rimes.  
Watch: LeAnn Rimes—How Do I Live—YouTube

♦ see also *been through (endure)*, *go through (endure, etc.)*

### **get up (and get back up, etc.)**

get back up  
when America gets knocked down, we ~...

♦ "When America gets knocked down, we get back up, we keep going. That's America." (President Joe Biden's 2024 State of the Union address to Congress.)

### **ghost (verb)**

ghosting you  
he's ~ (her boyfriend disappears without contact)

ghosts boyfriends  
she ~ because she doesn't want to offend

ghosted me  
she ~ and I was left in the dark (as to why)

ghosted him  
American had ~ (victim of #MeToo movement)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Bah! Humbug! My signal is totally ghosting me." (An actor portraying Ebenezer Scrooge in a cute Christmas season advertisement for the corporate behemoth Verizon. "'Tis the season to switch to Verizon." You know the word is a cliché when it is picked up by the corporations.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In terms of dating, this refers to a boyfriend or girlfriend cutting off a relationship with no explanation, not face to face or even on social media. Further contact might only be related to "orbiting" on social media. According to social media, "being zombied is the new 'ghosting.'"

### **ghost (memory)**

ghost  
the ~s were brought to life (bones of slave laborers)  
they want to keep his ~ alive (Osama bin Laden)

"ghosts" of Ms Clinton's campaign  
the article questioned whether the ~ would haunt Ms Warren

ghosts of Vietnam  
an attempt to bury the ~ (embedded reporters / Iraq)

ghosts of history  
a debate about how to confront the ~ (Germany / 70s)

confront the ghosts  
a debate about how to ~ of history (Germany, 70s)

exorcised that ghost

European leaders thought they had ~ (Berlusconi)

♦ "She walked out that side door at about 0100 hours, got into one of the Humvees, and drove off to confront the ghosts of the past." / "And the ghosts won." (*The General's Daughter* by Nelson DeMille.)

♦ "Some of those ghosts are still with us." (The past.)

## ghost (bury the ghost)

bury the ghosts

an attempt to ~ of Vietnam

exorcised that ghost

European leaders thought they had ~ (Berlusconi)

summon her ghost and exorcise her

the desire to ~ forever (a writer)

## ghost (unregistered, etc.)

ghost children

North Korean ~ in China can't go to school (illegal)

ghost criminals

they are ~ (Tren De Aragua gang members in U.S.)

ghost detainees

the CIA held ~ at various sites (unregistered)

"ghost gun"

an unregistered, untraceable ~ (assembled from parts)

ghost guns

~ can be built with pieces bought online

one-third of all firearms seized are ~ (California)

so-called "~" with no registration number

so-called "~" can be made at home

"ghost" ship

~s have been previously hijacked (piracy)

~s are a real threat to the security (world's waterways)

the two pirate vessels returned to a large ~ (Somalia)

♦ "They're called ghost guns because, unlike guns bought from a dealer, they have no serial numbers so they can't be traced if found at a crime scene. And the people who buy and assemble the kits have not been subject to laws that require a background check before purchasing a gun." (NPR's Nina Totenberg.)

♦ "I've heard it referred to almost as a ghost criminal." (A New York City police department official about members of the Venezuelan gang Tren De Aragua who are illegally crossing the border into the U.S. and committing crimes. They are almost impossible to trace.)

## ghost (abandoned, etc.)

ghost gear

marine life is killed by "~" (lost and abandoned nets)

ghost homes

*akiya*, or ~, dot the landscape (vacant homes in Japan)

ghost nets

when these nets get lost at sea, they become ~ (trawlers)

ghost planes

airliners are flying empty ~ to keep their flight slots

"ghost" cargo ship

a ~ has washed up off the coast of Ireland (abandoned)

ghost villages

~ proliferated up in the hills (North Greece, abandoned)

families have moved away, leaving "~" (Setomaa area)

## ghost (ghost signs, etc.)

ghost face

the child noticed a ~ on the floor (Bélmez Faces)

"ghost signs"

the city does not preserve ~ (on old brick walls)

♦ "Walk along West 38th Street in the Garment District and you'll catch a glimpse of one of the last remaining Horn & Hardart signs in the city, painted a lifetime ago on the brick back of 1385 Broadway." (The food services company that operated a chain of self-service automats once popular in New York City.)

♦ TO LET / CARRIAGES COUPES HANSOMS VICTORIAS LIGHT WAGONS / HORSES BOARD BY THE MONTH (Fading ghost signs still to be seen on old brick walls in cities large and small across the country.)

## ghost (fantasy and delusion)

ghost airplanes

stray missiles, ~ (Egyptian scenarios for Flight 990)

ghost networks

~ are an industry-wide problem (medical insurance)

"ghost soldiers"

corrupt officials invented ~ to pocket their wages

generals and officials pocketed the wages of ~

♦ "Ghost networks are an industry-wide problem. (Medical insurance. You pay them and then discover they have no providers.)

## ghosted

ghosted by the actor for a potential role

she claims she was ~ in the film (a lawsuit)

♦ "Girl, you're being ghosted? I'm being zombied. It's like ghosting, but he comes back from the dead after a couple of months and hits you up." (Singer-songwriter Mariel Darling on TikTok to her 255,900 followers.)

♦ 'Ghostlighting' is the sadistic new dating trend creating trust issues. The dreaded combo of manipulation and a disappearing act is a one-two punch for singles in the market for love." (*The New York Post*. A combination of "gaslighting" and "ghosting.")

## ghost town

ghost town

two years later, the city is a ~ (after earthquake)

one year on, L'Aquila is still a ~ (after earthquake)

virtual ghost town

the bombardments have left Aleppo a ~

turn into ghost towns

communities will ~

## ghostwriter (noun)

ghostwriter

he has worked as an unofficial ~

♦ "She was considered a ghost voice, never given the credit she deserved." (The professional singer Marni Nixon.)

## giant (Giants Causeway, etc.)

Giants Causeway

the ~ is a cape in Northern Ireland



Giant's Chair  
the ~ (Gygrestolen) is a mountain in Svalbard

Giants Chair  
the ~ is a pillar in Arizona

Giants Neck  
~ is a cape in Connecticut

Giant Canyon  
~ is a valley in Arizona

Giant Crater  
~ is a crater in California

Giant Falls  
~ is a waterfall in Washington

Giant Gap  
~ is a gap in California

Giant Geyser  
~ is a spring in Wyoming

Giant Point  
~ is a cape in Alaska

Giant Staircase  
~ is a valley in Utah

Giant Stairs  
~ is a slope in New Hampshire

Giant Washbowl  
~ is a lake in New York

Sitting Giant  
~ Rock Wash is a stream in Arizona

Sleeping Giant  
the ~ is a summit in Hawaii

Black Giant  
the ~ is a summit in California

Blue Giant  
~ Meadow Lake is a reservoir in Pennsylvania

Jolly Giant  
~ Creek is a stream in California

Little Giant  
~ Spring is a spring in Arizona

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The Giants Causeway in Northern Ireland is a Unesco World Heritage site.

## giant (sleeping giant)

sleeping giant  
the Latino vote has always been seen as a ~ (politics)  
this is a ~ (projected water shortage in US)  
they have awakened a ~ (sports team)

sleeping giant of the (Texas) Hispanic vote  
the so-called ~ is about to wake up

♦ "Having grown up here [in California], I truly believe that Cal (the University of California, Berkeley) is a sleeping giant in terms of

men's basketball. This is a sleeping giant. This is a program that can be a nationally ranked program year in and year out. That's what I'm excited about." (Coach Mark Madsen, about his new job at Cal. Cal had a 3-29 record the previous season, a 38-87 record with the coach Madsen replaced, 6 consecutive losing seasons, and a 16-game losing streak. A quick turnaround is quite possible, however, due to the transfer portal, exploitation of NIL, and relaxing academic standards: as Madsen has said, "I don't want a player to be penalized because maybe his high school doesn't offer enough AP courses." To quote the great boxing promoter Don King, "Only in America!")

## giant (gentle giant)

gentle giant  
he was a ~, much loved (rugby player dies)  
Lewis was a "~" with a "million dollar" smile (a cop)

## giant (size)

giant  
some venerable ~s grew as high as 120 feet (trees)

"giant of Africa"  
instability in the ~ is cause for concern (Nigeria)

Giants of Asia  
these two ~ (China and India)

giant in the field  
the late Amos Tversky, a ~ of coincidence theory

beverage giant  
the Atlanta-based ~ (Coca-Cola)

game giant  
the established ~s Sony and Nintendo

Wall Street giant  
~ Lehman Brothers

telecom giant  
the ~ WorldCom

comic-book giant  
a ~ (character from a comic)

San Francisco Giants  
the ~ beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-2 (MLB)

Duiwelskloof Giant  
the ~ has a pub inside it (a South African baobab tree)

Sagole giant  
the ~ sprawls over a half-an-acre (a baobab)

fast-food giant  
aggressive trademark protection by the ~ (McDonald's)

long-distance giant  
~ AT&T

mobile-phone giant  
~ Vodafone

natural gas giant  
Gazprom, the ~ (Russia)

software giant  
the ~ Microsoft

online auction giant

the ~, eBay

banking giant  
the ~ Wachovia

retailing giant  
such ~s as Old Navy, Staples, Barnes & Noble

Spanish giants  
Liverpool failed to score against the ~ (Real Madrid)

complacent giant  
aggressive upstarts catch ~ unawares (Japan)

4 giants  
~ fell in the first round (World Cup soccer)

20,000-foot giant  
Pumori and McKinley, among other ~s

catch (complacent) giant unawares  
aggressive upstarts ~ (Japan vs. Detroit)

grow into a giant  
a hailstone can ~ (size of a grapefruit)

## **giant (achievement)**

giant of his field  
he was considered the ~ (literary critic)

giant of foreign policy  
he was a true ~

giant in the law  
she was a ~, a champion of justice and equality (RBG)

giant figure  
he was a ~ in American theater (August Wilson)

fallen (football) giant  
it will be a huge job to lift this ~ (Manchester United)

romantic giants  
in an age of ~ he was a titan (Johann von Goethe)

shoulder of giants  
I've always felt I'm standing on the ~ here (windsurfer)

## **gibberish (speech)**

“word salad,” or gibberish  
much of the story was linguistic ~ (AI content)

pays any attention to this gibberish  
nobody pays ~

♦ “Nobody pays any attention to this gibberish outside of media looking for clicks. Which of course worked on me.” (Clicker's remorse.)

## **Gibraltar**

see *Rock of Gibraltar*

## **gift (gift for languages, etc.)**

gift  
they either have that ~ or they don't (acting)

gift for analogy

her ~ (Cathy O'Neil / *Weapons Of Math Destruction*)

gift for knowing  
he has a ~ what people want (games developer)

gift for friendship  
Wharton had a great ~

gift for languages  
having an unusual ~ (explorer Sven Hedin)

gift for metaphor  
a poet's ~

gift for theater  
his ~ and his populist policies (a politician)

poet's gift  
a ~ for metaphor

athletic gifts  
the ~, but behind them was an angry teenager

rare gift  
he had a really ~ (the actor Michael K. Williams)

honing her (observational) gifts  
she has been ~ for 50 years (the artist Catherine Murphy)

## **gift (benefit)**

gift  
thank you GOD for blessing us with this ~  
are you raising your children bilingual, what a ~ that is  
it's my ~, and my curse (an athlete about his personality)

gift to the (Iraqi) people  
the suicide bombing was a ~

gift to Trump and the far right  
“cancel culture” is a ~ (a leftist / politics)

Gift of Life  
the ~ brings children to the US for surgery

gift of life  
organ donors make the ~ possible

gift of literacy  
give the ~ and change a life forever (literacy)

gift of science  
we embrace the ~, which is a gift from God (Jews)

gift of time  
it was a legal victory, the ~ (trial postponement)

gift from God  
she is a ~ (woman who helps the poor)  
the gift of science, which is a ~ (Jews / reproduction)

gift from the 20th century to the 21st  
a ~ (eradication of polio)

gift and a curse  
having a good platoon, it's both a ~ (combat medic)

God's gift  
camels, known by some as *Ata Allah*, or ~

Australia's gift

~ to the world (fresh, fun and enthusiastic girls)

precious gift

she was a ~ (mother talking about murdered daughter)

what a gift

are you raising your children bilingual, ~ that is

accept our lot as a gift

but should we ~ (vs. genetic and self-engineering)

## gift (as verb)

gifted Cameroon a goal

her sloppy pass back almost ~ (World Cup soccer)

gifted me with their support

I'd like to thank everybody who has ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the article from Merriam-Webster "Is 'gift' really a verb." The article notes that the frequency of "gift" as a verb shot up after a funny Seinfeld episode from the 1990s that mentioned "regifting" and "degifting."

♦ "Gifting" an opponent with a goal is ironic.

## gifted (violinist, etc.)

gifted children

the parents of ~

a program that serves ~

gifted (young) violinist

a ~

gifted, high-functioning

~ individuals

most gifted

only the ~ math wizards understand it (Poincare)

naturally gifted

naturally gifted athletes

technically gifted

he is a ~ boxer

wonderfully gifted

he is a ~ footballer (Ronaldo)

## giga (Gigafactory, etc.)

Gigafactory

the company's ~ in Austin, Texas (Tesla)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, "try this genius hack to..." In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ see also *supersizing* (linguistic *supersizing*)

## gild (gild the lily, etc.)

gild the lily

there is no reason to ~

♦ Salisbury: Therefore, to be possess'd with double pomp, / To guard a title that was rich before, / To gild refined gold, to paint the lily, / To throw a perfume on the violet, / To smooth the ice, or add another hue / Unto the rainbow, or with taper-light / To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish, / Is wasteful and ridiculous excess. (Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John*, Act, Scene 2.)

## gilded (gilded with heroic gesture, etc.)

gilded with heroic gesture

tragedy had to be ~ (L.E. G. Oates in Antarctica)

gilded age

see *gilded age* (actual), *gilded age* (figurative)

gilded cage

see *gilded cage* (prison)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The verb *gild* can mean to make something appear bright and attractive, and it can also mean to make something seem more valuable or attractive than it really is.

## gilded age (actual)

Gilded Age

the ~ was characterized by great income inequality

♦ The title of Twain and Warner's book, *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*, which gave the US historical period its name, refers to the age's excess, but also focuses on the problems most people faced in a time after the Civil War that was *supposed* to be a Golden Age.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The verb *gild* can mean to make something appear bright and attractive, and it can also mean to make something seem more valuable or attractive than it really is.

## gilded age (figurative)

Gilded Age of rock journalism

the sixties were the ~ (excess)

new Gilded Age

Wu has criticized the concentration of power as a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The verb *gild* can mean to make something appear bright and attractive, and it can also mean to make something seem more valuable or attractive than it really is.

## gilded cage (prison)

gilded cage

the 4 Russian princesses lived in a ~ (isolated in a palace)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The verb *gild* can mean to make something appear bright and attractive, and it can also mean to make something seem more valuable or attractive than it really is.

## girdled

girdled with reefs

harborless, cliff-bound and ~ (Norfolk Island)

## girl (type)

big girl

see *big girl*

golden girl  
see *golden girl*

good girl  
see *good girl (person)*

mean girl  
see *girl (mean girl)*

riot girls  
~ on the march to empowerment (2023 film *The Marvels*)

♦ see also *boy (type)*, *guy (good guy, etc.)*, *joe (average joe, etc.)*, *lady (crazy lady, etc.)*, *man (big man, little man, etc.)*, *mister (and Mr., Missus, Mrs.)*

## girl (big girl)

see *big girl*

## girl (golden girl)

see *golden girl*

## girl (good girl)

see *good girl (person)*

## girl (mean girl)

spirit of mean girls  
channeling the ~ everywhere...

♦ "Channeling the spirit of mean girls everywhere, GQ magazine writer Gabriella Paiella wrote on Twitter, ..."

## girlboss (and girl boss)

girlboss  
a '~' focuses on self-empowerment at others' expense

'girl boss' ideal  
the 'strong black woman' trope and the ~

'girlboss' mentality  
the second series of *Industry* critiques the ~ (HBO)

Girlboss Has Left the Building  
"The ~" (by Amanda Mull, *The Atlantic*, 2020)

gaslight, gatekeep, girlboss  
~ (the malign girlboss ethos)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "You need to put your big-girl pants on and deal with it, pull them up and get out there and show them what you got..."

♦ "Sheryl Sandberg: The Word 'Bossy' Should Be Banned," NPR, All Things Considered, March 9, 2014.

♦ "Sheryl Sandberg and Anna Maria Chavez on 'Bossy,' the Other B-word, *The Wall Street Journal*, March 8, 2014.

♦ "When I yell 'Band ten HUT' you snap firmly at attention!" (The 2005 film *American Pie Presents: Band Camp*. Elyse is the prototypical "girl boss" and Matt Stifler's response to her is that of the prototypical male. Satire. Comedy.)

♦ "Newsrooms run on trust. If you violate everyone's trust by going to another outlet and shitting on your colleagues (while doing a bad job journalistically, for that matter), I don't know how you do your job now." (A tweet from NPR's Danielle Kurtzleben @ titonka. She was the NPR presidential campaign correspondent in 2024. While she did not mention Uri Berliner, she was obviously referring to him. For context about her, listen to Slate dot com "The Waves, "Penis Politics: Why macho men run amok on the campaign trail," Nov 02,

2023. Kurtzleben describes herself as "a real piece of work" and "absolutely a girlboss.")

♦ "The red mist had metaphorically descended over the defendant's eyes..." (The ruling by Mr Justice Martin Spencer in *Czernuska v King*. From "Reading rugby player wins compensation over revenge tackle" by Marcus White, BBC News, 23 Feb 2023. Natasha King, captain of the Bracknell Ladies rugby team, had referred to her opponents as "c\*\*\*s" and said, "That f\*\*\*ing number 7, I'm going to break her." An appalling case with real-life consequences.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Chelsea and Hillary Clinton's 'Gutsy' Is a Toothless Girlboss Vanity Project" by Laura Bradley, *The Daily Beast*, Sept 9, 2022. (The Apple TV offering: "Breezy and anodyne.")

♦ "Girl boss culture, it's hustle culture, it's putting bright red lipstick on capitalism."

♦ "Arguably, the Soft Black Girl phenomenon is a backlash against the persistent 'strong black woman' trope in our culture, which, alongside the 'girl boss' ideal, can feel like a burden, continuously demanding our energy, whether at work or in relationships with others. The 'Soft Life' offers us an alternative." ('Soft Girl': The radical trend millennials love" by Evie Muir, BBC, 4th December 2022. A wonderful article that explains a lot.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In 2014, "Girlboss" was a positive, aspirational term, but nowadays it is often satirized, particularly on TV and in films.

♦ "Is Being a 'Girl Boss' a Bad Thing? It's Complicated" by Paige Skinner, *Los Angeles Magazine*, May 13, 2021.)

♦ Young girls have more options now.

♦ see also *fierce (girls and women / groups, etc.)*

## give (give a wink, etc.)

gave me a wave  
he ~

gave her a wink  
he ~

gave the middle finger salute to the Celtic fans  
Kyrie hit the shot and ~ (NBA)

## give (give a start, etc.)

gives people hope  
she ~ (Lizzo)

gave me a start  
it ~

gave me the creeps  
she ~

## give (give an impression, etc.)

gave a good account  
he ~ (contest)

gave a good impression  
he ~

## give-and-take

give and take  
such ~ is uncommon  
there has been a lot of ~ (coach / player)

give and take of ideas  
the ~ in class discussion (vs. Internet)

give-and-take relationship

our ~s

marital give-and-take

in this parable of ~, the last word is hers to give

**give in (verb)**

give in

I will never ~

**give up (stop trying)**

gave up

she ~ (started drinking, etc.)

give up without a fight

Amazon is unlikely to ~ (v. Reliance in India)

give up or waver

are we going to ~ when things get tough (a protest)

**give way (and give way to)**

given way to (palpable) anxiety

his relaxed demeanor had ~

**glacial (adjective)**

glacial

the pace of medical research is ~

glacial pace

benefits and appeals are decided at a ~ (Veterans Affairs)

\*\*\* **"Galloping" and "surging" glaciers...**

♦ "You could say that progress on an international climate change agreement has been glacial, except that glaciers have been melting faster." ("Hope is Not a Strategy" by Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, *Sierra* magazine, July / August, 2015. Some glaciers have been referred to as galloping or surging and can travel 250 feet per day.)

♦ "Germany's five alpine glaciers could disappear within 50 years."

♦ "Today, the fastest withdrawing glaciers in Antarctica are seen to retreat by up to 30m a day." ("Climate change: Norwegian seafloor holds clue to Antarctic melting" by Jonathan Amos, BBC, April 5, 2023.)

♦ The Swiss have taken to covering sections of the Rhone Glacier with tarps in the summer to slow melting.

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This usage may become extinct in our lifetime. Glaciers are disappearing, and they are now often referred to as "surging" and "galloping."

**gladiator (noun)**

gladiators

football players are ~, baseball players are gentlemen

gladiator personalities

sports superstars generally have ~

gladiator, a warrior

I'm a ~ to the bitter end (boxer Daniel Dubois KOs AJ)

♦ "It's obvious you're just a couch potato footballer and never been involved in any competitive sport. The modern footballers are our gladiators of the past. People like you could never hope to understand this." (Comment on BBC HYS about a football match in which one player headbutted another and was sent off.)

♦ "And Mike Tyson, traditionally no robe, no socks, he says it makes him feel like a warrior, makes him feel like a gladiator." (The excited broadcaster as Mike Tyson enters the ring for his fight against Mitch "Blood" Green.)

**gladiatorial (adjective)**

gladiatorial sport

boxing is a ~ (can be fatal)

**glare (attention)**

glare of publicity

he now wishes to be away from the ~ (scandal)

**glass house**

love a glass house

those who ~ and are not afraid to play catch with stones

♦ "Constant exposure is of course a double-edge sword. Online diarists and life-loggers must be prepared for humiliation as well as fame; and in this day and age, they're often the same things. And it's creating a generation gap between those who prefer to keep their blinds closed and those who love a glass house and are not afraid to play catch with stones." ("Life-logging and the Generation Gap over Privacy," NPR, Talk of the Nation, February 14, 2007. With Neal Conan, host.)

♦ "Once, when I told him we were preparing an editorial series on nepotism within the Trump White House, [A.G. Sulzberger] was quick to note that the *Times* was in a glass house when it came to such criticism." (James Bennet. The Sulzberger family controls the paper's voting stock.)

♦ The spin bowler Azeem Rafiq has charged the Yorkshire Cricket Club with "institutional racism." In 2021, Rafiq himself had to apologize for using anti-Semitic language in Facebook messages and a meme relating to African people.

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ People in glass houses should not throw stones.

**glass jaw**

glass jaw

they are trying to protect his ~ (a politician)

**glean (verb)**

glean some of his wisdom

I hoped to ~ (from an older comedian)

glean clues from mammoth hair

scientists ~

glean information from him

authorities hoped to ~ (spy)

♦ "You can really be surprised what you can glean from analytics." (The great MLB player Keith Hernandez. *Glean*? Never mind. To paraphrase the title of his 2018 book, "You're Keith Hernandez." America loves baseball and its baseball heroes.)

\*\*\* **"Impoverished Germans gleaning in 1956..."**

♦ The Wikipedia article "Gleaning" is very interesting, and it shows a very affecting photo, "Impoverished Germans gleaning in 1956." Wikipedians are wonderful.

**gleaned**

gleaned from the records

there's a lot to be ~ (church sex abuse)

**glimmer (glimmer of hope, etc.)**

glimmer of hope

there might be a small ~ for the family (missing son)

glimmers of hope

five ~ to beat the coronavirus blues (BBC)

glimmer of progress

it looked like there was a ~ but that did not last long

### glittering (adjective)

glittering career

he celebrated another landmark in his ~

he has won everything in a ~ (Nadal)

### gloom (noun)

light in (United's gloom)

Anthony's superb strike was a minor shaft of ~ (soccer)

tension and gloom

people resumed their lives in an atmosphere of ~

### gloomy (adjective)

gloomy assessment

in this ~ of American nursing... (a book)

gloomy picture

he presented quite a ~ of the region

gloomy crossroads

he'd reached a ~ in his life

### gloss (appearance)

gloss of contemporary self-consciousness

it's a Victorian novel with a ~

gentlemanly gloss

many male Nashville stars have taken a more ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This kind of gloss may be deceptively attractive or superficial.

### gloss (add gloss, etc.)

added the gloss

Kiltie, Kabamba and Johnson ~ (each scored a goal)

added gloss to a (hard-fought) success

an extra-time goal ~ (soccer)

added gloss to the win

their goals ~ (rugby)

added the gloss with a fine, chipped finish

Long ~ (soccer)

### gloss over (verb)

gloss over how difficult

he doesn't want to ~ it was (leaving a hate group)

gloss over any (difficult) issues

Mom wants to ~

gloss over the killings

school history books ~ (Indonesia in 1965)

gloss over addiction and overdose

she refused to ~ in her daughter's obituary

### glove (the gloves are off)

gloves are off

the ~ (jungle justice / no Nigerian election meddling)

gloves are (really) off

it appears that the ~ now (*Harry & Meghan* docuseries)

gloves are (well and truly) off

the ~ (tough G-20 negotiations)

the gloves are coming off

~ and the new US policy...

### glove (hang up the gloves)

hang up the gloves

every good fighter knows when to ~ (a politician)

\*\*\* "It's time to hang up the gloves..."

♦ "It's time to hang up the gloves." (A commentator about the indomitable boxer Derek "Del Boy / War" Chisora after his third loss to Tyson Fury. Total respect.)

### glow (noun)

eye-catching glow

she projected a happy, ~

newlywed glow

the Egyptian Revolution still had its ~

basking in the glow

he is still ~ of his election victory (Trump / 2024)

\*\*\* "The living glow of the desert dawn..."

♦ "The living glow of the desert dawn wrapped a blue turban around the mountain's lofty peak" (From *Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

♦ see also *afterglow* (other)

### glowing (adjective)

glowing recommendation

he earned an internship because of a ~

glowing reputation

Vada has earned a ~ in the sport (anti-doping)

glowing review

John Powers' ~ of the 2022 Indian film *RRR*

glowing things

he did not say ~ about her (an out-of-favor ambassador)

### glue (noun)

glue

she is the ~ binding the family together (daughter)

their affection is the ~ that holds them together

he is the ~ that holds the company together (an executive)

oil could be the ~ that keeps the two sides civil (Sudan)

fear is the ~ that holds together their regime (repression)

almond butter is the ~ that holds the ingredients together

he is the ~ that holds it together (a soccer player)

he's the ~ that keeps this family together

glue of civilization

queues are the ~ (society, egalitarianism, fairness, etc.)



glue of politics  
fear was now the ~ (repressive regimes)

glue factory  
see *factory* (*glue factory*)

binding glue  
nationalism was the ~ that replaced religion and dynasty

ideological glue  
the Brotherhood has a common ~ other parties lack

social glue  
her coach called her the ~ that held the players together  
religion provides ~ to bond groups

♦ "This is cultural glue. This is intergenerational glue." (A man about his 60-year-old baseball mitt. It was given to him by his Dad, and he still uses it to play catch with his granddaughter. Super!)

## glued

glued to his ear  
he had a cellphone ~ (art-auction bidder)

glued to the floor  
she sat silently, her eyes ~

glued to their phones  
parents, some sobbing, others ~... (school shooting)

glued to their radios  
soap operas keep millions of Ethiopians ~

glued to the road  
all-wheel drive keeps you ~ (cars)

glued to their screens  
young people are ~ all day (computers)

glued to their smartphones  
students walk past, eyes ~ (any campus)

glued to the television  
during the World Cup she was ~

glued to the TV  
on Sundays, my husband is ~ (sports)

## glut (noun)

supply glut  
a ~ of lobsters

## glutton (person)

glutton for punishment  
I should have quit my job years ago, but I guess I'm a ~

glutton for food, sex and praise  
he is a ~

video glutton  
I am a ~ (stop me before I rent again)

## gluttonous (adjective)

gluttonous appetite  
he responded with a ~ for work (given responsibility)

## gnash (gnash one's teeth, etc.)

see *teeth* (*gnash one's teeth*)

## gnaw (verb)

gnawed at him  
it ~ (what to do about a problem)  
a secret worry ~ (a researcher and his results)  
the letter ~ (a journalist gets a tip)  
his desperation to be vindicated ~ (Churchill)

gnawing away at him  
it was guilt ~

## gnawing (gnawing doubt, etc.)

gnawing anxiety  
the ~ that he could win again (a politician)

gnawing doubt  
I had a ~ about my choice of a profession

gnawing hunger  
they had a ~ for a better life (Ellis Island immigrants)

gnawing fear and uncertainty  
a ~ (living in era of terrorism)

♦ see also *biting* (adjective), *grinding* (grinding poverty, etc.), *pinching* (adjective), *stabbing* (stabbing pain, etc.)

## go (go wrong, etc.)

go bad  
when things ~, they go really bad

going badly  
the project is ~

go wrong  
where did I ~  
so much must go right, so much can ~ (making movies)

went wrong  
what ~  
they blame Democrats for everything that ~

went (so) wrong  
a routine call that ~ so quickly (two cops murdered)

gone from bad to worse  
things have ~ (surprising news)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Managers are only responsible when things go well, not when things go wrong.

## go (go right, etc.)

go a little better  
things began to ~ after that

go right  
so much must ~, so much can go wrong (making movies)

going great  
things are ~ (a relationship)

going well

when things are ~ at home

gone smoothly

but the hangings have not always ~... (Iraq)

went smoothly

elections ~ and without violence (Ghana)

went well

his adventure with Honnold that week ~ (climbers)

## go (not go anywhere, go nowhere)

go anywhere

that's not going to ~ (a political strategy)

going nowhere

the project is ~ (a pipeline)

## go (not go anywhere, etc.)

not going anywhere

I'm a believer in print, print is ~ (*The New York Times*)

LIV is here and it is ~ (golf)

♦ "Covid is, without a doubt, here to stay. (It will go from a pandemic to being endemic.)

♦ see also *here* (*here to stay, etc.*)

## go (develop)

go either way

at this point it could ~ (a criminal trial)

going to go

we know how the vote is ~

how this pandemic goes

the next months are pivotal in terms of ~

how it goes

they want the same thing, but ~ is not the same (plot)

where the puck is going

if you can see ~, as we use in the hockey metaphor

## go (where are we going, etc.)

where things are going

it's hard to know ~ (in the future)

where things go from here

~ is quite honestly up in the air

where are we going

what's next for the Brexit process, ~

where do we go now

~ (Guns N' Roses)

where do we go from here

~ (troubled relationship)

where does the program go from here

~ (sports)

where does he go from here

but ~ (boxer after unexpected loss)

where we are and where we're going

the general will address ~ (Afghan evacuation / bombing)

♦ Where are we now, where are things going?

## go (go places, etc.)

go places

they are going to ~ (the Azzurri soccer team)

going places

"Women who are ~ start at Hollins" (Virginia university)

under twenty and ~ (brother and sister classical musicians)

I need to keep track of this guy, he's ~ (soldier KIA)

♦ "Going Places" is our new weekly travel segment..."

♦ see also *far* (*progress*)

## go (have a go at something)

had a go at it

practically everyone ~ (writing mystery novels)

## go (a road can go, etc.)

goes from Canada to Mexico

the mountain range ~

♦ "It *began* at the Forum in Rome; it *coursed* through a virtual tunnel, formed by villa walls on either side; it *left* the great outer wall through the Porta Appia; it *headed* southeast along the line of the peninsula; it *passed* the Alban Hills; it *spanned* the gorge of Aricia; it *pushed* across the Pontine Marshes; it *reached* the Sea at Tarracina (Tarracina); it *followed* a stunning cliffside cut facing the sea; it *headed* inland again; it *reached* the shore once more at Formiae (Formia); it *followed* the coast to Sinuessa; it *cut inland* and *headed* further east; it *passed through* Capua and Beneventum (Benevento); it *climbed* onto the rocky Apennine Plateau; it *reached* the Ionian Sea at Tarentum (Taranto), on the instep of the boot; it *cut through* the heel to Brundisium (Brindisi), the main port to the East, on the Adriatic; and *carried on* to Otranto, a secondary port... But the Via Appia was only one-half of Rome's Great East Road... (Adapted from *To the Ends of the Earth: The Great Travel and Trade Routes of Human History* by Irene M. Franck and David M. Brownstone.)

## go (a distance to go, etc.)

how far he can go

see *far* (*progress*)

far to go

the field has come a long way but still has ~ (AI)

further to go

we have come a long way, but we have much ~

go far

see *far* (*progress*)

gone (quite) a distance

see *far* (*progress*)

a little way to go

we still have a ~ (restoring electricity after hurricane)

a long way to go

we've got ~, but we've had some success

Afghanistan has ~ in its pursuit of peace

this is a step in the right direction, but there is still ~

we still have ~ (putting out a wildfire in California)

## go (let something go)

let it go

he rolled his eyes and told me to ~ (book idea)

let go of that

I want to ~ (a boxer speaking of a defeat)

♦ "Let it go, get it over with, and put it behind us..." (Former Solicitor General Ted Olsen, on allowing Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—the mastermind of 9/11, on which almost 3,000 people died—to plead guilty in exchange for life in prison without parole.)

## go (behavior)

going berserk

this crowd is ~ (an exciting boxing match)

went too far

she ~ (bad behavior gets her in trouble)

went overboard

she ~ (bad behavior gets her in trouble)

go over the line

anything goes as long as you don't ~ (Las Vegas)

went off the deep end

she ~

goes scorched earth

MLB legend ~ on umpire over horrific strikeout call

anything goes

~ as long as you don't go over the line (Las Vegas)

willing to go

how far are you ~ to get these people (cops)

## go (direction)

go

Obama is taking this country where it should never ~

going forward

turning back was not an option, ~ was a minefield

went round and round

we ~ (in an argument)

gone either way

it could have ~ (the decision in a close boxing match)

go this route

I'm surprised more people don't ~ (reject fame)

## go (argument)

goes to a difficult issue

your question ~

goes to the heart

this argument ~ of the issue

♦ see also *follow* (argument)

## go (go from zero to one hundred, etc.)

go from zero to 60

how did this prejudice ~ seemingly overnight  
(antisemitism)

turned it from zero to 100

in the 9th round, Oleksandr, he ~ (versus Tyson Fury)

went from zero to one hundred

when my friend approached her, she ~, cussing...

went from zero to 100 really fast

we ~ (the popularity of the Netflix hit *Cheer*)

went from zero to 60

we went from ~ in the first two months (a relationship)

♦ "Our life was running at 150,000 miles an hour." (The husband about his marriage to a pop celebrity, which ended badly. The inflated number is a typical example of linguistic supersizing.)

♦ "It's been six years of trying times—so strange when one day you're Cinderella, so to speak, and then in 0.6 seconds, you're Quasimodo." (The actor Johnny Depp, about how people's attitudes towards him have changed. It's an interesting image!)

## go (the time has gone, etc.)

time has gone

we worry about where the ~, how much of it we have left  
the ~ of getting excited about heavyweight boxing

been and gone

irrelevant club whose time has ~ (Manchester United)

come and go

see *come and go* (time)

## go (a month to go, etc.)

months to go

there's still a couple of ~ (in the season)

## go (go long)

gone long

critics have ~ trying to explain the show's success

## go (go with it)

see *go with it* (verb)

## go (raring to go, etc.)

rarin' to go

I take a shot of Old Crow at night and wake up ~

raring to get out there

he is ~ and campaign (a politician)

raring to start

Trump's attorneys are ~ their counter-arguments (trial)

hopeful, energized and rarin' to go

they're ~ (activists)

## goad (verb)

goad him into launching

Trump appeared to ~ a presidential bid

goaded one another

both fighters viciously ~ in the runup to the fight (boxers)

## go after (attack)

going after the senator with reference

the President is ~ to Native Americans

went after his critics  
he ~ (Turkish President)

going after the school  
he was ~ (a 15-year-old school shooter)

## go-ahead

go-ahead from Turkey  
uncertainty over a ~ (military operation)

go-ahead for the flight  
the ~ came through

## goal (own goal)

embarrassing own goal  
this is an ~ for the president's allies

major own goal  
claiming he was on "urgent transfer business" was a ~

## goal line (across the goal line, etc.)

driving toward the goal line  
we're inside the 10-yard line and ~... (diplomacy)

get this across the goal line  
she needs her party's support to ~ (Brexit)

♦ "I believe we're inside the 10-yard line and driving toward the goal line in getting an agreement that would produce a cease-fire, get the hostages back, and..." (U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.)

♦ see also *line* (over the line / finishing)

## go along (verb)

go along  
to get along, you've got to ~ (it's the way of the world)  
you want to get along to ~ in D.C. (lobbyists / regulators)  
I didn't make the custom, I just ~ (segregation)

go along with Israel  
he will probably ~ (foreign policy)

go along with it  
but he was willing to ~ (a politician)

went along with their leader  
they ~ (politics)

go along with what's fair and what's just  
we're asking you to ~

♦ "What do you boys want!" he asked us. And we said, 'We simply want to be served.' 'Well, I can't serve you here, I can't!' We said, 'Can't or won't? What is the problem?' 'Well, we just don't serve black people at this counter.' 'Well, why not! Do you condone this custom, of discrimination?' 'Well, I didn't make the custom. You know, I just abide by it. I just go along.' 'Well, we're asking you to go along with what's fair and what's just...' (BBC, Sounds, Witness History, "The Greensboro lunch counter sit-in.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In a discussion about politics, the following words and phrases were used: stand up to; challenge; take him on; bring him down; go along; and wait it out.

## goalpost (target)

goalpost

that ~ seemed to fade out of sight (a deadline)

constantly changing goalposts  
the ~ will be a challenge (government requirements)

move the goalposts  
they shouldn't ~ and change things in the middle of game

moved the goalposts  
every time Obama met their demands, they ~ (politics)

moving the goalposts  
the government keeps ~ (reporting requirements)

moves the goalposts  
he always ~, demanding still more evidence (RFK Jr.)

♦ (A) "Did I do that right?" (B) "Correct. Yes." (C) "Yes." (A) "All right. Through the uprights. Thank you very much. Okay, so then the question is why..." (A radio science show with three people.)

♦ Touch Down / Field Goal / First Down / Fumble ("What's your take on this story?" The rating system for *New York Post* sports stories.)

♦ "They [the goalposts] have not so much moved as been ripped out and carried off to another playing field. It is just not acceptable behavior. We were told..." (Backbencher Sir Charles Walker, unhappy that the government was tightening, not loosening, Coronavirus restrictions for summer 2021, in spite of worldwide vaccination programs. He was worried about the effect on the travel industry.)

## go around (verb)

go around congress  
the president will try to ~ to get what he wants

## GOAT (greatest of all time)

GOAT of his sport  
Slater is considered the ~ (Kelly Slater / surfing)

peddling AJ as a GOAT  
the BBC has been ~ for years as part of their agenda

♦ bye brat. You were a GOAT but your head is now far too big. (Online criticism of a great soccer player.)

## go away (verb)

go away  
there were some problems that didn't ~ (physics)  
the racist abuse did not ~  
this is not going to ~ (a boxing controversy)

going away  
the reasons for migration are not ~  
I'm right here, in the middle of everything, and I'm not ~  
porn isn't ~, acknowledge it (Kate Lonsdorf)  
the scandal is not ~ (at Harvard)

Going Away  
"Why Nationalism Works And Why It Isn't ~"  
(Wimmer)

went away  
the coal and manufacturing jobs ~ (a region)  
the reducing machines just ~ (jiggling devices, etc.)

go away (anytime) soon  
the controversy over VAR is not going to ~ (sports)

go away as quickly as possible  
Republicans want this to ~ (impeachment trial)

go away and be forgotten

if we didn't do this it would just ~ (ice harvesting)

## go back (verb / time)

go back in time

walking backwards encouraged their mind to ~

we will ~ to learn about... (prosecuting a cold case)

I would like to ~

go (too far) back in time

I don't want to ~, but... (exposition)

going back in time

you feel like you're ~ (a visit to Wrangel Island)

go (all the way) back to the 1960s

his alleged attacks ~ (sexual assaults)

go back to a romanticized past

they want to ~ that never existed

go back (more than 100 years) to an epic tale

we ~ of survival (Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic expedition)

♦ "Five Ways you could become a memory champion" by Claudia Hammond, BBC, 29 March 2019, mentions an interesting experiment at the University of Roehampton that links the past (and memory) to actual physical backward movement.

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Do you remember...when Gas was 29 cents a gallon? WE ARE OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO GO BACK IN TIME AND PURCHASE TWO GRAVE SPACES FOR ONLY \$600. / Forest lawn memorial Park.

## go back (and get back)

go back

let's ~ to where it all began (a podcast)

get back to basics

AJ needs to ~ (Anthony Joshua, the boxer)

get back to (fiscal) health

we need to ~

get back to journalism

CNN needs to ~

get back to a place

we need to ~ where individuals can feel free

♦ see also *return* (and *return to*)

## gobbledygook (speech)

Gobbledygook

"~: The proliferation of jargon" (TESOL)

gobbledygook

~, or the circumlocutions of bureaucratic language

described his arguments as gobbledygook

a federal judge ~ ( "Sovereign citizen movement")

♦ "Gobbledygook: The proliferation of jargon in English language teaching" by Joshua D. Bernstein, TESOL Journal, Volume 12, Issue 1, March 2021.

♦ "Gobbledygook, or the circumlocutions of bureaucratic language, is intentionally difficult to understand."

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Based on open sources and discussions with serving officers, the UK concept of 'Influence' would seem very similar to a lot of the ideas that failed under fire in 2006. What is important is that the IDF took firm remedial action to enforce a strict back to basics campaign. As a result mission verbs like 'capture' and 'destroy,' have regained primacy over those that suggested '*rendering the enemy incoherent.*' Simplicity has once again become virtue. Short, clear and simple orders have been proven as the only ones that work." (The IDF versus Hezbollah. From "Back to Basics: What the British Army should learn from the 2nd Lebanon War" by William F. Owen. In 2024, the Israeli goal in the Israel-Hamas war is to "destroy Hamas." Militaries have always closely watched other conflicts for lessons learned. American West Pointers observed the Crimean War, prior to the U.S. Civil War. Today the militaries of all nations are closely examining the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas wars for lessons learned.)

♦ see also *boilerplate* (noun), *buzzword* (noun), *doublespeak* (noun), *ese* (legalese, etc.), *language* (types), *lip service* (pay lip service, etc.), *newspeak* (noun), *speak* (NASA-speak, etc.), *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing), *talk* (mediator talk, etc.), *word salad*

## gobble up (verb)

gobble up (as much) raw data

the NSA wanted to ~ as it could (Edward Snowden)

gobbled up land

developers ~ (housing and golf courses)

gobbled up the market

rivals have ~

gobbling up properties

real estate developers have been ~

## go big (verb)

go big

keep the case local, or ~ (murder of child)

they decided to ~ (police / murder of child)

the intent is to ~ and do it now (a Biden bill)

go big on a national response

we need to ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

go big, or go home

~ (a championship soccer game)

go big or go home

~ (defend yourself against criticism)

~ (The filmmaker James Cameron about *Avatar* sequel)

go big or go small

yet the Kremlin still had to decide whether to ~ (military)

♦ "We pressed the big button with rescue helicopters, rescue dogs, the Red Cross, the civil defense, fire, health and police." (A Norwegian, speaking about eight homes that were swept into the sea by a mudslide. Miraculously nobody was at home. See YouTube Landslide sweeps Norway homes into the sea

♦ Anne Hathaway: "I'm a sort of all-or-nothing girl." / David Letterman: "Go big or go home." (The David Letterman show.)

## go for it (and go for broke, etc.)

go for broke

expect the athletes to ~ (Olympics)

go-for-broke

doing ~ art  
a skier with a ~ style  
a ~ cancer treatment

go for it  
let's ~ (win versus tie / sports)  
Pulev will ~, he will have a go (box aggressively)

go-for-it  
you need a ~ attitude (ski competition)  
he had a ~ mentality (skateboarder)

go for the victory  
he decided to ~ (versus tie / coach)

go hard and go early  
the New Zealand response to the pandemic was “~”

♦ “He had a go-for-it mentality—‘Make it, or take me to the hospital.’”  
(A skateboarder.)

♦ “I just did it, and just kind of went as big as I could, and threw it all  
at the wall knowing the only mistake we could make was not going far  
enough. And so we both just went for it... I had turned it up to eleven  
and then realized I had to go even higher...” (Elisabeth Moss on  
performing in *Her Smell*.)

♦ “And I loved the message of like, you know, it’s going to be do or  
die, so let’s just go for it. And always trust your cape.” (The actress  
Lilly James, about the song “The Cape” by Eric Bibb. BBC  
Inheritance Tracks Lilly James.)

## go by (an hour can go by, etc.)

crawled by  
the hours ~ like years...

goes by  
time ~, no time to cry (Joe Cocker)

gone by  
which events will still matter after months or years ~

went by  
an hour ~  
the years ~

♦ “She stretched her hands behind her, but all the knots held good /  
She writhed with her hands till her fingers were wet with sweat or  
blood / They stretched and strained in the darkness, and the hours  
crawled by like years / Till now, on the stroke of midnight / Cold on  
the stroke of midnight / The tip of one finger touched it, the trigger, at  
least, was hers!” (“The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes.)

## god (play god / actual life and death)

god complex  
the sniper had a ~ (DC sniper)

♦ “Look on the Tarot card. It says, ‘Call me God.’ Do not release to  
the press.” (A phone call to police by the D.C. sniper. See the  
Wikipedia article “D.C. sniper attacks.”)

♦ “She enjoyed ‘playing God’ with her defenseless victims.” (Nurse  
Lucy Letby.)

## god (perspective)

god complex  
there’s a little bit of the ~ (CIA does what it wants)

god game  
a ~ called Black and White (computers)  
~, like the SimCity series and Dungeon Keeper

god-game  
he invented the ~ genre in 1987 with Populous

God gamers  
~ escape the real world (computer games)

“hacking god”  
he described himself as a ~ (imprisoned swatter)

play god  
she tried to ~, and now she is in trouble

## god (mountain gods, etc.)

footballing gods  
the ~ have had their fun with Scotland again (Euro 2024)

golfing gods  
the ~ hear that (a golfer’s boast that could jinx him)

racing Gods  
the ~ have shined down upon Red Bull (Verstappen)

baseball gods  
the ~ are making us pay a little bit (hard-won victory)

football gods  
the ~ weren’t going to let Auburn lose last night  
I chalked it up to the ~ testing me a little bit personally  
how PSG didn’t get on the scoresheet only the ~ will  
know

golf gods  
the ~ have turned against him (a famous golfer)

mountain gods  
sometimes the ~ say, “Not today” (climbing)  
Concordia is the throne room of the ~ (Pakistan / Rowell)

poker gods  
he felt cursed by the ~

river gods  
the ~ are hungry (a rafter)  
the ~ were with me (a relieved kayaker)

sea-gods  
and since the ~ had ordained that he should soon become  
my shipmate... (*Moby Dick*)

soccer gods  
the ~ at times are fair (two judging errors cancel out)

weather gods  
the ~ had shown an uncanny sense of occasion  
the swell was an unexpected gift from the ~ (Jaws)  
the ~ had finally delivered (Eddie Aikau competition)  
the ~ were against me from day one (distance kayaking)

political gods  
someone has to be sacrificed to the ~ for the greater good

gift (we have) from the (football) gods  
what a ~ today (two excellent NFL playoff games)

cursed by the (poker) gods  
he felt ~

\*\*\* V.K. Arseniev and Dersu Uzala...



♦ “On the top, on the right-hand side of the trail, stood a small joss-house, built of logs. Within was a crude carving illustrating Chinese gods, and in front of it two wooden boxes with the stamps of paper candles. On the other side were a few leaves of tobacco and a couple of pieces of sugar, sacrifices to the God of Forests.” (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## god (importance)

### God

Oates was a soldier, his ~ was duty  
in the industry, he was a ~ (charismatic salesman)

### god on campus

Len Bias was a ~ (University of Maryland)

### “Guitar God”

he is remembered as a ~ (Eddie Van Halen)

### guitar god

by then his reputation as a ~ was firmly enshrined  
the astonishing techniques that made Eddie Van Halen a ~  
the late ~ Eddie Van Halen  
the Malian ~ Ali Farka Toure

### gun god

human sacrifices on this altar of the ~ (2nd amendment)

### Punt God

the Buffalo Bills drafted the “~” Matt Araiza (NFL)

### scientific god

he was idolized as a ~ through Europe (Niels Bohr)

♦ “Bohr was God and Oppie was his prophet.” (Oppie was J. Robert Oppenheimer, the “father of the atomic bomb.” At Berkeley.)

## goddess

### goddess

she is a ~

### pop goddess

a ~, Carly had been in love so many times...

## godfather (verb)

### godfathered

the strategy that Sam Admas ~... (US revolution)

### father and god-father

he had been imported to ~ the bill (C.P. Ilbert)

## godfather (Godfather of Soul, etc.)

### Godfather of the Stikine ice caps

he’s known as the ~ (climber Dieter Klose / Alaska)

### Godfather of Clouds

some call him, with good reason, the ~ (Luke Howard)

### godfather of modern comedy

Richard Pryor, universally considered the ~

### godfather of Marvel Comics

Lee is considered the ~ (Stan Lee, died age 95)

### Godfather of ecstasy

he became known as the ~ (Alexander Shulgin)

### Godfather of Freeskiing

the ~, Mike Douglas (New Canadian Air Force)

### godfather of (molecular) gastronomy

Ferran Adria, the Spanish chef who is considered the ~

### “godfather of grime”

the rapper Wiley, known as the ~ (“Boasty,” etc.)

### ‘godfather’ of artificial intelligence

the ~ regrets his work (Geoffrey Hinton)

### godfather of artificial intelligence

the computer scientist regarded as the “~” (G. Hinton)  
Hinton, who is known as the ~ (Geoffrey Hinton)

### “Godfather of Metal”

he has earned the informal title ~ (Ozzy Osbourne)

### godfather of (modern) mindfulness

the man now considered the ~ (Jon Kabat-Zinn)

### Godfather of the New Right

they call him the ~ (Richard Viguerie)

### godfather of black postmodernism

Ishmael Reed is the ~ (Henry Louis Gates, Jr.)

### Godfather of snowboarding

Jake Burton Carpenter, known as the ~, has died...

### Godfather of Soul

the governor proclaimed him the ~ (the great James Brown)

### Godfather of (modern) surfing

Hawaii and Duke Kahanamoku, the ~

### godfather of kayak surfing

Randy Phillips, the ~

### godfather of global warming

he is sometimes called “~” (James Hansen of NASA)

### Godfather of electronic voice phenomenon

the ~ Konstantin Raudive

### Godfather of reality TV

Jerry Springer, the ~, has died... (BBC)

### comic godfather

Richard Pryor, the ~

### intellectual godfather

Harry Jaffa, an ~ of Claremont (right-wing think tank)

♦ “Alex Jones is sort of the Godfather of the current American conspiracy theory movement.” (Will Sommer speaking with Fresh Air’s Terry Gross.)

♦ “It’s called the Jerry Springer effect. He opened the door for the idea of reality programming...for the Real Housewives and the Kardashians. He was the father of all of that.” (Journalist and psychologist Cooper Lawrence.)

♦ “The three so-called Godfathers of AI...” (Geoffrey Hinton, Yoshua Bengio, and Yann Le Cun, according to Meta’s Nick Clegg, whose previous gig had something to do with Britain’s government.)

♦ NPR’s Rodney Carmichael: Rico’s legacy is one that reverberates beyond Atlanta, the South and even hip-hop. I mean only a dude as cool and connected as Rico could basically organize the sound, the soul, and the swag to something that the rest of the world couldn’t

deny. I mean, he's the godfather." / NPR's Ailsa Chang:  
[Reverentially] Rest in peace... ("Renowned Atlanta hip-hop producer  
Rico Wade dies at 52," NPR, All Things Considered, April 15, 2024.)

♦ see also *godmother* (*Godmother of Title IX, etc.*)

## godforsaken

godforsaken battlefields  
months or even years on ~ (Korea)

godforsaken hellhole  
a ~

## godmother (Godmother of Title IX, etc.)

'Godmother of Funk'  
~ Betty Davis dies aged 77

godmother of German punk  
these days Nina Hagen is considered the ~

Godmother of Title IX  
Bernice Sandler, '~'

godmother of Freak / Outsider Folk  
Josephine Foster, the ~ (Ann Powers / NPR)

Godmother of Silicon Valley  
the ~ (Esther Wojcicki, for her daughters' successes)

♦ "Astronomical foremothers. At the Harvard College Observatory,  
women studied and curated over 130 years of the night sky, all  
preserved on glass plate photographs." (Harvard.edu.)

♦ see also *godfather* (*Godfather of Soul, etc.*)

## godmother (fairy godmother)

activist fairy godmother  
an ~, wise, a benevolent matriarch (Color Me Country)

## go down (happen)

went down  
what more can you tell us about what ~  
what we know what ~, what happened... (school  
shooting)

♦ "So, what went down, what happened...?" (Contempo-speak.)

## go down (digestion)

gone down well  
his comments haven't ~ with many in India

go down (pretty) smoothly  
he's able to make these questionable ideas ~ (the comic  
David Chappelle)

## go down (decrease)

gone down by two-thirds  
my income has ~

## godsend (noun)

godsend  
OnlyFans was a ~, now it's kind of a nightmare (porn)

godsend to the library  
he has been a ~ (John Heubusch, Reagan Library)

## God's-eye

God's-eye (crane) shots  
swooping, ~ (a film)

## Godzilla (force)

Godzilla of news subscriptions  
*The New York Times* has become the modern ~  
(paywalls)

Godzilla versus Bambi  
it was the oratorical equivalent of ~ (politics)

♦ "It was the oratorical equivalent of Bambi vs. Godzilla." (Kamala  
Harris v. Tulsi Gabbard in 2020 debate. Politics.)

♦ "We did all sorts of studies and finally accepted the fact that every  
once in a while Godzilla arrives and fills the channel up to the edge  
with water. We just did the research and stuck to the facts, and the  
facts were that communities along the river were suffering, they  
needed parks and open space and they also need to be protected  
from floods." (Tensho Takemori, working with Frank Gehry to find  
ways to revitalize the Los Angeles River. Quoted in "Remaking The  
River That Remade L.A." by Michael Kimmelman, *The New York  
Times Magazine*, November 13, 2022. In the first paragraph of that  
article, Kimmelman mentions an incredible fact: At Long Beach, the  
1938 flood exceeded the flow of the Mississippi at St. Louis. Eighty-  
seven people died. That was truly a "Godzilla" of a flood!)

♦ A FUNNY ADVERTISEMENT. The 1993 Nike advertisement  
"Godzilla vs Charles Barkley" is wonderful. In it, Barkley dunks on  
Godzilla, sending Godzilla reeling into a skyscraper, which crumbles  
to the ground. Afterwards, we see the backs of Barkley and Godzilla  
as they walk down a street. Barkley's left arm is consolingly draped  
over Godzilla's shoulder, and Barkley is saying, "Have you ever  
thought about wearing shoes?" In another version, the line goes, "The  
Lakers are looking for a big man." Watch: Nike Commercial  
'Godzilla vs Charles Barkley' or a long version GODZILLA VS  
BARKLEY-YouTube

♦ see also *zilla* (*bridezilla, etc.*)

## gold (black gold, etc.)

black gold  
~, or petroleum (oil)

black gold  
Arabia's other ~, Khawlani coffee beans (dried black)  
the "~" epithet has been given to both coal and coffee

blue gold  
bulk water shipments could be ~ (to arid countries)

blue gold  
investors have called the metal "~" (cobalt)

gray gold  
lead was called ~ (1820s / northwestern Illinois)

green gold  
all this ~ (avocados / NPR)  
avocados, the creamy fruit with the industry nickname  
'~'

green gold  
Northern Minnesota's ~ (the spruce-top industry)  
it's like ~ all of the sudden (harvesting spruce tops)

liquid gold  
'~' prices skyrocket due to poor harvest (Greek olive oil)

white gold

~, they sometimes called it (guano in the 19th century)

white gold

whalers boil the ~ in giant containers (whale blubber)

white gold

cotton, also known as “~” (India)

white gold

these hair extensions are often referred to as “~” (Ukraine)

white gold

camel milk, Kenya’s new ‘~’

white gold

lithium is now being called “~” (high demand / batteries)

white gold

Spain’s ‘~’ super-drink (Horchata)

♦ “This is that ice cold, the Michelle Pfeiffer, that white gold, them good girls...” (Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars, and “Uptown Funk.”)

## gold (worth)

gold

speech is silver, silence is ~

worth its weight in gold

it’s ~

gone from gold to tarnished brass

its reputation has ~ (the CDC)

turned into (movie, TV and theater) gold

his books have been ~ (Roald Dahl)

### \*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ “They arrive with gold and depart with pepper.” (An amazed Tamil trader. From *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* by Bill Bryson.)

♦ Gold makes the belagaana crazy. (A Navajo in a Tony Hillerman novel.)

♦ “Jade has no meaning for our culture, but we are thankful to Allah that the Chinese go crazy for it.” (Yacen Ahmat, a Uighur in Khotan’s jade bazaar, in Xinjiang.)

♦ Gold had no value for the Indians. (The Klondike Gold Rush.)

♦ “Back then, we had no idea what diamonds were worth. We didn’t have money in those days and didn’t even really know what money was, because our nature was to stay apart from everyone else and not cultivate friendships.” (Roberto Carlos Cinta-Larga of the Cinta-Larga tribe on a reservation in the southwestern Amazon of Brazil.)

♦ “These are our lands, and we’re in charge here. No one can come in here and tell us what to do. We have never allowed ourselves to be dominated by anyone, and we’re not going to start now.” (Joao Bravo Cinta-Larga, whose tribe murdered 29 diamond miners on their reservation in the southwestern Amazon of Brazil.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “It is a well-known fact that gold blinds all and corrupts even the best of people.” (*Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

♦ “With money you are a dragon; with no money, a worm.”

♦ “With gold I can buy things; with thinking I can understand things.” (A Turkish proverb.)

♦ “The shroud has no pockets.” (Turkish.)

♦ “A miser does not own money; money owns the miser.” (Said in Saudi Arabia.)

♦ “Better poor with honor than rich with shame.” (A point of pride in Kosovo.)

♦ “Friends are better than money.” (If you need money, you can borrow it from your friends.)

## gold (strike gold)

struck gold

he finally ~ (won an award)

struck (comic) gold

they knew they had ~ (idea for film)

## gold digger (person)

gold digger

a ~ is someone who marries for money, not for love  
she was a small-town girl, a Playboy pinup, and ~  
the relationship was toxic and she was a ~

♦ “I don’t have any shame in flaunting a gold-digger aesthetic.” (Linda Andrade, the “Original Dubai Housewife.” Her spending sprees are watched by millions on TikTok.)

## gold-digging

gold-digging

prenuptial agreements protect wealthy from ~ spouses

## golden (golden opportunity, etc.)

golden opportunity

that was a ~ for him (overthrown pass by QB / football)  
did we miss a ~

his media posts destroyed a ~ (admission to Harvard)

## golden age (and golden era)

golden age of dinosaurs

we’re really in a ~ (new species, theories, etc.)

“golden age” of peace

they look on his reign as a ~ (Afghanistan)

golden age of quiz shows

the ~ of the 1950s

golden age of the detective story

the period has been called the ~ (between world wars)

golden age of TV

*The Sopranos* was the tripwire event that set off the ~

golden era

the ~ of whaling, from about 1820 to 1860

the ~ of boxing was the 80s and 90s (20<sup>th</sup> century)

sport’s Golden Era

the 1970s, the ~ (US boxing)

♦ “We’re really in a golden age of dinosaurs.” (Finding new species, computer modeling, theories about dinosaur behavior based on birds, shows like *Prehistoric Planet* with David Attenborough, etc.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Golden ages never last.”

## golden boy

golden boy

he was a ~ from the get-go (Justice John Roberts)

golden boy of crypto

he was the ~, he made crypto cool (Sam Bankman-Fried)

golden boy of cryptocurrency  
he was once considered a ~ (Sam Bankman-Fried)

golden boy of this (island) nation  
he was once the ~ (Malta's prime minister resigns)

golden boy quarterback  
~ faces uncertain future (in NFL draft)

golden boy of the (London theater) scene  
he was essentially the ~ (Kevin Spacey trial)

England's golden boy  
Rooney was ~ (2004 Euros)

PSG's (attacking) golden boys  
~ Mbappe and Neymar

Hollywood golden boy  
at the time, he was riding high as a ~

Democratic golden boy  
the ~'s career could be about to end (Gavin Newsom)

liberal golden boy  
he became a ~ during his Senate bid (Beto O'Rourke)

brings down (Rhode Island) 'golden boy'  
college cheating scandal ~ (tennis coach took bribes)

♦ "Why does the BBC continue to push Joshua as their number 1 golden boy when it's clear he's finished at the top?" (An online commenter about the boxer.)

## golden girl

golden girl of Silicon Valley  
she was the ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

golden girl of the music industry  
Whitney Houston was the ~

Britain's golden girl  
she was ~ (the actor Emma Thompson)

Country Music's new 'Golden' Girl  
Kacey Musgraves, ~ (breakout success)

## golden rule

golden rule  
the ~ in meatpacking plants is "the line never stops"

## golden hour

golden hour  
a clock starts ticking on what is called the ~  
the "~", when life can hang in the balance

"Golden Hour" of injury  
if treatment is available within the first ~

♦ "Detectives call this stage of an investigation the gold hour, when memories are fresh and evidence is easier to find." (A missing child.)

## Goldilocks (Goldilocks zone, etc.)

Goldilocks approach  
many people believe in a ~ to stress (not too much)

Goldilocks candidate

Klobuchar is "the ~" (Democrat contestant)

Goldilocks complex  
we cannot get a ~ about whether everything is just right

Goldilocks civilization  
it's a good example of what I call a ~ (Harappans / climate)

Goldilocks economy  
we are in the middle of a ~ (just right)

Goldilocks place  
trying to find the sweet spot, the ~ is important  
(medicine)

Goldilocks principle  
finding the middle way forward is called the "~"

Goldilocks zone  
planets in the "~" (not too hot or cold for liquid water)

♦ "You talked about people that you rejected as either too white or too Asian and these are your words here, 'As if we were playing a game of Goldilocks and we were the only ones who were "just right." ("Biting the Hand": Korean American author calls for weaponizing invisibility," NPR, Morning Edition, April 19, 2023.)

♦ "This is going to be an uphill battle. So folks, we cannot be our own worst enemies. No, because the minute something goes wrong, the minute a lie takes hold, we cannot start wringing our hands. We cannot get a Goldilocks complex about whether everything is juuuust right." (Applause. Michele Obama speaking at the 2024 DNC.)

♦ In *Krakatoa*, the great writer Simon Winchester points out that volcanic eruptions are often associated with death and disaster and yet in fact they are one of a number of reasons why the Earth is "just right" for life. The earth is just the right distance from the sun, allowing for water in liquid form. Its size is just right, too, with just the right gravitational pull to maintain an atmosphere. It has just the right number of volcanoes of the right size to create and recycle elements essential "to the making and maintenance of organic life." Finally, the volcanic eruptions are often the result of the movement of great plates, which can't exist on planets that are too hot or too cold.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the fairy tale "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," Goldilocks was a horrid willful shameless privileged naughty little girl-boss brat of a girl who could not control herself, and the good bears were Mama, Papa, and Baby Bear. Goldilocks broke into the bears' house. She ate the porridge that was just right, sat on the chair that was just right, and slept on the bed that was just right. When the bears returned, she fled.

## gold mine

gold mine of data  
a ~ about enemy plans

gold mine of (genealogical) data  
a ~ for family researchers (census)

gold mine of documentation  
the prison is a possible ~ (Iraq / US POW)

gold mine of information  
he is a ~  
the Web is a ~

gold mine of research  
it was a ~ (Lyme disease hotspot)

gold mine (of data) for researchers  
the census is a ~ (genealogy)

goldmine for (Chinese wood) traders  
the vast forests of Eastern Siberia are a ~

fossil goldmine  
the limestone caves contain a "a" of species

literal goldmine  
kids' private information is a ~ to these companies

potential gold mine  
college graduates are ~s for retailers

\*\*\* "What happens when the mine closes?"

♦ "What happens when the mine closes?" (Question relating to the degradation of the environment by gold mining, and the way gold companies walk away from the cleanup.)

## gold rush (noun)

gold rush of the "unicorn" boom  
the ~ (Silicon Valley startups)

gold-rush frenzy  
the bold promises and ~ of Silicon Valley

gold-rush morality  
he grew increasingly dismayed by his industry's ~ (solar)

dot-com gold rush  
Wall Street's ~

natural-gas gold rush  
the country is at the heart of Colorado's ~

Internet gold rush  
start-ups and the ~

marijuana gold rush  
Oklahoma is the latest frontier in the ~

latter-day gold rush  
a ~ is on (Arctic oil and gas)

"green gold rush"  
Oklahoma is in the midst of a ~ (legal marijuana)  
the dark side of America's ~ (marijuana)

new gold rush  
we are experiencing a ~ (renewable energy / California)

gold rush, or a curse  
it's a ~ for Oklahoma, I don't know which (legal marijuana)

gold rush has attracted  
the ~ a cartoonish array (cryptocurrencies)

\*\*\* "Dwelt a miner 49er, and his daughter Clemantine..."

♦ "In 1849 the harbor of San Francisco was speckled with idle ships from which the crews had deserted in a body to go to the gold fields... The price for washing clothes was so high that the more well-to-do among the miners, gamblers and merchants sent bundles of laundry work to the Hawaiian Islands, which meant that they had to wait three months before they got back their shirts and socks... With great flourish the newspapers announced the arrival of each fresh batch of prostitutes, describing their charms..." (From *A New American History* by W. E. Woodward.)

♦ "A new American metropolis, San Francisco, had begun to rise on the coast, changing almost beyond recognition every few months... And Sacramento and Stockton, at the portals of the gold-bearing district, became thriving municipalities almost as rapidly as San

Francisco. In April, 1849, the site of Sacramento, on Johann Sutter's domain, had four houses; that fall its population was approaching ten thousand... In the first five years after the discovery of gold not less than half a billion dollars was taken out." (Ordeal of the Union by Allan Nevins.)

♦ "Mothers, sons, daughters witnessed the truckloads of men leaving their villages. They took the little they had and off to the city they went. Side by side, these men stood at the back of the trucks, fighting hard the urge to look back." (Narration by Hugh Masekela from his "Songs of Migration," a revival of the music made by migrants who moved from all over southern Africa to Johannesburg following the Witwatersrand Gold Rush in 1886. "The songs...tell sorrowful stories about leaving home, waiting for letters that never come, yearning for distant lovers and enduring cruel conditions in the mines." ("Music, Infused with Sorrow and Joy, in Honor of Migrant Dreamers," by Celia W. Dugger, *The New York Times*, March 18, 2010.)

♦ "In the 1890s, gold was as important as oil is today: it made the world turn. Gold was crucial for governments because every country's currency depended on its gold holdings, and money and credit for economic expansion rested on increasing gold supplies. And like oil today, in the second half of the nineteenth century supplies of gold seemed to be dwindling, putting a squeeze on the world's economies. Banks were failing, breadlines lengthening. / Gold was also the basis for individual fortunes, because a prospector who struck a mother lode would never had to work again in his life. An ounce of pure gold dust (enough to fill a teaspoon) was and is worth a lot of money—nearly twenty dollars in 1896 and more than \$1,000 today. Miners like Bill and Joe had been drifting into the Yukon basin for nearly twenty years, drawn by rumors of gold dust in the river's gravel bars and nuggets in its tributaries. They arrived with their shovels, gold pans, and picks, eager to make their fortunes. There were other lures, too—the chance to conquer unknown territories, live on the frontier, escape the rules and regulations of more ordered societies. Wild-eyed and leather-skinned, muscular and pugnacious, they clung to their dreams like warriors on a crusade. By 1896, there were perhaps a thousand such adventurers in the Northwest, alongside the uncounted indigenous people, including the Tutchone, Tlingit, Inuit, Han, and Tagish, who had made this inhospitable region their home for generations." (*Gold Diggers: Striking It Rich in the Klondike* by Charlotte Gray.)

♦ To really understand what a gold rush is all about, just look at Sebastião Salgado's amazing pictures of illegal gold miners excavating a pit in the Amazon. The lack of regulation, the frenzy of miners excavating a pit like ants swarming over a piece of flesh, the obvious danger to the men carrying bags of rocks on their backs up ladders, the almost surreal degradation of the environment... It's all in those pictures.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Food desert. It's a term I've used myself..." ("Let's Stop Using Metaphors that Celebrate Extraction, Colonialism, and Violence: Earth, Justice, and Our Classrooms" by Bill Bigelow, *Rethinking Schools*, Fall, 2022, Volume 37, No. 1.)

## gold standard (noun)

"gold standard" of safety  
approved by the FDA, which he called the ~ (vaccines)

gold standard in doing voter research  
the cellphone number is the ~

gold standard for pot  
it was soon the worldwide ~ (Colombian in the 1980s)

seen as the gold standard  
PCR tests are ~ (COVID)

## Golgotha (Golgotha of Norilsk, etc.)

Golgotha of Norilsk  
the hill is referred to as the ~

Albanian Golgotha

the “Great Retreat (Serbia)” is also known as the ~ (WWI)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Or Calvary, where Jesus was crucified.

## Goliath (Bible)

billion-dollar goliath

he has conquered a ~ (the tech industry)

industry Goliath

Hillerich & Bradsby is the ~ (70% of baseball-bat market)

David and Goliath

see *David (David and Goliath, etc.)*

people versus Goliath

the ~, that's what this is (day traders vs Wall Street)

slain Goliath

so now we've ~

♦ “Roe v. Wade has been our Goliath. So now we've slain Goliath, presumably.... there are still a lot of Philistines.” (An anti-abortion activist. The abortion issue will be left to each state. Certain states will allow it.)

♦ see also *David (David and Goliath, etc.)*

## gone (absent)

gone

you have a house, and then it is ~

gone forever

his reputation is ~

## gone (those days are gone, etc.)

gone

those days are ~

the Ceausescus and Idi Amins and Saddams are ~

long gone

those days are ~ (Western hegemony)

♦ “Students used to have an understanding that you aren't supposed to be on your phone in class. Those days are gone.” (A teacher.)

♦ “The days when global decisions were dictated by a small group are long gone.” (Chinese criticism of Group of Seven.)

♦ “So, the model of amateurism is gone, it's dead, it's done...” (Colleges will pay athletes to play.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Those were the days, my friend / We thought they'd never end / We'd sing and dance forever and a day / We'd live the life we choose / We'd fight and never lose / For we were young and sure to have our way...” (Mary Hopkin, “Those Were the Days,” 1968.)

♦ Read the Wikipedia article “Those Were the Days (song).” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## gone (dead)

gone

if she gets sick she's gonna be ~ (an old woman)

he was ~, we did CPR, we got him back (soccer player)

someone tried to resuscitate the baby, but the baby was ~

he may be ~, but he will never, ever be forgotten

♦ “On Thursday, Tom's not going to be there. You know he's not coming back to that unit.” (An Idaho corrections director about the

serial killer Thomas Eugene Creech, set to be executed by lethal injection after spending 50 years in prison. Update: On Feb 28, 2024, the medical team was unable to establish an IV line, and he was returned to his cell. “It was a vein-quality issue,” according to the Warden.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Gone, but not forgotten!”

♦ “Good riddance!”

## good (good crazy, etc.)

good busy

I've been busy, but ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## good (as noun)

feed good

feed hope, feed love, ~ (rescuing food for NYC / donate)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## goodbye (say goodbye, etc.)

goodbye basketball

it's not ~ it's just a see you later (torn left ACL / knee)

say goodbye to Oakland Arena

Golden State Warriors ~ (basketball)

says goodbye to lectures

Vermont medical school ~

said goodbye to Radio 2

Steve Wright ~ last year (retired)

say Sayonara to your skinny jeans

is it time to finally ~ (fashion)

bidding goodbye to polio

Nigeria is on the verge of ~ (2015)

*Kissed Dating Goodbye*

I ~ (evangelical purity movement book)

## Good Earth (Pearl Buck)

*Good Earth* country

the Red Basin is ~ (China)

## good girl (person)

good girl

I'd been the ~ for years, I was tired of it (Britney Spears)

played the good girl

Hunt usually ~ in comedies and dramas (Hollywood)

♦ “The good girls who love bad boys...” (A trope in romance fiction for women.)

♦ Some feminists denounce being a “good girl.”

♦ “This is that ice cold, the Michelle Pfeiffer, that white gold, them good girls...” (Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars, and “Uptown Funk.”)



♦ “But together ‘Blurred Lines’ and ‘Hold On, We’re Going Home’ play out an old crisis—the crisis of the compromised good girl—by the book.” (“Drake And Pop Music’s Good Girl Problem” by Ann Powers, NPR, September 18, 2013. An excellent analysis.)

♦ In the movie musical *Grease*, Olivia Newton-John starred as good girl Sandy Olson, who fell for a bad boy played by John Travolta.

♦ “Even in Hawaii, Mazie Hirono is viewed as the quote ‘good girl’ of politics, polite, never in-your-face, not a boat-rocker. But in the last year and a half, as one Hawaii columnist put it, she’s become quote, ‘a badass.’ / ‘I always was. I just wasn’t very noisy about it. I’ve been a fighter all my life. I just don’t look like that.” (“The Quiet Rage Of Mazie Hirono” by Nina Totenberg, NPR, Morning Edition, June 7, 2018.)

♦ *FBoy Island* is a dating reality TV series hosted by the comedian Nikki Glaser. A man is either a nice guy or a F-boy. A spinoff called *FGIRL Island* is in the works.

♦ “She thinks a princess in a pink gown is kid stuff. ‘I want to be Britney Spears, no more princess or angel.’” (A young girl about her Halloween costume.)

♦ “Self-proclaimed ‘bad girl’ Drea de Matteo...” (*The New York Post*.)

♦ “The father defended his daughters as ‘good girls.’” (Palestinian activists in the U.S. who were arrested. The Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Young girls have more options now.

♦ see also *bad girl (person)*, *bad boy (behavior)*

## good-hearted

good-hearted

a nice kid, polite and ~

## goods (damaged goods)

damaged goods

I was ~, I wore that badge very early on in my life

## go off (verb)

goes off

when the president ~ on one of these tweet storms...

## google (China’s google, etc.)

known as China’s Google

Baidu, ~

## go on (what’s going on, etc.)

going on with Boeing

what’s ~ (explain situation / news radio)

going on with the suffix

what’s ~ -ment (a linguist)

## go on (persist)

go on

when you feel you can’t ~, I’ll come and hold you  
life and the economy must ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

goes on

and so it’s over, and yet it ~ (congressional hearing)

heart does go on

near, far, wherever you are, I believe that the ~ (*Titanic*)

life goes on

Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da, ~ (the Beatles)

## goose (golden goose)

Warren’s golden goose

Fury is ~ (the boxer and promoter)

killing the golden goose

they are risking ~ that laid the golden egg (ESL soccer)

♦ “Perhaps, if he will husband his resources, and not kill, with overwork, the mental goose that has given us these golden eggs, he may one day rank among the brightest of our wits.” (A favorable review of Mark Twain’s first book, *The Jumping Frog and Other Stories*.)

## goosebumps

gives you goosebumps

it’s the kind of video that ~ (housefire)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In Western North Carolina many refer to these as chill bumps.

## Gordian knot

Gordian knot of international affairs

trying to unravel that ~

Gordian knot of race

the ~ continues to choke large portions of our country

diplomacy’s Gordian knot

how to untie ~ (Israeli-Palestinian issue)

untie this Gordian knot

let the British people choose how to ~ in a referendum  
(Brexit)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ An oracle prophesized that whoever untied the intricate knot on the chariot of King Gordius would rule Asia. Alexander the Great simply slashed it apart with his sword. Cutting the Gordian knot means settling a complex problem with bold, decisive action.

## gored

getting gored

the unicorns are ~ as investors rebel

### \*\*\* El Cordobés, Joselito, Manolete...

♦ “Video Shows Moment ‘Messi of Matadors’ Got Gored by 1,100 Pound Bull.” The matador was Andres Roca Rey.

## gorge (gorge on)

gorge on graft

many members of the ruling party ~ (corruption)

gorge themselves on the tabloids

the British ~ (scandals, etc.)

gorging on the latest crime thriller

sexual violence can be gripping stuff when you are ~

## gorilla (800-pound gorilla)

800-pound gorilla

China is the ~ yet it is not in the negotiations  
race has always been the ~ in this case

800-pound gorilla of search engine optimization

and then there is the ~ (SEO / writing headlines)

600-pound gorilla

he's probably the ~ (NPR's Mara Liasson about Trump)

9,000 pound gorilla

we as a society refuse to address the ~ in the room (guns)

♦ A lawyer said, "We refuse as a society to address the 9,000-pound gorilla in the room." (I supposed the next gorilla will be nine million tons. This is a good example of linguistic supersizing.)

♦ "So I would say the takeaway from the recent Republican primaries is that Trump is no longer the 800-pound gorilla in the room, he's probably the 600-pound gorilla." (Elite punditry / snark from Mara Liasson, a national political correspondent for NPR.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. In *The New Yorker Magazine* of 2 / 14 / 2011, there is a cartoon by Mick Stevens. It shows the back of an 800-pound gorilla, who is being interviewed for a job by a petite human personnel officer. She is saying to him, "We already have an eight-hundred-pound gorilla."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Whale" as an epithet for an establishment figure is not used nowadays; the modern term might be "old white men." But in the *New York Magazine*, a writer recently referred to two competing Hollywood and Broadway producers as "silverbacks." A silverback is a mature male mountain gorilla.

## gospel (preach the gospel, etc.)

*Gospel of Wellness*

*The ~: Gyms, Gurus, Goop and the False Promise of...*

preached the gospel of (environmental) activism

he ~

preaching a gospel (of rebirth) to everyone

he is ~ (Detroit mayor)

preached the gospel that free trade

they ~ was a rising tide that would lift all boats

## gotcha (contempo-speak)

gotcha journalism

that's pure ~

game of 'gotcha'

they were playing a ~ rather than trying to help

do gotchas

and the people who want to ~ on me... (Anthony Fauci)

♦ "In a neat exercise of philosophical jujitsu, he argues that the real problem with feminism today is that it tries too hard to be 'manly'—but (gotcha!) in the bad, nihilistic way." ("The Anti-Democracy Think Tank" by Katherine Stewart, *The New Republic*, September 2023.)

♦ "It was a softball, not a gotcha." (Laurence Tribe about the question, "Do calls for the killing of people violate policies at Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, and MIT?" For "context," see "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023.)

♦ "Well, first of all, this is one of the things that keeps getting distorted. When I said we don't need to do anything different right at his moment, please don't forget that was followed by a semicolon, and then a 'however,' and then by 'This could change rapidly, and we better be prepared for that.' I said that every single time. And the people who want to do gotchas on me only show the first part." (Anthony Fauci, one in a very great line of American heroes of public health.)

## go through (endure, etc.)

go through

separation is a developmental stage that nearly all kids ~

I don't want them to ~ what I went through (breast cancer)

went through a (tough) breakup

he ~ with his girlfriend

going through a divorce

she was ~

went through much (diplomatic) haggling

the resolution ~ (U.N.)

going through some trials

please keep praying for me, as I am ~

go through this whole thing

you ~ called life (a person feeling his mortality)

go through this again

I'm sorry you have to ~

going through withdrawal

sports fans are ~ (sports stop during pandemic)

♦ see also *get through* (endure, etc.), *been through* (endure, etc.)

## go together (verb)

go together

gossiping and lying ~

## go up (increase)

go up

the number would ~ (coronavirus cases)

gone up by two-thirds

my income has ~

## go with it (verb)

shrug your shoulders and go with it

you just have to ~ (speeding worms, *Dune: Part 2*)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Sabai, sabai...

♦ Whatever blows your hair back...

♦ "Beef or barbecue." (New Orleans.)

## grab (verb)

grabbed headlines

the *Titanic* ~ as the most glamorous luxury liner

grab you

boxing will ~ and hold you tight (Deontay Wilder)

grabbed it with both hands

we gave him the opportunity and he ~ (Jamie Vardy)

## grab (land grab, etc.)

cash grab

a very rushed and lazy sort of ~ (*adulthood*, etc.)

I think it's a ~ (attorney of athlete charged with rape)

land grab

countries are involved in an Arctic ~

power grab

many lawmakers called it a ~ (president's action)

## grab (up for grabs)

up for grabs

five belts were ~ (an important boxing match)

my word this is ~ suddenly (an exciting boxing match)

people have shown their vote is ~ (Hispanics vote Trump)

## grabbing (attention-grabbing)

attention-grabbing advertisement

~s aimed at the superstitious (muti)

attention-grabbing antics

his ~ are grist for the tabloid mill

attention-grabbing flourish

he finished with an ~

attention-grabbing royal

she is an ~

attention-grabbing blaze orange

marking high-voltage parts with ~

## grace (grace period)

grace period

they were given a ~ to... (new ordinance)

elimination of the grace period

the ~ (student loans)

## grace (fall from grace)

fall from grace

it was a stunning ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

fell from grace

the democracy icon who ~ (Aung San Suu Kyi)

## graced

graced with the talents

the NFL had been ~ of many undrafted players

## grade (failing grade)

failing grade

the media deserves a big fat ~ (President Trump)

deserves a failing grade

strategy in Afghanistan ~

gave the nation's infrastructure a failing grade

a civil-engineering group ~

## graduate (verb)

graduated to crack cocaine

she ~ and forged checks to support her habit

graduated from alcohol to drugs

he ~

## grail (holy grail)

Holy Grail

for collectors, this map is the ~ (1734 Murillo Velarde)

a vaccine is often seen as the ~ that will end the pandemic

Holy Grail of economics

pinning down the sources of economic growth is the ~

Holy Grail of exploration

it was the ~ at that time (the source of the Nile)

Holy Grail of investors

the ~ (stock-picking system that beats market)

holy grails of (tropical) medicine

a malaria vaccine is one of the ~

Holy Grail of (HIV) research

a cure remains the ~

“holy grail” of shipwrecks

the famed galleon is often called the ~ (*San Jose*)

the ~ to be exhumed off Colombia (*San Jose*)

holy grail of can you find the very first galaxy

there is kind of this ~ of the very first stars (telescope)

Holy Grail for advertisers

word-of-mouth marketing is the ~ (social media)

holy grail for collectors

the edition is considered the ~ (a book)

holy grail for any professor

tenure is the ~

holy grail for (flu) researchers

a universal flu vaccine is the ~

“‘Holy Grail’ 2007 iPhone

~ sells for record \$190,000” (BBC)

industry's "holy grail"

oral insulin is the pharmaceutical ~

retailer's holy grail

new parents are a ~ (new shopping habits)

I found the holy grail

~ (Garrett McNamara and wave off Nazare, Portugal)

♦ “Holy Grail of shipwrecks’ to be exhumed off Colombia with \$20 billion sunken treasure.” (The Spanish galleon *San Jose* sunk by the English in 1708.)

♦ “The ability to perform so many tests on just a drop or two of blood was something of a Holy Grail in the field of microfluidics. Thousands of researchers around the world in universities and industry had been pursuing this goal for more than two decades, ever since the Swiss scientist Andreas Manz had shown that microfabrication techniques developed by the computer chip industry could be repurposed to make small channels that moved tiny volumes of fluids.” (*Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou.)

♦ “We have grown up in a society that has always pursued the Holy Grail, the fountain of youth.” (Madeline Di Nonno, president of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, about ageism, particularly towards older female actors.)

♦ “The transhumanist holy grail is artificial general intelligence.”

♦ “A tomato with purple flesh is a holy grail of plant breeders.” (Non-GM.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Two medieval knights in armor are crossing a bridge, each one on horseback. The one knight is saying to the

other, "Wait, the Grail is a cup? We're looking for a cup?" (*The New Yorker*, October 11, 2021.)

♦ This refers to a cup or plate used by Christ at the Last Supper.

## grain (grain of truth)

grain of truth to reports  
there is a ~ of what happened

grain of truth in a lie  
there is often a ~

## grain (against the grain)

against the grain  
she has always won by going ~ (country music)

against-the-grain affinity  
her ~ for formal wear (fashion)

"Against The Grain" column  
his "~" is sarcastic and comic

against the grain of its time  
it's an album that goes sharply ~

against the grain of what  
music that went ~ rock was becoming (music)

cut against the grain  
it ~ of the typical 80s high-school fare (a film)  
I stand for a lot of issues that ~ (Dr. Cornel West)

went against the grain  
her book has two case studies that ~  
so I really consciously ~ with this record (k.d. lang)

♦ "What we were doing was going totally against the grain..."

## grammar (language)

### wrong pronouns

her and her boyfriend  
~ were down with this together

she and her son  
she sent in a picture of ~ (ex-NPR host)

my son and I  
he gave ~ years of entertainment (wrestler Bray Wyatt)

my mom and I  
he kept asking ~ to play (17-year-old girl)

him and I  
~ would have sex...

you and I  
they are not household names to ~ (NPR's Wanyu Zhang)  
journalists like ~ (Ronan Farrow! / heard on NPR)

never bothered nobody  
she was a sweet girl, she ~ (murdered by boyfriend)

neither have  
~ ever been charged... (Wikipedia article)

nobody are asking

~ why...

### subject verb agreement

students and the community is  
if ~ committed, they... (an ELPS professor)

mistakes (just) doesn't matter  
the little ~ (NPR's Becky Sullivan / I guess so)

### verb transitivity, intransitivity

amassing in Saudi Arabia  
troops were ~ (conflict reporter Jackie Northam)

perpetuated throughout Long Island  
the rumor has ~ for decades

### principal parts of verbs

beat  
sold, ~, and effectively enslaved (NPR)

broadcasted  
it was ~ over the airwaves

broughten  
it's a moment in time that can never be ~ for us Latinos

drug  
they ~ a scared 19 year old with them...

fleed  
those who ~, or they died (Weekend Edition Saturday)

forecasted  
more rain is ~ for California (NPR)  
your journalism ~ where we are today (Fresh Air host)

had drove in  
I thought somebody ~ to the side of my house (blast)

had went  
the suspect ~ into that building (live reporting on CNN)

has began  
the population ~ linking with... (bears)

has drank  
which one of you ~... (Lily Du / *Dirty Laundry*)

has sank  
the *Rubymar* cargo ship ~ in the Red Sea (NYP caption)

have chose  
I ~ to be (Katie Mettler, the *Washington Post*)

have drank  
he claims to ~ many bottles of Guinness (*New York Post*)

have went  
things seem to ~ pretty deadly pretty quickly  
which is how things seemed to ~ very quickly  
he should ~ for a field goal (NYP / sports)

hung himself  
hours later, he ~ (*New York Post* link / should be *hanged*)

laid on the field  
he ~ after the hit (football / CNN / laid what?)

laid on the ground  
Garrett, in obvious pain as he ~... (lay)

laying in bed  
they're ~, having a sleepover (NPR's Juana Summers)

laying in the street  
this video shows bodies ~ (ABC)

lied down  
as he sat and ~ on the ground (ABC)

liking  
I'm reeeeeeally not ~ the medical field (don't like?)

loving  
everyone is ~ the video (on TikTok) (loves?)

seen  
all I ~ was... (an eyewitness)

should have did  
they ~ the play before

sprung  
his spacecraft ~ a leak (NPR headline / funny!)

sung  
G Flip put it best when they ~...

sunk  
it was one debate that ~ Biden's reelection bid (NPR)

#### **verb + verb constructions**

appease to that wing  
he has to ~ of his party (NPR's Claudia Grisales)

demanding the school to turn over  
she sent a letter ~ documents (no "to")

demands her to fly home  
her dad ~ (*The New York Post*)

demanding for the teacher  
supporters are ~ to return to the classroom (NYP)

helped changed  
but the reaction ~ the outcome (*New York Post*)

must to unite  
the international community ~ to... (USA Today!)

promising to cancelling  
viewers are ~ their subscriptions

set to promises  
iPhone 15 ~ upgrades...

tried to groomed  
she ~ her... (*New York Post*)

#### **noun + preposition**

anxiety to leave  
I have ~ my house...

#### **embedded question**

how did it taste

she asked ~ (an academic ESL paper! / QAR Strategy)

what is antisemitism  
it's an arms race to define ~

what is the environment  
it depends on ~ that they are resistant to (a foreign scientist)

what is the timeline  
the furthest thing from my mind is ~ (coach Mike McDaniel)

what are we able to do  
I am not sure ~

what can we do  
we gotta figure out ~ to reduce the car-jackings...

what does race have to do with criticism  
and really I'm perplexed to try to figure out ~ that...

when was the last time  
we asked him ~ he ate cheese (NPR's Daniel Estrin)

who are the people  
they also want to know ~ that are injured or dead

who you can see his name  
Trammel Crow, ~ across Dallas (whose name you can see)

#### **count / uncount**

amount of people  
I am shocked, especially when I saw the ~ that were dead

amount of laws  
I don't have enough fingers to count the ~ he was breaking

amount of times  
the ~ people came to me to tell me terrible stories (*number!*)

little constraints  
there are very ~ on the industry (*few!* Stupid...)

#### **who / that / which**

her cousin that  
~ attends the university...

that's so full of life  
someone like her, ~

threatened that  
I was ~ I was goin' to be...

**there is / are / was / were**

there is  
sure hope ~ some major changes down the road  
~ cameras everywhere...

there are  
~ a lot of finger pointing going on (NPR's Mara Liasson)

there was  
~ some levee failures inland... (report on NPR)

it was nothing I could do  
~ but watch them...

#### adjectives / adverbs

more harder  
his task got all the ~ after...

more trickier  
Palisades is the ~ fire (NPR's A Martinez)

more worse  
icy conditions make it even ~

much worser  
it was ~ than anyone could ever imagine

the hugest  
it's not ~ group in the world (NPR)

look badly  
this will make the FCC ~ (pundit on NPR)

smell badly  
they can ~ if they die in large numbers together (cicadas)

#### placement of prepositional phrases...

at her company named Samuel  
she engages in an affair with an intern ~

since July 2022  
serving as the 9<sup>th</sup> president of the UPenn ~

with a gun  
a man was trying to get into a bar ~ (a man with a gun?)

families and co-workers from the IDF  
he offered condolences to the victims' ~

#### collocation

time where  
we're moving to a ~ COVID won't be a constant crisis

#### **\*\*\* various groups...**

♦ "What I did? You're racist!" (A man verbally abusing the police, eventually arrested.)

♦ "This is the best school I've ever taught at." (The character Dewey Finn in *School of Rock*, addressing his fellow teachers in the lunch room. The line is clearly meant to provoke a laugh. Nowadays, however, I suspect it would simply pass over the heads of most watchers.)

♦ "This espionage charges are ridiculous." (White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre.)

♦ "iPhone 15 set to promises upgrades at steeper prices, analysts say." (ABC.)

♦ "He's always crying. He needs to remember who is his coach is?"

♦ "Do we have any sense of how much longer are these mudslides are going to be a risk for people?" (NPR's Michel Martin.)

♦ "It's an arms race to define what is antisemitism."

♦ "The staff spent a long time trying to figure out how can they help this boy feel better..." (NPR's Cory Turner, who reports and edits for the NPR *Education* team.)

♦ "Man found hanging in subway tunnel near Grand Central Station: cops." (The *New York Post*. The man was dead. He had committed suicide. He had hanged himself. Cops say no criminality suspected. It should be, "Man found *hanged* in subway tunnel...")

♦ "I mean about 9,000 people were just hung, or executed, shot..." (NPR's Weekend Edition Saturday host talking with Burkhard Bilger.)

♦ "They were taken into a different building and they were hung." (NPR's Ruth Sherlock, reporting from Damascus after the fall of Bashar Assad. From "What comes next for Syria after the Assad Regime" by Leila Fadel, Jane Arraf, Ruth Sherlock, NPR, Morning Edition, December 16, 2024. Presumably, Sherlock meant "hanged." There is room for ambiguity, though, for many prisoners were hung in various ways as part of their torture, but not *hanged*.)

♦ "For six hours after he was hung, his body was left on display in Damascus, swinging from a noose." (*The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria* by Alia Malek.)

♦ The host of NPR's Weekend Edition Saturday spoke about the Jewish musicians and composers who "either fled, or they died, tragically..." during and after the period of Weimar Germany.

#### **\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "Mychal Denzel Smith is the author of the forthcoming book *Stakes Is High*, from which this essay was adapted." ("Police Reform Is Not Enough: The moral failure of incremental change," *Atlantic Monthly*, September 2020.)

#### **\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "First, NPR needs to get the little things right. If it can't, what does that say about the accuracy of the bigger issues?... / Second, errors of grammar and usage tend to break the listener's concentration. If a listener stops to wonder if he or she really heard an error or a syntactical lapse, then whatever else the reporter or announcer was saying is lost because the listener's train of thought has been derailed." ("Listeners' Language Concerns" by Jeffrey A. Dvorkin, NPR Public Editor, March 29, 2005.)

♦ "for those grammar Nazis freaking out about the incorrect pluralization of the title....that's the point" (With a laughing-crying emoji. An online commenter about the 2024 film *Wolfs* starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt.)

♦ "Are you his teacher or wot? I would of thought (sic) that the grammar police had better things to do." (An online commenter on a BBC HYS about a soccer match. The target of his comment had criticised a poster's use of "would of" versus "would have." The (sic) was ironic and funny!)

♦ "Waal, north of the Mason Dixon line, that may well be true." (The grammatical correctness of "hanged by the neck until dead" versus "hung by the neck until dead." A North Carolinian putting the writer and compiler of this work in his place.)

♦ Commenter A: it doesn't seem to matter who the referee's are. / Commenter B: Referees, no apostrophe. / Commenter A: Really doesn't matter. / Commenter C: Well maybe it should / Commenter ? : *Removed comment*. (A BBC sports HYS.)

♦ Can you imagine a recitation of "Requiem" by Robert Louis Stevenson with the "lie" and "lay" verbs all screwed up? I can. "Under the wide and starry sky / Dig the grave and let me lay / And I lied me down with a will / Here he lays where he longed to be." Hilarious!

♦ OXYMORONS. Language arts; prescriptive linguists...

♦ "Click here to report a spelling or grammar error. Please include the headline." (actionnews5.com in Memphis. If only all websites—ABC, NPR, the New York Post, etc.—had such a link!)

♦ "Red Flag—The person can't meet in person, often working overseas for a government, army or an aid organization, and there are inconsistencies with what they tell you. For example, 'I'm born in America' but then they have poor English in messages." ("From romance baiting to sexual extortion: Red flags and romance scams to look out for on Valentine's Day" by Madeleine Achenza, Feb. 8, 2024. "Poor English." Wow, that's judgmental!)

♦ "Cause of death revealed: How did he died." (Such clickbait is often foreign and unsecured. Americans are constantly reminded to be on the lookout for such sites, with one tipoff being "ungrammatical" language or spelling "mistakes." In this *single* area of life, it seems, it is perfectly okay for Americans and linguists to be judgmental about language use.)

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we have all taught the "place where" and "time when" distinction. It seems to no longer apply. We've told our students that "want" and "like" are not ordinarily used in the continuous. We've taught and tested the grammar of embedded questions.



♦ Academic analysis exists. See "Inversion in embedded questions," Yale Grammatical Diversity Project English in North America, at [ygdip.yale.edu/phenomena/inversion-embedded-questions](http://ygdip.yale.edu/phenomena/inversion-embedded-questions).

♦ See Award Abstract # 1423872. "The Microsyntax of Pronouns in North American English." A four-year Federal grant for \$285,951.00.

♦ See "Norm vs variation in British English irregular verbs: the case of past tense *sang* vs *sung*," Lieselotte Anderwald, published online by Cambridge University Press, 07 February 2011.

♦ Watch "YouTube The Grammar of Double Negatives, Francis Blanchette TEDxPSU." Talk about ruining a funny cartoon! On the other hand, read "Professor leads NSF-funded study of double negative use among American dialects" by Josh McAuliffe, [psu.edu](http://psu.edu), September 21, 2023. "Blanchette and three fellow researchers recently received a \$384,272 National Science Foundation collaborative research grant to fund their study, 'A Microcomparative Study of Negation in Dialectal Variation,' a continuation of Blanchette's longtime research on linguistic diversity among American English dialects."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, most of us have noticed and taken pride in the fact that our students have better grammar and language skills than many native-English speakers. In my experience, students take pride in that, too.

♦ "[My mom's] the person that was always making sure that I got *lay* versus *lie* right." (ABC host Linsey Davis.)

♦ "Merriam-Webster sanctions the use of "amass" as an intransitive verb. But of 34 example sentences, only one writer uses "amass" intransitively: she is Katie Myers, WIRED, 2024: "As the police amassed..."

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## granary (Granary of Mexico, etc.)

grain bowl

Punjab is India's "~"

granary of the Mediterranean

Greater Greece was a main ~ (*Magna Graecia*)

Granary of Mexico

the Bajío, the traditional ~ (corn, beans, wheat)

granaries of the American Revolution

the Mohawk Valley was once one of the ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is similar to *breadbasket*.

## Grand Canyon (Grand Canyon of the South, etc.)

Grand Canyon of the East

the Tallulah Gorge, the ~ (northern Georgia)

Grand Canyon of the Stikine River

British Columbia's ~

Grand Canyon of Switzerland

the ~ (Vorderrhein River / Eurotrek Sammy Wimmer)

## "Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone"

Thomas Moran's immense oil painting, the ~

Swiss Grand Canyon

the Rhine gorge, the ~ (between Reichenau and Ilanz)

tout the Breaks as the "Grand Canyon of the South"  
local signs ~ (Breaks Interstate Park, U.S.)

♦ "Throng of tourists came to see the men and their iron leviathans at work. They held their children up to see and hear the dynamite blasts. They came day by day to watch the limestone walls appear, running straight and true for miles, and to see great new canyons form in front of them, like one of the huge chasms out west that excited travelers were reporting having seen. This was becoming Chicago's Grand Canyon, and it was made by man. (The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. From *The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ "When someone under the ice shines a flashlight, you see the flashlight in his hand and the spot where the light hits something, but you don't physically see the beam. There's nothing in the water to backscatter light. It's like you put a layer of ice seven feet thick across the top of the Grand Canyon and stepped through it. That's how you feel under Antarctic ice. As if you were hanging in space." (An ice diver.)

♦ If you are interested in kayaking, see the Wikipedia article "Grand Canyon of the Stikine." A whole book might be written comparing it to the Rhindu Gorge of the Indus in Northern Pakistan.

♦ The "Swiss Grand Canyon" is on the Vorderrhein.

♦ "You may have heard of tightrope walking, but have you heard of a slackline? Well, here it is, it's pretty much what you would expect, a rope that's not tight, but slack. Unsurprisingly, this is American Dean Potter. He is crossing this canyon in central China. It is 1,800 meters above sea level and you may have noticed he does not have a safety line." ("US slackline walker Dean Potter crosses China canyon," BBC video, 23 April 2012. Potter walked 40 meters across the Enshi Grand Canyon in China's Hubei Province on a slackline in just over two minutes. Slacklining is much more difficult than tightrope walking. See the Wikipedia article "Enshi Grand Canyon." Another spectacular Chinese canyon has a Wikipedia article "Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon.")

♦ See *Grand Canyon Colossal Mirror: The Term "Grand Canyon" as used in Geographical Nomenclature, Analogy, Metaphor, and Neology with an Appendix on Colorado River Nomenclature*, compiled by Earle E. Spamer. Raven's Perch Digital Production, 2022.)

### \*\*\* "Big Canyon..."

♦ "1869. "Powell's men slid their four boats into the Green River on Monday, May 24, 1869... and would not emerge from their own unprecedented epic for ninety-eight days of nearly perpetual terror, hunger, cold, and wonder." (*The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester. Powell was one-armed. He lost his arm at the Battle of Shiloh, but that did not stop him from serving in battles right to the end of the Civil War. Or navigating the Grand Canyon in a boat.)

♦ "And five years after leaving the waters [the Colorado River] behind, in 1876, John Wesley Powell first wrote out the name Grand Canyon. He appears to have concluded that Big Canyon simply didn't do justice to the almighty crevasse he had seen and journeyed through, so he replaced it with a pair of words soon to be on every American's lips and not much later on the lips of most sentient English-speaking beings on the planet, as one of the great natural wonders of the world." (*The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

## granddaddy (and grandfather)

grandfather of Manhattan's bridges

that ~ (the Brooklyn Bridge)

granddaddy of all motorcycle clubs

the Hells Angels: the ~

granddaddy of (American) caves  
this is the ~ (Mammoth Cave)

‘granddaddy’ of the cumulus family  
cumulonimbus is the ~ (massive cloud formation)

granddaddy of MMA  
the ~ is the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)

grandfather of Tartan noir  
“Bill Knox: the return of the ~” (BBC / Pauline McLean)

granddaddy of (adventure) races  
Raid Gauloises, the ~

granddaddy of all rehabs  
Hazelden, the ~ (Center City, Minnesota)

♦ “He was a grandfather of electronic pop music.” (Composer Ryuichi Sakamoto. Note the use of the *indefinite* article.)

♦ see also *grandmother*

## grande dame (noun)

grande dame of Southern cooking  
the ~ (Edna Lewis / *The Taste of Country Cooking*)

grande dame of crypto-currency  
the ~ (Bitcoin)

grande dame of (America’s) public hospitals  
Bellevue Hospital, the ~ (David Oshinsky)

grande dame in podcast years  
it is a ~ (debuted in 2016)

♦ “In 1948, [Edna] Lewis, with Karl Bissinger, a photographer, and Johnny Nicholson, an antiques dealer, opened Café Nicholson, a French-inspired restaurant on Manhattan’s East Side. As one of the era’s few Black female chefs, Lewis quickly became famous in the city, and the café became a haunt for the likes of Gloria Vanderbilt, Tennessee Williams, Paul Robeson and Salvador Dali. Lewis blended French and Southern cuisine, preparing fried oysters, Virginia ham, filet mignon and chocolate souffles. The novelist William Faulkner once asked Lewis if she had trained in Paris and was shocked to learn she had never left the United States.” (“Food: The Grande Dame of Southern Cooking” by Taryn White, *Smithsonian*, June 2023. Edna Regina Lewis led a remarkable life.)

## grandmother (noun)

grandmother of the movement  
she was the ~ (Opal Lee / Juneteenth holiday)

## grandparent

grandparents of sports reporting  
the ~ are dead (*The New York Times* and *Real Sports*)

## grand slam

grand slam  
I think it’s been a ~ (successful heart treatment)

## grandstanding (noun)

grandstanding  
his request is just ~ (for an exhumation)  
this is nothing to do with protecting rights but ~

♦ “Loud noises. Grandstanding. Someone’s always overheated.” (Wisconsin politician Dwey Stroebe comparing politics to his hobby of racing in demolition derbies.)

## granite (noun)

granite chin  
a southpaw endowed with a ~ (the boxer Gervonta Davis)  
he is easy to hit but has a ~ (the boxer Joe Joyce)

♦ “He’s all business. Listens well; doesn’t talk much...the granite of old New England was in his foundations...” (A comment about the librarian Everett Robbins Perry. From *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. It’s a wonderful book.)

## granular (adjective)

granular (real time) data  
Amazon used very ~ about listings and sales

granular detail  
the book lays out in ~ how voter suppression...  
~ down to a GPS coordinate (public health)

granular (policy) issues  
his willingness to dive deep into ~ (Pete Buttigieg)

granular level  
she learned about cops at a ~ (became a reserve cop)

granular picture  
the documents paint a ~ of the strain on hospitals (COVID)

granular (day-to-day) stuff  
big-picture strategic stuff vs. the ~ (marketing job)

granular enough  
the FCC data isn’t ~

accurate or granular  
automated systems are not always as ~ (YouTube)

better and more granular  
~ data about vaccine distribution by age, race, etc.

local, “granular”  
a cessation of hostilities at the ~ level (CAR)

(how) local, (how) granular  
I want to emphasize ~ that is (precinct-level politics)

get more granular  
respondents have the option to ~ (census form)

♦ “I should point out in fine-grain detail...” (Ronan Farrow.)

## grapevine (through / over the grapevine)

through the grapevine  
I heard ~ that...

over the (international surfer’s) grapevine  
word traveled quickly ~ (big waves!)

through the (college) grapevine  
word got back to him ~

heard through the grapevine  
I ~ that...

♦ “From time immemorial, it has been said that desert winds carry with them all kinds of rumor and report—especially stories of scandal and outrage.” (*Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

♦ “They’ve got a gallows-bad reputation, but, you know what a place the beach is for talking.” / “The beach, if you don’t know is the name of the gossip mill of white derelicts and rough customers that hang around your South Sea island ports. You’ll find captains and traders too fond of their grog and properly down on their luck. I’ll admit, I was fond of the gin myself back then...” (*The Beach of Falesa* by Robert Louis Stevenson.)

♦ “You may take it for a fact that anything of this kind is not only noticed and discussed by a man’s own race but by some hundred and fifty natives as well... [T]he news flew, in the usual mysterious fashion, from mouth to mouth, till Bisesa’s duenna heard of it and told Bisesa.” (The affecting and horrible story “Beyond the Pale” by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ “‘You’re sure you’ve took no ‘arm?’” cried Mrs. Cloke, who had heard the news by farm-telegraphy, which is older but swifter than Marconi’s. / ‘No. I’m perfectly well,’ Sophie protested.” (“An Habitation Enforced” by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ “But I ain’t one to gossip, so if anyone ask you ain’t heard it from me. No, you haven’t. Oh, oh, look, there go Miss Jenkins...” (Kim Wayans as the character Benita Buttrel from the 1990s “In Living Color” TV Series. Hilarious!)

♦ “Word around the campfire for me was...that there was at least speculation, maybe informed speculation, that...” (A sports analyst.)

♦ “The *talk around town* [italics mine] was that Pacino...” (Film celebrity gossip. New York City.)

♦ “The coffee-cup critics down at the local drug store...” (People discussing “Oklahoma Girl Scout murders.” From *The New York Times*, 1977.)

♦ “Washington is a small town.” (Washington, D.C. and the federal government, politics, gossip, rumors, etc.)

♦ Thomas: Hey, Victor! I’m sorry about your dad. Victor: How’d you hear about it? Thomas: I heard it on the wind. I heard it from the birds. I felt it in the sunlight. And your mom was just in here cryin’. (The affecting 1998 film *Smoke Signals*, based on the book by the great poet and writer Sherman Alexie. “He went to Reardan, a white high school, where he played on the basketball team and was the only real Indian on the Reardan Indians.”)

♦ “‘Gossip is a fearful thing’—this phrase was found in the note left by the film star Ruan Langyu after she took her own life.” (“On ‘Gossip Is a Fearful Thing’ by Lu Xun, from *Jottings under Lamplight*, edited by Eileen J. Cheng and Kirk A. Denton.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Viva voce* is Medieval Latin for “with a living mouth.” If you hear something *viva voce* it means somebody told you. It has come to mean “word of mouth.”

♦ Hawaii has the “coconut wireless” or the Coconut Wire. The Philippines have the Bamboo Telegraph. Ghanaians can hear things via “the talking drum.” From time immemorial, as Ibrahim al-Koni tells us, the desert winds have brought rumors and reports to the Sahrawis: “I heard it on the wind.” Americans can “hear it through the grapevine,” or hear a report or account through the rumor mill or catch wind of something or hear something around the water cooler, even though waters coolers don’t exist anymore. Italians say “*per sentito dire*” which basically means, “heard it said,” and they hear gossip “*voci di corridoio*” which means “hall voice” or “voices in the hall.” These systems operate by word-of-mouth, and, nowadays, the Internet.

♦ “When a professional golfer wants to pass along a rumor, he’ll tell you that he heard it ‘on the range’... The range, the one location where everyone in the sport gathers, is also golf’s back room. Pre-round chat may concern course conditions, or who is sleeping with whose wife. Recently, the range has been preoccupied by one topic...” (“Sand Trap: Saudi money and Donald Trump roil ‘the gentleman’s game’” by Zach Helfand, *The New Yorker*, October 24, 2022.)

♦ “[The internet] is the modern world’s equivalent of those bars in Donegal where rumors about the case used to circulate.” (*No Body Recovered*, BBC Sounds, Episode 6. A missing child.)

♦ He who gossips to you will gossip about you!

## grapple (verb)

grappling with their aftermath  
the US is still ~ (9/11 attacks)

grapples with (deepening) recession  
the city ~

## grasp (comprehend)

grasped (that)  
Dallaire quickly ~... (Rwanda genocide)

grasp the concept  
it is so easy to ~, but... (a puzzle)

grasped the fact  
within a few months he had ~ that... (a toddler)

grasp the idea  
they can’t yet ~ that... (toddlers)

grasp the importance  
most toddlers don’t yet ~ of...

grasp the news  
his brother said the family was still trying to ~

grasped the significance  
minutes later, he ~ of that moment...

grasp the potential and risks  
they have been among the first to ~...

grasped early  
he and other technophiles ~ how important...

difficult (for people) to grasp  
it’s ~ (a physics concept)

difficult to grasp  
it is very ~ our situation...

quickly grasped  
I ~ what he was trying to do and...

## grasp (in one's grasp)

in our grasp  
what was once ~ is now beyond our reach

in their grasp  
Wolves looked to have victory ~ but...

within their grasp  
with the title ~, Boston seized it (NBA 1984)

## grasp (out of one's grasp)

out of his grasp  
but success was ~

## grasp (attainment)

grasp of (spoken) English  
he had a limited ~ (foreign teaching assistant)

## grasp (possession)

grasp of reality  
my husband's tenuous ~ slipped away (brain injury)

firm grasp  
infantry leaders must have a ~ of how to motivate...

escape its grasp  
he was born into poverty and determined to ~

snatched from their grasp  
victory was ~ (athletes)

## grassroots (grassroots level, etc.)

grassroots army  
his war chest and ~ make him an unstoppable juggernaut

grass-roots democracy  
the kind of ~ the Founding Fathers envisioned

grassroots efforts  
~ by citizens' groups

grass roots level  
go back home to the ~

grassroots organizations  
astroturfers present themselves as ~

♦ "Sometimes grass roots are under cover until an election." (A hopeful Trump supporter during the 2024 U.S. presidential election. The media consistently downplayed support for Donald Trump while exaggerating support for Kamala Harris.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In *Metaphors We Live By*, Lakoff and Johnson mention a fascinating metaphor: *mundane reality is down*. The example they give is "down to earth." Language that might illustrate this metaphor, besides *earthiness*, could include *grassroots*; *a worm's eye view*; "she has *stars in her eyes*" versus the mature girl who has *both feet on the ground*; journalists *on the ground*; the teacher who spent 34 years *in the trenches*, actually teaching; the leader with a willingness to *dive into the weeds* to explore detailed elements; people from *all walks of life*, *earth-bound* (reality), etc.

♦ see also *astroturf* (noun)

## grate (verb)

grates on people  
it's something that just ~ (government helps banks)

## grave (symbol)

cradle-to-grave work force  
the ~ work force

from the cradle to the grave  
she gave advice on problems people face ~

♦ "White tombstones, a reminder of the price of war." (Arlington National Cemetery.)

## grave (end point)

hastened the schools to their graves  
Flexner ~ and deprived them of mourners (his report)

passed into the grave  
what was born from Wounded Knee, and what ~

## grave (place)

grave  
wreckage proved the Indian Ocean was its ~ (MH370)

watery grave  
when the sub is raised from its ~

## grave (dig one's grave)

dug its own grave  
mainstream media ~ with absurd Trump election coverage

dug their own grave  
they ~ (a basketball team that failed)

## graveyard (literal analogy)

graveyard of the Pacific  
the region is known as the ~ for its winter storms

Graveyard of the Pacific  
the mouth of the Columbia Rivers is known as "the ~"

graveyard of the German paratroopers  
Crete was "the ~" (a Pyrrhic victory / W.W. II)

graveyard for the Americans  
Falluja will be a ~ (Iraq)

graveyard spiral  
pilots call this the ~ (flying)

mariners' graveyard  
Cape Horn is a ~

known as the graveyard of the Turks  
Yemen is ~ (*maqbarat al-Atrak*)

♦ "The Mediterranean has been described as the biggest cemetery in the world." (Drowned migrants. Sometimes their bodies wash to shore. Often they don't.)

♦ see also *cemetery* (literal analogy)

## graveyard (things)

graveyard of (rocket and satellite) debris  
the region is a ~ (the South Pacific)

graveyard of empires  
Afghanistan is known as the ~

graveyard of the sea  
as we passed that ~ (fragments of vessels on beach)

graveyard of ships  
the reef is a veritable ~

graveyard for (Antarctica's greatest) icebergs  
South Georgia is something of a ~

graveyard for (communist) statues  
Budapest's ~ (Memento Park)

bell cemeteries  
collection points, known as *Glockenfriedhofe*, or ~

car graveyard  
the ~ is below Lookout Park (St. Joseph, Michigan)

ship graveyard

this ~ is the final destination for luxury liners (Turkey)

digital graveyard

BuzzFeed News joins sites like Gawker in the ~

veritable graveyard

the reef is a ~ of ships (sunken wrecks)

watery graveyard

Truk Lagoon is a ~ for hundreds of ships

cemetery, the graveyard

here we are in the ~ of ships (Moynaq, Uzbekistan)

♦ Cars, crushed flat and stacked on one another, were used to shore up sections of the riverbank. They can be seen to this day. (On the Tuckaseegee River upstream of Bryson City, North Carolina. An unusual kind of "auto graveyard.")

♦ "Lying on the beach beyond the glacier was wreckage that told of many ill-fated ships. We noticed stanchions of teakwood, liberally carved, that must have come from ships of the older type; iron-bound timbers with the iron almost rusted through; battered barrels and all the usual debris of the ocean. We had difficulties and anxieties of our own, but as we passed that graveyard of the sea we thought of the many tragedies written in the wave-worn fragments of lost vessels. We did not pause, and soon we were ascending a snow-slope heading due east on the last lap of our long trail." (*South! The Story of Shackleton's Last Expedition, 1914-1917* by Ernest Shackleton.)

♦ see also *cemetery (things)*

## graveyard (of diplomacy, etc.)

graveyard for aspiring managers and players

Man U is a ~ (online commenter / Erik ten Hag)

graveyard of bilingual education

if sense prevails, Massachusetts will be seen as the ~

graveyard of (international) diplomacy

Iran has been the ~

graveyard of (US-led) peace initiatives

it is the ~ (Israelis / Palestinians)

♦ "It's a graveyard where all good things go to die." (Said of the U.S. Senate.)

## graveyard (whistle past the graveyard)

whistle past the dump

Adam Silver continues to ~ (the NBA Commissioner)

whistling-past-the-graveyard exercise

this is a ~ because... (politics)

whistling past the graveyard

are these people ~, maybe (no concern about... / politics)

Schumer could be ~ in claiming... (politics)

♦ The great sports journalist Phil Mushnick wrote that the NBA Commissioner Adam Silver was "whistling past the dump" by ignoring the thuggish behavior of NBA athletes. In the same article, he wrote, "Don't rain on his charade." He truly deserves the epithet "the conscience of sport."

## gravitate (verb)

gravitated to John Roberts

Kavanaugh ~ (two Supreme Court justices)

gravitated to him

the press ~ (a politician)

gravitate (more) towards digital

younger audiences ~ than listening on the car radio

## gravitational (adjective)

gravitational pull

the ~ towards attrition (vs. relational maneuver / warfare)

## gravity (substance)

gravity of the situation

realizing the ~, he jumped on the grenade

enormous gravity

a crisis of ~ has arisen

understood the gravity

if clients truly ~ of the risks (climbing Everest)

## gravy (noun)

mop up the last bit of the gravy

they tried to ~ (profiteers)

## gravy train

gravy train

more people want to get on the ~ than stop it (doctors)

gravy train has come to a halt

probably the therapist realizes the ~ (fees)

riding the (FIFA, Infantino) gravy train

he's a hypocrite who's ~ (Gary Lineker in Qatar)

upset the gravy train

he didn't want to ~ he was on with Weinstein (film director)

## gray (gray area)

gray area around Canelo Alvarez

so it's a very ~ (doping with clenbuterol)

legal and ethical gray area

a ~ (using drugs for interrogations)

in a gray area

the Web site operates ~ of Russian law (spam)

## great (great hatred, etc.)

great hatred

there is ~ towards Americans

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Language to express the size / intensity of emotions in a "spirit of abundance..."

♦ see also *big (big love, etc.), enormously (exciting, etc.), huge (huge gratitude, etc.)*

## great (the Great Resignation, etc.)

Great Flood

California's ~ of 1862

"Great Mining Migration"

the ~ may lead to serious repercussions (bitcoin)

'Great Resignation'

economists have dubbed it the ~ (workplace / pandemic)  
~ reaches White House with staff turnover

### Great Unbundling

the ~ (customers cancel cable / “cut cords”)

### great unwinding

this is the ~ (Martin Pichinson / startups / 2020)

the ~ (Medicaid disenrollment post-pandemic)

♦ “Now it's time for what's being called the great unwinding, a return to the usual process of checking everyone's eligibility ever year.” (Massive post-pandemic Medicaid disenrollments.)

## Great Gatsby (Korea's Great Gatsby, etc.)

### Korea's Great Gatsby

he is known as ~ for his lavish lifestyle (Big Bang's Seungrì)

## Great Wall (Great Wall of Lagos, etc.)

### “Great Wall of Lagos”

the ~ reinforces and protects the coast (Nigeria)

## green (green list, etc.)

### green-list

people can travel freely to ~ (COVID pandemic)

## green (money)

### green

it's about ~ (money)

♦ “In sports, it's not about black or white, it's about green.” (Black players, white players, money.)

## green (green with envy)

### green with envy

I was ~

♦ *Green With Envy: Why Keeping Up With the Joneses is Keeping Us in Debt.* (The title of a book.)

## green (experience)

### green hand

Melville shipped as a ~ on the *Acushnet* (age 21)

### greenhorn

see *greenhorn* (person)

### greenest medical student

the ~ is able to...

### pretty green

I was 25 when I went into that job, ~ (forensic psychology)

### junior and green

Taylor was too ~ to understand what...

♦ “Green as we were, we said okay...”

♦ “Most horses that can be classed as refractory in shoeing have been brought to this condition by improper handling when green and unaccustomed to the sights and sounds of a shoeing shop.” (*Manual For Army Horseshoers*, 1917.)

## green (environment)

### green economy

Indonesia seeks to achieve a ~ (Joko Widodo)

### Green Energy

“Drax: The ~ Scandal Exposed” (BBC)

### green gentrification

Frogtown is Exhibit A for ~ (Los Angeles / LA River)

### green infrastructure

definitions, goals and forms of ‘~’

### green (stormwater) infrastructure

~ can reduce both heat and flooding

### green justice

policy and planning tools for urban ~

### “green” masses

~ dedicated to our responsibility (in a Franciscan parish)

### green minerals

mining for so-called ~ can be very destructive (lithium)

### “green” (marketing) ploy

the “7<sup>th</sup>-generation principle” is overused as a ~

### green revolution

neocolonialism dressed up as a ~ (lithium mining)

### green roof

the Chicago City Hall has a ~ (vegetation)

### green space

increase ~ within urban areas where possible (heat equity)

### greenspace

it is a vital ~ for all New Yorkers (Central Park)

### Green Sport

the BBC's ~ Awards (awareness of environmental issues)

### green steel

a market for expensive “~”

investments in ~

there is a demand for ~ (HYBRIT process)

### green tsunami

voters turned out for her in a “~” (Marina Silva / Brazil)

### green walls

~, also known as living walls or vertical gardens...

### greenways

parks, open spaces, and connections such as trails or ~

### green roofs and walls

~ can help cool both the insides and outsides of buildings

♦ “The so-called Big Greens, like the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy...”

\*\*\* jumping on the “green” bandwagon

♦ “Going green is all the rage now.” (Environmental activism by celebrities, corporations, etc.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...



♦ “How green laws stop green projects,” NPR, The Indicator From Planet Money, April 6, 2022.

♦ “The global energy transition is set to trigger a 40-fold increase in lithium demand between now and 2040, per the International Energy Agency, and mining companies are competing to secure supplies. Many fear local communities in the Argentina Puna, home to some 50,000 people, will meet the same fate as those in Chile: seeing their resources pillaged and lands destroyed to serve richer countries—neocolonialism dressed up as a green revolution.” (“Lithium Mining’s Next Frontier” by Ciara Nugent, Antofagasta De La Sierra, Argentina, *TIME*, August 8/August 15, 2022.)

♦ “I’m a romantic. I loved the old harbor with its working tugs, its decaying piers and vague sense of ruin. It was just so beautiful. The new version with all its parks is generic and sanitized—a ‘noose of green.’ It’s as if someone had an idea of how a waterfront should look and came up with a cookie-cutter plan for the whole city.” (Ben Gibberd, author of *New York Waters: Profiles from the Edge*. Quoted in “Wet and Wild” by Tony Perrottet, photographs by Gina LeVay, *Smithsonian*, May 2017.)

♦ see also *greenwashing* (noun)

♦ see also *eco* (affix)

## greenhorn (person)

greenhorn

the conditions turn veterans into ~s (flying in Alaska)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ William Safire examined this word, and dictionary entries for words, in “On Language: Greenhorn” in *The New York Times*, June 23, 1991.

♦ “Then there is the *greenhorn*, originally an animal with ‘green’ or young horns but now applied to anyone who lacks experience or know how.” (*Word Origins And their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 4, “Where Words About Human Beings Come From.”)

## green light (noun)

green light

a judge has given the ~ to...

green light to proceed

I was given a ~

cultural green light

we give a ~ to drinking (alcohol / US)

gave me the green light

she ~ to do the project

♦ “I want to tell Moroccans directly that France was devastated by this terrible earthquake. We are ready to provide humanitarian aid but we await your green light.” (President of France Emmanuel Macron after the 2023 Marrakesh-Safi earthquake. The message actually infuriated many Moroccans, but that is another story. For the purpose of this work, “green light” means “permission.”)

## green light (verb)

green-lighted the deal

he heads one of the agencies that ~ (government)

green-light a film

the one person who can ~

green-lit the story

the *New Yorker* stood up to the threats and ~

## green-lighted (and green-lit)

green-lit and budgeted

the security revamp was ~, but... (Maersk IT failure)

got green-lighted

his show ~ as a two-hour pilot (TV)

## green shoots

green shoots

there are, however, ~ (political science)

green shoots of optimism

I see some ~ growing at United now (soccer talk)

green shoots of recovery

Chelsea showing ~ under Pochettino (football)

‘green shoots’ of academic recovery

the ~ have not materialized (post-pandemic)

♦ “Had there been any so-called green shoots or positives from the game...” (Test cricket.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Signs of progress. The phrase has been used in the context of the economy, political science, sports, and the pandemic. It has a short Wikipedia article. Not entered in Merriam-Webster. Entered in the Cambridge Dictionary. The term is hardly original: see *shoot* (plant).

## greenwash (noun)

“greenwash” (ad) campaigns

~ make their clothes appear sustainable (fashion)

## greenwashing (noun)

greenwashing

it’s “~,” minor cosmetic measures (aviation industry)

~, exaggerated sales pitches and bogus claims (UN’s PRI)

greenwashing, spin, and (outright) lying

~ (the aviation industry and the environment)

accused of greenwashing

companies ~ (misleading environmental claims)

enabled greenwashing

the ESG movement has ~

engaged in “greenwashing”

a former manager claimed DWS had ~

♦ “It’s one thing to support a company to, hopefully, transition to alternative energy sources and making sure they operate safely. It’s another thing to actually be supporting new oil and gas projects... [Talk about cutting greenhouse gas emissions] is probably happening in the PR team and the marketing and branding team, but it’s not happening in the operational division as far as I can see.” (Caroline Dennett, from “Contractor quitting puts Shell in spotlight over climate” by Frank Jordans, AP, May 23, 2022.)

♦ “Hi all. Neela Banerjee and I have exciting news to share with you as we build NPR’s new climate desk. The purpose of this new beat is to give our audiences an understanding of the scientific, behavioral and policy solutions people are adopting to address the catastrophic consequences of climate change. This reporter will also work with our team to hold corporations, and others, accountable for green washing.” (“Julia Simon is NPR’s new Climate Solutions Reporter” by Neela Banerjee, Andrea Kissack, NPR, November 14, 2022.)

♦ “Deutsche Bank subsidiary DWS says its chief executive is resigning after authorities raided its offices as part of a probe into claims that the company exaggerated the sustainable credentials of some of the financial products.” (AP, June 01, 2022.)

## **greet (verb)**

greeted the death with relief and elation  
Iraqis ~

greeted the announcement  
applause ~

greeted customers  
the dazzlingly lit shop ~ with gunmetal gray shelves

greet me  
first to ~ was the smell of hamburgers frying...

greeted them  
the squalid labor camps that ~ (Black Okies in California)

## **greeted**

greeted by an alarming sight  
as I prepared to rappel over the lip, I was ~

## **gremlin (noun)**

gremlin  
~s love to destroy machinery  
a ~ lives inside and makes the camera go all kooky  
a ~ is an elusive and mischievous flaw (computing)

gremlin in the (track) computers  
a ~ crippled on-track betting

gremlin in the software  
there appears to be a ~

gremlin in the system  
there appears to be a ~

common gremlin  
radio-wave interference is a ~ (cellphone buzz)

## **grenade (person)**

hand grenade  
he is a ~ with a loose pin  
he's a ~ who is going to blow everyone up (a lawyer)

## **grenade (disruption)**

hand grenade of a story  
a woman with a ~ came forward (murder investigation)

Mind Grenades  
~ (Contents, *Wired Magazine*)

socialism grenade  
when the pin is pulled and the ~ is lobbed (culture wars)

financial grenade  
men in suits concoct ~s with acronyms like C.D.O.

political grenade  
nominating Biden will be a ~ that explodes  
it was a ~ in the form of a 345-page report (Hur report)

likened to a grenade  
his book has been ~ thrown into the royal family (gossip)

thrown a grenade into the heavyweight landscape

Andy Ruiz Jr has just ~ (beat Anthony Joshua)

thrown a grenade into the middle of foreign  
assistance

the administration has ~ (federal pause to review)

♦ "As far as I'm concerned it's a grenade that has been thrown into the middle of the family and it has casualties and Kate is one of them, despite doing nothing wrong. I am furious that he has attacked Kate." (Paul Burrell, Princess Diana's former butler, about Omid Scobie's book.)

♦ "We're pulling the pin out of the grenade, but we haven't got the guts to throw it." (Former Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, a hardliner, who supports sending illegal migrants to Rwanda.)

♦ "I'm ride or die brother—I'd jump on a grenade for you." (An Elon Musk supporter.)

### **\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "One day, Klimov and Shaposhnikov had to go right up to the German lines. They climbed over the railway embankment and crept up to a bomb-crater that sheltered a heavy-machine-gun crew and an artillery officer. Pressed flat against the ground, they watched the Germans go about their tasks. One young man unbuttoned his jacket, tucked a red checked handkerchief under his collar and began shaving; Seryozha could hear the scrape of the razor against his wiry, dust-covered stubble. Another German was eating something out of a small flat tin; for a brief moment Seryozha saw his face take on a look of concentrated, lasting pleasure. The officer was winding up his watch. Seryozha felt like asking very quietly, so as not to frighten him: 'Hey! What time is it?' / Klimov took the pin out of a grenade and dropped it into the crater... / 'You're not a Baptist, are you?' Old Polyakov once asked this man who had killed a hundred and ten people... / Once Seryozha saw Klimov after he had drunk a captured bottle of schnapps; then he had been quite terrifying—even Grekov had seemed wary of him." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. "But I was getting too soft, and so I had to *throw one* [italics mine] at the quartermasters and the French and everybody else except Ordnance. The ordnance men were too busy patching up the vehicles these gasoline cowboys had wrecked." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin. By "throw one" he meant not a grenade but four funny cartoons about the crazy truck and jeep drivers who would frighten soldiers walking along the roads, make them jump into ditches, and splash mud on them. The captions of the four cartoons are (1) "You'd hurry home too if you lived in a ration dump!" (2) "Some of you may not come back. A French convoy has been reported on the road" (3) "I'll be darned! Here's one wot wuz wrecked in combat" and (4) "Damn fine road, men!")

## **gridlock (noun)**

create gridlock

people in the ER for days ~ for new patients

### **\*\*\* "In the north-eastern region of Inner Mongolia..."**

♦ "More than 10,000 vehicles are stuck in a 120 km (75-mile) traffic jam on China's Beijing to Tibet motorway. The gridlocked section of road is in the north-eastern region of Inner Mongolia. The majority of the vehicles stuck in the jam are coal trucks heading for the capital. A 100 km traffic jam that had lasted nine days on the same motorway was cleared just over a week ago. The authorities say roadworks are to blame for the latest gridlock. The motorway is among China's busiest, as Beijing's population of more than 20 million requires massive quantities of goods." ("Thousands of vehicles stuck in 120 km China traffic jam," BBC, 2 September 2010.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ This term relates to vehicles caught in a traffic jam.

## **gridlocked**

gridlocked

climate policy is ~, with no chance of a breakthrough

## **grief (groups)**

### **climate grief**

the experts call this ‘~’ (see quote below)

### **ecological grief**

dealing with ~ (see quote below)

### **Election Grief**

“~ Is Real. Here’s How to Cope” (*Scientific American*)

### **grief and trauma**

understanding intergenerational ~ (a Cherokee Indian)  
it has added a layer of ~ (Latinos / NPR)

#### **\*\*\* various groups...**

♦ (1) antidote for ‘climate grief’ (2) the experts call this ‘climate grief’ (3) how she is processing her own climate grief (4) It’s so deep, climate grief is real (5) all about managing and discussing and embracing climate grief (6) climate grief had moved to engagement (7) you have managed your own climate grief by first embracing it and not pushing it away, and focusing on action. (References to “climate grief,” with and without quotation marks. From “Her antidote for ‘climate grief’ and a shrinking Great Salt Lake? Don’t look away” by Rachel Martin, NPR, All Things Considered, October 8, 2023. With Terry Tempest Williams, who managed to name-drop George Floyd during her interview. At the time of her NPR interview, Terry Tempest Williams was Writer-in-Residence at the Harvard Divinity School: courses she taught include “Apocalyptic Grief and Radical Joy.”)

♦ “In these days of climate crisis, the phenomenon of ecological grief is real.” (“The Comfort of Crows” is fuel to restore spirits in dealing with ecological grief” by Barbara J. King, NPR, Book Reviews, October 25, 2023.)

♦ “Psychologists have come up with a term—solastalgia—for the feeling that occurs with the disappearance of what’s perceived as the normal, stable, healthy, natural world. The Australian philosopher Glenn Albrecht, who coined the term, identifies it as a suffering at the loss of solace, ‘a deep emotional response to the desolation of a loved home environment.’ The condition of solastalgia, then, is primarily one of grief, environmental grief, mourning for the death of home, which is the place of solace. (‘Stephen McRae seems to be a man who refused to ignore such emotion,’ Albrecht told me.)” (“The Machine Breaker: Inside the mind of an ‘ecoterrorist’” by Christopher Ketcham, *Harper’s Magazine*, November, 2023. There is a Wikipedia article “Solastalgia.”)

♦ “For a certain group of people it is hitting particularly hard. For Latinos, seeing the names, the photos of the victims, kids and teachers who look and sound like them, it’s added a layer of grief and trauma. And to talk through this we have called... She’s a...” (“For Latinos, the Uvalde shooting has an extra layer of grief and trauma,” Mary Louise Kelly, NPR, All Things Considered, June 3, 2022.)

♦ “I remember saying in Sunday school, not that long ago, ‘Who am I without Mormonism?’” said Osborne. “This is a feeling of grief and just the pain of change, and the pain of not being naïve anymore. It’s hard to know the truth.” (“Hulu special ‘Mormon No More’ offers rare look of two former Mormons exploring faith and LGBTQ+ identity” by Haley Yamada, June 23, 2022. “Two Mormon moms who fell in love.” Trendy!)

#### **\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ A plan by four churches on the Cherokee Indian Reservation to apologize to the tribe for a historical failure to recognize traditional Cherokee religion or culture has been greeted with surprise by tribal leaders. / “I don’t see what they need to apologize for,” said Tribal Council Chairman Bob Blankenship. “But if they feel they’ve offended us in any way, we’ll accept it.” / The majority of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians’ 13,000 members belong to mainstream Christian churches... / As far as I’m concerned, it’s a waste of time,” said the Rev. Bo Parris of Big Cove Baptist Church. “There’s nothing to apologize for.” / Patty Grant, a member of the Eastern Band and one of the event organizers, said understanding intergenerational grief and trauma is an important part of what the churches are trying to do by making the apology. She said trauma from centuries of oppression often manifests itself in drug abuse, domestic violence and depression. / Pastor Steven Phillip...said, “From my perspective as

a white male, I see a need for the white church to apologize for the oppression by Christian missionaries of Native American people,” he said. “We thought we had to Europeanize them to evangelize. I am not apologizing for the Gospel. But I do apologize for how we perverted the Gospel in the name of Jesus and oppressed God’s people. / Principal Chief Leon Jones, the top elected leader of the Eastern Band, doesn’t think an apology is necessary. / “Personally, I think the past is history and I don’t hold present-day people responsible,” he said. “All we can do is live today’s life and do the best we can today.” (“Churches to offer apology to Cherokee” by Jon Ostendorf and Quintin Ellison in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 22, 2002 A1.)

♦ “I watched the Mom do an interview once, and she stated her daughter has anxiety over climate change. That family is a bit of a mess.” (An online commenter about “Rep. Katherine Clark’s transgender daughter Riley Dowell sentenced for assault on Boston cop” by Victor Nava, *New York Post*, May 3, 2023.)

#### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Search for “grief” at NPR and you get 65,149 hits and counting.

♦ “Climate grief is real.” “The phenomenon of ecological grief is real.” “The term black erasure is real and not an exaggeration” (according to Questlove). “Rage sex is a thing, yes it is.” “The fact that... (AOC).” “Election anxiety is real.” “Election Grief Is Real. Here’s How to cope” (*Scientific American*), “Inequality in dating is real! (Wailin Wong).” “Eyebrow blindness is so real” (TikTok claim). (Assertions like these are becoming more and more common in American discourse and letters.)

♦ Really?

♦ Grief is the price of love.

♦ see also *despair (groups)*

## **grill (verb)**

### **grill him on arrangements**

she began to ~ for the party

### **grilled (oil industry) executives**

members of a House subcommittee ~ (oil spill)

### **grills passengers**

Israel uses in-flight guards and ~ (terrorism)

## **grilled**

### **grilled by both sides**

witnesses were ~ (sports doping)

## **Grim Reaper (death)**

### **Grim Reaper**

the ~, the symbol of death...

## **grind (daily grind, etc.)**

### **grind of the workplace**

a week’s break from the ~

### **daily grind**

I’m sick of the ~

stealing time away from the ~ (to go climbing)

## **grind away (verb)**

### **grind away**

just put your head down and ~

♦ “Get up, get up, you lazy lout / Get into your working clothes! / Toil and slave the livelong day / With a grindstone to your nose.”

## grind down (verb)

grinds down opponents with ground strokes  
he ~ (tennis)

grinding him down  
the amount of homework was ~ (high school)

## grinder (meat grinder)

see *meat grinder*

## grinding (grinding poverty, etc.)

grinding deflation  
Spain faces years of ~

grinding poverty  
the region suffers from ~

grinding (Big East) season  
it's hard to stay fresh during a ~ (sports)

grinding (82-game) season  
it's a ~ (NBA)

grinding ugliness  
he experienced the ~ of racism at his high school

grinding war  
the ~ in the Donbas

long, grinding  
we need to end this ~ war

♦ see also *biting* (adjective), *gnawing* (gnawing doubt, etc.), *pinching* (adjective), *stabbing* (stabbing pain, etc.)

## grind on (verb)

grinds on  
as the revolt ~ (Syria)  
on the ground, the fighting ~ (warfare)

grinding on for 8 years  
the war has been ~ (Eastern Ukraine)

investigations grind on  
~ (politics)

war (on terror) grinds on  
the ~

## grind out (verb)

grind out the classics  
some musicians are content to ~ (versus playing new work)

## grip (verb)

grip him  
the work began to ~ (Dante's *Divine Comedy*)

## grip (in the grip)

in the storm's grip  
all Eastern Province cities were ~ (rain, wind, dust)

in the grip of a (slow-burning) rebellion

the nation is ~ against the regime

## grip (come to grips)

come to grips with the new reality  
unions are trying to ~

## grip (control)

grip of terror  
Saddam Hussein's ~ is being loosened (war in Iraq)

grip on Iraq  
Hussein's three-decade-long ~

grip on Nasiriyah  
US forces tightened their ~ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

grip on this country  
the king's ~ may be eroding

grip on power  
his ~ is still firm  
his ~ is slipping  
until recently, his ~ had been near absolute (a governor)

government's grip  
a sign that the ~ was loosening

king's grip  
the ~ on this country may be eroding

rebels' grip  
the ~ is being loosened (Iraq)

viselike grip  
she has a ~ on power

three-decade-long grip  
Hussein's ~ on Iraq

iron grip  
the coup leaders are keeping an ~ on the country

grip (on this country) may be eroding  
the king's ~

grip (on the company) had been pried loose  
her ~ finger by finger

grip (on the area) waxed and waned  
their ~

loosened their grip  
tradition, ideology, and religion have ~ in the West

retain its grip  
the professional military caste will ~ (conscription)

tightened their grip  
US forces ~ on Nasiriyah (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

## gripped

gripped an Indiana community  
a double murder case that ~ (Delphi murders)

gripped by uncertainty  
she was ~

totally gripped

I was not merely interested, but ~ (*Lord of the Flies*)

♦ "As I read on, I found that, reluctantly, I was becoming not merely interested, but totally gripped... (Charles Monteith at Faber and Faber, reading a manuscript from the "slush pile." An anonymous reader known only as "Polly Perkins" had rejected it as rubbish, dull and pointless. It would be published as *Lord of the Flies*.)

## **gripping (adjective)**

gripping account

his book is a ~ of high-stakes investigative reporting

utterly gripping

~ (*People* magazine about *I'll Be Gone In The Dark*)

## **grist (grist for the mill, etc.)**

grist for actors

it has become ~ eager to cast doubt on elections

grist for their mill

he has given Democrats a whole lot of ~ (hearings)

grist for their (propaganda) mill

the leaks will be more ~

grist for historians' mills

this trip would provide the ~ for centuries to come (Galileo)

grist for the tabloid mill

his attention-grabbing antics are ~

grist to the mill

this is ~ of those who dislike the pope (sex abuse)

sensational grist

the news was ~ for conspiracy theorists and the far right

provided the grist

the report ~ for a lot of conspiracy theories

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Grist is grain that is ground to make flour.

## **grit (political grit, etc.)**

grit in the oyster

we need more Frank Fields, they're the ~

political grit

candidates will need ~ to defeat the incumbent president

softness and grit

Yola combines ~ (Americana music)

strength and grit

Lewiston is known for our ~ (a mass shooting in Maine)

♦ "We need more Frank Fields, they're the grit in the oyster." (David Blunkett's tribute.)

♦ "Identifying and Building Grit in Language Learners" by Kelly Keegan, *English Teaching Forum* 2017, Volume 55, Number 3.

♦ "True British grit. That's what this is. This man here, true Brit grit." (Frank Warren sitting next to Tyson Fury and pointing to him at the post-fight press interview of Usyk-Fury I, the "Ring of Fire," the Kingdom Arena, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Fury lost.)

♦ "Filmmaker Josh Margolin based the title character on his own grandmother and is clear at every step about the frailties of age, though he's delighted to let a formidable June Squibb show how

those frailties can be overcome with a bit of grit and quick wit." ("A phone scammer gets more than he bargained for in 'Thelma'" by Bob Mondello, NPR, All Things Considered, June 17, 2024. To quote Bob, "the film is a hoot.")

### **\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "If you pay attention to education trends, you know that a lot of talk these days is about grit. This idea that passion and persistence are really important traits in kids, rather than IQ or natural talent. And, the thinking goes, helping kids to be more gritty makes them more likely to succeed. Now, a new study says, we should care less about grit. To talk about this, we are joined by Anya Kamenetz..." ("MacArthur 'Genius' Angela Duckworth Responds To A New Critique Of Grit" by Anya Kamenetz, NPR, All Things Considered, May 25, 2016.)

### **\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "The Finns would win or lose on the basis of their conventional, professional, military skills, the fiber of their discipline, the worthiness of their commanders—and above all else, on the depth and stubbornness of their *sisu*. That bristling little word was once the most famous Finnish idiom ever to become part of the outside world's vocabulary. It can be translated as 'guts' or 'spunk' or 'grit' or 'balls,' or as a combination of all those words together. The word in Finnish has nuances that resist easy translation..." (*Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter. The Finns eventually lost.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Grit of Women" by Jack London is one of the greatest love stories ever written.

♦ see also *bottle* (*British English / noun*)

## **groan (amount)**

groaned with more food

the table ~ than we could possibly eat

groaning with stuff

all these shelves that are ~ (runaway consumerism)

groaned with scrolls, archives, records and registers

the shelves ~ (East India House in London)

groaning under a mountain

Europe is ~ of debt

## **groom (prepare)**

groomed him to do all this

they make me like I ~ (father of mass shooter)

groomed victims for his own sexual gratification

he ~ (a famous singer)

## **grotesque (adjective)**

grotesque anti-Zionism

the anti-Semitism and ~ (Anti-Defamation League)

grotesque attacks

you did not deserve these ~ (a judge about testimony)

grotesque conduct

those who engaged in this ~ (police share grisly photos)

grotesque (feedback) loop

the ~ between President Trump and Fox News (NPR)

grotesque parody

the sequence is a ~ of patriotism (a film)

grotesque rituals

these ~ (fraternities, college secret societies, etc.)

grotesque spectacle

this was the first night of the ~ (trial in Iran)

grotesque, exotic, or deficient

Black people and Black language aren't ~ (Sonja Lanehart)

too grotesque

you really can't make any of this up, it's ~ (politics)

repeated and grotesque

these ~ attacks on you (a trial)

♦ "How delighted I was when, for the first time, I saw the breaking up of the ice in the Dwina! Sometimes the immense blocks seemed to assume the shape of a lion, a dog, a swan, and every kind of figure, beautiful or grotesque, according to the fancy of the spectator... [T]he flocks of wild swans; the solitary sea-mew, skimming with snowy pinions the liberated waves—formed a scene altogether strange and beautiful." (*The Englishwoman in Russia; Impressions of the Society and Manners of the Russians At Home by a Lady, Ten Years Resident in That Country*, 1856.)

♦ Grotesque; ugly; hateful; toxic... (Anti-Semitism.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia entry "Grotesque." It's fascinating to think about its different connotations and the different feelings that it has engendered through time. Wikipedians are wonderful.

## ground (area)

proving ground

see *proving ground*

## ground (feeding ground)

feeding ground for the music industry

YouTube is a ~ (sign up popular talent)

feeding ground for TV and dire poverty

its marshes were a ~ (the Maremma / Tuscany)

## ground (fertile ground)

fertile ground for spammers

Russia is a ~ and hackers

## ground (moral high ground, etc.)

moral high ground

if the US is to keep the ~, we need to...

there is no longer any ~ left to stand on (diplomacy)

the ~ can be lonely terrain

hold (some sort of) moral high ground

she claims to ~ (Hillary Clinton blames others)

lose the high ground

well, does that mean democrats ~ (Biden pardons his son)

♦ "We look for songs that mean something. Higher ground. You know, everybody know where the higher ground is. It sure ain't here on earth. It's above us. So we all want to go to the higher ground." (Clarence Fountain of the Blind Boys of Alabama.)

## ground (break ground)

break new ground

we are trying to ~ in this area (public diplomacy)

## ground (get off the ground)

got off the ground

the project died before it ~

the task force never ~

## ground (give ground)

give-no-ground

the ~ defensiveness... (academia)

gave no ground

he showed no fear and ~ (Pfc. Jesse Buryj / Iraq)

gave (significant) ground

Trump ~ (a treaty)

♦ "Microsoft will not cede ground to rivals at Google or Anthropic." (AI.)

## ground (gain ground)

gained ground

a number of states ~ in math (educational testing)

gaining ground

the sport is ~ (public in-door ax-throwing)

the campaign to free them was ~ (Cardiff Three)

gained ground against government forces

the rebels ~

gaining ground across France

the coronavirus is ~

gaining ground over death and fear

life is cautiously ~ (Algeria)

## ground (lose ground, etc.)

losing ground

climate science is ~ with the public

the left is ~ in America (the culture wars)

lost ground

a hope that a secular Algeria is gaining ~

reclaimed ground

he ~ for the theater most thought had been abandoned

## ground (hold / stand one's ground)

hold his ground

he elected to ~ to protect his fallen comrade

holding her ground

she is ~ and not giving in

stand our ground

we must ~ on education and health care (budget cuts)

standing their ground

other schools are ~ (mask requirements / pandemic)

stood her ground

she ~ and didn't let the defense undercut her (trial)

stood their ground

the mayor and the police chief both ~ (criticism)

the enemy fighters ~



## ground (cover ground)

covered a lot of ground  
his speech ~

covers a lot of (historical) ground  
the movie ~, from...

covers (some of) the same ground  
Betts ~ as Nasaw, but his focus is... (2 authors)

## ground (prepare the ground)

prepare the ground for a (crucial) referendum  
the elections will ~ (Sudan)

preparing the ground for it  
he's ~ (emergency declaration)

## ground (hit the ground running)

hit the ground running  
we ~ and within 36 hours we... (police)

## ground (both feet on the ground)

have both feet on the ground  
she does appear to ~ (a mature girl)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In *Metaphors We Live By*, Lakoff and Johnson mention a fascinating metaphor: *mundane reality is down*. The example they give is "down to earth." Language that might illustrate this metaphor, besides *earthiness*, could include *grassroots*; *a worm's eye view*; "she has *stars in her eyes*" versus the mature girl who has *both feet on the ground*; journalists *on the ground*; the teacher who spent 34 years *in the trenches*, actually teaching; the leader with a willingness *to dive into the weeds* to explore detailed elements; people from *all walks of life*, *earth-bound* (reality), etc.

## ground (shaky ground, etc.)

shaky ground  
their relationship is on ~  
the franchise is on ~ (troubled NBA team)

unplowed ground  
when we got onto ~ (interview)

ground is shifting  
the ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "You're standing on shaky ground, Mister!" (I like the Delbert McCClinton version of "Shaky Ground.")

## ground (firm ground, etc.)

comfortable ground  
steer the conversation to more ~

friendly ground  
don't assume Ireland will be ~ for the pope (sex abuse)

safer ground  
then they'd be on ~ (by following procedure)

firm ground  
the show is still struggling to find ~

## ground (on the ground, etc.)

ground conditions  
~ matter (resources for hospitals, etc. / pandemic)

on the ground  
he is ~ covering the protests (a foreign correspondent)  
the Red Cross and other organizations are ~ (disaster)  
life ~ goes on, people maintain their daily lives  
the president asked for an assessment of the situation ~

from the ground  
journalists report the truth ~

### \*\*\* analysis

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## ground (go to ground)

gone to ground  
Bolton has ~, refusing interviews (politics)

went to ground for a few months  
he ~ but then resurfaced (wanted by Hague)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The woodchuck, feeling threatened, bolts to its hole.

## ground (common ground)

common ground (people share) is shrinking  
the ~ (journalism and the media)

find common ground  
they want to bridge the divide and ~ (gun control / suicide)

seek common ground  
I call upon all of us to ~

reach common ground with Iran  
the US has been unable to ~

concede common ground to his adversaries  
he will not ~

## ground (middle ground)

middle ground  
there's no ~ with him  
people either support or condemn, there's no ~  
finding ~ is still elusive (compromise)  
the ~ is the place where most of us live (gun control)

♦ "In people's minds, there's very little neutral middle ground. In our mind, it is the ground we are determined to occupy." (Joe Kahn, the executive editor of *The New York Times*.)

## groundbreaking

groundbreaking leader  
Wilma Mankiller was a ~ (Cherokee)

groundbreaking research  
she has done ~

groundbreaking story  
the results of this ~

groundbreaking (gene-therapy) studies  
the magazine has published many ~

## grounded

grounded in science and truth  
information ~, analysis rooted in integrity (*The Guardian*)

grounded personality  
his ~ is appreciated by all (boxing champ Josh Taylor)

## Groundhog Day (film)

Groundhog Day  
we've been here before with Jose, it's all very ~ (Spurs)

groundhog day cycle  
they hope to end the ~ (EMTS take care of mentally ill)

Groundhog Day experience  
she spoke of being stuck in a ~ (pandemic / mental health)

"Groundhog Day" replay  
we'd do it again in a ~ (firebomb civilians / World War II)

judicial Groundhog Day  
it was a ~ (a third retrial)

turned into Groundhog Day  
Brexit Day has ~ (yet another delay)

♦ "In describing their lived experiences during the pandemic, several participants specifically referenced the movie Groundhog Day remarking that they felt as though they were stuck in some sort of repeating existence."

♦ "I've been wondering lately if feminism is subject to a Groundhog Day-style curse in which all previous knowledge is periodically obliterated." ("Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's Invisible Life by Anna Funder review—inside a troubled marriage" by Olivia Laing, *The Guardian*, 10 August 2023. "This feminist reimagining of the fierce and witty Eileen O'Shaughnessy strips her of agency all over again.")

♦ "It's déjà vu all over again in Washington... Kinda like watching Groundhog Day, right, I mean it kinda feels that way, uh, do you think anything will change today?" ("A" Martinez. From "Ohio Republican Jim Jordan fails again to get the votes needed to be House Speaker," NPR, Morning Edition, October 19, 2023.)

## ground rule

ground rules  
the new post-Cold War ~  
new ~ might help

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A ground rule modifies a rule to a particular place, pitch or field.

## groundswell (noun)

groundswell of cases  
a ~ like hers rippled through Hollywood (McToo)

groundswell of hostility

there has been a ~ toward outsiders (migrants)

groundswell of support  
there is not yet a ~ for sweeping change

groundswell moment  
we're at that ~ (rising demand for antibiotic-free meat)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A groundswell refers to a swell at sea.

## groundwork (noun)

groundwork  
laying the ~ for a ceasefire in the Middle East

groundwork for a ceasefire  
laying the ~ in the Middle East

groundwork for his own undoing  
he had laid the ~

decades of groundwork  
~ typically precede any real advances (psychiatry)

laid the groundwork  
he had ~ for his own undoing

## ground zero (noun)

ground zero in the New Economy  
Austin is ~

ground zero of the (anti-vaccine) movement  
California is ~

ground zero for one of history's greatest tank battles  
Hushniya was ~ (the Golan / 1973)

ground zero for climate change  
Miami is ~

ground zero for (race-based) street gangs  
California is ~

ground zero for sea-level rise  
Miami is ~

snowboarding's ground zero  
Lake Tahoe is ~

♦ see also zero (*place and time, etc.*)

♦ see also fulcrum (*noun*), point (*tipping point*), turning point (*noun*)

## groupthink (noun)

groupthink among major media companies  
the ~ is more troubling (Elon Musk)

group think of the pundits  
the ~ following like sheep using these terms (language)

enforced group-think  
this environment of ~ (at the *New York Times*)

media groupthink  
a critique of liberal ~ (Jonathan Chait)

progressive groupthink  
NPR changed from open-minded curiosity to ~

strange groupthink

some ~ caused people to pile on her (Hathahate)

dangerous radical groupthink

~ (DEI at MIT / Harvard / UPenn)

blind spots and groupthink

the media bubble caused ~ (politics)

emotion, social media, and groupthink

Harvard students allow ~ to rule their actions (protests)

bullying and group-think

we often discussed ~ (managers, by activists at NYT)

bastions of groupthink

universities are elitist ~ (progressives, leftists)

suffered from groupthink

NPR has ~ (Uri Berliner)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "It's not enough to say we don't support racism. You have to actually actively fight racism to get the work done." (Ashland, Oregon mayor Julie Akins.)

♦ "It is not enough to indicate that you are not racist, instead you must demonstrate that you are anti-racist." (Sophomore volleyball player Rachel Richardson, Duke University.)

♦ "When it comes to identifying and ending systemic racism, we can be agents of change. Listening and deep reflection are necessary but they're not enough. They must be followed by constructive and meaningful steps forward." (CEO John Lansing of NPR.)

♦ "Racism is a societal problem, and it is no longer good enough to simply be non-racist, Scottish sport must now be actively anti-racist." (Steward Harris, chief executive of SportScotland.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Everyone has the same background, votes the same way, and thinks the same way." (At National Public Radio / NPR.)

♦ "I think he'll have plenty of like behind-the-scene support but, yeah, it'll be hard to support him in public." (A comment about an ex-NFL player who criticized a female "analyst" and "rising star" at ESPN.)

♦ "And once everyone agrees on what matters, it gets repeated." (Sam Bankman-Fried, about the best way to advertise FTX and crypto: pay to become a part of a sport stadium's name.)

♦ "This environment of enforced group-think, inside and outside the paper, was hard even on liberal opinion writers." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ "Yeah, no conspiracy. I think it's totally a matter of groupthink. You coalesce around people of similar views, it's uncomfortable to stand out, people might censor themselves, I don't know, but there's a consensus that builds and it has momentum and it becomes the way things work." (Uri Berliner talking about NPR with Bari Weiss. From "NPR Editor Speaks Out: How National Public Radio Lost Americans' Trust," *Honestly with Bari Weiss*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "[D]on't tell people how to think." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

♦ see also *herdthink* (noun), *think* (*Democratthink*, etc.), *think* (*right-think*), *think* (*wrongthink*)

♦ see also *doublethink* (noun)

## grow (increase)

grew (more than) 700 percent

the number of women in prisons and jails ~

## grow (develop)

grow in their careers

medical professionals like him, who are looking to ~

grew in confidence

Yarde ~ especially in the second round (boxing)

grew very fast

the company ~ (fashion)

## grow (grow the economy, etc.)

grew my social media account

how I ~ (a \$500 online course)

grown its (podcasting) arm

NPR has ~ in recent years to reach a younger audience

grow its arsenal

how did Hamas ~ to strike Israel

grow our audience

we must ~ and cultivate their financial support (WBUR)

grow the family business

he saw the opportunity to ~

grow our economy

we need to ~

growing progress

see how farmers are ~ in Tanzania (ad for Corteva Agri)

## growing (increasing)

growing criticism

his policy is the subject of ~

## growing pains

growing pains

a TV show can have ~, too

normal growing pains

these are ~ for a new-film operation

overcame (most of) its growing pains

it ~ pretty quickly (a TV series)

## growl (verb)

growling at each other

ten minutes later, you're both ~

## grownup (and grownup in the room)

grownup in the room

he positioned himself as the ~, the worldly chaperon

grownup at Facebook

for 14 years, Sheryl Sandberg has been the ~

grownups must step in

the ~ and clean up this mess (finance)

♦ "In Sam's World, Dan Friedberg—who was in his early fifties—had been the only important grown up... He was FTX's general counsel... He'd followed Sam to Hong Kong and then moved again to the Bahamas, where he spent a lot of time looking out of place in Bermuda shorts. Friedberg was who Sam usually had in mind when

he complained about the pointless stuff that grown-ups asked him to worry about... [I]n the week of FTX's collapse, he'd been the first employee to abandon ship, and had gone immediately to the US financial regulators and the FBI." (*Going Infinite: The Rise And Fall Of A New Tycoon* by Michael Lewis. "Sam" is Sam Bankman-Fried.)

♦ see also *adult* (and *adult in the room*)

## growth (cancerous, etc.)

cancerous growth

he refers to the other country as a ~

## grow up (grow up together, etc.)

grew up together

census-taking and a science of statistics ~

## grow up (grow up! etc.)

grow up

~, it's not all about you (a soccer player)

as a nation, we need to ~, accept this reality (COVID)

Oh grow up

~, TMZ is the problem for...

urged Mr. Grainger to grow up

the Tory mayor of Birmingham ~ (called city a "dump")

♦ "Grow up. Now do us a favour and disappear." (A boxing fan about Anthony Joshua's bizarre antics following Joshua's second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

♦ "Oh grow up! TMZ is the problem for calling the sister. A joke is a joke, and it was a funny one." (A comment relating to criticism of the comedian Chris Rock.)

♦ see also *big boy pants*, *big girl pants*

## grub (person)

cowardly grubs

he referred to the online trolls as ~

## gruel (thin gruel, etc.)

thin gruel indeed

*Being the Ricardos* does seem like ~ (vs. other biographies)

## grumble (noun)

Grumbles, And Envy

Spain's Civil Servants Draw ~

Draw Grumbles

Spain's Civil Servants ~, And Envy...

## grumbling (noun)

grumbings and cross-talk

the statement elicited ~ in the chamber (England)

elicited grumbings

the statement ~ and cross-talk in the chamber (England)

prompted grumbling

the cap has ~ (on per diem wages)

♦ "I think you might start *seeing* some grumbings on Capitol Hill that this is not the way it's supposed to be done." (An ABC reporter. Should be "hear.")

♦ "I'm starting to *notice* some real grumbling." (Lockdowns. Should be "hear.")

## guard (off guard)

caught the US off guard

Iran's response ~

caught off guard

he is ~ (a diplomat / surprising information)

residents said they were ~ (by a tornado)

caught off guard by the ferocity

scientists were ~ of the eruption

caught off-guard (last year) by a (flu vaccine)

shortage

many in the US were ~

caught me off guard

he ~

caught (even) meteorologists off guard

the storm ~

totally caught off guard

Jeanette was ~

## guard (on guard)

on guard for any signs

we are ~ of infection (doctor)

## guard (changing of the guard)

changing of the guard

I'm glad to see a ~ (liberal attitudes in sports)

changing of the guard on Court Philippe-Chatrier

it felt like a ~ (French open 2021)

changing of the guard with younger Americans

we are seeing a ~ (their attitude towards taxes)

changing of the guard moment

a real ~ (Alcaraz defeats Djokovic 2023 Wimbledon)

witnessed a changing of the guard

a record post-war boxing crowd in Britain ~ (Dubois / AJ)

♦ "The changing of the guard is something that happens. I respect that... My turn to wear the cape has passed." (The British actor Henry Cavill announces on Instagram that he will not return as Superman.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Changing of the guard; passing of the torch... (Both phrases were used by online commenters after the youthful Alcaraz defeated the older Djokovic at 2023 Wimbledon.)

## guard (lower one's guard, drop one's guard, etc.)

dropping our guard

I think we are ~ too soon (COVID)

let our guard down

Dr. Fauci warned it's too early to ~ (pandemic)

lowered their guard

they thought they were in private and ~ (naked photos)

## guard (keep one's guard up)

keeps her guard up  
she ~

## guard (old guard)

see *old guard*

## guard (palace guard)

see *palace guard*

## guardian (protection)

guardian of a (150 year) legacy  
the Mariinsky Theater is a ~ (ballet and opera)

guardian of his reputation  
she became the ~ after his death (writer)

## guardrail (behavior)

guard rails  
what are the ~ to make sure that technology does no harm  
Facebook can have harms without adequate ~ in place  
moderating individuals provide some equilibrium, some ~  
this has been done, so the ~ are there (25th amendment)  
what kind of ~ have they mounted to make sure...

guardrails  
~ to prevent all forms of trafficking (Facebook)

guardrails (at home) to prevent that  
there were ~ (bad behavior by a child)

guardrails to keep kids safe  
Facebook is building ~

guard rails of our democracy  
they have been ignoring the ~ (ethics in government)

guardrails of democracy  
we can and must strengthen the ~ (Joe Biden vs. Supremes)

guardrail against the (US-Russia nuclear) rivalry  
the treaty is a ~ (INF nuclear treaty)

guardrails within that media ecosystem  
there are no more ~ (conspiracy theories, misinformation)

guardrails around the personal data  
TikTok has put ~ belonging to American users (Oracle)

guardrails, (these) break-the-glass  
these emergency ~, ~ measures... (Facebook)

guardrails and kill switches  
so what ~ can we put on AI systems (AGI)

no guardrails  
there are ~, anyone can try to create a new reality (media)

fewer guardrails  
Democrats will have ~ against their party's radical lurch

few or no guardrails

there are ~ to stop it (disinformation on social media)

emergency guardrails  
these ~, these break-the-glass measures... (Facebook)

human rights guardrails  
we must put ~ on the use of AI (and algorithms, etc.)

legal guardrails  
establish ~ to prevent misuse (generative AI)

lack of guardrails  
the ~ around the development of AI poses dangers

legalization without guardrails  
~ is premature (psychedelic mushrooms, etc.)

guardrail has come down  
the ~ (end of INF nuclear treaty between Russia and US)

guardrails have come down  
some of the ~ (on presidential power)

guardrails are gone  
he is in hot water because the ~, he was relying on...

blow through all the guardrails  
they seem to want to ~, are OK with that (extremists)

break through old guardrails  
push the Court further to the right and ~ (conservatives)

building guardrails  
Facebook is ~ to keep kids safe online

designing those guardrails  
who should be ~ for society (OpenAI's GPT-4)

establish "guardrails"  
~ that might prevent an accident from... (diplomacy)

have some guardrails up  
presidents would ~ to avoid the appearance of impropriety

have some guardrails in place  
we, as a board, didn't ~ (Time's Up)

have the guardrails  
we no longer ~ (because of a supermajority / politics)

put in a bunch of guardrails  
we ~ to make it less likely (another financial collapse)

put up guardrails  
~ to prevent abuse (AI)

set guardrails  
Facebook ~ to deal with violent content

set up guardrails  
~ to protect against discrimination in algorithms (AI)

skirt around (the Vision Pro's X-rated) guardrails  
users seek to ~

strengthen the guardrails  
we can and must ~ of democracy (Joe Biden vs Supremes)

sweep away all guardrails

she wants to ~ protecting kids (Trans Rachael Levine)

swerve around (time-honored investigative)

guardrails

senior officials appeared to ~ (the politicization of the FBI)

♦ “A backstop; a guardrail; trying to keep the President from going outside the bounds; minimize the damage...” (“John Bolton’s Place in Ukraine Policy” by Mara Liasson, NPR, Morning Edition, October 25, 2019.)

♦ “Of course, there are guardrails, judges can refuse to sign warrants, they can dismiss charges...” (NPR’s Tom Dreisbach about potential misuse of the Justice Department by Donald Trump if Trump wins the 2024 election.)

♦ “Make sure competition doesn’t veer into unintended military conflict; establish commonsense guardrails; establish some rules of the road...” (Commentary about summit between President Biden and Xi Jinping.)

♦ “These emergency guardrails, these break-the-glass measures, are blunt instruments.” (Facebook and its attempts to control fake news, hate speech, election interference, etc. can also hurt free speech.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “He says businesses like his already have guardrails to curb rowdy behavior.” (The co-owner of the Drunken Money Prague, in Prague, the Czech Republic. Right.)

## guest (appearance)

surprise guest

there was a ~ at the DNC (Covid infections / 2024)

## guinea pig

guinea pig

I can understand why I was used as a ~ (hospital)

we are being used as ~s (new rules in soccer)

he used his own sons as “~s” (sports doping)

pharmaceutical guinea pigs

they feel like ~, put on one antidepressant after another

treated as guinea pigs

Africans should not be ~ (vaccinations)

used as a guinea pig

they don’t like the city being ~ (for driverless cars / SF)

♦ “I’m not going to be someone’s guinea pig, we don’t know what’ll happen to me if I take that stuff.” (The crazy film *Words On Bathroom Walls*.)

\*\*\* **“It was to save babies that they killed so many guinea-pigs!”**

♦ “Carefully [Behring] shot fatal doses of diphtheria bacilli into a lot of guinea-pigs. Next day, they were seedy. The second day their breath came anxiously. They stayed on their backs with that fatal laziness... Then Behring took half of this lot of dying beasts, and into their bellies he injected a good heavy dose of the antitoxin from his immune sheep. Miracles! Nearly every one of them (but not all) began to breathe more easily in a little while. Next day, when he put them on their backs, they hopped nimbly back to their feet. They stayed there. By the fourth day they were as good as new, while their untreated companions, cold, dead, were being carried out by the animal boy... The serum cured!” (Diphtheria. From *Microbe Hunters* by Paul De Kruif. Chapter VI. “Roux and Behring: Massacre the Guinea-Pigs.”)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “Be my guinea pig, and I’ll give you a free tattoo.” Now, is *that* a good idea?!

♦ “I convinced my sister to be the guinea pig.” (For a Brazilian bikini wax.)

## guide (verb)

guided him into the gang

he ~

guides him

Islam ~

## guide (person)

guide

our ~ knows China very well indeed (a Reith lecture)

Therapy guide

Heather is also a Certified Nature and Forest ~...

spiritual guide

the cult became her ~

\*\*\* **“How can I go this way with you...”**

♦ “And I, sick with alarm at his new pallor, / cried out, “How can I go this way when you / who are my strength in doubt turn pale with terror?” / And he: “The pain of these below us here, / drains the color from my face for pity, / and leaves this pallor you mistake for fear. / Now let us go, for a long road awaits us.” (*The Inferno*, translated by John Ciardi.)

♦ Jon Krakauer’s book, *Into Thin Air*, confronts us with an important question: “What do you do when your guide dies?”

## guide (nonperson)

used the stars as guides

they ~

## gulf (division)

gulf

psychologically the ~ is even wider (Mitrovica, Kosovo)

gulf of difference

human groups often regard each other across the ~

gulf of mistrust

there was a ~ (newspaper and government)

gulf of misunderstanding

the ~ is only growing (Saudi-US post-9/11)

gulf between the haves and the have-nots

the ~

gulf between leaders and people

antiwar marches reveal ~

gulf between rich and poor

the widening ~

gulf between the two

there’s a huge ~ (kinds of companies)

gulf between the two departments

the ~ (police helicopters, firefighters)

gulf in class

the game exposed the ~ between these two clubs (soccer)

gulf in their worldviews

the ~ appears unbridgeable (two academics)

widening gulf



the ~ between rich and poor

cultural and linguistic gulf

a ~ has widened between Yoji and his parents (raised in US)

gulf has widened

a cultural and linguistic ~ between Yoji and his parents

bridge the (cultural, linguistic and political) gulfs

telemedicine can ~

symbolizes a (wider, more basic) gulf

the Moei River ~ between Burma and Thailand

## **gum up (verb)**

gum up the system

his purpose was to ~ (politics)

## **gumbo (mixture)**

gumbo of (certain) characters

thrown in is a kind of ~ (*The French Dispatch* / real people)

gumbo of traditions

the music of New Orleans is a ~

artistic and musical gumbo

few have concocted such a wild ~ (Van Dyke Parks)

♦ "You know, you put 'em all together, and it's like a gumbo, you put everything in the pot, and, in the moment, you just fly, ya know, after you make your 100th vat of gumbo, you get a feel for [for] where to place these things, and it's not really contrived, it just is a spirit in a moment that you follow..." ("Fresh Air" Favorites: Bandleader Jon Batiste," January 1, 2020. He grew up in Louisiana, near Kenner, internalizing the Bambara rhythm.)

## **gun (gun for)**

see *gun for* (verb)

## **gun (big gun)**

see *big gun (and heavy gun)* **gun (jump the gun)**

jump the gun

don't ~

so he sits on his ideas, he doesn't want to ~ (Darwin)

♦ "**Too soon**—pretty obvious we may well get there, but there's no reason to jump the gun." /// "I just don't want to jump the gun on adding said statement, even if it is reliably sourced." (Wikipedians painstakingly creating an article for a breaking event of potentially historical importance. At "Talk: October 2023 Gaza-Israel conflict." The process is extraordinary, Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## **gun (hold a gun to one's head, etc.)**

with a gun to their head

the Iranians would never negotiate ~

with a gun to her head

famously stubborn, she is unlikely to co-operate ~ (Aung San Suu Kyi / 2021)

holding a gun to the head

the US is ~ of Canada (tariff negotiations)

hold a gun to her head

I didn't ~, it was consensual (sex abuse)

put a gun to your head

they ~ (drug treatment for doctors)

♦ "Macron's decision to call the snap election elicited shock and clichés: he was playing with fire, rolling the dice, holding a gun to the country's head." ("The Battle For France" by Lauren Collins, *The New Yorker*, December 16, 2024.)

## **gun (under the gun)**

under the gun

the deadline puts us ~

## **gun (criticism)**

turn their guns on Bill Barr

I think it laughable to see Democrats ~ (politics)

## **gun (with guns blazing)**

guns a' blazing

he came out ~ right from the start of the round (a boxer)

with (all) guns blazing

the White House will go into that process ~ (impeachment)

coming with guns blazing

I'm not ~, looking for a fight (a tennis reformer)

## **gun (stick to one's guns)**

sticking to his guns

he is ~, continuing to deny the allegations against him

stuck to their guns

he and his directors ~ (resisted a takeover)

stuck to her guns artistically

Joni is someone who's ~ (the singer Joni Mitchell)

♦ "He stuck with his guns," he said, with his characteristic mild mangling of cliché." ("Who Will Fight With Me?" by Rivka Galchen, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022.)

## **gun (hired gun)**

hired gun

we are ~s (Scott Sanders / voices for political attack ads)

hired-gun

before 1968, ~consultants were rare (politics)

financial hired gun

he has worked as a ~ (hedge funds, etc.)

works as a hired gun

he ~ to defeat school bond referendums

\*\*\* *Highway To Hell...*

♦ "I used to be a warrant officer in the British SAS and now I'm a soldier of fortune. I'm a hired gun, a mercenary if you like, and I'm the man who was trying keep the other four guys in the car alive on the drive from Jordan to Baghdad..." (*Highway To Hell: Dispatches From A Mercenary In Iraq* by John Geddes.)

## **gun for (verb)**

gunning for him

Oppenheimer was now certain that Strauss was ~

gunning for me  
why are you ~ (dispute)

gunning for a mistrial  
the defense is ~

gunning for (at least 289) seats  
the National Rally is ~ (France)

## gung ho (and gung-ho)

gung-ho  
sales were “~” in February but... (sales ‘softened’)  
it was a great place to work, everybody was ~  
not everyone is as ~, though, about the need...  
I tend to be the kind of person that is ~ (gets involved)

Gung Ho On Health Care Overhaul  
“Pelosi And Reid Exit White House ~” (NPR)

gung-ho about going  
everybody’s so ~ to college... (there are alternatives)

gung-ho approach  
his ~ wasn’t valued at Boeing (hired by Elon Musk)

“gung-ho attitude  
he backed away from the ~ they had embraced...

gung-ho group  
a ~ of space enthusiasts has started the process of...

gung-ho spirit  
its ~ is infectious (a graphic novel)

less gung-ho  
teachers were a bit ~...

way gung-ho  
and I was ~, it was too much...

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ “By the mid-eighteen-forties, American farmers, too, had become gung ho for guano.” (“Elemental Need: Phosphorus helped saved our way of life—and now threatens to end it” by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023. “Gung ho” is very much a Chinese word relating to World War II (first entry 1941), so of *course* American farmers weren’t “gung ho” for guano in the mid-eighteen-forties. But it’s cute alliteration. The word might have been put in quotation marks, but it wasn’t. On the other hand, the essay *is* breezy: Elizabeth refers to guano as “yellowish clay,” “bird shit,” and simply “shit.” The use of “gung ho” is a form of presentism.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See “The Long, Strange Journey Of ‘Gung-Ho,’ by Jess Kung, NPR, Code Switch, October 18, 2019. If you type in “Carlson’s Raiders” at Wikipedia, you will be redirected to “Evans Carlson.” In *that* entry, Wikipedia says, “Carlson popularized the phrase *gung-ho*.”

## gun-shy (adjective)

gun shy  
some have described him as “~” (a boxer after K.O.)  
he didn’t fight like a champion and looked ~ (a boxer)

gun-shy about getting married again  
he may have felt a little ~

gun-shy fighter  
he was too negative, he seemed like a ~ (boxing)

## gunslinger (person)

legal gunslinger  
Alex Spiro, an edgy and funny ~ (lawyer for Elon Musk)

♦ “Rodri showed the world that gunslingers don’t always wear cowboy hats.” (The online commenter Amin Yashed about Man City 3-1 Red Star. Smart use of language. It echoes the cliché, “Heroes don’t always wear capes.”)

## guru (person)

adventure guru  
the magnum opus of ~ Ray Jardine

computer guru  
the N.S.A.’s alienation from the ~s

mind guru  
he’s labelled as a ~ (boxing trainer Joby Clayton)

motivational guru  
he is not a traditional lacquer-haired ~

style guru  
Cosmo’s ~ Elaine Farley

software guru  
a popular ~ named Tim O’Reilly

relationship and self-esteem guru  
~ Phil McGraw

## gush (verb)

gushed about her (Sophia Loren) looks  
*People* magazine ~

gush about how  
we’re going to ~ much we appreciate you (podcast)

gushed about parenthood  
he ~

gushed about him  
she ~ (praise)

gushed over her *Twisters* co-star  
Daisy Edgar-Jones, 26, ~ (Glen Powell, 35)

gush over its strong female leads  
fans ~ (ACOTAR)

gushed over her longtime pal  
DeGeneres has openly ~ (Stephen ‘tWitch’ Boss)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “So welcome! Uhh, as you all probably know this is the virtual launch of Jas’ *We Deserve Monuments* which I’m going to gush about in a minute...” (Oblong Online: Jas Hammonds, *We Deserve Monuments*, with Mckisha Telfer.)

♦ “And I think this really is like a, a sort of blueprint for how it can be both sexy and spur of the moment but also every step of the way there are plans, in part because, like you said, Mandalit, she’s a planner, and that is her thing...” (“Emma Thompson finds herself, and pleasure, in ‘Good Luck To You, Leo Grande,’” NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, June 16, 2022.)

♦ “Without being too TMI, I can really relate to...” (Blah blah blah...)

♦ NPR’s A Martinez: (all business in an attempt to get his interviewee to answer questions and stop shamelessly editorializing). Am I fair to assume that that’s why your organization opposes it? / Carisa Lopez,

Deputy Director at the Texas Freedom Network (sounding emotional and relieved and thankful): Correct! Correct! Yes. Uh, that is correct.

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "NPR newscasters and reporters have gotten completely casual and unprofessional, so much so that I fully expect one to respond to another in quick staccato with the new affirmative phrase: "Yeah yeah, yeah yeah yeah!" (One of 2,371 comments to an article at *The Washington Post* titled, "NPR is losing some of its Black and Latino hosts. Colleagues see a larger crisis," by Paul Farhi and Elahe Izadi, Jan. 5, 2022.)

♦ "Kamala Harris mocked for gushing over a 'yellow school bus.'"

♦ "'I see my body and mind transform everyday,' Samsonova had gushed while describing her restricted eating regimen." ("Foodfluencer" Zhanna Samsonova, known on social media as Zhanna D'Art, dead age 39.)

♦ see also *really* (*gushing*)

## **gush (noun)**

trickle, flow, gush

we had a theory called, "~" (rescuing hostages)

## **gut (destroy)**

gutted a (historic) building  
the huge fire that ~

gutted the kitchen  
a fire has ~ of a wooden clubhouse at a holiday park

gut the presidency  
the generals tried to ~ (Egypt)

gut the program  
the Republicans are trying to ~

gut that protection  
the proposed rule would ~

gutted the (California) regulation  
the Supreme Court ~ (declared it unconstitutional)

## **gut (punch in the gut)**

see *punch* (*punch in the gut, etc.*)

## **gut (feeling)**

gut feel  
he has a ~ for what the voter thinks (politics)

gut feeling  
I went with my ~  
he was seized by a ~ of lurking danger  
range estimation by "~" is subject to error  
you may have some ~s that could be terribly wrong

gut instinct  
I would never again go against my ~s (climber)  
her ~ told her that he was lying  
trust your ~s  
I followed a ~ and chose to run the rapid (kayaker)

gut feelings and emotions  
neural systems tap into ~

gut feelings and intuitions  
people are often influenced by ~

"cop's gut"  
when a ~ tells him to stop someone

gut told me  
my ~ that she was lying

does everything from his gut  
Biden ~ (not disciplined / doesn't follow script)

knew in her gut  
she ~ that her son was dead too

## **Gutenberg (Gutenberg of the blind, etc.)**

Gutenberg of the blind  
Braille was the ~ (Louis Braille)

## **gut out (verb)**

gutted it out  
he ~ (Tyson Fury beats Wallin in ring)

## **guts (insides)**

guts  
someone had tended to its ~, if not its skin (an old rifle)  
the ~ no one wants to see, think about (Web hosts)

## **guts (courage)**

guts  
such bravery, such ~ (the Scottish boxer Luke Campbell)

guts, passion and heart  
he plays with ~, he's all in (NFL player)

guts or spunk or grit or balls  
~ or a combination of all those words together (*sisu*)

bottle and guts  
fair play to Chisora who is showing plenty of ~ (boxer)

have the guts  
do you ~ to rescind the law (politics)

showed (lots of) guts  
he ~ and plenty of skill too (a boxer)

took (a lot of) guts  
it ~ to do what he did

♦ "He's got the 'stones' to make risky decisions." (A football coach.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "The Finns would win or lose on the basis of their conventional, professional, military skills, the fiber of their discipline, the worthiness of their commanders—and above all else, on the depth and stubbornness of their *sisu*. That bristling little word was once the most famous Finnish idiom ever to become part of the outside world's vocabulary. It can be translated as 'guts' or 'spunk' or 'grit' or 'balls,' or as a combination of all those words together. The word in Finnish has nuances that resist easy translation... / "No battle of the Winter War captured the public's imagination like the Battle of Suomussalmi. The campaign continues to be taught at military academies as a 'classic,' an example of what motivated, well-led troops can do, with innovative tactics, against even a much larger adversary." (*Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ No guts, no glory!

## gutted (destroyed)

gutted by fire  
body discovered in house ~

gutted by the fire  
the landmark building was ~ within a matter of hours

gutted (by legislators) and abandoned  
the proposal was ~

## gutted (feeling)

gutted  
I'm ~, it's a tough one to swallow (Conor McGregor loss)

gutted for you  
I am so ~ and your family (terminal diagnosis)

gutted for the players  
I'm ~ (coach on tough soccer loss)

gutted with the way  
we're ~ things have gone (tough soccer loss)

gutted when  
she said she was ~ she heard the news

gutted and heartbroken  
I'm ~ (missed penalty)

absolutely gutted  
I'm ~, I'm devastated (NFL player drops ball)

drained, run down, (mentally) low, gutted  
I felt ~ (promoter after an upset boxing loss)

## gutter (in the gutter / decline)

in the gutter  
morale is ~

in the gutter with everyone else  
BBC is ~ (clickbait)

employment gutter  
they are left in an "~~" due to linguistic impoverishment

♦ "Ridiculous clickbait. BBC is in the gutter with everyone else." (An online commenter, about yet another needless article about Manchester United.)

## gutter (in the gutter / behavior)

in the (moral) gutter  
when we justify things we never would have before,  
we're ~

get (down) in the gutter  
I refuse to ~ with him

## gutter (out of the gutter)

get your mind out of the gutter  
you need to ~ (preoccupation with sex)

## gutter (end up in the gutter)

end up in the gutter  
if you don't do well in school, you'll ~

## gutter (gutter politics, etc.)

gutter politics  
this is ~ of the lowest sort  
this is the dirtiest ~ that I've ever seen (a politician)

gutter press  
the day-to-day imbecilities of the ~

♦ Can boxing go any lower than the gutter... Have we really sunk this low?... Boxing being dragged down to a new low... And just when we all thought boxing couldn't stoop any lower than it already has... (Fight fans on a BBC HYS reacting to the announcement of a boxing match between "Iron" Mike Tyson and the YouTuber Jake Paul. Other comments included: I didn't realise it was April 1st? / Let's be honest. If it makes him money, Jake Paul would box Helen Keller / [I hope that Tyson] knocks him into that Japanese forest he enjoyed so much / He could nibble his ear too / If [Paul] wins this maybe they can dig up Jack Dempsey and he can fight him next... (Funny!)

♦ "Mixed up with the buzz of conferences and the crash of guns are the day-to-day imbecilities of the gutter press. Astrology, trunk murders, the Oxford Groupers with their 'sharing' and their praying-batteries, the Rector of Stiffkey (a great favorite with Mr. Muggeridge: he makes several appearances) photographed with naked female acquaintances, starving in a barrel and finally devoured by lions, James Douglas and his dog Bunch, Godfrey Winn with his yet more emetic dog and his political reflections ('God and Mr Chamberlain—for I see no blasphemy in coupling these names'), spiritualism, the Modern Girl, nudism, dog racing, Shirley Temple, BO, halitosis, night starvation, should a doctor tell?" ("The Limit to Pessimism" by George Orwell, 1940. To know more about the Rector of Stiffkey, see the Wikipedia article "Harold Davidson.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## gut-wrenching (adjective)

gut wrenching  
one scene after another is ~ (a film)

gut-wrenching memoirs  
incredible personal testimony, ~ (the Blitz)

gut-wrenching testimony  
he heard ~ of bullying and heartbreaking stories

gut-wrenching visit  
Kerry made a ~ to Hiroshima

## guy (nonhuman)

guy  
we're seeing these ~s all over the place (carpet vipers)  
call this ~ Typhoon Seven (*Hunt for Red October*)

bad guys  
for years they've been the ~ in movies like *Jaws* (sharks)

big guy  
he's a ~, for sure... (a large Colorado bear)

fun guys  
~ known as chanterelles (a coveted wild mushroom)

little guys  
all these ~ grow here so well (cherries in Michigan)

♦ "Her 'little guy' is the majestic chow mix, Blaze." (A dog.)

♦ "The guys at the invasion front up in the tropics are moving often kilometres in a single night..." (Professor Rick Shine of the University of Sydney about the "warty amphibian," cane toads.)

♦ “Unfortunately for these young guys, they’re too sick and too young for us to release them (back into the wild).” (Doctor Alex Herman, Vice President of Veterinary Services at the Oakland Zoo, about two of her institution’s orphaned female mountain lion cubs.)

♦ “Sure, we see lots of these guys on the edge of the sun, and we see them do their [unintelligible] circular dance, but this guy [unintelligible] lifted off and went around.” (A Scottish scientist.)

## guy (the guy)

### the guy

he was ~ then (Len Bias / University of Maryland)

I’m ~ who beat the guy (political chest-thumping)

♦ “And so I think he likes to kinda thump his chest about that a bit... When people are looking at turning the page and moving on, the new candidate, the new future, somebody younger, brighter, shinier, it allows him to say, ‘Yeah, I’m the guy that beat the guy,’ which is a pretty big claim.” (David Urban, former Trump campaign consultant, speaking about Joe Biden on NPR. Biden would end up giving way as the Democratic presidential nominee to Kamala Harris, who would end up losing the election to Donald Trump.)

## guy (good guy, etc.)

### guys like us

~, nobody gives a hoot in hell about them

### guy’s guy

his dad was a ~ (snakeskin boots, Harley, muscle truck)

### his guy

Trump is still ~ (teen who will vote in his first election)

### my guy

I loved Allen Iverson, he was ~ (the NBA player)

that’s ~, I’m here for him (NFL)

### you guys

~ score these touchdowns... (NFL players)

### bison guy

he’s known as the ‘~’ (Chris Germia, Bison Biologist)

### car guys

what happened to the ~ on NPR (NPR’s Car Talk)

### crossword guy

my stat teacher was like a big ~

### dream guy

new dating services guarantee a ~

### fall guy

see *fall guy* (noun)

### gay guy

Tim Walz refers to Elon Musk as “that ~” (2024 election)

### Laundry Guy

Patric Richardson, host of “The ~” on HGTV...

### menswear guy

he’s known as “the ~” on Twitter (Derek Guy)

### mortgage guy

that ~ (800,000 followers on TikTok)

### race guy

fears a reputation as a “~” will hurt his success (Black man)

### bad guy

~s are bad guys, the Army is the Army, orders are orders  
it doesn’t mean the ~s have changed their tune (Baghdad)  
you never know who’s a good guy or a ~  
our job is about killing ~s (US in Afghanistan)  
he is a ~, too conciliatory to hetero sensibilities (author)  
he’s a people pleaser, so I have to be the ~ (management)

### big guy

prosecutors turned their gaze to the ~ (Bernardo Arevalo)

### Big Guy

*The ~: How a President and His Son Sold Out America*

### big (tough) guy

he talks like a ~, then does nothing (a politician)

### good guy

the ~s are gonna win  
you never know who’s a ~ or a bad guy  
he was just a ~ with a gun...until he wasn’t  
he remembered Thompson as “one of the ~s” (murdered)

### great guy

I was on a blind date with this ~

### hard guy

he’s a tough guy, he’s a ~ (boxer Chris van Heerden)

### little guy

he isn’t afraid to stand up for the ~

### most guys

for ~, there’s a natural spot...

### New Guy

the Hanoi Hilton included Heartbreak Hotel and ~ Village

### new guy

~s make dumb-ass mistakes (combat)

### Nice Guy

Parker is the ‘Mr ~’ of boxing (lacks nasty streak)

### nice guy

On *FBoy Island*, a man is either a ~ or an F-boy (TV)

### old guy

I’m the ~ in the room (Bryant Gumbel about new media)

### old white guy

I guess I’m an ~, but... (Aaron Rodgers v. Malachi Corley)

### regular guy

he was a ~ who liked to watch sports, chase girls, party...

### right guy

Urban Meyer might not be the ~ for the team (a coach)  
but the ~ gets the win in this fight (Usyk vs. Joshua II)

### Straight Guy

Bravo’s *Queer Eye For The ~*

### strong guy

Victor Orban, a very tough ~ (politics)

that guy  
I guess I'll be ~ (Jon Guay publicly criticizes State Police)

these guys  
there were a lot of ~ on TV... (white men)  
now, ~ (middle-aged white men)

tough guy  
he's a ~, he's a hard guy (boxer Chris van Heerden)  
it would take a pretty ~ not to feel his heart go out...  
NHL ~s have actively looked to get a piece of Remppe

tough-guy  
he hides behind a ~ posture  
he was a ~ hockey enforcer (NHL's Derek Boogaard / CTE)

Tuff Guy  
Talks like Big ~, then does zero ~! (a politician)

white guy  
letting ~s or non-Indians in ruins the ceremony  
presidential politics with just two ~s

tough, strong guy  
the head of Hungary, a very ~, Victor Orban (politics)

all-about-me guy  
he remained a conspicuously ~ (an NFL player)

License Plate Guy  
Giants superfan Joe "~~" Ruback (NFL)

type-A-my-way-or-the-highway guy  
he was a ~

angry "get off my lawn" guy  
he comes across as ~ (a blowhard)

back-the-blue guy  
I've always been a ~ (support the police)

breed of guys  
old, tough guys, they were just a different ~ (Italians)

kind of guy  
he's known as a hard-charging, take-no-prisoners ~  
Max is a no-quarter ~ and Lewis... (F1 racing)  
he's a go-out-on-his-shield ~ (the boxer Deontay Wilder)

type of guy  
I'm not the ~ who...  
he's the ~ who would...  
I would consider myself more of the average Joe ~  
he's not a go-along-to-get-along ~, he's made enemies

♦ TikTok influencers now include mortgage influencers with hashtags such as "That mortgage guy" and "Buy not rent" guy.

♦ "I don't think we'll ever be able to do presidential politics with just two white guys ever again." (Breezily pejorative political punditry by Ali Vitali—female—on NPR.)

♦ The tree guy; ocean guy... (*The New Yorker's* Hua Hsu's breezy characterization of the writer Richard Powers. Hua Hsu is the author of "The End of White America?" and he also wrote a memoir *Stay True*.)

♦ NPR's Eric Deggans: Once upon a time there were a lot of these guys on TV... Now these guys—and they were almost always middle-

aged white guys... / NPR host Ailsa Chang: Of course... / Eric Deggans: Of course... (Ailsa Chang and Eric Deggans share a "people-of-color" moment. From "Pat Sajak's last day: A look at what made the 'Wheel of Fortune' host so special," NPR, All Things Considered, June 7, 2024. The title is disingenuous. The thrust of the episode is that there was nothing special at all about these "middle-aged white guys.")

♦ "I was getting made fun of because I was telling Tae [Davante Adams] and Garrett [Wilson], 'You guys score these touchdowns and hold the ball up before you get to the end zone,' I guess I'm an old white guy, but can we just run through the middle of the letters, please?" (A comment by Aaron Rodgers about a stupid mistake by Malachi Corley that cost the New York Jet's a touchdown in a close game.)

♦ "I guess I'll be that guy. 24 years gives me that clout." (Jon Guay, a veteran local lawman, who publicly slammed the upper echelons of the Maine State Police on Facebook over the manhunt for mass murderer Robert Card.)

♦ "I've always been a back-the-blue guy. But the evidence in this case is overwhelming and it doesn't point to Karen." (Aidan Kearney, aka Turtleboy, about the #FreeKarenRead case.)

♦ "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun."

♦ The bad guys; bad actors; bad elements; bad hombres... (Descriptions used by the US president, military, State Department, and members of Congress.)

♦ "We have some bad hombres here and we're gonna get them out."

♦ "He's a very dangerous hombre with big, big power." (The boxer Tyson Fury about Deontay Wilder.)

♦ "The mass deportations will focus on the *mucho malo* hombres." (Pastor Samuel Rodriguez in Sacramento, California.)

♦ He's just an average Joe. / "Joe plumber"...

♦ "The working-class Joe identity is important for Biden politically."

♦ *FBoy Island* is a dating reality TV series hosted by the comedian Nikki Glaser. A man is either a nice guy or a F-boy. A spinoff called *FGIRL Island* is in the works.

♦ "I know America loves its bad guys. But I'm a great guy. I just won a Super Bowl. I'm an American hero." (The NFL player Antonio Brown, on being cut from his team.)

♦ "A good-guy-versus-bad-guy confrontation always sells tickets." (Boxing.)

♦ "He's a nice fella... A guy don't need no sense to be a nice fella." (*Of Mice and Men*.)

♦ "Guys like us, they don't got nobody in the world who gives a hoot in hell about them." (George speaking to Lennie. From the brilliant 1992 film *Of Mice and Men*, with Gary Sinise and John Malkovich, screenplay by Horton Foote, based on the novella by John Steinbeck.)

♦ "Sure, I know the type, he don't rile easily, but when he blows, look out." (YouTube, "Gomer Pyle Learns a Bully")

♦ "Hey, what a great guy." "Yeah, good, good, good bloke..." (Two commentators at The Day of Reckoning fight event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, having just interviewed the New Zealand boxer Junior Fa. No doubt viewers around the world had a similar reaction to the boxer's smile, personality, and speech. He ended up losing his bout, but he put up a good fight.)

♦ "That's my guy though... I don't know what I can do to make him feel better at this point, especially obviously with us being in season now..." (An NFL player about an injured NFL player.)

♦ Cinnamon rolls; golden retrievers... (Romance novels publisher-speak for men. Cinnamon rolls are men who are sweet, supportive and kind. Golden retrievers are men sporting floppy energy and positive energy.)

♦ "He's not a sad sack, this guy, you know, I mean he's a bit of a disaster of a human being in some ways, but he's not a sad sack and he's this kind of very aggressive guy." (The actor Paul Giamatti about his character Chuck Rhoades in *Billions*.)

♦ "I'm going to tell you, and I know you are recording me, but I get asked all the time: 'Who are some of the tough guys, some of the bad guys?' And when I tell them that Chris Paul, in my 32 years in the



league, was one of the biggest a-holes I ever dealt with..." (Bill Spooner, a retired NBA referee, who should know...)

♦ "Government ministers, newspaper columnists, ordinary people—they're all asking why the BBC doesn't say the Hamas gunmen who carried out appalling atrocities in southern Israel are terrorists. / The answer goes right back to the BBC's founding principles. / Terrorism is a loaded word, which people use about an outfit they disapprove of morally. It's simply not the BBC's to tell people who to support and who to condemn—who are the good guys and who are the bad guys... / And it's always been like this in the BBC. During World War Two, BBC broadcasters were expressly told not to call the Nazis evil or wicked, even though we did call them 'the enemy'. / 'Above all,' said a BBC document about all this, 'there must be no room for ranting'. Our tone had to be calm and collected. / It was hard to keep that principle going when the IRA was bombing Britain... / But we held the line. And we still do, to this day." ("Why BBC doesn't call Hamas militants 'terrorists'—John Simpson" by John Simpson, BBC, Israel Gaza War, October 11, 2023.)

♦ "We don't wanna stop at just simply saying this is the bad guy this is the good guy you know and then just stop right there." (Dartmouth professor Tarek El-Ariss, about the forums he and Professor Susannah Heschel held for Dartmouth students in the wake of the Saturday, October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas on Israel. The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "Nobody is acting out of anger. He's the bad guy, we're the good guy. It's just the way it is." (Special Forces operative in Afghanistan, after the completion of a successful mission that ended with all the enemy dead.)

♦ "Neck tattoo guy catches him outside and beats him savagely leaving Jules naked, bloody, traumatized..." (Bob Mondello's review of the 2024 film *Femme* on NPR, All Things Considered.)

♦ "The clothing Allen admitted wearing to police matches the outfit worn by a man—known as 'Bridge Guy'—who was captured on video by Libby walking towards the two girls, instructing them to go 'down the hill' moments before their deaths." (Murders of Abigail Williams and Liberty German.)

♦ "Two hefty ultra-Orthodox men in their black Borsalino hats squeezed into the back seat... After taking my seat, I noticed who the universe had cruelly wedged between the Borsalino men: a professor from my first year of college that I hadn't been particularly fond of." (Ali Malek describes her group taxi ride from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. From *The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria* by Alia Malek.)

♦ "It's weird that all these professors look alike. There is a 'type'—still dressing like a turn of the last century intellectual, Granny Clampett wire frames and all." (An online commenter about "Stanford professor who vanished in hike ahead of domestic violence court date is found" by Emily Crane, *The New York Post*, June 12, 2023.)

♦ "I like the water guy." (Tina, walking her dogs Tater and Fenway, stopping to chat with another resident of the Evergreen Ridge Apartments in Asheville, North Carolina. She was referring to the official giving information and updates about the turbidity and potability of water in the North Fork Reservoir during the daily 11:00 a.m. briefing on the radio. See the Wikipedia article "Effects of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.")

♦ "For instance, in Spanish, there is an expression *mas gambas*, which roughly translates as 'more big prawns.' This is a derogatory expression, used to describe the sort of people who are uninterested in issues such as politics and environment, and who are only worried about their day-to-day needs. Instead of worrying about important issues, they will simply sit in a bar and order 'more prawns'. Understanding this expression involves the activation of a great deal of cultural knowledge..." (*Applying Cognitive Linguistics to Second Language Learning and Teaching* by Jeannette Littlemore, 2nd ed. 2023. Chapter 6, 6.5, "What Challenges Might Metonymy Present to Second Language Learners." The expression might be translated into English as "He's a 'more prawns' type / kind / breed of guy," with an explanation.)

♦ "This film is meant to inspire, it is not meant to once again make the women the 'bad guy.'" (Brandon Sklenar about the 2024 film *It Ends With Us*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ People protest "stereotyping." Yet, men and women have always been and always will be "typified" in the language. It would be impossible to comprehend and deal with reality without categories.

♦ If you wish to show your students a humorous online clip that typifies different kinds of "guys," show them: YouTube, "Gomer Pyle Learns a Bully." Gomer defies expectations and drives his company commander crazy.

♦ see also *boy (type)*, *girl (type)*, *joe (average joe, etc.)*, *lady (crazy lady, etc.)*, *man (big man, little man, etc.)*, *mister (and Mr., Missus, Mrs.)*

## gymnastic (adjective)

gymnastic voice

her rich, ~ is center stage (Sabina Sciubba)

## gymnastics (effort)

"gymnastics" of the tongue and throat  
the vocal ~ (speech)

genetic gymnastics

these ~ are a big part of why... (the polio virus)

linguistic gymnastics

he performed ~ on the issue in testimony (Bill Clinton)

logistical gymnastics

getting surgery patients to the ship required some ~

mathematical gymnastics

her plan is ~ (politics / paying for healthcare)

mental gymnastics

Democrats do this ~ nearly every election cycle

you don't have to do any ~ to imagine that if...

what ~ we have to do for this craziness (pronouns)

he uses depraved ~ to justify murder

it takes ~ to follow that logic...

verbal gymnastics

local media use ~ to avoid placing responsibility (police)

vocal gymnastics

I would try to imitate her ~ (Celia Cruz)

her guitar playing and ~ are an unstoppable force

♦ "Oh my gosh, that girl is doing all those circus tricks..." (A female consumer of porn.)

# H

## habit (enthusiasm)

kayaking habit

he works mainly to support his ~

support his (kayaking) habit

he works mainly to ~

♦ "Chen had found a new hangout. In late May, he spent 32 hours straight in the illegal Internet café, working his way through six packs of Double Happiness cigarettes and relieving himself in a bucket by the stairs." (A Chinese Internet café.)

♦ He was so addicted to his sport that he rarely spent a weekend at home. (A climber.)

## habituated

habituated to seeing  
audiences are now ~ league-produced documentaries

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ One goal of the Internet companies has been to habituate everyone, especially children, to address machines as though they were people. They have given their virtual assistants names like Siri, Alexa and Cortana and encouraged us to ask them questions, as if that were normal. They have succeeded completely.

## hack (hack something / endurance)

hack the pace  
Isaac wasn't sure he could ~ (child actor)

## hack (break into)

hack the NSA  
he managed to ~

## hack (fix)

hack  
tech can optimize, or “~”, any aspect of our lives

## hack (a fix)

hacks for coping  
~ with extreme heat (heat waves, warming climate)

hacks and tips  
interesting beauty ~ found on TikTok

life hacks  
your web site for ~  
the book repackages Stoicism as a series of ~

simple ‘hack’  
there’s no ~ for better sleep...

tiny hack  
one ~ for better hips

ultimate summer beach hacks  
Mom of 4 shares her ~

tips and hacks  
turkey ~ on TikTok (Butterball / Thanksgiving)  
~ to make life better (NPR)

♦ Lifehacker offers “tips and tricks for getting more done in less time.” (A website.)

♦ “Mom of 4 shares her ultimate summer beach hacks ahead of Memorial Day weekend.” (ABC “News.”)

♦ “This coffee hack saved my marriage—and it only takes 5 minutes.” (Clickbait.)

## hacking (fixing)

body hacking  
his ~ did him in (pills, powders, liquids)

## hackles (raise hackles)

raise some hackles  
this will ~

raised hackles in Switzerland  
the proposals have ~ (EU restrictions on firearms)

### \*\*\* analysis

🔍 **Piloerection is a sign of emotional arousal. In chimpanzees, it will cause the hair on their shoulders to stick straight up. At the same time, chimpanzees might hoot and throw pebbles.haggle (verb)**

haggle over forming  
political factions continue to ~ the new government

## haggling

diplomatic haggling  
the resolution went through much ~ (U.N.)

## hagiographic (superlative)

hagiographic movie  
Hollywood made a ~ about Young (Mormon leader)

less hagiographic  
David Greenberg’s book is ~ (*John Lewis: A Life*)

## hail (in a hail)

in a hail of (police) bullets  
they died ~

in the (initial) hail of fire  
~, 2 soldiers were wounded

## hail (noun)

hail of criticism  
the ruling drew a ~ from the legal community

hail of gunfire  
the Humvee desperately tried to escape the ~

hails of (machine-gun) fire  
the Allied troops who braved ~ on Normandy’s beaches

### \*\*\* Hail Alley...

♦ “Where Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming meet is ‘Hail Alley.’” (As opposed to “Tornado Alley.”)

♦ “Hailstones can bounce higher than your head.”

♦ “Hailstones killed several of her geese.” (Summer in Saskatchewan.)

♦ “In Wyoming, hailstones kill antelope fairly often.”

♦ “A hailstorm killed 16 horses in Rapid City, South Dakota, in July, 1891.”

♦ “In 1930, a hailstorm in Greece killed 22 people.”

♦ “Wholesale devastation of many cereal and fruit crops; apples split in two with ‘one half left hanging on the tree’; long pieces of bark stripped off fruit trees; trees ‘absolutely barked’; hedges ‘completely peeled’; trees left leafless and stripped of bark; fields of cereal crops completely threshed; 50,000 panes of glass broken in Chipping Norton; leaden window framework battered in; slate roofs and chimney pots destroyed; the piles of hail contacting warmer ground created a mist or steam; continuous thunder and vivid lightning; roads knee-deep in hailstones; flooding ...” (The Great Hailstorm of 9 August, 1843, in Great Britain. Information from “Severe Hailstorms in the United Kingdom and Ireland: A Climatological Survey with Recent and Historical Case Studies” by Jonathan D.C. Webb and Derek M. Elsom.)

♦ "The damage was reported in the London papers over the next few days: 'Terrific Storm of Thunder and Hail', 'Destructive Thunder Storm' and 'The Great Storm of Saturday Last'. These articles gave panoramic descriptions of the havoc caused by the combined force of electricity, wind, water and hail. Every pane of south-facing glass had been smashed along a two-mile stretch of Wandsworth Road. At the new Houses of Parliament 7,000 panels of old crown glass had been destroyed, along with 2,736 windows at a factory in Millbank. At Buckingham Palace a cultural calamity of the first magnitude had been narrowly averted when the skylight over the Picture Gallery was broken, letting rain pour through the gaps. In an hour it had risen to a height of several feet in a room containing masterpieces by Cuyp, Parmigianino, Steen and van Dyck. / Countless reports of damage surfaced in the papers in the following week..." (The London hailstorm of 1846. From *The Weather Experiment: The Pioneers Who Sought To See The Future* by Peter Moore.)

♦ "Three people have been killed and many more injured in a series of hailstorms across China. / The deaths on Tuesday and Wednesday were in eastern Jiangxi province... / In south-western Guizhou province, 25 people were injured..." ("Hail kills three, injures dozens as storms sweep China," BBC, 11 April 2012.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Throughout the Soviet occupation the only [mine clearing] equipment the guerrillas ever had was the winter hail, dubbed 'Allah's mine sweeper' because the crashing pellets of ice sometimes triggered the mines." (*Soldiers of God, With the Mujahidin in Afghanistan*, by Robert D. Kaplan.)

♦ "On April 23, 2013, Mullah Omar passed away. That day, Jabbar Omari told me, the hot, dry lands of southern Afghanistan experienced something he'd never seen before: a hail storm. I assumed it was hagiographic bluster, but later I found a U.S. army publication referring to that day: "More than 80 Task Force Falcon helicopters were damaged when a sudden unprecedented hailstorm hit Kandahar Airfield April 23, where nearly half of the brigade's helicopters were parked. / The night of his death Jabbar Omairi and two assistants buried him in a nondescript grave, without a coffin." ("The Secret Life of Mullah Omar" by Bette Dam, the Zomia Center, 2019. The article in the U.S. army publication was titled "3rd CAB weathers hailstorm" by C. Ashe, The Falcon Flyer, July 2013.)

## hailed

hailed as a liberal hero  
Humphrey was ~ (politics)

## Hail Mary

Hail Mary from a defense  
his decision to testify is seen as a ~ that has struggled...

Hail Mary addition  
bitcoin was a ~ to Bhutan's economic masterplan  
(*Forbes*)

Hail Mary Attempt  
"Bush's ~ at Mideast Peace" (NPR)

Hail Mary pass  
legal cliffhangers include a ~ in 2009 (Death Row)

Hail Mary (legal) strategy  
the legal team went for a sort of ~

Hail Mary will be caught  
Democrats hope this ~ for the game-winning score

threw a hail mary  
he ~, he took the stand... (Sam Bankman-Fried)

♦ "Democrats hope this Hail Mary will be caught for the game-winning score." (Biden decides not to run for re-election, Kamala Harris becomes Democrat Party's nominee for president.)

♦ "JOE'S FAIL MARY." (A *New York Post* print headline about President Biden.)

### \*\*\* Megan to Abby...

♦ "In all of its sense, it was just a Hail Mary, I didn't see Abby... It was just insane." (Megan Rapinoe about her 2011 World Cup cross to Abby Wambach against Brazil.)

## hair (resemblance)

leaf hair  
~s can help identify different kinds of oaks

root hairs  
~ (oak tree)

## hair (hair on fire)

hair-on-fire leftist  
Walz doesn't fit the image of a ~ (politics)

have their hair on fire  
centrist Democrats ~ over Sanders (too radical)

## hairpin (shape)

hairpin turns  
fans lined the ~ (Tour de France)

## hair-raising

hair-raising glimpse  
he gives us a ~ of life in...

hair-raising trip  
it was a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone's hair rises up when appalled.)

## hair's breadth (come within a hair's breadth, etc.)

within a hair's-breadth  
she was ~ of losing her place in the tournament (sports)

came within a hair's breadth of dying  
she ~ at his hands (grievous bodily harm)

## hair trigger

hair-trigger situation  
he feared a ~ (miscalculation, pre-emptive strike, etc.)

hair-trigger temper  
he had a ~  
he developed a ~ (steroid abuser)  
he was an imperious boss with a ~

## half-baked (adjective)

half-baked idea  
this ~ will pose a threat to Democrats (politics)

## half-hearted

halfhearted  
I made a ~ effort to learn French

## hall (halls of academe, etc.)

halls of academe

plagiarism can result in banishment from the ~  
**hallmark**

hallmarks of al-Qaida  
officials said the attacks bore the ~

hallmark of the administration  
arrogance has been the ~ (Bush)

hallmarks of a bygone era  
quaint ~

hallmark of great leaders  
Amundsen had the personal magnetism that is the ~

hallmarks of a contract killing  
his murder had none of the ~

hallmarks of eating disorders  
one of the ~ is denial (lying about eating habits)

bore the hallmarks  
officials said the attacks ~ of al-Qaida

bore (all) the (al Qaeda) hallmarks  
the operation ~ of careful planning

carried all the hallmarks  
it ~ of the other rapes, the same warning... (a new rape)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Hallmarks were marks on precious metals like silver and gold used to indicate purity.

## hall of fame (HOF)

hall of fame reel  
that ~ of Oscar screwups... (getting, not getting one)

shame Hall of Fame  
see *hall of shame (HOS)*

♦ The International Boxing HOF; Football HOF; Basketball HOF; Baseball HOF; Rock & Roll HOF; Country Music HOF; The Blues HOF; The Funk Music HOF (Dayton, Ohio, "the funkier place on Earth"); Pro Rodeo HOF; National Cowboy HOF; US Ski and Snowboard HOF; American Royal Barbecue HOF; the Laksa Festival HOF (Darwin, Australia); Radio HOF; Toy HOF; The World Video Game HOF; Mascot HOF (opened in Whiting, Indiana in 2018); Songwriters HOF; The National Inventors HOF; the U.S. Chess HOF; the Society of Illustrators HOF; National Soccer HOF; Opera HOF; World Video Game HOF (Rochester, New York); National Teachers HOF (Emporia, Kansas—Who knew?)... (Various HOFs, in order of significance.)

♦ "JACKSON, Miss.—A legendary rodeo clown who spent decades performing has died after the final performance of the 55th Annual Dixie National Rodeo and Livestock Show in Mississippi. / Lecile Harris, 83, died in his sleep after the show Wednesday night in Jackson, news outlets reported citing a release from the Mississippi Fair Commission. / Born in Lake Cormorant, Mississippi, Harris...was inducted into the Mississippi Rodeo Hall of Fame, the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame and won the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association award for Clown of the Year five times... / Harris started out as a bullrider but switched to comedy after being injured at age 52, WANT-TV reported. He was also a drummer in the Memphis area during the 1950s and 60s, and played football at the University of Tennessee-Martin." ("Legendary rodeo clown Lecile Harris dead at 83," the Associated Press, Feb 14, 2020.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Y'all really going to have a red carpet for a discipline that's been around for three years?" (Chris Tolley, amused by the idea of a hall of fame for gravel racing. He has described the sport as "a marketing

circle jerk." From "End Of The Road: In America's bike-racing community, a murder exposes a lot of dirt" by Ian Parker, *The New Yorker*, November 14, 2022.)

♦ "Fuck you! We want some Black people on that motherfuckin' wall of fame nowwww!" Watch: Do the Right Thing (9/10) Movie CLIP- Fight the Power (1989) HD

## hall of shame (HOS)

hall of shame  
their statistics belong in a ~ (Scotland at Euro 24)

shame Hall of Fame  
if you do want to get into the ~... (politics)

bribery hall of shame  
the \$2M NYCHA ~ (New York City Housing Authority)

women's sports hall of shame  
the latest entry for the ~ (trans woman injures female)

wall of shame  
the ~ (Brooklyn shop displays thieves' photos)

♦ The "War / Conflict Reporting" HOS; "Science Clickbait / trivialization" HOS; "Poop" Clickbait HOS; "Bizarre Combination" clickbait HOS; Contempo-speak "Michele Flaherty Award" HOS; Word Salad HOS; Corporate Appropriation of Cultural Capital HOS; Lip service HOS; Educational Bureaucratic HOS; the Politics HOS; Sportswriting HOS; Sportsmen HOS; Sportswomen HOS; Sportswriting HOS; Trigger Warning HOS; Exaggerated Headline HOS; Mixed Metaphor HOS...

♦ The inaugural class of the "War / Conflict Reporting" Hall of shame included: (1) "Israel hits targets in Lebanon," *The Washington Post*, July 29, 2024 (2) "Hamas leader's death sparks massive protests in Israel," CNN video, with CNN Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Matthew Chance. "Hundreds, thousands of people have come out" is transcribed as "hundreds of thousands of people have come out." The gathering of people in Hostage Square after the killing of Sinwar was not even a protest. (3) Young Ukrainians are spreading joy by organizing cleanup parties" by Kat Lonsdorf, NPR, All Things Considered, October 14, 2022 (4) "This baker wants to bring joy to Gazans," NPR, March 21, 2024. (5) "How some people are trying to make art, not war, in Ukraine right now" by Lauren Frayer, NPR, March 17, 2022 (6) "The school hostage massacre that exposed Putin's weakness" by Sarah Rainsford, BBC, Sept. 3, 2024 (7) Leila Fadel, NPR, Morning Edition, "Morning News Brief," September 18, 2024, about the 2024 Israeli boobytrapping of Hezbollah communication devices in Lebanon: "The scenes across Lebanon were like something out of a James Bond Movie" and (8) Jackie Northam, for her breezy reporting for NPR: "Missiles and the like"; It's more like Israel's calling Iran's bluff, you know?"; "Israel has been on a remarkable roll militarily..."

♦ The inaugural class of the "Science Clickbait / Trivialization" Hall of Shame included: (1) "Space telescope records baby star's first screams" by Jonathan Amos, science correspondent, BBC, November 3, 2023 (2) "Scientists Discover Prehistoric Giant 'Squawkzilla' Parrot, As Big As Small Child" by Vanessa Romo, NPR, Science, August 7, 2019 (3) "Meet the 'chicken from hell' 2.0: a newly discovered dinosaur" by Michael Levitt, Justine Kenin, and Mary Louise Kelly, NPR, Science, All Things Considered, February 1, 2024 (4) "What does a moon sound like," NPR, Morning Edition Dec. 24, 2021. In that story, Scott Bolton, the principal investigator for the Juno Mission, says, "I just love the idea that you can listen to a body and it's screaming at you. In this case Ganymede's screaming, 'I have my own magnetic field!' That's a very special tale..." (5) "Stupendously large: How big can black holes get?" by Jonathan O'Callaghan, BBC, 7 October 2024. "Enormous; ferocious; gargantuan; giant; huge; immense; large; massive; monstrous; terrifying // overmassive; supermassive; ultramassive // astonishingly big; stupendously large // beasts; behemoths; monsters; titans // (ferociously) devour material; eaten lots of material; falling into a slumber; hiding at the centres of some galaxies; lurking out there; (found) skulking in the middle of a quasar..." "A black hole skulking in the middle of a quasar" earned special mention (6) "Opinion: Uranus was having a bad hair day. Hey, it was the '80s!" by Scott Simon, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, November 16, 2024 (7) "You don't look a day over 4.35 billion! Here's

the moon's anti-aging secret" by Nell Greenfieldboyce, NPR, All Things Considered, December 18, 2024 (8) "A roundup of what happened in space in 2024" by Nell Greenfieldboyce, Asma Khalid, NPR, Morning Edition, December 25, 2024. "You know those astronauts?; so they had to just chill?; and so, they're there; that's a bummer for them; so SpaceX has this capsule; so that was a big deal; so basically there was this orbiting capsule?; kinda stuck their heads outside; so that's Jarrod Isaksen, he's this wealthy entrepreneur; so that means actually; so this year we got; Europa, that's this moon of Jupiter; it's a cool mission, but; so that's a NASA telescope; it's going to create like a 3-D map; the Big Bang, that's when the newborn universe just like suddenly and dramatically expanded; that sounds really interesting; so you're going to have to come back on this show when that happens... (with a bizarre, singsong delivery) and (9) "An astronaut tells NPR what life is like on the ISS," NPR, All Things Considered, Jan 17, 2023. According to Regina Barber, "Recently I got to do something I'd only dreamt of. Talked to an astronaut who's hanging out on the International space station, that global party house and space lab orbiting the earth 16 times a day... Astronaut food! Which in my book is definitely as important as all the science." Whoo-whoo! LFG!

♦ The inaugural class of the "Poop" Clickbait HOS included (1) "Have you been pooping wrong your whole life? Doctor reveals 'hack'" (2) "This cute mammal's poop has superpowers," Manoush Zomorodi, NPR...

♦ The first entry of the "Bizarre Combination" Clickbait HOS is (1) "The OG Yield Curve Whisperer," Stacey Vanek Smith and Cardiff Garcia, NPR, Planet Money, August 9, 2018...

♦ The first inductee into the Exaggerated Headline Hall of Fame was "Canada's 6,000-year-old 'Silk Road'" (BBC) which turns out to be the Nuxalk-Carrier Grease Trail in British Columbia.

♦ "Barney the Bear is a secure test item!"; "The brain loves peppermint!"... (Two inaugural entrants in the Educational Bureaucrat HOS, North Carolina division.)

♦ The inaugural Contempo-speak "Michele Flaherty Award" was Esther Zukerman of Vox: "Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously..." The second entrant was Lauren Kaori Gurley, Labor Reporter, *The Washington Post*: "Yah, so, so actually, yah, this morning..." The third was Rachel Tashjian, Fashion Critic, *The Washington Post*: "Well, I think what is really interesting that we are seeing here is that um for the first time we have politicians who are really eager to talk about at least what..." The fourth was economist Matthew Slaughter: "Well, thus far they said actually that they're going to do exactly not that, that they're..." The fifth was Terry Greene Sterling: "They denigrate um they you know denigrate immigrants (upspeak on immigrants) um ugh in a way that um is is actually pretty frightening (upspeak on frightening) because it's not true (upspeak on true)." The sixth entrant was the journalist Ana Garcia: "I think the trial perhaps would have had maybe a different outcome," about the Menendez brothers. The seventh entrant is Selena Gomez for "Yeah, no, my mom was umm you know she was so just [unintelligible / a gasp?] I just remember feeling like..." (This is the award that is also known as the "Then you *must* know Michele" award.)

♦ "The agony, the ignominy and the long road home. The team that said they were in Germany to make history retreated on Monday with a notoriety of an altogether different kind. / Scotland's performance was, indeed, the stuff of legends, in one sense. Their statistics belong in a hall of shame, or one of those odditoriums with magic mirrors and optical illusions. / Generations would stare in wonder at the numbers Scotland delivered here and question how on earth..." ("What now for Clarke as Scotland's ongoing deterioration continues?" by Tom English, BBC Scotland's chief sports writer in Stuttgart, June 24, 2024. Tom English is the inaugural winner of the Sportswriting Hall of Shame. It is possible his overwrought rhetoric reflects the feelings of some Scots and has real-world consequences. Search this work for "Sean Connery.")

♦ The Sportswomen Hall of Shame: (1) The 2024 U.S. Olympics' women's gymnastics team, for their unofficial motto, "F.A.A.F.O." ("LFG! High-pitched whooping. Whoo-whoo!) (2) The English footballer Jill Scott. During the Euro 2022 final versus Germany at Wembley, she told Sydney Lohmann to FOYFP.

♦ Anthony Guglielmi, a spokesman for the Secret Service, is the first entrant in the inaugural class of the Lip Service HOS for what he said after Donald Trump's near assassination: "The Secret Service has a vast, challenging, and intricate mission. Every day we work in a dynamic threat environment to ensure our protectees are safe and

secure across multiple events, travel, and other difficult environments. We execute a comprehensive and layered strategy to balance personnel, technology, and specialized operational needs." He said this just weeks before the *second* assassination attempt on Trump.

♦ The inaugural entrant in the Mixed Metaphor HOS was Megan Bigelow for "You know what, we need to dig in a little bit deeper, so this year we decided to go underneath the covers and peel back some of the layers."

♦ "If you do want to get into the shame Hall of Fame, you have to do a lot more than you had to do even ten years ago." (Former Democratic congressman Anthony Weiner about former Representative George Santos. From "When politicians have no shame, the old rules don't apply," NPR, Morning Edition, Feb. 15, 2023. Talk about the pot calling the kettle black! What a wiener! See below a funny joke about Illinois politicians.)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. The former Illinois governor, sentenced to prison for corruption, is eating his first meal in the prison mess. "This food is awful!" he exclaims. The con across from him nods and says, "Yeah, I know. When I was governor, the prison food was *much* better."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *professor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

## hallowed (adjective)

### hallowed ground

this memorial wall is ~ for the CIA (137 stars)  
Lambeau Field is ~ (fans of the Green Bay Packers)

### hallowed Boston Latin School

few seats come open in a given year at the ~

### hallowed spot

to me it was a ~ (island associated with James Cook)

### hallowed (maritime) tradition

hazing inexperienced sailors with a fool's errand is a ~

### hallowed (boxing) venue

Madison Square Garden is a ~

♦ "Just as a clear sun sank ahead of my ship I took a bearing of a little island..., an insignificant crumb of dark earth, lonely... But to me it was a hallowed spot, for I knew that the *Endeavour* had been hove to off it in the year 1762 for her captain, whose name was James Cook, to go ashore for half an hour." ("Geography and Some Explorers" by Joseph Conrad.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The word *hallow* still survives with us as a verb that means 'to make holy' as in the Lord's Prayer when we say, '*Hallowed* be Thy name.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## hallucinate (computer)

### hallucinate

AI chatbots are known to "~" (make things up)

### "hallucinate" stories

AI can ~

♦ "Whenever I want to know the answer to anything, I just go and ask GPT-4. I don't totally trust it because it can hallucinate, but on almost



everything it's a not-very-good expert. And that's very useful."  
(Geoffrey Hinton, the "godfather" of AI, after winning the Nobel Prize for physics.)

## hallucination (computer)

prone to 'hallucinations'  
the AI tools are ~

call them hallucinations  
developers ~ (content generators make up things)

dubbed 'hallucinations'  
deceptively convincing responses, ~ (AI chatbots)

♦ "AI content generators are known to sometimes invent things, which developers call hallucinations."

♦ "AI chatbots have been known for providing deceptively convincing responses, dubbed 'hallucinations.'"

♦ "Before it was ready for prime time, Claude's outputs were extensively tested for bias, hallucination, and moral implications." ("Late bloomer." A full-page advertisement in *The New Yorker* magazine by Anthropic for Claude, its AI chatbot.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "What happens when the web becomes dominated by so much AI generated content that new models are trained not on human-made material, but on AI outputs? Will we be left with some kind of cursed digital ouroboros (a snake or dragon) eating its own tail? / It's what Jathan Sedowski has dubbed Habsburg AI..." ("Is artificial intelligence a threat to journalism or will the technology destroy itself?" by Samantha Floreani, Opinion, *The Guardian*, Sat 5 Aug 2023.)

♦ "Even a machine can lose its mind." (ChatGPT, etc.)

## halo (noun)

Obama halo  
8 years of working with Obama gave him the ~ (Biden)

health halo  
"natural" and "organic" create a "~" (ads / NAS cigarettes)

bestow a halo  
the US news media was eager to ~ (on Amanda Knox)

taken off his halo  
a little of the shine had now been ~ (a politician)

## halt (grind to a halt, etc.)

came to a screeching halt  
his wild success ~  
the sports world ~ (coronavirus epidemic)

grind to a halt  
England's workplaces were set to ~ (football fever)  
innovation could gradually ~ (low returns on capital)  
without the parts, factories would soon ~

grinds to a halt  
a surface transportation system that ~

ground to a halt  
traffic on the expressway ~  
France ~ (May 1968)  
his career ~ soon after (architect)  
then COVID hit, and moviemaking ~

screeched to a halt  
his career ~

shuddering to a halt  
wide swaths of the economy are ~ (virus pandemic)  
**hamburger (Hamburger Hill, etc.)**

Hamburger Hill  
Hill 937 got its nickname, ~ (Vietnam War, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Battle of Hamburger Hill." In that article, a sergeant is quoted as saying, "Have you ever been inside a hamburger machine? We just got cut to pieces by extremely accurate machinegun fire."

## ham-handed

vague and ham-handed  
the legislation is ~

## Hamlet (Hamlet on the Hudson, etc.)

Hamlet on the Hudson  
sometimes labeled ~, Mario Cuomo...

♦ Mario Cuomo, governor of New York, was labeled the Hamlet on the Hudson. He got much attention as he debated the pros and cons of running for president.

## hammer (Thor's Hammer, etc.)

Hammer  
~ is a populated place in Hall County, Georgia

Hammer Bay  
~ is a bay in St. Louis County, Minnesota

Hammer Branch  
~ is a stream in Swain County, North Carolina  
~ flows southeast into Deep Creek (GSMNP)

Hammer Creek  
~ is a stream in Steuben County, New York

Hammer Gulch  
~ is a valley in Garfield County, Washington

Hammer Hill  
~ is a summit in Bates County, Missouri

Hammer Hollow  
~ is a valley in Juniata County, Pennsylvania

Hammer Island  
~ is an island in Piscataquis County, Maine

Hammer Lake  
~ is a lake in Iron County, Michigan

Hammer Point  
~ is a cape in Aleutians West Census Area, Alaska

Samson Hammer  
~ is a pillar in Wayne County, Kentucky

Thor's Hammer (and Thors Hammer)  
~ is an unusual rock formation in Bryce Canyon, Utah  
~ is a pillar in Garfield county, Utah (Bryce Canyon)  
~ is Bryce Canyon's most famous hoodoo...

Thors Hammer  
~ is a summit in Lane County, Oregon



## Big Hammer

~ Creek is a stream in Idaho County, Idaho

## Black Hammer

~ is a populated place in Houston County, Minnesota

## Claw Hammer

~ Lake is a lake in Grant County, Nebraska

## Sledge Hammer

~ Gulch is a valley in Park County, Colorado

## Sledge Hammer

~ Point is a cape in Clallam County, Washington

## Yellow Hammer

~ Knob is a summit in Sangamon County, Illinois

## Yellow Hammer

~ Mill is a populated place in Cochise County, Arizona

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wikipedia does not have an article for Thor's Hammer in Bryce Canyon. But it is one of Bryce Canyon's most famous hoodoos, and it has the shape of some kind of hammer. The Wikipedia article "Mjolnir" is about Thor's actual hammer.

♦ The Yellowhammer is a beautiful passerine bird, a woodpecker. It is Alabama's State Bird. A place in the southeast might be named after this bird. Of course, a woodpecker "hammers." With its beak! And can make quite a racket!

## hammer (blizzards hammered the Karakoram, etc.)

### hammer the Deep South

three killed as severe weather, tornadoes ~

### hammered the Karakoram

severe blizzards ~ (Gasherbrum IV)

### hammers the Philippines

super typhoon Mangkhut ~

### hammers the West Coast

an atmospheric river ~

## hammer (criticize)

### hammered the White House team

she ~ (in her memoir / politics)

## hammer (hammer and anvil, etc.)

### combined arms hammer

the ~ that is about to strike him (Saddam)

## hammer (hammer of the law, etc.)

### hammer of the law

the ~ has to come down on misconduct (social media)

the ~ falls down harder on leftist demonstrators

### racism hammer

to a ~, everything is a racist nail

### emotional hammer

pandemic's ~ hits hard (depression, etc.)

### legal hammer

the group is bringing a ~ on the right (SPLC)

### hammer (of the law) falls (down) harder

this perception that the ~ on leftist demonstrators

### brings the hammer down

corporate America ~ (against conservatives)

### bringing a (legal) hammer down

the group is ~ on the right (Southern Poverty Law Center)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "To a racism hammer, everything is a racist nail."

## hammered out

### hammered out in negotiations

important deals are ~ (W.T.O.)

### hammered out between opponents and supporters

in a compromise ~

## hammer out (verb)

### hammered out a compromise

opponents and supporters ~ (state song)

### hammered out the trick

after some trial and error they ~ (kayakers)

## hamstring (verb)

### handcuffs or hamstrings

it ~ administration's ability to disciple students (policy)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Every horror that could make war hideous attended this retreat; distress, conflagration, death in all modes... And the spirit of cruelty smote even the brute creation, for the French general, to lessen incumbrances, ordered beasts of burden to be destroyed, and the inhuman fellow charged with the execution hamstrung 500 asses, and left them to starve. They were found so by the British; and the mute, sad, deep expression of grief and pain visible in the poor creatures' looks excited a strange fury in the soldiers—no quarter would have been given at that time..." (Napier on combat against the French in 1811 on the Iberian Peninsula. Quoted in *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

## hamstrung

### hamstrung

the administration is ~

## hand (at hand)

### at hand

success is ~

perhaps a cure is ~

### close at hand

they believe the end of the world is ~

## hand (in hand)

### well in hand

she has her diabetes ~

they had things ~ (law enforcement / a school shooting)

## hand (on hand)

### on hand

thousands of police and security forces are ~ (festival)

on hand for the ceremony  
bishops, archbishops and the papal nuncio were ~

on hand to help  
she was ~ with translations for the doctor

## hand (at the hands)

at his hands  
many people suffered ~ (a deposed ruler)

at the hands of a mob  
it was the eighth killing ~ this year (Peru)

at the hands of an intimate  
victims of violence ~

at the hands of an (Illinois) mob  
he died ~ (Joseph Smith)

at the hands of police officers  
he sought death ~ (suicide by cop)

at the hands of police officers  
his plan was to die in a fire or ~

at the hands of slave owners  
the abuse his ancestors suffered ~

at the hands of a spouse, lover or relative  
a woman's risk of death ~

death at the hands of the Americans  
a martyr's ~

harm at the hands of other students  
protect students from ~ (gays)

violence at the hands of his father  
protect a four-year-old boy from ~

violence at the hands of an intimate  
victims of ~

violence at the hands of a partner  
patients who are victims of ~

death at the hands of a spouse, lover or relative  
a woman's risk of ~

death at the hands of police officers  
he sought ~

die at the hands of police officers  
his plan was to ~ (suicide by cop)

die at the hands of the IRA  
innocent people will ~

died at the hands of an (Illinois) mob  
he ~ (Joseph Smith)

suffer at the hands of other students  
many ~ (transgenders)

suffer at the hands of (unscrupulous) employers  
these immigrants ~

## hand (dealt a hand)

hand  
these things come along, that's the ~ you drew (illness)

dealt a difficult hand  
they have been ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "We play with the cards we're dealt."

## hand (control)

in the hands of the Justice Department  
the case is already ~

in the hands of (a few large) companies  
the industry is now consolidated

in the hands of the people  
the power was not ~

in the hands of one person  
the power was ~

in your hands  
the fate of our nation is ~ (Donald Trump)

in small-town hands  
a small-town paper ~

in (very) capable hands  
the department is ~ (police)

in good hands  
the health of publishing is ~ (readers)

in great hands  
I knew she was ~ (assisted climber on Mt. Everest)

in private hands  
the restaurants are ~

in the right hands  
~, that stage has enormous possibilities (a theater)

steady hand  
he is supposed to be a ~, he's a veteran (attorney general)

rests in the hands  
power and wealth ~ of a small elite

leave it in the judges' hands  
he didn't ~ (boxer knocks out opponent)

## hand (get one's hands around something)

try to get their hands around this  
they ~ by taking a fresh look at the data (NPR)

need to get our hands around  
there has been a demonization that we ~ (anti-racism)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ There is much stupid confusion between arm (get one's arms around something), brain (get one's brains around something), hand (get one's hands around something), head (get one's head around something), and mind (get one's mind around something.) There are multiple possible reasons for this stupid confusion.

- ♦ see also *brain* (get one's brains around something)
- ♦ see also *arm* (get one's arms around something)
- ♦ see also *head* (get one's head around something)
- ♦ see also *mind* (get one's mind around something)

## hand (possession)

in the hands of the enemy

she didn't want to be left ~ (POW)  
how to escape if you are ~

in the hands of US forces and their allies  
in 2 months Afghanistan was ~

in enemy hands  
the ridgetop was still ~ (Afghanistan)

in Palestinian hands  
that would leave the hilltop ~

in Kurdish hands  
Kirkuk, home of ethnic Turks known as Turkomen, is ~

in loving hands  
she left the restaurant ~ (died)

changed hands  
the town has ~ in the past month (rebels vs. government)

leave the hilltop in Palestinian hands  
that would ~

left in the hands  
she didn't want to be ~ of the enemy (POW)

fall into the hands  
weapons that may ~ of terrorists (NBC, etc.)

fallen into the hands  
regions that have ~ of the insurgents

fall into enemy hands  
he feared the machine gun could ~  
we don't want the information to ~

fell into rebel hands  
the stronghold of Korhogo ~

fall into the (wrong) hands  
it could ~

fell into the wrong hands  
if the information ~  
if Pakistan's nuclear weapons ~

get the (lost) items into the right hands  
Y staffers try to ~

get their hands on booze  
minors using online ordering to ~

get their hands on (classified) information  
lawyers can't ~

leave Saudi hands  
nor did the whole \$55 billion ~

get weapons out of the hands  
trying to ~ of local warlords (Afghanistan)

make their way into the hands  
treated, the beaver skins ~ of fashion designers

push (Pakistani) society into the hands  
~ of the militants

## hand (raise one's hand)

raised its hand right away  
Kosovo ~ (to accept Afghan refugees)

## hand (bite the hand that feeds one)

bit the hand that feeds him  
he ~ (boxer withdraws without a good reason)

bit the hand that fed him  
he ~ (a troubled NFL athlete running out of chances)

♦ "One of our obligations is to bite back, to bite the hand that feeds us in order to speak up for justice or social justice." Julia Lee, author of *Biting the Hand: Growing up Asian in Black and White America*.)

♦ "Not only did they throw you a life preserver, they drove the boat and picked you up!" (Shannon Sharpe, speaking to Skip Bayless about Antonio Brown, on the sports show "Skip and Shannon: Undisputed." "They" refer to Tom Brady, Bruce Arians, and the Miami Dolphins football team, who hired Antonio Brown after he had been cut from 3 teams. Brown ended up walking off the field in the middle of a game.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ I place a date in your lips, and you spit the pit in my face! (Ingratitude.)

♦ "Invite a beggar into your house and he will put his feet up on your table!"

## hand (tie one's hands, etc.)

tie our hands  
this will ~ (a trade union)

ties judges' hands  
the bill ~ (vis-à-vis non-dangerous mentally ill)

Biden's hands were tied  
~ when he came into office

their hands were tied  
there was no loss of expertise but their ~ (security)

the company's hands would be tied  
the ~ if... (a court ruling)

free hand  
gave him a ~ to go after terrorists

## hand (clean and dirty hands, etc.)

hand  
our ~s are clean (allegations of abuse)  
my ~s are clean (I'm not guilty)

dirty hands  
only ~ can get the job done (counterterrorism)

## hand (wrong hands)

ends up in the wrong hands  
imagine if this email ~

fell into the wrong hands

if the information ~  
if Pakistan's nuclear weapons ~

♦ "Imagine if a document saying all the things that he wants ends up in the wrong hands." (Justin Baldoni versus Blake Lively.)

♦ "Should the US worry that assistance to Ukraine could end up in the wrong hands?" NPR, Morning Edition, Feb 2, 2023, with NPR's Leila Fadel and Conor Savoy of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

## hand (bloody hands, etc.)

blood on his hands  
he has ~ (terrorist financier)  
he has ~ (a politician)

blood on their hands  
we say they have ~ (companies that used slaves)

bloody hands  
once again the ~ of terror have struck

hands were drenched  
his ~ in blood (a terrorist)

has bloody hands  
he ~ (a politician)

♦ "Afterwards, the President [President Truman] was heard to mutter, 'Blood on his hands, dammit, he hasn't half as much blood on his hands as I have. You just don't go around bellyaching about it.' He later told Dean Acheson, 'I don't want to see that son-of-a-bitch in this office ever again.' Even in May 1946, the encounter was still vivid in his mind, he wrote Acheson and described Oppenheimer as a 'cry-baby scientist' who had come to 'my office some five or six months ago and spent most of his time wringing his hands and telling me they had blood on them because of the discovery of atomic energy.'" (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "The enlightened peace-and-love progressives of Silicon Valley don't just have egg on their faces, they have blood on their hands." ("YouTube Banned Me, But Not the Hate Imams" by Michelle Malkin, Opinion, Townhall, Jun 07, 2017.)

## hand (upper hand)

upper hand  
Republicans have the ~ inside the legislative arena  
it was Peru who had the ~ after the break (soccer)

gain the upper hand  
protesters are starting to ~ (France)  
calmer winds should help firefighters ~ (wildfires)

getting the upper hand  
crews are finally ~ on the wildfire

have the upper hand  
in a tight labour market employees ~

♦ A FUNNY STORY. One day Abu Nuas and the Caliph Haroon Rashid were talking about marriage. "Tell me, great Caliph, speaking about the men you rule over, who has the upper hand in the relationship, the man or the woman?" Abu Nuas asked innocently. The Caliph snorted at such a stupid question and became angry. He berated Abu Nuas. He laughed at him and mocked him and abused him! / Abu Nuas just smiled a little smile. He knew that he had netted a great fish. And not just the greatest fish in the Tigris, or the Euphrates, or the Nile, but the greatest fish in all the seas and oceans in the world! And so he made his wager..." (To be continued in tomorrow's class. The bell has rung.)

## hand (iron hand, etc.)

iron hand  
the country needs an ~ to lead it

with an iron hand  
I will deal with terrorism ~ (a leader)

with an authoritarian hand  
President Lansana Conté has ruled Guinea ~

with a firm hand  
the police will act ~ to avoid any violence (protests)

with a heavy hand  
he would run the settlement ~ but by the book

with a strong hand  
he ruled Chile ~ (a dictator)

ruled (Guinea) with an authoritarian hand  
President Lansana Conté has ~ since 1984

## hand (dead hand)

dead hand  
culture isn't a ~ blocking all progress (values can shift)

dead hand of the 18th century  
you can't freeze the Constitution with the "~"

dead hand of the past  
military law subjects leaders to the ~ (adultery)

dead hand of the class system  
there is some snobbery too, the ~ (the Gary Lineker affair)

dead hand (of Summers) has been lifted  
now that the ~ (U.S. economic policy)

## hand (strengthen one's hand)

strengthen our hand  
this will ~ (politics)

strengthened our hand  
Boies and King made two admissions that ~ (lawyers)

## hand (rub one's hands)

rubbing their hands together over the opportunity  
they are ~ presented by the vaccine (criminal gangs)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Rubs their hands in anticipation.)

## hand (fate)

in the hands of God  
whatever happens, we are ~ (Muslim)

in the hands of their deity  
the Samburu believe their fate lies ~, Nkai

in the hands of the jury  
the case is ~  
his fate is ~

in God's hands

I've put the whole thing ~ (woman with brain tumor)  
it is all ~ now (fate of a very sick person)

out of our hands  
it's all ~ now (fate)

put the whole thing in God's hands  
I've ~ (woman with brain tumor)

### **hand (have one's hands full)**

have their hands full  
they are going to ~ (sports team facing game)

### **hand (help)**

hand  
his ~ is extended to all factions (a politician)

hand of welcome  
extending the ~ to... (a biker convention)

helping hand  
she often lends a ~

Helping Hand  
~ Program (to pay electric bills)

pair of hands  
Mom asked if they could use an extra ~ (volunteer)

extended a hand  
the Web-hosting company ~ and brought Parler back online

lend a hand  
can I ~ (help)

join hands  
people are willing to work together and ~ to solve the problem

use a hand  
I could ~ (I need help)

### **hand (get out of hand)**

get out of hand  
in the event that hostilities ~

got out of hand  
it ~ (a fight)

gotten out of hand  
British worry that drinking has ~ (lager louts)

getting out of hand  
this is ~ (proliferation of blogs, etc.)

let her problems get out of hand  
she ~ (at school)

argument got out of hand  
an ~, and soon Vicente lay dead...

celebrations got out of hand  
fan ~ after several college football games...

hostilities get out of hand

in the event that ~...

matters got out of hand  
then ~, a knife appeared, and Igor wound up...

drinking has gotten out of hand  
British worry that ~ (lager louts)

### **hand (take matters into one's hands)**

taken matters into their own hand  
citizens have ~ (New Orleans recovery)

taking matters into their own hands  
people are ~ (oil spill)

took matters into our own hands  
and so we ~

### **hand (on the one / other hand)**

on one hand  
~, he wanted to help Kevin...

on the other hand  
~, anthropological writings have suggested...  
~, the reverse is true for...  
~, there are just as many people who...  
the bathrooms, ~, have made no progress (Russian trains)

### **hand (hot hand)**

with the hot hand  
finding the teammate ~ (basketball)

### **hand (sit on one's hands)**

sat on their hands  
they ~ on the sidelines (politicians)

sit on their hands  
they're going to ~ and not show up and vote  
they will have to ~ until...

sit (back) on our hands  
what are we supposed to do, ~ when we see...

### **hand (try one's hand)**

tried his hand at bricklaying  
he ~

### **hand (throw up one's hands)**

throw up their hands  
faced with a crisis, leaders simply ~ (fail to act)

threw up his hands at the subpoenas  
he ~ (an overreaching request for information)

throw up our hands and walk away  
we can't just ~

♦ "This is not a time to throw up our hands, this is a time to roll up our sleeves." (Kamala Harris, in her concession speech at Howard University—an HBCU—following her loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

#### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Who actually does this? (Throws his or her hands upwards in resignation.)

## hand (wring one's hands)

wringing their hands and pointing accusing fingers  
a lot of black people today are ~ at white doctors

♦ "A lot of black people today are wringing their hands and pointing accusing fingers at white doctors from the public health service." (Janie Taylor, "Origins of the Infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study," NPR, August 7, 1972. It's a seven-part series available in its entirety at NPR. Type "Janie Taylor" in search at NPR, and all seven of her reports should be available. Should access change, try searching at NPR for "The digital preservation of this audio has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities" and then search through the at present 112 results for the seven episodes: "Was The Tuskegee Syphilis Study Unethical?" / "Why Weren't Tuskegee Syphilis Study Patients Given Penicillin As Treatment?" / "Were Participants Informed Of The Purpose Of Tuskegee Study?" / Tuskegee Syphilis Study Patient Believed He Was Being Treated" / "Nurse Who Worked 39 Years For The Tuskegee Syphilis Study" / "Former Director For Tuskegee Syphilis Study Believes Work Was 'Completely Ethical'" / "Origins Of The Infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study." See also "Stop Blaming Tuskegee, Critics Say. It's Not An 'Excuse' For Current Medical Racism" by April Dembosky, NPR, March 23, 2021.)

♦ "This is going to be an uphill battle. So folks, we cannot be our own worst enemies. No, because the minute something goes wrong, the minute a lie takes hold, we cannot start wringing our hands. We cannot get a Goldilocks complex about whether everything is juuuust right." (Applause. Michele Obama speaking at the 2024 DNC.)

### \*\*\* analysis

Who actually does this? (Wrings one's hands in angst.)

♦ see also *handwringing* (noun)

## hand (the right hand vs. the left hand)

right hand

the ~ didn't know what the left hand was doing

♦ "The right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing." (Janet Reno, on FBI counterterrorism prior to 9/11.)

## hand (work)

experienced hands

the tension has alarmed ~ on both sides (diplomats)

green hand

Melville shipped as a ~ on the *Acushnet* (age 21)

head, heart, hands and health

youngsters pledge their ~—hence, 4-H

♦ see also *old hand* (experience)

## hand (worker)

short of hands

we're ~ (not enough guards)

## hand (old hand)

see *old hand* (experience)

## hand (all hands on deck)

all-hands meeting

in an ~, employees gathered in a circle...

Washington Post staffers clash with CEO at ~

all hands on deck

it was ~ (response to measles epidemic)

it was ~ (law enforcement responds to serial bomber)

these efforts will be ~ (Missing & Murdered Unit)

all hands (are needed) on deck

~ to protect the public from coronavirus

all-hands-on-deck effort

this is absolutely an ~ (US evacuates from Afghanistan)

all-hands-on-deck (24/7) frenzy

it was an ~ (an Elon Musk "surge")

"all hands on deck" moment

there has to be an ~ from the international community  
Philadelphia's mayor called the storm an ~

all-hands-on-deck operation

it's essentially an ~, we are laser-focused (police manhunt)

all-hands-on-deck search

an ~ for him has spread to multiple states (criminal)

"all hands on deck" situation

it's kinda like an ~ (leak of classified documents)

all-hands-on-deck 24/7

it was an ~ frenzy (an Elon Musk "surge")

## hand (force someone's hand)

force his hand

they will try to ~ by holding that over his head

## hand (overplay one's hand)

overplayed his hand

then Kerr ~ (Clark Kerr vs. Maria Savio)

overplayed that hand

he knew he had ~

overplayed their hand

they ~ (Google versus the EU)

## hand (play into one's hands)

played (right) into Oleksandr's hands

he ~ (Anthony Joshua / boxing)

## hand (one hand washes the other)

one hand washes the other

a favor, a quid pro quo, ~

## hand (wash one's hands of something)

washing my hands of this

I'm ~, I did all I could...

wash his hands of the whole affair

he was by now disgusted, and wanted to ~ (expedition)

wash his hand of controversial calls

he won't be able to ~ (Zuckerberg / Facebook / Trump)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "His sister, who taught English to undergrads, had told him about how a discussion of the idiom 'to wash one's hands of something' had revealed that her students had no idea who Pontius Pilate was." ("Greensleeves" by Sigrid Nunez, *The New Yorker*, September 9, 2024.)



## hand (hand in something)

had his hand in everything  
Bill Belichick ~ (Patriot's coach)

## hand (hands off)

Hands Off Mueller  
a crowd gathered for a “~” protest (politics)

## handbook (script)

practical, step-by-step handbook  
there's a ~ (for mass shootings / UnitedOnGuns)

hewed to the (same pro-business) handbook  
the Democrats largely ~ (free trade, etc.)

## handcuff (verb)

handcuffed themselves with turnovers  
the Irish ~ (football)

handcuffs or hamstrings  
it ~ administration's ability to disciple students (policy)

## handcuffed

handcuffed by government  
business should not be ~

handcuffed by his history  
he seems ~ of not...

handcuffed by (Isner's) big serve  
he was ~ (tennis)

handcuffed to my desk  
I'm ~ most of the day (work)

feel handcuffed  
they ~ by the rules (military)

## hand down / out (punishment, etc.)

handed down a (5-year) prison term to a man  
a judge ~ convicted of...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In American trials, the judge is almost always front and center on a raised dais.

## handed (given)

handed to you  
respect is not something ~ (leadership role)

handed a (one-year) suspension  
he was ~ for his third violation (NFL)

handed a victory  
the extremists will have been ~ (failure of peace talks)

handed (its first major) setback  
the terrorist group was ~ when...

## handed down / out (punishment, etc.)

handed down for murder  
beheading is routinely ~ (Saudi Arabia)

handed out in Asia  
the harsh penalties ~ for trafficking don't deter

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In American trials, the judge is almost always front and center on a raised dais.

## handed down (by ancestors, etc.)

handed down by your ancestors  
an heirloom ~ for generations

handed down by generations  
a story ~ of Blackfeet

♦ see also down (down through the centuries, etc.)

## handed over (possession)

handed over to the authorities  
she was captured and ~

handed over to the Native Americans  
the bones should be ~

immediately handed over  
Russia demanded that the fighters be ~

## handful (amount)

handful of areas  
only a ~ remain outside of the U.N. control

handful of cities  
a ~ have outlawed the sport (cockfighting)

handful of items  
they could only salvage a ~ (eruption)

handful of olives  
trees hold little more than a ~ (drought and freeze)

handful of (American) soldiers  
a ~ jumped off the planes (Ivory Coast)

handful of studies  
bolstered by a ~

handful of (no-frills) airlines  
one of a ~

## handicap (noun)

political handicaps  
things that seemed like ~ became evidence of authenticity

♦ “The awkward tendencies that her opponents had mocked turned out to be a significant part of her appeal. ‘She seems like a politician I could sit down and have a laugh with,’ one fan known for impersonating her on TikTok declared. Things that had seemed like political handicaps became evidence of authenticity: her fondness for dull statistics and Venn diagrams, her disregard for what she called ‘lovely speeches,’ her disdain for introspective questions about her ‘moment.’” (“The Ascent: Can Kamala Harris defy her doubters—and end the Trump era?” by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024. No.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## handicapped

handicapped by glare, mirages, and haze  
the defenders are ~ (desert warfare)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## hand in hand (go hand in hand, etc.)

go hand in hand with fortitude  
hardship and suffering ~ and courage

goes hand in hand with (military) might  
information warfare ~

go hand in hand  
in Africa, where oil and corruption often ~  
energy conservation and saving money ~  
ethics and booze rarely ~ (selling alcohol)  
reform and repression ~  
rioting and looting often ~

gone hand in hand  
for centuries, the words "Vatican" and "intrigue" have ~

went hand in hand  
paperwork and legwork ~ (a job)  
fear and filth ~ (E.B. Sledge in combat on Okinawa)

worked hand in hand  
corrupt doctors and rogue pharmacists ~ (to push opioids)

## handle (get a handle on something)

get a handle on the problem  
they tried to ~, but...

get a handle on this problem  
how can we ~ (crime)

## handle (deal with)

handle it on a case-by-case basis  
airlines ~, without a blanket policy

handle whatever  
she can ~ the future brings

handle (such) cases  
it had specialists to ~ (a hospital)

handle the deluge  
companies couldn't ~ of holiday orders

handle disaster  
flaws in the nation's plans to ~ (New Orleans hurricane)

handle it  
let the cops ~...

handle the load  
the system can barely ~ (airline travel)

handled (most of) the negotiations

he ~ with the Americans (an Iraqi)

handle pain  
a person may ~ well one time and poorly the next time

handle stage fright  
performers have various ways to ~

## handle (shape)

Big Dipper's handle  
the ~

curved handle  
the Big Dipper's ~

## handled

handled with (great) care  
it is a delicate matter that must be ~

## handling

handling of complaints  
they are critical of police ~

handling of the epidemic  
questions about the ~

handling of the investigation  
the Navy's ~

Navy's handling  
the ~ of the investigation

police handling  
critical of ~ of complaints

questions about the handling  
~ of the epidemic

## handmaiden (help)

handmaiden of the sailor  
it is no wonder that astronomy became the ~ (navigation)

handmaiden of Saudi victory  
Israel was the unlikely ~ (Yemen in 1967)

handmaiden to the Russian revolution  
Imperial Germany served as a ~ (gave passage to Lenin)

media handmaidens  
the Democrats' ~ (mainstream media / 2024 U.S. election)

## hand-me-down

hand-me-downs  
they got ~ from the previous year

hand-me-down Chevy Blazer  
a ~

## handoff (football)

handoff from Trump  
on China policy, Biden basically took a ~

handoff (from President Reagan) to his vice president

the ~, George H.W. Bush (presidential transition)

handoff from the Bush administration to Obama  
the ~ proceeded smoothly

Take Handoff

“Basra Security Forces ~ from British”

♦ “On China policy, Biden basically took a handoff from Trump and kept running in the same direction.” (NPR’s John Ruwitch.)

## handout (noun)

handout

it’s a hand up, not a ~ (charitable group)

handouts from friends and family

he survives on ~

government handout

~s promote discontent and a sense of helplessness

small handout

surviving on ~s

looking for handouts

old friends came ~ (pro athlete)

♦ “Woody notices a small house to the rear, walks to it and knocks on the door. The MINISTER, dressed in black, opens it. / Woody: Mornin’, Pastor, my name’s Guthrie... And I ain’t eaten in so long my stomach thinks my throat was cut an’ I was wonderin’ if you’d have any work I could do fer a small meal. I’d do anythin’ at all to earn it... / Minister: Son, I have been in the service all my life and have seen that thousands of men like you got to work for a meal. However, at this moment, there is no work to be done here, and therefore if I were to feed you it would be a cast [act?] of charity, which may help for the moment but cause harm in the long run. You seem to have retained your pride and dignity since you did not ask outright for a free meal and that is to your credit. But to answer your question, there is no work to be done so therefore you cannot earn a meal. (He steps back into the house and closes the door, leaving Woody standing on the porch with his mouth hanging open.)” (From the filmscript of the 1976 film *Bound for Glory*, based on the life of singer-songwriter and composer Woody Guthrie. Guthrie was played by the actor David Carradine.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Give people a hand up, not a handout.

♦ In *actual* disasters, people may require a handout first (drinking water, food, sanitary wipes, gasoline, cash) and *then* a hand up. See the Wikipedia article “Effects of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## hand over (verb)

hand over the task (of patrolling) to the Marines  
the Army will ~

handed over control (of the plane) to Zurich  
Munich controllers ~

handed over control to the mayor  
the State Legislature has ~ (school system)

handed the documents over to the Justice Department  
we voluntarily ~

handed over the documents  
we ~ (government official)

## handover (noun)

handover of power

standing in the way of a peaceful ~

hand-over ceremony  
Macao’s ~

minefield handover

~ is an extremely important task

peaceful handover

standing in the way of a ~ of power

## hands down (certainty)

hands down

it is one of the best restaurants in the world ~

hands-down favorite

the ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This relates to horse racing, jockeys and reins. It means, “without question.”

## hands down (easily)

hands down

Green Destiny wins ~ (a computer)

hands-down

the Europeans would have won ~

won hands-down

he ~

♦ This relates to horse racing, jockeys and reins. It means, “without much effort.”

## handshake (noun)

electronic “handshake”

MH 370’s final ~ along an arc (southern Indian Ocean)

## hands-off

hands off

though loving, their parenting was ~

hands-off approach

continued to take a ~

those with a more ~

government should maintain a ~ to the economy

a ~ towards the tribal areas (Pervez Musharraf)

hands-off policy

at times a ~ can be justified (diplomacy)

## hands-on

hands-on approach

a ~

hands-on individual

he is a ~ (controlling micromanager)

hands-on organizer

she is a ~

## hand-to-mouth (live hand to mouth, etc.)

hand-to-mouth basis

he had been living on a ~

## handwringer (person)

handwringer

the ~s who said, "It's not going to work!" (war)

handwringer and a worrier

anybody who knows me knows I am a ~

hand wringers, worriers and whiners

~ (foreign policy)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Wrings one's hands in angst.)

## handwringing (noun)

handwringing from Democrats

there has been a lot of ~ (but no action)

hand-wringing and finger-pointing

the battle led to a lot of ~ in Washington (war)

hand-wringing and the talking

the ~ has done nothing (school shootings in the U.S.)

adult handwringing

the inevitable ~ (about the younger generation)

ethical handwringing

the rise of AI programs has triggered a tidal wave of ~

criticism and handwringing

the ~ is far from over (foreign-policy issue)

fence sitting and handwringing

this is not a time for ~ (failure to condemn terrorism)

moody judys, sobbing and hand wringing

lot of ~ tonight (BBC HYS about Everton FC)

♦ "Wringing our hands and quoting facts is not a corrective response." (A letter to the *Audubon* magazine, praising the group for its "Guide to Climate Action.")

♦ "Teenage angst and apathy are not some novel social development. Every generation has its own version of hormonal uprising—and yes, the inevitable adult handwringing that goes with it." (Kirsten Fleming, *New York Post*.)

♦ "And when a relative novice gets put into a coma or worse, the hand wringing will start." (An online commenter on the Tommy Fury-Jake Paul boxing match.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Back in Britain, hands were wrung, and indignant questions were asked." (Singapore falls to the Japs, World War II.)

♦ "I felt no remorse or guilt that I had bombed the city." (Charles W. Sweeney, pilot of plane that dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki in World War II.)

♦ "I don't feel any guilt or blame about it. I think my view really is if we hadn't done it someone else would have. And it would be with us in any case." (Lilli S. Hornig, who worked on the Manhattan Project. From "The Bomb," PBS, 2015.)

♦ Edward G. Uhl helped invent the bazooka in 1942. It was devastatingly effective against German tanks, able to penetrate more than 4 inches of a tank's armor plate. General Eisenhower hailed the bazooka as one of the four "tools of victory" that won World War II. The others were the jeep, the C-47 Skytrain, and the atomic bomb.

♦ "Afterwards, the President [President Truman] was heard to mutter, 'Blood on his hands, dammit, he hasn't half as much blood on his hands as I have. You just don't go around bellyaching about it.' He later told Dean Acheson, 'I don't want to see that son-of-a-bitch in this

office ever again.' Even in May 1946, the encounter was still vivid in his mind, he wrote Acheson and described Oppenheimer as a 'cry-baby scientist' who had come to 'my office some five or six months ago and spent most of his time wringing his hands and telling me they had blood on them because of the discovery of atomic energy.'" (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "In 1945, news reached the camps that the US now possessed the atomic bomb. According to Solzhenitsyn, this unexpected development gave hope to many prisoners, who began to pray for atomic war." ("On The Prison Highway, The gulag's silent remains," by Ian Frazier, *The New Yorker*, August 30, 2010.)

♦ "The wailing over Hiroshima finds no echo in Japan." (Isidor I. Rabi, in an article in the *Atlantic Monthly*, criticizing *Military and Political Consequences of Atomic Energy* by Patrick M. S. Blackett.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Handwringing" is often pejorative or derogatory. It is also notable by its absence: most Americans are not wringing their hands about the destruction of Hamas by Israel after October 7, 2023.

♦ Who actually does this? (Wrings one's hands in angst.)

♦ see also *hand* (wring one's hands)

## handwriting (handwriting on the wall)

handwriting

the ~ is on the wall

handwriting on this Congressional Wall

social studies advocates can hardly miss the ~

saw the handwriting on the wall

these were smart men, they ~ (Native American chiefs)

♦ "These were smart men, they saw the handwriting on the wall." (Native American chiefs. Many Native Americans sent their children off to boarding schools, like the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, in the hope that their children would have a better future. Some did. Some didn't. One graduate of the school was Jim Thorpe, and one of his teachers at Carlisle was the poet Marianne Moore.)

♦ Compiler's note: My grandfather was alive as a child when Indians in full regalia would knock on the door, requesting food... (The rural area outside of Allegan, Michigan.)

♦ "Brothers, my blood is red with Siwash, but my heart is white... A great truth came to me when I was yet a boy. I learned that to your kind and you was given the earth; that the Siwash could not withstand you, and like the caribou and the bear, must perish in the cold. So I came into the warm and sat among you, by your fires, and behold, I became one of you..." ("Grit of Women," by Jack London.)

## hang (hang somebody out to dry)

hanging him out to dry

Boeing is ~ to deflect blame from others in the company

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The meaning is abandonment, and the salient point is that laundry on a clothesline is *outside* and *exposed*. Of course, nobody *actually* abandons their laundry. *Gibbeting* fits the idea *much* better. See the Wikipedia article "Gibbeting." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## hanging (hanging offense)

hanging offense

his mistakes did not constitute a ~

## hang in there

hang in there

some will be less charmed, but ~ (a book review)

♦ "We need to hang in there just a bit longer, we're going to get through this, we're going to get this behind us." (Dr. Anthony Fauci,

encouraging people to continue wearing masks and socially distancing.)

## hang on (verb)

hang on in office

Churchill continued to ~

♦ It looks like we're in for a wild ride, so hang on. (A Wall Street bear market.)

## hang on to (verb)

hang on to their senate seat

democrats are trying to ~

## hangover (Hangover Ridge, etc.)

Hangover Creek

~ is a stream in Wallowa County, Oregon

Hangover Creek

~ is a stream in Graham County, North Carolina

Hangover Lead

~ is a ridge in Graham County, North Carolina

Hangover Ridge

~ is a ridge in Morgan County, Tennessee

Hangover Rock

~ is a cliff in Campbell County, Tennessee

Hangover Top

~ is a summit in Cherokee County, North Carolina

## hangover (relic)

hangover from evolution

shoulder, hip and knee pain might be a ~

hangover from its (mining) past

Johannesburg's mine dumps are a ~

political hangovers

there are still ~ from the past (Northern Ireland)

## hangover (alcohol)

hangover from the last defeat

I still have a bit of a ~ (an upset soccer manager)

COVID hangover

Britain is still struggling from the ~ and...

\$1 billion hangover

Vancouver faces a ~ from its Olympic party

debt hangover

Britons face ~ from festive spending (credit cards)

long economic hangover

along with the ~... (2008 financial crisis)

feeling the hangover

the bubble has burst, and now we're ~ (economy)

have a (big) hangover

we will ~ (disappointment over Euro 2020 loss)

left us with a hangover

the real estate binge has ~

## \*\*\* analysis

♦ "What do you do if you want to cure a hangover? You drink more. And that's what they've been doing." (Financial author and economist Harry Dent predicts the 'crash of a lifetime' in 2025. The economy. Much language relating to economics is figurative.)

## hang up (hang up the gloves, etc.)

hang up his cleats

he may choose to ~ for good (a sportsman)

hang up the gloves

see *glove* (*hang up the gloves*)

Hang Up The Car Keys

"When Should Seniors ~?" (Patti Neighmond)

hang it up

it's time to ~ (retire)

♦ see also *car keys* (*take away the car keys, etc.*)

## Hannibal (American Hannibal, etc.)

Hannibal Directive

the so-called ~ (see quote below)

"American Hannibal"

the sheer audacity won Arnold the title of the ~ (Quebec)

♦ The military man praised as the "American Hannibal" for his heroism at Quebec, on Lake Champlain, in the Mohawk River valley, and particularly at the Battle of Saratoga, was none other than Benedict Arnold, who, as the supervisor of West Point, schemed to deliver that strongpoint on the Hudson to the British. Unlike other notorious traitors, he lived out his days in relative peace and prosperity, in Canada, and then London, where he died.

## \*\*\* "Hannibal ad portas!"

♦ According to historian John Julius Norwich, Hannibal led 37 elephants over the Alps, and Norwich notes that the Carthaginians must have had some secret way with elephants, as African elephants are generally considered to be untamable, unlike their Indian counterparts.

♦ Hannibal is also associated with his great military victory over the Romans at the Battle of Cannae, a double envelopment that is still taught at military schools. However, he failed to follow up on his victory, a failure which has become known as a "Hannibalic victory."

♦ Hannibal learned of the defeat of his brother's relief force when the Romans delivered his brother's head to his camp. Carthage, of course, would end up being razed to the ground.

♦ David's painting, "Napoleon Crossing the Alps," shows a rock with Hannibal's name inscribed on it.

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Hannibal Directive." Supposedly, this so-called directive is based on the fact that Hannibal committed suicide rather than fall into the hands of his enemies. As to whether such a directive actually exists, officially or unofficially, you be the judge.

♦ see also *fabius* (*as verb*)

## happen (stuff happens, etc.)

life happens

~, and you...

stuff happens

we are having sex, ~ (syphilis)

shit happens

~, what can you do...

## happy (as noun)

“feed your happy”

~ (Hardee’s Monster Angus Thickburger advertisement)

find your happy

~, become a member of the Beer Now Family

♦ “[You are] idiotic beyond all lexicographic parameters. (Chuckling.) Your impertinent assumption that I’ve ‘found my happy’ by becoming a member of the ‘Beer Now Family...’” (The BBC. Ed Reardon’s Week. Series 14. You’re cancelled. Hilarious.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “There’s no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## happy (not happy)

not happy

our community’s ~ (Uvalde school massacre activist)

it’s definitely ~ (murder house to be torn down)

♦ “I don’t feel happy and I know that our community’s not happy, and I know the parents aren’t happy. So, you know...” (An activist.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we find it natural to say that the opposite of “happy” is “sad.” But “not happy” can refer to a range of emotions, including anger.

## harbinger (noun)

harbingers of these equity debates

the feminist campaigns were ~

♦ “The robin is a harbinger of spring.”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Wilfred Funk writes about this word in his fascinating *Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories*, this is “formerly a war word.” As he explains, “One of the earliest forms of harbinger was *heriberga*, an Old High German word formed of *heri*, “army,” and *-berga*, “shelter”; that is, ‘a shelter for the army.’”

## harbor (verb)

harbors (Colombian) rebels

Venezuela ~

## harbor (safe harbor)

safe harbor for those

her workshops and retreats offer a ~ who are...

♦ “Hate can be given no safe harbor in America.” (President Biden.)

## hard (space is hard)

space is hard

yes, ~, but we are only just getting started...

we need partners because ~ (Gen. John W. Raymond)

~ (NPR’s Eyder Peralta)

the CEO of Virgin Galactic said, “~” (fatality)

♦ “Yes, space is hard, but we are only just getting started.” (Melissa Thorpe, head of Spaceport Cornwall, after the failure of the Virgin Orbit mission, dubbed “Start Me Up” after the Mick Jagger song. The mission resulted in the loss of nine satellites. More like, “I Can’t Get No Satisfaction.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard...” (President John Kennedy, in a speech at Rice University in Houston,

Texas, on September 12, 1962. See the Wikipedia article “We choose to go to the Moon.”

## hard (character)

hard kids

the ~ put a needle in their trousers...

hard man

see *hard man* (character)

♦ “It was abominable. I was lucky. I wasn’t affected by it. The hard kids put a needle in their trousers so that when the priest went to touch them they got a nasty shock.” (*Peter O’Toole: The Definitive Biography* by Robert Sellers.)

## hard (love hard, go hard, etc.)

hard enough

have I loved him ~, have I hugged him and told him...

go hard

hey bitch, do you really, really really wanna ~ (song)

I ~, take what’s mine, I’m a star (Beyonce, “Formation”)

~ at everything you do (part of epitaph on gravestone)

goes (pretty) hard

it ~ (“Machine Gun Kelly X Cordae—Doja Freestyle”)

gifted me hard

this guy ~ (a restaurant check)

loved hard

if you knew Lauri you know she ~ (tribute to slain woman)

loved anything as hard

I have never ~ and as fast as those dogs (a musher)

love Finch harder

she had a plan, to ~ in the weeks leading up to...

love our neighbors harder

we have work to do to ~ (gun violence / Baltimore)

slayed (so) hard

Beyonce ~ in her cowboy bikini look

spend hard

Maneater... make you ~ (“Maneater” by Nelly Furtado)

stood up hard

groups haven’t ~ enough for minors (pro-abortion)

triggers me so hard

them being teachers ~ (commenter at Libs of TikTok)

went hard

Schwarzenegger ~ at the neo-Nazis in a video

♦ “Hey bitch, do you really, really really wanna go hard? / Go in the crib, steal your stepfather’s credit card...” (“Go Hard (La.La.La) / Kreyshaw’n.)

♦ Listen to DJ Khaled “Go Hard” featuring Kanye West & T-Pain.

♦ Do you like my sweater? / I fw it hard” (= I like it a lot).

♦ “Beyonce slayed so hard in her cowboy bikini look for the Renaissance tour announcement.”

♦ “I just love how we celebrate out here, really love our team and we go hard.” (2023. A young lady about the Kansas City Chiefs.)

♦ “Travis Kelce is going hard at the Chiefs’ Super Bowl parade.” (2024. Drunk and wobbly.)



♦ "I have never loved anything as hard and as fast as I loved those dogs, as I loved dogsledding itself." (The remarkable Blair Braverman about her passion, from "Don't get dragged! Iditarod musher shares tales from the trail," NPR, Fresh Air, Nov. 16, 2021.)

♦ "He was funny, unique, charismatic and always knew how to have a good time. Most importantly, he loved HARD!!! He went above and beyond for his loved ones and made sure no one was ever sad around him." (Kemar Jewel about O'Shae Sibley, who was stabbed to death.)

♦ "Can't believe I seemed u die today bro... I know what u want me to do and that's go hard for Mama Daddy Our Brothers Naychur and Whiteboy." (Lil Gotit on the death of his brother Lil Keed, a protege of Young Thug.)

♦ "So many Native people have a Daniel. Someone we grew up with, who lived hard and died too young." (A reference to the fictional character who committed suicide in *Reservoir Dogs*.)

♦ "For me, it's a catalyst to go harder. It's a catalyst for the next door that I walk into to create a space where we can combine this scholarship and this culture to have more Black girls dominating these academic spaces." (Emami Stanton, 17. At *People*, "Black Female Duo Wins Harvard Debate Competition" by Rachel DeSantis, July 21, 2021.)

♦ A variation of "love hard" might be "love big," as in the following testament to a child killed in a school shooting: "We're gonna love big, like she did." Another example, about a teen who was murdered: "He loved big, he was an exceptional boy."

♦ Abby Wambach is the host of the *We Can Do Hard Things* podcast.

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "The uniforms that go as hard as they do..." (An advertisement for Carhart Company Gear showing oilfield roughnecks, etc.)

\*\*\* **more conventional usage...**

♦ "Try hard," "work hard," "study hard," etc.

♦ The motto of Glenville's Bob Davis Boxing Club is "Train hard, play hard." (Cleveland.)

## hard (feelings, etc.)

hard feelings

there shouldn't be any ~

## hard (hard "no," etc.)

hard "maybe"

that sounds like a ~ (irony)

"hard no"

the player said it was a ~ (refuses to visit White House)

hard 'no'

for 6 months it was a ~ (no visitors to hospital / COVID)

hard no's

and then what are my ~ (sex and consent)

hard (hell) no

why Biden's Gaza refugee plan is a ~ (*The New York Post*)

"hard no" and a "soft no"

there is a difference between a ~

♦ "I will say that we would be in a bad spot if we just said hard no, we can't change at all. I mean, so where can we find some common ground?" (Nancy Barnes, NPR's senior vice president for news, on the issue of journalists who wish to demonstrate for a cause. From "New NPR Ethics Policy: It's OK For Journalists To Demonstrate (Sometimes)" by Kelly McBride, NPR, July 29, 2021.)

♦ "I'm good, thanks" = no.

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ In the old days, "no" meant no. No longer!

## hardball (noun)

corporate hardball

they are playing ~

play hardball

~, she deserves it (Depp vs. Heard legal case)

playing hardball

the MLB is ~ with Georgia (sports and politics)

they have met their match, the WTA is ~ with them

♦ "People are used to playing very hardball rough-and-tumble politics. It is not genteel." (A San Francisco official.)

## hard-charging (adjective)

hard-charging general

the ~ Jim "Mad Dog" Mattis loved his troops

hard-charging maverick

he was a ~ who shook up football (a coach)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "This is a whole can of whoop butt. All combined, okay? And I'm gonna tell you one thing, it is an honor for me to be able to serve with each and every one of you hard chargers... It's no difference then when we took the damn war over in Korea. We raised the flag at Iwo Jima... It's no difference!... Kick some butt, all right?" (Preparing for combat in Fallujah, November, 2004.)

## harden (increase)

hardened opinion against North Korea

the maritime clash has ~ (Japan)

hardened its policy against the Roma

the government has ~ (France)

hardened his commitment

criticism only ~

hardened his grip

he has ~ on power (leader)

hardened its position

Iran has ~

hardened its rhetoric

the government has ~ about the danger

## harden (feelings)

harden them

some parents bully their kids to ~

attitudes have hardened

~ on both sides after the death of...

## harden (protect)

harden schools

ways to ~ (school shootings)

## hardened (battle-hardened, etc.)

hardened criminal

an official report described him as a ~

jail-hardened

he was a ~ felon (teen rapist)

well trained and battle-hardened  
the fighters are ~

## hardened (other)

hardened to the plight  
he has become ~ of the poor

## hardheaded (and hard-headed)

hardheaded administrator  
she was a ~

## hardhearted (and hard-hearted)

hard-hearted  
hard-edged, hard-headed, ~ education methodologists

## hard man (character)

hard man  
he is a ~  
the legendary “~” (Scotland)  
he lives up to the ~ image

hard men  
all the ~ want to try it (a tough new climbing route)

hard men of the IRA  
the ~ (Irish Republican Army)

fearless hard men  
their brands as ~ (two sponsored rock climbers)

one of the hard men  
Pevenage was ~ (Rudy Pevenage, the Belgian cyclist)

hardest of (IRA) hardmen  
he was the ~ (Bobby Storey)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “In the beginning of October, General Burgoyne, in the uncertainty of his situation, deemed it expedient to lessen the daily rations of the troops, a measure to which they submitted with cheerfulness...”  
(*British Battles On Land And Sea* by James Grant. “Saratoga, 1777.”)

## hard-nosed (adjective)

hard-nosed attorney  
he was a very ~

hard-nosed defender  
he's a ~ (soccer)

hard-nosed and tough  
Curtis LeMay was ~ (WWII)

old-school, hard-nosed  
Barber was an ~ football player who ran with a will...

## hard-pressed (adjective)

hard-pressed  
to say the least we were ~ (no money)

## harm (groups / noun)

harm  
hold them accountable for the ~ they inflict (SMVLC)

harm to our entire community

the removal of the flags caused ~ (BLM / Pride)

harm-reduction  
outside the ~ van (services drug addicts)

harm or distress  
we had no intention to cause any ~ (BBC apology / gays)

harm or offense  
avoid language that perpetuates ~ (inclusive language)

online harms  
the UK's Online Safety Bill will protect people from ~

destructive harm  
the ~ of white supremacy, genocide and violence

irreparable harm  
they have suffered ~ (a lawsuit following school shooting)

psychological harm  
Facebook's growth not linked to ~, study shows

racial harm  
employees who have experienced ~ (DEI)

real harm  
microaggressions cause ~

traumatic harm  
malicious responses to the survey caused ~ (I identify as...)

stress and harm  
it causes us ~ (Native American bodies in museums)

reduction of harm  
defunding the police will result in tremendous ~

caused harm  
Girl Guides said the old name ~ (“Brownies” / 7-year-olds)

causes (serious real-life) harm  
lack of diversity in AI ~ for people of color

suffered harm  
she ~ due to Instagram addiction (a lawsuit)

cause or constitute harm  
does hate speech ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Family sues Meta alleging teen daughter suffered harm due to Instagram addiction” by Katie Kindelan, GMA, June 9, 2022.)

♦ “The number one criterion now is safety. There's harm to the individuals involved, harm to that place, and harm to that organization, but also harm to that neighborhood.” (Read Hayes, Loss Prevention Research Council Director, on why some store employees are wearing body cameras to document conflicts with shoplifters. Shoplifters are increasingly aggressive and nowadays operate as organized mobs.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “In 2016, the writer Sarah Schulman published a book called *Conflict Is Not Abuse*, elaborating on [Catherine] Hodes's work. She argues that overstatement of harm can itself cause more harm. The person seen as good will be supported and the person seen as bad will be shunned. On social media, Hodes said, these binaries become even more entrenched, because people are encouraged to take

sides. This was the case with Ford's tweet, and thousands of other ephemeral dramas." ("That's It. You're Dead To Me. Suddenly everyone is 'toxic'" by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

♦ "You know, we have a situation where a handful of people are crying wolf, about social media. But we don't actually have the data, we don't have the materials we need to build a wolf detector." (Professor Andrew Przybylski of the Oxford Internet Institute (OII). From "Facebook's growth not linked to psychological harm, study finds" by Chris Vallance, BBC, August 9, 2023.)

♦ "The assertions are strident, and the vocabulary is esoteric ('harm,' 'insurrection') as if it were translated from a foreign language. In a sense, it is. The language is legalese, and it is designed to build a foundation upon which a company can be held liable under civil-rights law in an American court. This activist tactic has been widely misunderstood... The word 'safe' is carefully chosen. It gestures at certain specific kinds of negligence for which a university could pay dearly in a court of law." ("The Inequality of 'Equity,'" by Christopher Caldwell, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

\*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "No harm, no foul," "What's the harm of me staying out late on a Friday?" "Smoking can harm your health," etc.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The use of the word "harm" often suggests, threatens, or lays the basis for a legal case.

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ INJURY, n. An offense next in degree of enormity to a slight. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## harm (groups / verb)

harm LGBTQ children

the "Don't Say Gay" bill will ~

harms mental health

the Chiefs' imagery ~ (the NFL team / a Native activist)

## harmed (groups)

felt harmed

she ~, and she wanted to tell someone (sex)

## harmful (groups)

harmful word

Lizzo removed the ~ from her new song "GRRRLS"

## harness (verb)

harness social media to stoke

they ~ their base (young female politicians)

harness technology to enhance

~ productivity

harness his ability

the club should be able to ~ (a young soccer player)

harness that word-of-mouth

we ~ (social-media advertising)

## harness (in harness)

in harness at army headquarters

he remained hard at work, ~ (General U.S. Grant)

♦ "He stayed in the traces for two years." (A job / position.)

## harmony (in harmony)

in harmony

all the factions are ~

in harmony with nature

we need to live ~

in harmony with the ocean

for centuries the islanders lived ~

live in harmony

Muslims, Christians and Jews ~

worked in harmony

we ~ for four months

## harrowing (adjective)

harrowing to watch

it was ~ (stock-market free fall)

harrowing danger

his heroic actions in the face of ~ (military)

harrowing plunge

a day after a ~ in the stock market

harrowing scenes

some of the ~ are hard to watch (film about earthquake)

harrowing tales

survivors told ~ (plane crash)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A harrow is an agricultural device used to chop up clods of dirt. In the 1949 film *Border Incident* starring Ricardo Montalban and George Murphy, the character played by George Murphy, Jack Beames, meets his fate under a harrow. His end is, literally and figuratively, harrowing.

♦ Cynthia Ozick used the word as a plural noun to describe the Holocaust writings of Hans Gunther Adler: "[He recorded] harrowings that would forever be too late to erase."

♦ Dante, in the *Inferno*, refers to the harrowing of hell by Christ. This usage of the word is based on the Old English word for "to harry or despoil."

## Harvard (epithet)

Harvard of American evangelism

Graham graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois, the ~

Harvard of the hedge funds

I was proud to go to D. E. Shaw, known as the ~

Harvard of the Midwest

Truman State University is sometimes called the ~

Tony Romo called Eastern Illinois University the ~

he referred to Washington University as the "~"

Harvard of the South

Vanderbilt University is known as the ~ (Nashville, TN)

China's Harvard

Harbin was ~ (high-containment laboratory / viruses)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Now whether you like the nickname or not, the 'Harvard of the Midwest' label has stuck with Wash. U. since it first grew beyond a regional university. But like any nickname, the 'Harvard of the Midwest' label has probably been used before by other schools. So the only question to ask now is how many other schools refer to themselves as the 'Harvard of the Midwest.' The answer? Dozens."

(“So which school is the real ‘Harvard of the Midwest?’” by Nathan Everly, *Student Life* (the independent newspaper of Washington University in St. Louis since eighteen seventy-eight), December 6, 2006. )

♦ “The ‘Harvard of the Midwest’ editorial in The Daily Eastern News on Sept. 7 was the best editorial the paper has had in quite some time. / The editorial strongly rebuked Eastern’s administration for proclaiming on its Web site that the university has been called ‘The Harvard of the Midwest.’ / As the editorial indicated, the statement is absurd and ridiculous. The editorial was headlined: ‘The Harvard of untrue boasts.’” (“The truth behind ‘The Harvard of the Midwest’” by Allan H. Keith, *The Daily Eastern News*, September 12, 2005. The newspaper’s motto is, ‘Tell The Truth And Don’t Be Afraid.’)

\*\*\* “**That’s the way we roll...**” (Harvard today)

♦ “Identity politics are at the root of the problem. No one wants to be called sexist or anti-LGBTQ+ or some other ‘ist.’ But what is really unbearable is to be called racist. If a Harvard student—or teacher—thinks there is an chance of being called racist, he or she will clam up... [I]n recent years, the term ‘racist’ has become a cudgel and a smear, especially amplified on the internet.” (Evan Thomas ’73. From Letters, *Harvard Magazine*, March-April, 2024.)

♦ “The Harvard online course catalog has a search box. Type in ‘decolonize.’ That word...is in the title of seven courses and the descriptions of 18 more.” (“Reaping What We Have Taught” by Harvard Professor Harry R. Lewis, Contributing Opinion Writer, *The Harvard Crimson*, January 8, 2024.)

♦ “How did your campuses get this way? What is it about the way you hire faculty and approve curriculum that’s allowing your campuses to be infected by this intellectual and moral rot.” (Congresswoman Ms. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, Chairwoman at the hearing, “Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism,” the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023. Congresswoman Foxx directed her questions to (1) Claudine Gay, president of Harvard (2) M. Elizabeth Magill, President of the University of Pennsylvania, and (3) Sally Kornbluth, President of MIT.)

♦ “They hate, we ball... This is what you want... That’s the way we roll... A Team of superheroes are making the future bright...And we do our homework too...” (Watch: Harvard Housing Day 2023, Currier House, Currier vs the World, YouTube)

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ “AAI is the Harvard of climbing schools.” (A small advertisement in *Outside Magazine* for the American Alpine Institute. 100% carbon neutral.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Google “Harvard of the Midwest” and in the “People also search for” box you will find links to harvard of the plains; harvard of the south; harvard of the west; and harvard of canada.

♦ For older Americans and their forebearers, Harvard was a great national symbol for educational excellence and achievement.

♦ This usage may become extinct in our lifetime. Harvard no longer stands for much. Like so many modern businesses and institutions, it has successfully ruined its brand.

♦ “A whale-ship was my Yale College and my Harvard.” (*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.)

♦ see also *school (experience), university (experience)*

## harvest (war’s chief harvest, etc.)

harvest of (innocent civilian) victims

I plead for an end to the military operations and their ~

war’s (chief) harvest

misery is ~

♦ “I plead for an end to the military operations with their appalling harvest of innocent civilian victims...” (Pope Francis in his Urbi et Orbi Christmas address of 2023.)

## harvest (harvest data, etc.)

harvested the data

the company ~ of 90 million unsuspecting Facebook users

harvesting (useful) data

land networks were ~ (weather)

harvest text and speech

computer scientists ~ from the Web (machine translation)

## harvest (figurative / verb)

harvest authenticity

if either party wants a sweep, they must figure out how to ~

harvest grapes

you don’t ~ from planting thorns

♦ “If either party wants a sweep, they have to figure out how to harvest authenticity. That’s who wins. Trump is authentic. Harris was grown in a lab. People can tell.” (A senior *Democratic* aide, about why Kamala Harris lost to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election. From “Baffled AOC questions voters who split ticket for her and Trump—here’s what they said” by Josh Christenson, *The New York Post*, Nov. 11, 2024.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ You don’t harvest grapes from planting thorns. (An Arab proverb.)

## harvest (literal analogy / verb)

harvest water from clouds of fog

how to ~

harvest seal meat

Alaska natives ~

harvest organs

EMTs and doctors must move quickly to ~

harvest salt

they ~ by hand (Noirmoutier, France)

harvest swordfish

controversial nets used to ~

harvested deer, moose

my family has always ~ (Lake Superior Chippewa)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ When it comes to the harvest of human organs, the passive is almost always used: his organs *were harvested*...

## harvested

harvested in a decent and humane manner

it’s important that whales are ~

harvested tendon

the ~ looks like a piece of dental floss (from hamstring)

ice was harvested

~ from lakes and rivers and stored (in the old days)

organs were harvested

his ~ for donation (high-school athlete)

## Harvey Weinstein (epithet)

Harvey Weinstein of the fashion industry

the man some call the ~ (Gerald Marie)

hip-hop's Weinstein

"Is Diddy ~?" (NPR's It's Been A Minute)

## has been (person)

has been

~ beats a never has been (AJ versus Ngannou)

has been v never been

a ~ (a boxing match)

gobby has-been

Fury got a battering and now he just looks like a ~  
(boxing)

♦ "A HAS BEEN V NEVER BEEN" (An online commenter about the announcement of the Whyte-Joshua rematch, scheduled for August 12, 2023. The fight was ultimately cancelled when Whyte failed a drug test.)

## hash out (verb)

hash out (emerging) clues

they met to ~ (scientists / pandemic)

hash out a compromise

diplomats are trying to ~

hashing out ways

lawmakers are ~ to put guardrails on the industry (A.I.)

♦ "We'll figure out what the sausage looks like when it comes out of the machine." (White House press secretary Jen Psaki about a hugely expensive bill.)

♦ "While the judicial sausage-making may be more discreet on today's Court..." (Dealmaking, alliances, rivalries, leaks, etc. on the Supreme Court.)

♦ "It's often said that you campaign in poetry and you govern in prose." (Politics, governing.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "If you like laws and sausages, you should never watch either one being made."

♦ He made a complete hash of it.

## hat (role)

sceptic's hat

I'm going to keep my ~ on here... (Mary Louise Kelly)

grammar hat

with my strict ~ on, I have to say that's called the irrealis

NPR hat

I'll speak personally now as opposed to wearing my ~

three hats

you really have ~ right now (jobs and positions)

institutional hats

he has acquired so many ~ he is now irreplaceable

in-charge hat versus the submissive-woman hat

the ~

donning his detective hat

after ~, he began to sense the harpsichord was a fake

wears three very important hats

he ~ (cabinet secretary, etc.)

wear several hats

I, like other writers, ~ (travel writer, foreign analyst, etc.)

wear so many hats

I ~, from adviser to counsellor to mother (a cheer coach)

put her amateur detective hat on

she ~ and called Jamie (NBC Dateline)

take off your editor hat

can I ask you to ~ for a moment and talk as a student

♦ "You need to put your big-girl pants on and deal with it, pull them up and get out there and show them what you got..."

♦ "It's time to take your engineer's hat off and put a managerial hat on." (A boss with "go fever" just prior to the Space Shuttle *Challenger* Disaster.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Young girls have more options now."

## hat (old hat)

old hat

sundials are ~

battles over party nominees are ~

GMOs are ~, synthetically modified food the new frontier

old masters are ~ (art reproductions no longer popular)

old hat for you

is winning the Kentucky Derby ~

'old hat' Glastonbury festival

he is not keen to play the ~ (Charlie Watts)

## hat (take off one's hat to somebody, etc.)

hats off

congrats to both and what a fight, ~ (Khan vs. Brook)

hats off to the governments

~ that acted responsibly (Maha Akeel)

hats off to Usyk

~, what a performance (victory against Anthony Joshua)

hat tip

big ~ again to the group, so proud of it (a tweet)

hat-tip

"Farm" is a nice ~ to Michael and Emily Eavis

hats off and congratulations

~ to Hamilton for writing history today (F1 victory)

take my hat off to you guys

I ~ (admiration and respect)

♦ "a well put together comment not akin to the HYS forums! tip of the hat sir" (One respectful commenter to another about a soccer match.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Takes off one's hat in acknowledgement, or even wears a hat nowadays.)

## hat (hold on to your hat)

hold on to your hat

~, for the first time ever...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This means a big surprise and may relate to a rollercoaster.

## hat (hang one's hat on something)

hang their hat on him

promoters were reluctant to ~ as a main event (a boxer)

## hat (drop of a hat)

at the drop of a hat

how things can change ~ (soccer)

## hat (pull a rabbit from the hat, etc.)

see *rabbit* (pull a rabbit from the hat, etc.)

## hatch (verb)

hatched the murders

she ~ with two men she'd been sleeping with

hatched a (clever) scheme

he ~

## hatch (escape hatch)

tried-and-tested escape hatch

he has his ~ (just asking a question, not accusing)

## hatch (batten down the hatches)

see *batten* (batten down)

## hatched

plan was hatched

a ~...

## hatchet (bury the hatchet)

bury the hatchet

let's ~

they were unable to ~ and move forward (two teammates)

♦ "In 1989, at a United Press International dinner in Los Angeles at which they both were guests, Stone and Bregman—still not speaking after five years—sat at opposite ends of the room. After the meal Bregman felt a hand squeeze his shoulder and turned to see Stone standing there. 'Hello, Marty,' he said. The hatchet was buried over dinner a few nights later." (Producer Marty Bregman and screenwriter and director Oliver Stone. From *Al Pacino: A Life On The Wire* by Andrew Yule.)

♦ "Hey, so Sara and I finally buried the hatchet. You know, it's really weird imagery for forgiveness." (A silly line from the silly 2009 film *Sorority Wars* starring Lucy Hale.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "There was a good deal of bitterness among the Indians, for whom war was not the casual affair it was for the white man; they pointed out to Johnson that once they took up the hatchet it was not easily buried." (*The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop. His wonderful book is about the river.)

♦ "O bury the hatchet, irascible Red, / For peace is a blessing,' the White Man said. / The Savage concurred, and that weapon interred, / With imposing rites, in the White Man's head." (Attributed to John Lukkus. Quoted in Ambrose Bierce's *The Devil's Dictionary* at "hatchet." This is wonderful language use based on collocation. You can "bury" the hatchet, or you can "bury the hatchet in someone's head"!)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Hatchets that have been buried can be dug up." (The Balkans in the 1990s.)

♦ see also *scalp* (noun)

## hatchet (take a hatchet)

take a hatchet to Biden's climate agenda

Trump has promised to ~ (per NPR)

♦ see also *scalp* (noun)

## hatchet job (noun)

hatchet job

the series was a ~ riddled with falsehoods (a documentary)

hatchet job on him

the *New York Times* did a complete ~

political hatchet job

the "investigation" was a ~ by a rival

♦ "People are just tired of sleazy tactics and hatchet jobs." (LSU coach Kim Mulkey about *The Washington Post* reporter Kent Babb.)

♦ see also *drive-by* (conflict), *hit job* (noun)

## hatchet man (person)

hatchet man

he dispatched him as his ~

your ~ has done a real number on me

Sunny took on the role of ~ and spawned a culture of fear

## hate on (something)

hate on the Golden Globes

much as some like to ~ (Eric Degans)

hate on her

do they love her, or do they love to ~ (Lil Tay)

hate on all this life

let them ~ (Beyonce / 'Bama' Blackness)

hate on another man

the world is too big to ~ (Dwight Howard / NBA)

hating on me

that's why people are ~ (the mayor of New York City)

hate on one another

we shouldn't ~ (Shemekia Copeland)

hating on philosophy

why are physicists ~

♦ "And people hate on everything that's life." (A white rapper whom everyone hates on for being a white rapper.)

♦ "The producer Carol Baum went viral for hating on Sweeney's skills." (Baum said Sydney Sweeney couldn't act and wasn't pretty. Now the world is hating on Carol Baum, whoever she is.)

♦ "The whole phenomenon, described at the time as Hathahate, makes even less sense now than it did then." (Hating on Anne Hathaway.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Read "A usage to hate on?" grammarphobia, August 24, 2015. "Grammar, etymology, usage, and more, brought to you by Patricia T. O'Connor and Stewart Kellerman." Excellent!

## haul (long haul)

long haul

it's a ~, son, it's a 15-rounder... (timeline for pandemic)



for the long haul  
I think we're in it ~ (an intractable bear problem)

### **haul (verb)**

hauled him (off) to jail  
a sheriff's deputy ~

hauled him to the station  
the police ~ (Mexico)

haul tourists  
bus-sized Tundra buggies ~ (Churchill / polar bears)

### **hauled in (verb)**

hauled in for questioning  
he was ~ by the Mabatheth (Saudi Arabia)

### **hauled off (verb)**

hauled off (again) to prison  
he was ~

hauled off from her reception to jail  
the "Bridezilla" was ~

hauled off in handcuffs  
she was ~ (a "Bridezilla," from her wedding reception)

### **haunt (verb)**

haunt me to this day  
those images ~... (soldier back from Iraq)

haunted this city for (four) decades  
closing the door on a crime that has ~

haunt a community for generations  
some murder cases ~

haunted me for a decade  
the things I saw have ~ (Rwanda genocide)

haunt us forever  
the horror of the final days will ~ (family of hostage)

haunt me the rest of my life  
it will ~ (comment by murderer)

haunt the Ethiopians  
such tactics may come back to ~ (torture / rebels)

haunt New York  
the mystery of what really happened continues to ~

haunts the country  
El Salvador's bitter civil war still ~

haunted detectives  
Ms. Beal's murder had long ~ on the case (finally solved)

haunt him  
the day will ~ (Tour de France crash)

haunted him  
during these years, Annapurna always ~ (3 attempts)

haunts every (kayak) instructor  
this is the type of accident that ~

haunted his life  
he recounted the racism that ~

haunted me  
these simple words ~

haunting scientists  
these problems had been ~ for years (vaccine)

still haunts  
the unsolved case ~ him (a detective)

case (still) haunts him  
the unsolved ~ (a detective)

images haunt me  
those ~ to this day (soldier back from Iraq)

came back to haunt  
his past ~ him (Mike Richards / Jeopardy show)

come back to haunt  
gossip can ~ you  
what you do on the computer can ~ (queries)

continues to haunt  
the mystery of what really happened ~ New York

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Be careful about sharing intimate gossip in a party situation—you may find it comes back to haunt you..."

### **haunted**

haunted to me  
this campus is ~ (Dartmouth student / 4 deaths)

haunted by that day  
she has spent her life ~

haunted by a death  
he is ~ he was unable to prevent

haunted by demons  
he was a deeply troubled man, ~ (Timothy Treadwell)

haunted by (perceived) failures  
he was ~ (a suicide)

haunted by nightmares  
she is ~ (veteran of war in Iraq)

haunted by evil spirits  
the Udehé say places like that are ~ (forest)

became haunted  
Father Desbois ~ by the history of the Nazis in Ukraine

remain haunted  
city residents ~ by the murders

### **haunting (adjective)**

haunting images  
the ~ of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks  
~ of starvation (Africa)

haunting memory  
the Irish have ~s of the famine

the ~s returned (of a murder)

haunting premonition

she awoke with a ~ (mother of soldier who died)

haunting story

the most ~ in the annals of exploration

most haunting

it is one of the ~ stories in the annals of exploration

familiar and haunting

those ~ notes (24 notes of Taps at funeral)

painful and haunting

the most ~ story involves SuAnne Big Crow

## have (you have, etc.)

have an event like this

anytime you ~...

have these armchair explorers

so, back in England, you ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we have all taught existential "there" clauses, usually with an emphasis on grammar: "There *is* / *was* a lamp on the corner, there *are* / *were* two books on the desk." It's a simple matter to mention this usage during that lesson.

## haven (safety)

haven for journalists

the *Free Press* is a ~ (vs. woke progressive press)

haven for young people and their families

the school is a ~ (a violent Yorkshire community)

germ haven

airplane toilets have a reputation for being a ~

surveillance safe haven

Email providers 'seen as ~' (Germany)

safe haven

at the nadir of the financial crisis, gold was a ~  
my bedroom is my ~

safe haven for hate

he charged Facebook for providing a ~

safe haven for priests

the archdiocese provided ~ accused of sex abuse

see gold as safe haven

investors ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A haven was a harbor.

♦ "'Sanctuary,' a bit like 'havens' and 'orphanages,' is a very nasty term that is usually devoid of meaning or certainly devoid of accuracy." (Duncan McNair, the CEO of London-based charity Save the Asian Elephants. From "Elephants are often snatched by poachers who commit atrocities ranging from killing mothers in front of their children to repeatedly stabbing baby elephants into submission." From "Expert warns Americans about elephant tourism after law student, 22, is killed in Thailand: 'Recipe for disaster'" by Andrea Margolis, Fox News, Jan. 12, 2025. Read at *The New York Post*.)

## haves (and have-nots, etc.)

haves and have-nots

the deep divide between the ~

haves and the have-yachts

even among the truly rich, there is a gap between the ~

have-littles and have-nots

for the ~, summer means an open window (no A.C.)

world of haves and have-nots

a Dickensian ~

divide between the haves and have-nots

the deep ~ (*The White Tiger*)

divide between the haves and the have-nots

the increasing ~ (homelessness, etc.)

gulf between the haves and the have-nots

the ~

♦ "Even among the truly rich, there is a gap between the haves and the have-yachts." ("The Floating World" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, July 25, 2022.)

♦ "[S]ports highest paid full-time phony, Roger Goodell, the man who reminds us that there are haves and have-yachts." (The great sports journalist Phil Mushnick. He truly deserves the epithet "the conscience of sport.")

♦ "The message was one of the have-nots rising up against the haves." (A meme that was also anti-Semitic.)

## Hawaii (China's Hawaii, etc.)

China's Hawaii

Sanya, known as "~~" (Hainan Island)

## hawk (person)

Israeli hawks

many ~ were against the attack (1981)

♦ "She's a radical war hawk. Let's put her with a rifle standing there (pointing) with nine barrels shooting at her, okay, let's see how she feels about it. You know, when the guns are trained on her face. You know, they're all war hawks when they're sitting in Washington in a nice building saying 'Oh, gee, we'll, let's send, let's send 10,000 troops right into the mouth of the enemy.'" (Donald Trump about Liz Cheney in the final days of the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## hawkish (adjective)

hawkish stance

his ~ on Iran (an Israeli)

## hay (make hay, etc.)

political hay

politicians make ~ out of it (pandemic)

make hay from the shooter's political affiliation

idiots try to ~ (a mass shooting)

made (political) hay out of it

everybody ~, used it for their own purposes (terror event)

## haywire (go haywire, etc.)

go haywire

when things start to ~

gone haywire

the curriculum has ~ (Critical Race Theory / CRT)

♦ "In the Big Rock Candy Mountains, all the cops have wooden legs, and the bulldogs all have rubber teeth, and the hens lay soft-boiled eggs." (Harry "Haywire Mac" McClintock's hobo song. Heard in the 2000 film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*)

♦ Gina Carano was a MMA fighter before being noticed by Steven Soderbergh and cast in the lead of the 2011 film *Haywire*. Her next role was in *Fast & Furious 6*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You're haywire!

## **haze (perception)**

alcoholic haze

he spent much of the next four decades in an ~

♦ "Purple haze, all in my brain..." (Jimi Hendrix. Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVtmkM\\_T8E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVtmkM_T8E))

## **head (head into the future, etc.)**

headed

there is so much fear about where we are ~ (Covid)

head into November

as we ~, crunch time (college football)

head into summer

as we ~, don't forget... (pandemic)

head into this Labor Day weekend

as we ~

heading into the winter

now we are ~ (pandemic)

## **head (orientation)**

head of the bed

the ~ (versus the foot of the bed)

headwater

the Yangtze has three ~ streams

## **head (development / verb)**

heading

no one knows where the region is ~  
where is the crisis ~ (racist abuse in soccer)

headed

we don't know where this fight is ~ (politics)

## **head (reason)**

head

people reason mostly from their hearts, not their ~s

calmer heads

~ have typically prevailed in our history (politics)

## **head (intelligence)**

head for planning

they all said that Mrs. Enderby had the best ~

wiser heads

~ among the Taliban may well argue for...

## **head (head of the school, etc.)**

head of the school

he's the ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The fish rots from the head. (Organizations, governments, etc.)

## **head (go over one's head / hierarchy)**

go over their heads

he tried to ~ (to their supervisor)

## **head (go over one's head / comprehension)**

went over my head

what he said just ~ (not understood)

## **head (get in over one's head, etc.)**

over-your-head

thrown into the ~ waters, he was floundering (combat)

got in over their heads

they ~ (crime)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When you want to test the depths of a stream, don't use both feet." (Chinese.)

## **head (butt heads)**

butted heads

the mayor and the union have ~ ever since he took office  
we ~... (conflict)

## **head (on one's head / responsibility)**

see *on* (*it's on you, etc.*)

## **head (scratch one's head)**

scratching its head

Congress is ~ (over confusing remarks by President)

scratching our heads

a lot of us are ~, with so many of these questions (a crime)

scratching their heads

scientists are ~ as to how...  
scientists are ~ to understand why...

♦ "I don't get this at all... He's really punting it. That's a head scratcher to me." (A sports commentator, about a football game.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Scratches one's head when bemused.)

♦ see also *head-scratching*

## **head (shake one's head)**

shake our heads at the folly

we like to ~ of those who...

shaking my head and rolling my eyes

I'm just ~ (Boeing debacle of 2019-2020)  
the shooter is now the victim, I am ~

leave you shaking your head

the details of this scandal just ~ (college admissions)

♦ "All these previous issues and incidents, yet she still held a nursing license and a driver's license, smh." (A comment about "Nicole Linton Was Involuntarily Committed Multiple Times Before LA Crash, Attorneys Said" by Kui Mwai, Yahoo news, August 16, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Shakes one's head in disapproval.)

## head (clear head)

clear head

~s are needed (vs. sleep deprivation)

## head (keep / lose one's head)

keep your head

~ and don't go crazy

lose his head

in the closing laps he seemed to ~ (F1 racecar driver)

## head (head and shoulders above)

head and shoulders

~, he is above everybody else (a skier)

head and shoulders above anyone else

he is ~ in his ability to lead (a politician)

head and shoulders above most of his colleagues

he is ~ (a politician)

head and shoulders above most of his peers

for that, he is ~ (a musician)

stand head and shoulders

the two ~ above the rest (baseball players)

## head (heads will roll, etc.)

head

his ~ is under the guillotine every season (a coach)

political beheadings

the series of ~ (see quote below)

head will (probably) fall in the basket

my ~, but I have done my best... (General John Lucas)

heads rolled

~, careers were ruined (the Tailhook scandal)

heads will roll

~ if...

calling for Liz Magill's head

donors and elected officials are ~ (U. of Pennsylvania)

calls for his head

there have been ~ (a government official)

demanding the heads

many are ~ of the mayor and governor (L.A. wildfires)

♦ "Rishi Sunak has welcomed nearly 30 billion pounds in foreign investment into the U.K., as he hosted global business leaders at Hampton Court Palace... Not in the script at Hampton Court was the series of political beheadings business leaders have witnessed. Since 2019 there have been six chancellors and four prime ministers, with every chance of a fifth come the general election next year, one reason why many of the firms here today also met Sir Keir Starmer,

and the shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves..." (A business summit hosted by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to attract foreign investment to the U.K., BBC, Six O'Clock News, 27/11/2023.)

♦ "You don't put him on the guillotine if he didn't commit a crime." (The father of NBA player Ja Morant, defending his son.)

♦ "Heads are gonna roll with this, officers relieved of their command." (An online commenter about the USS *Gettysburg* shooting down an F-18 in the Red Sea, 2024.)

♦ "My head will probably fall in the basket, but I have done my best." (Major General John Lucas, about the Anzio Invasion, or Operation Shingle. World War II. Italy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Someone's head needs to roll."

## head (have one's head handed to oneself, etc.)

handing them their head

I'm boxing these guys, and I'm ~ (young Bobby Czyz)

got my head handed to me

I ~ at that meeting (politician and angry constituents)

## head (head on a wall, etc.)

put my client's head on his wall

he made it his personal goal to ~ (Kyle Rittenhouse case)

## head (head on a stake, etc.)

head on a stick

her stunning fall was a "~" moment (CBS exec)

head on a stake in the middle of the town

there is a ~ (Uber's Travis Kalanick / bad behavior)

♦ Divisive; "Machiavellian"; created her own universe of loyalists; long viewed as untouchable; her stunning fall; a "head on a stick" moment; forced to resign... (A CBS executive. As Dateline NBC might put it, "She was untouchable...until she wasn't.")

### \*\*\* the Harpe brothers...

♦ "While [Micajah] Harpe was still conscious, Moses Stegall slowly cut off the outlaw's head. Later, the head was spiked on a pole...at a crossroads...that is still known as "Harpe's Head" or "Harpe's Head Road...in Webster County, Kentucky. / In January 1804, Wiley Harpe [was] executed by hanging. [His head was] cut off and placed high on [a stake] along the Natchez Trace as a warning to other outlaws." (The Wikipedia article "Harpe brothers." See also "Micajah "Big" and Wiley "Little" Harpe" by Blythe Semmer, Tennessee Encyclopedia. Bad, bad boys they were, no doubt.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be thrown to the sharks. Or thrown to the wolves. Or thrown under the bus. Or hung out to dry. Or crucified. Or have your head stuck on a stake. Or be made a scapegoat. Take your pick!

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Head on a spike." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## head (head on a plate, etc.)

demanding his (presidential) head on a plate

he ~ (George Clooney / Joe Biden)

♦ "After all, it was he who first publicly plunged the knife into Biden's back with a withering op-ed in the New York Times in which he demanded his presidential head on a plate." ("George Clooney's weasel words can't hide his wolf-like killing of Biden's career" by Piers Morgan, The New York Post, Sept. 2, 2024.)

## head (keep one's head down)

keep their heads down

it might be better for them to ~

kept their heads down

they see themselves as stoics who've ~ (politics)

kept her head down

for her first two terms, she ~, forgoing media appearances

♦ "Most non-radicals just keep their heads down." (In U.S. academia. Students, professors, and staff.)

♦ "Just keep your head down and your mouth shut, and you'll be alright." (Academia. Students.)

♦ "Cowardice is a part of it. I have kept my head down as much as possible." (Politics, politicians.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ A FUNNY STORY. (Mordant.) "A bloke in the Munsters once wanted a cushy, so he waves his hand above the parapet to catch Fritz's attention. Nothing doing. He waves his arms about for a couple of minutes. Nothing doing, not a shot. He puts his elbows on the fire-step, hoists his body upside-down and waves his legs about till he gets blood to the head. Not a shot did old Fritz fire. 'Oh,' says the Munster men, 'I don't believe there's a damned square-head there. Where's the German Army to?' He has a peek over the top—crack! he gets it in the head. Finee." (*Good-Bye To All That* by Robert Graves. World War I.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "A protruding nail will be hammered down." (Japan.)

## head (come down on one's head, etc.)

come down on his head

a lot of opprobrium has ~ (whistle-blower)

brought down on his head an avalanche

the book has ~ of publicity

brought her family's condemnation down on her head

her marriage ~

brought the establishment down on her head

her early success ~ (a poet)

brought disaster down on her head

her meddling appears to have ~

## head (turn heads)

turned heads

her good looks and confidence ~

turned heads in the ballroom and the bar

personalities at the hotel who ~ (Raffles in Singapore)

## head (hold something over one's head)

hold over his head

we needed to have something to ~ (child murder case)

holding that over his head

they will try to force his hand by ~

## head (rear its head, etc.)

reared its head

the Ebola virus has ~ again

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Ordinarily only something negative raises its head: anti-Semitism, the Ebola virus, tyranny, etc.

## head (turn something on its head, etc.)

flip the investigation on its head

a tragic turn of events would ~ (DC sniper)

turn the paradigm on its head

the plan will ~ (homelessness)

turned the race on its head

the late downpour ~ (F1 / changed everything)

turning the sport on its head

the teenager is ~ (Luke Littler / darts)

## head (get one's head around something)

get their heads around

that's very difficult for people to ~ (murder trial)

get my head around it

I still can't ~

get your head around

there are a lot of twists and turns to ~ (Jesse Smollett case)

get my head around what

I can't seem to ~ she just said

♦ "I ask for some privacy at this time to grieve and to wrap my head around this turn of events."

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ There is much stupid confusion between arm (get one's arms around something), brain (get one's brains around something), hand (get one's hands around something), head (get one's head around something), and mind (get one's mind around something.) There are multiple possible reasons for this stupid confusion.

♦ see also *arm* (get one's arms around something)

♦ see also *brain* (get one's brains around something)

♦ see also *hand* (get one's hands around something)

♦ see also *mind* (get one's mind around something)

## head (come to a head)

came to a head

it all ~ in December of 1989 (ACT UP / Catholic Church)

the animosity that surfaced had now ~

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This might relate to a pimple or boil and basically means *crisis*.

## head (keep one's head up)

keep your head up

things are tough, but you've got to ~

keep your heads up

I spoke to some players and said ~ (after huge loss)

## head (hold one's head high)

hold his head high

he can ~ (a losing boxer who did well)

holding our heads high

we are ~, marching forward... (union loses vote)

hold your heads high

I urge you to ~ (King Charles to Euro 2024 team)

head held high

I leave with my ~ (cricket player retires)

## head (hang one's head)

hang his head in shame

the video umpire should ~ (a hockey game)

## head (pat on the head)

pat on the head

I looked at that as a ~

## head (Deadhead, etc.)

Alamo-head

President Lyndon B. Johnson was a huge ~

Chile Head

Cherries for ~s (spicy cherries in a hot cold-fruit salad)

Deadhead

Bill Walton, ~... (the great NBA basketball player)

fragheads

PerfumeTok, and the ~ who gather there... (fragrances)

~s now debate whether it's worth the price tag (perfume)

gearhead

young gearheads gather at unsanctioned car rallies...

Mayerheads

then, to the delight of the ~... (Dead & Company)

NPR-head

I'm such a big ~ (actor Jodie Foster to Terry Gross)

Parrotheads

I live in Dallas now and we have a lot of ~ there

~ toast Jimmy Buffett (on his death)

petrolheads

Leilani Munter and ~ (motorsports)

Potterhead

Rachael Parker, ~, 32, wedding planner (Harry Potter fan)

puzzlehead

~s love the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament

a puzzle-within-a-puzzle, for the diehard ~s (D C-T!)

revhead

I'm not a petrolhead or ~, as we call them in Australia

sneakerhead

it's a masterly satire of ~ fanaticism (HBO's *South Side*)

sneaker enthusiasts, otherwise known as ~s

for ~s, there is a style for every taste and identity

♦ "Chicago sneakerhead store closes after being robbed a 5th time in 2 years," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 9, 2022.

♦ *Bunheads* by Misty Copeland, illustrated by Setor Fiadzigbey, G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers. Of course it's for young readers. It's not like they have a choice...

♦ The Deadheads had managed to turn the North Carolinian stadium parking lot into a very good replica of a Central Asian or North African bazaar / medina / Souq / casbah / caravanserai. Every half hour or so, in the full-on grip of mystical possession, a Deadhead with flying dreads would race up the glacis surrounding the bowl like a forlorn hope, scale the palisade at the top like a Barbary ape, and be arrested by an oppression of waiting uniformed centurions.

Meanwhile the crowd in the parking lot cheered and celebrated with much music, dancing, pipe smoking, and cookie and brownie nibbling. I can't say I didn't participate... (Phil Lesh and Friends.)

♦ "I drive an electric car. I'm very conservative on the roads. I'm not a petrolhead or a revhead as we call them in Australia. But, I am surrounded by people, we call them black thumbs...like green thumbs." (The director George Miller, creator of the *Mad Max* films, talking to NPR's Ari Shapiro about his 2024 film *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*. This may or may not be an example of metonymy, as talked about by Jeannette Littlemore in her 2023 edition of *Applying Cognitive Linguistics to Second Language Learning and Teaching*.)

♦ The bride came down the aisle on the back of her father's white '97 Honda Goldwing Trike, while the groom rode his black '91 Harley-Davidson Sportster up to the alter. Several bike engines roared in salute. (A motorcycle wedding.)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. Question: What did the Deadhead say when the drugs wore off? Answer: This music *sucks*!

### \*\*\* analysis...

♦ "Western University prof says noise pollution from illegal cars needs to be taken seriously." (From "Who likes loud cars? Ontario study suggests they skew young, male and score high on psychopathy and sadism" by Colin Butler, CBC News, Apr 21, 2024. The article references a pilot study, "A desire for a loud car with a modified muffler is predicted by being a man and higher scores on psychopathy and sadism." I *knew* it, and this proves it!)

♦ "Organ donor!" (The gleeful shout of a man drinking with his buddies, who have all paused to listen to the sound of an upshifting motorcycle on the highway.)

## headache (noun)

headache

the decision is one in a series of ~s for... (a company)

headache for the administration

this will be a ~ (oil spill)

headaches (continued to mount) for the (German)

Pope

the ~ (Pope Benedict)

foreign-policy headache

Israeli-Palestinian conflict gives Biden a ~

transportation headache

the daily ~s faced by many

biggest headache

one of our ~s is simply counting the fish (scientist)

diplomatic headache

she poses a ~ for Britain (a UAE princess)

new headaches

the new system created ~ (Iowa caucus)

caused headaches

his mercurial personality ~ (an employee)

cause headaches for the organisers

the weather has continued to ~ (Tokyo Olympics)



## headed

headed

futurists are asking questions about where we're ~ (tech)

headed for a train wreck

we are ~ (a politician about budget proposal)

headed in the wrong direction

Washington is ~ (politics)

## headhunter (noun)

headhunter

he was recruited by a management ~

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Home of the Headhunters 80th Fighter Squadron." (A sign at an airbase in New Guinea, World War II.)

## headlong

headlong retreat

the Americans are in ~

## head-on

confront these things head-on

we must ~

♦ "Should we avoid the controversy or should we dive right into it? I say of course we dive right into it, we confront this thing head on." (Adrian Lamo and "Informants: villains or heroes?")

## head-scratching

head-scratching comments

he has made some ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Scratches one's head when bemused.)

♦ see also *head* (*scratch one's head*)

## headspace (frame of mind)

headspace

what ~ were you in at the time (pop singer)

club headspaces

Ezra Rubin is more interested in ~ than dance-floor moves

creative headspace

what sort of ~ have you been in since... (a singer)

different headspace

like now, I'm in a ~ than I was 6 months ago (pop singer)

right headspace

what was the process like for you to get into the ~ (writing)

I am not in the ~ (Simon Biles)

in (precisely) the right headspace

you're ~ for this film (you are curious, etc.)

occupied a lot of the country's collective headspace

the election has ~ for the last few years (2020 election)

sharing that headspace with listeners around the U.S.

when you tune into All Things Considered, you're ~ (NPR)

♦ "It was obvious from the first bell that he was not in the right headspace." (An online commenter about Joe Joyce in his rematch with Zhilei "Big Bang" Zhang.)

♦ "I remember just hiking through the woods. Beautiful nature, big thickets, and I was on the streets of Manhattan. I couldn't get out of that movie. I couldn't get out of that headspace for, it felt like, days. I don't know if I've ever been affected so much by a movie." (Filmmaker Richard Linklater after seeing the 1976 film *Taxi Driver* when it first came out.)

♦ "I was like, I am not in the right headspace." (The gymnast Simon Biles, quitting at the Olympics. She was widely praised as brave.)

♦ "There are lots of places to go to find what you're looking for if this is the headspace you're in..." (Something or other, anything...)

♦ "Headspace provides app-based guided meditation and offers a free trial." / "Bevel recently partnered with meditation app Headspace to offer free mental health services to Black people."

♦ OLD: in the right mindset, frame of mind... / NEW: in the right headspace...

## head-spinning

head-spinning

the explanations have been ~

head spinning week

it's been a ~ in Australian politics

♦ "Once again, a tweet sends the head spinning."

♦ "This has been the most dizzying, jaw-dropping, eyeball-popping, head-spinning news conference I have ever attended. And I was at Bill Clinton's news conference in 1998 when he faced the press for the first time over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky." (An over-caffeinated John Sopel for the BBC, following a press conference with President Trump on Monday, April 13, 2020. Sopel would make a good sports commentator in the mold of John Madden or Stephen A. Smith.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This makes one think of American cartoons.

## head start

head start on the assignment

I want to get a ~

## heads-up (warning)

heads-up

you should have given us a ~ (warning)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A wolf father and his son are crouched in the tall prairie grass near a herd of buffalo, ready to attack. The father is advising his son, "We don't go for the weakest—we go for the one that's checking its e-mail." Indeed, one nearby buffalo has his head down, a cellphone in his hoof, checking its email! *The New Yorker*, October 2, 2023. The vast majority of millennials and Zoomers lack situational awareness. It's why they fall into holes, walk off of piers, drive onto train tracks, and back off of cliffs taking selfies, etc. Darwin Award winners!

## head-to-head

head-to-head confrontation

~ versus guerrilla war (US in Iraq)

head-to-head match

China beats Russia in ~ (chess)

Nadal leads their ~s by 14-7 (tennis)

went head to head with the conservatives

the liberals ~ over the issue

went head to head over the issue  
they ~ of...

take on Romney head-to-head  
Santorum will ~ (nomination process)

## headway (noun)

making any headway  
we're not ~ at all (poor economy)

## headwind (noun)

headwind on the economy  
this is the biggest ~ (poor housing market / Obama)

headwind to rebuilding  
communication missteps have created a massive ~ trust

economic headwinds  
~ in a difficult digital advertisement environment

political headwinds  
Democrats know the ~ are not in their favor (elections)

social and economic headwinds  
shielding the town from the larger ~ buffeting small towns

overcome these headwinds  
he should be able to ~ (Tim Cook of Apple)

♦ "While the global headwinds are strong, the U.K.'s engines are stronger." (Prime Minister Boris Johnson, during a speech in Blackpool.)

♦ "What the government was hoping was that, okay, there would be a headwind from tax increases, but there would be a tailwind from consumer spending, but also a tailwind from falling interest rates. And that's what we are not getting." (Sir Howard Davies, the former chairman of NatWest Group. Much language relating to economics is figurative.)

### \*\*\* literal headwinds...

♦ "We are entering a period of challenging days for the estimated 80 million Americans traveling this holiday week. Many of those cherished family gatherings facing literal headwinds tonight, with the nation bracketed by storms..." (NBC Nightly News, Nov. 25, 2024, hyping the weather...)

♦ see also *tailwind* (noun)

## heal (verb)

heal itself  
remove dams and let nature ~

heal all those problems  
Prince Salman is the doctor to ~ in Saudi Arabia

healed the rift  
the years have not ~ between Shipa and her family

heal (old racial) wounds  
help ~

heal (old) wounds  
the project will ~ (slavery)

heal the wounds  
a ceremony of reconciliation meant to ~ left by the War

heal these wounds

a lifetime's not going to ~ (parents / school shooting)

heal the housing market  
we need to write down mortgages to ~

heal and renew  
the water has power to ~ (Medicine Lake)

never healed  
the rift between his mother and father ~ (divorced)

time to heal  
it's going to take ~ (emotionally)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Time heals all wounds."

♦ "Time apparently doesn't heal all wounds."

♦ "A knife wound heals; a wound caused by words does not." (A Turkish proverb.)

♦ "Now God be thanked that the name of a hill is such music, that the name of a river can heal." (*Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.)

## healing (noun)

healing  
~ through writing (*I'm Glad My Mom Died*)

*Healing Power*  
*The ~ of Storytelling* (Brewster / Zimmerman)

healing process  
he hopes renaming the buildings is part of the ~  
confronting trauma is part of the ~ (an artist)  
language is part of the ~ (local languages)  
I wanted to document the ~  
this is a step forward in the ~ (\$600 million)

liberated healing  
peer support for ~ (Project LETS)

sexual healing  
and when I get that feeling, I want ~ (Marvin Gaye song)

step toward healing  
an apology might be the first ~ (Native boarding schools)

solace, healing, and strength  
the ride empowers warriors to find ~ through movement

♦ NPR's Michel Martin: Thank you so much for talking with us. I imagine this just has to be exhausting. / Aly Raisman: Thank you for having me on. You know, this is one of the moments where right now I'm definitely, I'm definitely feeling it, I'm definitely exhausted, but that's that's what surviving and healing looks like. You know, there are some moments where I feel okay and then other moments....."

♦ "We're giving our staff some time to process what has happened, but also give them some time to start the grieving process and healing process. (Courtney Jolly, director of public relations and marketing for the Naples Zoo. From "An endangered tiger was shot dead by police in a Florida zoo after attacking a man" by Tien Le, NPR, Animals, December 30, 2021.)

♦ "While we are extremely embarrassed of the alleged actions of some of our Department's senior commanders, we look forward to the healing process that can begin to take place now that this has been heard in open court." A St. Louis County Police Union statement. From "Missouri Cop Who Says He Was Told 'Tone Down Your Gayness' Wins Discrimination Case" by Rachel Treisman, an intern on NPR's Nation Desk, October 30, 2019.)

♦ "Carly star Jennette McCurdy opens up on healing from writing her new memoir, *I'm Glad My Mom Died*."

♦ "How about, instead of being more angry, try being less angry? Healing is a choice." (Kk. The question mark is a good indicator of the online commenter's age, sex and mentality.)

♦ "I came out of treatment and began working on this album shortly after, and I was very angry, umm, I had some healing to do, but I got out a lot of that anger in my music... you see me going from angry to then like owning my power and my sexuality and then like happier love songs." (Demi Lovato about her new album, *Holy F\*\*\**.)

♦ "[The ride] empowers warriors to find solace, healing, and strength through movement." (The website of the Wounded Warrior Project's Soldier Ride DC. See the Wikipedia article "Wounded Warrior Project." Always investigate charities carefully before donating. Check their endowment. If it's hundreds of millions, do they really need your hard-earned dollars?)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Failure To Save A Child In Wartime Inspires Wound-Healing Tech" by Jon Hamilton, NPR, Morning Edition, April 2, 2018.

## health (in good health / in bad health)

in good health

everybody is hoping the lander is ~ (India space mission)  
engineers report Perseverance to be ~ (on Mars)

## health (condition)

health of the (global) economy

what his trade policies could do to the ~ (G7)

health of the planet

what his stance on climate change could mean to the ~

health of publishing

the ~ is in good hands (readers)

health of a (free) society

good journalism is essential to the ~

health and wellness

those pumps were so critical to the ~ of the experiment

industry's health

absorption, an indicator of the ~ (apartment market)

financial health

women's ~ is at a five-year low (economy)

intellectual health

the ~ of publishing is in good hands (readers)

economic and cultural health

problems that threaten the ~ (reindeer people)

threaten the environmental health

problems that ~ (reindeer people)

get back to (fiscal) health

we need to ~

♦ "Ten Hag still has many ills to cure but he is at least prescribing the sort of medication that is returning Manchester United to something like their former health." (Phil McNulty, Chief football writer for the BBC. Five of the words in that single sentence relate to health. Phil McNulty is a wonderful sportswriter.)

## healthy (condition)

healthy

10 percent thought conditions were ~ (economy)

corporate profits are ~

the spacecraft is ~ and we're excited (New Horizons)

healthy economy

his government's failure to build a ~

healthy (space) exploration

I think it's all ~ (privatization)

remains healthy

NASA will extend the mission if the hardware ~ (Mars)

♦ "The telescope is healthy and has enough fuel to last another decade." (The Chandra X-ray Observatory. Stellar word usage by NPR's science and technology reporter Nell Greenfieldboyce. To paraphrase NASA, "All systems are healthy!")

## healthy (strong)

healthy fear

a ~ is the best defense (of scorpions / desert warfare)

healthy skepticism

in science, a ~ is a professional necessity

## healthy (as noun)

make healthy a habit

we ~ (an advertisement for Optavia ®)

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## heap (verb)

heap abuse (even) on the home team

Philly fans ~

heaped contempt on her (hated) rival

she ~ (a politician)

heaped invective upon whites

the hate group ~ they saw (at the National Mall)

heaped praise on him and his work

officials have ~ (police commander)

## heaped

heaped on him

honors and diplomatic missions were ~ (Wellington)

heaped on the protagonist

the preposterous excess of humiliation and suffering ~

## heard (groups)

seen, heard and loved

we want students to know they are ~ (Fulton County, GA)

*Seen, Heard, and Paid*

~: *The New Work Rules for the Marginalized* (book)

safe and seen and heard

I lied, that was my way to feel ~ (fabulist Elisabeth Finch)

supported, seen and developed

programming that makes us feel ~ (minorities)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "This is not just for me, this is for every little girl that looks like me... We want to be seen. We want to be heard." (Michelle Yeoh touting herself on Instagram for an Academy Award.)

♦ "She made Palestinians feel heard and seen." (A tribute to Shireen Abu Akleh by her niece, Lina Abu Akleh.)

♦ "I think we were seen, but we were not heard." (The delightful Las Vegas Filipino restaurateur Magnolia Magog, about her community's political importance in the past compared to the 2024 election.)

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "Humans want to be seen and to be loved." (A trendy contemporary screenwriter / TV producer.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "I lied. That was my coping and my way to feel safe and seen and heard." (Elisabeth Finch, *Grey's Anatomy* writer.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Everybody is desperate to tell you who they are, to be seen. Which is sadly or not a reality of our species. We are all desperate to be seen or to be heard." (The Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, talking with Terry Gross of *Fresh Air* about his film *Nightmare Alley*.)

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ see also *seen (groups)*, *see you (hear you, love you, etc.)*

## heart (allegiance)

way to (anyone's) heart  
the quickest ~ is with an MCL gift card (ad)

after my own heart  
he's a man ~

captured the hearts  
he has ~ and minds of Americans (Olympic athlete)

captured my heart  
the first time I saw him, he ~ (an orphan)

give my heart  
I'm going to be very cautious who I ~ to

invest my heart in someone  
I can't ~ who might not stick around

win the hearts  
we can ~ and minds of people (AID official)

won our hearts  
he has ~ (Oleksandr Usyk becomes champion)

pledge their head, heart, hands and health  
youngsters —hence, 4-H— to such goals as... (4-H)

## heart (hearts and minds)

see *hearts and minds*

## heart (heart and soul)

see *heart and soul*

## heart (basis)

heart of cycling  
France, the ~ (Tour de France, etc.)

heart of courtesy  
the ~ is respect for persons

heart of the (US) economy

small businesses have become the beating ~

heart of the fair  
the ~ is the 4-H livestock show (US)

heart of jazz  
improvisation is the ~

heart and soul  
(see *heart and soul*)

envy at its heart  
much anti-Americanism has ~

at the heart of the argument  
~ is the claim that...

at the heart of the debate  
~ lies the question...

at the heart of the matter  
Kandahar is again ~ (war)

lies at the heart  
a failure of political will ~ of the problem (polio)

get to the heart  
we need to ~ of the matter

goes to the heart  
this argument ~ of the issue

♦ "Getting to I guess the heart of the book, the stomach of the book, the intestines of the book (laughing), Jay [the main character of the book], he gets swallowed by a giant sperm whale..." (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe speaking with writer Daniel Kraus about his latest book.)

## heart (young at heart, etc.)

at heart  
~ he's an optimist

fundamentally at heart  
I am ~ a shopper (online shopping Amanda Mull)

Bedouin at heart  
Sheikh Zayed remained a ~ (Abu Dhabi / UAE)

fashion girl at heart  
I'm a ~ (model Natalie Mariduena)

young at heart  
she remains ~

wild at heart  
the play is a hymn to the ~

## heart (identity)

in your heart  
if you're born here it's ~ (a festival in Ivrea, Italy)

in their heart  
every single Palestinian has Palestine ~

♦ *Home is where the heart is!*

## heart (heart on one's sleeve)

fights with his heart on his sleeve  
he always ~ (boxer Johnnie Tapia)

wears his heart on his sleeve

he ~ when it comes to his dad (boxer Ray Mancini)

♦ "The Pirate rode with his heart on his sleeve—all or nothing, death or glory." (The great Italian cyclist "*Il Pirata*," Marco Pantani.)

## heart (commitment)

heart

she said her ~ was now set on revenge (a Palestinian)

heart of a champion

she has the ~ (coach speaking of child gymnast)

heart of a (true) champion

he showed the ~ (boxer / title bout)

heart of a lion

he showed the ~ (a losing boxer)

heart of a (true) warrior

battered and bloodied, but showing the ~ (boxing)

heart and intuition

have the courage to follow your ~ (Steve Jobs)

heart and soul

see *heart and soul*

heart and stomach

his ~ for boxing are no longer there

fighting heart

the American soldier still has the ~ and will to win

fighter's heart

he showed a true ~ (boxing)

lion's heart

I have a ~ (winning boxer after hard match)

a lot of heart

anybody else would have quit, he's got ~ (a boxer)

no heart

he had ~ (fighter who quit)

so much heart

the cut was serious but he warriored on, ~ (Tyson Fury)

with heart

they are playing with passion, ~, they can do it (sports)

guts, passion and heart

he plays with ~, he's all in (NFL player)

heart is set on revenge

her ~

heart had gone out of the game

I think me ~ (a Yorkshire boxer)

follow your heart

~ and dare to take risks

showed (real) heart

he ~ (a boxer)

fought his heart out

he ~ every fight (the great Arturo Gatti)

sang her heart out

she ~

fight with their hearts

they ~ more than their heads... (two boxers)

fight with his heart on his sleeve

he always ~ (boxer Johnnie Tapia)

leave your heart on the floor

~ (a basketball player, exhorting his teammates)

left his heart in the ring

he ~ every time he fought (the great "Thunder" Gatti)

put her heart into it

she really ~ (an art project)

poured our hearts into the movement

for over 20 years we've ~ (social justice)

played with (unquestioned) heart

he ~ and leadership (dead quarterback)

fight with (a lot of) heart

he ~ and determination

took the (hate) message to heart

they ~ (Hispanic gang vs. blacks)

## heart (beating heart)

beating heart of this book

the three protagonists are the ~ (Boer War)

beating heart of the (lower Mekong) ecosystem

the Tonle Sap Lake, the so-called ~

beating heart of NATO

Article 5, the ~ (attack on one is attack on all)

beating heart of her work

nature as a springboard to the sacred is the ~ (a poet)

Columbia's beating heart

Bogota is ~, an engaging and vibrant capital

♦ "Assad boasted Syria was the beating heart of Arabism." (In 2023.)

## heart (eagerness and reluctance)

for the faint of heart

it's not ~ (a horror film)

combat is not ~

lost heart

many people have ~ (problems, obstacles)

♦ see also *heart (commitment)*

## heart (half-hearted, etc.)

with all her heart

she loved him ~

halfhearted

I made a ~ effort to learn French

half-hearted performances

boxers content to turn in uninspiring, ~

## heart (container)

in Russian hearts  
it occupies a special place ~ (the film *Irony of Fate*)

in our hearts  
he's ~, and we're in his (friend of missing boy)

in your heart  
if you're born here it's ~ (Battle of Oranges, Ivrea, Italy)

in the heart of another  
who really knows what lies ~

goodness in their hearts  
the justness of their cause, the ~ (military)

hatred in the hearts  
this statement fuels the ~ of all the Arabs

hole in my heart  
it left a huge ~ (loss of a baby)

joy in their hearts  
they watched with ~ (Manger Square / Bethlehem)

heart had closed up  
after his beloved married another man, Bulu's ~

hearts are filled with joy  
our ~ that she is safe (missing woman found)

hearts are opening up  
~ through volunteering, donating, and sharing

fills my heart with joy and laughter  
she ~

find room in my heart  
I tried to ~ for him, but I couldn't

hold her in our hearts  
we're going to ~ (Lori Piestewa)

instill fear into people's hearts  
the main purpose is to ~ (government vs. a province)

lies in the heart  
who really know what ~ of another

poured his heart (and soul) into the game  
he ~ (Larry Bird / basketball)

put fear in your heart  
my granddaddy said don't ever let no one ~ (authority)

put (some) hate in your heart  
~ (Dhahran Scud kills 28 / Highway of Death)

♦ "He'd pour his whole heart and his emotion into those songs... He'd sing about people crying, showing their emotions, you know, wearing their hearts on their sleeves." (Tim Marlow talking about the great singer Marvin Gaye on BBC's Great Lives.)

♦ "The Hopi believe that when they die, they bring snow and moisture back to the people. So the snow is fitting." (Vanessa Charles, commenting on the death of Lori Piestewa, killed in action in Iraq, and a rare April snowfall. We will always hold Lori Piestewa in our hearts.)

## heart (empathy)

heart of flint  
she was an elderly female with a ~

hearts of stone  
those State Department bureaucrats have ~

heart goes out to him  
your ~ (drowned child)

hearts go out to the families  
our ~ (mass shooting)

hearts go out to him  
our ~ and all the other healthcare workers (pandemic)

marshmallow heart  
she has a tough exterior, but she's got a ~

kind heart  
she has a ~

open heart  
she has the most ~ (open to all)

bless your heart  
well, ~

have a heart  
please, ~

show some heart  
why can't you ~

touch (American) hearts  
suffering Afghan children ~

♦ "They wouldn't give a crippled crab a crutch if they owned a lumber yard." (John Artis on the Patterson, New Jersey police and the justice system in the 1960s and 70s.)

## heart (a broken heart, etc.)

broke my heart  
it ~ to see...

breaks my heart  
it ~ to see these kids (politician / injured soldiers)

heart (romance, love)

broken heart  
you can overcome a ~

hide your heart  
Eli's coming, better ~, girl...

heart won't let me be right  
if it's wrong, then my ~ (love)

unbreak my heart  
~, say you love me again (Toni Braxton)

♦ "Near, far, wherever you are, I believe that the heart does go on." (Titanic My Heart Will Go On (Music Video))

## heart (I heart Kosova, etc.)

I heart Kosova  
he was wearing a T-shirt that read, "~~"



I heart ME

Charli XCX was wearing a “~” T-shirt

♦ “Lewiston Strong.” (A large homemade sign. The letter o’s have been replaced by red “heart shapes.”)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The heart symbol only vaguely resembles the actual shape of a heart.

## heart (center)

in the heart of North-West Frontier Province  
Buner (boo-NAIR) lies ~ (Pakistan)

in the heart of peanut country  
Albany lies ~ (Georgia)

in the heart of the (fall foliage) season  
we are ~

heart of the city  
just north of the ~  
the Pul-i-Imam Bukhri bridge leading into the ~

heart of (California’s wine) country  
the ~ (earthquake)

heart of the desert  
invaders were never able to penetrate the ~ (Saudi)

heart of the forest  
the Cuiabá-Santarém road, which slices through the ~

heart of Tanzania  
the Wagogo Plains, the wild ~

commercial heart  
Casablanca, a port city and the ~ of Morocco

industrial heart  
Manchester, the ~ of the British Empire

lies in the heart  
Buner (boo-NAIR) ~ of North-West Frontier Province

sits in the heart  
Albany ~ of peanut country (Georgia)

penetrate the heart  
invaders were never able to ~ of the desert (Saudi)

heart, the mecca  
the Strip was the ~, where you went (Summer of Love)

## heart (goal)

heart was (now) set on revenge  
she said her ~ (Middle East)

set his heart on St. Joseph’s Academy  
he ~ (desired to attend it)

follow his heart  
he decided to ~ (accept a job in different city)

## heart (heart of stone, etc.)

heart of flint  
she was an elderly female with a ~

heart of gold  
he had a ~ (tribute for soldier killed in combat)

Hearts of Oak  
the British have ~

hearts of stone  
those State Department bureaucrats have ~

marshmallow heart  
she has a tough exterior, but she’s got a ~

## heart (heart sank)

heart sank  
my ~... (news of murder of boy)

heart (just) sank  
when I heard those words, my ~ (loss of brother)

## heart (heavy heart)

heavy heart  
we definitely have some ~s here (athlete injured)

with a heavy heart  
~, he headed down the mountain  
it is ~ that I...

with heavy hearts  
we left ~ and broken spirits

with the heaviest of hearts  
it is ~ that I have to tell you of the passing of our friend...

with a particularly heavy heart  
he has concluded, ~, that... (commissioner of enquiry)

left with heavy hearts  
we ~ and broken spirits

## heart (change of heart)

change of heart  
industry must undergo a ~ (exploitation vs. conservation)  
he went public with his ~ in an opinion piece (politics)  
a ~ is a good legal strategy (terrorist cooperates)  
change of government, ~ (diplomacy)

belated change of heart  
well, why the ~

undergo a change of heart  
industry must ~ (exploitation vs. conservation)

## heart (shape)

heart, round or oval  
whether you have a ~ face

shape of a heart  
it was cut into the ~ (a yearbook)

drawing of a heart  
a red-ink ~ in the palm of her left hand

♦ The heart symbol only vaguely resembles the actual shape of a heart.

## heart (sincerity)

heart-to-heart

see *heart-to-heart*

with all her heart

she believed in his innocence ~ (wife of serial killer)

with all my heart

I honestly believe ~ that...

believe in you with all my heart

I ~

from the bottom of my heart

I'd like to tell you ~ how sorry I am...

thank you ~

his heart was in the right place

he made mistakes, but ~

his heart is (always) in the right place

~ (Sean Penn)

come from my heart

these words ~

speaking from my heart

I am ~ when I say... (sincerity)

wears his heart on his sleeve

he ~ when it comes to his dad (Ray Mancini / boxer)

wearing their hearts on their sleeves

he'd sing about people showing their emotions, ~

♦ "Do you want me to speak my heart?" (A Tigrayan woman speaking in English and being interviewed by the BBC.)

♦ "He'd pour his whole heart and his emotion into those songs... He'd sing about people crying, showing their emotions, you know, wearing their hearts on their sleeves." (Tim Marlow talking about the great singer Marvin Gaye on BBC's Great Lives.)

## heart (by heart)

play by heart

it is a fixed rule that instrumentalists shall ~ (concerts)

know symphonies by heart

conductors ~

know them by heart

we've heard those slogans for so many years that we ~

learned it by heart

he ~ (a long poem)

recite the Qur'an by heart

he can ~

♦ "Playing from memory is a badge of honor." (Pianists.)

♦ "Memorization turns a poem into a companion." (The poet Billy Collins.)

## heart (knife in the heart, etc.)

knife in the heart

the date Feb. 6, 1958, is still a ~ (Man. U fan)

knife to the heart

it's a shocking ~ (loss of Tangier Island to erosion)

rip your heart out

the new study will just ~ (coronavirus deaths)

## heart (stake through the heart, etc.)

put a stake through the heart of Row

there is a majority on the court willing to ~ (SCOTUS)

put a stake through the heart of these theories

you might think that would ~, but no (conspiracy theory)

put a stake through their hearts

we definitely ~ (Operation Anaconda, Shah-i-Kot)

drive the stake into Ron DeSantis

Nikki Haley is really trying to ~ (politics)

driving a wooden stake into the heart

he thought he was ~ of the civil-rights movement (Bull

Connor in Birmingham, Alabama)

♦ "This will hopefully drive a final stake through the heart of these China Initiative cases..." (Attorney Peter Zeidenberg, after a federal judge threw out three of four convictions against his client. The DOJ program, begun in 2018, was ended in early 2022.)

♦ see also *Dracula* (noun), *vampire* (noun)

## heart (a heart can sing)

makes my heart sing

this kind of football ~ (Sawa Homare and team)

♦ "There are two kinds of climbers. Those who climb because their heart sings when they're in the mountains, and all the rest." (Alex Lowe.)

## heartache (noun)

heartaches and misery

all the ~ it causes (alcoholism)

deaths and resentments and heartaches

all the ~

sorrows and heartaches

all the ~ of this life

~ versus joy and fulfillment (religion)

## heart and soul

hearts and souls

their ~ are in it (NASA scientists)

heart and soul of the dancing grannies

she was the ~ (Waukesha Christmas parade attack)

heart and soul of sports journalism

traditional print publications were once the ~

heart and soul of a newspaper

the journalists are the ~ (*Asheville Citizen-Times*)

heart and soul of our team

he was the ~ (mountaineering)

lost its heart and soul

racing has ~ (death of popular driver)

poured his heart and soul into the game

he ~ (Larry Bird / basketball)

♦ "The heart and soul of our family is gone." (A public expression of grief. The elderly woman was mauled to death by her own pit bulls. A neighbor reported being afraid of the dogs.)

## heartbeat (in a heartbeat)

in a heartbeat

if he could undo his actions he would ~

change in a heartbeat

the weather can ~ (Kauai)

leave in a heartbeat

the US is unreliable, it could up and ~ (diplomacy)

## heartbeat (noun)

heartbeat of the cave

the ~ (dripping water)

## heartbreak (Heartbreak Hotel, etc.)

Heartbreak Hill

~, the steep half-mile at mile 20 (Boston Marathon)

Heartbreak Hotel

the Hanoi Hilton included ~ and New Guy Village

Heartbreak Ridge

the Battle of ~ (Korean War, 1951)

Misery, Agony, and Heartbreak

the three hills at Fort Knox, ~ (recruit training)

## heartbreak (noun)

heartbreak of (constant medical) crises

the ~ and setbacks

died of heartbreak

I think he ~...

♦ "Breakup coaches, heartbreak dietitians, get-over-him getaways... (Females.)

## heartbreaker (noun)

lose heartbreaker

Jets ~ against Colts on last-minute touchdown

## heartbreaking (adjective)

heartbreaking cry for help

his suicide attempt was a ~

## heartbroken (adjective)

heartbroken

he was ~

heartbroken city

Liverpool is a ~ (Hillsborough tragedy)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Sean: Anyone who is 'heartbroken' or 'gutted' that England lost, really needs to have a good look in a mirror & have a word with themselves..... / Harry Stottle (to Sean): Especially if they are 'literally' heartbroken or gutted. (Smart repartee on a BBC HYS after Spain beat England in the final of the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup.)

## heartfelt (adjective)

heartfelt commitment

a ~ to democratic values

heartfelt prayers

with ~, the families of the trapped miners waited...

heartfelt sorrow

we want to express our ~ (murder of young woman)

heartfelt views

her ~ got her in trouble with the authorities

## heartland (noun)

in the heartland

two American kids growing up ~ ("Jack and Diane")

heartland of China

Xi'an, in the antique ~, watered by the Yellow River

Amhara-speaking heartland

Gondar, in the ~ (Ethiopia)

Christian heartland

the ~ north of Beirut (Lebanon)

Yoruba heartland

Nigeria with its ~, Ibo strongholds and Hausa north

industrial heartland

in China's ~

spiritual heartland

the province is the Taliban's ~ (Helmand)

## heartless

heartless so-and-so

he's a cool, ~ who...

## hearts and minds

battle for hearts and minds

he is losing the ~ at Stamford Bridge (a soccer coach)

competition for hearts and minds

~ in Ukraine (China vs. the EU)

people's hearts and minds

politics is about persuasion, about winning ~ (Ted Cruz)

captured the hearts and minds

he has ~ of Americans (Olympic athlete)

changes the hearts and minds

the odds that this campaign ~ of most GOP senators is slim

win the hearts and minds

we can ~ of people (AID official)

wins hearts and minds

sometimes the edit ~ at the expense of the truth

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Politics is story-telling, and politics hopefully is about persuasion, about winning people's hearts and minds." (Senator Ted Cruz.)

♦ "Techniques to encourage loyalty down the years haven't always been entirely compliant with the outlook of a modern human-resources department. The former labour cabinet minister Jack Straw recalled in his memoirs being grabbed by the 'the goolies' by his whip, a method that led to teary-eyed agreement within moments. More enlightened recent times mean such tales of robust or physical twisting of arms, or indeed anything else, are less frequent..." (Political correspondent Chris Mason, BBC Sounds, Six O'Clock News, "Senior Conservative alleges MPs 'intimidated' by Government whips," 20/01/2022. Clever writing!)

♦ "Hollywood is winning in the battle with the West over hearts and eyes." (In Russia. The Russian film *The Witness* (unpopular) vs. *Barbie* (popular.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "Get them by their balls and their hearts and minds will follow." (A saying popular among combat soldiers during the Vietnam War who were cynical about US government campaigns to "win the hearts and minds" of the Vietnamese people. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

♦ "We'll take their hearts and we'll take their minds." (Outpost Restrepo, Korangal Valley, Afghanistan.)

♦ "General McChrystal and every expert that talks about counterinsurgency...we pretty clearly understand now that the key to winning any fight like this is to control the population, not control them, but... I don't want to use 'win hearts and minds' but that's basically it, you know, to get the people on your side and let them understand that you're here for them." (A Marine captain in Marjah in 2010. "I don't want to use 'win hearts and minds'" is telling.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "You can't change hearts and minds through legislation." (Gay, trans rights, etc.)

♦ "Gratitude is not a relevant concept in international relations and never has been."

♦ "Get them by their balls and their hearts and minds will follow."

## heartsick

heartsick about it

we're ~ (brother of soldier facing tough tour in Iraq)

## heart-stopping

heart-stopping beauty

her ~ (a ballerina)

heart-stopping moment

it was a ~ (near-accident)

## heartthrob

heartthrob

the ~ Leonardo DiCaprio

vampiric heartthrob

Blyth, who is that ~ type that's very in vogue

♦ "Blyth, who is that vampiric heartthrob type that's very in vogue at the moment..." (A review of *The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*.)

## heart-to-heart

heart-to-heart with her

it's been a while since I have had a ~ (dad / daughter)

heart-to-heart conversation

we had an open, ~ about sex

## heartwarming (adjective)

heartwarming

what's ~ about them is...

## heartwood

heartwood

the outer, lighter sap wood vs. central, darker ~

bark, sap wood and ~ (trees)

## heart-wrenching

heart-wrenching

it's ~ (comment on murder of family)

heart-wrenching picture

the ~s (Haiti earthquake)

## heat (in the heat of passion, etc.)

in the heat of the moment

he said some things he wished he hadn't ~

I made my decision ~ (regret)

in the heat of passion

threats are often thrown out ~

manslaughter is the killing of another ~

~, man loses his better judgment

acted in the heat of passion

her lawyer contended that she ~

kills in the heat of passion

the defendant is held less responsible if he ~

committed in the heat of passion

prosecutors believe the crime was ~

## heat (pressure)

catching (so much) heat

we were ~ (cops on a stalled serial-rapist case)

feeling the heat

they are ~ (competition)

keep the heat on Venezuela

the administration is trying to ~

## heat (turn up the heat, etc.)

turned up the heat

then he really ~ by starting a Web site accusing...

turning up the heat on BP

the president is ~

turning the heat up on its (long-time NATO) ally

the U.S. is ~

turned up the heat to scalding

President Trump ~ this week... (on immigration debate)

## heat (criticism)

a lot of heat

Biden has gotten ~ recently about his record on race

take heat

he'll ~ for this

## heated (emotion)

heated argument  
the ~s in their bar  
I got into a ~ with him

heated (phone) conversation  
engaged in a ~

heated debate  
the ~ revealed deep political divisions (politics)

heated disagreements  
there have been ~ over troop levels (war)

heated discussion  
propelled scientists into a ~  
a ~ about the study results

heated dispute  
~s over strategy and tactics are inevitable (officer corps)

heated exchange  
they got into a ~ (a protester and a local)

heated response  
their story drew a ~

heated rhetoric  
~ is unlikely to disappear from politics

heated (business) rivalry  
in a ~, you must still consider ethics

heated falling out  
a ~ between the mayor, police chief

heated and emotional  
after years of ~ debate, the university banned...

get heated  
when it comes to gun laws, things can sometimes ~

got heated  
he went to confront her, and things ~

grow heated  
arguments ~ (local government)

grew (more) heated  
the detective ~ as he spoke

remains heated  
the debate ~ (educational issue)

## heatedly

debated heatedly  
Rwanda policy was ~ by US officials

## heat up (verb)

heating up  
competition is ~

heated up to a full boil  
his messages to her ~ in 2014 (an online stalker)

heated up at NPR

let's talk about how things ~ after George Floyd's death

## heaven (move heaven and earth)

move heaven and earth to make certain that...  
I instructed my team to ~ (coronavirus response)  
I will ~ nothing like July 13<sup>th</sup> happens again (Kim  
Cheatle)

moved heaven and earth to provide  
we have ~ security (Olympics)

## heaven (environment, food, etc.)

heaven  
two weeks of sun, sand, and surf, it was ~  
in the early 1970s, it was ~ (Iran)

heaven on a plate  
it is ~ (Kethel's fried chicken / Hotel Rahmaniya)

girls' heaven  
you'd think this is like a ~, but... (social media)

in heaven  
Spielberg was ~ (filming *West Side Story* in New York)  
I was ~, standing right in front of the stage...  
with Pro-Tools, Garage Band, I was ~ (a songwriter)

♦ "I don't know what heaven looks like, but this seems like a version of it." (Jalen Rose, former "Fab Five" member and NBA player. From the official trailer for the 2024 Hulu documentary *Freaknik: The Wildest Party Never Told*.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON: A young man and a young woman are sharing a round café table in heaven. Both wear robes, both have wings, both have haloes above their heads, and both have their cups of coffee near them on the table. The young man has his laptop open but is looking at the woman; the young woman has put down her phone for a moment and is looking at the man. In the background, another angel is sitting at a café table staring like a zombie at his laptop, while an angel is flying in the sky with its head down, riveted to his or her phone. The woman is saying, "Free Wi-Fi and unlimited refills are nice, but frankly I was expecting more." (*The New Yorker*, August 5, 2024. Funny!)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. A father accidentally ran over the family cat while backing out of the garage. His little daughter cried and cried and was inconsolable. "Don't be sad," he said, and told her to get an empty shoebox from the house. He put the dead cat in the shoebox, and then he led her out into the yard, where he dug a hole. All the while, he explained to her how the cat had gone to cat heaven, and how happy the cat was there. In cat heaven, he explained, it rained cream, and the cats licked the cream off the leaves. Cat nip and cat treats grew on all the bushes. All the dogs were in zoos, and the cat mothers and fathers took their kittens to look at them. He went on and on in a soothing voice, and gradually his little daughter calmed down. She stopped crying, and even helped to fill in the little grave with clods of dirt from her little hands. When the funeral was over, she said, "Daddy? Can we kill another cat?"

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "After the turmoil [of W.W.II], it looked like heaven." (A military doctor who saw Andrews, western North Carolina, and on the spur of the moment decided to settle there. He spent the rest of his life living among and doctoring to the mountain people.)

♦ "Man, you eat all the goddamn oranges and all the goddamn bananas you want." (An American merchant-marine sailor in 1947, to Tom Lantos (1928-2008), who was traveling from Europe to the US on a converted troop ship. Lantos, a Holocaust survivor, had discovered a big basket of oranges and a big basket of bananas in the mess and had asked the sailor, 'Should I take an orange or a banana?' On hearing the sailor, Lantos thought, 'Then I knew I was in paradise.' He went on to become the lone Holocaust survivor to serve in the US Congress. He was admitted to the US because he had been awarded an academic scholarship to study in the US on the

basis of an essay he had written about the US president Franklin D. Roosevelt.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "You'd think this is like girls' heaven, but actually, this is girls' hell."  
(Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, about girls' use of social media.  
Haidt is the author of *The Anxious Generation: How the Great  
Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness.*)

## heavy (tank-heavy, etc.)

CGI-heavy

studios produce an increasing number of ~ movies

fish-heavy

their ~ diet (bald eagles)

run-heavy

Alabama took a ~ approach (a football game)

tank-heavy

the armored fist of the ~ 1991 Gulf War

top-heavy

a ~ senior officer corps (military)

♦ "An expat-heavy corner of Mexico City..." (Justin Chang, in his  
review of the 2024 Luca Guadagnino film *Queer.*)

## heavy (amount)

heavy blow

the offensive has dealt a ~ to Hamas (in Gaza)

heavy favorite

she is the ~ (Tokyo Olympics)

heavy fire

he has been taking ~ from his rivals (politics)

heavy (rocket and mortar) fire

A Company came under ~

heavy price

fame came with a ~

he was overconfident throughout and paid a ~ (soccer)

they will pay a ~ for these actions (politics)

heavy rains

~, hail, reports of funnel clouds

heavy security

~ didn't dampen the enthusiasm of fans (Olympics)

heavy toll

rebel resistance was taking a ~

the US raid, while brief, inflicted a ~

heavy (Internet) user

she had been a ~ (murdered)

## heavy (emotion)

heavy

things are getting a little ~, let's lighten things up

## heavy (heavy heart, etc.)

heavy hearts

we left with ~ and broken spirits

## heavy (serious)

heavy

I think it's pretty ~, man... (potential repercussions)

♦ If everything comes out he'll be lucky if he coaches in the NBA to  
be honest wit' chew. / Oh, you think it's that bad. / I think it's pretty  
heavy, man... Some stuff you can't do, you know what I mean, 'cause  
some stuff you *can* do, so... Not judging... (Sports talk about the latest  
sex scandal in the NBA.)

## heavy (substance)

heavy ideas

to get a young audience to engage with such ~...

## heavy (oppression)

heavy

the burdens of leadership are ~

heavy burden

he carries a ~ of responsibility (ruler)

the ~ of this mammoth job (Man U manager)

heavy charges

these are ~

heavy criticism

after facing years of ~ nationally and internationally...

heavy price

fame came with a ~

heavy responsibility

I feel a ~ for these police failures (official)

## heavy-handed

heavy-handed

I think the punishment was ~

heavy-handed response

the ~ of the government has invited criticism (to protests)

heavy-handed and unnecessary

the decision was ~ (a sports kerfuffle)

## heavy-hearted (adjective)

heavy-hearted

she seemed ~

## heavyweight (noun)

heavyweights of the industry

the meeting was attended by global ~ (mining)

EU heavyweights

Switzerland is next to ~ France and Germany

turn uncompetitive Americans into heavyweights

STEM was a magic word that would ~ (education)

♦ "One of the problems when you go down this rabbit hole is you  
meet up with all the long-ball hitters in the history of art. They're all in  
the batting cage waiting. Because it's the ultimate long-ball challenge,  
from Chaucer to Shakespeare to Philip Roth, that of the dying man."  
(The great filmmaker Paul Schrader, a Michigander.)



## hector (verb)

hectors her children not to divulge  
she ~ personal information online

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "[H]e is the prince of the city, on whose shoulders its defense depends ('Hector' means something like 'the one who holds things together'), the dutiful son of the aged king and queen, Priam and Hecuba, the responsible older brother to numerous siblings whom he must often whip into shape (not least the playboy Paris, whose adultery with another man's wife set the war in motion), and, above all, the husband of a beautiful young wife, Andromache, and the father of an enchanting child, Astyanax." ("JFK, Tragedy, Myth" by the wonderful classicist Daniel Mendelsohn.)

♦ "It is unexplainable why this distinguished name should have contributed such an unpleasant word to our language." (Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., about the Trojan hero, whose name has been transformed to mean *braggart* or *bully*. From *Word Origins and Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ Many historical personages—Hector, Pandarus, King Canute, Machiavelli, Captain William Bligh, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Joe McCarthy—have been mischaracterized in history and in the language.

## hedgehog (military)

hedgehog concept  
the ~ had succeed at the Battle of Na San

hedgehog defense  
they cannot be reinforced, so they must mount a ~

Czech hedgehogs  
~ symbolized "defense at all costs" in the Soviet Union  
the beaches of Normandy were spiked with ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A hedgehog defense involves an isolated stronghold or strongpoint which can be surrounded yet still survive, in modern times, by aerial resupply. The strongpoints are capable of all-around (perimeter) defense. The Battle of Khe Sanh (1968) was such a defense. Hedgehogs or strongpoints can be bypassed but will slow an attacker down and expose the enemy's rear to attack. Problems include the fact that strongpoints can simply be bypassed (as happened to the French at the start of World War II) or that the enemy can prevent aerial resupply, as happened to the 6th Army under Paulus at Stalingrad in 1943 and the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. In Vietnam, the hedgehog concept had worked at the Battle of Na San but proved to be a decisive catastrophe for the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. Many wondered if the Battle of Khe Sanh in 1968 would be a Dien Bien Phu for the US, but the U.S. Marines somehow managed to hang on.

♦ "The fox knows many tricks, the hedgehog, one good one." (Archilochus.)

## heel (under the heel)

under the heel of (Saddam's brutal) regime  
after decades ~ (Basra)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be under someone's thumb. Or under their foot. Or heel. Or under the yoke... Take your pick!

## heel (on the heels)

on the heels of (another) security breach  
the report came ~

on the heels of the (debt-ceiling) debate  
his came ~

on the heels of discovery  
mapmaking follows ~

came on the heels  
the report ~ of another security breach

come on the heels  
the protests ~ of the events elsewhere in the region

## heel (on one's heels)

on its heels  
the government is ~ (losing against rebels)

put the defense on its heels  
they ~ (football)

## heel (dig in one's heels)

digging in their heels  
but four members of the board are ~ (culture wars)

dug in their heels  
they have ~ and refuse to bend (negotiations)

## heel (nip at somebody's heels)

nipping at his heels  
24 rivals are ~ from every direction (politics)  
he is leading the pack but ~ is Pete Buttigieg (election)

## heffalump (creature)

EU heffalump  
the ~ has been taken behind the barn by the vet (Brexit)

♦ The Heffalump was a creature in A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*. It occurs only in the imagination of Piglet and Pooh.

## heft (noun)

emotional heft  
he depicted the struggles of black emotions with ~

record industry heft  
she has used her ~ to secure royalties... (Taylor Swift)

## hegira (and hejira)

hejira across the Himalayas to Tibet  
he made that amazing ~ (the wonderful Heinrich Harrer)

hegira to the Schoharie  
Weiser, prime mover in the ~ (Mohawk River valley)

## height (at the height)

at the height of his glory  
the waters of the Nieman River reflected Napoleon ~

at the height of its popularity  
he stopped drawing the strip ~ (a cartoonist)

at the height of his powers  
*On the Waterfront*, 1954, he was 30, ~ (Marlon Brando)

## heighten (verb)

heightened fears  
the report ~ of a second recession

heightens worries

the killing ~ over the fate of Afghan journalists

## heights (to new heights, etc.)

heights of government

he never scaled the ~ (MP Sir David Amess)

heights of performance

it isn't likely to motivate employees to new ~

heights of stardom

she has ascended to the ~ (film actor)

new heights

it isn't likely to motivate employees to ~ of performance

ascended to the heights

she has ~ of stardom (film actor)

scaled the heights

he never ~ of government (MP Sir David Amess)

take their rivalry to new heights

they ~ (promotion for wrestling match)

taking flying to new heights

the new Boeing Dreamliner is ~

motivate employees to new heights

it isn't likely to ~ of performance

reclaim the heights

they have managed to ~ (tennis sisters)

## heights (commanding heights, etc.)

commanding heights

the left controls the ~ of the culture (schools, media, etc.)

♦ "The problem is that the left controls the commanding heights of the culture: universities, news organizations, Hollywood, art museums, advertising, much of Silicon Valley, and the teachers' unions and teaching colleges that shape K-12 education." ("After Babel: How Social Media Dissolved The Mortar of Society And Made America Stupid" by Jonathan Haidt, *The Atlantic*, May, 2022.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "A Scottish officer, named Lieutenant Macculloch, is said at this time to have suggested to [Wolfe] the daring but brilliant idea of attempting that which the French conceived to be impracticable—the scaling of the Heights of Abraham—and thus gaining the lofty ground which overlooked the city at a part where its defences were most weak... / Slinging their muskets, and climbing, some with their swords in their teeth, the Frasers scrambled up the steep and woody precipice... / Following the Highlanders, Wolfe was soon on the plateau of the precipice, and with ardour he formed his troops in contiguous columns of regiments as they came toiling up; and ere the rising sun began to gild the spires and ramparts of Quebec and the far-stretching bosom of the mighty St. Lawrence, he had his whole force marching in battle array along the famous Heights of Abraham, with colours flying and all their bayonets glittering..." (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant. Chapter XXII. "Quebec, 1759." Wolfe would suffer his famous death in battle. According to Grant, before the Marquis of Montcalm died of his wound, he said, "Thank Heaven, I shall not live to see the capitulation of Quebec! I have got my death fighting against the bravest soldiers in the world, at the head of the greatest cowards that ever carried muskets!" Finally, Grant writes, "It is recorded that Lieutenant Macculloch, the officer according to whose suggestion [Wolfe] first conceived the idea of turning the French flank by scaling the Heights of Abraham, died a pauper in Marylebone Workhouse, in the year 1793.")

## heir (noun)

heirs to a great (and ancient) civilization

the Egyptian people are ~

ideological heirs

Earth Liberation Front, ~ to Earth First!

political heirs

they are the ~ of the segregationist South

product and an heir

Napoleon was both a ~ to the French Revolution

## heir apparent

heir apparent

Kamala Harris is the obvious ~ (to President Biden)

heir-apparent

he and his ~ are dead (Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi)

heir apparent to al Qaeda

he was the ~ (Hamza bin Laden)

heir apparent of the (white nationalist) movement

he was once the ~ (Derek Black)

Logan's heir apparent

the role of Kendall Roy, ~ (*Succession*)

no clear heir apparent

Nancy Pelosi has ~ (Democratic leader of the House)

## heirloom (noun)

heirloom grains

flour milled from ~ grown in Illinois (bagels)

heirloom seeds

they're artisanally grown from ~ (Chimayo peppers)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, "try this genius hack to..." In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ see also *supersizing* (*linguistic supersizing*)

## heist (noun)

heist

snatching a draw would have been a ~ (soccer)

## helicopter (helicopter mom, etc.)

helicopter mom

~, people called her (connection to adult daughter)

helicopter parent

she was accused of being a ~ (with 21-year-old daughter)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There are helicopter parents, and then there are tennis parents..."

## helicopter (verb)

tendency to helicopter

she had a ~ (with her adult daughter)

## hell (rhododendron hell, etc.)

slicks and (rhododendron) hells

laurel ~ (Appalachia)

## hell (Green Hell, etc.)

Green Hell

travelers christened it the "~" (Mato Grosso)

"hell highway"

killed returning to the reservation on the ~ (Arizona)

Hell Night

~ at the Citadel (Military School)

Hell week

~, trying to survive, the pressure to quit (SEAL training)

highway to hell

see *highway (highway to hell)*

## hell (Hell's Gate, etc.)

Hell

~ is an unincorporated community in Michigan

Hell's Gate

~, the second big rapid (kayaking)

the Nahanni bends through a constriction called the ~  
the explorers named the crack ~ (Kenya national park)

Hell's Gates

the sandbar at the mouth of ~ was silting up

Hell's Backbone

she drove down a road called ~ (southern Utah)

Hell's Kitchen

~, known for the Irish, actors, firefighters... (Manhattan)  
CTR's ~ lithium and power project (Salton Sea, CA)

Hell Bays

~ is a swamp in Florida

Hell Bend

~ is a bend in Tennessee

Hell Canyon

~ is a valley in New Mexico

Hell Creek

~ is a stream in Montana

Hell Cat

~ Bay is a swamp in Florida  
~ Rock is a summit in Oregon  
~ Lake is a lake in Alabama

Hell Fire

~ Flat is a flat in Oregon

Hell Gap

~ is a gap in Wyoming

Hell Gate

~ Canyon is a valley in Washington  
~ Point is a cape in Florida

Hell Hole

~ is an area in New Mexico

Hellhole

~ Mountain is a summit in Georgia

Hell Hole

~ is a named rapid on the Gauley River  
he skirted ~ on river left (kayaker / Gauley River)

Hell Hollow

~ is a valley in Pennsylvania

Hell Island

~ is an island in Rhode Island

Hell Lake

~ is a lake in Washington

Hell Mountain

~ is a summit in New Jersey

Hell Neck

~ is a cape in Virginia

Hell Point

~ is a cliff in Arizona

Hell Rapids

~ is a set of rapids in Maine

Hell Run

~ is a stream in West Virginia

Hell Swamp

~ is a swamp in North Carolina

Hell Roaring

~ Canyon is a valley in Montana

Hellroaring

~ Creek is a stream in Montana

Hell to Find

~ Lake is a lake in California

Hell to Get to

~ Tank is a reservoir in New Mexico

Hell for Certain

~ Creek is a stream in Kentucky

Hell for Sure

~ Canyon is a valley in California

Hell and Gone

~ Creek is a stream in Oklahoma

Bumpass Hell

~ has bubbling mud pots and seaming vents (California)

Pure Screaming Hell

~ lives up to its name (a rapid on Gauley River, WV)

What the Hell

~ Spring is a spring in South Dakota

♦ Fiddlers Hell (valley / OR); Bears Hell (ridge / WV); Bears Hell Run (stream / WV); Bumpass Hell (flat / Shasta County, CA); Cow Hell Swamp (Swamp / GA); Half Hell (populated place! / NC); Little Hell (swamp / GA)...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "But it's not pronounced 'Bump Ass,' more like 'Bump Us.' It's named after mountaineer Kendall Vanhook Bumpass, who held a mineral claim here in the 1860s. / In 1865, Bumpass brought a group of visitors out to see the surreal landscape. And while showing them around, he stepped through the crust...into a nearly 240 degree Fahrenheit, highly acidic mud pot. / According to park Ranger Shanda Ochs, his companions pulled him out and dragged him to a nearby patch of snow, which they packed around his boiled leg. Still, it ended up having to be amputated. So the region became known as his 'hell.'" ("Welcome to Bumpass Hell, a Bubbling, Stinky Sliver of 'California's Yellowstone'" by Katherine Monahan, KQED, Oct. 7, 2023. Perhaps this story is true: it sounds to me like an interpretation to ensure tourists don't leave the walkways and come to harm. As a visitor is quoted as saying, "It's just like this barren hellscape and it smells like eggs.")

♦ For the unincorporated community, read the Wikipedia article "Hell, Michigan," specifically the section titled "Etymology," which suggests four theories about the origin of the name. The article is very interesting and worth reading. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ A man in Kentucky once gave me directions to get to a put-in on the Rockcastle River. He finished up with, "An' right when you're sure you're right in the middle of nowhere... Well, it's just four miles further on!" This might explain the origin of "Hell to Find Lake" and "Hell to Get to Tank."

♦ There are a multitude of Hell Canyons, Hell Gates, and Hell Hollows in the United States.

♦ In the southern Appalachians, people speak of "rhododendron hells." These are densely overgrown areas, particularly along ensorcelled streams. Hunters have gotten lost in such "hells," only to emerge hours or even days later, crawling on all fours, naked, their clothes having been stripped off by the foliage.

♦ There is a Christian attitude towards nature that might explain some of these place names. John Ciardi's great translation of *The Inferno* starts out, "Midway in our life's journey, I went astray / from the straight road and woke to find myself alone in a dark wood. How shall I say..." In his notes for Canto VIII he points out that "Within the city walls lies all the Lower Hell; within it fire is used for the first time as a torment of the damned; and at its very center Satan himself stand fixed forever in a great ice cap."

♦ You may be an atheist, or a product of the enlightenment in which the devil no longer exists. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

♦ see also *devil* (*Devil's Falls, etc.*)

## hell (violence, etc.)

hell of war

in the ~, how does a chaplain hold on to faith

hell for pedophiles

prison can be a living ~

Hell's jaws

the killings began, as ~ opened... (ethnic cleansing)

living hell

prison can be a ~ for pedophiles

scene from hell

he saw a number of bodies in a "~" (friendly fire)

escaped from a living hell

he ~ (POW)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ I know I'm going to heaven 'cause I've spent my time in hell. (A combat veteran.)

♦ War is hell. (General William Sherman.)

## hell (personal, traffic, etc.)

hell

I've been through ~

hell of the pandemic

after the ~, football heaven... (Euro 2020 final)

hell of a forced marriage

his bid to rescue his love from the ~ (Pakistani)

hell on earth

he transformed the job into a ~ (a bad supervisor)

living hell

working there was a ~

traffic hell

Manhattan to be ~ today (Biden, Obama, Clinton in town)

sheer hell

this autumn is going to be ~ for him

divorce from hell

Alec Baldwin is living through the ~

make their wife's life a living hell

men who ~ (dowry scam)

put you through hell

win, lose or draw, Holyfield will ~ (the great boxer)

raise hell

see *hell* (*raise hell*)

scare the hell out of you

it will ~

♦ "You'd think this is like girls' heaven, but actually, this is girls' hell." (Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, about girls' use of social media. Haidt is the author of *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness.*)

## hell (hell to pay, etc.)

hell to pay

later, they have ~ (people who cheat on their spouses)

hell is going to break loose

all ~ tomorrow (civil strife)

## hell (hell hath no fury)

hell hath no fury

~ like a weak man ignored (slut-shaming by ex-husbands)

~ like an IT guy scorned (disgruntled employee)

~ like a screenwriter's scorn (*Tales From the Script*)

~ like a woman fed up with a man's idiocy

~ like a Minnesotan scorned (Red Lake County)

~ like a recording artist scorned (self-releases for free)

## hell (raise hell)

hell on heels

she was ~ (a troubled young socialite)

raising hell

she was ~ there, too (TV star fights with cast mates)

## hell (go to hell)

go to hell

the politicians should all ~

## hell (judgment)

going to hell for this one

somebody's ~ (responsibility for building collapse)

## hellbent

hellbent on destroying

we are ~ the environment (Wajahat Malik, Indus River)

hellbent on rushing

he is ~ the trial through (impeachment)

hell-bent on taking down

some saw him as a sanctimonious partisan ~ the Clintons

## hellfire (Hellfire missile, etc.)

Hellfire missile

a ~ fired from a Reaper drone killed...

Hellfire (air-to-ground) missile

a ~ launched from the Predator

## hellhole (noun)

hell-hole

the state prison is a ~

hellhole of competitiveness and backbiting

it was a ~ ("Sopranos" writers' room)

world's hellholes

humanitarian personnel in the ~

godforsaken hellhole

a ~

## hellish (adjective)

hellish days

those ~ of stock car racing's infancy

hellish dust devils

they had to contend with heat and ~

hellish situation

they found themselves caught in a ~ (mass shooting)

hellish summer

Greece is experiencing a ~ (hot weather, tourist deaths)

## hell-raiser (person)

hell-raiser

he admits he was a ~ as a young man

Hellraiser Ball

violence erupted at the motorcycle and tattoo expo, the ~

Hellraisers Ball

the melee at the ~ resulted in one death

from hell-raiser to born-again Christian

his conversion ~

## hell-raising

hell-raising drinkers

~ and womanizers

## helm (at the helm)

at the helm

they have won with him ~ (a coach)

we need a tough person ~ (Turkey)

the church needed someone else ~ to stop the rot (a Pope)

the sport grew with Carpenter ~ (snowboarding)

at the helm of the (world's most valuable) company

Tim Cook's first decade ~ was a success (Apple)

at helm of radical group

controversial CUNY Law grad now ~ gets cuffed  
(protest)

at the helm of an organization

she is leaving after a 2-year tenure ~ beset by controversy

♦ "Controversial CUNY Law grad now at helm of radical group gets cuffed..." (Nerdeen Kiswani.)

## helm (verb)

helm an MCU film

she is the youngest ever to ~ (director)

## helm (take the helm)

take the helm

it's time for a new generation of leaders to ~ (aging pols)

took the helm

he ~ of the war this week

took the helm from Steve Jobs

when Tim Cook ~ (Apple)

## helmet (pith helmet)

pith helmet

there is a bit of the ~ in Wrong herself (a historian)

## helmsman (the Great Helmsman, etc.)

Great Helmsman

Mao was known as the ~

great helmsman

he was our ~ (David Ben-Gurion)

## help (I couldn't help myself, etc.)

couldn't help myself

I ate the whole thing, I ~

## helping (amount)

helping of praise

there are two reasons to give the show another ~ (TV)

heavy helping  
there is a ~ of the usual buzzwords (Cornell University)

served up another helping  
she ~ of her trademark word salad (U.S. Vice President)

## hemorrhage (verb)

hemorrhaging hosts  
NPR is ~ from marginalized backgrounds

hemorrhaged (star) journalists  
in the last two years, *The New York Times* has ~

hemorrhaging money  
they were losing money, they were ~  
Royal Bank of Scotland was ~ (2008)

## hemorrhage (noun)

hemorrhage of personnel  
the Pentagon is trying to stop the ~ (soldiers)

♦ "President Obama is sending an additional 17,000 American troops to Afghanistan, as part of his effort to try to put a tourniquet on the hemorrhaging war effort there."

♦ "Another spectacularly bad idea, and another cut to the already bleeding-out cinema experience." (A Brad Bird tweet about Netflix's new variable playback feature.)

## herald (verb)

heralded the end  
the uprising ~ of the regime

herald a new era  
Republicans hope to ~ of limited government

## herald (noun)

heralds of winter  
snowflakes are ~

## herculean (adjective)

herculean effort  
we are involved in a ~  
the ~ behind the 1969 moon landing  
just getting condo owners to vote can be a ~

"Herculean effort"  
the UK had made a ~ to deliver PPE (pandemic)

herculean job  
agencies are doing a ~ cleaning up Lake Lure (hurricane)

herculean task  
squeezing the evidence into a 90-page document was a ~

## herd (verb)

herded five victims into one cooler  
they ~ and killed them (Brown's Chicken & Pasta)

herded them into (army) buses  
soldiers ~ (terrorist suspects)

## herd (ride herd)

ride herd on them  
we need to ~

## herd (herd immunity, etc.)

herd immunity  
high vaccination rates can ensure ~

## herd (herd mentality, etc.)

herd animals  
people are ~ (they take cues from others)  
a core idea behind our research is that people are ~

herd belief  
this ridiculous ~...

herd madness  
it's a story of greed, deceit and ~ (OneCoin)

herd mentality  
~ leads to panic buying (COVID-19 panic)  
it is a clear example of ~ (panic buying of toilet paper)

herdthink  
see *herdthink* (noun)

human herd  
one must follow one's conscience and not the ~

liberal herd  
thinning the ~, one head at a time (a drug overdose death)

one of the herd  
but the difference was that I'm not ~ (John Geddes)

culling the herd  
~ (commenter about "swooping landing" parachute fatality)

thinning the (liberal) herd  
~, one head at a time (snark about drug overdose death)

follow the herd  
traders who just ~ and join the party late will lose money

♦ "It's like in the wildlife documentaries, where a herd of water buffalo will bunch up at the edge of a river they are collectively considering crossing. They'll wait for a few brave ones to jump in and make it across before doing so themselves." (Will Felps, a management professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. From "Turnover contagion": The domino effect of one resignation" by Christine Ro, BBC, 16 September 2021.)

♦ "Moore, 68, told *The Guardian* that his purpose, in effect, is to puncture herd-thinking." (Michael Moore, the documentary filmmaker. A Michigander.)

♦ "Then one evening in mid-November, the herd decided Twitter was about to collapse..." (*The Economist*, December 3rd, 2022.)

♦ "Mary Harrington is a contributing editor at UnHerd."

## herded

herded into a bus  
he was handcuffed to other prisoners and ~

## herdthink (noun)

academic herdthink  
diversity, equity and inclusion is simply ~

\*\*\* various groups...



♦ "It's not enough to say we don't support racism. You have to actually actively fight racism to get the work done." (Ashland, Oregon mayor Julie Akins.)

♦ "It is not enough to indicate that you are not racist, instead you must demonstrate that you are anti-racist." (Sophomore volleyball player Rachel Richardson, Duke University.)

♦ "When it comes to identifying and ending systemic racism, we can be agents of change. Listening and deep reflection are necessary but they're not enough. They must be followed by constructive and meaningful steps forward." (CEO John Lansing of NPR.)

♦ "Racism is a societal problem, and it is no longer good enough to simply be non-racist, Scottish sport must now be actively anti-racist." (Steward Harris, chief executive of Sportscotland.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Everyone has the same background, votes the same way, and thinks the same way." (At National Public Radio / NPR.)

♦ "I think he'll have plenty of like behind-the-scene support but, yeah, it'll be hard to support him in public." (A comment about an ex-NFL player who criticized a female "analyst" and "rising star" at ESPN.)

♦ "And once everyone agrees on what matters, it gets repeated." (Sam Bankman-Fried, about the best way to advertise FTX and crypto: pay to become a part of a sport stadium's name.)

♦ "This environment of enforced group-think, inside and outside the paper, was hard even on liberal opinion writers." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ "Yeah, no conspiracy. I think it's totally a matter of groupthink. You coalesce around people of similar views, it's uncomfortable to stand out, people might censor themselves, I don't know, but there's a consensus that builds and it has momentum and it becomes the way things work." (Uri Berliner talking about NPR with Bari Weiss. From "NPR Editor Speaks Out: How National Public Radio Lost Americans' Trust," *Honestly with Bari Weiss*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "[D]on't tell people how to think." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

♦ see also *groupthink* (noun), *think* (*Democratthink*, etc.), *think* (*right-think*), *think* (*wrongthink*)

♦ see also *doublethink* (noun)

## here (out here)

out here

you got so many kids ~ acting crazy (gangs)

~, people will smile to your face and stab you in the back

♦ "I may not win, but I can't be thrown / Out here on my own." (Irene Cara, "Out Here On My Own," from the 1980 film *Fame*.)

## here (not here / death)

not here

he is ~ any longer... (dead)

♦ "'Edwin Drood' was Dicken's last work, and Fildes, brought into contact with him through these small illustrations, enters his room on the day of his death, sees his empty chair standing there, and so it happens one of the old numbers of the 'Graphic' contains that touching drawing, 'The Empty Chair.' / Empty chairs—there are many of them, there will be still more..." (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vicent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

## here (situation)

here

if they hadn't let it escalate, we wouldn't be ~

and ~ we are (said in a bitter tone / situation)

## here (we have been here before)

been here before

when we look at the past, we see we've ~ (pandemic)  
every oil-addicted town has ~ (bust after boom)

## here (go from here, etc.)

from here on out

what should we do now ~

go from here

where things ~ is quite honestly up in the air

but where does he ~ (boxer after unexpected loss)

where do we ~ (troubled relationship)

where does the program ~ (sports)

## here (the present)

here

the future is ~ now (wildfires caused by global warming)

the moment you have been waiting for is ~

how did we get ~ (=how did that happen)

already here

tomorrow is ~

here and now

does it apply to the ~, or is it aspirational (diplomacy)

got here

gas hits \$5 a gallon, here's how it ~ and what's ahead

♦ "It seemed like science fiction just 20 years ago. Well, we are there. We're looking at it right now." (Mike Pondsmith.)

♦ "The fire impressed upon me that the future had crashed right through into our present. Climate change and its consequences were truly here now in the most shocking and vivid and graphic and painful way." (Jack Eagan, Australian, about the bushfires of 2019-2020, called Australia's "black summer.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The fuzzy boundary between time and place (or space) is encapsulated in the irreversible binomial, "the here and now."

## here (here to stay / groups)

here to stay

his brand of populist conservatism is ~

we are ~ (Latino / Hispanic community / elections)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ We're not going anywhere; we're here to stay; we're in your face; we're present and not absent; you will not erase us... (Various groups.)

♦ "We're here, we're queer, we won't disappear." (A chant at a demonstration.)

♦ "We're here, we're queer, we're coming for your children." (A chant by LGBTQ activists during New York City's annual Drag March in Tompkins Square. From "Drag marchers spark outrage with 'we're coming for your children' chant at NYC Pride event" by Patrick Reilly, *The New York Post*, June 24, 2023.)

♦ "Paris Olympics drag queen torchbearer rips criticism of opening ceremony: 'We ain't going nowhere'" by Fox News, July 29, 2024.

♦ "We're natives, we're here, and we're always going to be here." (A native, interviewed by the national media about unsolved murders on the Blackfeet Indian reservation.)

♦ "Stand with us or against us, because we ain't going nowhere." (Protester at a public city-council meeting.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Like it or not, I'm not going anywhere."

♦ "we 'Heard' you, now just go away." (A Johnny Depp supporter and online commenter during the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

## here (here to stay, etc.)

here to stay

Covid is, without a doubt, ~ (will become endemic)  
so social networking, I think, is ~ (2009)  
robots and AI are ~ (warfare)

♦ see also *go* (*not go anywhere, etc.*)

## hereafter (from now onwards)

hereafter and forever

for ~...

## heresy (noun)

heresies against Tea Party orthodoxy

I'd committed various ~ (a Republican politician)

risk of heresy

at the ~, I'd suggest that...

bordered on heresy

even asking the question ~ a year ago (COVID)

committing heresy

a law professor who lectures is ~ (vs. Socratic method)

## heretic (person)

heretic on the left

Orwell exposed the lie and that made him a ~

heretic at *The New York Times*

I was a ~ (Adam Rubenstein)

attacks of the heretics

he defended Establishment wisdom against the ~

thought of him as a heretic

they ~, they wouldn't use that word...

treats him as a heretic

the party now ~ (politics)

♦ "I Was a Heretic at *The New York Times*" by Adam Rubenstein, *The Atlantic*, February 26, 2024.

## heretical (adjective)

heretical

at the time, the idea was ~ we were afraid to consider it

## hermit (person)

hermit

is chronic bad breath turning you into a ~

modern-day hermits

in Japan half a million people live as ~ (*hikikomori*)

turning you into a hermit

is chronic bad breath ~

♦ Greta Garbo was once described as a "hermit about town."

♦ "The columnist Earl Wilson dubbed Al Pacino "the male Greta Garbo."

\*\*\* *hikikomori*...

♦ "The term hikikomori, often used interchangeably for the condition and its sufferers, was coined by Japanese psychologist Tamaki Saito in his 1998 book, *Social Withdrawal—Adolescence Without End*.

Today the most common criteria is a combination of physical isolation, social avoidance and psychological distress that lasts six months or longer. / The condition was initially thought to be unique to Japan [culture-bound], but in recent years cases have appeared across the world. In neighbouring South Korea, a 2005 analysis estimated there were 33,000 socially withdrawn adolescents and in Hong Kong a 2014 survey pegged the figure at 1.9%. It's not just in Asia, cases are appearing in the US, Spain, Italy, France and elsewhere. ("The plight of Japan's modern hermits" by Edd Gent, BBC, 29 January 2019.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A *hermit* should really live in the desert, for the word *hermit* is from the Greek *eremites*, which means 'man of the desert.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ HERMIT, n. A person whose vices and follies are not sociable. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## hermit (the Hermit Kingdom, etc.)

hermit kingdom

Bhutan, once known as the ~ of the Himalayas

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Korea is often referred to as the Hermit Kingdom. But it has also been referred to as The Land of the Morning Calm.

## hero (character)

hero to Kyrie Irving's villain

Jayson Tatum is ~ (NBA playoffs)

heroes or villains

in times of crisis, New Yorkers appoint ~

hero becomes a villain

and the ~ (Sam Bankman-Fried)

♦ "What a final, what a game. This has been an incredible watch. Now to see who will become a World Cup final hero and who will be the villain." (A commentator, before penalties to determine the winner of the World Cup in Qatar in 2022.)

♦ "Imagine setting out to write a book on a singular figure and before you're done writing the hero of the story becomes a villain to many. That's what has happened to two of the most prominent chroniclers of American life, Michael Lewis and Walter Isaacson." ("As Walter Isaacson and Michael Lewis wrote, their book's heroes became villains," David Folkenflik, NPR, Morning Edition, October 18, 2023. Isaacson's book was *Elon Musk* (an authorized biography) and Lewis' book was *Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon*, about Sam Bankman-Fried.)

♦ "Everybody can't be the hero, you need a good villain once in a while, and I'll be the villain..." (Jarrell "Big Baby" Miller talking with Steve Bunce prior to the Day of Reckoning fight card in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "Big Baby" is Brooklyn born and raised.)

♦ "It's been an amazing roller coaster ride. I've become a villain to some, a hero to others." (Anthropologist Elizabeth Weiss, formerly of San Jose State University.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the U.S., history, war, politics, love, religion, the national news and everything else is grist for the entertainment mill.

## hero (person, child, queer, dog, rat, etc.)

hero

she's tired of people calling health care workers ~s (doc)

hero dogs

~ return to South Jersey from Uvalde (Crisis Canines)

hero rat

Magawa the ~ retires from job detecting landmines (BBC)

hero twin sister  
she doesn't like the "~~" label (saved sister from crocodile)

hero worship  
see *worship* (verb)

American hero  
they called her an ~ (Facebook whistleblower)

my (guitar) hero  
he was ~ (he inspired me to play guitar)

civil rights heroes  
everyday people were ~, too (NPR)

pandemic hero  
he went from a ~ to a political pariah (Andrew Cuomo)

Poll Hero  
~ Project aims to recruit younger poll workers

queer heroes  
~ who paved the way...

unsung hero  
the ~ for me was... (a championship soccer game)  
he is a bit of an ~ (the remarkable Martyn Stewart)  
the ~s (five maintenance workers at pre-K-12 school)

Unsung Hero  
time now for My ~, a series from Hidden Brain (NPR)

greatest heroes  
you are truly some of the ~ this nation has seen (nurses)

Legal Hero  
he was named a ~ of the Year (Law Society England Wales)

national hero  
Jose Bove became a ~ (tore down a McDonald's)  
Joe Wicks became a ~ as he livestreamed PE lessons

superhero  
see *superhero* (contempo-speak)

fierce and heartwarming hero  
she is a ~ (Afghan woman gets top score on test)

cast as a hero  
a guard ~ was recast as a villain (Richard Jewell)

considered heroes  
at one time we were ~ (worked jobs during pandemic)

hailed as a hero  
she is being ~ (recorded police trying to make arrest)

hailed as heroes  
once ~, health care workers now face a rash of violence

went from heroes to zeros  
we ~ (medical workers / pandemic starts to recede)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Essays by contemporary queer figures pay homage to queer heroes who paved the way." (A blurb for *The Queer Bible*.)

♦ "We have our icons, elders, we have our heroes." (A drag queen.)

♦ "What I bring as a Black female to my craft and in being a director... [is] recognizing how important it is that everybody deserves to be seen as a hero." (Gina Prince-Bythewood, director of *The Old Guard*, speaking to Terry Gross on Fresh Air.)

♦ Tonya Mosley: Connie Chung, welcome to Fresh Air. / Connie Chung: Oh, I'm so happy to be with you, Tonya Mosley. You are a s-hero in our business and I really appreciate your having me. / Tonya Mosley: Well this is a pleasure and an honor, Connie... (Heard on NPR.)

♦ "I know America loves its bad guys. But I'm a great guy. I just won a Super Bowl. I'm an American hero." (The NFL player Antonio Brown, on being cut from his team after abandoning it in the middle of a game.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "hero" bandwagon...

♦ "Take Tracy in Massachusetts. She's a nurse who's been treating veterans with COVID-19. Every day she's had to put on a hazmat suit and go to work for 12 hours, days on end. If it wasn't for folks like Tracy, our own families wouldn't have a chance to be reunited. If you want to find a hero in America, they're all around us, and Tracy's one of them." (Joe Biden, July 2020.)

♦ "Heroes wear glasses." (The character of Mirabel in Disney's film *Encanto*.)

♦ "Look inside you and be strong / and you'll finally feel the truth / that a hero lies in you." Watch Mariah Carey—Hero (Official HD Video)

♦ "The crowd was right. That crowd was full of heroes." (Prosecutor Thomas Binger, during the Kyle Rittenhouse trial. The jury disagreed with Binger, and found Kyle not guilty of all charges.)

♦ "The heroes saving Ireland's seals." (A BBC article about an "inspiring" seal sanctuary.)

♦ "She focusses on wildlife 'heroes.'" (The TV series *Wildlife Warriors*.)

♦ "Over the first four months of the Covid pandemic in 2020 Joe Wicks became a national hero as he livestreamed PE lessons every morning to hundreds of thousands of Brits." ("Joe Wicks: 'I realized my childhood wasn't normal'" by Thea de Gallier, BBC, May 14, 2021. The intersection of the pandemic, mental health, "online reporters," clickbait, and the BBC.)

♦ "Opinion: In Paris, heroes carry espresso," by Scott Simon, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 9, 2022.

♦ "Opinion: Some heroes drive city buses," by Scott Simon, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, March 9, 2024. "Not all heroes wear capes.")

### \*\*\* point of view

♦ Some Australians regard Ned Kelly as a national hero. Others view him as a murderous villain and cop killer. Some Americans regard Larry Hoover, founder of the Gangster Disciples, as a folk hero. Others consider him to be a murderous thug.

♦ "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." (PLO Chairman Arafat in a 1974 speech before the United Nations.)

♦ "Should The Late George Floyd Be A Black American Hero?" by B. Robinson, *The Tennessee Tribune*, July 23, 2021.

♦ "They are understood here. They are adored. She was, is and will remain a heroine for us." (Chechen woman, speaking of Elza Gazuyeva.)

♦ "If it wasn't for these tactics, we would never heard of Layla Khaled, for example, and other Palestinian women who led these kind of heroic operations." (The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "Why don't you meet Osama bin Laden, invite him to Brussels or to the White House and engage in talks, ask him what he wants and give it to him so he leaves you in peace? Why don't you do that? You find it possible to set some limitation in your dealings with these bastards, so why should we talk to people who are childkillers? No one has a moral right to tell us to talk to childkillers..." ("Angry Putin rejects public Beslan inquiry," Jonathan Steele in Moscow and Nick Paton Walsh in Beslan, *Guardian Weekly*, 2004.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “She’s tired of people calling health care workers heroes.” (A doctor during the COVID pandemic.)

♦ “This woman, Gisele Pelicot, she doesn’t want to be considered a hero, she says, ‘I’m not a hero, I’m a victim, and there is no shame in being a victim.’” (The French writer Pauline Arrighi about the mass rape trial that shocked France.)

♦ “I do not consider myself a hero...what have we come to if turning down a bribe is ‘heroic’?” (Senator Larry Pressler, who was referred to by Waler Cronkite on National TV as a “hero” because he turned down a bribe in the Abscam scandal.)

♦ NPR: Ma Heng, the central figure in this odyssey, is portrayed in your book as a hero... / Adam Brookes, author of *Fragile Cargo*: I’m not sure I think of him as a hero... (Oops!)

♦ “How about that ‘They are still Heroes’ headline. They weren’t heroes before the game, and certainly were less so after. All this jingoistic hyperbole is an irritation. They did well in the tournament. Got the Silver. They didn’t storm the beaches. They didn’t rescue anyone. They didn’t put their lives at risk. They did get outplayed by better team. They had a great tournament, but heroic? Nah.” (An online commenter about England’s loss to Spain in the Fifa 2023 Women’s World Cup. To which “Johnny Thunder” replied, “Language is contextual. You are just another misplaced internet pedant.” With-er-ing! The following—unrelated—comment about England’s loss to Spain was “Aha ha ha, Aha ha ha, Aha ha ha, Aha ha ha, Aha ha ha, Aha ha ha, Aha ha ha.” To which a commenter responded, “Open a window there has been a leak of nitrous oxide in your building.” Another commenter wrote, “They are heroes”—what, for losing?”)

♦ “I stopped watching, reading and listening to the media hype when I heard the players being called ‘heroes’ after the Germany game. Get a grip BBC.” (Grommy on the BBC HYS on the eve of England vs. Ukraine, Euro 2020.)

♦ “If he’s your hero, sort your life out.” (A snarky online comment about Mike Tyson on a BBC HYS. Commenters were posting their thoughts on the announcement of a fight between “Iron” Mike Tyson and the YouTuber Jake Paul.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

“To confront this belief [about not taking prisoners, at Fort Benning, while training soldiers] I said basically, ‘The last thing you ought to know is that if I ever catch any of you heroes killing a POW, I’ll shoot you right on the spot. Because it’s illegal, because it’s wrong, because it’s *dumb*, and it’s one of the worst things you could do to help us win a war.’” (*On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society*, Revised Edition, by Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman.)

♦ “There wasn’t anything so fine about it. Just fought for my life. A rabbit would have done that.” (Henry Johnson, World War I, the Argonne. See the Wikipedia article “Henry Johnson (World War I soldier).” Fort Polk is now named for him. Previously, it had been named for General Leonidas Polk, killed in action by a cannonball in the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. The name “Leonidas” is associated with a great Greek warrior: see the Wikipedia article “Leonidas I.”)

♦ (U) RECOMMENDATIONS / 1. (U) RECOMMEND COMNAVSPECWARGRU ONE considered nomination of [redacted] for laudatory commendation. In his effort to provide rescue and assistance to his teammate, he ultimately gave his own life, demonstrating heroism and bearing witness to the best of the SEAL Ethos. (Subj: Command Investigation into the Facts and Circumstances Surrounding the Loss at Sea of Two Task Force Three Personnel on or about 11 January [sic] 2024.)

♦ The official name of the Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital in Asheville, western North Carolina, is the Charles George VA Medical Center. As a young man, Charles George walked from the Cherokee Indian reservation to Whittier to sign up for the Korean War. He died thousands of miles away from the Oconaluftee River. See the Wikipedia article “Charles George.”

♦ “Rank and organization: (X). Place and date: (X). Entered service at: (X) Citation: (X)...Suddenly, an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the (branch of the armed forces) and rolled alongside Private First Class (X’s) head. Unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his personal safety, he reached out, grasped the grenade, pulled it to his chest and curled around it as it went off...” (The Medal of Honor.)

♦ “I don’t do it for the glory / I just do it anyway.” Watch: Toby Keith—American Soldier (Radio Edit)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word ‘erroneously’ is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do.” (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, “It’s the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move,” Subsection “But That Isn’t What It’s Supposed to Mean!”)

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ “Young girls have more options now.”

♦ see also *brave* (*girls and women, etc.*), superhero (groups)

## heroic (groups)

### heroic efforts

his ~ saved the night (a Black *understudy* goes onstage)

### heroic (TSA) officer

~ saves baby from choking (Cecilia Morales)

### heroic rat

a ~ has been working in Cambodia (de-mining)

### heroic survivor

a ~ of brutal abuse (Amber Heard vs. Johnny Depp)

### heroic tasks

Moms perform ~ every day

### extraordinarily heroic

most of them do ~ jobs (Arthur Labinjo-Hughes failure)

♦ “We are proud of the heroic and swift actions of our staff to ensure that our residents were protected and kept safe.” (A senior living facility. A resident shot and killed two employees he had had a conflict with, then lay down on the floor and waited for the police to arrest him.)

♦ “By far and away I think Charlie is the most heroic man I have ever played. His superpower is to see the good in others and bring that out of them.” (Brendon Fraser about his role in the film *The Whale*, in which he plays Charlie, a 600-pound-man who rarely leaves his couch. The article goes on to read, “Hunter, who also wrote the screenplay, said his play is personal. He started it 12 years ago when he was teaching a mandatory expository writing course at Rutgers University that no one wanted to take and everyone resented. He also pulled from his own background, setting the play in his hometown of Moscow, Idaho, and weaving in his history of being depressed, self-medicating with food and going to a fundamentalist religious high school as a gay teenager.” (From “Brendon Fraser celebrated for a comeback role in ‘The Whale’” by Lindsey Bahr, AP Film writer, Sept 4, 2022.)

♦ “It is a great honor to witness firsthand the heroic efforts of our mission control team overcoming enormous challenges to recover and operate the spacecraft. I look forward to sharing these, and more remarkable stories, after the mission concludes...” (Astrobotic CEO John Thornton, about a *failed* [italics mine] mission to the moon.)

♦ “We told you that this would be a performance, the role of her lifetime as a heroic survivor of brutal abuse.” (Camille Vasquez, in her closing arguments in the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial. She defended Depp, she was being sarcastic when she said “heroic survivor,” and, of course, she and Depp prevailed.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Presidents Day Sale / Heroic Deals on Top Tech.” (An advertisement for Dell Technologies.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ The official name of the Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital in Asheville, western North Carolina, is the Charles George VA Medical Center. As a young man, Charles George left the Eastern Band of the Cherokee

Indian Nation reservation and walked to Whittier, North Carolina, where he signed up for the Korean War. He died in Korea, thousands of miles away from the Oconaluftee River. See the Wikipedia article "Charles George."

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♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## heroism (groups)

ordinary heroism

her view of painful injustice and ~ (*Women Is Losers*)

stories of heroism

there are great ~ (Adam Schiff hawking his book)

dress up incompetence as heroism

it is less disturbing to ~ (Scott and the South Pole)

♦ "Look, I never expect a foreign leader I'm dealing with, or a colleague senator, to voluntarily appear in the second edition of *Profiles in Courage*. So you got to think of what is in their *interest*." (Joe Biden speaking to Evan Osnos.)

### \*\*\* analysis

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♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## heroization (noun)

heroization of Russian mercenaries

pop culture and the ~

call that *heroization*

we call that ~, right...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ An academic expert on a show about heroes said, "We actually call that *heroization*, right..."

♦ There is no Wikipedia entry for "heroization." Wiktionary has an entry: "the act, or result, of heroizing someone." Merriam-Webster doesn't recognize "heroization," although it does recognize "heroize" as a very old word.

♦ "A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word 'erroneously' is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move," Subsection "But That Isn't What It's Supposed to Mean!")

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## heroize (verb)

heroize the icons

one function of the show is to ~ of the sport (Pat McAfee)

heroize surgeons

he is skeptical of our tendency to ~ (Jay Wellons)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary has an entry for "heroize." Merriam-Webster recognizes "heroize" as a very old word: "to make into a hero."

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## hew (hew to the line, etc.)

hew to her beliefs

a young person trying to ~ and save the world

hewed to the (same pro-business) handbook

the Democrats largely ~ (free trade, etc.)

hew to your intention

you try to make language ~

hews to his (conservative) roots

he ~ (a judge)

hew to the rules

she helped schools ~ (Title IX)

hews (close) to tradition

the band ~ (bluegrass)

hew closely

he promises to ~ to the course set by Raul Castro

hews too closely

the author ~ to events

## heyday (noun)

heyday of Brazilian rock

the 1970's was probably the ~

heyday of hotels

life after the Catskills' ~

Kameny's heyday

in ~, and my youth... (gay history)

Shanghai's heyday

the colonial architecture that dates back to ~

'70's heyday

his ~ (a singer)

since the heyday of LaFace Records

the strongest R&B vibes to emerge ~ (Atlanta)

## hibernation (in hibernation)

in hibernation

the industry has been ~ for 20 years (the nuclear industry)

in the winter hibernation



his leadership appeared ~ at Cape Evans (in Antarctica)

## hibernation (other)

hibernation environments

hospitable ~ for apples (controlled atmosphere storage)

awoken from hibernation

the comet lander, Philae, has ~

emerged from his hibernation

Betts ~ to hit a home run (baseball)

put in hibernation

the spacecraft was ~ for 31 months (Rosetta)

reopen the US economy from its hibernation

how and when to ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

♦ "The Zhurong rover has yet to wake up since going into hibernation for the Martian winter nearly a year ago."

## hiccup (noun)

hiccup

the datacenter is having some ~s (down Websites)

we've had some ~s along the way

hiccups in this matter

there's been a lot of ~ which has taken a lot of time (trial)

hiccups with supply

limited time to sort out ~ (COVID vaccine)

minimal hiccups

we followed a detailed plan with ~ (big-wall climbing)

sort out hiccups

limited time to ~ with supply (COVID vaccine)

♦ "There are always land mines and hiccups that come along."  
(Doctor Anthony Fauci on vaccine production during the 2019-2020 pandemic.)

## hidden

hidden conversations

"America's '~' about race (Michele Norris on NPR)

hidden costs

the ~ of gambling (divorce, etc.)

hidden enemy

landmines, the ~

hidden epidemic

sex trafficking is a ~ (US)

hidden gems

the road reveals many ~ (N7 in France)

hidden logic

the ~ behind military training

Hidden Toll

"The Orphans of COVID, America's ~"

kept the story hidden

she ~ for 20 years, never sharing it with anyone

## hide (hide behind something)

hide behind anonymity

it's easy to be forthright when you ~

hides behind a facade

he ~ of jokes

hides behind the nom de plume

the woman who ~ of...

hides behind a (tough-guy) posture

he ~

hides behind a locked door

the bureaucrat or politician who ~

hides behind a friendly face

fraud often ~

hides behind a fictitious name

he ~

hides behind innocuous phrase

she ~ (an administrator)

## hide (thick hide, etc.)

thick hides

those with extreme views, ~ and hidden agendas

## hide-and-seek

game of hide and seek

a very serious ~ (with Palestinian terrorist)

## hidebound (adjective)

hidebound bureaucracy

a ~

## high (noble)

high art

I walked past ~ and low art (New York City)

highbrow

see *highbrow* (and *lowbrow*, *middlebrow*)

high character

he is a solid American, a man of ~

high-character

it's a team that prides itself on hiring ~ people (NBA)

high-class

I'm a redneck woman, I'm not a ~ broad (hell yeah)

high expectations

it was a cocoon of ~ and harsh discipline (a black school)  
~ coupled with love is a gift (child-rearing)

high ground

see *ground* (*moral high ground*, etc.)

higher (moral) imperative

a ~ than objectivity is the alleviation of suffering

high purpose



a great speech is made for a ~ (inspire, ennoble, rally...)

high regard  
he is held in ~

highest traditions  
Sfc. Ashley's bravery was in the ~ of... (died in battle)

high and low  
mischief-makers who puncture the hierarchies of ~ art

♦ "I walked past high art and low art, past the theaters where famous people played to packed houses, past theaters where anonymous people played with themselves." ("In the Temple," a chapter from *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg.)

## high (from on high)

directive from on high  
there's a clear ~ to investigate thoroughly (government)

edict from on high  
an ~ banned any mention of sex (Woman's Weekly)

## high (on a high)

on a high  
he's ~ right now and will use it for motivation (victor)

## high (emotion)

high  
emotions are ~, everybody has strong emotions about it

highs and lows  
so you suffer fewer energy ~ (diet)  
her eyes gleamed as she recalled the ~ (of her life)  
it's a game of ~ (baseball)  
the ~ of being an Olympic champion (mental health)

sugar high  
see *sugar high* (noun)

emotional high  
it was an incredible ~

incredible (emotional) high  
it was an ~

get our hopes (too) high  
we should not ~

## high (enthusiasm)

real high  
it's a ~, you just get hooked (on genealogy)

## high and low

searching high and low  
they are ~ for him (a cop killer)

## highbrow (and lowbrow, middlebrow)

highbrow arts  
never has apparel been so focused on ~attire (litcore)

highbrow conversations  
the *Daily Mirror* was filled with ~ about art and politics

highbrow critics

it confounds the expectations of ~

highbrow pedestal  
we're watching a genre step off its ~ (documentaries)

highbrow thinkers  
contestants identify ~ by their fictional lowbrow digs

middlebrow readers  
Howells was acceptable to ~ and attuned to the avant-garde

among the highbrows  
the argument didn't stay in the academics ~ (a dispute)

attitude toward the highbrow  
contributors take an irreverent ~ (a podcast)

low-brow and exploitative  
critics dismissed the show as ~ (Jerry Springer)

archaic and 'highbrow'  
in the US Shakespeare has the reputation of being ~

♦ "JUNK SHAKESPEARE. A family-friendly version of the hit show "DRUNK "Shakespeare"! This Off-Broadway comedy combines a classic Shakespeare play with extreme food challenges—trying to discover the original intent of William Shakespeare. We don't know what he was eating...maybe it was Doritos?"

♦ "He's not a dignified old greybeard, like you know he's not Sir Laurence Olivier or Liam Neeson, he'd be like you know this 21-year-old surfer dude from California with like sick abs." (The 48-year-old George O'Connor thinking about the Greek God Zeus. From "Graphic novelist O'Connor turns ancient gods and goddesses into modern superheroes," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 16, 2022.)

♦ "What if these beloved comic book characters fucked? And also solved murders? And had super powers? ("Riverdale" Will Finally Come to an End After Seven Absolutely Unhinged Seasons" by Jordan Julian, *Daily Beast*, May 19, 2022. Jordan (female) seems to be a freelance entertainment writer. She also seems to do a lot of paid content articles.)

♦ "The language a writer uses to create a world is that world, and Franzen's strenuously contemporary and therefore juvenile language is a world in which nothing important can happen. Madame Bovary's marriage sucked, Heathcliff was into Catherine: these words fail the context not just because they are of our own time. There is no import in things that 'suck,' no drama in someone's being 'into' someone else. A writer like Franzen, who describes two lovers as 'fucking,' trivializes their relationship. The result is boredom." ("Smaller Than Life," by B. R. Myers, *The Atlantic*, October, 2010.)

♦ "It stars Emma Stone, Willem Dafoe and Mark Ruffalo, and it has a story that critic Bob Mondello says is what you might expect if Mary Shelley had written *Frankenstein* as a sex comedy." (The 2023 film *Poor Things*.)

♦ "It's a little bit like, say, *Spitting Image* has done in the past doing "fur" the present moment... On the eve of Good Friday, a man on the run from life finds himself in a deep dark wood, and he spends Easter weekend on a rollercoaster...Let's have a quick listen to Canto 26 here." ("Dante's *Divine Comedy* mined for 21st-century meaning," BBC, 11 Jan 2021, with BBC Europe Editor Katya Adler.)

♦ "The short-list for this year's Turner prize doesn't feature any individual artists for the first time. Instead, the contenders are all collectives, which created artwork ranging from a 24-hour fundraising rave to the use of food to help understand the workings of the world... There's a strong political thread. The raves... are part of what is described as queer, trans and intersex black and people of color radical activism." (BBC Six O'clock News, 07/05/2021. J.M.W. Turner was born 1775 and died 1851. Many people know him for his painting, "The Fighting *Temeraire*.")

♦ "[F]or me this is just two lads kissing, fully clothed, what could be more normal than that? If you don't like the picture, you're not going to like the book." (Douglas Stuart about the cover of his second novel

*Young Mungo*. From "Douglas Stuart: Booker Prize-winning author 'feels like an impostor,'" by Rebecca Jones, April 14, 2022.)

♦ "Alex Humphreys asks if video games should be appreciated as a form of art." (BBC.)

♦ "Is the nude selfie a new art form?" (BBC Culture.)

♦ "A slightly more down-market version of the *Folies Bergere* (Las Vegas.)

♦ "There is an almost kind of fetishization of street art these days." (Banksy, etc.)

♦ "Plywood From Boarded-Up Shops Turned Into Art Commemorating Floyd Killing" by Leila Fadel, NPR Culture, March 18, 2021.

♦ "Killer Mike calls for protection of Black art amid Young Thug and Gunna indictment."

♦ "Beyonce's 'Renaissance' is a thotty, naughty and ethereal work of art."

♦ "The assemblage provokes a meta-consideration: what truly separates the stripper from the actor, the club from the theater?" ("Down South: P-Valley" by Doreen St. Felix, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022. The theater, after all, is the world's second oldest profession.)

♦ "We do not believe there is a difference between arts coverage and hard news and understand that art is inherently political." (The value statement of the *Baltimore Beat* newspaper, a free newspaper. Its metal receptacles provide a space not only for newspapers but also for people to donate to the community, for example, food, clothing, books, Narcan, etc.)

♦ "This is the 70th birthday of one of the most important works of art in American history. (Sound of opening music to the beloved TV show *I Love Lucy*.) Yeah, think of it as a work of art..." (Steve Inskeep, NPR, Morning Edition, Feb 5 2021.)

♦ "The dialogue is...rich through White House Plumbers, and so are the performances and characters. Harrelson is wonderful, exploding like Ralph Kramden one moment, simmering like Macbeth the next." ("White House Plumbers" puts a laugh-out-loud spin on the Watergate break-in" by David Bianculli, NPR, Fresh Air, May 1, 2023.)

♦ "Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* signaled a shift towards broader popcorn sensibilities." (Versus *2001: A Space Odyssey*, etc.)

♦ "It is *Gulliver's Travels*, Homer's *Odyssey*, *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, and Edgar Rice Burrows..." (Tom Shales' 1977 review of *Star Wars*.)

♦ "In the modern United States, food sculpture is the art of the people." ("A Toast To Butter Sculpture, The Art That Melts The Hearts Of The Masses" by Tove Danovich, NPR, The Salt, June 25, 2015.)

♦ He threw a three-hit masterpiece. (Baseball.)

♦ The great Shaquille O'Neal, one of the greatest NBA players of all time, has been referred to as the Big Baryshnikov. And Lynn Swann was labeled the Baryshnikov of football for his acrobatic receptions at Super Bowl X.

♦ "Maybe I'll lean into the pain narrative, write that and get a good advance, ya'll pay me for that, right." (Fantasy author L.L. McKinney.)

♦ "However, this freaky fairy-tale world is really a playground for Stone, whose willingness to be foolish and risky is a breath of fresh air amid all the polite Oscar-bait turns we're handed this time of year." ("Poor Things" review: Emma Stone is a sex-crazed science experiment" by Johnny Oleksinski, *New York Post*, December 11, 2023. He gives it three out of four stars. "Running time: 141 minutes. Rated R for strong and pervasive sexual content, graphic nudity, disturbing material, gore, and language. In theaters.")

♦ see also *masterpiece* (*engineering masterpiece*, etc.)

## higher-up (person)

pressure from higher-ups

the recruiters are under ~ (military)

## high five (noun)

social-media high-five

you can send them a ~ via Facebook, Twitter... (NPR)

## highlight (verb)

highlights a tension

the dilemma ~ within the ruling elite

highlighted (major) weaknesses

the report ~ in the economy

underline, highlight

the Soviets did not ~ the tragedy of the Jews (WWII)

♦ "More recently, we have approached the Israel-Hamas war and its spillover onto streets and campuses through the 'intersectional' lens that has jumped from the faculty lounge to newsrooms. Oppressor versus oppressed. That's meant highlighting the suffering of Palestinians at almost every turn while downplaying the atrocities of October 7, overlooking how Hamas intentionally puts Palestinian civilians in peril, and giving little weight to the explosion of antisemitic hate around the world." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

## high-minded (adjective)

high-minded politician

it's hard to find a ~

high-minded project

he tried to raise money for his ~ (library)

## high-powered (adjective)

high-powered law firm

he has retained a ~ and says he is innocent

## high priest (person)

high priest of imperialism

Winston Churchill, the ~ (opinion)

high priests of policy

once the ~, economists may be seeing lower demand (gov't)

high priests of pop culture

they cast themselves as ~ ("Las Culturistas")

theory's high priest

General Petraeus, counterinsurgency ~...

## high-spirited

high-spirited

if your child is ~, give her unstructured time

high-spirited man

a ~

## high tide

high tide of American greatness

the ~ has passed

## high-water (high-water mark)

high-water mark of DEI

the ~ was from 2020 to 2023

high-water mark of student activism

this was the ~ (school shootings)

high water mark of the (Sanders) campaign

Nevada was the ~ (politics)

high-water mark of his career

it was the ~ (sports)

high-water mark of partisanship

the vote was a ~ (Republicans versus Democrats)

high-water mark for religious participation

1962 as the ~ in the US (Life Magazine)

♦ "It would prove to be the high-water mark of the German invasion." (Khimki, just 15 miles from the Kremlin. Watch Soviet Storm, WW2 in the East, YouTube. Read the Wikipedia article "Soviet Storm: World War II in the East." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## highway (iceberg highway, etc.)

highway

the Rhine is a ~ as much as a moat (Roman history)

oceans are ~s rather than protective moats (geopolitics)

the oceans were the ~s of the late 19th century (ships)

the Med and Black Seas have been ~s since antiquity

humpback highway

the so-called "~~" (whales migrate by Australia)

"iceberg highways"

one of the four major ~ that lead beyond Antarctica

ocean highway

it's a very busy ~ (Santa Barbara Channel / shipping)

water highway

this mighty ~ of China (Yangtze River)

well-travelled highways

the rivers and streams of South Vietnam are ~

became (enormous and busy) highways

the rivers ~ (Mississippi basin circa 1812)

## highway (highway to hell)

Highway to hell or a livable future

"Humanity at climate crossroads, ~"

on a highway to (climate) hell

we are ~ with our foot on the accelerator

♦ "We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator." (UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at COP27. One writer described his speech as fiery.)

\*\*\* US 666, Jordan to Baghdad...

♦ U.S. 666, in the Four Corners region of the Southwest, had its number changed to U.S. 491. (In 2003. Some Navahos had referred to the road as "Satan's Road." Listen to "Highway to Hell Gets Name Change," Linda Wertheimer, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, June 7, 2003.)

♦ "I used to be a warrant officer in the British SAS and now I'm a soldier of fortune. I'm a hired gun, a mercenary if you like, and I'm the man who was trying keep the other four guys in the car alive on the drive from Jordan to Baghdad..." (*Highway To Hell: Dispatches From A Mercenary In Iraq* by John Geddes.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Australian rock group AC/DC was known for its song "Highway to Hell," which has a Wikipedia article. "Ain't nothing that I'd rather do"! Wikipedians are wonderful.

## highway (my way or the highway)

my way or the highway

him and his edicts and his "~~" (recall election)

type-A-my-way-or-the-highway

he was a ~ guy

## high wire (fate)

*Life On The Wire*

*Al Pacino: A ~* (by Andrew Yule)

walking a (political) high wire

the Taliban have been ~ ever since they took charge

♦ "The Taliban have been walking a political high wire ever since they took charge in Kabul. How do they...? How do they...? That high wire is not wobbling. The world is watching." ("Ayman al-Zawahiri: Shock in Kabul as US kills al-Qaeda leader" by Lyse Doucet, BBC, 2 August 2022.)

\*\*\* Karl Wallenda, Philippe Petit...

♦ In 1970 the German-born Karl Wallenda walked across the Tallulah Gorge in northern Georgia (the US state, not the country) on a high wire. He performed 2 handstands—one in honor of the US troops in Vietnam—as 30,000 men, women and children looked on. When he reached the end of the walk, his wife handed the 65-year-old Wallenda a martini.

♦ "I am interested to inspire people to uplift their soul and to look at the sky and say 'Wow, I can move mountains now, nothing is impossible' so that's why I love what I do... I never leave anything to chance and I have weaved this safety net in my head for the past 55 years. So I value life too much to risk my life and I do something I think much more inspiring and noble, I don't risk my life, I carry my life across." (The remarkable high-wire artist Philippe Petit.)

♦ see also *tightrope (fate)*

## hijack (verb)

hijacked the agenda

anti-Western countries have ~ (UN)

hijacked the debate

she ~ to announce her candidacy (politics)

hijacked the (electoral) process

organized labor has ~ in Canadian provinces

hijacked the revolution

his opponents fear that he has ~ (politics)

hijacking our culture and our minds

how outrage is ~ (Shankar Vedantam)

♦ "Attention hijacking and how it is used to wield power..." (On the internet. See the Wikipedia article "Attention economy." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## hijacked

hijacked around the world

meetings have been ~ (video-conferencing app)

hijacked by the (economic) elite

government has been ~

hijacked by her emotions

she let herself be ~

hijacked by this group  
the Republican Party has been ~ (the Tea Party)

hijacked by the virus  
T-cells spot which cells have been ~ and destroy them

## hill (over the hill)

incompetent, over the hill and not all there  
they have tried to paint Biden as ~ (politics)

\*\*\* **delightful usage...**

♦ "He's still talented, but he's on the other side of the hill now." (Said about an older boxer.)

## hill (difficulty)

psychological hill  
he has a ~ to climb

steep legal hill  
the president has a ~ to climb (to end birthright citizenship)

## hill (die on this hill, etc.)

die on this hill  
I am wrong a lot, but I'll ~... (an opinion)

♦ "Thank you. I am wrong a lot, but I'll die on this hill. Sportsmanship and personal accountability are 'non negotiables' in athletics." (An online commenter, about getting rid of the traditional handshake line after sports events to forestall ugly behavior and incidents.)

♦ "Yeah, it's wildly collaborative, which is part of the fun and the magic of it all... Like in any collaboration, you have to learn where to push and pull, and where to die on a hill and not to die on a hill." ("Moana 2" songwriters made history as 1st all-female team to lead a Disney soundtrack," NPR, All Things Considered, January 1, 2025. Abigail, Emily and Ari are fierce!)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "Have you ever been inside a hamburger machine? We just got cut to pieces by extremely accurate machinegun fire." (From the Wikipedia article "Battle of Hamburger Hill.")

## hilt (to the hilt)

defend itself 'to the hilt'  
the US will ~ in trade

perform her diva role to the hilt  
she chose to ~ (a celebrity trial)

## Hilton (Fontana Hilton, etc.)

Fontana Hilton  
the ~, a famous shelter on the Appalachian Trail

Hanoi Hilton  
the ~ included Heartbreak Hotel and New Guy Village

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Names like these are often ironic. The Fontana Hilton is a trail hut, but it is near the parking lot at Fontana Dam, where there are hot showers. Those showers are much appreciated by trail walkers. And nice places to eat and drink are just down the road.

## Himalayan (miscalculation, etc.)

Himalayan proportions  
it was a mistake of ~

## himself (every man for himself)

every man for himself  
it's ~, it's keeping alive (the film *On the Waterfront*)  
there's no real sense of civil society, it's sort of ~ (Greece)  
they'll work together and suddenly it's ~ (Tour de France)  
greed is good and it's ~

every-man-for-himself play  
~ versus selfless team play (NBA)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "They were surrounded by troops led by Rommel... And being from these ancient Scottish regiments with a very noble tradition, they wouldn't surrender... And in the end it was every man for himself and they all tried to scatter and break through the lines..." (The actor Hugh Grant wonderfully explaining the Battle of St. Valery, "the Other Dunkirk," to Terry Gross. From "No More Mr. Nice Guy: Hugh Grant Embraces the 'Blessed Relief' Of Darker Roles," NPR, Fresh Air, July 23, 2021.)

## hindsight (noun)

20/20 hindsight  
we are expressly forbidden from using ~ (shootings)

with hindsight  
he said ~ he wouldn't have done it (forced to resign)

lens of hindsight  
use of force should not be viewed from the 20-20 ~

♦ "When we analyze police-involved shootings, we must look to the totality of the circumstances, and we are expressly forbidden from using 20/20 hindsight, because unlike all of us, officers are not afforded the luxury of armchair reflection when they are faced with rapidly evolving, volatile encounters in dangerous situations." (An attorney representing a police officer. From "Family of Donovan Lewis demand accountability after police killing" by Nick Evans, *Ohio Capital Journal*, Sept 2, 2022.)

♦ "At the time we did what we thought was best. Hindsight being wonderful we will probably look back and think we could have done some things better. We have learned lessons since 2008." (From "Independent assurance review of the effectiveness of multi-agency responses to child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester, Part Three, The review into Operation Span and the investigation of non-recent child sexual exploitation in Rochdale," Malcolm Newsam CBE and Gary Ridgway, January 2024.)

♦ "Of course, history played backward can take on a devotional clarity." (The Israel-Hamas war.)

## hinge (hinge event, etc.)

*Hinges of History*  
his ~ series (the historian Thomas Cahill / turning points)

hinge event  
this was a ~ in the industry (a crypto bankruptcy)

hinge moment  
this conflict is a ~, if could change world politics if...  
your characters are often living through historical ~s...

history's hinges  
Casey saw the Iraq War as a pivot point, one of ~

♦ see also *fulcrum (noun)*, *point (tipping point)*, *turning point (noun)*

## hint (verb)

hints that

the study ~ the father's age really might matter (birth)

### hint (noun)

hint of foul play  
there was no ~

hint of an irregular trip  
there is the ~ (naval officer)

### hint at (verb)

hints at an accident  
the radioactive cloud ~ further east (radiation leak)

hints at a growing American military role  
the remote airstrip in Syria ~

hints at ways  
the research ~ to stop Parkinson's and Alzheimer's

hint at where  
Australian fossils ~ to search for life on Mars

### hip (joined at the hip)

joined at the hip  
he and the company he founded were ~ (MTK Global)  
they usually disagreed, but on this they were ~ (a decision)  
the unions and Jerry Brown are ~ (California politics)

linked at the (etymological) hip  
"medicine" and "meditation" are ~ (mindfulness)

politically joined at the hip  
the gay-and-lesbian and trans movements became ~

### Hiroshima (epithet)

Ceausima  
Romanians referred to the razed areas as ~ (1980s)

call "Hiroshima"  
a rubble-strewn terrain the locals ~ (Bucharest)

### history (secret history)

secret history of the term  
the ~ "pundit"

'Secret History' Of Nuclear War  
"The ~" (Fresh Air / with the journalist Fred Kaplan)

Secret History of Wonder Woman  
"The ~" (Fresh Air with Jill Lepore)

♦ see also *title (love, live, eat, etc.)*

### hit (arrive)

hit the big time  
he ~

hit some (real) low points  
I've ~ in my life

hit pay dirt  
he finally ~ (a researcher)  
on the fourth day, Fitch seemed to ~ (experiment)

hit the eddy  
he managed to roll up and ~ (kayaker)

hit a plateau  
if you slip up or ~, don't beat yourself up (weight loss)

hit the weight room  
he ~ (basketball)

hit middle age  
now that we've ~

adolescence hits  
childrearing can be difficult, especially when ~

### hit (hit the market, etc.)

hitting the bookstores  
new books on women and sex are ~

hit the market  
COVID-19 blood tests ~

hit (long-track) speedskating  
clap skates ~ in 1997-98

### hit (hit \$30, etc.)

hit the mid-20s  
during a hard freeze, temperatures ~ for 6-8 hours

hit the speed of sound  
at 22,200 feet, the airplane ~ (jetliner in dive)

hit (an estimated) 140 mph  
winds ~ in Tennessee (tornadoes)

hit \$30  
the stock ~ before settling down to \$23 (share price)

hits \$5  
gas ~ a gallon, here's how it got here and what's ahead

### hit (take a hit, etc.)

reputational hit  
it would have been a huge ~ for FX (bankruptcy)

taken a hit  
tourism along the Gulf has ~ (oil spill)

took a (major) hit  
her grades ~ (online learning / pandemic)

### hit (affect)

hit me forcibly  
it really ~ (an insight)

hit (real) hard  
it ~ (a murder)

pandemic hit  
once the ~, we started doing virtual visits  
once the ~, nobody came, so... (ad for Microsoft Teams)

♦ "I'm like 'woah!' This is powerful, it really hit me..." (A personal reaction to the musical *Suffs*.)

## hit (affected)

hit by Covid-19 and the shutdowns  
when these industries were ~... (pandemic)

hit hard

Bosnia's fragile economy was ~ by the financial crisis  
the cruise industry was ~ by the pandemic

## hit (computer)

hits on the (erotic) Web site  
5 million viewer ~

hits a day

his Web site was getting nearly 2 million ~

viewer hits

5 million ~ on the erotic Web site

5 million (viewer) hits

~ on the erotic Web site

## hit (comprehension)

hit me

and then it ~, Joe was ill...

♦ "And then one day it hit me, like I had this lightbulb moment where I realized..." (A writer.)

## hit (success)

hit

a ~ is better than a flop (Broadway)

hit on (Top 40) radio

she has a fast-rising ~

hit play

his ~, "The Sunshine Boys"

hit song

recorded a ~, toured England

hits and flops

seeing ~ at the local movie theater;  
he has had ~ (film actor)

monster hit

the studio hasn't had a ~ since... (films)

TV hit

it was a smash ~ from 1959 to 1963

Broadway hit

he chalked up about a dozen ~s

fast-rising hit

she has a ~ on Top 40 radio

## hit (mob hit, etc.)

hit job

see *hit job* (noun)

hit operation

it's a progressive ~ now (Southern Poverty Law Center)

hit piece

it was a blatant ~ (by *The New York Times*)

she threatened to sue if the rumored ~ was published...

he called the article a slimy partisan ~ (politics)

media hits

it's a terrible feeling to have these orchestrated ~ on you

political hit

the hearings were a ~ (politics)

♦ "It's a terrible feeling to have these orchestrated media hits on you." (Christine Blasey Ford speaking to Terry Gross on Fresh Air in 2024.)

♦ "I feel very misled, and it is shameful *The New York Times* would use my words to hurt my daughter." (The 78-year-old mother of Neera Tanden. She had thought the interview would result in an article that would be "a nice story about Neera." At least one columnist described it as a "blatant hit piece.")

♦ "LSU's Kim Mulkey threatens to sue *Washington Post* if outlet publishes rumored 'hit piece' about her" by Jared Schwartz, *The New York Post*, March 23, 2024.)

## hit back (verb)

hit back

prosecutors ~ in court documents (politics)

## hitchhike (verb)

hitchhikes with people throughout the world

the Mediterranean recluse spider ~

hitchhike with passengers

the virus continued to ~ from other hot spots (COVID)

'hitchhiking' on ships

invasive species are ~ (Antarctica)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Hitchhiking was once a common practice in the United States, and it was common to see and pick up hitchhikers. Those days are long gone. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## hitchhiker (noun)

hitchhiker

it could be a ~ (latent virus in transplanted pig's heart)

barnacles, sponges and other hitchhikers

he found ~ (on the bottom of a boat)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Hitchhiking was once a common practice in the United States, and it was common to see and pick up hitchhikers. Those days are long gone. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## hit it off (verb)

hit it off well

we ~, I didn't really know him or his work (film actor)

## hit job (noun)

hit job

the Bloomberg article was a ~ (against a company)

partisan hit job

this is a ~ (a political kerfuffle)

political hit job

how a ~ backfired...

ridiculous hitjob



he called the *New York Times* article a ~ (Carlos Watson)

victim of a (political) hit job

he appeared to be the ~, orchestrated to...

♦ "I didn't appreciate the hit job he wrote on Brian Kelly." (Coach Kim Mulkey, about Kent Babb.)

♦ see also *drive-by* (conflict), *hatchet job* (noun)

## hitter (heavy hitter)

heavy-hitters from the worlds

~ of sports, entertainment, and pop culture (NPR)

BBC's big hitters

two more of the ~ are departing

two heavy-hitters

you have ~ meeting (Rapinoe on France vs. US soccer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the world of boxing, there are boxers and punchers. Punchers have "heavy hands."

♦ Some boxers are cursed with brittle hands.

## hive (noun)

hive

if the outside was dark and lonesome, the inside was a ~

hive of activity

the marketplace is a ~

## hives (noun)

gives people (like Kennan) hives

his opinions ~

## hobble (verb)

hobbled past (Labour) governments

the matter of military intervention has ~

hobble the organization

the FBI were finally able to ~ (KKK)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## hobbled

hobbled by a (deadly) pandemic

the US economy has been ~

hobbled by (international) sanctions

Iran has been ~

hobbled by a (debilitating) stammer

he was ~ (George VI)

hobbled for a generation

the real-estate market is going to be ~

politically hobbled

a president ~ at home (Macron / fractured parliament)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## Hobson's choice

presented him with a Hobson's choice

the crisis ~ (response to caving fatality)

♦ "Health officials have said the best vaccine is the one you're offered." (Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, Moderna, etc.)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. A flight attendant asked a passenger if he wanted lunch. "What are the choices?" the passenger asked. "Yes' or 'No,'" the attendant said.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Thomas Hobson was an English liveryman who required every customer to take the horse nearest the door. It means an apparently free choice when there is really no alternative.

♦ Almost everything in life is a "Hobson's choice."

## hog (verb)

hog the headlines

Haaland will continue to ~ (Erling. Haaland.)

hog photo spots

they ~ so no-one else can enjoy them (Instagram tourists)

## hog (noun)

room hog

you can lose your job for being a ~ (writers room)

## hogtie (verb)

hogties U.S. counter-proliferation strategy

diplomatic dialogue only ~ (with North Korea)

## hold (the future can hold something)

holds

nobody knows what the future ~

I am optimistic about what the future ~

getting people to prepare for what a warmer climate ~

hold

so what does the future ~ for the Supreme Court

holds for us

I don't know what the future ~

## hold (long-held)

long-held assumptions

challenge ~ about...

long-held practice

it dropped its ~ of... (way a company orders goods)

long-held resentments

she was a creature of her ~

long-held tradition

abandoning such a ~ is heresy

### hold (verb / possession)

held him in its grip  
the current ~

hold its monopoly  
Portugal ~, but then began to lose its hold

### hold (noun / possession)

hold on power  
he is trying to maintain his ~

lose its hold  
Portugal held its monopoly, but then began to ~

losing their hold  
residents are ~ on the middle class (recession)

### hold (noun / emotion)

hold  
he was unnerved by the ~ it still had on him (trauma)

### hold (close held, etc.)

close held  
it's ~, few people have read this (a report)

### hold (take hold)

take hold  
the trend could ~ in other states (declaring bankruptcy)

taking hold  
competitive instincts are ~ (classroom)

take hold in Spain  
when liberal ideas began to ~

take hold in the community  
we don't want extremist elements to ~

began to take hold  
the idea ~

beginning to take hold  
democracy is ~

failed to take hold  
democracy has ~

contagion took hold  
~ (Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts)

drugs took hold  
AIDS cases fell as new, more effective ~

### hold (on hold)

on hold  
negotiations are ~  
his life in the sky has been ~ (crash with fatalities)  
many Afghan lives now seem to be ~ (Taliban takeover)

recovery efforts are on hold  
~ because of dangerous conditions (avalanches)

put our relationship on hold  
we had to ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days of rotary phones and long-distance operators, you could be put on hold.

### hold back (restraint)

hold back  
Spike Lee did not ~ during the press conference

hold back at the United Nations  
she didn't ~ (Greta Thunberg's "How Dare You" speech)

### hold back (obstacle)

held them back  
another policy that women believe ~

holding you back  
do you think I'm ~

hold her back  
the fact that she is shy needn't ~ (toddler)

♦ "She talked about how it was 'gangs'—'not white people'—who were responsible for holding back Black and Hispanic men." (The politician Marjorie Taylor Greene.)

### hold in (emotions)

hold it in  
don't ~ (emotions)

### hold off (verb)

held off the future  
they ~ by building a fragile present from pieces of the past

### hold on (survival)

hold on  
controller said to ~ (soldiers waiting to be exfiltrated)  
the Maasai won't be able to ~ much longer  
~ (911 operator to 9/11 caller)  
just ~, there will be tomorrow (Maria Carey)

held on to win  
AC Milan ~ the title... (soccer)

strength to hold on  
I ask God to give me ~ (mother of missing kid)

♦ "The worst part is behind us, we are seeing a new dawn, hold on, have faith, because good days are coming."

♦ "Keep your eye on the prize, hold on." (A moving song from the Civil Rights era of the 1960s.)

♦ "Keep your hand on that plow, and hold on." (A moving Negro spiritual.)

### hold on to (verb)

hold on to faith  
in the hell of war, how does a chaplain ~

holds on to grievances  
he ~

holding on to hope

they're ~ that they will find survivors (building collapse)

held on to its role

the department has ~ as... (State Department)

held on to his people's ancient religion

Nicholas Black Elk, who ~ when it was actively suppressed (Oglala)

hold on to her sanity

her work enables her to ~ (an activist)

hold on to my senses

I am trying to ~, to fend off the black dog (depression)

hold on to that

if I ~, I'll never be able to move on (a boxer and a defeat)

## hold out (persist)

hold out for real change

the parents hope protesters will ~ (Sandy Hook murders)

## hold out (offer)

held out the promise

California ~ of a better life for migrants

## hold up (rob)

hold up corporations

activists can ~

♦ "[M]inority activists can 'hold up' (in both senses of the idiom) corporations, raising objections that can be overcome with compensation." ("The Inequality of 'Equity,'" by Christopher Caldwell, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

## hold up (obstruct)

holding me up

you are ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way!

## holdup (noun)

holdup

come on, what's the ~

## hole (feeling)

hole in my heart

it left a huge ~ (loss of a baby)

hole in my life

it left a ~ that won't ever be filled (loss of her mother)

♦ "They're in a better place up there / But they sure left a hole down here..." Watch: Justin Moore *The Ones That Didn't Make It Back Home*

## hole (flaw)

holes in her game

there are no ~ (tennis player Emma Raducanu)

security hole

the break-ins exploited ~ on these systems (computers)

the ~s have now been plugged (computers)

gaping hole

the case has ~s in it

full of holes

your theory is ~ (discussion comment)

blew a (sizable) hole in the stock

his report ~ of the high-flying, high-tech company

eaten a hole in his myth

the war had ~ of competence

shoot holes in the study

skeptics have been quick to ~ (science)

♦ "There are so many holes in her story and what the boyfriend is further disclosing you could drive a truck through it." "Story has more holes than a foot long slice of Swiss cheese," "There are holes in the story that just don't make sense..." (Online commenters. See the Wikipedia article "Carlee Russell disappearance hoax.")

♦ "It doesn't take long at sea to learn that nothing is too rich to rust... / Hang around the superyacht world for a while and you see the metaphor everywhere. Four months after Putin's invasion of Ukraine, the war had eaten a hole in his myths of competence." ("The Floating World" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, July 25, 2022. Great writing.)

## hole (dry hole)

dry hole

it was a ~ (combat mission fails to detain target)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It was a dry hole, which is the term that we use whenever a mission doesn't find anything or is unsuccessful..." (A U.S. military operation in Iraq.)

## hole (tree hole)

at a tree hole

people can post secrets for strangers to read ~

♦ People can reveal secrets for strangers to read at several "tree hole" sites on Weibo.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ An *actual* tree hole is used for secret communication in the beloved book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

## hole (situation)

hole of addiction

it's easy to fall into a ~ (skateboarding)

job hole

we're still in a deep, deep ~ (unemployment)

dark hole

he's in that ~ (mentally ill, drug addled, homeless...)

deeper hole

I want him to dig a ~ for himself with his mouth

demographic hole

it's going to be so hard to get out of this ~

financial hole

he had to declare bankruptcy to get out of his ~

climb out of their hole

will they be able to ~ (losing team)

dig a (deeper) hole

I want him to ~ for himself with his mouth

digging herself (deeper) into this hole  
she is ~ and she'll never get out (a trial)

digging ourselves into a hole  
we could be ~, for a very long time...

dug herself out of the hole  
she finally ~ (financial)

dug ourselves into a hole  
we have ~ (budget deficit)

claw their way out of the hole  
Spain dug deep to ~ but Scotland... (soccer)

fill in that hole  
it will take a lot more jobs to ~ (unemployment)

get out of this (demographic) hole  
it's going to be so hard to ~ (aging people, low birth rate)

♦ "We've been digging ourselves into this situation for 40 years, and it's likely going to take us 40 years to get out." (Eric Tars, the legal director at the National Homelessness Law Center.)

♦ "He's in that dark hole right now, and if you could force treatment there's a chance he could possibly crawl out of it." (A mentally ill homeless drug addict who refuses treatment and is in and out of crisis police holds, emergency rooms, jails, and homeless shelters.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ First law of holes: if you are in one, stop digging.

♦ "If you dig a hole for your brother, you will fall down in it." (Said in Saudi Arabia, about revenge.)

## holed up

holed up in his (Ramallah) compound  
Arafat remained ~ for 2 years

holed up in a (hotel) room  
he is ~ after being attacked (a reporter abroad)

## hole up (verb)

holed up  
and that's where we ~ (musicians record in bedroom)

## holic (shopaholic, etc.)

Elverholics  
~, a popular fishing forum on Facebook (glass eels)

shopaholic  
I was a ~  
she was a ~ (designer clothes)

workaholic  
I was a ~

♦ "Her shopping demons were hoppin'.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "-holic" is entered at Wiktionary. The four examples there are: danceaholic; workaholic; sexaholic; and sugaraholic.

## hollow (hollow promises, etc.)

hollow promise  
the joint agreement was a ~ (diplomacy)

hollow sentiment  
it's a rather ~ considering that...

hollow slogans  
I began to dislike this girl for her ~ and bombastic cliches

hollow victory  
it's a ~ (boxing / an impaired contestant)

hollow and self-serving  
their platform is ~ (politics)

hollow, cynical and inauthentic  
he is often dismissed as ~ (a politician)

proved hollow  
the pledge ~ (U.N.)

rang hollow  
his apology ~ (insincere)  
his boasts ~

ring hollow  
promises that the country's best days lie ahead ~

rings hollow  
his argument ~ to many  
that is an argument that ~ (a bad argument)

sounded hollow  
his speech ~ (president)

♦ "These arguments' obvious hollowness..."

## hollowed out

hollowed out  
key programs were ~ under the administration  
with the State Department ~, the military is driving policy

enforcement has been hollowed out  
ATF ~ (politics)

weakened and hollowed out  
America's local newspapers have been ~

becomes hollowed out  
without the rush and brush and crush of the world, one ~

getting hollowed out  
the middle class is ~ in America

♦ "Without the rush and brush and crush of the world, one becomes hollowed out. The cavity fills with envy." (Cynthia Ozick, on the isolation of being a writer without success.)

## hollow out (verb)

hollowed out enforcement  
years of budget cuts have ~ of the nation's tax laws

hollow it out  
the Supreme Court will reverse or ~ (Row v. Wade)

hollow out abortion rights  
legal restrictions designed to ~

hollowed out the island's rural towns  
the recession has ~ (Puerto Rico)

## Hollywood (Hollywood of Africa, etc.)

Hollywood of Africa

Ouarzazate, sometimes called the ~ (*Gladiator*, etc.)

## Hollywood of the South

Atlanta, Georgia, the ~

## Hollywood on the Tiber

~ (see the Wikipedia article / Rome in 1950s and 60s)

## Bollywood

she was known as the Nightingale of ~ (Lata Mangeshkar)

## Indiewood

and ‘~’ was born (*Pulp Fiction*, Miramax, etc.)

## Nollywood

Hollywood, Bollywood, make way for ~ (Nigerian films)  
Jocelyn Bioh’s vampy off-Broadway comedy ~ *Dreams*

## Y’allywood

Atlanta emerges as ‘~’ (the U.S. state of Georgia)  
so much Hollywood is going on in Atlanta they call it ~

♦ ‘Black Hollywood’ reshoots classic film scenes with Black actors.  
(*Black Hollywood: Reimagining Iconic Movie Moments*, a photography book by Carrell Augustus.)

♦ “The business is run by the cornflakes men. And they’re only in it for the girls. You used to join amateur dramatics to get at the crackling. These men buy up studios to achieve the same end.” (The great theater actor Peter O’Toole, about the film industry.)

♦ “Two guys who would never get layed [sic] if not for the movie industry.” (A online commenter about an incarcerated film producer and a famous director.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## Hollywood (Hollywood ending, etc.)

### Hollywood ending

this is a ~ (strike by IATSE averted = happy ending)

### Hollywood fantasy

that’s not ~ any more (robotic bees)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “I bet more Marines have joined the Corps because of Full Metal Jacket than because of any fucking recruiting commercial.” / “And that’s an antiwar film.” / “Nothing’s an antiwar film,” I say. “There’s no such thing.” (From the brilliant short story “War Stories” in *Redeployment* by Phil Klay.)

♦ According to Justin Chang, “The great French director Francois Truffaut once said there was no such thing as an anti-war film, because it’s in the nature of war films to valorize the spectacle of armed combat.” (“‘1917’ Is A Mind-Boggling Technological Achievement—But Not A Great Film,” NPR, Fresh Air, January 15, 2020.)

## holocaust (not the Shoah)

### holocaust of abortion

unborn babies murdered in the ~ (pro-life activism)

### Black Holocaust

“America’s ~ Museum” (title of Wikipedia article)

### our modern Holocaust

this is ~ (an Israeli psychoanalyst / Israel-Hamas war)

### ongoing holocaust

the African American experience is an ~ to the present day

## African Holocaust

“~” redirects to the Wikipedia article “*Maafa*”

## racial holocaust

Fidel Castro accused Paris of carrying out a “~”

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Holocaust remembrance Day is a time to remember more than one atrocity.” (The *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Opinion, Jan 27, 2023. The opinion includes references to Black people, Asians, Hispanics, Muslims, LGBTQ+ and trans-gender people, Native Americans, skin color, religion, gender identity, ethnic background, hate speech, current “autocratic” leaders, and “polite racism” versus outright bigotry.)

♦ According to the Wikipedia article “*Maafa*,” that term “is derived from a Swahili term for ‘disaster, terrible occurrence or great tragedy.’” Palestinians speak of the “Nakba,” or “Catastrophe.”

♦ Russia versus the Ukraine. Both sides are referring to the Holocaust.

♦ “Petrovsky-Shtern told me, ‘From a purely historical standpoint, there is no comparison’ between the Holocaust and the Russian invasion of Ukraine... But, he added, ‘from the point of view of rhetoric, the comparison makes sense. [Zelensky] is saying, ‘They are coming to erase us.’” (“The Memorial: A Holocaust atrocity was about to be commemorated. Then came another war” by Masha Gessen, *The New Yorker*, April 18, 2022.)

♦ Sunny Hostin of The View compared the January 6th insurrection to the Holocaust. (In 2024. Commenters described her comparison as “odious,” “breathtaking,” and “deranged.”)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “The use of ‘holocaust’ by Mr. Castro demonstrates his ignorance of history and disdain towards its victims. Such words are unacceptable.” (French foreign ministry spokesman Bernard Valero, responding to comments by Fidel Castro that France’s deportation of Roma in 2010 amounted to a ‘racial holocaust.’”)

♦ “So I just wanted to come here today and say that I’m truly sorry for offending people with remarks about the Holocaust. There’s no comparison.” (Marjorie Taylor Greene, U.S. Congresswoman.)

♦ Nick Robinson: Do you when you hear people making comparisons with the thirties pause or do you in stark contrast as some people do say, ‘How dare you make that comparison?’” / Suella Braverman: To throw out those flippant analogies diminishes the unspeakable tragedy that millions of people went through. And I don’t think anything that is happening in the UK today can come close to what happened in the Holocaust. So I find it a lazy and unhelpful comparison to make.” (“Gary Lineker tweet ‘diminishes’ tragedy of Holocaust—Suella Braverman,” BBC, Political Thinking with Nick Robinson, March 9, 2023.)

### \*\*\* the Shoah...

♦ “In the United States, Holocaust deniers have had more success than any other country.” (Linguist Deborah Tannen.)

♦ “A circle is closing. For the first time in 20 or 30 years, the Jewish congregations commemorate Kristallnacht for themselves... It’s a change that indicates that specific period of coming to terms with the criminal deeds of a forerunner government in Germany is itself becoming history. It will not be forgotten, but it is not anymore an issue of major emotional importance for the population.” (Cilly Kugelmann, deputy director of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, on the celebration of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the remembrance of Kristallnacht, both of which occurred on November 9. From “Recalling History on a Day of Light and Darkness,” by Michael Slackman, *The New York Times*, November 9, 2010.)

♦ “For several days now Sofya [Osipovna Levinton] hadn’t wanted to sleep. She sat there, wide awake, in the stinking darkness... As she listened to people’s cries and mutterings, she realized that their heads were filled with painfully vivid images that no words could ever convey... ‘Golda! Golda!’ cried a man’s voice, racked with sobs. // Rozenberg the accountant was still counting as he helped dig the pit for himself and the other brenners... And then suddenly, while he was dreaming, his tears had come gushing out, burning him, breaking through the crust that had formed over his brain and his heart. ‘Golda! Golda!’ he cried out.” // [Sofya Osipovna Levinton’s] eyes—which had read Homer, Izvestia, Huckleberry Finn and Mayne Reid, that

had looked at good people and bad people, that had seen the geese in the green meadows of Kursk, the stars above the observatory at Pulkovo, the glitter of surgical steel, the Mona Lisa in the Louvre, tomatoes and turnips in the bins at market, the blue water of Issyk-Kul—her eyes were no longer of any use to her... She was still breathing, but breathing was hard work..." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part 1, Chapter 43 and 44 and Part 2, Chapter 48.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It would be good generally if people could stop using Nazi Germany as a kind of bad things emoji. Better to explain and use detail. Save Nazi Germany. Keep it in your back pocket for those occasions when only Nazi Germany will do." ("Why there are no winners after the BBC's two-footed tackle on Gary Lineker" by Barney Ronay, *The Guardian*, 10 March 2023.)

♦ "Comparing the Holocaust to any previous or subsequent event in human history is wrong, of course. It minimizes the unprecedented tragedy of the 6 million Jews whose murders the world failed to stop." ("Why Hamas victim Hersh Goldberg-Polin's name—like Anne Frank's—will live forever" by Gil Hoffman and Jacki Alexander, *The New York Post*, Sep 6, 2024.)

♦ Many older people are uncomfortable hearing comparisons like the ones above to the Jewish Holocaust of World War II.

## holocaust (destruction)

holocaust of a national memory

the fire was a ~ (Rio's National Museum / Indian tribes)

nuclear holocaust

the spread of an ice sheet is more deadly to life than a ~

\*\*\* "For the Antarctic animals it was a holocaust..."

♦ "The results of Cook's intrusion into Tahiti and Australia had been bad enough for the native people: for the Antarctic animals it was a holocaust... From Le Havre in France and Hull in England, and from New Bedford and Nantucket in America, the whaling and the sealing fleets set out." (*The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The battle that followed began at 1400 hours on December 6 and ended on December 15, barely a mile north of where it had begun. It was a ten-day blood bath that cost the Regiment over a hundred and fifty battle casualties. / The opening attack was made in broad daylight by Charley Company under cover of the strongest artillery support Division could muster. It was a devastating barrage...but the enemy replied with equal violence and within minutes Charley was being pounded into the saturated valley floor under a titanic upheaval of mud and steel. Dog, coming up behind, tried to avoid the worst of that holocaust..." (*And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat. World War II. Italy.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A burnt offering; a sacrifice to the Gods consumed by fire: holos (whole) and kaustos (burned). (Greek.)

## holy grail

see *grail* (holy grail)

## holy war (noun)

holy war against stinky cheese

the Bush administration wages a ~ (Roquefort)

holy war against women

he calls SCOTUS decision a "~" (Bill Baird)

wage a holy war

conspired to ~ over our bodies (abortion)

♦ "Now comes word that the Bush administration, in its final days, waged a holy war against stinky cheese..." ("The War On Openness Becomes The War On Stinky Cheese" by Todd Kliman, NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, January 30, 2009. The U.S. put a huge tariff on

Roquefort cheese due to an EU ban on U.S. beef containing hormones.)

♦ "Behind dusty oaken doors / six robed dinosaurs / conspired to wage a holy war / over our bodies." (Reina del Cid's "My Country 'Tis of Thee (Land of Inequity)." From "5 protest songs that have taken on new meaning post-Roe" by Ari Shapiro, Noah Caldwell, Jonaki Mehta, NPR, Music, July 2, 2022.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Christendom too had been changed by the Fourth Crusade. Long divided, it was now polarised. For centuries before and after the Great Schism of 1054, relations between the Eastern and Western Churches had fluctuated between the politely distant and the bitterly acrimonious; their differences, however, had been essentially theological. After the sack of Constantinople (1204) by the Western Crusaders, this was no longer true. In the eyes of the Greeks, these barbarians who had desecrated their altars, plundered their homes and violated their women could no longer be considered, in any real sense of the word, Christians at all. How now could they ever agree to the idea of union with Rome? 'Better the Sultan's turban than the cardinal's hat,' they used to say; and they meant it." (John Julius Norwich, *A History of the Mediterranean*.)

♦ 1572. August. The Catholic party annihilated between 30,000 and 100,000 Huguenots (Protestants) across France.

♦ The Thirty Years' War, 1618-1648. The deadliest European religious war in history. "The ur-trauma of the German people, when the German character was formed," according to Curt Hondrich.

♦ "The day after the surrender of Fort Sumter the entire land, both North and South, blazed with an ardent and confident patriotism, although the patriotism of the South was precisely opposite to that of the North... The churches were kept open all day for the saying of bloodthirsty prayers. God, as usual, was on both sides." (*A New American History* by W. E. Woodward.)

♦ see also *jihad* (noun), *martyr* (person)

## home (home of golf, etc.)

home of cricket

the ~ (Lord's Cricket Ground, London)

home of golf

St. Andrews is the ~

home of the most delicious chili pepper

Chimayo, the ~ in the American Southwest (New Mexico)

home of the great steamships

Wuhan, ~ of the Yangtze

home of the world's biggest wave

Nazare is the undisputed ~ (surfing / Portugal)

home of whisky

Scotland is the ~ and has the greatest expertise

spiritual home

the Maracanã is the ~ of world football (hallowed turf)

♦ The "home of British boxing" is (a) York Hall, Bethnal Green (b) Alexandra Palace (c) the O2 Arena.

♦ "Hate doesn't just have a home at Columbia University, it's running the place." (Antisemitism. The Israel-Hamas war.)

## home (home to)

home to one of the island's largest cathedrals

the city was ~ (Arecibo, Puerto Rico)

home to an exhibition

Derry's Tower Museum is ~ of the discovery (a galleon)



home to a (vast) collection  
the museum is ~ of archives

home to all 14 of the world's 8,000-meter peaks  
Central Asia is ~

home to a (major Soviet) listening station  
during the Cold War, it was ~ (Cuba / SIGINT)

### home (home in Islam, etc.)

home in Islam  
people who found a ~

lucrative, satisfying home  
I had a ~ (an actor in a successful TV series)

### home (home for the archive, etc.)

home for the archive  
a proper final ~

final home  
a proper ~ for the archive

future home  
~ of First National Bank and Trust

permanent home  
temporary premises vs. a ~ (museum)  
whales making a ~ in the Gulf of Mexico

proper (final) home  
a ~ for the archive

### home (hit home)

hit home  
I have a brother who's an addict so it ~

### home (close to home)

hit (very) close to home  
this has ~ (a school shooting)

### home (feel at home)

feel at home  
Americans never ~, even in their houses

felt at home  
for the first time in his life, he ~ (athlete on team)  
she had to leave her orphanage, where she had ~

feels at home in Japan  
he ~ (a Latin baseball player)

feel at home with my relatives  
I don't ~

feel most at home  
I ~ in the gym (a boxer)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Home is where the heart is!

### Homeric (adjective)

Homeric aspirations  
he left Oxford with ~ (a politician)

Homeric battle  
the two teams engaged in a ~ (football)

Homeric curse  
he remembers the ~ of the truck drivers (Little Athens)

Homeric epic  
her work is described as a ~ about...

Homeric life  
he wanted to live a more ~ (Classics grad joins the army)

Homeric proportions  
an armada of ~ invaded Sicily (World War II)

Homeric retreat  
the climbing party's ~ down K2 is legendary

Homeric struggle  
he lost a ~ (sculling)

stern, erect, Homeric  
he stood over his foe, ~ (a fight)

### home run (success)

home run for Ford  
the new car has become a ~

home-run line  
it was a ~ (a memorable line in a speech)

conservation home run  
it was a ~ (fishery rebounds)

hit a home run  
you ~ (successful proposal)  
this is an opportunity for us to ~ (an initiative)

♦ "It's not a home run. It's not something that's going to stop the disease or reverse it, but it may slow down progression of the disease and may give people more meaningful or quality time with their families." (A doctor about the Alzheimer's drug Leqembi.)

♦ see also park (hit something out of the park)

### home run (swing for a home run, etc.)

home run  
that's his ~, his money-punch (Cordina vs Ogawa)

swinging for the fences  
he is ~ (a restaurateur)

swinging for a home run  
Trump is ~ (final status peace in Middle East)

### homestretch (noun)

home stretch of his career  
what he calls the "~~" (the culmination)

homestretch of the (US mid-term) elections  
race-baiting allegations have mired the ~

in the homestretch

this is crunch time, we're ~ (election campaign)

in the final stretch

we are ~ (election campaign)

♦ see also *corner* (round the corner)

## homework (noun)

homework

show that you have done your ~ by... (job interview)

did their homework

they ~ before creating the Mach-E SUV (an ad)

do your homework

~ before you buy...

~ and don't make assumptions

do (all) your homework

you try to ~ (preparing for NYC marathon)

## honcho (leader)

honcho of *The New York Times*

the new head ~ is Joseph Kahn

head honcho

CNN ~ Chris Licht...

hedge fund honcho

~ Daniel Loeb: stop spreading fear at Sony

Secret Service honchos

~ denied Trump additional security for 2 years

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Merriam-Webster, this is Japanese for "leader of the squad, section, group," and was brought back from Japan by U.S. soldiers after World War II. Militarily, then, it seems to be the Japanese equivalent of the French *doyen*.

♦ Soka Gakkai, a modern version of Buddhism, was brought to the US by Japanese war brides.

## hone (verb)

honing her (observational) gifts

she has been ~ for 50 years (the artist Catherine Murphy)

honed a sense

he has ~ of "radical informality" (a leader)

hone their skills

they ~ in Iraq and then go elsewhere (terrorists)

hone (job) skills

as more Americans return to school to ~

hone their technique

the hole is perfect for those wishing to ~ (kayaking)

develop and hone

they practice a lot to ~ their routines (cheerleaders)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When was the last time you honed a knife, or paid a knife grinder to do it for you? And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## honed

finely honed

he demonstrates ~ political instincts (a diplomat)

## honey (honey, baby, etc.)

honey

hey, ~...

honey, baby, sweetie

he addresses me as ~ and other inappropriate names

♦ "And for Swifties, well, they seem to have embraced their Queen's new boo." (Ailsa Chang, NPR.)

## honeycomb (shape)

honeycomb cardboard

packaging materials such as ~

honeycomb mold

the glass flowed into a ~ (telescope mirror)

honeycomb structure

~s are widely used in the aerospace industry

honeycomb weathering

rocks and bones can display ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The cells in a honeycomb structure are usually columnar and hexagonal (6-sided).

## honeycomb (verb)

honeycombed the island with bunkers

Taiwan's military ~

## honeycombed

honeycombed with caves

the cliffs are ~

honeycombed with mines

the mountain is ~, many over a century old (Chile)

honeycombed with tombs

this area is ~ (Judean foothills south of Jerusalem)

honeycombed with tunnels and bunkers

North Korea is ~

## honeymoon (noun)

honeymoon

the ~ didn't last (teacher on job)

honeymoon between the media and police

the end to the ~ (leak)

honeymoon period

his ~ is clearly over (an elected official)

honeymoon phase

the ~ has worn off...

voter honeymoon

he still basks in a ~ (a politician)

end to the honeymoon

the ~ between the news media and police (leak)

honeymoon didn't last

at first things were great, but the ~ (a new teacher)

- ♦ “The Egyptian Revolution still had its newlywed glow...”
- ♦ “So, is this a sugar rush, a media honeymoon, yes, those terms apply, but...” (Punditry by NPR’s Ron Elving about Kamala Harris.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “honeymoon” bandwagon...

- ♦ “Inside the ultra-luxe Maldivian hotel where Sienna Miller babymooned.”
- ♦ “Over the moon We treated each other to an ‘earlymoon’ before getting married—it was the perfect cure for wedding stress.” (*The New York Post*.)

### \*\*\* the honeymoon shocker...

- ♦ “She wasn’t prepared for the honeymoon shocker... a snoring spouse.”
- ♦ “She disappeared on their honeymoon in Jordan.”

## honeypot (attraction)

### weird honeypot

I was a ~ for the night clubs (Black, skinny, charismatic)

- ♦ “And I was also a weird honeypot for the night clubs because all these fun girls would want to stick around longer to hang out, and buy more bottles, too.” (“Outside Man: Jeremy O. Harris, before and after ‘Slave Play’” by Vinson Cunningham, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

## honey-tongued

### honey-tongued

the ~ French major

## honor (noun / groups)

it is an honor for NPR to distribute

~ Radio Ambulante...

in honor of “Record Store Day”

jazz recordings to be released ~

in honor of Donovan Lewis

a large crowd gathered ~ (shot by a policeman)

in honor of George Floyd

a rally and march ~

respect and honor

I want to give the act of coming out the ~ it deserves

badge of honor

see *badge (badge of honor)*

point of honor

he made it a ~ to shoot only what he could eat (a hunter)

gets (overdue) honors

Black civil-war soldier ~ (Lt. Stephen Atkins Swails)

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ “It’s an honor for NPR to distribute Radio Ambulante and to join Daniel in elevating public radio’s long-form journalism for Spanish-speaking audiences.” (NPR President and CEO John Lansing, after Daniel Alarcon was selected for a MacArthur Foundation grant.)
- ♦ “LGBT Pride events are held annually in June in honor of the Stonewall riots.” (Wikipedia.)
- ♦ “Ahead of Trans Day of Visibility, I rise in honor of a community that is being forced to fight for its very existence. I rise in honor of trans voices that deserve to be heard—not silenced and not criminalized. I rise in honor of trans joy that deserves to be celebrated—not

eradicated.” (U.S. Representative for Massachusetts Katherine Clark, House Minority Whip.)

- ♦ “It is a great honor to witness firsthand the heroic efforts of our mission control team overcoming enormous challenges to recover and operate the spacecraft. I look forward to sharing these, and more remarkable stories, after the mission concludes...” (Astrobotic CEO John Thornton, about a *failed* [italics mine] mission to the moon.)

♦ “Being in a sorority is a privilege. But being a Delta, that’s an honor. (Dialogue from the 2019 cheerleader drama-thriller *The Secret Lives of Cheerleaders* starring Lucy Hale.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ “USPS Picks Perfect Line For Maya Angelou Stamp—If Only It Were Hers” by Colin Dwyer, NPR, *The Two-Way*, April 8, 2015. / “Let’s save Maya Angelou from fake quotes” by Rebecca Seals, BBC News, 13 November 2017.

♦ “Doesn’t she need to go pick up some irrelevant award that she didn’t actually earn and is now ruined as it is associated with her?” (Online snark against a “woke” celebrity.)

### \*\*\* “This potter will be remembered” (Louise Bigmeat Maney, etc.)

♦ “This potter will be remembered,” Bob Blankenship, chairman of the Cherokee Tribal Council, told those gathered at the Cherokee High School Auditorium to honor Louise Bigmeat Maney. / Saturday’s celebration was public recognition of the “Beloved Woman” title conferred on Maney by tribal council in December 2001. / Principal Chief Leon Jones noted the title of Beloved Woman had been bestowed on only two other Cherokee women since the 1700s... / Marie Junaluska, the other Painttown council representative and member of the Ani’Yun’wiyahi (Principal People) committee, gave an emotional eulogy in her native tongue. Afterward Junaluska said, “She was my mentor and a great believer in preserving our culture.” / The program began with a “Presentation of Colors” by the Tsalagi Warrior Society and included presentations by the Cherokee Elementary Traditional Singers and the Young Voices... / Former Principal Chief Joyce Dugan said Maney “would be embarrassed” by all the attention... / Her pottery is on display at the Smithsonian.” (“Maney is third ‘Beloved Woman’ in 225 years” by Don Hendershot, *Smoky Mountain News* / Regional / Week of 3/13/02.)

♦ “Everything he did was with honor and style.” (Jimmy Breslin’s defence of the boxing referee Ruby Goldstein, accused by some of stopping fights too early, and accused by others of stopping Griffith-Paret III too late.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

- ♦ Duty, Honor, Country. (The motto of West Point.)

♦ “With only precious seconds to decide...” (From a Medal of Honor citation.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, “The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy.”

♦ “A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word ‘erroneously’ is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do.” (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, “It’s the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move,” Subsection “But That Isn’t What It’s Supposed to Mean!”)

- ♦ Better poor with honor than rich with shame.

♦ Better deserve honor and not have it, than have it and not deserve it.

- ♦ Where there is no shame, there is no honor. (An Ethiopian proverb.)

## honor (verb / groups)

honor her body

she wants to ~ (“free bleeding” / menstruation)

honors (queer people’s) existence

Queer Gym ~

honor your feelings

we ask each of you to ~ (after mass shooting)

honors (groundbreaking 1898) film

Library of Congress ~ depicting Black joy

honor Black History Month

six books republished to ~ (Penguin Classics)

honor their (sexual and emotional) needs

they ~ (women dating women)

honor ‘(un)known’ enslaved people

new monument will ~ (IDEAS xLab / Louisville)

honors victims

the community ~ of the shooting and calls for change

honor women

we wanted to ~ who have been doing what they do...

celebrate and (we) honor

we ~ the women who made history...

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Opting out of dating men is a deliberate choice made to honor their sexual and emotional needs.” (Women dating women.)

♦ “Many of them have suffered much. And we honor them and we honor their pain and suffering.” (Southern Baptist Church sexual abuse.)

♦ “Creator Annette talked through her process of free bleeding and said when she is on her period, she doesn’t leave the house because she wants to honor her body.”

♦ “As a brand, we want to honor women, like Misty, who are inspiring the next generation of girls to live out their dreams. We know role play often leads to real ‘play’ in life and we’re thrilled to celebrate Misty with her very own doll.” (Lisa McKnight, Barbie’s general manager and senior vice president. From “Misty Copeland Inspires A Barbie ‘Sheroes’ Doll” by Bill Chappell, NPR, The Two-Way, May 2, 2016.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Honesty; doing the right thing; learning and education; kindness and helping the weak and animals... (Things that are their own rewards.)

♦ Where there is no shame, there is no honor. (An Ethiopian proverb.)

♦ see also *celebrate (groups)*

## honored (groups)

honored for grilling

he was ~ a million steaks (a cook)

honored and privileged

I have been ~ to take care of... (Suboxone)

♦ “A Georgia restaurant employee is honored for grilling a million steaks,” NPR, Morning Edition, April 27, 2022.

♦ “I’ve been honored and privileged to take care of patients with opioid addiction...” (Suboxone.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Others took umbrage with the fact that Mr Vine, 57, had used the word ‘honoured’ when describing the meeting with the teenager.” (Jeremy Vine of the BBC posts a picture of him and Greta Thunberg. *The Daily Mail* described this as “gushing.”)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## hood (under the hood, etc.)

under the hood

~ there are some interesting things to look at (NPR pundit)

underneath the hood

there was nothing ~ (“BIC for Her” marketing fail)

under-the-hood components

I would like to focus on the ~ that make ChatGPT work

looked under the hood

he ~ of the Chrome web browser (privacy investigator)

digging under the hood

they are ~ (investigators / how company operates)

look under the hood to understand

Google doesn’t ~ who these companies are (trackers)

opening the hoods

these auditors are ~, showing us how they work

kicking the tires, and looking under the hood

Microsoft is ~ of Tik-Tok (possible merger)

♦ “Under the bonnet, though, it works in a different way.” (Mastodon vs. Twitter.)

♦ “And under the hood Twitter has never been a very good business right?” (Bobby Allyn giggling about Elon Musk while being interviewed by Scott Simon. NPR.)

♦ “If you consider mathematical models as the engines of the digital economy—and in many ways they are—these auditors are opening the hoods, showing us how they work. This is a vital step, so that we can equip these powerful engines with steering wheels—and brakes.” (*Weapons Of Math Destruction* by the remarkable writer Cathy O’Neil.)

♦ “[B]ut a look under the hood shows that 2024 did not create a mandate for Republicans or sound a death knell for Democrats.” (According to NPR’s Stephen Fowler, talking to host A Martinez about the 2024 U.S. presidential election and its effect on the Democratic National Committee.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Kick the tires, look under the hood, and perhaps test-drive...

## hood (personhood, etc.)

girlhood

all those who identify as girls or with ~ (kids)

herohood

why Mr. Floyd’s ascension to ~ should be reconsidered

personhood

their radical view of ‘~’ (Nonhuman Rights Project)

“Racist, Sexist Boy” is a joyous assertion of ~ (teens)

fetal ~, the next frontier in the legal battle (abortion)

4 states are using fetal ~ to put women behind bars

giving ~ to nature has been gaining adherents

Spain gives ~ status to saltwater lagoon

sisterhood

see *sisterhood (noun)*

thinghood

the transition from ~ to personhood (slaves, women, etc.)

victimhood

see *victimhood* (groups)

womanhood

a portrait of ~ and sisterhood (the film *She Said*)

I decided to detransition and accept my ~

~ has long informed the voice of NPR (approval)

## hoof (on the hoof)

on the hoof

he made up policy ~ (UK Labour politics)

♦ "He was sacked because he booked himself on to media programs without permission, and then made up policy on the hoof." (A labour-party official.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "On the run." "On the fly." "On the wing." "On the hoof." Take your pick!

## hook (off the hook)

off the hook for now

he might be ~, but... (criminal investigation)

got him off the hook

his lawyers ~ (acquittal)

let him off the hook

don't ~ (prosecutor to jury)

let Real off the hook

City ~... (City won, but blew first-leg big lead)

let them off the hook

she likes them, but she doesn't ~

## hook (Hook Lake, etc.)

Hook Lake

~, Idaho, is shaped like a hook...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In geographical place names, especially in Holland and on the East Coast of the U.S., "Hook" is not a hook, rather it is a false cognate based on the Dutch word that actually means "corner." This is the case with the Hook of Holland; Sandy Hook, New Jersey; and Red Hook, New York.

## hook (hook, line and sinker)

swallowed his story hook, line and sinker

I ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You need to bait the hook to catch the fish.

## hooked (enthusiasm)

hooked

I started with a free trial and then I was ~ (brand)

hooked on raptors

I got ~ because birds of prey are majestic, awe-inspiring

hooked on (American) TV

he got ~ (diplomat's son)

hooked on social media or even an unboxing video

kids who are ~

completely hooked

I got ~ on viruses (a scientist)

get hooked

when you're a young musician you ~ on a phrase

it's a real high, you just ~ (genealogy)

got hooked

he ~ on the game (Cow Clicker)

he tried backcountry once last year and ~ (skiing)

♦ "I love maps, and when you get hooked, you get hooked." (W. Graham Arader III, a preeminent map dealer of old American maps.)

♦ "Oxygen set a new standard by doing Grade 4 and Grade 5 jumps. They remain the greatest tower jumps in Czech history." (Hooked on the sport of tower jumping.)

♦ "And ever since that day migration has had its hooks in me, raptors have had their hooks in me..." (A 12-year-old Scott Weidensaul sitting on Hawk Mountain with a strong northwest wind blowing on "one of the best migration days of the fall.")

## hook up (connect)

hooked up with Lashkar-e-Taiba

through friends in Durham, he ~ (group)

## hook up (relationship)

hook up with her

I might ~ sometime later down the road

hooked up with her ex-boyfriend

rumors that she might have ~

hooked up with a friend

he ~ who... (camping)

hook up online

as more people ~ (long-distance relationships)

## hookup (sex)

hookup

~s are happening while on the job (sex)

with a ~, it's about instant gratification (young woman)

hookup in Japan

a ~ is called a take-out (sex)

homosexual hook-ups

the Minneapolis airport is known as a site for ~

site for (homosexual) hookups

the Minneapolis airport is known as a ~

♦ "I was a bit of a slapper at Uni." (A UK woman.)

## hoop (jump through hoops, etc.)

cumbersome bureaucratic hoops

you have to jump through ~ and wait days (healthcare)

jump through hoops

they make you ~ to get a good rate (banks)

jump through (superhuman) hoops

you must ~ to become "one of the good ones"  
(immigrants)

## hoop (as verb)

want to hoop

I just want to play basketball, I ~ (NBA's Zion Williamson)

♦ "I just want to play basketball. I want to hoop, I want to play the game I love." (The NBA player Zion Williamson.)

♦ "Danielle would hoop you up out of your birth certificate. Danielle was a hooping beast." (Rachal Nolen about former LSU basketball player Danielle Ballard.)

♦ see also *ball* (as verb)

## hoovered up

hoovered up  
people's biometric data is being ~ (Worldcoin orb)

## hoover up (verb)

hoovered up (close to) half the golds  
Australia and England ~ (Commonwealth Games)

hoovering up (all of these) influences  
Biden was ~ (Kennedy, Kinnock)

hoovering up talent  
big clubs have been ~

♦ Feed (it) / eat up, hoover up, snatch up, vacuum up / gobble up, ingested (the book) / regurgitate (everything), spit out... (What AI does. From "The alleged theft at the heart of ChatGPT," Planet Money, November 10, 2023. Other articles use words like *devour*, *scrape up*, *suck up* (language and ideas), *sweep up* / *regurgitated* (summaries / AI Overviews), *spew* (false information), *spout* (misinformation), *vomit up* (words), etc.)

## hop (verb)

hopping  
the stockyards were ~ during the war (Chicago)  
the city of Memphis is ~ this month (civic festivals)

## hop (hop across, etc.)

hopped the ocean  
it has now ~ and arrived in Latin America (banana fungus)

## horde (people)

internet horde  
he and the ~ discovered this and... (conspiracy theorists)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This originally referred to groups of Asian nomads, for example, the Golden Horde.

## horizon (on the horizon)

on the horizon  
there's no miracle cure ~  
a solution is not yet ~ (nuclear waste)  
with the threat of a war ~ (with Iran)  
a wedding is ~, she says... (celebrity)  
American sanctions are ~ (diplomacy)  
what's next ~ for you (question to a celebrity)

on the immediate horizon  
children are not ~ (an actor)

see the collapse on the horizon  
we can ~

see anything on the horizon

I don't ~ (a change in the law in the future)

♦ "A new day is dawning on the horizon." (The Democrat Nancy Pelosi. The final three words are redundant and fall flat.)

♦ "All right, friends, you have seen the heavy groups, now you will see morning maniac music. Believe me. Yeah. It's the new dawn." (Grace Slick at Woodstock. (Try: Jefferson Airplane Somebody to Love (Live at Woodstock Music & Art fair, 1969)

♦ "There is a horizon of peace after war." (An Israeli official.)

## horizon (expand one's horizons)

expand his horizons  
he wanted to ~ (oilman working in Nigeria)

## horizon (extent and scope)

widening (strategic) horizons  
the naval deploy is a clear sign of Iran's ~ (the Med)

## horn (shape)

horn  
the Matterhorn is a ~ (geology)

bedrock of the Horn  
Eritrea and Ethiopia are the ~

♦ Towers (the Trango Towers); tooth (The Tooth near Seattle); cathedrals (the Baltoro Cathedrals); spires (the Lobsang Spires); spurs (the Abruzzi Spur), peaks (Broad Peak); horns (the Matterhorn), pyramids (Carstensz Pyramid / Puncak Jaya); pinnacles; pillars; crags; domes (Half Dome); knobs (Huckleberry Knob); balds (Hooper Bald); monoliths (El Capitan, Shiprock, Stone Mountain)...

## horn (Horn of Africa, etc.)

the Horn  
Eritrea and Ethiopia are the pole around which ~ moves

Horn of Africa  
over 90 million people inhabit the ~

Devils Horn  
~ is a summit in Washington

Rams Horn  
~ Canyon is a valley in Nevada  
~ Rock is an island in Massachusetts

Ramshorn  
~ is a ridge in West Virginia

Buck Horn  
~ Hollow is a valley in Kentucky

Buckhorn  
~ is a populated place in Illinois

Buffalo Horn  
~ Pass is a gap in Montana  
~ Branch is a stream in Kentucky

Bull Horn  
~ Creek is a stream in Idaho

Cape Horn  
the ~ is at the southern end of South America  
~ is a cape in Guam

Cow Horn



~ Arch is an arch in Oregon

Deer Horn  
~ Peak is a summit in Alaska

Elk Horn  
~ is a populated place in Kentucky  
~ Pass is a gap in Montana

Elkhorn  
~ is a populated place in West Virginia

Powder Horn  
~ is a populated place in Wyoming  
~ Branch is a swamp in Georgia

Powderhorn  
she grew up skiing at ~ Mountain (Colorado)

Saddle Horn  
~ Rock is a pillar in Arizona

Sheep Horn  
~ Mountain is a summit in Idaho

Spike Horn  
~ Bay is a bay in Wisconsin  
~ Creek is a stream in Michigan

Spikehorn  
~ Creek is a stream in Wisconsin

Stag Horn  
~ Point is a cape in New York

Big Horn  
~ is a populated place in Wyoming

Bighorn  
~ is a populated place in Montana

Broken Horn  
~ is a ridge in Wyoming

Double Horn  
~ is a populated place in Texas

Forked Horn  
~ Creek is a stream in Oregon

Golden Horn  
~ is a pillar in Alaska  
~ is a summit in Colorado  
~ is a bay in Alaska

Greenhorn  
the ~ Mountains are a range in California

Little Horn  
~ Peak is a summit in Arizona

Long Horn  
~ Canyon is a valley in California

One Horn  
~ Mountain is a summit in Texas  
~ Basin is a basin in Montana

Sawed Horn

~ is a summit in Oregon

Short Horn  
~ Mountain is a summit in Idaho  
~ Creek is a stream in Tennessee

Silver Horn  
~ is a bay in Alaska

Slick Horn  
~ is a summit in Utah

Small Horn  
~ Canyon is a valley in Montana

White Horn  
~ is a populated place in Tennessee

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the United States, "The Horn" might be the proper name of a cape, falls, gut, ridge, or summit.

♦ There are many "Cape Horns."

♦ At one time in our past, forest buffalo dipped their beards and slaked their thirst in cold Appalachian streams. From the 1860s, millions of hides and mountains of buffalo horns were shipped east from the plains to be processed. The prevalence of "horns" in our place names reflects our history and helps explain our national identity.

## horn (lock horns)

lock horns  
former champions ~, they are to go head to head (Scrabble)

lock horns with (the inexperienced) Zelensky  
Poroshenko would love to ~ (a debate)

locked horns in the debate  
the three leaders ~

lock horns in (television) debate  
assembly candidates ~

lock horns over spy charges  
China and US ~

lock horns over whether  
Betty and Mark ~ Bono should... (TV)

locked horns on the economy  
Labour and Conservative politicians ~ (BBC debate)

lock horns with him over whether  
they will ~ LSD allows access to a deeper reality...

Oxford and Cambridge lock horns  
live coverage as ~ (Boat Race)

## hornet's nest

hornet's nest of (antiaircraft) fire  
the Apache helicopters ran into a ~ (Iraq)

hornet's nest of (surface-to-surface) missile  
Baghdad's air defenses were a ~

hornet's nest of (local) politics  
he stepped into a ~ and got stung (President)

poke a stick in the hornet's nest  
what we did was to ~ (investigation)

stumbled into a hornet's nest  
she ~ (criticised transgender athletes)

## horrible (as noun)

my horrible  
I can't complain about ~ (Hal Harrell / Uvalde shooting)

♦ "I feel guilty for saying I'm having a tough time. Because I'll never have it as tough as they [the families of the May 24 victims] had it that day. I can't complain about my horrible because in the back of your mind, you say 'it's not as horrible as somebody else who is living it.'" ("Uvalde superintendent speaks out for 1<sup>st</sup> time since announcing retirement" by Patrick Linehan, ABC, October 30, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## horribly

horribly wrong  
my husband's ELF on the Shelf prank went ~

## horrific (adjective)

horrific  
the footage is ~, a terrorist attack (2021 US Capitol riot)  
this season could be ~ (tick season and Lyme disease)

horrific agenda  
their ~ (an anti-abortion group)

horrific calls  
he made some ~ behind the plate (MLB umpire)

'horrific' strike calls  
College baseball umpire suspended after ~ end game

horrific (travel) conditions  
Chinese New Year brings celebration, ~

horrific (budget) crunch  
most states are in the middle of a ~

'horrific' editorial  
she has sued the paper for its ~ (politics)

horrific experience  
it was a ~ (slow Black female golfers kicked off course)

horrific infection  
Guinea worm is a ~

horrific (racial) slurs  
she attacked our son with ~

horrific looking  
it was quite ~ (a beautiful frilled shark)

horrific and disgusting  
she labeled the revelations as ~ (*Quiet on Set* documentary)

horrific, frustrating  
he had a ~ Masters hole (a golfer / triple-bogey)

absolutely horrific  
'~' stories show 'culture in cricket is rotten' (BBC)

fundamentally horrific  
something ~ has happened (cleaning crew erases artwork)

called the graffiti "horrific"  
Mayor Robert Garcia ~ (on a statue)

calls the situation "just horrific"  
Ruth ~ (Ruth Madoff, wife of Bernard Madoff)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "And I think that that's the frame that we should that I at least take into so many of the problems that we see in our society. It's like, well, yah know, we are working to end mass incarceration. We are working to end poverty or we are working to end all these horrific things..." (Clint Smith, author of *How The Word Is Passed*. From "Why Juneteenth Isn't Taught In Schools—And What That Means For Our Understanding Of Slavery" with Tonya Mosley, wbur, June 15, 2021.)

♦ A group of Black lady golfers was kicked off a golf course for playing too slowly. One of them described it as a "horrific" experience.

♦ "Black attorneys make up less than 5 percent of all attorneys and continue to face horrific experiences in law school and in the legal community." ("Must I Mentor a White Law Student When I Requested a Black Mentee?" The Ethicist by Kwame Anthony Appiah, *The New York Times Magazine*, Dec. 4, 2022.)

♦ "Capital letters are horrid. Hard to read." (Message board snark.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Oh for goodness sake. Anyone would think you were dying. You've only got suspected leprosy." (A British nurse to a terrified English patient just returned from Afghanistan who is howling in pain, delirious with fever, and covered in enormous black lumps.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I heard yesterday that there is a military hospital hidden in the forest for the soldiers who have had their faces shot away. They apparently look so horrific that ordinary people can't even look at them. Things like that make me despair." (Elfriede Kuhr, a young German schoolgirl. From *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter Englund.)

♦ He watched the coverage and couldn't believe his eyes. (9/11.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Geoff Nunberg deconstructs this word in "'Horrific' And 'Surreal': The Words We Use To Bear Witness," NPR, Fresh Air, April 26, 2013.

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## horrifically

horrifically offensive  
I think that was a ~ thing to say

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Places like Monte Cassino, if they're defended, are always going to be horrifically violent and horrifically bloody." (World War II. Italy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

## horrified

easily horrified  
you are ~ ("join the discussion" snark)

embarrassed and horrified

people at ABC were ~ (David Muir's clothespinsgate)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

## horrifying (adjective)

truly horrifying

this is ~

♦ "This is truly horrifying." (Polina Edmunds, speaking on NPR to Scott Simon about the Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva at the Beijing Winter Olympics, after Valieva finished fourth in a skating event. Really?)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

## hors de combat

hors de combat

Dmetri, too, was ~ (Terra Nova expedition in Antarctica)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Out of combat; unable to perform duty.

## hors d'oeuvres (noun)

mere hors d'oeuvres

what had gone before were ~...

♦ "Here [in Marble Canyon] the men started to grow restless: the trip was taking too long and was bruising, cold, and dangerous. Major Powell, they complained, was interested only in science—in taking observations, in collecting, in writing. He seemed less concerned with getting the team down to calm waters, to safety, and to home. / There were mutinous rumblings, and they were scarcely mitigated when their leader realized—and promptly told his men—that it was going to get worse and take still longer. For with the cliffs fast rising around them and the outflow of a known river named by the old conquistador explorers the Colorado Chiquita bursting in on their left side, it was clear that the main part of the huge cleft, the hitherto untraveled Big Canyon, as it was then vaguely known—lay now directly in front of them. What had gone before were mere hors d'oeuvres. The main dish lay just ahead. / 'We are three quarters of a mile in the depths of the earth,' Powell would later write in his diary." (*The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There are many dishes with which to start a dinner. If you order *hors d'oeuvres* you are really stepping out, for this name comes from the French *hors*, 'outside,' and *oeuvres* 'the works.' When you get this delightful plate of high-calorie appetizers, you are going 'outside' of the regular dinner." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## horse (warhorse, war horse)

see *warhorse* (*and war horse*)

## horse (hold your horses)

hold your horses

~, we got it right here... (a good boxing show)

## horse (get back on the horse)

get back (up) on the horse

it's important to ~ (Simon Biles / Tokyo Olympics)

♦ Lester Holt: Is there a sense of wanting to get back on the horse? / President Joe Biden: I'm on the horse, where have you been... I'm on the horse... (President Joe Biden's interview at the White House with Lester Holt, NBC News, on Monday, July 15, 2024, two days after Trump's near-assassination, on Saturday, July 13, 2024. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ see also *saddle* (*get back in the saddle*)

## horse (switch horses)

switched horses

progressive school reformers have ~ (tactics)

## horse (high horse)

high (though not very reliable) horse of privilege  
the foreigner tends to ride upon the ~ (in Asia)

judgmental high horse

people are quick to jump on the ~

come down from your high horse

you can ~ now (an overdose death)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Our adjective *cavalier* has the same ancestors (*cheval*, *caballus*, "horse."). As, on occasion, a modern rider in a Rolls-Royce can be haughty, so some of these knights, high on their horses, were capable of a *cavalier* and supercilious manner, which gives us our phrase 'get off your high horse.' Those who walk on foot have always been considered inferior to those who ride..." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ see also *look down on* (*something*)

## horse (horse in the race)

have no horse in this race

I'm not a Democrat and ~ (comment message)

♦ see also *dog* (*dog in the fight*)

## horse (back the wrong horse)

backed the wrong horse

he ~, Clinton trounced Bush (John Major)

## horse (the willing horse, etc.)

willing horse

the ~ is overworked (in human organizations)

## horse (a gift horse)

look fashionability in the mouth

a rebel artist should not ~ (Joan Didion)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Never look a gift horse in the mouth."

## horse (cart before the horse)

putting the cart before the horse

it was ~ (making it smaller before making it work)

## horseshoe (shape)

horseshoe of the Carpathians

every superstition is gathered into the ~

horseshoe theory

the so-called ~... (see quote below)

♦ "Still, Klein is reluctant to give credence to the so-called horseshoe theory, which states that the extremes of the far left and the far right have enough in common that they almost touch." ("Not In Her Name" by Jenifer Szalai, *The New York Times Magazine*, September 3, 2023.)

## horse-trading

horse-trading

this ~ is disgraceful (politics)

deal making, horse trading, and the compromise

the ~ (new French government)

negotiations and horse trading

spending and budgeting are fair game for ~ (politics)

## host (host of questions, etc.)

host of questions

Democrats have a whole ~

host of symptoms

they have suffered a ~, including... (Gulf War Syndrome)

## hostage (held hostage)

held hostage to the unions

the city is ~ (transportation unions)

held hostage to (political) posturing

reform has been ~

held hostage by the (culinary) canon

he is not ~ (a chef)

held hostage by (union) demands

public education is ~

held hostage by elites

democracy is ~ (Africa)

held hostage by politicians

we're being ~ who don't know how we survive

held hostage by (politically powerful) interest groups

their budgets are ~ (universities)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Hersh and all the hostages, and by extension all the hostage families, were pawns in a game. And pawns, in chess, are expendable." (The mother of American hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin. Hersh was kidnapped at a music festival after having had his arm blown off, held hostage in Gaza, and finally executed along with five other hostages. The Israel-Hamas war.)

## hostage (other)

hostage to (larger) forces

architecture is always ~ (high-rise success or failure)

willing hostages

they have made themselves ~ to a dangerous man (politics)

legislative hostages

he had no qualms about ~ (politics)

holding us hostage

the weather is ~ (emergency response)

holds nation hostage

record-breaking deadly heat wave ~

take yourself hostage

don't ~ to your own fears (reaction to terrorism)

## hostile (adjective)

hostile (anti-LGBTQ+) bills

we have seen an onslaught of aggressively ~

hostile comments

the British press were just full of unbelievably ~ about...

hostile environment

our children are trained to operate in a ~ (school

shootings)

created a ~ for Jewish students (Harvard, UPenn, MIT)

hostile (work) environment

she abused her power as our boss, she created a ~

'hostile' haters

Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard slam ~...

hostile way

she crossed a line by airing her views in a ~

bitter, angry and hostile

he was ~ (sick man with undiagnosed illness)

crazy and hostile

Boston Celtic fans are ~ (NBA)

became more hostile

we found that the language ~ (a study)

♦ "Albert Sabin... turned to me and said, 'Now Dr. Salk, you should know better than to ask a question like that.' It was like being kicked in the teeth. I could feel the resistance and the hostility and the disapproval. I never attended a single one of those meetings afterward without that same feeling." (Dr. Jonas Salk on being put in his place by Albert Sabin at a meeting.)

♦ "Our children are trained to operate in a combat zone, in a hostile environment." (School-shooting drills.)

♦ "Chicago Blackhawks' fans were the most violent, with 22% confessing to tussles inside the arena." (The NHL.)

♦ "NPR's increasingly restive newsroom staff..." (National Public Radio.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The Bayonet Tree got its name when one of Herkimer's men was crucified on it. George Walter lay beside a spring, pretending to be dead while an Indian ran a scalping knife around his skull, tearing off, finally, hair and skin from the bloody head. The Senecas captured Robert Crouse, the tallest and strongest man in Tryon County. They trussed him up, and then, in order to cut him down to their size, they whittled his legs off below the knees, cut the ropes holding him, and told him to walk." (*The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop. His book is about the Mohawk River.)

♦ "Movements of the Hostile Sioux Indians / ...They rushed on to the camp with that unearthly scream and yell peculiar to their race... This shouting is done on purpose to terrify their opponents, and give them an exaggerated idea of their strength. Whatever the strength of the assaulting party was, it is sufficient to say they were repulsed, but not before they had killed one enlisted man of the Seventh Minnesota Volunteers, and one boy. Two women were wounded and three or four men...[The] Indians carried away with them several horses. Col. Miller, upon being informed of this unfortunate event, immediately sent a force of well-mounted cavalry in pursuit, and if the redskins are captured they will be summarily dealt with. This outrage has again stricken the inhabitants of the border settlements with terror, and many are fleeing from an expected crusade of the savages..." (Correspondence of the *New-York Times*, May 1, 1863.)

♦ ATTACK ON BRITISH TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN. / Bombay, April 18. / Intelligence has been received that a considerable force of hostile Pathans have attacked and massacred a small party of British troops in the vicinity of Quettah. The party included the British officer

commanding. The enemy have since followed up the attack by blocking the high road between Quettah and Candahar. Strong detachments have been despatched against them from both places." (*The Brisbane Courier*, Tuesday, April 20, 1880.)

♦ "A machine gunner scans for hostiles while his helicopter is on patrol over the Mekong Delta." (Music of Vietnam, YouTube)

## hot (controversial)

hot

the issue has gotten so ~ that...

## hot (emotion)

hot temper

he had a ~ (an executive / verbal abuse)

## hot (sex)

hot stuff

lookin' for some, baby, this evenin' ~ (Donna Summer)

steamy, hot, sultry

~ (boudoir, romance, YA fiction)

♦ "Sizzling-hot; ignite the most fiery of passions; a little sizzle; sexy; hot; forbidden; temperature rises; sweats with passion; 'the heart is an organ of passion'; hotter; scalding; sexy; rampant; the broad strokes (ha!)..." ("Sizzling-Hot Reads for Those Cold Winter Nights" by Barrie Jessica Hardyman, NPR, All Things Considered, February 13, 2015. Listen to "Squeeing about Outlander with RedHeadedGirl and NPR's Barrie Hardyman" at Smart Bitches Trashy Books. Hardyman is Senior Editor, Investigations, for NPR's Investigations.)

♦ "All it takes for love to blossom; love finds a way; when sparks are flying and hearts and minds are open; a night of drinking at the coolest lesbian bar in Greenwich Village; Cassidy is *totally* into helping her explore; a hot read; the rekindling of old flames; getting to happy ever after..." ("For July, 3 Romantic Reads That Prove Summer Is For Lovers" by Maya Rodale, NPR, July 8, 2018. "Maya Rodale is a best-selling romance author.")

## hot (activity)

hottest (real estate) markets

during the housing boom, Florida was the ~ in the world

hot mess

see *hot mess*

hot mike

she was caught on a ~

hot mic

a ~ caught the candidates trading accusations

~s are just a hot mess (Nato meeting embarrassment)

a ~ picked up his remarks about... (TV commentator)

## hot (popularity, attention, etc.)

hot favorite

Holloway was the ~ (Tokyo Olympics)

he starts the season as a ~ for a 4<sup>th</sup> world title

(Verstappen)

hottest new flex

hyper-realistic toupees are the ~

hot prospect

she is already a ~ for nomination to the Supreme Court

hot topic

the term "midsize" has become a ~ on TikTok (fashion)

hottest trends

cryotherapy has become one of the ~ in health, wellness

♦ "Right now the California desert is the hottest place and I'm not talking about the weather." (The 2022 Coachella Music Festival kicks off.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "In pop culture, *hot* is sexy. *Hot* is cool. *Hot* is new."

## hot (come in hot, go in hot)

keep coming in hot

if economic indicators ~ like that, the Fed may have to...

♦ The OED recognizes three senses of this phrase at "hot" to include (1) to arrive at a high or dangerous speed (2) to be prepared to go to work immediately, energetically, intensely, enthusiastically and (3) to come in with guns blazing (military).

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The helicopters stayed low. Some distance to the front we could see jets strafing the ground. Clouds of smoke drifted up from an area on the horizon and gnatlike gunships moved in and out of it. As we got closer we saw bombs falling from diving planes. The napalm tanks tumbled and exploded into fireballs when they hit the jungle. / As the large, open LZ finally came into view, the gunners on both sides of the slicks began firing into the jungle. I had the impulse to sit on my M-16 to give me an extra measure of protection from bullets that might come up through the floor. / In the field ahead I saw soldiers moving around. Several downed helicopters were lying on their side. Fires were burning in the nearby jungle. I felt myself breathing faster. I tightened my grip on my M-16 and retightened it... / The helicopter finally flared out to brake its forward speed and settled down in the field... Adrenaline pumping, we barely avoided the soldiers carrying the stretchers as we jumped to the ground. Some of the men on the stretchers were dead..." (*Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of The Vietnam War* by James E. Parker Jr. Operation Crimp, the Ho Bo woods.)

## hotbed (noun)

hotbed of racism

stereotypes of Mississippi as a ~ (civil-rights activists)

hotbed of revolt

the region has been a ~

hotbed of extremism

a reputation as a ~ (a university)

hotbed for al Qaeda activity

Yemen is a ~

hotbed of volcanic activity

Iceland is a ~

cyclo-cross hotbed

New England is a ~ (bicycling)

reputation as a hotbed

it has a ~ of extremism (a university)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A hotbed is a garden enclosed by glass and fertilized with manure. In such an environment plants grow rapidly.

## hot-blooded (adjective)

hot-blooded crime

it was a ~, not a cold-blooded one, if you will

hot-blooded fits of anger

his ~, spewed in Spanish (beloved *I Love Lucy* TV show)

hot-blooded Romeos  
~, looking for the perfect mate

## hot dog (person)

hot dog  
he's a ~

hot dog, a daredevil  
he's not a ~, he takes it seriously (Stockton Rush)

## hothead (person)

hothead  
he's a ~

message for the hotheads  
here's a ~ in the community (stand-your-ground killing)

## hotheaded (and hot-headed)

hotheaded (political) aspirant  
he's a ~

hotheaded ways  
he was known for his ~

## hothouse (noun)

musical hothouse  
the Dominican Republic is a ~

## hotline (988, etc.)

hotline  
988, the new national suicide ~

Lifeline  
Trans ~ is a hotline for trans people

Blackline  
~ is a hotline for Blacks

“warm” lines  
~ are typically staffed by “peers”  
~ are an alternative to the 988 hotline (suicide)

♦ “Blackline is a hotline geared towards the Black, Black LGBTQ+, brown Native, and Muslim communities.” (A hotline.)

♦ “Trans Lifeline is a hotline for trans and questioning individuals.”

## hotly

hotly anticipated  
boxing fans look forward to the ~ rematch

hotly debated  
this question has been ~ for decades

hotly contested  
BASE jumping is a ~ issue (Yosemite Valley)

hotly disputed  
nuclear reactor safety is a ~ issue

## hot mess (person)

hot mess  
I admit it, I've been a ~ lately  
being in your 20s is a ~, a mad time

drugs, alcohol and low self-esteem turned her into a ~

hot mess (best) friend  
Wren, Lily's ~ (film characters)

♦ “Hey Trump supporters, take 20 seconds and listen to this heaping pile of hot mess, and then don't ever complain again about 'word salad' coming from Harris.” (A snarky tweet from someone named Joe Walsh @ WalshFreedom on X. Shown on NBC.)

## hot mess (situation, etc.)

hot mess  
I didn't understand what that article said, it was a ~  
it's a ~, c'mon guys, get it together (school policy)

## hot seat (noun)

in a hot seat  
the CEO of Boeing is back ~ on Capitol Hill (crashes)

in the hot seat  
he's ~ as he tries to boost CNN's ratings (Chris Licht)

in the hotseat with regulators  
Facebook is also ~ because...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “It can't surprise us that our language began with metaphors. Words are being made today under our own eyes in precisely the same fashion. Witness the terse and vivid terms that the gangsters coin: gun moll, for the racketeer's girl-friend; hot seat, for the electric chair; stool pigeon, for the traitor who acts as a spy for the police.” (*Word Origins and Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 1, “The Story Begins.”)

## hotshot (person)

hotshot  
he's a ~

hot-shot (account) executive  
a ~

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “The engineers were formed into three divisions, and some experiments were made with red-hot shot... / Artillery salvos more tremendous, if possible, than ever were now directed from Gibraltar; incessant showers of red-hot balls of every calibre, of flaming carcasses, and shells of every species, flew from all quarters... / From the depressed guns the red-hot globes of iron seemed to streak the air with red lines as they went on their errand of destruction... / Upward of 8,000 rounds (more than half of which were red-hot shot) and 716 barrels of powder, were expended by our artillery.” (Gibraltar. From *British Battles On Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

## hotspot (place)

hotspot for celebrities  
L.A.'s newest ~

hotspot for migrants  
Melilla became a ~, just like the Balkans

L.A.'s (newest) hotspot  
~ for celebrities

Hollywood hotspot  
she stays clear of ~s

disease hotspot  
the Lyme ~ was a goldmine of research

selfie hotspot



she fell from a ~ where people climb over the fencing

surfing hotspot

they have turned Yakutat, Alaska into a ~

skateboarding hot spot

the Tampa Bay area is a ~

piracy hotspot

the Gulf of Guinea is the world's most dangerous ~

global hotspot

the Congo basin is a ~ for thunderstorms (meteorology)

newest hotspot

L.A.'s ~ for celebrities

hottest of hotspots

Kansas and Missouri lie in the ~ (birds migrate north)

turned Yakutat into a (surfing) hotspot

they have ~ (Alaska)

## hot water (in hot water)

in hot water with my dad

I'm ~

in hot water with that woman

I'm already ~ (an authority figure)

in hot water for the crime

he now finds himself ~

in (judicial) hot water

she finds herself ~

finds himself in hot water

he now ~

get me into hot water

my pride and stubbornness ~ once in a while

gotten in hot water

he has ~ lately for his tweets (auto executive)

keep me in hot water

you ~ all the time (George to Lennie / *Of Mice and Men*)

landed him in hot water

his unapologetic remarks on issues have frequently ~

landed himself in hot water

Ye has ~ multiple times (controversies)

## Houdini (as verb)

Houdini out of harm's way

Zach Wilson would ~ to make magic (a quarterback)

♦ "Zach Wilson would Houdini out of harm's way to make magic..." (A rave review of the New York Jets quarterback after he finally played well and New York won a game. A creative use of "Houdini" as a verb.)

## Houdini (epithet)

Houdini of British Politics

the ~ shows no signs he intends to step down

veritable Houdini

Swallow was a ~ (William Swallow, Australian convict)

♦ "My dad wasn't Harry Houdini, but he managed to disappear out of my life before I knew him." (The football player Keith McCants, referring to the famous escape artist.)

## hound (autograph hound, etc.)

autograph hound

an ~

beer hounds

distribution costs to drive up the cost for NYC ~

gossip hounds

~ wondered if she was doomed in love and marriage

powder hounds

joy for ~ falling in love with backcountry skiing

publicity hound

yes he's an opportunist, yes he's a ~ (a lawyer)

she may be a ~, but... (a politician)

a pack of bizarre ~s (public meetings)

pack of (bizarre publicity) hounds

a ~ (public meetings)

## hound (verb)

hounded Congress to pass their measures

they ~ (U.S. presidents FDR and JFK)

hounded her

the tabloids ~ (Britney Spears)

hounded Zhao

U.S. federal agents ~ (a Chinese national)

harassed and hounded

bill collectors ~ me, it was horrible

## hounded (dogged)

hounded with questions

candidates have been ~ about whether... (politics)

hounded from their lands

Native Americans were ~

hounded until his death

he was dragged to a court and ~

hounded by allegations

he has been ~ of unethical business dealings

hounded by the paparazzi

he has been ~ for his whole life (Prince Harry)

hounded by "the footnote police"

he said he was being ~ (a politician / plagiarism)

hounded by scammers

lottery winners are ~ and sometimes robbed or killed

hounded by investigators and the media

he has been ~

hounded and hunted

the gang is on the run, ~ by the law

paparazzi-hounded  
what it's like to be a ~ celebrity

## hour (finest hour, etc.)

finest hour  
this was his ~ (soccer player scores important goal)

*Finest Hour*  
*Their* ~ (by Winston S. Churchill / World War II)

Liberal Hour  
it was the ~, when liberalism was at its ascendancy  
(1960s)

## hour (timeliness)

hour  
the ~ is getting late

early hours  
I know it's ~ but...

eleventh hour  
why did she wait until the ~ to reveal this  
it's disingenuous to wait until the ~ (politics)  
they didn't bring this to us until the ~ (labor talks)

11th-hour  
Samra made no ~ appeals to the court (executed)  
he got an ~ stay of his execution

golden hour  
a clock starts ticking on what is called the ~  
the "~", when life can hang in the balance

"Golden Hour"  
if treatment is available within the first ~ of injury

hour is getting late  
so let us stop talking falsely now, the ~

## hour (of one's hour / of the hour)

heroes of the hour  
Johansen was one of the ~ (along with Nansen)

man of the hour  
he is the ~ (FBI director gives Congressional testimony)

question of the hour  
women suffrage was the burning ~ (late 1860s)

## hourglass (shape)

hourglass figure  
the ~ shape (a body type)

hourglass-shaped  
the Bottleneck, an ~ gully beneath a serac (on K2)

♦ Sh2-106 is also known as the Celestial Snow Angel. It's a nebula in the constellation Cygnus (the Swan), and its shape has also been compared to an hourglass and butterfly.

## hourglass (time)

hourglass  
the sand is running through the ~ (approaching deadline)

hourglass for a political settlement  
the ~ is running out

diplomatic 'hourglass'  
the ~ is running out for Lebanon to stop Hezbollah

♦ "We are close to the point where the hourglass will turn." (From diplomacy to war.)

♦ "Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives." (The opening to the popular and long-running soap opera *Days of our Lives*.)

## house (a house in order)

fiscal house  
we must get our ~ in order

put your house in order  
~ before you condemn others

get its house in order  
the church must ~ (pedophile priests)

get our own house in order  
we need to ~when it comes to data governance (hacking)

## house (hype house)

this hype house  
this ~ is leaning into the campaign in a big way (2020)

## house (clean house)

cleaning house  
she is ~ and stopping harassment and discrimination

mandate to clean house  
the new police chief has a clear public ~

on a mission to clean house  
somebody who's ~

need to clean house  
we ~

♦ "There has to be a housecleaning in management, not just in people but the policies and practices in the Secret Service." (Senator Richard Blumenthal, (D) Connecticut, about the Secret Service, after the second attempted assassination of Donald Trump.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Michele Rhee was an educational crusader. As chancellor of the Washington, D.C. school system, she was given a mandate to "clean house." She appeared on the cover of *Time Magazine* with a broom. But community members felt like they had been compared to dirt, and she ended up having to resign her position.

## house (origin)

royal house  
his descent from a ~, the Ranas (India)

## house (house that somebody built, etc.)

house that Emile Griffith built  
the ~ (boxing / Madison Square Garden)

House That Jack Ma Built  
Alibaba: The ~ (book by Duncan Clark)

house that Kobe built

some have dubbed the Staples Center “the ~”

House That Ruth Built  
Yankee Stadium—the ~

house that Henry Ford built  
a dip brought the ~ to a value of \$45 billion (Ford)

“House That Trump Built”  
the convention will celebrate the ~ (Republican party)

♦ On hearing his fellow commentator for the 2014 “Irish” Andy Lee—  
John Jackson fight claim that Madison Square Garden was “the  
house that Emile Griffith built.” Roy Jones went “Mmm.” Both Jackson  
and Griffith came from the Virgin Islands, and Emile Griffith fought  
many times in Madison Square Garden.)

## house of cards

house of cards  
her ~ was about to collapse (Holmes of Theranos)

Enron's house of cards  
~ began to disintegrate (bankrupt company)

house of cards collapses  
the whole ~ and the entire statute falls (Supreme Court)

## hover (numbers)

hovers at (around) 70%  
unemployment ~ in winter (reservation)

temperatures hovered  
in July 1995, when ~ around 100 degrees (Chicago)

## hover (other)

hover  
the batterer may ~ and refuse to leave the patient (ED)

hovers  
the fear that he might recognize me still ~

hovered behind her  
her manager ~ protectively

## howl (noun)

howls of carpetbagging  
her strategy drew ~ (politician runs in different district)

howl of pain  
that ~ has a vent through the ballot box (democracies)

heard the (same) howls  
we ~ in the 1980s (amateurism and sports)

## howl (verb)

howl  
why didn't liberals ~ when... (culture wars)

howling about the (new pricing) policy  
people are ~ (airline fees)

howling in protest  
people are ~

## hub (center)

hub airport  
he is the security chief at a major ~

hub of the militia movement  
northwestern Michigan was a ~

hub of (contemporary Middle East) painting  
Damascus has evolved into a ~

narcotics hub  
Guinea-Bissau has become a global ~ (cocaine)

transit hub  
the UAE is a business and tourist center as well as a ~

publishing hub  
lower Manhattan is re-emerging as a ~

shopping hub  
the Fulton Street Mall is an eclectic ~

commercial hub  
protesters occupied the ~ of Bangkok (2010)

financial hub  
Warsaw has become a ~

## hub (branching system)

hub-and-spoke  
the ~ model is out of favor (airlines)

smuggling hub  
Atlanta is a major ~ (US)

## hug (configuration)

hugs the cliff  
the trail ~, 70 feet above the sea, and is very dangerous

hug the (Mediterranean) coast  
beaches that ~ (Egypt)

hugs a mountainside  
the Poomau Ditch Trail ~ (Kauai, Hawaii / hiking)

## huge (significant)

huge  
I knew this was ~, this was so big (photojournalist)  
boxing used to be ~, times change, tastes veer...

huge for us  
Clax is ~ (praise for NBA player Nic Claxton)

huge deal  
this is a ~, she is alleging... (a sensational trial)

## huge (huge gratitude, etc.)

huge gratitude  
so we also owe Megan a ~ (Wajahat Ali)

huge love  
big ~...

♦ “She signed off ‘Big huge love.’” (The Irish actor Jessie Buckley to  
the writer Jordan Kisner. Kisner characterized the signoff as a “spirit

of abundance." From "Monster Talent: In role after indelible role, Jessie Buckley is exploring the darkest corners of human nature" by Jordan Kisner, photograph by Jennifer Cheng, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 4, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Language to express the size / intensity of emotions in a "spirit of abundance..."

♦ see also *big* (*big love, etc.*), *enormously* (*exciting, etc.*), *great* (*great hatred, etc.*)

## hugely

hugely loved

she was ~, and she will be sorely missed by so very many

## Hugo Chavez

Gallic Hugo Chavez

he has been called a ~ (France's Jean-Luc Melenchon)

♦ "Clever, funny, a former professor..., and a brilliant orator, Melenchon has been called a Gallic Hugo Chavez." (According to the beloved NPR contributor in France, Eleanor Beardsley.)

## hum (verb)

hummed with activity

the narrow streets ~

## hum (noun)

hum

the ~ is incessant (emergency room / NYC)

hum of activity

from the vast Allied camp rose a mounting ~

## hum along (verb)

humming along

the team just keeps ~

the economy has been ~

## human (contempo-speak)

humans

I find that ~ are very interesting

human beings

as annoying ~, we all want attention (see quote below)

human person

your experience of being a ~

human society

fault is just a construct of ~ (Sam Bankman-Fried)

magnificently accomplished human

she is a ~ (Manouche Shafik)

single human

I am a ~ who has multiple truths (non-binary)

male human

have they met literally a single ~ (see quote below)

sports bar for humans

we get to have a place in Nashville that will be a ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Yah, I mean you're very invested in this idea of how understanding the molecules that make you up can inform your experience of being a human person. I mean, tell me a little bit more of that as a concept..." ("Organic Chemistry Helped Me Embrace My Identities" by Madeline K. Sophia, Brit Hansen, NPR, Short Wave, June 29, 2021. A 13-minute listen. During that time, Ari (Ariana) says the first person singular subject pronoun "I" sixty-eight times. Their pronoun is "they.")

♦ "It's Lipstick Day in East Nashville. Rep. Aftyn Behn (D-Nashville) on Wednesday read a proclamation to make it official. / The proclamation preceded the groundbreaking for a sister business for The Lipstick Lounge, a sports bar called Chapstick... / In the proclamation, Behn thanked the bar, which markets itself as 'a bar for humans,' for its fundraising for those living with HIV/AIDS and its sponsorship of LGBTQ and allied sports leagues. She said The Lipstick Lounge was one of the first bars in the area to provide all-gender restrooms and kept drag performances with heightened security while the state attempted to ban them." ("Lipstick Lounge Owners Break Ground on Sports Bar Venture" by Hannah Herner, Nashville Scene, May 15, 2024. At the groundbreaking, Nashville mayor Freddie O'Connell said, "We get to have a place in Nashville that will be a sports bar for humans.")

♦ "For almost two decades, Sven Marquardt has worked as the doorman and principal sorter at Berghain, the Berlin night club. He has been as responsible as anyone for its singular admixture of interesting humans, which, along with its freethinking ethos and its killer sound system, has made it world-famous and very hard to get into. Typically posted by the entrance, dressed in black, face-tattooed, with lower-lip piercings that look like silver fangs, he has become in his own way world-notorious, too—as an embodiment of Berghain's old East Berliner queer-punk spirit..." ("Night Life Dept. Ein Berliner" by Nick Paumgarten, *The New Yorker*, June 12, 2023.)

♦ "This shit, it doesn't faze me too much, only because like I've seen like, like... I'll just say human life to me, the way I look at it if I don't know you if I don't know you is meaningless it's meaningless I'm just keeping it straight up but... Yeah, he's dead what can we do now?" (Alex Bodger aka GoraPakora on TikTok. He stood by and filmed the murder of Paul Stanley Schmidt on his cellphone.)

♦ "As annoying human beings, we all want attention to some degree." (The TikTok Edvasian, 880K.)

♦ "TUNE IN! A show full of debate analysis, SCOTUS news, and books and movies and an interview about how to raise boys to be fine human being." (NPR's Danielle Kurtzleben @ titonka. She describes herself as "a real piece of work" and "absolutely a girlboss.")

♦ "Humans don't value things they get for free." (Aggie Lal, travel blogger, justifying her fee for her "Aggie's Master Tribe" course.)

♦ "Humans want to be seen and to be loved." (A trendy male screenwriter / TV producer.)

♦ "We were hoping that a lot of women would be by God's designs called to enter our community so that that we can teach children—which we do now, pre-K through college all over the country and beyond—[extended pause] uh to really raise the dignity of the human person to....." (Sister Joseph Andrew. From "The Dominican Sisters Of Mary Shares The 'True Beauty' Of Christmas With New Album," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday by Sarah Handel, Scott Simon, December 16, 2017. The Dominican Sisters are based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.)

♦ "MADE ON EARTH BY HUMANS." (The logo of a T-shirt worn by Elon Musk, as he holds three of his children.)

♦ HUMANS AGAINST TED CRUZ (A T-shirt worn by Willie Nelson's wife.)

♦ OLD: person... / NEW: human...

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Who wrote this script? Have they met literally a single male human [?]" (A commenter about a campaign advertisement for Kamala Harris targeting "real men." The ad has been ripped as the "cringiest political ad ever.")

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "HUMAN" T-shirt with the letters in rainbow colors. Human Shirt, LGBTQ Shirt, LGBTQ T-shirt, Pride Shirt, Equality Shirt, LGBTQ Pride Shirt, lgbtq Tee, Pride T-shirt. "super soft and looks great!" "Love my shirt and true to size." "Got so many positive comments! Shirt is great." Already in 3 carts! 50% off. Sale ends in 6:44:34. (\$6.99+. Etsy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Some alternative types use "human" in a strange and unusual way, as in, "I find that humans are very interesting." In the example above, "She is a magnificently accomplished human," it would seem more normal to say, "human being," but, even better, "person." The full quote is, "She is a magnificently accomplished human, she is not an empty vessel after the fashion of X..."

♦ "Human" is conventionally used in opposition to "animal," "space aliens," and, increasingly nowadays, "technology." For example, "A popular AI chatbot has been caught lying on robocalls—telling users that it's human."

♦ "Human person" in quotes obtains an unknown number of hits on Google. Wikipedia does not (yet) have an entry for "Human person," nor does Wiktionary. NPR obtains 52 results for "human person" in quotes, two of which are quoted above. One relates to the Catholic Religion, the other to a non-binary person.

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## humanitarian assistance (as verb)

humanitarian assistance our way

there is no way to ~ out of this crisis (Sudan)

♦ "There is no way to humanitarian assistance our way out of this crisis." (Samantha Power, Administrator of USAID and former U.S. ambassador to the UN, about the Sudan crisis. She is an Irish immigrant to the U.S. Heard on NPR. Steve Inskeep repeated her unusual usage, as if to highlight it, for whatever reason. From "World leaders gather at the United Nations this week with a lot on their plate" by Michele Kelemen, Steve Inskeep, NPR, Morning Edition, September 23, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## hump (noun)

get over that hump

we need to ~ (a sports team)

get people over the hump

he was an elite player who could ~ (Michael Jordan)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Calcutta was the preferred jumping-off point for free China—the place where Needham would get his papers and his marching orders. He would then fly into China over the infamous 'Hump,' a rickety and spectacularly unsafe air bridge that was then being organized by American freelance pilots, who flew Dakotas and kindred planes over the eastern Himalayan ranges between British Indian air bases in Bengal and the encircled free Chinese cities in Yunan... / Needham gazed out of the aircraft windows, far too excited to sleep. Range after range of gigantic mountains, glaciers uncoiling between them, rose up before and beneath him... / And then the frontier was crossed, and the plane began its slow descent over the deeply incised valleys of the Salween and Mekong rivers... / [A]ll China waited for him." (*The Man Who Loved China* by the great writer Simon Winchester.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "The Hump." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## hung (hung out to dry)

hung out to dry

he feels like he's been ~

gets hung out to dry

he does it and he ~ (CIA operator)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The meaning is abandonment, and the salient point is that laundry on a clothesline is *outside* and *exposed*. Of course, nobody *actually* abandons their laundry. *Gibbeting* fits the idea *much* better. See the Wikipedia article "Gibbeting." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ You can be thrown to the sharks. Or thrown to the wolves. Or thrown under the bus. Or hung out to dry. Or crucified. Or have your head stuck on a stake. Or be made a scapegoat. Take your pick!

## hunger (noun)

hunger to escape

an aching ~ the loneliness and boredom (teen)

hunger to succeed

he has a ~ (an foreign athlete in US)

hunger for (snake) meat

the ~ is a country-wide phenomenon (China)

hunger for opportunity

they have a ~ (Samoans in NFL)

hunger for the profits

the ~ from arctic oil (Canada)

hunger for revenge

ways people can peaceably satiate their ~

hunger for a better life

a gnawing ~ (Ellis Island)

nation's hunger

our sports-starved ~ for baseball (during pandemic)

aching hunger

an ~ to escape the loneliness and boredom (teen)

gnawing hunger

a ~ for a better life (Ellis Island)

hunger and desire

the ~ which has driven them (Manchester City win Treble)

### \*\*\* "You eat all the goddamn oranges and bananas you want..."

♦ "Man, you eat all the goddamn oranges and all the goddamn bananas you want." (An American merchant-marine sailor in 1947, to Tom Lantos (1928-2008), who was traveling from Europe to the US on a converted troop ship. Lantos, a Holocaust survivor, had discovered a big basket of oranges and a big basket of bananas in the mess and had asked the sailor, 'Should I take an orange or a banana?' On hearing the sailor, Lantos thought, 'Then I knew I was in paradise.' He went on to become the lone Holocaust survivor to serve in the US Congress. He was admitted to the US because he had been awarded an academic scholarship to study in the US on the basis of an essay he had written about the US president Franklin D. Roosevelt.)

♦ "Hunger was now torturing us. The Cossacks sat gloomily round the fire and hardly spoke. Hoping to forget their hunger a little, the men tried to sleep. I lay down too, but could not sleep. Anxiety and doubt tormented me. If we did not manage to kill something tomorrow, or reach the Iman, things would be desperate indeed. In the summer a man can carry on without food for several days, but in the winter hunger kills quickly." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "The mental adjustment took longer. It was a continual surprise to encounter no queues at food shops—'like a man who braces himself to pick up a heavy suitcase,' wrote Ginzburg, 'and finds it empty.' The words 'I'm hungry,' recently so charged with desperation and despair, only slowly reverted to their old function of expressing an ordinary desire for lunch." (*Leningrad* by the great writer Anna Reid.)

♦ "There is always trouble if meat is not divided by lot. Someone immediately says that he has been given more than his share, and

tries to hand a piece to someone else. Then there is much arguing and swearing 'by God!' with everyone insisting that he has been given too much, and finally a deadlock ensues which can only be settled by casting lots for the meat—as should have been done in the first place. I have never heard a man grumble that he has received less than his share. Such behaviour would be inconceivable to the Bedu, for they are careful never to appear greedy, and quick to notice anyone who is. I remember the story of a destitute Bedu boy, who told his mother that he liked dining when there was no moon, for then his companions could not see how much food he took. His mother said, 'Sit with them in the dark and cut a piece of rope with your knife turned the wrong way round.' The boy did so that very night. There was no moon and it was very dark, but as he picked up the knife a dozen voices called out, 'You have got it the wrong way round!'" (Wilfred Thesiger, *Arabian Sands*.)

♦ Bedouins will appoint a man to divide the food into portions. Each man will take a portion, but never one he thinks is larger than the other portions. And so, the last portion goes to the man who divided the food, and if his portion is larger, he will eat shame. And so he is very careful to divide the portions equally.

♦ One third food. One third water. One third empty. (What the stomach is for, according to a Bedouin.)

♦ It is said a Tuareg can survive in the desert for nine days on just three dates, if it is necessary. On the first day, he will eat the skin of one date. On the second day, he will consume the meat of that one date. And on the third day he will suck the stone of that one date. And so on for nine days. On the tenth day, however, all he can do is tie himself to his camel and hope that he is alive if his camel reaches water.

♦ "He who eats his fill while his neighbor goes without food is not a believer."

## Hunger Games (film)

Hunger Games feel

it does have a bit of ~ to it (too few vaccines for teachers)

Hunger Games (type) situation

college has become a ~ for many poorer students

evolutionary hunger games

in the ~, the drunk apes beat the sober ones (alcohol)

from America the Beautiful to the Hunger Games

the cancel culture is leading us ~

♦ "You have hundreds of college students who are living in their cars while attending classes. To me, it just kinda shows what kind of a Hunger Games type situation college has become for so many type people [sic] of doing what they can to make sure they get that piece of paper that will keep them in the middle class." (Journalist Will Bunch. From "College is increasingly out of reach for many students. What went wrong?" NPR, Fresh Air, August 3, 2022.)

♦ "One down, two to go" makes it sound like she's playing the *Hunger Games*, she's on the hunt, for people who don't follow her particular right-wing agenda, the Maga agenda." (Harvard's Laurence Tribe about Representative Elise Stefanik, and calls to replace Harvard President Dr. Claudine Gay following her testimony at "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Dec. 5, 2023.)

## hungry (adjective)

hungry

I was ~, ready... (Bruno in ring waiting for Tyson)

hungry for adventure

weary of England, ~, he found himself in Bratislava...

hungry for sex

they are ~

women were assumed to be just as ~ as men (1700s)

hungry for new talent

Hollywood is constantly ~

hungry for attention or sympathy

parents ~ abuse their kids

hungry spiritually

I'm ~ (defies pandemic to go to church)

hungry-eyed

he would stay there, ~

celebrity-hungry

a ~ electorate

content-hungry

programming for ~ cable networks

Internet-hungry

~ investors

power-hungry

another ~ self-seeker (a politician)

publicity-hungry

the ~ D.C. lobbyist (a person)

publicity hungry

prosecutors in his own office described him as ~

stay hungry

~, stay foolish (Steve Jobs / Apple Computer)

\*\*\* women, food, and sex...

♦ "Unseemly hungers; biting honesty; spitting it back at others; female hunger; female hunger; everybody was starving around me; if you were starving you were doing great; you must starve; then you'll be palatable; "palatable" displays of womanhood; she looks hungry, as if she could swallow the whole world and it wouldn't be enough; What Buckley remembers her whispering most was, "You're starving, you're absolutely starving"; take a bite of the apple; her taste for playing women who want something they are not supposed to want; really take a bite of the apple; demand the right to see the world as it really is, to eat what is delicious; a tree teeming with apples; her hunger is recognizable; it doesn't feed her enough (being 100% in love with her partner)... (Figurative language relating to food and eating in "Monster Talent: In role after indelible role, Jessie Buckley is exploring the darkest corners of human nature" by Jordan Kisner, photograph by Jennifer Cheng, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 4, 2022.)

♦ "I'm hungry for nature; I don't think I've ever seen kind of England so kind of delicious; I dunno, whatever feels like kind of nourishing; like [?] that I can get my teeth into..." ("Cannes 2022: Irish actress Jessie Buckley talks 'Men,' YouTube France 24 English, May 23, 2022.)

♦ (1) 9 1/2 Weeks (1986 / strawberries). (2) Tampopo (1985 / ramen, raw eggs and sake). (3) Tom Jones (1963 / chicken bones, apples, oysters). (4) Varsity Blues (1999 / whipped cream). (5) Like Water for Chocolate (1993 / quail in rose-petal sauce). (6) Woman on Top (2000 / chili peppers). (7) Flashdance (1983 / lobster). (8-Tie) Henry and June (1990 / wine). (8-Tie) Jamon Jamon (1993 / prosciutto or Serrano ham). (9) Women in Love (1969 / figs). (10) La Grande Bouffe (1973 / turkey leg). (11-Honorable Mention) Chocolat (2000 / chocolate. (12-Honorable Mention) Xiu-Xiu, the Sent Down Girl (1998 / apple). ("Top Ten Food & Sex Scenes in the Movies," at <http://blogs.houstonpress.com/eating/> 2008.)

♦ "The significance of sex and food is reversed between the Siriono and us Westerners: the Sirionos' strongest anxieties are about food, they have sex virtually whenever they want, and sex compensates for food hunger, while our strongest anxieties are about sex, we have food virtually whenever we want, and eating compensates for sexual frustration." (The Siriono Indians live in Bolivia. From *The World Until Yesterday* by Jared Diamond.)

\*\*\* kids and families...



♦ "If you ever go to school hungry, it puts a chip on your shoulder, it really does. I think hunger makes you angry because even now if you miss a few meals you're not the most nice guy that you'll ever meet. And of course I had a chip on my shoulder all the time because to go to school without breakfast then at lunch without a lunch it makes for a bad boy. And of course I'd try to conceal my lack of things by fighting all the time. Pretty soon I became an expert at fighting, not too good because it means I never did get good at schoolwork. 'Cause you're too tired. All the time sleeping in class. Can you imagine not having a breakfast not having a lunch and the teacher saying, 'Wake up, son, wake up!' You can't wake up. The most important thing for me in school when I was growing up was the hour three, it meant, you're out!" (The great boxer and businessman George Foreman. The George Foreman grill is popular with homeless people. They tap into an electrical source wherever they happen to be, even outdoors under an overpass, and use it to cook.)

♦ "It is a fact that if you are hungry and you see somebody eating something you would like to have your teeth in too, spit will flood to your mouth and you will swallow to make a noise. That noise Shani made as I watched her. Then I saw her eyes, and they were on my can. / 'Why no home for dinner to-day?' I asked her... / Next morning I went to school with my can packed tight... Not a word from my mother, only a little smile. / So Shani and me sat together to have dinner every day in my mother's smile..." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn.)

♦ "We will make do. Everyone will have a little bit." (Abdul Aziz, 63, of Dhaka, Bangladesh, disappointed that his money could not buy more beans and cauliflower for his family.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Then started again, and, coming to a small log cabin, entered and asked for something to eat. The poor people seemed to be alarmed and said they had nothing. 'Oh,' we said, 'we do not wish to deprive you, and we are willing to pay.' Then they took courage and gave us some fat pork, corn bread, and a kind of coffee, made, I think, out of burned peas. But it was warm. There were three of us, the two doctors and myself. We gave our hosts five dollars, and they were delighted, and so were we. Hunger made that breakfast the most delicious we had in six months." (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. Corby served during the Civil War.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article, "Willie and Joe," the two cartoon G.I.s from World War II. My favorite "Willie and Joe" cartoon is the one labeled "The Prince and the Pauper." In *Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, the text about the cartoon reads, "It would take a pretty tough guy not to feel his heart go out to the shivering, little six-year-old squeaker who stands barefoot in the mud, holding a big tin bucket so the dogface can empty his mess kit into it... [T]here is a big difference between the ragged, miserable infantryman who waits with his mess kit, and the ragged, miserable civilian who waits with his bucket. The doggie knows where his next meal is coming from. That makes him a very rich man in this land where hunger is so fierce..." I showed this cartoon to our military students in Saudi Arabia, and some wondered who the "Prince" was, but their buddies explained it to them, and they got it and admired it greatly.

♦ "I weighed one hundred eighty going in, and I came out weighing one hundred fourteen..." (From *Once Upon a Town, the Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by the brilliant *Chicago Tribune* writer Bob Greene.)

♦ "We were hungry every minute of the day. There were two 20-gallon drums in the kitchen, one for the first course, a watery cabbage-soup without a scrap of meat, and one for the second course, a gooey paste of dried potato mash or pearl barley, also without meat. Oh, and canned mackerel, one tin between four of us. The label said: 'Year of manufacture: 1956. Consume within 18 months.' In my year and a half in Afghanistan I stopped being hungry only once, when I was wounded. You were looking for ways to get or steal food the whole time. We climbed into the Afghans' orchards and gardens, even though they shot at us and laid mines to blow us up with. We were desperate for apples, pears, fruit of any kind. I asked my parents to send me citric acid, which they did. We dissolved it in water and drank it. It was nice and sour and burnt your stomach." (*Zinky Boys: Soviet Voices from the Afghanistan War* by Svetlana Alexievich.)

♦ "He who eats his fill while his neighbor goes without food is not a believer."

## hunt (in the hunt)

in the hunt for the championship  
they could be ~ (sports team)

## hunt (verb)

hunted for his sock  
he ~

## hunt (noun)

hunt for a Northwest Passage  
Sir John Franklin's doomed 1845 ~

hunt for the hackers  
investigators continue the ~ behind the virus

hunt for the sniper  
a setback in their frustrating ~ (D.C. area)

talent hunt  
the ~ (to fuel the new economy)

title hunt  
eliminated early from the ~ (NASCAR)

treasure hunt  
most ~s are scams

Easter Egg Hunt  
~ on Sunday (sign)

frustrating hunt  
a setback in their ~ for the sniper (D.C. area)

setback in their (frustrating) hunt  
a ~ for the sniper (D.C. area)

continue the hunt  
investigators ~ for the hackers behind the virus

## hunt down (verb)

hunted down his critics  
he ~ (Turkish President)

hunt down jargon  
~ mercilessly and kill it (science writer David Dobbs)

♦ 'Hunting rivals down' is that a joke. Utd are a good 13 points behind Liverpool, 11 behind Arsenal and Man City... (A BBC HYS commenter about "Aston Villa 1-2 Man Utd: 'Momentum' with Red Devils as they hunt down top-four rivals" by Simon Stone, BBC, 11 February 2024.)

## hunter (plants)

hunters for ginseng  
the first Chinese who appeared in the region were ~

ginseng hunter  
a ~

mushroom hunter  
thousands of species are collected by amateur ~s  
~s all have their secret places (France);  
~s are wise to stay away from the Amanita species

## hunter (other)

aurora hunter  
~s chase the perfect pictures of the Northern Lights

bargain hunter  
the souk is a ~'s delight (Sharjah City)

job hunter  
~s are searching globally

house hunter  
some of these ~s were asked...

relic hunter  
~s have dug and taken artifacts (Civil War battlefield)

souvenir hunter  
~s elbowing each other aside

treasure hunter  
ship's loot unearthed by ~s  
historical researchers and ~s

## hurdle (noun)

hurdle  
it was a difficult ~ to overcome  
she still has another ~ to overcome

procedural hurdles  
put ~ in the way of...

technological hurdle  
there are a lot of ~s (medicine)

hurdles remain  
~ in restarting power at the plant

running into some hurdles  
marine-energy developers are ~

clear the (first major) hurdle  
they are sounding hopeful that they will ~

cleared the first hurdle  
she has ~ of her bid to serve again as speaker (vote)

cleared all of the hurdles  
they had ~ (opposition candidates)

## hurl (verb)

hurling accusations (of racism) at anyone  
he has been ~ who dares criticize him (politician)

hurling (rare) charges  
Egyptian media were ~ of negligence (against military)

## hurled

hurled at him  
insults and racial slurs were ~

## hurrah (and hoorah, etc.)

hoorahs for his discovery  
before the ~ had entirely died away... (Fritz Schaudinn)

huzzah for poetry  
~ and memorization

great hurrah  
I wanted to wish you a ~ (John Major to Geo. HW Bush)

last hurrah  
*see last hurrah*

♦ "Fellow competitors stood, stone-faced, with their hands behind their backs. There was no cheering nor hoorays for Garcia." (High-school girls, after a trans female won the state track event.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ Listen to and watch "Rare Footage of Civil War Veterans Doing the Rebel Yell." The [smithsonianmag.com/videos/ category/history/ what-did-the-rebel-yell-sound-like/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/what-did-the-rebel-yell-sound-like/)

## hurricane ("Hurricane" Rubin Carter, etc.)

"Hurricane" Rubin Carter  
the boxer ~

## hurricane (noun)

hurricane of notes  
she'll peel off a ~ (guitarist Sarah Louise Henson)

hurricane of bad vibes  
be prepared for that ~ over you (advice to Ruud Gullit)

typhoon of steel and destruction  
the war descended on them in a ~ (WW II)

♦ "You could say that 'Hurricane Impeachment' remains a category four or five storm that is still well offshore and moving in an erratic direction very very slowly." (Ron Elving, NPR, Week in Politics, Weekend Edition, Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019, right after Hurricane Dorian. Overblown.)

♦ "So, be prepared for that hurricane of bad vibes over you." (Johan Cruyff's advice to Ruud Gullit. "Inheritance Tracks, Ruud Gullit.")

\*\*\* **"There are a lot of ways a hurricane can kill you..."**

♦ "There are a lot of ways a hurricane can kill you." (The storm surge, falling trees, electrocution from down power lines, carbon-monoxide poisoning, vehicle crashes, etc.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Effects of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## hurt (feeling and emotion / verb)

hurt  
adjusting appropriately to words that ~

hurting  
a lot of these guys and gals are really ~...

hurt my feelings  
she ~

hurts the feelings  
the film ~ of Muslims and stirs up religious sensitivities

hurt my daughter  
the *New York Times* used my words to ~

hurt you  
what's her name, the woman who ~...  
I didn't mean to ~

♦ "I know it's a difficult time. You're hurting. I hear you and I see you." (President Biden thanking his staff, et. al., in his address to the nation)

after Kamala Harris' loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "A lot of these guys and gals are really really hurting, because of what they saw, and what they went through, and then when you add on top of that, the criticism, like I said, the moral injury..." (Andy Carrier, clinical social worker, who counseled Uvalde school-shooting officers.)

♦ See "Adjusting Appropriately To Words That Hurt," NPR, Opinion, Language, August 8, 2018.

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I never worry about hurting the feelings of the good officers when I draw officer cartoons. I build a shoe, and if somebody wants to put it on and loudly announce that it fits, that's his own affair. / A few of them have done it, to the subsequent enjoyment of the guys who read the letters to the editor in the Mail Call section of *Stars and Stripes*. One poor lieutenant..." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Sticks and stones may break my bones / But words will never hurt me." (Said by schoolchildren.)

♦ "A knife wound heals; a wound caused by words does not." (Turkish.)

♦ "Anyone who says that words can hurt has never been punched in the mouth."

## hurt (passive)

incredibly hurt

he spoke of being ~ by the comments (Azeem Rafiq)

stunned and hurt

her teammates were ~ (racist chants at sport event)

get hurt

people are going to ~ (in California / high risk, reward)

people are going to ~ (migration to California)

♦ "Jada's feelings were hurt, Nichol's family feelings are hurt, Rock's face hurts, Will's hand and career hurts, Simpson's prosecutor doesn't think the slap was hard enough. I feel for comedians today, can't say anything without hurting someone's feelings." (Robert, commenting on the latest controversy involving the comedian Chris Rock.)

♦ "You must not think of him as a man who had been broken... He had been hurt, he was wounded, but he was still the same man in great spirits. He thought the best spirit of resistance is joyfulness." (An acquaintance of Boris Pasternak in his last years.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "We don't need these emotional terms like people being hurt." (The beloved comic John Cleese, in a BBC interview with presenter Karishma Vaswani. From "John Cleese walks out of BBC World News interview," BBC, 16 December 2021.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "We could not leave him where he was, to the Turks, because we had seen them burn alive our hapless wounded. For this reason we were all agreed, before action, to finish off one another, if badly hurt: but I had never realized that it might fall to me to kill Farraj." (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence, Book VIII, Chapter XCIII.)

## hurt (damage, injure)

hurt the (team) chemistry

he ~ (an athlete)

hurt (domestic) demand

a new clampdown by the authorities could ~

hurt Bernie Sanders

"Black swan" events that ~ in his bid

hurt free speech

Facebook can also ~ (to control hate speech, etc.)

hurts the students

this is an addictive thing that ~ (laptops in class)

help or hurt

trust can ~ you

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "If you hurt a monkey, you will be cursed." (Japan.)

♦ "It couldn't hurt..." (Taking a break from your stress and worries to have a cuppa tea, etc.)

## hurt (as noun)

58 years of hurt

defeat extends England's '~' (Euro 2024)

a whole lot of hurt

we're in for ~ (coronavirus)

world of hurt

you're gonna be in a ~ (the military)

bring the hurt

they can ~ to Iran (Israeli warplanes)

♦ "There will be more hurt in a year that has already been painful." (The economy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## hurting

hurting

small businesses are clearly ~ (economy)

## husband (verb)

husbanded that character

he ~ for five years (but finally killed off in TV show)

## hurtle (verb)

hurtled from project to project

he has ~ at a rapid clip (a filmmaker)

## husk (husk of its former self, etc.)

husk of its former self

the company is a ~ (General Electric)

## husk (mental health)

empty husks

they had become ~, spiritually depleted, burned-out (war)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Keep it in mind during the days ahead that war does inexplicable things to people, and no man can guess how it is going to affect him until he has had a really stiff dose of it... The most unfortunate ones after any war are not those with missing limbs; they are the ones who have had their spiritual feet knocked out from under them. The beer halls and gutters are still full of such poor bastards from my war, and nobody understands or cares what happened to them...I remember two striking examples from my old Company in the 4th Battalion. Both damn fine fellows, yet both committed suicide in the Line. They did not shoot themselves—they let the Germans do it because they had reached the end of the tether. But they never knew what was the matter with them; that they had become empty husks, were spiritually depleted, were burned-out." (A letter Farley Mowat received from his

Dad. From *And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat. World War II. Italy. The Moro River.)

## hyena (person)

syrup-coated hyena

Giacometti Feltrinelli described him as a “~”

♦ Giangiacomo Feltrinelli described Alexei Surkov, chairman of the Soviet writers association, as a “syrup-coated hyena.” Surkov personally visited Feltrinelli in Milan in a failed effort to try to prevent the publication of Boris Pasternak’s *Doctor Zhivago*.

\*\*\* “Hyenas trot with a characteristic bobbing gait...”

♦ “Hyenas trot with a characteristic bobbing gait.”

♦ “Harar is famous for hyenas.” (Ethiopia.)

♦ “[At Edfu, north of Luxor] we crossed the Nile and, hiring camels, journeyed with a party of Arabs through a desert. One of our halts was at Humaythira, a place infested with hyenas. All night long we kept driving them away, and indeed one got at my baggage, tore open one of the sacks, pulled out a bag of dates, and made off with it. We found the bag next morning, torn to pieces and with most of the contents eaten.” (Ibn Battuta.)

♦ “Hyenas have been known to nibble feet protruding from hut doors.” (Malawi.)

## hygiene (computers)

online hygiene

you should always practice good ~ (strong passwords, etc.)

practice (good online) hygiene

you should always ~ (strong passwords, etc.)

## hymn (noun)

hymn to the beauty

the film is a ~ of endless prairies (Lakota Indian country)

hymn to the wild at heart

the play is a ~

hymns to drinking

in one of his many ~... (Charles Bukowski)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can write an ode to something. Or a hymn. Or a love letter. Or a Valentine. Take your pick!

## hymnal (noun)

2016 hymnal

his platform is chapter and verse from the ~ (politics)

## hyper (hypersexualized, etc.)

hypersexualize

how moves and TV shows ~ Asian Americans

hyperempowered

~ computer models (*Weapons of Math Destruction*)

hyper focused

he became ~ on that event (Thomas Matthew Crooks)

hyper-globalized

the delicate equilibrium of our ~ world (wars)

hyper-individualized

the algorithms have gotten ~ (YouTube, etc.)

hyper-masculinized

Black men are ~, fetishized, pitied or feared (Sam Sanders)

hyper-personalized

optimize everywhere, ~ (Optimizely / “A/B testing”)

hyperpolarized

the feverish fervor of the ~ Age of Twitter

hypersexualized

Asian women have been ~ and fetishized (in the U.S.)

hyperactivity

children diagnosed with attention deficit ~ disorder

hyper-awareness

there is a ~, an empathy that young people have (suicide)

hyper-careerism

~ only makes things harder (at Harvard University)

hyper-connection

loneliness in the midst of ~

hyperdrive

the aggressive media went into ~

hyper-globalism

the malignant effects of ~

hyperintelligence

we hope her ~ might be contagious (Jennifer Wilson)

hyperpartisanship

the ~ has reached new depths (at *The New York Times*)

hyperpop

Pop 2 is considered to be the blueprint of ~  
and so came the birth of the ~ playlist (Spotify)  
all of the sub-genres under that huge umbrella of ~

hyperreality

in 1981, philosopher Jean Baudrillard coined the term ~

hyperreality

the realm that the postmodernists call ~

hyper-safetyism

the tradeoffs of ~ (pandemic mandates)

hyper-sexualisation

finding agency through ~ is freeing (*Poor Things* film)

hypersexualization

~ and fetishization of Asian women in the US

hyper-articulate

I’m often given the part that’s ~ (actor Paul Giamatti)

hyper-aspirational

Instagram favored a ~ aesthetic

hyperaware

I was ~ (a victim of a crime)  
he is ~ of the ways in which...

hyper-catchy  
~ , female-fronted pop (Eurovision)

hyper-competent  
the image of the FBI as ~, nonpartisan, professional

hypercompetitive  
the ~ world of academic publishing

hyper conservative  
we are not a ~ state (Stacy Abrams / Georgia)

hyper-current  
~ rhythms and attitudes and styles (TikTok)

hyper-exclusive  
inside the ~ Florida enclave for billionaires

hyperlocal  
a new study uses ~ data and climate projections (NBC)  
they cover ~ issues (small newspapers / birthdays, etc.)

hyper-masculine  
a ~ machista culture

hypermasculine  
fighting football's '~' culture of silence (mental health)

hyperpartisan  
in ~ America...  
public education was now itself a ~ issue  
he's not a ~, political person...

hyperprogressive  
~ Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg

hyper-realistic  
~ toupees are the hottest new flex

hyper sensitive  
DEI teaches us to be ~ about identity

hypersensitive  
she is ~ to perceived slights  
pilots are ~ to sitting on an active runway

hypervigilant  
we should all be about the words that we use or hear

hypervisible  
my Korean face made me ~ where we lived  
how it feels to be treated as both invisible and ~  
on campus, I was either ~ or invisible (Sisonke Msimang)

hyper-wealthy  
power in the hands of so few ~ individuals

hyper-electronic, hyper-ambient, hyper drum and bass  
it's ~ (Digicore music)

hyper-industrialized, hyper-commercialised  
it's a ~ sport (European soccer)

super-hyper-mega-uber  
this ~ French entry (Barbara Pravi / Eurovision Contest)

♦ "Dede is this combination of an extreeemly like hyper-intelligent person (light upspeak) but also a hyper-empathetic person."  
(Filmmaker Berry Jenkins about film producer Dede Gardner.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, "try this genius hack to..." In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ He's / she's hyper... (Disparagement.)

♦ see also *supersizing* (*linguistic supersizing*)

## hyperdrive (into hyperdrive)

kicked into hyperdrive  
at that point the investigation really ~ (cold case)

went into hyperdrive  
the aggressive South Korean media ~

## hyperventilate (verb)

hyperventilating about a couple of tough remarks  
mainstream media is ~ on assimilation (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone hyperventilates in shock or surprise.)

## hyperventilation (noun)

hyperventilation about threats  
despite his ~ to academia... (Critical Race Theory)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone hyperventilates in shock or surprise.)

## hypnotize (verb)

hypnotized the world  
Israel has ~ (according to Ilhan Omar)

## hysteria (noun)

hysteria and knee-jerk reactions  
~ (election politics)

McCarthyite hysteria  
Democrats are sometimes prone to ~ (against Russia)

accused the West of hysteria  
the Kremlin spokesman ~ (Ukraine)

stoked hysteria  
the media have ~ (public health)

♦ Andy: "Barney, you've just GOT to control your nerves." (*The Andy Griffith Show*. Barney was comically excitable. No doubt every culture has a representation.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "HYSTERICAL: *caused by the uterus*. This term began its career with the Greek term *hysterikos*, which meant 'suffering the womb.' ... The Greek word for uterus was *hystera*." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 15, "Romantic Stories of Words About Women.")

♦ "Until psychoanalysis came along, the accepted antidote to hysteria was rest."

## ice (on thin ice)

on thin ice

you're ~, buddy... (warning)  
she had been ~ for more than a year (fired)  
he was on ~ because... (Secretary of Labor resigns)

skating on thin ice

I was ~ with my cholesterol (heart attack)

## ice (put on ice / constrained)

put on ice

he was ~ (a news executive)

## ice (put on ice / delayed)

put on ice during the war

it had been ~ (Churchill's *History*)

## ice (break the ice)

break the ice

he uses humor to ~  
once you ~, you got a new friend

break the ice with audiences

she used humor to ~

break the ice with someone

dancing is a way to ~

break the ice by getting

~ party guests out of their shoes (Twister)

helps break the ice

her friendly, confident demeanor ~ (female soldier)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. Human Relations organized an orientation for a group of new hires that included the regular employees they would be working with. As part of an ice-breaking game, all the new hires were asked what their favorite sandwich was. One guy said, "The spicy chicken sandwich from Chick-fil-A." Everyone in the room was shocked. An HR representative said, "We don't do that here. They hate gay people." The guy sat down, feeling shamed by the group... So much for breaking the ice! ("I Was a Heretic at The New York Times" by Adam Rubenstein, *The Atlantic*.)

\*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ "You need a way to actually break the grass and start a conversation." (The wonderful Hafida Hdoubane, first female Moroccan mountain guide, who leads groups of foreign women that meet Moroccan women, who are historically famous for their shyness. Her variation on the cliché is charming.)

## iceberg (the tip of the iceberg)

the tip of the iceberg

reported incidents may be only ~ (child abuse)  
all we know so far is ~ (investigation);  
the disclosures so far are merely ~ (pedophiles)  
what we're seeing here may be just ~ (vaping deaths)  
what we're seeing is ~ (COVID-19 cases)

the tip of the iceberg of potential

we're just at ~ (wasps trained to detect things)

the tip of the iceberg of (secret) warfare

the affair is just ~ the US is waging in Pakistan

the tip of the (pollination) iceberg

bees are just ~

the tip of the (fiscal) iceberg

Wisconsin is just ~ (states facing deficits)

just the tip of the iceberg

this is ~

merely the tip of the iceberg

the disclosures so far are ~ (pedophiles in education)

only the tip of the iceberg

reported incidents may be ~ (child abuse)

only the (small) tip of the iceberg

what you see here is ~ (repository of poached animals)

## ice-cold (adjective)

ice-cold revenge

he dished out ~ on his enemies

grew ice-cold

their relationship ~

## icing (noun)

icing on the cake

see *cake* (*icing on the cake, etc.*)

on the icing

it's like the cherry ~

♦ "I'm not even sure I'd call it the icing on the cake. It's like the cherry on the icing." (A tax credit for paid family leave.)

♦ "Two years ago, his life spinning out of control, he sought help for a drug problems, found religion, settled down, got married, the world championship would certainly be the icing." (A boxing commentator at Tony Tucker versus Lennox Lewis. Tucker went the distance but fought poorly and lost on all three cards.)

## icon (graphic)

icons on your camera

strange ~

## icon (symbol)

icon

the cup of tea is a great ~ (for England)

icons of America

3 ~ are alive and well (buffalo / eagle / Native Americans)

icons of the Isle of Wight

the Needles and lighthouse have become ~

icon of (American) popular culture

the Barbie doll has become an ~

icons of democracy

~ are targets for terrorists (Washington, D.C.)

icon of fall



the plump, round, orange ~ (the pumpkin)

icon of imperialism  
a massive ~ over 14 feet long (the Zam-Zammah Gun)

icon of (American) mobility  
Greyhound has long been an ~ (bus company)

icon of the (body positivity) movement  
she is an ~ (Lizzo)

icon of broadcast news  
Ted Koppel was an ~

icon of the sport  
Mike Tyson is an ~ of boxing, a legend (Eddie Hearn)

icon of a failed state  
anarchy has made Somalia an ~

icon to black journalists  
he was an ~ (Ed Bradley / 60 Minutes)

icon in the pantheon  
Kirk Douglas will always be an ~ of Hollywood

icon status  
Ali had achieved ~ by then (the boxer)

Australian icon  
a virtually sacred ~, the Surf Life Saver

Australia's (national) icon  
~ (the Koala)

cartoon icons  
~ like Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, the Roadrunner

chess icon  
Georgian ~ Nona Gaprindashvili

film icon  
large portraits of silent-movie ~s

film "icon"  
he was an unforgettable actor and a ~ (Kirk Douglas)

lesbian icon  
she became a ~ in the late 1990s

pop icon  
America's biggest ~ (Michael Jackson)

hip-hop icon  
Lee Iacocca did commercials with ~ Snoop Dogg

two icons  
Kobe and Dwyane, ~ of American sport (NBA)

American icon  
quotes from this ~ (Mark Twain)  
the teenage rebel, the quintessential ~ (adolescence)

cultural icon  
taco trucks, ~s and social magnets in Mexico (and US)

gay icon  
Madonna is widely considered to be a ~

heroic icon  
Nimitz was a ~ of W.W. II

international icon  
McDonald's is an ~

mainstream icons  
Net culture prides itself on scoffing at ~

national icon  
Australia's ~ (the Koala)  
the hairstyle is a ~ (the mullet in Australia)

sacred (Australian) icon  
a virtually ~, the Surf Life Saver

career as an advertising icon  
a reborn ~ (Hakman)

quotes from this (American) icon  
~ (Mark Twain)

become an icon  
the Barbie doll has ~ of American popular culture

**iconic (adjective)**

iconic  
the patch is ~ (First Cavalry Division)

iconic actresses  
the real electricity is the two ~ on the same stage

iconic (Trestles surf) break  
the road project could ruin the ~

iconic classic  
"Cunty," an ~ (ballroom / Lovely!)

iconic crops  
rising temperatures threaten Georgia's ~ (peaches)

iconic doll  
Raggedy Ann, the 86-year-old ~

iconic figure  
he was an ~, an old-school reporter  
a founding father, a hero, an ~ (Cpt James Cook)

iconic fingerpost  
the ~ from M\*A\*S\*H (the beloved TV show)

iconic (Gleason's) Gym  
the ~ in New York (boxing)

iconic hits  
the show-business factory that churned out ~ like...

iconic image  
~s of the Holocaust  
it has become an ~ of his lack of connection (Bush)  
George Silk captured the ~ of a Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel

iconic look  
it just happened to become an ~ (Addicted to Love video)

iconic jams and jellies  
their ~ (the Smucker's Company)

iconic sportsman and cricketeer

Shane Warne, the ~...

iconic, complicated

remembering the ~ Andre Leon Tally (NPR)

become iconic

her portrayal of grief has ~ in British popular culture

♦ "The iconic Gleason's Gym in New York." (Boxing. Peter Gagliardi. Bruce Silverglade.)

♦ "George Silk captured the iconic image of a Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel." (Papua New Guinea, World War II. See the short documentary Kokoda Front Line 1942.)

♦ The Smucker's Company has a very cute full-page ad on the back of the January 21, 2019 *Christian Science Monitor Weekly*. It shows 12 bottles of their iconic jams and jellies in three rows with the dates of their introduction below them, and the title reads, "Fruitful Since 1897." The pun incorporates the figurative and the literal. A classic and classy ad from an American icon!

♦ "If it's true that the show of emotion is the greatest show on earth, then Thompson is a Barnum & Bailey of both pain and joy. Her portrayal of grief in 'Love Actually' (2003), for instance, has become iconic in British popular culture." ("Acting Up: Emma Thompson's third act" by John Lahr, *The New Yorker*, November 14, 2022.)

♦ "We were left out of these stories." (Carrell Augustus about his photography book *Black Hollywood: Reimagining Iconic Movie Moments*, which replaces white actors and actresses with Black ones or, alternatively, "puts black actors and actresses at the center of some of Hollywood's most iconic movie images.")

♦ 'Black Hollywood' reshoots classic film scenes with Black actors. (*Black Hollywood: Reimagining Iconic Movie Moments*, a photography book by Carrell Augustus.)

## iconoclasm (noun)

nurtured her iconoclasm

her parents encouraged her ambitions and ~ (musician)

## iconoclast (person)

iconoclast

he was an ~, willing to buck the tide (Bernard Rimland)

iconoclast of (American) architecture

he was an ~

iconoclast of the group

he was the ~

iconoclast or maverick

I was more like an ~ when I was young (Felix Bast)

advertising iconoclast

the ~ Ted Chin spoke at the conference

political iconoclast

he has a history of being a ~ (eccentric governor)

♦ An earnest *bien pensant*; their pieties; iconoclast; brought back into the bucket by the other crabs; cultural Marxism; academic herdthink; orthodoxy... (Language used in an article about a cultural issue.)

## iconoclastic (adjective)

irreverent, anti-authoritarian and iconoclastic

~ (*Mad* magazine)

## icy (adjective)

icy relationship

they had a very ~ (Shaquille O'Neal and Bill Walton)

## identify (identify as, etc.)

identified as transgender

Audrey Elizabeth Hale ~ (Memphis school shooter)

identified as Native

I am a white person who has incorrectly ~ (an academic)

identifies as First Nations Ojibwe

Fawn Pochel, who ~...

identifies as LGBTQ

any who ~ may be subject to imprisonment (Uganda)

identify as a queer MMIND college student

if you ~ you can complete this form...

identify as LGBTQ+

13% of players ~ (Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup)

identify as "furries"

it's estimated that at least 250,000 people ~ (cos-play)

self-identify

people can ~ with any racial category (new Federal forms)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ MMIND = mad, mentally ill, neurodivergent and disabled...

♦ "Jacob Agamoo (any pronouns) identifies as queer nonbinary, asexual and aromantic."

♦ "As a trans nonbinary climber who is mentally struggling..."

♦ "And for readers like me, who can relate to the experience of being a non-binary gestational parent..."

♦ "The opposite of inclusion is erasure... Not everyone who is pregnant identifies as a woman." (NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride, about the use of "pregnant people" versus "pregnant women." FTM trans, and various binaries, for example, might get pregnant but not identify as a woman. Also, an underage girl can become pregnant through rape, incest, etc.)

♦ "Trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming (TGNC), bisexual, and queer identities tend to be invisible and erased."

♦ "She identifies as Xicana of Yaqui and Mexica descent. (Ramona Beltran.)

♦ "Thomas Groover is white and Afro-Latino." (NPR.)

♦ "My name is Alicia O'Brian and my six words are, "Mexican white girl, doesn't speak Spanish." (NPR's The Race Card Project, which asks people to "share their thoughts on race and identity in just six words.")

♦ "In L.A., many young people who are both black and Mexican are turning to a handy word to describe themselves: 'Blaxican.'" (People with a Mexican parent and an African-American parent. Not to be confused with "Afro-Mexican.")

♦ "Pre-motherhood I was slippery, a thousand tiny, silver fish—a woman, a writer, a friend, an educator, a queer person, a performer, a Philly girl, a Bay Area transplant, a wife, a lefty Jew." (Minna Dubin, author of *Mom Rage: The Everyday Crisis of Modern Motherhood*.)

♦ "The program is geared towards students who identify as people of color, immigrants or refugees, or as LGBTQ+." ("Nebraska high school students learn how to channel their beliefs into action" by Cassidy Arena, National, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 6, 2024. "Correction / April 6, 2024 / An earlier introduction to this report referred to the murder of Michael Brown. The police officer who shot and killed Brown was never charged with a crime.")

♦ "Nearly 40% of Brown University students identify as LGBTQ+." (The Ivy League School in Providence, Rhode Island, founded in 1764.)

♦ “She said for years...she didn’t identify as a survivor because she had not personally witnessed the carnage that occurred...” (A school-shooting survivor who “sees herself” as a survivor now.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “[Rachel Anne] Dolezal acknowledged that she was ‘born white to white parents,’ but maintained that she self-identified as black.” (The Wikipedia article “Rachel Dolezal.”)

♦ “Every step I’ve taken has gaslighted those whom I love... I am not a culture vulture. I am a culture leech. You should absolutely cancel me, and I absolutely cancel myself.” (Rachel Dolezal, an academic who claimed “identities of color,” including Black Caribbean, North African Blackness, US rooted Blackness, Caribbean rooted Bronx Blackness, Boricua...)

♦ “She got grants, and she got fellowships, and she checked boxes, and she got positions.” (A Pretendian, known for the beadwork and the Native American signifiers she would wear and her loud laughter at gatherings and pow-wows.)

♦ “Buffy is our family. We chose her and she chose us. We claim her as a member of our family and all of our family members are from the Piapot First Nation. To us, that holds far more weight than any paper documentation or colonial record keeping ever could.” (“Statement from the Piapot Family” about Buffy Sainte-Marie.)

♦ “I am a white person who has incorrectly identified as Native my whole life, based on incomplete information.” (A female academic, outed as a Pretendian.)

♦ “Well, geez, if gender is just a ‘social construct’ shouldn’t ethnicity be as well? By the progressive tenants of gender identity she should be able to identify as any ethnicity she pleases.” (An online commenter about “Activist Raquel Evita Saraswati has faked her ‘Arab and Latin’ racial identity as far back as 2004: reports” by Ben Kessler, *The New York Post*, February 21, 2023. The article states that the activist has been referred to online as “the new Rachel Dolezal.”)

♦ “The self-identified ‘Hamas fighter’ was arrested...” (Patrick Dai, a Cornell University engineering student. See “Who Is Patrick Dai ‘24, Student Charged for Posting Antisemitic Threats?” by Julia Senzon and Marian Caballo, *The Cornell Daily Sun*, November 1, 2023.)

♦ “Airman who set self on fire grew up on religious compound, had anarchist past,” *The Washington Post*, February 26, 2024. Aaron Bushnell, 25, “sent the friend a copy of his will on Sunday. In it, he gave his cat to his neighbor and a fridge full of root beers to his friend.”

♦ “Riley Gaines is calling upon the NCAA to take greater action to protect women’s sports against biological males who identify as transgender females.” (Riley is female.)

♦ “I was brought into this world visible, but I identify as invisible. My preferred pronouns are who/where.” (Snark from an online commenter about a “woke” celebrity.)

♦ “Can’t he identify as 17?” (Snark from an online commenter about a 25 year old teacher / coach who had sex with a high-school student.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Neurodivergent” is a non-medical term. A medical condition isn’t required to have neurodivergence, nor does neurodivergence mean that a person has a medical condition.

♦ “It’s not going to catch on beyond a certain crowd.” (The linguist John McWhorter, speaking specifically about the term “LatinX.”)

## identity crisis

Azerbaijan’s (current) identity crisis

the issue reflects ~

Belgian identity crisis

the ~ hit new heights (rumor Flanders succeeded)

## idol (person)

matinee idol

he lit up screens as a dashing ~ (Dirk Bogarde)

cites Taylor Swift as an idol

she ~ (Marie “girl in red” Ulven)

## idolize (verb)

idolized his big brother

growing up, he ~

## idolized

idolized by the media

the same military that was ~ was now being pilloried

idolized and demonized

he has been alternately ~ by the press (a boxer)

## ification

see *fication* (*adultification*, etc.)

## ified (Principified, etc.)

abstractified

the term is ~ into mean something else...

that word is ~ into meaning different things (polysemy)

commodified

a world where women are often ogled and ~

churchified

I’m a Christian woman, but not a ~ Christian woman

datified

descriptors express a ~ digital community (wlv, etc.)

fancified

El Quijote spiffed up and ~ (Chelsea Hotel restaurant)

greenified

Antarctica is getting ~ (science educator from India)

hellified

~ (US Black / African-American Vernacular, slang)

Hitler-fied

The New Republic did a cover with Trump’s image “~”

Honey Boo Boo-ified

“Reality TV Has Become ~” (NPR)

objectified

see *objectified* (*groups*)

prettified

a ~ take from mostly white creators (*The Color Purple* film)

Principified

they make it utterly ~ (cover of a Prince song)

sluttified

getting ~ (at Slutty Vegan, Atlanta-based burger chain)

toxified

she doesn’t need her hotel being ~ by scandal (2024 *Wolfs*)

trickified

he was ~, as my mom would say (a Jamaican mother)

yassified

~ men's photos feature chiseled jawlines

zombified

AMC was hot until it ~ itself with 'Walking Dead'

spinoffs

disturbing footage shows ~ addicts (Kensington / Philly)

♦ see also *ify* (*mainstreamify*, etc.)

♦ see also *ized* (*invisibilized*, etc.)

**ify (mainstreamify, etc.)**

Beastify

~ your inbox (*The Daily Beast*)

broadcastify

the website, ~.com

Cannify

the cannabis research and education organization ~

Distractify

Sam Westmoreland's Cause of Death—~ (media company)

gamify

Robinhood is trying to ~ share trading

gentrify

the craft-beer bar helped ~ Williamsburg (priced out)

Gen Z-ify

how to ~ your wardrobes (advice to millennials)

Happify

~ encourages users to break old patterns (mental health)

Holidify

~ is the best travel app...

Indify

~, a music-data startup...

"Kazakhifying

~ Kazakhstan" (*The Economist* / demographics)

mainstreamify

everybody in America has to ~ their blend (racial roots)

meme-ify

a boot camp to help left-leaning orgs ~ politics

mouse-ify

they discover the boy and ~ him (Roald Dahl's *The Witches*)

objectifying

she is ~ (a TikTok)

Shopify

~ Inc.

Spotify

~ is built on the back of the music streaming business

Torify

the drive to "~" Britain (a liberal critic)

wokeify

ESG policies are determined to ~ every corporation

youthify

we're not trying to ~ the show (*And Just Like That*)

♦ Cynthia Nixon, about *And Just Like That*, the reboot of *Sex and the City*, said, "I like that we're not trying to *youthify* the show."

♦ "This group holds a boot camp to help left-leaning orgs meme-ify politics" by Elana Moore, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, January 20, 2024.

♦ see also *ified* (*Principified*, etc.)

**ignite (verb)**

ignite a (larger) conflagration

Somalia could ~ across the Horn of Africa

ignited a (robust) debate

the conflict in Lebanon has ~ on jihadist Web sites

ignited fear

the attack ~ among its Muslim worshippers

ignite the (#metoo) movement

his sex crimes helped ~ (Harvey Weinstein)

ignite a revolution

he tried to ~ in New York City's schools (education)

ignite another war

the clash showed how a small spark could ~

ignites competition and conflict

the need for recognition and power ~ (schools)

ignite and fan

it's a way to ~ the flames of an epidemic (wildlife markets)

ignited and fueled

opposition was ~ by the church (innovation)

**Iliad (Japanese Iliad, etc.)**

Japanese Iliad

the classic Heike monogatari, sometimes called the ~

**ill (ills of society, etc.)**

ills of (American) society

the candidates offered solutions for the ~ (debate)

♦ "Ten Hag still has many ills to cure but he is at least prescribing the sort of medication that is returning Manchester United to something like their former health." (Phil McNulty, Chief football writer for the BBC. Five of the words in that single sentence relate to health.)

**illegitimate (adjective)**

denounce federal authority as illegitimate

they ~ (militias)

**illiteracy (noun)**

Computer Illiteracy

"Combating ~ In Afghanistan" (by Benjamin Tupper)

produce illiteracy

we are witnessing a national scandal of ~ (see below)

science illiteracy

~ (science education)

### Biblical illiteracy

~ is the number one problem in America (Rick W. Allen)

### economic illiteracy

the evident ~ of the reporting staff

### financial illiteracy

the poll shows a high rate of ~ (high school seniors)

the leagues are aware of the ~ (NFL, etc. / athletes)

### historical illiteracy

this ~ would be hilarious if... (ethnic-studies curriculum)

### scientific illiteracy

neither party has a monopoly on ~ (politics / ignorance)

### contributes to this illiteracy

the language barrier ~ (scientific illiteracy)

♦ "What's this?" the grocery cashier asked me, holding a tan melon at eye level. 'I don't know how much to charge you, because I don't know what to call this.' / 'That,' I answered, trying to hide my surprise, 'is called a *cantaloupe*.'" ("No Chive Left Behind" by Danny Heitman, *The Last Page*, *Smithsonian*, March 2004. A wonderful essay! Other items that checkout cashiers had no clue about included: strawberries; celery; cauliflower; and different kinds of cabbages. The title of the essay, of course, is a variation on "No Child Left Behind," which itself has been relegated to the dustbin of history.)

♦ "Athletes and other entertainers can acquire great wealth without having a clue about money." ("For Some Athletes, A Short-Lived Financial Success" by Mike Pesca, NPR, Morning Edition, May 19, 2011.)

♦ "Some argue that Emoji is a step backwards to the dark ages of illiteracy, making us poorer communicators, but this view is nothing more than ill-informed and blinkered cultural elitism." (Vyvyan Evans. *He likes emojis*.)

## illiterate (adjective)

### illiterate in math and science

many students are ~

### Biblically illiterate

we are a ~ society (Congressman Rick W. Allen)

### financially illiterate

leaders and their economic advisors are ~

it shows how ~ he is (a politician)

### historically illiterate

his strategy is shallow, proud, and ~ (diplomacy)

### militarily illiterate

people who were ~ but accustomed to power (civilians)

### rhetorically illiterate

she is ~

### scientifically illiterate

many students leave school ~

### technologically illiterate

many "science" journalists are ~ (free-lancing, titles)

### financially and economically illiterate

many Americans are ~ and pay the price

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Beware, Monsieur, of the memory of the illiterate man!" ("The Bull That Thought" by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ see also *competence* (*metaphoric competence, etc.*), *literacy* (*noun*), *literate* (*adjective*)

## illness (enthusiasm)

### illness

you and I have the same ~, our fandom for the Jets

♦ "You and I have the same illness, our fandom for the Jets." (ESPN's Mike Greenberg, aka Greenie. Greenie is to the New York Jets as Spike Lee is to the New York Knicks.)

## illuminate (verb)

### illuminates

research info that sometimes mystifies as much as it ~

### illuminated the lives

for 14 centuries the Holy Qur'an has ~ of Muslims

### illuminate their motives

a biographical detail that may ~ but...

♦ "I had no idea there were bears in Japan." (An illuminated TexasVulcan on the ABC comments section about a bad-tempered bear that caused havoc in Sapporo, on the island of Hokkaido.)

♦ "When you say more [additional] conservative voices, what do you mean?" (A puzzled Steve Inskeep of NPR, seeking illumination from Daniel McCarthy, editor of *Modern Age*, about president-elect Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "What do you think appealed to voters?" (A puzzled Leila Fadel of NPR, seeking illumination from Yale philosopher Jason Stanley, about president-elect Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "What's going on in Democratic bastions?" (A puzzled Scott Simon of NPR, seeking illumination from Ron Elving, about president-elect Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## illuminating (adjective)

### illuminating insight

the new study provides an ~ into what's going on

### illuminating window

the case is an ~ into the pitfalls of capital punishment

## illustrate (verb)

### illustrates a conundrum

the story ~

## illustration (noun)

### illustration of (tobacco's) consequences

a vivid ~

### illustration of the gap

this is yet another ~ between the king and...

### classic illustration

Sarajevo was a ~ of how an agreement can be reached

### vivid illustration

~s of tobacco's consequences

## imbalanced

### imbalanced

if a relationship is ~, the door is open for toxic behaviors

## imbibe (verb)

### imbibed

all the things he ~ (various philosophies / Coleridge)  
 imbibed from my seniors  
   views of frontier policy I had ~ (military)  
 imbibe culture  
   there are new places to ~ (Harlem)  
 imbibe new ideas  
   they ~ from the locals  
 imbibed his love  
   I read about Thaddeus Kosciuszko and ~ of liberty  
 imbibe the author's views  
   they will read this story and gradually ~

## I mean (filler)

I mean  
   Everyone—~ everyone—sang along...  
   it didn't have as much meaning to me, ~, because...  
   ~, try to imagine...  
   ~, this is absolutely silly that I am not free to talk...  
   ~, it was crazy... (sleep deprivation experiment)  
   ~, I don't think we have that many male pop stars...  
   ~, I sort of fell in love with hip-hop  
   we have difficulties, ~, big difficulties...  
   the pressure is on, ~, how am I going to top this  
   ~, I was stunned (by the media attention)

I mean, actually  
   see *actually* (contempo-speak)

I mean basically  
   see *basically* (contempo-speak)

I mean, I think  
   see *I think* (filler)

I mean kind of  
   see *kind of* (contempo-speak)

I mean, really kind of  
   see *kind of* (contempo-speak)

I mean, obviously  
   see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

I mean, really  
   see *really* (gushing)

I mean, well  
   see *well* (filler)

absolutely I mean  
   ~ (1,146 hits at NPR and counting)

So, I mean  
   ~, there was a deep well of people I was drawing on...

Well, I mean  
   ~, even before...  
   ~, I've talked to...

Well, I mean, I think  
   see *I think* (filler)

Well, I mean, obviously  
   see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

Yeah, I mean...  
   ~ (6,501 hits at NPR and counting)

Yeah, I mean  
   ~, I agree...  
   ~, I was a fan...

Yeah, I mean  
   ~ I used to get high all the time and I still do

Yeah, I mean, I think  
   see *I think* (filler)

Yeah, I mean, I think, you know  
   see *you know* (filler)

Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously  
   see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

Yeah, absolutely. I mean  
   ~, it is a compliment

Yeah. Well I mean  
   ~, most bands...

so yeah I mean  
   ~, it's going to be...

♦ Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously... (Esther Zukerman of VOX on NPR.)

♦ "I mean, it's called 'Dicks: The Musical.' What did you expect" by Glen Weldon, NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, October 13, 2023.

♦ See also *right* (right? / polemical)

## immerse (verb)

immersed himself in books  
   he ~ about the financial collapse

immerse yourself in Indian culture  
   ~ at the Fairmont, Jaipur, a five-star hotel

immersed herself in each project  
   she ~

immersed himself in his work  
   for more than a decade, he ~

immersed myself in the (Eisenhower) papers  
   I ~ (a researcher)

immerse yourself in the culture  
   you try to ~ (anthropology)

## immersed

immersed in Chinese  
   the kids spend every other day ~ (charter school)

## immersion

immersion in English  
   only ~ has proved successful (vs. bilingual ed)

immersion in the (stenographic) record  
   his ~ of... (a historian)



immersion techniques

actors famous for their ~ (Day-Lewis, Hoffman, etc.)

English immersion

the most effective instruction is ~

Virginia, has chosen ~ (vs. bilingual ed)

~ is more effective than bilingual education

## immolation (destruction)

political immolation

it was a ~ (poor debate performance)

♦ "And lest there be any doubt about what we witnessed, CNN's post-debate reaction show reaffirmed it has been a political immolation." ("Biden can't survive this career-ending earthquake..." by Piers Morgan, *The New York Post*, June 28, 2024.)

### \*\*\* setting oneself on fire...

♦ "Soon other monks would become martyrs." (Self-immolations during the Vietnam War.)

♦ "Airman who set self on fire grew up on religious compound, had anarchist past," *The Washington Post*, February 26, 2024. Aaron Bushnell, 25, "sent the friend a copy of his will on Sunday. In it, he gave his cat to his neighbor and a fridge full of root beers to his friend."

### \*\*\* setting others on fire...

♦ "The following day, an event took place which appalled even these hardened soldiers... / Suddenly, in the same sing-song voice, Bunchuk announced: 'The square's full of soldiers...and a band...there's a stage in the middle...no, a pile of wood...' / He fell silent. Then, in the same voice, now full of despair, he went on: 'Comrade Lieutenant, I can see a woman in a shift...she's being frog-marched...she's screaming...the band's struck up...they're tying the woman to a post...Comrade Lieutenant, there's a little boy with her...Ay...They're tying him up...Comrade Lieutenant, I can't bear to look...two Fritzes are emptying some cans of petrol...' (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part 1, Chapter 58. Katya's second day at house 6/I. After this, Klimov brings Katya a kitten. Stalingrad.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "On the afternoon of the 6th, during one of the many fierce onslaughts of the enemy, the rails and logs, of which we had built our field works, caught fire and quickly reached to the timber. Amidst clouds of smoke and crackling flames the fight went on, the musketry rattled and roared, and many a noble soul fell, while the fire still leaping and sweeping through the trees, burned up both the dead and wounded of both armies." (*The Wilderness*. From *Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. The U.S. Civil War.)

♦ "The fire had swept every superficial foot of it, and at every step I sank into ashes to the ankle... Death had put his sickle into this thicket and fire had gleaned the field." ("What I Saw of Shiloh" by Ambrose Bierce, 1881. Both wounded and dead had been consumed by a fire.)

♦ "They reach the railway that runs to Bialystok at around eleven o'clock—that is also in the process of being demolished. A large armoured train is steaming back section by section while soldiers tear up the track behind it. Lobanov-Rostovsky's unit follows the train. First they blow up a bridge, then they come to a railway station which, as a matter of course, they set fire to. / The flames are already licking up the wooden walls of the building when Lobanov-Rostovsky notices a cat wandering around up on the roof, terrified and screaming helplessly. He goes and finds a ladder and climbs up to save the cat: / 'The animal was scratching with his claws in such terror that it was unsafe to attempt to climb down with him so I hurled him from the two-storey building. He made two somersaults in mid-air, landed on four paws, and, with his tail erect, disappeared into the bushes.'" (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

## immortal (person)

immortal of English sport

he departs an ~ (Eoin Morgan / cricket)

medical immortal

Fritz Schaudinn, a ~ (public health)

## immortality (noun)

sporting immortality

this South Africa side have become used to talk of ~

## immovable (adjective)

immovable

the negotiators won't budge, they are ~

immovable bureaucracy

Egypt's large and ~

immovable forces

the ~ in American politics (polarization, low trust, etc.)

immovable support

she offered ~ (Thatcher to Reagan)

nearly immovable

his voters are ~ (Trump)

ideological, doctrinaire and immovable

his views on race and religion are ~ (a judge)

remained immovable

Hanoi ~ (the Vietnam / American War)

♦ "What happens when an unstoppable force comes up against an immovable object?" (Politics.)

## immune (adjective)

immune to cold

the natives seemed ~

immune to it

I've had to deal with so much, I'm ~

immune from the "great resignation"

not even the White House is ~ (job-hopping, etc.)

immune from terrorism

no country is ~ in today's world

inoculated, if not immune

I was more or less ~, to criticism

remained (largely) immune

until this week the capital ~ to the violence (Syria)

## immunity (noun)

immunity

Iran has no ~ anywhere (Israel strikes Iran sites in Syria)

immunity from prosecution

she requested ~

diplomatic immunity

Mr. Qaddafi was not arrested because he has ~

psychological immunity

experience of painful feelings can help kids develop ~

granted immunity  
he was ~ from prosecution in exchange for...

## impact (affect)

impacted New Mexico  
how COVID-19 has ~

## impact (effect)

economic impact  
the ~ of these latest tariffs

high-impact  
it's considered a ~ journal  
what weather forecasters are calling a ~ event (storms)

## impacted (affected)

financially impacted  
half of all households have been ~ by coronavirus

## impasse (noun)

moral impasse  
psychiatry is stuck in a kind of ~

at an impasse  
for now, they're ~ (a celebrity relationship on brink)

reached an impasse  
we have ~ in the negotiations

♦ see also *cul-de-sac*, *dead end* (noun)

## implode (verb)

implode in a major tournament  
it's not like the French to ~ (Euro 2020 vs. Swiss)

imploded (in recent weeks) with major losses  
two businesses ~ (causing problems for Credit Suisse)

implode violently  
the repressive regime might now ~ or lash out

life imploded  
and then my ~ (diplomat falsely accused of pedophilia)

## implosion (noun)

implosion  
this ~ will have devastating consequences (Tigray war)

career implosion  
the ~ of a Tory transport minister

economic implosion  
Venezuela's ~ exacerbates inequality  
inside Syria's ~

verbal implosion  
Don Imus' ~ (a racist, sexist insult)

## impossible (as noun)

start your impossible  
Toyota: ~ (an advertisement)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## imposter (noun)

imposter  
it's not really cinnamon but an ~ (bark from cassia tree)

## impotence (weakness)

political impotence  
corporate greed, entertainment addiction and ~ (the US)

## impotent (adjective)

impotent to stop  
our leaders were ~ the series of crises

## imprimatur

given its imprimatur  
the UN has ~ to the policy

## imprint (noun)

imprint on the Japanese  
deflation has left a deep ~

imprint of his (chief) speechwriter  
the words bore the strong ~ (presidential speech)

## imprisoned

imprisoned in their homes  
they are not being ~ (the need to quarantine for COVID)

imprisoned in ice  
the two ships had been abandoned, ~ (the Arctic)

imprisoned in our own ways  
are we so ~ that we can't break loose of our chains

imprisoned by the domestic  
middle-class women ~ in some way or another

imprisoned by the social system  
every man that feels like he can't get his fair due or he's ~

♦ "The image of a brain traveling to the confines of space and time, diving deep into some of the biggest mysteries of science while imprisoned in a wheelchair, excited the public imagination." ("Brief Answers To The Big Questions" Is Stephen Hawking's Parting Gift To Humanity" by Marcelo Gleiser, NPR, Book Reviews, October 16, 2018.)

♦ "Byrne's work has long been obsessed with the many ways of being imprisoned—in oneself, in an addiction to things, in a meaningless life—and equally attuned to different forms of escape." ("David Byrne And Spike Lee Conjure Up A Joyous Vision Of 'American Utopia'" by John Powers, NPR, Fresh Air, October 13, 2020.)

♦ "I wanted to speak up for my rights. And also I didn't want my future to be just sitting in a room and be imprisoned in my four walls and just cooking and giving birth to children. I didn't want to see my life in that way." (Malala Yousafzai. Greta Thunberg was born in 2003. Malala Yousafzai was born 1997. Florence Nightingale was born in 1820. Joan of Arc was born circa 1412.)

♦ "She's also started telling her own story in public. She's given just a handful of speeches, but each time she's been met with a line of women coming up to her afterward, confessing their own secret desire to escape. Her story resonates, she says, because so many women wonder if they wouldn't do the same thing. They feel pressure to smile and pretend their life is fine, even when trapped in a bad

relationship or a bad job or any number of circumstances that seem beyond their control. Toby thinks these women are inspired by her not only because she had the guts to leave, but also because she tells her story without shame." ("Toby Dorr's Great Escape" by Michael J. Mooney, *The Atlantic*, October 2020.)

♦ "Then there is the other idle man, who is idle in spite of himself, who is inwardly consumed by a great longing for action, because he seems to be imprisoned in some cage. A just or unjustly ruined reputation, poverty, fatal circumstances, adversity—they are what make men prisoners. And the prison is also called prejudice, misunderstanding, fatal ignorance of one thing or another, distrust, false shame. One cannot always tell what it is that keeps us shut in, confines us, seems to bury us, but nevertheless, one feels certain barriers, certain walls. Such a man does not always know what he can do, but he feels by instinct: Yes, I am good for something; my life has an aim after all; I know that I might be quite a different man! There is something inside of me; what can it be? / Do you know what frees one from this captivity? It is..." (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

♦ "[W]hat Shah calls 'eco-incarceration, 'reinforcing Adivasis' marginalization." ("You First: Does anyone really know what it means to be 'Indigenous'?" by Manvir Singh, *The New Yorker*, February 27, 2023.)

♦ "Happy remains imprisoned in a Bronx Zoo exhibit." (According to the Nonhuman Rights Project. A court had decided that an elephant was not a person and had no right to habeus corpus.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Auerbach had been imprisoned in the ghetto..." (*The Warsaw Ghetto*, World War II. Only one percent of Polish Jews survived the war.)

## in (and in thing, etc.)

in this year  
long skirts are ~

latest 'in thing'  
not long ago Osaka was the ~ to blow in (vs. Gauff)

new IN thing  
the ~ is "burnout" (a *Times-Picayune* columnist)

## in (the cowboy in me, etc.)

in him  
he had always had the cop ~ (a DEA agent)

in me  
the cowboy ~ just ain't gonna die (ex-rodeo rider)  
occasionally, the street ~ would surface...

inside me  
the child ~ was dead (Jesse Leon / *I'm Not Broken*)

in you  
if you've got the quit ~, there will always be doubt  
(boxing)

in my people  
for singing is ~ as sight is in the eye (*How Green Was My Valley* / the Welsh)

in all of us  
there's an innovator ~ (an advertisement)

in Wrong  
there is a bit of the pith helmet ~ (a historian of Africa)

brought out the tiger in him  
attacks on his family or friends always ~ (Winston Churchill)

♦ "Occasionally, the street in me would surface and I'd say: 'Fuck you!'" (The boxing trainer and manager Tunde Ajayi.)

♦ "But what do you expect from the French, eh? They've always had a strange sense of humour. I apologize. I wasn't trying to dehumanize anyone here. It's just that I'm half-English and sometimes the English in me colonizes everything else." ("Is it really offensive to say 'the French'?" by Arwa Mahdawi, Opinion, *The Guardian*, 30 Jan 2023. Funny!)

♦ "I fight until the end, I've not got a quit in me." (The boxer Leigh Wood after his knockout win against Josh Warrington. Prior to the knockout, Warrington had been winning the bout. During the post-fight ring interview, the commentator told Wood, "There's no panic in you. I know there's no quit in you... But there's no panic in you. There's no panic at all." To which Wood replied, "No, it's about staying calm and composed...")

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "There's an innovator in all of us." (A full page magazine advertisement for Dell Technologies.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's good and bad in everyone."

♦ see also *inner* (*inner sloth*, etc.)

## in (inclusion)

in-group  
there is a lot of ~, out-group bias (empathy)

in-crowd  
a teenager who tries to join the ~

voted him in  
they ~

## in (in pain, in anger, etc.)

in anguish  
they were ~, but they listened to what the baker had to say

in pain  
if Aaron was ~, he took care not to show it (dad died)

## in (all in)

all in  
he plays with guts, passion and heart, he's ~ (NFL)  
everybody's ~, all want to be great (a coach)

all in with the players  
he has gone ~ (a football coach)

all in with President Trump  
republican candidates are not ~

all-in on the outrage  
I was ~ (viral video, regrets later)  
all in on Philadelphia  
VP Harris goes ~ (2024 U.S. presidential election)

all in on the sacrifice  
he was ~ (an Effective Altruist)

all in for this day  
I was ~ (Charlotte Purdue on a personal best)

all in for fight night  
Las Vegas is ~ (Fury vs. Wilder)

all-in approach

Wallenstein praised Spurlock's ~ (FX series *30 Days*)

all-in (kind of) defense  
he wanted a loud, clear ~ (Edward Snowden)

all-in mindset  
Elon Musk's ~ (surges, late nights, etc.)

all-in moment  
her ~ comes in 1989 (magazine editor)

all-in proposition  
football is an ~, you must be committed (NFL)

hardcore, all-in  
he went into ~ mode (Elon Musk)

♦ "His experience of starting a life of activism at a young age—and going all in—is an increasingly common story among Gen Zers." (Those born between 1995 and 2010.)

♦ "He has a level of certainty that causes him to put all of his chips on the table." (A comment about Elon Musk.)

♦ "At this level, if you're half in, you're nowhere." (The basketball coach of a major university about the commitment of athletes to a program and the transfer portal.)

**in (situation)**

in  
I empathize with the situation that he found himself ~

**in (involvement)**

in it  
everybody in town knew who was ~ (civil-rights murder)

in (deep) with a gang  
she is ~

in or (you're) out  
you're either ~, you can't be both (Queen of England)

want in  
do you ~ (to join a cybercrime investigation)

**in (in it for me, etc.)**

in it for me  
what's ~

**inauthentic (groups)**

inauthentic versions  
women are forced into becoming ~ of themselves

inauthentic and (openly) problematic  
it means it's completely ~ (t.A.T.u. / Jill Gutowitz)

so inauthentic  
like, her accent is ~, right...

become inauthentic  
when does a depiction of culture, history and identity ~

come across as inauthentic  
some politicians ~

deemed the scenes inauthentic  
queer audiences ~ (the film *Blue is the Warmest Colour*)

expose the inauthentic

those who present themselves as authentic and those who ~

risk looking inauthentic  
fail to do so and you ~ (see quote below)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "We're going to read the script and every time something feels inauthentic, I want you to raise your hand and tell me..." (Director Olivia Wilde to Gen Z cast members.)

♦ "Every single problem in the film is inauthentic," Renata Adler claimed in *The New Yorker*. "Every crisis and dilemma it claims to find is false. Pacino has never been so unconvincing." (*Al Pacino: A Life On The Wire* by Andrew Yule.)

♦ "Looking at it today, it may seem inauthentic for our Spanish-Jewish-Irish Catholic family to belt out lines from Jamaican folksongs." (Scott Simon. From "Opinion: Harry Belafonte's voice will live on," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 29, 2023. It's a wonderful tribute.)

♦ "I started to delve into breathwork and mindfulness because I felt inauthentic." ("Anthony Mullaly: The remote retreats shaping men and medal prospects" by Nikki Culley, BBC Sport in Cornwall and North Yorkshire. Nikki Culley was an NES Artist in Residence in Skagastrond, Iceland, in October, 2023. In her article she uses words or phrases such as: *community*; *journey*; *mental health*; *vulnerability*; *mindfulness*; *inauthentic*; *tough guy*; *hard man*; *space*; *anxiety*; and *bravery*.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The conflation of indigeneity with primitiveness can be stifling. Indigenous intellectuals—including the Lenape scholar Joanne Barker and the Maori scholar Evan Poata-Smith—write about the pressure to adopt identities that are 'primordial,' 'naturalistic,' and 'unchanging.' Fail to do so, they say, and you risk looking inauthentic." ("You First: Does anyone really know what it means to be 'Indigenous'?" by Manvir Singh, *The New Yorker*, February 27, 2023.)

♦ "So the faceless corporate account that doesn't need these words to build relationships or communicate safely used them just for the clout? That feels inauthentic AF." ("How Brands Ruin Slang," hosted by Erica Brozovsky, Ph.D., PBS Digital Studios, *otherwords*. Her use of "AF" is sly, ironic, funny, and... inauthentic.)

## inauthenticity (groups)

inauthenticity of a straight guy  
the ~ playing a gay guy (Tom Hanks)

cultural inauthenticity  
middle-classness is a marker of ~ (Blacks / assimilation)

racial inauthenticity  
he accused Obama of ~ ("acting white")

fear of inauthenticity  
folk's biggest bugaboo is the ~ (folk music)

practiced to the point of inauthenticity  
he seemed ~ (a politician)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "What's more obnoxious—equating Obama's refusal to behave exactly as Jackson wants him to with racial inauthenticity, the fact that Jackson would make that rhetorical move so casually as not even to remember it afterwards, the offhand insult to whites who are interested in the Jena case and support the defendants, or the fact that he's conveniently overlooking the fact that Obama is white on his mother's side? Or is that the point, to remind black voters that his blood isn't 100% 'authentic'?" (Hot Air. From "Jesse Jackson Says Obama 'Acting White'" by Geoff Bennett, NPR, September 19, 2007. See also the Wikipedia article "Jena Six.")

♦ "A new novel by Jeanine Cummins has opened up a debate about white privilege, racism in publishing, and the unintended consequences of telling a story that is not your own... [T]here is so

much...to say about these very difficult issues of race and identity and publishing and which voices are elevated in the boarder culture..." (Rachel Martin. From "Latinx Critics Speak Out Against 'American Dirt'; Jeanine Cummins Responds," NPR, Morning Edition, January 24, 2020.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The resume breeds inauthenticity in every area of job search and job interviewing."

## incandescent (character)

incandescent (18-year-old Barnard College) freshman  
she was an ~ (Tessa Majors)

### incandescent portrait

Jacques-Louis David's ~ of Antoine, Marie-Anne Lavoisier

♦ About the "incandescent" Tessa Majors, read the Wikipedia article "Murder of Tessa Majors."

## incarnation (character)

### another incarnation

yet, in ~, he was wearing a leather jacket (a professor)

### different incarnation

in a ~ he assists lovers (Pandarus)  
before she was a lesbian, she had a ~ (Christian, etc.)

### latest incarnation

would the ~ of feminism accuse me of body shaming  
the ~ of the character will be bisexual (Superman's son)

### modern incarnation

the ~ of the lottery arose out of a crisis in state funding

### new incarnation

deciding to mount a ~ of *Frasier* is a very tall order (2023)

### perfect incarnation

the Festival is a temple of glamour and Marilyn is its ~

### woke incarnation

*Teen Vogue*, in its current ~...

♦ "In our next iteration we will absolutely fold in the voices of our critics." (Time's Up reorganizes in response to criticism.)

♦ "The Festival is a temple of glamour and Marilyn is its perfect incarnation." (Marilyn Monroe. The 2012 Cannes film festival.)

## incendiary (speech)

### incendiary claim

it's a circumstantial case but it's an ~ (journalism)

### incendiary comment

that's an ~

### incendiary invective

politics is filled with ~

### incendiary post

what triggered the uproar was an ~ at a Website

### incendiary (political) rhetoric

the shootings caused a backlash against ~  
the *Times* editorial lamented the rise of ~

### incendiary call to arms

she made an ~ for people to resist Washington

♦ Read "America's Lethal Politics," *The New York Times*, June 14, 2017. (Sarah Palin's lawsuit is ongoing. Ironically, James Bennet added the disputed language.)

## incendiary (other)

### incendiary

the situation in the south is ~ (rebellion)

### incendiary figure

he has been sort of an ~ (Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson)

### incendiary issue

race can be an ~ in American politics

### incendiary legacy

Napoleon's ~ divides France 200 years on

### politically incendiary

the organization has made some ~ missteps

### \*\*\* war, military, conflict...

♦ "Quite soon after the Ministerial movements, a change in the enemy's method affected our general policy. Till now the hostile attack had been confined almost exclusively to high-explosive bombs; but with the full moon of October 15, when the heaviest attack of the month fell upon us, about 480 German aircraft dropped 386 tons of high explosive and in addition 70,000 incendiary bombs. Hitherto we had encouraged the Londoners to take cover, and every effort was made to improve their protection. But now 'To the basements' must be replaced by 'To the roofs'... An organisation of fire-watchers and fire services on a gigantic scale and covering the whole of London (apart from measures taken in provincial cities) was rapidly brought into being... Women pressed forward to take their share. Large-scale systems of training were developed to teach the fire-watchers how to deal with the various kinds of incendiaries which were used against us. Many became adept, and thousands of fires were extinguished before they took hold. The experience of remaining on the roof night after night under fire, with no protection but a tin hat, soon became habitual." (*Their Finest Hour* by Winston S. Churchill. From the chapter, "London Can Take It.")

## incestuous (adjective)

### incestuous

academia is ~ (peer review, smallness, etc.)

### incestuous alliance

the union is an ~ between public officials and labor

### incestuous relationship

the scandal revealed an ~ of lobbyists and politicians  
the web of ~s is troubling (stock analysts, the media)

### super-incestuous

the Beltway is a ~ zone (Washington politics)

### ingrown, incestuous

she represented a very ~ culture in that institution

♦ "Sixty-eight percent of tweets between journalists who work at *The Washington Post*, NPR, [and *The New York Times*...] are to each other." ("How Journalists Congregating Into 'Microbubbles' Affects Quality Of News Reporting," NPR, All Things Considered, August 12, 2020.)

♦ "By their nature, information bubbles are powerfully self-reinforcing, and I think many *Times* staff have little idea how closed their world has become, or how far they are from fulfilling their compact with readers to show the world 'without fear or favour.'" ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ “Officially, the groups are all independent. In practice, everyone seems to be everyone else’s co-author, drinking buddy, former mentor, or romantic partner.” (Groups like Justice Democrats, Sunrise, and Data for Progress. From “The Left Turn” by Andrew Marantz, *The New Yorker*, May 31, 2021.)

♦ “I feel like podcasting is still small enough...but podcast is still small enough where we all know each other. In the sense like we either went to each other’s wedding, or we interned together, or we used to work for so-and-so, or we went to college with them... We’ve all made projects for each other, too.” (Podcast producer Jesse Baker interviewed by podcast producer Carolina Groppa.)

♦ “The growing feud has only fueled Budde’s media tour. In addition to speaking with The New York Times on Tuesday night, she appeared on “The View” and “The Rachel Maddow Show” on Wednesday as well as granted interviews to NPR, TIME Magazine and The Associated Press.” (“Bishop who lectured Trump launches media tour, emerges as first ‘Resistance’ darling of second term” by Joseph A. Wulfsohn, Fox News, January 24, 2025.)

♦ see also *bubble* (*isolation*)

## incestuousness (noun)

social incestuousness

how much of this ~ exists in DC (media and government)

## inclusion (groups)

inclusion, belonging, and respect

build ~ for diversity (Georgetown Law)

greater inclusion

positive momentum towards ~

Beyond Inclusion

~ seeks more empowerment, more representation

diversity, equity, and inclusion

embed ~ (DEI) intentionally in TESOL activities

equity and inclusion

the culture of ~ at Georgetown Law

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “And for readers like me, who can relate to the experience of being a non-binary gestational parent...”

♦ “The opposite of inclusion is erasure... Not everyone who is pregnant identifies as a woman.” (NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride, about the use of “pregnant people” versus “pregnant women.” FTM trans, and various binaries, for example, might get pregnant but not identify as a woman. Girls can become pregnant.)

♦ “This film includes discussion of eating disorders, body dysphoria, self-harm, sexual assault, and suicide... Use the resources at the end of the film to find support if you are struggling with any of these topics.” (*They / Them: One Climber’s Story*, a film about the trans climber Lor Sabourin.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Storytelling that powers kindness, authenticity, empathy, and inclusion.” (A speaker. \$7K+.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “There had been some great sport on offer and some great moments and stories / Why write an article, emphasising how diverse these games are and highlighting the fact there is more womans medals [sic]. / Surely this is irrelevant. Why can’t we just celebrate all the athletes and enjoy the sport we have seen across all competitions / It seems this agenda is compulsory in BBC written articles” (A commenter on “Commonwealth Games: Birmingham breathes life into Games” by Mike Henson, BBC Sport, 9 August 2022. Another commenter posted, “Please concentrate on the sport, that is what most watched and will remember it for....not the BBC looking for politics or identity politics in everything.” And yet a third person commented, “Typical BBC trying to find something to fit their ‘woke’ agenda to denigrate.” In the last decades it has become common to

disparage great sporting events—the Olympics, the FIFA soccer World Cup—with controversies unrelated to sports.)

♦ “But [*Bros*] also mocks more recent trends like the mass production of LGBTQ-themed entertainment by TV and movie studios once they realized there was a huge audience for it...” (Justin Chang’s review of the 2022 film *Bros* on Fresh Air.)

♦ “I don’t want to hear one more peep out of them about diversity, equity, and inclusion. I don’t wanna see any more of our C-suite execs recommend books for women’s history month. There were tangible actions they could’ve taken and they chose to perform these values. No thank you.” (An underpaid employee with an Asian name who was repeatedly turned down for a raise. She finally applied for her job as a new hire at a higher salary, and her posts went viral.)

♦ “We don’t mind people settlin’ in the area. Just don’t put your house on a ridgetop so you can look down on us, and don’t tell us how you did it back home.” (A Southern Appalachians woman.)

♦ “Dude should have looked into living there a little better before stepping on locals’ toes like that, especially if he took his family—he owed it to them to look out for their welfare...” (A commenter on the article “2 Hawaiian men found guilty of hate crime for attacking white homeowner” by Michelle De Pacina, Yahoo / NextShark, November 21, 2022.)

♦ “These are our lands, and we’re in charge here. No one can come in here and tell us what to do. We have never allowed ourselves to be dominated by anyone, and we’re not going to start now.” (Joao Bravo Cinta-Larga, whose tribe murdered 29 diamond miners on their reservation in the southwestern Amazon of Brazil.)

♦ The Japanese refer to foreigners as *gaijin*, literally, “outsider.”

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “*Inclusion*, ‘the value of people being, feeling included in a community...’ That use of “inclusion,” I’ve often found it very sneaky because, once again, what it tends to mean is ‘I will only feel included if you don’t evaluate me according to the standards that you evaluate other people.’ And I don’t like it.” (The linguist John McWhorter, speaking at the Citrin Center at the University of California Berkeley. “John McWhorter: Pitfalls in the Policing of Language—YouTube.” Watch and listen to: [youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE))

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ see also *diversity* (*groups*), *representation* (*groups*)

## inclusive (groups)

inclusive language

~ is about possibility...

making this mindful choice of ~ (use “Y’all”)

embrace ~ and encourage others to do the same

inclusive and empowering

make our language more ~ (no gender assumptions)

more inclusive

the outdoors will be a ~ place (all-Black team on Everest)

how to be an ally and nurture a ~ world

safe and inclusive

a ~ place for anyone to play football (GFSN)

safe, inclusive, respectful, and welcoming

create psychologically ~ environments (DEI)

make birdwatching more inclusive

it’s part of an effort to ~ (for minorities)

♦ “Inclusive language is not about critical mass, it’s about possibility.” (NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride, about the use of “pregnant people” versus “pregnant women.”)

♦ “Once they’re finished, the outdoors will be a more inclusive place, according to their GoFundMe page.” (“A mountaineering group is aiming to be the 1st all-Black team to climb Mount Everest” by Sharon Pruitt-Young, NPR, October 9, 2021.)



♦ "Embracing Inclusive Language in the Classroom: Activities for English Teachers to Cultivate Gender-Neutral Communication" by Christine Roell, Germany. The English Teaching Forum Magazine.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## incoming (criticism)

incoming from both Republicans and Democrats

Facebook should expect ~ (Congressional hearing)

incoming fire

see *fire* (criticism)

took some incoming

Trump ~ on his past comments about... (politics)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I remember I went down into this hole for another scoop of dirt, and then that's when the bomb hit. I looked at the man I was digging this hole with; half his body was gone. And I looked up at the trees and I could see body parts on the limbs on the trees, and I shook myself out of it and I stood up, and it was so quiet." (Private Manuel Orona, Hill 875, Dak To, Vietnam War. The 500-pound bomb from a Marine plane caused the worst friendly-fire incident of the Vietnam War.)

## incontinence (verbal incontinence, etc.)

verbal incontinence

the former president's ~ (left radical about Trump)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## incontinent (fiscally incontinent, etc.)

fiscally incontinent

the Labour party is ~ (politics)

♦ "Conservative opponents label Labour fiscally incontinent, *unable to restrain the urge* [italics mine] to tax, borrow, and spend." (U.K. politics. Older people know.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## incubator (noun)

incubators of crime

prisons could not reform but were ~

incubators of despair

the refugee camps have become ~

incubator of espionage

the campus is an ~ (free flow of ideas)

incubator of innovation

the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is an ~

incubator for (left-wing) talent

his show was an ~ on the air (TV)

incubator for France's top talent

the elite Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) is an ~

incubator for terrorists

the religious school is an ~ (Indonesia)

business incubator

a ~ helps new and startup companies

meme incubator

it's a ~ (TikTok)

talent incubator

the art gallery has emerged as a top ~ (Damascus)

technology incubator

the zone is one of three ~s in the state (New Jersey)

## incurable (adjective)

incurable optimist

I used to be an ~, but... (an Iraqi)

## indebted

indebted to them

my work is tremendously ~ (an author about other writers)

## indelible (adjective)

indelible mark

he left an ~ on the world around him (Luke Howard)

she's made an ~ on Morgan County (tragedy)

terrorism has left an ~ on his presidency (9/11)

his trip to Sri Lanka left an ~ on him (Chekhov)

indelible stain

doping left an ~ on his record (sports)

## indignity (groups)

indignity

the ~ in which some people live is why terrorism grows

## industrialize (industrialize death, etc.)

industrialized death

modern warfare ~ (World War I)

## industry (noun)

trauma industry

as the ~ was building steam and attracting clients...

higher-education industry

they were products of the ~ (the yuppies)

in the (concussion) industry

~, there are lots of opportunists out for the quick money

made the rape and murder of women an industry

TV culture has ~ unto itself

♦ see also *complex* (military-industrial complex, etc.)

## inebriate (verb)

inebriated both parties

his political fantasy has ~ (that victory is total)

## inequality (groups)

inequality in the internet age

the digital divide, a look at ~

inequality in high education

~, past and present (Fresh Air, Terry Gross)

fitness inequality

the pandemic accelerated ~ (Natalia Mehlman Petrzela)

gender inequality

efforts to fix South Korea's ~ at its cultural roots

income inequality

the Gilded Age was characterized by great ~

a guaranteed income program hopes to reduce ~ (Georgia)

Ras Baraka on guaranteed income to alleviate ~ (Newark)

vaccine inequality

what does ~ look like

the moral threat of ~ (eco-activist Greta Thunberg)

wealth inequality

why ~ is growing in the pandemic (rebroadcast)

learning inequality

demand for wilderness education may widen ~

economic inequality

'Davos Man' is an angry, powerful look at ~

deadly protests against ~ and police brutality (Colombia)

racial inequality

~ and anti-Blackness (the 1619 Project)

sexual inequality

sued for ~ and harassment (game company Activision)

social inequality

these philanthropists haven't moved the needle against ~

the link between water quality and ~ (Jackson, MS, etc.)

systemic inequality

Black Muppets teach kids about ~, racism (Sesame Street)

Research On Inequality

Princeton's Program For ~

persistence of (racial) inequality

the ~

widen inequality

how taxes continue to ~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The assertions are strident, and the vocabulary is esoteric ('harm,' 'insurrection') as if it were translated from a foreign language. In a sense, it is. The language is legalese, and it is designed to build a foundation upon which a company can be held liable under civil-rights law in an American court. This activist tactic has been widely

misunderstood." ("The Inequality of 'Equity,'" by Christopher Caldwell, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "inequality" bandwagon

♦ "Cohen wonders what happens when children's belief in Santa intersects with their increasing awareness of the inequality around them, especially when they may be looking for that inequality." (Philip N Cohen, professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park. From "Time to end Santa's 'naughty list'?" by Dan John, BBC, Family Tree, 14 December 2022.)

## inequity (groups)

inequity in the theater world

those who used his death to protest ~

heat inequity

~ is an environmental justice issue

racial inequity

one more ~...

thermal inequity

urban heat and climate justice, ~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The more we learn about the coronavirus, the clearer it becomes that it's disproportionately affecting communities of color." ("The Coronavirus in America: One More Racial Inequity." (Consider this from NPR, June 2, 2020.)

♦ "Top U.S. official says Brazil is making progress in combatting racial inequity," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, May 6, 2023.

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The number of people *in the theater world* who used George Floyd's dead body to pivot to inequity in the theater world is the most hair-raising thing I've ever seen in my life." ("The Radical Self-Awareness of Michael R. Jackson" by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)

## inertia (noun)

years of inertia

environmentalists blame the government for ~

## infancy (in infancy)

in its infancy

the field is ~

ecosystem forecasting is ~

in late 1862 photography was ~ (Mathew Brady)

scientists point out the research is ~ (medicine)

motoring was still ~ (1908 motor sledge for snow, ice)

the investigation is still very much ~ (Esther Dingley)

if we think back to 1987, DNA was ~ (cold case solved)

at an early stage, when a start-up is ~ (Silicon Valley)

in 1996, the internet was ~ (Communications Decency Act)

in Google's infancy

~, its co-founders reviled Microsoft as a technological bully

## infancy (other)

infancy of our DNA testing

back in 2000, that was the ~ (wrongfully convicted)

stock car racing's infancy

those hellish days of ~

## infant (noun)

infant colony  
merchantmen were drawn to the ~ (Australia)

infant market  
nurture the ~ (e-publishing)

## infatuated (enthusiasm)

infatuated with social networking  
young adults are ~

## infect (computers)

infected (industrial) computers  
the Stuxnet worm ~ in Iran

## infect (corrupt)

infected US with ‘femicide’ plague  
Biden’s open border has ~

infected every corner  
criminality has ~ of the government

infected our culture  
narcissism and exhibitionism have ~

infect the knowledge  
a misconception can ~ associated with it

infected our (political) lexicon  
the viral phrase “white supremacy” quickly ~

infected the (educational) system  
the disease of grade inflation has ~

infecting the (entire) system  
he is a symptom of a much wider pathology ~ (politics)

infect many of these works  
assumptions of automatic agreement ~ (“woke” art)

infecting the (rest of) the world  
American-style wokeism is ~

## infected (computers)

infected computers  
the data came from 729 ~ (botnets)

## infected (corrupted)

infected with (a succeed-at-all-costs) recklessness  
cycling is ~ (doping)

infected with systemic racism  
it’s kind of a big thing to say America is ~ (Uri Berliner)

infected by a (false) doctrine  
I became ~ (religion)

infected by this (intellectual and moral) rot  
campuses are ~ (antisemitism)

infected the (educational) system  
the disease of grade inflation has ~

♦ “How did your campuses get this way? What is it about the way you hire faculty and approve curriculum that’s allowing your campuses to be infected by this intellectual and moral rot.” (Congresswoman Ms. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, Chairwoman at the hearing, “Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism,” the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023. Congresswoman Foxx directed her questions to (1) Claudine Gay, president of Harvard (2) M. Elizabeth Magill, President of the University of Pennsylvania, and (3) Sally Kornbluth, President of MIT.)

### \*\*\* “COMING! Hookworm Dispensaries...”

♦ COMING! / To Roxobel, Kelford and / Powellsville. / Bertie Co. Hookworm Dispensaries. / Hookworm greatly magnified (picture) / The County Commissioners have so arranged with the North Carolina Board of Health that the towns of Roxobel, Kelford and Powellsville will secure the services of The State and County Free Hookworm Dispensaries. / Dr. Covington, a state specialist on these diseases, and Mr. Conner, an expert microscopist, will be in attendance at these dispensaries on the days and dates printed below. / Everybody should visit these dispensaries on the dates given below, be examined and see if they have any of these diseases. If you have, medicine will be given that will change you from a tired, indolent, despondent kind of a man to one who goes about his work with a vim and a rush, always finding pleasure in everything. Ask any of the thousands who have already been treated in this county. They know. All this without any cost to you whatever. All is paid for by the state and county. Come, bring your wife and children with you, let them see the different varieties of worms that often infect people. See the hookworm eggs under the microscope and hear talks on this disease. / Remember the dates as this will be your last opportunity to be examined and treated free of all cost. / In visiting the dispensaries do not neglect to bring with you a very small box on which you have written your name and age containing a small specimen of your bowel movement as only in this way can an examination be made. In making this examination, if present, any of the worms are found, whether it be the tape worm, round worm, or any of the other various varieties.” (A poster used by the Commission. An invitation, a warning, and instruction to the people of three towns in North Carolina. From “The Hookworm And Civilization” by Walter H. Page, *The World’s Work*, September, 1912.)

## infection (enthusiasm)

infection of his thinking  
the ~ has mutated, gone pandemic (quantum computing)

## infection (corruption)

one single infection  
amid that epidemic, ~ was fateful (NotPetya worm)

infection spreads  
amputate before ~ (bad players, coach at Man U)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “[Gas gangrene] may cause discoloration and death of the skin alone, or else the whole limb may swell enormously and be rapidly converted into a gangrenous mass of putrefying material emitting the odour of a newly manured field...” (From the 1915 Bradshaw Lecture on Wounds in War by Surgeon-General Sir Anthony Bowlby, K.C.M.G., A.M.S., Surgeon in Ordinary to H.M. the King; Consulting Surgeon to the British Expeditionary Force in France; Surgeon to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital.)

## infectious (adjective)

infectious  
his zest for life was ~ (Ernest Hemingway)  
courage is ~, it really is (a Churchill biographer)  
Ty’s personality and smile were ~ (football player)

infectious enthusiasm  
he had an ~ for ceramics and pottery

infectious smile

we will miss his ~ and love for football (murdered player)

\*\*\* **tuberculosis, MDR TB...**

♦ "An X-ray will show it before you know it." (A public-health-campaign slogan. From the 1920s mass X-ray screenings were undertaken to detect those likely to be infectious. From the US, there is a picture of people in Maple Valley, Washington, in 1948, standing in lines for a free chest X-ray to check for TB at mobile clinics.)

♦ "The US-Mexican border is less a barrier than a bridge." (Tuberculosis.)

♦ "A second round of mandatory testing for students and staff at George Bush High School in Texas identified 10 new cases of tuberculosis, bringing the total number of cases discovered since May to 24. While the first four patients had active TB, the 20 others are symptom-free, *The Houston Chronicle* reported. / The first round of testing occurred on June 19, and discovered 10 cases among 228 students and staff. The second round was conducted on Aug. 3, and revealed an additional 10 cases among the 559 students and faculty involved, the news outlet reported. An additional 66 people who were potentially exposed but are no longer enrolled at the school still need to be tested. / ("10 new cases of TB found at Texas high school after second round of testing")

♦ "Minnesota's multi-drug resistant tuberculosis outbreak spread innocently enough, in part through hours of card games played by Hmong elders at a senior center in Ramsey County. / Now, the outbreak is the largest of its kind in the nation, infecting 17 people across the state. All but a few of the cases involve Hmong individuals in the Twin Cities' east metro. Six of the infected are now dead, and three of the deaths are attributed to the disease. / And as hundreds more are screened for exposure, public health officials don't predict the outbreak will end anytime soon. ("Tuberculosis outbreak linked to several Minnesota deaths" by Laura Yuen, MPRnews, November 6, 2017.)

## infest (verb)

infested the country

bands of guerillas ~ (US Civil War)

infest a careless mind

cliches ~ (thinking, speaking, writing)

infest both sides

bandits ~ of the border

♦ "Clichés, like cockroaches in the cupboard, quickly infest a careless mind." ("Orwell on Writing: 'Clarity is the Remedy'" by Lawrence Wright, NPR, All Things Considered, Sept. 22, 2006.)

## infested

infested by German U-boats

a North Atlantic ~ in February 1942 (film *Greyhound*)

infested with extremely dangerous individuals

NYC is ~ (The Brooklyn Mirage / kidnapping, murders)

bomb-infested

the marines are trying to control a ~ stretch of road (Iraq)

crime-infested

the ~ streets of Baltimore

drug-infested

people who live in ~ neighborhoods

gang-infested

the ~ neighborhood is riddled with lookouts

mafia-infested

a ~ industry...

mine-infested

steaming through ~ waters

pirate-infested

Indonesia's waters remained the world's most ~

pirate infested

the ~ waters off Sumatra (Malacca Strait, etc.)

drug- and guerrilla-infested

in the ~ jungle

\*\*\* **"Feed a Pigeon, Breed a Rat."**

♦ "Feed a Pigeon, Breed a Rat." (Slogan for a NYC public-education campaign to reduce food for rats.)

♦ "The rats, at times numbering in the hundreds, according to witnesses, have drawn early evening crowds of curious spectators to the island that divides the north and south roadways between 58th and 59th Streets." (A *New York Times* article about an infestation of Park Avenue rats, perhaps attracted to tulip bulbs, quoted in Robert Sullivan's wonderful book, *Rats*.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "There is no such thing as shark-infested waters, in the same way that there is no such thing as a child-infested school. You cannot infest your own home... Beware an ExxonMobil-infested State Department; beware a fossil-fuel-infested politics." ("The Fin And The Fury: Beware of sharkless waters" by Katherine Rundell, *The New Yorker*, August 5, 2024.)

## infidelity (noun)

financial infidelity

~ is on the rise

~ is when people hide their accounts or debts from their spouses

## infiltrate (verb)

infiltrate culture

her song helped ~ to move acceptance along (group)

infiltrated this nursing home

we still don't know how the virus ~ (COVID-19)

infiltrated the White House

COVID has ~ (pandemic)

## inflamm (verb)

inflamed the (national immigration) debate

his arrest ~ (a murderer)

inflamm (voters') fears

the surest way to win elections is to ~

inflamm the nation

he turned down the obvious opportunity to ~ (Trump)

inflamm people's passions

this will ~ (politics)

inflamm the situation

the photos could ~ (of dead civilians)

inflamm them

good therapists usually work to resolve conflicts, not ~

## inflammatory (adjective)

inflammatory comment

this is a baseless, ~ (diplomacy)

inflammatory quotes

the army report didn't say who was responsible for the ~

inflammatory language

let's have a conversation without ~ (anti-Semitism)

shocking and inflammatory

desecration of the Koran is a ~ act

## inflate (verb)

inflate our grades

we are pushed to ~ (teachers)

inflated the pay

these schemes were designed to ~ of the C.E.O.

inflates the (Latino dropout) rate

which ~... (education)

## inflated (numbers)

inflated prices

items trickle in at ~ (Kisangani)

sharply inflated

~ wages

vastly inflated

the figures are ~

figures are (vastly) inflated

that the ~ is an open secret (refugees)

## inflated (expectations, etc.)

inflated ego

he is known for his ~ (a banker)

inflated expectations

many high-school graduates have ~

## inflation (noun)

concept inflation

~ of terms and memes ("Karen," etc.)

grade inflation

the disease of ~ has infected the educational system

emotional inflation

your kids don't really care about your ~ (war reporter)

## inflection point

inflection point

*Hello, Dolly!* was an ~ (producer goes nuts)

this was like a very intense moment, an ~...

inflection point in history

we're living at an ~, both at home and abroad (politics)

we're facing an ~ (Biden addressed nation, October 2023)

inflection points in history

October the seventh was one of those ~ (Kaplan / Panthera)

inflection point in a story

his appearance was an ~ that will continue...

inflection point on race

his trial became an ~ in America (OJ Simpson)

inflection point and wakeup call

this strike should be an ~ (collateral damage)

at an inflection point

the country is at an ~ in its history (Biden / 2022)

became an inflection point

his trial ~ on race in America (OJ Simpson)

♦ "But, look, the next shoe to drop is Tara Reid's TV appearance, maybe on Fox, maybe this weekend. What kind of case will she present? So, Friday's Biden appearance was not an end point, but an inflection point in a story that's probably going to be around for a while." (Vague but important sounding lines on a graph. NPR's Ron Elving talking to Scott Simon, *Week in Politics, Weekend Edition*, Saturday, May 2, 2020.)

♦ "The word appears to be having its inflection point right now." (The word "bae" in 2014, in popularity. See the Wikipedia article "Bae (word).")

♦ "You've heard me say it before, we're facing an inflection point, one of those rare moments in history when the decisions we make now will determine the fate of our nation and the world for decades to come. That's not hyperbole, I mean it literally. We're in a battle for the very soul of America." (President Biden, at the 2024 DNC.)

♦ OLD: turning point... / NEW: pivot point, inflection point...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Inflection point" provides a nice statistical sheen to pundits. The Battle of Stalingrad was a turning point in World War II. Nowadays, it might be described by a contempo-speaking young historian as an inflection point.

♦ "Inflection point" is on the Lake Superior State University 2023 Banished Words List—words banned for "misuse, overuse, and uselessness."

## inflexible (character)

stubborn or inflexible

she has a lot of resolve, but sometimes can be ~

## in for (a ride, etc.)

in for (a whole lot of) hurt

we're ~ (coronavirus)

in for a (bumpy) ride

consumers are ~ this year (customer service)

in for a (rough) ride

we're ~ (new troops in Iraq)

in for a (wild) ride

it looks like we're ~, so hang on (Wall Street bear market)

in for a treat

you are ~

## inform (verb)

inform your actions

hope and love should ~, not hate

informed her artistry

these stories have ~ and sense of home (book review)

informed her life  
references to the pop culture that has ~ (book review)

informs what the Battle Group does  
intelligence ~

## **informed (trauma-informed, etc.)**

trauma-informed  
we must equip our teachers to be ~  
an expert in ~ journalism told us...  
~ therapies for anxiety, depression & PTSD  
she is an expert in ~ journalism (Elana Newman)

trauma informed  
restorative discipline and ~ education

survivor-centered and trauma-informed  
our Special Victims Division is ~ (appeal for sex victims)

## **infrastructure (noun)**

intellectual infrastructure  
education initiatives aim at building the ~  
the country's ~ is still eroding (research, funding, etc.)

## **in front of (at a future time)**

in front of Memorial Day weekend  
but this time it's right ~... (see quote below)

♦ "It's not the first time they did it, but this time it's right in front of the Memorial Day weekend." (An aggrieved war veteran vendor, shut down in New York City.)

## **infuse (verb)**

infuses us with confidence  
Steph just ~ (the great NBA player Stephen Curry)

infused her novel with her love of music  
she ~

Infuse Chilean Island  
"Myth and Magic ~" (Chiloe)

## **infused**

infused with dread and horror  
it's ~ (a book)

horn-infused  
San Antonio's ~ doo-wop scene (Royal Jesters, etc.)

## **infusion (noun)**

infusion of (new) jobs  
the recovery will suffocate without a rapid ~

infusion of money  
high-speed rail projects get an ~ (government)

infusion of (young) recruits  
there was an ~, many of them women (CIA post 9/11)

cash infusion  
he has stepped in with a ~ for the company

## **ingenue (person)**

relative ingenue

he is a ~ (politics)

## **ingest (verb)**

ingested a heavy dose  
in Copenhagen he ~ of Aristotle (Tycho Brahe)

♦ "This data is then ingested into a physics model which then makes a prediction." (Meteorology, weather prediction, and AI.)

♦ Feed (it) / eat up, Hoover up, snatch up, vacuum up / gobble up, ingested (the book) / regurgitate (everything), spit out... (What AI does. From "The alleged theft at the heart of ChatGPT," Planet Money, November 10, 2023. Other articles use words like *devour*, *scrape up*, *suck up* (language and ideas), *sweep up* / *regurgitated* (summaries / *spew* (false information), *spout* (misinformation), *vomit up* (words), etc.)

## **ingrained**

ingrained in the public consciousness  
that photo became ~ (Charles Manson / *Life Magazine*)

ingrained in me  
winning and competing is ~ (a coach)

"ingrained" and "completely normalised"  
abuse in gymnastics training became ~ (Whyte Review)

## **ingredient (noun)**

ingredients for victory  
Democrats are not sure what the right ~ are (politics)

## **inhabit (verb)**

inhabited Travis Bickle  
the way that De Niro ~... (acting)

inhabit each other  
how these cultures ~ (Vietnam / Paris)

inhabit the part  
he knew how to ~ (Marlon Brando)

inhabited the role  
he just kind of ~ (Biden, of Neil Kinnock)

talk about and inhabit  
he can ~ loss in life (President Joe Biden)

## **inhale (verb)**

inhaled this stuff  
I ~ and couldn't get enough of it (comedy)

## **inherit (verb)**

inherit a mantle  
he will ~ that Bernstein once wore with immense elan

inherited his mantle  
she ~ (politics)

inherited Ray's mission  
Linnaeus ~ (classification)

inherited his father's fiery temperament  
the son ~

## **inheritance (noun)**

railroading inheritance



our national ~

economic inheritance

the government faces a terrible ~ (Britain's new coalition)

financial inheritance

the Conservatives left the government a catastrophic ~

national (railroading) inheritance

our ~

## inhospitable (groups)

inhospitable to women

the Defense Department has long been viewed as ~

## inhospitable (climate, etc.)

inhospitable conditions

life flourishes in some of the most~ (Antarctica)

inhospitable place

the Weddell Sea is a notoriously ~

come across as inhospitable

a "no shirt, not vaccine, no service" policy may ~

feel inhospitable

gyms can ~ if your body doesn't fit the norm

## inject (fresh blood, etc.)

inject fresh blood

the king might reshuffle his cabinet to ~

injected new life into the industry

suspended coasters ~ (roller coasters)

## inject (put)

inject his personality into the offense

he wants his quarterback to ~ (coach)

injected the phrase "right to die" into the lexicon

she ~ (Quinlan)

injected race into the drama

her allegation ~ (a murder case)

## injection (noun)

injection of aid

only a massive ~ can help

## injure (verb)

injure the BBC

this report will not just ~ but scar it (Lady Di)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Marine injured in Kabul airport blast says..." (He lost his right arm and a leg to a suicide bomber. He was not "injured." He was wounded.)

## injury (moral injury)

moral injury

see *moral injury* (noun)

## injury (other)

traumatic stress injury

"~" is different from "post-traumatic stress disorder"

trauma and injury

when people don't validate you that's another ~

added insult to injury

he ~ by...

## inkblot (Rorschach)

inkblot

we call this case an ~ (the murder of two girls)

♦ "We call this case an inkblot. I see what I see, Barb sees what she sees, and you see what you see." (The podcast "Down The Hill: The Delphi Murders," Chapter 7: Madness.)

♦ "People saw different things." (Televised hearings.)

♦ A group of Kentucky teenagers, a Native American, and black Hebrew Israelites all met by accident on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Read "Viral standoff between a tribal elder and a high schooler is more complicated than it first seemed" by Michael E. Miller, *The Washington Post*, Jan 22, 2019. Or the Wikipedia article "2019 Lincoln Memorial confrontation."

## inner (inner sloth, etc.)

inner 'Barbie'

scores of New Yorkers are embracing their ~ (2023 film)

inner child

she was in touch with her ~ (writer Margaret Wise Brown)

I created these watches because they made my ~ happy

Andra Day raps about her unhealed ~

inner conservative

unleash your ~ (politics)

inner FDR

Biden channels his ~ (speech to nation, Oct. 19, 2023)

inner gangster

my coolness, my ~, my hip-hop-y-ness (young female)

inner hero

she discovers her ~ and rises to the occasion

inner sloth

embracing their ~ and being lazy (the pandemic)

inner Thoreau

I channeled my ~ and vowed to go confidently...

inner villain

Joel Embiid embraced his ~ after the victory (Team USA)

channels his inner FDR

Biden ~ (speech to nation, Oct. 19, 2023)

discovers her inner hero

she ~ and rises to the occasion

embracing their inner 'Barbie'

scores of New Yorkers are ~ (2023 film)

unleash your inner conservative  
~ (politics)

♦ "It started being used a lot more during the pandemic, I think, when people became more comfortable with embracing their inner sloth and being lazy. It went viral last spring when..." (Siobhan Leahy of the BBC, about the phrase, "Goblin mode," Oxford Dictionary's word of the year for 2022. Trendy!)

♦ "Look inside you and be strong / and you'll finally feel the truth / that a hero lies in you." Watch Mariah Carey—Hero (Official HD Video)

♦ see also in *(the cowboy in me, etc.)*

## inner circle (noun)

inner circle  
you're in the ~, or you're in exile (politics)

White House inner circle  
she has left the ~ (resigned)

insular inner circle  
the president's famously ~ of top advisors... (Biden)

part of his (inner) circle  
she was not ~ (politics)

make their own inroads into Trump's inner circle  
the Emiratis helped the Russians ~

## inning (in the first inning)

in the first inning of the game  
we are still ~

## inning (ninth inning)

bottom of the ninth inning  
we are reaching the ~ (an election)

## inning (extra innings)

went into extra innings  
the election ~ (decided by courts)

## innocence (noun)

lost its innocence  
overnight the community ~ (serial killer on loose)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "In the Shark's Domain," Omnibus, BBC Sounds, 16 Jan 2003 juxtaposes a serial killer's spree with the killing of a swimmer by a great white shark, and a loss of innocence in Perth, Australia. It is a fascinating juxtaposition.

## inoculate (verb)

inoculate themselves from the national mood  
politicians are trying to ~ (elections)

inoculate us from these vanities  
Vietnam did not ~ (US 'exceptionalism')

inoculate it against (possible legal) consequences  
they came up with a framework to ~ (a company)

inoculated the US against foreign wars  
the Vietnam War temporarily ~

## inoculated

inoculated against Western ideas

the population must be ~

inoculated against (empty) promises  
the public was long ago ~ (from the government)

inoculated, if not immune  
I was more or less ~, to criticism

## inoculation (noun)

inoculation  
but the ~ lasted less than a decade (Vietnam to Grenada)

stress inoculation  
making a soldier stronger and better through ~

effects of the inoculation  
the ~ are wearing off (memory of Holocaust / anti-Semitism)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Before the next campaign, we had to take the usual inoculations plus some additional ones. Our arms were sore, and many men became feverish. The troops hated getting injections, and the large number (someone said it was seven) before Okinawa made us crotchety. The plague shot burned like fire and was the worst." (E.B. Sledge on Pavuvu, after Peleliu, before Okinawa. From *With the Old Breed*.)

♦ "In those days, you could say, 'Shut up and take it, we're fighting the Japanese.' The Japanese didn't have it, and they were devastated by malaria. You could make a case that atabrine won the war." (Col. Alan J. Magill, speaking about World War II. The atabrine turned the skin yellow.)

## inquisition (noun)

Spanish Inquisition  
I didn't expect the ~ (questioning)

extraordinary American inquisition  
the AEC set in motion an ~ (of J. Robert Oppenheimer)

Great Sorority Inquisition  
I haven't seen you since the ~ (*Sorority Wars* / Lucy Hale)

♦ "First...my suspension from Twitter itself and now the inquisition." (The Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson, about being investigated by the College of Psychologists of Ontario.)

♦ "Alex Levy contacted me just before the meeting began to tell me to use whatever question I got first to apologise, and at some point to acknowledge my privilege. / A Zoom call with a couple of thousand people is a disorienting experience, particularly when many of them are not particularly mindful of your 'full humanity'. I do not recommend it. As my first turn to speak came up, I was still struggling with what I should apologise for. I was not going to apologise for denying my colleagues' humanity or endangering their lives. I had not done those things. I was not going to apologise for publishing the op-ed. Finally, I came up with something that felt true. I told the meeting that I was sorry for the pain that my leadership of Opinion had caused. What a pathetic thing to say. I did not think to add, because I'd lost track of this truth myself by then, that opinion journalism that never causes pain is not journalism. It can't hope to move society forward." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ "One day Savostyanov came into Viktor's office and pleaded with him. / 'Viktor Pavlovich, I entreat you, we all of us entreat you: write a letter, say you repent! I can assure you that will help. Just think: you're throwing away everything—and at a time when an important—no, a truly great—work lies before you, a time when all that is genuine in our science looks to you with hope. Write a letter, admit your errors.' / 'What errors? What do you want me to repent of?' / 'Who cares? It's what everyone does—writers, scientists, political leaders, even your beloved Shostakovich. He admits his errors, writes letters

of repentance—and then returns to work. It's like water off a duck's back.' / 'But what do you want me to repent of? And who to?' / 'The director, the Central Committee... It doesn't matter—as long as you repent! Something like this: 'I have committed errors and I admit my guilt. I am now conscious of this and I promise to mend my ways.' That sort of thing—you know what's expected. That's bound to help; it always helps.' / Savostyanov's bright, laughing eyes were for once quite serious. They even seemed to be a different colour. / 'Thank you, thank you, my friend,' said Viktor. 'I'm grateful to you for your concern.'" (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

## inroads (make inroads)

make their own inroads into Trump's inner circle  
the Emiratis helped the Russians ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Road* comes from a word for a *raid*.

## insanity (noun)

media insanity  
don't expect the ~ to stop until Jan. 2029 (Trump wins)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## insatiable (adjective)

insatiable  
the appetite for pornography seems to be ~  
the appetite of the European rich for porcelain was ~

insatiable appetite  
India's seemingly ~ for gold (jewelry, dowries, temples)  
the American public has an ~ for crime stories

insatiable greed  
the union is accusing the company of ~ (on strike)

## inscribed

inscribed in our DNA  
some places are ~ (Lake Ohrid, the Balkans)

## insecure (insecure work, etc.)

insecure work  
there are now 3.9 million people in ~

food insecure  
half of Peru's population is ~ (NPR headline)

financially insecure  
many veterans are isolated and ~

♦ "Many veterans are isolated and financially insecure, and the safety nets meant to help them are too small."

♦ "There are now 3.9 million people in insecure work." (BBC / jobs. Insecure work is work with no guarantee of hours or earnings.)

\*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ "We will make do. Everyone will have a little bit." (Abdul Aziz, 63, of Dhaka, Bangladesh, disappointed that his money could not buy more beans and cauliflower for his family.)

## insecurity (food insecurity, etc.)

cyber insecurity  
former NSA official calls U.S. ~ a 'chronic disease'

energy insecurity  
~ among low-income households

food insecurity  
the war in Ukraine is exacerbating ~ in Afghanistan  
1.58 million are experiencing ~ (in Angola)  
the high levels of ~ on campus (in the U.S.)

housing insecurity  
those at risk of ~  
the millions of Americans facing ~  
~ may be keeping college students from graduating

shelter insecurity  
refugee children face food and ~, exploitation...

economic insecurity  
we look at indicators that shed light on ~ in the U.S.

financial insecurity  
~ plagues many who live with disability  
many rural Americans struggle with ~

linguistic insecurity  
~ (see Wikipedia article)

\*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ "We will make do. Everyone will have a little bit." (Abdul Aziz, 63, of Dhaka, Bangladesh, disappointed that his money could not buy more beans and cauliflower for his family.)

## inside (emotions)

inside  
how are you feeling ~

## insider (insider attack, etc.)

insider attacks  
so-called ~ have risen dramatically (Afghanistan)

## insider (person)

entrenched insiders  
he is a Washington outsider facing down ~

## instrument

instrument of terror  
a burning cross is a particularly powerful ~ (KKK)

instrument of foreign policy  
he believed war was an ~

powerful instrument  
a burning cross is a particularly ~ of terror (KKK)

## insular (adjective)

insular (American media) bubble  
the ~

insular (warrior) caste  
Marine pilots are an ~

insular inner circle

the president's famously ~ of top advisors... (Biden)

insular sport

it's a very ~ (horseracing and corruption)

insular world

he conquered a famously ~ (Kanye West / fashion)

insular (art) world

his resignation stunned the ~ (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

insular, intermarrying

they are an ~ Brahmin elite (David Brooks' Bobos)

siloeed and insular

political journalists are even more ~ today (than in 2016)

♦ "Throughout the winter in Tokyo I went to the Kabuki theater a great deal and gradually I came to know the actors themselves and their families. It is an extraordinary society, rigid, insular, with a great tradition and an equal consciousness of it." (*East of Home* by Santha Rama Rau.)

♦ "Sixty-eight percent of tweets between journalists who work at *The Washington Post*, NPR, [and *The New York Times*... are to each other." ("How Journalists Congregating Into 'Microbubbles' Affects Quality Of News Reporting," NPR, All Things Considered, August 12, 2020.)

♦ "We're able to provide a fresh, outsider perspective on US politics—one so often missing from the insular American media bubble." ("If you can, please consider supporting *The Guardian* today.")

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Insula* is "island" in Latin. It's a nice way to think of the word.

♦ Islands may be remote and cut off, but they may also be multicultural and open to the world.

## insulate (verb)

insulate our kids from (the kind of) news

we try to ~ that frightens them

insulate their lives from modern life

the Amish try to ~

## insulated

insulated from violence

they lived in a world where they were ~ (Amish)

## insulation (noun)

community, acceptance and insulation

they feel a sense of ~ (lesbians)

## insurance

insurance against (unpleasant) surprises

there is no ~

## insurgency (noun)

insurgency

HBO was an ~ (versus broadcast networks)

## insurrection (noun)

insurrection among his staff

the problems led to an ~

## intelligent (technology)

intelligent design

the VW ID. Buzz stands for *intelligent design* and *electric*

intelligent machine

a super ~ could break capitalism (AI)

intelligent (writing) suggestions

get ~ as you type (Microsoft Word)

intelligent technology

badly designed ~ makes us feel out of control

♦ "Smart doorbells becoming more intelligent."

♦ "The shoer assumes a squatting position and observes the feet as the horse is led past him, away from him, and toward him. The manner in which a foot leaves the ground, its path in the air, and the manner in which it is planted should be closely watched in order to detect any of the defects of gait which can be remedied by intelligent shoeing." (*Manual For Army Horseshoers*, 1917. In the past, people were intelligent, and technology was often as rudimentary as the forge used to make, shape, and modify an army horseshoe; today, technology is intelligent and people are stupid.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "People want 'dumbphones'. Will companies make them?" by Brennan Doherty, BBC, 20 May 2024. (Answer: No.)

♦ News reader: "South Yorkshire's police and crime commissioner has written to the government to say smart motorways should be abandoned. Dr. Alan Billings said they were unsafe. Earlier this week, a coroner at the inquest of two men who died on a smart motorway near Sheffield called for such roads to be reviewed..." (From BBC's Six O'clock News, 24 / 01 / 2021, "SNP sets itself on collision course with Westminster.")

♦ "There's a little Philip K. Dick, a little Orwell, a little Kafka in her portrait of powerful bureaucracies ceding control of the most intimate decisions of our lives to hyperempowered computer models riddled with all of our unresolved, atavistic human biases." (A blurb from the *Paris Review* for *Weapons of Math Destruction* by Cathy O'Neil.)

♦ "The villagers shrugged and said, 'Nobody asked us, we knew every third year there would be a flood.'" (A UN energy expert, after a small Japanese hydroelectric project in Bhutan was washed away in a flood.)

♦ "Many of my friends have bought motorcycles instead of using horses. They enjoy decorating the cycle with tassels and carpets like we do our horses. Although my sons want bikes, we will stick to our horses. Besides, we live too far away from the town for the bike and the terrain is much too rocky to get to our usual encampments." (An ethnic Tibetan nomad in western China.)

♦ "Before, people moved everywhere on donkeys. You could stop them and talk to them. Now, everyone is zooming around in cars." (Saed al-Dhori, a man in his eighties, in Khasab, Oman. From "With Murmurs of Change, Sultan Tightens Grip," by Michael Slackman, May 15, 2009.)

#### \*\*\* old technology rescues new technology, etc.

♦ In late December 2009 modern electric rail service was disrupted in England by cold and snow which even shut down the Channel Tunnel. A steam locomotive offering "Christmas meal" trips was unaffected, however. On its final trip of the season, it picked up 100 stranded passengers at Victoria Station and carried them to cities in the south for free. (Old technology rescues new.)

♦ "Another resident of the Isle of Skye, Ross McKerlich, told the BBC that he was surprised to see the submarine outside his home when he awoke this morning." (*The HMS Astute*, stuck in the mud just yards off the coast of Scotland. The new submarine has been described as Britain's 'stealthiest' because its 39,000 acoustic panels rendered it invisible to enemy warships and submarines. The Navy used old-fashioned ropes and tugboats to tow it back out to deeper water. Old technology rescues new.)

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ The US is speeding up the delivery of dozens of bomb-detection dogs to Iraq after it was learned that the ADE 651 hand-held wand that was supposed to detect car bombs and weapons at vehicle checkpoints didn't work. The wands cost just \$250 to make but drew up to \$60,000 each from the Baghdad government, which spent a total of \$85 million for them. Their British manufacturer has been arrested for fraud.

♦ "Sorry, we didn't know you were invisible." (The mocking Serbian apology offered in 1999 after its military shot down an American F-117A stealth fighter during NATO's bombing campaign.)

♦ "The preparations [by the French for the great offensive in Champagne at the end of September 1915] include the distribution of a completely new piece of equipment—the steel helmet... As with quite a few other 'new' pieces of equipment (steel shields for the trenches, spiked clubs for assault troops, sharpened infantry spades and all the different kinds of hand grenade) they remind one of earlier centuries and reveal how, paradoxically, the hypermodern can be a return to the past..." (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

♦ "Foch thought the airplane silly. Kitchener dismissed the tank as a 'toy' and von Hindenburg, warned of Allied tanks, scoffed, 'The German infantry can get along quite well without those peculiar motor cars.' The invaluable Stokes mortar was rejected twice at the British War Office and finally introduced by Lloyd George, who begged the money for it from an Indian maharajah." (*The Arms of Krupp* by William Manchester.)

♦ "Every British officer understood animals, as a point of honor." (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Book VIII, Chapter XCV by T.E. Lawrence.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Technology can be dumb, smart, or brilliant and can even teach itself (AI).

♦ "What's "smart" or "intelligent" or "brilliant" today will be "dumb" or "legacy" tomorrow. So much for the enthusiasm of all those "early adopters" and their disparagement of tradition and legacy and "the old ways of doing things."

♦ see also *smart (technology, etc.)*

## intention (noun)

intention, model, capital, and the right people  
with the right amount of ~, it can be done (digital news)

with intention

Gabby Bernstein shares tips on how to start 2024 ~

live with intention

~ (an ad for Golden Mind Vanilla Chai)

takes intention

willing a plot of land into a garden ~

puts a lot of intention into her work

she ~ ("Hey Hey" Pride collection / NPR Shop)

put some intention into creating some space

so I'm going to ~ for trips this spring (non-binary)

♦ "AI things should be based in intention." (Sheryl Crow, 2024, NPR.)

♦ "I started dressing up for the (music) studio about a year and a half ago, really putting a lot of intention into what I wear. If you can come to the studio feeling really good, you can pull off a recording that has presence and energy." (Nelly Furtado.)

♦ "With the right amount of intention, model, capital, and the right people, it can be done." (The happy editor of *Lookout Santa Cruz*, a small 4-year-old online newspaper which won a Pulitzer prize for breaking news.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ Live with intention Boost Cognitive Function with Golden Mind Vanilla Chai. (An advertisement for Cymbiotika. Shop Now.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "Thought"? "Purpose"?

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematize*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *mindful (adjective)*, *purposeful (adjective)*

## intentional (adjective)

intentional

we leave nothing to chance, art is ~ (fashion)

responsibility to create content that is ~ (Storm Reid)

is the timing just a coincidence, is there anything ~ about it

intentional to scare people of color, Black people

I think this is ~ into a reality... (racist email)

intentional to not try

he was ~ to make it about him (he came out as gay)

intentional to other objectives

to what extent are sanctions ~ (foreign policy)

intentional with your approach

be ~ (helping kids post-lockdown)

intentional with its use

devote more focus on being ~ (technology, screens, etc.)

intentional about home

I think there is something really delightful about being

~...

intentional about that

I think that was very important to be ~

intentional about building

we have been ~ community and coalitions (Kamala Harris)

intentional about challenging

we have to be ~ fatphobia in our classrooms

intentional about making sure

he's been pretty ~ that...

intentional act

this is an ~, it's not accidental (CRSV)

intentional actions

~ taken to get people out of prison (states)

intentional cadence

her voice had the slow, ~ of a yoga instructor's (workshop)

intentional conversations

~ between partisans could be a catalyst for national healing

intentional crime

an attack like this on critical infrastructure is a serious ~

intentional dating  
she advises singletons to embrace “~” (vs. “avalanching”)

intentional-design  
with ~ thinking, we can... (engineering cars)

intentional (career) focus  
~ on... (social justice, etc. / LinkedIn)

intentional impression  
how to make an ~, invent yourself into a character...  
she perfected a knowledge of how to be “on,” to make an ~

intentional moments  
the Newport Folk Festival showcases ~ of change (music)

intentional stupidity  
my greatest strength is ~ (a very successful salesman)

intentional togetherness  
we’ve introduced a programme for ~ (online meetings)

intentional partnerships and decisions  
we always lead with ~ (NPR sells PPW Pride merch)

intentional or radical  
that can feel like maybe a bit more ~ than it does to me

way more intentional  
we must be ~ about the technology we develop (problems)

very intentional  
I think it’s ~, the way they’ve made this announcement

active and intentional  
Avery makes like a very ~ decision to...

careful and intentional  
this is part of a ~ effort to... (liberal against the right wing)

conscious and intentional  
personal branding is the ~ effort to create... (advertising)

focused, intentional  
allocate your attention in more ~ ways (attention economy)

slow, intentional, purposeful  
visions of ~ living (the soft life aesthetic)

small and intentional  
Pvolve focuses on ~ movement (fitness)

systemic and intentional  
Hamas sexual violence ‘~’ (October 7, 2023)

need to be intentional  
we ~ in building resilience into those decisions

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “He’s been pretty intentional about making sure that everything we do has a racial equity component to it.” (Cedric Richmond, a senior advisor to the president and Director of the Office of Public

Engagement at the White House, responding to Black criticism of President Biden.)

♦ “We have been intentional about building community and building coalitions.” (Kamala Harris, in her concession speech at Howard University—an HBCU—following her loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ Ari Shapiro: Is there ever a part of you that thinks, ‘Should I really be letting people in on this particular aspect of the queer experience?’ / Troye Sivan: You know, I actually don’t think about it that much... Maybe to other people, that can feel like maybe a bit more intentional or radical than it does to me. (“Royce Sivan’s new album has something to give us,” Ari Shapiro, NPR, All Things Considered, updated October 17, 2023.)

♦ “The firing was very abrupt and it was very intentional to my audience, my viewers, that you are not the type of viewers that the company cares about.” (An aggrieved Tiffany Cross, about MSNBC not renewing her contract.)

♦ “I think that this is intentional to scare people of color, Black people into a reality that we don’t want to go back to.” (A random racist email that told the woman she would be picked up and driven to a plantation to pick cotton.)

♦ “Instead, the Jan. 6 hearings were meticulously choreographed... Unlike typical congressional hearings, these would have a script. ‘Every word was intentional,’ one senior staff member recalled. ‘Nothing was spontaneous.’” (“Inside the Jan. 6 Committee” by Robert Draper and Luke Broadwater, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 1, 2023.)

♦ “Every single word, every single pause, has to be intentional, but it has to sound as if and look as if you just thought of it in that second.” (The comedian Viv Groskop about stand-up comics and their preparation before performance.)

♦ “They had been really intentional about their lifestyle.” (Until the wedding, when they hired chariots. An article about Blacks and their finances.)

♦ “I was very aware and wanting to really be intentional about making sure...” (Huh?)

♦ “I think that was very important to be intentional about that.” (That the *Baltimore Beat* is an incubator for Black journalists to get experience and then go on to better jobs elsewhere, according to its editor-in-chief, Lisa Snowden. As she says, Baltimore is known for its violence and *The Wire*.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “intentional” bandwagon...

♦ “Deep belief in racial equity work and challenging the institutionalized construct of race and power. Intentional career focus on increasing my depth of knowledge of the intersection of social welfare, social justice and ‘access’ as a civil right...” (A licensed clinical social worker describing herself on LinkedIn.)

♦ “I appreciate the advice. But every conversation I have on this platform is very intentional. Not just for the account I’m conversing with, but for all the others who follow me.” (Eric Deggs at NPR on Twitter in response to a tweet, “I would suggest ignoring the sealion, Mr. Deggs. I know I am.” Sealioning is a type of trolling.)

♦ “I didn’t see that ending with one intentional single shot.” (Steve Bunce, about Tyson “The Gypsy King” Fury’s uppercut that dropped Dillian White in front of 94,000 fight fans at Wembley Stadium. Surprising usage from an older *boxing* commentator.)

♦ “Data is forcing people to be a little more intentional in how they analyse things. So people now ask, ‘If I shoot from outside the box what are the consequences?’” (Analytics in soccer. An ongoing debate.)

♦ OLD: dress for the cold... / NEW: fans need to be more intentional about what kind of clothing they choose... (Kansas City Chiefs v. Miami Dolphins, January 13, 2024)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Wealth Management Achievement Takes Being intentional Learn More Advertisement”

♦ BE INTENTIONAL MUG: Motivational Gift Coffee Mug. \$19.90+ (Etsy.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...



♦ Pay attention!; mind your head (low ceiling); get your head out of your ass!; think!...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ It's hard to know what this word means. On purpose? Calculated? Willful? Instrumental? Thoughtful? Purposeful? Does it simply provide a way to be verbose? Is it simply a marker for a certain type of person and psychology? Is this word mainly used by women? Is it somehow related to yoga?

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematic*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *mindful* (adjective), *purposeful* (adjective)

## intentionality (noun)

with intentionality  
handling finances ~

♦ "There's a significant amount of intentionality based on the information that's been reported. They were doing this with a purpose to cause fear in our communities." (Drew Evans, superintendent at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematic*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Intentionality."

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *mindful* (adjective), *purposeful* (adjective)

## intentionally

intentionally connect  
you can use your screens as a way to ~ with each other

intentionally meet  
boys schools ~ the developmental needs of boys

intentionally designed  
books ~ with young people in mind (LGBTQ+)

intentionally intersectional  
I embrace an ~ embodiment of my identities (Black)

intentionally transgressive  
much of the youth culture was ~ (1990s)

more intentionally  
use technology ~ (screens, smartphones, etc.)

very intentionally  
he ~ addressed some of those concerns

systematically and intentionally

Hamas gunmen ~ committed sexual crime (Oct. 7, 2023)

embed (DEI more) intentionally  
~ in TESOL activities (diversity, equity, and inclusion)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "We used it to create change, intentionally." (Black Twitter.)

♦ "These books are overwhelmingly books that feature LGBTQ+ identities, or books that include characters of color, as well as books that do talk about sex and sexuality, umm, but you know they do so in a way that is appropriate, that is intentionally designed, curated, you know, brought into schools with young people in mind." (Kasey Meehan, *Freedom to Read* / PEN America. From "A secret shelf of banned books thrives in a Texas school, under the nose of censors," Neda Ulaby, NPR, Morning Edition, February 21, 2024. See the Wikipedia article "Neda Ulaby.")

♦ "That I framed it all in terms of epistemology and decision theory—I did that purposefully... It was instrumental." (A famous female academic philosopher.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "intentionally" bandwagon...

♦ "Language should be chosen intentionally and not just in a reflexive manner based on how words were used in the past." (Emily Barske, the Office of the Public Editor, NPR.)

♦ "Embed DEI more intentionally in TESOL activities." (TESOL International Association. Become a TESOL member.)

♦ "Oh, no thank you. I picked this seat intentionally when I checked in." (A reddit, suggesting what to say when an entitled young woman takes your window seat and then tells you to sit in the middle.)

♦ Terry Gross: Did you consciously say, when you sat down to write the song, it needs 20 different time signature changes? / Burt Bacharach: Oh, no. I've never done anything, like, intentionally... So it's not deliberate. I mean, that's the main thing. It can drive musicians crazy, you know, until they stop counting and just hear and feel the music. ("Fresh Air pays tribute to legendary composer Burt Bacharach," NPR, Fresh Air, February 13, 2023. "Consciously." "Intentionally." "Deliberate.")

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "My momma got off welfare purposefully..." (Didn't want the supervision, visits, the questions, etc.)

♦ "She dressed the part, using shorts skirts and plunging necklines instrumentally." (The comedian Amy Schumer.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Once we give up on free will, after all, we have to be willing to say that nobody has ever done anything intentionally (or voluntarily or deliberately or on purpose)." ("Make Me: Is free will an illusion? You decide" by Nikhil Krishnan, *The New Yorker*, November 13, 2023.)

♦ This usage is a favorite of activists seeking to push their agendas / goals. It often has to do with tactics and stratagems. Or, it is simply a claim: "Boys schools intentionally meet the developmental needs of boys."

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *mindful* (adjective), *purposeful* (adjective)

## interference (run interference)

ran interference for him  
they ~ (males support male, who is cheating on wife)

♦ "I wondered how often they ran interference for him like this." (Males support a male who is cheating on his wife and children.)

## intermission (noun)

intermission in the continuing saga  
his appearance this week could be just an ~ (trial)

## interrogate (verb)

interrogate

this idea of migration as a crisis is what I'm trying to ~

interrogate that

okay, let's ~, NPR's Brian Naylor is with us...

interrogate who is privileged and who is marginalized

~ by the notion of "standard" English

interrogate what we know

we have to ~, how we know... (NPR *mea culpa*)

interrogate the data

his tabulating machine made it easier to ~ (punched cards)

interrogate (Black) history

Johnson is able to ~ (the author of novel *Loving Day*)

interrogates the intersections

her work ~ of... (a Black academic)

interrogates masculinity

there are ways to make a show that ~ (crime entertainment)

interrogates the notion

next, the author ~ of academic language (Black English)

interrogate the statistics

collating data enables us to ~ on crime (immigration)

interrogates tragedy and trauma

Paula Hawkins in new thriller (a book)

♦ "It's both a pleasure and an education to look over Barnes's shoulder as he interrogates, wonders at, and relishes works of art." (A blurb in an advertisement for a book.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ BEING abused (physically, psychologically or casually); assaulted; battered; batoned; beaten; beat(en) up; conditioned; deprived of water / food / sleep; forced to run around and dance / forced to kneel over a toilet in the floor / forced to submit for trophy photographs and videos / forced into stress positions; head butted; hit; hooded; humiliated; ill-treated; karate chopped; kicked; manhandled; mistreated; played like musical instruments ("the choir"); pulled up from the floor by the eye sockets; punched; roughed up; shouted at; slapped; struck (with a metal bar / rifle butt); subjected to suffocating holds / subjected to loud noise / subjected to white noise / subjected to the "harsh approach (interrogation)"; threatened; treated roughly... HAVING the eyes gouged / fingers inserted into the mouth / fingers pushed into the eye socket / liquid poured over a detainee in a staged immolation by gasoline... (Abuse of detained citizens of Basra by the Queen's Lancashire Regiment in 2003, from the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry, 2011.)

## interrogated

interrogated

a word, when ~, will tell us about the people who used it

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Why not just waterboard that word?

## interrogating (questioning)

interrogating race and racism

Critical Race Theory is the practice of ~ in society

## interrogation (questioning)

interrogation

political ads require discussion, conversation, ~

critical interrogation

a ~ of the role of gender and sexual identities in...

deserves some interrogation

the rise of the weird achiever ~ (Ann Powers)

♦ "Next, research in language education advocate [sic] for a critical interrogation of the role of gender and sexual identities in world language education, where trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming (TGNC), bisexual, and queer identities tend to be invisible and erased. (Cashman & Trujillo, 2018; Coda, 2017; Knisely, 2020, 2021; Knisely & Paiz, 2021; Paiz, 2020). ("Teacher Perceptions of Inclusion in Online Instructional Practices" by Sheri K. Dion, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Office of Education, NECTFL Review Number 90, March 2023.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ More and more nowadays, the language of academic interrogation in the humanities—the various "studies" such as disability studies, Black studies, gender studies, queer studies, colonial studies, etc.—seems to inch closer to the T-word. (Torture.)

♦ "There's no one pure enough to survive a full investigation by the movement." (A comment about 1937 Stalinist Russia? No, Nellie Bowles about *The New York Times*.)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE: The tomb of a pharaoh was discovered in Egypt, but the greatest Egyptian Egyptologist was unable to decipher the hieroglyphics and identify the pharaoh. And so an international appeal was made as the world press camped out by the tomb. The premier German Egyptologist went into the tomb and reappeared a day later. "Who is he, who's the pharaoh!" members of the world press clamored. The German admitted defeat. He had been unable to decipher the hieroglyphics and identify the pharaoh. Next, the preeminent French Egyptologist from the Louvre went into the tomb. Two days later he reappeared, shaking his head in disappointment. Then the foremost British Egyptologist from the British Museum went into the tomb, and spent three days there before reappearing. He, too, had failed. Finally, it was the great Soviet Egyptologist's turn. He and his KGB minder disappeared into the tomb. A week later they reappeared, and the Soviet Egyptologist triumphantly announced, "Ramses Amenhotep the 48th!" The world press roared its approval, and the dean of international journalists shouted, "How were you able to identify the pharaoh when the German, Frenchman, and Englishman couldn't?" The Soviet Egyptologist nodded in deference to his KGB minder and stepped back. The KGB man stepped forward, loudly smacked the fist of his one hand into the palm of his other hand, and announced, "The bastard confessed!"

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "'You son of a bitch, you swine,' he cried out in a piercing howl, 'where were you when I led people into battle in the Ukraine and the Bryansk forests? Where were you during the winter I was fighting outside Voronezh? Were you ever in Stalingrad, you bastard...'" / After that he was beaten up. He wasn't just beaten up any old how; he wasn't just punched in the face like in the Special Section at the front; he was beaten up carefully, intelligently, by two young men in new uniforms who had an understanding of anatomy and physiology... / They carried on with their work, quite without anger and leaving nothing to chance... / They hadn't once hit Krymov in the teeth, but blood was pouring out of his mouth... / Suddenly Krymov remembered how the man in bloodstained underwear who hadn't been shot properly had come back from the steppe at night, back to the Front Special Section. / 'That's my fate too,' he thought. 'I've got nowhere to go. It's too late.'" (The Lubyanka Prison. From *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

## intersect (verb)

intersects with (one's daily) existence

how one's faith ~

## intersection (noun)

intersection of art, beauty, and justice  
A Thousand Pansies project sits at the ~ (Mia Birdsong)

intersection of crime, politics and law and order  
the show was a look at the ~ (*The Wire*)

intersection of culture, politics, economics and identity  
she is intensely interested in the arts at the ~ (NPR)

intersection of faith and politics, law, science & culture

I switched to the religion beat and reported on the ~

intersections of gender, race, immigration, pop culture  
she writes most often about the ~ (Hannah Giorgis)

intersection of law, policy, and advocacy  
she is pursuing a career at the ~ (Amie Rodriguez)

intersection of religion and politics  
she writes about the ~ (a journalist)

intersection of (national) security and technology  
she focuses on the ~ (NPR cybersecurity correspondent)

intersection of sports and social justice  
he explores the ~ (a podcaster)

intersection between creativity and commerce  
he explores the ~

intersection between entertainment, culture and politics  
we do the hard work of ~ (yet another podcast)

intersection between grief and love  
the reverend shared messages about the ~ (funeral)

intersection of positivity, grief, and Disneyland  
she reported stories about the ~ (NPR's Meghan Keane)

heart and the intersection  
he's really at the ~ of the jazz, R&B, and hip-hop scenes

explore the intersection  
she founded DVP to ~ of race, ethnicity, gender identity...

interrogates the intersections  
her work ~ of... (a Black academic)

♦ "She founded DVP to explore the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender identity, and disability." (Alice Wong, a 2024 MacArthur Fellow.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "intersection" bandwagon...

♦ "Deep belief in racial equity work and challenging the institutionalized construct of race and power. Intentional career focus on increasing my depth of knowledge of the intersection of social welfare, social justice and 'access' as a civil right..." (A licensed clinical social worker describing herself on LinkedIn.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word is one of the top ten in contempo-speak, along with *conversation*, *deep dive*, etc. It is even used in expressions of grief nowadays.

## intersectional (groups)

intersectional approach  
SCA privileges scholarly work that takes an ~ (university)

intersectional band  
they never seen [sic] an ~ (white drummer, female trumpet)

intersectional diversity  
obviously there needs to be more ~ on screens, no kidding

"intersectional" lens  
we have approached the Israel-Hamas war through the ~

intersectional oppression  
those who face ~

gets even more intersectional  
as you move into the genres it ~ (women / electronic music)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I, as a Black trans woman, I'm facing oppression due to being a woman, I face oppression due to being black, I face oppression due to being trans, I face oppression due to being queer..." (The comedian Mx Dahlia Belle, a Black trans woman.)

♦ "I'm Korean, queer, neurodivergent..." (Jezz Chung (They / Them), Storyteller, Speaker, Equity Advisor. An advertisement for LinkedIn that invites everyone to "join the conversation.")

♦ "Hello, I am a queer, mad and neurodivergent higher education researcher and I am looking to explore the lived experiences of queer MMIND (mad, mentally ill, neurodivergent and disabled) college students and their experiences on college campuses..."

♦ I use she and they pronouns... I am a white, queer and non-binary, Disabled and neurodivergent educator, facilitator, parent, non-clinical healer, and strategist..." (Hire Me.)

♦ "As the medalists posed for photos, Saunders raised her arms and crossed them into an X shape. She said it represented 'the intersection of where all people who are oppressed meet.' / The 25-year-old, who is black, gay, and has spoken frankly about her struggles with depression, said she wanted 'to be me, to not apologise'. / After competing, she said she aimed to give light to 'people all around the world who are fighting and don't have the platform to speak up for themselves'." ("Raven Saunders: What the Olympian's X protest means to her," BBC, 1 August, 2021.)

♦ "U.S. shot putter Raven Saunders raised her hands above her head in an "X" after receiving her silver medal to support intersectional oppression." (Good Morning America, recapping "Olympic Games Day 10. Surely Raven's gesture was to *protest* intersectional oppression!")

♦ "I'm the first Black press secretary. The first person of color press secretary. The first openly queer press secretary. The first Haitian American immigrant press secretary. The first press secretary to be all of the above. Being a first meant that my responsibilities were beyond those in the job description, the load heavier. I bear a certain responsibility to the communities I represent." (Karine Jean-Pierre.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "The Gayly Prophet is an intersectional, queer Harry Potter analysis podcast hosted by Jessie Blount, a queer Black woman, and Lark Malakai Grey, a white disabled trans boy... It is also unflinchingly critical of JK Rowling and everything that she stands for."

### \*\*\* jumping on the "intersectional" bandwagon...

♦ The WMC FBomb is "An intersectional teen feminist media platform created by and for socially conscious youth." The "WMC" stands for "Women's Media Center."

♦ "[The poem that he wrote] was basically talking about intersectionality 20 years before it became a term that lots of people

recognized and can discuss." ("Black Artists have always led AIDS Activism. This tribute wants to give them credit" by Allyson McCabe, NPR, Morning Edition, May 27, 2022.)

♦ "Oppression recognizes oppression and all oppression is interconnected." (Fatties for a Free Palestine.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "More recently, we have approached the Israel-Hamas war and its spillover onto streets and campuses through the 'intersectional' lens that has jumped from the faculty lounge to newsrooms. Oppressor versus oppressed. That's meant highlighting the suffering of Palestinians at almost every turn while downplaying the atrocities of October 7, overlooking how Hamas intentionally puts Palestinian civilians in peril, and giving little weight to the explosion of antisemitic hate around the world." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "I've had a lot of gay people tell me, 'Okay, fine, you know, be gay, but, just, the Jewish thing, tone down the Jewish thing, it's too much too many things, Ari, too many things going on. (Laughing) And, you know, but we're multifaceted individuals, we all have a lot of different aspects of us, and we're complex, and I think that it's cool to try and figure out how to express that, you know.'" (The singer Ari Gold in 2007, before the word "intersectional" became a cliché. At "From Bar Mitzvah to MTC: Ari Gold's Pop Journey, NPR, Tell Me More, June 18, 2007. Gold was interviewed by Michel Martin.)

## intersectionality (groups)

intersectionality

she is a speaker and organizer who prioritizes ~  
the poem that he wrote was basically talking about ~  
how ~ affects our lives (Haili Blassingame)

Intersectionality and Social Policy

the Center for ~ Studies (Columbia University Law School)

solidarity and intersectionality

what ~ can mean for all struggles

centered the (interwoven) intersectionalities

she ~ inherent in our fight for equality (Urvashi Vaid)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ White privilege; systemic racism; unconscious bias; intersectionality; racial humility; critical race theory... ("Agencies, Contractors Suspend Diversity Training To Avoid Violating Trump Order" by Melissa Block, NPR, Morning Edition, October 30, 2020.)

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematicize*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.

♦ "In conversation, Jackson repeatedly returns to the ways the evolving discourse around race, identity, and social justice fails to take into account the perspectives of flesh-and-blood Black people. Jackson's best friend, Kisha, is a Black woman who runs a day-care center in South Carolina. The two of them talk constantly about how initially compelling concepts like intersectionality have turned into rhetorical class markers. 'So many of these [concepts] don't have any practical applications to anybody's actual lives,' he told me. 'I bet you a garbageman has never had to do a diversity training,' he said. 'This only operates at a certain class level...' The issue, as he sees it, boils down to the fact that *more school* is always required to make use of these terms, or even to understand them, and as a result they're deeply exclusionary. 'You have to read more...It's endless working and reading and studying,' he said. 'I feel like there's a scam inside of it that's meant to keep some people on top and some people on bottom.' He went on, 'It's all about these social-class associations, and you either have entrance into this country club or you don't, based on whether you subscribe to a kind of thought or belief

system.'" ("The Radical Self-Awareness of Michael R. Jackson" by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)

\*\*\* **analysis...**

♦ "When you trace it back, the word 'intersectionality' dates back to 1989, when a civil-rights professor named Kimberle Crenshaw used the word in an academic paper." ("Weekly Wrap: Government Takes On Big Tech, What 'Intersectionality' Means, RIP iTunes," NPR, It's Been A Minute, June 7, 2019.)

## intertwined

intertwined

how politics and health are ~

intertwined with our politics

race and identity are so ~

intertwined crises

the ~ of biodiversity loss and climate change

intertwined issues

the many ~ that confront us (conservation efforts)

deeply intertwined

in *X*, horror and pleasure are ~ (the horror thriller film)

become intertwined

the economies of the US and Mexico have ~

## intervening (adjective)

intervening years

in the ~, the university had announced a partnership...  
the ~ have been more fallow (after Calzaghe / Wales)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ From the Latin "to come between."

## interwoven

interwoven into the (social) fabric

aggression is ~ of schools (bullying, status, etc.)

interwoven stories

it's a collection of ~ (a film)

## into (be into something)

into hang gliding

he's really ~

deep into

a lot of prisoners were ~ books (reading)

full on into

they're just ~ it (high-school students)

really into

I'm ~ horror, whether it's books or films

super into

everybody then was ~ *Kitchen Confidential* (line cooks)

got into

I ~ Jerry Butler late, you know... (Bruce Springsteen)

## into (involvement)

into it

once you get that far ~... (extremism)

got into the (fishing) business  
he ~ when he was just 13 years old (Florida shrimper)

## intoxicate (verb)

intoxicated us  
the ability to wield force has ~

## intoxicated

intoxicated with power  
he was ~ (a politician)

intoxicated by a desire  
he was ~ to run in a marathon

intoxicated by having  
liberals are ~ a majority (politics)

## intoxicating (adjective)

entrepreneurship is intoxicating  
she said ~

game is intoxicating  
the ~

music was intoxicating  
the ~

night was intoxicating  
the warm spring ~

opera is intoxicating  
Italian ~

passion is intoxicating  
their ~ (performers)

scene was intoxicating  
the ~ (nature)

scent was intoxicating  
the ~ (flowers)

sound (of drums) was intoxicating  
the ~ (at an African soccer game)

found freedom intoxicating  
he ~ (immigrant)

♦ "Watching red-tailed hawks and sharp-shinned hawks and golden eagles passing by was intoxicating." (A 12-year-old Scott Weidensaul sitting on Hawk Mountain with a strong northwest wind blowing on "one of the best migration days of the fall.")

## introduce (verb)

introduced the word in the usual, literal way  
I ~ (an English teacher)

introduced the word to the English language  
Captain James Cook may have ~ (taboo)

introduce new perspectives into curriculums  
trying to ~ (schools)

introduce new technology into the mail stream  
~ (post office)

introduce recreational divers to the rewards

trying to ~ of fish watching

introduced me to the best pizza  
my brother ~ I have ever eaten

introduced us to the music, the culture  
"Sweet Jamaica" ~ (England)

## inundate (verb)

inundated the help line with calls  
the public ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Like *abundant*, this word comes from the Latin *unda*, or wave. It's a nice way to think of the word.

## inundated

inundated by a flood  
the public is being ~ of conflicting information

inundated with email  
you probably feel like you're ~, don't you

inundated with phone calls  
the hospital was ~

### \*\*\* "Effects of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina."

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Effects of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## invade (verb)

invading up and down the East Coast  
a heat wave is ~ and will have no mercy on New York City

invades the area  
as cold air ~... (weather)

invading her dreams  
she said her brother's ghost was ~ (Chinese)

invaded (1.5 million acres of) the ecosystem  
exotic plant species have ~

invaded (close to 70% of) the Kimberley  
cane toads have ~ (Australia)

invade US  
snow and ice move South as temperatures below zero ~

## invader (noun)

underwater invaders  
~ (zebra and quagga mussels / Montana)

alien invaders  
looking for ~ (US Customs and Border Protection)

primary invader  
the ~ is eastern red cedar (grasslands)

smelly invader  
~s (brown marmorated stink bug)

toxic invaders  
they are ~ (the Australian cane toad)

bug and seed invaders

hunting for alien ~ at Baltimore's port

fight off the invader

the immune system's attempts to ~ (an amoeba)

♦ "Eat the Invaders." (The invasive Asian carp of America's inland waterways. Others have suggested that solution for lionfish off America's coasts.)

♦ "They are toxic invaders that have conquered swathes of northern Australia as they continue their seemingly irrepressible march west towards the Indian Ocean." ("The rapid spread of Australia's cane toad pests" by Phil Mercer, BBC, 22 March 2017.)

♦ "Some believe the many mounds built by the Tocobaga tribe in what is now Pinellas County are guardians against invaders, including hurricanes." (Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "This is freedom. This is real freedom. The invaders are gone, and now we have true Islam." (Ahmed Shah, a 40-year-old Taliban supporter in Afghanistan.)

## invasion (noun)

invasion of (Asian) carp

the ~ into the waters of the South and the Midwest...

invasion of immigrants

what European countries perceive as an ~

invasion of privacy

they were furious at the ~

invasion by the national media

an ~, followed by a hasty retreat... (school shootings)

invasion (of the Antarctic) by men of science

this was the first ~ (De Gerlache and the *Belgica*)

invasion front

at the ~ up in the tropics (cane toads in Australia)

tourist invasion

the economic benefits that will accompany the ~

British invasion

the ~ of the 1960s (music)

aquatic invasion

the Great Lakes is a hot spot for ~s (non-native species)

furry invasion

blame this ~ on climate change (polar bears in Churchill)

invisible invasion

people see immigration as an ~ (Europe)

see immigration as an (invisible) invasion

people ~ (Europe)

♦ "Dollar General is the invading force in a dollar-store war. Absolutely Dollar General is going for the attack on Family Dollar." (Dollar stores across the street from one another.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Invasions are magnificent things to watch but awful things to be in." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II.)

## invest (verb)

invest my heart in someone

I can't ~ who might not stick around

invested years in toiling

she ~ over a nonfiction account (an author)

## investment (noun)

emotional investment

there's a great deal of ~ on the part of all the players

## invigorate (verb)

invigorated the party

he ran a campaign that ~ nationwide

## invisibility (groups)

invisibility

the ~ AAPI people feel (as people, crime data, etc.)

invisibility of queers

the wholesale ~

invisibility, erasure

the ~ of native Americans in the datasets (public health)

challenges invisibility

she ~ (Lola Flash, a queer gender-fluid Black woman)

♦ "I would say up to the age of 25 or 26 we're the *it* girls, right? And then after you pass over this threshold of maybe 30, 35, you're put out to pasture. When we get older, we aren't seen." (Lola Flash, who uses she / her and they / them pronouns. From "Photographer Lola Flash is honored for creating images that challenge invisibility," NPR, All Things Considered, December 14, 2021. Told by Allyson McCabe.)

♦ "Zero is the nickname of Omar, the lead character, a young Black Italian delivery worker who is more or less ignored by the white society around him. But his metaphorical invisibility turns into a magical power when he discovers he can actually make himself invisible. He becomes a superhero, helping save his neighborhood..." ("In New Italian Netflix Series 'Zero,' A Black Hero Makes Invisibility His Superpower" by Sylvia Poggioli, NPR, May 27, 2021. NPR's "longtime senior European correspondent" was known for her wonderful reportage from Europe.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## invisibilize (groups)

invisibilize and delegitimize

society tries to ~ our existence (Liniker Barros)

view, engage and invisibilize

how people ~ those around them (DEI)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## invisibilized (groups)

invisibilized

convicts have been ~

invisibilized to (middle-class) society

they are ~ (the incarcerated)

invisibilized by the (justice) system

those ~ (the incarcerated)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## invisible (groups)

invisible in this society



you're not present, so you're like ~ (Roma)

invisible people  
at times, we're an ~, lumped in to other ethnic groups

invisible and erased  
trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, etc., tend to be ~

invisible and hypervisible  
how it feels to be treated as both ~

essentially invisible  
the belief that women are ~ until we're chose by a man

hypervisible or invisible  
on campus, I was either ~ (Sisonke Msimang)

normalized and invisible  
sexual violence is ~ in our society (Irene Montero / Spain)

continue to be invisible  
"Latinos ~ in Hollywood and the media" (NPR)

felt invisible  
my AAPI friends used words like they ~ (Mazie Hirono)  
they ~, not seen (President Biden about AAPIs)

made to 'feel invisible'  
Asian women are ~ in America

rendered invisible  
they have been ~ and not received their due (Sherpas)

rendered (largely) invisible  
lesbians have been ~ in the past

♦ *The Invisible Man* (1952) by Ralph Ellison is at least partly about social invisibility.

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Those 'invisibilized' by the justice system... / They are invisibilized to middle-class society." (The incarcerated.)

♦ Native Americans speak of "Native invisibility." Colleen Medicine, program director at the Association on American Indian Affairs, explains how "Our people go missing three times over:" (1) Abducted, taken, murdered. (2) Missing in the data. (3) Not at home or in their communities.

♦ An ultra-orthodox Satmar woman speaks about having to be inconspicuous, the problematic nature of her female presence, having to cover it up and negate it.

♦ Says Cindy Tran, a poet, "Ever since I was little, I was made invisible in physical and emotional ways." Says Diane He, a student, "They see us as quiet, not very outspoken, almost as if we fade into the background."

♦ "There are so many anti-LGBTQ attacks going on around the country and a lot of them are really about trying to erase our existence and to make us invisible, and to make our young people invisible and our elders invisible." (Michael Adams, CEO of SAGE.)

♦ "We refuse to be invisible, we refuse to be erased. (A Pride parade.)

♦ "For all the little kids who have autism, it's validating to see characters like themselves on television, instead of feeling invisible." (Rose Jochum of the Autism Society of America, about the Sesame Street character Julia.)

♦ An actor said, "We are literally demanding to be seen," talking about the Oscars, nominations, awards, and people of color.

♦ "I just feel like black gay ppl have to fight to be seen in this world and even when we make it to the top mfs try to pretend we are invisible." (A Lil Nas X tweet.)

♦ "They have often been rendered invisible by the global lens and have seldom received their due." (Sherpas. From "How Climbers Reached the Summit of K2 in Winter for the First Time" by Adam Skolnick and Bhadra Sharma, *The New York Times*, Jan. 19, 2021. The writers' claims are ludicrous, but good contempo-speak.)

♦ "You're not present in the curriculum or textbooks, so you're like invisible in this society." (Lana Jurko, Network of Education Policy Centres, about Roma education in the Balkans.)

♦ "At times, we're an invisible people, lumped in to other ethnic groups." (Native Hawaiians.)

♦ "For Anders, although his newly brown skin is a constant physical reminder that he's no longer who he used to be, the greatest change may be in his psyche. He's now acutely aware of otherness and being observed, how he moves in the world and how he takes up space. When he returns to work...he's both drawn to and repulsed by the only other dark-skinned employee, who, unlike him, has always known what it's like to be treated as both invisible and hypervisible." (Cady Lang's *Time* review of *The Last White Man* by Mohsin Hamid, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Exit West*. This paragraph deftly weaves together several tropes relating to inclusion and exclusion: "otherness"; "being observed"; how a person "moves"; "take up space"; "invisible"; "hypervisible...")

♦ *Black Victorians: Hidden in History* by Keshia N. Abraham and John Woolf.

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ "I am Puerto Rican, from the Bronx, and I was raised in the 50s, loved television, never saw anybody who looked like me, I began to feel on some level that I was invisible. I didn't know what I would contribute to a society that was determined not to see me..." (Sonia Manzano, actor, screenwriter, author, speaker, TV series creator, producer, etc., who played Maria on Sesame Street for 44 years. According to her Wikipedia article, which is extensive, she attended the High School of Performing Arts, then Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh on scholarship. She currently lives on the Upper West Side in New York City. It's hard to understand how she was "invisible.")

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I know what it's like to be a woman who is essentially invisible to most people because of not being seen as traditionally beautiful or whatever." (Rebel Wilson, on BBC. She has been in films, is a producer and director, and is on the BBC's 100 Women of 2021. It's hard to see how she's been "invisible and overlooked." Whatever.)

♦ "I dreamed of being an astronaut by looking at Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin when I was 13 years old. What if Ed [Dwight] had actually flown? What a difference it would have made in my life because, during that time, I didn't see anyone that looked like me." (The astronaut Bernard Harris, who flew on two NASA Space Shuttle missions—in spite of seeing "nobody who looked like him"—about the elderly Ed Dwight's trip on New Shepard in 2024. In terms of publicity for Jeff Bezos, Dwight's flight was equivalent to Mary Wallace Funk's New Shepard flight. Dwight had been appointed by President John Kennedy to the Aerospace Research Pilot School, making him the first Black astronaut candidate but was not chosen for the NASA astronaut corps. Dwight is a retired Air Force captain and artist. According to his Wikipedia article, "While delivering newspapers, he [was inspired to fly when he] saw a picture of Air Force pilot Dayton Ragland, a Black man from Kansas City, on the front page of *The Call*." The "I didn't see anybody who looked like me" is a commonplace, conventional 21st century trope / meme / cliché.

♦ "I was brought into this world visible, but I identify as invisible. My preferred pronouns are who/where." (Funny snark from an online commenter about a "woke" celebrity.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "I had to be nonexistent, invisible." (The 11-year-old Amos Oz, the only child at a tableful of adults discussing literature, politics, etc.)

♦ "I guess I was invisible for so long that it felt good to be noticed." (The silly film *John Tucker Must Die*.)

♦ "I can disappear when I get that scared." (Thandie Newton's character from the great film *The Journey of August King*, based on

the book by John Ehle. Another character in the film was played by Sam Waterston.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## invitation (noun)

invitation to frostbite or edema  
it seemed an ~ (high-altitude bivouac)

invitation for ridicule  
being a rookie is an engraved ~

open invitation  
an e-mail address in a chat room is an ~ to spammers

## invite (verb)

invite kids to rebel  
such limits may ~ (parents are too strict)

invites abuse  
open editing ~ (Wikipedia)

invites aggression  
appeasement ~ (diplomacy)

invites (both direct and indirect) fires  
detection of a unit's location ~

invites neglect  
quarantining inmates with H.I.V. and AIDS ~ (US)

invite (nuclear) retaliation  
use of chemical or biological agents will ~

invited (a lot more) scrutiny  
he's ~ because there's more media (politics)

invite trouble  
certain songs in certain parts of town ~ (gangs)

invites the question  
but that ~, ...

invite hand and finger movement  
silly putty, play dough, and clay all ~

invite retaliation and counter expulsions  
this action will ~ (spying)

## inviting (adjective)

inviting  
the people and the water are ~ (Jamaica)

inviting to everyone  
to make green spaces more ~, start by...

inviting atmosphere  
US's ~ makes terrorist activities inevitable

inviting coffeehouse  
a lively arts scene, an ~ on every corner (Seattle)

warm, welcoming and inviting  
schools should be ~ (gay harassment)

♦ "Not everyone feels safe and comfortable in nature. People who didn't grow up camping or who might not recognize themselves in a

hiking-gear catalogue may experience stress or anxiety instead. To make green spaces more inviting to everyone, start by evaluating your own actions and following this advice from Latino Outdoors founder Jose G. Gonzalez." ("The Nature Antidote" by Jill U. Adams, *Audubon magazine*, Winter, 2019.)

## inward (turn inward, etc.)

turning inward  
we are ~ (US foreign policy)

## IQ (ability)

opponent's (boxing) IQ  
can he match his ~ (AJ vs. Usyk / boxing)

bball IQ  
his ~ is so high that he... (basketball)

boxing IQ  
he had terrific ~ (Marvin "Marvelous" Hagler)

ring IQ  
his ~ isn't good enough (a boxer)  
he used his ~ to keep Joshua off-balance (Usyk)

high (basketball) IQ  
he earned a reputation as a defender with a ~

♦ "Wicking and Fresh IQ® combined helps fight stinky feet." (Hanes men's cushion ankle socks.)

## iron (Iron Lady, etc.)

Iron Brigade  
the ~ (the U.S. Civil War)

"iron brother"  
Chinese diplomats refer to Pakistan as their ~

Iron Chancellor  
German unification and the ~, Otto von Bismarck

Iron Dome  
many rockets were intercepted by its ~ air-defense system

Iron Duke  
Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, the ~

"Iron Erna"  
she earned the nickname ~ (Erna Solberg of Norway)

Iron General  
Ukrainians called Valerii Zaluzhnyi the ~ (beloved)

Iron Lady  
Margaret Thatcher, the ~ (unions, Falklands, Ireland, etc.)

♦ "The tough 'Iron Lady' may have been to the Falkland Islands, what she didn't realize was that she would be met with stronger steel." (Margaret Thatcher visited Beijing...and slipped and fell to her knees on the steps of the Great Hall of the People.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "The Iron Brigade embodied the resolve of Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana during the Civil War."

♦ "General Jackson quickly realized that he had greatly underestimated the fighting prowess of these Federal troops. His valiant 'Stonewall' Brigade had taken on the stubborn Iron Brigade composed of Wisconsin farmers who were conspicuous in their tall, bell-crowned black hats which added to their naturally rugged appearance. The toughest brigades in each army were now locked in a fierce struggle... / As though by mutual agreement both sides

ceased firing at nine o'clock. Neither side had yielded an inch, but both had lost heavily. The 'Stonewall' Brigade alone lost a third of its roster together with five officers, and the Iron Brigade suffered 750 casualties out of 2,000 who had answered the roll that morning. Burying parties found the dead lying in parallel lines where they had fallen without breaking ranks." (The Second Battle of Manassas, August 29-30, 1862. From *Colonel John Pelham: Lee's Boy Artillerist* by William Woods Hassler. The U.S. Civil War.)

## iron (strength)

iron discipline

the first rule in any underground work is ~

iron will

those close to Fury speak of his ~ (the boxer Tyson Fury)

blood and iron

see *iron and blood* (effort, sacrifice)

## iron and blood (effort, sacrifice)

iron and blood

the great questions of the day will be decided by ~

♦ "The position of Prussia in Germany will not be determined by its liberalism but by its power. ... Not through speeches and majority decisions will the great questions of the day be decided... but by iron and blood." (Otto von Bismarck.)

## ironclad (adjective)

ironclad

you can't report on those settlements, they are ~ (NDAs)

ironclad accounts

there are ~ of him ordering a destruction of documents

ironclad proof

you will hear ~ of Richard Kimble's guilt (*The Fugitive*)

ironclad, waterproof, bulletproof, (legally) binding

we need ~ guarantees (Sergey Ryabkov / diplomacy)

## iron curtain

Iron Curtain of the late Middle Ages

this was the ~ (Turks block routes to the east)

information iron curtain

China is no longer shrouded by an ~ (Internet)

economic iron curtain

an ~ falling on Russia (McDonald's closes its restaurants)

new Iron Curtain

we are seeing the ~ (a Swede, after Ukraine invasion)

Bamboo Curtain

the ~ in Southeast Asia

celluloid curtain

the ~ (attack on Russian culture after Ukraine invasion)

barbed wire curtain

the Iron Curtain has been replaced by a "~~" (migrants, war)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent." (Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, March 5, 1946.)

## ironed out (remedied)

ironed out

there are some wrinkles to be ~

Blinken adds some lingering issues were still being ~

## ironfisted

iron-fisted

he's ~ (a dictator)

iron-fisted dictator

~s have ruled the country since its birth

iron-fisted empire

the US State Department is the gloved hand of an ~

## iron out (verb)

iron out

there are still a few wrinkles to ~

iron out a deal

negotiators have sought to ~ for a permanent ceasefire

iron out any kinks

they are having a test run to ~ (restaurant opening)

iron out the problems

I can ~

iron out wrinkles

they still need to ~ in their new contract

\*\*\* "A smell of ironing..."

♦ "A faint smell of charcoal in the room. A smell of ironing. Tonia is ironing, every now and then she gets a coal out of the stove and puts it in the iron, and the lid of the iron snaps over it like a set of teeth. It reminds me of something, but I can't think of what... As soon as I feel better I must go to the town library and read up on the ethnography and history of the region." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak. The sight and smells of Tonia ironing at Varykino have subconsciously reminded him of Lara ironing linen in Meliuzievo, and when he goes to the library he sees her and they start their affair.)

## irreverent (adjective)

irreverent attitude

contributors take an ~ toward the highbrow (a podcast)

irreverent and unshocked

he was ~ by taboos (Dirk Bogarde)

irreverent, anti-authoritarian and iconoclastic

~ (*Mad* magazine)

## irritant (noun)

lingering irritant

his decision was a ~ to Republicans

## irritated

surprised, dismayed, irritated and outraged

the French have been ~ by...

## irritating

irritating

she is really ~

## irritation (emotion)

irritation and anxiety

students express ~ (rising tuition, fewer classes)

anger or irritation

he never displays ~ in public (a Shia cleric)

disagreement or irritation

"Gimme a break" expresses ~

## ish (androgyny-ish, etc.)

45ish

~ percent of voters... (NPR's Tamara Keith)

60 percent-ish

it's ~ (with upspeak on *-ish* / Lauren Sommer)

it's ~ of the water supply (with hand movement)

1968-ish

it feels, to me ~, in terms of popular culture (pro-Hamas)

11 p.m.-ish

I would say it was ~... (NPR's Deepa Shivaram)

amateurish

I expected him to be wild, ~, novicey (a boxer of a boxer)

androgyny-ish

he picked "Eli" because it sounded ~ (non-binary)

Black-ish

the TV sitcom series ~ (and its *-ish* spinoffs)

Brave Newish

Comment / ~ World (*The New Yorker* / Talk Of The Town)

bullyish

he morphed into a more dominant, ~ personality

business-ish

Adrian Ma covers the economy and other "~~" (NPR)

cartoonish

~ stereotypes (a silent film)

dozen-ish

the group is supporting about two ~ candidates... (NPR)

femin-ish

the newer books—call them ~... (pop-feminist nonfiction)

god-ish

the earthly being who is divine or ~ (68 y.o. Bill Maher)

Italian-ish

the food is ~ (Hannah Goldfield / *The New Yorker*)

leftish

blending ~ politics with reporting (*the New York Times*)

lynch-mobish

this whole business feels ~ (Justin Welby resigns)

mediterranean-ish

Manita, described as a "~~ bistro" (Toronto, Canada)

memoirish

her more ~ pieces (female reviewing a female)

monogamish

~, a committed relationship allowing for sexual variety

neighborhood-ish

while it's in the ~ (close to the earth)

nightmarish

see *nightmarish*

Pollyannaish

see *Pollyannaish*

rightish

the forced choice between ~ righter (French politics)

scammer-ish

~ subjects who ooze hubris (*WeWork* documentary)

sheepish

Democrats are ~, weak and prone to waiver endlessly

snake-oil-ish

overprice ~ self-optimization remedies (Gwyneth Paltrow)

stalkerish

Audrey Hale was '~' with ex-teammates

it's ~ and just plain weird (a girl and her social media)

trollish

see *troll* (noun / computers)

year-ish

this ~ lease was kind of like a gift to myself (Pokimane)

brightish

that film is her only ~ spot in a decade of disappointment

colloquialish

playwright Heidi Schreck's ~ adaptation (*Uncle Vanya*)

dead-ish

animals survive cold snaps by playing ~ (brumation, etc.)

easyish

Manchester City is in an ~ group (Champions League)

FIT(ish)

Phoebe Parsons, the millennial host of the ~ podcast

happy-ish

I'm ~ for him (kinda happy)

healthy-ish

he decided to swap his ~ diet for...

jazzy-ish

this song sounds jazz-adjacent, ~ (Adele)

newish

brand spanking new, well, ~ (Paul O'Grady / Lily Savage)

I'm a ~mom, I have a 3-year-old... (NPR)

I'm cooking a new dish, well, ~...

## thirty-ish

it's been, what like, ~ minutes (with high upspeak)  
it follows a day in the life of the ~ Angela (John Powers)

## westernish

I was planning on wearing a ~ shirt (actor Elliot Page)

## "X-Files"-ish

it feels a little too ~ for its own good (Night Country)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "ish" bandwagon...

♦ "It's nicknamed the green comet...and you may be able to see it while it's in the neighborhood-ish. I mean, it's gettin' to within 26 million miles from earth." (NPR's A Martinez. Stellar reporting. Trendy language.)

♦ "Policy-ish." (NPR's Selena Simmons-Duffin. "POLICY-ISH" is now a descriptor at NPR, along with "music," "national," "books," "politics," etc. Why?)

♦ "Brumation and torpor: How animals survive cold snaps by playing dead-ish" by Vanessa Romo, NPR, Animals, February 14, 2024.)

♦ "So, the group is planning on supporting about two dozen-ish candidates under the age of 35..." (Elena Moore, who covers "youth politics" for NPR, Morning Edition, Morning News Brief, August 9, 2023. Of course, "about" is redundant. But "-ish" is highly associated with the younger demographic, and it is NPR's great wish and hope to be highly associated with the younger demographic.)

♦ "We're already out, and it's been, what like, thirtyish minutes." (Riley Sullivan, with high upspeak on "minutes." Riley was passing out free Naloxone and fentanyl testing strips on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus. His goal is for every student to carry Naloxone on his or her person and know how to load and inject it. Three UNC-Chapel Hill students have died of fentanyl in the last two years. From "Naloxone On college campuses saves lives" by Liz Schlemmer, NPR, All Things Considered, October 16, 2023.)

♦ "For the third of singles who reported trying it, consensual nonmonogamy covered a range; polyamory (where relationship partners agree that each may have a romantic relationship with other people); open relationships (a committed primary relationship that openly allows for romantic and/or sexual activity with others); swinging (expanding an exclusive romantic relationship to seek out other sexual partners together); and being monogamish (a committed relationship that allows for sexual variety with others, either together or individually)." ("Where do Americans stand on consensual nonmonogamy?" by Cady Lang, *Time*, February 26, 2024. "Cady Lang is a staff writer at TIME. She covers culture, focusing on identity, celebrity, and fashion." "She is a writer and producer living in Brooklyn, by way of the Bay Area.")

♦ "So, as I've said many times and I think you've heard me say this, I always joke, I'm Catholic, but I'm also Jew...ish, as in "ish." (Congressman George Santos, expelled from Congress in 2023. "Don't let the door hit you on the way out.")

♦ A Black female blogger refers to Jewish people as "Ish-es and Palestinian people as "Palo-s." Bizarre!

♦ "Smithsonian / in passing / district of chaos / America-ish" (An online gallery of photographs by Matailong Du.)

♦ Rich Eisen and Bryant Gumbel were talking about people who retire and come back. Eisen said about Tom Brady, "Brady said he was gone and then wasn't." Gumbel said, "Now he stayed gone." Eisen replied, "Nuuh, ish," while making a hand gesture for "maybe." The recovered word would be "gone-ish."

♦ NPR's Michel Martin: So let's go to Deepa now. You were at the [Kamala] Harris event at Howard University last night, which is here in Washington, D.C. When did it become clear things were not going her way? / NPR's Deepa Shivaram: Yuh know I would say it was around 11 p.m.-ish... (The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ Defense lawyer: I believe you said you arrived about 8:45 in the morning? / Cop: 8:45-ish. (This is interesting. The male cop—a dark-skinned Hispanic, millennial, groomed facial hair—could have said simply "Yes." A televised murder trial that attracted national attention.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "I'm seventy...ish." (A coquettish elderly lady with grey hair. An advertisement for AARP Medicare Supplement from UnitedHealthcare.)

♦ -ISH (\$20.00); ADULT-ISH (\$9.71); Bougie-ish; FIT (ish) (\$8.61); free • ish (\$16.99); Feeling kinda IDGAF-ish today... (T-shirts on sale at Etsy. Add to cart!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Ish: How a Suffix Became A Word" by Gretchen McCulloch, Slate, June 09, 2014. It's an excellent article.

♦ From the data, it seems the suffix means "about" or "maybe" or "like" or "kinda."

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ "It's not going to catch on beyond a certain crowd." (The linguist John McWhorter, speaking specifically about the term "LatinX.")

♦ see also *adjacent* (*pop-adjacent*, etc.), *y* (*pulpy*, etc.)

## island (society)

### island

no man is an ~

schools are not ~s, they are connected to communities

### island on my own

politically, I've felt a little bit of an ~ (Maxine Peake)

### island among his men

he was sullen and morose, an ~... (a troubled leader)

♦ "I don't know why we have you know made it this separate thing, as if it's an island nation in which you need a visa and passport." (Ken Burns talking about his series on country music.)

♦ "I'll stay over here on Gen-X island by myself." (Good-natured podcast banter having to do with pop-culture references and knowledge.)

♦ "And I thought, if I was doomed to be sent to this island of punishment, of grief, at least I will try to make it with my own words..." (The Israeli writer David Grossman about his novel *Falling Out of Time*.)

♦ No man is an island entire of itself; every man / is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe / is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as / well as any manner of thy friends or of thine / own were; any man's death diminishes me, / because I am involved in mankind. / And therefore never send to know for whom / the bell tolls; it tolls for thee. (John Donne.)

♦ *The Gulag Archipelago* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

\*\*\* *The Atlas of Remote Islands* by Judith Schalansky...

♦ *The Atlas of Remote Islands* by Judith Schalansky is a wonderful, short, impressionistic, graphically distinguished book about actual islands. It should be on the bookshelf of every household with children.

♦ "When I first moved to Manhattan in 1990, it was easy to forget that New York City is a collection of islands (of the five boroughs, only the Bronx is on the mainland) or that it has over 520 miles of coastline, more than either San Francisco or Seattle." ("Wet and Wild" by Tony Perrottet, photographs by Gina LeVay, *Smithsonian*, May 2017. The map is superb.)

♦ "The old river in its broad reach rested unruffled at the decline of day, after ages of good service done to the race that peopled its banks, spread out in the tranquil dignity of a waterway leading to the uttermost ends of the earth." (*The Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad. The identity and strength of Britain has always been due to its status as an island nation with a great Navy. Now, of course, its Navy is not so great.)

♦ At low tide, the 33-island nation of Kiribati—pronounced kee-ree-bahs, Keer-a-boss—can be three times larger than at high tide! Kiribati is the easternmost country in the world. Half of the tuna consumed in Germany comes from Kiribati alone. The EU, China, Taiwan, Japan, Russia, the US. the Philippines, Indonesia, and

Thailand all fish for skipjack tuna in Kiribati waters. Kiribati is just 313 square miles, yet the islands extend 2,400 miles from east to west, and 1,300 miles from north to south, on both sides of the equator. It holds fishing rights to more than a million square miles of sea. The word for airplane in Gilbertese spoken in Kiribati is 'te wanikiba,' or 'the canoe that flies...' Of the 33 islands of Kiribati, 21 are inhabited. The capital of Kiribati is Tarawa, an atoll in the Gilbert Islands. That atoll was the scene of the Battle of Tarawa in World War II. Both the US and Britain tested nuclear bombs on and around Kiritimati Island (Christmas Island) in 1957 and 1962. (In Gilbertese spelling -ti is pronounced -s: Ke-rees-mass. The island was discovered by European on December 24, 1777-Christmas Eve—by Captain James Cook.) The countries most likely to be submerged by a rise in the ocean level include Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean, and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. Kiribati is truly a fascinating island nation!

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Islands can be remote, and they are often the source of endemic species. On the other hand, if the island has a port, than it might be a place where people from all parts of the world mingle and mix.

## island (island of affluence, etc.)

### islands of affluence

there were isolated ~ (the Great Depression)

### islands of excellence

~ surrounded by a failing system (Israeli education)

### island of stability

Somaliland is an ~ in a sea of armed chaos

### islands of convenience and prosperity

there are ~ within seas of squalor (Lagos, Bombay, etc.)

### cultural island

Tunisia is a ~ bordered by sea and desert

### de facto Russian island

Kaliningrad became a ~, an exclave... (fall of USSR)

♦ "Paraguay is an island surrounded on all sides by land."

♦ "There's even an expression, 'To go to the mainland.' We feel like we're on an island... Of course we feel separated." (A young man in Magadan, Russia.)

## island (beech island, etc.)

### beech island

no one knows why these ~ exist (stands of beech)

### coffee island

he tends the dozen dispensers at the ~ (at a mini-mart)

### heat island

Tokyo is becoming a vast ~ (thermal pollution)  
an urban ~ (UHI) is warmer than its surroundings  
urban ~s and lack of access to cool spaces (heatwave)

### pump island

see a car pull up to a ~ (gas station)

### Self Serve Island

~ (a sign at a gas station)

### traffic island

public bathroom on a ~ in the city center

### glacial islands

nunataks are also called ~

## ism (groups)

### ableism

factors like ~ and racial and socioeconomic bias (justice)  
disability rights groups are fighting against ~

### adulthood

~ is prejudice or discrimination against young people  
~ is a "Word We're Watching" (Merriam-Webster)

### Afro-centrism

~ posits that ancient Egypt was a black civilization

### ageism

I find ~ so old-fashioned (Vera Wang, looking *good*)

### antisemitism

~ in the Labour Party (U.K.)

### authoritarianism

so many people vote for racist ~ (Brad S. Lander)

### birtherism

he promoted ~, saying that Barak Obama...

### bothsidesism

arbitrary ~ (NBC's Ben Collins v. Jonathan Chait)  
misleading '~~' (race, LGBTQ+ rights, climate, etc.)

### capitalism

black ~ as a strategy for black liberation  
'woke ~' is a derogatory reference to ESG

### classism

she calls out the ~ even within Black media circles  
racism, sexism, ~ and elitism in cricket (the ICEC Report)

### colonialism

see *colonialism* (noun)

### colorism

see *colorism* (groups)

### Dataism

Yuval Noah Harari refers to this idea as "~~"

### degrowthism

~ (fly, travel, buy, use less / climate change)

### denialism

fact-checks of the 2016 ~ were anemic (Hillary Clinton's)  
AIDs ~, climate ~, vaccine ~...  
midterm results show voters reject election ~ (NPR)

### elitism

racism, sexism, classism and ~ in cricket (the ICEC Report)

### factionalism

progress has been made to rid the part of ~ (Labour Party)  
toxic ~ is far from over (Labour Party / U.K.)

### heightism

how '~~' affects careers (BBC)  
~ is an implicit bias



heterosexism  
the NBA is a bastion of testosterone-driven ~

hyper-safetyism  
the trade-offs of ~ (COVID pandemic)

linguicism  
the impact of racism and ~ on the ELT profession (TESOL)  
~ (see the Wiktionary entry)  
“~” redirects to “Linguistic discrimination” (Wikipedia)

momism  
twisted ~ unseen since *Psycho* (the film *Beau Is Afraid*)

nationalism  
~ has a bad reputation today (Andreas Wimmer)  
the virtue of ~ (by Yoram Hazony)

native-speakerism  
“~” and colonialism (TESOL Journal)  
I help English teachers tackle ~ (Marek Kiczowski)  
~ is a prejudice, stereotyping, and/or discrimination...

Orientalism  
it’s a troubling example of techno~ (2023 *The Creator*)

otherism  
see *otherism* (noun)

prescriptivism  
~ comes from the same well as... (linguistics)

progressivism  
~ was once populism

populism  
~ seems to be a bad word nowadays

racism  
see *racism* (groups)

rightsism  
~ (Jamal Greene / *How Rights Went Wrong*)

sexism  
he compared speciesism to racism and ~ (Peter Singer)  
retaliation for speaking out against ~ is never okay  
racism, Islamophobia and ~ in the Labour Party (U.K.)

sizeism  
requiring a large passenger to buy two seats is ~

speciesism  
Peter Singer popularized the concept of ~ (animal lib)

stigmatism  
ending the ~ of being overweight (fat liberation)  
do you know the ~ of Alabama education

transgender-ism  
polls show the public is increasingly rejecting ~ (anti)

transgenderism  
teachers are converting kids to gayness or ~

TERFism  
so ~ is a hate movement that... (trans Natalie Wynn)

wokeism  
they clashed over alleged “~” in the military  
~ divides societies into identities  
can Christmas survive ~  
American-style ~ is infecting the rest of the world

womanism  
~ is a social theory (see the Wikipedia article)

misogyny, classism and racism  
Senator Tiara Mach dismissed criticism as ~ (twerking)

populism, nationalism, and authoritarianism  
contending with ~

racism and classism  
its ~ (the novel *The Well of Loneliness*)  
~ still shape drug policy

racism and linguicism  
the broad impact of ~ on the ELT profession (TESOL)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “But I just, you know, what a disservice that she did to not only my husband, but to anyone facing a disability and working through it. I don’t know how there were not consequences. I mean, there are consequences for folks in these positions who are *any of the -isms* [italics mine]. I mean, she was ableist, and that’s what she was in her interview.” (Giselle Fetterman condemns Dasha Burns of NBC News. Her politician husband had suffered a stroke. Dasha Burns had raised questions about his fitness for office.)

♦ “[Ezra] Pound was a maker and shatterer, prancing around London with his isms—his Imagism and his Vorticism and his anti-Georgianism.” (“The Prophecy of The Waste Land” by James Parker, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023. James Parker is *not* George Packer.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Prescriptivism comes from that same well.” (As racism, sexism, classism, and various other isms that we should resist. The linguist John McWhorter. Listen to “The shifting Meanings Of Our Evolving Modern Language,” wbur, on point, December 26, 2016.)

♦ “One of the more bothersome aspects of *The Creator* is the way it reflexively equates Asians with advanced technology. It’s the latest troubling example of techno-Orientalism, a cultural concept that...” (The film critic Justin Chang.)

♦ “I thought I could escape the isms and messiness of people.” (In technology. Joy Buolamwini, the founder of the Algorithmic Justice League.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Creeds, parties, programmes of every description have simply flopped, one after another. The only ‘ism’ that has justified itself is pessimism.” (“The Limit to Pessimism” by George Orwell, 1940, about the 1930s.)

♦ Back in the old days the “ism-s” were Capitalism, Communism, Socialism, and Fascism.

♦ It’s a short walk from “ism” to “ist.” See the following entry.

**ist (racist, etc.)**

-ists and -phobes  
he’s being called a racist and all the other ~

adultist  
the teen resigned due to disrespect and ~ rhetoric

antinatalist  
the celebrated “~” philosopher David Benatar

anti-racist

it's not enough to be non-racist, you must be ~  
pedagogy rooted in ~ and anti-patriarchal practices

#### ableist

Richard III and ~ views (Shakespeare)  
criticism for using an ~ slur (Beyonce / "spaz")  
concerns over racist, sexist and ~ theories and language  
~ attitudes, policies, and practices (disabled Alice Wong)

#### chauvinist

a male ~ believes that women are inferior to men  
a female ~ is a misandrist

#### feminist

this book set the tone for ~ transphobia

#### linguicist

a ~ discriminates on the basis of language (Wiktionary)

#### misandrist

a female chauvinist is a ~

#### misogynist

Andres Tate arrested has been accused of being a ~, but...

#### populist

a ~ wave is sweeping the Western world (anti-elites)

#### racist

see *racist (groups)*

#### rape-apologist

he's a racist and misogynist and a ~, too (Dan Savage)

#### Raptivist

"A Conversation With Houston's '~' Genesis Blue"

#### sexist

she's NOT busting ~ stereotypes but perpetuating them...  
concerns over racist, ~ and ableist theories and language

#### Socialist

the Brooklyn Democratic ~ is an anti-white race-baiter

#### supremacist

people talking about how this is a white ~ society...

#### "Womanist

~ theology" (see the Wikipedia article)

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "How To Be An Anti-Casteist" by Gregory Warner, Lauren Frayer, Derek Arthur, NPR, Rough Translation, September 30, 2020. Frayer's reporting has been controversial in India.

♦ *Better Never to Have Been* by the "antinatalist" philosopher David Benatar. See the Wikipedia article "Better Never to Have Been."

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ John: Any criticism leveled at anything is labeled toxic or some sort of ist/phobic thing... Many people have forgotten or never learned how to take honest criticism." (A commenter about diversity casting and *The Rings of Power*.)

♦ "It's easier to keep quiet than to be labeled with a word that ends with -ist, or -phobic." ("Letting trans players participate in girls' and women's sports is a ticking time bomb" by Kirsten Fleming, *The New York Post*, Feb. 20, 2024.)

♦ "Identity politics are at the root of the problem. No one wants to be called sexist or anti-LGBQ+ or some other 'ist.' But what is really unbearable is to be called racist. If a Harvard student—or teacher—thinks there is a chance of being called racist, he or she will clam

up." (Evan Thomas '73. From Letters, *Harvard Magazine*, March-April, 2024.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Ist" is often linked to an "ism." See the entry above this one.

### ista (barista, etc.)

#### barista

seven ~s fired over union organizing (Starbucks)

#### bookishnista

the rise of the ~ (litcore fashion, T-shirts, etc.)

#### Clintonistas

he was enemy number 1 among the ~ (Matt Drudge)

#### Culturistas

that March, they recorded the first "Las ~" episode

#### deliverista

NYC residents fight '~ hub' for e-bike charging

#### fashionista

will ~s embrace the Alpaca boom  
~s appropriate the checkered kaffiyah scarf  
apprehensive ~s are divided... (hot pants)

#### Hijabistas

"~: Young Muslim women meld fashion and faith"  
(CNN)

♦ "Meet the moss crab, the ultimate fashionista."

#### \*\*\* Fidelistas, Raulistas, Sandinistas, etc.

♦ "Power struggles between Fidelistas and Raulistas." (Cuba.)

♦ "She described herself as a lifelong PRI-ista." (Mexican politics.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A "hijabista" is a female interested in a "fashion-forward" hijab (head covering). This is a portmanteau word that combines "hijab" and "fashionista." A "hijabi" is a Muslim woman who wears a hijab. "Hijabi women" who wish for a fashionable hijab might buy one from a "hijabi Muslim-run, women-run business."

♦ Go to Wiktionary, type in "-ista," then click on "Derived terms," and you will get a nice little list. Wiktionary is wonderful. entry, "Category: English terms suffixed with-ista" for a very good list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

### isthmus (shape)

#### isthmus

the narrowest part of the Eustachian tube is called the ~

♦ "Eliot's words are everywhere, in other words. The more closely you map 'The Waste Land,' the more it assumes the shape of an isthmus; so much of the past, both public and personal, streamed into its making, and so much has flowed from it ever since." ("On The Rocks: A hundred years of 'The Waste Land,'" by Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022. An isthmus connects two larger pieces of land. By this wonderful analogy, the larger pieces of land are the past and the present.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "List of anatomical isthmi." Wikipedians are wonderful.

### it (it girl, drug, color, etc.)

see *it girl (and it drug, etc.)*

### itch (verb)

itching to incite

the moderators were ~ conflict (a political debate)

## itch (enthusiasm)

itch to ride

once you get the ~ motorcycles, you can't help but scratch it

scratched this itch

Bitcoin ~ (for idealistic nonconformist Vitalik Buterin)

## itchy (adjective)

itchy to leave

he was ~

itchy to get back

he is ~ in the ring (a boxer)

## I think (filler)

I think it absolutely shows that

yeah, ~... (punditry on NPR)

I think that it's clear that

~ you know... (off on a tangent)

I think we should have a high level of confidence that

~... (punditry on NPR)

I think what we do want to underscore is

~ we do need to...

I think for sure

~ (heard on NPR)

I think absolutely

see *absolutely* (contempo-speak)

I think actually

see *actually* (contempo-speak)

I think basically

see *basically* (contempo-speak)

I think definitely

see *definitely* (contempo-speak)

I think maybe

see *maybe* (contempo-speak)

I think obviously

see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

I think well

see *well* (filler)

I mean, I think

~ in general, that has always been a sort of...

~ often when people say *rainforest*, you think of...

I mean, I think, you know

see *you know* (filler)

Well, I think

~ the issue is that these are not...

~ it was great that...

Well, I mean, I think

~ it's a story that's hard to understand...

Yah, I mean, I think, you know

see *you know* (filler)

Yeah, I mean, I think, you know obviously

see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

♦ "I think maybe they think that there's some sort of... (Transgender woman Dylan Mulvaney.)

♦ "And so, I think that that is the thing that... (Erudite NPR punditry.)

♦ "I think that like what they were able to do was just like... (Heard on NPR.)

♦ Listen to "Should the US worry that assistance to Ukraine could end up in the wrong hands?" NPR, Morning Edition, Feb 2, 2023, with NPR's Leila Fadel and Conor Savoy of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.)

♦ Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously... (Esther Zukerman of VOX on NPR.)

♦ Are you sure?!

## ity (intersectionality, etc.)

fabulosity

she is just looking like ~ (Brittany Snow in Ty West's *X*)  
her aviation skills, philanthropy and ~ (Lauren Sanchez)

heteronormativity

its aggressive whiteness and ~ (*And Just Like That*)  
the pale leaden hand of ~ was camped down tight

intersectionality

see *intersectionality* (groups)

normativity

see *normativity* (groups)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematic*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

## it girl (and it drug, etc.)

IT

that quality known as ~ (see quote below)

*It Boy*

~ is a French romantic comedy film (2013)

it color

Pantone Color Institute has christened an "~" for 20 years

*'It' drug*

it has emerged as the ~ on the Australian party scene

"it" girl

her attitude has turned her into the new political ~  
meet Broadway's newest ~  
fashion's new ~... and boy

'it' girl

she became known as the fashionable ~ (Korea)

it-girl

actor and current ~ Jenna Ortega hosts SNL

it girls

don't let the bouncy, cheery ~ make you feel bad

It Plant

the Powdery Liveforever has become the ~ for thieves (CA)

'it' (electric) vehicle

why trucks are the ~ to buy right now

It Girls of the moment

"relatable" stars like Emma Chamberlain are the ~

♦ "I would say up to the age of 25 or 26 we're the *it* girls, right? And then after you pass over this threshold of maybe 30, 35, you're put out to pasture. When we get older, we aren't seen." (Lola Flash, who uses she / her and they / them pronouns. From "Photographer Lola Flash is honored for creating images that challenge invisibility," NPR, All Things Considered, December 14, 2021. Told by Allyson McCabe.)

♦ "Emily Ratajkowski solidified her spot as a fashion It girl by wearing a tiny giraffe-print string bikini."

♦ "The flossy and intimate night clubs have discovered that their orchestras and bar tenders can be more than mere dispensers of tunes and tipples. They can, indeed, bring much romantic feminine patronage by that quality known as IT... / The gossip tattlers are often stressing the attachment of some debutante for a musician or Harvard boy turned drink juggler. As a result, these employees are being selected as much for their looks as for ability. And there are some first rate Robert Taylors among them..." ("New York Day by Day" by O.O. McIntyre, from the newspaper *The Day*, New London, CONN., Thursday Afternoon, April 1, 1937.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The 1927 film *It* starred Clara Bow.

## ization (marginalization, etc.)

colonialization

see *colonialization (groups)*

colonization

see *colonization (groups)*

criminalization

see *criminalization (groups)*

cryptoalisation

~ ("Lavender" language / queers)

decolonialization

see *decolonization (groups)*

eroticization

the ~ of women's subordination (Catherine A. MacKinnon)

feminization

the single mother confronts the ~ of poverty  
teens talk about the ~ of schools (*The War On Children*)

fetishization

see *fetishization (noun)*

heroization

see *heroization (noun)*

idealisation

"thin ~" is a preference for thin bodies

idealization

the ~ of heterosexual romance (compulsory  
heterosexuality)

marginalization

see *marginalization (groups)*

Marvelization

Elizabeth Sandifer decries "the ~ of all things"

normalization

see *normalization (groups)*

otherization

see *otherization (groups)*

Problematization

see the Wikipedia article "~"

revictimization

see *revictimization (or revictimisation)*

sexualization

the ~ of women

she has become a tool of ~ for men (Sydney Sweeney)

socializations

the covert ~ that channel women into marriage

*Southerization*

*The ~ of America* (by Cynthia Tucker, Frye Galliard)

Uberization

these betting apps represent the ~ of gambling (sports)

valorization

the ~ of self-immolation as protest (NPR)

victimization

see *victimization (or victimisation)*

villainization

she resists ~ (a film / mother abandons children)

hypersexualization and fetishization

the history of ~ of Asian women in the US

♦ "Spheres of influence and regionalization / chaotization..." (Geopolitics. "Chaotization" is astonishing.)

see also *fication (adultification, etc.)*

## ize (racialize, etc.)

colonize

see *colonize (verb)*

concretize

see *concretize (verb)*

criminalize

see *criminalize (groups)*

decolonize

see *decolonize (verb)*

dehumanizes

it ~ the entire collective (Muslim women)

eventizing

he persuaded Oscar voters by ~ smaller films (Weinstein)

exceptionalize  
resist the urge to ~ yourselves (advice to white women)

feminize  
appropriate and “~” the diction and subject matter  
(Sappho)

fetishize  
see *fetishize (verb)*

heroize  
see *heroize (verb)*

hypersexualize  
how movies, TV dehumanize and ~ Asian Americans

internalize  
viewing post about exercise also ~s thin ideals

invisibilize  
see *invisibilize (groups)*

marginalize  
see *marginalize (groups)*

medicalizing  
Big pharma makes enormous profits by ~ children

minoritize  
see *minoritize (groups)*

normalize  
see *normalize (groups)*

otherize  
see *otherize (groups)*

prioritise  
~ climate or face catastrophe (UN chief)

problematizing  
~ traditional forms of success in higher education

racialize  
see *racialize (groups)*

sexualizing  
schools are ~ children  
she is ~ her own body to garner attention

soldierize  
every drill sergeant trying to ~, to build a soldier

spatialize  
the MASS Design Group seeks to ~ memory

stigmatize  
see *stigmatize (groups)*

tokenize  
see *tokenize (groups)*

traumatize  
see *traumatize (verb)*

vampirizes  
a drab 30-something who ~ other people’s emotions

victimize

see *victimize (groups)*

dehumanize and hypersexualize  
how movies and TV shows ~ Asian Americans

♦ A self-identified Black educator, writing about middle and high-school education in a short article, used the following: Africanize; contextualize; dehumanize; historicize; internalize; legitimize; marginalize; narrativize; organize (social protest); racialize; realize; signify; socialize; theorize; testify; and vernacularize. That’s a lot of -ize’s!

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “It is often easier to make up words of this kind...than to think up the English words that will cover one’s meaning. The result, in general, is an increase in slovenliness and vagueness.” (“Politics And The English Language” by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946. The -ize formation.)

♦ see also *ify (mainstreamify, etc.)*

♦ see also *ization (marginalization, etc.), fication (adultification, etc.)*

## ized (invisibilized, etc.)

bubble-ized  
Beijing will be ~ (Christine Brennan, sports columnist)  
there will be ~ flights to get to the Olympics

colonized  
see *colonized (groups)*

corporatized  
F9 seems less ~ than other blockbusters (the film)

decolonized  
see *decolonized*

criminalized  
see *criminalized (groups)*

marginalized  
see *marginalized (groups)*

minoritized  
see *minoritized (groups)*

otherized  
see *otherized (groups)*

traumatized  
see *traumatized (groups)*

victimized  
see *victimized (groups)*

fragilized  
CRT uses “social-emotional learning” on already ~ kids

exoticized  
see *exoticized (groups)*

intelligentized  
China is focused on ~ technology (vs. old IT)

invisibilized  
see *invisibilized (groups)*

racialized  
see *racialized (groups)*

sexualised  
the female body is objectified and ~ early on

sexualized

post pics like that and of course you're going to be ~  
the ads featured children with ~ teddy bears (Balenciaga)  
how ~ violence is used as a weapon in conflict and  
beyond

hyper-masculinized, fetishized, pitied or feared  
we're ~ (Black men, according to NPR's Sam Sanders)

♦ "These eye-catching military forts are now highly amenitized  
hotels—and are heading up for auction. (The Solent Forts.)

♦ "The instruments were all fabricated in-house and "ruggedized" by  
Saildrone and NOAA." (Made rugged.)

♦ "[W]e as blacks have been opera-ed, have been operated upon,  
have been operationalized by white composers..." (Novelist and critic  
Samuel R. Delany.)

♦ see also *ified* (*Principified*, etc.)

## izen (netizen, etc.)

denizen

restaurant-bar ~s enjoy...

netizen

~s may have noticed...

~ accused her of using a fake accent (Kamal Harris)

♦ "Netizen" combines "net" and "citizen."

## J

## jab (noun)

took a jab at Biden

Trump ~ (politics)

traded jabs with his opponents

he ~ (politics)

## jackal (noun)

"jackal diplomacy"

he practiced ~

♦ "He practiced "jackal diplomacy" to the extent that he requested for  
his nation a share of the spoils won by the British lion in combat; had  
Britain or China opposed his request, he was powerless to do more."  
(Commodore Lawrence Kearny in China, from *Far China Station: The  
U.S. Navy in Asian Waters 1800-1898* by Robert Erwin Johnson.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The jackal is a lion in his own country. (An insult.)

## jackass (noun)

jackass

he's a foolish ~

## jackpot (hit the jackpot)

political jackpot

that would be a ~ for the president

hit the jackpot

you ~

hit the (intelligence) jackpot

they were hoping to ~ (Russian spies in US)

## Jacobin

Jacobin publication

he has written for *The Nation*, a ~ (culture wars)

school reform's new Jacobins

~ have opted for a hard left turn into identity politics

## jack up (verb)

jack up the cost

green technology will ~ of power (opinion)

jack up earnings

Wall Street will always find ways to ~

jacked up (used book) prices

the company has ~

jacked up (interest) rates

credit-card companies have ~ again

jack up (defense) spending

the government seeks to ~

jacking up tuitions

colleges are ~ like never before

## jail (Twitter jail, etc.)

in Twitter jail

this is the family photo that got @SteveDaines put ~

## jam (situation)

in a jam

the company is ~

she found herself ~

get in a jam

and if you ~ and need to raise cash...

got in a jam

and that's how the company ~

put us in a jam

what he did ~

get him out of this jam

perhaps a lawyer could ~

maybe the lawyers could ~

\*\*\* "On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May the Yukon began to rise rapidly..."

♦ On the 6th of May the Yukon began to rise rapidly, lifting the ice,  
which, however, remained fast in front of the town... The sight was  
one to inspire respect. When a big floe, forty feet across, struck the  
front of the barrier, it half rose out of the water, then dived under, or  
turned on edge, crunched into the front with a dull roar, and remained  
there... At four o'clock on the morning of the 8th the cry was raised,  
'The ice is going out!' and everybody rushed out in time to see the  
bridge of ice crack, groan, then slowly push together and stop; then  
slowly, slowly the whole mass began to move, and in a few minutes  
there was nothing but a swift river, with cakes of ice as big as cabins  
strewn along the banks..." ("The Klondike Stampede" by Tappan  
Adney, Special Correspondent of *Harper's Weekly* in the Klondike,  
1900.)

## jambalaya (mixture)

digital jambalaya

minorities are losing out in this ~ (internet sanctuaries)



## jaw (Dragon's Jaw, etc.)

“The Jaw”

~, a peak overlooking Hanging Canyon (Wyoming)

Jaw Mountain

~ is a summit in Alaska

Jaw Point

~, a cape (Alaska)

Dragon's Jaw

the North Vietnamese called it the ~ (US bombing target)

Bear Jaw

~ Canyon is a valley in Arizona

Hog Jaw

~ is a populated place in Arkansas

Moose Jaw

~, Canada, a deeply disturbing city (Saskatchewan)

~ Meadow is a flat in Idaho

Broken Jaw

~ Creek is a stream in Montana

Iron Jaw

~ Creek is a stream in Montana

## jawbone (shape)

Jawbone Canyon

Europeans named it ~ for its shape (Mohave Desert)

Jawbone Falls

the big pool below ~ (Panthertown, North Carolina)

## jaw (jaws of defeat, jaws of victory, etc.)

jaws of defeat

if anyone knows how to grab a victory from the ~, it is  
Serena Williams

jaws of disaster

the Israeli tankers charged into the ~ (1973)

jaws of (Mr. Cosby's significant) defeat

he is trying to snatch victory from the ~ (Gloria Allred)

jaws of victory

the team somehow managed to snatch defeat from the ~

Hell's jaws

the killings began, as ~ opened... (ethnic cleansing)

♦ “Call him Pepsi Guardiola, because he knows how to bottle it.”  
(Soccer snark after Manchester City snatched defeat from the jaws of  
victory against Real Madrid.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Better to be a rat in the jaws of a cat than a man in the hands of a  
lawyer.”

## jaw (jaws of life, etc.)

‘jaws of life’

he was extracted from the wreck with the ~

## jaw-dropper

real jaw-dropper

that was a ~ for me

♦ “The verdict was a stunner, and my jaw dropped.”

♦ “I was just sent this letter that has my jaw on the floor...”

♦ “The details left many people’s jaws on the floor.” (European Union  
corruption case of late 2022. Police seized a suitcase filled with cash,  
etc.)

♦ “His jaw was on the floor in disbelief.”

♦ “My jaw was really aching from hitting the floor so many times.”  
(Elon Musk visits Twitter HQ.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone’s jaw drops in  
surprise or disbelief.)

## jaw-dropping

jaw-dropping moment

this is the ~ when a sea lion attacked a girl (video)

eye-popping, jaw-dropping

it was an ~ confirmation... (Biden’s debate performance)

♦ “This has been the most dizzying, jaw-dropping, eyeball-popping,  
head-spinning news conference I have ever attended. And I was at  
Bill Clinton’s news conference in 1998 when he faced the press for  
the first time over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.” (An over-  
caffeinated John Sopel for the BBC, following a press conference  
with President Trump on Monday, April 13, 2020.)

## Jekyll (Jekyll and Hyde)

Dr. Jekyll and Hyde in Mike

there’s a little ~ (the great boxer Mike Tyson)

Jekyll-and-Hyde character

for some, he was a ~, a decorated chief who... (SEAL)

Jekyll and Hyde character

Packer was described as a ~ (killer Iain Packer)

Jekyll and Hyde existence

he was rumored to have lived a ~ (government official)

Jekyll-and-Hyde existence

he was rumored to have lived a ~ (high official / low  
places)

“Jekyll and Hyde” figure

he was a ~ who could be charming but had a dark side

Doctor Jekyll – Mister Hyde moment

it was a very strange ~ (holding job and eating disorder)

Jekyll and Hyde portrait

a ~ emerges of SEAL accused of murder

Jekyll and Hyde role

there is a bit of a ~ for the agency (helps but also arrests)

Jekyll and Hyde side

unsure what to expect, Liverpool a complete ~ this  
season...

Jekyll and Hyde transformation

every now and then, desert locusts undergo a ~ (swarms)

absolutely Jekyll and Hyde

the team has been ~ (up and down, good and bad)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde* was written by Robert Louis Stevenson and published in 1886.

## Jeopardy! (snark)

I'll take 'what is a royal douche' for \$300

~ Alex (a commenter about Harry and Meghan)

I'll take What Causes a Short Lifespan for \$1000

~ Ken (a commenter about death of Gangsta Boo)

I'll take outraged fans for \$1,000

~ (outrage about woke "neopronouns" question)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Alex Trebek hosted the general knowledge quiz game *Jeopardy* for 37 seasons, from 1984 to 2020. "I'll take 'X for \$X, Alex" is a meme. The new host is someone named Ken Jennings.

♦ see also *Wheel of Fortune* (snark)

## jeremiad (bitter lament)

jeremiads of a Southern apologist

the nation didn't pay heed to the ~

political jeremiad

the book is more than a ~ (Atossa Araxia Abrahamian)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A jeremiad often has two elements: a bitter criticism of society and a prophecy of doom.

## Jerusalem (Jerusalem of the North, etc.)

Jerusalem of the North

the Jews called it the ~ (Vilna / Vilnius)

Balkan Jerusalem

Lake Ohrid, known as the ~

Japanese Jerusalem

groups have turned the area into a kind of ~ (Mt. Fuji)

♦ "The complex has been called the 'pearl of Ukraine' and the 'Vatican' of Ukrainian Orthodoxy. (The Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra complex in Kiev. It is a UNESCO world heritage site.)

## Jesus (come to Jesus, come-to-Jesus)

come-to-Jesus moments

I began to have various ~ (a bulimic / awful health issues)

come-to-Jesus session

it was a ~ where we had to make him truly commit...

♦ "It was a come-to-Jesus session where we had to make him truly commit that we were going to build the insane Gigafactory together." (JB Straubel about him and Elon Musk meeting Kazuhiro Tsuga, the new young president of Panasonic. From *Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

♦ "He confessed to the murders in a 'come to Jesus' moment on his deathbed..." (Larry Webb, West Virginia. See "Cold case suspect makes deathbed confession in murders of child and her mother 24 years ago" by Andrea Vacchiano, Fox News, April 24, 2024.)

♦ "As we began talking it became clear that my concerns about her continuing to lie may have been exaggerated. Finch was ready to come clean. This was her 'come to Jesus' moment." ("The 'Grey's Anatomy' Liar Confesses it All" by Peter Kiefer, The Ankler, Dec 07, 2022.)

♦ "The Democratic Party needs to have a come-to-Jesus moment and realize..." (Pastor Samuel Rodriguez about the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

analysis

♦ 'Come To Jesus Moment' Is The Most Annoying Business Expression On Earth" by Brett Nelson, *Forbes*, Apr 3, 2013. It's a very good article.

♦ see also *road* (road to Damascus)

## jettison (verb)

jettisoned the case law

the court has ~ (lawyers will appeal)

jettison (the under-performing) ministers

many people wonder why he doesn't ~

jettisoned the (Obama) playbook

the Trump Administration ~

jettison its pariah status

Zimbabwe seeks to ~

## jettisoned

jettisoned

he was ~ (an athlete who was traded)

## Jew (Jews of the Caribbean, etc.)

Jews of the Caribbean

Indo-Caribbean immigrants have been called the ~

Jews of the Arab world

the Palestinians are sometimes said to be the ~

Jews of the Far East

the Chinese have been called the ~ (business, diaspora)

Jews of the 21st century

a sign said, "Latinos are the ~" (immigration protest)

## jewel (noun)

jewel

Sikkim is a ~ nestled between Bhutan and Nepal

jewel of these mountains

she was a ~ (bookmobile lady in Western North Carolina)

jewels in the crown

they are the ~ of public education (elite NYC high schools)

real jewel

it's a ~ (a kayaker speaking of a river near Vancouver)

hidden jewel

it's a ~ (a park)

national jewel

the Okavango Delta is the ~ (tourism / Botswana)

♦ see also *gem* (noun)

## jewel (jewel of Syria, etc.)

jewel of Syria

this city once known as "the~" (Aleppo)

## jibe (verb)

jibe with his record  
his statement doesn't ~

## jigsaw puzzle (noun)

jigsaw puzzle of (smaller) languages  
Europe was once a ~ like Latin (Italian Dolomites)

## jihād (noun)

waging (total) jihād  
he is ~ (a Wikipedian / see quote below)

♦ "He's waging total jihād against 'comprised of' across five million English language Wikipedia articles and he's vowed not to stop until he's driven it into the sea." ("Don't You Dare Use 'Comprised Of' On Wikipedia: One Editor Will Take It out" by Geoff Nunberg, the University of California, Berkeley, on NPR, Fresh Air, March 12, 2015.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "You provide the jihād with a technology that will defeat the crusaders' modern technology. Your bodies are our new cruise missiles and atomic bombs." (Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah Akhund in Afghanistan.)

♦ "As a father, I was thinking and hoping that we lost one son and that was enough. But I could tell Amer was thinking, 'This life doesn't count anymore and I will follow the way of my brother.' One time, I tried to get him away from these things. I said, 'Shall we get you a wife,' and he said, 'No, this is not important to me. Jihād is.'" (A Jordanian father from Zarqa, speaking of two of his sons who blew themselves up in Iraq.)

♦ see also *holy war (noun)*, *martyr (person)*

## jiu-jitsu (and jujitsu)

interpretive jiu-jitsu  
is this just an act of ~ (see quote below)

philosophical jiu-jitsu  
in a neat exercise of ~, he argues that... (polemical)

♦ "Is this rendering of Faulkner's weaknesses as the source of his strength just an act of interpretive jiu-jitsu? Or perhaps a reversion to a romantic notion of redemptive genius?" ("What to Do About William Faulkner" by Drew Gilpin Faust, *The Atlantic*, September 2020. Which begs the question, "What to Do about Drew Gilpin Faust")

## job (hit job, etc.)

hatchet job  
see *hatchet job (noun)*

hit job  
see *hit job (noun)*

## jockey (verb)

jockey for advantage  
partisans ~ (politics)

jockeying for position  
he has been ~ in the department for years

jockey for power  
Ukrainians, Tatars, and ethnic Russians ~ (Crimea)

jockey for leaks and scoops  
reporters ~

jockeyed for face time

guests ~ with the newly minted star (party)

fiercely jockey  
reporters ~ for leaks and scoops

## joe (average joe, etc.)

Joe in the street  
it's one thing when you're talking about ~ (not important)

Joe Blow  
the generic ~ made his first appearance in the 1920s

Joe the Plumber  
Samuel Joseph Wurzelbacher, or ~ (Barak Obama)

Joe Public  
and they're hoping ~ will pay for this farce (boxing)

Joe Schmo  
these companies expect ~ or a guy like me to...

Joe Sixpack  
Sarah Palin invoked ~ (first time in national politics)

working Joes  
they screw over ~ (activist block roads)

G.I. Joe  
~ came home and just wanted to forget the war (1945)

Lunch Bucket Joe  
Biden has been disparaged with the epithet "~~"

average Joe  
he was just an ~, trying to get along...  
I would consider myself more of the ~ type of guy who...  
Samuel Joseph Wurzelbacher became a symbol of the ~

average (sweat-rent) Joe  
the rich sports-team owner and the ~ (Phil Mushnik)

good joe  
he was a ~

regular Joe  
his masterworks are a paean to the ~ (Frank Capra)

regular joe  
a ~ twelve-pack (Homer Simpson)

♦ "Then we go to New York, and this guy, he used to be fat and he isn't fat anymore. His name is Joe. He came out and sang, and we didn't need to play anymore, because after that performance, we had already won." (Los Angeles Dodgers baseball player Enrique Hernandez, trolling the New York City / Bronx rapper Fat Joe. Fat Joe sang before Game 3 of the 2024 World Series, which the Yankees lost at home. Allegedly, during Game 5, Fat Joe appeared on the Jumbotron in LA when the Yankees were up five to zero. The Yankees would go on to lose that game and the World Series. It is now suspected that the New York Yankees suffer from a Fat Joe Curse.)

♦ "The Jimi Hendrix Experience—Hey Joe (1967)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUPifXX0foU>

♦ "Hey, Joe, what do you know?" (The lifelong burden of being named Joe.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Willie and Joe" about the two cartoon G.I.s from World War II. My favorite "Willie and Joe" cartoon is the one labeled "The Prince and the Pauper." In *Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, the text about the cartoon reads, "It would take a pretty tough guy not

to feel his heart go out to the shivering, little six-year-old squeaker who stands barefoot in the mud, holding a big tin bucket so the dogface can empty his mess kit into it... [T]here is a big difference between the ragged, miserable infantryman who waits with his mess kit, and the ragged, miserable civilian who waits with his bucket. The doggie knows where his next meal is coming from. That makes him a very rich man in this land where hunger is so fierce..." I showed this cartoon to our military students in Saudi Arabia, and some wondered who the "Prince" was, but their buddies explained it to them, and they got it and admired it greatly.

♦ "An ineffective, woke, unaccountable military is an affront—at every level—to the young men who actually pull the triggers... Joes know where to point the finger—and it's a middle finger." (Pete Hegseth, author of *The War On Warriors: Behind The Betrayal Of The Men Who Keep Us Free*. In 2024, President-elect Donald Trump selected him to be his Secretary of Defense.)

♦ O it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, go away"; But it's "Thank you Mister Atkins," when the band begins to play. (Rudyard Kipling. His son John was killed at the Battle of Loos, September 1915, age eighteen. President Teddy Roosevelt's son Quentin was killed in action July 1918, age 20. Both fathers grieved deeply, as any father would, famous or not, over the death of his son in combat.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ If you are curious about "G.I. Joe," see the Wikipedia article "G.I." and also the Wikipedia article "Devil dog." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ Geoff Nunberg comprehensively discussed this word, "Joe." Listen to "Geoff Nunberg Nominates 2008's Word of The Year," NPR, Fresh Air, December 24, 2008. A 5-minute Listen. Fresh Air does not seem to have replaced Nunberg as its go-to linguist. A good candidate would be the linguist John McWhorter.

♦ In the *Odyssey*, Odysseus outwits the Cyclops Polyphemus and ends up blinding him, in a great win for the "nobodies" (or "Joes").

♦ see also *boy (type)*, *girl (type)*, *guy (good guy, etc.)*, *lady (crazy lady, etc.)*, *man (big man, little man, etc.)*, *mister (and Mr., Missus, Mrs.)*

## Johnny Appleseed

Johnny Appleseed

we must drop the idea the US is ~ spreading democracy

Johnny Appleseed of Agriculture 2.0

she is the ~ (brings together entrepreneurs, investors)

Johnny Appleseed of near Earth object deflection

his work as the ~ has begun to bear fruit (astronomy)

Johnny Appleseed of American modernism

Arthur Wesley Dow, the ~ (taught Georgia O'Keeffe)

Johnny Appleseed of protest music

a self-styled "~" (the blacklisted Pete Seeger)

served as a Johnny Appleseed

he ~ for electric cars (made long trip in one, blogging)

♦ "Go forth and be the Johnny Appleseed of books and reading!" (A North Carolina teacher-trainer. Good advice, never forgotten.)

♦ Bookmobile Schedule: Tuesday: Hanging Dog community, Boiling Springs, Grape Creek, Highway 294 and Upper Bear Paw Road, Oak Park Guest Home, Andrews Elementary School... (Cherokee County, western North Carolina, U.S.A.)

♦ Camels serve as bookmobiles in Kenya.

## joke (you must be joking, etc.)

joking

you must be ~

## joke (it's a joke, etc.)

joke

this university is a ~

## jolt (noun)

jolt of anxiety

the murder sent a ~ around the city

jolt to some

it was quite a ~ (Trump wins election)

## journey (life is a journey)

life's journey

my ~...

life will lead me

I don't know where ~, but I know where I've been

on the journey of life

how a person behaves ~ is directly related...

♦ "Cmdr. Robert Ramirez has crossed the bar for the final time, he is off to sea, never to return." (An online commenter's tribute to a Navy Seal.)

## journey (in one's journey)

in his journey from boy to man

it was an important moment ~

in our journey towards the promise

this is a significant milestone ~ of stem-cell-based medicines

## journey (on a journey)

on a journey to understand

the host and producer take you ~ what...

on her journey of self-discovery

she embarked ~

on a journey of healing

if you're ~ your mind in some way...

on a journey of self-destruction, betrayal

choosing this path led him ~, and redemption (a true story)

on a journey to the past and present

she takes readers ~ of the region

on your own wellness journey

first, let's check in about where you are ~

embarked on a journey

he ~ to create the ideal pasta

takes his fans on a journey

Young Thug ~ of energy and emotion

♦ "First, let's check in about where you are on your own wellness journey. When was the last time you had your vagina steamed?" ("We Have Found a Cure! (Sort of...)" by Taffy Brodesser-Akner, *Outside Magazine*, 11/12/2022.)

\*\*\* Mungo Park, Heinrich Harrer...

♦ "When [Isaaco] had reached the middle of the river, a crocodile rose close to him, and instantly seizing him by the left thigh, pulled him under water. With wonderful presence of mind he felt the head of the animal, and thrust his finger into its eye; on which it quitted its hold... The wound on the left thigh was four inches in length... Drew

the lips of the wounds together with slips of adhesive plaster secured with a roller..." (Mungo Park.)

♦ "It may have been a little after midnight when I ran into a bear standing on his hind legs in the middle of my path, growling at me. At this point the sound of the swiftly running waters of the Ganges was so loud that we had neither of us heard the other's approach. Pointing my primitive spear at his heart, I backed step by step so as to keep my eyes fixed on him. Around the first bend of the track I hurriedly lit a fire, and pulling out a burning stick, I brandished it in front of me and moved forward to meet my enemy. But coming around the corner I found the road clear and the bear gone. Tibetan peasants told me later that bears are only aggressive by day. At night they are afraid to attack..." (*Seven Years in Tibet*, Chapter 2 "Escape," by Heinrich Harrer.)

## journey (noun)

journey

this whole ~ has been really amazing (actress does film)

journey towards modernity

Bhutan's carefully ordered ~ (elections of 2007)

journey from boy to man

in his ~

journey from complacency to (political) power

her ~ (Wilma Mankiller)

journey with math

reflecting back on my own ~, I did struggle with it

Bhutan's (carefully ordered) journey

~ towards modernity (elections of 2007)

*Farmer's Journey*

*Pastoral Song: A* ~ by James Rebanks, Custom House

A Martinez's (public radio) journey

~ (NPR)

weight loss journey

inside Jazz Jennings' ~

breastfeeding journey

Ashley Graham has been open online about her ~

never-ending journey

growth and development are a ~

mental health journey

she has always been so open about her ~

legal journey

the families have had a lengthy ~

medical journey

work was difficult, starting a long ~ (Havana syndrome)

spiritual journey

it is the story of a ~

total journey

my ~ is two hundred ten point one (pounds lost / diet)

challenge and journey and experience

it was a fantastic ~ as a filmmaker (Mati Diop /

*Dahomey*)

story of a (spiritual) journey

it is the ~

journey is ongoing

this ~ (the composition of music)

completed his journey

he ~ from personal despair to sporting glory

♦ "My total *journey* is two hundred ten point one." (A YouTube diet advertisement, referring to pounds lost.)

♦ "My pie and mash journey began as a young child in North London..." (Mark Francois, Conservative Essex MP.)

♦ "Everybody who I speak to who's been studying coronavirus tells me that Omicron is a step on the journey towards humanity being able to coexist with this virus. And that in the end, the COVID should become not more serious than the common cold. And so there's a journey to get there, and we're on that journey." (David Nabarro of the WHO.)

♦ "My chronic hives journey." (CNN.)

♦ "Jamie Lauren Keiles follows one patient along his phalloplasty journey."

\*\*\* **jumping on the "journey" bandwagon...**

♦ *A Season For Justice: The Life and Times of Civil Rights Lawyer Morris Dees* (1991) was updated and reissued in 2003 as *A Lawyer's Journey: The Morris Dees Story*.

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ Glennon Doyle said, "If you've come this far with me in my—I hate the word—journey..." ("Glennon Doyle's Honesty Gospel" by Ariel Levy, *The New Yorker*, February 8, 2021.)

♦ "To keep class discussion buoyant, lecturers are told to 'encourage students to practise the verbalisation aspect of knowledge'. Multiple 'learning outcomes', sacred buzzwords before the pandemic, have been supplemented with 'learner journeys', promising against the odds a positive experience as well as a realistic hope of achieving something." ("Diary: On Quitting Academia" by Malcolm Gaskill, *London Review of Books*, 24 September 2020. "In May, I gave up my academic career after 27 years...")

\*\*\* **Ibn Battuta, Danuta Maczka...**

♦ "I left Tangier, my birthplace, on Thursday, 2nd Rajab 725 [June 14, 1325], being at that time twenty-two years of age [22 lunar years; 21 and 4 months by solar reckoning], with the intention of making the Pilgrimage to the Holy House [at Makkah] and the Tomb of the Prophet [at Madinah]. (The great traveler Ibn Battuta.)

♦ "There were no birds singing in the forest. No animals, no wolves or bears. There were not even mice. Nothing. There was nothing there. Perhaps the prisoners had eaten the birds, I don't know. But I never heard a sound." (The Polish schoolgirl Danuta Maczka, describing the Siberian logging camp she was deported to in early 1940. From "A Polish girl's journey across three continents" by Monica Whitlock, BBC, 16 September 2012.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "It's sometimes necessary during a journey to repack and remount a horse." (Chinese proverb relating to a change in the middle of a plan.)

♦ No trip is long with good company!

♦ "Sometimes life takes you to places you never imagined."

## joust (verb)

joust among themselves for ownership

corporations ~ of...

jousting over (sensationalist) ads

the two campaigns are ~ (politics)

jousts with (more left-leaning) partisans

she is a close Clinton ally who frequently ~ online

## jousting (conflict)

jousting with (federal) lawyers

the courtroom ~ was otherworldly (secrecy)

jousting in the South China Sea  
he covered stories such as geopolitical ~ (a correspondent)

courtroom jousting  
the ~ with federal lawyers was otherworldly (secrecy)

geopolitical jousting  
~ in the South China Sea

social jousting  
a lot of ~ goes on (teenagers)

\*\*\* **"The Jousts of the Honourable Pass at the Bridge of Orbigo..."**

♦ In *Don Quixote*, Cervantes refers to Suero de Quinones and the Jousts of the Honourable Pass at the Bridge of Orbigo in 1434. Cervantes died in the same year that Shakespeare died: 1616.

**joy (groups)**

joy  
~ can be also a revolutionary tool against oppression  
~ is infectious, see what it sparks for you (queer)  
~ is the ember and the fire behind social movements  
~ is an important survival mechanism for oppressed people  
the ~ found in Blackqueerness

joy button  
Blitz Bazawule pushes the ~ too hard (*Color Purple*)

joy, abundance, (mutual) aid, and care  
disabled people rooted in ~ (Alice Wong / MacArthur)

joy and love and desire  
their capacity for ~ (Blacks, lesbians)

joy and passion  
he carried a special ~ (Alex Collins, ex-NFL player)

Black joy  
Library of Congress honors 1898 film depicting ~  
Don Cornelius pioneered the business of ~ (Soul Train)  
it showcased ~ and our everyday lives (Soul Train)  
~ as an act of resistance on Juneteenth (ABC)  
the legacy of Freaknik is ~, self-determination (Hulu doc)  
skater Jasmine Moore says roller skating is all about ~

Black Joy  
Kamal Harris is tapping into the ~ movement (politics)  
no White man can steal ~ (Tracey Michael Lewis-Giggetts)

#BlackBoyJoy  
"Speak Up Leeds" ~

Latinx joy  
*Hola* is a triumph of ~ and feminist agency (Avon book)

queer joy  
~ and Latino belonging (Orlando nightclub shooting)  
LGBTQ+ hip-hop artists use their spotlight to express ~  
O'Shea Sibley was killed after expressing ~ by voguing  
Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup: 'Good, ~' (BBC)  
for me, ~ is a celebration of uninhibited self-expression

I'll find ~ outdoors, too (drag queen Patti Gonia / get it?)  
queer desire, queer heartbreak, ~ (Jewly Hight)

trans joy  
I rise in honor of ~ that deserves to be celebrated

beautiful joy  
Jewish anarchism offers this ~ (Cindy Milstein, queer)

collective joy  
she described the experience as '~' (Boot Tan Fest)

invincible joy  
she was a woman of ~ (resident of Brick Towers, Newark)

new joy  
New adaptation of 'The Color Purple' finds ~ in the pain...

Radical Joy  
Apocalyptic Grief and ~ (a Terry Tempest Williams course)

culture of joy  
a resistance ~ ("Little Egypt" section of Astoria, Queens)

declaration of (Black) joy  
David Gilfillian's latest album is a bold ~

expression of joy  
one person's loud is another person's ~ (Brooklyn)

message of joy  
he was thrilled his party pushed a ~ (Cory Booker / DNC)

moments of joy  
~ for the Tennessee drag scene are becoming rarer  
Palestinian children find ~ at Gaza shelter school (ABC)

celebration and joy, and (also) purpose  
there can be ~, in protest (Lambda Legal)

community, joy and safety  
support groups provide ~ (Queer people)

discovery, revelry, joy  
it was a first moment of queer ~ (comedian Bowen Yang)

enthusiasm and joy  
~ in our fight for America's future (Kamala Harris)

ferocity and joy  
the group could have fed the Oscars a jolt of ~

inciting joy  
"Ross Gay on ~ while dining with sorrow" (NPR)

arrest our joy  
Columbia University cannot ~ (Maryam Alwam, arrested)

bring some joy  
"This baker wants to ~ to Gazans" (NPR, March 21, 2024)

brings joy  
farming drag queen ~ to Welsh countryside (BBC)



bring the joy  
our nominees Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, they ~  
(DNC)

claim their joy  
*Renaissance* gives people permission to ~ (ballroom)

cultivate my own joy  
I will always have the power to ~

express their joy  
they actually went to the mike to ~ (trans day of  
visibility)

express queer joy  
LGBTQ+ hip-hop artists use their spotlight to ~

exudes joy  
the new 'Color Purple' ~ (NPR review)

feel joy  
if players are happy, if they feel welcome, if they ~...

feeling that joy  
and I'm ~ every day (actor Elliot Page about being Trans)

*Finding Joy*  
*How Trans kids are Surviving Hate and* ~ (Nico Lang)

finds joy  
she ~ in pursuing justice (Kamala Harris / politics)

living in joy  
she said she was ~, living in truth, existing in her body...

prioritize joy  
in order to ~, you must... (Emily Ratajkowski)

spreading joy  
young Ukrainians are ~ by organizing cleanup parties

suppress her joy  
the world around her tries to ~ (Cecile / *The Color Purple*)

\*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ "Joy is an important survival mechanism for oppressed people."
- ♦ "Black Joy is a joy that no White man can steal." (Tracey Michael Lewis-Giggetts.)
- ♦ "The legacy of Freaknik is Black joy, Black self-determination, Black love, Black excellence, Black enterprise..." (The official trailer for the 2024 Hulu documentary *Freaknik: The Wildest Party Never Told*.)
- ♦ "The presentation of Black bodies on stage singing, dancing, expressing joy, expressing melancholy." (A Broadway musical.)
- ♦ "We live in a world and work in industries that are so aggressively committed to upholding whiteness and perpetuating an unabashed misogyny towards Black women. And yet. I am forever in gratitude for the greatest lesson of my life—regardless of any challenges or obstacles, I will always have the power to cultivate my own joy, and it is this joy that will continue to be one of my greatest forms of resistance." ("Oscars 2023: *Till* director Chinonye Chukwu calls out misogyny and racism after snub" by Paul Glynn & Ian Youngs, BBC News, Jan 25, 2023.)
- ♦ "And our film-culture gatekeepers don't like Black joy. They only want movies where Black people are brutalized and depressed and sad and victimized. They don't want movies of how Black people...where their humanity is defined by their capacity for joy and love and desire. It's part of what is so beautiful in *The Color Purple*." (Culture critic Armond White, who is Black and gay.)
- ♦ "I make work for people to see, but the process is for me," says Gio Swaby, the Bahamian portrait artist who positions Black joy as an act

of resistance. Last spring, not long after starting as an MFA student at the Ontario College of Art and Design University..." ("Fiber Optics" by Kayla Holliday, *Vanity Fair*, June 2022.)

- ♦ "We wanna focus on the joy, the stories, the culture, the celebration of us existing and being human. That's it." (Virginia teacher Deana Forbes about Black History Month in her African-American Studies class at Freedom High. "Joy." "Story." "Celebration.")
- ♦ "The difference now is what she calls a resistance culture of joy." (A woman about hearing the call to prayer during Ramadan in the part of Astoria, Queens, called "Little Egypt.")
- ♦ "Jewish anarchism offers this beautiful joy." (Cindy Milstein, queer.)
- ♦ "We really wanted to make sure that the show didn't veer towards being too saccharine or, you know, like, 'Oh, autism is my superpower!' she said. That's not the point of our show. It's about showing that, yes, there is struggle, but also there is community and also there is hope and there is joy. And honestly, there is autistic culture to learn about and to respect and to celebrate." (Librettist Rebekah Greer Melocik. From "How to Dance in Ohio" is a Broadway musical starring 7 autistic actors," Jeff Lunden, NPR, Morning Edition, December 5, 2023.)
- ♦ "According to Ross, we should all take joy a lot more seriously because joy is the ember and fire behind social movements and survival. And his definition of joy isn't something that you experience alone. His joy comes from connection and our interlocking lives or, as he puts it, entanglement." (Brittany Luse, from "Ross Gay on inciting joy while dining with sorrow," NPR, It's Been A Minute, Feb. 21, 2023.)
- ♦ The rich; the bourgeoisie; then the other students arrived—the white students; WASPy; minority students; their comfort superseded our joy; the sounds of my identity; we self-segregated; people of color; immigrants; racial minorities; the gentry; black and brown communities; Brooklyn remains loud and proud; one person's loud is another person's expression of joy; uptown; Puerto Ricans; Nobody could call us nothing; ("Let Brooklyn Be Loud: Why do rich people love quiet so much?" by Xochitl Gonzalez, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)
- ♦ "Something elemental seems to have been lost. Black music, from blues to jazz to proto-rock 'n' roll to soul to early hip-hop, has consistently been distinguished by its sense of humor, by its playfulness. Just as joy is an important survival mechanism for oppressed people, it's essential for the sustainability of any popular art form. Rap has gone through different periods in which the fun ebbs and flows, but the serious acts and the free spirits were always in balance... / There's still plenty of levity...but mostly you find it on the other side of the gender divide." ("The Future Of Rap Is Female" by Niela Orr, *The New Yorker Magazine*, August 13, 2023.)
- ♦ "Gorgeous article. I'm moved by the theme of how terror, abandonment or anger meets breath, which makes joy, which means survival..." (Bill Heck, New York. "Readers responded out our special issue celebrating hip-hop's 50th anniversary," *The New York Times Magazine*, August 27, 2023.)
- ♦ "For me, queer joy looks like a celebration of uninhibited self-expression free from expectations around sexuality and gender performance." (Steven Goings, who identifies as they / he. They / he are / is a diversity trainer at California State University—Monterey Bay.)
- ♦ "Spend some time with us. Be in community with us. Joy is infectious. See what it sparks for you." (Jules Gill-Peterson, Ph.D., professor of History, John Hopkins University.)
- ♦ Kristen Lovell: I think a lot of the times that when these documentaries are presented, they leave out certain elements of what Trans joy looks like and, you know, community, you know, especially back in like the early 90s, you would see a lot of documentaries, they're always dark and gritty and, you know, the Trans sex workers on the streets and, you know, the conversation becomes about the most dire of situations, and even though those stories are equally important [pronounced im-POR-ent], it's how they're told. / Ari Shapiro: Yeah, that sisterhood comes across REEE-lee vividly. ("Kristen Lovell, co-director of 'The Stroll,' knows sex work is real work," NPR, All Things Considered, May 10, 2024.)
- ♦ "But I'll tell you what. I want to bring you all to a street in Newark, New Jersey, called Martin Luther King Boulevard. On that street was this incredible housing project called Brick Towers. We never mistook wealth with work. In those towers was a tenant president, a Miss

Virginia Jones. Her son was murdered in the 1980s in the lobby of one of those buildings, but she was a woman of invincible joy. And I'll tell you this, I used to ask her, 'How are you so joyful?' and she would always tell me, 'Church woman.' She'd say, 'The joy I have, the woorld didn't give it to me. Come on, now. Come on now.' She taught me that you gotta generate the joy. That hope is the active conviction, that despair will never have the last word. And so tonight, there are so many challenges in our nation, there are so many problems that we're facing. Heck, if America hasn't broken your heart, you don't love her enough. But yet we will be joyful warriors, we are going to bring back to the journey of our nation joooooy. And if there's any tradition in America that has helped us to generate that joy, it has been the artists of America. It has been those folks bringing the rock-n-roll and the funk, bringing the gospel, and the hard rock. Well tonight we are blessed by one of those great American artists to help us to cleanse our spirits, to raise our hearts, and to bring in that joy. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you one of the true greats in America, someone to bring the joy to this incredible arena, Maren Morris..." (Senator Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, introducing the singer Maren Morris at the 2024 DNC.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "joy" bandwagon...

♦ "I rise in honor of trans joy that deserves to be celebrated—not eradicated." (U.S. Representative for Massachusetts Katherine Clark, House Minority Whip.)

♦ "Joy is a core value at NPR. So we're creating a space to celebrate it," June 28, 2022. (NPR is National Public Radio.)

♦ "New adaptation of 'The Color Purple' finds new joy in the pain of the original work." (NPR.)

♦ "The crowd was younger, and more diverse. And they were experiencing a new emotion: joy." ("The 180-shift in the Democratic campaign" by Tamara Keith, NPR, July 26, 2024. "Out: Tom Petty. In: Beyonce." A rally for Kamala Harris. Other words used were "met the mood," and "vibe.")

♦ "They try and steal the joy. But you know what? You know what? Our next president brings the joy. She emanates the joy!" (Loud cheering. Tim Walz on the campaign trail with Kamala Harris.)

♦ "At The 'Museum Of Black Joy,' It's The Everyday Moments That Go On Display" by Neda Ulaby, NPR, Art & Design, August 14, 2021.

♦ "Young Ukrainians are spreading joy by organizing cleanup parties." (NPR's Kat Lonsdorf, covering the war in Ukraine. This is very interesting reporting that reflects "contempo-speak" language and consciousness: Black Joy, Queer Joy, Ukrainian Joy... Lonsdorf, of course, may not have been responsible for this headline. NPR certainly is.)

♦ "Opinion: The Taliban is cracking down on music, and joy," Scott Simon, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, August 12, 2023."

♦ "There is even social-media hype around the unbridled joy of acquiring pocket-laden clothes." (Females / NPR.)

♦ "She's a natural exhibitionist who finds joy in performing sex work."

♦ "He is inciting joy on his team." (NPR's Ailsa Chang about *Brock Purdy* [italics mine], the quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers.)

♦ "In the latest children's book from mother-daughter duo Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton, a village subdued by a mysterious purple fog finds joy again by serenading an audience of appreciative houseplants." ("A concert audience of houseplants? A new kids' book tells the surprisingly true tale" by Rachel Treisman and Samantha Balaban, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023. A 10-Minute Listen.)

♦ "Joy is underrated." (Emily Ratajkowski in her commencement speech at Hunter College.)

♦ "I believe if players are happy, if they feel welcome, if they feel joy when they go on the court, they're going to be a much better version of themselves." (Coach Mark Madsen, about accepting the job of coach of the men's basketball team at the University of Berkeley. His team has a 3-29 record, a 38-87 record with its previous coach, 6 consecutive losing seasons, and a 16-game losing streak.)

♦ "'Joy' was the operative word around the United States women's [soccer] team on Thursday... Sluggish performances from the Americans thus far have drawn widespread criticism, including those not far removed from the team..." ("Lindsey Horan talks up US joy and dismisses Lloyd's criticism as 'noise'" by Jeff Kassouf, *The Guardian*, 3 Aug 2023.)

♦ "She described the experience as 'collective joy.' (The organizer for the Boot Tan Festival, during which women ski naked.)

♦ "So if there's one thing I would hope to get across, it's how much hope and joy lies ahead for many people with opioid use disorder." (Dr. Emily Brunner.)

♦ "X had a unique ability to bring joy to any person she crossed paths with, always putting a smile on people's faces with her sense of humor, unwavering support and sweet disposition." (The GoFundMe for a murdered coed.)

♦ "I want to see me get my joy back from playing basketball, and wherever that may be, we'll find out here pretty soon. I'm happy here off the court, but I want to be back somewhere dominant. I want to hoop, and I want to help this team win. Right now, I'm not doing that." / When asked by a reporter if he can 'get your joy back here on the court,' Butler replied, 'probably not.' / Butler and the Heat were unable to reach an agreement..." ("Jimmy Butler makes Heat trade demand after surprise 'joy' twist" by Christian Arnold, *The New York Post*, Jan. 3, 2025.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "What's joy got to do with it? This Pride, we're celebrating radical joy and inviting everyone to spread it." ("Explore Pride at Microsoft." Opens the Microsoft Bing browser.)

♦ "Delivering infinite moments of joy all season long." (An advertisement for USPS. It shows a Black letter carrier, putting a package into the hands of a cute Black girl, while the girl's Black father stands behind her. All three have big smiles.)

♦ "Joy Is An Act Of Resistance" print, width 8.5 inches, height 11 inches. In demand. 2 people bought this in the last 24 hours. Arrives soon! Get it by... 3,646 reviews: "Thank you so much!! My daughter will love it!! / Beautiful!! I'm so glad to add this to my prints in my office." (\$15.00. Etsy.)

♦ "BLACK joy BLACK love BLACK excellence BLACK pride BLACK history" T-shirt, marked down from \$25.00, 35% off... (\$16.25+. Etsy.)

♦ "TRANS JOY" SHIRT, Transgender Shirt, Trans Pride, Transmasc, Trans Femme, Genderfluid Tshirt, Queer Shirt, T4T, Top Surgery Trans Gift, Star Seller. This seller consistently earned 5-star reviews, shipped on time, and replied quickly to any messages they received." (\$26.35. Etsy.)

♦ "Black Boy Joy" Hoodie. (\$32.56+. Etsy.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "O'Shea Sibley was killed after expressing queer joy by voguing."

♦ "I want our streets to be alive and full of joy. But they must be safe. That's the most important thing." (New York Mayor Eric Adams, after the Twitch streamer Kai Cenat riot in Union Square on August 4, 2023. See the Wikipedia article "2023 Union Square riot.")

♦ "Ok, director Blitz Bazawule...pushes the joy button too hard when screenwriter Marcus Gardley lays on the gloom..." ("Review: 'The Color Purple' comes through with a heart that sings and a spirit that soars" by Peter Travers, ABC, Dec. 22, 2023.)

♦ "Kamala Harris has officially ended the 'joy' phase of her campaign and has entered the 'Trump is a fascist' stage." ("Never mind joyless Harris' tired slur—surging Trump is no fascist" by Rich Lowry, *The New York Post*, Opinion, Oct. 24, 2024. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "They had to keep this façade up for the American public of joy when none of us saw the joy." (The Kamala Harris campaign, the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "New Orleans is a phenomenal city. It's a party town. You hear it's filled with joy and whatever..." (The great sports commentator Stephen A. Smith.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "The White House is decorated [whoops and clapping], and uh the scene this year is peace and light. So, I hope that you all feel that sense of you know peace and light, and that uh just for a moment when you leave here today that you feel, I don't know, a little, a sense of joy. 'Cause I think we all need, like this, you know we all need to feel joy now, during this time of the season, during, just during this time. So, anyway... Okay, now I'll start...[Leaning forward] You're all reading in to that...[heartily laughing]. Anyway..." (Jill Biden at a White House event on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.)

- ♦ “The second half was a tale of sheer joy for Liverpool and unrelenting misery for United...” (Man Utd 0-7 Liverpool.)
- ♦ “... but there is no joy in Mudville—might Casey has struck out.”
- ♦ “The joy of childbirth...”
- ♦ He has such *joie de vivre*.

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ “Black Joy is hard to define... It’s... It’s... It’s... It’s... It’s... It’s...” (“Kamala Harris is tapping into the Black Joy movement” by John Blake, CNN, Aug. 25, 2024.)
- ♦ “One person’s loud is another person’s expression of joy.” (Brooklyn.)
- ♦ “A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word ‘erroneously’ is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do.” (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, “It’s the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move,” Subsection “But That Isn’t What It’s Supposed to Mean!”)
- ♦ The clientele knows...
- ♦ IYKYK...
- ♦ Refers to nothing real.

## joyful (groups)

“joyful” teen  
~ dead after six others stab him

joyful warrior  
Kamala is a ~ (Doug Emhoff at the 2024 DNC)  
we are ~s (Kamala Harris at a rally)  
as a candidate, Harris often asks to be seen as a ‘~’  
we will be ~s (Senator Cory Booker, D-New Jersey)

joyful, equitable  
building ~ communities that celebrate diversity  
(queer)

joyful and hopeful  
we can make a movement that is ~ (David Hogg)

charming and joyful  
he was so ~ (Mina Kimes about NFL player Alex Collins)

equitable and joyful  
creating a more ~ motherhood (Minna Dubin)

optimistic, joyful, and forward-looking  
Harris is running a much more ~ than Biden (2024)

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ “We can have friends in this work. We can make a movement that is joyful and hopeful and not just sad and depressed constantly.” (David Hogg. From “A lesson Parkland shooting survivor David Hogg learned: Find the joy” by Tonya Mosley, NPR, Fresh Air, June 8, 2023.)
  - ♦ “He was so charming and joyful.” (Mina Kimes about the ex-NFL player Alex Collins.)
  - ♦ “In this fight, as Tim Walz likes to point out, we are joyful warriors... Joyful warriors...” (Kamala Harris at a rally.)
- \*\*\* jumping on the “joyful” bandwagon...
- ♦ “And there’s the crew out there approaching that beautiful capsule that did the *joyful ride* [italics mine] from the top of the atmosphere

down... They’re getting it safe and ready to start bagging her, to come over to the clean room here...and look at her, she landed perfectly, looks like a top sitting there.” (The NASA male commentator gushing about the OSIRIS-Rex Sample Return.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ “Being queer was joyful but it was also not a joke.” (An elderly lesbian, speaking today about the 1990s.)
- ♦ “‘Joyful’ teen dead after six others stab him.”
- ♦ “Americans are not joyful when they go to the gas station to fill up their car. They’re not joyful when they make their mortgage payment. They’re not joyful when they go to the grocery store. People are hurting, and this whole joy, lovefest, doesn’t exist in the real world.” (South Carolina Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, about the 2024 DNC, and its ‘joyful warriors.’)”

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ IYKYK...
- ♦ The clientele knows...
- ♦ Refers to nothing real.

## joyfully (groups)

joyfully dancing  
a Black gay man ~ (voguing)

joyfully skews convention  
Bad Bunny ~ (Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio)

joyfully violating  
~ cultural taboos, Lil Nas X... (who else?)

joyfully celebrated  
New Orleans and Havana’s shared love of music is ~

joyfully celebrates  
Charleston ~ faith... (Black churches / South Carolina)

joyfully erotic  
rap and reggaeton en Espanol can be ~ (ALT.LATINO)

joyfully raucous  
a ~ follow-up to Magic Mike (Magic Mike XXL)

joyfully raunchy  
the ~ *Gods and Monsters*...

joyfully trashy  
it’s ~ (NPR’s Glen Weldon about *Dicks: The Musical*)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ “[S]omething as innocuous as a Black gay man joyfully dancing with friends at a gas station can put someone’s life in danger and result in murder.” (Melvin Williams, a professor of communication studies at Pace University in New York. From “A dancer’s killing—over voguing—highlights the dangers Black LGBTQ Americans face” by Rachel Treisman, NPR, August 11, 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ IYKYK...
- ♦ The clientele knows...
- ♦ Refers to nothing real.

## joyfulness (groups)

inject joyfulness into their convention  
Cory Booker praised the Democrats for seeking to ~ (DNC)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ IYKYK...
- ♦ The clientele knows...
- ♦ Refers to nothing real.

## joyous (groups)

joyous assertion

“Racist, Sexist Boy” is a ~ of personhood (teens)

joyous and jumpy

she makes ~ Afro-electro hymns (Linda Ayupuka)

joyous and liberatory

riots, looting are experienced as sort of ~ (Vicky Osterweil)

joyous and optimistic

its exuberance promotes a ~ celebration (a Pantone color)

joyous and supportive

the ~ atmosphere (The Grace Hopper Celebration)

so joyous

watching our community’s resistance has been ~ (trans)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Watching our community’s resistance and display of love has been so joyous...” (The mother of a Florida trans female athlete who was playing on the high-school team, in spite of the fact that a 2021 Florida law prohibits transgender girls from playing on girls’ sports teams. The school’s principal and vice-principal have both been reassigned to non-school sites, pending an investigation.)

♦ “It’s a really joyous thing what Lily did—speak Blackfoot up there because she brought her ancestors and her people up with her up to that podium, and she’s sharing it with us all.” (Robert Hall, the director of Blackfeet Native American Studies Program for the Browning Public School District, about the actor Lily Gladstone receiving a Golden Globe award for best actress.)

♦ “Other words the company used to characterize the color—and, by extension, the current cultural moment—include powerful, empowering, electrifying, boundaryless, audacious and inclusive. / ‘Viva Magenta is brave and fearless, and a pulsating color whose exuberance promotes a joyous and optimistic celebration, writing a new narrative,’ it says.” (“How and why Pantone picked ‘Viva Magenta’ as its 2023 color of the year” by Rachel Treisman, NPR, Art & Design, December 2, 2022.)

\*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “A joyous end to a tense drama.” (The rescue of trapped miners.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## joyously (groups)

joyously defiant

Dixie Chicks host a ~ girls’ night out in Nashville

joyously big

she is a loud, proud, ~ black woman (Lizzo)

justly, sustainably, and joyously

how humanity might live on Earth ~

truly and joyously

Marfa, Texas, a place I ~ love (Aisha Burns)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “We just really want to live our life as joyously as possible.”

♦ “She is a loud, proud, joyously big black woman.” (Lizzo.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## Judas (betrayal)

call me Judas

they will attack me in the press, ~, accuse me of...

## judge (role)

judge

you be the ~ (preference contest)

history will be the ~ (proper response to pandemic)

post judge

are you the ~ (response to critic)

## judged

judged by wins and loses

as a coach, he will be ~

## juggernaut (noun)

Juggernaut

Zhilei “Big Bang” Zhang vs. Joe “the ~” Joyce (boxing)

juggernaut of coastal destruction

you have this ~ (land for industry, shrimp farms)

juggernaut of optimism

a ~ vaulted him to the White House (Obama)

juggernauts of global trade

container ships are the ~

Fury juggernaut

Paris is key in keeping the ~ moving (the boxer’s wife)

Russian juggernaut

the ~ in the east had moved steadily westwards (1813)

self-help juggernaut

the ~ was published in 1936 (*How to Win Friends...*)

new-school juggernaut

Tagovailloa turned old-school Alabama into a ~ (football)

ratings juggernaut

it was a ~ (The Cosby Show)

bureaucratic juggernaut

I’m up against a ~ that won’t stop (immigration status)

cultural juggernaut

K-pop has become a ~

literary juggernaut

he has been a ~ (great American writer Stephen King)

publicity juggernaut

she is a shill for the family’s ~ (a legal case)

unstoppable juggernaut

his war chest and grassroots army make him an ~  
(election)

up against a juggernaut

he is ~ (a politician contending for nomination)

juggernaut rolls on

and the Anfield ~ (winning Liverpool soccer club)

transformed Apple into a juggernaut

he ~ (Steve Jobs)

♦ "They will also know that once the juggernaut starts to gather momentum it takes some stopping—and if allowed to roll unchecked can take a football generation to halt." ('Liverpool celebrations after beating Man Utd symbolic & moment of release' by Phil McNulty, BBC, January 19, 2020.)

♦ "However, there are few signs from Pep Guardiola's current charges that they are capable of going on one of those juggernaut runs where they destroy everyone in their path." ('The impact of defeat is massive'—what to look out for in Liverpool v Man City" by Emlyn Begley, BBC, 1 December 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The Hindustani name for *juggernaut* was *jaganath*. They gave this epithet to Krishna, chief Hindu deity and lord of the world, and to the idol of him which each year is dragged through the streets of Puri, in India. In the olden days worshippers threw themselves beneath the wheels of the cart and were crushed in their frenzies of devotion. Thus a *juggernaut* is anything to which we are blindly enslaved. We can say, for example, 'she sacrifices herself to the *juggernaut* of fashion.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 16, "Terms of Religion And Their Beginnings.")

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Juggernaut." It's very interesting. Wikipedians are wonderful.

## juggle (verb)

juggle careers and children

women who ~

juggle work and school

it can be hard to ~

juggle a full load of classes and a job

it may be hard to ~

juggles those objectives

he ~ with an unusual style

juggles (several) roles

he ~ (community activist)

juggle (multiple) tasks

employees who can handle the stress and ~

♦ "Ellis walks the reader through all the balls Madison was juggling as he advocated and negotiated at the Constitutional Convention..." (Scott Detrow, NPR Book Review. An odd image indeed! You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.)

## juggling

juggling the (conflicting) demands

~ of politics and governing

juggling act

trying to build a team is a hard ~ (basketball)

♦ "There are plenty of plates spinning, and for the most part, Villeneuve displays remarkable control over them all." (Empire's favorable 4-star review of *Dune: Part Two*.)

## jugular (go for the jugular, etc.)

jugular of the island

he determined Syracuse was the ~ (Sicily / WWII)

going for the jugular

they are ~ (team in tournament)

go for the jugular

they didn't ~ (debate for political candidates)

she has to ~ tonight (Democratic debate)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Death is as close as your jugular and as far away as the ends of the earth." (Fate.)

## juicy (adjective)

juicy bonuses

successful guides get ~ (Mt. Everest)

juicy elements

all the ~ (scandal at CNN sees president resign)

juicy gossip

you hear some ~ that...

the book contains nearly 400 pages of ~ (on politicians)

juicy information

in the hope of obtaining ~ (journalists)

juicy reveals

candid confessions, ~ (on reality TV hot mics)

juicy revelation

there was no ~ (press conference)

## jumbo (large)

jumbo jet

lightning strikes ~

jumbo squid

~, also known as Humboldt squid

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word comes from the name of an Ethiopian elephant who was brought to the US in 1882 by P. T. Barnum and displayed in Barnum's circus. The poet and etymologist John Ciardi tells Jumbo's story on NPR, "Jumbo's Big Adventure Popularizes a New Word," April 20, 2006. It's wonderful to hear John Ciardi's voice.

## jump (jump at the chance, etc.)

jump to conclusions

let's not ~

we don't know all the facts and no one should ~

it is important not to ~ based on the case of one patient

jumps to conclusions

he ~, makes up his mind, and is stubborn

jumped at the chance

I ~

he ~, here was the opportunity to...

jumped at the opportunity

he ~ (a filmmaker)

jump (all) over this

we knew the students would just ~ (robot fast-food deliveries in dorms)

### jump (leave)

jump to another company  
employers worry you'll ~ (overqualified)

### jump (the place was jumping, etc.)

jumping  
on Saturday night the venue was ~ (boxing / Ally Pally)

### jump (movement)

needle jumped  
the VU meter ~ (recording sounds)

### jump (speech)

jumps from subject to subject  
she ~

### jump (progress)

jumped from ninth place to fourth  
the carrier ~ in on-time arrivals (air)

jumped six spots  
Lance Armstrong ~ to second overall (Tour de France)

### jump (increase / verb)

jumped 32% to (nearly) 1.9 million  
Fox News said its ratings ~

jumps by 10,000  
during the summer, the county's population ~ (tourists)

jumping fast  
the number of cases is ~ (virus)

demand (for electric power) will jump  
the ~

### jump (rivers can jump their banks, etc.)

breaking their banks  
we have seen flooding with rivers ~ (New South Wales)

burst its banks  
melting snowpack might cause it to ~

jumped its banks  
the Medina River ~ today near Bandera (flooding)

### jump (jump a curb, etc.)

jumped a curb  
the van ~ and plowed into three people

jumped the sidewalk  
the car ~ and drove through a number of tents

jumped the tracks  
the train ~ near Crescent City, Florida

♦ [Mr. Webb]: Well, she's late. Reckon she might've jumped the tracks. / [Loretta Lynn]: Oh, Daddy, them things [trains] don't do that.

Do they? / [Mr. Webb, grimly]: They've been known to. (From the great 1980 film, *Coal Miner's Daughter*.)

### jump (lines)

jumped the line  
she ~ to get water for her infant (Kenyan drought)

jumped a fire line  
the flames ~ crews were building (Show Low)

### jump (transmission)

jumped from birds to humans  
a strain of the virus may have ~ (flu)

jumped from the faculty lounge to newsrooms  
the "intersectional" lens that has ~ (politics)

♦ "More recently, we have approached the Israel-Hamas war and its spillover onto streets and campuses through the 'intersectional' lens that has jumped from the faculty lounge to newsrooms. Oppressor versus oppressed. That's meant highlighting the suffering of Palestinians at almost every turn while downplaying the atrocities of October 7, overlooking how Hamas intentionally puts Palestinian civilians in peril, and giving little weight to the explosion of antisemitic hate around the world." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

### jump (jump ahead)

jump ahead to the last chapter  
let's ~

### jump (jump in)

jump in  
please feel free to ~ (a discussion)

### jump (get the jump)

gotten the jump on all of them  
he had ~ (a competition)

get a jump on the coming season  
and so you ~ (high-school athletes graduate early)

### jump (in jumps)

advanced in jumps  
his career ~

### jump (noun)

jump in (suspicious) chatter  
there has been a ~

jump in the number  
contributing to growth is a ~ of online shoppers

jump in traffic  
news sites saw a ~ (Internet / Operation Iraqi Freedom)

### jump ball (noun)

jump ball  
the race is tight, it's a ~ (mayoral election)

looks like a jump ball  
the Senate ~ (elections)



## jumping-off place / point

jumping-off place

this is just a ~, you still have to register (vaccine website)

jumping-off point

he used Heidegger as a ~

## jump out (verb)

jumps out at me

it you look at the data, something that really ~ is...

## jump-start (verb)

jump-start the economy

the government is trying to ~

jump-start (supported) housing

his mandate is to ~ (politician)

jump started an industry

in a very short period of time we ~ (Texas oyster farming)

jump-start the process

local governments have to ~

## jump-start (noun)

jumpstart on the (holiday shopping) season

get a ~ (TV ad)

## jungle (competition)

jungle

it's a ~ out there (survival of the fittest)  
the fashion world can be a ~ (greed, etc.)

## jungle (environment)

jungle of Hollywood

in the mighty ~, the roar of the box office is king

celebrity jungle

the ~ will be his next opponent (boxer on the skids)

hobo jungle

he lives in a ~ near the train tracks

in the (mighty) jungle

~ of Hollywood, the roar of the box office is king

survived in the jungle

I ~, I'm still living (the boxer Ron Lyle about prison)

♦ "In the mighty jungle of Hollywood, the roar of the box office is king." (From Peter Travers' review of the film *Beast*. Smart writing.)

♦ "The celebrity jungle will be his next opponent." (An online commenter's negative assessment of Anthony Joshua's boxing prospects after Joshua lost to Oleksandr Usyk for a second time and then threw a tantrum in the ring.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Jungle warfare is a new kind of warfare. It tears up text books and confounds the experts." (Narration to the short war documentary "Kokoda Front Line 1942." Papua New Guinea, World War Two.)

♦ "We fought through the bloody rain. It's only right that the bull should take place in the bloody rain." (The sentiment of many of the enlisted men at the June 14th 1945 Fourteenth Army Victory Parade and Naval Review in Rangoon, which was held in driving rain. To

liberate the city they had had to march and fight over a thousand miles of jungle and mountains, and beat not only the Japs but also malaria and monsoons. From *The Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten* by John Terraine.)

♦ "Better run through the jungle..." (Watch and Listen to: YouTube Creedence Clearwater Revival—Run Through the Jungle (Vietnam heavy combat footage)

\*\*\* analysis...

♦ It's a jungle out there!

## junk (worth)

junk

his experiments were ~ (expert witness at trial)

television is no longer ~ (an opinion)

junk content

sponsored or spammy links and ~ (search results)

junk science

handwriting, fire, fiber, blood splatter analysis are all ~  
the ~ behind wellness scams (Maintenance Phase podcast)

junk status

their stock has been reduced to ~

♦ "Don't treat your groin like junk, respect it with Gillette Intimate." (A cute Gillette Intimate advertisement, using a double-entendre.)

## junk (euphemism)

touch my junk

"Don't ~"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Wikipedia has an article, "Don't touch my junk." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## junkie (game junkie, etc.)

adrenaline junkie

~s who risk life and limb (sports)  
it's bound to appeal to ~s (skeleton racing)  
~s get a thrill out of riding wood roller coasters

fitness junkie

I'm a ~ who works out every day

gadget junkie

holiday gifts for ~s (computer peripherals, etc.)

game junkie

a 16-year-old ~ with a PlayStation 2

information junkie

if you're an ~ (technology)

news junkies

day traders, ~, and the Web  
~ can get a daily fix (Web site)

pain junkie

a bizarre band of ~s (ultrarunners)

politics junkie

as a kid he was sort of a ~ (NPR's Ron Elving)

space junkies

~ hoping to book a flight (to the space station)

vinyl junkie

I was such a ~, the labels, the grooves, the blackness, the artwork on the covers...

waterfall junkie

hardcore ~s (those who love to find, visit waterfalls)

college basketball junkies

~ and the NCAA tournament

junk-food junkie

a notorious slacker and ~

Internet junkie

living with an ~ ("Come to bed!")

bona fide junkie

the average weather watcher and the ~ (storm chasers)

partisan junkies

MSNBC turns its viewers into ~

political junkies

~ will obsess endlessly about...

## jury (the jury is out)

jury is (still) out

the ~, we don't know about next year (pandemic)

jury is still out on whether

the ~ this approach will be successful (medicine)

the ~ active-shooter drills do more harm than good

## just (filler)

just got

she's ~ this, like, atomic power that comes out of her

just hate

I ~ ...

just thought

I ~ maybe like uhh...

just wanted

I ~ to thank you guys for...

just because

see *just because* (polemical)

just definitely

see *definitely* (contempo-speak)

just completely

and so people are ~ desperate

just kind of

see *kind of* (contempo-speak)

just kind of like

see *kind of like* (filler)

just like

see *like* (filler)

just probably

I guess it was ~ the intensity... (actor Jodie Foster)

just really

see *really* (gushing)

just so

see *so* (gushing)

just sort of

see *sort of* (contempo-speak)

just sort of like

see *sort of like* (filler)

just totally

see *totally* (contempo-speak)

just very

see *very* (contempo-speak)

absolutely just

this is ~ the beginning of what has been...

the tree was ~ tipped over, the roots ripped out

actually just

and I ~ want to start by talking with the show that...

~ (1,321 results at NPR and counting)

basically just

this is ~ to open a new window for us to see...

~ (1,025 results found at NPR and counting...)

exactly just

it opened our eyes to see ~ how...

a tendency to kind of say ~ what is on their minds

kind of just

I think we were both ~ still stuck in our fantasy

~ (2,011 results at NPR and counting)

like just

this album is so brave and bold and ~ hell a human

she knows ~ how to really put on clothes (Teen Vogue)

I would just like give a great sigh of ~ relief (Billie Eilish)

literally just

it was ~ a big conglomerate-y type of thing (Kristen)

Really Just

"Mali's Militants—Did The ~ Vanish" (Korva Coleman)

"Moon Rock Is ~ Petrified Wood" (NPR)

really just

it's ~ about Charlie wanting...

which ~ made it so that nothing...

really just very

see *very* (contempo-speak)

sort of just

so I ~ kept working (Molly Ringwald)

I was ~ taking all of that with me (being a woman)

♦ J-K-L-R speech. ("Just," "kind of," "like," and "really.")

## just because (polemical)

just because we don't see the problem with it

we don't get to decide what is offensive ~ or care ourselves

just because you can't vote  
~ doesn't mean that you can't make a difference

just because I'm Black  
I don't think that ~ I should be responsible for...

just because settlements happen  
~ doesn't mean that a person is guilty (Deshaun Watson)

just because you're young  
~, you can't get away with everything (students / law)

just because he said something  
~ doesn't mean its true (politics)

just because Barnard is in New York  
~ doesn't mean... (abortion pills)

just because you comply with the law  
~ doesn't mean that... (abortion)

just because ritual does not have a direct causal effect  
~, it does not mean that it has no effect in the world

just because it's about abortion  
and ~, it doesn't mean that it's not about...

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "We don't get to decide what is offensive to other people just because we don't see the problem with it or care ourselves." (Race.)

♦ "It's all about justice, right, you know? Jus' because..."

♦ see also *right* (*right?* / *polemical*), *you know* (filler)

## justice (groups)

Justice For Jayland  
~ (fled in car and on foot, shot at policemen)

Justice For Shireen Abu Akleh  
~ (Aljazeera)

abortion justice  
the 5th Women's March focused on ~  
a rally for ~ in Washington, D.C.

Agricultural Justice  
the ~ Project and the Equitable Food Initiative

Algorithmic Justice  
Joy Buolamwini is the founder of the ~ League

climate justice  
Tazo, a tea company, is deeply invested in ~  
global warming and ~ are inseparable  
Portland's ~ program has faced pushback  
the crowd joined her in a chant of ~ (Greta @ Glasto)  
urban heat and ~ (thermal inequity)  
the NAACP's ~ program

disability justice  
Wong is steeped in ~ (Alice Wong / MacArthur Fellow)

economic justice  
Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for ~  
she is an advocate for ~, immigration reform, and...

energy justice  
he's a leader in the emerging field of "~"

environmental justice  
she is a staunch ~ advocate  
Biden's ~ plan  
Rise St. James is devoted to ~ (Louisiana)  
heat equity is an ~ issue  
urban greening should close the ~ gap  
urban tree canopy cover and ~

Environmental Justice  
East Yard Communities for ~ opposes the plan (L.A.)

food justice  
food security and ~ issues  
topics in the Black community like ~ and Black hair  
his journey into ~ activism started in high school  
Caleb has helped start a revolution of ~  
Abe Levine of NPR worked as an educator and ~ activist

Gender Justice  
leaders with the group ~ said they plan to appeal...  
Lusk and her legal team from ~ sued...

green justice  
policy and planning tools for urban ~

racial justice  
the link between ~ and climate change  
~ activists are upset about...  
readability of healthcare forms is a ~ issue  
the group addresses the intersection of homelessness and ~  
how struggles for ~ liberate everyone

reproductive justice  
her forced contraception sheds light on ~ in the U.S.

social justice  
~ groups are creating their own monuments  
liberal activists and ~ warriors have become so unhinged  
she reports on ~ and women's rights

racial, social and gender justice  
Ericka Hart is a sexuality educator with a focus on ~

Rewards for Justice  
~, the State Department's counterterrorism program

Peace and Justice  
the National Memorial for ~ (Montgomery, Alabama)

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." (Martin Luther King. The quote and attribution appear at the end of *Mary Boyle: The Untold Story*, the documentary by Gemma O'Doherty.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Net zero, decarbonization, 1.5C—when tested, they meet blank faces. People either don't know what they mean or find them confusing. David Fenton, a longtime PR specialist for progressive causes, cites as one example the phrase 'climate justice'. When most voters hear the word 'justice', he tells me, they think of courts or police; bolt it to 'climate', and people are not moved, just confused." ("As heat records break, the climate movement has the right answers—but the words are all wrong" by Jonathan Freedland, *The Guardian*, 14 Jul 2023.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Our political aspirant will also deliver us ‘justice.’ When? Where? How? ‘Justice’ about what? He is in favor of ‘justice.’ So are we. But are we sure what kind of ‘justice’ he has in mind? Perhaps it is different from the kind we are thinking about. It might be that we wouldn’t like his brand of ‘justice.’ What is ‘just’ to one person is often cruel in the eyes of another. ‘Justice’ is a good election word, and all words should be suspect during an election.” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 12, “Political Terms and Their Origins.”)

♦ JUSTICE, n. A commodity which is a more or less adulterated condition the State sells to the citizen as a reward for his allegiance, taxes and personal service. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## K

### Kafkaesque (adjective)

Kafkaesque grounds

lawyers forced him to reopen the case on the ~ that...

Kafka-esque journey

a truly ~ through the bureaucracy (France)

Kafkaesque nightmare

my ~ is to be...

he described the conservatorship as a ~ (#FreeBritney)

my client is begging the court to end this ~

(#FreeBritney)

Kafkaesque outcome

that ~ demonstrates the way the system is run (education)

♦ “Then he stopped talking. There came a long, awesome silence from my father, a sort of Gregor Samsa silence, as though I had turned into a cockroach before his eyes. From my side too there was a guilty silence, as though I really had been some kind of wretched insect all along, and now my secret was out and everything was lost. / At the end of the silence Father began talking...He initiated me into the deepest secrets of the librarian’s lore...” (*A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz.)

### kangaroo court

kangaroo court

the term “~” came to mind (Title IX investigation)

the hearing took place in a ~ (English Football)

is this a ~, get a rope and do it right (the film *Stalag 17*)

I urge my colleagues to reconsider this ~ (impeachment)

campus kangaroo courts

~ deny the accused rights (US universities)

run this kangaroo court

who appointed these people to ~ (a sports problem)

found guilty by a kangaroo court

we have been ~ (Manchester City soccer club)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ An older phrase for this is a drumhead court, or drumhead court-martial, which often led to a firing squad.

### Kansas (Kansas of China, etc.)

Kansas of China

the basin is the ~, fertile and rich (Red Basin / China)

### karat (24-karat)

24-karat gold

he has a heart of ~

24-karat gold (m)

he is a ~ personality (a restaurant owner)

24-karat moment

Brooklyn’s championship was a ~ (baseball)

24-karat nugget

his Short Symphony is a ~ (Copeland)

24 karat product

the products I’ve sold are ~ in every way (fund-raiser)

24 karat or fool’s gold

it’s hard to say if he is ~ (an athlete bought by a team)

### karma (fate)

Karma pie

enjoy your massive serving of humble ~ Spurs fans

artistic good karma

the musical has had ~ to... (topicality)

♦ [T]his is what is known as Karma! (A Manchester United hater, after Man U lost to Liverpool 0-4.)

♦ “Spurs fans, do you remember dancing in the stands celebrating an undeserved win against 9 man Liverpool after being gifted a win by VAR..... Isn’t karma a funny old thing!!!” (Redrob68 about Tottenham 1-4 Chelsea. Another commenter posted, “‘What goes around, comes back around. Enjoy your massive serving of humble Karma pie Spurs fans.’ The BBC’s Phil McNulty called it “a night of chaos and controversy.” Bottom line: Spursy are back!)

♦ “He’d like to punch Trump in the face. Well I think Karma just punched you in the face. RIP.” (An online commenter about the overdose death of a celebrity’s grandson.)

♦ “May Karma come for you and every single person making inappropriate comments on the death of this young man. Good luck.” (An online commenter. One reply to that post was three laughing crying emojis. Another reply read, “Karma is fake.”)

### keel (even keel)

keep things on an even keel

let’s ~

keep an even keel

I need to ~ for my kids (while Dad is on trial)

♦ “Certainly my life was [a ‘bloomin’ kick-up]; but, to some extent, my Indian training served to ballast me.” (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ “It gave me a sense of ballast and balance.” (Uri Berliner, about NPR in the good old days. Read “I’ve Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here’s How We Lost America’s Trust” by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

### keep up (awareness)

keep up with the issues

I try to ~

### keep up (progress)

keep up

we want to ~ and not fall behind (government official)  
technology is outpacing the ability of governments to ~

keeping up  
working-class families aren't ~ (educating kids)

keeping up with the rest of the world  
in education, the US is not ~

### **kernel (noun)**

kernel of a (future) threat  
the far-sighted saw a ~

### **kernel (amount)**

kernel of truth  
the story has, at most, a ~ at its core (David and Goliath)

### **key (important)**

key  
the ~ is to notice when and where he does it (toddler)  
this could be the ~ that unlocks the mystery

key to (successful) marriage  
the ~ is...

key to his (business) strategy  
the ~

key to (mission) success  
coordination and flexibility are ~ (military)

key to (the school's) success  
teamwork is the ~

key to survival  
hard work was the ~ (the Great Depression)

key to investing  
the ~ is...

key accomplishments  
write down your ~ and use specific examples (job)

key advantage  
Vodafone has ~s over the competition

key aides  
kill the terrorist bin Laden and his ~

key alloy  
nickel is a ~ in stainless steel

key (regime) assets  
targeting ~ (military)

key bridges  
~, road intersections, and mountain passes (war)

key courses  
avoid crowding in ~

key decision  
when it comes to ~s

key detail  
it overlooked one ~

key difference  
he points out a ~ between the men

key emotion  
empathy, the ~, emerges early

key evidence  
his dying declaration was the ~ (murder case)

key fact  
the ~ was that...

key factor  
communications is the ~  
three ~s contribute to burnout...

key (terrain) features  
~ and landmarks (military)

key figure  
he is the ~ in the group

key infrastructure  
every other ~ depends on it (electricity) (terrorism)

key meetings  
~ held privately by the rich counties

key message  
I think one of the ~s is...

key moment  
he failed to maintain his situation awareness at ~s (war)

key objective  
the airfield would be a ~

key organizer  
Beck was a ~ of the Seattle protests

key partner  
Ethiopia is a ~ in US counterterrorism efforts (in region)

key (leadership) positions  
troops in ~

key post  
he went to work filling the ~s (government)

key principle  
the ~ in the court case

key requirement  
the ~ during a retrograde is to maintain positive control

key rules  
teach your swimmers these four ~ (drownings)

key species  
the caribou is a ~ in the refuge

key technique  
mastered the ~ to create a nuclear bomb

key term  
define the ~s listed in this chapter (nursing)

key terrain  
the target may be ~, a farm, a ridgeline  
seize or hold ~ and counterattack the enemy  
the high ground in desert terrain is usually ~

~ or landmarks are used to ... (minefield)

key test

the ~ will involve...(gene therapy)

key time

their parents are home at ~s of the day

key (rebel-held) town

a ~

key witness

police didn't interview ~s

the ~ for the prosecution

key transit point

Kandahar is a ~ for raw opium

key staging area

Peshawar served as the ~

key finding

a ~ was lax security (prison escape)

**key (throw away the key)**

throw away the key

they should put him in jail and ~

~ this time (arrested again)

**key (access)**

have the key

you'll ~, you can open the door (NYC vaccine pass)

turn the key

we are unlocking, but we must ~ slowly (pandemic travel)

**key (car keys, etc.)**

car keys

see *car keys (take away the car keys, etc.)*

**keyhole (the Keyhole, etc.)**

Keyhole

~ is a populated place in Colorado

~ is an arch in California

The Keyhole

~ is an arch in Larimer County, Colorado

~ is a channel in Michigan

~ is a summit in Colorado

~ is a populated place in Florida

~ is a gap in California

~ is a gap in Colorado

Keyhole Arch

~ is an arch in Utah

Keyhole (Natural) Bridge

~ is an arch in Arizona

Keyhole Canyon

~ is a valley in Nevada

Keyhole Falls

~ on the Lillooet River... (British Columbia, Canada)

Keyhole nebula

the Carina Nebula, the ~, brighter than the Orion Nebula

Keyhole Reservoir

~ is a reservoir in Wyoming

Keyhole Rock

~ is an arch in California

Keyhole Run

~ is a stream in Ohio

Keyhole Sink

~ is a basin in Arizona

Little Keyhole

~ Lake is a lake in Wyoming

**keyhole (keyhole view, etc.)**

keyhole views

both indictments offer ~ of major influence operations

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ A keyhole view seems to be one that is narrow and restricted, a hint of something that is much larger. And this makes sense, if you think of spying through a keyhole into a room and trying to make sense of what is going on.

**keynote (noun)**

keynote speaker

the ~ was...

**keystone (noun)**

keystone members

vultures are ~ of the scavenging community

keystone species

a ~ helps determine the types of other species

as the ~ disappears, so do others (oaks)

the walrus is considered a ~ in Arctic marine ecosystems

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ A keystone is the stone at the apex of an arch (or vault) that helps to lock the structure in place and prevents it from collapsing.

**kick (kick one's butt, etc.)**

kicked my butt

asthma ~ (the great boxer Shannon Briggs)

**kick (kick oneself)**

kicked myself

I ~ for not doing a better job of...

**kick (kick in the teeth, etc.)**

kick in the teeth

it's been a real ~

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "A kick in the teeth" or "a punch in the gut." Take your pick!

**kickback (corruption)**

bribery and kickback

taken him to court on ~ charges (politician)

bribery, kickbacks, theft and conspiracy



a web of ~ (military contracts / Iraq)

## **kicked off**

kicked off the (soccer) team  
he was almost ~ for missing practices...

kicked off her team  
she may now be ~... (kid)

## **kicked out**

kicked out of Harvard  
he was ~ for... (William Randolph Hearst)

kicked out of her dorm  
her daughter was getting ~ for not paying rent

kicked out of their families  
elderly women ~ (witchcraft / Mozambique)

kicked out of a (UW master's) program  
he was ~ because... (student)

kicked out of the stadium  
if a fan chants racist abuse now, he is ~ (soccer)

get kicked out  
if they tell their parents, they ~... (gay students);  
I'd rather leave than ~ (a bad school)

got kicked out  
I wanted to be a priest, but I ~ of seminary

## **kick in (start)**

kick in  
the link between recession and crime may ~

kicked in  
the Italian mix of quality and durability ~ (soccer)

instinct kicked in  
a stubborn playground ~ (not backing down in combat)

training kicks in  
and then you ~ (combat)

wealth and connections kicked in  
when he returned to Mexico, his ~ (extradited politician)

time to kick in  
give your new diet ~ (weight loss)

## **kicking and screaming**

kicking and screaming  
the president, ~, was bought into that (to agree a bill)

drag some along kicking and screaming  
he may have to ~ (a reform police chief)

## **kick off (verb)**

kicking off  
Memoria Day sales are ~

kicked off here  
an international Islamic conference ~ yesterday (Riyadh)

kicks off in Tampa  
as the convention ~ (politics)

kick off this afternoon  
the trial will ~ (impeachment)

kicked off the celebrations  
bands and parades ~ at noon... (New Year)

kicked off a (nationwide) crackdown  
authorities ~ against unlicensed Internet Cafes (China)

kick off the fiesta  
revelers packed the streets to ~ (Pamplona)

kick off the (shortboard) revolution  
his board designs helped ~ (surfing)

## **kickoff (noun)**

kickoff breakfast  
she attended the Democratic Convention ~

tomorrow's kickoff  
both sides have filed arguments ahead of ~ (trial)

Wednesday's kickoff  
~ is the culmination of a process (a trade treaty)

campaign kickoff  
her ~ will draw inspiration from her late mother (Clinton)

## **kick out (verb)**

kicked her out of the house  
I ~ (live-in girlfriend)

kick me out of school  
they threatened to ~

kick her out  
I was afraid they would ~ (toddler who bites / daycare)

she kicked him out  
~ (grandmother found out he was gay)

threatened to kick me out  
they ~ of school

## **kick-start (verb)**

kick-start a (new fund-raising) campaign  
she used the Walgreen's launch to ~ (Theranos)

kick-started this whole investigation  
Comey's firing ~ (politics)

kick-start weight loss  
Atkins saw ketosis as the obvious way to ~

kick-started the process  
he ~ to have the relics returned to Libya

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ The pundit who wrote about the need for a candidate to "kickstart a moribund campaign" made me laugh out loud. I would try to *revive*, *reinvigorate*, *resuscitate*, or *breathe life into* that poor campaign, not stomp on its chest with what I am wearing on my feet! I would only try to *kickstart* or *jump-start* it if it had *stalled*. You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.

## kick up (verb)

gale kicked up

a ~, causing a choking dust storm (Kansas)

waves kicked up

had the ~... (open canoe in Glacier Bay)

wind kicked up

the ~ and the ridgetop turned frigid (Afghan combat)

wind was kicking up

but the ~, there was no moon and they need to hurry

## kid (big kid on the block)

big kid on the (geopolitical) block

we're no longer the only ~ (the US in Asia)

## kill (hope, etc.)

killed the idea

a backlash from parents and school counselors ~

kills innovation

regulation ~ (tech industry)

kill such legislation

hospitals are determined to ~ (site-neutral payment / \$)

kill the legislation

liberals helped to ~

killed the story

*Esquire* ~ (by Nelson Algren about Rubin Carter)

hard to kill

though hope is frail, it's ~ (Whitney, Mariah)

♦ "I worry very little about change killing us." (Social media advertising, monetizing, commodification, etc.)

♦ "People have to be able to redeem themselves; they have to be able to make mistakes. Otherwise, creativity is going to be killed." (The artist Marilyn Minter, about "cancelling" people.)

♦ "They've been trying to murder memory." (Politics.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Apparently, AI has trouble understanding the difference between "kill a vehicle's engine" versus "end its life."

## kill (heat kills, etc.)

kill (more and more) people

methamphetamines are ~ in the US (Blacks, Indians)

killed (1,800) people

Hurricane Katrina ~ in 2005

kill (large) ships

the Antey-class subs were designed to ~ (aircraft carriers)

kills them

your immune system identifies those rogue cells and ~

HEAT KILLS

~, Don't Leave Children in Parked Vehicles

hunger is killing

~ people too

♦ "The Nipah virus has a kill rate of 70%." (Seventy percent of infected people die.)

## kill (verb / accomplishment)

kill it

oh, she would ~, she would be so great on this show

they rise to the occasion, they ~ (a high-school teacher)

killed it

he ~ (an excellent performance)

killing it

they are ~ (a company doing well)

digs, kills, assists, blocks, aces

~ (volleyball)

♦ "They are killing it, they are crushing KFC." (Chick-fil-A versus Kentucky Fried Chicken, according to a professor of marketing at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, also known as Wharton Business School. The University of Pennsylvania is a private Ivy League university in Philadelphia, established in 1881.)

♦ "I ask a lot of these guys and, they rise to the occasion, and they kill it, they do so much work for me." (A high-school biology teacher, with upspeak, in Montana.)

♦ "7-year-old girl who slayed the makeup game is back." (An online advertisement from Brightly Creative.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## killed (by disease, etc.)

killed was Alicia A. Monahan

~ (drowned in a river)

killed in Italy

Beradelli is among 50 priests ~ (died from coronavirus)

killed as of April 10

with 1,185 ~ (Bronx coronavirus deaths)

killed throughout the county

39 people were ~ (a Buffalo New York blizzard / NPR)

killed by coronavirus

at least 50 priests have reportedly been ~ in Italy

♦ "Kostis was executed at close range with a spear gun." (A Mediterranean monk seal, according to the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, or MOM, charity.)

♦ "The dogs were killed as they were being transported to an adoption event." (Actually, the dogs *died* [italics mine] because the AC failed in their trailer.)

♦ "The Nipah virus has a kill rate of 70%." (Seventy percent of infected people die. Ordinarily, this would be expressed as "death rate.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ It's a stranger and stranger world. In the past, a person died. Now that same person is "killed" by a river, virus, etc. Soldiers are *injured* [italics mine] in combat, not wounded. And civilians are wounded in accidents, as opposed to injured. Hunters don't shoot or kill animals; they murder or execute them.

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchell, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## killer (silent killer, etc.)

killer in many OD deaths  
fentanyl has been a silent ~

“carrier killer”  
the ~ has speeds higher than Mach 5 (ASBM / DF-21D)

number one weather-related killer  
heat is the ~ in the U.S.

Silent Killer  
carbon monoxide, the ~  
heat illness is called The ~

silent killer  
fentanyl has been a ~ in many OD deaths

♦ “Shame. You know, shame is a silencer. Shame is a killer. Shame is a murderer... I had nothing but shame in my entire life.” (The actor Billy Porter.)

## killer (killer story, etc.)

killer story  
if it’s truly a ~, eyeballs will find it (young journalist)

killer suit  
she was in this ~ and killer heels (female fashion envy)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## killing field (noun)

killing field for the truth  
your platform has become a ~, hasn’t it (Facebook)

become a killing field  
your platform has ~ for the truth, hasn’t it (Facebook)

characterized American communities as ‘killing fields’  
President Biden ~

♦ “Your platform has become a killing field for the truth, hasn’t it?” (Senator Kennedy of Louisiana grilling Mark Zuckerberg at a senate hearing. See “Zuckerberg apologizes to families of kids harmed online as Senate grills tech CEOs” by Cheyenne Haslett and Alexandra Hutzler, ABC, January 31, 2024.)

♦ “Standing there is that small town [Uvalde, Texas]... I couldn’t help but think, there are too many other schools, too many everyday places, that have become killing fields, battlefields, here in America.” (“Biden urges gun action to end the ‘killing fields,’” YouTube, June 2, 2022. 622 views.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “‘I’m just a photographer; I don’t know anything... ‘Look straight ahead. Don’t lean your head to the left or the right.’ That’s all I said. I had to say that so the picture would turn out well...” (Mr. Nhem En, staff member and chief of 6 photographers at Tuol Sleng prison, responsible for taking mug shots of prisoners, many of which are now on display at the prison. At least 14,000 people were tortured to death or sent to the killing fields. Only a half dozen inmates were known to have survived. From “Out From Behind a Camera at a Khmer Torture House,” by Seth Mydans, *The New York Times International*, Oct 27, 2007, A3.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Killing field” is recognized by Merriam-Webster, which dates first usage to 1980. There is a Wikipedia article “Killing Fields” about sites in Cambodia.

## kill off (verb)

kill off old habits  
it’s difficult to ~

kills off ‘Batgirl’ movie  
Warner Bros. ~, \$90 million in...

## killjoy (person)

killjoy  
she was trying to be realistic and not a ~ (an educator)

♦ “There are no votes or money to be gained from being a killjoy.” (Politics in the age of the COVID pandemic.)

## kin (noun)

kin to (mountain) country  
when the sea is ~... (resemblance)

kin to the dulcimer  
the bowed Psalter, a stringed instrument ~

closer kin  
laughter that’s ~ to rage than joy

## kindhearted (and kind-hearted)

kindhearted  
a ~ woman gave him some food

♦ “Woody notices a small house to the rear, walks to it and knocks on the door. The MINISTER, dressed in black, opens it. / Woody: Mornin’, Pastor, my name’s Guthrie... And I ain’t eaten in so long my stomach thinks my throat was cut an’ I was wonderin’ if you’d have any work I could do fer a small meal. I’d do anythin’ at all to earn it... / Minister: Son, I have been in the service all my life and have seen that thousands of men like you got to work for a meal. However, at this moment, there is no work to be done here, and therefore if I were to feed you it would be a cast [act?] of charity, which may help for the moment but cause harm in the long run. You seem to have retained your pride and dignity since you did not ask outright for a free meal and that is to your credit. But to answer your question, there is no work to be done so therefore you cannot earn a meal. (He steps back into the house and closes the door, leaving Woody standing on the porch with his mouth hanging open.)” (From the filmscript of the 1976 film *Bound for Glory*, based on the life of singer-songwriter and composer Woody Guthrie. Guthrie was played by the actor David Carradine.)

♦ “Invite a beggar into your home and he will put his feet up on your table!”

♦ See the Wikipedia article “*Pathological Altruism*” about the 2012 book by that name.

## kindle (verb)

kindles fears  
release of bombing figure ~

kindled an (environmental) movement  
her protest ~ (save the trees)

kindle violent behavior  
its ability to ~ (alcohol and cocaine)

## kind of (kind of like)

see *kind of like* (filler)

## kind of (contempo-speak)

kinda what

inoculation theory, which is ~ it sounds like (NPR pundit)

kinda like

“I ~ that about him” (a “rapey” vibe / HBO’s *The Idol*)

kind of pouring cold water

Trudeau is now ~ over the idea... (support for Haiti)

kind of icky

I still feel ~ about it (abortion)

kinda scared

we were ~ that like we didn’t know if it was kinda like...

kind of yucky

it’s ~ (red tides)

kind of absolutely

see *absolutely* (contempo-speak)

kind of basically

see *basically* (contempo-speak)

kind of directly

I don’t want to ~ blame anybody, I’m just saying...

kind of do

see *do* (emphasizer)

kind of does

see *does* (emphasizer)

kind of exactly

see *exactly* (contempo-speak)

kind of feels like

see *feel like* (*feels like*, *felt like*)

kind of felt like

see *feel like* (*feels like*, *felt like*)

kind of just

see *just* (filler)

kind of, like

see *like* (filler)

kind of like

see *kind of like* (filler)

kind of maybe

see *maybe* (contempo-speak)

kind of obviously

see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

kind of pretty

see *pretty* (contempo-speak)

kind of really

see *really* (*gushing*)

kind of sort of

see *sort of* (contempo-speak)

kind of supposed to

these debates, they’re ~ be big events (NPR)

kind of very

see *very* (contempo-speak)

kinda you know

see *you know* (filler)

absolutely kind of

and so I think that is ~ logical...

he looked ~ ashen...

actually kind of

it’s really ~ cool, it never gets old

Jimmy Fallon’s show is ~ great

it’s ~ an interesting story

it seems ~ funny when you think about it

they are the only earthquakes we can ~ predict

this album is ~ in the same vein as RuPaul’s Drag Race

it ~ worked out perfectly

I ~ used my songs, in a way, to push myself to...

and I do want to say I ~ liked the segment because...

actually kind of, like

see *like* (filler)

basically kind of

so if we can ~ get a hot lead on it (a wolverine)

so I ~ learned English watching WB

basically kind of like

see *kind of like* (filler)

definitely kind of

it was ~ hard

he ~ got sad a little bit just thinking of, Like, OK,

maybe...

I think a lot of girls are ~ enticed to come to the States

it’s ~ the hardboiled mystery novels that my dad loved...

she’s ~ given me a sense of purpose (a dog)

it was ~, you know, bits of...

it ~ had me shook for the longest

did kind of

I think it ~ bring us together in this weird way

the music ~ serve as armor at that time for me

and they ~ always struggle to see me as a Korean

(adopted)

so I ~ toy around with the idea of...

do kind of

I ~ remember my father teaching me...

you ~ question yourself in terms of what do people think

what we ~ like about...

does kind of

and it ~ provide that calming, relaxing effect (tai chi)

it ~ become a large part of who you are

and it ~ take the sheen off the fantasy

it ~ make you begin to question, well, what else...

Christmas ~ bring out the heartstrings...

it ~ suck that it’s like, you can’t afford to buy...

it ~ mean you don’t really get to do anything else

extremely kind of

we used to have these ~ post-Soviet messages that...

I mean, kind of

Yeah, ~, it all sounds crazier the more I talk about it  
~ the main criteria is...

I mean, really kind of

~ vicious battles (about sports mascots)

just kinda

bikes that we ~ leave locked up outside (thefts)  
to me, it ~ shows what...

just kind of

that's ~ where my head goes a lot, you know...  
it ~ happened...  
I ~ stack things because there's a lot of stuff  
we're ~ waiting for...  
so she stood up and then the second one ~ came out  
(birth)  
it was ~ terrifying because I was like... (a coed)

just kind of felt like

*see feel like (feels like, felt like)*

maybe kind of

these kids were ~ awful (middle school)

really kind of

I think they've ~ managed to...  
we ~ don't do that...  
it's ~ a wild experience  
it's ~ confusing for them because it's not even clear...  
the pandemic has ~ heightened the urgency...  
so it ~ depends...  
she was ~ well known back in the day  
it's ~ pretty (evening ground fog)  
I mean it's been ~ head spinning how quickly (pundit)

really, kind of

it's ~ an incredible thing to imagine happening...

really actually kind of

it's ~ cool, it never gets old  
I ~ felt like I was getting to know her

Sorta, Kinda

"Your Questions For Sonny Rollins, Answered (~)"

you know, kind of

well, I trust him, ~...  
it was ~ a life changing perspective (from space)  
all we have to do is, ~ add water (film-making)  
the lead started up, ~ mellow and then it built up (music)

♦ "It's kind of disheartening, a little bit, sometimes," she said cautiously." (Virality, according to a 24-year-old singer and songwriter.)

♦ "I used to be in punk bands when I was a kid and I just kind of suddenly thought, 'I killed Captain Cook' sounded like a really good name for a Hawaiian punk band to have made..."

♦ "Steve Banon through the talk show that he hosted really kind of became the center of the Maga alternative media ecosystem." (With pronounced upspeak on "ecosystem." A young pundit heard on NPR.)

♦ "It's been a summer with a lot of good movies, to be quite honest. *Wonder Woman*, *Dunkirk*, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, *Girls Trip*, *The Big Sick*. But you need a break from even the best movie binge,

especially when some of them are...you know, kind of sad and explode-y." ("Pop Culture Happy Hour: The Regrettable Television Pop Quiz Returns" by Linda Holmes, August 18, 2017.)

♦ "This might be ya know a way to kinda sorta eliminate them, and, it's just awful... Drag performance is just so powerful, and that's probably why they fear it, ya know?" (Frida Nightz, a drag queen, about proposed legislation in Idaho to ban public drag shows.)

♦ "I felt like I kind of realized who I was by being with him—or like, I felt like I was allowed to be who I was, and I didn't feel like I needed to be anybody different." (A contemporary woman about her relationship with her *husband*.)

♦ "It was just kind of terrifying because I was like, that kind of could've been me." (A coed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison about the beating and rape of another student.)

♦ "We were kinda scared that like we didn't know if it was kinda like looked down upon almost..." (Kennedy, a female, partying on Maui after the 2023 wildfires.)

♦ He kinda / sorta apologized for... (A celebrity.)

♦ "To a packed courtroom, Drappi described Ellison's demeanor that night as 'sunken.' He said she was 'kinda slouching' and 'did not display confident body language.'" ("Secret recording of Caroline Ellison meeting with Alameda staff exposed in SBF criminal trial" by MacKenzie Sigalos, CNBC, October 12, 2023.)

♦ "I mean it's been really kind of head spinning how quickly this paradigm has shifted in U.S. foreign policy." (Daniel Kurtz-Phelan, speaking to Jessica Chen Weiss of Cornell University on *The Foreign Affairs Interview*. He is referring to the shift in focus from the Arab and Muslim world and Afghanistan post-9/11 to conflict with China under Barak Obama.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type in "just kinda" at NPR and you get 73 results and counting. Type in "just kind of" at NPR and you get 8,606 results and counting. Type in "really kinda" and you get 12 results and counting, including "maybe really kinda"! Type in "really kind of" and you get 2,212 results and counting...

♦ see also *sort of (contempo-speak)*

♦ J-K-L-R speech. ("Just," "kind of," "like," and "really.")

♦ Are you sure!?!)

## kind of like (filler)

kinda like

and I was ~, I feel like... (The Gayly Prophet podcast)

kind of like

and I felt myself, ~, stand up straighter (empowered)

kinda like looked down upon

we didn't know if it was ~ almost (with upspeak)

kind of like taught you

in some ways I ~ how to... (a Trans)

kind of like stepping back in time

it's ~

kind of like a boy

I can't decide if I'm a girl who feels ~ or...

kind of like a cycle

so it was ~ that kept repeating

kind of like this exercise

it's ~ in conformity (DEI training)

kind of like a fork in the road

it's ~ on an endless path in the darkness... (karmic level)

kind of like a maid

she was ~ to Mrs. Lee...

kind of like this (dimension hopping) voyager  
in my mind, she's ~

kind of like psychological  
it's unpleasant to relive, I mean, half of it is ~

kind of, like  
see *like* (filler)

kind of like, maybe  
see *maybe* (contempo-speak)

kind of like really  
see *really* (gushing)

kind of like totally  
see *totally* (contempo-speak)

felt kind of like  
I just ~ a prisoner of my childhood, I was really confused

feels kind of like  
I can't decide if I'm a girl who ~ a boy or like a gay man  
or...

looks kind of like  
it ~ gold (a bright yellow powder)

actually kind of like  
we believed he was ~ that in real life (Bill Cosby)

basically kind of like  
so the video is ~ in the style of Godzilla  
you're ~ being in the center courtyard of a castle

just kind of like  
we both were ~ mind blown at the whole entire situation  
and we're being ~ told, 'unless you have...'  
I think I was ~ experiencing it and...  
and ~ a real range of stuff going on at once (gay music)

maybe kind of like  
representing in ~ hip-hop vernacular... (a musician)

♦ "I can't decide if I'm a girl who feels kind of like a boy or like a gay man trapped in a girl's body or if I'm, like, a boy but in a very feminine way, or, like, am I a lesbian?" ("Banned Books: Maia Kobabe explores gender identity in 'Gender Queer,'" NPR, Morning Edition, January 4, 2023.)

## kindred (kindred spirits, etc.)

kindred spirits  
she was able to find other ~

## king (king cobra, etc.)

king of beasts  
this ~ (a lion)

king of fishes  
on the white sand at the bottom lay the sturgeon, ~

king cobra  
just a glimpse of a ~ can spread panic on a tea plantation  
the ~ reaches up to 8 feet in length (India)  
the ~ can growl (India)

king salmon  
~ is the largest of Alaska's five salmon species  
~ can weigh 30 pounds or more (Yukon River)  
~, also called Chinook salmon...

### \*\*\* Places in Alaska...

♦ King Salmon (populated place); King Salmon Air Force Station (military); King Salmon Bay (bay); King Salmon Creek (stream); King Salmon Island (island); King Salmon River (stream)...

## king (products)

king  
in this seafood-crazed country, tuna is ~ (Japan / sushi)  
the automobile is ~ (issue of walkability of cities)  
colleges where football is ~  
in the old days the broadcast networks were ~  
they came from the Deep South, where cotton was ~

King of Beers  
Budweiser, the ~ (NOT Bud Light)

king of fruit  
Xiyuanguan lychees were dubbed "the ~" (China)

King of Steaks  
Pat's ~ (Harry and Pat Olivieri / Philly cheese steak)

king of wool  
shahtoosh wool, the "~" in Persian (Tibetan antelope)

## King (King Island, etc.)

King Bar  
~ is a bar in Alabama

King Bay  
~ is a bay in Minnesota

King Bayou  
~ is a lake in Louisiana

King Bench  
~ is a bench in Utah

King Bluff  
~ is a bluff in Mississippi

King Branch  
~ is a stream in Georgia

King Butte  
~ is a summit in Montana

King Canyon  
~ is a valley in Arizona

King Coulee  
~ is a valley in Montana

King Creek  
~ is a stream in Texas

King Gap  
~ is a gap in Alabama

King Island  
~, in the Bass Strait... (Tasmania)  
~ straddles the Bass Strait and the Great Australian Bight



King Hollow  
~ is a valley in Tennessee

King Island  
~ is an island in Massachusetts

King Knob  
~ is a summit in West Virginia

King Lake  
~ is a lake in Michigan

King Mesa  
~ is a summit in Utah

King Mountain  
~ is a summit in Washington

King Peak  
~ is a summit in California

King Point  
~ is a cape in North Carolina

King Spring  
~ is a spring in Arizona

King Swamp  
~ is a swamp in Georgia

King Tank  
~ is a reservoir in New Mexico

\*\*\* the "Kings" of nature...

♦ Copper King: Copper King Canyon (valley / AZ); Copper King Mountain (summit / AZ)

♦ Desert King: Desert King Spring (spring / CA)

♦ Diamond King: Diamond King Gulch (valley / NV)

♦ Forest King: Forest King Gulch (valley / ID)

♦ Gold King: Gold King Creek (stream / AK)

♦ Hickory King: Hickory King Branch (stream / TN)

♦ Storm King: Storm King Mountain (summit / CO)

♦ A RIDDLE. If you were a black bear, which of the above "nature kings" would you visit?

\*\*\* analysis

♦ For a country that revolted against King George III, we still have a lot of "Kings"! But "King" was also a common surname when our country was born, and that may be the reason for many of these place names. It's worth noting that at one time "King" was a popular name for a dog. Nowadays, names for pets are *much* trendier.

king (person)

king  
the customer is ~ (said by a Sony Corporation exec)

king of the carnival  
King Momo, ~ (Rio)

king of Russian chanson  
Mikhail Krug, often called the ~, was murdered

King of the city  
he was the unofficial ~ (Pablo Escobar / Medellin)

"king" of *coupe-decale*  
he had been referred to as the ~ (DJ Arafat)

King of Freaknik  
Uncle Luke, "~" (Atlanta, Georgia)

"King of the Wild Frontier"  
David Crockett, the ~

king of the hill  
kids like to play ~

King of Instagram  
he is often referred to as the ~ (Dan Bilzerian)

king of the mountains  
points in the ~ competition (Tour de France)

King of the B Movies  
filmmaker Roger Corman, the ~

King of Pop  
Michael Jackson, the ~, was also the king of shyness

King of Soul  
200,000 fans viewed the body of the ~ (Sam Cooke)

King of the Swamp  
Obediah Barber was known as the "~" (Okefenokee)

carnival king  
a representation of the ~ is set ablaze (Martinique)

cocaine king  
known as the "~ of Milan," Morabito was arrested in...

cocaine kings  
all of the ~ had mansions, limos, helicopter (Colombia)

"Gypsy King"  
Tyson the ~ Fury...

Sausage King  
Vladimir Marugov, the ~ (owned meat-processing plants)

Taxi King  
Gene Freidman, known as "the ~" (NYC)

kings and queens  
homecoming, the American tradition featuring ~ (school)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "We might not have a monarchy here in Brazil, but he was our King." (A Brazilian man visiting Sao Paulo's Museum of Football with his three children shortly after the death of Pele.)

King Canute

King Canute  
eliminating abuse is like ~ trying to hold back the tide

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Canute was a very good Christian, and the story he believed he could hold back the tide is bogus. But this is how we smear the legacies of many historic personages...in the language. See the Wikipedia article "King Canute and the tide." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ Many historical personages—Hector, Pandarus, King Canute, Machiavelli, Captain William Bligh, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Joe McCarthy—have been mischaracterized in history and in the language.

## kingdom (animal kingdom)

animal kingdom

Darwin linked humans to the rest of the ~ (evolution)

## kingdom (Magic Kingdom, etc.)

Magic Kingdom

smiling faces at the ~ (Disney)

## kingdom (control)

their own little kingdom

to an extent it's like ~ (prison / correctional officers)

operated as a kingdom

it essentially ~ rather than a corporation (advocacy group)

## Kingdom (Chiefs Kingdom, etc.)

joined 'Chiefs Kingdom'

a legion of new fans has ~ (the NFL football team)

♦ "Interest in Kansas City has soared this season, but that has been more down to events off the field. Tight end Travis Kelce's relationship with Taylor Swift has led a legion of new fans to join 'Chiefs Kingdom.'" (BBC.)

♦ see also *army* (*Arnie's Army, etc.*), *nation*, (*Who Dat Nation, etc.*)

## kingpin (person)

drug kingpin

the ~ was executed... (Federal execution)

~s continue to run their cartels from prison (Mexico)

powerful kingpin

police have captured many of the most ~s (drug cartels)

bandits and kingpins

ballads about ~s (gruperio music)

♦ "At one point you felt like, 'Okay, I'm gonna be a queenpin.'" (A female crack-cocaine seller.)

## kink (noun)

kinks

the ~ have been worked out (interagency coordination)

there are still some ~ to be worked out

kinks in the process

there are still some ~

kinks in the service

there are some ~

kinks in the system

perhaps the Mayor can work out the ~

annoying kink

the system still has ~s (gesture technology)

iron out any kinks

they are having a test run to ~ (restaurant opening)

work out the kinks

US officials are trying to ~ (border security)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Ordinarily, you *iron out* wrinkles, not *kinks*. You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.

## kinship (noun)

kinship with the painter

he felt an immediate ~

kinship with their woke comrades

he may well feel a ~ on the radical left (culture wars)

queer kinship

disability justice & ~ & fat freedom (a T-shirt)

felt an (immediate) kinship

he ~ with the painter

## Kipling (the Canadian Kipling, etc.)

Kipling of the Klondike

Jack London was known as the ~

Canadian Kipling

he earned the nickname, the ~ (Robert W. Service)

♦ Rangoon / Singapore / Hong Kong / Japan / San Francisco / Portland / Seattle / Victoria / Vancouver / Medicine Hat (Alberta) / Yellowstone National Park / Salt Lake City / Omaha / Chicago / Beaver (Pennsylvania) / Chautauqua / Niagara Falls / Toronto / Washington, D.C. / New York / Boston / Liverpool. (Kipling's itinerary after leaving India for England, age 24. It was on this trip back to England that he met with another great traveler and writer, Mark Twain.)

## kiss of death

kiss of death

asking for a term paper in four weeks is the ~ (cheating)

if he does endorse someone, it turns out to be a ~

once you lose credibility, that's the ~ (crisis management)

trying to ban handguns would be the ~ (US)

to be known as gay then was a ~ (job / 1960s)

kiss of death to a teen girl's reputation

teenage pregnancy used to be the ~

kiss of death politically

to be seen as a US supporter is a ~

♦ "When Apple takes an interest in a company, it's the kiss of death." (Cutthroat, hardball tactics.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to the kiss that Judas gave Jesus after the last supper, which identified Jesus to the soldiers.

## kitchen (creation)

"kitchen" for weather

the Arctic is the ~ in the northern hemisphere

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Education and Sociology are the "kitchens" for much of the "contempo-speak" we all hear nowadays.

## knee (bring to one's knees)

brought the entire world economy to its knees

it suddenly ~ (COVID pandemic)

brought the pirates to their knees

the war ~ (Barbary States)

bring the rebels to their knees

their efforts to ~

brought this (once-mighty) bank to its knees  
he ~

## knee (on knees)

on its knees  
the economy was ~, now it's on its feet (politics)

## knee (oppression)

knee of injustice  
we have all seen the ~ on the neck of black Americans

knee on the neck  
he has his ~ of the public-health community (politics)

Get Your Knee Off Our Necks  
the event included a ~ protest

took world football's knee off Africa's neck  
so 2010 ~ (South African World Cup)

## knee (take a knee)

take a knee  
George Floyd's family and lawyers ~, call for justice  
public hostility towards athletes who ~

take a knee against racism  
Olympians ~, under new policy (Tokyo)

"take a knee" protests  
school district threatens to remove athletes for ~

*Raise a Fist, Take a Knee*  
~: *Race and the Illusion of Progress in Modern Sports*

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I don't believe in gestures, I believe in substance, I believe in doing things that make a practical difference." (Prime Minister Boris Johnson, asked if he would "take the knee.")

♦ "Will England be taking the knee at this World Cup to highlight social injustices? If so, does this also cover gingers and baldies?" / "Of course. What do you think the G and B stand for in LGBTQ?" (Inspired repartee on a BBC HYS about the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The snark alludes to a speech given by FIFA president Gianni Infantino in which he said, "At school I was bullied because I had red hair and freckles." Read "Fact check: 11 eye-catching lines from Gianni Infantino's speech in Qatar" by Paul MacInnes, *The Guardian*, 19 Nov 2023. The games were considered a great success by everyone, and those who visited Qatar in person praised the country for its unique culture and wonderful hospitality.)

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ "That issue [prejudice] is now full and centre and top of the mind in the world and I think this movement of Black Lives Matter and taking the knee campaign made the world sit back and look at the issue. So 2010 took world football's knee off Africa's neck, I don't think it will be allowed to put that knee on Africa's neck again." (Danny Jordaan, organising chief for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, won by Spain. From "2010 took world football's knee off Africa's neck," BBC, July 11, 2020. This is a form of presentism.)

## knee (dominance and submission)

kiss the ring or bend the knee  
she won't punish those who refuse to ~ (politics)

risen from its knees  
the country has ~, from humiliation...

## kneecap (verb)

kneecap an (American) ambassador  
nobody should be able to ~ (politics)

kneecap the Postal Service  
he is trying to ~ to discourage voting

politically kneecap  
he tried to ~ Bill Clinton (George HW Bush)

♦ "He's basically hitting at the kneecaps of the process we all depend on." (Some political kerfuffle.)

## kneecapped

kneecapped through a smear campaign  
she was ~ (a US ambassador)

## knee-jerk (adjective)

knee-jerk reaction  
the gun law was a ~ to the Parkland school shooting  
hysteria and ~s (election politics)  
this law is a ~ to a tragic event

knee-jerk solutions  
many companies have come up with ~ (training)

### \*\*\* The reflex hammer...

♦ "[T]he simple, elegant, inexpensive almost plebeian swing of the reflex hammer has a cost/benefit ratio that I think no advanced technology will likely ever match." (Dr. Stephen Krieger, an expert on multiple sclerosis.)

## kneel (and kneel down, etc.)

kneel down before North American imperialism  
we will never ~ (Venezuela)

## knell (death knell / obsolescence)

sounded the death knell for VHS  
DVD ~

sounded the death knell for these landmarks  
the mobile phone may have ~ (London's red phone boxes)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The tolling of a bell to mark someone's death.

## knell (death knell / destruction)

death knell for his career  
the documentary will sound the ~ (a filmmaker)

sound death knell for youth  
drugs ~ (Kachin State in northern Burma)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The tolling of a bell to mark someone's death.

## knife (knife in the heart)

knife in the heart  
the date Feb. 6, 1958, is still a ~ (Man. U fan)

## knife (knife in the back)

knife in the back  
see *back* (*stab in the back, knife in the back, etc.*)

## knife (sharpen one's knife)

sharpened their knives

Madrid's media ~ (over a soccer controversy)

♦ "Chris dropped a knife that was used by Zucker's enemies." (CNN president forced to resign.)

## knife (knife edge)

rests on a knife edge

the race for the White House ~ (close / election)

## knife-edged

knife-edged ridge

the headwalls of back-to-back cirques form ~s

## knight (Black Knights, etc.)

Black Knights

the Robbinsville ~ (N.C. high-school football team)

Golden Knights

the ~ Army Parachute Team

Scarlet Knights

the ~ are off to a slow start (Rutgers football)

## knight (knight in shining armor)

knight in shining armor

I'm the ~ (Lenox Lewis, out to save boxing)

## knit (knit together)

knits together many threads

the story ~ of Muslim grievances (suicide bomber)

knit the plays together

he ~ through overlapping themes (August Wilson)

knits this country together

the flood ruined every thread that ~

knit this enormous planet together

migratory birds ~

knit together as a unit

it has taken the team a while to ~

♦ "The cops knitted this together like a tight cap." (#FreeKarenRead)

## knit (tightly knit)

tightly knit community

it's a very ~ (Neptune City, Jersey Shore)

## knock-on (effect, etc.)

knock-on consequences

it will have ~

## knock out (verb)

knocked out power

winds ~ (hurricane)

the storm ~ to thousands

the storm ~ to about 1.2 million people (California)

knocked out (several major power) utilities

the failure ~ (huge blackout)

knocked out 280 feet

the flood ~ of the 36-inch steel pipe (water line)

flood knocked out 280 feet

the ~ of the 36-inch steel pipe (water line)

storm knocked out power

the ~ to thousands

## knockout (knockout blow, etc.)

knockout blow

the air campaign failed to deliver a ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

the ~ was delivered when... (investigation / indictments)

knock-out blow

he was unable to land a ~ on Amy Klobuchar (politics)

knock-out phases

time will tell if Italy can advance to the ~ (soccer)

\*\*\* "Where is my father?" "He is in America. Making money."

♦ "The knockout is brutal, final, irreversible—the fate all fighters dread and to which none are immune." (Andy Clarke, boxing commentator and author of *The Knockout*. From "You feel like a god—the anatomy of a knockout" by Andy Clarke, BBC, 9 May 2024. It's a superb article.)

♦ "Where is my father?" / "He is in America. Making money." / "When is he coming home to bring me toys and gifts?" / "Next year." (Jiwan, the son of Duk-koo Kim—who died following his fight with Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini—asking his mother about his father. Jiwan was born seven months after his father's death, and after his grandmother's suicide. Jiwan was nine years old when his mother told him about his father, and only watched the whole fight on DVD when he was 24. From "A Step Back" by Mark Kriegel, *New York Times*, September 16, 2012.)

## knockout (knockout voice, etc.)

knockout figure

she had a ~ and dressed provocatively

knockout voice

she has a ~ and terrific timing (a singer)

## knock over (verb)

knocked me over

this book just ~ (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark*)

## knot (the Pamir Knot, etc.)

Pamir Knot

the ~ (where Pamirs, Hindu Kush and Karakoram meet)

Pine Knot

~ Branch is a stream in Pickens County, Alabama

Three Knot Bayou

~ is a stream in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Three Knot Bayou in Louisiana is NOT straight. In fact, it looks like an S with an added loop. If you took a boat along it, you would swing every point of the compass, much as if you were walking a path up a cove in the Appalachian mountains: north, south, east, west, making your head spin. Three Knot Bayou winds its way into Morgan Bayou. Such a "knot" might be thought of as a "tangle." And Americans do not like tangles. They like a straight distance from A to B.

♦ A "knot" in wood is where the grain goes from straight to haywire (twisted).

♦ Our direct, straightforward ancestors had a sense of direction as well as purpose and time, and consequently seem to have honored the bends in waterways that "meandered" and violated the straight line from point A to B with the name of the devil.

♦ see also *elbow* (*Elbow Lake, etc.*)

## knot (noun)

tie the city in knots  
one million tourists will ~ (Olympics)

## knotty (adjective)

knottier  
the real story was ~ (race in America)

knotty problem  
a ~ solved

## know (in the know)

in the know  
but those ~ say...

in the know about what  
was he ~ was unfolding in Ukraine

## know (you know)

see *you know* (filler)

## know-how (noun)

technological know-how  
we have the ~ to solve the problem

## knuckle down (verb)

knuckle down and get to work  
okay, let's ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Language from the game of marbles includes: all the marbles; lose one's marbles; knuckle down; and play for keeps.

## knuckle under (verb)

knuckle under to these demands  
Facebook could ~ or get knocked offline (Vietnam)

## Kool-Aid (drink the Kool-Aid, etc.)

anti-DEI Kool-Aid  
those who drank the ~ (Ameshia Cross)

division Kool-Aid  
we as a nation must stop drinking the ~ (politics)

drinking the coolaid  
you haven't seen the video or you're just ~ (comment)

drank the Kool-Aid  
wow, you really ~, no, I don't feel that at all (culture wars)

drunk the Kool-Aid  
kids who have ~ (only one path to good life / school)

♦ "there are only 2 genders, don't drink the Kool aid." (An online commenter about "NJ transgender woman transferred from women's

only prison after impregnating 2 inmates, report says" by Stephen Sorace, Fox News, July 17, 2022.)

♦ "Already you have a little bit of hater-ade against you, people are drinking it about you." (From a woman on CBS This Morning to Jeanine Cummins on the publication of her book *American Dirt*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to the mass suicide of over 900 members of the People Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, in 1978. Many of them drank a powdered drink laced with cyanide. See the Wikipedia article "Drinking the Kool-Aid." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## kowtow (verb)

kowtow to the NCAA  
the sovereign state of Montana will not ~ (sports)

kowtow to anyone  
he did not feel like he had to ~

kowtow to the (religious) establishment  
there is no need to ~ (broadcasting)

kowtow to (campus) orthodoxy  
students and faculty who fail to ~ (DEI)

kowtow to the (very) rich  
he will not ~ (Barak)

♦ "I think there's less of an intentional... I don't like the term kowtowing, but... intentionally only targeting that." (A film pundit about filmmakers and studios adapting films to the Chinese market and to the rest of the world.)

## Krakatoa (Krakatoa of the Middle Ages, etc.)

Krakatoa of the Middle Ages  
it was the ~ (Kuwae eruption in 1453)

♦ "For many, such as the young Luke Howard and his schoolmates at the Hillside Academy in Burford, the great cinema of light proved a magnificent compensation for all that was strange in the air. They gazed enraptured from the windows of the schoolhouse, while Howard, the sky watcher, wrote descriptions in his journal." (The strange weather of 1783 included in England appearances of the aurora borealis. From *The Inventions of Clouds* by Richard Hamblyn.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Roger Crowley in 1453 writes about a possible link between the Kuwae eruption and weather and atmospheric effects during the siege of Constantinople.

♦ Another eruption often cited for its effects on sunsets and climate was the 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora that caused the "Year Without a Summer" in 1816 and may have inspired J.M.W. Turner's vivid red sunsets.

♦ Simon Winchester writes about the atmospheric effects of the 1883 eruption of Krakatoa in his wonderful book *Krakatoa*.

## Krakatoan (adjective)

Krakatoan proportions  
it was a car crash of an interview of ~

\*\*\* 2020 Beirut explosion

♦ The awful explosion of August 4, 2020 in Beirut was of Krakatoan proportions.

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "2022 Hunga Tonga eruption and tsunami." It was an event of Krakatoan proportions in our own lifetimes.

## Kraken (noun)

Kraken of the swamp

Kash Patel refers to Milley as “the ~” (politics)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Then, of course, there’s the famous ‘release the Kraken!’ scene, as the giant multi-limbed beast (a kind of Creature from the Black Lagoon on performance enhancing supplements) is freed from the depths of the sea...” (The 1981 film *Clash of the Titans*.)

## kryptonite (noun)

kryptonite for syphilis  
penicillin has remained the ~

superman’s kryptonite  
the World Cup has proven to be this soccer ~ (Messi)

his kryptonite  
I truly am ~ (Yang versus Trump / politics)

their kryptonite  
the 49ers have been ~ in recent years (for the LA Rams)

Black Man’s Kryptonite  
“The ~” (article by Michael Eric Dyson in *Savoy*)

campaign kryptonite  
it was ~ (Hillary Clinton / “Fight Song” by Rachel Platten)

political kryptonite  
immigration is basically ~ (politics)  
Republicans consider the ACA to be ~ (Obamacare)

ratings kryptonite  
religion can be ~

(his) nemesis, (his) kryptonite  
this could be ~...

bring kryptonite  
I am bulletproof, next time you best ~ (boast)

♦ “As it happens, the boy in question, a budding scientist, would become serial killers’ biggest adversary, the creator of their kryptonite. His name is Alex Jeffreys. In September 1984, Jeffreys discovered DNA fingerprinting...” (*I’ll Be Gone In The Dark* by Michelle McNamara.)

♦ “Patrick Mahomes is our superman, and we’re the kryptonite for the rest of the NFL.” (A happy man celebrating the 2023 Kansas City Chiefs’ Super Bowl win.)

♦ “This could be his nemesis, this could be his kryptonite.” (A commentator at the Day of Reckoning boxing event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, suggesting Arslanbek Makhmudov could be beaten by the underdog Agit Kabayel. And Kabayel—German of Kurdish origin—*did* win the match in a great upset!)

## L

## label (noun)

“one-percenter label  
the ~ became a badge of honor (bikers)

“Progressive” label  
more and more democrats embrace the ~

embrace the (“Progressive”) label  
more and more democrats ~

## labeled

labeled a psychopath  
he was ~ by Israelis (Yahya Sinwar / killed)

labeled a troublemaker  
he was ~ in school

## laboratory

laboratory for warfighting doctrines  
Kandahar will be the ~ forged from...

## labor pains

difficult labor pains  
how to let peace be born despite the ~

## labyrinth (noun)

labyrinth of coral  
the Great Barrier Reef, the marvelous ~ (Australia)

labyrinth of (feuding) clans and subclans  
a ~ (Somalia)

labyrinth of passageways  
inside the ~ (aircraft carrier HMS *Queen Elizabeth*)

bureaucratic labyrinth  
working his way through the ~  
waiting for years in the ~s of the immigration system

giant labyrinth  
the ~ of this building (the United Nations)

♦ “So we end up building like the Winchester Mystery House. It is a structure that was okay but then it just started adding hallways to nowhere and basements that are on top of the building. That’s what our system looks like.” (Veronica Kelly, Orange County Director of Behavioral Health (DBH), who opposes California’s Care Courts, which can now mandate treatment for the mentally ill. Her office must now provide treatment or face fines. Most citizens, and families of the mentally ill, and even many of the mentally ill, favor such courts.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Gardens are associated with mazes, knot gardens and labyrinths. People also enjoy corn and mirror mazes. *Labyrinth* is of Minoan origin and is associated with the Minotaur.

♦ “[T]he spiraling arms of a labyrinth have—at various times, in parts of the world as far afield as Tamil Nadu, India; Knossos, Crete; and Flagstaff, Arizona—represented the journey of life, the cosmos, and the womb, while serving as a trap for evil spirits, a cage for monsters, an ancestral abode, a ritual dance floor, and a path for pilgrims.” (“The Garden Of Forking Paths” by Nicola Twilley, *The New Yorker*, November 29, 2021. A wonderful article about *actual* labyrinths.)

## lace (verb)

laced cannabis with heroin  
he ~ to get women addicted to drugs

## laced (adjective)

laced with drugs  
sausage rolls found ~ in Prestatyn

laced with broken glass  
peanut butter ~ found in Aberdeen

profanity-laced  
he delivered a ~ speech to the seamen



## lacerate (verb)

lacerated Trump's calls

he ~ for the FBI to investigate political enemies

## lacerating (adjective)

lacerating in his humor

Obama was often ~ at such dinners, ribbing his rivals...

lacerating (social) drama

a ~ (*Sorry We Missed You*)

lacerating insults

~ and dialogue that sizzles with withering wit

self-lacerating

the song's ~ lyrics address her guilt (Adele)

there is also a soul-searching quality and a ~ humor

emotionally lacerating

in perhaps the movie's most ~ scene, he...

## ladder (hierarchy)

ladder

they failed right on up the ~ (politics)

ladder of prestige

it was the pioneers who occupied the highest rung on the ~

ladder's (lowest) rung

the socioeconomic ~

career ladder

he is moving up the ~ (military)

corporate ladder

women who climb the ~

immigrant ladder

Chaudri climbed a well-worn ~ (washed dishes, cab)

income ladder

for her and others up and down the ~

leadership ladder

she ascended the ~ in Congress (Pelosi)

promotion ladder

the Army should break down its rigid ~ (reform)

tenure ladder

once you've fought and clawed your way up the ~

beauty-pageant ladder

she began to move up the ~

corporate ladder

their rung on the ~

arrogance and ego at the top of the ~

economic ladder

anyone who works hard enough can climb the ~ (US)

educational ladder

as women started climbing the ~ (effects on marriage)

political ladder

by the mid-seventies he had climbed the ~ even higher

social ladder

men eternally trapped on the bottom rung of the ~

socioeconomic ladder

the ~'s lowest rung

supervisory ladder

I never tried to go up the ~

rung on the ladder

it was the pioneers who occupied the highest ~ of prestige

rung on the (corporate) ladder

their ~

at the top of the (income) ladder

the majority of stocks are held by those ~

climbed the (corporate) ladder

he ~

move up the (economic) ladder

the play chronicles the struggles of a family to ~

moving up the (career) ladder

he is ~ (military)

promoted up the (developmental) ladder

he was ~ (a baseball player)

## ladder (ladders of opportunity, etc.)

ladders of opportunity

we have created ~ (education)

ladders of economic and social opportunity

they are pulling up the ~ to defend their place at the top

ladder to the middle class

the school is a ~

ladder to prosperity

they want to make education a ~

accession ladder

Western Balkans states have tried to climb the ~ (EU)

property ladder

it's not that difficult to get on the ~ (Sir Howard Davis)

climb the (accession) ladder

Western Balkans states have tried to ~ (EU)

get on the (property) ladder

it's not that difficult to ~ (out-of-touch Sir Howard Davis)

pull up the ladders

we were naïve to think the privileged wouldn't ~ of opportunity behind them

pulling up the ladders

they are ~ of opportunity to defend their place at the top

pulls up the ladder

a girlboss ~ behind her (puts down other women)

stay on the ladder

trying to ~, stay in the middle class (poor college students)

♦ "Boxing has long been a social staircase for those on the margins."

♦ "I thought I was gonna get on this label and take the elevator, but I had to take the stairs, but like, the growth and strength that you get from taking the stairs *is* valuable, in a way, you know what I mean, but it took me a while to see it that way, like I was very very like bitter." (Rapper Reason, talking with NPR's A Martinez about his latest album *Porches* and specifically the second verse of his song "Gang Shit," about his experience with TD (Top Dog) Entertainment, which he expects will cause a beef with the TD fanbase.)

## ladder (increase)

ladder to war

stepping back helps get the U.S. off the escalation ~

escalation ladder

the posturing and the ~ that we're seeing with Iran  
at that point you're moving up the ~ to nuclear war

## lady (crazy lady, etc.)

Lady Eagles

the ~ won 57-46 (basketball)

bear lady

around Tahoe, Ann Bryant is known as "the ~" (BEAR League)

crazy cat lady

my sister has turned into a ~ and refuses to clean her house

Crazy Plane Lady

the ~ Tiffany Gomas...

nice little ladies

just be ~ and go sit in the corner

♦ "Tiffany Gomas finally reveals what caused her viral 'not real' American Airlines meltdown" by Yaron Steinbuch, *New York Post*, November 3, 2023.

♦ "Can you understand how, for some women, that word, 'ladies,' is attached to 'little ladies,' you know, just be nice little ladies and go sit in the corner." ("Is 'ladies' acceptable workplace language?" by Robin Young, *wbur*, April 18, 2023.)

♦ "Wild women's college basketball brawl features five ejections, three fans booted" by Matt Ehalt, *New York Post*, Feb. 16, 2024. The five "ladies" ejected were: Emma Imevbore; Domonique Davis; Noelani Cornfield; Brikayla Gray; and Ashja Leake. Arkansas State versus Southern Mississippi.)

♦ see also *boy (type)*, *girl (type)*, *guy (good guy, etc.)*, *joe (average joe, etc.)*, *man (big man, little man, etc.)*, *mister (and Mr., Missus, Mrs.)*

## lady (first lady)

see *first lady (of Brazilian jazz, etc.)*

## Lady Macbeth (epithet)

Lady Macbeth of Arkansas

the yuppie wife from hell, the ~ (wife of politician)

Lady Macbeth of the Balkans

she was known as the "~~"

## Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District

Robert Chandler's translations include Leskov's ~

Lady McBeth figure

you have described him as a ~ (Sunny Balwani)

Asaji, the ~... (in Kurosawa's *Throne of Blood*)

Wallis Simpson, Lady Macbeth, evil character

this ~ who led this man astray (a royal socialite)

♦ "A daughter of ex-House speaker Nancy Pelosi ripped into outgoing first lady Jill Biden over the weekend—seemingly comparing her to Shakespear's power-hungry, ruthless Lady McBeth." ("Pelosi's daughter rips 'Lady McBiden,' tells Jill Biden to put on 'big girl pants' with Joe" by Ryan King, *The New York Post*, January 19, 2025.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The play *Macbeth* is traditionally thought of in terms of manipulation, ambition, hate and revenge. On the other hand, the 2015 film *Macbeth*, directed by Justin Kurzel, portrays a *love* story. (See "Macbeth Without Evil" by Andrew O'Hagan, *The New York Review*, December 17, 2015.) And more recently, Naveen Andrews, who plays Sunny Balwani in the Hulu series *The Dropout*, compared his character to *Lady Macbeth*, and suggested that the story was about how far his character would go for *love*! (See "The Dropout's Naveen Andrews Saw Sunny Balwani as Lady Macbeth" by Roxana Hadadi, *Vulture*.) What an epithet traditionally suggested can completely change as the work is interpreted through the generations.

♦ see also *Machiavelli (Trump's Machiavelli, etc.)*, *Rasputin (epithet)*, *Svengali (allusion)*

## lag (progress)

lagging

their kids' grades and test scores are ~

lag behind

women ~ men in the most visible arena of science

## lagoon (noun)

lagoon

~s where hog manure is stored

hog-waste lagoon

North Carolina's 4,000 ~s

pumped into lagoons

sewage is ~ and left to evaporate or leach into the ground

## laid low (killed)

laid low by Hurricane Michael

thousands of pecan trees were ~

## laid low (condition, etc.)

laid low

the whole family was ~ after eating some bad chicken

laid low by malaria

few in Africa have not been ~

## lake (noun)

lake of fire

eternal damnation in the ~

Nato lake

the Baltic will turn into a ~ (Swedes, Finns join)

## La-La land

in La La Land

stay tuned for more adventures in ~ (celebrities)

in “La-La land”

lost ~ (misinformation, conspiracies, false ideas)

in La-La Land

I was kind of in ~ and not really too focused...

comes from “la-la land”

the president’s proposal ~ (politics)

living in La La land

she was accused of ~...

lost he La La land

he is ~ (conspiracy theory)

put me off in la-la land

it just would ~ and make me feel better (an opiate)

♦ News reader: “At the public inquiry in London, the former post office chief executive, Paula Vennells, was booed during a third day of questioning...” / Correspondent Andy Verity: “She was accused of living in La La land, in a cloud of denial about her role in the scandal, and she was accused of providing a cravenly self-serving account to the enquiry.” (Six O’Clock News, BBC Sounds, 24/05/2024. See the Wikipedia article “British Post Office scandal.”)

## lamb (noun)

sized her up as a lamb

he instantly ~ (a predatory direct salesman)

♦ “He instantly sized her up as a lamb.” (A predatory direct salesman. Versus a bull, owl, or tiger. With a bull, the salesman must meet force with force, stand his ground and redirect. Owls are tough sells. Tigers must be reassured they are getting the very latest technology or features. From “The Hard Sell: A door-to-door salesman’s quest to rebrand his profession” by Tad Friend, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022. Products direct salesmen sell door to door nowadays are roofing, pest control, and solar panels.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Death devours lambs as well as sheep.

## lamb (sacrificial lamb)

sacrificial lamb

the computers served them up as a ~ (BCS football)

## lamb (lamb to the slaughter)

lambs to the slaughter

~, that’s what Forrest were (Man City 6-0 Nottingham)

♦ “Watching lambs getting slaughtered is not entertainment.” (An online commenter about Norway 6-0 Philippines at the Fifa 2023 Women’s World Cup.)

♦ “They refused to be taken like lambs to the slaughter.” (On 9/11. “Are you ready? Okay. Let’s roll.” Todd Beamer. See the Wikipedia article “Todd Beamer,” the Wikipedia article “Let’s roll,” and the Wikipedia article “United Airlines Flight 93.” Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## lambast (verb)

lambast the president

the press conference saw him repeatedly ~

lambasted the (pro-market, neo-liberal) reforms

he ~ of the era (PM Robert Fico, Slovakia)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Lambast* (or *lambaste*) means to beat or whip severely.

## lame (lame excuse, etc.)

lame excuse

she refused to listen to my ~s

~s for dumping partners

what kind of ~ is that...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## lament (verb)

laments the killing

Trump ~

lamented the nation’s systemic racism

Biden ~

## lance (verb)

lance this (perpetual) boil

we need to ~ (diplomacy)

\*\*\* *The Keys of the Kingdom* by A. J. Cronin...

♦ “Chia-Yu lay upon a heated kang, watched by the three bearded physicians in long full robes...Yu had been a pretty child of six... His right arm was encased in a horrible plaster of dirt mixed with little printed paper scraps... Father Chisholm... began to remove the filthy dressing... He drew from his pocket the little leather case...took from that case the single lancet. A great gush of putrid matter came heaving through the wound... The stench was dreadful, evil... On the next day little Yu was greatly better. His fever was almost gone, he had slept naturally and drunk several cups of chicken broth. Without the miracle of the shining lancet he would almost certainly have been dead...” (*The Keys of the Kingdom* by A. J. Cronin.)

♦ “It is said of Peter Parker that he ‘opened China at the point of the lancet.’” (*New Life Currents in China* by Mary Ninde Gamewell.)

## lanced

lanced (today) from *The New York Times*

two boils were ~ (two men resign)

## land (clubland, etc.)

Barbie Land

the dazzling ~ picture from Warner Bros. (2023 film)

Birdland

beloved through ~ (Brian Matusz, Baltimore Orioles)

clubland

D.C. will never claim the same contributions to ~ as...

fantasyland

what kind of land have we strolled into, we’re in ~ (boxing)

identity-politics-land

all the microaggressions and callings-out of ~

La-La land

see *La-La land*

Twitterland

between ~ and the Muskverse...

Promised Land

see *Promised Land*

never-never land

see *never-never land*

foreign land

school helps autistic kids navigate ~

strange land

in the ~ of gamer lingo (grokking, greebling, etc.)

♦ "Between Twitterland and the Muskverse was a radical divergence in outlook that reflected two different mindsets about the American workplace." (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

## land (land a job, etc.)

land a deal

the Biden administration wants to ~ for a ceasefire (war)

landed a (bottom-rung) job

she ~ there (at a TV station)

## land (landed him in jail, etc.)

landed him in hot water

his unapologetic remarks on issues have frequently ~

## land (arrive, affect, decide)

land

it's the latest true-crime documentary series to ~ on Hulu  
you don't always know how your words are going to ~  
(texting / no facial cues)

landed

there was controversy after the article ~  
his argument hadn't ~ as he imagined it might (failed)

landed at this day

we would have ~ sooner or later ("it's here now" /  
SolarWinds Hack)

land on that

it's a good question, where did you ~ (=decide)

landed in his in-box

the email he had been waiting for finally ~

landed in a place

it's disappointing that we've ~ where...

land there

so, I don't think it's a good idea, and I'm gonna ~  
I think it's difficult, I will ~ (conclude my remarks)

landing anywhere else

lots of teams could use him, do you see him ~ (cut)

landed already

those checks could have ~ (arrived in bank accounts)

land any minute

they're waiting for information that could ~ (politicians)

place to land

that is not a very reasonable ~ (a political decision)

the data tells me this is the right ~ (a COVID decision)

how did it land

when you read his remarks, ~ with you

how this plane lands

it's unclear ~ (budget talks)

how those claims are landing

can we tell ~ (of voter fraud / how many believe, effect)

where did your school land

so, ~ (which option did it choose in response to  
pandemic)

where it ends up landing

we'll have to see ~ (the total number of layoffs at Meta)

wherever we land

~ on that question scientifically (COVID / = decide)

♦ "[Choice] #2 would be admirable, but [choice] #1 is where they'll likely land." (Vivek Ramaswamy, presidential hopeful, about the resignation under fire of UPenn's President Liz Magill. Choice #2 is to "embrace true free speech." Choice #1 is to expand speech codes, or restrictions.)

♦ "Is she alive, is she not, where is she, is she dead, and she couldn't land on any particular... on one of those." (A priest about a bereft mother whose 6-year-old child had vanished.)

♦ "It's become, how do I say customary to say, to thank service members like yourself, for your service. I think that's an acknowledgement that a lot of people who came back from Vietnam in particular that the country did them dirty, you know, did not respect what they had personally sacrificed even if people did not like or agree with the overall mission, right, or the overall conflict, okay, so, I think people want to do better, and, it has been, you know, one thanks people who served like yourself for your service, how does that land with you." (NPR's Michel Martin interviewing Laura Jedeed, author of "Afghanistan Meant Nothing.")

♦ "I just wanted to start by asking how all this is landing with you...How are you taking all this in." (NPR's Michel Martin interviewing Rep. Pramila Jayapal about Kamala Harris become the Democratic nominee for president after Joe Biden decided not to run for re-election)

♦ "It's disappointing that we've landed in a place where the uniforms are the topic of discussion." (MLB. Versus "It's disappointing that this is an issue." Contempo-speak can be prolix. Maybe that's its whole point.)

♦ NBC's Hallie Jackson: "So why do you think that's not landing with voters?" (An interview with Kamala Harris, NBC Nightly News, October 22, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is often used with wh-question words: how did it land; where will it land; when will it land... It seems to be connected with the idea of something being "up in the air." It is a natural metaphor for people who are accustomed to flying and airports. In Bhutan, I suspect the equivalent expression is, "So, where does this yak stop?"

♦ HOWEVER. "*Titled Porches*, the album is slated to make landfill on August 11." In this instance, it is clearly a ship, not a plane, that is landing.

♦ One meaning of *land* means arrive. Another means "to affect you." Yet another meaning seems to be "decide."

## landing (stick the landing)

stick the landing

though ambitious, the film doesn't always ~ (*Late Night*)  
the book moves quickly, and she manages to ~

sticks the landing

it rarely ~ on any of them (interesting songs, but...)

stick the landing on the quid pro quo

you have to ~, I don't see proof (impeachment trial)

stick the landing on a small pad in Florida

it used rockets to stabilize itself and ~ (SpaceX / 2015)

♦ "By the conclusion of the '187 minutes' hearing, the question was now whether the committee's last scheduled hearing in October would, in the words of both Time and CNN, 'stick the landing.'" ("Inside the Jan. 6 Committee" by Robert Draper and Luke Broadwater, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 1, 2023.)

♦ "The really tough thing about landing that scene and really selling it is that..." (Talk about a film. This seems to delete the verb "stick.")

♦ "DOWNSIDE OF SIDEWAYS Although the lander's sideways position is far from ideal..." (The 13-foot-tall "Odysseus" is not upright on the moon, but lies on its side. The IM-1 Nova-C lunar lander tipped over on landing.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to gymnastics. In Olympic gymnastics, "sticking the landing" can be incredibly dramatic, viewed by a world-wide audience.

## landing (landing spot, etc.)

landing spot for him (available) at this network

I knew there was a ~ (his job was not renewed)

♦ "I knew there were landing spots for him available at this network." (Stephen A. Smith explaining his recommendation to remove Max Kellerman from ESPN's *First Take*. Kellerman did get a new job at ESPN, only to be laid off.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When things are "up in the air," you might need a place to land.

## landmark (noun)

landmark act

a ~ passed by the Senate (victims of human trafficking)

landmark case

the US Supreme Court, in a ~ in 2000, rejected...

landmark climb

he made a number of ~s in the Alps

landmark discovery

the ~ could pave the way for new medicines

landmark moment

it was a ~ in the evolution of artificial intelligence

landmark project

one of his ~s was a shrine... (King Tut)

landmark step

the ruling was a ~ (rape within marriage / Mexico)

landmark study

his ~ compared students... (single-sex schools)

landmark work

"Desert of the Heart" is considered a ~ of lesbian fiction

stand as a landmark

his plays ~ in the history of black culture

♦ "Einstein is a landmark, not a beacon." (*Time* magazine, about the great man at Princeton. Some attributed the remark to Robert Oppenheimer. The idea was that Einstein's importance to cutting-edge physics of the time, particularly quantum physics, was nil.)

## landmine (and land mine)

landmines

she worries about what she sees as ~ planted by Alito

landmine for the prosecution

this is a ~ (new evidence)

landmines and hiccups

there are always ~ that come along (vaccine production)

political landmines

Trump wins as Supreme Court sidesteps ~ (BBC headline)

potential landmine

social media is a ~ (news coverage and privacy, etc.)

land mines (and hiccups) that come along

there are always ~ (vaccine production)

sidesteps (political) landmines

Trump wins as Supreme Court ~ (BBC headline)

step on that landmine

no nominee would ~ (a contentious issue)

♦ "Navigating relationships with other women can feel like a land mine knowing that, at any moment, you may turn someone off, hurt her feelings, or cross the line." ("Fighting for Our Friendships" by Danielle Bayard Jackson, who is a friendship educator and women's coach.)

♦ "It was a lovely conversation. They said, 'Oh, darling, I'm so sorry you stepped on a land mine.' I listened to them and they listened to me. It was sweet and it was fun, even." (Gina Carano, about studio-mandated sensitivity training with two transgender representatives from GLAAD. Gina was a MMA fighter before being noticed by Steven Soderbergh and cast in the lead of the 2011 film *Haywire*. Her next role was in *Fast & Furious 6*. Read "Gina Carano on Getting Sacked From Star Wars and Her Grudge Match With Disney" by Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, March 14, 2024.)

♦ "There are always land mines and hiccups that come along." (Doctor Anthony Fauci on vaccine production during the 2019-2020 pandemic.)

♦ "Not every day was like that, of course. But even when the house was ostensibly peaceful, our lives were so charged that I was constantly on guard. Mom and Bob never smiled at each other or said nice things to Lindsay and me anymore. You never knew when the wrong word would turn a quiet dinner into a terrible fight, or when a minor childhood transgression would send a plate or book flying across the room. It was like we were living among land mines—one wrong step, and kaboom." (*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The S-Mine, a bounding fragmentation device, explodes at a height of 2 metres."

♦ "I can't run any more. I can't play with the other children and I can't go to school at the moment because of the infection." (Eleven-year-old Mawa, in Egypt. She kicked what she thought was a tin can and it blew off her foot. The UXO was a leftover from World War II.)

♦ "It looked like a little can; it was interesting." (Mara al-Miri, 10, from her hospital bed, where she was taken with shrapnel wounds to her leg. She had picked up a metallic grey canister, the size of a battery with a head that looked like a cigarette lighter, not knowing it was a bomblet, more dangerous than a grenade, that had been delivered by an artillery shell and that had failed to explode. She had thrown it to a 10-year-old playmate. The bomblet had exploded, injuring her, her playmate and a third child, her cousin. This all happened in the village of Ayt el Shaab, in southern Lebanon.)

♦ "Throughout the Soviet occupation the only [mine clearing] equipment the guerrillas ever had was the winter hail, dubbed 'Allah's mine sweeper' because the crashing pellets of ice sometimes

triggered the mines." (*Soldiers of God, With the Mujahidin In Afghanistan*, by Robert D. Kaplan.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Dear Joe, I am delighted to tell you that I have managed to convince the editorial team to include A Mine Goes Boom in Volume 2, Issue I of the Out of the Box section of Essential Teacher. Hopefully, this will go some way in convincing you and others that there is a wind of change in TESOL publications towards hearing the voices of teachers with 'real' voices... Phil." (The article was "Oh, Dear, A Mine Goes Boom" by Joe Stockdale, *Essential Teacher* (a TESOL publication), Volume 2, Issue 1, March, 2005. Print. And it proved controversial at the 2005 San Antonio TESOL Convention.)

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ see also *minefield* (noun)

## landscape (noun)

### landscape

her patience for this ~ varies (NYC magazine publishing)

### landscape of journalism

the Internet transformed the ~

### landscape of Stevenson's great life

and going through the ~ will be Claire Harman (BBC)

### landscape of our lives

some journeys are etched into the ~ (Lake Ohrid)

### landscape around pregnancy and abortion regulation

the ~ has changed dramatically

### heavyweight landscape

Andy Ruiz Jr has just thrown a grenade into the ~

### media landscape

the ~ was very different in the 1980s

concern about the dominance of tech firms in the ~

### sport landscape

the ~

### technology landscape

a clearer picture of our future ~ (airline)

### nanoscale landscape

viruses, microchips operate in a ~

### contentious landscape

she dives into the ~ of modern academia (an author)

### culinary landscape

she is a sharp observer of the ~ (Charlotte Druckman)

### dire landscape

in 1969, what was on TV for kids was a very ~

### diverse landscape

pushing to create a ~ with mixed results (films / minorities)

### economic landscape

changes in the ~

### educational landscape

positive changes across the American ~

### ethnic landscape

the brutal violence has reshaped the ~

### political landscape

and here to talk about the ~ is... (radio show)

the ~ was dramatically altered by the attack

the democrats dominated the ~ for more than a generation

Merkel has left a very fragmented ~ in Germany (election)

### promotional landscape

Christchurch's ~ is changing (city's wizard is let go)

### religious landscape

part of the ~

### social landscape

the ~

### technological landscape

adapted to the new ~

### American political landscape

he left the ~ much the same way it was (Mueller hearings)

### French political landscape

the result is shaking up the ~ (EU vote)

### fragmented political landscape

Merkel has left a very ~ in Germany (election)

### new financial landscape

electronic trading has created a ~

### post-Title IX landscape

in the ~, sexual panic rules (universities)

### changes in the (economic) landscape

there have been vast ~ since the fall of Communism

### part of the landscape

some models may not be ~ 10 years from now (cars)

### part of the (public-school) landscape

charter schools are a significant ~

### landscape can change

the heavyweight ~ in a second

### landscape may (well) change

the heavyweight ~ once more (coming fights)

### landscape looks (remarkably) different

the college football ~ now more than it ever has (2024)

### landscape has been overturned

Pakistan's political ~ in the last few months

### landscape shifted

then, in the late '90s, the football ~ (US)

### adapt to this (ever changing media) landscape

trying to ~

### altered the landscape

pandemics ~ of public health forever



changes the landscape

the new rule ~ (college admissions)

changed the landscape

it ~ (grants for Duchenne research)

Obama has ~ for all America (race)

Ozempic and Wegovy have ~ for obesity in America

dominate the landscape

health-maintenance organizations came to ~

fit in this landscape

help me understand, where does he ~ (politics)

left a (very fragmented political) landscape

Merkel has ~ in Germany (new government)

moved quickly through the (American) landscape

this is an issue that has really ~ (gay marriage)

navigate the (cyber) landscape

so how are kids supposed to ~ (misinformation)

redefined (boxing's heavyweight) landscape

his defeat by Usyk has ~

reshaped the (political) landscape

in 2016 he ~ but lost (Bernie Sanders)

a populist wave has ~ (US, Hungary, Italy, Poland, etc.)

shaking up the (French political) landscape

the result is (EU vote)

♦ (Costello) Thanks for joining us on 5 Live Boxing with Costello and Bunce. And now, with less than a month to go until the rematch between Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder in Las Vegas, it's a chance to assess the heavyweight landscape as it stands and shapes up at the moment, Steve. / (Bunce) And what a glorious landscape it is, Mike!

♦ "The legal landscape of the past weeks and months has prompted questions of..." (Dull use of the cliché in a "Talk of the Town" article in *The New Yorker*, a magazine ordinarily known for good writing.)

♦ "The Hollywood landscape is more cautious than ever today." (Very dull use of the cliché. How can a landscape be cautious?)

♦ "She dives into the contentious landscape of modern academia." (How can a landscape be contentious? How can one "dive into" the landscape? Stupid.)

♦ "The community needs to figure out the landscape of need." (NPR's Rob Schmitz. Umm...)

♦ "Affirmative action has changed the shape of and landscape of American education." (Drew Gilpin Faust. This is odd because "shape of" and "landscape of" seem roughly synonymous.)

♦ "We now do have donors who are able to alter the playing field, change the landscape, and do so with relatively little notice." (NPR's Ron Elving about money, politics and elections.)

♦ "Our political parties are still in the process of working out their positions in this new drug landscape." ("Slowing the Growth of Weed" by Rachel Lu, *National Review*, December 19, 2022. Much better usage than *The New Yorker* use cited above. Knowing your position in the landscape is important.)

\*\*\* the Mato Grosso, the Nullabor, etc.

♦ "...There appeared glimpses of a landscape now in a state of arboreal undress, much changed from what had gone before. / What Clark glimpsed was a relatively treeless brown-green country, stretching away into a violet horizon that was longer and flatter than any that these hill-born Easterners had ever witnessed or imagined before. It was landscape laid out, flatly undulating, beneath a sky so big it was overwhelming. It was a new kind of prairie, a limitless tableland of grass, a huge grazing-plain, with a wind that souged near-constantly above the vegetation, the temperature of the drifting

air the only clue to the season. Its sky was flecked with mare's tails of clouds, where lightning could be seen a hundred miles distant and you could watch the black storms chewing their way toward you, the sky suddenly darkening overhead as the squalls arrived and smashed down wafting curtains of hail until the earth was quite white and crunched underfoot, though within moments the reappearing sun then melted it away, steam suddenly began to rise from the grass, and you could almost hear the plants bursting upward in the newly made and richly damp sauna of heat... / In these prairie parts one finds people and creatures uniquely suited to the conditions: the Comanche and the prairie dog, the Sioux and the rattlesnake, and all of the other Plains Indians—the Blackfoot, the Cheyenne, the Arapaho and the Crow—together with uncountable millions of the single species of animal that once so dominated and symbolized the grass-covered landscapes here, the American bison. / Generally speaking, the Great Plains extend between the 95th and 105th meridians—with the midline... marking 100 degrees west of Greenwich." (*The Men Who United The States: America's Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics, and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible* by the great writer Simon Winchester.)

♦ "It is rough, steep, mountainous country where we were trekking, covered with dense virgin forest, the famous taigá of Siberia, in places almost impenetrable, especially where the ground is littered with fallen giants smashed down by storms." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr. The country Arseniev describes lies between the Amur and Ussuri Rivers and the Sea of Japan, north of Vladivostok, to include the Sihoté-Alin mountain range.)

♦ "I shall always remember the next day for one of the most beautiful experiences I have ever had. As we marched forward we caught sight, after a while, of the gleaming golden towers of a monastery in the far distance. Above them, shining superbly in the morning sun, were tremendous walls of ice, and we gradually realized that we were looking at the giant trio Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, and Manaslu. As Tradun and the filigree towers of its monastery lay at the far end of the plain we had many hours in which to enjoy the view of these mighty mountains. Not even the necessity of wading through the icy waters of the Tsachu dampened our exuberance. / It was evening when we marched into Tradun. In the last rays of the setting sun the red monastery with its golden roof looked like a fairy palace on the hillside." (*Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer, from the chapter "Into Tibet.")

♦ "They call this plain the Nullabor (Nullarbor). If you want water you have to dig for it among the sand dunes along the shore... In this wilderness everything runs to excess; the excessive noonday heat is followed by outrageous cold by night, rainstorms burst with cyclonic force, and when the rain fails the blown sand is suffocating; even the flies and mosquitoes are in mad abundance. There are moments of grace sometimes in the evenings when extravagant sunsets sweep across the sky and then fade slowly behind enormous stars, but in the main the Nullabor has an implacable sterility and the aborigines used to believe that it was inhabited by demons. They would not chase a kangaroo there. / This then was the terrible region into which Eyre plunged..." (*The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead.)

♦ see also *scape* (*threatscape*, etc.)

## landslide (in a landslide)

lost in a landslide

Carter ~ to Republican Ronald Reagan

win in a landslide

if people voted today, he would ~

## landslide (by a landslide)

won by a landslide

he ~ on the scorecards (boxer)

## landslide (other)

landslide of evidence

there was a ~ that fell around this defendant

landslide in favor of Democrats

there was no ~ (2020 US election)

landslide vote

Proposition 187 was approved in a ~ (California)

landslide victory

the opposition won a ~ in Kenyan elections

he was appointed principal chief in a ~ (Cherokee)

\*\*\* "El Desastre de Vargas..."

♦ In 1841, an earthquake caused a rockslide that blocked the Indus River. A huge lake formed behind the natural dam. Later in the year it failed, causing perhaps the largest flood in recorded history. Far downriver and across a plain, 500 Sikh soldiers drowned at Attock.

♦ In 1999, mudslides in Venezuela killed 10- to 30,000 people in Vargas State. They are referred to as "El Desastre de Vargas."

## lane (experience)

lane

this isn't just my ~, it's my highway (doctor / gun control)

he has had his ~ pretty much all to himself (politics)

she knows where her ~ in life is...

lane is

so what our ~, is we wanna work with creators...

our ~ is to figure out how to hold government accountable

memory lane

see *memory lane* (down memory lane, etc.)

healing and love lane

ya'll know me, I have one lane, the ~ (activist at demo)

fast lane

she was in the ~ of the fast group (alcohol, sex, music...)

the yuppie drug was cocaine, associated with life in the ~

particular lane

we can find a ~ with the *Baltimore Beat* (free newspaper)

progressive lane

they are fighting for the same ~ in the party (candidates)

safe lane

people are picking the ~ (film producer Dede Gardner)

wide enough lane

there's not a ~ for her to pick up voters there (vs. Trump)

clear and uncrowded lane

he has a very ~ (Chicago mayoral primary)

out of their lanes

cops are ~, playing judge, jury, and executioner (shooting)

carve out her own lane

she has managed to ~ (singing, fashion, etc.)

played his lane

if he would've ~ and kept his mouth shut (gang member)

running in the same lane

the two men were kind of ~ (two politicians)

stay in their lane

anti-gun doctors should ~ (fix wounded, not protest guns)

stay in your lane

you shut up and ~ (incident on plane)

stepped out of its lane

OSHA ~, it went beyond its authority (a law case)

veered into the pop lane

a lot of people have ~ (from country music)

keeps the judiciary in its appropriate lane

the idea of standing ~ (Supreme Court)

♦ "That's not their lane to teach my children about sexuality, that's my job." (An upset parent protesting school-library books like *The Bluest Eye*, *All Boys Aren't Blue*, and *Fun Home*.)

♦ "Yes, it feels to me like a moment where people are sort of battenning down the hatches and picking the safe lane." (Film producer Dede Gardner. You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.)

♦ "You shut up and stay in your lane." ("Passenger taken away by police after racial rant on plane in US," *Daily Mail*, Sept. 14, 2020. See the video.)

♦ "Beef or barbecue." (A saying in New Orleans, about snitching to the police. If you "beef" or complain to the police, you'll die. Better to kick back, relax, and barbecue.)

\*\*\* **more conventional usage...**

♦ "Hey, I stay in my own yard!" (In other words, I mind my own business. From the great John Ford 1940 film *Grapes of Wrath*.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This word is often preceded by a possessive adjective: *my lane*, *their lane*, *your lane*, etc.

♦ "Straying from your lane is reckless in all scenarios."

## language (types)

language of the body

this liberatory ~ (twerking, pussy popping, ass claps, etc.)

language of boxing

he understood the universal ~ (ref's gestures, etc.)

language of pop feminism

the book was marketed with the ~

language of football

Bora Milutinovic speaks the ~ (soccer)

language of hope

the ~—whether, when and how to invoke it (hospitals)

language of science

the abstract, technical ~ (environmental issues)

language of "sport"

the international ~ (soccer)

language of the string

they have the ~ (international yo-yo contest)

language of white supremacy

Southern elected leaders spoke the ~ (after reconstruction)

language of war

its language is the ~ (US football)

language of understanding, peace and harmony

a smile is the universal ~

language of acronyms and weapons systems  
she fluently speaks the military ~ (a young soldier)

hoaxers' language  
Lenny Pozner figured he could talk the ~ (Sandy Hook)

body language  
people send messages through their ~  
mismatches between words and ~ (liars)  
the worst sort of ~ to show a gorilla

computer language  
Java, a ~ created by Sun Microsystems  
FORTRAN was the first widely used ~

programming language  
write applications in the Java ~

coded language  
"~" is used to encourage weight loss (ballet schools)

aspirational language  
the ~ of democracy (women's rights, etc.)

different language  
it's a ~ (military acronyms)  
physicists are often speaking a ~ than biologists (math)

feminist language  
its brand is the ~ of emancipation, empowerment,  
equality

gender-neutral language  
teaching ~ language in the classroom

Inclusive Language  
"Embracing ~ in the Classroom" (article by Christine Roell)

international language  
chocolate speaks an ~

international "language"  
the ~ of sport (soccer)

*Secret Language*  
*The ~ of Color* (a book)

universal language  
a smile is the ~ of understanding, peace and harmony  
he understood the ~ of boxing (ref's gestures, etc.)

universal cinematic language  
exploding cars are a ~ (the *Fast and Furious* franchise)

fluent in the language  
Jake Paul was ~ of YouTube

speaks the language  
Bora Milutinovic ~ of football (soccer)

understood the (universal) language  
he ~ of boxing (ref's gestures, etc.)

### \*\*\* things...

♦ Cars have their own language—clunks, clanks, squeals, squeaks, and rattles—which can say a lot about a vehicle's health."

♦ "Chocolate speaks an international language. There is no concern about accents or incorrectly structured sentences. Whether in Tokyo or Madrid, everyone understands chocolate's many culinary dialects." ("Chocolate: A Food Without Borders" by Alejandra Garcia, NPR, Kitchen Window, January 14, 2009.)

♦ "A brand can communicate something, how you wear your pants can communicate something, the portfolio of colors that you choose to adorn yourself with can communicate something..." (Branding and shoes, clothing, pens, politics, authenticity, identity, etc.)

♦ "If you grew up in a black household, Ebonies [copies of Ebony Magazine] were everywhere... It's one of our languages." (Rosa Duffy, bookstore owner and Ebony Magazine collector, about the transformational magazine that was intended to be Life Magazine for Blacks. Once a pillar of the Black community, this great magazine has fallen on hard times, and is now only available online. You would think some US philanthropist would endow a monthly hard-copy version of it in perpetuity. Sadly, not yet.)

♦ "And from being trained, I think it's easier for me to speak a language to producers, and I can speak engineer to the engineers." (The remarkable Lizzo, who is classically trained in music theory and performance, among other things...)

♦ "Crossword puzzles are a way of documenting the language that we share." (Anna Shechtman, crossword constructor.)

♦ "The elk whisperer speaks English, Spanish and elk." (Mark Casillas.)

### \*\*\* academic language...

♦ "There are no native speakers of academic language." (This is certainly true, and it explains many things, such as who is recognized by academia, and who isn't.)

♦ "There is jargon, and then there is jargon." (Academic writing.)

### \*\*\* diplomacy...

♦ "Such language risks destabilizing an already complicated situation." (A Russian diplomat.)

♦ "Well, those phrases that you're referring to used by the [US] ambassador ["immediate ceasefire," "UN-facilitated talks"] have become empty cliches, they have been repeated for months and months, you know, if not years. The same phrases were used last year. People thought the elections were going to be organized. Nothing happened, and the people in power are still in power. So I think US diplomacy and other Western diplomacy should be refreshed, should be renewed, and a new technique should be used because Libyans have learned to ignore everything you said. I mean, this discourse by the internationalists is absolutely ignored by Libyans, and foreign states as well." (Jalel Harchaoui, a fellow at the Royal United Services Institute which focuses on Libyan security and politics, speaking to David Gura on NPR.)

♦ "Israel is making troubles and problems... they could not be a good neighbor here. We want to liberate the whole Palestine, that's right, because Israel has no right to exist in this region... This war is full of hypocrisy, they are just giving sweet words and some good statements but nothing is done on the ground..." (Hamas spokesman Ghazi Hamad in Gaza talking to Steve Inskeep on NPR. From "Hundreds killed in explosion at a crowded Gaza hospital", NPR, Morning Edition, October 17, 2023. In a later interview with Lebanon TV, Ghazi Hamad said, "Israel is a country that has no place on our land...[It] must be finished." He has also been quoted as saying, "We must teach Israel a lesson, and we will do this again and again," about what Hamas calls Operation al-Aqsa Flood and the rest of the world knows as the October 7 Hamas-led attack on Israel.)

### \*\*\* the law...

♦ "Those instructions [from the judge], I'm a lawyer and I couldn't understand them... They've gotten to be too much. They're legalese. And jurors tend to go by the smell test. Does it seem right? Does it seem wrong. And that's what we wanted the jury to do." (Mark Richards, Kyle Rittenhouse's attorney, speaking to Ailsa Chang. From "Kyle Rittenhouse's defense attorney discusses the trial and acquittal," NPR, All Things Considered, Nov. 19, 2021.)

### \*\*\* sports...

♦ "There's no 'I' in 'team.'" (An NFL coach.)

♦ "There's an 'I' in 'win.'" (An NFL player.)

♦ “A stream of players were coming over, you know, popping him on the shoulder pads, back patting him on the back, dapping him up...” (The NFL.)

♦ “Man, Brock was bailing, put some respect on that man’s name, you know, he was runnin’, he was throwin’... (Jesse Washington, ESPN, heard on NPR.)

♦ “Do you know the stigmatism of Alabama education?” (Kayvon Thibodaux, a football player.)

♦ “Bobo got throatied.” (Surfing.)

### \*\*\* jobs...

♦ NEWER TYPES OF WORKERS: Independent scrutineers (UK); violence interrupters (Baltimore); (seasoned) gallerists (NYC); disinformation analysts / researchers; narrative consultants; script doctors; mental performance coaches; neurodiversity coaches; sleep coaches; showrunners; social theorists; bitcoin miners; public intellectuals; thought leaders; changemakers; creatives; influencers; Minecraft video creators; personal branding experts; shadow consultants (about the shadows that skyscrapers cast); chief experience officers (CXOs); chief remote officers; Chief Wellbeing Officers (CIA, etc.); chief candy officers (Canada); senior managers in generative AI: water sommeliers and advocates; lifestyle impresarios; core brand ambassadors; trend-cycle analysts; trend forecasters; directors of digital strategies (the White House); culture-thinkers; cultural strategists; visual strategists (Nasa’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory / JPL); drama therapists; online journalists; investigative data journalists; online safety experts; YouTube investigators and cold case connoisseurs; podcast critics; content coaches (newspapers); social justice reporters; civil resistance experts (NPR); Birding activists; body-image experts; gender educators; queer, non-binary, neurodivergent educators; friendship educators; facilitators, healers and strategists; queer, mad and neurodivergent higher education researchers; childbirth educators specializing in queer birth experiences; ethicists-in-residence; poets-in-residence; data wranglers; documentarians; directors of equity and inclusion; diversity consultants; professional Twitch streamers; play-to-earn gamers; YouTubers; crossword constructors; voter navigators; political spin doctors; youth climate ambassadors; intimacy coordinators; sex workers; professors of television studies; imagineers; healthineers...

♦ OLDER TYPES OF WORKERS: whores; pimps; taxi dancers; white-gloved tic-tac men; silhouette artists; blacksmiths; watchmakers; girdlers of pine trees for turpentine; lighthouse engineers; bateauxmen; bawling “canawlers” (the Erie Canal); log drivers; river hogs (the Kennebec River); tent makers; tinsmiths; camp followers; barber-surgeons; barbers who do rounds; apothecaries; snake-oil salesmen; tooth pullers; scribes; letter-writers; letter-readers; maltsters; railway bulls; gandy dancers; rail-splitters; spitjacks; old-clothes women; rag-and-bone men; sutlers; pure-finders; mud larks; draymen (teamsters); carters; ostlers (hostlers); spinners; doffers; sweepers; carders; fullers; dressers; sekgees; town criers; poormasters; London crossing sweepers; lamp-post lighters; wind-millers; water-clerks; stagecoach drivers (sagebrush navigators); express men; road agents; shotgun messengers; Pony Express riders; trail drivers; drovers; bull whackers; telegraphers; buffalo hunters; skinnners; Indian agents; beaters; catchers; drivers; mahouts; trackers; printer’s devils; newsboys; human chimney sweeps; typewriters; elevator operators; gas-station attendants; computers; miners; muckers; swampers; nippers; drymen (to take care of the Dry); powder monkeys; muleteers (military); fusiliers (military); arquebusiers; musketeers; conductors (of slaves on the underground railroad); grammar, math and geography teachers, etc.

♦ “What the f\*\*\* is an ‘online safety expert’? Do you see how media outlets baptize totally fake expertise industries and titles (like ‘disinformation reporter’) to launder their highly politicized censorship agenda as scientific, data-based and neutral?” (A thundering Glenn Greenwald.)

♦ “Tuesday. The world of work has changed out of all recognition from the one I inhabited when I last received a paycheck... Now it seems, freebies are distributed with a liberality unknown in my day, in lieu of salaries, which themselves have disappeared along with actual work...” (Ed Reardon’s Week, BBC Episode 5, “How did I do? Hilarious and droll!)

### \*\*\* groups, social justice...

♦ “If we could claim marriage, we would be claiming an engine of transformation, a vocabulary of shared values—love, commitment,

family, inclusion, dignity, respect—that would help non-gay people better understand who gay people really are, and allow us to share equally, not only in marriage, but in everything.” (“Radically Normal: How Gay Rights Activists Changed The Minds Of Their Opponents,” NPR, Hidden Brain (with Shankar Vedantam), April 8, 2019. Many gays at the time denigrated the tradition of marriage. Many still do.)

♦ “Love is Love.” (A slogan from the “Freedom to Marry” Campaign.)

♦ “As it turned out, the word ‘homophobia’ was exactly the concept that gay men and lesbians needed to achieve liberation.” (Psychotherapist George Weinberg, in 2012. He is the author of the 1972 book *Society and the Healthy Homosexual* and a gay-rights activist. Quoted in “How ‘-Phobic’ Became a Weapon in the Identity Wars” by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 26, 2016. It’s a brilliant article.)

♦ “Gay pop stars can be—and have been—subversive about slipping in references that change our language and thoughts about gay sex. The more that happens, the less likely people feel uncomfortable hearing about it.” (Culture journalist Brennan Carley on BBC Culture.)

♦ “A lot of readers, both trans and cis, really want you to say, in the first sentence of the story, ‘As a trans person...’ But by saying as a trans person, it cedes ground to the idea that I need disclaimers about my point of view. There’s a little bit of sick and twisted pleasure I get from saying, ‘I’m not going to do that...’ / That said, there are certain claims that I can make as a trans writer...” (“Jamie Lauren Keiles Follows the Surgical and Philosophical Journey of Phalloplasty” by Celia Ford, July 26, 2022.)

♦ “I call disabled viewing platforms the “cripple pen.” (A disabled commenter, reclaiming the word “cripple.” From “After the N-word, the P-word” by Rajni Bhatia, BBC, 11 June 2007, which is about reclaiming the word “Paki” in the same way some Blacks have “reclaimed” the N-word. Who has the right to say what when.)

♦ “black power & intersectional feminism & gender self-determination & solidarity with muslims & indigenous sovereignty & decolonization & disability justice & queer kinship & migrant justice & fat freedom & collective liberation” (A black T-shirt with white lettering worn by Stephanie Lyn Kaufman-Mthimkhulu, Director of Project LETS. “Disability and Mad Justice cultural worker. Community Educator. Organizer. Parent. Conflict Intervention. Facilitator. Care Strategist. Writer... Hire me.)

♦ “The attention The Wing generates is, in large part, because it was founded upon a paradox: its brand is steeped in the feminist language of emancipation, empowerment and equality, while its business is based on one of society’s more elitist institution: the private members’ club.” (Investors include Serena Williams, President Obama’s friend and former senior adviser Valerie Jarrett, and members of the US women’s soccer team. From “The Wing: how an exclusive women’s club sparked a thousand arguments” by Linda Kinstler, *The Guardian*, 18 Oct 2019.)

### \*\*\* political correctness...

♦ “Language should be chosen intentionally and not just in a reflexive manner based on how words were used in the past.” (Emily Barske, the Office of the Public Editor, NPR.)

♦ “Inclusive language is not about critical mass, it’s about possibility.” (NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride, about the use of “pregnant people” versus “pregnant women.”)

♦ “I hope they don’t take anything away from me, whoever they are.” (Dave Chappelle on SNL.)

### \*\*\* contempo-speak...

♦ “[Jake] Paul was fluent in the language of YouTube, where he came across as a familiar type: the high-school jock, popular and gregarious... / His body of work is filled with dubious stunts...and with mind-numbing repetition of the word, ‘bro.’ / [His videos] have drawn more than seven billion views; that figure, which approaches the population of this planet, does not account for the innumerable videos that summarize or criticize the ones that Paul has posted...” (“Punching Down” by Kelefa Sanneh, *The New Yorker*, November 8, 2021.)

♦ “Yeah, they have these belts on with like all these extra bullets and they’re like dressed for war.” (Leah like talking to her Brit producer, Georgia, for their podcast about the militia movement.)

♦ “Alright, let’s not fap around here, let’s get into it...” (The opening to a Pop Culture Happy Hour episode on NPR. Classy!)

♦ “The book was marketed with the language of pop feminism.” (A comment by Jill Lepore.)

♦ “He lacks the TED-talk affect of some of his peers.” (Extracurricular Kids In High Places,” *The New Yorker*, Jan. 4 & 11, 2021.)

♦ “In the language of the show, this is a very ‘Who-y’ thing for a Them to have done.” (“Guiding Stars: How ‘Who Weekly’ explains the new celebrity” by Rachel Syme, *The New Yorker*, June 7, 2021.)

♦ “PEN15, write out the title, you’ll get it, has begun its second season on Hulu...” (A well-briefed Scott Simon of NPR. This is an example of leetspeak.)

♦ “Everytime he says something he sounds like he is reading it from a Poundland self-help book.” / “He can’t think on his feet, relies too heavily on his corner, and just speaks in a series of clichés with very little substance behind them.” (Criticism of a contemporary boxer.)

♦ “The language a writer uses to create a world is that world, and Franzen’s strenuously contemporary and therefore juvenile language is a world in which nothing important can happen. Madame Bovary’s marriage sucked, Heathcliff was into Catherine: these words fail the context not just because they are of our own time. There is no import in things that ‘suck,’ no drama in someone’s being ‘into’ someone else. A writer like Franzen, who describes two lovers as ‘fucking,’ trivializes their relationship. The result is boredom.” (“Smaller Than Life,” by B. R. Myers, *The Atlantic*, October, 2010.)

### \*\*\* mental health...

♦ “Sadness is a language too many of us are fluent in; and suicide is a dialect that’s east (sic, “easy”) to pick up.” (“A Letter To My Father,” Eva Evan’s Story, don’t mind me.org. Linked from “TikTok star Eva Evans found dead from apparent suicide: ‘A New York icon,’” by Lauren Samer, *The New York Post*, April 23, 2024. “Evans was known for her videos about life as a 20-something in New York City.” She left 300,000 followers.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ Bill’s Weekly Column. “Who to Speak Progressive.” (Bill O’Reilly.)

♦ “Fauci Among the Humans: Health officials play language games to make COVID life permanent” by Peter Tonguette, *Washington Examiner*, January 4, 2022.

♦ “Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like intersectionality, heteronormativity, cisgender, problematize, triggering, and Latinx...” (“How The Bobos Broke America” by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ “Look, I mean voters of color don’t talk about voters of color. Who the hell lives in communities of color? The people I know live in neighborhoods. Right, so there’s this whole you know sort of rhetorical lexicon the left of the Democratic party has become obsessed with and insists on using. Which basically just alienates normie voters, including normie non-white voters. I mean, we have people in and around the Democratic Party talking about how all white people have white privilege, and how this is a white supremacist society, and so on, and I just don’t think this is the way people think about the world, including you know normie non-white voters.” (The political scientist Ruy Teixeira. From “Hispanic and minority voters are increasingly shifting to the Republican party,” NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 23, 2022.)

♦ “I don’t know of a single person that thinks of themselves as a ‘person of color.’ I really don’t...” (James Carville, sounding honestly regretful on “Conversations with Bill Kristol.”)

♦ “There’s like an entire language that Democrats just need to f-king throw in the trash about like ‘institutions,’ ‘democracy,’ ‘sacred this.’” (Jon Favreau, one of former President Barack Obama’s speechwriters, about President Joe Biden’s Jan. 6, 2025 op-ed in *The Washington Post* concerning the January 6, 2021 United States Capitol attack. From “Obama alums trash ‘stubborn old man’ Biden’s ‘feckless’ Jan. 6 op-ed” by David Spector, Fox News, Jan. 7, 2025.)

♦ “Democratic political consultant and advisor James Carville called on his party to ‘tone’ down the use of ‘jargonistic language’ with voters, calling it ineffective. / ‘Let’s just be authentic and to the point,’ Carville told White House press secretary turned MSNBC host Jen Psaki in an interview Sunday night, when asked about sophisticated political-style language from Washington, D.C. / ‘So I think people like you and I can bring this home by example and don’t use that idiotic

NPR jargon when you are talking to voters,’ he said.” (“James Carville calls on Democrats to ‘tone it down’ with ‘idiotic NPR jargon’” by Jeffrey Clark, Fox News, January 6, 2025.)

♦ “Collaborating with these gentry was a mixed crowd of wide-minded, wide-mouthed Liberals, who darkened council with pious but disintegrating catch-words, and took care to live very well indeed.” (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling.)

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ “The prose yo-yoed between Academia.edu and a strained casualness that could inadvertently veer into the Borscht Belt...Too often, Briseis sounds like the voice-over from a History Channel special: ‘As a woman living in this camp, I was navigating a complex and dangerous world.’” (“The Many Wars of Pat Barker” by Daniel Mendelsohn, *The New Yorker*, October 18, 2021. Barker’s language is a form of presentism, using contempo-speak.)

♦ “Although it might not be entirely fair to describe Charles as feudalism-curious, his world view does appear to incorporate an implicit defense of his monarchical position.” (“King Me: Charles tried to be a philosopher-prince. But a British monarch must keep quiet” by Rebecca Mead, *The New Yorker*, May 8, 2023. Such use of contempo-speak is a form of presentism. Other examples from her article include, “In time, they grew closer, partly because of a mutual love of art. It can happen”—about the marriage of Charles I and Henrietta Maria in 1625—and “primogeniture is a bummer”—about Prince Andrew. She also mentions that “There are no glamorous teenage or twentysomething royals for the TikTok generation to scroll through...” Mead is certainly *au courant* for a 56 year old!)

♦ “There was a poster for One Million Years B.C. where she was in a—guess you’d call it a fur bikini (light upspeak)—and she’s standing there looking fierce.” (NPR movie critic Bob Mondello, on the death of Raquel Welch. Using contempo-speak to describe historical events is a form of presentism.)

♦ “By the mid-eighteen-forties, American farmers, too, had become gung ho for guano.” (“Elemental Need: Phosphorus helped saved our way of life—and now threatens to end it” by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023. “Gung ho” is very much a Chinese word relating to World War II (first entry 1941), so of *course* American farmers weren’t “gung ho” for guano in the mid-eighteen-forties. The word might have been put in quotation marks, but it wasn’t. On the other hand, the essay *is* breezy: Elizabeth refers to guano as “yellowish clay,” “bird shit,” and simply “shit.” The use of “gung ho” is a form of presentism.)

♦ “Meacham’s book, *And There Was Light*, tells of the anti-slavery politician whose election as president in 1860 triggered the Civil War. Lincoln struck back at the rebel states by ordering freedom for their enslaved workers, the Emancipation Proclamation, but the first Republican president was fiercely criticized by people who wanted less social change.” (Steve Inskeep. From “Lincoln prioritized democracy over his political future. A new biography explains why,” NPR, Morning Edition, October 18, 2022. Using contempo-speak and clichés to describe historical events is a form of presentism. Notice the use of “enslaved workers” for *slaves*. See the quote below for how such language should be noted.)

♦ “[Lincoln] sends a message to South Carolina’s governor, and he says, ‘I’m going to send humanitarian supplies’—he didn’t use that term at the time, but—I’m going to send humanitarian supplies to the men at Fort Sumter...” (The writer Erik Larson, author of *The Demon of Unrest*, speaking to Dave Davies. From “What the ‘Dawn of the Civil War’ can tell us about today’s acrimonious politics,” NPR, Fresh Air, May 1, 2024. Larson is a fine writer.)

♦ “I was sort of nine-eleven moment for America.” (The Fort Sumter attack.)

♦ Lincoln prioritized democracy over his political future.” (NPR’s Steve Inskeep.)

♦ “As the historian Eric Foner phrased it, for all its shortcomings, the Midwest ‘recognized black humanity.’ One might even say that with Lincoln and the region’s ardent abolitionists, black lives, for the first time, mattered.” (“Recovering The Heartland” by Hendrik Meijer, *National Review*, December 19, 2022. History framed in contempo-speak.)

♦ “Black Lives Matter. History Matters. John Hope Franklin showed us how much they matter to each other.” (“John Hope Franklin: Race and the Meaning of America” by the historian Drew Gilpin Faust, *The*



*New York Review*, December 17, 2015. History framed in contempo-speak.)

♦ "His book represents his own meditation on the meaning of the 'forever war' of race not just in American history and literature, but in our fraught time." ("What to Do About William Faulkner" by Drew Gilpin Faust, *The Atlantic*, September 2020. Which begs the question, "What to Do about Drew Gilpin Faust?" The answer: make her a contributing writer at *The Atlantic*. She is a former president of Harvard University, where she is the Arthur Kingsley Porter University Professor. The use of modern contempo-speak in a historical context is a form of presentism. To her credit, however, she *does* put the term in parentheses.)

♦ In *Churchill: Walking With Destiny*, Andrew Roberts says that Churchill, in 1940, "vigilantly guarded against *mission-creep*." That phrase struck a very wrong note with me. Luckily, Wikipedia has an entry: "The phrase first appeared in 1993, in articles published in the *Washington Post* and in the *New York Times* concerning the United Nations peacekeeping mission during the Somali Civil War." Roberts *could* have put the phrase in quotation marks, or added "in what is today called X," as he rightly did when he used "groupthink" in another part of his book, but for some reason he didn't. His use of the phrase is a form of presentism.

♦ "The memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, recognized as the official Holocaust memorial of Germany, sits in the center of downtown Berlin, just south of the famous Brandenburg Gate and a block away from the site of the bunker where Hitler *died by suicide* [italics mine]." ("Monuments to the Unthinkable: America still can't figure out how to memorialize the sins of our history. What can we learn from Germany?" by Clint Smith, *The Atlantic*, December, 2022. Contrast this with what Andrew Roberts wrote about Churchill's 1945 visit to Hitler's bunker: "He had finally tracked the beast to its lair.")

♦ "Even if these Masters died just when things were getting interesting, they were crucial superspreaders of the Renaissance, as anyone who attends 'Siena: The Rise of Painting, 1300-1350,' at the Met (Oct. 13), will be able to confirm." (Duccio, Simone Martini, and Ambrogio and Pietro Lorenzetti all died of the plague. *The New Yorker*.)

♦ The concept of "burnout," originally coined to describe the way many drug addicts felt in the late 1960s, has been expanded to *Achilles in the Bronze Age*. (See "It's Just Too Much" by Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, May 24, 2021. An excellent article by an excellent writer.)

### \*\*\* average people...

♦ "There was a lot of language I was unfamiliar with." (A parent about messages he began receiving from his children's elite private school concerning antiracism. He eventually removed his children from the school.)

♦ "It occurred to me that, because the world media establishment had ignored the Balkans for so long..., these people never had to learn, as the Israelis and Arabs did, how to talk in code, so as not to offend Western sensibilities with their racial hatred. In the Balkans, people spoke more honestly than in the Middle East, and therefore more brutally." (*Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* by the superb writer and correspondent Robert D. Kaplan.)

♦ "A pidgin English field guide would list buk-buks, pakes, buddaheads, katonks, mokes, titas, popolos, yobos, blalahs, haoles and portagees." (Ethnic and racial labels used in Hawaii.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "EOD handled the bombs. SSTP treated the wounds. PRP processed the bodies. The 08s fired DPICM. The MAW provided CAS. The 03s patrolled the MSRs. Me and PFC handled the money... / I will remember that our HMMWV had 5 PX. That the SITREP was 2 KIA, 3 WIA. That KIA means they gave everything. That WIA means I didn't." (From the short story "OIF" in *Redeployment* by the brilliant Marine writer Phil Klay. OIF stands for Operation Iraqi Freedom.)

♦ see also *boilerplate* (noun), *buzzword* (noun), *doublespeak* (noun), *ese* (legalese, etc.), *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *lip service* (pay lip service, etc.), *newspeak* (noun), *speak* (NASA-speak, etc.), *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing), *talk* (mediator talk, etc.), word salad

## lap (lap of luxury)

lived in the lap of luxury

for a time we ~

## lap (responsibility)

in the lap of the administration

it puts the issue ~ (politics)

falls in the lap

the issue now ~ of the head of food safety

landed in the lap

the case ~ of a federal judge

puts the issue in the lap

it ~ of the administration (politics)

♦ "She puts it front and center, she puts it right in their lap." (A supporter of an outspoken Black woman who accused whites of hypocrisy and a double standard.)

## lap (fall into one's lap / a windfall)

company's lap

consumer data falls into the ~

falls into your lap

occasionally an opening line ~ (via an interview / writing)

## lap (victory lap)

on the victory lap

Liverpool are now ~ (with win over Man U)

took a victory lap

President Trump ~ at the Michigan rally (politics)

taking a victory lap

this morning the president is ~ (peace deal)

no one is ~ here (US kills ISIS leader)

## lapdog (noun)

lapdogs of Bush and Cheney

*The New York Times* reporters were ~ (Iraq War)

lapdog for the president

he is a ~ (the Senate leader)

lap-dog court system

a ~ that is beholden to the military (Myanmar)

American lapdogs

you are ~ (Lukashenko, about British sanctions)

self-serving political lap dog

he's a ~ (criticism of a US general)

♦ "Trump vilified Cheney as he had no other Republican. 'To look at her is to despise her,' he declared in one statement emailed to supporters. He called her Pelosi's 'new lapdog RINO,' a 'low-polling warmonger,' a 'smug fool' and 'bad for our Country.'" ("Inside the Jan. 6 Committee" by Robert Draper and Luke Broadwater, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 1, 2023.)

## lapidary (adjective)

lapidary

*The Essays in Idleness* are ~ (Kenko)

lapidary chapters

Rady's fascinating ~ (*London Review of Books*)



lapidary (fourth) novel  
in "Paradise," his ~... (*The New Yorker*)

lapidary poems  
his most ~ (Philip Larkin)

lapidary polish  
the high ~ of his witty prose (Waugh)

lapidary precision  
he is a realist painter of ~ (Caleb Considine)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ This word often appears in *The New Yorker Magazine*, in reviews of artists and writers. It refers to the work involved in cutting, polishing and engraving precious stones. The opposite would be rough or unpolished.

**lap up (verb)**

lapped up such complaints  
he ~ (an editorial cartoonist)

lap it up  
audiences ~ (rape and murder of females / entertainment)

**lash (a storm lashed the Philippines)**

lash the Philippines  
about 20 major storms ~ each year

lashed the islands with wind and rain  
the hurricane ~

**lash out (verb)**

lashed out at (Obama's) campaign  
the GOP nominee ~

lashed out at the (US) military  
he ~

lashed out at Army officials  
Barton ~ (the Angel of the Battlefield)

lashed out over (questionable) reporting  
he ~ (a bereaved father)

implode (violently) or lash out  
the repressive regime might now ~

**last (the last / epithet)**

last fisherman  
Rinaldi is known as "the ~ of Monaco"

**last (last night, etc. / at an earlier time)**

last Sunday night  
I was talking to him ~

**last (time / verb)**

last forever  
summer would not ~

**last-ditch (adjective)**

last-ditch appeal

his lawyers filed a ~ (capital case)

last-ditch effort  
a hiring freeze is often a ~ to reduce staff  
this was a ~ to help him (a troubled athlete)

last-ditch measure  
operators used seawater as a ~ to cool the reactors

**\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "The Army will hold its positions until the last soldier and the last ditch." (Hitler to Von Paulus. Stalingrad.)

**last hurrah**

last hurrah  
WW II veterans gathered for a ~ (memorial)

last hurrah for the (landmark) restaurant  
it was a ~ (New Year's Eve celebration / bankrupt)

girls' last hurrah  
this is these ~ (bachelorette party)

beginning or a last hurrah  
it may be a new ~ (US health-care legislation)

**\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...**

♦ The 1913 Gettysburg Reunion marked the 50th anniversary of the battle and was considered a great success. President Woodrow Wilson addressed the reunion and gave a conciliatory speech on July 4th.

♦ Listen to and watch "Rare Footage of Civil War Veterans Doing the Rebel Yell." [The smithsonianmag.com/videos/ category/history/ what-did-the-rebel-yell-sound-like/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/what-did-the-rebel-yell-sound-like/)

**last rites (noun)**

last rites  
don't administer ~ to Irish Catholicism yet (scandals)

♦ "That's how the press read the signs, too. 'YUPPIES' LAST RITES READIED' was the headline in the *Times* after Black Monday. 'SUNSET FOR YUPPIES' was the headline in *USA Today*. Obituaries for the yuppie began to appear—notably (and strangely unmentioned in McGrath's book), Hendrik Hertzberg's classic 'The Short Happy Life of the American Yuppie,' in *Esquire*. The yuppie, Hertzberg said, was 'the collective projection of a moral anxiety. We loaded onto him everything we hated about the times we had been living through... Then we strung the little bastard up.' It was over." ("What Happened To The Yuppie?" by Louis Menand, *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2024. Great writing.)

**late (timeliness)**

late  
the hour was ~ (need for a policy)

not too late  
it's ~ to turn things around (politics)

getting late  
the hour is ~

**late (late Stone Age, etc.)**

late Stone Age  
by this time, in the ~...

**latest (the latest / most recent)**

latest on that case  
what is the ~

the latest (teen) craze

~ in clothes, music, illegal drugs

the latest effort

in ~ to restore stability after a military coup...

the latest flare-up

~ of their long-running feud (2 NASCAR drivers)

the latest 'in thing'

not long ago Osaka was ~ to blow in (vs. Gauff)

the latest twist

EFPs are ~ in a lethal game of measure, countermeasure

## Latin (Latin of Korea, etc.)

Latin of India

Sanskrit is the equivalent of the ~ (classical language)

Latin of Korea

ideographic Chinese—the ~—was isolated from everyday speech

## latitude (wide latitude, etc.)

latitude for interpretation

a rule leaves very little if any ~

latitude to intervene

that would give him more ~ (a national emergency)

a lot of latitude

I have ~ about when and where I travel for stories (journos)

creative latitude

he had wide ~ (a filmmaker)

maximum latitude

he takes speculation to its ~

allow you some latitude

I'll ~ (judge at jury trial)

have (enormous) latitude

when it comes to foreign policy, presidents ~ (US)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In Latin, *latus* means wide and *longus* means long.

♦ "Discretion" is a synonym...sometimes! Or "extent." Or "room," which nowadays would be expressed by contempo-speakers as "space."

## latticework (noun)

latticework of conjecture

a desire for closure has grown into a ~ (who killed Tupac)

latticework of old pipelines and plugged wells

leasing maps show it contains a ~ (Gulf of Mexico)

complex latticework

the current system is a ~ of quotas (fisheries)

economic latticework

a massive ~ (China's Belt and Road / pipelines, roads, etc.)

### \*\*\* snow...

♦ "Snow, with its intricate latticework, forms a sort of net..."

## laugh (made me laugh, etc.)

laughing

I'm ~ (not actually laughing)

made me laugh

what she said ~ (not literally true)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone is laughing, and says, "I'm laughing." Or announces that one is going to laugh.)

♦ If I didn't laugh, I'd cry.

## laugh (last laugh)

have the last laugh

he may ~ here (congressional hearing)

Freud may posthumously ~ (analysis of mass hysteria)

have a kind of last laugh

though the A380 killed off the 747, Boeing will ~

## laughed out (of court, etc.)

laughed out of the (educational) community

if somebody suggested that model, they would be ~

laughed out of court

the case will be ~

laughed out of my profession

if I'd talked like this early in my career, I'd've been ~

laughed out of the studio

he was ~ (Dick Clark pitching *American Bandstand*)

literally laughed out of office

he was ~ (Republican arrested in a men's room)

virtually laughed out of the room

when he suggested the idea, he was ~, but...

got laughed out of a couple of professor's offices

I actually ~ (a student with a novel good idea)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone is ejected from a place by laughter.)

## launch (verb)

launched the age

he ~ of chemical warfare (Fritz Haber / 1915)

launched an (international) appeal

the Red Cross has ~ for aid (Haiti earthquake)

launched a (court) challenge

he has ~ against the King (Swaziland)

launched a campaign

they ~ of civil disobedience (Birmingham)

launched a crackdown

the government has ~ on corruption

launched a (hugely popular) franchise

the blockbuster film ~ (X-Men)

launched a movement

they ~ that has been both applauded and denounced

launched a (quiet charm) offensive

sensing he might welcome allies, she ~

launched a project

the department ~ to install lights at crossings (safety)

launched a review

the UKA ~ (sports doping)

launched a revolution

he ~ (astronomer looking at X-ray emitters)

launched a (massive) search

officials ~ for the missing sailor

launched a thousand ships

see *ship* (*launched a thousand ships*)

launched an (all-out) war

in 2003 Thailand ~ on meth (Yaba)

launch a (trade) war

he wants to ~

launched his business

he ~ this spring

## launch (noun)

soft launch

NBC introduced the website with a ~ (NBCBLK)

## launching pad

launch pads for emotions

murder trials can be ~, which can be sky-high

launching pad for the invasion

Kuwait will be the main ~

launching pad for gay marriage

Hawaii seemed the likely ~

launching pad for the embassy bombings

Somalia was a ~ (1998)

used that win as the launchpad

Liverpool ~ to a golden future (Champions League)

## launder (verb)

launder their image

they are using sports to ~ (sportswashing)

laundered (the warden's) money

Andy Dufresne ~ (film *The Shawshank Redemption*)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Russian Laundromat."

♦ see also *wash* (*straightwash*, etc.)

## laundry (laundry list)

laundry list of (unacceptable) behaviors

a ~

laundry list of challenges

the city is choosing a mayor to solve a ~

laundry list of demands

Chris isn't surprised by Don's ~ (media celebrities)

laundry list of illnesses

he's a 67-year-old man with a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A laundry list of complaints." "A litany of complaints." Take your pick!

## laurels (praise)

resting on their laurels

they are ~, living in the past, on reputation (Man United)

won more laurels

he ~ leading world-renowned ensembles (Andre Previn)

♦ "Resting on her laurels was no option for her. Neither was losing, and neither was never getting another game with teammates she loves for a school and a state she loves." ("Caitlin Clark was 'queen among women' to reach Final Four in latest glimpse of her Iowa greatness" by Steve Serby, *The New York Post*, April 2, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Better deserve honor and not have it, than have it and not deserve it."

## law (law of the jungle, etc.)

law of the jungle

for such is the ~, death to the weaker, food to the stronger

law of claw, horn and fang

the leopard lives by the ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's a jungle out there!"

## law enforcement (as verb)

law enforcement our way out

we can't ~ of this fentanyl epidemic

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## Lawrence (T. E.)

"Lawrence of Afghanistan"

Army Maj Jim Gant, known as ~

Lawrence of Iraq

Travis Patriquin has been dubbed the T. E. ~

America's "Lawrence of Arabia"

Captain Travis Patriquin, ~ in Ramadi

♦ "The Fall of the Green Berets' *Lawrence of Afghanistan*" by Mark Thompson, *Time*, June 25, 2014.

### \*\*\* Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T.E. Lawrence

♦ "We could not leave him where he was, to the Turks, because we had seen them burn alive our hapless wounded. For this reason we were all agreed, before action, to finish off one another, if badly hurt: but I had never realized that it might fall to me to kill Farraj." (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence, Book VIII, Chapter XCIII.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to his Wikipedia entry, the great Vietnamese general Vo Nguyen Giap "had no direct military training and was a history

teacher at a French-speaking academy, citing T.E. Lawrence and Napoleon as his two greatest influences."

## Lawrence of Arabia-esque

Lawrence of Arabia-esque

James was kind of ~, and he probably cultivated that image (Alistair Harris about James Le Mesurier)

## lay (put)

lay the blame elsewhere

many fans ~ (struggling soccer club)

laying the blame on China

the US is ~ (politics)

## lay (lay bare)

lays bare the fault lines

the report ~ that divide this group (Amish)

## lay (lay into)

laid into President Trump's policies

he ~

## layer (analysis)

layer of the onion

you notice that for every ~ there's another underneath it

layer deeper

we need to dig a ~

peels back yet another layer

a revealing new interview ~ (a politician)

♦ "So many layers, Diane, to this story, a lot of moving parts, and it will of course be very interesting to see how it all plays out..." (Marcus Moore of ABC reporting on a sensational murder case.)

♦ "It's surprising, and shocking, what you learn when you begin to peel back the onion." (Dateline NBC, "Horror at the Lake.")

## lay low (emotion)

laid him low

the deaths of his parents ~

## lay of the land

lay of the land

he knew the ~ (Congress)

can you give us the ~ (explain something)

## layup (noun)

layup

it won't be a ~, but it's a shot we need to take (prosecution)

layup for the prosecution

the case looked like a ~, but...

## Lazarus (Emma Lazarus)

Emma Lazarus

somewhere, ~ is weeping (US immigration politics)

## Lazarus (Bible)

Lazarus

he's not the comeback kid, he's ~ (a politician)

## leach (verb)

leached *badass* of its badassery

overuse has ~

leached into every aspect of our lives

race has ~

leached out of the Democratic ranks

the intensity seems to have ~ (politics)

life-leached

the ~ margins of the Great Salt Lake

## lead (restraint)

give him a long lead

you had to ~ (the inimitable Dennis Keith Rodman)

## lead (one thing leads to another)

leads his colleagues to "blow up"

the pressure ~ from time to time

led scientists to document

his discovery ~ earlier outbreaks (epidemic)

lead you to your best achievements

the truth is, fear of failure can ~

led me to a different conclusion

my analysis ~

led women to desperate acts

a decade of war has ~ (Chechnya)

led him down a dangerous path

his unswerving belief in himself ~

lead to (intraabdominal) abscess

intestinal leaks may ~

leads to abuses

secrecy ~ of power (terrorism investigations)

lead to blindness

trachoma can ~ as eyelashes turn in on the eyeball

led to the breakup

the issue ~ of their marriage (attending sex clubs)

lead to the collapse

the situation could ~ of the Iraqi government

led to a confrontation

a feud between next-door neighbors ~

lead to death

even drops of spittle or beads of sweat can ~ (Marburg)

led to death

pregnancy often ~ in childbirth (19th century US)

led to the death

what ~ of George Floyd

lead to dissention

bonus disparities can ~ in the ranks (military)

leads to doom

in social-hygiene films, transgressions ~

lead to menstrual dysfunction

an eating disorder can ~, osteoporosis (athletes)

lead to an ileus

pneumonia can ~, abdominal distention and fever

led to (rapid) innovation

his modern version of a wing suit has ~ (de Gayardon)

led to this moment

what ~

lead to reductions

price controls ~ in supply and investment

led (up) to this ruling

what ~ (by a Florida court)

led (up) to the shooting

we know little about what ~

lead to success

factors that will ~

led to trouble

how my nighttime walk ~

situation could lead

the ~ to the collapse of the Iraqi government

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we might mention "cause and effect" and "reason and result" during grammar lessons on clauses with certain adverbs like "because" and "so." The language gives us additional resources. See "relationship" in the glossary of this work for ideas.

## leader (person)

leader in the field

she is a ~ of cognitive psychology (Lera Boroditsky)

thought leader

he is a ~ in the field of idiomatics (John I. Liontas)

## leading light (person)

leading lights of the conservative cause

the ~ climbed the stage to rally their faithful (politics)

liberal leading light

the ~ caused a political earthquake (Ocasio-Cortez)

knew its leading lights

Pasternak ~ (members of symbolist movement)

## league (out of one's league)

out of your league

you're ~, buddy...

♦ "She needs to step down, she is way out of her league, adults need to be put in charge." (An online commenter about L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, about the 2025 L.A. wildfires.)

♦ *Amateur* lexicographers; *unaffiliated* scholars; *public* diplomacy; *popular* historians; "Don't quit your day job"; "I thought it rather a bad thing," *Jude the Obscure*... (Academic and class snobbery towards those who are deemed "out of their league.")

## league (different league)

in a different league

Max is not ~, he's in a different galaxy (Verstappen)

## leak (verb)

word leaked

but on Thursday, ~ that the visa would not be granted

## leak (noun)

leaks of information

he condemned ~ (FBI investigation)

leak of (classified) information

the possible ~

leaks to the press

there had been ~ about... (jetliner crash)

leaks and scoops

reporters fiercely jockeying for ~

leaks, supposition, speculation, and spin

there's been ~ (investigation)

♦ "So how do they all then try to mop up this leak or at least plug it up as much as possible..." (NPR's "A" Martinez about the latest government classified documents leak.)

## leaked

leaked voice mail

on his ~, he called his daughter a rude little pig

## leak out (verb)

leak out

what you tell them would ~ (school counselors)

leaked out in bits and pieces

the truth ~ (politician)

leaks out in debt repayments

aid to Africa ~ ("leaking bucket syndrome")

prevent details from leaking out

they want to ~ (explosion in North Korea)

news leaked out

the ~ about...

word leaked out

~ and... (Iraq)

## lean (size)

leaner (university) sector

the expectation is of a ~ (less money for education)

lean and agile

the company is ~

lean and mean

it's a ~ team (Blue Origin)

leaner and meaner

a ~ Raptor 2 (rocket engine / SpaceX)

lean and nimble

the company must become more ~

♦ "The point of leapfrogging to a new engine was to get everyone thinking boldly. 'Our goal is the great adventure engine'... The guiding principle should be to make an engine that was lean. 'There are a lot of ways to skin a cat,' he said. 'But it's important to know what the post-skinned cat looks like. The answer is muscly and gnarly.'" (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson. An astonishing visualization.)

♦ "There's not an ounce of fat in *Fallen Leaves*." (The 2023 Finnish film directed by Aki Kaurismäki, who believes movies should not last longer than an hour and a half. John Powers used the following expressions in his review: low-key; terseness; taut; dry; droll; ironic; precise; straightforward; tight; not an ounce of fat; no emoting; not a big movie; a small movie...)

\*\*\* In Italy, '*americanata*' refers to...

♦ In Italy, "*americanata*" refers to something big and flashy, over the top, like an oversized American car trying to force its way up a small, narrow Italian street. The term can be disparaging or admiring.

**lean (lean times, etc.)**

lean times

voters are sick and tired of ~

the newspaper has had to shut its doors in these ~

lean years

she had some ~ (a professional golfer)

**lean in (verb)**

leaning in

he has not been trying to hide, he has been ~, begging to tell his story

leaning in on (thorny) issues

even Obama praised him for ~ (a popular young politician)

leaning in as hard as (humanly) possible

he is ~ to his position as a Trump backer (politics)

lean in to your career

~ and embrace ambition

leaned in to her heritage

in recent years Beyoncé has ~, celebrating race...

♦ "And lean in always understood that. Lean in was always about being able to go for leadership positions, always about men leaning in at home... Well, that's right, and that's why again lean in was always for this, lean in was always about men doing their share... So this report is not telling women to lean in, it's telling companies to lean in..." ("Sheryl Sandberg: Companies Need To 'Lean In' As Pandemic Threatens Women's Progress," NPR, All Things Considered, Oct. 1, 2020. Sandberg is head of the Lean In Foundation. Her 2013 book *Lean In* called on women to be more assertive in the workplace, but has been criticized as an unrealistic panacea for most women. Michele Obama famously said, "It's not always enough to lean in because that s\*\*\* doesn't work." That criticism itself has been criticized.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ What the physical basis for this cliché? Is it getting closer to hear a private conversation? Is it aggressively getting too close to someone and "getting in their face"? Is it leaning in to kiss, or be kissed?

♦ Step in / lean in and embrace it...

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *step in (verb)*

**lean into (verb)**

lean into being

he taught me to ~ weird instead of hiding it

leaning into his branding

he was ~ as an educator (Dr. William H. Cosby)

leaning into the campaign

this hype house is ~ in a big way (politics 2020)

leaned into this characterization

prosecutors ~ during her trial (manipulative)

lean (hard) into the issue

this will encourage Democrats to ~ (a vote)

lean into it

the women pulled no punches, they would just ~ (scriptwriters for SVU)

leaning (completely) into it

for years I shied away from it, now I'm ~

leans into his reputation

he ~ for pushing boundaries (the comic Dave Chappelle)

leaned into her status

she has ~ as one of the only female candidates

leaned into (fear) tactics

he ~ as he accused the left of... (politics)

leaned (heavily) into that

he has ~ (Trump's endorsement / politics)

lean into their authenticity, courage and agency

Kristen inspires leaders to ~ (a speaker / \$10K+)

♦ "Maybe I'll lean into the pain narrative, write that and get a good advance, ya'll pay me for that, right." (Fantasy author L.L. McKinney.)

♦ Steve Inskeep: What are you going to be doing this summer that is possible, that is practical [about gun control]. / Mayor Aftab Pureval: We are going to do everything we can to lean into innovative law enforcement techniques that are data driven... (On NPR.)

♦ NBC's Hallie Jackson: You've been reluctant to lean into, to talk about the historic nature of your candidacy on the campaign trail. Why is that? / Kamala Harris: Well, I'm clearly a woman... (Cackling.)

♦ "The film leans fully into meta territory." (Caryn James about the 2022 film *Bros*, a gay rom-com. This short sentence is notable for containing 3 contempo-speak clichés: "lean into," "meta," and "territory.")

♦ "Glen Powell finally admits he leaned into Sydney Sweeney dating rumors to promote 'Anyone But You.'"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ What the physical basis for this cliché? Is it getting closer to hear a private conversation? Is it aggressively getting too close to someone and "getting in their face"? Is it leaning in to kiss, or be kissed?

♦ Step in / lean in and embrace it...

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *step in (verb)*



## lean on (coercion)

lean on his lawyer, Jeff Sessions and other aides  
the report details his efforts to ~ (obstruction of justice)

lean on and even pressure  
many companies ~ workers to volunteer

## lean on (support)

lean on  
after your loss, who did you ~, family, friends... (a boxer)  
he wishes he had had a support group to ~ (trans)

lean on the crutch  
people ~ of metaphor (technology)

leaned (hard) on his experience  
he ~ as vice president (election debate)

leaned on their experience  
scientists ~ with other viruses to make predictions

lean on scotch  
he began to ~ to relax (an alcoholic)

leaned on Wilson  
he ~ as his spiritual prop (Robert Falcon Scott)

leaned heavily on  
I have also ~ the knowledge of a number of scholars...

\*\*\* The great Bill Withers...

♦ "Lean on me, when you're not strong / And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on..." (Watch and listen to: Bill Withers-Lean On Me (BBC In Concert, May 11, 1974)

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Lean on Me (song)." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## lean towards (verb)

leaning towards Biden  
he is ~ (a voter)

leaning towards voting  
she is ~ for disapproval (declaration of emergency)

## leap (leap into action, etc.)

leapt at the opportunity  
my father ~ (to help humanity / a doctor)

leaped to defend him  
Churchill ~ (Stalin / World War II)

leapt into action  
the police ~

leapt into the fray  
eminent academics and writers ~ (literary controversy)

## leap (leap of faith, etc.)

leap of faith  
you've just got to make a ~, and I'm here to catch you  
take a ~ and trust again or get out (unfaithful spouse)

leap of the imagination

America is a ~ (history)

leap in faith  
marriage is a ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When you want to test the depths of a stream, don't use both feet." (Chinese.)

## leap (transmission)

leap from animals to humans  
some viruses can ~

♦ "How a meme found on anonymous message boards is making a leap into real-world politics." (Eating bugs.)

## leap (the leap of a waterfall, etc.)

leap, splash and spray  
the ~ of waterfalls

## leap (noun)

leaps in (bike) design  
significant ~

leaps in (math) proficiency  
students have made great ~

leap in (weapons) technology  
this ~

leap to stardom  
she reflects on her ~ (film actor)

leap to television  
they made the ~ (from the early days of film)

leap from booby to boo-boo  
it is a short linguistic ~

leap from mediocrity to greatness  
11 companies that made the ~

leaps and bounds  
see *leaps and bounds*

technology leap  
every new ~—the longbow, the tank, the atom bomb...

great leap  
students have made ~s in math proficiency

mental leap  
if one can make the ~ to imagine Go in heaven...

short (linguistic) leap  
it is a ~ from booby to boo-boo

significant leap  
~ in bike design

made the leap  
they ~ to television (from the early days of film)

## leapfrog (verb)

leapfrogged (traditional) technology  
China has ~ (cellphone usage)

leapfrogs from histories to key games  
the series jumps around, it ~ (sports documentary)

leapfrogged into the internet era  
China ~ (smartphones and apps)

## leapfrog (noun)

leapfrog tactics  
General MacArthur's ~ (in the Solomon Islands / WWII)

## leaps and bounds

by leaps and bounds  
the organization was growing ~  
the intelligence community has grown by ~

in leaps and bounds  
technology has advanced ~

## learn (verb)

learned from his losses  
he has ~

## lease (lease on life)

new lease on life  
the medication gave him a ~  
the new term feels like a ~ (a teacher)  
technology has given publishing a ~

getting a (new) lease on life  
they were ~ (1972 moratorium on death penalty)

gave him a (new) lease on life  
the medication ~

## leash (on a leash / off a leash, etc.)

long leash  
he gave me the ~ and support I needed (editor at WSJ)

on a constitutional leash  
she believes in a government ~

on short leash  
Patriot's QB ~ with season on the line

on a (very) short (constitutional) leash  
she believes in a government ~

keeps him on a short leash  
the company ~ (an actor who is also a pitchman)

let his team off the leash  
he ~ to go and create (soccer)

tightened the leash  
the court ~ on unions and their ability to organize

## leave (leave something alone)

leave it alone  
people told me to ~ (don't speak out or get involved)

## leave (leave a mark, etc.)

leaves a (computer) fingerprint  
every visit ~

leaves a mark  
Afghanistan ~ on soldiers

left pockmarks  
a grenade exploded and ~ on the side of his house

## leave (death)

left  
when he ~... (died of heart attack at young age)

left us  
I gather he ~ last year (died)  
Jacopo Venzo has ~ (the 17-year-old Italian cyclist)

left this earth  
when she ~ she was... (child / 2022)

♦ "‘Edwin Dood’ was Dicken's last work, and Fildes, brought into contact with him through these small illustrations, enters his room on the day of his death, sees his empty chair standing there, and so it happens one of the old numbers of the ‘Graphic’ contains that touching drawing, ‘The Empty Chair.’ / Empty chairs—there are many of them, there will be still more..." (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vicent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

## leave it (leave it all on the field, etc.)

left it all out on the court  
I really fought and ~ today (Coco Gauff / tennis)

left it all out there on the floor  
I ~ along with my guys (NBA win)

left it all on the field  
he ~ for us (the great Rob Gronkowski / NFL)

♦ "If you wanna win it, ya gotta bring it." "I left it all out there on the floor..." (Sports.)

♦ see also bring (bring it).

## lecture (verb)

lecture about race  
the film doesn't ~, but you can feel the enmity...

## leech (verb)

leeches millions from her  
her father ~ (a female celebrity)

## leech (person)

leeches  
~ come with the sudden wealth (pro athletes)  
those ~ take it all (Christian aid groups vs. refugees)

leech, the busy bee, the whiner  
the ~ (types of bad friends)

parasite, a leech  
she's a ~ (charges soldiers for water from a river)

despised the poor as leeches  
he ~ who weakened society (*Atlas Shrugged*)

♦ "Every step I've taken has gaslighted those whom I love... I am not a culture vulture. I am a culture leech. You should absolutely cancel me, and I absolutely cancel myself." (Rachel Dolezal, an academic who claimed "identities of color," including Black Caribbean, North African Blackness, US rooted Blackness, Caribbean rooted Bronx Blackness, *Boricua*...)

♦ “Correct; well said. Glazers = leeches” (A disgruntled Man U fan on a BBC HYS after the latest loss to Liverpool. 282 upvotes. 30 downvotes.)

♦ “This was a victory for boxing, AJ and that blood sucker Hearn out of the race...” (A BBC HYS about the second fight between Oleksandr Usyk and Anthony Joshua.)

\*\*\* **Tibet; the Malay Archipelago; outside Allegan, Michigan...**

♦ “During our excursions we found masses of wild strawberries but where we found the best we also found the most leeches. I knew from my reading that these creatures are the plague of many Himalayan valleys, and now learned from personal experience how helpless one is against them. They drop from trees on men and animals and creep through all the openings in one’s clothes, even the eyelets in one’s shoes. If one tears them off one loses more blood than if one lets them drink their fill, when they fall off by themselves. Some of the valleys are infested to such a degree by leeches that one simply cannot protect oneself against them. The best way of keeping them out is by wearing socks and trousers steeped in salt.” (*Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer, from the chapter, “The Village of Happiness.”)

♦ “Our first day’s march lay through patches of forest, clearings, and Malay villages, and was pleasant enough... The next day, the country got wilder... We passed through extensive forests, along paths often up to our knees in mud, and were much annoyed by the leeches for which this district is famous. These little creatures infest the leaves and herbage by the side of the paths, and when a passenger comes along they stretch themselves out at full length, and if they touch any part of his dress or body, quit their leaf and adhere to it. They then creep on to his feet, legs, or other part of his body and suck their fill, the first puncture being rarely felt during the excitement of walking. On bathing in the evening we generally found half a dozen or a dozen on each of us, most frequently on our legs, but sometimes on our bodies, and I had one who sucked his fill from the side of my neck, but who luckily missed the jugular vein. There are many species of these forest leeches. All are small, but some are beautifully marked with stripes of bright yellow. They probably attach themselves to deer or other animals which frequent the forest paths, and have thus acquired the singular habit of stretching themselves out at the sound of a footstep or of rustling foliage...” (*The Malay Archipelago* by Alfred Russel Wallace, Chapter 3, Malacca and Mount Ophir.)

♦ The pond behind my grandpa’s shack outside of Allegan, Michigan, was full of leeches. As a kid, I can remember pulling the leeches off my body after swimming in the pond. The leeches were fat and black, tended to be in the creases of my body, and sometimes pulling them off I saw my own red, vivid blood. I thought nothing of it... As far as I know, no harm ever came to me from them.

## leeway (noun)

leeway

she doesn’t allow me any ~

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “She doesn’t allow me any leeway.” “She doesn’t allow me any latitude.” Take your pick!

## left (left behind)

left behind

the poor are ~ (services go to wealthy)

## left and right

thrown around left and right

the word *racist* has been ~

♦ “It’s killing people left to right.” (A drug user, about fentanyl. An eggcorn?)

## left field (out of left field, etc.)

left-field surprises

the thriller is full of ~ (No Sudden Move)

completely out of left field

you make absurd comments that are ~ and make no sense  
this is ~, I am absolutely shocked, I was gut-wrenched...

come from left field

we were stunned, this had ~ (diplomacy)

come out of left field

the announcement ~ (unexpected)

♦ “This thing was not only from left field, it was from the planet Mars, because it didn’t happen...” (A politician dismissing an old accusation of sexual abuse.)

♦ “She furrowed her brow. It was a question from left field... / Now they were the ones thrown a curveball... / This was another question out of the blue...” (A well written police procedural.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This refers to a throw from the left fielder to any of the bases, particularly home plate, surprising the runner and exciting the spectators. Ordinarily, a throw from the outfield is cut off by the second-baseman. It takes an outfielder with a strong arm to make such a long throw, and it is *always* a dramatic moment.)

## left out (excluded)

left out of the Paris Olympics

baseball and softball will be ~

## leg (table leg, etc.)

landing legs

Falcon boosters come down upright on ~ (SpaceX)

snapped leg

moon lander pictured on its side with ~ (IM-1 Odysseus)

## leg (first leg, etc.)

leg of the journey

conditions on the return ~ were worse

leg of the trip

the plane left for the second ~ to Dover Air Force Base

leg of training

the final ~ for soldiers trying to become Green Berets

return leg

conditions on the ~ of the journey were worse

first leg

the ~ of his journey

second leg

the plane left for the ~ of the trip to Dover AFB

final leg

the ~ of training (soldiers trying to become Green Berets)

## leg (grow legs, have legs, etc.)

grew legs

my website ~ (became successful)

have more legs

this boycott seems to ~ than most (against Bud Lite beer)

## leg (leg to stand on)

have a (firm) leg to stand on

he didn’t ~ (Secretary of Labor resigns)

## leg (last legs)

on its last legs

his show is ~ (TV show losing ratings)

♦ "His new show is on its last legs before it even got on its first legs."  
(Snark about a CNN personality.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## leg (leg up)

see *leg up*

## legacy (obsolescence)

legacy acts

~, stars of an earlier era (Super Bowl halftime shows)

legacy costs

the "~" of retiree health care and pensions (industry)

legacy equipment

adding high-tech sensors to ~ is expensive and challenging

legacy fashion house

designers who don't want to work for a ~

legacy issues

there are many companies that need to confront ~

legacy name

as for now the ~ will be helpful to us (Barstool Radio)

legacy newsroom

change is difficult and slow in a ~ (Capital B media)

legacy studios

the ~ sprinted into the streaming wars (Disney +, etc.)

legacy system

drivers are available for ~s such as Windows 98

"legacy" technology

—an industry euphemism for obsolete hardware

legacy thinking

generals are locked in a cold-war mindset—

♦ Legacy fashion houses; blue-blooded heritage labels... (Fashion.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Kevlin Henney, the sense of this word that relates to technology and computer programming is quite recent. He gives the date of 1989.

♦ "Any building must be new once, one tells oneself..." (The destruction of the old and its replacement with the new.)

♦ Of course, the rest of the world might move on...

## legacy (history)

legacy

she talked about her ~, the things she has achieved

legacy of the past

the ~ (history)

legacy of its (Soviet) past

Estonia's effort to sever the ~ (monuments, etc.)

legacy of (vanishing) plants

the seed vault seeks to save the genetic ~ (on Svalbard)

legacy of war

landmines are an insidious ~

legacy of discrimination and lived experiences

they seek to erase the ~ (critical race theory)

legacy of slavery and colonialism

how to deal with the ~

legacy of pain and prejudice

the romance of the West versus its ~ (US)

legacy of the cold war

this terrible ~ (Russian stockpiles of chemical weapons)

war's legacy

the ~ continues to divide Americans (Civil War)

complicated legacy

the ~ of this American classic (*Shaft* / Blaxploitation)

enduring legacy

a clean river may be the 2024 Olympics most ~ (the Seine)

family legacy

~s and obligations

colonial legacy

France's ~ has deepened that alienation (immigrants)  
boxing in India is a ~ (sports)

genetic legacy

the seed vault seeks to save the ~ of vanishing plants

insidious legacy

landmines are an ~ of war

multigenerational legacy

families with ~s of college education (vs. poor)

radioactive legacy

using the world's ~ (to determine age of whale sharks)

guardian of a (150 year) legacy

the Mariinsky Theater is a ~ (ballet and opera)

carrying on the legacy

they are ~ of George Plimpton (*Paris Review*)

deal with the legacy

how to ~ of slavery and colonialism

pass the legacy along to their children's children

~ (Shoshone)

sever the legacy

Estonia's effort to ~ of its Soviet past (monuments, etc.)

## legacy (reputation)

### legacy

his ~ is tarnished by allegations he... (a boxer)

### legacy of failure

given the long ~ at schools like Thomas Jefferson

### legacy of love

they left a ~ wherever they went (eulogy)

### “legacy” tour

Cyborg referred pre-fight to the contest as her ~ (MMA)

### Manchester's (industrial) legacy

~ (England)

### Michigan's (proud shipbuilding) legacy

~ (Lake Michigan)

### shipbuilding legacy

Michigan's proud ~ (Lake Michigan)

### troubled (racial) legacy

a stark reminder of this city's ~ (St. Louis)

### Jewish legacy

there is a rich ~ associated with boxing

### incendiary legacy

Napoleon's ~ divides France 200 years on

### industrial legacy

Manchester's ~ (England)

### proud (shipbuilding) legacy

Michigan's ~ (Lake Michigan)

### racial legacy

a stark reminder of this city's troubled ~ (St. Louis)

### rich (Jewish) legacy

there is a ~ associated with boxing

### legacy is tarnished

his ~ by allegations he... (a boxer)

### carry on his (great) legacy

a replacement will ~ (Supreme Court justice)

### cemented her legacy

she ~ as one of the best female MMA fighters in history

### embraced (for itself) the legacy

Gazprom has ~ of Peter the Great (new skyscraper)

### leaves his legacy in ruins

the loss ~ (Joshua defeated by Usyk / boxing)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “I don't believe in the word legacy. I just think it's another word for ego. Legacy doesn't mean nothing. That's just some word everyone grabbed onto... It means absolutely nothing to me...” (The great boxer Mike Tyson, on the eve of his boxing match with the YouTuber Jake Paul.)

## legend (noun)

### legend

Mike Tyson is an icon of the sport of boxing, a ~

### both legends

it was a great performance from ~ (Jones v. Tyson boxing)

♦ He is a legend... in his own mind. (A narcissist.)

## legion (noun)

### legion of fans

Mr. Musk told his ~ that...

### legions of others

she is joining ~, many of them women, who are frustrated

### legions of poor

Karachi is a magnet for its ~

### legions of other women

and so are ~ (“me too” movement)

## leg up (help, advantage)

### leg up on the competition

some coffee shops are trying to get a ~ by... (bikini baristas)

### leg up on competitors

it has a ~ (a millipede)

### leg up over the competition

Microsoft has an enormous ~

### leg up to children

schools continue to give a ~ of alumni (legacy admissions)

### covert leg up

ChatGPT is a ~ (over colleagues, competition, etc.)

### enormous leg up

Microsoft has an ~ over the competition

### Gets Leg Up

“LEGO ~ On Toy Competitors”

### give a leg up

people in power willing to ~ to women (sports coaching)

### Have Leg Up

“New Grads May ~ On Older Job Seekers”

♦ A foot race? Help getting on a horse? Who knows? It means an advantage (foot race) or a boost / assistance (horse).

## lemming (consciousness)

### lemming

what are you, a ~ (taking government advice / COVID)

### lemmings for every tweet

people aren't ~ they happen to see (conspiracy theories)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. The cartoon shows a bunch of lemmings following one another off a cliff. The caption is, “Turn back!?” “Now that we've come this far!?” The cartoon is at the Wikipedia article “Lemming.” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## lemon (noun)

### lemon

my car is a ~

## **lend (lend a hand, etc.)**

lent an ear

Michael unselfishly ~ to friends in need

lend a hand

can I ~ (help)

## **length (go to any lengths, etc.)**

go to any lengths

the corporation will ~ to preserve the system (oil)

political rivals will ~ to achieve their aims

gone to unusual lengths

police had ~ in their investigation

## **lens (through a lens)**

through many lenses

immigration, ~

through that lens

I see the world ~ (being biracial)

through the new lens of the memes

looked at ~, human beings...

through the lens of a reasonable office

use of force is viewed ~ (the Supreme Court standard)

through the lens of science

experiences now better seen ~ (hearing "voices")

through the lens of a (negative) stereotype

the threat of being viewed ~

through an ethnic lens

he refused to view things ~ (Afghan military man)

through an objective lens

we have to look at it ~ reasonable officer standard)

through a strictly racial lens

the project look at American history ~ (1619 Project)

through a "theological" lens

he does not view the conflict ~ (Middle East)

♦ "It is time to remove your glasses from the last century." (Hungarian opposition politician Endre Toth, criticizing a government report about overrepresentation of women in higher education, and how that could harm the country.)

## **lens (other)**

lens onto the (shadowy) world

his arrest provides a ~ of computer hackers

narrow lens

presenting poetry through a ~ of immigration

novel and interesting lens

he has found a ~ through which to view the conflict

viewed from the 20-20 lens

use of force should not be ~ of hindsight (policing standard)

widen the lens

okay, so let's ~ a little bit here... (NPR / Steve Inskeep)

just to ~ and ask a big big question (NPR / Fresh Air)

## **Leonardo da Vinci**

England's Leonardo

Robert Hooke, ~ (according to Allan Chapman)

"England's Leonardo"

he was described as ~ (Robert Hooke)

## **leopard (HMS Leopard, etc.)**

HMS *Leopard*

there have been a number of ~s

### **\*\*\* the Leopard of Rudrapayag and the Pana Leopard...**

♦ Jim Corbett killed the Leopard of Rudrapayag and the Pana Leopard. (Read *Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India 1936-1943.)

♦ "I chose my first day camp between two boulders in the river bed, but I had hardly unpacked my things when a company of apes appeared. They caught sight of me and began to pelt me with clods... / As I was loping along in the gray of dawn I found myself facing my first leopard. My heart nearly stopped beating as I was completely defenseless. My only weapon was a long knife which the camp blacksmith had made expressly for me... The leopard sat on a thick branch fifteen feet or more above the ground, ready to spring. I thought like lightning...then, masking my fear, I walked steadily on my way. Nothing happened, but for a long time I had a peculiar feeling in my back. / It may have been a little after midnight when I ran into a bear standing on his hind legs in the middle of my path, growling at me. At this point the sound of the swiftly running waters of the Ganges was so loud that we had neither of us heard the other's approach. (Seven Years in Tibet," Chapter 2 "Escape," by Heinrich Harrer.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "The leopard cannot change its spots."

♦ "The skin of the leopard is beautiful, but not its heart."

♦ "Only the ignorant goat attends a leopard's party."

♦ "Even a leopard cub is called a leopard."

## **leper (person)**

leper and criminal

the social ~ he is...

modern-day lepers

we treat them like ~ (fat people)

social leper

he should be treated like the social leper he is

♦ "He should be treated like the leper, the social leper and criminal he is." (An outraged female commenting on the hotel video of a rapper beating his woman.)

### **\*\*\* the Abou Zaabal Leprosarium, the De Veuster Seamount...**

♦ In 2009, Egypt sought to close its last leper colony, the Abou Zaabal Leprosarium. The inhabitants of the colony protested, however. Many of them preferred to live in the colony rather than return home to their villages.

♦ The De Veuster Seamount is a seamount, a named underwater feature of the North Pacific Ocean, a part of our planet. Joseph de Veuster was a missionary who worked in the leper colony on Molokai. He was known as Father Damien, and he is a popular and heroic figure in Hawaii to this day. Aloha.

♦ OLD: leprosy (the Bible, WHO)... / NEW: Hansen's disease (CDC)...

### **\*\*\* analysis**



♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## lesson (noun)

lesson was clear

the ~ (conform, or else)

lesson of his death

the ~ has had a wholesome effect (US lynching of German)

lesson of my life

the greatest ~ (I can cultivate my own joy / Black woman)

lessons from the last time

~ that Cairo waded into war in Yemen (1960s)

lessons learned

he was confident that he could profit from ~  
both parties sifted through the returns for ~ (election)

masterclass lesson

Joshua was given a boxing ~ tonight (by Usyk)

brutal lesson

boxing teaches you really ~s

got a (total boxing) lesson

AJ ~ from Usyk tonight

learned my lesson

I ~

learned his lesson

he has probably ~ (a politician who made a serious gaffe)

teach the kid a lesson

maybe I want to ~

♦ "I decided to teach Anwar a lesson. If he could pretend to be single, I could pretend to like him. I wanted to give him a taste of his own medicine and see how he liked it." (A devious young woman, no doubt hoping her writing would go viral. It did. For a second.)

♦ "Boxing is like life, really, but like accentuated, isn't it... It's bittersweet, it's horrible, it teaches you lessons, really brutal lessons, there's no protection inside or outside the ring, and I fell in love with it... (The young boxing promoter Ben Shalom speaking with the great boxing commentator Steve Bunce.)

♦ "We must teach Israel a lesson, and we will do this again and again." (Hamas spokesman Ghazi Hamad about what Hamas calls Operation al-Aqsa Flood and the rest of the world knows as the October 7 Hamas-led attack on Israel The Israel-Hamas war.)

## let down (fail)

let me down

don't ~

let the team down

in the most critical situation, I ~ (sports)

let us down

don't ~

Leslie did not ~ (a basketball player)

let you down

a book would never ~ (Amos Oz)

let a child down

every case, an adult has ~ (under-age drinking)

let myself down

if I lose this fight, I'll feel like I ~

let my family down

if I lose this fight, I'll feel like I ~

let my team down

if I lose this fight, I'll feel like I ~

let my country down

if I lose this fight, I'll feel like I ~

adult has let a child down

in every case, an ~ (under-age drinking)

dogs let him down

each time, the ~ (fighting pit bulls)

step up or let down

you can ~ your colleagues

supported their customers or let them down

have the energy companies ~ (Storm Arwen)

♦ "Never gonna give you up, never gonna let you down, never gonna run around, and desert you / never gonna make you cry, never gonna say goodbye, never gonna tell a lie, and hurt you..." (You've been rickrolled. Listen to: "Rick Astley--Never Gonna Give You Up (Official Music Video)

## lethargic (adjective)

lethargic

the government's response has been ~ (earthquake relief)

lethargic display

that was a ~ (a soccer game)

## letter (love letter)

see *love letter* (noun)

## level (take something to a higher level)

took it to a whole new level

yesterday he ~ (criticism of his enemies)

♦ "Nothing beats the vibrant flavor of Mexican cuisine. Come to El Tenampa, where we take those flavors to the next level." (Mexican Grill & Cantina, since 1993, Boise, Idaho. Where "tacos" rhymes with "backhoes.")

## level (ground level, etc.)

from the ten-thousand-foot level

unnecessary, seen ~, but here on the ground... (conflict)

at a 30,000-foot level

that's the whole point of vaccine etiquette ~

on a 30,000-foot level

so, ~, what has emerged is that... (analysis)

at a granular level

she learned about cops at a ~ (became a reserve cop)

at a microscopic level

~, children's use of language is... (words, images)

at a molecular level

suggestion is built into cinema ~ (sex)

at the molecular level

but the closer you look at it, if you see it ~...

from the ground level

we want to show the conflict as it looks ~

deck-plate level

the ~ of actual experiences (the Navy)

platoon level

from the panoramic view, down to the ~ (a battle)

grass roots level

go back home to the ~

♦ "Carrie, let me get your 3,000-foot perspective on something. Do you think that..." / "Let me ask you to pull back 3,000 feet and get the larger view here." / "Let's back up and just get big picture for a second..." (Heard on NPR.)

♦ "It's really up to us to adopt and accept behaviors that take care of those we care about. So, that's the whole point of vaccine etiquette and what we're talking about today, I think, at a 30,000-foot level." (Steven Petrow, aka "Mr. Manners." From "As More Americans Get Coronavirus Vaccines, A New Etiquette Emerges," NPR, Weekend edition Sunday, March 14, 2021.)

♦ "We are looking at it from the 30,000 foot level." (California Democrat Congressman Adam Schiff on NPR.)

♦ "If you look at it from 30,000 feet, you know that some of those people are going to go on to commit violent crime or are going to be victims of crime." (District Attorney Chesa Boudin in San Francisco.)

♦ "He demonstrates a breathtaking command of the battle itself—from the 10,000 meter, panoramic view of the terrain and history, down to the platoon level." (*Asian Review of Books* about *Shanghai 1937: Stalingrad on the Yangtze* by Peter Harmsen.)

♦ "[Their goals] are not that different, from a forty-thousand-foot level." (Barak Obama, speaking about Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders.)

♦ "Yuh know, on the one hand, this is kind of nutty (huh-huh), on the other hand, hey, ya know what, uh, [Reagan's] got a point, maybe you have to look at things from uh 20 billion miles up to get this kind of perspective." (Fred Kaplan (journalist). From "The 'Secret History' Of Nuclear War," NPR, Fresh Air, September 28, 2020.)

♦ "Regardless of what upper-level leadership says about trying to erase the stigma of mental health in our services, that does not play out when you get to the boots on the ground or the deck-plate level of actual experiences of junior service members." (Stephanie Kral, from "A surge in Navy deserters could be a sign of a bigger problem for the military" by Dustin Jones, NPR, National Security, May 21, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Winston Churchill, in 1927, compared his position of Minister of Munitions of War in 1917 to riding "comfortably on an elephant... from whose back a wide scene lay open."

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

## level (fairness)

on the level

this is not ~ (criminal case thrown out of court)

level of accountability

there needs to be a ~ throughout the system (justice)

level playing field

see *playing field* (*uneven playing field, etc.*)

## levelheaded (adj)

levelheaded girl

Olga Zvirkovskaya, a ~ who will do well and go far...

## level off (verb)

leveling off

the epidemic may be ~ (opioid abuse)

## level up (as verb)

level up in life

~ by establishing a personal brand (Aliza Licht)

"level up" Britain's poor regions

ideas to ~ are sparse

skill up, level up

~ (an advertisement for the University of Montreal)

uplevel

~ your shopping experience with Edge (Microsoft)

### \*\*\* politics

♦ In the U.K., "leveling up" seeks to address the imbalance that favors the south-east of England and London in areas such as opportunity; civic pride; wealth; influence; innovation; high productivity firms; highways; jobs; high-quality schools, etc.

♦ "Questions about transport and the leveling-up agenda are likely to feature heavily." (Conservative Party.)

♦ "The Leveling Up Minister Simon Clarke said..." (The U.K.)

♦ "Labour mayors across five regions of the North said leveling up had fallen short."

♦ "Is Michael Gove the Minister for Leveling Up, Taking Down, or Getting Even?" (Friday Night Comedy from BBC Radio 4. Funny!)

♦ "Cambridge discarding academic achievement for 'potential' is destructive leveling down" by Martin Stephen, U.K.'s The Daily Telegraph, 20 Feb 2023.

### \*\*\* pop culture

♦ "Keep Going Up" is a breezy dance-pop bop that's all about leveling up in life." (Lyrics include "I been workin' on my gains lately / I been lovin' myself on the daily" and "I'm no long settlin', I'm upgradin'")

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Level up your gift-giving game with a little help from one of our personal shopping pros... Book a free online appointment." (A Microsoft advertisement for its store.)

♦ "The 2023 Corolla Hybrid levels up across the board. With more power..." (An advertisement.)

♦ "Level-Up Your Critical Thinking." (A full-page advertisement in *The Atlantic* for Beacon Press.)

♦ "Level up your videos, at no extra cost. Your Microsoft 365 subscription includes additional high-quality, bespoke filters, transitions, and effects, all specifically designed to enhance your content and showcase your creativity. Start creating today." (Click on it.)

♦ "Uplevel your online shopping experience with Edge, the only browser with Microsoft AI features built-in."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Level up your grooming game, your balls will thank you." (A Manscaped advertisement.)

## lever (levers of power, etc.)

levers of power

he holds the ~

levers of the state

the power of the justice system, finance ministry, other ~

Russia's (diplomatic) levers

Kim's visit to Moscow is a reminder to Washington of ~

tax levers

they are eschewing the biggest ~ (raising VAT, income tax)

diplomatic lever

we need to find the right ~ (encouraging democracy)

pulls the levers

she ~ of power in Congress and moves legislation

♦ "So, one lever that Congress could pull would be to increase the tax rate... Another lever they could pull would be... They could pull both levers at once..." (Fixing social security. Much language relating to economics is figurative.)

## leverage (noun)

leverage over North Korea

China has the most ~

diplomatic leverage

Sadat gained ~ using oil as a political weapon (1973)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Give me a place to stand, and I shall move the earth." (Attributed to Archimedes. This refers to the power of a lever and a fulcrum.)

## leverage (verb)

leverage its support

Israel should ~ in decisive talks with the Palestinians

## leviathan (noun)

leviathans

Britain's two new aircraft carriers are ~

leviathan's (40,000) employees

the ~ (VinGroup conglomerate / Vietnam)

leviathan government

he wants to shrink our ~ (a politician)

leviathan state

they protested against the encroachments of a ~ (health)

intelligence leviathan

9/11 helped to create a sprawling ~

new leviathan

the intelligence services are the ~

become a leviathan

what started as a little startup has ~ (Facebook)

♦ "Thongs of tourists came to see the men and their iron leviathans at work. They held their children up to see and hear the dynamite blasts. They came day by day to watch the limestone walls appear, running straight and true for miles, and to see great new canyons form in front of them, like one of the huge chasms out west that excited travelers were reporting having seen. This was becoming Chicago's Grand Canyon, and it was made by man. (The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. From *The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ The aging leviathan still works out at Gold's Gym in Venice. (Arnold Schwarzenegger, according to Mark Leibovich.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Behemoth was a huge land monster mentioned in the Book of Job. Its aquatic counterpart was the Leviathan. Both creatures were controlled by God, symbolizing God's power.

## Lexington (of China, etc.)

Lexington, if you will, of the Republic of China

Hankou is the ~ (the "double ten," 1911)

♦ The Wuchang Uprising of 10 October 1911 (the "double ten") was the beginning of the end of the Qing Dynasty in China.

\*\*\* "By the rude bridge that arched the flood..."

♦ "By the rude bridge that arched the flood, / Their flag to April's breeze unfurled, / Here once the embattled farmers stood / And fired the shot heard round the world." ("The Concord Hymn" by Ralph Waldo Emerson.)

♦ On reaching Concord, the grenadiers executed the object in view by destroying the ordnance and stores... / The loss of the Provincials in this affair, which they pompously styled 'the battle of Lexington,' was only sixty men, two-thirds of whom were killed. / An officer who was engaged wrote thus:-- / 'The rebels fought like the savages of the country, and treated some who had the misfortune to fall like savages, for they scalped them and cut off their ears with the most unmanly brutality. This has irritated the troops to a very high degree...' / The return of the troops to Boston, though they had fully accomplished the duty on which they had been sent, was represented all over the continent as a defeat..." (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Double Ten" is recognized by Merriam-Webster.

## LGBTQ+

LGBTQIAA+

the term ~

LGBTQ+ activism

Russia's Supreme Court effectively outlaws ~

LGBTQ+ acts

71 countries criminalise ~

LGBTQ advocate

Brinton is an ~ and activist (Sam Brinton, DOE)

LGBT ally

he is a straight ~ (co-founder of So Gay Rosé brand / \$)

LGBTQ children

the "Don't Say Gay" bill will harm ~

LGBTQ+ clients

'queer gym' empowers ~, both physically and mentally

LGBTQ Community

the ~ fears a further escalation of hate

LGBT community

suicide prevention in the ~

LGBTQ+ community

Kendrick Lamar's new song divides the ~

LGBTQIA community

we stand with the ~ (Urban Christian Academy KC)

LGBTQ+ABCDE crowd

BLM and the ~ (a disparaging commenter)

LGBTQIA+ equity

we've been advocates for ~ since 1989 (Microsoft)

LGBTQ expression  
corporate reappropriation, the straight-approved forms of ~

LGBTQIA2S+ folks  
resources for ~

LGBTQ group  
he had clashed with members of an anti-Israel ~

LGBTQIA+ (Employee Resource) Group  
she served as the bank's ~ co-chair (Silicon Valley Bank)

LGBTQ (supporters) group  
Chelsea Pride, the London club's ~ (the "Rent boy" chant)

LGBTQ hate  
~ thrives online

LGBT identities  
so when I started college I started to learn about ~

LGBTQ+ identity  
Hulu special 'Mormon No More' explores ~ (Moms marry)

LGBTQ individuals  
the term "traditional marriage" marginalizes ~

LGBTQ issues  
I don't recall ever studying ~ in my history classes

LGBTQ+ language use  
new developments in ~ (academic linguists)

LGBTQ marginalization  
talking about ~ in conversations...

LGBTQ nightclubs  
The Q, one of New York City's largest ~ (Frankie Sharp)

LGBTQ people  
the lived reality for many ~

LGBTQ Pride  
several thousand people joined a march against ~ (Belgrade)

LGBTQ rights  
fighting for ~ and advocating for oneself can be exhausting  
the Supreme Court upheld religious rights over ~

LGBTQ supporters  
3LionsPride, an England fan group for ~ (soccer)

LGBTQ travelers  
~ promoted the island as queer-friendly (Bali)

LGBT values  
the legislation will protect the country from ~

L.G.B.T.Q. Culture War  
Ross Douhat's "How to Make Sense of the New ~"

LGBTQ+ youth  
a blog emphasizing mental health awareness for ~

LGBTQ+ employees and allies  
a sense of community for our ~ (Silicon Valley Bank)

LGBTQ-themed  
the mass production of ~ entertainment

LGBTQ and Gen Z  
holding his space in ~ culture

anti-LGBTQ  
so many ~ attacks going on around the country  
a year of ~ hate  
an onslaught of aggressively hostile ~ bills  
Uganda has passed one of the world's harshest ~ bills

Black LGBTQ+  
Black, ~, brown, Native, and Muslim communities

Black and LGBTQ  
students are resisting ~ erasure

BLM and the LGBTQ+ABCDE  
~ crowd (a disparaging commenter)

trans and LGBTQ  
how to be a ~ ally at work (Gender Reveal / NPR)

come to be known as "LGBTQ+"  
the alphabet soup that has ~

divorce T and Q  
why it's time for LGB to ~ (Chadwick Moore, *NYP*)

drop the T  
"~" videos on TikTok have gotten millions of views

identify as LGBTQ+  
half of teens who ~ experience poor mental health

**\*\*\* various groups...**

♦ "There are so many anti-LGBTQ attacks going on around the country and a lot of them are really about trying to erase our existence and to make us invisible, and to make our young people invisible and our elders invisible." (Michael Adams, CEO of SAGE.)

♦ "The LGBTQ community fears a further escalation of hate." (See the Wikipedia article "2023 Covenant School shooting.")

♦ "The facts are clear, our community is growing, and we will take our seat at the table." (A comment about a poll showing that 21% of Gen Z is LGBTQ.)

♦ "Researchers from all over the world gather each year to talk about new developments in LGBTQ+ language use." (Academia, linguists.)

♦ "Lilly (a 12-year-old) is talking about the full acronym, LGBTQQIAAP, that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, allies, asexual, and pansexual." ("What your teen wishes you knew about sex education" by Cory Turner and Anya Kamenetz, NPR, Life Kit, Feb. 11, 2020.)

**\*\*\* jumping on the "LGBTQ+" bandwagon...**

♦ "16 LGBTQ art shows that keep the summer Pride vibe flowing." (NBC Out, which "showcases feature stories, original videos and other unique content about, and of interest to, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.")

♦ "We've been advocates for LGBTQIA+ equity since 1989, and there's more to be done." ("Explore Pride at Microsoft." Opens the Microsoft Bing browser.)

**\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

- ♦ "The term LGBTQIAA+ is a clear instance of balkanization." (Jonathan Rauch.)
- ♦ "Half of teens who identify as LGBTQ+ experience poor mental health."
- ♦ "I'm constantly affected by the actions taken place this season, and I have been around the females, and just my team in general, who have felt almost silenced to speak about it because the whole LGBTQ is shoved down our throats." (A 16-year-old female cross country runner at a high school in Riverside, California, speaking to the school board about a trans girl who was added to the school team.)
- ♦ "The legislation will protect the country from LGBT values." (Russia's "Answer to Blinken" law that bans gay propaganda.)
- ♦ "LGBTQ+...what happens when they use up the alphabet?" (A disparaging online commenter.)
- ♦ Commenter 1: "Will England be taking the knee at this World Cup to highlight social injustices? If so, does this also cover gingers and baldies?" / Commenter 2: "Of course. What do you think the G and B stand for in LGBTQ?" (Inspired repartee on a BBC HYS about the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The snark alludes to a speech given by FIFA president Gianni Infantino in which he said, "At school I was bullied because I had red hair and freckles." Read "Fact check: 11 eye-catching lines from Gianni Infantino's speech in Qatar" by Paul MacInnes, *The Guardian*, 19 Nov 2023. The games were considered a great success by everyone, and those who visited Qatar in person praised the country for its unique culture and wonderful hospitality.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ "Trans-curious" is listed in Wiktionary and tagged "LGBT."
- ♦ see also *alphabet (LGBTQ+)*, *pronouns (groups)*, *queer (collocations)*

## liberation (groups)

### liberation theology

examining Catholicism's controversial ~

### age liberation

~, don't let ageism define you (Life Kit / Tools)

### animal liberation

~ is no longer the fringe idea it once was  
the role of science in a push for ~

### Black Liberation

the ~ Army carried out a series of deadly attacks

### black liberation

black capitalism as a strategy for ~ and black attainment  
James H. Cone, Founder of ~ theology  
dissecting ~ theology (by Geoff Bennett)  
he spent 27 years in jail for a cause, ~ (Mandela)

### Earth Liberation

the ~ Front is attacking Hummers

### fat liberation

body positivity's more radical origins in ~  
we should all be talking about ~ (size freedom)

### Gay Liberation Front

the ~ Front and the Campaign For Homosexual Equality

### gay liberation

the ~ movement is now the gender identity movement

### Health Liberation

~ Now, a trans rights advocacy group...

### Queer Liberation

the ~ March, a Pride event... (Reclaim Pride Coalition)

## achieve liberation

the term was what gays needed to ~ ("homophobic")

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ "As it turned out, the word 'homophobia' was exactly the concept that gay men and lesbians needed to achieve liberation." (Psychotherapist George Weinberg, in 2012. He is the author of the 1972 book *Society and the Healthy Homosexual* and a gay-rights activist. Quoted in "How '-Phobic' Became a Weapon in the Identity Wars" by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 26, 2016. It's a brilliant article.)
- ♦ "My belief is that we should be centering the voices and the experiences of the most marginalized people and communities at all times. So when I think about what fat liberation looks like to me, I think about centering the voices of those who live in and who maneuver through spaces and institutions in a fat body." (Zyahna Bryant, activist, who has partnered with the soap and beauty company Dove to promote fat liberation, or size freedom.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ "One year gnomes were found hanged along with a note that said, 'When you read these words we will no longer be part of your selfish world in which we serve only as decoration.'" ("Morning Edition" Returns: Gnome Liberation," Bob Edwards, Morning Edition, December 30, 2003. "Garden gnomes taken from homes by the Gnome Liberation Front.")

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

- ♦ China's People's Liberation Army; the liberation of Auschwitz and Birkenau by the Soviet Red Army; the liberation of Paris; the National Liberation Front (Algeria); Kuwait's Liberation from Iraqi occupation...

## library (amount)

### libraries of sentiment

the line says little but conveys whole ~ (in a poem)

## library (tool library, etc.)

### library of chemicals

Stuart Schreiber set out to assemble an expansive ~

### library of images

Boris Dayma used an existing ~ (DALL-E mini app)

### library of (unreleased) recordings

when Prince died, he left a massive ~ at his studio

### library of tests

add to our extensive ~ ("We Want Your Tests" / ETS)

### library of things

the Akron-Summit County Public Library includes a ~  
the ~: why buy when you can borrow

### library of shows

Netflix and its ~

### chemical library

the Broad Institute's ~ (MIT and Harvard)

### tool library

Milwaukee has a ~ (users can "check out" tools, etc.)

- ♦ Art Library; Cake Pans; Educational Kits; Kitchen Tools; Recreational Things... (The Akron-Summit County Public Library's "Library Of Things" that you can check out. The cake-pans collection includes a Cookie Monster Happy Birthday Cake Pan. Recreational Things include backgammon and chess sets.)
- ♦ "Borrowers also agree that the Longmont Public Library is not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage that may occur as a result of use of Library of Things items." (Longmont Public Library, Colorado.)

♦ "The Broad Institute's chemical library, CDoT, occupies a cavernous room... When I stepped inside, I felt like I was boarding a spacecraft..." ("Drug Of Choice: A.I. is transforming the way medicines are made" by Dhruv Khullar, *The New Yorker*, September 9, 2024.)

♦ see also *bank* (*tissue bank*, etc.)

## license (noun)

license to act vile  
we the public have ~ (lack of civility nowadays)

license to publish  
this is not a ~ anti-government stories

license to kill  
fear or hatred are not a ~ (vigilante action)

interpret this as a license  
editors should not ~ to publish anti-government stories

takes (dramatic) license  
the series ~ with a lot of events (HBO)

## lid (keep the lid on something)

keep a lid on such information  
it's next to impossible to ~ (mass shooters' names)

## lie (tell an untruth)

lie  
DNA doesn't ~ (charged with murder)

*Lie*  
*How Charts* ~ by Alberto Cairo

## lie (position)

lay devastated  
the city ~ by typhus (Belgrade)

lay open  
this was the American landscape that ~ to the virus

lay spread out  
finally the mountain gateway opened, and the plain ~ below

## lie (lie ahead)

lies ahead  
the work that ~ will be difficult  
we are ready for the struggle that ~ (war)

lie ahead  
as we prepare for the elections that ~...  
her biggest challenges ~

## lie down (and lay down)

lay down  
I ~ so she wouldn't go (pled guilty to drugs)  
to ~ for your biggest rivals is unforgivable (Man U fan)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The "lay (laying) / laid / laid" and "lie (lying) / lay / lain" distinction is a marker of education.

## lie low (and lay low)

lay low  
just ~ and cool it (Anthony Fauci / Super Bowl parties)

laying low  
he and his family have been ~ since the fatal incident

lying low  
the gangs are ~

## lieutenant (hierarchy)

Godwin lieutenants  
Stacia Deshishku was among the ~ (ABC women)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "You don't get close to your lieutenants because they're going to die." (A captain. Heavy combat. The Vietnam War.)

## life (give life)

given new life to grievances  
the uranium boom has ~ over land and power (Niger)

given new life to an old myth  
the controversy has ~

## life (lose one's life)

lost his life  
he ~ in a kayaking accident

lost my life  
I almost ~ because these dumb dudes...

## life (take one's life)

take his life  
his last-minute decision would ~ (climbing)

taken another life  
this awful act of violence has ~ (one victim dies in hospital)

## life (life was cut short)

life was cut short  
unfortunately his life was ~ at 25 (a murdered rapper)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Atropos was the Greek goddess of fate and destiny who cut the thread of people's lives, thus ending them. In Dante's *Inferno*, Friar Alberigo explains that "So privileged is this rim / of Ptolomea, that often souls fall to it / before dark Atropos has cut their thread." (Translated by John Ciardi.)

## life (give one's life, etc.)

gave his life for peace  
he gave ~ (Yitzhak Rabin)

## life (give up one's life, etc.)

gave his life for peace  
he gave ~ (Yitzhak Rabin)

## life (steal a life)

stole eight lives  
he ~ (a terrorist / NYC)



## life (lay down one's life, etc.)

laid down their lives  
the 457 service personnel who ~ (Brits in Afghanistan)

lay down his life for another  
there is no greater act of selflessness than for one to ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can lay *down* your life for a friend or give *up* your life for a friend.

## life (begin life)

began life as a monastery  
St Mark's Church ~

## life (bring to life)

brings to life  
the exhibit ~ the personalities behind the inventions

bring a (decades-old) cold case to life  
few writers have the skill to ~ (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark*)

brings Copernicus to life  
his new biography ~

bring (educational) exhibits to life  
sound can ~ (natural-sound recordings)

brings the geography to life  
"America from the Air" ~ (picture book)

brings history (really back) to life  
it ~ (illuminating Hadrian's Wall with 500 beacons)

brings him (back) to life  
she ~ sexually (character in film)

## life (breathe life)

breathed life into Germany's campaign  
Reus ~ (important world-cup goal)

breathe life into a career  
he continues to ~ that looked finished (a boxer)

breathe (new) life into the case  
she hoped to ~ and help the victims' families find closure

breathes life into the image  
you upload a picture and AI ~ (blinks, smiles, moves head)

breathe life into the (Arab peace) initiative  
the king's effort to ~

breathe life into the sport  
he is trying to find novel ways to ~ (Indy car racing)

breathed life (back) into a team  
he ~ that looked to be losing its pulse

♦ "What it does is it really brings your ancestors to life in a kind of really wow moment." (Rafi Mendelsohn, about "Deep Nostalgia" at the MyHeritage website. The photo will blink, smile, and move its head. From "Genealogy Website Uses AI Software To Bring Old Photos To Life," NPR, Morning Edition, March 2, 2021. "What it does is." "Really." "A kind of." "Wow moment." A contempo-speaker.)

## life (life of its own)

taken on a life of its own  
his death has ~ (conspiracy theory)

## life (spring to life)

sprang to life  
Mount Marapi ~ early this week (volcano)  
the town ~ from nothing (oil)

sprang (vividly) to life  
the issues ~ (heated discussion)

## life (from walks of life)

from all walks of life  
we are ~, but we all love the same thing (hobbyists)  
people ~ gathered (Tunisian protests)  
his funeral was attended by people ~ (Pasternak, 1960)  
people ~ were encouraged to do volunteer work (China)

from every walk of life  
bringing people together ~ and background (politics)

friends from all walks of life  
I have ~

people from all walks of life  
he thinks ~ can relate to his cause

students from all walks of life  
universities should reach out to ~

come from all walks of life  
they ~ (to a funeral)

## life (in all walks of life)

in all walks of life  
Azerbaijanis ~ tend to... (opinions)

active in all walks of life  
Muslims are ~ (US)

## life (walks of life)

different walks of life  
you've got five people from completely ~ (D. C. Metro)

spreading into all walks of life  
an epidemic of violence is ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In *Metaphors We Live By*, Lakoff and Johnson mention a fascinating metaphor: *mundane reality is down*. The example they give is "down to earth." Language that might illustrate this metaphor, besides *earthiness*, could include *grassroots*; *a worm's eye view*; "she has *stars in her eyes*" versus the mature girl who has *both feet on the ground*; journalists *on the ground*; the teacher who spent 34 years *in the trenches*, actually teaching; the leader with a willingness *to dive into the weeds* to explore detailed elements; people from *all walks of life*, *earth-bound* (reality), etc.

## life (container)

life  
life is full of surprises  
my ~ is empty

full life

she led a ~

## life (life is a building)

life

my ~ is in ruins

life crumbled

my ~

built a good life

we ~ together

put my life back together

I'm trying to ~

## life (things)

life of the product

this product is fully warranted for the ~

life of the (ReadNet) school

the brief ~ offers a stark lesson... (charter)

life of four hours

the active battery pack has an estimated ~

life stories

the ~ of thousands of words (*Word Origins* by W. Funk)

hailstone's life

in a ~ a long time is 10 to 20 minutes

battery life

laptop users list ~ as their No. 1 complaint

design life

many bridges are at the end of their ~ (collapses)

service life

the sewer system is reaching the end of its ~

shelf life

see *shelf life* (*and sell-by date*)

toy life

read the directions for safer play and longer ~

half-life

the elimination ~ is 27 minutes (GHB)

the drug has a short onset of effect and a short ~

working life

equipment has outlived its predicted ~ (electric utility)

estimated life

the active battery pack has an ~ of four hours

extended-life

~ batteries

hidden life

see *life* (*hidden life, hidden lives*)

predicted (working) life

equipment has outlived its ~ (electric utility)

brief life

the ~ of the ReadNet school offers a stark lesson

secret life

see *life* (*secret life, secret lives*)

useful lives

downtown freeways have reached the end of their ~

at the end of their (design) life

many bridges are ~ (collapses)

end of their (useful) lives

downtown freeways have reached the ~

began life

the magnetic strip ~ in the 1960s as an IBM project

draw new life from old wells

as the industry improves its ability to ~ (oil)

take on a life of its own

an injustice can ~ (the law is an ass)

♦ "Every rock face breathes life with its lungs and emanates an energy that is proper only to itself." (The great Slovenian climber Tomaz Humar in *No Impossible Ways*.)

♦ "The gun ain't nuttin' to play with. You know, it don't know nobody, you know, it just dangerous." (A resident of Newberry, South Carolina.)

## life (hidden life, hidden lives)

*Hidden Life of Garbage*

*Gone Tomorrow: the ~* (a book)

hidden life of garbage

the ~ and where old PCs go to die

hidden life of guns

a team of Post reporters have been investigating the ~

'hidden' lives

a web of trees and their ~ (Alva Noe)

♦ see also *title* (*love, live, eat, etc.*)

## life (secret life, secret lives)

*Secret Life of the Teenage Brain*

*Inventing Ourselves: The ~* (Sarah-Jayne Blakemore)

*Secret Lives of Cheerleaders*

the 2019 drama-thriller *The ~* (starring Lucy Hale)

Secret Life of the (Sonoran) Desert

the ~ (NPR Science)

Secret Life of Dictionaries

the ~ (a review of *Word by Word* by Kory Stamper)

*Secret Life of Groceries*

*The ~: The Dark Miracle of the American Supermarket*

secret life of hues

he explores the ~ (art critic Peter Schjeldahl)

secret life of ice

the ~ (NPR Science)

Secret Life of (California's World-Class)

Strawberries

the ~ (NPR's The Salt by Dan Charles)

secret lives of trees

the buried, ~

♦ "Explore our Secret Lives of Teachers series." (NPR, Secret Lives Of Teachers, by Tovia Smith, Elissa Nadworny, Lindsay Sandoval, etc.)

♦ see also *title (love, live, eat, etc.)*

## life (survival)

life here in the U.S.

TikTok is fighting for its ~

political life

he is fighting for his ~ (a politician)

coming back to life

the economy is ~

fighting for his life

he has been ~ (hospital seeks to unplug ventilator)

fighting for its life

the newborn league is ~ (soccer / US)

## life (best life, etc.)

see *best life (and best lives)*

## lifeblood (noun)

lifeblood of the Gulf

the estuaries are the ~ (oil spill)

lifeblood of the country

the Congo River is the ~

lifeblood of the community

the river is the ~

lifeblood of our communities

small businesses are the ~ (commerce)

lifeblood of the (modern) economy

energy is the ~ (California)

lifeblood of racing

short tracks are the ~ (steppingstones to NASCAR)

lifeblood of the region

the economic ~ is the river

lifeblood of Saudi Arabia

this company is the ~ (Aramco)

lifeblood of the town

the sea was the ~ (fishing, etc.)

lifeblood of (so many) colleges and schools

federal financial aid is the ~

lifeblood and birthright

pumping oil and gas is considered both a ~ (Texas)

Iraq's (economic) lifeblood

pipelines funnel ~ (oil)

Zambia's (commercial) lifeblood

mining and sales businesses are ~

Sahel's lifeblood

the ~ has always been a seasonal monsoon

Mallory's lifeblood

mystery and danger were ~ (the climber)

commercial lifeblood

mining and sales businesses are Zambia's ~

economic lifeblood

the ~ of the region is the river

pipelines funnel Iraq's ~ (oil)

## lifeline (noun)

lifeline

songwriting has been a ~ (Todd Snider / bipolar, etc.)

in Somalia, piracy isn't just a business, it's a ~

lifeline for Gaza's economy

Israeli work permits are a ~

lifeline for Egypt

the waters of the River Nile are a ~

lifeline for the (entire) Southwest

the Colorado River drainage basin, a ~

lifeline for (countless) villages

the Congo River is the ~ (Congo)

financial lifeline

Jet Airways is seeking a ~ to avoid collapse (debt)

provided a lifeline

but Congress ~ when it mandated that... (radio telescope)

♦ "Not only did they throw you a life preserver, they drove the boat and picked you up!" (Shannon Sharpe, speaking to Skip Bayless about Antonio Brown, on the sports show "Skip and Shannon: Undisputed." "They" refer to Tom Brady, Bruce Arians, and the Miami Dolphins football team, who hired Antonio Brown after he had been cut from 3 teams. Brown ended up walking off the field in the middle of a game.)

## lifer (person)

lifer

I've been a ~, 25 years...(NPR's Uri Berliner)

I'm what they used to call a ~ (at Oxford U. Press)

♦ "I've been a lifer, 25 years, I believe in the mission." (NPR's Uri Berliner.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Ordinarily, "lifers" are spoken of in terms of the military, or prison.

## life raft (and life boat, lifeboat)

life raft for his floundering campaign

South Carolina is a ~ (primary elections)

life raft for the caregivers

Patti Davis provides a ~ of Alzheimer's patients

jumped while there was still a lifeboat in the water

I ~ (voluntary redundancy vs compulsory / academia)

took refuge in their (Dragon and Soyuz) lifeboats

they ~ (the International Space Station)

## life span (noun)

life span of 198 days

the annual Great Whirl has an average ~ (Arabian Sea)

## life support (on life support)

on life support

Detroit is ~

the team is ~ (losing)

♦ "But that 1.5 degree goal is on life support—and the machines are rattling." (The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at COP27. That final word in his sentence falls a bit flat to my ears. Beeping? Blaring? Sounding the alarm? You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.)

## lift (feeling)

temporary lift

caffeine may give you a ~, but it won't sustain you

## lift (verb)

lift the (country's) mood

it's a great way to ~ (Euro 2020 in England)

lifted our spirits

Sara ~

depression had lifted

her ~, and she felt buoyant and hopeful

## lift (amelioration)

lift the sanctions

they want to ~

## lift (heavy lift)

heavy lift

it's a ~ (gaining support for a bill / politics)

heavy lift for them

all that testing will be a ~ (COVID / a company)

heavy lift for us

this is a ~ to raise 38 million dollars (a foundation)

heavy lift (for Biden) to prevent violence

it's going to be a ~ (protests)

## lifting (heavy lifting)

heavy lifting

let us do the ~ (ad)

heavy research lifting

Oxford University had done a lot of the ~ (vaccine)

did the heavy lifting

we ~, and they got the credit (disgusted)

## light (death)

light in every room

Kara was the ~ (murdered UW Whitewater coed)

shining light

co-workers described Nina as a ~ (died)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The language of mourning and grief is quite interesting, and it is changing rapidly, especially on social media. Read "ChatGPT use for wedding vows, eulogies stokes dispute over authenticity," ABC.

♦ The usage of "soul" conventionally occurs with the word "light."

♦ see also *soul* (death)

## light (in light of)

in light of the difficulties

~ facing the Dukha and other traditional peoples

in light of the (uncovered) documents

an appeal ~ (trial)

in light of (yesterday's) incident

~, nobody will be allowed to...

in light of the revelation

how they would pursue the case ~

in light of (last week's) tragedy

the game has been cancelled ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is a 3-word preposition, and it seems to mean the same as 'in view of' or 'because of' or 'considering.'

## light (shining light)

shining light

their ~s have been the younger players (Spain / Euro 2024)

## light (guiding light)

guiding lights of the continent

the ~ are dull indeed (leaders)

## light (warning light, etc.)

warning lights

~ seem to be flashing all across the Middle East

## light (in a same / different light, etc.)

in a different light

he saw the world ~

they began to view him ~

in different lights

different men often see the same subject in ~

in a negative light

tenants see him ~ (landlord)

in the same light

only in China are teachers seen ~ as doctors (status)

he wants to put himself ~ as Donald Trump (politics)

in the same (sort of) light

we are looking at vaccine ~ (as body armor / military)

## light (come to light)

came to light

the scope of medical errors ~ when...

come to light

new evidence has ~

come to light earlier  
these misdeeds should have ~ (sex abuse)

came to light two years ago  
the problem ~

evidence has come to light  
new ~

problem came to light  
the ~ two years ago

### **light (bring something to light)**

brought to light  
new findings have been ~ from the old data

### **light (see the light)**

see the light  
it ought to ~ (an unpublished manuscript)

### **light (shed light)**

shed (no immediate) light on the (June 5) abduction  
his arrest ~

### **light (shine a light)**

shine a light on the abuse  
what he did was ~ (prison guard)

shine a light on the women  
we must ~ who have brought knowledge into the world

shining a light (of hope) to all those...  
tonight is all about ~

shine a light into all the dark and dirty corners  
we must ~ of the Met police (lawyer calls for enquiry)

### **light (make light of something)**

made light of the (whole) situation  
he ~ (pressure)

made light of the trial  
she ~ and has apologized (a celebrity kerfuffle)

### **light (turn the lights off, etc.)**

turn the lights off  
without a source of financing, the business will have to ~

### **light (keep the lights on, etc.)**

keep the lights on in Washington  
the bill will ~ until mid-March (government funding)

keep the lights on for government  
the agreement will ~ (vs. a government shutdown)

### **lighten (lighten things up, etc.)**

lightened the mood  
the good news ~

lighten things up  
things are getting a little heavy, let's ~

### **light bulb (and lightbulb, bulb)**

light bulb in kids' heads  
we hope to turn on a ~ about science

light-bulb moment  
you've heard of a ~, this was a spotlight moment  
these ~s feel as if they happen in a flash but...  
will UK provide a ~ for US Democrats (Labor defeat)

lightbulb moment  
Steve Bartlett's ~ was when he realized... (Social Chain)

lightbulb realization  
a ~ that survival is more important than morality

light bulb went off  
a ~ in his head and he... (good idea)

turn on a light bulb  
we hope to ~ in kids' heads about science

♦ "And then one day it hit me, like I had this lightbulb moment where I realized..." (A writer.)

♦ "I had no idea there were bears in Japan." (An illuminated TexasVulcan on the ABC comments section about a bad-tempered bear that caused havoc in Sapporo, on the island of Hokkaido.)

#### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ see also *moment (type of moment)* for moments of realization, understanding, discovery, etc.

♦ see also *bulb (dim bulb, etc.)*

### **light-hearted (adjective)**

seemed light-hearted  
she ~ during the re-enactment (of a crime)

### **lighthouse (protection)**

lighthouses in the storm  
at times like that, people are looking for ~ (downturn)

#### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Lighthouses speak to the imagination."

♦ "Lighthouses remind us of a vanishing maritime heritage."

♦ "Lighthouses embody what it means to make it safely home."

### **lighthouse (illumination)**

lighthouse of civilization, conviviality, and philosophy  
Cordova was the ~ in West Europe (Muslim Spain)

### **lightly (take something lightly, etc.)**

take this issue lightly  
nobody should ~

taken lightly  
the decision was difficult and not ~

use these words lightly  
and I do not ~ (terror to describe a mass murder)

### **lightning (military)**

lightning-quick  
he had created the mobile, ~ army (General Grant)

lightning advance  
the ~ northward continues (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

lightning drive  
the ~ to reach Baghdad (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

lighting operation  
it was supposed to be a ~ (Anzio / Operation Shingle)

lightning (offensive) operation  
one key to a ~ was making sure...(military)

F-35 Lightning 2  
the ~ costs about 80 million dollars (plane)

## lightning (adjective)

lightning fast  
Khan still looks to have ~ fists (vs. Brook / boxing)

lightning speed  
the catastrophe developed at ~ (submarine)  
color graphics downloaded at ~  
the US broke again with ~ (soccer team)  
the risks of a war that began with ~  
the ~ of modern technology  
Omicron is spreading at ~

lightning war  
this ~ on public education (billionaires support charters)

## lightning (fate)

lightning  
~ can strike twice

lightning struck  
everything was going good, and then ~

\*\*\* **"The Seymour, Indiana, girl's high-school softball team..."**

♦ "In southern Indiana lightning struck a ball field, injuring four members of the Seymour girl's high school softball team. One of the girls was in critical condition, while the other three sustained non-critical injuries... The skies were reportedly clear at the time of the strike."

♦ "The boy directly in front of me... In other words, his feet were about that far from my head, as he was halfway through the fence, lightning struck the barbed wire, electrocuted him on the spot. I didn't know he was dead, I had never seen a dead person, so I crawled beside him and I pulled him into the meadow and I stayed with him for an hour trying to warm him up. And that was the moment when I understood that anything can happen to anybody at any time. And it's an experience that has haunted me all my life, I've thought about it probably every day. It was the single-most important thing that ever happened to me." (US novelist Paul Auster. From "Paul Auster on his 'single most important' moment," BBC, Thursday, 14 March 2017. Paul was 14 years old when the tragedy occurred.)

## lightning bolt (and bolt of lightning, etc.)

hip-swinging bolt of lightning  
he was a ~ (Johnny Hallyday)

\*\*\* **"A lightning bolt killed 47 cattle..."**

♦ "A lightning bolt killed 47 cattle under a willow tree." (Minnesota.)

## lightning bolt (comprehension)

lightning-bolt moment  
it was a ~ when I knew what I wanted to do (be a singer)

I had a ~ on a trip to Fire Island (about his gayness)

## lightning rod

lightning rod  
the university is a ~ for people with political statements  
Al Jazeera has always been a ~ (politics)

lightning rod for (public) anger  
he became the ~ over the disaster (replaced)

lightning rod for controversy  
ever the ~, Soulja Boy made headlines when...

lightning rod for criticism  
he became a ~ (a baseball manager)

lightning rod for a (bitter political) debate  
the issue became a ~ over whether...

became a lightning rod  
the case ~ for outrage in the community (bullying)

\*\*\* **"The church of San Nazaro in Brescia..."**

♦ Many clerics opposed the use of lightning rods on church steeples, in spite of the fact that the steeples attracted lightning that caused fires. In 1767, the church of San Nazaro in Brescia (Brescia) was hit by lightning 17 years after Benjamin Franklin invented the lightning rod. Inside were several thousand pounds of gunpowder. The blast destroyed not only the church but one-sixth of the city and killed over 3,000 people.

## light show

celestial light show  
the Leonid meteor shower, that November ~...

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The best things in life are free.

## light up (a room, etc.)

lights up the stage  
she ~

## light up (activity)

lights up social media  
Warren's fiery performance ~ (Democratic debate)

lit up with (anti-aircraft) fire  
the sky ~

## lightweight (noun)

intellectual lightweight  
she's an ~

## light year (a long time)

seems like light years  
it ~ since...

## light year (light years ahead)

light years ahead of her peers  
she was ~

light years ahead of the techniques  
today's tech is ~ available in the 1940s (forensics)

\*\*\* **analysis**



♦ Might also be expressed as “miles ahead” or “miles behind.”

## light year (light years away, etc.)

light years away

he is ~ from the keeper he used to be (decline)

Man U is still ~ from the glory days of old, but...

## like (Svengali-like, etc.)

Svengali-like

Vicky Page seemed to be the victim of the ~ Lermontov

wizard-like

Welsh boxer Joe Cordina is a man with ~ skills

## like (not like)

it's not like

~ you're like putting a bunch of pressure...

## like (filler)

like that's a good idea

why do people tattoo their face ~ (online commenter)

like it's like

~ this bias doesn't exist (upset, sarcastic)

like it kind of felt like

~ a bad break up

like a moment

yes, it feels to me ~ where people are sort of...

like our school

~, like the ceilings, like they're gone (a tornado / teen girl)

like a shock

when it does happen to you, it's ~ (a Temple U. coed)

like definitely

see *definitely* (contempo-speak)

like even

see *even* (contempo-speak)

like, extremely

see *extremely* (contempo-speak)

like just

see *just* (filler)

like, like

~, it was just so devastating...

like obviously

see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

like totally

see *totally* (contempo-speak)

like very

see *very* (contempo-speak)

like you know

see *you know* (filler)

a bit, like

I did feel ~, unsatisfied (a Gen-Z relationship)

actually kind of, like

it was ~, modernized... (return to Ukraine)

just like

there were ~ these kind of white mainstream approaches

there were ~ a lot of white liberals...

I was ~ so amazed...

I ~ thank God that I like, you know, thank God I...

and I was ~, I was speechless...

he's been ~ outstanding (NPR's Becky Sullivan / sports)

kind of, like

I was ~, terrified of him (a Gen-Z “relationship”)

kind of, like, you know

see *you know* (filler)

kind of like

see *kind of like* (filler)

maybe like

and so I just thought ~ uhh...

so, like

~, think of something like...

sort of like

see *sort of like* (filler)

Totally Like

Taylor Mali reads his poem “~Whatever”

totally like

and it feels ~ discrimination to me

totally, like

Ozzy is ~, back (Survivor: South Pacific / Linda Holmes)

something so ~, amazingly weird, insightful, sensitive...

♦ “There was a moment where I was like, you know, I'm this privileged person...”

♦ “That would be like obviously very extremely interesting for like a future direction. (An *academic* presentation by a young male.)

♦ “I think that like what they were able to do was just like... (Heard on NPR.)

♦ “This would be where, like, the national Republican national committee, for example, might... (Punditry heard on NPR. The astonishingly long “frontloading” before saying something of substance is a characteristic of contempo-speak.)

♦ “I think it's an era that like aesthetically I could really get down with.” (Kemah Bob about the era of Hatshepsut on BBC's “You're Dead To Me.” She specifically mentions the colors gold and blue, eyeliner, and cats.)

♦ “You know, there's the phenomenon of walking while trans where specifically like Trans women of color while just existing oftentimes get the police called on them just for like being Trans.”

♦ “I was just like so amazed, like, damn, this boy really don't care, like he really out in public, with makeup, lashes, beard... Like I was still kinda you know... I'm doing the same thing, but I'm not as open.” (Mitch Copeland about Saucy Santana.)

♦ “Bats are associated with like vampires and stuff.”

♦ “Like our school, like the ceilings, like they're gone.” (Like a high-school girl, like being interviewed, like right after a tornado.)

♦ “We heard like a loud bang. So we thought it was like gunshots or something, so we got scared.” (A young girl, perhaps 11 or 12, interviewed on NBC about a plane crash. “Like” and “so” alternate in her speech.)

- ♦ “I wasn’t originally planning on like applying to any like Ivy League or like prestigious schools...”
  - ♦ “Yeah, they have these belts on with like all these extra bullets and they’re like dressed for war.” (Leah talking to her Brit producer, Georgia, for their podcast about the militia movement.)
  - ♦ “You’re not really used to like being back, like in full gear, like the world is sort of like starting to turn back on.” (A Northeastern University, Boston, sophomore coed about mental health post-Covid.)
  - ♦ “There were just like a lot of white liberals who were like, “Europe really has things figured out.” So there was like a big sort of Europe worship thing happening [with upspeak] that I think was mostly about... You know...” (The podcast *Maintenance Phase* with Aubrey Gordon and Michael Hobbes.)
  - ♦ “Just like it’s giving that type of horror that’s like almost deeply uncomfortable where like somebody like gets turned into something and you’re like trapped you know?” (Who? Weekly podcast. The film *Tusk*.)
  - ♦ “It’s not like you’re like putting a bunch of pressure, you’re just like, kind of like, feel like, okay, we’re doing a thing.” (A FTM binary athlete.)
  - ♦ “And I just felt for so many years—I was like, I just feel like there’s some stuff going on with me about gender. I can’t decide if I’m a girl who feels kind of like a boy or like a gay man trapped in a girl’s body or if I’m, like, a boy but in a very feminine way, or, like, am I a lesbian? It was just very confusing. And I just kept feeling like I was trying on, like, clothes that didn’t fit. And it was just...” (“Banned Books: Maia Kobabe explores gender identity in ‘Gender Queer,’” NPR, Morning Edition, January 4, 2023.)
  - ♦ “Because it was just some... like my final like hoo-rah of like this is my celebration of my drag, and, of what it has been for me in my life, so, yeah.” (Drag queen Frida Nightz.)
  - ♦ “I mean this is the whole beauty of like horror movies is that it’s such like weird circumstances and there’s so much like weird rules about them that it’s fun to subvert them and it’s also like, the horror movies themselves were doing subverting, were like trying to like, be twisted and do this weird stuff and have these weird commentaries, and this is what makes *Scream* so good, right.” (Alex Abad-Santos, a self-professed “flagrant homosexual.” From “M3GAN, murder, and mass queer appeal,” NPR, It’s Been A Minute, January 17, 2023.)
  - ♦ “This kind of comes up a lot in other art as well, too, right? So, like, think of something like...” (NPR.)
  - ♦ Young woman talking to a young man who had been shot: “I can imagine even before this happened that this was like a very intense...moment...an inflection point of feeling a lot of grief for other people, but I wonder like, have you had then space to, process this and like feel, what comes with...” / Young man [Interjecting, as the young woman seems to be losing steam]: “Yeah. I mean, I dunno, I’ve been trying to, but again, like, it’s still not over...” / Young woman: “Yeah, that’s true, you’re still pretty early...” (“Other people” refers to the young man’s fellow Palestinians in Gaza; “Even before this happened” and “Like, it’s still not over” refers to the Israel Hamas war; and “you’re still pretty early” refers to the young man’s stage in dealing with his life-changing injury. Young people communicating.)
  - ♦ “Don’t use conversation fillers like ‘umm,’ ‘you know,’ and ‘like.’” (“Presenter Tips and Tricks: Quick Tips: Things to consider: Don’t...,” the TESOL 2023 International Convention & English Language Expo.)
- \*\*\* analysis
- ♦ The linguist John McWhorter mentions the use of “like” in “The Shifting Meanings Of Our Evolving Modern Language,” *wbur*, on point, December 26, 2016. He also talks extensively about “like” in his book *Words on the Move*, in the chapter, “This Is Your Brain On Writing,” in the subsection “Like, Wow!: Is Any New Thing Really Just Business as Usual?”
  - ♦ “You say ‘like’ and things like that because you know you don’t really want to commit... there’s a little more fear of saying what you mean, especially nowadays...” (The actor Oscar Isaac speaking about contemporary voice and speech. From “For Oscar Isaac, life—and acting—is all about impermanence,” NPR, Fresh Air, July 29, 2022.)
  - ♦ “He talks like he possibly has ADHD or autism, too.” (An online commenter about a TikTok influencer.)

- ♦ J-K-L-R speech. (“Just,” “kind of,” “like,” and “really.”)

## like (kind of like, kinda like)

see *kind of like (filler)*

## like (sort of like, sorta like)

see *sort of like (filler)*

## like (feel like, felt like, etc.)

see *feel like (feels like, felt like)*

## like (reported speech)

it was like  
and then ~ “You have 10 minutes, pack your bags”

it’s like  
it’s kind of bittersweet because ~, “Wow, it’s really nice...”

I was like  
he said that to me, and ~, ‘What the f\*\*\*?’ (Chloe Cherry)  
~, ‘Wow’

she’s like  
~, ‘yo, is your time to be king’ (empowered by T’Challa)

she was like  
and ~, Oh my God, that wasn’t in the chart...

people would be like  
I even had some ~ “What is that?” (monkeypox)

they’d be like  
people come up to me and ~ you gonna just like do a show...

basically like  
I was ~, “Look, it’s a new start” (sophomore in high school)

just like  
and it was ~, oh my God, what’s this  
and I was ~, I was speechless...  
and I was ~, ‘What are you talking about?’

kind of like  
it was ~, “Oh, just figure out how to deal with it”  
this whole thing was ~, “Whoa, what’s going on” (a coed)

just kind of like  
and I was ~ ‘what?’

just sort of like  
and it was ~ “Oh, OK”

- ♦ “I even had some people would be like, ‘What is that?’ They were like, ‘I didn’t even know this was a thing.’” (A US man with monkeypox in 2022.)

- ♦ “I walk in, she’s like ‘You’re Kiaral’ and I’m like, ‘Who are you?’ and she’s like, ‘We’re in Biology 13 together.’” (Like a Dartmouth College coed describing like the start of a friendship.)

- ♦ “And I was like, ‘sweet.’” (Ironic / sarcastic. A bikini barista in Seattle, Washington, telling a videographer about serving a customer who was masturbating.)

♦ “And I was like, ‘Wait. What? You’re pulling out. Why?’” (A 44-year-old woman.)

♦ “I looked over to my friend and like, ‘Did you hear that?’ I was like, ‘I think that was like gunfire.’” (A Virginia State coed interviewed by ABC about the on-campus murder of 3 students.)

♦ “I would be like, ‘Let’s do this,’ and she’d be like, ‘Down!’” (A college coed, quoted in the *New York Times*, about her friend who was murdered in a quadruple murder in Moscow, Idaho.)

♦ “Everybody was like, ‘Yeah, right,’ kind of like, ‘I don’t see why they would do that.’” (A college coed about TikTok being banned on her college campus.)

♦ “So they asked me to come in and do, you know, werewolf boot camp, and I was like, ‘Ok, what does that mean?’” (Emma Myers. From “‘Wednesday’ star Emma Myers went to ‘werewolf boot camp’ for the Netflix Series: ‘I’ve never done so much parkour in my life’” by Eammon Jacobs, *Insider*.)

♦ “‘There was clearly a village here. People everywhere,’ he said. ‘But the Europeans were, like, ‘You are now called St. Anthony!’” (Minneapolis, Minnesota. *Progressive!*)

♦ “People come up to me and they’d be like, you gonna just like, do a show with like all the albums in it, and I’m like Yeah! it’s gonna be called the Eras Tour.” (Taylor Swift.)

♦ Also, “People are *going*, ‘He didn’t mean to do it...’; ‘He’s sort of looking at him going like ‘Really?’ (describing a *picture*); ‘Your mind goes to a place of ‘What tragic event happened’ (a neighbor next to a house where a man murdered his wife and children)...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The linguist John McWhorter refers to this as the quotative *like*, and he reminds us that *all* can perform the same function: “And she was (like) all, “But that’s nasty!”

## like (like me, look like me, etc.)

*see me (like me, look like me, speak like me, be like me, etc.)* **Lilliputian (adjective)**

Lilliputian dystopia

I’m imagining this ~ (miniature candy bars, tiny drinks)

Lilliputian scale

photographing life on a ~ (insects)

land of Lilliputians

Tiger Woods has been a giant in a ~ (golf star)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The allusion is to the satire *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift, which also contributed *Brobdignagian* to the language.

♦ Elena Tapia in “Primary Metaphor and the Fantastic” analyzes *Gulliver’s Travels* and other fantastical works of literature, including *Alice and Wonderland*, through the lens of conceptual metaphor in order to explain what it is that makes them so fantastic. Even better, her paper is freely available to all at ERIC ED472663.

## lily (gild the lily)

gilding the lily

the chips are ~, but why not (lobster thermidor with chips)

### \*\*\* “Therefore, to be possess’d with double pomp...”

♦ Salisbury: Therefore, to be possess’d with double pomp, / To guard a title that was rich before, / To gild refined gold, to paint the lily, / To throw a perfume on the violet, / To smooth the ice, or add another hue / Unto the rainbow, or with taper-light / To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish, / Is wasteful and ridiculous excess. (Shakespeare’s *The Life and Death of King John*, Act, Scene 2.)

## limb (go out on a limb)

go out on a limb

French climbers are notorious for being willing to ~

go out on a limb to hide

they are willing to ~ him (a terrorist)

willing to go out on a limb

they are ~ to hide him (a terrorist)

## limb (phantom limb)

“phantom limbs” of the German body politic

what MacGregor calls the ~ (Prague, Strasbourg, etc.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## limbo (in limbo)

in limbo

plans are ~

the children are ~ (schools destroyed by earthquake)

his fate is ~ (general in trouble with president)

the British Government is ~ (hung Parliament)

he has been ~ waiting for his case to be resolved

we are always ~ and we just don’t know...

in health-care limbo

certain of the sick find themselves ~

in legal limbo

they are in ~ (spouses of terrorists in Syria)

in an uncomfortable cultural limbo

Yoji found himself ~ (Japanese American back in Japan)

lost in limbo

the bills die, hang fire, or are ~ (in the US Senate)

stuck in limbo

the results of the first vote were ~ (votes stolen)

remain in limbo

the results ~ (election)

remains in limbo

Boeing ~ as it figures out its next steps

left people in limbo

failure to agree on regulations has ~

left the (British) people in limbo

the endless negotiations have ~ (Brexit)

found himself in (an uncomfortable cultural) limbo

Yoji ~ (Japanese American back in Japan)

## limelight (in the limelight)

in the limelight

it takes a special ability to be ~ and then be invisible

moment in the limelight

he had a ~, 30 years later

he had his most significant ~ a dozen years ago

back in the limelight  
he is ~ (fashion)

basked in the limelight  
they ~ (officials)

stay in the limelight  
he would do anything to ~

spent three weeks in the limelight  
after vanishing for 30 years, he has ~

### **limit (push the limits, etc.)**

pushed the limits  
she has ~ too far (nudity)

### **limits (push something to its limits)**

pushed to its limits  
the agency has been ~

### **limp (verb)**

limping along  
the US economy is ~

#### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

### **limp (noun)**

limp  
if there is a trend afoot, it has a distinct ~

#### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

### **linchpin (noun)**

linchpin of medicine  
nursing's roles as a ~ goes largely unreported

linchpins of the (US) strategy  
a strong national army and police force are the ~ (war)

♦ "Nurses are the linchpins of hospitals, and when we lose them the wheels of medicine fall off."

#### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ A linchpin is a fastener used on hitches and axles. In the case of axles, it prevents the wheels from falling off.

### **line (at the front / back of the line)**

at the front of the line  
minority businesses are not ~ but the end of the line (aid)

put teachers towards the front of the line  
states are working to ~

### **line (end of the line, etc.)**

end of the line  
it's not the ~, it's the beginning of the line (rehab)  
legally, it was the ~ (man escapes conviction)

end of the line for him  
this is the ~ (arrested for murder)

### **line (a hard line, etc.)**

tough line  
taking a ~ on enforcement

conservative line  
the ~ that gay civil unions threaten...

hard-line  
China's ~ policy  
Trump's ~ rhetoric

### **line (division)**

lines of class, race and education  
domestic violence crosses all ~

caste lines  
the public taps are divided along ~ (India)

color line  
the ~ is a fundamental U.S. problem

company lines  
collaboration is occurring across ~

gender lines  
when issues divide along ~

poverty line  
the minimum wage is below the ~  
living below the ~

sex line  
the class divided along ~s (like or dislike of author)

ethnic lines  
groups divided along ~

ideological lines  
the court's ruling broke along ~ (Supreme Court)

racial lines  
threatened to divide our nation along ~ (hate crime)  
there's a distinct blurring of the ~ here (South Africa)

thin blue line  
the ~ (policemen)

blurring of the (racial) lines  
there's a distinct ~ here (South Africa)

variations across (geographic or demographic) lines  
~ (a survey)

economic and educational lines  
typically breaks down among ~

ethnic and class lines  
the drug is crossing ~ (Ecstasy)

gender and cultural lines  
when applied across ~

geographic or demographic lines  
variations across ~ (a survey)

lines are drawn  
the ~ (nomination fight / politics)

crossing (ethnic and class) lines  
the drug is ~ (Ecstasy)

crosses all lines  
domestic violence ~ of class, race and education

crossed (party) lines  
Democrats ~

cuts across (ideological) lines  
the movement now ~ (animal welfare)

broke along (ideological) lines  
the court's ruling ~ (Supreme Court)

divided along (racial) lines  
a Southern society that was still sharply ~

divided along (ethnic) lines  
groups ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Actual lines include such things as picket lines and security lines.

## line (categories)

line between life and death  
the ~ proved a thin one (victims of terror attack)

line between abled and disabled  
he has erased the ~ (Oscar Pistorius)

line between news and entertainment  
he straddles the ~ (TV personality)

line between video games and movies  
realism blurs the ~...

line between observer and participant  
the ~ (bombings / Iraq)

line between saint and sinner  
there is sometimes a fine or blurry ~

line between martyrdom and suicide  
she explores the ~ (author)

line between the real and the unreal  
the ~ in popular culture seems ever more blurred

line between teaching and criticizing  
the delicate ~ (coaching)

line between making a point and belaboring it  
there is a fine ~

line between reality and play-acting  
the ~ is not clear in both movies and wrestling

line between normal and abnormal  
the ~ (psychiatry)

delicate line  
the ~ between teaching and criticizing (coaching)

fine line  
there is a ~ between making a point and belaboring it

fine or blurry line  
there is sometimes a ~ between saint and sinner

line has (gradually) blurred  
but the ~ as...

lines are blurring  
the ~ (between hotels and Airbnb)

blur the line  
some writers ~ (between genre and literature)

blurs the line  
realism ~ between video games and movies...

erased the line  
he has ~ between abled and disabled (Oscar Pistorius)

straddles the line  
he ~ between news and entertainment (TV personality)

## line (finish line)

finish line  
getting vaccinated felt like the ~, but... (pandemic)

finish line of retirement  
deep into the rat race, far from the ~

at the finish line  
I will be there ~ (lengthy lawsuit against corporation)

yards from the finish line  
they are at risk of stumbling just ~ (COP26)

finish line is in sight  
the ~ but he warned a deal had not yet been done

bring this case to the finish line  
we think we can ~ (FBI / a cold case)

cheered me on to the finish line  
my parents and sister ~ (acknowledgments / a book)

get across the finish line  
she is looking for women we can help ~ (politics)

get this plan across the finish line  
we are going to keep working to ~ (legislature)

push the bill across the finish line  
they are hoping to ~ (politics)

pushed candidates (in tight races) across the finish line  
Donald Trump ~ (2024 presidential election)

topple just before crossing the finish line  
the potential deal could ~ (politics)

♦ "I will be there at the finish line. I don't want to run halfway and decide, 'Nah, I'm too tired now.'" (One of a number of woman suing a major corporation for unequal pay.)

♦ "There is no finish line when it comes to protecting kids on social media." (Said at a Senate hearing that grilled the tech company CEOs.)

♦ CUE THE WONDERFUL VANGELIS MUSIC TO THE 1981 FILM CHARIOTS OF FIRE—"The nation needs two ways to get to space, at least. We're at the finish line. Let's take one more step," said Tory Bruno, president and CEO of United Launch Alliance, after the crewed launch of Boeing's Starliner was scrubbed 4 minutes before launch.— HUGE RECORD SCRATCH! The Starliner eventually flew on what was to be an eight-day mission. It turned out to last more than ten months for poor Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore.)

## line (over the line / finishing)

over the line

we should have kept quiet until it was signed and ~

pull over the line

he still has some party members to ~ (unwilling / vote)

get over the line

the men who cannot ~ when it matters (England)

got the negotiations over the line

the looming prospect of his imprisonment ~ (boxing)

♦ "[I]t was a painstaking difficult story to get over the line because for obvious reasons the White House did not want this story to see the light of day, so it was a difficult story to nail down, but we did the dogged reporting..." (Emma Tucker, Editor in Chief of *The Wall Street Journal*, about the June 2024 article "Behind Closed Doors, Biden Shows Signs of Slipping.")

♦ see also *goal line* (across the goal line, etc.)

## line (cross the line / behavior)

crossed the line

her comments ~ (racer complains about pit crew)

crossed a (constitutional) line

the suit argues the law ~

♦ "There will be consequences for those who cross the line." (Pam Shriver, about her sexual relationship with her much older coach Don Candy.)

♦ "It is nothing against Salah and the brilliant player he has been at Liverpool. He has been phenomenal but I think there is a line and unfortunately for him he crossed it." (Some silly pundit about an exchange of words that Salah and Klopp had, West Ham United 2-2 Liverpool.)

## line (over the line / behavior)

go over the line

"Anything goes... As long as you don't ~ (Las Vegas)

stepped over the line

some people believe the group has ~ (ELF)

## line (out of line / behavior)

got out of line

you ~, you got wacked...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Murder was the only way that everybody stayed in line. You got out of line you got wacked, everybody knew the rules." Watch: *Goodfellas* Trailer 1990

## line (red line)

red line

this is a ~ that should not be crossed (national defense)

a ~ for us is if we see chemical weapons (diplomacy)

the use of chemical weapons would be a "~" that...

crossed a red line

Hamas ~ by firing rockets towards Jerusalem

♦ "This not only crossed all red lines, but smashed them to pieces." (An anti-Semitic mural at the Documenta 15 art show in Kassel, Germany.)

## line (behavior)

blurred lines

what is consent, such ~, that terrible song... (sex)

no lines

comedians often argue that there are ~ in comedy

♦ Robin Thicke *Blurred lines* You're a good girl, I know you want it!

## line (line of defense, etc.)

line of defense

it is a third ~ against the coronavirus (a third vaccine)

battle line

see *battle line* (conflict)

last line

*habeus corpus* is the ~ of defense, a Hail Mary (law)

## line (tread a line, etc.)

treading a (delicate) line

the government is ~ between...

walk a (really) fine line

the government has to ~ (indictment)

walks a (very) fine line

the indictment ~ here (case against Assange)

## line (on the line)

on the line

the season is ~ on Sunday (a sports team)

## line (in line)

in line with (embassies') advisories

Westerners keep a low profile ~

falling in line

they are rallying around their nominee, ~ (Trump)

fell in line

when Trump won the nomination, Burkman ~

## line (toe a line, etc.)

treading a (delicate) line

the government is ~ between...

follow the (I.M.F.'s) line

countries that ~ but still fail to grow...

parroted the (official) line

he ~ about enemy losses

toes the line

not everyone ~

toe the line



the judges refused to ~ (dispute with president)  
Republicans have been asked to ~ (politics)

toe the (ideological) line  
you are protected only if you ~ (academia)

toed the PR line  
at first, however, she ~ (Britney Spears)

toed the (Republican) line  
he has ~ (a politician)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "This is sometimes misspelled as "tow" the line. See the interesting article, "Death nails and foul swoops," *The Economist*, July 17th 2021. That article references a George Orwell article, "Politics and the English Language," *Horizon*, April 1946, which is freely available online, thanks to the Orwell Foundation. Orwell's article is as true today as it was then.

## line (government line, etc.)

company line  
researchers toe the ~

government line  
the ~ about Waco is being challenged

party line  
he is not touting a ~

official line  
he parroted the ~ about enemy losses

## line (songline, etc.)

"Bloodlines"  
~, a symbiotic, weight-sharing female duet (Pilobolus)

Floodlines  
~ is about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath (a podcast)

Songline  
Wikipedia has an article for "~"

Thoughtline  
~ from NPR, the past is never past...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Songline." Wiktionary has an entry for "songline." Bruce Chatwin wrote *The Songlines*.

♦ The podcast *Floodlines* hosted by Vann R. Newkirk II is about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

♦ see also *ways (foodways, etc.)*

## line (draw a line under)

draw a line under what has been a terrible chapter  
his resignation will, it's hoped, ~ in the church history

♦ "For the Anglican communion around the world, Justin Welby's resignation will, it's hoped, draw a line under what has been a terrible chapter in the church history..." (Home Editor Mark Easton, BBC Six O'Clock News, 12/11/2024.)

## line (line in the sand)

line in the sand  
that ~ is long gone (that stars don't do streaming films)  
those are the people who decided that this was the ~

## line of fire

viral line of fire  
they are sending their workers into the ~ (Amazon, etc.)

walk (directly) into the line of fire  
it may seem crazy to ~ (Jessi Combs / speed record)

put himself in the (proverbial) line of fire  
he ~ for making a joke about the attempted assassination

♦ see also *firing line (noun)*

## line up (verb)

lined up to call  
Republicans have ~ on him to quit (politics)

lining up behind him  
they are ~ (supporting a politician)

## linger (verb)

lingers in our minds  
each of us has a single meal that ~

linger for 20 hours  
the Predator can ~ over a battlefield (military)

lingered for days  
the cold weather ~

anxiety lingered  
~ long after the threat had passed

effects will linger  
the psychological ~...

hope lingers  
~ for youngster's return (missing)

questions linger  
he was released from prison, but ~...

storm lingers  
the longer the ~, the longer we will see impacts

## lingering

lingering doubts  
put to rest any ~ about...  
jurors who may hold ~ about their guilty verdict...

lingering fears  
~ over safety (terrorism)

lingering irritant  
his decision was a ~ to Republicans

lingering smell  
the ~ of smoke (restaurant fire)

lingering stereotype  
the ~ of depression being a female condition

lingering tensions  
~ burst into violence

lingering threat  
software can prevent much of the ~ of known viruses

lingering fears or concerns  
try to address any ~ he may have (toddler)

## link (weak link)

weakest link  
we're as good as the ~ (fighting worldwide pandemic)

weakest link in the (global) chain  
you're only as secure as the ~ of information (Internet)

weak link on the team  
he's a ~

## lion (the Lion of Panjshir, etc.)

"Lion of the Desert"  
the Italians hanged the ~ in 1931 (Omar Mukhtar / Libya)

Lion of Panjshir  
the great Ahmad Shah Massoud, the ~  
defending the valley, Massoud became known as the ~

Lion of the Punjab  
Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the ~ (Sher-e-Punjab)

Lion of Verdun  
he became known as the ~ (Philippe Petain)

American Lion  
an ~ got back up on his feet and he roarrred (Trump)

♦ "He was the lion killed by a flea." (Richard the Lionheart. The same happened to his modern counterpart the great Ahmad Shah Massoud.)

♦ "An American lion got back up on his feet and he roarrred!" (South Carolina Senator Tim Scott at the 2024 Republican National Convention, about Donald Trump's near assassination.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The last lions in the Sahara survived on the Ennedi Plateau until the 1940s (Chad).

## lion (Lion Rock, etc.)

Lion Bay  
~ is a bay in North Slope Borough, Alaska

Lion Bench  
~ is a bench in Grand County, Utah

Lion Bluffs  
~ is a cliff in Sweetwater County, Wyoming

Lion Brake  
~ is a swamp in Sunflower County, Mississippi

Lion Branch  
~ is a stream in Hancock County, Mississippi

Lion Butte  
~ is a summit in Blaine County, Montana

Lion Cave  
~ Branch is a stream in Menifee County, Kentucky

Lion Canyon  
~ is a valley in Fremont County, Colorado

Lion Cove  
~ is a bay in the Aleutians West Census Area, Alaska

Lion Creek  
~ is a stream in Mineral County, Montana

Lion Den  
~ Canyon is a valley in Dona Ana County, New Mexico

Lion Flat  
~ is a flat in Beaver County, Utah

Lion Geyser  
~ is a spring in Teton County, Wyoming

Lion Gulch  
~ is a valley in Saguache County, Colorado

Lion Head  
~ is a pillar in Coos County, New Hampshire  
~ is a cape in Los Angeles County, California  
~ is a summit in Larimer County, Colorado

Lion Kill  
~ Spring is a spring in Mohave County, Arizona

Lion Lake  
~ is a lake in Tulare County, California  
~ is a lake in Granite County, Montana

Lion Meadows  
~ is a flat in Tulare County, California

Lion Mesa  
~ is a summit in Gunnison County, Colorado

Lion Mountain  
~ is a summit in Rabun County, Georgia

Lion Peak  
~ is a summit in Yavapai County, Arizona

Lion Ridge  
~ is a ridge in Tulare County, California

Lion Rock  
the 495m-high ~ (Kowloon Peninsula)

Lion Rock  
~ is a summit in Piute County, Utah  
~ is a pillar in San Juan County, New Mexico  
~ is a summit in Navajo County, Arizona

Lion Spring  
~ is a spring in Gila County, Arizona  
~ is a spring in Coconino County, Arizona

Lion Tracks  
~ Spring is a spring in San Juan County, Utah

Mountain Lion  
~ Canyon is a valley in Navajo County, Arizona  
~ Creek is a stream in Saguache County, Colorado  
~ Spring is a spring in Eureka County, Nevada  
~ Spring is a spring in Utah County, Utah

Crouching Lion  
~ is a summit in Honolulu County, Hawaii

Black Lion  
~ Mountain is a summit in Beaverhead County, Montana

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ Mountain lions are also referred to as cougars and catamounts.
- ♦ There are many "Lion" canyons in California.
- ♦ There are many "Lion" creeks and springs. Water attract wildlife. And a big cat needs to drink, too!
- ♦ Place names with "Lion" in them indicate the traditional range of mountain lions in the United States. A small breeding population of panthers exist in Florida, protected by the Everglades. In the Southeast, they were traditionally referred to as catamounts. Some high-school sports teams still carry the name.
- ♦ There are "Red Lion" place names on the East Coast, but those must surely relate to the British symbol.
- ♦ The United States also "Sea Lion" place names, mainly along the Pacific Ocean, as you would expect. There is a Sea Lion Lake in Florence County, Wisconsin. Curious. Like Wisconsinites.

## lion (the Bronze Lion, etc.)

### Lion Rock

the 495m-high ~ (Kowloon Peninsula)

### Lion and the Unicorn

the ~ appear on the UK royal coat of arms

### Bronze Lion

Queen Beatrix awarded to the ~ to...

### Golden Lion

Orson Wells received the ~ (1970 Cannes)

- ♦ "On Wednesday 31 May 2006, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands posthumously awarded the late Major General Stanislaw Sosabowski, commander of the 1st (Polish) Independent Parachute Brigade, the Bronze Lion for his services in Operation Market Garden in 1944. / On Wednesday 7 October 2009, two Dutch soldiers were awarded the medal: commando Bjorn Peterse (posthumously awarded) and Captain Gijs, for their actions in Afghanistan."

## lion (liberal lion, etc.)

### liberal lions

they were ~ of a past generation (Supreme Court)  
~ like Birch Bayh and George McGovern

### old lion

the kid is getting his shot against the ~ (boxing)  
the ~s of the Revolution (Patrick Henry, etc.)

### *Last of the Lions*

~ by the fine writer Clarence B. Jones (MLK)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ "The world is greater as we go back." (Auda Abu Tayi.)
- ♦ The last lions in the Sahara survived on the Ennedi Plateau until the 1940s (Chad).

## lion (courage, aggression)

### lions

we won't be sheep, we're going to be ~ (self-defense)

### lion's heart

I have a ~ (winning boxer after hard match)

### wounded lion

and now Israel is a ~ (Israel-Hamas war)

### courage of a lion

she had the ~ (Sicilian journalist slain in Afghanistan)

### heart of a lion

he showed the ~ (a losing boxer)

### liken us to a wounded lion

I would ~... (see quote below)

- ♦ "I would liken us a little bit to a bit of a wounded lion, if you like. We'll go away, we'll lick our wounds, we'll work out what needs to be different, and we'll come back fighting and roaring." (Sally Munday, the chief executive of the funding agency UK Sport, who oversaw 27 million pounds of investment on Olympic teams and individuals in the hope of winning 3 to 7 medals at the Beijing Olympics. They only won two, both in curling. Funny!)
- ♦ "It emerged as a roaring lion of digital media." (Vice dot com.)
- ♦ "[I] showed heart and balls like a lion again." (Tyson Fury after his third fight with Deontay Wilder.)
- ♦ "Never turn your back on a lion." (A comment about the second fight between Oleksandr Usyk and Anthony Joshua. Joshua won the ninth round and returned to his corner, smirking. He ended up losing the match.)
- ♦ "The boxing game, it's what the late Jack Newfield described as where the lions are afraid of the rats. You know, that's really what it is, too. It's a dog-eat-dog sport." (FBI agent Joseph Spinelli about boxing, Don King, and organized crime in the 1980s. The lions are the great boxers, the "baddest men on the planet." The rats are the promoters and organized crime. From Powerplay: The House of Don King, "Episode 5," BBC Sounds. Super!)

- ♦ The Arabic name Asad (Assad) means "lion." As in Hafez al-Assad and Bashar al-Assad, once leaders of Syria.

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ It is better to die like a lion than live like a dog.
- ♦ It is better to be a live dog than a dead lion.
- ♦ The jackal is a lion in his own country. (An insult.)
- ♦ "He was the lion killed by a flea." (Richard the Lionheart. The same was true for his modern counterpart, the great Ahmad Shah Massoud.)
- ♦ "I fought the lions, I fed the fleas, What got me at last? Mediocrities." (Bertolt Brecht.)
- ♦ "The world is greater as we go back." (Auda Abu Tayi.)
- ♦ The last lions in the Sahara survived on the Ennedi Plateau until the 1940s (Chad).

## lion (throw somebody to the lions, etc.)

### throw innocent people to the lions

the French think we ~ (over allegations of sexual abuse)

### thrown to the lions

we're kinda being ~ here (Afghan government)

## lioness (lioness of the left, etc.)

### lioness of the left

she is a ~

## lioness (Lioness.co, etc.)

### Lioness

the letter was published on the whistleblowing website, ~

## lioness (England's Lionesses, etc.)

### England's Lionesses

~ stand on the brink of football glory

- ♦ "Lionesses? More like kittens..." /// "Lionesses rolled over and had their tummies tickled!" (Two BBC online commenters following England's loss to Spain in the final of the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup. Snark, schadenfreude...)

♦ "I know you were a Lioness." / "That was another life." (Dialogue from the disturbing 2019 cheerleader drama-thriller *The Secret Lives of Cheerleaders* starring Lucy Hale.)

## lionized

lionized

her aggressiveness would be ~ if she were a man  
(politics)

lionized by the literary establishment  
marquee names traditionally ~

lionized by journalists  
~, the sniper became a heroic symbol (WWII USSR)

lionized for his disastrous service  
there is no accountability when Summers is ~  
(economics)

lionized for refusing  
athletes are ~ to stand for our national anthem (protests)

lionized as a giant  
he has been ~ of the environmental movement

lionized as a hero and a whistleblower  
he was ~ (Li Wenliang)

lionized in the West  
~, he came to be seen as a pariah at home (Gorbachev)

## lion's share

lion's share of the attention  
a few books get the ~

lion's share of the burden  
the US is willing to do the ~, but we can't do it alone

lion's share of the credit  
he deserves the ~ (coach)

lion's share of the rewards  
they reap the ~

lion's share of revenue and profits  
tech giants collect the ~ in the media space

deserves the lion's share  
he ~ of the credit (coach)

earn the lion's share  
affiliates ~ of ransoms (ransomware)

get the lion's share  
a few books ~ of the attention

## lip (speech)

lip

his ~s are not sealed

loose lips

~ sink ships (wartime)

lips are sealed

their ~ down at City Hall (won't give out information)

## lip (stiff upper lip)

have a stiff upper lip

how helpful is it to ~ and just get on with it (crisis)

♦ "Oh for goodness sake. Anyone would think you were dying. You've only got suspected leprosy." (A British nurse to a terrified English patient just returned from Afghanistan who is howling in pain, delirious with fever, and covered in enormous black lumps.)

♦ Keep calm and carry on. (Great Britain, World War II.)

♦ Keep calm and wear a mask. (The COVID-19 pandemic.)

♦ Keep Calm and Call Drew! (An advertisement for Drew Cochran, criminal defense, Maryland State Bar. The exclamation mark seems to contradict the message.)

## lips (lick one's lips)

licking their lips

I feel his future opponents will be ~ (boxing)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone licks one's lips in anticipation.)

## lip service (pay lip service, etc.)

give lip service to the victims  
officials ~ (school shooting in Michigan)

give lip service to cooperating  
they ~ (war against terrorism)

paying lip service  
can you really address the issues rather than ~ (a judge)

pays lip service to its commitment  
Europe only ~ to the nuclear deal (Iran)

pay lip service to mental health concerns  
the tabloids ~and the right to a private life

paid lip service to it  
every supervisor at least ~ (change)

pay lip service to (fiscal) responsibility  
politicians ~

pay lip service to the rules  
most at least ~ (politics)

symbolic, lip service, or pandering  
is it ~ to get the black vote (reparations)

\*\*\* lip service versus action...

♦ "I don't want to pay lip service. There are people who say, 'Do this, do this, do this.' Well, are they doing all those things in their life? A lot of them are not. That is something that's really important to me, to be congruent with what you're saying." ("Olympian Greg Louganis, 62, opens up about aging gracefully with HIV and overcoming addiction" by David Artavia, Yahoo, Sept. 27, 2022.)

♦ "I want her and other actresses to walk the walk." (The MeToo movement and lip service.)

♦ "It's not enough to say we don't support racism. You have to actually actively fight racism to get the work done." (Ashland, Oregon mayor Julie Akins.)

\*\*\* apologies...

♦ "[She offers] regular apologies, some of which, she has openly admitted, she doesn't mean." (Joy Behar of The View. From "No Filter" by Belinda Luscombe, *TIME*, August 8/August 15, 2022.)

♦ "I apologize to the world, to my family, and to the Nevada State Athletic Commission... and to Judge Patricia Clifford, who knows that I am proud to be living up to the terms of my probation..." (The boxer Mike Tyson.)

### \*\*\* I'll get back to you...

♦ "I'll try...", "I'll get back to you...", "We'll see...", "I guess...", "Your guess is as good as mine...", "I'll bear it in mind," "I hear what you say..." (Paying lip service.)

♦ "We should have that conversation; We need to have that conversation; What an interesting idea, I think we should have that conversation..." (Excellent ways not to say yes or no, to make no commitment, while at the same time sounding sympathetic.)

♦ "Oh, I'm sorry about that. These things happen."

♦ "Good luck with that!" (Snark, sarcasm.)

♦ "This makes for interesting reading." (The non-committal written response to a report by the State Department's medical team about the health effects of microwaves.)

### \*\*\* lip service towards veterans...

♦ "They felt betrayed, which I totally get..." (Vietnam veterans.)

♦ "I am sorry you were treated so badly and I understand. Thank you for your service."

♦ "It's become, how do I say customary to say, to thank service members like yourself, for your service. I think that's an acknowledgement that a lot of people who came back from Vietnam in particular that the country did them dirty, you know, did not respect what they had personally sacrificed even if people did not like or agree with the overall mission, right, or the overall conflict, okay, so, I think people want to do better, and, it has been, you know, one thanks people who served like yourself for your service, how does that land with you." (NPR's Michel Martin interviewing Laura Jeeded, author of "Afghanistan Meant Nothing.")

### \*\*\* someone's death...

♦ "I'm sorry for your loss." (Death of first-grade girl on beach on holiday in a freak accident.)

### \*\*\* corporations, businesses, organizations...

♦ "We want to reassure customers that our restaurants are clean and safe." (A statement by Yum Brands Inc. after TV cameras showed a swarm of rats scurrying about a KFC / Taco Bell in New York City.)

♦ "A spokesman for the company said the safety of its residents was paramount and it was helping them find temporary alternative accommodation." (The company, according to the government, had consistently failed to take action against the risk of fire.)

♦ "The safety of our cast and crew is the top priority of Rust Productions and everyone associated with the company." (A statement after cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was shot and killed on set.)

♦ "The Grand Slam organisers wrote to [Naomi Osaka] to offer support, as well as to 'remind her of her obligations.'"

♦ "The club have said they will work to educate fans on the issue." (BBC, "Manchester United condemn fans' 'completely unacceptable' chants about Hillsborough tragedy," 20 April, 2022. The Hillsborough disaster occurred in 1989.)

### \*\*\* hospitals, pharmacies, health insurance...

♦ "She said, 'I just want to check in with you and let you know your mother's doing fine, that she doesn't have a temperature.' I said, 'That's \*. My mom died at 3:30 this morning.' And she was like, 'Oh my God. That wasn't in the chart.'" (Pat Herrick, daughter of a Life Care Resident in Kirkland, Washington. Her mom died of COVID-19.)

♦ "Go to the state's website to see the dashboard." (Coronavirus information.)

♦ "You need to sign up for a vaccine appointment at the web site." (A pharmacy worker at the pharmacy where the shot is given.)

♦ "We know the health system does not work as well as it should, and we understand people's frustrations with it... Our mission is to help make it work better." (UnitedHealth Group C.E.O. Andrew Witty, reacting to the murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson. From "UnitedHealth Group C.E.O.: The Health Care System Is Flawed. Let's Fix It," Opinion, Guest Essay, *The New York Times*,

Dec. 13, 2024. Luigi Mangione was arrested for the murder and is the chief suspect.)

♦ "You're not gonna die, you're gonna be fine." (The film *Reservoir Dogs*.)

### \*\*\* airports and airlines...

♦ Officials say they are doing all they can; officials say the fault has been identified and remedied; officials apologized and said the problem had been fixed; airlines say they are doing all they can to get people home; he is confident the technical problem won't happen again... (Britain's NATS bank holiday airline travel disruption 2023.)

### \*\*\* police, the Secret Service, the courts...

♦ "An initial identification procedure was conducted using established procedures and would appear to have resulted in a mistaken identification... We ask that people do not speculate on social media." (Wrong man declared dead by the Isle of Man TT races.)

♦ "Urging people 'not to speculate on details of the incident while the incident is ongoing' has all the effect of a mop and bucket against a tsunami." (The murder of children by Axel Rudakubana, Southport, England. See the Wikipedia article "2024 Southport stabbing.")

♦ "The Secret Service has a vast, challenging, and intricate mission. Every day we work in a dynamic threat environment to ensure our protectees are safe and secure across multiple events, travel, and other difficult environments. We execute a comprehensive and layered strategy to balance personnel, technology, and specialized operational needs." (Anthony Guglielmi, a spokesman for the Secret Service, after Donald Trump's near assassination.)

♦ "Anytime there's a large program, there are going to be bumps along the road. The issue you were talking about had nothing to do with the AI or the technology, it was really a configuration issue." (Charley Territo, a spokesman for Hayden AI, which installed cameras inside buses to record cars parked in bus lanes. Hundreds of tickets were mailed to New York City drivers for parking in bus lanes, when in fact they weren't.)

♦ "That's what I was afraid of, 'They're doing everything in their power.'" (Sarcasm about a murder investigation by the police.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. Nasreddin decided to become a judge and make some money. Ali came to him one day to complain about Saleh. Nasreddin listened and said, "You're right, you're right, you're right." Ali gave money to Nasreddin and left happy. Then Saleh came in to complain about Ali. Nasreddin listened and said, "You're right, you're right, you're right." Saleh gave money to Nasreddin and left happy. Nasreddin's wife, who had been listening behind the curtain, was not happy. "How can you say Ali is right, and then say Saleh is right," she exclaimed indignantly. "You're right, you're right, you're right," replied Nasreddin.

### \*\*\* the military...

♦ "We have secured the armaments package, which will be properly disposed of. Safety is our utmost priority." (A military official, after a plane full of rounds and live missiles crashed into a warehouse near an airport and burned. Thankfully, the live munitions did not go off.)

### \*\*\* education...

♦ "Lauren's death was a tragedy that affected all of us in very, very difficult ways and we know that mistakes were made, we own the fact that mistakes were made..." (The Vice President of Student Affairs at the University of Utah, speaking on Dateline NBC for the episode "Lauren's Promise.")

♦ "That would be like obviously very extremely interesting for like a future direction. (A young male presenter responding to a question at an academic presentation.)

♦ "Mr. Selim will not be at work at this time." (Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 in Minnesota.)

♦ "Let me assure you that nothing is more important to us than for you to feel your children are in a safe and secure environment... I've just been informed that all of your children are missing." (The character of Miss Mullins in the film *School of Rock*. Funny!)

### \*\*\* social media...

♦ "We agree we must do better and we are working inside to do so." (Twitter.)

♦ "We value your privacy." (Express.co.uk. Accept cookies to continue.)

♦ “Upon discovery, we took steps to secure our systems...Additionally, while we have safeguards in place to protect data in our care, we continue to review and further enhance these protections as part of our ongoing commitment to data security.” (Shields Health Care Group, a Massachusetts-based company, after being hacked. As Papijoe 13 commented, “Great name for a company that cannot shield their clients’ personal information.”)

### \*\*\* politics...

♦ “We mourn every innocent life lost.” (President Biden about the October 2023 attack on Israel from Gaza, and Israel’s response. The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ “This is a day that Minnesota says, ‘Bring your authentic self. You’ll be seen, heard, valued and loved in this state, and we want you to be whoever you are.’ We see you, we hear you, and we will make sure you are in a safe place to be who you are.” (Gov. Tim Walz. Kamala Harris selected him to be her vice-presidential running mate.)

♦ “Bring everyone in and shut no one out, take no one for granted, write nobody off. So I’m for everyone.” (The politician Beto O’Rourke.)

♦ “I’m sorry; No, no, no!; I’m so sorry; We’re not doing any questions, I know you have been in touch with our communications director, that would be the best way; Sorry about that; I’m so sorry about that...” (Republican functionaries at a campaign event doing their best to silence NPR’s Danielle Kurtzleben and shoo her away. Kurtzleben persisted in shrilly shouting questions and demanding answers. Many Republicans have simply given up speaking to representatives of mainstream / legacy / national media such as NPR. Kurtzleben describes herself as “a real piece of work” and “absolutely a girlboss.”)

♦ “Thank you so much. Have an amazing, amazing day.” (An upset Karine Jean-Pierre, abruptly cutting short a radio interview.)

♦ “I just want the people of Florida to know. We see what you’re going through and we’re with you. We’re going to do everything we can for you.” (President Joe Biden after Hurricane Ian.)

♦ “I see you, I hear you, I grieve with you, and I promise you we have your back. We’re going to stay until you’re restored.” (President Joe Biden after Hurricane Helene.)

♦ “I know it’s a difficult time. You’re hurting. I hear you and I see you.” (President Biden thanking his staff, et. al., in his address to the nation after Kamala Harris’ loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ “We also know hydrants are not designed to deal with this type of massive devastation, and that...” (L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, back from a trip to Ghana, reading from a script, about the massive 2025 L.A. wildfires. “If you need help just go to URL.”)

### \*\*\* lip service for and about various “protected” groups...

♦ “I think it’s absolutely fine, I do.” “I think it’s great.” “I have no problem with it whatsoever.” (Comments about a gay marriage by a politician many consider to be paying lip service.)

♦ “We all should feel comfortable with who we are in our own skin. But...” (Michael Phelps about male-to-female transgender swimmers like Lia Thomas.)

♦ “Racism is a societal problem, and it is no longer good enough to simply be non-racist, Scottish sport must now be actively anti-racist.” (Steward Harris, chief executive of Sportscotland.)

♦ The Canadian War Museum is Canada’s national museum of military history. It is one of the world’s most respected museums for the study and understanding of armed conflict. The Museum is located in Ottawa, Ontario. I would like to acknowledge that the land on which the museum is located is on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. The Canadian War Museum emphasizes the human experience of war throughout its galleries...” (Caroline Dromaquet, Director General, Canadian War Museum Virtual Tour, YouTube.)

♦ “Lisa and Rhali: We see you and we hear you.” (Football Australia (FA) chief executive James Johnson, responding to their accusations of “women protecting women who abuse women,” presumably lesbians. From “Lisa De Vanna’s allegations highlight tensions in Australia’s *complex* [italics mine] football culture” by Samantha Lewis, ABC Australia, Analysis, Sport, 18 Oct 2021.)

♦ Well, it’s complex / complicated / difficult / sensitive / problematic...

### \*\*\* the media...

♦ “Well, so far to answer her question...we’ve created a [inaudible] post on our Website... (An ABC “voting help” segment.)

♦ “That’s a great question. We don’t yet know...”

♦ “I’m sorry to take you back to that moment but do you remember...” (NPR’s Michel Martin interviewing Mark Barden, a Sandy Hook parent.)

♦ “A warning. This episode contains discussion of suicide and domestic violence.” (NPR’s Pop Culture *Happy Hour*.)

### \*\*\* religion...

♦ “The worst part is behind us, we are seeing a new dawn, hold on, have faith, because good days are coming, glorious days are coming, keep on praying, and we are with you, we are praying along with you, good days are coming.” (Samson Shekhar Chauhan of the Lutheran Maritime Ministry, to sailors stranded on ships by COVID.)

♦ “‘Have a blessed day,’ that means get lost!” (The great writer James McBride.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bill Gates: What expression in English bothers you the most? Linguist John McWhorter: When people say (changing his voice), “Oh, well, it is what it is...” (Changing back to his normal voice.) What a gorgeously chilly way of saying, “Your problems don’t matter to me.” (From “Unconfuse Me With Bill Gates.” The proper response to “It is what it is” is “Until it isn’t.”)

♦ “‘Have a blessed day,’ that means get lost!” (The great writer James McBride.)

♦ see also *performative (groups)*

♦ see also *trigger warning (groups)*

♦ see also *boilerplate (noun)*, *buzzword (noun)*, *doublespeak (noun)*, *ese (legalese, etc.)*, *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language (types)*, *newspeak (noun)*, *speak (NASA-speak, etc.)*, *supersizing (linguistic supersizing)*, *talk (mediator talk, etc.)*, *word salad*

## lipstick (appearance)

### lipstick

no matter how much ~ you put on a pig, it’s still a pig

### put lipstick on the pig

a prosecutor attempted to ~, claiming that... (politics)

### putting bright red lipstick on capitalism

it’s hustle culture, it’s ~ (girl boss culture)

♦ “You cannot beautify an ugly face, even if you use a lot of makeup.” (A Palestinian political activist, about Israel.)

♦ “Biden spend much of the rest his speech attempting to paint a productive, accomplishment-laden picture of his administration, but there’s not enough lipstick in the world to pretty up that pig.” (“Biden provides burst of energy the country doesn’t normally get to see during State of the Union” by Isaac Schorr, *The New York Post*, March 8, 2024.)

## liquidate (kill)

### “liquidate” defectors

his death is part of a deliberate policy to ~

## liquidated (killed)

### liquidated

dozens of attackers were ~ (Kazakhstan)

♦ “Justice has been delivered and this terrorist leader is no more.” (President Biden, about the killing of Ayman al-Zawahiri. The President also said, about terrorists, “The United States will find you and take you out.”)

## list (amount)

### Christmas list

see *Christmas (Christmas list)*



laundry list

see *laundry* (*laundry list*)

## listen (listen to something)

listen to my body

it's important that I ~ and don't push too hard (tennis)

listened to my instincts

I ~ and didn't...

listen to the science

~ and act now, before it's too late (Greta Thunberg)

I want people to ~, not to me (Greta Thunberg)

my message has always been, ~ (Greta Thunberg)

## listen (as noun)

give a listen

he doesn't say Biden won, but listen to this, ~

## litany (long list)

litany of charges

he is facing a ~

litany of errors

let's go through the ~ (poor crisis management)

litany of ills

he presents a ~ plaguing the body politic

litany of other insults

online commenters called him "pathetic" and a ~

litany of (medical) issues

his death was due to natural causes associated with a ~

litany of (personal) problems

he has battled a ~ (the boxer Tyson Fury)

litany of drug and weapons charges

the former NFL champ faces a ~ (Bashaud Breeland)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A laundry list of complaints." "A litany of complaints." Take your pick!

## lite (substance)

backcountry-lite

Bluebird's founders call this ~ (a ski resort in Colorado)

democracy-lite

~ won't do for Egypt

emo-lite

Sam Gold's ~ production (Romeo + Juliet / Helen Shaw)

Facebook Lite

~ appears to be a cut-down version of Facebook

FOX Lite

MSNBC has gone from the "Anti-Fox" to ~

impeachment lite

he has dubbed this "~" (President Trump)

independence-lite

Scotland can choose devolution-max or ~

Jewish-lite

prosperous ~ families of the time on both coasts (1950s)

lockdown-lite

most in the Netherlands support a new ~

Muslim-lite

Bosnia is "~"

narco-state lite

Holland is becoming a ~

NPR Lite

I disagree that BPP is "~" (Bryant Park Project)

philosophy lite

this is ~ (self-help book based on philosophy)

Tory lite

there will be no return to a "~" agenda

♦ "This is Plan B-Lite, what we should have is Plan B-Plus." (Fear of virus. "Every plan B has problems.")

## literacy (noun)

"cyberspace literacy"

how to negotiate this space and develop a ~ (internet)

digital literacy

~ has its perils (use of cellphones during warfare)

ecological literacy

Hass actively promotes ~ (poet Robert Hass)

emotional literacy

how to develop ~ (Daniel Goleman)

mass-cultural literacy

he draws on voluminous reserves of ~ (Chuck Klosterman)

media literacy

Illinois now requires ~ instruction (high schools)

"How to teach ~ to children" (On Point)

online literacy

our ever-evolving ~ and virtual social culture

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Beware, Monsieur, of the memory of the illiterate man!" ("The Bull That Thought" by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ see also *competence* (*metaphoric competence, etc.*), *illiterate* (*adjective*), *literate* (*adjective*)

## literate (adjective)

ecologically literate

an ~ society

"politically literate"

~ young Bolsheviks fanned out from Moscow (1929)

♦ see also *competence* (*metaphoric competence, etc.*), *illiterate* (*adjective*), *literacy* (*noun*)

## litmus test (noun)

litmus test for candidates

D.S.A. has made support for B.D.S a ~

litmus test for (Russia's) democracy  
the West sees the trial as a ~

litmus test for (EU) membership  
they insist on cooperation as a ~

diplomatic litmus tests  
officials caution against turning issues into ~

♦ "In the last decade, D.S.A. had made support for or at least tolerance of B.D.S. a litmus test for candidates." (D.S.A. is Democratic Socialists of American, which is unapologetically pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel. B.D.S. is boycott, divestiture, and sanctions. D.S.A. is now increasing its ranks / 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "They said the meeting would be a 'litmus test.' I'm not even sure what that means..." (Gina Carano, about a Lucasfilm demand that she attend a LGBTQ affinity group Zoom meeting.)

## littered

littered with companies  
the history of the sector is ~ that went bankrupt

littered with failed distribution companies  
the road is ~ (films)

littered with (environmental) time bombs  
Central and Eastern Europe are ~

♦ "The streets of Hollywood are littered with the dreams of young talented good-looking women."

## little (little people, etc.)

little man  
see *man* (*big man, little man, etc.*)

little people  
see *people* (*little people, etc.*)

## little (Little Moscow, etc.)

Little Africa  
Alief borders Asia Town and encompasses ~ (Houston)

Little Egypt  
the part of Astoria, Queens, called "~~" (U.S.)

Little Ethiopia  
there's Chinatown, Little Italy and ~ (Philadelphia)

Little Istanbul  
Sarouja, Damascus's "~~" (writer Alia Malek)

Little Italy  
~ is shrinking (New York City)

Little Moscow  
the area known as "~~" (Unawatuna, near Galle, Sri Lanka)

Little Khartoum or Little Nouakchott  
the Gold Street at Bab Sharif has turned into a ~ (Haj)

♦ "There's Chinatown, Little Italy and Little Ethiopia. But in Philadelphia, a downtown section of the city officially has a new name and people are talking." ("Welcome to the 'Gayborhood?'" NPR, Tell Me More, May 1, 2007.)

♦ "The Chicago shopping district is known as 'Mexico of the Midwest.'" (26th Street in Little Village.)

♦ "Hanging out with friends on Manchester's Curry Mile." (Pakistanis.)

♦ "Downtown Jeddah is bustling with the annual post-Haj commercial boom caused by the influx of pilgrims. Many pilgrims are on a shopping spree while others set up stalls to sell items they brought with them to help pay for their journey, and even take a little extra cash home with them... Asian pilgrims can be seen buying Islamic-themed gifts, perfumes, beauty products, henna, and prayer rugs... Tunisians, Indonesians, Pakistani and Egyptians are buying religious books and rugs. African pilgrims are buying gold, electronics, cosmetics, furniture and other products in bulk in order to re-sell these items back home... The Gold Street at Bab Sharif has temporarily turned into a Little Khartoum or Little Nouakchott due to the sheer numbers of Mauritanian and Sudanese pilgrims. Women from Mauritania, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen are buying textiles for clothes." ("Balad bustles as pilgrims trade," by Omaima Al-Fardan and Fatima Sidiya, *Arab News*, 7 Dec. 2009.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Little Italy" for a "List of Little Italys" around the world. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *town* (*Chinatown, etc.*)

## liturgy (noun)

social justice liturgies  
they parrot the ~ of the moment (top military brass)

parrot the (social justice) liturgies  
they ~ of the moment (top military brass)

## live (survive)

live forever  
Twitter users took screengrabs that will now ~

live for just a few hours  
problems mean the mission may ~ (Japan's SLIM)

## live (location)

living  
so where did you find this comet, where is it ~

live here  
your stories ~ (ad to create an account for newspaper)

live (out) here  
luck don't ~ (the film *Wind River*)

lives here  
the Sugar Bowl ~ (ad for TV network)  
the pride, passion and pageantry ~ (Paul Finebaum Show)  
the language still ~, in our valley (Aranese / Val d'Aran)  
Science ~ (at The Royal Institution / the U.K.)

lives in his archive  
he wrote a memo to file that ~ in which he...

lives in the indictments  
that information ~

live (down) in labs  
most instruments ~ on E-deck (*Polarstern*)

lives in different language  
the subjunctive still ~ in quite strong ways (not in English)

live at the top  
banners that ~ of YouTube's homepage (expensive ads)

lived on a hard drive in his home in Florida

until recently, his 55,000 field recordings all ~ (Martyn Stewart)

lived on Facebook  
this stuff ~ for 3 months (disinformation / taken down)

living on YouTube  
some of the clips were ~ months ago

lives on the internet  
an NFT is a collector's item that ~ (non-fungible token)

live beneath Western Front  
World War I munitions still ~ (NPR)

live under the same roof  
she brings together dishes that don't ordinarily ~ (a chef)

avalanche lives  
we climb where the ~

heat lives  
that's where the ~ (the seeds in chilies)

♦ "We're making original content specifically for the platform it's living on." (Brand marketing.)

♦ "One got to know that ambulance (it lived somewhere at the back of St. Clement Danes) as well as the Police of the E. Division..." (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ see also *reside* (verb)

## live (alive / non-human)

live by the end of the year  
Windows 11 should be ~ (ABC Tech Bytes)

live (single) round  
a ~ was accidentally fired on set (the film *Rust*)

live wire  
he touched a ~ and his left arm had to be amputated

live and ongoing  
it's still ~ in the field (Extreme Ice Survey)

## live (live with something)

live with  
I dropped an easy pass, it's one I'll have to ~ (sports)

live with it  
so I learned to ~

## live (that's where I live, etc.)

live  
the middle ground is where most of us ~ (gun control)

live in my heart  
that's where I ~ (a bias for singer-songwriter types)

live most of our lives  
that's where we ~ (in brief interactions with others)

♦ "They live on these phones now." (A helpless father about his children and young people in general.)

## live (live and die / commitment)

live and die for each other  
we're family, these guys will ~ (rugby team)

## live (live and die / fate)

live and die by where  
our campaign doesn't ~ his approval rating is (politics)

live and die by your decisions  
as a manager, you ~ (sports)

live and die by intelligence  
we ~ (Salt Lake City police gang unit)

live and die by their holiday sales  
they ~ (bakeries that make hot cross buns)

live or die, survive or go dark  
they can decide which Web sites ~ (Web hosts)

♦ see also *stand* (*stand and fall* / *fate*)

## live (live and breathe, live to)

lives to track  
he ~ the scent of malfeasance (a journalist)

lived and breathed for the Olympics  
Daley has always ~

lives and breathes boxing  
he ~ (promoter Frank Warren)

lives and breathes football  
Naples ~ (2022-23 Serie A Champions)

lives and breathes goals  
he ~ (Erling Haaland)

lived and breathed Sondheim  
as someone who has ~ for my entire adult life...

lives and breathes sport  
Australia is a country that ~

live, eat and breathe  
I used to ~ cricket, now I can take it or leave it (Bazball)

♦ "Haaland is a beast, he is a goalscoring machine, he lives and breathes goals." (Alan Shearer about Erling Haaland, one in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

## lived

lived experience  
see *lived experience* (groups, etc.)

lived in  
see *lived in* (groups)

lived reality  
see *lived reality* (groups, etc.)

lived traditions  
we want to preserve and maintain our ~ (Swiss cowbells)

## lived experience (groups, etc.)

lived experience  
people with ~ are valued (recovery coaches / addiction)  
I always knew my race was relevant to my ~ (Asian)  
we've learned from those with ~ (NYC DA / prostitutes)  
their actual experience, their ~, right...

lived (queer) experiences  
 help spread awareness of ~

lived experiences of Americans  
 foreign policy has become detached from the ~

lived experience of being Black in America  
 the ~ weathers the body (public health)

lived experiences of real people  
 how the law impacts the ~

lived experience of those  
 it is wrong to dispute the ~ suffering from Long COVID

lived experiences of women of color  
 the ~

lived experience of Black women  
 her poetry spoke to the ~ (Maya Angelou)

lived experience of social workers  
 we try to understand the ~ (Arthur Labino-Hughes case)

lived experience among undergraduates  
 overdoses requiring Naloxone is the ~ (US universities)

lived experience voice  
 he had that ~ (Miriam Krinsky about Chesa Boudin)

my lived experience  
 this violence is not new in my life, ~ (VP Kamala Harris)

my everyday lived experience here  
 ~ is as a person who is despised (AOC / Congress)

discrimination and lived experiences  
 they seek to erase the legacy of ~ (a critical race theorist)

bringing his lived experience to the role  
 Hughes is ~ (disabled / Richard III)

comes from lived experience  
 knowledge and expertise that ~

dispute the lived experience  
 it is wrong to ~ of those suffering from Long COVID

emphasize lived experience  
 the pilot program will ~ over formal education (Oakland)

known from lived experience  
 what Black organizers have long ~

puts her lived experience to good use  
 she ~ (a child of immigrants / YAL *Skin of the Sea*)

speak to their lived experiences  
 things that are not verifiably true but ~

spoke to the lived experience  
 her poetry ~ of Black women (Maya Angelou)

question or debate (Black colleagues') lived experience  
 don't ~ (Disney World employee training)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Sullivan is curious what scientists will discover about her lived experience." (Autistic, agender. From "Transgender and non-binary people are up to six times more likely to also have autism" by Lesley McClurg, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 15, 2023.)

♦ "Don't question or debate Black colleagues' lived experience." (Disney World employee training.)

♦ "[It's] something that Black folks have always known: white people continue to be the biggest threat to American democracy." (Candace McDuffie, *The Root*.)

♦ "[I]f you're Black, even if you are middle class, there is something about the lived experience of being Black in America that weathers the body. And this is the theory of Dr. Arline Geronimus from the University of Michigan. And she believes that the high-effort coping of dealing with racism in America makes the body prematurely aged. And so if your body is older, then you're more susceptible to every kind of health problem." (Linda Villarosa, from "How Systemic Racism Continues To Determine Black Health and Wealth In Chicago," NPR, Fresh Air, May 6, 2021.)

♦ "Reginald Mobley, a black American countertenor, says that when he was growing up in Florida his family thought of classical music as the music of cross-burners." ("From 'Classical music: Airs and Graces,'" *The Economist*, November 19th, 2022. "Such notions did not deter Mr Mobley. A professor who heard him singing in a barbershop quartet identified him as countertenor.")

♦ "I felt like books were almost in some passive way, judging me for being who I was, simply by erasing me from the idea, like from the canon in and of itself, right? If I'm not shown or if I don't exist in a story, then that means that somebody doesn't find my life valuable enough to talk about, right? So why would I engage in something that's not engaging with me?" (Jason Reynolds, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, an award which is presented bi-annually by the Library of Congress.)

♦ "To question the role of trauma, we are warned, is to oppress: it is 'often nothing but a resistance to movements for social justice,' Melissa Febos writes in her forthcoming book, 'Body Work: The Radical Power of Personal Narrative.' Those who look askance at trauma memoirs, she says, are replicating the 'classic role of perpetrator: to deny, discredit and dismiss victims in order to avoid being implicated or losing power.'" ("The Key To Me" by Parul Sehgal, *The New Yorker*, January 3 & 10, 2022.)

♦ "For all of you that want to slap narratives on my words and my experience—one in which I lived for 17 years—you can't do that because you have no clue." (Carli Lloyd, soccer player.)

♦ "Nobody knows it like us, right?" (The author L.L. McKinney.)

♦ "It's noise...., it's an opinion... [Y]ou have no idea what's going on behind the scenes. You have no idea every single training, what we're doing individually, collectively, etc. So for anyone to question our mentality..." (USA soccer captain Lindsey Horan, about criticism of the team at the World Cup.)

♦ "You don't understand how sisters move." (Joy Reid supports her fired MSNBC colleague Tiffany Cross.)

♦ "I'm glad my parents stay on me and taught me how to move in situations like this." (A Black female middle-schooler who videoed a problem at school. The teacher was fired.)

♦ "Her poetry spoke to the lived experience of Black women." (Maya Angelou. According to Wikipedia, some of her work may be considered autobiographical fiction. She certainly made the most of her extraordinary life.)

♦ "Listen to your kids. They know what's best for them because they're living their experience every single day." (JR Ford. From "Children's book 'Calvin' shows how a community can embrace a trans child's identity," NPR, All Things Considered, Nov 9, 2021.)

♦ Mr. Head: What was that? / Nelson: A man. / Mr. Head: What kind of a man? / Nelson: A fat man. / Mr. Head: You don't know what kind? / Nelson: An old man. / Mr. Head: That was a black man. / Nelson: You said they were black. You never said they were tan. How do you expect me to know anything when you don't tell me right? (From the wonderful short story by Flannery O'Connor, published in 1955. Nelson, a rural boy, had never seen a Black person before.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "lived experience" bandwagon...

♦ “We’re headed in a direction where we want people to feel more comfortable bringing their lived experiences into the hosts’ chairs.” (Sarah Gilbert, NPR’s vice president over its newsmagazines. From “NPR hosts’ departures fuel questions over race. The full story is complex” by David Folkenflik, NPR, media, January 12, 2022.)

♦ “We kinda really tried to focus on that lived experience that people have.” (Colorado Democratic Governor Jared Polis, explaining his laissez-faire Covid strategy. It is interesting usage by a relatively older, white politician. “Kinda really.” “Lived experience.”)

♦ Maggie Harrison Dupre: “AI is not a person. It doesn’t have personal experiences to draw on? And so I think in terms of news and reporting and really being creative, I would personally argue that that’s still a deeply human endeavor and to create good news there needs to be a lot of humanity infused into it?” / NPR’s Ailsa Change. Yeah. And lived experiences. / Maggie Harrison Dupre: [Instant affirmation.] Yes. Exactly. [End of story.] (“AI-generated articles are permeating major news publications,” NPR, All Things Considered, May 16, 2024. This is a good example of how interviewer-interviewee often “mind-meld” at NPR. One must also consider, if both were reading from scripts, the role of editors / producers / tape splicers in this kind of discourse heard by millions of Americans every day.)

### \*\*\* pop culture, social media, texting, etc.

♦ I.Y.K.Y.K. (If you know, you know.)

♦ “The movie starts off like a sentimental ‘fish out of water’ story, about a young woman’s search for her roots. It quickly becomes clear we are seeing something stranger, and stronger... Freddy is clearly searching for an identity, yet neither she nor the movie defines identity in terms of race, nationality or family, notions that Chou, himself a cultural outsider, thinks too broad to capture the multiplicity of lived experience.” (John Powers review of the film *Return to Seoul* on Fresh Air, March 8, 2023.)

♦ “In describing their lived experiences during the pandemic, several participants specifically referenced the movie *Groundhog Day* remarking that they felt as though they were stuck in some sort of repeating existence.”

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “He is versed in a certain kind of performativity, a conspiratorial brandishing of one’s Blackness as automatic expertise.” (“All Talk: The news, according to Charlamagne tha God and Jon Stewart” by Doreen St. Felix, *The New Yorker*, October 25, 2021.)

♦ “We sell [young people] insultingly short in thinking that they won’t read unless the subject is themselves.” (“School Shouldn’t Be A Battlefield” by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2022.)

♦ “It is disingenuous, absurd and historically false to argue that a hellish system such as National Socialism sanctifies its victims.” (Primo Levi. Quoted in “How Did He Die?: An Exchange” by Tim Parks, *The New York Review*, December 17, 2015.)

♦ “Whether it’s journalism, fiction or poetry, writing about war is routinely prized for ‘combat gnosticism,’ which is the notion that the ability to comprehend war requires a special knowledge possessed only by a battle-hardened elite.” (“The War of Words” by John Palattella, *The Nation*, January 2, 2004 issue.)

♦ “This thinking [identity politics] appeals not to reason or universal values but to the authority of identity, the ‘lived experience’ of the oppressed... [This has led some] to believe that words can be a form of violence; to close down a general argument with a personal truth (‘You wouldn’t understand,’ or just ‘I’m offended’); to keep your mouth shut when identity disqualified you from speaking.” (“School Shouldn’t Be A Battlefield” by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2022.)

♦ Lol, she seriously used the phrase “lived experience” in her apology for being completely out of touch with her job. (A tweet about the US charge d’affaires Karen Decker of the U.S. Mission to Afghanistan.)

### \*\*\* “The only way you can kill a mapinguary is by...”

♦ [Scientist] “It is quite clear to me that the legend of the mapinguary (pronounced ma-ping-wahr-EE) is based on human contact with the last of the ground sloths. We know that extinct species can survive as legends for hundreds of years. But whether such animal still exists or not is another question, one we can’t answer yet.” (Dr. David Oren, a former director of research at the Goeldi Institute in Belem, at the mouth of the Amazon River.) [Indigenous person] “The only way you can kill a mapinguary is by shooting at its head. But that is hard to do because it has the power to make you dizzy and turn day into night. So the best way to do it if you see one is climb a tree and hide.”

(Domingos Parintintin, a tribal leader in Amazonas State, on the mapinguary, a legendary Amazonian beast. From “A Huge Amazon Monster Is Only a Myth. Or Is It?” by Larry Rohrer, *The New York Times International Sunday*, July 8, 2007.)

### \*\*\* A funny joke, story, and cartoon...

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. Question: How many Vietnam veterans does it take to screw in a lightbulb? / (The twitchy, trembling, quavering answer): How would you know, man? You weren’t there!

♦ A FUNNY STORY. A college-student “reporter” for *The Primo Times*, a free Bloomington, Indiana, community newspaper in the 1970s, interviewed the owner of a porn shop when such things were new and unusual. While interviewing the owner, the youth was startled by a contraption that looked like an octopus and heard himself blurting out, “What’s that for?” The porn-shop owner narrowed his eyes and growled, “The clientele knows.”

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Four Viking types, each clutching a book, are sitting around a fire under a sign that says, “Saga Club.” One of them is speaking, and he is saying, “The endless parade of murder and pillaging really spoke to me.” (*The New Yorker*, November 22, 2021)

♦ OLD: life experience, personal experience... / NEW: lived experience

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “The new exclusivity is partly epistemological, claiming that out-group members cannot share in the knowledge possessed by in-group members.” (“How America’s identity politics went from inclusion to division” by Amy Chua, *The Guardian*, 1 March 2018.)

♦ “Lived experience” is not listed by the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, although the perfectly comprehensible “life experience” is. The short Wikipedia article is categorized as follows: philosophy stubs | phenomenological methodology | qualitative research. Even academics are befuddled by it: see “Exploring what the Notion of ‘Lived Experience’ Offers for Social Policy Analysis” by Ian McIntosh and Sharon Wright, Urban Studies, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow.

♦ NPR will gratuitously place “lived” before “experience” or “experiences.” At NPR, the word seems to possess some kind of totemic or fetishistic power.

♦ “I speak from knowledge and, unfortunately, experience.” (The “knowledge” part is under-represented nowadays.)

♦ “The law, in its majestic equality, forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal their bread. This equality is one of the benefits of the Revolution.” (Anatole France, *The Red Lily*.)

♦ “EXPERIENCE, n. The wisdom that enables us to recognize as an undesirable old acquaintance the folly that we have already embraced.” (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ “There’s no fool like an old fool.”

♦ see also *lived reality (groups, etc.)*

## lived in (groups, etc.)

lived-in, casual-hangout  
these moments have a ~ quality (*Holdovers*)

felt and lived in  
Celie and Nettie’s pain is wholly ~ (*The Color Purple*)

♦ see also *lived experience (groups, etc.)*

## lived reality (groups, etc.)

lived reality of racism  
the ~ persists in the black community

lived reality of their students  
many white educators have a hard time addressing the ~

lived reality for many LGBTQ people

housing discrimination is the ~ in our country  
people's lived reality  
legislative decisions take place at a great distance from ~  
face discrimination as a lived reality  
black and racialized Canadians ~ every single day (Trudeau)

♦ see also *lived experience (groups, etc.)*

## live up to (something)

live up to the commitments  
we expect the Japanese to ~ they have made  
live up to expectations  
many athletes do not ~ (behavior problems)  
live up to those expectations  
the training they go through to in order to ~  
lived up to (family) expectations  
he never ~ (a drifter)  
live up to (fans') expectations  
he may never ~ but... (player with big salary)  
lived up to the hopes  
the claims for brain imaging have not ~ (psychiatry)  
live up to the hype  
the fight did not ~ that it received (boxing)  
live up to its (professed) ideals  
an American failure to ~ (New Orleans hurricane)  
live up to the image  
it's harder for him to ~ the public has of him (a poet)  
live up to the (gangsta) image  
there are those who work to ~  
live up to their obligations  
both countries should ~ under the agreement  
lived up to its promise  
if Pakistan ~ on infiltration, New Delhi would...  
live up to you (campaign) promise  
do you think it's so difficult to ~  
lived up to (longstanding) promises  
he has not ~ to tribal groups (Brazil)  
lived up to their reputation  
Bayer Leverkusen, who ~ (soccer team)  
lived up to his responsibilities  
he has not always ~  
live up to the rhetoric  
will reality ~  
live up to my own standards  
I have failed to ~ (an abusive coach)  
live up to his own standards  
he failed to ~

live up to its (own stated) values  
the US has failed to ~ (secret prisons, etc.)  
live up to their vows  
a majority who took the pledge did not ~ (virginity)  
live up to its words  
we are simply asking BP/Amoco to ~ (environment)  
lived up to its expectations or talent  
the team never ~  
live up to the conditions of the agreement  
local officials would not ~ (Red Cross program)  
failed to live up to  
the US has ~ its own stated values (secret prisons, etc.)

## live on (verb)

live on  
there is no doubt that his books will ~ (VS Naipaul)  
Harry Belafonte's voice will ~ (the great singer)  
lives on  
the filibuster ~, in its 3rd century, more powerful than ever  
the film's influence ~ (the film *Super Fly*)  
in an age of fast food, pie and mash ~ (the East End)  
lived on  
the bomber was dead, but the threat ~ (unexploded bombs)

## live wire (person)

live wire  
she was a ~ (outspoken, passionate, talented, dedicated)  
live-wire ex-soldier  
the stereotype of the ~ (the Gulf War)

one-time live-wire  
Martin, a ~ who is now a boring teacher... (a film)

♦ "Good teacher. He really seems to care. About what, I have no idea." (Rodney Dangerfield's reaction after Professor Terguson's "live wire" outburst. Watch: YouTube: Back To School Clip, "Professor Terguson" (1986) Sam Kinison)

♦ Delmar: He's a live wire, though, ain't he? (Said respectfully about George "Don't call me Baby Face" Nelson, from the great film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Watch YouTube The Feared George "Baby Face" Nelson O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000) Screen Bites)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "MILITARIZED COVER ART? / Something about the cover art for the January-February magazine stood out to me. The figure standing above the words, 'The Vigilante Mindset' conveyed to me a military or veteran persona. I am concerned this imagery could feed into a preexisting and false narrative that veterans are prone to extremism... / The 'violent veteran' narrative is as old as war, yet repeatedly found to be false..." (Dan Vallone, M.B.A. '15, New York City. *Harvard Magazine*, March-April 2024.)

## livid (adjective)

livid that  
she is ~ her husband is dating...

## living (adjective)

living document



the Constitution is a ~  
this report should be considered a ~ (subject to changes)

living text  
oed.com is a ~, updated every three months (dictionary)

living thing  
we consider the fire to be a ~ (an Canadian wildfire fighter)

longest living  
the Bullet is the ~ motorcycle design in history

## load (work)

load of a (college) professor  
he's teaching double the normal ~ (adjunct)

course load  
I adjusted to the new ~

workload  
teachers complained about the increased ~

teaching and research load  
faculty members can reduce the ~ by half

parenting load  
she has been carrying the full ~

extra load  
the types of ~ that we are placing on teachers

full load  
it may be hard to juggle a ~ of classes and a job

full (parenting) load  
she has been carrying the ~

normal load  
he's teaching double the ~ of a college professor (adjunct)

bear (some of) the load  
build a new airport to ~ (Chicago)

carrying the (full parenting) load  
she has been ~

handle the load  
the system can barely ~ (airline travel)

### \*\*\* analysis...

♦ "A woman without a donkey is a donkey herself." (Debre Zeit, Ethiopia.)

♦ "God makes the back to bear the load." (Said in Ireland. This means God will never give you a degree of suffering that you can't cope with.)

## loaded (loaded word, etc.)

loaded  
the term "microaggression" in itself is loaded

loaded term  
experts say temptation is a ~ (a crime against women)

loaded word  
"terrorism" is a ~ (the BBC doesn't use it)  
authenticity is a ~ when it comes to food

loaded, loaded word  
the word "victim" is a ~ (Judge Bruce Schroeder)

loaded and dangerous  
Democrats continue to use ~ rhetoric (fascist, dictator, etc.)

racially loaded  
he tweeted the ~ term on Tuesday ("lynching")

♦ "Last week, there was widespread outrage when Judge Schroeder set ground rules forbidding prosecutors from referring to the men Rittenhouse shot as victims." ("A look at Bruce Schroeder, the judge in the Kyle Rittenhouse trial," NPR, All Things Considered, Nov. 4, 2021.)

♦ "The word 'victim' is a loaded, loaded word that can prejudice the jury." (Judge Bruce Schroeder of Wisconsin.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The term 'microaggression' in itself is loaded. And this is how words work. Words don't mean what the dictionary says they mean. Words mean your opinions about people who use that word. So the term 'microaggression' in its self—some people will bristle because they've seen it applied to things they don't think are problematic—it just means a use of a word that can be offensive or hurtful and so, when your consciousness is raised, you try to avoid it. And that I think is the status of the word 'ladies.' Calling it a microaggression in itself is going to separate people into camps..." (Georgetown University linguist Dr. Deborah Tannen. From "Is 'ladies' acceptable workplace language?" by Robin Young, wbur, April 18, 2023.)

♦ "Government ministers, newspaper columnists, ordinary people—they're all asking why the BBC doesn't say the Hamas gunmen who carried out appalling atrocities in southern Israel are terrorists. / The answer goes right back to the BBC's founding principles. / Terrorism is a loaded word, which people use about an outfit they disapprove of morally. It's simply not the BBC's to tell people who to support and who to condemn—who are the good guys and who are the bad guys... / And it's always been like this in the BBC. During World War Two, BBC broadcasters were expressly told not to call the Nazis evil or wicked, even though we did call them 'the enemy'. / 'Above all,' said a BBC document about all this, 'there must be no room for ranting'. Our tone had to be calm and collected. / It was hard to keep that principle going when the IRA was bombing Britain... / But we held the line. And we still do, to this day. / We don't take sides. We don't use loaded words like 'evil' or 'cowardly'. We don't talk about 'terrorists'. And we're not the only ones to follow this line. Some of the world's most respected news organisations have exactly the same policy." ("Why BBC doesn't call Hamas militants 'terrorists'—John Simpson" by John Simpson, BBC, Israel Gaza War, October 11, 2023.)

♦ see also *charged (highly charged, etc.)*

## loan shark

loan shark  
he borrowed the money from a ~

## lock (lock something away)

locked it away  
it was embarrassing, so I ~ (sexually assaulted)

## lock (under lock and key)

kept under lock and key  
the report was meant to be ~ (Catholic Church)

## lockdown (noun)

lockdown  
our ~ is a giant garden party (vs. China, Italy)

lockdown measures

a number of countries are set to relax their ~  
(COVID)

lockdowns and death counts  
before life turned into this slog of ~ (pandemic)

coronavirus lockdowns  
sports fans are going through withdrawal because  
of ~

lockdown is getting looser  
the ~ (pandemic)

♦ "Last night we got out of strict Level Four lockdown, which hasn't allowed us to surf for five weeks. We're in Level Three now and we can finally surf. I'm so pumped to get out there." (A video showing a female teen surfer in New Zealand on the shore in a wetsuit with her surfboard. She turns and runs to the water.)

## locked (locked in a battle, etc.)

locked in a (custody) battle  
they are ~

locked in a (seesaw) battle  
they are ~ for the strategic city

locked in a (fierce and noisy) debate  
Tunisians are ~ about the role of Islam in politics

locked in a (bitter) dispute  
they are ~ over Kashmir

## locked and loaded (adjective)

locked and loaded  
the US is ~ (diplomatic crisis)  
the US is ~, ready to retaliate over the attack

locked and loaded for a retaliatory strike  
the military was ~

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Lock and load one twenty round magazine..." (Military training for the Vietnam War, on the firing range.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

## locked in (target)

locked-in views  
people have very ~ of both of these men (Biden / Trump)

driven, locked in, damn the torpedoes  
he is ~ (the NFL quarterback Tom Brady on winning)

♦ "In the end, cold-blooded killer, in the end all that matters is, Lombardi number eight. He is driven, he is locked in, he is damn the torpedoes." (Skip Bayless, speaking with Shannon Sharpe about the great quarterback Tom Brady, on "Skip and Shannon: Undisputed." "Lombardi number eight" refers to Brady's quest to win his eighth Super Bowl, in 2022.)

♦ "I'm locked in, all I'm thinking about is the fight. I'm not here for all these cameras... For me, it's just pure business... I'm prepared for 12 rounds of war." (Jai Opetaia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, prior to The Day of Reckoning boxing event. Super!)

## locker (computer)

Web locker  
he is a prominent ~ operator (file sharing)

## locker (sports)

in his locker  
it's always something he's had ~ (ability to assist, score)

## lockstep (in lockstep)

in lockstep  
they were all ~, working together (Boeing, FAA)

in lockstep with the president's  
you'd assume her policies are ~ (Harris / Biden)

in lockstep with the White House  
Senate Republicans will be ~

act in lockstep  
he will ~ with the White House

march in lockstep  
climate and carbon dioxide clearly ~ (Antarctic ice)

work in "lockstep"  
Obama said the US would ~ with Israel to prevent...

working in lockstep  
Obama is ~ with the Israelis

\*\*\* recruit training, Fort Knox, Kentucky, 1971...

♦ "Go to Cam Ranh Bay / Go to Cam Ranh Bay! / Chasing Charley all the way / Chasing Charley all the way! / Wiiiide River / Wiiiide River! / Oh! One more river to cross / Oh! One more river to cross." (Marching cadence, Vietnam War training at Fort Knox. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

♦ see also *step (in step)*

## lodestar (noun)

lodestar of my life  
Mother Teresa was the ~

Taliban's (spiritual) lodestar  
his involvement was minimal, yet he remained the ~  
(Mullah Omar)

legal lodestar  
Thurgood Marshall was his ~ (lawyer Ben Crump)

political lodestar  
cutting taxes is a ~ for many Tories (UK)

one of our lodestars  
the spirit of that imperative is ~ ("believe women")

♦ Somebody sent an anonymous op-ed article to *The New York Times*. The writer included the word "lodestar." People interested in "outing" the anonymous author focused on that "rarely used word" to try to determine who sent it. ("Does 'lodestar' guide us to anti-Trump op-ed author?" BBC, 6 September 2018.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A lodestar refers to the North Star, or to stars that help people to find the North Star. As such, it relates to direction and following.

♦ see also *north star (direction, goal)*

## lodestone (noun)

lodestone for migrants

Angola has become a ~ (2009 / from Congo)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A lodestone is a piece of naturally magnetic rock, once used in primitive compasses for roughly indicating the direction of north.

## lofty (adjective)

lofty rhetoric

he is known for his ~ (a politician)

## logjam (noun)

logjam

coat checks and valet parking can become ~s (malls)

logjam of traffic

he looks out onto an endless ~

logjam on death row

the execution does not signal a break in the ~

logjam in Washington

there is such a ~ (politics)

log jam in the Suez canal

the ~ forced 350 ships to park (*Ever Given*)

logjam (with Congress) over the president's plan

he seeks a way to break the ~

data logjam

limited storage media has created a scientific ~

bureaucratic logjam

despite the ~s the Army faced in stepping up...

ideological logjam

progress has been stuck in an ~ (warming)

legislative logjam

squabbling could lead to a ~ (politics)

partisan logjam

the White House seeks to break the ~ (politics)

political logjam

the ~ must be dislodged

break in the logjam

the execution does not signal a ~ on death row

not everyone is happy about the ~ (politics)

polarization and logjam

they talked about the ~ in Congress

log jam broke

the ~ (writer's block)

logjam (holding up the bill) broke

the ~ on Saturday (politics)

logjam (on extradition) was broken

in 2012, a ~ when...

break the logjam

we must ~ (politics)

Islamic leaders are working to ~ (immunizations)

broke that logjam

it was that demonstration that ~ (AIDS protest)

clear the logjam

I sought a way to ~ (a diplomat)

♦ "All I carried away from the magic town of Auckland was the face and voice of a woman who sold me beer at a little hotel there. They stayed at the back of my head till ten years later when, in a local train of the Cape Town suburbs, I heard a petty officer from Simon's Town telling a companion about a woman in New Zealand who 'never scrupled to help a lame duck or put her foot on a scorpion.' Then, precisely as the removal of the key-log in a timber-jam starts the whole pile—those words gave me the key to the face and voice at Auckland, and a tale called 'Mrs. Bathurst' slid into my mind, smoothly and orderly as floating timber on a bank-high river." (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling.)

### \*\*\* "Old man Jinby rode frantically into Grand Rapids..."

♦ "Old man Jinby rode frantically into Grand Rapids, like a second Paul Revere, screaming out that the flood had broken loose. It is impossible to describe the excitement and consternation that reigned in Grand Rapids as the rushing timbers shot down the current past the city. The heavy iron bridges one after the other crumpled up like matchwood and were borne out of sight down stream on the very top of the jam... Five hours later about half of the logs boiled into sight at Grand Haven, fifty miles away... Now [at Grand Haven] for four days and nights ensued a grim struggle for supremacy [to secure its own booms and to keep the logs from floating out into Lake Michigan] that has probably never been equaled in industrial history." ("The Great Log Jam" by Stewart Edward White is a terrific account of an actual log jam. It appeared in Frank Leslie's *Popular Monthly*, Vol. LII No. 3 in July, 1901, and it is an account of the Great Log Jam of 1883 on the Grand River in Michigan, perhaps the largest logjam in the history of logging.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read "Last Log Drive in U.S. Floating to End in Maine" by John Kifner, *The New York Times*, Sept. 8, 1976. It occurred on the Kennebec River. Logs are transported by trucks and helicopters, even, nowadays. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## logroll (verb)

logroll to get

politicians ~ their share of pork

## logrolling (noun)

political logrolling

they practice ~ (politicians)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the past, on the frontier, neighbors would help one another to roll logs to construct buildings.

## loiter (verb)

loiter in the sky

drones can ~ for several hours and spy... (warfare)

loiter (in the sky) for several hours

drones can ~ and spy (warfare)

## lone wolf (person)

lone-wolf attack

it's difficult to protect against ~s (terrorism)

lone wolf individual

a dozen ~s with ties to the group have been caught

racist "lone wolves"  
Obama has enraged ~

### **long (a long time, etc.)**

long ago  
in the ~, when I was a girl

long day  
let's get some sleep, it's been a ~

long history  
there's a ~ of laws targeting Drag in the US

long nights  
I've had some ~ in the stir... (*Shawshank Redemption*)

long time  
this has been a ~ coming (trans representation / Olympics)

long behind  
his best writing days were ~ him

♦ see also *time* (*long time* / *short time*)

### **long-run (adjective)**

long-run impact  
the ~ on the world economy

### **long shot**

long shot  
the horse is a ~ to win

### **longstanding (adjective)**

longstanding  
Saudi-US relations are ~ and have stood the test of time

longstanding absence  
adapt to the ~ of water (Santa Fe)

long-standing dispute  
the ~

long-standing embargo  
a ~

long-standing feud  
motivated by a ~ (murder in Afghanistan)

longstanding grievances  
the uranium boom has given new life to ~ over land

long-standing history  
a woman with a ~ of depression and abuse

long-standing resentments  
~ over past mistreatment (US blacks)

longstanding taboo  
a ~ against use of nuclear weapons except as last resort

longstanding (Chinese) tradition  
spitting is a ~

longstanding (security) relationship  
the ~ between the two countries

long-standing and deserved (m)  
it has a ~ reputation for... (a company)

deep and long-standing  
our ties are ~ (US / Canada)

recurrent, chronic, or longstanding  
symptom episodes may be ~ (depression)

### **longtime (adjective)**

longtime alliance  
their ~ has been frayed by his rejection of the bill

long-time (NATO) ally  
the US is turning the heat up on its ~

long-time (Trump) ally  
~ and conservative media mogul

### **long-winded (speech)**

long-winded anecdote  
he claimed in a ~ that... (President Joe Biden)

a little long winded  
this guy's ~ (vice-president)

thoughtful, reflective, (occasionally) long-winded  
he was ~ (a politician)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Shut up! (Nowadays in text, STFU.)

### **look (a bad look, etc.)**

look of love  
"the ~ is in your eyes" ("The Look of Love" 1967 song)

good look  
it's not a ~

### **look (how does that look, etc.)**

look from China  
so how does that ~ (shift in US approach / NPR)

look from a (disaster preparedness) point of view  
how does that ~ (a travel measure to control pandemic)

looks different  
ADHD ~ in girls (behavior)

how does that look  
you're following an important meeting in Istanbul, ~

### **look (look the other way / look away)**

look away  
we can no longer ~ (justice)

look away from election interference  
we not going to ~

looked the other way  
corrupt officials ~ (contract)

looking the other way

even the Supreme Court is shrugging its shoulders and ~

♦ "98% of Wikipedia's readers don't give, they simply look away."  
(Fundraising. Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## look at (analysis)

look at Chernobyl  
if you ~ you will find...

look at the data  
if you ~, one thing that really jumps out is...

look (more closely) at these (reluctant) pioneers  
we must now ~

look at Poland  
so let's ~ (talk show)

## look back (verb)

look back  
was there a low point when you ~ (addiction)  
when I had a chance to ~ and go through all the what-ifs...  
I don't ~ and think, "Those were the days"  
as I ~ now, I can see so clearly that...

look back on her accomplishments  
we ~ (tribute to woman who died)

looks back on Houston's life  
John Donaldson ~ (died)

look back on your life  
sometimes you ~ and wonder..

looked back on my old life  
I haven't ~ once... (travel abroad)

look back through rose-tinted glasses  
it is easy to ~ and miss problematic details (history)

never looked back  
I switched girlfriends and ~  
after cutting his rival in the first round he ~ (boxing)

♦ "We're looking so far back in time." (James Webb Space Telescope.)

## look down on (something)

look down on me  
I am suffering every day when people ~ (immigrant)  
some people ~, but I don't give a rip ("Redneck Woman")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Our adjective *cavalier* has the same ancestors (*cheval, caballus*, "horse."). As, on occasion, a modern rider in a Rolls-Royce can be haughty, so some of these knights, high on their horses, were capable of a *cavalier* and supercilious manner, which gives us our phrase 'get off your high horse.' Those who walk on foot have always been considered inferior to those who ride..." (Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 6, "Sources of Words of Attitudes and Emotions.")

♦ see also *horse* (high horse)

## look for (verb)

looking for how  
we're really ~ we can improve...

looking for answers  
we are ~  
everyone is ~ (school shooting / community)

looking for excuses  
I think you're ~

looking for love  
Don was online ~, like millions of other men...

look for opportunities  
~ to develop new skills...

look for patterns  
~ in your preferences (job hunt)

looking for (better) opportunities  
they are always ~ (jobs)

looking for sympathy  
the amputee is not ~ (an amputee)

looking for trouble  
if you ask me, he was ~

look for (new) ways  
~ to apply knowledge management

looking for something  
they meander about, ~ to do (kids)

looking for something new  
women are always ~ in cosmetics

started looking  
the four partners ~ for help

## look forward to (verb)

looking towards his future  
the boy, ~ ("Ike" memorial in D.C.)

look towards smaller parties  
he can now ~ to build a government (election winner)

look forward to going  
I don't ~ to work tomorrow...

looking forward to going  
Andrea was ~ on holiday...

look forward to hearing  
I ~ if he made it to Katahdin (AT)

look forward to seeing  
I ~ you in Detroit

looking forward to seeing  
he was ~ his wife and children

looking forward to spending  
he was ~ time with his grandchildren

looked forward to watching  
she ~ the World Cup (marine in Iraq)

look forward to the class  
students should ~ (teacher training)

look forward to and accept  
some people ~ death (nursing)

## looking (forward-looking, etc.)

forward-looking  
see *forward-looking*

## Looking Glass

Looking-Glass world  
the Poles are ~ (every direction north or south, sun, etc.)

looking-glass world  
its ~ (*The Hearing Trumpet* by Leonora Carrington)

through the looking glass  
we really are ~, I despair (#savewomensports)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Lenora Carrington (OBE) was a devoted reader of Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) and Jonathan Swift.

## look into (verb)

looking into what  
is anybody ~ happened or...

looking into whether  
they are ~ foam produced... (*Columbia* disaster)  
investigators are ~ the attack was...  
federal agents are ~ he violated...

looking into (food) allergies  
my son has become a biter and we are ~

look into the case  
they agreed to ~ of Amy Wroe Bechtel (Vidocq Society)

looking into the complaint  
authorities are ~ of a Saudi camel owner who...

look into a (horrible) crime  
the soldiers were asked to ~ (Iraq atrocity)

look into ecoterrorism  
the FBI said it would ~ as a possible motive

looking into evidence  
is the White House ~ that American POWs may...

look into (Baluch) grievances  
committees set up last year to ~ (Pakistan)

look into it  
this is the first I've heard of it, I'll ~  
we'll ~, thanks for bring it to my attention...

look into the matter  
he'll ~

looking into the possibility  
officials were ~ that tribal leaders had...

looking into the (various) theories  
engineers ~ (plane crash)

look into ways  
or you could ~ of covering it up with destroying it

look into transferring  
maybe you should ~ to another school

investigators are looking into  
~ who received traffic tickets in... (murder)

## look like (resemble)

look like  
what does genius ~ (NPR)

looks like  
this is what liberation ~ (Russians withdraw from Kherson)  
we understand what responsible drinking ~ (vs. pot use)

looks like  
we know what fake ~ (commitment vs. opposite)  
this is exactly what national embarrassment ~ (diplomacy)

look like people  
harassment can ~ looking at you in a sort of odd way...

what a hero looks like  
films condition us to think this is ~ (physicality, danger)

♦ "We're always gonna have to be struggling for what liberation and freedom look like." (Cindy Milstein, a diasporic queer Jewish anarchist, activist, and writer, in an interview at [Oberlinreview.org](http://Oberlinreview.org).)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "I know dead when I see dead."

## look like (analysis)

look like  
what does that tension ~ (NPR's Anya Kamenetz)  
what would "ready" ~ for you... (NPR)

mean or look like  
so what does a pivot to China ~ in practical terms (NPR)

♦ "What does too far look like and what does too young look like." (An advocate for antiracism in public schools.)

♦ "What does 'clear sighted' and 'cold-blooded' look like?" (NPR's Leila Fadel interviews an ex-Ambassador about US-Saudi relations. Of course, his answer was "self-interest.")

## look like (future)

what that looks like  
we're just going to have to wait to see ~ (regime change)

look like  
what will the new normal ~ (post-COVID-19)

look like in the fall  
what might campus life ~ (during pandemic)

look like when  
what life might ~ normal returns

look like if  
what would this vote ~ this were a secret ballot

looked like in your view  
what would justice have ~, what should have happened

look like for Cuomo  
so what does the future ~ (politics)



is going to look like  
we don't know what 2021 ~

might look like  
police reform and what it ~

ought to look like  
what safety measures ~ in the movie industry

supposed to look like  
what the right relationship with a male figure is ~

will look like  
we will talk about what voting ~ during the pandemic

would look like  
tell me what an ideal system ~

♦ "So like what do you think this should be, like what does it look like?"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The future is less and less a time, and more and more a *place* that we can see!

## look up (verb)

looking up  
Rhyl's image is ~ (English town)  
New York's economy is ~ (post 9/11)  
things are ~, progress is being made  
so things are *not* ~ (a political problem)

looking up for her  
things were finally ~

looking up for the president  
things are ~ (Iran)

## look up to (somebody)

look up to  
she is someone young people can ~ (an athlete)  
it's good for the country to have heroes to ~

look up to me  
there are kids out there who ~ (an athlete)

look up to my father as a role model  
I've always been able to ~

looked up to Bruce Lee as a role model  
he ~ (the martial arts star)

looked up to him in high school  
I ~

looked up to them all my life  
I've ~ (Native Americans)

looked up to him ever since  
he flew in space, and the US has ~ (John Glenn)

♦ "Respected people have stature and are 'looked up to.' This is even in our language." (Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, who is not tall.)

## loom (loom large, etc.)

looms large over Wisconsin  
the president still ~ (elections)

loom over the game  
those larger issues ~ (football and CTE)

♦ "I'm Scott Detrow, in the Ferris wheel, at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. And, the Ferris wheel looms over this fair kinda the same way the presidential election looms over North Carolina." (A sample of the brilliant punditry we have come to expect from NPR.)

\*\*\* the Ohio State Reformatory...

♦ "Boy, this really is looming. It looms large." (An ABC investigative producer visiting the Ohio State Reformatory, the setting for the great film *The Shawshank Redemption*.)

## loop (in the loop)

in the loop  
we make sure you are ~ at every step (financial planning)

## loop (verb)

looping the devastation  
the media is just ~ (2023 Maui wildfires)

## loop (noun / other)

autophagous loop  
an ~ doomed to decline ("self-consuming / generative AI)

doom-loop  
we're trapped in something of a ~ (social media)

doom loop  
a ~, a cycle of negative economic feedback

feedback loop  
see *feedback loop* (noun)

♦ "The city is in absolute chaos because we will continue to spiral in this doom loop." (Revulsion about San Francisco after high-profile attacks on prominent people in supposedly safe neighborhoods by violent criminals; people with serious mental illnesses, drug addicts, and the homeless roaming the streets; flash mobs looting stores; "woke" government and district attorneys, etc.)

♦ "It's time people applauded about San Francisco, we've been in this little doom loop for too long, so I appreciate a little positivity (sound of cheers.) Man... But we've moved from a doom loop to an AI boom loop!" (California Governor Gavin Newsome touting Dreamforce, an AI extravaganza in San Francisco that Matthew McConaughey kicked off (via video) as "the biggest A.I. event of the year." Signs and banners included: Peace, love, and AI; Blaze your TrAI; and Thank you, TrAIblazers.)

♦ "I've been wondering lately if feminism is subject to a Groundhog Day-style curse in which all previous knowledge is periodically obliterated." ("Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's Invisible Life by Anna Funder review—inside a troubled marriage" by Olivia Laing, *The Guardian*, 10 August 2023. "This feminist reimagining of the fierce and witty Eileen O'Shaughnessy strips her of agency all over again.")

♦ "What happens when the web becomes dominated by so much AI generated content that new models are trained not on human-made material, but on AI outputs? Will we be left with some kind of cursed digital ouroboros (a snake or dragon) eating its own tail? / It's what Jathan Sedowski has dubbed Habsburg AI..." ("Is artificial intelligence a threat to journalism or will the technology destroy itself?" by Samantha Floreani, Opinion, *The Guardian*, Sat 5 Aug 2023. This used to be referred to as GIGO: garbage in, garbage out. Or, as News Corp CEO Robert Thomson said about left-wing bias and inaccuracies spewed out by AI generated content, "Don't forget, it's rubbish in, rubbish out, rubbish all about." From "News Corp CEO Robert Thomson challenges AI-generated content's left-wing bias, accuracy: 'Rubbish in, rubbish out'" by Ariel Zilber, *The New York Post*, Sep. 8, 2023.)

♦ "Our primary conclusion...is that without fresh real data in each generation of an autophagous loop, future generative models are doomed to have their quality (precision) or diversity (recall) progressively decrease. We term this condition Model Autophagy

Disorder (MAD), making analogy to mad cow disease." ("Self-Consuming Generative Models Go MAD," arXiv.org.)

♦ "The bottom of the river is developing a coat of the right kind of weed. The clearer the water, the more the weed grows, and then the weed filters the water to make it even clearer—it's a virtuous circle." (Bill Francois of the Paris fishing federation, about the Seine River in Paris, which will feature in the 2024 Paris Olympics. Super!)

♦ "As birds return to breed, they also poo. This adds nutrients to the soil, which in turn helps the plants to grow back stronger. Tall plants then help burrowing birds hide from predatory skuas. 'It's this wonderful feedback loop,' says (Justin) Shaw." ("From 300,000 rabbits to none: a Southern Ocean Island is Reborn" by Zoe Kean, *The Guardian*, 10 August 2022. Macquarie Island.)

♦ see also *circle* (*virtuous circle*, etc.), *spiral* (*increase*)

## loophole (noun)

loophole

until the ~ is closed...

legal ~s are still open to abusers (France)

Texas loophole

how a ~ may allow the killers to escape the death penalty

legal loophole

many believe he wriggled through a ~ (Rubin Carter case)

~s are still open to abusers (France)

exploiting that loophole

unions are exploiting ~ (politics and money)

find a loophole

we were able to ~, but that loophole has been closed (law)

used a loophole

he ~ to keep practicing (a bad doctor)

wriggled through a (legal) loophole

many believe he ~ (Rubin Carter case)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Defenders fire weapons through loopholes from inside a fortification.

♦ "When one loophole closes, another one opens..."

## loose (get looser, etc.)

getting looser

the lockdown is ~ (pandemic)

## loose (let loose)

let loose

he has largely held his tongue, but on Friday he ~

he ~ in attacks on his enemies (politics)

## loose ends

tied up loose ends

I put my affairs in order, ~

tie up some loose ends

in this last episode, I'll try to ~ (podcast)

♦ "There are a lot of loose ends that people really want to see tied up." (Liz Farrell, co-host of the Murdaugh Murders podcast.)

## loose (loose woman)

loose woman

she might be labeled a ~, a prostitute (for bike riding)

## loosen (loosen control, etc.)

loosening

a sign that the government's grip was ~

loosened their grip

tradition, ideology, and religion have ~ in the West

loosen (Germany's) manacles

Hollande wants to ~ of austerity (economics)

## loosen up (feelings)

need to loosen up

they are grumpy people who need to ~

laugh and loosen up

this would make them ~ (a joke)

## loot (verb)

loot the assets

they could no longer ~ of the Venezuelan people

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "And *loot* is merely a corruption of the Hindustani word *lut*, meaning 'something plundered.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From the chapter "War Words And Their Histories.")

## Lord of the Flies

Lord of the Flies

you've got ~ if you take a small group of young men...

(*Lords of Chaos*)

## lord over (verb)

lorded over his (C.E.O.) son

the father still ~ (corporation)

lorded over their slaves

the plantation owners ~

## lose (verb)

lose it

see *lose it* (*mentally*)

lose (through death)

see *lose* (*through death*)

lose (through extinction)

see *lose* (*through extinction*)

lose an arm, limb, eyesight, etc.

see *lose* (*a limb*, etc.)

lose one's life

see *life* (*lose one's life*)

lose one's mind

see *mind* (*lose one's mind*)

lose (one's temper, etc.)

see *lose* (*one's temper, etc.*)

lose time

see *time* (*lose time, etc.*)

lose one's tongue

see *tongue* (*lose one's tongue*)

## lose (through death)

lost three family members to (logging) accidents  
he ~

lost his (adoptive) father to cancer  
he ~

lost last year  
singers we ~ (died)

lost a friend  
I had never ~ before (climbing fatality)

lost him  
my dad loved this place and then I ~ (father died)  
I ~ when I was four years old (father died)  
we ~ (to suicide)

lose one's life  
see *life* (*lose one's life*)

lost a parent  
an estimated 6,000 children ~ (on 9/11)

lost his wife  
he ~ (she died)

lost one of its own  
the police force has ~ (killed in the line of duty)

♦ *He is no longer with us.*

## lose (through extinction)

lost (70 to 100% of our) coral to bleaching  
we have ~ (Virgin Islands)

lose the big apes  
in 30 years we could ~ from central Africa

losing their cultural heritage  
Nigerians are ~ (indigenous languages versus English)

lose Lake Baikal  
the warnings of scientists who say "we will ~"

lost about a third of North America's birds  
since 1970, we've ~

♦ "When ice melts, walrus and polar bears lose habitat and hunting grounds."

♦ "He lost his homeland, his language, his class pedigree..." (A refugee.)

## lose (a limb, etc.)

lost a leg to a land mine  
she ~ (a Vietnamese farmer)

lost limbs to land mines  
40,000 Cambodians have ~ over the years

lost her leg  
she ~ in a motorcycle accident

lost both legs  
she ~ after her Humvee hit an IED in Iraq

lost her sense of smell  
she ~ (COVID)

lost his (right) eye and (left) leg  
he ~ fighting the Soviets (an Afghan)

lost their voices, hair, eyes, hearing  
POWs ~ (US / Vietnam War)

♦ "If you want to keep that arm, you'd better take it off my husband."

♦ "Drew Carey reveals secret behind losing 1,000 pounds over his lifetime."

♦ Ability (lose the ability to speak, etc.); appetite; balance (footing); consciousness; eyesight; fertility; hair; hearing; mind; period; a sense; sight; virginity; weight... (Things you can lose that are associated with the body.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. A charitable religious elderly society matron with the very best of intentions decided to visit an Old Soldiers' Home, and during her visit she encountered an old soldier on a bench who was missing his leg. The society matron exclaimed, "Oh, my poor man. You've lost your leg." To which the old soldier glanced down at his pants leg and exclaimed, "By God if I haven't!"

## lose (one's temper, etc.)

loses touch with reality  
he ~ (a schizophrenic / psychosis)

lost control  
she ~ of herself (got angry)

lose courage  
I didn't want to ~

lost faith  
the crewmen never ~ (that they would be rescued / sub)  
many party members have ~ in him (a politician)

lose your fear  
once you face danger over and over you ~  
(mountaineering)

lost heart  
many people have ~

lose hope  
she began to ~ of ever finding her daughter  
he told the worshippers not to ~, despite...

lose interest  
students often ~ in school

lost interest  
he ~ and dropped out of school

lost their minds  
America is too woke, progressives have ~

lose their motivation  
depressed teens will ~, or become withdrawn

lost the motivation  
he has ~ to succeed

lose our nerve  
terrorists can win if we ~ and abandon our mission (Iraq)

lost his nerve  
one intended suicide bomber ~ (Casablanca)

lose patience  
newly married couples are the quickest to ~ (snoring)

lost my temper  
I ~

lose trust  
this will make people ~ in the government

lose the will  
some ~ to live (when elderly partner dies)

♦ You can lose your *sense* of competence; humor; purpose; success...

♦ "I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust," by Uri Berliner, The Free Press, April 9, 2024.

## lose it (mentally)

lost it then  
and that's when I guess I ~ (murdered a screaming woman)

## lose out (verb)

lost out to home refrigerators  
block ice ~

## loser (noun)

winners and losers  
there will be ~ (the economy)  
there will be ~ (climate change)

## loss (death)

awful loss  
he siblings can hardly process this ~ (selfie accident)

## lost (direction)

lost in illusions  
the expectation leaves us ~ (that history progresses)

easy to get lost  
it's ~ in the music

got lost in the murk  
I ~ of the situation

get lost in the music  
it's easy to ~

get lost in a (large) school  
a lot of kids ~ (immigrants, etc.)

got lost in a bureaucratic maze  
when her scholarship money ~...

leaves us lost  
the expectation ~ in illusions (that history progresses)

\*\*\* "Lake Hanka, in the Gold language Kenka..."

♦ "How, captain, us soon go back or not? Me think will be bad night."  
/ Across the horizon on the north was a sort of fog, like smoke. /

Dersu called my attention to the birds. He noticed that something was upsetting them. It was not a steady migration, but a headlong flight. They were flying in disorder. / The great freshwater sea now had a menacing aspect; the water lashed into foam as though boiling in a kettle. / The black fog which I had seen on the horizon suddenly began to rise into the air. The sun was now completely hidden. / 'Captain, us must go back quick,' said Dersu. 'Me little afraid.' / 'Water him rise,' said Dersu, looking at the stream. / We decided to go round... We went to the left... Then I decided to try our luck on the right side. / Evidently we had lost our way. The situation was taking a serious turn. / It was growing dark, and at the same time some snowflakes were fluttering in the air. The stillness lasted only a few minutes, and then came the blizzard. / I felt a tug of fear. / Then I realized the full horror of our position..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr. First Expedition, Chapter VI, "The Blizzard On The Lake." The 1975 Soviet-Japanese film *Dersu Uzala* by Akira Kurosawa dramatizes this scene wonderfully.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Midway in our life's journey, I went astray / from the straight road and woke to find myself / alone in a dark wood. How shall I say // what wood that was! I never saw so drear, / so rank, so arduous a wilderness! / Its very memory gives a shape to fear." (*The Inferno*, from the wonderful translation by John Ciardi.)

♦ see also way (*lose one's way*)

## lost (extinction)

lost with her generation  
the Blues will be ~ (the great blues singer Mary Lane)

## lost (death)

lost here  
so many lives were ~ (at a concentration / death camp)

lost to COVID-19  
members of the community ~

lost to gun violence  
he was ~ on April 3, 2021 (murdered)

## lot (lot in life, etc.)

accepted their lot  
they made no excuses and just ~ and moved on (2 boxers)

## lottery (win the lottery, etc.)

lottery  
it was not the ~ I wanted to win (bad luck)

lottery winner  
he is a genetic ~ (an athlete)

academic lottery  
getting into his class is winning the ~

\*\*\* "Everyone has dreams..."

♦ "Everyone has dreams..." (Said by one man to another man, who was buying a ticket for a lottery at a gas station in Asheville, North Carolina.)

♦ "Starting in the late seventies, S.G.I. began hiring lobbyists, contracting with advertising firms, creating astroturf citizens' groups, and spending millions of dollars to persuade voters in Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri Oregon, and the District of Columbia to pass lottery initiatives." ("Scratch That: What we've lost playing the lottery" by Kathryn Schulz, *The New Yorker*, October 24, 2022.)

♦ "[T]his is no ordinary game. This is Mega Millions. And just like the megabyte, megawatt, and mega-yacht, it's also huge. Like, extra-ridiculous-six-zeroes-huge. In case starting with 'mega' didn't make it abundantly clear—Mega Millions doesn't mess around: with lifechanging jackpots and nine ways to win you could put megabucks

in your pocket for just \$2. And with Megaplier you can multiply most prizes 2X to 5X for just another buck—that's a pretty serious megadeal. You may be asking yourself, 'are you mega-kidding-me?' No, we're mega-not. And it gets better with drawings every Tuesday and Friday, that's two chances a week to take home the mega-mother lode..." (The North Carolina Education Lottery / NCEL / ncolottery.com. On the backs of the poor: "Everyone can dream.")

♦ "Powerball's \$1.5 billion jackpot is driving lottery envy in the 5 states where people can't buy tickets" by Kim Chandler, Mark Thiessen and The Associated Press, November 4, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Defenders of the lottery sometimes cast it as a tax on the stupid."

## loud (attention)

### LOUD HAIR

I could always count on her to have ~ (Dyshea Upshaw)

### loudest and (most) engaged

Kenya has one of Africa's ~ internet communities (#KoT)

### LOVELOUD Foundation

10% of all proceeds will be donated to the ~

### out and loud and proud

~ (Cher Strawberry)

♦ "Protests over raising the age of retirement continue in France. Things have gotten loud." (French crowds bang pots and pans and chant. See the Wikipedia article "Cacerolazo.")

♦ "I've been here before, out and loud and proud." (Cher Strawberry, from her debut album *Chering is Caring*.)

♦ irtbxqck: SIMON STONE, WELL YOU DESERVE YOUR WACK OF THE LICENSE FEE MONEY I DON'T THINK. / Sunbirdm to irtbxqck: Stop shouting... / Turkeyforxmas to irtbxqck: You've commented like 3 times in all caps... Whatever you're taking I think it's time to stop and sleep (A BBC HYS about a soccer sports article.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Until psychoanalysis came along, the accepted antidote to hysteria was rest."

## loudly (attention)

### loudly and unapologetically

Woopie Goldberg lives her life ~

♦ "Woopie Goldberg lives her life loudly and unapologetically... She hasn't been afraid to go after what she wants and deserves." (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe's gushing tribute and interview.)

## loudmouth (person)

### loudmouth

he might be a ~, but... (boxing)

### bombastic loudmouths

stop listening to the ~ on the radio, TV and internet

♦ "Keep my wife's name out of your f-king mouth." (An enraged Will Smith to Chris Rock at the Academy Awards. X2.)

## love (fall in love)

### fell in love with

they found someone that they ~ in Mac Jones (sports)

### fall in love with a walrus

to meet a walrus is to ~ (a walrus researcher)

### fell in love with (big-wave) surfing

she ~ (Maya Gabeira)

♦ "Ended up just completely dropping all of the wildlife biology stuff and just fell in love with fire. It is so cool." (A federal wildland firefighter. She got a Master's degree in wildlife biology but preferred to fight fires. She refers to her fellow firefighters as her chosen family.)

## love (enthusiasm / noun)

### love of baseball

her ~ continues to this day (Wanda Fischer)

### in love with birds

what can I say, I'm ~ (a birder)

### in love with this city

I'm ~ as I guess most people are (Rome)

♦ "What can I say, I'm in love with birds." (A birder.)

♦ "To meet a walrus is to fall in love with a walrus." (A walrus researcher.)

♦ "Some people say they are awfully homely, awful bad looking, but to me... they are beautiful fish, just like a beautiful blonde." (Pat Wudtke, 73, in Wisconsin. He has speared sturgeon—living fossils—for 50 years during the state's annual season.)

♦ Laksa fever; "everyone's just contracted this laksa fever"; "the love child of Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean cuisine"; love for laksa; a thing that people love; craving a fix (for laksa); the mania (for laksa); a city obsessed (with laksa); the laksa obsession; the faithful; a giant shrine is erected (for monthlong laksa festival); laksa ice-cream / smoothies / cheesecake / sausage / crocodile dumplings / beer; the Laksa Festival Hall of Fame; the Golden Bowl award for best laksa... ("How laksa fever took hold in this Australian city" by the wonderful writer Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC, October 31, 2023. Life at "The Top End" of Oz. Super!)

## love (enthusiasm / verb)

### love to see people crash

people ~ (the great Mike Metzger, freestyle motocross)

### love the freedom

I ~ (a re-enactor)

### love maps

I ~, and when you get hooked... (W. Graham Arader III)

### loved the railways

Ian has ~ since he was a child in the fifties (train spotting)

### love sundials

getting people to ~ is an uphill battle (sundial enthusiast)

♦ "When I am a medieval plunderer, I can do what I want, and I love the freedom." (Pol Malfait, a 53-year-old postal clerk from Ghent, Belgium. As a medieval re-enactor, he spends the weekends pretending to be a 14th-century Flemish soldier.)

♦ "I probably loved atlases so much because the lines, the colours and the names replaced the real places that I could not visit. When I was eight..." (From the wonderful little book *Atlas of Remote Islands* by Judith Schalansky. It should be on the bookshelf of every household with children.)

♦ "People love to see people crash." (The great Mike Metzger, a pioneer of freestyle motocross. He once sustained 4 concussions in two months, has broken his back 3 times, has broken his arms and legs, and lost a testicle after crashing.)

## love (love that dare not speak its name)

### dare not speak its name

it's a policy that ~ ("windfall tax" / British politics)

dared not speak its name

a project that ~ (“nation-building” in Afghanistan)

♦ “[W]hen the then US head of Central Command David Petraeus was asked whether the US was engaged in nation building, he replied, ‘We are indeed.’ He added that ‘I’m just not going to evade [the question] and play rhetorical games.’ This was an implicit acknowledgment that rhetorical games had become almost compulsory in official parlance. The US was spending hundreds of billions of dollars on a project that dared not speak its name.” (“The Lie of Nation Building” by Fintan O’Toole, *The New York Review of Books*, October 7, 2021. Clever writing. Appreciated.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “The love that dare not speak its name” is an allusion to lesbianism!

## love (love triangle)

see *triangle* (love triangle, etc.)

## loved-up (and loved up)

loved-up friends

if you’re surrounded by ~ (on St. Valentine’s day)

loved-up interaction

hear their ~ after Chiefs win...

♦ “If you’re surrounded by loved-up friends...” (During St. Valentine’s season, and don’t have a boyfriend.)

♦ “Hear their loved-up interaction after Chiefs win.” (The NFL player Travis Kelce and the pop singer Taylor Swift. *The New York Post*.)

## lover (enthusiasm / person)

lover of Greece and Greek culture

a Philhellene is a ~

lover of knowledge

he was a voracious reader and autodidact, a ~

lover of things English

an Anglophile is a ~

lover of film

a cineaste is a ~

hot dog lovers

~ rejoiced with the reopening of Papaya King (NYC)

woodie lover

one ~ explains his passion (wooden roller coasters)

yarn lovers

an event for ~ (Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival)

♦ “Hot dog lovers rejoiced this week with the reopening of Papaya King at 206 E. 86 Street.” (New York City.)

♦ Anglophile (lover of things English); audiophile (lover of high-fidelity sound); bibliophile (lover of books); cineaste / cinephile (lover of films); extremophile (like the alkali fly), Philhellene (lover of Greece and Greek culture); herpetophile (lover of reptiles); lexophile (lover of words); oenophile (lover of wine); pagophile (an ice-dwelling organism); philosophy (lover of wisdom)... (Names of enthusiasts that incorporate various suffixes.)

## love letter (noun)

love letter to South Los Angeles

the show is a ~ (HBO’s *Insecure*)

love letter to Black boys

this is kind of a ~ (*Punch Me Up to the Gods*)

love letter to your childhood

what a ~ (the film *Belfast* by Kenneth Branagh)

love letter to the stunt community

Gosling call the movie a ~ (2024 film *The Fall Guy*)

love letter to New York City

*Deacon King Kong* is a ~ (by the great James McBride)

love letter to Kabul

a ~ by Lyse Doucet (BBC)

love letter to (classic) Hollywood

*Mank* is a ~ (the film)

love letter to the movies

this film is my ~ (Olivia Wilde / *Don’t Worry Darling*)

love letter to his (soaring) spirit

*Tik, Tik...Boom!* is a ~ (Jonathan Larson)

Summer of Love love letter

“Chelsea Morning” is a ~ (Joni Mitchell / *Girls Like Us*)

cinematic love letter

for Kirsten Dunst, the film is a ~ to her children

rapped a love letter

she ~ to her immigrant mother (Ruby Ibarra of Balikhbayans)

sends a love letter

Los Lobos ~ to Los Angeles (*Native Sons* album)

♦ “D C-T! is an ILU to NYC.” (The book by Joana Avillez and Molly Young.)

♦ “In so many ways this show feels like a love letter to a generation of women comedians who maybe weren’t celebrated in their heyday as much as they should have been.” (NPR’s Ali Shapiro, with upspeak.)

♦ The BBC published “A love letter to Kabul” by Lyse Doucet, with Mahfouz Zubaide and Esmatullah Kohsar, photography by Paula Bronstein, in Nov 2021, not long after the US fled that country. It is a wonderful and uplifting presentation, showing life as it goes on. It shows nine wonderful places: (1) Zarghuna Girls’ High School (2) Streets of Spandi (3) Sarai Shahzada money exchange market (4) Kah Faroshi bird market (5) Musicians’ lane (6) Café culture (7) Babur Gardens (8) Nadir Khan Hill (9) Bibi Mahru Hill. I’d love to visit sometime!

♦ “Tiana’s Bayou Adventures is a love letter to New Orleans.” (Contempo-speak Disney advertising for its rebrand of Splash Mountain.)

♦ “A hate letter to Hollywood and a love letter to movies.” (Director Damien Chazelle touting his 2022 film *Babylon*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Few people write and send letters anymore. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

♦ You can write an ode to something. Or a hymn. Or a love letter. Or a Valentine. Take your pick!

♦ see also *ode* (praise)

## love on (something)

loving on my coworkers

just here ~ at @WHYYunion rally! (a tweet with picture)

loves on her fiancé

Gaga’s fans went gaga for how much she ~...

love on your loved ones



~, life is short (brother of Tytyana Miller)

loves on his players

he hugs his players, he ~ (Coach Deion Sanders)

♦ "Avery is truly loved by so many. Loving on her brothers and learning how to live with Avery's loss is our only focus right now." (Eric and Kelly Koonce, the parents of Cadet 4th Class Avery Koonce, 19, found dead in her dormitory at the United States Air Force Academy.)

♦ see also *love up* (and *love up on*, etc.)

## love triangle

see *triangle* (*love triangle*, etc.)

## love up (and love up on, etc.)

love up on him

we just want to ~ (QB Josh Allen about Damar Hamlin)

love him up

we will welcome him, we will ~ (NFL coach Robert Saleh)

♦ "There was a big line of guys ready to love up on him." (NFL quarterback Josh Allen, about a visit to the team by Damar Hamlin.)

♦ "We're going to welcome him with open arms, we're going to love him up." (NFL Jets coach Robert Saleh about the team hold-out Haason Reddick.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary has an entry. So does the Collins Dictionary.

♦ see also *love on* (*something*)

## low (low on food, etc.)

low on food

I was ~ due to the curfew

## low (decline)

brought low

he has been ~

high-flying people ~ (celebrity scandals, etc.)

## low (emotion)

low

I was unhappy, as ~ as any man could go (a boxer)

feeling (pretty) low

I was ~

## low (base, bad / adjective)

low art

I walked past high art and ~ (New York City)

lowest form

the story is the ~ of journalism (a *Sun* article)

low life

he lived the ~ with tramps and gypsies in barns

high and low

mischief-makers who puncture the hierarchies of ~ art

♦ "He lived the low life with tramps and gypsies in barns and the high life with barons in castles." (Patrick Leigh Fermor on his rambles in 1933.)

♦ "I walked past high art and low art, past the theaters where famous people played to packed houses, past theaters where anonymous

people played with themselves." ("In the Temple," a chapter from *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg.)

## low (base, bad / noun)

new low

this is a ~, a blatant political ploy

## low (lie low)

lying low

he is ~ over fears for his safety

## lower (river, etc.)

Lower Yangtze

this is what one might call the upper reach of the ~

## lubricant (social lubricant, etc.)

social lubricant

alcohol is a crucial ~ (Great Britain)

## Lucullan (adjective)

Lucullan feast

at the celebration of the birth we were entertained to a ~

## Lucullus (epithet)

Scottish Lucullus

Cpt John Piper, a very unthrifty ~ (d. 1851)

## Luddite (allusion)

plenty of Luddites

~ making comments here (about airless tires)

## lukewarm (feeling)

lukewarm about the (coronavirus) vaccines

they were ~ (vaccine reluctance)

lukewarm to the idea

but back in America, the NBA was ~ (pros in Olympics)

lukewarm to Trump

the state was ~ but has since converted

lukewarm reception

they have given his victory plan a ~ (leaders / Ukraine)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As EFL or ESL teachers, we are accustomed to teaching that the opposite of "cold" is "hot." But temperature is not an opposite, it is a cline. And all of the vocabulary on that cline is used figuratively, from "boiling" to "frigid." We can at least mention it in our lessons.

## lukewarm (activity)

lukewarm display

it has been a ~ (the first half of a 0-0 soccer game)

barely above lukewarm

the economy is really ~

## luminary (person)

luminaries

where the president and other ~ sat... (graduation)

Atlanta luminaries

the Migos trio, Gucci Mane, Young Thug, and other ~  
establishment luminaries  
she attracted ~ to the board (Kissinger, Shultz, Mattis,  
etc.)

conservative luminaries  
~ are rallying their troops against Obama (politics)

♦ "The Migos trio, as well as Gucci Mane, Young Thug, Future, and other Atlanta luminaries..."

♦ "The majestic great hall of the Justice Department filled with luminaries who came to pay their respects." NPR's Carrie Johnson. From "Remembering Steve Pollak, a lawyer whose work inspired generation.")

## lunatic (person)

radical left lunatic  
she's a ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

♦ You're crazy!

♦ You're a lunatic!

♦ Don't be a lunatic!

♦ Don't be such a lunatic!

♦ Stop being a lunatic!

♦ Stop being such a lunatic!

## lunch (destruction)

became lunch  
Barnes & Noble eventually ~ for Amazon

## lung (atmosphere)

lungs of humanity  
the Congo Basin acts as the ~

"Lungs of the Planet"  
the Amazon Rain Forest is sometimes called the ~

lungs of Southeast Asia  
it is sometimes called the ~ (Borneo and its forests)

planet's "lungs"  
the Amazon is considered to be part of the ~

Mumbai's last green lung  
the Aarey forest is often referred to as ~

green lungs  
the Gorski Kotar region, referred to as "the ~ of Croatia"

♦ "Without the Congo Basin, the rest of the world couldn't breathe... The Congo Basin acts as the lungs of humanity. And the kidneys, too [due to its peatland capture of CO2]." (Minister Ms Soudan-Nonault, Congo-Brazzaville, seeking money from Western governments.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In 2019, forest fires in the Amazon caused leaders and the media to repeat the old canard that the Amazon creates 20 percent of the world's oxygen. This figure is grossly inflated, and reflects a total misunderstanding of the science involved. That's because plants not only create oxygen but use it. "The net contribution of the Amazonian

ecosystem to the world's oxygen level is effectively zero." (FactCheck.org and many other sources.)

## lung (life)

lung  
the tunnels are the ~s through which Gaza breathes

♦ "The tunnels are the lungs through which Gaza breathes... / Al-Sirhid traveled through the tunnels along the Egyptian-Gazan border 10 years ago, when they were used for everything from family get-togethers to fast-food deliveries..." ("Tunnels once connected Egypt and Gaza. Here's what they looked like 10 years ago," NPR, Morning Edition, December 11, 2023. In 2024, Yahya Sinwar and his family hid deep within the Gaza tunnels as the Israel-Gaza war played out.)

## lurch (verb)

lurched from scandal to scandal  
Facebook has ~ over the past months

lurch (too far) to the left  
the party should not ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## lure (verb)

lured him out of the bar  
they ~ and robbed him

lure listeners down (dark sonic) avenues  
her songs ~ (Billie Eilish)

lured him (back) to Memphis  
she ~ with sexually explicit texts and he took the bait

lured the Persian fleet into a trap  
the Greeks ~ (at Salamis)

lure Diana into doing  
he used deceit to ~ the interview

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Don't take the bait!"

## lure (noun)

lure of the Himalayas  
the ~ is still with Tomaz Humar (the great climber)

lure of (modern) conveniences  
the ~, steady jobs and a cash economy (to the Inuit)

lure of the north  
the ~ is hard to overcome (migrants)

lure of the (majestic) peaks  
the ~ pulled him back (Montana Blackfoot)

lure of sex  
he used the ~ to get athletes to his club

lure of the summit  
the ~ proved stronger than a fear of death (climbing)

lure of the water

the ~ was too much (drowning incident)

**lure of wealth**

the ~ provides powerful incentives (capitalism)

**lure of easy money**

the ~ sparked a land boom (Everglades)

**lure of multiple majors**

at many universities, the ~ has become so strong

**lure of cheap homesteads and easy money**

the ~ sparked a land boom

**lure of investing**

for many, the ~ is the thrill of uncertain reward (stocks)

\*\*\* a riddle...

♦ Question: What do you have if you have a Damsel Dredger, a Braided Bitch, a Crystal Rubber Bugger, a Pulsating Caddis, or a Gold Beaded Poopah? (Answer: Trout flies for fly fishing.)

\*\*\* In the southern Appalachians...

♦ In the southern Appalachians, hunters will hang a ham from a tree on the crest of the ridge to lure bears to the scent. They will return to the bait with dogs, which will follow the scent of the bear. Such baiting is strictly illegal, and I have never noticed a single example...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Don't take the bait!"

**lurk (verb)**

**lurking**

if you've had a heart attack, another could be ~

how many quakes are ~ in unknown faults

Luan is always ~ now (Rio 2016 football final)

**lurks in every direction**

danger ~

**lurk in every shadow**

for some people, dangers ~ (anxiety)

**lurking on the margins**

Manchester United is ~ of the Premier League's top four

**terrorism lurks**

~ in small towns and rural areas (as well as cities)

\*\*\* Harar, Ethiopia...

♦ "Hyenas skulk after dark behind people." (Harar, Ethiopia.)

**lurking (lurking danger, etc.)**

**lurking danger**

he was seized by a gut feeling of ~

**lust (noun)**

**lust for gold**

the word lust has wider application: ~, lust for power

*Lust for Life*

~, the film about van Gough with Kirk Douglas

**lust for power**

he has been described as having a ~ and money

the word lust has wider application: lust for gold, ~

**lust for travel**

his restlessness, his ~ (Bruce Chatwin)

**lust for war**

his brutality and ~ (a Marine)

**lust for power and money**

he has been described as having a ~

**curb their lust**

politicians need to ~ for contributions

**luster (noun)**

**luster of (unlimited) promise**

he arrived in Washington with the ~ (a politician)

**lost its luster**

but in the 1960s, Detroit ~ (65 years ago)

**lynch (lynch mob, etc.)**

see *lynch mob*

**lynched**

**lynched**

I give you hope that can't be ~ (Rochester demonstration)

\*\*\* THE GOOD WORK PROGRESSES...

♦ On October 9 Cheyenne's *Leader* reprinted a story from the *Deadwood Times*: "THE GOOD WORK PROGRESSES: [The sheriffs] returned yesterday and reported that they found the bodies of two men hanging to a pine tree about seven miles from Jenny's Stockade... They were black in the face, with tongues and eyes protruding, and were a ghastly looking spectacle... They had been hanging for some time, and it is thought that the Scott Davis party did the good work last week. The sheriffs did not molest them, but left them to swing and fester in the sun, a warning to others of the same ilk." / None of the men in the Davis party ever confirmed that these two men were hanged by them or that they were Carey and McBride..." (From *Great Stagecoach Robberies Of the Old West* by R. Michael Wilson, Chapter Nine, "The Ironclad Stagecoach." "Eventually all but one of the robbers, and several other road agents (robbers), would be killed and four-fifth of the treasure recovered." These events happened in the environs of Deadwood, South Dakota, October, 1878.)

**lynching (media lynching, etc.)**

**media lynching**

he said the actor was the victim of a "~"

**partisan lynching**

this was just a ~ (impeachment)

**digital lynching**

Khelif claims to be the victim of a '~' (DSD / boxing)

**illegal and unconstitutional public lynching**

he will not participate in his own ~ (a fired official)

**victim of a (media) lynching**

his lawyer claims he is the ~

♦ "That's how the press read the signs, too. 'YUPPIES' LAST RITES READIED' was the headline in the *Times* after Black Monday. 'SUNSET FOR YUPPIES' was the headline in *USA Today*. Obituaries for the yuppie began to appear—notably (and strangely unmentioned in McGrath's book). Hendrik Hertzberg's classic 'The Short Happy Life of the American Yuppie,' in *Esquire*. The yuppie, Hertzberg said, was 'the collective projection of a moral anxiety. We loaded onto him everything we hated about the times we had been living through... Then we strung the little bastard up.' It was over." ("What Happened To The Yuppie?" by Louis Menand, *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2024. Great writing.)

♦ “Michael Irvin analogized the controversy he’s in with Marriott to a time when black men accused of harassing white women were hung [sic] from trees.” (“Michael Irvin: Woman’s hotel accusations turning into modern-day lynching” by Ryan Glasspiegel, *The New York Post*, March 8, 2023.)

♦ “We will vigorously resist this attempted public lynching of a black man who has made extraordinary contributions to our culture.” (A statement by R. Kelly’s representatives responding to the #MuteRKelly campaign. From R. Kelly’s Ex-Wife Accuses Him Of Physical Abuse” by Anastasia Tsioulcas, NPR, October 9, 2018.)

♦ Mr. Salam: And when you have people who are trying to kind of isolate part of your statement...to hang you (chuckling), metaphorically, I think that it’s really bad news for our culture. / Mr. Zirin: I think given some of the sensitivities around this, first of all, that lynch metaphors are very inappropriate... / Mr. Salam: Dave, that was a misstatement—that was a careless misstatement, and I apologize for that. / Mr. Zirin: Okay... (“Shop Talk”: Was NPR Right To Oust Juan Williams?” NPR, Tell Me More, October 22, 2010.)

\*\*\* “Both girls witnessed the same lynching...”

♦ “[T]wo [girls]—one white, one black—who were almost exactly the same age and had both witnessed the same lynching. A real lynching, not someone’s cheap metaphor... I don’t know what image people have of these things to the degree that they think of them at all...” (NPR, “From Martin Luther King Jr., A Burden and Gift,” Tell Me More, Michel Martin, January 13, 2012. Read the 2023 book *King: A Life* by Jonathan Eig.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## lynch mob

lynch mob

Bill Cosby’s wife says he was the victim of “~s”

lynch mobs with pitchforks

what I call ~ (the CEO of AIG, about critics)

partisan lynch mob

informed voices were drowned out by the thunder of the ~

digital lynch mob

he accused people of forming a ~ (tech’s Sean Parker)

\*\*\* “Hey, Mr. Cunningham. I said, ‘Hey, Mr. Cunningham’...”

♦ “Lynch mobs against people suspected of crimes against children are not uncommon in Mexico.”

♦ “Social media footage of the lynch mob showed police looking on.”

♦ “The main body of the citizens’ force, numbering nearly one hundred men, filed into the jail yard. They took Scanland and jailer McKane prisoner and placed them under guard... / Once the citizens were in the cell area, they threw ropes over the braces between a joist and then opened the cells. Joe Tuttle and Len Redfield were quietly taken out into the corridor. Redfield was game, so when the men went into the cell to bring him out he coolly looked around and asked, ‘Who is the leader of this gang?’ As the noose was placed around his neck he remarked, ‘Well, boys, I guess my time has come.’ / Tuttle broke down completely when the men entered his cell. He placed his hands over his face and sobbed, ‘Let me talk; give me time to talk,’ and one of the men replied, ‘You didn’t give poor Collins time to talk, and we will serve you the same way.’ / Both men were drawn up and the loose ends tied off. They did not struggle, even though they slowly strangled to death. After the two men were hanging, young Carpenter was brought out of his cell and told to look at his uncle and at Joe Tuttle and to take warning by their fate—he was young and could still turn from his course and make a man of himself... He was returned to his cell, and the mob guarded the hanging men until a physician pronounced them dead. They then disbanded and went about their business as though nothing happened. / An inquest soon followed, conducted by the local judge, the coroner being absent. The verdict? The two men had been hanged by persons unknown...” (*Great Stagecoach Robberies Of The Old West* by R. Michael Wilson. Chapter 12, “A Lynchin’ Bee.”)

♦ “The community is well convinced he was disloyal. The city does not miss him. The lesson of his death has had a wholesome effect on the Germanists of Collinsville [Illinois] and the rest of the nation.” (The report in a local paper on the murder of Robert Prager, a German immigrant, who was lynched in Collinsville, Illinois, now a suburb of St. Louis, on April 4, 1918. He was stripped naked and made to walk down Main Street singing patriotic songs. The drunken mob broke beer bottles at his feet, so that he walked barefoot on glass shards to the tree from which he was hanged. The mob believed him to be a German spy. Eleven men were put on trial for his murder, and all were acquitted. From “During World War I, U.S. Government Propaganda Erased German Culture,” NPR, All Things Considered, April 7, 2017.)

♦ “Hey, Mr. Cunningham. I said, ‘Hey, Mr. Cunningham’... Don’t you remember me, Mr. Cunningham? I’m Jean Louise Finch. You brought us some hickory nuts one early morning. Remember? We had a talk... I go to school with your boy... He’s a nice boy, tell him hey for me, won’t you?” (A small girl shames a lynch mob and affects an entire generation. From the beloved novel and film *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See “Tracing The Story Of ‘Lynch Mob’” by Lakshmi Gandhi, NPR, Code Switch, September 30, 2013.

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

# M

## Machiavelli (Trump’s Machiavelli, etc.)

*Machiavelli for Women*

~: *Defend Your Worth, Grow Your Ambition...*

Trump’s Machiavelli

he essentially became ~, plotting and planning...

♦ “I mean, his life basically vanished like an Alka-Seltzer tablet.” (Guy Raz and Stacey Vanek Smith breezily dishing about Machiavelli on NPR to promote Stacey’s book, *Machiavelli for Women: Defend your Worth, Grow Your Ambition, and Win the Workplace.*)

\*\*\* “Machiavelli, an Italian patriot...”

♦ “‘Italy,’ declared Metternich, ‘is a geographical expression.’ He spoke no more than the truth. Never in all its history had the Italian peninsula constituted a single nation; even in the days of imperial Rome it had been merely a part—and usually quite a small part—of the Roman state. Since the early Middle Ages, however—and perhaps even earlier—the concept of Italian nationhood had existed as a distant ideal: Dante and Petrarch had both dreamed of it, as later had Machiavelli.” (*The Middle Sea: A History of the Mediterranean* by the historian John Julius Norwich.)

♦ “Niccolo Machiavelli’s cool appreciation of expediency, expressed most famously in his slender book *The Prince*, has made his name a synonym for double-dealing and cynicism. And yet most modern historians who examine his life and work offer a more balanced perspective... [He] was also an Italian patriot who believed that the well-being of his countrymen could only be ensured by a strong ruler who would unify the country...” (National Geographic *Almanac of World History* by Patricia S. Daniels and Stephen G. Hyslop.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Many historical personages—Hector, Pandarus, King Canute, Machiavelli, Captain William Bligh, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Joe McCarthy—have been mischaracterized in history and in the language.

♦ see also *Lady Macbeth* (epithet), *Rasputin* (epithet), *Svengali* (allusion)

## Machiavellian (adjective)

Machiavellian

his rags-to-riches story is amazing, but his practices are ~

## Machiavellian genius

it was a stroke of ~ or obliviousness...

## Machiavellian machinations

we are deep in the weeds of ~ (politics)  
the ~ of Washington politics

## Machiavellian manservant

the power struggle between Tony and his ~ Hugo (a film)

## Machiavellian sociopaths

challenge his notion that powerful people are all ~

## Machiavellian tool

his anti-corruption campaign is a ~ to eliminate rivals

## Machiavellian and ruthless

he had to be ~ (a leader)

## at his most Machiavellian

Billy Bob Thornton plays a political consultant ~

♦ Divisive: "Machiavellian"; created her own universe of loyalists; long viewed as untouchable; her stunning fall; a "head on a stick" moment; forced to resign... (A CBS executive. As Dateline NBC might put it, "She was untouchable...until she wasn't.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "'Machiavellian' should be a compliment and *The Prince* has in fact been an infallible guidebook followed closely by all successful leaders." (A BBC blurb for "Niccolo Machiavelli—the Prince," produced and directed by Clive Brill. A Pacificus production for BBC Radio 4.)

♦ Many historical personages—Hector, Pandarus, King Canute, Machiavelli, Captain William Bligh, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Joe McCarthy—have been mischaracterized in history and in the language.

## machine (the Swiss Machine, etc.)

### "Swiss Machine"

Ueli Steck, who was known as the ~, died in an accident nicknamed the ~ for his ruthlessly methodical approach...

♦ "He is prolific, making great runs, a natural scorer, great attitude. He is a machine." (Roy Keane about Erling Haaland.)

♦ "Hector is a machine, man." (The great Spanish climber Araceli Segarra about the great Mexican climber Hector Ponce De Leon.)

## machine (publicity machine, etc.)

### machine

he's a ~ (Ronaldo starts for Man U vs. Newcastle)  
the pandemic reminded us that people are not ~s (jobs)

### machine of state

the great ~ always wound up mired (Colombia)

### NFL's (relentless marketing) machine

the ~ (Super Bowl Latest)

### anthem machine

George M. Cohan was an ~ (songwriting)

### cash machine

see *cash machine* (noun)

### construction machine

China is a ~ (international infrastructure)

### entertainment machine

Hollywood is an ~ constantly hungry for new talent

## gaffe machine

Biden has called himself a "~" (verbal miscues)

## goal machine

Lewandowski, their Polish ~ (Bayern Munich)  
even ~s need a rest (Erling Haaland substituted)  
City ~ Haaland was outstanding throughout...

## intelligence machine

we need to have a robust ~ to keep us safe

## meat machines

stop treating animals like ~ (factory farms)

## money machine

it's a ~ for the owners, not the fans (Man U)

## outrage machine

the 24/7 ~ (media, social media, etc.)

## policy machine

she's the ~ who can fix it (candidate Elizabeth Warren)

## propaganda machine

the ~ has helped keep in power (state media)

## publicity machine

as the ~ rolled forward (for a film)  
generally, she played her part in the ~ (Hollywood gossip)  
the ~ that is Kim Kardashian

## Scream Machine

we kayaked ~ (the Green River Gorge, North Carolina)  
the Great American ~ (a roller coaster)

## sex machine

see *machine* (sex)

## social-media machine

that's when the ~ starts, you can't do anything about it  
(racist abuse of soccer player)

## war machine

factory workers for the ~  
the diamond trade fuels the ~ (Angola)  
I watched the U.S.-led coalition build up the ~ (Gulf War)

## stolen-base machine

he was a ~ (Lou "the Base Burglar" Brock)

## well-oiled machine

the team is a ~ (sports)  
his administration is not a ~ (politics)  
everybody is working as a team, we're a ~ (volleyball)

## well-oiled (propaganda) machine

Isis has a ~

## well-run machine

it was a ~ (the TV series *Law & Order*)

## killing machine

the hydraulic below a dam is a ~ (kayaking, swimmers)  
the crocodile is an efficient ~  
when let outside, the typical house cat turns into a ~

it's a terrifying force, a massive ~ (Marines take Fallujah)

#### marketing machine

the league's ~ (N.B.A.)  
they are a ~ (the Dallas Cowboys, to include boxing)  
the NFL's relentless ~ (Super Bowl Latest)

#### winning machine

they were a brilliantly managed half-season ~ (Chelsea)  
they are a ~ (the Azzurri / Italian national soccer team)  
Real are the Champions League's ruthless ~ (Madrid)

#### intelligence-gathering machine

the US has a vast ~ (terrorism, at home and abroad)

#### resentment-generating machine

the modern meritocracy is a ~ (David Brooks)

#### fantasy-making machine

Hollywood, the greatest ~ the world has ever known

#### money-making machine

he was once a ~ worth \$400 million (a boxer)  
the big teams are enormous ~s (soccer / EPL 2021)  
Disney is a ~ that follows formulas based on past success

#### great machine

imagine the US military and its diplomatic corps as a ~

#### medical machine

I had always felt I was an important cog in the ~  
(infection)

#### political machine

a powerful black ~ based in Harlem

#### relentless (marketing) machine

the NFL's ~ (Super Bowl Latest)

#### robust (intelligence) machine

we need to have a ~ to keep us safe

#### ruthless machine

Liverpool are a ~ (Liverpool 5 Manchester United 0)

#### cog in the machine

see *cog* (*cog in the machine, etc.*)

#### part of a (Democratic) machine

he was ~ that won year after year (a political figure)

#### machine is on pause

the entire Hollywood ~ (SAG-AFTRA strike)

#### machine hums along

that ~ despite a record of failure (US military)

#### became a (recording) machine

I started just taking notes, I ~ (Hamill at RFK assassination)

#### creates a machine

he ~ and the players are just cogs (soccer manager)

#### keep the machine running

they ~ no matter who's in charge (national-security)

♦ watch for the hate and disrespect machine to rev up the attacks (Politics.)

♦ "With victory secured, [Erling] Haaland was replaced by Cole Palmer at half-time—even goal machines need a rest..." (Soccer.)

♦ "Haaland is a beast, he is a goalscoring machine, he lives and breathes goals." (Alan Shearer about Erling Haaland, one in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

#### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I watched the U.S.-led coalition build up the war machine." (Jackie Northam about Operation Desert Shield. Desert Storm freed Kuwait.)

♦ "When you have 8,000 of them moving into a town like that with all their firepower, it's a terrifying force, just a massive killing machine." (Dexter Filkins, embedded with the Marines in Fallujah, November, 2004. Eighty-two Marines were killed, making it the deadliest battle for Marines since Vietnam.)

♦ "I'm part of a machine that always wins." (A Marine captain in Marjah, Afghanistan, 2010.)

♦ "Really the most depressing thing to me is if you imagine the US military and its diplomatic corps as kind of a great machine that is supposed to be kind of dynamic and alive and processing information and correcting course and changing course when it needs to, the thing could never change..." ("Dexter Filkins on the Fall of Afghanistan," *The New Yorker Radio Hour*.)

♦ "WHAT IS VETERANS DAY? Veterans Day is an American holiday to honor the patriotism, love of country, and sacrifice of veterans. THIS WON'T STAND! We reject this holiday and refuse to celebrate it. The American war machine should not be honored for the horrors unleashed on others. WHAT NOW? Instead, we will celebrate Martyrs Day in honor of those martyred by the Israel-US war machine." (A flyer put out by the Columbia University Apartheid Divest group announcing a protest at Columbia University. The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ see also *cog* (*cog in the machine, etc.*)

## machine (sex machine)

#### sex machine

I told them he was a ~ (my boyfriend)

## machinery (government, etc.)

#### machinery of law enforcement

the ~

#### machinery of government

the Party, the ~, and the nation are one (China)

#### machinery of society

the ~ in its dehumanized extensions (bailiffs, bankers, etc.)

#### machinery around her

the ~ only grew (Britney Spears)

#### machinery of the state

the ~ is engaged in the suppression of...

#### machinery of state

I relish being a tiny cog in the massive ~ (Swiss voter)

#### cog in the machinery

he was a fossilized bureaucrat, a ~ for decades

#### machinery is set in motion

the infernal plot ~ when they receive a letter (*Is God Is*)

#### set the (state's) machinery in motion

she was able to ~ but couldn't stop or direct it (rights)

#### set its machinery going

we hit upon a scheme that promised well, and ~  
(subterfuge)



## mad (crazy)

mad scramble

organizers start the ~ to... (international festival)

baseball-mad

the crowd of ~ Habaneros (Cuba)

business-mad

Hanoi is brash and ~

celebrity-mad

a ~ world

football-mad

~ F.S.U.

hockey-mad

in ~ Canada

soccer mad

Turks are ~

status-mad

~ consumers

totally mad

it's mad, ~ (running with bulls at Pamplona)

♦ see also *crazy (and mad / as adverbs)*

## made of (character)

what AJ is made of

we now need to find out ~ (the boxer after upset loss)

## Madeleine McCann (Ireland's

## Madeleine McCann, etc.)

Ireland's Madeleine McCann

the mystery of "~~" ("Disappearance of Mary Boyle")

## made man (experience)

made men

these were ~ (NBA veterans vs. rookies / sports talk)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A "made man" refers to the Mafia. The epithet "OG," which stands for "Original Gangster," seems similar. Both refer to experience, authority, authenticity, power, and intimidation. In the NBA, some players wield more authority than coaches or even general managers.

## madhouse (place)

madhouse

it's a ~ there (a crisis situation)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## madness (enthusiasm)

March Madness

college basketball fans look forward to ~

♦ "Taylor Swift fans in Argentina have been camping out for five months ahead of Eras Tour stop."

## madness ("this is madness," etc.)

madness

the last four years have been ~ (under Biden)

## Madonna (Russian Madonna, etc.)

Russian Madonna

pop star Alla Pugacheva, who is basically the ~

## maelstrom (in a maelstrom)

in a maelstrom of (negative) attention

he has found himself ~ (an athlete)

## maelstrom (other)

maelstrom of controversy

her posts stirred a ~ (Julia Alekseyeva / UPenn)

swept up in this maelstrom

savings are ~ (electronic stock exchanges)

## maestro (person)

living legends, phenoms, maestros

they are ~ (DeNiro and Scorsese)

## mafia (group)

Bill's mafia

how Kyle Brandt became an honorary member of ~ (NFL)

Guyanese mafia

the ~ in Britain (Lord Alli, Cynthis Pine, Raj Persaud...)

lesbian mafia

Alen denied ever using the phrase "~~" (Australian soccer)

Montecito Mafia

the Sussexes' inner circle has been dubbed the "~~"

Scottish mafia

part of Labour's so-called ~

Stanford mafia

there's a bit of a ~ within the organization (NFL 49ers)

♦ "Donald Dewar, Robin Cook and Gordon Brown, part of Labour's so-called Scottish mafia..."

♦ "The Sussexes' exclusive inner circle has been dubbed the 'Montecito Mafia' by one Hollywood executive."

♦ "After Biden's call, Harris had summoned aides to her house, and a dozen or so people gathered around a table. She sat beside Tony West, her brother-in-law and unofficial consigliere, who had served as the third-ranking official in Obama's Justice Department." ("The Ascent: Can Kamala Harris defy her doubters—and end the Trump era?" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024. No.)

♦ "As you get higher up in the levels, when it comes to the national circuit, if you don't fit in with the crowd, you won't make it." (Retired W-League player Rhali Dobson. Quoted in "Lisa De Vanna's allegations highlight tensions in Australia's complex football culture" by Samantha Lewis, *Analysis, Sport*, 18 Oct 2021.)

♦ "Lisa and Rhali: We see you and we hear you." (Football Australia (FA) chief executive James Johnson, responding to their accusations of "women protecting women who abuse women." From "Lisa De Vanna's allegations highlight tensions in Australia's *complex* [italics

mine] football culture" by Samantha Lewis, ABC Australia, Analysis, Sport, 18 Oct 2021.)

♦ "More than 96 athletes in the 2023 Fifa Women's World Cup are out today... [R]oughly 13% of the players in the 2023 World Cup identify as LGBTQ+. Outsports reports Australia leads the way with 10 openly gay players, which Jackie J dubs 'The Gayest Team 2k23.'" ("Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup: 'Good, queer joy' on and off the pitch" by Aileen Weintraub, BBC, 18th August 2023." See also "Lisa De Vanna's allegations highlight tensions in Australia's *complex* [italics mine] football culture" by Samantha Lewis, ABC Australia, Analysis, Sport, 18 Oct 2021.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When I say *Mafia*, I mean what most people see in the word: people who take over control but never let anyone have an inside look at what they are doing." (The great Terje Haakonsen, comparing the International Olympic Committee to the Mafia.)

♦ "Consigliere" is another word associated with the Mafia that is often used figuratively, as in "Longtime Adams consigliere faces indictment over illegal gifts."

## magic (versus reality)

magic

decisions must be based on science, not ~

magic versus science, evidence and data

his policy is ~ (public-health crisis)

## magic (magic cure, etc.)

magic from Messi

Argentina are ahead, ~ (Qatar FIFA World Cup)

magic bullet

see *magic bullet* (noun)

magic carpet

see *carpet* (*magic carpet*)

magic cure

there is no ~ (for kid fire-setting behavior)

magic formula

there is no ~, but try... (predicting NCAA winner)

we don't have a ~ for predicting wildfires

Magic Kingdom

see *magic* (*Magic Kingdom, etc.*)

magic moment

that ~ when you feel the team spirit coming together

magic mushrooms

amphetamines, LSD, ~, amyl nitrate and Ecstasy

magic spell

80 types of weapons and a dozen ~s (computer game)

magic wand

see *wand* (*magic wand, etc.*)

magic word

the ~s are "please," "thank you" (adult to 3-year-old)

there are no ~s to motivate every student (a teacher)

"I want to speak to a supervisor" can be ~s (disputes)

STEM was a ~ (in education / "pedagogical vapor")

my magic

~ lies in my people ties (boxing promoter Don King)

trail magic

see *magic* (*trail magic, etc.*)

moment of magic

Linda Caicedo's ~ (goal v. Germany / 2023 World Cup)

works its magic

the digital effects team ~ (on a commercial)

♦ "I promote people I'm a promoter of the people, for the people, and by the people, and my magic lies in my people ties." (The great boxing promoter Don King.)

## magic (magic carpet)

see *carpet* (*magic carpet*)

## magic (Magic Kingdom, etc.)

Magic Dragon

their classic hit, "Puff, the ~"

Magic Kingdom

smiling faces at the ~ (Disney)

Magic Slate

paper and pencils, ~s, communication boards

## magic (trail magic, etc.)

trail magic

we experienced a lot of ~ (on AT Trail / trail angels)

## magical (effect)

magical

the effect was ~ (a new drug)

it's absolutely magical (data from migrating birds)

magical part

the ~ of backcountry skiing is getting away from people

## magical (versus reality)

magical

this isn't ~, this is scientific (public-health debate)

magical shortcut

joining the military should not be a ~ to hero status

## magic bullet (noun)

magic bullet

nothing yet has proved a ~ (against oak-killing spore)

weight-loss drugs aren't a ~ (Ozempic, Wegovy, etc.)

no food or drink is a ~ (against strokes and heart attacks)

Magic Bullet' Against Zika-Carrying Mosquito

"No ~, CDC Director Says" (2016)

magic bullet for performance

compression clothing are not the ~ (sports, gym, etc.)

magic bullet for our energy problems

is thorium a ~ (nuclear reactors)

magic bullet to this

there's no ~, there is no simple answer (custody of kids)

magic bullet ideas

there's little evidence that ~ can solve this issue

no magic bullet, no cure-all

it's ~ but it's a strong, substantial step in the right direction

no magic bullet, no vaccine or pill

there is no ~ for rape and abuse (public health / WHO)

inexpensive magic bullet

we'd all love to find the ~ to our economic troubles

single magic bullet

there isn't actually a ~ (traffic deaths)

singular magic bullet

it was never intended to be a ~ (anti-obesity plan)

no treatment, no cure, no magic bullet

there's ~ to protect the developing fetus (Zika virus)

find the (inexpensive) magic bullet

we'd all love to ~ to our economic troubles (recession)

searching for that "magic bullet"

we're all ~ to help us lose weight

touted as a magic bullet

gene therapy has been ~ for treating and curing disorders

♦ "It's not one thing, not one magic bullet... It's a comprehensive and integrated approach." (A public-health matter.)

♦ "I don't think it was ever intended to be a singular magic bullet. This was just raising levels of awareness." (A doctor about schools weighing students and sending the parents the results in so-called "Fat Letters." It seems these "fat letters" have had no effect on weight loss or obesity rates, while at the same time having harmful unintended consequences. In most states, however, parents can now opt their children out of the school program.)

## magician (the Magician)

nicknamed 'The Magician'

she was ~ for her court craft (tennis star Aga Radwanska)

## magician (ability)

magician

she was a ~, she worked wonders (a wedding planner)

master magician

the ~ and the manipulator (boxing promoter Don King)

♦ "It was an utter outrage [to not recognize Buster Douglas as the champion]. It was, however, a trick too far for King, the master magician and the manipulator, because the WBC and the WBA retreated from their position..." (From Powerplay: The House of Don King, "Episode 7: Buster Douglas Knocks Out Don King," BBC Sounds. With Steve Bunce and Lennox Lewis.)

## magic up (verb)

magic up 30,000 casual workers

the idea that you can ~ is laughable (the economy)

♦ "They're trying to 'David Copperfield' their way out of terrible policies. (Politics. The allusion is to the great illusionist, not the great novel by Charles Dickens! It is a creative use of a name as a verb.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Merriam-Webster recognizes "magic" as a verb and gives the relatively recent date of 1906 for its first use. Usage examples include "magic up" and "magic away."

♦ magic up (magics up) / magicked up / magicked up... (Confusing!)

♦ see also up (science up, etc.)

## Maginot Line

Maginot Line between two (warring) worlds

14th Street was the ~ (Manhattan theater world)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The British General Staff and our headquarters in the field had long been anxious about the gap between the northern end of the Maginot Line and the beginning of the British fortified front along the Franco-Belgian frontier. Mr. Hore-Belisha, the Secretary of State for War, raised the point in the War Cabinet on several occasions. Representations were made through military channels. The Cabinet and our military leaders however were naturally shy of criticising those whose armies were ten times as strong as our own. The French thought that the Ardennes were impassable for large modern armies. Marshal Petain had told the Senate Army Commission, 'This sector is not dangerous.' A great deal of field work was done along the Meuse, but nothing like a strong line of pill-boxes and anti-tank obstacles, such as the British had made along the Belgian sector, was attempted... Here, then, from Sedan to Hirson, on the Oise, along a front of fifty miles, there were no permanent fortifications, and only two divisions of professional troops." (*Their Finest Hour* by Winston S. Churchill, Book 1, Chapter II, "The Battle Of France.")

## magisterial (adjective)

magisterial

a biography, even one as ~ as this one...

magisterial *The Wind and the Lion*

John Milius's ~ (film)

magisterial presence

it lacks any ~ ("melancholia" vs "insanity")

magisterial retrospective

the National Gallery of Art assembled a ~

## magnet (attraction)

magnet for Muslims

Makkah is a ~ (Hajj)

magnets for beggars

mosques are ~ (Harar / end of Hajj)

magnet for business

they want to make it once again a ~ (lower Manhattan)

magnet for (political) candidates

state fairs are a ~

magnet for (avid) rock climbers

Looking Glass Rock is a ~ (NC)

magnet for controversy

a ~, he riled people up... (an artist)

he is a ~ (the footballer Paul Pogba)

magnet for (illegal) immigrants

Fairfax County is a ~

magnet for immigration

New York is a ~

magnet for (foreign) investment

tourism has been a ~ (Burma)

magnet for (music) lovers

Nashville is a ~ (live music, museums, etc.)

magnet for (illegal) migrants  
the border village is a ~ (Las Chapas)

magnet for (committed) militants  
Karachi is a ~

magnet for (sex) offenders  
the area has become a ~ upon their release from prison

magnet for people  
it isn't much of a ~ who want to meet people (a town)

magnet for politicians  
the convention is a ~ and businessmen (Davos)

magnet for (sexual) predators  
Webcams are a ~

magnet for (gold) prospectors  
the area was a ~

magnet for (slave) raiders  
the area is a ~ (Sudan)

magnet for retirees  
Western North Carolina is a ~

magnet for sharks  
the seals are a ~

magnet for students  
Dr. Chamberlain was a ~ (approachable, etc.)

magnet for thieves  
Swiss ATM machines are a ~ from across Europe

magnet for tourists  
St Mark's Square is a ~ (Venice)

magnet for transients  
the city has become a ~ from around the West

magnet for westerners  
it's a ~ seeking large tax-free salaries (Saudi Arabia)

magnet for artists and tourists  
Santa Fe is a ~

magnets for the drunk and the unruly  
they are ~ (urban liquor markets)

magnets for pickpockets, shoplifters, and muggers  
shopping districts are ~

magnet for the eating-disordered  
running is a ~

magnet for its legions of poor  
Karachi is a ~ (Pakistan)

magnet school  
~s induce kids to schools outside their neighborhoods

magnet and amenity  
waterfronts are a ~ for downtown development

fun magnet

the pristine Santa Paula creek is a ~ in the summer

immigrant magnet  
~s like California

job magnet  
the bad economy took away the ~ pulling people here

media magnet  
the case has become a ~

suicide magnet  
the viaduct has a morbid reputation as a ~ (Toronto)  
The Gap has a reputation as a ~ (Sydney)  
the Fall Creek Gorge is a ~ (Cornell University)

tourist magnet  
Bali has been a ~

bad luck magnet  
he is a ~

social magnets  
taco trucks, cultural icons and ~ in Mexico (and US)

become a magnet  
South Beach has ~ for crime and disorder (Miami)

**magnetic (adjective)**

emotionally magnetic  
the idea of our decline is ~

extraordinarily magnetic  
he is an ~ camera subject

**magnetism (noun)**

personal magnetism  
Amundsen had the ~ that is the hallmark of great leaders

share a deep magnetism  
Bogarde and Rampling ~ (1974 film *The Night Porter*)

**magnifying glass (under...)**

under the magnifying glass  
Amazon is ~ in several probes in the U.S. and Europe

under the magnifying glass right now  
the social problems that are ~

put us under the magnifying glass  
another death would ~ (NASCAR)

**magnifying glass (search)**

holding a magnifying glass to those gaps  
the economic crisis is ~ (job losses / people of color)

\*\*\* A Texas kid...

♦ "Well, to be fair—12-year-old Cayden Parson of McKinney, Texas said he was technically trying to use his new Christmas present to set the newspaper on fire. The lawn was just an innocent bystander." ("Texas Kid Immediately Uses Christmas Present To Set Fire To His Family's Lawn," Tara Holley, KNUE 101.5, December 28, 2021.)

**magpie (bird)**

magpie language  
our ~ (Greek, Anglo-Saxon, French words, etc.)

magpie's curiosity

his ~... (the writer Patrick Leigh Fermor)

magpie's nest

her mind was a ~ of knowledge

magpie tastes

Harjo, like Quentin Tarantino, has ~ (pays tribute to others)

♦ "Murphy...was a brilliant talker... [H]er mind, a magpie's nest of knowledge, connected people to ideas and ideas to sweeping philosophies." (Esther Murphy. From "Clock's Ticking" by Rachel Syme, *The New Yorker*, July 5, 2021.)

♦ Fans of the Newcastle United Football Club are known as the Magpies.

♦ "Our borrowings from other than the classical language have been scanty although they have contributed to the richness of our speech... / American Indian: *mugwump*. Arabia: *alchemy*. Brazil: *jaguar*. China: *typhoon*. Germany: *waltz*. Holland: *buoy*. Iceland: *geyser*. India: *puttee*. Italy: *grotto*. Mexico: *coyote*. Palestine: *jubilee*. Portugal: *copra*. Russia: *mammoth*. Scandinavia: *ski*. Spain: *stevedore*. Turkey: *caviar*. West Indies: *canoe*. (Our "magpie" language. From *Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From the chapter "A Basketful Of Word Stories.")

\*\*\* "They rule over their kingdom with an iron claw..."

♦ "High up in their nests, they rule over their kingdom with an iron claw... Magpies are arguably the country's most polarising bird... 'Are you really Australian if you haven't been swooped by a magpie?' ("Magpie swooping: Inside the Australian bird's annual reign of terror" by Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC News, Sydney, Sept. 29, 2023.)

## maiden (adjective)

maiden venture

it was not the group's ~ into Pakistan

maiden voyage

HMS *Queen Elizabeth* set sail for the US on its ~

maiden win

his solo break paved the way for his ~ (Tour de France)

## main course (and main dish)

main course

this is just the appetizer, the ~ will come (battle)

♦ "Here [in Marble Canyon] the men started to grow restless: the trip was taking too long and was bruising, cold, and dangerous. Major Powell, they complained, was interested only in science—in taking observations, in collecting, in writing. He seemed less concerned with getting the team down to calm waters, to safety, and to home. / There were mutinous rumblings, and they were scarcely mitigated when their leader realized—and promptly told his men—that it was going to get worse and take still longer. For with the cliffs fast rising around them and the outflow of a known river named by the old conquistador explorers the Colorado Chiquita bursting in on their left side, it was clear that the main part of the huge cleft, the hitherto untraveled Big Canyon, as it was then vaguely known—lay now directly in front of them. What had gone before were mere hors d'oeuvres. The main dish lay just ahead. / 'We are three quarters of a mile in the depths of the earth,' Powell would later write in his diary." (*The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ "There's one of your Whigs for ye!" cried Alan; and then turning to me, he asked if I had done much execution. / I told him I had winged one, and thought it was the captain. / "And I've settled two," says he. "No, there's not enough blood let; they'll be back again. To your watch, David. This was but a dram before meat." ("Siege of the Round-House" from *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson.)

## mainstay (noun)

mainstay of (gossip) columns

sex is a ~

mainstay of the (bear's) diet

acorns and other mast is the ~

mainstay of the economy

agriculture is the ~ (Pakistan)

mainstay of (Uzbekistan's) economy

cotton is the ~

mainstay of (burn) management

antibiotics are a ~

mainstay for the national side

Raheem Sterling has been a ~ since his debut (soccer)

economic mainstay

trafficking of opium and heroin is Afghanistan's ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A mainstay is an important rope on a sailing ship that serves to support and stabilize.

## mainstream (society)

mainstream

his ideas about diet and health have entered the ~

mainstream of (city) life

remote from the ~

mainstream artists

such ~ as the Chieftains

mainstream audiences

getting short films to ~

mainstream conventions

Ismailis ignore some of the ~ of Islam

mainstream culture

~ and drug culture

mainstream icons

Net culture prides itself on scoffing at ~

mainstream media

the ~ is often accused of liberal bias

nobody in the ~ will touch this

mainstream medicine

a religious sect that rejects ~

mainstream popularity

the brief ~ of folk music

mainstream (Saudi) view

the ~ on social issues (women in sports, etc.)

mainstream thinking

it seeped into ~

mainstream and alternative

he straddled the worlds of ~ medicine

underground and the mainstream

he is stuck between the ~ (a snowboarder)

outside the (medical) mainstream

his approach lies ~ (controversial treatment)

from the fringes into the mainstream  
social media can push conspiracies ~

entered the mainstream  
his ideas about diet and health have ~

join the mainstream  
children of immigrants will ~

## **maintenance (high maintenance, etc.)**

high-maintenance  
Carly is ~, a very complicated person (relationships)

## **major league (success)**

major league  
his journey from the streets to the ~ (a rapper)

## **make (create)**

make Marines  
it's essential to ~ (recruitment and training)

makes me  
I don't make music, music ~ (Skilyr Hicks)

## **make (make of something)**

make of the (Trump administration's) decision  
what do you ~

make of it  
so what did you ~

make of this  
what do you ~

make of (all) this  
so what do Americans ~ (NPR analysis)

## **make-believe (noun)**

air of make-believe  
diplomacy can have an ~ (protocol, etc.)

## **make-believe (adjective)**

make-believe world  
I lived in a ~ that afforded me great comfort (abused)

## **make it (didn't make it / death)**

did not make it  
unfortunately, she ~ (girl died after being stabbed)  
Taraja Ramsess and three of the five children sadly ~

## **make it (attainment)**

didn't make it  
he ~ (finding success in Los Angeles)

♦ Gladys Knight: "He kept dreaming / That someday he'd be a star..." / The Pips: "A superstar, but he didn't get far..." / Gladys Knight: "But he just found out the hard way / That dreams don't always come true..." (A man fails to "make it" and achieve his dreams in L.A., and goes back home to Georgia, but his woman sticks with him. From Midnight Train To Georgia (LIVE)—Gladys Knight & the Pips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhnRyQCeqXI>)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Some terms make it, some don't." (The linguist John McWhorter, about the adoption of new words.)

## **make up (verb)**

made the whole story up  
police are investigating whether he ~ (hate crime allegation)

## **making (creation)**

making and unmaking  
the book describes her ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

## **malaise (decline)**

malaise speech  
it became known as the ~ (Jimmy Carter / 1979)

capitalism's malaise  
remedies for ~

American malaise  
American exceptionalism in a time of ~

current malaise  
United's ~ will not continue indefinitely (soccer team)

economic malaise  
the country's ~

state of malaise  
across the globe, democracy is in a ~

## **malfunction (verb)**

malfunctioned and look muddled  
he picked a team that ~ (Champions League final)

## **malignant (adjective)**

malignant (management) style  
nobody can refine his ~

## **malpractice (noun)**

malpractice  
the diagnosis is wrong, and the prescription is ~

foreign-policy malpractice  
this qualifies as ~ (politics)

coaching malpractice  
that to me is the epitome of ~

journalistic malpractice  
CNN's coverage of the war amounts to ~  
they are guilty of ~ (MSNBC, Rachel Maddow, staff)

political malpractice  
DA Alvin Bragg committed '~' by taking Trump case

### **\*\*\* a horrible case...**

♦ BBC "Austria: Doctor fined for amputating wrong leg of patient," Europe, 1 December 2021.



## mama's boy (and mummy's boy, etc.)

### mama's boy

the term ~ is widely viewed as an emasculating insult

### Mummy's boy

~ Joshua never had any real talent, time to retire (boxing)

♦ "Ya'll is mama's boys. And you don't knowing nothing about me and women. Excuse me!" (The character of David Ruffin in *The Temptations: Season 1*.)

♦ "Mummy's boy Joshua has finally realised he's not any deal at all, never mind the real deal." (A comment following Joshua's bizarre antics following his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk. This is a nod to the great boxer Evander "the Real Deal" Holyfield.)

♦ "Really tricky situation, FA, Prem and FIFA only had 12 years to prepare. You do wonder who ties shoelaces for those in charge." (A sarcastic commenter about "tired, overworked" soccer players and the Qatar World Cup.)

♦ "Bleating millionaire wimps. How about grow a pair." (An online commenter about "tired, overworked" soccer players and the Qatar World Cup.)

♦ "Brilliant performance by Brighton, I know it was only Liverpool, but you can only spank what's in front of you." (Sureditch on a BBC HYS. 1056 thumbs up.)

♦ "I was like, 'That's a little bit too much, like why is he crying?' But at the same time I'm like, 'Maybe he's a mama's boy,' and there's nothing wrong with loving your momma." (The great NFL player Ron Gronkowski about the sobbing USC Trojan quarterback Caleb Williams, who had just lost an important game.)

♦ "Mommy issues—Gilgo Beach murders suspect Rex Heuermann was 'momma's boy': sources" by Matthew Sedacca and Dean Balsamini, New York Post, July 22, 2023." (Reactions from online commenters ranged from "Wow, a real live Norman Bates" and "All moms are controlling" to "Most boys are mama's boys and most girls are daddy's girls.")

♦ "So, in the eyes of her classmates, Nelle's taking on the job of guardian angel to Truman Streckfus Persons... was further proof of her particularity: Truman, as surely as every kid at Monroeville Elementary knew that night followed day, was a sissy, a crybaby, a mamma's boy, and so on. Moreover, if he had worn a sandwich board to school with the words HATE ME painted on it two feet tall, the advertisement would have been redundant. His clothes extended that invitation from a block away. It was the 1930s, the Great Depression...A girl in a flower-print dress of cotton made from a fifty-pound flour sack had nothing to be ashamed of then... Consequently, when Truman's Aunt Jennie, the owner of a millinery in town, outfitted Truman in Hawaiian shirts, white duck shorts, blue socks, sandals, and Eton caps from the best department stores in Mobile and Montgomery, he looked, as one teacher expressed it, 'like a bird of paradise among a flock of crows.' The implied insult to the other children could not be ignored. Boys gave him his comeuppance by rubbing cockleburs into his fine blond hair and bruising his milky skin." (*Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* by Charles J. Shields. It's a wonderful portrait of an amazing woman.)

♦ A boy shall learn to fight, or let him put skirts about his knees. This boy has never been taught to fight, but he shall have his first lesson to-night. We will see if the National Schools can beat a Morgan... Now, a good straight left is the bully's downfall. That is lesson one from the book. Like this." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn. Huw had been beaten up by a bully after his first day in class at a new school.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Mama's boy" is a flex, not an insult." (According to NPR's Neda Ulaby. See the Wikipedia article "Neda Ulaby.")

♦ Man up!

♦ Grow a pair!

♦ see also *apron strings*; *baby (insult)*, *brat (insult)*, *child (spoiled child, etc.)*, *crybaby (person)*

## mammoth (size)

### mammoth job

the heavy burden of this ~ (Man U manager)

### mammoth task

the researchers gave them a ~ (students)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Our borrowings from other than the classical language have been scanty although they have contributed to the richness of our speech... / American Indian: *mugwump*. Arabia: *alchemy*. Brazil: *jaguar*. China: *typhoon*. Germany: *waltz*. Holland: *buoy*. Iceland: *geyser*. India: *puttee*. Italy: *grotto*. Mexico: *coyote*. Palestine: *jubilee*. Portugal: *copra*. Russia: *mammoth*. Scandinavia: *ski*. Spain: *stevedore*. Turkey: *caviar*. West Indies: *canoe*. (Our "magpie" language. From *Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From the chapter "A Basketful Of Word Stories.")

## man (big man, little man, etc.)

### grown-man

and you don't want to have a ~ conversation about it

### made man

see *made man (experience)*

### company man

you're a ~ (Bari Weiss talks with Uri Berliner about NPR)

### hatchet man

see *hatchet man (person)*

### bad man

this is a ~ who needs to be captured (Oregon police)

### big man

he was a ~ in the mob (Boston)

### Big Man

Biden has played ~ politics for decades (clinging to power)

### common man

a common sense or ~'s point of view

### great men

~ get great praise, little men nothing (military history)

### hard man

see *hard man (character)*

### little man

it's the ~ who does the courageous thing  
Homer Stokes, servant of the ~ (a politician)

### little men

great men get great praise, ~ nothing (military history)

### strong man

the ~ can say, 'I alone can fit it' (authoritarianism / politics)

### strong men

~ like Trump, Duterte, Chavez, Fujimori (leaders)  
~ use populism and charisma to rule with an iron fist

### the man

see *man (the man / approving)*

the man

see *man* (*the man / oppression*)

yes man

he was a ~ (an employee, to his boss)

yes-man

he was perceived by some of his colleagues as a ~

he was a ~ who did his boss's bidding

angry black man

I am not an ~ trying to argue with America about...

his suit alleges he was cast as the “~” (NFL)

quiet little man

the ~ has more guts and courage...

♦ “I’ve always found out the quiet little man that nobody pays any attention to usually has more guts and courage than the big blowhard, the big outspoken fellow... It’s the little man who does the courageous thing.” (The filmmaker John Ford.)

♦ “Sure, I know the type, he don’t rile easily, but when he blows, look out.” Watch: YouTube, “Gomer Pyle Learns a Bully”

♦ “A good big’un will beat a good littl’un.” (Boxing received wisdom: A big man versus a little man. Certainly this was true for the very great boxer David Tua (Samoan, New Zealand), “one of the best heavyweights never to win a world title.” The Usyk-Fury fight in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was framed and analyzed the same way. Of course, the “little man” won.)

♦ “I’ve dropped a split decision to the good little man.” (The magnanimous Tyson Fury about his loss to Oleksandr Usyk in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In a historic reversal, the good littl’un beat the good big’un. Super!)

♦ “So when I call you and you don’t pick up, and then you tell me you’ll call me later and you don’t want to have a grown-man conversation about it, and you always pick up any other time, I got a problem with that... Right now, I feel like you’re ducking me.” (An ex-NFL player.)

♦ “Do not go gentle into that good night, / Old age should burn and rave at close of day; / Rage, rage, against the dying of the light.” (“Wise men,” “Good men,” “Wild men,” “Grave men,” “And you, my father...”)

♦ see also *boy* (type), *girl* (type), *guy* (good guy, etc.), *joe* (average joe, etc.), *lady* (crazy lady, etc.), *mister* (and Mr., Missus, Mrs.)

**man (the man / approving)**

the man

and Michael was ~ (Bill Russell about Michael Jordan)

to be ~, you have to beat the man... (sports)

♦ “And so, when Michael starts wearing longer shorts, and Michael was [dramatic pause] “the Man,” and so, everybody started [inaudible], ‘Hey, if Michael’s wearing them, it’s good enough for him, that works for him, baby, I’ll try it, might help!’ And so all these guys are getting longer and longer shorts.” (Bill Russell, the NBA great, schooling Terry Gross on how the tight short shorts of Larry Bird’s NBA gave way to the longer, looser shorts of today.)

♦ “Our guys wanted Truitt. Because you know the old saying, to be the man, you gotta beat the man. They didn’t want to beat somebody else. They wanted to beat Truitt.” (Tuscola Mountaineers coach Zach Shepherd about West Henderson pitcher and NC State signee Truitt Manuel. From “Tuscola knocks out West Henderson” by Zachary Huber, *Asheville Citizen Times*, May 16, 2024.)

♦ Ironic. “‘Cause if I was a man, then I’d be the man...” Watch: Taylor Swift-The Man (Official Video)

**man (the man / oppression)**

fight the man

she is ready to ~ against this injustice

Fight The Man

“Underground Musicians ~ In Tehran” (Mark Jenkins)

fighting the man

Black characters facing urban decay, crime and ~ (films)

stick it to the man

I’m as happy as the next Negro to ~

stick it to The Man

employees try to ~

stick-it-to-the-man

this anti-financial elite, ~ ethos in contemporary US society

♦ Frankie: Miss Mullins, you’re the man. / Miss Mullins: Thank you, Frankie. (Frankie and the kids snicker. From the great 2003 film *School of Rock*.)

♦ “Oh, look at them. They’re terminal. Every last one of them... It’s a rare blood disease. Stick-it-to-da-man-i-osis.” (From the great 2003 film *School of Rock*.)

♦ “‘Cause if I was a man, then I’d be the man...” Watch: Taylor Swift-The Man (Official Video)

♦ “What’s that? You’re desperate to support fearless journalism, independent from **THE MAN**?... Support *The Guardian* for as little as one pound / Euro / dollar...” (A cute 3-panel cartoon at *The Guardian*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Don’t let the man get you down.”

**manacle (noun)**

loosen (Germany’s) manacles

Hollande wants to ~ of austerity (economics)

puts manacles on the media

this judgment, in its widest context, ~ (the *Mail*)

**mance (bromance, etc.)**

bromance

Trump says ‘~’ with Cruz is over (politics)

Biden touting his ~ with Obama (politics)

choices at the cinema, romance or ‘~’

nomance

the research team labels this trend as “~” (Gen Z)

Barbie and Ken sweetly celebrate ~ (2023 film *Barbie*)

womance

*Blitzed* feels more like a ‘~’ than a romance (Alexa Martin)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A growing number of Gen Zers are expressing a preference for films and TV shows with less sex and more “platonic” or “nomance” relationships.

♦ See the Wiktionary entry for “bromance” and click on the “coordinate terms” link for a further list of words like these. Wiktionary is wonderful.

**mandible (noun)**

upper mandible

North Head, the ~ of the harbor (Sydney)

**maneater (female)**

Maneater

“~,” the song by Nelly Furtado...

### flirter or maneater

I’m not a ~ (single girl after married husbands of friends)

♦ “Love you long time!” Watch: Nelly Furtado – Maneater (US version) (Official Music Video)

♦ “She only comes out at night, the lean and hungry type... Watch out boy, here she comes...” Watch: Daryl Hall & John Oates Maneater live 1983

\*\*\* “The call of a tigress in search of a male...”

♦ “The call of a tigress in search of a mate cannot be described in words.” *Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow (Viceroy of India 1936-1943).

## maneuvering (strategy)

### backstage maneuvering

there has been a lot of ~ (diplomacy)

### political maneuvering

the ~ started immediately

## mangle (verb)

### mangle the truth

biopics often ~ (TV and film)

♦ “‘He stuck with his guns,’ he said, with his characteristic mild mangling of cliché.” (“Who Will Fight With Me?” by Rivka Galchen, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022.)

\*\*\* mangled by a mad wolf...

♦ “On a day in October in 1831, a nine-year-old boy ran frightened away from the edge of a crowd that blocked the door of the blacksmith shop of a village in the mountains of eastern France. Above the awed excited whispers of the people at the door this boy had heard the crackling “s-s-s-z” of a white hot iron on human flesh, and this terrifying sizzling had been followed by a groan of pain. The victim was the farmer Nicole. He had just been mangled by a mad wolf that charged howling, jaws dripping poison foam, through the streets of the village. The boy who ran away was Louis Pasteur, son of a tanner of Arbois and great-grandson of a serf of the Count of Udressier... (*Microbe Hunters* by Paul De Kruif. The chemist Louis Pasteur would go on to develop the rabies vaccine.)

## Manhattan Project

### Manhattan Project for autism

Gardner has dreamed of a sort of ~

### company’s Manhattan Project

he called it the ~ (Monsanto’s roundup-resistant plants)

### new Manhattan Project

he’s calling it a ~ for clean energy

♦ see also *Marshall Plan*

## mania (noun)

### mania for quantification

this ~ was in Bezos’ heart (Amazon)

### “Automania”

MOMA opens ~, a show about the legacy of the auto

### Barbiemania

~: the movie has turned the world hot pink (2023 film)

### docu-mania

the pandemic has accelerated ~ (crime, headlines, etc.)

### Fernandomania

~ (Fernando Valenzuela / 1981 Dodgers season)

### Leonormania

~ hits Spain as crown princess turns 18 (BBC)

### ‘Matildas Mania’

Australia and ~ (Fifa 2023 Women’s World Cup)

### Messi-mania

the return of ~ (in Miami, 2024)

### self-improvement mania

the ~ is sweeping the country

### Serena-Mania

~ has gone beyond reason (narcissism, a poor loser, etc.)

### Tulip mania

the term ~ is now often used metaphorically (Wikipedia)

### Internet retail mania

the rising tide of the ~

### World Record mania

“How Guinness ~ has gripped Nigeria”

♦ “[O]ne man sang for 200 hours, a man is crying non-stop to set a record as you read this, a woman said she was staying indoors for the longest time while another was seen attempting to fry the most snails—one of at least six culinary-themed attempts—in the ‘record-a-thon’ craze.” (“How Guinness World Record mania has gripped Nigeria” by Nduka Orjinmo, BBC, July 15, 2023.)

♦ Laksa fever; “everyone’s just contracted this laksa fever”; “the love child of Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean cuisine”; love for laksa; a thing that people love; craving a fix (for laksa); the mania (for laksa); a city obsessed (with laksa); the laksa obsession; the faithful; a giant shrine is erected (for monthlong laksa festival); laksa ice-cream / smoothies / cheesecake / sausage / crocodile dumplings / beer; the Laksa Festival Hall of Fame; the Golden Bowl award for best laksa... (“How laksa fever took hold in this Australian city” by the wonderful writer Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC, October 31, 2023. Life at “The Top End” of Oz. Super!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Type in “-mania” at Wiktionary and click on “Derived terms” and you will get a wonderful list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ “For every mania there comes a payback time.”

## maniac (Hulkamaniac, etc.)

### maniac observer

Leeuwenhoek was a ~ (the microscopist)

### Beatlemaniacs

~ besieged the hotel

### Broadway maniacs

for ~, this show is a must-see (TV)

### Hulkamaniac

~s loved the show

♦ Fans of Mariah Carey are “lambs,” part of the “Lambily,” or “Lamb family.”

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Are these motherfuckers what all the people are screaming about? My dog plays drums better than that kid with the big nose.” (The great boxer Sonny Liston at a Beatles’ concert. From *King of the World* by David Remnick.)

♦ Type in “-manic” at Wiktionary and click on “Derived terms” and you will get a wonderful list. Astonishingly, it does not include “Hulkamaniac.” But no worries. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## Manichean (adjective)

Manichean struggle

a ~ between democracy and autocracy (vs. co-existence)

## manicured

manicured view

his show presents a ~ of a controversial man

## manifesto (noun)

manifesto for targeting violence

his book is a ~ (*Bleeding Out*)

her manifesto

*Lean In*, ~ encouraging women to...

## mantle (noun)

mantle

its ~ was taken away (a champion tree)

mantle of religion

blasphemy laws are cloaked in the ~

mantle of his office

he still seems to be adjusting to the ~ (district attorney)

mantle of the presidency

he is set to ~ (leader)

mantle of a prophet

he increasingly adopted the ~

antiimmigration mantle

he has taken on the ~ (a political leader)

feminist mantle

she has laid claim to the ~

maverick mantle

she wears the ~ (a politician)

progressive mantle

he took up the ~ in the nominating process (Bernie Sanders)

mantle fell on him

the ~ (job responsibility)

assume the mantle

now that Pavarotti is dead, who will ~ (opera)

cast off the mantle

Klopp can now ~ (of a loser in soccer finals)

claimed his mantle

the new party has ~ (politics)

given up the mantle

women have ~ of being defined by their husbands

inherit a mantle

he will ~ that Bernstein once wore with immense elan

inherited his mantle

she ~ (politics)

invoke the (respectable) mantle

they ~ of originalism, but... (constitutional law)

laid claim to the feminist mantle

she has ~

picked up the mantle

the group ~ (fan club for dead celebrity)

seize the mantle

she sought to ~ of economic competence from... (politics)

shake off the mantle

they want to ~ of tradition (artists)

taken up their mantle

he has ~ (politician and an issue)

wrapped itself in the mantle

the group has ~ of the civil rights struggle (SPLC)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A mantle was a cloak.

## mantra (message)

mantra

the ~ was trade not conquest (British East India Company)

mantra of American rage

the ~ (I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore)

mantra in the computer world

"innovate or die," long the ~

mantra (we all learn) in nursing school

the ~ is, "If it isn't charted, it isn't done"

Toyota mantra

in the ~, quality was always first

cherished mantras

"We must fix poverty" is one of the most ~ in education

familiar mantra

"16 shots and a cover-up" became a ~ (Chicago police)

"hope and change" mantra

the ~ that propelled Obama to the presidency

## manufacture (verb)

manufactures good news

the Public Information Office mainly ~ (military)

manufacture outrage

they ~ and scream and holler like it's the end of the world

♦ "People feel if somebody makes a mistake anymore on an elected body that you need to manufacture outrage and scream and holler and carry on like it's the end of the world." ("Gun provocation reveals tensions in Michigan tourist haven" by John Flesher, AP, Feb 22, 2021.)

## manufactured

manufactured

they argue that the controversy is ~ (Critical Race Theory)

manufactured term

BIPOC is another ~ (like Latinx, cisgender, etc.)

manufactured or exaggerated

their stories were ~ (sex-abuse accusers)

## man up (verb)

man up

it was time for me to ~

♦ "I had to humble down and realize I'm flawed." (The actor Will Smith.)

## map (verb)

map its target perfectly

a metaphor will never ~ (Kevlin Henney)

map a broader world view on to politics

immigrants and their descendants ~ (Cuban-Americans)

map on to the story of Arab Americans

the story of Cuban Americans may or may not ~

♦ The *idea* of "mapping" is beloved by academics. They also like to use the word, "imbrication." And "prime" as a verb.

\*\*\* school, geography, history, etc.

♦ "Mrs. McKelvie was my history teacher... She showed me ... that the study of maps and drawing of maps led to ever-greater clarity..." (From the wonderful *Climbing The Mango Trees: A Memoir Of A Childhood In India*, Chapter 20, by Madhur Jaffrey.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Not much is happening at the moment according to the war map they have hanging in the classroom. Nothing of any note has happened in Africa or Asia for several weeks. Yesterday, unfortunately, 289 men capitulated in Likuyu in German East Africa, and several Turkish trenches were taken by the British south-west of Kut al-Amara in Mesopotamia. That is all. Things are also quiet in Italy and the Balkans; nor is anything new happening on the Western Front, apart from the occasional raid. It is only the Eastern Front that is providing the newspapers with anything more than the occasional notice, and almost all the fighting there has been concentrated in one area—Romania—for months. That part of the map is now a patchwork of small black, white and red flags and there could well be a major victory there soon. The last was on 6 December when Bucharest fell and the children were given a day off school. Elfriede used that sudden holiday to go for a walk." (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter Englund, writing about World War I.)

♦ "This war is a new kind of war. It is different from all other wars of the past, not only in its methods and weapons, but also in its geography... This is warfare in terms of every continent, every island, every sea, every air lane in the world. That is the reason why I have asked you to take out and spread before you a map of the whole Earth, and to follow me in the references which I shall make to the world-encircling battle lines of this war." (President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a radio broadcast to the nation. In advance of the President's talk, Americans had been encouraged to bring a world map to have by their radio, and map sales soared. More than 60 million people tuned in to the broadcast, nearly half the population. FDR used the map to show listeners how big and mighty the Allied nations were. From "The First Family of Radio: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's Historic Broadcasts," American RadioWorks, November 2014.)

♦ My knowledge of geography had been expanding... with reports of front movements in the east, of battles for islands in the Pacific between the Japanese and the Americans, of developments in

southern Europe." (Gunter Grass, "How I spent the War," *New Yorker Magazine*.)

♦ "What's this river?" / I don't know. The Zusha, probably." / "No, that isn't the Zusha." / "Then I don't know what it is." / "It's on the Zusha, you know that it all happened—Christina, I mean." / "Yes, but that would be lower down the river..." (Nika Dudorov and Misha Gordon talking in the summer of 1943, after the breakthrough on the Kursk bulge. From *Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

## map (on the map)

on the map

the village is ~ again (presidential visit)

on the streetfood map

the Philly cheese steak put the city ~

on the financial map

he put Bank of America and Charlotte ~

on the literary map

he helped put the review ~

put Los Angeles on the (art) map

he helped ~ (a sculptor)

put Chicago on the map

he ~ (Michael Jordan according to Barack Obama)

put this issue on the map

New York City has ~ (voting rights for immigrants)

put movies from Finland on the map

he first ~ in the 1980s (Aki Kaurismaki)

## map (drop off the map, etc.)

drop off the map

the Grenadines are an ideal place to ~

fall off the map

you see teams that ~ after losing (NBA)

fell off the map

he turned off his phone and ~ shortly thereafter (suicide)

## map (all over the map, etc.)

just all over the map

ideologically, he's ~ (a politician)

♦ "He's all over the map, you can't pin him down..."

## map (all over the map / emotions)

all over the map

he's a person who's ~ (emotionally)

♦ "He's a person who's all over the map, and you don't know what he's going to say or do. And then, all of a sudden, he pulls it all together." (JB Straubel about Elon Musk, when "the charming Musk appeared." From *Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

## Maradona (Maradona of the Carpathians, etc.)

Maradona of the Carpathians

the great "~~" Gheorghe Hagi

## marathon (effort and time)

marathon meeting

gearing up for a ~ next week (city government)

marathon (public) speeches  
during his ~

marathon, not a sprint  
tackling the virus is a ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

emotional marathon  
we have been running an ~ this past year (COVID)

## marble (marbles)

got all his marbles  
he's still ~ (a 100-year-old man in Khabarovsk)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Language from the game of marbles includes: all the marbles; lose one's marbles; knuckle down; and play for keeps.

## marbled

marbled with orchards  
the community is ~

marbled polecat  
the Arabic name for the ~ means "stinky"

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Animals might be banded, bearded, crowned, dappled, marbled, mottled, necklaced, ringed, speckled, spotted, stippled, streaked, striped, and even spectacled!

## march (together, etc.)

march in lockstep  
climate and carbon dioxide clearly ~ (ice cores)

## march (move)

marching east  
and in the West, a new storm system is ~

marching through banana-growing countries  
TR4 is ~ (a banana fungus)

marched (through the season) undefeated  
the team ~ (but lost the championship game)

## march (march ahead, etc.)

marching ahead  
the science is ~ (genetic tests)

marching forward  
the bill is ~ (politics)

♦ Mara Liasson, national political correspondent for NPR: "The bill is marching forward, or stumbling forward, depending on your favorite metaphor, and it has bipartisan..." / Lulu Garcia-Navarro (interrupting suddenly): "Dancing forward." / Mara Liasson: "Dancing forward, right, cha-cha-cha, it has bipartisan support but..." (Odd repartee on NPR.)

♦ Dallas Cow: Fantastic result for Villareal, simply incredible. Hard to believe that they just knocked out Bayern Munich. The yellow submarine goes marching on. / Chris: Sailing on? / Shaid: Submarines don't have sails. / The Spin Doctor: "Sailing" is something submarines do whether or not they are on the surface. / Rellis: being pedantic but the US navy calls the conning tower a "sail" / Liverpoolblackcaps: Propelling along? (A BBC HYS thread that went on far too long. Villareal is nicknamed the Yellow Submarine, for their all-yellow uniforms.)

## march (March of Time, etc.)

March of Time  
the ~ was a series of short films (1935-1951)

## march (on the march)

on the march  
Bolshevism was ~, Lenin was in Moscow (revolution)

## march (noun)

march of civilization  
the ~ cannot be stopped (British in Afghanistan)  
he started the ~ (Kamehameha)

march of globalization  
the inexorable ~

march of COVID-19  
the lethal ~ has passed 100,000 deaths in the US

march to election day  
the ~ continues this week (rallies for Harris, Trump)

march towards majority rule  
rugby's starring role in the ~ (South Africa)

death march  
see *death march* (noun)

inexorable march  
the ~ of globalization

continued its march  
populism has ~ ever since (since Brexit)

slow Biden's march  
the debate was his last chance to ~ (election)

## marching orders

marching orders  
his ~ were to bring discipline to the staff

marching orders for the black electorate  
the ~ were now clear (vote for Grant)

marching orders from the White House  
they are getting their ~ (NSA / CIA)

takes his marching orders  
he ~ from liberal hypocrites (politics)

♦ "Even though winter doesn't slip away until next weekend, time has its marching orders." (The US adjusts its clocks. "Spring ahead, fall back.")

## Marco Polo (Muslim Marco Polo, etc.)

Marco Polo of the Arab world  
Ibn Battuta, the ~

Muslim Marco Polo  
his popular chronicle made him a kind of ~ (Ibn Battuta)

## margin (on the margins)

on the margins  
boxing has long been a social staircase for those ~



live on the margins

they ~, where things often go wrong (justice system)

♦ “The celebration of the margins—black bodies in motion, women’s voices centered, black queer voices centered—is what ultimately vanquishes the state, represented by a NOPD car.” (“We Slay, Part 1” by Zandria F. Robinson @ New South Negress about Beyonce’s “Formation.”)

♦ “Boxing exists on the margins of decency.”

## marginalization (groups)

marginalization

their ~ is due to naked discrimination

marginalization of First Nations people

the ~ (musician Joanne Shenandoah)

marginalization by the (country’s ruling) elites

~ (the Mayan communities of Guatemala)

marginalization and discrimination

~ (queer gender-fluid Black woman Lola Flash)

LGBTQ marginalization

talking about ~ in conversations...

racist marginalization

no action was taken to curb the ~ (Dr. Vanessa Toolsie)

social marginalization

Juan Crow, a similar form of ~ as Jim Crow

socioeconomic and political marginalization

~ (U.N. Rights Chief says reparations are needed)

homophobia, poverty, racism, marginalization

the show deals with issues like ~

stigma, marginalization and discrimination

~ against the communities hit hardest (monkeypox)

fight (alleged) marginalization

English speakers ~ (Cameroon)

♦ “[W]hat Shah calls ‘eco-incarceration, ‘reinforcing Adivasis’ marginalization.” (“You First: Does anyone really know what it means to be ‘Indigenous’?” by Manvir Singh, *The New Yorker*, February 27, 2023.)

♦ see also *ization (marginalization, etc.)*

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## marginalize (groups)

marginalize Black art

the forces that ~ (*Black Art: In the Absence of Light*)

marginalizes LGBTQ individuals

the term “traditional marriage” ~

marginalized gay people

the church has consistently ~ in the course of its history

♦ “Around the world today, the powerful ‘feed upon the powerless’ and too many people are treated as ‘consumer goods to be used and then discarded,’ Pope Francis writes in his first major paper...” (“Pope Slams ‘Disposable’ Culture That Marginalizes Many” by Mark Memmott, NPR, *The Two-Way*, November 26, 2013.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## marginalized (groups)

marginalized

the Pope said religion was being ~

marginalized backgrounds

NPR is hemorrhaging hosts from ~

marginalized communities

~ are in competition for the tiny allotment of space...

marginalized hero

a gay white man as a ~ is a harder sell (publishing)

marginalised identities

a non-binary person at the intersection of multiple ~

marginalised voices

~ are telling stories that need to be heard

she became a music journalist to platform ~

marginalized or stereotyped

those who are often ~

historically marginalized

people of color and other ~ groups

politically marginalized

the far right in Germany is small and ~

racially marginalized

she was ~ by others in the NAACP (South Asian)

I investigate what it means to be ~ while minoritized

people from poor, immigrant, and ~ communities

who is privileged and who is marginalized

interrogate ~ by the notion of “standard” English

low income and marginalized

~ students will suffer the most academically

claim they are marginalised

many Israeli Arabs ~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “My belief is that we should be centering the voices and the experiences of the most marginalized people and communities at all times. So when I think about what fat liberation looks like to me, I think about centering the voices of those who live in and who maneuver through spaces and institutions in a fat body.” (Zyahna Bryant, activist, who has partnered with the soap and beauty company Dove to promote fat liberation, or size freedom.)

♦ *Seen, Heard, and Paid: The New Work Rules for the Marginalized.* (The book by Alan Henry.)

♦ “The jig is up. You cannot keep being dwindled and marginalized and disrespected and dishonored...” (Fran Drescher, President of SAG-AFTRA, announcing a strike. “Dwindled” is based on the rare usage of “dwindle” as a transitive verb. Drescher’s speech is SUPER: “Watch: Fran Drescher delivers fiery speech on SAG-AFTRA strike” Live CBS News. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4SAPOX7R5M> )

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Are all people of color at NPR ‘from marginalized backgrounds’? What if they went to elite universities?” (A comment by Earthise, one comment of 2,371 comments, about the article “NPR is losing some of its Black and Latino hosts. Colleagues see a larger crisis” by Paul Farhi and Elahe Izadi, *Washington Post*, Jan. 5, 2022.)

♦ “The school board in Tupper Lake, New York, tasked a committee to draft a new policy on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Whether or not the phrase “historically marginalized” was to be included

became a sticking point, among many other issues. In the end, the draft policy did not include a reference to “historically marginalized groups.” (“Schools find conspiracy theories interfere with making classrooms inclusive” by Zach Hirsch, NPR, Morning Edition, August 16, 2022.)

♦ “I will NO LONGER tolerate ANY racism against me for being a #ProudBrownWoman of #SouthAsian and #Caribbean descent...The fact that I have consistently been made to endure this hateful racism in anti-racist spaces is abhorrently shameful.” (Dr. Vanessa Toolsie, who was born in Trinidad of Indian descent, resigning from her position of elected vice president of the Orange County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. From “NAACP leader in Florida quits over ‘racist marginalization,’” AP, August 25 2022. Republished on ABC News.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Historians championing previously marginalized intellectual and literary figure are often caught on the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand, the subject—the woman scientist, the Black composer, the Indigenous military strategist—must have met with some degree of social acceptance in their day or the work would never have had enough support and attention to have flourished and survived. Since historians wish to draw on the wiser judges of the era to establish the importance of their subjects, we are told about whom they wowed and how they wowed them. On the other hand, the point must be made that such subjects have had far less attention than they deserved. So they must be shown to have been keenly appreciated by the better spirits of their time as well as wrongly consigned to oblivion.” (“A Piece Of Her Mind: Does the Enlightenment’s great female intellect need rescuing?” by Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, November 4, 2024.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## marginalizing (groups)

marginalizing India’s Muslims  
his party has been accused of ~

marginalizing the opposition  
there are more subtle ways of ~

marginalizing certain people  
the Women’s March has had a history of ~

marginalizing and infantilizing  
sports media has been complicit in ~ women’s sports

accused of marginalizing  
he has been ~ the country’s minority Sunnis

♦ “The Women’s March has had a history of marginalizing certain people. They want their version of smashing patriarchy to look a certain way. I’m black, I’m proud. This is my march as much as it is any other person’s march.” (“Women’s March Draws A Smaller, But Passionate Crowd” by Isabella Gomez Sarmiento, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 18, 2020. A 1-Minute Listen. This quotation is from the article that accompanies the broadcast but does NOT match the audio.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## Mariana Trench (epithet)

Mariana Trench of human shittiness  
middle school, the ~ (the writer Tad Friend)

## marinate (verb)

marinating in this  
we have been ~ for the last 6 months (a political scandal)

marinate in lies and hate  
millions now ~ (the internet, media, etc.)

## mark (black mark)

black mark on the city  
the case put a ~ (a murder)

black marks on their credit  
~ that can last for year (credit cards)

\*\*\* “Fleete opened his shirt and showed us...”

♦ “While the chops were being cooked, Fleete opened his shirt and showed us, just over his left breast, a mark, the perfect double of the black rosettes—the five or six irregular blotches arranged in a circle—on a leopard’s hide... / Here the chops came in, all red and juicy, and Fleete bolted three in a most offensive manner. He ate on his right grinders only, and threw his head over his right shoulder as he snapped the meat...” (The creepy story “The Mark of the Beast” by Rudyard Kipling.)

## mark (effect)

mark on Morgan County  
she’s made an indelible ~ (tragedy)

mark on the region  
the waves of Germans who made their ~ (Wisconsin)

mark on soldiers  
Afghanistan leaves a ~

profound marks  
immigration left ~ on the region

high-water mark  
it was the ~ of his career (athlete)

indelible mark  
she’s made an ~ on Morgan County (drunk-driving)  
terrorism has left an ~ on his presidency (9/11)  
his trip to Sri Lanka left an ~ on him (Chekhov)

leave your mark  
you gotta ~ on the world (tree planted for murder victim)

left a mark  
she ~ on all of us who crossed her path (an actor)

left (profound) marks  
immigration ~ on the region

made their mark  
the waves of Germans who ~ on the region (Wisconsin)

make his mark  
he’s training in an ER, where he wants to ~ (new nurse)

## mark (off the mark)

way off the mark  
you are ~ (argument)

## mark (high mark)

high marks for his courage  
I give him ~ and commitment (anti-terrorism)

## marked (marked for death, etc.)

marked for death  
all of Hamas’ leaders are ‘~’ (Israel-Hamas war)

## marked (marked by pain, etc.)

marked by it

the soldiers who survived the butchery are forever ~

marked by pain

my people's history has been ~ (a Palestinian)

marked by a (painful) search

his adolescence was ~ for identity (racial)

marked by (high) turnover

a teaching corps (middle school / NYC)

## marketplace (noun)

marketplace of ideas

New York City is a cacophony of voices and a ~

sexual marketplace

our ~ is explicitly and brutally judgmental

## Mark Twain (the Yiddish Mark Twain, etc.)

Jewish Mark Twain

the ~ (Sholem Aleichem / Sholem Rabinovich)

♦ "Please tell him that I am the American Sholem Aleichem." (Mark Twain, about 'the Jewish Mark Twain.' From "The Jewish Mark Twain" by William Deresiewicz, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2014 issue.)

## marmite (noun)

marmite character

Jake Paul is a ~, a love-hate character (boxing)

marmite fighters

they are ~ if you like (2 boxers with unpleasant sides)

marmite person

he was a ~, people either hate him or love him

Marmite Test

the ~ applies this love/hate sentiment to research...

marmite thing

it's a real ~, you find it repugnant or you love it (mullet hairstyle)

♦ "We don't call him Marmite for nothing." (A colleague about the irrepressible Piers Morgan of ITV.)

♦ "If you love me or you hate me, you're gonna watch me fight." (The MMA fighter Paddy "The Baddy" Pimblett, who refuses to get his hair cut. He is a Liverpudlian.)

♦ "I think he's one of those marmite fighters, some people might love the way that he goes about what he does, his trash talk, his, you know, all that stuff, trying to get under people's skin, other people will absolutely hate, it's always been the way, but at the end of the day, people want to hear from him..." (Commentator Stacey Copeland about Jarrell "Big Baby" Miller, who was born and raised in Brooklyn. Stacey was talking with Steve Bunce in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, prior to the Day of Reckoning fight card, part of Riyadh Season. Super!)

\*\*\* the durian, lutefisk, tsampa, walrus flippers with sea cabbage...

♦ A similar food is the durian, which has been described as smelling like garbage, moldy cheese, rotting fish, a dead cat, last season's unwashed gym socks, and a mixture of cheese, onions, sherry, rotting meat and drains.

♦ "Most lutefisk is not edible by normal people. It is reminiscent of the afterbirth of a dog or the world's largest chunk of phlegm." (The beloved American humorist Garrison Keillor.)

♦ "The staple food in this region is tsampa. This is how they prepare it. You heat sand to a high temperature in an iron pan and then pour barley corns onto it. They burst with a slight pop, whereupon you put the corns and the sand in a fine meshed sieve through which the sand runs: after this you grind the corn very small. The resulting meal is stirred up into a paste with butter tea or milk or beer and then eaten. The Tibetans make a special cult of tsampa and have many ways of preparing it. We soon got accustomed to it, but never cared much for butter tea, which is usually made with rancid butter and is generally repugnant to Europeans. It is, however, universally drunk and appreciated by the Tibetans, who often drink as many as sixty cups in a day." (*Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer, from the chapter, "The Village of Happiness.")

♦ "Kangding is a crossroads town, once a terminus for the brick tea trade, now an important rest stop for anyone bound into or out of Tibet—it is the true beginning of ethnic Tibet or, for someone coming from the far side, the true beginning of the real China. The little cafes here serve Tibetan tea—a powerful decoction brewed from tea dust and twigs, with copious amounts of salt added to impart extra flavor and with large globules of rancid, hairy yak-butter floating on top. It is an acquired taste that I was not to acquire—finding it even less attractive a comestible than tsampa, the principal food of the Tibetan peasantry, which consists merely of flour worked with water and yak-butter, and which is eaten raw and has a taste like rotten dough." (*The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze, and Back in Chinese Time* by the wonderful writer Simon Winchester.)

♦ "Walrus flippers with sea cabbage. It's delicious food." (Ludmilla Ainana, a 66-year-old woman, reminiscing about the food she ate at coastal camps as a child.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Love it or hate it." (Unilever's slogan for Marmite, a "delicious/disgusting" yeast extract spread produced in the UK. Vegemite is a similar product.)

♦ "The 'Marmite Test' is a research design technique." (AI Overview.)

## marooned

marooned by history in positions

they were ~ out of kilter with their era (leaders)

marooned on a (lonesome) block

the restaurant is ~

marooned on a traffic island

hundreds of protesters were ~ (by police)

marooned in camps

people are ~ (refugees from fighting)

marooned in a traffic jam

truckers have been ~ for a week (China)

marooned in a sea

I was ~ of premeds (an arts major)

marooned overnight

several subway trains were ~ after losing power (snow)

marooned hopelessness

in that isolation, in the ~ of the protagonists... (a film)

marooned travelers

at JFK, ~ slept on cots (blizzard)

feel marooned

people ~ (survivors of earthquake)

## marquee (attention)

marquee careers

I set my sights on ~ in marquee industries (Duke student)

marquee defendant

while others face more serious charges, he is the ~

marquee fight

we want a big fight, a ~ (Eddie “Who Else?” Hearn)

marquee game

he will miss Sunday’s ~ against the Kansas City Chiefs

marquee hearing

this is the first big ~ for the Democratic-controlled house

marquee issue

immigration is his ~ (politics)

the economy and abortion are ~s (elections / 2022)

marquee name

it isn’t as simple as hiring a ~ (audio books)

~s traditionally lionized by the literary establishment

~s such as Nigella Lawson and Rachael Ray (food)

marquee players

both were ~ in the national-security establishment

marquee things

the ~ that make headlines (better pay and benefits, etc.)

marquee title

Sunisa Lee claimed the sport’s ~ (Olympics / gymnastics)

marquee witness

he could be the ~ in this impeachment probe

♦ “I set my sights on marquee careers in marquee industries.” (A Duke University student. From “Beyond the walls of fear” by Paul Dilly (Class of 2026), *The Duke University Chronicle*, March 7, 2024..)

## marriage (relationship)

marriage of convenience

they appear to have made a ~ (terrorist groups)

their alliance was a ~, not deep ideological affinity

marriage of Java and VRML

the ~ (computing)

marriage of mobile phones and the Internet

the ~

marriage of new media and old media

the ~ (AOL and Time Warner)

marriage of science and government

the ~ in the US

marriage of technology and opera

the ~

marriage of turquoise and gold

the ~ is an ideal one (the Mariinsky Theater)

marriage of the Web and the classroom

the ~ (“education”)

marriage between Islam and modernity

some Arabs want a ~

marriage between crypto and sports

the ~

\*\*\* the battle of the sexes...

♦ “Treat her like a Queen, and she’ll treat you like a King.” (Said in Saudi Arabia.)

♦ “I have studied this matter. Most of the couples who visit a big shopping center start quarreling with each other within an hour and a half.” (Sergei Y. Klyuchnikov, a psychologist in Moscow, on Russia’s long New Year’s holiday. Duh!)

♦ Men who do housework may get more sex...

♦ First man: “How’s your wife?” / Second man: “Still in charge...”

♦ “My wife ran off with my best friend... and I miss him!” (A bumper sticker.)

♦ “Why women seek conflict,” *Health & Science, The Week*, March 23, 2012.)

♦ “Grow your own dope—plant a man.” (A bumper sticker for a female landscaping company, seen at the Ingles parking lot in East Oteen, Asheville, North Carolina, USA.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. One day Abu Nuas and the Caliph Haroon Rashid were talking about marriage. “Tell me, great Caliph, speaking about the men you rule over, who has the upper hand in the relationship, the man or the woman?” Abu Nuas asked innocently. The Caliph snorted at such a stupid question and became angry. He berated Abu Nuas. He laughed at him and mocked him and abused him! / Abu Nuas just smiled a little smile. He knew that he had netted a great fish. And not just the greatest fish in the Tigris, or the Euphrates, or the Nile, but the greatest fish in all the seas and oceans in the world! And so he made his wager...” (To be continued in tomorrow’s class. The bell has rung.)

♦ OLD: the battle of the sexes... / NEW: gendered...

♦ see also *gendered (groups)*

## marriage (shotgun marriage)

shotgun marriage of S4C and the BBC

the ~ is an awkward match

shotgun marriage between the two parties

the ~ will not last (politics)

\*\*\* Cartersville, Georgia, May 13, 1885...

♦ Cartersville, Ga., May 13.—William V. Jones, a young man of Taylorsville, was violently taken from his home on Tuesday night to the residence of Miss Ida Gaston, whom he was accused of betraying, and compelled under pressure of shotguns to marry her. He came here to-day and entered suit for divorce.” (“Married Under Threats, of Death,” *The New York Times*, May 14, 1885.)

## married

married to her job

the kind of woman people describe as ~

ground operations married with cyber activity

conventional ~ (Georgia / S. Ossetia)

environment married with ambition and

competitiveness

a gentle small ~ (small colleges, NPR, etc.)

## marry (verb)

marries fashion and politics

Bubu Ogisi ~ (Nigerian designer)

married journalism and voyeurism

the result ~ (beauty influencers)

## Marshall Plan

Marshall Plan to fight  
we need a ~ climate change

Marshall Plan for racial equity  
calls for a ~

“Marshall Plan” for the US healthcare industry  
Democrats argued for a ~

21st-century Marshall Plan  
we need to invest in a ~ for Honduras... (immigration)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “If we were to launch a Marshall Plan of equivalent size today, as a percentage of our GDP we would be talking about 800 billion dollars.” (Benn Steil, author of *Marshall Plan: Dawn of the Cold War*. More to the point, he talks about the context and *purpose* of the real Marshall Plan.)

♦ see also *Manhattan Project*

## Martian (adjective)

Martian landscape  
the road takes us through a dusty, reddish ~ (Chile)

## Martian’s-eye

Martian’s-eye view  
he takes a ~ of the habits and customs of *Homo sapiens*

## martyr (person)

martyrs, holy warriors  
~ who fight the good fight (animal obsessives)

persecuted martyr  
he cast himself as a ~ (Trump / legal politics)

scientist-martyr  
many Americans began to regard Oppenheimer as a ~

free speech martyrs  
don’t turn loudmouths and thugs into ~

“proud” martyr  
Steve Bannon says he’s a ~ as he reports for prison

became a martyr  
before Tupac Shakur ~...

become a martyr  
she didn’t want Uri Berliner to ~ (Edith Chapin at NPR)

hold up as a martyr  
they look for another dead black man to ~ (activists)

talks about himself as a martyr  
he sometimes ~ (Avi Loeb, Harvard astrophysicist)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Before Tupac Shakur became a martyr, he was once a member of the Digital Underground, wore elaborate costumes and did the Humpty dance.” (“From ‘The Future Of Rap Is Female’ by Niela Orr, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 13, 2023. “The Hip-Hop Issue.”)

♦ “O.J. Simpson was an abusive liar who abandoned his community long before he killed two people in cold blood. His acquittal for murder

was the correct and necessary result of a racist criminal legal system. But he’s still a monster, not a martyr.” (Marc Lamont Hill, a professor and media commentator.)

♦ “It’s not unusual for people with an extreme devotion to animals to believe that the objects of their affection are equally devoted to them. Animal obsessives routinely portray themselves as martyrs, holy warriors who fight the good and solitary fight on behalf of animals, their shared enemies the billions of stupid, thoughtless humans who can’t know what they know. These same people often claim special powers: that they can commune with animals, talk to them in their own private language...” (From “The Original Tiger Kings: The Improbable Rise And Savage Fall Of Siegfried & Roy” by Chris Jones and Michael J. Mooney, *The Atlantic*, November 2022.)

♦ “I’ve never seen an athlete in my generation take the bullets in the way he has taken the bullets. Metaphorically speaking, he is a martyr.” (The broadcaster Craig Mitch about Raheem Sterling, and the latter’s efforts to fight racism in soccer and the media.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ See the Wikipedia article “List of Catholic martyrs of the English Reformation.”

♦ “Soon other monks would become martyrs.” (Self-immolations during the Vietnam War.)

♦ “Mohammed Hafez on Martyrs Without Borders,” NPR, Fresh Air, July 23, 2007.

♦ “It is hard to leave our families. But it is our duty, and if we don’t defend our religion who should do it? The old people or the children?” (A young man from Zarqa, Jordan, whose attempt to die as a suicide bomber in Iraq was thwarted when he was caught by Syrian officials and sent back home.)

♦ “Ibrahim Kandalakt, Arafat’s adviser on Christian affairs, eulogized Khoury on behalf of the PA chairman, describing him as a shaheed (martyr) of the Palestinian Cause. But the victim’s mother interrupted him by declaring that her son was an “angel, not a shaheed.” (Mother of 21-year-old university student George Khoury, murdered by the Aksa Martyrs Brigade while jogging in Jerusalem. The “Brigade” later apologized, saying they thought he was a Jew. He was actually a Christian.)

♦ “WHAT IS VETERANS DAY? Veterans Day is an American holiday to honor the patriotism, love of country, and sacrifice of veterans. THIS WON’T STAND! We reject this holiday and refuse to celebrate it. The American war machine should not be honored for the horrors unleashed on others. WHAT NOW? Instead, we will celebrate Martyrs Day in honor of those martyred by the Israel-US war machine.” (A flyer put out by the Columbia University Apartheid Divest group announcing a protest at Columbia University. “All our martyrs have a name.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

MARTYR, n. One who moves along the line of least reluctance to a desired death. (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ The ink of the scholar is more precious than the blood of the martyr.

♦ see also *holy war (noun)*, *jihad (noun)*

## martyrdom (noun)

political martyrdom  
he had no desire for ~ (going against his party)

## martyred

martyred by Republican extremists  
Democrats thought of him as an honorable man ~ (Oppie)

## mask (drop the mask, etc.)

mask  
seeing people when their ~ starts to slip

dropped the mask on his nativist sentiments  
he has ~ (a politician)

let the mask slip

frequently anti-Zionists ~ (anti-Semitism)

let his mask slip

he ~ and is now trying to court sympathy (a boxer)

♦ "The only surprise is that it's taken this long for his mask to slip and the wider public come to realise what some of us have always known..." (A BBC HYS comment about Anthony Joshua's bizarre behavior following his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.)

## mask (hide)

mask your intentions

in war, you try to ~ (intelligence)

mask the location

Moscow's ability to ~ of Russian forces

## masquerade (verb)

masquerade as civil-rights champions

race-baiting leftists ~

masquerading as "history"

the film is right-wing character assassination ~

masquerade as local news organizations

over 300 accounts and pages ~ (internet misinformation)

masquerading as a US merchant ship

the *Odenwald* was captured while ~ (S. Atlantic / WW2)

masqueraded as a Christian and English teacher

he ~ (a pedophile)

## masterclass (noun)

masterclass

it was a ~, the best I've ever seen in my life (boxing)

masterclass from Conlan

it looked a ~ (until he was knocked out in the 12th)

masterclass in (modern) marketing

the way they generated hype was a ~ (Epic Games)

masterclass in showmanship

it was a ~ (historic Kim-Trump meeting at DMZ 2019)

masterclass lesson

Joshua was given a boxing ~ tonight (by Usyk)

goalkeeping masterclass

it was a ~ from Courtois (Real Madrid)

managerial master-class

Ole was given a ~ by Brendon (Leicester beats Man U)

delivered a masterclass

Manchester City ~ to overwhelm Arsenal (4-1)

gives a masterclass

De Gea ~ (excellent performance in goal)

produced a masterclass

Tottenham ~ at Everton (English football)

put on a masterclass

the Ukrainian ~ (Usyk beats Joshua / boxing)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Ordinarily, a "masterclass" is something to be admired. But consider the following: "I think shutting down the government is masterclass dumb, and I don't want to do it."

## masterpiece (engineering masterpiece, etc.)

masterpiece of information architecture

it's a ~ (the Nutrition Facts label / Burke Belser)

masterpiece of spins

a technical ~, spirals and footwork (Michele Kwan)

undersung masterpiece

*Justified*'s first 3 seasons were an ~ of the Peak TV era

engineering masterpiece

these race cars are ~s

the Taif escarpment road is an ~ (Saudi Arabia)

technical masterpiece

a ~ of spins, spirals and footwork (Michele Kwan)

three-hit masterpiece

he threw a ~ (baseball)

work of art, a masterpiece

the winning of the South Pole had been a ~ (Amundsen)

♦ "Watching Warren Spann pitch was like watching Rembrandt paint a masterpiece. On the corners, low, a little extra here, a little off there, screwball here, up and in fastball there... (The great MLB player Keith Hernandez.)

## masthead (noun)

masthead of *The New York Times*

Twitter should be on the ~ (see quote below)

♦ "Twitter is not on the masthead of *The New York Times*. But Twitter has become its ultimate editor." (Bari Weiss, who resigned from *The New York Times*.)

### \*\*\* Johnny, Waylon, Willie, and Kris...

♦ "I was a sailor / I was born upon the tide / And with the sea I did abide / I sailed a schooner 'round the Horn of Mexico / I went aloft to furl the mainsail in a blow / And when the yards broke off they said that I got killed / But I am living still..." (The Highwaymen—Highwayman (American outlaws: Live at Nassau Coliseum, 1990. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMdeg-WKt1U>)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read "Mastheads, afloat and in print," *grammarphobia*, February 4, 2014. Super!

## mat (welcome mat)

welcome mat for African migrants

in Israel, no ~

welcome mat for (African) students

India has been laying out the ~ for a while

White House welcome mat

Obama rolls out ~ for the interim prime minister

U.S. welcome mat

but the ~ is gone (for Haitians / immigration politics)

put out the welcome mat



one mayor in Italy ~ for refugees years ago (Riace)  
rolled out the welcome mat  
they really ~ and helped us (a small business / a suburb)  
rolls out welcome mat  
Bush ~ for Obama (2008)  
roll up the welcome mat  
if we ~, America will lose (immigration politics)  
yanking the welcome mat  
Australia is ~ (for refugees)

♦ "It's like someone took the welcome mat and put a torch to it." (MC Masta Ace on the failure of Americans to embrace Blacks.)

♦ "Local politicians had already put out an unwelcome mat for LIV golf." (Portland, Oregon. Of course, there is no such thing as an "unwelcome mat" and yet language somehow allows it. An alternative might be, "Posted," or "No Trespassing Sign.")

♦ "Team Angelos has shown the no-longer-welcome mat to popular voices Jon Miller, Gary Thorne and Jim Hunter." (The Baltimore Orioles baseball team CEO John Angelos puts the latest team announcer, Kevin Brown, in the dog house. Phil Mushnik.)

### **match (light / strike a match, etc.)**

struck a match  
before a crowd poised for violence at his signal, he ~

### **match (chess match)**

see *chess match* (noun)

### **match (death match)**

in a death match  
the two men are engaged ~

in a death match with enemies  
American democracy was ~ within (McCarthy, etc.)

♦ see also *fight to the death*

### **matchmaker (person)**

matchmaker between investors and landowners  
he began acting as ~ (marijuana / hemp farming)

### **matter (Black lives matter, etc.)**

matter most  
the question, whose lives ~ (vaccine distribution)

matter so much  
why does that diversity of options ~ (Black newspapers)

what matters  
Anjelah Johnson on ~ (Black and Latina women)

what's missing matters  
~ (BeReal vs. Instagram)

*Why the Greeks Matter*  
*Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea*: ~ (Thomas Cahill / 2003)

Why Indonesia matters  
~ (*The Economist* / 2022)

Why America's wetlands matter  
"Swamped: ~" by Annie Proulx

Why that matters  
"Few Black men become school psychologists, ~" (NPR)

why it matters  
what China is reading and ~

why queer visibility in baking matters  
~ (Camilla Wynne, King Arthur Baking, Jun. 14, 2022)

how we say Uvalde matters  
~ (different groups pronounce it differently)

how we talk about monkey pox matters  
~ (stigmatize no one)

who is in the room with the ear of the president matters  
~ (historian Manisha Sinha)

Art Matters  
~ (Baltimore Museum of Art)

Black Dykes Matter  
she was wearing a " ~ " T-shirt

Black employees matter  
we will make it clear that our ~ (hypocrisy)

Black lives matter  
Phoenix said "no" to a ~ mural

Black Workers' Lives Matter  
~ Root Out Racism (a sign)

Black Lives Don't Matter  
"GSMNP vandalized with ' ~ ' Sign" (Laurel Wamsley NPR)

*Black Love Matters*  
~: *Authentic Men's Voices...* (by Armon Perry)

Black mental health matters  
~: how to cope during a time of social justice

Black Voters Matter  
advocates with ~ have been circulating a petition...

Blue Lives Matter  
the ~ movement advocates for the police

British Empire matters  
~ (Sathnam Sanghera, author of *Empireland*)

Cannon's Life Matters  
~ (see Wikipedia article "Killing of Cannon Hinnant")

China matters  
why an aging ~ (NPR's Emily Feng)

choices mattered  
but our ~ (the COVID pandemic)

confidentiality matters  
information where ~ (privacy-enhancing technologies)

context matters  
when it comes to terms, ~ ("C.P. Time")

death matters

every ~ (Fentanyl overdoses)

Democracy matters  
Lesson from Ukraine: ~ (the *Christian Science Monitor*)

Design Matters  
~ (a podcast)

diversity matters  
~ (Coast Guard's first female commandant)

elections matter  
~, and I think that... (Maggie Hassan, pro-abortion)

Equality Matters  
~ (BBC)

everyone matters  
our vision is to create an environment where ~ (police)

faith matters  
~ promises to spark thought and conversation...

February matters  
Black History is more than one month, but ~

harm reduction matters  
~ and the question was inappropriate (about lesbians)

His life mattered  
~. Period (shot and killed by police)

History Matters  
~ (Drew Gilpin Faust)

Irish Lives Matter  
~ ("2023 Dublin riot" / #Irelandisfull)

it MATTERS  
it's consuming and exhausting but ~ (an Instagram story)

Jayland's Life Matters  
Black Lives Matter / Murder! / ~ (signs at the protest)

Jewish Lives Matter  
after Hamas' horrors, why is it so hard to say ~

language matters  
~ when talking about suicide (politically correct language)  
~ (New York changes "inmate" to "incarcerated person")

lawyering can matter  
it's not just the defendant or witness, ~ (Depp-Heard trial)

My mother's life mattered  
~, your actions here today...

Palestinian lives matter  
"Do ~ to the world?" (CNN)

Parents matter  
~ (Parents' Bill of Rights in Texas / education)

Parents Matter  
Youngkin's education campaign was the phrase, "~"

Pronouns Matter

~ Tell us yours! (Signature Bank)

race matters  
~ in college admissions, now more than ever (2015)

representation matters  
for Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason, ~  
Barbie knows that ~ (Laverne Cox transgender doll)  
~ and I am so thankful... (queer bakers)

Russian Lives Matter  
~ (Candace Owens)

Sex Matters  
the lobby group ~ (Maya Forstater)

size matters  
~ for most women (penis enhancement ad / YouTube)

size (of the boat) matters  
for captains, the ~ (mega yachts / salary / 2022)

Stories Matter  
the "~" initiative (the Walt Disney Company)

Taiwan matters  
international society has to decide whether ~

teaching matters  
~ is an audio series exploring...

trans lives matter  
protesters came to Riley Gaines' speech, chanting "~"

Trans Rights Matter  
~ (a protest sign at a demonstration)

visibility matters  
~ (Big dykes)

White Lives Matter  
poor turnout at ~ rallies (NPR)  
Ye and his models wore "~" T-shirts (Kanye West)

words matter  
simply put, ~ (equity, diversity, inclusion)  
~ because they reinforce negative attitudes ("spaz")  
~ but actions matter much more (activists who want things)  
~ (Puffin Books erases and changes Roald Dahl's words)

"Art and Race Matters [sic]  
~: The Career of Robert Colescott"

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Why does 'Black Lives Matter' trigger so many people?"

♦ "The slogan [White Lives Matter]... is considered hate speech by the Anti-Defamation League and has been attributed to white supremacist groups..." ("The fashion world embraced Ye. After his 'White Lives Matter' shirts, that may change" by Michel Martin, NPR, All Things Considered, October 9, 2022.)

♦ "When you're not able to recognize Black lives, you just don't get to [sic] all lives." (Celeste Hodge Growden, president of the Alaska Black Caucus. Presumably, she is referring to "Black Lives Matter" versus "All Lives Matter." From "Anchorage police investigated in White Privilege card photo" by Mark Thiessen, AP, July 13, 2022.)

♦ "You have to be authentic, I want you to be authentic, your story matters." (Maimouna Youssef to young artists about social-justice

music and the new Grammy merit award for “Best Song for Social Change.”)

### \*\*\* social media, popular culture...

◆ The phrase “Black Lives Matter” has achieved the status of a meme, along with online meme generators that are often used to create vile messages.

### \*\*\* heard from the pulpit...

◆ “Institutions matter... The church as an institution matters. Ask John Wesley. The government as an institution matters. Ask John Lewis. The post office as an institution matters. Ask Benjamin Franklin. The CDC as an institution matters. Ask Anthony Fauci. The EU and Nato as institutions matter. Ask Vladimir Zelensky. And one more...Marsh Chapel, as an institution, matters.” (From the live broadcast of the Marsh Chapel Service at Boston University on May 1, 2022. “Ask” is a fine rhetorical device, as is “matters.”)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “Matter” bandwagon...

◆ “If we truly believe that all lives matter, and Black lives matter and brown lives matter and the lives of poor people matter, it’s time for us to make sure...” (US Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, who is seeking to end federal capital punishment.)

◆ “If we believe that the lives of incarcerated people matter, she maintains, we have a legal and moral obligation to make these conditions less inhumane.” (“Dying Behind Bars” by Eyal Press, *The New Yorker*, August 23, 2021.)

◆ “We need to stop with the delusions. Science matters. Biology matters. Truth matters.” (Trans women are trans women, not women.)

◆ “We are sending a strong message to young girls who dream... Your service matters, your contribution to the Coast Guard and to the country matters. And yes, you too can be Commandant someday.” (U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell praising Admiral Linda Fagan, the first female commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. Military recruitment matters...)

◆ “[The parents] want to make their [children’s] loss of life matter.” (Uvalde school shooting.)

◆ “Hope. Hope and just the fact that we actually matter. Like Kansas City’s on the map, I mean, we’re like the center of the NFL World right now, so, like yeah, he brought us hope, he brought us meaning, he brought us purpose.” (A happy football fan about what Patrick Mahomes means to Kansas City, Missouri, in 2023.)

◆ “It matters whether or not you accept the outcome of elections. It matters whether or not you, for example, talk about how you’re gonna deal with the border instead of talkin’ about people being vermin. I mean, those things matter. That’s the kind of language that is inflammatory.” (President Joe Biden’s interview at the White House with Lester Holt, NBC News, on Monday, July 15, 2024, two days after Trump’s near-assassination, on Saturday, July 13, 2024.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

◆ The Matter of Black Lives: Writing from *The New Yorker*, Edited by Jelani Cobb and David Remnick, with a foreword by Jelani Cobb.

◆ “Black Lives Matter” Yard Sign. 2-Sided, Protest Sign, Black Owned Business, BLM Lawn Sign. (\$17.97+. Etsy.)

◆ “Black Lives Matter” Sweater. Returns accepted. +Add to cart. More like this...” (\$49.95. Etsy.)

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

◆ “As the historian Eric Foner phrased it, for all its shortcomings, the Midwest ‘recognized black humanity.’ One might even say that with Lincoln and the region’s ardent abolitionists, black lives, for the first time, mattered.” (“Recovering The Heartland” by Hendrik Meijer, *National Review*, December 19, 2022. History framed in contempo-speak.)

◆ “Black Lives Matter. History Matters. John Hope Franklin showed us how much they matter to each other.” (“John Hope Franklin: Race and the Meaning of America” by the historian Drew Gilpin Faust, *The New York Review*, December 17, 2015. History framed in contempo-speak.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

◆ “Why don’t you guys talk about something that matters? I’m happy to answer a question that matters.” (President Joe Biden, criticizing

reporters asking him if he regretted fist-bumping Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in 2022.)

◆ “I like living someplace where a horse matters... I like being a person to whom a horse matters...I like living a life where a horse matters...” (“Baxter Black’s final column: A horse matters,” *The Las Cruces Bulletin*, posted Jan. 5, 2022. Baxter Black wrote the article in November 2017.)

◆ “Being personal with each other, it’s valuable, it matters...” (“Warm human connections.”)

◆ “Last week meant something”; “Positions are important (in basketball)”; “Every decision I make counts...”

◆ “The war had made it obvious by the most cruel of all arguments, that science is of the most immediate and direct importance to everybody. This had changed the character of physics.” (The physicist Victor Weisskopf. If he were alive today, he probably would simply write, “Physics matter,” and expect everyone to understand and agree.)

### \*\*\* analysis

◆ Matters to you. Not to me!

◆ Everything matters...

◆ Nothing matters...

◆ Don’t worry, it doesn’t matter...

◆ Slogans are the battle cries of our modern crowds.

◆ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## mature (verb)

matured

our relationship has ~ (between India and US)

## maturity

democratic maturity

a key measure of the ~ of Turkey

## maul (a storm mauled the Bahamas, etc.)

maul the Bahamas

Hurricane Dorian continues to ~ (slow moving)

## maven (person)

maven of taste

the Baron de Gunzburg and another ~, Frances Stein

apartment mavens

he took them with him as ~ (looking for an apartment)

### \*\*\* analysis

◆ “Experienced, knowledgeable, expert...” Yiddish from Hebrew, first known use 1950 according to Merriam-Webster. Can refer to a male or female.

## maverick (noun)

maverick

I like being a little bit of a ~

being the ~ that I was, I decided to challenge those rules

Shackleton was too much of a ~ for a desk job

maverick mantle

she wears the ~ (a politician)

maverick mindset

she has soured on the politician’s ~

hard-charging maverick

he was a ~ who shook up football (a coach)

iconoclast or maverick

I was more like an ~ when I was young (Felix Bast)

♦ *The Men Who United The States: America's Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics, and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible.* (By the great writer Simon Winchester.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The word *maverick* is native to the United States. It applies to an unbranded animal, usually a motherless calf. This word is owed to Samuel A. *Maverick* of Texas, who failed to brand the calves of his herds. Since Texas was a wild and wooly place in the middle of the 19th century, the neighbors took these calves and put their own brands on them." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 3, "These Words Came From Proper Names.")

♦ see also *mustang* (noun)

## maybe (contempo-speak)

maybe rethink

turn it into a chance to ~ how we do some thing

maybe kind of

see *kind of* (contempo-speak)

maybe kind of like

see *kind of like* (filler)

maybe like

see *like* (filler)

"Definitely Maybe"

~, the debut album by Oasis

*Definitely, Maybe*

the 2008 romantic comedy film ~

do feel like maybe

I ~ having an openness and vulnerability...

feel like maybe

that can ~ a bit more intentional or radical

I ~ this brought him back to the point where...

I ~ tomorrow they're going to take it back or something

I think maybe

~ what's a little bit different is this idea that there will...

~ there were a lot of things that would not have been...

~ that's because when we are outside now we have to...

~ they got mad because I told them that I was...

~ this reminds me of spring...

but then I realized, ~ we're too preoccupied with the past

I think, maybe

but sometimes ~, we need another...

I think: Maybe

Here's what ~ ...

kind of maybe

where you can really ~ understand...

something that ~ leaves him open for ridicule

Kind of. Maybe

~. It depends on what you mean by...

kind of—maybe

Ellie, Chloe and Rachel are ~ semi-friendly acquaintances

kind of like, maybe

I was ~ this isn't happening, maybe we just need to...

obviously, maybe

but ~ I didn't...

sort of maybe

and so I started to feel like being ~ over connected...

Well, I don't know. Maybe

~... Do you want to answer it anyway (*American Pie 2*)

♦ "I think maybe what's a little bit different these days is this idea that there will still be people out there thinking that she..." (Chloe Domont. From "Can capitalism and love coexist? 'Fair Play' film seeks to answer," WBUR, September 27, 2023.)

♦ "Now, are the parents in these situation thinking that way, maybe maybe not." (Exquisite punditry, heard on NPR.)

♦ "My characters are a little bit askew, I suppose. They're not very literal, and I suppose the character I was trying to play was kind of maybe a hot, neon pink cigarette kind of falling away toward the end of its life. Maybe that's the character I was trying to play. You can kind of make anything out of it that you want." ("Johnny Weir On Skating Fashion And 'Man Cleavage,'" NRP, Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!, March 6, 2010. *Che uomo macho!*)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Michelle: It's like, you know all our stories?" (Pronounced upspeak on "stories.") / Jim: (Confused and startled.) "Uh, was that a question?" / Michelle: "Well, I don't know. Maybe... Do you want to answer it anyway?" (The 2001 [italics mine] film *American Pie 2*. Since then, this sort of contempo-speak has only become more prevalent, to include males. Funny! Watch: I Get Nasty When I'm H\*rny! *American Pie 2*)

## Mayflower (Mayflower of the Third Aliyah, etc.)

Zionist *Mayflower*

the *Ruslan*, which was the ~ of the Third Aliyah

## maze (terrain)

maze of canyons

wild horses—both mustangs and runaways— roam the ~

maze of (decaying) seracs

one last trip through the ~ (Icefall / Everest)

maze of (tire) tracks

the only roads are a ~ in the sand (Dadaab)

maze of trails

a ~ that leads to a construction site and a series of roads

maze of (deer) trails

a ~

maze of ice and rocks

alone, lost in a ~ (Nuptse)

maze of mangrove, canals and swamps

the forest was a dark ~ (U Minh)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Gardens are associated with mazes, knot gardens and labyrinths. People also enjoy corn and mirror mazes. *Labyrinth* is of Minoan origin and is associated with the Minotaur.

## maze (structures)

maze of (hillside) slums

people crammed into the ~ (Kabul)

maze of (vertical) slums

squeezed into a ~ without bathrooms (Kabul)

maze of (narrow) streets

crowds of shoppers in the ~ (Nanning)

maze of tunnels

they got lost in a ~ (Canary Islands)

maze of bars, restaurants and nightclubs

a ~ (Kuta Beach, Bali)

maze of dikes and dams and ditches

the Tulare Lake Basin, with its ~

maze of shanties and shacks

fought their way through a dense ~ (Mogadishu)

maze of (refuse-strewn) back streets and alleyways

the ~ (Sadr City)

maze of tunnels, spider holes, underground bunkers

the ~ known as the Gaza Metro (Israel-Hamas war)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A group of people are lost in the middle of a great corn maze. One person is sitting on the ground with the map of the corn map in his lap. The others are all huddled around him, trying to figure out where they are on the map. One of them is saying, about the map, "Oh, wait, it's upside-down."

## maze (bureaucracy, etc.)

maze of (bureaucratic) rules

a civil-service culture, with a ~ (NASA)

heath care maze

an immigrant's tale of navigating the tangled ~

bureaucratic maze

her scholarship money got lost in a ~

workers whose only job is to navigate the ~ (Sudan)

navigate the (bureaucratic) maze

workers whose only job is to ~ (Sudan)

got lost in a bureaucratic maze

when her scholarship money ~...

♦ "The brochure had an illustration of a maze on the cover—no doubt a metaphor for life, which the mechanism would help solve." ("Minimum Payment Due" by Said Sayrafiezadeh, Fiction, *The New Yorker*, November 25, 2024.)

## McCarthy

McCarthy moment

this cancellation culture is the SJW ~ (of Walt Whitman)

\*\*\* "McCarthy...was up there as a tail gunner..."

♦ "Those records document in detail every flight [Joe McCarthy] went up in as a tail gunner. He volunteered for those flights, he came under fire... McCarthy at great risk to himself when he could have stayed safely on the ground was up there as a tail gunner under enemy fire." From, "'We've Got To Learn From Our History,' 'Demagogue' Author Warns," Fresh Air, NPR, July 7, 2020. Charles Lindbergh—also a demon of the left—was another American who found a way to get himself into combat at the risk of his life.

## \*\*\* analysis

♦ Many historical personages—Hector, Pandarus, King Canute, Machiavelli, Captain William Bligh, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Joe McCarthy—have been mischaracterized in history and in the language.

## McCarthyism

new McCarthyism

progressivism is the ~ at *The New York Times*

kind of McCarthyism

the group's campaign is a ~ that bashes us (claims NPR)

## McCarthyite

McCarthyite hysteria

Democrats are sometimes prone to ~ (against Russia)

## me (like me, look like me, speak like me, be like me, etc.)

like me

and for readers ~ (a non-binary gestational parent)

I wanted to write for lads ~ (Sufiyan Salam)

I'm passionate about helping other women just ~ but you don't look nothin' ~

like her

women ~, talented, outgoing, highly ambitious...

like us

you want to be ~, you gotta do like we do

people ~ don't do things like that (go into acting)

Be like

~ Mike (a Gatorade commercial)

~ them, everyone seemed to be saying (the Huxtables)

look (enough) like the city

it doesn't ~ it serves (Boston police department)

look like the country

the Supreme Court should ~ (Joe Biden)

looked like him

few people ~ in the lecture hall, he felt isolated

look like me

space for people who ~ (the online Black Opry)

the root of all your problems is that you don't ~

look (just) like me

so many amazing Black students who ~

looked like me

I never saw anyone who ~

looks like me

this is for every little girl that ~ (Michelle Yeoh)

look like them

a more welcoming place for others who ~ (music industry)

even if the characters didn't ~...

looked like them

fat people felt unwelcome because no one ~ there (gyms)

looks like them

a Disney princess who ~ (Halle Bailey)

look like us

there aren't a lot of people that ~ that are on the air

look like you

it gets boring just talking to the same people that ~  
it's nice to be around people that ~ who just kind of get it...

looks like yourself

when you have a chance to see someone who ~ (deaf, ASL)

loves like us

not seeing anyone who ~ makes us feel we don't belong

sound like America

if you ~, then it's America that's talking (NPR)

looks and sounds like America

we seek to build a staff that ~ (NPR)

look and sound like me

people who ~ (Anna Shectman, crossword constructor)

looks and thinks like you

sticking with a crowd that ~ seems the only safe choice

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "You can't be what you can't see."

♦ "If you sound like America, then it's America that's talking." (Keith Woods, NPR's vice president of newsroom training and diversity.)

♦ "Critics have complained the police department doesn't look enough like the city it serves." (Boston.)

♦ "Let's face it, America is getting bigger, and women want to see themselves instead of the image of what society says they should be." (Plus-size model Ashley Graham.)

♦ "He had to deal with being the only young person of color in Narcotics Anonymous meetings."

♦ "Cuz, it wasn't many people that looked like me doing it, so..."

♦ "If you've not seen yourself on screen before, why would you ever want to go for that role? You've suddenly got representation from not one, but two South Asian women and it's a period drama which traditionally you'd only see white cast members in." (Laraib Waheed, an actor, about on-screen representation of people of South Asian heritage in the hit period drama *Bridgerton*. From "Bridgerton: South Asian faces on TV 'makes me happy'" by Paige Neal-Holder and Steffan Powell, BBC, March 22, 2022.)

♦ "I was welcomed by so many amazing Black students who look just like me, who have the same dreams and aspirations as me as well." (Daya Brown about Duke University. From "Teen accepted to more than 50 colleges, receives over \$1.3 million in scholarships." She wants to study mass communications or film, and she created her own production company while in high school. "I think a lot of people think that if you're smart, you can't be cool. So I found a way to showcase brilliance [and] still have fun while you're doing it.")

♦ "It was nice to be around people that look like you *who just kind of get it* [italics mine]" (Mayowa Aina about the Black Student Union at the University of Washington. She is the author of "Dear Whiteness" for the audio project, "Letters from Young Activists.")

♦ "I was exhausted with the culture of country music not creating space for people who look like me." (This short sentence combines three tropes relating to inclusion and exclusion: physical malaise; the idea of spaces; and "look like me.")

♦ "Not everyone feels safe and comfortable in nature. People who didn't grow up camping or who might not recognize themselves in a hiking-gear catalogue may experience stress or anxiety instead. To make green spaces more inviting to everyone, start by evaluating

your own actions and following this advice from Latino Outdoors founder Jose G. Gonzalez." ("The Nature Antidote" by Jill U. Adams, *Audubon magazine*, Winter, 2019.)

♦ "It does open up a conversation because it's her using her voice and her platform to really call out systemic change, which she has done before. I think she can show other girls and women who look like her how to empower them to stand up for themselves in ways that I think we haven't always been able to see." (C. Vaile Wright, PhD, a clinical psychologist and the American Psychological Association's Senior Director of Health Care Innovation, about Naomi Osaka and her struggles with mental health.)

♦ "Yeah, absolutely. You know, I was a typical sort of nineties alternative person [upspeak] you know like I really prized the clothes I wore sort of my unusual taste in music and when I arrived at Berkeley in 1995 I was seeking out people who were exactly like me [light upspeak]. And Ken was very different. You know, he was really confident, sort of conventionally handsome... He was in a frat." (*The New Yorker* writer Hua Hsu, speaking to Scott Simon on NPR. Sixty-eight percent of tweets between journalist who work at *The Washington Post*, NPR, and *The New York Times*... are to each other.)

♦ "I am Puerto Rican, from the Bronx, and I was raised in the 50s, loved television, never saw anybody who looked like me, I began to feel on some level that I was invisible. I didn't know what I would contribute to a society that was determined not to see me..." (Sonia Manzano, actor, screenwriter, author, speaker, TV series creator, producer, etc., who played Maria on *Sesame Street* for 44 years. According to her Wikipedia article, she attended the High School of Performing Arts, then Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh on scholarship.)

♦ "Well," [Mr. Motshill] said when he saw me, "what is it?" / "I have come to join school," I said. / "Speak English," he said. "What is it you want?" / "To join school," I said, in English. / "Much better," said Mr. Motshill..." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn.)

♦ "She dreamed of having a more dignified place to go, where women like her—talented, outgoing, highly ambitious—could find like-minded souls, get changed and charge their phones in peace. Thus the idea for *The Wing* was born." (Audrey Gelman, the company's co-founder and CEO. From "The Wing: how an exclusive women's club sparked a thousand arguments" by Linda Kinstler, *The Guardian*, 18 October 2019.)

♦ "There were other women that attended that carpet who did not quite look like me and they didn't get scolded, or pushed off, or told to get off." (Singer and actress Kelly Rowland about a blond female steward at Cannes Film Festival. According to the BBC, "Cannes is known for having strict rules for guests on the red carpet." Staff move celebrities along so a film can start on time. Read, "Kelly Rowland explains her viral Cannes red-carpet confrontation: 'I have a boundary'" by Eva Hartman, *Los Angeles Times*, May 24, 2024. You be the judge.)

♦ "I feel that she's a better option for people that look like me." (A Kamala Harris supporter in Georgia, answering an NBC reporter's question, "Why are you supporting Kamala Harris?" Shown on NBC *Nightly News*.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "like me" bandwagon...

♦ "This is not just for me, this is for every little girl that looks like me... We want to be seen. We want to be heard." (Michelle Yeoh touting herself on Instagram for an Academy Award.)

♦ "Parents share their children's joy at seeing a Disney princess who looks like them," Michel Martin, NPR, All Things Considered, September 17, 2022. Halle Bailey as *The Little Mermaid*.)

♦ "Hello there, I'm Jennifer and welcome to *Simply + Fiercely*... I'm passionate about helping other women just like me."

♦ "Hello, I am a queer, mad and neurodivergent higher education researcher and I am looking to explore the lived experiences of queer MMIND (mad, mentally ill, neurodivergent and disabled) college students and their experiences on college campuses..." (reddit.)

♦ "[Deaf people] want to see someone like themselves use their language on TV. We're always used to reading captions on TV, and all the shows. But when you have a chance to see someone who looks like yourself, who used the same language as you, we've got many people that were so excited to see themselves on screen." (Raven Sutton, the first deaf contestant on Netflix's *The Circle*.)



♦ “Solving a crossword puzzle, there’s a lot of joy in that moment when you see something you know reflected back to you in the newspaper grid. And so for me, it became a project of bringing that moment of recognition to more and more people who look and sound like me and consume the same sort of cultural artefacts that I do.” (Anna Shectman, crossword constructor. A clue that she constructed that she likes best is: Grande Dame of music. (Answer: Ariana.) From “The ‘real outlier’ in the crossword puzzle-making community” by Lucy Wallis, BBC News, April 3, 2022.)

♦ “A young man, that looks like everyone in this room right now...” (Was murdered nearby. From “Raising Kings: A Year Of Love And Struggle At Ron Brown College Prep. Episode 1: A Year Of Love And Struggle In A New High School,” NPR, Code Switch, October 18, 2017.)

♦ “Someone went out of their way to target and kill children who look like our children, teachers who look like our teachers—and did it for no other reason than to hurt them.” (Psychologist and consultant John Van Dreal.)

♦ “These kids look like me, this could have been me, or this could have been my family or this could have been us.” (Maria Maldonado Morales, a clinical social worker at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. From “What the shooting in Uvalde has meant for the Latino community” by Mary Louise Kelly, Alejandra Marquez Janse, and Roberta Rampton, NPR, June 4, 2022.)

♦ “We don’t have enough representation of people that look like me as non-binary... that are outside the white androgyny.” (Self-described as fat, Black, and non-binary. Dating...)

♦ “Not seeing anyone who loves like us makes us feel like we don’t fully belong at Calvin.” (Claire Murashima, the first openly gay student body president in the 102 year Student Senate history at Calvin University, a private Christian school in Grand Rapids, Michigan.)

♦ “Be like Mike” (a Gatorade commercial)... / “Eddie Would Go” (Hawaii)... / “What would Mandela do?” (South Africa)...

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “It gets boring just talking to the same people that look like you, you know. It’s like talking to yourself. So, it would be nice, you know? Different perspectives on different things. Too bad I don’t see a lot.” (Dahi, a student who only knows two white adult people, teachers at his nearly all Black school in Washington, DC. From “Raising Kings: A Year Of Love And Struggle At Ron Brown College Prep. Episode 3: The Fierce Debate Over High Standards,” NPR, Code Switch, November 1, 2017. In a Code Switch follow-up, “Is Ron Brown High School Working?” (October 31, 2018), we learn that Dahi left the school after being threatened by a student and harassed by others.)

♦ She remains thrilled by the unusually wide demographic appeal of the series (*Last Tango in Halifax*). Might this be due to its subject matter being love and families, which most people have some experience of? ‘Yes. Even if the characters didn’t look like them. I sometimes think we make too much of ‘representation’. You don’t necessarily need to see yourself on a screen for it to be interesting. For me, ideally ‘diversity’ would mean white audiences watching black shows and the other way round.” (The actor Nina Sosanya. From “Nina Sosanya: ‘I was always a minority—even in my own family’ by Mark Lawson, *The Guardian*, 11 July 2016.)

♦ “[My father said to me] ‘Listen son, people like us don’t do things like that (go into acting)...son, I just don’t want you to talk about it anymore...’” (“British Actor Terence Stamp Reflects on London in the Swinging ‘60s,” NPR, Fresh Air, Nov 5, 2021. Originally broadcast in 2002. About what his father had said, Stamp said, “In fact, it didn’t deter me at all.”)

♦ “As you get higher up in the levels, when it comes to the national circuit, if you don’t fit in with the crowd, you won’t make it.” (Retired W-League player Rhali Dobson. Quoted in “Lisa De Vanna’s allegations highlight tensions in Australia’s complex football culture” by Samantha Lewis, *Analysis, Sport*, 18 Oct 2021.)

♦ “saying ‘im doing “X” for ppl that look like me’ is so racist I’m shocked its tolerated by the general public. Imagine if Aaron Rodgers said ‘I’m doing this for the boys that look like me.’” (An online commenter, reacting to “NYC college grad says viral mic drop justified because she’s ‘black woman in America’: ‘I am always in the right’” by Yaron Steinbuch, *The New York Post*, June 23, 2023. LaGuardia Community College, Queens, New York City.)

♦ Ron Clark: “You see this? [Pointing to a poster that says, “We Are Family.”] This means that this year is going to be different. This year

is going to be about more than school. This year, we are going to be a family.” / A student: “But you don’t look nothin’ like me.” (The film *The Ron Clark Story*.)

♦ “The Cosby Show, the Huxtables, were meant to inspire us. Be like them, everyone seemed to be saying...” (A discussion on Bill Cosby’s legacy.)

♦ “[S]ticking with a crowd that looks and thinks like you seems the only safe choice.” (At universities. From “NY Times’ DEI wakeup is better late than never” by Post Editorial Board, *The New York Post*, Oct. 17, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “He was busy performing a silly but expected all-about-me dance...” (An NFL player makes a stupid mistake that costs his team.)

♦ “It’s time to face the music, / it’s time to make you see / the root of all your problems is / that you don’t look like me.” (Candy Pink (Julie Brown) organizing a make-over for Valerie Gail (Geena Davis) to make her brand new and more appealing to Ted Gallagher (Charles Rocket). From the silly film *Earth Girls Are Easy*.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## meal ticket (noun)

meal ticket

she was the ~, but he was afraid he could lose her

Warren’s (last) meal ticket

Fury is ~ (the boxer and promoter)

lose their meal ticket

NFL players don’t want to ~ (protest and get fired)

saw him as a meal ticket

she ~ (source of support and money)

♦ “I pay my own way, I’m not looking for no meal ticket.”

## meander (verb)

meander in new and different directions

as the two states ~ (Ireland and UK)

meander in unexpected ways

conversations ~

meanders from action to satire to romance

the film ~

highways meander

~ in the South

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Merriam-Webster, this word comes from the name of a river in Asia Minor that was known for its turning and winding. It’s a nice way to think of the word.

♦ “There is no way to devise order when we are dealing with the left-overs from this chapter of miscellaneous words. It may be best that we wander without particular direction or plan through this unrelated field of words, and when we do this we will be what is called *meandering*. That is, we will be acting like the river *Maiandros*, from which our English word was taken, that went winding aimlessly through the fields of Phrygia in the Asia Minor of classic Greece.” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ MEANDER, n. To proceed sinuously and aimlessly. The word is the ancient name of a river about one hundred and fifty miles south of Troy, which turned and twisted in the effort to get out of hearing when the Greeks and Trojans boasted of their prowess.” (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## measure (measure up, etc.)

measure myself by their standards

I don’t ~ (manosphere versus feminism)

measure up to the film  
does the sound track ~

measure up to the standard she sets  
I certainly can't ~

measure up against other films  
how does it ~ set in Boston

measure up favorably  
when we feel we don't ~...

fails to measure up  
their new burger ~

## meat (substance)

meat of the story  
and now it's time to get into the ~ (*Crime in Sports*)

meat of the subject  
and then go on to the real ~

meat on the bone  
there isn't any ~ (nothing to investigate)

## meat (military)

"meat assaults"  
Ukrainians describe them as ~ (Russian attacks / attrition)

meat grinder  
see *meat grinder (military)*

thrown into battle as meat  
they are ~ (a Ukrainian about Russian troops)

♦ "It was the Somme in miniature. To the Finns who witnessed these attacks, it seemed beyond belief that any army, no matter how fatalistic its ideology or inexhaustible its supply of manpower, would continue to mount attack after attack across such billiard-table terrain. / In some battles the Finnish machine gunners held their fire until the range was down to fifty meters; the butchery was dreadful. In a number of cases Finnish machine gunners had to be evacuated due to stress. They had become emotionally unstable from having to perform such mindless slaughter, day after day." (Taipale. From *Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War Of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter.)

♦ "You are just meat to your commanders." (Text messages from Ukrainian soldiers to those resisting them in the Donbas. From the Wikipedia article "Battle of Avdiivka (2017)." Olga Schechter's remarkable 2018 documentary film *A Sniper's War* recorded a piece of this battle. She focused on the Serb sniper "Deki.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The Ukrainian term 'meat assault' is polemical and propagandistic, like the term 'human wave attack.' It is a way to dehumanize the enemy. See the Wikipedia article 'Human wave attack.' Wikipedians are wonderful.

## meat (fresh meat, etc.)

fresh meat  
they knew we were ~ (prison-guard trainees)

## meat (red meat, etc.)

delivering red meat  
he was ~ to an audience hungry for it (Victor Orban)

serve up red meat  
politicians ~ to true believers (a convention)

throwing red meat to the base  
she's ~ hoping to win them over (politics)

## meat (piece of meat)

piece of meat  
they get another fresh ~ to fill the slot (adjunct PhDs)

pieces of meat  
football players are ~ sold to the highest bidder

♦ "We're pieces of meat at the end of the day, and we're not treated with much respect." (Bryn Hargreaves, rugby league player, who retired in 2012 at the age of 26.)

## meat and potatoes (livelihood)

meat-and potatoes of her job  
this is the ~ (explaining public health measures to public)

## meat grinder (military)

meat grinder on the Western Front  
the post trained infantry troops to be sent into the ~

Rzhev Meat-Grinder  
the ~ ("Soviet Storm: World War II in the East")

put into the meat grinder  
Able Company was ~ (Moro River / Italy / WW II)

turned into a meat-grinder  
the land war had ~ (Russo-Japanese War)

sparked a (two-week) meat grinder  
the ambush on Hill 861 ~ (Khe Sanh Hill Fights)

♦ "Meat-grinder is the metaphor that comes to mind." (John Batchelor talking with James Holland about the Battle of San Pietro Infine, Italy, World War II. Rain. Lack of air cover due to weather. Mountain peaks. Artillery. Mud. Rocky slopes made shrapnel worse. Casualties evacuated by mules. From "The Battle for Italy 1943 with James Holland / John Batchelor.")

♦ Part Two: THE WALKING DEAD 6. Sunday Morning... 7. Clay pigeons... 8. Run in Circles, Scream and Shout... 9. Into the Meat Grinder... 10. What Sixty Mike Mikes Do... 11. Alpha A Go-Go... 12. Banzai... 13. Better Late Than Never... 14. Let's Die Right... 15. Survivors... 16. Incoming... 17. Finally, Medevacs... 18. Charlie Company's Turn... (From the Contents of the affecting book *Operation Buffalo: USMC Fight For The DMZ* by Keith William Nolan. "Then came the morning." In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

## meat grinder (other)

meat-grinder of a job  
being White House Chief of Staff is a ~

Hollywood meat-grinder  
what it's like to go through the ~ (Dominik's film *Blonde*)

♦ "Being White House Chief of Staff is a meat-grinder of a job." (NPR's Tamara Keith.)

♦ "I know we joke but players do get put through the mincer..." (A BBC HYS commenter about soccer injuries.)

## meaty (substance)

meaty book  
people *will* be talking about this ~ (by Patricia Lockwood)

meaty story

it just struck me as this very ~ (a journalist)

♦ The boxer Liam "Beefy" Smith...

## mecca (mecca of bluegrass, etc.)

Mecca

Howard University was the ~ (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe)

mecca of basketball

a ~ (the Christian Street YMCA in Philadelphia)

mecca of bluegrass

the ~ (Bean Blossom, Indiana)

mecca of American rock climbing

Yosemite, the ~ (El Cap, Half Dome, etc.)

mecca of Manolos and Miuccia Pradas

Manhattan's ~ (Bergdorf Goodman)

mecca for (500,000) bikers

a motorcycle ~ (Sturgis, S.D.)

Mecca for train buffs

the town is a ~ (Folkston, GA / USA)

Mecca for climbers

Hueco Tanks State Historical Park, a ~

mecca for kite lovers

the Washington (D.C.) area is a ~

mecca for Black people

Atlanta is the ~ in America

mecca for glider pilots

Marfa, Texas, is a ~

mecca for (Arizona) tourists

a ~ (Kartchner Caverns)

mecca to (whitewater) paddlers

the Altays are a ~ (Russia)

New Zealand's canyoning Mecca

the Mount Aspiring region is ~

arts mecca

the city wants to be an ~

basketball mecca

the little church gym became a ~ (St. Cecilia / Detroit)

drug mecca

Spain has replaced Amsterdam as the new European ~

Mariachi mecca

Plaza Garibaldi is a ~ (El Tenampa, etc. / Mexico City)

motorcycle mecca

a ~ for 500,000 bikers (Sturgis, S.D.)

spring break meccas

~ like Pensacola and Panama City Beach

tourist mecca

the ~ of Waikiki (Hawaii)

boxing Mecca

he settled in Philadelphia, a ~ (Joe Frazier)

gambling meccas

~ like Atlantic City and Las Vegas

skateboarding mecca

he moved to the ~, California

homophile mecca

this ~ (San Francisco)

becoming a (tourist) mecca

Maun is ~ (Okavango Delta / Botswana)

♦ "Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening, and welcome to the boxing mecca, the boxing capital of the World, Madison Square Garden, New York City, New York, U-S-A..." (Michael Buffer announcing "Irish" Andy Lee v. John Jackson, HBO PPV, 2014.)

♦ "The tiny Swiss canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden has voted to prohibit the phenomenon of naked hiking. Among naked hikers, there is disappointment... Swiss lawyers say the ban is illegal, as the Swiss parliament voted to remove public nudity from the penal code in 1991... The decision is being watched closely by other alpine regions... Just over the mountains in canton Glarus, there is nervousness that if naked hikers are driven out of Appenzell, they may choose Glarus as their next favorite spot."

\*\*\* "It's like you're praying closer to God's ear."

♦ "It's like you're praying closer to God's ear." (A pilgrim performing Hajj, on praying in Makkah near the Grand Mosque.)

♦ Over a billion Muslims around the world pray five times a day towards the Saudi city of Makkah, and over two million Muslim pilgrims a year visit that city for the annual Hajj.

## mechanics (noun)

mechanics of (international) finance

the climate crisis and the ~

mechanics of hatred

in this series I'll be unpicking the ~ (a history of hate)

mechanics of (criminal) investigations

a powerful portrait of the ~ (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark*)

## mechanism (noun)

defense mechanism

his joking started at a ~ (to keep from getting bullied)

cooling mechanism

the human body has a build-in ~, sweat

funding mechanism

he opposes a stopgap ~ for government (politics)

serves as a mechanism

makeup ~ to feel control, love and expression

trigger (Iran Nuclear Deal) dispute mechanism

Europeans Nations ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Any kind of mechanism is prone to breaking."

## medal (noun)

take it as a medal

I ~ (the label 'bleeding heart')

♦ see also *badge* (*badge of honor*)

## medicine (a taste of one's own medicine)

got a taste of her own medicine  
she ~ (therapist goes to therapy)

♦ "One reason 'homophobia' was such a provocative neologism was its somewhat trollish imputation that the person who holds anti-gay beliefs is pathetically scared of gay people... / Pathologizing the anti-gay position gave heterosexuals a taste of the own medicine." ("How 'Phobic' Became a Weapon in the Identity Wars" by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 26, 2016. It's a brilliant article.)

♦ "I decided to teach Anwar a lesson. If he could pretend to be single, I could pretend to like him. I wanted to give him a taste of his own medicine and see how he like it."

♦ see also *chicken* (*chickens come home to roost*)

## medieval (adjective)

medieval  
to the outside eye, the system appears ~ (Afghanistan)

medieval mindset  
Portnikov argued that some officials have a ~ (Ukraine)

dark, sadistic and medieval  
his ~ vision of the future (al-Zarqawi)

criticised the measure as "medieval"  
opponents ~ (option of execution by firing squad)

## meet (connect)

meet at the Strait of Messina  
the waters of the Eastern and Western Mediterranean ~

## meet (attain)

met with (limited) success  
traditional methods have ~ (problem bears)

meet (strict academic) criteria  
to get in, girls must ~ (high school)

meet their goals  
students should record whether or not they ~

met the objectives  
how well the group had ~ of the lesson (schools)

on track to meet  
the services are ~ reserve manpower goals (military)

## meet (meet the moment, etc.)

meet the moment  
Biden has plainly struggled to ~ (2019 campaign)

## meet (something can meet you)

met our eyes  
an unusual sight ~ (on a wilderness trip)

meets the eye  
there is more to the case than ~ (a murder)

## meet (non-human)

met one in full bloom in the botanic garden  
I ~ (Colin Tudge / a handkerchief tree)

met a pancake  
I ~ in the West Cell (H.T.S. magnet at M.I.T.)

♦ "I met a pancake in the West Cell, an enormous open laboratory space at M.I.T. which resembles an airplane hangar. What with all the pancakes and doughnuts being tested there, the West Cell has come to be called the West Cell Diner." ("Green Dream: Is limitless clean energy finally approaching?" by Rivka Galchen, *The New Yorker*, October 11, 2021. The "pancake" is an H.T.S. magnet, in the form of a stacked array.)

## mega (mega-blogger, etc.)

mega-blogger  
~ Belle Gibson casts doubt on her own cancer claims

mega budget  
why Joker 2's ~ spelled disaster (the film)

megadonors  
he received money from G.O.P. ~

mega-downfall  
this was like a three-day like ~ (podcast snark)

megadrought  
~ across the West right now

megafloods  
'~' could devastate California, new study says

MegaRamp  
most of the riders had never ridden the ~

mega-stardom  
the Eras Tour has lifted her further into ~ (Taylor Swift)

mega storm  
that ~ is now lashing the Great Lakes (NBC)

mega talent  
he was a ~ Leslie Jordan's representative David Shaul)

megayacht  
anything more than two hundred and thirty feet is a ~

megabloated  
*The Guardian* described it as '~' (2024 film *Megalopolis*)

mega exciting  
it's been engaging, but not ~ (HT: Croatia 0-0 Brazil)

mega-rich  
carbon-shaming the ~ (for their planes, yachts, etc.)

mega-revolutionary  
this will be a historically ~ (Tesla's Robotaxi / FSD)

super-hyper-mega-uber  
this ~ French entry (Barbara Pravi / Eurovision Contest)

♦ "We've never witnessed buildings rise so much, so quickly. From high-rises, we've stretched to supertalls and even megatalls (double the height of a supertall), and engineers are already discussing 'ultratalls' that would take us higher still." ("Can A Building Be Too Tall?" by Bianca Bosker, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023.)

♦ "If it has a crew working aboard, it's a yacht. If it's more than ninety-eight feet, it's a superyacht. After that, definitions are debated, but people generally agree that anything more than two hundred and thirty feet is a megayacht, and more than two hundred and ninety-five is a gigayacht. The world contains about fifty-four hundred superyachts, and about a hundred gigayachts. / For the moment, a

gigayacht is the most expensive item that our species has figured out how to own." ("The Floating World" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, July 25, 2022.)

♦ "He was a mega talent." ("Timeless Star" Leslie Jordan's representative David Shaul. Tributes were also paid by Dolly Parton; Lynda Carter; Sean Hayes, Erick McCormack and Megan Mullally (Will and Grace); George Takei; RuPaul's Drag Race; Ellen DeGeneres; Bobby Berk; Billy Eichner; Jim Parsons (The Big Bang Theory); Michelle Pfeiffer; Lonnie Love; Marlee Matlin; Jackée Harry; Demi Lovato; and Wilson Cruz.)

♦ "[T]his is no ordinary game. This is Mega Millions. And just like the megabyte, megawatt, and mega-yacht, it's also huge. Like, extra-ridiculous-six-zeroes-huge. In case starting with 'mega' didn't make it abundantly clear—Mega Millions doesn't mess around: with lifechanging jackpots and nine ways to win you could put megabucks in your pocket for just \$2. And with Megaplier you can multiply most prizes 2X to 5X for just another buck—that's a pretty serious megadeal. You may be asking yourself, 'are you mega-kidding-me?' No, we're mega-not. And it gets better with drawings every Tuesday and Friday, that's two chances a week to take home the mega-mother lode..." (The North Carolina Education Lottery / NCEL / nclottery.com. On the backs of the poor: "Everyone can dream.")

♦ "He was a pilot with mega knowledge and mega talent." (Collided with another plane in a training exercise, died.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, "try this genius hack to..." In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ see also *supersizing* (*linguistic supersizing*)

## megaphone (noun)

megaphone for rants  
the Internet gives anyone a free ~

megaphone and platform  
he had to give the victims and survivors a bigger ~

media megaphone  
his voice is amplified by the ~ (a Wall Street analyst)

social justice megaphones  
~ such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*

digital megaphone  
he has been communicating through his ~, Twitter

huge megaphone  
I work at *The New York Times*, I have a ~ and platform

pulpit and the megaphone  
use the ~ of the office to highlight human rights

lost his megaphone  
I'm happy that Jones has ~ (deplatformed by Twitter, etc.)

♦ "He had to give the victims and survivors a bigger megaphone and platform." ("The Nova Music Festival Exhibition: October 7<sup>th</sup>, 06:29am—The Moment Music Stood Still." The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* Vincent Lunardi's silver speaking-trumpet...

♦ "Farm labourers harvesting in the fields recalled [the 25-year-old Italian Vincent Lunardi] shouting through his silver speaking-trumpet."

(Lunardi was shouting from a hot-air balloon, 15 September, 1784. From *The Age of Wonder* by Richard Holmes.)

♦ "Sullivan stood in the dock [of the Old Bailey] directly facing the witness box. Above him was a sounding board to amplify his voice." (1851.)

## meh (noun)

meh  
~, just another Hollywood junkie, they're a dime a dozen...

a little meh  
I was ~ on the final product (latest *Mean Girls* film)

felt pretty meh  
many workers have always ~ about their work

## melodrama (noun)

legal melodrama  
a ~ erupted, dismaying and demoralizing patients

## melodramatic (adjective)

melodramatic  
don't be so ~

## melt (verb)

melted (silently) into the trees  
the platoon ~

melted under the onslaught  
Saudi Arabia ~, as Germany... (soccer)

## melt away (verb)

army melted away  
the ~ in the face of the rebel advance (Syria 2024)

militias have melted away  
Shiite ~

tension melted away  
all my ~

♦ "Media executives have described much of Paramount's program as 'melting ice cubes,' industry slang for programs rapidly losing audience share because of irrelevance and cord-cutting." (Charles Gasparino, *The New York Post*, Feb. 24, 2024.)

## meltdown (failure)

market meltdown  
a bill to prevent a repeat of the ~ of 2008

dot-com meltdown  
the ~ and poor economy

internet meltdown  
a software bug triggered the ~

Metaphor Meltdown  
"A ~ At The White House" (NPR, Ari Shapiro, 2013)

NotPetya meltdown  
Maersk's global network in the wake of its ~ (worm)

social-media meltdown  
it was a major ~ (Facebook goes down for 14 hours)



## full-blown meltdown

Southwest Airlines cancels 5,400 flights in a ~

## economic meltdown

the landmark restaurant was a victim of the ~

the economy is in free-fall, ~ (Zimbabwe)

Trump knows ~ brings political pain (coronavirus)

## financial meltdown

the IMF tries to avert ~

we are still paying for the ~ (2010)

## in meltdown

the country is ~ (Yemen)

## meltdown dealt a deathblow to both ideas

the financial ~ (foreign policy)

## avert (financial) meltdowns

the IMF tries to ~

## caused her meltdown

Crazy Plane Lady reveals what ~ (Tiffany Gomas)

## paying for the (financial) meltdown

we are still ~ (2010)

## triggered (economic) meltdown

sanctions have ~

♦ "Of course, one man's negotiation is another man's conversation is another man's ransom." ("A Metaphor Meltdown At The White House," NPR, It's All Politics, Ari Shapiro, October 10, 2013.)

♦ **Cause:** A technical problem; a technical issue; a technical fault; a flight planning system failure; an issue with the Air Traffic Control Flight System... **Effects:** Huge disruptions; hundreds of flights canceled / grounded / delayed; a flight delayed by 24 hours; passengers stuck at airports across the U.K. and Europe; aircrafts and crews are out of position; it will be days before things are back to normal; it will take time to clear the backlog of flights; this disruption will ripple on; travel disruption could continue for several days; it is likely to be days before things are completely back to normal; many passengers are still stranded... **Emotions:** anger; frustration; misery; passengers have been left frustrated and angry; headaches... **Characterization:** Unacceptable; not acceptable; a fiasco; a meltdown; a failure; the passenger rights system is not fit for purpose; it is staggering that a single piece of incorrect flight data could trigger the system shutdown... **Airlines:** Officials say they are doing all they can; officials say the fault has been identified and remedied; officials apologized and said the problem had been fixed; airlines say they are doing all they can to get people home; he is confident the technical problem won't happen again... (Britain's NATS bank holiday airline travel disruption 2023.)

## meltdown (emotions)

### meltdown and rant

his ~ was a disgrace to boxing (Anthony Joshua)

### anti-mask meltdown

the ~ has become its own video genre

### went into meltdown

Madrid's media ~ (over a soccer controversy)

♦ Selfish, childish meltdown; and that meltdown at the end, totally bizarre...; wow, that was some meltdown; AJ has serious issues, his meltdown was worrying... (Comments about the bizarre post-fight antics of Anthony Joshua following his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

♦ "Tiffany Gomas finally reveals what caused her viral 'not real' American Airlines meltdown" by Yaron Steinbuch, *New York Post*, November 3, 2023.

♦ "I hadn't an inkling of [depression's] true contours or the nature of the pain so many victims experience as the mind continues in its insidious meltdown. / In Paris that October night I knew that I, too, was in the process of meltdown." (*Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* (1990) by William Styron.)

## melt down (emotions)

### melt down in my office

he would ~, start sobbing about his dad (death of dad)

## melting pot (noun)

### melting pot

the ~ was being reimagined as a salad bowl (ethnic identity, multiculturalism, etc.)

### melting-pot metaphor

replaced the ~ with kaleidoscopes, mosaics, salad bowls...

### melting pot, a (beautiful) tapestry, or a salad bowl

is the United States a ~

### cultural melting pot

a foundational element of US society is that we are a ~

### religious melting pot

Sarajevo, a ~ throughout its history...

♦ "Macedonia [was] the inspiration for the French word for 'mixed salad' (*macedoine*)." (*Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* by Robert D. Kaplan.)

♦ Argentina was once describe by a Polish émigré as "batter that has not yet become cake." ("Another New World" by Larry Rohter, *The New York Review*, June 10, 2021.)

♦ "This points to a unique understanding of plurality of Indian society—it is more like a thali (an Indian meal comprising a selection of separate dishes served on a platter), rather than a melting pot." (Neha Sahgal, a lead author of a Pew study that found Indians support religious tolerance and religious segregation.)

## memo (get the memo, etc.)

### got the memo

in September, even more designers ~ (models with red hair)

### missed the memo

somewhere at some point I ~ that says it's OK to be insane

♦ "Somewhere at some point I missed the memo that says it's OK to be insane and that is the new and upcoming norm!" (A commenter at the Libs of TikTok.)

## memory hole (verb)

### memory-hole their (deadly Afghan-bugout) disaster

Biden-Harris push to ~ (*The New York Post*)

### memory-hole his failure

Biden did his best to ~ (Abbey Gate bombing)

### memory-hole that

her media enablers have tried to ~ (Kamala Harris)

♦ "You can't memory hole comparing someone to Hitler." (Don Lemon criticizing Barak Obama for Obama's "cordial" chat with President-elect Donald Trump. I guess you *can*, Don.)



## memory hole (noun)

### Memory Hole

Russ Kick, operator of the Web site The ~

### pop-culture's memory hole

the film has caused little disturbances in ~ (*Ghostbusters*)

### truck-sized memory hole

a ~ about Turkey's 1915 massacre of Armenians

### sent them down the memory hole

Amazon zapped the illicit versions and ~, as it were

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A "memory hole" is an imaginary place where you put inconvenient or unpleasant information and forget about it. Merriam-Webster dates this as a relatively new word and recognizes it also as a verb. "Rabbit hole" and "wormhole" have different meanings.

♦ "Memory hole: a small chute leading to a large incinerator. Anything that needed to be wiped from the public record (embarrassing documents, photographs, transcripts) would be sent into the memory hole. As a clerk in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth, Winston Smith often has to throw things into the memory hole to revise history and keep current with the ever-evolving Party dogma." ("Big Brother and Other Terms from '1984,'" George Mason University, Center for the Arts, October 31, 2019.)

♦ Doublethink; memory hole; unperson; thoughtcrime; Newspeak; Thought Police; Room 101; Big Brother; the Ministry of Truth... (Language from 1984 that is a part of our language.)

## memory-holed

### memory-holed

any pre-Trump Republican has been ~ (NPR punditry)

## memory lane (down memory lane)

### trip down memory lane

a ~ (old photos)

### walk down memory lane

a ~

### take a (quick) trip down memory lane

let's ~ and review the past decade (on Mount Everest)

♦ "For me it was a huge trip down Nostalgia Lane." (Seeing the 2024 film *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*.)

## menagerie (group)

### menagerie of drones

a veritable ~ circles the skies (Raven, Wasp, Hawk, etc.)

### menagerie of different forms

verbs that take a ~ (French, Russian, etc.)

### menagerie of (fundamental) particles

the ~ that has been collected since the 1890s (physics)

### menagerie of (unruly and curiously assorted) ships

an admiral called it a ~ (British Navy in the 1880s)

### menagerie of (notable) songs

it's a ~ curated by enthusiasts (NPR's Heat Check playlist)

### zoo of (subatomic) particles

the Standard Model includes a ~ (physics)

♦ "Some nights at the bar I would descend into discussions with cosmologists and other[s]... and discover that Doctor Seuss meant more to them than a menagerie of imagined animals and a vivid and troublesome cat." ("The Science of Dr Seuss," BBC, Sounds, with Robin Ince. Seven Doctor Seuss books were cancelled in 2021.)

## mend (on the mend)

### on the mend

but now his life is ~

the presidents says he and the country are ~ (pandemic)

## mend (verb)

### mend the divisions

~ in East Timorese society (elections)

## mental (adjective)

### mental competence

cases where a defendant's ~ is in question...

### mental competency

the judge has not asked for a ~ evaluation (Aiden Fucci)

### mental disease

not guilty by reason of ~ (Darrell Brooks / Waukesha)

### mental disorder

they have not said if he suffers from a ~ (Aiden Fucci)

TikTok is a dangerous breeding ground for ~s

### mental distress

we develop new language around ~ (Project LETS)

he showed signs of ~ (a school shooter)

she had her son committed for ~ (Cody Cousins /Purdue)

### mental evaluation

ex-Disney start to undergo ~

### mental fitness

Serena Williams talks ~ with Selena Gomez

### mental health

see *mental health (noun)*

### mental ill health

~ was a factor in Andrew Leek's decisions (UK)

### mental illness

a young immigrant has ~...

Care Court for those with untreated severe ~ (California)

### mental healthcare

a ~ executive named David Covington

### mental history

and then she's got this ~...

### mental hospital

she is currently receiving treatment in a ~

### mental instability

judging by this comment section, ~ is rampant

### mental issue

everybody has some type of ~

seems like she always had to struggle with ~s (a celebrity)

mental state

ultimately it's very detrimental to my ~ (social media)  
Joshua's ~ has been under the spotlight (boxing)  
something is very wrong with his ~ (Bryan Kohberger)

mental well-being

see *mental wellbeing* (and *mental well-being*)

mental wellness

see *mental wellness* (noun)

## mental health (noun)

mental health

unfortunately, many police officers are not trained in ~  
before ~ was among everyone's mind (Serena Williams)  
~, how to cope with trauma (in the intelligence community)  
~ is a *cause* [italics mine] for the US women's soccer team

mental health of athletes

there has been a growing conversation about the ~

mental health of students

a new school year brings fresh concerns about the ~  
(NPR)

mental health in the workplace

the need to address ~ and prevent violence

Mental Health Act

the mayor supports the Restoring ~ (NYC)

mental health advocates

~ hope that 988 will... (telephone number)  
~ hope today starts a new era for mental health (988)

mental health ambassadors

~, students who have been trained as peer counselors

mental health awareness

a blog emphasizing ~ for LGBTQ+ youth

Mental Health Battle

Singer Opens Up About ~ (GMA news ticker)

mental health blogger

Beth Matthews was a well-known ~ (Mental Health UK)

mental-health boost

living near a park seemed to offer the same ~ (as nature)

mental health break

Nat Sciver takes ~ (England *women's* cricket)

mental-health call

video shows Ohio cop stabbed in neck during ~

mental health care

the ~ system is a revolving door

mental-health centers

the state's existing ~

mental health challenges

the person who made this claim is struggling with deep ~  
if you've ever known anyone with severe ~

the data add details to a worrisome picture of youth ~  
people with ~ (homeless, drug and alcohol use disorders)

mental health charity

Talk Club, a men's ~ (name-checked by Tyson Fury)

mental health (welfare) check

St. Louis officer shot during ~

mental health community

the plan was a big deal in the ~ (mobile units, etc.)

mental health concerns

teachers must understand what ~ are in their classroom  
resources for responding to ~ are in short supply

mental health conditions

his lawyer said he needs medication for his various ~

mental health content

adolescent girls consume ~ on TikTok

mental health counseling

Uvalde school district to receive \$1.25 million for ~  
she needs some serious ~ before she hurts someone  
(actor)

mental health (First Aid) course

staff must take a ~ (a university football team)

mental health crisis

police responded to a report of an individual with a ~  
she was experiencing a ~  
73% of college students experience some sort of ~  
he suffered a ~ after doing badly in his exams (Exeter suicide)

mental-health crisis

beginning today, anyone having a ~ can dial 988

mental health crises

~ can be connected to other situations (drugs, abuse)

mental-health crises

individuals who are experiencing ~ (and the police)  
most of the country still relies on 911 to manage ~

Mental Health Day

World ~

mental health emergencies

the risks of having law enforcement officers involved in ~

mental health episode

they say their son was having a ~ and police escalated...

mental health expert

a school ~ says to let them know (about coming hurricane)

mental health explosion

the TikTok ~ is a modern version of social contagion (girls)

mental health facility

the threshold to forcibly commit to a ~ is very high  
you were involuntarily admitted to a ~

Amanda Bynes checks into new ~ amid ongoing struggles

mental health grounds  
Nick Kyrgios seeks dismissal of assault case on ~ (BBC)

mental health group  
our department has a ~ that is available to them (police)

mental health help  
call 988 for ~ (national suicide hotline)  
people seeking ~ for secondary trauma (no direct contact)

mental health hold  
she was placed under a ~ after the stabbing (for 48 hours)

mental health honesty  
Selena Gomez documentary receives praise for ~

mental health hotline  
a new ~ provides support to farmers and ranchers

mental health influencers  
most of the TikTok ~ are teen girls and young women  
~ help viewers self-diagnose (not good)

mental health initiative  
Selena Gomez launches ~ by sharing letter (WonderMind)

mental health issues  
Danish police say the suspect has ~  
there are ~ concerning everyone involved in this case  
people and caregivers dealing with ~  
she has had some substance and/or ~ for some time  
her lawyer said she had a history of profound ~  
these ~ are sad but not a 'get out of jail free' excuse  
how was she allowed to be a nurse, with these ~  
he discussed his ~ and addiction battles (died in bathtub)  
Amber McLaughlin's traumatic childhood and ~ (trans)  
gender-diverse kids are at high risk for ~ (over 50 percent)

mental health journey  
she has always been so open about her ~

mental health message  
fans applaud Garcia's ~ (boxing)

mental health needs  
New York will invest \$1 billion to address ~

mental health platform  
the actresses' ~ (Selena Gomez / WonderMind)  
the teen ~ BeMe

mental health pressure  
more athletes are speaking up about the ~ of their sport

mental health prioritisation  
Lisa Keightley on ~ (England women's cricket)

mental health problems  
he had been struggling with ~ (a suicide)  
~ verge on an epidemic (colleges)  
'Ice' is fueling violent crimes, addiction and ~ (Australia)

mental health professional  
the alleged suicide attempt had been handled by ~s  
his parents assured police he was getting help from ~s  
he was taken into custody and is being evaluated by ~s

mental health providers  
Colorado's politically powerful ~  
Dartmouth's ratio of students to ~ is abysmal and it shows

mental health resources  
the need for more ~....  
there is a need for more ~  
Megan Thee Stallion launches website with ~ for fans

mental health risks  
California may require labels to warn of ~ (legal cannabis)

mental health services  
local organizations providing ~  
Florida's Baker Act provides emergency ~ and detention...  
more students are asking for ~

mental health struggles  
he was spoken candidly about his own ~ (a boxer)  
the defendant's extremely reckless conduct and her ~...

mental health support  
Skateboard England does not provide any ~  
the failures in ~ for young people (pandemic)

mental health system  
the ~ needs to be evaluated and changed

mental health workers  
~ plan to strike (Kaiser Permanente, California)

mental health and substance abuse  
she is struggling with ~ issues

mental health and self esteem  
being teased had a negative impact on ~ (weight)

mental health and happiness  
Ellie Downie retires to 'prioritise ~' (the gymnast)

mental health and homelessness  
he struggled with ~ (shot dead after threatening a child)

mental health and addiction recovery  
National Recovery Month increases awareness around ~

mental health and well-being  
full-time streamers must focus on their ~ (Twitch, etc.)  
spending time in nature benefits ~ (Audubon Society)  
ESL teacher ~ (TESOL Arabia 2023)

mental health and wellbeing  
Sciver pulls out of India series to 'focus on ~' (cricket)  
she has decided to withdraw to focus on her ~

mental health and wellness  
Talkspace can take care of your ~

athletes' mental health

universities focus on ~

Edwards' mental health  
State Police missed red flags about ~ before hiring him

kid's mental health  
educators and health-care providers are concerned about ~

society's mental health  
the impact gun violence is having on ~

son's mental health  
Moore's mother, Rachel Crisp, spoke about her ~

declining mental health  
he asked for help because of his ~ (student suicide / Exeter)

positive mental health  
fraternities have higher levels of ~, less depression, anxiety

worse mental health  
women who do more chores, caregiving may have ~ than men (ABC News)

message on mental health  
Dad shares emotional ~ (daughter committed suicide)

complexity of mental health  
these tragic deaths highlight the ~ (four suicides)

National Institute of Mental Health  
according to the ~...

levels of (positive) mental health  
fraternities have higher ~ less depression, anxiety

decline in her mental health  
her social media use coincided with a severe ~

dialogue around mental health  
we are hoping to change the global ~

concerns about the mental health  
a new school years brings fresh ~ of students (Chatterjee)

battle with mental health  
Angus Cloud was open about his ~ (died of drug overdose)

struggles with mental health  
LeAnn Rimes is opening up about her ~  
speaking about her ~ (Irish actor Jessie Buckley)

impact on (society's) mental health  
gun violence has an ~ (NPR)

for his mental health  
he is taking a social media break ~ (celebrity actor)

bettering students' mental health  
the JED foundation focuses on ~ and preventing suicide

behaviour, mental health and learning difficulties  
Cadman-Smith was a mentor responsible for pupils' ~

racism and mental health

the intersections of ~ exist at all levels of play (athletes)

mental health spiralled down  
his ~ after... (doomsday prepper, killed cops)

affect mental health  
how does machismo ~

benefits our mental health  
nature ~ and cognitive functioning...

blame mental health  
the judge criticized a "feeble attempt to ~" (Darrell Brooks)

eating away at your mental health  
if social media is ~, please stop (advice to athletes)

focus on her mental health  
she left her marriage to ~ (Annaleise Easlea)

harms mental health  
the Chiefs' imagery ~ (the NFL team / a Native activist)

hurts their mental health  
nearly half of workers say their job ~, survey finds...

improve our mental health  
science shows that green spaces ~ (Audubon Society)

improve mental health  
the fatal beating of a psychiatrist has sparked calls to ~

improve their mental health  
steps individuals can take to ~ (tips, etc.)

prioritise mental health  
Ellie Downie retires to '~ and happiness' (the gymnast)

protect mental health  
gymnast Ellie Downie retires to ~  
Valerie Bertinelli taking social media break to ~

struggle with mental health  
earthquake survivors ~ two months later

struggled with his mental health  
Angus Cloud ~ (died of drug overdose, age 25)

struggling with her mental health  
she was ~ (Gabby Petito / according to a policeman)

struggling with their mental health  
another wave of kids ~ (NPR / Sept. 2022 / education)

taking a break for her mental health  
Nat Sciver is ~ (a female cricket player)

taking a toll on her mental health  
it's clearly ~ (criticism of Gabby Hanna, Trauma Queen)

talk about mental health  
people do not ~ (in the world of skateboarding)

works hard on her mental health  
for the next two months, she ~ (after suicide attempt)

♦ In many of the examples above and below, "mental health" can be substituted with "mental illness."

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ “Too many times we think of things like ‘this is racism’ and ‘this is mental health,’ and they’re separate. But in reality, it’s really complex and they inform one another.” (Kristi Oshiro, an assistant professor at Belmont University who has studied racism and its impact on athletes. From “Why mental health matters for athletes—even as they give their all to win” by Leah Asmelash, CNN, July 26, 2022. Consider also “Dumped NBA Star Goes After Team Therapist Who Exposed Him” by Josh Fiallo, *Daily Beast*, Nov. 04, 2022, about the NBA player Joshua Primo. At one time Primo’s lawyer accused the therapist of trading in “racial stereotypes.”)
- ♦ “The intersection of policing, race, and autism has the potential to result in tragic outcomes.” (“Parents of Black autistic sons share their stories after tragic encounters with police,” ABC News, April 28, 2023.)
- ♦ Dylann Roof, who murdered nine in “The Charleston church shooting,” is autistic. So was Adam Lanza, the “Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting” shooter. As was the U.K.’s Jake Davison (“Plymouth shooting”), who shot his mother and four passers-by.
- ♦ “Boy Y has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and is non-verbal and girl X has traits of autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.” (Convicted of murdering transgender Brianna Ghey, in the U.K.)
- ♦ “Transgender and non-binary people are up to six times more likely to also have autism” by Lesley McClurg, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 15, 2023.
- ♦ “Ulven revealed in 2021 that she has been diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder.” (The Wikipedia article “Girl in Red.”)
- ♦ “You think I’m tepid but I’m misdiagnosed, / Cause I’m a stalker I seen all of your posts.” (“Crush” by Tessa Violet.)
- ♦ “My brain is poison and I’m searchin’ for the antidote / but every time I find it, my defenses scream ‘Oh no you don’t! woah...” (YouTube gabbie hanna tik tok compilation.)
- ♦ Olivia Rodrigo put her own feminine rage on display in “good4u.”
- ♦ “Famous American ‘OnlyFans’ star has been charged with murder for stabbing her Nigerian-American lover to death.”
- ♦ “Girlfriend kills boyfriend by mowing him down with her car, police say.”
- ♦ “Even before her teens [the blond actress Tuesday] Weld had claimed a nervous breakdown at nine, heavy drinking at ten and a suicide attempt at twelve. ‘As a teenager I was a wreck,’ she admits. ‘I drank so much I can’t remember anything. My teens passed by in drink.’ She had brawled publicly with an early Hollywood beau, John Barrymore, Jr., and tried to run down another, Gary Lockwood, speeding down Sunset Boulevard with him clinging to the hood. ‘Tuesday’s done some wild, wild things,’ said one longtime friend, ‘and screwed up many, many guys. She’s highly sexual.’” (*AI Pacino: A Life On The Wire* by Andrew Yule.)
- ♦ “We have Mexican vocalist Carla Morrison talking about mental health. Her own mental health, and how reaching out for help is viewed in some Latino communities...” (“After an extended hiatus, Alt. Latino returns to NPR Music,” NPR Morning Edition, Sept. 14, 2022.)
- ♦ “He was held first in Iron County in Utah, then in Salt Lake City, then put on a plane and transported to a federal pretrial holding facility in North Carolina. When three separate psychiatrists working with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons examined McRae in the years following his arrest, one concluded that he was not fit to stand trial and another questioned his fitness. McRae showed ‘psychotic symptoms,’ including ‘thought disorganization, and pre-occupying persecutory delusions,’ along with ‘depressive symptoms meeting criteria for a major depressive episode.’ He also displayed ‘symptoms of mania.’ The psychiatrists believed that he may have had bipolar disorder, possibly schizoaffective disorder, and also narcissistic personality disorder—which ‘makes him difficult to work with.’” (“The Machine Breaker: Inside the mind of an ‘ecoterrorist’” by Christopher Ketcham, *Harper’s Magazine*, November, 2023. Ketcham suggests an alternative diagnosis: “If Steve McRae sounds to some like a madman, I’d suggest he’s ahead of the curve in feeling deeply the pain of solastalgia. Perhaps those of us who deny the seriousness of the crisis have had our senses dulled, our hearts hardened, and are

not feeling enough.” Meanwhile, protests continue against “Cop City” in Atlanta, and students rally for Hamas.)

- ♦ “One study found eliminating marijuana use in adolescents would reduce global rates of schizophrenia by 10%.” (“California may require labels on pot products to warn of mental health risks” by April Dembosky, NPR, June 17, 2022.)

♦ “According to her testimony, after the second hit, Spejcher initially felt like she was caught in a time loop, and then became convinced she was dead. She then said she felt she was outside her body, watching her hands pick up two knives as they stabbed both her dog and O’Melia. Then, she said, everything went black. While blacked out, Spejcher began stabbing herself in the neck with a long, serrated bread knife.” (Read “The Murky Story Behind the Woman Who Stabbed her Date to Death While High” by Brenna Ehrlich, *Rolling Stone*, January 31, 2024. Or watch “Woman convicted of killing man during marijuana-induced psychosis speaks out,” WGN News. “Experts on both sides agreed. Her actions were the result of cannabis-induced psychosis.”)

### \*\*\* language...

- ♦ “We...develop new knowledge and *language* [italics mine] around mental distress.” (Project LETS.)
- ♦ “On Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 2:am, Officers responded to an armed *mental consumer* [italics mine] call in the 200 Block of South Main Street.” (A tweet by Memphis Police. The “armed mental consumer” was threatening to commit a mass shooting outside an arena.)
- ♦ DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND / DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES / CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL / HIRAM W. DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER. (Signage for Virginia State’s “mental health” facility.)
- ♦ “Our perhaps understandable modern need to dull the sawtooth edges of so many of the afflictions we are heir to has led us to banish the harsh old-fashioned words: madhouse, asylum, insanity, melancholia, lunatic, madness. But never let it be doubted that depression, in its extreme form, is madness.” (*Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* by William Styron.)
- ♦ “When I was first aware that I had been laid low by the disease, I felt a need, among other things, to register a strong protest against the word ‘depression.’ Depression, most people know, used to be termed ‘melancholia,’ a word which appears in English as early as the year 1303 and crops up more than once in Chaucer, who in his usage seemed to be aware of its pathological nuances. ‘Melancholia’ would still appear to be a far more apt and evocative word for the blacker forms of the disorder, but it was usurped by a noun with a bland tonality and lacking any magisterial presence, used indifferently to describe an economic decline or a rut in the ground, a true wimp of a word for such a major illness. It may be that the scientist generally held responsible for its currency in modern times, a Johns Hopkins Medical School faculty member justly venerated—the Swiss-born psychiatrist Adolf Meyer—had a tin ear for the finer rhythms of English and therefore was unaware of the semantic damage he had inflicted by offering ‘depression’ as a descriptive noun for such a dreadful and raging disease. Nonetheless, for over seventy-five years the word has slithered innocuously through the language like a slug, leaving little trace of its intrinsic malevolence and preventing, by its very insipidity, a general awareness of the horrible intensity of the disease when out of control. / As one who has suffered from the malady in extremis yet returned to tell the tale, I would lobby for a truly arresting designation. ‘Brainstorm,’ for instance, has unfortunately been preempted to describe, somewhat jocularly, intellectual inspiration. But something along these lines is needed...” (*Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* by William Styron.)
- ♦ Type in “mental health” at NPR and you get 8,657 results (and counting). Type in “mental illness” at NPR and you get 2,225 results.)

### \*\*\* the bright side...

- ♦ “Living a life of mental illness, they call it—I like to say mental superpowers—you know, basketball was always my escape.” (Former NBA player Delonte West about bipolar disorder.)
- ♦ “He called it his superpower.” (Ye, about being bipolar, in his 2018 song “Yikes” on his Ye album.)
- ♦ Vibrant Emotional Health, which operates the lifeline...

♦ “WonderMind will adopt a more approachable and comfortable tone...” (The mental health platform of Selena Gomez and her mother.)

♦ Funding for WonderMind, the mental health platform associated with Selena Gomez and her mother, is partly funded by Serena Ventures, the golf legend Serena Williams’ investment portfolio.

♦ “Autistic people who create new universes...”

♦ “For all the little kids who have autism, it’s validating to see characters like themselves on television, instead of feeling invisible.” (Rose Jochum of the Autism Society of America, about the Sesame Street character Julia.)

♦ “People use the term neurodiverse to recognize the rich differences...”

♦ “If we can just free them to think that they can do anything, I really think they can. They need support. We should support them.” (Debbie Mielewski, whose son has autism spectrum disorder (ASD). From “U. Michigan study to help those with autism improve driving” by Mike Householder, AP, August 23, 2022. In phase 1 of the study, researchers found drivers with ASD detected fewer hazards. They also tended to stop short at stop signs. For further consideration, read “She was a respected nurse. Now she’s accused of killing 5 in horrific Windsor Hills crash” by Richard Winton, Noah Goldberg, Nathan Solis, *Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 12, 2022. Nicole Lorraine Linton had “mental health issues” and had been “involved in up to 13 wrecks before the Windsor Hills crash.”)

♦ Brendan Depa was one of the “so-called exceptional students.” The special help they are given at school is called exceptional student education. (Video shows 6-foot-6 student beat teacher unconscious, Matanzas High School, Palm Coast, Florida.)

♦ “According to the Clay Center for *Young Healthy Minds* [italics mine], 73% of college students experience some sort of mental health crisis during college.”

♦ “I’m not crazy. But it’s a crazy life. I was raised in a crazy family and it took 31 years to get the crazy out of me.” (Anne Heche, speaking to ABC News. Her 2001 memoir is called *Call Me Crazy*. Sadly, she died in 2022 in Los Angeles, age 53, having run her car into another person’s house, setting her car, the house, and herself on fire. She left behind two children.)

♦ “This is what happens when you work to change things. First they think you’re crazy, then they fight you, and then all of a sudden you change the world.” (Elizabeth Holmes of Theranos.)

♦ Seize The Awkward: [seize the awkward.org](http://seize.the.awkward.org/). / Love is Louder: [loveislouder.com](http://loveislouder.com/) / Half of Us: [halfofus.com...](http://halfofus.com...) (JED foundation campaigns.)

♦ “All geniuses are all a little crazy, right?” (Ye, R. Kelly, etc.)

♦ “Positive affirmations encouraging you to live your best life can be found almost everywhere. / But what if you don’t feel like it? For mental health advocate and author Dave Tarnowski, society’s penchant to push what he calls ‘toxic positivity’ felt like brainwashing.” (“Pushing back at a culture of relentless ‘toxic positivity’” by Terry Ward, CNN, Thu May 2, 2024.)

\*\*\* **doing nothing...**

♦ “When the paramedics arrived and tried to hospitalize Flack, she refused to go, telling the EMTs that she was just stressed and trying to sleep. / The following day...Flack took her own life.” (“Trouble in Paradise” by Anna Peele, *Vanity Fair*, July / August 2022.)

♦ “Joanna Hartigan, 54, from Hereford, was found dead in Nov. 2021 after medics decided she did not pose a serious risk.”

♦ “She was found asleep in a doorway in Croydon on the 6th of July, but told police officers she didn’t need help, and left.” (Student nurse Owami Davies. Subsequently five men were arrested for her disappearance, police trawled through 50,000 hours of CCTV, and Great Britain was put on alert. Five weeks later, she was found in Hampshire “in good health and not in a vulnerable state.” From BBC Six O’Clock News, August 23, 2022.)

♦ “His parents assured police he was getting help from mental health professionals.” (Robert E. Crimo III.)

\*\*\* **the police, caught in the middle...**

♦ “Jason had a medication meltdown where he was very, very violent. And I had to call the ambulance. The fire department called the police. And they came in with guns drawn. I’m telling them all the

time, ‘There’s no weapons. My son has autism.’ They weren’t hearing anything. So, we want to make sure that the first responders are trained...” (Debra Vines. From CNN health. To donate to Vines’ group The Answer Inc. via GoFundMe, click here.)

♦ “He trusted the police to come and help him. Instead, they attacked and killed him.” (Simon and Sally Glass, the parents of Christian Glass. Christian had self-inflicted wounds from stabbing himself.)

♦ “St. Louis officer shot during mental health welfare check.”

♦ “Sgt. Matthew Fishman of the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office was killed last week. He was one of three deputies shot while trying to serve involuntary commitment papers at a home south of Goldsboro on Aug. 1.” (The 23-year-old who shot the officers committed suicide after a 9-hour standoff.)

♦ Suicide by police is becoming more and more common in the United States.

\*\*\* **the public, citizens...**

♦ “A commuter was struck and killed by a Manhattan subway train Monday after being shoved onto the tracks by an emotionally disturbed person in an unprovoked attack, according to police and sources...” (Arrested was Carlton McPherson, a 24 year-old Black male, free on bond for assault.)

\*\*\* **parents love their children...**

♦ “We choose to remember Jonathan as the thoughtful and intelligent young man we knew and loved.” (Family of man who shot and killed three strangers at a shopping mall and who himself was killed by an armed citizen who prevented an even worse massacre.)

♦ “It’s so terrible when someone is a good person but they do something like this and then all the good is erased and they only see the bad.” (Sylvia Brogdon, ex-mother-in-law of Amy Brogdon Anderson.)

♦ “He was crazy silly, crazy happy. He just loved everybody, he loved life.” (The mother of a 20-year-old man shot by police who had come to arrest him for domestic violence, assault, and improper handling of a firearm. The mother is suing.)

♦ “He was just a great kid... He’d walk in a room and he’d have this infectious smile... I had a false expectation that if law enforcement...knew that he *just* [italics mine] had a mental health condition...that he wouldn’t be gunned down in the middle of the street on a bright sunny day.” (The mother of a mentally ill man. She herself was the one who called the police, who ended up shooting and killing her son.)

♦ “He was the peacemaker [with his siblings]. He was the one that would make sure that they didn’t fight and they get along very well.” (A family member about Osaze Osagie, a schizophrenic, killed by police.)

♦ “Crumbley’s parents, James and Jennifer Crumbley, were charged with involuntary manslaughter and have pleaded not guilty. / Prosecutors accuse the couple of failing to keep the gun used in the shooting secure at home and failing to reasonably care for their son when he showed signs of *mental distress* [italics mine].” (“Lawyer: Teen a worry months before Michigan school shooting” by Corey Williams, AP, Sept. 22, 2022.)

♦ “To you he is a monster. To me, he was a very sick boy.” (Andrew Cauchi, father of Joel Cauchi, 40.)

\*\*\* **Simon Biles, Naomi Osaka...**

♦ “[Her case] is opening up this space to have these conversations where people can you know choose mental health over you know necessarily you know showing up to work when they’re feeling miserable.” (ABC, “Naomi Osaka Steps Away.”)

♦ “It does open up a conversation because it’s her using her voice and her platform to really call out systemic change, which she has done before. I think she can show other girls and women who look like her how to empower them to stand up for themselves in ways that I think we haven’t always been able to see.” (C. Vaile Wright, PhD, a clinical psychologist and the American Psychological Association’s Senior Director of Health Care Innovation, about Naomi Osaka and mental health.)

♦ “This is the new breed of ‘sporting achievement.’ The loser reveling in their own narrative of ‘poor me’ and ‘victimhood...’ [A] troubled past, a difficult childhood from nothing, and then of course the trump card: ‘My mental health issues.’ Serena W., Naomi O., Anthony J.” (A



BBC HYS commenter about Anthony Joshua's "bizarre post-fight antics" after his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

♦ "Cricket poses unique challenges to wellbeing and mental health in terms of time away from home and the amount of travel, so that's a key area we try to incorporate into our work." (Jon Marzetti, a sports psychologist for England's cricket team. From "The Ashes: Why England will double down on 'Bazball' culture" by John Nassoori, BBC Sport, 4 July 2023. Problems mentioned in the article include: (1) hurting from defeat (2) fear of failure or losing (3) pressure to perform (4) the rigours of an Ashes series (5) the demands of touring and time away from home (6) amount of travel (7) anxiety (8) depression and (9) speculation and scrutiny over a player's place in the team. Nassoori makes it hard to imagine why anyone would want to play cricket!)

♦ "He took longer to focus; His mind wandered; He stopped going to class to train for the NFL draft; He stood behind a door, staring at the wall without a word; He was late to meetings and regarded as immature; He had the team's horseshoe logo tattooed on his chest; He was waived the day after Christmas; He was picked up two days later; His odd behavior left teammates uneasy, sometimes afraid; He declined invitations for movies or dinner; He said all he did was smoke weed, practice, then smoke more weed; He repeatedly told a strange story about a car accident but couldn't provide details; He was released; He was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (a car) and pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor with probation and fines; He became difficult for his agent to reach and would only answer "yes" or "no" to questions without elaboration; He waved his arms in the air at his grandfather's funeral and yelled as if he was riding a roller coaster; He wore soiled clothes; He was cut from the team; He ran the 40-yard dash...almost a half-second slower than his usual time in college; His words became garbled; He wore headphones to drown out the voices in his head; He refused to hug...a close uncle; He laughed for no reason; He shouted violent song lyrics; He posted strange things on Facebook; He wore old Utah State sweats; His eyes were bloodshot and vacant; His teeth weren't brushed; He smelled bad; He hadn't shaved or cut his hair recently; He didn't seem to recognize his friends; He sputtered about 'chilling busting caps'; He fixated on a black chihuahua named Shadow; He showed a lot of signs of aggression; He sprinted back and forth across a room while staring at the ceiling for no apparent reason; He wanted to become a professional boxer; He slept in the Western Avenue park; He smoked discarded cigarette butts; He looked dazed, but didn't bother anyone; He did football drills; He seemed to exist in a world of his own; He appeared to be playing chicken with cars and a bus clipped him; He dragged a black garbage bag; When he tried to speak, only gibberish came out; He pushed a shopping cart along the street; He would not respond to a question asking how he was; He reeked of someone who had abandoned showering; He argued with his mother; He stomped his mother out, breaking her nose, slicing open her lips, and battering her head; He pleaded not guilty to murder and is jailed at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in downtown L.A. on \$1-million bail." (The decline of De'Von Hall, NFL player. From "She was his rock. Now a failed NFL player is accused of killing his mother" by Nathan Fenno, *Los Angeles Times*, 6 July 2017. "Family members believe Hall suffered a head injury with the Colts in 2009 that changed his personality. A team spokesman didn't respond to a request for comment... / A separate theory circulated among some teammates had Hall attending a party in Miami while he played for the Buccaneers and smoking weed laced with cocaine, heroin or another hard drug. They believe the episode triggered an addiction. / No evidence has been made public to support any of these theories or further explain his behavior... / Coaches, teammates, family members, friends all speak about Hall as if he's dead.")

### \*\*\* criminality, bad behavior, personality disorders...

♦ "Nick Kyrgios seeks dismissal of assault case on mental health grounds." (BBC.)

♦ "Draymond Green said he will step away from the Golden State Warriors 'for a few days' to *focus on himself* [italics mine] and allow the team to 'heal' in the wake of him punching teammate Jordan Poole in the face during an altercation at practice on Monday." ("Draymond Green stepping away from Warriors after punching Jordan Poole: 'Huge embarrassment'" by Brian Wacker, *New York Post*, Oct 8, 2022. See also "NBA suspends Warriors' Draymond Green for stomping on Kings' Domantas Sabonis" by Jeff Zillgitt, *USA Today*, April 18, 2023. See also "Warriors' Draymond Green Doesn't Regret Putting T-Wolves' Rudy Gobert in Headlock" by Paul Kasabian, *bleacherreport*, November 26, 2023. For that offense he received a 5-game suspension. Latest update: "NBA suspends

Draymond Green indefinitely for striking Suns' Jusuf Nurkic in the face" by Jeff Zillgitt, *USA Today*, December 13, 2023. As Draymond Green has said, "The consensus amongst all of us is that I'm going to be me no matter what. That's not going to change."

♦ "Rapper Desiigner said he is seeking mental health treatment after he exposed himself on flight."

♦ "I know that you all are surprised by today's announcement. I've been seeking help to deal with previous trauma I suffered and will now take this time to focus on my mental health treatment more fully." (A statement by NBA player Joshua Primo. According to Primo's lawyer, Primo "never intentionally exposed himself [to Cauthe] or anyone else.")

♦ "I'm thankful to my dad, who has been with me through this whole period and I'm glad this nightmare is coming to an end for the sake of our combined mental health." (A statement by Conor Benn, who failed two drug tests, resulting in the cancellation of his scheduled fight with Chris Eubank Jr.)

♦ "The minute you give up is the minute your mental health wins. You've just got to keep on going." (The boxer Anthony Joshua prior to his latest fight. His statement is interesting because he seems to consider his demons, his insecurities, his criminal past, and his execrable sportsmanship to be his "mental health.")

♦ "Actor Ezra Miller seeking treatment for 'complex mental health issues' after period of 'intense crisis.'" (Accused of abuse, arrested for bizarre acts...)

♦ "The Grammy Award winner cited past struggles with alcohol and depression." (Accused of sexual misconduct.)

♦ "At the time of the offence, Cadman-Smith was a mentor responsible for supporting pupils' 'behaviour, mental health and learning difficulties'. / But, now aged 24, she suffers from 'extreme anxiety' and was deemed 'not mentally fit enough' to enter a plea or stand trial." (*Daily Mail*, about the mother-of-one's sexual relation with a 15-year-old school boy.)

### \*\*\* left to the imagination...

♦ "Australian captain Michael Hooper has withdrawn...and will return home as he is not in the right 'mindset' to play."

♦ "Adrien Broner withdraws from upcoming fight due to mental health reasons."

♦ "He withdrew from a fight with Javier Fortuna to address his mental health." (Ryan Garcia.)

♦ "It is important that I focus on my own family and health..." (A leave of absence.)

### \*\*\* social media, popular culture...

♦ "A new group of social media stars are surging on TikTok: Mental health influencers. Most of them are teen girls and young women who..." ("How TikTok has become a dangerous breeding ground for mental disorders" by Rikki Schlott, *New York Post*, March 12, 2022.)

♦ "Gone are the days of showing the highlight reel of your best life on Instagram. Now, it's trendy to celebrate your worst moments. What attracts eyeballs in today's social media market is tears, and content creators are incentivized to be vulnerable for views." ("How TikTok has become a dangerous breeding ground for mental disorders" by Rikki Schlott, *New York Post*, March 12, 2022.)

♦ "Instagram pushed her down a dangerous rabbit hole." (An eating disorder leads to teen suicide.)

♦ "'I find Instagram and Twitter to be overstimulating, to be overwhelming,' he said in a video posted Saturday. 'I get caught up and I spiral when I read things about me online, and ultimately it's very detrimental to my mental state. So I decided to take a step back and delete the app.'" ("Spider-Man" actor Tom Holland says he is taking a social media break for his mental health" by Mirna Alsharif, *NBC News*, August 15, 2022. He has 67.7 million Instagram followers.)

♦ "The truth about teens, social media and the mental health crisis," *NPR*, All Things Considered, April 25, 2023.

♦ *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt.

### \*\*\* paranoid schizophrenia, psychosis...

♦ “Moore’s mother, Rachel Crisp, spoke to Louisville news station WHAS11 about her son’s *mental health* [italics mine] leading up to the incident. ‘He was talking about vampires following him home. Just crazy nonsense stuff like that, it doesn’t make any sense’ she told the news station, adding that her son believed he was a werewolf and that most of his family, including his own child, were vampires.” (“Man Killed Firefighter Who Came to His Aid, Thought Vampires Were After Him” by Gerrard Kaonga, *Newsweek*, 5/1/22.)

♦ “A man who fatally stabbed an elderly mobility scooter rider five days after being released from prison has been detained indefinitely in a psychiatric hospital. Lee Byer killed 87-year-old Thomas O’Halloran in Greenfort in West London in August, 2022. The Old Bailey heard he had been suffering from paranoid schizophrenia.” (BBC.)

♦ “Calocane, 32, had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia before the attacks. / In addition to killing Mr Webber (19), Ms O’Malley-Kumar (19), and Mr Coates (65), Calocane stole Mr Coates’s van and used it to drive at three pedestrians, who were all left seriously injured.” (“Nottingham attacks: Triple killer’s sentence not unduly lenient—judges” by Will Jefford, BBC News, May 14, 2024. See the Wikipedia article “2023 Nottingham attacks.”)

♦ “Maniac accused of killing dad, brother with hammer thought family was downloading child porn on his email, putting poop in his food: cops.” (Luis G. Noyola, 46, Las Cruces, New Mexico.)

♦ “The assailant had mental health issues.” (Rammed into a family with his truck, got out, and murdered a man and a baby held in her mother’s arms with a shotgun.)

♦ “Authorities previously said the attack was most likely ‘related to the mental health’ of Mr Cauchi...” (“Bondi Junction mall attack: ‘Obvious’ killer targeted women, Sydney police say” by Simon Atkinson in Sydney and Hannah Ritchie, BBC News, April 15, 2024.)

♦ “Jailhouse sources noted Abrokwa clearly has ‘mental health issues.’” (“Alleged NYC ‘poop perp’ Frank Abrokwa scalded with boiling water on his face while at Rikers Island” by Gabrielle Fonrouge, *New York Post*, August 1, 2022.)

♦ “Major manic episodes; antisocial personality disorder (sociopath); anxiety disorders; bipolar disorder; schizo-affective disorder; schizophrenia; paranoid delusions; delusional disorder; dissociative disorders; “D.I.D., a complex mental health condition (dissociative identity disorder); “He felt like he was being surveilled and then accusing me of conspiring with the government” (a mother, about her son); borderline personality disorder; histrionic personality disorder; (THC-induced) psychosis; “How to spot the difference between a narcissist, psychopath, or sociopath”; hallucinations; hearing voices...; auditory hallucinations... (Mental illness terms, some scientific, some lay. Some of the disorders are relatively innocuous, others incredibly dangerous, all commonly referred to now as “mental health.”)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “mental health” bandwagon...

♦ “The field is starting to build momentum right now. Evidence is there to support the conclusion that contact with nature benefits our mood, our psychological well-being, our mental health, and our cognitive functioning.” (University of Washington environmental psychologist Gregory Bratman. Quoted in “The Nature Antidote” by Jill U. Adams, *Audubon magazine*, Winter 2019.)

♦ “A recent study in the journal *Scientific Reports* found that hearing or seeing birds can have a positive benefit on one’s mental health.” (“Feeling down? Step outside for a bird walk,” Scott Simon, NPR, Mental Health, Weekend Edition Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022. A 1-minute listen. “Thank you, Scott.” See the Wikipedia article “Scientific Reports.”)

♦ “We want teachers to be able to understand what mental-health concerns may be in your classroom.” (Psychologist Dr. Janice Beal, who works with schools in the Houston area. “Have everybody share how they’re feeling.”)

♦ “A first. Earlier this year, NPR’s Student Podcast Challenge asked students to share their stories about mental health. Hundreds of middle-and high schoolers responded. Our judge listened to them all, and we are now awarding our first ever prize in this important category. / Grace Go, a Korean-American: [T]his was the first piece that I’ve made where I put myself in the spotlight. / Janet W. Lee: And that vulnerability really caught our judges’ attention...” (“Living with an eating disorder, a teen finds comfort in her favorite Korean food” by Janet W. Lee, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, July 18, 2023.)

♦ “People found they got remarkable feedback when they talked about their mental health.” (Dan Roth, Editor in Chief at LinkedIn, about LinkedIn’s “new emotional tone.”)

♦ “Even five years ago people didn’t open up so much. Now there’s greater awareness of people’s vulnerabilities, such as mental health and LinkedIn has magnified this.” (Douglas Rode of the recruitment giant Page Group in the U.K and Ireland about LinkedIn’s “new emotional tone.”)

♦ “Heather has a BS in Psychology and an MS in Criminal Forensic Studies. She aims to use her gifts, talents, experiences, education, and authentic self to help others feel empowered to live as their authentic selves. She wants to normalize mental health struggles and addiction, and let people know that they are not alone. There is help and support just around the corner.” (An advertising circular on a public bulletin board at a public library.)

♦ Funding for WonderMind, the mental health platform associated with Selena Gomez and her mother, is partly funded by Serena Ventures, the golf legend Serena Williams’ investment portfolio.

♦ “Barbie launches first ever Barbie doll with Down Syndrome. (Mattel. The doll is shorter, with smaller features.)

♦ SAD, seasonal affective disorder, was identified in the 1980s and always related to the diminishing hours of sunlight in winter. Now there is “summer SAD,” which supposedly relates to anxiety about heat waves, smoke from Canadian wildfires, etc., which nicely ties in to worries about global warming...

### \*\*\* institutionalization, commitment, jail...

♦ “It’s concerning how easily the courts and the clinicians presume danger in individuals who may be having extreme mental experiences.” (Laurie Coker, a psychiatric nurse once diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Her son committed suicide. She has opened the Green Tree Peer Center, “a peer-operated wellness center that empowers people to live more fully through peer support, self-help education, and great social connections! Click to donate online.”)

♦ “Care Court as it’s written right now is unconstitutionally vague and it violates the civil rights of our clients with mental health disabilities who are homeless.” (Christian Abasto, legal director of Disability Rights California.)

♦ “California governor OKs mental health courts for homeless” by Janie Har and Adam Beam, ABC/AP, Sept. 14, 2022. The ACLU of California, Human Rights Watch, Disability Rights California, and numerous other organizations that work with homeless people, minority communities and people with disabilities, all claim the new program will violate civil rights.)

♦ “So we end up building like the Winchester Mystery House. It is a structure that was okay but then it just started adding hallways to nowhere and basements that are on top of the building. That’s what our system looks like.” (Veronica Kelly, Orange County Director of Behavioral Health (DBH), who opposes California’s Care Courts, which can now mandate treatment for the mentally ill. Her office must now provide treatment or face fines. Most citizens, and families of the mentally ill, and even many of the mentally ill, favor such courts.)

♦ “There was a 91% increase in involuntary commitment petitions in North Carolina between 2009 and 2018.”

♦ “Dear has refused to take medication.” (“Planned Parenthood shooting suspect can be forcibly medicated” by Abigail Beckman, KRCC. In a 2015 attack on a Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood, Robert Lewis Dear Jr. murdered three people and injured nine others.)

♦ “He’s in that dark hole right now, and if you could force treatment there’s a chance he could possibly crawl out of it...He’s never been diagnosed. He doesn’t want any help. He refuses to think of himself as ill, at all... It’s okay to kill himself. He can stay on the streets, and he can die there, but he’s going to die with his rights. The only rights I have as a mother is to go claim him in the morgue.” (The mother of a mentally ill homeless drug addict who refuses treatment and is in and out of crisis police holds, emergency rooms, jails, and homeless shelters.)

♦ A “Ulysses pact” (contract) allows a mentally ill person to stipulate in advance that he be hospitalized during a mental illness crisis, thus circumventing a legal requirement that he give permission. Ulysses wished to hear the sirens, but understood their voices would lead him and his men to their doom. So he ordered his men to tie him to the

mast, block their own ears with beeswax, and under no circumstance untie him until the danger was past.

♦ "I, \_\_\_\_\_, being an adult of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make this advance instruction for mental health treatment to be followed if it is determined by a physician or eligible psychologist that my ability to receive and evaluate information or communicate decisions is impaired to such an extent that I lack the capacity to refuse or consent to mental health treatment." (A psychiatric advance directive (PAD), or advance instruction.)

♦ "Why wasn't I in a hospital?... / I'm convinced I should have been in the hospital weeks before. For, in fact, the hospital was my salvation [where] I found the repose, the assuagement of the tempest in my brain... This is partly the result of sequestration, of safety, of being removed to a world in which the urge to pick up a knife and plunge it into one's own breast disappears... [T]he hospital also offers the mild, oddly gratifying trauma of sudden stabilization—a transfer out of the too familiar surroundings of home, where all is anxiety and discord, into an orderly and benign detention where one's only duty is to try to get well. For me the real healers were seclusion and time... [I] began to get well, gradually but steadily. I was amazed to discover that the fantasies of self-destruction all but disappeared within a few days after I checked in, and this again is testimony to the pacifying effect that the hospital can create, its immediate value as a sanctuary where peace can return to the mind." (*Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* by William Styron.)

♦ "I feel quite normal so often that I should think that if what I have is only a malady peculiar to this place, I must wait quietly till it is over, even if it returns again (and let's say that it won't). But I told Doctor Rey that if sooner or later it is desirable that I should go to Aix, as has already been suggested, I consent beforehand." (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

♦ "The fatal beating of a hospital psychiatrist, allegedly by a former patient, has sparked calls in Italy to improve mental health." (From "Fatal Beating of psychiatrist in Italy sparks reform outcry," AP, April 24, 2023. According to the article, "Under a 1978 law, Italy closed down psychiatric hospitals and made all psychiatric treatment voluntary, with very few exceptions. Critics say the legislation envisioned a network of neighborhood public health facilities to deliver mental health care, but that never fully developed." The victim, Dr. Barbara Capovani, 55, was the mother of three children. She was beaten to death while unlocking her bicycle by a man who had previously beaten another doctor.)

♦ "New Hampshire Hospital was established, in 1842, as a kind of utopian community, a reprieve from the disorder of the outside world. The hospital's early leaders tried to help patients regain their common sense... by immersing them in a model society. The hospital was situated on a hundred and seventeen acres, and patients lived in a stately, red-brick Colonial building with a steeple and a tiered white porch, surrounded by trees. They farmed, gardenized, and cooked together; there was a golf course, an orchestra, a monthly newspaper, dances, and boating on the hospital's pond... / As the patient population expanded, though, the hospital couldn't maintain its early idealism. Psychiatrists no longer had time for the benevolent form of care known as 'moral treatment.'" ("God Knows Where I Am," by Rachel Aviv, *The New Yorker*, May 30, 2011.)

♦ "Father of NYC menace 'Ice Pick Nick' grateful son is behind bars: 'Saving his life'" by Matthew Sedacca, *The New York Post*, May 18, 2024.

♦ "The *Post* has confirmed that Yates declined a hearing last month that would have determined whether she was competent to be released from the hospital. / Under the terms of her conviction, Yates is eligible to undergo a review each year. / She has repeatedly declined to be assessed. / The *Post* has learned that Yates, 60, lives a quiet life inside Kernville State Hospital..." ("Killer mom Andrea Yates, who drowned her 5 children in a bathtub in 2001, is rejecting the chance to go free" by Steve Helling, *The New York Post*, July 9, 2024.)

### \*\*\* perceptions of the majority...

♦ "So this nurse was psychotic, but allowed to be in the medical field???? If she was in jumping out of windows, on police cars but a licensed medical professional. Hmmm now that is insane." (A commenter about "Nicole Linton Was Involuntarily Committed Multiple Times Before LA Crash, Attorneys Said" by Kui Wmai, Yahoo news, August 16, 2022.)

♦ "The same formula again and again. I want to post pictures of myself in bathing suits. When I get criticized I'll say I want to do it for others and for body positivity. When I get criticized for that, I will show sadness that the world doesn't support mental health and I'm a victim, and finally I'll get praised for being so brave for living my own truth." (Bob Loblaw. A BBC HYS comment about "SI Swim model Natalie Mariduena wants to 'be an example' of 'body normalcy'" by Stephanie Nolasco, August 20, 2022.)

♦ "The clinical varieties of what used to be called 'madness' keep rising, especially among the young."

♦ "I am a retired senior citizen, but I do not recall any era in my lifetime of such an overload of patients seeking mental health services." (An online commenter.)

♦ "Growing up in the 70s and 80s we never heard much about 'mental health.'" (An online commenter.)

♦ "Seems many of these wellness checks involve mental health issues." (A commenter about the case involving Amy Brogdon Anderson and her daughter.)

♦ 99% of artists would've canceled the show + put out a "mental health statement." (Mod Sun, praising Camila Cabello for performing in Atlanta, in spite of the fact the arena was largely empty.)

### \*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ "For more than a generation now, we in the West have aggressively spread our modern knowledge of mental illness around the world. We have done this in the name of science... There is now good evidence to suggest that in the process of teaching the rest of the world to think like us, we've been exporting our Western 'symptom repertoire' as well. Indeed, a handful of mental-health disorders—depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and anorexia among them—now appear to be spreading across cultures with the speed of contagious diseases. These symptom clusters are becoming the lingua franca of human suffering, replacing indigenous forms of mental illness..." ("The Americanization of Mental Illness," by Ethan Watters, NYT, January 10, 2010. In addition, the western idea that mental illness is a disease, and not a spiritual sickness or temporary possession, has led to greater stigmatization for sufferers, not less. Studies show that schizophrenics fare better over time in less developed countries in such aspects as relapses, and social acceptance.)

### \*\*\* a funny cartoon...

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Two young men are sitting at a table. The man on the left is a picture of despair: His elbows are on the table, his head is bowed, and his hands are on the top of this head, so that you can't see his face. Across the table, his nerdy Zoomer friend is saying, "Maybe try turning the mug around so its inspirational message faces you?" On the table is a mug. Looking closely, you can see that the "inspirational message" on the mug is the yellow smiley face. The upspeak indicated by the question mark in the caption is priceless. *The New Yorker*, November 7, 2022.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Just admitted a gunner suffering from shock alone—no wound—completely knocked out; he can't tell you his name, or stand, or even sit up, but just shivers and shudders. Now he is warm in bed, he can say 'Thank you.' I wonder what exactly did it." (*Diary of a Nursing Sister on the Western Front: 1914-1915* by Kate (Katherine) Evelyn Luard.)

♦ "HYSTERICAL MONOPLÉGIA, Case D5.—FLACCID FOOT DROP / PRIVATE, 21 YEARS OF AGE. DURATION, 9 MONTHS / During the advance on Loos this private was "blown up" with his platoon and taken prisoner. He escaped the same evening and returned to the trenches, but walked with difficulty. The following evening when making an attack he was wounded in the left arm by shrapnel. The arm fell lifeless and he was dazed. An officer gave the warning that the Prussian Guards were advancing; he got up and made his way to a communication trench, where he began shaking; the left leg went "dead" and powerless and he became deaf. Hearing came back in about an hour. A fortnight later he was sent to England, where he received electrical treatment to the left arm and leg. / Nine months later there was no power whatever in the left foot. Anaesthesia was noted over the leg to a line drawn round the knee." (*Hysterical Disorders of Warfare* by Lewis Ralph Yealland, M.D., Resident Medical Officer, National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen Square, London, with preface by E. Farquhar Buzzard, M.D., F.R.C.P., Lieut.-Colonel, R.A.M.C., 1918.)

♦ Zhivago: There are three points. First, the court-martial of the vodka brewers; second, the reorganization of the field ambulance and the pharmacy; and third, my proposal for the treatment of mental illnesses. I don't know whether you agree with me, my dear Lajos, but from what I observe we are going mad, and modern forms of insanity spread like an epidemic... / Lajos: ...I am not surprised at your suggestion for preventive psychiatry. I believe in it myself. We are faced with the rise and spread of a form of psychic illness that is typical of our time and is directly related to the contemporary upheavals. We have a case of it in the camp—Pamphil Palykh... / Zhivago: I know Palykh very well... All right, I'll see what I can do about it." (*Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak, from "The Forest Brotherhood.")

♦ "Pamphil [Palykh] was devoted to [his wife] and loved his children to distraction... With the arrival of his family he had cheered up and begun to recover... But now the news had got about that... [the families] were going to be sent... to winter quarters... Pamphil's spirits fell and his hallucinations came back... / A bleeding stump of a man [lay] on the ground. His right arm and left leg had been chopped off. It was inconceivable how, with his remaining arm and leg, he had crawled to the camp... Fainting repeatedly from loss of blood, the dying man told him ... of the tortures and atrocities perpetrated by Vitsyn's squads. 'As for the children and women—O God!' / Pamphil had been in the crowd surrounding the dying man. He had seen him, heard his words, and read the threatening inscription on the board. His constant fear for his family in the event of his own death rose to a new climax... In his imagination he saw them handed over to slow torture... / In his desperate anguish he killed them himself, felling his wife and three children with that same, razor-sharp ax that he had used to carve toys for the two small girls and the boy... / The astonishing thing was that he did not kill himself immediately afterward. What could he be thinking of? It was a clear case of insanity... / While Liberius, the doctor, and the members of the army soviet debated what to do with him, he roamed freely about the camp... An obtuse vague grimace of inhuman, unconquerable suffering never left his face. / No one was sorry for him. Everyone avoided him, some people said he should be lynched, but they were not heeded. / There was nothing in the world left for him to do. At dawn he vanished from the camp, fleeing from himself like a dog with rabies." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ "One agency that seized upon Freeman's work was the Veterans Administration. Faced with an influx of shell-shocked World War II GIs that flooded its mental wards, the VA issued a directive in 1943 requesting its neurosurgeons to study and use the Freeman and Watts lobotomy technique. By 1951, nearly 3,000 lobotomies had been performed at VA hospitals, according to agency records." ("D.C. Neurosurgeon Pioneered 'Operation Icepick' Technique" by Glenn Frankel, the *Washington Post*, April 7, 1980.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ It is impossible to understand what "mental health" means nowadays. Having a bad day? Female hormones? Bad behavior? A personality disorder? An excuse for bad behavior? An aspect of the for-profit and clicks "wellness" industry? Criminal behavior? An excuse for criminal behavior? Drug addiction or alcoholism? Simple anxiety? Paranoid schizophrenia? All of these things seem to be expressed by the term, "mental health." Mental illness is even considered as a "gift," "wonderful," and the mentally ill person is considered "amazing" and "exceptional" right up until the time he or "they" commits a horrible mass shooting, and then the mentally ill person becomes "a coward" or "pure evil" or "a monster."

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ see also *mental wellness (noun)*, *self-care (and self care)*, *welfare (mental, etc.)*, *wellbeing (noun)*, *wellness (noun)*

## mentally (mentally unwell, etc.)

### mentally disabled

one man was ~, and another was untraceable (crime)  
Supreme Court blocks execution of ~ man (Texas)  
executing the ~ violated the Constitution's ban (2002)  
man pleads guilty to enslaving ~ man (NPR)

### mentally fit

a brain scientist explains how she stays ~ ("health" news)

### mentally healthy

how to stay resilient and ~ during the coronavirus outbreak

### mentally ill

law meant to help ~ puts more of them on the street  
county jails struggle to treat ~ inmates  
~ inmates are often punished for their symptoms

### "mentally retarded"

the Supreme Court used the phrase ~ (2002)

### mentally strong

we are ~ (French coach Didier Deschamps / soccer)

### mentally unwell

she was deemed too ~ to attend court

### physically and mentally

'queer gym' empowers LGBTQ+ clients, both ~  
he is still healing ~ from the shooting (serious injuries)  
we put a lot in each game, ~ it's hard... (soccer)  
the shooting impacted her health, both ~ (Megan T. Stallion)

## mental wellbeing (and mental well-being)

### mental wellbeing

shift mental health away from crises toward ~ (jobs)

### mental well-being

green space can restore not just your body but your ~, too

### employees' mental wellbeing

discrimination linked to weight can affect ~

### his and his family's mental well being

he wants to prioritize ~ (athlete will miss championship)

### physical fitness and mental well-being

an athlete's ~

### look after his mental wellbeing

he withdrew in order to ~ (a boxer)

## mental wellness (noun)

### mental wellness classes

~ on a variety of topics (at a local library)

### mental wellness conversation

she has elevated the ~ (Simone Biles)

### environment of mental wellness

the intelligence community doesn't have an ~

### path to mental wellness

there is a ~

### focus on her mental wellness

she withdrew to ~ (Simone Biles)

♦ see also *mental wellbeing (and mental well-being)*, *mental health (noun)*, *self-care (and self care)*, *welfare (mental, etc.)*, *wellbeing (noun)*, *wellness (noun, etc.)*

## menu (computer)

### Search Menu

Back to ~ (computer)

### start menu

each user has a customized desktop and ~ (computers)

### tools menu

on the ~, click mail merge (computers)

### View menu

click on the following items on the ~ (computers)

### items on the View menu

click on the following ~ (computers)

## menu (other)

### menu of drugs

we have a ~ that... (treating virus)

### menu of (vaccine) opportunities

we want to have a whole ~ (COVID-19)

## mercenary (person)

### mercenaries

they are ~ who sell to anyone willing to pay (spying)

### mercenaries for hire

he was ashamed to see his former colleagues ~

### mercenary approach

some of his former colleagues took a more ~

### mercenary model

locals renting rooms has been supplanted by a more ~

### just a mercenary

he was ~ brought in to win a championship (baseball)

♦ Only stayed for money, a mercenary" (Commenter on a BBC HYS about a Man U goalie.)

## mercurial (adjective)

### mercurial insight

he is a visionary with a capacity for ~ (scientist)

### mercurial manager

she has chosen to be a ~ (passionate but challenging)

### mercurial personality

his ~ caused headaches (an employee)

### mercurial producer

the ~ threw a baked potato at his head in 2018

### mercurial trickster

Brando was a ~, he could be very selfish (the actor)

### mercurial and uncertain

he is ~

### brash and mercurial

Somalia's pirates are ~

\*\*\* Mad Hatter's Disease...

♦ Anxiety; irritability; insomnia; emotional instability; depression; suicidal thoughts; racing thoughts; fearful feelings; feelings of persecution; feelings of worthlessness; anhedonia (an inability to feel pleasure); loss of self-control; loss of joy in life; a vexing inner restlessness; restless sleep; moodiness; withdrawal from society; fear of further deterioration; vomiting; enlarged brain; congestion in lungs; gingivitis; tremors... (Symptoms of mercury poisoning, known as Mad Hatter's Disease. Suffered by those who did fire-gilding in the past.)

## merry-go-round

### merry-go-round of foster care

the ~

### Chelsea manager merry-go-round

the ~, the gift that never stops giving (Tuchel sacked)

### merry go round starts again

so we sack another manager and the ~ (at Man U)

## mesmerize (verb)

### mesmerized the country

his trial ~ (OJ Simpson)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word comes from Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815).

## mesmerizing (adjective)

### mesmerizing

he is ~, you can't take your eyes off him (Ronaldo)

### mesmerizing performance

she bewitched all with a ~

### makes the film mesmerizing

strangeness and emotion ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word comes from Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815). As such, it is a eponym. Like *Kung Pao* chicken, or *General Tso's* chicken. Roy Allen and Frank Wright (A & W Root Beer). Hans Asperger. Robert Wilhelm Bunsen (the *Bunsen* burner). Samuel Colt (the *Colt* revolver). Gabriel *Fallopian*. Dr. Richard J. Gatling (the *Gatling* gun). Gaston *Glock* (the *Glock*). Joseph *Guillotin*. The Greek God *Hymen*. Mikhail *Kalashnikov*. Jules *Leotard*. Joseph Lister (*Listerine*). John Landis Mason (the *Mason* jar). Claude-Etienne Minie (the *Minie* bullet). Jean *Nicot* de Villemain (*nicotine*). Louis Pasteur (*pasteurization*). Julius Petri (*petri* dish). Henry Shrapnel (the *shrapnel* shell). Etienne de *Silhouette*. Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson (*Smith & Wesson*). Frederick Wilfred Stokes (the *Stokes* mortar). John Montagu, 4th Earl of *Sandwich*. James Syme (the *Syme's* / *Syme* amputation). Uziel Gel (the *Uzi*). Germany's Count Ferdinand von *Zeppelin*.

♦ America; Ampere; Atlas; Boycott; Braille; Chauvinism; Chimerical; Cologne; Colossal; Derrick; Dixie; Dunce; Erotic; Fahrenheit; Frankenstein; Galvanic; Gargantuan; Gordian Knot; Groggy; Guy; Hector; Hobson's Choice; Herculean; Jingoism; Laconic; Lothario; Macadam; Malapropism; Martinet; Masochism; Maudlin; Mausoleum; Mentor; Nemesis; Nicotine; OK; Pander; Philander; Philippics; Procrustean; Pyrrhic; Quixotic; Rodomontade; Sadism; Sandwich; Saturnine; Saxophone; Silhouette; Simon-Pure; Simony; Solecism; Sphinx; Spoonerism; Sybarite; Tantalize; Tawdry; Uranium; Utopia; Vandals; X-Ray...(From Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 3, "These Words Came from Proper Names.")

## mess (person)

### mess

he's a ~ (not in control of his life)

### hot mess

see *hot mess (person)*



## **mess (noun)**

hot mess

see *hot mess*

becoming a mess

our generation is ~ (social media)

clean up the mess

grownups must ~ (finances)

cleaning up this mess

we're ~ (diplomacy)

get into this mess

so how did we ~ (computers)

walking into a mess

he was ~, a complete rebuild (a sports franchise)

## **message (send a message, etc.)**

message of hate

bin Laden's ~ (terrorism)

message of hope

a ~ versus false hope (schizophrenia)

the film offers a ~

message of unity and equality

his ~ (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

messages about cheating

schools send mixed ~

play's message

some have questioned the ~ (controversial, political)

song's message

the ~

core message

his ~ is...

key message

I think one of the ~s is...

public health message

Angolans have resisted the ~ (Marburg virus)

underlying message

understand their ~ (autistic behaviors)

inspiring message

not exactly an ~

leaders issued ~s

mixed message

schools send ~s about cheating

subliminal message

logos can be powerful, and they are all about ~s

wrong message

sending the ~ to kids (that thin is good)

important psychological message

this would send an ~ to Noriega

message is getting through

our message is ~

get the message across

we need to ~ to every fan that racist abuse is wrong

send messages

people ~ through their body language

### **\*\*\* the cooe method of communication...**

♦ "[In the hill and mountain country of northern India]... inter-village communication is carried on by shouting. Standing on a commanding point, maybe a big rock or the roof of a house, a man cooees to attract the attention of the people in a neighboring village, and when the cooe is answered the message is shouted across in a high-pitched voice. From village to village the message is tossed, and is broadcast throughout large areas in an incredibly short space of time." (The cooe method of communication. From *Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India 1936-1943.)

## **messenger (shoot the messenger)**

shoots the messenger

if he doesn't like the intelligence he gets, he ~ (a leader)

## **Messi (Messi of Matadors, etc.)**

Messi of Matadors

Video Shows Moment '~' Got Gored

Turkish Messi

say hello to the man dubbed the "~" (Arda Guler)

♦ "We've had the 'Iranian Messi' (Sardar Azmoun), the 'German Messi' (Ryan Gauld) and many more. Now say hello to the man dubbed the 'Turkish Messi'—Arda Guler." (The young, talented attacking player with a low centre of gravity and superb close control, dribbling and passing skills.)

♦ "Video Shows Moment 'Messi of Matadors' Got Gored by 1,100 Pound Bull." The matador was Andres Roca Rey, and the remarkable video was provided by Daniel Gonzalez@daannigonalez.

## **messiah (noun)**

messiah of the (global warming) movement

she has been described as the ~ (Greta Thunberg)

Messiah complex

a Prima Dona with a ~ (soccer snark about a player)

antiracist messiah

the ~ Ibram X. Kendi (author of *Antiracist Baby*)

political messiah

Bobby Kennedy was being transformed into a ~ (1968)

hailed him as the Messiah

MU fans ~ (Cristiano Ronaldo / soccer)

♦ It's a message we were dying to hear; oh, man, I love it, I like what he said; I'm impressed; he hit all the right notes; music to the ears; he seems like a genuine dude; I think this is the coach that's going to bring us to the promised land... (Comments about coach Mark Madsen, the new basketball coach at the University of California, Berkeley.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "He said there was gold here. He lied. He is not perfect!" (The character of Auda Abu Tayi, played by Anthony Quinn, to the character of Sherif Ali, played by Omar Sharif, about the character T.E. Lawrence, played by Peter O'Toole, from the great 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*, directed by David Lean.)



## messianic (adjective)

messianic terms

he saw the mission in almost ~ (WeWork)

messianic zeal

he has a ~ (Adam Neumann of WeWork)

## messy (adjective)

messy

the world is ~ (Barack Obama on being “woke”)

messy complexity

the ~ human behavior and the elusiveness of truth

messy situation

it's a ~

described as messy

we separated under circumstances best ~ (relationship)

## met (met by anger, etc.)

met by violence

somewhere along the way they were ~ (murdered couple)

## meta (affix)

meta-consideration

the assemblage provokes a ~...

meta-pop

Gayle, and the rise of ~... (Taylor Gayle Rutherford)

meta territory

the film leans fully into ~

metaverse

see *metaverse* (noun)

meta-textual

her post-modern, ~ lyrics failed to find an audience

♦ “The film leans fully into meta territory.” (Caryn James about the 2022 film *Bros*, a gay rom-com. This short sentence is notable for containing 3 contempo-speak clichés: “lean into,” “meta,” and “territory.” The film’s marketing roll-out was budgeted higher than the production of the film. Now, that’s meta!)

♦ “The assemblage provokes a meta-consideration: what truly separates the stripper from the actor, the club from the theater?” (“Down South: P-Valley,” on Starz by Doreen St. Felix, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022.)

♦ “That’s a funny thing about being a content creator, though, right? You are trying to make money off your audience, and obviously sometimes you have to behave in ways that you wouldn’t be behaving if the audience weren’t there watching you. You and your audience are just supposed to operate as if that’s not the case. / Yeah, it gets very meta...” (“Pokimane” by David Marchese, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 30, 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, “The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy.”

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big*, *super-*, *ultra-*, *giga-*, *trendy*, *performative*, *curated*, *boutique*, *artisanal*, *craft*, *custom*, *heirloom*, *designer*, *bespoke*, *bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber*, *meta*, *hyper*, *upcycled*, *-forward*, *-informed*, *-driven*, *-ized*, *reinvented*, *pop-up*, *verb-up*, *kinetic*, *fluid*, *deep*, *massive*, *generational*, *transactional*, *intersectional*, *insanely cool*, “try this genius hack to...” In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ see also *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing)

## metastasis (verb)

metastasis

this is a cancer that has been allowed to ~ (an issue)

metastasized

the mission has ~ (a military operation)

metastasized to (over) \$20,000

that debt ~ (credit-card debt)

metastasized into a (regional) crisis

the cancer has ~ (terrorism)

metastasized into a (global) crisis

recklessness ~ (financial collapse)

metastasized into a Great Depression

the great slump could have ~ (2010)

metastasized from a controversy to an indication

the situation has ~ of a larger problem (blackface)

metastasizing across the country for a long time

the problem of domestic terrorism has been ~ now

metastasized rapidly

campus protests ~ nationwide (Israel-Hamas war)

grown and metastasized

extremism has ~ in the country

allow the (underlying) problem to metastasize

treating the symptoms of the problem can ~ (politics)

## metastasizing (adjective)

metastasizing (coronavirus) outbreak

the ~ in the US...

## metaverse (noun)

Metaverse

the ~ is the next frontier (Mark Zuckerberg)

Metaverse app

~ allows kids into virtual strip clubs

metaverse landscape

the much-hyped ~

described the metaverse

Zuckerberg has ~ as the company’s new “North Star”

♦ “Imagine something innocuous like a water-cooler conversation in an office. Imagine that it’s happening in a fully-monitored metaverse environment—that is certainly going to have life-changing consequences...” (Alex Rice, the co-founder of online security company HackerOne.)

♦ “Police are investigating the first case of rape in the metaverse.” (The U.K.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “In 1992, Neal Stephenson coined the term *metaverse* in his novel *Snow Crash*.” (“The Coming Worlds: The Metaverse is still under construction, but it’s sure to change our lives” by Matthew Ball, *Time*, August 8/August 15, 2022.)

♦ “In 1992, Neal Stephenson’s sci-fi novel *Snow Crash* imagined a form of virtual entertainment so immersive that it would allow people, essentially, to live within it. He named it the metaverse.” (We’re

Already In The Metaverse: Reality is blurred. Boredom is intolerable. And everything is entertainment" by Megan Garber, *The Atlantic*, March, 2023.)

♦ "It's Mark Zuckerberg's world and we're all just living in it." Watch: Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg Goes Surfing

## meteoric (adjective)

meteoric

her academic progress was less than ~

meteoric rise

his ~ was the stuff of New York dreams (literary agent)

she had a ~ and a heartbreaking fall (Whitney Houston)

the podcast chronicles her ~ and fall from grace

she enjoyed a ~ through Washington's journalism ranks

his resignation cuts short a ~ through Scottish politics

a racial slur has stopped his ~ in its tracks (singer)

the ~ in popularity of the word "bae" (2014)

meteoric success

he achieved ~ (owner of Israeli winery)

\*\*\* the 1998 Leonid meteor shower from the Cherohala Skyway in western North Carolina...

♦ Three meteors in the sky at the same time seen at Santeetlah Gap; meteors observable from underneath the tree canopy on the walk to Spirit Ridge overlook; exploding meteors that turned night into day, created shadows, and left lingering smoke trails seen from Huckleberry Bald...

## meteorically (adverb)

risen meteorically

the money made by social-media influencers has ~

## meteorite (noun)

fiscal meteorite

higher taxes caused by the ~ of COVID

♦ "It's an aberration, the burden of tax, caused in no small part by the fiscal meteorite of COVID." (Prime Minister Boris Johnson, during a speech in Blackpool.)

## Methuselah

comic-book Methuselah

a ~, Stan Lee died aged 95...

Methuselah Foundation

the Immortality institute, the ~ (longevity science)

"Methuselah Trusts"

~ can build massive wealth

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Long living things from turtles to trees have been named Methuselah. Methuselah is the name given to the bristlecone pine in California's White Mountains, thought to be 4,600 years old.

## metronomic (operation)

metronomic

she is not ~, she's not a machine, she's human (an

athlete)

## Mexico (Mexico of the U.S., etc.)

metronomic

she is not ~, she's not a machine, she's human (an

athlete)

## miasma (noun)

miasma of sleaze and corruption

the administration is mired in a ~ (politics)

\*\*\* Semmelweis, Pasteur, Koch, Lister...

♦ The miasma theory of disease lasted for many centuries, and only relatively recently was it supplanted by the germ theory of disease, thanks to the "heroes of humanity" like Semmelweis and Pasteur and Koch and Lister. Those "heroes of humanity" are now described at many medical schools as "old dead white men."

## mic drop (noun)

mic drop of a speech

after the game, Marta gave a real ~ (Laurel Wamsley)

mic-drop cameo

2023 was the year of the ~ at the movies (cameos)

mic-drop moment

Clinton had a ~ when she... (Hillary / during a debate)

yeah, this was definitely a ~ today (Day 11 of trial)

something of a (modified) mic-drop

Tyler did ~, throwing his tambourine in celebration (band)

♦ "saying 'im doing 'X' for ppl that look like me' is so racist I'm shocked its tolerated by the general public. Imagine if Aaron Rodgers said 'I'm doing this for the boys that look like me.'" (An online commenter, reacting to "NYC college grad says viral mic drop justified because she's 'black woman in America': 'I am always in the right'" by Yaron Steinbuch, *The New York Post*, June 23, 2023. LaGuardia Community College, Queens, New York City.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Mic drop." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ This term is a good one to show how dictionaries can define words in different ways, and also how people might use a word in idiosyncratic ways when it becomes trendy. I like the way Stuart Heritage explained it in his short article, "'Obama out': a brief history of mic drops" (*The Guardian*, 2 May 2016). He wrote, "As a gesture, the mic drop signals the end of a statement so definitive that it cannot possibly be followed."

♦ The greatest mic drop of all time was not a mic drop, but a "guitar toss"—for which there is not yet a Wikipedia article. Dhani's expression says it all. Prince. Nuff said. Watch: Prince, Tom Petty, Steve Winwood, Jeff Lynne, more—"While My Guitar Gently Weeps" 2004 Induction

♦ "Does a mic drop break the mic?" (Google: "People also ask.")

♦ OLD: the final word, the definitive performance... / NEW: mic drop...

## Michael Jordan (Michael Jordan of the dog-show world, etc.)

Michael Jordan of dock diving

he's like the ~ (Spitfire, a whippet from Olympia, WA)

Michael Jordan of sports scoops

Adrian Wojnarowski was like the ~ (NPR's Rafael Nam)

Michael Jordan of the dog-show world

Mick is the ~ (a blue terrier)

♦ Watch: Meet Spitfire, 'the Michael Jordan of Dogs.'

## microaggression (groups)

microaggression

~s are nothing compared to... (life / hunger, etc.)

~s are pervasive (a Cambodian immigrant)

micro-aggression territory

her repeated questions stepped into ~

microaggression trauma

most of the world doesn't care about your ~

microaggression websites

~ where students document microaggressions...

microaggressions, discrimination or

macroaggressions

the difference between ~ is that...

racially aggravated microaggressions

Scottish cricket enabled a culture of ~ to develop

collection of microaggressions

Morris showcases a ~ (*All Her Little Secrets*)

monitor one another for microaggressions

DEI teaches students to ~ and implicit biases

treat every minor insult as a microaggression

they treat ~ (an Indian foreign student in the U.S.)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Microaggressions: Be Careful What You Say," NPR, Tell Me More, April 3, 2014. You've been warned...

♦ "Dancers who accused a leading choreographer of transphobia have claimed she has jeopardised their safety by publicising her resignation. / Rosie Kay resigned this week from the dance company she founded in 2004... / Kay believes what ensued at the dinner illustrates how women who stand up for women's rights are deliberately smeared with accusations of transphobia and more. Others there that night describe it differently. They claim, as alcohol was consumed, she crossed a line by airing her views in a hostile way... / One of the company members told the BBC: 'Initially, I was OK with her asking about why we identify as non-binary. It's OK to be a bit curious. But her repeated questions stepped into micro-aggression territory...' " ("Rosie Kay: Dancers write open letter to choreographer after gender row" by Katie Razzall, Culture editor, BBC, December 10, 2021.)

♦ "A scientific gang fight; furor; fierce outcry; fierce criticism; objections; personal attacks; leading the charge against someone (and his theory); savage mockery; allegations of hubris; condemnation of a scholarly paper as dreck (trash, rubbish); bearing a grudge; resentment; tarring someone as being a charlatan; claims of distorting what others scientists are saying; claims of willful misrepresentation..." (A scientific dispute involving academics. From "E. O. Wilson's Theory of Everything" by Howard French, *The Atlantic*, November, 2011.)

♦ Bitter feuds; divisions; hatreds (sectarian and personal); sectarianism; a maelstrom of professional ill will (Philadelphia); animosity; denunciations; fraternal hatred; resentment; conspiracies; schisms; coups; ousting... (Doctors and medical schools in the 1800s. From *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr.)

♦ "Albert Sabin... turned to me and said, 'Now Dr. Salk, you should know better than to ask a question like that.' It was like being kicked in the teeth. I could feel the resistance and the hostility and the disapproval. I never attended a single one of those meetings afterward without that same feeling." (Dr. Jonas Salk on being put in his place by Albert Sabin at a meeting.)

♦ "Elon can be so much hell and brimstone in meetings and just unpredictable as all get out. But I've also seen him flip a switch and suddenly be this incredibly effective, charismatic, high-emotional-intelligence business person, when he has to do it." (JB Straubel about Elon Musk. From *Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The term 'microaggression' in itself is loaded. And this is how words work. Words don't mean what the dictionary says they mean. Words mean your opinions about people who use that word. So the

term 'microaggression' in its self—some people will bristle because they've seen it applied to things they don't think are problematic—it just means a use of a word that can be offensive or hurtful and so, when your consciousness is raised, you try to avoid it. And that I think is the status of the word 'ladies.' Calling it a microaggression in itself is going to separate people into camps... (Georgetown University linguist Dr. Deborah Tannen. From "Is 'ladies' acceptable workplace language?" by Robin Young, wbur, April 18, 2023.)

## microclimate

microclimate of white literary bourgeois Cape Town

her novel is an evocation of the ~

## microscope (under a microscope)

under a microscope

so many embarrassments lately, we're ~ (Boeing)

under the microscope

cycling is ~ (Lance Armstrong, on doping)

every aspect of their relationship is ~ (celebrities)

now her own behavior is ~ (sex scandal)

now it's Trump's turn ~ (a book by Bob Woodward)

under the safety microscope

kickoffs have been ~ (NFL / rules to prevent injuries)

get put under a microscope

the first time a family gets a foster kid they ~

## microscope (through a microscope)

look at things through a microscope

my job is to ~, not the binoculars (reporter)

## Midas (Midas touch)

Midas touch

he had the ~ (Steve Jobs)

McTominay's Midas touch

Robertson's tenacity and ~ (2 goals / Scottish soccer)

man with the Midas touch

Jack Dorsey was the ~

had the Midas touch

he ~ (real estate developer Donald Trump)

♦ "He had the Midas touch, and he turned the streets and neighborhoods into gold." (A tribute to real-estate developer Donald Trump and his contribution to New York City.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the version of the story I learned in school, Midas was killed by having gold poured down his throat.

## middle (in the middle)

caught in the middle

civilians are ~ (war)

## Middle Ages (history)

medical Middle Ages

the Civil War was fought at the end of the ~ (US)

marching backward to the Middle Ages

it feels like this country is ~ (religion)

## middle-of-the-road

middle-of-the-road approach  
we are taking a ~

middle-of-the-road Democrat  
he's been a ~ his entire career (a politician)

## middle-of-the-roader

middle-of-the-roaders  
they are ~

## midnight (two minutes to midnight, etc.)

one more stroke closer to midnight  
for him, the campaign clock took ~ (failing)

two minutes before midnight  
it's ~ but I'm not desperate (genetic / tech safeguards)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is a reference to the Doomsday Clock. See the Wikipedia article "Doomsday Clock." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## midwife (person)

midwife of clowns  
Fusetti is known as the ~ (see below)

midwife of a flourishing English literature  
Caxton was the ~ (the printer)

midwives of success  
blunders are the ~ (the Museum of Failure)

played midwife to (new) democracies  
the US ~ in Germany and Japan after World War II

served as midwife  
Stanford has ~ to many disruptive technologies  
♦ "Fusetti is known as the midwife of clowns." (The theater artist and teacher Giovanni Fusetti, in Padua, Italy. To paraphrase the great boxing promoter Don King, "Only in Italy!")

## midwife (as verb)

midwife the birth  
dispatched home in order to ~ of a Communist state...

## migraine (noun)

full-on migraine  
what we've got coming this weekend is a ~ (winter storm)

## migrate (verb)

migrating away from the Big Tech platforms  
right-wingers are ~ they view as censorial

migrated to YouTube  
after gaining nearly 6 million Vine followers, she ~

swimsuits migrate  
~ (suit "wedgie" disqualifies swimmer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, people migrated from one country to another. Nowadays, they migrate from Twitter, Facebook and Reddit to Parler or Gab or Ovarit.

## migration (#TwitterMigration, etc.)

migration from Reddit to Ovarit  
the TERF ~

"Great Mining Migration"  
the ~ may lead to serious repercussions (bitcoin)

"great mining migration"  
what crypto enthusiasts call the ~

#TwitterMigration  
on October 27<sup>th</sup>, the ~ started trending (2022)

### \*\*\* Scotland, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, India...

♦ "But there was one melancholy part. In the mouth of Loch Aline we found a great seagoing ship at anchor... / Then I understood this was an emigrant ship bound for the American colonies. / We put the ferry-boat alongside, and the exiles leaned over the bulwarks, weeping and reaching out their hands to my fellow-passengers, among whom they counted some near friends... / Thereupon Neil sheered off; and the chief singer in our boat struck into a melancholy air, which was presently taken up both by the emigrants and their friends upon the beach, so that it sounded from all side like a lament for the dying..." (*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson.)

♦ Before 1910, more than 90 percent of blacks lived in the South. In 1940, 77 percent of black Americans still lived in the South—40 percent in the rural South. By the end of the migration, black America was only half Southern, and less than a quarter rural; "urban" had become a euphemism for "black." The black migration was one of the largest and most rapid mass internal movements of people in history—perhaps the greatest not caused by the immediate threat of execution or starvation. In sheer numbers it outranks the migration of any other ethnic group—Italians or Irish or Jews or Poles—to this country." (*The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America* by Nicholas Lemann.)

♦ "Flore's parents came to New York in the nineteen-fifties, a period known in Puerto Rican American history as the 'great migration,' when some fifty thousand people from the island arrived in the city each year." ("Photo Booth A Bronx 'Famy Album' from Hip-hop's Early Days" by Geraldo Cadava, *The New Yorker*, October 28, 2024.)

♦ 1947. August 15, 1947. "Months of violence sharpened the divisions, highlighted Jinnah's arguments, achieved partition. On August 15, 1947... a bleeding Pakistan was carved out of the body of a bleeding India." (*Halfway to Freedom* by Margaret Bourke-White.)

♦ 1939-1946. "Between 1939 and 1946 an unprecedented number of people living between the Baltic and the Black Sea were uprooted from their homes. Over 20 million people were forced by fear, or by compulsion, to leave their homes, and to seek new, and mostly permanent sanctuary elsewhere." (*Atlas of Russian History* by Martin Gilbert.)

♦ "It is the choice between the coffin or the suitcase." (The Algerian Civil War.)

♦ The Harbor of Tears (Irish), the Trail of Tears (Cherokee), the Gate of Sorrows (China), the Door of No Return (Ouidah)...

♦ see also *exodus* (*vacation*, etc.)

## mile (go the extra mile)

go the extra mile  
we will have to ~ (negotiations)

gone the extra mile to make  
we have ~ the fair safe

go the extra mile to ensure

we will ~ his safety (a famous inmate)

## mile (the last mile)

last mile

more attention paid to the ~ (COVID vaccine into arms)

last-mile problem

culture is the ~ of progress (willingness to trust, adopt)

♦ "The Last Mile: The aid workers who risk their lives to bring relief to Gaza" by Dorothy Wickenden, *The New Yorker*, November 4, 2024.

## mile (by a mile)

miles better

Spain were ~ and deserved it (Women's World Cup)

miles behind Arsenal, Liverpool and City

they are ~ (Manchester United)

won by a mile

the better fighter ~ (Usyk beats Joshua)

## mileage

political mileage

~ to be gotten from historic grievances (blacks)

given the series (all sorts of) mileage

the pandemic has ~ (lockdown entertainment)

## milestone (noun)

milestone

the groups applauded Bush's signing of the bill as a ~  
it was a ~, it held a lot of symbolic meaning (diplomacy)

milestone in (modern Holocaust) awareness

Eichmann's trial was a ~

milestone in the development

a ~ of Africa (emergency-med conference)

milestone in our journey

this is a significant ~ towards the promise of...  
(medicine)

milestone for a kindergartner

tying his shoes can be quite a ~

milestone payments

the companies get ~ to encourage development (outer space)

22 milestones

we laid out a series of ~ (contract)

another milestone

this is ~ in Georgia's democratic development (election)

motor milestone

delays in language, speech and ~s (grasping objects, etc.)

developmental milestones

~ occur (babies)

grim milestone

a ~ is passed (US death toll passes 50,000 / pandemic)

a ~ is fast approaching (war death toll)

major milestone

the extraditions are a ~ in our effort... (law)

next milestone

the ~ in neural prosthetics (for quadriplegics)

real milestone

forty years old is a ~ for people (David Marchese / NYT)

sad milestone

this is a ~ on our descent into intolerance (shooting)

milestone was reached

today a ~ (Stock Market hits 40,000)

passed a milestone

the country appears to have ~ (Iran / nuclear weapons)

passed a milestone

the country appears to have ~ (Iran / nuclear weapons)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The Appian Way began, as would all Roman Roads, from the Golden Milestone (*miliarium aureum*) at the Forum in Rome, the point from which all distances in the empire were measured... Milestones every 1,000 paces gave the distances between cities..." (*To the Ends of the Earth: The Great Travel and Trade Routes of Human History* by Irene M. Franck and David M. Brownstone.)

♦ Traditional sociologists listed five milestones of adulthood: (1) finishing school (2) leaving home (3) getting a job (4) marrying (5) having a child.

## milk (verb)

milk this issue for all it's worth

he will ~ (a politician)

milked them for all they were worth

he seized the opportunities and ~ (Napoleon)

milk money out of the public

it has always sought to ~ (Southern Poverty Law Center)

milk (as much) money (as possible) out of the public

they try to ~ (disgruntled boxing fan)

milked the moment

the Israelis really ~ (a diplomatic success)

MILKING this (worthless) story

worthless writers are still ~ (Amber Heard vs. Depp)

## milk run (noun)

milk run

it was a ~, like a neighborhood delivery (firebombing)

## mill (gossip mill / rumor mill)

gossip mill

the ~ at the office

rumor mill

we all know the ~ churns out misinformation

getting involved in the ~ at work can get sticky

rumor mill says

the ~ he may have plans that do include Fury (boxing)

rumour mill spun out of control



the ~, creating fear in the high school

rumour mill went into overload

the ~ that O'Toole was to blame...

rumor mills whirled

in the soldiers' camps, ~

rumor mills worked overtime

the ~, cranking out fabulous yarns... (wartime)

♦ "The next person I came across was a dapper little man in a beautiful white wig, whom I saw to be a barber on his rounds; and knowing well that barbers were great gossips, I asked him plainly what sort of a man was Mr. Balfour of the Shaws." (*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson.)

♦ "They've got a gallows-bad reputation, but, you know what a place the beach is for talking." / "The beach, if you don't know is the name of the gossip mill of white derelicts and rough customers that hang around your South Sea island ports. You'll find captains and traders too fond of their grog and properly down on their luck. I'll admit, I was fond of the gin myself back then..." (*The Beach of Falesa* by Robert Louis Stevenson.)

♦ "You may take it for a fact that anything of this kind is not only noticed and discussed by a man's own race but by some hundred and fifty natives as well... [T]he news flew, in the usual mysterious fashion, from mouth to mouth, till Bisesa's duenna heard of it and told Bisesa." (The affecting and horrible "Beyond the Pale" by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ "You're sure you've took no 'arm?" cried Mrs. Cloke, who had heard the news by farm-telegraphy, which is older but swifter than Marconi's. / "No. I'm perfectly well," Sophie protested." ("An Habitation Enforced" by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ "Word around the campfire for me was...that there was at least speculation, maybe informed speculation, that..." (A sports analyst.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Viva voce* is Medieval Latin for "with a living mouth." If you hear something *viva voce* it means somebody told you. It has come to mean "word of mouth."

♦ Hawaii has the "coconut wireless" or the Coconut Wire. The Philippines have the Bamboo Telegraph. Ghanaians can hear things via "the talking drum." From time immemorial, as Ibrahim al-Koni tells us, the desert winds have brought rumors and reports to the Sahrawis: "I heard it on the wind." Americans can "hear it through the grapevine," or hear a report or account through the rumor mill. Italians say "*per sentito dire*" which basically means, "heard it said," and they hear gossip "*voci di corridoio*" which means "hall voice" or "voices in the hall." These systems operate by word-of-mouth, or, nowadays, the Internet.

♦ "[The internet] is the modern world's equivalent of those bars in Donegal where rumors about the case used to circulate." (No Body Recovered, BBC Sounds, Episode 6. A missing child.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "'Gossip is a fearful thing'—this phrase was found in the note left by the film star Ruan Langyu after she took her own life." ("On 'Gossip Is a Fearful Thing' by Lu Xun, from *Jottings under Lamplight*, edited by Eileen J. Cheng and Kirk A. Denton.)

♦ He who gossips to you will gossip about you!

## mill (grist for the mill)

grist for their (propaganda) mill

the leaks will be more ~ (war)

grist for the tabloid mill

his attention-grabbing antics are ~

provided the grist

the report ~ for a lot of conspiracy theories

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Grist is grain that is ground to make flour.

## mill (through the mill)

through the mill

I've been ~ already (a boxer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "I've been through the mill!" "I've been through the wringer!" "I've been through the meat grinder!" Take your pick!

♦ see also *wringer* (through the wringer)

## mill (military)

grinding mill

the ~ of flesh and blood (Luodian / Shanghai '37)

♦ "The carnage and intensity of the resulting battle earned the fight for Luodian the nickname 'grinding mill of flesh and blood.'" (From the Wikipedia article "Battle of Shanghai." This was the 1937 battle.)

♦ "This is a ship of war, and I will grind whatever grist the mill requires in order to fulfill my duty." (Capt. Jack Aubrey, played by Russell Crowe, in the 2003 film *Master and Commander*.)

## mill (other)

"mills of citizenship"

the role of French schools as ~ (and Frenchness)

conspiracy mill

feeding into the whirring ~... (about Covid)

diploma mill

he received his degree from a ~ (coach)

the NCAA is trying to clean up the high school ~s

~s are only one troubling part of youth basketball

essay mills

students turn to '~' to help them cheat

propaganda mill

the leaks will be more grist for their ~ (war)

pill mill

the doctor ran an illegal "~" for addicts, dealers

term-paper mill

online ~s are the curse of education

online (term-paper) mills

~ are the curse of education

### \*\*\* "Workers are not supposed to work barefoot..."

♦ Workers in West Bengal's foundries make manhole covers for New York City. The workers make a few dollars a day, and are not supposed to work barefoot.

♦ Don Quixote and Sancho encountered a fulling mill in Cervantes' great work, and the scene focused on its loud sound, the river, a waterfall, the mill workers, and the mill's danger. "Six fulling hammers making all the noise with their alternating blows." Read the Wikipedia article "Fulling." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ Fulling mill (walk mill, tuck mill); textile mill; jute mill; windmill; watermill; sawmill; stamp mill (placer mining)...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A *mill*...is a place where things are 'ground out,' ultimately from the Latin *molo*, 'grind.' And today the element of 'grinding' is still retained in flour, paper, and other types of *mills*." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ A mill traditionally ground wheat, then the word became synonymous with a factory. And, of course, the word is used figuratively. In fact, people who happen to live in "post-industrial" economies might encounter the word used figuratively much more



often than it is used literally. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## million-dollar

million-dollar question  
that's the ~

## millstone (noun)

millstone of debt  
if students suddenly had this ~ lifted from their necks

millstone around the neck  
the nuclear weapons became a ~ (South Africa)

millstone around the president's neck  
Republicans see the scandal as yet another ~ (election)

millstone for the Republicans  
opposition to Obamacare was expected to be a ~ (politics)

debt millstone  
the board wants to reduce the ~ around the club's neck

permanent millstone  
his critics will consider this a ~ that could weigh Biden down (Afghan withdrawal)

millstone will be removed  
the ~ from the neck of both white and black people

become a millstone  
his passion project that he saw as a public service has ~

♦ "So I walked in circles for days like a blind horse / Harnessed to an oaken pole that turns a millstone, / A sight we might have seen so many years ago-- / Barley being ground near a swift and silent millrace--" (The great poet and former US poet laureate Billy Collins. From "Collins Values Approachable Poetry, Not Pretension," NPR, Talk of the Nation, April 6, 2011.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "You're a millstone around my neck!"

♦ Millstones come in pairs.

## mince (verb)

mince words  
Alexandra Pelosi didn't ~ about her thoughts on Jill Biden

minced no words  
Putin ~

## mind (get one's mind around something)

wrap our minds around what  
it was hard to ~ had happened

wrap his mind around what  
he is trying to ~ the future will be like (after disaster)

wrap your mind around it  
you try to ~ but it's just incomprehensible (a disaster)

wrap my mind around this tragedy  
I still can't ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ There is much stupid confusion between arm (get one's arms around something), brain (get one's brains around something), hand (get one's hands around something), head (get one's head around something), and mind (get one's mind around something.) There are multiple possible reasons for this stupid confusion.

♦ see also *arm* (get one's arms around something)

♦ see also *brain* (get one's brains around something)

♦ see also *hand* (get one's hands around something)

♦ see also *head* (get one's mind around something)

## mind (go through one's mind, etc.)

cross your mind  
did it ~ that...

going through your mind  
what was ~ at the time (the sinking of a ship)

go through your head  
thousands of thoughts ~ (on a sinking ship)

went through your mind  
so what ~

♦ "I would be lying if I told you the thought of staying home hadn't crossed my mind. But..."

♦ Question: Did the thought even cross your mind that you should inform someone to keep the protectee from going on stage, or, if he was already on stage, take him back? Did that thought even cross your mind? / Answer: The thought did not cross my mind. It was more find out what's happening, figure out what's happening. Can we help? Can we take action? ("Examination of U.S. Secret Service Planning and Security Failures Related to the July 13, 2024 Assassination Attempt, Interim Joint Report.)

## mind (lose one's mind)

losing his mind  
he worried he was ~

♦ "America is too woke, progressives have lost their minds."

♦ "You have people like Joy Behar and Whoopie Goldberg losing their minds on a daily basis." (The ABC talk show *The View*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Even a machine can lose its mind." (ChatGPT, etc.)

## mind (out of one's mind)

out of his mind  
relatives said her son had been "~"

out of my mind  
I was ~ with worry

♦ "Boy, you must be outside your mind!" (AAVE.)

## mind (platform)

on her mind  
the passage of time has been ~ lately (an aging actor)

on your mind  
what's ~

on my mind  
but here's why integration was ~

on our minds  
the question is ~ (are some politicians too old)

on people's minds  
it's got to be ~ (possibilities)

weigh on people's minds  
it will ~ (bad repercussions)

get it off my mind  
I can't ~

## mind (container)

in mind  
what do you have ~ (idea)

change our minds  
we might ~

opened (Afghan women's) minds  
the media has ~

keep in mind  
it is a benchmark that we must ~

keep that in mind  
we've got to ~ (explanation)

put the problem out of his mind  
he tried to ~

come into your mind  
how did the idea ~

get it out of my mind  
I can't ~

get out of my mind  
it's something I can just never ~ (horrible memory)

put Amundsen out of his mind  
Scott now tried to ~, he refused to discuss the subject

sticks in your mind  
it ~ forever (a combat memory)

## mind (open mind)

open mind  
I kept an ~, but... (antiracism)

open mind with regard to everything  
I've got to keep an ~ (military discipline)

tunnel vision versus an open mind  
~ (criminal investigations)

have an open mind  
God tells us to ~ and an open heart (interfaith issues)  
we ~, we have to think out of the box (WHO and Ebola)

keeps an open mind  
I just hope that everyone ~ and understands that...

keeping an open mind  
we are ~ (about cause of disease)

maintain an open mind  
I want to ~, I've read Mao, Marx, Lenin... (a US general)

♦ "Open eyes, open minds." (*The Dispatch*.)

♦ "The country is in a better place than it was in 2001 and the Taliban have become more open-minded." (General Sir Nick Carter, Britain's Chief of Defense Staff.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A person can be so open-minded that his brains fall out." (A critic, speaking of Thabo Mbeki's willingness to accept any argument against giving antiretrovirals to South African H.I.V. sufferers.)

## mind (top of mind)

top of mind  
what else do you want to know, what questions are ~

top of mind is  
~ they want to know more about the shooter  
(investigators)

top of mind (to many) is  
~ getting rid of...

top-of-mind for the astronauts  
those hiccups are ~ (problems with parachutes)

top of mind for consumers  
what is ~ these days (high prices)

top of mind for the leaders  
Ukraine is ~ (G-7 meeting)

top-of-mind awareness  
retain loyal customers with ~ (TOMA / marketing)

top of mind things  
this is one of the ~ for consumers (prices)

at the top of the mind  
this has been ~ for the president (Brittney Griner's plight)

♦ "So, of course, she was on his mind. She was *on* [italics mine] top of mind..." (White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, about President Biden and the dead Jackie Walorski.)

♦ "From what I know, with working with different police departments, it's on the tip of their mind." (Requesting long guns while on patrol. "On the tip of their tongues?" "Top of mind?" Is this an eggcorn?)

## mind (front of mind)

front-of-mind for most Angelenos  
it is not ~ (the Los Angeles River)

## mind (back of mind)

at the back of your mind  
other cases like this, are they always ~ (child abuse)  
missing something is always playing ~

in the back of your mind  
it's always ~ (shark attacks / Perth)

in the back of our mind  
the Wichita incident was ~ (caution after mistake)

pushed to the back of your mind  
things you've ~ demand to be address

## mind-bending (adjective)

mind-bending  
these new theories are ~ (post-string theory / physics)

## **mindful (steely-minded)**

steely-minded detective

Miss Marple is a ~

## **mindful (adjective)**

‘mindful’ of how

she urges people to be ~ they’re treating the planet

mindful of what

you must be very ~ your behaviors are (monkeypox)

mindful about their consumption

water companies are asking users to be more ~

mindful about the water

he wants people to be more ~ they drink (a water sommelier)

mindful about respecting

I will be more ~ personal space (Joe Biden)

mindful choice

making this ~ of inclusive language (Y’all)

mindful life

tips for living a ~

*Mindful Masculinity*

*For The Love Of Men: A New Vision For* ~ (Liz Plank)

mindful tool kit

Jessica Alba’s ~ (crystals, charms, motivational books, etc.)

♦ “Queer theorists and ‘crip’ theorists (those critiquing ‘disabilities’) are at the cutting edge that I believe we need to also be mindful of.” (Jack Tchen, a professor and historian at New York University.)

♦ a) stimulants when you wake up, sleeping pills if you need them when you sleep. b) be mindful of where your headspace is: I often nap in the office so that my mind doesn’t leave work mode in between shifts. (A tweet from Sam Bankman-Fried.)

♦ “A Mindful Gratitude Exercise for the English Classroom” by Monica Flores Rojas, the *English Teaching Forum Magazine*, 2023, Volume 61, Number 1.

♦ “Research suggests students who are more mindful have better grades and fewer absences.” (Steve Inskeep, on NPR.)

♦ “It’s essential to be mindful of other people’s interiority.” (Therapy speak.)

♦ “He wants people to be more mindful about the water they consume.” (Water sommelier and advocate Martin Riese.)

♦ “Jessica Alba’s mindful tool kit—crystals, charms and motivation books. Jessica Alba recommends Movado watches, Dezi sunglasses, Dyson hair products, and more...”

♦ Mindful pregnancy; mindful parenting; mindful politics; mindful diet; mindful burger...

♦ “She’s always mindful of how much she’s paying him.” (The 2022 film *Good Luck To You, Leo Grande*.)

♦ OLD: think about / consider / pay attention / mind your head (don’t bump it) / get your head out of your ass... / NEW: be mindful...

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Contemporary clichés—like *mindful*—sometimes appear in quotes, for the very good reason it is often hard to understand what the user means.)

♦ Is this word related to the practice of yoga?

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

♦ see also *intentional (adjective)*, *purposeful (adjective)*

## **mindfully**

mindfully reject

~ it every day (sexism and misogyny)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Is this word related to the practice of yoga?

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

## **mindfulness (noun)**

mindfulness

~ is paying attention to what’s happening...

~ can also play a role in coping with anxiety

~, the practice of being in the moment...

~ has become a buzzword in current mainstream culture

mindfulness movement

the growing ~

a nature-based ~ is taking off (the Audubon Society)

mindfulness practice

Judaism is one big ~ (author Sarah Hurwitz)

mindfulness programs

there’s little research behind ~ (schools)

mindfulness training

even the military and police provide ~

mindfulness workshops

Becky leads birding and ~ at a popular wellness retreat

digital mindfulness

rather than cutting out tech altogether, Joeniedy practices

~

~ is more practical (versus digital detox)

research on mindfulness

clinical ~

mindfulness can enhance our connection

~ to nature and sense of well-being

embracing mindfulness

schools are ~

### **\*\*\* various groups...**

♦ “The groups host mindfulness workshops.” (TransFamily Support Services.)

♦ “Everyone at my job is completely overworked. They gave us a mindfulness advent calendar. Behind every door, there was a training exercise you could do at work to be more ‘mindful.’” (Stupid employer holiday gifts.)

♦ “Mindfulness is often spoken of as the heart of Buddhist meditation, uh, so it’s a form of meditation that really is the cultivation of intimacy with awareness.” (Jon Kabat-Zinn. From “How to start a practice of mindfulness,” NPR, All Things Considered, December 29, 2022. Thanks for clearing that up!)

♦ “The ‘mindfulness’ many Westerners are being introduced to today is a great start, but pretty much represents the bunny hill of contemplative practice.” (“The Greatest Philosopher You’ve Never Heard Of” by Adam Frank, NPR, May 31, 2016.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Is this word related to the practice of yoga?

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

## mindset (noun)

politician's (maverick) mindset

she has sourced on the ~

right "mindset"

he determined he was not in the ~ to play (an athlete)

all-in mindset

Elon Musk's ~ (surges, late nights, etc.)

cold-war mindset

generals are locked in a ~ (legacy thinking)

medieval mindset

Portnikov argued that some officials have a ~ (Ukraine)

rigidly progressive mindset

NPR approaches news stories with a ~

mindset animates bizarre stories

the ~ (at National Public Radio / NPR)

♦ "Between Twitterland and the Muskverse was a radical divergence in outlook that reflected two different mindsets about the American workplace." (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

♦ "There's an unspoken consensus about the stories we should pursue and how they should be framed... The mindset animates bizarre stories—on how the Beatles and bird names are racially problematic, and others that are alarmingly divisive; justifying looting, with claims that fears about crime are racist; and suggesting that Asian Americans who oppose affirmative action have been manipulated by white conservatives." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

♦ "NPR has formally punished Uri Berliner, the senior editor who publicly argued a week ago that the network had 'lost America's trust' by approaching news stories with a rigidly progressive mindset." (NPR suspends veteran editor as it grapples with his public criticism" by David Folkenflik, NPR, Media, updated April 16, 2024.)

## mine (bitcoin mine, etc.)

bitcoin mines

~ require a lot of energy (electricity)

♦ For quotations, see *mining* (data, etc.).

## mine (search)

mine (real-time) intelligence

security personnel will now ~ (at airports)

mine the (elaborate) chemical signatures

researchers have begun to ~ of breath (medicine)

♦ For quotations, see *mining* (data, etc.).

## minefield (noun)

minefield

the unwritten rules, hidden agendas, and ~s

minefield of (early) adolescence

the story follows him through the precarious ~

minefield of challenges

the tumor presents a ~ for the surgeons

minefield for those

the immigration bill is a ~ who have been waiting...

minefield of (US) politics

I'm not going to walk into the ~ (a foreign leader)

minefield of false-news stories

social media has become a ~

billing minefield

it can create a ~ for patients (so-call "free" health checks)

Middle East minefield

Biden treads carefully through ~ (BBC / U.S. politics)

geopolitical minefield

South Korea's new president steps into a ~

political minefield

how to dispose of his body is a ~ (a dead dictator)

advertisers are afraid to step in any ~s (Super Bowl)

relational minefield

school can be a daily ~ for girls (social aggression)

rhetorical minefield

he has entered the Mideast's ~ (use of word *crusade*)

social minefield

every day of school can be a new ~ (girls' bullying)

legal and political minefield

the crisis was both a ~ (for DUP / Donaldson's arrest)

entering a (dangerous) minefield

the administration is ~ with serious repercussions (politics)

navigate a minefield

ad makers had to ~ (Super Bowl 55 / pandemic, strife)

planted a (political) minefield

the British colonizers ~ in the 1920s (Sudan)

stepped into this minefield

the US ~, this tangle of alliances (northern Syria)

treads (carefully) through (Middle East) minefield

Biden ~ (BBC headline / U.S. election politics)

♦ "And now for a little education about dealing with diversity on the job. Do you ever feel like your diverse workplace is a minefield, filled with opportunities to unintentionally offend and annoy your co-workers? Do you ever wish you had a roadmap to guide you through that difficult terrain? Well now you do..." ("What Not To Say To A Mixed-Race Colleague," NPR, Tell Me More, Diversions, April 21, 2009. A 10-Minute Listen.)

♦ "My travel and work schedule, my body pain, not to mention menopause is a daily minefield, both physically & mentally." Jennie Garth, about her trials and tribulations, while exercising at the gym with her personal trainer.)

♦ "So the idea here is to prioritize tests, localize decision-making, and to be careful that we don't run blindly back into a virus minefield of people that can be sick but don't know it, asymptomatic but infectious... Masks are a really important layer in this effort... The mask...kinda defuses the mine, if you will, in the virus minefield." (ABC News Homeland Security analyst Tom Bossert.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The next day the mines arrived. / Medieval, ugly, they smelled like death. Appropriately, the wooden boxes they came in were marked

with a skull and crossbones. We were issued three types: 'Bouncing Bettys' that jumped up and exploded about waist high to maximize casualties, foot jammers that blew feet apart, and swarthy, lethal anti-tank mines. / We dug row upon row of potholes between the concertina-wire loops in front of our positions. The following morning we placed the mines by the holes and marked them on a map. At midday, King, Rome, and I, lying on our stomachs, lifted the mines, one by one, put them in the holes; covered them with dirt; tied our trip lines; and, finally, removed the safety pins. / I had Castro replace me when we finished the first row. I sat on top of Spencer's bunker the rest of the day watching the men as they slowly and carefully laid the minefield. The following afternoon they placed the last mine... A safe lane was marked through the field. If a friendly patrol arrived back at the outer concertina strand, someone from inside would have to go out to escort it into the area. Our safe lane came down right in front of the M-60 machine gun. / There was nothing funny or cute about laying a minefield. It lay like death at our front door." (*Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of The Vietnam War* by James E. Parker Jr. A battalion basecamp, Phuoc Vinh.)

♦ "What happened?" I asked, my voice breaking. / 'Well, one of those things. The trip lines to the mines around the perimeter have got tangled in undergrowth and a couple of days ago one of the mines went off in front of George's positions. Someone said a dog had gotten into the minefield, someone else said they saw some villagers near the concertina. George went out to check. He was walking down the safe lane and he took a little half-step off to one side and a mine went off. He never knew what hit him. No reason. There is no great combat story here. Our friend was just walking along and he took a misstep and he died. Nor moral. Nothing gained. Just one of those things.' / George's death was on my mind for days. I could not shake the sense of loss. The only consolation was George's contention that if we die in combat, we're at peace. If others get upset, it's their problem. Even so, my attitudes changed. I did not make friends with the replacements but kept to myself, relaxing only with Dunn, Wooley, and the men in the platoon." (*Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of The Vietnam War* by James E. Parker Jr.)

♦ Mine / UXO Messages / Game and fun are fine but not with dangerous objects and in suspicious places. / Play only in safety places. / Do NOT throw and do not touch UXO. Report Police, KPC or KFOR. / Do NOT go into abandoned houses. / Do NOT go in suspicious places for any reason. / Do NOT touch suspicious objects. / Do NOT touch and do not take anything that is not yours. (A poster at the entrance to the main police station in Pristina, Kosovo, in 2008, showing pictures of the common types of mines and UXO found in the region.)

♦ "It looked like a little can; it was interesting." (Mara al-Miri, 10, injured by the explosion of a bomblet in the village of Ayt el Shaab in southern Lebanon.)

♦ A minefield can change sides. (Military.)

♦ "Oh, Dear, A Mine Goes Boom" by Joe Stockdale, *Essential Teacher* (a TESOL publication), Volume 2, Issue 1, March, 2005. Print. ("Dear Joe, I am delighted to tell you that I have managed to convince the editorial team to include A Mine Goes Boom in Volume 2, Issue 1 of the Out of the Box section of Essential Teacher. Hopefully, this will go some way in convincing you and others that there is a wind of change in TESOL publications towards hearing the voices of teachers with 'real' voices... Phil." The article proved controversial at the 2005 San Antonio TESOL Convention.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "In its zeal, the Sierra Club has clear-cut a whole national park of words. *Urban, vibrant, hardworking*, and *brown bag* all crash to earth for subtle racism. *Y'all* supplants the patriarchal *you guys*, and *elevate voices* replaces *empower*, which used to be uplifting but is now condescending. *The poor* is classist; *battle* and *minefield* disrespect veterans; *depressing* appropriates a disability; *migrant*—no explanation, it just has to go." ("The Moral Case Against Euphemism: Banning words won't make the world more just" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023. George Packer is *not* James Parker.)

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ see also *landmine* (and *land mine*)

## miner (bitcoin miner, etc.)

### bitcoin miners

~ prefer the US (cheap electricity, few rules)

Nebraska is welcoming ~

♦ For quotations, see *mining* (*data, etc.*).

### Mini-Me

#### mini-me

she made me look like her, a ~ (child sex abuse)

Natalie is my only child, my ~ (mysterious death)

#### mini me

he was just ~, he was Alan junior, he was me all over...

#### mini-me crop tops and padded bras

~ (for under-tens) (like adults)

#### mini-me (US army) version

we just created a ~ (Afghan Army collapses in 2021)

#### mini-mayors

Chicago's 50 aldermen are ~ of their individual fiefdoms

#### mini-Michele

we were so alike that my family called me ~

#### Donald Trump's mini-me

are we ~, always agreeing with the Americans (Brits)

♦ Mini-Me: [writes] Are you a clone of an angel? / Foxy Cleopatra: Ohhh how sweet. No, my mini-man, I'm not. / Mini-Me: [writes] Are you sure you don't have a little clone in you? / Foxy Cleopatra: Yes, I'm sure. / Mini-Me: Would you like to? (The 2002 film *Austin Powers in Goldmember*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is an allusion to the late, great and greatly beloved Verne Troyer, a Michigander. He affected not only so many people but also the language.

## mining (data, etc.)

### bitcoin mining

~ takes a lot of electricity (to power servers)

### data-mining

~ software sorts information

### text mining

~ software to analyze customer feedback

### \*\*\* Aberfan, Wales; Yorkshire; Appalachia; Butte Montana...

♦ "In this grim Welsh mining village of 5,000 there is turkey in plenty on the table, but the eyes of bereaved parents turn inevitably to empty chairs." ("Turkey Is Plentiful But Holiday is Sad in Aberfan, Wales," NYT, Dec. 25, 1966. One hundred and sixteen children between the ages of seven and ten, and 28 adults, died when a mountain of coal waste collapsed, hitting a school.)

♦ "I have only been down one coal mine so far but hope to go down some more in Yorkshire. It was for me a pretty devastating experience and it is a fearful thought that the labour of crawling as far as the coal face (about a mile in this case but as much as 3 miles in some mines), which was enough to put my legs out of action for four days, is only the beginning and ending of a miner's day's work, and his real work comes in between. Have you ever been down a mine? I don't think I shall ever feel quite the same about coal again." (Eric A. Blair in a letter to Richard Rees, 29 February 1936. Sent from Darlington Street / Wigan, Lancs.)

♦ "The phenomena are always of the same kind. The miners are either immediately destroyed by the explosion, and thrown with the

horses and machinery through the shaft into the air, the mine becoming as it were an enormous piece of artillery, from which they are projected..." (*On the Safety Lamp for Coal Miners, with Some Researches into Flame* by Humphry Davy, 1818.)

♦ "When the mines were working, there was a *rhythm to life* by what the *whistles* told you, and what the *sounds* were. So there was a *noise* that went on constantly that you were aware of and yet not aware of. And when the mines were gone, there was a *dead* silence... And it was *eerie*." (From the PBS documentary, "Butte, America," which recreates the life in Butte, Montana, when the mines were still operating. The mines operated from 1890 to 1977, and in 1920 over 40,000 people lived in Butte, many of them miners.)

♦ Oh, come all you young fellers, so young and so fine / Seek not your fortune in the dark dreary mine / It'll form as a habit and seep in your soul / Till the stream of your blood runs as black as the coal / Where it's dark as a dungeon, damp as the dew / Danger is double, the pleasures are few / Where the rain never falls, the sun never shines / It's dark as a dungeon way down in the mine / Well, I pray when I'm dead and the ages shall roll / That my body will blacken and turn into coal / Then I'll look from the door of my heavenly home / And pity the miner digging my bones. ("Dark as a Dungeon." I like the version sung by Johnny Cash.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Young people who happen to live in "post-industrial" economies and who spend their working lives staring at a computer screen or their phone most likely have never been "down in a mine." And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## minnow (noun)

minnow

the FA Cup allows a ~ to kill a giant (soccer)  
the company is a ~ in the world of tech giants

minnows Lesotho

Nigeria was held to a 1-1 draw by ~ (soccer)

footballing minnow

England was knocked out by Iceland, a ~ (Euro 2016)

European minnows

the ~ knocked out Lyon on penalties (Apoel Nicosia)

♦ "Back home I was a big fish in a small pond, but in Miami I'm just a minnow surrounded by sharks." (A model.)

♦ "The [BBC], once a shark in the media pond, is now a mere sardine in a media ocean." (Clever writing from BBC Six O'Clock News, 26/05/2022.)

♦ "The whole country will be behind the minnows." (Les Herbiers plays Paris St-Germain for the final of the Coupe de France.)

♦ see also *fry* (*small fry*, *big fry*, *etc.*)

## minoritize (groups)

minoritize subjects

forms of power that ~ (post-queer politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## minoritized (groups)

minoritized

what it means to be racially marginalized while ~

minoritized (racial) backgrounds

educators and learners from ~

minoritized communities

historically research has left out ~

minoritized women and girls

violence against black ~

racially minoritized

the rule targets ~ athletes (Rule 50 / Olympics)  
we don't know how many respondents were ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## Minotaur

Minotaur of the national interest

they would have sacrificed his expedition to the ~

Minotaur at the heart of the labyrinth

it's Nixon who's the ~ (the film Frost/Nixon)

Operation Minotaur

~, the US military operation to clear a village (Iraq 2007)

## mint (verb)

minted more (Black) millionaires

the company has ~ (McDonald's)

## minted

freshly minted

~ graduates

newly minted

~ M.B.A.s

guests jockeyed for face time with the ~ star (party)

recently minted

he is a ~ University of Iowa MFA graduate

## minute (last minute)

last-minute pardon

some convicts clung to the hope of a ~

## minute (for a minute, etc.)

for a minute

he played football ~ (=a short time / "Suge" Knight)

## minute (at this minute)

at this minute

the entire Horn of Africa seems really unstable ~ (NPR)

## miracle (Miracle on the Hudson, etc.)

"Miracle at Medinah"

Europe's ~ (2012 Ryder Cup comeback / golf)

"Miracle at Michigan"

the ~ saw Colorado University win with a Hail Mary pass

Miracle of Bern

the "~", as the '54 final is known (World Cup soccer)

Miracle of Istanbul

the ~, it's called (Liverpool wins Champions League)

Miracle on the Hudson

the crash landing became known as the ~ (Flight 1549)



## miracle (other)

### miracle

there can be ~s when you believe...  
who knows what ~s you can achieve  
photosynthesis is a ~ linking heaven and earth

### miracle cure

there's no ~ on the horizon (brain tumors)

### miracle drug

the beneficiary of a ~

### miracle pill

see *pill* (*miracle pill*)

### miracle (Cricket World Cup) run

"USA's ~ ends with ugly loss" (BBC 2024)

### miracle worker

you're a ~ (helped solve a person's problem)

### Bat Cave Miracle

the ~, 16 August 1992, Nickajack Lake Cave...

### Christmas miracle

sometimes ~s just don't happen

### accomplished miracles

he ~

### expect miracles

you can't ~ (search dogs)

### pray for a miracle

until the moment of death, families ~

### pray for miracles

we still ~ in West Virginia (trapped miners)

### believe in miracles

we ~ (that trapped miners are alive)

### worked a miracle

you ~ last night (praise for a nurse)

### pulled off a miracle

they ~... (sports comeback)

♦ "We still pray for miracles in West Virginia. There is still a chance and there's hope and we have that." (Gov. Joe Manchin, on the possibility that miners trapped in an explosion were still alive.)

♦ "It was a miracle, even though I prefer not to use religious language." (Marine Tondelier, the head of France's Green Party, about an alliance of leftist parties. French politics.)

♦ "Knowing that the divers on the scene were not up to this specialized task of entering the cave, and assuming—that Gant might still be alive in an air pocket—[Buddy] Lane pleaded by telephone that trained caver divers be called in..." ("The Bat Cave Miracle," 16 August 1992, Nickajack Lake Cave, New Hope, Tennessee.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Miracles don't always come true.

♦ "In Kenya, promising miracles has proved lucrative." (Religion.)

## miraculous (adjective)

### miraculous

the last-minute goal bordered on ~ (sports)

### miraculous escape

reports of his ~ (from capture)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I would just like to comment briefly about that casualty chart. The loss of one human life is intolerable to any of us who are in the military. But I would tell that the casualties of that order of magnitude considering the job that has been done and the number of forces that are involved is almost miraculous..." (General Schwarzkopf, at the "Mother of All News Conferences," the Gulf War, 1991.)

♦ "An amulet hung by a silk cord from the dead man's neck. The doctor took it off. It contained a sheet of paper, worn and rotted at the folds, sewn into a piece of cloth. Written on the paper... were excerpts from the Ninety-first Psalm... Leaving the telephonist, Yuri Andreievich went out into the field to the young White Guardsman whom he had killed... From the opening of [the White Guardsman's] shirt there slipped out and hung suspended by a chain a cross, a locket, and some other small flat gold case, rather like a snuffbox, dented as if a nail had been driven into it. A paper fell out. The doctor unfolded it and could not believe his eyes. It was the same Ninety-first Psalm...[The White Guardsman] groaned and stirred... The bullet had been stopped by his mother's amulet and this had saved him." (Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak.)

## mirage (noun)

### mirage of a media company

his reporting suggests that Ozy is a ~ (fraud)

### mirage of sorts

his lead was a ~ (uncounted mail-in ballots)

### mirage or reality

is it a ~ (the 4-day workweek)

### receding mirage

it was a ~, always a year or so away...

### quick-fix mirage

beware of the ~ (brain-fitness programs)

### essentially (just) a mirage

the US's most valuable startup was ~ (WeWork)

### just a mirage

is the housing recovery ~

### Inside the Mirage

~: *America's Fragile Relationship with Saudi Arabia*

♦ "Full autonomy continued to be a receding mirage, always a year or so away." (Self-driving cars. From *Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

### \*\*\* the Sahara, Antarctica, Lake Michigan...

♦ "In crossing the desert, I perceived, at a distance, immense tracts, which had the appearance of rivers or lakes, with islands of sand rising in the midst of them; they presented themselves to the eye, in the horizon of the desert, as places where one might quench one's thirst... This illusion only rendered my situation more dreadful, when I was consumed with thirst, and saw the sea receding before me as by enchantment. It is impossible to form any correct idea of a mirage without have seen one." (*Travels Through Central Africa To Timbuctoo; and Across The Great Desert, to Morocco; Performed in the Years 1824-1828* by Rene Caillie.)

♦ "The mirages in the Antarctic had a clarity that was almost beyond belief, and made it difficult for an explorer to know whether he was seeing land or not. Second ranges of mountains appeared to be built up on top of the real mountains lying below, and these false ranges were immensely high and clear in outline. They hung there in the pale sky for a few minutes and then vanished only to re-form themselves again, so that the sailing ships drifted about in an atmosphere of ghostly fantasy. It was both awe-inspiring and wonderfully beautiful." (*The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead.)

♦ "Some of the things you could see from a Great Lakes steamer were not really there... In certain lights the lakes could produce

mirages. A freighter on the skyline would suddenly break up, midships section vanishing altogether, pilothouse and after cabins becoming extremely tall, reaching up like lighthouses in the deep water; then, after a minute or two, the lighthouses would disappear and there would be a steamboat again, prosaic as any other cargo carrier. On the north shore of Lake Superior the Canadian cities of Fort William and Port Arthur lie at the end of a broad bay, and on the seaward side of this bay there are islands; and if you sail from one of these cities late in the day these islands suddenly multiply so that each one is accompanied by a twin, each rock and tree perfectly duplicated, and no matter how hard you look you cannot tell which island is real and which is not... After a while the imitation islands rise into the air, get all streaky and distorted, and then go away entirely, and the lake is clear once more. I feel sorry for people who have never cruised the Great Lakes by steamboat." (*Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood* by Bruce Catton.)

♦ "One of...my experiences with the magicians of the air occurred near the forks of the Platte. There had been a tremendous thunderstorm, lasting all night. In the morning my party set forward over the soaked prairie under a cloudless sky intensely blue. I was riding in advance.... Looking forward I beheld a truly terrifying spectacle. Immediately in front, at a distance, apparently, of not more than a quarter-mile, was a long line of the most formidable looking monsters that the imagination ever conceived. They were taller than trees...and partook of the triple character of animals, houses and machines. Legs they had, that an army of elephants could have marched among; bodies that ships might have sailed beneath; heads about which eagles might have delighted to soar, and ears—they were singularly well gifted with ears. But wheels also they were endowed with, and vast sides of blank wall; the wheels as large as the ring of a circus, the walls white and high as cliffs of chalk along an English coast. Among them, on them, beneath, in and a part of them, were figures and fragments of figures of gigantic men. All were inextricably interblended and superposed—a man's head and shoulders blazoned on the side of an animal; a wheel with legs for spokes rolling along the creature's back; a vast section of wall, having no contact with the earth, but (with a tail hanging from its rear, like a note of admiration), moving along the line... [O]ur tongues were loosened only when it began rapidly to diminish and recede, and at last was resolved into a train of mules and wagons, barely visible on the horizon. They were miles away and outlined against the blue sky. / This pageant had appeared to move along parallel to the foot of a slope extending upward and backward to an immense height, intersected with rivers and presenting all the features of a prairie landscape. The mirage had in effect contracted the entire space between us and the train to a pistol-shot in breadth, and had made a background...by lifting into view Heaven knows how great an extent of country below our horizon. Does refraction account for all this?" ("Mirage" by Ambrose Bierce. Early Cubism?)

## **mired (stuck)**

mired at 9.6 percent  
unemployment is ~

mired in Afghanistan  
now we are ~ (war)

mired in crisis  
Somalia has been ~ since 1991

mired in (economic) distress  
people are ~ (unemployment)

mired in the doldrums  
we remain ~ (poor economy)

mired in grief  
rabbis stress Yom Kippur should not be ~

mired in litigation  
the university is still ~

mired in misery  
Haiti remains ~

mired in a (4-decade) war  
Colombia is ~ against guerrillas

mired in squalor and devastation  
they led lives ~ (Chechnya)

became mired in controversy  
the event ~ last year (investment initiative)

get mired in another Iraq  
the US doesn't want to ~ in another Iraq (Syria)

## **mirror (verb)**

mirrored his erratic (off-the-field) behaviour  
his unpredictable style ~ (sports)

mirror her lifestyle  
those who tried to ~ (influencer Belle Gibson)

echo, mirror and differ  
the two stories began to ~ from each other (a writer)

## **mirror (noun)**

mirrors of life  
writers whose books are faithful ~

mirror and a bridge  
we are a ~ to culture at large (TikTok)

windows and mirrors  
novels are both ~

have a good hard look in the mirror  
a lot of Man U players need to ~ (Erik ten Hag sacked)

held up a (cracked) mirror to Black and white  
America  
the case ~ (OJ Simpson)

hold a mirror up to ourselves  
we must ~ and ask why (physician suicides)

holds a mirror up to how  
the film ~ people in this generation grew up

holding a mirror up to himself  
he was a terrific self-analyzer ~

look in the mirror  
I ~ and I like who I am (gay)

looking in the mirror  
we have been ~ and changing the way we teach  
we have been ~ and rethinking our approach (education)

look at himself in the mirror  
he's got to ~ (businessman / ethics)

take a (sober, humble, and honest) look in the mirror  
we've got to ~ (Matthew McConaughey)

♦ "He needs to look himself in the mirror and ask himself what is in the best interests of our country and of our party." (An MP with a "no" vote of confidence.)

♦ "Very disappointed in so many ways. Everyone has to look in the mirror and look at their own performance and think if they gave everything." (Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk, after his team's loss to Everton 2-0.)

- ♦ “We’ve got to take a sober, humble, and honest look in the mirror and rebrand ourselves based on what we truly value.” (Matthew McConaughey after a visit to the White House to meet President Biden and talk about the Uvalde school shooting. An interesting use of the word “rebrand.”)
  - ♦ “They avoid looking in the mirror.” (Entitled Gen Z female activists who support Hamas.)
  - ♦ “I don’t think I would’ve been able to look myself in the mirror had I not said anything.”
  - ♦ “He’d look in the mirror and see Paret.” (Emile Griffith, according to Jimmy Breslin. From the affecting and emotionally wrenching documentary film *Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story* 2005.)
  - ♦ “When we look one another in the face, we’re neither of us just looking at a face we hate—no, we’re gazing into a mirror. That’s the tragedy of our age. Do you really not recognize yourselves in us—yourselves and the strength of your will? Isn’t it true that for you too the world is your will?... You may think you hate us, but what you really hate is yourselves—yourselves in us. It’s terrible, isn’t it? Do you understand me?... Do you think the world looks on us with horror and on you with hope and love? No, the world looks on us both with the same horror!... You and I both know that it’s not on battlefields that the future is decided... It was the Roehm purge that gave Stalin the idea for the purge of the Party in 1937... You must believe me. You’ve kept silent while I’ve been talking, but I know that I’m like a mirror for you—a surgical mirror.” (Liss interrogating Mostovskoy. *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Two, Chapter 14.)
  - ♦ “They should take a look in the mirror before judging others...”
  - ♦ “The media sometimes serves as a window and sometimes as a mirror. Shows and characters that resonate the most are actually both. You see yourself reflected in them, but you also get to learn about other things through them.” (Mariana Diaz-Wioczek. From “Kids need to see themselves reflected in media. Here are some recommendations,” Elizabeth Blair, NPR, December 26, 2021.)
  - ♦ “Novels are both windows and mirrors.”
  - ♦ A FUNNY STORY. Every morning, Osama Bin Laden would wake up, look in the mirror, and say, “Mirror mirror on the wall, who’s the greatest a\*\*hole of them all?” And every morning the mirror would say, “Oh you are, Osama.” Then he would go downstairs in a jovial mood for breakfast. One day he showed up for breakfast in a foul temper. “What’s the matter?” his family members cried in consternation. “What’s happened?” And Osama said, “Who the F\*\*\* is Roy Keane?”
- \*\*\* **mirror mazes, funhouse mirrors...**
- ♦ Some amusement parks have mirror mazes.
  - ♦ A carnival or funhouse mirror is a curved mirror that can distort your image. Such a mirror can make you look like a fat midget, or make your chin look a foot long.
- \*\*\* **analysis**
- ♦ Everybody’s gotta look in the mirror.”
  - ♦ “It’s said that every senator looks in the mirror and sees a future President.”

## mirror (in the rear-view mirror)

in the rear-view mirror

- she knows her setbacks will soon be ~ (teen)
- we’ll be glad to put this cold weather ~
- now that *that* is ~ (behind us)

leave Steubenville in the rear-view mirror

- she was glad to ~ (Traci Lords / Ohio)

put this in the rear-view mirror

- he needs to ~, move past it (politician and election issue)

put Covid in the back mirror

- we must vaccinate more to ~ (Dr. Zeke Emanuel)

- ♦ “Covid is very much in the side-view mirror, soon to be in the rear-view mirror...” (One can only hope!)

## mis (misbehave, etc.)

misappropriate

see *misappropriate (groups)*

misbehave

see *misbehave (machine)*

## misappropriate (groups)

misappropriated (Holocaust) history

he ~ (use of Nazi / U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum)

misappropriates (Hawaiian) language

some feel the film’s name ~ (*Aloha*)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ Ordinarily, someone misappropriates funds (money). This usage seems to focus on words and ideas.
- ♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb)*, *appropriation (groups)*, *coopt (and co-opt)*, *misappropriated*, *misappropriation (groups, etc.)*, *reappropriate (groups)*, *reappropriation (groups)*, *reclaim (groups)*, *reclaimed (groups)*, *take back (take back one’s life, etc.)*

## misappropriated

misappropriated

that term has been ~ (“fake news”)

misappropriated by misguided individuals

the testimony of faith has been ~ (terrorists)

misappropriated word

appropriation, the most ~ in the English language

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ The title of Dickens’ great book is commonly misappropriated: See “Please, Liberals: Stop Abusing ‘A Tale of Two Cities’” by Reid Cherlin, *The New Republic*, Jan 2, 2014.
- ♦ “*Appropriation*, the most misappropriated word in the English language at this time. Stuff and nonsense.” (greatpix about the #BlackTikTokStrike.)
- ♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb)*, *appropriation (groups)*, *coopt (and co-opt)*, *misappropriate (groups)*, *misappropriation (groups, etc.)*, *reappropriate (groups)*, *reappropriation (groups)*, *reclaim (groups)*, *reclaimed (groups)*, *take back (take back one’s life, etc.)*

## misappropriation (groups, etc.)

cultural misappropriation

they described the video as the height of ~ (U.S. Indians)

reappropriation or (perhaps) misappropriation

“Columbusing”—the ~ of African-American culture...

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ “She takes to task [her poetic peers] for their misappropriation of the stories and metaphors of the disabled...” (The poet Jillian Weise, amputee, disability activist, and self-identified “cyborg.”)
- ♦ “Patricia Williams, one of the key scholars of the C.R.T. canon, refers to the ongoing mischaracterization as ‘definitional theft.’” (“The Limits Of Liberalism: How Derrick Bell’s pioneering work gave rise to critical race theory” by Jelani Cobb, *The New Yorker*, September 20, 2021.)
- ♦ “*Columbusing* is a word that can be used to describe the reappropriation or perhaps misappropriation of African-American culture—for instance, various slang terms that get appropriated by a white mainstream audience. We see that happening quite a lot in language and culture, so this is a clever and rather sarcastic term for that phenomenon.” (Ben Zimmer, language columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*. From “Die-In, Vortex, Selfie Stick: What’s The Word Of 2014?” by NPR Staff, Pop Culture, December 28, 2014. The word

refers to discovering something that is not new, and was “popularized in a College Humor video that came out this summer.” The article has a link to that YouTube humor video: “Columbusing”: Discovering Things For White People.”

♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb), appropriation (groups), coopt (and co-opt), misappropriate (groups), misappropriated, reappropriation (groups), reappropriation (groups), reclaim (groups), reclaimed (groups), take back (take back one's life, etc.)*

## misbehave (machine)

misbehaved

when the newer gyro was switched on, it ~ (Hubble)

♦ “Say an algorithm appeared to be misbehaving. I'd have to locate it and then find the person responsible for it, at any time of the day or night, and tell him (and it was always a him) to fix it. It wasn't always a friendly encounter.” (*Weapons Of Math Destruction* by Cathy O'Neil.)

♦ “Displays and computers all need cooling, as we know, and, you know, just sometimes it just gets too hot and they start misbehaving...” (The pilot of a medical rescue helicopter who had to turn back because of the heat.)

## miscarriage (of justice, etc.)

miscarriage of justice

the referee made mistakes and there was a ~ (soccer coach)

## miscue (noun)

miscues

Biden can't afford these kinds of ~ (politics)  
his only ~ is to... (the director of a documentary)

verbal miscues

he is no stranger to ~ (a politician)

high-profile political miscue

this was arguably his most ~ (a politician)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A miscue refers to billiards or pool.

## misdiagnose (verb)

misdiagnosed the severity

economists ~ of the problem (financial)

## misfire (failure)

misfires

during a trial plagued with ~, he was found not guilty

## misfit (person)

loner, contrarian or a misfit

the journalist from central casting used to be a ~

outcasts and misfits

~ who had been wounded... (see quote below)

♦ “Here's to the Crazy Ones! / The misfits. / The rebels. / The troublemakers. / The round pegs in the square holes. / The ones who see things differently.” (Apple's “Think Different” advertising campaign.)

♦ Outsiders; outside; misfits; don't belong; not such a great childhood; not well loved; crappy, challenging upbringings in childhood; feeling like the weird one of the bunch; stigmatized; going through bad times... (“Vulnerable” Harry Potter fans, including gay teenagers.)

♦ “The journalist from central casting used to be a loner, contrarian or a misfit. Now journalism is becoming another job for joiners, or, to

borrow Twitter's own parlance, ‘followers’, a term that mocks the essence of a journalist's role.” (“When the New York Times lost its way” by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ “Her refusal to accept the status quo made it possible for generations of outcasts and misfits who had been wounded, damaged, abused, discarded and demoralized to pursue their own paths to healing.” (A tribute to the Irish singer Sinead O'Connor from “Sinead O'Connor was our freedom singer, our keener and our feminist killjoy” by Jason King, NPR, Music Features, August 2, 2023.)

## misgender (groups)

misgendered Brinton

tweets from Clyde ~ (Rep. Andrew Clyde / Sam Brinton)

## misgendered (groups)

misgendered

how to handle those moments when you are ~ (NPR)

## misgendering (groups)

“misgendering” policy

the humor site had been banned under Twitter's ~

## mislead (verb)

mislead

historical analogy can ~

misled Congress

he disputed that he ~ last month when he said...

mislead anyone about his credentials

he said he had not tried to ~

## misleading (adjective)

misleading

laboratory results were ~ (vs. fieldwork)

misleading advertisements

~ (personal ads)

misleading case

having made a ~ for war... (in Iraq)

misleading (label) claims

exotic supplements with ~

misleading narratives

he debunks ~ about crime, gangs and public safety

misleading (accounting) practices

~ in the marketplace

misleading statement

~s have been made

misleading or inaccurate

the information presented is ~ (medical Web sites)

totally misleading

the stereotype is ~ (that young drug users are “losers”)

phony, dishonest or misleading

there was nothing ~ about the photo (Iwo Jima)

## misread (verb)

misread what

they ~ the protests were all about (the government)

misreading the evidence

he is ~ (scientific dispute)

misread him

I guess I ~ from the beginning

misread each other's intentions

countries ~, in the fog of all these events (the Gulf)

## miss (verb)

miss

a lot of times his jokes ~ (a comic)

## missile (the Manx Missile, etc.)

Manx Missile

his nickname is the “~” (the cyclist Mark Cavendish)

## missing (groups, etc.)

missing

older characters are ~. Period (ageism in entertainment)

## missing in action (MIA)

MIA

Google may be ~ (at tech hearings)

missing in action

Donald Trump is ~ tonight (not at debate / politics)

missing in action from the big screen

they have been ~ for years (old stars)

missing in action in terms of leadership

our national government is ~ (Australia)

missing in action when this bill was being negotiated  
the president was ~

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “A number of isolated groups do reach the German trenches on the edge of what was once Guillemont and chaotic close-quarters combat breaks out there. / Kresten Andresen is still alive around the middle of the day on 8 August [1916]... / When the 1st Company is mustered it is discovered that there are twenty-nine men who cannot be accounted for among either the living or the dead. Kresten Andresen is one of them. / There has been no word of him since. / His fate is unknown. / [Footnote: The paths of one of the forgotten and one of the most famous participants in the war almost crossed at Guillemont. On 24 August Lieutenant Ernst Junger and his 73rd Regiment of Fusiliers were sent into action there. Junger has described it in his superb war memoir *The Storm of Steel*. By the time of Junger's arrival the village had been completely obliterated: 'only a whitish mark on the field of craters still showed the spot where the chalky stone of the houses had been ground to dust.' There was an all-pervasive stench of putrefaction and millions of fat blowflies filled the air. Even Junger, normally so cool, was shaken by what he saw. 'The ploughed-up battlefield was a scene of horror. The dead lay there among the living defenders. When we dug bunkers we saw how the dead lay in layers one above the other. One company after another had been mown down as they made a stand shoulder to shoulder under the drum fire; then their corpses had been buried under the tons of earth hurled up by the projectiles and new men had taken the place of the fallen.'” (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

♦ 1915 Age 50. His son John killed in the Battle of Loos, age 18, a first lieutenant. Missing. Never found.

Kipling felt guilt, as he had helped John get into the war. He wrote “My Boy Jack” in 1915, after John had been declared missing and was presumed dead: “Have you news of my boy Jack?” / *Not this tide. / “When d’you think that he’ll come back?” / Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.*”

Kipling wrote “Gethsemane” (poem), and also “Mesopotamia” (1917), an indictment of the Allied side. Also the “Common Form” poem: “If any question why we died, / Tell them, because our fathers lied.”

“After the war, Kipling served on the Imperial War Graves Commission until his death. ‘It is one of the great ironies that Kipling should have been the person to select the phrase ‘known unto God’ for all unknown soldiers, and then not know what happened to his own son,’ says Phillip Mallett, author of *Kipling: A Literary Life*. / Kipling worked with Winston Churchill to ensure that all gravestones were the same shape and size, regardless of military rank. The long lines of matching gravestones lining war cemeteries are their legacy.” (“Solving the mystery of Rudyard Kipling’s son,” BBC, 18 January 2016.)

## mission (on a mission)

on a mission

John Ryder is ~ here (a boxing match)

on a mission to be the best

I didn’t see things clearly because I was ~

on a mission to clean house

somebody who’s ~ (an administrator)

on a mission to travel

they were ~ further than... (England at Euro 2020)

♦ “I didn’t see things clearly because I was on a mission to be the best.” (Carli Lloyd, the USWNT legend, who blames her personal coach for the reason why she didn’t talk to her family for 12 years, from 2008-2020. According to Carli, her coach was narcissistic, manipulative, controlling, and brainwashed her.)

♦ “Were you expecting a payoff? Not our style. We are on a mission to create a more informed public. To make that happen, we need you to do something extraordinary: donate... Can you help? [Heart symbol] Yes, I’ll donate.” (NPR.)

## mission (mission accomplished)

mission accomplished

there is no such thing as bad publicity, so, ~

it aims to mess with your head and heart, ~ (*Beau Is Afraid*)

## mission (other)

mission is to keep

part of our ~ history alive (Trail of Tears)

mission creep

see *creep* (*mission creep*, etc.)

mission statement

all ~s are bullshit (corporations, schools, etc.)

Amber’s mission

~ is to help people be their true, authentic selves  
(eSpeakers)

rescue mission

Ronaldo had been introduced to try and lead a ~ (soccer)

suicide mission

see *suicide* (*career suicide*, etc.)

believe in the mission



I've been a lifer, 25 years, I ~ (NPR's Uri Berliner)

strayed from its (intended) mission

Wall Street has ~ (to raise money, versus betting)

♦ The letter that begins "To the Board of Directors at OpenAI" uses the word "mission" three times. The following use is the most interesting: "You also informed the leadership team that allowing the company to be destroyed 'would be consistent with the mission.'" A strange mission! The letter was signed by 702 employees. UPDATE. Sam Altman was reinstated and the Board replaced.)

♦ "Thoughts on our mission; NPR's service to this aspirational mission was called in question this week; we're living up to our mission; our people are serving our mission with integrity; we fulfill our mission; we owe it to our mission to ask; foundational to our mission; two final thoughts on our mission; I once heard missions like ours described as asymptotic; reinfuse our mission with meaning; the strongest, most effective, and enduring missions are those that...; how they live our mission every day, in their work and in their contributions to the community; reinfuse our mission with meaning; the strongest, most effective, and enduring missions are those that... (repeated); every person I have met so far in my three weeks here has shown me how they live our mission every day, in their work and in their contributions to the community..." (From NPR President and CEO Katherine Maher: Thoughts on our mission and our work," NPR, NPR Extra, April 12, 2024. Her response to "I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

♦ "Kamala Harris has always understood the assignment." (Sen. Laphonza Butler, D-CA, at the 2024 DNC. See the Wikipedia article "Laphonza Butler. "She and her wife have a daughter." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

♦ "Your mission, should you choose to accept it... Good luck... This message will self-destruct..." (Hollywood Mission Impossible.)

♦ Watch the Blues Brothers: We're on a mission from god YouTube

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "We've had five hundred casualties crossing this one flaming river! And for what? Haven't any of the high mucky-mucks looked at their frigging maps? There'll be half a dozen Sangros before we get to Pescara... if we get to Pescara. Thank God you're taking over, Canada. We've *had* this show!" (*And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "All mission statements are bullshit." (Corporations, schools, etc.)

## missionary (person)

missionary to America

he was a soccer ~

missionary of jazz

Mary Lou Williams, ~ (NPR)

missionary spirit

you feel that ~ in the performance (BMOP / music)

missionary work

this is my form of ~ (Duckwrth / Hip-Hop)

## misstep (noun)

misstep

the lamb was topped, in a ~, with tomatoes (food)

public-relations misstep

the stores decision to change its logo was a ~

costly misstep

this bill is a ~ (politics)

honest misstep

he made an ~ (politician)

inadvertent misstep

he should be blamed for an ~ (ethics)

incendiary misstep

the organization has made some politically ~s

procedural misstep

death-penalty cases are vulnerable to ~s

strategic misstep

the company's ~

admitted missteps

he ~ in his first year (president)

made any missteps

he hasn't ~ (political campaign)

apologize for its missteps

Curtis did not acknowledge her experience or ~ (school)

engaged in additional missteps

Curtis ~ following the publication of the article (school)

marred by missteps

the operation was ~ and poor judgments (government)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "What happened?" I asked, my voice breaking. / 'Well, one of those things. The trip lines to the mines around the perimeter have got tangled in undergrowth and a couple of days ago one of the mines went off in front of George's positions. Someone said a dog had gotten into the minefield, someone else said they saw some villagers near the concertina. George went out to check. He was walking down the safe lane and he took a little half-step off to one side and a mine went off. He never knew what hit him. No reason. There is no great combat story here. Our friend was just walking along and he took a misstep and he died. Nor moral. Nothing gained. Just one of those things.' / George's death was on my mind for days. I could not shake the sense of loss. The only consolation was George's contention that if we die in combat, we're at peace. If others get upset, it's their problem. Even so, my attitudes changed. I did not make friends with the replacements but kept to myself, relaxing only with Dunn, Wooley, and the men in the platoon." (*Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of The Vietnam War* by James E. Parker Jr.)

## mist (red mist)

red mist

the ~ is a very dangerous thing

red-mist moment

Horner accused Hamilton of a ~ (vs. Max Verstappen)

red mist came down

he acted deplorably as the ~ (prosecutor / England)

red mist descended

then the ~ (soccer player retaliates for foul)

saw the red mist

he ~, that's no excuse...

suffer the red mist

he would be leading if he didn't ~ (an FI driver / crashes)

♦ "He saw the red mist. That's no excuse. You can't lay your hand on an official." (Ex-footballer and commentator Chris Sutton, recommending that Aleksander Mitrovic get a 10-game ban for pushing the referee.)

♦ "Then came a moment of madness from James as she stamped on Alozi following a challenge which saw the pair fall to the floor." (Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup. Others characterized this as "stood on.")



♦ “The red mist had metaphorically descended over the defendant’s eyes...” (The ruling by Mr Justice Martin Spencer in *Czernuszka v King*. From “Reading rugby player wins compensation over revenge tackle” by Marcus White, BBC News, 23 Feb 2023. Natasha King, captain of the Bracknell Ladies rugby team, had referred to her opponents as “c\*\*\*s” and said, “That f\*\*\*ing number 7, I’m going to break her.” An appalling case with real-life consequences.)

♦ “Yes I do we have a rule of law. Unintentionally killing someone is manslaughter you brought race into this. Ones Canadian ones usa so both not natives here. We don’t have the same racial bias as you do...” (An online commenter about “How the Racist Treatment of Matt Petgrave Hurts Black Hockey Players by Isi Frank Atvie, *Chicago Defender*, December 4, 2023. An appalling case.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ “A man cannot change his feelings again during the last rush with a veil of blood before his eyes.” (Ernst Junger. Quoted in *On Killing* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. Close-quarters combat. Soldiers who resist to the final moment and then throw down their weapons and raise their hands may or may not be taken prisoner.)

♦ “They were one hole over. They got plumed. They were erased from the Earth. DiLeo watched the round all the way down, and it exploded right in their hole, vaporizing them. One second, they were there, living and breathing and thinking and maybe swearing or even praying just like him. And in the next second, two hale, young men, both of them sergeants in the United States Army, pride of their hometowns—Perryville, Mo., and Willimantic, Conn., respectively—had been turned into a plume of fine pink mist, tiny bits of blood, bone, tissue, flesh and brain that rose and drifted and settled over everyone and everything nearby. It—or they—drifted down on DiLeo, who reached up to wipe the bloody ooze from his eyes and saw that his arms and the rest of him were coated, too. Then there would come another pock and another whoosh.” (Mark Bowden, author of *Hue 1968*, reading from his book. From “‘Hue 1968’ Revisits An American ‘Turning Point’ In The War In Vietnam,” NPR, Fresh Air with the wonderful host Dave Davies, November 10, 2017.)

♦ “If you are lucky, in that window will one day emerge the figure of the enemy. The JFK shot. Pink mist.” (The 2005 film *Jarhead*, based on the book by Anthony Swofford, a Marine. Watch: *Jarhead* (2005): Most Memorable Scenes!

♦ see also *blood* (*blood in one’s eyes, etc.*), *red* (*see red*)

## Mister (and Mr., Missus, Mrs.)

Mister Right

if I found ~... (a woman)

mysterious Mister Right

maybe this was the ~...

♦ “Maybe this was the mysterious Mister Right I’d been waiting my whole life to meet.” (The lawyer in *Bridget Jones* played by Colin Firth.)

♦ Valerie: I guess I figured that everything would just fall into place if I found Mr. Right. / Mac: Mr. Right? (Inspired dialog from the silly film *Earth Girls Are Easy* with Geena Davis.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Mister Right = Prince Charming

♦ see also *boy* (*type*), *girl* (*type*), *guy* (*good guy, etc.*), *joe* (*average joe, etc.*), *lady* (*crazy lady, etc.*), *man* (*big man, little man, etc.*)

## mix (in / into the mix)

soldiers in the mix

more ~ will ensure the desired outcome

get (right) back in the mix

you’ve got to get back up and ~ (MMA fighter)

bring more people into the mix

we must ~ (process)

remained in the mix

he ~ as an informal outside consultant (election campaign)

## mixed up

mixed up with a Japanese girl

I got ~ in Honolulu...

## moan (verb)

moaning about

they’re doing fine, what are they ~ (lower middle class)

wail and moan

they’ll ~ and write outraged editorials...

## moaning

stop moaning

he told colleagues to ~ about the pandemic

## moat (noun)

moat

the Rhine is a highway as much as a ~ (Roman history)

moat around the outbreak

officials acted to build a ~ (bird-flu outbreak)

protective moats

oceans are highways rather than ~ (geopolitics)

digging a (legal) moat

one made no official move without first ~ (Colombia)

♦ “What fans call a moat separates them from the Legends Section.” (Yankee Stadium.)

## moated

moated from popular sentiment

some political systems suffer because they are ~

## mob (group)

mob of volunteers

police were joined by a ~ (search)

## mob (society)

mob of his day

he appealed to the base instincts of the ~ (orator Cleon)

mob rule

the confirmation hearing descended into ~ (protests)

the impeachment is legislative ~

flash mob

Musk’s Twitter fans formed a ~ ridiculing Blue Origin

liberal “mob”

he portrayed himself as a victim of a ~ (culture wars)

lynch mob

see *lynch mob*

online mobs

the threat of ~ shutting down speech (cancel culture)

outrage mob

Netflix shouldn't cave to the ~ and censor *Sex and the City*

twittermob

yet none of this matters to the ~ (racism controversy)

twitter mob

a ~ has managed to change a *New York Times* headline

woke mob

I realize I'm in the crosshairs of the ~ (Aaron Rodgers)

vicious (trans activist) mob

the ~ coming for women who defend women

baying of the mob

he did not bow to the ~ (followed his own mind)

mob is baying

the ~ for blood (an accidental police shooting)

captured by an anti-intellectual, illiberal mob

Brearely has been ~ (the school / obsession with race)

sold their souls to the (woke) mob

presidents who ~ (UPenn, Harvard, MIT)

♦ "The audience works as such a mob, they either all laugh or all don't laugh and it changes from audience to audience." (Sarah Silverman, talking to Scott Simon in 2013, "By NPR Staff.")

♦ "They feel pressured by the mob to agree." (That trans women are women.)

♦ "We dared to encourage conversation, asked questions, and refused to go along with the mob." (The actor and ex-MMA fighter Gina Carano.)

♦ "I refuse to be held responsible for the actions of [a] racist sexist online mob. That's not fair. I mean, I took down a poster." (Olivia Lynch. The poster she tore down was a "kidnapped" poster related to the Israel-Hamas war. People filmed her, put the video online, and she was doxed. From "Most doxing campaigns only last a few days. But the effects can be felt for months" by Mansee Khurana, NPR, Morning Edition, April 11, 2024.)

\*\*\* "Mob rule took hold..."

♦ "Before authorities could arrest the woman, mob rule took hold." (Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico. The murder of Camila Gomez, an eight-year-old girl. Lynch mobs against people suspected of crimes against children are not uncommon in Mexico.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., this word is a clipping of the Latin *mobile vulgus*, or "the fickle crowd," and was used at the time of Charles II. From his book, *Word Origins and Their Romantic Stories*.

## mogul (noun)

American porn mogul

Leo Radvinsky, an ~

fashion mogul

assault by ~ Peter Nygard 'derailed my life,' says victim

media mogul

long-time Trump ally and conservative ~

music mogul

the ~ lured youngsters into his cars

## mold (verb)

mold their athletes into officers

coaches help ~ able to lead (West Point)

moulded the ordinary person into a consumer capitalism ~ (envy, ads, fashion, etc.)

## mold (fit a mold, etc.)

NPR mold

I fit the ~, I'll cop to that (Uri Berliner)

societal mold

many autistic people try to fit into a specific ~

fit a (prescribed) mold

in an environment where you feel pressured to ~ workplaces where you feel pressured to ~

fit the mold

male anchors who don't ~ (TV news)

## mole (noun)

Russian mole

he turned out to be a ~

\*\*\* "Bear Meat" by Primo Levi...

♦ "Remember, reader, if you've ever been caught in the mountains by a mist through which you only saw as moles see through their skin..." ("Bear Meat" by Primo Levi, translated from the Italian by Alessandra Bastagli.)

## mole hill (noun)

mole hills turn into (hallucinatory) mountains

in isolated communities, where imaginary ~ (Antarctica)

make a mole hill into a mountain

don't ~

♦ "What is going on? Explain it to me like I'm 6." / "somebody got mad that somebody retweeted something some people don't like, then everyone picked a side and got even madder, then the guy who retweeted something got a 5 game suspension and was forced to apologize, now there's a race war." (Two online commenters on the Kyrie Irving NBA controversy.)

♦ "This happened and that happened and if the news arrived at Key West as a mouse, it was often cabled north as an elephant." ("This Majestic Lie" by Stephen Crane.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ From one blackbird, fifty blackbirds!

♦ "Don't turn a molehill into a mountain!"

♦ "Why are you turning a molehill into a mountain?"

♦ "Men trip not on mountains but on molehills."

## Molotov cocktail

digital Molotov cocktail

the arrests were greeted with ~s (hackers' revenge)

verbal Molotov cocktail

it was like she threw a ~

♦ "It was like she threw a verbal Molotov cocktail from the broadcast booth down onto the sidelines." (Lisa Guerrero about the 2023 Charissa Thompson "sideline reporter" controversy. View the Wikipedia entries for both women and make up your own mind: do you support the woman who changed her hair color from blond in 2008 so as to not look like a "Barbie," or her critic who was a Playboy model in 2006? You be the judge.)

♦ "Phase 4 (of the inquiry) has pulled back the curtain on the decades of the great post office cook-up and coverup. The disdain and dislike of sub-postmasters by the post office and their employees, a refusal to investigate the Horizon system because of what that would reveal, what an awful cocktail. A Molotov cocktail." (A lawyer for a group of

the sub-postmasters. See the Wikipedia article "British Post Office Scandal.")

## moment (type of moment)

moment of reckoning

will "Framing Britney Spears" be a ~ for the media

moment of (national) reckoning

people who want an attorney general to meet this ~  
(BLM)

moment in the limelight

he had a ~, 30 years later

he had his most significant ~ a dozen years ago

moment in the sun

he had his ~ (rock star)

I think they have had their ~ (team in World Cup)

\*\*\* command, imperative...

'pinch me' moment

see *pinch* (*pinch me*, etc.)

\*\*\* exclamation

Aha! instant

the ~ in cognitive science, the Eureka moment...

"Aha!" moment

see *Aha!* (*Aha! moment*)

eureka moment

see *eureka* (*moment*, etc.)

'holy-shit' moment

Mr. President, this is your ~ (Cristina Romer to Obama)

'holy crap' moment

she called it "a real ~" in her research (professor /  
activist)

"Oh, no!" moment

for Riley, a wildlife biologist, it was a ~

\*\*\* comprehension

come-to-Jesus moment

see *Jesus* (*come to Jesus*, *come-to-Jesus*)

light-bulb moment

see *light bulb* (*and lightbulb*, *bulb*)

flashbulb moment

but I do recall the ~ when my mother... (memory)

lightning-bolt moment

see *lightning bolt* (*comprehension*)

\*\*\* consciousness & awareness

Aha! instant

the ~ in cognitive science, the Eureka moment...

"Aha!" moment

see *Aha!* (*Aha! moment*)

eureka moment

see *eureka* (*moment*, etc.)

'holy-shit' moment

Mr. President, this is your ~ (Cristina Romer to Obama)

'holy crap' moment

she called it "a real ~" in her research (professor /  
activist)

"Oh, no!" moment

for Riley, a wildlife biologist, it was a ~

\*\*\* groups

mom moment

this is a very great ~, a proud ~ for me... (with daughter)

\*\*\* proper name of a person, allusion, etc.

"Cronkite Moment"

the ~ has it the anchorman changed history (a myth)

Gideon Moment

hope is fading, but could this be a "~" (Trump re-  
election)

"Lincoln moment"

he described the situation as a ~ (Ghani to Biden /  
support)

McCarthy moment

this cancellation culture is the SJW ~ (of Walt Whitman)

\*\*\* date

1939 moment

this is a ~ (world events in 2024 / Jim Sciutto on NPR)

nine-eleven moment

it was sort of a ~ for America (Fort Sumter attack)

\*\*\* historical event / military / disaster

Notre Dame fire moment

Denmark endures ~ (Borsen fire)

Pearl Harbor moment

it was sort of a ~ for America (Fort Sumpter attack)

Rubicon moment

this was my ~

\*\*\* recent cultural event, etc.

MeToo moment

Spain wants Rubiales kiss row to be '~' (Women's  
soccer)

\*\*\* classical event / allusion

phoenix moment

Natalie Portman is having a ~ (looks great post-divorce)

Rubicon moment

this was my ~

\*\*\* film, literature allusion, etc.

Dorothy moment

this was definitely a "~" for us (surprising finding)

"worlds collide" moment

it's an interesting ~ for me that I think has a lot of  
potential

Rashomon moment

this was a ~ meeting a Rorschach test ("2019 Lincoln Memorial confrontation" / Wikipedia)

Doctor Jekyll – Mister Hyde moment  
it was a very strange ~ (holding job and eating disorder)

\*\*\* **technology**

Sputnik moment  
we are not prepared, it's a ~, a challenge (a cyberattack)  
it will be a ~ (China lands man on moon before US)

Kitty Hawk moment  
fusion scientists often speak of waiting for a "~"

Kitty Hawk Moment  
is this the '~' for Fusion Energy

\*\*\* **fate, fortune & chance**

carpe diem moment  
this is mental-health crisis care's ~ (new 988 number)

crossroads moment  
the government is at a ~ (crisis)

\*\*\* **development, initiation**

lift-off moment  
it was a ~ for the game (Federer beats Sampras in 2001)

breakthrough moment  
it was a ~ for a young man (Federer beats Sampras in 2001)

fulcrum moment  
the Capture of Istanbul was a ~ in the Middle Ages

full-circle moment  
it's very much this ~ (vagaries of fate)

groundswell moment  
we're at that ~ (rising demand for antibiotic-free meat)

key moment  
he failed to maintain his situation awareness at ~s (war)

landmark moment  
it was a ~ in the evolution of artificial intelligence

last straw moment  
and then there was the ~ when I just realized... (injustice)

watershed moment  
see *watershed* (noun)

\*\*\* **feeling, emotion & effect**

24-karat moment  
Brooklyn's championship was a ~ (baseball)

dramatic moment  
a throw from the outfield to a base is always a ~

heat of the moment  
he said some things he wished he hadn't in the ~  
I made my decision in the ~ (regret)  
it just happened in the ~ (regret)

heart-in-throat moment  
Oh my God, a ~ for the U.S.... (World Cup soccer)

heart-stopping moment  
it was a ~ (near-accident)

jaw-dropping moment  
this is the ~ when a sea lion attacked a girl (video)

magic moment  
that ~ when you feel the team spirit coming together

storybook moment  
it was a ~ (glass-carriage royal wedding)

**commitment & determination**

all-in moment  
her ~ comes in 1989 (magazine editor)

**primacy, currency, decline & obsolescence**

passing of the torch moment  
a ~ for heavyweight boxing (Dubois KOs Joshua)

**past & present**

split-screen moment  
dueling televised town halls, a ~ (rival politicians)

"where were you when" moments  
it was one of those ~ from history (*Challenger* Disaster)

**emergency**

"all hands on deck" moment  
see *hand* (*all hands on deck*)

"river catches on fire" moment  
Biden is trying to create a ~ (politics / allusion)

**attention, scrutiny & promotion**

spotlight moment  
this was a ~ (attention for a niche sport)

viral moment  
so he had this ~... (an imprisoned rapper)

**timeliness & lack of timeliness**

spur of the moment  
see *spur* (*spur of the moment*)

**disruption**

'washing machine' moments  
I think there were ~ for both teams (Mikel Arteta / Arsenal)

there-goes-the-neighborhood moment  
in a ~, older historians protested... (CRT, etc.)

♦ "Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore." (The "Dorothy" moment.)

**moment (moment where)**

moment where  
this was the ~ I thought everything was over (fear)  
I think that now is a ~... (NPR punditry)  
I had this lightbulb ~ I realized... (a writer)

like a moment where  
yes, it feels to me ~ people are sort of...

in a moment where  
well, I think we're ~ 80% of the country thinks...

I think we are ~ many of us... (pandemic)

in a moment (right now) where

we are ~ people are taking UFOs seriously (NPR)

in this moment where

we're ~ there's so much fakery (a journalist)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Ordinarily, one would say, "a moment when..." We say, "A moment of time," not "a moment of place." Saying "a moment where" is one of the many markers of a contempo-speaker.

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## moment (this moment)

this moment

my hope is that ~ allows us to... (social change)

this moment of reckoning and re-imagining

in ~, we wanted to understand... (monuments)

about this (particular) moment

it was so insightful ~ (a parody)

at this moment

~, it's estimated that... (school enrollment in pandemic)

for this moment

he is the right man ~ (Dr. Anthony Fauci and pandemic)

in this moment

I'm more optimistic ~ than I've ever been

what is the legal situation for her ~ (#FreeBritney)

what are the choices it's left with ~ (the NCAA)

I know it is best for all concerned ~ (a resignation)

in this (modern) moment

is selective-service registration really required ~

in this (unique) moment

~ we're in, we have a chance to... (lots of funding)

through this moment

what music is getting you ~ (the pandemic)

let this moment go by

I implore everyone to not ~ (don't forget this tragedy)

## moment (that moment)

in that moment

I had so many thoughts, ~ (fear)

hundreds could have used the vaccine ~ (COVID)

it felt like anything was possible ~ (Minneapolis protest)

let's listen to Baldwin talk about what happened ~

I thought, ~, I know that pain, what being bullied feels like

## moment (other)

moment or a (new) movement

is it a ~ (a protest)

cultural moment

it's a song of defiance for a ~ ("Break My Soul" / 2022)

different moment

yeah, it's a totally ~ (2008 vs now)

in her moment

she understood how celebrity culture worked ~ (S. Bernhardt)

seize the moment

Congress must ~ to legalize... (politics)

♦ OLD: how celebrity culture worked at the time... / NEW: how celebrity culture worked in her moment...

## moment (have a moment / attention)

having a moment

the Marshal Plan is ~

the Enneagram is ~, thanks to millennials

the word "bae" seems to be ~ (2014)

Sydney Sweeny is ~ (*Glamour* Magazine)

artificial intelligence is ~ (NPR's Ari Shapiro)

having its moment

the arepa is ~ (a corn pancake)

dirty soda is ~ (a sweet drink)

having a Hollywood moment

Muslims are ~

having (something of) a moment

multiverses are ~

having a moment in Singapore

vending machines are ~ (face masks, cacti, frozen beef)

clearly having a moment

the jigsaw puzzle is ~, toilet paper, step aside...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The online Cambridge Dictionary defines this as something currently popular or in fashion. It echoes / evokes old clichés like everything has its moment in the sun, or every dog has its day.

♦ If something is "having a moment" in this sense, then it is a "thing."

## moment (have a moment / emotion)

having a moment

Joe's ~ (a man weeps in front of his friends)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The online Cambridge Dictionary defines this as simply having an emotional moment, for example, tearing up, weeping, the voice cracking or wavering, or otherwise becoming overwhelmed by an emotion.

♦ "Time out for a moment..." (A combat veteran gets emotional and has a moment.)

## momentum (lose momentum)

losing its momentum

the US economic recovery is ~

lost their momentum

they ~

## momentum (gain momentum, etc.)

gained momentum

the notion has ~ (that speaking out is therapeutic)

street protests have ~ (Myanmar in 2007)

gaining momentum  
protests are ~

gathering momentum  
a campaign to regulate the company is ~ (Facebook)

## momentum (noun)

momentum to lift  
there seems to be some ~ restrictions on...

momentum of the game  
the missed penalty kick changed the ~

momentum for a lottery  
the budget crisis creates ~ (state)

anti-noise momentum  
the ~ appears to be growing

word-of-mouth momentum  
the ~ that propels a book (publishing)

burgeoning momentum  
a 3-week layoff stopped Baylor's ~ (basketball)

lost momentum  
the Democrats need to regain their ~ (politics)

momentum appears to be growing  
the anti-noise ~

changed the momentum  
the missed penalty kick ~ of the game

creates momentum  
the budget crisis ~ for a lottery (state)

stopped (Baylor's burgeoning) momentum  
a 3-week layoff ~ (basketball)

♦ "Oh dear, they have momentum until the next loss, just like the last time they had momentum. What Muppets write this dross for the BBC?" (A BBC HYS commenter about "Aston Villa 1-2 Man Utd: 'Momentum' with Red Devils as they hunt down top-four rivals" by Simon Stone, BBC, 11 February 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Movement, weight and speed equals force.

## Mona Lisa (Mona Lisa of baseball cards, etc.)

"Mona Lisa" of baseball cards  
the T206 Wagner, the undisputed ~ (50 known copies)

"Mona Lisa" properties  
he referred to his developments as ~ (Trump at fraud trial)

equivalent of the "Mona Lisa"  
it's the food ~ (Jiro's in Japan)

♦ "He repeatedly referred to his golf courses and developments as 'Mona Lisa' properties." (Ex-President Trump at his fraud trial.)

## monarch (MS Monarch, etc.)

"Monarch of the Dailies"  
the San Francisco Examiner, the ~ (Hearst)

Monarch of the Glen  
"The ~" shows a red deer stag (1851)

Monarch of Muscledom  
John Grimek, "The ~" (the bodybuilder)

"monarch stag"  
a ~ has 16 points (antlers)

MS *Monarch*  
the ~, formerly *Monarch of the Seas* (a cruise ship)

## monarch (primacy)

monarch of AI  
deep learning is the reigning ~

monarch of the floating fiefdom  
a captain was a ~ of his ship (1770)

reigning monarch  
deep learning is the ~ of AI

## Mongolia (Outer Mongolia)

playing games in Outer Mongolia  
always hated Europa with its Thursday-Sunday and ~

♦ see also *Siberia (exile)*, *Timbuktu (remoteness)*

## monkey (insult)

monkeys  
the plane was designed by clowns supervised by ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "If you hurt a monkey, you will be cursed." (Japan.)

## monkey (monkey on one's back, etc.)

monkey on the sector's back  
this is far from the only ~ (rule hurts for-profit schools)

carried that monkey on his back  
but people were aware he ~ (compulsive gambling)

get the monkey off our back  
I only want to win it once just to ~ (CL title)

♦ "I only want to win it once just to get the monkey off our back." (A sad Manchester City fan after City bottled the end of their semifinal Champion's League game against Real Madrid.)

## monkish (adjective)

monkish breakfast  
a ~ of raw eggs, tea, and a biscuit

## monoculture (noun)

monoculture  
the Bronx is not some ~, it's diverse in so many ways

monoculture planet  
a ~ would be a boring place (different customs)

Silicon Valley's "monoculture"  
Karp moved the company to Denver to escape ~

superhero monoculture  
movies are stuck in the ~



narrow monoculture

the Internet thwarts any attempt to impose a ~ from above

politically correct monoculture

Google's left bias and ~ (James Damore)

creep of (artistic) monoculture

Bandcamp serves as a bulwark against the ~ (distribution)

myth of monoculture

the ~ (shared events in the U.S. / NPR's Linda Holmes)

stuck in the (superhero) monoculture

movies are ~

♦ "Feedback loops, inbreeding, and monoculture." (When LLM output found on the Internet is fed into LLMs as input.)

♦ "If your employees are almost a monoculture, they are going to be building products and taking into accounts the needs of that monoculture. So by having more diversity in tech we can actually build better products that serve the need of the wider community." (Pat Patterson of Salesforce about the CSIT-In-3 students from the agricultural Salinas Valley.)

♦ "It would be easy to say that there are no differences between Iran and the U.S. Of course, there are cultural differences. But those differences enliven and enrich the understanding of our world. A monoculture planet would be a boring place. Underneath the differences, however, we can also see a common humanity and we can recognize familiar fears, desires and hopes in this faraway place." ("Iran Through The Eyes Of A Teenage Amateur Astronomer" by Salman Hameed, NPR, Opinion, Culture, May 8, 2016.)

♦ "It's tempting to feel nostalgic about the myth of the monoculture, the idea you sometimes see that at one time 'we all' watched certain TV shows, or 'we all shared touchstones.'" ("Yes, a lot of people watched the Super Bowl, but the monoculture is still a myth" by Linda Holmes, NPR, February 13, 2024. Evidently not invited to a Super Bowl party.)

♦ "Academia has increasingly become a 'monoculture.'" (Progressive and radical students, professors, administrators, DEI staff, etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This word often occurs with *ecosystem* (noun), and *landscape* (noun).

## monolith (noun)

not a monolith

the religious right is ~ (a gay man)

immigrants are ~ (politics, attitudes, etc.)

Black communities are ~

♦ "Immigrants are not a monolith." (Politics, attitudes, etc.)

♦ "The Hispanic community is not a monolith." (Sunny Hostin of *The View*.)

♦ "The crowd rose to its feet—but it felt more like an act of politeness. Unlike in Orlando, where the audience was at rapt attention, the version of Harris in Boston more resembled the version I saw in Munich. It served as a reminder that Black communities are not a monolith and that their assumed kinship to Harris—or to the Democratic Party—cannot be taken for granted." ("In Search of Kamala Harris" by Astead W. Herndon, *The New York Times Magazine*, October 22, 2023.)

♦ "She can blame women all she wants. We are not a monolith. We all have different viewpoints, different reasons for voting the way we do." ("Hillary Clinton just can't stop blaming everyone else for her failures" by Kirsten Fleming, Opinion, *The New York Post*, May 28, 2024.)

\*\*\* El Capitan, Shiprock, Stone Mountain, etc.

♦ El Capitan, Shiprock, Stone Mountain... (Famous U.S. monoliths.)

♦ "[Tommy Caldwell's] best-known first ascent is the Dawn Wall, the hardest route on El Capitan, the tremendous granite monolith in Yosemite, which he completed in 2015. President Obama tweeted congratulations from the White House." ("Finding a Way Up" by William Finnegan, *The New Yorker*, November 29, 2021.)

♦ "Devils Thumb is a monolith of ice and granite." (The Stikine Icecap, the Alaska Panhandle, Southeast Alaska.)

♦ It took him four tries, but he finally did it—made it to the top of Looking Glass Rock, a pluton monolith, in the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina, just outside of Brevard. Not bad for an old man with an amputation named after a Civil War surgeon who wears a prosthesis. Not bad at all.

## monolithic (adjective)

monolithic

there are all sorts of Black people, we are not ~

♦ "There are all sorts of Black people, we are not monolithic." (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe.)

♦ "'Black America' is a ridiculous abstraction." (The linguist John McWhorter.)

♦ "Who the hell lives in communities of color? The people I know live in neighborhoods." (The political scientist Ruy Teixeira. From "Hispanic and minority voters are increasingly shifting to the Republican party," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 23, 2022.)

## monster (Monster.com, etc.)

Monster and MSN

the site is jointly operated by ~ (Web site)

## monster (create a monster, etc.)

create a Frankenstein

it gets out of hand, they ~ (extrajudicial killings)

created a monster

we have ~ (diplomacy)

they still don't accept that they ~ (Facebook)

sewn together a (Frankenstein's) monster

Ducournau has ~ from so many disparate ideas (film)

## monster (person / pejorative)

monster

only ~s could have planned this (Siberian slave labor)

these are the ~s we've been hunting (serial shooters)

~s committed this crime

these savage ~s will not escape their fate (terrorists)

MONSTER or MARTYR

Luigi Mangione, ~ (on Tubi)

evil monster

this ~ has faced justice (murdered a woman)

vicious monster

they have become ~s (terrorists)

portrayed as a monster

I'm being ~ and no one is defending me (in prison)

turned into a monster

in the 3 months we were engaged he ~

♦ "These monsters, they raped women, they beheaded men, they burnt babies alive, they killed parents in front of their children, and children in front of their parents. They dragged 255 people, both living and dead, into the dark dungeons of Gaza." (Netanyahu addresses U.S. Congress. The Israel-Hamas war.)

## monster (non-human / pejorative)

### monster

it is a ~ (methamphetamine usage in small rural town)

♦ "Unemployment is a monster which not only renders the fit powerless but prevents them from contributing to their society's development." (Abdullah Al-Asmari, in *Al-Watan*, on unemployment in Saudi Arabia.)

♦ "Meet AdVon, the AI-Powered Content Monster Infecting the Media Industry" by Maggie Harrison Dupre, *Futurism*, May 8, 2024.

## monster (size)

### monster

it's a ~, it's awesome (speaking of a huge wildfire)

he is a ~ (a 131-pound blue catfish)

### monster of a storm

Milton is a ~ now (Hurricane Milton)

### monster hit

the studio hasn't had a ~ since... (films)

### monster hurricane

the tingling anxiety one feels facing a ~

a ~, with its 150-mile-an-hour winds

### monster kite

running a ~ is a special skill

### monster monsoon

~ wreaks havoc in Pakistan

### monster ramp

most of the riders had never ridden the ~ (MegaRamp)

### monster ratings

the game show's ~

### monster swarm

trillions of cicadas are emerging in a ~ (Brood X)

### monster talent

she is a ~ (the actor and singer Jessie Buckley)

### monster tsunami

a ~ had been unleashed (Indian Ocean / 2004)

### monster waves

the hurricane spawned ~ that toppled beach houses

### monster (40-foot) waves

surfers couldn't resist the challenge of the ~

### monster dust devil

a ~ sent sand and litter high into the air

### monster iceberg

a ~ is drifting towards western Australia (2009)

### monster sandstorm

a ~ grounded coalition forces south of Baghdad

### concrete monster

it's a dinosaur, a ~ (an old sports stadium)

### mechanical monster

as the clattering ~ descends (helicopter)

## monster (power)

### monster first half

he's having a ~ (great performance / NFL)

### mentality monsters

Klopp refers to his players as "~~" (LFC / YNWA)

### absolute monster

Erling Haaland is an ~ (scores hat trick for Man City)

♦ Cancelo was a monster, Foden magnificent, De Bruyne incredible... (An online commenter about those soccer players.)

♦ NPR's Scott Simon: "You're supposed to be, forgive me, a monster on the court." / Seventeen-year-old Anna Leigh Waters, a top-ranked pickleball player: "I'll take that."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

♦ see also *beast (power)*

## monument (noun)

### monument to insignificance

the novel is a 576-page ~

### greatest monument

"Warsaw Survivor" is music's ~ to the Holocaust

## monumental (adjective)

### monumental achievement

it was a ~ (scholarship)

### monumental implications

simple acts can have ~

### monumental law

but passage of the ~ was an uphill battle

♦ "That is sensational! What a result! Argentina cannot believe it. It is a monumental result." (Mark Scott, BBC 5 Live commentator, on Saudi Arabia 2-Argentina 1 at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Mashallah! "Raise Our Green Flag.")

## moon (Valle de la Luna, etc.)

### Moon Bay

~ is a bay in Somerset County, Maryland

### Moon Beach

~ is a populated place in Cayuga County, New York

### Moon Bluff

~ is a cliff in Tattnall County, Georgia

### Moon Bottom

~ is a flat in Morgan County, Alabama

~ is a bend in Uintah County, Utah

### Moon Branch

~ is a stream in Madison County, Indiana

### Moon Canyon

~ is a valley in Cochise County, Arizona

### Moon Channel

~ is a channel in Mercer County, New Jersey

**Moon Cove**  
~ is a bay in Marion County, Arkansas

**Moon Crater**  
~ is a crater in Coconino County, Arizona

**Moon Creek**  
~ is a stream in Josephine County, Oregon

**Moon Draw**  
~ is a valley in Ziebach County, South Dakota

**Moon Hill**  
~ is a summit in Essex County, Massachusetts

**Moon Hollow**  
~ is a valley in Humphreys County, Tennessee

**Moon Island**  
~ is an island in Dodge County, Wisconsin  
~ is an island in Washington County, Maine  
~ is an island in Grays Harbor County, Washington

**Moon Lake**  
~ is a lake in Bossier Parish, Louisiana

**Moon Mesa**  
~ is a summit in Mesa County, Colorado

**Moon Mountain**  
~ is a summit in Curry County, Oregon

**Moon Pass**  
~ is a gap in Saguache County, Colorado

**Moon Peak**  
~ is a summit in Mineral County, Montana

**Moon Point**  
~ is a summit in Lange County, Oregon

**Moon River**  
~ is a stream in Chatham County, Georgia

**Moon Rocks**  
~ is a ridge in Pierce County, Washington

**Moon Shoal**  
~ is a bar in Barnstable County, Massachusetts

**Moon Springs**  
~ is a spring in Shasta County, California

**Moon Valley**  
~ is a valley in Maricopa County, Arizona

**Crescent Moon**  
~ Island is an island in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK

**Fallen Moon**  
Lake of the ~ is a lake in Fresno County, California

**Big Moon**  
~ Lake is a lake in Barron County, Wisconsin

**Blue Moon**  
~ is a populated place in Floyd County, Kentucky

**Full Moon**  
~ Arch is an arch in Navajo County, Arizona

**Half Moon**  
visit ~ Beach on your visit to Al Khobar (Saudi Arabia)  
~ Arch is an arch in Wolfe County, Kentucky  
~ Bay is a bay in San Mateo County, California  
Little ~ Pass is a gap in Owyhee County, Idaho  
Little ~ Spring is a spring in Owyhee County, Idaho\

**Little Moon**  
~ Lake is a lake in Barron County, Wisconsin  
~ Lake is a lake in Monroe County, Arkansas

**New Moon**  
Lake ~ is a reservoir in Saline County, Arkansas  
~ is a populated place in Cherokee County, Alabama

**Silver Moon**  
~ Creek is a stream in Valley County, Idaho

**Craters of the Moon**  
~ National Monument and Preserve (Idaho)  
~ is an area in Blaine County, Idaho

**Eye of the Moon**  
~ is an arch in Cibola County, New Mexico

**Hills of the Moon**  
~ Wash is a stream in San Diego County, California

**Horn of the Moon**  
~ Pond is a lake in Washington County, Vermont

**Val de la Luna**  
the ~, the Valley of the Moon (west of San Pedro, Chile)

**Valley of the Moon**  
the ~ is a basin in Pima County, Arizona

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ There are many “Half Moon” topographical features, no doubt based on shape: arch; bar; basin; bay; bayou; beach; bend; bluff; brook; canyon; cove; creek; draw; gulch; hill; hollow; island; lake (many); mountain; pass; prairie; ridge; raffle (rapids); shoals; slough; spring; swamp; tank; valley...

♦ There are many “Moon” creeks, and even more “Moon” lakes. In some instances this no doubt relates to the reflection of the moon in the water.

♦ The moon follows the ecliptic, as far as I know. And so, there must be an element of direction in some of these “moon” place names. Of course, the moon is a shape. Finally, the notion of entertainment must figure in, because nature was free entertainment before stupid TVs and cellphones. Many inhabitants of our urban ghettos have never seen the Milky Way, or a dark sky, and never will. Their habitual mannerism is to look around, for whatever reason, but seldom to look up.

♦ NPR’s hyping of every particular “blue moon” or “super moon,” or “super blue moon” is disgusting and stupid. Their “digital” editors—whoever they are—have obviously not spent much if any time outdoors.

♦ “Greek constellations (myths), Latin constellation names and Arabic star names.” (*Stargazing: Astronomy Without a Telescope* by Patrick Moore. Ninety percent of star names are Arabic.)

**moon (shape)**

**moon face**  
when will my ~ go away (facial swelling due to a drug)

## moon (over the moon)

over-the-moon excited

I am ~ (a Swiftie, about Taylor Swift's latest album)

## moonscape (noun)

moonscape

it was a ~, nothing left almost (after wildfire)

moonscape of ash

a million years ago the caldera was a vast ~ (Valles Caldera)

moonscape of destroyed buildings

they entered a ~ (combat)

moonscape of destruction, displacement and hunger

the territory has been reduced to a ~ (Gaza)

scorched moonscape

a ~ scoured by whirlwinds of ash (after wildfire)

barren moonscape

elephants turn woodland into a ~

reduced this Amazon rainforest to a moonscape

gold mining ~ (Peru)

turned (parts of) Gaza into a moonscape

tank and artillery fire and air sorties have ~

turn woodland into a (barren) moonscape

elephants can ~

## moonshot (noun)

moonshot

a ~ is the biggest of ideas to solve the biggest problems

moonshot of its day

the Brooklyn Bridge was the ~

moonshot kid

my ~ (Marco Troper, according to Freedom Cheteni)

moonshots and miracles

aiming for ~ is not far-fetched (diplomacy)

no longer a moonshot

the driverless car is ~ (2019)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "moonshot" bandwagon...

♦ "She is one of the five Earthshot Prize winners." (Prince William and David Attenborough.)

♦ "In 2015, Yuri Milner, a billionaire Silicon Valley investor and philanthropist, showed up at Harvard hoping Loeb could figure out how to send a probe to another star during his lifetime. Loeb was game to try. A year later he was standing on top of One World Trade Center alongside Milner and Stephen Hawking announcing Breakthrough Starshot, a plan to attach tiny probes to micrometer-size sheets of reflective material—light sails—and blast them with ground-based lasers, propelling them to Alpha Centauri in a couple of decades. Breakthrough Starshot, which is still in an early research phase, was what got Loeb thinking seriously about the mechanics of interstellar travel." ("Galaxy Quest" by Seth Fletcher, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 27, 2023.)

♦ "With profound sadness [sic], my most extraordinary moonshot kid, Marco Troper whose light, leadership and love will never diminish unexpectedly died. Marco and I were working on his most inspiring idea to cure cancer..." (Professor Freedom Cheteni of [www.moonshots.org](http://www.moonshots.org))

moonshots.org. Marco Troper, 19 years old, a freshman math major, was found unresponsive in this dorm room on UC Berkeley's Clark Kerr campus. His COD was listed as "acute combined drug toxicity." About Freedom Cheteni, see [Casetext.com](http://Casetext.com) Bird v. Regents of N.M. State Univ. July 2, 2013

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Make Your Moonshot Less of a Long Shot." (An ad for Quantic's "Business School of the Future." The full page ad on the back of *The Economist* shows a young woman with one hand on her hip, a phone in her other hand, and dressed futuristically in what looks like black vinyl. In the background is what appears to be a Martian landscape.)

♦ see also *sky* (*blue sky thinking*)

## moored

moored in an (earlier) time

the religion seems permanently ~ (criticism)

## moral injury (noun)

moral injury

it's a documentary about ~ and the American military

it's ~ at the corporate level (equity firm closes hospital)

moral injury Olympics

the ~ (disparagement of term)

PTSD or moral injury

veterans dealing with ~

due to moral injury

he said his decision to leave was ~ (the military)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "A lot of these guys and gals are really really hurting, because of what they saw, and what they went through, and then when you add on top of that, the criticism, like I said, the moral injury..." (Andy Carrier, clinical social worker, who counseled Uvalde school shooting officers.)

♦ "With the moral injury, that was going on with the officers, because of the scrutiny from the public, umm, uhh... I'm sure you've heard of the term compassion fatigue and secondary trauma, we felt it..." (Andy Carrier, clinical social worker, who counseled Uvalde school-shooting officers.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ [A quiet card game in the rear was disturbed by the shots of a sniper in a tree. A soldier from the West, a crack shot, dealt with the problem.] "That gray squirrel is pretty frisky, and I must stop his fun to stop him spoiling ours." He drew a bead on the man in the tree and fired. As the Confederate sharpshooter came crashing through the branches to the ground, the Westerner sat down and asked: 'What's trumps?' He seemed as unconcerned as if he had killed a mosquito that had been annoying him. / ...[B]ehind all this was constantly present to our eyes and mind the scene of a great stream, a procession, so to speak of human souls on their way to eternity." (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. The Civil War.)

♦ "Numerous NSW members interviewed during this investigation operate with a strongly held conviction, some of it enculturated from BUD/S, of the obligation and *moral duty* [italics mine] to follow a Man Overboard into the water." ("Subj: Command Investigation into the Facts and Circumstances Surrounding the Loss at Sea of Two Task Force Three Personnel on or about 11 January [sic] 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "Moral injury," the term "moral distress" originated in the 1980s in reference to health-care workers. Through "concept inflation" or "co-option," the construct has since been applied to soldiers, police, firefighters, EMTs, legal defenders and lawyers, people in child and adult protective services, and even to veterinarians, leading inevitably to the construct's disparagement: "moral injury Olympics."

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## moral panic (noun)

### moral panic

- evidence-based decisions should replace ~ (psychedelics)
- the ~ known as the Salem Witch Trials (NPR)
- ~ is eternal (horror movies)
- a ~ rooted in group anxieties and collective shame
- it's the same ~ that emerges with new forms of media

### moral panic about homosexuals

- the lavender scare was a ~ in the US government

### moral panic about whites and males

- 'liberal' emotional attachments underpin a ~ (Gen Z)

### moral panic over Drag Queen Story Hour

- the contemporary ~ (Rebecca Mead / *The New Yorker*)

### moral panics over what goes on in schools

- there are always these ~ ("Don't say gay," etc.)

### moral panic around children

- the ~ being targeted by pedophiles (disparaging comment)

### moral panic around crime

- Republicans attempt to create a ~ (politics)

### full-on moral panic

- "stranger danger" bloomed into a ~ (the US in the 1980s)

### racial moral panic

- the ~ of 2020 (George Floyd, DEI, Robin DiAngelo, etc.)

### sowing 'moral panic'

- advocates have accused politicians of ~

#### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ "Moral panics are a way of pushing back against change or reform, a way of preserving the status quo." (According to Sandhya Dirks, who covers race and identity for NPR, about US citizens concerned about crime, and who tend to vote Republican.)

- ♦ "I just think the moral panic that has been induced over some horrific moments—the overreach of protest—it is a manufactured panic." (Eddie Glaude Jr., Princeton University. From "Israel-Hamas war provokes some intense responses on U.S. college campuses," NPR, Morning Edition, Nov. 16, 2023.)

- ♦ "Big Freedia, queen of the New Orleans 'sissy bounce' scene, released her first EP and is bringing her 'go homo' anthems nationwide on a successful tour." (Tavia Nyong'o, professor of performance studies at NYU and blogger at *Hear is Queer*.)

- ♦ "In American history there are these irrational outbursts of moralism, and the death of "Kid" Paret was the occasion for one of these epidemics of piety." (Jack Newfield, boxing journalist, about the calls to ban boxing. From the affecting and emotionally wrenching documentary *Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story* 2005.)

- ♦ "'Petting parties' were neon signposts on the road to perdition." (The 1920s.)

- ♦ "He expects them to be a hit (COO Will Paccione); a first for the house of ill repute; the mother-daughter combination; showing her mother the ropes; I also enjoy the type of work; I couldn't have asked for a better first experience; a mother-daughter tagteam; strong women..." ("North Carolina mom joins daughter to work at notorious Chicken Ranch brothel near Las Vegas" by Lauren Elkie Schram, *The New York Post*, May 18, 2024.)

- ♦ "This Throuple has mastered 'sharing everything'—and they don't care if you think they're 'going straight to hell'" by Adriana Diaz, *The New York Post*, August 7, 2024.)

- ♦ "It's the same moral panic that emerges with new forms of media." (A response to criticism of social media.)

- ♦ "Go Ahead! regardless of the consequences and indifferent to the value of human life." (A diarist in the 1840s about science, technology, and the use of steam for power.)

- ♦ "The 'threat of a jobless future' is, of course, an old one, almost as old as technology. The first, rudimentary knitting machine, known as a 'stocking frame,' was invented in the late sixteenth century by a clergyman named William Lee. Seeking a patent for his invention, Lee demonstrated the machine for Elizabeth I. Concerned about throwing hand-knitters out of work, she refused to grant one. In the early nineteenth century, a more sophisticated version of the stocking frame became the focus of the Luddites' rage; in towns like Liversedge and Middleton, in northern England, textile mills were looted. Parliament responded by declaring 'frame breaking' a capital offense, and the machines kept coming." ("Rage Against the Machine: Will robots take your job?" by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, December 19 & 26, 2016.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ "That's how the press read the signs, too. 'YUPPIES' LAST RITES READIED' was the headline in the *Times* after Black Monday. 'SUNSET FOR YUPPIES' was the headline in *USA Today*. Obituaries for the yuppie began to appear—notably (and strangely unmentioned in McGrath's book), Hendrik Hertzberg's classic 'The Short Happy Life of the American Yuppie,' in *Esquire*. The yuppie, Hertzberg said, was 'the collective projection of a moral anxiety. We loaded onto him everything we hated about the times we had been living through... Then we strung the little bastard up.' It was over." ("What Happened To The Yuppie?" by Louis Menand, *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2024. Great writing.)

- ♦ Rikki Schlott has characterized the upheaval in U.S. society after the 2020 death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement as a "racial moral panic." White Americans made best sellers out of books by Robin DiAngelo and Ibram X Kendi, and educational institutions, corporations, and the government committed to DEI programs. She likens this to "mass hysteria." ("Walmart ditches DEI, because, duh, dividing people doesn't bring them closer together," by Rikki Schlott, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 26, 2024.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ *Fragility* (white fragility, etc.), *moral panic* (noun), *panic* (bisexual panic, etc.), and *phobia* (fatphobia, etc.) are often used by groups with agendas to mischaracterize and disparage their opponents. Of course, this is gaslighting.

- ♦ "Normalize" often goes with "moral panic." They are often opposite sides of the same coin.

- ♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Moral panic." The article says that Stanley Cohen "developed the term." See the Wikipedia article "Stanley Cohen (sociologist)." Make up your own mind about the validity of the term.

- ♦ Wikipedia has an article, "Lavender scare." Wikipedians are wonderful.

- ♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

- ♦ "Anyone who has been alone in the woods on a dark night is aware of the eerie sounds that can be heard. The Greeks thought that these frightening noises were purposely caused by the great god Pan who dwelt in the forest, and his name gave them their phrase to *panikon deima*, 'the panic fear.' So a Wall Street *panic* descends directly from the Greek god Pan." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

- ♦ see also *fragility* (white fragility, etc.), *panic* (bisexual panic, etc.), *phobia* (fatphobia, etc.)

## morass (noun)

### morass of (complicated and conflicting) research

- school officials are confronted with a ~ (education)

### legal morass

- he found himself in a ~

## moribund (adjective)

moribund

the pace of economic growth is ~  
the economy is ~

moribund economy

he should focus on our ~ (politics)

moribund Klan

its marketing exaggerates the threat of the ~ (SPLC)

## Mormon (Mormons of the Middle East)

Mormons of the Middle East

the Druze are the ~

## morning (early in the morning)

early in the morning

but it's ~, at this point... (response to computer virus)

## morning lark (person)

morning larks

~ can and do pair with night owls (sex and sleep)

## morsel (amount)

morsel of hope

he was noncommittal but offered me a ~

## mortal (adjective)

mortal blow

the law would strike a ~ to a system that... (athletics)  
the Supreme Court's decision was a ~ to the union

mortal threat

Pakistan poses a ~ to the security and safety...

## mortally (mortally wounded, etc.)

mortally

Joe Biden is wounded, perhaps ~ so (primary election)

## mortar (noun)

mortar of society

family ties across the generations were the very ~

## mosaic (configuration)

mosaic of seas

the Mediterranean is a ~

mosaic of states

India fell into an anarchic ~

mosaic of tribes

Italy, meanwhile, was still inhabited by a ~

mosaic of lakes, shrub bogs, cypress heads and bays

it was a ~ (the Okefenokee)

part of the (Palestinian) mosaic

Hamas is an integral ~ (PM Mohammad Shtayyeh)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Seas within the Mediterranean Sea include the Alboran Sea, the Ionian Sea, and the Ligurian Sea, as well as the Aegean Sea and the Adriatic Sea. A sea can have a sea!

♦ The Sargasso Sea, a region in the North Atlantic, has no land boundaries.

## mosaic (analysis)

mosaic of evidence

it adds to the overall ~

♦ "Intelligence is a mosaic and sometimes you can fashion things together and get a pretty good picture. Other times, you know that there's [sic] pieces of the puzzle that are missing." (John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications for the National Security Council.)

## Moses (noun)

GOP's Moses

he was hailed as the ~

♦ "[He was] hailed as the GOP's Moses after he led the party out of 40 years in the wilderness of minority status." (Newt Gingrich of Georgia.)

## mosquito (Mosquito Fleet, etc.)

"Mosquito Fleet"

the ~ had command of the lake (Champlain, 1776)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Most of the 25,000 soldiers that Napoleon sent to Haiti to quash the slave rebellion died of malaria. Napoleon had planned to transfer his army from Haiti to New Orleans but he had to abandon that strategy, and sold the Louisiana Territory to the US instead." (*The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf.)

♦ "In those days, you could say, 'Shut up and take it, we're fighting the Japanese.' The Japanese didn't have it, and they were devastated by malaria. You could make a case that atabrine won the war." (Col. Alan J. Magill, speaking about World War II. The atabrine turned the skin yellow.)

♦ "We are fighting malaria as we are fighting the Maoist rebels. The mosquitoes are deadlier than the Maoists since we are more vulnerable to their attacks. Mosquitoes are killing more security forces than the rebels." (Akhileshwar Pandey, president of the Jharkhand police association, on the deaths of more than 100 policemen and soldiers from cerebral malaria. The police and paramilitary forces are stationed in forest camps.)

\*\*\* Battista Grassi...

♦ "Anopheles claviger! This became the slogan of Battista Grassi. You can see him, shuffling along behind lovers in the dusk, making fists of his fingers to keep himself from pouncing on the zanzarone who made meals off their regardless necks... You can see this Grassi, sitting in a stagecoach with no springs, oblivious to bumps, deaf to the chatter of his fellow-passengers, with absent eyes counting the Anopheles claviger he had discovered—with delight—riding on the ceiling of the wagon in which he journeyed from one utterly terrible little malarious village to another still more cursed." (Grassi did what Ross and Koch couldn't: prove that malaria is passed from man to man by the bite of a mosquito that the locals called zanzarone and that naturalists called Anopheles claviger. From *Microbe Hunters* by Paul De Kruif.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A Japanese man burned his house down while trying to kill a mosquito."

## moth (a moth to a flame, etc.)

flame to (a good many) moths

he was certainly a candle ~ (Lord Byron and women)



## mothball (verb)

mothball the aircraft carriers  
some wanted to ~ (because of high cost / Britain)

mothballed (many of their) aircraft  
airlines have ~ (COVID pandemic)

## mothballed

mothballed  
why some finished films are ~ (not released)

mothballed in a bureaucratic post  
he was ~ and rarely heard from again

mothballed, refitted and recommissioned  
they can be ~ (Navy ships)

♦ Abandon; ax; call off; cancel; mothball; scrap; shelve; withhold...  
("Warner Bros. shelved 'Coyote vs. Acme.' Here's why some finished films are mothballed" by Joe Hernandez, NPR, March 7, 2024. Films that cost \$70 million and even \$90 million to make have suffered this fate.)

## mother (mother's milk)

mother's milk of politics  
money is the ~

## mother (mother ship, etc.)

mother cloud  
a funnel cloud reaches down from the ~ (tornado)

mother ship  
divers on tethers to their ~  
their orbiting ~ (above asteroid)  
refueling, resupplying with the help of tenders and ~s  
pirates operating from a ~ off the Somali coast  
this submarine and its ~ (DSSV Pressure Drop)  
drug smugglers use semisubmersibles to meet a ~

♦ "I am so grateful to all my colleagues at the mothership." (NPR's "Morning Edition" co-host Rachel Martin.)

## mother (mother of all battles, etc.)

mother of all airports  
architect Norman Foster dubbed Tempelhof "the ~"  
(Berlin)

mother of all battles  
Saddam promised the ~ (Gulf War)

"mother of all biases"  
overconfidence is often known as the ~ (psychology)

"mother of All News Conferences"  
it has become known as the ~ (Gen. Schwarzkopf / 1991)

mother of all (oil and gas) companies  
this is the absolute ~ (Saudi Aramco)

mother of all databases  
the Database of Diverse Databases is the ~ (media / DEI)

Mother of all Rivers  
our own Yukon, the ~

mother of all short squeezes

Carl Ichan warned against the "~~"

mother of all thumpings  
Hamas will now take the ~ (Israel-Hamas war)

♦ "Having chosen to hold on to our women, Hamas will now take the mother of all thumpings." (An Israeli government spokesman, about the Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ Harry Dent anticipates a collapse of the "bubble of all bubbles" in 2025.

\*\*\* "At Um el Surab..."

♦ "We perceived a single Bedawi, running southward all in a flutter, his grey hair and grey beard flying in the wind, who yelled 'The biggest aeroplane in the world...' At Um el Surab the Handley stood majestic on the grass, with Bristols and 9's like fledglings beneath its spread of wings. Round it admired the Arabs, saying, 'Indeed and at last they have sent us THE aeroplane, of which these things were foals.'" (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Book X, Chapter CXIV, by T.E. Lawrence.)

♦ "All were on foot, with the exception of a few gentlemen, about fifty in number; and they possessed but one piece of artillery—an old iron cannon, drawn by a string of ponies. For any military purposes it was useless, and it was only employed as a signal gun; but it accompanied the march in deference to the superstitious ideas of the Highlanders, who, being but little accustomed to cannon, attached great importance to the possession of 'the musket's mother,' as they called it. Many of the Highlanders were armed only with scythes or pitchforks." (Prestonpans. From *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

## mother (mother of NPR, etc.)

Mother of Israel  
Jews for centuries referred to Salonika as "the ~"

mother of invention  
if necessity is the ~, discontent is the father of progress

mother of (all) learning  
repetition is the ~

mother of machines  
the clock was destined to be the ~ (scientific instruments)

mother of NPR  
Cokie Roberts, a founding ~

mother of telenovelas  
Delia Fiallo, known as the ~, dies at 96 (NPR)

founding mothers  
the ~ of NPR (Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie)

♦ "Henrietta Lacks: 'Mother' of modern medicine honoured," BBC.

♦ see also *father* (*father of India, etc.*)

## mother (mother earth, etc.)

Mother Russia  
the annexation returned the Crimea to ~

mother earth  
care for our ~

considered as our mother  
in Bangladesh, the river is ~ (has human legal status)

♦ The Mississippi River is referred to as "The Father of Waters." The Mekong River, on the other hand, essentially means, "Mother of Rivers."

## mother (earth mother)

earth mother

the no-bra, hairy-underarm ~ (1970s California)

## mother (Mother Nature)

Mother Nature

~ didn't cooperate (Winter Olympics weather)  
~ had other ideas (concerning explorer's planned trip)  
~ makes smart critters (salmon head upstream, etc.)  
let ~ take her course (a sick animal)

at the mercy of Mother Nature

we're ~ right now (wildfire / town)  
we are still ~ with her winds (California wildfires)

Mother Nature smiled

I think today ~ on us (NASA launch)

Mother Nature is finally starting to smile

~ on the Winter Olympics

depends on Mother Nature

so much of surfing ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Mother Nature is unpredictable."

## mother (Mother Mountain, etc.)

Mother Mountain

Sam Ahkeah says that it is the ~ near Taos

Mother and Child

the ~ are peaks in Vietnam

## mother (den mother, etc.)

den mother

she is a natural ~  
the "~" of Yorkville, singer Vicky Taylor (*Girls Like Us*)  
Eye's rock scene ~, the charismatic Lillian Roxon...

den mother to Canada's folk community

she was a ~ (Estelle Klein)

stage mother

I'm not a pushy ~

leaned on to be a 'den mother'

42% of women feel they are ~ (Portland women in tech)

## mother hen

mother hen to them

I was like a ~, I was like big sister (to skateboarders)

mother-hen

her ~ efforts were in her daughter's best interests

♦ "She was the mother hen of the station. She was always looking out for everybody. She was always there." (Bereft colleagues of Lt. Alison Russo-Elling of EMS Station 49 in Astoria, Queens.)

♦ "Miss Minnie Vautrin. A proper lady to the core. She believes in her girls and guards them the way a hen guards her chicks. I shall never forget her..." (From the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*. Read the Wikipedia article "Minnie Vautrin.")

## mother lode

mother lode

the ~, the jackpot, Valhalla (88th episode of show)

hit the mother lode

we ~ (information in archive)

## motherly (adjective)

motherly figure

she can't physically have a baby but she is a ~

## Mother Teresa (epithet)

Mother Theresa of pro athletes

Ed Butowsky is the ~ (free financial literacy advice)

"Mother Teresa" of her community

a woman known as the ~ (Bea Gaddy / East Baltimore)

Mother Teresa of Somalia

Abdi has been nicknamed "the ~" (Dr. Hawa Abdi / doctor)

♦ The beloved Mother Teresa is associated with India and Calcutta. She was ethnic Albanian and a beloved figure in the Balkans, especially Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia.

## mother tongue

mother tongue

hyperbole is his ~ (a politician)  
his ~ is Yoruba

in their mother tongues

users all over the world post content ~ (translation)

speak Chinese as their mother tongue

over a billion people ~

speak English as their mother tongue

372 million people ~

translate from their mother tongue

students who need to ~ to English

## motor (driving force)

non-stop motor

he had a ~ and a no-quit attitude (an athlete)

## motormouth (person / speech)

motormouth tormentor

his ~ (the boxer Jerrell "Big Baby" Miller)

this motormouth

then a long pause—rare for ~ (a "ranter")

♦ "He broke through his motormouth tormentor." (Daniel Dubois beats Jerrell "Big Baby" Miller at the Day of Reckoning boxing event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Super!)

## mount (verb)

bloodshed mounted

the ~ on both sides (gang violence)

concerns (over data security) mount

as ~ (Internet)

costs mounted

his ~ and mounted some more (bankruptcy)

losses are mounting

livestock ~ (blizzards in Colorado / especially cattle)

pressure is mounting

the ~

outrage is mounting

~ over the security guard who...

death toll mounted

the pandemic worsened and the ~

continued to mount

heat-related deaths ~

## mountain (at the top of the mountain)

at the top of the (boxing) mountain

he has reclaimed his place back ~ (Tyson Fury)

## mountain (difficulty)

mountain

you can move ~s if you put your mind to it

psychological mountain

he now has a ~ to climb (young boxer quits in ring)

steep mountain

the team has a ~ to climb

move mountains

they will ~ for you (coach about his players)

moved mountains

we asked for support and he ~ to provide it

♦ "Enjoy [your unbeaten streak]—the emotion of getting to the top of the mountain—because you can't duplicate that. It's a lot tougher to stay on the mountain than it is to climb it." (Ara Parseghian's advice to Tyrone Willingham.)

\*\*\* **"Don't take a camera and don't post about it on Facebook..."**

♦ "After the Roc Noir, I had the feeling of closing a door behind me. I was entering another world. I was far from the world of the living. I had never had this feeling on any other mountain." (Jean-Christophe Lafaille on the east ridge of Annapurna in 2002.)

♦ "We can control our heartbeat, which in cold, drawn-out bivouacs is preferably as slow as possible. It is necessary to disconnect the arms and the legs and draw most of one's blood into the core of the body and the head. We switch to other dimensions. We become insensitive to pain, cold, wind, homesickness, thirst, hunger. Instead of having dinner we separate from the physical world. But the further you go into the world where there are no reasons or consequences, points of the compass, time points like yesterday or today, where you only are—the harder it is to return. The reentry into the body is usually accompanied by pain." (*No Impossible Ways* by the great Slovenian climber Tomaz Humar.)

♦ "Don't take a camera, and don't post about it on Facebook—just climb a hill or do a walk, and keep the experience for yourself." (Stein P Aasheim, Norway. In 1985 he climbed with Sir Chris Bonington to the top of Everest. From "Finding 'friluftsliv' in Norway, by Tim Moore, BBC, 23 August 2011. One in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

♦ "Burn your TV, fill your pockets with chocolate and ham, and go for a big walk." (A Norwegian.)

♦ "Evenings spent in a mountain hut are among the most sublime and intense that life holds." ("Bear Meat" by Primo Levi.)

♦ "There are two kinds of climbers. Those who climb because their heart sings when they're in the mountains, and all the rest." (Alex Lowe.)

## mountain (amount)

mountain of cocaine

he has done a ~ (a troubled celebrity)

mountain of criticism

she was subjected to a ~ (a tennis star)

mountain of data

the newspaper had to sort, search and understand a ~

mountains of data

sift through ~

mountain of debris

people trapped under a ~ (building collapse)

mountain of debt

they were buried under a huge ~

mountains of disagreement

negotiators tried to scale ~ (G-20)

mountain of evidence

police have a ~ and a statement (murderer)

mountains of garbage

neighborhoods here are ringed by ~ (Luanda)

mountain of paperwork

Brexit has created a ~ for wine importers

mountain of (new) paperwork

a ~ will be required from today (Brexit)

mountains of paperwork

the ~ take up so much time that... (Sudan aid)

mountains of refuse

~ filled the streets (Athens)

mountain of research

a ~ shows that...

mountains of waste

~, public nudity, drunkenness, drugs (biker rally)

mountain of (coal) waste

a ~, now 50 stories high (Shanxi Province)

man-made mountain

a ~

data mountain

no such ~ exists for low-resource languages (translation)

♦ "There would need to be a Mt. Everest of evidence to get them to change their minds." (Politicians.)

♦ "I have long believed—supported by Everests of evidence—that..." (Hillary Rodham Clinton. Is one Everest not enough? Apparently not, in the United States' attention economy.)

## mountainous (adjective)

mountainous seas

~ threatened to dash them against the rocks (sailing)

Cape Horn, with its ~

mountainous waves

~ crashed against the headlands (Pillar Point)

~ overturned ocean-going freighters (typhoon / Japan)

## Mount Everest (and Everest)

Everest

"Ulysses" was an ~ no filmmaker dared assault

Everest of jump sites

El Capitan is the ~ (BASE jumping)

Everest of the Seas

the race is known as the "~~" (Vendee Globe)

Mt. Everest of the gene therapy community

it was the ~ (Muscular Dystrophy cure)

Mt. Everest of surfing

Hawaii's Waimea Bay, the ~

Mount Everest of wreck diving

the Andrea Doria is considered the ~

Mount Everest of surfing waves

Pipeline is the ~ (North Shore of Oahu)

Mount Everest of the yachting universe

Cape Horn is regarded as the ~

motorcycling's Mt. Everest

the Isle of Man TT is ~, it can be thrilling, fatal

my Everest

beating Klitschko was ~ (the boxer Tyson Fury)

regarded as the Mount Everest

Cape Horn is ~ of the yachting universe

♦ "It's really the center of the surfing universe. It's like Mount Everest for surfers everywhere. And Pipeline is really the wave one needs to come to terms with as a surfer in order to be considered a great surfer." (Shaun Tomson.)

\*\*\* "It's all bullshit on Everest these days..."

♦ "Once they're finished, the outdoors will be a more inclusive place, according to their GoFundMe page." ("A mountaineering group is aiming to be the 1st all-Black team to climb Mount Everest" by Sharon Pruitt-Young, NPR, October 9, 2021.)

♦ "There is a lack of representation of Black people in mountaineering and in high-altitude mountaineering." (Philip Henderson, leader of the Team Full Circle Everest, an American / Kenyan group, in 2022. Ten Black climbers had previously accomplished the feat.)

♦ "It's all bullshit on Everest these days." (Sir Edmund Hillary in an interview with *The Guardian* in 2003. And it just gets deeper every year.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This usage may become extinct in our lifetime. I hope so. There is absolutely nothing grand about Mount Everest anymore. And every year the mountain gets more and more degraded by the people swarming up it.

## mounting

mounting (medical) bills

he needs to protect himself from ~

mounting concern

in response to ~ over...

mounting criticism

he had to address the ~

mounting debt

a network of lies and ~s

mounting (public and congressional) doubts

there are ~ about the war

mounting evidence

~ suggests that...

mounting pile

a ~ of invitations

mounting scandal

a ~ over accusations that... (church)

## Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore of heavyweights

if there were a ~, it would have the likenesses of...

Mount Rushmore of country music

they were "the ~" (Johnny, Waylon, Willie, and Kris)

on my Mount Rushmore

~ is Christopher Guest from "Spinal Tap" (Kyle Gordon)

on our Mount Rushmore

he's ~ (Rocky Marciano / Italian athletes)

on the Mount Rushmore of defensive tackles

he's the number one ~ (Aaron Donald / LA Rams)

♦ "The staff refers to the mural as 'Mount Funkmore.'" (A wonderful mural that features the faces of performers such as Isaac Hayes, Sly Stone, James Brown, Prince, Roger Troutman, etc. Listen to "Funk Carves Out A Groove At The Funk Music Hall of Fame in Ohio," NPR, Morning Edition, January 10, 2018, read by Rachel Martin. The Funk Music HOF is in Dayton, Ohio, "the funkier place on Earth." As a bonus, the episode includes a song list with snippets of songs. Papa's Got A Brand New Bag!)

♦ "I mean, it's amazing. Bo Burnham is another person I love. I have tons of respect for all those people. I would say on my Mount Rushmore is Christopher Guest from "Spinal Tap" and "A Mighty Wind," all those movies where he would do straight genre parodies..." (Kyle Gordon speaks to Sophia Scorziello about his hit song "Planet of the Bass" and his upcoming album. *Variety* magazine.)

\*\*\* Johnny, Waylon, Willie, and Kris...

♦ Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, and Kris Kristofferson have been referred to as "The Mount Rushmore of Country Music." Watch: The Highwaymen—Highwayman (American outlaws: Live at Nassau Coliseum, 1990. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMdeg-WKt1U>)

## mouse (size)

mouse lemur

~s are the planet's smallest primates (Madagascar)

## mouse (cat and mouse)

see *game (game of cat and mouse)*

## mouth (entrance)

mouth of the Bosphorus

ferries chug up into the ~ (Istanbul)

mouth of the Gulf of Aden

Socotra, the main island at the ~

mouth of the Persian Gulf  
the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow ~

mouth of a cave  
8 Delacour's langurs scampered into the ~ (Vietnam)

mouth of the cave  
piles of breakdown at the ~

mouths of both the (Missouri and Ohio) Rivers  
they passed the ~ (Joliet and Marquette)

mouth of a (hanging) valley  
the ~ generally discharges a waterfall

tunnel's mouth  
his office at the ~ (Mont Blanc)

cave mouth  
salamanders also live under rocks near ~s

goal mouth  
moving quickly from post to post in the ~ (ice hockey)

river mouth  
sea snakes can be found near ~s

### **mouth (both sides of one's mouth)**

speaks out of both sides of his mouth  
he ~

♦ "You're speaking out of both sides of your mouth." (Defending and condemning.)

### **mouth (run one's mouth)**

runs his mouth too much  
sometimes he ~ (an NBA player)

### **mouth (foam at the mouth)**

foaming at the (digital) mouth  
the internet seemed to be ~ for a scandal (lesbians)

### **mouthpiece (person)**

mouthpiece for the British government  
she believes the BBC is a ~

Party mouthpiece  
control of the ~, *Pravda*... (Russia)

loyal mouthpiece  
she was a ~ (president's press secretary)

### **mouthwatering (adjective)**

mouth-watering (all-British) clash  
it could be a ~ (Fury vs. Whyte / boxing)

mouth-watering prospect  
the fight was a ~ for boxing fans  
the meeting of England and Germany in the final is a ~

looks mouth-watering  
a bout at a catchweight ~ (boxing)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone's mouth waters in anticipation.)

### **mouthy (adjective)**

mouthy  
he's ~

### **move (not move an inch, etc.)**

move an inch  
I wouldn't ~ (negotiations)

### **move (take action)**

move on this  
gentlemen, we need to ~ (reaction to plot)

move aggressively  
many universities felt they had to ~ (online education)

moves slowly  
bureaucracy ~

got to move  
we've ~ (act)

### **move (direction)**

moving in a different direction  
we're ~ (an investigation)

move in that direction  
it is in everyone's interest to ~ (diplomacy)

moving in a different direction  
we're ~ (an investigation)

move in that direction  
it is in everyone's interest to ~ (diplomacy)

### **move (progress)**

moved beyond race  
America has largely ~ (opinion)

move forward  
we can't ~ until you send your answers back (US census)

moving forward  
things are ~ and they're moving quickly (many projects)  
we are ~ with solutions on many issues (politics)

moving a little too fast  
maybe we've been ~ (relationship)

### **move (chess move, etc.)**

chess moves  
with a couple of ~, the CIA changed Iran's history (1953)

move towards authoritarianism  
critics called the vote a ~ (Hugo Chávez)

career move  
one of the best ~s I ever made

genius move  
playing that card was no ~ (father's influence)

career-ending move  
it was considered a ~

unprecedented move

in an ~...

get-tough move

in the latest ~

bold move

it was regarded as an unusually ~

dangerous move

it was a politically bold and ~ (gay marriage)

extraordinary move

removing a commander in combat is an ~

latest (get-tough) move

in the ~

next move

commanders have been forced to rethink their ~  
now we await the ~ from House Democrats (politics)  
what is our ~ (an investigation)

poor political move

this is a ~ (Republicans)

risky move

he testified in his own defense, a potentially ~ (trial)

smart move

it's just not a ~ (celebration resulting in a penalty)

strategic move

this was a ~ (an airline merger)

## **move (move up)**

moving up in the world

he is ~ (affluence, power)

move up the (beauty-pageant) ladder

she began to ~

move up the (economic) ladder

the play chronicles the struggles of a family to ~

move up the ranks

workers who want to ~

## **movement (progress)**

little movement

there has been ~ in the negotiations

## **move on (resiliency)**

move on

let's just ~ (end of a relationship)  
we've got to ~ (put the church controversy behind)  
we need to close the book on this and ~  
we want to close this dark chapter of our history and ~  
it's time to put this behind us and ~ (Muller report)  
the artist in me needed to ~ (from a successful TV series)

moved on

Nina had ~ (after end of relationship)

move on with your life

you need to ~ (encouragement)

move on with our lives

we've got to put this behind us and ~ (disaster)

move on from it

if I hold on to that, I'll never be able to ~ (boxer / defeat)

"moved on" from 2015

the science has ~ (a sports issue)

forget the past and move on

it's time to ~

♦ "We should move on, we should leave the past behind. Not forget it, but just leave it behind... Not forgetting, it doesn't mean not cooperating with you or not working with you or anything... You have never been damaged by us, that's why you never will know what is the feeling... It's not about you." (Twenty-year-old Arian speaking with 16-year-old Selena on the bridge over the Ibar that separates their two communities in Mitrovica, Kosovo.)

♦ "Eighty years on, how should the desire to move on be balanced with the need to remember?" ("Ukraine's forgotten 'Holocaust by Bullets,' BBC, 27 Sept 2021.)

♦ "We're all about forgiving and forgetting, we'd be so happy to move on." (Family problems.)

♦ "She said she wanted to move on but is going backward." (An online commenter about the Heard vs. Depp celebrity trial.)

## **move on (change the subject, etc.)**

move on to other areas

I'm going to ~ that need discussion

move on to a different story

let me ~ (ABC news interview)

## **move on (development)**

move on

of course, the rest of the world might ~ (legacy tech)

moved on

civil rights have ~ (to equity ideology)

## **move on (time has moved on, etc.)**

time had moved on

but the world had changed, and ~

## **movie (we've seen this movie)**

we've seen this movie before

~, Congress is barreling towards a government shutdown

## **Mozart (Mozart of Rock, etc.)**

Mozart of Basketball

Drazen Petrovic, AKA "the ~"

'Mozart of rock'

tributes paid to ~ Eddie Van Halen

hard-rock's Mozart

~, Eddie Van Halen

## **much (sarcasm)**

bias much?

NBC isn't covering the Hunter Biden story, ~

double standard much?

if whites did this, blacks would be outraged, ~



derange [sic] much

Holy cow Matt, ~ (an online commenter)

disingenuous, much

~ (said about the writer Omid Scobie)

hypocrite much

yet she takes the money, ~

Sour Grapes much?

~ (soccer snark)

TDS at NPR, much?

~ (Trump Derangement Syndrome / National Public Radio)

♦ "yet she has no problems using money from a system she despises, hypocrite much?" (A commenter about a "woke" celebrity.)

♦ "I've never used the R-word, and neither does the book." (Omid Scobie, author of *Endgame*. "Race." Disingenuous, much?)

♦ "NBC isn't covering the Hunter Biden story that is going on in Arkansas? Bias much?"

## mud (drag something through the mud)

dragged the city's reputation through the mud

he has ~ (false allegation of hate crime)

## mud (dragged through the mud)

dragged through the mud

the doctors in the case have been ~ (criticism)

getting dragged through the mud

my name is ~ (suspicion of sports doping)

## mud (sink in the mud)

mud of defeat

the US is sinking into the ~ (Iraqi spokesman on war)

sinking into the mud

the US is ~ of defeat (Iraqi spokesman on war)

## mud (in the mud)

in the mud

we're all ~ and have to get dirty (intelligence)

♦ "You cannot catch rats without going into the sewers." (A spy for Britain.)

## mudslinging (noun)

mudslinging

they both seem to prefer ~ (politicians)

mudslinging between rival factions

~ is being waged out in the open (catholic church)

political mud-slinging

this is not the time for ~ (Afghan withdrawal)

name-calling and mud-slinging

~ (politicians)

♦ "[Ms. Heard] slings an exceptional amount of mud at the wall in the hope that something might stick." (Johnny Depp's attorneys. "This seems to combine *mudslinging* and *wall (throw something at a wall, etc.)*."

## muffled

muffled

Australia's conversation has been ~ by defamation laws (sex abuse)

## mugged (mugged by the officials, etc.)

mugged by the officials

City were ~ (a disgruntled Manchester City fan)

mugged by reality

when young people grow up and get ~

## Muhammad Ali (Muhammad Ali of her generation, etc.)

Muhammed Ali of her generation

Megan Rapinoe is the ~

her generation's Muhammad Ali

Megan Rapinoe is ~

younger generation's Muhammad Ali

Nike supports the ~ (Colin Kaepernick)

## mule (drug mule, etc.)

mule profile

he fit the ~ (busted drug courier at airport)

ballot mules

~ deliver fraudulent ballots to drop boxes (US)

drug mule

Iranian ~s fly into Dubai every few months

money mule

authorities ran ~'s names against JPay records (scam)

more than 12m moved by Irish ~s

\*\*\* "The Erie Canal Song" ...

♦ "I've got an old mule and her name is Sal, / Fifteen years on the Erie Canal..." (A song *all* American children once learned in music-appreciation class in grade school. Nowadays they have Young Adult Literature.)

♦ "The organization was on the same lines as the previous expedition, only I took mules instead of horses. They stand the mountain tracks better, as they are harder in the hoof and not so particular about their feed, but are easily bogged in swamps..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "Making our way through the submerged forest was no easy job. The mules sank up to their knees in the mud, fell into deep holes, and exhausted themselves. / It was not till dusk that we managed to reach the hills on the right side of the valley. The mules were dead beat, but the men were still more tired." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "A certain driver, who was driving six mules with a single line, was whipping and cursing away 'like sixty,' as the saying is, when a lean, long-necked minister came along, on a horse covered with cooking utensils and stores. The minister, feeling it his duty, called out: / 'Young man, do you know who made you?' / 'What?' said the driver, stopping a moment from his whipping and cursing. / 'Do you know who made you?' repeated the minister, this time in a very loud voice. / 'Oh!' said the driver, 'this is no time for conundrums!' / And lifting his great army whip, he struck the leading mule on the ear with a snap that sent the blood flying. / 'Go on there!' he cried, 'you cursed descendant of Pluto!' / He had heard some one say Pluto, and he thought it must mean some very bad beast—bad enough to be the

origin of mules. Anyhow, the minister retired." (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. The U.S. Civil War.)

♦ "When the mountain fighting in Italy first started to get tough, and it was impossible for trucks or jeeps to bring food, water, and ammo up the mountain trails, mule companies were mustered and calls for experienced mule skinnners went out through the divisions. Mules were sought out and bought from farmers. They carried supplies to army soldiers who hadn't seen a jeep for weeks. Many of them were undoubtedly blood relatives of the beloved Maggie of World War I who had been left overseas after she kicked hell out of her regimental commander to the delight on one and all. / It would have gladdened the hearts of those old soldiers at home, who were convinced that this new army was going crazy with newfangled inventions, to see long columns of balky mules being cajoled and threatened up the trails by their bearded, swearing, sweating skinnners." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II.)

♦ Compilers note: My grandfather was scouted by the Detroit Tigers as a very good, strong left-handed pitcher. But that was before World War I began and my grandfather enlisted in the Army. A think that struck him when his troopship landed in France was seeing Vietnamese coolies unloading ships. During the war, he served as a muleteer, driving the mules that hauled the artillery to the front. He was gassed and sent home. Back home, he suffered the health problems that veterans of World War I combat typically suffered, including circulatory problems that affected his feet for the rest of his life. Somehow, he managed to convince the local draft board to sign him up for World War II. He actually met his son—my father—in New York City. Grandpa was in an Army uniform; my Dad wore a Navy uniform. They had a drink together at some bar in New York City. Before my grandpa could go overseas, however, he was caught out for his age and his health and discharged. This might have been a mistake on the part of the Army for, as things turned out, the Army needed muleskinners during the long, tough slog up the Italian Peninsula. I learned about World War II and geography in the 1960s from scrapbooks he had in his shack. And Grandpa always listened to Detroit Tigers games on the radio—generally cursing under his breath so as not to corrupt me or my little brother Dave—right up to the time of his death.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ About Maggie the World War I Mule, search the internet, and you will find the following note: "On a monument to a wartime mule. / In memory of Maggie who in her time kicked / 2 colonels / 4 majors / 10 captains / 24 lieutenants / 42 sergeants / 423 other ranks / and one mills bomb."

♦ "There is no education in the second kick of a mule."

## mule-headed

mule-headed

he is ~ (stubborn)

♦ "He was a mulishly unwilling subject." (The artist Winslow Homer, known as the 'Obtuse Bard.' He refused to talk about art, and wrote little about his life.)

## multiplier (force multiplier)

force multiplier

content farms are nothing new but ChatGPT is a ~  
embracing collaborations is a ~ (Nancy Barnes)

force multiplier for delivering

embracing collaborations is a ~ top-notch journalism

acts as a force multiplier

Fox TV ~ for President Trump

♦ "What are called UAVs or AUVs, autonomous vehicle systems. That's what's going to be the force multiplier, that's what's going to accelerate everything... I envy the generation in middle school right now. I'm gonna be eclipsed by some kid in eighth grade that's going to have the technologies to do a thousand times more exploration than I have been able to do because of the advent of new technologies where they don't have to physically do it..." (Robert "Bob" Ballard.)

♦ "Embracing collaborations...is critical to our shared success, and a *force multiplier* [italics mine] for delivering top-notch journalism across the country." (Senior Vice President of News and Editorial Director Nancy Barnes.)

## multipronged

multipronged approach

we need a ~ to containing COVID-19

multipronged effort

this is a ~

multipronged scheme

the suit claims the pair of companies carried out a ~

## multiverse (noun)

multiverse

~s are having something of a moment

multiverse of roads not taken

there's a ~ in *Everything Everywhere All At Once*

*Multiverse of Madness*

*Doctor Strange in the ~* is a formulaic corporate slog

multiverse movie

it's refreshing to get a new ~ (Michele Yeoh)

through this multiverse

she embodies alternate versions of her life ~ (a film)

enters a multiverse

Evelyn ~ of alt-Evelyns

♦ "I felt it was so important for someone like that to be given a voice and then to be shown that she is actually a superheroine..." (Actor Michelle Yeoh about her character in *Everything Everywhere All At Once*. From "Actor Michelle Yeoh wants to change the way we think of superheroes," NPR, Fresh Air, April 25, 2022.)

♦ "Yooo, that Liam Neeson scene is sending me. Is this a confessional? #AtlantaFX be on some multiverse shit." (A tweet.)

♦ see also *verse* (*metaverse*, etc.)

## murder (verb)

murdered

squatting next to a bear you just ~ is such a weird flex

murdered the sports desk

he ~ (a disgruntled employee / *New York Times*)

murder memory

they've being trying to ~ (overwrought politics)

♦ "The most recent thing on his track record is he murdered the sports desk," fumed another *Times* employee." (A disgruntled employee at *The New York Times* about AG Sulzberger, who outsourced the sports desk in 2023.)

♦ "It is one of the most famous murders in the history of cinema. A mother and her child are out for a walk, on the first warm day after a bitter winter. Beguiled by the changing weather, we do not see the danger coming. In fact, we never see it at all, because the man with the gun remains offscreen... / The film in question is, of course, the 1942 Walt Disney classic 'Bambi.'" ("Eat Prey Love: The unsettling book behind a classic children's movie" by Kathryn Schulz, *The New Yorker*, January 24, 2022.)

♦ "Kostis was executed at close range with a spear gun." (A Mediterranean monk seal.)

♦ Meat Is Murder. (A protest sign help up by a vegan.)

## murdered

murdered by the state of Missouri  
poet and activist Marcellis Williams was ~

## murderer (shame is a murderer, etc.)

murderer  
shame is a ~

trophy murderers  
big, brave “hunters” and ~ (a wildlife activist)

♦ “Shame. You know, shame is a silencer. Shame is a killer. Shame is a murderer... I had nothing but shame in my entire life.” (The actor Billy Porter.)

## murderous (murderous hail of bullets, etc.)

murderous footsteps  
he is determined his son will not follow in his ~

murderous hail  
the Turks loosed a ~ of bullets (Gallipoli)

murderous microbes  
the way our bodies fight off ~

## murk (in / amid the murk)

amid the murk  
it's hard to find clarity ~

in the murk of the conflict  
he is a beacon of moral truth ~ (Middle East)

in the murk of history  
he is a shadowy figure lost ~

in the murk of the situation  
I got lost ~

## murk (other)

murk and mistrust  
amid an atmosphere of ~

cultural and political murk  
investigators have been slowed by the ~ (Middle East)

♦ “Any clarity that Kuryakov's solution might have brought was quickly occluded amid an atmosphere of murk and mistrust.” (“Cold Case: A new solution to the mystery at Dead Mountain” by Douglas Preston, *The New Yorker*, May 17, 2021.)

## murky (adjective)

murky problem  
what to do with pirates has become a ~ (Somalia)

murkier question  
the ~ of whether there are other factors at play...

murky world  
foreign women working in the ~ of the bar trade (Japan)

still murky  
exactly what happened is ~

remain murky

though the facts ~... (criminal case)

remains murky  
even now, the source of the problems ~

♦ “The stream is very murky from the very top.” (Afghanistan. Meaning the generals / high officials are involved in corruption and bad dealings.)

## muscle (political muscle, etc.)

muscle of the operation  
a guy I thought might be the ~ (drugs)

muscle-flexing  
~ by Pakistan's armed forces

litigation muscles  
the music corporation has flexed its ~ (copyright lawsuit)

geopolitical muscle  
Iran is increasingly flexing its ~s

political muscle  
the Eastern Band has visibly flexed its ~ (Cherokee)  
they use their ~ to scare Republicans

economic and political muscle  
unions once had ~

new genre muscles  
it's a chance to flex ~ (review of a filmmaker's new film)

flex its muscles  
North Korea might ~

flexing its muscles  
the religious right is ~ in the corridors of power  
Saudi Arabia is ~ in the oil market

flexing its (geopolitical) muscles  
Iran is increasingly ~

flexing their muscles  
California politicians are ~ on the national stage

♦ You got so many kids out here acting crazy, wanting to flex some muscle. They don't have respect for life.” (A South Los Angeles resident, commenting on a spate of gang killings.)

## muscle (muscle its way through, etc.)

muscled its way through the Midwest  
the storm ~ (tornadoes and rain)

## muscular (adjective)

muscular response  
we need to have a ~ (impeachment politics)  
why have such a ~ (measures against pandemic)

## muse (person)

muse  
she was his ~, model and co-conspirator (Wendy Whiteley)

muse and doormat  
the muddy line between ~ (Broadway)

two muses

the film brings together his ~, De Niro and DiCaprio

## **museum (noun)**

museum of agriculture

the EU is a ~ (according to US ambassador)

museum piece

it's a theatrical ~, dusty and creaky (*Plaza Suite*)

belong in a museum

they ~ now (Pele, Maradona, versus Ronaldo)

## **mushroom (verb)**

mushroom into a (strategic) blunder

this is a tactical mistake that will ~ (a company's decision)

mushroomed in Zambia

anti-Chinese sentiment has ~ since 2005

mushroomed along the coast

resorts and hotels ~ (Negombo)

mushroom out of the piles

jerry-built shacks ~ of rubble (Tokyo, 1947)

audience mushroomed

his audience ~ (Alex Jones, conspiracy theorist)

\*\*\* **The mushrooms in Asheville, North Carolina...**

♦ In Asheville, North Carolina, mushrooms truly DO mushroom after a period of rainy, damp weather. They spring up in patches, can be quite colorful, and some of them can be quite large.

## **mushroom (shape)**

mushroom cloud

the blast sent a huge ~ into the sky (Beirut 2020)

## **music (face the music)**

face the music from audiences

the film finally streams on Netflix to ~

## **musical chairs**

musical chairs at the Justice Department

~ (acting attorney general due to be replaced)

game of music-show chairs

the game of ~ may not be over (BBC Radio 2)

game of musical chairs

it's a ~, you have to be ready when the music stops (stocks)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

## **mustang (noun)**

mustang

a “~” is an officer who began as an enlisted man

Mustang program

the ~ lets people forgo the Foreign Service Officer test

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ In the military, a “mustang” is a commissioned officer who began his career as an enlisted man. Such men are prized.

♦ MUSTANG, n. An indocile horse of the western plains. In English society, the American wife of an English nobleman. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce. Mmmm. This old definition seems very d'aujourd'hui...)

♦ see also *maverick* (noun)

## **muster (pass muster)**

passes (constitutional) muster

a judge will decide if the law ~

## **muster (muster courage, etc.)**

muster the courage

republicans must ~ to stand up

## **must-have (noun)**

must-have

trees are a ~ in city budgets (environmentalists)

## **mutate (verb)**

mutated into a metaphor

as its use ~ (the word *weaponize*)

## **mute (speech)**

mute

he remained ~

people die every day and the gun industry is ~

♦ “People die every day and the gun industry is mute.”

♦ see also *crickets* (silence), *silence* (society's silence, etc.)

## **mutilate (verb)**

mutilated the truth with selective and deceptive sources

she consistently ~ (Naomi Wolf)

## **mutineer (person)**

selfish, mutineer

he dealt with ~ Renaldo (ETH at Man U)

## **mutinous (adjective)**

mutinous Democrats

Hillary Clinton warns ~ that they can't force Biden out

mutinous homeowners

~ are trying to secede from the town

mutinous mood

workers are in a ~

mutinous rumblings

there were ~...

mutinous tendencies

certain star players with ~ (NBA / new rules)

## **mutiny (noun)**

mutiny against her teachers

the 9-year-old girl contacted Johnny Depp to lead a ~

mutiny among (federal) judges

the verdict is so outrageous that it has produced a ~

mutiny among taxpayers

high taxes set off a ~

World Cup mutiny

Anelka was involved in the ~ (against the coach)

cabinet mutiny

Johnson digs in amid growing ~ (U.K. politics)

during the mutiny

Nancy Pelosi said she called no one ~ against Biden

victim of a mutiny

he was the ~ by ultra-conservatives (politics)

provoked a mutiny

he ~ (a boss, of his employees)

\*\*\* **"The story of the *Bounty* mutiny..."**

♦ "The story of the *Bounty* mutiny has become so addled by popular myth that it is generally forgotten that it was caused, not so much by the authoritarian character of Captain Bligh, as by the undermining of his men's discipline during their long stay on Tahiti... / Whatever else he may have been he was thorough, he carried out instructions, he was almost as good a navigator as Cook, and it is strange that so much sentimentality about the whole *Bounty* incident has fixed itself not, as one would have supposed, on the sirenian allurements of the Tahitian women, but upon the irascible temper of this unfortunate man..." (*The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead.)

♦ Many historical personages—Hector, Pandarus, King Canute, Machiavelli, Captain William Bligh, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Joe McCarthy—have been mischaracterized in history and in the language.

## muzzle (verb)

muzzle dissent

they are seeking to ~

## myopia (noun)

myopia

this ~ can be cured by leadership (shortsightedness)

myopia of (modern democratic) politics

the ~ is obvious (the near term, quick fixes, short-termism)

philanthropic myopia

the long lineage of ~ (Mrs. Jellyby, etc.)

## myopic (adjective)

myopic policymaking

this kind of ~ was dubbed the "political-business cycle"

♦ "We see nothing truly till we understand it." (John Constable, about clouds.)

## myth (noun)

myth

much of what we think we know about Australia is a ~

myths about trauma and sexual offences

there are a number of ~

myths and tropes

what are some common ~ about looting

misleading myth

Hollywood sells this ~ (underdog always wins / sports)

weight loss myths

stop following ~ (an advertisement)

toxic myths

the ~ around creativity (writing rooms, etc.)

bolster the myth

this has helped to ~ that children...

bound up in the myths

Indians are ~ white Americans have created

create that myth

I didn't ~, but I certainly inherited it (drunk journalists)

perpetuate (dangerous) myths

her comments ~ (opinion)

sells this (misleading) myth

Hollywood ~ (the underdog always wins / sports)

## mythology (noun)

mythology of Silicon Valley

the ~ originates with secession ("traitorous eight" / 1957)

family mythology

this Paradise Lost kind of ~ (formerly rich family)

Good War mythology

the legacy of ~ still affects foreign policy

Greek left-wing mythology

in ~, the crime was blamed on the US (Nov. 19, 1973)

♦ "By God, we've kicked the Vietnam syndrome once and for all." (George H.W. Bush, about the Gulf War.)

# N

## nadir (at the nadir)

at a nadir

his popularity was ~ (a politician)

at its nadir

the team is ~ (losing)

at their nadir

in 2009, stock prices were ~

at the nadir of the (financial) crisis

~, gold was a safe haven (investment)

at the nadir of a bad economy

the store opened ~

at the nadir of his tenure

he finds himself ~ (a politician)

## nadir (since the nadir)

since the (recession's) nadir

~ in 2009, things have improved

## nadir (other)

nadir of his career

the ~ came after... (Frank Sinatra)

nadir of education

the late sixties were surely the ~ (US)

nadir in (US) history

his presidency was the ~ (politics)

economic nadir

they have taken us to this ~ (politics)

political nadir

the government has reached a ~

hit a nadir

sales have ~

hit its nadir

the population of panthers ~ in the 1980s (Florida)

reached their nadir

house prices have not yet ~ (falling)

reaches its nadir

tensions boil over as the Patriots' season ~ (football)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ ZENITH: *over your head*. "We call the *zenith* that point in the sky directly overhead. The word *zenith* derives from the term *samt* in the Arabic phrase *samt arras*, 'way over the head,' which is just what we mean by the word a millennium or two later... The point in the celestial sphere right under your two feet is called the *nadir*, and this comes directly from the Arabic *nazir*, 'opposite,' for in this case its spelling wasn't monkeyed with much." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 19, "Terms of Place, Time, Shape, and Size, and Their Origins.")

## nag (verb)

nagging at those

there was a question ~ in charge of his manhunt

## nagging (adjective)

nagging awareness

this ~ of having taken someone else's place...

nagging fear

the ~ that the cancer will return

nagging guilt

still, I felt this ~

nagging injuries

she came off the pitch early, which could indicate ~

nagging issue

there is the ~ of waste (agricultural plastic)

nagging problem

the ~ of head lice

nagging question

the ~ what if we had only...

an expert answers ~s about the virus

there's always this ~, "Why?"

nagging worry

it has become the focus of ~ (air pollution and its effects)

constant, nagging

the ~ fear of catching the disease again (COVID)

## nail (hit the nail on the head)

hit the nail on the head

you ~ when you say...

you don't offend me, you ~

hits the nail on the head

that ~ (what you said was right)

one critic called it "Brooklyn verismo," that pretty much

~

hit some nails on their heads

the prophets ~ (futurists got some things right)

## nail (nail something)

nail this audition

focus up, we've got to ~... (band)

nailed a (48-yard) field goal

he ~ (football)

nailed it

you ~ (correct answer)

he ~, he's right of course (an opinion about Afghanistan)

the sunshield has been unfurled, we ~ (space telescope)

nailed (several huge) jumps

he ~ and a spock 540

nailed the message

her cheerful, soulful, poppy songs that ~ (Lizzo)

nailing it

they spotted a gap in the market and they're ~ (Social Chain)

♦ "I was struggling for the right words to post, and you nailed it." (A rare respectful post from one online commenter to another.)

## nail (nail somebody)

nail this guy

we need more evidence to ~ (police)

## nail (bite one's nails)

bite their nails

her parents ~ during big-wave season (Maya Gabeira)

biting their nails

Germany, Italy, Hungary are ~, nervously (Ukraine crisis)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Bites one's fingernails when nervous.)

## nail (eat nails, walk on nails, etc.)

eat nails

Democrats would rather ~ than vote for Donald Trump



## nail (nail someone to the cross)

nailed the quarterback and the coach to the cross  
they have ~ for the sins of the team (NFL)

### \*\*\* crucifixion...

♦ "In the old days, Yamamoto would have had to commit ritual disembowelment." / "No, he wouldn't have been given the honor! He would simply have been crucified!" ("The Emperor's Code: Breach Of Protocol Spurs Debate in Japan" by Lucy Craft, Nov. 13, 2013.)

♦ "The Bayonet Tree got its name when one of Herkimer's men was crucified on it. George Walter lay beside a spring, pretending to be dead while an Indian ran a scalping knife around his skull, tearing off, finally, hair and skin from the bloody head. The Senecas captured Robert Crouse, the tallest and strongest man in Tryon County. They trussed him up, and then, in order to cut him down to their size, they whittled his legs off below the knees, cut the ropes holding him, and told him to walk." (*The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop. His book is about the Mohawk River.)

## nail biter (noun)

nail-biter

it was a ~, a lot of back-and-forth play (soccer game)

nail biter of a mission

it's a ~ (India spacecraft)

in a nail-biter

the French beat Slovenia 90-89 ~ (Olympic basketball)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone bites one's nails in suspense.)

## nail-biting (fingernails)

nail-biting experience

the space repair was a ~ for NASA

nail-biting thriller

it's a ~ (a TV show)

♦ "She is cautiously optimistic, but the nail biting isn't nearly over..."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone bites one's nails in suspense.)

## nail down (gain)

nail down the agreement

she helped to ~ between... (government)

## nail down (settle)

nail down the facts

it was very hard to ~

nailed down her proofs

Evans ~ (concerning undulant fever)

nailed down the source

scientists believe they have ~ of the coronavirus (MERS)

## naked (unadorned)

naked abuse

this is ~ of power (politics)

naked aggression

lies, deceit and ~ (Saddam Hussein)

naked bigotry

the ~ (4 Pakistani female nurses murdered)

naked discrimination

their marginalization is due to ~ (an ethnic group)

naked politics

this is ~ (impeachment investigation)

naked self-interest

~ among budding lawyers (university)

naked truth

what I believe to be the ~ (identity of murderer)

## naked (substance)

naked

our leaders are ~

♦ "Democrats disgracefully tried to pretend their emperor had new clothes, when they all knew he had none." (A comment by Piers Morgan, after the Biden-Trump debate in June, 2024. Biden would ultimately decide not to run for re-election, and Kamala Harris would be defeated by Donald Trump. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This reminds us of the 1837 story "The Emperor's New Clothes" by Hans Christian Andersen, about the child who exclaimed, "The King has no clothes!"

## naked (protection)

naked to the elements

they were ~

left us naked

the destruction of their air-defence radars ~

## nakedly

nakedly often

bars are places where people reveal themselves, most ~

## nam (Fayettenam, etc.)

Fayettenam

~ (Fayetteville, North Carolina)

"~" has a Wiktionary entry

♦ Hawaii has been referred to as "Pineapplachia." (A portmanteau of "pineapple" and "Appalachia.")

♦ "#Sochifornia, Russia's answer to California." (Sochi, Russia.)

♦ Nottingham was referred to as "Shottingham" in the early 2000s because of the Nottingham gang leader Craig Moran.

♦ British forces in Afghanistan referred to combat in and around Sangin as "Sangingrad." A third of their casualties occurred there. (A portmanteau of Sangin and Stalingrad.)

♦ Romanians referred to the razed areas as Ceausima. (A portmanteau of Nicolae Ceausescu and Hiroshima, devastated by the atomic bomb.)

♦ see also *Appalachia* (and *Pineapplachia*, etc.)

## name (reputation)

name

his ~ is dirt

my ~ is clean (exonerated)

man's good name

what's at stake in this trial is a ~ (Heard vs. Depp)

bad name

his comments give boxing a ~ (Deontay Wilder)

big name

see *big* (*big name, etc.*)

good name

the company has a ~

clear his name

he has vowed to ~ (a politician)

he wanted to prove his innocence and ~ (refuses deal)

clear my name

I'm here today to ~ and restore my reputation (fired coach)

made his name

he had ~ as the cofounder of the White Helmets

make a name for himself

he wants to ~, unquestionably (a physicist)

make a name for themselves

they should go into business and ~ (father about his sons)

tarnished the (Hernandez) name

they felt she had ~

want my name back

I ~, I want justice... (lawsuit by fired worker)

♦ "You have blackened our name. Kill yourself and clean our shame or we will kill you first." (Text message to a 17-year-old Turkish girl in Southeast Anatolia from one of her uncles. She had taken a boyfriend.)

♦ "If your name is good on the block until you die, you've made it." (Poet and essayist Hanif Abdurraqib.)

♦ The Howards and the Turners; the Hatfield and the McCoys; the Lincoln County Feud; the Frenches and Eversoles; the Martins and Tollivers; the Bakers and Howards... (Famous Appalachian family feuds.)

♦ "Don't get me wrong: I have nothing against the Campbells, but I would not stay a night in the company of one." (Said by a MacDonald recently, referring to a massacre of MacDonalds by Campbells after the Campbells had accepted the MacDonalds' hospitality. The murders took place in 1692.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "A name doesn't spoil a man, but a man can spoil a name." (A Finnish proverb.)

♦ Life is for one generation; a good name is forever. (Japan.)

## name (groups)

government name

Keefe, otherwise known by his ~ as Duayne Keith Davis

slave name

Kanye West claims his former moniker is a '~'

HER NAME

~ IS BRIANNA GHEY (message on a placard at vigil)

dead (former first) name

what they call their ~ (Canadian soccer player Quinn)

Call My Name

I Heard Her ~: A Memoir of Transition (Lucy Sante)

have a name

all our martyrs ~ (Columbia University Apartheid Divest)

say his name

see *say* (*say his name, say period, etc.*)

say her name

see *say* (*say his name, say period, etc.*)

say their names

see *say* (*say his name, say period, etc.*)

\*\*\* **various groups...**

♦ "Okay, so we can start with Keefe, otherwise known by his government name Duayne Keith Davis..." (Joel Anderson speaking with NPR's Ayesha Rascoe.)

♦ "At that moment, his life changed. While still stationed in Hawaii, Ice bought a couple of cheap turntables, a mixer, speakers, and learned how to rap. In December seventy-nine [1979] he said goodbye to the military and goodbye to Tracy Marrow. Ice T was born." (The California Century, "On Ice," BBC, Sounds, narrated by the brilliant Stanley Tucci.)

♦ Dawud Anyabwile was born by the name of David Sims. (Dawoud is Arabic for David.)

♦ "NPR's Ari Shapiro speaks with Marijuana Pepsi Vandeyck about her recent PhD completion despite the hardships she's faced because of her birth name... / The title of her dissertation [is]—'Black Names in White Classrooms: Teacher Behaviors and Student Perceptions.'" ("Marijuana Pepsi Fends Off The Jokes To Earn Her PhD," NPR, Race, All Things Considered, June 21, 2019.)

♦ "Hiker Sherrie Joyce Miller, who prefers to be known as Sherr Joy... Her nickname is Sharki, and she calls her dog 'Bandit.'" (A CNN story with lots of detail.)

♦ "Throughout this article Quinn is referred to as 'they/their' rather than 'she/her' to respect their wishes around use of pronouns. Quinn has also dispensed with what they call their 'dead' former first name." (Rebecca, born 1995. From "Quinn: Canada's transgender footballer on being 'visible' and playing at the Olympics" by Katie Gornall & Katie Falkingham, BBC Sport, 23 September 2020.)

♦ "Call me by your name and I'll call you by mine." (The film *Call Me by Your Name*, a "gay coming-of-age film.")

♦ "Every weekend I use my husband's phone and he uses mine." (Chris Dancy, about his husband.)

♦ "Thus I traveled to the easternmost cape of the island, where I visited with a chief, whose name was Ameyro, with whom I swore fraternal friendship, giving him my name and taking his, which is considered a great sign of brotherhood among them. I bought from him a very good canoe, giving him in exchange a very fine brass helmet which I was carrying in a bag, also a coat and one of my two shirts." (Diego Mendez in Jamaica, 1503. From *The Last Voyage Of Columbus*, Chapter 21, by Martin Dugard, 2005.)

\*\*\* **social media, popular culture, parents...**

♦ "Y/N" is used with the meaning of "Your Name." (Fanfiction, fandom.)

♦ "Readers can Mad Lib themselves into the narrative." (Use their own names for a character.)

♦ "Names come into and fall out of fashion much as clothing styles, musical genres, and haircuts do. None of the top five girls' names from 1912—Mary, Helen, Dorothy, Margaret, and Ruth—ranked in the top 40 in 2010, when the leaders were Emma, Olivia, Sophia, Isabella, and Ava." On the other hand, names go in cycles: "Vintage names are making a trendy comeback."

♦ "She connects the popularity, ten years ago, of four-letter names (Ruby, Luna, Levi) with the rise of such instant-gratification apps as Seamless and Tinder. Now longer names are making a comeback—the result, Humphrey believes, of the lockdown-related return to leisurely pursuits like gardening, cooking, and crafting. Waiting for the sourdough to rise has given people the patience to enunciate multisyllable names like Genevieve, Josephine, and Theodore." ("Dept. Of Monikers: Would Smell As Sweet?" The Talk Of The Town,

*The New Yorker*, April 18, 2022. A delightful talk with Taylor A. Humphrey, a professional baby namer and doula.)

♦ "Women are flocking to TikTok in droves to complain and commiserate about the perils of dating people named Ben in videos amassing millions of views online." ("What is the 'Ben Stage'? Women warned about dating men named Ben" by Ben Cost, Viral Trends, *New York Post*, February 23, 2023.)

♦ "From an Internet search I learned that boys' names beginning in N were relatively rare, appearing only once in the top one hundred names of the 1930s and '40..." (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search For The Golden State Killer* by Michelle McNamara.)

### \*\*\* professional names, pen names...

♦ John Denver (Henry John Deutschendorf); Cher (Cherilyn Sarkasian); Tina Turner (Anna Mae Bullock); Elton John (Reginald Kenneth Dwight); Snoo Dogg (Calvin Broadus)... (Professional / stage names.)

♦ Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens); Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson); George Orwell (Eric Blair); O. Henry (William Sydney Porter); George Eliot (pen name of Mary Anne Evans—1819-80—author of *Middlemarch*); Ellis Bell (Emily Bronte, who wrote *Wuthering Heights*)... (Pen names / pseudonyms / noms de plume.)

♦ Luna Impact, Hyper Lynx, Lil' Miss Stuffit, Surly Temple, Beatrix Slaughter, Lemony Kickit, Brigitte Barhot, Barbara Ambush Mother of All Your Problems, She Raw, Ginger Snap, Auntie Christ, Beyonsláy... (Noms du roller derby.)

### \*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ "Nixon Moreno; Stalin González; Taj-Mahal Sánchez; Elvis Presley Gomez Morillo; Darwin Lenin Jimenez, Yesaidú ("Yes I do"); Mao Pino; Iroshima Bravo (from the Japanese city "Hiroshima"); Susej ("Jesus" spelled backwards... (Some Venezuelan names.)

♦ "Roma children are given three names. The first is a secret name, which is whispered by the mother during christening. Its role is to hide the real identity of the child from evil spirits. The second is a Roma name that is used by the community. The third is the official Christian name, for use in relations with those outside the community." (Delia Grigore, University of Bucharest, on a naming tradition among some groups of Roma.)

♦ "We're Muslims. Now there's no limiting. Before, there were no mosques. Now there are many." (A Tajik mother of three, waiting at the airport for her father to return on a Haj flight. Islam was suppressed under the Soviets. Now Medina has become a popular name for girls.)

### \*\*\* "But you can call me..."

♦ "My great-grandmother [Queen Victoria] was always very particular about the names of her descendants. When I was born she wrote to my mother, in the rather shaky handwriting of an octogenarian: 'There is one thing that would give me great pleasure if you and Louis approve of it, viz. if you would add the name Albert to the four others.' So I was christened Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas—but all my life people have called me Dickie." (Lord Mountbatten on his name, in his forward to *The Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten* by John Terraine.)

♦ "[My name is] Kittredge McPherson Printer-John Vine Terhune... Kittredge was a senator our folks allers voted for... Then McPherson, he was the preacher married Pa and Ma. Printer-John—well, they was three John Vines: Long-John, Sick-John and Printer-John who run the paper, oncet, in Kittuwa. Vine was Ma's name afore she married... [But you can call me] Kit." (*Smoky Mountain Magic* by Horace Kephart.)

### \*\*\* immigration...

♦ "It wasn't a great time to be an Iranian, so when I went to university I changed my name to Fred." (Farhad Mohit, who arrived in the US in 1979 at the height of the hostage crisis and who was called names at school.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "What's my name?" (Muhammad Ali famously taunted Ernie Terrell in the ring with calls of "What's my name?" Before the fight, Terrell had referred to Ali as Cassius Clay, and Ali said, "Why don't you call me my name, man?" Ali made Terrell pay in the ring, which went all 15 rounds. Terrell wasn't the only person who had trouble accepting Ali's name change. Ali's *father* hated it.)

♦ "Muslims serving in the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan often use fake names on their uniforms to avoid being singled out by insurgents as traitors and to prevent reprisals against their families back home." (*The Week*, November 20, 2009.)

♦ "Reason for Hebrew name in lead sentence? Is there a reason for this?..." ("Talk:Dan Arieli" at Wikipedia.)

♦ "Aiden, Brayden and Grayden all just happen to be trans." (A disparaging online commenter.)

♦ "You know, I'm embarrassed to say this, but I don't even know your name." / "You really want to know my name? You do?" / "Sure." / "It's Ernie Douglas. But my friends call me Chip." / "Um. Goodbye." (From the funny 1996 film *The Cable Guy*.)

♦ "Jeremy's not a nut. He doesn't make people call him by his name on set." (Playwright, screenwriter and film director Aaron Sorkin about the great actor Jeremy Strong.)

### \*\*\* monuments, memorials, lists...

♦ The 9/11 memorial is inscribed with 2,983 names.

♦ The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is inscribed with 58,318 names.

♦ "Each year, 335 names are called out, a simple roll call of the dead..." (Ardeatine massacre.)

♦ Long lists of names are often read at memorial services. Reading the names of Holocaust victims can take days and require shifts of people.

♦ "28,788 names are etched in marble on the Honolulu Memorial at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific."

♦ The Menin Gate (of the missing) in Belgium lists the names of 54,305 soldiers.

♦ Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner... (The shocking murders that shamed and *united* a nation.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In 2023, Merriam-Webster recognized "deadname" as "the name that a transgender person was given at birth and no longer uses upon transitioning."

♦ There is a Wikipedia article "African-American names." It is interesting and well written, and it includes a *very* funny external link: "Substitute Teacher" (Key & Peele). Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ "There was a time when to name a girl Amber was like naming her Isabella or Chloe today. It had a hint of novelty and panache... Starting in the late 1940s, the name Amber was a novelty because of a best-selling novel (*Forever Amber*)... / Yet today, scenes like that are ordinary not only in the movies but on much of television; to make an impression, things must get even more creative." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter.)

♦ For a list of names you would think are males but are actually females, see *gender (groups)*.

♦ See also *say (say his name, say period, etc.)*

♦ For a list of female first names ending in long "e," see *y (pulpy, etc.)*

## namecheck (and name-check)

namechecked in rap

the Draco is a baby AK-47 frequently ~

namechecked it in a song

Beyonce has ~ (OnlyFans porn site)

name-checked you

the President has ~, called you a rat (NPR)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This means to acknowledge and the verb is of very recent origin, according to Merriam-Webster. *Name-drop*, on the other hand, has the connotation of mentioning a name in order to impress.

## namechecked

name-checked

landmarks (like Amy Ruth's restaurant) are ~ (Harlem)

namechecked in rap  
the Draco is a baby AK-47 frequently ~

## nanny (person)

nanny state  
people expect the ~ to do everything for them (Brexit)  
a small but growing number are defying the ~  
(Singapore)

## nap (noun)

taking a nap  
the GOP is ~ somewhere (politics)

## Napoleon (the Black Napoleon, etc.)

Napoleon of the West  
he referred to himself as the ~ (the captured Santa Ana)

Black Napoleon  
Toussaint Louverture, the ~ (Haiti)

“Chinese Napoleon”  
the last Mongol emperor was driven from Peking by the  
upstart ~ (Chu Yuan-chang)

Muslim Napoleon  
his resting place resembles that of a ~ (Mehmet II)

Mahometan Buonaparte  
so brave and so good they call him the ~ (Ali Pasha)

“One Eyed Eastern Napoleon”  
he was also called the ~ (the Maharaja Ranjit Singh)

♦ “Napoleon is not a name that is easy to live up to, or live down.”  
 (“Napoleon’s incendiary legacy divides France 200 years on” by Lucy  
Williamson, BBC Paris correspondent, May 4, 2021.)

## Napoleon (the Napoleon of surgery, etc.)

“Napoleon of the Poles”  
Roald Amundsen, often called the ~

Napoleon of the Polar regions  
that extraordinary explorer, the ~ (Amundsen)

Napoleon of the stage  
the proprietor and “~” R.W. Elliston (Drury Lane  
Theater)

Napoleon of Surgery  
on June 26, 1870, ‘the ~’ died (James Syme)

♦ “Arthur Conan Doyle’s great detective Sherlock Holmes dubs villain  
Professor Moriarty ‘the Napoleon of crime’. In George Orwell’s *Animal  
Farm*, published in 1945, the pig who became a dictator is called  
Napoleon.” (“Ridley Scott’s *Napoleon*: Was the French leader really a  
monster?” by Neil Armstrong, BBC Culture, 20 Aug 2023.)

♦ A political cartoon from the time of the Boer War shows a caricature  
of Cecil Rhodes dressed up and posing as Napoleon. The caption is,  
“Mr. Rhodes, The Napoleon of South Africa.”

## Napoleonic (adjective)

Napoleonic audacity  
he had the ~ to swing from one Pole to the other

Napoleonic fervor

and elsewhere he wrote, with ~... (a Zionist)

## narcotic (noun)

narcotic  
rising profits were a ~ that affected everyone

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Salt is the primordial narcotic.”

## narrative (groups, etc.)

narrative  
what ~ they want to advance (disinformation)  
people were expecting this ~ that... (a controversial show)  
I am so tired of this ~ (Ailsa Chang / life’s milestones)  
the ~ is they versus you (culture wars in U.S.)

narrative is  
the conventional Anglocentric ~ that... (the Alamo)

narrative was  
a lot of his ~ to create a sensational story (murders)

narrative that we aren’t doing anything  
the ~ is just not true

narrative that dehumanizes policeman  
I think the ~ is dangerous (the writer James McBride)

narrative about the war  
this false ~ (that US accomplished nothing)

narrative of the Supreme Courts  
in his ~ he identifies issues like gun rights, free speech

narrative of elevating  
his comments cohere around a ~ white Americans

narrative of negativity  
the “deficit narrative” frames Aboriginal identity in a ~

narratives of the occupation  
it does not fit within dominant ~ (Vichy Jewish Scouts)

narrative of the war  
he became entangled in the race to control the ~ (Syria)

narrative in his head  
he has a ~ that he wants Americans to believe

narrative from the report  
police say they sent the ~ to the FBI

narrative appeal  
what’s tilting the scales is ~ (an issue and public polling)

narrative corner  
they were confident they had turned a ~ (public  
perception)

“narrative enforcers”  
my name was on the list of ~ (Chloe Hadjimatheou)

narrative machine  
the problem with the media ~

narrative threat  
the 1776 Commission fought the ~ of the 1619 Project

narrative war  
the North won, but the South won the ~

narrative, perception, culture, and society  
that's how you change the ~ (by coming out / Sue Bird)

suspect's narrative  
law enforcement's focus on the ~ has been criticized

one's narrative  
gender, self-definition in taking control of ~

self-narrative  
construction and accuracy in the ~  
~s of adult children of alcoholics  
it became a part of his ~ (Joe Biden and personal tragedy)  
at the center of Joe Biden's ~ has always been that...

my narrative  
but I mean, it's his words, it's not ~ (disagreement)

his narrative  
although, in ~, the other side is to blame...

their own narratives  
equitable support for BIPOC filmmakers to author ~

third narrative  
but I think this ~ is also a big narrative

ABC narrative  
my posts simple don't agree with the ~ (removed)

“deficit narrative”  
the ~ frames Aboriginal identity (negative news)

massacre narrative  
people pushing the ~ are still looking for the graves  
(Tulsa)

master narrative  
that account should not be the ~ of Trump's ascent

misinformation narratives  
a number of vaccine ~ have appeared

press narrative  
that's the ~, it's backwards from what's likely to happen

victim narrative  
but his is anything but a ~ (Zygmunt Bauman / Polish Jew)  
guests are expected to wallow in a ~ (media)

wellness narrative  
as the ~ toggles between self-improvement and self-acceptance... (*Vanity Fair*)

Black trauma narrative  
identity politics, ~...

Syrian State narrative  
something useful to the ~ doesn't mean it's not true

“stop the steal” narrative  
they want to keep alive the ~ (political protesters)

tale of 2 cities narrative

the curfew reinforces the ~ (Sydney lockdown / a tweet)

‘violent veteran’ narrative  
the ~ is as old as war, yet repeatedly found to be false

“white saviour” narrative  
critics say the film pursues a ~ (*They Are Us*)

changing narrative  
reflecting on the ~ around mental health in sport

evolving narrative  
the ~ of what happened at Uvalde the day of the shooting

misleading narratives  
he debunks ~ about crime, gangs and public safety

prevailing narrative  
his book calls into question the ~ surrounding the murders

shifting narrative  
there is growing frustration over the ~ (school shooting)

accepted narrative  
the ~ of the murders just can't be true (Manson Family)

approved narrative  
this latest ~ (that President Biden is cognitively okay)

established narrative  
I learned not to write papers going against the ~ (campus)

misguided narrative  
attributes it to what he insists is a ~ of the shooting

overblown (political) narrative  
poor photo selection fueled an ~ (#defundNPR)

predetermined narrative  
history is molded to fit the needs of a ~ (at the NYT)

preferred narrative  
research that clashes with the ~ is denied and dismissed  
the film chooses instead to highlight his ~ about himself

unsubstantiated narrative  
the company is using an ~ to obscure other factors

counter-narrative  
far right movements create ~s to accepted understandings  
Trump's lack of a ~ was among the problems (trial)

online narrative  
~s are misleading

Anglocentric narrative  
the conventional ~ is that... (the Alamo)

archaic narrative  
change the ~ that gay = bad (So Gay Rosé wine)

conventional (Anglocentric) narrative  
the ~ is that... (the Alamo)

digestible narrative  
we'll tackle the ~ that sports are a pathway...

dominant narratives

what do ~ do to our understanding of history  
 ~ maintain black oppression (education)  
 Jewish Scouts do not fit within ~ of the occupation (Vichy)

**Eurocentric narrative**  
 he upends the ~ (*In the Forest of No Joy*)  
 curriculums that center around ~s (vs. Afrocentric)

**fake narrative**  
 it's wrong, it's a ~, you don't care about the facts

**false narrative**  
 he led an entire generation into believing a ~  
 one of the ~s is there is no choice (plural marriages)  
 this ~ about the war (that US accomplished nothing)  
 the company accuses the union of pushing a ~ (strike)

**foundational narrative**  
 their work threatens the ~ of Polish Society (Holocaust)

**historical narrative**  
 elite, white-led institutions coopt and control the ~

**latest (approved) narrative**  
 this ~ (that President Biden is cognitively okay)

**national narrative**  
 being a part of a ~ sends a message (arrested for rioting)

**negative narrative**  
 the ~ influences public opinion (about a black athlete)

**new narrative**  
 his lawyer said this ~ was known to the presiding judge  
 the group pushing this ~ have already sued the Cherokees

**official narrative**  
 the migrants don't believe the ~  
 some go beyond the ~ to look into the reality (Syria)  
 the ~ that was presented by prosecutors was that... (crime)  
 the ~ of the mass shooting has changed (Uvalde)

**outlandish narrative**  
 ~s began to development (about James Le Mesurier)

**persuasive narrative**  
 lawyers attempt to craft a ~

**public narrative**  
 the issue has defined her ~ (Britney Spears' conservatorship)  
 the ~ was that this was about... (a corporate issue)

**racist narratives**  
 society is programmed to default to ~

**rosy narrative**  
 they agreed to stick to a ~ (diplomacy)

**separate narratives**  
 the trend has been ~ (vs. a collective national story)

**similar recurring narratives**  
 show after show is driven by ~ (rape, murder of females)

**narrow and sensational and false narrative**  
 he presented such a ~ of the murders (a prosecutor)  
 conventional Anglocentric narrative  
 the ~ is... (Texas independence from Mexico)

**strong, legitimate narrative**  
 we have a ~ (secret British document / *HMS Defender*)

**narrative around it**  
 did he try to justify it, was there a ~ (surprise rough sex)

**in his narrative**  
 although, ~, the other side is to blame...

**mastermind behind the narrative**  
 Steve Jobs was not the ~ ("Think Different" ad campaign)

**change in the narrative**  
 now, this is a real moment, right, this could be a real ~

**control of this narrative**  
 the white media does not want to relinquish ~ (black sports)

**battle for narrative**  
 US opinion divided amid ~ over Hamas attack on Israel

**part of the narrative**  
 TikTok has become ~ of the election (2020)

**"war for narrative"**  
 she reminds us of Kimberle Crenshaw's "~"

**believing a false narrative**  
 he led an entire generation into ~

**controlling the narrative**  
 he has done so well at ~ (civil-rights lawyer)

**managing the narrative**  
 the government appears obsessed about ~

**pushing a false narrative**  
 the company accused the union of ~

**stealing their narratives**  
 excluding Latinos while still ~ (films)

**narrative was amplified**  
 the ~ in a feedback loop by the media (Steele Dossier)

**narrative (shaped around him) will become**  
 I wonder what the ~ (gossip about NFL player)

**narrative is changing**  
 the ~ from 'Fuck Jake Paul' to 'We love Jake Paul'

**narrative was disputed**  
 the guards' ~ by prosecutors (Blackwater)

**narratives are emerging**  
 two very different ~ (government's vs. social media)

**narrative (of fake cures) is fed**  
 the ~ by hope (COVID)

**narratives were forming**  
 by January 1997, two ~ (the murder of Tupac Shakur)



narratives (about her) have dominated  
two ~ coverage (pop diva is hot mess, has lost her voice)

narratives maintain  
dominant ~ black oppression (education)

narrative is shifting  
I'm pleased that the ~ ("sober curious" movement)

narrative (kinda) stuck  
but somehow that ~ (Cuban-American politics)

narrative is taking hold  
the ~ again in Republican circles (immigration / voting)

narrative is (still) unfolding  
the truth is, my ~ (the actor Elliot Page)

narrative (of deceit) unraveled  
after her ~ (the influencer Belle Gibson)

amplify (pro-government) narratives  
these networks ~ (the internet)

author their own narratives  
equitable support for BIPOC filmmakers to ~ (from PBS)

believe in this narrative  
the more people ~...

bring that (important) narrative forward  
how can they ~

cast doubt on that narrative  
a U.S. official ~ (cause of overseas plane crash)

caused that narrative to grow  
lack of understanding has ~ (about polygamy)

challenge the (Kremlin's) narrative  
there is less to ~ (radio station shut down)

change the narrative  
we were inspired to go public and ~ (about polygamy)  
she is keen to ~ (Outdoor Afro)  
once a story has been framed, it's hard to ~

choose a narrative  
most often they ~ that makes them feel good (denial)

come up with a narrative  
they rationalize and ~ that makes them feel good

committed to the (CRT) narrative  
those ~ (critical race theory)

consider (for the moment) the narrative  
let's ~... (punditry by NPR's Mary Louise Kelly)

constructs its official narrative  
as Colombia ~ of the violence, one core actor is Uribe

constructed a false narrative  
he has ~ about...

contradicts her narrative  
it ~ that she just wants to move on (Heard-Depp trial)

control the narrative

he was at the center of a battle to ~ of the Syrian War  
they went to great lengths to ~ (COVID deaths)  
now Silicon Valley has come up with a way to ~  
Europe is struggling to ~ in his conflict (Ukraine)  
I tried to ~ (Lance Armstrong)

controlled the narrative  
the white people who ~ for the past 400 years...

controlling the narrative  
he complained that the team was ~ (an NFL player)

convince herself of her own narrative  
she did these stories just to try and ~ (Gabbie Hanna)

craft a (persuasive) narrative  
lawyers attempt to ~

create a (different) narrative  
I want to ~ (Elizabeth Colomba, "Riding Places")

curates the narrative  
he carefully ~ around his exploits to enlarge them

debunks (misleading) narratives  
he ~ about crime, gangs and public safety

default to racist narratives  
society is programmed to ~

define it  
you get to ~, it doesn't have to look like any other  
narrative (Blacks "participating" in nature)

dictate the narrative  
we will not let Trump ~ (politics)

enforce the (false) narrative  
you ~ that BIPOC artists are... (BIPOC vs. PBS)

establish the narrative  
we need to ~ that the President is still in charge...

fit the narrative  
they didn't tell you because it didn't ~ (politician v. media)

fit within (dominant) narratives  
it does not ~ of the occupation (Vichy Jewish Scouts)

form a narrative  
when they come together and ~ (microaggressions)

frame the narrative  
it is vital to ~, to persuade the justices of your version

fueled an (overblown political) narrative  
poor photo selection ~ (#defundNPR)

fueled by (false) narratives  
grievances ~ (extremists)

get across the narrative  
to ~, the basic idea of what's going on in the country

get ahead of the narrative  
it is so important to ~ (civil rights lawsuits)

goes against the narrative

never commission a story that ~ (*The New York Times*)

influence the narrative  
how today's events could ~ in Westminster (UK politics)

jumped on the narrative  
the right-wing media ~ (school union influence over CDC)

justify her narrative  
she jumped so quickly to these elaborate conclusions to ~

keep the narrative alive  
they want to ~ (politics)

kill the narrative  
he said, we have to ~ that the vice president is...

laid out a narrative  
his attorney ~ that... (court martial)

lost that narrative  
we've ~ (that Democrats keep jobs in the U.S. / politics)

lost control of the narrative  
we have ~ (sports journalists, to Twitter, teams, etc.)

Mad Lib themselves into the narrative  
readers can ~ (Y/N fandom / fanfiction)

make our own narrative  
we don't care, we ~ (an older NBA player)

plays to their narrative  
they are trying to spin the data that ~ (politics)

plug what happened into the narrative  
people are starting to ~ (NFL sports injuries)

promoted these narratives  
the Japanese government ~ (soldiers should die in battle)

push that narrative  
you need support for the war, so you ~ (of terrorism)

pushed (all sorts of stolen election) narratives  
she has ~

pushing the (massacre) narrative  
people ~ are still looking for the graves (Tulsa)

pushing a (false) narrative  
he is ~ that he was robbed (election)

puts a dent in that narrative  
this withdrawal ~ (of being competent in foreign policy)

reinforce the narrative  
they're continuing to ~ that this was led by the President

reframe the narrative  
critical race theory seeks to ~ of American history

resisted the narrative  
I ~ and the pressure being applied to me (whistleblower)

runs counter to the narrative  
what I saw ~ that the border is open (immigration)

shape the narrative  
TikTok has helped ~ of the election (2020)

shape a narrative  
give all the facts, not just selective ones that ~

shape narratives  
archaeology's power to ~ (history)

shattered the narrative  
this has ~ of a Black / brown coalition (LA scandal)

shifted the narrative  
it ~ (a protest / from reform to defund the police)

spin this narrative  
he's trying to ~ of hope and strength (war)

stick to a (rosy) narrative  
they agreed to ~ (diplomacy)

support the narrative  
the media ignores these cases because they don't ~

supported the (police) narrative  
they played up other factors that ~ (medical examiners)

sustain the narrative  
this is just what you want to ~ (propaganda)

take back her narrative  
she tries to ~ (gain control over / Monica Lewinsky)

take charge of her own (creative) narrative  
she wanted to ~ (former child actress)

take control of the narrative  
Palestinians on the ground have phones and can "~"

taking control of their (own personal) narratives  
athletes are ~ (via the media, The Players' Tribune, etc.)

talk about that narrative  
Yah, I want to ~... (NPR's Sarah McCammon)

tilt the narrative  
the photo fueled the notion that NPR is trying to ~

upends the (Eurocentric) narrative  
he ~ (*In the Forest of No Joy*)

using (an unsubstantiated) narrative  
is the company ~ to obscure other factors (retail theft)

writes my narrative  
no one ~ but me, so know this now... (a celebrity)

written out of the narrative  
like so many Black icons, his contributions were ~

coopt and control the (historical) narrative  
we can't let an elite, white-led institution ~

♦ Seduced, raped, consensual, a recovered memory, power imbalance...?

♦ "The same tired narrative gets thrown out there." (Disgusted.)

♦ "As Colombia constructs its official narrative of the violence that has torn it apart, one of the core issues is how Mr. [Alvaro] Uribe's legacy will be remembered. He's seen as both a victim of the FARC, after the guerrillas assassinated his father, and as a perpetrator, for his

alleged ties to paramilitary groups and the false-positives scandal. The future, sadly, looks bleak for Colombia..." (BBC 4, From Our Own Correspondent, "Japan's Second World War Legacy," 15 Aug 2020.)

♦ "Politics is story-telling, and politics hopefully is about persuasion, about winning people's hearts and minds." (Senator Ted Cruz.)

♦ "For all of you that want to slap narratives on my words and my experience—one in which I lived for 17 years—you can't do that because you have no clue." (Carli Lloyd, soccer player.)

♦ "Wars are fought with guns, bombs and stories." (Intrigue, Mayday, BBC Radio 4.)

♦ "They say history is written by the victors. But is that still true? Or is it written by whoever wins the race to control the narrative, the viral video, the meme..." (Chloe Hadjimatheou. Intrigue, Mayday, BBC Radio 4.)

♦ "He has always been of the opinion the truth is something that people need to know, not the narrative that has been put out." (A lawyer, speaking for his client.)

♦ "NPR's Emily Feng explains the dueling political narratives..."

♦ "You know, the media narrative, which they have been lazy and listless about trying to inform or control the media narrative internationally [sic] has gone completely against them." (A former State Department official on NPR's Fresh Air, about an international crisis.)

♦ "The story delves deep into what Bret sees as the performance of everyday life; the way everything is a narrative, a 'pantomime,' a 'script.'" ("Bret Easton Ellis' first novel in more than a decade, 'The Shards,' is worth the wait" by Gabino Iglesias, NPR, Review, Books, January 19, 2023.)

♦ "I refuse to co-sign on this narrative." (The actor Zach Woods, speaking jokingly on NPR with A Martinez. From "New Peacock comedy 'In the Know' parodies NPR," NPR, Morning Edition, January 25, 2024. Funny!)

♦ OLD: story, storyline... / NEW: narrative...

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Narrative consultant John Yorke advises politicians, businesses, advertisers on how to tell their stories." (The old category of "script doctor" has morphed into public relations and crisis communications.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The new newsroom ideology seems idealistic, yet it has grown from cynical roots in academia: from the idea that there is no such thing as objective truth; that there is only narrative, and that therefore whoever controls the narrative—whoever gets to tell the version of the story that the public hears—has the whip hand. What matters, in other words, is not truth and ideas in themselves, but the power to determine both in the public mind." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, 1843 Magazine (The Economist), Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ "Did she say 'media narrative'? Edward R. Murrow is turning over in this grave." (A comment about reporting on a scandal involving ethics and sex at CNN.)

♦ "This is the new breed of 'sporting achievement.' The loser reveling in their own narrative of 'poor me' and 'victimhood...' [A] troubled past, a difficult childhood from nothing, and then of course the trump card: 'My mental health issues.' Serena W., Naomi O., Anthony J." (A BBC HYS comment about Anthony Joshua's "bizarre post-fight antics" after his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

♦ "When it fits your narrative it's not a theory, when it doesn't, it becomes one." (Rancor on a message board about the coronavirus pandemic.)

♦ "'Research' is just another way of saying, 'I'm just going to look at stuff that agrees with me.'" (Carl Brutananadilewski.)

♦ "somebody promo a narrative and y'all follow it." (Meek Mill, a rapper, unhappy about criticism of some of his lyrics.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Narratives tend to get generated by various events. And newspapers and television programs and pundits tend to coalesce around these narratives. The main storyline was 'This is what boxing does. This is the goal of boxing. We've got to get rid of boxing.'" (The historian Neal Gabler. From the affecting and emotionally wrenching documentary movie *Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story 2005*.)

♦ "We embrace stories that have simple plots, good and bad characters and melodramatic trajectories."

♦ This word has its own, huge Wikipedia article.

♦ STORY, n. A narrative, commonly untrue. The truth of the stories here following has, however, not been successfully impeached. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## narrow (breadth)

narrow lead

he holds a ~ over his opponent (election)

narrow scoreline

despite the ~, they outclassed Real (Manchester City)

narrow win

the US survived with a ~ over Spain (World Cup soccer)

## narrow-minded (adjective)

narrow-minded

he is ~

## narrowness (noun)

ideological narrowness

~ is a threat to intellectual openness

## nascent (beginning)

nascent campaign

kindness and decency is the central thrust of his ~ (politics)

nascent industry

the policy could strangle the ~ in its cradle (AI regulation)

## nasty (sex)

nasty scene

I really need Abel to get dragged for this ~ in *The Idol*

get nasty

I ~ when I'm horny (2001 film *American Pie 2*)

## nation (Who Dat Nation, etc.)

Cub's Nation

for ~, this was a tough goodbye (baseball trades)

'Bachelor' Nation

racism controversy rocks ~ (the US TV show)  
there are controversial cast members within ~

Buckeye Nation

hate and derision have no place in ~ (Ohio State loses)

Cenation

she's a member of the ~ of John Cena (the wrestler)

Dawg Nation

thank you ~ (Carson Beck / Georgia Bulldogs, Athens, GA)

Sooner Nation

~, thank you (Coach Cale Gundy)

Vol Nation

the ~ is celebrating the win over Alabama

## Who Dat Nation

members of the ~ (fans of New Orleans Saints)  
man, there's a whole ~ out there (Bobby Hebert)

♦ "Well, you know, this is so fascinating, first of all, the fact that you use that term, "Batchelor Nation." So what I take from that is it isn't just a show anymore, it's like a whole, what? Ecosystem? Who's in Batchelor Nation, is it like everybody who watches the show, who was a part of it, what does that mean?" (Michel Martin wants to know. From "Racism Controversy Rocks 'Bachelor' Nation, NPR, All Things Considered, Feb 20, 2021.)

♦ "Citizens of vaccination nation, all those shots in the arm, gave a shot in the arm to the box office this weekend..." (Chris Connelly promoting filmgoing on ABC. This is a good example of recontextualization of an old cliché in the age of COVID.)

♦ "I'm so grateful to Bachelor Nation for all of the memories we've made together." (Chris Harrison. Canceled.)

♦ "Chiefs Kingdom was not enthused by the call." (A NFL commentator about fans booing a roughing-the-passer penalty.)

♦ "We thought this was a fun way to invite Vol Nation to continue in the celebration. We had heard before and during the game that the fans would support a celebration, no matter the cost, so we leaned into that enthusiasm." (Athletic Director Danny White at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, seeking donations from fans to replace the goalposts that fans tore down after a victory over Alabama. Chase McGrath hit a 40-yard field goal with no time remaining to win the game, and fans stormed the field. The suggested contributions were: (1) \$16 (# of years since Vols beat Alabama) (2) \$52.49 (the final score) and (3) \$1,019.15 (# of sold-out crowd at Neyland Stadium). Members of the Vol Nation donated \$50,000 almost immediately, 35% of the goal of about \$143,000. In addition, Tennessee faces a \$100,000 fine for allowing fans to rush onto the field. Now, that's a nation!)

♦ see also *army* (Arnie's Army, etc.), *Kingdom* (Chiefs Kingdom, etc.)

## nature (force of nature)

### force of nature

she is a wonderful woman, a ~ (innocence project)  
he is no longer the ~ he once was (Don King / boxing)  
Joshua Goldbard called Bob Lee "a ~" (stabbed to death)

### art world force of nature

Anna Somers Cocks OBE is an ~

## naut (Argonaut, etc.)

### aquanaut

an ~ is to the sea what an astronaut is to space

### Argonauts

Jason, the ~, and the Golden Fleece

### astronaut

an ~, from the Greek "star" and "sailor"

### cosmonaut

a ~, the Russian equivalent of astronaut

### EduNaut

Hi I'm the AI ~, What can I help you with?

### internaut

journalists and ~s can overstate the importance of  
"clicks"

### parastronaut

the newly minted ~ (John McFall of ESA / leg amputee)

### 'Psychonauts'

"~ by Mike Jay review" (by Elizabeth K. Gray)

## psychonauts

German author Ernst Junger coined the term ~ (1949)

## taikonaut

~ (hangtianyuan / heaven-sailing)

♦ "Hi I'm the AI EduNaut! What can I help you with." (A popup at an English as a Lingua Franca website. Creepy AF.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "In his 1949 novel *Heliopolis* [German author Ernst] Junger coined the term *psychonauts* to refer to people who used drugs to explore their minds." ("Psychonauts" by Mike Jay review" by Elizabeth K. Gray, *History Today*, 9 September 2023.)

## navel gazing (omphaloskepsis)

### navel-gazing

millennials are so self-entitled, and there's lots of ~

### navel-gazing tabulation

the ~ of credentials is insufferable (literary world)

### academic navel gazing

thinking about free will is much more than ~ (justice, etc.)

### indulging in navel gazing

the British government is ~ while... (aggrieved Scotsman)

### feel (too much) like navel-gazing

internal ethics issues can ~ (newsrooms)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It is not healthy if you circle too much around your own navel. And it is not good to recall all the traumata of your childhood. It's good to forget them, it's good to bury them. Not in all cases, but in most cases... Psychoanalysis is not my thing." (Werner Herzog talking to Terry Gross in 2023.)

## navigate (feelings, emotions)

### navigate my way out of the darkness

I was able to ~ ("A Letter to College Sports")

### navigate through this

how am I going to ~ (being gay)

### navigating mixed emotions

families are ~ as they channel their grief and fury...

### navigate drug abuse, depression, love and high school

the HBO show follows a group of teens as they ~

♦ "They are navigating a difficult transition between high school and college." (A young idealistic educator about minority students.)

♦ "Where are you now in sort of navigating your grief?" (Rachel Martin, NPR.)

♦ "Nostalgia seems to be one of the psychological resources that we have to help us navigate current challenges and stressors and also..." (Clay Routledge, a professor of psychology at North Dakota State University, who has *studied* nostalgia.)

♦ "Navigating this hideous grief that has absolutely destroyed & shattered my heart and my soul into nothing has swallowed me whole." (A public expression of grief.)

♦ "We were all in very uncharted waters without really a sense of what possible routes there were." (A writer expressing his feelings about the random murder of a friend, speaking to Scott Simon on NPR in 2022. His friend was murdered in 1998. "Very uncharted.")

♦ "On June 8, diversity consultants hired by the museum convened a Zoom meeting to discuss the situation. Staff members were asked to sort themselves into 'gravel,' 'paved,' 'boulevard,' and 'highway' rooms, depending on how smoothly they felt able to navigate racial

issues in the workplace." ( From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. Bizarre! Who thinks this shit up?)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Navigate" is one of the top ten cliches of contempo-speak.

## navigate (verb)

navigate their way out of the Mormon church  
they ~ and out of their marriages (ABC)

navigated their way out of so many tight situations  
they have ~ (Real Madrid wins CL final)

navigate through the ocean  
it's hard to ~ of digital information and misinformation

navigating a tough environment  
higher education is ~ for enrollment

navigate the experience  
the ways that women choose to ~

navigating this (incredibly difficult) experience  
we are ~ (pandemic)

navigate gender fluidity  
there're as many ways to ~ as there are gender-fluid people

navigating the idea  
we are ~ that others were involved (cops about a murder)

navigate the (cyber) landscape  
so how are kids supposed to ~ (misinformation)

navigate the (bureaucratic) maze  
workers whose only job is to ~ (Sudan)

navigate the (tangled health-care) maze  
it's difficult to ~ (immigrants)

navigate a minefield  
ad makers had to ~ (Super Bowl 55 / pandemic, strife)

navigate (embarrassing, even scandalous) moments  
he helped his clients ~ (Howard Bragman / crisis manager)

navigating a new (geopolitical) order  
countries are ~ framed by the rising dominance of China

navigating the (aesthetic) pitfalls  
he and the movie are ~ of appropriation and authenticity

navigate the presence  
ways to ~ of social media in our lives (Mayowa Aina)

navigate the (DMV) process  
he coached applicants on how to ~ (crooked lawyer)

navigates a (byzantine) asylum process  
he ~ to finally get a court hearing

navigate racism  
having to ~ among fans of TV shows (Blacks)

navigate a (snow-covered) sidewalk  
pedestrians ~ in Chicago (caption of a photo / little snow)

navigate the terrain  
he knows how to ~ (philosophy)

navigate a (dense) thicket  
Netflix is trying to ~ of challenges

navigate the threat  
they are forced to ~ of rape daily (girls in South Africa)

navigate (yet) another year  
colleges ~ of Covid-19

navigate work, friendship, and romance  
she struggled to ~ (*Awkward Black Girl*)

navigates the (plot's emotional) peaks and chasms  
she ~ like a seasoned Sherpa (critic Robbie Colin)

navigates and negotiates  
she ~ her Black identity in a white space (high school)

difficult to navigate  
for Democrats, the issue has been ~ (Trump vaccine)

difficult (for the outsider) to navigate  
byzantine regulations are ~ (Egypt)

easy to navigate  
the attention is not always ~ (an indigenous chef)

hard to navigate  
family dynamics and political opinions can be ~

### \*\*\* "navigating" holidays, sidewalks, etc.

♦ "Family dynamics and political opinions can be hard to navigate during Thanksgiving."

♦ "How people are navigating this New Year's Eve amid this variant." (Omicron. NPR.)

♦ "A Black family in Maryland is navigating the economic strain." (NPR. By Alana Wise.)

♦ "Clever comedians can navigate cancel culture."

♦ "Pedestrians navigate a snow-covered sidewalk in Chicago." (The caption of a picture, showing two people walking side-by-side down a sidewalk that is covered by a light dusting of snow. The picture was underwhelming, to say the least. The caption might just have well as been captioned, "Two people walk along a sidewalk in Chicago.")

♦ "To survive, to navigate this incredibly bleak environment, a small but important part of me had to die. I'll never resurrect the full sensitivity that I would have had in a more reasonable and sensible place." (Charles Spencer talking to NPR's Scott Simon about the former's memoir, *A Very Private School*.)

### \*\*\* GPS, Lechal Insoles, etc.

♦ "Two Swedish tourists headed for the Italian resort of Capri misspelled the name in the GPS device and ended up in the industrial town of Carpi, 400 miles away, where they were very puzzled by the absence of a beach." (*The Week*, August 7, 2009.)

♦ "Triple A suggested that drivers who use GPS still carry a good old-fashioned map."

♦ "Tired of stumbling off curbs or bumping into other pedestrians while consulting a map on your smartphone? When you wear **Lechal Insoles**, a gentle vibration in one shoe or the other will tell you when and in which direction to turn. Just enter your destination into Lechal's GPS app, and let your phone do the navigating. The batteries for the vibrating pads last about 15 days on a charge. Besides steering you from place to place, the insoles can also act as activity trackers, monitoring distances traveled, steps taken, calories burned, and more. \$150, amazon.com."

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A gridlocked 5-lane urban highway. In the very center of the mass of anonymous cars, two people can be seen behind their windshield. The driver is saying to his passenger, "The

navigation says that we're wasting our time and should never have left home." (*The New Yorker*, July 4, 2022.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. A rich city man stopped his limousine next to a field in the countryside and waved a farmer over. "Where's Centerville?" the rich man demanded. "Never heard of it," said the farmer. "Well, where is Nearville?" the rich man spluttered. "Couldn't say," said the farmer. "Well, you're pretty goddamn stupid, ain't you, boy," the rich man said. "I ain't lost," said the farmer.

\*\*\* Cook, Bligh, Flinders, Mau Pailug, etc.

♦ The great captain James Cook learned cartographic trigonometry from Lt. Samuel Holland in the year prior to the 1759 Siege of Quebec. Cook, in turn, transmitted his knowledge of navigation to Captain William Bligh, who taught Captain Matthew Flinders. Cook, Bligh, and Flinders were famous for their voyages of exploration and discovery.

♦ William Bligh, Ernest Shackleton... (Two men associated with extraordinary feats of open-boat navigation.)

♦ "...the Englishmen were treated to an astonishing spectacle, a review in which no fewer than 330 canoes took part, some of them almost as long as the *Resolution* herself... The painting by Hodges now in Admiralty House gives one an idea of the scope of this display..." (The *Resolution*'s second visit to Tahiti. From *The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead.)

♦ Pacific Islanders performed great feats of navigation. See the Wikipedia article "Mau Pailug." Wikipedians are wonderful.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Navigate* is one of the most popular clichés in "contempo-speak." It is a marker of a contempo-speaker. Literally anything can be navigated and *is*, nowadays. Oftentimes, it can be replaced with the old but less trendy "deal with."

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## navigating

navigating consent

~ is all about communication (sex)

navigating the (neurological) disorder

she talked about ~ (Billie Eilish / Tourette's)

navigating one's identity

without a strong support system, ~ can be a little tricky

navigating the (tangled health care) maze

an immigrant's tale of ~

navigating (America's byzantine health care) systems

~ can be frustrating

navigating the terrain

they have shown themselves adept at ~

## navigation (cyberspace)

ease of navigation

great content and ~ (a Web site)

## Nazi (grammar Nazi, etc.)

grammar Nazis

for those ~ freaking about...

♦ "for those grammar Nazis freaking out about the incorrect pluralization of the title....that's the point" (With a laughing-crying emoji. An online commenter about the 2024 film *Wolfs* starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt.)

## Nazi (insult)

Nazi, Adolph Hitler

the left puts a target on his back with ~ smears (Trump)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Another night at the Garden: How Trump's rally echoed one in 1939," Column by Philip Bump, *The Washington Post*, October 28, 2024.

♦ "The left puts a target on Donald Trump's back with Nazi, Adolph Hitler smears." (Miranda Devine, *The New York Post*, Opinion, Oct. 23, 2024.)

♦ "Trump Is Speaking Like Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini" by Anne Applebaum, *The Atlantic*, October 18, 2024.

♦ "Yet some of us in the audience, disgusted by the persistence of Nazism and anti-immigrant invective in the present, may well appreciate the force of McQueen's rhetoric. There is nothing tactful, after all, about the prejudices that assault George on every corner." ("Song Of War: Blitz" by Justin Chang, *The New Yorker*, November 4, 2024. It's his review of Steve McQueen's 2024 film *Blitz*.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "He was celebrated as a scourge of Nazis, Communists, and subversives." ("When J. Edgar Hoover Was a National Hero" by Jack Goldsmith, *The Atlantic*, December 2022.)

♦ "Government ministers, newspaper columnists, ordinary people—they're all asking why the BBC doesn't say the Hamas gunmen who carried out appalling atrocities in southern Israel are terrorists. / The answer goes right back to the BBC's founding principles. / Terrorism is a loaded word, which people use about an outfit they disapprove of morally. It's simply not the BBC's to tell people who to support and who to condemn—who are the good guys and who are the bad guys... / And it's always been like this in the BBC. During World War Two, BBC broadcasters were expressly told not to call the Nazis evil or wicked, even though we did call them 'the enemy'. / 'Above all,' said a BBC document about all this, 'there must be no room for ranting'. Our tone had to be calm and collected. / It was hard to keep that principle going when the IRA was bombing Britain... / But we held the line. And we still do, to this day." ("Why BBC doesn't call Hamas militants 'terrorists'—John Simpson" by John Simpson, BBC, Israel Gaza War, October 11, 2023.)

♦ "Many political words are similarly abused. The word *Fascism* has no meaning except in so far as it signifies 'something not desirable'." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ John Rabe was a Nazi. So was Oskar Schindler. See the Wikipedia article "John Rabe." See the Wikipedia article "Oskar Schindler." Wikipedians are wonderful.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It would be good generally if people could stop using Nazi Germany as a kind of bad things emoji. Better to explain and use detail. Save Nazi Germany. Keep it in your back pocket for those occasions when only Nazi Germany will do." ("Why there are no winners after the BBC's two-footed tackle on Gary Lineker" by Barney Ronay, *The Guardian*, 10 March 2023.)

♦ "*Nazi* was clipped from the seventeen-letter German word *Nationalsozialist*, meaning, 'the National Socialist Worker's Party,' which came into power with Adolf Hitler in 1933. (Spelled National, it is pronounced Nazional.)" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From his chapter, "War Words And Their Histories.")

## Neanderthal

Neanderthal thinking

the last thing we need is ~, wear a mask (COVID)

♦ "[T]he neanderthals always like to make a point that woman's football is less popular, without having watched any." (A commenter, about the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup.)

## near (near future, etc.)

near getting

we're nowhere ~ on top of this virus (pandemic)

near future

nobody knows what the ~ will bring



draws near  
the night ~

drawing near  
the time is ~

## near (verb)

verdict nears  
Weinstein judge warns defense as ~

## nearsighted (adjective)

nearsighted  
the committee members are ~ (Nobel Peace Prize)  
corporate America is ~

nearsighted and ill-informed  
most Americans are ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "We see nothing truly till we understand it." (John Constable, about clouds.)

## neck (save one's neck)

save his neck  
nothing he can do will ~

save his own neck  
he is doing anything he can to ~ (death row)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can save your neck, save your skin, or save your scalp. Take your pick!

## neck (stick one's neck out)

stick their necks out  
people don't want to ~ (buying decisions)

stick your neck out  
if you ~, you might get your head cut off (politics)

stick our necks out for you  
we're not going to ~ (not in national interest)

## neck (fate)

neck  
my ~ is on the chopping block (accountability)

put his neck on the line  
he decided it was time to ~ (publicize sensitive info)

## neck (up to one's neck)

up to their necks in clutter  
they are ~

up to his neck in corruption  
everyone's ~ around here (illegal logging / Siberia)

buried up to my neck  
I was ~ in debt

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be up to your elbows in work. Or up to your neck in work. Or up to your eyeballs in work. Take your pick!

♦ see also *neck-deep* (in debt, etc.)

## neck (pain in the neck)

pain in the neck  
rebuilding it will be a ~ (damaged overpass)  
what a ~

pain in my neck  
she was often a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Someone might be a burr in your saddle. Or a stone in your shoe. Or a pain in the neck. Or a pain in the butt. Or a thorn in your side. Take your pick!

## neck (oppression)

neck of black Americans  
we have all seen the knee of injustice on the ~

neck of the people  
as the boot is removed from the ~ (Saddam's regime)

boot on the neck  
the government has its ~ of the company

knee on the neck  
he has his ~ of the public-health community (politics)

putting our foot on their neck  
we're out here every night ~ (a protest leader)

Get Your Knee Off Our Necks  
the event included a ~ protest

took world football's knee off Africa's neck  
so 2010 ~ (South African World Cup)

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ "That issue [prejudice] is now full and centre and top of the mind in the world and I think this movement of Black Lives Matter and taking the knee campaign made the world sit back and look at the issue. So 2010 took world football's knee off Africa's neck, I don't think it will be allowed to put that knee on Africa's neck again." (Danny Jordaan, organising chief for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, won by Spain. From "2010 took world football's knee off Africa's neck," BBC, July 11, 2020. This sort of language is a form of presentism.)

## neck (area)

neck of land  
we landed on a ~

## neck (Throggs Neck, etc.)

Chicken's Neck  
the Siliguri Corridor, or the ~ (India)

Devils Neck  
the ~, a cape on the Cache River, Woodruff Co., Arkansas

Throggs Neck  
~ is a neighborhood, peninsula and bridge (the Bronx)

Goose Neck  
~ is a bend on the Colorado River, San Juan County, CO  
~ is a cape on the Platte River, Platte County, Missouri  
~ is a bend in the East Fork of the Obey River, TN  
~ Shoals are a set of rapids on the Tennessee River, TN

Gourd Neck

~ is a cape on the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River  
~ is a bay in Orange County, Florida

### Gourdneck

~ Hollow is a valley in Jackson County, Alabama

### Swan Neck

~ is a cape in Dukes County, Massachusetts

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The Neck" might refer to a bench, a cape, a flat, a gap, or an island.

♦ In American geography, a "neck" is usually a peninsula, cape, or spit.

♦ "Goose necks," "Gourd Necks," and "Swan Necks" no doubt refer to shape.

♦ From the USGS.gov website, you can get to the "Geographic Names Information Service," where you can click on "Search Domestic Names." It's a wonderful site.

### neck and neck (adjective)

neck and neck with the Yankees

they are ~ (a baseball team)

### neck-deep (in debt, etc.)

neck deep in debt

thousands of drivers were ~ in debt (NYC taxi drivers)

neck deep in a documentary boom

we're currently ~ (true-crime)

♦ see also *neck (up to one's neck)*

### necklace (epithet)

Queen's Necklace

Marine Drive is also known as the ~ (Mumbai)

### Necklace (Necklace Lakes, etc.)

Necklace Lakes

the ~ in Missoula County, Montana

Necklace Valley

the ~ Lakes include Jade, Opal and Emerald

the ~ Lakes are in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness

the ~ Lakes are in King County, Washington State

### Necklace (Necklace Nebula, etc.)

Necklace Nebula

the ~ in Sagitta, the Arrow

Emerald Necklace

the ~ is a chain of parks (Boson and Brookline

the ~ appears to hang from the neck of Boxtton peninsula

the ~ was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted

### necklace (necklace moth, etc.)

necklace carpetshark

the ~ has a broad, black collar

necklace moth

the ~ is brown and has a "necklace" of white spots

♦ The 1948 film *The Loon's Necklace* tells how the loon got its distinctive band of white marking on its neck. See the Wikipedia article "*The Loon's Necklace*." Wikipedians are wonderful.

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Animals might be banded, bearded, crowned, dappled, marbled, mottled, necklaced, ringed, speckled, spotted, stippled, streaked, striped, and even spectacled!

### necklace (configuration)

necklace of islands

to the east was a long ~ known as the Lau Group

necklace of lights

a ~ was laid upon the sea (lighthouses on Mediterranean)

necklace of sensors

an electronic ~ (traffic management in urban areas)

electronic necklace

an ~ of sensors (traffic management in urban areas)

### need (she needs to, etc.)

needs to be

that animal ~ in a cage for life (crime)

needs to do

what he ~ is shoulder the responsibility for...

need to know

5 songs you ~ right now, curated by NPR's Alt. Latino

needs to be removed

he ~, hopefully by his underlings (a world leader)

needs to resign

Council President Martinez ~ (politics)

needs to (seriously) rethink

he ~ his emotional state and maturity

needs to retire

after this fight he ~, he has nothing left (boxing)

needs to shut up

she ~ and stop doing the talk shows (aggrieved celebrity)

needs to take responsibility

he ~ instead of blaming others (a celebrity)

need to talk

we ~... (uh-oh!)

need you to understand

I ~ that this is not OK (AOC / blindsided by leftists)

need Abel to get dragged

I really ~ for this nasty scene in *The Idol*

need to visit

if you can't see the form you will ~ the mobile version

needs to keep his name out of her mouth

she ~ and just go away (Depp vs. Heard)

♦ "We need you to talk. We need you to stop sitting around the dinner table acting like everything's great because it's not." (A black woman "schooling" white people about structural racism.)

♦ “She needs some flour, she needs some bread, she needs some eggs, she *needs* to take her ass to the supermarket...” (Kim Wayans as the character Benita Buttrell from the 1990s “In Living Color” TV Series. Funny!)

♦ “Pumpkin cheesecake cookies are the trendy fall treat you need to try.”

♦ “She needs to step down, she is way out of her league, adults need to be put in charge.” (An online commenter about L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, about the 2025 L.A. wildfires.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This usage relates to a strong form of advice, something between “should” and “must.” There may also be an element of wish fulfillment and even threat.

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we are used to teaching “need” and “need + to + verb,” but rarely in this sense.

♦ “Some people need to be fired.”

♦ “Needed killing.” (Vigilante justice.)

♦ “The world needs to...”

♦ “You need to shut up!”

♦ “I don’t *need* to do anything!”

♦ see also *want* (*I want her home, etc.*)

## needle (verb)

needed Republicans about why  
he ~ the resolution... (politics)

## needle (move the needle, etc.)

moral-outrage needle  
it takes a lot to move the ~

needle seems (kind of) stuck  
the ~ to me (on progress)

move the needle  
these ads can ~ if executed correctly (social  
consciousness)  
we’ll signal to states how they can ~ (and ban DEI)

moved the needle  
he’s ~ like few others (the exciting boxer Gervonta  
Davis)

move the needle from A to B  
legislators have the power to ~ (regulation of social  
media)

moved the needle against social inequality  
these philanthropists haven’t ~

move the needle on a novel, film or a TV show  
you can ~ (*Vanity Fair* editor Radhika Jones / promotion)

move the needle with the national audience  
these two teams just don’t ~ (ratings / MLB World  
Series)

moving this needle forward  
black women are ~ (protesting a policy)

moved the needle the most  
which candidate has ~ since the last debate (politics)

moves the needle just a smidge  
if it ~

moved the needle toward greater appreciation  
writers have ~ of her achievements (Jane Ellen Harrison)

♦ “Davis is one of the biggest needle-movers in boxing.” (The boxer Gervonta “Tank” Davis, about a fight between him and Ryan Garcia. Such a fight would be extremely popular.)

♦ “Flipping this gate (being allowed to picket it) probably won’t be the thing that gets the studios back to the table but even if it moves the needle just a...smidge, then it’s a victory to me.” (A strike captain for the Writers Guild of America during the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike.)

## needle (shape)

bullets, needles, prisms, columns, stars, cups, plates  
snowflakes come in shapes: ~

## needle (the Needles, etc.)

the Needles  
~ are a group of rock pinnacles (Arizona)  
~ are a famous tourist attraction (Isle of Wight)

Needles Eye  
~ is a gap in Arkansas  
~ Creek is a stream in South Carolina  
~ Natural Arch is in Missouri  
~ Mountain is a summit in Arkansas

Needle Eye  
~ is an arch in South Dakota  
~ Canyon is a valley in Utah

♦ “**Needles**; peaks of the Mojave Mountains in California, so named on account of their peculiarly sharp and slender outlines. Township in San Bernardino County, California.” (The Origin Of Certain Place Names in The United States (Second Edition) by Henry Gannett, Washington Government Printing Office 1905.)

♦ The Needles Highway is a 14-mile stretch of road in South Dakota. It includes the Needles Eye Tunnel and a view of the Needles Eye. A fee / permit is required. For complete information and a picture of the entrance to the tunnel, see the Wikipedia article “South Dakota Highway 87.” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## needle (needle in a haystack)

needle in a haystack  
they found a ~ (searchers for body of missing girl)  
it was not a ~ but a toddler in the desert...

needle in a haystack of nothing  
my blog was a ~

found a needle in a haystack  
they ~ (searchers for body of missing girl)

looking for a needle in a haystack  
these poor scientists were ~ (viruses back in the day)

♦ “Finding an animal with a SARS-CoV-2 infection is like looking for a needle in the world’s largest haystack. They may never find a ‘smoking bat.’” (Angela Rasmussen, virologist, Columbia University.)

♦ “In the months before meeting Oppenheimer, [Lawrence] had conceived the notion of building a machine capable of penetrating the so far unassailable nucleus of the atom, which existed, he quipped, ‘like a fly inside a cathedral.’” (An astonishing simile from *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ “The search is like looking for a needle in a haystack when you don’t know if the needle even exists.” (The search for a rat that may or may be alive on St. Paul Island in the Pribilof Islands. Rats on the island could play havoc with the colonies of nesting seabirds, and the island enforces strict anti-rat measures.)

### \*\*\* search and rescue, search and recovery...

♦ "Someone said it's kind of like looking for a needle in a haystack—only right now, the haystack is covered with snow." (Winter search for body of missing woman. Her body was found in the spring. She had been murdered.)

♦ "It was not a needle in a haystack but a toddler in the desert, both of which are extremely challenging to find." (*The New York Times*, in an article about two-year-old Emmett Trapp.)

♦ In August, 2008, two-year-old Emmett Trapp wandered off into the desert. Many wished to look for him, but officials refused offers of help, saying only *they* were qualified to search, based on their training. After 40 hours, the little boy was found by a citizen who disregarded the officials. The boy was just outside the official search zone, which had been combed over and over. He was only about a mile from his home. He was found dead.

♦ "Knowing that the divers on the scene were not up to this specialized task of entering the cave, and assuming—that Gant might still be alive in an air pocket—[Buddy] Lane pleaded by telephone that trained caver divers be called in..." ("The Bat Cave Miracle," 16 August 1992, Nickajack Lake Cave, New Hope, Tennessee.)

♦ "This isn't a search for a needle in a haystack, it's a tiny flea in a vast carpet, because they keep moving." (General Sanchez. "How children survived 40 days in Colombian jungle" by Matt Murphy in London and Daniel Pardo in Bogota, BBC News, June 11, 2023.)

♦ It's NEVER a body recovery. It's ALWAYS a rescue. No matter WHAT the AUTHORITIES say...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "My blog was a needle in a haystack of nothing."

♦ "To find a needle in a haystack, wouldn't you just use a very large magnet?"

## needle (thread the needle, etc.)

needle to thread

they have a difficult ~ (politics)

diplomatic needle

Beijing has to thread this ~ pretty carefully

thread the needle

I tried to ~ (a diplomat)

♦ "Threading the needle of writing a good headline while avoiding the clickbait trap comes down to honesty, Lorenz told *The Dispatch*. 'The best way to be honest is to have a conversation with yourself, which is, "If I was shown this headline and I clicked into the story, would I be disappointed in what I'm getting on the other end of it?"' ("The Writer of This Article Also Wrote This Headline and That's Rare: Everything you need to know about headlines and the art of writing them" by Ryan Brown, *The Dispatch*, June 12, 2021.)

## needle (eye of the needle, needle's eye)

make it through the needle's eye

those who ~ (and get into Harvard)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia entry "Eye of a needle" for references to the three Abrahamic religions.

## negotiate (terrain, etc.)

negotiate this space

how to ~ and develop a "cyberspace literacy" (internet)

negotiated the (rocky) terrain

she adeptly ~ of the New York publishing world

navigates and negotiates

she ~ her Black identity in a white space (high school)

## neighbor (verb)

neighbors China

Russia ~ in the Far East

## neighbor (noun)

neighbors

raised in Brownsville, where poverty and violence were ~

friendly neighbors

Azerbaijan and Armenia are not ~

new neighbor

her apartment had a view of her ~, the Atlantic Ocean

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Choose your neighbor before your house."

♦ "Good fences make good neighbors."

♦ "A big river and a rich man can be bad neighbors."

♦ "When your neighbor's house is on fire, carry water to the top of your own roof."

♦ NEIGHBOR, n. One whom we are commanded to love as ourselves, and who does all he knows how to make us disobedient. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## neighborhood (numbers)

in the neighborhood of 3,000

most scholars believe that the actual number is ~

## neighborhood (area)

neighborhood and internationally

the last thing we need in the ~ is a collapsing state (Burma)

dangerous neighborhood

the US needs a real partner in a ~ (Sudan)

tough neighborhood

we live in a ~, we need to survive and be tough (an Israeli)

## neighboring (adjective)

neighboring countries

Venezuela's health crisis has spilled over to ~ (measles)  
the earthquake rattled Myanmar and ~

neighboring Jordan

Syrian refugees are flooding into ~

neighboring lands

Christians are seeking shelter in ~ (from Iraq)

## nemesis (noun)

nemesis of Koch Industries

the EPA has been a ~ for decades

(his) nemesis, (his) kryptonite

this could be ~...

Chicago's nemesis

they were ~ in the late 80s ("Bad Boy" Pistons)

sees her as its nemesis

the banking lobby ~ (politics)

♦ “This could be his nemesis, this could be his kryptonite.” (A commentator at the Day of Reckoning boxing event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, suggesting Arslanbek Makhmudov could be beaten by the underdog Agit Kabayel. And Kabayel—German of Kurdish origin—*did* win the match in a great upset!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nemesis was the Greek Goddess of divine retribution, revenge and justice.

♦ “Adolf Hitler attacked Russia, and Russia became his *nemesis* and helped complete his destruction. The Greeks contributed this word to us. Their goddess *Nemesis* was the goddess of retribution. She punished pretentiousness and extraordinary crimes with her sword, her scourge, and her swift avenging wings. So in current usage *nemesis* signifies ‘an agent of retribution.’” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## neocolonial (groups)

neocolonial

the ~ Economic Community of West African States

## neocolonialism (groups)

neocolonialism

~ dressed up as a green revolution

♦ “The global energy transition is set to trigger a 40-fold increase in lithium demand between now and 2040, per the International Energy Agency, and mining companies are competing to secure supplies. Many fear local communities in the Argentina Puna, home to some 50,000 people, will meet the same fate as those in Chile: seeing their resources pillaged and lands destroyed to serve richer countries—neocolonialism dressed up as a green revolution.” (“Lithium Mining’s Next Frontier” by Ciara Nugent, Antofagasta De La Sierra, Argentina, *TIME*, August 8/August 15, 2022.)

## neophyte (noun)

political neophyte

Grant wasn’t entirely a ~ (the Civil War hero)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “The newly ordained priest or the novice in a convent is called a *neophyte*. He or she is really something ‘newly planted’ from the Greek *neos*, ‘new,’ and *phyton*, ‘plant.’” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 16, “Terms of Religion and Their Beginnings.”)

## nerd (word nerd, etc.)

word nerd

I was a ~, like yourself (two crossword constructors)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Or “wordnik.”

## nerve (anxiety)

war of nerves

(see *war of nerves*)

nerves are shot

her ~, she has no confidence (Wimbledon)

nerves can become frayed

~ in the blasting Antarctic winds

nerves had gotten the better of him

Holloway said ~ as he lost momentum... (Olympic track)

calm his nerves

he lit a cigarette to ~

calm people’s nerves

he appeared on TV to ~ (trade war)

♦ “It was a joke. Calm down, Ernie.” (A response to a negative poster on a message board. This may be a meme relating to some TV show featuring Ernie and Bert.)

♦ Andy: “Barney, you’ve just GOT to control your nerves.” (*The Andy Griffith Show*. Barney was comically excitable. No doubt every culture has a representation.)

## nerve (strike a nerve, etc.)

raw nerve

(see *raw nerve*)

hit a nerve

the tweet ~ for doctors (from NRA)

you are very defensive, I guess I ~, good (discussion)

hit a (Russian raw) nerve

the German report ~ (about Kursk Battle)

hitting a nerve

the speech was clearly ~ with progressives (Bernie Sanders)

struck a nerve

her article ~ (rant against obese people)

struck a (growing anti-bullying) nerve

his death ~ in America (suicide)

struck a (raw) nerve

the incident ~ in Haiti (foreign adoptions)

touched a (raw) nerve

the withdrawal ~ (troops give up area)

## nerve (courage)

lose our nerve

terrorists can win if we ~ and abandon our mission (Iraq)

lost his nerve

one intended suicide bomber ~ (Casablanca)

shatter (the enemy’s) nerve

the objective is to ~ (shock and violence)

get up the nerve

it has taken me 11 years to ~ to come here...

## nerve center (basis)

nerve center of the (light rail) network

the Guadalupe yard operates as the ~

nerve center for the continent’s liberation movement

at one time Cairo was the ~ (Africa)

nerve center for (Red Cross) operations

Mazar-i-Sharif, known as the ~ in the north... (Afghanistan)

serves as the nerve center

Singapore ~ for the company’s global operations

set up a (makeshift) “nerve center”

the Bush team ~ at the G.O.P. headquarters in Tallahassee

♦ Back room, boiler room, engine room, war room, nerve center...  
Take your pick!

## nerveless (adjective)

nerveless Stosur  
a ~ dominated the match (tennis)

## nerve-racking

nerve-racking  
it was ~

## ness (Asian-ness, etc.)

African-ness  
they fortified New Orleans' ~ (Saint-Domingue)

Asian-ness  
push your ~ to the fore and make art out of it

non-binary-ness  
your ~ can make them feel like... (dating)

Blackness  
Lil X Nas doesn't need to shrink or compromise his ~  
it's a sad state when your ~ is questioned  
the anti-~ and colorism that's common among Latinos  
~ is anagrammatical... (Christina Sharpe)  
~, queer theory, decolonial theory and affect theory

blackness  
a broader southern ~ that is frequently unseen  
this reckless country ~ (Beyonce's "Formation")

Blackqueerness  
the joy found in ~

brown-ness  
as if that ~ could change anything (more brown faces)

anti-fatness  
~ keeps fat people on the margins (Aubrey Gordon)

gayness  
teachers are converting kids to ~ or transgenderism  
his ~ is a given (an artist)

Gen Z-ness  
amazed at the strategic ~ of the looting (Santa Monica)

Indian-ness  
you hide aspects of your ~ to fit in (Asian in London)

Jewishness  
I just live my life and let the ~ take care of itself  
(Stoppard)

Latino-ness  
what defines Latinidad or ~

maleness  
the incredible whiteness and ~ (#OscarsSoWhite)

male-"ness"  
masculinity and ~ (Lee Marvin, gay-tham for Statham,  
etc.)

mindfulness

see *mindfulness* (noun)

Muslimness  
Cabinet office to investigate '~' claim (England / BBC)

other-ness  
the ~ of people (racism)

queerness  
was the show's ~ part of your original concept (NPR)  
there are other bodies and stories that encapsulate black ~  
for this transgender 18-year-old, ~ is happiness (NPR)  
~ is synonymous with happiness (by Kerrie Hillman)  
there is no word to describe ~ in Xhosa (South Africa)  
speaking of ~, that leads really well into my next point...  
race, ~ and superpowers... (NPR / Code Switch)  
incorporating ~ into English Classrooms (TESOL)  
Vaginal Davis forefronts ~, sex, race, and radical politics  
so much weirdness and ~ (Pee-wee Herman)  
Prodigy's voice is an embodiment of ~

ratchetness  
his ~ or his gayness (Lil Nas X)

trans-ness  
I was well aware of my ~ early on in life

transness  
Amy was able to center and de-center her ~ (*Jeopardy!*)  
trans-curious means to be interested in one's potential ~

truthiness  
~ (see the Wikipedia article)

whiteness  
we hear them talking about the sin of ~ (Fox News)  
Misty Copeland on the ~ of ballet ("It chips away at  
you")  
the show is about ~, and white grievance (*Yellowstone*)  
the incredible ~ and maleness (#OscarsSoWhite)

anti-whiteness  
~ is the fundamental premise of the left

hiphop-y-ness  
my coolness, my inner gangster, my ~ (young female)

uniqueness  
she stands boldly in her ~ (Amythyst Kiah)

wokeness  
see *wokeness* (groups)

African-ness and my queerness  
I carry my ~ on my sleeve because that's who I am

whiteness and maleness  
the incredible ~ of the Academy (Michael Schulman)

♦ "Lil Nas X doesn't need to compromise or shrink his Blackness, his Southern-ness, his ratchetness or his gayness." ("Lil Nas X is the boundary-smashing pop revolutionary of 2021" by Jason King, NPR Music, Dec. 28, 2021.)

♦ "Emily Bazelon's article, 'The Battle Over Gender Therapy' uncritically used the term 'patient zero' to refer to a trans child seeking gender-affirming care, a phrase that vilifies transness as a disease to be feared." ("For the attention of Philip B. Corbett, associate managing editor for standards at *The New York Times*.")



♦ "Every step I've taken has gaslighted those whom I love... I am not a culture vulture. I am a culture leech. You should absolutely cancel me, and I absolutely cancel myself." (Rachel Dolezal, an academic who claimed "identities of color," including Black Caribbean, North African Blackness, US rooted Blackness, Caribbean rooted Bronx Blackness, *Boricua*...)

♦ "It doesn't embrace the overblown-y-ness of... (Linda Holmes of Pop Culture Happy Hour reviewing a film.)

♦ "My coolness, my inner gangster, my hip-hop-y-ness." (A young female.)

♦ "I felt what he was doing was pathetic and I didn't want to deal with his patheticness. (Quentin Tarantino about Harvey Weinstein.)

♦ "My goal was a galette to show off the gorgeousness of leeks." (A recipe.)

\*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "Toblerone to drop Matterhorn logo over 'Swissness' rule."

## nest (Swallows Nest Bend, etc.)

### Badger Nest

~ Tank is a reservoir in Hail County, Texas

### Bears Nest

~ is a summit in Roosevelt County, Montana (not den!)

### Birds Nest

~ Mountain is a summit in Saratoga County, New York

### Crane Nest

~ Hollow is a valley in McDonald County, Missouri

### Crows Nest

~ is a populated place in Marion County, Indiana

~ Valley is a valley in Navajo County, Arizona

### Devils Nest

~ is a swamp in Bladen County, North Carolina

~ is a summit in Richland County, North Dakota

~ is a summit in Mitchell County, North Carolina

~ is a flat in Mendocino County, California

~ Creek is a stream in Blount County, Tennessee

### Duck Nest

~ Creek is a stream in Campbell County, Wyoming

~ Island is an island in Morrison County, Minnesota

### Ducks Nest

~ Gap is a gap in Rabun County, Georgia

~ Reservoir is in Dolores County, Colorado

~ Stream is in Gloucester County, New Jersey

### Eagle Nest

The ~ is a pillar in Eagle County, Colorado

~ is a summit in Luna County, New Mexico

~ is a summit in Valley County, Idaho

~ is a cliff in Apache County, Arizona

~ Canyon is a valley in Apache County, Arizona

~ Bayou is a stream in Bay County, Florida

~ Butte is a summit in McKenzie County, North Dakota

### Geese Nest

Wild ~ Spring is a spring in Apache County, Arizona

### Goose Nest

~ is an island in Cumberland County, Maine

### Gulls Nest

~ is a populated place in Sussex County, Delaware

### Hawk Nest

~ Point is a cape in Northumberland County, Virginia

### Hawks Nest

~ is a summit in Wayne County, Pennsylvania

~ is a summit in Sweetwater County, Wyoming

### Hens Nest

~ Rock is a summit in Wolfe County, Kentucky

### Hornet Nest

~ Hill is a summit in Colusa County, California

### Loons Nest

~ is an island in Washington County, Maine

### Owl Nest

~ is a summit in Apache County, Arizona

~ Canyon is a valley in Apache County, Arizona

### Owls Nest

~ Mountain is a summit in Pima County, Arizona

### Quails Nest

~ is a populated place in Cecil County, Maryland

### Ravens Nest

~ is a populated place in Washington County, Virginia

~ is a cliff in Hancock County, Maine

### Robins Nest

~ Lake is a reservoir in Guilford County, North Carolina

### Sparrow Nest

~ Creek is a stream in Beaufort County, South Carolina

### Swallows Nest

~ is a cliff in Asotin County, Washington

### Turkey Nest

~ Knob is a summit in Floyd County, Virginia

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ There are many "Crow Nest" places. Crows are fascinating to watch.

♦ There are many "Eagle Nest" places. Eagles are magnificent.

♦ The migration of Sandhill cranes along the Central Flyway is always a sight to see.

♦ Birds bring beauty to the world.

## nest (Bird's Nest, etc.)

### Bird's Nest stadium

an art performance at the ~ in Beijing

## nest (shape)

### edible nest

creamy quail eggs served in an ~ of spun rye bread

## nest (resemblance)

### nest of (torn) foam

she had her puppies there, in a ~ (old mattress)

### rat's nest

they must deal with a ~ of wires

## nest (military)

machine-gun nest  
interlocking ~s (combat)

sniper's nest  
he was struck in the abdomen leading his squad against a ~

## nest (of vipers, etc.)

nest of (ISIS) military camps  
B-2 bombers destroyed a ~ in Libya

nest of smugglers  
he may have surprised a ~ (border agent found dead)

nest of vipers  
the palace turned out to be a ~ (Hulu series *The Great*)  
he was an honest man in a ~

hornet's nest  
the measure could raise a ~ of legal problems  
the new tariffs stirred up a ~ of problems  
the camp has become a ~ (Jenin refugee camp / terrorists)

*Pirate Nests*  
~ *And the Rise Of The British Empire* (by Mark Hanna)

## nest (empty nest)

empty nest  
some parents find freedom in an ~

"empty nest" parents  
~ whose children fly back home

empty nest syndrome  
how to cope with ~ (kids go away to college)

## nest (mare's nest)

mare's nest of (legal and practical) problems  
the administration has a ~

mare's nest of (squabbling) tribes  
she knows what a ~ is... (an experienced diplomat)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This perhaps morphed from meaning an illusionary or nonsensical discovery (horses don't construct nests) to meaning simply a tangled mess, perhaps based on analogy with a *rat's nest*, which actually may not be that messy... Sigh...

## nest egg

nest egg  
at age 69, he had a ~ (retirement savings)

## nestled

nestled on the Black Sea  
this regional capital ~ (Trabzon, Turkey)

nestled between Bhutan and Nepal  
Sikkim is a jewel ~

nestled in the heart  
George Washington University, ~ of the nation's capital

## net (cast a net)

cast a (wide) net  
they have not yet ~ (a criminal investigation)

casting a very broad net  
it is a fishing expedition for information, ~

cast a (wide) net for the assassins  
police ~ (bus / rail / plane, etc.)

## net (safety net)

see *safety net*

## netherworld (noun)

netherworld  
the ~ in which he indulged (Calvin Klein)

flourish in the netherworld  
these falsehoods ~ of internet pranksters and trolls

disappeared into the netherworld  
he ~ of Egyptian jails

## neuter (verb)

neuter Grant  
Johnson hoped to ~ and control the army (politics)

neutered blogging  
social media ~ as a mode of online expression

neutered its parliament  
the new Turkish constitution has ~ (2017)

neuter (if not destroy) trade unions  
the legislation was designed to ~

neutered the press and the courts  
he has ~ (a leader)

struck down or neutered  
the Supreme Court has ~ the Voting Rights Act (NPR)

♦ "The standards-and-practices departments kept the networks neutered." (Versus early HBO.)

♦ Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, in her press release announcing that she would not run for reelection as mayor, decried the possibility of Atlanta officials being "*castrated*" on the evening news." One would assume the word was "castigated," but no correction was ever made. And it is just possible that's what she meant to say.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## neutral (in neutral)

in neutral  
uncertainty is keeping the economy ~

## neutralize (kill)

neutralized the threat  
police engaged the shooter and ~ (shot him dead)

♦ "We will catch the rapist and murderer, and encounter him."  
("Hyderabad rape suspect found dead: Is it murder or suicide?" by  
Geeta Pandey, BBC News, Delhi, Sept 18, 2021. This refers to  
extrajudicial murder by police who "encounter" a suspect.)

## neutralized (shot, killed, etc.)

neutralized

the threat has been ~ (school shooter shot)

"neutralized" at 20:09

the perpetrator was ~ (terrorist attack in Vienna)

neutralized within one minute

the suspect was ~ of attacking his first victim (Gare du Nord)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Taken down; gunned down; shot and critically wounded; shot dead...

♦ "Turkey says they were later neutralized, meaning killed..." (A terrorist attack. BBC's Six O'Clock News, 23/10/2024.)

## never (you've never heard of, etc.)

you've never heard of

the most famous magician ~ (Howard Thurston)

it's the most important theater of WW II that ~ (Crimea)

the best foreign books ~

the worst U.S. naval disaster ~ (Penobscot Expedition)

the fastest racehorse ~ ("Got Country Grip" / a Paint horse)

the greatest band ~ (The Glands)

the greatest philosopher ~ (Eihei Dogen)

she might be the greatest novelist ~ (Helen Garner / AUS)

Michael Goldhaber is the internet prophet ~

Alcatraz you've never heard of

McNeil Island in South Puget Sound is the ~

never told

the greatest comeback story ~ (resilience)

Never Told

"Greatest Love Story ~" (J-Lo)

*Never Told*

*Freaknik: The Wildest Party* ~ (2024 Hulu documentary)

\*\*\* jumping on the "never told" bandwagon

♦ "Greatest Love Story Never Told." (A song on J-Lo's latest album *This Is Me Now*.)

♦ *Freaknik: The Wildest Party Never Told*. (The 2024 Hulu documentary.)

♦ "It doesn't make news, but in a thousand cities and towns, the American people are writing the greatest comeback story never told." (President Joe Biden's 2024 State of the Union address to Congress.)

♦ "The most important AI company you've never heard of" (An advertisement.)

## never-never land

Never-Never land

we live in a veritable ~ (Amundsen in Antarctica)

never-never land Britain

she set her novels in a ~, massively elitist (Christie)

leaves her in never neverland

it ~ (political purgatory)

♦ "We live in a veritable Never-Never land. Seals come up to the ship and penguins to the tent, and allow themselves to be shot." (The great Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, the Bay Of Whales, Antarctica. Amundsen is one in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This is an allusion to *Peter Pan*. See also *Peter Pan*.

## new (new Floyd Mayweather, etc.)

new Floyd Mayweather Jr

he's the ~ (the boxer Devin Haney)

new Matthew McConaughey

he's being called the "~" (35 y.o. actor Glen Powell)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Out with the old, in with the new!

## new (versus traditional)

new Army

the ~ has been trained in a very short space of time

new chastity

the ~ on screen is perhaps prudent, but... (Hollywood)

new normal

see *normal* (*new normal*)

new school

see *new school*

New TV

Is TikTok The ~

new Vegas

if this iteration of Usher is ~, what about old Vegas...

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "[T]he old British Army which fought at Mons is but a glorious memory... / I do not know how many are left of that little Army. Their numbers must be very few. Some of the men of Mons are in the trenches to day; but they have become merged in the new armies... / The new Army has been trained in a very short space of time and everything has been concentrated in getting them ready to hold their own in trench warfare, and it is not very probable that they would have been very successful had they been called upon to perform the operation that was imposed on the Expeditionary Force..." ("How the Old Army Died" by General Smith-Dorrien, *Malaya Tribune*, 13 April 1917.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Out with the old, in with the new!

## new (new teacher, etc.)

new father

he was a ~ who died while climbing a mountain

new mother

I was a ~ myself, my baby was six months old

new soldier

to a ~, they're BCGs (glasses)

new teacher

the first year for a ~ can be brutal

## new (orange is the new black, etc.)

Asians are the new Jews

today at Harvard, ~ (quotas limit numbers)

Atlanta is becoming the new Chicago

~ (crime, violence, ethnic groups)

Black Is the New Black

~ celebrates Britain's black community (BBC 2)

*black is the new white*

~ by Paul Mooney (a memoir)

data is the new oil

~ (as valuable as oil)

fish gape is the new duck face

the ~ (female selfie pose)

frozen is the new fresh

~ (fish that is flash frozen and vacuum sealed)

Gay is the New Black

~ (an activist's placard / same-sex marriage)

great sleep is the new 'great sex'

~ (Dr. Wendy Troxel, author)

"nice is the new nasty"

her career rise might signify that ~ (Rachel Maddow)

platform sneakers are the new heels

~ shop the 11 best we reviewed and love...

orange is the new black

~ reprises "Pink is the new black"

orange is the new grey

~ for Bangladeshi beards (henna)

pink is the new black

"~" was perhaps the origin for "orange is the new black"

rum about to become the new gin

is ~

shark is the new dolphin

the ~ (favorable references on net/ don't kill manateers)

Substack is the new Instagram

~, it's catching on (Libby Strachan, brand marketing)

surgery is the new sex

in this thrill-seeking world, ~ (film *Crimes of the Future*)

Thursday is the new Friday

they say that ~ (ad for a wine club / "Every day feels like Friday")

TikTok is the new Google

~ for Gen Z (they use it for "search")

listening is the new reading

~ (an advertisement for audiobooks)

zombied is the new "ghosting"

being ~ (dating / singer-songwriter Mariel Darling)

70 is the new 50

~ (you're only as old as you act)

Next Big Thing

see *thing* (*the next big thing*)

♦ "If you think that English that has some errors in it is bad, maybe that's the new good." (Heather Hansen, an English Language Instructor and Global Communications Specialist. Trendy!)

♦ "Yeah, and this is a Monday, you should see this place on a Thursday, because Thursday's a new Friday." (The crazy film *Year One*.)

♦ "I tried not to look at age as a hindrance or a factor of the outcome. I guess 36 is the new 26." (The great Serb tennis player Novak Djokovic after beating Italian Jannik Sinner, 21, at Wimbledon 2023. In the final, however, he lost to Carlos Alcaraz, 20. Perhaps Novak spoke too soon.)

♦ "Gen Z's scrunch face replaces millennials' duck face as latest bizarre selfie trend."

♦ "Dead is the new black y'all / Race is a lethal condition / Being a man of color / That's the national sin." (A 2016 poem by Professor Joseph Drew Lanham. In 2022 he became a MacArthur Fellow.)

♦ "Stockholm and Oslo are the new Paris and Rome." (Tourists are finding Paris and Rome too hot because of extreme summer temperatures.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The pattern "X (be) the new Y" echoes the old phrase, "the next big thing." It is promotional.

♦ " (19) Water is the new oil. / (20) Green is the new black. / In context, the readings of sentences such as examples (19) and (20) (discussed in Dancygier 2011) suggests that they are examples of another construction, which we will call the X-is-the-new-Y Construction." (*Figurative Language* by Barbara Dancygier and Eve Sweetser. 6 Grammatical constructions and figurative meaning / 6.7 Nominal-Modification Constructions and frame metonymy / 6.7.2 Nominal modification.

♦ Out with the old, in with the new!

♦ see also *future* (*of the future*), *next* (*next Steve Jobs, etc.*)

## new (as noun)

lots of new

there will be ~ in theaters before Memorial Day (NPR)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

♦ Out with the old, in with the new!

## newborn

"newborn" country

Kosova, the ~

newborn league

the ~ is fighting for its life (soccer / US)

♦ The Newborn monument in Pristina, Kosovo, is a popular spot for citizens and tourists alike. Children, especially, enjoy climbing and playing on the giant letters. See the Wikipedia article "Newborn monument." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## New Deal (Green New Deal, etc.)

Green New Deal

a ~, a sweeping agenda (jobs, energy, infrastructure)

this generation's New Deal

the relief programs could become ~ (politics)

\*\*\* President Roosevelt's New Deal...

♦ President Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Administration (REA), founded in 1935, began to bring electricity to the quarter of the population that lived on farmlands. "Sign up and get the REA" was the slogan. At the start, 90 percent of farmers were without electricity. By 1942, half of all American farms were connected to the grid: by 1952, they almost all were. Rural families typically made the radio their second electric purchase, after the clothes iron.

♦ "I wanted to be at my parents' house when the electricity came. It was in 1940. We'd all go around flipping the switch, to make sure it hadn't come on yet. When they finally came on the lights just barely glowed. I remember my mother smiling. When they came on full, tears started to run down her cheeks." (A farm family that got electricity from the Rural Electrification Administration.)

♦ In "A Summer Breather" and "Poverty" by the Russian writer Mikhail Zoshchenko, "early adopters" of technology got electricity in their apartment building for the first time. / The problem was, the electric bill was communal. A man appointed himself to ensure that people didn't waste electricity, and for a while the bill was low and everyone was quite happy. Everyone used the light sparingly, say, only to undress before going to bed. But the enforcer took his job too zealously, stayed up every night checking on people, never slept, and finally went mad. Once he was gone, people started to use the electricity more, say, to heat a room. The communal bill went up, which in turn unleashed an orgy of use: if other people are profligate, than I will be too! People began to do such outlandish things as to re-warm their food on their hotplates, and turn on lights to read at night. The electric bill became astronomical. In the end, the people decided to have the electricity cut off, and went back to kerosene and candles. / Stories like these went against the grain of Soviet pride in their technological accomplishments—huge dams and electrification—and got Zoshchenko denounced personally in the Zhdanov decree of 1946. He died in poverty.

## new school

### new-school juggernaut

Tagovailloa turned old-school Alabama into a ~ (football)

### new school / old school

a classic ~ rift (newer kayaking moves)

♦ see also *old school*

## newspeak (noun)

### Newspeak

*Newsweek* should be called ~ (fact-checking controversy)

### goal of Newspeak

the ~ is to impoverish language...

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "[T]he goal of Newspeak is to impoverish language so that politically incorrect thoughts are no longer possible." ("Doublethink Is Stronger Than Orwell Imagined: What 1984 means today" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, July 2019.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Doublespeak" and the Wikipedia article "Newspeak." Both are related to George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *boilerplate (noun)*, *buzzword (noun)*, *doublespeak (noun)*, *ese (legalese, etc.)*, *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language (types)*, *speak (NASA-speak, etc.)*, *supersizing (linguistic supersizing)*, *talk (mediator talk, etc.)*, *word salad*

## next (next Steve Jobs, etc.)

### next Bali

Mandalika, a new tourist area touted as the ~ (Lombok)

### next Steve Jobs

she was supposed to be the ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)  
if you want to be the ~, you've got to do it honestly

### next Russia

Italy was considered to be the ~ (post WWII)

### next MS-13

TDA is the ~ (Tren De Aragua gang in the U.S.)

### next big thing

see *thing (the next big thing)*

### next Steve Jobs or Bill Gates

she was anointed "the ~" (Elizabeth Holmes)

♦ "You start to realize you are looking into the eyes of another Bill Gates, or Steve Jobs." (The smitten Channing Robertson about Elizabeth Holmes of Theranos.)

♦ see also *future (of the future)*, *new (orange is the new black, etc.)*

## next (at a later time)

### next day

the ~ we were sent to the rear (soldiers)

### next summer

the bitter political climate ahead of elections ~

### what's next

moving on in the ~, social media age (bad behavior)

## Niagara (Niagara of the South, etc.)

### Niagara of Asia

the Khone Phapheng Falls, the ~ (Laos)

### Niagara of the South

Cumberland Falls, Kentucky, the "~~"

Tallulah was soon dubbed the "~~" (Georgia)

local and national writers extolled Tallulah as the ~

♦ "And when Randolph and his crew broke the final wall on a bitterly cold January day in 1900, it seemed to a writer on the Chicago Tribune an almost apocalyptic moment: / 'It is open! It is open!' went up from scores of throats as the water at last... had been made to start down the toboggan slide into the canal. The fall... was 24 ½ feet... 'It is the Niagara of Chicago,' Mr. Eckhart said as he stood, watching the waters, together with the ice and boulders, sweep down the chute and drive far into the wide canal..." (The opening of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. From *The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

## Niagara (the river and falls)

### Niagara of vitriol

it was a ~ (a rock interview)

### Niagaras of folly and misstatements

yet ~ still pour out on this question (Winston Churchill)

### in a Niagara Falls

we are ~ of the report (criticizing the group)

♦ Sir Winston Churchill wrote of the "Niagaras of folly and misstatements" about "the Second Front" that Stalin so insisted on, from 1941 onwards. Russia's response to German fascism was, of course, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Meanwhile, Great Britain stood alone...

## nibble (nibble at, etc.)

### nibbling away at land and vital infrastructure

coastal erosion is ~ (remote Air Force radar stations)

#### \*\*\* "Hyenas in Malawi..."

♦ "Hyenas have been known to nibble feet protruding from hut doors." (Malawi.)

## nibble (noun)

got a nibble

he finally ~ from a potential employee

## night (death / actual)

go (gentle) into that good night

do not ~ (Dylan Thomas)

♦ "Do not go gentle into that good night, / Old age should burn and  
rave at close of day; / Rage, rage, against the dying of the light."  
("Wise men," "Good men," "Wild men," "Grave men," "And you, my  
father...")

## night (night and day and day and night)

night and day to the first round

the start was ~ 12 months ago (a boxing match)

## nightingale (Nightingale of India, etc.)

known as the Nightingale of Bollywood

she was ~ (the singer Lata Mangeshkar)

## nightmare (worst nightmare)

worst nightmare

the ~ a parent could endure (missing kid found dead)

girl's worst nightmare

it's every ~ (getting pregnant accidentally)

industry's worst nightmare

shoppers like her are the supermarket ~

he turned into the ~ (George Atiyeh vs. logging)

mother's worst nightmare

as a teen, she was every ~ (drugs, sex, etc.)

parent's worst nightmare

every ~ (child kidnapping, murder)

my worst nightmare

this was ~ (emergency landing in plane)

## nightmare (noun)

nightmare

you're seeing shyness as a ~ and it can be...

she talks about her ~ (rape)

traveling alone with young kids can be a ~ (airlines)

she sees her ~ unfolding before her (traffic jam)

it's been a ~ (affirmative action for fire department)

he soon discovered the job was a ~

shopping for school clothes can be a ~ (girls)

the ~ was not over (one more round / boxing)

the ~ began with an e-mail (hackers extort company)

OnlyFans was a godsend, now it's kind of a ~ (porn)

nightmare of all firefighters

structural collapse is the ~

nightmare of (loose) granite

a ~ and overhanging seracs (Dhaulagiri)

nightmare of Sept. 11

nearly a year after the ~, kids still...

nightmare of war

the dream of peace has often turned into a ~ (Africa)

nightmare scenario

the ~ for NATO

the ~ for many biologists, conservationists

that's a ~ for those... (politics)

nightmare year

it was a ~ (teaching at troubled D.C. school)

nightmare first round

they horribly underachieved in a ~ (World Cup)

actor's nightmare

will I ever work again, that's the ~ (Sir Anthony Hopkins)

credit nightmare

divorce can create ~s

examination nightmare

but would it be an ~ (scheduling school tests)

traffic nightmare

the city festival will cause a ~

parking and traffic nightmares

residents living near the popular club face ~

public-relations nightmare

they are fighting a ~ (restaurant chain)

horrifying nightmare

blind dates are either a huge success or a ~

living nightmare

he described his life as a "~" (paralysed neck down)

scheduling nightmare

family events can become a ~

annual nightmare

the ~ of Christmas cards

bureaucratic nightmare

he found himself in a ~

complete nightmare

it's turned into a ~ (trapped at airport by blizzard)

concave nightmare

a ~ of loose granite, overhanging seracs (Dhaulagiri)

Kafkaesque nightmare

my ~ is to be...

legal nightmare

it was the beginning of a ~

a ~ arises (Jehovah's Witnesses and doctors)

logistical nightmare

getting a force that size into Iraq by air would be a ~

the Hajj is a ~ (Makkah / Saudi Arabia)

resupply was a ~ (Egyptians fight in Yemen)

nuclear nightmare

India has revived the ~ (nuclear tests)



racial nightmare

turning the trial into a ~

ultimate nightmare

"brilliant" bombs strike some as the ~

18-hour nightmare

it turned into an ~ (Mogadishu firefight)

beginning of a (legal) nightmare

it was the ~

start of the nightmare

yeah, that was the ~ (security arrest)

dream and nightmare

every surfer's ~ (Condition Black / huge surf)

nightmare is over

what makes you think the ~, if he gets away with it

nightmare arises

a legal ~ (Jehovah's Witnesses and doctors)

nightmare began

his ~ with a phone call from...

nightmare (finally) coming to an end

is the ~ (politics)

faced a public-relations nightmare

the university ~ (murder of Lauren McCluskey at the University of Utah)

found himself in a nightmare

he ~ (bureaucracy)

make commuting (by train) a nightmare

the gropers who ~ for women (in Japan)

turned into an (18-hour) nightmare

it ~ (Mogadishu firefight)

turned the dream into a nightmare

the loans have ~ (home ownership)

♦ A find-yourself-standing-naked-in-Times-Square-type nightmare...  
(Completely normalized today... don't worry.)

## nightmarish (adjective)

nightmarish scene

it was a ~ (125-vehicle pileup that killed four)

nightmarish thoughts

~ about...

## night owl (person)

night owls

the frozen beef is often bought by ~ (Singapore vending machines)

♦ "I have a unique combination of being an early bird and a night owl." (A self-promoting go-getting young NPR female.)

## Nile (America's Nile, etc.)

America's Nile

the Colorado River has been referred to as "~"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Dr. Jack C. Schmidt of Utah State University, the Colorado River is similar to the Nile River for the following reasons: (1) original development was in its downstream end (lower basin) (2) water comes from distant headwaters (3) while it flows mostly north to south, it is an "upside down version of the Nile" (4) dams and water diversion in its upstream end (upper basin) are greatly affecting its lower reaches (lower basin). Almost needless to say, it also flows at certain points through arid places and its waters are the lifeblood of those places. ("Spring 2022 GES Seminar Series with Dr. Jack Schmidt" on YouTube. His wonderful presentation might make a young person consider a career in hydrography! Of course, there are many ways that the two rivers are completely different.)

## nimble (adjective)

nimble

the security system is not ~ enough (border)

nimble negotiating

Egypt had distinguished itself for ~ (the past)

nimble mind

he has a ~

nimble enough

are they ~ to close and reopen (schools in pandemic)

nimble and aggressive

the company vowed to be more ~ (layoffs)

nimble, tough-minded and effective

we need government that is ~

lean and nimble

the company must become more ~

more nimble

smaller, ~ warships and subs are the way to go (Navy)

remain nimble

we must ~ (military)

keep your mind nimble

you need to ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Jack be nimble, / Jack be quick, / Jack jump over / the candlestick."  
(A nursery rhyme.)

## nimbus (cloud)

nimbus of (curly graying) hair

she is a self-possessed woman with a ~

## nine eleven (Australia's 9/11, etc.)

nine-eleven moment

it was sort of a ~ for America (Fort Sumter attack)

Australia's 9/11

in many ways, it is ~ (Bali bomb blast)

"China's 9/11"

in Beijing the incident was called ~ (2014 Kunming attack)

Israel's 9/11

the surprise attack, widely described as ~ (Hamas / 2023)

analogous to 9/11

they actually call it 26/11, ~ (2008 Mumbai attacks)

♦ "[Indians] actually call it 26/11." (The 2008 Mumbai attacks occurred November 26.)

♦ "I've heard from Israelis saying that this is our 9/11." (A CNN commentator interviewing James Clapper. The commentator says that "it's hard to make comparisons, but..." and she mentions (1) the scope of the attack (2) the surprise (3) and the killing of civilians. She adds that the taking of hostages was different. To which James Clapper added, in terms of the comparison (4) the sense that there was a huge intelligence failure, specifically in two areas: a failure of imagination, of what the enemy was in fact capable of; and a failure to "connect the dots." Clapper said, "Unfortunately, it is an apt comparison." ("Why Clapper says Hamas attacks are an 'apt comparison' to 9/11, CNN.)

♦ Hamas attacked Israel from Gaza on October 7, 2023, killing around 1,300 people. If the same percentage of deaths to population had occurred in the U.S., the casualty toll would have been almost 40,000 people. About 3,000 people died on 9/11. For an excellent comparison of 10/7 and 9/11, read "Why 10/7 Was Worse for Israel Than 9/11 Was for America" by Robert Satloff, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Oct 15, 2023. And how many children were *affected* by the attack? More than 3,000 children lost a parent on America's 9/11, according to CNN. And there are all the other relationships, including fiancées....

♦ "Twenty nine-elevens... in one day." (Netanyahu addresses the U.S. Congress in 2024. The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ For an excellent description of the 10/7 incursion from a military point of view, listen to the following podcast: Urban Warfare Project Podcast: Studying The October 7 Terrorist Attacks, John Spencer, 03.15.24. Spencer makes the point that the Hamas invasion was essentially a *division*-level attack, which is certainly different from 9/11. The Urban Warfare Project is part of the Modern War Institute at the United States Military Academy, referred to as West Point. "Duty, Honor, Country."

♦ "Muhammad Deif, the 'Osama Bin Laden of Gaza,' was eliminated on 13.07.24." (Israel.)

♦ "It had seemed impossible that Japan would court destruction by war with Britain and the United States, and probably Russia in the end. A declaration of war by Japan could not be reconciled with reason. I felt sure she would be ruined for a generation by such a plunge, and this proved true. But Governments and peoples do not always take rational decisions. Sometimes they take mad decisions, or one set of people get control who compel all others to obey and aid them in folly. I have not hesitated to record repeatedly my disbelief that Japan would go mad. However sincerely we try to put ourselves in another person's position, we cannot allow for processes of the human mind and imagination to which reason offers no key. / Madness is however an affliction which in war carries with it the advantage of *surprise*." (*The Grand Alliance* by Winston S. Churchill, "Book Two, War Comes To America, Japan.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Most of us barely even pause to reflect on 9/11 anymore. We've moved on."

♦ "What will archaeologists twenty-five centuries from now make of the ruins of One World Trade Center, currently nearing completion in downtown Manhattan?" (The beginning of "Deep Frieze" by Daniel Mendelsohn. His article is about the Parthenon, another "memorial to a devastating attack...one terrible day in September.")

♦ see also *Pearl Harbor* (Australia's *Pearl Harbor*, etc.)

## nineteen eighty four (and 1984)

went all 1984

technology was a lot more fun before it ~

## ninja (person)

information ninjas

libraries are full of ~ (employees who can help)

## nipple (Mollie's Nipples, etc.)

The Nipple

~ is a summit in Box Elder County, Utah

~ is a summit in White Pine County, Nevada

~ is a summit in McKean County, Pennsylvania

Nipple Bench

~ is a bench in Kane County, Utah

Nipple Butte

~ is a summit in Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK

~ is a summit in Powder River County, Montana

~ is a summit in Navajo County, Arizona

~ is a summit in Campbell County, Wyoming

Nipple Creek

~ is a stream in Kane County, Utah

Nipple Gulch

~ is a valley in Moffat County, Colorado

Nipple Hill

~ is a summit in Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Nipple Knob

~ is a summit in Idaho County, Idaho

Nipple Lake

~ is a lake in Dolores County, Colorado

Nipple Mesa

~ is a summit in Park County, Wyoming

Nipple Mountain

~ is a summit in Saguache County, Colorado

Nipple Peak

~ is a summit in Deer Lodge County, Montana

Nipple Rock

~ is a bar in Belknap County, New Hampshire

Nippletop

~ in Zion National Park, Utah (unofficially named)

Dans Nipple

~ is a summit in Uinta County, Wyoming

Elsies Nipple

~ is a summit in Wayne County, Utah

Ferns Nipple

~ is an iconic landmark in Capital Reef National Park

Grannys Nipple

~ is a summit in Grand County, Colorado

Katys Nipple

~ is a summit in Big Horn County, Wyoming

Maggies Nipple

~ is a summit in Moffat County, Colorado

Marys Nipple

~ is a summit in Beaver County, Utah

Mollie's Nipples

there are several ~ in Utah (Wikipedia)

Nellies Nipple

~ is a summit in Kern County, California

Peters Nipple

~ is a summit in San Juan County, Utah

Sadies Nipple

~ is a pillar in Garfield County, Utah

Susies Nipple

~ is a summit in Teton County, Idaho

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Wikipedia article "Mollie's Nipple" is quite interesting. It relates to Utah and its early history and exploration, to include Indians, pioneers, and outlaws. It also includes a unique collocation: "Notable Mollie's Nipples"! Wikipedia also has an interesting article at "Breast-shaped hill." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## nipple (shape)

nipple

a ~ can connect two other fittings (pipes)

hex (pipe) nipple

a ~ can be grasped with a wrench

## Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark of (exotic) wildlife

the Berenty Reserve is a ~ (Madagascar)

Noah's Ark of small-time criminality

this ~ (First Fleet / Australia)

modern-day Noah's Ark

Norway's Global Seed Vault is a ~ for plant seeds

## no (no Jack Kennedy, no Mardi Gras, etc.)

no (African) Abraham Lincoln

Kagame was ~ (Rwanda)

no Andrew Jackson

Buchanan was ~ (the slide into the Civil War)

no Andy Dufresne

but Lester Eubanks was ~ (*ABC Have You Seen This Man*)

no de Gaulle

you will see that Andropov is ~ (Milovan Djilas)

no Einstein

they're ~ (snark)

no Jack Kennedy

Senator, you're ~ (Lloyd Bentsen to Dan Quayle)

no Jim Brown

he was ~ (O.J. Simpson dies)

no Martin Luther King, Jr.

he is ~ (John Lewis about Barak Obama)

no Peter Crouch

he's ~ (a commenter about Lionel Messi)

no Pollyanna

I am ~

no Suworov

he's ~, but it's possible to work with him (combat)

no Mardi Gras

but living just above the poverty line is ~ (Scotland)

no Kent State

this was ~, but... (Cambridge University student protests)

no 'Gigli'

well, the good news is that it's ~ (J.Lo's latest album)

♦ "The opposite of a sensory-deprivation tank might be to spend a Monday morning in the library's InfoNow Department." (*The Library Book* by the wonderful writer Susan Orlean.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See "comparison & contrast" in the thesaurus of this work for a selection of the various ways we can make comparisons in English.

♦ see also *not* (*not Churchill, not Disneyland, etc.*)

## no (no fool, etc.)

no fool

Oppenheimer was aware that Teller was ~

no doubt

there can be ~ that...

no picnic

see *picnic* (*no picnic*)

## no (no not, no...not, etc.)

no not having

there was ~ a relationship with them (drugs in the hood)

no reason not

there is ~ to call her

no sense not

it makes ~ to protect him...

♦ "There was no not having a relationship to drugs, right?" (Jada Pinkett Smith, about growing up in Baltimore.)

## Nobel (Nobel Prize of the Arab World, etc.)

Nobel Prize of the Arab World

the King Faisal Award for Service to Islam, dubbed the ~

Nobel Prize for Agriculture

the World Food Prize, dubbed the ~

Nobel Prize for mathematics

it is regarded as the ~ (Fields Medal)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This usage may become extinct in our lifetime, considering that the Nobel Prize for physics was given to Geoffrey Hinton, and a Nobel Prize for literature was given to Bob Dylan. The Nobel Prizes, Pulitzer Prizes, the Academy Awards, MacArthur Fellowships, Presidential Medals of Freedom, and Harvard University simply don't stand for much anymore.

## nobody (a nobody)

just a nobody

I'm ~

♦ “To me, being a gangster was better than being President of the United States... To me, it meant being somebody in the neighborhood that was full of nobodies... They did whatever they wanted, they double-parked in front of a hydrant and nobody ever gave them a ticket.” (Ray Liotta’s opening voiceover for the film *Goodfellas*.)

♦ “Oh boy 2 nobodies hoping to be somebodies.” (A BBC HYS online commenter about the announcement of the Whyte-Joshua rematch, scheduled for August 12, 2023. The fight was ultimately cancelled when Whyte failed a drug test.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the *Odyssey*, Odysseus outwits the Cyclops Polyphemus and ends up blinding him, in a great win for the “nobodies.”

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we are all used to teaching “some,” “any,” and “no” with “body,” “one,” “where,” “thing,” etc. We all know the score. But do we ordinarily teach *this* usage? Perhaps we should, and perhaps it would actually stick with our students and become a productive part of their vocabulary.

## nobody (and no one / sarcasm)

said nobody

so proud of this boy, ~ with a brain...

said no one

wow what a great match...said ~ ever...

♦ “This is a fight I’d really like to see”—said no one.” (An online commenter about the announcement of the Whyte-Joshua August 12, 2023, rematch, which ended up being cancelled after Whyte failed a drug test.)

♦ “so proud of this boy, said nobody with a brain...” (An online commenter.)

♦ “Wow what a mouthwatering match up....said no one ever.” (The Whyte-Joshua boxing rematch.)

## no-brainer (noun)

no-brainer

chumbuckets are a ~ (money to be made)

no-brainer for me

it was a ~, I was in from day one

make the decision (on Hamilton) a no-brainer

Mercedes had enough information to ~ (F1 strategy)

♦ “Check, check, check, and it was a no-brainer...” (The popular NFL player Cam Newton returns to the Carolina Panthers. Or as Newton himself said, “You know where I’m here, and this ain’t for no ploy.”)

## nod (permission)

get the nod

chances are good that the Chinese firm will ~ (contract)

given the nod to more (COVID) boosters

advisors for the FDA have ~

## nod (agree)

heads nod

there are days when I see ~ (a defense of Facebook)

## nod (acknowledge)

nods to Ralph Ellison

the chapter ~ (Colson Whitehead)

♦ NPR’s Mary Louise Kelly: Hello, Stephen King. / Steven King: Hello, how are you, Mary Louise? / Mary Louise: I am well, thank you. I wanna start by asking you about this story I just nodded to... (Typical Mary Louise Kelly.)

## nod (acknowledgement)

nods to diversity

in a sea of performative, less than relevant ~

nods to the past

we’re going to do some ~ (a new version of Bebo)

nod to the victims

it’s a ~ to make it easier for them (no contest plea)

acting nods

there may be ~ for some members of the cast (Emmys)

party nod

everyone knew that Grant would get the ~ (politics)

## no-holds-barred (and no holds barred)

no-holds-barred conversation

it was a ~

no-holds-barred dramas

Riot Girls offer ~ (BBC Radio 4)

no-holds-barred fight

this was a ~, and neither side backed down (Golan / 1973)

## noise (worthlessness)

noise

trying to pick out the signal from the ~ (epidemiology)

a lot of extraordinary data are nothing but ~

the ~ makes it hard to distinguish what matters (the media)

results are results and the rest is ~ (politics and elections)

your speculation is ~, it has negative value (comments)

noise of customer behavior

Amazon leads the way in finding patterns in the ~

"noise" in the data

~ makes the new results dubious (earthquakes)

noise in the system

there’s going to be some ~ (way to produce statistics)

noise to folks

that is ~, what matters is... (a temporary legal distraction)

noise and confusion

we hope it will reduce some of the ~ (vaccine website)

annoying noise

they create this ~ (government internet trolls)

background noise

to me it’s just ~, not important (attacks on social media)

short-term noise

stick to fundamentals, try and look through the ~ (stocks)

terrible noise

enlightening and helpful data vs. ~ (AI and medicine)

full of noise

the information space is ~ (fakes, disinformation, theories)

#### chaos and noise

viewers were left with ~ (presidential debate)

#### nonsense and the noise

if you are tired of the ~ in our politics... (Amy Klobuchar)

#### signal and noise

see *signal and noise* (noun)

#### cut through all this noise

trying to ~ (what was true and what wasn't)

#### rise above the noise

artists need to ~ and stand out (TikTok)

#### integrate, unify, and make simple the (apparent) noise

he wants to ~ of the world (Karl Friston)

♦ "Some of that data will be enlightening, and really helpful. But some of it is going to be terrible noise and even lead to unnecessary testing and anxiety." (Dr. Eric Topol, on the kind of health data people can now track with their smartphones.)

\*\*\* the remarkable sound recordist **Martyn Stewart...**

♦ "We have so much noise in the environment these days, there's seven point six, seven billion people on the planet making a lot of noise... Such is the noise we live in." (The remarkable sound recordist Martyn Stewart, who has dedicated his life to recording the sounds of nature. "Why this wildlife expert is making his archive public" by Mark Savage, BBC, 2 December 2021.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The human mind can acquire knowledge from very limited input and rapidly sort through noisy, conflicting information to reach judgments."

♦ see also *static* (noun)

## noise (attention, conflict, and controversy)

#### noise

there has been a lot of ~ and trending on Twitter about... we can't react to all the ~ outside, there'll be criticism there's nothing wrong with making ~ (progressive issues) his comments bring ~ we don't need (disgruntled athlete) online sleuthing groups can generate a lot of ~, a lot of data

#### clatter

how do you get through the ~ that he creates (politics)

#### noise of the Internet

better to give an exhausted shrug at the ~ and move on

#### noise and spin

this is what's wrong with boxing, it's just all ~ (a fight fan)

#### noise, anger, vitriol, and politicization

you might want to step back from the ~ and focus on...

#### online noise

he has tried his best to block out the ~ (an injured athlete)

#### outside noise

the club's hierarchy won't be swayed by ~ (complaints)

#### political noise

it's all just ~, I don't listen to it (a political kerfuffle)

#### racket and noise

only the president has the authority to transcend the ~

#### signal and noise

see *signal and noise* (noun)

#### truth and noise

it's hard to discern between the ~ (Ukraine War / Gen Z)

#### used to the noise

you just have to get ~

#### block out the noise

all you can do is live your life and try to ~ (invasion threat)

#### cut through the noise

~, register for a BBC account

SLATE Podcasts: ~

#### made noises

Nepal authorities ~ that they would limit permits (Everest)

#### make enough noise

the challenge is to ~ to capture the zeitgeist (films)

#### making noises

the Russians have been ~ about withdrawal (from ISS)

#### shut out the noise

I'm in awe of her ability to ~ (celebrity kerfuffle)

♦ "I've calmed down now after a week of getting used to the noise and you just have to accept it." (Costello of Costello & Bunce, about the on/off/on/off bout between Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua. Of course, Costello and Bunce were responsible for a lot of that noise!)

♦ "You showed me how, how to leave myself behind / how to turn down the noise in my mind." ("Haven't Got Time for the Pain" sung by Carly Simon.)

♦ "We're a small minority, we had to make some noise or we knew that unless we made that nobody would listen to us." (Clyde Bellecourt, co-founder of A.I.M.)

♦ "She's bilingual in Spanish and is happy there [in Spain], raising her daughter away from all the noise." (A film celebrity.)

♦ "Spain's players performed on the pitch despite all the noise off it. (Questions and doubts about Coach Jorge Vilda to include misandry, dissenting players left off the team, a heavy loss to Japan... (Spain beats England to win the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The dog may bark, but the caravan moves on."

## noisy (debate, etc.)

#### noisy

we will be very ~ in the House because we are unhappy

#### fierce and noisy

Tunisians are locked in a ~ debate about...

## noisy (data, etc.)

#### noisy data

studies chase small effects hidden in ~

## nomad (person)

nomads of the agriculture world  
beekeepers are the ~ (lots of travel)

railroad nomads  
"shantytown," a word evoking ~...

Greyhound nomads  
they arrived as ~ (Somali refugees in Lewiston)

techno nomad  
he was a ~, moving from country to country (J. Assange)

academic nomad  
she's become an ~ (adjunct professor)

digital nomad  
they have embraced a ~ lifestyle (travel everywhere)

become an academic nomad  
she's ~ (adjunct professor)

\*\*\* **"No one but a slave would agree to live under a mud roof..."**

♦ "No one but a slave would agree to live behind walls or under a mud roof..." (*Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

♦ "In their eyes man was a born migrant, settlement the perversion of degenerates, and cutting the soil to grow crops, murder." (Chinese nomads. From "Heavenly Horses" in *What Am I Doing Here* by Bruce Chatwin.)

♦ Man's happiness lies in open, empty spaces. (A Mongolian proverb.)

## nomadic (adjective)

nomadic life  
he lives a ~ drifting from town to town (Jack Reacher)

## no man's land (people)

No Man's Land  
early cartographers called it ~

no man's land  
the reserve is a vast, jungly ~ (rain forest)  
the desert was not a ~ (archaeology)  
the piers became a ~, blocked off by highways

no-man's sea  
all through these years the Pacific had remained a ~

no-man's-land or twilight zone  
the ~ between permitted or forbidden (Amos Oz)

## no man's land (regulatory, etc.)

no-man's-land for police jurisdictions  
St. Francis is a ~ (the Rosebud Reservation)

bureaucratic no man's land  
he found himself in a ~ amid 3 agencies

regulatory no man's land  
oil-exploration waste falls into a ~

regulatory no-man's-land  
Theranos continued to operate in a ~ (the company)

## no man's land (danger)

no-man's-land  
murders and kidnappings make the district a ~

no-man's land  
it was hotly disputed land, ~... (between tribes)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "Nobody's going to help you, you're in no-man's-land." (Outpost Restrepo, Korangal Valley, Afghanistan.)

♦ "But by far the most terrible feature of the present war is the fact that in so many cases it is impossible to bring timely help to the wounded. The trenches face each other at very short distances. An attack is delivered, and a mass of wounded fall on the unsheltered space between the trenches. When the struggle is over this space is carefully watched, and the slightest movement brings a volley from rifles or machine guns. / At night only, when favored by darkness, some of the wounded may be able to crawl back to their trenches. It is a cruel fact that aid reaches the wounded very late, if at all. That accounts chiefly for the high death rate." ("DEATH RATE ABOVE CRIMEAN / Due to Delay In Reaching the Wounded, Says London Lancet / Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES. / LONDON, Saturday, July 17," *The New York Times*, July 17, 1915.)

♦ "The red-crowned crane and black-faced spoonbill are among the rare birds that can be found in the DMZ. / The red-crowned crane is one of the rarest in the world, and classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Its global population is estimated to number around 3,050. / Birds also migrate through the DMZ to Mongolia, China, Russia, the Philippines and Australia. / Other animals such as the Amur Goral, Cinereous vulture and Eurasian Lynx have been spotted in the area." ("Rare Asiatic Black Bear spotted in Demilitarised Zone," BBC, 9 May 2019.)

♦ "The UN peacekeepers called in last year to monitor a cease-fire helped rebuild the bridge, which connects the Ethiopian village of Rama and the Eritrean town of Adi Qual. They then used it for a celebration that brought together the villagers who had learned to distrust and even despise those on the other side. / But today the bridge is most often used by prisoners of war sent back home by one government or the other, and it serves as a reminder of the tensions that linger. / Indian soldiers, part of the peacekeeping mission of 4,200 troops, guard the bridge with automatic weapons from a watchtower built in a buffer zone on the Eritrea side. Off in the hills on the Ethiopian side, soldiers are posted at lookout points. / There is little traffic across the border these days, except for the cattle that stray across, fueling clashes among the herdsman, or the occasional porcupine, python or wild boar..." (Mareb River Journal; Bridge Over a Troubled Border in Horn of Africa," by Marc Lacey, *The New York Times*, Feb. 11, 2002.)

## nomics

see *enomics* (and *nomics*)

## non-person

literary non-person  
he has become a ~ (disgraced French author)

## noon (high noon)

high noon for Darwin's theory  
it was ~ (1860 Oxford debate)

high-noon deadline  
this ~ meant having to choose between sleep, food and work

## noose (fate)

noose  
the ~ is tightening (manhunt)  
the ~ is tightening around him (a dictator)



noose around Baghdad  
we're tightening the ~ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

noose around my neck  
for six months the media had a ~ (Van Gaal at Man U)

global financial noose  
the ~ is tightening around Iran (sanctions)

legal noose  
the newspaper is putting its head in a ~ (libel)

noose is tightening  
the ~ (manhunt)

pull the noose round Hacken's neck  
he himself had helped to ~ (Krymov / *Life and Fate*)

put your head in a noose  
you ~ when you sign with Don King (Mitch Green)

putting its head in a (legal) noose  
the newspaper is ~ (libel)

tightening the noose  
we're ~ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)  
they are ~ but we will fight to the end (protesters)

♦ "Methodically Siilasvuo tightened the noose on Suomussalmi..."  
♦ "He's already tied the noose, now let's let him hang himself." (A retired detective about Duane Keith Davis, AKA Keefe D., the only surviving suspect in the death of the rapper Tupac Shakur. Watch: YouTube Keefe D—Full Interview, UrbanCityTV)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Go hang yourself!

## norm (groups)

norm  
when you do nothing, that allows the ~ to persist (racism)

norms and expectations  
we have dissolved social ~ (transsexuals)

gendered norms  
~ still shape the workplace

social norms  
we have dissolved ~ and expectations (transsexuals)

dissolved (social) norms  
we have ~ and expectations (transsexuals)

transgressing against society's norms  
undermine society by ~ (ONA / O9A)

♦ "Many O9A members openly view rape as an effective way to undermine society by transgressing against its norms." (Wikipedia article "Order of Nine Angles.")  
♦ "It should not only be allowed to happen when there's a trend, it should be the norm." (Maimouna Youssef about the Grammy's new Special Merit Award for "Best Song for Social change.")  
♦ "We have dissolved social norms and expectations of what is normal and acceptable." (An online commenter, about a school shooting carried out by a transsexual man in Memphis. See the Wikipedia article "2023 Nashville school shooting.")

## normal (as noun)

the normal

more signs of ~ we once knew (COVID restrictions lift)

a little bit of normal  
it's ~ (cider mill is open during pandemic)

next normal  
our ~: resilience building and... (CamTESOL)

normal returns  
what life might look like when ~ (Mary Louise Kelly)

♦ "We've seen a lot of normal." (NPR's Eyder Peralta reporting from Haiti.)

♦ "Our next normal: Resilience building and Future-Ready ELT." (CamTESOL. This is the organization in Cambodia.)

## normal (new normal)

new norm  
blaming others has become the ~ (U.S. society)

new normal  
shrinking coastlines will be the ~ for centuries to come  
the new chastity is not an entirely welcome ~ (films)

welcome new normal  
the new chastity is not an entirely ~ (films)

new normal look like  
what will the ~ (post-COVID-19)

♦ "Simply put, normalization is becoming the new normal in this region." (Secretary of State Antony Blinken about the Abraham Accords.)

♦ *The New Abnormal*. (A podcast.)

## normal (groups)

normal part  
some researchers see sexting as a ~ of teens' awakening

normal shape  
private areas do not have a so called ~ (labiaplasty)

completely normal  
I've learnt that my labia is ~ (author Ellie Sedgwick)

*Perfectly Normal*  
her book, *It's ~*, shows naked people in cheerful cartoons

unique, normal, beautiful  
my labia was just like everybody else's: ~ (Ellie Sedgwick)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "But some researchers see sexting as a normal part of a teenagers sexual awakening." ("Teen Sexting Not So Bad?" by Tell Me More Staff, NPR, Tell Me More, April 15, 2014. Anonymous writers.)

♦ "[F]or me this is just two lads kissing, fully clothed, what could be more normal than that? If you don't like the picture, you're not going to like the book." (Douglas Stuart about the cover of his second novel *Young Mungo*. From "Douglas Stuart: Booker Prize-winning author 'feels like an impostor,'" by Rebecca Jones, April 14, 2022.)

♦ "Her book, *It's Perfectly Normal*, shows naked people in cheerful cartoons." (NPR's Neda Ulaby about the children's book author Robie Harris. See the Wikipedia article "Neda Ulaby.")

♦ "It's OK to not be fine." (Foushee.)

♦ "Bakhtiari said that too often stories like theirs will come out 'in a scandal.' / 'But we're openly showing it and proud of it,' Bakhtiari, 34, said during a video interview, as Brown and Al-Khayyal sat on either side. 'It should be destigmatized. It's a very valid familial structure

that people should embrace.” (“Georgia lawmaker comes out as nonmonogamous: ‘I’m in love with two wonderful people’” by Jo Yurcaba, NBC, Sept. 28, 2022.)

♦ “I’ve learnt that the labia I spent so much of my life worrying about is completely normal... I’ve learnt to love this part of myself by helping others do the same.” (Ellie Sedgwick, author of *Flip Through My Flaps: An Exploration of the Vulva*. From “34-year-old reveals sad reason she had ‘vulva anxiety’” by Mary Madigan, News.com.au, Nov. 14, 2024. This appeared in *The New York Post*.)

♦ “This is why I love *Wicked*, because I think it encourages people to celebrate their differences. I think that the things that make you different, the things that you feel that make you outside of normal, are actually the things that make you special. And I would keep growing into those things. Don’t be afraid to be all of yourself. And if you’re around people who don’t celebrate those things, you’re around the wrong people.” (The queer actor Cynthia Erivo, b. 1987.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Mountain Bike World Championships 2022: ‘Young female athletes need to know what’s normal and what’s not—Evie Richards” by Evie Richards, BBC, 24 August 2022. (An important contribution to a problem that just keeps growing and growing and is getting worse and worse.)

♦ Young girls have more options now.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “We have dissolved social norms and expectations of what is normal and acceptable.” (An online commenter, about a school shooting carried out by a transsexual man in Memphis. See the Wikipedia article “2023 Nashville school shooting.”)

## normalcy (groups)

### body normalcy

she wants to be an example of ~ (Natalie Mariduená)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “‘Body Normalcy’ is a large contributor to the unhealthy state of Americans of box sexes today. Fat (sorry if you are triggered by the word) is not healthy unless you are a walrus.” (An online commenter.)

## normalization (groups)

### normalization of homosexuality

conservatives saw this as ~ (*Perfect Strangers* / Egypt)

### normalization of other types of unions

the ~ like plural marriage

♦ The callousness of shooting into a crowd outside a cinema, shooting at young women, the normalization—never mind the ramping up by social media—all of that makes me alarmed and worried.” (“Violent Killings Are On The Rise In London” by Joanna Kakissis, April 6, 2018.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “The normalization of the abnormal...”

## normalize (groups)

### normalize antisemitism

we can’t let Hamas sympathizers ~ in America

### normalizes anti-Semitism

Twitter ~ (the Anti-Defamation League)

### normalizes behavior

it ~ (MTV’s *Skins* / teen sex, drug use and nudity)

### normalize bloating

fans thanked the influence for her efforts to ~

### normalize deaf people

you’ve got to ~ on TV (deaf activist Raven Sutton)

### normalize stuff like this

it’s important to ~ (Dr. Craig Canapari / bed-sharing)

### normalized same-sex unions

corporations basically ~ (through employee benefits, etc.)

### normalizing violence

we’re ~ against Black bodies once again (a brawl)

### normalize women

comedy should just ~, you know, in whatever size...

### normalize but popularize

disturbing to see @nbcnl not just ~ #antisemitism

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “The show follows a group of teenagers as they navigate sex, life, sex, school, sex, relationships and sex. There is partying, there’s drug use, and there’s nudity. It’s definitely not *Father Knows Best*.” (“MTV’s *Skins* Has Parents On Edge,” Michel Martin, NPR, Heard on Tell Me More, February 8, 2011.)

♦ “If we could claim marriage, we would be claiming an engine of transformation, a vocabulary of shared values—love, commitment, family, inclusion, dignity, respect—that would help non-gay people better understand who gay people really are, and allow us to share equally, not only in marriage, but in everything.” (“Radically Normal: How Gay Rights Activists Changed The Minds Of Their Opponents,” NPR, Hidden Brain (with Shankar Vedantam), April 8, 2019. Many gays at the time denigrated the tradition of marriage.)

♦ “Love is Love.” (A slogan from the “Freedom to Marry” Campaign.)

♦ “Gay pop stars can be—and have been—subversive about slipping in references that change our language and thoughts about gay sex. The more that happens, the less likely people feel uncomfortable hearing about it.” (Culture journalist Brennan Carley on BBC Culture.)

♦ “Normalize the bulge. We are normalizing the bulge. Women can have bulges and that’s okay...” (Trans rights activist and social media influencer Dylan Mulvaney, “Day 74 of girlhood.”)

♦ “The problem we have now is normalising mental illness.” (Making it “normal.”)

♦ “Patriot Front’s marches and vandalism—even if they appear merely performative—are intended to normalize these ideas, to help mobilize other people, to make them think that there’s a groundswell, to inspire violent action. And it’s effective.” (“The Infiltrators” by David Kirkpatrick, *The New Yorker*, August 26, 2024.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “normalize” bandwagon...

♦ “Thank you for sharing this. We really need to normalize bloating because why do I always feel the need to hide it?”

♦ “Heather has a BS in Psychology and an MS in Criminal Forensic Studies. She aims to use her gifts, talents, experiences, education, and authentic self to help others feel empowered to live as their authentic selves. She wants to normalize mental health struggles and addiction, and let people know that they are not alone. There is help and support just around the corner.” (An advertising circular at a public library.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Harris’ attorneys had sought a six-year sentence, followed by eight years of supervised release, arguing in court documents filed last month that he is ‘both victimizer and victim’ after being assaulted as a minor. ‘The trauma he experienced as a child normalized his skewed version of what he understood to be appropriate relationships,’ his attorneys said.” (“Former ‘Cheer’ star Jerry Harris sentenced to 12 years in Prison for sex crimes,” by Meredith Deliso, ABC News, July 06, 2022. Crimes against boys.)

♦ “We have been able to push the Overton Window on AGI.” (OpenAI’s Sam Altman.)

♦ “And yet, largely due to its depiction in mainstream pornography and other contemporary media, choking or strangulation is now perceived as part and parcel of what’s ‘normal’ during sex.” (“Disturbing Gen Z sex trend exposed” by Taylor Knight, *The New York Post*, July 2, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ "Once we make excuses for them, we normalize their behavior."
- ♦ See the Wikipedia's article "Overton Window." Essentially, social media has opened the Overton Window to... Well, anything and everything.
- ♦ "Normalize" often appears with "moral panic." The terms are often self-supporting. If you reject what I am trying to normalize, it's because you suffer from "moral panic."
- ♦ NORMALIZE, v. What I wish were normal, and you don't. And vice versa. (A dictionary definition of "normalize" in the spirit of *The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)
- ♦ see also *stigmatize (groups)*

## normalized (groups)

### normalized discourse

help us create a ~ around our family life (bisexual / kids)

### normalized and invisible

sexual violence is ~ in our society (Irene Montero / Spain)

### how normalized

~ had that attitude become (anti-Trump bias at NPR)

### "ingrained" and "completely normalised"

abuse in gymnastics training became ~ (Whyte Review)

### became (almost) normalized

the crimes ~ (Navy bribery case involving admirals)

### became (completely) normalised

abusive training ~ (child abuse / Whyte Review)

## normalizing (groups)

### normalizing mental health issues

Ari Leff is at the forefront of ~ (Lauv)

### normalizing antisemitic tropes

social media has been instrumental in ~

### normalizing (same-sex) sex pleasure, lust and kink

his songs hold power by ~ (Lil Nas X)

### reclaiming—and normalizing—

~ the word 'fat'

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Sole-Smith says parents can combat American diet culture by reclaiming—and normalizing—the word 'fat.'" ("Diet culture can hurt kids. This author advises parent to reclaim the word 'fat,'" NPR, Fresh Air, April 25, 2023.)

♦ "It does feel great to be a part of normalizing representation." ("Fans cheer as Velma is shown crushing on a woman in the new Scooby-Doo movie" by Halisia Hubbard, NPR, Movies, October 5, 2022.)

♦ "Lil Nas X is the boundary-smashing pop revolutionary of 2021" by Jason King, NPR, Music, December 28, 2021.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "We have to stop normalizing the absurd."

## normative (groups)

### normative bounds

people who are outside of ~ of gender

### normative ideas

~ of masculinity and manhood (vs. Blackqueerness)

### normative pressure

freedom from dulling and hypocritical ~ (queer punk)

### normative society

she aimed to corrupt and unsettle the habits of ~ (artist)

### hetero-normative

this ~ idea of marriage

### neuronormative

what is now called ~ (based on *heteronormative*)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ Throbbing Gristle; Psychic TV; industrial and acid house genres; avant-garde; social provocateur; destruction as a means to creation; "they" pronoun; modified their own body; gender transition; pornographic photos; used tampons, syringes and bottled blood; William S. Burroughs; occult philosophies; "Slug Bait"; a thin, androgynous voice; shrieks; taboo; mutilation; disease; suicide; rape; darkness; toxic; the horrors of life under post-industrial capitalism; spiritual resistance to systemic oppression; the ritualistic body modification subculture; extensively pierced and tattooed; risky self-harm... ("Genesis Breyer P-Orridge, Provocateur and Industrial Co-Creator, Dead At 70" by Sasha Geffen, NPR, Music News, March 15, 2020. Sasha Geffen is the author of *Glitter Up the Dark: How pop Music Broke the Binary*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Neurodivergent" is a non-medical term. A medical condition isn't required to have neurodivergence, nor does neurodivergence mean that a person has a medical condition.

## normativity (groups)

### historical normativity

they/we are questioning all forms of ~

## north (numbers)

### north of 70

death toll will be ~ (ABC / Kentucky tornadoes)

### north of \$50 million

he has invested ~ to build...

### north of minus fifteen to twenty percent

we're looking at negative GDP growth that's ~

♦ "The selling price is 'in the region' of \$200m..." (The luxury art market.)

♦ See *direction (symbol)* for quotations about the cardinal directions as metaphors.

## North Korea (epithet)

### North Korea of Africa

Eritrea is often described as the ~

### North Korea of Europe

he is turning my country into the ~ (S. Tsikhanouskaya)

### Africa's North Korea

why Eritrea is called ~ (*The Economist* magazine)

♦ *The Economist* has a wonderful article entitled "Why Eritrea is called Africa's North Korea" (August 14th 2018). It is wonderful because it starts out with how Eritrea is NOT like North Korea.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Korea is often referred to as the Hermit Kingdom. But it has also been referred to as The Land of the Morning Calm.

## north star (direction, goal)

north star is the proper role  
my ~ of a judge

north star is to build  
my ~ a St. Louis where all can succeed (Tishaura Jones)

NPR's "North Star"  
he has called diversity ~ (John Lansing / replaced)

company's new "North Star"  
Zuckerberg has described the metaverse as the ~

our North Star  
equity is ~ (Health Equity Task Force)

♦ "In my career, I've been told I was too young... I've been told I was too old. Whether young or old, I've always known what endures, I've known our north star." (President Joe Biden's 2024 State of the Union address to Congress.)

♦ "If there's any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that the government may not interfere with an 'uninhibited marketplace of ideas.'" (Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, writing for the majority.)

♦ (1, 2) "He declared that diversity—on our staff and in our audience—was the overriding mission, the 'North Star' of the organization. Phrases like 'that's part of the North Star' became part of meetings and more casual conversation." (3) "When I suggested we had a diversity problem with a score of 87 Democrats and zero Republicans, the response wasn't hostile. It was worse. It was met with profound indifference. I got a few messages from surprised, curious colleagues. But the messages were of the 'oh wow, that's weird' variety, as if the lopsided tally was a random anomaly rather than a critical failure of our diversity North Star." (4) "Even so, out of frustration, on November 6, 2022, I wrote to the captain of ship North Star—CEO John Lansing—about the lack of viewpoint diversity and asked if we could have a conversation about it." (5) Which is a shame. Because for all the emphasis on our North Star, NPR's news audience in recent years has become less diverse, not more so." (6) "It's a tough job. Her [Katherine Maher, who has replaced John Lansing] first rule could be simple enough: don't tell people how to think. It could even be the new North Star." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, The Free Press, April 9, 2024. The author used "North Star" six times in his article.)

♦ "As a leader, I have to be constantly talking about what our North Star is, which is to find students from the broadest swath of society and bring them to Dartmouth, teach them how to think, not what to think..." (Sian Beilock, President of Dartmouth College, which is in New Hampshire.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A lodestar refers to the North Star, or to stars that help people to find the North Star. As such, it relates to direction and following.

♦ If all the people who utilize the North Star as a metaphor in their rhetoric had ever actually identified Polaris in the night sky, I doubt very much they would use it. But it has become very popular with a certain type of people.

♦ see also *lodestar* (noun)

## Norway (the Norway of Arabia, etc.)

Norway of Arabia  
Musandam's nickname, 'the ~,' derives from its coastline

## nose (shape)

Nose  
a popular route is "The ~" (rock climbing)

## nose (Devil's Nose, etc.)

Nose  
the ~ is a peak in Alberta, Canada  
The ~ is a summit in Lamoille County, Vermont  
The ~ is a cliff in Weston County, Wyoming

Nose Hill  
~ is a summit in Onondaga County, New York

Nose Lake  
~ is a lake in Oneida County, Wisconsin

Nose Point  
~ is a cape in Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska

Nose Rock  
~ is an island in Mendocino County, California

Cornwalls Nose  
~ is a pillar in Rio Grande County, Colorado

Devil's Nose  
the ~ section of the Mokelumne (a river)

Devils Nose  
~ is a cape in Monroe County, New York  
~ is a summit in Calaveras County, California  
~ is a summit in Hawkins County, Tennessee  
~ is a cliff in Sauk County, Wisconsin  
~ is a ridge in Morgan County, West Virginia

Gertrudes Nose  
~ is a cliff in Ulster County, New York

Giants Nose  
~ is a summit in Idaho County, Idaho

Gladstone's Nose  
~ is a rock in the Western Cape, South Africa

Tonys Nose  
~ is a summit in Columbia County, New York

Alligator Nose  
~ is a point in Honduras

Dolphins Nose  
the ~ is a point in Andhra Pradesh, India  
the ~ is a headland (Myanmar)

Horse Nose  
~ Butte is a summit in Dunn County, North Dakota

Indian Nose  
~ is a summit in Douglas County, Oregon

Possum Nose  
~ is a cliff in Prince William County, Virginia

Sharks Nose  
~ is a cliff in Fremont County, Wyoming

Sheep Nose  
~ is a cliff in Towns County, Georgia  
~ Bend is a bend in Ray County, Missouri

Big Nose

~ is a cliff in Montgomery County, New York

### Bloody Nose

~ Creek is a stream in Humboldt County, California

### Blue Nose

~ Bluff is a cliff in Siskiyou County, California

### Broken Nose

~ Creek is a stream in Clearwater County, Idaho

### Chewed Nose

~ Springs are springs in Apache County, Arizona

### Flat Nose

~ is a populated place in Lincoln County, Nevada

### Little Nose

~ is a cliff in Montgomery County, New York

### Red Nose

~ is a cliff in Larimer County, Colorado

~ Point is a cape in Dickinson County, Iowa

### Roman Nose

~ is a summit in Boundary County, Idaho

### Sharp Nose

~ Draw is a valley in Fremont County, Wyoming

## nose (orientation)

### nose of the plane

pulled back on the stick to get the ~ up

### deck, tail, nose, rails and wheels

a skateboard has a ~

## nose (under somebody's nose)

### everybody's nose

this is going on right under ~ (child abuse)

### under the nose of censors

a secret shelf of banned books thrives in a Texas school,

~

### under the noses of the security forces

they set up cells right ~

♦ "In Texas, where hundreds of school book bans have been reported, some teachers and students have been building underground libraries." ("A secret shelf of banned books thrives in a Texas school, under the nose of censors," Neda Ulaby, NPR, Morning Edition, February 21, 2024. See the Wikipedia article "Neda Ulaby.")

## nose (ability)

### nose for it

he has a great ~... (talent for basketball)

## nose (bloody nose, etc.)

### bloody nose

the dream of giving Germany a ~ (Greek soccer)

### "bloody nose" attacks

risk of brinkmanship and talk of ~ (diplomacy)

### "bloody nose" option

a limited, pre-emptive military strike, the so-called ~

### "bloody nose" theory

they call it the ~ (military force with diplomacy)

### deserved a bloody nose

he ~, but we gave him a slap on the wrist...

### got a bloody nose

he had a rough hearing, he really ~ (confirmation hearing)

### suffered (something of) a bloody nose

they've ~ in the past couple of days (armed clashes)

♦ "Obviously we have a bloody nose this morning, but we are not down for the count. We will continue to stand up and fight this risky route." (Jane Kleeb, an opponent of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, after a legal defeat.)

♦ "He deserved a bloody nose, but we gave him a slap on the wrist." (A pundit speaking about the Ayatollah of Iran, about retaliatory air strikes for the deaths of three U.S. soldiers.)

## nose (thumb one's nose)

### thumbing their noses at almost everything

rare men were ~ that passed for knowledge (Renaissance)

### thumbed his nose at the (US) government

he has ~ (laws)

### thumbing their nose at the rules

people are ~ (leash law for dogs)

### thumb its nose at the US

Russia is putting him up to ~ (Edward Snowden)

♦ "Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?" / "No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you sir, but I bite my thumb, sir." (Abraham vs. Sampson in *Romeo and Juliet*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Thumbs one nose at something or someone as an insult.)

## nose (attention)

### get your nose out of your computer

~ and spend more time with...

## nose (look down one's nose)

### looks down its nose

satire generally ~ at its subject

## nose (hold one's nose)

### held its nose

the palace has ~, refusing to comment... (scandal)

### held their noses

voters who ~ and voted for him (lesser of two evils)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Holds one's nose when no actual stench is present.)

## nosedive (verb / decrease)

### temperature will nosedive

the ~ by this weekend

## nosedive (verb / decline)

nosedived

relations (with North Korea) have ~

nose-dived from A's to (straight) D's  
her grades ~

## nosedive (noun / decrease)

taken a nosedive

the temperatures have ~

## nosedive (noun / decline)

nosedive

his career took a ~ because of questionable integrity

takes a nosedive

tourism ~ in Crimea

took a nosedive

sales ~ (fashion during the pandemic)

## nostrum (noun)

vague nostrums

they give voters promises and ~ (politicians)

## not (extreme ellipsis)

That's why it's funny. Or not.

~ (Youth Lobby, a grassroots coalition of young people)

the Automat might be coming back,

~, its prices not

## not (sarcasm)

your kids will thank you...not

well done mate ~... (sarcasm)

that's a really funny joke – not

two and half years – now ~ (sarcasm at a light sentence)

How proud their parents must be. Not

~ (high-school basketball player and brother beat coach)

Gotta love those 2nd Amendment rights. NOT!!

~ (online commenter after yet another mass shooting)

my heart bleeds for them, NOT!!!!

~ (Pepe and Ronaldo at the Qatar FIFA World Cup)

Statement win not

- (Anthony Joshua knocks out Francis Ngannou)

♦ "Nothing is more lovely then [sic] to wake up on a Tuesday morning (Not) with TMZ calling you saying Chris Rock made a horrible 'joke' about..."

♦ Defundbbc: "Well at least Liverpool won something today. Gapeo won dive of the year. Awful fans, awful team awful manager." / chelseakev (to Defundbbc): "Other than that they are ok lol NOT (Soccer snark on a BBC HYS.)"

♦ "Build A Toothbrush, Change The World. Or Not" by Joe Palca, NPR, Morning Edition, August 27, 2014.)

♦ "After weeks of dodging serious press questioning, Kamala Harris will finally do a live, unedited interview, one on one with a fiercely critical journalist... not." (The New York Post, 2024. Politics.)

## not (so not / sarcasm)

so not

big help you're ~ (British)

so not like what

that is ~ slavery is... (Terry Gross heaps scorn)

so not normal

we are ~ at all (author talking about her family)

so not realistic

this is ~...

## not (not so much / sarcasm)

not so much

fans are ecstatic, residents of the neighborhood ~ (a film)  
the Croatians enjoyed the first half, the Brazilians maybe ~

he played great this season, but on Sunday, ~

Trump laughs ~, if at all (versus Kamala Harris)

♦ "Time was the City of London was a byword for financial might, security, and stability. Today, perhaps, not so much. (BBC Global News Podcast about the Square Mile.)"

♦ "I think [the Croatians] enjoyed that first half. The thousands of Brazil fans, maybe not so much. (The Qatar World Cup. Croatia won on penalties.)"

♦ "Andra Day lifts the merely mediocre, Abela, not so much." (A negative comparison and review of the Amy Winehouse biopic *Back to Black*. See Back to Black Official Trailer.)

♦ "That catchphrase ["Is it live, or is it Memorex"] persisted but the cassette tape? well, less so."

## not (not in a good way)

not (super) good way

it has an albatross hanging over its neck in a ~

not in a fun way

they were trying to kill me, and ~ (stupid film dialogue)

not in a good way

and critics say, ~...

not for a good reason

Panera is in the news, and ~ ("charged" lemonade)

♦ "It has the albatross of the original hanging over its neck in a not super good way." (NPR's Andrew Limbong. Funny!)

♦ "There's never been a season quite like this one for the Patriots and I do not say that in a good way." (A female sports commentator, about the NFL football team.)

## not (not Churchill, not Disneyland, etc.)

not California

we are ~ (New Jersey dealers about electric trucks)

NOT Disneyland

Venice is ~ (Italian mayor about surfers on canals)

not Joe Biden

clearly, I am ~ (Kamala Harris)

not Churchill

this is ~, not even Al Gore (Kamala Harris' word salads)



Not The Magical Negro Mammy

“Beyonce Is ~” by Denene Millner, NPR)

Not Your Clown

“Sorry I’m ~ Today” by Michael Schulman (Bowen Yang)

not your Negro

I am ~ (James Baldwin)

not Obama

she is ~, and she is no agent of change (Kamala Harris)

not the New York Times

we are ~ (an official of the Wall Street Journal)

not Reichenau

I’m not ~ (General Von Paulus)

♦ “I’m not Reichenau!” (General Von Paulus at Stalingrad, to a commander who suggested that Reichenau would try to fight his way out of the Russian encirclement. Von Paulus was Reichenau’s protégé.)

♦ “Beyonce Is Not The Magical Negro Mammy” by Denene Millner, NPR, Opinion, Code Switch, February 15, 2017.

♦ “‘I Am Not Your Negro’ Gives James Baldwin’s Words New Relevance,” by Mallory Yu.

♦ “We are not the *New York Times*.” (Said by an official of the *Wall Street Journal*.)

♦ “He’s not the comeback kid, he’s Lazarus.” (Said about a politician.)

♦ “Clearly, I am not Joe Biden, and I am certainly not Donald Trump.” (Kamala Harris during her first debate with Donald Trump.)

♦ “She is not Obama, and she is no agent of change.” (Dana White at “Trump hosts rally at MSG: LIVE.”)

♦ “*Gladiator II* sure ain’t *Avatar*, it’s also not *Gladiator*.” (Johnny Oleksinski in *The New York Post*.)

♦ see also *no* (no Jack Kennedy, no Mardi Gras, etc.)

**not (not a fool, etc.)**

not a dove

he is ~, but he opposes attacking Iran

not our friend

social media was ~ on that day (school swatting)

technology is ~ today (glitches during trial / judge)

not their friend

time is ~ (war in Ukraine)

not your friends

the WHO, CDC and FDA are ~ (commenter)

not a good look

it’s ~

not a bad place

it’s ~, the South (France)

not a stigma

I am ~ (Selena Gomez. Who else?)

not his superpower

self-examination is ~

not a good time

it was ~ to be a child

wasn’t a short lady

Margo ~ (“Last Coffeehouse On Travis”)

♦ “A tiny pink peanut is not a white rhinoceros. Nor is it a green turtle or a Bengal tiger. But...” (“The Lost Ancestral Peanut Of The South Is Revived” by Jill Neimark, NPR, The Salt, December 29, 2016.)

♦ “The early nineteenth century was not a good time to be a child.” (Great Britain. Versus, “The early nineteenth century was a bad time to be a child.”)

♦ “It’s not a sexy job per se, right? It’s not a job that is chill...” (Jessica Malaty Riveria’s breezy contempo-speak assessment of the legacy of “the elderly” Dr. Anthony Fauci—a true hero of public health—on NPR.)

♦ “Self-examination is not his superpower.”

♦ “It’s a little like baseball, but not really like baseball at all.” (Cricket.)

♦ “This wasn’t just a win, it was a demolition.” (A boxing match.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *The Economist* has a wonderful article entitled “Why Eritrea is called Africa’s North Korea” (August 14th 2018). It is wonderful because it starts out with how Eritrea is NOT like North Korea.

♦ “As usual, one can define his position more easily if one starts by deciding what he was not.” (George Orwell. Politics and political labels.)

♦ “It is and it’s not.”

**not (not your father’s, mother’s, etc.)**

Not your Abuelita’s Mariachi

Contemporary Mexican Music: ~ (Lulu Garcia-Navarro)

Not Your Abuela’s Music

“~: A Deep Dive Into Mexican Regional Music” (NPR)

Not Your Dad’s War Movie

“1917” Is ~ (NPR’s Pop Culture Happy Hour)

not your grandfather’s LAPD

the LAPD of 2017 is ~, of Daryl Gates...

not your grandmother’s heat

this is ~, this is significantly different (global warming)

not your grandmother’s Metropolitan Opera

“‘Champion’ is ~” (by Tom Vitale for NPR)

“Not Your Grandpa’s Circus

~: The Big Top Makes Room For Experimental Companies”

♦ “This ain’t your daddy’s *Washington Post* anymore.” (Support for Democratic Biden, versus Watergate reporting. *The New York Post*.)

**not (not happy, not good, not OK, etc.)**

not alive

she found he was ~ (park ranger / car crash)

not friendly

Cu Chi was ~

Azerbaijan and Armenia are ~ neighbors

not good

it’s extremely ~ (heard on NPR)

it’s not the optics that are ~, it’s the facts (politics)

not great

it was ~

images of chaos are ~ for a reelection bid (NPR punditry)

not happy

see *happy* (not *happy*)

not nice

Glenn can be very ~, too (said by a female)

not OK

when is that ~ (see quote below)

I need you to understand that this is ~ (AOC vs. radicals)

but I do think it's ~ when you... (ingratitude)

I am ~ with us being silent (*LA Times* editor Mariel Garza)

not true

everything he is saying is ~ (versus "false")

not wrong

it's ~ for students to be worried (book banning)

he is ~ (NPR's Uri Berliner and his criticism)

the mom-to-be is ~ for the way she feels (baby name)

you're ~, but, also, this one is really different...

I knew that what I had done was ~ (Tony Hinchcliffe)

he was ~ to see something childish in this painting

she's ~

not yucky

how to make poached eggs that are ~

not here

the normality is ~ anymore (Uvalde school shooting)

definitely not

it's ~ happy (murder house to be torn down)

extremely not

it's ~ good

my grandmother is ~ boring

media for kids that is ~ for me (Kathryn VanArendonk)

so not

it's ~ enough (minimum wage)

he's just ~ political...

very not

it's ~ what we expect (a young Frenchwoman, in English)

♦ "Comedians may exaggerate for a punchline. When is that not OK?" with Leila Fadel, NPR, Morning Edition, Sept 22, 2023. Versus, "When is that wrong?"

♦ "There are snowdrifts, we call them 'pies.' The small ones are ok, but the big ones are dangerous. I drove into one yesterday. It was not great." (Roman Kopylov, an ice yachting enthusiast, speaking on Lake Baikal.)

♦ "Company A continued sweep operations that morning. Snipers pinged at us, and we encountered mines and more tunnels. Cu Chi was not friendly." (*Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of The Vietnam War* by James E. Parker Jr.)

♦ "It was an expression of speech." (Instead of "a figure of speech." "Crazy Plane Lady" Tiffany Gomas about her viral American Airlines meltdown: "That motherf-ker is not real.")

♦ "In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man." (Kamala Harris at the 2024 DNC. Compare this usage to, "Accidental rise of Kamala Harris is a symptom of an unserious age" by Martin Gurri, *The New York Post*, Aug. 5, 2024.)

♦ Prosecutor: Can you describe the apartment? / Young female witness, speaking Spanish: It wasn't too big. (A murder trial.)

♦ "I said, 'Oh, that's kind of not good enough...'"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we are used to saying that the opposite of "bad" is "good," and the opposite of "good" is "bad." But what about "not good" and "not bad"? Also, nowadays we must be prepared to deal with -ish and -un: see the entry in this dictionary for *un* (*contempo-speak*) and *ish* (*androgyny-ish*, etc.).

♦ See the definition for "litotes" (LIE-tuh-tease) at Merriam-Webster. It is defined as "understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of the contrary" and examples include: "not a bad singer (= a good singer)," "not unhappy (= happy)," "not bad! (= good)" and "no mean feat (= quite a feat)."

♦ Chapter 20: How Metaphor Can Give Meaning to Form. "Closeness Is Strength of Effect." "Karl Zimmer (personal communication) has observed that the same principle governs differences like 'Harry is not happy versus Harry is unhappy.'" (From *Metaphors We Live By* by George Lakoff And Mark Johnson. 2003. "Not" and "happy" are separated by a space, as opposed to "unhappy." Also, there is a slight difference in meaning.)

♦ A female shark enthusiast in a *New Yorker* article wrote about our "uncareful encroachments" on sharks' habitat. Merriam-Webster recognizes "uncareful" as a word, but also has the following: "Love words? You must—there are over 200,000 in our free online dictionary, but you are looking for one that's only in the Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary. Start your free trial today and..." "Uncareful" seems to be like "overwhelm," about which the editor Merrill Perlman wrote, "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words."

♦ Is the affirmative changing to negative? If so, why? And what groups are doing it?

♦ see also *no* (*no Jack Kennedy*, *no Mardi Gras*, etc.)

## not (not suck, etc.)

not look

do I ~ O.K. to you

not suck

we help the internet ~ (Jimmy Wales / Wikipedia / 2005)

## not (not not)

\*\*\* noun

not not a first-tier team

we are ~ and you can't say we are (Nicki Colleen)

\*\*\* preposition

not not about you

O.K., I said, but it's ~...

\*\*\* adjective

not *not* entertained

even so, we are ~ (movie critic Jusin Chang)

not not a little scary

it's ~ (= it is scary)

not not sympathetic

I am ~ to you, but...

not not true

the definitions are ~, but they are a little sideways

not not unaware

I am ~ that...

not not unhappy

I am ~ that he failed (= happy he failed)

\*\*\* verb

I'm (also) not not saying it

but ~ (that it's about the elections)

do not not believe

I do not believe it, but I ~ it either (myth, cosmos)

do not not know

what we know, or ~ (about physics)

didn't (just) not make the team

he ~, he was asked not to come back...

cannot *not* be on social media

you ~...

can not not fall asleep

you ~

cannot not pronounce the silent "t"

a contempo-speaker ~ in "often"

cannot not think of the Scarecrow

one ~ from the Wizard of Oz...

can't not block this guy

I ~ (an NFL player)

can't not know

he ~ how policy decisions will affect his businesses...

once you know a thing, you ~ it, ever again...

can't not refuse

this is an offer he ~ (writer Richard Brody)

can't not think about it

but I think we ~ (race in sports, ASU Victoria Jackson)

could not not notice

you ~ the bodies popping up (a series of murders)

could not not tap your toe

you ~ (folk music)

couldn't not be Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy

she ~ (Mary Richardson)

couldn't not write their report

what else could they do, the ~...

have to not not be scared

you just ~ of living...

not not to starve them

she went there not to starve people but ~... (Holodomor)

♦ "She had gone down as a party organizer not to starve people but certainly not not to starve them." (Edwin Frank, *New York Review of Books*, about a CP member and the Holodomor.)

♦ "I've got to do my job. Unfortunately, no one cares if I'm throwing up if I give up a sack, you know? So I've got to block him. So I'm just like, 'Oh my God. I can't not block this guy right now. I have to get this.' Pretty much the only thing going through my mind." (Green Bay Packers center Josh Myers, about throwing up on the football before snapping it to quarterback Malik Willis in a game against the Baltimore Colts.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Last Coffeehouse On Travis" by Bryan Washington (*The New Yorker*, September 16, 2024) is interesting for usage of the negative. "Margo wasn't a short lady." / "I'm no twink, either." / "Do I not look O.K. to you?" / "O.K., I said. But it's not *not* about you, either."

♦ What groups are using the negative in this unusual way, and why? What does it mean?

## not (never not)

will never not be

it ~ brilliantly shocking (a film)

they are still my babies and ~ (Brooke Shields / adult kids)

am never not going to feel

I ~ rage about what happened

have never not been

we ~ leaders in the hip-hop world (women)

never not voted

I have ~ Democrat and thus I voted for her

have never not worn

I ~ socks with shoes, what am I an animal

\*\*\* **never un-**

can never unsee

I ~ this (male equestrian in mankini on horseback)

\*\*\* **never...not**

never want her to not be aggressive

I ~ (a female coach about female player)

♦ "And, watching Colman and Buckley scream hilarious profanities and wickedly scandalous lines at each other will never not be brilliantly shocking." ("Wicked Little Letters: Olivia Colman on why abusive notes were original trolling" by Yasmin Rufo, BBC, Feb. 22, 2024.)

♦ "They're my babies and they will never not be." ("Brooke Shields says adult daughters sleep in her bed when husband is away: 'They're my babies'" by BreAnna Bell, pagesix, May 3, 2024.)

♦ "It's not so you can never talk about him..." (NDA.)

## not (not dis-, im-, in-, no-, un-, etc.)

\*\*\* **not dis-**

not disagreeable

the prospect of not being alone is ~

\*\*\* **not im-**

not impossible

it's unlikely, but ~, to...

it may be hard, but ~, to prove...

coordination with Iran is ~ (US military / 2014)

\*\*\* **not in-**

not insignificant

this is a ~ cost outlay...

\*\*\* **not -no**

not nothing

making \$250,000 is ~ (a creator on X)

they found 3 fossils, ~, but not the breakthrough...

\*\*\* **not un-**

can't unhear

you ~ that (screams)

cannot unsee

you ~ the evil ( Hamas terror GoPro videos)

couldn't unsee

but I ~...

cannot be unrung  
the bell ~... (a bogus accusation)

not uncommon  
it was ~ for them to...  
I do know that it was ~ for...

not unlikely  
it's ~ that...

not-unpropulsive  
a ~ jam... (Dead & Company / Nick Paumgarten)

hardly unsuccessful  
look at your situation, you're ~

wasn't untrue  
I'll say I'm here to see the house, and it ~ (explanation)

no not  
see *no* (*no not, no...not, etc.*)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "[B]anal statements are given an appearance of profundity by means of the *not un-* formation... It is easier—even quicker, once you have the habit—to say *In my opinion it is not an unjustifiable assumption* than to say *I think...* It should...be possible to laugh the *not-un* formation out of existence." [3] One can cure oneself of the *not un-* formation by memorizing this sentence: *A not unblack dog was chasing a not unsmall rabbit across a not ungreen field.*" ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

## not (negative...negative)

not sure that I wouldn't  
I am ~ want to see her again (wants to see her again)

not that we're not  
it's ~ friends, I just haven't spoken to him...

not allow them not  
their ethics will ~ to speak up

invisible until it's not  
character is ~ (joined marines after 9/11)

couldn't be there and not feel  
you ~ uncomfortable

do not say that I shall not return  
I ~ to...

wouldn't say we were not confident  
I ~ last year, but... (with upspeak)

### \*\*\* with "nowhere"

didn't come out of nowhere  
the diversity push ~ (Google's woke image generator)  
Handler ~... (the success of comedian Chelsea Handler)  
the trip ~ (Putin visits North Korea / NPR)  
the idea ~

tend not to come out of nowhere  
these attacks ~ (NPR's Michel Martin / school shootings)

### \*\*\* with "not as if," "not like," "not that," etc.

not as if finding spouses hasn't  
it's ~ been a fixation of anxious parents forever...

not like he's not trying  
it's ~, he is, but...

### \*\*\* uncategorized, needs analysis

can't make people unsee  
you ~ this... (Biden in his debate with Trump)

nothing is not important  
~, if you will (an archivist)

everybody can't do that  
~ (versus "not everybody can do that")

cannot say no  
I ~ (will Hamas repeat October 7 attack)

not be seen to do nothing  
he could ~ (JFK / Vietnam)

impossible for Hezbollah not to respond to  
the Israeli attacks are ~ (NPR's Jane Arraf)

cannot (possibly) be unaware  
you ~ that periodical cicadas are out, because...

not treated us unfairly  
the Israelis have ~

not never  
~ entered my mind (see quote below)

♦ "Let down? Absolutely not. Not never entered my mind, and I don't think Suni's either." (The astronaut Barry Wilmore, speaking from the ISS. Beside him, Sunita Williams shakes her head in agreement. Wilmore had been asked if he thought that Boeing had let them both down.)

♦ "You cannot possibly be unaware that periodical cicadas are out, because..." (John Cooley, a cicada expert at UConn. Umm, actually...)

♦ "Are you only with him because he's native?" / "And I guess the answer is that it's not not because he's Native. You know?" (Gloss: Okay, it's because he's native (concession). But It's *also* because of the pedigree of our children, or "blood quantum.")

♦ "Not not did they make our heads look like mushrooms, but they also cost more." (Equestrian hats. Gloss: Not only did they make...)

♦ "Correct me if I'm wrong but isn't there no such thing as a home remedy for..." (= there is no such thing...)

♦ "You couldn't be there and not feel uncomfortable" is interesting. Three negatives to express something like, "I felt uncomfortable there," or "If you had been there you would have felt uncomfortable, too." It seems to be polemical, making some kind of case, based on an "affinity" with the interlocuter. As ESL or EFL teachers, we seldom teach pragmatics.

♦ "always be" = "never not be"

♦ "I think that you just have to keep going and not not be scared of living (= be scared of living)." / "You can't not fall asleep (= you will fall asleep)." / "It's not not a little scary (=it is scary)." / "I am not not sympathetic to you, but..." / "I am not not unhappy that he failed (= happy he failed)." / "It became clear to us that we could not not talk about it anymore." "I am not not unaware that..." (Not + not + un- is interesting and requires analysis I'm not able to give.)

♦ Watch "YouTube The Grammar of Double Negatives, Francis Blanchette TEDxPSU." Talk about ruining a funny cartoon!

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Why would anyone say, "It will *never not* be shocking" instead of "It will *always* be shocking"? Are we hearing double negatives more? If we are, why? And what groups are doing this?

♦ "Professor leads NSF-funded study of double negative use among American dialects" by Josh McAuliffe, psu.edu, September 21, 2023. "Blanchette and three fellow researchers recently received a

\$384,272 National Science Foundation collaborative research grant to fund their study, 'A Microcomparative Study of Negation in Dialectal Variation,' a continuation of Blanchette's longtime research on linguistic diversity among American English dialects."

♦ Contempo-speakers *cannot not* [italics mine] pronounce a silent t, as in *often*. It's a sure marker of a contempo-speaker, and everything that a "contempo-speaker" entails. Are contempo-speakers using the negative in unexpected ways? Analysis is needed.

♦ see also *no* (*no not, no...not, etc.*)

## notch (verb)

notched 10,000 new coronavirus cases

New York State ~ between...

## notch (notch in a belt)

notch in their belts

see *belt* (*notch in a belt*)

## notch (take something up a notch)

kicks the intensity up a notch

each verse ~ (a rap song)

kick it up a notch

if you want to ~, try... (an exercise program)

ratcheted things up a notch

he has ~ (political rhetoric)

step it up a notch

and then, to sort of ~, he invited... (promotion)

## note (compare notes)

compared notes about Iraq

the soldiers ~ (in hospital ward)

## note (on a note)

on a confident note

Republicans ended their convention ~

on a high note

at least I finished ~ (learning a job)

ended (their convention) on a confident note

Republicans ~

finished on a high note

at least I ~ (learning a job)

leave on a high note

he wanted to ~

## note (right note)

struck (all) the right notes

the words he spoke ~ (a conciliatory politician)

♦ "It hits every note right for me." (Praise for a film.)

## note (note of caution, etc.)

note of caution

he sounded a ~ over encouraging...

note of confidence

he is injecting a new ~ into the Nato campaign

note of fear

in his voice I detected a ~ (dangerous weather)

cautious note

he sounded a ~ at the meeting

defiant note

the Iraqi information minister sounded a ~

different note

he sounded a ~ (on a public-health issue)

hopeful note

striking the same ~, the girl's aunt... (abducted girl)

new note

he is injecting a ~ of confidence into the Nato campaign

optimistic note

he struck an ~

upbeat note

he sounded an ~ at the end of his fact-finding trip

detected a note

in his voice I ~ of fear (dangerous weather)

injecting a (new) note

he is ~ of confidence into the Nato campaign

sounded a note

he ~ of caution over encouraging...

struck (all) the right notes

the words he spoke ~ (a conciliatory politician)

## note (one note)

one-note character

in the original script he was a ~ (*Do the Right Thing*)

## nothing-burger

nothing-burger

they claim the meeting was a ~ (political scandal)

biggest nothing-burger ever

she called it the ~ (political scandal)

big, fat nothingburger

is the memo a damning expose or a ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ For information about this word, see "'Nothingburger': From 1950s Hollywood to the White House" by Ben Zimmer, *Wall Street Journal*, March 9, 2017.

♦ see also *there* (*there is no there there, etc.*)

♦ see also the entry in this dictionary for *funny language*

## nothing to see here (sarcasm)

nothing to see here

it's hard to just wave our hands and say 'there's ~'  
(wrong)

nothing to see here, please move along

~...

move along, nothing to see here

~ (sarcasm)

Move along, there's nothing to see here  
the White House reaction amounted to: ~

keep moving, nothing to see here  
he is deploying the “~” strategy (politics)

♦ When minorities OD they're labeled junkies. When celebrities OD they have “demons” Move on nothing to see here (An online commenter.)

♦ “What arrogance! Apparently, only Trump is a real criminal in Biden World. Joe and Hunter's family business ‘shenanigans’ are just a right-wing conspiracy. Move along. Nothing to see here.” (A letter to the editor of *The New York Post*, after President Biden pardoned his son.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Is it time to freak out? Or is there nothing to see here?”

## noun plus adjective

attracted  
a minor~~ person (a pedophile / ChatGPT)

involved  
a justice~~ person

adjacent  
see *adjacent* (*pop-adjacent*, etc.)

attributable  
he calls the deaths jail~~ (Homer Venters)

averse  
Heather is shy and conflict ~  
yearning for romance with a marriage~~ partner

cautious  
“very liberal,” the most COVID~~ political demographic

curious  
see *curious* (*bi-curious*, etc.)

competent  
it's impossible to find a queer ~ therapist in Missouri

friendly  
see *friendly* (*queer-friendly*, etc.)

heavy  
see *heavy* (*tank-heavy*, etc.)

positive  
see *positive* (*sex positive*, etc.)

reluctant  
the vaccine ~ (Covid)

rich (fossil-rich)  
see rich (fossil-rich, etc.)

♦ “Early in his tenure on Rikers Island, Venters realized that for many of the people dying in jail, the primary cause of death was the jail itself. To document these deaths—what he calls an ‘epidemiology of brutality’—Venters and his team created a statistical category that no one had though (or dared) to track before: ‘jail-attributable deaths.’” (“Jail-Attributable Death” by Matt Watkins, *New Thinking* from the Center for Court Innovation, September 2019.)

## nourished

nourished by the media  
sports are ~

## nowhere (go nowhere, etc.)

getting nowhere  
we are ~ fast

go nowhere  
they said their claims seemed to ~ (sexual abuse)

go-nowhere  
he took a series of ~ jobs

going nowhere  
the peace process is ~ anyway  
negotiations are ~ (politics)

get anywhere  
if you're worried about the outcome, you don't ~ (sports)

went nowhere  
the peace plan ~

## nowhere (come out of nowhere, etc.)

out of nowhere  
he had himself a career day ~ (football)

came out of nowhere  
the team ~ (winning in the NCAA tournament)  
Edwards' finish of Usman ~ (head-kick / UFC 278)

come out of nowhere  
he had ~, now he's all over Radio One (Headie One)

♦ “A devastating day for all @ManUtd supporters and the club but it didn't come out of nowhere. It was not a surprise.” (Bastian Schweinsteiger, about Liverpool 5 Manchester United 0.)

## noxious (adjective)

noxious (online) behaviors  
stalking and bullying are ~ (Internet)

noxious law  
we need to repeal this ~

noxious tide  
we need to stem the ~ of ideologically-driven rhetoric

noxious (racial) views  
this book connects his ~ to his foreign policy

bigoted and noxious  
the film is ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Literally, this word tends to collocate with fumes, chemicals and smoke. In other word, bad smells.

## nudge (verb)

nudged  
he never judged, you know he just ~ (a pastor)

nudged him to change  
his coach ~ his morning routine

nudged me into (just) getting  
he gently ~ it over with

nudge people towards new behavior



little gestures, like the advertisements, meant to ~

### nudged America's allies

they have ~ to patch up their differences (diplomacy)

♦ "Cuomo strong-armed rather than cajoled; he used intimidation rather than seduction to get his way." ("New York After Cuomo" by Michael Greenberg, *The New York Review*, October 7, 2021.)

♦ Cajole, compel, force, make, mandate, make mandatory, mandate, nudge, persuade, require... (Language used by vaccine advocates about the vaccine reluctant. Words with like meaning include: "intimidate," "strong-arm," and "seduce.")

♦ "Sen. Hillary Clinton said America must use 'smart power'—which includes diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal and cultural tools."

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Get them by their balls and their hearts and minds will follow." (A saying popular among combat soldiers during the Vietnam War who were cynical about US government campaigns to "win the hearts and minds" of the Vietnamese people. In Vietnam the Vietnam War is known as the American War.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Applied behavior analysis."

## nudge (noun)

### nudge behaviours

the ICO is targeting ~ (Snapchat streaks, "likes," etc.)

### nudge technique

but does the "~" really work (Japan / blue lights / suicide)  
~s are a way of influencing behaviour  
we must put an end to so-called "~s" (kids / social media)  
~s encourage children to make bad choices (social media)

### nudge up

"the ~," "You have to do this," helps people get over that little barrier (COVID vaccinations)

### behavioral nudge

the mask acts as a ~ to people for better hygiene (COVID)

### Inclusion Nudges

she is the co-author of the ~ *Guidebook*

### smart nudge

lotteries are a '~' to improve vaccination rates (COVID)

### get nudges

you ~ that remind you... (Gmail)

### give the stragglers a nudge

the Delta variant offered a chance to ~ (vaccination)

### takes a (gentle) nudge

sometimes it ~ to get the ball rolling

♦ "Is there anything the United States can do to cajole, persuade, or threaten the Gulf States to take a different approach? (Heard on NPR. As though the Gulf States were refractory toddlers.)

♦ Cajole, compel, force, make, mandate, make mandatory, nudge, persuade, require... (Language used by vaccine advocates about the vaccine reluctant. Other words with similar meaning would include "intimidate," "strong-arm," and "seduce.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Applied behavior analysis."

## nudge (communication)

### nudge nudge

you got it, wink wink nudge nudge

### wink, wink, nudge, nudge

*Son of Samson* was a '~' to gay audiences (1960 film)

♦ maryann 03: From CA: Welcome. I highly (wink wink nudge nudge) recommend online ordering and home delivery. Always tip your delivery person. They are your friend. (An ABC "Join the Discussion" comment on "New York legalizes recreational marijuana...")

♦ "PEN15, write out the title, you'll get it, has begun its second season on Hulu..." (A well-briefed Scott Simon of NPR. This is an example of leetspeak.)

♦ "There's no doubt *Son of Sampson* was a heavy 'wink, wink, nudge, nudge' to gay audiences in the still heavily closeted early 1960s." (The 1960 film.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Nudges to secretly communicate.)

## nudged

### nudged aside

he is being ~ (a politician)

### nudged down

life expectancy was ~ again by a surge in overdoses

### nudged out

play has been ~ of many schools

### nudged into committing

whether he was pushed or jumped or was ~ suicide...

### nudged towards keeping

the consumer is ~ their membership (online unsubscribing)

## nugget (noun)

### nuggets about what

the trial could offer a few more ~ Wikileaks planned...

### seven nuggets

here are ~ we learned from the interview

### additional nuggets

those ~ of information help scammers (spam calls)

### key nugget

the ~ was when he said...

### science nuggets

follow Maddie and Rebecca on Twitter for more ~

### extract (vital) nuggets

trying to ~ of truth from vast mountains of falsehood

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "But one must know how to find the nuggets."

## numb (adjective)

### numb with grief

she and others who knew her best felt ~ (murdered)

### became numb

he ~ to even the most gruesome scenes (a marine)

♦ "I had like basically no emotions, I was just like numb, all I wanted to do was like lay in my bed." (A like 16-year-old diagnosed with like anorexia.)

## number (number is up, etc.)

number came up  
my ~ (blown up by a landmine)

## numbered (days are numbered, etc.)

numbered  
Mubarak's days are ~

## nursemaid (help)

nursemaid to the bill  
she played ~, shepherding it through

♦ "I ain't got time to play nursemaid to all you people." (The military.)

## nursery (noun)

stellar nursery  
~s where stars are born  
it's a ~ (Carina Nebula)

## nurture (verb)

nurtured his student's career  
he ~ and became a second father (a coach)

nurtures (militant) groups  
Pakistan ~ in the area

nurtured her iconoclasm  
her parents encouraged her ambitions and ~ (musician)

nurtured her interest  
it was he who first ~ in art

nurture the (infant) market  
~ (e-publishing)

nurtured relationships  
he ~ with members of the faculty (journal editor)

nurtured a reputation  
Japanese companies have ~ for reliability (products)

nurture civil society  
education helps to ~

identifying and nurturing  
we have been ~ feminist writers (a publisher)

tap, feed and nurture  
he wants to ~ this anger (politician appeals to base)

## nurtured

nurtured by the West  
he is a criminal ~ (an award winner)

nurtured by his father  
his ideas about cooking were ~

nurtured by his mother  
his early interest in poetry was ~

carefully nurtured

he was ~ by the club (young soccer player)

## nut (and nutcase / person)

nut case  
is your client a ~ (a flake / crazy)

deranged nutcase  
this Jennifer Rubin woman sounds like a ~ (columnist)

religious nut  
he's a ~ (controversial politician)

♦ "In 2012, Nina Totenberg of NPR was criticized by mental-health advocates for asking the question, "So, is your client a nut case?"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "He's nuttier than a peach-orchard boar."

## nuts (crazy)

nuts  
but what's really ~ is insisting that...

drives your manager nuts  
don't do whatever ~ ("managing up")

go nuts  
when I think about it, I ~

goes nuts  
Dean ~ (reaction to the Howard Dean Scream of 2004.)

♦ Crazed; crazy; irrational; a maniac; a nutcase; (a) psycho; (a) wacko... (Words disliked by mental-health advocates.)

## nuts and bolts

nuts and bolts  
take me through the ~ about how this is going to work

nuts and bolts of a gritty industry  
it was an indoctrination into the ~ (garment center)

nuts-and-bolts character  
he was a very ~ (Edmund Hillary helps Sherpas)

## nutshell (in a nutshell)

in a nutshell  
that's it, ~ (short and sweet)  
this is Atkinson ~ (review of a writer)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Watch Austin Powers "Help! I'm in a Nutshell!"

# O

## oak (Royal Oak, etc.)

*Royal Oak*  
the ~ battleship was sunk by a U-boat in Scapa Flow

## oak (strength)

Hearts of Oak  
the British have ~

## Oasis (Oasis of the Seas, etc.)

### Oasis of the Seas

the ~ is the world's largest cruise ship

### Oasis Hotel

the ~ has 8 awards of excellence (Cairo)

## oasis (environment)

### oasis

Somaliland is an ~ in comparison to Somalia

### oasis of (relative) calm

it provides an ~ within Iraq (Kurdish region)

### oasis of peace

it was once an ~ in volatile West Africa (Ivory Coast)

### oasis of peace and stability

Ghana is an ~ in turbulent West Africa

### oasis within New York City

Park Slope, Brooklyn, is an ~ (parks, families, etc.)

### oasis for (late-night) customers

we are an ~ (White Castle)

### jungle oases

a civilization grew near these ~ (cenotes / Mayas)

### green oasis

New York City's High Line is a ~ (elevated walkway)

### peaceful oasis

Bali was considered a ~ (before Kuta Beach bombing)

### spiritual oasis

Cloud Cottage Sangha is a ~ for me (Buddhist)

### considered a (peaceful) oasis

Bali was ~ (before Kuta Beach bombing)

### \*\*\* Al-Ahsa and Jabal Qara; Dunhuang...

♦ The Al-Ahsa Oasis is the largest date-palm oasis in the world, a lovely place that gurgles paradisaically with springs and wells and rejoices in the songs of water. It includes the city of Al-Hofuf with its gorgeous walled fort, also the remarkable Jabal Qara, hills that resemble rock cauliflowers. The whole area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, deservedly. Go there and watch the trail of a meteor transect the wall of the fort at night. Spend the rest of the night on Jabal Qara, listening to the howls of desert dogs. Just be careful where you step at Jabal Qara.

♦ "And then, rising from between the closer dunes, their vertical spires contrasting dramatically with the desert realm of the horizontal, are green trees by the thousands. There is water somewhere nearby. This truly is an oasis, a place of refuge and settlement—and among the trees there are buildings that glint as the sun catches them, scores of structures, the upswept eaves of a nest of pagodas, the minarets of a mosque or two, a cluster of hotels." (Dunhuang, China. (From *The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester.)

## oats (feel one's oats)

### feeling its oats

China is ~ (booming economy)

## Obama (Russia's Obama, etc.)

### Jakarta's Obama

they call him ~ (governor Joko Widodo)

### Russia's Obama

Jean Gregoire Sagbo is known as ~

### female (Barak) Obama

the simplistic and premature “~” label (for Kamala Harris)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Joko Widodo, the governor of Jakarta, has been compared to Obama for the following reasons. (1) He is hugely popular with the young and the poor, who consider him a hero. (2) He often visits his supporters, listens to them, shows that he cares about them, and gives them a feeling of positivity and hope. (3) He has helped to subsidize healthcare and education for them. (4) He is humble and his reputation is clean. (5) Finally, he is tall and lanky, just like Obama!

## objectified (groups)

### objectified, scrutinized and judged

Marilyn was ~ by males (Marilyn Monroe)

### othered, objectified, exoticized, coerced

~ (Asian women)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I wonder how it feels to complain about being objectified. Yet get roles due to willingness to be objectified. Doesn't that make her a hypocrite?" (A commenter about the actress Sydney Sweeney.)

## obituary (noun)

### obituary of a bank

we bring you the ~ (NPR / Credit Suisse)

### political obituary

her ~ was written at least three times (Hillary Clinton)

you can't write her ~ (a pollster about her reelection bid)

### radio's obituary

we should know better than to write ~

### writing (Tony Blair's political) obituary

last week people were ~

♦ "ABE, a nomadic adventurer that plumbed the world's oceans on its own, forever changing the way scientists explored the seafloor, was lost at sea March 5 off southern Chile... / ABE had been enlisted after a period of semi-retirement to help researchers look for hydrothermal vents at the Chile Triple Junction... / Its last dive was the 222nd of its career, which began in 1994... / Being autonomous, ABE could work faster, cheaper and in more places... / ABE is survived by a new generation of autonomous underwater vehicles... Its most direct descendant is Sentry, developed at Woods Hole... / Dr. Yoerger said he had tried not to become too emotional about the loss of ABE. 'This is aluminum, glass and silicon,' he said. 'We can build a new one.'" ("ABE, Pioneering Robotic Undersea Explorer, Is Dead at 16" by Henry Fountain, *The New York Times*, 2010.)

♦ "These death notices were always premature, until the nineteen-eighties and nineties, when they finally weren't." (Door-to-door selling. In the 2020s, door-to-door sellers sell pest control, alarms, roofing, and solar panels.)

♦ "When I first set out on this story, I imagined an obituary. Baseball's plodding demise was the hook. The game was mortally ill..." ("How Baseball Saved Itself" by Mark Leibovich, *The Atlantic*, July / August 2023.)

♦ "That's how the press read the signs, too. 'YUPPIES' LAST RITES READIED' was the headline in the *Times* after Black Monday. 'SUNSET FOR YUPPIES' was the headline in *USA Today*. Obituaries for the yuppie began to appear—notably (and strangely unmentioned in McGrath's book), Hendrik Hertzberg's classic 'The Short Happy Life of the American Yuppie,' in *Esquire*. The yuppie, Hertzberg said, was 'the collective projection of a moral anxiety. We loaded onto him everything we hated about the times we had been living through...

Then we strung the little bastard up.' It was over." ("What Happened To The Yuppie?" by Louis Menand, *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2024. Great writing.)

♦ "This isn't a column. It's an obituary. / Donald Trump's improbable, historic, decisive victory on Tuesday showed us that the so-called free press is dead and buried. / Outlets from CBS to NBC to ABC to CNN to MSNBC to the Washington Post and The New York Times and countless others like Politico and The Atlantic went all-in on defeating Trump with overwhelmingly negative and oftentimes patently dishonest coverage—and they failed miserably. / Weeks of their electioneering couldn't bring the voters to their side." ("Mainstream media dug its own grave with absurd Trump election coverage" by Joe Concha, *The New York Post*, Opinion, Nov. 7, 2024. He might have added National Public Radio / NPR to the list.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

♦ "Obituaries are definitive." (Alex Traub, who works the *New York Times* obituary desk.)

## obsessed

obsessed with foghorns

my name is Jennifer Lucy Allan and I'm ~ (BBC)

soccer-obsessed

I was a ~ teenager when most Americans seemed to hate it

politically obsessed

for those of us who are ~ (pundits)

♦ Laksa fever; "everyone's just contracted this laksa fever"; "the love child of Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean cuisine"; love for laksa; a thing that people love; craving a fix (for laksa); the mania (for laksa); a city obsessed (with laksa); the laksa obsession; the faithful; a giant shrine is erected (for monthlong laksa festival); laksa ice-cream / smoothies / cheesecake / sausage / crocodile dumplings / beer; the Laksa Festival Hall of Fame; the Golden Bowl award for best laksa... ("How laksa fever took hold in this Australian city" by the wonderful writer Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC, October 31, 2023. Life at "The Top End" of Oz. Super!)

## obsession (enthusiasm)

obsession with motorcycles

at first my wife didn't mind my growing ~

## obsession (behavior)

obsession with race

Breareley's ~ must stop, the school has lost its way

## obviously (contempo-speak)

obviously (very) happy

I am ~ with the outcome of this case

obviously (super) latchkey

we were ~ (kids growing up)

obviously extremely

see *extremely* (contempo-speak)

obviously, maybe

see *maybe* (contempo-speak)

obviously pretty

see *pretty* (contempo-speak)

obviously really

see *really* (gushing)

obviously very

see *very* (contempo-speak)

obviously totally

see *totally* (contempo-speak)

definitely obviously

not so smart, ~ fake but... (sharing fake news)

I mean I think it ~ motivates you to...

especially obviously

~ with us being...

I mean, obviously

~, if you watch what's happened, I mean...

I think obviously

~ some people are going to...

~ that that alters the threat assessment...

kind of obviously

viewers are ~ going to want...

normally obviously

now this would ~ be a super bad thing (Geoff Brumfiel)

really, obviously

it's ~, in the hands of the Senate (politics)

right, I mean, obviously

this had been sort of in the tea leaves for a little bit, ~...

very obviously

the rise of social media ~ cemented the film's legacy...

Well, I mean, obviously

~, that why...

Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously...

~ (Esther Zukerman of VOX on NPR)

♦ "That's my guy though... I don't know what I can do to make him feel better at this point, especially obviously with us being in season now..." (An NFL player about an injured NFL player.)

♦ "She also talked about resigning, but, obviously, that didn't happen..." (If it's obvious, why mention it?)

♦ Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously... (Esther Zukerman of VOX on NPR.)

♦ "Now, this would normally obviously be a super bad thing." (Geoff Brumfiel, NPR Science Correspondent, about a failed Space X Starship flight. Stellar science reporting! I wonder how old he is.)

♦ Are you sure!?

♦ see also *actually* (contempo-speak), *basically* (contempo-speak), *definitely* (contempo-speak), *really* (gushing)

## ocean (ocean of air, etc.)

ocean of air

we live submerged at the bottom of an ~ (atmosphere)

ocean of sand

the Sahara's ~

## ocean (amount)

ocean of (digital) information and misinformation

it's hard to navigate through the ~

drop in the ocean

see *drop* (*drop in the bucket, etc.*)

## occupy (verb)

occupied that part

he totally ~ (Marlon Brando / *Godfather*)

occupy a (unique) position

the river began to ~ in folklore (the Mississippi)

## octopus (noun)

“Octopus Doctrine”

Tel Aviv’s new policy is the ~ (attack head *and* arms)

world-strangling octopus

he saw Victoria’s British Empire as a ~

terrorist octopus

Israel has taken action against the head of the ~

arms of the octopus

Israel now attacks the ~ (regional proxies)

♦ Anastasia Tsioulcas: “The prosecution asked a defense witness...about an org (organization) chart he had made of Kelly’s company. It was illustrated like a cartoon octopus, and, in retrospect, that was a pretty unfortunate metaphor for a man accused of running an enterprise intended to lure victims into sex crimes.” / Noel King: “That’s a really vivid image, isn’t it.” / Anastasia Tsioulcas: “It really is.” (“A Jury In New York Begins Deliberations In R. Kelly’s Federal Trial,” NPR, Morning Edition, Sept. 27, 2021.)

♦ “An AI-produced illustration. ChatGPT’s DALL-E image generator made this in response to the prompt: Pretend you are artist Ernst Haeckel. Draw an intelligent-looking octopus with tentacles enveloping a university building.” (The caption of an illustration of an intelligent-looking octopus on top of a medieval-looking university building with a gothic spire. The illustration accompanies the article “AI Applied” by Jonathan Shaw, *Harvard Magazine*, March-April 2024.)

\*\*\* **Aliveri, Evia, Greece...**

♦ In the old days, in Aliveri, on the island of Evia (Evvoia, Euboea), *octopodi* hung on lines outside houses like laundry. Perhaps it is still like that. I hope so.

♦ He once snorkeled above one for half an hour on a shallow reef in the Red Sea north of Jeddah, and its fascinating shape- and color-shifting at the blink of an eye is something he will never forget...

♦ A young brown man—an underwater hunter—smilingly pulled from his miniscule black swimsuit a long octopus...” (Gibraltar? Or was it Portugal?)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The octopus is a beautiful and amazing creature, and it is hard to understand why it has gotten such a bad reputation as a symbol, especially considering how prized it is as a delicious catch.

♦ From the Greek *okto*, “eight,” and *pous*, “foot.”

## odd couple

odd couple

this ~ makes for a compelling violin concerto

## odds (fate)

beat the odds

the way I look at it, I ~ (tough upbringing)

## ode (praise)

ode to cinema

his film is an ~ as a whole (Cannes hype)

ode to their domesticity

Graham’s ~, “Our House” (“with two cats in the yard”)

ode to historically black colleges

her performance was an ~ (Beyoncé at 2018 Coachella)

♦ The greatest invention in human history is not the wheel, and it’s certainly not sliced bread. As much of the nation broiled this week in temperatures in the high 90s and beyond, can there be any doubt that our most wondrous piece of technology is the air conditioner? / It was way back in 1902 that Willis Carrier created the Apparatus for Treating Air...” (“An ode to AC” by William Falk, Editor, *The Week Magazine*.)

♦ “Ode to Swearing” by James Parker, *The Atlantic*, March 2023. Many of us have enjoyed Parker’s odes in *The Atlantic* and will miss them. In 2023 he lost his column. A shame. James Parker is *not* George Packer.

\*\*\* **Pablo Neruda, John Keats...**

♦ “In the salt mines / I saw the salt / in this shaker. / I know you won’t believe me, / but there / it sings, / the salt sings, the skin / of the salt mines / sings / with a mouth choking / on dirt.” (The opening lines of “Ode to Salt” by Pablo Neruda, in a wonderful English translation by Philip Levine. Listen to: A Reading of ‘Ode to Salt,’ NPR, All Things Considered, December 3, 2005)

♦ Pablo Neruda wrote a series of odes, *Elemental Odes*, and they are wonderful. I love his ode to salt. And his ode to olives... Did Neruda write an ode to donkeys? If he didn’t, he should have.

♦ When old age shall this generation waste, / Thou shalt remain, in midst of other woe / Than ours, a friend to man, to whom thou say’st, / “Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all / Ye know on earth, and all yet need to know. (“Ode on a Grecian Urn” by John Keats.)

♦ You can write an ode to something. Or a hymn. Or a love letter. Or a Valentine. Take your pick!

♦ see also *love letter* (noun), *Valentine* (noun)

## Odyssean (adjective)

Odyssean trek

*The Truce*, Levi’s ~ home (Primo Levi)

## Odyssey (Mars Odyssey, etc.)

Odyssey

the 75-square-foot solar array that powers ~ (Mars)

so far, ~ is an unqualified scientific success (Mars)

Odyssey of the Seas

~ (Nassau) is a Royal Caribbean cruise ship

Mars Odyssey

the ~ (a NASA Mars probe)

## odyssey (on an odyssey)

on an odyssey

these girls have been ~ (from Sierra Leone to US)

on a (six-day, 900-mile) odyssey

he claimed she accompanied him ~ (kidnapper)

led his family on a (diagnostic) odyssey

the boy’s illness ~

## odyssey (other)

odyssey of two (likable) women

the documentary is the ~

Georgia man’s odyssey

a ~ to Europe... (7 flights with XDR TB)

substance-abuse odyssey  
she began a long ~ by sniffing fingernail polish...

personal odyssey  
the documentary is the ~ of two strong, likable women

remarkable odyssey  
her life traces a ~ from her farmhouse in Poland to...

three-decade odyssey  
his trip turned into a ~

♦ "Zola's tale was dubbed the Thotyssey by fans." (A road trip involving sex. "Thot" stands for "that ho' over there." A ho' is a whore or a slut. This combination of contemporary slang and a classical allusion is astonishing.)

\*\*\* Johnny, Waylon, Willie, and Kris...

♦ "All along the southbound Odyssey, the train pulled out from Kankakee..." Watch: The Highwaymen—City of New Orleans (American outlaws: Live at Nassau Coliseum, 1990)

## off (cancelled, postponed, etc.)

off  
the game is ~

**off (not right)**

off about this story  
something seems so ~ (wonders if attack was staged)

## offbeat (adjective)

offbeat  
she would do things that were ~ (Lizzo)

## offensive (charm offensive, etc.)

charm offensive  
he refused to be part of the Hollywood ~ (to get Oscar)

## offer (offer hope, etc.)

offers audiences a vision  
the latest performance similarly ~ of themselves

offers a sympathetic ear to kids  
he ~ (juvenile offenders)

offer (consumer) feedback  
user-opinion sites ~

offer hope  
it we ~, then the stigma begins to fade (HIV)

offers hope  
a monkey trial ~ (pandemic vaccine)

## offspring

offspring of the phone booth  
the ~, referred to as an "enclosure"

abuse's (shamefaced) offspring  
prejudice, abuse, and ~, complicity...

## offshoot

offshoot of (Shiite) Islam

Zaydism is an ~

offshoot of Dutch  
Afrikaans is an ~

Los Angeles offshoot  
the Actor's Lab, a ~ of the Group Theater

latest offshoot  
stand-up paddling is surfing's ~

## OG (and original gangster)

OG fans  
perfect for both ~ and newbies (a Jonas Brothers concert)

OG crime junkies  
my mom and grandma, they were my ~

OG lineup  
the ~ of Mutya, Keisha and Siobhan (MKS)

OG Messi  
the ~ (versus Arda Guler, "the Turkish Messi")

OG "motomami"  
she's like the ~, you know what I mean...

OG supermodels  
she was one of the fashion world's ~ (Tatjana Patitz)

OG Yield Curve Whisperer  
"The ~" (NPR, Planet Money, August 9, 2018)

women's golf OG  
a ~ on the sport's rise in popularity (Betsy King / NPR)

"Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" OG  
the ~ (Kyle Richards, female)

\*\*\* cutesy, NPR, etc.

♦ "Well, I fell in love with [the true crime genre] or got interested in it because I would say my mom and her mother before her, they were my OG crime junkies." ('Crime Junkie' host Ashley Flowers talks debut novel," NPR, All Things Considered, December 10, 2022.)

♦ "You thought you could just get another blonde girl??? Where's my OG?" (A commenter about Kyle Gordon's third video teaser for "Planet of the Bass," which featured a *different* blonde girl.)

♦ "The OG Yield Curve Whisperer," Stacey Vanek Smith and Cardiff Garcia, NPR, Planet Money, August 9, 2018. (OG stands for "Original Gangster" and is AAVE. The yield curve relates to predictive economics. And the "whisperer" is Campbell Harvey, a finance professor at Duke University!)

♦ "[Martirio] is like the OG 'motomami,' you know what I mean? How she sings, [how] she puts her sunglasses on. The energy's crazy." (Rosalia paying respect to Martirio. From "Rosalia is unafraid to pull from every corner of the world," NPR, All Things Considered, April 24, 2022. Rosalia was interviewed by Anamaria Sayre. See also "How Latin identity became fodder for content" by Manuela Lopez Restrepo, NPR, Pop Culture, December 10, 2022.)

♦ "So the book club. Oprah's book club. [Oprah Winfrey pauses to initiate applause, which she gets, and then puts her hands on her hips.] I know there're a lot of book clubs now but we're the OGs, okay. [She spreads her arms, receives the applause, nods her head.] Hello!" (Oprah Winfrey onstage at the 74th annual National Book Awards.)

♦ Type in "original gangster" and "OG" in search at NPR and you get over 300 results! At NPR, Detroit's former mayor was not serving a 28-year-sentence. According to Noel King, host, he was "doing a 28-year-bid." Now, that's gangsta!

\*\*\* Keefe D, etc.



♦ “It’s like maybe like thirty-five hundred inmates, half the line was Crips, so that was like the big Crip capital of the fucking California really, so, you know, no red allowed...” (Duane Keith Davis AKA Keefe D reminiscing about DVI Tracy. See YouTube Keefe D—Full Interview, UrbanCityTV.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “OG, short for “original gangster,” is a compliment for somebody who is exceptional or authentic.” (AAVE.)

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## ogre (person)

ogre and a tyrant

his employees describe him as an ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Shrek: My father was an ogre. He tried to eat me. I should have seen it coming.

## Oh (and wait a minute, etc. / sarcasm)

Oh hang on

let’s sit down over a beer, ~, we can’t...

who to blame, ~, Kane missed a penalty (Qatar 2022)

oh hang on

Ye imagine the crying if the ref gave Argentina 2 pens...

~

oh wait

they will hide the data, ~ there is no data (Pfizer)

if only footballers had coaches, ~, they do...

when are the players and the coach getting knighted...~

Oh, I forgot

just ask all her friends. ~...she doesn’t have any (snark)

Oh, NOW

~ our public health poohbahs tell us... (Covid)

Wait a minute

with gun control, this wouldn’t have happened...~...

Wait hold up

~, the pandemic started when Trump was president

wait for it

and essay by aged British critic titled——“Dullness”

♦ “If only footballers had coaches for mental side of things, trainers for fitness, mental well being, personal coaches, personal doctors, the best medical care possible with no waiting, on call even. Oh wait, they do.” (A commenter about “tired, overworked” soccer players at the Qatar World Cup.)

♦ “Let’s sit down over a beer and have a chat about it / Oh hang on. We can’t....” (Qatar bans the sale of beer at stadiums during the FIFA World Cup.)

♦ “Nice to see Ronaldo show sportsmanship in congratulating his opponents and consoling his team mates. Oh no, that’s right, he walked right off crying.” (Qatar FIFA World Cup soccer snark.)

♦ “Who to blame, Ref, French border control, Brexit. Oh hang on, Kane missed a penalty.” (Soccer snark, Qatar 2022.)

♦ “If the Dems were able to pass laws to restrict guns, this horror would have never occurred.... Wait a minute.... (Four college students murdered by knife in Moscow, Idaho.)

♦ “Wait hold up. The pandemic started when Trump was president.” (An online comment to “Why Don’t Asian Lives Matter to Joe Biden and his liberal allies?”)

♦ “When are the players and the coach getting knighted... .. oh wait!” (An online commenter about England’s loss to Spain in the final of the Fifa 2023 Women’s World Cup.)

♦ “Contributing to the advancement of civilization since...never.” (Sarcasm.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This, and similar, has become a meme. There are “Oh Wait” meme generators online.

♦ NPR’s Steve Inskeep in fond of saying, “Oh! So...” (Snarky!)

## O. Henry

O. Henry twist

the story features an ~ at the end

♦ “One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one’s cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied.” (The beginning of “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry. One of the greatest love stories ever written. To this day people put pennies on the grave of its author in Riverside Cemetery, Asheville, North Carolina, the Southern Appalachians, U.S.A.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ I told this story to our adult military students in Saudi Arabia, and we enjoyed it immensely.

## O. Henry-esque (adjective)

O. Henry-esque twist

it sort of has an ~ at the end (a song)

♦ Or, O. Henry-like....

## Oh, my! (sarcasm)

Oh my

is it possible Dems took illegal contributions, ~!

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Lions and Tigers and Bears. Oh, My!” This is an allusion to the beloved 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*. Dorothy says it just before the Lion leaps into the scene.

## oil (pour oil)

poured oil on the fire

he has ~

## oil (pour oil on troubled waters)

pour oil on troubled waters

see *waters* (*dangerous waters, etc.*)

## oil (new oil, etc.)

“new oil”

it’s become common to call data the ~

♦ Oil and data are different because oil can only be used once, data many times. But both have to be processed (oil) or analyzed (data) to become valuable. Both can make companies rich (Amazon, ExxonMobil).

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Before oil, there was whale oil.”

## OK (and okay / verb)

ok’d extra doses

the FDA ~ of Pfizer’s original recipe (vaccine)

## old (of old)

days of old  
in ~

## old (a year old, etc.)

just a year old  
the song then was ~ (in 1968)

turns 50 later this year  
that's the anniversary we're looking at, it ~ (Carrie)

turns 76 tomorrow  
*Ebony Magazine* ~

- ♦ "The Archibald Prize is turning 100." (The Australian portrait prize.)
- ♦ "That's the anniversary we're looking at. It turns 50 later this year..." (Stephen King's first novel, *Carrie*.)
- ♦ "The 988 Suicide and crisis lifeline turns 2 tomorrow." (NPR.)
- ♦ see also *anniversary (creation)*, *birthday (creation)*

## old (traditional)

Old Army  
"How the ~ Died" (by General Smith-Dorrien)

Old Bolshevik  
Mikhail Sidorovich Mostovskoy, an ~ (Vasily Grossman)

Old Corps  
he was a gruff, up-from-the-ranks ~ captain (Marine Corps)

old guard  
see *old guard*

old hand  
see *old hand (experience)*

Old Hollywood  
how the ~ became the New Hollywood (1960s)  
the conflict between ~ and New Hollywood (1970s)

"Old Navy"  
the *Marion*, last wooden ship of the ~ (Asiatic Station)

old school  
see *old school*

- ♦ "Where *Old Vegas* is *still alive*; *old-school Vegas* eateries; a *throwback* eatery (Hugo's Cellar); *throwback* hotels and casinos; *historic* steakhouses; *vintage* slot machines; a *boneyard* of vintage signs (Neon Museum)... (The Old Las Vegas in New Vegas.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

- ♦ "[T]he old British Army which fought at Mons is but a glorious memory... / I do not know how many are left of that little Army. Their numbers must be very few. Some of the men of Mons are in the trenches to day; but they have become merged in the new armies... / The new Army has been trained in a very short space of time and everything has been concentrated in getting them ready to hold their own in trench warfare, and it is not very probable that they would have been very successful had they been called upon to perform the operation that was imposed on the Expeditionary Force..." ("How the Old Army Died" by General Smith-Dorrien, *Malaya Tribune*, 13 April 1917.)

## Old Boy (Old Boy network, etc.)

Old Boy network

he had a place on the ~ (a political appointee)

good-old-boys  
the department was the ultimate ~ (law enforcement)

## old-fashioned (adjective)

old-fashioned (American) swagger  
now, let's show them some ~ (2012 film *Emperor*)

old-fashioned way  
building a career the ~ (slow and steady vs. virality)

old-fashioned ropes and tugboats  
the Navy used ~ to tow it back to deeper water (stealth sub)

downright old-fashioned  
it looks ~ (in a good way) (the 2024 film *Wolfs*)

so old-fashioned  
I find ageism ~ (Vera Wang, looking *good*)

good, old-fashioned  
Triple A suggested drivers still carry a ~ map (GPS)

harsh, old-fashioned  
the ~ words (madhouse, asylum, insanity, madness)

## old guard

old guard  
the ~ has yielded the throne (world soccer)

old-guard evangelicals  
conflict between ~ and younger evangelicals

Ajan-era old guard  
disputes between reformers and a faction led by the ~

evangelical old guard  
there's a lot at stake for the ~ (gender issues)

old guard and its rising stars  
we will hear from the party's ~ (political convention)

old guard and younger, more liberal members  
this exposes a divide between the ~ (Democratic Party)

avant-garde and old guard  
he's both ~ (rapper Kendrick Lamar)

exodus of the old guard  
the ~ leaves the team pretty limited (Manchester United)

favorites of the old guard  
elections would be open to all, not just the ~ (Cambridge)

old guard was being mothballed  
the ~ (a Silicon Valley tech company)

old guard has yielded  
the ~ the throne (world soccer)

broken with the old guard  
she has ~ (Marine Le Pen, National Rally)

rankled (some of alpinism's) old guard  
this new way of climbing has ~ (helicopter to base camp)

## old hand (experience)

old hand  
5-10 new recruits get killed to every ~ (inexperience / war)

old (diplomatic) hands  
~, emigres, and dissidents relayed stories about...

newcomers (to the research) versus old hands  
~ (science)

accepted (as soldiers) by the old hands  
we were being ~

♦ "Forget everything you learned in the academy." (The standard greeting a rookie police officer receives from his veteran partner.)

♦ "In training camp they filled you full of fancy information on how to be a soldier. We're going to work hard to forget all that." (Ernest Borgnine in the 1979 film *All Quiet on the Western Front*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "If you want good advice, talk to an old man."

♦ "There's no fool like an old fool."

♦ see also *hand (work)*

## old school

old school  
he is unashamedly ~ (a 68-year-old Montana farmer)

old-school in his approach  
he's as ~ to opponents as he is in the ring

old-school Alabama  
Tagovailoa turned ~ into a new-school juggernaut (football)

old-school French bistro  
a much loved, ~

old-school brand  
his ~ of justice (versus contemporary attitudes)

old-school discipline  
he was famous for his ~ (sports coach)

old-school (American) fighters  
the ~, they're always setting traps (boxing)

old school 35mm film  
he wanted to deliver his film on ~

old-school inflexibility  
commenters pilloried his ~ (on Reddit / where else?)

old-school mentality  
that's that ~ (comment on boxer's work ethic)

old-school reporter  
he was an ~ who would challenge anyone

old-school (journalistic) rules  
I came up under ~ (Bari Weiss, *Honestly with Bari Weiss*)

old school (corner) team

AJ needs an ~, get back to basics (boxing)

old-school style  
he brings ~ to the sport (auto racer not afraid to bump)

old-school, hard-nosed  
Barber was an ~ football player who...

old school and new-school  
the broadcast team will have an ~ look (NBC Sports)

from the old school  
she is ~, committed to her marriage (military wife)

new school / old school  
a classic ~ rift (newer kayaking moves)

♦ "let's get back to old school boxing, flip this soap opera on its head." (A fight fan about the state of boxing today.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's nothing wrong—quite the contrary—with being Old School when Old School is Smart School." (The great sports commentator Phil Mushnik, AKA "the Conscience of Sports.")

♦ see also *new school*

## olive branch

olive branch  
it was an ~ from Bobby Knight to Alford (dispute)

extended an olive branch to South Korea  
he ~

offered an olive branch to the Republicans  
in the State of the Union, he ~

## Olympian (size)

Olympian scorn  
his reactions to the world ran from dismay to ~  
he displayed ~ for the popularity of...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ OLYMPIAN, adj. Relating to a mountain in Thessaly, once inhabited by gods, now a repository of yellowing newspapers, beer bottles and mutilated sardine cans, attesting the presence of the tourist and his appetite. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## Olympian (perspective)

Olympian view  
he takes an ~ of contemporary politics (George F. Will)

## Olympics (competition)

oppression Olympics  
everyone is tired of the ~ (Trans versus Blacks, etc.)  
it puts her at the top of the ~ (Arab, African and Muslim)  
teens indulge in the ~, their world distorted by social media  
reactionary conservatism versus the ~

moral injury Olympics  
the ~ (concept inflation / co-option by all groups)

intersectional Gibberish Olympics  
she surged past Hillary in the ~ (Katherine)

♦ "If conclusion jumping ever becomes an Olympic sport they're a lot of potential team members here." (An online commenter.)

\*\*\* "Man... knows how to fight and win..."

♦ “Man... knows how to fight and win.” (A stirring speech in Olympia, Greece, prior to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. See YouTube #Beijing2022 Olympic Flame Lighting Ceremony! Eternal, beautiful and inspiring, especially so for taking place during the COVID period. Full credit and respect to Greece and to China. Super!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to the Wikipedia article, the term “moral distress” originated in the 1980s in reference to health-care workers. Through “concept inflation” or “co-option,” the construct has since been applied to soldiers, police, firefighters, EMTs, legal defenders and lawyers, people in child and adult protective services, and even to veterinarians, leading inevitably to the construct’s disparagement: “moral injury Olympics.”

## Olympus (Mount Olympus)

Olympus of sociological research  
the University of Chicago was the ~

♦ “When I was in college—not terribly long ago—a life in letters seemed one of the lower ridges of Olympus.” (Nathan Heller.)

## omerta (noun)

omerta from the labs  
the money allows it to purchase a lot of ~ it supports  
(EcoHealth Alliance)

code of omerta  
clerks are expected to abide by a ~ (the Supreme Court)

## omnivorous (adjective)

omnivorous  
her interests have been ~ (Jia Tolentino)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “‘Well,’ said the old man, ‘if you’d been here during collectivization, you’d have kicked the bucket in no time. You know why I stayed alive? Because I know plants. And I’m not talking about things like acorns, linden leaves, goosefoot and nettles. They all went in no time. I know fifty-six plants a man can eat. That’s how I stayed alive. It was barely spring, there wasn’t a leaf on the trees—and there I was digging up roots. I know everything, brother—every root, every grass, every flower, every kind of bark. Cows, sheep and horses can die of hunger—but not me. I’m more herbivorous than any of them.’” (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Two, Chapter 50.)

## on (brag on, etc.)

believe on  
we ~ this campaign (Joe Biden’s / *in*?)

proof on  
it’s ~ the quality of this league... (*of*?)

bagging on  
you can be ~ each other (Black Twitter / criticizing)

blasts on  
ESPN insider ~ Luka Doncic for fouling out (NBA)

brag on  
I just want to ~ Larkin (she won an award / *about*?)  
I used to ~ him all the time (Len Bias / *about*?)

crushing on  
Velma is shown ~ a woman...

hate on  
see *hate on* (something)

hitting on  
at that point I was really mad, I was ~ him (punching him)

joked on  
no one is above being ~ (Black Twitter / *about*?)

lost it on me  
oh, my God, she ~ (became very upset)

love on  
see *love on* (something)

love up on  
see *love up* (and *love up on*, etc.)

pray on  
it was something I had to ~ (white death-row pastor)

regretting on  
and I am not ~ that... (a non-native speaker of English)

say on  
there’s nothing I can ~ it (say *about* it?)

speak on  
we didn’t really shop there, so I can’t ~ that

spoke on  
same dude who ~ my dead teammate...

talk (bad) on  
I’m not going to ~ him (*about*?)

took on  
Emma Stone ~ the award (won Oscar / NPR male)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Ordinarily one would “brag *about*” something or somebody. The “on” of “hate on” or “blast on” seems redundant. “Love on” and “hit on” seem tactile, relating to the body. “Speak on” seems archaic, or dialect. To “take on” an award, versus “win” or “receive” it, just seems wrong. “I am not regretting on” as said by a Kurdish speaker might simply show a non-native-English speaker’s lack of “do” support.

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## on (it’s on you, etc.)

on her  
the boyfriend is probably not involved, it is all ~

on you  
drink, drive, get arrested, it’s ~

on (all of) us  
it is ~ to hold one another accountable

on them  
the government’s case didn’t pan out and that’s ~ (juror)

on your head  
whatever happens to me next is ~...

♦ “This is on ALL involved in his previous arrests, as well as his family.” (An online commenter about another mass shooting. Frustration that red flags were ignored.)

## on (performing)

“on” all the time  
the stress of having to be ~ got to me (actress / eating)

always on

she is ~ (Wendy Williams)

♦ "It was in postwar Paris, Anthony writes, that Jackie perfected a knowledge of 'how to be "on," to make an intentional impression, to invent herself into a character.' She acquired a small Leica camera and brought it on her travels throughout France, subordinating schooling to adventure, though she managed to do fine at both." ("Behind The Lens: The making of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy" by Thomas Mallon, *The New Yorker*, May 8, 2023.)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ I can be exhausting to be always "on." And it can be exhausting to be in the company of one who is always "on."

## on (be on, etc.)

on

stocks kept falling, and the Great Depression was ~

back on

the summit is ~ (diplomacy)

party is on

the ~, and nobody is going to call it off (combat operation)

## on (30 years on, etc.)

30 years on

~, the veterans face health concerns...

eighty years on

~, how can we balance moving on and the need to remember

## one-size-fits-all

one-size-fits-all approach

the ~ is not the way to go (retirement plans)  
public health officials concede no ~ exists (pandemic)

one-size-fits-all journalism

we were offering ~ to very different audiences

one-size-fits-all solution

there is no ~ (to managed retreat due to climate change)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Procrustes was a crazy man who stretched people or cut off body parts so that his victims would fit a metal bed.

♦ see also *procrustean* (adjective)

## one-strike-and-you're-out

one-strike-and-you're-out (honor-code) policy

~ does more harm than good

## ongoing (investigation, etc.)

ongoing (security) arrangements

ensure ~ are appropriate

ongoing (budget) battle

an ~ between the school system, county

ongoing debate

the ~

ongoing (intratribal) disputes

~ (Native Americans)

ongoing effort

the regulations are part of an ~ to...

this mission is an ~ to take away enemy sanctuaries

ongoing focus

there is an ~ on these economic issues (White House)

ongoing investigation

would compromise the ~

ongoing mission

we don't comment on ~s (military)

ongoing (contract) negotiations

~ (pilots union)

ongoing plot

forcing terrorists to betray the details of ~s

ongoing (management) problems

the ~

ongoing process

this is going to be an ~

ongoing studies

a number of recent and ~

ongoing theft

the ~ of intellectual property

ongoing violence

against a backdrop of ~ (Middle East)

ongoing work

researchers and their ~

ongoing love-hate relationship

the ~ between...

## onion (noun)

layer of the onion

you notice that for every ~ there's another underneath it

peel back the onion

what you learn when you begin to ~ (murder)

peels back yet another layer

a revealing new interview ~ (a politician)

♦ "It's surprising, and shocking, what you learn when you begin to peel back the onion." (Dateline NBC, "Horror at the Lake.")

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "ONION: *related to a pearl* / In Latin there is a word *unio* which is translated as 'oneness' or 'union.' The word *onion* is derived from this Latin term. It rates its name because it consists of a number of *united* layers. There is also another interesting analogy between *unio* and *onion*. The rustics about Rome not only used the word *unio* to mean *onion*, but also thought it a suitable designation for a pearl. And even today a cook will speak of 'pearl onions' when she means the small, silvery-white variety." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 10, "Word Stories About Your Dining Table." It's a nice way to think of the word.)

## onrushing (future, etc.)

onrushing days

the ~ ahead (a bus journey)

onrushing future

the ways in which the ~ impacts the solidity of the past  
he is carried into an ~ he is unprepared to face (train trip)

onrushing (midterm campaign) season  
the public's apprehension about war and the ~ (politics)

onrushing spring  
the full power of the ~ is upon us

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Onrushing animals (a hippo), cars, force (of the beat), people (goalie, mob), trains, tsunami, water (hurricane)...

## onslaught (noun)

onslaught  
another ~ floored Pulev in the ninth (boxing)

onslaught of criticism  
Twitter changed its policy after an ~

onslaught of events  
the idea went quickly by the wayside by the ~

onslaught of globalization  
many countries resist the ~

under the onslaught  
Saudi Arabia melted ~, as Germany... (soccer)

## onwards (from a time onwards)

from 1800 onwards  
and so from ~...

from 1740 onwards  
people were experimenting with spinning machines ~

## oops (exclamation)

colossal oops  
soon it became a ~, as the Chiefs won (sports celebration)

## ooze (verb)

oozed confidence  
he was relaxed and ~ (Carlo Ancelotti)

oozes tradition and swagger  
the team ~ (Alabama football)

## opacity (noun)

opacity of (Lanier's) criticism  
the ~ may account for...

## opaque (adjective)

opaque  
it's really very ~ what is happening (revolution)

opaque world  
he offers insights into the often ~ of finance

often opaque  
he offers insights into the ~ world of finance

turned opaque  
the seeming transparency ~ (old allegation of rape)

♦ "We're not getting that kind of information because they're being opaque. They basically don't feel like they're accountable to the American public." (Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, about the Secret Service and the latest attempt to assassinate Donald Trump.)

## open (open secret, etc.)

open secret  
his sexual abuse and exploitation was an "~~" (abuser)  
that the figures are vastly inflated is an ~ (refugees)

open secret about Ozy Media  
the ~ has been laid bare (fraud)

♦ "Nancy Pelosi has what we British would call a 'brass neck.' / It's a saying that alludes to someone so thick-skinned, it makes them utterly impervious to any sense of shame for their self-interested or hypocritical actions. / It's an open secret in Washington that Pelosi just did to Joe Biden what Marcus Brutus did to Julius Caesar." ("Nancy Pelosi murdered Joe Biden's political career but now she wants him on Mount Rushmore—what a shameless hypocrite!" by Piers Morgan, *The New York Post*, Aug. 5, 2024.)

## open (honest)

open about her mental health journey  
she has always been so ~

## open (after lockdown, etc.)

open up  
the states are starting to ~ (after pandemic lockdowns)

reopen  
the border will ~ after a thaw (Burma / Thailand)

reopens for business  
as America ~ (pandemic lockdown relaxation)

## open (open marriage, etc.)

open marriage  
they had an ~

## open (in the open / into the open)

in the open  
the story is out there, ~

into the open  
she has brought the issue ~  
describe your thoughts, get them out ~, you'll feel better

out in the open  
mudslinging between church factions is being waged ~

broke out into the open  
the anger ~ for the whole world to see (pedophilia)  
the cyberconflict ~ (SolarWinds Hack)

brought it out into the open  
the testimonies have really ~ (sexual assault)

came into the open  
all of these things ~ (vicious election debate)

get the feelings (we have about war) out into the open  
artists can ~ (Margaret MacMillan, Reith Lectures)

♦ "The best way to consider dangerous ideas is to bring them out into the open." (Versus censorship, deplatforming, ignoring and disregarding them, etc. Journalism.)

\*\*\* "For the Last Wolverine" by James Dickey...



♦ “Yet that is not enough for me. / I would have eat the heart / and from it, have an idea stream into his gnawing head / that he no longer has a thing to lose / And so can walk / out in the open / in the full pale of the sub-Arctic sun / where a single spruce tree is dying, higher and higher. / Let him climb it, with all his meanness and strength. / Lord, we have come to the end of this kind of vision of heaven...” (“For The Last Wolverine” by James Dickey.)

## open-and-shut

open-and-shut case  
it wasn't an ~  
it should have been an ~

## open-minded (adjective)

open-minded  
“I’m ~,” he said softly  
people are more ~ now (race)  
my neighbors are very ~  
we should be more ~  
he had tried to be ~

open-minded spirit  
an ~ no longer exists within NPR (National Public Radio)

genuinely open-minded  
Joe Rogan is a ~ host who seeks out all sorts of opinions

extroverted, unpretentious and open-minded  
Tijuana citizens have acquired a reputation for being ~

youthful, open-minded  
he has made a name for himself as a ~ reformer (MBS)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “A person can be so open-minded that his brains fall out.” (A critic, speaking of Thabo Mbeki’s willingness to accept any argument against giving antiretrovirals to South African H.I.V. sufferers.)

## openness (noun)

intellectual openness  
ideological narrowness is a threat to ~

## open season (noun)

“open season” on black people  
there’s an ~ (“Danziger Bridge shootings”)

open season on difference  
political repression and a renewed ~ (lesbians)

open season on researchers and civil servants  
it’s ~ in this space (Disinformation Governance Board)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People* by the lawyer Ben Crump.

♦ “In one particularly egregious example, a cadet was implicated in the rape of another cadet in Chase Hall. The Academy’s Staff Judge Advocate...expressed concern that handling the matter administratively and discharging the cadet would send the student body a message ‘tantamount to the declaration of “open season” on women.’ Contrary to his advice, the cadet was administratively discharged from the Academy without military justice action.” (“Fouled Anchor” Investigation—Final Report. The United States Coast Guard Academy.)

## open up (emotions, speech, truth, etc.)

open up

we are asking them to ~ all over again (crime podcast)

opens up about his injury  
Conor McGregor ~ (MMA)

opened up about her mother  
she finally ~

## open up (access)

open up the sportscasting world  
~ for women

## open up (consciousness)

opened up to me  
a new world ~ (a website)

## opera (noun)

opera of screeches, shrieks and squawks  
a riotous ~ (tropical birds)

## operatic (adjective)

operatic, dramatic  
his end was pretty ~ (Mussolini and his mistress)

♦ “It’s pretty operatic, it’s pretty dramatic, he was killed on the shores of Lake Cuomo by Communist partisans, with his mistress, Clara Petacci, and dumped in the middle of Piazzale Loretto, in Milan...” (Professor John Foot of Bristol University on the last days of Mussolini, from BBC’s “Great Lives: Mussolini,” nominated by the historian Margaret MacMillan, professor at the University of Oxford, 2018 Reith lecturer, and most recently the author of *War: How Conflict Shaped Us*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Opera has been making art from death for more than four centuries.”

## opiate (noun)

opiate of the people  
sports, not religion, is the ~

♦ “Dopiate of the Masses.” (A letter in response to “Elixir of Life,” which is about coffee.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Salt is the primordial narcotic.”

## opium (noun)

opium of the camps  
rumours were the ~ (comforting but false)

opium of optimism  
what saves people then is the ~

### \*\*\* Fentanyl smuggling...

♦ “Mexico claims proof of Chinese fentanyl smuggling,” the BBC News, Latin America, April 6, 2023.

### \*\*\* Far China Station: The U.S. Navy in Asian Waters 1800-1898...

♦ “Import of the narcotic (opium) had been made illegal by imperial edict in 1800. Nonetheless, because it was one of the few items for which Western merchants could find a Chinese market, the quantity sent to China from India and Turkey grew steadily... / [T]he Chinese government took a decisive step to end the opium trade early in 1839 by appointing Lin Tse Hsu high commissioner for the Canton region with especial powers to suppress smuggling of the drug. Lin proceeded quickly and effectively by demanding that all opium be surrendered immediately, enforcing his demand by stopping trade,

ordering Chinese servants to leave the factories, and detaining sixteen foreign merchants as hostages. Meanwhile, the factories were virtually besieged by thousands of Chinese... / Hong Kong was ceded to Britain outright, and five so-called treaty ports—Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai—were opened to British trade. / [Commodore Lawrence Kearny] practiced 'jackal diplomacy' to the extent that he requested for his nation a share of the spoils won by the British lion in combat... Kearny had the intelligence to grasp opportunities—he did not create them." (The Anglo-Chinese conflict popularly known as the Opium War, and the Treaty of Nanking. From *Far China Station: The U.S. Navy In Asian Waters 1800-1898* by Robert Erwin Johnson.)

♦ see also *pipe dream* (and *pipedream*)

## optics (noun)

optics

the ~ look bad (politics)

the ~ are just awful (a newspaper story)

optics of rapprochement

Kim's letter played a part in the ~ (Korean leader)

optics of a response

the ~ like that would be devastating here (protesters)

Optics Hindenburg

this ~ (see quote below)

optics question

there's also the ~, when they see the protests, what...

confrontational optics

allies might be turned off by the ~ of a street protest

branding and optics

they've spun up an image, it's just ~ (Silicon Valley)

separate the optics from substance

we need to ~ (COP26)

♦ "Within Our Lifetime, which promoted the march past Memorial Sloan Kettering, does not concern itself with what the political establishment calls 'optics.' To Within Our Lifetime, a medical institution funded by a supporter of Israel is not an innocent bystander. And the Hamas terrorist attacks can be seen as justified in the context of 75 years of colonial rule."

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "Performative allyship, also known as *optical allyship*..." ("Performative" has come to connote something bad.)

♦ "Trudeau complained of 'Russian disinformation,' as if that were to blame for this optics Hindenburg." (A Canadian political kerfuffle. The reference is to the Hindenburg airship disaster on May 6, 1937.)

♦ "'The optics are with them' doesn't really make sense /// Removed comment /// Buzz word bingo /// He's trying ever so hard to be clever with words. God loves a trier! /// United fanboy..." (BBC HYS commenters about "Aston Villa 1-2 Man Utd: 'Momentum' with Red Devils as they hunt down top-four rivals" by Simon Stone, BBC, 11 February 2024. Besides "optics," soccer fans ridiculed Stone's use of "momentum," "hunt down" and "turned a corner.")

♦ "The optics are not good here...like my eyesight..." (The TikTok Edvasian, 880K.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "It's not the optics that are not good, it's the facts that are not good." (Colorado Republican Congressman Mike Coffman about an ethics issue.)

## option (nuclear option)

nuclear option

threatening Medicare funding is the ~ (compliance)

nuclear option of police force

the ~ (campus protests / see quote below)

nuclear option for a state

this is the ~ (opting out of federal Medicaid)

considered the "nuclear option"

the move was always ~ (Commerce Dept's entry list)

employ the nuclear option

employers may be forced to ~ (drop health coverage)

oppose the nuclear option

I oppose the ~ (changing rules in Congress)

opposes the (so-called) nuclear option

he ~ (withdrawal of US from Afghanistan)

♦ "a protection order is the nuclear weapon of divorce to give women an advantage" (An online commenter.)

♦ "Library funding becomes the 'nuclear option' as the battle over books escalates." (U.S. culture wars.)

♦ "The way the university escalated by reaching immediately for the nuclear option of police force has attracted more radical elements that are not part of our student protest community and don't share the values of our students." (Heard on NPR. Attribution questionable, said to be a Columbia University professor. The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Dear God.... If I lose one of my cats to my neighbor's pit [bull dog], it's unstoppable immediate scorched earth, full nuclear option response, and they know it." (A response by "Phoebe Darling" to an article about yet another pit bull mauling. "Phoebe Darling!")

♦ see also *bomb* (*nuclear bomb*)

## oracle (person)

oracle of Silicon Valley

he has been nicknamed the ~

oracle on Polar matters

Nansen was by then the undisputed ~

oracle of public taste

marketing experts regarded him as an ~ (Calvin Klein)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The Delphic Oracle was an important priestess in ancient Greece.

## oracle (Oracle Corporation, etc.)

Oracle Corporation

the American multinational ~

## orbit (noun)

Trump orbit

he never lost touch, that often happens in ~

campaign orbit

three people in the ~ have tested positive for coronavirus

China's orbit

Thailand has moved firmly into ~

Moscow's orbit

once in ~, Moldova has been tilting towards the West

### Trump's orbit

testimony from some of the most prominent characters in ~

### in his orbit

the investigation will look at people ~ (politics)  
suspicions are swirling around people ~ (sex trafficker)  
he fooled all of those ~ (Jeffrey Epstein)

### in his (inner) orbit

and now that major shakeup ~ (politician's top aid resigns)

### within his orbit

he engaged the respect and affection of all ~

### entered the Trump orbit

she first ~ during the campaign

### brought him into the orbit

Juilliard ~ of Wynton Marsalis (Lawrence Leathers)

### bullied into the British orbit

any country which can be bought or ~...

### come into Marilyn Manson's orbit

how did you first ~ (allegations of abuse)

### get out of that orbit

he tried to ~, but his dad pulled him back (Charles Koch)

### kept Greece out of the Communist orbit

the US had ~ (after WWII)

### leaving Larry's orbit

just as Daniel was ~, others were being drawn in (cult)

### push Georgia back into Russia's orbit

it could ~

### rocketed his way into former President Trump's orbit

he has ~ (NBC's Lester Holt about Elon Musk)

### shook up the orbit

how a 16-year-old ~ of the World Darts Championship

## orchestra (noun)

### orchestra of his farm's ecosystem

he sees himself as a conductor managing the ~

♦ "Dairy farmer Tyler Web sees himself as a conductor managing the orchestra of his farm's ecosystem." (An advertisement from NPR sponsor Organic Valley, a co-op of small organic family farms. Lots of ASMR birdsong and mooing.)

## orchestra (as verb)

### to orchestra

what it is ~—the verb—as a Black person...

♦ "[We want to be] an advocacy group, a group to speak to the experience of what it is to orchestra—the verb—as a Black person, and how to support that in all of the places that it's happening, not just professional ranks." (Alex Laing about the Black Orchestral Network.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## orchestrate (verb)

### orchestrated the assassination

no one knows who ~

### orchestrated attacks

he has ~, bombings, kidnappings and beheadings

### orchestrate a coverup

they tried to ~

### orchestrating the game

Luka Modric is ~, he will control it (World Cup soccer)

### orchestrated a hoax

he may have ~ (false hate-crime allegation)

### orchestrated a (brazen) play

they ~ (political corruption)

### orchestrated the whole thing

it's quite obvious he ~ (*The Power of the Dog*)

## orchestrated

### orchestrated to blame

he was the victim of a political hit job, ~ China

### orchestrated campaign

Muslims fear they are the target of an ~ (religion)

### orchestrated leaks

~ from the White House have exposed rifts

## orchid (character)

### orchid children

"~" are more sensitive and biologically reactive

### "orchid" parent

an ~ is a highly sensitive parent

### orchid or a dandelion

is your child an ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Terms with similar meanings are *teacup* and *snowflake*. In the old days, such people were compared to plants: *a shrinking violet*; *a pansy*; *a wallflower*.

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## order (get something in order, etc.)

### get your house in order

you must ~

### get our (fiscal) house in order

we must ~ (debt)

### put his life (back) in order

he saw Islam as a way to ~

## organ (of government, etc.)

### organs of law and authority

drug money swept away the flimsy ~ (Colombia)

♦ Justin Chang can be a wonderful movie reviewer, and the language he uses is always interesting. In his review of the film *Crimes of the Future*, he uses the following words *figuratively*: *cut* (v), *heart*, *scalpel*, *visceral*, *anesthetizing*, *mutate*, *sprout* (v), *clinical*, *reshape* (v), *body and soul*, and *organ*. Of course, they all have their *literal* analogues in the gory film! ("Crimes of the Future" is a dystopian thriller that cuts to the heart," Justin Chang, NPR, Fresh Air, June 3, 2022.)

## orgy (noun)

orgy of demolition

ISIS destroyed the ancient theater in an ~ (Syria)

orgy of patriotic fervour

Norway erupted in an ~ (Nansen, Johansen return safe)

orgy of looting

an ~ followed the collapse of Saddam's regime

orgy of violence

the film re-creates the ~ (Richard Farley case)

orgy of (sectarian) violence

they were the victims of an ~ (Yazidis in Iraq)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ ORGY: *meant secret rites* / Dionysius was a god and giver of the grape and the wine. The grateful Greeks held night festivals in his honor, and these often turned into drunken parties where the boys and girls danced and sang and violated all the sex laws. The Greeks called these occasions *orgia*, and the word *orgia* simply meant 'secret worship.' But when the term came into our language as *orgy* it is not hard to see why we used it to mean 'wild revelry.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 10, "Word Stories About Your Dining Table.")

## original sin (groups)

original sin of this country

slavery is the ~

America's Original Sin

"How Do You Put A Price On ~?" (NPR, 27 March 2023)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Scorsese wants to honor those victims, and to show how they fit into the long, brutal history of Native American displacement and death. After spending decades exploring America's mean streets, he's addressing the country's original sin." ("Scorsese centers men and their violence once again in 'Killers of the Flower Moon'" by Justin Chang, NPR, Fresh Air, October 19, 2023.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The way we talk about white privilege is eerily consonant with the way one talks about original sin." (John McWhorter, author of *Woke Racism: How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America*.)

## original sin (other)

original sin

the ~ was what happened in 1953 (Iran-US relations)

torture is the ~ that creates these problems (Guantanamo)

original sin of the Afghan war

the ~ was the failure of American political institutions to...

euro's original sin

perhaps this was the ~ (no penalty for breaking rules)

Roberts' original sin

for conservatives, ~ was his vote... (Supreme Court)

## orphan (noun)

orphan

the issue is an ~

orphans of extinction

endangered plants known by botanists as ~ (baobabs, etc.)

orphan in the world of learning

geography was an ~ (Middle Ages)

"orphan" academies

the school has been caught in the twilight zone of ~

orphan diseases

incentives to develop orphan drugs for ~

orphan drugs

incentives for companies to develop "~"

orphan films

old ~ can be preserved by archivists (copyright issues)

orphan wells

these "~" often sit on farmland (bankrupt oil firms)

♦ Orphan drugs treat rare diseases affecting fewer than 200,000 people.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Victory has 100 fathers and defeat is an orphan."

## orphaned

inactive, abandoned, or orphaned

at least 167,000 wells are ~ (oil)

## orthodox (adjective)

orthodox conservative

he is the most ~ in the race (politics)

orthodox (Republican) ideas

~ for boosting business

orthodox (Republican-Democratic) race

that will be a completely ~

completely orthodox

Republicans are going to run a ~ race

more orthodox

even if he becomes a ~ Republican (politics)

♦ "BRANDEIS WAS FOUNDED BY JEWS. BUT, IT'S ANYTHING BUT ORTHODOX." (A two-page advertisement in *The New York Times Magazine*, June 25, 2023, by Brandeis University. "With the dramatic rise in antisemitism, including on college campuses, Brandeis' founding values are as relevant in 2023 as they were in 1948... For more information, visit brandeis.edu." The advertisement appeared prior to the Israel-Hamas war, which began later the same year.)

## orthodoxy (noun)

orthodoxy of the past

they're trying to break with the ~ (foreign policy)

orthodoxy at NPR

the ~ (journalist Juan Williams)

free-market orthodoxy

~, now in the name of 'neoliberalism'

language orthodoxy

"cancel culture" and "~"

public health orthodoxy

the Dutch researchers have challenged ~ (Covid)

Democratic orthodoxy

he has broken sometimes with ~ (Bill Daley / business)

Republican orthodoxy

~ promotes low tax rates and limited government

particular ideological orthodoxy

coverage of Trump hardened along a ~ (at NPR)

heresies against (Tea Party) orthodoxy

I'd committed various ~ (a Republican politician)

citadels of orthodoxy

this was only one of Valla's attacks on ~

departure from (Republican) orthodoxy

that's a ~

break with (Democratic) orthodoxy

Sanders doesn't represent as big a ~ (politics)

agree with (Republican political) orthodoxy

she doesn't always ~

questioned (Republican) orthodoxy

he was accused of being a "liberal" when he ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type in "Republican orthodoxy" at NPR and you get 48 results (and counting). Do that same for "Democratic orthodoxy" and you get 8 results (and counting).

## Orwell

Orwell's 1984

and just like that, we are one step closer to ~, wow...

♦ "There's a little Philip K. Dick, a little Orwell, a little Kafka in her portrait of powerful bureaucracies ceding control of the most intimate decisions of our lives to hyperempowered computer models riddled with all of our unresolved, atavistic human biases." (A blurb from the *Paris Review* for *Weapons of Math Destruction* by Cathy O'Neil.)

♦ "The Ministry of Truth is Facebook, Google, and cable news. We have met Big Brother and he is us." ("Doublethink Is Stronger Than Orwell Imagined: What 1984 means today" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, July 2019.)

### \*\*\* Eric Blair / George Orwell...

♦ "In Moulmein, in Lower Burma, I was hated by large numbers of people—the only time in my life that I have been important enough for this to happen to me. I was sub-divisional police officer of the town..." (The opening lines of "Shooting an Elephant" by George Orwell.)

♦ "My wound was not much, but it was a miracle it did not kill me. The bullet went clean through my neck but missed everything except one vocal cord, or rather the nerve governing it, which is paralysed. At first I had no voice at all but now the other vocal cord is compensating and the damaged one may or may not recover. My voice is practically normal but I can't shout to any extent. I also can't sing, but people tell me this doesn't matter. I am rather glad to have been hit by a bullet because I think it will happen to us all in the near future..." (Letter to Rayner Heppenstall, 31 July 1937. Signed "Eric.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As W.H. Auden acknowledged, Orwell gave us the terminology to talk about totalitarian society: *1984*; *doublethink*; *Big Brother*. Those allusions to his work are used to this day.

♦ *Doublethink*; memory hole; unperson; thoughtcrime; Newspeak; Thought Police; Room 101; Big Brother; the Ministry of Truth... (Language from *1984* that is a part of our language.)

## Orwellian (adjective)

Orwellian

this is ~, it's a Ministry of Truth (politics)

Orwellian agency

the futility of fighting an ~ with an obvious vendetta

Orwellian authoritarianism

in one view of the future, an ~ prevails

Orwellian dystopia

*Children of Men*, an ~ (the film)

an ~ need not be our collective future

Orwellian indoctrination program

this rather ~ (*White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo)

Orwellian dystopic society

cancel culture is leading us to an ~

Orwellian (surveillance) system

exporting such an ~ to other countries

Orwellian name changing

the road had been renamed in a frenzy of ~ (WWII)

called mandatory vaccination "Orwellian"

she ~ (a political candidate)

## Oscars (Oscars of surfing, etc.)

Oscars of books

the literary awards are the ~ (PEN America / Vanity Fair)

Oscars of fashion

the "~" is no longer what it once was (the Met Gala)

Oscars of surfing

the Billabong Big Waves Awards are the "~"

French Oscars

'~' ban anyone accused of sex assault (Cesar film awards)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This usage may become extinct in our lifetime. In twenty-five years or so, the Oscars will probably be a relic of the past, as dead as the Pac 12 in sports, or the current Democratic party. The Oscars don't stand for much, anymore.

♦ See also *Academy Awards* (*epithet*)

## oscillate (verb)

oscillated between chaos and weakness

Biden's foreign policy has ~

## ostracized (society)

ostracized and called 'grandma killers'

they were ~ (anti-vaxxers / Covid pandemic)

socially ostracized

if you're truthful, you'll be ~

## other (the other, etc.)

“the other”

she has had to balance feeling like ~ in her sport  
(biracial)

the ultimate ‘other’

AA/PI have been so frequently treated as ~

ethnically other

they are ~ and working class (a group of voters / politics)

uncivilized, gendered, and racialized Other

the superstitious, ~

status as “other”

our marginality and ~ (Black Catholic women in the US)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “What has to be done is conversation, it's meeting the other.” (A Jewish rabbi about a Black NBA player.)

♦ “The danger is getting into a kind of ‘oppression olympics’ where...”

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “It's easy to ‘otherize’ if you have been otherized...”

## other (verb / groups, etc.)

other her

this is an effort to ~ (Nikki Haley / politics)

othered us

this industry has continuously ~ (women in hip-hop)

“other” and demonize

celebrating a thin white body as the ideal is a way to ~ us

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “The thin ideal is definitely a white ideal... So celebrating a thin white body as the ideal body is a way to ‘other’ and demonize Black and brown bodies, bigger bodies, anyone who doesn’t fit into that norm. So this is really about maintaining systems of white supremacy and patriarchy...” (Journalist Virginia Sole-Smith. Interview highlights. From “Diet culture can hurt kids. This author advises parents to reclaim the word ‘fat,’” NPR, Fresh Air (Tonya Mosley), April 25, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “It's easy to ‘otherize’ if you have been otherized...”

## othered

othered by how I sound

being ~ is something I always have to be aware of

othered by the world

feeling ~ but still being here (autistic and agender)

othered or erased

they are often ~ in mainstream imaginings (Black voters)

othered, objectified, or exoticized and coerced

these local women were often ~ (Rafia Zakaria)

excluded and othered

Black folk have always been aware that we’ve been ~

excluded (from womanhood) and (being) othered

they are being ~ (“trans women are trans women”)

siload and othered

we’re constantly ~ (Nida Allam, a Muslim woman)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “There's something about having a place on the spectrum and feeling othered by the world but still just being here, no matter what, that really just like over the years kinda strengthens your skin.” (“Transgender and non-binary people are up to six times more likely to also have autism” by Lesley McClurg, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 15, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “It's easy to ‘otherize’ if you have been otherized...”

## othering

othering of the Asian American

the ~ to always be the untrustworthy foreigner...

Othering & Belonging

the ~ Institute at the University of California, Berkeley

subtext of othering

it’s a disrespectful dig, with a ~ (“Kuh-MAH-la”)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “The opposite of Othering is not ‘saming,’ it is belonging.” (John A. Powell of the Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley.)

\*\*\* jumping on the “othering” bandwagon...

♦ “Appreciate it's hard to find new words to describe Haaland but I'm getting a bit sick of some of the terminology used—cyborg, yeti, robot, alien, etc. / Stop ‘othering’ the young guy...” (A online commenter on Manchester City 6-0 Burnley, during which Erling Haaland scored a hat trick and was substituted early. Another commenter posted, “He has more hat tricks than a magician who specializes in tricks using hats.” Erling Haaland is one in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “It's easy to ‘otherize’ if you have been otherized...”

## otherism (noun)

fear and otherism

taking a stand against the politics of ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “It's easy to ‘otherize’ if you have been otherized...”

## otherization (groups)

otherization robs them

~ of claims to your sympathy and empathy (Blacks)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “It's easy to ‘otherize’ if you have been otherized...”

## otherize (groups)

otherize an individual

if you ~, it’s harder to have empathy and sympathy for them

otherize one another

CRT causes members of the military to ~

otherize the person

we tend to really ~ (shame her for ethical slip)

“otherize” them

advocates try to stick labels on people to ~ (immigration)



otherize and dehumanize  
this drive to ~ Muslims in grotesque (Nesrine Malik)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's easy to 'otherize' if you have been otherized..."

## otherized (groups)

otherized  
humanizing people who are “~” (George Floyd, etc.)

otherized in America  
Black folk historically have been, and are still, ~

otherized and disrespected  
~ because of his identity (gay)

exoticized, otherized or (utterly) ignored  
we are ~ (Emel Mathlouthi)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “And that’s what has been going on with, you know, Black Lives Matter for a long time—the effort to humanize the victims of police brutality. A lot times, the victims of police brutality were otherized as somehow criminals who deserved what they got.” (“10 Questions About Empathy In America, A Year After George Floyd’s Death” by Bill Chappell, NPR, May 25, 2021.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's easy to 'otherize' if you have been otherized..."

## otherness (noun)

otherness to Dutton’s whiteness  
he is ‘an ~’ (Kathryn VanArendonk / *Yellowstone*)

other-ness of people  
it’s the ~... (race relations)

aware of otherness  
he’s now acutely ~...

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “For Anders, although his newly brown skin is a constant physical reminder that he’s no longer who he used to be, the greatest change may be in his psyche. He’s now acutely aware of otherness and being observed, how he moves in the world and how he takes up space. When he returns to work...he’s both drawn to and repulsed by the only other dark-skinned employee, who, unlike him, has always known what it’s like to be treated as both invisible and hypervisible.” (Cady Lang’s *Time* review of *The Last White Man* by Mohsin Hamid, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Exit West*. This paragraph deftly weaves together several tropes relating to inclusion and exclusion.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Fortunately for me, I found my own sense of otherness.” (J.K. Rowland, author.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's easy to 'otherize' if you have been otherized..."

## ouch (exclamation)

ouch  
he said King is lowbrow, ~ (a writer)

## ounce (amount)

ounce of prevention  
an ~ is worth a pound of cure

ounce of truth  
there’s not an ~ in anything he says

## oust (verb)

ousted her  
they ~ in a boardroom coup

## ousted (removed)

ousted in April  
he was ~ and filed a whistleblower’s complaint

## out (leave somebody an out, etc.)

left an out for Iran  
he has ~

## out (nerd out, etc.)

ball out  
I was definitely excited to see him go out there and ~ (NFL)

chill out  
relax, brah, ~  
here’s how to ~ (stress)

geek out  
science-loving teens from Ghana and D.C. ~ together

hugging it out  
see those two guys ~ (NBC / a “feel good” story)

margarita out  
you don’t get to ~ and S-T on the culture (Eval Longoria)

nerding out  
stories that you’re like ~ about (NPR’s Jasmine Garsd)

rock out  
even when we chill, we ~, join us (Alt. Latino)  
Saudi women ~ (according to Kelly McEvers)  
80-year-olds ~ (World Café / Yeah, sure...)

slutting out  
the other guys were ~ (surfing / see quote below)

♦ “A ‘photo slut’ is a pro doing aerial tricks on small waves for the benefit of a camera. ‘The other guys were slutting out...’” (Surfing.)

## out (exclusion)

out  
they voted him ~

## out (viewpoint)

broadening out  
and ~ and talking about those Palestinians, what is... (NPR)

zoom out  
see *zoom out* (noun), *zoom out* (verb)

♦ see also *step back* (perspective)

## out (gay)

out and proud  
I’m very ~ (Megan Rapinoe)

out and loud and proud

~ (Cher Strawberry)

NBC Out

~ showcases stories and videos of interest to...

not out

there were plenty of other women who were gay but ~

♦ "I was just like so amazed, like, damn, this boy really don't care, like he really *out* in public, with makeup, lashes, beard... Like I was still kinda you know... I'm doing the same thing, but I'm not as open." (Mitch Copeland about Saucy Santana.)

♦ "I've been here before, out and loud and proud." (Cher Strawberry, from her debut album *Cherish is Caring*.)

♦ "Siegfried & Roy were never 'out' in the modern sense, but they lived together in some capacity their entire adult lives." ("The Original Tiger Kings: The Improbable Rise And Savage Fall Of Siegfried & Roy" by Chris Jones and Michael J. Mooney, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. The implication is obvious. Many dead historical figures have been saddled with this insinuation. Of course, there is quite an audience for that.)

♦ "Soccer star Megan Rapinoe receives Presidential Medal of Freedom"; Texas trans activist, 11, flees the state after years of advocacy"; "The Crown" star Emma Corrin: 'Gender just isn't something that feels fixed'; "16 LGBTQ art shows that keep the summer Pride vibe flowing"... (NBC Out, which "showcases feature stories, original videos and other unique content about, and of interest to, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.")

**out (outpace, etc.)**

outdueled

see *outdueled*

outgunned

see *outgunned*

outpace

see *outpace (verb)*

outrun

see *outrun (verb)*

outshine

see *outshine (verb)*

outworked and outthought

she ~ male rivals (Pelosi)

**out (fashion)**

out this year

short skirts are ~

**out (want out)**

wanted out

she ~ (of a marriage)

**out (reveal)**

outed himself (over the weekend) as the owner

he ~ of the Twitter handle... (politician)

out anyone

I don't want to ~, but... (blacks get black dialect wrong)

**out (all out, etc.)**

all out

Lizzo wears a leotard, she's twerking, she's ~ (compliment)

**out (nine days out, etc.)**

nine days out from this event

we are ~, and... (attempted assassination of Donald Trump)

**outbreak (noun)**

earthquake outbreak

is fracking behind Oklahoma's ~ (record number)

tornado outbreak

~ hits the South (30 tornadoes)

typhus outbreak

the ~

**outburst (noun)**

outburst of Iraqi anti-Americanism

the US airstrike resulted in an ~

emotional outbursts

there was a rational foundation for these ~

**outcast (person, sport, etc.)**

outcast among his (EU) counterparts

Orban is often an ~ (according to NPR)

outcast Hollywood rebel

he was the ~ (film director Nicholas Ray)

outcast sport

soccer was an ~ (in the 1990s, in the US)

outcast and non-conforming

Ibiza has long been an island for the ~

outcasts and misfits

~ who had been wounded... (see quote below)

outcast, and (sexual) rebel

the young mistress of H. G. Wells, social ~ (Rebecca West)

social outcast

he is a ~

grew up as an outcast

he ~ (his father was hanged for murder)

make someone an outcast

a simple cough, snuffle or sneeze can ~ (COVID fear)

♦ "Her refusal to accept the status quo made it possible for generations of outcasts and misfits who had been wounded, damaged, abused, discarded and demoralized to pursue their own paths to healing." (A tribute to the Irish singer Sinead O'Connor from "Sinead O'Connor was our freedom singer, our keener and our feminist killjoy" by Jason King, NPR, Music Features, August 2, 2023.)

\*\*\* **the Gambaga Outcast Home...**

♦ In Ghana in 2008, 5,000 alleged witches, mainly elderly women, were living in six "witch camps," including the Gambaga Outcast Home.

## outcome (noun)

outcome

there was not much doubt about what the ~ would be

realistic outcomes

when scientists run simulations, they must get ~

## outcrop (and outcropping)

outcrop of a (heated) back-and-forth

the insults were an ~ between the two candidates

outcrops of simplicity

~ can appear in the worst writing (Orwell)

outcropping from other initiatives

the new character is a natural ~ (the Julia Muppet)

natural outcrop

this is simply the ~ of her company's success  
(complaints)

♦ "The sightings have prompted an outcropping of conspiracy theories across social media and other platforms." (Drones over New Jersey in late 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to both AI Overview and Merriam-Webster, "outcrop" can be used as an intransitive verb.

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## outcry (noun)

outcry

of course there's going to be an ~ (sportswashing)

sparked an outcry

his remarks ~ (about racism)

## outdated (adjective)

outdated argument

it's an ~ (that women's boxing is inferior)

outdated (and environmentally irresponsible) totems

big dams are seen as ~, wasteful symbols of pride...

received and outdated

Nansen did his best to overcome Scott's ~ opinions

## outdueled

outdueled by Manning

Romo was ~ (two football quarterbacks)

## outed (concealment)

outed and shamed

I hope she's ~ (gold digger accuses athlete)

## outfox (verb)

outfoxed his (political) opponents

he ~

## outgunned

outgunned and undermanned

federal antitrust authorities are ~

outgunned, outspent, out-lied

we're going to be ~ (election)

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

## outlet (noun)

outlet for (public) criticism

the majlis provides an ~ (Saudi Arabia)

outlet for their frustrations

people need an ~ (Baghdad gyms)

outlet for her grief

talking about it gave her an ~ (son lost on 9/11)

outlet or hobby

a creative ~ that fosters a sense of achievement (coping)

creative outlet

a ~ can do a lot to relieve stress

give people an outlet

the media ~ (TV and radio in Afghanistan)

## outlier (noun)

outlier

when it comes to free speech, the US is the ~ (too free)

outlier case

why is an ~ like this getting so much oxygen (hate crime)

outliers out there

there are ~ that are preaching nonsense (vaccines)

racial outliers

~ in their sports (Tiger Woods, Caitlin Clark, etc.)

♦ "A movie like *The Color Purple* could be treated like a Haley's Comet, an outlier striking at just the right moment, every once in a while." (Hollywood.)

♦ "Solving a crossword puzzle, there's a lot of joy in that moment when you see something you know reflected back to you in the newspaper grid. And so for me, it became a project of bringing that moment of recognition to more and more people who look and sound like me and consume the same sort of cultural artefacts that I do." (Anna Shectman, crossword constructor. A clue that she constructed that she likes best is: Grande Dame of music. (Answer: Ariana.) From "The 'real outlier' in the crossword puzzle-making community" by Lucy Wallis, BBC News, April 3, 2022.)

♦ "[Caitlin] Clark is to hoops what Serena Williams was to tennis, or Tiger Woods to golf. They also may be racial outliers in their sports but, more importantly, they moved the needle. They brought seismic change: eyeballs, fanfare and a unique style of play." ("Barkley was right about people being 'petty' over Caitlin Clark—but he called out the wrong voices" by Kirsten Fleming, *The New York Post*, May 23, 2024. This paragraph is noteworthy for its very good analogy and wealth of figurative language: *hoops, outliers, moved the needle, seismic, eyeballs, fanfare*. Good writing.)

♦ "They are certainly outliers. They really don't have any relationship to the other drugs in Schedule 4." (Abortion pills. Louisiana has

reclassified them as controlled drugs with tight prescription controls and penalties, in an effort to make their use more difficult. Other drugs in the category include addictive ones like valium, opioids, Xanax, etc.)

## outpace (verb)

outpacing the ability  
technology is ~ of governments to keep up

outpaced decision-making  
clearly, events have ~ (Afghanistan 2021)

## outpost (noun)

outposts at US universities  
the language centers provide China with ~

## outpouring

outpouring of aid  
the disaster prompted an ~

outpouring of generosity  
the ~ has slowed to a trickle (aid)

outpouring of good neighborliness  
this ~ went beyond delivering meals (Irish / pandemic)

outpouring of (new) poems  
in his 60s the floodgates opened with an ~ (Geoffrey Hill)

outpouring of sympathy  
there has been a tremendous ~ from so many...

outpouring of (both) praise and outrage  
her film has drawn an ~

tremendous outpouring  
there has been a ~ from so many of you

## outrider (noun)

hedonistic outriders  
he had contempt for modernity and its ~

♦ "The Conservative party and its media outriders have overreached themselves." (The Lineker affair.)

## outrun (verb)

outrunning our ability  
the virus is ~ to counter it

## outset (from the outset)

from the outset  
she had wanted a different approach ~

## outset (at the outset of 2020, etc.)

at the outset of 2020  
~, we look back on...

## outset (at the outset / career, etc.)

at the outset of her (newspaper) career  
she covered right-wing movements ~ (journalist)

at the outset of the investigation  
we said ~ that if the facts and the law...

\*\*\* "And on the 19<sup>th</sup> we set forth..."

♦ "I received my instructions on the middle of March 1906, and on 17 May we left in a special wagon by rail for the station of Shmakovka, which was to be our starting-point, and on the 19th we set forth into the field. It was a brilliant sunny day with a cloudless sky, although the air was heavy with moisture. Everybody was in the best of humour." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## outshine (verb)

outshines us in health care  
Canada clearly ~

outshine the main act  
sometimes an opening act will ~ (concerts)

outshine the competition  
he continues to ~

outshone everyone else  
she ~ onstage (ballet)

outshone his rivals  
during the financial crisis, he ~ (a C.E.O.)  
he ~ in the first debate (a politician)

## outside (society)

found himself on the outside  
he criticized his professional group and ~

## outside (outside world, etc.)

outside world  
to the ~, India's riches were always the stuff of legends

## outside (perspective)

from the outside  
it's easy to criticize ~ (Afghan withdrawal)

## outsider (person)

outsider  
Trump won because he was an ~  
they are ~s banging on the doors of city government  
byzantine regulations are hard for the ~ to navigate (Egypt)  
Patani was different, he was an ~ (the great Italian cyclist)

outsiders to the world  
~ of money soon notice... (finance)

outsider art  
he is well known to fans of ~

outsider perspective  
a fresh, ~ on US politics (*The Guardian*)

outsider's view  
an ~

Washington outsider  
he is a ~ facing down entrenched insiders

straight-talking outsider  
he was a ~

industry outsider

he still sees himself as an ~ (Thom Browne)

### political outsider

he presents himself as a ~ who will not represent K Street  
he was a ~ (independent politician Ross Perot)  
he is a ~, who wants to change the way Washington works  
they are ~s (Petro vs Hernandez / Colombia)

### rebellious outsider

he is a ~

### weird outsider

he is the ~ who becomes influential (scientist)

### buccaneers, outsiders, (political) pirates

they want to be seen as ~ (opposition researchers)

### remained an outsider

in China, she ~ (a young woman from Kuytun)

♦ "We don't mind people settlin' in the area. Just don't put your house on a ridgetop so you can look down on us, and don't tell us how you did it back home." (A Southern Appalachians woman.)

♦ "Dude should have looked into living there a little better before stepping on locals' toes like that, especially if he took his family—he owed it to them to look out for their welfare..." (A commenter on the article "2 Hawaiian men found guilty of hate crime for attacking white homeowner" by Michelle De Pacina, Yahoo / NextShark, November 21, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Japanese refer to foreigners as *gaijin*, literally, "outsider."

## outweigh (power)

outweigh us in every department

they ~ (war)

## outweigh (cost and benefit)

outweighed the bad

the good ~ (in a relationship)

outweigh the deeds

the acts of a few should not ~ of the many (war)

outweigh the risks

the drug is usually safe but benefits must ~

## oven (the Oven, etc.)

Gladiator School, Torture island, the Oven

nicknames included ~ (Rikers Island jail)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Rikers Island jail is nicknamed the Oven because it gets so hot in the summer due to its concrete floors and steel doors.

## over (dominance)

over me

I don't want nobody ~

has an advantage over her

he ~ (politics)

## over (finished)

over

class was finally ~

the Gilded Age of rock journalism is ~

this won't be ~ anytime soon

the duck face days are ~ (selfie pose)

## over (overshare, etc.)

"over-believes"

it is clear that everybody ~ in recycling

over-celebrated

Arsenal ~ their win over Fulham, critics say

over-charged

the state ~ the case from the beginning (Kyle Rittenhouse)

overdeliver

hopefully, the storm will underdeliver, but it could ~ underpromise, ~ (advice)

overplayed

they ~ their hand (Google versus EU)

overpromise

of course he overpromised, all candidates ~ (politics)

overpromised

Elizabeth Holmes and her company had ~ (Theranos)

overprotect

parents under-protect kids online but ~ in the real world

overshare

celebrities routinely ~ on social media

his tendency to "~" information about his divorce...

overstretches

the US ~ the concept of national security

over-thanked

Maddie ~ the handsome waiter...

overthink

her tendency to ~ things

overthinking

they may be ~ certain things (too sensitive)

overpromise and underdeliver

recruiters ~ for their own benefit (love-bombing / jobs)

overhyping

please stop ~ them (PL teams in Europe)

overpolicing

the imbalance of ~ and underprotecting (groups)

over-promising

in Silicon Valley ~, ~ your product isn't unusual

overpromising

such ~ became a defining feature of Silicon Valley

over-promising and under-delivering

the government blames the industry for ~ (air travel)

over-policed

what do you mean, ~, and what does that look like the community felt ~ yet underserved (Baltimore)  
so, we're ~ and under-resourced (a black woman)

it's militarized, ~, enslaved (Jackson, MS Capitol)

### Over-policed

Black, Brown and ~ in L.A. Schools (a report)

### overpraised

her translation was ~ for having been written by a woman

### over-served

I was ~ at the bar...

he was ~ (Who's To Blame When You Get Drunk)

### oversexed

a world flooded with ~ modern pop

the Booty Kings' ~ appeals to women in the club

### overused

the word "hero" is ~

### over-hyped and overrated

this is modern boxing, ~ (the heavyweight division)

### overpaid, overrated, overhyped

he is ~ (criticism of a soccer player)

### over-sexualization

she's faced body-shaming and ~ (actress Sydney Sweeney)

### overspend

that financial and time ~... (doing things for social media)

### overtourism

Hawaii's '~' becomes growing debate (ABC News)

### overfamiliar

he seemed harmless, just an ~ stranger (a stalker)

### Overzealous

Are We Becoming ~ About Breast-Feeding (NPR)

### overwhelmingly

so ~ effective for you as an adult (Bluey cartoon)

♦ "The state over-charged the case from the beginning...to find him guilty of something." (The Kyle Rittenhouse case.)

♦ "I feel like it's militarized, right, over-policed, enslaved—militia... This is a thing of, 'Black folks can't govern. Black leaders can't govern.' So we'll show you how to run, how to move, how to talk..." (A Jackson, Mississippi resident about the Capitol Police and their jurisdiction in her city. The mayor of Jackson likens the control zone to apartheid.)

♦ "City officials are working to combat 'overtourism.'" (The Red Light District, Amsterdam.)

♦ "overhyped, overrated and over" (An online commenter about a boxer.)

♦ "This building is way over-elevated." (Nathan Berman, a real-estate developer, about an apartment building in New York City.)

♦ "That financial and time overspend..." (Doing things for social media. Said by a "chartered" female psychologist.)

♦ see also *under* (*underdeliver*, etc.)

## overboard (behavior)

### a little overboard

I admit I went ~ (dispute with store manager)

### way overboard

we have gone ~ (incarceration)

♦ "She sidestepped a question about whether using the term was going overboard." (Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The term was "genocide.")

## overboard (throw somebody overboard)

threw the commanding officer overboard

they ~ without a thorough investigation (military)

thrown their reputations and standards overboard

they have ~ (the popular mainstream media / politics)

## overcome (verb)

overcome

it was a difficult hurdle to ~

the lure of the north is hard to ~ (migrants)

overcome a broken heart

you can ~

overcome its (deep-rooted) problems

the company must ~

overcame a lot of things

she ~ in her life, but... (died in pandemic)

overcome a confidence-shattering rookie year

trying to ~ (basketball)

## overdose (noun)

overdose of history

as a child I was poisoned by an ~ (the Israeli Amos Oz)

## overdrive (in / into overdrive)

goes into overdrive

BBC's fanboy journalism ~ (Man U wins a game)

gone into overdrive

in recent years, those efforts have ~

sent the village rumour mill into overdrive

it ~...

went into overdrive

my imagination ~

## overflow (verb)

overflow

English prisons began to ~ (too many prisoners)

♦ "As soon as the American outlet was stopped up, English prisons began to overflow." (*The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding* by Robert Hughes.)

## overflowing (adjective)

overflowing inbox

problems with an ~

## overhang (noun)

overhang of criminal prohibition

once we clear away the ~ (therapeutic psychedelics)

\*\*\* on K2...

♦ "That was full on, scary, hard." (Passing the Bottleneck on K2. It is overhung by enormous seracs which could fall at any time.)



## overheated (adjective)

get so overheated  
she advises him not to ~ (an advocate)

♦ "Loud noises. Grandstanding. Someone's always overheated."  
(Wisconsin politician Ducey Stroebel comparing politics to his hobby of racing cars in demolition derbies.)

## overinflated (adjective)

overinflated reputations  
a critic should prick ~ (poetry)

## overlapped

overlapped on a number of occasions  
our careers and lives ~

## overload (noun)

overload of choice  
there is a cost to having an ~

information overload  
"infobesity," or ~  
our research team studies ~ (Semantic Scholar)

## overloaded

overloaded with spices  
the sauce was wildly out of balance, ~

overloaded, bogged down  
hospitals are ~ (epidemic)

## overlook (verb)

overlook less techy remedies  
we should not ~ for loneliness

## overlord (person)

conglomerate's (IT) overlords  
the ~ gathered in Maidenhead, England (NotPetya worm)

tech overlords  
the immigration system is gamed by the ~ (H-1B visas)

corporate overlords  
artists and the oppressive influence of their ~ (pop music)  
~ are reluctant to fire a female executive of color (CBS)

## overnight

overnight success  
she was an ~ (an artist)  
the firm wasn't an ~

collapsed overnight  
apple sales ~

come about overnight  
the recession didn't ~

solved overnight  
the problem will not be ~

♦ "The journey hasn't happened overnight." (The Edmonton Oilers play in the 2024 Stanley Cup Final Game 7 after years of mediocrity.)

## overplay (verb)

overplayed their hand  
they ~ (Google versus EU)

## overreach (verb)

overreached  
BP ~ (and caused an oil-drilling catastrophe)

overreached themselves  
the Conservative party have ~ (The Lineker affair)

## overreach (noun)

overreach of his power  
this is an ~ (mask mandate / pandemic)

big technology's overreach  
~, this unchecked power, is equally frightening

constitutional overreach  
this monumental act of ~ (US Prohibition)

woke overreach  
~ drove pro-Trump backlash (Rich Lowry)

♦ "I just think the moral panic that has been induced over some horrific moments—the overreach of protest—it is a manufactured panic." (Eddie Glaude Jr., Princeton University. From "Israel-Hamas war provokes some intense responses on U.S. college campuses," NPR, Morning Edition, Nov. 16, 2023.)

♦ "'Whispered conversations' on woke overreach drove pro-Trump election backlash" by Rich Lowry, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 18, 2024.)

## overrun (verb)

overrunning the region  
tourists are ~

## overrun (overwhelmed)

overrun  
we must avoid the risk of hospitals being ~ (pandemic)

overrun with calls  
911 dispatchers were soon ~

overrun with requests  
staff are being ~ for information

overrun by otters  
the state has been ~ (Illinois)

## overshadow (verb)

overshadowed the race  
the tragedy ~ (fatality)

## overstep (verb)

overstepped his authority  
a judge ruled the health commissioner ~

overstep his boundaries  
a journalist should not ~

overstepped his bounds  
he's a creep who ~ (gossip)

overstepping their bounds  
Homeowner's Associations are ~

overstepped a line  
he felt she had ~  
the covert operation probably ~

overstepped the line  
most priests are not predators, but some have ~ (sex)

overstepped his (electoral) mandate  
the governor has ~ (politics)

overstepped his office  
the president has ~ (interfering in local issue)

overstepped its power  
the government has ~

## overstretch (verb)

overstretches the concept  
the US ~ of national security (criticism by China)

## over-the-top (adjective)

over-the-top news stories  
most ~ cite anonymous officials (South Korea)

♦ see also *top* (*over the top*)

## overthrow (verb)

overthrew his father  
the emir, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, ~

overthrow the government  
he vowed to ~ (Joseph Kony / Uganda)  
its goal is to ~ and install a theocracy (Algeria)

overthrew the government  
the military ~ (Fiji / 2006)

vowed to overthrow  
he ~ the government (Joseph Kony / Uganda)

## Overton Window

push the Overton Window on AGI  
we have been able to ~ (OpenAI's Sam Altman)

move the Overton Window on what is acceptable  
as we ~ (President Biden pardons his son)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Overton Window." Essentially, social media has opened the Overton Window to... Well, anything and everything.

♦ "Gay pop stars can be—and have been—subversive about slipping in references that change our language and thoughts about gay sex. The more that happens, the less likely people feel uncomfortable hearing about it." (Culture journalist Brennan Carley on BBC Culture.)

♦ "James enjoyed hiding references to heroin use in his lyrics, he once told one of his dope dealers..." (James Taylor. From *Girls Like Us* by Sheila Weller.)

♦ see also *norm* (groups); *normal* (groups); *normalcy* (groups); *normalization* (groups); *normalize* (groups); *normalized* (groups); *normalizing* (groups); *normative* (groups); *normativity* (groups)

## overturn (verb)

overturn the ban  
they will go to court to try and ~  
he is working to ~ (nuclear power / California)  
he led the charge to ~

overturn the (climbing) ban  
the group wants to ~ (Twin Sisters / Idaho)

overturned the conviction  
a French appeals court ~ of six accused of...

overturned (conventional) theories  
he ~ about the origin of autism (Rimland)

overturn his (father's) will  
Leon Hendrix was seeking to ~ and gain control

## overturned

overturned convictions  
unnecessary appeals and ~  
faulty FBI lab work may result in ~s

## overwhelm (as noun)

overwhelm and shock  
I think the ~ of actually being in court...

chaos and overwhelm  
the ~ of it all ("A Letter to College Sports")

multisensory overwhelm  
~ defines her world (every sense always turned on)

♦ "An unnerve welled in his stomach. A slow whelm like the ground moving, the slow rock of the trees." ("Pulse" by Cynan Jones, *The New Yorker*, May 6, 2024. He is a Welsh writer.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ People also ask Can Overwhelm be used as a noun? (Google search.)

♦ "The overwhelming overwhelm" by Merrill Perlman is a superb article dealing with cases like these (*Columbia Journalism Review*, June 27, 2017). Perlman includes plenty of examples of usage that include the important collocations and contexts. Perlman writes, "Even so, no other major dictionary [other than the OED] includes the noun" and "there's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words."

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## owe (obligation)

owe people explanations  
you don't ~

owe her everything  
I ~ (my wife, said by a grateful husband)

owe you anything  
the world does not ~

owe you nothing  
your parents ~

owed it to myself  
I ~ to consider the implications...

owe a lot to my parents  
I ~

owe a debt (of gratitude) to my editor  
I ~ (writer / acknowledgments)

owes to Allah  
Hajj is a duty that mankind ~

owe him  
you haven't understood a thing, I ~ (film *Miranda*)

## owe (relationship)

owe its existence to fiber optics  
the information superhighway ~

owes its origins to the Phoenicians  
the name Spain (Hispania) ~

owe my (windsurfing) career to him  
I ~ (mentor)

owe a lot to my heritage  
I ~ (Iowa)

## own (possess)

owned it  
I accepted my Gemini soul, I ~, in fact I adored it  
(Kravitz)

owns the past  
who really ~ (looted and smuggled antiquities)

owning her talents  
she is now ~ (victim of sex abuse)

## own (responsibility)

owns  
she used and sold meth, a mistake she now ~

own some of the decision  
I came to ~ I made, which was hard (a wife)

own the defeat  
he must ~ and be held responsible for it (Labor Party)

owns (a big piece of) the disaster  
I think Biden ~ (Afghanistan withdrawal)

own my mistakes  
I don't hide from anything, I ~ (a thuggish NBA player)

own this  
President Biden does not want to ~ (Afghanistan collapse)

♦ She used and sold meth, a *mistake* [italics mine] she now owns. (A trans woman criminal unhappy about being in a prison for males. NPR.)

## own (dominate)

owned the center  
Fury ~ of the ring and dictated the fight (boxing)

"own" Myanmar  
people say China is the "big daddy" and will soon ~

owned the pool  
the US has ~ (at British Olympics)

## own (make something one's own)

made it her own  
she ~ (the song "Respect" sung by Aretha)

## ownership (noun)

ownership and autonomy  
struggle for, occupy, craft, mark space to establish ~

take ownership  
I want to ~ for what I said (an apology)

took no ownership  
he ~ of what he's done (criminal case)

♦ "I want them to step up, I want them to take ownership, I want them to explain what went on..." (A grieving mother whose son died at a fraternity hazing ritual that involved alcohol.)

♦ "I want to take ownership for what I said today. I am very sorry for what I said and meant no ill-will. I respect... I should not have said what I said, and I apologize for that. X is not in the wrong, I am." (A team reporter. Her comments were caught on a hot mic.)

## Oxford (Oxford of China, etc.)

Oxford of China  
Peking University is the ~

Oxford of the East of Europe  
here might be the ~ (Starkie, in 1929, about Cluj)

♦ "He was a paleometeorologist, Dr. Zhu Kezhen, who in 1944 was president of Zhejiang University, called the 'Cambridge of the East.'" (*The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester.)

## oxygen (fuel)

oxygen  
liberalism is the ~ that his conflagration required (Trump)  
why is an outlier case getting so much ~ (hoax hate crime)

oxygen that fuels  
cryptocurrency like Bitcoin is the ~ this ransomware fire

oxygen for the theory  
the ~ is that...

oxygen for our ambitions  
economic growth is the ~ (Labour Party / 2023)

political oxygen  
underdog candidates gulped much-needed ~ (TV debate)  
with her ~ running out, she heads for the exits (candidate)  
the impeachment has been sucking up a lot of the ~

oxygen has been sucked up  
much of the political ~ by the presidential race (other races)

choke off the oxygen  
it you ~ the confrontation will come to an end

provide more oxygen  
if they did that, it would ~ for this controversy (sports)

give oxygen

ignoring it will ~ to extremists (ethnic identity of criminals)  
we don't want to ~ to his ideology (suppresses manifesto)

giving oxygen

Biden has accused him of ~ to bigotry

suck up all of the political oxygen

impeachment going forward is ~ in Congress

♦ "[The government] thought the press was kind of an oxygen and if you choked off the oxygen the confrontation would come to an end. Of course, I don't think that they understood very much about Indian country." (Journalist and filmmaker Kevin McKiernan, about the government's attempts to keep reporters away from the Wounded Knee Uprising in 1973. McKiernan, a rookie reporter at the time, was smuggled onto the reservation by activists.)

\*\*\* the fire triangle...

♦ The fire triangle is fuel, oxygen and heat. (Wildfires.)

## oxygen (life)

oxygen

for Soviet Russians, his poetry was ~ (Boris Pasternak)

oxygen of publicity

her silence deprives the rumors of the ~ (politics)

provide them oxygen

will prosecution just ~ (of the Oath Keepers group)

♦ "Yeah, it really felt like the oxygen drained out of his presidency when he announced he was dropping out of the race for re-election, but practically speaking, this term was already in a lame-duck phase." (Due to the fact that the Democrats had lost control of the House. NPR's Tamara Keith.)

## P

## Pablo Escobar (of the Middle East, etc.)

"Pablo Escobar of the Middle East"

Hajji Bashir Noorzai, the ~ (in prison in the US)

## pace (at a pace)

at the pace of repairs

frustrated ~, he traveled to San Jose...

at one's own pace

and there's more freedom to work ~

at a snail's pace

moving ~ is the norm above 8,000 meters (climbing)

at their own pace

the computer program allows students to work ~

at an accelerating pace

these norms are unraveling ~

at an alarming pace

but disasters have continued ~ (mine industry)

at an accelerated pace

lesbian culture evolved ~

achieving the desired outcome at an ~

at a set pace

it is not ~ (human growth and development)

at a furious pace

when national chains were building ~;

once the snow began, it fell ~

at a glacial pace

benefits and appeals are decided ~ (veterans)

at a rapid pace

the polar ice cap will shrink ~ for the next 50 years

at a tolerable pace

denial allows assimilation of tragic information ~

## pace (speed)

pace (of medical research) is glacial

the ~

glacial pace

the ~ of new information coming to light is frustrating

dictated the pace

he has ~ (mixed-martial arts fight)

gathers pace

as the emergency response ~

♦ "Every word has its own pace." (Peter Sokolowski of Merriam-Webster, answering a question about how long it takes for a word or definition to become recognized.)

## pace-setter (noun)

pace-setter

the US has always wanted to be the ~ (in physics, etc.)

pace setter

the company is more an efficient imitator than a ~

publishing pacesetter

the magazine was a ~ of the Internet economy

pathfinders and pacesetters

jazz venerates its ~ (elders)

## pacesetting (adjective)

pacesetting bebop pianist

Tyner was referring to the ~ (Bud Powell)

pacesetting artists

~ like Samuel Fosso and Pascale Martine Tayou

## pack (the Rat Pack, etc.)

Rat Pack

the ~: Frank, Dean, Sammy, Joey... (see Wikipedia article)

Brat Pack

the ~: Demi, Molly, Ally... (See Wikipedia article)

Frat Pack

the ~: Jack Black, Owen Wilson... (See Wikipedia article)

♦ "Christian soon recruited four of his fraternity brothers from Duke... They were later joined by a fifth Duke friend... They rented a house together near the Palo Alto country club and became known inside

Theranos as 'the Frat Pack.'" (*Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. This is a play on the Rat Pack, the Brat Pack, and the Frat Pack.)

## pack (competition)

head of the pack

the consensus is that she is at the ~ (a candidate)

leading the pack

he is ~ but nipping at his heels is Pete Buttigieg (election)

## pack (group)

pack of (bizarre publicity) hounds

a ~ (public meetings)

pack of riders

on Sunday, he finished in the main ~ (Tour de France)

packs of youth

~s roamed the streets (Ottawa power outage)

lead pack

as the ~ approached the third turn on lap 39 (NASCAR)

he stayed in the ~ (Nascar racer)

main pack

Armstrong finished with the ~ (Tour de France)

troop or pack

everyone involved in a ~ (Boy Scouts)

finished with the (main) pack

Armstrong ~ (Tour de France)

break free from the pack

~ (ad for a contraceptive)

separate it from the pack

each translator tries to bring something new to ~ (Dante)

♦ "Pack mentality Generation Z-ero style: Why young women all dress the same in jeans and a black top," *The New York Post*.)

## pack (unanimity)

pack mentality

Generation Z style is ~

♦ "Pack mentality Generation Z-ero style: Why young women all dress the same in jeans and a black top," *The New York Post*.)

♦ see also *sheep* (consciousness)

## package (benefits, etc.)

incentive package

creating ~s

benefit package

the federal government offers a very generous ~ (jobs)

settlement package

the company's ~ (for death of worker)

severance package

the charge will fund ~s (a company)

he got a \$5.5 million ~ (executive of failed company)

financial aid package

asking for a better ~ (colleges)

generous (benefit) package

the federal government offers a very ~ (jobs)

## package (commercial)

package rate

30 percent off the ~ for a ski trip

hotel's (\$899-a-couple) package

the ~

dive package

selling ~s

air and accommodation packages

the lodge offers ~ (Alaska)

most heavily promoted package

most choose the ~ (buying autos)

\$899-a-couple package

the hotel's ~

offers (air and accommodation) packages

the lodge ~ (Alaska)

## pack rat (person)

pack rat

he is a ~, and kept the original packaging (a CD)

## paean (noun)

paean to the swan

Michael Morpurgo's ~ (BBC 4 Tweet of the Day)

paean to tolerance

to some it's a ~ (the beloved 1965 film *Sound of Music*)

paean to increasing population

the annual summit is a ~ through birth (vs. immigration)

paean to fells (hills), becks (streams), and flocks

it is a ~ (*Pastoral Song* by James Rebanks)

politically correct paean

the book is not a ~ (*The General's Daughter*)

delivered a paean

John Reid has just ~ of praise for Gordon Brown (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ PAEN: *from a Greek god* / We will sometimes read in our newspaper that the critics have welcomed a new play with 'paeans of praise.' This is a bit of a figure of speech as a *paean* was once a hymn. In Greek mythology *Paian* was the physician of the gods, and hymns were often sung to him to gain his favor as a healer. These songs began with the words *Io Paian*, that is, 'Oh, Paian!' and soon a song of this type was called a *paian*. Such songs came to be battle hymns or hymns of triumph. *Paian* was respelled *paean* in Latin, and it is in that form it was taken into English." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ see also *praise* (sing someone's praises)

## page (on the same page)

on the same page

this year, everyone is ~ (successful team)

## page (turn the page)

turn the page

it's time to ~ and go to the next chapter of my life

turning over a new page

we are ~ in the history of Kyrgyzstan (elections)

turn a new page after two world wars

he went to Germany to ~ (Charles de Gaulle)

turn the page on past events

the settlement is an opportunity to ~ (payment of fine)

♦ "It was the same old show. Same old tired playbook we've heard for years. It's time to turn the page." (Kamala Harris, campaigning for the presidency in 2024. Her right hand makes the gesture of turning a page. She looks satisfied as crowd roars its approval.)

## page (development)

page has turned

it feels like a ~ regarding sex abuse (stronger sentences)

start a new page

we will ~

## pageant (noun)

pageant of death and rebirth

the primordial ~ of light (solar eclipse)

majestic global pageant

this ~ (migratory birds)

## pain (economic pain, etc.)

pain at the gas pump

the ~ is forcing people to adapt (inflation)

economic pain

many Americas are experiencing great ~ (recession)

there is only corruption, humiliation, and ~

tariffs will just cause us ~

political pain

Trump knows economic meltdown brings ~ (COVID-19)

forecasts of pain

sweeping ~ for the continent (climate report / Africa)

ease the pain

to help ~, the White House will... (high gas prices)

inflict pain

we need to ~ (a tech titan about a competitor)

inflicted (a lot of) pain

it's ~ (Russia cuts off natural gas to Europe)

\*\*\* How to fight the great boxer Canelo Alvarez...

♦ "How to fight Canelo: 'Take painkillers with you.'" (Said by the great boxer Matthew Hatton.)

## pain (pain in the ass, etc.)

pain in the ass

it's a ~ (doing the job right)

pain in the butt

journalists are a ~ (asking questions, etc.)

pain in the neck

see *neck* (pain in the neck)

## pain (emotional / groups)

pain of change

this is a feeling of grief and just the ~

pain of (weight) stigma

the ~ experienced in childhood

pain and outrage

wave after wave of ~ swept through the *Times* (NYT)

pain and trauma

*Blonde* focuses so narrowly on Monroe's ~

lonely pain

many still struggle with the ~ (of 9/11)

in pain

if Aaron was ~, he took care not to show it (dad died)

leave me in all this pain

don't ~ (emotional pain)

nurse the pain

Salah was left to ~ of another CL final defeat (soccer)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "US conservation group to drop Audubon name over 'pain' caused by slaveholder" by Oliver Milman, *The Guardian*, 25 Oct 2021.

♦ "My people's history has been marked by pain; the centuries of pain my people have suffered..." (A Palestinian.)

♦ "He says pain is there as long as the occupation is there. If the occupation withdraws, then the pain is over." (Palestinian artist Tariq Salsa. From "Morning news brief, NPR, Morning Edition, December 25, 2023.)

♦ "I remember saying in Sunday school, not that long ago, 'Who am I without Mormonism?'" said Osborne. "This is a feeling of grief and just the pain of change, and the pain of not being naïve anymore. It's hard to know the truth." ("Hulu special 'Mormon No More' offers rare look of two former Mormons exploring faith and LGBTQ+ identity" by Haley Yamada, June 23, 2022. "Two Mormon moms who fell in love." Trendy!)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I'd add that concentrating on things like [manipulative asides about Ed Gein and John Wayne Gacy] and reducing most of the victims and their families to their pain is closer to exploiting that pain than honoring any memories." ("Dahmer—Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story Review: Ryan Murphy, Netflix, Rinse, Repeat" by Daniel Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, September 22, 2022.)

♦ "*Blonde* focuses so narrowly on Monroe's pain and trauma, that it feels less like a biographical drama than a Passion Play. The film turns her into an avatar of suffering..." (The movie critic Justin Chang's negative review of *Blonde*.)

\*\*\* leprosy, dracunculiasis...

♦ "Oh for goodness sake. Anyone would think you were dying. You've only got suspected leprosy." (A British nurse to a terrified English patient just returned from Afghanistan who is howling in pain, delirious with fever, and covered in enormous black lumps.)

♦ "The pain is incapacitating." (Guinea worms, or dracunculiasis.)

♦ "The pain is excruciating, and alas, delirium is rare. The patient remains conscious through the whole miserable ordeal." (Hospital gangrene.)

♦ "He administered chloroform to the boy, who at that point was delirious with pain." (Compound fracture.)

♦ "He lived but two days, and died in great agony."



♦ “Many standard operations in the early nineteenth century—being cut for kidney stone, having teeth removed, or a wounded limb amputated—were unimaginably painful. The pain also caused shock, which itself could kill. The only known form of painkiller—the soldier’s use of alcohol—was largely a method of controlling terror and deadening shock, not true anaesthesia...” (*The Age of Wonder* by Richard Holmes.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “There were great husky men crying with the pain of gaping wounds and dreadfully swollen, discolored trench feet...” (*Sister: The War Diary of a Nurse* by Helen Dore Boylston.)

♦ The poor horse jerked back, broke the halter-strap, fell on his back, then recovered himself, arose and hobbled away on three legs, dangling the hoof of the fourth leg, which was held suspended by a strip of skin. This strip of skin, about two inches wide, and the hoof were all that remained of the fore-leg. Blood flowed profusely and streaked the ground wherever he passed. He was soon shot and put out of pain.” (Chancellorsville. The horse had been hit by a cannon-ball. From *Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby.)

♦ “Almost two hundred horses lay on the ground in their death throes, or fled in all possible directions, maddened by pain and with blood spurting from their dangling guts. Any riders whose feet had been caught in the stirrups were dragged with them and any soldiers foolish enough to try to stop them were trampled under their hooves.” (Rafael de Nogales at the Second Battle of Gaza in April 1917. His tightly packed cavalry division has been bombed by six or seven British biplanes. From *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

♦ Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg-Polin addressed the 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC). Rachel explained, “Hersh’s left forearm, his dominant arm, was blown off before he was loaded onto a pickup truck and stolen from his life and me and John into Gaza.” Jon Polin, thanking people for their messages of love, support and strength, said, “You’ve kept us breathing in a world without air.” Hersh Goldberg-Polin was murdered by his captors in the tunnels of Gaza.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ PAIN, n. An uncomfortable frame of mind that may have a physical basis in something that is being done to the body, or may be purely mental, caused by the good fortune of another. (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## painful (adjective)

painful

this has been very ~ from a balance-sheet perspective

painful to watch

it was ~ (Anthony Joshua’s antics after 2<sup>nd</sup> loss to Usyk)

painful chapter

it was a ~ in Indian history (white boarding schools)

painful injustice

~ and ordinary heroism (the film *Women Is Losers*)

painful truth

here’s the ~

painful vigil

the ~ of a mother

most painful

the last few years have been the ~...

♦ “There will be more hurt in a year that has already been painful.” (The economy.)

### \*\*\* various groups

♦ “Recently there’s been more visibility in the trans community. But being the person that’s creating that visibility or that representation can also be really painful. The truth is that every day I experience violence of some kind that makes me feel like it’s not safe to be in my body, and not safe to be visible.” (Lor Sabourin in the Patagonia film *They / Them: One Climber’s Story*.)

♦ “Others described the feeling of loneliness as ‘painful.’” (Gen Zers, about feeling lonely, in spite of being the most “linked-in” generation in human history. Hmmm...)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “I mean, “painful” is too small of a word of what it’s like... for any parent.” (Hersh Goldberg-Polin’s parents John and Rachel, prior to the murder of their kidnapped son in Gaza. The Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* “And above all his sheer speed of amputation...”

♦ “Many standard operations in the early nineteenth century—being cut for kidney stone, having teeth removed, or a wounded limb amputated—were unimaginably painful. The pain also caused shock, which itself could kill. The only known form of painkiller—the soldier’s use of alcohol—was largely a method of controlling terror and deadening shock, not true anaesthesia... / Several scholars suggest a ‘cultural’ as much as a technical inhibition [for the failure of medicine to pursue anaesthesia at the time]. They argue that the late-eighteenth-century attitude to pain, in a surgical context, did not admit to the concept of a ‘pain-free’ operation. Pain itself was a natural and intrinsic part of the surgical procedure, and a surgeon’s ability to handle a patient’s pain—through his imposed psychological authority, his dexterity, and above all his sheer speed of amputation and extraction—was an essential part of his profession. In a word, there was the need for ‘a paradigm shift’ to conceive of pain-free surgery.” (*The Age of Wonder* by Richard Holmes.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “Throughout the Napoleonic Wars, medical science had been spurred on by the immediate bloody demands of the battlefield. It became ever more daring and more ruthless. Larrey, for example, had performed 200 amputations in twenty-four hours after the battle of Borodino, and been awarded the Legion d’Honneur.” (*The Age of Wonder* by Richard Holmes. The Battle of Borodino was fought on 7 September 1812 during the French invasion of Russia.)

♦ “Over time, in novels and memoirs, a portrait emerged of the terrified soldier—tied to a stretcher, prepared with a shot or two of whiskey, a piece of wood or metal between his teeth (thus the phrase ‘bite the bullet’), writhing in pain as an arm or leg is sawed off and tossed into an ever-growing pile of body parts on the floor. Union surgeons performed about thirty thousand amputations during the war...” (*Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America’s Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky.)

## paint (characterize)

paint the entire border patrol with this same brush  
to ~ is irresponsible and unfair (misdeeds of 3 agents)

painted her as an adulteress  
the prosecution ~

painted the North as a promised land  
he ~ (Robert Sengstacke Abbott of *Chicago Defender*)

paint him as an opportunist  
her legal team tried to ~ looking for fame and a buck

paint democrats as extreme  
republicans want to ~

paint alcoholics in harsher colors  
we need to ~ (TV shows)

paint a (bleaker) picture  
there are doctors who ~ than necessary

painted an (ugly) picture  
she ~ of him as a drug user (trial)

paint the accuser as troubled  
his lawyer continued to ~

## paint (resemblance)

knead, wax, pluck, rub, and paint  
estheticians ~ people

## paint (coat of paint)

fresh coat of paint  
it's pretty much just NAFTA with a ~ (USMCA)

## painted (characterized)

painted as a horrible person  
I was being ~, and I couldn't do anything about it  
(banned)

## palace (movie palace, etc.)

Palace of Weddings  
the city's elegant ~ (Krasnoyarsk)

Beckingham Palace  
their country mansion, known as ~ (English soccer star)

corn palace  
the world's only ~ (Mitchell, South Dakota)

ice palace  
in the late 1800s cities built ~s for winter carnivals

movie palace  
the ~s of his youth

pet palace  
Atwood's Pet Resort in SeaTac is a ~

air-conditioned palace  
the Grand Ole Opry moved into its new ~

## palace guard

palace guard  
I watched the ~ start circling the wagons (politics)

♦ "Adam Smith, a congressman from Washington State, told me that, the day after the debate, 'I called up the White House and went, 'Guys, we all know what has to happen here.' I hung up thinking, He'll do the honorable thing. And instead I watched the palace guard go, 'Nope, fuck off,' and start circling the wagons.' Washington is full of Biden loyalists..." ("Life Of The Party: The Democrats seem rejuvenated by their new candidate. Why was it so hard to get one?" by Andrew Marantz, *The New Yorker*, September 2, 2024.)

## palatable (adjective)

palatable to the left  
a way that is ~

## palatial (adjective)

palatial (Manhattan) loft  
she designed the kitchen in his ~

run from basic to palatial  
river shacks ~ (South Carolina)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A hut is a palace to the poor man." (Irish.)

## palette (noun)

palette of ethnic groups

the Kachin dominion includes a ~ (Burma)

palette of options  
the government has a ~ it can use to shore up the economy

## palisade (Palisade Butte, etc.)

Palisade  
The ~ is a cliff in Mesa County, Colorado  
~ is a populated place in Mesa County, Colorado  
~ is a populated place in Eureka County, Nevada  
~ is a populated place in Aitkin County, Minnesota

Palisade Basin  
~ is a basin in Fresno County, California

Palisade Butte  
~ is a summit in Chouteau County, Montana

Palisade Canyon  
~ is a valley in Eureka County, Nevada

Palisade Cliff  
~ is a cliff in Shasta County, California

Palisade Creek  
~ is a stream in Flathead County, Montana  
~ is a stream in Apache County, Arizona  
~ is a stream in Placer County, California

Palisade Crest  
~ is a summit in Inyo County, California

Palisade Falls  
~ are falls in Gallatin County, Montana

Palisade Glacier  
~ is a glacier in Inyo County, California

Palisade Island  
~ is an island in Prince of Wales-Hyer Census Area, AK

Palisade Lake  
~ is a lake in Flathead County, Montana  
~ is a lake in Placer County, California

Palisade Mesa  
~ is a summit in Nye County, Nevada

Palisade Mountain  
~ is a summit in Gallatin County, Montana

Palisade Peak  
~ is a summit in Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska

Palisade Point  
~ is a cape in Klamath County, Oregon  
~ is a cliff in Mesa County, Colorado

Palisade Rock  
~ is a pillar in Pima County, Arizona

## palisade (noun)

palisades of steel  
they are great ~ (container ships)

## pall (cast a pall)

cast a pall on the (peace) process  
the victory by Hamas ~

cast a pall over the Olympics  
the accident ~ (luge death / Winter Olympics)

casts a pall everywhere  
if it ~, there is a special darkness to it here (mass shooting)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A pall is the cloth covering a coffin, hearse or tomb.

## palm (in the palm of one's hand)

in the palm of his hand  
he had everything ~ and it was taken away (arrest)

in the palm of their hand  
they had victory ~ but... (soccer team)

## palooza (Lollapalooza, etc.)

footballpalooza  
yeah, ~ today, right? (lots of good games to watch)

Poppypalooza  
it was a ~ (2019 super bloom in desert)

trauma-pa-looza  
it was a ~ (online therapy session)

♦ "It was a trauma-pa-looza." (A disparaging online commenter about Prince Harry's online therapy session with Gabor Mate.)

♦ "Yeah, footballpalooza today, right?" (A football commentator, meaning, "Lots of good football games to watch.")

♦ Poppy Apocalypse; Poppypalooza... (In 2019, a super bloom of desert poppies saw the town of Lake Elsinore, California, descended on by an army of blissed-out tourists equipped with cell phones and selfie sticks and earbuds. They parked alongside an interstate, blocked local roads, trampled everything, climbed trees to get the best photos, and fell down hills. A dog was bitten by a rattlesnake.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Lollapalooza," the section "etymology." Wikipedia is wonderful. Check the Wiktionary entry "palooza" and the Wiktionary entry "Citations:-a-palooza" for information and examples of usage. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## palpable (adjective)

palpable  
her anger is often ~, the color literally drains from her face  
the pain is ~, and unnecessary (Uvalde school shooting)

palpable in Puerto Rico  
the mental health toll of the hurricane is still ~

palpable anxiety  
his relaxed demeanor had given way to ~

palpable enmity  
there was ~ in the air to begin with (an interview)

palpable pride  
among the Black churchgoers, there was ~ in Harris (VP)

absolutely palpable

the tension is ~ in the stadium (Rio 2016 football final)

nearly palpable  
the tension between them was ~ (politics)

tragically palpable  
a threat to personal space is ~ (police shootings)

excitement (surrounding the team this year) is palpable  
the ~ (Super Bowl LVI / Cincinnati)

fear is palpable  
the ~ on both sides (Kashmir)

frustration was palpable  
but his ~

grief is palpable  
the ~ (9/11 memorial)

regret is palpable  
his ~ (he had to drop out of school)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A doctor can *feel* something that is palpable—for example, an inflamed lymph node—through the skin without being able to see it. Similarly, people can feel an emotion even if it is invisible to the eye.

## panacea (noun)

panacea  
the new rules will not be a ~  
blockchain is not a ~, it's not this magical thing  
there is no ~ for school shootings (U.S.)

anxiety-relieving panacea  
digital detoxes are touted as an ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A synonym for *panacea* is *cure-all*. In Greek mythology, Panacea was a goddess of healing.

## Panama Canal (of its day, etc.)

Panama of its day  
the Miracle Canal was truly a ~ (Qin dynasty)

♦ "Los Angeles repeatedly tried to tame and channel the river. A massive flood in 1914 turned Long Beach into an island and increased public pressure on authorities to subjugate the waterway, which only really became possible after the completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct in 1913. A feat of engineering often compared to the construction of the Panama Canal, the aqueduct brought the Owens River on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada to the San Fernando Valley..." ("Remaking The River That Remade L.A." by Michael Kimmelman, *The New York Times Magazine*, November 13, 2022.)

## pancake (verb)

pancaked during the earthquake  
several buildings ~

## pancake (pancake ice, etc.)

pancake ice  
~ in the Weddell Sea

♦ "Lake Michigan *ice pancakes* lap against pier." (An ABC video taken near St. Joseph, Michigan.)

## pancake (noun)

pancake

the collapse created a ~ on the floors below

## pancaked

pancaked

the plane was ~, it's totally crushed and pulverized  
about half of the parking garage was ~

pancaked floors

they could see bodies in the ~ (earthquake)

pancaked pile

crews continue to comb through the ~ of debris

## pancake-flat (comparison)

pancake-flat characters

they are ~ (negative film review)

## pandemic (noun)

pandemic of street racing

one person dies and there is all of a sudden a ~

‘shooting pandemic’

it could be called a ~ (yet another U.S. mass shooting)

## pander (verb)

pandered to their political bases

the politicians ~

pander (the most) to the far right

who is going to ~ (French elections)

pander for selfish gain at the expense of truth and justice

I will not ~ (Aramis Ayala)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Many historical personages—Hector, Pandarus, King Canute, Machiavelli, Captain William Bligh, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Joe McCarthy—have been mischaracterized in history and in the language.

## Pandora's box (open a Pandora's box, etc.)

Pandora Papers

they are called the ~ (12 million leaked documents)

Pandora's Box

this is a ~ and we don't know what will happen (vaccine)

Pandora's box of (ethical and legal) issues

The rise of AI warfare opens a ~

Pandora's box of (menacing) possibilities

they have opened a ~ (war)

Pandora's box of (legal) troubles

his plea agreement may have opened up a ~ for Trump

forbidden fruit, a Promethean fire, a Pandora's box

this is ~, and evil genie

open a Pandora's box of incidents

an investigation might ~ ignored over the years

opened a Pandora's box of (menacing) possibilities

they have ~ (war)

reopen the Pandora's box of (ethnic) conflict

failure to act will ~ (Balkans)

♦ “I opened a Pandora's box. I released a Frankenstein. People are just breeding for the money... unscrupulous breeders are crossing poodles with inappropriate dogs simply so they can say they were the first to do it.” (Wally Conran, the Australian who created the labradoodle in the late 1980s. He now says his creation is his “life's regret.” The labradoodle has been called the first “designer dog.” His concern is about dogs and their health problems.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nathaniel Hawthorne tells the story of Pandora's box in *A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys*. His emphasis is on the curiosity that all children have.

## Panglossian (adjective)

Panglossian viewpoint

it's easy to make fun of his ~

♦ “This is not going to devastate us. Chicken Little said the sun will come out tomorrow, didn't he?” (Coach Kim Mulkey of the LSU Tigers, about her team's season opener loss to the number 20 ranked Colorado Buffaloes. Of course, Chicken Little said that the sky was *falling*.)

### \*\*\* proverbs, sayings, expressions, quotations...

♦ “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.”

♦ “With all this manure, there must be a pony somewhere!”

♦ “Look on the bright side.”

♦ “Turn that frown upside down!”

♦ “Every cloud has a silver lining.”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Pangloss was a fictional character from *Candide* by Voltaire. Pangloss was famous for his optimism.

♦ The saying, “With all this manure, there must be a pony somewhere!” is very well researched at: [quoteinvestigator.com/2013/12/13/pony-somewhere/](http://quoteinvestigator.com/2013/12/13/pony-somewhere/) The article contains a link to a 1984 William Safire article in *The New York Times*. Nice!

♦ Listen to the “Bright Side” song by Monty Python, BBC. Search: “Inheritance Tracks, Eric Idle.”

♦ see also *side (bright side)*

## panhandle (area)

Alaskan panhandle

every autumn bald eagles flock to the northern ~

the ~ (Tongass National Forest, Stikine Icecap, etc.)

the ~ (Southeastern Alaska)

Florida panhandle

he drove through the ~

Idaho Panhandle

Moscow, an ~ town of 25,000 (near Spokane, Washington)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nine US states are considered to have panhandles, including Florida.

## panic (bisexual panic, etc.)

bisexual panic

we get to see Harry in a ~ (The Gayly Prophet podcast)

gay panic

the ~ defense won't work (trial)

moral panic

see *moral panic* (noun)

Satanic Panic

the "~" that swept through America in the 1980s & 1990s

Satanic panic

Dungeons & Dragons has weathered a ~ or two

♦ "In American history there are these irrational outbursts of moralism, and the death of "Kid" Paret was the occasion for one of these epidemics of piety." (Jack Newfield, boxing journalist, about the calls to ban boxing. From the affecting and emotionally wrenching documentary *Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story* 2005.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Fragility* (white fragility, etc.), *moral panic* (noun), *panic* (bisexual panic, etc.), and *phobia* (fatphobia, etc.) are often used by groups with agendas to mischaracterize and disparage their opponents.

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

♦ "Anyone who has been alone in the woods on a dark night is aware of the eerie sounds that can be heard. The Greeks thought that these frightening noises were purposely caused by the great god *Pan* who dwelt in the forest, and his name gave them their phrase *to panikon deima*, 'the panic fear.' So a Wall Street *panic* descends directly from the Greek *go Pan*." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ see also *fragility* (white fragility, etc.), *moral panic* (noun), *phobia* (fatphobia, etc.)

♦ see also *anxiety* (noun)

**panoply (noun)**

panoply of (current) art

the ~ (an art exhibition)

panoply of (other) agencies

the FBI and DEA were there, as well as a ~ (investigation)

panoply of incongruities

the exhibit is a ~ ("Making the Met 1870-2020")

panoply of tools

social media provides a new ~ to spread disinformation

full panoply

the ~ of services for long-term care (including hospice) dealing with the ~ of issues that divide us (diplomacy)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A panoply is a complete suit of armor.

**panopticon (noun)**

digital panopticon

the ~ and its reaction cycles (social media, performing, etc.)

medical panopticon

Thrun envisages a ~ that constantly scans us (AI diagnosing)

♦ "Healy is something of a test case for the digital panopticon and its reaction cycles. Though he has always run his mouth, he long seemed dedicated to saying the right thing, eventually, and getting praised for it. He sometimes ceded his spotlight to the voices of women... When the 1975 won the British equivalent of a Grammy, Healy, in an acceptance speech, read a snippet of an essay by the writer Laura Snapes about misogyny in music. Fans asked him to take a stand on other things..." ("Front Man: Matty Healy, of the 1975, remains torn between the heartfelt and the arch" by Jia Tolentino, *The New Yorker*, June 5, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to Jeremy Bentham's idea for a circular penitentiary open to hidden view from a central office. The idea was, inmates would control themselves if they knew they were being secretly watched at every moment.

**pan out (verb)**

pan out

the deal didn't ~

if the projects ~... (energy development)

she had a couple of relationships that didn't ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ One dictionary dates the origin of this word to 1868. Famous gold rushes include: California (1848), Australia (1851), the Black Hills Gold Rush (1876), South Africa (1886), and the Klondike (1898).

♦ "Strike it rich; pay dirt; pan out; tenderfoot..." ("Expressions that the California gold rush gave us," according to Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From his book *Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories*. Chapter 1, "The Story Begins.")

**pantheon (noun)**

pantheon of polar ships

in the ~, Quest is definitely an icon (David Mearns)

pantheon of (past keynote) speakers

he joins a ~ (political conventions)

Chicago (Blues) pantheon

the ~ (Howlin' Wolf, Magic Sam, etc.)

Blues pantheon

the Chicago ~ (Elmore James, Junior Wells, etc.)

pop pantheon

she is part of the ~, for sure (Lana Del Ray)

cultural pantheon

he fought for his place in the ~ (Elon Must / Kanye West)

in an illustrious pantheon

vaccines are ~ (discoveries that saved billions)

in that (same) pantheon

other athletes deserve to be ~ winners)

within the pantheon

~ of great sci-fi from the 190s and 1970s (a movie)

icon in the pantheon

Kirk Douglas will always be an ~ of Hollywood

carved his name in the pantheon

he ~ of greats (the cyclist Marco Pantani)

entered the pantheon

she ~ in 1991 (Tina Turner / Rock & Roll Hall of Fame)

place him in the pantheon

his barrel rides ~ of great surfers (Garrett McNamara)

pantheon (that) speaks to the white patriarchy  
it is a ~ (great American naturalists / J. Drew Lanham)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In ancient Greek times, a pantheon was a temple dedicated to all of the gods.

## panther (Polynesian Panthers, etc.)

Black Panthers  
the ~ (U.S.)

Polynesian Panthers  
the ~ (see the Wikipedia article)

## pants (caught with one's pants down)

caught with our pants down  
we were ~ (CDC official)

caught with its (tactical) pants down  
law enforcement was ~ (Silk Road online drugs bazaar)

## pants (get in somebody's pants)

get in my pants  
they all wanted to ~ (pretty girl vs. high-school boys)

## pants (scare the pants off somebody)

scare the pants off the establishment  
Trump's picks for his cabinet ~ (2024)

scare the pants off people  
it will ~ (lawlessness)

## pants (big boy pants)

big boy pants  
see *big boy pants*

## pants (fly by the seat of one's pants)

fly by the seat of his pants  
he was very impulsive, very romantic, ~ (Keith Davis)

## paper tiger

paper tiger  
Osama bin Laden believed America was a ~

## parachute (drop in)

parachute journalism  
writers doing the 20th century version of ~ (Appalachia)

## parachute (golden parachute)

golden parachute  
CEOs got high salaries and generous ~s

lucrative golden parachute  
they rewarded him with a ~ (Blatt)

## parachute (verb)

parachute into poor countries  
college kids ~ for medical missions (malpractice)

parachutes into governor's race  
Trump ~ on election eve (Virginia 2021)

## parachuted

parachuted in  
he was ~ last year to lead a turnaround of the business

## parade (verb)

paraded him at a news conference  
the authorities ~ in Minsk

paraded a scientist around right-wing outlets  
as proof, they ~

## parade (noun)

parade of suspects  
the investigation has seen a ~ over the years (crime)

parade of (weather) systems  
a ~ is crossing the country this week

parade of witnesses  
a ~ has corroborated his account (hearings)  
after a ~, it was up to the jury

endless parade  
the seemingly ~ of principals (troubled middle school)

never-ending parade  
a ~ of visits

nonstop parade  
a ~ of local heroes carrying the Olympic torch

## paradise

paradise  
the place was a ~ compared to Botany Bay (Sydney)

hikers' paradise  
Aspen is a ~

bird lover's paradise  
Horicon Marsh is a ~ (Wisconsin)

smuggler's paradise  
the ~ of Tijuana (drugs)

surfer's paradise  
this ~ (Kuta, Bali)

surfers' paradise  
Jaws is a ~ (north shore of Maui, Hawaii)  
the North Shore of Oahu has long been a ~

skateboarder's paradise  
the park is a ~

train lover's paradise  
China is a ~ (43,000 miles of operating tracks)

windsurfing paradise  
the Columbia River Gorge is a ~

island paradise



the ~ turned into hell by terrorists (Bali)

redneck paradise  
rock on through to ~  
no one's uptight at ~

natural paradise  
they live in a ~ (langurs of Halong Bay)

socialist paradise  
he promised Venezuelans a better life in a ~

tropical paradise  
in theory this place should be a ~

image of Paradise  
Bled Island is an ~ (Slovenia)

♦ The Horicon Marsh in Wisconsin is a bird-lover's paradise with its geese and herons. It is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States.

♦ "After the turmoil [of W.W.II], it looked like heaven." (Military doctor who saw Andrews, western North Carolina and on the spur of the moment decided to settle there. He spent the rest of his life living among and doctoring to the mountain people.)

♦ Bled Island in Lake Bled, Slovenia, has been described as "an image of Paradise." During World War II, Heinrich Himmler wanted to tear down Mary's Church on the island and replace it with a temple dedicated to Odin.

## Paradise Lost (allusion)

Paradise Lost  
this ~ kind of family mythology (formerly rich family)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Paradise Lost* was the poem by John Milton.

## paradisiacal (and paradisa)

paradisa (Mediterranean) island  
a bank manager who goes to live like a peasant on a ~

paradisiacal sounds  
fountains provide ~ (Hama, Syria)

paradisiacal time warp  
the forests of Bucovina seemed to exist in a ~

♦ "It was hard to imagine a less Edenic setting for the wellspring of a great paradisiacal metropolis." (The headwaters of the Los Angeles River in Canoga Park behind the town's high school.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Pronounced para-duh-SEE-uh-kul. If you know how to pronounce a word, you will use it. This one deserves more usage.

## paralysis (noun)

political paralysis  
it was a result of the ~ in Washington  
~ may push American off a fiscal cliff

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## paralyze (verb)

paralyzed Algiers

the heaviest snow in more than 50 years ~

paralyzed Yaoundé  
antigovernment riots ~, Cameroon's capital (2008)

riots paralyzed Yaoundé  
antigovernment ~, Cameroon's capital (2008)

snow (in more than 50 years) paralyzed Algiers  
the heaviest ~

## paralyzed (feeling)

paralyzed with grief  
when I got home I was ~ (Everest 96)

paralyzed by fear  
we are absolutely ~ (stuck in a job you don't like)

## paralyzed (functioning)

paralyzed by hackers  
Baltimore struggles to revive computer systems ~

left (most of) the capital paralyzed  
the assault ~ (Baghdad terrorism)

## paramount (adjective)

paramount importance  
being ethical is of ~

## parapet (noun)

parapets of schism  
Catholics, Orthodox hurl insults at each other over the ~

put his head above the parapet  
the Ibrox legends need a hero to ~ and voice fan concerns  
he might have to ~ to go and buy provisions (a fugitive)

put his head above the parapet  
he's the only man to ~ on this issue (express an opinion)

put my head above the parapet  
I ~ and admit that I was wrong (a sports blogger)

raise their heads above the parapet  
it's when things fail that allegations of corruption ~

stuck their heads above the (proverbial) parapet  
the people who have ~ (groups)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "This Company Commander was known as 'The Boy'. He had twenty years' service with the Middlesex, and the unusual boast of having held every rank from 'boy' to captain in the same company... / When the Middlesex charged, The Boy fell mortally wounded as he climbed over the parapet. He tumbled back and began crawling down the trench to the stretcher-bearers' dug-out... / We came on The Boy lying on his stretcher, wounded in the lungs and stomach... / The Actor, finding we could not get by, said to Jamaica: 'Take that poor sod out of the way, will you? I've got to get my company up. Put him into a dug-out, or somewhere...' / Then he called over his shoulder: 'Sergeant Rose and Corporal Jennings! Lift this stretcher up across the top of the trench. We've got to pass.'" (*Good-Bye To All That* by Robert Graves.)

## parasite (insult)

parasite  
critics are ~s (literary critics)

tax evaders are ~s to society (Italy)  
she is a ~ who exploits her culture for money (a writer)  
they are ~s whose work depends on the activity of others

parasite on the economy  
the government is not simply a ~

parasite agents  
the ~ on a percentage... (high prices for soccer players)

parasite and charlatan  
Hearn is the biggest ~ Britain has ever produced (boxing)

parasite, a leech  
she's a ~ (charges soldiers for river water)

harmful parasites  
I can't accept his dismissive characterization of critics as  
~

described as parasites  
they were ~, socially dangerous and harmful (USSR)  
♦ "Frankly, these parasites simply had it coming. A reminder: the US has the #most expensive healthcare system in the world, yet we rank roughly #42 in life expectancy." (Luigi Mangione.)

## parasitic (adjective)

"parasitic" health insurance companies  
he raged over ~ (Luigi Mangione)

## parasitical (adjective)

parasitical exploitation  
young and rich is a recipe for ~ by criminals

## pare (verb)

pare (back) tax cuts  
to pay for it, the president would ~ (huge spending bill)

pared his novel down to its bare bones  
he ~ (every word important)

## pared (pared to the bone)

pared to the bone  
the delegation has been ~ (government trip abroad)  
♦ see also *bone* (cut something to the bone, etc.)

## parent (parent company, etc.)

parent company  
a revenue-sharing arrangement with its ~  
the Washington Post and its ~  
taxation of ~s and their subsidiaries  
our ~, Gannett, sold our building (a local paper)

parent star  
the brown dwarf orbits around its ~ (astronomy)

corporate parent  
CNN and its ~, Warner Media, is being sold to...  
♦ Google parent Alphabet, Facebook parent Meta...

## parent (cat parents, etc.)

cat parents  
they are ~ to Miko the cat (Miko's human owners)

dog parents  
to our ~, please keep your four-legged children on a leash

pet parent  
tips and tricks for the entire ~ experience (BeChewy)

♦ "To our dog parents: Please keep your four-legged children on a leash at all times. / Attention dogs: When nature calls, remind your parents to pick up after you. / Alcohol is not allowed in the Park. It made the ducks too rowdy. Be sure to stop into one of our local restaurants." (Signage at the park in Lake Lure, North Carolina.)

♦ "BeChewy provides tips and tricks for the entire pet parent experience, from potty training a new puppy to baking up homemade treats for your fur baby." (Potty training, not house-breaking. "Fur baby.")

## pariah (person)

pariah  
the changing political fortunes of a man who was once a  
~

pariah of the village  
Tom came upon the juvenile ~ (Huck Finn)

pariahs in their communities  
they have become ~ (girls do sex online controversy)

pariah in the music industry  
the producer has been a ~ ever since...

pariah at that time  
he was a real ~ (Muhammad Ali in 1967)

pariah by association  
he became a ~

pariah state  
Israel is an apartheid ~ (an opinion)  
the Taliban do not want to become a ~ again

pariah status  
Zimbabwe seeks to jettison its ~  
Iran can continue its march towards ~ or...

international pariahs  
they do not want to be seen as ~ (the Taliban)

political pariah  
he went from a pandemic hero to a ~ (Andrew Cuomo)  
by the early 1960s, Oppenheimer was no longer a ~

became a pariah  
he ~ in the late 70s (a Hollywood producer)  
and so Atiyeh ~ (environmentalist George Atiyeh)  
once a popular society figure, she ~ (wife of swindler)

become pariahs  
he said he and his girlfriend had ~ (falsely accused)

becoming a pariah  
he is rapidly ~ (a French author / MeToo)

came to be seen as a pariah  
lionized in the West, he ~ at home (Gorbachev)

consider Loeb a pariah  
many in his own field ~ (Avi Loeb, Harvard astrophysicist)

made a pariah

instead of being hailed, he's ~ (*Enemy of the People*)

made him a pariah

Kennan's dissenting views ~ in Washington (diplomacy)

made himself a pariah

he ~ at his old studio (an actor)

♦ "Shortly Tom came upon the juvenile pariah of the village, Huckleberry Finn, son of the town drunkard. Huckleberry was cordially hated and dreaded by all the mothers of the town, because he was idle and lawless and vulgar and bad—and because all their children admired him so, and delighted in his forbidden society, and wished they dared to be like him. Tom was like the rest of the respectable boys, in that he envied Huckleberry his gaudy outcast condition, and was under strict orders not to play with him. So he played with him every time he got a chance..." (*Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.)

♦ "Frankie was...a wild figure... I had come to join his gang through clause number two (the threat of torture), and had stayed with it for profitable reasons of fun and adventure... When the women of our street could think of no more bad names to call Frankie Buller for leading their children into fights that resulted in black eyes, torn clothes, and split heads, they called him a Zulu, a label that Frankie came to accept as a tribute." ("The Decline and Fall of Frankie Buller" by the great writer Alan Sillitoe.)

♦ "It was an absolutely scary experience. We called up our friends, and they said they didn't know us." (The physicist Victor Weisskopf, speaking to Robert Oppenheimer about his recent experience in the Soviet Union, following the arrest of one of Weisskopf's friends.)

♦ "Lyuda, from now on our contact with people has to be one-sided. If a man's been arrested, his wife can only visit people who've invited her. She doesn't have the right to say: 'I want to come round.' That would be humiliating for both her and her husband. You and I have entered a new epoch. We can no longer write to anyone ourselves; we can only reply to letters. We can no longer phone anyone; we can only pick up the receiver when it rings. We don't even have the right to greet acquaintances—they may prefer not to notice us. And if someone does greet me, I don't have the right to speak first. He might consider it possible to give me a nod of the head, but not to talk to me. I can only answer if he speaks first. You and I are pariahs." (*Life and Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "People who for one reason or other are "canceled" nowadays then often become pariahs.

♦ PARIAS: *he beat the drums* / With us a *pariah* is a social outcast, but this is a misinterpretation of the East Indian word. In that country a *pariah* is a member of the labor caste who works in the fields of the Tamil country of *Madras*. Their name comes from *parai*, 'drum,' because they were the hereditary beaters of the drum. Europeans have always had them as house servants and for this reason their employers, who were usually British, ranked them at the bottom of the social scale. This accounts for our meaning of the word *pariah*." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 6, "Sources of Words of Attitudes and Emotions.")

## Paris (epithet)

Paris of the East

Bucharest's historic center was once praised as "The ~"

"Paris of the South"

attempts to promote Asheville as the ~ (North Carolina)

Paris of the North

the historic city once called "The ~" (Viipuri / Vyborg)

Paris of the Middle East

before 1975, Beirut was known as the ~

Beirut was once known as the ~

Paris of Java

Bandung, Indonesia, is known as "The ~" (Dutch heritage)

Paris of the Orient

the wickedest city in the world, the ~ (Shanghai 1930s)

Paris of the Tropics

in the late 1800s, Manaus was dubbed the ~ (rubber boom)

## park (walk in the park)

walk in the park

people who said it would be a ~ were wrong (Brexit)

I knew it wasn't going to be a ~ (transgender hormones)

it should be a ~ (US women should win World Cup)

made it a walk in the park

they ~ for Spain (poor Costa Rican soccer team)

♦ "Argentina could hardly have asked for an easier evening. After a nervy opening half an hour it has been a stroll." (80 mins: Netherland 0-2 Argentina at the World Cup in Qatar. The rest is history.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A walk in the park can become a nightmare...

## park (hit something out of the park)

hit it out of the park

she ~ (a great debate performance)

hit it out of the park a second time

he ~ (second season of a TV series)

smashed it out of the park

today he has basically ~ (Max Verstappen / Formula One)

♦ "Max was quite simply in a league of his own. And not just today; all weekend. He has excelled here in the past and today he has basically smashed it out of the park." (Christian Horner about Max Verstappen winning the Belgian Grand Prix, his ninth win in fourteen races.)

♦ see also *home run* (success)

## parked (movement)

parked over the islands

the storm is ~

parked on the south-west

a high-pressure system is ~ (a heatwave)

## parliament (group)

parliament of creatures

there was little sense of menace in this ~ (Australia)

♦ "There was little sense of menace in this parliament of creatures. The only large meat-eating animal was the dingo... Even the dragon of the bush, a carrion-eating monitor lizard known as a goanna, would rush up a tree when approached and cling there, its throat puffed out in soundless alarm, until the intruder went away. The only universal predator was man." (*The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding* by Robert Hughes. The "parliament of creatures" he mentions includes: birds (Galahs, lorikeets, rosellas, Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos, etc.); wallabies; kangaroos; koalas; brushtailed possums; ringtails; sugar-gliders; platypuses; echidnas (spiny anteaters); and wombats. That's certainly a parliament!)

♦ A parliament of owls...

## Parnassus

literary Parnassus

he is among the gods of America's ~

## paroxysm (emotion)

paroxysm of anxiety

the whole culture is caught up in a ~ (the internet)

paroxysms of grief

the loss of the photo sent him into ~ (dead child)

paroxysms of laughter

it sent them both off into ~

## paroxysm (other)

paroxysms of (racist) violence

the ~ (U.S. history)

last paroxysm

his reign had been the ~ of the System's cruelty

## parrot (verb)

parroted the (official) line

he ~ about enemy losses

parrots the (progressive) line

she ~ on social media (NPR)

parrot the (social justice) liturgies

they ~ of the moment (top military brass)

parroted the college's stance

some students ~ (at Harvard)

♦ Kids who parrot the Pledge of Allegiance often say, "I led the pigeons to the flag." This is called a mondegreen.

♦ "young people parrot empty catchphrases about decolonization" (An online commenter about the Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. An indomitable-looking African Grey Parrot is standing on its perch in the foreground of a huge cage. Behind him are two parrots sharing a perch. The one parrot is saying to the other, "He's not afraid to say exactly what other people are saying." By Arroyo, *The New Yorker*, October 2, 2023. Of course, this is opposed to saying what other people are *thinking*. A smart cartoon.)

## parry (verb)

parried the attacks with some skill

he ~ (a political debate)

parry both

he was able to ~ (during a political debate)

parried queries

Merkel ~ during "Chancellor's Question Time"

parry Romney

Santorum used humor to ~ (politics)

thrust and parry

election year ~

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlop was here wounded when half way up by a sirdar of Mysore, who met him scimitar in hand. Parrying a cut with his sabre, the colonel slashed open his antagonist's breast, and mortally wounded him. The sirdar made another cut that nearly

hewed off the head of the colonel, and falling back into the breach was instantly bayoneted. Dunlop reached the summit, and then fell from loss of blood..." ("Seringapatam, 1799, from *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

## parry (noun)

passive-aggressive parries

the scene is full of ~ (*Succession* dialog)

thrust and parry

election year ~

♦ "He's swapping a quiet life in the Cotswolds for the cut and thrust of Westminster." (A new Foreign Secretary.)

## parse (verb)

parse each of his sentences

let's ~ (radio host / news show)

## part (play a part, etc.)

played his part

Pavel Larin had just ~ in the Fall of Berlin (Soviet Storm)

## part (moving parts)

moving parts to this story

there are a lot of ~

a lot of moving parts

there are a lot of people involved and ~ (an investigation)

so many moving parts

there are ~ in terms of the legal issues

♦ "So many layers, Diane, to this story, a lot of moving parts, and it will of course be very interesting to see how it all plays out..." (Marcus Moore of ABC reporting on a sensational murder case.)

♦ "It was a complicated arrangement with lots of moving parts." (Hamas releases hostages during the Israel-Hamas war.)

## partisan (noun)

partisan fever

Washington's well-known ~ (vs. decorum and discretion)

partisan hit job

this is a ~ (political kerfuffle)

partisan lynching

this was just a ~ (impeachment)

partisan papers

correspondents who wrote for ~

partisan rage

~ courses through their veins (Democrats)

partisan saboteurs

school boards are being attacked by ~ (culture wars)

partisan warriors

his colleagues were reliable ~ (at Fox News)

hyperpartisan

in ~ America...

public education was now itself a ~ issue

he's not a ~, political person...

biased and partisan

NPR is ~ (National Public Radio)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Russian tactics in their unconventional national war against Napoleon are based on partisan resistance, Cossack raids, and scorched earth." (August, 1812.)

♦ "To kill and to flee. [That] is the essence of the tactical duty of a partisan." (Russian partisan officer Denis Davydov, 1812.)

♦ "A man stood upon a railroad bridge in northern Alabama, looking down into the swift water twenty feet below. The man's hands were behind his back, the wrists bound with a cord. A rope closely encircled his neck. It was attached to a stout cross-timber above his head and the slack fell to the level of his knees..." ("An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ "This is a guerilla war not a debutante's ball. There are no rules here." (The great 1980 film *Breaker Morant*.)

♦ "Both the German and the Austro-Hungarian armies developed a hard-line culture for dealing with guerrillas, partisans, komidatschi, francs-tireurs or whatever they may have been called—that is, armed men, who shoot from ambush and fight without uniforms." (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter Englund.)

♦ "Pamphil [Palykh] was devoted to [his wife] and loved his children to distraction... With the arrival of his family he had cheered up and begun to recover... But now the news had got about that... [the families] were going to be sent... to winter quarters... Pamphil's spirits fell and his hallucinations came back... / A bleeding stump of a man [lay] on the ground. His right arm and left leg had been chopped off. It was inconceivable how, with his remaining arm and leg, he had crawled to the camp... Fainting repeatedly from loss of blood, the dying man told him ... of the tortures and atrocities perpetrated by Vitsyn's squads. 'As for the children and women—O God!' / Pamphil had been in the crowd surrounding the dying man. He had seen him, heard his words, and read the threatening inscription on the board. His constant fear for his family in the event of his own death rose to a new climax... In his imagination he saw them handed over to slow torture... / In his desperate anguish he killed them himself, felling his wife and three children with that same, razor-sharp ax that he had used to carve toys for the two small girls and the boy... / The astonishing thing was that he did not kill himself immediately afterward. What could he be thinking of? It was a clear case of insanity... / While Liberius, the doctor, and the members of the army soviet debated what to do with him, he roamed freely about the camp... An obtuse vague grimace of inhuman, unconquerable suffering never left his face. / No one was sorry for him. Everyone avoided him, some people said he should be lynched, but they were not heeded. / There was nothing in the world left for him to do. At dawn he vanished from the camp, fleeing from himself like a dog with rabies." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ "Partisan detachments must be formed in areas occupied by the enemy, to stir up guerilla war everywhere, to blow up bridges and roads, sabotage telephone and telegraph lines, and to burn forests, stores and transports. We shall create intolerable conditions for the enemy and his supporters, they must be pursued and eliminated at every step." (Stalin's radio broadcast to the Soviet People 3 July 1941. From "Soviet Storm: WW2 in the East.")

♦ "Naturally, the grownups tried hard not to talk about these horrors in the presence of children, at any rate not in Hebrew... But sometime a word slipped through... I could hear the whispering... Nazis, Vilna, partisans, death camps, death trains, Uncle David and Aunt Malka, and little cousin Daniel, who was the same age as me. Somehow the fear got into me..." (*A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz.)

♦ see also *reprisal* (noun)

## partner (noun)

partner in their relationship  
the third ~ was his addiction to heroin

## party (garden party)

giant garden party  
our lockdown is a ~ compared to China and Italy (COVID)

## party (late to the party, etc.)

late to the party  
aren't you rather ~ (entering new market)  
we're kinda ~ here (antisatellite warfare)

very late to the party  
the "paper of record" is very ~ (NYT / criticism of DEI)

join the party late  
traders who just follow the herd and ~ will lose money

## party (invited to the party, etc.)

invited to the party  
who is ~, and who isn't (success in America)  
not everyone can be ~ (haves and have-nots)

## party (party is over)

After the party  
~ (FTX's failure and SoftBank's struggles / *The Economist*)

party is over  
we're coming for you, the ~ (cops versus gang)

## party (coming-out party)

"coming-out party"  
it was Japan's ~ as a modern naval power (1890)

## party (celebration)

spoiling England's party  
Germany are used to ~ (soccer / football)

## pas de deux

pas de deux between the nose and the tongue  
McGee is interested in the playful ~ (a food scientist)

pas de deux of hostility and servility  
an extraordinary ~ (Japan and the US after World War II)

developmental pas de deux  
Wuhan has embarked on a ~ with Hong Kong (building)

intense pas de deux  
plotlines gain momentum in their increasingly ~

♦ "The intertwining plotlines gain momentum in their increasingly intense pas de deux..."

## pass (time can pass, etc.)

pass  
I hope these times ~ soon (a cop)

passes  
every minute that ~ is crucial

## pass (free pass)

free pass  
many thought the press gave him a ~ (politician)  
too many undocumented immigrants are given a "~"

## pass (cards)

passed

when I offered to talk to him, he ~

## pass (end)

pass

your problems will soon ~

## pass (its time has passed, etc.)

passed

the great wave of trans-Appalachian emigration had ~

passed it by

time had somewhat ~ (a travel route becomes obsolete)

time has passed

it's a tradition whose ~

the person remains, yet his ~ (*Life and Fate*)

time may have (already) passed

it's a gimmick whose ~ (augmented reality phone app)

## pass (progress)

passed the US

many countries have ~ in healthcare and quality of life

## pass (die)

passed

he ~ surrounded by loved ones (he died)

late yesterday we learned that he ~ (mass shooting)

## passage (to adulthood, etc.)

passage to adulthood

he writes about his ~

passage into womanhood

her quinceañera, the celebration of a Hispanic girl's ~

## passage (journey)

passage from reporter to novelist (and poet)

the ~ was the dominant trajectory of writing then

passage from ballet student to restaurant apprentice

her rocky ~

\*\*\* "I would accept a passage for Greece tomorrow..."

♦ "I bathed today in the sea, the great sea, the greatest in the world; you can imagine my feelings... I felt that at last I had reached the way to the South, and all the glorious East—Greece, Carthage, Egypt, Tyre, Syria, Italy, Spain, Sicily, Crete—they were all there, and all within reach of me... Oh I must get down here—farther out—again! Really this getting to the sea has almost overturned my mental balance; I would accept a passage for Greece tomorrow." (The Oxford University student T. E. Lawrence on summer break in a letter back home after seeing the Mediterranean Sea for the first time from the village of Aigues-Mortes in southern France, August 2, 1908. From *Lawrence in Arabia* by Scott Anderson.)

♦ "The Drake Passage; the Northwest Passage; the Northeast Passage... (Great passages related to exploration. The Drake Passage is not to be confused with the Strait of Magellan.)

## passage (passage of time)

passage of time

the curve relates forgetting to the ~

the ~ has been on her mind lately

## passage (nasal passage, etc.)

nasal passage

the standard Q-tip can't bend through the ~

## pass away (verb)

passed away last week

he ~

♦ "Fire Department medic unit Number 4 responded and transported the victim to Temple Hospital, where she was subsequently pronounced at 5:33 a.m." (A police spokesperson about a murder. "Pronounced" means "pronounced dead.")

♦ "Unfortunately, he was found in a pond and he is no longer with us." (Body found.)

♦ "I was able to hold his hand as he journeyed on." (His brother died.)

♦ His life was tragically cut short. (Murdered.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "A woman was found 'deceased'? How about 'dead'?" (An online commenter.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A "deceased person" who has "passed away" is a dead person who has died.

## pass by (progress)

pass us by

we don't want to let this ~ (adopting new technology)

## passing (death / actual)

passing of our friend and brother

it is with the heaviest of hearts that I tell you of the ~

accidental passing

her ~ has been so sudden (selfie accident)

## passing (death / figurative)

passing and a re-birth

it may be both a ~ (interest in old cantorial music)

## passion (enthusiasm)

passion

my ~ is skiing

passion in life

his biggest ~ was climbing (killed by lightning)

passion for basketball

Spike Lee is famous for his front-row ~ (the filmmaker)

passion for butterflies

Nabokov inherited his ~ from his parents (the great writer)

passion for chemistry

his ~ (Richard Smalley)

passion for graffiti

his ~ was extinguished when... (tagging accident)

passion for (water) sports

a young man with a ~ (kitesurfing, etc.)



passion for trains  
his life-long ~ (model trains, train spotting, etc.)

passion for acting  
he quit his job to pursue a lifelong ~ (TV, movies)

passion for boating  
he has a love and ~ (a kayaker)

passion for caving  
his ~ and cave diving has taken him around the world

passion for dancing  
an active teen with a ~

passion for sky diving  
he had a ~

passion for gambling  
his ~

passion for caving and cave diving  
his ~ has taken him around the world

passion project  
he is doing this audio idea as a ~ (Ian Urbina)  
the film has been a ~ for Dominik (*Blonde* biopic)  
~s (queer women on their periods / Nolwen Cifuentes)

passion and desire  
he had a ~ to do something (dead 14-y.o. graffiti "artist")

passion and devotion  
ramen inspires ~ among Japanese and foreigners

passion and talent  
millennials with a ~ for original storytelling

deep passion  
she had this ~ for issues she cared about

grand passion  
chelonians are Eric Goode's ~ (the Turtle Conservancy)

lifelong passion  
he quit his job to pursue a ~ for acting (TV, movies)  
space flight has been his ~ (astronaut)

national passion  
baseball is part of our roots, it's our ~ (a Habanero)

guts, passion and heart  
he plays with ~, he's all in (NFL player)

interest / passions / hobbies  
the return of ~ (after trauma, crisis abroad)

love and passion  
he has a ~ for boating (a kayaker)

secret or (a) passion or (an) issue or (a) decision  
when race is a ~ (people)

with a passion  
I love classical music ~ (Anthony Tommasini)

with passion  
they are playing ~, with heart, they can do it (World Cup)

developed a passion  
he ~ for writing at an early age

followed his passion  
he ~ (a windsurfer)

follow your passion  
that's part of the spirit of mountaineering, to ~

inspires passion  
ramen ~ and devotion among Japanese and foreigners

turn your passion into a profession  
how do you ~ (ad on TV for arts school)

\*\*\* a passion for leeches, the French language, etc.

♦ "For Dr. Siddall, leeches are a source of pride, obsession and fascination. His walls are covered in leech posters and photographs. He owns a giant antique papier-mâché model of a leech.... His lab is filled with jars full of leeches that he has collected from some of the most dangerous places in the world. About his passion, Dr. Mark Siddall said, 'It was hard for family conversations. You couldn't exactly talk about it over Thanksgiving dinner.'"

♦ "People thought I was smuggling diamonds. They just would not believe me. They were saying 'Why would this tiny woman come so far to collect bonobo poop?'" (Sabrina Locatelli, a State University of New York primatologist, on collecting scat in the Congo. From "A finding on Malaria Comes From Humble Origins," by Donald G. McNeil, Jr., *The New York Times*, September 27, 2010.)

♦ "Reporting from France for Beardsley is the fulfillment of a lifelong passion for the French language and culture. At the age of ten she began learning French by reading the *Asterix The Gaul* comic book series with her father." (The beloved National Public Radio correspondent Eleanor Beardsley, raised in Columbia, South Carolina. From her biography, "Eleanor Beardsley, Correspondent, Paris," at NPR.)

♦ "Some people may say that passion is folly. I think if you haven't followed your passions, you haven't lived. If you haven't lived, you haven't evolved." (John Chao, photographer and founder, publisher and editor in 1993 of the magazine *American Windsurfer*. In December 2016 he drove a panel truck full of firewood and propane from The Dalles, Oregon, to North Dakota to support the Standing Rock Dakota Access Pipeline activists in their winter camps.)

♦ "My passion is actually for people." (The great Yo-Yo Ma. The Silk Road Project. *Appassionato*. Super!)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ Angus Cloud was a brand ambassador for Rockstar Energy Drink and starred in its ad campaign "Fuel What's Next," which champions the idea of what's possible if you follow your passions. He starred for two seasons in the TV show *Euphoria*, playing a drug pusher. He died at age 25 of a lethal combination of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, benzodiazepine, and other drugs. His mother made the call to 911.

♦ "He had a passion and desire to do something... / He was received as such a kind, loving, generous, funny, goofy, creative, funny, vibrant, fearless young man." (The Arizona mother of a 14-year-old boy, struck and killed by a Seattle monorail while defacing buildings with his graffiti.)

♦ "The website portrays his work as an innocent and earnest passion." (Rockstar Cheer's Scott Foster, who committed suicide facing multiple sexual-abuse accusations.)

♦ "Playing video games for a living is a dream for many." (Amazon's Twitch, etc., and online streamers.)

♦ "She has a very deep passion for diversity and inclusion and actively seeks to make any environment she's in more safe and inclusive for everyone." (NPR's Sommer Hill.)

♦ "What if somebody came up with some kind of French term for dodging traffic?" (An unhappy Captain Jerry Miner, with the Indiana University police, after IU's daily paper ran a photo of a *traceur* standing on top of a school arch.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ (Chapter 6, "Sources of Words of Attitudes and Emotions.") "As to the history of *passion*, Late Latin *passio* contributed the word to us and this traces to the Latin *passus* from *pator*, 'suffer.' We still speak of the *passion* or suffering of Christ. And a *patient* person is one who 'suffers' too, for the word *patient* is related to *passion*. A *patient* person suffers but usually says nothing about it." (Chapter 8, "Terms of Religion and Their Beginnings.") "Toward the end of the 14th century, at the time of the British poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, *passion* began to signify such powerful emotions as anger, rage, and the tender *passion*, love. Now it usually means the violent emotions of sexual love. The original meaning of the word is kept in *compassion*, from the Latin *com-*, 'with,' and *passio*, 'suffering.' When you have *compassion* for people, you 'suffer with' them." (*Word Origins and their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Today, of course, "passion" often means enthusiasm.)

♦ ZEAL, n. A certain nervous disorder afflicting the young and inexperienced. A passion that goeth before a sprawl. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## passionate

passionate about this case

I was ~ (the great lawyer Johnnie Cochran)

passionate about the (local) people

he was so ~ (a scientist in the field)

passionate about animals, journalism, and the elderly

she was ~

passionate defender

President Jacob Zuma is a ~ of Zulu traditions (S. Africa)

passionate response

she delivered a ~

young, passionate and pissed

I was ~ (climber who lost best friend)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "He's really committed. In fact, I think he was." (Professor Terguson. Watch: Sam Kinison-"Back To School"- "Professor Terguson-1986

♦ For quotations, see *passion* (enthusiasm).

## passionately

feel passionately

but for those of us who ~ about the oceans (preservation)

## passed down (by ancestors, etc.)

passed down

their stories have been ~ (vicarious "race-based trauma")

the stories ~ prime us for traumatization (race-based)

♦ see also *down* (down through the centuries, etc.)

## pass on (verb)

pass on

which track would you like to ~ (BBC Inheritance Tracks)

## passport (noun)

passport to freedom

education is our ~ (young European Muslim women)

passport to success

Polar adventure was not necessarily a ~ (Hjalmar Johansen)

passport to the world

his camera was his ~ (the photojournalist David Gilkey)

passport out of death row

a low IQ can be a ~

biological passports

~ will be scrutinised (athletes / blood doping)

## past (in the distant past, etc.)

in the distant past

the meteorite was blasted off the surface of the moon ~  
the Revolutionary War and Civil War are ~, but...

in the not-distant past

Mormons experienced persecution ~

in the not so distant past

nominees sought bipartisan support ~

lies in the distant past

for most Americans, World War I ~

## past (distant past, etc.)

distant past

litigating cases from the ~ can be difficult

Earth's distant past

the documentary looks at the ~

## past (in the past)

in the past

this all happened ~

lies in the past

the adventure is finished and our journey ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Scott Simon: When is the past past? Ever? / Channele Benz: Well, I think we can lay the past to rest once we've had some kind of reckoning with it." ("Channele Benz On 'The Gone Dead,'" NPR, Weekend Edition, June 22, 2019.)

♦ "The past is never dead. It's not even past." (*Requiem for a Nun* by William Faulkner.)

♦ "The past is never past in Suffolk County." (Cutthroat politics, Long Island, New York.)

## past (look past to the future, etc.)

look past

I never ~ a fighter...

❓ "I never look past a fighter but I do window shop." (The great boxer Deontay Wilder in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, being interviewed prior to The Day of Reckoning.)

pasteurized version

this very ~ of the story where everyone is heroic  
(Leningrad)

got (completely) pasteurized

it ~ (Soviet story of Siege of Leningrad)

♦ For a short list of eponyms, see *mesmerizing (adjective)*.

## pasture (greener pastures)

searching for greener pastures  
many young people are ~ elsewhere (migration)

## pasture (put something out to pasture)

put him out to pasture  
we need to ~ (a controversial executive)

putting him out to pasture  
he felt they were ~ so what the hell (a politician)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can retire something or someone. An alternative is, "Time to send it off to the sanctuary." Or "put it out to pasture." A less benevolent idea is "Slaughter the donkey when its work is done." Or "It's time to send it to the glue factory." Or, "Put it to sleep." Or "Take it behind the barn." Take your pick!

♦ See *retire (retire something)* for quotations.

## pasture (put out to pasture)

put out to pasture  
some think the musical should be ~ (*The King and I*)

♦ "For most of history, women past child-bearing years were basically put out to pasture." (NextTribe: Community and Travel for Bold Women Over 45. "Join The Journey.")

## pasture (amount)

pastures of green baize  
the camera surveys the ~ (at a casino)

## patch (and patch up)

patched up the (contentious) issue with a compromise  
they ~ (world leaders)

patched things up  
the two eventually ~ (a relationship)  
the company has ~ (problems)

patched up their differences  
they have ~ (a couple)

patched the (security) flaw  
Microsoft has ~

patched his relationship  
he has ~ with them

patch the rift  
he is trying to ~ (disagreement)

## patch (patch together)

patched together an agreement  
leaders finally ~ (diplomacy)

patched together a (workable group)  
he has ~

## patch (rough patch)

rough patches  
you go through ~ in your sport that make you want to quit

## patched

patched  
Windows is full of security holes that can never be ~

patched up  
the problems have been ~

## patchwork (noun)

patchwork  
the system, however ~, works well

patchwork of (different pandemic-era) laws  
with a ~ across the country...

## paternity (noun)

acknowledge their paternity  
they are not likely to ~ of the debacle

claimed paternity  
one who has credibly ~ is Charles E. Vela (quote below)

♦ "A brainchild like STEM has many fathers, and one who has credibly claimed paternity is Charles E. Vela..." (Education.)

♦ "None of these men are ever likely to acknowledge their paternity of the debacle that followed." (The triumph of the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Victory has 100 fathers and defeat is an orphan."

## path (set out on this path, etc.)

set out on this path  
he ~ in 1997 by writing... (rehabilitated his career)

## path (the right / wrong path, etc.)

on the right path  
I have put Qatar ~ (Sheikh Hamad)  
so the economy's ~

on a (sustained) expansion path  
the economy now appears to be ~

on a (good expansionary) growth path  
the economy seems to be ~

on a downward path  
the debt to GDP ratio is ~ (economy)

on a troubled path  
when someone you love is ~

down a dangerous path  
his unswerving belief in himself led him ~

down a very dark path  
the post were so awful and almost led me ~ (trolled)

down the wrong path  
it has taken us ~ (antiterrorism)

down a moderate and secular path  
lead Pakistan ~

get back on the path  
we must ~ of prosperity (politics)

got on the (right) path  
he straightened his life out and ~ (former criminal)

stray from the path  
a good Muslim must not ~

stray (too far) from (Saudi Arabia's) path  
but Qatar does not ~

taken us down the wrong path  
it has ~ (antiterrorism tactic)

♦ "In Japan there has been only one path, and today an increasing number of people are not on it. It's easy to say that academic background is not everything. But the parents cannot suggest another path because they don't know one." (A Japanese psychologist talking about *Hickikomori*, the withdrawal from society by young people.)

\*\*\* Trail etiquette...

♦ In the Sierra Mountains of California, do you tell someone about the best / easiest / normal path? Or do you keep it to yourself, to teach some kind of lesson? ("Best-Case Scenario" by Joshua Rothman, *The New Yorker*, January 31, 2022.)

## path (path to / toward something)

path to democracy and freedom  
they are on the ~ (Iraq)

path to citizenship  
we offer a ~ for 1.8 million illegal immigrants

path to jihad  
hundreds of Americans have followed the ~

path to legalization  
immigrants need a ~ (US)

path to power  
behavior that's admired is the ~ among people everywhere

path to pride  
his job to help the school find a ~ (troubled high school)

path to riches  
a marketing wizard who hopes he had found the ~

path to sainthood  
the Pontiff put him on the ~

path to success  
negotiations with no clear ~ (Middle East)

paths to success  
there are many ~

path to discipline, tenacity, courage  
hardship is the surer ~

path to inner peace  
the Buddhist ~

path toward a market economy  
the difficult, unguided ~ (Russia)

path toward peace and prosperity  
putting the continent on a ~ (Africa)

♦ "Hope is like a path in the countryside. Originally there is no way, but once people begin to pass, a way appears." (The modern Chinese writer Lu Xun.)

## path (path of peace, etc.)

path  
the ~ they follow may not be simple (investigation)  
figure out what ~ will work best for you (education)  
jihad is its ~ ( Hamas motto)

path of Allah  
the ~

path of peace  
the ~ is still the right path

path of prosperity  
we need to get back on the ~ (politics)

path of (ecological) sustainability  
they follow a ~ (reindeer peoples)

path of reason, justice and dialogue  
adopt the ~ to resolve... (Kashmir)

## path (tough / easy path, etc.)

clear-cut (career) paths  
not all fields at universities have ~

clear path  
negotiations with no ~ to success (Middle East)  
as of today there is no ~ forward (politics)

difficult path  
military families walk a ~ in wartime (dissent, etc.)

perilous path  
the military's action puts Myanmar on a ~ (2021 coup)

smooth path  
no candidate will have a ~ to the Democratic nomination

straight path  
we ask Allah to lead the Muslims to follow the ~  
what you do to keep somebody on the ~

surer path  
hardship is the ~ to discipline, tenacity, courage

difficult, unguided path  
the ~ toward a market economy (Russia)

long, tortured path  
it's been a ~ for the international space station

obstacles in the path  
the FAA threw ~ of the Peotone proposal (airport)

path appears clear  
the ~ for Donald Trump to be the Republican nominee

led him down a dangerous path  
his unswerving belief in himself ~

walk a difficult path  
military families ~ in wartime (dissent, anxiety, etc.)

## path (alternatives and choices)

path of least resistance  
he's lazy, he'll take the ~

path of the lesser evil  
we took the ~ (US support of Saddam)

brother's path  
he assured his father he wouldn't follow his ~

father's path  
he eventually followed his ~ (seminarian)

life's path  
her ~ took an unexpected turn (serious injury)

mothers' paths  
often, young prostitutes follow their ~ into the sex trade

Qeis's path  
he vowed he will follow in ~ (suicide bomber)

Saudi Arabia's path  
but Qatar does not stray too far from ~

one path  
in Japan there is only one ~

two paths  
there are ~ now for supercomputing  
you can take one of ~ in high school (boy-crazy or study)

another path  
parents can't suggest ~ (Japan)

bad path  
I don't want California going down a ~ (Pelosi / SB 1047)

different path  
persuade young delinquents to take a ~

divergent paths  
the two sister took extremely ~

many paths  
there are ~ to success

quickest path  
the ~ is not always obvious  
the ~ to raise school's profile is to buy a football team

two paths  
there are ~ now for supercomputing  
you can take one of ~ in high school (boys or academics)

academic path  
decide what the best ~ for you may be

Buddhist path  
the ~ to inner peace

spiritual path  
turning to a ~ in their search for answers

adopt the path  
~ of reason, justice and dialogue to resolve... (Kashmir)

chose the path  
another bored child of privilege who ~ of revolution

continue down that path

it's important that we ~ (environmental cleanup)

continue on the path  
we're going to ~ that we started on last year

continue on this path  
we should let the economy ~

continue on the (same) path  
we will ~ that was laid out by Osama...

find a path  
his job to help the school ~ to pride (high school)

follow a path  
they ~ of ecological sustainability

set me along this path  
my mother helped to ~ (of being a writer)

♦ "It's hard to understand why so many of our fellow citizens—people that we have fought so long and hard for—wound up choosing the other path." (Tim Walz, about the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## path (force someone down a path, etc.)

force your child down a path  
don't ~ you wanted to follow (but didn't)

## path (cross paths)

cross paths  
when competitors ~, violence usually follows (prison)

cross his path  
he is a danger to all who ~

crossed paths  
late Monday night, the two men ~ again (cop / felon)

crossed her path  
she left a mark on all of us who ~ (an actor)

cross paths with a stripper  
an accountant might ~ (at an airport)

♦ "The nineteen-year-old student [Gavrilo Princip], a Bosnian recruited by Serbia's Black Hand terrorist movement, could not believe his luck. He had been standing on Franzjosefstrasse, bareheaded in the early summer sunshine, depressed over the failure of a comrade, Nedeljko Čabrinović, to kill the royal couple with a grenade earlier in the day. Then he saw their open-top car take a wrong turn off Appel Quay and pass right by him. The lethal logistics that seem to operate at such moments had transformed error into opportunity. Two point-blank targets presented themselves, and Princip's gun did what it was designed to do." (*Colonel Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris.)

♦ "She was coming directly at us," Schwieger told Valentiner. "She could not have steered a more perfect course if she had deliberately tried to give us a dead shot." (Captain Walther Schwieger of the U-20. Schwieger had set a new course for home. As far as he was concerned, the patrol was over. When he first noticed the *Lusitania* through the periscope, she was speeding away from him, uncatchable. But then the *Lusitania* changed course. From *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson.)

♦ Distorted shadows fell / Upon the lighted ceiling: / Shadows of crossed arms, of crossed legs— / Of crossed destiny. ("Winter Night" by Boris Pasternak.)

## path (beat a path)

beating a path to China's door  
the world is ~

## path (off the beaten path)

off the beaten path  
even tours of federal buildings ~ are possible

far off the beaten path  
she lives in a place ~

## path (a path can turn / development)

step along the path  
a preliminary trial is a ~ to a criminal trial (Colorado)

path took an (unexpected) turn  
her life's ~ (serious injury)

go down paths  
they can ~ that relate to... (investigation)

started down a path  
we have ~ that we won't turn back from (legal action)

take its path  
justice has to ~ (investigation)

walked this path before  
no one has ~ (dealing with pandemic)

## path (clear a path)

clear the path for Mr. Sanders  
her departure will ~ in particular (election)

clears the path for thousands of Floridians  
this ruling ~ (voting rules)

## pathbreaking (adjective)

pathbreaking article  
he wrote a ~ on this subject

pathbreaking filmmaker  
he was a ~ who... (obituary)

pathbreaking ideas  
he garnered admiration for some ~ but also enmity

path-breaking research  
he brought ~ to economics

pathbreaking role  
the museum played a ~ in fostering education

path-breaking study  
he was the primary author of a ~ that found...

pathbreaking work  
his ~ opened a new era in cancer research

## pathfinder (Mars Pathfinder, etc.)

HMS *Pathfinder*  
the ~ was sunk by a German U-boat in 1914

Lisa Pathfinder  
the European Space Agency's ~

Nissan Pathfinder  
he was struck by a ~

## pathfinder (person)

pathfinders and pacesetters  
jazz venerates its ~ (its elders)

## pathology (noun)

pathology  
Nazism emerged as a ~ of an inflation-wracked...

pathologies of manliness  
the ~ (politics / a woman writer)

reactionary pathology  
this cartoon history is rooted in some kind of ~ (politics)

symptom of a (much wider) pathology  
he is a ~ infecting the entire system (politics)

## pathway (route)

pathway to citizenship  
illegal immigrants need a ~  
the Dreamers need a ~

pathway from complaint to trial  
the ~ is too long (sex abuse cases)

illicit pathways  
the ~ from Columbia to the US became expressways

## patient zero

patient zero in the NotPetya plague  
the servers that played the role of ~ (computer worm)

## patina (appearance)

patina of authority  
his background gave a ~ (Harvard Prof Timothy Leary)

## patrician

patrician father  
his ~ disapproved (of marriage to poor girl)

## patron saint

patron saint  
feminists found in her a sort of ~ (an artist)  
if American cuisine has a ~, it is James Beard

patron saint of New Mexico  
it's funny she ended up the ~ (Georgia O'Keefe)

patron saint of swamps  
Thoreau has been called the ~ (Annie Proulx)

## pattern (holding pattern)

coronavirus-induced holding pattern  
society's normal activities are in a ~

in a holding pattern  
the U.S. Senate is ~ (Senators discuss what to do next)  
we're just sort of ~ right now (a relationship)

## Patton (the Patton of Asia, etc.)

"Patton of Asia"



Claire Lee Chennault nicknamed him the ~ (Xue Yue)

## pause (verb)

paused the (abortion) law  
a judge ~ (called it unconstitutional)

paused the use  
officials ~ of the vaccine to study...

## pause (noun)

pause  
I am in favor of a ~ (to investigate a vaccine)

on pause  
the vaccine is still ~ (safety concerns)

hit pause  
they have agreed to ~ on their escalating trade war  
a judge has ~ on a major US contract

lifts pause  
US ~ on Johnson & Johnson vaccines (COVID)

## pawn (noun)

pawn of Israel and the West  
he is widely seen as a ~

pawn in the Great Game  
Azerbaijan was a ~ for territory and power

pawns in a (political) chess game  
they use human beings as ~ (hostages)

pawn in this (hollow representation) game  
I felt like a ~ (the comedian Julio Torres)

pawns in a (highly profitable) scam  
we were ~ (employees at Southern Poverty Law Center)

pawn on the board  
they were grasping at straws, I was just a ~ (John Artis)

less a player than a pawn  
a soldier is ~

played as a pawn  
I believe everyone is being ~ (local mayor about issue)

using migrants as pawns  
he has accused the Turks of ~

use him as a pawn  
both sides will try to ~ for their own purposes (politics)

♦ "Hersh and all the hostages, and by extension all the hostage families, were pawns in a game. And pawns, in chess, are expendable." (The mother of American hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin. Hersh was kidnapped at a music festival after having had his arm blown off, held hostage in Gaza, and finally murdered with other hostages. The Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Those who walk on foot have always been considered inferior to those who ride... [T]he *peon* is the poorest of the peasants and the *pawn* is the lowliest of the chessmen, and the words *pawn* and *peon* have come down by separate routes from the same Latin *pes, pedis*, 'foot.' In a more forthright manner we speak of the humble foot soldiers who are supposed to walk..." (*Word Origins And Their*

*Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 6, "Sources of Words of Attitudes and Emotions.")

♦ In western North Carolina, the motorist will often encounter a person walking along the roadside, and it is a point of honor to most to move over a bit to accommodate the walker.

## pay (benefit)

pays to go back  
sometimes it ~ and start over (detective / cold cases)

pays to be nice  
it ~ to strangers (got free tickets)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There is a long-standing, widespread belief that attention carries value. In English, attention is something that we 'pay.' In Spanish, it is 'lent.'" ("The Battle For Attention" by Nathan Heller, *The New Yorker*, May 6, 2024.)

## pay (pay a price)

pay the price  
when it comes to high heels, the feet ~  
the Democrats will ~ in 2020 (for impeaching Trump)  
you have released the whirlwind and you will ~ (politics)

pay a price  
you want the fame but, baby, you ~ (Frank Sinatra)

pay the price (of the war) with their arms and legs  
they ~ (injured civilians)

pays the price in fear, suffering and death  
society ~ (anti-vaccination fears and causes)

pay a price for his activism  
Lenny Pozner would ~ (Sandy Hook shooting Dad)

paid a price for his beliefs  
Yusuf Islam has ~... (controversy, etc.)

pays a price for her (burning) righteousness  
she ~ (a play)

pay a (high) price for killing  
the U.S. will ~ a senior leader (Hezbollah)

pay a (political) price  
these corrupt social media companies must ~ (Trump)

paid a (heavy) price  
he was overconfident throughout and ~ (a goalkeeper)

pay a (huge) price  
celebrities ~ for their fame

paid the (ultimate) price  
she ~ (drug death)

pay the (ultimate) price  
you have to be willing to ~ (surfing)

paid a very high price  
we ~ (military commander, about casualties)

♦ "It is what it was and it's my mistake and I paid for it." (The celebrity Jeremy Renner about his horrible snowplow accident.)

♦ "He will pick up the tab for his uprising." (Yevgeny Prigozhin.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ No sin without a price.

♦ see also *price* (noun)

## pay (obligation)

paid me a complement  
he ~

paying tribute to our (nursing) colleagues  
~—past, present and future

paid little mind to the outside world  
they ~ (rural isolation)

paid with his life  
he ~ for the people's freedom (terrorist)

pay for their actions  
they must ~ (teen killers)

paid his debt  
he has ~ many times over (44 years in prison)

pays (little) heed  
the program ~ to issues of gender and sexuality

paid (close) notice  
France's minority communities ~ when...

pay the (ultimate) penalty  
they want those guilty to ~ (death)

pay my respects  
I was determined to ~ to Ronald Reagan (on his death)

paid his respects  
the president personally ~ to Sheehan

pay his respects  
he went to the cemetery to ~ (to a victim of terrorism)

pay its respects  
the base was opened for the public to ~ (military deaths)

paid their respects  
people ~ to the 12 men who died (coal miners)

paid tribute  
he ~ to the men and women in the armed services

paid a (surprise) visit  
he ~ and was shocked by what he saw (illegal logging)

paid an (unannounced) visit  
Rumsfeld ~ to Iraq (government official)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "There are bills that I can't pay." (Listen to: Toby Keith—  
American Soldier (Radio Edit))

## pay (revenge)

pay  
I'm going to make you ~ (a threat)  
you will ~ for what you did  
whoever did this needs to ~ (murder)

made them pay  
he took on those monsters and he ~ (Alvaro Uribe)

## pay (pay one's dues)

paid my dues  
I've ~ (actor Michelle Yeoh)

## payback

payback for his reporting  
was his murder a crime or a political ~ (journalist)

payback time  
it's ~

political payback  
was his murder a crime or a ~ for his reporting

retribution and payback  
he wants ~

♦ "Will never forget the wild celebrations from the Welsh when England lost to Iceland in 2016. Well, 8 years later it's payback and I'm loving it!" (An online commenter.)

## pay dirt

pay dirt  
he finally hit ~ (in the 1930 census / genealogy)

movie pay dirt  
the company turns graphic novels into ~

hit pay dirt  
he finally ~ (a researcher)  
on the fourth day, he seemed to ~ (experiment)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Strike it rich; pay dirt; pan out; tenderfoot..." ("Expressions that the California gold rush gave us," according to Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From his book *Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories*. Chapter 1, "The Story Begins.")

## pay off (verb)

pay off  
what you are doing will ~ (studying / school)

paying off  
the training is ~ (military / counter-IED measures)  
China's strategy is ~ (G-20 negotiations)

pays off  
it's a nifty gamble that ~ (Kristen Stewart plays Lady Di)

gamble paid off  
the ~

lessons paid off  
the piano ~ (plays well)

work had paid off  
all our hard ~ (a scientist)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Honesty is its own reward. The same for hard work, helping others, and doing the right thing.

## payoff

payoff for a job well done  
it was an incredible ~ (successful medevac)

## paywall (obstacle)

paywall-free

access *The Guardian's* ~ journalism (not really)

take-us-for-granted paywalls

a lot of baseball has disappeared behind ~

digital paywalls

the *New York Times* struck gold with its ~

behind (take-us-for-granted) paywalls

a lot of baseball has disappeared ~

paywalls corral readers

~ like cattle into the subscriber pen

bemoan the paywall

advocates of open access ~ (academic articles)

moved all of its sport analysts behind its paywall

ESPN+ ~

runs into a lot of paywalls

the road to information ~

sits behind a paywall

the *Stockton Record* ~ (a newspaper)

trapped behind pay walls

most academic papers are ~

♦ "You can't do much web grazing of quality content these days without a paywall clanging shut on you." ("Opinion: More Money and Fewer Readers: The Paradox of Subscriber Journalism" by Jack Shafer, *Politico*, 08/21/2021.)

♦ "Democracy Dies in Darkness." (The motto for *The Washington Post*. Wouldn't it be more truthful to say, "Democracy Dies Behind a Paywall"? It is hard to understand why Jeff Bezos would provide rides to the edge of space for those who can afford it but not subsidize great journalism to those who can't afford the subscription.)

♦ "NEW YORK POST we need your help! This site is supported by our trusted ad partners. Please consider disabling your adblocker to help support The New York Post and our valuable content. Thank you! ALLOW ADS ON NEW YORK POST. (A zombie popup that prevents reading. *The Guardian* also has such a popup.)

## peach (noun)

peach of a shot

it was a cracking punch, a ~ (Dubois knocks out Dinu)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ According to Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., this word was originally *Persicum malum*, or Persian apple, in Latin, and became *peche* in French. It's a bice way to think of the word.

## peak (numbers / verb)

peaked

his career has ~ and he's on his way down

the coronavirus surge has ~, researchers say

the pandemic has ~

the epidemic has ~ and started to subside (Zika)

peaked in 1979

Union membership ~

peaked in May

since lumber prices ~, however, demand...

peaked at 102 degrees Fahrenheit

my fever ~

rose and peaked and (then) fell

levels ~ again

## peak (careers, etc. / verb)

peaked

meanwhile, the swing era had ~

peaked in the '70s

his songwriting career ~

## peak (at the peak)

at the peak of his career

he disappeared seemingly ~ (an artist)

at the peak of his popularity

he was ~ (a leader)

at the peak of his powers

he is ~ (a rugby player)

## peak (peaks and troughs, etc.)

peaks and troughs

the regional patterns of ~ could change (rising sea levels)

peaks and valleys

it's a long season, you're going to have ~

there are more emotional ~ in the film (than in the book)

♦ "We probably have crested a peak, this seems to be the analogy of the day, a mountaineering analogy, but the reality is, we've only just begun the descent, and we're still at a very very high altitude, and we know that that descent is going to take us months." (Chris Hobson from NHS Providers, speaking about the COVID-19 pandemic.)

## peak (peak temperature, etc.)

peak winds

with ~ of... (a tornado)

peak (consumption) month

~ (oil)

peak temperatures

we can expect higher ~ (warming)

## peak (peak experience, etc.)

peak experience

it was like a ~ to be at Brown (Brown University)

peak hype

~ didn't last long (crypto, NFTs, etc.)

peak moment

the film's ~ of misogyny occurs when...

## peak (peak Netflix, sexy, etc.)

peak Michael Bay

*Ambulance* is ~ (the film)

peak white woman behavior

it's ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

peak Eurovision

it's ~, the songs go big, they go hard (peak Glen Weldon)

#### peak madness

America's educational rot has reached ~ (UPenn's Magill)

#### peak Method

he thinks ~ came in the late sixties (acting)

#### peak Netflix

have we reached ~ (subscriptions go down)

#### peak phosphorus

the world will reach "~" in a few years (less extracted)

#### peak Ronaldo

he still thinks he is ~ in his head (soccer snark)

#### peak sexy

~ (a *section* in the online *New York Post*)

#### peak dollar stores

we are nowhere near ~ (they are proliferating)

#### peak stupidity

it's ~ (theory about Tay Tay, Travis Kelce, 2024 election)

#### peak Superhero

have we reached ~ (Marvel fatigue)

#### Peak TV

*Justified* was an undersung masterpiece of the ~

#### peak TV

it's the age of ~

#### peak woke

have we reached ~ yet (2024 / no, it will continue)

#### peak (campus) wokeness

we're past ~, the tide has turned and is receding... (2023)

♦ "Elizabeth Holmes Asking Trial Judge To Be Lenient Is Peak White Woman Behavior" by Candace McDuffie, *The Root*, Sat. Nov 12, 2022. On Yahoo.)

♦ "Indeed, 'peak woke' could simply give way to 'plateau woke,' to campuses filled with intimidated students and quiescent faculty." ("Rollback on Campus" by Frederick M. Hess, *National Review*, December 19, 2022.)

♦ "Some researchers say that 'peak phosphorus,' the point at which the amount of phosphorus being pulled from the ground starts to decline, could be reached within the next decade. Others maintain that the time frame is more like centuries." ("Elemental Need: Phosphorus helped save our way of life—and now threatens to end it" by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Merriam-Webster online definition for this usage is excellent.

♦ see also *full* (full Sarah Brightman, etc.)

### pear (pear-shaped / failure)

#### go pear-shaped

how everything could ~ (2008 movie *Apocalypse How*)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Things can go sideways, south, belly-up, tits-up, or pear-shaped. Take your pick!

### pearl (Pearl of the Orient, etc.)

#### Pearl on the Pecos

Carlsbad, New Mexico, the "~"

#### "Pearl of the Adriatic"

the ~, on the Dalmatian Coast (Dubrovnik)

#### pearl of the Aegean

Naxos has always been the ~

#### Pearl of Africa

Mogadishu, the ~, is in ruins (Somalia)

#### "Pearl of the Antilles"

the city was considered the ~ (Havana, Cuba)

#### Pearl of Asia

when Phnom Penh was known as the ~

#### Pearl of the Orient

Manila, the ~ (Philippines)

the city that came to be known as the ~ (Saigon)

#### pearl of Ukraine

the complex has been called the "~" (Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra)

#### Black Pearl

the Town of Atlantic Beach is known as the "~" (SC)

♦ "The complex has been called the 'pearl of Ukraine' and the 'Vatican' of Ukrainian Orthodoxy. (The Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra complex in Kiev. It is a UNESCO world heritage site.)

♦ "The Indian rivers are pearls, the mountains rubies, and trees perfumes." (Hazrat Oman, a trader.)

♦ "Knowledge is presented as a necklace of 25 precious pearls." (See the Wikipedia article "Al- 'Iqd al-Farid'.)

♦ "It was an absolute pearl of a script, it was crystal clear, it was hilarious, and deeply touching...it was a true gift to be presented with a script like this." (Alma Poysti about the 2023 Finnish film *Fallen Leaves*.)

### pearl (string of pearls)

#### string of pearls

when the 21 pieces of the "~" comet hit Jupiter

### pearl (clutch one's pearls, etc.)

#### pearl-clutching media

whenever the ~ called him racist, he laughed it off

#### pearl-clutching faux-outrage

please, spare us the ~ (politics)

#### clutch their pearls

her language made some ~ (a lawmaker)

#### clutching their pearls over his behavior

they are ~

♦ "Some of Trump's defenders argue he's not really serious, and he's just trying to get people clutching their pearls."

♦ NPR's David Folkenflik: "And [Abby Grossberg] said that [Tucker Carlson] used a vulgar epithet—like, the most, I think, vile epithet you can use for a woman—in describing one of Trump's key allies, Sidney Powell. And let me say, although it was a shocking term, I wasn't totally surprised by that. I had heard him use this term getting off a van at the Republican National Convention in 2016. I said to Carlson, Tucker, what are you doing? And he said, what? She is. It was about

someone else. I was pretty appalled in the moment." ("Tucker Carlson ousted at Fox News following network's \$787 million settlement," NPR, All Things Considered, updated April 24, 2023. Folkenflik was talking with Ailsa Chang. The quote comes from the audio but does not appear in the text.)

♦ "In her suit, Grossberg said she felt pressured to lie to defend Carlson when Dominion's attorneys asked whether she was surprised that he had referred to one of Trump's female allies by a particularly vile and derogatory sexist term." ("Fox pays \$12 million to resolve suit alleging bias at Tucker Carlson's show," NPR, All Things Considered, Update June 30, 2023. Folkenflik was talking with Ari Shapiro. The quote appears in the text but was not said in the audio.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Please, spare us the pearl-clutching faux-outrage." (Politics.)

♦ "Perhaps experience ought to tell us that it is ridiculous to clutch our pearls every time a person of immense political power or financial means acts in his own selfish interest. Bezos is hardly alone..." (David Remnick, squawking from his perch as editor of *The New Yorker*.)

♦ see also *word* (P-word, etc.)

## Pearl Harbor (Australia's Pearl Harbor, etc.)

### Pearl Harbor moment

it was sort of a ~ for America (Fort Sumpter attack)

### Australia's Pearl Harbor

the Japanese attack on Darwin is known as ~ (1942)

### digital Pearl Harbor

the effect of the WikiLeaks Disclosure was a '~'  
(Schulte)

♦ "Gaza could Have Been Singapore. Hamas Turned It Into ISIS / Opinion" by Bassem Eid, Palestinian Human Rights Activist, *Newsweek*, October 9, 2023.

♦ "Like December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, and September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, October 7<sup>th</sup> is a day that will forever live in infamy." (Netanyahu addresses the U.S. Congress in 2024. The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* "Yesterday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, a date which will live in infamy..."

♦ "It had seemed impossible that Japan would court destruction by war with Britain and the United States, and probably Russia in the end. A declaration of war by Japan could not be reconciled with reason. I felt sure she would be ruined for a generation by such a plunge, and this proved true. But Governments and peoples do not always take rational decisions. Sometimes they take mad decisions, or one set of people get control who compel all others to obey and aid them in folly. I have not hesitated to record repeatedly my disbelief that Japan would go mad. However sincerely we try to put ourselves in another person's position, we cannot allow for processes of the human mind and imagination to which reason offers no key. / Madness is however an affliction which in war carries with it the advantage of *surprise*." (*The Grand Alliance* by Winston S. Churchill, "Book Two, War Come To America, Japan.")

♦ see also *nine eleven* (Australia's 9/11, etc.)

## pecking order

### pecking order

there is a ~ based on the players he trusts (soccer starts)

### pecking order among the girls

the ~ was clear (sisters in a family)

### corporate pecking order

we still have ~s and rigid job categories (lack of change)

### above him in the pecking order

the fit-again Erik Lamela is ~ (soccer)

### at the bottom of the pecking order

we were ~ (biker club)

### fell (even further) down the pecking order

he ~ at Man U (the great Kasper Schmeichel)

## pedal (pedal to the metal)

### pedal to the metal

our default in the ER is ~ (a doctor)

### press the pedal to the metal

they dropped their work on dengue to ~ on Zika

### keep his pedal to the metal

he vowed to ~ in challenging the president (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When it comes to actually pressing the pedal to the metal, one thinks of the *Fast & Furious* franchise."

♦ see also *accelerator* (speed), *brake* (control), *gas* (step on the gas / step off the gas)

## peddle (verb)

### peddling AJ as a GOAT

the BBC has been ~ for years as part of their agenda

### peddle positivity for likes, clicks and profit

online "wellness" influencers who ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Sorry, but I ain't buying what you're selling..."

## pedestal (on a pedestal, etc.)

### highbrow pedestal

we're watching a genre step off its ~ (documentaries)

### climbed down from his pedestal

Canby finally ~, maintaining that... (the critic / a review)

### deserve the pedestal

it turned out he didn't ~ (historical figure cancelled)

### put him on a pedestal

they ~ (George Washington)

people who ~ since he took charge

### put on a pedestal

he has been put ~ by some and vilified by others  
(politics)

### put on a (high) pedestal

they are ~ (priests in immigrant community)

♦ "I placed myself on a high pedestal, I refused to lower myself and sleep around..." (An immigrant girl in England. See the quote below this one for a different reaction.)

♦ "As a Brown Muslim immigrant...she felt forced to perform her sexuality or be reduced to the usual stereotypes associated with her cultural identity." ('Against White Feminism' Is An Urgent Call To Action For Solidarity And Justice' by Jenny Bhatt. This sounds very much like stereotype threat. Presumably, it meant she slept around.)

♦ "The England team are a great young team but the press and commentators turn people against them just like they do with every sport person. Put them on pedestals then same people knock them down just as quick." (A commenter about the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.)

## pedestaled

pedestaled notions

the pressure to conform to ~ of female beauty...

## pedigree (noun)

mountaineering pedigree

they have the ~ needed to consider the task (climb K2)

decent pedigree

he never fought anyone with a ~ (boxing talk)

showed his pedigree

he ~ in the ring tonight (Usyk defeats Joshua)

showed their (post-season) pedigree

the Chiefs ~ to get past the bills (NFL)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "PEDIGREE: *foot of a crane*. *Pedigree* seems to have been our way of pronouncing the French phrase *pied de grue* which means 'the foot of a crane.' In those very old documents that recorded a family tree, the three-line graph of lineal descent looked for all the world like the imprints of a crane's foot and suggested the picturesque name. The Latin ancestors of the word pedigree are *pes*, 'foot,' *de*, 'of,' and *grus*, 'crane.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., Chapter 4, "Where Words About Human Beings Come From." It's a nice way to think of the word.)

## peek (verb)

peeked through the clouds

the sun ~

peek out from behind morning clouds

the sun is just starting to ~

## peel (peel back the layers, etc.)

peeled back the layers

as investigators ~, they found more...

peels back yet another layer

a revealing new interview ~... (a politician)

peel back the world

he writes with eager curiosity to ~ of...

♦ "My name is Mark Remillard, and I'm a reporter with ABC News. And I've been working with a team within ABC's investigative unit to peel back the curtain on how..." (Ordinarily, you pull back, raise or lift a curtain.)

♦ "You know what, we need to dig in a little bit deeper, so this year we decided to go underneath the covers and peel back some of the layers." (Megan Bigelow, about a survey of Portland, Oregon women in technology. Peel back the sheets?)

## Pele (Pele of Saudi Arabia, etc.)

Pele of Saudi Arabia

Majid Abdullah, the ~ (soccer)

Pele of Brazilian literature

he is the ~ (Paulo Coelho, according to Arnaldo Niskier)

Russian Pele

he earned the nickname, "the ~" (Eduard Streltsov / soccer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The Michaelis dictionary, one of Brazil's most popular, added 'Pele' to its online edition Wednesday, defining it as an adjective that can be used to describe 'someone who is out of the ordinary, who or who by virtue of their quality, value or superiority cannot be equaled to anything or anyone.'" ("Pele' now officially means 'exceptional,' a Brazilian dictionary declares" by Emily Olson, NPR, World, April 27, 2023.)

## pen (constraint)

subscriber pen

paywalls corral readers like cattle into the ~

## penalty box (noun)

put him in the penalty box with Elizabeth

his prank ~ (workplace)

## pendulum (reversal)

pendulum is swinging back

now the ~ (from spending to austerity)

pendulum swings back and forth

the ~ all the time (educational pedagogy)

pendulum has swung too far

some think the ~ and they want to push it back

pendulum will swing back

the ~ (politics)

pendulum is starting to swing that way

the ~, and it's encouraging...

♦ "The pendulum is reversing now, hopefully it settles in the middle like it used to be." (Free expression at universities.)

## penned (penned into, etc.)

penned into the coastal plain

the British colonists were essentially ~

## pent-up (constrained)

pent-up anger

there's a lot of ~

pent-up energy

all that ~ came bursting out (a filmmaker)

pent-up (civic) forces

the dictator's ouster unleashed a whirlwind of ~

pent-up frustration

~s have flared into violence (Nigeria)

left it all pent up

it's as though the stuttering ~ (talkative person)

## penumbra (noun)

penumbra of privacy rights

the shadowy ~ (the Supreme Court)

my brother's penumbra

I lived in ~ my whole life

lies in the penumbra

this case ~, between clear right doing and wrong



## people (little people, etc.)

little people  
what utter contempt they have for us “~” (a school board)

hurt the little people  
she doesn’t care about how she might ~ (a celebrity trial)

## pepper (verb)

peppers the body with his combinations  
Derek Chisora ~ (boxing / vs. Joseph Parker)

pepper it with gunfire  
with the convoy pinned down, the unit would ~ and retreat

peppered Gascon with questions  
reporters ~ about...

peppered him with questions  
she ~

pepper his correspondence  
references to his impending doom ~ (Nietzsche)

## peppered

peppered with F-bombs  
the song was ~ / GAYLE-“abcdefu” Official Music Video

peppered with insights  
her book is ~ (a blurb)

getting peppered  
he is ~ (boxing match)

## pepper in (attach)

peppered that in  
we’ve talked about a bunch of policies, we’ve ~

## percent (one hundred and ten percent)

gave it one hundred and ten percent  
I ~ (investigation of child abduction)

## perch (verb)

perch on the edge  
people ~ of an unstable cliff (near Seven Sisters)

## perch (noun)

new prime-time perch  
her ~ on MSNBC (Alex Wagner)

## perch (knock something off its perch)

knock Facebook off its perch  
only the government can ~

“knock Glasgow off their perch”  
Edinburgh want to ~ (rugby)

dislodged Republicans from their congressional perch  
the group ~ (politics)

## perched

perched in the rugged hills  
their house is ~

perched on a rock  
the local prison is ~ with fabulous views (Monaco)

perched on a (Danish) sand dune  
for 120 years, it was ~ (Rubjerg lighthouse moved)

## percolate (verb)

percolating  
the debate is ~ in various forms (controversy)

percolating (for years) around the blogosphere  
the argument has been ~

percolated throughout the U.S. Army  
the idea of permanent divisions ~ prior to 1917

## perdition (noun)

perdition of survivor’s guilt  
the ~ (9/11)

### *Road to Perdition*

film critic Kenneth Turan reviews ~ (with Tom Hanks)

road to perdition  
“petting parties” were neon signposts on the ~ (1920s)

slide to perdition  
give socialism a foothold, and nothing can arrest the ~

lead the Republican Party to perdition  
mean-spiritedness and nonsense will ~ (politics)

## perform (perform values, etc.)

performing who they are  
two men who are ~ (Bob Mondello review of *Femme*)

performing my friendship  
I’ve never felt I was ~ with Matt, except for that period

perform girlfriend  
I did not feel any pressure from Malcom to ~, but...

perform her interest  
she felt a step behind in knowing how to ~ in the classroom

perform our own lives  
social media forces us to ~

performed different masculinities  
he ~ growing up (iLoveMakonnen)

perform respectability  
people of color must wear the right “uniform” to ~

perform her sexuality  
she felt forced to ~ (Brown Muslim immigrant)

perform these values  
they chose to ~ (a criticism)

perform whiteness

a white space that expects her to ~ (high school)

perform an image or identity

celebrities may often ~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "So I dress in drag as a man to go to work, I perform that. And then, off hours, I'm Tessa." (Miss Golden State Gay Rodeo, Tessa Trujillo.)

♦ "This need to constantly perform respectability for white people is a psychological drain, leaving Black people spent and demoralized." ("Black Success, White Backlash" by Elijah Anderson, *The Atlantic*, September 2023.)

♦ "As a Brown Muslim immigrant...she felt forced to perform her sexuality or be reduced to the usual stereotypes associated with her cultural identity." ('Against White Feminism' Is An Urgent Call To Action For Solidarity And Justice' by Jenny Bhatt. This sounds very much like stereotype threat. Presumably, it meant she slept around.)

♦ "I did not feel any pressure from Malcolm to perform girlfriend, but I think just moving through the world as a girlfriend, it just comes with a history of, you know, I'm playing a role, and this is—this role has a set of expectations attached to it." (Haili Blassingame. From "There's pressure to be partnered. Here's how to enjoy single life" with Meghan Keane, NPR's LIFE KIT, January 10, 2022.)

♦ "[Ashley] Kim concurred. 'When I first joined the English department, I felt seen, but I also felt, Maybe I don't belong,' she said. She'd gone to a magnet public school in New Jersey and felt a step behind the sanguine private-school kids in knowing how to perform her interest in the classroom." (Harvard. From "The End Of The English Major" by Nathan Heller, *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023. The conventional verb collocations would be "show" or "display" interest.)

♦ "It was a short visit to the hotel, but I imagined it was something Athena would treat visitors to back when people still visited Homs from outside. It felt like a performance of normality, even as it was slipping away, and giving way to a new one... / "Finally, a priest living his faith rather than just performing its rituals." / "The psychodrama hadn't been fun; in fact, it had been deeply disturbing. But there was something refreshing in how truthful it felt. Unlike many of my interactions and observed interactions with strangers in Damascus so far, this hadn't felt like a performance—even as it was role-playing." / "He was never comfortable being a guest in someone else's home. I think it required too much intimacy and the sort of niceties he wasn't particularly good at performing. Which is why, despite his long-held belief that he could have been successful in Syria, I was less sure. Performances—like joining the Ba'ath Party even if you didn't believe in it—struck me as necessary." (*The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria* by Alia Malek.)

♦ "Both were given holding deals with NBC, meaning that they couldn't take other TV offers. 'That was a really hard year for us personally,' Rogers told me. They stopped speaking for months—except when recording 'Las Culturistas.' Yang said, 'I've never felt I was performing my friendship with Matt, except for that period.'" ("Sorry I'm Not Your Clown Today" by Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*, September 23, 2024. His profile is of the comedian Bowen Yang.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Knausgard's creation...reduces the entire world to the size of the author. This is happening everywhere now—as the writer himself, with characteristic insight, recognizes in a long passage about the ways in which the Internet and social media, by forcing us endlessly to perform our own lives, threaten to trivialize the very notion of selfhood... What work more than his deserves to become the great new classic of the age of the blog?" ("Knausgard" by Daniel Mendelsohn, *The New York Times Book Review*, September 24, 2018.)

♦ "I don't want to hear one more peep out of them about diversity, equity, and inclusion. I don't wanna see any more of our C-suite execs recommend books for women's history month. There were tangible actions they could've taken and they chose to perform these values. No thank you." (An underpaid employee with an Asian name who was repeatedly turned down for a raise. She finally applied for her job as a new hire at a higher salary, and her posts went viral.)

\*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "She performed the role of Ophelia in Hamlet."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Performance studies." The idea that we "perform" identities and roles comes from causes like feminism and gay rights, academic fields like gender and women's studies, and is entrenched at certain universities. It is a pernicious notion.

♦ If you don't enjoy "performing" your sexuality or your race or your life, why don't you just stop doing it?

♦ "Oh, stop acting!"

♦ Traditional American advice: Just be yourself.

## performance (groups)

performance of approachability

young voters want a ~ (in who they vote for)

performance of both

issues of gender, race and the ~ (women's studies)

performance of class

the novel is about class, or the ~ (The Secret History)

performance of cockiness

the ~ ("Hip-Hop's Un-Shakable Life Force" / NYT mag)

performance of contrition

were they a ~ for the rest of the world

performance of (everyday) life

the ~, everything is a narrative, a script...

performance of love

the ~...

performance of masculinity

male artists whose ~ counters norms (Drake, etc.)

performance of patriotism

as if the ~ frees one from responsibility...

performance of his role

the ~ as Top French Thinker (Voltaire)

performance of a political view

many viewed wearing a mask as the ~

performance studies

Tavia Nyong'o, professor of ~ at NYU

performance, the role

this would be a ~ of her lifetime (Heard-Depp trial)

social performance

conviction, or ~ (vs. grounded in actual experience)

sexuality and gender performance

self-expression free from expectations around ~ (queers)

politics of performance

the ~ can be rewarding, at least in the short run...

feels like a performance

when it ~ (dating)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "For me, queer joy looks like a celebration of uninhibited self-expression free from expectations around sexuality and gender performance." (Steven Goings, who identifies as they / he. They (or he) are / is a diversity trainer at California State University—Monterey Bay.)

♦ “Big Freedia, queen of the New Orleans ‘sissy bounce’ scene, released her first EP and is bringing her ‘go homo’ anthems nationwide on a successful tour.” (Tavia Nyong’o, professor of performance studies at NYU and blogger at *Hear is Queer*.)

♦ “Eyebrows might arch at any art form as reliant upon the performance of cockiness. But when vertiginous pride emanates from Black egos, eyes tend to burn in their sockets.” (“Hip-Hop’s Un-Shakable Life Force” by Wesley Morris, *The New Yorker Magazine*, August 13, 2023.)

♦ “I wondered, as I toured the monument (the Memorial To the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin), how much of the motivation to create memorials to the Holocaust reflected a desire for Germany to—internally—reckon with its heinous state-sanctioned crimes, and how much of it stemmed from a hope that putting memorials up would demonstrate to the rest of the world that Germany had accounted for its past? Put more directly were monuments like this one for Germans to collectively remember what had been done? Were they a performance of contrition for the rest of the world? Were they both?” (“Monuments to the Unthinkable: America still can’t figure out how to memorialize the sins of our history. What can we learn from Germany?” by Clint Smith, *The Atlantic*, December, 2022.)

♦ “Recall how many Americans, in the grim depths of the pandemic, refused to understand the wearing of masks as anything but ‘virtue signaling’—the performance of a political view, rather than a genuine public-health measure.” (We’re Already In The Metaverse: Reality is blurred. Boredom is intolerable. And everything is entertainment” by Megan Garber, *The Atlantic*, March, 2023.)

♦ “The story delves deep into what Bret sees as the performance of everyday life; the way everything is a narrative, a ‘pantomime,’ a ‘script.’” (“Bret Easton Ellis’ first novel in more than a decade, ‘The Shards,’ is worth the wait” by Gabino Iglesias, NPR, Review, Books, January 19, 2023.)

♦ “We told you that this would be a performance, the role of her lifetime as a heroic survivor of brutal abuse.” (Camille Vasquez, in her closing arguments in the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

♦ “When you’re on set it seems obvious that pornography is a performance, just like a TV show or a choreographed dance. But most people haven’t been on a porn set, and so the idea that it is a performance is not that obvious.” (“Porn Is Easy To See But Hard To Talk About, Shaping The Ways People Think About Sex” by Kat Lonsdorf, NPR, All Things Considered, May 1, 2019.)

♦ “At fifty-nine, Harris is only four years younger than Barack Obama, but she has arrived at a time when voters, especially young ones, are less patient with the sheen of politics, with figures who seem just out of reach. Instead, they want a performance of approachability—what the sociologist Julia Sonnevend, in her recent book, ‘Charm,’ calls ‘personal magnetism that rests on proximity.’ It’s a method exemplified by Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand’s young Prime Minister, whose Facebook page, Sonnevend writes, ‘presented vulnerability and mistakes as features rather than as bug.’ As Harris reintroduced herself to the public, fans collected indicators of normalcy: clips of her hamming it up with kids in a marching band, cooking videos of her cracking eggs (‘one-handed!’), stories about her supplying jasmine-scented candles as parting gifts to guests at the Vice-President’s residence.” (“The Ascent: Can Kamala Harris defy her doubters—and end the Trump era?” by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024. No.)

♦ “She was unsure how much of his personality was a performance and how much was real.” (A female grad student about a male visiting professor. This type of concern seems endemic to females.)

♦ OLD: showing or displaying the American flag... / NEW: the performance of patriotism...

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “[Asja] Lacis taught [Walter Benjamin] that, no matter how progressive he might claim to be, his political commitment would continue to be regressive as long as his solidarity with the working people was simply a matter of conviction—or of social performance—and not grounded in his actual experience.” (Benjamin killed himself in 1940. Lacis spent 10 years in a Soviet Gulag, returned to Latvia to work in the theater, and died in obscurity in 1979. From “Fellow-Travellers: The surprisingly sunny origins of the Frankfurt School” by Thomas Meaney, *The New Yorker*, December 2, 2024.)

♦ “*Love Island* makes us believe the performance of love leads to the real deal.”

♦ Gen Z is the least patriotic generation. So it is no wonder that some will denigrate the flying of the U.S. as merely, “the performance of patriotism.” And Gen Z includes the highest percentage of people who describe themselves as “gender fluid.” So it is no surprise that some denigrate traditional male character as merely the “performance” of masculinity, etc. Some Gen Zers have even taken courses in “performance studies” at major universities.

♦ “My daddy served in the Army where he lost his right eye / But he flew a flag out in our yard ‘til the day that he died...” “Toby Keith Courtesy Of The Red, White And Blue (The Angry American) (Official Music Video)

♦ The performance of Blackness, queerness, victimhood, etc. (Strategic use of AAVE, drag queens, claims of trauma, etc.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Beggars *perform piteousness* and intellectuals *erudition*, much for the same reasons and to the same effect.

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Performance studies.” The idea that we “perform” identities and roles comes from causes like feminism and gay rights, academic fields like gender and women’s studies, and is entrenched at certain universities. It is a pernicious notion.

## performative (groups)

### performative

how to send an anti-racist message without appearing ~ some question its value, is it ~ (critical race theory)

### performative act

consuming culture has always been a ~ (litcore fashion)

### performative activism

she disparaged their protest as ~ and called for accountability

### performative allyship

see *performative allyship*

### performative-anger

he is calm in a sea of ~ posers (election candidate)

### performative art

politics has become ~

### performative demands

having to bear up under endless ~ (Jia Tolentino)

### performative events

we are focused on outcome, not the process, or the ~

### performative friendliness

our persistent ~ (Courtney E. Martin)

### performative (long) hours

why are we still stuck with ~ (at a workplace)

### performative hydration

critics are calling it “~” (the Stanley Quencher cup craze)

### performative nature

it had a ~ to it (politician appears with wife)  
the institution’s ~ (Congress / act crazy for cameras)  
given the ~ of a lot of Congressional hearings...

### performative obnoxiousness

the ~ that now pervades Republican messaging (politics)

### performative outrage

in this age of ~... (the Oscars and all their controversies)

### performative patriarchy

that's ~ (family honor must be kept at all costs)

performative and calculating  
he was so full-on, I thought, "what's up?" it was so ~

performative and contrived  
life feels so ~ now (doing things for social media)

performative and empty  
but some Black activists found Blackout Tuesday ~

performative and real  
his all-night presence was both ~ (Elon Musk at Canaveral)

performative, less than relevant  
the advertisement stands out in a sea of ~ nods to diversity

completely performative  
this is ~, do more than just posting meaningless words

merely performative  
Patriot Front's marches, even if they appear ~...

socially performative  
the act of cancellation is still mostly conceptual or ~

conceptual or (socially) performative  
the act of cancellation is still mostly ~

fake / performative  
some mocked her undoubtedly ~ accent (Bhad Bhabie)

permanent and performative  
he said posting on Twitter can feel "~" (can be intimidating)

routine and performative  
these statements can be ~ ("land acknowledgment")

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ "No matter where you are in your journey, I see you, we see you, and we celebrate you—Happy Pride!" (Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary.)
- ♦ "This is a day that Minnesota says, 'Bring your authentic self. You'll be seen, heard, valued and loved in this state, and we want you to be whoever you are.' We see you, we hear you, and we will make sure you are in a safe place to be who you are." (Gov. Tim Walz. Kamala Harris selected him to be her vice-presidential running mate.)
- ♦ "There's a new breed of explorer... We down here ya' all." (Will Smith in the official trailer for "Welcome To Earth" by National Geographic, on Disney Plus.)
- ♦ "The film portrayed Hawaiian culture with 'authenticity.'" (The Disney Film *Lilo & Stitch* with Tia Carrere, according to ABC News. Disney is the parent company of ABC News and "Good Morning America." Related Topics: Disney.)
- ♦ "I'd like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the lands on which we meet. Here in Canberra that is the [unintelligible] people, and we acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and region." (A female academic.)
- ♦ Caroline Dromaquet, Director General: "The Canadian War Museum is Canada's national museum of military history. It is one of the world's most respected museums for the study and understanding of armed conflict. The Museum is located in Ottawa, Ontario. I would like to acknowledge that the land on which the museum is located is on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. The Canadian War Museum emphasizes the human experience of war throughout its galleries..." (Canadian War Museum Virtual Tour, YouTube.)

♦ "Can you hear me? There we go, I hear myself now. Well, welcome everyone, I'm so pleased you could join us this evening. I'm Maria Gallow, chancellor here at UW-River Falls. I'm going to begin with reading our land acknowledgment..." (She reads it.)

♦ "What resonates is that the female orgasm somehow has to be performative. Because the female orgasm is there to convince the man that he's managed it, he's achieved it, he's done the thing he's supposed to do for the woman." ("Emma Thompson on her new film—and the idea the female orgasm has to be performative," NPR, All Things Considered, June 17, 2022.)

♦ "The pandemic changed nearly everything about work. Why are we still stuck with performative long hours?" ("When so much at work has changed, why can't we shake presenteeism?" by Josie Cox, BBC, 24 July 2023. In the article, presenteeism is defined as "a compulsion, often performative, to work long hours and be available around the clock even when unwell or unproductive.")

♦ "The land acknowledgment gets you to that start. Now it's time to think about what that actually means for you or your institution. What are the concrete actions you're gonna take? What are the ways you're gonna assist indigenous people in uplifting and upholding their sovereignty and self-determination?" (Cutcha Risling Baldy, quoted in "So you began your event with an indigenous land acknowledgement. Now what?" by Chloe Veltman, NPR, All Things Considered, March 15, 2023.)

♦ "It felt like a scream, and that was soothing. The 'fuck you' form of rebelliousness—being rude to people, and flipping the bird on the street, and destroying property. I'm not proud of that aspect of it...But it's the vibration underneath—the need to act out in that way. It was performative. We got something from people gawping, scowling, yelling at us." (The actor Gillian Anderson about the punk scene. From "Out There: In midlife, Gillian Anderson is proving that she's not so buttoned-up" by Rebecca Mead, *The New Yorker*, August 5, 2024.)

♦ "Patriot Front's marches and vandalism—even if they appear merely performative—are intended to normalize these ideas, to help mobilize other people, to make them think that there's a groundswell, to inspire violent action. And it's effective." ("The Infiltrators" by David Kirkpatrick, *The New Yorker*, August 26, 2024.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ "But, yeah, the idea of performative activism is a fine line, I mean, you can't just stay silent. But, it's kind of unethical to use those platforms, those voices, as a way to kind of put a spotlight on yourself." (Colin Meloy, lead singer with the Portland band The Decemberists. From "On His New Song, Colin Meloy Gets Lost In 'Slint, Spiderland,'" NPR, Morning Edition with David Greene, Sept. 2, 2020.)
- ♦ "If it becomes routine, or worse yet, is strictly performative, then it has no meaning at all. It goes in one ear and out the other." (Kevin Gover, about indigenous land acknowledgments.)
- ♦ "Indigenous leaders and activists have mixed feelings about land acknowledgments. While some say they are a waste of time, others are working to make the well-meaning but often empty speeches more useful... They've been parodied on TV, in series like *Reservation Dogs*..." ("So you began your event with an indigenous land acknowledgement. Now what?" by Chloe Veltman, NPR, All Things Considered, March 15, 2023.)
- ♦ A plan by four churches on the Cherokee Indian Reservation to apologize to the tribe for a historical failure to recognize traditional Cherokee religion or culture has been greeted with surprise by tribal leaders. / "I don't see what they need to apologize for," said Tribal Council Chairman Bob Blankenship. "But if they feel they've offended us in any way, we'll accept it." / The majority of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' 13,000 members belong to mainstream Christian churches... / As far as I'm concerned, it's a waste of time," said the Rev. Bo Parris of Big Cove Baptist Church. "There's nothing to apologize for." / Patty Grant, a member of the Eastern Band and one of the event organizers, said understanding intergenerational grief and trauma is an important part of what the churches are trying to do by making the apology. She said trauma from centuries of oppression often manifests itself in drug abuse, domestic violence and depression. / Pastor Steven Phillipp...said, "From my perspective as a white male, I see a need for the white church to apologize for the oppression by Christian missionaries of Native American people," he said. "We thought we had to Europeanize them to evangelize. I am not apologizing for the Gospel. But I do apologize for how we

perverted the Gospel in the name of Jesus and oppressed God's people. / Principal Chief Leon Jones, the top elected leader of the Eastern Band, doesn't think an apology is necessary. / "Personally, I think the past is history and I don't hold present-day people responsible," he said. "All we can do is live today's life and do the best we can today." ("Churches to offer apology to Cherokee" by Jon Ostendorff and Quintin Ellison in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 22, 2002 A1.)

♦ "You gotta look mean or white people won't respect you. White people will run all over you if you don't look mean." (Victor schooling Thomas on a bus in the affecting 1998 film *Smoke Signals*, based on the book by the great poet and writer Sherman Alexie. "He went to Reardan, a white high school, where he played on the basketball team and was the only real Indian on the Reardan Indians.")

♦ "The politics are mostly gestural; leftism as fashionable posturing; sanctimony literature; self-promotion and the airing of performatively righteous opinion..." (Criticism of a writer.)

♦ "It's virtue signalling, but it's not really dealing with the problem."

♦ "He couldn't WAIT to pull it out his pocket at the red carpet. This is gross and performative and no matter how well this movie does or doesn't do, him proudly displaying his ownership of a photo of an enslaved man unrelated to him will always be disgusting." / "What a colossally inappropriate thing to do on every level. He shouldn't own it. Shouldn't use the wrong name for it. And definitely should not bring it to show and tell." ("Emancipation" producer slammed for bringing slavery photo to premiere" by Samantha Ibrahim, *New York Post*, December 2, 2022.)

♦ "For a while, I have felt like a pawn in this hollow representation game. Because what the hell does Disney's 'Coco' do for Mexican children? Bob Iger gets richer. That's the climax." ("Extraordinary Alien: The otherworldly comedy of Julio Torres" by Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*, December 28, 2020.)

♦ Acting; (scripted) entertainment; fake; feign; (like playing in a) movie; optics; performance art / politics; photo op; pose; scripted; (for) show; staged; (publicity) stunt; (political) theater... (Commenters about an article entitled, "AOC denies faking being handcuffed." Politics.)

♦ "When you look at the craze of Hollywood, and all these red-carpet events and the statements at the red carpet, which are all performative... It's all performative borderline insanity, in a way. Saccharine, pink sort of vanilla ice-cream emotions. I'm the only one who is sane..." (Werner Herzog talking to Terry Gross in 2023.)

♦ FUNNY snark. "1. Your eight-year old has been watching chainsaw demonstrations on YouTube lately. You wake up one morning to a loud buzzing from the back year, followed by a crash. Do you: (a) Put an extra frozen waffle in the toaster—sounds like she's working up an appetite. (b) Performatively yell at her so that the neighbors can hear, but then, in private, praise her—those landscaping skills will pay for college. (c) Chuckle into your cannabis-infused morning smoothie and turn up the volume on 'The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives.'" ("What's Your Parenting-Failure Style?" by Kira Garcia, *The New Yorker*, "Shouts & Murmurs," November 18, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Linguistically, performative verbs "do something by saying it." Performative verbs for sympathy include *regret*; *support*; *be sorry*; *grieve*; *sympathize*. And there are many other expressions that are considered performative, like "I sentence you to be hanged" and "I order you to...", etc. "You're canceled" can be considered performative.

♦ Wikipedia has no entry for "mean-mugging," but Wiktionary does. It is tagged as "African-American Vernacular, transitive."

♦ Afro-Americans may be more "performative" than other groups which feel less need to "perform" a perceived identity.

♦ "There was a certain level of performative nature that came from it because I didn't want to be there... I found myself dealing with my own internalized homophobia." (Jussie Smollett, who is Black and gay, about an interview he gave. See the Wikipedia article "Jussie Smollett.")

♦ A related term is "virtue signaling."

♦ see also *lip service* (*pay lip service*, etc.)

## performative allyship

### performative allyship

she called out the brand for ~ (Victoria's Secret rebrand)

~, also known as *optical allyship*...

~ professes support and solidarity but in an unhelpful way

~ refers to someone from a nonmarginalized group

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ had to look up "performative allyship" and I still don't get it. crazy. (The online commenter Diogenes.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ If you type in "performative allyship" in Wikipedia, you are redirected to "Performative activism." ("This article possibly contains original research. Relevant discussion may be found on the talk page. Please improve it by verifying the claims made and adding inline citations...")

## performing (performing memory, etc.)

### performing being chummy

but he also sounded as if he was ~

### performing blackness

~ (minstrel shows)

### performing masculinity

after years of ~ while struggling with her sexuality

### performing memory

the huge monuments have always been about ~

### Performing Race

"Show Boat: ~ in an American Musical" (Tod Decker)

### performing sex work

she's a natural exhibitionist who finds joy in ~

♦ "Now Reggie was catching me up on what he'd been doing the past five years, which mostly centered on the past week, when everything had finally come together for him, just like that. He still sounded chummy, but he also sounded as if he was performing being chummy." ("Minimum Payment Due" by Said Sayrafiezadeh, Fiction, *The New Yorker*, November 25, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

## periscope (noun)

### my periscope

from ~ as a state fire marshal, we're now looking at...

## perish (verb)

### publish or perish software

you can use the free ~

### publish-or-perish world

the ~ of academic medicine

## permeate (verb)

### permeates their lives

the sea ~ (Norwegians)



## permission (noun)

gave me permission

Anna Wintour ~ to show up like a boss (MasterClass pod)

gave myself permission

I ~ to be a little more fun (a female)

## person (incarcerated person, etc.)

incarcerated person

New York changes “inmate” to “~”

justice-involved person

a ~ (a felon, an ex-con)

minor-attracted person

a pedophile, a ~ (ChatGPT)

trans person

a ~ (transsexual)

## perspective (from a perspective)

from the perspective of another culture

see Uluru ~ (Australia)

from the perspective of curators

the arrangements were organized ~

from the perspective of lesbians

discussing social events ~ and gay men

from the perspective of students

but ~ and many staff members, nothing changed

from the perspective of African people

history ~ as subjects, not objects...

from a black man's perspective

~, I expect to be able to... (soccer racism)

from the customer's perspective

we're trying to look at it ~

from the employer's perspective

help them see the barrier ~

from the government's perspective

~, he should have been deported years ago

from the passengers' perspective

~, it was a normal day... (D.C. Metro)

from a pilot's perspective

a look at the flight data from a ~ (crash of...)

from the victim's perspective

murder ~

from a native perspective

if you look at history ~ (Cherokee)

from a classroom perspective

it's important to remember ~ that...

from a cost or time perspective

when it's infeasible or impractical ~

from a law-enforcement perspective

things get a little easier ~

from a collecting perspective

~, there is a huge interest in these dolls

from a marketing perspective

~, bankers just don't see the possibilities

from the African perspective

studying ~ (African-American studies)

from a federal perspective

that is possible ~ in this matter

from their perspective

~, the future of arctic wildlands... (Greenpeace, etc.)

from your perspective

and so ~, how do you think about that and...

from an economic perspective

~, the Strait of Malacca is... (importance)

from a historical perspective

people teaching ~

from a psychological perspective

people teaching ~

from a sociological perspective

people teaching ~

from a strategic perspective

~, the Strait of Malacca is... (importance)

consider it from a (larger) perspective

~ that includes... (the town, history, etc.)

look at history from a native perspective

if you ~ (Cherokee)

look at it from their perspective

if you ~...

made it from the Japanese perspective

he ~ (Clint Eastwood / a film)

see the world from a different perspective

people who ~ (autism)

looked at from a long term perspective

however if ~... (exploiting ANWR)

## perspective (in perspective)

difference in perspective

the ~ between Western and Arab views of Hezbollah

kept things in perspective

most importantly, they have ~

keep things in perspective

to ~, these are scary cases but... (stranger abductions)

put the figures in perspective

to ~, each... (water scarcity / Middle East)

put the interview in perspective



~ (jobs)

put it (all) in perspective

what ~ was a woman who came up and said...

put things in (a different) perspective

you sure ~ when you tell us about...

put things in (their proper) perspective

if you ~, it doesn't really matter...

put things in perspective

when we finish grieving and we can ~

put the whole thing in perspective

old people can better able ~ (memories)

kept in perspective

the threat needs to be ~ (Al-Shabab in Somalia)

### **perspective (into perspective)**

puts everything else into perspective

a child's death ~ (on Tour de France)

put it into perspective

I think you have to ~ (string of skydiving fatalities)

put this into perspective

to ~, this is... (comparison of pay-per-view fights)

### **perspective (other)**

perspective

your ~ is welcome (a call-in TV show)

perspective that

the past ~ they were pastoralists has been corrected

perspective of a historian

he brought to the subject the shrewd ~

perspectives of the Civil War

if both black and white ~ are recognized...

perspective on (AIDS) issues

articulate the public health ~

perspective on life

articulating the Saudi ~, religion and Sept. 11

perspective on how

they don't have enough ~ they're being formed (teens)

Parent's Perspective

a ~ (depression in children)

public health perspective

articulate the ~ on (AIDS) issues

marketing perspective

I think in terms of the larger picture, which is a ~

balanced perspective

it is important to have a ~ (safety and study abroad)

limited perspective

I had a ~ (status of windsurfing of US vs. rest of world)

3,000-foot perspective

Carrie, let me get your ~ something, do you think that...

Saudi perspective

articulating the ~ on life, religion and Sept. 11

another perspective

~ came from prostitutes... ("John" School)

cultural perspective

a distinctive ~ that we simply don't have

different perspective

different groups have ~s

they can't see that their partner simply has a ~

~s can produce different outlooks on the war (pilots)

enough perspective

they don't have ~ on how they're being formed (teens)

historical perspective

Biological warfare: A ~ (JAMA article)

invaluable perspective

Glen Mills provided him with ~ (a good school)

multiple perspectives

we didn't consider ~ on this (NPR / the pandemic)

new perspective

it must revitalize itself with new ideas and ~s (college)

fresh, outsider perspective

we're able to provide a ~ on US politics

sense of perspective

he has a thick skin and a ~ (homicide detective)

shortcomings of the perspective

they try to redress the ~ (African-American studies)

objectivity or perspective

~ are not easy to come by in books generated by the war

reflection or perspective

calm ~ are not easy to come by (war books)

sympathy and perspective

~ are not easy to come by in wartime

time, distance, and perspective

I am able to write about it now because of ~

perspectives differ

why their ~ (Boomers vs. Gen Xers)

my perspective might have been skewed

~ (US vs. European attitudes to...)

perspective lends understanding

~ (history of Dubai)

perspective was shared

Cohan's ~ by a number of Asian-Americans

add my perspective

I'd like to ~ to the discussion

adds a (fresh) perspective

the parent's view ~ to their fight (intersexed)

advocate for their particular perspective  
affinity groups ~ within the organization (at NPR)

agreed with my perspective  
not everyone ~

changed my perspective  
it ~ on everything...

consider (Native American) perspectives  
federal officials need to ~ when...

depends on your perspective  
so it probably ~ as to where you are (education reform)

gained some perspective  
he professed to have ~ in the ruins of his career

gives you (a little) perspective  
it ~ (reading about industry trends)

gives you a perspective  
it ~ that everyone is not the same (International camp)

gives you perspective  
the institute ~, you see that other people feel...

introduce (new) perspectives into curriculums  
trying to ~ (schools)

keep some perspective about it  
try to ~ (toddlers who throw food)

provided him with (invaluable) perspective  
Glen Mills ~ (a good school in a bad neighborhood)

promote (the proper ethical) perspectives  
commanders ~ (military)

supplied perspective  
David Morrison of NASA ~ (asteroid danger to earth)

take a (global or an American) perspective  
should it ~ (black studies)

♦ "Position determines perspective. Or, to put it more simply, what you see depends on where you're standing. I'd been standing in the wrong place. I'd been standing too close to William Kent. I had to step back and see Kent from a different angle." (*The General's Daughter* by Nelson DeMille.)

♦ "To envision how an ant might see its world, the Norwegian photographer Tine Poppe places her camera in the dirt of a meadow, lens pointing up." ("Looking Up: Photograph by Tine Poppe," *The Atlantic*, April 2021.)

♦ "We're able to provide a fresh, outsider perspective on US politics—one so often missing from the insular American media bubble." ("If you can, please consider supporting *The Guardian* today. Thank you.")

♦ "The Mekong River is the Dza-chu in Tibet, the Lancang (Lancang Jiang) in China, and the Khong (Mae Nam Khong) in Thailand."

♦ In Russia, World War II is known as the Great Patriotic War. In China, it is known as the Second sino-Japanese War. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.

♦ "I have only been down one coal mine so far but hope to go down some more in Yorkshire. It was for me a pretty devastating experience and it is a fearful thought that the labour of crawling as far as the coal face (about a mile in this case but as much as 3 miles in some mines), which was enough to put my legs out of action for four days, is only the beginning and ending of a miner's day's work, and

his real work comes in between. Have you ever been down a mine? I don't think I shall ever feel quite the same about coal again." (Eric A. Blair in a letter to Richard Rees, 29 February 1936. Sent from Darlington Street / Wigan, Lancs.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. Nasreddin was lying on the bank of a river, relaxing. Across the water, he saw a man. The man shouted, "Hey, how do I get to the other side of the river?" Nasreddin shouted back to him, "You are on the other side of the river!"

♦ A good school assignment: Tell us about an event, or a period of time, that changed your perspective about something, someone, or everything...

\*\*\* Vincent Van Gogh...

♦ "I am going to make a long trip among the mountains to look for points of view."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Where you stand (on an issue) is determined by where you sit."

♦ see also *point of view (other)*, *viewpoint (perspective)*

## pest (person)

pest for the Knicks

Pacers' T.J. McConnell continues to be a ~ (NBA)

sex pest

X is a ~ (a sign with pictures of a rat and cockroach)

a division of the Guardian Angels is on the lookout for ~s

relentless pest

he was a ~ (the stalker / mass murderer Richard Farley)

♦ "On the door you're a pest, in the home you're a guest." (Predatory door-to-door salesmanship.)

\*\*\* mice, mosquitoes, hornets, cockroaches, flies, spiders...

♦ "A Canadian man nearly blew off his own head while trying to kill a mouse with a rifle..."

♦ "A Japanese man burned his house down while trying to kill a mosquito."

♦ "Police arrested a man who tried to torch a hornets' nest, but instead ended up setting fire to two rented motorbikes." (Cambodia.)

♦ "A New York City woman set off 21 bug bombs inside her apartment, causing an explosion that collapsed her five-story building, injuring 14 people."

♦ "A New Jersey man's over-zealous attempt to eradicate a home cockroach infestation ended in an explosion."

♦ "A California man is currently homeless, after attempting to clear spider webs from his backyard using a propane-powered blowtorch."

♦ "A Seattle man used a can of spray paint and a lighter as a makeshift blowtorch to kill a spider and ended up burning down his house."

♦ "The world record for the longest chain of mini dominoes was... thwarted when a fly triggered the dominoes." (A failed attempt at a Guinness World Record.)

♦ "A Texas woman ended up burning down her home in a heated battle with a snake. When the Texarkana resident spotted the serpent in her garden, she doused it with gasoline and set it ablaze. The flaming snake slithered into a nearby brush pile, igniting it and the house in a conflagration..."

♦ "The flies plagued Giufa and stung him. He went to the judge and complained about them. The judge laughed at such a simple young man and said, 'Whenever you see a fly you can strike it.' While the judge was speaking, a fly rested on his face and Giufa dealt it such a blow that he broke the judge's nose."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Don't be a pest!

♦ Don't be such a pest!

♦ You are such a pest!

♦ see also *bug (verb)*

## pester (verb)

pester you for sex  
they constantly ~ (men at a hotel on Cyprus)

pestered me about it  
my brother ~ for years, it was a crazy idea, I told him

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Stop pestering me!

♦ Go pester somebody else!

## pesty (adjective)

pesty presence  
he scored 54 goals by being a ~ for goal keepers (NHL)

pesty (phone) solicitors  
this little device can help ward off ~ (1995)

## pet (vocative)

my pet  
don't worry, ~

## pet (pet cause, etc.)

pet cause  
seeking attention for a ~

pet ideas  
they want their ~ adopted (conservatives)

pet name  
my girlfriend's ~ for it is...

pet phrase  
"We shall see" is one of his ~s

pet project  
a ~ of Navy Secretary Danzig  
earmarks are ~s that lawmakers insert into giant bills

pet theory  
it's hard to let go of a ~  
history can reinforce one's ~s

Fortune's pet  
he was now ~ instead of her stepson (change to good)

teacher's pet  
I was the ~ (school)

## Peter Pan

Peter Pan syndrome  
the ~, these men never grow up (NYC men)

♦ see also *never-never land*

## petri dish

petri dishes of cafes and storefronts  
a new theatrical culture grew in the ~ (NYC)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The petri dish was named after the German bacteriologist Julius Richard Petri.

♦ For a short list of eponyms, see *mesmerizing (adjective)*.

## petrified (adjective)

petrified to vote  
Blacks were ~

## phalanx (phalanx of lawyers, etc.)

phalanx of lawyers  
the ~ representing him  
the figure was announced outside the courthouse by a ~

## phantom (noun)

phantom classes  
an academic scandal involving ~ (athletes)

phantom limb  
see *limb (phantom limb)*

ghosts and phantoms  
~ from the family closet

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When we read a *fantasy* or go to see one on the stage, we know that it is going to be a fairy tale about nonmortal characters. The word *fantasy* comes from the Greek word *phantasia*, which has the rather vague meaning of 'a making visible.' The term *phantasia* was used by the Greek philosophers when they wanted to refer to a power of the mind for putting things before itself. Our word *phantom*, for instance, which also derives from *phantasia*, illustrates this power. A *phantom* is an image formed in the imagination." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 2, "Origin of Words of Speaking and Writing.")

♦ "Seeing the phantom-like outline of the Dolomites against the night sky, it feels harder to sneer at stories of witches, sorcerers and secret gates to the underworld. Perhaps these legends are the last reminders of a time when we didn't need to believe in heaven and hell—the landscape was mysterious enough in itself." (At Lago di Braies, near the mountain of Sass dia Porta. From "Legends of the Italian Dolomites," by Oliver Smith, BBC, 28 August 2012.)

♦ "Oh, come on! It's all in your mind!" (Disparagement.)

## pharaoh (power)

bureaucratic pharaoh  
he was a ~ who built monumental works (Robert Moses)

military pharaoh  
power has transferred from a ~ to an Islamic one (Egypt)

## Pharaonic (adjective)

Pharaonic  
the scale and ambition of the project are ~ (a book)

Pharaonic effort  
the job required a ~ (channelizing L.A. River)

pharaonic-scale  
did Ceausescu really care if this ~ canal was completed

## phobe (vaxophobe, etc.)

homophobe  
he himself was a ~...  
the worse ~s are secretly gay (Pop Culture Happy Hour)  
ultraconservatives, bigots, ~s and the like (NPR)

transphobe  
the stereotype of the redneck ~

vaxophobe

the ~s are commenting

-ists and -phobes

he's being called a racist and all the other ~

♦ "Hahaha! I see the vaxophobes are on board today!" (A commenter about the death of a young athlete, no cause of death listed. Many other commenters suggested his death may have been related to vaccine shots.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ DVD-phobe; death-o-phobe; physics phobe; Halloween-o-phobes; New Year's Eve-o-phobes; cellular commitment-phobe; Trump-a-phobe; conflict-phobe; culture-phobes; vegetable phobe; zucchini-phobes... (And on and on from NPR, a suffix without end. 62,418 results for "phobe" and counting...)

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

♦ Go to Wiktionary, type in "-phobe," then click on "Derived terms," and you will get a huge, comprehensive and interesting list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## phobia (fatphobia, etc.)

'-phobia' frame

antagonizing your ideological opponent is built into the ~

biphobia

entrenched societal, institutional and familial ~

~ always comes out extra during bisexual awareness week

bi-phobia

there is a lot of ~ and bi-erasure that exists in society

fatphobia

low-rise waists and ~ in the fashion industry eating disorders, body dysmorphia, and ~

~, diet culture, parenting and health

~ is medicine's status quo (Marquise Mercedes)

Hinduphobia

NPR has normalized ~ (Furkan Khan, Lauren Frayer, etc.)

homophobia

how ~ sidelined the National Women's Football League

hot phobia

she believes she's a victim of '~' (see quote below)

progressophobia

~ is prevalent on the left (Steven Pinker of Harvard)

queerophobia

a broad strategy to combat ~ (Germany)

transphobia

homophobia and ~ within the Black community

police violence, racism and ~ (on the island of Bali)

Islamophobia

bullying and ~ focus of new YA novel

how ~ is hurting India's foreign policy

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I'm one of those people who has bubble-phobia. [Snorting.] I see these bubble forms that want to kind of bin me into these certain categories of, gender categories, racial categories, all of these other demographics, and as someone who doesn't fit nicely into those bins, I....." (A strident young woman.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "phobia" bandwagon...

♦ "An OnlyFans star was kicked out of the supermarket for her skimpy outfit, but she believes she's a victim of 'hot phobia.'" ("I was kicked out of a store over my shorts—I'm a victim of 'hot phobia'" by Adriana Diaz, *New York Post*, April 26, 2023.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The gay rights movement turned sharply on the language of medicine to make a cultural point; in turn, advocates for other marginalized groups have borrowed the '-phobia' construction in hopes of replicating the gay rights movement's success... 'Phobia' is now so embedded in our language that it's easy to forget that it is a metaphor comparing bigots to the mentally ill." ("How '-Phobic' Became a Weapon in the Identity Wars" by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 26, 2016.)

♦ "The '-phobic suffix has emerged as the activist's most trusted term of art for pinning prejudice on an opponent." ("How '-Phobic' Became a Weapon in the Identity Wars" by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 26, 2016.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Fragility* (white fragility, etc.), *moral panic* (noun), *panic* (bisexual panic, etc.), and *phobia* (fatphobia, etc.) are often used by groups with agendas to mischaracterize and disparage their opponents.

♦ "In 2012, The Associated Press banned 'social and political' '-phobia,' from its stylebook, declaring them too charged for use in objective reporting." ("How '-Phobic' Became a Weapon in the Identity Wars" by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 26, 2016. It's a brilliant article.)

♦ Wikipedia redirects "serophobia" to "Discrimination against people with HIV / AIDS." Wiktionary defines "serophobia" as "fear of, dislike of, or prejudice against seropositives," usually people with HIV.

♦ Go to Wiktionary, type in "-phobia," then click on "Derived terms," and you will get a huge, comprehensive and interesting list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

♦ see also *fragility* (white fragility, etc.), *moral panic* (noun), *panic* (bisexual panic, etc.)

## phobic (transphobic, etc.)

phobic about Islam

a lot of Americans are, like ~ (Mahershala Ali)

bi-phobic

it's been called ~ (the novel *The Well of Loneliness*)

fat phobic

so-called fat suits are ~ and offensive (Hollywood)

fatphobic

we live in a ~ (Katy Alexander)

Hinduphobic

an NPR producer resigned over a ~ tweet (Furkan Khan)

homophobic

the victim of a racist and ~ attack (Jussie Smollett claim)

queer-phobic

~ U.S. legislators ('don't say gay' bills / NPR)

a sometimes ~ world (or sexist, or racist, etc.)

## Russophobic

hysterical, rabid and ~ (an untrue accusation)

## transphobic

she lost her job for ‘~’ tweets (Maya Forstater)

its homophobic and ~ jokes (Netflix special “The Closer”)

protest over ‘~’ speaker (Oxford Union / England)

## homo- and trans-phobic

a racist, misogynist, ~ fanbase... (comics)

## homophobic, biphobic and transphobic

~ have no place in sport...

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “It’s easier to keep quiet than to be labeled with a word that ends with -ist, or -phobic.” (“Letting trans players participate in girls’ and women’s sports is a ticking time bomb” by Kirsten Fleming, *The New York Post*, Feb. 20, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Go to Wiktionary, type in “-phobic,” then click on “Derived terms,” and you will get a huge, comprehensive and interesting list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## Phoenix (myth)

### Phoenix

we will rise from the ashes like the ~ (town burns)

### phoenix moment

Natalie Portman is having a ~ (looks great post-divorce)

### scientific Phoenix

he was a ~, rising from the ashes of his mistakes (Pasteur)

♦ In Atlanta, Georgia (USA), a bronze monument of the Phoenix rescuing a woman from a fire commemorates that city’s rise from the ashes of the Civil War. Atlanta prides itself on its motto, “The city too busy to hate.” Pretty much true today, except for the rappers.

♦ Scott Simon: I remember interviewing him once. This would have been 10 years after the riots. And he told me, “Ashes don’t always mean death. Ashes mean death to yesterday. Ashes may mean life to tomorrow...” / Pastor Steven Johnson: In fact, one of our murals at that first AME is the Phoenix rising from the ashes. (Remembering Reverend Cecil Murray,” NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 13, 2024.)

♦ “Fifty-four years of brutal dictatorship, and a long journey for the Syrian people since 2011, and here we are... The Phoenixes in Exile are rising today as I speak to you.” (The music composer Malek Jandali, called by some the Shostakovich of his native Syria, days after the fall of Bashar Assad.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In Greek mythology, the Phoenix was a bird that periodically was consumed by fire and then regenerated itself from the ashes.

♦ In his notes to Canto XXIV of *The Inferno*, John Ciardi describes the Phoenix thusly: “The fabulous Phoenix of Arabia was the only one of its kind in the world. Every five hundred years it built a nest of spices and incense which took fire from the heat of the sun and the beating of the Phoenix’s wings. The Phoenix was thereupon cremated and was then re-born from its ashes.” This is close to the story the Egyptians told Herodotus in the 5th century BC.)

♦ Older Americans remember the 1965 film “The Flight of the Phoenix.”

## phoney war (noun)

### fiscal phoney war

it’s a ~ (Labour v. Tories / see quote below)

♦ “This morning’s announcements are part of a fiscal phoney war, ahead of the release of the parties’ manifestos in a fortnight. On tax and spend, for now, the main parties are more concerned with what they are not going to do, rather than setting out actual plans.” (BBC’s economics editor Faisal Islam. From Six O’Clock News, BBC Sounds, 30/05/2024.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ The eight months after Germany and the USSR divided Poland between themselves was called the Phoney War, for its relative inaction in Europe. It was more active at sea and in Scandinavia. And, of course, many nations were girding for a world war. It was referred to as the “sitzkrieg” and “the Bore War.” The period ended when Germany invaded and steamrolled France.

♦ Listen to: BBC Archive on 4-The Phoney War-BBC Sounds

## photobomb (verb)

### photobomb the images

Ms Steinbach denied she had been asked to ~

### photobomb the wedding

the person with the pink hair surely didn’t intend to ~

♦ Kelly Steinbeich (AKA Kelleth Cuthbert) became known as the Fiji Water Girl after she upstaged celebrities on the Golden Globe red carpet while providing that brand of water to them.

♦ “There has been an increase in so-called ‘Zoom-bombing.’” (Video conferencing during the Coronavirus pandemic.)

♦ “The Zoom bombing was an attack on free expression.” (Brandeis President Ronald Liebowitz.)

♦ “My dead baby photobombed my new wedding photos.” (The *New York Post*, “Weird But True.”)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “I remember I went down into this hole for another scoop of dirt, and then that’s when the bomb hit. I looked at the man I was digging this hole with; half his body was gone. And I looked up at the trees and I could see body parts on the limbs on the trees, and I shook myself out of it and I stood up, and it was so quiet.” (Private Manuel Orona, Hill 875, Dak To, Vietnam War. The 500-pound bomb from a Marine plane caused the worst friendly-fire incident of the Vietnam War.)

## pick (pick oneself up)

### pick themselves up

they’ve got to ~ (a losing team)

## pick apart (analyze)

### picking apart the language

opposition leaders have been ~ (Brexit deal)

## pickled

### pickled in wellness culture and “self-care” rhetoric

our brains are ~ (selfism)

♦ “Why is this happening? [Young people determining that certain people are ‘toxic,’ even family members.] Maybe young people have been inspired by the impermanence and infinite choice baked into online dating and social media. Maybe our brains have been pickled in wellness culture and ‘self-care’ rhetoric, which stress the need to privilege our own well-being above all else. Or maybe we’re just good American capitalists, encouraged by the cult of individualism to think of ourselves as compelling brands, the main characters of cinematic star vehicles, the centers of the universe.” (“That’s It. You’re Dead To Me. Suddenly everyone is ‘toxic’” by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

## pick up (increase)

pick up

demand will eventually ~ (airline industry)

## pick up (pick somebody up, etc.)

picked me up

my community of girlfriends ~ during the worst time

## pick up (pick oneself up, etc.)

pick yourself up, dust yourself off

~, and get back on the horse...

## picnic (no picnic)

no picnic

Isabelle is ~ herself (needy and insecure)

loving him is ~

the shelter is ~, but he's thankful (disaster relief)

getting Lyme disease is ~

no picnic being a kidney patient

it's ~ even in the best conditions (Gaza Strip)

no picnic for lawmakers

the August recess is ~

## picnic (other)

picnic

in comparison with Nanda Devi East, Everest is a ~

## picnic (church picnic)

church picnic

the rally was more ~ than protest (Tea Party)

## picture (out of the picture)

out of the picture

he is ~ (husband who abandoned family)

take you out of the picture

a mistake will ~ (competition)

wanted him out of the picture

she ~ (murder)

## picture (in the picture)

put you in the picture

this will ~

## picture (in the big picture)

in the big picture

it's not important ~

♦ If you want to know whether a ship is moving, you don't look at the deck, you look over the side... (A quote attributed to the great geologist John Tuzo Wilson, an important convert to and proponent of the theory of continental drift and plate tectonics.)

## picture (big picture / noun)

bigger picture

you never see the ~, do you (criticism)

big-picture goal

her ~ is to end the conservatorship

focus on the big picture

politicians put aside their bickering to ~ (9/11)

get big picture

let's back up and just ~ for a second (NPR)

♦ "Pull the camera back and explain what you think that says about Mormonism in this moment of the 21st century beyond Mitt Romney." (NPR's Ari Shapiro.)

♦ "She is here to lay out something of a radio map for us, hey there, Diaa, so before we get to the fighting, would you give us the big map? Afghanistan, of course..." (Breezy language from NPR's Mary Louise Kelly.)

## picture (big picture / verb)

big-picture this

I want you to ~ for me (a sports show / two guys)

## picture (view)

picture of the economy

the conventional ~ is...

picture of their kids

confused parents have no clear ~

heart-wrenching picture

the ~ of last week...

complicated picture

an investigation presented a ~

accurate picture

present an ~ of the current boom (economy)

better picture

we need to get a ~ of what's going on

bigger picture

you never see the ~, do you (criticism)

bleak picture

it is an amazingly ~ that you present (jobs / adjuncts)

bleaker picture

there are doctors who paint a ~ than necessary

clear picture

confused parents have no ~ of their kids

no single agency has a ~ of who is responsible for what

complete picture

complaints authorities haven't provided a ~ (epidemic)

what happens in the lab isn't the ~ (virology)

conventional picture

the ~ of the economy is...

different picture

a ~ emerged of the risks...

little-picture (m)

a ~ trend

pessimistic picture

they are painting a ~ of her career (an actor)



sordid picture  
the allegations painted a ~ (recruiting violations)

true picture  
disclosure will give a ~ (toxic emissions)

ugly picture  
she painted an ~ of him as a drug user (trial)

whole picture  
you have to look at the ~  
you might not be seeing the ~ (health ad)  
the numbers may never capture the ~ (pandemic)

quite a (gloomy) picture  
he presented ~ of the region

one-sided picture  
the ~ purveyed by the media

favorable picture  
suspects want to paint the most ~ possible

picture emerged  
a different ~ of the risks...  
as the cases accumulated, a common clinical ~  
(epidemic)

picture (of what is going on) is getting clearer  
more and more the ~ (epidemic)

described a different picture  
but he ~... (of a crisis)

drew a (very different) picture  
prosecutors ~ (a trial)

get a better picture  
we need to ~ of what's going on (diplomacy)

painted an (ugly) picture  
she ~ of him as a drug user (trial)

painted a (damning) picture  
the report ~ of a culture of coercion (sports camp)

paint a (bleaker) picture  
there are doctors who ~ than necessary

add nuance to the overall picture  
future research will no doubt ~ (epidemiology)

## picture (picture-perfect)

picture-perfect  
the launch was ~ (Blue Origin's *New Shepard*)

♦ "Not too shabby." / "It was picture-perfect!"

## pie (apple pie)

apple pie  
nativism is as old as ~

## pie (shape)

"pies"  
there are snowdrifts, we call them ~ (ice yachting)

♦ "There are snowdrifts, we call them 'pies.' The small ones are ok, but the big ones are dangerous. I drove into one yesterday. It was not great." (Roman Kopylov, an ice yachting enthusiast, speaking on Lake Baikal.)

## pie (piece of the pie, etc.)

piece of the billion-dollar pie  
they weren't getting a ~ (NCAA athletes)

piece of the revenue pie  
students don't get any ~ (the NCAA)

share of the (AI) pie  
The New York Times is demanding a ~ (of course it is)

♦ "I don't want a piece of the pie, I want the goddamn recipe!" (The character of singer-songwriter-businessman Sam Cooke from the feel-good Amazon film *One Night in Miami*.)

♦ "They weren't getting a piece of the billion-dollar pie... but ya know, you can let them go make their own pies." (T.J. Holmes for ABC's *Good Morning American*, about NCAA athletes being allowed to make money on their name, image or likeness.)

## piece (missing pieces)

missing pieces  
the ~ now are falling into place (police investigation)

## piece (my life was in pieces, etc.)

pieces of my life  
at the age of 71, I had to pick up the ~

pick up the pieces  
hopefully, negotiators can ~ and find a way forward

\*\*\* an explosive device...

♦ "Investigators are still searching for who planted the explosive device. And residents are left picking up the pieces, literally and metaphorically, after the bombing." (The Georgia Guidestones in Elberton, in the US state of Georgia, were blown up. The Guidestones had been an important tourist attraction for the small town.)

\*\*\* a tornado...

♦ "They are picking up the pieces this morning." (Tornadoes in the South.)

## pieces (go to pieces)

went to pieces  
when he was abandoned by his friends, he ~ (politician)  
he ~, drank more, gave up...

## piece together (verb)

piece it together  
it took him less than two weeks to ~ (serial rapist)

piecing together (historic) clues  
he began ~

piece together what  
police are trying to ~ led to the shooting

pieced together where  
investigators have still not ~ the money came from

## pied piper

pied piper  
he was too charismatic, a ~ leading students astray (Uni)

he was a ~, leading students astray from... (Stanford)

“pied piper of R&B”

he adopted the nickname, ~ (R. Kelly)

“Pied Piper” of theoretical physics

Oppenheimer had become a ~ (Berkeley the place to study)

Pied Piper in Prada ankle boots

she’s a PowerPoint ~

pied-piper meaning

he had a message, a kind of ~ (Charles Manson’s lyrics)

pay the piper

see *piper* (*pay the piper, etc.*)

♦ “So Charles would be walking, and then thousands would be following him everywhere he went, you know. He was the Pied Piper.” (Magic Johnson, about Charles Barkley at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. “Chuck” enjoyed strolling the Ramblas at night, attracting great crowds, and at least one sportswriter considered him “America’s best ambassador” at the games.)

♦ In a *New York Times* opinion entitled “Pompom Girl for Feminism,” Maureen Dowd dismissed Sheryl Sandberg as a “PowerPoint Pied Piper in Prada ankle boots”!

♦ see also *piper* (*pay the piper, etc.*)

## piety (noun)

pieties of the (early) 1990s

liberals have reverted to the ~ (alleged sex harassment)

lazy pieties

she avoids ~ and reactionary forecasts ( a writer)

progressive pieties

bureaucracies enforcing ~ in the workplace (DEI, etc.)

pieties could scarcely survive

these ~ WWII (goodness of man, sentimentality, etc.)

bend to (contemporary progressive) pieties

he refuses to ~

desecrate (Republican) pieties

both men ~ (Trump / Tucker Carlson)

smash (leftist) pieties

Trump executive orders ~ that kept America paralyzed

takes aim at the pieties

she is a heretic who ~ of diet culture

## pig (insult)

pig

he’s a ~

but your bosses can keep coasting along, the ~s

lipstick on a pig

see *lipstick* (*appearance*)

♦ “They’re looking to have World Cups every two years so they can keep their snouts in the trough financially.” (FIFA.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ What do you expect from a pig but a grunt!

## pigeonhole (noun)

resisted this pigeonhole

he ~ (Bruce Chatwin, of a homosexual)

## pigeonholed

pigeonholed

he never wanted to be ~ (Bruce Chatwin and his sexuality)

## piggyback (verb)

piggy-back something partisan on it

one side or the other tried to ~ (legislation politics)

piggybacked on his reporting

other sites ~ to cast aspersions on the company

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Originally this meant pitching something onto somebody’s back.

## piggybank (noun)

piggybank

they used the group’s coffers as their ~

their own personal piggybank

Alameda Research used FTX money as ~ (fraud)

see me as a piggybank

they ~ (Emma Raducanu)

♦ “I will never allow myself to be a piggybank for anyone to shake.” (The musician Ed Sheeran about winning his court case.)

♦ “What I have realised in the past two years, the tour and everything that comes with it, it’s not a very nice, trusting and safe space. You have to be on guard because there are a lot of sharks out there. I think people in the industry, especially with me because I was 19, now 20, they see me as a piggybank. It has been difficult to navigate. I have been burned a few times. I have learned, keep your circle as small as possible.” (The tennis player Emma Raducanu.)

## pile (pile of money, etc.)

pile of money

they hoped to make a ~

## pile-on (noun)

pile on of bile, hatred and misogyny

the inevitable ~ (a female journo)

pile-on on Bernie Sanders

there did seem to be a ~ (election debate)

bipartisan pile-on

it was a ~ (Boeing congressional hearing)

cable-news pile-on

the first accusation, the next accusations, the ~

online pile-ons

even non-public figures have ~

callouts, draggings, and pile-ons

some Y.A. books are targeted in intense social-media ~

joined the pile-on

soon big-named comedians ~ (Instagram problem)

♦ "If Joshua was half as good as he thinks he is he'd still be twice as good as he actually is." /// "That means he thinks he's four times better than he actually is!!!! I don't think he's that good" (Inspired boxing snark on the BBC. Funny!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A person who joins a pile-on is a piler-on. The plural would be pilers-on: "She was one of the early pilers-on and she is begging forgiveness."

♦ see also *dragging (contempo-speak)*

## pile on (gang up on)

pile on

some urged Democrats not to ~ (attacks on Joe Biden)

piled on

national Democrats ~ (calls for resignation)

fans ~ (to criticize Bill Buckner after his 1986 error)

the media ~ (criticism of Bill Buckner after 1986 error)

♦ "Man Utd are a club giving joy to hundreds of millions every week. Just not their fans." (Mish on a BBC HYS. 1037 upvotes. 48 downvotes.)

♦ "She was basically dogpiled on social media."

## pile on (increase)

piling on the pressure

he's ~ (politics)

## pile up (verb)

pile up

disturbing details began to ~ (missing child)

distractions can pile up

~ (while driving a car: kids, music, cellphone, etc.)

evidence was piling up

the ~ (investigation of missing woman)

## pilgrimage (trip)

pilgrimage site

his restaurant is a ~ for foodies

rock 'n' roll pilgrimage

Australia's annual ~ (the Elvis festival / Parkes)

annual pilgrimage

they've made the ~ for 12 years (Daytona 500)

act of pilgrimage

in an ~, he found Amundsen's cairn on Betty's Knoll

make the pilgrimage

Scandinavians ~ here each year (northern Jutland)

tourists ~ to see sunrise from Low's Peak (Kinabalu)

makes a pilgrimage

nearly every day, somebody ~ here (Lake Lure)

♦ "They say they just want to see the site. I'm just stunned. It takes work on their part to find out [the locations] where the movie was shot." (John Cloud at Lake Lure, North Carolina, on people who come looking for where scenes from the film *Dirty Dancing* was filmed. The movie, released in 1987, starred Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Dirty Dancing Cove is the popular name for the place where Swayze and Grey practiced lifts in the water. The actual spot is Firefly Cove, accessible by car from Boys Camp Road, at the end of the Flower Bridge, but perhaps best admired from a tour boat, or, if you have one, your kayak. The whole area was devastated by Hurricane

Helene in 2024. But tourism will come back. The area, like Jennifer Grey in the film, is simply too beautiful not to. As the song goes, "Oh I had the time of my life, I never felt this way before, it's true, and I owe it all to you.")

### \*\*\* pilgrimage places...

♦ "While in Gartok, we had had occasional showers of hail, but now the weather was mainly fine and warm. By this time we all had thick beards, which helped to protect us against the sun. It was long since we had seen a glacier, but as we were approaching the *tasam* at Barka, a chain of glaciers gleaming in the sunshine came into view. The landscape was dominated by the 25,000-foot peak of Gurla Mandhata; less striking, but far more famous, was the sacred Mount Kailas, 3,000 feet lower, which stands in majestic isolation apart from the Himalaya range. When we first caught sight of it our Tibetans prostrated themselves and prayed. For Buddhists and Hindus this mountain is the home of their gods and the dearest wish of all the pious is to visit it as pilgrims once in their lives. The faithful often travel thousands of miles to reach it and spend years on the pilgrimage. During their journey they live on alms and hope that their reward will be a higher incarnation in a future life. Pilgrims' roads converge here from all points of the compass. At the places from which the first sight of the mountain can be obtained are set up heaps of stones, grown through the centuries to giant proportions..." (*Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer. From the chapter "Into Tibet.")

♦ "Downtown Jeddah is bustling with the annual post-Haj commercial boom caused by the influx of pilgrims. Many pilgrims are on a shopping spree while others set up stalls to sell items they brought with them to help pay for their journey, and even take a little extra cash home with them... Asian pilgrims can be seen buying Islamic-themed gifts, perfumes, beauty products, henna, and prayer rugs... Tunisians, Indonesians, Pakistani and Egyptians are buying religious books and rugs. African pilgrims are buying gold, electronics, cosmetics, furniture and other products in bulk in order to re-sell these items back home... The Gold Street at Bab Sharif has temporarily turned into a Little Khartoum or Little Nouakchott due to the sheer numbers of Mauritanian and Sudanese pilgrims. Women from Mauritania, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen are buying textiles for clothes." ("Balad bustles as pilgrims trade," by Omaima Al-Fardan and Fatima Sidiya, *Arab News*, 7 Dec. 2009.)

♦ "Raja Ram Tiwari has been setting up camps for the lost and found [in Allahabad] every year for the past 60 years, for Kumbh Mela and annual fairs. Better known as "Bhule Bhatke Tiwari" or "lost-and-found Tiwari," he has so far helped more than 633,000 lost people find their families again. At present, he works with 150 assistants. While most of these separation last a few hours or days at most, some can be a matter of years, or even a lifetime. "In 1999, we found a two-and-a-half-year-old boy. He had been separated from his mother. We kept him at the camp, we made announcements for his parents, distributed pamphlets. But for a month no one came to claim him. So we put him up for adoption [and] we gave him to a childless couple." Mr. Tiwari says he is inspired by the holy river... A Spartan man with simple needs, what drives him is the joy in the faces of those helps reunite with their families. ("The man who reunites families," by Geeta Pandey, BBC News, Allahabad, April 14, 2010.)

♦ The Camino de Santiago, or the Way of St. James, is a Christian pilgrim route. Its object is the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, northwestern Spain, where Saint James is reputedly buried. In Medieval times, it was as important as the pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem. Compostela means "field of stars," and the popular name in Spain for the Milky Way is El Camino de Santiago. According to a legend, the Milky Way represents the dust raised by pilgrims. The French Way runs from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port on the French side of the Pyrenees to Roncesvalles on the Spanish side of the mountains, and goes through Pamplona, Logrono, Burgos, and Leon. Nowadays it is a popular hiking route.

♦ Siena was located along the Via Francigena, the pilgrimage route linking Canterbury to Rome, thence on to the Holy Land.

## pill (poison pill)

poison pill

they included a ~ in the spending bill (to kill it)

poison pill to the Brown's books

it's a contract that has the potential to be a ~ (NFL salaries)

## **pill (bitter pill, etc.)**

bitter pill

the long term solution may be a ~

bitter pill to swallow

getting advice can be a ~

hard pill to swallow

it was a ~ having medalled in the past (track loss)

bitter pill for Democrats and lefties

the results are a ~ (working class people vote Trump)

easily swallowed pill

the song's humor made its feminism an ~ (You're So Vain)

## **pill (miracle pill)**

miracle pill

it is not a ~ (a drug)

## **pillar (basis)**

pillars of Islam

pilgrimage is one of the five ~

pillar of the (US) approach

another ~ is to minimize civilian casualties

pillar of the (Iraq) coalition

a ~ has collapsed (Spain)

pillar of the community

the family was a ~

he has always been a ~ (slain businessman)

pillars of excellence

black schools that were once ~ fell into decline

pillar of their faith

a pilgrimage that is a ~ (Hajj)

pillars of our plan

here are the four ~ (State of the Union address)

pillar of (modern) science

peer-reviewed journals are a ~

pillars of (Somali) society

clan elders, the traditional ~ (Somaliland)

EU's (major policy) "pillars"

the ~ include free movement and Schengen open borders

community pillar

the ~ became an object of loathing (pedophile)

ideological pillar

she assaulted the ~s of the system

traditional pillars

clan elders, the ~ of Somali society (Somaliland)

two pillars

moral and performance were bad, the ~ (USN sub)

three pillars

the ~ of intelligence, the air force, and tanks

four pillars

the AAMDC executes the ~ of Missile Defense

five pillars

pilgrimage is one of the ~ of Islam

first pillar

the ~ of our framework offers a path to citizenship for...

second pillar

salah, prayer, is the ~ (of Islam)

second (Israeli) pillar

a ~ was the Israeli Air Force (1973 war)

fourth pillar

fasting during Ramadan is the ~ of Islam

fifth pillar

Hajj is the ~ (Islam)

considered a pillar

in Italy, *The Betrothed* is ~ of the national literature

rested on the (three) pillars

victory ~ of intelligence, the air force, and tanks

## **pillar (Pillar Rock, etc.)**

Pillar

the ~ is a mountain in British Columbia

The ~ is a pillar in San Juan County, New Mexico

Pillars of Hercules

the northern pillar of the ~ is the Rock of Gibraltar

Pillar Bluff

~ is a cliff in Burnet County, Texas

Pillar Butte

~ is a summit in Power County, Idaho

Pillar Cape

~ is a cape in Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska

Pillar Falls

~ is a waterfall in Twin Falls County, Idaho

Pillar Mountain

~ is a summit in Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska

Pillar Peak

~ is a summit in Lawrence County, South Dakota

~ is a summit in Deschutes County, Oregon

Pillar Point

we walked to ~ (Hong Kong)

~ is a cape in San Mateo County, California

~ is a cape in Jefferson County, New York

Pillar Rock

~ is an island in Tillamook County, Oregon

~ is a pillar in Sauk County, Wisconsin

~ is a pillar in Gillespie County, Texas

Pompey Pillar

~ is a pillar in Iowa County, Wisconsin

Pompeys Pillar

~ is a pillar in Yellowstone County, Montana

Three Pillar

~ Point is a cape in Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska

Cape Pillar

~, with its cluster of basaltic columns (Tasman Peninsula)

Teepee Pillar

~ is a pillar in Teton County, Wyoming

## pillar (resemblance)

pillar of fire

a ~ rose from the home (plane crashes into home)

pillars of smoke

huge ~ rose above buildings (bombardment)

## pilloried

pilloried

the same military that was idolized was now being ~

pilloried in the media

he was ~

pilloried by the Trump administration

the former ambassador is being ~

pilloried (by critics) over her performance

Harris was ~ in her first sit-down interview (politics)

pilloried (by Biden supporters) for running the story

she was ~ (*Wall Street Journal* editor)

pilloried (by critics) for supporting

he is sometimes ~ the revolutions (Arab Spring)

pilloried (by his rivals) for his past donations

he has been ~ to Democrats

pilloried after Games fall

skater ~ (on social media after fall at 2022 Olympics)

## pillory (verb)

pilloried the president over (federal) spending

he has ~ (politics)

pilloried his old-school inflexibility

commenters ~ (on Reddit / where else?)

\*\*\* **Jakarta back in the day...**

♦ In *Krakatoa*, Simon Winchester reprints a German soldier's list of punishments in Batavia (present-day Jakarta) in 1676. The soldier mentions beheadings; six unfortunate men who were broken on the wheel; a hanging; whippings; burnings (brandings); two soldiers forced to run the gauntlet; and "A Dutch Schoolmaster's Wife," caught cheating on her husband, who was "put in the Pillory."

## pilot (verb)

piloted the school to (considerable) success

he ~ (a principal)

## pin (attach)

pinning its hopes on a new strategy

the company is now ~ (oil leak)

pinning their hopes on the new treatment

they are ~ (leukemia)

pinned their hopes on the report

many Democrats ~ as a game changer (politics)

## pinball (verb)

pinballed around the box

Joe Allen's deflected shot ~ (soccer)

pinballed from cheerfulness to negative thoughts

she ~

pinballed (along) from one commitment to the next

I ~ (a Duke University student)

## pincer (noun)

pincer of (negative) reaction

she faces a ~ (markets and polls / U.K.'s Liz Truss)

pincer attack

the option for a ~ against Peking was possible (1895)

claw of the pincer

he wanted to see the southern ~ on the map (Stalin)

caught in the pincers

Romanians have been ~ of three empires

♦ The three pincers that Romania has been caught between were the Ottoman Turks, the Russians (and the Soviet Union), and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

## pincered

pincered between his hope and his fear

he was ~

## pinch (pinch of hunger, etc.)

pinch of hunger

to feel the ~ in April and May (Alaska)

economic pinch

what unites them is the ~ and anger at the president

feel the pinch

they don't ~ yet (subsistence farmers and COVID)

feeling the pinch

the economy is bad, and shopkeepers are ~

## pinch (pinch me, etc.)

'pinch me' moment

every so often boxing gifts us a ~ (Usyk vs. Fury)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Who actually does this? (Asks to be pinched, to confirm reality.)

## pinched

pinched by the pandemic

it was a windfall for local governments ~ (relief bill)

## pinching (adjective)

pinching times

scraping along, in ~ (poverty)

♦ “Scraping along / In a little shack, / With hardly a shirt / To cover his back, / And a prairie wind / To blow him down, / Or pinching times / If he went to town.” (“Nancy Hanks” by Rosemary Benet. The poem is about Abraham Lincoln.)

♦ see also *biting* (adjective), *gnawing* (gnawing doubt, etc.), *grinding* (grinding poverty, etc.), *stabbing* (stabbing pain, etc.)

## ping-pong (verb)

ping-pongs along  
as the dialogue ~, the audience... (a play)

ping-ponged around  
the conversation ~ from music to comics

ping-pong back and forth  
versions ~ between the House and Senate (spending bill)

ping-ponging around the Blue Wall states  
she’ll be ~ this week (campaigning for election)

ping-ponged (around) from music to comics  
the conversation ~

ping-ponging between both those identities  
you’re ~ and neither feels right (child vs. adult / girls)

ping-pong between institutions  
patients often ~ (nursing homes and hospitals)

ping-pong between the two (major) parties  
voters ~ (Mexico)

ping-ponged between Los Angeles and New York  
he ~

ping-ponged (numerous times) between Syria and Iraq  
her family ~

ping-pongs between vulnerable and obnoxious  
she ~ (a child in a film)

## ping-pong (noun)

ping-pong editing  
what I call ~ (close-ups toggle between 2 talking people)

ping-pong exchange  
the ~ of offer and counteroffer

ping-pong structure  
the book’s ~ makes for a kinetic read

ping-pong with your emotions  
this sport plays ~ (Costello & Bunce / boxing)

budget ping pong  
it’s a game of ~ between the two parties (spending bill)

game of (legislative) Ping-Pong  
it’s a ~ (budget dispute)

## pinkwash (verb)

pinkwashing Palestinian human-rights violations  
Israel is ~ by touting its tolerance of gays

♦ “Has the Council already taken any measures to bring about a change in this intolerable situation?” (“Persecution of homosexuals in the Palestinian autonomous areas,” written question E-1346/03 by

Ilka Schroder (GUE/NGL) to the Council. The European Parliament. 1.4.2003. 2003.)

♦ “For all we know, Iran is funding the anti-Israel protests that are going on right now outside this building—not that many, but they’re there—and throughout the city. Well, I have a message for these protesters: When the Tyrants of Tehran, who hang gays from cranes and murder women for not covering their hair, are praising, promoting and funding you, you have officially become Iran’s useful idiots.” (Netanyahu addresses the U.S. Congress in 2024. The Israel-Hamas war.)

## pinkwashing

pinkwashing accusations  
she has a history of leveling ~ against Israel (Ghadir Shafie)

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### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Recognized by Wiktionary, which also lists five related terms: artwashing, greenwashing, purplewashing, rainbow washing, and redwashing. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Pinkwashing (LGBT).” The article has the following caveat: “This article may be unbalanced toward certain viewpoints. Please improve the article by adding information on neglected viewpoints, or discuss the issue on the talk page.” The caveat is dated May 2024.

♦ Merriam-Webster does not have an entry as of August, 2024.

♦ see also *washing* (sportswashing, etc.)

## pinnacle (achievement)

pinnacle of avarice  
critics see it as the ~ (presidency of Goldman Sachs)

pinnacle of glory  
it was the ~ in a career of already meteoric achievement

pinnacle of her profession  
after reaching the ~ on her shuttle mission...

pinnacle of (Scottish) wooden shipbuilding  
she really was the ~ (the *Terra Nova*)

pinnacle of the sport  
the heavyweight division used to be the ~ (a circus now)

pinnacle of success  
Tyson reached the ~ at the age of just 20

pinnacle experience  
it was a ~ (Creekbound and Down / kayaking)

reached a pinnacle  
his popularity ~ when he won the lead in the school play

returned to the pinnacle  
he has ~ of American power (Trump wins 2024 election)

### \*\*\* analysis



♦ A pinnacle is a long pointed "cap" on a tower or buttress. They are common on gothic cathedrals. The name comes from the Latin for "little feather." It's a nice way to think of the word.

## pinned

pinned in the (submerged) rock jumble  
I saw his boat, ~ (kayaking)

pinned to the ground  
the squad was engaged by weapons fire and ~

pinned vertically  
his boat was ~ (kayaking)

## pinned (pinned down)

pinned down on a roof  
the two marines were ~ (Falluja)

## pinpoint (locate)

pinpoint with accuracy  
engineers can ~ the areas... (oil)

pinpoint the (relic's) age  
but metals experts could not ~ (a watch)

pinpoint (with accuracy) the areas  
engineers can ~... (oil)

pinpoint the location  
acoustic sensors can ~ of snipers (combat)

pinpoint locations  
G.P.S. can ~

pinpoint the (shooter's) position  
police used computer software to ~

pinpoint the (tumor's) size and location  
a CT scan can ~

difficult to pinpoint  
it is ~ a spot in the desert

## pinpoint (accuracy, etc.)

pinpoint accuracy  
direct his bombs with nearly ~

pinpoint precision  
cops can track a person's whereabouts with ~ (5G)

pinpoint timing  
surfers must hit a wave with ~

## pins and needles

pins and needles in her left foot  
she woke with ~

## pioneer (person)

pioneers of (independent) film  
he's one of the ~ (the great Spike Lee)

pioneer of their sport  
a fallen ~, Craig Kelly (avalanche / snowboarding)

pioneer of (blitzkrieg) tactics

Guderian was a ~ (The Battle of France / WW II)

pioneers of (wilderness) therapy  
he is one of the ~

pioneer of tow-in surfing  
Laird Hamilton, the ~

pioneer in his field  
he is a ~ (psychology)

pioneers in their field  
those who become ~s of endeavor

pioneer species  
~ like brown sedge colonize disturbed sites

big-wave pioneers  
~ such as Greg Noll and Jeff Clark (surfing)

hip-hop pioneer  
~s RUN-DMC  
the ~ stabbed a homeless man to death

industry pioneer  
the National Captioning Institute, the ~

Internet pioneer  
an ~

online news pioneer  
the ~ Matt Drudge (Drudge Report)

skateboarding pioneer  
Andy Kessler, a ~... (1970s / NYC)

snowboarding pioneer  
Craig Kelly, a ~ who died in an avalanche

Space Pioneer  
Scott Bolton receives NSS ~ award (Juno Mission)

♦ "I think pioneers are very important because I think they set the scene, they show others that they can do it, and they put it on the agenda...and others can take it up." (Zerbanoo Gifford speaking about Dadabhai Naoroji.)

\*\*\* La Perouse, Veniukov, Maximovich, Budishchev, Przewalski...

♦ "In the evening I sat by the fire and discussed with Dersu the rest of our journey down the Lefu. I very much wanted to have a look at Lake Hanka, discovered by N.M. Przewalski... /// [The old man] stopped and pointed out an old track overgrown with grass and shrubs. That was the old route, he told us, by which the Ussurians used to go through to Olga Bay. It was by that route that, in the sixties of the last century, Budishchev and Maximovich had come, and at the thought their portraits rose before my eyes and their description of their journey... /// The Tadusha! It was this very river that L. Veniukov was the first to explore, but the Chinese had stopped him and compelled him to turn back. That was in 1857 when he put up a big wooden cross to mark his farthest point, but I could find no trace of it. No doubt the Chinese had destroyed it as soon as the Russians had left. Later there came Maximovich, Budishchev, and Przewalski, all famous men of science... /// The climb up the ridge is stiff near the crest. The pass itself is in the form of a broad saddle, boggy, and covered with burnt-out forest. The altitude is 1584 ft., and it ought really to be named after the pioneer, M. Veniukov, who passed this way in 1857, breaking the way for the men who followed... /// September 27 was given up to a reconnaissance of the Bay of Terney, discovered by the famous La Perouse on 23 July 1767, who then and there gave it its name..." (Selections from *Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "The Explorer" (1898) by Rudyard Kipling is a stirring poem about an explorer and the pioneers who followed in his footsteps.

## pioneering

pioneering contribution

their ~s to intelligence testing

pioneering (elephant) researcher

a ~ in Nairobi

pioneering study

his ~, "Sexual Behavior..." (Alfred C. Kinsey)

pioneering work

he has done ~ in this field (neural prosthetics)

## pipe (noun)

narrower pipe

British English comes to us through a much ~

♦ "British English comes to us through a much narrower pipe than the one that floods Britain with our words." ("Even Americans Find Some Britishisms 'Spot On'" by Geoff Nunberg, *Fresh Air*, Nov. 1, 2012.)

## pipe (sports)

full pipe

the park has a ~, bowls, vert ramp and fun box

halfpipe

snowboarders catch big air in the ~

quarterpipe

the landing area flows to a 27-foot-tall ~

## pipe (go down the pipes)

went down the pipes

our relationship ~

## pipe dream (and pipedream)

pipe dream

it's not just a ~ anymore...

just a pipe dream

100,000 people in June is ~ (boxing during pandemic)

expectation rather than (a mere) pipedream

qualification has become the ~ (Welsh soccer / Euros)

remains a pipe dream

democracy ~ in places like the Congo and Sudan

dismissed as a pipedream

restoring function after paralysis can no longer be ~

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "As you may have guessed, gentlemen, our objective remains Rome. Can't let the Hun spend the rest of the winter there all nice and comfy-cosy. So we shall jolly well turf him out. Over on the left... here...the Yanks will burst through the Bernhard Line and streak up the Liri valley past Cassino and pop into Rome from the south. Our chaps...over here...will smash across the Sangro and gallop up the coast to Pescara then make a left hook into the mountains and pounce on Rome from the east. Our part of the show will open with a colossal crack at the mouth of the Sangro River....First Canadian Division will spearhead the advance after the breakthrough has been made. We've bags of tanks and guns so it should be plain sailing, what?" (A Divisional briefing in Campobasso, delivered by a brigadier, pointing to a huge map. From *And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "What have you been smoking!"

♦ "She's on crack."

♦ see also *opium* (noun)

## pipeline (Mexican Pipeline, etc.)

Mexican Pipeline

Zicatela Beach is renowned as the ~ surf break

## pipeline (Pipeline, etc.)

Pipeline

~ is one of the world's most dangerous surf spots

~ has claimed its victims (fatalities)

~ breaks 30 feet from shore (Hawaii)

♦ "Pipeline is really the ultimate challenge, it's super dangerous... super challenging, super abrupt, it gets very steep...it's really kind of the ultimate tube close to the beach, everyone can see, there's so much energy out there... most of us have lost somebody at Pipeline who has died over the years." (A surfer.)

## pipeline (shape)

waves, tubes, pipelines and barrels

the ~ of surfing

## pipeline (other)

aviation pipeline

he was in the ~, he was training in aviation (military)

drug pipeline

the ~ that runs through the reservation (border)

iron pipeline

the so-called ~, coming up from the South (guns to NY)

the ~ coming up from Georgia into New Jersey (guns)

money pipeline

the US vowed to shut down the ~ that finances terror

serves as a pipeline

the boarding school ~ to some of the best universities

♦ The flow of guns from the US into Mexico has been referred to as the "iron river."

## piper (pay the piper, etc.)

pied piper

see *pied piper*

pay the piper

the time to ~ has arrived (pandemic effects on education)

paid the piper

I should have stayed and ~ (murderer who fled to Yemen)

♦ "The piper is coming, the rent is due!" (A former NFL player commenting about contracts, trades, salaries, etc.)

♦ "And now the piper must be paid..."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This is an allusion to a German legend. See the Wikipedia article "Pied Piper of Hamelin." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ Always pay your debts!

♦ see also *pied piper*

## piquancy (noun)

sustained piquancy

it is this which lends the book its ~ (a book review)

## piracy (noun)

design piracy

legislation to limit ~ has been enacted

Internet music piracy

music executives are trying to end ~

biopiracy

if the tribe does not share in the profits, it's ~ (Brazil)

electronic piracy

do not participate in or encourage ~ of copyrighted materials

## piranha (predation)

piranhas around Britney

the ~ were awful (the pop star)

thousand internet piranhas

a ~ ripped through his every utterance (Jordan Peterson)

## pirate (Il Pirata, etc.)

the Pirate

he was called ~

♦ "His bandana, shaved head, nose stud and earrings earned him the nickname 'Il Pirata'—The Pirate." (The great Italian cyclist Marco Pantani.)

## pirate (person)

pirate server

French police located and dismantled the ~ (botnet)

pirate trade

its perceived benefits have fueled a ~ (tree frog)

music pirate

the industry is pursuing lawsuits against ~s (Internet)

porch pirates

they call them ~ (parcel thieves)

radio pirate

~s get on the bad side of the FCC

buccaneers, outsiders, (political) pirates

they want to be seen as ~ (opposition researchers)

counterfeit, pirate or bootleg

seizures of ~ labels soared (music)

track down the pirates

~ (CDs, computer software, etc. / UAE)

♦ "There have always been pirates in the Cyclades, going back to ancient times. Apparently, they now operate out of restaurants..." ("Greece's notorious rip-off restaurant strikes again: Tourist charged \$770 for shrimp and a drink" by Ben Cost, *New York Post*, August 18, 2023.)

\*\*\* "A notorious pirate town on the Somali coast..."

♦ Somali pirates are now capturing ships closer to India than to Africa. Xarardheere is a notorious pirate town on the Somali coast.

## piratical (adjective)

piratical museums

formerly ~... (colonialism)

\*\*\* "A piratical incursion..."

♦ "[A] sudden check came in the form of a piratical incursion. A small prau arrived which had been attacked by pirates and had a man wounded. They were said to have five boats, but more were expected to be behind and the traders were all in consternation, fearing that their small vessels sent trading to the "blakang tana" would be plundered. The Aru natives were of course dreadfully alarmed, as these marauders attack their villages, burn and murder, and carry away women and children for slaves... (*The Malay Archipelago* by Alfred Russel Wallace. Chapter 30: The Aru islands & residence in Dobbo.)

## Pirlo (the Yorkshire Pirlo, etc.)

Yorkshire Pirlo

Phillips has been branded "The ~" by his adoring fans

## pit (bear pit)

bear pit of the House of Commons

she stands tall in the ~

bear-pit atmosphere

a York Hall type of experience, that ~ (a boxing match)

frenzied bearpit

Anfield became a ~ (Liverpool soccer)

loves a bear pit

Dillian ~, he's fought in places smaller... (the great boxer)

transformed the ring into a bear pit

he ~ and bullied his rival (boxing)

♦ see also *bearbaiting*

## pit (snake pit, etc.)

see *snake pit*

## pit (money pit, etc.)

pitfall

see *pitfall* (noun)

money pit

it's a ~, it's hurting the company (Meta and the metaverse)

snake pit

see *snake pit*

## pit bull (person)

pit bull

she's a ~, sinks her teeth into a case and doesn't let go

pit bull for the president

he has been a ~ (a lawyer)

pit-bull lawyers

copyright is in the custody of ~

legal pit bull

he is a bookish, ~ with two Ivy League degrees

\*\*\* **"If I lose one of my cats to my neighbor's pit..."**

♦ "Dear God.... If I lose one of my cats to my neighbor's pit [bull dog], it's unstoppable immediate scorched earth, full nuclear option response, and they know it." (A response by "Phoebe Darling" to an article about yet another pit bull mauling. "Phoebe Darling!")

♦ "These dogs are all ticking timebombs waiting to go off." (Pit bulls.)

♦ "Rishi Sunak said the dogs were 'a danger to our communities' and would be banned by the end of the year... [Many] have welcomed the ban." ("American bully XLs to be banned as dog attack victim named" by Doug Faulkner, BBC News, September 15, 2023.)

♦ "Women seriously injured in American XL bully attack." (Ireland.)

♦ "Cindy Marabito runs a pit bull rescue out of her home in Austin, Texas... [She] is one of many pet owners with canine vaccine hesitancy. According to a recent survey out of Boston University, 53 percent of U.S. dog owners question if the rabies vaccine is safe, if it works, or if it's useful." ("Vaccine hesitancy affects dog-owners, too, with many questioning the rabies shot" by Pien Huang, NPR, Morning Edition, October 12, 2023.)

♦ see also *bulldog* (person)

## pitch (promote)

itches the nation's charms

he ~ (tourism)

♦ "Harris' pitch was about turning the page on Trump, and Trump's pitch was that the country is a mess, the world is falling apart, and it was better when he was in office." (NPR's Tamara Keith, about the first Harris-Trump debate.)

## pitchfork (oppression)

pitchfork-wielding

they are derided as ~ hysterics (sensitivity readers)

pitchforks and torches

it was a mob scene with ~ (perp walk in cuffs)

sharpened its pitchforks

Twitter ~ and came for her (a reporter)

♦ "The pitchforks are changing hands." (The U.S. electorate.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The oppression of Frankenstein's monster in the sentimental film versions seems irrational and cruel. Less so if you read Mary Shelley's harrowing and creepy novel.

## pitchfork (shape)

awful pitchfork

that ~ we saw in the sky (Shuttle *Challenger* Disaster)

## pitch in (help)

pitch in on child's play

the government needs to ~ (no playgrounds, etc.)

## pitch-perfect (adjective)

pitch-perfect

his speech was ~ for his audience

## pitfall (noun)

pitfalls of capital punishment

the case is an illuminating window into the ~

pitfalls of launching adolescents

it's time to wake up to the ~ into an adult lifestyle (models)

pitfalls in interpretation

~ (seismic data interpretation by geologists)

scams, schemes, and pitfalls

the shadow world of literary ~

pitfalls await

many ~ the new House majority (politics)

avoids the pitfalls

his book ~ that come with its territory (a biography)

navigating the (aesthetic) pitfalls

he and the movie are ~ of appropriation and authenticity

\*\*\* **Chang: A Drama of the Wilderness (1927)**

♦ Watch the film *Chang: A Drama of the Wilderness* (1927). It is an extraordinary silent documentary, and it shows the actual employment of pitfalls, deadfalls, and snares. It's free on YouTube but you have to search for it... The film was very popular in its time.

♦ "Not far from the rock there is a big pitfall. This is in the form of a stout fence to keep animals away from their watering-place, built up partly of fallen logs and partly of growing trees. Big stakes had been driven in to hold it firmly and prevent the animals from trampling it down. In a few places openings were left with pits dug underneath them, hidden by grass and dry twigs spread over the top. When the deer come down to the water at night, they come up against the fence, and in trying to find a way round, come to the holes and fall into the pits. There are fences like that stretching over a distance of thirty miles and more, with a couple of hundred pitfalls. / This pitfall on the Vangou had been abandoned... / Dersu abused the Chinese terribly for abandoning the pits without filling them in." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ 27 Nov. To Replee 11 miles. This was formerly an Ass Patrol's Post. It is now broken up and the nearest post is Odha 7 miles further—in this neighbourhood Mr Conway kills immense numbers of deer in pitfalls behind the line hedge—sometimes 19 or 20 are taken in one night in a single pitfall both Antelope and Ravine Deer—the place at which they usually jump the hedge is soon seen & a pitfall is dug just where they alight." (From the diary of Allan Octavian Hume. Quoted in the wonderful book *The Great Hedge of India* by Roy Moxham.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ GRAMMAR, n. A system of pitfalls thoughtfully prepared for the feet of the self-made man, along the path by which he advances to distinction. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## pivot (noun)

pivot (away) from green energy

Ohio's ~ (coal)

pivot to China

so what does a ~ mean or look like in practical terms

pivot point

see *point* (*pivot point*)

career pivot

it's a bit of a ~, from chemical engineer to bookstore owner

botched pivot

the ~ likened to a strip club focusing on chicken wings...

remarkable pivot

this represents a ~ for the State Department (in Iraq)

making a (big) pivot here

we're ~, from no water to too much (rain in California)

♦ "One simple pivot that we could do is to shift our focus away from X to Y." (An author being interviewed about his book.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ WHY would a teenager interviewed by NPR say, "Obviously now our plans have had to pivot" instead of "We have had to change our plans"? *That* is the question... ("Earth Day At 50: Climate Activists Go Digital Amid Pandemic Shutdown" by Jeff Brady, NPR, April 22, 2020.)

♦ In a very nice opinion piece, Scott Simon of NPR rightly characterizes this word as a buzzword. ("Politics, Pundits And The Problem With The Word 'Pivot,'" NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, June 11, 2016.)

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

## pivot (verb)

pivoted to a more aggressive stance  
the group has ~

suspensions (soon) pivoted  
their ~ and focused instead on Smollett (detectives)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In a very nice opinion piece, Scott Simon of NPR rightly characterizes this word as a buzzword. ("Politics, Pundits And The Problem With The Word 'Pivot,'" NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, June 11, 2016.)

## pivotal (adjective)

pivotal elections  
these are ~ (Zimbabwe after Mugabe)

pivotal (naval) battle  
it was a ~ (Battle of Trafalgar)

pivotal day  
Friday marks a ~ in the Senate's impeachment trial

pivotal moment  
that was a very ~ in the fight ("I put him on his ass")

pivotal people  
name five ~ in your life

pivotal (backstage) role  
he played a ~ in persuading...

## place (resting place)

resting place  
the sub would never move from its ~ (sunk)

resting place for hundreds of cars  
the bluff is the final ~ (St Joseph / Lookout Park)

## place (destination)

place of common understanding and common sense  
we came to a ~ (compromise)

trusted place  
we're a ~ where people can go... (a podcast)

welcoming place  
a more ~ for others who look like them (music industry)

kinder place  
she wants to make the internet a ~

no place

bigotry and hate have ~ in our schools  
hate and derision have ~ in Buckeye Nation (sports)  
homophobic, biphobic and transphobic have ~ in sport  
there is ~ at all for violence in politics, none, zero...

♦ "Where is Black Twitter, like, is it like a location..." (Answer: Black Twitter is associated with hashtags, memes, and the following of certain people.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The internet seems to be both a place and a space.

## place (mental)

place of genuine concern  
it's hard to tell if the criticism is coming from a ~

place of fear  
he is pushing studios to make decisions from a ~

place of self-reflection  
Rose is in a ~

place of (aspirational) thinking and hope  
they come from that ~ (high schoolers / reform)

dark place  
the ~ that I was in (depression)

worst place  
I've been to the ~ anybody could go (depression)

at a bad place  
I think she was ~ in her life (mental issues)

at a good place  
mentally, emotionally, I was not ~

in a very anxious place  
you have to function despite being ~

in a bad place  
she was sobbing uncontrollably, she was ~  
my head was in a ~

in a (really) bad place  
I was ~ physically and mentally

in a better place  
I am ~ mentally (Iraq combat vet)  
your mind is finally ~ (a drug advertisement)

in a (much) better place  
I feel ~ (a female athlete / mentally)

in a dark place  
we don't think we can move forward, we are all ~ (grief)

in a (very) dark place  
I spent Saturday ~ inside my head (a bad memory)

in a (really) dark place  
I was ~, I was 17, it seemed like the end of the world...

quite a dark, dark place  
I descended into ~ (Sophie Gradon, *Love Island* star)

in a good place  
the last time he saw her she was not ~ (suicide)

I was not ~ until I told myself... (mentally)  
he is not mentally well, he's not ~

in the right place  
they key now is that he gets his head ~ (a defeated boxer)

in a (very) weird place  
I feel ~ about this (opinion on a sports issue)

all over the place  
they are ~ (emotionally)

free of that place  
you can only live with resentment for so long, I'm ~

come to a place  
I had ~ accepting that she was probably dead

find a peaceful, happy place  
personally, I want for her to just ~ (manager resigns)

get to a place  
we want to ~ of forgiveness for him (a murderer)

goes to a place  
your mind ~ of 'What tragic event happened' (neighbor)

♦ "I understood where he was mentally at that point because I'd been there." (A suicide in prison.)

♦ "I haven't been there myself but I know women who have." (In an abusive relationship.)

♦ "In the last year, I had come to a place accepting that Michaela was probably no longer alive." (Mother of child missing for 32 years and presumed murdered, on arrest of suspect.)

♦ "Our hearts are just in a place that we can't even describe how sad we are." (Murder of a colleague.)

♦ "I've been in a place where it's been dark. And it's been deep, and it's been sad. And I'm like, I need to get out of that place." (Sloane Stephens, tennis player, about mental health.)

♦ "Once again I find myself in a place of shame and regret... / In the heat of the pain I was feeling, I went to dark places." (The actor Johnny Depp, at trial.)

♦ "I know this has been a difficult decision for him. He's shown true courage by acknowledging where he is at and acting on it. We will support him in any way we can..." (Wallabies coach Dave Rennie about Australian captain Michael Hooper, who determined he was not in the right 'mindset' to play and returned home.)

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "You've been taking mental-health meds, and your mind is finally in a better place..." (An online advertisement for Ingrezza® valbenazine capsules.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "So I interviewed a lot of people for this story, and some of the people that I interviewed said, you know, I've also done this, and it's not even intentional it's just when you've been saturated with some of the phrases—either you're in therapy or you watch a lot of therapy TikTok—it can come out in your conversations with your friends. I have said "holding space" to my friends without even fully understanding what that means. But it's not that people are intentionally being cruel to their friends or trying to sound like a therapist, it's trending, it's in the lexicon." (Rebecca Fishbein. From "'Therapy speak' is everywhere, but it may make us less empathetic," NPR, All Things Considered, April 13, 2023. Rebecca notes that therapy-speak might be picked up from a mental health professional, social media to include therapy TikTok, or from talking to one's friends.)

♦ Watch Happy Gilmore (Happy Place) HD

♦ "Place" (and "space") seem to have replaced "spot," "state" or "status" or "way."

♦ see also *space (mental)*

## place (situation)

at a different place  
we're ~ than we were earlier (vaccines)

in a bad place  
I put myself ~ (decisions, drinking, aggression)

in a better place  
the country is ~ than it was in 2001 (Afghanistan in 2021)

in a (much much) better place  
we are ~ right now than we were a month ago (COVID)

in a very different place  
social media is ~ than when Bebo was first about

in a much different place  
the heavyweight division was ~ on Dec. 1, 2018...

in a difficult place  
the government is sort of in a ~ (COVID 19 vaccine)

in a (really) good place  
the Post is ~, it's time to move on (Marty Baron retires)

in a (much less) privileged place  
other children are ~ than my family (pandemic)

in a (very) solid and stable place  
the NIH is ~

in a divided and disheartening place  
our nation is ~

from a place of privilege  
~, she...

time and place  
have we really come to a ~ where debate is feared...

time, place or space  
in a ~... (artists)

going toward a younger and more progressive place  
their fan base is ~ (the NFL)

get to a place  
if we ~ in 2024, if it's worse than 2020... (US elections)

got to this place  
how we ~ is because... (history)  
remind us how she ~, I mean, how was she able to...

put yourself in a place  
if you do these things, you can ~ to be successful (politics)

ratcheted this up to a ridiculous place  
they ~ (a sports controversy / Naomi Osaka)

♦ "It seems like a good place to do that." (Marty Baron retires after many years with the newspaper in good shape. He might just as well have said, "It seems like a good time to retire.")

♦ "Middle age is a good place to be as a writer." (The speaker might just as well have said, "Middle age is a good time to be a writer.")

♦ "The country is in a better place than it was in 2001 and the Taliban have become more open-minded." (General Sir Nick Carter, Britain's



Chief of Defense Staff. He might just as well have said, "in a better state.")

♦ OLD: in good shape, healthy... / NEW: in a really fit place...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ For Millennials and Zoomers, a situation is often a place (or space), for some unknown reason.

♦ see also *where* (situation / development)

## place (place where)

place where

will our digital century be a ~ our civilization can thrive

at a place where

we are still ~ black people can't...

she is ~ she feels she can speak out

at a place (right now) where

we are ~ our hospitals are overtaxed (pandemic)

in a place where

we're still ~ we have to talk about equality (women athletes)

in a place (similar to) where

by next January, they could be ~ the Lions were last year

in a state where

but we are still ~ supply is nowhere near demand (vaccine)

envisions a place where

he ~ blacks have power, opportunity

get it to a place where

it takes time to ~ you can safely take a helmet off (ISS)

get into a place where

I tend to ~ I'm not filling with self-love... (feelings)

get us in a place where

eventually he would ~ we were really talking to each other

get back to a place where

we need to ~ individuals can feel free

seen as a place where

sports are often ~ all that matters is...

take us to a place where

I'm all for doing anything that will ~ this can't happen again

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ At times, "a place where" can be substituted perfectly for a "moment / time when."

♦ "So I think this is really more about...[they] are in a place where where where what they are [doing] is..." (This sort of frontloading before a content word arrives is a feature of NPR punditry and contempo-speak.)

♦ A figurative "place" seems to mean or refer to, specifically or in any combination: (1) "a situation in which" (2) "in / at a time / moment when" (3) "a stage of development during / in which..." (4) condition & status.

♦ see also *where* (situation / development)

## plague (verb)

plague patients with (long hospital) stays  
infections ~

plagued California for years  
blackouts have ~

plagues Vermont all winter  
a remedy for the cabin fever that ~

plagued him for years  
depression had ~

plague Guatemala  
police corruption, lawlessness and drug trafficking ~

plagued Russia  
illegal logging has long ~ (Siberia)

plagues the south  
the lawlessness that ~ (Somalia vs. Somaliland)

plagued him  
injuries ~ (an athlete)

plagued the investigation  
leaks ~ (DC sniper murders)

## plague (noun)

plague of locusts  
its worst ~ in nearly 30 years (Afghanistan)

plague of (gold) prospectors  
the natives faced a ~

plague of (Western) wildfires  
the annual ~ (US)

plague of drugs and prostitution  
victim's relatives have worried about the ~

crack plague  
the ~ of the late 1980's

cellphone plague  
the ~ began in the 1990s (a teacher / schools)

HIV plague  
the growing ~

NotPetya plague  
the servers that played the role of patient zero in the ~

growing (HIV) plague  
the ~

annual plague  
the ~ of Western wildfires (US)

sonic plague  
the ~ of back-up beepers (Bac-A-Larm)

plague began  
the cellphone ~ in the 1990s (a teacher / schools)

faced a plague  
the natives ~ of gold prospectors

## consider motoboys a plague ordinary motorists ~ (Sao Paulo)

\*\*\* Ay, ay...

♦ The great traveler Ibn Battuta recorded that during the Plague of 1348 in Damascus, representatives and members of the three major religions—Muslims, Jews, and Christians—all made their way to the Mosque of the Footprints with their holy books to pray for the end of the sickness. Ibn Battuta recorded that in Damascus deaths reached under 2,000 people a day, while in Old Cairo they reached 24,000 a day.

♦ *The Decameron* (Giovanni Boccaccio) are a collection of tales told by a group of people who have fled Florence to escape the Black Death. According to the Wikipedia entry, "Boccaccio probably conceived of *The Decameron* after the epidemic of 1348, and completed it by 1353."

♦ 1656. Paulus Furst's engraving of Dr. Schnabel ("Beak") of Rome wearing protective clothing typical of the plague doctors of Rome at the time. "The plague doctor's costume was the clothing worn by a plague doctor to protect him from airborne diseases. The costume consisted of an ankle-length overcoat and a bird-like beak mask often filled with sweet or strong smelling substances (commonly lavender), along with gloves, boots, a brim hat and an outer over-clothing garment. / The mask had glass openings for the eyes and a curved beak shaped like that of a bird. Straps held the beak in front of the doctor's nose. The mask had two small nose holes and was a type of respirator which contained aromatic items. The beak could hold dried (including roses and carnations), herbs (including mint), spices, camphor or a vinegar sponge. The purpose of the mask was to keep away bad smells, which were thought to be the principal cause of the disease in the miasma theory of infection, before it was disproved by germ theory. Doctors believed the herbs would counter the 'evil' smells of the plague and prevent them from becoming infected."

♦ "THE BUBONIC PLAGUE WAS ON BOARD / India's Dread Curse Broke Out on the Ship *Annie Maud*. / ONE DIED FROM THE DISEASE. / He Was Buried at Sea While a Terrific Hurricane Was Raging. / THE OTHER TWO SAILORS RECOVERED." (*The San Francisco Call*, Saturday Morning, July 17, 1897.)

♦ "THE PLAGUE AT VIENNA. / Dr. Mueller, Who Attended Barisch, Succumbs to the Disease—His Devotion to Science. / VIENNA, Oct. 23.—Dr. Mueller, who attended Herr Barisch, the surgical assistant at Prof. Nothnagle's bacteriological establishment who died on Tuesday from bubonic plague, died this morning. The three nurses who had developed symptoms of the disease, are somewhat improved today. / Dr. Mueller had many English and American pupils. He owed his death to his fearless devotion to Herr Barisch. Not only did he assiduously attend and examine him, noting down a careful description of the case from hour to hour, but he even scraped the walls of the sick room in order to prove the presence of bacilli, utterly regardless of the danger to himself. When he was attacked he wrote down a complete diagnosis of his own condition, analyzing the changes from hour to hour, and pasting them on the window, until pain and fever compelled him to stop. / All the animals at the Nothnagle establishment which had been made the subjects of experiment with the plague bacillus were killed to-day and cremated." (*The New York Times*, October 24, 1898.)

♦ "Plague / This disease during the year has been reported in the following countries: / Africa, Cape Colony and Egypt; Arabia, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, England, Formosa, Germany, Hawaiian Islands, India, Japan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Paraguay, Philippine Islands, Portugal, Reunion, Russia, Scotland, Straits Settlements, Turkey, and Wales—probably a wider dissemination than has ever been known in the history of the world. / The large majority of the cases have occurred in India—more than in all the rest of the world combined. From April 29 to November 3, 1900, 28,865 cases were reported, with 21,954 deaths. During the next six months—from November 4, 1900, to May 11, 1901—there were 506,395 cases, with 446,923 deaths, or for the period from April 29, 1900, to May 11, 1901, there were 535,260 cases and 468,877 deaths. / These figures are only approximately correct, as no doubt many cases are not reported. (Annual Report of the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service of the United States for the Fiscal Year 1901.)

♦ "There is no denying it... It is sickness...the great coughing sickness which they name the Black Death. Already six provinces are stricken. People are fleeing with the wind. The first came last night to

Pai-tan. And one of the women fell dead inside the Manchu Gate. A wise man knows what that portends. Ay, ay, when there is famine we march and when there is pestilence we march again. Life is not easy when the gods show their wrath." (*The Keys of the Kingdom* by A. J. Cronin. The plague occurred at the beginning of the 20th century, perhaps around 1911. It spread around the world, reaching San Francisco.)

♦ Plague has never been wiped out. WHO reports between 1,000 and 3,000 cases of plague every year; its figures show 182 deaths from the disease in 2003. The disease remains endemic in many countries in Africa, in the former Soviet Union, the Americas—including parts of the US—and Asia. / Plague can be fatal to humans left untreated in 30 to 60 percent of cases. If diagnosed in time, almost all plague patients can be cured with treatment including antibiotics. / The most common form of the disease, bubonic plague, usually causes swelling and tenderness in the lymph gland in the neck. The disease's least common but most deadly form, pneumonic plague, can be inhaled and transmitted between humans without involvement of animals or fleas." ("Is plague still a killer?" BBC News Magazine.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "In 1940 Japanese planes dropped plague-infected fleas over southwest China. By the end of the war Japanese biological weapons—anthrax, cholera, typhus and bubonic plague—had killed an estimated 270,000 people." (Unit 731.)

♦ "Before the next campaign, we had to take the usual inoculations plus some additional ones. Our arms were sore, and many men became feverish. The troops hated getting injections, and the large number (someone said it was seven) before Okinawa made us crotchety. The plague shot burned like fire and was the worst." (E.B. Sledge on Pavuvu, after Peleliu, before Okinawa. From *With the Old Breed* by E.B. Sledge.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Plagues always bring moral judgments with them."

## plagued

plagued with violence

Southern Thailand has been ~ for years

plagued with cracks

the monument is ~, leaks and corroding surfaces

plagued by drugs

her life has been ~ and other personal demons

plagued by (sectarian) violence

Karachi has been ~ (Shiites / Sunnis)

plagued by homesickness

he was ~ (student)

plagued by (cost) overruns

the project has been ~ (Big Dig / Boston)

plagued by coups and dictators

Mauritania has been ~ since independence

plagued by faulty elevators, mold, and leaky roofs

the 33-story building is ~

plagued by scandals and intrigue

the Vatican is still ~ (finances)

accident-plagued

accident-plagued 195

corruption-plagued

~ civilian governments (Pakistan)

crash-plagued

the innovative but ~ aircraft

crime-plagued  
a ~ neighborhood

deficit-plagued  
the ~ Federal Government

injury-plagued  
after an ~ season in Europe (sports)

insurgent-plagued  
Haditha, a lawless, ~ city in Anbar Province

mine-plagued  
African children live on the most ~ continent

mosquito-plagued  
Siberia's ~ expanse

scandal-plagued  
a ~ program (Alabama football)  
the ~ former prime minister

violence-plagued  
in ~ Iraq

\*\*\* **"Those light-winged tormentors..."**

♦ "Swarms of mosquitoes plagued the travelers. Jack's diary is dotted with such entries as 'mosquitoes thick,' 'Mosquitos make a demonstration in force,' 'Put up netting and fooled mosquitoes,' 'John driven out of bed by mosquitos,' 'Evening burned smudges' (smoky fires to drive the insects away), 'Bite me through overalls and heavy underwear.' The men smeared their faces with clay for protection. (*Gold Diggers: Striking It Rich in the Klondike* by Charlotte Gray. "Jack" is the great writer Jack London.)

♦ "Dense swarms of mosquitoes set in immediately after sunset... a nuisance that can hardly be imagined. No breath of air incommodes those light-winged tormentors. It is quite impossible, for the European at least, to close an eye without the shelter of a mosquito net. Our Indians slept with no covering, only occasionally brushing away the most obtrusive of the little fiends." (*The Amazon and Madeira Rivers* by Franz Keller.)

♦ "Before evening that day there put in its first appearance the curse of the *taiga*, flies. The settlers call them *gnus*, horror or abomination, and they are indeed the plague of the forest. Their bite draws blood and the wound itches desperately, and the more it is scratched the worse it becomes. When there are many biting flies about, it is impossible to expose the head for an instant. The flies blind your eyes, become entangled in the hair and ears, crawl up your sleeve, and savagely bite your neck. Your face swells up as though with erysipelas." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## plain (plain people, etc.)

plain people  
we're ~, just country people

## planet (noun)

planet in the Arab world  
Egypt is a ~

## plank (noun)

plank of the investigation  
the obstruction charge was a secondary ~

## plant (put)

planted a bomb  
he ~ along the route (terrorist)

planted the explosives  
he would not speculate about who might have ~

planted a (political) minefield  
the British colonizers ~ in the 1920s (Sudan)

## plant (create)

plant the seeds  
the British helped to ~ of discord in Afghanistan  
Nasser wanted to ~ of revolution on the Arabian Peninsula

planted the seeds  
he ~ that gave principals more autonomy (education)

planted and tended  
as field director, she has ~ chapters across the country

## plastered (impression)

plastered across magazine covers  
her face was ~

## plate (step up to the plate)

step up to the plate  
it's time to ~ and take responsibility  
we need to ~ and take this issue seriously (climate change)  
I hope the district attorney will ~ and...

stepped up to the plate  
he could have ducked it but he didn't, he ~ (honesty)  
she ~ and advocated for her community (Stella Bowles)

## plate (on one's plate)

on your plate  
I know that you have an incredible amount of work ~

a lot on his plate  
he has ~ and wants to get back to work (Obama)

have a lot on your plate  
I know you ~ (busy)

## plate (full plate)

full plate of attacks  
they are fighting a ~ from the Republicans (Democrats)

## plateau (noun)

hit a plateau  
if you slip up or ~, don't beat yourself up (weight loss)

\*\*\* **The last lions in the Sahara...**

♦ The last lions in the Sahara survived on the Ennedi Plateau until the 1940s (Chad).

## plateau (verb)

plateaued  
there was an initial upswing, but it has ~ since (soccer)

slightly plateaued  
she has ~ (decreased need for sex)

## platform (as verb)

platform (colonial, white supremacist) perspectives  
we refuse to ~ (Wing Luke Museum walkout, Seattle)

platform marginalized voices  
she became a music journalist to ~

prioritize, center, and platform  
we must ~ the voices of women (sexual assault)

## platform (noun)

platforms to bloggers  
his show gave ~ like...

platforms of radio, television and digital media  
across the ~

platforms like Fizz  
college-specific ~ can serve as echo chambers (Tulane)

platform and an audience and a community  
building a ~ on Twitter

huge platform  
I work at *The New York Times*, I have a ~...

use our platforms  
we're not going to shut up and play, we're going to ~

♦ "You have a platform and a loud mouth." (A Twitter war.)

\*\*\* "A man cooees..."

♦ "[In the hill and mountain country of northern India]... inter-village communication is carried on by shouting. Standing on a commanding point, maybe a big rock or the roof of a house, a man cooees to attract the attention of the people in a neighboring village, and when the cooee is answered the message is shouted across in a high-pitched voice. From village to village the message is tossed, and is broadcast throughout large areas in an incredibly short space of time." (The cooee method of communication. From *Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India 1936-1943.)

## platter (silver platter)

on a silver platter  
they did not get it handed to them on a ~ (effort)

## play (play to the audience, etc.)

play to their base  
he expects Republicans to ~ for a time

plays to the gallery  
the representation of emotion ~ (anguish, distress, etc.)

played the (good) soldier  
Vice President Kamala Harris ~... (supported Biden)

## play (play with data, etc.)

playing with different parameters  
we're ~ (computer modeling)

## play (noun)

"Can't talk, on a call" play  
she's mastered the ~ (Kamala Harris)

## play down (verb)

played down concerns  
the Pentagon has ~ over the Chinese fighter (plane)

played down the importance  
Democrats ~ of the findings (politics)

played down the incident  
he ~

playing down links  
he has been ~ to Al Qaeda (a commander)

## played (manipulated)

played  
are you being ~ (incentives and rewards, etc.)

played as a pawn  
I believe everyone is being ~ (local mayor about issue)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The world increasingly feels like a game we can't stop playing." (*You've Been Played* by Adrian Hon.)

♦ see also *gamed* (*manipulated*)

## play out (verb)

play out  
how do you think this will ~ (a sports scandal)

playing out  
all this was ~ in Washington (controversy)

play out along the border  
anger and confusion continues to ~

played out (very) publicly  
her personal crises ~ in the tabloid press (#FreeBritney)

♦ Martha Raddatz, ABC's Chief Global Affairs correspondent: How do you see this playing out? / Jake Sullivan, President Biden's national security advisor: War, of course, is highly unpredictable so it's difficult to predict how it will *play out* [italics mine] but I *will* say this... (ABC punditry.)

## playbook (noun)

playbook  
others are taking a page out of that ~

dated (media) playbook  
he relied on a ~ (The Messenger)

established playbook  
the NRA has a pretty ~ (to explain school shootings)

familiar playbook  
politicians and pundits have already rebooted a ~ (guns)

follow the (administration's) playbook  
nominees closely ~

♦ "It was the same old show. Same old tired playbook we've heard for years. It's time to turn the page." (Kamala Harris, campaigning for the presidency in 2024. Her right hand makes the gesture of turning a page. She looks satisfied as crowd roars.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The old playbooks don't seem to work nowadays...

## playground (noun)

playground for Westerners

Nairobi, once a favorite ~ in Africa...

adult playgrounds

in ~ like Monte Carlo...

summer playground

Lebanon's resorts were the ~s of wealthy Arabs

high-speed playground

street racers have claimed the roads as their ~ (Atlanta)

whitewater playgrounds

the ~ do not freeze in winter (Vancouver / kayaking)

rapids-filled playground

the river is a ~ (paddle sports / the Gauley)

♦ "Deserts and cliffs in western states are not a playground." (Comment about an adult who became separated from a 9-year-old boy. The former ended up falling to his death.)

♦ "The subway system is not a playground." (A city official after yet another 15-year-old dies subway surfing in New York City.)

♦ "Sometimes foreigners don't completely understand that Bali is still a home for people. They see it as just this Disneyland that's there for their enjoyment and their pleasure."

♦ "We're policing somebody else's playground." (A business owner in Miami Beach, about out-of-control out-of-town spring breakers. Many in Miami Beach would like to see the tradition ended.)

## playing field (uneven playing field, etc.)

uneven playing field

corruption and greed have created an ~ (college admissions)

level playing field

all we ask for is a ~ (tariffs)

level playing field internationally

it's not a ~ (swimming and sports doping)

playing field has been tilted

they claim the ~ in China's favor

alter the playing field

money can ~, change the landscape (elections)

♦ "Winning on an uneven playing field means nothing." (A Manchester City hater, about City winning the Treble.)

♦ "We all should feel comfortable with who we are in our own skin. But... (Michael Phelps about male-to-female transgender swimmers like Lia Thomas.)

♦ "We now do have donors who are able to alter the playing field, change the landscape, and do so with relatively little notice." (NPR's Ron Elving about money, politics and elections.)

## playing field (level the playing field)

level the playing field

the changes will ~ (sex cases on campus)

♦ "The goal of the policy I propose is not to 'tip the scales in favor of boys,' as some fear. Rather, it is to level the playing field in the spirit of equity given the developmental differences between the sexes."

♦ "DEI is NOT 'leveling the playing field' to fully include underrepresented groups—but, instead, is 'heavily tilting' the playing

field in favor of faculty candidates possessing preferred demographic characteristics and viewpoints." (Cornell Free Speech Alliance.)

♦ see also *balance* (tip the balance), *scale* (tip the scales), *scale* (put one's finger on the scale, etc.)

## Please! (sarcasm)

Please

~. What we really deserved were... (see quote below)

♦ Rhoades Ha: As a junior member of the team, he deserved better editorial support and oversight. / Adam Rubenstein: Please. What I and others really deserved were leaders who didn't buckle under pressure and sacrifice their own to placate a loud and insurgent group at the paper." ("I Was a Heretic at The New York Times" by Adam Rubenstein, *The Atlantic*.)

## plinth (noun)

plinth in their lives

their grandmother was the ~ (chaotic upbringing)

## plod (verb)

plod along

he expects Republicans to ~ for a time

plodding along

her life was just ~ until...

## plot (noun)

writing itself out of the plot

by not being more present, France risks ~ (in Ukraine)

lost the plot

Biden has ~ (changed his rhetoric / politics)

you've officially ~, BBC (a sports commenter)

missed the plot

if you haven't picked up on that, you ~ (US rejects DEI)

♦ "DEI... is poison. It has no business whatsoever in our military. I think the American people have spoken loudly and clearly about this. They're tired of this. They're tired of woke ideology. And to my Democrat colleagues on the other side, if you haven't picked up on that, you missed the plot. Because that was what November fifth was partially about." (Republican Senator Eric Schmitt, about the rejection of divisive DEI policies by most Americans in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ People who we think are deluded, we say, have "lost the plot."

## plot (verb)

plot new lives

freed miners in Chile ~

## plot line (development)

torn up the (division's proposed) plot lines

Andy Ruiz Jr has ~ (boxing)

## plow (plow a field, etc.)

plowing a (very fertile) field

Donald Trump was ~ (NPR's Mara Liasson / 2016)

## plow (plow on, plow through, etc.)

plowing ahead

we are ~ (difficult medical research)

plow on  
he remains determined to ~ (Elon Musk after a failure)

plowed through the (review) books  
I ~ (studying for test)

♦ "Keep your hand on that plow, and hold on." (A moving Negro spiritual.)

## plow (put)

plowed their money into gun smuggling  
they have ~ (ex-pirates)

## plug (verb)

plug the hole  
the Ministry must find savings to ~ in their budget

## plug (pull the plug)

pulled the plug on the expedition  
the alpinists have ~ after both suffered injuries...

pulled the plug on the project  
homeland security ~ (border towers)

pull the plug on its fall sports season  
Big Ten presidents are ready to ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

pulled the plug on the show  
CBS ~

pulling the plug on its mascot  
the university is ~ (getting rid of it)

pull the plug on the (global) talks  
no one is quite ready to ~ (climate)

pull the plug on hate radio  
we need to ~

time to pull the plug  
it's ~ on the project

decided to pull the plug  
they ~ on their marriage

threatening to pull the plug  
investors are ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Of course, if you "pull the plug" on something, it will "go down the drain."

## plugged (fixed)

holes have been plugged  
the security ~ (computers)

## plugged in / into

plugged in  
he likes to convey the impression he's ~ (radio host)

plugged into politics  
people who are very ~

## plum (desirable)

plum assignment

the final ~ at the end of a distinguished career  
it was a ~ for a young detective

plum (ambassadorial) assignments  
giving ~ to big-money donors

plum commission  
won the ~ for the library (architecture)

plum posting  
in return they would give this judge a ~ in Monaco

plum properties  
they have snapped up ~ (Londongrad)

plum (committee) seats  
promises of ~ (politics)

plum spot  
relationships and favors guaranteed him a ~ (government)

## plumbing (noun)

plumbing of the Internet  
the copyright legislation messes with the secure ~

plumbing components  
the essential ~ are the routers (Internet)

economy's plumbing  
financial data centers put much of the ~ in one place

Internet's plumbing  
we're now seeing attacks on the ~  
he wants to create standards to secure the ~

## plume (shape)

plume  
~s started blowing off the summit (Everest)

plumes of ash  
sending out ~ and three rivers of lava (volcano)

plume of cyanide  
a ~ reached to the Black Sea (spill into Danube)

plume of dust  
a rockslide sent up a ~

plume of (sarin) gas  
blowing up the Khamisiyah dump released a ~ (Iraq)

plume of smoke  
the ~ from a rocket-propelled grenade

plumes of smoke  
sent up huge ~ (military air strikes)

plume of water  
on the left is a huge ~ called "The Thing" (kayaking)

plume altitude  
information about ~ (volcanic eruption)

plume bifurcation  
~ was visible (volcanic eruption)

ash plume



~s from the two volcanoes

sarin plume

US troops in the path of a huge ~ (Gulf War)

smoke plume

~s streaking diagonally through the sky (shuttle disaster)

vapor plume

traces of water in a ~

classic plume

you can see the ~ blowing off the top right now (Everest)

huge plume

sending a ~ of smoke into a cloudless sky (air strike)

toxic plume

bombing chemical sites could send up ~s

radiological or biochemical plume

evacuation in the event of a ~

path of a (huge sarin) plume

US troops in the ~ (Gulf War)

\*\*\* **"Cormorants and egrets were mercilessly hunted..."**

♦ Many species of birds were nearly driven to extinction by plume hunters eager to make money from adorning women's hats. At one time, cormorants and egrets were mercilessly hunted for their feathers.

## plummet (decline / decrease)

plummeted from \$5.9 to \$3.3 billion

spending at the agency ~

plummeted out of contention

the team ~ (sports)

blood pressure plummeted

his ~

business has plummeted

its advertising ~

level (of trust) has plummeted

the ~, understandably so (in NPR)

levels can plummet

women's testosterone ~ as they age

morale had plummeted

~ (US soldiers / Vietnam War)

output plummeted

economic ~ and unemployment rose

price (of gold) has plummeted

the ~

production plummeted

agricultural ~, leading to growing unemployment

rates have plummeted

crime ~ over the last decade

temperature can plummet

the ~

traffic plummets

if web ~, that means advertising revenue drops (press)

wages plummeted

~, and the black market flourished

♦ "Now, I want to talk to you about, well, this is your phrase, the year you plummeted to stardom. That's a great phrase. You made *The Graduate* in 1967..." (Another brilliant Kirsty Young BBC Desert Island Discs interview, this time with Dustin Hoffman.)

## plunder (verb)

plundered intellectual property and trade secrets

it has ~ (economic espionage)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "The spectacle of the Russian demobilization... continued... before our eyes... along the road in front of the Red House, moving from west to east... at all hours of the day and night. Men passed by on foot, often barefoot, with their shoes hanging from their shoulders to save the soles... Some carried sacks or suitcases on their shoulders; others, the most varied of possessions, an easy chair, a standard lamp, copper pots, a radio, a pendulum clock. / Others passed by on carts, or on horseback; yet others, droves of them, on motor-cycles... / [U]nusual vehicles also passed, always crammed: agricultural tractors, postal vans, German buses formerly used for city transport and still bearing the names of the Berlin terminals; some already broken down, and dragged by other vehicles or by horses. / About the beginning of August... [h]orses slowly began to prevail... the road belonged to them. There must have been all the horses of occupied Germany, tens of thousands passing through each day... goaded and urged on with cries and blows of the whip by girls, one to every hundred or more animals, who rode on horseback without a saddle, bare-legged, sunburnt and dishevelled... The horses were so many, what did it matter if one more or less reached its destination? / [I]t was thanks to these that we survivors of Auschwitz did not need many more months to regain our strength. / The Russians of the Command did not pay the slightest attention [to our] plundering..." (*The Truce* by Primo Levi. Chapter 12, "The Wood and the Path.")

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ **PLUNDER:** *household goods*. / In German this word meant simply household goods, bedclothes, linens, and so on, so the German word *plundern* came to mean 'to rob household articles.' Certain of the troops that fought the Thirty Years' War displayed a particular aptitude for this, so when the British soldiers returned to their islands they carried with them a new word, *plunder*." (From *Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 13, "War Words and Their Histories.")

♦ "When I am a medieval plunderer, I can do what I want, and I love the freedom." (Pol Malfait, a 53-year-old postal clerk from Ghent, Belgium. As a medieval re-enactor, he spends the weekends pretending to be a 14th-century Flemish soldier.)

## plundered

plundered

had he tapped on the link, the phone would have been ~

## plunge (noun / decline)

plunge in the stock price

the ~ was based on reaction to an article...

harrowing plunge

a day after a ~ in the stock market

## plunge (decline / decrease)

plunged to 38 years

in Zambia, life expectancy has ~ (AIDS, drought, etc.)

plunged by two-thirds

the number of Shinto weddings has ~ (Japan)

plunged 33 percent  
new-home sales ~

grades plunged  
his ~ (school)

markets plunged  
but the ~ (bankruptcy)

sales plunged  
but then ~ (the auto industry)

life expectancy has plunged  
in Zambia, ~ to 38 years (AIDS, drought, etc.)

## plunge (plunge into something)

plunge into (dangerous sexual) behavior  
newly released prisoners often ~ (H.I.V.)

plunge into the ocean  
~ of pleasure (ad for porn site)

plunge into my subject  
before I ~... (lecture)

plunging into the unknown  
we are ~ (new technology)

## plunge (involvement)

take the plunge  
it was time to ~ (begin dangerous trek)

## plus (benefit)

plus to us  
he has been a ~ (versus a detriment)

plus for them  
if they can get a big project, that's a ~

negative or a slight plus  
tariffs might be a ~

## plus-one (boyfriend, girlfriend, etc.)

takes her model boyfriend as her plus-one  
she ~ (on a yacht trip / *Triangle of Sadness*)

## poach (verb)

poached rival quarterbacks  
he ruthlessly ~ (leader of a league)

poached allies from Taiwan  
China has steadily ~ in the Pacific (Kiribati, etc.)

poached several employees from Apple  
the company ~

poach Allyson Felix from Nike  
Gap's Athleta brand was able to ~

## poached

poached by (software giant) Oracle  
she was ~ (prodigy)

## pocalypse (gas-pocalypse, etc.)

apocalypse  
see *apocalypse* (noun)

cheesepocalypse  
the ~, a national shortage of Kraft Velveeta cheese

chipocalypse  
~, a shortage of semiconductors...

gas-pocalypse  
this could be the year of the ~ (high prices at the pump)

robopocalypse  
come that ~, when they finally take over (robots / AI)

*Robopocalypse*  
~ by Daniel H. Wilson (a novel)

smokepocalypse  
Will NYC see another ~ (smoke from Canadian wildfires)

subscription-Pocalypse  
the ~ is about to hit (people cut back on subscriptions)

Trumpocalypse  
the elites live in fear of the ~ (2024 election)

♦ "The Subscription-Pocalypse Is About To Hit" by Brian Moritz, Nieman Lab, Predictions For Journalism 2019. His thought is, there are just too many things to subscribe to, so people will begin to cut back.)

♦ "This could be 'the year of the gas-pocalypse' analysts tell the Los Angeles Times..." ("Pained By Prices At The Pump? They're Likely To Go Even Higher" by Mark Memmott, NPR, The Two-Way, January 6, 2012.)

♦ A national shortage of Kraft Velveeta cheese at the start of 2014 was referred to as a cheesepocalypse.

♦ Poppy Apocalypse; Poppypalooza... (In 2019, a super bloom of desert poppies saw the town of Lake Elsinore, California, descended on by an army of blissed-out tourists equipped with cell phones and selfie sticks and earbuds. They parked alongside an interstate, blocked local roads, trampled everything, climbed trees to get the best photos, and fell down hills. A dog was bitten by a rattlesnake.)

♦ "I'm very careful to be very polite 'cause, you know, come that robopocalypse, I want them to remember that, you know, I'm not one of the bad guys. It's kind of the reason I made this film is that I'll get spared when they finally take over, they'll be like, 'He's OK. He understands us,' you know?" (The British filmmaker Gareth Edwards about his 2023 film *The Creator*. Gareth claims he says "please" and "Thank you" when using Siri, Alexa, ChatGPT, etc.)

♦ "This potential apostro-apocalypse..." (NPR's David Folkenflik, about how to use the apostrophe with Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. Cute!)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ An online BBC article about a shortage of semiconductors entitled "How will 'chipageddon' affect you" prompted Timbob to snark, "Surely 'Chipocalypse' would have been better than 'Chipageddon'."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary has an entry for "-pocalypse." Click on derived terms and you get a nice little list. The list includes "Trumpocalypse," which has its own entry! Wiktionary is wonderful.

## pocket (deep pockets)

deep pocket companies  
talent is being hired away by ~

Gulf's deep pockets  
the ~ beckon (arms sales)

with deep pockets  
even hedge funds ~ can borrow money (FED)

with (suitably) deep pockets  
if an investor ~ comes forward

## pocket (in the pocket)

in the pocket of big business  
he is not ~ (Donald Trump)

in their back pocket  
the NRA has every politician ~

in the pocket of Donald Trump  
the Republican Senate is completely ~

has them in his pocket  
I think the old man ~ (has convinced them)

sits in the pocket  
Europe ~ of the United States and declines (Chomsky)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Pockets have been a metaphor for abundance or perversion, possession or secrecy..." ("Concealed Carry: What's really in your pocket?" by Hua Hsu, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023. It's a wonderful article. He is a professor of English at Bard College.)

## pocketbook (money)

good for the pocketbook  
it's ~, too (energy conservation)

hit (more and more) pocketbooks  
the strike will ~ the longer it goes on

hitting people in their pocketbooks  
sizzling summer weather is~ (cost of AC, etc.)

## pockmark (verb)

pockmark Baltimore's poorest areas  
blocks of vacant row houses now ~ (white flight / crime)

pockmark Indonesia's landscape  
illegal mines ~

pockmark the dirt road  
puddles of icy water ~

## pockmark (noun)

pockmarks on the wall  
he fired a shotgun, leaving ~ of the mosque (Tunisia)

bullet pockmarks  
all those ~ were new (Haiti)

splattered (wildly) with pockmarks  
the front of the house is ~ (cartel gunmen / Matamoros)

left pockmarks on the side of his house  
a grenade exploded in his garden and ~ (Mitrovica)

♦ "For all its pockmarks, there's a reason they call soccer 'the beautiful game.'" ("Three Books To Ignite Your World Cup Fever" by Cord Jefferson, NPR, All Things Considered, May 28, 2010.)

## pockmarked

pockmarked by disparaging comments  
his path to power has been ~ about women

pockmarked with embarrassment  
Grammy history is ~ (poor choices, lip-syncing, etc.)

pockmarked with mass graves  
the country is ~ (Rwanda)

pockmarked with bullet holes  
the buildings are ~ (West Mosul)

pockmarked with abandoned lots  
it's an area ~ (Mansfield, Ohio)

pockmarked with deep, abandoned pits  
the Iron Range is ~ (northern Minnesota)

pockmarked with shrapnel  
a statue of Jesus is still ~ (Negombo, Sri Lanka)

pockmarked with empty lots and dilapidated homes  
neighborhoods are ~ (Port Arthur, Texas / poverty, storms)

pockmarked by the trenches  
the land is still ~ that once lined the Western Front

pockmarked by police shootings and nationwide protests  
a summer ~

### \*\*\* Leishmaniasis, smallpox...

♦ "Oh, where I was born, everyone had this. First, a fly bit you, then you got a sore. After a while it healed and never came back." (A grandfather, originally from southern Turkey, explaining to his American grandson how he got a shallow scar—a papery depression—on his cheek. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is also known as "Oriental sore," "Baghdad boil," and Aleppo evil." In India it is known as kala azar, or black fever.)

♦ "For survivors, smallpox was a cruelly fickle disease, leaving many of its survivors blinded or dreadfully scarred, but others unscathed. It had existed for millennia, but didn't become common in Europe until the early sixteenth century. Its first recorded appearance in England was 1518." (*At Home: A Short History of Private Life* by Bill Bryson.)

♦ "One day I was called into the room of our hostess's younger sister. The room was dark, and only when hot hands gripped mine did I realize that I was standing near her. When my eyes had got accustomed to the darkness, I looked toward the bed and recoiled in a horror which I could hardly conceal. There lay completely transformed by sickness one who two days before had been a pretty healthy girl. Though a layman, I instantly saw that she had smallpox. Her larynx and tongue were already attacked and she could only cry out with thick articulation that she was dying. I tried to tell her that it was not so, and then escaped from the room as quickly as possible to have a thorough wash. There was nothing to be done and one could only hope that an epidemic would not break out. Aufschnaiter also visited her and agreed with my diagnosis... (*Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer, Chapter 4, "The Village of Happiness.")

♦ "I had lots of things to carry me across the river. Sometimes I could use a camel, sometimes I could get a boat. But if I knew there was critical timing involved...I would try to arrange in advance for the elephant. The elephant rides pretty smoothly and it's pretty tall. Usually I got on with a ladder, but you could step on its trunk and it would put you on its back. I was always a little nervous about that." (May Guinan, sent to Uttar Pradesh from the CDC in the campaign to eradicate smallpox, on how she would cross a river to get to her headquarters in Lucknow. Another method involved mounting a bicycle, which was then carried on the shoulders of two men. From *The Invisible Fire* by Joel N. Shurkin.)

## point (decision point, etc.)

### confusion point

race is not black or white, that's one of the ~s (historian)

### data point

one ~ in the report is civilian casualties  
the public will no longer have a key ~ about the war  
COVID rates were one ~, and there were others...  
it's another ~ that illustrates that... (a statistic)  
foregoing the count means we will miss a crucial ~  
the results give researchers a vital new ~ (a test)  
it's the latest grim ~ (number of confirmed COVID cases)

### decision point

it's really an enormous ~ which will transform... (sports)  
we reached a ~ to reduce flying to catch up (airline meltdown)

### inflection point

(see *inflection point*)

### pain point

highly localized surges a ~ for many communities (COVID)  
the "Apple tax," a longtime ~ for app developers

### passion point

it's clear that mentorship is a ~ for Claudia Grisales

### plot points

so what are some of the ~ prosecutors could argue...

### price point

cigars at every price in every ~ (Casablanca Cigar Club)

### proof point

the leaked document has provided a "powerful ~"

### Proof Points

"~s: How Do You Find A Gifted Child" (Hechinger Report)

### talking point

~s written by the oil and gas industry (propaganda)  
I'm not interested in the same old tired ~s (politics)  
a few of the big ~s in the world of boxing this week

### danger point or vulnerability point

when there may be a particular ~ (college suicides)

♦ "So remind us what are some of the plot points in the aftermath of 2020 that prosecutors could argue broke the law." / "Well, there are a few main buckets based on public court documents..." (Political punditry—"plot points" and "buckets"—concerning Donald Trump, heard on NPR in 2023.)

♦ PROOF POINTS: How do you find a gifted child? / PROOF POINTS: What research tells us about gifted education / PROOF POINTS: Gifted programs provide little to no academic boost, new study says / PROOF POINTS: There is a worldwide problem in math and it's not just about the pandemic / PROOF POINTS: Schools' mission shifted during the pandemic with healthcare, shelter and adult ed / PROOF POINTS: Three views of pandemic learning loss and recovery... (Articles at The Hechinger Report that seem to all be written by Jill Barshay.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The use of "data point" can give punditry a scientific sheen and the pundit an aura of scientific knowledge.

♦ Q rating is another term beloved by pundits.

♦ "Proof point" is not yet recognized by Merriam-Webster, Wikipedia, or Wiktionary.

♦ "Inflection point" is on the Lake Superior State University 2023 Banished Words List—words banned for "misuse, overuse, and uselessness."

## point (sticking / friction point)

### sticking points

so what are the ~ in these talks (tariff negotiations)

## point (tipping point)

### tipping point

we're at that ~ (demand for antibiotic-free meat)  
what was the ~ that made the company say, "Enough"

### tipping point for him

what happened this weekend seems to be a ~ (POTUS)

### Syria's tipping point

this could be ~ (pro-democracy protests)

### social tipping point

we have passed a ~, we can no longer look away (justice)

### passed a tipping point

we have ~, a point of no return (Greta Thunberg)

### reached a tipping point

he thinks 3D has reached a ~ (new normal for films)

♦ see also *fulcrum* (noun), *hinge* (hinge event, etc.), *turning point* (noun)

## point (pivot point)

### pivot point

Casey saw the Iraq War as a ~, one of history's hinges

## point (point where)

### in a point where

I was ~ I was ready to be done with it (drugs)

### reached a point where

we've ~ it's become too commonplace (violence)

## point (point when)

### point when

Iran's nuclear program is long past the ~ it is...  
was there a low ~ you look back (addiction)

## point (at a point)

### at a point

I don't think I was ~ to be ready then (to give up drugs)

♦ "At a point" in one sentence and "in a point" in the next...

## point (in a point)

### in a point

I was ~ where I was ready to be done with it (drugs)

♦ "At a point" in one sentence and "in a point" in the next sentence...

## point (low point / high point)

### lowest point

it was the ~ in the history of the CDC (lab adjudged filthy)

### at a low point

the investigation was ~ (of a serial killer)

### turned that low point into something

Kansas City ~ that flipped its year around (a loss)

## point (low point / emotion)

### low point

was there a ~ when you look back (addiction)

### hit some (real) low points

I've ~ in my life

## point man (and point person)

### point man

he is the ~ for the administration's efforts to... (politician)

### point-person

the White House's health reform ~ Nancy-Ann DeParle

### point person for the Obama administration

Biden was ~ on Ukraine (politics)

### point person for all NPR political coverage

Arnie Seipel will be the ~ from across the shows and desks

### point person on human rights

the State Department's ~

### point person on voting rights

Vice President Harris, who has been the administration's ~

### State Department's point person

the ~ on Iran...

the ~ on North Korea...

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ The point man is the lead man in a column of soldiers. He goes a bit ahead of the column and must look for snipers, mines, and booby traps. He may shoot first and discover to his horror that he has shot a noncombatant or a child, even. In a confused situation, he might be fired on by his fellow soldiers in a different unit. The enemy might shoot him dead, or he might set off a trap that kills him outright. Or, the enemy might shoot to wound him and then pick off anyone trying to come to his aid. Or, the enemy may let him pass and shoot up the main column of men, leaving the point man terrified, cut off, and isolated without support...

♦ "Mostly, the enemy is found by the point man, of the point platoon, of the point company bumping into that enemy." (Military operations in urban terrain / MOUT.)

♦ "Castro was yelling, 'Ah shit, man! Shit! Shit!...' / The medic was on his knees. Patrick's arms were lying loosely at his sides, his eyes roaming around the faces of the men standing above him... / Blood was everywhere. Patrick closed his eyes and his head rolled to the side, and he died. / 'I left as soon as I could this morning to get here and help you,' Pete said. 'Colonel wouldn't let me come last night.' He paused. 'Patrick must have fallen asleep, lying here in the bushes. He fired at my point man. Just jerked up and started firing. He and my point man just fired at each other. I'm sorry...' / I couldn't yell at Pete or his point man. It certainly wasn't their fault, nor was it Patrick's. I felt a mindless rage, like I wanted to cry and scream at the same

time..." (Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of The Vietnam War by James E. Parker Jr.)

♦ "Lopinto was a tough mother. Shirtless beneath his flak jacket and slung with an especially heavy load of grenades and ammunition, he moved down the dirt cart trail they called Route 561." From the affecting history *Operation Buffalo: USMC Fight for the DMZ* by Keith William Nolan.)

♦ "There was another AK47 burst and, instantly, an inhuman scream, followed by shouts to Herbert that one of their guys was hit. Herbert sent his superficially wounded corpsman in that direction, but he was shot in the legs as he ran and sent sprawling. / The next shot was to his head. KIA. / There was a shout to Herbert that it was the point man Lopinto who had screamed. That was Herbert's best friend, and he shouted back to ask how bad he was hit. The return shout was that he was dead. KIA." (From the affecting history *Operation Buffalo: USMC Fight for the DMZ* by Keith William Nolan. "Lance Corporal Herbert, the intelligent, articulate, and very able leader of the 2d Squad of Bravo Two, was right behind the monster erupting around Bravo Three...")

♦ "Bringing up the rear as tail-end-charlie was almost as bad as walking point." (The Vietnam War. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is known as the American war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nowadays the "point person" is usually a female who mindlessly parrots the administration or company line, reading from a script.

♦ "In its zeal, the Sierra Club has clear-cut a whole national park of words. *Urban*, *vibrant*, *hardworking*, and *brown bag* all crash to earth for subtle racism. *Y'all* supplants the patriarchal *you guys*, and *elevate voices* replaces *empower*, which used to be uplifting but is now condescending. *The poor* is classist; *battle* and *minefield* disrespect veterans; *depressing* appropriates a disability; *migrant*—no explanation, it just has to go." ("The Moral Case Against Euphemism: Banning words won't make the world more just" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023. George Packer is *not* James Packer.)

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

## point of view (from somebody's point of view)

### from the point of view of concealment

select supply positions ~

### from the point of view inside his (climbing) boots

it was written ~ (Boukreev's *The Climb*)

### from Abdul Tawab's point of view

~, the marriage helped his position

### from the animals' point of view

~ (animal rights, cruelty, eating meat, etc.)

### from the destroyers' point of view

Native Americans ~

### from the enemy's point of view

consider the traps ~ (military)

### from players' points of view

produce content ~ (*Uninterrupted* / LeBron James)

### from the male point of view

usually, we talk to females, but these are parenting tips ~

### from a spectator's point of view

~, the most interesting match was...

from our point of view  
characteristics which are catastrophic ~ (a terrorist)

from your point of view  
which country is most promising ~ (Central Asia)

from an Indian point of view  
museum exhibitions ~ (Native Americans)

from the Japanese point of view  
the film is told ~ (*Letters from Iwo Jima*)  
he tells the story of Iwo Jima ~ (Clint Eastwood film)

from an intelligence point of view  
~, this is a problem

from the policy point of view  
another aspect, again ~ (educational establishment)

from a safety point of view  
improve things ~ (motor racing)

from a driving point of view  
~ you know what's happening (racing)

from a human point of view  
its scope and setting is horrible ~ (terror)

from a military point of view  
~, we don't face any threats (Uzbekistan)

from a pragmatic point of view  
~, don't... (monitoring employees)

from a scientific point of view  
~, geothermal power is touted as "clean"

catastrophic from our point of view  
he has 3 characteristics which are ~ (a terrorist)

consider (the traps) from the enemy's point of view  
~ (military)

describes an event from two (different) points of view  
the book ~

imagine it from their point of view  
~ (toilet training for toddlers)

told from his point of view  
the story is ~

told from the Japanese point of view  
the film is ~ (*Letters from Iwo Jima*)

**point of view (other)**

point of view  
depending on your ~  
their parents denied or ignored their ~ (suicidal kids)

point of view of concealment  
select supply positions from the ~

point of view on tourism  
a Hawaiian ~

employer's point of view

an ~ (on hiring) (job searching)

people's points of view  
~ are influenced by their language and culture

each other's point of view  
it is important to try to understand ~

another person's point of view  
it is important to understand ~

public health point of view  
he patiently explained the ~ (an epidemic)

Hawaiian point of view  
a ~ on tourism

Nez Perce point of view  
increased emphasis to the ~ (park sites)

minority point of view  
the ~

outlaw point of view  
his affinity for the ~ (teacher in jail)

conflicting points of view  
good articles tend to be built on ~ (journalism)

differing points of view  
these ~ (in the "education" community)

opposing points of view  
the two songs show ~ of the same situation...

clear point of view  
she has a very ~

different point of view  
in order to understand a ~

different points of view  
we seek out sources with ~ (free press)  
people have ~ (culture, circumstances, etc.)

strong point of view  
reluctance to offer a ~ on civics (education)  
excellence often involves taking a ~  
a ~ can even work against you

two (different) points of view  
describe the same event from ~

differences in point of view  
those ~ fueled the debate (Confederate flag)

affinity for the (outlaw) point of view  
his unconcealed ~ (teacher in jail)

denied or ignored their point of view  
their mother and father ~ (suicidal kids)

explained the (public-health) point of view  
he patiently ~ (an epidemic)

understand each other's point of view  
it is important to try to ~

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...



♦ In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War. (Point of view and war.)

♦ In Russia, World War II is known as the Great Patriotic War. In China, it is known as the Second Sino-Japanese War.

♦ "It's an extraordinary thing... [The] war came as a breath of fresh air, a purifying storm, a breath of deliverance. When the war broke out, its... horrors... were a blessing compared to [what had gone before], and they brought relief... It was felt... by absolutely everyone... and they all took a deep breath and flung themselves into the furnace... with real joy, with rapture." (Major Dudorov speaking to Lieutenant Gordon in the epilogue of *Doctor Zhivago*. He is speaking of World War II.)

♦ "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." (PLO Chairman Arafat in a 1974 speech before the United Nations.)

♦ "They are understood here. They are adored. She was, is and will remain a heroine for us." (Chechen woman, speaking of Elza Gazuyeva.)

♦ "Why don't you meet Osama bin Laden, invite him to Brussels or to the White House and engage in talks, ask him what he wants and give it to him so he leaves you in peace? Why don't you do that? You find it possible to set some limitation in your dealings with these bastards, so why should we talk to people who are childkillers? No one has a moral right to tell us to talk to childkillers..." ("Angry Putin rejects public Beslan inquiry," Jonathan Steele in Moscow and Nick Paton Walsh in Beslan, *Guardian Weekly*, 2004.)

♦ Some Australians regard Ned Kelly as a national hero. Others view him as a murderous villain and cop killer.

♦ "It depends on your point of view. Some see him as the person who created a murderous street gang that continues to exist today and has spread across the country, others see him as a folk hero..." (Jon Seidel, speaking to Ailsa Chang about Larry Hoover, founder of the street gang Gangster Disciples. From "Chicago street gang founder Larry Hoover argues he should be resentenced," NPR, All Things Considered, September 26, 2024.)

♦ "Should The Late George Floyd Be A Black American Hero?" by B. Robinson, *The Tennessee Tribune*, July 23, 2021.

♦ "The eternal truth, from Rome to now, is that one man's rampaging mob is another's righteous protest..." ("Get It Together: Anatomizing the crowd" by Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, November 25, 2024.)

### \*\*\* public health...

♦ The French blamed the pestilence on the Neapolitans. The English, Germans and Italians called it the *morbus gallicus* or the 'French disease.' The Polish labeled it the 'Russian disease.' To the Turks it was the 'Christian disease.' It was called the 'Chinese pox' by the Japanese and the 'Portuguese disease' in India and Japan. The Tahitians referred to venereal disease as 'the British disease.' (Names for syphilis, from *Disease, The Extraordinary Stories Behind History's Deadliest Killers* by Mary Dobson. Point of view and public health.)

### \*\*\* personal point of view...

♦ "I have a special hatred for ice cream trucks. I think they should be outlawed. I have so many traumas from them, and the children hit by ice cream trucks are usually on the small side, so they get head traumas." (Gracie Dinkins, a trauma surgeon. From "Flesh & Blood" by Gracie Dinkins as told to Matthew Segal, Los Angeles magazine. A purely personal point of view, based on occupation.)

♦ "I've drawn my curtain so that I can't see those hateful motor ambulances coming in slowly full, and going back empty fast, and must go to sleep. I simply loathe the sight of those M.A.'s, admirable inventions though they are. Had a look into a lovely lorry full of 100-lb. shells in the square." (Diary of a Nursing Sister on the Western Front: 1914-1915 by Kate (Katherine) Evelyn Luard.)

### \*\*\* female Gen-Z point of view...

♦ "Yeah, they have these belts on with like all these extra bullets and they're like dressed for war." (Leah talking to her Brit producer, Georgia, for their podcast about the militia movement. Gen-Z point of view.)

♦ "People say it's a peaceful demonstration but I would say that a huge 18-wheeler is not a peaceful thing to have in the middle of your city." ("Health care workers in Ottawa are being harassed protesters [sic] against COVID-19 mandates," NPR, Weekend Edition, Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022. Point of view and Gen Z females.)

### \*\*\* female versus male point of view...

♦ Female teacher at a North Carolina high school: Gesim was in a fight. Male ESL teacher: Did he win? (Wrong response! Awkward. The male versus the female point of view about bullying.)

### \*\*\* child's point of view...

♦ "Next morning I awoke, looked out the window, and nearly died of fright. My screams brought Atticus from his bathroom half shaven. 'The world's ended, Atticus. Please do something.' I dragged him to the window and pointed. 'No it's not,' he said. 'It's snowing.'" (The beloved American novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. This is an example of the point of view of a child.)

♦ "When guests began applauding, she hid under the piano in fright until her mother assured her that clapping meant approval." (Celeste Holm, who as a precocious toddler in New York City danced to the music of the hotel pianist at the Waldorf-Astoria. She would go on to perform on Broadway.)

♦ "I'll never forget how scared I was when Pa took me to the first [electrified and blinking] Christmas tree there in our little church. That tree just jumped at me as I went in, it was so bright and wonderful; the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life. When my name was called to come up for my gift it about scared me to death. Instead of going on up like the others had, I just clung to Pa's legs and wouldn't budge. Pa had to go up with me, holding on to my hand." (Alma Covell, a textile worker, interviewed in the 1930s about her childhood. From "How the Christmas Tree Got Its Lights," by Alexis Madrigal, *The Atlantic*, Dec. 24, 2010.)

♦ "When I was a boy, I used to go out in the evening and see campfires around all over. My parents would tell me, 'Around those fires is where the people live.' And so when I looked up at the sky and saw a great many stars scattered about all over, I thought the stars were fires, and that a great many people must be living up there above us in the sky. Some stars that I saw were little small ones, and I thought, 'Those fires are almost going out.' Others were large fires, and I thought, 'Some people must be sitting around that big fire, and maybe some of them are cooking.'" (Old Man Hat, A Navaho Autobiography.)

### \*\*\* point of view and the elderly...

♦ "Today's youth should be grateful to God for all the modern scientific inventions they can use. They enjoy so many modern tools and other things that we in our times could not." (Ali Al-Mirdasi in Buraidah, Al-Qasim, in eastern Saudi Arabia, the first person to be granted permission to ride a bicycle in his area. At the time, people rejected new devices and inventions like radios, telegrams and cars as alien, and a bicycle was referred to as "Satan's Horse." Ali had to get permission from the local religious council to ride his bike, and could only ride it to and from school and nowhere else. From "Saudi Who Rode 'Satan's Horse' Tells His Story," by Raid Qusti, the *Arab News*, Saturday, 5 February, 2005.)

♦ "Before, people moved everywhere on donkeys. You could stop them and talk to them. Now, everyone is zooming around in cars." (Saed al-Dhori, a man in his eighties, in Khasab, Oman. For years he lived at the top of a mountain in a single dirt-floored room made of stone with a doorway as small as a window, without electricity or water. When he was young, the gates to the capital city of Muscat were still being closed at night, and sunglasses, bicycles and radios were banned as Western conventions. In 1984 he finally joined his extended family living in a valley, where there was electricity, water, and roads. From "With Murmurs of Change, Sultan Tightens Grip," by the great reporter Michael Slackman, May 15, 2009.)

### \*\*\* indigenous point of view...

♦ "[Dersu] did not like all the restrictions of town life. You cannot pitch a tent in the street, or light a fire, or shoot a rifle, because it would interfere with somebody else. / Once he was present when I was buying firewood, and he was tremendously struck that I paid for it. / 'What!' he cried. 'Plenty of wood in forest...' / He abused the contractor and tried his best to persuade me I was being swindled... That evening he did not light his stove. Next day, to save me from expense, he went out to the park to fell a tree for me. They arrested him... The next incident completely upset his equilibrium. He saw me pay for water. 'What!' he cried. 'Must also pay water! Look-see river,' pointing to the Amur. 'There plenty much water...' " (Dersu Uzala in Khabarovsk. From *Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "When Younghusband reached Lhasa, he was greeted by hordes of clapping Tibetans. He took it as a gesture of welcome, not realizing that clapping was a traditional way of warding off evil spirits..." (The 1904 British invasion of Tibet.)

♦ "Townsppeople stared in disbelief at the naked Nukak." (Colombia. It is not known what the Nukak thought about the townspeople.)

♦ The Turkana have few food taboos and will even eat fish.

**\*\*\* the point of view of sea mammals, fish, mammals of the land...**

♦ "Nunavut—from this moment, sea mammals, we state to you: the water, the sea, do not pollute our sea—it is our home; do not make it a concern, do not contaminate it; so that we may continue to be a food resource. Our Creator has created us to provide food for you. As fish we state to you: the lakes, look after the lakes. Manage your fresh water so that we will not be contaminated and we can continue to be a food source, because our Creator has created us to be a food source for Inuit. The mammals of the land, we state to you: Please take care of the land and the vegetation; please do not contaminate us for they are our only food and our only habitat; so that we may not be a concern, and continue to be a food source, and a source of clothing. Our Creator created us, so that we could be utilized, by you. The air of Nunavut—those of us who are birds say to you: because we fly through the air to vast distances to migrate to the Arctic—please watch over the land and the air, so that we will not be contaminated, and remain a food source for you. Our Creator has created us so that we could be a resource to you for as long as the sun shall set, for as long as the sun shall rise." (Elisapee Ootoova, speaking in Inuktitut to her fellow Inuit and the visiting Prime Minister of Canada during the inauguration ceremony in Iqaluit to mark the Canadian recognition of the Inuit Territory of Nunavut.)

**\*\*\* two funny stories and a funny cartoon relating to point of view...**

♦ A FUNNY STORY. A young American on vacation from his job was shooting billiards with a local man at a country club in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan man spoke impeccable British English, and at one point during the game enquired, "What do you do for a living?" The young American said, "I teach English in Saudi Arabia." To which the Sri Lankan man expostulated, "How the *hell* can you teach English when you can't bloody well speak it!"

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Ragged, disheveled and unshaven Willie and Joe, fighting their way through Europe, are standing in a liberated French town that—Happily!—is completely intact, as opposed to having been reduced to an abandoned pile of rubble. The streets are thronged with French civilians, including a pulchritudinous young female in silhouette; a man is seated peacefully on a balcony smoking a pipe watching the scene below him; and the shop signs are all in French. Jut-jawed Willie is saying to Joe, "Did ya ever see so many furriners, Joe?" (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II. Mauldin survived the war. So did Konstantin Simonov and Vasily Grossman. Ernie Pyle didn't.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. A city man grew weary of the hustle and bustle, the hubbub and din, of city life, and he decided to visit his relative in the quiet and peaceful countryside. He made a sign that said, "Gone to the countryside," posted it on his door, and set off. He drove through the desert until the road ended. Then he drove off road, following tracks in the sands, until the tracks ended at the edge of a steep valley. He abandoned his truck there, crossed the valley on foot, and then walked for miles over a flat barren empty gravel desert. Finally, in the distance, he saw his relative's stone hut, next to a single tree. In great joy and anticipation he hurried to it, only to find, posted on the door, a note that read... "Gone to the countryside."

**\*\*\* analysis...**

♦ We all have accents.

♦ see also *perspective (other)*, *viewpoint (perspective)*

## point out (verb)

point out that

let me ~ I wasn't...

pointed out that

he ~ murder is illegal in all societies

pointed out

Chevron Texaco ~ it was already doing a lot... (Nigeria)  
another cause of concern, he ~, are the lack of road signs...

pointed out in the NYT magazine

as she ~...

pointed out the blunder

only when he ~ did Hutchison... (Everest)

pointed out the inconsistencies

liberals have long ~ of conservative support for...

pointed out problems

media stories have ~ in assisted living...

neglects to point out

what he ~, though, is that...

## poise (balance)

swan-like poise

she is possessed of ~...

journalistic poise

the *Wall Street Journal* keeps its ~ (vs. *New York Times*)

Politics and Poise

Letter from the Editor: ~ (Anna Wintour / Vogue / 2008)

showed great poise

they ~ in knocking out Dallas and the Lakers (NBA team)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "Tackle the day with confidence, poise, and control..."

## poised (adjective)

poised on Baghdad's doorstep

coalition forces are ~

poised to lose

the party is ~ the elections

poised to write

he is ~ a triumphant new chapter (Obama)

## poison (noun)

political poison

advocating gun control has been ~

talk of confiscating guns can be ~ with certain voters

## poison (verb)

poison the atmosphere

fear and distrust can quickly ~ (epidemic)

poison (everyday) life

trivialities ~

poison the project

this academic feud began to ~ (undersea mapping)

poisoned the waters

his statement ~ for anyone seeking an honest answer

poison the well

establish a false persona, then ~ of information  
(Facebook)

\*\*\* **"Perhaps the worst mass poisoning of a population..."**

♦ Perhaps the worst mass poisoning of a population in history has taken place in Bangladesh. Around 25 million people have been exposed to arsenic through runoff from agriculture and industry into man-made ponds and the water table. Ironically, many of the contaminated ponds and boreholes were dug with the help of international relief organizations to protect villagers from unclean water.

## poisonous (adjective)

poisonous

the taint of a bankruptcy can be ~  
the rot in Pakistani society is more ~ than anyone thought

poisonous atmosphere

a "~" has descended on the Times (firings)  
rumors and gossip can create a ~

poisonous (political and rhetorical) climate

politics suffers from a ~

poisonous doctrine

he was an antidote to the ~ of extremism

poisonous mix

he despises the ~ of religion and politics (an Iraqi)

poisonous situation

it was a ~ (politics and war)

ever more poisonous

social media is getting ~

## poker (game)

high-stakes poker

this is ~ (a business decision)

## poker-faced (adjective)

poker-faced

they were ~

poker-faced chairman

the ~

♦ see also *face* (*poker face*)

## polar (polar opposite, etc.)

polar opposite of the coach

he is the ~ he replaces (soccer)

polar opposite (of Fitzpatrick) in play style (sports)

he's the ~

## polarized (adjective)

become so polarized

our politics have ~ these days (Barack Obama)

♦ "All of us, across the political spectrum, seem so quick to assume the worst in others. Unless they agree with us on every single issue, we start thinking that the only way to win is to scold, and shame, and out-yell the other side." (Barak Obama, speaking at the 2024 DNC.)

## polarizing (adjective)

polarizing figure

he is a ~ (a football coach)

his critics say he is a ~ who exploits divisions (politics)

intensely polarizing

among intellectuals, he is ~

## pole position (noun)

put Microsoft in the pole position

OpenAI has ~

♦ "Power dynamics have radically changed, placing players in pole position." (College sports: NIL, transfer portal, etc.)

## police (and cop, etc.)

policeman

the US shouldn't be the world's conscience or ~

cops for apps

Apple and Google are the ~ in our world (app stores)

behavior police

the ~ don't just stick to soccer (women in sports)

cancel-culture cops

the miserable ~ have come for Snow White's dwarfs  
(2024)

clothing police

school officials should not be the ~ (France / abaya ban)

comment section police

you don't need to be the ~ (internet bulletin board)

concert police

what are you, the ~ (rebuked for talking during concert)

continuity cop

and so I, a ~... (NPR's Linda Holmes, about films)

cultural police

~ punish writers for using their imagination (sensitivity)

Cultural Appropriation Police

where are the ~ when a progressive breaks their rules

diversity police

the ~ have ruined *Lord of the Rings* (*The Rings of Power*)

diversity police officer

I'm not the ~, policing non-marginalized people (a  
"sensitivity reader")

fashion police

I'm not trying to be the ~, but... (sagging pants)

feminist thought police

I don't want to get into trouble with the ~

footnote police

he said he was being hounded by "the ~" (plagiarism)

fun police

we sound like the ~, but... (Gay Pride festival litters  
beach)

Musk called regulators the "~" (a Boombox feature)

gender police

I became the self-appointed ~ (Curtis Sittenfeld at Groton)

grammar police  
don't the ~ have better things to do (online commenter)

Karma police  
he boasts about it and two days later this happens, ~

language police  
professional bodies should not act as ~ (psychology / WSJ)

'leftist' language police  
Chapo Trap House offends the sensibilities of ~

mask police  
restaurants don't want to be ~ (COVID epidemic)  
I feel like the ~, and that's not what I signed up for

morality police  
the ~ are working overtime against the sexual agency of...

notability cop  
some ~ cruised past my bio and pulled me over (Wikipedia)

outrage police  
the ~ are calling for him to be fired (TV news culture wars)

parenting police  
she has run afoul of the ~ (the marvelous singer Pink)

phone police  
teachers are tired of being the ~

political correctness police  
the ~ started from Twitter

speech police  
given tech companies discomfort in the role of ~...

spelling police  
Oh, look... the ~ are here (BBC HYS sports)

thought police  
he called Facebook "~" (for removing his posts)  
liberals want to call out the ~ and force people to agree

YouTube police  
it became a game of whack-a-mole as the ~ hunted it down

vaccination police  
confusing guidance could force workers to become the ~

woke police  
the ~ is out there (Chris Harrison)  
the only police that need defunding are the ~

role of being a cop  
pharmacists don't want to be placed in ~ (vaccinations)

♦ "If all you have is a good-quality Parmigiano, the cacio e pepe police are not going to come and arrest you!" (Elizabeth Minchilli, quoted in "Cacio e pepe: Italy's beloved three-ingredient pasta dish" by Emily Monaco, BBC, 14 May 2020. The cacio is ordinarily sheep's milk cheese, ideally Pecorino.)

♦ "Are you his teacher or wot? I would of thought that the grammar police had better things to do." (An online commenter on a BBC HYS about a soccer match. The targeted commenter had criticised a poster's use of "would of" versus "would have.")

♦ "Hey word police, wind your neck in and stick to boring your wife." (A BBC HYS about a soccer match.)

♦ "Literally No One Likes a Grammar Cop," hosted by Erica Brozovsky, Ph.D., PBS Digital Studios, *otherwords*.)

♦ "In the vernacular, talking at concerts is known as 'chomping'... / Behind me, two young women, thirtyish, were talking, not quietly, about a recent wedding...I learned a few things from my neighbors about sandals... The two talkers sketched out their summer plans... / The guy sitting next to me turned toward the talkers and gently asked them if they'd keep it down. I turned halfway around, too, and made a dad gesture, a tamping down of the air with my palm. / 'We can't hear you!' one of them shouted. / 'We're trying to enjoy the show!' the other said. / 'What are you, the concert police?' / 'This isn't the opera, dude!' / For the rest of the set...they hissed insults at the backs of our heads. I could feel their scorn scorching my bald spot, like the equatorial sun. Vibe: not good." ("Dead Reckoning: At the Sphere, a fan wrestles with what the Grateful Dead have left behind" by Nick Paumgarten, *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2024.)

♦ "Being a grammar cop can get you into trouble." (A reference to Supreme Court Justice John Roberts. Read "Obama retakes oath of office after inauguration stumble," *The Guardian*, Thu 22 Jan 2009. What the article does not mention was that Chief Justice John Roberts *changed* the oath to *correct* what he thought was the incorrect placement of the adverb, "faithfully." All Roberts had to do was to read 35 words without error. He didn't do it.)

♦ "I feel like the mask police, and that's not what I signed up for." (An unhappy Iowa State University RA (resident assistant) during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. RAs at universities have quit or gone on strike for "danger pay.")

♦ "We didn't want to be the mask police in the early portions of this pandemic and we certainly don't want to be the vaccination police at the end of it." (Marc Perrone, International President of the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union.)

♦ "Flight attendants have to play schoolyard monitor." (Conflicts between passengers over reclining seats on airplanes.)

♦ "We need a place for honest debate without the hall monitors." (Politics.)

♦ "[The Olympics] need us more than we need them. See how they poison sports. They're like the secret police or worse, like your parents." (The great snowboarder Terje Haakonsen.)

\*\*\* "They're there..." (at Rolling Loud)...

♦ "It just means that when you go to Rolling Loud, the police are inescapable. They are all over the place. They're there when you walk in, they're there when you leave, they're there around the barricades, they're there even like in the parking lot, and there's a bunch of them. They line up together, and they're not helpful, either, and so I think there's an ominous aspect to it that made me feel uncomfortable and makes other fans feel uncomfortable as well." (Music journalist Jayson Buford. From "Why hip-hop festival Rolling Loud seems to be a hotbed for arrests." NPR, All Things Considered, updated November 2, 2021. By Audie Cornish, Mano Sundaesan, Mallory Yu.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Doublethink; memory hole; unperson; thoughtcrime; Newspeak; Thought Police; Room 101; Big Brother; the Ministry of Truth... (Language from 1984 that is a part of our language.)

♦ "And, I'm not going to say the word, but that other word. This new idea that to refer to the N-word is the same thing as using it is absurd. It is utterly absurd. And the reason I'm putting it that way is because..." (It's not using the word, it's referring to it. The linguist John McWhorter, speaking at the Citrin Center at the University of California Berkeley. "John McWhorter: Pitfalls in the Policing of Language—YouTube." Watch and listen to: [youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE))

## police (verb)

polices (his kid's gaming) habits  
he ~ carefully

police my identity  
attacks by people trying to ~ (cultural appropriation)

police language  
those who ~ wish to police thought

police the language  
these absurd attempts to ~ of intelligence assessment

policed language  
he ~ on online forums (self-immolator Aaron Bushnell)

police his mind  
he is now aware of how to ~ (a troubled boxer)

police students' speech  
universities should not ~ so carefully

police thought  
those who police language wish to ~

police its use  
universities scrambled to ~ (ChatGPT)

police the web  
he formed a group to ~ (Lenny Pozner / Sandy Hook)

♦ "You don't actually get to police what I think or do or say or write."  
(The writer and philosopher Ross Gay.)

♦ "A self-described anarchist, he policed language on online forums."  
(Self-immolator Aaron Bushnell. See the Wikipedia article "Self-immolation of Aaron Bushnell.")

♦ "Butler recently adopted they/them pronouns but doesn't 'police it.'"  
(The American philosopher Judith Butler.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "How do you police what's in someone's mind?"

## polish (verb)

polished the image  
the Klitschko brothers have ~ of the sport (boxing)

## polished (adjective)

polished professional  
there is a vulnerable woman beneath the ~

polished speaker  
he is a ~ who hits just the right tone (Beto O'Rourke)

## political correctness (groups)

political correctness police  
the ~ started from Twitter

political correctness and cancel culture  
free speech has been pushed to the wayside for ~

rebel against political correctness  
Trump campaigned as a ~

shibboleth of political correctness  
"everyone has rights" is a ~

at the altar of political correctness  
other Roald Dahl classics have been similarly butchered  
~

sacrificed free speech to political correctness

the university has ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Our goal is not just to change language but to honor and acknowledge inclusion and reject white supremacy, anti-immigrant and anti-blackness ideologies." (A memo from the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, announcing that the school had changed the Office of Field Education to the Office of Practicum Education. See "'Anti-racist' language change causes confusion" by Tomoki Chien, *Daily Trojan*, January 11, 2023.)

♦ Pregnant person; birthing person... (Language for "mother.")

♦ "Hundreds of the author's words have been changed or entirely removed in a bid for 'relevancy.'" ("The rewriting of Roald Dahl" by Ed Cumming, Abigail Buchanan, Genevieve Holl-Allen, and Benedict Smith, *The Daily Telegraph* (U.K.), 17 February, 2023.)

♦ "He should be treated like the leper, the social leper and criminal he is." (An outraged female commenting on the hotel video of a rapper beating his woman.)

♦ "She used the N-word 33 times." (A drunk coed who returned to her residence hall and was challenged by a resident assistant. Caught on video.)

♦ "A pidgin English field guide would list buk-buks, pakes, buddaheads, katonks, mokes, titas, popolos, yobos, blalahs, haoles and portagees." (Ethnic and racial labels used in Hawaii.)

### \*\*\* academia...

♦ In academia, eye-rolling can be considered a sign of patriarchy and a micro-aggression.

### \*\*\* policing language, thought, expression...

♦ "Microaggressions: Be Careful What You Say," NPR, Tell Me More, April 3, 2014.

♦ "What Not To Say To A Mixed-Race Colleague," NPR, Tell Me More, Diversions, April 21, 2009. A 10-Minute Listen.)

### \*\*\* mental illness...

♦ "In 2012, Nina Totenberg of NPR was criticized by mental-health advocates for asking the question, 'So, is your client a nut case?' Activists dislike words like bonkers, psycho, maniac, wacko, and crazy.

♦ "It's going to be chaos with Republican leadership. And, sadly, the *crazy* [italics mine] caucus has grown among the Republicans." (Representative Adam Schiff, Democrat-California, on the possibility of losing his position as chair of the House Intelligence Committee after Republicans took control of the House of Representatives.)

♦ "He does definitely seem to have a screw loose...; He does not seem in his right mind; He seems out there; He's mentally warped; The brother needs help; Alcohol and drugs..." (The great sports commentator Stephen A. Smith about the troubled boxer Ryan Garcia.)

### \*\*\* suicide...

♦ "Top of mind to many who care about this topic is getting rid of the phrase 'committed suicide,' says Dese Rae Stage, a suicide awareness activist who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and is trained in crisis intervention." ("The words to say—and not say—about suicide" by Jessica Ravitz, CNN, June 11, 2018.)

♦ "Around noon, family members called police to report that the father was talking about *dying by suicide* [italics mine] in the woods behind his house." (2022.)

♦ "He died after falling off a hotel balcony." (A celebrity.)

♦ "What is the correct language for suicide?" (Google query, "People also ask.")

### \*\*\* "reclaiming" epithets...

♦ "I call disabled viewing platforms the 'cripple pen.'" (A disabled commenter, reclaiming the word "cripple." From "After the N-word, the P-word" by Rajni Bhatia, BBC, 11 June 2007, which is about reclaiming the word "Paki" in the same way some Blacks have "reclaimed" the N-word. Who has the right to say what when. Who cares?)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Crip Camp." It's a 2020 documentary film. According to the article, "Barack and Michelle Obama served as executive producers under their Higher Ground Productions banner."



### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ "The memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, recognized as the official Holocaust memorial of Germany, sits in the center of downtown Berlin, just south of the famous Brandenburg Gate and a block away from the site of the bunker where Hitler *died by suicide* [italics mine]." ("Monuments to the Unthinkable: America still can't figure out how to memorialize the sins of our history. What can we learn from Germany?" by Clint Smith, *The Atlantic*, December, 2022. Contrast this with what Andrew Roberts wrote about Churchill's 1945 visit to Hitler's bunker: "He had finally tracked the beast to its lair.")

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "In its zeal, the Sierra Club has clear-cut a whole national park of words. *Urban*, *vibrant*, *hardworking*, and *brown bag* all crash to earth for subtle racism. *Y'all* supplants the patriarchal *you guys*, and *elevate voices* replaces *empower*, which used to be uplifting but is now condescending. *The poor* is classist; *battle* and *minefield* disrespect veterans; *depressing* appropriates a disability; *migrant*—no explanation, it just has to go." ("The Moral Case Against Euphemism: Banning words won't make the world more just" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023. George Packer is *not* James Parker.)

♦ "As wave after wave of pain and outrage swept through the *Times*, over a headline that was not damning enough of Trump or someone's obnoxious tweets, I came to think of the people who were fragile, the ones who were caught up in Slack or Twitter storms, as people who had only recently discovered that they were white and were still getting over the shock. Having concluded they had got ahead by working hard, it has been a revelation to them that their skin colour was not just part of the wallpaper of American life, but a source of power, protection and advancement. They may know a lot about television, or real estate, or how to edit audio files, but their work does not take them into shelters, or police precincts, or the homes of people who see the world very differently. It has never exposed them to live fire. Their idea of violence includes vocabulary." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ "The Home Secretary has blamed political correctness for the failure of authorities to tackle child sexual exploitation." (BBC, Six O'clock News, 02/04/2023. The Home Secretary was Suella Braverman, referencing fears of accusations of racism about investigating and prosecuting British Pakistani males.)

♦ "I'm actually convinced that it was political correctness gone mad. You know, there was absolutely no reason for it. I was rocking the multicultural boat. But, how would you get changes without talking about it?" (Ann Cryer, Labour MP for Keighley, 1997-2010. From *The Betrayed Girls: The Rochdale Scandal—2017 Documentary*.)

♦ "[The rapid national audit of grooming gangs] will properly examine ethnicity data and the demographics of the gangs involved, and their victims, and will look at the cultural and societal drivers for this type of offending, including amongst different ethnic groups." (Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, a member of the Labour Party. Heard on BBC Six O'Clock News, 16/01/2025.)

♦ "Why on Earth would anyone be proud of making a PC Snow White?" (Piers Morgan, about the upcoming "woke" 2024 Disney film. Said professional wrestler Dylan Postl about the activist actor Peter Dinklage, "By being progressive in his mind, he is really doing the opposite and taking dreams away and potential roles from seven dwarf actors—I think it's a shame. It doesn't make any sense to me that we are taking one person's voice for the whole community." One online commenter said the controversy made him think of "Men without hats—the safety dance—YouTube." Worth watching!)

♦ "How dare you say that! isn't a persuasive political argument."

♦ "Some nights at the bar I would descend into discussions with cosmologists and other[s]... and discover that Doctor Seuss meant more to them than a menagerie of imagined animals and a vivid and troublesome cat." ("The Science of Dr Seuss," BBC, Sounds, with Robin Ince. Seven Doctor Seuss books were cancelled in 2021.)

### \*\*\* the euphemism treadmill...

♦ OLD: a cripple, jake leg, spaz, handicapped, disabled... / NEW: differently abled... (The physically handicapped were arguably the first population in the U.S. to get the "political correctness" labeling.)

♦ OLD: crazy, moron, feeble minded, mentally retarded, mentally challenged, "special," Petey (*American Pie 2*)... / NEW: intellectually and developmentally disabled, "amazing"...

♦ OLD: "Ice Pick Nick" (NYC), a madman, a maniac, a deranged vagrant, a crazy person, a violent mentally ill vagrant, a mentally ill person... / NEW: an emotionally disturbed person (EDP), a mental consumer (Memphis Police), "disturbance / CIT (crisis intervention / the police)," a vulnerable person...

♦ OLD: a crazy young woman with a knife... / NEW: "a high-risk, endangered missing person who is believed to be armed..."

♦ OLD: sociopathy... / NEW: antisocial personality disorder...

♦ OLD: uneducated white women... / NEW: non-college-educated white women (Sunny Hostin of *The View* flubbed this after Trump's 2024 election)...

♦ OLD: mental illness... / NEW: mental wellness...

♦ OLD: the poor... / NEW: the financially insecure...

♦ OLD: a tramp, a robust tramp, a bum, the homeless... / NEW: the houseless, the unhoused, men experiencing homelessness, our unhoused neighbors, an unhoused community member...

♦ OLD: hungry... / NEW: food insecure, food insecurity, (severe) food poverty...

♦ OLD: a migrant, an immigrant, an illegal immigrant... / NEW: a newcomer...

♦ OLD: illegal immigrant, illegal alien... / NEW: undocumented individual (MSNBC)...

♦ OLD: a gay bar... / NEW: a queer space...

♦ OLD: marijuana (now antiquated, stigmatizing, unscientific)... / NEW: cannabis...

♦ OLD: an unwed mother, a single mother... / NEW: an unpartnered mother...

♦ OLD: a conventional law-abiding respectable man of his times... / NEW: a racist...

♦ OLD: intersex... / NEW: disorders / differences of sex development (DSD)...

♦ OLD: soldiers... / NEW: folks who are military folks (White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre)...

♦ OLD: a shark attack... / NEW: a shark bite, encounter, incident...

♦ OLD: gun control... / NEW: gun safety... (NPR)

♦ OLD: abortion... / NEW: reproductive rights...

♦ OLD: committed suicide... / NEW: died after an incident; died while detained at a psychiatric hospital, found unresponsive in a bathroom and died two days later; died while being treated; lost her long battle with depression and passed away; fatally harmed herself; took her own life; he took his life (NPR about Jeffrey Epstein); the bunker where Hitler died by suicide (*The Atlantic's* Clint Smith)...

♦ OLD: suicide... / NEW: assisted dying, the right to end one's own life, the right to seek help to end one's own life... (U.K.)

♦ OLD: a victim... / NEW: a survivor, a conqueror, one who has experienced something...

♦ OLD: "one night of Venus, a lifetime of Mercury," VD (venereal disease), the clap, the drip, gonorrhea, syphilis, the pale horror, the spiral devils, sexually transmitted disease (STD)... / NEW: sexually transmitted infection (STI)...

♦ OLD: leprosy (the Bible, WHO)... / NEW: Hansen's disease (CDC)...

♦ OLD: Siamese twins... / NEW: irreversible binomials (linguistics)...

♦ OLD: a slave... / NEW: an enslaved worker (NPR)...

♦ OLD: escaped slaves heading North... / NEW: freedom seekers from slavery (the Wikipedia article "Underground Railroad")...

♦ OLD: a convict, a con, an inmate... / NEW: an incarcerated person...

♦ OLD: a felon, an ex-con... / NEW: a justice-involved person...

♦ OLD: looters... / NEW: protests not prioritizing private property, "The history of the movement for liberation in America is full of looters and rioters" (read at NPR)...

♦ OLD: looting... / NEW: self-distribution of aid, improper removal of aid (The United Nations, UNRWA), justified looting (in Asheville, NC after Hurricane Helene)...



♦ OLD: a shoplifter, a thief, a criminal... / NEW: external theft, shrinkage, cost of doing business...

♦ OLD: raped and murdered his ex-girlfriend... / NEW: committed a crime (Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, heard on NPR)...

♦ OLD: juvenile delinquents... / New: at-risk youth...

♦ OLD: whore, prostitute... / New: sex worker, escort...

♦ Old: a porn star... / New: an adult film star, an OnlyFans entrepreneur...

♦ OLD: a headhunter... / NEW: an executive recruiter...

♦ OLD: "short eyes," a pedophile... / NEW: a minor-attracted person (ChatGPT)...

♦ OLD: a drug addict... / NEW: a person with addiction, a person who self-medicates, chronic self-medication, became reliant on medicine, self-medicating from uncontrolled sources...

♦ OLD: Oded; died of a drug overdose; found dead in the toilet with a syringe stuck in his arm... / NEW: lost his battle with drug addiction, his life was finally taken from him by a lethal cocktail of heroin and fentanyl after a lifelong dependency, an innocent victim of pharmaceutical addiction...

♦ OLD: suicides, fatal drug overdoses, and deaths from alcoholic liver disease... / NEW: deaths of despair...

♦ OLD: plagiarism... / NEW: duplicative language without appropriate attribution (Harvard University), an erratum...

♦ OLD: showing or displaying the American flag... / NEW: the performance of patriotism...

♦ OLD: beads, moccasins, feathers, turquoise... / NEW: Native American signifiers...

♦ OLD: empower (members of a group—now deemed condescending)... / NEW: elevate voices (of the group)...

♦ OLD: diversity... / NEW: belonging... (Walmart changes messaging)

♦ OLD: man of the match... / NEW: player of the match (BBC)...

♦ OLD: U.F.O. / UFO... (unidentified flying object)... / NEW: U.A.P. / UAP (unidentified anomalous phenomena)...

♦ OLD: drone... / NEW: UAS (unmanned aircraft system)...

♦ OLD: facial recognition... / NEW: facial authentication...

♦ OLD: laborer, worker, employee, wage slave... / NEW: Team Member...

♦ OLD: climate reporter... / NEW: climate solutions reporter (NPR)...

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "It was ironic, it was arch, so it felt like, 'Oh My God! they're using this against us!'" (Ruth Perry, who founded the Women's Study Department at MIT in 1984, about the term "political correctness." From "How Cancel Culture Became Politicized—Just Like Political Correctness," NPR, All Things Considered, July 26, 2021.)

♦ "I think 'hillbilly' is the one epithet people are allowed to use. The rest are politically incorrect. If they want to look down upon us, then that is their problem. The ignorance is one-sided, and in that way I've never had a problem with it." (Fred Chappell, North Carolina poet laureate.)

♦ "It occurred to me that, because the world media establishment had ignored the Balkans for so long..., these people never had to learn, as the Israelis and Arabs did, how to talk in code, so as not to offend Western sensibilities with their racial hatred. In the Balkans, people spoke more honestly than in the Middle East, and therefore more brutally." (*Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* by the superb writer and correspondent Robert D. Kaplan.)

♦ "There is too big a gap between what people say in public and what they believe, when they are just by themselves. And this is you know somehow a collateral effect of this political correctness, which taught people that you are not allowed to say this or that but uh it didn't change what they believe." ("From Romanian director Christian Mungiu on his film R.M.N.," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, May 6, 2023.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Euphemism," specifically the section "Lifespan," to learn about "the euphemism treadmill." Steven Pinker of Harvard University has also discussed the idea, and the linguist John

McWhorter has mentioned it, and written about it. The problem is, the euphemism simply acquires the connotation of the word it replaces, requiring yet a new euphemism, etc. Nothing changes.

♦ "The euphemism treadmill must be accepted as an inevitable and unexceptionable result of what a word is: not only a bundle of sounds linked to a meaning, but also one that naturally piles up with implications over time because it is used by human beings living lives. Since words can't sit still, and the implications they attract will sometimes be unpleasant, civility will require changing some of them regularly, like underwear." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move.")

♦ see also *politically correct (groups)*

## politically correct (groups)

"politically correct"

eventually ~ was turned into a cudgel and mockery

politically correct failure

England under ~ (World Cup soccer / Qatar)

politically correct paean

the book is not a ~ (*The General's Daughter*)

politically correct views

Abraham-Santos had all the appropriate ~

un-PC

it's very ~ (to talk of immigrant crimes against women)

elitist, rich, politically correct

~ (Harvard University)

♦ For quotations, see *political correctness (groups)*, directly above this entry.

## pollute (verb)

polluted airwaves

rudeness has ~

## polluted

polluted with incivility

the airwaves are ~

polluted with sex

our children's minds are being ~ (YAL, etc.)

polluted with spam

Web searches on health are ~

polluted (political) rhetoric

we must clean up our ~

polluted sea

pop music has become a ~

become polluted

it feels as if our attention has ~ (attention economy)

## pollution (noun)

visual pollution

these signs are a nuisance, ~, illegal (in rights-of-way)

## Pollyanna

Pollyanna

not everything goes smoothly, and she is not a ~

I don't want to be a ~, but tomorrow is another day

I am no ~

Pollyanna appeal  
the film has a ~

Pollyanna territory  
she explores optimism without tipping into ~

feel like (such) a Pollyanna  
I ~ here...

sound (too) Pollyanna  
do I ~

turned me into a Pollyanna  
the awards show has ~

accused of being a Pollyanna  
he isn't usually ~ (a financier, stock-market guru)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Pollyanna was a character from the 1913 children's-literature novel by Eleanor H. Porter. A Pollyanna is a person who is incredibly optimistic even in the most dire circumstances, and the word is often used in the pejorative sense.

♦ OPTIMISM, n. The doctrine, or belief, that everything is beautiful, including what is ugly, everything is good, especially the bad, and everything right that is wrong. It is held with greatest tenacity by those most accustomed to the mischance of falling into adversity... Being a blind faith, it is inaccessible to the light of disproof—an intellectual disorder, yielding to no treatment but death. It is hereditary, but fortunately not contagious." (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## Pollyannaish (adjective)

Pollyanna-ish (and calming) assumption  
it was the ~ of some analysts that while...

Pollyanna-ish notion  
he mocks the ~ that nations hate war

seems (oddly) Pollyanna-ish  
at times, he ~ about his future

sounding Pollyanna-ish  
I know I'm ~, but...

## Pompeii (Pompeii of the East, etc.)

"Pompeii of the East"  
the site is known as the ~ (1815 eruption of Mount Tambora)

Pompeii of the New World  
Cerén is sometimes called the ~ (El Salvador)

"Western Pompeii"  
scientists hailed the find a ~ (Ozette / Makah village)

♦ "Due to the suddenness of the [mudslide] and the exceptional levels of preservation, scientists hailed the find a 'Western Pompeii...'" ("Ozette: The US' lost 2,000-year-old village" by Brendan Sainsbury, BBC, 6 June 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Pompeii and the nearby town of Herculaneum were buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The excavated Pompeii is today a Unesco World Heritage Site and a time capsule for life in the Roman era.

## pond (environment)

media pond  
the BBC, once a shark in the ~...

in a small pond  
back home I was a big fish ~

♦ "Back home I was a big fish in a small pond, but in Miami I'm just a minnow surrounded by sharks." (A model.)

♦ "The [BBC], once a shark in the media pond, is now a mere sardine in a media ocean." (Clever writing from BBC Six O'Clock News, 26/05/2022.)

♦ "We all swam in the same lake, more or less..." (A comment about media back in the day, when United States citizens got the national and international news from ABC, NBC, or CBS on television, and the country was more unified.)

## pontificate (verb)

pontificate on any subject  
he was ever ready to ~ (Thomas Edison)

## pony (one-trick pony)

one-trick pony  
you don't want to be a ~ in Hollywood (directing)

♦ "You know what his guy does? Talk. That's what he did in Congress. That's what he does now. And that's it. One Trick Pony." (Criticism of a politician.)

## poodle (noun)

UK poodle  
the US government and its ~...

## pool (verb)

pool and share  
enhance the ability of the FBI and CIA to ~ information

## pool (people)

pool of (available) brides  
the ~ is scarce... (rural China / Loess Plateau)

pool of candidates  
he'd looked at the entire ~ (government)

pool of (prison-educated) college graduates  
the ~

pool of test takers  
the ~ has grown larger

adjunct pool  
spent 7 years in the ~ in Atlanta (Ph.D.)

applicant pool  
the ~ has doubled (entry to a Jesuit boys' high school)

employment pool  
Seattle offered an ideal ~

jury pool  
strike eccentric citizens from ~s  
~s are disproportionately female  
most of the ~ was white

labor pool

the shrinking ~ will slow growth

media-pool

a ~ representative in the execution witness room

office pool

~s for money are generally illegal (sports)

press pool

and as the ~ left the room

talent pool

the company's ~ is remarkable

shrinking (labor) pool

the ~ will slow growth

ideal (employment) pool

Seattle offered an ~

## pool (things)

pools of information

databases are vast ~

pool of (two- and three-year-old) used cars

the ~

car-pool

~ lanes

envy pool

women are little ~s with one another

## pop (the bubble popped, etc.)

bubble popped

the dot-com ~ and the stock market came crashing down

## pop (attention / verb)

pop off

the hard-core bands that ~ that people resonate with...

make these fish tacos pop

golden pineapple and a deep-red marinade ~

## popcorn (noun)

popcorn entertainment

the series provides audience with pure ~ (*Fast & Furious*)

popcorn sensibilities

a shift towards broader ~ (*Close Encounters* vs *2001*)

bring your popcorn

~, this has become a show (congressional hearing)

get out your popcorn

~, get ready for political theater today (hearing)

get your popcorn ready

~ (an evolving Twitter war, with threats)

## Pope (Pope of Beaujolais, etc.)

'Pope of Beaujolais'

the ~ dies aged 86 (Georges Duboeuf)

♦ "A newspaper that fancies itself the Vatican City of progressive mores." (*The New York Times*.)

## pop up (verb)

popping up in (third-tier) cities

writers are ~ (China)

popping up (all) over the country

coronavirus clusters are ~ (US)

## porn (food porn, etc.)

dessert porn

delicious ~ that will make your mouth water

fear porn

it's not ~, they're reporting what happened (pandemic)

food porn

food blogs and "~" sites (online)

inspiration porn

we call it ~ in many disability circles (a disparaging term)

"map porn"

Reddit's ~ discussion (sharing, discussion, appreciation)

misery porn

this avalanche of ~ (Will Smith in the film *Emancipation*)

pantry porn

the TikTok trend she dubbed "~" (organizing pantry, etc.)  
celebrities and influencers are pushing "~" (kitchens, etc.)

poverty porn

what Bassin calls ~ (images of starving kids / charities)  
is "~" making a comeback (1980s fundraising ads)  
slum tourism is like ~ (2009)  
images are often "~" (modern native American youth)

Rust Belt ruin porn

there's an element of ~ (*Justified: City Primeval*)

"space porn"

what some astronomy enthusiasts call ~ (Hubble photos)

"torture porn"

horror dominated by a ~ aesthetic (*Saw*, *Hostel*, etc.)  
the *Saw*-led ~ craze of the mid-2000s

trauma porn

it's easy to descend into ~ (the great writer Phil Klay)  
the kind of "Black trauma porn" (film *American Fiction*)  
are films like this '~' (debate over 2022 *Emancipation*)

trauma-porn

she characterized her former friend as a ~ star (contrived)

victimization porn

I don't get how ~ helps minorities (commenter about NPR)

violence porn

I did not want *Career of Evil* to become ~ (J.K. Rowling)

war porn

~ has vulgarized evening news TV footage

soldiers call these clips “~” (“Watch this!” / snippets)

wealth porn

culture critics describe it as “~” (shows like *Succession*, *Billions*, *Gossip Girl*, etc.)

♦ **Trauma porn?** “For a certain group of people it is hitting particularly hard. For Latinos, seeing the names, the photos of the victims, kids and teachers who look and sound like them, it’s added a layer of grief and trauma. And to talk through this we have called... She’s a...” (“For Latinos, the Uvalde shooting has an extra layer of grief and trauma,” Mary Louise Kelly, NPR, All Things Considered, June 3, 2022.)

♦ **Pathological altruism?** “For me, personally, I wanted to support the students, and the younger generations, I have empathy for what they’re going through.” (“Community member Victoria Van Holder holding a sign offering “free hugs.” From “A year after Michigan State University shooting, museum has preserved memorial items” by Sophia Saliby, NPR, All Things Considered, February 13, 2024. See the Wikipedia article “2023 Michigan State University shooting.”)

\*\*\* **A way forward...**

♦ “Project 562. Matika Wilbur, a visual storyteller and licensed primary school educator from the Swinomish and Tulalip peoples of coastal Washington, has spent a decade traveling to more than 400 tribal nations. / Through her research as both a photographer and educator, Wilbur found that many state history standards fail to cover Native Americans post-1900—an oversight she says is ‘damaging to native and non-native youth.’ / What little documentation of contemporary native communities that does exist is often ‘poverty porn,’ says Wilbur. And that’s not what she wants her students—or any students—to think of Native American culture. / She hopes her continued work through her Project 562—dedicated to photographing the more than 562 federally recognized tribes in the United States—will help inspire native peoples and counteract problematic stereotypes. / ‘I remember thinking: I’m showing contemporary representation of indigenous people to my students that is traumatizing them. And I’m not doing the work. I can’t be a part of the problem that’s causing harm to the students. My job is to inspire them. My job is to give them hope,’ says Wilbur.” (“Want To See Inspiring Pix? Check Out These Award-Winning Photos” by Michele Abercrombie, NPR, Goats And Soda, May 2, 2021.)

## porpoising (movement)

porpoising

cars are prone to “~” (FI ground effect)

## portal (entrance)

portals to the underworld

Maya culture long considered cenotes to be ~

portal to the outside world

your phone is your ~... (see quote below)

portals for discovery

mistakes are the ~

portal back to the 1960s

the book offers a vivid ~

♦ “The first thing you do when you wake up, when your eyes are even half open, is you reach and you grab your phone. ‘Cause, that’s your portal to the outside world, that’s how you run your empire.” (Andrew Tate, kickboxer and influencer, who was permanently deplatformed by Instagram and Facebook in 2022.)

## portrait (view)

portrait of life

he painted a grim ~ in North Korea

pen portrait

a gossipy memoir shot with vivid ~s

grim portrait

he painted a ~ of life in North Korea

portrait emerges

a Jekyll and Hyde ~ of SEAL accused of murder

painted a (grim) portrait

he ~ of life in North Korea

## posse (group)

his posse

Kanye West and ~ stroll towards baggage claim...

my posse

we have the rights to our fun and ~...

fashion posse

Beyonce leads ~ back to the wild west

hang out with their posse

they ~ after school (high school girls)

♦ “I don’t want to give advice, we have the rights to our fun and my posse...” (An HIV-positive teenage female, interviewed about random needle-sticks in discos and clubs.)

♦ “Hello chaps! Beyonce leads fashion posse back to the wild west” by Priya Elan, *The Guardian*, Sun 15 Aug 2021. (“The Guardian’s journalism is independent. We will earn a commission if you buy something through an affiliate link Learn more” / “I hope you appreciated this article. Before you move on, I wanted to ask if you would consider supporting the Guardian’s journalism as we enter one of the most consequential news cycle of our lifetimes in 2024... / Betsy Reed, Editor, Guardian US.”)

♦ “Got the Glocky on my hip (My hip), like some heavy shit, I’ll drop ya (I shot ya) / Dun-dun, grab my pistol, who the fuck is that there knocking? (Knocking?) / .45 auto, super faucet, thirty shot you and your posse (Ayy)... (“Posse” by Chief Keef and Zaytoven.)

\*\*\* **Carey and McBride meet their fates...**

♦ “The Department of Justice authorized an expenditure of \$2,000. These funds provided the opportunity to pay \$5.00 a day to each man selected for posse duty. Colonel Adams of the Post Office Department was charged with organizing the Cheyenne party. He went to Cheyenne and was sworn in as a deputy U.S. marshal and then selected Scott Davis, Boone May, and eight other good men for his party. They went to Fort Laramie for horses, ammunition, and supplies and then headed north into the Inyan Kara country... / On October 9 Cheyenne’s Leader reprinted a story from the Deadwood Times: “THE GOOD WORK PROGRESSES: [The sheriffs] returned yesterday and reported that they found the bodies of two men hanging to a pine tree about seven miles from Jenny’s Stockade... They were black in the face, with tongues and eyes protruding, and were a ghastly looking spectacle... They had been hanging for some time, and it is thought that the Scott Davis party did the good work last week. The sheriffs did not molest them, but left them to swing and fester in the sun, a warning to others of the same ilk.” (From *Great Stagecoach Robberies Of the Old West* by R. Michael Wilson, Chapter Nine, “The Ironclad Stagecoach.”)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Posse Cut” and the Wikipedia article “Jamaican posse.” (Both articles have the caveat, “This article has multiple issues. Please help improve it or discuss these issues.”)

♦ “A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word ‘erroneously’ is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do.” (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, “It’s the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move,” Subsection “But That Isn’t What It’s Supposed to Mean!”)

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

## position (on an issue, etc.)

staking out their positions  
the two sides are ~ on the issue (politics)

## positive (sex positive, etc.)

positive (body) image  
help primary school children develop a ~

“positive” sexuality  
Blake as a representative of liberation and ~ (2015)

body positive  
her 2016 memoir about being feminist and ~

“sex positive”  
~ libertarians (feminism and porn)

sex positive  
the comedy is ~, full-on raunchy (film *Joy Ride*)

sex-positive  
~ feminism commodifies sexual identities  
~ representations of puberty and adolescence  
Hoang’s new romance is ~  
women are grasping the language of ~ feminism  
we need a ~ approach to educating people (monkeypox)  
regrettable instances do happen in the ~ community...

critical-positive  
it would be an easy, ~ change (to Academy Awards)

fat positive  
I come from fat parents, and my mom especially was ~

female-positive  
they are femme-forward, ~ (Nelly Furtado about Skims ad)

generous, positive and empowering  
how can parents nurture a more ~ body image (females)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “She is sex-positive and makes vivacious, danceable music, perfect for a party or a TikTok challenge. ‘Players,’ her biggest hit, is a two-minute ditty about young women having the same capacity for agency—sexual, musical, geographical—as men.” (Coi Leray. From “The Future Of Rap Is Female” by Niela Orr, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 13, 2023. “The Hip-Hop Issue.”)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “While regrettable instances do happen in the sex-positive community, we have very specific rules and procedures put in place to keep safety in the forefront.” (New York City’s Hacienda sex club, responding to a number of complaints.)

## positivity (body positivity, etc.)

positivity about being  
it’s ~ a proudly nerdy teenage girl

body positivity  
she is an icon of the ~ movement (Lizzo)  
the ~ movement celebrates all shapes and sizes

booty positivity  
her unabashed ~ (Chloe Bailey)

threat to (body) positivity

Sydney Sweeney’s micromini outfit feels like a ~

watch body positivity go down the drain  
~ (Sydney Sweeney rocks a micromini outfit)

♦ “NYC holds ‘Fat Beach Day.’”

♦ “‘Fat Beach Day’ events are appearing across the United States.”

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “The same formula again and again. I want to post pictures of myself in bathing suits. When I get criticized I’ll say I want to do it for others and for body positivity. When I get criticized for that, I will show sadness that the world doesn’t support mental health and I’m a victim, and finally I’ll get praised for being so brave for living my own truth.” (Bob Loblaw. A BBC HYS about “SI Swim model Natalie Mariduena wants to ‘be an example’ of ‘body normalcy’” by Stephanie Nolasco, August 20, 2022.)

♦ “The dishonesty behind positivity grates on my nerves.” (Samantha Irby. From “Talk Samantha Irby” by David Marchese, *The New York Times Magazine*, June 25, 2023.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “Just to be able to spend that one-on-one time with the elderly customers and get to talk to them. / They definitely make me laugh. And to just put a little positivity in their lives it makes you feel good.” (Courtney Meadows, a cashier at a Kroger in Beckley, West Virginia. From “Grocery Cashier Is ‘Putting A Little Positivity’ Into Seniors’ Shopping Trips” by Camila Domonoske, NPR, April 29, 2020.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “When everyone is a model, no one is a model.” (S197, about plus-size models.)

♦ OPTIMISM, n. The doctrine, or belief, that everything is beautiful, including what is ugly, everything is good, especially the bad, and everything right that is wrong. It is held with greatest tenacity by those most accustomed to the mischance of falling into adversity... Being a blind faith, it is inaccessible to the light of disproof—an intellectual disorder, yielding to no treatment but death. It is hereditary, but fortunately not contagious.” (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ see also *best life* (and *best lives*)

## possess (verb)

possessed this woman  
I don’t know what ~ to think that she could...

## possessed (emotion)

possessed by “archive fever”  
he was ~ (cinophile Henri Langlois)

possessed by a certain obsession  
writers are each ~

possessed by rage  
he was ~

## post (abandon one’s post)

abandon his post  
he will not ~ to run for governor

## postage stamp (size)

Postage Stamp Mural  
smaller, portable murals are designated ~s  
a ~ shows Champion Paper and Fibre Company (Canton)

♦ “It’s got solar cells, batteries, two cameras... computer systems, navigation systems. All of this in a helicopter that’s only the size of a chihuahua.” (A drone on Mars.)

## postcard (and post card)

audio postcard

he sent this ~ from California's Central Valley (NPR)

## postcolonial (groups)

postcolonial studies

Columbia University expanded ~ in 2018

## poster (poster child, etc.)

poster child for raising

the chestnut is the ~ those questions (GMO trees)

poster boy for tortured starving artists

he was a ~ (Vincent van Gogh)

poster boy for everything

he became a ~ that was wrong with boxing

poster boy for how

he is a ~ to do it well (a fund-raiser)

poster boy for the sport

he was considered the ~ (Ray Mancini / boxing)

posterboy for all things Draco

he has become the ~ (a rapper / the weapon)

poster child of generative AI

Sam Altman, the ~

poster child for the spoiled athlete

he's a ~

poster child for ignorance

he has become a ~ (racist)

poster child of the unicorns

the ~ was Uber, the ride-hailing smart-phone app

poster girl for tennis

she's going to be a wonderful ~ (Emma Raducanu)

## post-mortem (analysis)

post mortem

I'm sure after the ~ people will analyse and... (sports)

postmortem

the report is a ~ to understand what went wrong (politics)

~: Netherlands Vs. Cameroon (a soccer match)

post mortem of processes and practices

the company promised a ~ it followed (internet meltdown)

post mortems on her campaign

now she has dropped out, ~ have begun (election)

campaign post-mortem

her book is a ~

election post mortem

Republican governors perform ~

Grammy Postmortem

a ~ (Pop Culture Happy Hour)

technical postmortem

he tweeted that there would be a '~' soon...

focus of post-mortems

the bridge's design will be a ~ (collapsed)

post-mortem is underway

a ~ (Tories lose to Labour in England)

♦ "There's going to be a post-mortem, isn't there, we're going to have to look and see and say, 'What next now for Anthony Joshua?'" (Jeanette Kwakye commentating on the Oleksandr Usyk-Anthony Joshua fight, which Usyk won.)

♦ "Open AI's chief executive tweeted that there would be a 'technical postmortem' soon." (From "ChatGPT bug leaked users' conversation histories" by Ben Derico, BBC News, March 23, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, people simply analyzed the results. Nowadays, people autopsy, biopsy, dissect, vivisection, or hold a post mortem. Take your pick!

## post-traumatic stress disorder (and PTSD)

see *PTSD (and post-traumatic stress disorder)*

## posture (position)

posture of (ADA) units

the readiness ~ (military)

posture on the border

the force has increased its security ~

posture as tough on terrorism

he seeks to exploit his ~

posture, stance, attitude

what surprised you most about China's ~ (diplomacy)

assault posture

the Iraqis were in a classic air-land ~

security posture

the force has increased its ~ on the border

readiness posture

the ~ of ADA units (military)

systems posture

we will review our ~ based on events (White House)

aggressive posture

put his troops in a more ~

the guard prides itself on its ~ (Iran)

defensive posture

destroyed 10 Iraqi T-55 tanks dug in a ~

the Israeli counterattack has all of Lebanon in a ~

nuclear posture

the classified ~ review (US government)

protective posture

it causes us to maintain ~s but doesn't stop us (BW)

## posture (performance)

defiant posture



Iraqi officials struck a ~ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

tough-guy posture  
he hides behind a ~

## posturing

partisan posturing  
after days of ~ by senators, she was confirmed (judge)

political posturing  
a lot of the rhetoric is just ~ (politics)

finger-pointing and (political) posturing  
we must put behind us ~ and solve this problem

♦ George Stephanopoulos: "How much of this is real, and how much of this is posturing?" / Dan Abrams, ABC News Chief Legal Analyst: "I think this is real posturing." (Huh?)

## pot (pot calls the kettle black)

calling the kettle black  
this is the pot ~

♦ "What was Zaha moaning to Maupay about? I hope it wasn't about his celebration in front of the CP fans. Didn't Zaha do that to the Brighton fans after his pen? Pot calling and all that." (wemarchon about Crystal Palace vs. Brighton & Hove Albion, Mon 27 Sept 2021.)

♦ "That's like me calling the kettle black, I can't talk on no shit like that." (An ex-NBA player on the latest NBA sex scandal.)

## pot (stir the pot)

right-wing media pot  
stirring up the ~...

stir the pot  
I didn't want to ~ (he ignored racist comments)

stir the pot about his past  
his creepy older brother shows up to ~

stir the pot and incite  
angry people want to ~ (free speech and right to offend)

♦ "I think with all the craziness that's going on, nobody want to stir the pot, but we gotta make sure that everybody has their justice, man..." (Hip-hop artist Rakim.)

♦ "But most people ignored the whole affair; broach it in conversation, and you were considered a pot-stirrer." (In the modern day, about what happened in Forsyth County, Georgia, in 1912.)

♦ "The haters may hate the stirrers may stir but these memories will live with us forever." (A Manchester City fan after MC won the Treble. CTID.)

♦ "He's a provocateur, right, he's a professional pot-stirrer. Society likes having people like that." (Representative Dusty Johnson, R-SD, about the Steve Bannon.)

♦ "[W]e can be abruptly de-platformed for stirring up the right-wing media pot." (Black journalists. A *Washington Post* opinion piece about Tiffany Cross, after her show was not renewed by MSNBC.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's the people that love to troll and that love to stir the pot."

♦ "Don't be starting things..." (A warning.)

## potato (small potatoes)

small potatoes  
I think it's ~ compared to... (politics)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can say, "It's weak tea." Or, "Pipi de sansonnet (starling pee)." Or, "Small potatoes." Or, "Small beans..." Take your pick!

♦ Don't sweat the small stuff.

♦ Stop making a mountain out of a molehill!

♦ Nobody died.

## potato (couch potato)

couch potato footballer  
it's obvious you're just a ~

couch potato or lotus-eater  
are you a ~ (information, misinformation, etc.)

♦ "It's obvious you're just a couch potato footballer and never been involved in any competitive sport. The modern footballers are our gladiators of the past. People like you could never hope to understand this." (Comment on BBC HYS about a football match in which one player headbutted another and was sent off.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I'm a proud couch potato."

## potato chip

equivalent of potato chips  
it is the literary ~ (a VERY interesting book)

## Potemkin (potemkin meeting, etc.)

Potemkin meetings  
management held ~ for 18 months and then... (labor)

Potemkin presidency  
this is a ~ with a senile figurehead (politics)

Potemkin Village  
a ~ in which phony writers... (AI content)

♦ "Parts of the magazine seem to have devolved into a Potemkin Village in which phony writers...pump out AI-generated buying guides...that are monetized by affiliate links..." ("Sports Illustrated Published Articles by Fake, AI-Generated Writers" by Maggie Harrison, *Futurism*, November 27, 2023.)

\*\*\* the Theresienstadt Ghetto...

♦ "It was a carefully coerced hoax, a Potemkin village impersonating normality... Whether the Red Cross delegates were genuinely deceived or were willing to be deceived, they nevertheless gave their approval to what was deemed a model Nazi ghetto. When the visitors departed, the transports resumed." ("The Wedding Present" by Cynthia Ozick, *The Atlantic*, September 2023. The Theresienstadt Ghetto, June 23, 1944.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Potemkin village." It can have the meaning of "things are better than they actually are." Also, "sham, fake." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## potency (strength)

potency of this  
the ~ is beyond the individual services (aircraft carrier)

## potent (adjective)

potent  
the ideology is very ~ (Isis)

potent weapon  
the method of non-violent resistance is the most ~

politically potent  
the Arab community is not as ~

## pothole (noun)

public relations potholes

the film would soon run into a number of ~

## potshot (noun)

potshot

a few ~s have been aimed at him (criticism of artist)

potshot approach

I don't like that kind of a ~ (politics and criticism)

gleeful potshots

Republicans are taking ~ at Democratic opponents

two potshots

they loved her ~ at the state's Republican governor

take potshots at Harvard

people like to ~ (elitist, rich, politically correct, etc.)

taken (more than a few) potshots at his home state

he has ~ over the years

takes potshot at whatever is bothering him

he takes ~ (comedian)

## pounce (verb)

pounce

Schmeichel held on to the ball as Aguero waited to ~

pouncing

his opponents are ~ (politics)

pounced

prosecutors, then, ~ (on defendant's testimony)

Real ~ to win for a 14th time (Champions League)

pounce on him

for me to ~ now would be cruelty (criticism)

pounced on the story

British tabloids ~

quick to pounce

the Obama campaign was ~ (on opponent's gaffe)

censors pounced

~, removing any mention of her from the internet

♦ "For me to pounce on him now would be an exercise in cruelty, because that brother is not right." (A sports commentator about a troubled NFL player.)

\*\*\* "A tiger can leap forward 33 feet from a sitting position..."

♦ An article about tigers at the BBC states that a tiger can leap forward 33 feet from a sitting position!

## pound (amount)

pound of cure

an ounce of prevention is worth a ~ (proverb)

## pound (snowfalls pounded the Northeast, etc.)

pounded the Northeast

record snowfalls have ~

pounding the Northeast

the hurricane is ~

pound the region

Hurricane Dorian continues to ~ as a Category 4 storm

## pound (pound targets, etc.)

pounding the social media companies

lawmakers are ~ over their market dominance

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Allenby: (Pointing to the map.) Pound them, Charley. (Thumping his fist on the chalk board.) Pound them. / (The scene changes. It is night. Artillery flickers on the horizon like the aurora borealis.) / Ali: God *help* the men who lie under that. / Lawrence: They're Turks. / Ali: God *help* them. (From the 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*.)

♦ U.S. aircraft pounded targets in Libya.

## pour (in, into, pour out, etc.)

poured in

complaints ~

pouring in

casualties from the attack started ~ (to a hospital)

poured out

thousands of protesters ~ of the mosque

the doors opened, everyone ~ and ran (subway shooting)

poured into 911

over 100 calls ~ as the shooting unfolded (at a school)

poured into (neighboring) Turkey

thousands of Syrians ~

pouring into Iraq

terrorists from every group are ~

pouring into Kabul

with rural migrants and refugees ~

pour into the city

thousands of delegates began to ~ for the... (UN)

poured into hospitals

scenes of anguish as civilian casualties ~

pour into his office

messages ~ from disaffected Saudis (dissident)

poured into the slum

police ~ in armored cars (Paisópolis / São Paulo)

pouring into streets

Jewish worshippers ~ following sundown prayers

aid poured in

international ~ and disaster was averted...

invitations have been pouring in

~ (to speak at colleges / author)

leads poured in

the ~ (70,000 / child abduction)

praise poured in

~ for Carter (Oslo agreement)

tributes are pouring in  
this morning ~ for King following his death

## **pour (put)**

pour fuel on the fire  
this will ~ of toxic political warfare

pour fuel on the flames  
the documents are likely to ~ of a strained relationship

pour gases into the air  
factories ~

poured his heart and soul into the game  
he ~ (Reggie Miller speaking of Larry Bird)

poured money into improvements  
King Fahd ~ (Hajj)

poured my soul into it  
I ~ (singing performance)

poured our hearts into the movement  
we really ~ (social justice)

poured (intense) fire into the position  
he ~, killing three enemy as...

poured troops into this region  
the Kenyan government has ~

poured money into its Web site  
the company phased out its catalogue and ~

pour its resources into transit  
some question whether the region should ~

poured effort and money into developing  
different companies have ~ jets

pour (deadly) fire upon the enemy  
Pfc. Lozada continued to ~ (combat)

poured a stream of fire at the enemy  
undaunted, he ~ (combat)

pouring on the pressure  
he is ~ (a boxing match)

## **pour (resemblance)**

pouring over the mountains  
dark storm clouds were ~

pour downhill  
boulders ~ in debris flows

## **powder keg**

powder keg  
Northern Nigeria is a ~ (sectarian divisions)  
the region is a ~, and things could get out of hand

human powder keg  
plantation owners knew they were sitting on a ~ (race)

political powder keg  
trying to close camp[uses proved to be a ~ (cost-cutting)

provincial powder keg  
he brought British radical fire to light a ~ (Thomas Paine)

handle (political) powder kegs  
he knows how to ~ (president)

light a fuse on a powder keg  
the pandemic's end might ~ of frustrated desire

set a spark to a powder keg  
I don't want to ~ at precisely the wrong moment

♦ "Far from bringing peace, De Gaul's visit put a spark in the powder barrel." (His visit to Algeria in the 1950s.)

## **power (power to the people, etc.)**

power  
language is agency, language is ~ (Korean girl in U.S.)  
speaking truth to ~ is a dangerous game  
the ~ was not in the hands of the people

power to the people  
~ (the 1960s)

power of contingency  
the ~, the politically crucial alchemy of timing, context...

power and agency  
the tech industry is where US workers have the most ~

power and (my) sexuality  
like owning my ~ (Demi Lovato)

gendered power  
the everyday negotiations of ~ in relationships

women's power  
in a world that continues to decry ~ or black power

crowd power  
when you experience '~' (protests, etc.)

my power  
from angry to then like owning my ~ and my sexuality

Black power  
the ~ movement of the 1960s (U.S.)

"Black Power!"  
an incendiary slogan with no clear definition, ~

flower power  
the 70s saw the disco and ~ eras...  
~ (The Mamas & The Papas- "California Dreaming")

Fry Bread Power  
~ (Message on a T-shirt)

'girl power'  
the ~ movement of the 1990s and 2000s  
the main selling point will be ~ (an Angelina Jolie film)

"Girl Power"  
the toddler wore a rainbow ~ T-shirt and blew kisses to us

girl power  
~ is a strong force in the film (*Wicked Little Letters*)

## Girl Power

~ was the most beautiful tornado to hit your town (Lizzo)

## female power

the whole feeling of ~ that's in the song (Eurovision)

## superpower

see *superpower (groups)*

## gender and power

the film deconstructs ~

## race and power

challenging the institutionalized construct of ~

## speak truth to power

see *truth to power*

## "Fight the Power"

~ (From "Do the Right Thing" Soundtrack)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "In the 1960s there were the mods and rockers. The 70s saw the disco and flower power eras, while in the 80s, new romantic style had its heyday. Fast forward to the present..." ('Soft Girl': The radical trend millennials love" by Evie Muir, BBC, 4th December 2022.)

♦ "Lewis had to contend with younger allies who viewed nonviolent resistance as a kind of masochism, and who increasingly gravitated toward an incendiary slogan with no clear definition: 'Black Power!'" (John Lewis versus Stokely Carmichael. From "If Memory Serves" by Kelefa Sanneh, *The New Yorker*, October 14, 2024.)

♦ "black power & intersectional feminism & gender self-determination & solidarity with muslims & indigenous sovereignty & decolonization & disability justice & queer kinship & migrant justice & fat freedom & collective liberation" (A black T-shirt with white lettering worn by Stephanie Lyn Kaufman-Mthimkhulu, Director of Project LETS. "Disability and Mad Justice cultural worker. Community Educator. Organizer. Parent. Conflict Intervention. Facilitator. Care Strategist. Writer... Hire me.)

♦ "Respectability politics never actually liberated the oppressed. Whether you're a creative or an audience member, power can be had in reclaiming the stereotypes that challenge your very existence." (From "Queer villains, erotic noir, 90s pulp. 'Basic Instinct' and the backlash, rewound," NPR, Pop Culture happy Hour, Nov. 13, 2022.)

♦ "The interesting thing about [Brian De Palma's 1976 film] *Carrie* is that it is so much about the power of this girl and her discovery of this power that comes out as rage." (NPR culture critic Linda Holmes.)

♦ "YouTube: My Power (official Audio). Tierra Whack, Beyonce, Moonchild Sanelly, Nija, Busiswa, DJ Lag, Yemi Alade.

♦ Frank Chapman (from the outdoor stage): All Power To The People. / Crowd: All Power To The People. / Frank Chapman: I said ALL power to the people. / Crowd (louder): All power to the people! / Frank Chapman: Welcome to Chicago... (Frank Chapman, a speaker at the March on DNC 2024. He was introduced thusly: "Please help me welcome up our next speaker. Frank Chapman is the executive director of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. NARPR [pronounced NARper] fights across the U.S. against police crimes and for community control of the police. A revolutionary for over sixty years, he is one of the leading Black Liberation organizers in the U.S., and has published two books, his memoirs, *The Damned Don't Cry*, *Pages from the Life of a Black Prisoner and Organizer* and *Marxist-Leninist Perspectives on Black Liberation and Socialism*.)

♦ "Annette Gordon-Reed, a Harvard law professor and historian, watched the surge of enthusiasm and was reminded of the power of contingency—the politically crucial alchemy of timing, biography, and context. She told me, 'The electorate was perfectly positioned to accept an individual who could be portrayed as a harbinger of the new when lots of people were feeling stuck, as if our politics would be nothing but unbridled nastiness from now on.' / Yet Harris treated the moment gingerly..." ("The Ascent: Can Kamala Harris defy her doubters—and end the Trump era?" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024. No.)

♦ "I just have to remind you, don't you ever let anybody take your power from you. You have the same power that you did before November 5th [2024]... So don't ever let anybody or any circumstance take your power from you... We are powerful, those of us who love our country..." ("Kamala Harris consoles supporters in widely mocked remarks following post-election loss vacation [in Hawaii]: 'Perfectly on-point'" by Victor Nava, Politics, *The New York Post*, Nov. 26, 2024. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "She's a Mohawk woman who goes on a quest to discover her power." (Kahhori / *What If...*? on Disney+)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Fight the Power. Fight the Power. Fight the Power. We got to fight the powers that be." Watch: Do the Right Thing (9/10) Movie CLIP—Fight the Power (1989) HD

♦ "There can be real power in the victim posture."

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *superpower (groups)*

## powerhouse (noun)

### powerhouse of a person

I think you're a ~

### powerhouse (investment) bank

the ~ Goldman Sachs

### powerhouse (legal) team

he was represented by a ~ (rich pedophile)

### powerhouse teams

scouts from ~ like the Florida Gators... (sports)

### Nigeria's economic powerhouse

Lagos is ~

### global powerhouse

US whalers were a ~ (in the past)

### financial or political powerhouse

the N.R.A. is not the ~ that it once was (guns)

### ratings and merchandizing powerhouse

it is a ~ (Sponge Bob cartoon show)

♦ "You're an absolute powerhouse, of a person. I think you're a powerhouse of a person. I don't even want to use the expression ballsy, because that's all about men. That is very, very strong." (BBC *Young Again with Kirsty Young*, "6. Jada Pinkett Smith," released on 07 Nov 2023. Warning: explicit language.)

## powwow (meeting)

### frantic, closed-door powwow

he held a ~ with his top national-security advisors (Biden)

### \*\*\* "At the powwow you are sure to find..."

♦ (1) "You crave it." (A Native American on the delight of fry bread.) (2) "Fry bread is found on dinner tables, at lunch stands, at powwows and festivals all across Indian country." (3) "At the powwow you are sure to find / everybody's in that proud proud red line." (For fry bread. From the song, "Fry Bread line" by the Jim Boyd band.) (4) "Fry Bread Power." (Message on a T-shirt.)

♦ Joe Stuntz, Joe Killright Stuntz. Your name lives on. The memories live on.

## praetorian guard

chillingly effective praetorian guard  
such men make a ~ (miners break up student protests)

## praise (sing someone's praises)

singing his praises  
I have been ~ ever since he joined Liverpool (sports)

sung Shapiro's praises  
other figures in the party have ~ in public (politics)

sang the praises of the contract  
the mayor ~ (Chicago teachers' strike ends)

## pray (verb)

praying that  
Democrats are ~ the case will disappear

## preach (verb)

preach about what  
my father would ~ we could do and couldn't do

preaches against the evils  
Sports Illustrated periodically ~ of steroid use

preach to the choir  
see *choir* (*preach to the choir*)

preaching a gospel (of rebirth) to everyone  
he is ~ (Detroit mayor)

preaching a gospel  
he is ~ of rebirth (Detroit mayor)

preach hate  
school textbooks ~

preaching nonsense  
there are outliers out there that are ~ (COVID)

preach the virtues  
many ~ of diversity and tolerance, yet...

preach and teach  
we ~ coordination of air and artillery, but... (Marines)

practices what he preaches  
he ~ by hiking regularly (fitness)

♦ "He doesn't tell us what to think. He's showing us the world, not preaching about it." (The Romanian filmmaker Cristian Mungiu, about his 2023 film *R.M.N.*)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Practice what you preach! (Hypocrisy.)

♦ "I am due to preach in a couple of weeks, and I have nothing to say."

## precede (at an earlier time)

preceded the car  
the horse ~

preceded the (boxing) match  
months of trash talking and hype ~

## preceding (at an earlier time)

preceding days  
in the ~ the soldiers got ready for battle

## precious (time)

precious time  
~ was wasted  
first responders wasted ~ (Uvalde school shooting)

precious years  
these young men lost ~ (released from prison)

## precious (life is precious, etc.)

precious  
life is ~

## precipice (at / on the precipice)

at the precipice of (epic) failure  
he stands ~ (politician)

at the precipice of becoming  
it was recorded when he was just ~ a star (music)

at the precipice of the presidency  
he stands ~ (Obama)

on the precipice of a very important election  
we stand here ~

skating at the precipice  
news organizations that are ~ of financial disaster

tottered at the precipice  
she ~ of despair (mother lost her son through death)

♦ "I don't think World War III has begun, but we're right on the precipice." (Retired General Keith Kellogg.)

## precipice (other)

headed for the precipice  
as Britain and the Boer republics ~ (war)

## precipitous (adjective)

precipitous deterioration  
their daughter's ~ in the month before her death

## precursor (noun)

precursor to fear  
doubt is the ~ (the great climber Alex Honnold)

## predation (noun)

predations of (unscrupulous) business people  
Africa can defend itself against the ~....

defend themselves against the predations  
young people must know how to ~ of credit

♦ "In those days, nothing could be worse than to be an animal without claws or teeth yet no inclination to be devoured." (*The Betrothed* by Alessandro Manzoni.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A passenger airplane, at first glance entirely full of huge lions. The human female stewardess rolling the dinner cart down the aisle has stopped, and is asking, "Sir, did you order the special meal?" She is speaking to a hare, squeezed in the middle

seat between two great lions, one of whom is reading a newspaper, the other a book. The other lions on the plane are eyeing one another. *The New Yorker* magazine, June 5, 2023. The cartoon is signed "Kuper.")

## **predator (Francis "the Predator" Ngannou, etc.)**

Francis "the Predator" Ngannou  
~ has led a remarkable life

## **Predator (the Predator drone, etc.)**

### **Predator**

a Hellfire air-to-ground missile launched from the ~  
the ~ is a medium-altitude, long-endurance drone  
the ~ can linger for 20 hours over a battlefield

### **Predator drone**

an unmanned ~ (military)

### **Predator unmanned aerial vehicle**

the ~, a 27-foot-long drone  
the ~ is operated remotely by controllers on the ground

## **predator (people)**

predators on the Internet  
the problem of sexual ~

predators in the chain  
they were the top ~ (Iraqi terrorists)

predator in a white coat  
he is a ~ (doctor accused of sex abuse)

predators and harassers  
this culture that turns a blind eye to ~ (entertainment)

predators and the prey  
in prison, there are the ~

predators and thieves  
they are all ~ (bankers)

penalty box predator  
Erling Haaland, the great ~ (Norway)

online predator  
~s trying to have sex with children  
within minutes, he heard from his first ~ (Webcam)

lethal predators  
~ are psychopathic, sadistic, and sane (evil)

real predator  
he is a ~, he's destroyed many women's lives

serial (sexual) predator  
he was a ~ (pedophile)

sexual predator  
the judge called the former NFL player a "~"  
dealing with ~s (pedophile)  
the problem of ~s on the Internet  
Web cams are a magnet for ~s

sexual-predator  
six states have ~ laws

prey and predator  
he believed people fell into two groups: ~

evolved into a (serial) predator  
how a high-school dropout ~

portrayed him as a predator  
prosecutors have ~ who exploited his fame

♦ "It was this Vedic civilization that first developed India's Grand Road. These Indians found the region covered with dense forests, which sheltered robbers and wild beasts." (*To the Ends of the Earth: The Great Travel and Trade Routes of Human History* by Irene M. Franck and David M. Brownstone.)

♦ "In the Ussurian taiga, the most dangerous meeting of all is with a man." (Inhabitants include trappers, bandits, escaped convicts, gold hunters, ginseng hunters, hermits, migrants, tribesmen, etc. From *Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A wolf father and his wolf son are crouched in the tall prairie grass near a herd of buffalo, ready to attack. The father is advising his son, "We don't go for the weakest—we go for the one that's checking its e-mail." Indeed, one nearby buffalo has his head down, a cellphone in his hoof, checking its email! *The New Yorker*, October 2, 2023. The vast majority of millennials and Zoomers lack situational awareness. It's why they fall into holes, walk off of piers, drive onto train tracks, and back off of cliffs taking selfies, etc. Darwin Award winners!

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "The world is like this: it's eat or be eaten." ("The German Experiment That Placed Foster Children With Pedophiles" by Rachel Aviv, *The New Yorker*, July 19, 2021.)

## **predatory (adjective)**

predatory best  
Harry Kane was back to his ~ (England vs. Ukraine)

predatory business  
Internet gambling is a ~

predatory coach  
~s are some of the most successful (sex abuse)

predatory developers  
fears that ~ will push out poor tenants (urban renewal)

predatory educators  
I view for-profit collages as ~, like predatory lenders

predatory lender  
the poor fall prey to ~s

predatory marriages  
research shows that ~ are on the rise

predatory priest  
the archdiocese is accused of harboring ~s

predatory publisher  
the company is a ~ (fees, no checking, fake lists)

predatory lending  
~ is alive and well (credit cards)

"exploitative" and "predatory"  
the activewear company was branded ~ by a judge

criticize (payday) loans as predatory  
consumer advocates ~ (300 percent annual interest)



## predecessor (go away before)

predecessor  
the car and its ~, the horse...

Dollar General's predecessors  
the rise and fall of ~ (five and dimes, etc.)

its predecessors  
how does this new *Ben-Hur* compare with ~ (the film)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Your *ancestor* is one who has 'gone before' you, eventually from the Latin *ante*-, 'before,' and *cedo*, 'go,' while a *predecessor* went away before you came along, *prae*, 'before,' and *decedo*, 'go away.' The *deceased* is simply one who is *decessus*, 'departed.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 4, "Where Words About Human Beings Come From.")

## pregnant (adjective)

pregnant with disaster  
the city was ~ (intercommunal violence)

pregnant with Easter eggs  
it's ~ (the book *D C-T!* by Avilez and Young)

## prehistoric (adjective)

prehistoric  
bullfighting is ~

prehistoric (college football) coaches  
~ are killing players (heat stroke, etc.)

♦ "*La corrida est une activité archaïque.*" (A handheld sign protesting the Festival of Pamplona, 2022. Many of the protesters were wearing dinosaur costumes.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "For a group of reptiles that went extinct 65 million years ago, dinosaurs are really good at staying in the news."

## prescribe (verb)

prescribe fiction  
authors ~ for better understanding

prescribe (healthful) food  
why not ~ (Rx Fruit and Vegetable program)

Prescribe Literature  
"To Cure What Ails You, Bibliotherapists ~" (NPR)

prescribes drastic measures  
Arne Duncan ~ for schools (underperforming)

prescribing a (harmful and inefficient) medicine  
international lenders are ~ (Greece)

♦ "Ten Hag still has many ills to cure but he is at least prescribing the sort of medication that is returning Manchester United to something like their former health." (Phil McNulty, Chief football writer for the BBC. Five of the words in that single sentence relate to health.)

## prescription (noun)

prescription  
the diagnosis is wrong, and the ~ is malpractice

prescription to save  
a ~ globalization from itself

prescription for disaster  
it was a ~ (girl wants acceptance, boys like alcohol)

## presence (groups)

presence of absence  
we feel the ~ (see quote below)

obscure or even erase my presence  
I fear that teaching online will ~ (a black female)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "We are other, different, not expected to be seen." (Blacks outdoors in the woods or hiking on a trail.)

♦ "These erasures—and nene's inheritance of and grappling with them—are the point. It is difficult to make a whole from a hole, but in Torres's hands, we feel the weight of nothingness and the presence of absence." ("A Radical Queer Novel Challenges the Idea of History Itself" by Hugh Ryan, *The New York Times*, November 13, 2023. The review uses words like: *presence*; *absence*; *erase*; *erasure*; *queer*, and *gay*. It does NOT use *invisible* or *invisibilize*.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "He is the main penalty box presence because..." (Karim Benzema.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## present (groups)

visible, courageous and present  
LGBTQ folks have been so ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Stand with us or against us, because we ain't going nowhere." (Protester at a public city-council meeting.)

♦ We're not going anywhere; we're here to stay; we're in your face; we're present and not absent; you will not erase us...

♦ "We're here, we're queer, we won't disappear." (A chant at a demonstration.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "present" bandwagon...

♦ "Being truly present takes diligence and care." (Emily Ratajowski in her commencement speech at Hunter College.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## present (up to the present)

up to the (very) last ball  
the match was impossible to call right ~ (tennis)

up to the present day  
she explores his legacy right ~ (Julius Caesar)

continues up to the present day  
the city's tradition as a hotbed of espionage ~

## press (verb)

press him  
I had questions, but I didn't ~

## pressure (under pressure)

under (relentless) pressure to boost  
schools ~ scores

under (enormous) pressure to succeed  
children are ~ (education)

under the pressure of (battle) conditions  
the unit performed well ~

under pressure from Washington  
Saudi Arabia has come ~ to reform

under pressure from the Vietnamese-Americans  
~, the museum left out...

under pressure from (animal rights) groups  
the business is ~

under pressure from higher-ups  
the recruiters are ~ (military)

under enormous pressure  
children are ~ to succeed (education)

under relentless pressure  
schools ~

come under pressure  
Saudi Arabia has ~ from Washington to reform

plays well under pressure  
the team ~

## **pressure (noun)**

pressure  
the ~ leads his colleagues to "blow up" from time to time

pressure to be  
they face strong family ~ dutiful sons

pressure to "get the bird up in the air"  
there was a great deal of ~ (*Challenger* Disaster)

pressure to succeed  
there's a lot of ~ (Chinese athletes)

pressure to open up  
the ~ areas like Badger-Two Medicine and ANWR

pressure of allies  
the ~ who counsel against war

pressures of his job  
feeling overwhelmed and unable to cope with the ~

pressures of sex, drugs and alcohol  
the ~ (adolescents)

pressures (and stress) of everyday life  
escape the ~ (an inn)

pressure from (hardline) Muslims  
Saudi Arabia faces internal ~

pressure from Moscow  
because of political ~

pressure from (the other) players and parents  
she felt ~ (ice-hockey goalie)

pressure from abroad  
~ is responsible for the government's about-turn

pressure from family members

the relentless ~ (India)

pressure on the adversaries  
diplomatic ~ to seek a diplomatic solution

pressure on (arable) land  
population ~

pressures on Muslims  
the social ~ can be intense (US high schools)

pressure on police  
people are scared and there's a lot of ~ (murders)

pressure on getting  
there's so much ~ good grades

pressure in the Alps  
increasing settlement ~ and avalanche...

pressure along the Appalachian Trail  
growing development ~

pressure and competition  
society is full of ~ (suicide)

pressures and stress  
escape the ~ of everyday life (an inn)

development pressure  
growing ~ along the Appalachian Trail

family pressure  
they face strong ~ to be dutiful sons

government pressure  
~ kept the book under wraps

immigration pressure  
~ on Germany or even Italy

job pressure  
freedom from ~s

population pressure  
~ on arable land

schedule pressure  
I do not think we are being unduly influenced by ~

settlement pressure  
increasing ~ in the Alps and avalanche...

added pressure  
he expected ~ (NASA scientist, after series of failures)

sustained pressure  
~ from the European imperialist powers

academic pressure  
~ and peer pressure in schools

diplomatic pressure  
~ on the adversaries to seek a diplomatic solution  
he faces increased internal and international ~ (a ruler)

intense pressure  
she was under ~ to join the boycott (Olympics)  
teenagers will be under ~ to... (early puberty)

internal pressure

Saudi Arabia faces ~ from hardline Muslims

political pressure

because of ~ from Moscow...

relentless pressure

the ~ from family members (India)

schools under ~ to boost students' performance

social pressures

the ~ on Muslims can be intense (US high schools)

the ~ on middle school girls (acceptance, sex, etc.)

strong (family) pressure

they face ~ to be dutiful sons

public and political pressure

~ is growing on the Metropolitan Police (Sarah Everard)

so much pressure

there's ~ on getting good grades

freedom from (job) pressures

it's hard to imagine ~

anger under pressure

he has shown ~ in the past (police chief)

pressure is building

~ to end the 18-year moratorium on whaling

pressure did not let up

the ~ (on a politician to resign)

ease the pressures

~ on common resources (medicinal plants, etc.)

escape the pressures

~ and stress of everyday life (an inn)

face (strong family) pressure

they ~ to be dutiful sons

felt pressure

she ~ from the other players and parents (sports)

put on the pressure

it's time to ~

come under pressure

Saudi Arabia has ~ from Washington to reform

crack under pressure

favoured competitors have been known to ~ (cycling)

crack under the pressure

some people ~ (stressful, demanding jobs)

keep up the pressure

we need to ~

put pressure on their children

parents ~ to achieve

prevail in the face of (extraordinary) pressures

the boldness that enabled him to ~ (Musharraf)

thrive under (enormous) pressure

some people are able to ~ (jobs)

♦ "When I was talking to our team about this, I suddenly started to think about the pressure I feel under to not miss out, a kind of digital FOMO." (Nihal Arthanayake, presenter of "Information overload: Are we drowning in content?" for the BBC.)

♦ "Consider it a kind of bizarro FOMO but for cultural life." (Nicholas Quah about his need for speed-reading.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Pressure is for tyres." (James Milner, Liverpool football player, on being asked if he felt pressure when taking penalty kicks. YNWA.)

♦ "Pressure makes diamonds and you learn to deal with it." (The boxer Conor Benn, son of the boxer Nigel Benn.)

**pressure cooker (in a pressure cooker, etc.)**

in the pressure cooker of (pandemic-era) health care  
~ (a fatal medication error)

in the pressure cooker of the San Siro  
he did a good job ~ (a soccer player)

**pressure cooker (other)**

pressure cooker

the White House is a ~ that can burn out idealistic aides

despotism is a ~ without a safety valve (protests)

our son graduated from the ~ that is Cornell

he was a ~ who lacked a safety valve (murderer)

pressure cooker of ideas

the California scene in those days was a ~ (art)

pressure cooker of the U.S. swimming trials

the ~ (only 60 of 1,000 selected for Olympics)

pressure-cooker atmosphere

the accusations underscore the ~ in the region

was it a response to the ~ we have been living in (suicide)

pressure cooker environment

high school can be a ~ (bullying, sex, etc.)

reputation as a pressure cooker

M.I.T. is battling a ~ (student suicides)

♦ "The pressure cooker may be about to explode..."

\*\*\* a shack in a rural area outside of Allegan, Michigan...

♦ My grandpa had a pressure cooker. He had false teeth, and the pressure cooker softened beef to his liking. Once, he shouted that the pressure cooker was about to blow, and ordered me and my small brother to evacuate his shack, while he heroically adjusted something called the "bead." Dinners with grandpa, a World War I veteran, could be wonderfully exciting!

**pressured**

pressured to choose

many students feel ~ sides (rape allegation at school)

pressured to cooperate

his client is being ~ in the investigation

feel pressured

many students ~ to choose sides (rape allegation)

I ~ to fit a prescribed mold (work)

## pressure-filled

pressure-filled environment  
this ~

pressure-filled meeting room  
in a ~

## prestige (adjective)

prestige accent  
people consider it to be a ~ (received pronunciation / UK)

prestige biopic  
*Oppenheimer*, a somber, ~ (the 2023 film)

prestige (indie cinema) darling  
~ A24

prestige dialect  
it's a sort of ~ on the internet ("influencer speak")

prestige drama  
HBO's immensely popular zombie ~ (*The Last of Us*)

prestige job  
the pressure to land a ~ (universities)

prestige movie  
*Oppenheimer* is the rare ~ to gross nearly \$1 billion

prestige thriller  
*The Fugitive* represents the ~ (won an Academy Award)

prestige TV  
~ is prime territory for assholery (writers' rooms)  
voyeurism in the guise of ~ (*The Dropout*, *The Crown*, etc.)  
the ~ teens (21<sup>st</sup> century / *Justified*, etc.)

♦ see also *earn* (verb), *privilege* (groups / noun), *red carpet* (treatment), *rope* (velvet rope)

## pretty (adjective)

pretty  
it's not always ~ (discussing race)

## pretty (contempo-speak)

pretty appalled  
I was ~ in the moment...

Actually Pretty  
"Psychedelic Cambodian Rock ~ Inspirational" (NPR)

actually pretty  
the technology is ~ complicated...  
I couldn't believe it, he was ~ good (Fed judge who hoops)  
we're ~ closely aligned  
it was ~ fun...  
a lot of the jokes are ~ funny  
AI can ~accurately predict... (health care)  
it's ~ heartbreaking...

basically pretty  
the people who relocated are ~ stable (vs. old homes)  
a lot of people were, you know, ~ poor...

definitely pretty  
it's ~ cool (the NBA's Allie Quigley)  
I'm ~ stressed... (someone at Drexel University)  
I'm ~ OK with my smell ("Men, Listen Up" / NPR)

kind of pretty  
and so this seems ~ normal (NPR punditry with upspeak)  
they lived in ~ grim, ramshackle conditions  
our first single was ~ big (music)  
two ~ nasty looking men walked in behind us  
we were ~ focused on...

obviously pretty  
it was ~ well thought-out  
I'm ~ doped up (in ICU)  
so I'm ~ excited about that  
the guy in the song is ~ much me

obviously, pretty  
it's ~

really pretty  
I was ~ lost  
it's ~ easy to...  
it's ~ astounding that...  
it's ~ shocking...  
it's ~ incredible  
and it's ~ extraordinary  
it's ~ tame on the "yuck" scale...  
what's going on is ~ sad

sort of pretty  
it's ~ amazing to find this (an astronomer)  
I was ~ amazed by it (a film / a young Brit)  
you're seeing increases in other ~ important indicators  
the issue was ~ significant (NPR punditry)

♦ "And so this seems kind of pretty normal." (Political punditry on NPR, with upspeak on "normal.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Microsoft Word grammar settings highlights "pretty intense" with the pronouncement, "More concise language would be clearer for your readers" and offers as an alternative...wait for it... drumroll... "intense."

♦ Are you sure?!

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *professor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## prey (prey on something)

prey on (homeless) addicts  
drug dealers who ~...

prey on people's desperation  
doctors who ~ (brain-health products, CTE worries, etc.)

preyed on parents' fears  
he ~ (university admittance fraud)

preyed on his mind  
the matter ~ as he went about his daily routine...

preys on people  
COVID ~ with existing health problems

preyed on the political prisoners  
criminals ~ (gulag)

prey on the sheep  
there are a lot of wolves in here who will ~ prison)

prey on ego and greed  
regal-sounding diploma mills ~

♦ "The world is like this: it's eat or be eaten." ("The German Experiment That Placed Foster Children With Pedophiles" by Rachel Aviv, *The New Yorker*, July 19, 2021.)

## prey (fall prey to something)

fall prey to (unscrupulous) agents  
don't ~ (sex trafficking of Nepalese to UAE)

fall prey to (predatory) lenders  
the poor ~

fall prey to traffickers  
older women can ~ (sex trafficking)

fall prey to HIV  
as many as 45 million people will ~ (by 2010)

fell prey to the (voracious) sun  
eight ~ (stranded whales)

## prey (prey and predator, etc.)

prey for terrorists  
subways, shopping centers are easy ~

prey and predator  
he believed people fell into two groups: ~

easy prey  
subways, shopping centers are ~ for terrorists  
their status outside the law makes them ~ (migrants)  
she became ~ for an ex-convict twice her age (14 y.o.)

predators and the prey  
in prison, there are the ~

makes them (easy) prey  
their status outside the law ~ (illegal immigrants)

regard girls as prey  
boys ~

♦ "He went hunting for females on the University of Georgia campus, and on his hunt, he encountered 22-year-old Laken Riley on her morning jog." (Prosecutor Sheila Ross about Jose Ibarra, 26, an illegal immigrant. The murder was "a cornerstone of the [2024] presidential election." From "Georgia nursing student Laken Riley 'fought for her life' when she was killed by illegal immigrant: prosecutors" by Steven Vago, Priscilla DeGregory and Olivia Land, *The New York Post*, updated Nov. 15, 2024.)

## price (noun)

price to pay  
a little bit of sexism is a small ~ for a lot of attention

price to be good  
he's willing to pay the ~ (an athlete)

price of doing  
the ~ the same old thing is higher than price of change

price of fame  
Hinckley forced Jodie Foster to think hard about the ~

price of freedom  
"the ~ is eternal vigilance"

price of hypocrisy  
the ~ has never been lower (politicians and sex)

price of liberty  
eternal vigilance is the ~ (Thomas Jefferson)

price of peace  
the costs of war and the ~ (soldiers)

price of success  
weary but optimistic, he weighed the ~ (a rapper)

price of victory  
this is the ~ (a destroyed Gaza)

price of war  
white tombstones, a reminder of the ~ (Arlington)  
they pay the ~ with their arms and legs (civilians)

price of our inaction  
the ~ will be paid by our kids (unplanned growth)

price for writing  
there is a ~ your mind (journalist in conflicts)

price for his activism  
Lenny Pozner would pay a ~ (Sandy Hook shooting Dad)

price for (their) fame  
celebrities pay a huge ~

price for freedom  
the ~ is high (fight against terrorists)

price for your sins  
Jesus Christ paid the ~

heavy price  
fame came with a ~  
he was overconfident throughout and paid a ~ (soccer)  
they will pay a ~ for these actions (politics)

high price  
we paid a very ~ (military commander, casualties)

huge price  
celebrities pay a ~ for their fame

political price  
he may pay a ~ nevertheless (a senator)  
those corrupt social-media companies must pay a ~

small price  
a little bit of sexism is a ~ to pay for a lot of attention

terrible price  
but Knievel's fame came at a ~ (daredevil / injuries)

ultimate price  
she paid the ~ (drug death)  
you have to be willing to pay the ~ (surfing)

came at a (terrible) price  
but Knieval's fame ~ (daredevil / injuries)

comes with a price  
fame ~

comes at a price  
user-friendliness ~

exact a price  
Israel has pledged to ~ from Iran in response

have a price  
false hope can ~ (unproven treatments)

pay a price  
see *pay* (*pay a price*)

put a price on that  
you can't ~ (happiness in career)

weighed the price  
weary but optimistic, he ~ of success (a rapper)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ No sin without a price.

♦ Grief is the price of love.

## price tag

price tag  
obsessive attention to the ~ is misleading  
there's no ~ you can put on it (hearing a wolf in the wild)

## prick (verb)

prick (overinflated) reputations  
a critic should ~ (poetry)

## prickle (prickle of anxiety, etc.)

prickle of anxiety  
he felt the first ~ (a commander)

## Pride (groups)

Pride  
kink, cops and corporations at ~  
a popular family friendly event like ~ (Jules Gill-Peterson)

Pride-themed  
zoo animals beat the heat with ~ popsicles

Pride cookies  
the bakery is being inundated with orders for ~ (LGBTQ)

Pride displays  
New York library removes ~ from children's section

Pride ERG  
love from NPR's ~ (employee resource group)

Pride event  
it happens at every ~ (LGBTQ)  
they are sending more vaccines after ~s (for monkeypox)

Pride festival  
a new ~ (LGBTQ)

Pride flags  
Black Lives Matter and ~...

pride flag  
Wisconsin school board votes in favor of ~ ban

Pride jerseys  
some athletes refused to wear ~

Pride march  
Philly's ~ returns with new organizers (LGBTQ)

Pride Month  
June marks ~ (LGBTQ)

Pride Parade  
at the start of a ~

Pride and Queer  
~ stories

Black pride  
father teaches daughter to have ~

disability pride  
she commemorated ~ month (Rep. Jennifer Wexton)

Brighton Pride  
"Army of volunteers help clean up litter after ~" (ITV)

Chelsea Pride  
~, the London club's LGBTQ supporters group

gay pride  
what ~ is

Pride has evolved  
since then, ~ (Stonewall uprising)

represent their pride  
United Airlines employees may wear flag pins "that ~"

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "More Love, Less Hate." (LGBTQ.)

♦ "I'm proud of who I am." (Gay.)

♦ "No matter where you are in your journey, I see you, we see you, and we celebrate you—Happy Pride!" (Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary.)

♦ "Love always wins, and unfortunately sometimes it takes hate to prove that. We don't get rainbows or flowers without the rain." ("A Texas Bakery Got Hate Mail Over Pride Cookies. Then The Community Rallied Behind It" by Rachel Treisman, NPR, Pride Month, June 11, 2021.)

♦ "Chelsea Pride, the London club's LGBTQ supporters group, described the chanting as a 'hate crime.'" (The "Rent boy" chant.)

♦ "F--- Clarence Thomas." (Lori Lightfoot, the Mayor of Chicago, about the Supreme Court Justice, at a Chicago Pride event. Lovely!)

♦ "S\*\*\* My Trans D\*\*\*." (Vile sexualized abuse directed towards J.K. Rowling by a trans woman. From the podcast, "The Witch Trials of J.K. Rowling.")

### \*\*\* jumping on the "pride" bandwagon...

♦ "Zoo animals beat the heat with Pride-themed popsicles. Lemurs, gorillas and a squirrel monkey beat the heat with some Pride-themed popsicles at the London zoo." (ABC News.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Check out picks straight off our Rainbow Runway below, including tube socks, a romper and a classic jersey shirt. By clicking on these shopping links, visitors will leave Goodmorningamerica.com. These



e-commerce sites are operated under different terms and privacy policies than Goodmorningamerica.com. ABC will receive a commission for purchases made through these links. Prices may change from the date of publication." ("Celebrate Pride month with looks hot off the 'GMA' 'Rainbow Runway,' GMA Team, June 23, 2022.)

♦ "Heart Shape in horizontal rainbow colors" T-shirt. Women's LGBT T Shirt, Gay Pride Shirts, Heart Gay T Shirt, Heart Shirts, Gay Pride T Shirts. Only 10 left with 4 views. 25% off. Sale ends on January 30. Arrives soon. Returns accepted. (\$17.80+. Etsy.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "You couldn't even see the beach in places." (Cleaning up tons of trash after a Brighton Beach "Pride" weekend. Trash included broken glass bottles, cans, plastic bags, food wrappers, disposable barbecues, feather boas, parts of costumes, nitrous oxide canisters, and balloons which can be deadly to wildlife.)

♦ "We're here, we're queer, we're coming for your children." (A chant by LGBTQ activists during New York City's annual Drag March in Tompkins Square. From "Drag marchers spark outrage with 'we're coming for your children' chant at NYC Pride event" by Patrick Reilly, *The New York Post*, June 24, 2023.)

♦ "Did Videos Show Naked Men at 2023 Seattle Pride Parade, with Families and Children Present?" by Jordan Liles, yahoo, June 29, 2023." (Snopes. True.)

♦ "President Vucic cannot cancel someone else's event. The right to hold Pride has been ruled by the European Court of Human Rights to be a fundamental human right." (President Kristine Carina of European Pride Organizers. From "Serbia's leader says EuroPride won't happen due to threats" by Jovana Gec, AP, Aug 27, 2022. In the same article, she mentioned that "Several thousand people recently joined a march in Belgrade against LGBTQ Pride." See also the Wikipedia article "Belgrade antigay riot.")

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ The conventional sense of "pride" is usually positive, but it can also be negative. For example, a person can have too much pride and be stubborn, or not ask a question out of pride, or something can wound one's pride. "Pride goeth before a fall," etc. Or, as the Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson wrote, "Remember when Pride was a sin?"

♦ Pride in one's appearance / car / lawn / house; pride in one's country; Hmong American pride in Sunisa Lee; small-town pride; civic pride; community pride; national pride; with pride ("Infantry is infantry" he says with pride); a badge of pride (working to exhaustion); a point of pride (working hard); a sense of pride; a source of pride (being a veteran); the pride that comes with...; they take pride in...; they pride themselves on...; It filled him with pride...

♦ "It's crazy how many Filipinos are here. I feel so proud. I feel so glad to be here and show Filipino pride. We're going to fight until the end." (Sara Eggesvik, a member of the Philippines women's national football team during the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup. In contrast, most of the United States women stood silent and stone-faced for the United States National Anthem. Pinoys have long distinguished themselves at home, around the globe, in healthcare in the United States, and in the United States military. Go Pinoys! You have so much to be proud of!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word 'erroneously' is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move," Subsection "But That Isn't What It's Supposed to Mean!")

♦ *Pride* is generally capitalized when used as a premodifier, and can also be a single word, also capitalized.

## priesthood (noun)

priesthood of economists

he was excommunicated from the ~

public-policy priesthood

members of a ~ (scientists)

members of (a public-policy) priesthood

scientists had been regarded as ~...

♦ "For a few years after World War II, scientists had been regarded as a new class of intellectuals, members of a public-policy priesthood who might legitimately offer expertise not only as scientists but as public philosophers. With Oppenheimer's defrocking, scientists knew that in the future they could serve the state only as experts on narrow scientific issues." (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

## prima donna (person)

overpaid primadonas

what a bunch of ~ (Manchester United football club)

overpaid primadonnas

those ~ ("tired, overworked" players / Qatar World Cup)

self-centered, egotistical prima donna

he's a ~ who... (a soccer player)

♦ "Dump Rodgers, she's a prima donna, and doesn't get the TEAM culture." (Shade against the great future Hall of Famer Aaron Rodgers of the NFL Green Bay Packers, using a female pronoun! It remains to be seen, nevertheless, if Rodgers can get his head out of his ayahuasca and win the New York Jets a Superbowl championship.)

♦ "Prima Donna of the highest order !! Messiah complex and ability to divide any dressing room!!" (An online commenter about a famous soccer player. Wink, wink.)

## prime (verb)

prime us for traumatization

the stories passed down ~ (Blacks / race-based)

prime the customer to agree

questions that elicit a "yes" ~ (salesmanship)

## primed (ready)

primed for honesty

if you swear to tell the truth ahead of time, your brain is ~

primed for outrage

we are all so ~ (culture wars)

primed to detonate

the film was ~ this weekend (open)

primed to love it

I was so ~ (a Jane Campion film, *Power of the Dog*)

primed to protest

why are students always ~ (Dartmouth College)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Priming" a response is a "big thing" in academic experiments, particularly in social psychology, linguistics, etc. Sadly, some academics have falsified their data to show a "priming effect" that isn't true. Google Dan Ariely of Duke University and Francesca Gino of Harvard University.

## prince (epithet)

Prince of Cartography

John George Bartholomew, called the "~"

prince of surgeons

Lister, the ~, hugged Pasteur (1892)

## prince (person)

little prince

I got used to being the ~ (first-born Asian male)

## princess (person)

princess

she thinks a ~ in a pink gown is kid stuff (Halloween)

princess phase

every little girl goes through a ~ (US / pink)

princess or angel

I want to be Britney Spears, no more ~ (Halloween)

pop princess

teen ~ Britney Spears

## prioritize (groups)

prioritized democracy over his political future

Lincoln ~ (NPR's Steve Inskeep / sounds like presentism)

prioritizes intersectionality

she is a speaker and organizer who ~

prioritize joy

in order to ~, you must... (Emily Ratajkowski)

prioritize her wellbeing

Simon Biles withdraws from Tokyo Olympics to ~

prioritise mental health and happiness

Ellie Downie retires to '~~' (the gymnast)

prioritize, center, and platform

we must ~ the voices of women (sexual assault)

## prioritized (groups)

prioritized

femme space has never been ~ (lesbian bars)

## prism (through the prism)

through the prism of its own ideology

the US sees the world ~

through my own ethnic prism

I view the world ~

through a progressive prism

things are viewed ~ (at NPR)

looks at Israel through the prism

he ~ of his Christian faith (Bush)

sees his role through the prism

Bush ~ of the war on terror (Middle East)

see the show through the prism

progressive critics ~ of 'white grievance' (*Yellowstone*)

viewed through a (partisan) prism

the past is ~ (US)

♦ "Things are viewed through a progressive prism." (At National Public Radio / NPR.)

## prism (other)

ethnic prism

my own ~ sometimes distorts my perspective

I view the world through my own ~

ideological prism

his ~ has not changed (Qaddafi / anti-imperialism)

partisan prism

the past is viewed through a ~ (US)

## prison (constraint)

prison of fat

if you want to lose weight and escape from the ~ (an ad)

escape from the prison

if you want to lose weight and ~ of fat (an advertisement)

unlock the prison

to study the past is to ~ of the present (Jill Lepore)

♦ "A just or unjustly ruined reputation, poverty, fatal circumstances, adversity—they are what make men prisoners. And the prison is also called prejudice, misunderstanding, fatal ignorance of one thing or another, distrust, false shame. One cannot always tell what it is that keeps us shut in, confines us, seems to bury us, but nevertheless, one feels certain barriers, certain walls..." (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Prisons are inherently secretive."

## prisoner (constraint)

prisoner

care about people's approval and you will be their ~

prisoner of his determination

he was the ~ (Amundson follows line of longitude to Pole)

prisoners of our own doctrine

we were ~ (Israelis in 1973 war)

prisoner of duty

he could seem like a grudging ~ (President Grant)

prisoners of geography

the Northern Fleet's submarines are ~ (Russia)

prisoner of a preconceived notion

he was the ~

prisoner of her own success

she is a ~ (a Pop diva)

♦ "I understood then that there was a warning here. It seemed that if you didn't express yourself you ended up a prisoner. And, though you might blame others for this, in truth the jailer was yourself. I was a prisoner, too. There were many things I couldn't bear to say; instead, I buried them in notebooks. I was a coward, and my silence, like my grandmother's, had a lot to do with shame." ("Playing The Numbers: My mother, the gambler" by Victor Lodato, *The New Yorker*, August 5, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Keep the tongue in your mouth a prisoner." (Turkish.)

## prisoner (take no prisoners, etc.)

### take no prisoners

we fight hard, we play for keeps, we ~ (gun-rights activist)

### take-no-prisoners

the ~ approach to justice

his aggressive, ~ attitude was always on display (a coach)

### take no prisoners

her ~ approach got her fired (an educational reformer)

### takes no prisoners

this is one reason Sesali Bowen is so powerful, she ~

### hard-charging, take-no-prisoners

he's known as a ~ kind of guy (Governor Andrew Cuomo)

♦ "We fight hard, we play for keeps, we take no prisoners. We'll get in the trenches and fight dirty." (Greg Pruet, president of the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance, a gun-rights group.)

♦ "Bowen also calls out the classism and cultural biases even within Black media circles where so many of her colleagues come from privilege and 'have had to untangle their Blackness from the web of whiteness they were socialized in.' This is one reason Bowen is powerful; she takes no prisoners. Going against every tide, Bowen's trap feminism enthusiastically celebrates 'ghetto girl culture.' More than reconciling feminism with hip-hop, she marshalls its power." ("5 books at the intersection of Black feminist thought, culture, and politics" by Carole V. Bell, NPR, Book Reviews, March 21, 2022.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "A man cannot change his feelings again during the last rush with a veil of blood before his eyes." (Ernst Junger. World War I. Quoted in *On Killing* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. Close-quarters combat. Soldiers who resist to the final moment and then throw down their weapons and raise their hands may or may not be taken prisoner in the heat of battle.)

♦ "About saving the lives of enemy wounded there was disagreement; the convention varied with the division. Some divisions, like the Canadians and a division of Lowland Territorials, who claimed that they had atrocities to avenge, would not only avoid taking risks to rescue enemy wounded, but go out of their way to finish them off. The Royal Welch were gentlemanly: perhaps a one-in-twenty risk to get a wounded German to safety would be considered justifiable." (*Good-Bye To All That* by Robert Graves. World War I. No man's land.)

♦ "We rode past the other bodies of men and women and four more dead babies, looking very soiled in the daylight, towards the village; whose loneliness we now knew meant death and horror. By the outskirts were low mud walls, sheepfolds, and on one something red and white. I looked close and saw the body of a woman folded across it, bottom upwards, nailed there by a saw bayonet whose haft stuck hideously into the air from between her naked legs. She had been pregnant, and about her lay others, perhaps twenty in all, variously killed, but set out in accord with an obscene taste... / I said, 'The best of you brings me the most Turkish dead', and we turned after the fading enemy, on our way shooting down those who had fallen out by the roadside and came imploring our pity. One wounded Turk, half naked, not able to stand, sat and wept to us. Abdulla turned away his camel's head, but the Zaagi, with curses, crossed his track and whipped three bullets from his automatic through the man's bare chest. The blood came out with his heart beats, throb, throb, throb, slower and slower. / Tallal had seen what we had seen. He gave one moan like a hurt animal...[H]e dashed his stirrups into the mare's flanks and galloped headlong, bending low and swaying in the saddle, right at the main body of the enemy... / Instantly their rifles and machine-guns crashed out, and he and his mare, riddled through and through with bullets, fell dead among the lance points... / By my order we took no prisoners, for the only time in our war... / Just one group of Arabs, who had not heard our news, took prisoner the last two hundred men of the central section... [A] man on the ground behind them screamed something to the Arabs, who with pale faces

led me across to see. It was one of us—his thigh shattered. The blood had rushed out over the red soil, and left him dying; but even so he had not been spared. In the fashion of to-day's battle he had been further tormented by bayonets hammered through his shoulder and other leg into the ground, pinning him out like a collected insect. / He was fully conscious. When we said, 'Hassan, who did it?' he drooped his eyes towards the prisoners, huddling together so hopelessly broken. They said nothing in the moments before we opened fire. At last their heap ceased moving; and Hassan was dead..." (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence, Chapter CXVII.)

♦ "It was easy to dispose of thousands at a time. I don't think it took more than 30 minutes." (Saito Futoshi, a Yamada Unit soldier. From the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*. 1937.)

♦ "Keep it under your hats, but our boys are so fucking well brassed off about it, they aren't taking any prisoners. Not those First Para bastards anyhow!" (They were "brassed off" by the German scorched-earth program, which destroyed Italian villages and forced Italian refugees onto roads to block the Allied advance. World War II. Italy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

♦ see also *quarter* (no *quarter*, etc.)

## privilege (groups / verb)

### privilege our own well-being

self-care rhetoric makes us ~ above all else

### privilege whiteness

Latinos who historically and contemporarily ~ (colorism)

### privileges (scholarly) work

SCA ~ that takes an intersectional approach (academia)

♦ Or "advantage" (verb).

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The notion of "privilege" used by various groups is a polemical, pernicious, and divisive idea.

## privilege (groups / noun)

### privilege

~ is characteristically invisible to people who have it

### privilege over me

you don't have ~ (removed by cops / racial rant on plane)

### privilege guide

if this ~ upsets you, you're the reason why it's needed

### privilege, hierarchy, bias, or exclusion

cleans language of any race of ~

### Black privilege

~ (Black Wendy's employee murders old white customer)

### caste privilege

"~" and South Asians in the United States

### chick privilege

~ ("my mistakes don't define who I am")

### Christian privilege

if you get a holiday for Christmas, then you have ~

cis privilege  
Leelah Alcorn's suicide led to renewed recognition of ~

flight privilege  
she needed to check her (young woman takes seat)

male privilege  
not having to worry much about where to pee is a ~  
*Men* is a sly take on sexism and ~ (Alex Garland's film)  
he finds terms like "~" and "the patriarchy" nebulous  
they both participate in a takedown of ~ (*Do Revenge*)

southern male privilege  
the private club was once a bastion of ~

plagiarism privilege  
why is Harvard giving Claudine Gay '~' (she resigned)

rich privilege  
Martha Steward was accused of abusing her '~' when she...

wife privilege  
in her latest display of ~... (Linda Andrade, Dubai)

thin privilege  
~ is a lot like white privilege (blind to how you benefit)  
~ ("straight" sizes [0 to 14] / buying clothes)  
you can be fat and still benefit from ~ ("small fat")

ugly privilege  
Plain Jane Tik Tokkers ae proudly flaunting their "~"  
the creator explained the perks of having "~" (TikTok)

white privilege  
the law seeks to ban any discussion of ~ (education)  
"~" is used as a political weapon to bash opponents  
an anti-racism tool to teach those with ~  
some gays have access to ~ in America  
one of the manifestations of ~ is not having to think about it

earned privilege  
what about ~ (Areva Marin vs. David Web)

able-bodied privilege  
if you can walk up a set of stairs, then you have ~

heterosexual privilege  
if your wife doesn't raise eyebrows, you have ~

pretty privilege  
there's an ugly side to ~ (Shye Lee, who is "totally hot")  
#~ has attracted more than 300 million views on TikTok  
I use my ~ to make strangers buy me things, no one says no

racial privilege  
it exemplifies snobbery, stuffiness, and ~ (classical music)

religious privilege  
groups that campaign against ~ (National Secular Society)

social privilege  
~ denied to dark-skinned Afro-Latinos (colorism)

the ~ that such beauty commands (unequal distribution)

western privilege  
use your ~ to help the Palestinian people (vs. encampments)

white companies, white people, white privilege  
~ (?)

entitlement and privilege  
white skin color equals ~

interests and privileges  
they direct debate in a direction favorable to their ~

power and privilege  
they were predators who were able to use that ~  
they used their ~ to harm countless individuals  
3<sup>rd</sup>-graders rank themselves according to their '~' (school)

racism and privilege  
the bill limits discussion of ~ in classrooms, workplaces

child of privilege  
another bored ~ who chose the path of revolution

place of privilege  
from a ~, she...

position of privilege  
she frequently mentions her ~ (comedian Amy Schumer)

types of privilege  
different ~, including...

discourse around "privilege"  
~ (macro and micro discrimination or aggression)

born into privilege  
Kamala was not ~, she had to work (Barak Obama)

carries some privilege  
any white person ~ due to their skin color

check her (flight) privilege  
she needed to (young woman takes window seat)

cocooned in privilege  
a metropolitan elite ~ (Great Britain)

come from privilege  
so many of her colleagues ~ (the Black media)

flaunting their 'ugly privilege'  
Plain Jane Tik Tokkers ae proudly ~

treated with privilege  
since she was ~, she wasn't arrested (a white woman)

use their privilege  
white-passing Latinos ~ to distance themselves (colorism)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ If you're confident that the police exist to protect you, you have **white privilege**. / If while growing up, college was an expectation of you, not a dream, you have **class privilege**. / If you can expect time off from work to celebrate your religious holidays, you have **Christian privilege**. / If you can use public bathrooms without stares, fear or

anxiety, you have **cisgender privilege**. / If you don't have to worry about how to get into a store, you have **able-bodied privilege**. / If you don't have to explain that your spouse is of the same gender, you have **heterosexual privilege**. / If you don't have to think about it, **it's a privilege**. Check your privilege: White / Male / Class / Cisgender / Able-Bodied / Heterosexual. (A "Leading Practices: Unpacking privilege" information handout.)

♦ "And what I want people to make the connection to is actually white privilege is a part of white supremacy and it upholds white supremacy." (Layla Saad, author of *Me and White Supremacy*.)

♦ "They have ridden their waves of privilege far beyond their own skill levels." (White male writers.)

♦ "'This doesn't happen to people like me' is the most white privilege-iest thing to ever be uttered at an awards show ever for all time." (Sam Sanders of *Vulture*, previously with NPR, about Harry Styles and his Grammy Award for Album of the Year.)

♦ "The foreigner tends to ride upon the high though not very reliable horse of privilege." (In Asia. In fact, for most European people, "staying too long in the East was tantamount to suicide.")

♦ "Artistic director Patrick Dooley, who's not Native American, said having a land acknowledgment helps remind his theater company and audience of their privileges." ("So you began your event with an indigenous land acknowledgement. Now what?" by Chloe Veltman, NPR, All Things Considered, March 15, 2023.)

♦ "There have been 393 homicides in Philadelphia so far this year, but Dana Pico at First Street Journal notes the 'white privilege' in this case: Philadelphia media seldom name the murder victims in the city, the vast majority of whom are black." ("A Death in Killadelphia" by Robert Stacy McCain, Sept. 24, 2022. The post is about the murder of Everett Beauregard, age 23.)

♦ "I do think that there is a thing called pretty privilege. There is a thing called white privilege. There is a thing called tall privilege, and we have to acknowledge that." (Sunny Hostin of *The View* about the WNBA's Caitlin Clark.)

♦ "There were other women that attended that carpet who did not quite look like me and they didn't get scolded, or pushed off, or told to get off." (Singer and actress Kelly Rowland about a blond female steward at Cannes Film Festival. According to the BBC, "Cannes is known for having strict rules for guests on the red carpet." Staff move celebrities along so a film can start on time. Read, "Kelly Rowland explains her viral Cannes red-carpet confrontation: 'I have a boundary'" by Eva Hartman, *Los Angeles Times*, May 24, 2024. You be the judge.)

♦ "I didn't believe in white privilege until this woman." (An outraged stoner about the verdict in the Bryn Spejcher involuntary manslaughter case.)

♦ "You are white privilege. Sit down. You are not my boss. You don't have privilege over me. You have white privilege and it's not here, it's over with. It's 2020. Wake up... You don't have white privilege anymore." (Video: Passenger taken away by police after racial rant on plane in US, *Daily Mail*, Sept 14, 2020.)

♦ "Bunch of little faggots with your white privileges. Fuck you, faggots." (Audrey / Aiden Hale, a transgender man. See the Wikipedia article "2023 Nashville school shooting." Audrey / Aiden murdered three nine-year-old children and three adults at school.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "privilege" bandwagon...

♦ "Plain Jane Tik Tokkers are proudly flaunting their 'ugly privilege': 'I love that men don't look at me'" by Brooke Kato, *The New York Post*, July 27, 2024.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "She frequently mentions her position of privilege. 'I get it—white women are the worst,' she recently said on LeBron James's podcast 'Uninterrupted.' 'I hate myself. Trust me.' Depending on your point of view, this is either a welcome emphasis on the structural inequities inherent in American life or a grating form of virtue signalling from a member of the elite." ("Mom Com: Amy Schumer's second act" by Ariel Levy, *The New Yorker*, September 5, 2022.)

♦ "Alex Levy contacted me just before the meeting began to tell me to use whatever question I got first to apologise, and at some point to acknowledge my privilege." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ "Bowen also calls out the classism and cultural biases even within Black media circles where so many of her colleagues come from privilege and 'have had to untangle their Blackness from the web of whiteness they were socialized in.' This is one reason Bowen is powerful; she takes no prisoners. ("5 books at the intersection of Black feminist thought, culture, and politics" by Carole V. Bell, NPR, Book Reviews, March 21, 2022.)

♦ "Why is Harvard giving Claudine Gay 'plagiarism privilege'?" (An online commenter.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "The stately pace of the motorcade, a royal prerogative..."

♦ "In many societies, special privilege is accorded to standard accents."

♦ Driving is a privilege, not a right. (What most Americans heard growing up.)

♦ Rank has its privilege. (Typical American understanding of the word, which accepts the fact that you earn your rank and deserve whatever privileges that come with it. A better and bigger office with a view. A driver / chauffeur. Not having to wait in line at a club; a VIP room. Same for the airport. Company or military perks. The list goes on and on.)

♦ "Respect has to be earned." (A basic American value.)

♦ "Privilege is vile." (A traditional American way to remember how to spell the word correctly that also expresses the traditional, historic, and ingrained American view that *undeserved* [italics mine] privilege is wrong.)

♦ "USC was one of the universities embroiled in an admissions cheating scandal in which wealthy parents sought to get their *undeserving* [italics mine] offspring into college by falsely portraying them as star athletes." ("Former USC dean pleads guilty in political bribery case," AP, September 19, 2022.)

♦ The vast majority of Americans give credit where credit is due.

♦ "Harlem's most opulent apartment house, the Dunbar—honoring the Dayton, O., Negro poet Paul Laurence Dunbar—houses some of the most celebrated of the colored folk. It is an impressive structure, a Rockefeller creation, with all the white folk appointments, even to uniformed elevator operators and hot-cha door flunkies. Bob Robinson lives there. Also Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Adelaide Hall and the colored cartoonist E. Simms Campbell." ("New York Day by Day" by O.O. McIntyre, from *The Day*, New London, CONN., Thursday Afternoon, April 1, 1937.)

♦ First he built a fire against a fallen tree trunk... Then he cut a branch of dogwood that forked into three tines, leaving the stem for a handle. On the fork he laid a chunk of his hard corn bread and fastened it in place with limber twigs woven crosswise. He impaled a slice of fat salt pork, on a sharpened stick, broiled it over the coals, and held his bread under it to catch the dripping grease and get warmed through. / Youlus ate as voraciously as a hound, meantime drinking his black coffee without sugar and getting supreme enjoyment from it... If some well-meaning but misguided genii had carried him off on a magic carpet and set him to feast at a king's table, Youlus would have sniffed and growled at every dish placed before him and would have bragged about his 'old corn bread and sow-belly.'" (*Smoky Mountain Magic* by Horace Kephart.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Responsibility, not privilege, would be the keyword for battalion leadership when the Second Raiders formed up." (From the Wikipedia article "Evans Carlson," about the legendary leader of Carlson's Raiders. His biography is extraordinary.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "White privilege, male privilege, cisprivilege... (Terms popularized on Tumblr. From the brilliant podcast *The Witch Trials of J.K. Rowling*, "Chapter 3: A New Pyre.")

♦ Almost all Americans instinctively despise favoritism, nepotism (nepo babies), and cronyism, unless, of course, those things apply to their own families.

♦ The notion of "privilege" used by various groups is a polemical, pernicious, and divisive idea.

♦ PRIVILEGE (noun). (1) What you deserve and I want (2) What you don't deserve and I do (3) A right possessed by all: "Every man has the privilege to lay his head down and sleep each night wherever he



lies, no matter his circumstances or station in life." (A definition of "privilege" in the spirit of *The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ "Few of us can stand prosperity. Another man's, I mean." (Pudd'nhead Wilson's New Calendar, *Following The Equator: A Journey Around The World* by Mark Twain.)

♦ "The way we talk about white privilege is eerily consonant with the way one talks about original sin." (John McWhorter, author of *Woke Racism: How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America*.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *earn* (verb), *prestige* (adjective), *red carpet* (treatment), *rope* (velvet rope)

## privileged

### privileged category

it is absurd to see white Americans as a uniformly ~

### privileged countries

the ~ of the world (vs. poorer ones)

### privileged (queer vacation) destination

a very ~, Fire Island

### privileged white family

telling the story of a ~ (*Downton Abbey: A New Era*)

### privileged immigrant

I am by all means a ~ (Miguel Macias)

### privileged people

~ who didn't have to think much about race (parenting)

### privileged white women

~ shouldn't be the only face of breast cancer (Ericka Hart)

### socially privileged

the compilation also skews toward the ~ (early scientists)  
the gay white man is more ~ than his queer peers

### white, privileged woman

as a ~ (versus underserved populations / health equity)

### white privileged world

the novel is set in the ~ of Ivy League schools

### rich, powerful and privileged

that Jews are ~ is an antisemitic trope

♦ "I feel privileged to co-chair the LGBTQ+ ERG and help spread awareness of lived queer experiences." (An official at the Silicon Valley Bank.)

♦ "I'm really privileged to work on a book like this." (A lesbian, about *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves*.)

♦ "Museums are spaces where a certain sort of story is privileged." (An advertisement for Meta's LGHBQT+ VR Museum.)

♦ "I'm privileged. I get to escape and go somewhere. Most Americans aren't so lucky. They're going to be stuck in this dystopian country, and my anxiety and sadness is for them." (The actor Eva Longoria. Her Marie Claire interview.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The notion of "privilege" used by various groups is a polemical, pernicious, and divisive idea.

## prize (noun)

### prize

it was their biggest ~ yet in the 18-day old war (airport)

she has some obstacles between her and the ~ (candidate)

### Arctic prize

perhaps the biggest ~ is oil and natural gas

### strategic prize

the city is a vital crossroads and a ~ (war)

An Nasiriya is considered a ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

### considered a (strategic) prize

An Nasiriya is ~ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

## prized

### prized in China

the saiga horn is ~ as a traditional remedy (Mongolia)

### prized as an ingredient

the saiga horn is ~ of Chinese medicine

### prized (in China) as a (traditional) remedy

the saiga horn is ~

### prized as dairy cattle

the kuri are native to the Lake Chad region and ~

### prized for their odor

durians are ~ (fruit)

### prized for their taste

edible wild mushrooms are ~ (poisonings)

### prized by the (local) Bushmen

ostrich eggs are greatly ~ (water containers)

### prized by Iran, North Korea and terrorist groups

a stash of weapons-grade uranium that would be ~

### prized dish

they're a ~ at restaurants (Cat Ba langurs)

### prized fur

llamas and their ~

### prized (QB) recruit

Alabama beat Tennessee for a ~

### horn is prized

the saiga ~ in China as a traditional remedy

### greatly prized

ostrich eggs are ~ by the Bushmen

### most prized

sable was the ~ accessory in the courts of Europe

♦ "They arrive with gold and depart with pepper." (An amazed Tamil trader. Europeans prized pepper. From *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* by Bill Bryson.)

♦ "Jade has no meaning for our culture, but we are thankful to Allah that the Chinese go crazy for it." (Yacen Ahmat, a Uighur in Khotan's jade bazaar, in Xinjiang.)

♦ The small corpses of Carolina parakeets were used whole by milliners to adorn women's hats. The last known representative of its species died in February 1918.

## process (move / verb)

### processed down the street

the marching band ~ (*The New Yorker's* Jennifer Wilson)

### \*\*\* analysis



♦ Merriam-Webster recognizes "process" with this meaning. It labels it as "Chiefly British" and gives it first date of use as 1814.

♦ If unusual usages of words are a matter psychology and platforming, then it might be interesting to visit the biography of *The New Yorker's* staff writer Jennifer Wilson. You be the judge.

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## process (verb)

processed what happened

I don't think I've really ~ (a building collapse)

process our grief

we ask that the media respect our privacy as we ~

process this (awful) loss

her little sister can hardly ~ (a fatal selfie accident)

## procrustean (adjective)

procrustean

requiring rigor from expert and amateur is ~ (data)

procrustean bureaucracy

~ in the name of consistency (education)

procrustean criticism

they faced ~ from rightists and leftists (immigration)

procrustean decisions

film editing sometimes requires making ~

♦ "Perhaps a laudable anxiety to be correct and systematic in making and recording meteorological observations has induced the prevailing idea that extreme precision is all-important, and that observations should be very numerous. Observatories, unquestionably, such should be the case; but to treat all localities, all alike, and to require a similar registration from each, would indeed be Procrustean, while their application of very refined instruments might be like cutting wool with razors." (*The Weather Book* by the great sea captain and scientist Robert FitzRoy.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to making everyone and everything fit to an arbitrary standard; to ensure conformity. In science, it can relate to tailoring data to fit the hypothesis. It is similar to "one size fits all." Procrustes was a crazy man who stretched people or cut off body parts so that his victims would fit a metal bed.

♦ see also *one-size-fits-all*

## prod (verb)

prodged the government to do something

he ~

prodding districts to apply

the government is ~

## product (noun)

product of the 70s

she described herself to *New York* magazine as a ~

product of my environment

I'm a ~ (place, food, friends, speech, etc.)

product of mentorship

I'm a complete ~ (Broadway producer Scott Rudin)

product of its time

the film was a ~ (*Gone with the Wind*)

product of her upbringing

she is the ~ (an Appalachian musician)

product of her (Midwest) upbringing

this is possibly a ~ (an inviting personality)

product of their (life) experiences and their education

they are to some extent the ~ (Supreme Court justices)

## professor (noun)

his professors

the Arctic was his university and the Inuit ~ (Amundsen)

## profit (verb)

profit from lessons learned

he was confident that he could ~

## profile (low profile)

low profile

US citizens should maintain a ~ (terrorism)

my company was ~

keep a low profile

Westerners ~ in line with their embassies' advisories

maintain a low profile

Americans should ~ (terrorism overseas)

US citizens should ~ (Saudi Arabia)

## profile (high profile)

high-profile case

~s involving sex

the police are under pressure to solve the ~

high-profile disappearance

it was the nation's fourth ~ of a child

high-profile intellectual

Mr. Ramadan ins not just a professor but a ~

high-profile target

the US is a ~ (terrorism)

highest-profile (soccer) star

he is one of the world's highest-paid and ~s

## profile (attention)

profile of atheists

raising the ~ in America (a march)

profile in the US

trying to raise the sport's ~ (table tennis)

profile in the region

the US has raised its military ~ (Korea)

sport's profile

trying to raise the ~ in the US (table tennis)

military profile

the US has raised its ~ in the region (Korea)

profile soared

her ~ spectacularly in 2016 (after interviewing Trump)

raised her profile  
the endorsement ~ (a politician)

raise the (sport's) profile  
trying to ~ in the US (table tennis)

## profile (picture)

profile of the killer  
he created a ~

profile of the women  
construct a reproductive ~ in the tribe

profile of Los Angeles  
as the demographic ~ changed (police department)

profile parameters  
~ for Arab terrorists

person's (personality) profile  
a ~ is a powerful influence

consumer profile  
portal sites are doing a lot with ~

credit profile  
customers with even riskier ~s (phone companies)

criminal profile  
techniques for developing a ~

flight profile  
the dangerous potential of the ~ (aircraft crash)

mule profile  
he fit the ~ (busted drug courier at airport)

personality profile  
a person's ~ is a powerful influence

DNA profile  
the law mandates taking a ~ of all criminals  
the F.B.I. maintains a national database of ~s

detailed profile  
~s that include the donors' health history

criminal profile  
techniques for developing a ~

demographic profile  
as the ~ of Los Angeles changed (police department)

different (homicidal) profile  
he appears to fit a ~

discernible profile  
these victims do not fit any ~ (spree killings)

geographic profile  
~s use crime locations to determine...

homicidal profile  
he appears to fit a different ~

particular profile  
victims usually fit a ~, such as prostitutes...

psychological profile  
construct a ~ of a serial killer  
the FBI is working on developing a ~ of the suspect  
FBI ~s of the Green River killer appear to match him

reproductive profile  
construct a ~ of the women in the tribe

profile had suggested  
an FBI ~ the kidnapper is a predator, and possibly...

profile (also) suggested  
the ~ that the killer... (FBI-created profile)

construct a (psychological) profile  
~ of a serial killer

developing a (criminal) profile  
techniques for ~

fit a (particular) profile  
victims usually ~, such as prostitutes...

fit any (discernible) profile  
these victims do not ~ (spree killings)

fit the (mule) profile  
he ~ (busted drug courier at airport)

## profile (profile in courage)

see *profile in courage* (JFK)

## profile in courage (JFK)

profile in courage  
all honor to Liz Cheney, a genuine ~ (Bill Kristol)

profiles in courage  
major businesses are not exactly ~ (the bottom line)

♦ "Look, I never expect a foreign leader I'm dealing with, or a colleague senator, to voluntarily appear in the second edition of *Profiles in Courage*. So you got to think of what is in their interest." (Joe Biden, speaking to Evan Osnos.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The beloved US president John F. Kennedy wrote *Profiles in Courage*, in which he singled out eight senators for their bravery and integrity.

## prognosis (noun)

grim prognosis  
the ~ was consistent with new figures (world economy)

reliable prognoses  
there aren't any ~ of how the Arctic climate will develop

scientific prognoses  
grim ~ have come to pass (death of the Amazon)

## progress (verb)

case has progressed  
a lot has happened as this ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ GRADIOR is a Latin word that means "walk," "go," "step." Things that progress "go forwards." (*pro-*, "forward," and *gradior*, "go") (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 22, "The Makings of 50,000 words.")

## progress (as transitive verb)

### progress our society

this how progressives want to ~ (pronounce PROG-ress)

♦ “Yes! but some of those people—like your student—might say, well, this is how we change, we start to use language that strikes people to their ear as different, they start to want to understand why, we start to question it, we open up conversations, and this is how progressives want to progress [pronounced PRO-gress / like the noun] our society.” (NPR’s Manoush Zomorodi. From “The debate over ‘LatinX’ and how words get adopted—or not,” NPR, TED Radio Hour, May 24, 2024. According to her Wikipedia article, Manoush Zomorodi is 51 years old. She is American. She was born and raised in Princeton, New Jersey. She studied English and Fine Arts at Georgetown University. And she is married to Josh Robin.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ “Progress” is an *intransitive* verb. “Improve” is a transitive verb.
- ♦ “It’s not going to catch on beyond a certain crowd.” (The linguist John McWhorter, speaking specifically about the term “LatinX.”)
- ♦ “There’s no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)
- ♦ “But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?” (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. “The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.”)
- ♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## promethean (adjective)

### Promethean Award

the ~ for Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School

### Promethean fire

this is forbidden fruit, a ~, a Pandora’s box, and evil genie

### Promethean hero

the Romantic view of Satan as a ~ (*Frankenstein*)

### promethean heroes

a high Romantic vision of authors as ~ of creativity

### Promethean individualism

Nietzsche was drawn to Ralph Waldo Emerson’s ~

### Promethean sins

and for his ~ the next generation was punished (see below)

### Promethean task

the scale-up for treating a human is a ~ (growing livers)

♦ “At this point if you chained [Erling] Haaland to a rock he would just pick up the rock and score like before. Amazing.” (The online commenter Kalista about the great Norwegian soccer player. He is just one in a great line of exceptional Norwegians.)

♦ “Prometheus unframed: A new type of camera could prove valuable on robots, drones and driverless cars,” *The Economist*, January 29th, 2022.

♦ “Their father worked on the Manhattan Project, and for his Promethean sins the next generation was punished.” (Graeme Wood’s review of Cormac McCarthy’s two latest books—*The Passenger* and *Stella Maris*—in *The Atlantic*. Wood does not mention J. Robert Oppenheimer in his review, or that Oppenheimer’s daughter committed suicide.)

♦ “Paine is the preeminent spokesman of a new class of people who are emerging at just that time. We used to call them the artisans, self-educated working men with a skill... They’ve taught themselves to read or they’ve become literate.. And they develop political ambitions.

And Paine is the perfect spokesman of this group of people who meet in taverns and coffeehouses and public squares to discuss self-improvement and the improvement of society. And that’s why—it’s Promethean, I suppose, is the word I’m looking for. It’s the desire to share the fire, not just with the gods but with the whole of humanity, so everyone can warm themselves by the flame and see by it, too.” (“Hitchens: How Paine’s ‘Rights’ Changed the World,” NPR, October 23, 2007. From the special series, “Books That Changed the World.”)

#### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ “In Greek Mythology, Prometheus was a Titan who loved humans too much. He gave them the gift of fire, and at the banquet with the gods, he would save them the best pieces of meat. That kind of generosity upset Zeus, who condemned him to be chained to a mountain and have his liver eaten by an eagle. Every night the liver would grow again, ready to be devoured the next day. This torment...is the punishment for wanting to outsmart the gods. Giving men fire, Prometheus provided the first important tool, the very first step towards technology, science, and the dominance of humans over nature... It didn’t end well.” (BBC, “The curious case of the man with a hole in his stomach,” 17 May 2022.)
- ♦ This word refers to at least 5 things: (1) great creativity and originality, especially, nowadays, in the area of new technology (2) “gifting” something of great benefit to others (3) defiance of authority and disobedience (4) great suffering and (5) individualism.
- ♦ Mary Shelley’s 1818 novel was titled *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*. Frankenstein was Victor Frankenstein, the young scientist who created the monster.)

## Prometheus (epithet)

### America’s Prometheus

he was ~, “the father of the atomic bomb” (Oppenheimer)

### American Prometheus

~: *The Triumph And Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*

♦ “A year ago, OpenAI was an obscure startup that unleashed a technology so powerful, it almost immediately invited comparisons to Prometheus bringing fire down from the realm of the Gods.” (“Open AI’s turmoil is about more than Sam Altman” by Allison Morrow, CNN, November 21, 2023.)

## Promised Land

### promised land of Scorie

their friends and countrymen in the ~ (Mohawk Valley)

### bring us to the promised land

this is the coach that’s going to ~ (Cal’s Mark Madsen)

### painted the North as a promised land

he ~ (Robert Sengstacke Abbott of *Chicago Defender*)

♦ It’s a message we were dying to hear; oh, man, I love it, I like what he said; I’m impressed; he hit all the right notes; music to the ears; he seems like a genuine dude; I think this is the coach that’s going to bring us to the promised land... (Comments about coach Mark Madsen, the new basketball coach at the University of California, Berkeley.)

## prong (river, etc.)

### Prong Lake

~ is a lake in Wisconsin

### Devils Prong

the ~ is a stream in Macon County, North Carolina

### Antelope Prong

~ is a bay in Montana

### Three Prong

~ Valley is a basin in California

~ Lake is a lake in Arkansas

~ Ridge is a ridge in Idaho

### East Prong

- ~ Lake Bayou is a gut in Louisiana
- ~ Ridge is a ridge in Tennessee
- ~ is a summit in Wyoming
- ~ Green Canyon is a valley in Wyoming
- ~ Bird Creek is a stream in Sevier County, Tennessee

### Middle Prong

- ~ Little Pigeon River is a stream in Sevier County, TN
- ~ Pumpkin Creek is a stream in Campbell County, WY

### North Prong

- the ~ is a stream in Brooke County, West Virginia
- the ~ is a stream in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

### South Prong

- the ~ of the Current River

#### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ By far, most “prongs” are streams and rivers...
- ♦ “Prongs” are often modified by: North, South, East, West; Left (Hand), Right (Hand), Middle; Short, Long; and Three...
- ♦ The horns of deer and elk are superimposed upon the landscape of the United States.

## prong (part)

### two main prongs

- the scheme consisted of ~ (college admissions scandal)

## pronouns (groups)

### Pronoun Guide

- NPR created a ~ for the organization (AI Overview)

### pronoun rage

- history is dotted with eruptions of ~ (Geoff Nunberg)

### preferred pronouns

- the Catholic Diocese banned the use of ~ (Des Moines)
- schools are not required to use students’ ~ (U.K.)
- ~ are quietly dropping from email signatures (2024)

### share her pronouns

- she faced pressure from fans to ~ to show solidarity

### uses they/them pronouns

- Sam Brinton ~ (the Federal Government suitcase thief)

#### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ “The comedian was seen with her wife.”
- ♦ “He announced that he and his husband had become parents.”
- ♦ “My husband passed away right before I moved here,” he said.
- ♦ “They have a wife.”
- ♦ “A man allegedly shot his ex-wife and killed her new girlfriend.”
- ♦ “Before (roller) derby, I knew I was on the spectrum of queer and pansexual, but I didn’t have the language or support until I met my derby mates who genuinely wanted to see me become my best self. My derby league was the first place I asked people to use they/them pronouns for me.” (Lauren Macadaeg, who identifies as they/them.)
- ♦ “NPR’s Juana Summers talks with author Jas Hammond about their book, *We Deserve Monuments*. It’s a young adult love story and a family mystery that explores intergenerational trauma and racism.” (NPR.)

- ♦ “If they don’t have something lined up by Feb. 6, Tu faces having to leave the country.” (NPR. “They” and Tu are one and the same person.)

- ♦ “NPR created a Pronoun Guide for the organization to help ensure that all employees can feel welcome to be themselves.” (According to Google’s AI Overview.)

- ♦ Entire books have been written in the gender neutral unnamed “you.”

- ♦ “Would I know them [an actor], Tony says. / I think so, you say. / Tony only blinks back at you. / So, they say, is that what you were crying about. / Yeah. / Been there, your driver [Tony] adds... / The two of you lean over your noodles.” (“Arrivals” by Bryan Washington, *The New Yorker*, July 11 & 18, 2022.)

- ♦ “In ‘Pastoral,’ you use the first person singular and plural as well as the second person...” (Tobias Carroll interviewing Jac Jemc about *False Bingo*. Her name is pronounced “Jack Jams.”)

- ♦ “In Hollywood, cats have pronouns and this one’s are they/them, making *Open Throat* the best book narrated by a genderqueer feline you’ll read this year.” (“Open Throat by Henry Hoke review—inside the mind of a queer mountain lion” by Rahul Raina, *The Guardian*, Fri 28 Jul 2023. “That voice—simultaneously innocent, world-weary, human alien, queer in all the senses of the word—is the book.”)

- ♦ “Butler recently adopted they/them pronouns but doesn’t ‘police it.” (The American philosopher Judith Butler.)

- ♦ “Harris made her case in the first-person plural, with little in the way of ‘I’ and ‘me.’ She told the crowd, ‘When we fight, we win,’ and they chanted, ‘We’re not going back.’” (“The Ascent: Can Kamala Harris defy her doubters—and end the Trump era?” by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024.)

#### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

- ♦ “What A Beautiful Day To Respect Other People’s Pronouns” T-shirt. Gay Rights T-Shirt, Human Rights Shirt, Equality T-Shirt, LGBTQ+ Shirts, Pride Tee. New markdown! Biggest sale in 60+ days. (\$11.39+. Etsy.)

- ♦ “they/them/theirs It matters” coffee mug. “item was as described and arrived before christmas! perfect gift for our papa!” (\$19.95+. Etsy.)

- ♦ “Whatever I Look Like My Pronouns Are THEY / THEM” shirt. Nonbinary, lgtbqia, gender neutral, non gender binary, gender nonconforming. “No matter what I look like or dress like I am a they them. Stop letting people misgender you, this tee will straight up tell everyone what your pronouns are...” (\$30.50. Etsy.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ “Boop / bop / beep. Seriously? This was the start of the end for me? A 20-year career, the blood, sweat and tears of fighting?” (Gina Carano, about being canceled for her views about pronouns. Gina was a MMA fighter before being noticed by Steven Soderbergh and cast in the lead of the 2011 film *Haywire*. Her next role was in *Fast & Furious 6*. Read “Gina Carano on Getting Sacked From Star Wars and Her Grudge Match With Disney” by Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, March 14, 2024.)

- ♦ “I’ll take outraged fans for \$1,000.” (A commenter about “‘Jeopardy!’ sparks outrage with ‘neopronouns’ question: never existed when ‘Alex Trebek was still alive’” by Jack Hobbs, *The New York Post*, Feb. 28, 2024. The clue read, “Xem, Xyrs, Xemself,” and the correct answer was “What are pronouns.”)

- ♦ “I absolutely support trans, but all these pronouns are an esthetic nightmare.” (Elon Musk.)

- ♦ “Pronouns in bio = opinion discarded” (Libs of TikTok)

- ♦ Screw Your Pronouns. (The name of an online commenter on *The New York Post*.)

- ♦ “Kamala is for they / them, President Trump is for you.” (The narrator of a pro-Trump campaign advertisement. At least one version appeared to show a picture of Sam Brinton, the Department of Energy “suitcase thief.” The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

- ♦ “Meet the unwilling faces of GOP anti-trans ads: ‘I haven’t been able to sleep’” by Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 10/30/24.

- ♦ “In the closing days of the presidential campaign, Republicans used Levine’s image in the ‘Kamala is for they/them’ ads that—some pundits argue—helped Republicans win the presidency and both

houses of Congress." ("Dr. Rachel Levine focused on her job at HHS. Still, anti-trans politics followed her" by Selena Simmons-Duffin, NPR, Morning Edition, January 6, 2025.)

♦ commenter 1: They? Was there more than one person involved? /  
commenter 2: I read that too, what gives? / commenter 3: Looks like  
a 'pronoun' thing. Everything was singular until the pronoun. /  
commenter 4: They?...

### \*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ "France has little patience for American culture-war staples such as genderless pronouns and bathrooms. Even the relatively modest, gender-neutral *iel* was forcefully dismissed by the first lady, Brigitte Macron: 'Our language is beautiful. And two pronouns are enough,' she has said, to practically no pushback at all." ("The French Are In A Panic Over Le Wokisme" by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2023. The title seems to contradict the quote.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Neopronouns" is the title of a Wikipedia article. See the Wikipedia article "Neopronouns." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ "But you can make this work if you tweak your internal grammar, so that the pronoun 'they' can refer to a specific individual. It takes some practice to get the hang of it..." ("Opinion: Even A Grammar Geezer Like Me Can Get Used To Gender Neutral Pronouns" by Geoff Nunberg, *Fresh Air*, NPR, August 6, 2019.)

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ see also *alphabet* (LGBTQ+), *LGBTQ+*, *queer* (collocations)

## pronunciation (language)

Abercombie & Finch

~ ("Abercrombie & Fitch." NBC Nightly News)

ack uh DAY me uh

~ ("academia" / NPR host rhymes it with *macadamia*)

acrost

it's not consistent ~ all objects (*Prof.* Jennifer Kreder)

ADD-dolt

~ ("adult," can sound like "addled")

Bowels

~ (Simone Biles. Heard on NPR. Wow...)

CHEEE-laaay

~ ("Chile," brayed / virtue signaling)

Cutter

~ (the country of Qatar on the Arabian Peninsula)  
ordinary people now spell Qatar as ~ (attested)

DE-clines

we're seeing of 20 percent ~ (UNC researcher on NPR)

DE-criminalize

~ (NPR's Ailsa Chang)

DOOR-ing

~ ("during")

down-LOAD-ing

thank you for ~ this episode (DOWN-loading-ing)

e-lec-TOR-al

~ (actually e-LEC-tor-al, heard on NPR)  
~ (NBC's Lester Holt)

EEE-legal

the explosions were caused by ~ fireworks (ABC)

fur

~ ("for")  
(sometimes written in text as fir / typo?)  
(a marker of contempo-speakers)

GAZZ-uh

~ (rhymes with JAZZ-uh) ("Gaza," the place in the news)

gotten

with affected glottal stop by NPR's Bobby Allyn (funny!)

gran slam

~ (a "grand slam" to win the game / baseball)

groan

threats have only ~ (*grown*)

gunna

~ ("going to," but marked / exaggerated / lingered over)

Hartoum

~ ("Khartoum" / that NPR reporter from Nicaragua)

HAW

~ ("haul" as in "haul videos" / that exuberant NPR host)

hijack-y

~ ("Hi, Jackie) (Leila Fadel / Jackie Northam)

hoppin'

~ (actually "happen" / like a rabbit / funny!)

hun-nert

~ ("hundred," with an exaggerated glottal stop)

im-POR-unt

~ ("important," glottal stop, grunted. Always ugly!)  
(a glottal stop should not call attention to itself...)  
(a marker of a contempo-speaker)

invulnerable

~ groups (should be, "in vulnerable groups" / BBC!)

I ran

~ (the country of Iran)

IZZYrock

~ (Is Iraq...)

Justin time

(=just in time)

Keeve

~ ("Kiev," per the U.S. State Department / NPR edict)

Lake Airy

~ (actually, Lake Erie / ABC News / Funny!)

Limbaw

~ (Andrew Limbong of NPR)

mundering

he did a lot of ~ money laundering cases... (NPR)

NECK-id

~ (“naked,” exuberantly pronounced by that NPR host)

NEW England  
at a ~ boarding school for boys (vs. new-ENG-land / NPR)

OFF-tin  
~ “often,” pronounced with the T  
(a marker of a contempo-speaker)

???

oil (Ayesha Rascoe, NPR)

Ollie  
~ (Ali (Jarbawi) / NPR’s Greg Myre / Funny!)

Organ  
Oregon (the state) (NPR) (funny!)

POOO-tin  
~ (“Putin.” With a *whooping* glottal stop by that NPR host)

PRO-longed  
a ~ could disrupt... (NBC Nightly News)

really  
see *really* (*gushing*)

rectum  
Don King has ~ (“wrecked him,” about “Iron” Mike Tyson)

RE-ward  
it will ~ repeat viewings (a film / heard on NPR)

SHAME-un  
~ (“shaman.” A journalist heard on NPR. Shame on you.)

Sick  
a leading ~ separatist... (“Sikh”)  
~ (“Sikh,” the religious group. Heard on NPR)  
(pronounced “Sick” and “Seek” by the *same* NPR reader)

snot  
(=it’s not)

soft tin  
~ (“soften,” NPR’s David Folkenflik)  
(contempo-speakers cannot not pronounce a silent t)

space STA-tion  
~ (should be SPACE station / heard on NBC Nightly News)

spunding  
\$14 billion in ~ cuts (NPR / spending? funding?)

stronghold  
Trump has such a ~ on the party (strong HOLD?)

shore  
~ (“sure,” rhymes with “bore” and “whore”)

SIT-nee  
KQED’s ~ Johnson... (Sydney Johnson)

super-DOME

the Super Bowl will take place here in the ~ (ABC)

tuh  
~ (= to, but marked / exaggerated / lingered over)  
(a marker of a contempo-speaker)

urine  
~ and year out... (“year in and year out”)  
~ Egypt right now... (heard on CNN / *always* funny!)

WRECK-ert  
(= a record, the kind you play on a record player / NPR)

wri-in  
~ (“written,” affected glottal stop / heard on NPR)

YOU-crain-aid  
~ (aid to Ukraine / NPR’s ...)

Zip hole  
~ (actually Zip Poll)

**\*\*\* various groups**

♦ At the Quora site, years ago, Joan B wrote, “Mostly millennials, using glottal stops in place of ‘t’s. First time it caught my ear was Kate Hudson advertising her exercise-wear... Every younger HGTV host is redecorating their ‘t’s.”

♦ Britain; certain; cotton; Dayton; didn’t; hundred (hun-nert); important; Martin; mountains; not only; Peyton; pollutant; presented; Putin (with an exuberant explosive plosive whooping and glottal); put in; reportedly; threatened; Trenton (the New Jersey city); uncertain; uncertainty; united; what is; written... (Words pronounced with affected, exaggerated glottal stops by hosts or guests, all heard on NPR.)

♦ Off-ter (after); thot (that); pod-cost (podcast); osk (ask)... (The affected speech of podcaster Bobbi Althoff—a young woman—speaking to Rick Glassman.)

**\*\*\* anglicization: Cutter, RaffAHHH, Keeevee, Hartoom...**

♦ The BBC, and English people in general, tend to retain the anglicization of foreign names. A BBC news reader might pronounce Cape Verde as “Cape Vurd.” To paraphrase Winston Churchill, “Do we really want NPR pronouncing Paris Paree?”

♦ “There is still much resistance to the use of the pinyin name Beijing for the current Chinese capital. Not only are very few outsiders able to pronounce the word accurately; its use also flies in the face of the more general use in English of ‘English’ names or pronunciations for distant cities or countries. Roma is called Rome, Deutschland is called Germany, Suomi is called Finland, and Zhongguo is called China. Many who accept this logic would like Peking returned to common currency, but doubt that it will ever happen.” (Footnote 47. From *The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ “Ixopo The name of a village. Its Zulu pronunciation is difficult, and would be considered *affected* [italics mine] in English speech. It is pronounced in English, ‘Ickopo,’ with the ‘o’ as in ‘hole.’ (From the “List of Words” at the end of the 1987 edition of *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.)

♦ Wolf Blitzer of CNN was probably responsible for popularizing the pronunciation of “Qatar” as “CUT-er” during his coverage of the Gulf War. It would be the rare American who heard this pronunciation and could then point out “Qatar” on a map of the Arabian Peninsula. In fact, some people now text “Qatar” as “Cutter.”

♦ Tyler Adams, the USMNT captain, graciously apologized to an Iranian journalist for pronouncing Iran as EYE-RAN at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, and it is to his great credit. (“USMNT captain Tyler Adams apologizes for mispronunciation of Iran; addresses issue of discrimination in the US” by Ben Morse and Wayne Sterling, CNN, November 28, 2022. Tonya Mosley of NPR’s Fresh Air pronounces it as eye-RAN and eye-RAIN-i-an.)

♦ “From Iceland, to Italy, to the Philippines, to Afghanistan, to CHEE-laay, to Indonesia...” (NPR’s Steve Inskeep. Five out of six ain’t bad. Inskeep has pronounced Pakistan as “Pakistan” and “Pockistan” in the same story.)



♦ Recently, NPR had a segment on a man condemned to death in Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, his name was incomprehensible to almost all native American English speakers due to Leila Fadel's inability or unwillingness to pronounce the first sound of the man's last name with an Anglicized hard "g," properly stressed. What is gained by this? What if someone wanted to get more information about the man on the internet?

♦ Reporting the Israel-Hamas war, NPR pundits seem to be going out of their way to see who can pronounce Rafah in what they think is a more Arabic manner. Arabic has four "h's." Non-native speakers of Arabic can only approximate them. Like Spanish, there are many Arabic dialects. Similarly, there is no reason to pronounce Khartoum as Hartoom, as Eyder Peralta is fond of doing. It is no wonder the average American is ignorant in geography. Cutter, RaffAHHH, Keevee, Hartoom...

### \*\*\* anglicization: Sikh (sick) and Sikhs (six)...

♦ "Canada announced that six Indian diplomats were persons of interest in the assassination of a leading Sikh (pronounced "sick") separatist." (Heard on NPR. Also heard in the same story: "He wants to create a homeland for Sikhs (pronounced "six").")

♦ "Last month a group of Americans who identifies ethnic Sikhs (pronounced "six") [sic] have [sic] been walking across the Central Valley of California..." (NPR Weekend Edition November 2, 2024. "It's a scary time to be Sikh (pronounced "sick")." "Sikhs (pronounced "six") for Justice want an independent Sikh (pronounced "sick") homeland.")

♦ Watch and listen to some old Pathe News newsreels about India and Pakistan. Note how "Sikh" is pronounced.

♦ "The sixth sick sheik's sheep's sick!" (A tongue twister.)

### \*\*\* actors and acting, readers, commentators...

♦ "'You can take the boy out of the Bronx,' murmured one technician as the dubbing proceeded, 'but you can't take the Bronx out of the boy!' In view of the critical notices Pacino's Scottish/cockney-with-a-dash-of-the-Bronx accent was to receive, it was an auspicious remark." (*Al Pacino: A Life On The Wire* by Andrew Yule, about the 1985 film *Revolution*, which was savaged by most critics.)

♦ "Just try to ignore Tony Curtis as a Roman slave with a Brooklyn accent..." (The 1960 film *Spartacus*.)

♦ "I'd listen to him read the phone book!" (An admiring comment about the wonderful voice and diction of the great American actor James Earl Jones, who dealt with a stutter his entire life.)

♦ "Bob was the best cold reader in the business, you could throw a Budapest phone book at him and he'd read it out with unwavering authority and enunciation that was proper without being stuffy." (Scott Simon's wonderful tribute to Bob Edwards. From "Scott Simon remembers Bob Edwards, the voice of NPR for 25 years, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, February 17, 2024.)

♦ More NPR. Scott Detrow introduced a woman, sounded like Jennifer *Vermasco*. Searching on Google, I wondered if the person might be Jennifer *Schmidt*. Then I checked the beginning of the transcript, and the name was recorded—incorrectly—as Jennifer *Francisco*. Search on Google led to more confusion. Finally, I checked further down the transcript, and found that the byline name was Jennifer *Vanasco*!

### \*\*\* authenticity, identity...

♦ "Something I've always wondered is when I'm going to develop the affected-Black-intellectual voice,' Harris said that summer, still stuck in London. He was reflecting on some of his favorite writers and artists of an older generation, and the way that their talk was often as effortfully stylized as their work. He'd been thinking about Andre Leon Talley, the fashion writer and editor whose high diction and baroque syntax became hallmarks of his style—and seemed, moreover, like a way of asserting his belonging in a largely white milieu... / Talk of that voice—I knew what Harris meant without having to ask—got me thinking, perhaps slightly defensively, of my own. / 'You have it a little bit,' he said, confirming a fear I'd spoken aloud." ("Outside Man: Jeremy O. Harris, before and after 'Slave Play'" by Vinson Cunningham, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023. "Blacks talking white." The crab-bucket syndrome. Concerns about "authenticity" in the era of hip-hop.)

♦ "Barak Obama has been knocked for occasionally falling into what some people called a "Blaccent" that his upbringing didn't entitle him

to." ("For Candidates, An Accent on Authenticity" by Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, October 15, 2008.)

♦ "Looking at it today, it may seem inauthentic for our Spanish-Jewish-Irish Catholic family to belt out lines from Jamaican folksongs." (Scott Simon. From "Opinion: Harry Belafonte's voice will live on," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 29, 2023. It's a wonderful tribute.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "First, NPR needs to get the little things right. If it can't, what does that say about the accuracy of the bigger issues?... / Second, errors of grammar and usage tend to break the listener's concentration. If a listener stops to wonder if he or she really heard an error or a syntactical lapse, then whatever else the reporter or announcer was saying is lost because the listener's train of thought has been derailed." ("Listeners' Language Concerns" by Jeffrey A. Dvorkin, NPR Public Editor, March 29, 2005.)

♦ "Enough! I can't stand it anymore!...Competitors are NOT taking part, Alex, in the fencin, rowin, boxin, kayakin, weightliftin & swimmin." (Lord Digby Jones, in a tweet about Alex Scott—a woman—dropping her g's during her Olympics commentating.)

♦ "How much do these 'pundits' get paid for spouting all these clichés and stating the obvious?" / "I don't need the pundits, build up, half time twaddle or the inarticulate trip over their words, the Aitches and 'he wot done it, like' phrasing—they don't add value, they detract." / "We only need a few pundits, preferably that can speak good English with proper grammar." / "Oh yeah and don't forget the Alex Scott sob story sympathisers..." (Commenters about the BBC commentators at the Qatar World Cup.)

♦ March 2, 2024, a black day for pronunciation! Listen to "The *Palast Orchester* performs 1920s German Jazz music once banned by the Nazis," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, March 2, 2024. The opera *Mahagonny* is NOT pronounced the same as the tree and its wood.)

♦ "'Wheel of Fortune' player denied win after mispronouncing word: 'Pat Sajak was cold-blooded'" by Samantha Ibrahim, Jan. 5, 2024. To solve the puzzle, the contestant had to read "Congenial company and clever conversation." She pronounced "congenial" as "CON jun uhl." Pat Sajak muttered something about "a coined word," and another contestant read the word correctly. A rare case where pronunciation cost a person money. It should cost some their jobs...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "But I will listen to the pronunciation and make mental notes. For example, I might note that Girl X and Boy Y are dropping the final 't's off their words—for example saying 'lef' for 'left' or 'bes' for 'best.' I then note to myself that I will need to work on that Ebonics feature with the class." ("Embracing Ebonics and Teaching Standard English: An interview with Oakland teacher Carrie Secret," rethinking schools. "This article is adapted from an interview with Carrie Secret." There is a link to the original interview, which appeared in Volume 12, No. 1, Fall 1997. An honest, knowledgeable, front-line teacher working on a national problem in 1997.)

♦ Are the points of articulation changing? And if they are, what could be causing *that*? Is there a *physical* reason?

♦ Is it possible that what we increasingly hear (and sometimes pick up and repeat) constitutes an articulation disorder, speech sound disorder, speech disorder, or speech and language impairment?

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## proof (bulletproof, etc.)

bombproof

see *bombproof* (adjective)

bulletproof

see *bulletproof* (adjective)

futureproof

~ body against chronic pain with 12 simple movements

sex-proof

jokes that the cardboard beds are ~ (2024 Paris Olympics)

Trump-proof

so the allies were trying to ~ NATO (NPR punditry)

♦ "The recyclable beds have become a punchline since their introduction in 2020 because they are only meant to support one person, leading to jokes that they are sex-proof." (The 2024 Paris Olympics.)

## prop (noun)

spiritual prop

he leaned on Wilson as his ~ (Robert Falcon Scott)

## prophet (person)

prophets

some of these ~ had been spectacularly wrong (stocks)

prophets of doom

reject the ~ and their predictions of the Apocalypse

internet prophet

Michael Goldhaber is the ~ you've never heard of

mantle of a prophet

he increasingly adopted the ~

turned (doomsday) prophet

the news anchor ~ (the film *Network*)

## prop up (verb)

props up North Korea with aid and trade

China ~

prop up his government

foreigners ~ (Venezuela)

prop up (global) growth

China may not be able to ~

props up Maduro

the military ~ (Venezuelan leader)

prop up her spirits

though her body sagged, her doctor helped ~

## proselytize (verb)

proselytize for his government

his political allies are expected to ~ (workers)

\*\*\* various religions...

♦ The Hindu scriptures say you cannot convert to Hinduism.

♦ "Confucianism has no priesthood or rites of conversion, and is not generally considered a religion, but new members of China's middle class regard an interest in philosophy and history as a mark of cultivation and cultural nationalism." ("Confucius Comes Home" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, Jan. 13, 2014.)

♦ "In pagan religions—in the Roman world or anywhere else in the world—there really wasn't such a thing as conversion. When we think of conversion, we think of somebody turning from one set of religious practices and beliefs to another. There were certainly people in the Roman world who adopted new religions. But since everybody was a polytheist, except for the Jews, adopting a new religion never meant giving up the old religion. It meant simply adding on a new god or goddess to be worshipped. And so pagans never converted to another pagan religion, they simply added on a religion. The only

thing like conversion could be found in Judaism where if you decided to become Jewish you would have to convert and give up your pagan religion but there's very little evangelism among Jews. Jews didn't go out trying to win converts because most Jews simply didn't care whether you were Jewish or not, they simply wanted to be Jewish." (Bart Ehrman, from "Author Traces Christianity's Path From 'Forbidden Religion' To A 'Triumph,'" NPR, Fresh Air, March 20, 2018.)

♦ "[Conversion] was one of the things that made Christianity quite distinct in the ancient world. It had to do with the nature of the Christian religion. Christians from the very beginning believed that it was Jesus' death and resurrection that could make a person right with God. And that if a person was not right with God, they would pay an eternal penalty, there would literally be hell to pay if somebody didn't convert. And so Christians believed that their religion was the only right religion and that people had to practice their religion or else they would go to hell. Moreover, Christians maintained that they were to follow Jesus' teaching of love—love your neighbor as yourself. Well, if your neighbor is going to go to hell by not believing what you believe, and you love this person, then you need to make them see the error of their ways and you convert them to your faith. And so that's what the Christians were doing from the very beginning, trying to convert others so they could join the church and avoid the terrors of hell." (Bart Ehrman, from "Author Traces Christianity's Path From 'Forbidden Religion' To A 'Triumph,'" NPR, Fresh Air, March 20, 2018.)

♦ "In the nineteenth century, a huge army of missionaries spread round the globe and scattered through industrial slums, Indonesian jungles, African villages, Pacific islands, and South American mountains. Some 360 Christian organizations, from celibate Roman Catholic orders like the Jesuits to mass membership Protestant bodies such as the Society for the Propagation of the Christian Gospel, maintained an estimated 12,000 Christian missionaries in the field during these years. The Jesuits were among the most well-established missionary forces: Francis Xavier, one of the order's founders, arrived in Goa, in western India, as early as 1542. Since Xavier's successes in India and China, Jesuits had been converting souls on every continent. Three and a half centuries later, there was barely a corner of the globe in which the black-robed figure of the Jesuit missionary, with his biretta and large wooden cross, was not a familiar sight. So it was hardly surprising that such a figure had arrived in the new boomtown [of Klondike City]." (*Gold Diggers: Striking It Rich in the Klondike* by Charlotte Gray.)

♦ "Use ESL to help plant churches among unreached Muslim peoples. Work with Muslims in one of 38 countries in Asia, the Arab world, and Africa as part of a church planting team." (Frontiers, a Christian organization that focuses exclusively on proselytizing to Muslims.)

♦ "Instead of talking about the Jesus of the New Testament, [Christian] missionaries using the Camel Method point Muslims to the Koran, where in the third chapter, or sura, an infant named Isa—Arabic for Jesus—is born. [Christian] missionaries have found that by starting with the Koran's Jesus story, they can make inroads with Muslims who reject the Bible out of hand." ("A Christian Overture to Muslims Has Its Critics," *The New York Times*, 2010.)

♦ "[From] its origins, football has been linked with religion for purposes of both praise and opprobrium. The rise of college football coincided with the popularization of 'muscular Christianity,' a theology that associated the faith with vigor and might rather than suffering and submission. In Elmer Gantry, Sinclair Lewis's satirical novel about a charlatan evangelist, the title character started his public life as a football star for a religious college. / By the middle of the 20th century, evangelical groups like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Athletes in Action aimed specifically at proselytizing in the sports field. / 'Churches have turned to athletes in the last 30, 40 years,' said Robert J. Higgins, author of *God in the Stadium: Sports & Religion in America*." ("Cultural Conflicts, Playing Out on the Football Field," by Samuel G. Freedman, *The New York Times*, Jan. 27, 2012. The term "muscular Christianity" garners six hits in the first 253 pages of the 2024 "Independent Learning Lessons Review John Smyth QC," popularly known as the Makin report.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I never much liked my fellow Georgetown University English Language Teaching Fellow—a devout Christian—whom I worked with in Kosovo. I got along with the U.S. Fulbright scholar there, but was rather bemused by his support for gay rights in the Balkans. Both

programs are U.S. State Department programs, subsidized by the U.S. taxpayer."

## prospect (verb)

prospected for stories

he ~ and enjoyed the hospitality (Maugham in Malaysia)

## prostrate (verb)

prostrated themselves

corporate leaders have ~ (to BLMGNF)

## proud (groups)

proud of her body

Lizzo wears naked dresses to show that she's ~

proud lesbian

the MP Hannah Bardell describes herself as a ~

#BROWNandPROUD

~ (Dr. Vanessa Toolsie resigns from NAACP chapter)

out and proud

I'm very ~ (Megan Rapinoe)

out and loud and proud

~ (Cher Strawberry)

♦ "I've been here before, out and loud and proud." (Cher Strawberry, from her debut album *Cherish is Caring*.)

## proverbial (adjective)

proverbial slow boat to China

what must have seemed like the ~ (circuitous route)

proverbial parapet

the people who have stuck their heads above the ~ to improve visibility (groups)

proverbial committee-designed racehorse

collaboration often leads to the ~ becoming a giraffe

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A proverb expresses the literal and the figurative, the specific and the abstract, *at the same time*. That is what makes proverbs so delightful. They make you think.

## proving ground

proving ground between college and national newsrooms

local newspapers were once the ~ (no longer)

proving ground for ambitious executives

fashion became a new ~

proving ground for young talents

Calloway's band had become a ~ (Dizzy Gillespie, etc.)

## prowl (on the prowl)

on the prowl for (naïve) girls

Internet predators are always ~

## prune (verb)

prune the budget

they are seeking ways to ~ (government)

prune the tree

time to ~ savagely and start again (Manchester United)

## pruned

pruned

every interview here has been ~

## psychobabble (noun)

psychobabble

shopping in health food stores, talking ~ (well-being)

its website is full of ~ (anti-anxiety patches)

psychobabble buzzwords

an hour and a half of ~ (an online celebrity therapy session)

'therapy speak' or 'psychobabble'

the overuse of ~ (men gaslighting women)

♦ "The likes of Jonah Hill—who was accused of misusing psychology vocab to 'control' his ex this weekend—have faced criticism for the overuse of 'therapy speak,' or 'psychobabble,' as a tool of manipulation rather than an expression of emotional vulnerability." ("How 'therapy speak' is being weaponized amid Jonah Hill 'boundaries' scandal" by Brooke Kato, *New York Post*, July 11, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "To be sure, many observers, beginning with de Tocqueville, have remarked that Americans are singularly concerned with their individual well-being. Since the 1830s, when de Tocqueville visited America, the United States has been swept by a series of popular movements concerned with improving health variously through diet, exercise, moral purity, positive thinking, and religious faith. Today, were a revived de Tocqueville to observe Americans jogging in parks, shopping in health food stores, talking psychobabble, and reading endless guides to keeping fit, eating right, and staying healthy, he would probably conclude that, if anything, the obsession is now more pronounced." (*The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr, winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction.)

## Ptolemy (Chinese Ptolemy, etc.)

Chinese Ptolemy

the ~, Phei Hsui, made a detailed map of China

## PTSD (and post-traumatic stress disorder)

PTSD

seeing herself as someone with ~ was odd at first

many people think ~ is mostly a military problem

veteran with ~ smokes weed, faces deportation

~ doesn't qualify them for workers' comp

the recreational drug MDMA looks promising in ~

ptsd

I have ~, I have panic attacks I go to therapy

PTSD providers

Texas has a need for more ~ (trafficking, refugees, etc.)

PTSD treatment

another controversial ~ is eye movement desensitization

forms, faces and causes of PTSD

the many ~

Civilians With PTSD

"Not Just For Soldiers: ~ Struggle..." (NPR)

patients with post-traumatic stress disorder  
psychiatrist Dr. Julie Holland uses psychedelics to treat ~

from nightmares to PTSD  
from ~, the toll on Facebook moderators...

treat PTSD  
using virtual reality to ~  
Congress calls on VA to study medical marijuana to ~

trigger PTSD  
VA cautions Ken Burns' Vietnam documentary could ~

♦ "After they left the meeting, the engineers went through the usual stages of post-Musk distress disorder: baffled, then angry, then anxious. But within a week they got to the stage of being intrigued, because the new approach, they realized, might actually work." (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson. Clever writing!)

♦ "Lady Gaga reveals how she used her PTSD in new role," BBC.

♦ "There was a mile-long list of lawsuits. Income went from some exorbitant amount to zero... You can't go through all of these things without suffering PTSD." ("Lance Armstrong says that he experienced PTSD and had intensive therapy-'all alone, one-on-one, 10 hours a day'" by George Ramsay, CNN, March 28, 2024.)

♦ "Yeah, I think I had a little bit of umm like a PTSD happening around being judged, around not being able to be marketed..." (The retired WNBA star Sue Bird talking to Fresh Air's Terry Gross about publicly coming out as gay.)

♦ "Ford also discussed other psychological principles during the course of her questioning, including her experience with anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, which at points in her testimony she referred to by the scientific term sequelae, or after-effects of trauma." ("Indelible in the Hippocampus Is the Laughter.' The Science Behind Christine Blasey Ford's Testimony" by Jamie Ducharme, *Time Magazine*, September 27, 2018. In 2024, Christine Blasey Ford was interviewed by Terry Gross about the former's new book. Listen to "For Christine Blasey Ford, the fallout of the Kavanaugh hearing is ongoing" with Terry Gross, NPR, Fresh Air, March 19, 2024.)

♦ "Years later, I have ptsd, I have panic attacks I go to therapy. Finally I'm ready to talk about it and finally heal." (Gabby, about a sexual assault with a Golden Globe nominee.)

♦ Constanze Stelzenmuller on NPR: But, I think most of Europe still has PTSD with regards to the four years of the Trump administration [and] is dreading more of the same or worse. / NPR's Mary Louise Kelly: Stay with that for a minute...

\*\*\* **jumping on the "PTSD" bandwagon...**

♦ "The push to expand the trained workforce coincides with a growing understanding of trauma's effect. The National Council for Behavioral health, a nonprofit organization of mental health care providers, calls trauma a "near universal experience" for people with mental and behavioral health issues." ("Not Just For Soldiers: Civilians With PTSD Struggle To Find Effective Therapy" by Caroline Covington, NPR, May 20, 2019.)

♦ "I didn't know the connective tissue between my brother and my medical trauma and my depression and PTSD and anxiety." (Elisabeth Finch of *Grey's Anatomy*, explaining her compulsive lying.)

♦ "Post-traumatic *growth* [italics mine] refers to positive changes that can happen after a life-shattering event occurs, according to Richard Tedeschi, a clinical psychologist with the Boulder Crest Foundation, an organization that offers recovery programs for combat veterans, first responders, and their families." ("What Doesn't Kill You Might Actually Make You Stronger" by Emily Sohn, *Outside Magazine*, 04/05/21.)

\*\*\* **an international perspective...**

♦ "Every culture possesses what Edward Shorter, a medical historian at the University of Toronto, calls a 'symptom repertoire'—a range of physical symptoms available to the unconscious mind for the physical expression of psychological conflict." In parts of India, patients are said to suffer from dhat syndrome: they complain of impotence and have the delusion that they are losing their semen. In Nigeria, students who can't retain information and report feeling a burning sensation in their heads are sometimes given a diagnosis of 'brain

fag.' The illnesses are reinforced by a local belief that the symptoms are a sign of authentic suffering, worthy of expert attention and care." ("The Apathetic: Why are refugee children falling unconscious?" by Rachel Aviv, *The New Yorker*, April 3, 2017.)

♦ Zar: Spirit possession (Middle East); amok: an episode of murderous rage followed by amnesia (Southeast Asia); koro: the feeling that the genitals are retracting into the body (Southeast Asia); tsog tsuam (sleep paralysis / Hmong in the US); Digeunton (pressed on / Indonesia); Bei gui ya (held by a ghost / China); Boszorkany-nyomas (witches' pressure / Hungary); the Old Hag and ag rog (hag ridden / Newfoundland) ... (Illnesses associated with particular cultures.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ Shell shock (WW I), combat fatigue (WW II), operational exhaustion (Korea), PTSD (Vietnam)... (The military.)

♦ "One agency that seized upon Freeman's work was the Veterans Administration. Faced with an influx of shell-shocked World War II GIs that flooded its mental wards, the VA issued a directive in 1943 requesting its neurosurgeons to study and use the Freeman and Watts lobotomy technique. By 1951, nearly 3,000 lobotomies had been performed at VA hospitals, according to agency records." ("D.C. Neurosurgeon Pioneered 'Operation Icepick' Technique" by Glenn Frankel, the *Washington Post*, April 7, 1980.)

♦ Case B2.—DEAF-MUTISM / PRIVATE, 35 YEARS OF AGE. DURATION, 26 MONTHS/ A shell explosion in France resulted in this patient being buried to the neck. He could not remember anything until he arrived in England a few weeks later. While in a London hospital he made several attempts at escaping and was successful on one occasion. Previous to his admission to the National Hospital he had been given strong faradic shocks; tuning forks had been applied to the head; and sudden noises and hypnotism had also been tried, but all without any result whatever. He was dull, depressed, discouraged and suspicious, and in a tremulous condition." (*Hysterical Disorders of Warfare* by Lewis Ralph Yealland, M.D., Resident Medical Officer, National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen Square, London, with preface by E. Farquhar Buzzard, M.D., F.R.C.P., Lieut.-Colonel, R.A.M.C., 1918.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ see also *shellshocked (and shell-shocked)*

## public-spirited

public-spirited

~ citizens  
~ journalists

## puff (puff piece)

puff piece

a recent ~ by *The New York Times*...

## puke

see *retch (and puke, vomit, throw up)*

## pull (tidal pull)

tidal pull

the ~ of Berkeley was strong on her (academic)

## pull (attraction)

pull of the Arctic

he felt the ~ (Amundsen)

pull of ISIS

the book explores the ~

gravitational pull

some felt the ~ of the gold rush in California (migrants)

irresistible (gravitational) pull  
the almost ~ of getting more attention (on the internet)

exerted a pull  
Lake Ohrid has ~ on me since my childhood (Balkans)

felt the pull  
she still ~ of her childhood faith (a scientist)

### **pull (pull for someone)**

pulling for you  
we're ~

### **pull (pull yourself together, etc.)**

pull himself together  
he would ~ and seem to be under control (troubled)

pull myself together  
high-flying shells droned their dirge while I tried to ~  
(war)

### **pull back (verb)**

pulled back  
he ~ after giving the green light and go order (military)

pulled those ships and planes back  
he ~ (called off military attack)

### **pulled in**

pulled in by this light  
they are ~ (migratory birds and urban areas)

### **pulled into**

pulled into the rabbit hole  
I got ~ (an online feud)

### **pull out (verb)**

pull out of the agreement  
they want to ~

### **pull through (verb)**

pull through  
I thought she was strong enough to ~ (died of Covid)

managed to pull through  
some companies have ~ (satellite constellations)

### **pull together (verb)**

pull together  
we all ~ (hurricane)  
he asked conservatives to ~ (politics)  
maybe we can ~ to beat this pandemic  
but in North Carolina, we're gonna ~, work to clean up  
we will ~ and through this (a disaster)

pull together as a country  
we're going through a time when we have to ~  
(pandemic)

pull together as a team  
are we going to be civilized and ~ when there's a crisis

pull together to help  
it's vital that we all ~ weather this crisis (pandemic)

pull together, grieve together, work together  
we will ~, and love one another (high school shooting)

### **pulpit (bully pulpit, etc.)**

pulpit  
television is the ~ from which they preach (politics)

presidential bully pulpit  
Obama should use the ~ to address entitlements

pulpit and the megaphone  
use the ~ of the office to highlight human rights

♦ "You've got to use the bully pulpit of the mayor's office," Lori Lightfoot said at the MIT roundtable in April as she explained how she runs Chicago... / Lightfoot seems not to understand what Teddy Roosevelt meant when he called the presidency a 'bully pulpit.' Like a lot of Northeastern patricians of his day, he used the adjective 'bully' to mean great, or perhaps jolly good. The bully pulpit is the opposite of what Lightfoot describes. She means the smoke-filled room. And she seems to assume that Roosevelt is referring to *bullying*..." ("The Inequality of 'Equity,'" by Christopher Caldwell, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

### **pulpit (Devils pulpit, etc.)**

Pulpit  
The ~ is a pillar in Washinton County, Utah  
The ~ is a ridge in Pennington County, South Dakota

Pulpit Brook  
~ is a stream in Hillsborough County, New Hampshire

Pulpit Harbor  
~ is a populated place in Knox County, Maine  
~ is a bay in Knox County, Maine

Pulpit Hill  
~ is a summit in Bedford County, Pennsylvania  
~ is a summit in Worcester County, Massachusetts

Pulpit Ledge  
~ is a bar in Hancock County, Maine

Pulpit Mountain  
~ is a summit in Lincoln County, Montana  
~ is a summit in Windham County, Vermont

Pulpit Point  
~ is a cape in Washington County, New York

Pulpit Ridge  
~ is a ridge in Lincoln County, Montana

Pulpit Rock  
~ is a cape in Essex County, New York  
~ is a pillar in Lincoln County, Maine  
~ is a pillar in Wasco County, Oregon  
~ is a pillar in El Paso County, Colorado  
~ is a pillar in Suffolk County, Massachusetts  
~ is a pillar in Tuolumne County, California  
~ is a summit in Oxford County, Maine  
~ is an island in Washington County, Maine  
~ is a cliff in Winneshiek County, Iowa  
~ is a cliff in Hood River County, Oregon



Devil's pulpit  
the ~ (an outcrop in a gorge)

### Devils Pulpit

- ~ is a cliff in Calloway County, Kentucky
- ~ is a pillar in Washinton County, New York
- ~ is a pillar in Carbon County, Pennsylvania
- ~ is a bend in Contra Costa County, California
- ~ is a summit in Hood River County, Oregon
- ~ is a summit in Shoshone County, Idaho

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ The U.S. has many Pulpit Rocks.
- ♦ "PROPHET'S ROCK. Where the Prophet sat and sang to encourage the Indians in the battle of Nov. 7th 1811. Erected 1929 by General De Lafayette Chapter D.A.R." (Battle Ground, Indiana.)
- ♦ The Devil's Pulpit is a magnificent overlook in the Tallulah Gorge. The Tallulah Gorge and Tallulah Falls are a true wonder of nature. Gorge and falls are located in northern Georgia, the United States.

## pulsating (adjective)

pulsating contest  
in a ~, Ward produced a composed performance (boxing)

pulsating start  
the fight has a ~ in Leeds (boxing)

## pulse (anyone with a pulse, etc.)

with a pulse  
anyone ~ should now realize that...

- ♦ "Anyone with a pulse should now realize that the concerns over Google's censorship and bias are warranted." (A comment about Google's Gemini AI rollout.)

## pulse (noun)

pulse of what's happening  
he needs to get the ~ (Joe Biden / the Mexican border)

pulse of the planet  
the satellites allow scientists to take the ~ (climate)

pulse of the (Israeli) public  
the polling firm regularly takes the ~

oceans' pulse  
robot subs help to take the ~

on the pulse of the nation  
the prime minister does not have his finger ~

pulse (of the city) is (really) pumping  
the ~ again (Chinese nightlife post-pandemic)

got a pulse  
we need to prove that we've still ~ (the film *Maze*)

taken the pulse  
we have ~ of sex in the US today (survey)

keep our finger on the pulse  
help us to ~ (popup survey at a website)

- ♦ "He needs to get down there, show his face and get the pulse of what's happening." (Jaime Dominguez, an associate professor in the department of political science, Northwestern University, about President Biden and the Mexican border.)

## pummel (the storm pummeled the island, etc.)

pummels Midwest with snow  
spring blizzard ~

pummeling the islands with rain and winds  
the hurricane is ~

pummeled Barbados  
the hurricane ~

## pummel (verb)

pummeled him over the cost  
Republicans ~ of the bill (politics)

pummeled the company's earnings and stock prices  
the problem has ~

pummeled her rival  
she ~ (a tennis match)

## pummeled

pummeled  
the bank's shares have been ~

pummeled in the media  
she has been ~ (a leader)

pummeled for failing  
he has been ~ to solve the problem

pummeled by conservatives  
he was ~ for even broaching the topic (politics)

pummeled by the storm  
the area was ~

pummeled by both sides  
he has been ~ (Obama)

pummeled by drugs and crime  
the neighborhood has been ~

## pump (direct)

pumps \$20 million into the (local) economy  
rafting ~ (Summersville, WV)

pumped (new) life into the (martial-arts) genre  
he ~

pumped (more than) \$100 million into (city) schools  
the Gates Foundation has ~

## pumped (directed)

pumped into the facility  
for all the money that was ~...

## pumped (feeling)

so pumped  
others were not ~ (eager to deploy to Iraq)

so pumped to get out there  
I'm ~ (a female teen surfer)



♦ "Last night we got out of strict Level Four lockdown, which hasn't allowed us to surf for five weeks. We're in Level Three now and we can finally surf. I'm so pumped to get out there." (A video showing a female teen surfer in New Zealand on the shore in a wetsuit with her surfboard. She runs to the water.)

## **pump up (verb)**

pump up your confidence  
~ (job hunting)

pumped the rookies up  
having ~, he now deflates them... (NFL camp)

## **punch (punch above one's weight, etc.)**

fight above our weight  
we're going to have to ~ (politics)

punches above its weight  
Hungary ~ in math, it has produced many mathematicians

punched (massively) above our weight  
we ~ (small Wales does great in Rugby World Cup)

## **punch (sucker punch / verb)**

sucker punched France  
the US has ~ (scored a goal against run of play)

## **punch (sucker punch / noun)**

mighty sucker punch  
a ~ came flying in (Toby Keith)

♦ "A mighty sucker punch came flying in from somewhere in the back." Toby Keith    Courtesy Of The Red, White And Blue (The Angry American) (Official Music Video)

## **punch (pull a punch)**

pull any punches  
she didn't ~

pulled no punches  
he ~ when he spoke of the president (cursed him)  
prosecutors ~ (called him a liar, thief, cheat)  
women wrote the toughest scripts, they ~ (Chris Meloni)

pulled his punches  
he was very direct, never minced his words or ~

pulls its (hard) punches  
*Black on Black* never ~ full of painful truths (Daniel Black)

## **punch (punch back, trade punches)**

punching back  
he wants Trudeau to keep ~ (trade war)

trade (increasingly heavy) punches  
as they ~ (Israel and Hezbollah)

♦ "Neither Israel nor Hezbollah want a full-scale war. But as they trade increasingly heavy punches, the risks of uncontrolled escalation will grow." (Israel-Hamas war.)

## **punch (take a punch)**

take a punch  
she can ~ and hit back even harder (a politician)

## **punch (land a punch)**

land some punches  
he did ~ though... (a political debate)

♦ "He did land some punches though, some about shifts in policy positions over time, her shifts, and, at the end, in his closing statement, asked her what she's been doing for the past three and a half years." (The Harris-Trump debate. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## **punch (roll with the punches)**

roll with the punches  
you just have to ~ (government shutdown)

## **punch (beat somebody to the punch)**

beat Kim to the punch  
it was a way for Trump to ~ (cancel meeting before Kim)

## **punch (the storm packed a punch, etc.)**

punch  
Atlantic Beach was feeling Hurricane Isabel's ~

most brutal punch  
the storm saved its ~ for New England

one-two punch  
the ~ has devastated wildlife (algae and red tide)  
the extinction could have been a ~

packed a punch  
the storm ~

## **punch (punch in the gut, etc.)**

punch in the face  
he said the defeat was a massive ~ but... (Liverpool)

punch in the gut  
they broke the story and for us that was a ~ (police)  
that's a ~, it's visceral, it's really painful (a legal ruling)

punch in the gut reading  
it was kind of a ~ about the case for the first time (racism)

punch-counterpunch  
this kind of ~ makes Canadians nervous (trade war)

gut punch  
historic oil bust delivers a ~ to Texas county  
that is a ~ of a finding from a new study (pandemic deaths)

knockout punch  
he is looking for a ~ (political race)

one-two punch  
the ~ of self-righteous preening and hypocrisy  
the ~ of the pandemic and the oil bust (Texas)  
they are a hell of a ~ (a coach about 2 great players)

delivered a gut punch  
the latest poll ~ to Donald Trump... (in Iowa)

packs an (emotional) punch  
the play ~

landed a (rhetorical) punch  
she ~ (at a political debate)

took a (gut) punch  
we ~ in Iowa (Joe Biden on Iowa caucus results)

trade (increasingly) heavy punches  
as they ~ (Israel v. Hezbollah, Israel-Hamas war)

♦ "The latest poll delivered a gut punch to Donald Trump." (In Iowa. Election punditry by the mainstream press. All the polls were wrong and, of course, Trump won the 2024 U.S. presidential election, defeating Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. Oh, and he won Iowa, too. By a large margin.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A punch in the gut" or "a kick in the teeth." Take your pick!

## punch bowl (shape)

punchbowl waterfall  
it's a ~, the water falls into a wide pool (kayaking)

## punch bowl (Punch Bowl Falls, etc.)

Punch Bowl Falls  
we walked to the base of ~ (Eagle Creek, Oregon)

Punch Bowl Spring  
~ in Yellowstone is about ten feet in diameter

Devil's Punchbowl  
you can leap from cliff to cliff at ~ (Aspen CO)  
the ~ is a naturally formed swimming hole  
the ~ is just 10 miles outside Aspen, Colorado

Devils Punch Bowl  
whales migrate past the ~ State Natural Area (Oregon)

Battle of the Punchbowl  
Bloody Ridge, Heartbreak Ridge, the ~ (Korean War)

## punching bag (noun)

punching bag for (Russian) cyberattacks  
Ukraine has been a ~ for years

punching bag for politicians  
Facebook has become a ~ on all sides (hearings)

punching bag for their (domestic) politics  
the British must stop using us a ~ (migrants from France)

media's (new) punchbag  
she became the ~ (Meghan, Duchess of Sussex)

industry punching bags  
screenwriters act as ~ (they have much to complain about)

feminist punching bag  
Barbie the toy has been a ~ for decades (until the Oscars)

rhetorical punching bag  
Biden wasn't as much of a ~ this time (election debate)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Punchbag* is British English (BE) for the American English (AE) *punching bag*, or heavy bag. *The Guardian* spells it as one word. Merriam Webster has it as two words. No matter. Even non-boxers know what it is.

## punchline (joke)

punchline  
he is a ~ (athlete who failed, choked, blew it)

## punctuate (verb)

punctuate her points  
her hands move emphatically to ~

## punctuate (configuration)

punctuate the horizon  
huge red-rock walls and pillars ~ (Utah / Indian country)

## puncture (verb)

punctured Slater's aura  
he ~ of invincibility (surfing)

puncture (widely held) beliefs  
the allegations ~ about how he operated

## pundit (person)

pundits, twaddle  
I don't need the ~ (World Cup commentators)

armchair pundit  
there has been rich fodder for ~s (a boxing match)

rando pundit  
some ~ I heard on NPR...

group think of the pundits  
the ~ following like sheep using these terms (language)

presenters, commentators and pundits  
~ (BBC Sports)

♦ "But what do we know about what that actually means now he actually owns the company? Do we know anything about how he..." / "Yeah, I mean he says he thinks..." (NPR punditry.)

♦ "It certainly has set pundits' tongues to wagging, Scott." (NPR pundit Ron Elving, his tongue wagging, reporting on pundits.)

♦ "I would say yes and no." (NPR punditry.)

♦ There are registries of "pundits" which broadcasters like NPR can select from, categorized into various "diversities." Diversity is a metric at NPR.

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "How much do these 'pundits' get paid for spouting all these clichés and stating the obvious?" / "I don't need the pundits, build up, half time twaddle or the inarticulate trip over their words, the Aitches and 'he wot done it, like' phrasing—they don't add value, they detract." / "We only need a few pundits, preferably that can speak good English with proper grammar." / "Oh yeah and don't forget the Alex Scott sob story sympathisers..." (Commenters about the BBC commentators at the Qatar World Cup.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ From Hindi *pandit*, "a learned man or scholar."

♦ In a very nice opinion piece, Scott Simon of NPR rightly characterizes "pivot" as a buzzword and also mentions the "pundits" who use "pivot." ("Politics, Pundits And The Problem With The Word 'Pivot,'" NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, June 11, 2016.)

♦ "It would be better perhaps if pundits and commentators had term limits: perhaps one time on air only would be best." (An online commenter. It's an opinion shared by millions.)

## punt (verb)

punt to the courts

the strategy is to ~ and run out the clock (politics)

punted their decision back to him

they ~ (did not decide themselves)

punted on what to do

the Supreme Court ~

punted on a major test

the Supreme Court ~ (gerrymandering)

punt on the year

you can't ~ it wasn't going to get better (NBA coach fired)

♦ Scott Simon of NPR: Any one or two books you'd recommend for a teen to read this weekend? / Nick Higgins, chief librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library: Oh, huh, huh, yeah, for shore, for, for teens, uh ya know, listen, how 'bout I decide, I'm gonna punt on his one and say, "Listen, teens, read what you want to read. Don't let anyone tell you that the book you want to read is inappropriate or not for you..." ("Brooklyn Public Library makes banned books available to teens for free," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, August 27, 2022.)

♦ "WADA recommended banning the entire squad. Rather than act decisively, however, the IOC punted, asked individual sports federations to rule on each athlete's admission one by one." (The Olympics.)

## punt (noun)

more of a punt than a (long-lasting) decree

the decision was ~ (Supreme Court)

## puny (adjective)

puny (bailout) mechanism

we must extend the euro's too ~

♦ PUNY: *born later*. "The word is directly from the 12th-century French *puisne*, from *puis*, 'later,' and *ne*, 'born,' and its meaning 'of small growth' or 'weak' simply refers to the fact that babies and younger children 'born later' have less strength than the older ones." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 4, "Where Words About Human Beings Come From.")

## puppet (control)

puppet

she was a ~ under his control

promoters run the shop, the guys in the ring are just ~s

puppet of the Left

he is the ~ (politics)

puppets on a string

Scott saw his men as ~ (negative criticism)

puppet master

some say he is a ~ of the news media (WikiLeaks)

he is the ~ of a brutal human-trafficking group

puppet rulers

Nazi ~ in Croatia killed thousands (Jasenovac)

\*\*\* "Historically, raunch has been the rule..."

♦ "Puppets behaving badly is not exactly new. Historically, raunch has been the rule, not the exception. / 'Puppetry around most of the world, until the 19th century wasn't for children,' says Eileen Blumenthal, theater professor at Rutgers University and author of the book *Puppetry: A World History*. 'In fact, a lot if it was pretty

shocking... In the Middle Ages, one specialty of puppets became sex and violence.' / The classic Punch and Judy puppet shows were topical, political and very racy. It was a good way, in the 17th century, to poke fun at the crown and the church without getting your head chopped off. / 'Puppets have always been able to get away with things that live actors can't,' Blumenthal says. / Thinking of puppets as something for kids is a recent phenomenon..." ("A New Addition To The Long Tradition Of Puppets Behaving Badly" by Barry Gordermer, NPR, Morning Edition, August 24, 2018.)

## puppet (sockpuppet / internet)

sock

I will not be coming back here as a ~ (Wiki editor)

sockpuppet

a sockpuppet is an online identity used for purposes of deception (Wikipedia)

## puppet (as verb)

puppeting various narratives

we are ~ (Aaron Rodgers)

♦ "They rejected being puppeted by Israel and the U.S." (Groups labeled as terrorist. The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## puppeteer (noun)

cast Murdoch as a ~, controlling British politics

they ~ through is partisan newspapers

## puppeteer (as verb)

puppeteered her into making

Merle ~ decisions... (versus her own free will)

♦ "There are moments when I fantasize that, one day, my children will ask me the question that Henry James's Isabel Archer asks Madame Merle, the woman who has puppeteered her into making the decisions Isabel believes she has made of her own free will..." ("The Mother Trap: Everyone's talking about 'mom rage,' but what is it?" by Merve Emre, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## purgatory (noun)

travel purgatory

the wait for US passports is creating ~ and snarling plans

legal purgatory

he finds himself in ~ (waiting to face charges)

period of purgatory

he had been living in a ~ (pilot's crash kills at air show)

remain in purgatory

the refugees ~

stuck in purgatory

we're still ~ (politics)

stuck in this purgatory

nurses describe getting ~ (applying for state licenses)

♦ "Disappearance is more heartbreaking than death even, because it leaves people in a kind of purgatory, they're neither dead nor alive..."

(NPR's Eyder Peralta, about the fate of "Mexico's missing students." See the Wikipedia article, "Iguazu mass kidnapping." It is an extremely long and complicated article.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word seems to be used to mean "in between," being stuck in between two states or fates: heaven or hell; accused but not yet exonerated or convicted; accepted for asylum or not accepted for asylum, etc. It also has the connotation of waiting for one's fate to be decided.

## puritanism (noun)

puritanism versus our Latin culture

American ~ (France)

modern puritanism

his film rebels against our ~ about intoxication  
(Vinterberg)

rebels against (our modern) puritanism

his film ~ about intoxication (Thomas Vinterberg)

## purity (sex)

purity culture

evangelical ~, or abstaining from sex before marriage

purity movement

the evangelical ~

♦ "He was criticized—and praised—earlier this year after he had issued a fatwa saying it was permissible for women to have reconstructive hymen surgery before marriage to conceal that they were no longer virgins. He said that since it was impossible to tell whether a man was a virgin, women should have the same option." (Egypt's grand mufti, Sheik Ali Gomaa, "A Compass That Can Clash With Modern Life," by Michael Slackman, *The New York Times*, June 12, 2007.)

♦ "Virginity is a very real issue for Egyptian women, as illustrated in the popular 2009 film 'The Wedding.' It tells the story of Abdullah and Gamila, a young couple who signed their marriage contracts years ago but couldn't afford the marriage ceremony that would, by tradition, allow the union to be consummated. But the couple has been having sex all along... ('Artificial Virginity Device Sparks Backlash In Egypt,' by Peter Kenyon, NPR, All Things Considered, Oct. 13, 2009.)

♦ "If they think they can get a pure-hearted girl this way they are really mistaken. To me, the way people are taking virginity as a commodity these days is such a sad thing." (A Chinese woman, on the practice of very rich Chinese businessmen advertising for virgin brides, and then interviewing them.)

♦ "She can be in danger because sometimes it's a matter of traditions and family. I believe we as doctors have no right to decide for her or judge her." (An Arab doctor in Paris who performs hymenoplasty two or three times a week. The operation takes about 30 minutes under local anesthetic and costs 2,000 euros.)

♦ "The editor of Morocco's Al-Ahdath Al-Maghribia daily newspaper, Moktar el-Ghzioui, is living in fear for his life after he expressed support for pre-marital sex during a local television debate. / 'The next thing there was a cleric from Oujda releasing a fatwa that I should die,' he says. / According to article 490 of the penal code, Moroccans can be jailed for having sexual relations outside marriage. / This is based on Islamic law, which bans unmarried people from engaging in sexual activity... / A sociologist at the University of Mohammed V, Abdessamad Dialmy, argues that article 490 needs to be removed because human beings have the right to sex. / He says more and more unmarried couples are having sex because they are getting married much later... / Imam Hassan Ait Belaid who preaches at a mosque in the commercial capital Casablanca says article 490 is part of the culture of a non-Western society. / 'If the code is removed, we will become wild savages. Our society will become a disaster,' he says." ("Morocco: Should pre-marital sex be legal?" by Nora Fakim, BBC, 8 August 2012.)

♦ The boto is a dolphin that can transform itself into a human to impregnate impressionable young virgins. (The Amazon.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Purity applies to women, but not men.

♦ There is no religion below the navel.

## purposeful (adjective)

purposeful

I make sure my use of technology is ~ (digital mindfulness)

♦ "It's time to go write the rest of your story. Do it thoughtfully. Do it purposefully [purposely?], and never let fear of failure stop you from trying to be the difference." (Leila Fadel-class of 2022 Northeastern University Graduate Commencement Speaker.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Purposely" means for a particular purpose, "purposefully" means to do something in a thoughtful or determined way.

♦ see also *intentional (adjective)*, *mindful (adjective)*

## purse (money)

purse of seventeen million dollars

a ~ (boxing match)

total purse

the ~ is at least \$475,000 (New York Marathon)

## purse strings

controls the (family's) purse strings

he ~

controls the purse strings

Congress ~

his group ~ (a for-profit company)

## pursue (afflict)

pursue her to her grave

racism and hatred would ~ (Hattie McDaniel)

pursue its lawsuit

the company retained the right to ~ if...

pursued a (ruinous) economic policy

he has ~ (a president)

## pursue (pursue a dream, etc.)

pursue it with (great) vigor

I intend to ~ (full investigation)

pursue their (own hidden) agendas

factions ~ outside of the law

pursue (both old and new) approaches

NASA will ~ simultaneously

pursue an (acting) career

he moved to Los Angeles to ~

pursue a (film) career

left her TV show to ~

pursue the case

the Pakistani government vowed to ~ (rape of girl)

pursuing a doctorate

he was ~ in computer sciences at...

pursue her dream  
she quit her job to ~ of becoming...

pursue a dream  
people who switched courses late in life to ~

pursue an education  
it is in his interest to ~ in computers or technology

pursue my education  
the thing that will make me happiest is to ~

pursue (higher) education  
women who delay marriage to ~ and a career

pursued her goal  
she ~ by studying...

pursue your interests  
you can certainly find an hour a day to ~

pursue (other) interests  
I want to have time to travel and ~

pursue its (own strategic) interests  
the US should ~ (vs. high-minded goals)

pursuing (even quadruple) majors  
students are ~

pursue these matters  
but we'll ~ further to build on... (diplomacy)

pursue (military) objectives  
army forces must ~ energetically

pursue opportunity  
they left to ~ in California (black Okies)

pursue (new job) opportunities  
the ability of workers to ~

pursue (other) opportunities  
she resigned, saying the time had come to ~

pursue the opportunity  
she encouraged him to ~ (of study abroad)

pursue all possibilities  
he said investigators would ~ (blast)

pursue this  
I think it's wrong to ~, we should let it drop

pursues his vision  
Wangurri clan Elder Timothy Buthimang ~

pursue a film career  
left her TV show to ~

whether to pursue  
the lawyers will determine ~ further appeals

continue to pursue  
and so we will ~ a relationship with Russia that...

aggressively pursued

if it had ~ an investigation (FBI / 9/11 terrorists)

**pursuit (in pursuit)**

in pursuit of (economic) development  
Native American tribes ~

in the pursuit of their duties  
they are overzealous ~ (Saudi religious police)

in pursuit of goals  
~ that are political, religious, or ideological (terrorists)

in pursuit of gratification  
cybersex addicts risk jobs, marriages ~

in their pursuit of justice  
rape victims often find cultural bias ~ (Mexico)

in the pursuit of knowledge  
men swear off women ~

in pursuit of (various) objectives  
~ (special operations)

in its pursuit of peace  
Afghanistan has a long way to go ~

in our pursuit of victory  
we well be relentless in our ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

**pursuit (other)**

pursuit to satisfy  
her ~ the ticking biological clock

pursuit of excellence  
it's what the ~ in his field requires (a doctor)

pursuit of happiness  
freedom, equality, justice and the ~ (US)

pursuit of revenge  
the ~ is a turn-on for men (brain studies)

pursuit of truth  
the historian's supposedly disinterested ~

dangerous pursuit  
climbing mountains can be a ~

noble pursuit  
working for the homeless or some other ~

**push (coercion and motivation)**

push you on this  
I do want to ~ (a pushy reporter)

pushing players in that direction  
the NFL can't mandate it, but they are ~ (vaccinations)

pushed me to do better  
he ~ (a teacher)

pushing each other to do things  
but it's not like we're ever ~ (2 elite climbers)

push immigrants to drop out  
critics say Regents English Tests ~

pushes for (speedy) elections  
as the Bush Administration ~ (in Iraq)

push you around  
don't let people ~

push myself  
I'm a little scared but I'm gonna ~ (Sky Brown)

♦ "Ned, aren't you tired of letting people push you around... He's walking all over you... When are you going to stop being a pushover? When are you finally going to start sticking up for yourself?" (Ned's awful toxic girlfriend Patty in the 2003 film *School of Rock*.)

### **push (push comes to shove)**

when push comes to (political) shove  
corporate-led NGOs don't work ~

political shove  
corporate-led NGOs don't work when push comes to ~

### **push (promote)**

push the story  
opinions ~ and facts are ignored (at NPR)

pushed the story  
prominent right-wing media figures ~ (conspiracy)

### **push (force)**

pushed the Bath bombing out of the headlines  
Lindbergh's triumphant flight ~

push a breed to extinction  
economic forces can ~ (indigenous pigs, cows)

push one's enemy to the point of despair  
one should never ~, because...

push them over the edge  
just a tiny temperature rise can ~ (coral bleaching)

pushed religion too far  
the Islamists ~ (a Somali)

pushing or suppressing  
people wonder if the BBC is ~ agendas

### **push (push against, etc.)**

push (hard enough) against Beijing's attempts  
they didn't ~ to cover up its misinformation

### **push (a number)**

pushing \$500  
the price of gold is ~ an ounce

### **push (push somebody away, etc.)**

push him away from me  
I don't want to ~ (relationship)

### **push (summit push, etc.)**

push for acceptance  
the public ~ of its technology (Microsoft)

push for (Maori) rights

the ~ (New Zealand)

push for the summit  
the final ~ began in the evening

summit push  
in anticipation of a ~ the next day (K2)  
waiting to begin the final ~ (Camp IV / Everest)

final push  
the ~ for the summit began in the evening

next big push  
the US retrenches for its ~ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

### **push back (verb)**

push back  
they are preparing to ~

pushed back against the military's claim  
he ~ of impropriety (a filmmaker)

### **pushback (noun)**

pushback from Congress over the treaty  
do you expect any ~

### **pushed around**

pushed around  
we will not be ~ (tariff war)

### **pushed out**

pushed out of better paid work into lower paid work  
they were ~

### **pusher (drug pusher, etc.)**

world's drug pusher  
they don't want to be seen as the ~ (Fentanyl)

### **pushing (keep on pushing, etc.)**

pushing the extremes  
~ of calculational speed (a supercomputer)

pushing a quick pace  
with Heras ~, they passed Jalabert (Tour de France)

pushing for an Islamic state  
~ in Egypt

pushing for a place  
~ in the cell-phone business

pushing yourself into unknown realms  
adventure is ~

### **push on (verb)**

pushed on  
in spite of the insults, she ~

push on to Baghdad  
just waiting for word to ~ (a US soldier)

♦ "I'll just keep pushing on, and I'll see how far I can take this..."  
(Anthony Joshua defeats Otto Walin in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Not very far...)



♦ "So I must push onward, for to stand still or to go back is out of the question, this would make things more difficult still, and in the end there would be the necessity of beginning all over again." (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

## pushover (noun)

no pushover  
the Iraqi Army was no ~

## pushy (people, etc.)

pushy  
knowing how to be encouraging without being ~ (kids)

pushy parents  
the problem of ~ in public schools

pushy people  
don't let ~ affect your decisions

pushy stage mother  
I'm not a ~

rude or pushy  
scammers use ~ language to get you to act immediately

come across as pushy  
or you'll ~...

## put (put something back together)

put my life back together  
I'm trying to ~

putting his life back together  
he was just ~ after being sexually assaulted

put the talks back together  
negotiators have been scrambling to ~

## put (put something together)

put it together  
nobody ~ (clues leading to a spy)

put these pieces together  
when we ~, we have a better idea about...

## put (put somebody through something)

put me and my family through  
I had to forgive the media for what they ~ (Bill Buckner)

## put off (verb)

putting it off  
I've been ~ (making a plan)

## putt (noun)

putt  
that's a ~ (a close-range shot at a target)

♦ "One hundred thirty yards. That's a putt." (A special operations veteran about the shot that nearly assassinated Donald Trump.)

## putty (noun)

putty in the hands  
students are ~ of all-powerful professors (sex abuse)

## put up with (verb)

put up with it  
they are a nation of terrorists, and we won't ~

put up with this  
enough is enough, I'm not going to ~

putting up with it  
we're not ~ anymore in this country (politics)

## puzzle (problem)

puzzle  
I'm happiest working on ~s (chemist)

puzzle-solving  
there is ~ in all technical climbing

puzzles, riddles and real-life problems  
solving ~ (forensic science)

complicated (racial and political) puzzle  
the hearings presented him with this incredibly ~

piece of the puzzle  
that was the ~ we needed (crime tip)  
the findings are just one ~ and there is still a lot to learn

pieces of the puzzle  
gather as many ~ as possible (investigation)

pieces of a puzzle  
one agency can have ~ that another agency is missing

larger puzzle  
it might be a key piece in the ~ that is emerging

unlock the (whole) puzzle  
a tiny detail can ~ (police investigation)

♦ "There's a puzzle-within-a-puzzle, for the diehard puzzleheads." (The book *D C-T!* by Joana Avillez and Molly Young.)

## puzzling (adjective)

puzzling comment  
not long after hearing this ~...

puzzling details  
investigators were trying to make sense of some ~

puzzling disease  
making some sense of this ~

puzzling news  
this was ~ indeed...

## pygmy (size)

pygmy goat  
visitors pet ~s (at a zoo)

pygmy parrot  
the ~ is so small it fits in a human hand (Madagascar)

## pyramid (the Black Pyramid, etc.)

### Pyramid

- ~ is a populated place in Washoe County, Nevada
- ~ is a populated place in Washington County, Illinois
- ~ is a populated place in Floyd County, Kentucky
- The ~ is a summit in Lake County, Oregon
- The ~ is a summit in Ransom County, North Dakota
- The ~ is a pillar in Union County, New Mexico
- The ~ is a summit in Big Horn County, Montana

### Pyramid Butte

- ~ is a summit in San Juan County, Utah
- ~ is a summit in Navajo County, Arizona
- ~ is a summit in Rosebud County, Montana
- ~ is a summit in San Bernardino County, California
- ~ is a summit in Marion County, Oregon

### Pyramid Canyon

- ~ is a valley in Coconino County, Arizona
- ~ is a valley in Mohave County, Arizona

### Pyramid Corners

- ~ is a populated place in Craig County, Oklahoma

### Pyramid Cove

- ~ is a bay in Los Angeles County, California
- ~ is a bay in Aleutians West Census Area, Alaska

### Pyramid Creek

- ~ is a stream in Glacier County, Montana
- ~ is a stream in Valley County, Idaho
- ~ is a stream in Flathead County, Montana

### Pyramid Glacier

- ~ is a glacier in Pierce County, Washington

### Pyramid Head

- ~ is a cape in Los Angeles County, California

### Pyramid Hill

- ~ is a summit in Beaverhead County, Montana
- ~ is a ridge in Kern County, California

### Pyramid Hills

- the ~ are a range in Kings County, California

### Pyramid Island

- ~ is an island in Aleutians West Census Area, Alaska
- ~ is an island in Clark County, Nevada

### Pyramid Lake

- ~ is a reservoir in Los Angeles County, California
- ~ is a lake in Essex County, New York
- ~ is a lake in Duchesne County, Utah

### Pyramid Mountain

- ~ is a summit in Hidalgo County, New Mexico
- ~ is a summit in Stillwater County, Montana
- ~ is a summit in Lane County, Oregon
- ~ is a summit in Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska

### Pyramid Pass

- ~ is a gap in Boundary County, Idaho

### Pyramid Peak

- ~ is a summit in Boundary County, Idaho
- ~ is a summit in Custer County, Idaho
- ~ is a summit in Lewis and Clark County, Montana
- ~ is a summit in Dona Ana County, New Mexico

### Pyramid Point

- ~ is a summit in Washington County, Idaho
- ~ is a cape in Yakutat, Alaska
- ~ is a cape in Leelanau County, Michigan
- ~ is a cliff in Garfield County, Colorado

### Pyramid Ridge

- ~ is a ridge in Mendocino County, California

### Pyramid Rock

- ~ is a pillar in McKinley County, New Mexico
- ~ is a pillar in Clark County, Nevada
- ~ is an island in Curry County, Oregon
- ~ is a summit in Clark County, Washington
- ~ is a pillar in Honolulu County, Hawaii

### Cheops Pyramid

- ~ is a summit in Coconino County, Arizona

### Summit Pyramid

- ~ is a summit in Whatcom County, Washington

### Black Pyramid

- they traversed the ~, a gauntlet of exposed rock (K2)
- ~ Mountain is a summit in Carbon County, Montana

### Central Pyramid

- ~ Peak is a summit in Denali Borough, Alaska

### East Pyramid

- ~ Peak is a summit in Denali Borough, Alaska

### Little Pyramid

- ~ is a summit in Idaho County, Idaho

### South Pyramid

- ~ is a summit in Linn County, Oregon
- ~ Creek is a stream in Linn County, Oregon

### West Pyramid

- ~ Peak is a summit in Denali Borough, Alaska

## pyramid (hierarchy)

### pyramid's apex

- and at the ~ is "self-actualization" (Maslow)

### food pyramid

- apex predators at the top of the ~

### tennis pyramid

- it seemed impossible they could regain the tip of the ~

### academic pyramid

- a purge at the top of the ~ is essential (MIT, Harvard, etc.)

### corporate pyramid

- the path to the top of a ~ no longer looks desirable

### economic pyramid

- those individuals at the apex of the ~

apex of a (complex) pyramid  
he was at the ~ of individuals... (crime)

bottom of the (football league) pyramid  
I've had to start from the very ~ (Vardy)

tip of the (tennis) pyramid  
it seemed impossible they could regain the ~

top of the (English Football) pyramid  
Manchester City have finished ~

at the bottom of the economic pyramid  
new jobs are coming ~ (poorly paid jobs)

at the top of the pyramid  
the people ~ know exactly what they are doing (justice)

## Pyrrhic victory (figurative)

Pyrrhic victory  
the confidence vote may prove to be only a ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "If we are victorious in one more battle with the Romans, we shall be utterly ruined." (Attributed to Pyrrhus of Epirus, following the Battle of Asculum. Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., records it as, "One more such victory and we are lost.")

♦ "Such a tragedy. They will think this was their victory so this will become an American war. And the end will be the same... except for the numbers who will die before we get there." (Lt. Col. Nguyen Huu An, on the inability of the NLF to overrun Hal Moore's troops in the Ia Drang Valley in 1965, from the 2002 film *We Were Soldiers*.)

♦ A *Hannibalic* victory, referring to Hannibal's famous victory over the Romans at the Battle of Cannae during the Second Punic War, refers to his failure to follow up on it. Ultimately, he would be defeated. According to Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., "That great Carthaginian, Hannibal, is said to have called Pyrrhus first among generals."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days it could be expected that everyone who read or heard this allusion could be expected to understand it. No longer! Note the brackets in the following quotation, from an article on the BBC website about a Parliament vote of confidence: "I very much fear if Johnson does win tonight it will be a Pyrrhic victory [one that comes at great cost]." This is indicative of the sad state of modern education and society.

♦ You can win the battle and still lose the war.

## Q

## quagmire (noun)

quagmire of Vietnam  
we're in the ~ (war in Afghanistan)

quagmire of (boxing) negotiations  
the two camps are swimming through the ~

Libyan quagmire  
Egypt might get sucked into the ~ (military intervention)

legal quagmire  
it's a ~ that people are not think through (politics)

fear of a (Somalia-like) quagmire  
~ which could have endangered US troops (Rwanda)

digging themselves deeper into the quagmire

they are ~ (an embattled regime fighting to survive)

## quarantine (verb)

quarantine (suspicious) files into sandboxes  
systems ~ (computing)

## quarter (no quarter, etc.)

no-quarter kind of guy  
Max is a ~ and Lewis... (F1 racing)

no quarter will be given  
her display name is "~" (Chaedria LaBouvier)

ask for no quarter  
I ~ and I bear no malice (Churchill / politics)

♦ "By contrast [to Nancy Spector], LaBouvier comes across as fierce and direct. On Twitter, her display name is 'No Quarter Will Be Given.'" (Chaedria LaBouvier. From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November 2022.)

♦ "We fight hard, we play for keeps, we take no prisoners. We'll get in the trenches and fight dirty." (Greg Pruett, president of the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance, a gun-rights group.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "A man cannot change his feelings again during the last rush with a veil of blood before his eyes." (Ernst Junger. Quoted in *On Killing* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. Close-quarters combat. Soldiers who resist to the final moment and then throw down their weapons and raise their hands may or may not be taken prisoner in the heat of battle.)

♦ see also *prisoner* (take no prisoners, etc.)

## quarter (the fourth quarter, etc.)

fourth quarter  
during the ~... (final part of testimony)

♦ "During the fourth quarter I felt like the game got a little strange." (Christine Blasey Ford, on Fresh Air in 2024, about her testimony at a congressional hearing. About the questions of one lawyer, Ford said, "I didn't know how to respond to her." Ford has a new book out and was talking with Terry Gross.)

## queen (Queen of Soul, etc.)

Queen of method acting  
Stella Adler was the ~ (Marlon Brando, etc.)

Queen of the Adriatic  
the ~ is no stranger to flooding (Venice)

Queen of the English Channel  
Alison Streeter, the "~," has swum the distance 43 times

Queen of Crime  
Agatha Christie, the so-called ~ (mystery writer)

queen of the Dolomites  
dubbed the "~," Marmolada rises about 11,000 feet...

Queen of Soul Food  
Sylvia Woods, the ~ (Sylvia's Restaurant in Harlem)

Queen of the Plata  
Buenos Aires, ~

"Queen of Rock 'n Roll"  
Tina Turner, widely referred to as the ~

"queen of the skies"  
the Boeing 747, the ~, was the first jumbo jet

Queen of Soul

Aretha Franklin, the ~ (singer)

queen of her sport

she is the ~ in her country (speedskater)

## queen (role)

queen bees

selecting ~ from the most productive colonies

beauty queen

the Georgia ~ is accused of murdering her boyfriend

Coffee Queen

she won the popular title of ~ (Argentina)

drag queen

~ theater

drama queen

see *drama queen* (person)

Festival Queen

Nicholas County Potato ~ (West Virginia)

opera queen

gimlet-eyed ~s

soap-opera queen

the ~ Susan Lucci

powwow queen

this year's ~

homecoming queen

she was ~ her senior year (high school)

a gay student who ran for ~ caused a huge stir

students elected their first male ~ (university)

King and Queen

the coronation of a Geek ~ (Geek Prom)

kings and queens

homecoming, the American tradition featuring ~

call María Lionza the queen

devotees ~ (María Lionza religion / Venezuela)

## queen (Dairy Queen, etc.)

Queen Elizabeth

the ~ is the third Cunard ship of that name

Queen Charlotte Islands

the ~, or Haida Gwaii (British Columbia)

Dairy Queen

Faisal found a job at ~

## queen-size (and queen sized)

queen-size

a ~ bed

## queer (collocations)

Queers for Palestine

~ block exit to Disney World (Israel-Hamas war)

~ has some competition (Fatties for Palestine)

Queers Against (Israeli) Apartheid

~ (a protest sign)

queer affection

displays of ~ (at Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup)

queer Americans

~ were emerging... (AIDS)

queer animals

5 facts about ~ for Valentine's Day (NPR)

queer anthem

George Michael's ~ "Freedom"

Queer Appalachia

the artist collective ~

queer appeal

*M3GAN*, murder, and mass ~ ("It's Been A Minute")

queer audiences

~ deemed the scenes inauthentic (*Blue is the Warmest...*)

queer baker

Camilla Wynne is a proud ~

Camilla, you are an inspiration to young ~s

queer bardo

some kind of ~ for gay ghosts (*Blackouts* by Justin Torres)

queer canon

why *M3GAN* belongs in the ~ (the film)

queer chain

the next link in a ~ from Jan to Juan to nene to you

queer cinema

~ has come a long way since 1964

queer claim

he has staked a ~ to country music

Queer Commissioner

Germany appoints first ~

queer community

*Muna* (the band) represents all things joyful in the ~

Seattle's ~ is furious after gay bars were raided... (NPR)

Queer Communities

"How ~ Created Secret Languages" (Erica Brozovsky)

*Queer Cosmos*

~: *The Astrology of Queer Identities & Relationships*

queer cowboy

judges decide who is the best all-around ~ and girl (NPR)

Queer Ducks

what '~' can teach teenagers about sexuality (NPR)

queer (birth) experiences

childbirth educators specializing in ~

queer (tango) experiences

Buenos Aires's best ~

queer (bird) experts  
we got to meet with ~ (Pattie Gonia / drag outdoor activist)

queer eye  
~ for home design (Bobby Berk)

queer family  
I want to thank my ~ (NBA award ceremony / books)

Queer Femme  
~ for Palestine (a sign, held up at a rally in Mott Haven)

queer fiction  
a cult writer and pioneer of ~ (James Purdy)

Queer Gym  
~ honors queer people's existence

queer historian  
as a ~, I'm... (the writer Hugh Ryan)  
~s have had to flense details off a rotten mass of lies

queer history  
he's passionate about teaching people ~  
when ~ is "recovered" by white scholars (Hugh Ryan)

queer (NFL) history  
"Carl Nassib made ~. Now he's stepping away..." (NPR.)

queer home  
in his ~... (Hilton Als writing about the poet Thom Gunn)

queer identity  
*Bros* offers laughs and commentary on ~ (the 2022 film)

queer (digital) intimacy  
her writing is concerned with ecology, desire, and ~

queer joy  
see *joy* (*groups*)

queer kids  
Brave Trails is a summer camp for ~

queer liar  
a slacker and occasional thief and ~ (Cristina Rivera Garza)

queer (mountain) lion  
inside the mind of a ~ (*Open Throat* by Henry Hoke)

queer loneliness  
Parsons has specialized in stage roles marked by~

queer luminaries  
her relationship to ~

queer moments  
openly ~ at the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup shine...

Queer Novel  
"A Radical ~ Challenges the Idea of History Itself"

queerophobia  
a broad strategy to combat ~ (Germany)

queer pain  
~, being left in the South (by Jewly Hight)

queer peers  
the gay white man is more socially privileged than his ~

queer person  
every ~ has a remarkable story (Meta VR advertisement)

queer poet  
Tommye Blount is a Black, ~ from Detroit

queer (Guyanese Indian) poet  
what resilience looks like for a ~

Queer (Birth) Project  
Ellyn Wyman-Grothem, a member of the ~

queer refugees  
hard-nosed Berliners and ~ (!)

queer re-imagining  
& *Juliet*, a ~ of Romeo and Juliet (Broadway musical)

queer rights  
they were pioneers in getting us ~ (drag performers)

queer romance  
the novel is a lush ~ (*The Violins of Saint-Jacques*)  
high profile femme women in ~s (women date women)

queer (tango) scene  
Buenos Aires's ~

queer Seoulites  
~ (*Love in the Big City* by Sang Young Park)

queer signifiers  
queerbaiting appropriates ~ as an aesthetic only

queer spaces  
Desi ~ (South Asians)

queer storytelling  
the future of ~

queer students  
~ say they find comfort in the artwork (*middle school*)

queer theorists  
~ and 'crip' theorists are at the cutting edge

queer theory  
her research interests lie in Blackness, ~, decolonial...

queer (Gen Z TikTok) users  
~ started a trend ("Do you listen to Girl in Red")

queer victimhood  
they aren't interested in ~ *Feme* (Bob Mondello review)

queer visibility  
as ~ increased in pop culture (*Basic Instinct*, etc.)  
~ is growing around the world (Fifa Women's World Cup)  
why ~ in baking matters (pastry chef Camilla Wynne)

queer women

~ on their periods (Nolwen Cifuentes)

queer world  
a midcentury ~ that no longer exists (19<sup>th</sup> century U.S.)

queer competent  
it's basically impossible to find a ~ therapist in Missouri

queer-friendly  
Chelsea was a ~ place in the 1960s and 70s ("rent boys")

Queer and Happy  
"Sophia Bush Is ~" (*Glamour* magazine)

queer and pansexual  
I knew I was on the spectrum of ~

Queer and Trans  
the ~ Old-time Music Gathering...

queer and trans  
~ youth plan march in the streets in 50 states

queer, questioning, father-haunted  
plays featuring ~ protagonists

queer tastemakers, movers and shakers  
how ~ shaped the music of New Orleans

explicitly queer  
as a pastry chef, I craved a space that was ~

openly queer  
having a drink in a space where it's safe to be ~  
the first ~ press secretary (Karine Jean-Pierre)

*Semi Queer*  
~: *inside the World of Gay, Trans, Black Truck Drivers*

late-blooming queers  
we were both ~ (or simply "blooming queers"?)

Country Queers  
the oral history ~

genderqueer  
the voices and presence of ~ folks  
*Open Throat* is narrated by a ~ feline (by Henry Hoke)

poor, black and queer  
growing up ~ (the trifecta!)

invisibility of queers  
the wholesale ~

comes out as queer  
Sophia Bush ~, confirms relationship with Ashlyn Harris

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Eleven out of ten people are queer." (A queer boast about queer Palm Springs, California.)

♦ "None of the bars here are gay bars. But at the same time, they all are." (A comment about Hebden Bridge, England, which has long been known as "the lesbian capital of the U.K.")

♦ "What is a queer baker's responsibility to be visible?... I know I feel an immediate sense of kinship when I discover or meet another queer pastry professional." (From "Why queer visibility in baking matters" by Camilla Wynne, *King Arthur Baking*, June 14, 2022. NPR's Neda Ulaby interviewed Camilla Wynne about her latest cookbook. Listen

to "Forget what you think you know about fruitcake" by Neda Ulaby, NPR, Morning Edition, December 25, 2024.)

♦ "Her research interest lie in Blackness, queer theory, decolonial theory and affect theory." (Taryn Jordan.)

♦ (1) Queer animals (2) queerness in the animal world (3) Queer is Natural (4) Questions, comments or thoughts on queer animal Love? Email us... Section titles are: "Banana slugs are hermaphrodites," "There's an all-female lizard species," "Clownfish switch genders," "Some deer are nonbinary," and "Bonobos make love, not war." ("Manny loves Cayenne. Plus, 5 facts about queer animals for Valentine's Day" by Selena Simmons-Duffin, Margaret Cirino, and Rebecca Ramirez, NPR, Short Wave, February 14, 2024.)

♦ "In Hollywood, cats have pronouns and this one's are they/them, making *Open Throat* the best book narrated by a genderqueer feline you'll read this year." ("Open Throat by Henry Hoke review—inside the mind of a queer mountain lion" by Rahul Raina, *The Guardian*, Fri 28 Jul 2023. "That voice—simultaneously innocent, world-weary, human alien, queer in all the senses of the word—is the book.")

♦ "Peacock TV to air 'Queer Planet' doc about gay, bisexual and trans animals."

♦ "I just rewatched the 1988 Christmas Special last night, and just the sheer queerness of it really jumps out. You've got Grace Jones and k.d. lang, and Little Richard, and if you were a weird kid, or a queer kid, or a weird queer kid, you were seeing so much weirdness and queerness on a G-rated kid's show, and you felt seen." (Stephen Thompson's tribute, from "Actor Paul Reubens, who created Pee-wee Herman, dies at 70," NPR, Morning Edition, August 1, 2023.)

♦ "Reclaiming The Queer Dance Floor" by Shawn Reynaldo, NPR Music, April 12, 2016.

♦ "I just want you to be prepared, not scared." ("Everything you need to know about Mercury going into retrograde in Gemini," ABC News, May 28, 2021. Astrologer and relationship expert Colin Bedell is the author of *Queer Cosmos: The Astrology of Queer Identities & Relationships*.)

♦ "Having language disputes was an interesting part of working on this story. A big argument I had, in fact-checking and copyediting, was like, 'Are we allowed to call Ben's penis a dick? Can I call it a dick, or is only Ben allowed to call it a dick? How many times can we say dick? When is saying dick serving the accuracy of someone's experience, versus being crass for the sake of being crass? / I err on the side of saying 'dick' as much as you want, because it's funny, and it's just how people talk. But the magazine said, 'Okay, you're going to get a certain number of 'dicks'—how are you going to deploy them accurately?'" ("Jamie Lauren Keiles Follows the Surgical and Philosophical Journey of Phalloplasty" by Celia Ford, July 26, 2022. Jamie Lauren Keiles' article, "How Ben Got His Penis," appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*.)

♦ "She looks like Elizabeth Olsen slash Amanda Seyfried, and she's very pretty, and she's like a little bit psychotic and mean, and you're just like, I don't know for other people, but I was like, I'm in love." (Alex Abad-Santos, a self-professed "flagrant homosexual." From "M3GAN, murder, and mass queer appeal," NPR, It's Been A Minute, January 17, 2023.)

♦ "We called ourselves the Gay Liberation Front, the word 'front' designed to be offensive. And that was our mood... This was a time when the American Psychiatric Association had just stopped listing homosexuality as a disease." (*My Own Country: A Doctor's Story* by Abraham Verghese.)

♦ "Dan Savage: Queer-on-Queer Glitter-Bombing Victim" by Alexander Abad-Santos, *The Atlantic*, November 3, 2011.

♦ "I think part of the reason why [Lil Nas X's] queerness was easier for some audiences to swallow is because his project was 'queer' in and of itself: This was a Black guy making a country hip-hop song. I'm talking queer here not in the sexuality context, but taking the literal definition of queer—something that is strange and unusual." (Author and scholar Mark Anthony Neal. From "'Thugs don't dance': iLoveMakonnen and Drake tested rap's norms of masculinity, but only one passed," NPR, Louder Than A Riot Season Two, May 4, 2023.)

♦ "More than 96 athletes in the 2023 Fifa Women's World Cup are out today... [R]oughly 13% of the players in the 2023 World Cup identify as LGBTQ+. Outsports reports Australia leads the way with 10 openly gay players, which Jackie J dubs 'The Gayest Team 2k23.'" ("Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup: 'Good, queer joy' on and off the pitch" by Aileen Weintraub, BBC, 18th August 2023." See also "Lisa De



Vanna's allegations highlight tensions in Australia's *complex* [italics mine] football culture" by Samantha Lewis, ABC Australia, Analysis, Sport, 18 Oct 2021.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ them The best of what's queer Stay on top of LGBTQ+ news, movies, and advice Email Address By signing up, you agree to our user agreement including the class action waiver and arbitration...

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Has the Council already taken any measures to bring about a change in this intolerable situation?" ("Persecution of homosexuals in the Palestinian autonomous areas," written question E-1346/03 by Ilka Schroder (GUE/NGL) to the Council. The European Parliament. 1.4.2003. 2003.)

♦ "For all we know, Iran is funding the anti-Israel protests that are going on right now outside this building—not that many, but they're there—and throughout the city. Well, I have a message for these protesters: When the Tyrants of Tehran, who hang gays from cranes and murder women for not covering their hair, are praising, promoting and funding you, you have officially become Iran's useful idiots." (Netanyahu addresses the U.S. Congress in 2024. The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "Kamala is for they / them, President Trump is for you." (The narrator of a pro-Trump campaign advertisement. At least one version appeared to show a picture of Sam Brinton, the Department of Energy "suitcase thief." The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "Meet the unwilling faces of GOP anti-trans ads: 'I haven't been able to sleep'" by Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 10/30/24.

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ NOT SO LONG AGO: "I suppose the Quintin Hogg who won the Oxford election was the little squirt who was a fag when I left school...; Admittedly it is a queer kind of magnanimity...; I had the queer and rather pleasant experience of seeing...; It was a queer business...; Queerly enough, I am still...; Nothing is queerer than...; Magwitch belongs to the same queer class of characters as Falstaff and, probably, Don Quixote..." (George Orwell in his writings.)

♦ NOT SO LONG AGO: "But a fag happened to pass on an errand, and saw the spurt of blood, so the incident could not be hushed up / I jumped up, looked out of the window, and saw nothing except a fag-end smoking on the pavement / Sir, I came over queer all of a sudden, Sir. / Aye, they do play queer tricks / He went through the last push, Sir, and that sent him a bit queer / The town was gay / My relations with Raymond were comradely, not amorous; but in my fourth year I fell in love with a boy three years younger than myself, who was exceptionally intelligent and fine-spirited. Call him Dick..." (*Good-bye To All That* by Robert Graves.)

♦ NOT SO LONG AGO (various): "Oh, excuse me, what a queer fellow you are really!" / "What a queer creature he is!" / "A gay fellow, half-fuddled..." / "They're queer customers, the Appin Stewarts..." / *Queer People* by Basil Thomson / "Robert was getting very little sleep and, according to Fergusson, he 'began to get very queer'" / "You'll have seen Picken's letter—the man's going mad...he has been going queer for many months past..." / "[Places] which have been given the reputation of being queer when it has been given out that any one has seen things..." / "Lyall, he said sharply, 'does that guy's uniform look queer to you?'" (World War II combat) / "[His] present home is in a queer house in a remote street in Amritsar" / "This was formerly an Ass Patrol's Post..." / "It's better to have a gay life of it than to commit suicide" / "A family is a queer thing" / "By some queer freak of nature they have..." / "It's a queer town, Paris" / "We saw peasants returning from the woods with carts of faggots and branches..." / "Tomorrow I shall have recovered from this queer turn." / During those queer days, when many things seem odd to me..." / "We human beings have our quirks and queers..."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Search for "queer" in "Not-So-Lone Rangers: Out In The Country All Year Long" (by Jewly Hight, NPR, Music, Editors' Picks, June 11, 2020), and you get 96 hits! Queer experts, queer storytellers, queer desire, queer heartbreak, queer joy, queer Appalachians...

♦ [Note: The linguist John McWhorter talks in the quote below about the word "minority." But his insight seems to apply to words like "queer" and "gay" and "straight" and many other words in English] "*Minority* in American English has taken on, via implications, a meaning quite far from what the word originally referred to... Word

meanings drift as always, this time from referring to a proportion to referring to dark-complected people. 'He's a minority'—imagine how queerly illogical that sentence would sound to someone transported to our times from 1600. 'A minority of what?'" (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move.")

♦ "A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word 'erroneously' is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move," Subsection "But That Isn't What It's Supposed to Mean!")

♦ The LGBTQ+ tactic is obvious: Just put "queer" in front of anything you can think of, and publish. You will find a publisher, and you will feel supported in your agenda.

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ see also *alphabet* (LGBTQ+), *LGBTQ+*, *pronouns* (groups)

## quest (in a quest)

in our (never-ending) quest to be  
~ more, and do more

in the quest for peace  
the deal was a necessary concession ~

in their quest for profits  
companies often change business strategies in their ~

## quest (on a quest)

on a (widely publicized) quest to ascend  
she was ~ Everest

go on a (vision) quest  
~ with the help of a medicine man

## quest (other)

quest to ascend  
her widely publicized ~ Everest ended in disaster

quest to become  
she is 2 months into a ~ the youngest person to ...

quest to develop  
in their ~ a vaccine effective for HCV

quest to find  
the ~ the biggest, scariest wave (surfing)

quest to get  
their ~ cheap AIDS drugs (India)

quest to honor  
their ~ a man (Rocky Versace, Medal of Honor)

quest to observe  
the ~ an extremely young moon is a lifelong one

quest to reach  
in his ~ the largest possible audience (film)

quest to land  
her ~ at the FBI was still up in the air

quest for answers  
an almost three-year ~ (Columbine shooting)

quest for employment  
his Ph.D. has not helped him in his ~

quest for Everest  
her ~ (climber)

quest for identity  
the ~ is a constant undercurrent in the Middle East

Quest for Immortality  
the ~: Treasures of Ancient Egypt (exhibit)

quest for the moon  
NASA's ~ in the 1960s

quest for peace  
the deal was a necessary concession in the ~  
if the US stays steady in our ~ (Middle East)

quest for profits  
companies will change business strategies in their ~

quest for self-understanding  
transmute the violent impulse into a ~ (prison teacher)

quest for a (separate) state  
the ~ (Uighurs)

quest for a (fourth Tour de France) title  
his ~ (Lance Armstrong)

quest for (some elusive underlying) unity  
our ~

quest for the mountain quail  
my personal ~, a Code-2 bird (bird-watching)

quest for love, lust, adventure  
one woman's ~

NASA's quest  
~ for the moon in the 1960s

woman's quest  
one ~ for love, lust, adventure

airlines' (decadelong) quest  
~ to create frictionless travel

vision quest  
go on a ~ with the help of a medicine man

never-ending quest  
in our ~ to be more, and do more

widely publicized quest  
she was on a ~ to ascend Everest

ceaseless quest  
in the ~ to stake out bigger slices of the market

her quest  
she isn't about to give up ~ anytime soon

personal quest  
he was on a ~ to...

spiritual quest  
jihad can also mean one's private ~

private spiritual quest  
jihad can also mean one's ~

decadelong quest  
airlines' ~ to create frictionless travel

century-long and decade-long quest  
this ~ (genome achievements)

three-year quest  
their ~ to impose dosage restrictions

start of their quest  
the ~ to dethrone the champs (NBA)

exhaustive but fruitless quest  
the ~ for a scientific basis for...

go on a (vision) quest  
~ with the help of a medicine man

give up her quest  
she isn't about to ~ anytime soon

made reliability its quest  
Toyota ~

♦ "To dream the impossible dream / To fight the unbeatable foe / To bear with unbearable sorrow / To run where the brave dare not go / To right the unrightable wrong / To love, pure and chaste from afar / To try, when your arms are too weary / To reach the unreachable star / This is my quest..." (Richard Kiley sings The Impossible Dream (the Quest) from the 1965 musical *Man of La Mancha*. It can be found on YouTube, but you have to search.)

♦ see also *Quixote* (*Don Quixote*), *quixotic* (adjective)

## question mark

question mark  
he has got a lot of ~s (an athlete)  
the ~ hovering over their rematch (boxing)  
he left command of the ship with a ~ hanging over him

question mark over the evidence  
so now there is a ~ of... (a criminal trial)

question marks around how  
there are ~ the shoes... (alphaFLY)

question marks about him  
there were a few ~ (a boxer)

massive question mark  
and suddenly this ~ has been inserted (a trust issue)

question mark hangs over what he will do  
a ~ next

♦ "Masks have been a question mark in public health, and now I think that question mark has been removed." ("Lawrence Wright on How the Pandemic Response Went So Wrong," *The New Yorker Radio Hour*.)

## queue (sequence)

time queue  
in the ~, earlier events are before later ones (linguistics)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ How in the world is a pool or billiards *cue* related to a girl's pigtails, or a line of people? According to Wilfred Funk, Litt.D., our word *queue* comes from the Latin word *cauda*, meaning "tail." And so we have a cue stick for pool and billiards based on its straight shape, the girl's pigtail, and "the queue that waits for the second show at the movies." It's a nice way to think of the word. (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 18, "Your Favorite Sports and Their Word Histories.")

## quicksand (in / into the quicksand)

into sentimental quicksand

but for Hanks, the movie would suck you down ~

in the quicksand of organized crime

~, murder is an option for solving disputes

suck you down into (sentimental) quicksand

but for Hanks, the movie would ~

♦ "But for [Tom] Hanks, the movie would suck you down into sentimental quicksand." (*A Man Called Otto*.)

\*\*\* **V.K. Arseniev, *Lawrence of Arabia, Mountain Patrol: Kekexili...***

♦ "We reached the river about two in the afternoon. A stiff breeze was blowing off the sea, and the waves were noisily breaking on the beach, sucking back along the sand in a cloud of foam. From the mouth of the river a sand-bank stretched out to sea. Thoughtlessly I walked along it, when suddenly I felt a great weight tugging at my feet. I tried to retreat but to my horror found I could not stir from the spot. I was slowly sinking. 'Quicksands!' I yelled in an unnatural voice..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ Famous film "quicksand" scenes include David Lean's 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia* and the 2004 film *Mountain Patrol: Kekexili*.

## quiet (adjective)

gone quiet

the gangs have ~

went quiet

he left Serbia, then he ~ (a migrant trying to get to the EU)

seek quiet

Israel does ~, with elections only a week away (fighting)

stay quiet

are we going to ~ as they turn back the clock (protest)

♦ "Hamas and Israel reached an indirect arrangement know as 'quiet for quiet.'" (Prior to the October 7 Hamas-led attack on Israel and the Israel-Hamas war.)

## Quisling (Quisling of China, etc.)

quisling army

a ~ at the tail of the Japanese (Aung San Suu Kyi's father)

Petaín, the Laval, the Quisling

he became the ~ of China (Wang Jingwei)

♦ Wang Jingwei escaped his treason trial by dying in Japan in 1944, where he was receiving treatment for an old wound from an assassination attempt. Following Japan's defeat, his tomb in Nanjing was destroyed and his body was burnt.

♦ Benedict Arnold; Wang Jingwei; Vidkun Quisling; Pierre Laval; Philippe Petaín; William Joyce (aka Lord Haw-Haw)... (Notorious traitors.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "You will know that a *quisling* is a traitor who gives himself over as a tool to the enemy, and that the word is based on the name of Major Vidkun Quisling who deserted his people and assumed the

leadership of the Norwegian Nazi party upon the German invasion in 1940. Whether this term *quisling* will live is to be seen, for a word not only has to win its way into a dictionary, but once there it must earn its board and keep. Lazy words that fall into disuse are dropped." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 13, "War Words and Their Histories.")

♦ The term / allusion "quisling," like "Benedict Arnold," has lived on, at least among reasonably educated citizens. But for how long? Consider the case of the term "Pyrrhic victory." In an article on the BBC website about a Parliament vote of confidence, the BBC felt it necessary to add a definition to its readers: "I very much fear if Johnson does win tonight it will be a Pyrrhic victory [one that comes at great cost]."

## quit (as noun)

quit in you

if you've got the ~, there will always be doubt (boxing)

## quiver (noun)

quiver

we carry a whole ~ (of protection while climbing)

presidential quiver

he will use every arrow in his ~ to get his will

arrows in their quiver

they have more legislative ~ (politics)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ *Arrow*, *bow*, and *quiver* are three words from archery that are used figuratively.

## Quixote (Don Quixote)

Don Quixote's lance

he is fighting globalization with ~ (US isolationism, etc.)

Quixote, (an obstinate) fanatic, a maniac

he is a ~ ("Neighbours" by Anton Chekhov)

medical Don Quixote

he became an academic *picaro*, a ~ (Paracelsus)

played Sancho Panza to Scott's Don Quixote

Wilson ~ (*The Last Place on Earth* by Roland Huntford)

tilting at windmills

he suggested that Trump is ~ (attributed to Xi Jinping)

♦ "Scott seemed as incomplete without Wilson as Don Quixote without Sancho Panza." (*The Last Place on Earth* by Roland Huntford.)

♦ "When Jehu was shot, Wilson noted in this diary, it was 'a good few miles further South than the lat. where Shackleton shot his first pony.' Wilson, playing Sancho Panza, to Scott's Don Quixote, had joined his master in his illusory battle with an imaginary foe." (*The Last Place on Earth* by Roland Huntford.)

♦ "From my childhood I remember Grandpa Alexander standing on the balcony in the early morning in his vest and bedroom slippers, beating the pillows like Don Quixote attacking the wineskins, bringing the carpet beater down on them repeatedly with all the force of his wretchedness or despair." (*A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz.)

\*\*\* **the 1965 musical *Man of La Mancha*...**

♦ "To dream the impossible dream / To fight the unbeatable foe / To bear with unbearable sorrow / To run where the brave dare not go / To right the unrightable wrong / To love, pure and chaste from afar / To try, when your arms are too weary / To reach the unreachable star / This is my quest..." (Richard Kiley sings The Impossible Dream (the Quest) from the 1965 musical *Man of La Mancha*. It can be found on YouTube, but you have to search.)

- ♦ see also quixotic (adjective)
- ♦ see also *tilt* (world-title tilt, etc.), *windmill* (tilt at windmills, etc.)
- ♦ see also *quest* (in a quest), *quest* (on a quest), *quest* (other)

## quixotic (adjective)

### quixotic

the endeavor is, needless to say, “~” (E-Prime / “to be”)

### quixotic ability

his ~ to extract himself from peril (James Weddell)

### quixotic ambition

secondarily was this ~ that if... (a music project)

### quixotic campaign

he finally ended his ~ for the GOP nomination this week

### quixotic duty

he felt a ~ to save it (the Republican Party / Mitt Romney)

### quixotic gesture

in a characteristically ~, he offered them a truce (Mehmet)

### quixotic project

each of them pursued a ~ (two inventors)

### quixotic run

Yang’s ~ addressed the challenges of automation (election)

### quixotic and self-destructive

his attempt seems utterly ~

### crazy or quixotic

so maybe he wasn’t ~ after all (an explorer)

♦ “At times, his attempt to start a farm seems like an act of love or intense passion, and at others, utterly quixotic and self-destructive.” (“Lee Isaac Chung Jotted Down Some Family Memories—They Became ‘Minari,’” NPR, Fresh Air, March 3, 2021. Presented by Arun Venugopal.)

♦ “He is a Quixote, an obstinate fanatic, a maniac” thought Pyotr Mihalitch... (“Neighbors” by Anton Chekhov, translated by Constance Garnett.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This adjective comes from *Don Quixote de la Mancha* by Cervantes, a surprisingly modern book for having been written so long ago. Quixote means different things to different people. The phrase “tilting at windmills,” especially, can be viewed sympathetically or negatively. Shakespeare and Cervantes died in the same year: 1616.

♦ See “A Gargantuan Error: Quixotic Is Not The Only Word From A Book Character,” NPR, All Things Considered, September 10, 2015. With NPR’s Robert Siegel and Professor Bruce Conforth of the University of Michigan. See “allusion: books & reading” in this work.

♦ “The word “quixotic” seems to be in a huge number of languages.” (NPR’s Robert Siegel.)

♦ see also *Quixote* (*Don Quixote*)

♦ see also *quest* (in a quest), *quest* (on a quest), *quest* (other)

## quiz (verb)

### quiz the heads of Google, Facebook and Twitter

the US Senate Commerce Committee will ~ about...

## quote (and quotes, quotation marks)

### quote unquote

she was not in the ~ conversation (see quote below)

a ~ serious movie that did big box office (*Oppenheimer*)

### scare quotes

our culture is skeptical of “greatness” (~ mandatory)

♦ “She was not in the quote unquote conversation.” (*New Yorker* writer Michael Schulman about the actor Andrea Riseborough and the 2023 Oscars.)

♦ “I never see a quote unquote failure as a be end end all of the progress for gender ekerty [sic]. If anything, I look at the quote unquote defeats of Hillary Clinton, Kamala Harris as progression.” (Poet Amanda Gorman.)

♦ “Hawaii’s ‘overtourism’ becomes growing debate.” (ABC News. Notice that *overtourism* is in quotes.)

♦ “Maybe we all need some “sensitivity” training.” (Notice that *sensitivity* is in quotes.)

♦ “[Lana] Del Rey, born Elizabeth Grant in New York, weathered a now-incomprehensible controversy about ‘authenticity’ (a word that, to paraphrase Nabokov, should only ever be in quotes) upon the 2011 release of her swooning, doomy single ‘Video Games.’” (“In Their Feelings: The indelible, indomitable voices of Miley Cyrus and Lana Del Rey” by James Parker, *The Atlantic*, April, 2023. Notice that *authenticity* is in quotes. James Parker is *not* George Packer.)

♦ “Sam [Sanders of NPR] has been writing recently about tweetstorms, and we used that as part of a broader conversation about the culture place and execution of the ‘clapback’ (whether it still needs quotation marks is up for debate, but we’ll play it safe).” (“Pop Culture Happy Hour: ‘Fate Of The Furious’ Plus Clapbacks and Feuds” by Linda Holmes, NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, April 21, 2017.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Three yuccie types are sitting at a table in some trendy “space.” The unattractive but intense black-haired woman is saying, “O.K., so ‘maybe’ I don’t ‘understand’ how air quotes ‘work.’” Of course, she is making air quotes as she speaks, with fingers like claws. From *The New Yorker*, June 5, 2023. You can just hear her overenunciating. Funny! The cartoon is signed Slaut.

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Contemporary clichés—like *mindful*—sometimes appear in quotes, for the very good reason it is often hard to understand what the user means.

♦ “Use the modifiers anti-abortion or abortion-rights; don’t use pro-life pro-choice or pro-abortion unless they are in quotes or proper names. Avoid the term abortionist, which connotes a person who performs clandestine abortions.” (The Associated Press style book.)

♦ As one writer had a character say, “Much of life should have quotes around it.” (Frank’s ‘love’ for Betty Tran...)

♦ In the thesaurus of this work, the nearly 500 words categorized as “inclusion & exclusion” should properly be in quotes. They are meaningful mainly to their users only.

## R

## rabbit (pull a rabbit from the hat, etc.)

### pulled a rabbit from the hat

Bellingham has ~ (late England goal vs. Slovakia)

## rabbit hole (fantasy)

### rabbit hole

the Percocet could have sent her down a ~

### rabbit hole of conspiracy theories

simply typing “federal reserve” led students down a ~

rabbit-hole quality  
this obsessive, ~ can make the show feel almost manic (a “deep-dive” podcast)

conspiracy theory rabbit hole  
LA yoga influencer who went down the ~ (Katie Griggs)

populist rabbit hole  
the country is diving down a ~ (Czech Republic)

burrowed into an anti-vax rabbit hole  
people who have ~

climbed down a rabbit hole  
Rachel Maddow ~ chasing conspiracy theories (MSNBC)

digging (deep) rabbit holes  
they are dispensing wild theories and ~ (tabloid press)

diving down a (populist) rabbit hole  
the country is ~ (Czech Republic)

fall down the rabbit hole  
how did people like Lopez ~ (bogus COVID cure)

follow Trump down the rabbit hole  
when people ~, that’s when we lose (a Democrat)

jump down this rabbit hole  
maybe I need to ~ (Abby Wendle, *Invisibilia*)

leads him down a rabbit hole  
the quest ~ to strange uncanny places (Reply All podcast)

lead people down these rabbit holes  
the algorithm can ~ to extremism (YouTube)

leap down rabbit holes  
when you ~, you start seen rabbit holes everywhere...

pushed her down a dangerous rabbit hole  
Instagram ~ (eating disorder leads to teen suicide)

sent me down a rabbit hole  
it ~ that lasted for 20 years (Tom O’Neill about his book)

sent you down the rabbit hole  
let’s go back to the question that ~

went down the rabbit hole  
she ~ of the alt-right to embrace an ideology of hate

♦ “I didn’t jump in, I got pulled into the rabbit hole.” (An online feud.)

♦ “I’ve been researching and writing and talking about this now for 30 years, and, over that period, I’ve gone very very deep in the rabbit hole.” (David Icke, conspiracy theorist.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Wormhole” is similar, “memory hole” is different.

## rabbit hole (exploration)

rabbit holes  
~ leading to music you won’t find elsewhere (bandcamp)

rabbit hole of information  
I feel down this ~ (a novelist about his new book)

informational rabbit hole  
clicking on the links would propel me down an ~ (Title IX)

salacious rabbit holes  
unnecessarily ~ (see quote below)

Internet rabbit hole  
following a browser down some weird ~ (surfing)

sent me down a rabbit hole  
it ~ of looking up old videos on YouTube

trapped in that rabbit hole  
they have a website and I got ~ last night

♦ “You can go down the YouTube rabbit hole following Carroll Shelby. I lived down there for a while.” (Matt Damen talking about his role in the film *Ford v Ferrari*.)

♦ “She intends to take this trial down a number of unnecessarily salacious rabbit holes.” (Lawyers for Johnny Depp about Amber Heard.)

## rabid (enthusiasm)

rabid fans  
~ that make for a true sports town

rabid (sports) fans  
Philadelphia is full of ~

rabid support  
he has the ~ of his base (politics)

## rabid (behavior)

rabid animals  
they are ~ that should all be put down (looting and arson)

rabid crowd  
he did not look very comfortable in front of that ~ (boxer)

rabid defenders  
he has many ~ (Bill Cosby)

rabid supporters  
there are many ~ of death for blasphemy (Pakistan)

rabid and obsessive  
many viewers have become as ~ as Martha (*Baby Reindeer*)

♦ “When I have a mad dog in my yard there is only one solution.” (A comment on a discussion board about a heinous murderer.)

\*\*\* “Scout, Jem, come on inside. Come on, come on!”

♦ Calpurnia: Scout, Jem, come on inside. Come on, come on! (Inside, on the phone.) Mr. Finch, this is Cal. I swear to God there’s a mad dog down the street a piece. He’s coming this way! (From the beloved film of *To Kill a Mockingbird* starring Gregory Peck. In a very dramatic scene, Mr. Finch shoots the mad dog and Jem learns something about his father that he hadn’t known.)

♦ “And then a cousin died. This was the first death in our joint family, and it left me desolate. I was about seven years old... / This is the story she told on her return, and it is permanently etched in my head: It was the afternoon of a very hot day, and most of the household in Delhi were napping. She was sitting alone on the long front veranda when she noticed a stray dog with a strange gait meandering down the front drive. The next thing she remembers is hearing screaming and sounds of a struggle. She ran through the opening in the henna hedge into the south courtyard. There, in front of the bedroom of my middle uncle, Shibbudada, was the dog, growling, frothing at the mouth, and clutching Brijesh’s hand. She tried to shake the hand free,



but the dog's teeth were firmly embedded around Brijesh's thumb, so it took a while. In the meantime, she yelled for help, but not before getting a lot of blood on herself as well. Family and servants came running, and the dog was ultimately captured for examination in case it had rabies. / Lalit and my father left for Kanpur. It was in Kanpur that we got the call from Delhi saying that the dog did have rabies, that Brijesh was getting his rabies injections, and that Lalit should get them, too. / Lalit got her shot at the hospital on the way to school. I would go in with her. She would have to lie down and expose her stomach. The biggest, thickest needle would be poked slowly right into her soft belly. The medicine went in slowly, too. Her face expressed her agony, but she did not make a sound. I wanted to cry for her but did not dare. It seemed to take forever. I would think of Brijesh, too. He was so much younger. The same would be happening to him. / [L]ater, we learned that Brijesh had rabies and that he was in a hospital. The injections had not worked for him. It happened sometimes, they said. We got daily reports from Delhi. It was an agonizing death, they said, complete with hydrophobia and all the havoc that rabies wreaks. He cried for water but could not swallow a single drop." (*Climbing The Mango Trees: A Memoir Of A Childhood In India* by Madhur Jaffrey. A wonderful remembrance of India by a wonderful writer.)

♦ "On a day in October in 1831, a nine-year-old boy ran frightened away from the edge of a crowd that blocked the door of the blacksmith shop of a village in the mountains of eastern France. Above the awed excited whispers of the people at the door this boy had heard the crackling "s-s-s-z" of a white hot iron on human flesh, and this terrifying sizzling had been followed by a groan of pain. The victim was the farmer Nicole. He had just been mangled by a mad wolf that charged howling, jaws dripping poison foam, through the streets of the village. The boy who ran away was Louis Pasteur, son of a tanner of Arbois and great-grandson of a serf of the Count of Udressier... (*Microbe Hunters* by Paul De Kruif. The chemist Louis Pasteur would go on to develop the rabies vaccine.)

♦ "A Norwegian woman has died after contracting rabies from a stray puppy in the Philippines. / Brigitte Kallestad, 24, was on holiday with her friends when they found the puppy on a street, her family said in a statement. / The puppy is thought to have infected her when it bit her after they took it back to their resort. / She fell ill soon after returning to Norway, and died on Monday at the hospital where she worked. / It was the first rabies-related death in Norway for more than 200 years. / Her family are calling on Norway to make rabies vaccinations compulsory for citizens traveling to the Philippines." ("Norwegian woman dies from rabies after Philippines puppy bite," BBC, 10 May 2019.)

♦ "Cindy Marabito runs a pit bull rescue out of her home in Austin, Texas... [She] is one of many pet owners with canine vaccine hesitancy. According to a recent survey out of Boston University, 53 percent of U.S. dog owners question if the rabies vaccine is safe, if it works, or if it's useful." ("Vaccine hesitancy affects dog-owners, too, with many questioning the rabies shot" by Pien Huang, NPR, Morning Edition, October 12, 2023.)

♦ "I didn't really realize that rabies was still a thing in the U.S., to be honest." (Emily Mullin, a *science* reporter. From "To control rabies in wildlife, the USDA drops vaccine treats from the sky," NPR, Short Wave, November 1, 2023.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Peanut (squirrel)."

## rabidly

rabidly intolerant  
they are ~ of Israel

rabidly misogynistic  
the ~ agenda (politics / culture wars)

rapidly opposed  
Republicans ~ the legislation

## race (the term raced to its end, etc.)

raced to its end  
as the term ~ (university)

race toward an election

as we ~ in November...

## race (hurry)

racing to develop  
scientists around the world are ~ a vaccine (COVID)

racing to take credit  
politicians are ~ for the initiative

## race (politics)

race in Hawaii  
an all-female ~ (for governor)

race for the White House  
the quadrennial ~

all-female race  
an ~ in Hawaii (for governor)

closely fought race  
other ~s just outside Washington

closely watched race  
in the most ~ in Virginia (politics)

quadrennial race  
the ~ for the White House

in the (most closely watched) race  
~ in Virginia (politics)

## race (arms race)

arms race  
the ~ and mutual misunderstanding

arms race of fantasy economics  
the ~ is well underway (promises of tax cuts / politicians)

arms race between variants and vaccines  
we have an ~ (COVID)

arms race with spammers  
this has been a bit of an ~ (CAPTCHAS)

arms race to build plush new dorms and stadiums  
Berea College has opted out of the college ~

regional arms race  
Southeast Asia is facing a ~

technological arms race  
the stock market has become a great ~ (electronic)

spark a (technological) arms race  
the Vaporfly shoe could ~ before this summer's Olympics

## race (competition)

race between vaccination and the virus  
it's a ~

race to build  
the ~ computer chips out of individual molecules

race-to-the-moon  
the glorious ~ days



arms race

see *race (arms race)*

♦ "So, in some respects, it's kind of like a race between the potential for a surge and our ability to vaccinate as many people as we possibly can. And hopefully, if you want to make this a metaphorical race, the vaccine is going to win this one. Which I believe it will, if we continue with the vaccine program, which has really been quite successful, at the same time as we don't prematurely declare victory and pull back too much on our mitigation policy." ("Dr. Anthony Fauci Does Not Expect A 4th Coronavirus Wave To Hit The U.S.," NPR, Morning Edition, April 2, 2021.)

## race (race to the bottom)

race to the bottom

we are engaged in a ~ (two states wooing companies)

## race (race against time, the clock, etc.)

race against time

saving endangered animals is often a ~

we are in a ~ (disaster relief)

*State of Terror* features a classic ~ (against terrorists)

race-against-time

it's a classic ~ film

in a race with the clock

we are ~

race against time, it's a race against the clock

it's a ~ to get these animals refloated (stranded whales)

race is on

the ~ to save the Gulf (oil spill)

## race (groups)

race-baiting

~ leftists masquerade as civil-rights champions

race-hustlers

the seemingly endless line of ~

*Race Man*

Max Yergan: ~, *Internationalist, Cold Warrior* (book)

~: *The Collected Works of Julian Bond, 1960-2015*

race man

Hansberry was a real-estate speculator and a proud ~

race science

~ isn't going away any time soon (*The Guardian*)

race thing

not making it a ~, but... (a Black person)

race, coloniality, gender, and sexuality

interest in ~ (in academic Slavic studies!)

race, creed, or color

it's got nothing to do with ~ (death penalty convictions)

race and identity

~ become paramount... (Uri Berliner at NPR)

race, ethnicity, gender identity, and disability

she founded DVP to explore the intersection of ~

race, gender and creed

Americans across the spectrum of ~

southern European races

nearly all English children were brought up to despise the

~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "She founded DVP to explore the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender identity, and disability." (Alice Wong, a 2024 MacArthur Fellow.)

♦ "I want a home here not only for the Negro, the mulatto, and the Latin races; but I want the Asiatic to find a home here in the United States, and feel at home here, both for his sake and for ours." (Frederick Douglass, in 1869.)

♦ "As appears from his name, Oppenheimer is a Jew, but entirely without the usual qualifications of his race. He is a tall, well set-up young man, with a rather engaging diffidence of manner, and I think you need have no hesitation whatever for any reason of this sort in considering his application." (Percy Bridgman's letter of recommendation to Rutherford's lab at Cambridge for J. Robert Oppenheimer. As the authors correctly and rightly note, Bridgman's words were "not unusual for that time and place." From *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "This snow and cold are very good. In this way our good-for-nothing Italians, this mediocre race, will be improved." (Mussolini in late December, 1941.)

♦ "A man should, whatever happens, keep to his own caste, race and breed. Let the White go to the White and the Black to the Black. Then, whatever trouble falls is in the ordinary course of things—neither sudden, alien nor unexpected." ("Beyond The Pale" by Rudyard Kipling, 1888. Compare Kipling's affecting and cautionary story with NPR's Lauren Frayer and her breezy NPR podcast, "Love Commandos." Freyer is controversial in India.)

♦ "Not making it a race thing, but that's the sentiment." (A Black person who claims that white people want Deion Sanders to fail. For those who might not know, Deion Sanders is a famous, flamboyant sports figure.)

♦ "It doesn't matter what we all do as black women, we're still going to be swept underneath the rug. That's why it boils my blood when people say it's not about race, because it is." (The WNBA's MVP A'ja Wilson, about Caitlin Clark.)

♦ "Woman charged with attempted arson of Martin Luther King Jr. birthplace in Atlanta." (Associated Press. Thankfully, Laneisha Shantrice Henderson, 26, was stopped by two good Samaritans. Laneisha was Black. The two good Samaritans were white. Martin Luther King Jr. was Black.)

♦ "Max almost seems blacker than you, Stephen A." (Terrell Owens. "Max" is Max Kellerman, who is white. "Stephen A." is Stephen A. Smith, who is Black. Terrell Owens is Black. And the NFL player they were discussing, Colin Kaepernick—the product of a white mother and Black African father—grew up with his mother.)

♦ "It was IRELAND it was typical DRUNK VIOLENT IRISH MEN. / It's the history of IRELAND. Violent drunks." (An online commenter, about an assault on an American tourist in Ireland.)

♦ "Black Women for Kamala." "White Women for Kamala." "Latinas for Kamala." "White Dudes For Kamala." (Various groups supporting Kamala Harris for president in 2024.)

♦ "I feel that she's a better option for people that look like me." (A Kamala Harris supporter in Georgia, answering an NBC reporter's question, "Why are you supporting Kamala Harris?" Shown on NBC Nightly News.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Yes I do we have a rule of law. Unintentionally killing someone is manslaughter you brought race into this. Ones Canadian ones usa so both not natives here. We don't have the same racial bias as you do..." (An online commenter about "How the Racist Treatment of Matt Petgrave Hurts Black Hockey Players by Isi Frank Ativie, *Chicago Defender*, December 4, 2023.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “AFFAIRS IN MINNESOTA / Movements of the Hostile Sioux Indians / ...They rushed on to the camp with that unearthly scream and yell peculiar to their race... This shouting is done on purpose to terrify their opponents, and give them an exaggerated idea of their strength. Whatever the strength of the assaulting party was, it is sufficient to say they were repulsed, but not before they had killed one enlisted man of the Seventh Minnesota Volunteers, and one boy. Two women were wounded and three or four men...[The] Indians carried away with them several horses. Col. Miller, upon being informed of this unfortunate event, immediately sent a force of well-mounted cavalry in pursuit, and if the redskins are captured they will be summarily dealt with. This outrage has again stricken the inhabitants of the border settlements with terror, and many are fleeing from an expected crusade of the savages...” (Correspondence of the *New-York Times*, May 1, 1863.)

♦ “Now in Inja’s sunny clime, / Where I used to spend my time / A-servin’ of ‘Er Majesty the Queen, / Of all them blackfaced crew / The finest man I knew / Was our regimental bhisti, Gunga Din!” (“Gunga Din” by Rudyard Kipling.)

♦ “The care and consideration shown for the wounded by the natives has won the complete admiration of the troops. With them, the black-skinned boys are white.” (Australian troops fighting the Japs in New Guinea during World War II. See *Kokoda Front Line* (1942).)

♦ “They were wrestling and laughing and talking just like normal human beings and yet they gave me the creeps and I wanted a mental bath after looking at them.” (Ernie Pyle on seeing Japanese prisoners of war for the first time.)

♦ “As I watched large numbers of surrendered soldiers, I feel like I’m watching filthy water running from the sewage of a nation which derives from impure origins and has lost its pride of race.” (A Japanese wartime writer on seeing US prisoners of war for the first time.)

♦ “Admiral Halsey says ‘Kill Japs, Kill Japs, Kill More Japs.’ You will help kill the yellow bastards if you do your job WELL.” (A billboard sign on a hillside on Tulagi Island, the Solomon Islands, July 1943. Admiral Halsey was William “Bull” Halsey, Jr.)

♦ “VII—Relations Between Germans and Japanese. The survivors of *Alsterufer* were scandalized [by how] they had been treated by the Japanese in the Far East... The Japanese considered themselves at war with all the white races... Measures were merely to emphasize the racial superiority of the Japanese... British and American prisoners were treated so abominably that their plight aroused the pity of the Germans... German and Dutch women had been herded into a camp without any means of subsistence [in the hope that] they would eventually agree to enter Japanese brothels... It was the hope of every Japanese officer to keep a Dutch or German mistress so that he might satisfy his race-consciousness... White women and half-castes were reserved for the Japanese [while] visiting Germans had to be content with native girls... The First Mate, a loyal German, [said] he was bitterly ashamed that they were the Allies of his country.” (SS *Alsterufer* interrogation Report Transcribed from the National Archives record ADM 186/809. E&OE. The blockade runner was sunk at 46 06 N and 19 10 W on its return trip to France after visiting various ports in the Far East. World War II.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “People used to be defined by 3 things: Race, Creed, and Color... that’s what we were taught in the 60’s-70’s.” (An online commenter.)

♦ “I’ve always referred to myself as ‘mixed race’, but apparently that’s not correct anymore—but to call myself ‘black’ would be to deny my mother. There are so many boxes you can put yourself in and the part of the Venn diagram where they overlap is probably who you are.” (The actor Nina Sosanya.)

♦ “Across more than 170 pages, this damning report outlines how vulnerable victims were repeatedly marginalized and let down. The review found that police had repeatedly failed to properly investigate allegations of the sexual abuse of white girls by gangs of men, mainly of Pakistani and Afghan heritage.” (North of England reporter Rowan Bridge. From BBC Six O’Clock News, 15/01/2024. The report referred to is the “Independent assurance review of the effectiveness of multi-agency responses to child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester, Part Three, The review into Operation Span and the investigation of non-recent child sexual exploitation in Rochdale” by Malcolm Newsam CBE and Gary Ridgway, January 2024. See also the Wikipedia article “Rochdale child sex abuse ring.” Or, “The heroes who helped bring down the Rochdale grooming gangs” by Frankie

Elliott, *Daily Mail*, 16 January 2024. Or “The Betrayed Girls: The Rochdale Scandal—2017 Documentary.”)

♦ “The former Fulham’s women’s manager Gaute Haugen (a man), who was appointed after the alleged incidents involving Ronnie Gibbons (a woman) and al Fayed, last month said club staff stopped the owner being alone with players, having known he liked young blond girls.” (BBC’s sports news correspondent Laura Scott. From BBC Six O’Clock News, 18/10/2024.)

♦ “Americans across the spectrum of race, gender and creed have had enough of this woke garbage.” (Piers Morgan.)

♦ “This is a messed up world we live in. Even whales are getting mixed up in race incidents.” (A snarky posting about orcas attacking a yacht in the Strait of Gibraltar during The Ocean Race.)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. Question: “Why did God invent whiskey?” Answer: “So the Irish wouldn’t rule the world!”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “As humans, we are obsessed with race.” (The actor Idris Elba.)

♦ “We are told that Columbus was no worse than the men of his race and generation—that his vices were ‘those of his time.’ No vices are peculiar to any time; this world has been vicious from the dawn of history, and every race has reeked with sin. To say of a man that he is like his contemporaries is to say that he is a scoundrel without excuse. The virtues are accessible to all. Athens was vicious, yet Socrates was virtuous. Rome was corrupt, but Marcus Aurelius was not corrupt. To offset Nero the gods gave Seneca. When literary France groveled at the feet of the third Napoleon Hugo stood erect.” (“COLUMBUS” by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ MULATTO, n. A child of two races, ashamed of both. (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## racial (groups)

### racial aspects

the fraught ~ of horse racing in U.S. history

### racial bias

the law seeks to eliminate ~ from the justice system (CA)  
~ in the media (unarmed whites killed by cops)

### racial disparities

COVID’s ~

### racial divides

LA’s ~—and solidarity (NPR / Latinos vs. Blacks)  
the scandal has exposed ~ in this multicultural city (LA)

### racial dynamics

the ~ at play (in the U.S.)

### racial equity

questions of ~ abound

### racial (homeownership) gap

zero-down payment loans to close the ~

### racial harm

employees who have experienced ~ (DEI)

### racial hatred

she likes to stir up ~ (a critic of MSNBC’s Joy Reid)

### racial heckling

there is no evident fans engaged in ~

### racial issues

let’s face it ~ are trending (the media)

### racial justice

the link between ~ and climate change  
~ activists are upset about...

readability of healthcare forms is a ~ issue  
the group addresses the intersection of homelessness and ~  
how struggles for ~ liberate everyone

racial (fault) lines  
the scandal highlights the ~ of a very diverse city (LA)

racial makeup  
the ~ of the city changed

racial privilege  
it exemplifies snobbery, stuffiness, and ~ (classical music)

racial slur  
neither the referee nor the on-field officials heard a ~  
videos of him using ~s came to light  
he shouted ~s, fatphobic and sexually explicit remarks  
Bongi Mbonambi accused of ~ (2023 Rugby World Cup)

racial tensions  
corporate journalists capitalize on ~ (in the U.S.)

racial weirdness  
the ~ of *Aloha* (the 2015 film)

racial and ethnic  
OMB's standards for ~ data

historical, racial and intergenerational  
the negative impacts of ~ on her mom (Cambodian)

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "In *Aloha*, Ema Stone plays Allison Ng, who's supposed to be of Hawaiian, Chinese and Swedish descent." ("Here's What People Are Saying About Racial Weirdness in '*Aloha*'" by Maanvi Singh, NPR, Code Switch, June 2, 2015.)

♦ "BYU apologizes to a banned fan, saying it found no proof they yelled racial slurs" by Bill Chappell, NPR, Race, September 14, 2022.

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Racial" can be used in two completely opposite ways. One is neutral: racial data, etc. The other is polemical and inflammatory: racial justice, racial injustice, etc.

## racialize (groups)

racialize  
when you ~ an issue... (education)

## racialized (groups)

racialized  
people who were ~, discriminated against, prohibited...  
how Latinos have been ~ in South Texas, specifically  
the way fatness is ~ (sociologist Sabrina Strings)

racialized as non-white  
French North Africans are ~ (Dr. Crystal Marie Fleming)

racialized (STEM) education  
how ~ stifles innovation

### *Racialized Trauma*

*My Grandmother's Hands*: ~ (Resmaa Menakem)

racialized word  
"looting" is a highly ~ (Vicky Osterweil)

racialized and gendered  
the ~ tensions of adolescence (*Poukahangatus*)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## racially (groups)

racially balanced  
the show has a ~ (theater)

racially-charged  
the ~ slur

racially fetishy  
if it smells ~, it probably is (Sisonke Msimang)

racially marginalized  
she was ~ by others in the NAACP (South Asian)  
I investigate what it means to be ~ while minoritized...  
people from poor, immigrant, and ~ communities

racially insensitive  
the family intends to sue over its "~~" handling of the case

racially problematic  
how the Beatles and bird names are ~ (NPR)

racially reductive  
the hostile and ~ critique of the show (*Yellowstone*)

racially and sexually  
while the supporting cast is both ~diverse... (2022 *Bros*)

♦ "If it smells racially fetishy, it probably is." (Sisonke Msimang. When a white man tells a Black woman she is beautiful.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "There's an unspoken consensus about the stories we should pursue and how they should be framed... The mindset animates bizarre stories—on how the Beatles and bird names are racially problematic, and others that are alarmingly divisive; justifying looting, with claims that fears about crime are racist; and suggesting that Asian Americans who oppose affirmative action have been manipulated by white conservatives." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

## racism (groups)

racism concerns  
WHO renames monkeypox over ~

racist conscience  
the ~ of America (Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*)

racism row  
the ~ engulfing Australian netball (an indigenous player)

racism scandal  
Los Angeles, where a ~ has engulfed city hall (2022)

racism and classism  
Jim Jones promised an egalitarian commune free of ~

racism and linguicism  
the broad impact of ~ on the ELT profession (TESOL)

racism and privilege  
the bill limits discussion of ~ in classrooms, workplaces

racism, sexism, classism and elitism

~ are widespread in cricket (BBC / the ICEC Report)

institutionalized racism  
he condemned affirmative action as ~ (academia)

antiracism  
decolonization, DEIA, and ~ in ELT (TESOL 2023)

anti-white racism  
he had a history of ~ on social media (Darrell Brooks)

space racism  
~ associates black neighborhoods, or spaces, with violence

environmental racism  
the U.N. called it “~” (“Cancer Alley” / Louisiana)  
advocates say ~ is to blame for Jackson water crisis (MS)  
he decries ~ (the EPA’s Michael Regan)

historical racism  
figures linked to ~ or oppression

modern racism  
the left is the home of ~ (MSNBC, etc.)

royal racism  
where is their proof to support their charge of ~

scientific racism  
many Nobel Laureates have expressed ~  
~ hasn’t gone away (*The Guardian* newspaper)

structural racism  
he speaks with Ibram X. Kendi about ~  
~ underpins the US healthcare system (Linda Villarosa)

systemic racism  
he pledged to root out ~ (President Biden)  
how ~ shaped George Floyd’s life  
state lotteries are the most neglected example of ~ (NPR)  
hair discrimination is rooted in ~ (NAACP)  
it’s kind of a big thing to say America is infected with ~

woke racism  
linguist John McWhorter on how to combat the harms of ~

accusation of racism  
Lady Susan Hussey has stepped down after an ~

acts of racism  
nobody should feel guilt for historical ~

experiences of racism  
members share ~ (Girl Guides of Canada)

culture of racism  
a Black patient bled to death because of a hospital’s ~

colorism and racism  
~ exist among Latinos from every country

misogyny and racism  
*Till* director Chinonye Chukwu calls out ~ after Oscar snub

misogyny, classism and racism

Senator Tiara Mach dismissed criticism as ~ (twerking)

trauma and racism  
a young adult love story that explores intergenerational ~

violence, racism and transphobia  
police ~ (on the island of Bali)

racism exists  
so we know that ~ (poet Jillian Hanesworth)

blames racism  
‘Selling Tampa’ is canceled, cast ~ for decision (Netflix)

dismissed some European criticism as racism  
officials have ~ (FIFA World Cup in Qatar)

fuel racism  
newspapers are helping to “~” (Kick it Out / soccer)

know racism  
we as Black people, we ~ (NBA great Charles Barkley)

reinforces racism  
CRT ~ (the linguist John McWhorter)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “Black Tunisians, who make up around 10-15% of the population, suffer discrimination because of the colour of their skin.” (BBC.)

♦ “When it comes to identifying and ending systemic racism we can be agents of change...” (NPR’s CEO John Lansing.)

♦ “We need you to talk. We need you to stop sitting around the dinner table acting like everything’s great because it’s not. Just because you aren’t experiencing it doesn’t mean it’s not happening. Your role in this is to help change the system.” (Jillian Hanesworth’s advice to white people about systemic racism. From “Buffalo’s poet laureate calls for change” by Raquel Maria Dillon, NPR, Race, May 17, 2022.)

♦ “John James Audubon’s racism is the albatross rotting around the necks of those who would hold him in reverence. It is past smelling foul and beginning to reek.” (“What Do We Do About John James Audubon?” by J. Drew Lanham. Which begs the question, “What Do We Do About J. Drew Lanham?” The answer: give him a Macarthur Genius Award. See the Wikipedia article “J. Drew Lanham.” “This article may be in need of reorganization to comply with Wikipedia’s layout guidelines.”)

♦ “The husband of a Black woman who died hours after childbirth in 2016 sued Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Wednesday, saying she bled to death because of a culture of racism at the renowned Los Angeles hospital.” (“Lawsuit says a Black patient bled to death because of a hospital’s culture of racism,” NPR, Health, by the AP, May 5, 2022.)

♦ A relatively recent trope about racism in the US is the idea of “weathering.” That’s the idea that racism “weathers” people, affecting their health, etc., in ways that are not equitable. Black Americans “live sicker and die quicker.” Arline Geronimus of the University of Michigan coined the term for chronic stress.)

♦ “She doesn’t have the complexion for protection.” (Black criticism of media coverage of victims of crime.)

♦ “E news posted offset [sic] instead of Takeoff when they first reported his death and instead of apologizing they just deleted it. Black people do not all lookalike [sic]! Incredibly tacky AF [as fuck]! If you hired educated black people that never would’ve happened.” (Offset and Takeoff are the names of two members of the hip-hop group Migos. Offset’s real name is Kiari Kendrell Cephus. Takeoff’s real name is Kirshnik Khari Ball or Kirsnick Khari Ball. “Takeoff” was shot and killed at 2:40 a.m. after a dice game outside of Billiards & Bowling in Houston, Texas. Because of the stigma of “snitching,” few witnesses have come forward with information.)

♦ “Bad from the *Mirror*, but they corrected their error over two hours before Kwasi Kwarteng tweeted about it.” (The *Mirror* published a picture of Kwasi Kwarteng that was a different Black man. The *Mirror* put out the following statement: “This morning a picture in a story

about Kwasi Kwarteng was wrongly captioned on the *Mirror* website. This was a terrible error and we apologise to Mr. Kwarteng and all our readers. The *Mirror* has a long history of working against racism and we will redouble our efforts on this." Did the *Mirror* commit an act of racism or was it just a mistake, quickly corrected? You be the judge.)

♦ "Recently, Google processed images of a trio of happy young African Americans and its automatic photo-tagging service labeled them as gorillas. The company apologized profusely, but in systems like Google's, errors are inevitable. It was most likely faulty machine learning (and probably not a racist running loose in the Googleplex) that led the computer to confuse *Homo sapiens* with our close cousin, the gorilla. The software itself had flipped through billions of images of primates and had made its own distinctions. It focused on everything from shades of color to the distance between eyes and the shape of the ear. Apparently, though, it wasn't thoroughly tested before being released." (*Weapons of Math Destruction* by the remarkable Cathy O'Neil.)

♦ "Racism is not just a netball problem." (Donnell Wallam / Australia.)

♦ "Must I Mentor a White Law Student When I Requested a Black Mentee?" (The Ethicist by Kwame Anthony Appiah, *The New York Times Magazine*, Dec. 4, 2022.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Ex-Virginia Tech soccer player who refused BLM Kneel gets \$100K in settlement." (Kiersten Hening / USA.)

♦ "If we don't know how to end racism, we can at least call it structural." ("The Moral Case Against Euphemism" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023. "Equity" language.)

♦ John McWhorter's article, titled "The Dictionary Definition of Racism Has to Change" (*The Atlantic*, June 22, 2020), is interesting. In it he says we need a "3.0 definition of racism based on 'sociopolitics'" and "a usage...that one often acquires in college classes in the social sciences." This raises at least three points. (1) There is absolutely nothing in a dictionary that prevents McWhorter or anyone else from expressing ideas about racism; his use of the combining form "socio" with "politics" to coin "sociopolitics" proves it. My computer spellchecker marks "sociopolitics" as an error. "Sociopolitics" is not recognized by Merriam-Webster or the online Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. If you type "sociopolitics" into search at Wikipedia, you are directed to a long article at "Political sociology." (2) If such a 3.0 definition is included at Merriam-Webster as a new sense, it should be identified as "aggrieved group," just as lexicographers tag certain words or senses as "biology," "archaic," "colloquial," "substandard," "slang," etc. (3) No person interested in words has failed to note that all the dictionary publishers seem to be in competition to add contemporary, trendy, and often controversial updated senses to new words; the attendant publicity is simply good business.

♦ "A lot of black people today are wringing their hands and pointing accusing fingers at white doctors from the public health service." (Janie Taylor, "Origins of the Infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study," NPR, August 7, 1972. It's a seven-part series available in its entirety at NPR. Type "Janie Taylor" in search at NPR, and all seven of her reports should be available. Should access change, try searching at NPR for "The digital preservation of this audio has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities" and then search through the at present 112 results for the seven episodes: "Was The Tuskegee Syphilis Study Unethical?" / "Why Weren't Tuskegee Syphilis Study Patients Given Penicillin As Treatment?" / "Were Participants Informed Of The Purpose Of Tuskegee Study?" / "Tuskegee Syphilis Study Patient Believed He Was Being Treated" / "Nurse Who Worked 39 Years For the Tuskegee Syphilis Study" / "Former Director For Tuskegee Syphilis Study Believes Work Was 'Completely Ethical'" / "Origins Of The Infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study." See also "Stop Blaming Tuskegee, Critics Say. It's Not An 'Excuse' For Current Medical Racism" by April Dembosky, NPR, March 23, 2021.)

♦ "Some people don't want to watch movies about enslaved people..." (The film critic Eric Deggans, about the 2022 film *Emancipation* featuring Will Smith.)

♦ The spin bowler Azeem Rafiq has charged the Yorkshire Cricket Club with "institutional racism." In 2021, Rafiq himself had to apologize for using anti-Semitic language in Facebook messages and a meme relating to African people.

♦ "The Home Secretary has blamed political correctness for the failure of authorities to tackle child sexual exploitation." (BBC, Six O'clock News, 02/04/2023. The Home Secretary was Suella

Braverman, referencing fears of accusations of racism about investigating and prosecuting British Pakistani males.)

♦ "I'm actually convinced that it was political correctness gone mad. You know, there was absolutely no reason for it. I was rocking the multicultural boat. But, how would you get changes without talking about it?" (Ann Cryer, Labour MP for Keighley, 1997-2010. From *The Betrayed Girls: The Rochdale Scandal—2017 Documentary*.)

♦ "[The rapid national audit of grooming gangs] will properly examine ethnicity data and the demographics of the gangs involved, and their victims, and will look at the cultural and societal drivers for this type of offending, including amongst different ethnic groups." (Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, a member of the Labour Party. Heard on BBC Six O'Clock News, 16/01/2025.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Oxford child sex abuse ring."

♦ "Attempts to shame or scare men into voting Democrat are not being successful, and particularly the claim there must be something behind this, either sexism or racism, even if they're not admitting it." (Richard Reeves about the 2024 U.S. presidential election. He wrote the book *Of Boys and Men*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "*Prejudiced* was once, after all, the word of choice for racist bias. *Racist* only took over starting in about 1970, with a major uptick after 1980... *Sexist* replaced *chauvinist* around the same time *racist* did *prejudiced*, and for the same reason—potent terms need refreshment, especially when heavily used. This is why, more and more, *white supremacy* is easing out *racism*. It was only a matter of time, and dictionaries should be on notice." ("The Definition of Racism Has to Change" by John McWhorter, *The Atlantic*, June 22, 2020.)

♦ If you search NPR for "historical racism," you will get 10 hits. Search "racism," and you get 16,673 hits (and counting).

♦ "Racism, at the individual level, can be seen as a predictive model whirling away in billions of human minds around the world. It is built from faulty, incomplete, or generalized data. Whether it comes from experience or hearsay, the data indicates that certain types of people have behaved badly. That generates a binary prediction that all people of that race will behave that same way." (*Weapons Of Math Destruction* by the remarkable Cathy O'Neil.)

♦ "To a racism hammer, everything is a racist nail."

♦ "Many political words are similarly abused. The word *Fascism* has no meaning except in so far as it signifies 'something not desirable'." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

## racist (groups)

### racist

flyers accused the Gibsons of being ~ (Gibson's Bakery)

### racist towards another

when one Latino is ~ (colorism)

### racist attack

he said he was fending off a ~

### racist authoritarianism

so many people vote for ~ (Comptroller Brad S. Lander)

### racist city

this is not a ~, it's an open city

### racist comments

these ~ by four Latino leaders (Los Angeles)  
the suspect made ~ ("kung flu," etc.)  
he made ~ to students (arguable)

### racist country

we're not a ~ (Republican Hershel Walker of Georgia)  
the false narrative that Britain is a ~

### racist crackdown



Tunisia's ~ on migrants (NPR)

racist fight  
it became a ~ (Gerry Cooney v. Larry Holmes, 1982)

racist highway  
Buttigieg awards grant to dismantle ~ (ABC)

racist ideology  
she is committed to the ~ of Zionism

racist incidents  
a new system to flag ~ (Emmett Till Alerts)

racist joke  
she called out a Knoxville reporter for a ~

racist label  
Levi's jeans from 1880s with ~ sold at auction  
the antique pants are even complete with a vile ~

racist language  
their conversation was filled with ~ (secretly recorded)  
former England Cricket captain cleared of using ~  
he has denied using ~ (against South Asians)

racist marginalization  
NAACP leader quits over ~ (Dr. Vanessa Toolsie)

racist (text) message  
a ~ ("What do you get when..." / a joke)

racist mob  
my mother was not part of a '~' (Chicago politics)

racist name  
critics say 'monkeypox' is a ~  
Squaw Valley ski resort will retire ~

racist party  
he is accused of holding a ~ (a fireman)

racist past  
how Audubon societies are grappling with a ~

racist people  
some of the most ~ I've met or known have been of color

racist person  
she is the most ~ in all of TV (Megyn Kelly/Tiffany Cross)

racist rhetoric  
he was condemned for ~ (against race-mixing)

racist scandal  
Latinos caught in a ~ (LA City Council / 2022)

racist scapegoating  
since the start of the pandemic and the ~...

racist sign  
a ~ ("Juneteenth, it's whatever... We're closed.")

racist slogan  
Levi's jeans from 1880s with ~ sold at auction

racist society  
the "weathering" affect [sic] of living in a ~

racist statements  
they claimed they never used ~, only used the word  
*Haole*

racist stereotypes  
~ of black men as violent (violent rap lyrics)  
people accused her of playing off of ~ (comic He Huang)  
critics claim the name "monkeypox" plays into ~

racist stigma  
WHO renames monkeypox as mpox, citing ~

racist things  
they were caught saying ~

racist tweets  
she was fired after her old ~ were exposed

racist views  
the Sierra Club apologized for the ~ of its founder  
(Indians)

racist and derogatory  
the conversation included ~ comments (politics)

racist and homophobic  
posts used ~ slurs (Disney hack)  
the depiction of cops as ~ was incorrect (Dahmer film)  
Jussie Smollett said he was the victim of a ~ attack

racist, sexist and ableist  
concerns over ~ theories and language (Wellcome Museum)

Anti-Racist  
How to Raise an ~ (by Ibram X. Kendi)

non-racist  
marshal support from ~ fans

white racists  
for you to just wildly label them as ~... (Chicago politics)

hurtful, ignorant, colonial—and racist  
the accusations are ~ (about Buffy Sainte-Marie)

racialized and racist  
our ideals of the ultimate body is ~

Zionist, racist and genocidal  
PEN America offers approval for a ~ (Israel)

accused the Gibsons of being racist  
flyers ~ ("Gibson's Bakery v. Oberlin College" / Wikipedia)

branded him a racist  
he lost that gig, too, after the *Times* ~ (Doug Adler / ESPN)

calls the migrant busing strategy "racist"  
Chicago mayor ~

portray Mark Fuhrman as a racist  
Bailey attempted to ~ whose goal was to frame O.J.

\*\*\* what people actually say...



♦ "These northerners are lazy. They are nomads. They would rather starve than work." (A southern businessman on a Niger River riverboat in Mali, on why the Niger River isn't the Sahara's greatest oasis.)

♦ "Hawaii is nice but there are too many racist Hawaiians for me."

♦ "Dude should have looked into living there a little better before stepping on locals' toes like that, especially if he took his family—he owed it to them to look out for their welfare..." (A commenter on the article "2 Hawaiian men found guilty of hate crime for attacking white homeowner" by Michelle De Pacina, Yahoo / NextShark, November 21, 2022.)

♦ "No soy racista! Soy Argentino." (An Argentinian who overturned a Mexican's food cart that was blocking the sidewalk in New York City.)

♦ "This lady actually had the CAUdacity to say black people can be racist too." (DOD official Kelisa Wing, using a portmanteau for "Caucasian audacity.")

♦ "Having a gorilla mascot is racist." (According to the ex-NBA star Lamar Odom. "Go The Gorilla" is the mascot of the NBA team the Phoenix Suns.)

♦ "You are white privilege. Sit down. You are not my boss. You don't have privilege over me. You have white privilege and it's not here, it's over with. It's 2020. Wake up... You don't have white privilege anymore." (Video: Passenger taken away by police after racial rant on plane in US, *Daily Mail*, Sept 14, 2020.)

♦ The following two headlines appeared about the same incident: (1) "2 teens charged with hate crimes after allegedly hitting woman on bus, making 'anti-white' statements" by Marlene Lenthang, NBC News, July 27, 2022 (2) "Teen girls who said they 'hate white people' charged with hate crimes after bashing woman on Queens bus" by Elizabeth Keogh, *New York Daily News*, July 26, 2022. The teens were Black.

### \*\*\* trials, investigations...

♦ "Do you think that there are members of the jury that voted to acquit O.J. because of Rodney King?" / "Yes." / "You do?" / "Yes." / "How many of you think felt that way?" / "Oh, probably 90% of them." / "Ninety percent? Did you feel that way?" / "Yes." / "That was payback." / "Uh huh." / "You think that's right?" (No answer, just a clicking sound. A juror on the O.J. Simpson murder trial, interviewed after the verdict. From "Fresh Air Weekend: 'O.J.: Made In America'; Margaret Glaspy's Album; 'Sweetbitter,'" NPR, Fresh Air, June 18, 2016. As Jeffrey Toobin said, "Those juror interviews, they just made me so sad. I mean just sad. I mean, I don't think these jurors are idiots...")

♦ "A biracial man who says he was fending off a racist attack on a Georgia highway when he fired a gun into a moving pickup truck and killed a teenage passenger was sentenced Tuesday to 10 years in prison..." ("Georgia man sentenced to 10 years in teen girl's road death," AP, September 20, 2022.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Jussie Smollett," the Wikipedia article "Tawana Brawley rape allegations," and the Wikipedia article "Carlee Russell disappearance hoax."

### \*\*\* Whataboutism...

♦ "So ESPN can have Ime Udoka all over the news but hardly talking about Brett Favre that's [sic] looks and sounds very racist." (A tweet about two contemporaneous controversies involving a white and Black sportsman.)

### \*\*\* "People in glass houses..."

♦ "A Sports Reporter Calls Out a Racist Tweet and Gets Exposed for her Own."

♦ "Coach Gundy is not, and I repeat is not a racist in any way nor has a racist bone in his body, mind, or soul." (Joe Mixon of the Cincinnati Bengals about the resignation of Oklahoma University Sooners assistant coach Cale Gundy, who read the N-word aloud off a player's iPad. See the red text below.)

♦ "According to Molitar, the incident was escalated when [Joe] Mixon used a homophobic slur towards her friend... [Joe] Mixon claimed that Molitor's friend had directed a racial slur at him and that he responded with a homophobic slur at the friend." (The shocking attack by the athlete on a woman happened on July 25, 2014, a day after [Joe] Mixon turned 18, in Norman, Oklahoma. From the Wikipedia article "Joe Mixon.")

♦ The spin bowler Azeem Rafiq has charged the Yorkshire Cricket Club with "institutional racism." In 2021, Rafiq himself had to apologize for using anti-Semitic language in Facebook messages and a meme relating to African people.

### \*\*\* jumping on the "racist" bandwagon...

♦ "Racism is a societal problem, and it is no longer good enough to simply be non-racist, Scottish sport must now be actively anti-racist." (Steward Harris, chief executive of SportsScotland.)

♦ "It is not enough to indicate that you are not racist, instead you must demonstrate that you are anti-racist." (Sophomore volleyball player Rachel Richardson, Duke University. See "Rachel Richardson: Duke player's claim of racist slur denied by university—what we know" by Abe Asher, Yahoo / Independent, September 9, 2022. See also, "BYU apologizes to a banned fan, saying it found no proof they yelled racial slurs" by Bill Chappell, NPR, Race, September 14, 2022. The saga continues to play out, with members of one sports team charging BYU fans of *historic* racist abuse.)

♦ "There was a lot of language I was unfamiliar with." (A parent about messages he began receiving from his children's elite private school concerning antiracism. He eventually removed his children from the school.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "I've never used the R-word, and neither does the book." (Omid Scobie, author of *Endgame*.)

♦ "We must also ensure everyone from all underrepresented communities gets a seat at our table and we are going to make that happen." (Meher Tatna, about the 2021 Golden Globes.)

♦ "It became a racist fight. Larry Holmes is not a racist, I'm not a racist, and it was billed out to be. I believe that that was part of the promotion to make hate... Now, that got created by many things, I'm sure, and Don King would be part of putting that together." (Gerry Cooney about his fight with Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace on June 11, 1982, in Las Vegas, Nevada. It went 13 rounds before Cooney's trainer threw in the towel. Racial tensions were so high that Cooney ran accompanied by an FBI agent, and snipers were posted on the rooftops around Caesars Palace. The Wikipedia article for the fight says, "[P]romoter Don King and manager Dennis Rappaport began on the most massive and racially toned campaigns in boxing history..." Of course, Cooney was "The Great White Hope." A very old story. Holmes and Cooney ended up becoming good friends, not unusual for boxers, who are quickly forgotten by a fickle bloodthirsty public and, at the end—often in the throes of one kind of dementia or another—have only one another's help and friendship to depend on.)

♦ Average Americans believe that the media stirs up bad feelings between groups of peoples, and that nobody knows what to do about it.

### \*\*\* mentally ill people...

♦ "Between August 2021 and July 2022, Steinle wrote letters to all 25 Republican members of the Ohio Senate and Jordan. In the letters, he called the lawmakers names like 'pig' and called them racist..." ("Police arrest an Ohio man who is accused of sending more than three dozen letters laced with poop to Republican politicians, including Rep. Jim Jordan" by Yelena Dzhanova, Yahoo Insider, August 7, 2022.)

♦ "Bunch of little faggots with your white privileges. Fuck you, faggots." (Audrey / Aiden Hale, a transgender man. See the Wikipedia article "2023 Nashville school shooting." Audrey / Aiden murdered three nine-year-old children and three adults at school.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Waukesha Christmas parade attack" and "Dylann Roof."

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Who Can be 'Racist'?" by Michelle I. Gao, Crimson Opinion Writer, *The Harvard Crimson*, August 10, 2018. Perhaps a better title would have been, "Who *Isn't* 'Racist'?"

♦ "People like AJ, Pogba, Sterling are role models for egotists. Call them on it and you are classified... Take our money and then insult us with racism. It's creating a hellish environment." (A commenter on a BBC HYS about the second Oleksandr Usyk-Anthony Joshua fight, and Joshua's bizarre post-fight antics and rant. The following comment merely said, "I'm just glad Joshua lost. He is an unlikeable character.")

♦ “I suppose he’ll now blame the judges for being racist, that seems to be the way of things these days.” (A commenter about the bizarre post-fight antics of Anthony Joshua, after he lost a second time to Oleksandr Usyk. Another poster commented, “He’ll probably pull out the race card next.”)

♦ “If you think I’m a racist, go f\*\*\* yourself.” (The boxer Anthony Joshua.)

♦ “My mother was not part of a ‘racist mob.’ (The son of Kathy Osterman, reacting to a comment by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot.)

♦ “[The] depiction of city police officers as racist and homophobic was incorrect.” (Anne E. Schwartz, the journalist who broke the story of Jeffrey Dahmer’s crimes, about Netflix’s 10-part biopic *Dahmer—Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*. The series slams police as racist and homophobic.)

♦ “This is not a racist city. This is an open city. If you behave well, you are welcomed and even helped.” (Newsstand owner Domenico Giordano of Civitanova Marche, Italy. From “Role of race contested in killing of Nigerian man in Italy” by Colleen Barry, AP, reprinted in *The Washington Post*, August 6, 2022.)

♦ “I’m not a racist. I don’t have anything in common with the views of white supremacists.” (Nicholas Wade, author of *A Troublesome Inheritance*, to Maryland Democrat Kweisi Mfume at a Congressional hearing in 2023.)

♦ “I know, I know this is going to offend the liberal elites, every time I say it it offends them. But let me say it one more time. America is not a racist country!” (South Carolina Senator Tim Scott at the 2024 Republican National Convention.)

♦ “Don’t worry. A Christian politician cannot be racist. So we should never hesitate to heavily challenge our opponents on these issues.” (Victor Orban addresses CPAC 2022, in Texas.)

♦ “Jackson and Rao say the claim, ‘I am not racist’ is ‘a statement made by white people that we hear as ‘I am very racist.’” (“‘White women’ book that calls all white women racist is a manipulative sham” by Rikki Schlott, Opinion, *New York Post*, October 4, 2022.)

♦ “Well, uh, first thing of all ya know, when someone starts out a statement by saying, ‘Look, I’m no bigot,’ they’re probably going to end up saying something bigoted.” (Arslan Iftikhar, civil-rights attorney, about NPR’s firing of journalist Juan Williams. “Shop Talk”: Was NPR Right To Oust Juan Williams? NPR, Tell Me More, October 22, 2010.)

♦ “The term ‘racist’ has become utterly meaningless—a big yawn and a shoulder shrug—nobody cares but the NPC class...” (A online commenter about an unusual case where a drunk white military hero allegedly called a hotel guard the N-word. It later came out that the guard was a *white* man. To which one commenter replied, “Big deal. Changes nothing. Voicing a slur is still an awful thing to do.” To which another commenter replied, “Always, always have race hoax on your bingo card.” And yet another commenter replied, “Oops! Al Sharpton just had to turn his private jet around.” The “NPC” in the original post probably stands for “nonplayer character.” It refers to video games.)

♦ “How soon before breathing is racist? Seems that today everything is racist in some people’s minds. The term has completely lost its meaning which is a shame as true racism is truly evil and statements like ‘swimming is racist’ dilute the impact of the word ‘racism.’” (A commenter about the article “Fetterman’s Wife Calls Swimming in America ‘Very Racist’” by Ari Blaff, *National Review*, October 27, 2022. At Yahoo. Another commenter on the same article posted: “Swimming is racist. Bridges are racist. Wanting secure borders is racist. Wanting murderers to stay in prison is racist...”)

♦ “She began to do the Lakota shawl dance...” (SuAnne Big Crow, responding to prejudiced chants from an opposing non-Indian team at the beginning of a high-school basketball game. Her performance won over the prejudiced fans, who ended up applauding her.)

### \*\*\* presentism

♦ “sorry, henry david Thoreau—ya (sic) cancelled” (Gerry Canavan of Marquette University, Wisconsin. According to a ratemyprofessors comment, “His Afrofuturism class is uber-interesting and a piece of cake...”)

♦ “John James Audubon’s racism is the albatross rotting around the necks of those who would hold him in reverence. It is past smelling foul and beginning to reek.” (“What Do We Do About John James Audubon?” by J. Drew Lanham. Which begs the question, “What Do We Do About J. Drew Lanham?” The answer: give him a Macarthur

Genius Award. See the Wikipedia article “J. Drew Lanham.” “This article may be in need of reorganization to comply with Wikipedia’s layout guidelines.”)

♦ “I don’t get it. (Dumfounded.) Yes, I do get it. (Exasperated.) Part of social justice under this idea of being offended is that you prove you’re a good person by sticking your middle finger up at very dead people in order to show that you disagree with their views.” (The linguist John McWhorter about the renaming of campus buildings. “John McWhorter: Pitfalls in the Policing of Language—YouTube.” Watch and listen to: [youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Fer2yb5qgWE) )

♦ “A label printed on the interior of the pocket declares: ‘the only kind made by White Labor’—a racially-charged [sic] slogan used by the company during a time of pervasive anti-Chinese discrimination in the US, the Wall Street Journal reported.” (“Levi’s jeans from 1880s with racist slogan sold at auction for \$76K” by Snezana Farberov, *New York Post*, Oct. 13, 2022.)

♦ the norms of society 100 years ago should NOT be held to today’s standards /// We can’t condemn our ancestors for doing what was considered the way of life in the past /// How is this any different than saying “support black businesses” /// that label was printed almost 150 years ago, it’s a pair of jeans for crying out loud /// And today our government tells us don’t buy Chinese, how things have changed (sarcasm) /// the liberal media goes out of its way to make EVERYTHING about race /// Please, the virtue signalling is really getting out of hand these days /// Yes, racist stuff happened, it was a different time, we learn from it, and we move on /// anyone faint after reading that ‘vile racist label,’ BTW, Chinese isn’t a race /// this obsession with race is more racist than the jeans label /// does anyone see the irony in this ‘auctioning off racist pants’ /// So the ‘very woke’ Levi’s company is the racist in the room, too funny... (Online commenters about the article “Levi’s jeans from 1880s with racist slogan sold at auction for \$76K” by Snezana Farberov, *New York Post*, Oct. 13, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “*Prejudiced* was once, after all, the word of choice for racist bias. *Racist* only took over starting in about 1970, with a major uptick after 1980... / *Sexist* replaced *chauvinist* around the same time *racist* did *prejudiced*, and for the same reason—potent terms need refreshment, especially when heavily used. This is why, more and more, *white supremacy* is easing out *racism*. It was only a matter of time, and dictionaries should be on notice.” (“The Definition of Racism Has to Change” by John McWhorter, *The Atlantic*, June 22, 2020.)

♦ “Just to clarify a bit and to state it plainly. White folks, conservatives included, are afraid of being called racist by African-Americans.” (Jack Tchen, who created NYU’s A/P/A Studies program and co-founded the Museum of Chinese America.)

♦ “Identity politics are at the root of the problem. No one wants to be called sexist or anti-LGBQ+ or some other ‘ist.’ But what is really unbearable is to be called racist. If a Harvard student—or teacher—thinks there is an chance of being called racist, he or she will clam up... [I]n recent years, the term ‘racist’ has become a cudgel and a smear, especially amplified on the internet.” (Evan Thomas ’73. From Letters, *Harvard Magazine*, March-April, 2024.)

♦ “Even white supremacists don’t want to be called racist.” (“‘Not Racist’ Is Not Enough: Putting In The Work To Be Anti-Racist” by Eric Deggans, NPR, Life Kit, August 25, 2020.)

♦ “The word racist has been thrown around left and right and is meaningless.” (An online commenter.)

♦ “To a racism hammer, everything is a racist nail.”

♦ In the 1930s, 40s and 50s, a person would be smeared as a “communist” or “homosexual.”

♦ Bias; bigot; prejudice; animus... (Less emotional words than racist or hate. In almost every case, no matter what a person’s prejudices are, an American will help out another person in trouble, or extend a simple courtesy.)

♦ BIGOT, n. One who is obstinately and zealously attached to an opinion that you do not entertain.” (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ PREJUDICE, n. A vagrant opinion without visible means of support. (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## radar (on the radar)

on the radar

he has long been ~ of groups following hate groups

on their radar

he had been ~ for a long time (trafficker)

on our radar

he came ~ when we were looking through footage (riot)

on anyone's radar

it's not really ~ (Pakistan's contribution to warming)

on the (UVA threat assessment) team's radar

he also was ~ (murdered three football players)

on the radar of law enforcement or the school

the teen had never been ~ (a school shooter)

♦ "I'm on the radar for the first time in my whole life, and it's weird."  
(The 35 y.o. heartthrob actor Glenn Powell.)

## radar (below / under the radar)

under the (cultural) radar

men-only clubs operating for decades ~

flew under the radar

he ~, at large and unidentified (Golden State Killer)

flown under the (awards) radar

the film has mostly ~ (Academy Award nominee)

passed under the (educational) radar

the NCSS standards ~ completely unnoticed (education)

went below the radar

it really ~ (a piece of news)

work below the radar

they work best when they ~ (ICRC / POWs)

keep him under the radar

we are trying to ~, out of the spotlight (troubled athlete)

♦ "She's operated in a really average way, but being average has allowed her to go under the radar. And it's allowed her to operate in plain sight." (A police official, about Nurse Lucy Letby.)

## radar (drop off the radar)

dropped off the radar

several of the men have "~" (terrorists)

## radar (under the radar screen)

under the radar screen

girls' aggression often passes ~ (school bullying)

well under the radar screen

flying ~ was a move by Congress to...

passes under the radar screen

girls' aggression often ~

## radar (radar screen)

radar screen

I want this on everybody's ~ (kids need more sleep)

films like "Good Will Hunting" put him on our ~s

Hollywood's radar screen

he popped onto ~ two years ago with...

national radar screen

he disappeared from the ~ 4 years ago (a coach)

blip on the radar screen

Ecstasy is no longer a ~ (the club scene)

fell off the radar screen

both men ~ (terrorists)

disappeared from the (national) radar screen

he ~ 4 years ago (a coach)

popped onto (Hollywood's) radar screen

he ~ two years ago with...

put him on our radar screens

films like "Good Will Hunting" ~ (an actor)

radar screen went dark

then the ~ where Heinrich was concerned (child murder)

## radar (other)

Bear-dar

the ~ is being field tested in Churchill (Canada)

gaydar

~: supposed ability to recognize a person is gay

have (really good) radar

I ~, it was no accident (a perceived slight)

♦ "I'm surprised this is on here lol." (BenjaminUnfried, 30 May 2011, who looked up "gaydar" at the Merriam-Webster site, in the "What made you look up this word?" section.)

♦ "Can you tell us a little more about this Bear-dar, like, how does it work?" (Ayesha Rascoe of NPR wants to know! From "Bear-dar" might help humans keep their distance from Polar Bears," NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, May 1, 2022.)

## radioactive (adjective)

radioactive

he is only 24, yet he's currently ~ (troubled athlete)

the politics of the issue were ~ (immigration)

radioactive in the Arab world

NATO is ~ and seen as a tool of US imperialism

radioactive for them

Democrats have decided the issue is ~ (gun control)

radioactive words

the play contains ~ (relating to race, sexual identity)

became radioactive

reporting on it soon ~ (at NPR / National Public Radio)

find me radioactive

his friends began to ~ (an investigative reporter)

## radius

blast radius

see *blast radius* (noun)

## raft (amount)

raft of (op-ed) articles  
a ~ debated the issue

raft of books  
there have been a ~ about the case

raft of shell companies  
he set up a ~

raft of new measures  
he announced a ~ (to fight COVID)

raft of (technical) problems  
engineers encountered a ~ during development (Nauka)

raft of research  
there has been a ~ lately that...

## rage (verb)

raging in New York City  
the epidemic is ~

raging in the Philippines, France, Brazil  
the virus is still ~...

raging through this country  
Omicron is running wild in Australia, it's ~

debate rages  
police officers become candidates as policing ~

fighting rages  
~ as Taliban attack key Afghan city

## rage (all the rage, etc. / enthusiasm)

all the rage  
this year, AI agents that do errands for you are ~

become all the rage  
Paris danced the Mazurka, which had ~

♦ "This year, AI agents that do errands for you are all the rage."  
(2024. Rabbit RI, etc.)

♦ "Doing the Donald is all the rage." (Athletes celebrate Donald Trump's victory. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## rage (black rage, feminine rage, etc.)

rage-cleans  
Jane spot-cleans, area-cleans, ~, and nurses the baby...

rage sex  
break up sex, miss you sex, ~, the list goes on and on  
~ is a thing, yes it is...

Rage Baking  
~ (see the quote below)

rage giving  
'~' has dropped off (donations to pro-abortion groups)

rage, sex and honesty  
*Exile in Guyville* was wrought with ~ (Liz Phair)

black rage

the optics of ~ (versus respectability politics / NPR)  
~ eats away at them...

female rage  
I was seething with ~ (manspreading on plane)

feminist rage  
Le Tigre's ~ has always been fun (the band)

*Mom Rage*  
~: *The Everyday Crisis of Modern Motherhood* (2003)

*Eloquent Rage*  
~: *A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* (book)

feminine rage  
Olivia Rodrigo put her own ~ on display ("good4u")

worry, rage, fear, or guilt  
it's not irrational to be full of ~ (climate despair)

Day of Rage  
US police on high alert as Hamas calls for '~'

market for (feminine) rage  
people felt that there was no ~, but...

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "He half joked that he loved to hate-read the magazine."

♦ "Black anger, black rage, black distress over injustice..." ("When Civility Is Used As A Cudgel Against People Of Color" by Karen Grigsby Bates, NPR, Code Switch, March 14, 2019.)

♦ "Riots, rebellions, uprisings, this is a visceral expression of rage and frustration. People are on the streets, and they're angry, and they have a right to be angry." (Heard on NPR.)

♦ "US police on high alert as Hamas calls for 'Day of Rage.'"  
(Following the Hamas attack on Israel from Gaza in October, 2023.)

♦ "Respectability politics never actually liberated the oppressed. Whether you're a creative or an audience member, power can be had in reclaiming the stereotypes that challenge your very existence." (From "Queer villains, erotic noir, 90s pulp. 'Basic Instinct' and the backlash, rewound," NPR, Pop Culture happy Hour, Nov. 13, 2022.)

♦ "Vengeance means fighting back with vehemence. We are fighting against false narratives, criminalization, and eradication of our existence." The Trans Radical Activist Network—TRAN—about the Trans Day of Vengeance Protest in Washington, D.C.)

♦ "Nyanzi practices what scholars have called 'radical rudeness...'" (The Wikipedia article "Stella Nyanzi.")

♦ "THIS IS FEMALE RAGE." (A sign held by a young female supporter of Gisele Pelicot.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "rage" bandwagon...

♦ "Even in Hawaii, Mazie Hirono is viewed as the quote 'good girl' of politics, polite, never in-your-face, not a boat-rocker. But in the last year and a half, as one Hawaii columnist put it, she's become quote, 'a badass.' / 'I always was. I just wasn't very noisy about it. I've been a fighter all my life. I just don't look like that.'" ("The Quiet Rage Of Mazie Hirono" by Nina Totenberg, NPR, Morning Edition, June 7, 2018. "Quiet rage.")

♦ "The interesting thing about [Brian De Palma's 1976 film] *Carrie* is that it is so much about the power of this girl and her discovery of this power that comes out as rage." (NPR culture critic Linda Holmes.)

♦ "Rage sex is a thing, yes it is."

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* by Brittney Cooper.

♦ *Rage Baking: The Transformative Power of Flour, Fury, and Women's Voices.* (A book by Kathy Gunst and Katherine Alford.)

♦ *Women Are Angry: Why Your Rage is Hiding and How to Let it Out* by Jennifer Cox.

♦ "I think people felt that there was no market for feminine rage, and trauma and all that sort of stuff. But then #MeToo happened, and obviously, that was something that people actually were interested in." (The director Andrew Dominik, speaking about his film *Blonde*, which was widely panned by the critics and ignored by the public. From "'Blonde' director says the unhappiness of Marilyn Monroe should come as no surprise," NPR, All Things Considered, September 29, 2022.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "The Mother Trap: Everyone's talking about 'mom rage,' but what is it?" by Merve Emre, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023.)

♦ OLD: anger, frustration, aggrievement... / NEW: rage...

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Respectability politics."

♦ The Wiktionary entry for "rage" has a nice list at "derived terms." Wiktionary is wonderful.

## rage (road rage, etc.)

air rage

"~" is making the skies unfriendly...

pronoun rage

history is dotted with eruptions of ~ (Geoff Nunberg)

road rage

teenager's death puts spotlight on ~

tipping rage

"Got ~?" (NPR's Stacey Vanek Smith / tiplflation)

toy rage

"~" was rife (fights at stores over Teletubbies / 1997)

youth sports rage

now there's ~ (father killed at son's hockey practice)

rural rage

dealing with '~' is like fighting terrorism (a progressive)

♦ "You've heard of road rage and air rage. Well now there's youth sports rage. Last week in Massachusetts, a father of three was killed at his son's hockey practice during a confrontation with another parent." ("Violence In Kids Sports," NPR, Talk Of The Nation, July 18, 2000.)

♦ "Can Rage Hotlines Prevent Some Mass Shootings? Researchers Study The Idea" by Eric Westervelt, NPR, National, July 8, 2021.

♦ "The 'anti-mask meltdown' has become its own video genre."

♦ "Linguistic history is dotted with eruptions of pronoun rage." ("Opinion: Even A Grammar Geezer Like Me Can Get Used To Gender Neutral Pronouns" by Geoff Nunberg, Fresh Air, NPR, August 6, 2019.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The Wiktionary entry for "rage" has a nice list at "derived terms." Wiktionary is wonderful.

## ragged (adjective)

ragged (red) beard

he had a shaved head and a ~

ragged roadscape

a ~ of motels, franchises and big box stores...

ragged, sensitive, elemental

Joplin's voice—a ~ howl...

battered and ragged

the ships left gleaming and laden and returned ~

## raging (adjective)

raging forest fire

for the first time in my life I beheld a ~ (V.K. Arseniev)

## raggs-to-riches

raggs-to-riches backstory

his ~, his unvarnished authenticity (boxer Gervonta Davis)

raggs-to-riches journey

he had a ~

raggs-to-riches story

his ~ is amazing, but his practices are Machiavellian  
the film is a Dickensian ~

♦ "Boxing has a long history of raggs-to-riches success stories."

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The flip side of raggs to riches is riches to raggs.

## rail (verb)

railed against the government's trade policies

he ~

## rail (off the rails)

off the rails

it seems like he is ~ (behavior of celebrity)  
things were going ~ (at NPR / Trump coverage)

off-the-rails speech

everyone is talking about his ~

go off the rails

they will not let things ~ (two politicians)

gone off the rails

science has ~, gone astray, many times

veer off the rails

the segment continued to ~ when McAfee... (sports radio)

went off the rails

he ~ after moving to the big city (Brazil)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. "When I was a teenager, I had a friend who went off the rails. I said to him, 'Thomas... [Laughter from audience at this reference to Thomas the Tank Engine.] We love you, don't do that again! [laughter]. He was chuffed! [Laughter. "Chuffed" means *delighted* and *chuff* is also the sound a steam engine makes.] (BBC's Milton Jones. "When life's road is beyond repair, Milton can sort it out.")

\*\*\* **the great 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*...**

♦ [Mr. Webb]: Well, she's late. Reckon she might've jumped the tracks. / [Loretta Lynn]: Oh, Daddy, them things [trains] don't do that. Do they? / [Mr. Webb, grimly]: They've been known to. (From the great 1980 film, *Coal Miner's Daughter*. Sissy Spacek played Loretta Lynn.)

## rail (third rail)

third rail of politics

social security reform is the ~

third rail of (American) politics



this issue was once considered ~ (gun control)

third rail of (Indian) politics  
agricultural reform has long been the ~ (avoided)

third rail on this show  
so why is race such a ~ (the Bachelor)

third rail in (American) politics  
B.D.S. is a ~ (boycott, divestment and sanctions / Israel)

third-rail issue  
this is one of those ~s (criticism of Israel)  
there are certain topics that are ~s (China and Hong Kong)  
this was a ~ that the governor didn't want to touch (guns)

avoid this third rail  
sports pundits ~ (trans athletes in women's sports)

embraced the third rail  
he has ~ of Republican politics (pro-immigration)

touched the third rail  
Kanye ~ of public life and discourse (antisemitism)

♦ "Kanye touched the 'third rail' of public life and discourse in America." (A commenter about the article, "Kanye West Claims He's 'Been Beat to a Pulp' Over Losing Brand Deals, Wants to 'Do Better'" by Miranda Siwak, Oct. 29, 2022. Kanye West was accused of anti-Semitism.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There are certain topics that are third-rail issues in certain countries, societies and communities. Supporting a separatist movement in a Chinese territory is one of those third-rail issues, not only for the Chinese government, but also for all citizens in China." (Brooklyn Nets owner Joe Tsai, about comments made by the general manager of the Houston Rockets about China and Hong Kong. The general meaning of the phrase is "untouchable.")

## railroad (noun)

underground railroad  
see *underground railroad*

## railroad (verb)

railroad the sick into giving up  
the healthy could ~ (assisted suicide)

railroaded him into seeking  
he claimed the university had ~ publicity (cold fusion)

railroad innocent folks  
the judicial system can ~

## railroaded

railroaded  
he was ~, chosen to be the scapegoat (wrongly convicted)

got railroaded  
people say they think he ~ (victim of #MeToo movement)

## rain (amount and effect)

rained on (northern) Israel  
Hezbollah rockets ~

rained debris for (more than) 10 miles

the explosion ~ (2 trains collide)

raining mud and ash  
it is now ~ (eruption of volcano on Rabaul)

rockets rained  
Hezbollah ~ on northern Israel

## rain (rain down)

rained down  
more than a hundred cruise missiles ~ (Libya)

rain down missiles on Israel  
they could ~

rained down on her  
boos ~ (an athlete)

cables (of congratulations began to) rain down  
the ~ (Amundsen reaches the South Pole)

embers rained down  
~ on a nearby highway (California wildfire)

## rainbow (searching and discovery)

end of the rainbow  
Chile, to me, is the ~ (Bill Sharp / surfing)

follow every rainbow  
~, 'till you find your dream (song)

### \*\*\* rainbow hunting...

♦ Rainbows occur when it is raining while the sun is shining. To see a rainbow, turn your back to the sun. Look at your shadow on the ground. From the shadow of your head (the antisolar point), measure 42 degrees upwards, or about four fist widths with your arm held straight out in front of you, as if you were holding a stick in your fist vertically. There you may see the top of the rainbow. The sun must be less than 42 degrees above the horizon, so that you will never see a rainbow at noon on a summer day in the US, when the sun is high in the sky. At 51 degrees, you may see a second rainbow above the primary rainbow. Like so many things, this is tedious to explain but easy to do.

## rainbow (color)

rainbow sheen  
material or ~ on water (pollution incident)

## rainbow (rainbow trout, etc.)

rainbow trout  
~ are predators

## rainbow (Rainbow Falls, etc.)

Rainbow  
~ is a populated place in California

Rainbow Arch  
~ is an arch in Illinois

Rainbow Bank  
~ is a bar in North Carolina

Rainbow Basin  
~ is a basin in California

Rainbow Bay  
~ is a bay in Oregon



Rainbow Bend

~ is a bend in Wisconsin

Rainbow Branch

~ is a stream in Kentucky

Rainbow Canyon

~ is a valley in Wyoming

Rainbow Creek

~ is a stream in Montana

Rainbow Cut

~ is a gap in Colorado

Rainbow Falls

~ is on the Wailuku river in Hilo, Hawaii

~ is a waterfall in Wisconsin

Rainbow Gap

~ is a gap in North Carolina

Rainbow Glacier

~ is a glacier in Washington

Rainbow Gulch

~ is a valley in Idaho

Rainbow Island

~ is an island in Minnesota

Rainbow Lake

~ is a reservoir in North Carolina

Rainbow Mountain

~ is a summit in California

Rainbow Peak

~ is a summit in Montana

Rainbow Point

~ is a cape in California

Rainbow Rapids

~ are rapids in Wisconsin

Rainbow Ridge

~ is a ridge in Alabama

Rainbow Rock

~ is a summit in Oregon

Rainbow Spring

~ is a spring in Tennessee

Rainbow Valley

~ is a valley in Wisconsin

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Many falls around the world are named Rainbow Falls. This is often because, when the light is right, you can see a rainbow, or even a moonbow on full-moon nights, in the mist at the bottom of the falls.

♦ There are many Rainbow Creeks, and some of them no doubt are named so because they contain rainbow trout. There are many Rainbow Falls. And there are many Rainbow Lakes, perhaps because one's view of the firmament is relatively unobstructed when you are in a boat in the middle of a lake, as opposed to being in a car in the middle of the city. In other words, you're likely to notice a rainbow at the lake.

## rainbow (mixture)

rainbow mix

a ~ of Creole, Garifuna, Mestizo, Spanish, Maya (Belize)

rainbow tribe

they are a ~, black, Asian, white, biracial (kids at a pool)

rainbow nation

what Trinidadians call their "~"

## rainbow (groups)

rainbow of gender identities

the ~ (the linguist Geoff Nunberg)

Rainbow Coalition

the ~ is his personal fiefdom (Jesse Jackson)

rainbow flag

holding a ~

an arsonist set a ~ on fire outside the restaurant in Soho

Rainbow Laces

he is part of the ~ campaign (Jordan Henderson, soccer)

Rainbow Runway

celebrate Pride month with looks hot off the GMA ~

rainbow ("Girl Power") T-shirt

the toddler wore a ~ and blew kisses to us

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The rainbow of non-binary and non-conforming gender identities..." ("Opinion: Even A Grammar Geezer Like Me Can Get Used To Gender Neutral Pronouns" by Geoff Nunberg, Fresh Air, NPR, August 6, 2019.)

♦ "We had just had a bit of a pause as we have seen someone run on to the pitch holding a rainbow flag." (The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The incident occurred during the Portugal-Uruguay game.)

♦ "Some protesters in the anti-Israeli group held up a rainbow flag with the words 'no pride in genocide' painted on it." ("Hundreds of anti-Israel protesters bring Philly gay pride parade to a halt.")

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Check out picks straight off our Rainbow Runway below, including tube socks, a romper and a classic jersey shirt. By clicking on these shopping links, visitors will leave Goodmorningamerica.com. These e-commerce sites are operated under different terms and privacy policies than Goodmorningamerica.com. ABC will receive a commission for purchases made through these links. Prices may change from the date of publication." ("Celebrate Pride month with looks hot off the 'GMA' 'Rainbow Runway,' GMA Team, June 23, 2022.)

## rainforest (rainforests of the sea, etc.)

rainforests of the sea

coral reefs are often called the ~

## rainforest (society is a rainforest)

rainforest

community theater is (like) a ~

♦ "[Community theater is like a rainforest]. And if one species is wiped out, it threatens the whole thing." (Versus competition, which would "kill everything," according to Sarah Bellamy.)

## rainmaker (person)

lead rainmaker

the congresswoman's chief of staff and ~ has resigned

### \*\*\* prayers for rain...

♦ "RIYADH: Muslims across Saudi Arabia performed the Istisqa (rain-seeking) prayer in accordance with the Prophetic Sunnah during drought, praying to Allah Almighty for rainfall. / King Salman urged the people throughout the Kingdom to perform the Istisqa prayer on Thursday, the Royal Court said in a statement..." ("Prayers for rain performed across Saudi Arabia," *Arab News*, 03 January 2020.)

♦ "Last year, religious leaders, including Khoisan leader Ockert Lewies, pictured, gathered at the bottom of Table Mountain to pray for rain." ("Icebergs and empty pools: Five things Cape Town's Day Zero taught us" by Flora Drury, BBC, 12 May 2018.)

♦ "We sincerely hope and pray rains are bountiful this year and crops do not suffer." (Palaniappan Chidambaram, India's finance minister.)

♦ "The Hopi believe that when they die, they bring snow and moisture back to the people. So the snow is fitting." (Vanessa Charles, commenting on the death of Lori Piestewa, killed in action in Iraq, and a rare April snowfall.)

♦ "Orthodox worshippers in Serbia have prayed for rain in order to end a weeks-long drought that has ruined crops and caused forest fires. / In a call issued on Friday, Bishop Milutin of Valjevo... urged his congregation to repent of their sins and pray for rain. / 'Many have asked why the Lord has allowed such a misfortune to descend on the land. Why such a punishment? Clearly, the cause of such misfortune is human sin and lack of care for the natural order of things.'" ("Drought-hit Serbian town of Valjevo prays for rain," BBC, 26 August 2012.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A rainmaker is a lawyer or salesman who makes a lot of money for the company, or a person who can ensure progress and success.

## raise (attention)

raises

the other question it ~is...

raise awareness

the women will use the Olympic platform to ~  
(basketball)

raised (a number of ) issues

we both ~ (diplomacy)

raised objections

they have ~

raises the question

it ~, how can...

raised a (fundamental) question

his firing ~

raised more questions

the few details have ~ (a quadruple murder)

## raise (feeling)

raised our spirits

she really ~

## raise (your image, etc.)

raise your image

raise your pants, ~, stop the sag (a billboard)  
it you don't ~, people look down on you

## raised (reared)

raised to be

I was ~ a good Christian

conceived, born and raised

*Nature* was ~ to serve polemic purpose (the magazine)

## rake (destroy)

raking the coast

the hurricane is ~

## rake in (verb)

rake in big money

lobbyists can ~ (government)

raked in more than \$100 million

their business model has ~ (Somali pirates)

## rake up (verb)

raking up some horrible memories

we are ~ (a crime podcast)

## rally (verb)

rallied around her

her fans ~ (controversy)

rally round the flag

see *flag* (*rally around the flag*)

rallying around their nominee

they are ~, falling in line (Trump)

rallied around the reporting

fellow reporters have ~

rallied behind him

conservatives have ~ (a minister in trouble)

rallied public sympathies around her

a new documentary has ~ (#FreeBritney)

rally their faithful

they climbed the stage to ~ (conservatives / politics)

rallied the troops

she ~ (an executive of troubled company)

rallying their troops

conservative luminaries are ~ (against Obama / politics)

## ramp (on ramp and off ramp, etc.)

exit ramp

Trump provided the ~ (that Biden followed / Afghan war)

off-ramp

he may want an ~ to back off and try later (confrontation)

on-ramp to misinformation and extremism

talk radio is the ~

diplomatic "off-ramp"

there appears to be no easy ~ in this crisis

visible off-ramp

is there a ~, to get Putin to back down (NPR)

offramps and onramps

we need ~ for when conditions change (mask wearing)

accept this off-ramp

he is willing to ~ that Iran is offering (diplomacy)

block whatever off-ramp

you don't want to ~ is available to him (confrontation)

hopes he has an off ramp

the world ~ and de-escalates this crisis (nuclear war)

looking for an off-ramp

he is ~ (de-escalation of a crisis)

offers (both sides) an off-ramp

the attack ~ (de-escalation of crisis)

♦ "Maybe there is just a bit of desire to find a way out of this, and an offramp..." (A BBC commentator about a threatened UK rail strike.)

## rampart (protection)

rampart against militancy

France relied on Ben Ali as a ~

ramparts of flesh and blood

they were living ~ against barbarity (the Kurds)

## rampart (Upper Ramparts, etc.)

Rampart Creek

~ is a stream in Wyoming

Rampart Gorge

~ is a valley in Alaska

Rampart Hills

~ is a summit in Colorado

Rampart Lake

~ is a lake in Washington

Rampart Mountain

~ is a summit in New York

Rampart Pass

~ is a gap in Wyoming

Rampart Peak

~ is a summit in Wyoming

Rampart Range

~ is a range in Colorado

Rampart Ridge

~ is a ridge in Washington

Wasatch Rampart

the ~ is a cliff in Utah

Upper Ramparts

the ~ is a canyon on the Porcupine River (Yukon)

## rampart (resemblance)

ramparts of the Hindu Kush

the Wakhan Corridor is cut off by the ~

## ramp up (verb)

ramping up our efforts

we are ~ (diplomacy)

ramp up production

Toyota to ~ after cutbacks due to pandemic

companies ~ of rapid COVID tests

ramp up (COVID-19) testing

the US wants to ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It feels like stupidly has ramped up to a level previously unreachable..."

## ranch (enterprise)

dude ranch

~s are still popular (an experience of the West)

surf ranch

yes, there really is a ~ (surfer Kelly Slater's)

♦ see also *farm* (enterprise)

## rancid (adjective)

rancid (political) environment

we're now in a ~ (the U.S.)

## rando (person)

rando

and any other ~ with an iPhone can, like, send you a picture

a ~ who tried to fat-shame a barista

~ has an edge of exclusion to it...

those ~s we call 'the voters' (politics)

rando pundit

some ~ I heard on NPR...

Rando (Freshman) Roommate

"In Praise of the ~" by Jesse Singal, *New York Magazine*

♦ "Yeah, you have to have an iPhone to do it... Like, if you're in a public space and you have your AirDrop turned on, any other rando with an iPhone can like, send you a photo, or a gift, or whatever. It's kind of awesome but kind of scary (upspeak). Uhh, it's really scary to me, I have mine turned off all the time... The kids are using AirDrop to just like drop memes and stuff on anyone around them, but there's also like this dark underbelly to the AirDrop where like a lot of folks on the New York subway will get AirDrops, pictures of... bodies." (Tony Romm, Washington Post tech reporter, referring to dirty pictures and sexting. From "Weekly Wrap: Government Takes On Big Tech, What 'Intersectionality' Means, RIP iTunes," NPR, It's Been A Minute, June 7, 2019.)

♦ "The subgenre of TikToks called TraumaTok, where we sort of normalize posting extremely traumatic events... No need for rollercoasters now when we can cry, laugh and angry [sic] in 15 seconds. While it's good to express yourself, be vulnerable at times, it's starting to desensitize ourselves to emotions that should be kept private or within a small group of friends, and not shared with randoms." (The TikToker Edvasian, 880K.)

♦ "Neck tattoo guy catches him outside and beats him savagely leaving Jules naked, bloody, traumatized..." (Bob Mondello's review of the 2024 film *Femme* on NPR, All Things Considered.)

♦ "But why did Joe (Biden) go? He never said. Actually, he made it clear that he thought his magnificent record in office 'merited a second term.' If that was true, why not put it to the test, allowing those randos we call 'the voters' to decide?" ("Accidental rise of a Kamala Harris is a symptom of an unserious age" by Martin Gurri, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Aug. 5, 2024. At the 2024 DNC, Kamala Harris said "In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man.")

♦ "Having my mind open to the world all the time. I'm just fascinated by stuff that happens around me. I like people, which is becoming

increasingly unfashionable. I love being around new people..." (The writer Richard Osman.)

♦ OLD: stranger... / NEW: rando...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Rando" has a Merriam-Webster entry—first known use 2003. The Wiktionary entry is excellent. Wiktionary is wonderful. No entry in Wikipedia, yet.

♦ "'Rando' has an edge of exclusion to it." (POV.)

♦ "Some alternative types use "human" in a strange and unusual way, as in, "I find that humans are very interesting." (POV.)

♦ A "rando" or "a random" as a person and "randomness" very much relate to Gen Z, Millennials, and the technology they grew up on. On TikTok, everyone is a rando...

♦ "In the old days, people might think of and address others as brothers, fellow human beings, fellow Americans, citizens, comrades, native sons, friends, children of God, etc. Nowadays, Millennials and Gen-Zers live in a universe of "randos."

♦ "[A]ll the men ever born are also my brothers..." (The American poet Walt Whitman, 1819-1892.)

## random (society)

random (Southern) chick

a ~ (Hawk Tuah Girl)

random man

a ~ punched her in the head (New York City)

random name

a profile under a ~ (an unfavorable online review)

random passersby

we were called names by ~ on the street (Jews)

random (third-party) person

I hope you don't vote for some ~ (John Fetterman)

random roomie

a ~ can widen your worldview (college)

random (college) sophomore

because no one really visited the home page of a ~

random words

stringing seemingly ~ together (psychosis)

random and mean

many TikTok users disagreed with her "~" analysis

random, unquenchable

I was struck by the ~ nature of Maher's anger (NPR CEO)

Club Random

his podcast ~ (the comedian Bill Maher)

at random

the gunmen opened fire ~

it was literally just ~ (man pushed person in from of train)

being launched into the stratosphere, seemingly ~ (virality)

♦ "Want To Widen Your Worldview? A Random Roomie Helps" with Melissa Block and Jesse Singal, NPR, All Things Considered, August 28, 2014. It is an excellent interview. The best place to widen your worldview is to join any branch of the military. Unfortunately, most college students would not consider such a thing.

♦ "Building a career the old-fashioned way—slow and steady—is not glamorous, but being launched into the stratosphere seemingly at random, with no personal or professional infrastructure in place to support sudden fame, tends to leave musicians stricken, if not traumatized." (Virality. From "Offline: Lizzy McAlpine on the power and pitfalls of viral fame" by Amanda Petrusich, The New Yorker, June 24, 2024.)

♦ "A random Southern chick..." (Hawk Tuah Girl. See "Why Is Everybody Talking About the Hawk Tuah Girl?" by Tomas Mier, *Rolling Stone*, June 25, 2024.)

♦ "I swear, the afterlife is so random." (Stupid dialogue from the 2024 film *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Maybe talk to someone in person, or seek professional help, instead of looking for validation from random strangers. Everyone loves attention to a degree. But the people you dump your extreme feelings onto, especially randoms who have never asked, they reserve the right to say, [The Michael Jordan meme "don't do drugs"] 'Stop it. Get some help.'" (The TikTok Edvasian, 880K.)

♦ "One common sign of psychosis is disorganization. To us, on the outside, it can look like someone talking fast, getting lost in tangents, or even just stringing seemingly random words together." (Breaks from reality.)

♦ "This review is so wrong and misleading and meant to personally attack someone, it's made from a profile made just for this with one review under a random name. In this day in [sic] age anyone can go online and say just about anything they want, this allegation in not true and truly ridiculous..." (A response to an unfavorable review.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ To the young, who spend hours a day on TikTok, reality is now random...

## randomly (society)

randomly murdered

Hamas stormed the Jewish state and ~ nearly 1,200 people

randomly punched

"Women on TikTok Say They were ~ in New York City"

randomly got her into modeling

we ~ (the parents of a "kidfluencer")

essentially randomly

an evil advisor to the King, who ~ gets upset...

just very randomly

we ~ had a still carousel post go viral on Instagram

♦ "There is an evil advisor to the King, who essentially randomly gets upset at the Jews for no good reason..." (Aaron Koller at New York City's Yeshiva University, explaining Purim.)

♦ "We just very randomly had a still carousel post go viral on Instagram—it was a roundup of micro shorts that attracted a lot of comments." (Hot pants, daisy dukes...)

## rank (close ranks)

close ranks

when cops are attacked, they often ~

the natural tendency for the Arab world is to ~

closed ranks around him

in the past they have always ~ (politics)

close ranks behind him

will the party ~ (politics)

close ranks with Obama

her concession and her call to ~ (politics)

close ranks, (they) circle the wagons  
the groups ~ (bands, sororities, fraternities / hazing)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "For over an hour the battle raged along the mile-long front with neither side yielding. As men fell others took their places and closed ranks." (The Second Battle of Manassas, August 29-30, 1862. From *Colonel John Pelham: Lee's Boy Artillerist* by William Woods Hassler. The U.S. Civil War.)

## rank (break ranks)

break ranks  
some Democrats will ~

broke ranks  
she ~ and told Americans... (pandemic)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "As though by mutual agreement both sides ceased firing at nine o'clock. Neither side had yielded an inch, but both had lost heavily. The 'Stonewall' Brigade alone lost a third of its roster together with five officers, and the Iron Brigade suffered 750 casualties out of 2,000 who had answered the roll that morning. Burying parties found the dead lying in parallel lines where they had fallen without breaking ranks." (The Second Battle of Manassas, August 29-30, 1862. From *Colonel John Pelham: Lee's Boy Artillerist* by William Woods Hassler. The U.S. Civil War.)

♦ There was an all-pervasive stench of putrefaction and millions of fat blowflies filled the air. Even Junger, normally so cool, was shaken by what he saw. 'The ploughed-up battlefield was a scene of horror. The dead lay there among the living defenders. When we dug bunkers we saw how the dead lay in layers one above the other. One company after another had been mown down as they made a stand shoulder to shoulder under the drum fire; then their corpses had been buried under the tons of earth hurled up by the projectiles and new men had taken the place of the fallen.'" (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

## rank-and-file (adjective)

rank-and-file rebels  
she has secured her nominations after negotiations with ~ (politics)

## rape (verb)

raping me all over again  
I felt like the system was ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "*Rapture* and *rape* both mean 'overcome,' 'carried away' and derive from the Latin *rapio* which also means 'to carry off,' and usually by force..." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## rape (noun)

rape of (Indonesia's) forests  
the devastating ~

journalistic rape  
Herridge accused CBS of "~" for seizing her files  
when my records were seized I felt it was a ~ (Herridge)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "*Rapture* and *rape* both mean 'overcome,' 'carried away' and derive from the Latin *rapio* which also means 'to carry off,' and usually by force..." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 6, "Sources of Words of Attitudes and Emotions.")

## rapier (noun)

rapier thrust

there is a ~ to Solskjaer's side (BBC hype)

## raptor (Raptor Technologies, etc.)

Raptor Technologies  
~ supplied the alert system (Uvalde school shooting)

## rash (affliction)

rash of (home) burglaries  
concern about a ~

rash of cases  
a ~ occurred in Puerto Rico (early puberty)

rash of clashes  
a recent ~ between bikers (motorcycle gangs)

rash of crime  
gun sales are up after a ~s  
there has been a ~s against women  
Academy officials have no explanation for the ~

rash of drownings  
the ~ has tourism officials on the spot (Florida)

rash of abductions and murders  
the impression of a ~ of children

rash of accidents and near misses  
a ~ had spooked the sailors of the 7th Fleet

recent rash  
the ~ of cybervandalism

## rash (road rash, etc.)

river rash  
it's just ~ (scratches on used kayak)

road rash  
he proudly showed off his ~ (skateboarder)

♦ "I don't have health insurance so I just taped it up." (Kayaking enthusiast, on how he treated a gash in his right eyebrow after a run on the Green River south of Asheville, North Carolina. "No brain, no pain, no problem!")

♦ "It's not broken, it's good." (A moaning Czech Republic guide incapacitated and on his butt after a tower jump.)

## rash (hasty)

rash decision  
he made a ~ (short of money, he shoplifted)

## Rashomon (point of view)

Rashomon effect  
the ~ refers to conflicting eye-witness accounts of an event

"Rashomon effect"  
the unreliability of witnesses is referred to as the ~

Rashomon moment meeting a Rorschach test  
this was a ~ (3-group confrontation on D.C. Mall)

♦ The film *The Last Duel* highlights, "The truth according to X."

♦ "People saw different things." (Televised hearings.)

♦ A group of Kentucky teenagers, a Native American, and black Hebrew Israelites all met by accident on the National Mall in

Washington, DC. Read “Viral standoff between a tribal elder and a high schooler is more complicated than it first seemed” by Michael E. Miller, *The Washington Post*, Jan 22, 2019. Or the Wikipedia article “2019 Lincoln Memorial confrontation.”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the 1950 film by Akira Kurosawa, four people give radically different versions about how a man ended up dead. In the film, everyone lies, and there is the sense no one will ever know the full truth.

## Rasputin (epithet)

called him “Rasputin”

Milley ~ (government)

likened to Rasputin

Biden’s inner circle shrinks to two men, with one ~

♦ “The desire on the part of Trump and his loyalists to utilize the Insurrection Act was unabating. Stephen Miller, the Trump adviser whom Milley is said to have called ‘Rasputin,’ was vociferous on this point. Less than a week after George Floyd was murdered, Miller told Trump in an Oval Office meeting, ‘Mr. President, they are burning America down. Antifa, Black Lives Matter—they’re burning it down. You have an insurrection on your hands. Barbarians are at the gate.’ / According to Woodward and Costa in *Peril*, Milley responded, ‘Shut the fuck up, Steve.’ Then he turned to Trump. ‘Mr. President, they are not burning it down.’” (“The Patriot” by Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Atlantic*, November 2023.)

♦ see also *Lady Macbeth (epithet)*, *Machiavelli (Trump’s Machiavelli, etc.)*, *Svengali (allusion)*

## rat (lab rat, etc.)

gym rat

he’s a ~

he was the quintessential ~ (Larry Bird / basketball)

lab rat

if you weren’t such a ~, you would know that

mall rat

my brother is a ~

pack rat

I’m a bit of a ~ (hoarder)

river rat

~s (kayakers, rafters) versus the locals

he has been a ~ since the age of 14 (raft guide)

"snow rat"

he was a ~ from childhood (a snowboarder)

## rat (cornered rat, etc.)

cornered rat

‘The Butcher of Khan Younis’ is hiding like a ~

trapped rat

the defender of an urban area is a ~ (MOUT)

♦ “Sinwar has likely *scurried* (italics mine) back to Khan Younis in the north of the Gaza Strip... [Colin] Clarke said the only way for Israel to locate him is...getting someone on the inside to rat him out.” (“The Butcher of Khan Younis,’ hiding like a ‘cornered rat’ in Gaza’s Hamas tunnels.” The Israel-Hamas war.)

## rat (tunnel rat / military)

tunnel rat

~s went in with only a pistol and flashlight (Vietnam War)

## Tunnel Rats

*Tunnels of Cu Chi: A harrowing Account of America’s ~*

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “No one was there. Strange. I had seen the firing. We would have noticed anyone leaving the thicket. / Beck found two spider holes close to the forward edge of the thicket, partially covered by debris. Each opening was smaller than a basketball rim, barely large enough for a man to squeeze out. A cool, earthy smell emanated from them. / ‘Are the VC at the bottom of these holes, or do these go back to some room or tunnel?’ I asked Bratcher as Wooley came up. / I sent men out to the front as security and looked back at the spider holes. Spencer stuck a long bamboo pole down one. It hit bottom after about five feet and then, when Spencer pushed, it went down another four feet. We shined a flashlight down the holes. Both holes curved out of sight to our front. / Yelling ‘Fire in the hole,’ we threw in grenades and ducked behind trees. The explosions were muffled and only a small amount of dust came out and blew away. We walked carefully back to the holes and looked down. I said, ‘Damn. We either send someone down or we leave and keep on toward our TAOR.’ / Wooley told me to send someone down. I called one of the Puerto Ricans, PFC Fernandez-Lopez, the smallest man in the platoon...” (*Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of the Vietnam War* by James E. Parker Jr. “Cu Chi was not friendly.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “You cannot catch rats without going into the sewers.” (A spy for Britain.)

♦ see the Wikipedia article “Cu Chi tunnels.”

## rat (betray)

ratted him out

his personal chef ~

♦ “Sinwar has likely *scurried* (italics mine) back to Khan Younis in the north of the Gaza Strip... [Colin] Clarke said the only way for Israel to locate him is...getting someone on the inside to rat him out.” (“The Butcher of Khan Younis,’ hiding like a ‘cornered rat’ in Gaza’s Hamas tunnels.”)

## rat (a snitch)

rat

the other inmates think he’s a ~, an informant

♦ “He turned on Crooked Joe like the rats they both are.” (Donald Trump about George Clooney, after Clooney urged Biden to step down just weeks after Clooney had co-hosted a fundraiser for Biden that brought in \$30 million.)

## rat (smell a rat)

smell a rat

I ~ (something suspicious)

I don’t know what went on, but I know enough to ~

♦ I smell a rat; I don’t buy it; a “version” of events... (Incredulity.)

## rat (sinking ship)

rat off the ship

when you’re a ~, and you leave early (Miami Heat fans)

## rat race

rat race

deep into the ~, far from the finish line of retirement

admissions rat race

it helps in the ~ if you founded a company in high school

corporate rat race

many women drop out of the ~ (competition, etc.)

competitive, driven, rat-race



it's a very ~ culture

drop out of the (corporate) rat race

many women ~ (competition, etc.)

♦ "I get away from all that rat-race noise down in the street." (Carole King, "Up On the Roof.")

♦ In China, 996 refers to working from 9am to 9pm, six days a week.

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "A rat in a cage pushes a lever so much because it's in a cage. It doesn't have anything else to do." (Adrian Hon, author of *You've Been Played*.)

♦ The Rat Race is for Rats! (A bumper sticker.)

♦ Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat. (A bumper sticker.)

## ratchet up (verb)

ratcheted up its criticism

the State Department has ~ of China on this issue

ratchets up the pressure

this ~ on him (athlete receives sports award)

his arrest ~

ratcheted up the pressure

he has ~ on foreign oil companies

ratcheted up its rhetoric

Iran has ~ too

ratcheted up his (anti-American) rhetoric

he has ~

tensions ratchet up

before a deployment, ~ (military families)

\*\*\* **A ratchet is a tool...**

♦ A ratchet is a tool that can be used to tighten cables or metal strips. The pawl of the ratchet, which looks like a Toucan's beak, prevents slippage backwards. Deckhands on riverboats use ratchets to tighten cables that hold the barges together. Warehouse workers often use a ratchet to securely bundle together trash-compacted material, which is then taken away by a forklift.

## rattle (disrupt)

rattled some people

I ~ (female CEO and former athlete)

rattle someone's cage

see *cage* (*rattle a cage*)

rattled neighbors and allies

the conflict has ~ (within a royal family)

## rattled (feeling)

rattled

the city is ~ (a series of murders)

## rave (verb)

raved about her (smoky gray) eyes

*Multichannel News* ~

## rave (rave review, etc.)

rave reviews

her album came out to ~ (Lizzo)

## ravenous (adjective)

ravenous for success

he is ~

intellectually ravenous

he was ~ (an academic)

## ravenously

ravenously followed

the media ~ the story

## raw (emotions, etc.)

raw

her emotions are still ~

the emotions are ~ (Netherlands crash out at Euro 2020)

emotions were ~, tears flowed (tribute for victims)

emotions are ~, and that's fine (but...)

raw nerve

(see *raw nerve*)

still raw

the war wounds are ~ (between Japan and its neighbors)

rubbed raw

she was ~ emotionally (newspaper advice columnist)

the battle ~ the country's divides (political, social, etc.)

remain raw

emotions ~

## raw (raw recruit, etc.)

raw novice

how much work it takes to become a ~ (boxing)

## raw (unrefined, etc.)

raw data

the NSA wanted to gobble up as much ~ as it could

raw opium

Kandahar is a key transit point for ~

## raw nerve (feeling)

raw nerve in Haiti

the incident struck a ~ (foreign adoptions)

raw nerve among Democrats

her epic fail is still a ~ (Hillary Clinton)

Russian raw nerve

the German report hit a ~ (about Battle of Kursk)

on the raw nerve

it pressed directly ~ of English society (class anxiety)

struck a raw nerve

the incident ~ in Haiti (foreign adoptions)

touched a raw nerve

her comments ~ in this country (Israel)

the withdrawal touched a ~ (troops give up area)

## ray (ray of hope, etc.)

ray of hope  
looking for a ~

## razor (razor-thin, razor thin)

razor-thin majority  
he is caving to the heard right despite his ~ (politics)

razor-thin margin  
the election was decided by a ~

## reach (secure)

reached an agreement  
Democrats said they had ~ with the White House

reach your conclusion  
how did you ~

## reach (a number)

reached number one  
his song ~ in the charts

reached 72 mph  
gusts ~ (windy weather)

reached an unprecedented high  
suicide rates have ~

reached a 9-year high  
stabblings have ~

## reach (reach an answer, etc.)

reach your answer  
how did you ~

reached its conclusion  
on 22 May the trial ~

reach our opinions  
most of us don't ~ by calibration of empirical evidence

## reach (a place on a journey)

reached its lowest ebb  
morale had ~ when... (military)

reached an impasse  
we have ~ in the negotiations

reached a point  
we have almost ~ of no return  
we've ~ where it's too commonplace (violence)

reached a crisis point  
we have ~ in education funding

reached its lowest point  
her life ~ one morning in a gutter

reached (one of) its most crucial stages  
350 million years ago, evolution ~ (life moves to land)

## reach (the news reached him, etc.)

reached him

sadly, the good news never ~

♦ "It's a lot of things that went on in the South that never reached the papers, no one wants to talk about it, but they happened, these things happened." (Patsy Rembert about her artist husband's autobiography, *Chasing Me To My Grave*.)

♦ The February 1779 death of Captain Cook, killed by natives on a beach in Kealahakua Bay, Hawaii, during his third Pacific voyage, took over a year to reach London.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad news travels fast!

## reach (beyond reach)

beyond our reach  
what was once in our grasp is now ~

## reach (within reach)

within reach  
the president has declared world peace ~

## reach (extent and scope)

global reach  
our local touch with our ~ (L.A. Times)

gang's reach  
the ~ extends across America

reach was extended  
the paper's ~ by Pullman porters (*Chicago Defender*)

## reach out (verb)

reached out to people  
he has ~ who have been looked over (a fashion designer)

reached out to families  
she ~ from the neighborhood (school needs students)

reaches out to his rivals  
he ~ (politician)

reach out to students  
universities ~ from all walks of life

reach out to those  
it is not unusual for the Amish to ~ who hurt them

reach out to us  
we hope he will ~ (cops seek contact with criminal)

reach out to (minority ethnic ) youth  
the government has failed to ~ (France)

reach out to non-Muslims  
~ and educate people about Islam

♦ "Maybe it's their way of you know 'reaching out,' as the Americans say..."

♦ OLD: thank you for contacting us about our mistake... / NEW: thank you for reaching out to us...

## read (read a mind)

read his mind  
while it's impossible to ~... (a politician)

read my mind  
you ~...

## read (read something into something)

read too much into it

don't ~

there's no need to ~

read anything into that

but I really would beg you not to ~

## read (analyze)

read between the lines

they fail to listen, observe and ~

~ and you can see...

you have to ~ to understand...

read clues

the FBI's failure to properly ~ available before 9/11

read a map

I can't ~ to save my life

read your (electric) meter

how to ~ (utility brochure)

read my mind

see *read* (*read a mind*)

read the (blocking) schemes

they know how to ~ (football players)

reading the skies

as long as people have walked the earth, they have been ~

read the signs

if you can't ~, you won't survive (the taigá)

reads the signs

he ~ like a map ("Shadow Wolves" tracker)

read the sky

they pride themselves on their ability to ~ (hunters)

read a (financial) statement

she learned how to ~

read the weather, wind, sun, stars

a sailor must be able to ~ (sailing)

hard to read

Ohio is ~ (elections)

♦ "You are not reading between the lines. He..." (And online commenter about a celebrity's mysterious and undisclosed "illness.")

♦ "The governor is going to read the political tea leaves and make a decision."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can also read, try to read, or misread a person's face (expression), a situation, etc.

## read (the sign read don't enter, etc.)

altimeter read

my ~ 27,500 feet (Mount Everest)

banners read

huge ~ "*Allez les Bleus*" (World Cup soccer)

card read

his business ~ "Any kinds of Ladies' Tailor and Skin, etc."

decal (on the door) read

a ~ "In the name of Allah we enter..."

label reads

the ~, "Made in England"

map reads

"These islands are rich," the ~

poster read

the ~, "You're Not Good Enough To Be A Marine"

radar read

the ~ 31,500, 25,400, and 18,300 (diving plane)

sign read

a hand-painted ~, "God Bless America"

watch read

my ~ 1:17 P.M. (at the top of Mount Everest)

## reality (real, truth, lies, facts, etc.)

\*\*\* fact

fact

it's true even though it's not all ~ (a playwright)

the ~s are clear, we will take our seat at the table (queers)

fact that

the ~... (AOC / politics)

fact-checking

~ is a scheme to launder left-wing messaging

post-fact

Biden's has also been a ~ presidency

settled fact

~ (what you think and I don't)

alternative facts

~ (culture wars)

universes of facts

it's like two different ~ (beliefs about vaccines)

version of the facts

our network is about the best ~ (David Zaslav / CNN)

recited as fact

it was ~ (war propaganda)

\*\*\* lie

lie

the ~s we tell ourselves...

Noble Lie

Fauci admitted he had told a ~

~s are a trap, and loss of trust is devastating

white lie

everyone tells little ~s

truth and lies

policing ~ online is really fraught these days (NPR)

\*\*\* real

real

this is just more proof that climate change is ~  
climate grief is ~  
the phenomenon of ecological grief is ~  
the term black erasure is ~ and not an exaggeration  
election anxiety is ~  
eyebrow blindness is so ~ (TikTok claim)  
inequality in dating is ~ (Wailin Wong)

Real

“Election Grief Is ~” (*Scientific American*)

real doctor

is he a ~ (lawyer, “expert,” NPR pundit, etc.)

REAL FAKE

~ (CISA graphic novel /cisa.gov)

real life

but for me, it’s my ~  
but forget football right now, this is ~  
~ isn’t a game

real-life

my ~ experiences are rare (Diane Keaton on *The View*)

real story

the ~ behind...

real time

a war happening in ~ on social media (Ukraine)

real thing

it’s definitely a ~ and not just something on TikTok

so real

eyebrow blindness is ~ (TikTok claim)

in real life

~ (IRL / texting)  
we were able to talk to him directly ~ (*Washington Post*)

in the real world

I’m glad I grew up ~ (a commenter about incels)

in the so-called real world

~ (?)

performative and real

his all-night presence was both ~ (Elon Musk at Canaveral)

\*\*\* reality

reality

perception is ~ (politics)  
how real is ‘~’ (reality TV shows, etc.)

Reality Defender

Ben Colman, ~ Co-Founder and CEO (deepfake detection)

reality TV

~ shows (participants’ complicity, etc.)

augmented reality

we’ll manipulate objects using ~ (AR)

hyperreality

the realm that the postmodernists call ~

virtual reality

we’ll explore ~ (VR) worlds

virtual and augmented reality

many companies have made significant investments in ~

AR and VR

~ will change how we express our identities (fashion)

in reality

this was called a vigil but ~ it was a protest (South Korea)

view of reality

everyone has their own sources and ~ (an NPR host)

\*\*\* truth

truth

the ~ can’t yet be known and probably never will be

truth decay

~ and trust decay...  
~, we don’t have to tell the truth, the truth doesn’t matter

actual truth

emotional truth, not the ~ (the comic Hassan Minhaj)

emotional truth

~, not the actual truth (the comic Hassan Minhaj)

whole truth

‘take in the ~’ when weighing Israel’s war against Hamas  
to solve the problem, you have to take in the ~ (Obama)

wrong truth

say the ~ and you will get punished (academia)

elusiveness of truth

the messy complexity of human behavior and the ~

tell the truth

if you’re going to speak truth to power, at least ~

\*\*\* “Life is but a joke...” / “Life is a ‘nar-ra-tive,’ old chum...”

♦ “Don’t expect much truth in the telling here, but do expect some over-the-top fun.” (David Bianculli, from “Never mind that it’s not factual, this Weird Al biopic parody is very, very funny,” NPR, Fresh Air, November 3, 2022.)

♦ “This whole story is completely true. Except for all of the parts that are totally made up.” (Netflix.)

♦ “‘Bros’ Flopped, But Did It Fail?” (The 2022 film *Bros*, described as a gay romcom. Its marketing roll-out was budgeted higher than the production of the film.)

♦ “It’s not what you say—it’s how it’s interpreted.” (A Lucasfilm media trainer about what an actor can and cannot say on social media.)

♦ “It’s all true even though it’s not all fact.” (A playwright.)

♦ “When I tell people I was born in a tobacco field, I’m only exaggerating, like, a *tiny* bit.” (An activist.)

♦ “It turns out that a lot of the stories that former Daily Show correspondent and Patriot Act host Hassan Minhaj has told in his standup comedy acts, stories from his lived experience as an Asian-American and a Muslim, never actually happened, at least not to him. He told *The New Yorker* those stories are the emotional truth, not the actual truth...” (“Comedians may exaggerate for a punchline. When is that not OK?” with Leila Fadel, NPR, Morning Edition, Sept 22, 2023.)

♦ “I’m just messin’ wit ‘cha, man”; irony; mockery; sarcasm; shitposting; LULZ; 4-Chan; 8-Chan; trolling; catfishing; swatting; queerbaiting; vishing; 1 Hacker Way; “Here’s to the Crazy Ones”; “Mission Accomplished”; the Affordable Care Act; QAnon; the okay sign with the fingers...

♦ “There are many here among us / who feel that life is but a joke. / But you and I, we’ve been through that / and this is not our fate. / So let us stop talking falsely now / the hour’s getting late.” (The Jimmy Hendrix Experience, *All Along The Watchtower*.)

### \*\*\* Life is a film (script, podcast)

♦ “This sounds like a horror movie.” (A comment about “2022 University of Idaho killings.”)

♦ “It sounds like a heist movie.” (Sam Briger on *Fresh Air* interviewing a writer who wrote a non-fiction account about a historical event.)

♦ “Never would you think that you could see, physically see, the Key Bridge tumble down like that. It looked like something out of an action movie.” (Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, about the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge into the Patapsco River after it had been hit by a container ship.)

♦ “A manhunt is on in the U.K. for a terror suspect whose cinematic prison break has captivated the country.” (“A U.K. soldier accused of terrorism escaped prison strapped under a truck” by Lauren Frayer, *All Things Considered*, Sept. 8, 2023. “Cinematic”? “Captivated”? “Lauren Frayer”? “NPR”?)

♦ “It’s what you do in video games, you don’t do it in real life.” (A sports pundit on NPR about Shohei Otani, who pitches and hits well in real life.)

♦ “I like that *Star Wars* reference there to describe the political landscape.” (Political punditry by NPR’s Leila Fadel.)

♦ “He was born into a plotline in a soap opera watched by the whole planet.” (The comedian Laura Lexx about Prince Harry. Her comment ended up being quite sympathetic to Harry, an Iraq War veteran.)

♦ “It’s like its own little reality show. To each his own.” (An ex-NBA player about the latest NBA sex scandal.)

♦ “The ‘screenlife’ category in which everything plays out on computer screens.” (Films. One example is the “screenlife thriller” *Searching* by Anesh Chaganty.)

♦ “WILDEST APPLAUSE to all of you for your unwavering dedication to getting justice for...” (A tweet with a gif of people in a concert venue giving a standing ovation.)

♦ “The Coyote was given the nickname ‘Wile E.’ after the Warner Brothers character.” (A coyote that strayed into a California school.)

♦ “This is an American crime story that follows what sadly feels like a familiar script. Woman goes missing, husband gets in front of a camera, makes an emotional plea for her return, and that husband is arrested for her murder. This has now happened in the case of...” (“Husband of missing Colorado mom arrested nearly one year after her disappearance,” ABC.)

♦ “The same formula again and again. I want to post pictures of myself in bathing suits. When I get criticized I’ll say I want to do it for others and for body positivity. When I get criticized for that, I will show sadness that the world doesn’t support mental health and I’m a victim, and finally I’ll get praised for being so brave for living my own truth.” (Bob Loblaw. A BBC HYS comment about “SI Swim model Natalie Mariduena wants to ‘be an example’ of ‘body normalcy’” by Stephanie Nolasco, August 20, 2022.)

♦ “We both in different worlds needed redemption over the same issue. You know, when I look in the mirror I gotta look at the man who let his wife get murdered. You know, at some point, I needed redemption. I needed to be rebuilt into something I could live with. You know, and I see Jeremy in the same light, you know in a different frame, a different story line. You know, he’s the, he’s the, one who put all this into play, you know, he’s the one who’s holding the knife. And so he needs his own redemption. You know what? I thank God for that. I thank God for that because without that I don’t think we ever get to the bottom of it. And very few people know the truth. You know, now there’s a bigger story to tell. Where it goes from here, we’ll see (guitar music).” (Leo Schofield about Jeremy Scott from the podcast *Bone Valley*, “Chapter 9 | Coming Clean.” Does it sound like a Hollywood pitch written by a film-school graduate? You be the judge.)

♦ “He did reference the movies and it’s not hard to understand why. I mean, *Star Wars* was always a fairytale for children, and fairytales

are morality tales, of good versus evil, where good is clearly defined, evil is clearly defined, and it’s not hard to extrapolate an evil empire with Russia invading a sovereign nation. So...” (“Mark Hamill on speaking to Zelensky about *Star Wars*,” BBC News, Entertainment & Arts. Sean Penn actually lent one of his best actor Academy Award trophies to Zelensky.)

♦ “This isn’t how the movie is supposed to end, you know the good guys are always supposed to ride off into the sunset.”

### \*\*\* Life isn’t a film (script, podcast)

♦ “DART, as we call it, it felt like a movie plot. But this was not Hollywood.” (NASA Administrator Bill Nelson about “Humanity’s first planetary defense test.”)

♦ “Not all heroes wear capes, and Chris definitely was a hero to this community. He just didn’t have a cape.” (The cousin of a police officer killed in the line of duty.)

♦ “But forget football right now, this is real life, and real life isn’t a game. So we’re hoping the best for everyone involved.” (A *New York Post* video about an NFL quarterback and his divorce.)

♦ “This is not a podcast for me, this is real life.” (The brother of murdered Hae Min Lee.)

♦ “This isn’t some new season of *Happy Valley* or *Prime Suspect*, these are real people with real lives, a real family that is hurting.” (The online commenter Julia Hartley-Brewer about the “Death of Nicola Bulley.”)

♦ “When classes started, Tahiry found herself struggling to connect with the other students. They came from ‘different worlds,’ she said. It was a complaint I heard from many of the Afghan women, at several schools. Some told me that American students took no interest in them; others said that American students took too much interest in them, and they were tired of explaining what was happening back in Afghanistan. ‘It’s just like a movie for them,’ one woman who ended up at Cornell, who asked not to be named for privacy reasons, told me. ‘People here are always watching dramas and everything.’ She added, ‘But for me, it’s my real life.’” (“Students In A Strange Land” by Maddy Crowell, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 14, 2022.)

♦ “Note how many pundits have dismissed well-documented tragedies—children massacred at school, families separated by a callous state—as the work of ‘crisis actors.’ In a functioning society, ‘I’m a real person’ goes without saying. In ours, it is a desperate plea.” (We’re Already In The Metaverse: Reality is blurred. Boredom is intolerable. And everything is entertainment” by Megan Garber, *The Atlantic*, March, 2023.)

### \*\*\* MSM

♦ “Some researchers say that ‘peak phosphorus,’ the point at which the amount of phosphorus being pulled from the ground starts to decline, could be reached within the next decade. Others maintain that the time frame is more like centuries.” (“Elemental Need: Phosphorus helped save our way of life—and now threatens to end it” by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023.)

♦ “Severe flooding in Italy kills 2; drought persists,” *The Associated Press*, May 3, 2023. (Flood. Drought. Pushing the climate-change angle, much? Or, “Sea turtle nests break records on US beaches, but global warming threatens survival.” Mmmm...)

♦ “The snowstorm comes amidst an ongoing what they call ‘snow drought.’” (An overheated female weather forecaster about a spring snowstorm in Minnesota following a winter with low winter snow totals. Wikipedia doesn’t have an entry for “snow drought.” Again, the idea of global warming...)

♦ “They aren’t trying to tell the truth, they’re trying to sell newspapers and feed the click machine.” (LSU coach Kim Mulkey about the *Washington Post*’s Kent Babb.)

♦ NPR’s Michel Martin: Does the ICRC have a realistic hope of being able to visit the hostages being held in Gaza? / Crystal A. Wells: (Seventy words later.) Now, in terms of your question... (Crystal never does answer the question, and her credentials seem a bit suspect. More and more, NPR reporting follows this script. And the “experts” will be diverse.)

♦ “And we avoid the trap that befalls much US media—the tendency, born of a desire to please all sides, to engage in false equivalence in the name of neutrality. While fairness guides everything we do, we know there is a right and a wrong position in the fight against racism and for reproductive justice.” (*The Guardian*. Practically hidden

nowadays behind the subscription / pop-up / please donate / advertising wall.)

♦ "Critics say he falsely gives weight to both sides of the issue..."

♦ "When I read this I really didn't actually believe it, we weren't going to go to air with this story till we'd actually spoken to KFC, and they explained what happened. They have something called an "automatic content generator." And this is attached to a calendar, it detects anniversaries, and then links them to a product, and churns out a promotion. Now, it is supposed to be checked by a human being..." (Europe Regional Editor Paul Moss on the BBC Global News Podcast, 11 Nov 2022, about a "Treat yourself to more cheese on your tender chicken now at K-F-Cheese" promotion to commemorate Kristallnacht!)

♦ "MSN, Microsoft's in-house news aggregation site, sparked outrage after it published an artificial intelligence-powered obituary of former NBA player Brandon Hunter which referred to him in the headline as 'useless'... The news story that MSN published about Hunter's death bore a headline which read: 'Brandon Hunter useless at 42.'" Much of the story was linguistic "word salad," or gibberish. Commenters were outraged. One posted, "AI should not be writing obituaries. Pay your damn writers MSN." From "MSN slammed by users after insane AI-powered headline calls deceased ex-NBA pro 'useless,'" by Ariel Zilber, *New York Post*, Tech, Sept. 18, 2023.)

♦ "He 'served the Palmdale and Antelope Valley communities without absolute distinction.'" (ABC News.go, about a murdered sheriff. Without absolute distinction?!)

♦ "CNET, a tech-centric website, has reportedly been using AI to generate content."

♦ "This article may incorporate text from a large language model." (A disclaimer for a Wikipedia article, 2024.)

♦ "He asks we don't use his voice. It's a tense time here and he's worried that clips of his audio might be manipulated to harm him." (Heard on NPR, about the General Manager of Syria's National Airlines.)

♦ "We were the first newsroom to treat internet life as real life." ("A Final Editor's Note" by Karolina Wacławiak, Editor-in-Chief of BuzzFeed News, May 5, 2023.)

♦ "Let's consider (for the moment) the narrative..." (NPR's Mary Louise Kelly.)

♦ "BuzzFeed announced plans to expand its use of ChatGPT in order to create content on its website."

♦ "Opinion: What the Sports Illustrated AI debacle is telling us" by Will Leite, CNN, November 29, 2023. Leite makes many excellent points.

♦ "Editor's Note. Before this article was posted online, a passage in it about the Middle East was updated to address Hamas's attack on Israel, which occurred after the print version of the article went to press." (*Foreign Affairs*, published by the Council on Foreign Relations. The original article—"The Sources of American Power: A Foreign Policy for a Changed World" by National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan—was self-congratulatory and failed to anticipate such an attack: "The Middle East... is quieter than it has been for decades." *Foreign Affairs* was begun on 15 September 1922, and "over its long history, it has published a number of seminal articles," according to its Wikipedia article.)

♦ "Thank you for reaching out to the FSJ. It may not come as a surprise—you were not alone in catching this statement and feeling compelled to write to us. As a result, we have been communicating with the letter's author, and just wanted to make you aware we will be publishing a correction/follow up message in a forthcoming edition for clarity." (Hannah McDaniel, Publications Coordinator, *The Foreign Service Journal*. "Reach out?" "Feel compelled?" There was never any acknowledgement of error / correction. The *online* version was simply rewritten. The print versions will simply...molder. This saves face for all involved.)

♦ "The *Times* declared that the 1619 Project 'aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding'. That bold statement—a declaration of *Times* fact, not opinion, since it came from the newsroom—outraged many Americans who venerated 1776 as the founding. The *Times* later stealthily erased it from the digital version of the project, but was caught doing so by a writer for the publication *Quillette*." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ "Never wrong for long." (Cynical reporters about their mistakes and the news cycle.)

♦ "The earliest known documented outbreak of unexplained livestock deaths occurred in early 1606." (According to the Wikipedia article "Cattle mutilation." Click-bait stories of mysterious unexplained "animal mutilations" continue to the present day, in Texas, in Colorado, in Oregon... Perhaps you've clicked on one.)

♦ "Bedbug scams have proliferated." (Creepy pictures of bedbugs.)

♦ "If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you do, you're misinformed." (This quote is commonly misattributed to Mark Twain, according to *snoopes.com* and the Center for Mark Twain Studies.)

♦ Journalism as a legitimate profession is dead. Its throat was slit on the altar of the attention economy, social media, and capitalism.

♦ see *clickbait (noun)* in this work.

\*\*\* So what is the truth, anyway?

♦ "Is this legal, what Amazon is doing? Lawyers and privacy advocates say it's up for debate."

♦ "It's not a lie if you believe it."

♦ "A lie you accept becomes a lie you forget."

♦ "Just because I lie doesn't mean I'm a liar." ("Matthew McConaughey's book 'Just Because' is judgment-free" by Reena Advani, NPR, Morning Edition, September 12, 2023.)

♦ "But it felt real, and therefore it was real... Stranger rhymed with danger." (The so-called "stranger danger" in the US in the 1980s.)

♦ "At some point perception becomes reality." (Joe Biden is too old to run for re-election.)

♦ "According to her version of events..."

♦ "Wherever the truth lies, she..."

♦ "The truth lies somewhere in between."

♦ "Language models can just wholecloth make things up." (ChatGPT, etc.)

♦ "They are not wholecloth falsehoods [with upspeak] but they reassemble things that are true or close to being true into stories that are just wildly and completely different from what actually happened."

♦ Online commenter #1: MU fans hailed him as the Messiah and because he's spoken the truth all MU fans turned on him. / Online commenter #2: And by truth I'm assuming you mean his version of the truth. (Online commenters about the great soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo.)

♦ "In Mexico it feels like truth exists in a different dimension." ("There are still no answers eight years after 43 students in Mexico went missing" by Eyder Peralta, NPR, All Things Considered, January 17, 2023.)

♦ "The conversation around the case tells its own story about the blurred lines of information, what is known versus what is believed, what qualifies as evidence and how the truth of an incident can be warped by its circumstances." ("Can the Tupac Shakur murder trial salvage any justice from a 27-year-old case" by Sheldon Pearce, NPR, Analysis, Music, Oct 17, 2023.)

♦ "Climate grief is real." "The phenomenon of ecological grief is real." "The term black erasure is real and not an exaggeration" (according to Questlove)." "Rage sex is a thing, yes it is." "The fact that..." (AOC)." "Election anxiety is real." (Assertions like these are becoming more and more all too common in American discourse.)

♦ Misinformation; disinformation; malinformation (it has a Wikipedia article); prebunking ("Google to expand misinformation 'prebunking' in Europe"); truthiness; truthey; post-truth (and post truth); alternative facts; fake news; fake posts; false narratives; phony content; propaganda; untrue information; whataboutery; "leave it to the Times to both sides it"; "false equivalence"...

\*\*\* conspiracy theories, culture wars

♦ "She realized that '9/11 truth' has sunk its hooks into her husband." (Architects & Engineers for 9/11, a controlled demolition by the U.S. government, the 23rd floor, Japanese gold...)

♦ "The 'election was stolen' is not a debatable issue."



- ♦ "The facts are clear, our community is growing, and we will take our seat at the table." (A comment about a poll showing that 21% of Gen Z is LGBTQ.)
- ♦ "Settled fact." (A pronouncement that *you* believe, but / don't.)
- ♦ "Fact-checking is a scheme to launder left-wing messaging." (Chris Rufo.)
- ♦ "Policing truth and lies online is really fraught these days. The political right..." (NPR punditry.)
- ♦ "It's always a conspiracy until it's true."
- ♦ "You mean the conspiracy that turned out to be true?" (An online commenter.)
- ♦ "Only those who live a lie hate the truth." (Dawn Las Quevas-Allen.)
- ♦ "Surely she's been hacked. Those messages don't even read as if they have been created by a human." (An online commenter about Dawn Las Quevas-Allen.)
- ♦ "You can't provide evidence to prove something that doesn't exist never happened." (Conspiracy theories.)
- ♦ "She seems more like she's acting." (An online commenter about a black female teen interviewed after a St. Louis school shooting.)
- ♦ "This thinking [identity politics] appeals not to reason or universal values but to the authority of identity, the 'lived experience' of the oppressed... [This has led some] to believe that words can be a form of violence; to close down a general argument with a personal truth ('You wouldn't understand,' or just 'I'm offended'); to keep your mouth shut when identity disqualified you from speaking." ("School Shouldn't Be A Battlefield" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2022.)
- ♦ "We were left out of these stories." (Carrell Augustus about his photography book *Black Hollywood: Reimagining Iconic Movie Moments*, which replaces white actors and actresses with Black ones or, alternatively, "puts black actors and actresses at the center of some of Hollywood's most iconic movie images.")
- ♦ *Jay Gatsby: A Black Man in Whiteface*. (Janet Savage, 2017.)
- ♦ "People doing so-called crime..." (Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah.)
- ♦ "The White Supremacist Origins of Exercise, and 6 Other Surprising Facts About the History of U.S. Physical Fitness" by Olivia B. Waxman, *Time Magazine*, Dec. 28, 2022. (The author may or may not have written the title.)
- ♦ "It's shocking but not surprising. It is yet more proof that the international climate crisis has been hijacked by the oil and gas industry and that they have been using the climate talks to further their own business interests and..." (Alice Harrison of Global Witness about COP28.)
- ♦ "The state of mind that the Party enforces through terror in 1984, where truth becomes so unstable that it ceases to exist, we now induce in ourselves." ("Doublethink Is Stronger Than Orwell Imagined: What 1984 means today" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, July 2019.)
- ♦ "Basically, say the wrong truth and you will get punished in academia and journalism." (An online commenter, about academic publishing and climate change.)
- ♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Two children, a boy and a girl, are sitting on a mat with their toys: a teddy bear, blocks, a stacking ring, etc. A creepy-looking third child is stalking towards their mat. The first boy is saying to the girl, "He has this crazy conspiracy theory about object permanence." (*The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023.)
- ♦ TRUTH, n. An ingenious compound of desirability and appearance... (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)
- ♦ TRUTH (noncount and count noun): (a) Whatever you can convince yourself of (b) Whatever you can convince others of (c) Whatever you can get away with—"I didn't do nuffin!" (A definition written in the spirit of Ambrose Bierce's *The Devil's Dictionary*.)
- \*\*\* **manipulating reality and making money**
- ♦ "Anthony Bourdain doc director admits to using A.I. to fake voice." (*New York Post*.)
- ♦ "He wants people to know the video is a supercut and doesn't reflect the rest of his live coverage..." (A tweet that went viral.)
- ♦ "Somebody took LeBron James' name, somebody took former president Bush's name onto their accounts and got them verified..." (Twitter.)
- ♦ "Okay, this looks pretty cool but, it just didn't feel like reality, and maybe that is because I know that it's not reality, where I'm like, I, I know that's not how I look in person, I know that's... I'm not even going to try to like that..." ("Luong," a 28-year-old who works in management consulting in Toronto, about TikTok's new beauty filter, Bold Glamour. From "A new AI-powered TikTok filter is sparking concern" by Bobby Allyn, NPR, Technology, All Things Considered, March 8, 2023. "There are concerns the tools promote unrealistic beauty stands and blurs (sic) the lines of reality.")
- ♦ "Creepy new AI animates photos to bring the dead back to life" by Joshua Hawkins, June 8th, 2022. (The app Deep Nostalgia from MyHeritage.)
- ♦ "Introducing The Shotline, a platform where the voices of victims killed by gun violence have been brought back using AI technology. Now those voices can call our representatives against and again in hopes of changing our gun laws. Visit theshotline.org to send a call." (A tweet on X from Change the Ref @ ChangeTheRef, from "Gun violence killed them. Now, their voices will lobby Congress to do more using AI" by Elena Moore, NPR, All Things Considered, updated February 14, 2024.)
- ♦ "This post includes content assisted by AI."
- ♦ "Over time, mistakes in generated data compound and ultimately force models that learn from generated data to misperceive reality even further." (Ilia Shumailov.)
- ♦ Re-enactors; "the age of the edit"; actor portrayals; scripts; deep fakes; CGI; ChatGPT; the Liar's Dividend...
- \*\*\* **The everyday lives of ordinary Americans**
- ♦ how...; why...; who...; what's with...; is...; has...; did...; was...
- ♦ it is possible that...; he could have...; If...; I believe that...; check his grinder account...
- ♦ hmmmm; I'm not saying this is impossible, but...; many questions remain unanswered; I just don't know what to think here; I will refrain from concluding, but...; seems odd; sounds strange to me; seems suspicious; color me dubious; my antenna is up; too many unanswered questions; this whole story makes no sense; it just doesn't add up; there are so many holes in her story; it doesn't pass the smell test; something smells fishy; something stinks; all her attention getting photos are troubling; getting more murky by the minute
- ♦ coincidence, yeah (sarcasm); really? (sarcasm); yeah, right, sure (sarcasm)
- ♦ sorry, I don't believe it; not buying it; bogus; bizarre; fake; hoax, hoax, hoax, hoax!!!!; scam; she is lying; she made this up to get media attention; phony story; fabricated story; she a player; kind of reminds me of [X]; reminds me of the [X] case; [X] case anybody?; remember that great story about the homeless man in Philly who...
- ♦ where's Columbo; does Hillary Clinton have an alibi...; have not had so much fun since the 'boy in the balloon' hoax...
- ♦ "Paid actors, not real clients. Results achieved do not necessarily indicate similar results can be obtained for other clients. Gross recovery amount before fee and cost deductions." (A typical advertisement on YouTube.)
- ♦ The answer to a Google query says the average American sees between 4,000 and 10,000 ads in a single day.
- ♦ "It looks like the results below are changing quickly. If this topic is new, it can sometimes take time for reliable sources to publish information." (The result for a Google search.)
- ♦ "Attention has always been currency, but as we've begun to live our lives increasingly online, it's now the currency." ("I talked to the Cassandra of the Internet Age" by Charlie Warzel, *The New York Times*, Feb. 4, 2021. The attention economy.)
- ♦ "IRL' Author Says It's OK That We're Spending So Much Of Our Lives Online" by Noel King, Ryan Benk, NPR, Author Interviews, Morning Edition, December 7, 2020.
- ♦ "ChatGPT use for wedding vows, eulogies stokes dispute over authenticity." (ABC.)

♦ NOTICE: Important information enclosed. Time sensitive. (Junk mail.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The first casualty of war is the truth."

♦ "When the first detachment of American soldiers was sent to France on transports the troopships went under convoy of cruisers and destroyers. The day they landed in France the newspapers carried a thrilling story... of an attempt by submarines to sink the transports in mid-ocean... It was a splendid story, but there was not a word of it true... Naval officers who had gone over with the transports read it in Parisian newspapers and marveled at the generous gifts of publicity agents..." (*A New American History* by W. E. Woodward.)

♦ "They get awfully sick at the big-print headlines in some of the papers—"The Hill 60 Thrill!" 'Thrill, indeed! There's nothing thrilling about ploughing over parapets into a machinegun, with high explosives bursting round you,—it's merely beastly,' said a boy this evening, who is all over shrapnel splinters." (*Diary of a Nursing Sister on the Western Front: 1914-1915* by Kate (Katherine) Evelyn Luard.)

♦ "Not only did the Belgian baby whose hands had been cut off by the Germans travel through the towns and villages of Great Britain, but it went through Western Europe and America... Everyone wanted to believe the story, and many went so far as to say they had seen the baby..." / [*The Times* Correspondent in Paris reported in an article of August 27, 1914 that] 'One man whom I did not see told an official of the Catholic Society that he had seen with his own eyes German soldiery chop off the arms of a baby which clung to its mother's skirts.' / On September 2, 1914, *The Times* Correspondent quotes French refugees declaring: 'They cut the hands off the little boys so that there shall be no more soldiers for France.' / Babies not only had their hands cut off, but they were impaled on bayonets, and in one case nailed to a door. But everyone will remember the handless Belgian baby. It was loudly spoken of in buses and other public places, had been seen in a hospital, was now in the next parish, etc., and it was paraded, not as an isolated instance of an atrocity, but as a typical instance of a common practice. / In Parliament there was the usual evasion, which suggested the story was true, although the only evidence given was 'seen by witnesses.' / But the most harrowing and artistically dressed version of the handless child story appeared in the *Sunday Chronicle* on May 2, 1915. / 'Some days ago a charitable great lady was visiting a building in Paris where have been housed for several months a number of Belgian refugees. During her visit she noticed a child, a girl of ten, who, though the room was hot rather than otherwise, kept her hands in a pitiful little worn muff. Suddenly the child said to the mother: 'Mamma, please blow my nose for me.' / 'Shocking,' said the charitable lady, half-laughing, half-severe, 'A big girl like you, who can't use her own handkerchief.' / The child said nothing, and the mother spoke in a dull, matter-of-fact tone. 'She has not any hands now, ma'am,' she said. The grand dame looked, shuddered, understood. 'Can it be,' she said, 'that the Germans--?' The mother burst into tears. That was her answer.' / Signor Nitti, who was Italian Prime Minister during the war, states in his memoirs: / 'To bring the truth of the present European crisis home to the world it is necessary to destroy again and again the vicious legends created by war propaganda. During the war France, in common with other Allies, including our own Government in Italy, circulated the most absurd inventions to arouse the fighting spirit of our people. The cruelties attributed to the Germans were such as to curdle our blood. We heard the story of poor little Belgian children whose hands were cut off by the Huns... Mr. Lloyd George and myself, when at the head of the Italian Government, carried on extensive investigations as to the truth of these horrible accusations, some of which, at least, were told specifically as to names and places. Every case investigated proved to be a myth.'" (*Falsehood in War-time: Propaganda Lies of the First World War* by Arthur Ponsonby.)

♦ "The story of babies torn from their incubators was repeated over and over again. President Bush told the story. It was recited as fact in Congressional testimony, on TV and radio talk shows, and the UN Security Council... Following the war, human rights investigators attempted to confirm Nayirah's story and could find no witnesses or other evidence to support it. Amnesty International, which had fallen for the story, was forced to issue an embarrassing retraction." (*The 1991 Gulf War*.)

♦ Joanna Kakissis: [They] were looking for Inna's 8-year-old daughter, Ulya. [Translator: She's very fond of her. She's very smiley. She's a blond-haired girl, so positive.] So the bodies of Ulya's grandmother and father had already been burned so badly that

Oksana said that they looked like coal. As she kept holding out hope that Ulya would somehow be found alive. But when we called her last night, she told us Ulya was dead and that her mother recognized the little earrings and necklace on Ulya's body. / Scott Simon [Emotional]: Oh, my. Bless them all... Any idea why Uman was the target?" ("At least 25 people died from Russian strikes in two Ukrainian cities," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 29, 2023.)

♦ "The BBC hasn't been able to verify the pictures or the authenticity of the documents..." (*The war in Ukraine*. 2023.)

♦ "*Real or not* [italics mine], reported Kremlin drone attack unsettles Russia" by Jim Heintz, Associated Press, May 3, 2023.)

♦ "*The fact* [italics mine] that [the ICJ] said there's a responsibility to prevent it [genocide], *the fact* [italics mine] that his word is even in play, *the fact* [italics mine] that this word is even in our discourse, I think demonstrates the mass inhumanity that Gazans are facing." (Alexandria "The Fact" Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.)

♦ "It's hard to, you know, rationalize that a war is happening and we can see it in real time on social media, everyone commenting on it, everyone speaking about it and actually just talking about it. We don't know what to do." (War in Ukraine. Gen Z. "TikTok is the new Google for Gen Z.")

♦ "Young Ukrainians are spreading joy by organizing cleanup parties." (NPR's Kat Lonsdorf.)

♦ I overtook him, I hit him with a rifle. And he fell down. And I was going to bayonet 'em when he start [pauses to gather himself]... he started calling for his mother. He started going, "Mommy, Mommy, Mommy." I says, uh [in a hard voice] "Why are you calling for your mother?" He says, "I don't want to die." He says, "I want my mommy." I said, "All right, I'll tell you what, I'm gonna make it look like I stabbed ya. [In a firm, clear voice.] Pretend you're dead... when I move away from you." "Okay," he said, "Okay." [Sighing, in a firm voice.] I did it. (Private First Class Ralph Martire—pronounced MAR-tire—after the siege of Bastogne was lifted. The German soldier was a teenage boy. From Oral History Interview with Ralph Martire recorded 2010 Mar. 27, Central Connecticut State University Digital Collections / Veterans History Project. At 30:33 minutes.)

♦ "The question is why. Why did these men fail to fire? As I examined this question and studied the process of killing in combat from the standpoints of a historian, a psychologist, and a soldier, I began to realize that there was one major factor that was missing from the common understanding of killing in combat, a factor that answers this question and more. The missing factor is the simple and demonstrable fact that there is within most men an intense resistance to killing their fellow man. A resistance so strong that, in many circumstances, soldiers on the battlefield will die before they can overcome it." (*On Killing* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman.)

## really (Really!?)

Really?

10 year olds can manage it, but not the grown ups, ~

♦ "10 year olds can manage it, but not the grown ups? Really?" (An online commenter about the soccer rule that says a player must not touch a referee.)

♦ "Democrat-defending journalists have competed with each other as to who can sound the most faux shocked, horrified, appalled, and furrowed-brow-uncomprehending about the physical and mental state of their president. / To which I say, REALLY?" ("The media conspiracy of collusion over Biden's health is a national disgrace" by Piers Morgan, *The New York Post*, July 9, 2024.)

## really (gushing)

really emphasize

we ~ that people should get out (hurricane evacuation)

really really enjoyed

I ~ watching her (a female about a female)

really really exploded

but it has ~ in recent years (heard on NPR)

really, really hoped

I would have ~ that she would...

REEE•lee know  
so, does anyone ~... ("A" Martinez, NPR)

really realize  
I didn't ~ that rabies was still a thing

really shows  
I think that this just ~ how... (Becky Sullivan / NPR)

really really really take to heart  
it's something I ~ (Margrethe Vestager)

really really really wanna go hard  
hey bitch, do you ~ (a song)

really, really wanted to do things  
I ~ that make my heart happy (female athlete)

really really wants to win  
he ~ (political punditry heard on NPR)

really challenging  
it's ~ to do this through social media (controversies)

really, really challenging  
I think it's ~ (Graham Honaker to Ailsa Chang about sports)

REEE•lee, REEE•lee devastating  
this is something that is ~ to fat people (Michael Hobbes)

really really disturbing  
but since we do know what's happening, it's ~...

really really hurting  
a lot of these guys and gals are ~ (clinical social worker)

really really overwhelming  
I mean it was ~ (a female)

REEE•lee, REEE•lee annoyed  
suppose you did something that ~ an old friend

really, really bothered  
it ~ me (Abigail Disney / a Disney labor practice)

really, really pissed  
the people were getting ~ (NPR's Jasmine Garsd)

really really really acidic  
they have a ~ stomach (female veterinarian, about eagles)

really, really bad  
it was ~ (Dawn, a gay student)

REEE•lee, REEE•lee contagious  
the Omicron virus is ~ (NPR's Selena Simmons-Duffin)  
but the thing with measles is that it's ~ (Pien Huang NPR)

really, really cool  
and it's ~ that... (Cari Fletcher, queer)

really, really difficult  
for me, exercising is hard, it's ~ (Salma Hayek)

REEE•lee expensive

this is a ~ rocket (Nell Greenfieldboyce of NPR)

really, really good  
my mother was ~ at helping me (Dawn, a gay student)

really hard  
I went through a ~ time coming out

really really hostile  
they say the bill creates a ~ environment (Trans)

really really hot  
I met someone ~ (*The New Yorker* writer Jennifer Wilson)

really important  
it's ~ to treat ADHD...

really really real  
these forest fires are ~

really REEE•lee rich  
~ customers (Stacey Vanek Smith)

really, really sad  
it was just ~ (Heath Ledger's O.D.)

really serious  
Tori Kelly hospitalized in '~' condition

REEE•lee, REEE•lee small  
the amount of gas is ~ (NPR's Nell Greenfieldboyce)

really really weird  
but there's this second ~ thing...

really, really  
and they did ~ well

really absolutely  
*see absolutely (contempo-speak)*

really actually  
*see actually (contempo-speak)*

really basically  
*see basically (contempo-speak)*

really deeply  
I really ~ wish I had been more responsible (SBF)

really definitely  
*see definitely (contempo-speak)*

really do  
*see do (emphasizer)*

really does  
*see does (emphasizer)*

really feels like  
*see feel like (feels like, felt like)*

really felt like  
*see (feel like (feels like, felt like))*

really just  
*see just (filler)*

really kind of  
see *kind of (contempo-speak)*

really pretty  
see *pretty (contempo-speak)*

really so  
see *so (gushing)*

really sort of  
see *sort of (contempo-speak)*

really totally  
see *totally (contempo-speak)*

really truly  
I think he ~ believes in...

really very  
see *very (contempo-speak)*

absolutely really  
this drawing is ~ important scientifically

actually really  
his job is to ~ stare at octopus (a photographer)  
she was ~ criticized, deeply criticized...  
I was ~ surprised, pleasantly surprised...  
employees ~ honest to God want to be here...  
but it ~ is important to people...  
I was ~ upset... (by the death of Queen Elizabeth II)  
that's why it's ~ hard to...  
I think language is ~ important (actor Zach Woods)  
this is ~ early examples of animal domestication, right?  
I ~ liked being the mansion (The Ranch Hudson Valley)  
for me I ~ looked into the polls... (a UPenn coed)

actually, really  
shaming ~ does some damage and distracts...

actually really, really  
people who were ~ ravaged by the war...  
I'm ~ excited for this election (UPenn coed)

actually really do  
see *do (emphasizer)*

definitely really  
I ~ appreciate what I have, I mean, I just love...  
I was ~ excited  
my parents were ~ nervous about that

did really  
but I ~ like this kind of moody, grown-up drama  
but I ~ enjoy *Starlion: Thieves of the Red Night*  
but he ~ want to do that and...

do really  
and I ~ believe that it all...  
I ~ believe these universal ideas about bonding  
but I ~ believe that politics is changing in that sense...  
I ~ think he's a genius composer

does really  
which ~ suggest this is just reflecting... (COVID punditry)

does really sort of  
see *sort of (contempo-speak)*

I mean, really  
~ I'm doing myself a disservice by...  
~, for this piece I wish it sounded more American

just really  
a story you ~ want to follow...  
we ~ want to live our life as joyously as possible  
that's exactly it, and you've ~ perfectly summed it up  
I was ~ sort of eyebrow raised... (disbelief)  
in a way that's ~ like uhh...  
I thing that ~ shows how... (NPR's Becky Sullivan / sports)

just kind of really  
my mom ~ reiterated how special I was (Dr. Jason Arday)

just kind of really  
and she was ~ positive, kind of like a hippie...

kind of really  
they're not ~ claiming to be traditional...

kinda really  
it ~ depends on my state when...

obviously really  
we are ~ happy as...  
social media has ~ revolutionized MLMs (marketing)  
that promise is ~ attractive to groups who...  
I am ~ concerned if this drags out... (stress)  
it's ~ difficult to...  
she is ~ good at... (an athlete)  
you literally have paralysis and that's ~ dangerous...

so really  
I'm ~ sad and exhausted (female heard on NPR)

surprisingly really  
I actually found it to be ~ (non-binary)

♦ "And you are an archer, Gina Davis, you are really really good at archery." (Rachel Treisman gushing on NPR. Gina Davis seems to take it in stride. I imagine her eyebrow raised.)

♦ Really really difficult; really bad; really hard; really shocked... (NPR's Kat Lonsdorf, reporting on the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza from Tel Aviv.)

♦ "The earth is really really sensitive to changes in the atmosphere. A little bit of extra CO2 traps a lot of heat. What really sticks out is that this number is significantly higher than last year [upspeak on "year"]. It was a really really big jump. So, the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere is actually accelerating." (NPR's Rebecca Hersher from NPR's climate desk.)

♦ "But there's this second really really weird thing that happens... (Geoff Brumfiel, on NPR's science desk.)

♦ "I'm reeeeeeally not liking the medical field these days...sure hope there's some major changes down the road." (A text comment from Kiki\_Bee.)

♦ "It really is definitely a pattern." (An NPR pundit.)

♦ "When Perhaps You Actually Really Can't Handle The Truth," Pop Culture Happy Hour, Linda Holmes, October 31, 2008.

♦ "There are those who think we're together only because of the film. They're wrong. This is a real love story. With AI it's everything, without him it's nothing. We are really, really, really in love,' she stressed, lingering over each 'really.' / ... Pacino's response was a

nervous, positively embarrassed half-smile..." (Marthe Keller, the blond actress, interviewed with Al Pacino. From *Al Pacino: A Life On The Wire* by Andrew Yule.)

♦ "I really really don't like people knowing we're dating... I'm really sorry I'm such a shitty person to date." (Sam Bankman-Fried to Caroline Ellison.)

♦ "I really deeply wish that I had taken like a lot more responsibility..." (Sam Bankman-Fried, during an interview with George Stephanopoulos in November, 2022.)

♦ "If you really really don't like something, you'll tell me." / "Okay."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A marked and extended long e is a feature of "female gushing." Certain types of men, or men who work around women, do it, too.

♦ Type "really really" into search at NPR and you get 7,056 hits and counting...

♦ Type "actually really" into search at NPR and you get 912 results, and counting...

♦ Type in "obviously really" at NPR and you get 49 results and counting.

♦ Linguist John McWhorter's analysis of "really" is interesting, as always. *Really* is "fundamentally emotional" and "personal." He says, "*Really* conveys a hand-on-the-heart testament." "*Really* is about your gut feelings in a way that *very* is much less so." In his FACE typology of MPMs (modal pragmatic markers), he considers it to represent "Factuality: For Real." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 1, "The Faces of English: Words Get Personal," subsection "Factuality: For Real.")

♦ The linguist John McWhorter does not specifically mention "really" being doubled up. But he has a wonderful discussion of exclamation points that perhaps applies. "It is often remarked that people are now using multiple exclamation points in texting, social media, and casual writing... The reason for the proliferation? The potency of the single exclamation point has faded over time..." (*Words on the Move* by John McWhorter, Chapter 3, "When Words Stop Being Words: Where Does Grammar Come From?" subsection "The Signal Fades." It appears that words, letters, punctuation marks, and emojis can all proliferate. "Wayyyyy too blessed for that," etc.)

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchell, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

♦ J-K-L-R speech. ("Just," "kind of," "like," and "really.")

♦ see also gush (verb)

♦ see also *y* (*pulpy*, etc.)

♦ see also *actually* (*contempo-speak*), *basically* (*contempo-speak*), *definitely* (*contempo-speak*), *obviously* (*contempo-speak*)

## realm (area)

### realm of ideas

now that partisanship infects every corner of the ~

### realm of giant peaks

the ~ (Pakistan)

### realms of sci-fi and fantasy

he explored the ~ (Rod Serling)

♦ "Crushing pressure, brutal cold and utter darkness; an epic journey into the unknown; alien worlds; bizarre creatures; extraordinary new behaviours; unendurable pressures; savage hordes of Humboldt squid..." (BBC enters the hype realm for *Blue Planet II*, *The Deep*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Adventure is pushing yourself into unknown realms, not dying just because the pro sucked." (The great climber Todd Skinner.)

## reap (verb)

reaped (vast) sums from (Nigerian) oil

Shell has ~

reap (enormous political) support from the unions  
politicians can ~ (education)

reap their (biggest) profits by selling  
sex traffickers ~ virgins (Asia)

reaping a (bitter) harvest  
teachers are ~ (dislike by public)

reap the (almost immeasurable) rewards  
a few corporations ~ of a vast new world (AI)

reap the whirlwind  
he who sows the wind shall ~ (Bible)

♦ "The Harvard online course catalog has a search box. Type in 'decolonize.' That word...is in the title of seven courses and the descriptions of 18 more." ("Reaping What We Have Taught" by Harvard Professor Harry R. Lewis, Contributing Opinion Writer, *The Harvard Crimson*, January 8, 2024. The campus protests associated with the Israel-Hamas war.)

## reaper (Reaper drone, etc.)

### Reaper drone

a Hellfire missile fired from a ~ killed...

## reappropriate (groups)

### reappropriate it

today's challenge is to ~ (nationalism)

### Reappropriate Pink

"Is It Time to ~?" (Tania Lombrozo / color, not the singer)

### reappropriated words

she ~ from a slut-shaming culture (Megan Thee Stallion)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Jill Lepore opens with a bravura survey of two and a half centuries of American national consciousness. Today's challenge, she argues, is not to resist nationalism but to reappropriate it." (Gideon Rose, Editor, *The New Nationalism*, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2019.)

♦ Reappropriate, an Asian American-centered race and gender blog.

♦ "In a chorus ringing, 'Hands on my knees, shakin' a\*\*', on my thot s\*\*\*', the Houston rapper reappropriated words from a slut-shaming culture that are often used to demonize Black women." ("Megan Thee Stallion, 'Thot S\*\*\*' by Gabrielle Pierre, NPR Music, June 11, 2021.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "'Mama's boy' is a flex, not an insult." (According to NPR's Neda Ulaby. See the Wikipedia article "Neda Ulaby.")

♦ see also *appropriate* (groups / verb), *appropriation* (groups), *coopt* (and *co-opt*), *misappropriate* (groups), *misappropriated*, *misappropriation* (groups, etc.), *reappropriation* (groups), *reclaim* (groups), *reclaimed* (groups), *take back* (take back one's life, etc.)

## reappropriation (groups)

### corporate reappropriation

~, the straight-approved forms of LGBTQ expression

### reappropriation or (perhaps) misappropriation

"Columbusing"—the ~ of African-American culture...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "*Columbusing* is a word that can be used to describe the reappropriation or perhaps misappropriation of African-American culture—for instance, various slang terms that get appropriated by a white mainstream audience. We see that happening quite a lot in

language and culture, so this is a clever and rather sarcastic term for that phenomenon." (Ben Zimmer, language columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*. From "Die-In, Vortex, Selfie Stick: What's The Word Of 2014?" by NPR Staff, Pop Culture, December 28, 2014.)

♦ Watch the YouTube humor video "Columbusing": Discovering Things For White People." It's funny!

♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb)*, *appropriation (groups)*, *coopt (and co-opt)*, *misappropriate (groups)*, *misappropriated*, *misappropriation (groups, etc.)*, *reappropriate (groups)*, *reclaim (groups)*, *reclaimed (groups)*, *take back (take back one's life, etc.)*

## rear (verb)

rearing for a fight

Dees is still ~ (Southern Poverty Law Center)

## reared (raised)

reared on fiascos

young Americans have been ~ (war, recession, etc.)

## rearguard (noun)

rearguard action

he has been fighting a ~ against criticism (politics)

the mainstream Left is fighting a pathetic ~ (government)

rearguard effort

a heroic second-half ~ (Saudi National soccer team)

♦ "One gets the feeling their celebrations will go on long into the night after a heroic second-half rearguard effort." (Andy Cryer, BBC Sport, about Saudi Arabia 2-Argentina 1 at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, 2022. Mashallah! "Raise our Green Flag!")

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ The rearguard action of a group of British soldiers at the village of Khig, following the British disaster in the Battle of Maiwand (27 July 1880) during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, was one of the most courageous last stands in military history. It helped allow the bulk of the British troops to safely withdraw to Kandahar. The only survivor of the last stand was Bobbie, a terrier attached to the Berkshires, who made it all the way back to England. Bobbie visited Queen Victoria, who awarded him with a medal. No doubt Bobbie got treats, too.

## rebel (person)

rebel against political correctness

Trump campaigned as a ~

Rebel Royal

Princess Margaret: ~

rebel (Tory) MPs

~ will fail (against Boris Johnson)

rebel roots

the sport has ~ in southern California (skateboarding)

rebel, tree sister, earth protector

I am a ~ (Extinction Rebellion)

rebel or trailblazer

he was asked if he regarded himself as a ~ (LIV Golf)

outcast Hollywood rebel

he was the ~ (film director Nicholas Ray)

rank-and-file rebels

after negotiations with ~... (politics)

world's oldest rebel

he calls himself the ~ (Harry Leslie Smith)

pop rebel

she plays her part as ~ (Sky Ferreira)

conservative rebels

~ have attacked plans to extend lockdown powers (UK)

scientific rebel

this "~" (J. Craig Venter)

sexual rebel

she was a ~ (the remarkable Rebecca West)

♦ "Here's to the Crazy Ones! / The misfits. / The rebels. / The troublemakers. / The round pegs in the square holes. / The ones who see things differently." (Apple's "Think Different" advertising campaign.)

♦ Move faster, take more risks, break rules, question requirements... (Elon Musk.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "rebel" bandwagon...

♦ "I think we really need to shift our thinking. Rebels are people who break rules that should be broken. They break rules that hold them and others back, and their way of rule breaking is constructive rather than destructive. It creates positive change." (Social scientist Francesca Gino. From "You 2.0: Rebel With A Cause," Shankar Vedantam, NPR, Hidden Brain, August 19, 2019.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ for first-movers, risk-takers, and change-makers, introducing corporate program for startups [americanexpress.com/startups](https://www.americanexpress.com/startups) AM EX Don't do business without it™ (A four-page ad in *Wired* magazine, January, 2020.)

♦ "Delivering for Thinkers, Doers, Movers, Shakers, Groundbreakers, Innovators, Future Makers, Trailblazers, Disruptors, Streamers, Dreamers. (A full-page advertisement in *The Atlantic* for the United States Postal Service. A Black employee with a smile on his face and three boxes in his hands and a laden bag over his shoulder is photographed at the rear of his open USPS truck, which is full of boxes. The Black man's sneakers are all black, his calves ginormous, his smile ecstatic. The advertisement goes on to say, "And our next-generation trucks [italics mine] will carry even more packages..." (*The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I remember the first time I encountered a pierced eyebrow... / 'But what does it express?' I asked, entirely in earnest... / The high-school punk rejects the culture of the mainstream only to embrace a subculture with norms no less exacting; how different a goth looks from everyone else, and yet how similar to every other goth... / Even the pierced eyebrow achieves its meaning within a web of social conventions... Would Robinson Crusoe bother getting a tattoo?" ("Ego Trip: The early Romantics and their troublesome legacy by Nikhil Krishnan, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022. The article is his review of Andrea Wulf's *Magnificent Rebels: The First Romantics and the Invention of the Self*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A protruding nail will be hammered down." (Japan.)

## rebel (verb)

rebel

he began to ~ (in school after death of father)

rebels against our modern puritanism

his film ~ about intoxication (Thomas Vinterberg)

## rebellion (noun)

sizable rebellion

the PM is facing a ~ (vote of confidence)

seeds of rebellion

enforced potty sitting can sow the ~ (toddlers)



courting rebellion by pushing ahead  
he is ~ with his plan (political party)

### \*\*\* The Taiping Rebellion...

♦ 1850-1864. The Taiping Rebellion. Led by Hong Xiuquan, who believed he was Jesus' younger brother. A rebellion against the Qing ("Ching") dynasty and its Manchu elite. Ultimately 20-30 million died, most from plague and famine. Sixteen of 18 provinces were affected and at least 600 cities destroyed. It was during this same time period that the *Susquehanna* bore the U.S. flag up the Yangtze to Wuhu (1854), and the side-wheeler *Saginaw* steamed into Tung Ting Lake, 700 miles from that river's mouth (1861). If the *Saginaw* had been a Chinese warship on the Mississippi River, it would have reached the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee. And it was also during this time that the British and French forced the Second Opium War upon China (1856-1860). / Amazingly, when the rebels tried to take Shanghai in 1860, they were repulsed by a Qing army led and supported by European officers who included Charles George Gordon (Chinese Gordan, Pasha Gordan, Gordan of Khartoum). Frederick Townsend Ward also assisted, a US sailor and soldier of fortune. / The Third Battle of Nanking (Nanjing) in 1864, which ended the Taiping Rebellion, was perhaps the bloodiest battle up to that point in human history. In three days, over 100,000 died. The rebels fought to their deaths or committed suicide rather than be captured. / The Qing Dynasty would last into the 20th century, but essentially the rebellion finished them off. One result of the rebellion was that it made the dynasty realize that it had to Westernize and modernize its military. This is but a part of China's long history that shapes Chinese attitudes to the West to this very day.

## rebirth (noun)

rebirth of (mountain) culture  
the ~

gospel of rebirth  
he is preaching a ~ to everyone (Detroit mayor)

death and rebirth  
the primordial pageant of ~ of light (solar eclipse)

passing and a re-birth  
it may be both a ~ (interest in old cantorial music)

## reboot (verb)

reboot the series  
he is helping ~ (new Twilight Zone)

## reboot (noun)

reboot  
Ukraine is ready for a ~ (political change)

## reborn

reborn  
Spanish football was ~ (13 Oct 2007 vs Denmark)

reborn in Athens in 1896  
the Olympics, born in ancient Greece and ~

reborn career  
a ~ as an advertising icon (Jeff Hakman)

## rebound (recover)

rebounded in numbers  
it's possible the sharks have ~

ability to rebound  
resilience is the ~

skin can rebound  
~ and look younger (anti-aging creams)

## rebound (verb)

rates never fully rebounded  
vaccination ~ (autism fears)

## rebound (on the rebound)

on the rebound  
the economy is finally ~  
the sick seal appears to be ~

## rebound (rebound headache, etc.)

rebound headache  
it sounds like you're experiencing ~s  
drugs can cause ~s

rebound hypertension  
abrupt discontinuation may cause ~ (drug)

## rebuild (verb)

rebuild their lives  
they are trying to ~

## recant (verb)

recanted  
one of his earliest supporters ~

## recapture (verb)

recapture past glories  
patience is required as the club tries to ~ (Man U)

## recast (verb)

recast herself as a sexy dancing girl  
she ~, and the world went mad (Joey Heatherton)

recast the (university's) image  
it is part of a longstanding plan to ~

recast (modern) womanhood  
she helped ~ (Helen Gurley Brown / *Cosmo*)

## recast (as a villain, etc.)

recast as foot soldiers  
they were ~ in a vast right-wing conspiracy (government)

recast as a villain  
a guard cast as a hero was ~ (Richard Jewell)

recast from villain to climate savior  
mining ~ ('green' minerals)

## received (wisdom, etc.)

received norms  
the film does not bridle against ~ (the Cold War)

received opinion  
like so much ~, it was fallacious

received wisdoms  
I do like to question ~ because they suit somebody

received and outdated

Nansen did his best to overcome Scott's ~ opinions

♦ "She is simply hard, a straight shooter, a woman clean of received wisdom and open to what she sees." (Joan Didion about Georgia O'Keeffe.)

## recipe (vaccine recipe, etc.)

original recipe

the FDA ok'd extra doses of Pfizer's ~ (COVID vaccine)

## recipe (for conflict, etc.)

recipe for conflict

in the brutal world of Afghan politics, this was a ~

recipe for controversy

combining sex and religion is a ~ (the arts)

recipe for disaster

this is a ~ (using pig organs for human transplants)  
record rain combined with the region's topography was a ~

recipe for success

working together is a ~ (sports)

recipe for a breakdown

I can't let it tear me apart because it's just a ~ (anxiety)

♦ "I don't want a piece of the pie, I want the goddamn recipe!" (The character of singer-songwriter-businessman Sam Cooke from the feel-good Amazon film *One Night in Miami*.)

## reckoning (groups)

MeToo reckonings

the ~ engulfed NBC, CBS, and Fox News (and now ABC)

nationwide (racial) reckoning

a ~ over the systematic oppression of...

racial reckoning

this is time for a true and steadfast commitment to a ~

day of reckoning

it was a ~ for Trump (guilty verdict in criminal case)

moment of (national) reckoning

people who want an attorney general to meet this ~ (BLM)

reckoning has expanded

the MeToo ~ in scope to include workplace bullying

face a reckoning

statues of Hannah Duston ~ (cancelled)

sparks (Australia media) reckoning

Rebel Wilson outing ~

♦ *Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy*. (An anthology.)

♦ "Where's the antisemitism reckoning?"

♦ "This may have been the dawning of a day of reckoning for Trump." (NPR's Ron Elving, about the guilty verdict in Trump's hush money trial. By "dawning" he was alluding to the possible guilty verdicts in other trials involving Trump.)

## reckoning (judgment)

reckoning with it

lay the past to rest once we've had some kind of ~

historical reckoning

the trial was part of a ~ (2010 / Argentina)

moment of reckoning

will "Framing Britney Spears" be a ~ for the media

reckoning is at hand

and so the ~ (a moment in a revenge story)

avoided any (deep) reckoning

Japan ~ with its past (after WWII / many not punished)

## reclaim (his place, etc.)

reclaim the heights

they have managed to ~ (tennis sisters)

reclaimed his place

he has ~ back at the top of the boxing mountain (Fury)

## reclaim (groups)

reclaimed

21 words the Queer community has ~

reclaim Veterans Day from the Israel-US war machine

protesters want to ~ (Columbia University)

reclaiming their culture through language

Gen-Z Latino-Americans are ~ (ABC)

reclaiming their agency

a conversation about women ~

Reclaim America

"~" was written on the back of one shirt

reclaim "Let's Go Brandon"

the White House has attempted to ~ ("Dark Brandon")

reclaim desire

~ for yourself and take agency (sex / women)

reclaim her (sexualized) image

her sexy selfies allow her to ~ (abused when young)

reclaimed (country and Americana) music

how Black women ~ in 2021

reclaiming the phrase

Rose Brand is ~ 'So Gay' (So Gay Rosé wine)

reclaiming their place

"How Black riders are ~ in cowboy culture" (NPR)

reclaims the (genre) space

the creator ~ for people of color (a horror film)

reclaimed space

she has ~ for the Lumbee of Baltimore (Ashley Minner)

reclaim the story

his work will allow the family to ~ of their ancestor (Black)

### reclaim the term

women who ~ (“bitch” / in songs, conversation, etc.)

### reclaims a (previously demeaning) term

“Thunder Thighs” ~ (Miss Eaves)

### reclaim the word

a new generation of activists are trying to ~ (“slut”)  
people in the fat activist tradition, who want to ~ “fat”

### reclaim and repurpose

~ the rhetorical and aesthetic space of country music (Mali Obomsawin)

### Challenging, Changing And Reclaiming

“These 3 Latinx Artists Are ~ Culture” (ALT.LATINO)

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “*Reclaim MLK* is one campaign trying to reassert King’s radical legacy.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

♦ “Activists Reclaim Use Of The ‘S’ Word” by NPR Staff, NPR, Tell Me More, Jun 9, 2011. (“Slut.”)

♦ “Queer theorists and ‘crip’ theorists (those critiquing ‘disabilities’) are at the cutting edge that I believe we need to also be mindful of.” (Jack Tchen, a professor and historian at New York University. “Crip” of course is short for *cripple*, or *crippled*.)

♦ “I’m really following in the footsteps of many people in the fat activist tradition, who want to reclaim the word ‘fat,’ much like people in queer liberation spaces have reclaimed the word ‘queer’ as not a negative, not a pejorative, not a shameful term, but as a description.” (Kate Manne. From “In ‘Unshrinking,’ a writer discusses coming out as fat and pushing back against bias” by Mara Gordon, NPR, March 13, 2024. Kate Manne’s book is *Unshrinking: How To Face Fatphobia*. She talks about “coming out” as fat.)

♦ “I call disabled viewing platforms the “cripple pen.” (A disabled commenter, reclaiming the word “cripple.” From “After the N-word, the P-word” by Rajni Bhatia, BBC, 11 June 2007, which is about reclaiming the word “Paki” in the same way some Blacks have “reclaimed” the N-word. Who has the right to say what when.)

♦ “Respectability politics never actually liberated the oppressed. Whether you’re a creative or an audience member, power can be had in reclaiming the stereotypes that challenge your very existence.” (From “Queer villains, erotic noir, 90s pulp. ‘Basic Instinct’ and the backlash, rewound,” NPR, Pop Culture happy Hour, Nov. 13, 2022.)

♦ “Wherever the truth lies, [the actor Sharon] Stone chose to take back control of an allegedly violating experience and reclaim it, lean into it...” (The interrogation scene in the film *Basic Instinct*. From “Queer villains, erotic noir, 90s pulp. ‘Basic Instinct’ and the backlash, rewound,” NPR, Pop Culture happy Hour, Nov. 13, 2022. According to the podcast, she also “owned” it, joked about it, “embraced the role,” and was “game to talk about it.” According to Paul Verhoeven, “She knew exactly what we were doing.”)

♦ “I landed on the flower because of its reclamation—queer reclamation of it. It is a flower that has been used originally as a derogatory term.” (The tattoo artist Cedre Csillagi. From “To raise funds for trans communities, an artist has pledged to do 1,000 pansy tattoos” by Halisia Hubbard, NPR, Culture, Nov. 25, 2022.)

♦ “WHAT IS VETERANS DAY? Veterans Day is an American holiday to honor the patriotism, love of country, and sacrifice of veterans. THIS WON’T STAND! We reject this holiday and refuse to celebrate it. The American war machine should not be honored for the horrors unleashed on others. WHAT NOW? Instead, we will celebrate Martyrs Day in honor of those martyred by the Israel-US war machine.” (A flyer put out by the Columbia University Apartheid Divest group announcing a protest at Columbia University. The Israel-Hamas war.)

#### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “RECLAIM THE BEACH — Paros citizen moment for free beaches.” (A large protest banner. The movement seeks to reclaim beaches

from bars and hotels which cover them with pricey sun loungers and umbrellas, usually for tourists. The movement has spread from Paros to everywhere in Greece, and even to Turkey.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “‘Mama’s boy’ is a flex, not an insult.” (According to NPR’s Neda Ulaby. See the Wikipedia article “Neda Ulaby.”)

♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb)*, *appropriation (groups)*, *coopt (and co-opt)*, *misappropriate (groups)*, *misappropriated*, *misappropriation (groups, etc.)*, *reappropriate (groups)*, *reappropriation (groups)*, *reclaimed (groups)*, *take back (take back one’s life, etc.)*

### reclaimed (groups)

reclaimed by LGBT people as a self-affirming term  
*queer*, originally a pejorative term for *gay*, now being ~

reclaimed by the indie pop music scene

“twee” was ~ in the UK and US

♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb)*, *appropriation (groups)*, *coopt (and co-opt)*, *misappropriate (groups)*, *misappropriated*, *misappropriation (groups, etc.)*, *reappropriate (groups)*, *reappropriation (groups)*, *reclaim (groups)*, *take back (take back one’s life, etc.)*

### reclaiming (groups)

reclaiming (African) art

Artists win awards for ~ (Ashley Pointer)

reclaiming their bodies

women are defying the male gaze by ~

Reclaiming (Black) Culture

“~ in ‘Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom’”

Reclaiming One’s Name

“Finding Power In ~” (immigrants / NPR)

reclaiming the word

~ “fat” to fight anti-fat bias

reclaiming—and normalizing—

~ the word ‘fat’

Recovering and reclaiming

“~ Black women’s place in music history” (NPR)

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “[W]omen...are pushing back against body policing by reclaiming their bodies, showing them off and making art that defies the [male] gaze.” (“Beauty is in the eye of the male gaze: DreamDoll, DoeChii and Baby Tate,” NPR, Louder Than A Riot, Season 2, Episode 3, March 30, 2023.)

♦ “Sole-Smith says parents can combat American diet culture by reclaiming—and normalizing—the word ‘fat.’” (“Diet culture can hurt kids. This author advises parent to reclaim the word ‘fat,’” NPR, Fresh Air, April 25, 2023.)

♦ “Reclaiming The Queer Dance Floor” by Shawn Reynaldo, NPR Music, April 12, 2016.

### recoil (verb)

recoiled from his comments

fellow Republicans ~

recoiled from (a lot of) positions

he ~ propounded by Miller (politics)

## recover (mental health)

recover

so how does the Uvalde community ~ (school shooting)

\*\*\* illness, medicine, public health, typhus, etc.

♦ "He began to get better. At first he took everything for granted, like a halfwit. He remembered nothing, he could see no connection between one thing and another and was not surprised at anything. His wife fed him on white bread and butter and sugared tea; she gave him coffee. He had forgotten that such things did not exist, and he enjoyed their taste like poetry or like fairy tales, as something right and proper for a convalescent. Soon, however, he began to think and wonder." (*Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak, from the section, "The Moscow Encampment." Zhivago was recovering from typhus. His half-brother had provided the luxuries.)

## recovered (groups)

"recovered" by white scholars

when queer history is ~ (the writer Hugh Ryan)

♦ "When queer history is "recovered" by white scholars." ("A Radical Queer Novel Challenges the Idea of History Itself" by Hugh Ryan, *The New York Times*, November 13, 2023. Note the use of quotations.)

## recovering (groups)

Recovering and reclaiming

"~ Black women's place in music history" (NPR)

## recycle (verb)

recycle parts

we hope to ~ of the program

## red (red list, etc.)

red-list countries

travel to and from ~ remains restricted (COVID)

England's travel red list

England has added Turkey to ~ (pandemic)

## red (Red Sea, etc.)

Red Amphitheater

~ is a basin in Inyo County, California

Red Arrow

~ Dome is a summit in Montezuma County, Colorado

Red Arroyo

~ is a stream in Otero County, New Mexico

Red Bank

~ Creek is a stream in Saluda County, South Carolina

Red Basin

the ~ is *Good Earth* country (China)

the ~ is a basin in Fremont County, Wyoming

the ~ is a basin in Big Horn County, Wyoming

Red Bay

~ is a bay on St. Thomas Island, U.S. Virgin Islands

Red Benches

the ~ are benches in Garfield County, Utah

Red Bluff

~ is a cliff in Jackson County, Mississippi

~ Spring is a spring in Yavapai County, Arizona

Red Butte

Big ~ is a summit in Pueblo County, Colorado

Red Canyon

~ is a valley in Beaverhead County, Montana

Red Cliff

~ is a cliff in Cook County, Minnesota

Red Mountain

~ is a summit in Cochise County, Arizona

Red Reef

~ is a ridge in Washinton County, Utah

Red Ridge

~ is a ridge in Idaho County, Idaho

Red River

the ~ rises in Yunnan and flows to the Gulf of Tonkin

Red Rock

~ is a cape in Cook County, Minnesota

~ is a pillar in Humboldt County, California

~ is a summit in Apache County, Arizona

Red Sea

Jeddah, the bride of the ~

Red Volta

the ~ is a tributary of the Volta River

♦ Watching the sun set from Jeddah's corniche is a delight!

♦ The White Volta's main tributaries are the Black Volta and the Red Volta.

♦ Red dirt, red clay, red rocks...

## red (politics)

red state

is Iowa at this point a ~ or a blue state

♦ "Is Iowa at this point a red state or a blue state?" "Iowa is still a purple state." (US politics, as talked about on NPR.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Red, R, Reagan, that's why we chose red." (A network broadcaster during the 1984 presidential election, explaining why states that had gone for Reagan were colored red on a national map. Democratic states were colored blue.)

## red (blood)

bleed red

white, black, brown, yellow, red, we all ~ (the military)

## red (see red)

saw red

he ~ (enraged and violent)

♦ see also *blood* (*blood in one's eyes*), *mist* (*red mist*)

## red alert (on red alert)

on red alert

all organizations employing Westerners are ~ (terror)

## red carpet (treatment)

red carpet for investors  
lay out the ~

lay out the red carpet for investors  
they ~

rolled out the red carpet for Karzai  
the White House ~

♦ see also *earn (verb)*, *prestige (adjective)*, *privilege (groups / noun)*, *rope (velvet rope)*

## red flag (warning)

red flags  
it raised some ~ to me (ethical question)  
the company's disclosure raises a ~ (fraud)

red flags of arson  
there are many ~ (arson investigation)

intelligence red flags  
a range of ~ signaling terrorist activity (Kenya)

huge red flags  
there were ~ nearly three years ago (a building collapse)

warning signs or red flags  
there were no ~ (mass shooter)

red flags were piling up  
something just wasn't right, the ~

red flags may signal  
the following 10 ~ an early problem (children)

makes my red flag wave  
her girlfriend ~ (questions about fatal accident)

missed red flags  
State Police ~ about his mental health before hiring him

raised red flags  
I ~ at the time the decision was made

♦ "Something very wrong with this story, red flags everywhere."  
(Woman found dead.)

♦ "Not only were there red flags, they were flapping in the wind." (A psychiatrist, commenting on the suicide of a university student.)

♦ "The hot blush or the averted gaze...are 'semaphores of trouble...'"

## redoubt (noun)

redoubt of independent Russian mass media  
the radio station is the last ~

redoubt of (all-male Protestant) privilege  
Princeton University was a ~

redoubt for the townies and old-timers  
the hotel and its bar is the last major ~

redoubt for carousing  
it was a ~ (Sarajevo bar during war)

redoubt in hay loft  
the barn cat watched me from its ~

last redoubt  
North Korea is the ~ Stalinist isolation

tiny redoubt  
the ~ of never-Trump conservatives (politics)

gritty, blue-collar redoubt  
Williamsburg used to be a ~ (Brooklyn)

## red tape

red tape  
rescue efforts got bogged down by ~ (earthquake)

bureaucratic red tape  
the ~ required to...

incompetence and red tape  
the ~ is amazing (Italian government)

ran into red tape  
the inmate's transfer ~

cut through (all) the red tape  
he ~ to get it done

got bogged down by red tape  
rescue efforts ~ (Kobe earthquake)

## reek (verb)

reek of euphemism  
words and phrases that ~ (in U.S. English)

♦ "John James Audubon's racism is the albatross rotting around the necks of those who would hold him in reverence. It is past smelling foul and beginning to reek." ("What Do We Do About John James Audubon?" by J. Drew Lanham. Which begs the question, "What Do We Do About J. Drew Lanham?" The answer: give him a Macarthur Genius Award. See the Wikipedia article "J. Drew Lanham." "This article may be in need of reorganization to comply with Wikipedia's layout guidelines.")

## reel (verb)

reeling from accusations  
Wall Street is ~ that it is a rigged casino

reeling from the worst attacks (on their homeland)  
Americans were ~ since Pearl Harbor (9/11)

reeling from her diagnosis  
she is ~ (HIV)

reeling from the effects  
the town is ~ of the hurricane

reeling from 3 hurricanes  
Cuba is still ~ in a year last year

reeling from a (citizens') revolt  
the city council is ~ over officials' pay

reeling from a (massive) scandal  
Massachusetts is ~ in its state's crime lab

reeling from a series  
the industry is ~ of scandals

reeling from the shock  
the staff is still ~ of the shootings

economy is reeling  
the ~, and politicians are making it worse

## reel in (verb)

reel him in  
maybe there's a way we can ~ (investigation)

## reflected

reflected glory  
they now accepted him and partook of his ~

## reflex (noun)

reflex response  
shaming has become the ~ to anything (Twitter)

standard reflex  
when confronted, his ~ is to try and gaslight you

\*\*\* **"The reflex hammer..."**

♦ "[T]he simple, elegant, inexpensive almost plebeian swing of the reflex hammer has a cost/benefit ratio that I think no advanced technology will likely ever match." (Dr. Stephen Krieger, an expert on multiple sclerosis.)

## refrain (common refrain, etc.)

common refrain  
there's a ~ among these MeToo stories (relief)

Navy refrain  
"SWOs eat their own" is a common ~ (jealousy)

## reframe (characterize)

reframe the narrative  
critical race theory seeks to ~ of American history

reframe it as the 'great upgrade'  
the White House has tried to ~

♦ "Marilyn was objectified, scrutinized and judged—mostly by male writers, biographers and historians..." ('Reframed' revisits Marilyn Monroe's life and legacy, from an all-women point of view" by David Bianculli, Jan 14, 2022.)

♦ "The White House has bristled at the term 'great resignation' and has tried to reframe it as what Bharat Ramamurti, the deputy director of the National Economic Council, calls the 'great upgrade.'" ("Great resignation' reaches White House with staff turnover" by Zeke Miller, AP, June 8, 2022.)

## refuge (noun)

refuge from bullying  
nowadays there is no ~ (teens and cyber-bullying)

refuge of the scoundrel  
patriotism is that last ~

last refuge  
patriotism is the ~ of the scoundrel

seek refuge  
many ~ in delusion, denial and fantasy (Mideast)

## refugee (person)

"bitcoin refugees"  
China's ~ are scrambling to find a new home (Texas)

## regurgitate (verb)

regurgitating the bitterness  
they are ~ of the election (politics)

regurgitate fake or inaccurate information  
the AI tools ~

♦ Feed (it) / eat up, Hoover up, snatch up, vacuum up / gobble up, ingested (the book) / regurgitate (everything), spit out... (What AI does. From "The alleged theft at the heart of ChatGPT," Planet Money, November 10, 2023. Other articles use words like *devour*, *scrape up*, *suck up* (language and ideas), *sweep up* / *regurgitated* (summaries / *spew* (false information), *spout* (misinformation), *vomit up* (words and sentences), etc.)

## rehearsal (noun)

rehearsal  
~s build confidence and improve performance (military)  
~s reveal weaknesses or problems (military)

rehearsal of all (critically timed) events  
a ~ should be done (ARSOA)

rehearsal for invasion  
North Korea calls the maneuvers a ~

rehearsals or reconnaissance  
terrorists undertake ~

dress rehearsal  
if a full-scale ~ is impossible (military)  
the Battle of Shanghai was a ~ for WW II (1937)

mission rehearsals  
this plan, along with ~... (military)

plans, SOPs, standards, and rehearsals  
integrate measures into ~ (fratricide)

planning, rehearsal, and execution  
during mission ~ (military)

reconnaissance and (some) rehearsal  
no doubt it required some ~ (attack on Red Cross)

conduct rehearsals  
~ on terrain that resembles the actual ground (military)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Bad dress [rehearsal], good opening." (A theater superstition.)

## reheat (verb)

reheating an older idea  
they are simply ~ that didn't work (politics)

## rehearse (verb)

rehearse for combat  
the maneuvers are a chance for soldiers to ~ (Kuwait)

rehearse on terrain and under conditions  
if possible, ~ like those at the operation site (military)

rehearsed your answers  
when you have your script and have ~ (interview)

rehearse procedures  
~ for evacuation requests (casualties / military)



rehearse the signals  
~ to be used on the patrol (military)

rehearses (critical) tasks  
the platoon ~

tasks to rehearse  
some important ~ include assaulting a bunker

failure to rehearse  
short planning time, ~, and leader fatigue... (military)

plan, rehearse, and execute  
~ the operation (military)

\*\*\* a riddle...

♦ What structure or space might have traps, flies, wings, a pit, and an apron? (Hint: It might also have a Green Room.)

## reign (verb)

reign in Congress  
polarization is likely to ~ after the election

reigned supreme  
censorship ~ from 1932 to the late 50s (Hollywood)

confusion reigns  
~ nationwide amid conflicting coronavirus rules

uncertainty reigns  
even with computer models as a guide, ~

unease reigns  
~ after North Korean missile test

originality and uncertainty still reign  
~ (Black Mirror TV show)

## reign (noun)

reign of Gerald  
the ~, an aggressive turkey, is over (relocated)

reign over FIFA  
questions have been raised about Sepp Blatter's ~

reign as a terrorist mastermind  
his ~ (Palestinian)

championship reign  
she took 3 months out of her ~ to do the movie  
(Valentina Shevchenko)

rise and reign  
Amazon and the ~ of Jeff Bezos

reign ends  
Klitschko's heavyweight ~ with loss to Fury (boxing)

reign (as the heavyweight champion) lasted  
his ~ only...

## reigning

reigning academics  
he battled against the stale works of the ~

reigning champion  
as ~, Armstrong... (Tour de France)

reigning (NFL) champions  
the ~ led 17-0 at half-time (American football)

reigning champs  
we're the ~ (basketball)

reigning monarch  
deep learning is the ~ of AI

reigning wisdom  
this has become the ~ of the nineties

former and reigning (m)  
~ heavyweights (boxing)

## re-ignite (verb)

re-ignite (economic) growth  
I'll ~ (commercial for a politician)

## reign of terror / fear, etc.

reign of fear  
Iraq's Shiites describe a ~ (Saddam)

reign of terror  
a full-scale invasion to end the ~ (Haiti)  
stoning is used to extend the ~ (Iran)

reign of terror against (ethnic) minorities  
carrying out a ~ (Burma)

reign of terror in Uganda  
Idi Amin's ~

reign of terror by (indigenous) Dayaks  
a savage ~ (Indonesia)

Idi Amin's reign of terror  
~ in Uganda

savage reign of terror  
a ~ by indigenous Dayaks (Indonesia)

imposed a reign of terror  
foreign militants have ~ in South Waziristan

## rein (rein in)

rein in (Medicare) costs  
he wants to ~ (politics)

rein in (tribal and personal) rivalries  
~ (Afghanistan)

rein in the rocket fire  
 Hamas has been trying to ~

rein in (government) spending  
we need to ~

## rein (reins of power, etc.)

reins of Holland  
he ran PSV Eindhoven before taking the ~ (coach)

reins of power  
he has gathered all the ~ into his hands (crown prince)

reins to the union

he holds the ~

organizing reins

Rose will turn over the ~ to Sunny Ross

hold on the reins

he now has a much stronger ~ (government)

holds the reins to the union

he ~

turn over the (organizing) reins to Ross

he will ~

handed the reins

he has been ~ (new coach for team)

seize the reins

he will probably ~ (football player for a position)

### rein (free rein)

free rein

he was given ~ to loft his jumper (basketball)

the panel has a ~ to look at other areas of his research

have a free rein

weapons inspectors must ~ (in Iraq)

### reincarnation (noun)

reincarnation of continuity

he is the ~ (German politician Armin Laschet)

reincarnation of hope

American Utopia argues for the ~ in the American project

\*\*\* Johnny, Waylon, Willie, and Kris...

♦ "But I am still alive / But I am living still / But I am still around / But I will remain, and I'll be back again..." (The Highwaymen—Highwayman (American outlaws: Live at Nassau Coliseum, 1990. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMdeg-WKt1U>

### reined in

violence has been reined in

the ~ (in a filmmaker's latest film)

### reinforce (verb)

reinforce his claims

candidates who ~ of voter fraud (politics)

reinforces the importance

the research ~ of hand washing (public health)

reinforces racism

CRT ~ (John McWhorter)

reinforced a sense

the tragedy has ~ of community (in a Texas town)

### reinvigorate (verb)

reinvigorated the agency

she has ~

reinvigorates support

Nike's ad ~ in Kaepernick's corner

### rekindle (verb)

rekindles memories

it ~ of the bad old days of Suharto

rekindle our relationship

I'm not looking to ~

rekindling their romance

Lindsay and Samantha may be ~ (celebrities)

rekindle stereotypes

he worries the case might ~ of Mississippi

rekindle (these) stereotypes

CBS comes along to ~ (show on hillbillies)

### relation (poor relations, etc.)

appear poor relations

suddenly, the PGA Tour ~ (to LIV Golf)

### relative (relationship)

relative

anorexia nervosa, or its ~, bulimia nervosa

relative of the giraffe

the okapi, a ~...

close relative

chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a ~ of Alzheimer's

### relax (relax control, etc.)

relax the (normally strict) boundaries

a psychiatrist may ~ of the doctor-patient relationship

relax their lockdown measures

a number of countries are set to ~ (COVID-19)

relaxed some rigid rules

he has ~ (coach)

### relax (feeling)

relaxed and drank wine

in the afterglow of our rafting trip we ~

### relic (noun)

relic of the era

the department is a ~ when... (Opinion at *New York Times*)

relic of a (different) era

this system is a ~ (governance)

relic of the past

privacy has become a ~ (Internet, etc.)

his confrontational approach was rejected as a ~ (coach)

whooping cough, once thought to be a ~...

will Covid-19 make handshakes a ~

relic of an earlier time

the club is a ~ (a social club)

relic of households past

the iron is a ~

relic of the Cold War

NATO is not a useless ~

dated relic

some think the musical is a ~ (*The King and I*)

perfectly preserved relic

it's a ~ from the dawn of the solar system (Bennu)

much-missed relic

the beloved dollar pizza slice is a ~ of the recent past

Ottoman relics

we have no weapons, only old ~

cultural relics

cultural gems become ~ (decline of U.S. baseball)

obsolete relic

the book-based world will be an ~ (Internet)

twin relics

polygamy and slavery, the ~ of barbarism

out-of-touch relic

she is an ~ with a fossilized understanding of race, gender

♦ "It's a thing of the past, it is almost archaeological, it is humiliating." (Bloc Quebecois leader Yves-Francois Blanchet, about the monarchy in Canada.)

♦ "Culture gems become cultural relics." (The decline of baseball in the U.S. and attempts to fix it.)

♦ "The notion of a politically detached business is a relic of the past. (To young people. ESG, or corporate "wokeness," etc.)

♦ "To all of you who faithfully labor at putting pen to paper, fingers to computer." (Oprah Winfrey onstage at the 2023 National Book Awards. Few people put pen to paper nowadays, much less pencil to paper. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## relief (in bold relief)

in bold relief

Battle of the Bulge revealed those intelligence failures ~

## religion (enthusiasm)

religion

deep in the Bible Belt, here football is ~ (Knoxville)

football is a ~ and Saturday is the high holy day (South)

religion to many

barbecuing is a ~ ...

nearly a religion

Brazil, where football is ~

♦ "In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing." (The opening line of *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean. The book is set in Montana and features the Blackfoot River.)

♦ "Their fellowship went further still. On Sundays, after mass, they took their rods and slipped secretly—lest they shock finer sensibilities—through the back ways of the Sabbath-stricken town, out into the verdant valley of the Whitadder. In his tin, packed with sawdust, were luscious maggots, picked the night before from Mealey's boneyard. Thereafter the day was heady with the sound of the stream, the scent of meadowsweet,—his father showing him the likely eddies,—the crimson-speckled trout wriggling on bleached shingle,—his father bent over a twig fire,—the crisp sweet goodness of the frizzled fish..." (*The Keys of the Kingdom* by A.J. Cronin.)

♦ Laksa fever; "everyone's just contracted this laksa fever"; "the love child of Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean cuisine"; love for

laksa; a thing that people love; craving a fix (for laksa); the mania (for laksa); a city obsessed (with laksa); the laksa obsession; the faithful; a giant shrine is erected (for monthlong laksa festival); laksa ice-cream / smoothies / cheesecake / sausage / crocodile dumplings / beer; the Laksa Festival Hall of Fame; the Golden Bowl award for best laksa... ("How laksa fever took hold in this Australian city" by the wonderful writer Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC, October 31. 2023. Life at "The Top End" of Oz. Super!)

## religiously

watches the show religiously

he ~

## remain (verb)

remain

but many questions remain (terrorism)

remaining coy

most potential candidates are ~ for now (presidency)

## remedy (verb)

remedy the problems

we must ~ of the past

## remedy (noun)

remedy for stress

a sense of control is the best ~ (living with terrorism)

remedies for violations

administrative ~ of the statute (Title IX)

remedy for the cabin fever

a ~ that plagues Vermont all winter

administrative remedy

~s for violations of the statute (Title IX)

best remedy

a good mousing cat is the ~ (mice in stable)

a sense of control is the ~ for stress (terrorism)

legal remedy

the injustice cried out for a ~

in some countries marriage is a ~ for statutory rape

## remind (verb)

reminds us that

his life ~ the cutting edge can grow dull (Hugh Hefner)

remind him

if someone has lost his freedom, the steppe will ~ of it...

## remote (past)

remote past

in the ~, dinosaurs roamed the land

## remote (future)

remote future

alternative scenarios of the ~ (science)

events set in a ~ (science fiction)

## remove (kill)

remove him from the battlefield

the president's decision to ~ saved US lives

♦ "President Biden, Vice President Harris and members of the President's national security team observe the counterterrorism operation responsible for removing from the battlefield Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi—the leader of ISIS." (A White House Tweet with a picture.)

## renaissance (noun)

renaissance of fable

the Age of Discovery brought a ~

renaissance cowboy

he was a ~ (Cybill Shepherd about Larry McMurtry)

renaissance era

its release ushered in Disney's ~ (Little Mermaid, 1989)

renaissance man

a ~, Morton already had experience as... (anesthesia)

he was a ~ who just enjoyed a wide range of things

career renaissance

she is enjoying a ~ (an actor)

something of a renaissance

documentary has undergone ~ in the last ten years

♦ see also *sance* (*McConaissance*, etc.)

## renegade (person)

renegade hobby

skateboarding is still considered a ~

renegade thinkers

~ like Franz Boas and Margaret Mead

ideological renegade

he developed a reputation as an ~ (Ishmael Reed)

## repaid (a debt, etc.)

repaid to those men

a debt has been ~ (blanket men / Maze Prison escape)

## repair (verb)

repair the economy

we need to ~ at home

repaired their relationship

she and Tom have ~

## repair (noun)

in need of repair

their marriage is ~

## repay (verb)

repaid me with petty insults

he ~ for having rejected him (#MeToo)

repay the debt of gratitude

we can never ~ owed to our nation's veterans

♦ "I place a date in your lips, and you spit the pit in my face!" (Ingratitude.)

## repercussion (noun)

repercussions and reverberations

fears about the ~ of a targeted killing persisted

shocking repercussions

her reaction had some ~

crime and its repercussions

this gruesome ~

## repertoire (noun)

repertoire of your teaching kit

jokes may contribute to the ~ (education)

## report card

Report Card for America's Infrastructure

the 2005 "~" (American Society of Civil Engineers)

nation's report card

the national assessment is often called "~"

mixed report card

for Obama, a ~ from Afghanistan

report card gives

a ~ 29 states an F (health-care price transparency)

gets a bad report card

when a school ~

issues report cards

the state department of health ~ on hospitals and surgeons

## repose (position)

reposed the city

on its near edge ~ (on a plain)

## represent (groups)

proudly represented

he ~ his community ("Trouble" AKA Scoob)

## representation (groups)

representation for British Asians

more ~ in literature (Sufiyan Salam)

representation at the Olympics

I think it's awesome that we're finally getting trans ~

representations of vulvas

growing up, I saw no ~ like mine (writer Ellie Sedgwick)

representation game

I have felt like a pawn in this hollow ~ (comic Julio Torres)

representation and presence

~ aren't the same thing

representation and visibility

~ are so important (NFL player comes out as gay)

Black representation

he spoke up about ~ (Andre Leon Talley)

Asian representation  
controversies surrounding ~ in *Miss Saigon* (the musical)

deaf representation  
Raven Sutton breaks barriers for ~

female representation  
there's a dearth of ~ in late-night (says Chelsea Handler)

indigenous representation  
the groundbreaking show for ~ on TV (*Reservation Dogs*)

more representation  
~ for...

queer representation  
*Steven Universe* broke barriers in ~  
*The Color Purple* is a pinnacle of ~ (Armond White)

trans representation  
~ onscreen

misrepresentation  
representation—and ~—on screen (Blacks)

overrepresentation  
the ~ of women in higher education is harmful

under-representation  
the ~ of African American poets (Cave Canem)

issue of representation  
it's an ~, it's an issue of whether or not...

lack of representation  
there is a ~ of Black people in mountaineering...

more empowerment, more representation  
~, more stories told (PBS versus Beyond Inclusion)

inclusivity and representation  
~ within the Black disabled transgender community

visibility or (that) representation  
being the person creating that ~ can be painful (trans)

visibility, representation and equality  
thanks to increases in ~, more LGBTQ folks can come out

representation matters  
Barbie knows that ~ (the transgender Barbie doll)

demanded representation  
we ~, and not just in gender and race, but in...

make too much of 'representation'  
I sometimes think we ~ (actor Nina Sosanya)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "For me, it's a catalyst to go harder. It's a catalyst for the next door that I walk into to create a space where we can combine this scholarship and this culture to have more Black girls dominating these academic spaces." (Emani Stanton, 17. At *People*, "Black Female Duo Wins Harvard Debate Competition" by Rachel DeSantis, July 21, 2021.)

♦ "You see a fierceness that's coming from the girls that are coming up now, that's because we understand we ain't got nuttin to lose. I already done lost that job, I already done lost that job." (Angelica

Ross, about Trans representation in media / entertainment. According to her Wikipedia article, "Her breakthrough role came in 2018, as Candy Ferocity in Rya Murphy's FX drama series *Pose*.")

♦ "We don't have enough representation of people that look like me as non-binary... that are outside the white androgyny." (Self-described as fat, Black, and non-binary. Dating...)

♦ "I think it had a lot to do with me being a Black woman, period. And having seen how historically, you know, if our stories, you know, have been presented to the world, oftentimes they're misrepresented or they're not represented in their fullness or there's just like a sliver of us being presented. And so, I just felt like this is huge responsibility to not only show, like her—I would say ginormous levels of strength and resilience—but also to provide an audience like a window into the vulnerability." (Katori Hall speaking about the great American-born Tina Turner, birth name Anna Mae Bullock, a Swiss citizen since 2013.)

♦ "We've been silenced and misrepresented. And so, any time you get an opportunity to tell your truth, you are pushing back against so many lies and falsehoods... And being an artist and in demanding that the world just looks at you, you oddly are being an activist." (Katori Hall.)

♦ "We demanded representation, and not just in gender and race, but in perspective, values and experience." (Rashad Robinson, president of Color of Change, about Ketanji Brown's confirmation to the Supreme Court.)

♦ "It is really important to remember that we have very limited representation and presence isn't the same thing as representation representation centered around the Black American person the Black American community and it does not take into account constantly the white gaze." (Bethany C. Morrow, author of *So Many Beginnings: A Little Women Remix*, speaking with Lulu Garcia-Navarro on NPR.)

♦ "A lot of the festivals that we have, now, overlook hip-hop, they do. I mean, if you look at Gov Ball, there's not enough hip-hop, uh, representation, if you look at Coachella, there's not enough hip-hop representation. Firefly, any of those festivals, there's not enough hip-hop representation." (Music journalist Jayson Buford. From "Why hip-hop festival Rolling Loud seems to be a hotbed for arrests." NPR, All Things Considered, updated November 2, 2021. By Audie Cornish, Mano Sundaresan, Mallory Yu.)

♦ "It's an issue of representation. It's an issue of whether or not you can envision yourself doing something else other than playing this sport of football or maybe basketball." (Professor Kevin Blackstone of the University of Maryland. From "Why playing football appeals to families in spite of danger," NPR, All Things Considered, February 8, 2024. "An investigation by University of Maryland journalism students looks at why Black families are drawn to football, despite knowing the risks of injuries." At some universities, Blacks make up just three percent of the student population but fifty to sixty percent of the football team.)

♦ "Growing up, I saw no representations of vulvas like mine... I've had thousands of messages from people sharing their appreciation for the celebration of vulva diversity." (Ellie Sedgwick, author of *Flip Through My Flaps: An Exploration of the Vulva*. From "34-year-old reveals sad reason she had 'vulva anxiety'" by Mary Madigan, News.com.au, Nov. 14, 2024. This appeared in *The New York Post*.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "At issue, is the question of who controls the non-fiction stories told on PBS and which stories—or filmmakers—get the most financial support." (PBS And Ken Burns Vow To Do Better On Diversity But Critics Aren't Convinced," Eric Deggans, NPR, Television, August 12, 2021.)

♦ "Barbie knows that representation matters and is committed to continuing to increase diversity across collections, so that more people can see themselves reflected." (The trans Barbie doll, a Barbie doll with a prosthetic limb, the Ken doll with vitiligo, etc.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "representation" bandwagon...

♦ "We need [a woman in Formula 1], we need diversity." (Caitlyn Jenner.)

♦ "Once they're finished, the outdoors will be a more inclusive place, according to their GoFundMe page." ("A mountaineering group is aiming to be the 1st all-Black team to climb Mount Everest" by Sharon Pruitt-Young, NPR, October 9, 2021.)

♦ "There is a lack of representation of Black people in mountaineering and in high-altitude mountaineering." (Philip Henderson, leader of the Team Full Circle Everest, an American / Kenyan group, in 2022. Ten Black climbers had, in fact, previously accomplished the feat.)

♦ "I'm no climber, but as a non-binary backpacker and general outdoors lover it was hugely affirming and so wonderful to see a non-binary person being portrayed in such a humanized and beautiful way through their love of climbing." (Kera Leslie, commenting about *They/Them: One Climber's Story*.)

♦ "Bringing diversity to Maine's nearly all-white lobster fleet," NPR, All Things Considered, Sept. 15, 2022.

♦ "Very few architects are Black. This woman is pushing to change that." (By Venessa Romo.)

♦ "It's an exciting time right now for representation." (The writer Tommy Orange.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ She remains thrilled by the unusually wide demographic appeal of the series (*Last Tango in Halifax*). Might this be due to its subject matter being love and families, which most people have some experience of? 'Yes. Even if the characters didn't look like them. I sometimes think we make too much of 'representation'. You don't necessarily need to see yourself on a screen for it to be interesting. For me, ideally 'diversity' would mean white audiences watching black shows and the other way round." (The actor Nina Sosanya. From "Nina Sosanya: 'I was always a minority—even in my own family' by Mark Lawson, *The Guardian*, 11 July 2016.)

♦ "For a while, I have felt like a pawn in this hollow representation game. Because what the hell does Disney's 'Coco' do for Mexican children? Bob Iger gets richer. That's the climax." ("Extraordinary Alien: The otherworldly comedy of Julio Torres" by Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*, December 28, 2020.)

♦ "[My father said to me] 'Listen son, people like us don't do things like that...son, I just don't want you to talk about it anymore...' " ("British Actor Terence Stamp Reflects on London in the Swinging '60s," NPR, Fresh Air, Nov 5, 2021. Originally broadcast in 2002. About what his father had said, Stamp said, "In fact, it didn't deter me at all.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Representation, diversity, inclusion, words that pervade the world we live in."

♦ see also *diversity (groups)*, *inclusion (groups)*

## represented (groups)

represented and heard

females in the community feel ~ (#midsizedbody / fashion...)

represented, welcomed and accepted

fostering a culture where people are ~

underrepresented

all ~ communities must get a seat at the table

misrepresented or not represented

our stories are ~ in their fullness (Blacks)

respected, visible, and represented

a space for students to feel ~ (gay / Yeshiva University)

## reprieve (noun)

reprieve from (intense) colds

with only 20 weeks of ~ every year... (Siberia)

## reprisal (noun)

reprisals against opposition politicians and activists

politically motivated ~

reprisal from their employer

talking about misconduct without fear of ~

bloody reprisals

I suspect the volume will feature ~ (issue among linguists!)

vicious reprisal

breaches of respect are sometimes met with ~ (surfing)

fear of reprisal

they could express their feelings with less ~ (secret ballot)

retaliation and reprisal and threats

donors face ~ on the internet (a Supreme Court case)

faces reprisals

she ~ (Gina Carano / for social media posts)

targeted the executives for reprisal

he appeared to have ~ (the CEO of a US agency / politics)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Memorial Centre Lipa Remembers; Velika massacre; Podhum massacre; Kragujevac and Kriva Reka massacres; Kalavryta massacre... (Awful reprisals against civilians in the Balkans during World War II.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Ardeatine massacre."

♦ "All burgomasters and village headmen are responsible for safety in their area. Should the locals fail to ensure this, at least twice the number of dead German soldiers will be taken from the local population and shot. In the event of damage being done to roads, bridges or mines, at least three local people will be shot. Those who give shelter or food to strangers, or render them any assistance without permission of their burgomaster or village headman—will be hanged." (Byelorussia, World War II. From "Soviet Storm, WW2 in the East.")

♦ see also *partisan (noun)*

## requiem (noun)

Requiem for a Heavyweight

~ (the1962 film)

requiem for a show

a ~ that deserved better (Outside The Lines cancelled)

apogee and requiem

his painting was both ~ (Bohomazov / modernism)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "One day Larisa Feodorovna went out and did not come back. She must have been arrested in the street at that time. She vanished without a trace and probably died somewhere, forgotten as a nameless number on a list that afterwards got mislaid, in one of the innumerable mixed or women's concentration camps in the north." (*Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ "The driver stopped the car near the corpse of a dead horse...Lenard watched the anxious, unshaven men hewing off slabs of frozen horsemeat with hatchets. One soldier, standing between the horse's exposed ribs, looked like a carpenter up in the rafters of an unfinished roof.../ Suddenly the road and the ruined house were caught in the rays of the setting sun. The empty eye-sockets of the burnt-out building seemed to fill with frozen blood. The ploughed-up, soot-covered snow turned golden. The dark red cave of the horse's innards was lit up. The snow eddying across the road turned into a whirl of bronze.../ It was like a scene from the Stone Age. The grenadiers, the glory of the nation, the builders of the New Germany, were no longer travelling the road to victory.../ How was it that the dazzling energy of Hitler and the terrible power of a people moved by the most progressive of philosophies had led to the quiet banks of a



frozen Volga, to these ruins, to this dirty snow, to these windows filled with the blood of the setting sun, to the quiet humility of these creatures watching over a steaming cauldron of horsemeat?" (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Three, Chapter 31.)

♦ "Soon after the end of the war a dossier was found in the archives of the Munich Gestapo relating to the investigation into an underground organization in one of the concentration camps of Western Germany. The final document stated that the sentence passed on the members of the organization had been carried out and their bodies burnt in the crematorium. The first name on the list was Mostovskoy's. / It was impossible to ascertain the name of the provocateur who had betrayed his comrades. Probably he was executed by the Gestapo together with the men he betrayed." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Two, Chapter 40.)

♦ "Hurbinek was a nobody, a child of death, a child of Auschwitz... Henek...sat beside the little sphinx... / Hurbinek died in the first days of March 1945, free but not redeemed. Nothing remains of him: he bears witness through these words of mine." (*If This Is A Man* by Primo Levi.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nonhuman and nonliving things can have anniversaries, autobiographies, autopsies, biographies, birthdays, careers, epitaphs, eulogies, obituaries, requiems, and even be characters.

♦ see also *elegy* (noun)

## rescue (verb)

rescued him from a life  
canoe-making ~ of alcohol and obliteration (Palawa artist)

rescue the program from mediocrity  
he promised to ~ (a new coach)

rescue these 78 RPMs, tapes, wax cylinders, everything  
we try to ~ (AMAR Foundation / Mustapha Saeed)

## rescue (noun)

come to (America's) rescue  
Franklin's call for history to ~ (John Hope Franklin)

come to their rescue  
people are looking to scientists to ~ (pandemic)

### \*\*\* Three wonderful rescues...

♦ "A snowboarder is stuck upside down in a tree well." (A remarkable video, showing the skier Francis Zuber saving a snowboarder from asphyxiation. Super! See [Moment Hero Skier Saves Snowboarder Buried Alive Goes Viral: 'Amazing'](#))

♦ "Knowing that the divers on the scene were not up to this specialized task of entering the cave, and assuming—that Gant might still be alive in an air pocket—[Buddy] Lane pleaded by telephone that trained caver divers be called in..." ("The Bat Cave Miracle," 16 August 1992, Nickajack Lake Cave, New Hope, Tennessee.)

♦ Pete Schoening's belay on K2 on August 10, 1953, is a legendary moment in mountaineering history. Pete stopped 5 climbers from falling to their deaths.

## reservoir (amount)

reservoirs of rage  
the loneliness of children and their often unrecognized ~

reservoir of good feeling  
polls show a surprising ~ toward Obama

tap into the reservoir  
the militants can ~ of submerged hatred

## reservoir (source)

viral reservoir  
bats are among the most dangerous ~s on earth

## reservoir (group)

reservoir of labor  
the DPs became a ~ (WW II "Baltic Swans," etc.)

## reset (noun)

reset  
he wants an overall ~ (policy towards Afghanistan)  
our ~, which is not a retreat, will be different (Time's Up)  
the group call this a ~, it could also be called an implosion

in our reset  
we're determined ~ to do better, get it right (Time's Up)

## reset (verb)

reset relations  
Obama promised to ~ with Russia

reset the trajectory  
he helped formulate the strategy that ~ of the war

fix or reset  
the law's efforts to ~ struggling schools (NCLB)

♦ Steve Inskeep: "This is really interesting, not going to reset. Meaning not gonna look into Putin's eyes as George W. Bush did, not gonna bring a reset button, as Hillary Clinton once did under Obama, not going to look away from Russian election interference, as Donald Trump did. Just try to move forward? (In an incredulous tone.) Is that what they're trying to do?" / Franco Ordenez: "Yeah, they wanna move forward..." ("U.S. Announces Sanctions On Russia Over Poisoning Of Opposition Leader Alexei Navalny," NPR, Morning Edition, March 2, 2021.)

♦ "We are resetting, we are not retreating, and we are here, we have a vision, we are capable of fulfilling it." (Ashley Judd of Time's Up, responding to criticism of that organization.)

## reshape (verb)

reshape how  
the debate could ~ Americans understand foreign aid

reshaping the (Texas) economy  
drought, urbanization, and oil were ~ (vs. small farms)

reshaped Hollywood  
the *Jaws* producer who ~ (Richard Zanuck)

reshaped the (ethnic) landscape  
the brutal violence has ~

reshaping (Indian) society  
westernization is ~

reshape the world  
this lawsuit could ~ of digital publishing

## reside (verb)

resides at Goodrich Castle  
Roaring Meg ~ (an English Civil Wars-era mortar)

reside inside of a business or campaign headquarters

the drop-boxes ~ (the controversial US 2020 election)

♦ see also *live* (location)

## residence (noun)

taken up residence

this iceberg has ~ near the coastland (Newfoundland)

## residue (noun)

residue of shame

World War II left a ~ around Germany's future military

## resonate (verb)

resonated around Mexico

the news ~ (arrest of Garcia Luna)

resonate with students

his speech will ~ (politics)

resonates with Latin voters

Bernie's message ~ (election)

resonates today

the riot still ~ (Attica / 1971)

resonated loud and long

accounts of the 1963 Everest epic ~

♦ "We've been racing the Green River for 22 years. We have such a vibrant community surround that river, when someone passes away on that river, it is so sobering and so hard, and people have to reflect on it. It resonates." ( John Grace, director of the Green River Narrows race, on the drowning of Matthew Scott Ray, 20, at Go Left rapid in the Green River Narrows, North Carolina. Matthew's accident occurred May 5, 2018. Expert kayaker Wade Harrison was onsite and was instrumental in the rescue/recovery. See Wade's account at the American Whitewater Accident Database Report ID# 29943.)

♦ Echo; resonate; reverberate... Take your pick!

## rest (laid to rest / death)

laid to rest

two of the little victims were ~ (school shooting)

## rest (put / lay something to rest)

laid to rest any doubt

she ~ about... (PM Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand)

laid to rest a misapprehension

Apple ~ that...

put these accusations to rest

the idea for the interview was to ~ (historical sex abuse)

lay this history to rest

any trial is unlikely ~ (in Columbia / Alvaro Uribe)

laid the incident to rest

China appears to have ~ (returns US underwater drone)

put the matter to rest

Cook had now ~ (no Southern Continent)

put this matter to rest

we must ~

## rest (put / laid to rest)

laid to rest

the issue has now been ~ (a work issue)

the situation has finally been ~ (authorship dispute)

Rosetta will be ~ not too far away (from Philae)

doubts about his birth had been ~

Adobe Flash is finally ~

## restlessness

musical restlessness

that ~ has made her a lightning rod (country music)

## resurface (as transitive verb)

resurfaced concerns

the debates have ~ about efforts to...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Ordinarily, "resurface" is not a transitive verb unless it refers to "putting a new surface on" or bringing a sunken ship to the surface of the water.

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## resurface (verb)

resurfaced

jihadists have ~ to pursue an Islamic state

he went to ground for a few months but then ~ (wanted)

his self-destructive tendencies have ~

## resurrect (verb)

resurrect a career

he was desperately trying to ~ that... (a boxer)

resurrect his career

after a third loss in five bouts, Joshua now has to ~ (boxer)

resurrect (many of the old) criticisms

a German defeat will ~ (soccer)

resurrected a killer

scientists have ~ (reconstructed 1918 flu virus)

resurrecting the Hummer name

GMC is ~ as a full-electric pickup truck

resurrect performers

CGI can ~ from another era

## resurrection (noun)

resurrection of the (1918) flu

the story of the ~ began in 1995...

retrieval, resurrection, and revival

his ~ (Thoreau / US literary canon)

## resuscitate (verb)

resuscitated the (fascinating) case

Michelle McNamara has successfully ~ (Golden State Killer)

resuscitate this (all but abandoned) city  
how can we ~ (Detroit)

resuscitate the middle class  
if only we could ~

## retch (and puke, vomit, throw up)

puke  
when she says she is spokeswoman for abuse I want to ~

retch  
if education jargon causes you to ~...

throw up  
I want to ~ thinking about voting for either of them

just about throw up  
when I tell this to my kids they ~ (elderly advice)

made him want to "throw up"  
he said watching the video ~ (discipline at school)

make me want to retch  
some of his comments ~ (politics)

♦ "Everytime [sic] she says she is a spokeswoman for abuse I want to puke." (A comment on the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

♦ "I just threw up a little in my mouth. Ew!" (An online commenter about something she considered cringe.)

♦ "Is Hamas insane? Gift bags and a threatening mob of terrorists? Forcing them to smile after 14 months in a terrorist tunnel? I want to puke." (Hamas releases 3 women kidnap victims. The Israel-Hamas war.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone throws up in disgust or revulsion.)

## retire (retire something)

retire the term  
it's time to ~ (LGBTQ+)  
it's time to ~ 'People Of Color' (Damon Young)

♦ Cats in the Cradle; Imagine; Yesterday; Happy (Pharrell); American Pie; Freebird (Lynyrd Skynyrd)... ("Hallelujah! The Songs We Should Retire," NPR, All Songs Considered, hosted by Bob Boilen, October 11, 2017. A clear provocation. As Delmar said in *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, "Oh, George. Not the livestock...")

♦ Sam Sanders ("Opinion: It's Time to Put 'Woke' To Sleep," NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, December 30, 2018) argues that the term *woke* has had its day and should be retired.

♦ "Why It's Time To Retire The 'Serious Conversation About Race'", with Damon Young. (1A, WAMU, NPR, July 16, 2020.)

♦ "Author Damon Young Says it's Time To Retire The Term 'People Of Color,'" Here & Now, wbur, September 04, 2020.)

♦ "Honestly, I think we should probably retire the phrase 'cancel culture' at this point. Because it's losing its meaning...when people just use it to mean, 'I resent your drawing attention to my crazy ideas.'" (Mona Charen, the *Bulwark*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can retire something or someone. An alternative is, "Time to send it off to the sanctuary." Or "put it out to pasture." A less benevolent idea is "Slaughter the donkey when its work is done." Or "It's time to send it to the glue factory." Or, "Put it to sleep." Or "Take it behind the barn." Take your pick!

## retired

retired

the Chief Wahoo logo is to be ~ (Cleveland Indians)

retired in July  
the original Segway will be ~ (the personal transporter)

retired in 2025  
Windows 10 will be ~ (Microsoft)

retired planes  
Australian Airline selling bar carts from ~

pensioned-off warships  
the oak walls of these ~ (English prisoner hulks)

♦ "I'd really like to see "misogynoir" retired someday as something we don't need to use or only think about in the past because we've done the work to create a world where misogynoir doesn't exist." (Sociologist Moya Bailey, who coined the term, speaking about the Megan-Tory trial. From "Megan's Rule: Being exceptional doesn't make you the exception," NPR, Louder Than a Riot, Season 2 Episode 1. By Gabby Bulgarelli, Rodney Carmichael, and Sidney Maddon.)

## retort (speech)

angry retort  
the allegations have brought an ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "TORQUEO is a Latin word that means 'twist,' 'turn'... / A *retort* is a quick, sharp, and caustic reply that 'twists' a comment of the first speaker 'back' on himself. (*re-*, 'back,' and *torqueo*, 'twist') (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From Chapter 22, "The Making of 50,000 Words." It's a nice way to think of the word. Funk mentions the following words with the same idea of "twisting": extort, torture, contort, tortuous, distorted, torment, and torque. Additionally, the chemist's retort has a distinctive twisted shape.)

## retraumatization (groups)

re-traumatization  
and that's a ~, right...

retraumatization  
so how could we not think that there's a ~, right  
I was essentially, on some level, experiencing a ~

retraumatization from church leaders  
the abuse was awful but paled in comparison to the ~

retraumatization and criminalization  
the ~ of victims of sexual violence (pro-abortion)

## retraumatize (verb)

retraumatize our communities  
we want to make sure these records do not ~ (Blacks)

retraumatized her  
the young woman said a disciplinary hearing would have ~

retraumatize eyewitnesses and family members  
multiple trials may ~ (George Floyd)

traumatize or re-traumatize  
you really want to not ~ kids (Blacks)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "New Ways of Treating Trauma: Try Some Yoga," NPR, Here & Now, January 12, 2015. ("wbur: We're sorry, but we cannot locate the page you requested. Mmmm.)

♦ Terry Gross: How did you write your book without re-traumatizing yourself? / Christine Blasey Ford: I did retraumatize myself... ("For Christine Blasey Ford, the fallout of the Kavanaugh hearing is ongoing" with Terry Gross, NPR, Fresh Air, March 19, 2024.)

♦ "Liberia has been through so much in the last 15 or 20 years. This is really almost re-traumatizing people here." (Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the CDC, talking in 2014 about an outbreak of Ebola in Liberia.)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## retraumatized (groups)

retraumatized

after 20 years of being ~...

her family would be ~ if she's executed (Melissa Lucio)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## re-traumatizing (groups)

re-traumatizing

survivors say the criminal justice system can be ~

retraumatizing

she has said repeatedly that's been particularly ~...

retraumatizing article

*The New York Times* publishes a graphic and ~

re-traumatizing experience

the Chauvin trial and the ~ of remembering

re-traumatizing process

it's a ~ to file a claim... (veterans vs. the VA)

potentially re-traumatizing

the justice systems is ~ (vs. college adjudication)

graphic and retraumatizing

The New York Times publishes a ~ article

♦ "*The New York Times* publishes a graphic and retraumatizing article with no heads-up to the victims' families, with no consideration that we may still be struggling." (Francine Wheeler, in a letter published in *The New York Times Magazine*, May 14, 2023. Her son, Ben, was murdered at the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.)

♦ "They can [go to the police]. Always can. But in a lot of cases, it's the victims who don't want that. They see the criminal justice system as more grueling and potentially re-traumatizing. And not only is it harder to go through, but it's also harder to win in court where, you know, a case has to be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. On campus, the standard of proof is much lower. The government says it should be a preponderance of the evidence, which means, basically, just that something was more likely to have happened than not." ("Why Colleges Adjudicate Their Own Campus Crimes" with Rachel Martin, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, November 30, 2014.)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *traumatizing (groups)*

## retread (noun)

retread of the original

the sequel is a loud, brash ~ (a film)

## retreat (withdraw)

retreated into himself

he ~ (high-altitude bivouac on Gasherbrum IV)

retreated into a fantasy world

she ~ (9-year-old, father jailed)

## retreat (reverse / verb)

retreated from that stand

he has since ~, saying... (politician)

retreated on several points

still, the state has ~ (prisoners' demands)

retreating on his policy

he is ~ to... (president)

retreated on that

but the EPA ~ (reverses a ban)

♦ "We are resetting, we are not retreating, and we are here, we have a vision, we are capable of fulfilling it." (Ashley Judd of Time's Up, responding to criticism of that organization.)

## retreat (reverse / noun)

media retreat

there was a ~ and apology for past invasiveness

## retreat (glaciers, etc.)

retreating rapidly

alpine glaciers are ~ (Switzerland)

♦ The Swiss cover sections of the Rhone Glacier with tarps in the summer to prevent melting.

## retreat (absence)

hasty retreat

an invasion by the national media, followed by a ~

♦ "The usual trajectory for mass shooting coverage involved an invasion by the national media, followed by a hasty retreat."

## return (and return to)

return to normal

coral can recover if conditions ~ (bleaching)

returned to normal

his heart and liver function had ~ (CO poisoning)

returning to normal

things are slowly ~

returned in force

it was still horribly cold and the wind ~ (climbing)

conditions return

coral can recover if ~ to normal (bleaching)

function had returned

his heart and liver ~ to normal (CO poisoning)

wind returned

it was still horribly cold and the ~ in force (climbing)

♦ see also *go back (and get back)*

## return (animals, etc.)

return of this (national) symbol  
the dramatic ~ (bald eagle)

return of the wolf  
the west has seen the ~ (US)

dramatic return  
the ~ of this national symbol (the bald eagle)

♦ see also *come back (from extinction, etc.)*

## return (point of no return)

point of no return  
many see annexation as a ~ in terms of a peace deal

reached the point of no return  
I ~

## return (noun)

return of function  
full ~ is common (fracture)

return of cold temperatures  
the ~ led to an ice age

return to function  
complete ~ is the norm (fracture)

return to the fundamentals  
Salafis advocate a strict ~

return to the "old days"  
what he really wants is a ~ (Pakistani Christian)

return to traditional foods  
the tepary bean symbolizes a ~ (Tohono O'odham)

symbolizes a return  
the tepary bean ~ to traditional foods (Tohono O'odham)

## reveal (verb)

reveal how  
his novels ~ things really got done (spycraft)

reveal a (genetic) bottleneck  
blood samples ~ (too few Amur tigers left)

reveal some dirt  
critics hoped the report would ~ on the President (politics)

revealed the extent  
dawn ~ of devastation

revealed a (deep) fissure  
the resignations ~ among Afghan leaders

reveals (many) hidden gems  
the road ~ (N7 in France)

reveal gulf  
antiwar marches ~ between leaders and people

reveal the hypocrisy  
he listed the façade of respectability to ~

reveals a (disturbing) pattern  
the data ~ to a trained eye

reveal themselves  
secrets always ~ in the light of truth

## reveal (as noun)

reveal (for most of the country) was  
the biggest ~ that... (a government hearing)

reveal moment  
it's like a real chilling ~ where you realize that... (a film)

gender reveal  
at a ~ party (sex of baby)  
the couple's ~ ceremony sparked a wildfire

big reveal  
when will she make the ~

juicy reveals  
candid confessions, ~ (on reality-TV hot mics)

♦ "Should gender reveal parties be reserved for transgender kids when they come out..."

♦ Molly Woodstock, a gender educator and co-host of the podcast *Gender Reveal*.

♦ "Some thought the episode was part of the act and waited for the reveal." (Roy of Siegfried & Roy fame is mauled onstage by the white tiger Mantecore.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Merriam Webster dates this usage to 1952, so it is relatively new.

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## reverberate (verb)

reverberates beyond our own shores  
the political dialogue in the US ~ (New Zealand massacre)

reverberate through admission offices  
the case is sure to ~ (forged transcripts)

reverberating throughout Kenosha  
the acquittal on all counts is ~ (Kyle Rittenhouse trial)

♦ Echo; resonate; reverberate... Take your pick!

## reverberation (noun)

reverberations across the globe  
the attacks in Christchurch have had ~ (mass shooting)

reverberations of his (shock) resignation  
the ~ are being felt widely and deeply

global reverberations  
the choices that are made have ~ (world leadership)

political reverberations  
the ~ continued to be felt (assassination)

repercussions and reverberations  
fears about the ~ of a targeted killing persisted

reverberations haven't died away  
that was 150 years ago, yet the ~ (Civil War)

reverberation went further  
his death shook basketball, but the ~ (Len Bias / drugs)

## reverential (adjective)

reverential care  
the livestock was guarded with ~ (a colony)

## revictimization (or revictimisation)

re-victimization of what  
she felt almost a ~ she went through (rape trial)

revictimization of the survivors  
FEMA's complexities amounts to the ~ (of natural disasters)

re-victimization but also a validation  
the investigations are a ~ (victims of Catholic sex abuse)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Victimisation" has a Wikipedia article, which is part of a series on Discrimination. Part of the article is on "revictimisation."

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *victimization (or victimisation)*

## revictimize (groups)

"revictimized" the family  
the legal proceedings had ~ of Felicia Gayle (an appeal)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *victimize (groups)*

## revictimized (groups)

re-victimized  
our families have been ~ by nonprofits (school shootings)

re-victimised  
women are ~ when they come forward (Amber Heard)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ see also *victimized (groups)*

## revisit (verb)

revisit that stuff  
it's always hard to ~ (a racial murder from 1964)

## review (noun)

rave reviews  
his new pitch has drawn ~ (a pitcher)

mixed reviews  
but his performance got ~ (a lawyer)

## revive (verb)

revive (computer) systems  
Baltimore struggles to ~ paralyzed by hackers

revive hiring  
government intervention can ~

## revivify (verb)

revivify the context  
creative non-fiction seeks to ~ of events

## revolt (verb)

revolted against the pay  
shareholders have ~ awarded to...

revolted against her attempts  
many supporters of her party have ~ at austerity

## revolt (noun)

shareholder revolt  
the aftershocks from the ~ will be felt...

citizens' revolt  
the city council is reeling from a ~ over officials' pay

## revolution (noun)

revolution in (data) storage  
astronomy faces a ~

communications revolution  
the ~ that is the Web

information revolution  
the impact of the ~

Internet revolution  
helped propel the ~

digital music revolution  
his startup, MP3.com, helped ignite the ~

shortboard revolution  
his board designs helped kick off the ~ (surfing)

lesbian revolution  
her hit song *Wenn die beste Freundin* unleashed a ~

sexual revolution  
living in a country that went through the ~ (US)

aftermath of the (sexual) revolution  
in the ~

igniter of the (3-point) revolution  
he was the ~ in the NBA (the great Stephen Curry)

impact of the (information) revolution  
the ~

path of revolution  
another bored child of privilege who chose the ~

revolution is brewing  
a ~ (against bilingual education)

launched a revolution  
he ~ (astronomer looking at X-ray emitters)

kick off the (shortboard) revolution  
his board designs helped ~ (surfing)



## revolutionary (person)

separating the charlatans from the revolutionaries  
~ is a challenge (Silicon Valley)

♦ "We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles." (Thomas Edison, December, 1879.)

## revolutionary (adjective)

revolutionary for biology  
the discovery of DNA was ~

revolutionary for physics  
the discovery of cosmic microwave fluctuations was ~

revolutionary breakthroughs  
~ in armor technology (military)

revolutionary toothbrush  
brush your teeth in less than 10 seconds with this ~ (ad)

## revolutionize (verb)

revolutionized the (retail drug) business  
Mr. Walgreen ~ in the 1950s

revolutionize (health) care  
Holmes' promise that Theranos would ~

revolutionized (medical) care  
the CAT scanner ~ throughout the world

revolutionized women's lives  
the sewing machine ~ (1870s)

revolutionized forensic anthropology  
the body farm ~ (Knoxville, TN)

## revolve (revolve around something)

revolves around Mahomes  
the entire offense ~ (injured NFL quarterback)

revolved around heroism  
for many tribes, life ~

revolves around the ocean  
our life ~ (Perth / Australia)

revolved around the sea  
his life ~ (a surfer)

revolved around sports  
his childhood ~

revolved around a (church) youth group  
her social life ~

revolve around personalities and geography  
alliances ~ (Tuvalu politics)

## revolving door

revolving door  
her romantic life is a ~  
it has been a ~ and there's been a lot of turnover (politics)  
it was a ~, there was a lot of turnover (a company)  
the mental health care system is a ~

revolving door of the Trump administration  
through the ~ goes another high-level departure

revolving door between the DEA and the drug industry  
if you take a look at the ~ (regulators become lobbyists)

revolving door between sickness and health  
many moved constantly in a ~ (preventive medicine)

revolving door of (national-security) advisors  
this has been the ~ (firings, resignations, etc.)

revolving door (at Theranos) continued to swing  
the ~ at a furious pace (Silicon Valley)

## rev up (verb)

revved up the debate  
the information ~ over the war

revved up its focus  
the probe has ~ on alleged corruption and fraud (Florida)

## revved (revved up)

revved up  
the crowd is ~

## reward (verb)

reward you with its beauty  
whatever the season, the galaxy will ~ (plant)

reward the winners with certificates  
we ~ of achievement (class project)

rewards loyalty over excellence  
he ~ (president)

reward (or punish) students for their behavior  
grades should not ~

rewards (creative) approaches  
the competition ~ to... (research)

rewards the (personal) loyalty  
the bureaucracy ~ of those at the bottom

reward or punish  
grades should not ~ students for their behavior

## reward (noun)

reward  
I think that the risk is part of the ~ (a climber)

rewards of fish watching  
introduce recreational divers to the ~

rewards like money, sex and drugs  
the human brain is acutely attuned to ~

rewards for (good) work  
high grades are given as ~ (school)

rewards or other kinds of motivation  
recognize achievement with ~ (job)

rewards and dangers  
developing the Arctic carries ~ for those in the area

cash reward  
the new software is delivering ~s

unpredictable rewards  
~ produce much larger signals in the brain

lion's share of the rewards  
they reap the ~

incentives and rewards  
improve class climate through ~ (teachers)

perils and rewards  
the ~ of the backcountry (Mt. Rainier)

rewards (certainly) justified the effort  
the ~ (hiking)

carries rewards  
developing the Arctic ~ and dangers

delivering (cash) rewards  
the new software is ~

attuned to rewards  
the human brain is acutely ~ like money, sex and drugs

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Honesty; doing the right thing; learning and education; kindness and helping people and animals... (Things that are their own rewards.)

## rewarding

rewarding  
the work is very hard but very ~ (nursing assistant)

rewarding experience  
it's the most ~ I've ever had (adoption)

rewarding thing  
it's the most ~ I've ever done (adoption)

rewarding spiritually  
it's very ~ (paragliding / Hawaii)

fun and rewarding  
wilderness and travel medicine can be ~

## rewind (verb)

rewind  
if I could ~ I would (a swatting leads to death of innocent)

rewind to that moment  
let's ~ before everything changed... (go back in time)

rewind this film  
you cannot ~ (US withdrawal from Afghanistan)

## rewritten (changed)

rewritten  
tools that allow the code of life to be ~ (Crispr-Cas9)

## rhyme (verb)

rhyme  
history doesn't repeat itself, but it can ~  
but many of their back stories do ~ (are similar)

rhyme with the story  
it doesn't ~ TV has written for him

rhyme with the truth  
as for her explanation, it didn't ~

make hope and history rhyme  
this is our moment to ~ with passion and purpose (Biden)

♦ "A lot of this play it doesn't follow my biography but it rhymes with it." (Tom Stoppard about his play *Leopoldstadt*.)

♦ "Who's listening to this while Americans are evacuating Kabul? History doesn't repeat itself but it sure does rhyme." (A commenter about a haunting Russian song about Afghanistan called "Caravan.")

♦ "And so another Tiger transgression—not a big one, not by far—but another one washed away as it doesn't rhyme with the story TV has written for him and recites every time he plays on TV." (The great sportswriter Phil Mushnik about an incident involving the golfer Tiger Woods.)

♦ "I think in some way their characters rhyme a bit." (The writer Michael Lewis about his book *Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon* (about Sam Bankman-Fried) and Walter Isaacson's authorized biography *Elon Musk*.)

♦ "Opinion: Why gardens and poems rhyme" by Tess Taylor, CNN, Mon April 22, 2024. Super!

♦ "History doesn't repeat itself, but it rhymes." ("Why Hamas victim Hersh Goldberg-Polin's name—like Anne Frank's—will live forever" by Gil Hoffman and Jacki Alexander, The New York Post, Sep 6, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes." This is often attributed to Mark Twain. According to the Quote Investigator website, "There is no substantive evidence that Twain who died in 1910 made this remark." Attributing quotes to people is always problematic. And, in many cases, quotes attributed to people are simply untrue, the stuff of posters and T-shirts and the internet.

## riat (commentariat, etc.)

commentariat  
the online ~ turned on Hathaway (actor Anne Hathaway)  
the ~ has used all kinds of phrases (Democrat "joy")

precariat  
the white rural ~ (George Packer)

professoriat  
the ~ did not invent them (Title IX, Civil Rights Act, etc.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary does not seem to have yet an entry for "-riat." However, looking up the words above will lead you to words such as "puditiariat" and "cognitiariat." Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ see also *ati* (*glitterati*, etc.)

## ribbon (Ribbon Reef, etc.)

Ribbon Arch  
~ is an arch in Grand County, Utah

Ribbon Beach  
~ is a beach in Los Angeles County, California

Ribbon Branch

~ is a stream in Stewart County, Tennessee

### Ribbon Canyon

~ is a valley in San Juan County, Utah

### Ribbon Cascade

~ is a waterfall in Teton County, Wyoming

### Ribbon Cliff

~ is a cliff in Chelan County, Washington

### Ribbon Creek

we paddled up ~ (Alberta, Canada)

### Ribbon Falls

~ is a waterfall in Larimer County, Colorado

~ is a waterfall in Coconino County, Arizona

### Ribbon Lake

~ is in Alberta, Canada

### Ribbon Lakes

~ are lakes in Franklin County, Washington

### Ribbon Mesa

~ is a summit in Rio Grande County, Colorado

~ is a summit in Chelan County, Washington

### Ribbon Reef

we scuba-dive on ~ (Queensland, Australia)

~ is a bar in Dukes County, Massachusetts

### Ribbon Ridge

~ is a ridge in Madison County, Arkansas

~ is a ridge in Yamhill County, Oregon

### Ribbon Rock

~ is a ridge in Los Angeles County, California

### Blue Ribbon

~ Creek is a stream in Pueblo County, Colorado

~ Mountain is a summit in Idaho County, Idaho

~ Summit is a gap in Beaver County, Utah

## ribbon (ribbon of moonlight, etc.)

### Pabst Blue Ribbon

drink ~ and imbibe some American history

## ribbon (ribbon of moonlight, etc.)

### ribbon of moonlight

the road was a ~, across the purple moor...

## rich (rich land, etc.)

### rich

the land here is particularly ~

♦ "Better poor with honor than rich with shame." (A point of pride in Kosovo.)

## rich (fossil-rich, etc.)

### feature-rich

it is not nearly as ~ or versatile (a camera)

### fiber-rich

to avoid hemorrhoids, fill up on ~ foods

### fossil-rich

at the ~ site in China...

### oxygen-rich

fish need ~ water to survive (pollution)

### resource-rich

China and India court ~ counties like Nigeria

### target-rich

he flew into a ~ environment (combat)

### wildlife-rich

the ~ province of Mpumalanga

## rich (plentiful)

### rich in (natural) beauty

the Aisén area of Patagonia is ~ (Chile)

### rich in minerals

Guinea, a former French colony that is ~

### rich in uranium

the north of Niger is ~

### rich in protein, iron and calcium

teff, an easily absorbed millet ~ (Ethiopia)

### rich fodder

there has been ~ for armchair pundits (a boxing match)

## rich (superlative)

### rich (maritime) heritage

the New York and New Jersey area has a ~

### rich (Jewish) legacy

there is a ~ associated with boxing

### rich (basketball) tradition

Philadelphia has a ~

### rich, sophisticated and varied

Islamic civilization—~

## rich (hype)

### rich instruction

this is what Nation (2001) refers to as ~

## rickety (condition)

### rickety

the company's ad base appears more ~ than ever (media)

### rickety region

Jordan remained a relative rock of stability in a terribly ~

## ricochet (verb)

### ricochet

this could ~

## ride or die (slang)

### ride or die

I'm ~ brother... (an Elon Musk supporter)

### ride or die together

their come to Jesus moment of we must ~ (sports radio)

♦ "I'm ride or die brother—I'd jump on a grenade for you." (An Elon Musk supporter.)

♦ "I be ten toes down." "I'm standing ten toes down." "I need you ten toes down." "He only eight toes down." (AAVE.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Ride-or-die chick." According to that article, "ride or die" expresses the sentiment of a biker who would rather be dead than unable to ride his motorcycle. It also stands for loyalty. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *bullet* (take a *bullet* for somebody)

## riddle (noun)

solve the riddle

their objective was to ~ of COVID-19's origin

♦ When I eat I live, when I drink I die. What am I?

♦ What has three heads, eight legs, and two wings? (A Bedouin, on a horse, with a falcon.)

♦ Four in the morning, two in the afternoon, three in the evening...

♦ Which came first, the chicken or the egg? (Thank you for clearing that up!)

## riddled (riddled with flaws, etc.)

riddled with bullets

his car was ~ (assassinated)

riddled with clichés

the script is ~

riddled with doubt

he was ~ (Ben-Gurion)

riddled with errors

but the vaccine story was ~ ("Deadly Immunity")

riddled with falsehoods

the series was a hatchet job ~ (a documentary)

riddled with flaws

that particular study was ~

riddled with lookouts

the gang-infested neighborhood is ~

riddled with bugs and glitches

the game is ~, and is prone to crashes

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *Riddled* is generally followed by something that is negative. The following quote of the actor Peter O'Toole is an exception. Speaking about the actors in the film *Becket*, he said, "The place was riddled with first-class people."

## ride (rough ride, etc.)

ride of my life

this has been the greatest ~ (graduating basketball star)

rollercoaster of a ride

I've had a ~ (rugby player Gareth Thomas)

magic carpet ride

her campaign has become a ~ (Michele Bachmann)

"Magic Carpet Ride"

~ by Steppenwolf

rollercoaster ride

see *roller coaster*

amazing ride

I want to thank the organization for an ~ (NFL player)

bumpy ride

consumers are in for a ~ this year (customer service)

a ~ on the new trade deal rollercoaster (Brexit)

fantastic ride

we have had a ~ (his team loses in semifinal)

greatest ride

this has been the ~ of my life (graduating sports star)

rough ride

we're in for a ~ (new troops in Iraq)

wild ride

it's going to be a ~ (future events)

his tweets and interviews make for a ~ (President Trump)

amazing rollercoaster ride

it's been an ~... (a life experience)

bumpy part of the ride

we're in a ~ (a fashion company)

easiest of rides

it hasn't been the ~ (a film's release)

take you along for the ride

a start-up that's ready to ~ (job)

♦ "It looks like we're in for a wild ride, so hang on." (A Wall Street bear market.)

♦ "Businesses are strapping themselves in for a bumpy ride on the new trade deal rollercoaster." (Brexit.)

♦ "2024...Strap in...it's going to be an incredible year!" (Riyadh Season sports events. Super!)

♦ "I can call if I'm ever feeling disoriented or confused... He's already been on that ride." (The younger actor Glen Powell about the older actor Matthew McConaughey.)

### \*\*\* The Lagoon Amusement Park...

♦ LAGOON AMUSEMENT PARK. One of the largest and most popular resorts in Northern Kentucky at the beginning to the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the Lagoon Amusement Park in Ludlow. An 85-acre lake was created for the park by damming Pleasant Run Creek, which empties into the Ohio river nearby; and streetcar lines were extended to the Lagoon entrance at what is today Laurel St. between Park Ave. and Lake St. / The park's grand opening was May 18, 1895... / Rides available for the first season included a large toboggan sled, a pony track, a miniature gold mine, and a scenic railroad. Of the early rides, one of the most popular was the roller coaster... Over the next few decades, many rides were added...[including a chute-the-chutes, an Alpine slide, a circular swing, a \$10,000 merry-go-round, and a 100-foot Ferris wheel built on one of the lake's many islands.] In 1909 the management constructed an elevated automobile ride in the park, featuring full-sized touring cars. The ride carried patrons along a two-mile elevated track, which snaked its way through the woods on the north end of the park." (The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky, edited by Paul A. Tenkotte, James C. Claypool. The University Press of Kentucky. The entry for the Lagoon Amusement Park was written by David E. Schroeder.)

♦ see also *roller coaster*

## ride (ride on something)

rides on our ability

the future ~ to adapt

rides on terminology  
much ~ (diplomacy)

riding on this  
a lot of people's jobs are ~ (strike)

hopes are riding  
all ~ on their daughter (immigrant family)

## **ride (ride something to fame, etc.)**

rode them to fame  
she was the one who ~ (ideas of fat liberation)

## **ride out (verb)**

ride this thing out  
we'll just have to ~ (a hurricane)

rode out the hurricane at home  
they ~

ride out his affliction  
he chose to ~ (instead of going to the hospital)

rode out the storm  
the punch hurt him, but he ~ (boxing)

## **rift (division)**

rift  
a ~ occurred between the radicals (Seattle mosque)

rift between Hamas and Fatah  
hopes to end the deepening ~

rifts between blacks and whites  
already existing ~ in the South

rifts between the Defense Secretary and the military  
~ (US)

rifts (between blacks and whites) in the South  
already existing ~

rifts in the city  
trying to heal the racial ~ (LA)

rift among Indians  
the move created a ~ here (Yakama Nation)

rifts over (America's) strategy  
orchestrated leaks from the White House have exposed ~

deepening rift  
hopes to end the ~ between Hamas and Fatah

centuries-old rift  
a ~ has come to the surface (Egyptians in the US)

racial rift  
trying to heal the ~ in the city (Los Angeles)

new school / old school rift  
a classic ~ (newer kayaking moves)

exposed rifts  
leaks have ~ over America's strategy

healed the rift

the years have not ~ between Shipa and her family

## **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "But in between these two classes there is a huge dump of worn-out metaphors which have lost all evocative power and are merely used because they save people the trouble of inventing phrases for themselves... Many of these are used without knowledge of their meaning (what is a 'rift', for instance?), and incompatible metaphors are frequently mixed, a sure sign that the writer is not interested in what he is saying." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, Horizon, April 1946. His points are well taken. But when I see the word "rift," I think of and am in wonder of the Rift Valley, in East Africa. Far in the future, that part of Africa will become isolated from the rest of Africa by a great inland sea. It will no longer be "part of the main.")

## **right (right a wrong, etc.)**

right our (fiscal) ship  
we must ~ (budget)

right this wrong  
we must ~

right a (perceived) wrong  
seeking to ~ with a firearm

seeking to right  
~ a perceived wrong with a firearm

## **right (bragging rights)**

claim bragging rights  
Putin's eagerness to ~ is justified (hypersonic missiles)

## **right (and rights / groups)**

right to defend  
the country has asserted a ~ itself (attacked)

right to disappear  
adults have the ~ (missing person)

right to end  
the ~ one's own life (assisted dying / suicide)

right to have  
heat equity is the ~ thermally safe environments

right to live  
Trans' ~ any way that feels authentic and comfortable

right to repair  
originally Apple opposed the ~ movement

right to respond  
U.S. officials backed Israel's ~ (to Hamas, Iran)

right to retire  
the ~ early is part of their culture (the French)

right to roam  
English activists are fight for the '~' (trespassing)

right to seek help  
the ~ to end their lives (commit suicide)

right to travel  
a woman's ~ to seek an abortion across state lines

right to swim

the ~ ("The Great Trespass" by Brooke Jarvis, NYT)

right to my body  
the ~ is super important (a UPenn coed)

right to dignity  
the Palestinian people's ~ and to self-determination

rights to our fun  
we have the ~ and my posse (a Spanish female teen)

right to privacy  
the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment ~ does not apply to abortion (2022)  
our unborn child's ~ (the product of donor eggs)

right to due process  
the law violates the ~

right to water  
the human ~ was passed in 2012 (California)

right of assembly  
the ~ applies even to groups like the Ku Klux Klan

rights of (adolescent) girls  
Girl Up promotes the ~ around the world (the UN)

right of Israel  
the ~ to exist as an independent Jewish state

rights of nature  
the Florida Democratic Party lists the ~ in its platform

right of parents  
courts generally support the ~ (medical decisions / kids)

right of the people  
the ~ to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed

right of resistance  
Hamas terrorists have a '~' (George Washington U. panel)

"right of return"  
all Palestinians should have the ~ to land inside Israel

right of scholars  
the AAS firmly supports the ~ take part in...

rights for animals  
the legal basis to grant ~

rights group  
the human ~ Amnesty International says...

women's rights  
activists hailed the verdict as a victory for ~ in India

no right  
the public has ~ to use beach (Kennebunkport, Maine)  
Florida has ~ to declare them outcasts (Don't say Gay)  
the US has ~ to tell China what to do  
the school has ~ to punish her for off-campus speech

unenumerated rights  
~, freedoms not explicitly written in the Constitution

abortion rights  
can ~ supporters stop the ban in Indiana

animal rights  
the ~ group Toronto Pig Save  
the ~ group Animal Equality  
the ~ movement has an arsenal of tools (drones, cameras)  
he read *Animal Liberation*, the seminal ~ (by Peter Singer)  
Hsiung became a vegan, a Buddhist, and then an ~ activist

Animal Rights  
the 2016 ~ National Conference in Los Angeles

bedrock right  
we will continue to stand up for Israel's ~ to defend itself

civil right  
a fundamental right, a human right, a ~ (housing)

disability rights  
~ activist Cola Booy, dead at 34 (Matthew Urango)

divine right  
the ~ of kings

gun rights  
how Americans feel about ~ versus restrictions

human right  
housing is a ~ (homeless moms)  
housing is a ~, not a commodity (Moms 4 Housing)  
sodomy is not a ~ (Uganda)  
being able to manage your period is a ~ (Marni Sommer)  
family planning is a ~, says U.N. (contraception, etc.)  
health is a ~  
education is a ~ (Maryland teacher Keishia Thorpe)  
she interprets climate protection as a ~ (Germany)  
it is a ~ not to get shot (a gun control activist)  
food is a basic ~  
water is a ~  
the practice of sport is a ~ (Olympic Charter)  
in his view, access to clean water is a ~  
international ~ standards  
~ groups have long complained that...  
the government has been tossing ~ attorneys in jail  
freedom of conscience is a ~ (Pope Francis / same sex)  
he is a ~s lawyer

Human Rights  
the ~ Watch report (prisons)

labor rights  
Uber, Lyft drivers strike over wages and ~

period rights  
period poverty and ~ (menstruation)

queer rights  
they were pioneers in getting us ~ (drag performers)

trans rights  
~ are human rights (a chant at a demonstration)

trans-rights  
~ activism is just another weapon of the patriarchy (TERF)



basic (human) right  
 sleep is a ~  
 nearly half of humans lack that ~ (access to toilet)  
 freedom of speech is a ~ (IOC bans Olympic protests)  
 housing is a ~  
 in the US health care is not considered a ~

Constitutional right  
 our ~s are under attack

constitutional right  
 bikini baristas have a ~ to wear G-strings and pasties

digital rights  
 ~ experts say doxing treads a fine legal line

epistemic rights  
 “~,” the right to know and to be known or remain unknown

fundamental right  
 access to housing is a ~ (Kamala Harris)

fundamental (human) right  
 privacy is a ~ (Apple CEO Tim Cook)  
 the ~ not to be arbitrarily deprived on one’s life (drones)  
 the ~ to participate in democratic process (Afghanistan)  
 I believe pain control is a ~ (opioids)  
 independent journalism is recognized as a ~  
 communication is a ~ (cell networks)

inalienable (human) right  
 he sees migration as an ~ (novelist Mohsin Hamid)

international (human) right  
 abortion is not an ~ (HHS Secretary Alex Azar)

legal rights  
 the Nonhuman Rights Project wants ~ for animals  
 laws that extend ~ to a fetus in utero  
 is it time to give nature ~ and the power to fight back  
 New Zealand has given ~ to the Whanganui River

Neurorights Foundation  
 he cofounded the ~ (Rafael Yuste)

neurorights  
 ~ are new human rights to protect... (Rafael Yuste)  
 brain implants for humans revive reminders of ~ (NPR)

religious rights  
 the Supreme Court upheld ~ over LGBTQ rights

reproductive rights  
 the law will be challenged by ~ (an abortion ban)

spiritual rights  
 their unjust removal is a violation of those ~ (graves)

gay and lesbian rights  
 a good year for ~ (2011)

gay and transgender rights  
 he advocates increasing ~ (Joe Biden)

Bill of Rights  
 the Lake Erie ~ became law in 2019

protection of (fundamental) rights  
 the ~ and freedoms

privilege, but a right  
 family planning is not a ~ (U.N.)

award rights  
 environmentalists want to ~ to lakes, hills, rivers, etc.

becomes a (human) right  
 make sure that health care ~ (Bernie Sanders)

declared happiness a universal human right  
 HappinessDay.org ~

declared Internet access a human right  
 the U.N. has ~

defends the right  
 the NEA ~ of teachers to teach the truth about racism

denies them a (basic) human right  
 the ~ (to charter schools, vs. public schools)

exercise my human right  
 I’m going to ~ to defend myself (a gun owner)

exercising their (human) right  
 they were simply ~ to peacefully protest

expands gun rights  
 Supreme Court ~

give convicts the right  
 the Constitution does not ~ to test DNA evidence

guaranteed a right  
 Roe V. Wade had ~ to access abortion (overturned)

had a right  
 only me, my doctor, and my God ~ to be involved

had no right  
 the men ~ to claim self-defense (lead prosecutor)

reserve the right  
 when we don’t ~ of self-definition (activist Audre Lorde)

respect the right  
 we ~ of employees to decide... (unions)

seen as a human right  
 vacation in France is ~

threatening (human) rights  
 the Supreme Court is ~ (abortion)

violate our (religious) rights  
 the restrictions ~ (no church during pandemic)

upheld the right  
 the court ~ of Arizona voters to try to make...

violates the right  
 the law ~ to due process

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women’s rights and women’s rights are human rights, once and for all.” (First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton,

addressing the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. According to Hillary, "Women's rights are human rights" became popular on "tote bags, cellphone cases, needle-point pillows, and T-shirts" thereafter.)

♦ "[My] husband believes we're violating out unborn child's right to privacy by sharing this fact with others." (Telling others that their child was conceived by donor eggs.)

♦ "I don't want to give advice, we have the rights to our fun and my posse..." (An HIV-positive Spanish teenage female, interviewed about random needle-sticks in discos and clubs.)

♦ "Every soul's body is important, no matter what size it is. It is an absolute right for me to feel good in my body." (The plus-size model Emme.)

♦ "Fight For Your Right (To Party)." (The cover by Corey Worthington.)

♦ "This kind of became weirdly enough in this court case, a battle of two amendments. The 14th Amendment is about equal protection under the law, and then the First Amendment is about free speech and whether or not a bikini or a G-string qualifies as free speech." (Mike Lewis, from "A return to bikini-clad baristas in Everett, judge rules" by Gee Scott and Ursula Reutin Show, Oct.24, 2022. The State of Washington.)

♦ "Workers at 'bikini barista' coffee stands in Everett, Wash., have a constitutional right to wear G-strings and 'pasties' while serving customers, a federal court has ruled." (The Week, "Only in America," November 11, 2022.)

♦ "The only people who had a right to be involved in that decision were me, my doctor, and my God." (A campaign ad for a politician who is pro-abortion.)

♦ "This is a problem with society, with this 'It's my right' selfish attitude. I have given up with cinema because of this." (People who converse loudly in cinemas, answer their cellphones, etc.)

♦ Same-sex marriage is an unenumerated right.

♦ "She said her measure was inspired by Scotland, which last year declared access to menstrual products to be a human right and required public places to provide them free of charge. Ideally, Garcia said, menstrual products would be as common in restrooms as toilet paper and paper towels." ("California Could Soon Require Free Menstrual Products in Public Schools" by the Associated Press, NPR, National, September 10, 2021.)

♦ "A court ruled it was Sabau's fundamental right to request euthanasia. (The Romanian "Gunslinger of Tarragona" Marin Eugen Sabau, 46, Spain.) /// "Belgian rapist Van Den Bleeken refused 'right to Die.'" (The rapist and murderer.)

♦ The right to reclaim one's life and have a second chance—whether that reclamation is from illness, from drug recovery or from prison—is a human right, not just a civil right." ("New Film About Life After Prison Was Directed By A Man Who Lived It" by Jon Kalish, NPR, February 11, 2017.)

♦ "Why shouldn't some kid from East LA have access to these things? It's science and it's our human right to work with scent." (Saskia Wilson-Brown, the founder and director of the Institute for Art and Olfaction. From "The Scents And Sensibility of LA's Nosy New Perfume Enthusiasts" by Chloe Prasinis, NPR, Culture, February 22, 2015.)

♦ "In 1972 the legal scholar Christopher Stone wrote a paper called "Should Trees Have Standing?" in which he pointed out that courts have long recognized entities that possess rights but require someone to sue on their behalf, from corporations to ships to children." ("Arbor in the Court" by Clive Thompson, *Wired*, January 2020.)

♦ "We strongly defend the right of stand-up comedians to perform on stage without fear of violence."

♦ "Children have a right to school education and a school day that is carefree as possible. School closures must therefore not be allowed." (Justice Minister Marco Buschmann, laying out Germany's COVID measures for the winter of 2022-23.)

♦ "Poulter told BBC Sport he was 'fighting for his right to play golf' and confirmed he had taken legal action against his ban from the Scottish Open." (Englishman Ian Poulter, a LIV golfer, seeking to play in the Scottish Open. From "Ian Poulter allowed to play Scottish Open

after ban lifted—DP World Tour boss 'disappointed,'" Iain Carter, BBC golf correspondent, 4 July 2022.)

♦ "President Vucic cannot cancel someone else's event. The right to hold Pride has been ruled by the European Court of Human Rights to be a fundamental human right." (President Kristine Carina of European Pride Organizers. From "Serbia's leader says EuroPride won't happen due to threats" by Jovana Gec, AP, Aug 27, 2022. In the same article, she mentioned that "Several thousand people recently joined a march in Belgrade against LGBTQ Pride." See also the Wikipedia article "Belgrade antigay riot.")

♦ "In 'Political Theory of the Digital Age: Where Artificial Intelligence Might Take Us,' Mathias Risse, a Rawlsian political philosopher, issues an urgent call for a new category to be added to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 'epistemic rights,' meaning the right to know and to be known, or—as may well be more sought after—the right to remain unknown. 'Democracy and technology, specifically AI, are by no means natural allies,' Risse writes, arguing that preserving democracy will require making hard choices about technology. So far, those choices are being made by corporations, especially American corporations, and especially in the United States, where people now live in what can be best understood as an artificial state." ("The Artificial State: A different kind of machine politics" by Jill Lepore, The New Yorker, November 11, 2024. It's a brilliant article.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Dignity" is not mentioned in the U.S. Declaration of Independence or the U.S. Constitution, or in the Pledge of Allegiance. The contemporary usage of "dignity" as a human right seems to stem from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. See the Wikipedia article "Dignity."

♦ Listen to BBC Radio 4, The Reith Lectures, Jonathan Sumption, 2019. There are five lectures: (1) Law's Expanding Empire (2) In Praise of Politics (3) Human Rights and Wrongs (4) Rights and the Ideal Constitution (5) Shifting the Foundations. The lectures are free to all at BBC.

♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "RIGHT, n. Legitimate authority to be, to do or to have; as the right to be a king, the right to do one's neighbor, the right to have measles, and the like..." *The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## right (right? / polemical)

prove them wrong, right?

Black people, we're going to go out and ~

deciding whether they're racist, right?

but the jury isn't ~

inconvenience them as much as possible, right

~ (an activist)

everything became about Black people, right?

in school, all of a sudden, ~ (Karsonya Wise Whitehead)

right? So

we speak a different cultural language, ~ you're always...

right, I mean, obviously

this had been sort of in the tea leaves for a little bit, ~

♦ "The point of our protest was to inconvenience them as much as possible, right, and to increase the costs of them doing business." (A gay activist.)

♦ "In school, all of a sudden everything became about Black people, right? So you're putting collard greens into the cafeteria..." (Karsonya Wise Whitehead about Black History Month.)

♦ "If you cook that, right, it's super-tender, right." (I *guess* so.)

♦ "This had been sort of in the tea leaves for [pronounced "fur"] a little bit, right, I mean, obviously..." (Esteban Bustillos, GBH News.)

♦ "You know, as a Black person, when I walk in a room and I spot the Black people in that room, it makes me feel safe and when I spot

those Black folk, I can see everybody much more clearly, right? I'm open in a different way, right? I think that's a human thing. And it's no different when it comes to literature." (Jason Reynolds, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, an award presented bi-annually by the Library of Congress.)

♦ Bobby Allyn: "But, look, it's important to emphasize here that these journalists didn't have some kind of special surveilling powers, right?" / "The journalists were writing about an account that tracked Musk's jets, right. It started and ended with airports." / "It sets a dangerous precedent, right, having this powerful billionaire who controls what's basically the front page of the internet banning journalists based on a personal animus." / "Twitter policy is written at the whim of Elon Musk, right..." / "Maybe one day I'll be caught in the middle and be suspended, right, I mean his rules are arbitrary and constantly moving, they're hard to keep up with ..." (From "Twitter owner Elon Musk suspends the accounts of several high-profile journalists," NPR, Business, Morning Edition, December 16, 2022. Bobby Allyn is NPR's tech reporter.)

♦ "And, you know, Elon Musk is behaving like Elon Musk, right? Uh..." (The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ronan Farrow, speaking to Fresh Air's Tonya Mosley.)

♦ "I mean this is the whole beauty of like horror movies is that it's such like weird circumstances and there's so much like weird rules about them that it's fun to subvert them and it's also like, the horror movies themselves were doing subverting, were like trying to like, be twisted and do this weird stuff and have these weird commentaries, and this is what makes *Scream* so good, right." (Alex Abad-Santos, a self-professed "flagrant homosexual." From "M3GAN, murder, and mass queer appeal," NPR, It's Been A Minute, January 17, 2023.)

♦ "Yeah, you would think, right? I mean, it's definitely..." (Stellar punditry from NPR's Pien Huang.)

♦ "If aliens came down from another planet, and they wanted to get to know us, they should go to the movies, right? Then they would understand us." (Umm, okay...)

♦ Motivational speaker: Is selling good? Say yes. / Audience: Yes! / Motivational speaker: Is getting sold good? Say yes. / Audience: Yes! (From "The Hard Sell" by Tad Friend, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022. According to the article, "[Q]uestions that elicit a 'yes' prime the customer to agree to a purchase. Encyclopedia salesmen once practiced an 'ascending close' that required summoning forty-two yesses...")

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Drill Sergeant: Tell me if I'm wrong. / Recruits: You're right! / Drill Sergeant: Tell me if I'm wrong. / Recruits: You're right! / Drill Sergeant: Sound off. / Recruits: One Two! / Drill Sergeant: Sound off! / Recruits: Three Four! / Drill Sergeant: Bring it on down. / Recruits: One Two Three Four One Two THREE FOUR! (Military cadence, marching in lockstep.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type in "right? so" at NPR and you get 9,945 results and counting. Not all of those hits relate to the meaning of "implicant agreement to an assertion." But many do.

♦ "It's all about justice, right, you know? Jus' because..."

♦ Wait; Stop; Whoa; Hold on; Hold your horses; Just a second; What exactly do you mean?; What!; No, you're not right!; Wrong; Negative... (What you can say to interrupt the flow of polemical people who pepper their speech with "Right" in an attempt to bulldoze you. A curt "Negative" always produces a gratifying "record scratch" moment...)

♦ see also *just because (polemical), you know (filler)*

♦ see also *feel (I feel you, etc.)*

## right (introductory)

Right, so  
see *so (introductory)*

Right, well  
see *well (filler)*

♦ Rob Schmitz: How... / Dr. Dennis Whyte: Right, so... / Rob Schmitz: What... / Dr. Dennis Whyte: Right, so... / Rob Schmitz: So this

experiment still took energy off the grid? / Dr. Dennis Whyte: That's correct... / Rob Schmitz: How long... / Dr. Dennis Whyte: Right, well... (A typical exchange on NPR.)

♦ see also *so (introductory), sure (introductory), yeah (and yah / introductory)*

## righted

righted

finally, a terrible wrong is being ~ (miscarriage of justice)

## right-hand (right-hand man, etc.)

right-hand man

he was Mubarak's ~ for decades

## rigid (constraint)

rigid (religious) beliefs

he has ~

rigid doctrine

the group does not have a ~

rigid hierarchy

teachers should avoid establishing a ~ of groups

rigid routine

inside, life followed a ~ (a factory)

rigid rules

he has relaxed some ~ (coach)

rigid (production) schedule

workers must deal with ~s

rigid versus a flexible

commanders must weigh the benefits of a ~ plan

rigid and omnipotent

its caste dynamics were ~

rigid and puritanical

Wahhabism, the ~ strain of Islam

ideologically rigid

our political leaders are too ~

less rigid

the Berbers practice a ~ form of Islam today

## rigid (character)

rigid

she was not ~, and her views evolved (Ann Landers)

we are not being so ~ as saying that is the only option

don't be ~, stay aware of your environment (military)

rigid in his beliefs

his parents claim he is not ~ (religion)

rigid or extremist

his parents say he is not ~ in his beliefs

## ring (ring false, etc.)

rang false

her story ~

rang hollow

his apology ~ (insincere)

ring hollow

promises that the country's best days lie ahead ~

rings hollow

his argument ~ to many

that is an argument that ~ (a bad argument)

ring true

his stinging accusations about EU institutions ~

rings true

his story ~

the message ~ 75 years later (It's a Wonderful Life)

## ring (ring of truth, etc.)

ring of truth

his words had the ~ (murder trial)

it doesn't have the ~ (an FBI report)

magical ring

those three letters have a ~ (BBC)

'Vichyssoise' still has a ~ to it (for a chef)

modern ring

his report of the landings has a strikingly ~ (Terceira)

successful ring

it had a ~ (a boxer's boxing name for himself)

## ring (kiss the ring)

kiss the ring

I feel no need to ~ (Nikki Haley, about Trump)

kiss the ring to get there

he had to ~ (a Supreme Court justice)

kiss the ring or bend the knee

she won't punish those who refuse to ~ (politics)

## ringed (circled)

ringed by sand flats

Rabbit Key, a small mangrove hummock ~ (Florida)

ringed by barbed wire

the area is ~ (military post)

ringed by mountains of garbage

neighborhoods here are ~ (Luanda)

ringed seal

the ~ is a chief prey of the polar bear (Arctic)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Animals might be banded, bearded, crowned, dappled, marbled, mottled, necklaced, ringed, speckled, spotted, stippled, streaked, striped, and even spectacled!

## ring in (the New Year, etc.)

ring in the Year of the Pig

next month, China will ~

rung in some huge changes

the past 10 years have ~ for television

ringing out 2019 and ringing in the New Year

today we are ~

## ringmaster (role)

ringmaster of the (daily) news briefings

he was the ~ (government public-affairs news briefer)

ringmaster of loyalty investigations

he was the ~ (Joe McCarthy)

role of the ringmaster

he is playing the ~ (a crusader and media personality)

turned himself from spectator to ringmaster

he artfully ~ and took control (a mayor)

## ring out (the New Year, etc.)

ringing out 2019 and ringing in the New Year

today we are ~

## ring out (voice)

voice rang out

her ~ with an accusation

## ring out (a shot rang out, etc.)

shot rang out

suddenly, a ~ and a bullet fired from the house struck...

## rinse and repeat

rinse and repeat

one hopes this isn't just ~ (serial shootings of Blacks)

*Men In Black 3* does not just ~, it adds time travel

"rinse and repeat" of the 2018 report

the findings are a ~ (same problem, no change)

rinse-and-repeat treatment

eight bars get the ~ over nine minutes (music)

suspend, apologise, reinstate, rinse-repeat

~ (a government member who made a gaffe / politics)

♦ "You hop off... You pick a new horse, ride it for another 25 miles. Rinse and repeat." (The Mongol Derby. Super!)

♦ "With protests unfolding almost daily throughout the country, one hopes this isn't just rinse and repeat—lament the dead, demand justice, another cop kills another unarmed Black person, and so on." ("Pharoahe Monch, Styles P Call Fight For Equality 'Same S\*\*\*, Different Toilet'" by Marcus J. Moore, NPR Music, June 5, 2020.)

♦ "Dahmer—Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story Review: Ryan Murphy, Netflix, Rinse, Repeat" by Daniel Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, September 22, 2022.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Most people think of shampooing when they use this cliché. However, see the quote below.

♦ "To prepare them, cut off any thick stalks. Submerge in a large bowl of water to loosen the dirt. Drain, rinse and repeat as necessary, then pat dry. Par-boil them..." (A recipe for beets.)

## riot (run riot)

ran riot

they ~ in a 5-0 win (a soccer match)

ran riot at St Mary's

Leicester ~ to win (a soccer match)

ran riot around the streets

he ~ of Holytown as a young lad (Chris Bungard)

mind ran riot

his busy ~ after his success (a troubled boxer)

## riot (other)

riot of speculation

everything the police said led to a ~ (Nicola Bulley case)

Riot Girls

~ offers no-holds-barred dramas (BBC Radio 4)

~ offers provocative writing by women (BBC Radio 4)

## riot (riot of color, etc.)

riot of wildflowers

spring covers the Rocky Mountains in a ~

riot of life and colour

Southern Africa is a ~ (ocean currents)

## ripe (adjective)

ripe

the time is ~ to sit down with the Chinese

ripe for a (large) fire

conditions are ~ (dead trees)

ripe for fraud

drop boxes are ~ (voting)

ripe for cultivation

the colonists found meadows ~

ripe for rebellion

the city is ~ (Basra)

seemed ripe

the time ~ for a fresh attempt (scientific ballooning)

made conditions ripe

the fronts and temperatures ~ for tornadoes

## riposte (speech)

devastating riposte

it was a ~ (a presidential debate)

♦ "I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence. I don't think he knows what he said, either." (Trump's "devastating riposte" to some remark by Joe Biden during their June 2024 debate. As Piers Morgan said, "It was a devastating riposte, because it was what we were all thinking.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Touche!

## ripple (verb)

ripple out

all sorts of abuses ~ (from dogfighting)

rippled westward

the tradition may have ~ with the Scythians (art)

rippled through the system

United's flaws ~ (plane transportation)

rippled through Hollywood

a groundswell of cases like hers ~ (MeToo)

rippled through every industry

the effects of the movement have ~ (MeToo)

rippled around the ground

a sense of foreboding ~ (a soccer game)

## ripple (ripple effect)

ripple effects

the ~ have affected river access (kayaking fatalities)

ripple effects in all directions

Kazakhstan's policies have caused ~

have ripple effects

weather delays ~ (air transportation)

adds to the ripple effect

every new infection ~ (AIDS epidemic)

## ripple (noun)

ripples

delays can have ~ thousands of miles away (planes)

ripple on the economy

that move, in turn, has had a ~

ripples of Columbine

what were the ~

ripples of the shutdown

travelers everywhere felt the ~ (airport)

ripple in the atmosphere

the smallest changes can have a ~ (tornadoes)

ripples from the drownings

the ~ have affected river access (kayaking)

political ripple

the existence of child workers has made barely a ~ here

barely a ripple

the existence of child workers has made ~

ripples could extend

the ~ beyond the industry (tainted beef)

made (barely) a ripple

the existence of child workers has ~ here

sending ripples through colleges

the changes are ~

♦ "The pebble had been dropped in that water and it started rippling out in waves that nobody could finally control, least of all Timothy Leary." ("Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out" and LSD.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Who looks upon a river in a meditative hour and is not reminded of the flux of all things? Throw a stone into the stream, and the circles that propagate themselves are the beautiful type of all influence..." (*Nature*, Chapter 4 (Language), by Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1836.)

## rip through (verb)

ripped through the community  
the virus has ~

## Rip Van Winkle

Rip Van Winkle effect  
people incarcerated for decades grapple with the “~”

modern Rip Van Winkle  
if a ~ feel asleep in 1975 and woke up today... (internet)

think of myself as Rip Van Winkle  
I began to ~ (see quote below)

♦ “As I realised how different the new *Times* had become from the old one that trained me, I began to think of myself not as a benighted veteran on a remote island, but as Rip Van Winkle.” (“When the New York Times lost its way” by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ “It was strange to be back. ‘It definitely felt like a little Rip Van Winkle,’ he says. While Kraft was fighting in Iraq, his friends moved ahead with their lives.” (“Attitudes, PTSD Complicate Iraq Vet’s Job Search” by Joseph Shapiro, NPR, Morning Edition, November 12, 2007.)

♦ “Home. Twenty-eight years old, feeling like Rip Van Winkle.” (Michael Herr, who wrote *Dispatches*.)

♦ “Since when did women become sports commentators?” (A man who returned home in 2017 after a stint abroad.)

## rise (rise and fall)

see *rise and fall*

## rise (prices rise, etc.)

rose 20 percent  
prices ~

## rise (increase / noun)

rise in popularity  
the meteoric ~ of the word “bae” (2014)

## rise (rise to the challenge, etc.)

rising to the challenge  
we are ~

rise to the occasion  
can they ~

rose to the occasion  
he ~ like freshly baked dough

## rise (rise above something)

rose above party politics  
he was a towering figure who ~ (a politician)

## rise (resist)

rose in revolt  
the people ~

rise up  
no one knows if the people will ~  
people who ~ often get killed (rebellion)

## rise (on the rise)

on the rise  
feed prices are ~ (drought effect on herds of animals)

on the rise in Tajikistan  
Islam is ~

## rise (rise of agriculture, etc.)

rise of the Roman Empire  
with the decline of Greece and the ~...

rise of Buddhism  
with the ~ the study of anatomy was prohibited

rise of Christianity and Islam  
the practice predates the ~ (FGM)

rise of China  
if you are worried about the ~

rise of agriculture  
his hypothesis suggests that the ~ led to...

rise of feminism  
this period witnessed the ~

rise of podcasts  
the popularity of audiobooks coincides with the ~

## rise (achievement)

meteoric rise  
she had a ~ and a heartbreaking fall (Whitney Houston)

on the rise  
he has been ~ (a politician)  
his profile was ~ (Detroit’s Kwame Kilpatrick)

## rise (achieve)

rise in the company  
he was anxious to ~ (workplace sociopath)

rose to fame  
he ~ in 1973 (Ahmed Zaki Yamani)

## rise and fall (verb)

rise and fall on the believability  
the case will ~ of the accusations (rape)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “No mortal power may stay her spinning wheel. / The nations rise and fall by her decree. / She passes, and things pass... / ...Season by season / her changes change her changes endlessly.” (Dante’s *Purgatory*, translated by John Ciardi. In medieval times she was known as Dame Fortune, to the Romans she was Fortuna, to the Greeks she was Tyche. Today she might be referred to as Lady Luck.)

## rise and fall (noun)

rise and fall of a business colossus  
the ~ (Carlos Ghosn)

*Rise and Fall of the Comanches*  
*Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the ~*

rise and fall of a parenting influencer



the ~ (Ruby Franke)

rise and fall of Dollar General's predecessors

the ~ (five and dimes, etc.)

*Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon*

*Going Infinite: The ~* (Michael Lewis' book about SBF)

rise and (sudden) downfall

her ~ captured the nation's imagination (Theranos trial)

rise, fall and rebirth

the Fab Four's ~ (the Beatles)

*Rise, Fall, and Return*

*The ~ of Michigan Football* (John U. Bacon)

rise, fall, and rise again

his ~ may have seen a final chapter (a boxer)

rise and fall and rise again

the play follows the ~ of a family

♦ "My privileged position was, I was there before it all went bad. I was there for a *year* before it all went bad, trying to figure out what this story was...So I could see the rise as well as the fall." (The remarkable writer Michael Lewis about his book *Going Infinite: The Rise And Fall Of A New Tycoon*, which is about Sam Bankman-Fried.)

♦ "The Joker: Shane Gillis's fall and rise" by Kelefa Sanneh, *The New Yorker*, September 26, 2022.

♦ "Ibram X. Kendi's fall is a cautionary tale—so was his rise" by Tyler Austin Harper, *The Washington Post*, September 28, 2023. Brilliant.)

♦ "The rise and fall of Matt Gaetz in eight wild days" by Jude Sheerin, *BBC*, 22 Nov. 2024.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* by William L. Shirer (1960).

♦ *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Edward Gibbon. Six volumes, published between 1776 and 1789.)

## rising (rising star, etc.)

rising star

she is a ~ (a singer)

~ Poeti Norac has died (the French surfer)

she was named a ~ (cinematographer Halyna Hutchins)

rising star in the (Lincoln) firmament

General Grant was a ~

rising star in the Democratic Party

he was considered a ~ (Stockton California mayor)

rising star in Democratic politics

Joe Neguse has been considered a ~

rising star in the (progressive) ranks

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez is the ~

## rising (upcoming)

rising generation

young women were part of this ~ (CIA post 9/11)

rising politician

reaction to the riots lifted a ~ named Ronald Reagan

rising right

the ~ in Europe (populism)

rising senior

she's a ~ on the UCLA gymnastics team

## rite (rite of passage)

rite of passage

it's kind of a ~

wild rite of passage

Las Vegas becomes a ~ for new 21-year-olds (booze)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "Rite of passage," "Van Genneep uses the metaphor 'as a kind of house divided into rooms and corridors.'"

## ritual (noun)

ritual of (village) life

in a ~

rituals and routines

many people have ~ before bedtime (nursing)

concert ritual

~s include "body surfing"

bedtime ritual

follow a nightly ~ (bath, pajamas, story, bed) (kids)

springtime ritual

drinking sap from the maple tree is a ~ (S. Korea)

pre-spring-break ritual

what became a ~ (females diet / eating disorders)

fraternity drinking ritual

his son had taken part in a ~ (died)

personal finance ritual

recording checks is a ~

hazing ritual

it was a ~ (training)

Yale has strict policies barring ~s (fraternities)

~s pushed too far (high school)

mating ritual

cicadas engage in a frenetic ~

annual ritual

the summer sojourn is an ~ (Germans visit Mallorca)

bizarre rituals

elaborate and sometimes ~ (OCD)

nightly (bedtime) ritual

follow a ~ (bath, books, and bed) (toddlers)

superstitious ritual

~s such as wearing the same shirt (sports)

wacky (bedtime) ritual

you learn who's got ~s (sharing a room)

yearly ritual

the start of the ~ (Cancun spring break)

bedtime ritual

follow a nightly ~ (bath, pajamas, story, bed) (kids)

you learn who's got wacky ~s (sharing a room)

follow a (nightly bedtime) ritual  
~ (bath, books, and bed) (toddlers)

stop the ritual  
colleges have tried various tactics to ~ (alcohol)

engage in a (frenetic) mating ritual  
cicadas ~

taken part in a (fraternity drinking) ritual  
his son had ~ (died)

♦ "Reading about Larry's exploits in the *Boston Herald* had become a happy ritual." (Larry Bird, the great NBA player and Hoosier from French Lick, Indiana.)

## river (resemblance)

river of (yellow taxi) cabs  
a ~ ebbed and flowed down Broadway and 7th Ave

River of Grass  
the ~ that is the Everglades (Florida)  
the Florida Everglades, the so-called ~  
the subtle, sodden grandeur of the so-called ~

river of (high-altitude) air  
the jet stream, a speeding ~, veered far south

river of ice  
the glacier is broad and grand, like the ~ it is

river of lava  
sending out plumes of ash and three ~s (volcano)  
the volcano sent 200-foot-wide ~ through the town

river of wind  
that ~, called the jet stream

lava river  
the ~ seemed to have widened (Fagradalsfjall)

atmospheric river  
the Pineapple Express is an ~  
you can see the ~ on the satellite here (weather report)  
~s of moisture could fuel megafloods (California)  
we've got this ~ of moisture (bomb cyclone / West Coast)

### \*\*\* The world's rivers...

♦ "The city is in my blood, the ruins of its palaces, the mosques and the river." (An Iraqi, speaking of Baghdad.)

♦ "Reed houses built upon water, black dripping buffaloes... stars reflected in dark water, the croaking of frogs, the stillness..." (Wilfred Thesiger, *The Marsh Arabs*.)

♦ "In Hama, the city is wedded to the river." (The Orontes.)

♦ "The Indus brings bread to our table. It is one of the longest rivers in the world, and it is also one of the wildest." (Wajahat Malik, filmmaker and leader of the Indus Expedition 2022.)

♦ "Thanks to the water, and thanks to the moon. The water provides many things. The water gives us life." (Kay Kimsong, on the meaning of Cambodia's annual Water Festival.)

♦ "The old river in its broad reach rested unruffled at the decline of day, after ages of good service done to the race that people its banks, spread out in the tranquil dignity of a waterway leading to the uttermost ends of the earth." (*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad.)

♦ "My name is Anjelica Huston, I'm an actress, I grew up in London in the early 60s. It was a time when a lot of old ways were meeting a lot

of new ways, from the rations and the hardships of the second world war, and the blitz and hunger. Eel Pie Island...[was] suddenly meeting the youthquake." ("From A British King To Rock 'N' Roll: The Slippery History Of Eel Pie Island," NPR, All Things Considered, The Kitchen Sisters, Aug. 13, 2012. Super!)

♦ To know Russia is to know the Volga... (A proverb.)

♦ Summer camps for fishing, fish wheels built on driftwood rafts, simple smokehouses, aluminum skiffs, nets, beaches that serve as depots and gathering places... (Salmon fishing on the Yukon River.)

♦ The Niger, the Gambia, the Congo, the Nile, and Kipling's 'great grey-green greasy Limpopo...'

♦ The Amazon, the Plate and the Orinoco...

♦ The red aborigines, / Leaving natural breaths, sounds of rain and winds, calls as of birds / and animals in the woods, syllabled to us for names, / Okonee, Koosa, Ottawa, Monongahela, Sauk, Natchez, / Chattahoochee, / Kaqueta, Oronoco, / Wabash, Miami, Saginaw, Chippewa, Oshkosh, Walla-Walla, / Leaving such to the States they melt, they depart, charging the / water and the land with names. (Stanza 16 of "Starting from Paumanok" by Walt Whitman.)

♦ The Mississippi River is referred to as "The Father of Waters." The Mekong River, on the other hand, essentially means, "Mother of Water / Rivers."

## river (river of hogs, etc.)

river of (*Times*) coverage  
the ~ (*The New York Times*, about an issue)

river of hogs  
this annual migration, this "great ~" (Buncombe Turnpike)

iron river  
the ~ refers to the flow of guns from the US into Mexico

♦ The flow of guns to the East Coast from the South (from Georgia and Tennessee, especially) has been referred to as the "iron pipeline."

♦ "...[B]ehind all this [violence] was constantly present to our eyes and mind the scene of a great stream, a procession, so to speak of human souls on their way to eternity." (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. The Civil War.)

## river (sell somebody down the river)

sold football down the river  
FIFA have ~ to fill the pockets of the fat cats

stab us in the back or sell us down the river  
he might ~ (lack of trust)

## rivet (verb)

riveted the nation  
his trial ~ (O.J. Simpson)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ An awful murder trial might rivet / mesmerize / capture / grip the attention of a nation. And yet, *The New York Post* and ABC have used the word "captive"!

## riveted

riveted in the (public) imagination  
Brandi Chastain is forever ~

riveted on the drama  
the nation's attention is ~ unfolding in Washington

keep you riveted  
this twisty crime thriller will ~ (*No Sudden Move*)

## **riveting (adjective)**

how riveting

this is a one-sit-down read, that's ~ it is (true-crime book)

♦ "Hard to put down; can't-stop-now reading; a one-sit-down read; unputdownable... (Deserved praise for *I'll Be Gone In The Dark* by Michelle McNamara.)

## **riviera (Riviera of the Midwest, etc.)**

Riviera of the Midwest

St. Joseph, Michigan, on "the ~"

Caucasian Riviera

Sochi is on the ~ (Russia)

Citron Riviera

the ~ (Santa Maria del Cedro, Calabria, Italy)

Danish Riviera

Gilleleje, a fishing town on the ~ (BBC Travel)

Irish Riviera

the South Shore, referred to as the "~" (south of Boston)

Scituate, on the "~," was a center of the mossaing industry

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ The Wikipedia article "Riviera" has a nice list of various riviervas around the world but as of 21 November 2024 does not yet include "the Riviera of the Midwest," famous for Michigan's city of St. Joseph, fondly referred to by locals as Saint Joe, and famous for its "ice pancakes."

♦ Here is another startling epithet from the Midwest: "Put-in-Bay, a village on an island off the northern coast of Ohio (in Lake Erie), is sometimes called the Key West of the Midwest." It has also been referred to as Roofie Island, by at least one Buckeye newspaper. Who knew?

## **road (Whale Road, etc.)**

Whale Road

early Icelanders referred to the sea as the ~

## **road (path, direction)**

different road

other companies saw a ~ to riches (online education)

similar road

the six countries all followed a ~ (to democracy)

fork in the road

see *road* (*fork in the road, etc.*)

going down that road

I am not ~

going down a road

you are ~ that will be your undoing

take you down the wrong road

it's a question that can ~ (job interview)

## **road (turn in the road, etc.)**

turn in a (troubled) road

it was one more ~ (personal problems)

## **road (rules of the road)**

rules of the road

we need to have some basic ~ that we can all abide by

## **road (road from / to something)**

road to recovery

she is well on the ~

the economy is on the bumpy ~

road to riches

other companies saw a different ~ (online education)

road to ruin

see *ruin* (*road to ruin*)

road to space

the ~ is being built today (Blue Origin's *New Shepard*)

road to the truth

the ~ is still a very long one (slave laborers in Siberia)

road to sin and evil

it blocks the ~ (women and non-mahram males)

road to stardom

the ~ hasn't been a superhighway for her (film actor)

road to the White House

his ~ was paved with discretion and loyalty

road to a fit, fabulous body

the ~ isn't short

road from convert to jihadist

the ~ can be remarkably short (terrorists)

road from research to (finished) product

the ~ is long and costly (drugs)

road (to get) from where we are now to impeachment

there's a long ~

♦ "By the time I discovered love, I was no greenhorn. I knew there were different menus. I knew that there was a motorway and a scenic route, and also unfrequented byways where the foot of man had barely trodden... There were so many different ways." (*A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz.)

♦ "The dark off-roads of human behavior... (Crime.)

## **road (along / on the road)**

along the (long) road of parenting

it'll help you ~ (advice about toddlers)

on the road to fame

they were young, just starting ~

on the road to peace

we're still ~ (Palestinian road map)

the negotiations are an important stepping stone ~ (Sudan)

on the road to perdition

"petting parties" were neon signposts on the ~ (1920s)

on the (bumpy) road to recovery

the economy is ~ to recovery

well on the road

she is ~ to recovery

bumps along the road

there have been a few ~

first step on that road

this is a pretty aggressive ~ (to impeachment)

start on the road to e-riches

all eager to ~ (Internet prospectors)

♦ "We're still on the road to peace, it's just going to be a bumpy road, and I'm not going to get off the road until we reach the vision."  
(President Bush on Palestinian road map, after suicide bombing.)

## road (come down the road / pike)

coming down the pike

so a lot is ~ today

♦ "When you don't know what's coming down the pike, you worry." (A businesswoman, speaking about government regulation.)

## road (road ahead, etc.)

on the road ahead

nobody knows what is ~

long road ahead

there is still a very ~ for Ms Warren (running for presidency)

## road (down the road, etc.)

down the road

but that's ~, right now, people are still...

this will lead to problems ~

it could be indictable ~ (in the future)

the company hopes to make money ~ (in the future)

thank you both so much for your time, we'll see you ~

easier down the road

it'll make your job ~

few years down the road

we don't want to find out a ~ that... (investigator)

further down the road

they hope for improvement in relations ~ (diplomats)

further down the track

and then, ~, Trump will be waiting (election)

ample time down the road

there will be ~ to allocate responsibility

## road (down a road before)

down this road before

we have been ~

I can tell you've been ~

down that road before

I've been ~ (exploited by girlfriend)

♦ "We've been around this block before in 2018."

♦ "Been there, done that, this is like, I need to get a perm, right, because we're back in the eighties..." (Christie Donner, a leader of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition.)

## road (go down that road, etc.)

go down that road

let's not ~

## road (end of the road)

the end of the road

a defeat does not necessarily mean ~ for Nigeria

the end of the legal road

they are at ~ (Hillsborough tragedy / YNWA)

hit the end of the road

he has ~ (arrested for murder)

## road (long road)

long road

the ~ we have traveled in the U.S. (desegregation)

it's a ~ when you face the world alone (Mariah)

it's been a ~, and sometimes it has been fun (old rocker)

long road of parenting

it'll help you along the ~ (learn to pick your battles)

long road to an uncertain result

investigators face a ~

long road ahead

there is still a very ~ for Ms Warren (running for presidency)

face a long road

investigators ~ to an uncertain result

traveled a long road

we have ~ (desegregation)

help you along the long road

I'll ~ of parenting (learn to pick your battles)

## road (tough / easy road, etc.)

bumpy road

the economy is on the ~ to recovery

dangerous road

it seems like a ~ to go down (a social issue)

difficult road

they team slogged a ~ to qualify for the tournament

hard road

it's been a ~ (a victim of abuse)

rough road

President Obama faces a ~ (politics)

safe road

do I take the ~, or do I venture out

tough road

it's been a ~ for everybody

troubled road

it was one more turn in a ~ (personal problems)

long and winding road

the ruling is part of the ~ since... (a murder case)

bumps along the road  
there have been a few ~

bumps in the road  
many families encounter ~ to toilet training

stumbles on the road  
there have been some ~ to reform

on a road (that)...  
~ is paved with leaks, supposition, speculation (enquiry)

## road (the high road / the low road)

low road of impeaching people  
this ~ for political speech (politics)

taken the high road  
he has ~ and refused to respond to the insults

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "People need to take the high road for a change, it's called morals."

## road (fork in the road, etc.)

come to a fork in the road  
the countries involved in the Middle East have ~  
when things like that happen, you ~

### \*\*\* Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken"...

♦ "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, / And sorry I could not travel both / And be one traveler..." ("The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost.)

♦ "Finally, sometimes metaphoric mappings are so conventional that they force themselves on readers or listeners even without any overt specification of mappings. In such a case, the author can afford the apparent luxury of underspecification, exactly because it is only apparent. We cannot really call these minimalist—they don't give the reader any special sense of discovery or active participation in the reading. An example is Robert Frost's 'The Road not taken' which says, 'Two roads diverged in a yellow wood / and sorry I could not travel both... I took the one less traveled by / and that has made all the difference.' Despite Frost's own insistence that this poem was about actual choices of paths during country walks (poking fun at a friend who treated these choices too seriously), generations of readers have consistently and automatically understood it as being about LIFE AS A JOURNEY (within which LIFE CHOICES ARE CROSSROADS). This makes us realize that mappings which are not explicitly labeled may or may not be genuinely left open to the reader." (*Figurative Language* by Barbara Dancygier and Eve Sweetser.)

♦ see also *crossroad* (*Crossroads of the World, etc.*), *crossroad* (*at a crossroad*), *crossroad* (*other*)

## road (push something down the road)

pushed down the road  
some of the big decisions were ~ (government)

## road (road to Damascus)

road to Damascus conversion  
after his ~, Milley set several goals for himself

♦ "For Milley, Lafayette Square was an agonizing episode; he described it later as a 'road-to-Damascus moment.' The week afterward, in a commencement address to the National Defense University, he apologized to the armed forces and the country. 'I should not have been there,' he said. 'My presence in that moment and in that environment created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics.'" ("The Patriot" by Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Atlantic*,

November 2023. For context, see the Wikipedia article "Donald Trump photo op at St. John's Church.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers to the conversion of Paul the Apostle to Christianity. See the Wikipedia article "Conversion of Paul the Apostle." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *Jesus* (*come to Jesus, come-to-Jesus*)

## road (Silk Road)

see *Silk Road* (*New Silk Road, etc.*)

## roadblock (noun)

legislative roadblock  
the union headed to Albany to set up a ~ (education)

face some roadblocks  
we ~ (better relations with China)

hit roadblocks  
Baltimore residents ~ in efforts to combat urban blight

thrown up roadblock after roadblock  
Texas has ~ for people (mail-in voting)

## roadkill (noun)

a lot of roadkill  
there is going to be a ~, but some will succeed (migration)  
see the Jets as roadkill  
most other NFL teams ~ honestly (NFL)

♦ "The people who come to California are brave, this is a high-risk, high-reward state. There is going to be a lot of road kill, people are going to get hurt, people are going to get steamrollered, but in the end you have some people who are going to succeed..." ("The California Century: From Hollywood to Silicon Valley," BBC, Sounds, 17 June 2020, wonderfully narrated by Stanley Tucci.)

## road map

road map toward peace  
a ~ in the Middle East

road map to cutting  
he has a detailed ~ spending (politician)

roadmap for the Internet  
the 13 root servers that provided the ~

road map for what  
it's a ~ we must do (plan to save coral reefs)

♦ Ana Castillejos: "It's almost like a roadmap, which makes it really really exciting as it stands to kinda see where she's leading us in all the different songs." / Steve Inskeep: "A roadmap in that it refers back to Swift's older material..." (An interesting NPR exchange. The older Inskeep seeks to "translate" the younger person's metaphor. But does he succeed? From "Taylor Swift breaks a record and sweeps Billboard's top ten spots," NPR, Morning Edition, November 1, 2022.)

### \*\*\* "Two Swedish tourists..."

♦ "Two Swedish tourists headed for the Italian resort of Capri misspelled the name in the GPS device and ended up in the industrial town of Carpi, 400 miles away, where they were very puzzled by the absence of a beach." (*The Week*, August 7, 2009.)

♦ "Triple A suggested that drivers who use GPS still carry a good old-fashioned map."

## roar (verb)

roars (ex-FCC policy advisor) Nathan Learner  
Google's Gemini AI was an absolute disaster ~

## roar (activity)

roar again  
the American economy will ~ (after pandemic)

## roar (noun)

roar of the waterfall  
he had to shout over the ~

## roar back (verb)

roar back  
the job market is starting to ~  
usually within a year or two, the disease would ~  
it can fade away and then ~ (grief)  
but the economy isn't going to ~, it'll be a slog...

roar back in the primaries  
he did ~ (a politician)

roared back from (Chapter II) bankruptcy  
the company has ~

roar back to life  
the winds are expected to ~ by Tuesday (wildfires)  
if they would do this, our economy would ~

roar back with a vengeance  
inflation will ~ unless...

## roaring back (come roaring back, etc.)

came roaring back  
sales ~ in the third quarter (cars)

come roaring back  
it could ~ (coronavirus)

come (roaring) back into the public consciousness  
the case has ~ after the Netflix series (Menendez brothers)

bring manufacturing roaring back  
he promised to ~ (politics)

## Roaring Twenties

Roaring Twenties-type  
there could definitely be a ~ deal post-COVID (spending)

## roast (verb)

roasted the president  
she ~ (at White House Correspondents' Dinner)

♦ see also *skewer* (verb)

## roast (noun)

roast style  
he specializes in the ~ (comedian Tony Hincheliffe)

## rob (verb)

rob the winds of their moisture  
the uplands ~ (valley in rain shadow)

robbed me of my health and vitality  
he ~ (a sex abuser)

robbed me of that justice  
his death has ~

robbed me of my youth, innocence, and self-worth  
he ~ (seduced by older man)

## robbed

robbed of our child  
we were ~ (murdered)

♦ "Boxing is the only sport where you can get robbed without a gun."  
(John Ruiz, on his controversial loss to Nikolay Valuev in Berlin.)

## robbery (noun)

highway robbery  
it's an outrage, ~ (boxer gets draw instead of win)

## robe (noun)

in her (most exquisite) robes  
an aurora is nature ~

## Robin Hood

Robin Hood in reverse  
this is a transfer of wealth, it's ~ (taxes)

Robin Hood figure  
in Mexico, some saw him as a ~ ( "El Chapo" Guzman)

Robinhood name  
the ~ is a household name now (the stock trading app)

Robin Hood reputation  
with this began the ~, totally undeserved (bushrangers)

reverse Robin Hood  
Liz Truss, a ~, 'taking from the poor to give to the rich'

digital Robin Hood  
he is a ~ ("Neld Harris" takes down scammers)

## Robinson Crusoe

Robinson Crusoe winter  
a ~ alone in a makeshift hut (Nansen and Johansen)

Arctic Robinson Crusoes  
Edible Country diners aren't ~ (Swedish "outdoorsiness")

female Robinson Crusoe  
newspapers hailed her as the real "~" ("Ada Blackjack")

♦ In *The Last Place on Earth*, Roland Huntford tells the sad story of Hjalmar Johansen. After surviving the "Robinson Crusoe winter" with Nansen in the Arctic, he took to drink, separated from his wife and children, resigned from the army, went bankrupt, and became destitute. Nansen, wishing to help his old companion who had saved his life, convinced Amundsen to take Johansen on his expedition, which Amundsen did, against his better judgement. In Antarctica, Johansen rubbed Amundsen the wrong way. The result was that Johansen was left out of the party that went to the South Pole. Back



home, Johansen resumed drinking and ended up committing suicide. He was a man who withstood and overcame harshest nature, but not society.

♦ "There was a frailty in the man himself, and the indoor life of human relationships was something that he found difficult." (Sir Ian McKellen on Sir Edmund Hillary, BBC, Great Lives, 04 Aug. 2015.)

\*\*\* "A Man cloth'd in Goat-Skins..."

♦ "Immediately our Pinnacle return'd from the shore, and brought abundance of Craw-fish, with a Man cloth'd in Goat-Skins, who look'd wilder than the first Owners of them. He had been on the Island four Years and four Months... His name was Alexander Selkirk a Scotch Man..." (*A Cruising Voyage round the World* by Woodes Rogers.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Daniel Defoe, while writing *Robinson Crusoe*, may have been thinking of Alexander Selkirk.

## robot (noun)

robot

he's not a ~, he's got feelings and emotions

I'm not a ~, I get tired (an athlete)

we are human beings, not ~s (faces racist fan abuse)

we're not just athletes, we are also humans and not ~

robot in (pressure-packed) situations

he's a ~ (a coach)

robot kids

in a world of cookie-cutter ~, he was different

translation robots

wide-ranging ~ require large datasets

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "You name it, somebody is trying to build a robot for it." (Surgery, sex, window cleaning, etc.)

♦ "Robots have advanced considerably faster than humans in the past decade."

♦ "Robots just aren't good at folding laundry."

♦ "The robot malfunctioned."

## robotic (feelings)

went robotic

I kind of ~ and shut everything out (teen is pregnant)

## robotic (movement)

robotic and stiff

Anthony Joshua often appeared ~ (boxing)

slow and robotic

Joe Joyce's performance was awful, ~ (v. Zhilei Zhang)

## robust (adj)

robust

our quality-control systems are ~

robust debate

the controversy has ignited a ~ on Web sites

robust response

the threat of terrorism requires a ~

robust suite

the MQ-9 has a ~ of visual sensors for targeting

robust (testing) system

we need a ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

## rock (verb)

rocked the (scientific) community

the earthshaking experiment has ~

rocked the media

the story ~

rocked the (Japanese) sport

the match-rigging scandal has ~ (sumo)

rocked Silicon Valley

the scam ~ (technology fail)

rocked their world

a fertility-clinic mix-up has ~

rocked New York and the country

his resignation was a major surprise that ~ (a politician)

## rock (Rock of Chickamauga, etc.)

Rock of Chickamauga

his legendary status as "the ~" (Gen. George H. Thomas)

## rock (Rock of Gibraltar)

Rock of Gibraltar

see *Rock of Gibraltar*

## rock (support)

rock of a family

Barbara Bush was the ~ dedicated to public service

rock of their family

she was a caring person, the ~ (murdered)

"rock" of their family

her husband was the (died in auto accident)

rock of stability

Jordan remained a relative ~ in a terribly rickety region

rock of support

Rosalynn Carter remained her husband's ~ to the end

rock of learning and geniality

he was a solid ~

my rock

I am grateful for Alexi, ~ during this time (bereavement)

our rock

she has been ~ (a soccer player)

how strong a rock

~ Elizabeth was to his life and career (Bruce Chatwin's)

credits his wife for being his rock

he ~ through all this (Alec Baldwin / *Rust* shooting)

## rock (rock-solid)

rock-solid

their ~ case began to crumble (murder)

she was a ~ witness (in murder case)

## rock (on the rocks)

on the rocks

their relationship is ~  
their marriage is ~  
Ringwald and James play a couple ~  
the ballad describes a romance ~  
their relations had been ~ for some time (celebrities)  
I think it's ~ (the US-UK relationship)  
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's future is ~  
Manila's relationship with Washington is ~

*On the Rocks*

~ is a light-hearted romp... (Sofia Coppola film)  
~ features a couple living in Manhattan (Sofia Coppola)

♦ "America's Long Love Affair With Beer Is on the Rocks." (*The Wall Street Journal*. More people are drinking liquor. A cute pun!)

\*\*\* "At eleven, they saw St. Alban's Head..."

♦ "At eleven, they saw St. Alban's Head, a mile and a half to the leeward, upon which they took in sail immediately, and let go the small bower anchor, which brought up the ship at a whole cable, and she rode for about an hour, and then drove. They now let go the sheet anchor, and wore away a whole cable; the ship rode about two hours longer when she drove again. / In this situation the captain sent for Mr. Meriton, the chief officer, and asked his opinion concerning the probability of saving their lives. He replied with equal candor and calmness, that he apprehended there was very little hope, as they were then driving fast on shore, and might expect every moment to strike." (The *Halsewell* went on the rocks near Seacombe, on the Isle of Purbeck (a peninsula), South Dorset, in 1786. Rescuers on the cliff above managed to pull seventy-four to safety. One hundred sixty-six perished. From "The Loss of the *Halsewell* East Indiaman," reprinted in *The Tragic History of the Sea* by Anthony Brandt.)

## rock (between a rock and a hard place)

caught between a rock and a hard place  
we have been ~

stuck between a rock and a hard place  
I'm ~ (too poor to improve situation)

♦ see also *Scylla and Charybdis*

## rock (turn over every rock, etc.)

look under every rock  
people then were not prepared to ~ (historical sex abuse)

turn over every rock to see  
we're going to ~ if... (police investigation)

## rock-bottom (adjective)

rock-bottom  
the prices for scuba diving are ~ (Belize)

rock-bottom price  
rented at ~s

## rocked (disruption)

rocked by the leak  
the intelligence community was ~ of classified documents

rocked by the sex scandal  
the network was ~ (CBS)

## rocket (increase)

rocket to 1 billion  
the number of passengers is expected to ~ by...

rocketing upward  
demand is ~ (for a service)

levels will rocket  
sediment ~ (dam removal)

## rocket (speed)

rocketed down the slope on his back  
he ~ (a climber)

rocketed to fame  
she ~ in New York (an actor)

## rocket (resemblance)

fired a rocket past the keeper  
a moment later, he ~ (soccer)

## Rock of Gibraltar (and Gibraltar / war)

"Gibraltar of Africa"  
an attack on the ~ (the Cape of Good Hope)

Gibraltar of America  
the ~ (Quebec)

Gibraltar of the East  
Singapore, Britain's ~, had fallen (1942)

"Gibraltar of the West"  
Vicksburg, the ~ (state of Mississippi / Civil War)

Gibraltar of the West  
Columbus, the ~, is ours...(state of Kentucky)

"Gibraltar of the Western World"  
Quebec was then named the ~ (1759)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "After weeks of incessant but minor cannonading, the grand attack was made on the 13th of September, 1782... / By evening the ship cannonade began to slacken; rockets, as signals of distress, were seen soaring into the air, while boats were rowed about the disabled men-of-war, in which our artillery must have made the most dreadful havoc, for, during the short intervals of cessation, a strong, indistinct clamour, the mingled sound of groans, and cries, and shrieks, came floating upward to the ears of the garrison... (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

♦ "A Scottish officer, named Lieutenant Macculloch, is said at this time to have suggested to [Wolfe] the daring but brilliant idea of attempting that which the French conceived to be impracticable—the scaling of the Heights of Abraham—and thus gaining the lofty ground which overlooked the city at a part where its defences were most weak... / Slinging their muskets, and climbing, some with their swords in their teeth, the Frasers scrambled up the steep and woody precipice... / Following the Highlanders, Wolfe was soon on the plateau of the precipice, and with ardour he formed his troops in contiguous columns of regiments as they came toiling up; and ere the rising sun began to gild the spires and ramparts of Quebec and the far-stretching bosom of the mighty St. Lawrence, he had his whole force marching in battle array along the famous Heights of Abraham, with colours flying and all their bayonets glittering..." (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant. Chapter XXII. "Quebec, 1759." Wolfe would suffer his famous death in battle. According to Grant, before the Marquis of Montcalm died of his wound, he said, "Thank Heaven, I shall not live to see the capitulation of Quebec! I have got my death fighting against the bravest soldiers in the world, at the

head of the greatest cowards that ever carried muskets!" Finally, Grant writes, "It is recorded that Lieutenant Macculloch, the officer according to whose suggestion [Wolfe] first conceived the idea of turning the French flank by scaling the Heights of Abraham, died a pauper in Marylebone Workhouse, in the year 1793.")

## Rock of Gibraltar (and Gibraltar / figurative)

my Rock of Gibraltar

Lisa has been ~ (emotional support in a relationship)

♦ "How utterly nauseating—but this is like a puff of wind against the Gibraltar of your great standing in American life." (David Lilienthal to Robert Oppenheimer in 1950 about the accusations leveled against Oppie by ex-Communists Paul and Sylvia Crouch that appeared on the front page of the *Washington Post*.)

## rocky (adjective)

rocky

his relationship with his superiors was ~  
their season has been ~ (a women's basketball team)

rocky (midterm Congressional) elections  
the president faces ~

rocky ending  
he had a ~ to his nine years in Pittsburgh (NFL player)

rocky (on-again, off-again) relationship  
they've had a ~ (a couple)

rocky start  
his NFL career got off to a ~  
their bid for an Olympic title is off to a ~ (soccer)

rocky tenure  
he had a ~ at the State Department (resigned)

rocky year  
it was a ~ for the newspaper (criticism)

## rod (iron rod, etc.)

rod of iron  
they ruled Afghanistan with a ~ (the Taliban)

with an iron rod  
in the 1990s the Serbs ruled Kosovo ~

## rodeo (first rodeo)

rodeo of self-destruction  
this is not Anne's first ~ (a Hollywood actress)

her first rodeo  
Joan made it clear that this was not ~ (adultery)

his first (debate) rodeo  
this won't be ~ (a debate moderator / presidential debate)

my first rodeo  
I worked on several viruses, this is not ~ (COVID-19)

our first rodeo  
this is not ~, we've been through this before (hurricanes)

♦ "Well, you can always trust a guy who puts his face on a T-shirt." (The T-shirt reads, "Not My First Tornado." Silly sarcastic dialogue from the silly 2024 film *Twisters*.)

♦ "Well, it was daunting, but it wasn't my first rodeo..." ("Daunting" has become a popular word with females.)

♦ "There are three-plus pages of court cases against Mr. Routh and his roofing companies. This was not his first rodeo, let's put it that way." (A trial lawyer in Greensboro, North Carolina, about Ryan Routh. Routh attempted to assassinate Donald Trump in Florida in 2024.)

## rogue (noun)

rogue cells

your immune system identifies those ~ and kills them

rogue pharmacists

corrupt doctors and ~ worked hand in hand (opioids)

rogue scientist

a ~ claims to have edited the DNA of twin girls

goes rogue

*M3GAN* imagines a human-like robot doll that ~ (the film)

gone rogue

he has ~  
the Department of Justice has ~, even corrupt...

went rogue

they discussed what to do if she ~ (publicity)

## roil (verb)

roiling Canada

the migration crisis is ~ at the moment

roiled (Tibetan) areas

ethnic unrest has ~ of China

roiling the markets

what is ~ is the fact that... (international finance)

## role (act)

role of her lifetime

this would be a performance, the ~ (a trial)

diva role

she chose to perform her ~ to the hilt (celebrity trial)

played the role

he ~ of a loving husband and doting father (a murderer)

♦ "We told you that this would be a performance, the role of her lifetime as a heroic survivor of brutal abuse." (Camille Vasquez, in her closing arguments in the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

♦ "Gwyneth Paltrow's Trial Is Her Best Role in Years" by Naomi Fry, *The New Yorker*. As Fry has said, "Let's not knock breezy distraction." As my mother once said, "Whatever blows your hair back.")

## role (function or part)

sport's (starring) role

the ~ in the end of apartheid (South African rugby)

played a role

the investigation into his sexting case ~ in the 2016 US presidential election

## roll (on a roll)

on a (pretty good) roll  
we're ~ now (basketball coach / win streak)

get on a roll  
you ~, you get momentum... (winning streak)

started the year on a roll  
the radical right ~

## roll (verb)

start rolling  
revolutions often ~ when the army refused to shoot

rolling on  
the controversy keeps ~

## roll (move)

roll across the mountains  
some strong thunderstorms ~ (news / weather)

thunderstorms roll  
some strong ~ across the mountains (news / weather)

## roll (slow-roll)

slow-rolled their requests  
opponents claim that he ~ (politics)

constantly slow-rolled  
he ~ any sort of military option (politics)

## roll back (verb)

roll back policies  
he has attempted to ~ to address carbon emissions

roll back the (health-care) reform  
politicians want to ~

## roller coaster (emotional roller coaster, etc.)

roller-coaster  
and you talk about emotion, it's been a ~ (soccer final)

roller-coaster ride  
culture shock can be a ~ of emotions  
it's a ~, a light scene followed by a dark scene (film)

roller coaster of a career  
she had such a ~ (Judy Garland)

rollercoaster of a ride  
I've had a ~ (rugby player Gareth Thomas)

roller coaster of ups and downs  
he really has been through a ~ (footballer Jamie Vardy)

roller coasters and challenges  
owning your own company is a lot of ~ (Benjamin Faw)

emotional roller coaster  
it's frustrating, an ~  
an ~, with many tears and goodbyes (deployment)

Carly is an ~ (drama)

on a roller coaster  
we were ~ with all these false leads (missing child)

rode an emotional roller coaster  
the family ~ for months (daughter kidnapped)

♦ "The subgenre of TikToks called TraumaTok, where we sort of normalize posting extremely traumatic events... No need for rollercoasters now when we can cry, laugh and angry [sic] in 15 seconds. While it's good to express yourself, be vulnerable at times, it's starting to desensitize ourselves to emotions that should be kept private or within a small group of friends, and not shared with randoms." (The TikToker Edvasian, 880K.)

## roller coaster (development)

roller coaster  
my life is a ~ and this is a down time

roller-coaster  
this is a real ~ (attempts to rescue trapped miners)

roller-coaster ride  
it's been a ~ ride for investors

rollercoaster ride  
it's been an amazing ~ (a life experience)

rollercoaster week  
it's been an up and down, ~ (impeachment trial)

roller coaster (weight) gains and losses  
she has a long history of ~

trade deal rollercoaster  
a bumpy ride on the new ~ (Brexit)

legal roller coaster  
the ~ over stem-cell research...

roller coaster is in free fall  
today, the ~ (enrollment in humanities plummeting)

♦ "Businesses are strapping themselves in for a bumpy ride on the new trade deal rollercoaster." (Brexit.)

♦ It looks like we're in for a wild ride, so hang on. (A Wall Street bear market.)

♦ "Today, the roller coaster is in free fall." (Enrollment in the humanities—English and History—versus enrollment in science and engineering, which is shooting up.)

♦ "It's been an amazing roller coaster ride. I've become a villain to some, a hero to others." (Anthropologist Elizabeth Weiss, formerly of San Jose State University.)

### \*\*\* the Great American Scream Machine...

♦ The Drachen Fire, the Great American Scream Machine, Shockwave, the Mind Bender, the Mind Eraser, the Traumatizer... (The names of roller coasters.)

♦ "I remember once watching an alligator with an antelope in its jaws, maniacally spinning itself in order to tear off a piece of flesh. Riding the Mind Eraser gave me a sense of how both the alligator and the antelope must have felt."

♦ Wigs; dentures; underwear... (Objects lost while riding the Coney Island Cyclone. I cannot confirm it on the internet, but I believe people have also lost eyeglasses and prosthesis, such as prosthetic arms.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "In a world crawling with peril, you get to scream in the face of death, and then laugh about it afterward."

## roll in (verb)

rolling in  
donations are ~ (after fire at cathedral)

## rolling (movement)

rolling end  
the war had a rolling start and will have a ~ (Iraq)

rolling start  
what commanders have called a ~ to the war (Iraq War)  
the war had a ~ and will have a rolling end (Iraq War)

rolling blackouts  
another day of ~ (California)

## roll on (resiliency)

roll on  
~, soldier...

## roll out (verb)

roll out (six) new models  
Chrysler will soon ~ (automobiles)

rolled out 17 different initiatives  
he ~ to reduce gun violence

rolled out a package  
the Party ~ of reforms (China / economy)

rolling out new policy  
we are not ~ (politics / election)

roll the (new) settings  
we are going to ~ this week (Website)

roll out their new shows  
each fall the 3 networks would ~ at the same time (TV)

## rollout (noun)

rollout of new features  
he is overseeing a ~ to protect users (bullying / Facebook)

## roll over (verb)

roll over  
Watford won't ~ (FA Cup final underdogs)

## Rolls Royce

Rolls-Royce of cable  
HBO's metamorphosis into the ~

Rolls Royce of medical care  
you would expect him to get the ~ (POTUS)

Rolls Royce of Christmas trees  
Is Balsam Hill really the ~ (very expensive artificial tree)

♦ the guy is a Rolls Royce, absolute quality (An online commenter about the soccer player Kevin De Bruyne.)

♦ "They are the Cadillac of beach chairs." (Amazon Zero-gravity chairs—Set of 2—\$100.)

## romance (noun)

romance between the American right and Russia  
why the ~ (NPR's Mary Louise Kelly)

romance with Russia  
I think the ~ has grown (*The Atlantic's* Anne Applebaum)

romance with the West  
his ~ makes him vulnerable to detractors (leader)

♦ "I think the conservative party's romance with Russia has grown quite a bit deeper." (Anne Applebaum of *The Atlantic* speaking with NPR's Mary Louise Kelly. From "The Republican Party has grown much more supportive of Russia in recent years," NPR, All Things Considered, February 13, 2024.)

## Romeo and Juliet (epithet)

Romeo and Juliet of the East  
Layla and Majnun were the ~ (Lord Byron)

### \*\*\* great love stories...

♦ "Grit of Women" by Jack London is one of the greatest love stories ever written.

♦ "One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied." (The beginning of "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. One of the greatest love stories ever written. To this day people put pennies on the grave of its author in Riverside Cemetery, Asheville, North Carolina, USA.)

♦ "If the story of Daphnis and Chloe still touches people's hearts, it is not simply because their love was born in the shade of vines and under a blue sky. That story is repeated everywhere—in a stuffy basement smelling of fried cod, in a concentration-camp bunker, to the click of an accountant's abacus, in the dust-laden air of a cotton mill. / And now the story was being played out again to the accompaniment of the howl of dive-bombers—in a building where people nourished their filthy sweat-encrusted bodies on rotten potatoes and water from an ancient boiler, where instead of honey and dream-filled silence there was only noise, stench and rubble." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Katya and Seryozha. Stalingrad.)

## roof (a roof can cave in)

roof has caved in on the team  
the ~ (losing)

## roof (through the roof)

going through the roof  
the price is ~  
inflation has been ~

shot through the roof  
prices have ~

## roof (roof of the mouth, etc.)

roof of the cave  
the ~ collapsed

roof of his mouth  
he got peanut butter on the ~

## roof (Roof of the World, etc.)

Roof of the World  
the Pamir mountains, which the natives called "The ~"  
Tibet, the ~...

## rookery (noun)

rookery of absconders

the central Pacific became a veritable ~ (escaped convicts)

“rookery” of the poor

East London was a warren of tenements, a ~

\*\*\* “In the South Shetlands...”

♦ “In the South Shetlands a single ship would expect to take as many as 9,000 seals in three weeks, and there is a record of two ships and sixty men demolishing 45,000 in one season. And since every pelt was worth a guinea—in some markets like Canton in China very much more—there was every inducement for the slaughter to go on to the bitter end. An end, however, there had to be; and by the eighteen-thirties fur seals in the southern ocean were virtually extinct, and sea-lions and sea-elephants were dying out as well. / The main attack was now diverted to the whales...” (*The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A rookery is a breeding colony of animals, of rooks, birds in general, and some other animals like seals, etc.

♦ see also *breeding ground*

## room (read the room, etc.)

read the room

rich people can’t ~ (see quote below)

♦ “This is not a flex. This is a waste. Rich people can’t read the room.” (An online commenter about the influencer Linda Andrade, aka the “Original Dubai Housewife,” who spent \$2.5 million in a week. She is the wife of a Dubai millionaire.)

♦ “King was good at reading the room, he knew what to say and when to say it. He also knew when to shut up.” (The great boxing commentator Steve Bunce about the great boxing promoter Don King. From *Powerplay: The House of Don King*, Episode 4: The Full King Takeover, BBC Sounds.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ People who can’t “read the room” are often characterized as “tone deaf.”

## room (in the room, etc.)

adult in the room

see *adult* (and *adult in the room*)

Bitch in the Room

“The Baddest ~” (a memoir by Sophia Chang)

electricity in the room

tears, shouting, there was real ~ (politics)

elephant in the room

see *elephant* (*elephant in the room*, etc.)

gorilla in the room

see *gorilla* (*800-pound gorilla*)

grownup in the room

see *grownup* (and *grownup in the room*)

Indian in the room

she wants to be the only ~ (pretendian curator at the Met)

old guy in the room

I’m the ~ (Bryant Gumbel about new media)

racist in the room

so Levi’s company is the ~ (see quote below)

smartest guys in the room

they though they were the ~ (Wall Streeters / politics)

cool the temperature in the room

let’s ~ a little bit (heated politics)

♦ “Could you feel this temperature change in the room when there are these moments of conflict or verbal denial?” (A question about the mood in a Clubhouse chatroom.)

♦ “Wall Street’s supermen who thought they were the smartest guys in the room? That sort of stuff he won’t tolerate.” (Brian Ballard about President Donald Trump.)

♦ So the ‘very woke’ Levi’s company is the racist in the room, too funny... (An online commenter about the article “Levi’s jeans from 1880s with racist slogan sold at auction for \$76K” by Snejana Farberov, *New York Post*, Oct. 13, 2022.)

\*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ “We’re British so we don’t have electrified rooms, people don’t buzz like they do in America.” (A response to the question, “What was the mood like in the room?”)

## room (back room, etc.)

back room of the terrorist attack

the ~ was exposed (Charlie Hebdo trial)

back-room deals

private meetings and ~ can pay off

back room deals

enough with the secrecy and ~ (“health care” costs)

she uncovered the ~ struck by Rockefeller (Ida Tarbell)

♦ “It was a classic Suffolk County back-room deal.” (The district attorney gets the police commissioner he wanted and gets rid of two enemies. Long Island, New York.)

♦ Back room, boiler room, engine room, war room, nerve center... Take your pick!

## room (smoke-filled room, etc.)

smoke-filled rooms

the ~ (before the Progressive era / politics)

♦ “Smoke-filled rooms—or vape-filled rooms, whatever they would be now—are not the right paradigm.” (Julia Azari, a political scientist at Marquette University.)

♦ Back room, boiler room, engine room, war room, nerve center... Take your pick!

## room (invited into the room, etc.)

invited into the room

they weren’t being ~ to discuss policy (women, etc.)

## room (wiggle room)

wiggle room

negotiators had very little ~

he then used the only ~ the law allowed him

wiggle room on wages

the MTA has hinted at ~ (negotiations with union)

wiggle room for players

there’s no ~ (11-point table-tennis games)

\*\*\* A fat man’s squeeze...

♦ A “fat man’s squeeze” is the name for a narrow spot in a cave.



## room (war room)

see *war room* (*strategy, etc.*)

## room (space)

room to hide

thick forests and deep gorges offer ample ~ (Caucasus)

room for a dart game

a few pool tables and ~

room for wasted space

no ~ in the apartment

room for 12 coffins

a mausoleum with ~, 20 cremation niches and...

legroom

new seats allow more ~

sea room

a ship with adequate speed and ~

ample room

thick forests and deep gorges offer ~ to hide (Caucasus)

## room (opportunity)

room for advancement

his predecessor left because there was no ~

room for compromise

there is little ~

room for diplomacy

there is ~ here... (UN issue)

room for error

there's no ~

room for improvement

there was ~ in his shooting (basketball)

room for maneuver

how much ~ do you think he has in Brussels (diplomacy)

room for an additional voice

there's ~ (new newspaper)

room for slipups

if you don't allow yourself ~... (dieting)

breathing room

provide ~ to consider the options

the rate increase gives the Postal Service "~"

we have a little ~ to establish alternative energy sources

the Turks are giving the Saudis a little ~ (to reply)

negotiating room

how much ~ is there on the part of...

allow yourself room

if you don't ~ for slipups... (dieting)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Nowadays, young people almost always express "room" as "space."  
Nobody knows why.

## rooster (person)

crowing rooster

he was vilified as a ~

♦ "Foreign Minister Erkko was vilified as a crowing rooster, a writhing serpent, and a phobic rat." (*Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter.)

## root (at the root)

at the root of his desperate act

the mystery ~

## root (tear something out by the roots, etc.)

tearing it out by the roots

it's like we're trimming the branches of the tree when we should be ~ (drug trafficking in Sinaloa)

## root (root and branch, etc.)

root and branch

the Justice Department needs ~ reform

tear out (DEI and CRT initiatives) root and branch

we have to ~ out of institutions

♦ "First and foremost, up front, we have to tear out DEI and CRT initiatives root and branch out of institutions." (Pete Hegseth, January 14, 2025.)

## root (root cause)

root cause

nobody is looking at the ~s...

root causes of the conflict

the accord failed to address the ~ (Darfur)

root causes of jihad

it's not easy to address the ~

root cause of these problems

the ~ ...

root causes of global warming

the burning of coal, oil, and gas is the ~

root cause of Global Dimming

the burning of coal, oil, and gas is the ~

root cause of why

that might be the ~... (reasons for a disaster)

root causes or common threads

in some places, suicides seem to have ~

## root (root of the problem, etc.)

roots of conflict

the ~ run deep (Sudan)

roots of militancy

the ~ lie in a feeling of intense humiliation

roots of this misery

the ~ are not hard to find (Indian reservations)

root of the problem

once you find out the ~

roots of terrorism  
understand and address the ~

roots of the disorder  
there is little info about the ~

**root (origin)**

roots in Mexico  
he is proud of his ~ (son of immigrants)

roots in Virginia  
time to research her family ~

roots (deep) in the Jordanian desert  
he is of the Beni Hassan tribe, with ~

roots in the (local) culture  
he had no ~ (Barak Obama in Hawaii)

NASCAR's (moonshine whiskey) roots  
he represented ~ (Junior Johnson)

family's roots  
time to research her ~ in Virginia

surfing's roots  
I'm stoked to be in Hawaii, back to ~

university's (military-school) roots  
the ~

home-town roots  
he is stressing his ~ (a Mississippi politician)

blue-collar roots  
my ~ run deep (Senator Eric Schmitt of Missouri)

military-school roots  
the university's ~

reporting roots  
it marked a return to his ~ (editor reports on war)

moonshine-running roots  
its ~ (NASCAR)

Azeri roots  
many Iranians have ~

Catholic roots  
the region has never lost its ~ (New Mexico)

Dalit roots  
despite his ~, he earned a degree... (Kanshi Ram)

Italian roots  
Rico himself has no ~ (mobster)

Jewish roots  
he's tried to deny his ~ (politician)

Polynesian roots  
he traces the history of surfing back to its ~

Southern roots  
as NASCAR grew from its ~ into a national sport

ancient roots  
the science of anatomy has ~

biological roots  
little info about the ~ of the disorder

humble roots  
this learned man from ~ (North Carolina poet laureate)

urban roots  
this competition is a tribute to the ~ of street skating

deep historical roots  
it's a dispute that has ~ (Greece and Macedonia)

proud of his roots  
he is ~ in Mexico... (son of immigrants)

roots run deep  
it's a new sport for the Olympics and its ~ (surfing)

deny his (Jewish) roots  
he's tried to ~ (politician)

♦ "Our Waters Run Deep, Our Roots Run Deeper." (Crowns Guam. [WWW.CROWNSGUAM.COM](http://WWW.CROWNSGUAM.COM). "Spread the Hafa Adai Spirit Worldwide.")

**root (take root, etc.)**

deep roots  
child labor retains ~ (west and central Africa)  
Catholicism has very ~ in Ireland

firm roots  
Christianity failed to set ~ in Japan and China

shallow roots  
his success has ~  
a sport with ~ in this country (tennis in China)  
many residents have ~ in the city (state workers)  
Democracy has ~, it's a fragile flower

roots and wings  
the only thing you can give your children is ~

take root  
but the colony did not ~ (Australia)

taking (commercial) root  
the new generation of nanomaterials is ~

took root  
cricket ~ during the colonial era of the Raj (Pakistan)

put down roots  
many Canadians have ~ in Florida (home-buyers)

set (firm) roots  
Christianity failed to ~ in Japan and China

**root (root server)**

root server  
organizations responsible for operating the ~s  
the ~s serve as a sort of master directory for the Internet  
8 or more of the world's 13 ~s must fail before...  
the 13 ~s that provided the roadmap for the Internet

root server

at the top of the ~ hierarchy is the "A" root server  
the most complex DDOS attack ever against the ~ system

## rooted

rooted in authority and integrity  
information grounded in science and truth, ~ (*Guardian*)

rooted in (violent) collisions  
a sport whose popularity is ~ (NFL / concussion)

deeply rooted  
Ethiopia, a country with a ~ Christian identity  
fireworks are a ~ tradition in Peru  
family deer hunts in November are a ~ tradition

## root out (verb)

root out crooked cops  
the force must ~

root out corruption  
the UN must improve its accountability and ~  
he is trying to ~ (a leader)

root out an enemy  
the marines are trying to ~ that knows the terrain

root out heresy  
a DEI task force should vigorously ~ (NPR)

root out militants  
efforts to ~ inside Egypt

root out (wasteful) spending  
we need to ~

root out terrorists  
send more troops and ~ (in Iraq)

## rope (learn the ropes, etc.)

learning the ropes  
she is still ~ (a waiter)

knows the ropes  
she ~

\*\*\* a large sailing...

♦ According to AI Overview, "A large sailing ship could have anywhere from 11 to 43 miles of rope, depending on its size." ("Generative AI is experimental.")

## rope (at the end of one's rope)

at the (very) end of my rope with him  
I think I'm ~ (kid)

## rope (on the ropes)

on the ropes  
many Hawaiian species are ~

got Turkey on the ropes  
Italy has ~ now (a soccer game)

♦ "It feels like Arsenal are on the ropes. It feels like they are taking punch after punch. City will be hoping they don't rue these missed chances." (Man City 1-0 Arsenal, BBC Radio 5 Live. The game ended Manchester City 4-1 Arsenal.)

## rope (velvet rope)

velvet rope  
cruise ships know how far to go with the ~ (privilege)

*The Velvet Rope Economy*  
~ (by Nelson D. Schwartz)

velvet-rope stadiums  
~ make it hard to walk around (sports stadiums)

velvet-rope syndrome  
he exploited the ~ ("hard to get in" fraud Bernie Madoff)

puts you inside the velvet rope  
"membership" ~ (subscriptions)

♦ In his book *The Velvet Rope Economy*, Nelson D. Schwartz writes about special privileges for the super-rich—including helicopter rides to the airport, concierge doctors, and elite college counseling—and the impact of growing wealth inequality on society.

♦ see also *earn (verb)*, *prestige (adjective)*, *privilege (groups / noun)*, *red carpet (treatment)*

## rope in (verb)

rope him in  
he stuck to that line no matter how senators tried to ~

## Rorschach (test)

Rorschach blot  
the case became a ~ (Central Park Jogger Case)

Rorschach test  
she is our newest human ~ (Alexandria (Ocasio-Cortez)  
interpreting the reasons for Trump's reelection is a ~

Rorschach test for people  
I think the Black Panthers are a kind of ~ (aid / guns)

living Rorschach test  
he is a ~ (Brett Kavanaugh / the Supreme Court)

legal Rorschach  
the cases before the Supreme Court are a ~

Rashomon moment meeting a Rorschach test  
this was a ~ (3-group confrontation on D.C. Mall)

♦ "We call this case an inkblot. I see what I see, Barb sees what she sees, and you see what you see." (The podcast "Down The Hill: The Delphi Murders," Chapter 7: Madness.)

♦ "People saw different things." (Televised hearings.)

♦ "Music is like a Rorschach test: People hear what they want to hear." (LL Cool J about criticism of "Accidental Racist," his controversial collaboration with Brad Paisley.)

♦ A group of Kentucky teenagers, a Native American, and a group of black Hebrew Israelites all met by accident on the National Mall in Washington, DC. No, this is not by any means the beginning of a joke. Read "Viral standoff between a tribal elder and a high schooler is more complicated than it first seemed" by Michael E. Miller, *The Washington Post*, Jan 22, 2019. Or the Wikipedia article "2019 Lincoln Memorial confrontation."

♦ "The case—in which a twenty-eight-year-old female banker was brutalized and raped and five youths of color were convicted, and then, decades later, exonerated—became a Rorschach blot, with some people (largely white) seeing a city 'systematically ruined, violated, raped by its underclass' and others (largely of color) seeing a city 'in which the powerless had been systematically ruined, violated, raped by the powerful.'" ("The Falconer: What we got wrong

about Joan Didion" by Nathan Heller, *The New Yorker*, February 1, 2021.)

♦ "How people viewed the verdict in that trial exposed really deep divides on how different races experienced the criminal justice and the legal system." (ESPN's Michele Steele on the death of O.J. Simpson.)

♦ "For now, observers are left to speculate about what fundamentally drives Kavanaugh... / If Kavanaugh is 'dangerous,' as his critics contend, it's not because he is part of some brazen right-wing conspiracy. It's because he has managed to ascend to the height of American power while remaining, perhaps even to himself, a living Rorschach test." ("Whose side is Kavanaugh on?" by McKay Coppins, *The Atlantic*, June 2021.)

♦ "Quiet quitting is like this year's version of the debate about the color of that viral dress. Do you remember? [Sound bite: "White and gold versus blue and black."]. Now it's like, 'Quiet quitting, what is it? Is it bad, is it real, are millions of people clocking out early and dancing into the streets to find their fuller selves?' At its heart, we're in a debate about how emotionally invested people should be in their work, with quiet quitting as a Rorschach test, just like that viral dress. Do you see it as blue or gold. Do you think quiet quitting is sad... Or do you see it [as] a rebellion against burnout? Some academics argue quiet quitting is... To corporate execs it's just..." ("The concept of quiet quitting has captured the post-pandemic zeitgeist" by Alina Selyukh, NPR, Morning Edition, Sept 15, 2022. "Quiet quitting" has also been applied to the friendships Gen Zers and millennials have, a good example of piggybacking.)

♦ "How you interpret and prioritize the cascade of reasons for Trump's reelection is a kind of Rorschach test. It will require a long reckoning before anyone can conclude which of the leading factors—economic anxiety, cultural politics, racism, misogyny, Biden's decline, Harris's late start—was determinative..." (David Remnick, squawking from his perch as editor of *The New Yorker*. From "It Can Happen Here" by David Remnick, "The Talk Of The Town," *The New Yorker*, November 18, 2024.)

## Rosebud (allusion)

Rosebud sled

whatever her ~ is, she may just be a shell (mental illness)

## Rosetta Stone

Rosetta stone for understanding

the article is a ~ Y.A.'s toxic culture (Kat Rosenfield)

psychological Rosetta Stones

people are looking for ~ (to understand alcoholic politician)

\*\*\* **"The brilliant victory won by Nelson in the Bay of Aboukir..."**

♦ "The brilliant victory won by Nelson in the Bay of Aboukir imprisoned the army of France amid the arid sands of Egypt; but, nevertheless, Napoleon led it in 1799 across the desert to Palestine. He took Jaffa by storm, and laid siege to Acre, where, as related, he was repulsed by the British and Turks under Sir Sidney Smith. Subsequent to this, alarming news from France caused him to hurry home and leave his troops in Egypt, when they began to lose heart, about the time our great expedition to that country was projected, with the purpose of driving them out of it." (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant. A French soldier had found the stone, but the British took it from the French by the Capitulation of Alexandria in 1801 as a spoil of victory, which is why it is in the British Museum, and not the Louvre, never mind the Grand Egyptian Museum.)

## rot (verb)

rotting from the inside

America is ~

rotted away

inside prison one simply ~

left to rot

the working class has been ~ (US)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ The fish rots from the head. (A proverb about leaders in organizations, governments, etc.)

## rot (computer)

link rot

this article uses bare URLs, which are vulnerable to ~

## rot (noun)

rot in (US) academia

the ~ extends to most of every faculty (radicals)

rot in (Pakistani) society

the ~ is more poisonous than anyone thought (violence)

rot in the system

Shevardnadze sniffed out the ~ (Georgia)

Rot at the Top

the lead opinion piece was entitled, "The ~" (corruption)

rot and corruption

the moral ~ (of the Republican Party)

educational rot

America's ~ has reached peak madness (UPenn's Magill)

moral rot

the silence on the issue is an example of ~

the ~ of our elite universities (culture wars)

spiritual rot

this ~ (Dr. Cornel West vs. Harvard Divinity School)

intellectual and moral rot

campuses are infected with this ~ (antisemitism)

personification of the rot

she is the ~ that has sickened the party (politics)

expose the (antisemitic) rot

deans disdainful texts further ~ at Columbia University

infected with this (intellectual and moral) rot

how did your campuses get ~

sniffed out the rot

Shevardnadze ~ in the system (Republic of Georgia)

stop the rot

the church needed someone else at the helm to ~  
(Catholics)

\*\*\* **American universities and the Israel-Hamas war...**

♦ "How did your campuses get this way? What is it about the way your hire faculty and approve curriculum that's allowing your campuses to be infected by this intellectual and moral rot." (Congresswoman Ms. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, Chairwoman at the hearing, "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023. Congresswoman Foxx directed her questions to (1) Claudine Gay, president of Harvard (2) M. Elizabeth Magill, President of the University of Pennsylvania, and (3) Sally Kornbluth, President of MIT.)

♦ "Now-on-strike donors like Columbia alum Robert Kraft, Harvard's Bill Ackman and so on should expect to stay on strike for a very long

time until the boards of their alma maters not only commit to righting the ships, but show major progress in getting back on course." ("The rot in US academia extends to most of every faculty" by Post Editorial Board, *The New York Post*, April 23, 2024.)

## rotten (adjective)

rotten

your billing system is ~

rotten in gaming culture

he has become a global symbol for all that is ~ (swatting)

rotten administrator

she's a ~ but a nice person

rotten shape

the job market is in ~

## rough (personality)

rough customer

he's a ~

♦ "Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I meet; and especially whenever my hypos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from deliberately stepping into the street, and methodically knocking people's hats off—then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can. This is my substitute for pistol and ball." (*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.)

## rough (adjective)

rough edges

her policies aim to smooth capitalism's ~

rough flight

it was a ~

rough patches

you go through ~ in your sport that make you want to quit

rough ride

we're in for a ~ (new troops in Iraq)

rough road

President Obama faces a ~ (politics)

rough times

develop better coping skills to get you through ~

## roulette (noun)

genetic roulette

we are playing ~ with our agriculture and crops

play roulette

boxers ~ with their brains (Gerald McClellan tragedy)

## round (boxing)

Round One

it's ~ in a prizefight, but the bell hasn't rung yet

round one

this is just ~ (in the budget battle)

15-rounder

it's a long haul, son, it's a ~ (pandemic)

♦ "And that was just round one in what would be a three-round bloodbath." (Elon Musk buys Twitter, fires half of employees.)

♦ "If it's in the equation, I would love to have a round two." (A text message suggesting sex in the morning following a sexual encounter the night before.)

## rounded up

rounded up by authorities

they were ~ (opposition figures)

## round up (assemble)

round up groups of black men

RICO was weaponized to ~ (gangs)

rounded up a few things

I've ~ (Cortana internet search)

## route (course)

roundabout route

he had come to painting by a ~

go this route

I'm surprised more people don't ~ (turn down fame)

came (to painting) by a roundabout route

he had ~

## roul (defeat / noun)

Biden roul

Sanders assessing campaign after ~

stock roul

Dow falls more than 4% amid coronavirus ~

Old Trafford roul

Spurs embarrassed Manchester United in ~ (1-6)

roul continued

the ~ as... (Man Utd 0-7 Liverpool)

♦ "Thought 4 was a 'thump' not a roul. Hard to keep up" (An online commenter on Barcelona 0-4 Real Madrid.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Never was a roul and never was a victory more complete!... / Along the whole line of road from Vittoria to the Pyrenees, a distance of one hundred miles, the way was strewn with dead or abandoned horses, dilapidated carriages, clothing of every kind, uniforms, books, rich dresses, laces, veils, gloves, and bonnets torn forth from mails and imperials, by the rude hands of guerillas, *cacadores*, and peasants; letters, orders, and French bank-notes in bundles, too, lay there. / Many unfortunate women—some of them the wives of officers, and others ladies of the court—barefooted, almost naked, and in the most pitiable condition, were overtaken in wild and solitary places, and most barbarously used and then murdered by the merciless Spaniards." (Vittoria, 1813. *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Highway of Death." Also see the Wikipedia article "Iraqi ballistic missile attacks on Saudi Arabia." The Scud that hit a military barracks near the Dhahran airbase—in the airport souks area—on 25 Feb 1991 killed 28 American service personnel: 24 men and 4 women. It was the last Scud of the war. Some pilots flying sorties against the fleeing Iraqis on the Highway of Death no doubt were thinking of those brothers and sisters... No doubt.

## route (defeat / verb)

route (champions) Arsenal  
the Blues scored three times in ten minutes to ~

routed all the experts, pontificators, Arctic authorities  
Nansen had ~ by his safe return (*Fram*)

## routed (defeated)

routed  
the Gunners were ~ (Arsenal loses soccer game)

routed in Delhi elections  
India's ruling party ~

routed in the state  
he got the youth vote even though he was ~ (election)

routed during his first run  
he was ~ for governor (politics)

## row (row to hoe)

long row to hoe  
it's going to be a ~ (a legal challenge to president)

tough row to hoe  
he's got a ~ (a boxing match)  
without him, the state will have a ~ (prosecution)

## row (row in the same direction, etc.)

row in the same direction  
it's better when we ~

## row (row back)

rowed back on his comments  
he later ~ (unfounded accusations against Russians)

rowed back on most of them  
the Academy tried to make changes, but they have ~

rowed back on its promise  
the company has ~ to...

## royalty (noun)

royalty for a day  
being a bride used to mean being ~ (Xochitl Gonzalez)

basketball royalty  
the Lakers are ~ (NBA winners)

boxing royalty  
Eubank Jr has ~ in his corner (coach Roy Jones Jr)

Broadway royalty  
~, and Outer Banks Royalty (William Ivey Long)

Oscar royalty  
the film could make Will Smith ~ (*King Richard*)

teen royalty  
The Plastics are ~ (The 2004 film *Mean Girls*)

US running royalty  
Kara Goucher was ~ (medal winner)

Chicago sports royalty  
~ (Mike Ditka, Richard Dent, Michael Jordan together)

♦ "People are just jealous. Rodgers is NFL royalty. They need to leave Princess Aaron alone." (NFL sarcasm. *Princess Aaron*?! Most likely a Chicago Bears fan.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Treat her like a queen, and she'll treat you like a king." (Marriage advice. Heard in Saudi Arabia.)

## rub (rub somebody the wrong way)

rubbing fans the wrong way  
her whining is ~ (an auto racer)

rubbed me the wrong way  
what he said ~ (rationalization)

rubbed a lot of people the wrong way  
she ~ (a poor woman who married money)

♦ "Robert Bly could rub people the wrong way." (The poet.)

## rub (rub in, rub something in)

rub it in  
the emotion comes from the facts, I don't want to ~ (film)

♦ The emotion comes from the facts and not...rub it in...that's not necessary...everything can speak for itself as much as possible, and what you think about it is for the viewer to decide..." (The historian Bianca Stigter, talking about the film *Occupied City*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You don't need to rub it in!

♦ Stop rubbing it in!

## rubber stamp (noun)

rubber stamps for (special-interest) groups  
we must assure that these forums are not just ~

## rubbish (noun)

rubbish  
she is not ~, she had a life (died of drug overdose)

rubbish army  
it's a ~ (ineffective, ill equipped, conscript, etc.)

day-to-day rubbish  
the ~ of certain administrative tasks (UK)

absolute rubbish  
his claim was ~ (about voting irregularities)

load of rubbish  
he calls their strike "a ~" (UK)  
what a ~ (English World Cup soccer team)

piece of rubbish  
it's a pretentious ~ (a film)

weed out the rubbish  
he pushed Barnes & Noble stores to ~ from their shelves

♦ "the guy is finished in boxing, washed up and now today's chip wrappings" (An online commenter about a boxer. His use of "today's chip wrappings" drew praise and a "thumbs up" from another commenter. Rubbish, in other words.)

♦ "This women's team are actually a bit rubbish." (An online commenter about England's team at the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup.)



♦ "Who are they hunting down? They were rubbish today, been rubbish all season and it's rubbish reporting from the BBC who all of 3 weeks ago were wondering if TH would be sacked." (A BBC HYS commenter about 'Aston Villa 1-2 Man Utd: 'Momentum' with Red Devils as they hunt down top-four rivals' by Simon Stone, BBC, 11 February 2024.)

♦ "If boxing wants to come clean they should refuse to sanction this rubbish." (Ngannou versus Joshua.)

♦ "Scotland weren't unlucky... they were rubbish. Am I condemned to live forever in this Pacific hellhole waiting for a return to Scottish glory?" (The online commenter Sean Connery about Scotland 0-1 Hungary at Euro 2024. #LetSeanConneryDie.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Don't forget, it's rubbish in, rubbish out, rubbish all about." (From "News Corp CEO Robert Thomson challenges AI-generated content's left-wing bias, accuracy: 'Rubbish in, rubbish out'" by Ariel Zilber, *The New York Post*, Sep. 8, 2023.)

♦ see also *trash* (noun)

## rubble (in the rubble)

In the Rubble

Finding a New Economics ~ (financial earthquake)

## rubble (other)

financial rubble

regulators sifted through the ~

political rubble

both sides will be left to sift through the ~ (impeachment)

"reduces to rubble"

the decision ~ a defendants Sixth Amendment guarantee

reduced the country to rubble

they have ~ (Somalia)

sift through the (political) rubble

both sides will be left to ~ (impeachment trial)

## Rubicon (cross the Rubicon, etc.)

Rubicon moment

this was my ~

digital Rubicon

I had remained on the near shore of a ~ (smart compose)

digital rubicon

the NFL crossed a ~ (Amazon's Thursday Night Football)

political Rubicon

impeachment crosses ~ with House vote

crossed my Rubicon

finally I ~ (author uses Smart Compose)

crossed that Rubicon

and so we ~ (journalist passes info to police)

cross the Rubicon

DA Brag to ~ and divide the nation by indicting Trump

♦ "I think it's crossing the Rubicon from the point of view of Iran." (Sima Shine, of the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, about the Iranian attack on Israel with drones and missiles.)

♦ "[I] couldn't help but think that we were crossing some sort of Rubicon with regard to our collective sanity." ("Little Old Her: Is Taylor

Swift doing too much?" by Amanda Petrusich, *The New Yorker*, May 6, 2024.)

### \*\*\* the Roman Tribune Curio...

♦ The Roman Tribune named Curio encouraged Caesar to cross the Rubicon, saying, "A man prepared is a man hurt by delay." Because he "settled Caesar's doubts that day" Dante put Curio in Circle Eight of hell, as a sower of discord. "Ah, how wretched Curio seemed to me / with a bloody stump in his throat in place of the tongue / which once had dared to speak so recklessly!" (John Ciardi's wonderful translation of the *Inferno*.)

## rub off on (verb)

rubs off on the (local) host

the factory refutes the idea that foreign technology ~

rubbing off on you

I guess living with me is ~ a little (father / son)

rub off on Vanessa

I hope some of her will ~ (better behavior)

## rudderless

rudderless in the gathering storm

the hospital is ~ (deficits)

seemed rudderless

an isolated political class that has ~, even helpless

## ruffled (feathers)

appeared ruffled

he rarely ~ (a diplomat)

## rug (under the rug)

shoved under the rug

most of the details were quickly ~ (an investigation)

sweeping their mess under the rug

politicians are ~ (Greta Thunberg)

swept under the rug

the whole affair will be ~

♦ "They sweep their mess under the rug and ask children to clean up for them." (Greta Thunberg, climate-change activist.)

♦ see also *carpet* (under the carpet, etc.)

## rug (pull the rug out)

pulled the rug out from under him

the White House ~ (failed to support him)

## rugged (as noun)

return to rugged

~, the all-new 2022 Nissan Pathfinder (advertisement)

## Ruhr Valley (new Ruhr Valley, etc.)

Ruhr Valley

Hebei Province, China's new ~ (steel)

♦ "Magnitogorsk was the U.S.S.R.'s answer to Pittsburgh."

## ruin (verb)

ruined our country with corruption

they have ~ (president and his family)

ruined me professionally  
the accusations ~

ruined the INS  
decades of that civil-service mentality have ~

ruined the careers  
the Greenville has ~ of two captains (nuclear sub)

ruin (Bruce's) career  
he essentially tried to ~ (scientists)

ruins the ceremony  
letting white guys or non-Indians in ~

ruin it  
if you overcook kangaroo meat, you ~

ruins kidneys  
life support ~, it ruins brains, it ruins all the organs

ruins (people's) lives  
crystal meth ~ (a cop)

ruined my life  
he ~ and a lot of girls' live (rich pedophile)

ruined his (medical) practice  
the H.M.O.s have ~

ruin his (company's) reputation  
he was determined not to let the hackers ~

ruin the (tourist) trade  
crime could ~

ruins the catalytic converters  
high-sulfur fuel quickly ~ (sour crude)

tried to ruin  
he essentially ~ Bruce's career (scientists)

quickly ruins  
high-sulfur fuel ~ the catalytic converters (sour crude)

endanger or ruin  
I hope this doesn't ~ your career

**ruin (financial ruin, etc.)**

financial ruin  
he faced ~

facing (financial) ruin  
they are in crushing debt and ~

**ruin (in ruins, etc.)**

ruins of their (silly) theory  
they had to sit sullenly amid the ~

in ruins  
my life is ~

economy is in ruins  
the rural ~ (Buryatia)

lay in ruins  
his reputation ~ (a beaten general)

left Joshua's resurgent career in ruins  
the loss ~ (to the great Daniel Dubois)

left his life in ruins  
his alcoholism ~

♦ "Coup after coup left the country in ruins." (The Vietnam War.)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "The timeless allure of ruins" by Paul Cooper (BBC Culture, 16 January 2018) is an article about our fascination with ruins. The artwork is wonderful.

**ruin (road to ruin)**

doctor's road to ruin  
a ~ (addiction)

**ruined**

ruined by the greed  
the land was ~ of strip-mining

**rule (verb)**

rule  
science is going to ~ (public health decisions / pandemic)

**ruled**

ruled by vice  
my soul was ~

**rumble (verb)**

ready to rumble  
the other Democrats are ~ (political debate)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ The boxing announcer Michael Buffer is associated with the catchphrase, "Let's get ready to rumble!" He has been paid up to one million dollars to say it. According to the Internet, he copyrighted the phrase in 1992 and has received \$400 million from others using it at sporting events. "One of the things I really love about my job is enthusiasm," he has said. "Only in America!" the great boxing promoter Don King has said.

**ruminate (verb)**

ruminates on what  
Teezo ~ it means to chase his dreams (NPR)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "The study calls it co-ruminating." (Girls sharing their problems, i.e. "girl talk." From "'Girl Talk' vs. 'Boy Talk' with Michel Martin, NPR, Tell Me More, July 23, 2007.)

♦ Men ruminate over sports, in interpersonal exchanges, or on sports shows. This rumination is endless and may well be *the* cause of global warming.

♦ see also *chew over (verb)*

**run (a road can run, etc.)**

runs through the (An Nafud) desert  
the route ~

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ *Run* is extremely polysemous, as explained in "A Verb for Our Frantic Times" by Simon Winchester, *The New York Times*, May 28, 2011. And the great writer himself can be heard speaking at "Has 'Run' Run Amok? It Has 645 Meanings... So Far," NPR, Talk of the Nation, May 30, 2011.

## run (run deep / high / strong)

run (especially) deep

fears of Moscow ~ in Poland (2009)

runs deep

Wright's admiration for the marines ~ (correspondent)

the sense of allegiance to the Catholic Church ~ (city)

resentment of the US ~ (Arabs)

support for the insurgency ~ (Kandahar)

runs deepest

in places where anti-American sentiment ~ (Iraq, etc.)

ran high

as anti-Western sentiment ~ in the Arab world

run high

emotions ~ with an abandoned infant (ED nursing)

running high

emotions are ~ in the city (Milwaukee / 2024 RNC)

runs high

envy ~ in the world of art and intellect

runs strong

the grief and anger still ~ (murder)

admiration (for the marines) runs deep

his ~ (an embedded correspondent)

anger (still) runs strong

the ~

distrust (of the industry) runs deep

~ (an environmental activist)

emotions run high

~ with an abandoned infant (ED nursing)

envy runs high

~ in the world of art and intellect

fears (of Moscow) run deep

~ in Poland (2009)

grief (still) runs strong

the ~

mistrust (of police and courts) runs deep

~ (Blacks)

resentment (of the US) runs deep

~ in the Arab world

stereotypes run deep

these ~ (about women in sports)

tensions (in the area) are running high

~ (Gaza)

tradition and reverence (for the dead) run deep

this is a town where ~ (Puerto Rico)

♦ "This is fight week, there's a lot of feeling going about this week, tensions are running high..." (Tommy Fury about Tyson vs. Usyk in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.)

♦ "Our Waters Run Deep, Our Roots Run Deeper." (Crowns Guam. WWW.CROWNSGUAM.COM. "Spread the Hafa Adai Spirit Worldwide.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Melting snowpack will cause a river to run high. And, of course, spring rains might make a river run high. If it runs too high, it might burst its banks and cause a flood.

## run (run into next week, etc.)

run into next week

the defense's case will ~

## run (run into something)

run into (further) delays

in case the Russians ~ (space station)

running into some hurdles

marine-energy developers are ~

ran into problems

but Zhou's plan to get even ~

ran into (political and financial) problems

the project ~ (museum)

ran into (serious) resistance

she ~... (girls wants to play football)

run into trouble

trail angels figure out where hikers are likely to ~;

the laws have ~ on free-speech grounds (cross burning);

he has ~ with the law before

ran into red tape

the inmate's transfer ~

run into a brick wall

law enforcement has ~

run into stone walls

journalists have ~ with the administration

ran into a hornet's nest

the Apache helicopters ~ of antiaircraft fire

## run (in / over the long run)

over the long run

our advocacy of human rights ~

happiest in the long run

the thing that will make me ~ is to pursue my education

pay off in the long run

it would ~

## run (on the run / haste)

on the run

we had to improvise solutions ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "On the run." "On the fly." "On the wing." "On the hoof." Take your pick!

## run (on the run / retreat)

on the run

the sheriff's department believed the parents were ~

have our enemies on the run

we ~ (terrorism)

## run (a good run, etc.)

a good run

the term has had ~, but we don't need it anymore

it's been ~, but it's come to an end (Blog of the Nation)

paper coupons had ~, but they ran out of steam

## runaround

bureaucratic runaround

months of unanswered phone calls and ~s (NYC)

♦ In the wonderful 1980 film "Coal Miner's Daughter" there is a funny scene. Doolittle asks Mr. Ted Webb for his daughter Loretta's hand in marriage. Mr. Webb tells him to ask his wife, Clara. Clara tells him to ask Ted. Loretta, who has been waiting expectantly, stops Doolittle on his way back to her father and asks him what is going on. Doolittle explains, and Loretta advises him to wait until Ted and Clara are both in bed, and he can catch them together. And that is just what Doolittle does. Of course, there are complications...

## runaway (control)

runaway consumerism

some criticized the long lines as a sign of ~ (Ikea)

runaway cycle

events in the Arctic could lead to a ~ of melting

runaway debt

we have to stop ~ (ad for a politician)

runaway rhetoric

we must tone down this ~

runaway success

the ~ of the building

the Ford Model T was a ~ (1908-1927)

runaway spending

the country is headed off a fiscal cliff of ~

## run away (verb)

run away on us

we must not let the virus ~ again (Jacinda Ardern / COVID)

♦ "Beyond Yasothon, past Mahachanachai, outside of Village Number 3, a water buffalo had somehow slipped the tyranny of its nose-ring and coursed along the embankment above the green rice paddies like a black torpedo."

## rung (on the bottom rung)

on the bottom rung

child molesters are ~ (prison)

informants are ~ (prison)

## rung (bottom rung)

bottom-rung job

she landed a ~ there (TV station)

bottom-rung workers

~ in plants, in warehouses, behind counters

## rung (other)

rung of the hierarchy

trappers occupy the most basic and brutal ~ (fur trade)

rungs of power

he worked his way up the ~ (government)

rungs of the (Hindu) caste hierarchy

those on the lowest ~

rung below the main circuit

the Challenger Tour is a ~ (men's tennis)

rung on the ladder

it was the pioneers who occupied the highest ~ of prestige

rung on the (corporate) ladder

their ~

ladder's (lowest) rung

the socioeconomic ~

bottom rung

child molesters and informants are on the ~ (prison)

bottom-rung

she landed a ~ job there (at a TV station)

highest rung

free speech occupies the ~ of First Amendment values

they occupied the ~ on the ladder of prestige

lowest rung

the socioeconomic ladder's ~

## running (continuing)

long-running argument

a ~ about what it means to...

long-running battle

the ~ over the rights of...

long-running competition

their ~

long running conflict

settles a ~ that went to arbitration (business)

bitter and long-running (m)

the bloody culmination of a ~ feud (cop / citizen)

## run-of-the-mill

run-of-the-mill offence

the incident is not a ~ (cheating scandal at West Point)

run-of-the-mill politician

your ~

run-of-the-mill sinner

people will realize that he was just another ~

## run out (of time)

see *time (run out of time)*

## run out (of gas, etc.)

running out of excuses  
I'm ~ that sound plausible

ran out of gas  
he ~ (a losing boxer)

run out of ideas  
we've ~

running out of patience  
Iraqis are ~ with foreign fighters

luck (finally) ran out  
their ~ (football team loses)

luck is running out  
I feel my ~ (Marine killed in Falluja)

patience is running out  
my ~

## run out (of town on a rail, etc.)

run out of town  
he survived but was ~ (Black newspaper editor)

\*\*\* "He was placed upon a rail and rode skimmington..."

♦ "The sheriff should have come with troops and cannon... Simms tells it all: '...sharing with their husbands the belief that they were the objects of oppression...they took the sheriff...and dealt with him according to his deserts... He was knocked down by a blow from the magistrate (Magdalene Zeh), and inducted into various places in that young village where the sow delighted to wallow. After receiving many indignities in the neighborhood of Weisersdorf, some of which he was conscious of receiving, and some not, he was placed upon a rail and rode skimmington through most of the settlements.' After a trip of some six or seven miles on the rail, Sheriff Adams was finally deposited on a log bridge on the road to Albany. Magdalene 'then seized a stake which she carelessly laid over his person, until two of his ribs made four, and his organs of vision diminished by one half.' After a final, and unmentionable, indignity, 'she called off her compatriots, leaving him for dead.'" (*The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop. His wonderful book is about the river in New York State.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, a person might have been run out of town on a rail, after having been tarred and feathered. Nowadays, being "run out of town on a rail" has been replaced by doxing, swatting, pile ons, and cancellation. Ain't we civilized!

## run over (verb)

run over you  
if you aren't dominating, they're going to ~ (protesters)  
don't let anybody ~ (mother's advice to daughter)

let them run over you  
either you curl up and ~ or you defend yourself  
(protesting)

## run over (get run over, etc.)

run over like this  
we will not be ~ (Alaska, by the federal government)

get run over  
if law enforcement isn't computer-wise, it will ~

got run over by Wall Street Bets  
Melvin Capital ~ (the Robinhood affair)

get run over by that  
jazz is male-dominated and I think a lot of females ~

## runway (noun)

shortened runway  
she has a ~ to accomplish... (less time / Kamala Harris)

## rupture (noun)

bridge the rupture  
US diplomats are trying to ~ (Middle East)

## rush (rush to judgment)

rush to judgment  
we contended there had been a ~ (defense lawyer)  
we don't need a ~ (national-security lapse)  
we ask only that people not ~ (a lawyer)

fell victim to a rush to judgment  
she ~ by police following the murder

## rush (oil rush, etc.)

gold rush  
see *gold rush* (noun)

oil rush  
the discovery well set off an ~ (East Texas 1903)

## Russian roulette (literal analogy)

Russian roulette  
it's ~ (climbing K2 / Adriana Brownlee)  
so, it's a ~ when people take these drugs...

playing Russian roulette with your lives  
you are ~ if you get critically ill abroad (poor care)

playing Russian roulette  
a solo-officer entry is essentially ~ (school shootings)

♦ "The serac was the main danger, it's probably almost a hundred meters high. Slightly overhanging. It could crack any time. The main tactic to avoid the dangers of the serac is to be fast, to minimize the time you are exposed to it." / "It's very very delicate place. It's notorious. Ice can drop at any time. It's a Russian roulette, that's what it is." (Two climbers talking about the dangers of the Bottleneck on K2. From the very good documentary YouTube K2 The Killer Summit BBC. See also the Wikipedia article "2008 K2 disaster.")

## Russian roulette (figurative)

play Russian roulette with my livelihood  
I can't afford to ~

## rust (functioning)

rust  
at age 38, the ~ caught up with him against... (boxing)

ring rust  
Tyson had ~ after long layoff (the great boxer)  
he showed considerable ~ (boxer after a layoff)

## rust (resemblance)

wheat rust  
a fungus causes ~  
the disease, ~, caused famines in the past  
in the 1950s, ~ devastated crops in North America

## rusty (adjective)

rusty

his skills are ~

the Springbok side is rested, but will they be ~ (rugby)

ring rusty

I was a bit ~, I haven't boxed in a year... (COVID)

a little rusty

after a winter's layoff, every kayaker is ~

math is rusty

in case your high school ~...

## rut (in a rut, etc.)

creativity rut

Hollywood is being punished for its ~ (blockbusters fail)

in a rut

we are ~ and spinning our wheels (financial reform)

stuck in a rut

he is ~, unable to move forward

## ruthless (sun, etc.)

ruthless

the calculus behind people trafficking is ~

the katabatic winds off the glacier can be ~ (very cold)

ruthless deadlines

every day brings ~ (an independent contractor)

*Ruthless Sun*

*Beneath a* ~ (a book by Gilbert King)

# S

## saber (noun)

nuclear saber

Putin has repeatedly rattled the ~ throughout this war

rattled his saber

Raisi ~ at an annual military parade (Iranian President)

rattled his saber at Poland

German chancellor Adolph Hitler had ~ for months

## saber rattling

calculated saber rattling

it's not the drum beat of war, it is ~

just sabre rattling

is this a serious threat or ~ (military intervention)

## sabotage (verb)

sabotage what

are you trying to ~ we are doing here

sabotage your goals

I'm a weight loss coach, these 3 foods could ~

sabotaged (progressive) priorities

she is a corporate Democrat who has ~ (politics)

sabotaged his (attempted) reforms

conservatives ~ (politics)

"sabotage" his show

Pat McAfee accused ESPN of trying to ~ (sports talk)

sabotage yourself

I think you're starting to ~

♦ "I think you need to ask yourself why you're doing this, Steven, because I think you're starting to sabotage yourself." (The funny 1996 film *The Cable Guy*.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The distance from Azrak to Tell el Shehab was about eighty miles, of which the last section would be the most dangerous. This could only be attempted before dusk, leaving little time to carry out the attack and escape before dawn. Nevertheless, the expedition reached its objective safely on the night of November 7th, and the early stages of the operation went according to plan. Then, as the demolition party crept towards the bridge in the darkness, someone dropped a rifle. The noise alerted the Turkish guards..." (*Lawrence of Arabia: The Authorized Biography* of T.E. Lawrence by Jeremy Wilson.)

## sabotage (noun)

sabotage of the conversation

what he said was deliberate ~

self-sabotage

his talent, intelligence and gift for ~ (Val Kilmer)

digital sabotage

it's been a summer of ~, hype houses, conspiracy theories

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ According to Wikipedia, the sabotage of the Gorgopotamos viaduct in Greece in 1942 "was one of the first major sabotage acts in Axis-occupied Europe, and the beginning of a permanent British involvement with the Greek Resistance." See the Wikipedia article "Operation Harling." Wikipedians are wonderful.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The immediate derivation of *sabotage* is obvious. It comes from the French word *sabot* which means the wooden shoe, or shoes, the peasants buy who can't afford the leather ones. The French turned *sabot* into the verb *saboter* which means 'to do work badly' or 'to destroy a plant or machinery willfully so as to win a strike.' The word *sabotage* is relatively new in English and in other languages. It seems to have gained currency about the time of World War I when this technique was strongly advocated by trade-unions as a means of coping with management, and especially by that radical labor organization, The International Workers of the World... *Sabot* is ultimately from the Arabic word *sabbat* which means 'sandal.'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## sabotaged

sabotaged by subzero temperatures

our efforts to force the route were ~ (climbing)

## saboteur (person)

partisan saboteurs

school boards are being attacked by ~ (culture wars)

kind of saboteur

he was a ~, he undermined the policy of public health

♦ A female senator who left the Democratic Party to become an Independent has been called a saboteur and a traitor.



## saccharine (adjective)

saccharine propaganda

Green Book's ~ (Academy Award winning film)

## sacred (adjective)

sacred to Democrats

it is a program ~ (low-income heating assistance)

sacred to Cubs fans

the statue is ~

sacred to a newspaper

there is nothing more ~ than its credibility

sacred to you

maybe it's ~, but it's not sacred to me (US anthem)

sad and sacred

it is a place ~ to many Americans (New York 9/11 site)

## sacred cow

sacred cows of the (Israeli) economy

the defense and high-tech industries are the two ~

sacred cow of (farming) subsidies

many countries are afraid to touch the ~

American sacred cows

the film is critical of ~ (Dominik's film *Blonde*)

Victorian sacred cows

his mordant wit and irreverence for ~ (Lytton Strachey)

no sacred cows

there will be "~" when letting go of personnel (cuts)

sacred cows are slaughtered

some ~ on the way (educational theory)

destroy the "sacred cow"

I am not out to ~ of the Kennedy presidency (filmmaker)

### \*\*\* Hinduism...

♦ "The fear of starvation is always hanging over the Indian peasant... / To an American it seems strange that under such distress these villagers never used their cows for food when it was inevitable that the animals would perish from lack of fodder. Only once on our trip did we hear—and then only in scandalized whispers—of a village that was actually 'eating its cows.' For a Hindu farmer to do away with a starving cow, even to put that beloved beast out of its misery, is as unthinkable as for him to slaughter it to feed his starving and equally beloved children. / Such prohibitions as these—too fantastic to seem credible to a Westerner—appear to separate the Indian from the American farmer by a distance greater than the curve of the world that divides them. And yet the problem of getting food out of the land has similarities which reach around the globe..." (*Halfway to Freedom* by Margaret Bourke-White.)

## sacrifice (give up something)

sacrifice his career on such a remote altar

no respectable clergyman would ~ (Norfolk Island)

sacrificed free speech to political correctness

the university has ~

sacrificed everything for me

he ~ and the team (Tour de France)

sacrificed himself for the sake of the team

he ~ (professional foul / soccer)

sacrifice for success

boomers are generally willing to ~ (careers)

sacrificed his dream

he ~ of attending college to help finance...

sacrificed his life

he ~ by throwing himself directly onto the grenade

sacrificed their lives

the Rangers who ~ (Roberts Ridge)

sacrifice themselves

thousands will come after us, ready to ~ (terrorists)

sacrifice their personal lives

they don't want to ~ (for a career)

ready to sacrifice

thousands will come after us, ~ themselves (terrorists)

willing to sacrifice

each one of us is ~ himself for... (suicide terrorist)

## sacrifice (noun)

financial sacrifice

it takes a ~ to get through the training (nursing)

## sacrilegious (adjective)

sacrilegious to suggest

maybe it's ~, but...

sacrilegious for women to smoke

it was once ~ cigarettes

sacrilegious about making

there is nothing ~ a sequel (film)

offensive or sacrilegious

do you worry about being ~

being sacrilegious

I hope I'm not ~ in suggesting that...

considered sacrilegious

athletes who bet on games are ~

felt sacrilegious

it ~ to hear my brother say those words

seemed sacrilegious

it ~ to visit Oxford and not visit Faulkner's house

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "*Sacrilegious* in Latin means one who picks up and carries off sacred things." (In other words, steals them. From *Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 16, "Terms of Religion and Their Beginnings.")

## sad (as noun)

sad

the ~ I get from being with you (vs. without you)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## saddle (shape)

saddle between the peaks  
he climbed the ~

below the saddle  
right side of that peak, right ~ (a sniper speaking)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The shape of a saddle can relate to (1) topography (2) architecture, specifically roofs (3) meteorology (the gap between two great cumulus clouds) (4) animals that, due to coloration of their midsection, look like they are wearing a saddle...

♦ It is possible to saddle many different animals, and many cultures have done so...

## saddle (acting saddle, etc.)

acting saddle  
she got right back in the ~ (after college)

## saddle (oppress)

saddled him with (derogatory) nicknames  
his opponents have ~ (a politician)

saddled America with (high) unemployment  
the stimulus merely ~ and more debt

### \*\*\* "A devious horse..."

♦ A devious horse, resistant to being saddled and ridden, will fill his lungs with air as the cinch strap is tightened. If this behavior is not taken into account, the saddle will slide off the horse's back, depositing the rider on the ground.

## saddle (Saddle Island, etc.)

Saddle Back  
~ is a ridge in Shasta County, California

Saddle Bag  
~ Mountain is a summit in Lincoln County, Oregon

Saddle Blanket  
~ Ridge is a ridge in Idaho County, Idaho

Saddle Bow  
~ Mountain is a summit in Chelan County, Washington

Saddle Horn  
~ Rock is a pillar in Coconino County, Arizona

Saddle Horse  
~ Ridge is a ridge in Idaho County, Idaho

Saddle Island  
we visited ~ (Yemen)

Saddle Mountain  
~ is in Queensland, Australia

Bootlegger Saddle  
~ is a gap in Cochise County, Arizona)

Buck Horn Saddle  
~ is a gap in Ravalli County, Montana

Coffee Can Saddle

~ is a gap in Idaho County, Idaho

Cougar Saddle  
~ is a gap in Valley County, Idaho

Dead Man Saddle  
~ is a gap in Idaho County, Idaho

Dead Mule Saddle  
~ is a gap in Tulare County, California

Rainbow Saddle  
~ is a gap in Idaho

Sansan saddle  
~ is a double-topped hill, 195 feet high... (China)

♦ No doubt there is a story, and history, connected to each one of these "Saddle Gap" places.)

## saddle (saddle up)

saddle up  
let's ~ (get ready and go)

## saddle (in the saddle)

in the saddle  
an evil regime, too long ~...  
now a different political regime is ~ (Congress, the Court)

back in the saddle  
NATO is ~ (Libya)  
he is ~ running Breitbart News (after political job)

firmly in the saddle  
president Arroyo is now ~ (following plots against her)  
the Scottish Nationalists seem ~  
he is ~ as IPL chairman for the next 5 years (cricket)

## saddle (get back in the saddle)

get back in the saddle  
if you fall off a horse, pick yourself up and ~

### \*\*\* Getting back in the saddle, literally...

♦ "We've got a story now about how getting back in the saddle, literally, helped save a man's life." ("U.S. Veteran takes on the ultimate riding challenge: the Mongol Derby," wbur, Here & Now, July 25, 2016.)

♦ Man's happiness lies in open, empty spaces. (A Mongolian proverb.)

♦ see also *horse* (get back on the horse)

## saddle (a burr in the saddle)

burr in the saddle of the company  
the controversy is a ~

♦ "Maybe learning what happened to the famous old weaving would remove that tickling burr under his saddle, if that figure of speech worked in this case." (*The Shape Shifter* by Tony Hillerman.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Someone might be a burr in your saddle. Or a stone in your shoe. Or a pain in the neck. Or a pain in the butt. Or a thorn in your side. Take your pick!

## saddle (support)

in their saddles

the boilers began to work loose ~ (ship in typhoon)

## saddled

saddled in debt

I was ~

saddled with responsibility

the government did not want to be ~

## sadfishing (noun)

sadfishing

the latest social media trend, ‘~’

‘sadfishing’ trend

Gen Z ~ may be sign of serious psychological issues

♦ Posting a crying selfie; sharing your sad experiences with strangers; sharing vulnerable content; posting emotional pain; public breakdown online; being vague, ominous, sad; attention-seeking behavior; a cry for something; publishing exaggerations to generate sympathy; sob stories; anxious attachment; oversharing; low self-respect; creepily performative; looking for compliments; basically being a teenager / young adult, lol... (Various commenters about people who sadfish on TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat.)

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ IYKYK...

## safe (groups)

safe place

we will make sure you are in a ~

it offers her a ~ to vent frustration (New Teacher Institute)

safe space

see *safe space (groups)*

safe and inclusive

a ~ place for anyone to play football (GFSN)

make any environment ~ for everyone

safe and welcome

it was important to create a space where we felt ~

safe, inclusive, respectful, and welcoming

create psychologically ~ environments (DEI)

safe and seen and heard

I lied, that was my way to feel ~ (fabulist Elisabeth Finch)

positive, safe and empowering

our goal is to create a ~ space where... (Morphe cosmetics)

feel safe

I created a space where everyone can ~ (bookstore)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “This is a day that Minnesota says, ‘Bring your authentic self. You’ll be seen, heard, valued and loved in this state, and we want you to be whoever you are.’ We see you, we hear you, and we will make sure you are in a safe place to be who you are.” (Gov. Tim Walz. Kamala Harris selected him to be her vice-presidential running mate.)

♦ “Thank you for creating a safer space for current and future athletes to unequivocally be themselves.” (Nastia Liukin, thanking Simon Biles on Instagram.)

♦ “We don’t need booing to know we’ve not played well.” (England’s Marcus Rashford.)

♦ “Harrison announced that his would be a safe space and also a brave space where everybody could say things that were hard to say, without being judged.” (“Guns Down: With the number of shooting deaths rising, Shaina Harrison is teaching kids to turn anger into advocacy,” by Ian Frazier, *The New Yorker*, April 5, 2021. Harrison was addressing ninth graders.)

♦ “Recently there’s been more visibility in the trans community. But being the person that’s creating that visibility or that representation can also be really painful. The truth is that every day I experience violence of some kind that makes me feel like it’s not safe to be in my body, and not safe to be visible.” (Lor Sabourin, a non-binary rock climber.)

♦ “Been getting a lot of ‘why are they placing her body like that in those ads?’ Well, I direct the ads. I place myself like that. And it’s because of the thousands of unwelcome comments I receive about my body. You’ve lost the privilege of looking at it until I feel safe again.” (A tweet from Milana Vayntrub, AT&T commercial actress.)

♦ “She has a very deep passion for diversity and inclusion and actively seeks to make any environment she’s in more safe and inclusive for everyone.” (NPR’s Sommer Hill.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “I lied. That was my coping and my way to feel safe and seen and heard.” (Elisabeth Finch, *Grey’s Anatomy* writer.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ A local man did not want us to park in front of his shop, and I felt like my buddy had been too harsh in dismissing him. And so when we left the restaurant and I saw a box lying in the road behind our vehicle, I shot my palm against my friend’s chest and said, “Just a minute. Let me check something out...” (IYKYK.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “The assertions are strident, and the vocabulary is esoteric (‘harm,’ ‘insurrection’) as if it were translated from a foreign language. In a sense, it is. The language is legalese, and it is designed to build a foundation upon which a company can be held liable under civil-rights law in an American court. This activist tactic has been widely misunderstood... The word ‘safe’ is carefully chosen. It gestures at certain specific kinds of negligence for which a university could pay dearly in a court of law.” (“The Inequality of ‘Equity,’” by Christopher Caldwell, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

♦ “First of all, I want you two kids to know, this is a safe space, okay, feel free to express yourselves, don’t be afraid, I sense...” (The 2024 film *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*. NOT a safe space.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## safe space (groups)

safe space

~ is always imaginary

~s have been credited with producing radical identities

~s are very powerful sites

a ~, a gay sauna...

it was a ~ so that they could be themselves (Moms’ Club)

safe space for people of color

this is not a ~ (sorority disbands)

‘safe space’ for coming out stories

programs included a ~ (SV Bank)

safe space to students of color

welcome and ~ (high schools)

safer space

a ~ for athletes to be themselves

create a safe space

~ at home (kids and post-lockdown anxiety)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ For quotations, see *safe (groups)*.

## safety (groups)

community, joy and safety  
support groups provide ~ (Queer people)

jeopardised their safety  
dancers claimed she ~ by publicising her resignation

♦ "Dancers who accused a leading choreographer of transphobia have claimed she has jeopardised their safety by publicising her resignation. / Rosie Kay resigned this week from the dance company she founded in 2004..." ("Rosie Kay: Dancers write open letter to choreographer after gender row" by Katie Razzall, Culture editor, BBC, December 10, 2021.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ For quotations, see *safe (groups)*.

## safety net (and net)

social safety net  
the ~ is seriously frayed  
the pandemic has been an x-ray of the weaknesses of our ~

dismantled the (social) safety net  
he ~ (Pinochet / Chile)

fly without a net  
he was willing and eager to take risks and ~ (Elon Musk)

♦ "Many veterans are isolated and financially insecure, and the safety nets meant to help them are too small."

\*\*\* The remarkable high-wire artist Philippe Petit...

♦ "I am interested to inspire people to uplift their soul and to look at the sky and say 'Wow, I can move mountains now, nothing is impossible' so that's why I love what I do... I never leave anything to chance and I have weaved this safety net in my head for the past 55 years. So I value life too much to risk my life and I do something I think much more inspiring and noble, I don't risk my life, I carry my life across." (The remarkable high-wire artist Philippe Petit.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ While safety nets are associated with circuses, they might also be set up for workers on buildings, to prevent suicides from bridges, to protect spectators at sporting events, etc.

## sag (verb)

sag  
morale in some parts of the office has begun to ~

sags  
a lot is a good time, but too much still ~ (play review)

sags a little bit  
the first half of the movie ~

## saga (noun)

saga  
there is continuing public interest in his ~ (a boxer)

saga of Antonio Brown  
the surreal ~ is not slowing down (troubled NFL player)

legal saga  
his ~ was far from over

scientific saga

the modern fight against syphilis is a ~

grim, continuing saga  
the ~ of clearing up after the storm (Storm Arwen)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Four Viking types, each clutching a book, are sitting around a fire under a sign that says, "Saga Club." One of them is speaking, and he is saying, "The endless parade of murder and pillaging really spoke to me." (*The New Yorker*, November 22, 2021)

## Sahara (Sahara of snow, etc.)

Sahara of snow  
the homecoming landmark in that rolling ~ (Ross Ice Shelf)

♦ A sea of sand (the Sahara Desert), a Sahara of snow (Antarctica)...

## sail (sail to victory, etc.)

sailed to victory  
he ~ (a politician)

sailed (through) to the third round  
he ~ (an easy victory / tennis)

sailed through the House and Senate  
the bipartisan bill ~ by unanimous voice vote

## sailing (smooth sailing)

smooth sailing  
after that, it's ~ (job)  
it's not been all ~ (marriage)  
it's not going to be ~ from now on

## saint (superlative)

saint  
he was a real ~ (9/11 FDNY chaplain Mychal F. Judge)  
he was not a ~ (anger issues / politician)

no saint  
Mr Berlusconi has always maintained he is "~~"  
I'm ~, how about you...

not a saint  
I'm ~ but I'm not a demon or anything either (acquitted)

revolutionary saint  
Lenin, the ~

## sainthood (noun)

secular sainthood  
his family has mixed feelings about his ~ (Matthew Shepard)

## salad (word salad)

see *word salad*

## salient (important)

salient feature  
the Patriot Act made surveillance a ~ of American culture

salient points  
he covered all the ~ in his report

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A salient is a projecting part of a fortification. Or it is a bulge on the front line. If the salient is cut off, it becomes a pocket. A salient can form in a number of different ways, and can be defended or used offensively in a number of ways. In World War II, the Kursk Battle and the Battle of the Bulge each developed around a salient. At Kursk the Germans attacked a Russian salient; at the Battle of the Bulge, they used their salient to spearhead their attack. Both ended up in crushing defeats for the Germans.

## salivate (verb)

salivating over the (class-action) lawsuits  
lawyers should be ~

salivating at the prospect  
consumers are ~ of the new product

salivating to attack  
Republicans are ~ the president over...

salivating to build  
developers are ~ in the area

## salt (flavor)

salt went out  
when I 'wrote short' much ~ of the work (R. Kipling)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Salt is the primordial narcotic."

## salt (sailor)

old salt  
the ~ sent the apprentice off to find Charlie Noble

♦ Hazing inexperienced sailors by sending them off on a fool's errand has a long tradition.

## salt (with a grain of salt)

take it with a grain of salt  
~ (be skeptical)

♦ "Until false accusations have very real consequences I take every 'sexually assaulted' woman story with a grain of salt." (An online commenter.)

## salty (language)

salty language  
~ behind the scenes (profanity / NFL athletes)

salty response  
a ~ from an artist who won't back down (you idiot!)

## salty (slang)

salty about it  
it's like a bad breakup, that's why I'm ~ (a Patriots fan)

♦ Commenter 1: "Why are so many just plain salty of Manchester City?" / Commenter 2: "It's not jealousy or being salty, it is because of FFP and human rights abuses..." / Commenter 3: "Scouse tears are extra salty." (Inspired soccer repartee on a BBC HYS.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Salty can mean bitter, angry or upset. See "A 'Salty' Word With a Promising Future: The American Dialect Society picks its Most Likely to Succeed word" by Ben Zimmer, *the Wall Street Journal*, January 16, 2015. Zimmer's word commentary is always wonderful.

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we all know how we teach this. As a set: sweet / sour / salty / bitter, that relates to the taste of food. We seldom mention that all four of those adjectives can relate to character and personality and commonly do.

## salty (experience)

salty  
he's ~ (has a lot of experience, like an old sailor)

## salute (verb)

saluted his efforts  
his colleagues ~ to lower racial barriers (tribute)

salute her timing  
I have to ~ (author produced timely book)

salute you  
we ~ (encouragement to those who stick to their diets)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Salutes someone in a non-military situation.)

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we all have repertoire of things to say when we wish to praise a student. Saying "I salute you!" is a nice way to praise a student, particularly if you are teaching in a military environment.

## salvage (verb)

salvage a (decent) life from the wreckage  
money to ~ of misfortune

salvage order out of chaos  
we are trying to ~ (East Timor)

salvage his career  
he got a chance to ~

salvage their credibility  
politicians need to ~ (versus corruption)

salvage its season  
the team is desperate to ~ (sports)

salvage a (recently scrapped) summit  
they are trying to ~

## salvation (noun)

energy salvation  
the government views the Amazon as Brazil's ~ (dams)

## salve (verb)

salve them  
is it journalism's role to salt wounds or to ~

## salve (noun)

salve for (racial) rancor  
the only ~ is honesty

## salvo (noun)

opening salvo  
the decision was an ~ of the modern civil-rights movement  
it was clearly a rehearsed ~ to try to fluster me (a meeting)

latest salvo  
this is the ~ in the war against plastic straws  
the sports argument is the ~ to prevent equality (trans)

verbal salvo  
they exchanged ~s over this turn of events (enmity)

exchanged (opening) salvos  
the government and the company ~ (antitrust trial)

fired salvos  
a number of generals publicly ~ at each other

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There are occasions when a cruiser will fire a *salvo* and this salute of guns is from the Italian *salva*, finally related to the Latin *salve*, 'hail,' or *salvos*, 'healthy.' So when a *salvo* of twenty-one guns goes off, the navy is saying to the distinguished visitor, 'to your health!'" (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. From the chapter, "War Words And Their Histories.")

## sance (McConaissance, etc.)

Brenaissance  
the ~ (Brendan Fraser nominated for Oscar)  
those thrilled by the "~~" (Brendan Fraser wins Oscar)

Celinaissance  
it can only be described as a ~ (GMA / the play *Titanique*)  
are we in a ~ (GMA / the play *Titanique*)

McConaissance  
the ~ (Matthew McConaughey)

Morrisance  
"The ~: Morris dancing's inclusive revival" (BBC)

Nellysance  
the "~~" is showing no signs of slowing (Nelly Furtado)

Oh-aissance  
the Sandra ~ (magazine *Vanity Fair*)

renaissance  
see *renaissance* (noun)

Toryssaince  
the '~' is the 'talk of the town'  
♦ "The 'Toryssaince' is the 'talk of the town': Inside Tory Burch's 'cool girl' rebrand." (*The New York Post*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Often refers to a Hollywood career revival.  
♦ Wiktionary had entries for Celinaissance and Keannaissance,

## sanctuary (noun)

Sanctuary City  
making Tucson a ~ failed (Proposition 205 / 2019)

sanctuary state  
California is a ~ for abortion rights

"Second Amendment sanctuaries"  
counties have declared themselves ~ (to resist gun control)

finds sanctuary  
she ~ in Ranchera music

♦ "Trans Kid's Family Searching For Sanctuary, organized by Kimberly Shapple." (@gofundme.com)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "'Sanctuary,' a bit like 'havens' and 'orphanages,' is a very nasty term that is usually devoid of meaning or certainly devoid of accuracy." (Duncan McNair, the CEO of London-based charity Save the Asian Elephants. From "Elephants are often snatched by poachers who commit atrocities ranging from killing mothers in front of their children to repeatedly stabbing baby elephants into submission." From "Expert warns Americans about elephant tourism after law student, 22, is killed in Thailand: 'Recipe for disaster'" by Andrea Margolis, Fox News, Jan. 12, 2025. Read at *The New York Post*.)

## sanctum (and inner sanctum)

sanctums of conspiracy  
he founded the project to penetrate the ~ (a Ufologist)

West's literary inner sanctum  
he saw his role as storming the ~ (Ishmael Reed)

inner sanctum  
the computer's kernel, the machine's most privileged ~  
she took one of my tapes into the ~ of the office

penetrate (al-Qaida's) inner sanctum  
he was able to ~ (a US sympathizer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A sanctum is a hallowed place, or sometimes it is just your private study in your home that you hope the family will regard as somewhat sacred." (From *sanctus*, holy. *Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

## sand (political sands, etc.)

political sands  
the ~ are shifting (diplomacy after the Arab Spring)

## sand (stick one's head in the sand)

kept my head buried in the sand  
I ceded all financial control to my husband, and ~

stick my head in the sand  
I didn't want to ~ and deny what was going on...

### \*\*\* "Allan Pocock, a resident of the Oudtshoorn region..."

♦ "Allan Pocock, a resident of the Oudtshoorn region of South Africa, where 200,000 ostriches were once reared for their feathers, noted that during the 80-odd years when records were kept, no one had reported a single case of an ostrich burying its head, or even apparently attempting to do so."

## sandbox (area)

privacy sandbox  
it's known as the ~ (computer security)

play in their sandbox  
they were curious to see this young girl who wanted to ~

quarantine (suspicious) files into sandboxes  
systems ~ (computing)

♦ "They were very curious to see this young girl who wanted to play in their sandbox." (The remarkable actor Michelle Yeoh, about learning how to do martial-arts stunts from men. She received an Oscar for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in 2023. Super!)

## sandwiched

sandwiched between Australia and Indonesia  
East Timor is half an island ~

sandwiched between Europe and Central Asia



Turkey has a strategic role in a region ~ (Caucasus)

sandwiched between Togo and Ivory Coast

~, Ghana is considered a model democracy

Sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine

~, Moldova emerged as an independent republic...

## **sanguine (adjective)**

sanguine about the series

he was ~

## **sanitize (verb)**

sanitized Mark Twain's masterpiece

he has ~ by replacing the N-word

sanitize the history

the Japanese often ~

textbooks sanitize

~ Japan's wartime atrocities (Japanese schools)

## **sanitized**

sanitized edition

the ~ of 'Huckleberry Finn' has caused an uproar

sanitized version

lawmakers read aloud a ~ of the US Constitution

less sanitized

reenactors aim for a fun, ~ view of the Old West

rewritten, scrubbed and sanitized

American history is being ~

## **sanitizing**

sanitizing language

military officials used ~ to mask the fact...

## **sardine (noun)**

sardine can

Airbus loses order for 840-seat 'flying ~'

sardine-can

~ seating on planes will soon be the norm (face to face)

sardine seats

Flyers Rights calls the shrinking seats ~ (airplanes)

♦ "The [BBC], once a shark in the media pond, is now a mere sardine in a media ocean." (Clever writing from BBC Six O'Clock News, 26/05/2022.)

## **sardined**

sardined in the settlement

no more convicts could be ~

## **satellite (noun)**

Iranian satellite

Bahrain could become an ~

## **satrapy (noun)**

satrapy of the right

the BBC has become a ~ (a liberal critic)

## **saturated**

saturated with the (television) ads

the Philadelphia media market has been ~ (politics)

saturated with firearms

most neighborhoods like mine are already ~

saturated with racism

the jury heard the factory was ~

saturated with reactions

now, you can choose to be absolutely ~ (social media)

media-saturated

the challenge of running fair trials in a ~ age

tech-saturated

in today's ~ society (recording private conversations)

## **saturation (noun)**

saturation point

Starbucks hits ~ (drop in customer visits)

when a meme has reached the ~

App saturation

smartphone users might be reaching ~

point of saturation

we're past the ~ (true-crime stories)

## **Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia of coal, etc.)**

Saudi Arabia of coal

the US is the ~

West Virginia has been called the ~

Saudi Arabia of cotton

the South was the ~ (the US Civil War)

Saudi Arabia of lithium

Afghanistan could become the ~ (mineral)

we know that Bolivia can become the ~

Saudi Arabia of renewables

could Scotland ever be 'the ~' (wind and tidal energy)

Saudi Arabia of clean water

thanks to Lake Michigan, Chicago is the ~

Saudi Arabia of tidal power

Scotland could be the ~ (Alex Salmond / 2008)

♦ "As Saudi Arabia is to oil, the UK is to wind." (Prime Minister Boris Johnson, about Scottish wind power.)

## **savage (Savage Mountain, etc.)**

Savage Mountain

K2, the so-called "~," doesn't have much tolerance

♦ The climber George Irving Bell, after a 1953 trip to K2, said, "K2 is a savage mountain that tries to kill you." He was one of the five men saved by Pete Schoening's famous belay.

## savage (verb)

savaged his critics  
the president ~

savaging him  
critics are ~ (a journalist over ethics)

## savage (groups)

Savage X Fenty  
Rihanna's ~ celebrates fearlessness...

Lily Savage  
his drag queen persona ~ (the U.K.'s Paul O'Grady)

Most Savage... Bachelorette  
the ~ (an advertisement for the TV show)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Rihanna's Savage X Fenty celebrates fearlessness, confidence and inclusivity." (Lingerie.)

♦ "The Most Savage... Bachelorette." (An advertisement for the TV show showing a fierce young lady walking away fiercely, like definitely obviously really really upset.)

♦ "The Bay Area black metal band perversely blends savagery and accessibility with hints of pop-punk and screamo."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "SAVAGE: *forest dweller* / We move from the Latin *silva*, 'forest,' and *silvaticus*, also *salvaticus*, '(man) of the forest,' through the Old French *sauvage* to our word *savage*. The dwellers in towns looked upon the 'men of the woods' as wild men and so the word *savage* gradually took on its present day meanings of brutality and cruelty." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D.)

♦ "Townspeople stared in disbelief at the naked Nukak." (Colombia. It is not known what the Nukak thought about the townspeople.)

## savage (adjective)

savage day  
Antietam was a ~ in American history (the Civil War)

savage humor  
his ~ spared no one (Mort Sahl)

savage toll  
the Great Lakes can take a ~ on swimmers (drownings)

♦ "But I was aware of what was going on around me in only a disconnected and hazy manner. It seemed as if the weariness and the illness, like ferocious and cowardly beasts, had waited in ambush for the moment when I dismantled my defences, in order to attack me from behind... / I was hoisted on to the cart...together with a load of dying men, from whom I did not feel very different." (*The Truce: A Survivor's Journey Home From Auschwitz* by Primo Levi.)

## savagery (noun)

savagery of the regime  
the ~ (Syria)

savagery of the reviews  
the ~ (a film)

savagery of slavery  
I grew up not knowing about the ~

savagery of internet trolls  
the ~

savagery and prejudice

he wrote with a kind of ~ (V.S. Naipaul)

attackers' savagery  
the ~ (Turkish nightclub attack / New Year's Eve)

your savagery  
we have suffered from ~ for centuries (see quote below)

bite and (a certain amount of) savagery  
there was a real ~ in that performance (Holbrook as Twain)

bitterness and savagery  
the ~ of his criticism...

♦ "I went outside of my house, and it was like total savagery." (A Bahamian pastor, about the effects of Hurricane Dorian.)

♦ "We do know what's happening in the global South. They're just refusing to participate... Not ours. Your war. We don't pay any attention to your hypocritical proclamations. We know exactly what they mean, we've suffered from your savagery for centuries, stop lecturing to us." (Noam Chomsky, about U.S. attempts to gain allies for what Chomsky views as the U.S. proxy war against Russia in the Ukraine.)

## savant (noun)

heavily travelled savants  
sports scouts are ~ who value young players

## save (verb)

save globalization from itself  
a prescription to ~

save face  
dictators always need to ~ (repression)

save "honor"  
Pakistani killed daughters to ~ (headline)

save the honor  
men who kill women to ~ of their family

save his own skin  
he was a liar who just wanted to ~ (criminal trial)

save their skins  
executives sold their stock, hoping to ~ (Enron)

save his voice  
he would play music to ~ (early days of radio)

## savior (the savior of mothers, etc.)

Saviour of Poland  
long live Napoleon, the ~

savior of mothers  
today he is known as "the ~" (Simmelweis)

\*\*\* Ignaz Semmelweis, "the savior of mothers..."

♦ "And then came this crucial moment...a eureka moment, and the light went off in Semmelweis' head... This was the final bit of evidence that he needed... and it was at this point that everything came together...and all of the sudden it made perfect sense and he knew that he had the answer." (The great Ignaz Semmelweis autopsied his good friend Jacob Kolletschka and connected lack of hand hygiene with puerperal (childbed) fever. While today he is known as "the saviour of mothers," at the time his ideas were dismissed by the medical establishment. As John Snow's ideas had been dismissed, and Thomas Aitchison Latta's. From BBC, Sounds, Great Lives, "Ignaz Semmelweis.")

♦ "In 1856 he made his last discovery. In the University Hospital he'd had marvelous results with no women dying. Then suddenly deaths flared up again. Here were women having babies on bed linen infected with purulent discharges from patients just dead. The hospital authorities were being efficient saving expenses by skimping the laundry bills... / Semmelweis clamored. Nothing was done about it and you can't blame the authorities who after all didn't have to risk their lives having babies. Semmelweis roared. Then he took those dirty, dangerous sheets. He walked with them into the office of the high government official, von Tandler, and held those sheets right under the elegant nose of this dignitary. The refined man shuddered and the mothers stopped dying." (*Men Against Death* by Paul De Kruif. From the chapter, "Semmelweis: Saver Of Mothers.")

## savior (noun)

savior

he's *it*, a lot of people in this town think he's a ~ (Trump)

savior act

his ~ turned weird when... (abducted / Brooklyn Mirage)

Wale's saviour

it was always likely Bale would be ~ (soccer game)

wildlife savior

she is referred to as "India's greatest ~" (Indira Gandhi)

white saviour

she was accused of exhibiting a ~ complex (aid worker)

white savior

Hollywood's '~' complex (the 2009 film *The Blind Side*)

*The Blind Side* may be the worst ~ movie ever (MSNBC)

Hollywood's '~' complex

white male saviour

a ~ teams up with indigenous inhabitants to fight colonialism

environmental savior

the press made Obama out to be the ~  
managers and bankers pitched themselves as ~s (ESG)

global savior

NASA doesn't really want the job of ~ (NEOs)

villain to (climate) savior

mining recast from environmental ~ ("green" minerals)

savior was back

the Boston Garden erupted, the ~ (Larry Bird, May 5, 1991)

looking for a savior

movie theaters were ~ and *Dune: Part II* is delivering

billed as the savior

he was ~ who would take the Jets back to Super Bowl glory

seen as Kosovo's savior

Russian President Vladimir Putin is ~ (by ethnic Serbs)

♦ "Discussing international scripts he would receive, he said: 'It's always an American going in, fixing the world's problems, going to Africa...and I said, 'Don't send me these scripts because it's not true.'" (Fim director Shekhar Kapur.)

## savor (verb)

savor the benefits

~ of living a healthier lifestyle (energy, sleep, etc.)

savored the feeling

I ~ (a massage)

savor the moment

some other voice was telling me to slow down, to ~

savored the moment

I ~ (a moonlit swim)

## say (a sign can say something, etc.)

say

restaurants signs that ~, "Restrooms for customers only"

Etsy has gifts that ~, "I get you~!" (an advertisement)

what did the letter ~

says

a street sign that ~ Martin Luther King

the rumor mill ~ he may have plans... (boxing)

said the San Francisco Chronicle

US Terrorized by Radio's 'Men From Mars,' ~

♦ "Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact," declared the New York Times. "Radio Fake Scares Nation," cried the Chicago Herald and Examiner. "US Terrorized By Radio's 'Men From Mars,'" said the San Francisco Chronicle. ("The Halloween myth of the War of the Worlds panic" by Professor W Joseph Campbell, BBC, 30 October 2011.)

♦ "The mountain said no." (Climbers turn around.)

## say (say his name, say period, etc.)

"Say Abortion"

~ (a hand-held sign for abortion rights at a rally)

'Say Her Name'

~: The Latest On Breonna Taylor's Case

~: Mahsa Amini (Iranian protesters in Austria)

say her name

~ (social activist chant)

~ (Ashli Babbitt)

~ (Laken Riley)

~ (Sonya Massey)

say his name

~: five days for George Floyd (PBS)

SayTheirNames

#~ (#BlackLivesMatter)

say their names

~ (social activist chant)

Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, ~ (Stanford EDU DEPT)

say "Free Palestine"

Alec, can you ~ (see quote below)

SayPeriod

Periods in sport: Female athletes back #~ campaign

"Don't Say Gay"

Florida's ~ law (Parental Rights in Education law)

pestered him to say

she repeatedly ~, 'Free Palestine' (Crackhead Barney)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Say her name. Mahsa Amini." (Iranian protesters outside a soccer friendly between Senegal and Iran in Vienna, Austria. Protesters outside the stadium used megaphones and loudspeakers to "make their voices heard." The protest was so loud, Iranian state TV had to broadcast the match on mute. From "World Cup 2022: Iran's turbulent build-up amid violent anti-government protests" by Pooria Jafereh, BBC Persian, November 17, 2022.)

♦ "Alec, can you say 'Free Palestine'? Just say 'Free Palestine' one time, and I'll leave." ("Exclusive: New Alec Baldwin Video Sheds Light on Clash With Protestor," *Newsweek*, updated Apr 23 2024. See also the Wikipedia article "Crackhead Barney.")

♦ "I was a black girl who had jumped fences and fought boys and made them say my name and resisted death." (Zandria F. Robinson @ New South Negress.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "I'm Tired of Black Women Being Killed By Police too. (A list of names.) We Must #SAYHERNAME. (\$20.00. Say Her Name Shirt, Black Women Killed by Cops shirt. Etsy.)

♦ *Say Their Names: How Black Lives Came to Matter in America* by Curtis Bunn, Michael H. Cottman, Patrice Gains, Nick Charles, and Keith Harriston.

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "'#Sayhername,' the patriots will tweet, delighting in their appropriation of a campaign created for Black women." (Ashli Babbitt.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "Those Progressives don't want a Jew, let's say it out loud." (Admit it, be honest.)

♦ "There is power in speaking Omer's name, showing his picture." (The mother of an Israeli soldier captured and held hostage by Hamas.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Slogans are the battle cries of our modern crowds.

♦ For a list of names you would think are males but are actually females, see *gender (groups)*.

♦ see also *name (groups)*

♦ For a list of female first names ending in long "e," see *y (pulpy, etc.)*.

## scaffold (verb)

scaffold instruction

we need to ~ in mixed-ability classes and materials

## scaffolding (noun)

cosmic scaffolding

strands of dark matter form a kind of ~

## scale (scales of justice, etc.)

scales of justice

he put his finger on the ~ to exonerate the police

scale of the market

critics say it unfairly puts a finger on the ~ (ESG)

## scale (put one's finger on the scale, etc.)

put a thumb on the scale

politicians will be tempted to ~ (a culture-war issue)

puts his thumb on the scale

in the final pages, Cohen finally ~ (says he is against it)

put their thumb on the scale of the debate

universities should not ~ (culture wars)

put his finger on the scales of justice

he ~ to exonerate the police

puts a finger on the scale of the market

critics say it unfairly ~ (ESG)

put its thumb on the scales on the side of free speech

the court has ~ (students)

♦ "Obama decided not to alert the public before Election Day about the full extent of the Russian conspiracy to assist Trump, fearing that such a disclosure would look like a thumb on the scale in favor of Trump's opponent, Hillary Clinton, and potentially undermine her widely expected victory." ("Foreign Influencers: How the U.S. government decides when to alert the public about election meddling" by David D. Kirkpatrick, *The New Yorker*, October 28, 2024.)

♦ "The way this issue has been reported, it's as if there is a thumb on the scale in favor of white supremacists. But as I understand this case, that's just not what the judge is doing." ("A look at Bruce Schroeder, the judge in the Kyle Rittenhouse trial," NPR, All Things Considered, Nov. 4, 2021.)

♦ "Normally the US government would resist putting a finger on the scale of any one private company." (But not Boeing, which the government will always favor.)

♦ "Election guru Nate Silver accuses pollsters of putting 'finger on the scale.'" (During the runoff to the 2024 U.S. presidential election. He believed Trump led 55% to 45%. Most pollsters reported that the race was dead even. The respected Des Moines Register poll claimed the race was dead even in its closing days. Trump ended up winning Iowa for a third time, and his margin of victory was 14 points.)

♦ "But it is an open question as to whether Trump himself decides to publicly put his finger on the scale, and what kind of consequences that might have." (NPR's Barbara Sprunt, about the secret vote by Republican senators for a new Senate majority leader.)

♦ see also *balance (tip the balance)*, *playing field (level the playing field)*, *scale (tip the scales)*

## scale (tilt the scales)

tilting the scales of popular opinion

what is ~ towards... (a theory)

♦ "What's tilting the scales is narrative appeal." (An ongoing question and public polling.)

♦ see also *balance (tip the balance)*, *playing field (level the playing field)*, *scale (put one's finger on the scale, etc.)*

## scale (tip the scales)

tip the scales

this could ~

tip the scales against him

this could ~ (politics)

tip the scale in favor of boys

I do not intend to ~, rather...

♦ "The goal of the policy I propose is not to 'tip the scales in favor of boys,' as some fear. Rather, it is to level the playing field in the spirit of equity given the developmental differences between the sexes."

♦ see also *balance (tip the balance)*, *playing field (level the playing field)*, *scale (put one's finger on the scale, etc.)*

## scale (climb)

scaled the heights of government

he never ~ (MP Sir David Amess)

## scalp (save one's scalp)

save his own scalp

he is a career criminal trying to ~ (jailhouse snitch)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can save your neck, save your skin, or save your scalp. Take your pick!

## scalp (noun)

scalp on his record

Wilder would be a great ~ (boxing)

decent scalp

AJ is still a ~ (boxing)

impressive scalp

Usyk would be an ~ for Joshua (boxing)

scalp to hold up

Twitter and Facebook had a high-profile ~ (ban Trump)

claim another (big) scalp

Palace ~ (victory against Tottenham Hotspur in FA Cup)

collected scalps

they issued demands, ~ (students force resignations)

have his name as a scalp

it's great to ~ on my record now (boxing)

needed a scalp

Cuomo ~, a notch on his political belt (Hank Morris)

take scalps

he is looking to ~ at Sony (underperforming films)

thirsting for another manager's scalp

now I see McNutty is ~ (a BBC sportswriter)

♦ "He's a hedge fund guy looking to take scalps at Sony." (The actor George Clooney stands up for Hollywood against big-money investors looking to make a buck.)

♦ "Get (at least one) incumbent establishment scalp to become a credible threat." (An internal document of Justice Democrats. From "The Left Turn" by Andrew Marantz, *The New Yorker*, May 31, 2021.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The Bayonet Tree got its name when one of Herkimer's men was crucified on it. George Walter lay beside a spring, pretending to be dead while an Indian ran a scalping knife around his skull, tearing off, finally, hair and skin from the bloody head. The Senecas captured Robert Crouse, the tallest and strongest man in Tryon County. They trussed him up, and then, in order to cut him down to their size, they whittled his legs off below the knees, cut the ropes holding him, and told him to walk." (*The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop. His book is about the Mohawk River.)

♦ "The Storm Shadow is a Franco-British low-observable, long-range air-launched cruise missile... 'Storm Shadow' is the weapon's British name; in France it is called SCALP-EG (which stands for 'Système de Croisière Autonome a Longue Portée—Emploi Général'; English: "Long Range Autonomous Cruise Missile System—General Purpose")." (The Wikipedia article "Storm Shadow." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See "Adjusting Appropriately To Words That Hurt" by Jeanine Santucci, Opinion, NPR, Language, August 8, 2018. Written by an intern. Words mentioned include "scalp," "Sherpa," "spook," and "guru." See also the Wikipedia article "Scalping." Scalping is clearly not limited to any particular people, place, or time.

♦ see also *hatchet* (*bury the hatchet*)

## scalpel (noun)

scalpel of analysis

I never had the courage to probe him with the ~ (a hero)

## scape (threatscape, etc.)

Bat-scape

the ~ is pretty well established (*The Batman*)

battle-scape

the brain is the 21st Century ~ (microwave weapons)

cellscape

cryo-EM can help reveal the ~ as it actually is

cityscape

the dramatic ~ of steel and lights (Hong Kong)

friendscapes

as we curate our ~ post-COVID (some fade away)

why we need diversity in our ~

~ change as life's landscape changes

hellscape

flames turned the small town into a ~ (wildfire)

Twitter must not become a free-for-all ~ (Elon Musk)

a free-for-all ~, where anything can be said...

the future will be a ~ ("cli-fi" books and films)

the ~ that is the American mental health system

jokescape

he was part of a metropolitan ~... (a businessman)

landscape

(see *landscape*)

mediascape

he rips into the Internet-juiced ~ (the film *France*)

moonscape

(see *moonscape*)

*Nightscape*

*Shanghai ~: A Nocturnal Biography of a Global City*

roadscape

a ragged ~ of motels, franchises and big box stores...

Roofscapes

~ to bring green roofs to the Parisian skyline (company)

"sandscape"

how the ~ has changed (Bacton Beach / North Norfolk)

scentscape

the ~, the scentosphere... (a *New Yorker* article)

seascapes

artists fall in love with the area's ~ (Northern Jutland)

smellscapes

how transformations have affected people's ~ (history)

smell-scapes

as the world faces a pandemic, our ~ are being changed

snowscapes

you see these unbelievable ~ (extreme skiing)

#### soundscape

the unique ~ of Tanzania's largest city (Eyder Peralta)  
a new field of biology called ~ ecology  
gentle ambient ~s, electronic beats (German music)

#### streetscape

the bomb destroyed the facades and ~ of the tourist area

#### threatscape

the changing ~ (terrorism)

#### townscape

additions to the ~ of Lhasa (drains, etc.)

#### waterscape

this ~ is called the four thousand islands (Si Phan Don)

♦ "As the world faces another global pandemic, our smell-scapes are being changed again..." ("What's That Smell? Researchers Hope to Recreate Historic Scents From Europe's Past" by Reese Oxner, NPR, Nov. 22, 2020.)

♦ "He called that painting "Bottlescape." (Winston Churchill, a great amateur painter. His painting consisted of 12 bottles and some large cigar boxes.)

♦ "Back in the days when Trump swanned about Manhattan as a caricature rich guy and gonif construction magnate, he was part of a metropolitan jokescape, up there in lights with John Gotti and Leona Helmsley." (David Remnick, squawking from his perch as editor of *The New Yorker*. From "Cabinet Of Wonders," *The Talk Of The Town*, *The New Yorker*, November 25, 2024.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Go to Wiktionary, type in "-scape," then click on "Derived terms," and you will get a long, comprehensive list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ Certain bars have magnificent bottlescapes, with bottles of varying sizes, shapes, necks, colors, stoppers, baskets even, and labels.

### scapegoat (noun)

#### scapegoat

he was railroaded, chosen to be the ~ (wrongly convicted)

#### scapegoats of imperialism

they became the ~ (Indians in East Africa)

#### scapegoat for California's drought

how almonds became a ~

#### scapegoat for America's failures

he accused Trump of making Pakistan a ~ in Afghanistan

#### government's scapegoat

she is the ~ for crimes committed by Epstein

#### made a scapegoat

he has been ~ for the failings of the Catholic Church  
(Cardinal George Pell)

#### make Pakistan a scapegoat

the US is trying to ~ for the war in Afghanistan

#### chosen to be the scapegoat

he was railroaded, ~ (wrongly convicted)

#### sees scapegoats everywhere

Clinton ~ (for her 2016 election fail / blames others)

#### use the West as a scapegoat

Moi sought to ~ for the country's troubles (Kenya)

#### used as a scapegoat

the company is being ~ for America's opioid crisis

♦ "Nancy Spector, in other words, was a scapegoat." ("The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. "A museum curator was forced out of her job over allegations of racism that an investigation deemed unfounded. What did her defenestration accomplish?")

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ One goat was sacrificed. The scapegoat was driven off into the wilderness to perish with the sins of the community lying symbolically on its horns.

♦ "We used to talk about making somebody a scapegoat, or throwing them to the wolves. Now we're more like to talk about throwing them under the bus..." (The linguist Geoff Nunberg. From "Primaries Toss Some 'Under the Bus,' Fresh Air, NPR, April 22, 2008.)

♦ You can be thrown to the sharks. Or thrown to the wolves. Or thrown under the bus. Or hung out to dry. Or crucified. Or have your head stuck on a stake. Or be made a scapegoat. Take your pick!

### scar (Scar Ridge, etc.)

#### Scar Branch

~ is a stream in Maryland

#### Scar Creek

~ is a stream in Oregon

#### Scar Hill

~ is a summit in Pennsylvania

~ is a summit in Washington

~ Bluffs are cliffs in Massachusetts

#### Scar Mountain

~ is a summit in Washington

~ is a summit in Oregon

#### Scar Ridge

~ is a ridge in New Hampshire

#### Scar Run

~ is a stream in Pennsylvania

#### Scar Tank

~ is a reservoir in Arizona

#### Scar Top

~ is a hamlet in West Yorkshire (Wikipedia)

~ Mountain is a summit in Colorado

#### Red Scar

~ Knoll is a summit in Oregon

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Scar Top." It's just a stub, but it has a wonderful photo of that tiny place in West Yorkshire. Examine the photo. Do you see why it might be called Scar Top?

♦ According to AI Overview, "In British topography, a 'scar' refers to a steep, exposed cliff face, particularly in limestone regions like the Yorkshire Dales... Essentially, a 'scar' is a geological feature resembling a 'scar' on the landscape due to its prominent, often vertical drop." ("Generative AI is experimental.")

♦ The method of mining coal called "mountaintop removal" has got to leave a scar. Ouch.

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Scout Scar."

♦ There is a Wikipedia article "Suture (geology)."



## scar (the Scar)

know the rock formation as “The Scar”  
fishermen and Taku locals ~ (Jaw Point, Alaska)

## scar (resemblance / noun)

scar on the face  
the slums are a ~ of a beautiful city (Jeddah)

gaping scar  
the open-pit mine has left a ~ two sq miles in size

## scar (resemblance / verb)

scar the landscape  
abandoned construction sites ~

## scar (psychologically / verb)

scarred me  
the way my grandpa taught me to drive forever ~

## scar (psychological scars, etc.)

deep (psychological) scars  
soldiers are coming home with ~ (from Iraq)

emotional scars  
the ~ he inflicted on his children  
the ~ of modern slavery run deeper than any wound

personal scars  
the political mistakes and ~ that shaped Joe Biden

psychological scars  
~ suffered by the orphan subjects (experiment)  
the victims struggle with ~ (town lost to wildfire)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “I heard yesterday that there is a military hospital hidden in the forest for the soldiers who have had their faces shot away. They apparently look so horrific that ordinary people can’t even look at them. Things like that make me despair.” (Elfriede Kuhr, a young German schoolgirl. From *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter Englund.)

♦ “A World War One memorial to soldiers whose story has been described as an unresolved ‘taboo’ is set to be unveiled... / The statue is to be unveiled by descendants of some of the soldiers, at Queen Mary’s Hospital in Sidcup, Kent, where many of the men were treated.” (“Ending the taboo of soldiers with ‘broken faces’” by Sean Coughlan, BBC, 9 November 2019.)

## scar (blemish / noun)

scar on the history  
the Sand Creek massacre is a permanent ~ of Colorado

economic scars  
the longer the recovery, the more long-lasting the ~

## scar (blemish / verb)

scar it  
this report will not just injure the BBC but ~ (Lady Di)

## scarred (afflicted)

scarred by a (harrowing) incident  
all of us have been ~ that happened to a friend...

scarred by (childhood) rejection and abuse  
an angry young man ~

scarred for life  
I was ~ (traumatic incident)

emotionally scarred  
if you are half as ~ as I am...

## scarred (battle-scarred, etc.)

scarred with piles  
the open land around Norilsk is ~ of tailings (mines)

battle-scarred buildings  
checkpoints and ~ (Middle East)

battle-scarred capital  
in Mogadishu, Somalia’s ~

battle-scarred country  
a ~ divided among warlords (Afghanistan)

battle-scarred air base  
American forces based at the ~ (Afghanistan)

## scarring

scarring experience  
it was a ~ (being bullied)

## scary (as noun)

amount of scary  
the books have just the right ~ (horror for children)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “There’s no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## scathing (adjective)

scathing editorial  
in a ~, the newspaper condemned the university for...

scathing portrait  
the book offers a ~ of the president

scathing report  
the ~ faults Boeing for the deadly crashes

scathing testimony  
he lashed out at his former boss in ~

## scattershot (adjective)

scattershot  
his approach can be somewhat ~ (a historian)

scattershot approach  
they have taken a ~

## scavenger (noun)

scavengers show up  
how quickly the ~ (contested celebrity will)

## scene (behind the scenes)

behind the scenes

people want to know what goes on ~  
what goes on ~ isn't always known (Man U)  
~, the US government twisted arms to the limit  
I'm ~, I know how things work... (a boxer)

behind the scenes of the arts and sciences  
BTM takes a monthly deep-dive ~

from behind the scenes  
they will pull strings ~ (politicians)

working (feverishly) behind the scenes  
the US is ~ (diplomacy)

♦ "The heavyweight division used to be the pinnacle of the sport but now it's little more than a travelling circus where the ring masters behind the scenes lift your wallets by putting on a clown show." (Captain Y-Fronts, on BBC's HYS about the Fury-Schwarz fight.)

♦ "People don't see the behind the scenes, the miles that you put in." (Cleveland boxer Morelle McCane about training at Glenville's Bob Davis Boxing Club. Morelle qualified for the Olympic team.)

## scene (come onto the scene)

came onto the scene in 2015  
he first ~ with a handful of mixtapes (a dead rapper)

## scent (throw somebody off the scent)

threw the Nazis off the scent with subterfuge  
she ~ (saved Polish Jews)

throw the investigators off the scent  
he tried to ~

throw the press off the scent  
he tried to ~

## scent (evidence)

scent of malfeasance  
he's a born bloodhound who lives to track the ~  
(journalist)

## scepter (authority)

wave your scepter  
you can't just ~ and make it so (changing a rule)

♦ "Before the *scepter* [italics mine] of climate change ever reared up..." (Oops! Confusion of the two words *specter* and *scepter*? Misreading a text? An "eggcorn"?)

♦ "...and the scepter of race actually raises its head..." (Oops! "Black, British And 'Brain Drained': Playwright Takes Charge In Baltimore," NPR, Tell Me More, February 24, 2014. Did the interviewee mean to say *specter*? Did the audio process make *specter* sound like *scepter*?)

\*\*\* a scepter, tiara and a kiss...

♦ "She was greeted with a scepter, tiara and a kiss from the first runner-up, Miss U.S.A." (Miss Colombia Paulina Vega.)

## schism (noun)

schism between the sides  
the ~ has deepened (politics)

cultural and political schism  
the region's ~ (Northwest Michigan)

\*\*\* Catholics, Orthodox...

♦ "Better the Sultan's turban than the cardinal's hat!"

## schizophrenia (noun)

cultural schizophrenia

we're living in a moment of ~ (can't decide what's taboo)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## schizophrenic (adjective)

schizophrenic

the weather is ~

kind of schizophrenic

we're ~ (a musician about music scene)

schizophrenic blend

she encapsulates the ~ of exhilaration and alarm (tech)

schizophrenic issue

it's a ~, in fact (Egyptian attitude to West)

♦ "League executives admit their marketing efforts have been schizophrenic." (The Women's National Basketball Association, about fans who are "fluid," "progressive," and "eclectic.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The secondary definition in the OED is "with the implication of mutually contradictory or inconsistent elements." Some see this definition as hurtful to the mentally ill and would like to see it removed.

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## school (verb)

schooled Joshua

Usyk ~, and will do it again (boxing)

## school (experience)

school of the sea

they were tough men risen in the ~ (ship captains)

suspicious school

having been brought up in a ~, I suspected...

tough school

it's a ~, this... (Scotland beaten by Croatia / Euro 2020)

♦ "A whale-ship was my Yale College and my Harvard." (*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.)

♦ "The Eskimos were right!" (An excited scientist in a helicopter in 1994, noticing a bow whale swimming with a group of beluga whales. This is but one example of traditional ecological knowledge.)

♦ "Fredrick August Wilson walked out of his Pittsburgh high school at fifteen when a teacher suggested that his term paper on Napoleon was too good to have been written by a black kid. Afraid to tell his mother he'd quit school, he got up every morning and went to the library instead, later graduating to the rough-and-tumble bars and restaurants of the Hill, the down-on-its-heels black neighborhood where he grew up and most of his plays are set." (Bob Mondello's wonderful tribute to the great American playwright on NPR's All Things Considered, October 3, 2005.)

♦ "A friend of mine, who was deported to the women's Camp of Ravensbruck, says that the camp was her university. I think I can say the same thing, that is, by living and then writing about and pondering those events, I have learned many things about man and the world." ("Postscript: The Author's Answers to His Readers' Questions" by Primo Levi. Translated by Ruth Feldman. From *If This Is A Man The Truce* by Primo Levi, translated by Stuart Woolf.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Ability has no school." (Turkey.)

♦ "Time teaches more than books." (*Po but siklos bersentar sar lilentar* / Roma.)

♦ Life is the best education."

♦ see also *Harvard* (*epithet*), *university* (*experience*)

## schooled

schooled (at an early age) on how  
he was ~ to be a drug dealer

schooled for twelve rounds  
he was ~ and nearly KO'd (a boxer)

schooled by Usyk  
AJ got ~ twice (boxing)

outclassed and schooled  
he was ~ (Oleksandr Usyk beats Anthony Joshua / boxing)

got schooled  
AJ ~ in his own yard (by Usyk, in London / boxing)

♦ "Dennis Rodman just went to Larry Bird University for a term." (Snarky commentary during a 1986 NBA game.)

## science (as verb)

science a solution  
the goal was to ~ to...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## science (not rocket science)

not rocket science  
heat, drought, it's ~ (resultant wildfires)

♦ "ban guns and sort our your mental health support for young people, it's not rocket science" (An online British commenter about the latest U.S. school shooting.)

♦ "He's not a rocket surgeon." (A comment about an athlete's intelligence. Heard on the sports radio show the Sportsocracy. Conflates "rocket scientist" and "brain surgeon." Funny!)

## scintilla (scintilla of doubt, etc.)

scintilla of evidence  
there is not a ~ against him

scintilla of merit  
there is not a ~ in this claim (of a jailhouse snitch)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is from the Latin for a spark.

## scintillating (adjective)

scintillating performance  
she gave a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is from the Latin for a spark.

## scissor (verb)

scissoring up and down  
we were ~ (plane maneuvers defensively to avoid collision)

## scissor (resemblance)

scissor kick  
his 94th-minute ~ sent the game to penalties (soccer)

## scissor (genetic scissors, etc.)

Crispr-Cas9 genetic scissors  
their discovery, known as ~

## sclerotic (adjective)

sclerotic bureaucracy  
businessmen must deal with a ~  
the tech company and Ukraine's ~ (Palantir)

sclerotic culture  
she campaigned to change the ~ of Sacramento (election)

sclerotic (judicial) system  
the ~ is in need of reform

sclerotic, authoritarian  
it is not the only country with a ~ political system

unthinking and sclerotic  
they rebelled against ~ traditionalism (filmmakers)

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## scold (verb)

scolded the White House press corps for behaving  
she sometimes ~ like her children (Sarah Sanders)

## scold (person)

moral scold  
he became a ~ (Bill Cosby)

♦ "Not so fast! You're driving too fast! What are you driving so fast for? You were up to fifty-five. You know I don't like to go more than forty. You were up to fifty-five. You're tensed up again. It's one of your days. I wish you'd let Dr. Renshaw look you over... Remember to get those overshoes while I'm having my hair done." (The harridan / virago Mrs. Mitty. From the short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Traditionally, it was mainly women who were scolds.

## scolded (by Savannah Guthrie, etc.)

scolded by Savannah Guthrie  
Richard Gere ~ after he gives her the middle finger  
scorched-earth (and scorched earth)

scorched-earth approach

what they see as his ~ (a federal prosecutor)

scorched-earth attacks

voters want answers to their questions, not ~ (politics)

scorched-earth campaign

Theranos continued its ~ against my sources (*Bad Blood*)  
he waged a ~ to convince other investors... (Bill Ackman)

scorched-earth offensive

this ~ that we saw from the president (attacks his critics)

scorched-earth politics

republicans have adopted his slash-and-burn, ~

scorched-earth pursuit

the senator's ~ of communists (Joe McCarthy)

goes scorched earth

MLB legend ~ on umpire over horrific strikeout call  
Roosevelt Island locals ~ on bus service (complaints)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "At the time, the Allied command appeared to have been very little disturbed by this barbarism. It was said the Germans were simply pursuing the 'scorched-earth' policy they had developed in Russia, where everything which might conceivably have been of any use to the Russian Army was destroyed, and the civilian population—rendered homeless and destitute—was deliberately converted into a living obstacle in the path of the advancing Russian troops. Presumably because our brass hats considered the scorched-earth policy a legitimate military tactic, the atrocities inflicted on the Italian peasants in the Sangro mountains rated no more than a few casual and non-condemnatory references even in the official military histories written after the war..." (*And No Birds Sang* by the great Canadian writer Farley Mowat. Italy. World War II.)

♦ "Fiercely the red sun descending / Burned his way along the heavens / Set the sky on fire behind him / As war parties when retreating / Burn the prairies on their war trails." (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

♦ According to William Safire, this term was first used in the Sino-Japanese war during the 1930s. From his introduction to "Stalin Commands the Soviet Peoples to Scorch the Earth Being Taken by Hitler's Troops" in *Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History*.)

♦ "Scorched earth" has been a feature of warfare since the beginning of mankind, and, like "scalping," or any other atrocity anyone can think of, cannot be related to any particular time, place, or race.

## scorching (adjective)

scorching (final) scene

in the play's ~, she unleashes a torrent of fury at...

## score (settle a score, etc.)

score

you're gonna pay, 'cause I'm the one who's keepin' ~

settle scores

there are worries that people may try to ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Score refers to an account or a bill.

## scorecard (noun)

Police Scorecard

the research organization ~ Project

culture, diversity and inclusion scorecard

in 2016 the company began using a ~ (hiring)

## scorpion (HMS Scorpion, etc.)

HMS *Scorpion*

there have been a number of ~s

### \*\*\* At Ras Al Gar...

♦ "At Ras Al Gar, the U.S. Marines would pit scorpion against scorpion in a hole in the sand and bet on which scorpion would win." (Operation Desert Shield, the Gulf War. A big shoutout to father Ismaro Cardenas and son Danny Cardenas, two tough Puerto Ricans. And Momma Cardenas, of course!)

## scorpion (proper name)

Scorpion

Drake releases his double album, "~"

Scorpion police unit

Memphis's ~ (Street Crimes Operation to Restore Peace...)

## scorpion (behavior)

scorpions in a bottle

the justices were known as "nine ~" (US Supreme Court)

### \*\*\* "Some scorpions never drink..."

♦ "Scorpions can survive a year between feedings; some scorpions never drink; scorpions kill over 5,000 people a year; there are over 1,500 species of scorpions worldwide; there are lethal snakes and ants, softball-sized spiders, scorpions, centipedes, giant beetles and disease-bearing ticks (in Kandahar, Afghanistan); poisonous snakes, scorpions, and spiders are common in all deserts; a twelve-year-old West Virginia girl was stung by a scorpion while picking up a seedless watermelon at Wal-Mart (the shipment came from Mexico)... (Things said or written about scorpions.)

♦ "Tuareg mothers put a dab of scorpion poison on their nipples when they are breastfeeding as a form of vaccine for their babies." (According to Mark Eveleigh.)

♦ Traditionally in the desert, hijabs (amulets) guard a child against the evil eye and protect against scorpions.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "The Scorpion and the Frog." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## scour (verb)

scoured the shops for antiques

they ~

scoured the Earth for (rare) fruit

Bill Whitman ~ (collector)

scoured the area for hours

search teams ~ (Delphi Indiana murders)

scoured the Web

crazed fans ~ ("Blair Witch Project")

scoured his computer

police ~

scoured the neighborhood

more cops ~

scoured (all) the records  
the new team ~ in the case (prosecution)

scoured 46,332 sq miles  
the search ~ of sea floor (for MH370)

scoured the streets and homeless shelters  
officers ~ but could find no trace of him

## scoured

scoured by whirlwinds  
a scorched moonscape ~ of ash (wildfire)

scoured by wind  
the land is ~ and baked by sun

## scourge (noun)

scourge of (mass) incarceration  
the ~ rips apart poor communities

scourge of (violent) jihad  
the ~ has not gone away

scourge of racism  
we thought the ~ was a distant memory (soccer)

scourge of the Resistance  
Klaus Barbie was the ~

scourge of (modern) technology  
car wrecks are a great ~ (Fast & Furious films)

scourge in the black communities  
crack cocaine was a ~

self-appointed scourge  
he is now a ~ of victimhood and outrage (a writer)

blessings as well as its scourges  
celebrity's ~

♦ "He was celebrated as a scourge of Nazis, Communists, and subversives." ("When J. Edgar Hoover Was a National Hero" by Jack Goldsmith, *The Atlantic*, December 2022.)

## scout (noun)

boy scouts  
the ~ are shining paragons of American boyhood

sports scouts  
~ are heavily travelled savants who value young players

talent scout  
a ~ asked them to come to Las Vegas

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ The scout / snipers serve as the eyes and ears of the battalion commander.

♦ "Scout Snipers The Grim Reaper Confirmed kills [number obscured by a soldier]" (The backdrop to a group photo in front of a tent, An Hoi, Vietnam. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

## scout (verb)

scout blind drops

please ~ (memorial to kayaker Edward Lee Green)

scout for talent  
he came to Bosnia to ~ (KSM / terrorist)

♦ "Edward Lee Green / 1953-Dec. 27, 1998 / Outstanding musician, adventurer, loving father, beloved friend. His unique talents will be forever missed by those who knew him. / Died as a result of pinning at Crack-in-the-Rock Rapid Dec. 23, 1998 on the Raven Fork in Cherokee, NC. / Please Scout Blind Drops. / Jesus said, "I am the way..." John 14:6." (Monument at Dillsboro put-in on the Tuckasegee River in western North Carolina.)

## scramble (verb)

scramble to get  
I had to ~ some money

scrambled (this week) to prevent  
attorneys ~ the public release of recorded statements

scrambling to provide  
the government is ~ additional security (Olympics)

scrambling to put  
negotiators have been ~ the talks back together

scrambling to salvage  
they are ~ the treaty (diplomacy)

scrambling to stop  
health officials are ~ the spread of the virus (measles)

scrambled for his (political) survival  
he has ~ this week (ethics problems)

## scramble (disrupt)

scrambled the lives  
he has ~ of everyone in the news business (president)

scrambled their plans  
the impeachment trial has ~ (politicians)

## scrap (verb)

scrapped (nearly all of) the changes  
he has ~ (of the previous regime)

scrapped the idea  
the team ~ of...

scrapped (NASA's) plan  
the administration has ~ to return to the moon

scrap its plan  
the government must ~ to restart the nuclear reactors

scrap that strategy  
they should ~ and try something different

scrapped the (color-coded) system  
the Obama administration ~ (terrorism alerts)

## scrap (noun)

scraps of the (old) economy  
young people should fight over the remaining ~

scraps of morale

hunger destroyed whatever ~ may have been left  
(convicts)

## scrape (verb)

scrape 500,000 members' private details  
the flaw allowed hackers to ~

## scrape by (verb)

scraping by  
farmers are just ~

## scraped

scraped from the internet  
LAION 5B contains billions of images that have been ~

## scrapped

scrapped by the governor  
the project was ~

project was scrapped  
the ~

program will be scrapped  
he believes the ~ later this year (State Dept.)

tour was scrapped  
the ~ (music)

want them scrapped  
Americans oppose the bills and ~

## scratch (scratch and claw, etc.)

scratch and claw for the maximum  
she is going to ~ she can get (politics)

## scratch (record scratch)

record-scratch effect  
her close relationship to her sources did have a ~

♦ CUE THE WONDERFUL VANGELIS MUSIC TO THE 1981 FILM CHARIOTS OF FIRE—"The nation needs two ways to get to space, at least. We're at the finish line. Let's take one more step," said Tory Bruno, president and CEO of United Launch Alliance, after the crewed launch of Boeing's Starliner was scrubbed 4 minutes before launch.— HUGE RECORD SCRATCH! The Starliner eventually flew on what was to be an eight-day mission. It turned out to last more than ten months for poor Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This refers the feeling you would have if you were listening to a song on a turntable and the needle abruptly ripped across a record. It is a sound effect used in films.

♦ There is a wonderful "record scratch" moment at My Cousin Vinny (What If I were To Kick The Ever Loving Shit Out Of You)

## scream (verb)

whine, scream and cry  
the Democrats ~ crocodile tears for the child victims  
(guns)

## scream (scream "premium," etc.)

scream (out to the young people) that  
this sentence will ~ you can't drive drunk (prison)

scream "adventure"  
the off-road capability of their cars ~ (Jeep Wrangler)

screamed money laundering  
from law enforcement's point of view, bitcoin ~

scream maturity  
what we saw in Houston doesn't ~ to me (NBA)

screamed the front page  
"Raheem shots himself in foot" ~ of the *Sun* newspaper

scream 'premium'  
if there are scratches on the tin, that doesn't ~ (paint)

screams "Rob me"  
the carry case ~ (Apple AirPods Max)

scream Washington  
at first glance the restaurant doesn't ~ (Compass Rose)

screams David v Goliath  
if there's one tie that ~, this is it (Falkirk v Rangers)

♦ "The effect is trashy, hollering sexual availability... (Young American girls who wear short shorts, or Daisy Dukes.)

♦ Fashion that suggests rather than shouts. (Females.)

♦ "I just love the idea that you can listen to a body and it's screaming at you. In this case Ganymede's screaming, 'I have my own magnetic field!' That's a very special tale..." (Scott Bolton, the principal investigator for the Juno Mission, about the moon revolving around Jupiter. The sounds are "data converted to audio, so we could all hear it." From "What does a moon sound like," NPR, Morning Edition, Dec. 24, 2021.)

♦ see also cry (verb)

## scream (scream for action, etc.)

screaming for action  
the public is ~ now (Australia / fires / climate change)

screamed (out) for an activist investor  
it is a situation that ~ (tennis reform)

scream and holler and carry on  
people manufacture outrage and ~ like there's no tomorrow

## screen (split screen)

split screen  
South shore is a ~ (rich / poor)

split screen of conduct  
it's a ~ that is required (manufacturing hygiene in India)

split-screen day  
this was really a ~ in the US Senate (2 important events)

split-screen messaging  
there was some ~ (cooperation vs. unilateralism)

split-screen moment  
dueling televised town halls, a ~ (rival politicians)

split-screen reality  
he lived in this ~ all the time (adoration / vilification)

chilling split screen  
it was a ~ (president addresses nation / street protests)



worse split screen

I can't imagine a ~ (9/11 pile / Osama escapes Tora Bora)

series of split screens

Trump is hoping to set up a ~ (during impeachment trial)

♦ "The World Trade Center pile of debris was literally still smoking on December 12th, 2001, which is the day Bin Laden escaped from Tora Bora. It's also the same day that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was getting briefed about the future Iraq war plans by the Pentagon, and to me that sort of speaks for itself... The split screen on 9/11 (in 2021) will be the Taliban you know taking over chunks of Afghanistan using American military equipment that they've seized, and reading the names of the victims at the World Trade Center site, and I can't imagine a worse split screen, but I think that is likely what we will see." (The fine journalist Peter Bergen. From "Osama Bin Laden Biography Goes Inside Al-Qaida Leader's Final Hideout," NPR, Fresh Air, with Dave Davies.)

♦ "And here is a split screen 20 years later... (Video of Bush in 2001 announcing attacks in Afghanistan and Biden announcing US exit from Afghanistan in 2021.)

♦ "It's like a split screen, Scott. Israelis and Palestinians are not looking at the same thing." (NPR's beloved Eleanor Beardsley reporting on the Israel-Hamas war from Tel Aviv. For decades, she has been known for her wonderful reportage from *France*.)

\*\*\* a presidential debate...

♦ "You know, in a presidential debate, the split-screen shot of the candidates, one candidate speaking and the other reacting non-verbally, can easily become the story of the debate, and that appears to be happening here." (NPR's Tamara Keith after the first Harris-Trump debate.)

\*\*\* current events in our world...

♦ Female BBC reader: "At a notorious Syrian prison where opponents of President Assad were held, rescue teams search for any more inmates. Also tonight, a senior cabinet minister calls for innovators and disruptors to join the civil service. (Sound bite of minister.) 'My message to creative thinkers is this is your chance to serve your country.'" (BBC, Six O'Clock News, 09/12/2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A split screen can be synchronous (same time) or asynchronous (different times, the past versus the present).

**screw (tighten / loosen the screws)**

loosen the screws

if we ~ on restrictions the economy will return  
(pandemic)

tighten the screws

as Trump sought to ~, Bezos... (*The Washington Post*)

tightened the screws

the judge ~ and... (sentence)

**screw up (verb)**

screwed up

I ~

**script (to script)**

exactly to script

things haven't gone ~ (a boxer's career)

gone (exactly) to script

things haven't ~ (a boxer's career)

sticks to script

White House ~ (diplomacy)

♦ "This is an American crime story that follows what sadly feels like a familiar script. Woman goes missing, husband gets in front of a

camera, makes an emotional plea for her return, and that husband is arrested for her murder. This has now happened in the case of..." ("Husband of missing Colorado mom arrested nearly one year after her disappearance," ABC.)

♦ "The same formula again and again. I want to post pictures of myself in bathing suits. When I get criticized I'll say I want to do it for others and for body positivity. When I get criticized for that, I will show sadness that the world doesn't support mental health and I'm a victim, and finally I'll get praised for being so brave for living my own truth." (Bob Loblaw. A BBC HYS comment about "SI Swim model Natalie Mariduena wants to 'be an example' of 'body normalcy'" by Stephanie Nolasco, August 20, 2022.)

♦ "Will Smith is executing a pretty standard and frankly effective return to the public. You know, he'd been keeping out of media, but with *Emancipation*'s release, he appeared for a high-profile interview in a friendly venue, he talked over the scandal last week with *Daily Show* host Trevor Noah, who admitted that he's Smith's friend, and then he hit the red carpet and a few other friendly media outlets, and he emphasized how he hopes that audiences disregard the scandal for the sake of his co-workers. And that's kind of a common strategy for big-name celebrities in trouble, you disappear for a while, you talk over the controversy with a friendly interviewer, and then you return to public events and kind of act as if this situation is mostly behind you..." ("How celebrities work their way back into the spotlight after scandals," NPR, All Things Considered, December 5, 2022. With Eric Deggans.)

♦ "Instead, the Jan. 6 hearings were meticulously choreographed... Unlike typical congressional hearings, these would have a script. 'Every word was intentional,' one senior staff member recalled. 'Nothing was spontaneous.'" ("Inside the Jan. 6 Committee" by Robert Draper and Luke Broadwater, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 1, 2023.)

♦ "That pattern is initially denying there is a problem, sometimes making misleading or obfuscating statements, and making life difficult for those investigating the issue. Only when external findings eventually show wrongdoing or ineffectiveness by the Met, is there finally an admission of failings. This is usually accompanied by announcements of new actions which the Met claim address the problems and present as if they are fully implemented and effective. / Another part of the pattern is an acceptance of failings only in respect of individual officers, who are termed 'bad apples.' They are seen as distinct from the majority of officers, who do their jobs well and with integrity." (Baroness Casey Review.)

♦ "Same old story—beat some minnows, nation gets hysterical, lose to the first decent team you meet." (A sour commenter about English World Cup soccer.)

♦ "The story delves deep into what Bret sees as the performance of everyday life; the way everything is a narrative, a 'pantomime,' a 'script.'" ("Bret Easton Ellis' first novel in more than a decade, 'The Shards,' is worth the wait" by Gabino Iglesias, NPR, Review, Books, January 19, 2023.)

**script (off script, etc.)**

flipping the script

older gymnasts are ~ (gymnasts are usually girls)

go off script

they are so good when they ~ (two quarterbacks)

**scrolling (doomscrolling, etc.)**

doomscrolling

I spent hours ~ when I got home...

dreamscrolling

Americans spend 2 and a half hours '~~' each day

♦ "The average American spends nearly two and a half hours a day dreamscrolling—looking at dream purchase or things they'd like to one day own—and 71% say it's time well spent, as the habit motivates them to reach their financial goals. / In a recent study..." ("Americans spend 2 and a half hours 'dreamscrolling' each day, new poll finds," *The New York Post*.)

♦ "You'll find yourself envy-surfing Zillow listings on your phone while you watch." (Glen Weldon, NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, about *The Adam Project*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Doomscrolling." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## scrub (remove)

scrub campuses clean

some want to ~ of words, ideas, and subjects that might cause discomfort

scrub the video off the internet

he tried to ~

scrub a computer

they made a plan to ~ (criminal investigation)

scrub the record

can you imagine Clinton after impeachment trying to ~

scrub your criminal record

state agencies can ~ (expungements, sealing records)

## scrubbed

scrubbed in the hours after the fatal raid

his social media accounts were already ~

scrubbed from the firm's website

the ex-employee's page was ~ and later wiped from Google

rewritten, scrubbed and sanitized

American history is being ~

## scrum (reporters)

scrum of reporters

we were surrounded by a huge ~

media scrums

court hearings, ~...

sidewalk scrum

during a ~ with reporters, he was asked why... (politician)

### \*\*\* Give blood, play rugby...

♦ "Finally, has the well run dry for South Africa? They were exhausted against England and didn't have any energy but by the skin of their teeth they found something in the scrum to pull off the win. Can they do it again? It'll be absolutely fascinating." (Excitement about the 2023 Rugby World Cup final.)

♦ Give blood, play rugby; Rugby players eat their dead; Trample the weak, hurdle the dead, play rugby... (Rugby bumper stickers.)

## scum (insult)

scum

you people are just as much garbage as this ~ (TMZ)

wash the scum off the streets

we need to ~ (criminals, etc.)

someday a real rain will come and ~ (1976 *Taxi Driver*)

♦ Incel; breeding weak men by design; literally retarded; coward; a soft dribbly mouth little mess; brain dead; scum; scumbag; soyboy

trash; POS; narcissistic little prick; airhead; typical Reddit user; loser; everything that's wrong with society social media generation; piece of garbage; disgrace to Canadians... (And on and on and on... An internet dragging.)

♦ Domenico Montanaro: And I never quite heard at a debate another candidate call another fellow colleague 'scum,' and that's what Nikki Haley did, and it was really kind of surprising to hear... / Leila Fadel: So some fireworks there... (Heard on NPR.)

## scupper (verb)

scupper all chances

that might ~ of getting peace talks going again

scuppered the deal

that's what ~ the last time

scuppered plans

his loss to Parker ~ for their big showdown (AJ vs. Wilder)

scuppered her (future) prospects

staff and students ~ (Morgan Bettinger / UVA)

scupper the (current) recovery

the Federal Reserve does not want to ~

♦ "Extremists will do all they can to scupper the idea."

## scuppered

scuppered

the deal was ~

efforts to pass the Law of the Sea Treaty are always ~

scuppered by Wenner

previous attempts at this book were ~ (a biography)

## scuttle (verb)

scuttled an agreement

she headed off a dispute that nearly ~ (diplomacy)

scuttled her plans

she ~ to become a teacher

scuttled its economics program

the university ~

scuttled the talks

no side wishes to appear to have ~

♦ "Indian unity by British rule will swiftly perish... The great ship is sinking in the calm sea. Those who should have devoted their utmost efforts to keep her afloat have instead opened the sea-cocks." (Winston Churchill in a speech in 1946.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ On November 27, 1942, the French scuttled the French fleet in Toulon as the Germans attempted to seize it. Three battleships, 7 cruisers, 15 destroyers, and 12 submarines were sunk. Sea valves were opened, also, demolition charges were set off. The German military was disappointed they hadn't been able to seize the ships intact, but Hitler was pleased because the fleet was destroyed and could not be used against the Axis. The captains of a few ships were able to sail them to the Allies.

♦ On the 21st of June, 1919, German sailors scuttled the interned German High Seas Fleet in Scapa Flow. Arguably, It was the greatest loss of shipping in a single day in world history. Fifty-two of the 74 ships went to the bottom.

♦ "ANNELIESE ESSBERGER – intercepted by the USS MILWAUKEE and scuttled while outbound November 21, 1942, at 00-54 N. 22-34 W."

## scuttled

scuttled by the governor  
the project was ~

scuttled show  
the musical was a last-minute replacement for a ~

deal was scuttled  
the ~ (politics)

plan was (later) scuttled  
the ~ was (government)

## Scylla and Charybdis

Scylla of blandness and the Charybdis of confrontation  
like most shows of this ilk, it toggles between the ~

Scylla of negativity and the Charybdis of cheerleading  
how to steer between the ~ (literary criticism, etc.)

Scylla and Charybdis of Yiddish on the one hand  
Hebrew, under threat from the ~ and European languages...

lexicographer's Scylla and Charybdis  
the dictionary steers a sound middle course between the ~  
(prescription vs. description)

between "Scylla and Charybdis"  
their proposals are an unnecessary choice ~ (Greek crisis)

♦ "The dangerous straits through which the Waldeck-Rousseau ministry was obliged to pass were hit off in a cartoon appearing in the *Humoristische Blätter* of Berlin, entitled 'Between Scylla and Charybdis.' On one side of the narrow waterway a treacherous rock shows the yawning jaws of the Army. On the other side, equally hideous and threatening, gleam the sharpened teeth of the face typifying the Dreyfus Party. Waldeck-Rousseau, appreciating the choppiness of the sea and the dangerous rocks, calls to his gallant crew: 'Forward, dear friends, look neither to the right nor to the left, and we will win through at last.'" (*The History Of The Nineteenth Century In Caricature* by Arthur Bartlett Maurice and Frederic Taber Cooper, Profusely Illustrated, London, Grant Richards, 1904.)

♦ see also *rock (between a rock and a hard place)*

## sea (in a sea)

in a sea of (armed) chaos  
Somaliland is an island of stability ~

in a (rising) sea of (moral) pollution  
they saw themselves as a small archipelago of decency ~

in a sea of sexism  
we existed ~ (Poppy Northcutt of NASA)

in a sea of viruses  
we are swimming ~ (bacteria, viruses, etc.)

in a sea of woes  
a school flailing ~ (title of article)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "It's an old tactic of insurgencies in asymmetric warfare, to hide away, and swim in the sea of the people." (A comment about the Israel-Hamas war. In fact, the war relates to a "Fortified Region." The civilians are human shields.)

## sea (environment)

sea  
it is the ~ we all swim in (the Internet and regulation)

♦ "We all swam in the same lake, more or less..." (A comment about media back in the day, when United States citizens got the national and international news from ABC, NBC, or CBS on television, and the country was more unified.)

\*\*\* the Alboran Sea, the Ionian Sea, the Ligurian Sea...

♦ Seas within the Mediterranean Sea include the Alboran Sea, the Ionian Sea, and the Ligurian Sea, as well as the Aegean Sea and the Adriatic Sea. A sea can have a sea!

♦ The Sargasso Sea, a region in the North Atlantic, has no land boundaries.

♦ The Caspian Sea is not a sea, nor is the Dead Sea.

♦ The "color" seas include the Black Sea, the White Sea, the Red Sea, and the Yellow Sea.

## sea (at sea)

at sea  
policy makers are ~

## sea (amount)

sea of clouds  
I saw a ~ extending miles and miles (fire tower)

sea of data  
the testing mandates had generated a ~ (education)

sea of debt  
a ~ threatens to drown the dreams of a generation

sea of (unfamiliar) faces  
all I saw was a ~

sea of humanity  
the pilgrims formed a ~ (Hajj)

sea of (rights) issues  
the turbulent ~ (copyright)

sea of merchandise  
there's a ~ (department store)

sea of people  
as far as I could see was a ~ (state funeral)

sea of pilgrims  
a seemingly endless ~ (Hajj)

sea of protesters  
a ~ were waving Socialist party flags (Albania)

sea of red  
the stands were a ~ (Seoul World Cup stadium)

seas of squalor  
islands of prosperity within great ~ (Bombay, etc.)

sea of thoughts  
he says his mind is a muddled ~

sea of unknowns  
the oil spill has created a ~

sea of candles and flowers

a ~ (public memorial to terrorist victims)

sea of (Japanese) flags and signs  
the stands were a ~ (baseball)

sea of (2,000 mostly) Hispanic students  
this ~ (school)

sea of red ink  
keep it from crashing in a ~

\*\*\* "Where had it come from?..."

♦ "Where had it come from? Had it rained down or sprung from within the earth? Did the townsfolk of al-Hadra, al-Rawdha and the dozens of other places behind the hills know that all this water was here? Why was it here instead of in other places where people needed it? The rainwater and well water were sweet and drinkable, if at times a little brackish, but how had the seawater become so salty and bitter that no one could possibly drink it? How long would it be here—where was it going?" (Bedouins from the interior of the Arabian Peninsula seeing the sea for the first time. From *Cities of Salt* by Abdelrahman Munif.)

## sea (sea of sand, etc.)

sea of mud  
everywhere is a ~ (after a tsunami)

sea of sand  
their way was blocked by an impassible ~ (desert)

dune sea  
the great ~s called ergs in Arabic (Sahara)

sand sea  
the Eastern Erg, a ~ covering 120,000 square miles

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Tanks had replaced the cavalry of former wars with a vastly more powerful and far-ranging weapon, and in many aspects their manoeuvres resembled naval warfare, with seas of sand instead of salt water. The fighting quality of the armoured column, like that of a cruiser squadron, rather than the position where they met the enemy, or the part of the horizon on which he appeared, was the decisive feature. Tank divisions or brigades, and still more smaller units, could form fronts in any direction so swiftly that the perils of being outflanked or taken in rear or cut off had a greatly lessened significance. On the other hand, all depended from moment to moment upon fuel and ammunition, and the supply of both was far more complicated for armoured forces than for the self-contained ships and squadrons at sea... / The personal interventions of the two Commanders-in-Chief were as dominant and decisive and the stakes on both sides were as high as in the olden times." (*The Grand Alliance* by Winston S. Churchill. "Operation 'Crusader': Ashore, Aloft, and Afloat.")

♦ A sea of sand (the Sahara Desert), a Sahara of snow (Antarctica)...

## sea legs

fame sea legs  
a 19-year-old man finding his ~ (Lil Nas X)

## seal of approval

seal of approval  
he gave me that grin of his, and that was his ~

mob's seal of approval  
a kiss on the cheek was the ~

## seam (burst at the seams)

bursting at the seams  
a nearby campground is ~

## seamless (adjective)

seamless service  
the company delivers ~ to its customers

seamless teamwork  
~ can be a potent weapon (epidemiology)

## seamlessly

seamlessly  
they work together ~

## search (for truth, cure, etc.)

search for answers  
the ~ should start with...  
turning to a spiritual path in their ~

search for a cure  
the ~ for autism

search for evidence  
the ~ of childhood abuse

search for fulfillment  
their ~ goes unrewarded (quarterlifer crisis)

search for identity  
his adolescence was marked by a painful ~ (racial)

searching for a better life  
they were all ~ (migrants to L.A. in 1904)

search for thrills  
the ~ can kill (Chilko River rafting disaster)

search for the truth  
in the unrelenting ~

search for safety and perfection  
all the gear was overhauled and altered in the restless ~

unrelenting search  
in the ~ for the truth

spiritual search  
he began a ~ that took him to...

## search (digital strip search, etc.)

digital strip-searches  
critics are unhappy over ~ (cop requests for smartphones)  
~ of victims are unnecessary and violate victims' rights

## seared

seared into my consciousness  
that period of time was ~ (divorce of her parents)

seared in the Japanese consciousness  
Hiroshima and Nagasaki are ~

seared into the national consciousness  
their names are ~ (names of World War I battles)

seared in my mind  
that's a moment that is ~ forever (disaster)

seared in her memory  
her rape is ~

remain seared  
the images ~ in our collective memory (9/11)

## searing (adjective)

searing attack  
he launched into a ~ on the Republicans (politics)

## season (life)

season of our life  
in each ~, there are certain tasks which must be accomplished

seasons of our lives  
as the seasons turn, so do the ~ turn

harvest season  
he has a sense that this is his "~" (lifetime awards)

going through a season  
we are ~ right now but we will come out of it (hope of change)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)

## season (hunting)

season in Alaska  
the commercial fishing ~

9-day (deer) season  
the ~ is a huge event

bow season  
the start of ~

deer season  
the ~ is a huge event (in Wisconsin and Minnesota)

quail season  
during the ~ they hunted together

fishing season  
for the term of a ~

hunting season  
imposing strict ~s and bag limits (Texas)  
wear brightly colored clothing during ~

honey-hunting season  
during the ~...

squirrel-hunting season  
~ opens this month

open season  
see *open season* (noun)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ *The Deer Hunter* (1978); *Enemy at the Gates* (2001)... (Great films about the military that relate the killing of animals to combat.)

## season (sports)

season ticket  
he's a huge fan and a ~ holder (basketball)

climbing season  
this has been one of the mildest ~s in memory (Everest)

racing season  
a month before the new ~ would begin (Winston Cup)

basketball season  
this will be her final ~

hockey season  
the ~ lasts until the end of June

ski season  
high hopes for a strong ~ (weather)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Pre-season; early-season; late-season; post-season; off-season... (Sports never stop!)

## season (public health)

flu season  
~ runs from December to April  
~ normally peaks in January  
predict the extent and severity of this year's ~  
this ~ will be much worse than in the past

hay-fever season  
many people wear masks during ~ (Tokyo)

malaria season  
the ~ is just starting

♦ "In winter there was typhus and in summer dysentery... the alcohol was suitable for preparing tincture of quinine, which was used in the treatment of typhus when it reappeared at the onset of the cold weather." (Dr. Zhivago by Boris Pasternak, from the section "The Forest Brotherhood.")

♦ "In 1647 yellow fever appeared in Barbados, where some 5,000 people died of 'a new distemper.' From that date on, it regularly visited the ports and cities of the Americas during the summer months—from Quebec in the north to Rio de Janeiro in the south... European ports—including Lisbon in Portugal, St Nazaire in France and Swansea in Wales—also suffered visitations of yellow fever." (*Disease, The Extraordinary Stories Behind History's Deadliest Killers* by Mary Dobson.)

## season (agriculture)

growing season  
the lack of rainfall during past ~s

harvesting season  
late July and early August is date ~ in Iraq

picking season  
at the height of the various ~s

planting season  
~ is just around the corner  
when times got lean as the ~ approached (CAR / Africa)

plowing season  
during the ~

harvest season

since the ~ began in early October (olives / Palestine)

#### strawberry and blueberry season

the ~ in Michigan

♦ "It is 'Spargelzeit' (asparagus season) in Germany. / There will be wooden huts at thousands of road junctions selling nothing but white asparagus. Every restaurant offers its own specials of asparagus... / There is asparagus soup, asparagus sausage. I have had ham with asparagus embedded in it. Asparagus ice cream is not unknown. / And, or so I am informed by a keen-nosed friend, no toilet at a concert will now be free of the smell that asparagus imparts... / There will be asparagus festivals. Spargel Queens will be crowned, with crowns made of asparagus... The joy is not the food itself, but the idea of seasonality. / The food comes, you eat lots of it, you get a bit tired of it, and then it goes promptly on 24 June...when the industry determines that enough is enough and the stalks of the old have to be hacked ready for the next season. / Who knows what the mixture of phallic symbolism and fertile soil means in the German psyche. All I know is that to eat asparagus is to partake of the country itself." ("Asparagus, royalty and the joys of seasonal eating," by Stephen Evans, BBC, 21 April 2012.)

### season (animals, insects, etc.)

#### breeding season

the 5-month-long ~ (ostriches congregate / Kalahari)

#### calving season

the ~ is just beginning (Colorado cattle, in January)

the ~, from now to early April (Colorado cows)

#### lambing season

during the six-month ~

#### mating season

October through November is the deer ~

#### spawning season

during the ~ (walleye)

#### swarming season

in termite country during ~

#### locust season

the ~ usually runs from November through May (in Saudi)

#### mosquito season

there are no plans to spray because it's late in the ~

#### snake season

~ starts early (snakes end winter dormancy / Australia)

#### migratory season

November 4, at the height of the ~ (birds through NYC)

♦ "Radar shows swarms of mayflies over Lake Erie" by Mike Gauntner, WFMJ-TV, June 24th 2022.

### season (natural events)

#### avalanche season

one of the deadliest ~s on record...

#### fire season

the worst ~ in 30 years (wildfires)

the nation's worst ~ in more than a decade

we have a forecast out for the entire ~ (wildfires)

#### hurricane season

the long ~ of 1999

Tropical Storm Alex, first named storm of the Atlantic ~

the Atlantic ~ officially runs from June 1 to Nov. 30

#### monsoon season

the South Asian ~ runs from June to September (India, etc.)

flooding is common during Myanmar's ~

Myanmar's ~ starts in late May

#### snow season

the end of summer and the onset of a new ~

#### tornado season

generally speaking, the ~ tends to be in the spring

#### dry season

watering holes during the ~

the wildebeest move west at the end of the ~ (Serengeti)

next year's ~ (Brazilian Amazon)

storing water for use in the ~ (the Everglades)

old trails are visible in the ~, but not the wet season (salt)

in Vanuatu, May to October is the ~

#### rainy season

the ~ extends from November to May (Serengeti)

after the ~, people repair and resurface mud walls

(Djenne)

the bird population of the Crater increases during the ~

in the ~ they are cut off by impassable roads (Dos Rios)

when the ~ arrives in June (Niger)

♦ The annual rains are a blessing and a curse for the subcontinent. (Flooding in India and Bangladesh.)

♦ "During the rainy season, the Tonle Sap Lake covers nearly 1/5 of Cambodia."

♦ "Take a boat ride up the muddy brown Tonle Sap River and almost all the houses you pass are on stilts, 10 feet high or more. For the monsoon brings flooding. Big floods. At the height of the rainy season, from the air, it seems as if the entire country is underwater. Few here seem to mind, in fact for most the seasonal flooding of the Mekong Basin is a blessing, not a curse." (Cambodia.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Concepts like *tornado alley* and *tornado season* no longer apply." (Climate change, and the concern that tornado alley is getting wider.)

### season (other)

#### cockfighting season

New Mexico's ~ starts in December and lasts through July

#### marching season

the annual Protestant (Northern Ireland)

#### college admissions season

the most competitive ~ ever...

#### Christmas season

retailers make up to 75% of profits during the ~

#### fashion seasons

between ~

#### holiday season

the ~ (Thanksgiving to New Year's)

#### Halloween season

amusement parks are cashing in on the ~



pilgrimage season  
mid-May is the high point of the ~ (Darchen / Mt. Kailas)

prom season  
the month of May means ~ (high schools)

tourist season  
the height of the summer ~

travel season  
Thanksgiving marks the final ~ of the year  
this is peak summer ~ (tourism)

TV season  
the most talked-about show of the new ~

## seasoned (experienced)

seasoned  
I'm ~, I've seen a lot of things, but not like this (cop)

seasoned actor  
she is a ~

seasoned doctors  
~ are likely to be resistant to coaching

seasoned executive  
the company needs a ~ with a proven track record

seasoned investigator  
he is a ~ who specializes in cleaning house (government)

seasoned (tax) lawyers  
even ~ are confounded by the new rules

seasoned observers  
the speed of the Taliban takeover startled even ~ (2021)

seasoned (showbiz) pro  
Jimmy Kimmel is a ~ (2024 Oscars)

seasoned professional  
she is a ~

seasoned (diplomatic) troubleshooter  
he is a ~ (dispatched by president to Egypt)

seasoned and sensible  
he is a ~ traveler

tough, seasoned, burly cops  
these ~ had tears in their eyes...

young but seasoned  
he is ~ (city lobbyist at state capital)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Good firewood has gone through at least four seasons.

## seat (seat at the table)

see *table* (*seat at the table, etc.*)

## seat (seat of power)

seat of power  
the absence of women from the ~

## seat (front seat)

front seat  
I have had a ~ to many profound events

front seat to history  
it's such a privilege, you have a ~ (Cokie Roberts)

## seat (front-row seat)

front-row seat  
as the weather gets weirder, we in Alaska have a ~

front-row seat to the revolution  
he had a ~ (a journalist)

front-row seat to the tornado  
they had a ~ (storm chasers)

had a front-row seat  
he ~ to her surprise loss (advisor to Clinton / 2016)

## seat (in the driver's seat)

in the driver's seat  
he continues to be ~ going forward (politician)  
the smaller parties are ~ (German election)  
he is ~ in terms of the conversation going forward (politics)

in the driving seat  
I'm ~, take it or leave it (terms of contract)

in Olympics driver's seat  
USWNT ~ with win over Germany (2024 Olympics)

firmly in the driver's seat  
hip-hop and streetwear are ~ (fashion industry)

puts you in the driver's seat  
a good credit score ~

♦ "Now, with a Republican administration in control of Washington, Strauss was in the driver's seat, and his right foot was pressing his political accelerator to the floor." (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "One insider said she and her new leadership group have taken the 'keys to the car' and turned ABC's climate of asking questions into a 'culture of fear.'" (ABC News.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's definitely nice to be back in the driver's seat."

♦ see also *car keys* (*take away the car keys, etc.*)

## seatbelt (fasten your seatbelt / ironic)

fasten your seatbelts  
*firebrand* comes from—*fire* and *brand* (a stick)

## second-class (adjective)

second-class citizen  
comedy has always been a ~ (in films, versus drama)

## second coming (of Steve Jobs, etc.)

second coming of Leonard Bernstein  
the ~ he is not (Alex Ross about Gustavo Dudamel)

second coming of Steve Jobs  
her all-consuming quest to be the ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

## secret (secret world, etc.)

secret life  
see *life* (*secret life*, *secret lives*)

secret history  
see *history* (*secret history*)

*Secret Language*  
*The ~ of Snow* (by Terry Tempest Williams / kids' book)

secret war  
~s tend not to be so secret where they are taking place

secret world  
the ~ of childhood (Eskil Vogt / *The Innocents*)

Secret World  
he's curating an exhibition, "The ~ of Elephants"  
(museum)

♦ What you see here, what you do here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here." (Los Alamos and the Manhattan Project.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Secret wars tend not to be so secret in the country where they take place."

♦ "We should note that secrets are not secrets forever." (NPR's Steve Inskeep.)

♦ "I will put your secret in the well..." (Arabic.)

♦ "Three men can keep a secret... If two of them are dead."

## seduce (verb)

seduce patrons (of the arts) into parting  
he hoped to ~ with some money (backers' audition)

seduce Hollywood  
the film has gone on to ~ since being unveiled at Cannes

## seduced

seduced by him  
authors were often ~ at first but then became  
disenchanted

seduced by Hollywood  
some novelists, like Fitzgerald, are ~

seduced by the French Revolution  
Byron, Heine, Goethe, Hegel and Beethoven were all ~

seduced by the siren song  
they've been ~ "college for everyone"

## seductive (adjective)

seductive spokesman  
he is a ~ for a new brand of youthful defiance (Han Han)

seductive theory  
it's a ~

sounded seductive  
the pitch has ~ (for an educational fad)

## see (a date can see something, etc.)

saw over 250 climbers  
23 May ~ try to summit (Mount Everest)

## see (fictive)

seen  
this is some of the hottest air we have ~ in half a decade

see from him  
what do you want to ~ (what do you want him to do)

seeing a reverse brain drain  
the US is ~ as foreign students go home

see fees  
consumers ~ everywhere (phone, credit cards, hotels)

see more responsible government  
we are beginning to ~ (Indonesia)

seen an increase  
the library has ~ in attendance at spoken-word events

seen (angry) protests  
Bolivia has ~ by the country's indigenous majority

seen the return  
the west has ~ of the wolf (US / relocation programs)

seen a series  
the last few years have ~ of political upheavals (England)

seen a 100 degree temperature  
New York City has not ~ in seven years

seen (a series of political) upheavals  
the last few years have ~ (England)

saw Basques ambush  
the battle ~ a part of Charlemagne's army

saw the Scandinavians eliminated  
her goal ~ by the same team that...

## see (we see you, we hear you, etc.)

see *see you* (*hear you*, *love you*, *etc.*)

## see (visit / meet)

sees him (maybe) once a month  
his biological father ~

see a doctor  
he had to pay \$95 to ~ (immigrant)  
I advise you to ~

saw a neurologist  
she ~, who diagnosed traumatic brain injury with...

see the (patient's) nurse  
please ~ to obtain a mask (hospital)

see you around  
I'll ~

came to see

thousands ~ Willy Nelson (concert)  
advise you to see  
I ~ a doctor  
place to see  
the mall, for many teens, is a ~ and be seen

## see (refer to)

see [www.nlm.nih.gov/research](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research)  
a draft version is available, ~

See Instructions  
~ (product)

## see (see action, etc.)

saw action  
she last ~ Jan. 8 against Arizona (basketball)  
see combat  
he never expected to ~ (young soldier)  
saw combat  
the B-2 stealth bomber first ~ in the air war over Kosovo  
see the world  
in his early 20's he set off to ~  
I wanted to ~...

see a great fight  
win or lose, you're going to ~ (with boxer Arturo Gatti)

expected to see  
he never expected to ~ combat (young soldier)

a lot to see  
there is quite ~ within the underwater caves here

set off to see  
in his early 20's he ~ the world

♦ "We know a thing or two because we've *seen* a thing or two." (The tagline for a cute series of ads by Farmers Insurance.)  
♦ "I'm just seeing a small piece of this elephant." (A reporter reporting on extensive wildfires on the west coast.)

## see (comprehension)

see  
you'll ~...  
I ~ (understand)

see your point  
I ~ and it's a good one

see for yourself  
you'll ~ how you can save (ad for store)

see the potential  
don't you ~ for disaster here

sees it as (maybe) the next big thing  
Silicon Valley ~ (BeReal vs Instagram)

## see (see something coming)

saw it coming  
I never ~

they never ~  
nobody ~ (boy arrested)  
we were caught flatfooted, we never ~ (Uber's success)

saw this coming  
well, who ~ (Saudi Arabia 2-Argentina 1 / World Cup)

see it coming  
he didn't ~ (heart attack)  
it's a proper shock, I didn't ~ (the suicide of a friend)

see his release from the New England Patriots  
coming  
he didn't ~ (the great Cam Newton)

♦ "He dipped down, he looked low, and he threw the right hand over...Ogawa didn't see it coming." (The Welsh boxer Joe Cordina vs. Kenichi Ogawa.)

♦ "Such a tragedy. They will think this was their victory so this will become an American war. And the end will be the same... except for the numbers who will die before we get there." (Lt. Col. Nguyen Huu An, on the inability of the NLF to overrun Hal Moore's troops in the Ia Drang Valley in 1965, from the 2002 film, *We Were Soldiers*.)

♦ "Who didn't see this coming" (An online comment to "NJ transgender woman transferred from women's only prison after impregnating 2 inmates, report says" by Stephen Sorace, Fox News, July 17, 2022.)

♦ "I never see anything coming, that's why I don't do any gambling." (A sports commentator when asked, about a sports upset, "Did you see that one coming?")

♦ "Five members of the Communist Workers Party, participating in a 'Death to the Klan' rally in Greensboro, North Carolina, were shot to death by a group of Klansmen and neo-Nazis." (The Greensboro massacre, 1979.)

♦ Steve Irwin died from the barb of a stingray to his chest while filming a series called "Ocean's Deadliest."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Shrek: My father was an ogre. He tried to eat me. I should have seen it coming.

♦ You don't play with snakes and not expect to get bitten.

## see (future)

see  
we'll just have to ~ (what will happen)  
but we don't know what the court will do, we'll ~  
when you think about your future, what do you ~

see beyond the next election  
many politicians can barely ~

saw the future  
he ~ and he set out to build it (Jeff Bezos, Amazon)

remains to be seen  
see *seen* (future)

## see (perceive)

see Tutsi as (foreign) interlopers  
many Congolese ~ (eastern Congo)

see the collapse on the horizon  
we can ~ (a resumption of ethnic strife)

sees himself as an ambassador  
he ~ for his sport (Tito Ortiz)

see it as a (good) excuse

some ~ not to go to the office (snowfall in London)

seen themselves as the gatekeepers  
book publishers have long ~ of literary culture

see immigration as an (invisible) invasion  
people ~ (Europe)

saw the Germans as liberators  
many Siberian gulags ~ (W. W. II)

see themselves as members  
many Congolese Tutsi ~ of a vulnerable minority

see boxing as a ticket  
many Indian girls ~ to a middle-class life (India)

see themselves as the victims  
Shiites always ~ (said by a US diplomat / Iraq)

see themselves through this male gaze  
women are starting to ~ (as sex victims / TV and films)

see the world from a different perspective  
people who ~ (autism)

see eye to eye  
I don't ~ with my new boss

sees fit  
he is determined to live as he ~ (a Native American)

see the best  
~ in others (wise advice)

see nothing wrong  
many ~ with it

see choice  
patients ~ as both a blessing and a burden

saw himself  
what mattered was how he ~ (identity)

see us  
as others ~, five views of Britain from the rest of the world

see any hope  
Palestinians don't ~ in the plan

see it  
there's another world out there, you just can't ~

see warmth  
the thermal-imaging camera can ~ through walls (cops)

saw different things  
people ~ (televised hearings)

continue to see  
we ~ strong job growth

hard to see  
progress may be slow and ~ (nursing / rehabilitation)

♦ "The more money farmers can get for what they grow, the more likely they see deer damage as a problem." (Sofi Gratas paraphrasing Charlie Killmaster, deer biologist for the state of Georgia. The number of deer is stable and in north Georgia is actually declining, due to

habitat change and more bears and coyotes. And yet, farmer requests for deer control permits (to shoot deer) have gone up. While row-crop prices are higher, prices for seed, diesel and fertilizer are also up, which is why farmers are reluctant to invest in fencing. From "White-tailed deer can cause farmers millions of dollars worth of damage" by Sofi Gratas, NPR, Morning Edition, October 30, 2023. Wonderful reporting.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A STORY ABOUT PERCEPTION: An old man lived in a house. His hobby was woodworking. One day a new family moved into the house next to him. The family had a young boy, and the old man watched him run home from school one afternoon through his window: the boy acted like a child, ran like a child, laughed like a child. One morning the old man went into his garage and discovered that his hammer was missing. He looked out his window that afternoon and saw the boy arrive home from school, and now the boy acted like a thief, ran like a thief, laughed like a thief, and the old man felt bitter. A month or so later, the old man found his hammer in a place where he had absent-mindedly put it. That afternoon he looked out of his house and saw the young boy return home from school. And the boy acted like a child, ran like a child, laughed like a child.

♦ "A stranger has big eyes but sees nothing." (An African proverb about traveling and travelers.)

♦ "You don't need glasses to see and analyse where the problems are."

♦ "We see nothing truly till we understand it." (John Constable, 1776-1837, about clouds.)

♦ see also *eye* (*open eyes, etc.*)

## see (see through something)

see (straight) through that confidence  
I ~ (one boxer talking trash about another)

saw through the (spurious) claims  
he ~ of a therapy called... (autism)

seen through the spin  
I think people have ~ (of powerful sex abusers)

see (right) through you  
I can ~ (to real motivations)

## seed (noun)

seeds of distrust  
India's 21-day war with China in 1962 sowed ~

seeds of doubt  
plant the ~

seeds of rebellion  
enforced potty sitting can sow the ~ (toddlers)

seeds of (sectarian) hatred  
the ~ had taken root

seeds of revolt  
Facebook helped to blow the ~ across the country

seeds of revolution  
Nasser wanted to plant the ~ on the Arabian Peninsula

seed for that (momentous) law  
the ~ was planted about 40 years earlier (Title IX)

seeds for (future) unrest  
they have planted the ~ (military hangs on to power)

ideological seeds  
the ~ were planted long before freshman orientation

seeds were planted  
the ideological ~ long before freshman orientation

plant the seeds  
the British helped to ~ of discord in Afghanistan

planted the seeds  
he ~ that gave principals more autonomy (education)

sowing the seeds  
he could be ~ of a new disaster (price controls)

sow the seeds  
enforced potty sitting can ~ of rebellion (toddlers)

♦ "The ideological seeds were planted long before freshman orientation. (Antisemitism.)

♦ "He planted the seed, and I'm just one of the apples that fell from the tree." (Tribute paid by a black rodeo rider to a pioneer in his sport.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You don't harvest grapes from planting thorns. (An Arab proverb.)

♦ "He who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind."

## seed money

seed money  
the government loans will be ~ (to new businesses)

provided seed money  
tech tycoons ~ (for an AI startup)

## seen (perceived)

seen as modern-day people  
we aren't ~ at all (a Native American)

## seen (future)

remains to be seen  
it ~ if he can weather the storm (a politician)  
he claims he will win, but that ~  
it ~, and we just don't know yet, it's too early

♦ see also *see (future)*

## seen (groups)

seen  
when we get older, we aren't ~ (Lola Flash)  
the trauma and aspiration and desire to be ~ (Blacks)  
this was a victory for us to be ~ (Appalachian people)

seen and heard  
they felt very ~... (Oregon drug addicts)

seen, heard and loved  
we want students to know they are ~ (Fulton County, GA)

*Seen, Heard, and Paid*  
~: *The New Work Rules for the Marginalized* (book)

seen and welcomed  
I want all who buy my books to feel ~

heard and seen  
it's so important that they feel ~ (Trans athletes)

safe and seen and heard

I lied, that was my way to feel ~ (fabulist Elisabeth Finch)

supported, seen and developed  
programming that makes us feel ~ (minorities)

welcome, included and seen  
people should feel ~

feel seen  
she wants deaf viewers to ~ (deaf activist Raven Sutton)

feel (so) seen  
I ~ that this video blew up and people relate

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I wanted her to feel seen." (A trans person waving a trans banner in support of a trans swimmer.)

♦ "Today, we send a message to all transgender Americans. You are loved. You are heard. You are understood. You belong. You are America..." (A White House statement marking Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31, 2024.)

♦ "I just rewatched the 1988 Christmas Special last night, and just the sheer queerness of it really jumps out. You've got Grace Jones and k.d. lang, and Little Richard, and if you were a weird kid, or a queer kid, or a weird queer kid, you were seeing so much weirdness and queerness on a G-rated kid's show, and you felt seen." (Stephen Thompson's tribute, from "Actor Paul Reubens, who created Pee-wee Herman, dies at 70," NPR, Morning Edition, August 1, 2023.)

♦ "It's so important that they feel and continue to feel undeniably heard and seen." ("Alex Morgan, Lindsey Horan on Korbin Albert social media activity: 'Disappointing and extremely, extremely sad'" by Meg Linehan, *The Athletic*, April 3, 2024.)

♦ "I just feel like black gay ppl have to fight to be seen in this world and even when we make it to the top mfs try to pretend we are invisible." (A Lil Nas X tweet.)

♦ "I would say up to the age of 25 or 26 we're the *it* girls, right? And then after you pass over this threshold of maybe 30, 35, you're put out to pasture. When we get older, we aren't seen." (Lola Flash, who uses she / her and they / them pronouns. From "Photographer Lola Flash is honored for creating images that challenge invisibility," NPR, All Things Considered, December 14, 2021. Told by Allyson McCabe.)

♦ "We are literally demanding to be seen." (An actor, talking about the Oscars, nominations, awards, and people of color.)

♦ "They felt very seen and heard by people who weren't there to judge their drug use." ("Unhoused" drug addicts in parks, getting free safe-use supplies, safe-sex supplies, and free meals from Stabbin Wagon in Oregon, paid for by Measure 110. "Why Oregon's groundbreaking drug decriminalization experiment is coming to an end" with David Davies and journalist E. Tammy Kim, *Fresh Air*, March 27, 2024.)

♦ "I think we were seen, but we were not heard." (The delightful Las Vegas Filipino restaurateur Magnolia Magog, about her community's political importance in the past compared to the 2024 election.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "seen" bandwagon...

♦ "Mom's video about once being a 'fun person' has moms feeling seen." (ABC.)

♦ "There was a kind of sense of connection, communication that was almost shockingly joyous that I felt... And I felt a kind of, you know, for lack of a better word—not that I felt seen or something—but I felt connected to people, to the other actors and I felt a sense of communal effort that was really exciting to me." (Paul Giamatti about being in plays in high school.)

♦ "This is not just for me, this is for every little girl that looks like me... We want to be seen. We want to be heard." (Michelle Yeoh touting herself on Instagram for an Academy Award.)

♦ "She made Palestinians feel heard and seen." (A tribute to Shireen Abu Akleh by her niece, Lina Abu Akleh.)

♦ "Everyone said, 'We did it.' This was a victory for us to be seen, to be on the map." (Barbara Kingsolver, about local reaction to her book

*Demon Copperhead*, which she set out to write as the "Great Appalachian Novel.")

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "Everyone deserves to be seen as they truly are." (A Superbowl advertisement for Google's Real Tone software, included on its Pixel 6 phones, with Lizzo singing a new song.)

♦ "Marta empowers you to be seen and stand out in your industry by leveraging your unique personality and authenticity." (A speaker. \$1K+.)

♦ "Humans want to be seen and to be loved." (A trendy screenwriter / TV producer.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "[Ashley] Kim concurred. 'When I first joined the English department, I felt seen, but I also felt, Maybe I don't belong,' she said. She'd gone to a magnet public school in New Jersey and felt a step behind the sanguine private-school kids in knowing how to perform her interest in the classroom." (Harvard. From "The End Of The English Major" by Nathan Heller, *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023.)

♦ "I lied. That was my coping and my way to feel safe and seen and heard." (Elisabeth Finch, *Grey's Anatomy* writer.)

♦ "[N]o one is talking about 'I need to be *seen*, I need to be *seen*, I need to be *seen*—look, Mommy, I can *see* myself!' They never say that... Their self-esteem is not managed by a digital world of digital managers and gatekeepers." (The playwright Michael R. Jackson about the "normal, regular neighborhood" he grew up in in Detroit. From "The Radical Self-Awareness of Michael R. Jackson" by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)

♦ "My least favorite modern phrase—being 'seen'..." (Johnny Oleksinski, *The New York Post*.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Everybody is desperate to tell you who they are, to be seen. Which is sadly or not a reality of our species. We are all desperate to be seen or to be heard." (The Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, talking with Terry Gross of *Fresh Air* about his film *Nightmare Alley*.)

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ "we 'Heard' you, now just go away." (A Johnny Depp supporter and online commenter during the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

♦ see also *heard (groups)*, *see you (hear you, love you, etc.)*

## seep (verb)

seeps into (neighboring) countries

heroin ~ and then into Russia (from Afghanistan)

seeped into mainstream thinking

it ~

## seer (person)

play the seer

the temptation to ~ is strong (journalism)

## seesaw (noun)

seesaw of emotions

thus began, for him, a violent ~ toward Kevin

seesaw battle

they are locked in a ~ for the strategic city

see-saw classic

they produced a ~ (Champions League soccer)

see-saw (economic) recovery

the ~

seesaw relationship

the ~ between North Korea and the US

legal seesaw

the ~ was part of a protracted battle (environment)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

♦ see also *teeter totter (verb)*

## seethe (verb)

seething with anger

protesters are ~ (against the US)

## see you (hear you, love you, etc.)

see you

I ~ (acknowledge you, your existence, etc.)

I ~, hear you, understand and love you (a politician)

see Black people

white people don't ~, they look past them (Katori Hall)

see you and we hear you

Lisa and Rhali: We ~ (see quote below)

see you, respect you and love you

I ~ for who you are (Emma Watson about Trans people)

hear you and I see you

I ~ (President Biden thanks his staff after Harris defeat)

\*\*\* **various groups...**

♦ "I wrote it at a time when I didn't know what I was going to do with my life, I didn't know how I was going to move forward, I felt unseen, I felt unheard, I felt misunderstood..." (Michael R. Jackson, who has a BFA and MFA from the Tisch School of the Arts, about his musical *A Strange Loop*, which won Best Book and Best Musical at the 2022 Tonys.)

♦ "And for readers like me, who can relate to the experience of being a non-binary gestational parent, who are so used to being erased and invisible from conversations around families and parenting, the book looks us dead in the eye and says, unflinchingly: I see you. I am you." ("Labeled 'Mother' When Not A Mother At All: On Being A Non-Binary Gestational Parent" by Britni De La Cretaz, NPR, Review, June 15, 2021. Britni de la Cretaz is a "freelance writer whose work sits at the intersection of sports, gender, culture, and queerness," according to their Website, which is not secure. They describe themselves as an older millennial. See "The woman who refused to have sex..." by Erica Tempesta for *Dailymail*, 10 December 2015.)

♦ "We've been silenced and misrepresented. And so, any time you get an opportunity to tell your truth, you are pushing back against so many lies and falsehoods...And being an artist and in demanding that the world just looks at you, you oddly are being an activist." (Katori Hall.)

♦ "We see you. We have always seen you. We have watched you pretend not to see us..." ("We See You, White American Theater" at [weseeyouwat.com/statement](http://weseeyouwat.com/statement). Fifteen accusatory paragraphs begin with "We have watched you..." and end with "We see you." A clever redirection of the trope. #WESEYYOU. NPR's Andrew Limbong referenced the "We see you White American Theater" movement in "Working in theater is a grind. But it doesn't have to be," NPR Morning Edition, October 5, 2022.)

♦ "Let's face it, America is getting bigger, and women want to see themselves instead of the image of what society says they should be." (Plus-size model Ashley Graham.)

\*\*\* **jumping on the "see you, hear you, love you" bandwagon...**

♦ "This is a day that Minnesota says, 'Bring your authentic self. You'll be seen, heard, valued and loved in this state, and we want you to be whoever you are.' We see you, we hear you, and we will make sure you are in a safe place to be who you are." (Gov. Tim Walz. Kamala Harris selected him to be her vice-presidential running mate.)



- ♦ “To everyone who has been calling for a cease-fire, and to everyone who yearns for peace, I see you and I hear you.” (Vice-President Kamala Harris about the Israel-Hamas war. A few days later, Hezbollah killed 10 Druze children and young people in a missile strike in the Golan Heights.)
- ♦ “I just want the people of Florida to know. We see what you’re going through and we’re with you. We’re going to do everything we can for you.” (President Joe Biden after Hurricane Ian.)
- ♦ “I see you, I hear you, I grieve with you, and I promise you we have your back. We’re going to stay until you’re restored.” (President Joe Biden after Hurricane Helene.)
- ♦ “I know it’s a difficult time. You’re hurting. I hear you and I see you.” (President Biden thanking his staff, et. al., in his address to the nation after Kamala Harris’ loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)
- ♦ “No matter where you are in your journey, I see you, we see you, and we celebrate you—Happy Pride!” (White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.)
- ♦ “Because we have a chance to elect someone who has spent her entire life trying to give people the same chances America gave her. Someone who sees you. And hears you. And will get up every single day and fight for you.” (Barak Obama at the 2024 DNC, about Kamala Harris.)
- ♦ “So let me say to every would-be parent, I see you, I’m with you.” (Senator Tammy Duckworth at the 2024 DNC, speaking about IVF and reproductive freedom.)
- ♦ “I want my trans followers to know that I and so many other people around the world see you, respect you and love you for who you are.” (Emma Watson, of the Harry Potter films.)
- ♦ “To all trans people who deal with harassment, self-loathing, abuse and the threat of violence every day: I see you. I love you and I will do everything I can to change this world for the better.” (“Oscar Nominee Elliot Page Announces He Is Transgender” by Dustin Jones, an intern on NPR’s News Desk.)
- ♦ “To the four families who gave that ultimate sacrifice—we see you.” (Mayor Vi Lyles, Charlotte, North Carolina, about the murder of four law-enforcement officers while serving an arrest warrant.)
- ♦ “Lisa and Rhali: We see you and we hear you.” (Football Australia (FA) chief executive James Johnson, responding to their accusations of “women protecting women who abuse women.” From “Lisa De Vanna’s allegations highlight tensions in Australia’s *complex* [italics mine] football culture” by Samantha Lewis, ABC Australia, Analysis, Sport, 18 Oct 2021.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

- ♦ “to everyone showing up to @Minions in suits: we see you and we love you.” (Universal Pictures @UniversalPics.)
- ♦ “Bud Light maker CEO tells customers, ‘We hear you,’ but doesn’t apologize as sales tank.” (The Dylan Mulvaney marketing fiasco.)
- ♦ “How do I become something I don’t see?” From this simple question, The Delta Project was born. The Delta Project exists to break the generational cycle of incarceration by reconnecting youth of color and their families to community relationships through mentorship, coaching and storytelling. Help young men see what they can become. Take action. thedeltaproject.co/action. (A full-page advertisement for The Delta Project in *The Atlantic*.)
- ♦ “*When They See Us* transforms ‘The Central Park Five’ into individuals with names and personalities.” (Versus most of the victims in *Dahmer—Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, according to Daniel Fienberg’s negative review of *Dahmer* in *The Hollywood Reporter*, September 22, 2022. *When they see us* refers to Ava DuVernay’s documentary.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ “[N]o one is talking about ‘I need to be *seen*, I need to be *seen*, I need to be *seen*—look, Mommy, I can *see* myself!’ They never say that... Their self-esteem is not managed by a digital world of digital managers and gatekeepers.” (The playwright Michael R. Jackson about the “normal, regular neighborhood” he grew up in in Detroit. From “The Radical Self-Awareness of Michael R. Jackson” by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)
- ♦ “So when somebody comes along and says, ‘I’m going to blow up the system,’ when they say, ‘I see you, I’m on your side,’ it’s easy to

fall for that.” (Barbara Kingsolver, about Appalachia and Donald Trump.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ “we ‘Heard’ you, now just go away.” (A Johnny Depp supporter and online commenter during the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)
- ♦ Refers to nothing real.
- ♦ see also *heard* (groups), *seen* (groups)
- ♦ see also *lip service* (pay lip service, etc.)

## seismic (adjective)

seismic

the impact would be ~ (educational reform)

seismic change

the results are a ~ for Irish politics (nationalists win)

seismic impact

this will have a ~ in the world of athletics (doping bans)

seismic news

this is ~ in the world of sports business (Nike change)

seismic shift

increased female enrollments portends a ~ (education)  
we need a ~ in the way maternity care is provided

seismic (life) shift

his ~ (from entertainment to farming)

seismic win

Japan are praised for their ~ against Ireland (Rugby)  
terrific Scotland stun Spain in ~

constitutionally seismic

their relationship was ~ (Wallis Simpson and King)

historic and seismic

the coalition government marks a ~ shift (Britain)

♦ “This is seismic.” (Mark Chapman, BBC Radio 5 Live presenter, on Saudi Arabia 2-Argentina 1 at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Mashallah! Another commentator said, “Saudi Arabi’s victory was off the Richter scale.”)

♦ “Just as behind the apparently fixed contours of a landscape lie great historic shifts and upheavals in the earth, so behind the seeming permanence of a social order lie the past struggles of classes and other groups negotiating for advantage.” (*The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr.)

## seismically

shifted seismically

power has ~ (Liverpool vs. Manchester United)

## seize (verb)

seized Dirac

this idea ~ (Paul Dirac / that math was beautiful)

seized hold

a militant consensus ~ of the Austrians (1914)

seized it

with the title within their grasp, Boston ~ (NBA / 1984)

seized me

the story really ~ (an author / camels in US)

seize the moment

he has failed to ~ (a politician and economic problems)  
Congress must ~ to legalize... (Democratic politics)

seize the reins  
he will probably ~ (football player for a position)  
he was seized by a ~ of lurking danger

## **seized (by an emotion)**

seized by a (gut) feeling  
he was ~ of lurking danger

## **self (self-love, etc.)**

self-soothes  
she ~ her dark thoughts with therapeutic optimism

self-coined  
author and ~ “Financial Hype Woman” Berna Anat

self-interested  
she is semi-hip to her own ~ motives

self-involved  
my husband’s daughter is annoyingly ~ ( “into” herself)

*Self-Made*  
~: *Curating Our Identities* (by Tara Isabella Burton)

self-titled  
she has released a new ~ album

self-affirming  
it’s ~ bop (Lizzo featuring SZA, “Special”)

self-acceptance  
finding ~ and embracing his changing body (vitiligo)  
she spoke with Laila Fadel about the process of ~ (NPR)  
it’s a radical form of ~ and self-expression (“naked” look)

self-awareness  
how journaling can improve ~

self-care  
see *self-care (and self care)*

self-confidence  
replace anxiety with ~ (a guide)  
self-connection

self-compassion  
~ means forgiving yourself (“don’t beat yourself up”)

self-criticism  
she grew up full of insecurities and ~s (actor Geena Davis)  
you notice you’re caught in a cycle of ~

self-discovery  
the book spins a tale of racism and ~

self-doubt  
five more tips on how to ~  
expressions of loneliness and ~ (music)

self-entitlement

this story would be found under ~ in the dictionary  
(snark)

self-esteem  
all this “zooming” has hurt her ~ (pandemic)

self-exploration  
if ~ is new, be curious and give it time (masturbation)

self-expression  
advocacy and ~ (chalk art and children)  
it’s a radical form of self-acceptance and ~ (“naked” look)

self-forgiveness  
the album reflects on loss, addiction, and ~

self-fulfillment  
two writers building careers and ~ through food

self-help  
a ~ influencer for men

self-honor  
Jessie Montgomery, composing from a place of ~ (Black)

self-image  
her ~ warps and contorts as she struggles to figure out...  
substance abuse and ~

self-judgment  
feel better with less ~ this year!

self-love  
Meghan Trainor rediscovers her ~ as a new mom  
mindfulness exercises on ~, growth and healing

self-optimization  
the future of human ~ (biohacks to live centuries)  
our culture of ~ (a criticism)

self-ownership  
discovering ~ helped her break free from The Family

self-reflection  
‘CHAOS NOW\*’ is an exercise in empathy and ~

self-talk  
tips on quashing negative ~  
how to curb negative ~

self-worth  
a meditation on ~ and healing (a book)

self-referential  
his ~ new novel

athletic self  
her right to fully realize her ~ was now was law (1972)

authentic self  
see *self (authentic self, authentic selves)*

best self  
see *self (best self, best selves, better self)*

true self  
see *self (true self and true selves)*

## vulnerable self

I was my true self but I couldn't be my most ~ (Carli Lloyd)

## whole self

bring your ~ to work (office poster / pandering)

## version of oneself

see *self* (best version of oneself)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Sex Cult Nun" says discovering self-ownership helped her break free from *The Family*, NPR, Fresh Air with Terry Gross, December 21, 2021.

♦ "Goodman is Black, queer, non-binary... Their new book, "You Gotta Be You," is "an ode to shaking off the expectations of others and tossing out the boxes that society nudges us all into. And above all, it asks every person to consider this question—who would I be if society never got its hands on me?" ("Brandon Kyle Goodman embraces their authentic self in new book," Ailsa Chang, NPR, All Things Considered, September 27, 2022.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "The embracing arms represent self-love, protection and adoration, not objectification." (Beyoncé's illusion bodysuit by Loewe.)

♦ "Bring your whole self to work," the office posters say... (When corporations echo clichés...)

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ "Her right to fully realize her athletic self now was law." (In 1972. From "Title IX revolutionized female athletics but advocates say it's been a constant fight" by Tom Goldman, NPR, Morning Edition, June 23, 2022. Using contempo-speak to describe historical events is a form of presentism.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Selfhausen syndrome" (A snarky online commenter about Elisabeth Finch of *Grey's Anatomy*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Why is this happening? [Young people determining that certain people are 'toxic,' even family members.] Maybe young people have been inspired by the impermanence and infinite choice baked into online dating and social media. Maybe our brains have been pickled in wellness culture and 'self-care' rhetoric, which stress the need to privilege our own well-being above all else. Or maybe we're just good American capitalists, encouraged by the cult of individualism to think of ourselves as compelling brands, the main characters of cinematic star vehicles, the centers of the universe." ("That's It. You're Dead To Me. Suddenly everyone is 'toxic'" by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

♦ "Bizarre moment women pose for selfie after bloody car crash in Mexico." (*The New York Post*.)

## self (lesbian self, lesbian selves, etc.)

### *Trans Selves*

*Trans Bodies*, ~: *A Resource...* (book)

*Trans Bodies*, ~ is a collection of essays...

## fabulous, lesbian selves

we celebrate our ~ (Lesbian Visibility Week)

## self (whole self, whole selves, etc.)

## whole self

she brings her ~ to any bit (comic Leslie Jones)  
the freedom to be my ~ with the people I love (lesbian)

## whole selves

bring their ~ to work (LGBTQIA employees)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "We strive to create a supportive and inclusive space for people to bring their whole selves to work." (A company's employee resource group for LGBTQIA employees and allies.)

♦ "From a young age I have dreamed of being an NHL player, and I believe that living my authentic life will allow me to bring my whole self to the rink and improve my chances of fulfilling my dreams." (Luke Prokop comes out as gay.)

♦ "We saw a lot of companies react to the [murder of] George Floyd—and we did too.... We did a climate survey of our employees, and we learned about a particular weak spot for us with women of color at NPR who didn't feel it was a place to grow their career, a place to be their whole selves, a place where they are seen and respected. So we took that very, very seriously..." ("Faces of NPR: John Lansing" by Sommer Hill, NPR, April 4, 2022.)

## self (authentic self, authentic selves)

### authentic self

bring your ~, you'll be seen heard, valued, loved (gay)  
to finally love who I am enough to pursue my ~  
she's not really sure how to harness her full, ~  
Kim experiences what life is like as his ~ (a boy)

### authentic selves

I want spaces in sport for trans athletes to be their ~  
when kids are able to be their ~ (reactions to trans kids)

### my authentic self

to finally love who I am enough to pursue ~

### his authentic self

Kim experiences what life is like as ~

### our true authentic selves

spaces where we can flourish and be ~ (a Black teen)

### their authentic selves

I want spaces in sport for trans athletes to be ~

### your authentic self

bring your ~

### full, authentic self

be your ~  
she's not really sure how to harness her ~

### true, authentic self

never be afraid or ashamed or have any fear to be your ~  
transitioning and coming out and being my ~ was  
liberating

### true authentic selves

spaces where we can flourish and be our ~ (a Black teen)  
Amber's mission is to help people be their ~ (a speaker)

### happy and authentic and our true selves

we transition to be ~ (a trans woman athlete)

### brought her very authentic self to work

she was somebody who ~ (committed suicide)

### compete as my authentic self

it was such an amazing experience to ~ (Lia Thomas)

### do the sport (I love) as my authentic self

I can continue to ~ (a trans woman college swimmer)

### embraces their authentic self

Brandon Kyle Goodman ~ in new book (NPR)

living as her authentic self  
she is finally living as her ~ (transgender)

live as our authentic selves  
more LGBTQ folks can come out and ~

share their authentic selves  
we're giving them an opportunity to ~ (queer bakers)

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I want spaces in sport for trans athletes to be their authentic selves and compete at the highest level, and know they are loved and that they belong there." (Chris Mosier, about transgender athletes at the Tokyo Olympics.)

♦ "Thank you for creating a safer space for current and future athletes to unequivocally be themselves." (Nastia Liukin, thanking Simon Biles on Instagram.)

♦ "FLETCHER is unapologetically herself." (The queer Cari Fletcher.)

♦ "I'm buzzing. He gets to live his truth and his authentic self." (Thomas Beattie about Jake Daniels.)

#### \*\*\* jumping on the "authentic self" bandwagon...

♦ "This is a day that Minnesota says, 'Bring your authentic self. You'll be seen, heard, valued and loved in this state, and we want you to be whoever you are.' We see you, we hear you, and we will make sure you are in a safe place to be who you are." (Gov. Tim Walz. Kamala Harris selected him to be her vice-presidential running mate.)

♦ "Everyone should be able to feel safe and be their true authentic selves." (An announcement by the Australian "Socceroos" prior to the Soccer World Cup in Qatar, in support of LGBTQ.)

♦ "Rachael does have a quirky style and a unique character... I praise her for being her authentic self." (Breakdancer Leah Clark about breakdance Rachel Gunn, aka "Raygun.")

♦ "You be you, Daddy."

♦ "You do you, I do me."

#### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Warm Weather, Warmer Welcomes. Welcome to a place that lets you be your true self. From family fun to indulgent date nights, turn with the tide and go where adventure takes you. Find your wave and more in Miami Beach at MBFindYourWave.com. Find Your Wave. MiamiBeach. (A full page advertisement in *The New Yorker*, May 15, 2023. It shows a happy, smiling Black family relaxing on a beach.)

♦ "Starting today, no matter how you identify, you can express your authentic self on Tinder. We haven't had the right tools to serve our diverse community in the past but that changes today." (A Tinder announcement.)

♦ "Heather has a BS in Psychology and an MS in Criminal Forensic Studies. She aims to use her gifts, talents, experiences, education, and authentic self to help others feel empowered to live as their authentic selves. She wants to normalize mental health struggles and addiction, and let people know that they are not alone. There is help and support just around the corner." (An advertising circular at a public library.)

♦ "With over 20 years of experience as a transformational leadership coach, business owner, and strategy consultant, Amber's mission is to help individuals connect with the courage and confidence to be their true, authentic selves, achieve greater success, and unleash their potential." (On-Site Fee Range \$2,000-\$10,000.)

♦ "I was a journalist for 20 years and I can spot marketing rigmarole and a contrived script. You have to be your crude, authentic self to attract your audience." (Azadeh Williams of AZK Media, quoted in an article about LinkedIn and its "new emotional tone.")

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ FUNNY snark: "Change is good—it's the only thing that's certain in life. Embrace change like a snake shedding its skin, but stay true to your authentic self. If your authentic self is the skin you just shed, go find it and put it back on. If it shrivelled and no longer fits, make a vest out of it and wear your true self as a layer when it gets chilly." ("Life Advice With Animal Analogies" by Viktoria Shulevich, "Shouts & Murmurs," *The New Yorker*, November 11, 2024. The graphic that accompanies the piece is also wonderful. Super!)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The fact of the matter is, there's never one authentic self. There are always multiple authentic selves." (Author and scholar Mark Anthony Neal. From "'Thugs don't dance': iLoveMakonnen and Drake tested rap's norms of masculinity, but only one passed," NPR, *Louder Than A Riot Season Two*, May 4, 2023.)

♦ "But the reality is, who we are is not one true self and a bunch of other fake selves, but rather a composite of many selves." (Chris Stedman, Interview Highlights. From "'IRL' Author Says It's OK That We're Spending So Much Of Our Lives Online" by Noel King, Ryan Benk, NPR, Author Interviews, Morning Edition, December 7, 2020.)

♦ In the old days, someone might simply have counseled another, "Don't worry. Be yourself."

♦ "Get over yourself."

♦ see also *authentic (groups)*, *authentically (live authentically, etc.)*, *authenticity (groups)*

### self (best self, best selves, better self)

#### best self

feel your ~ (mental health program for 1<sup>st</sup> graders)  
he encouraged me to be my ~  
my roller derby mates wanted to see me become my ~

#### best selves

climbing brings us closer to our ~ (mountains)

#### better selves

speak to our ~ (Vice President Kamala Harris)

#### become my best self

they genuinely wanted to see me ~ (queers / a queer)

#### feel your best self

~ (mental health program for first graders)

#### put their best selves forward

platforms like Hinge and Bumble allow singles to ~

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Before (roller) derby, I knew I was on the spectrum of queer and pansexual, but I didn't have the language or support until I met my derby mates who genuinely wanted to see me become my best self. My derby league was the first place I asked people to use they/them pronouns for me." (Lauren Macadaeg, who identifies as they/them.)

#### \*\*\* jumping on the "best self" bandwagon...

♦ "Every time I met him he seemed he was his best self and he encouraged me to be my best self." (A tribute to Jonathan R. Sugarman, who died on Everest.)

♦ "I was my best self next to him and now I have no clue of who I am. Life is so unfair to hit us where it hurts the most." (MMA fighter and boxer Francis Ngannou about the death of his 15-month-old son.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The devil's half of the bargain was that Siegfried & Roy could become the grandest version of themselves only by surrounding themselves with the instruments of their potential destruction." (From "The Original Tiger Kings: The Improbable Rise And Savage Fall Of Siegfried & Roy" by Chris Jones and Michael J. Mooney, *The Atlantic*, November 2022. Roy was famously mauled by the tiger he and Siegfried called Mantecore.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Why is this happening? [Young people determining that certain people are 'toxic,' even family members.] Maybe young people have been inspired by the impermanence and infinite choice baked into online dating and social media. Maybe our brains have been pickled in wellness culture and 'self-care' rhetoric, which stress the need to privilege our own well-being above all else. Or maybe we're just good American capitalists, encouraged by the cult of individualism to think of ourselves as compelling brands, the main characters of cinematic star vehicles, the centers of the universe." ("That's It. You're Dead To

Me. Suddenly everyone is 'toxic'" by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

## self (best version of oneself)

### best version of myself

I feel like the ~ when I have a crush on someone  
I strive to be the ~ for the benefit of NPR (a young female)

### best version of yourself

they make you feel like the ~ (your friends)

### grandest version of themselves

they could only become the ~ by...

### worst or best version of yourself

as you age, you either become the ~ (comic Steve Martin)

### become the best version

I help young people ~ of themselves...  
you're trying to ~ of yourself that exists (Olympics)

♦ "I love coaching. I do. It's something that I'm passionate about. It brings me joy. And I love helping young people reach their potential and become the best version of themselves. I'm gifted to do that..." (Brian Flores, who filed a class action lawsuit against the NFL for racial discrimination.)

♦ "I feel like the best version of myself when I have a crush on someone, or when I'm hanging out with a bunch of people who have never been to LA before. I'm like..." (Phoebe Bridgers.)

♦ "I've been brought up to never take anything for granted and to always be the best Simone—the best version of myself." (Simone Biles, speaking to *Glamour*.)

## self (true self and true selves)

### true self

Shangela reflects on embracing your ~ (drag queen)  
Chan's own journey with coming out and embracing his ~  
your ability to participate as your ~ online (queers)  
welcome to a place that lets you be your ~ (Miami Beach)

### true selves

they can't bring their ~ to their careers (Brown people)  
marriage inequality and people not living their ~ (the past)

### true, authentic self

never be afraid or ashamed or have any fear to be your ~  
transitioning and coming out and being my ~ was liberating

### true authentic selves

spaces where we can flourish and be our ~ (a Black teen)  
Amber's mission is to help people be their ~ (a speaker)

### happy and authentic and our true selves

we transition to be ~ (a trans woman athlete)

### bring their true selves to their careers

they feel like they can't ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Hill's commitment was to presenting the truest version of herself, not appealing to commercial interests." (The singer Lauryn Hill. The article quotes her as saying, "Fantasy is what people want, but reality

is what they need." From "Screenland" by Jenn Pelly, *The New York Times Magazine*, 5.14.23.)

♦ "I was my true self but I couldn't be my most vulnerable self." (Female soccer legend Carli Lloyd looking back on her career.)

♦ "I've talked to people in the conservative party, brown people, who say that, you know, they feel like they can't bring their true selves to their careers." (Sathnam Sanghera, author of *Empireland*.)

♦ "I'm buzzing. He gets to live his truth and his authentic self." (Thomas Beattie about Jake Daniels.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

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### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Why is this happening? [Young people determining that certain people are 'toxic,' even family members.] Maybe young people have been inspired by the impermanence and infinite choice baked into online dating and social media. Maybe our brains have been pickled in wellness culture and 'self-care' rhetoric, which stress the need to privilege our own well-being above all else. Or maybe we're just good American capitalists, encouraged by the cult of individualism to think of ourselves as compelling brands, the main characters of cinematic star vehicles, the centers of the universe." ("That's It. You're Dead To Me. Suddenly everyone is 'toxic'" by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

## self (miscellaneous self, selves)

### fullest selves

the kitchen is a place to be our ~ (chef Camilla Wynne)

### full, authentic self

be your ~  
she's not really sure how to harness her ~

## self-care (and self care)

### self-care

~ can be really hard (girlfriend of FTM trans)

### Real Self-Care

~: *Bubble Baths, Cleanses and Crystals Not Included*

### practice self-care

how do you ~ as an activist...

♦ "A conversation I think we've had recently but also a lot is like self-care." (A young woman in a relationship with a FTM trans.)

♦ Self-care is often the obverse of self-harm. Self-harming is a problem afflicting a small but perhaps growing minority in the US, and self-harming is being exported from the US to the rest of the world via the internet.

♦ "A 'fierce queen' named '128 Grazer' has been crowned the fattest bear of all Katmai National Park in Alaska." ("This is how a mama bear won Fat Bear Week, Katmai National Park officials say" by Julia Jacobo, ABC News, October 12, 2023. "Since releasing her cubs, Grazer was able to focus on self-care and getting fat.")

♦ see also *mental wellbeing* (and mental well-being), *mental health* (noun), *mental wellness* (noun), *welfare* (mental, etc.), *wellbeing* (noun), *wellness* (noun)

## self-destructive (adjective)

### self-destructive behaviour

he is known for his ~ (celebrity)

### self-destructive tendencies

his ~ have resurfaced

self-destructive habit

most addicts want to kick their ~

## sell (promote)

sell his (immigration) bill to the public

a trip to ~ (President Bush)

sells women an ideal

the fashion industry also ~ of beauty (thinness)

sell yourself

you have to ~ (job interviewing)

selling himself as a dealmaker

he's ~ who can take on President Trump (Joe Biden)

♦ "This 'active shooter' BS is something that Mr. Binger is trying to sell you people." (The Kyle Rittenhouse case.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Merriam-Webster entry for *Caveat emptor* is interesting. According to the entry, it is "New Latin," and its first use was 1523. Its meaning, of course, is, "Let the buyer beware."

♦ "If you believe that, I've got a bridge to sell you."

♦ Psst! Hey, buddy. I can sell you a three-legged racehorse. Cheap!

♦ "Whatever it is you're trying to sell, I ain't buying!"

## sell out (verb)

selling out to big energy

environmentalists say federal officials are ~ (drilling)

sold out for the money

he was a great actor, but he ~ (films)

sold out his (progressive) ideals

he has ~

sold out its members

some say the union has ~ (contract)

sell out Black people

did he ~ (coach Deion Sanders / HBCU to PWI)

## seminal (adjective)

seminal album

her ~ "Back to Black" (Amy Winehouse)

seminal (Silicon Valley) companies

other ~ (Google, Hewlett-Packard, Apple, etc.)

seminal moment

the bikini's ~ came in the Bond film, *Dr No*

~s in TV history and Black history (Bill Cosby)

seminal one

it wasn't just a striking effect, but a ~ (prosthetic makeup)

seminal (animal rights) tract

he read *Animal Liberation*, the ~ (by Peter Singer)

seminal works

~ to go on show (sculptures by Henry Moore, etc.)

## send (emotion or effect)

sent her into a tailspin

the news ~ (light sentence for her stalker)

sent shock waves across India

the brutal rape and killing ~ (of a student nurse)

sent a chill through the academic world

the sentences ~ (arrests)

send a shiver through Congress

the news will likely ~ (Senators sick from coronavirus)

sent shock waves through French politics

the poll ~ (strength of right)

sent shock waves through the American psyche

Tet ~ (Vietnam War)

sent a jolt of anxiety around the city

the murder ~

sent (racial) tensions to a boiling point

his death ~ (Amadou Diallo, shot by police)

## send (transport)

send the Americans to the dustbin

the Afghans will ~ of history

sent the game to penalties

his 94th-minute scissor kick ~ (soccer)

## send (transmit)

send (mixed) messages

schools ~ about cheating

sent mixed signals

his lawyer has ~ (about what his client might do)

send the wrong message to kids

the ads ~ (that thin is good)

send messages through their body language

people ~

## send (cause to move)

sent up a plume of dust

a rockslide ~

sent up (huge) plumes of smoke

the military air strikes ~

send up toxic plumes

bombing chemical sites could ~

sent streams of lava down the mountain

the volcano ~

sent sand and litter (high) into the air

a monster dust devil ~

sent a wall of water downstream

the dam failure ~

## sensitive (feelings)

so sensitive

don't be ~



♦ “Viewer discretion is advised, especially for young children and sensitive viewers.” (Carlos Nieves, Assistant Commissioner, Public Information Division, New York City Police Department, about video of a suicide by cop in the 52nd Precinct.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Don’t be so sensitive!

## sensitive (adjective)

sensitive to their concerns  
we must be ~ (diplomacy)

sensitive to the feelings  
it’s important to be ~ of people... (of oppressed groups)

sensitive issue  
this is a ~ in Israel

## sensitivity (noun)

sensitivities of our country  
his social-media posts contradict the ~ (Turkey)

sensitivity to minorities  
~ is more important than free speech (the US)

sensitivity readers  
“~” steer the author away from stereotypes and clichés

“sensitivity” training  
maybe we all need some ~

snowflake sensitivities  
deference for our ~ (language)

heightened racial sensitivity  
at a time of ~ (BlackLivesMatter, etc.)

regime of sensitivity  
the birth of the modern ~

♦ “It’s all about learning to have your sensitivity be your superpower.” (Women film directors.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “The belief—especially among young women—that sensitivity to minorities is more important than free speech, truth or merit is likely to be sticky across the life course.” (“Why young people become woker and woker: A cultural emergency” by Eric Kaufmann, Opinion, *The New York Post*, May 18, 2024.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “That was the birth of the modern regime of sensitivity, the age of ‘Can’t we all just get along?’” (From “Maybe We All Need Some ‘Sensitivity’ Training” by Geoff Nunberg, Opinion, NPR, Fresh Air, September 7, 2010. Nunberg is *always* interesting.)

## sentence (life sentence)

permanent life sentence  
there can’t be a ~ on someone who does something wrong

## sentinel (noun)

sentinels of environmental quality  
birds are ~

sentinel disease  
she calls it a “~” in the era of climate change (CKDu)

## sequel (prequel, etc.)

fivequel  
there is some gonzo humour to this ~ (*Scream* 2022)

prequel  
“Sopranos” ~ gives Tony a backstory

requel  
a “~”, a reboot-slash-sequel... (the film *Scream* 2022)

sequel  
the ~ is usually worse (politics)

“side-quel”  
director Angus MacLane called the film a ~ to the franchise (Buzz Lightyear)

three-quel  
what’s your favorite “~,” and which ones bombed (2007)

♦ “In an era of sequels, prequels, reboots, and franchises-within-franchises...” (Aisha Harris, Pop Culture Happy Hour.)

♦ “Sequels are also sort of doomed.” (A novelist talking about his “sophomore” effort, or second book. “Never as good as the first.”)

♦ “We do not need four more years of bluster, and bumbling, and chaos, we have seen that movie before, and we all know that the sequel is usually worse.” (Barak Obama at the 2024 DNC, speaking about Donald Trump.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Merriam-Webster lists 1958 for the use of *prequel*. *Sequel* is much older.

♦ “There’s no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## Serengeti (Serengeti of the North, etc.)

Serengeti of the North  
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, often referred to as the ~

♦ “The Atchafalaya Basin is a swampy wilderness that is to crawfish what the Serengeti is to lions.” (Calvin Trillin.)

## sermon (message)

subject of his sermon  
the sinister power of TV is the ~ (the 1976 film *Network*)

## servant (help)

servant  
fear is my ~ (Jost Kobusch, Everest West Ridge in winter)

servants  
hold the church accountable for the actions of its ~

servants to us  
fossil fuels are enormous ~

civil servants  
54% of ~ come to work late

public servant  
he is a ~ in the Russian Forestry Service

## **servant (dominated)**

servants of foreigners

he made Mexicans the ~ (Porfirio Diaz / revolution)

servant of the Kremlin

he is a ~ and not the Ukrainian people (politics)

servant of private power, wealth, and the corporations

he's a very loyal ~ (politics)

servant to anyone

we are sovereign and independent and won't be a ~

obedient servant

his intelligence was now merely the ~ of his emotions

♦ "We will be your friend, not your slave." (Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, to the United States.)

## **serve up (verb)**

served up another helping

she ~ of her trademark word salad (Kamala Harris)

serve up red meat

politicians ~ to true believers (a convention)

serves up anti-Obama rhetoric

he ~ every night (a news host)

## **set (skill set)**

skill set (was perfect) for that show

his ~ (S.N.L.)

bring a skillset

women ~ (CIA)

## **set back (verb)**

set back women by more than 100 years

the ruling has ~ (abortion)

## **setback (progress)**

setback

a ~ in their frustrating hunt for the sniper (D.C. area)

setbacks

he has had some ~

she knows her ~ will soon be in the rear-view mirror

handed (its first major) setback

the terrorist group was ~ when...

crises and setbacks

the heartbreak of constant medical ~

♦ Turning setback to comeback...

## **set off (initiate)**

set off a domino effect

this ~ (economic collapse)

set off a (political) storm

her decision has ~ in the Netherlands

set off a firestorm

he ~ of opposition when he...

set off a shoot-out

the request ~ between the two camps

set off a storm

calls for an investigation ~ between the two countries

set off a (trade) war

economic sanctions could ~

set off shock waves

he ~ with his statement

## **set off (feeling and emotion)**

set him off

little things would ~ (a violent man)

it sounds like that really ~ (anger)

set the president off

that was the thing that ~ (upset him)

set off a wave of emotions

the resignations ~ from sadness to relief

set off a wave of fury

the nominee list ~

set off a wave of pride

his success has ~ (Japanese ballplayer)

## **set off (and set out)**

set off on a wild rampage

dozens of teenage boys ~ (Central Park)

set out on this path

he ~ in 1997 by writing... (rehabilitated his career)

set out to build

he saw the future and he ~ it (Jeff Bezos, Amazon)

set out to film

they ~ the city's prostitutes (documentary / Calcutta)

set out to find

when he ~ his biological father, he never imagined...

set out to master

I ~ fence-building and brush-clearing

set out to take

Mr. Marwa ~ revenge (on murderers of his relative)

set out to terrorize

extremists rejected these terms and ~... (Rwanda)

set out to take revenge

Mr. Marwa ~ (on murderers of his relative)

\*\*\* Ibn Battuta and some explorers...

♦ "I left Tangier, my birthplace, on Thursday, 2nd Rajab 725 [June 14, 1325], being at that time twenty-two years of age [22 lunar years; 21 and 4 months by solar reckoning], with the intention of making the Pilgrimage to the Holy House [at Makkah] and the Tomb of the Prophet [at Madinah]. (The great traveler Ibn Battuta.)

♦ "For the whole of the next day, the ocean held its breath. And then, on Saturday, September 8, up rose a wind from the east and Columbus found himself where he had always wanted to be: in uncharted waters... / The sailing was magnificent..." (An Ocean of Air by Gabrielle Walker.)

- ♦ "We traveled very pleasantly all day..." (Mungo Park on the Niger River.)
- ♦ "1869. "Powell's men slid their four boats into the Green River on Monday, May 24, 1869..."
- ♦ "The inscrutable river coursed northward into the jungle, sixty-five feet wide, swift, deep, black, and silent. Goodbyes were exchanged..." (Setting off on the Dúvida River in Brazil. From *Colonel Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris.)
- ♦ "I received my instructions in the middle of March 1906, and on 17 May we left... It was a brilliant sunny day with a cloudless sky, although the air was heavy with moisture. Everybody was in the best of humour." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)
- ♦ "We deliberately set off earlier in the year than is traditional for a polar expedition because..." (Pen Hadow, Catlin Arctic Survey, 2009.)
- ♦ "It was the first time we had set off without grownups getting on our nerves with all their advice, without uncles, without experts. We were drunk on our freedom..." ("Bear Meat" by Primo Levy.)
- ♦ "The boy's mother contacted the police after finding a note from her son saying he had left to 'travel around the world'." ("Boy, 8, found after leaving home to 'travel the world'" by Katherine Zeveleva, BBC Monitoring, 3 April 2019.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ "Beginning is easy, continuing is hard." (A Japanese saying.)
- ♦ see also *embark* (*embark on something*)

## set piece (noun)

regular weekly media set-pieces

the ~ are no longer the must-watch sideshows (soccer club)

## set sail (verb)

set sail on the seas

he ~ of his exciting career as a microbe hunter

- ♦ "We traveled very pleasantly all day; in fact nothing can be more beautiful than the views of this immense river; sometimes as smooth as a mirror, at other times ruffled with a gentle breeze, but at all times sweeping us along at the rate of six or seven miles per hour." (Mungo Park on the Niger River.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ "Beginning is easy, continuing is hard." (A Japanese saying.)

## settle down (verb)

settle down

nobody knows when things will ~ again (shaken)

## sever (verb)

severed it from the world

the Suez Canal ~ (Mauritius)

## sewer (noun)

sewers of intolerance and bigotry

colleges are ~ (antisemitism)

- ♦ "Sadly, college campuses have descended from coveted citadels of intellectual freedom to illiberal sewers of intolerance and bigotry. Diversity and inclusion are a George Orwell 1984 implementation as we see in excluding conservative thought." (Congressman Joe Wilson of South Carolina. At the hearing, "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023.)

## sewn up

already sewn up

Scotland go into the game with a playoff spot ~

## sew together (verb)

sewn together a (Frankenstein's) monster

Ducournau has ~ from so many disparate ideas

## sew up (verb)

sewn up the nomination

he has effectively ~ (a politician)

sewn up the support

she has ~ she needs (politics)

## sexy (as noun)

bring sexy back

Al Yankovic wants to '~~' to the accordion (Terry Gross)

bringing his "sexy" to the Super Bowl

Usher is ~

brings his sexy back

Justin Timberlake ~ (new music)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## sexy (adjective)

sexy

the hypothesis was ~ (psychology)

pipes are underground, they're not ~ (infrastructure)

sexy football

they do not play ~ (France, Euro 2024)

as sexy as

Chelsea is ~ a brand can get (football)

smart, sexy, slang-studded

Tayi Tibble's ~ verse (a *New Yorker* book blurb)

described as sexy

the iPhone was ~ (the early days of technology vs. now)

- ♦ "It's not a sexy job per se, right? It's not a job that is chill..." (Jessica Malaty Rivera's breezy contempo-speak assessment of the legacy of "the elderly" Dr. Anthony Fauci, on NPR.)

- ♦ "Climate tech is sexy. Right, because it's the lure of the techno-fix..." (Gernot Wagner, climate economist at Columbia Business School, about solar geoengineering.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ "In pop culture, *hot* is sexy. *Hot* is cool. *Hot* is new."
- ♦ "Of course some of these are masculine or feminine clichés: the ladies, particularly the younger ones, use the 'exquisite, gorgeous and darling' group to indicate approval of anything from a new dress to a sunset, and few men would dare to follow suit." ("Ten Overworked Words" in the newspaper *The Day*, New London, CONN., Thursday Afternoon, April 1, 1937. The more things change, the more they stay the same.)

## shackle (noun)

break the shackles

we must ~ of an oppressed people's chains

- ♦ "From that day, as we cast our votes for the first time, a great heaviness lifted from our shoulders, our shackle had been cast off, the shackles that had tied us down for hundreds of years." (South

African President Cyril Ramaphosa, marking the 30-year anniversary of free elections and the end of apartheid.)

## shackled

shackled by ‘self-imposed restrictions’

U.S. relations will not be ~ (diplomacy)

shackled by leaden writing

the film is ~ (a bad review)

♦ “The U.S. cider scene is exciting because American cider-makers are not as shackled as cider-makers in France and Spain and the U.K. and in Ireland. So there is more experimentation, definitely that going on in the U.S.” (Jennifer Lim, co-owner of a cider bar. Nice!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Shackled and fettered, I run the race of life, and I break the victory ribbon...” (The great boxing promoter Don King. “Only in America!”)

## shade (verb)

shades (TikTok rival) Breckie Hill

Olivia Dunne seemingly ~ in new video

## shade (noun)

speck of shade

this is not throwing a ~ at LeBron James... (sports talk)

threw some shade at the channel

he congratulated his rival but also ~ (PewDiePie)

throw shade at Florida

people ~ (Florida Man meme)

throw shade at the biggest name

he seemed to ~ in hip-hop

throws shade at Caitlin Clark

Angel Reese seemingly ~ after latest win (WNBA)

♦ “Let’s spill some shade, throw some tea...” (The transgender Natalie Wynn, reversing the collocating verbs. Noticed!)

## shadow (concealment)

shadow ban

it’s called a ~ (restricted from non-followers / Instagram)

shadow war

the long “~” between Iran and Israel

in the shadows

killing, interrogating and bribing are done ~ (terrorism)

NSO was created ~ in 2010

in the city’s shadows

an underground rock scene ~ (the Leningrad Rock Club)

from the shadows to the spotlight

survivors have moved ~ (sex abuse)

created in the shadows

NSO was ~ in 2010

drive them (further) into the shadows

the law will only ~ (illegal migrants)

draw the undocumented out of the shadows

we need to ~ and into the sunlight of legal status

live in the shadows

many homeless men and women avoid shelters and ~

live life in the shadows

they ~ (CIA agents)

lurking in the shadows

syphilis is a major scourge ~ (public health)

operate in the shadows

spammers ~, relying on botnets (Russia)

returned from the shadows

the hactivist group Anonymous has ~

stepping out of the shadows

she is ~ to use her voice to fight hate (victim of crime)

## shadow (cast a shadow)

cast a shadow

his flaws ~ (Sinatra)

casting a shadow over the campus

the failure to identify a suspect is ~ (quadruple murder)

cast a shadow over the Oscars

the war ~ this year (Iraq)

cast a shadow over the (New York) Police

the case ~

casts a shadow (of suspicion) over all priests

it ~ (sexual misconduct)

cast a shadow over our (foreign-policy) record

Rwanda ~

cast a (dark) shadow

the tragic accident ~ over US-Korean relations

cast a (long) shadow

the conflict has ~ (Algerian War affects to this day)

## shadow (in / under the shadow)

in the shadow of the gun

they live ~ (Kashmiris)

in the shadow of terrorism

many are revitalizing family ties ~ (US)

under the shadow of a boycott

Algeria voted ~

## shadow (dark shadow, etc.)

dark shadow

the ~ of the tyranny has been lifted (Obama / Libya)

deadly shadow

the mystique of pole vaulting includes a ~ (fatalities)

horrible shadow

there has been this ~ over his legacy (child abuse)

## shadow (attention)

shadow of the (previous) coach

he will never escape the ~ (basketball)

brother's shadow  
he was desperate to emerge from his ~ (Mike Quarry)

in Moscow's shadow  
a city that has always labored ~ (St. Petersburg)

in his shadow  
anything I do is completely eclipsed, I'm ~ (jealousy)

in the shadow of (such a) legend  
was it hard growing up ~ (grandson of famous woman)

break out of his dad's shadow  
he is trying to ~ Conor Benn, boxer)

escape the shadow  
he will never ~ of the previous coach (basketball)

emerge from his brother's shadow  
he was desperate to ~ (boxer Mike Quarry)

labored in (Moscow's) shadow  
a city that has always ~

step out of the long shadow  
Sarajevo is attempting to ~ of war

stepping out of Fifa's shadow  
the company is ~ (rebrands from Fifa to EA)

### **shadow (proximity)**

shadow  
I'm supposed to be your ~ (follow you and watch you)

in the shadow of Mount Snowdon  
she works as a hill farmer ~

in the shadow of the Ural Mountains  
Magnitogorsk was constructed ~ (1930s)

lives in its shadow  
the volcano shapes the lives of everyone who ~

### **shadow (beyond a shadow of a doubt, etc.)**

beyond any shadow of a doubt  
I will convince you ~ (trial)

without a shadow of a doubt  
they knew, ~, that he was guilty

### **shadow (devitalized)**

shadow of himself  
he's a ~, of his best times (a chess grandmaster)  
he has seemed a ~ in his past 2 fights (Deontay Wilder)

shadow of his former self  
Rashford is a ~ (2022 Manchester United soccer)

shadow of its former self  
the company will be a ~  
the group is a ~ (terrorists)  
the once proud newspaper is a ~ (cuts, etc.)

shadow of what it used to be

in reality the Royal Navy is already a ~

pale shadow  
it was a ~ of their mighty clashes (soccer tie)  
he has looked a very ~ of his former self (a soccer player)

### **shadow (follow)**

shadow the politician  
she asked to ~ on a 15-hour "ride-a-long" (reporter)

### **shadow (shadow government, etc.)**

shadow attorney general  
the ~

shadow governors  
the rebels have named ~

shadow foreign secretary  
Labour's ~ Emily Thornberry

shadow foreign policy  
they view what he did as a kind of ~ (politics)

Labour shadow  
his ~ questioned why...

### **shadow (shadow boxing, etc.)**

shadow boxing  
jumping rope, ~, hitting the heavy bag (boxers)

### **shadow (rain shadow, etc.)**

rain shadow  
the uplands leave the valley in a ~

### **shadowy**

shadowy figure  
he is a ~ whose intentions remain shrouded in mystery

shadowy (extremist) groups  
~ have burned Internet cafes

shadowy (Internet) organization  
the documents were released by a ~

shadowy world  
his arrest provides a lens onto the ~ of computer hackers

shadowy Baluchistan Liberation Army  
the ~, born in the 1970's (Pakistan)

### **shady (adjective)**

shady behavior  
they are guilty of some really ~ (a hospital)

shady dealings  
~ made him a rich man  
there were some ~ going on in the Ukraine (US politics)

shady economics  
'stealships,' the ~ of car buying...

shady (furniture-and-appliance-rental) service  
Rent-T-Own, just another ~ (its real product is debt)

♦ "It's like an orphanage that also has a gruel business on the side."  
(Employer self-dealing with 401(k) options.)

## shake (disrupt)

shakes people from their slumber

I hope this film ~ (the great film director Spike Lee)

shook Hollywood and the country to its foundation

the murders ~ (Charles Manson)

shook basketball

his death ~ but the reverberation went further (Len Bias)

shaken our community

this incident has ~ (2022 University of Idaho killings)

shaken the university

the allegations have ~

## shake (shake something off)

shake it off

she's now struggling to ~ (label of calculating)

it's a step back, but we need to ~ and go again (soccer)

## shake (remove)

shake her demons

she couldn't ~ (singer dies of drug overdose)

shake my depression

I couldn't ~

shake off the mantle

they want to ~ of tradition (artists)

shake off the sense

I couldn't ~ of pessimism and failure I felt

## shaken (feeling)

shaken to my core

I was ~ (by a perceived injustice)

visibly shaken

~, he admitted mistakes had been made (school shooting)

drained and shaken

I left feeling ~ (tour of Auschwitz)

left him shaken

the violence ~

leave the movie shaken

you ~ (a film review)

## shaken (disruption)

shaken but not broken

the country's will to fight was ~ (Russia / 1812)

## Shakespeare ("hillbilly Shakespeare," etc.)

"hillbilly Shakespeare"

the man who was called the ~ (Hank Williams)

## Shakespearean (adjective)

Shakespearean in scope and grandeur

the Olympics will be ~ (drama, tragedy, comedy)

Shakespearean dimensions

this is a tragedy of ~ (son murders father)

Shakespearean proportions

this is a tragedy of ~ (family murder)

this rage of ~ was building (boxing's Don King)

♦ "Makes Fury's meandering rambling seem positively Shakespearean." (A snarky comment about Anthony Joshua's bizarre post-fight antics and rant after his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

## shake up (verb)

shook up the (immigration) debate

the president ~ (President Trump)

shook me up

his story ~ (a suicide)

## shake-up (noun)

shakeup in leadership

what do you think the ~ indicates

shakeup at the Department of Homeland Security

what do you think the ~ indicates

sudden shake-up

the ~ could signal instability in the regime

## shaky (condition)

shaky bank

~, volatile markets...

shaky ground

their relationship is on ~

shaky relationship

they have a ~

shaky science

the company's claims rest on ~

shaky start

the spacewalk got off to a ~

shaky truce

they have reached a ~ in their trade dispute

## shallow (person)

uneducated & shallow

her detractors are ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Still waters run deep."

## shallow (adjective)

shallow analysis

this is a ~ of a complex problem

shallow book

it is a ~ from a shallow man



shallow goal  
looking beautiful is a ~

shallow roots  
she has ~ in the state (a politician)

shallow questions  
they are asking very ~

## shame (period shame, etc.)

parenting shame  
that sense of ~ that you feel and which I certainly feel...

period shame  
to fight “~,” women in China demand trains sell tampons

vulva shame  
my ~ didn’t completely heal until... (writer Ellie Sedgwick)

♦ “I’ve learnt that the labia I spent so much of my life worrying about is completely normal... I’ve learnt to love this part of myself by helping others do the same.” (Ellie Sedgwick, author of *Flip Through My Flaps: An Exploration of the Vulva*. From “34-year-old reveals sad reason she had ‘vulva anxiety’” by Mary Madigan, News.com.au, Nov. 14, 2024. This appeared in *The New York Post*.)

## shame (body-shame / verb, etc.)

body-shamed  
charges filed against model who ~ woman at gym

kink-shame  
this documentary does not set out to ~ the Falwells

meal-shame  
“Don’t ~ me: a table for 1 at a restaurant” (*The Guardian*)

slut-shame  
Alta Vista was trying to ~ Christine

victim-shame  
he has tried to ~ women who’ve come forward

♦ “This documentary does not set out to kink-shame the Falwells. Spend your money, go party, have consensual safe sex—that’s great. The issue is the hypocrisy.” (Bill Corben, director of *God Forbid: The Sex Scandal That Brought Down a Dynasty*. From “A new documentary follows an affair that felled evangelist Jerry Falwell Jr.’s career,” NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, October 30, 2022. Disingenuous, much?)

## shamed (groups)

shamed for being  
she was ~ a Black woman who made pop-centric music

shamed and fired  
officials who are ~

body-shamed  
*Sports Illustrated* swim model recalls being ~  
charges filed against model who ~ woman at gym

fat-shamed  
Sally Struthers claims she was ‘totally ~’ by Betty White

job shamed  
he was “~” (the actor Geoffrey Owens)

mom shamed  
I got ~ for taking my 6-year-old to the Burning Man festival

slut-shamed  
at school, they are ~ and given a nickname  
I have been ~, harassed, maligned (Rose McGowan)

slut shamed  
the modern term is ~ (defense of sexual assault)

victim-shamed  
we’ve been ~ online (gymnast Aly Raisman)

weight-shamed  
vivid memories of being ~ by their families (old women)

*Publicly Shamed*  
*So You’ve Been ~* (book by Jon Ronson)

named and shamed  
companies ‘~’ for bad behavior

## shaming (slut shaming, etc.)

body shaming  
the ad has prompted cries of sexism and ~

body-shaming  
she’s faced ~ and over-sexualization (Sydney Sweeney)  
a toxic culture of ~ and bullying (ballet schools)

carbon-shaming  
is ~ the answer (mega-rich and their planes, yachts, etc.)

fat shaming  
fighting ~ and racist trolls  
‘~’ can fuel depression and increase obesity

fat-shaming  
critics have called out Darren Aronofsky for ~ (*The Whale*)

hamburger shaming  
James Harden not happy with ESPN’s ~ (the NBA player)

job-shaming  
~ and the dignity of work (former celebs in menial jobs)

lunch shaming  
“~” in public schools (cold sandwich / overdue lunch fees)

mask shaming  
“~” might be caused by wearing or not wearing a mask

mom shaming  
the “~” against her... (miscarriage)

name-shaming  
she worries about ~ (parent of non-binary school kid)

parent-shaming  
our ~ culture (see Wikipedia article “Harambe” (gorilla))

prayer shaming  
it was a new term to me, ~ (platitudes for mass shootings)

## slut shaming

her book takes on ~ (*Unslut: A Diary and a Memoir*)

## victim shaming

Biden's ~ of Afghan troops (U.S. flees Afghanistan)

## online shaming

the ~ of rally participants ("Yes, You're Racist")

## public shaming

some judges prefer ~ to prison (the U.S.)

the Taliban have revived ~ (Afghanistan)

debate over ~ of political contributions...

we condemn the ~ of Amber Heard (130 feminists)

## sexual shaming

~ in the evangelical purity movement

## sick shaming

'~' is a reaction to the fear of COVID

being judged for coughing or sneezing is ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "In a chorus ringing, 'Hands on my knees, shakin' a\*\*,' on my thot s\*\*\*," the Houston rapper reappropriated words from a slut-shaming culture that are often used to demonize Black women." ("Megan Thee Stallion, 'Thot S\*\*\*' by Gabrielle Pierre, NPR Music, June 11, 2021.)

♦ "Taylor Swift tackles slut shamers with 1989 remake."

♦ "Shame. You know, shame is a silencer. Shame is a killer. Shame is a murderer... I had nothing but shame in my entire life." (The actor Billy Porter.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "shaming" bandwagon...

♦ "Stop the circadian-rhythm shaming." (Sleeping late. Matthew Cantor.)

### \*\*\* "Stocks, pillories, les tondues..."

♦ Stocks, pillories; amputation of body parts like hands, noses, ears, etc.; branding flesh to identify thieves; the Scarlet Letter... (Shaming in the old days. Nowadays it is all done online.)

♦ As late as the 1960s, judges in the Jackson County Courthouse in Sylva, Jackson County, western North Carolina, might shame a chronic drunk or wife-beater by making him repeatedly run up and down the 100 steps between the courthouse and town, in full view of the public on main street.

♦ "I watched an open lorry drive past, to the accompaniment of boos and catcalls from the French populace, with a dozen miserable women in the back, every hair on their heads shaved off. They were in tears, hanging their heads in shame. While disgusted by this cruelty, I reflected that we British had known no invasion or occupation for some 900 years. So we were not the best judges." (Jock Colville, Churchill's private secretary, in Bayeux, witnessing the humiliation of *les tondues* (shorn women, also referred to as horizontal collaborators) in the aftermath of World War II. From "An ugly carnival," by Antony Beevor, *The Guardian*, Thursday 4 June 2009.)

♦ "Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg has issued an official government apology to Norwegian women who were mistreated over World War Two-era relationships with German soldiers. ("Norway apologises to its World War Two 'German Girls,'" BBC, 17 October 2018.)

♦ "A lot of black people today are wringing their hands and pointing accusing fingers at white doctors from the public health service." (Janie Taylor, "Origins of the Infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study," NPR, August 7, 1972. It's a seven-part series available in its entirety at NPR. Type "Janie Taylor" in search at NPR, and all seven of her reports should be available. Should access change, try searching at NPR for "The digital preservation of this audio has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities" and then search through the at present 112 results for the seven episodes: "Was The Tuskegee Syphilis Study Unethical?" / "Why Weren't Tuskegee Syphilis Study Patients Given Penicillin As Treatment?" / "Were Participants Informed Of The Purpose Of

Tuskegee Study?" / "Tuskegee Syphilis Study Patient Believed He Was Being Treated" / "Nurse Who Worked 39 Years For The Tuskegee Syphilis Study" / "Former Director For Tuskegee Syphilis Study Believes Work Was 'Completely Ethical'" / "Origins Of The Infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study."

♦ "Stop Blaming Tuskegee, Critics Say. It's Not An 'Excuse' For Current Medical Racism" by April Dembosky, NPR, March 23, 2021.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Shame has never worked in public-health interventions."

♦ "Shame and blame don't work." (Student behavior and university campuses.)

♦ Where there is no shame, there is no honor. (An Ethiopian proverb.)

♦ "Taboos can be useful."

♦ "You should be ashamed of yourself!"

## Shangri-la

### my own Shangri-la

I wanted to stay here, ~ among the hills, for always...

### crypto Shangri-La

Bhutan has been quietly transformed into a ~ (*Forbes*)

### liberal Shangri-La

Asheville represents something of a '~' (political scientist)

### mythical Shangri-la

progressive visions of a ~ (Green New Deal, etc.)

### vision of Shangri-la

the monastery appeared as the archetypal ~ (Bulgaria)

♦ "The name Kyirong means 'the village of happiness' and it really deserves the name. I shall never cease thinking of this place with yearning, and if I can choose where to pass the evening of my life, it will be Kyirong. There I would build myself a house of red cedarwood and have one of the rushing mountain streams running through my garden, in which every kind of fruit would grow..." (From Heinrich Harrer's *Seven Years in Tibet*, published in 1953. Though Harrer doesn't explicitly mention Shangri-la, for him it seemed to be Kyirong.)

♦ "The scene was unforgettably dramatic. In the background was the immense massif, scoured by three mighty glaciers... She had long pigtailed, and her hair was decorated with amulets made of yellowed amber; on her arms she wore bracelets of braided silver. I thought then I had never seen anything quite so beautiful. There was distant birdsong...and some of the yaks wore bells, which pealed slightly... Tiny puffs of cloud laced in the summer sunshine, their shadows briefly darkening the grassland. I wanted to stay here, my own Shangri-la among the hills, for always. / But we had to cross the Chola hills..." (*The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze, and Back in Chinese Time*, by Simon Winchester, published in 1996. The last two chapters are set in western China.)

♦ "[T]he monastery appeared as the archetypal vision of Shangri-la: a rhapsody of warm and sensuous colors, topped by domes, roofs, and a medieval tower, clashing perfectly with the austere, sylvan tones of the landscape. The sunlight shone through dark and towering pine trees as Nadia [whom he later describes as an attractive, intelligent woman] led me up the hillside. Bands of mist, which made me think of high ideals, floated between the peaks. Everywhere I heard the sound of mountain torrents." (From *Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* by the great travel writer, journalist and political analyst Robert D. Kaplan. He experienced his vision of Shangri-la at the Rila Monastery in Bulgaria.)

♦ "Buncombe County voters have picked Democrats in presidential elections since 2008, often against the red tide of the surrounding region. Buncombe County currently has an all-Democrat commission, and for some, Asheville represents something of a 'liberal Shangri-La,' as one political scientist put it." ("Why is Trump coming to Asheville?" by Sarah Honosky, *Asheville Citizen Times*, Wednesday, August 14, 2024. Asheville is actually more like a woke "La-La land,"

as Asheville shares with cities like San Francisco all the problems of drug addiction, homelessness, political progressivism, anarchism, and violence.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The novel *Lost Horizon* by James Hilton was set in Tibet and published in 1933. Shangri-la was a fictional place in the Kunlun Mountains.

♦ see also *heaven (environment, food, etc.), paradise (noun)*

## shape (in fighting shape, etc.)

stay in fighting shape

the report styles STEM as a shot of anabolics to ~

♦ "The report styles STEM as a shot of anabolics our workforce needs to stay in fighting shape." (Education. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.)

♦ CEO Margaret Low of WBUR, in a staff memo announcing "a significant reorganization" to include layoffs, wrote that that it was necessary to be "in fighting shape to deliver on big ambitions."

## shape (form)

shape of her life

what people want from her has defined the ~ (Britney)

very different shape

harassment takes a ~, this can look like ...

## shape (condition)

financial shape

airlines aren't in ~ to back a new industry (biofuels)

fiscal shape

we are in better ~ now (politics)

in good shape

baseball is ~

## shape (verb)

shaped Joe Biden

the political mistakes and personal scars that ~

shape a (desired) behavior

teachers can ~

shaped its course

the First Fleet weighed anchor and ~ for Tenerife

shaped a course

the two ships ~ across the Indian Ocean to Cape Guardafui

shape the future

a battle that could ~ of home cinema (standard)

shaped my life

it was incredible, it ~ (a Norwegian boarding school)

shape our lives

the unseen influences that ~

shapes the lives

the volcano ~ of everyone who lives in its shadow

shape the narrative

TikTok has helped ~ of the election (2020)

shape public perception

he wants his surrogates to ~ (politics)

shaping prices

it's ECON 101, not the white House, that's ~ (gas)

shaped our world

firsthand accounts of events that ~ (BBC witness history)

shaping our world

the events ~, delivered daily (a New York Times ad)

shape and manipulate

algorithms ~ (filter bubbles)

♦ "We shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us." (Winston Churchill, urging MPs to re-create the House of Commons—which had been bombed in the war—as an exact replica.)

♦ "As much as we shape the AI we are training, the idea is one day it will shape us, too." (A bad thought.)

## shaped (shaped by coal, etc.)

shaped by coal

the 19th century was ~

shaped by oil

the 20th century was ~

shaped by natural gas

the 21st century may well be ~ (energy)

## shaped (anvil-shaped, etc.)

anvil-shaped

the Geneva Spur is an ~ rib of black rock (Everest)

doughnut-shaped

a tokamak, the large ~ machine

H-shaped

an ~ piece of medical tape

## shaped (H-shaped, etc.)

H-shaped

an ~ piece of medical tape

## shard (The Shard, etc.)

the Shard

~ was designed by Renzo Piano (London building)

## shark (thrown to the sharks)

thrown to the sharks

Alberto has been ~ (unproven allegations of doping)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be thrown to the sharks. Or thrown to the wolves. Or thrown under the bus. Or hung out to dry. Or crucified. Or have your head stuck on a stake. Or be made a scapegoat. Take your pick!

## shark (predation)

loan shark

see *loan shark*

financial shark

he is a ~ who downsizes companies

full of sharks

elite summer basketball is ~ (AAU coaches)

world of sharks

my father was very naïve, it's a ~, he didn't protect himself

attracts sharks

whenever money is being made illegally, it ~ (drugs)

♦ "Back home I was a big fish in a small pond, but in Miami I'm just a minnow surrounded by sharks." (A model.)

♦ "The [BBC], once a shark in the media pond, is now a mere sardine in a media ocean." (Clever writing from BBC Six O'Clock News, 26/05/2022.)

♦ "What I have realised in the past two years, the tour and everything that comes with it, it's not a very nice, trusting and safe space. You have to be on guard because there are a lot of sharks out there. I think people in the industry, especially with me because I was 19, now 20, they see me as a piggybank. It has been difficult to navigate. I have been burned a few times. I have learned, keep your circle as small as possible." (The tennis player Emma Raducanu.)

♦ "I would have to say that probably he was as sharp and shrewd a wheeler-dealer in a sport that's full of sharks...he was like the head shark. He was the biggest shark with the sharpest teeth and, you know, umm, he could never quite completely beat [Bob] Arum at that game." (Boxing writer Bernard Fernandez about the great boxing promoter Don King. From *Powerplay: The House of Don King*, Episode 6, BBC Sounds. Super!)

♦ "There is no such thing as shark-infested waters, in the same way that there is no such thing as a child-infested school. You cannot infest your own home... Beware an ExxonMobil-infested State Department; beware a fossil-fuel-infested politics." ("The Fin And The Fury: Beware of sharkless waters" by Katherine Rundell, *The New Yorker*, August 5, 2024.)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. Question: Why didn't the shark eat the lawyer? Answer: Professional courtesy!

\*\*\* **Tamayo Perry, etc.**

♦ "Can people smell sharks around??? I don't know if it's my imagination but I swear I can smell when they're around." (A Facebook post in 2009 by Tamayo Perry, renowned surfer, lifeguard, waterman...)

♦ Eddie Would Go.

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "I am a stupid girl from a little village." (An Eastern European girl, forced to work in an Israeli brothel.)

**sharp (skills, etc.)**

sharp

his skills are still ~

**sharp (speech)**

sharp words

the officer exchanges ~ with a man

**sharpen (verb)**

sharpen her concentration

the extreme pressure only seemed to ~ (Wimbledon)

sharpen our instincts

we must ~ for empathy

sharpen their knives

Madrid's media ~ (a soccer controversy)

sharpen his skills

he took a kayaking clinic to ~

sharpen wit

the prospect of death can ~

**sharp-tongued**

sharp-tongued

she's a ~ woman...

**shatter (emotions)**

shattered (people's) hopes

they ~ of seeing their country become a democracy

shatter (the enemy's) nerve

the objective is to ~ (shock and violence)

shatter her self-esteem

it will ~

**shatter (destroy)**

shattered the (fragile) calm

the attack ~ that had descended on Tel Aviv

shatter our image

it does kind of ~ of Taos (crimes)

shattered stability

the country's first-ever coup in 1999 ~

shatter stereotypes

Tunisia's liberal social policies ~ of the Arab world

shattered the family's life

her daughter's rape and death ~

shatter everyday life

drugs and crime ~

**shattered (mentally, etc.)**

mentally shattered

he returned from the war ~

**shattered (destroyed)**

shattered by the (Sept. 11) attacks

that illusion was ~

confidence (in United) is shattered

his ~ (airline delays)

illusion was shattered

that ~ by the Sept. 11 attacks

**shattering (emotions)**

confidence-shattering

trying to overcome a ~ rookie year (basketball)

**shattering (ear-shattering, etc.)**

ear-shattering

he heard an ~ noise

earth-shattering

the potential is ~

**shave (removal)**

shave billions off their taxes

companies know how to ~

## shed (verb)

shed (36,000) jobs  
the economy ~ last month

shed the pounds  
those who are trying to ~ (dieting)

sheds selves  
who ~, and invents selves, faster than a pop star

♦ see also *slough* (and *sluff* / verb)

## sheep (consciousness)

sheep  
most people are ~

sheep followers  
she just wants to sell a book to her few ~ (politics)

♦ She: And a lot of people had this question, Wait, are other people going? / He: And the families have that kind of fear, what if I'm, you know, if I look around, no one else came with me... So it's a collective-action problem, we all have to step forward at the same time... They would be able to act as a collective. (The angst some parents suffer trying to select the best public grade-school for their kids in New York City and its environs. High schools have open houses to sign-up such parents.)

♦ "What to know about mouth taping, the viral wellness trend that has people taping their mouths shut at night" by Katie Kindelan, ABC, Nov. 7, 2022.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's joy, relief and safety in conformity." (Virtue signalling, Trans women are women, rap music and graffiti are art, tributes to murdered Black rappers, Blacks are overpoliced, "it's not enough to be non-racist, you must be anti-racist," Native land acknowledgements, etc.)

♦ "Kevin Durant latest sport star to own pickleball franchise."

♦ "Sheep" + "People" = "sheeple"

♦ see also *pack* (*unanimity*)

## sheep (predation)

sheep  
we won't be ~, we're going to be lions (self-defense)

spineless sheep  
another class of ~ being led to the slaughter (YDS / Yale)

prey on the sheep  
there are a lot of wolves in here who will ~ (prison)

♦ "He instantly sized her up as a lamb." (A predatory direct salesman. Versus a bull, owl, or tiger. With a bull, the salesman must meet force with force, stand his ground and redirect. Owls are tough sells. Tigers must be reassured they are getting the very latest technology or features. From "The Hard Sell: A door-to-door salesman's quest to rebrand his profession" by Tad Friend, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022. Products direct salesmen sell door to door nowadays are roofing, pest control, and solar panels.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Death devours lambs as well as sheep." (Infant mortality.)

## sheep (sequence, series)

count sheep  
some people ~ to get to sleep

♦ "Five times over I have drawn a man with a spade, 'Un Becheur,' in different positions, twice a sower, twice a girl with a broom. Then a

woman with a white cap who is peeling potatoes, and a shepherd leaning on his staff, and finally an old sick farmer sitting on a chair near the hearth, with his head in his hands and his elbows on his knees. And of course I shall not stop at that; when a few sheep have crossed the bridge the whole flock follows." (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

## shelf (Sahul Shelf, etc.)

Shelf Creek  
~ is a stream in Larimer County, Colorado

Shelf Glacier  
~ is a glacier in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

Shelf Lake  
~ is a lake in Ravalli County, Montana  
~ is a lake in Custer County, Idaho  
~ is a lake in Skagit County, Washington

Chandalar Shelf  
the ~ is a plain in North Slope Borough, Alaska

Dark Valley Shelf  
the ~ is a bench in Garfield County, Utah

Death Canyon Shelf  
the ~ is a bench in Teton County, Wyoming

Sahul Shelf  
the ~, that shallow ledge of ocean floor...

Sunda Shelf  
the islands of the ~

## shelf (ice shelf, etc.)

ice shelf  
they anchored to the floating ~

continental shelf  
the ~ dives down...

## shelf life (and sell-by date)

shelf life on coaches  
the ~ has never been shorter (winning and losing)

short shelf life  
rappers seem to have a ~ (murdered)

has shelf life  
he ~, he will last (a philosopher)

rushing past its sell-by date  
he's twenty-eight, and his boyish appeal is ~

♦ "Rappers seem to have a short shelf life for some odd reason." (Message-board snark.)

♦ "Everyone has a shelf life and serves a purpose with this couple. They are always on the lookout for the bigger better deal." (An online commenter about a celebrity couple and their alliances.)

♦ "They are equally past their sell-by date." (Binyamin Netanyahu and Mahmoud Abbas.)

♦ "There is nothing more difficult than to be a stepson of the time; there is no heavier fate than to live in an age that is not your own..." (Krymov, from *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part 1, Chapter 12.)

## shell (mental health)

shell

he came back a ~, like a ghost (soldier)

## shell (substance)

shell company

~s for the tax evader and money launderer

## shell (shell of his former self, etc.)

shell of that fighter

now he's just a ~ he once was (Anthony Joshua)

shell of his former self

Green returned to the ring, but he was a ~ (boxing)

## shell (protection)

thick shell

you do have to have a very ~ as a boxer because...

underneath the (granite) shell

~ there was a sometimes unbearable sensitivity

come out of his shell

she encouraged him to ~ during his teenage years

come out of my shell

I was a shy person who needed to ~ (got into boxing)

came out of my shell

that's when my life began and I ~ (gay leaves home)

stayed inside my shell

I ~ for the first two or three weeks (summer camp)

♦ A FUNNY JOKE. "I phoned my Mum the other day, she said she'd got a new dog. Apparently, he's a bit shy, but he's coming out of his shell now. I said, 'Mum, that's not a dog!'"

## shellshocked (and shell-shocked)

shellshocked

I was so ~, I left the building by the wrong exit (interview)

shellshocked by the moment

I'm not someone who's going to be ~ (reserve QB starts)

shell-shocked ranks

there is no sign of any divisions within the DUP's ~

shell-shocked Barca side

a ~ was unable to fashion any serious response

looked shellshocked

he ~ in court (a celebrity who was arrested for rape)

Liverpool players ~ after that loss (to Newcastle United)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "This man took part in the Mons retreat, battle of the Marne, battle of the Aisne, and the first and second battles of Ypres. He also fought at Hill 60, Neuve Chapelle, Loos and Armentieres... When I saw him nine months later he was mute. Many attempts had been made to cure him. He had been strapped down in a chair for twenty minutes at a time, when strong electricity was applied to his neck and throat; lighted cigarette ends had been applied to the tip of his tongue and 'hot plates' had been placed at the back of his mouth. Hypnotism had been tried. But all these methods proved to be unsuccessful in restoring his voice." ("DISORDERS OF SPEECH / Case A1—

MUTISM / PRIVATE, 24 YEARS OF AGE. From *Hysterical Disorders of Warfare* by Lewis Ralph Yealland, M.D.)

## shelter (verb)

sheltered the terrorist

Pakistan denied that it had ~

## shelve (verb)

shelved its mascot

the university has ~

shelved the plan

Beijing officials have ~ to redevelop the neighborhood

♦ Abandon; ax; call off; cancel; mothball; scrap; shelve; withhold... ("Warner Bros. shelved 'Coyote vs. Acme.' Here's why some finished films are mothballed" by Joe Hernandez, NPR, March 7, 2024. Films that cost \$70 million and even \$90 million to make have suffered this fate.)

## shepherd (verb)

shepherding the (main) bill through the Senate

he is ~ (US)

shepherded me through the medina

he ~ (Fez guide)

♦ "She played nursemaid to the bill, shepherding it through..." (Legislature.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The shepherds were heading to their homes, the birds were returning to their nests, several jets overhead, they controlled the sky..." (A Kurdish villager, speaking about the chemical bombing of his village on April 16, 1987 in Iraq. Operation Anfal, or the Anfal genocide against the Kurds, killed between 50,000 and 182,000 Kurds between 1986 and 1989, with its high point in 1988. From "Genocide Trial Hears from Anfal Victim," Tom Bullock, NPR News, August 22, 2006.)

## sheriff (new sheriff in town)

new sheriff in town

this is more of a Biden thing, there's a ~ (diplomacy)

## Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes

I used to call her ~ (journalist Lyra McKee)

SHERLOC

~ will hunt for clues in Martian rocks

~ will work in tandem with WATSON, a camera (Mars)

♦ SHERLOC = Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman & Luminescence for Organics & Chemicals. WATSON = Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and eNginEering. Cute!

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "'How are you? You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive.' Sherlock Holmes' first words to Dr Watson in 'A Study in Scarlet' are among the most famous introductory lines in literature..." ("The REAL Dr Watson: The Victorian army medic who was the inspiration for Sherlock's trusty sidekick" by Annabel Venning, *Daily Mail*, Feb 1st 2012.)

♦ "No shit, Sherlock..." (Sarcasm.)

♦ "No s-t, Sherlock!" (Public bathrooms are disgusting in New York City.)

## Sherpa (verb)

"sherpa" John Kelly through the nomination process

he was selected to ~ for DHS secretary (Kirstjen Nielsen)



♦ The quote “‘sherpa’ John Kelly through the nomination process” comes from “‘We Need to Take Away Children’ by Caitlin Dickerson, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022. The Design Director, Oliver Munday, touts the article as “the longest feature *The Atlantic* has published in a single issue in decades”—as if it were comparable to “Hiroshima” by John Hersey in the *New Yorker*—and writes, “The art for this article employs the aesthetics of bureaucracy...” In the same issue you can read “The Case for Bodice Ripping” by Sophie Gilbert. “Sherpa.” “Aesthetic.” “Bodice Ripping.” Trendy language...

## Sherpa (noun)

‘Sherpa’ for a Supreme Court nominee  
what it’s like to be a ~ (NPR)

G20 “Sherpas”  
~, officials who do the donkey work on summits...

sobriety Sherpa  
he was my ~ (rehab)

Twitter sherpa  
his ~ looked nervous (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson)

Michael Pack and his Sherpa  
she boasted that she was “very close to ~”

serves as Trump’s G7 “Sherpa”  
Larry Kudlow, who also ~ (NPR’s Bobby Allyn)

♦ Wealthy Bobos expect to be catered to by Sherpas, concierges, elementary schools, universities, etc. (Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

### \*\*\* For the fight between Sherpas and Westerners...

♦ For the fight on Mount Everest between Sherpas and Westerners, see the Wikipedia article “Mount Everest in 2013.”

♦ “They have often been rendered invisible by the global lens and have seldom received their due.” (“How Climbers Reached the Summit of K2 in Winter for the First Time” by Adam Skolnick and Bhadra Sharma, *The New York Times*, Jan. 19, 2021. The writers’ claims are ludicrous but good contempo-speak.)

♦ “Malay accused of ‘erasing’ Sherpa’s act of courage.” (On Mount Everest. See “Expedition company refutes Sherpa’s account of heroic Everest rescue” by Maroosha Muzaffar, Independent.co.uk. The case of Gelje Sherpa.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The writer and compiler of this work detests the figurative usage of this word, except when it must be used to disparage people who use it.

♦ See “‘Adjusting Appropriately’ To Words That Hurt” by Jeanine Santucci, Opinion, NPR, Language, August 8, 2018. Written by an intern. Words mentioned include “scalp,” “Sherpa,” “spook,” and “guru.”

♦ “One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one’s own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs.” (“Politics And The English Language” by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ “It’s all bullshit on Everest these days.” (Sir Edmund Hillary in an interview with *The Guardian* in 2003. And it just gets deeper every year.)

## shibboleth (noun)

shibboleths  
these are not official regulations, they’re more ~

shibboleth of political correctness  
“everyone has rights” is a ~

shibboleth of old thinking  
heavy tanks are seen as a ~ (the military)

shibboleth in American politics  
it’s hard to think of any greater ~ (middle class)

educational shibboleth  
“learning styles” has become an ~

political shibboleth  
the “right of return” has remained a ~ (Palestinians)

liberal and conservative shibboleths  
empirical evidence vs ~ (voting patterns)

shibboleths and clichés  
the ~ of conventional Washington punditry

shibboleth—a rule—  
there is a ~ in the movie business, that...

myths and the shibboleths  
the project breaks down the ~ surrounding the Irish famine

abandon another (long held republican) shibboleth  
he was ready to ~ (Northern Ireland)

cling to the shibboleths  
they ~ that have spelled disaster (South Africa)

jab at the shibboleths  
he took a populist line to ~

took root as a shibboleth  
this early finding ~

♦ “The contrast between the enormous popularity of the learning-styles approach within education and the lack of credible evidence for its utility is, in our opinion, striking and disturbing.” (Quoted in “Forget What You Know About Good Study Habits,” by Benedict Carey, *The New York Times*, September 6, 2010.)

♦ “There’s no evidence to support the conventional wisdom that kids can be auditory or visual learners.” (“Think You’re An Auditory or Visual Learner? Scientists Say It’s Unlikely,” by Patti Neighmond, NPR, Morning Edition, August 29, 2011.)

♦ “One of the biggest surprises from Dr. LeDoux’s work is that there may be no such thing as the limbic system—a hypothetical construct of pathways in the forebrain, which contains the hippocampus, amygdala and a few other tiny structures that has been supposed to underlie emotion and motivation.” (“Using Rats to Trace Anatomy of Fear, Biology of Emotion,” by Sandra Blakeslee, *The New York Times*, November 5, 1996.)

♦ “If you pay attention to education trends, you know that a lot of talk these days is about grit. This idea that passion and persistence are really important traits in kids, rather than IQ or natural talent. And, the thinking goes, helping kids to be more gritty makes them more likely to succeed. Now, a new study says, we should care less about grit. To talk about this, we are joined by Anya Kamenetz...” (“MacArthur ‘Genius’ Angela Duckworth Responds To A New Critique Of Grit” by Anya Kamenetz, NPR, All Things Considered, May 25, 2016.)

♦ “The brain loves peppermint!” (A North Carolina teacher-trainer and devotee of “brain-based, evidence-based” educational research, encouraging teacher-trainees to hand out peppermint in class to promote learning.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “SHIBBOLETH: *test word for the enemy* / *Shibboleth*, as we know, is a test word or pet phrase of a party or a word or phrase distinguishing the adherents of a party or sect, as ‘lower tariff is the *shibboleth* of the Democratic party.’ The modern meaning of the word *shibboleth* (which is the Hebrew word for an ear of corn), comes to us from an old Biblical tale. The Gileadites were fighting the Ephraimites at the Jordan Fords. Some of the Ephraimites infiltrated the lines and posed as friends. But, the Gileadites under their general Jephthah were suspicious. A captain called one of the intruders into his tent

and cross-questioned him: 'Sany now *Shibboleth*,' he commanded, and we are now quoting Judges XII, 6: 'And he said *Sibboleth*, for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took and slew him.' In like fashion in our World War II it was general practice in areas where United States troops were in contact with the Japanese, to employ test words containing an 'l' sound—such as Llewellyn, lollipop, lollapalooza, Kalamazoo—inasmuch as the Japanese have difficulty in pronouncing our sound 'l,' usually giving it the sound of 'r.' Through the use of these test words it was also possible to expose Japanese who were posing as Chinese since, curiously, the Chinese had difficulty in pronouncing the sound 'r' and usually give that letter the 'l' sound. So there is little that is new under the sun." (*Word Origins And their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 16, "Terms Of Religion And Their Beginnings.")

♦ Education teacher-training courses are full of shibboleths.

## shield (on one's shield)

go-out-on-his-shield kind of guy  
he's a ~ (the boxer Deontay Wilder)

go out on my shield  
I just wish my corner had let me ~ (a boxer / towel)

went out on his shield like a man  
Amir Khan ~ (in his fight against "Canelo" Alvarez)

♦ "He got all of our respect... He went out on his shield on this one." (Beterbiev's cut man Russ Amber about Yarde.)

♦ "He went out on his shield, and that's what you want as a fight fan." (Eddie "The Bright Side Guy" Hearn about Daniel Dubois' demolition of Anthony Joshua.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A member of the audience: "In Aristophanes' comic play, *Lysistrata*, the women go on sex strike as a way of ending the Peloponnese War. Do you think we would be as warlike if women were in charge?" [Delighted laughter and clapping from the audience.] / Margaret MacMillan: "It's such a good question. My brief answer is no. [Nervous laughter from audience.] You know, the Peloponnesian war, it was the Spartan mothers who said, 'Come back bearing your shield or on it....' I'm not sure that women are by nature kinder or gentler." (Margaret MacMillan, "War and Humanity," the Reith Lectures, BBC. She is the author of *War: How Conflict Shaped Us*.)

## shield (verb)

shielded your fellow citizens from danger  
you have ~ (the military)

## shield (noun)

shield from the (sun's harmful) rays  
ozone provides a protective ~

shield over what  
the law provides tech companies a ~ their users post online

Europe's shield  
EU chief says Greece is ~ in migrant crisis

missile shield  
the first step in deploying a ~  
a global ~ won't work

missile defense shield  
U.S. testing of a ~

Desert Shield  
the ~ buildup before the Persian Gulf War

global (missile) shield

a ~ won't work

## human shield

rebels used men, women and children as ~s  
Saddam's loyalists are using Iraqi civilians as ~  
his supporters have offered themselves up as ~s

## legal shield

Section 230 is a key ~ that protects tech platforms

## protective shield

ozone provides a ~ from the sun's harmful rays

## human and religious shields

the Iraqis have used ~ (Iraqi Freedom)

## sword and shield

the "~~" version of WWII (de Gaulle and Petain)

## testing of a (missile defense) shield

U.S. ~

♦ "Anonymity is often necessary as a shield for victims but opposing counsel has used it as a sword to publicly humiliate our client." (Statement from a lawyer.)

## shift (change)

## political shift

there has been a big ~

## shifting (adjective)

## shifting narrative

growing frustration over the ~ about the mass shooting

## shifty (adjective)

## shifty character

she's a ~, watch out...

## shine (noun)

a little of the shine  
~ had now been taken off his halo (a politician)

## shining (superlative)

## shining examples

these men stand as ~ of bravery

## shining paragons

~ of American boyhood (scouts)

## ship (allyship, etc.)

## allyship

see *allyship (groups)*

## co-conspiratorship

allyship & ~ as a verb...

## kinship

see *kinship (noun)*

## ownership

see *ownership (noun)*

## ship (ship of state, etc.)

ship of state

the protesters wish to sink the ~

ship of state (itself) founders

the ~ when those commanded to speak remain silent

sink the ship of state

the protesters wish to ~

steer and stabilize the ship

a government that can ~ through the economic crisis

### \*\*\* "The Building of the Ship"

♦ "Thus," said he, "will we build this ship! / Lay square the blocks upon the slip, / And follow well this plan of mine. / Choose the timbers with greatest care; / Of all that is unsound beware; / For only what is sound and strong / To this vessel shall belong. / Cedar of Maine and Georgia pine / Here together shall combine. / A goodly frame, and a goodly fame, / And the Union be her name! ("The Building of the Ship" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.)

♦ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Building of the Ship" is a terrific poem. Franklin Delano Roosevelt wrote out by hand the following lines from it in a message he sent to Winston Churchill, and Churchill used those same lines in a speech broadcast to the English people: "Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State! / Sail on, O Union, strong and great! / Humanity with all its fears, / With all the hopes of future years, / Is hanging breathless on thy fate!"

## ship (ship of the desert / the camel)

"ships of the desert"

many Australian farmers keep the country's prolific ~

## ship (tight ship, etc.)

ship of their research

they caulked up every seam in the ~

run a (very) tight ship

we ~ (a company with many rules)

steering the ship

some believe he was actually ~ (a vice-president)

♦ "Well, I would know. I'm the executive sales manager... We run a pretty tight ship here." (The character Jerry Lundegaard from the 1996 film *Fargo*. Watch YouTube- *Fargo* - car dealership scene)

## ship (abandon ship / jump ship)

abandon ship

it's time to ~ (a failing company)

jump ship

Serge Gnabry is another key player who could ~ (soccer)

jumping ship

a lot of investors are ~

jumped her party's ship

she ~ (went from Democrat side to Republican side)

♦ "A North Carolina Democrat reportedly jumped her party's ship Tuesday, cementing the Republican supermajority in the state House of Representatives." (Democrats condemned her as "a traitor," "a spy," and "turncoat Tricia" and her action as "a betrayal" and "deceit of the highest order." She said she switched sides because the Democrats were "close-minded bullies.")

### \*\*\* Lord Jim...

♦ "You must remember he believed, as any other man would have done in his place, that the ship would go down at any moment..." (Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad. The *Patna*, of course, did *not* go down.)

## ship (sink the ship)

sink the ship

the protesters wish to ~ of state

## ship (a sinking ship)

Vietnam ship

Thomas Hughes was on board when the ~ went down...

leave a sinking ship

what a fool, he had a chance to ~ (sour soccer fan)

♦ "Indian unity by British rule will swiftly perish... The great ship is sinking in the calm sea. Those who should have devoted their utmost efforts to keep her afloat have instead opened the sea-cocks." (Winston Churchill in a speech in 1946.)

## ship (right the ship, etc.)

right the ship

we'll see if the company can ~ (financial problems)

I hope they give him a lot of time to ~ (new coach)

righted the ship

he ~ (a troubled government agency)

his polls were shaky, he was sagging, but he has ~

right our (fiscal) ship

we must ~ (budget)

steady the ship

even Messi was unable to ~ (loss to Liverpool)

steadied the ship

his performance more than ~ (politician at debate)

♦ "Now-on-strike donors like Columbia alum Robert Kraft, Harvard's Bill Ackman and so on should expect to *stay* on strike for a very long time until the boards of their alma maters not only commit to righting the ships, but show major progress in getting back on course." ("The rot in US academia extends to most of every faculty" by Post Editorial Board, *The New York Post*, April 23, 2024.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "How do you manage risk through both chaos and calm?" (A half-page advertisement for CME Group in *The Economist*, May 1st 2021. It shows a ship, tossing on stormy seas, in the black. It then shows the ship in the blue, on a calm sea. The text goes on to say, "You can't control the changing tide of the markets, but we can help you navigate it... We deliver nearly one billion data points daily, informing the insight you need...")

## ship (turn the ship, etc.)

turn the ship around

he is struggling to ~ (a soccer manager)

## ship (ship has sailed, etc.)

boat has sailed

I think that ~ (that the US can dominate the Pacific)

boat sailed long ago

AJ v Tyson, surely that ~ (a boxing commenter)

ship has sailed

that ~ (no regrets now)

that ~, we've missed the window (to stop global warming)

ship has (long since) sailed

the civility ~ in American politics (2019)  
that ~ (that college sports are amateur)

♦ Golden\_Nuggets: Joshua, please retire before you embarrass our nation anymore. / Spinoza (to Golden\_Nuggets): That ship has failed unfortunately. (Boxing snark on a BBC HYS about the second fight between Oleksandr Usyk and Anthony Joshua.)

♦ "Your dad loved her very much. If there was one other cat in this world that could have loved her and treated her as well as your dad, then it was me. But, unfortunately, for yours truly, that train has sailed." (Austin Powers to Vanessa Kensington from the film *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*. A hilarious mixing of metaphors!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "That train has left the station." "That ship has sailed." Take your pick!

## ship (launched a thousand ships)

engender a thousand conversations  
this acutely argued book will ~ (a blurb)

launched a thousand academic careers  
his book ~ and plenty of opaque jargon... (*Orientalism*)

launched a thousand copies  
the Chanel jacket that ~...

launched a thousand (magazine) covers  
the clean-cut matinee idol who ~ (Dirk Bogarde)

launched a thousand think pieces  
it was the song that ~ ("I Kissed A Girl")

launched a thousand takes  
the leak ~ (of a cache of nude celebrity photos)

launches 1,000 conspiracy theories  
it will be a snafu that ~ (2020 Iowa caucus results)

launched a thousand jokes and memes  
this bipartisan hope that has ~ (infrastructure)

sparked a thousand arguments  
The Wing: how an exclusive women's club ~

♦ "This is the face and bod that launched a plus-sized bra-haha." (A picture of model Ashley Graham in an article by Jennifer Bain in *The New York Post*.)

## ship out (remove)

ship him out  
they wanted to ~, and this was their opportunity (dismissal)

## shipwreck (noun)

shipwreck of my conscience  
I would not make a ~ (Paulet, 1587)

♦ see also *train wreck*

## shirt (lose one's shirt)

lost their shirts  
they ~ when the market crashed

## shit (and bullshit / verb)

bullshit  
we don't play games, we don't ~ (windsurfer Poles)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Don't bullshit me!

♦ Stop bullshitting me!

## shit (and bullshit / noun)

bullshit on Everest  
it's all ~ these days (Sir Edmund Hillary / 2003)

spout BS  
she has free license to ~ (Jennifer Rubin)

talking shit  
people ~

♦ "a lot of casuals have been coming here lately just talking shit I can't wait for them to fuck off" (A boxing fan on reddit's "post fight thread Anthony Joshua vs Oleksandr Usyk." The opposite of "casual" fans would be hardcore, knowledgeable fans.)

♦ "Boolschidt! This whole thing was scripted." (Politics. The spelling of "bullshit," of course, escapes the algorithm.)

♦ "Jennifer Rubin is a prime example of what is wrong with MSM. Completely unhinged liberal with free license from her employer to spout BS." (An online commenter.)

## shiver (noun)

send a shiver through Congress  
the news will likely ~ (Congressmen get coronavirus)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone shivers when fearful.)

## shoal (noun)

shoals of theology and cosmology  
Lyell had tried to avoid the ~ (*Principles of Geology*)

foundering on the shoals  
he finds himself ~ of issues around race (a politician)

run aground on the shoals  
the promises have ~ of changing sex ratios

## shock (verb)

shocked the world  
Ireland ~ by announcing... (dispute with Vatican)

shocks and terrifies  
violence ~ even the best-trained troops (combat)

offend, shock or disturb  
those that ~ the majority (freedom of expression)

## shock (in shock)

still in shock  
he was ~ but relieved... (survivor of porch collapse)

## shock (feeling)

shock  
9/11 was a ~ that should not have come as a surprise

shock of combat  
 training can lessen the surprise and ~

shock of losing  
 the ~ his dad, there was so much anger (a young man)

shock of prison  
 after the ~ wears off

shock for me  
 it was a ~ and everyone else

shock for the (previously unbeaten) team  
 it was a ~

shock radio  
 for those who enjoy ~

shock resignation  
 the reverberations of his ~ are being felt widely and deeply

shock and delight  
 the winners' ~ (MacArthur Award)

shock or horror or outrage or indignation  
 I could not show ~ (journalist witness to ethnic strife)

family's shock  
 she recalls the ~ when her mother was arrested

culture shock  
 reverse culture shock can worse than the classic ~

sticker shock  
 bracing themselves for ~ (laptop-computer prices)

absolute shock  
 this is an ~ (death of a young athlete)

quite a shock  
 it was ~ (mine disaster)

look of shock  
 I saw the ~ in his face

state of shock  
 we were all in a complete ~ (athlete's sudden death)

anger and shock  
 the ~ (to yet another terrorist bombing)

surprise and shock  
 training can lessen the ~ of combat

shock (of prison) wears off  
 after the ~

lessen the (surprise and) shock  
 training can ~ of combat

come as a shock  
 I know this may ~ to you...  
 it may ~ to people...

reeling from the shock  
 the staff is still ~ of the shootings

♦ "Cameroon 1-0 Argentina in 1990 was a shock. Saudi Arabia 2-1 Argentina is an electrocution. Incredible. Congratulations, Saudi

Arabia!" BBC commentators on Saudi Arabia 2-Argentina 1 at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Mashallah! "Raise Our Green Flag.")

## shocked (adjective)

shocked  
 not one of the students in the group looked ~

shocked that  
 people are ~ this is so close to home  
 they're kind of ~ her parents are white, and she's not  
 he said that he is ~ a killing could take place there

shocked to see  
 he was ~ so many dead or wounded (combat)

shocked at her appearance  
 they were ~ (eating disorder)

shocked at the prices  
 they may be ~ (rent for assisted living)

shocked at what  
 they are ~ is now happening

shocked when  
 Iraqi commanders were ~ they discovered...

shocked by the attacks  
 Australians were ~ (bombing on Bali)

shocked by the decision  
 he was ~ not to renew his contract (job)

shocked by the (gorilla) killings  
 conservationists were ~ (DR Congo / Virunga)

shocked by the news  
 they were ~ (favorite restaurant closed)

shocked by the number  
 she was ~ of Muslims having surgery to...

shocked by these revelations  
 I was ~ (in the press)

shocked by the (death) toll  
 people were ~ (climbing disaster)

shocked by the verdict  
 I'm ~ (jury lets businessman off)

shocked by the viciousness  
 police were ~ of the attack (hate crime)

shocked silence  
 through it all she sat in ~

shocked and appalled  
 we are ~ by this news (plans to shoot tigers)

shocked and baffled  
 the rap word was ~ by the murder (Jam Master Jay)

shocked and bewildered  
 the ~ passengers (train crash)

shocked, embarrassed and disgusted  
 residents are ~ (town government)

shocked and grief-stricken  
~ relatives of the victims gathered (bus-truck crash)

shocked and outraged  
I was ~

shocked, upset, fearful and angry  
the community is ~ (hate crime)

completely shocked  
I was just completely shocked

definitely shocked  
when I found out, I was ~

genuinely shocked  
I was ~

a little shocked  
he looked ~ that I wasn't ready to go out

♦ "Talk about a bolt from the blue; I'm shocked by this; to say that I am in shock is an understatement; a true shock; a real shock; a big shock; devastated; gutted; stunned; heartbroken; really really surprised; wow; didn't expect this!; didn't see this coming; unexpected news; OMG; No way!; Noooooooooooooooooooooo!; holy \*\*\*\*... (Online commenters about Jurgen Klopp stepping down from Liverpool.)

## shocker (noun)

honeymoon shocker  
couples who encounter the "~" (a snoring spouse)

## shocking (feeling, emotion and effect)

shocking  
the mismanagement and incompetence is ~  
the firing was surprising but not ~ (Notre Dame coach)

shocking crime  
it was a ~ (a murder)

shocking defeat  
they talked about his ~ of Lewis (boxing)

shocking news  
the ~ is...

shocking scenes  
~ of dead or terrified children (Chechen terrorism)

shocking story  
he related a ~

shocking upset  
at the conclusion of the ~ (football)

shocking and inflammatory (m)  
desecration of the Koran is a ~ act

## shock troops (supporters)

shock troops  
progressives rally their ~ and rile up their donor bases

shock troops of a new order  
the young can readily serve as the ~ (Gen Z / wokeism)

♦ "All of these appointees are meant to bolster Trump's effort to lay waste to the officials and the institutions that he has come to despise or regard as threats to his power or person. These appointees are not

intended to be his advisers. They are his shock troops." (David Remnick, squawking from his perch as editor of *The New Yorker*. From "Cabinet Of Wonders," *The Talk Of The Town*, *The New Yorker*, November 25, 2024.)

## shock wave (noun)

shockwave of trauma  
this decision has caused a ~ across the church (Methodists)

economic shock waves  
we're talking about massive ~ (business)

send shock waves through the market  
such a drastic step would ~

sent shock waves through French politics  
the poll ~ (strength of right)

sent shock waves through the American psyche  
Tet ~ (Vietnam War)

sent shockwaves through the skiing world  
his death ~ (Doug Coombs)  
the arrests have ~ (blood doping)

sent shockwaves through the sport  
their bans ~ (sports doping)

sent shock waves around the globe  
the dramatic plunge of the Web site ~

sent shock waves across India  
the brutal rape and killing ~ (of a student nurse)

sent shock waves rippling  
the discovery of sperm whales ~ through Nantucket

set off shock waves with his statement  
he ~

♦ "There is no dearth of prose describing the mass of humanity that made its way to the feet of the Great Emancipator that day; no metaphor that has slipped through the cracks waiting to be discovered, dusted off, and injected into the discourse a half century on. The March on Washington has been compared to a tsunami, a shock wave, a wall, a living monument, a human mosaic, an outright miracle. / It was all of those things..." (*Behind the Dream: The Making of the Speech that Transformed a Nation* by the fine writer Clarence B. Jones.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "In some sectors the Russians captured pillboxes that appeared to have sustained only moderate structural damage, only to find the entire Finnish garrison stone dead inside, without visible wounds of any kind except for rivulets of frozen blood from their nostrils, ears, and eye sockets. These men had died from the cumulative effects of sheer concussion." (*Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War Of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter.)

♦ "And as we got up, we were slapping each other on the back and thanking God that we made it, and whatever hit us didn't destroy us... And only then, because of the screams from the building 75 yards away, and also the screams from the marines outside yelling for us to come help, we realized we had only suffered the shock wave, the shock blast..." (A Navy chaplain about the 1983 Beirut barracks bombings that left over 200 dead. The chaplain had initially thought his barracks had been hit by a shell. It was the greatest daily toll of marines since Iwo Jima, and, like Pearl Harbor, the attack happened on a Sunday morning. Some consider the bombing the start on the "war on terror." See also the Wikipedia article "1985 Beirut car bombings.")

♦ see also *blast radius* (noun)



## shoe (a shoe can drop or fall)

next shoe

what's the ~ to drop, what happens next

the other shoe

people wait for the other ~ to drop (occupation)

a horrifying shoe

there's a sense ~ is just waiting to drop (Mara Liasson)

shoe has fallen

now that the ~, where will he go (fired)

expect another shoe to drop

the scandal is not going away, after the New Year, ~

waited for the other shoe to drop

his colleagues ~ (investigation)

♦ "I think there's a next shoe to drop, I just don't know what, where, when or how." (Sports talk.)

## shoe (in somebody's shoes)

in her shoes

I'm gay, I've been ~

in their shoes

I should be clear that as a journalist I was not ~

put yourself in his shoes

~ (see it from that person's point of view)

put yourself in the other person's shoes

~, you might be more sympathetic

walking in somebody else's shoes

I can't say I'm ~, but I'm not oblivious to it (race)

♦ "I'd like people to put themselves in my shoes and think what it's like to get threats to my family." (Spain striker Alvaro Morata about fan abuse during Euro 2020.)

♦ "You'll never understand what it's like until you've walked a mile in our brain." (A person commenting on an article about a successful, beautiful young woman and ex-athlete who committed suicide.)

## shoe (big shoes)

big shoes

those were definitely some ~ that I had to fill...

## shoe (shoe fits)

shoe fits

if the ~, wear it...

♦ "I never worry about hurting the feelings of the good officers when I draw officer cartoons. I build a shoe, and if somebody wants to put it on and loudly announce that it fits, that's his own affair. / A few of them have done it, to the subsequent enjoyment of the guys who read the letters to the editor in the Mail Call section of *Stars and Stripes*. One poor lieutenant..." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II.)

## shoe (the shoe is on the other foot)

shoe's on the other foot

what might happen to you if the ~

## shoe (a stone in the shoe)

stone in our shoe

Ecuador's president has described him as a ~ (Assange)

stone in Nato's shoe

Turkey is fast becoming a ~ (over Libya)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Someone might be a burr in your saddle. Or a stone in your shoe. Or a pain in the neck. Or a pain in the butt. Or a thorn in your side. Take your pick!

## shoestring (noun)

shoestring budget

NASA supports the ~ to find NEOs

shoestring (\$1 million) budget

its ~ (a film)

## shoot (plant)

shoots of ballet activity

she helped the new ~ that developed (Karsavina)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The term "green shoots" has become trendy lately. See *green shoots*.

## shoot (speech)

shoot first

he tends to ~ and aim second (a politician)

shoot from the hip

people who ~, who tell it like it is...

## shoot (shoot back)

shot back

he ~, "Of course it's easier..." (to criticism)

## shoot (shoot first)

shoot first and ask questions later

investors are likely to ~ (stocks fall on fears)

## shoot (shoot oneself in the foot)

shot himself in the foot

he has ~ again (Colin Kaepernick)

shot themselves in both feet

CNN ~ with this crazy rule and enforcement (a scandal)

shoot our own foot

we would ~ (to antagonize Russia / Republic of Georgia)

♦ "She knew she was shooting herself in the foot politically." (A never-Trump Republican.)

♦ "His tell-all is literary self-harm." (Prince Harry.)

♦ "The internet is a new form of self-inflicted injury."

♦ "So by imposing sanctions, we would never manage to hurt Russian economy, but we would manage to do is to shoot uh our own foot. I mean, what's the point? If you cannot harm Russia, then why should you harm yourself?" (A government official in the Republic of Georgia, where relations with Russians are remarkably cordial, in spite of the conflict over Abkhazia and South Ossetia.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "...the constant danger of attack from Bolshevik forces caused a number of soldiers to intentionally wound themselves for the purpose of evading service at the front; these men were court-martialed, as was a soldier guilty of 'misconduct before the enemy.' Apparently, self-inflicted gunshot wounds were not the only method used to avoid

combat; Pvt. Charles F. Kingan was convicted of contracting 'a venereal disease through neglect thereby unfitting himself for active military duty against the enemy.' Some seventy men were convicted of this last offense; almost all received three months confinement at hard labor to discourage such behavior in the future." ("Bolsheviks, Polar Bears, and Military Law: The Experiences of Army Lawyers in North Russia and Siberia in World War I" by Fred L. Borch III.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. (Mordant.) "A bloke in the Munsters once wanted a cushy, so he waves his hand above the parapet to catch Fritz's attention. Nothing doing. He waves his arms about for a couple of minutes. Nothing doing, not a shot. He puts his elbows on the fire-step, hoists his body upside-down and waves his legs about till he gets blood to the head. Not a shot did old Fritz fire. 'Oh,' says the Munster men, 'I don't believe there's a damned square-head there. Where's the German Army to?' He has a peek over the top—crack! he gets it in the head. Finee.'" (*Good-Bye To All That* by Robert Graves. World War I.)

♦ see also *wound* (self-inflicted wound)

## shoot down (verb)

shoot me down

I do feel like, ~ here if you think it's necessary  
(argument)

## shoot-out (noun)

shoot-out between the two camps

the request set off a ~ (privacy vs. right to know)

## shoot up (verb)

shot up

the price of gas has ~

the price of food has ~

the price of helium has ~

after that, his stock in the village ~ (with Balinese people)

## shore (far shore)

left stranded on the far shore

his system of critical judgment was ~

## shore (resemblance)

shore

Sahel is the Arabic word for "~"

shore of the Sahara Desert

the Sahel is the ~

shore of the salt pan

after reaching the further ~ (Ntsetse in Botswana)

Sahara's southern shore

the Sahel is a band of dry grassland, the ~

## shored up

shored up by dubious data

her books are ~ (Naomi Wolf)

## shore up (verb)

shore up their (criminal) case

the police are working to ~

shore up her confidence

a victory would ~ (athlete)

shore up feelings

a woman's group to ~ of low self-esteem

shore up support

Trump made calls to senators to ~ for his nominee (2024)

## short (a short time, etc.)

short time later

he arrived a ~

## short-circuit (verb)

short-circuit our expectations

she knows how to ~ (a writer)

short-circuited the process

he ~

short-circuited the (traditional campaign) route

he has ~ (billionaire politician and advertising)

## shortcut (verb)

shortcut it

it's a long process, and we can never ~

## shortcut (noun)

shortcut to success

athletes who take a ~ (doping)

safety shortcut

~s led to the oil spill

magical shortcut

joining the military should not be a ~ to hero status

## \*\*\* TRAIL ETIQUETTE...

♦ "Shortcutting" switchbacks is when a person tries to shorten their route by leaving the trail to skip to the next section of the trail. / While tempting, shortcuts result in unsightly and damaging changes to the landscape. Shortcuts exceed the grade (or intended steepness of the trail) resulting in grooves that increase erosion / This erosion damages vegetation and also impacts the designed trail by redirecting water to run down the hillside in unplanned ways..." ("Trail Etiquette" by Respect Marquette County, Jul. 25, 2022. Marquette, Michigan. Super!)

## shorthand (noun)

shorthand for a person

calling someone a Karen has become ~ who...

shorthand term

the ~ 'illegals' is an insult

political shorthand

one word that pops up often in ~ is "reform"

take that shorthand away

I don't want to ~ from them (terms and memes)

## shortsighted

shortsighted to treat

it is ~ addicts as criminals

shortsighted in the extreme

this policy is ~ (self-interest vs. collective good)

shortsighted and dangerous

it would be both ~ to allow...

criticized it as shortsighted  
they ~ (a policy)

## shot (nerves are shot, etc.)

shot  
her nerves are ~, she has no confidence  
(Wimbledon)  
his knees are ~, his back is sore...

♦ "After decades of abuse, the man's shoulders are toast. His knees are shot, his back is sore..." (Arnold Schwarzenegger, who *still* works out at Gold's Gym in Venice, California.)

## shot (shot in the arm, etc.)

shot of adrenaline  
his writing is a ~ that awakens us from our apathy

shot in the arm  
it's a ~ (the encouragement of a research prize)

shot in the arm for the local economy  
this is a ~ (a basketball tournament)

shot in the arm for the MacBook lineup  
its own chip has been a ~ (Apple Silicon)

financial shot in the arm  
this will be a huge ~ (no taxes on tips)

real shot in the arm  
this victory is a ~ (union victory)

gave the industry a shot in the arm  
Disney's Matterhorn Bobsled Ride ~ in 1959

♦ "Citizens of vaccination nation, all those shots in the arm, gave a shot in the arm to the box office this weekend..." (Chris Connelly promoting vaccinations *and* filmgoing for ABC.)

## shot (attempt, opportunity)

shot at advancement  
his son has a better ~ than he faced as a young man

shot at the job  
I thought I had a ~ (job interview)

shot at the peak  
this was their last ~ (mountaineering)

shot at the summit  
helping the other group cost the climbers a ~

shot at the title  
a win would keep him on track for a ~ (boxer)

shot at the (world) championship  
a ~ (boxing)

shot in Orlando  
he knew he had a ~ (to win, at a championship)

title shot  
give Tyson a ~ (boxing)

another shot  
Tyson might get ~ (to fight for championship)

best shot

see *shot* (*best shot*)

first shot  
Tomaz got his ~ at the Himalayas in 1994  
a student reporter will get the ~ (to ask a question)

good shot  
I thought I had a ~ at the job (interview)

last shot  
this was their ~ at the peak (mountaineering);  
a ~ to right a historical wrong (reparations)

one more shot  
at least give it ~ (try)

on track for a shot  
a win would keep him ~ at the title (boxer)

give him a shot  
hopefully somebody will ~ (an athlete)

got a shot  
she finally ~ on the Tonight Show

taken a shot  
at least 7 expeditions had ~ at Gasherbrum IV

cost the climbers a shot  
helping the other group ~ at the summit

## shot (chance)

one-in-a-million shot  
400 times a day, a ~ will occur (probability)

## shot (shot in the dark)

shot in the dark  
deciding which MS drug is something of a ~  
it amounted to a ~ (an Olympic appeal that succeeded)

♦ A former California State prosecutor, speaking about a legal takedown, said, "This case was a huge *stab* in the right direction." (Step in the right direction? Stab or shot in the dark? Is this an "eggcorn"?)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Sometimes a shot in the dark hits its mark." (A murder investigation.)

## shot (criticism)

fired shots  
the two sides ~ at each other for months (corporate fight)

taking shots at him  
everyone is ~ (criticism)

♦ "For almost two weeks, the controversy went back and forth on the letters-to-the-editor page, until the *News-Leader* called a halt by allowing Nelle to have the last word. She fired with both barrels." (The 1966 attempt by the Hanover County School in Richmond, Virginia, to ban the beloved book *To Kill a Mockingbird*. From *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* by Charles. J. Shields.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ It is better to give than to receive.

## shot (shot across the bow, etc.)

shot over the bow  
it was a ~ (penalty against Facebook)

shot across the bow

it was a threat, it was a ~ (the Dickey Amendment)

shot across the bow to European allies

it was seen as a ~ (Trump about Nato alliance)

shot across the bow for cruise lines

the incident was a ~ returning to sea (2 Covid cases)

fired a shot across the bow

he also ~ (he praised, then criticized)

## shot (call the shots)

calls the shots

he ~ (boss)

calling its own shots

North Korea is ~ and not taking orders from anybody

♦ One who calls the shots might be referred to as a shot caller.

## shot (opening shot)

opening shot of his campaign

the speech was the ~ (politics)

## shot (parting shot)

parting shot

as a ~, he said...

parting shot of (barely masked) bitterness

they left with a ~ (royals leave family)

## shot (warning shot)

fired a warning shot

he ~ at his colleagues (about priorities)

## shot (best shot)

best shot

the guys have given it their ~

I have given it my ~ (spots event)

gave it my best shot

I ~ (tried as hard as I could)

## shot (shot heard round the world)

ban heard round the world

it was the ~ (Executive Order 13769)

cough heard round the world

a ~ (the economic impact of the pandemic / *The Economist*)

hug heard round the world

the ~ (BBC / Revisionist History / Malcolm Gladwell)

“scream” heard around the world

Howard Dean’s famous ~ (DEAN GOES NUTS)

shot heard around the world

the day he took the ~ (Paul Caligiuri / US soccer / 1989)

smack heard ‘round the world

it was the ~ (Will Smith slaps Chris Rock at Oscars)

tweet heard around the world

the ~ (crash of Flight 1549 in the Hudson River on Twitter)

♦ “They were the three words heard ‘round the Land of 10,000 Lakes.” (“Bring ya ass.” Read “Minnesotans of all stripes are cashing in on Anthony Edwards’ cheeky tourism slogan” by Eder Campuzano, *Star Tribune*, May 22, 2024.)

♦ “Her husband leapt to the stage and gave the comedian a slap that was heard around the world.” (Will Smith v. Chris Rock.)

♦ “Ain’t you learned nothing from the slap that was heard around the world?” (Christopher Darden calls out Chris Rock about the latter’s 2022 joke that referenced Nicole Brown Simpson.)

♦ “I know you had a tweet that was heard around the world.” (Savannah Guthrie talking to Abby Wambach on the NBC show *Today*.)

♦ “It changed everything. Suddenly the world turned its attention because we were the source of news—and it wasn’t us, it was this person in the boat using the service, which is even more amazing.” (Jack Dorsey, about the crash of U.S. Airways Flight 1549 in the Hudson River on Jan. 15, 2009. That person was Janis Krums, who tweeted about the incident with a photo: “The tweet heard around the world.” It was the first report of what would become known as “The Miracle on the Hudson.”)

♦ “It really was like the shot that was heard around the world in terms of hip-hop.” (Reggie Rock Bythewood about the murder of the Notorious B.I.G.)

\*\*\* “By the rude bridge that arched the flood...”

♦ “By the rude bridge that arched the flood, / Their flag to April’s breeze unfurled, / Here once the embattled farmers stood / And fired the shot heard round the world.” (“The Concord Hymn” by Ralph Waldo Emerson.)

♦ “Listen, my children, and you shall hear / Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, / On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five; / Hardly a man is now alive / Who remembers that famous day and year.” (“Paul Revere’s Ride” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. According to the Note in the Dover Thrift Editions of *Favorite Poems: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*, “The American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) enjoyed unlimited popularity in his lifetime, and his work is still widely remembered today. He is still one of the most frequently quoted writers, although the quoters may not always be aware of the source.”)

♦ On reaching Concord, the grenadiers executed the object in view by destroying the ordnance and stores... / The loss of the Provincials in this affair, which they pompously styled ‘the battle of Lexington,’ was only sixty men, two-thirds of whom were killed. / An officer who was engaged wrote thus:-- / ‘The rebels fought like the savages of the country, and treated some who had the misfortune to fall like savages, for they scalped them and cut off their ears with the most unmanly brutality. This has irritated the troops to a very high degree...’ / The return of the troops to Boston, though they had fully accomplished the duty on which they had been sent, was represented all over the continent as a defeat...” (*British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

## shot down (and shot down in flames)

shot down in flames

that theory was quickly ~

the approach was ~ at his conference

its strategy has been ~ (a political party)

shot down by senior officials

each request was ~

shot down in flames by the focus group

their suggestions were ~

got shot down

the idea this was terrorism ~

got shot down in flames

they ~ for criticizing the president (Dixie Chicks)

## **shoulder (shoulder the burden, etc.)**

shoulder the blame

he must ~ for the loss (sports)

shoulder the burden

locals must ~ after regime change (Rumsfeld)

shoulder the (financial) burden

the government should ~

shouldering a (heavy) burden

he has been ~ for Golden State all season (Stephen Curry)

shoulder the cost

BP must ~ of the cleanup (oil spill)

shoulder the load

the defense is not yet ready to ~ (sports)

shoulder the responsibility

he must ~ now

## **shoulder (shoulder to the grindstone)**

put your shoulder to the grindstone

you've got to ~ (work harder)

## **shoulder (shrug one's shoulders)**

see *shrug (shrug one's shoulders)* **shoulder (stand shoulder to shoulder, etc.)**

standing shoulder to shoulder

we must make sure we are ~ (US and Britain)

## **shoulder (a shoulder to cry on)**

offered him a shoulder to cry on

she ~

## **shoulder (look over somebody's shoulder)**

look over our shoulders

the government should not be allowed to ~

## **shoulder (tapped on the shoulder, etc.)**

tapped on the shoulder

people were promoted by getting ~

## **shoulder (weight on one's shoulder, etc.)**

weight off my shoulders

it's definitely a ~

weight on your shoulder

it's a significant responsibility and ~ (position)

## **shoulder (rub shoulders)**

rubbed shoulders with them

the magazine eagerly ~ (celebrities)

## **shoulder (fall on the shoulders)**

falls on the shoulders of regular Americans

the tax burden still ~ (politics)

falls on the shoulders of BP

that ~ (responsibility)

falls on the shoulders of those

the burden ~ least able to bear it (the poor)

## **shoulder (stand on somebody's shoulders)**

stand on the shoulders of other artists

artists ~

stand on the shoulders of giants

we ~ (achievement)

standing on the shoulders of giants

I really feel as though I was ~ (an author)

stand on the shoulders of those

we all ~ before us (tweakers of innovation)

stand on their shoulders

we are proud to ~

## **shoulder (mountain, etc.)**

lower shoulder

its ~ gives great views of Everest (Kala Patthar / Pumori)

## **shout (verb)**

shouting from the rooftops

he is ~, "Hey, Democrats, we have a problem"

\*\*\* **"A man cooees to attract the attention..."**

♦ "[In the hill and mountain country of northern India]... inter-village communication is carried on by shouting. Standing on a commanding point, maybe a big rock or the roof of a house, a man cooees to attract the attention of the people in a neighboring village, and when the cooee is answered the message is shouted across in a high-pitched voice. From village to village the message is tossed, and is broadcast throughout large areas in an incredibly short space of time." (The cooee method of communication. From *Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India 1936-1943.)

## **shout (use all caps, etc.)**

shout

don't ~ (use all caps)

♦ irtbxqck: SIMON STONE, WELL YOU DESERVE YOUR WACK OF THE LICENSE FEE MONEY I DON'T THINK. / Sunbirdm to irtbxqck: Stop shouting... / Turkeyforxmas to irtbxqck: You've commented like 3 times in all caps... Whatever you're taking I think it's time to stop and sleep (A BBC HYS about some soccer matter.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Until psychoanalysis came along, the accepted antidote to hysteria was rest."

## **shout-out (noun)**

shout-out to southeast Ohio

his ~ has inspired more than donations

## shove (noun)

shove in the back  
the army delivered a very strong ~ when... (coup)

## show (the data show, etc.)

shows that  
history ~...

data shows  
new ~ that...  
the city's own ~ that Minneapolis police...

evidence shows  
~ that officers both knocked and announced their presence

evidence will show  
the ~ that officers made 2 calls for emergency help

it shows  
~ that they didn't care (women got smaller weight room)

pandemic shows  
the ~ that you can't wait until the disaster hits to be ready

poll shows  
~ that more than half of Americans...  
a recent NPR / IPSOS ~ that 29% of parents polled...

report shows  
the new ~ that an alarming number of...  
the ProPublica ~ that morale among...

research shows  
but ~ that number is dropping

shooting shows  
the ~ that gun laws don't work

study shows  
a new ~ that women in the U.S. military...

## show (nature, etc.)

moving show  
this ~, this shining and shifting spectacle (Bombay)

put on a show  
at night the stars ~ for free (Carole King)  
the meteor shower could ~ starting...

## show (performance)

all (a) show  
the meeting was ~, no substance

just for show  
for the most part the confrontations is ~ (a talk show)

become a show  
bring your popcorn, this has ~ (congressional hearing)

put on a show  
she doesn't try to ~ (favorable reaction to a politician)  
players ~ to get calls (soccer)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A commentator talking about a senate hearing used the words *stunt*, *spectacle*, and *public show*.

## show (horror show)

defensive horror show  
they were aided by a ~ by the Hornets (soccer)

produced a horror show  
Onana ~ to undermine much of Unite's good work (soccer)

## show (the show must go on)

show must go on  
the ~

## show (the show is over)

show "Russia" was over  
the ~, everyone was hurrying to get his hat (1917)

♦ "The show "Russia" was over, everyone was hurrying to get his hat and coat." (Viktor Shklovsky, literary critic, about Russia in 1917.)

## show (steal the show)

stole the show  
Travis Pastrana ~ (X Games / motocross)  
she ~ at the MLS match (girl belts out national anthem)

## showboat (verb)

showboat  
he likes to ~ (an athlete)

\*\*\* "We used to sit around and blow a little..."

♦ "From 1919 to 1921. We used to play at the foot of Canal Street during the winter and then we go up the river, all the way up to Davenport, Iowa (EYE-oh-way). That's where I first met Bix Beiderbecke. He was a little kid, he was coming up with the horn, he's come on the boat... We used to sit around and blow a little, that's when I found out he could play that piano—"In the Mist"—a lovely kid." ("Louis Armstrong," BBC, Desert Island Discs, 1968, with Roy Plomley.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A showboat was a river steamboat on which theatrical performances were given. *Show Boat* was a very popular novel and musical.

## show business (performance)

show business  
it's just ~, it's sort of performance art (politics)

\*\*\* "There's no business like show business..."

♦ "There's no business like show business like no business I know..." (The 1946 musical *Annie Get Your Gun*.)

♦ "Acting is the world's second oldest profession." (Said by actors.)

♦ "That's show biz!"

♦ "Break a leg!"

## showcase (verb)

showcase your talents  
a good resume can ~

## showcase (noun)

showcase of (twisted) psychology  
the trial has been a ~ (murder)



showcase and a shop window  
this is supposed to be a ~ for women's football (World Cup)

## shower (verb)

showered the two men with gifts  
she ~

showered him with praise  
they ~

## shower (cold shower)

cold shower of power  
then came the ~ (Obama faces problem of war)

cold shower for Silicon Valley  
these lackluster prices are kind of a ~ (stock prices)

cold shower for them  
the match was very much a ~ (Leicester City loses)

cold shower on Everton's ambition  
Carlo Ancelotti's departure is a ~ of joining the elite

give them (a bit of) a cold shower  
he has been forced to ~ (about investing in Iran)

♦ "She was plunged into a cold bath of Schadenfreude." (A government official who broke a rule.)

♦ "This must have been the coldest of showers for anyone at Old Trafford." (A thumping by Liverpool.)

## showered

showered with honors  
Wellington was ~

showered with (geographical) medals and awards  
he was ~ (Amundsen)

## showman (person)

whip-smart showman  
he was a ~ who loved the media attention (defense lawyer)

## show up (verb)

show up  
the officials were supposed to testify but didn't ~  
waves don't ~ for surfing contest

showed up to donate  
residents ~ blood

showed up in Mozambique  
TR4 ~ five years ago (banana fungus)

show up on weather radar  
the swarm was big enough to ~ (grasshoppers)

show up for school  
neighborhood crime makes it harder to ~

## shrapnel (noun)

emotional shrapnel  
the ~ scarred both children (divorce)

## shred (verb)

shredding his (congressional) support  
he is ~ (politics)

## shred (shred of hope, etc.)

shred of evidence  
I was unable to find a ~ to show...

shred of kindness  
is there a ~ inside her that...

shred of (true) remorse  
we have never seen a ~ from him (family of victim)

shred of comfort or hope  
the film offers hardly a ~ (*Network*)

## shriek (verb)

shrieked that  
the *Montreal Star* ~ the race was...

♦ "The *Montreal Star* shrieked that the race was 'obviously beyond women's powers of endurance and can only be injurious to them.'" (The women's 800m race at the 1928 Summer Olympic Games.)

## shrine (reverence)

shrine to the Backstreet Boys  
her bedroom is a poster-filled ~ (teen girl)

shrines to (excess) capital  
these ~ (megayachts)

shrine to democracy  
Mount Rushmore, the great American stone ~

shrine to NASCAR  
the new museum is a ~ (auto racing)

banana shrine  
Ann Lovell's house is a ~ (banana memorabilia)

poster shrine  
he still had the ~ in his bedroom (of 3 actors)

poster-filled shrine  
her bedroom is a ~ to the Backstreet Boys

polar shrine  
there she is, a national monument and ~ (the *Fram*)

♦ "When Jeremy Strong was a teen-ager, in suburban Massachusetts, he had three posters thumbtacked to his bedroom wall: Daniel Day-Lewis in 'My Left Foot,' Al Pacino in 'Dog Day Afternoon,' and Dustin Hoffman in 'Rain Man...'" (The opening to the fascinating profile "The Straight Man" by Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*, December 13, 2021.)

♦ When Ann Lovell was a child, her parents regularly referred to her as "Anna Banana," and perhaps that is why she currently has over 3,000 objects of "bananabilia" in her house, including banana toothbrushes, dolls, phones, bottle openers, refrigerator magnets, etc.... Her bedroom is a shrine to bananas. (A collector of banana memorabilia.)

## shrink (downsize)

shrink its footprint  
as the US military begins to ~ in Afghanistan

shrink our (leviathan) government  
he wants to shrink our ~ (a politician)

shrink the military  
he wants to ~ and reduce its footprint overseas

## shrink (decline)

shrank  
as Britain's global influence ~ (after WWII)

## shrinking violet (person)

shrinking flower  
Pasteur was no ~ (the great chemist)

shrinking violet  
he is not a ~ who will wilt under pressure (a politician)

♦ "I always thought he'd be a future champion, but I've really seen him change from that shrinking violet who first stepped into my office." (Frank Warren, speaking about the great boxer Daniel Dubois, just prior to Dubois' demolition of Anthony Joshua at Wembley Stadium in front of 96,000 fans.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Terms with similar meanings are *teacup* and *snowflake*. In the old days, such people were compared to plants: *a shrinking violet*; *a pansy*; *a wallflower*. The modern update on that is *orchid* (versus a *dandelion*).

## shrivel (verb)

shrivel (slowly) to irrelevance  
the group could ~

shriveled by (nearly) half  
the network's audience has ~ as staffers panic (MSNBC)

## shroud (noun)

shroud of mystery  
a ~ surrounds him

## shrouded (covered)

shrouded in clouds  
the top of the mountain was ~ all day (Mount Hood)

exhaust-shrouded  
we walked down ~ Fifth Avenue

fog-shrouded  
the helicopter crashed in the ~ Balsam Gap area  
a passenger jet overshot a ~ runway, killing 42

snow-shrouded  
we walked through the ~ fields

remained shrouded  
she ~ in a flowing black abaya (Doha)

## shrouded (concealment)

shrouded in mystery  
the details are ~ (an ancient Swazi rite)  
the course of infection in chimps is ~ (SIV)  
he is a shadowy figure whose intentions remain ~  
Lewis' death was ~ (Lewis and Clark expedition)  
the exact origins of the film are ~ (controversy)  
the whole Liston story is so ~ (death of the boxer)

its mission has been ~ (X-37B space plane)

shrouded in secrecy  
its work is ~ (Dept. of General Statistics)  
this left the review process ~ (virus research)

shrouded in myths and mystery  
the origin of the Maasai is ~

shrouded from public view  
inmates' lives are largely a mystery, since prison life is ~

## shrug (shrug one's shoulders)

shrugging its shoulders  
even the Supreme Court is ~ and looking the other way

shrug your shoulders and go with it  
you just have to ~ (speeding worms / *Dune: Part 2*)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Shrugs their shoulders in resignation.)

## shrug (gesture)

shoulder shrug  
he has kind of a ~ towards that (politician about spying)  
it was a big ~ because it doesn't help us any (murder)

shrugs and eye rolls  
the framework was largely met with ~ (virus research)

collective shrug  
his lies were met, by many, with a ~ (false resume, etc.)

large shrug  
people here reacted to the events with a ~ (Taiwan)

give an exhausted shrug  
better to ~ at the noise of the Internet and move on

responded with shrugs  
Wall Street luminaries have mostly ~ and dismissals

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Shrugs their shoulders in resignation.)

## shrug off (verb)

shrug off  
it's nothing that you can just ~ (responsibility)

shrugs off the media's questions  
he ~ with his good-natured grin (a politician)

shrugged off his reputation  
he ~ as a daring space explorer (Neil Armstrong)

shrugged it off  
he ~ (a setback)

shrugged it (all) off  
Dolly Parton ~ (criticism, accusations, memes, caricatures)

## shudder (verb)

shudder at some of the echoes of the past  
he will ~ (a world leader)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone shudders in horror.)

## shun (verb)

shunned computers  
he ~ for years (a journalist)

shunning mainstream press  
a lot of Republicans are simply ~ on the campaign trail

shunned the spotlight  
he ~ for the rest of his life (astronaut Neil Armstrong)

shunned violence  
the group has ~

shun the 21st century  
they ~ (Mennonite colony in Bolivia)

## shunned

shunned (by executives) for being (openly) gay  
he was ~

shunned by the world  
he felt ~

## shut down (verb)

shut them down  
we have to spot them and ~ (Nazi websites)

shut down the discussion  
instead of debating, the left wants to ~ (“woke” colleges)

## shut off (verb)

shut off the comments  
everyone has appealed to the *Harold Sun* to ~ (AFLW)

shut off the spigot  
they are trying to ~ of Russian boar (invasive species)

shut off the (gushing federal) spigot  
many voters don’t want to ~

## shut out (verb)

shut out Huawei  
U.S. makes another move to ~

shut out poor kids  
elite colleges ~

## shut out (adjective)

shut out  
many writers have been ~ (publishing)

shut out of the system  
organizations like ours will be ~

shut out from education  
the women are ~

shut out from the industry  
both artists and fans are ~ (country music)

feel shut out

many Afghan women ~ of politics

keep them shut out  
academic hurdles that ~ of higher education

## shutter (verb)

shutter  
this place isn’t going to ~ anytime soon (Gitmo detention)

## shuttered (adjective)

shuttered  
with 90% of the economy ~ (pandemic)

## shy (adjective)

shy of coming  
others are ~ into Pakistan (versus China)

shy about criticizing  
Trump has never been ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Don’t be shy!

## shy (and shy away)

shy from daunting texts  
the choreographer Pam Tanowitz doesn’t ~

shied away from focusing  
he has not ~ on abuses in Russia (a Russian journalist)

shy away from making  
the Republicans will not ~ tough proposals

shy away from speaking out  
he did not ~ politically (a cleric)

shy away from (difficult) decisions  
he does not ~ (a politician)

shy away from the fact  
we cannot ~ that...

shied away from the issue  
politicians have ~ (taxes)

shied away from it  
for years I ~, now I’m leaning completely into it

shy away from these priorities  
this is not the time to ~ (politics and the budget)

rarely shy  
they ~ in their efforts to capture the government (capitalists)

## Siamese twins

Siamese twins  
medicine and botany had become ~, neither could advance without the other...

\*\*\* The great Saudi pediatric surgeon Dr. Abdullah al-Rabeeah...

♦ The great Saudi pediatric surgeon Dr. Abdullah al-Rabeeah and his teams have successfully separated a number of *actual* conjoined twins. The world salutes him and his great patron, King Abdullah.

## Siberia (exile)

Siberia for Irish dissidents

Australia was the official ~ (1790s onwards)

\*\*\* **The forest Evenk lived in bark-covered teepees...**

♦ "The forest Evenk lived in bark-covered teepees, and rode reindeer with bridle and saddle."

♦ Crimean Tatars (to Kazakhstan as well as to the Western and Far Eastern Arctic); Volga Germans (to Kazakhstan as well as to the Northwestern Urals and Eastern Siberia by the Aldan River); Kalmyks (to the Angara River west of Lake Baikal); Karachais (to Kazakhstan); Meskhetians (to Uzbekistan); Chechen-Ingush (to the Irtysh River and Kazakhstan)...(The Soviet deportation of nationalities 1941-1945, from the *Atlas of Russian History* by Martin Gilbert.)

♦ see also *Mongolia (Outer Mongolia)*, *Timbuktu (remoteness)*

## sibling (relationship)

hideous sibling

education's ~, training...

older sibling

Philly soul was its ~ (to Motown)

rebellious and working class sibling

the "Oi!" sub-genre was mainstream punk's more ~

Omicron variant, and its siblings

the super-contagious ~, are the threat

♦ "If Detroit's Tamla (Records) was the sound of young America, Philly soul was its lush, richly orchestrated sophisticated older sibling." (Berry Gordy Jr.'s Tamla Records became Motown Records. BBC Six O'clock News, 23/12/2022. A wonderful tribute by David Sillito, BBC Media and Arts Correspondent, to the songwriter, musician and producer Thom Bell. Well done!)

## Sicily (Mexico's Sicily, etc.)

Mexico's Sicily

Sinaloa State is known as ~ (drug lords)

## sick (condition)

sick

the bond market is ~

Sick Man

our country is the ~ of Europe

sick computers

she fixes ~ (tech worker)

sick (auto) industry

increased new-car sales would help our ~

sick institution

~s should be allowed to die (finance)

sick, failing or unsuccessful

we are not dealing with a ~ industry (oil leak)

## sick (disgusted)

sick of lawyers

America is ~ (terrorism)

sick of war

Ugandans are ~ (Lord's Resistance Army)

sick of hearing

I'm ~ your complaints

sick of airports and plane

I am ~ (security, poor service, etc.)

sick and tired

see *sick and tired (feeling)*

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Sick of the news? Come look at pictures of baby animals." (The internet.)

## sick (with anxiety, etc.)

sick with anxiety

I was almost ~ (teaching first class)

sick (to my stomach) with dread

I felt ~

sick with envy

one academic ~ over another

sick to my stomach

I felt ~ with dread (mother of 1 pound 15 oz baby)

felt sick

I ~ to my stomach when I learned that...

made me sick

her story ~ to my stomach (rape)

worried sick

both were ~ (parents of abducted young woman)

worry yourself sick

there is no need for you to ~

## sick (mentally ill)

sick and a clown

people are saying to ignore him because he is ~

## sick (slang)

sick deal

if you want to get a ~ on a jersey... (NFL merch)

So sick

~!! Love this song (Stabby-Kegemusha)

♦ "[Most] of the sickest climbers in the Himalayas are Polish, Russian, Czech, or Slovenian. They're hard-core. Everyone knows that. You can tell when you meet them." (Mark Synnott.)

♦ "How sick was that?" / "Amazing..." (Inspired dialog from the 2005 film *Into the Blue*.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## sick and tired (feeling)

sick and tired of being

I am ~ sick and tired (DC police chief / gun violence)

sick and tired of it

frankly, I am ~

sick and tired of lean times  
voters are ~

## sickle (shape)

sickle cell  
he has ~ anemia

## sickle (death)

put his sickle into this thicket  
Death had ~...

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The fire had swept every superficial foot of it, and at every step I sank into ashes to the ankle... Death had put his sickle into this thicket and fire had gleaned the field." ("What I Saw of Shiloh" by Ambrose Bierce, 1881. Both wounded and dead had been consumed by a fire.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Death traditionally has been associated with reaping, "cutting down," sickles, and scythes. The Grim Reaper, for example, is often shown carrying a scythe.

## sickness (noun)

sickness in society  
there is a ~ (gun violence)

## sickness (enthusiasm)

sickness for flight  
his wife accused him of having a ~ (Mark Stucky)

♦ "When Jay Leno was 19, he showed up at a mechanic shop in his hometown of Boston and started doing odd jobs. After 3 days, the manager realized Leno wasn't on the payroll and hired him. Now that he is rich and famous, he owns so many cars, he has lost count...The comedian's motor pool consists of about 105 cars, plus 85 motorcycles, he guesses...They include a hot rod built around a V12 tank engine. 'I take my Model T to work all the time,' he said. 'I enjoy the pursuit of the unusual driving experience. It's a bit of a disease.'"

♦ "At first my wife didn't mind my growing obsession with motorcycles..."

## side (food)

side of social commentary  
*They/Them* is a slasher flick with a ~

## side (conflict)

two sides  
the ~ were on the brink of major fighting

## side (side with)

see *side with* (verb)

## side (on one's side / time)

see *time (time on one's side)* **side (on one's side / person)**

on your side  
you need someone ~ (ad for lawyer)

on the side of the White House  
the public is not really ~ (political issue)

## side (on the good side, etc.)

on America's good side  
if they want to be ~

## side (on the wrong side, etc.)

get on the wrong side of  
this was not a guy you wanted to ~ (a general)

get on the wrong side of him  
you don't want to ~ (a workplace sociopath)

getting on the wrong side of people  
she has spent a career ~ (Ani DiFranco)

## side (dark side)

dark side  
this fantastic concept has a ~ (adult family home)  
people soon realized he had a ~ (bad temper)

dark side of America's 'green gold rush'  
the ~ (marijuana, Native Americans, and immigrants)

dark side of addiction and (emotional) abuse  
he had a ~

dark side to America's drinking boom  
there is a ~ (drinking during the pandemic)

dark side to him  
he had a ~ (a serial killer)

has a dark side  
although regarded as genteel, cricket ~ (match fixing)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "[T]he human eye is constructed in such a way that we can never see any object entirely. If you look at a cube, you can only see three sides... / Everything you look at is only half of what is there... / [T]his sounds strange, as if I'm a philosopher pondering things over and over again..." (The remarkable writer Steven Millhauser talking about *Disruptions*, his latest collection of short stories.)

## side (bright side)

bright side of life  
look on the ~ (consolation)

♦ seangamut: This is what is known as Karma! / Ambleside: "Always look on the bright side of life!" (Manchester United 0-Liverpool 4.)

### \*\*\* proverbs, sayings, expressions, quotations...

♦ "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

♦ "With all this manure, there must be a pony somewhere!"

♦ "Look on the bright side."

♦ "Turn that frown upside down!"

♦ "Every cloud has a silver lining."

♦ "This is not going to devastate us. Chicken Little said the sun will come out tomorrow, didn't he?" (Coach Kim Mulkey of the LSU Tigers, about her team's season opener loss to the number 20 ranked Colorado Buffaloes. Of course, Chicken Little said that the sky was falling.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The most ironic thing is that it became really quite serious, in the Falklands War the sailors sitting on the HMS *Sheffield* after they had been hit by an Exocet sang it for 3 hours while they were waiting to be rescued. And the RAF pilots would sing it in great jeopardy, when they were changing for their long, low-level bombing in the Bush

Wars, Desert Storm. And so you know, it took on a kind of optimistic component to it, which I like." (BBC. Sounds. U.S. military veterans at Camp Vinnell in Saudi Arabia delighted in recalling and reenacting Monty Python sketches at the Tiki Hut on weekends. Search: "Inheritance Tracks Eric Idle.")

♦ "Here's a little song I wrote / I want to sing it note for note / Don't worry, be happy / In every life, we have some trouble / When you worry, you make it double / Don't worry, be happy..." (Watch Jarhead (2005): Most Memorable Scenes!)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. (Mordant.) Willie and Joe have come upon a sad Italian or French peasant, sitting in the threshold of his house, which is in complete ruins. Only the door frame is upright. Next to the door is the ragged, splintered stump of a tree with an unexploded shell embedded in it. The caption of the cartoon is, "Tell him to look at th' bright side of things, Willie. His trees is pruned, his ground is plowed up, an' his house is air-conditioned." The text about the cartoon reads, "It hits the doggies to see a man staring glassily at the shambles of the home he spent his life building, and they would like to be able to comfort him." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Listen to the "Bright Side" song by Monty Python, BBC. Search: "Inheritance Tracks, Eric Idle."

♦ see also *Panglossian* (adjective)

## sideline (on the sideline)

on the sideline of history

I didn't not want to be ~ but rather a part of it (jihad)

met on the sidelines

they ~ of the wedding (secret business negotiations)

sitting on the sideline

hope is not ~ or shirking from a fight (a politician)

stand on the sidelines

Russia will not ~

## sideline (involvement)

watches from the sidelines

he now ~ (Iraqi politician)

relegated to the sidelines

the ambassador was ~ (war)

## sidelined (adjective)

coronavirus-sidelined

the ~ aircraft carrier

increasingly sidelined

she was ~ (a scientist)

fired, demoted, sidelined, or even prosecuted

whistleblowers risk being ~

## sideshow (noun)

sideshow

the Russians didn't see information warfare as a ~ (vs US)

designated the operation as a sideshow

historians ~ (Dragoon / France / WWII)

♦ "[Elon Musk] called crypto a 'side show to the side show.'"

\*\*\* **The Wild Men of Borneo, Jo-Jo the Dog-Faced Boy...**

♦ "The 1870s and 1880s were the height of the controversial but enormously popular 'side shows' in America. Hucksters like P.T. Barnum attracted huge throngs by booking fire-eaters, sword

swallowers, and 'freaks' with assorted medical abnormalities, some bogus, others disturbingly real. There were the 'Wild Men of Borneo' (actually two mentally disabled dwarfs from Ohio), 'Jo-Jo the Dog-Faced Boy' (suffering from hypertrichosis, a profusion of body hair), 'General Tom Thumb' (the world's smallest human), eight-foot giants, bearded ladies, Siamese twins, and people with humongous body tumors attached to their back, face, and scrotum..." (*Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky.)

## sidestep (verb)

sidestepped

he ~ when asked how he would... (a politician)

sidestepped Congress

the President ~ and issued an order

sidestep the issue

the academy is doing its best to ~ (controversy)

sidestepped the (major) issues

the Supreme Court ~ (gerrymandering)

sidestepped a question

she ~ about whether using the term...

sidestepped that question

she has ~ for months (politics)

sidestepped the question

he ~ entirely, instead discussing citizenship (a politician)

sidestepped questions

the State Department spokesman ~ about why...

the supreme court nominee ~ about abortion, the ACA

♦ "She sidestepped a question about whether using the term was going overboard." (Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The term was "genocide.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's a question of morality here, and so far I haven't been able to sidestep it." (War.)

## sidetracked

become sidetracked

it's easy to lose focus and ~ with all the nonsense

got sidetracked

he ~ and ended up talking about...

## sideways (go sideways)

go sideways

from there, things started to ~ (political fortunes)

goes sideways

if shit ~, who do you think Vought will go after

going sideways

the balloons aren't falling, everything is ~ (a convention)

started to go sideways

it was up and down, then things ~ (politician)

went sideways

and then the arrest ~...

went sideways (very) quickly

with all the gangs, it ~ (Wood Green)

♦ "She was knocked sideways by the death of her husband..."



### \*\*\* the IM-1 Nova-C lunar lander...

♦ "DOWNSIDE OF SIDEWAYS Although the lander's sideways position is far from ideal..." (The 13-foot-tall "Odysseus" is not upright on the moon, but lies on its side. It tipped over on landing.)

♦ "The six-wheeled Spirit has been stuck in a sand pit on Mars for nearly a year..."

♦ The HMS *Astute* got stuck in the mud just yards off the coast of Scotland, in plain view of coastal residents. The new submarine had been described as Britain's 'stealthiest.'

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Things can go sideways, south, belly-up, tits-up, or pear-shaped. Take your pick!

## side with (verb)

sided with Johnny Depp against Amber Heard  
the jury ~ (a trial)

side with celebrities over victims  
the public tends to ~

## siege (under siege)

under siege  
NBC news executives are ~ after release of the book

under siege from a population boom  
the wilderness is ~

world under siege  
videos depicting a Muslim ~

country under siege  
this is a ~ (by crime / South Africa)

Prime Minister is under siege  
and now to the U.K., where the ~ (Brexit)

wilderness is under siege  
the ~ from a population boom

feel under siege  
Asian Americans really ~ (safety, COVID, racism, etc.)

has (much of) the US under siege  
dangerous weather ~

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The fortress of Pondicherry being as strong as art and nature could make it, Colonel Coote was perfectly aware that it could only be reduced by famine... / Lally fell back on the fortress, disputing bravely every yard of ground, until in front of Pondicherry he formed those famous lines, which, with a skill and valour that were admirable, he defended for twelve weeks, thus giving sufficient time to have the town fully victualled, and also to conclude a treaty with the Rajah of Mysore, who pledged himself to continue a supply of provisions—a pledge he forgot to fulfil.... / Failure of provisions now compelled Lally to expel from the town a vast number of native women and children; and as Coote sternly drove them back again, great numbers of these poor creatures were killed or wounded... / The scarcity within the guarded circle of Pondicherry increased daily, till at last the stock of provisions ran out, and the soldiers and citizens were compelled to devour the flesh of elephants, camels, horses, dogs, cats, and even rats." ("Siege of Pondicherry, 1760-1," from *British Battles On Land And Sea* by James Grant. A cenotaph on Clifton Downs is inscribed: "Sacred to the memory of those departed warriors of the 79<sup>th</sup> Regiment by whose valour, discipline, and perseverance the French land forces in Asia were first withstood and repulsed.")

## siege (other)

siege mentality

the ~ (Israel)  
the government is showing signs of a ~ (Syria)  
the generals are comfortable in their ~ (Myanmar)

siege tactics  
traditional ~ used in Himalayan climbing

laid siege to NBC  
Weinstein ~ (threats and enticements)

♦ "Right-wing extremists have laid siege to events where drag queens read to schoolchildren..." ("Pride Organizers Try to Keep Marches and Festivals Safe in a Year of Anti-LGBTQ Hate" by Tim Teeman, *Daily Beast*, June 18, 2022.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "A body of the 89<sup>th</sup> Highland Regiment, which had been raised among the Gordon clan in the preceding year at Badenoch, were landed from the *Sandwich*, East Indiaman, and behaved with their usual gallantry. Pressing onward, they burst from the rear, through Draper's grenadiers, in their eagerness to get at the enemy. Tossing aside their muskets, they raised a wild cheer, and with their bonnets in one hand and claymores in the other, threw themselves upon the soldiers of Lally, and cut many to pieces. They were only fifty in number, and were commanded by Captain George Morrison. From that time the operations of Lally were confined to the ramparts of Pondicherry. Several of his cannon were taken by the brave little band of Highlanders. Seven of these were found to be eighteen-pounders, loaded to the muzzle with all sorts of projectiles—bars of iron, jagged metal, stones, and bottles." ("Siege of Pondicherry, 1760-1," from *British Battles On Land And Sea* by James Grant.)

## sieve (noun)

come through the sieve  
a lot of the personal Lenin was never allowed to ~  
(archives)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Sieves are found in most any kitchen. Archaeologists also employ them. Workers used sieves to search for human remains and objects from the World Trade Center collapse.

## scientist (rocket scientist)

rocket scientist  
you don't need to be a ~ to explain this (criminal trial)

take a rocket scientist  
it doesn't ~ to understand what they did was illegal

♦ "He's not a rocket surgeon." (A comment about an athlete's intelligence. Heard on the sports radio show the Sportsocracy. Conflates "rocket scientist" and "brain surgeon." Funny!)

## sift (searching)

sifted the sources  
she has ~, examining their reliability (historian)

sift for youth  
job requirements in the Valley ~ (Silicon Valley)

sifted the debate for clues  
observers ~ about action on carbon legislation

sifted through the returns for lessons learned  
both parties ~ (election)

sift through the debris  
fans have been left to ~ of a failed season (sports)

sifted through evidence  
investigators ~ and interviewed survivors (arson)

sift through the (classified) materials  
it could take three months to ~ (investigation)

sift through names  
the computer program will help officials to ~ (crime)

sifted through many submissions  
she ~ (photo competition)

sift through the (political) rubble  
both sides will be left to ~ (impeachment trial)

sift through the results  
search engines make you ~ for an answer

sifted through the trash  
they ~, looking for anything edible or saleable

sifted down to her  
the terrible facts ~ when she heard...

## sifted

sifted for (fresh) clues  
the new trove of material was being ~ (terrorism)

sifted for evidence  
the report is ~ of subtle changes in policy (China)

sifted, correlated and analyzed  
data can increasingly be ~ (online behavior)

wisely sifted  
more information, ~, is usually better than less

## sigh (sigh of relief)

sigh of relief  
there's a collective ~ in Florida (hurricane track)

breathed a sigh of relief  
Americans ~ and told themselves the system had worked

breathing a sigh of relief  
companies are ~  
leaders are ~  
they are all ~ (health care)

breathing a sigh of relief over the verdict  
we are all ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone sighs in relief.)

## sight (in sight)

in sight  
relief is ~  
gains are nowhere ~ (progress of war)  
there's no relief ~ (wildfires in California)  
there is still no viable solution ~  
there is no end ~ to this opioid litigation  
the end is ~ (impeachment trial)

promised victory was in sight  
American leaders ~ (the Vietnam War)

## sight (lose sight)

lose sight that  
do not ~ we are at war (government)

lose sight of the big picture  
don't ~ (advice to teachers)

sight (in somebody's sights)

in the SEC's sights for fraud  
the Wall Street firm is ~

had him in their sights  
federal prosecutors ~ (criminal investigation)

have it in our sights  
we ~ (merger)

have you in their sights  
they are unspeakably mean and disingenuous once they ~

## sight (in plain sight)

hide in plain sight  
people had to ~ (Jews in Germany in W.W. II)  
his wealth and fame allowed him to ~ (sex abuse)

hiding in plain sight  
make people see what was ~ (sex abuse)  
the structure was “~” (discovered by satellite / archeology)  
edits are all around us, ~ (the media)

made in plain sight  
the plans to storm the Capitol were ~ (on the Internet)

## sights (weapon)

turned their sights on Joe  
then they ~ (prosecutors in trial)

## sights (lower one's sights)

lower their sights  
boxers who lose a fight, lose self-belief, and ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “We look for songs that mean something. Higher ground. You know, everybody know where the higher ground is. It sure ain't here on earth. It's above us. So we all want to go to the higher ground.” (Clarence Fountain of the Blind Boys of Alabama.)

♦ “I will lift mine eyes unto the hills...” (The Bible.)

## sign (sign of the times, etc.)

in a sign of the times  
~, the retail chain has declared bankruptcy

## sign (evidence)

sign of allyship  
support for Depp is taken as a ~ with male victims of abuse

larger political signs  
Denison could read the ~ (a government official)

no sign

there is still ~ of a plan to train new doctors  
the firestorm over his allegations shows ~s of abating

signs point  
all the ~ to her having a breakout year

\*\*\* **"H'm! Just like small boy...Have eyes, no-can look-see..."**

♦ "Tigers, lynxes, bears, wolverines, wapiti, deer, roe, pig, all are resident in this rich taiga. / Dersu strode on in silence, serenely seeing everything. I was reveling in the view, but he looked at a twig broken off at the height of a man's arm, and from the way it was hanging knew the direction in which the man had been going. From the freshness of the fracture he judged the time that had elapsed. Whenever I passed by a particularly obvious track, Dersu would chuckle, wag his head, and say: / 'H'm! Just like small boy. Go walk, wag head; have eyes, no-can look-see.' / As we went, I trod upon a thorn..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "The reconstruction of jungle events from signs on the ground has always held great interest for me." (*Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow (Viceroy of India 1936-1943). It is a wonderful account of hunting actual man-eating tigers and leopards. The Jim Corbet National Park is in Uttarakhand. Tigers live there.)

♦ "He read the signs like a map." (A "Shadow Wolves" tracker, Tohono O'odham.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Nothing is more formidable than a sign, especially if you ignore it or fail to recognize it in the first place. Signs are fate." (*Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

## sign (warning sign)

warning sign  
~s include confusion, ashy skin (heatstroke)  
~ that your child may be doing drugs

warning sign of problems  
a ~ ahead

warning signs of psychosis  
spotted the ~ in himself

warning signs of suicide  
public education about the ~

warning signs of an (impending) eruption  
scientists caught the ~

warning signs for stroke  
people should learn the ~

warning signs for violent behavior  
17 ~

warning signs and dangers  
the ~ of huffing (sniffing glue, etc.)

stroke's warning signs  
recognize ~

ample warning signs  
there were ~ (psychotic breakdown)

education about the warning signs  
public ~ of suicide

warning signs or red flags  
there were no ~ (mass shooter)

display (any of) the warning signs  
if they ~ of suicide...

know the warning signs  
~ (depression)

missed the warning signs  
they ~ (son's breakdown)

missed many warning signs  
people ~ (bullied / struggling / isolated)

## sign (verb)

signed your work  
bloody boot prints, just like a signature, you boys ~

## signal (verb)

signal a change  
I don't mean to ~ in policy (government official)

signals danger  
stress is an external stimulus that ~

signals the onset  
ejaculation ~ of puberty in boys

signal the presence  
the green palm trees ~ of water (Egyptian desert)

signal a problem  
the following 10 red flags may ~ (child development)

signal a shift  
gifts can ~ in a relationship

signaled a willingness  
the administration has ~ to be creative with...

signal diabetic coma  
Kussmaul respirations ~ (nursing)

signaled a sucking chest wound  
the bubbling blood ~ (ED)

gifts can signal  
~ a shift in a relationship

palm trees signal  
the green ~ the presence of water (Egyptian desert)

red flags may signal  
the following 10 ~ a problem (child development)

## signal (smoke signal)

see *smoke signal* (noun)

## signal (mixed signals)

mixed signals about his plan  
the President is sending ~ for the southern border

sent mixed signals  
his lawyer has ~ (about what his client might do)

sends (multiple) signals  
Iran's action ~ (military deployment)

♦ "I don't think we should be doing this, but, umm... I'm not sure..."

## signal (signal and noise)

see *signal and noise* (noun)

## signal and noise (noun)

signal-noise clarity

I will wait for a bit more ~ (drug trials)

pick out the signal from the noise

trying to ~ (epidemiology)

separate the noise from what is sound and true

we have to ~ and rely on fact (election journalism)

separate the signal from the noise

~ (when considering President Trump)

separate signal from noise

if the volume is turned to 11, how do you ~ (culture wars)

tease apart signal from noise

powerful computing and statistical approaches ~

♦ "But the problem was, there's this signal-the noise thing. If everyone's doing that [putting their music online], then that means it's harder for you to be heard, and then you do need a record label to kind of be heard, and you know that becomes the same problem you've always had..." (Steve Knopper on NPR.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The key is to be able to separate the signal from the noise.

## signature (evidence)

signature

if he is alive, he's not moving enough to create a ~

signatures of (past or present) life

organic molecules, possible ~ (Mars)

signature of our submarines

reducing the acoustic ~

signature of the vehicle

the smaller the width or track ~

signature of water

searching for the chemical ~

signatures of unmanned aerial vehicles

the small thermal ~

artillery's (firing) signature

the field ~ makes it vulnerable

chemical signature

searching for the ~ of water

researchers mine the elaborate ~s of breath

chemical "signature"

DEA labs are testing the heroin to find a ~

dust signatures

rapid movement causes dramatic ~ (military)

heat signature

stationary aircraft have a considerable ~

screen exhaust systems to reduce ~ (trucks)

lane signature

increase the ~ to aid passage of larger forces

return signature

a ~ that indicates a mine (mine detector)

sand (and dust) signatures

movement is detected by ~ (military)

track signature

the smaller the width or ~ of the vehicle

aircraft signature

ensure that the ~ will be minimized

firing signature

the field artillery's ~ makes it vulnerable

acoustic signature

reducing the ~ of our submarines

acoustical signature

the V-22 Osprey flies with a lower "~"

considerable (heat) signature

stationary aircraft have a ~

criminal signature

he left his ~ at each crime scene (serial killer)

dramatic (dust) signatures

rapid movement causes ~ (military)

electronic signature

it has no ~ (an air-defense weapon);

the Tactical Operations Center has little ~

infrared signature

reducing ~s is a passive anti-air consideration

metallic signature

locate mines by a slight ~ (AN/PSS-12)

operational signature

its ~ was aggressiveness (L.A. police)

slight (metallic) signature

locate mines by a ~ (AN/PSS-12)

small (thermal) signature

the ~s of unmanned aerial vehicles

thermal signature

the small ~s of unmanned aerial vehicles

track signature

the smaller the width or ~ of the vehicle

visual signature

markers provide commanders with a ~

thermal and optical signatures

friendly and enemy ~

footprint or signature

they don't have a ~ (terrorists)

detected by (sand and dust) signatures

movement is ~ (military)

## signature (signature issue, etc.)

signature affliction

every age has its ~ (burnout)

signature crusade

he made health-care reform the ~ of his career

signature issue

he has made immigration his ~

signature victory

this was a ~ by Eubank, the best of his career (boxer)

## sign off (on something)

signed off on the plan

he ~ (government)

## signpost (as verb)

signposted her final moments

a data trail accurately ~ (smartwatch, phone, etc.)

## signpost (noun)

signpost as to how bad

his death was a ~ things were (Liston, boxing, the mob)

signposts of my childhood

I pass the ~

signposts of (rulers') authority

Baghdad's bridges are ~

signpost on a road

the Balfour Declaration was a ~ heading towards a cliff

neon signposts

"petting parties" were ~ on the road to perdition (1920s)

## silence (society's silence, etc.)

Silence

BBC Your ~ Is Loud (a protest sign / Israel-Hamas war)

silence of the past 27 years

the ~ has spoken loudly in our community

silence on vulva diversity

society's ~ (Ellie Sedgwick / *Flip Through My Flaps*)

Amazon's silence

~ on 'Rings of Power' audience size is deafening

thunderous silence

the ~ points to a difficult truth...

thunderous stillness

in the ~, which is as chilling as any sudden loud eruption

♦ "The silence of the past 27 years surrounding this case has spoken loudly in our community." (Sekyiwa Shakur, about the arrest in 2023 of the only living suspect in the murder of her brother, the rapper Tupac Shakur.)

♦ "Imagine if moderate Dems said they didn't want a certain minority. The condemnations would be deafening. Yet now we hear much silence." (Identity politics.)

♦ "For many, her absence as the fires burned spoke volumes." (L.A. Mayor Karen Bass in Ghana as 2025 wildfire ravage Los Angeles.)

♦ "Inside, it's so quiet that you can hear a nuclear bomb not drop." ("Bunker Mentality: Shopping for a home at the end of the world" by Patricia Marx, *The New Yorker*, September 2, 2024.)

### \*\*\* Mountain Patrol: Kekexili...

♦ A-Wang: (Busy cutting meat with a knife on a chopping board, creating a lively chopping sound.) My radio is broken. What's the latest news? / Ritai: Qiangba's not with us anymore. / A-Wang: (Jovially.) Chasing after another girl? / Ritai: (Somerly.) He was killed. / A-Wang: (The busy chopping sound he has been creating goes silent for several beats.) / Ritai: You be careful. (From the great 2004 film *Mountain Patrol: Kekexili*.)

### \*\*\* Butte, Montana...

♦ "When the mines were working, there was a *rhythm to life* by what the *whistles* told you, and what the *sounds* were. So there was a *noise* that went on constantly that you were aware of and yet not aware of. And when the mines were gone, there was a *dead* silence... And it was *eerie*." (From the PBS documentary, "Butte, America," which recreates the life in Butte, Montana, when the mines were still operating. The mines operated from 1890 to 1977, and in 1920 over 40,000 people lived in Butte, many of them miners.)

### \*\*\* the Titanic...

♦ "Strangest of all was the silence. Hardly a word was spoken. Everyone noticed it; everyone had a different explanation. The Reverend P.M.A. Hoques, a passenger on the *Carpathia*, thought people were too horror-stricken to speak. Captain Rostom thought everybody was just too busy. Lawrence Beesley felt they were neither too stunned nor too busy—they were simply in the presence of something too big to grasp." (*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord. He is referring to the scene on the *Carpathia* as the survivors of the *Titanic* were brought on board. The scene was certainly strange. To the north and the west was an endless plain of packed ice, and between the icepack and the ship were big bergs and smaller growlers, an Arctic scene that the passengers traveling from New York to Gibraltar and the Mediterranean on the *Carpathia* could not have expected to see. And the survivors were dressed in lace trimmed evening dresses, kimonos, fur coats, pajamas, fur evening capes, motoring coats, evening slippers...)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ On the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, the guns fell silent on the Western Front. (The way many Americans remember the date of the end of World War I.)

♦ "At the Armistice, the sudden cessation of the artillery fire which had continued ceaselessly on the Western Front for more than four years had an almost frightening effect on the troops. It was as if the kitchen clock had stopped at eleven o'clock in the morning and the household was uncertain as to when the potatoes should be put on to boil, if at all. 'When the guns stop' had been a synonym for 'when the war is over.' Yet was it over?... [T]here were no scenes in the trenches even remotely resembling those that took place at home." (*Good-Bye To All That* by Robert Graves.)

♦ "For fifty-seven nights the bombing of London was unceasing... / From September 7 to November 3 an average of two hundred German bombers attacked London every night... / On the night of November 3 for the first time in nearly two months no alarm sounded in London. The silence seemed quite odd to many. They wondered what was wrong. On the following night the enemy's attacks were widely dispersed throughout the Island; and this continued for a while... / These new bombing tactics began with the blitz on Coventry on the night of November 14..." (*Their Finest Hour* by Winston S. Churchill, Book II, "Alone," Chapter XVIII, "London Can Take It.")

♦ "There were no birds singing in the forest. No animals, no wolves or bears. There were not even mice. Nothing. There was nothing there. Perhaps the prisoners had eaten the birds, I don't know. But I never heard a sound." (The remarkable Polish schoolgirl Danuta Maczka, describing the Siberian logging camp she was deported to in early 1940. From "A Polish girl's journey across three continents" by Monica Whitlock, BBC, 16 September 2012.)

♦ "The men in the bunkers and command-posts of the 62nd Army felt very strange indeed; they wanted to touch their faces, feel their clothes, wiggle their toes in their boots. The Germans weren't shooting. It was quiet. / The silence made their heads whirl. They felt as though they had grown empty, as though their hearts had gone numb, as though their arms and legs moved in a different way from usual. It felt very odd, even inconceivable, to eat kasha in silence, to

write a letter in silence, to wake up at night and hear silence. This silence then gave birth to many different sounds that seemed new and strange: the clink of a knife, the rustle of a page being turned in a book, the creak of a floorboard, the sound of bare feet, the scratching of a pen, the click of a safety-catch on a pistol, the ticking of the clock on the wall of the bunker... / Chuykov left the bunker and climbed slowly up to the top of the slope; the wooden steps creaked under his boots. It was dark. Both the east and the west were quiet. The silhouettes of factories, the ruined buildings, the trenches and dug-outs all merged into the calm, silent darkness of the earth, the sky and the Volga. / This was the true expression of the people's victory. Not the ceremonial marches and orchestras, not the fireworks and artillery salutes, but this quietness—the quietness of a damp night in the country... / Chuykov was very moved; he could hear his heart thumping in this breast. Then he realized the silence was not total. From Banniy Ovrag and the 'Red October' factory came the sound of men singing. Below, on the banks of the Volga, he could hear quiet voices and the sound of a guitar..." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part 3, Chapter 17.)

♦ "Absence is present in this film. The absence is definitely... it's kind of deafening in its absence and its presence. And I feel that even in this city—New York—that there is that feeling as well." (The film director Steve McQueen talking about his film *Occupied City*.)

♦ "These are Rimonom, decorations for the Torah scroll. They are little crowns that go on top, with bells on them... I hear the ringing of Jewish Rimonom, and it makes me shiver. And in the first phone call with the great-grandchild of the person who donated it, when you hold this religious object up to the receiver and let it ring, it makes another person shiver, ten thousand kilometers away." (The great German Rolf Rausmeissel, historian. He has dedicated his life to returning cultural objects stolen from Jews by the Nazis to the descendants of their rightful owners for continued religious use.)

♦ "To Mr. Yamaguchi, there seemed to be children everywhere, some running, many limping along the side of the road. 'They didn't cry, he said. 'I saw no tears at all. Their hair was burned, and they were completely naked. I saw so many of these children. Behind them big fires burned. Miyuki Bridge, next to our dormitory, was still standing, but all over it there were burned people, children as well as adults, some of them dead, some of them on the verge of death. They were the ones who couldn't walk any more, who had just lain down. None of them spoke, none of them had the strength to say a word. It's funny that during that time, I didn't hear human speech, or shouts, just the sound of the city burning. Under the bridge there were many more bodies, bobbing in the water like blocks of wood.'" ("The Luckiest or Unluckiest Man in the World? Tsutomu Yamaguchi, double A-bomb victim" by Richard Lloyd Parry, *The Times* of London, March 25, 2009. Compiler's note: this article has been preserved, thankfully, on the Wayback Machine.)

♦ "I remember I went down into this hole for another scoop of dirt, and then that's when the bomb hit. I looked at the man I was digging this hole with; half his body was gone. And I looked up at the trees and I could see body parts on the limbs on the trees, and I shook myself out of it and I stood up, and it was so quiet." (Private Manuel Orona, Hill 875, Dak To, Vietnam War. The 500-pound bomb from a Marine plane caused the worst friendly-fire incident of the Vietnam War.)

♦ "It's pretty obvious, right from the first moment that the soldiers deploy because... you have this eerie sort of quietness?" (Siobhan Fallon, military wife, speaking about her book, *You Know When the Men Are Gone* on NPR's All Things Considered in 2011.)

♦ Day is done / Gone the sun / From-the-lake / From-the hill / From-the-sky / Rest in peace / Soljer brave / God is nigh And as the last note quivered to prideful silence... (*From Here to Eternity* by James Jones.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Your silence is loud...

♦ Your silence is deafening...

♦ Your silence is thunderous...

♦ Your silence speaks loudly...

♦ Your silence speaks volumes...

♦ see also *crickets (silence)*, *mute (speech)*

## silenced (groups)

silenced in my own history [and] experience  
I just felt ~ (Cambodian immigrant)

silenced and misrepresented  
we've been ~ (Katori Hall)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "We've been silenced and misrepresented. And so, any time you get an opportunity to tell your truth, you are pushing back against so many lies and falsehoods... And being an artist and in demanding that the world just looks at you, you oddly are being an activist." (Katori Hall.)

♦ "I couldn't fight back when Jeffrey Epstein sexually abused me, because I hadn't yet found my voice. Well, I found my voice now, and while Jeffrey may no longer be here to hear it, I will not stop fighting and I will not be silenced anymore."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## silent (fall silent)

fall silent  
the factory will ~

## silent (silent epidemic, etc.)

silent epidemic  
the ~ of America's problem with guns (suicide)

Silent Killer  
carbon monoxide, the ~

silent killer  
fentanyl has been a ~ in many OD deaths

silent transmission  
the aim is to nip any ~ in the bud (PCR testing booths)

## Silicon Valley (of China, etc.)

China's Silicon Valley  
Shenzhen, known as ~ (tech startups)

## Silicon Valley (epithet)

Silicon Valley for the new industry  
this is the ~ (Mojave Desert / aerospace / 2007)

Silicon Valley of its day  
entrepreneurs made the Midwest the ~ (auto industry)

Silicon Alley  
the dot com companies of ~ (NYC)

Crypto Valley  
the canton of Zug is now known as ~ (Switzerland)

Hillicon Valley  
~, tech and cyber news from Capitol Hill to Silicon Valley

Lithium Valley  
extraction can turn this area into the ~ (Salton Sea / CA)

Silicon Glen  
the central belt of Scotland was called ~

Silicon Valley



she was the golden girl of ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)  
failure and reinvention are embraced in ~ (no ethics)

♦ "Whatever happened to Silicon Glen?" by Douglas Fraser, *Business / economy* editor, Scotland, BBC, 28 January 2016. FIUK.)

♦ "Entrepreneurs in the auto industry and other innovators made the Midwest the Silicon Valley of its day." ("Recovering The Heartland" by Hendrik Meijer, *National Review*, December 19, 2022.)

## Silk Road (New Silk Road, etc.)

Canada's (6,000-year-old) 'Silk Road'  
~ (see quote below)

Maritime Silk Road  
the UAE is a hub of the ~ of China

new Silk Road  
there is no standard definition of the ~ (Ben Simpfordorfer)  
this is the ~ (oil pipeline between China, Kazakhstan)  
it's the ~ and they want to be the center of it (Abu Dhabi)

♦ "They really want to be the crossroad of the world. It's the new Silk Road and they want to be the center of it. And that's their vision." (A Georgetown University academic who studies the Middle East, about Dubai.)

♦ North Africa, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines... (Countries Ben Simpfordorfer includes on the New Silk Road.)

### \*\*\* The Old Silk Road...

♦ "The Silk Road was not one route, but a series of routes." (And passes...)

♦ Ashgabat / Konjikala (Turkmenistan); Badakhshan (Tajikistan / Afghanistan); Baghdad (Iraq); Bolan Pass (Baluchistan); Broghol Pass (Pakistan / Afghanistan); Bukhara (Uzbekistan); Chitral (Pakistan); Damascus (Syria); Dunhuang (Gansu); Fergana Valley (Uzbekistan / Kyrgyzstan / Tajikistan); Gilgit (Pakistan); Hexi Corridor (Gansu); Hotan (Xinjiang); Hunza (Pakistan); Jiaohe Ruins (Xinjiang); Karghalik / Yecheng (Xinjiang); Kashgar (Xinjiang); Kayseri (Central Anatolia); Kokand (Uzbekistan); Ladakh (India); Leh (Ladakh); Loulan / Shanshan (Xinjiang); Mogao Caves (Gansu); Nathu La Pass (connecting Sikkim and Tibet); Osh (Kyrgyzstan); Palmyra (Syria); Samarkand (Uzbekistan); Sanju Pass (Xinjiang); Shandur Pass (between Gilgit and Chitral); Tashkent (Uzbekistan); Tashkurgan (Xinjiang); Turpan (Xinjiang); Venice (Italy); Wakhan (Tajikistan / Afghanistan); Wuwei (Gansu); Xi'an (Shaanxi); Yangguan Pass (Gansu); Yarkant (Xinjiang); Yumenguan (Jade Gate / Gansu)... (Important places on the Silk Road.)

♦ Silk, jewels, spices, paper, glassware, pottery, science, ideas, religions... (Things that were passed on along the Silk Road.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A BBC link "Canada's 6,000-year-old 'Silk Road'" leads to an article entitled "The little-known hiking trail that built Canada" which turns out to be about the Nuxalk-Carrier Grease Trail in British Columbia, which is just 279 miles long! This article was the first inductee into the Exaggerated Headline Hall of Shame.

## silo (verb)

silo information  
hospital systems ~ (EHRs)

siloed the groups off from one another  
she ~ and discouraged them from communicating

## silo (academic silos, etc.)

siloes of information and misinformation  
we are getting our news from different ~ (US dysfunction)

silo-busters  
leaders should be ~

sub-silos  
smaller ~ of journalists (NPR / WaPo / *New York Times*)

social-media silos  
our filter bubbles and self-reinforcing ~

smaller, progressive silo  
the audience is cramped into a ~ (at NPR, vs. in 2011)

so many different separate silos  
people get info and entertainment from ~ (a divided U.S.)

academic silos  
the school wants to break down ~

break down silos  
common business challenges, like how to ~

cramped into a smaller, progressive silo  
now the audience is ~ (at NPR in 2024, vs. 2011)

get out of our siloes  
here in America, we need to ~ (President Biden)

♦ "This is the problem of spying. You are always in one particular silo within that particular organization in a black hole of information like Afghanistan, so you are really focusing on one area but you are blind sometimes basically to other activities happening around." (Aimen Dean.)

♦ "Here in America, we need to get out of our siloes, where we only listen to those whom we agree, where misinformation is rampant, where foreign actors fan the flames of our division, to shape the outcomes consistent with their outcomes, not ours." (A rare Oval Office address by President Joe Biden the day after the attempt to assassinate Donald Trump.)

♦ "There are actually smaller sub-silos of journalists that talk to each other more than anybody else." (They are National Public Radio / NPR, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*. From "How Journalists Congregating Into 'Microbubbles' Affects Quality Of News Reporting," NPR, All Things Considered, August 12, 2020. "NPR's Mary Louise Kelly talks with Nikki Usher, a journalism professor...")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This word is nicely written about in "The Vocabularist: How did 'silo' get to mean something else?" by The Vocabularist, BBC, 30 June 2015.

## siloed

siloed  
Jobs had insisted that departments were ~ (secrecy)  
the reality is the funding is ~ (restrictions on how to spend)

siloed off  
I'm kind of ~, our studios are in Brooklyn...  
women are so ~ in this profession (TV directors)

siloed from reality  
the media elites are ~  
they are ~ (media like MSNBC, NPR, etc.)

"siloed" (healthcare) system  
the US has a ~ (public, private, fragmented)

siloed and insular  
political journalists are even more ~ today (than in 2016)

siloed and stereotyped  
native people have long been ~ in film (Reservation Dogs)

stuck or siloed  
suspicions were “~” in a communisms channel

become (more) siloed  
the population has ~ (paywalls, premium subscriptions)

get siloed  
we do ~, NPR’s a pretty big organization (Uri Berliner)

♦ “Mr. Rowe said that suspicions about Crooks were ‘stuck or siloed’ in a communications channel used mostly by state and local officers.” (Five things we learned from Secret service boss about Trump shooting” by Bernd Debusmann, BBC News, July 29, 2024.)

## silver (noun)

silver (speech)  
see *silver (speech)*

silver bullet  
see *silver bullet (noun)*

silver platter  
see *platter (silver platter)*

silver spoon  
see *silver spoon*

silver-tongued  
see *silver-tongued*

## silver (speech)

silver  
speech is ~, silence is gold

silver-tongued  
see *silver-tongued*

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Speech is silver, silence is gold!

## silver bullet (noun)

silver bullet  
the system was sold as a ~ but it never worked (E-Verify)  
this problem will take time to fix and there is no ~

silver-bullet solution  
building the dam is not a ~ to adapt to changing weather

no silver bullet  
there’s ~, one system to do everything (anti-drone warfare)  
this will make a difference but there is ~ (arms to Ukraine)

vaccine ‘silver bullets’  
COVID-19 advisor says there are no ~

proved to be a silver bullet  
hydroxychloroquine has not ~ (COVID)

♦ “I think the risk here is that we are putting all of our eggs in one basket, we’re only focusing on boosting with vaccines, I think the issue is people are looking for a silver bullet, and, boosters are not a

silver bullet to COVID.” (Ominous reporting heard on NPR on September 6, 2022.)

♦ “We don’t consider it to be a silver bullet, but it’s an additional tool.” (A new method to control mosquitoes.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Silver bullet.” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## silver spoon (noun)

silver spoon  
we had plastic spoons, not ~s

♦ “I was raised by a single mom in poverty. We had plastic spoons, not silver spoons. But she taught me to work hard, to take responsibility, and reject victimhood.” (South Carolina Senator Tim Scott at the 2024 Republican National Convention.)

## silver-tongued

silver-tongued  
a ~ recruiting sergeant

## simmer (verb)

simmered with resentment  
he ~

## simmering (activity)

simmering resentment  
~ blossomed into warfare (two politicians)

simmering tensions  
this explosion of violence follows weeks of ~ (Jerusalem)

simmering war  
it is a ~ that sometimes boils over (Iran vs. world)

long-simmering debate  
the ~ over whether dinosaurs...

long-simmering dispute  
his ~ with...

long-simmering event  
this ~ in our history

long-simmering tension  
~ between the private university and the town

long-simmering (ethnic) tensions  
~ have erupted into violence

long-simmering (racial) tensions  
the altercation caused ~ to erupt

♦ “It is neither a cold nor hot war, in those terms’ traditional sense. It is a simmering war that sometimes boils over and other times remains warm.” (Alan Dershowitz and Andrew Stein. From “Enough with the Band-Aids, Biden—we need to stop Iran now,” *The New York Post*, Jan. 17, 2024.)

## simulacrum (noun)

simulacrum of choice  
gamification offers only a ~

simulacrum of sporting dominance  
these niche sports offer a ~ (gravel racing, etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Often used in a pejorative sense.

## sin (noun)

sins of slavery

she justified the looting as payback for the ~

mortal sin

I'd committed the ~ of voting for... (a politician)

original sin

see *original sin* (groups)

## sinew (effort)

strain every sinew

the government needs to ~ to encourage... (industry)

I will ~ to deliver on my promises (PM Rishi Sunak)

## Singapore (Singapore of the Middle East)

Singapore of the Middle East

Gaza could have been the ~

♦ "Gaza could have been—the phrase that's often used is—the Singapore of the Middle East... I interviewed the head of the Gaza Chamber of Commerce and he was quite optimistic." (NPR's Scott Simon, about 1993 and the Oslo Accords, versus Saturday, October 7, 2023.)

♦ "They took all the money and instead of making Gaza the Singapore of the Middle East, they made it into the biggest terrorist nest of the world." (A comment about Hamas by a member of the Israeli religious-Zionist party.)

♦ "Gaza could Have Been Singapore. Hamas Turned It Into ISIS / Opinion" by Bassem Eid, Palestinian Human Rights Activist, *Newsweek*, October 9, 2023.

♦ "In 2018, an Italian journalist named Francesca Borri visited Gaza and arranged to interview Sinwar. Borri told me that Sinwar wanted to send a message that he favored 'quiet for quiet,' a pause in the armed hostilities with Israel... / Sinwar praised the 'brilliant' young people of Gaza... 'That's Gaza. We are not only destitution and barefoot children. We can be like Singapore, like Dubai. And let's make time work for us. Heal our wounds.'" ("Notes From Underground: The life of Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas in Gaza" by David Remnick, *The New Yorker*, August 12, 2024.)

## sink (destroy)

sank the (prosecution's) case

it was the torpedo that ~ (forensics)

## sink (disappearance)

sank without a trace

the poem ~ in England (by D'Arcy Wentworth)

## sink (behavior)

sunk to a new low

she has ~

sink to the level

we cannot ~ of our oppressors

sinking lower and lower

broadcasters are ~ to get higher ratings

## sink (put)

sink (a lot of) money into their kids' sports  
adults ~

## sink (sink into a coma, etc.)

sank into a coma

he ~

## sink (sink into debt, etc.)

sinking (deeper) into debt

I was ~ (now homeless)

swim or sink

we are going to ~ together (revitalizing Detroit / 2010)

## sink (sink into despair, etc.)

sink into despair

she was starting to ~ (losing soccer game)

heart sank

my ~... (news of murder of boy)

spirits sank

my ~

## sink (sink into the mud, etc.)

sinking into the mud

the US is ~ of defeat (Iraqi spokesman on war)

sinking into the mud

the US is ~ of defeat (Iraqi spokesman on war)

## sink (sink into obscurity, etc.)

sank into obscurity

Petra ~ about 1000 AD

## sink (decline)

sinks into melodrama

the story ~

sank fast

United ~ after City went ahead (2019 soccer game)

stocks sank

blue-chip ~ Friday (stock market)

## sinkhole (noun)

sinkhole of shame and self-hatred

stuttering leaves behind an ever-deepening ~

## sink in (verb)

sink in

it took two days for it to ~

if you let that ~, that's an alarming statistic (police suicide)

sinks in

reality ~

sunk in

has it ~, John (a great boxing victory)

## sinking (sinking feeling, etc.)

sinking feeling

I had a ~ that...

## sink or swim

sink or swim on whether

the LIV Tour will ~ they are able to... (golf)

swim or sink

we are going to ~ together (revitalizing Detroit / 2010)

sink or swim type

it was a ~ type of thing (new bandmember)

## siphon (verb)

siphon Republicans away

a "centrist" might ~ from Trump (elections)

siphoned funds to her own pockets

she ~

## siren (siren call / siren song)

siren call of booze

they cannot resist the ~ (alcoholics)

siren call of fads

don't give in to the ~ (tattoos you can live with)

siren song of bargains

the ~ is too irresistible to avoid (outlet malls)

siren call to extremist groups

the tweet was the ~ such as... (President Trump)

heard the siren call

he ~ of his former club Real Madrid (Carlo Ancelotti)

heed the siren call

her book is for all who ~ of the water (swimming)

seduced by the siren song

they've been ~ "college for everyone"

♦ A Ulysses pact (contract) allows a mentally ill person to stipulate in advance that he be hospitalized during an episode, thus circumventing a legal requirement that he give permission.

♦ Dieter Klose, who made three attempts to climb the 6,700-foot Northwest Face of the Devils Thumb, on the border of Alaska and British Columbia, likened this climb to Sirens who attempted to lure Ulysses to his death.

♦ Delmer: Can't you see it, Everett? Them sirens did this to Pete. They loved him up and turned him into a ...horny toad." See YouTube O Brother, Where Art Thou? The sirens scene (HD CLIP)

## siren (other)

siren

this is the age of Viagra, and Mr. Trink was its ~

siren-voiced

a ~ singer

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Today's sirens want to charm you with seductive and insistent messages that focus on easy gains, the false needs of consumerism, the cult of physical wellness, of entertainment at all costs. All these

are like fireworks: they flare up for a moment, but then turn to smoke in the air." (Pope Francis on his trip to Greece in December, 2021.)

## sister (redneck sisters, etc.)

sisters in arms

the team has a '~' mantra (Australian netball team)

all my sisters

here's to ~ out there keepin' it country...

sorority sister

they are ~s

big sister

see *big sister* (relationship)

sweet sister

Hey my ~, let's please not... (see quote below)

*Band of Sisters*

~: *American Women at War in Iraq* (by Kirsten Holmstedt)

brothers and sisters

I love my Browns ~ but I'm done with the team (NFL fan)

♦ "Here's to all my sisters out there keepin' it country..." (Gretchen Wilson Redneck Woman YouTube. Hell yeah! Try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82dDnv9zeLs>

♦ "The Diamonds have a 'sisters in arms' mantra." (Australian netball team.)

♦ "Sisters are not always sisterly and nor are women somehow innately nice." ("Whatever the truth behind allegations against Lizzo, women can certainly be abusers, too" by Gaby Hinsliff, Opinion, *The Guardian*, 3 August 2023.)

♦ "Hey my sweet sister. Let's please not allow this business to erase our talent with giving grey areas and technicalities. Take a moment and know the history. DON'T BE A PART OF ERASING IT. I wish you the best. (Mo'Nique Worldwide responding to a tweet by Rebel Wilson.)

♦ "I still love my fellow long suffering Browns brothers and sisters but I am done with the team." (A disgruntled NFL fan.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I could feel the unity of tens of millions of brothers and sisters, rising to join the fight, creating a living dam to block the invaders' path..." (*Life and Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ "Beside my brothers and my sisters, I will proudly make a stand." Watch: Toby Keith—American Soldier (Radio Edit)

## sister (big sister, etc.)

big sister

see *big sister* (relationship)

## sister (sister ship, etc.)

sister

our ~s the plants, our brothers the animals (a Navajo)

sister building

concerns about its ~ down the block (building collapse)

sister city

Asheville's ~, Saumur, France

China has terminated the ~ relationship with Prague

sister event

Bike Week and its ~, Biketoberfest (Daytona Beach)

sister organizations  
he described them as “~” (terrorist groups)

sister publications  
the *Los Angeles Times* and its ~

sister science  
natural language processing and its ~, speech generation

sister ship  
HMS *Queen Elizabeth* and her ~, HMS *Prince of Wales*  
the *Zaandam* and its ~ the *Rotterdam*  
the nuclear sub *San Francisco* and its ~, *Honolulu*

sister sites  
Wikipedia and its ~ (Wikimedia Foundation)

sister technology  
Smart Reply is a ~ of Smart Compose

sister virus  
Marburg's ~: Ebola (African hemorrhagic fevers)

smaller sister  
the Mediterranean and its ~, the Black Sea...

ugly sister  
eugenics and its ~, eugenic euthanasia (Nazis)

three sisters  
~ soup, built from beans, squash and corn

she and her sisters  
~ were not very weatherly under sail (a class of 5 ships)

**\*\*\* analysis**  
♦ After the nose of the nuclear submarine USS *San Francisco* was crushed in a collision with a seamount in 2005, the nose of its sister ship the USS *Honolulu*—which was due to be retired—was cut off and welded to the *San Francisco*, which continued to serve for another eight years. Now, that's a sister!

**sister (the Sister Islands, etc.)**

Sister Creek  
~ is a stream in Valley County, Idaho

Sister Divide  
~ is a ridge in Whatcom County, Idaho

Sister Islands  
the ~ are in Grand Isle County, Vermont

Sister Lakes  
~ are in Iron County, Wisconsin

Sister Point  
~ is a cape in Sagadahoc County, Maine

Sister Rocks  
~ are island in Del Norte County, California

Bald Sister  
The ~ is a summit in Nye County, Nevada

Roaring Sister  
the ~ is a rock on the Western Cape of South Africa

Sleeping Sister  
~ Mountain is in Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska

Two Sisters  
we sailed to the ~ (Saudi islands off of Jizan)

Three Sisters  
we could see the ~ (mountains in KwaZulu-Natal)  
a group of boulders called the ~ (Stawell, Victoria)

Seven Sisters  
the ~ Waterfall has 7 separate streams (Norway)

Big Sister  
~ Bay is a swamp in Marion County, South Carolina  
~ Creek is a stream in Erie County, New York  
~ Key is an island in Lee County, Florida

Little Sister  
~ is an island in San Juan County, Washington  
~ Bay is a swamp in Marion County, South Carolina

Twin Sister  
~ Island is an island in Chippewa County, Michigan

First Sister  
~ Lake is a lake in Washtenaw County, Michigan

Second Sister  
~ Lake is a lake in Washtenaw County, Michigan

Middle Sister  
~ is a summit in Lane County, Oregon  
~ is a summit in Mono County, California  
~ Peak is a summit in Shoshone County, Idaho

North Sister  
~ Island is in Indian River County, Florida

South Sister  
~ Knob is a summit in Bath County, Virginia

East Sister  
~ Island is in Hancock County, Maine

West Sister  
~ Island is in Hancock County, Maine

Upper Sister  
~ Lake is in Hamilton County, New York

Lower Sister  
~ Lake is in Hamilton County, New York

**\*\*\* analysis**  
♦ When it comes to topography, if you have a big sister, you will most probably have a little sister!  
♦ South Sister Knob is a summit in Bath County, Virginia. North Sister Knob is just north of it.  
♦ East Sister Island is an island in Hancock County, Maine. It is east of West Sister Island.  
♦ Big Brother Lake, Little Brother Lake, and Little Sister Lake are all near one another in Madison County, Montana.  
♦ Sister Island is in the Saint Lawrence River, St. Lawrence County, New York. Nearby are Third Brother Island and Lone Brother Island!  
♦ Big Sister Creek is a stream in Fulton County, Illinois. Little Sister Creek flows into it.

- ♦ Middle Sister Creek in Baker County, Oregon is between South Sister Creek and North Sister Creek.
- ♦ Upper Sister Lake in Hamilton County, New York is northeast of Lower Sister Lake. They seem to be connected.
- ♦ Twin Sister Tank Number One in Catron County, New Mexico, is just west of Twin Sister Tank Number Two. In the west, a tank is a reservoir.

## sister (the Seven Sisters, etc.)

### Seven Sisters

- the Pleiades are often called the ~ (stars)
- Assam is one of the ~ (states in India)
- ~ schools were still all-female (early 1960s)
- ~ alumnae (Ali MacGraw, Jane Fonda, Gloria Steinheim...)

## sisterhood (noun)

### Sisterhood

- ~ *Is Forever* (an anthology edited by Robin Morgan)

### sisterhood of widows

- slain NYPD officer Jonathan Diller's wife joins ~

### sisterhood, and self-empowerment

- it's about ~ (2017 film *Girl's Trip*)

### tragic sisterhood

- it's a ~ (wives of cops slain in the line of duty)

### true sister

- on display was a ~ (see quote below)

### member of this sisterhood

- yet another ~ was Gerdy Troost (female architects)

- ♦ "Slain NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller's wife joins sisterhood of widows whose husbands were killed in the line of duty: 'It never goes away'" by Tina Moore, *The New York Post*, Marh 30, 2024.)

- ♦ "The Diamonds have a 'sisters in arms' mantra." (Australian netball.)

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ *Sisterhood Is Powerful* (1970); *Sisterhood Is Global* (1984); *Sisterhood Is Forever* (2003)... (Anthologies, all edited by Robin Morgan. Each one has its Wikipedia article.)

- ♦ Kristen Lovell: I think a lot of the times that when these documentaries are presented, they leave out certain elements of what Trans joy looks like and, you know, community, you know, especially back in like the early 90s, you would see a lot of documentaries, they're always dark and gritty and, you know, the Trans sex workers on the streets and, you know, the conversation becomes about the most dire of situations, and even though those stories are equally important [pronounced im-POR-ent], it's how they're told. / NPR's Ari Shapiro: Yeah, that sisterhood comes across REEEE-lee vividly. ("Kristen Lovell, co-director of 'The Stroll,' knows sex work is real work," NPR, All Things Considered, May 10, 2024.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ "On display was a true sisterhood, united in quiet demonstration." ("Trans teens shouldn't expect peers to cheer them—instead, blame adult activists for lying to them" by Kirsten Fleming, *The New York Post*, June 5, 2024. A biological male complained that his fellow competitors—high school girls—didn't cheer him when he won a state championship in a track event.)

- ♦ "Sisters are not always sisterly and nor are women somehow innately nice." ("Whatever the truth behind allegations against Lizzo, women can certainly be abusers, too" by Gaby Hinsliff, Opinion, *The Guardian*, 3 August 2023.)

- ♦ "Caitlin Clark won't be part of the United States women's national team for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, and that decision predictably got immediately shredded on social media by the sports

- world." ("Dave Portnoy slams 'unreal dumb' Caitlin Clark 2024 Olympics snub that stunned sports world" by Zach Braziller, *The New York Post*, June 8, 2024.)

- ♦ "She was singularly unsisterly." (The foreign correspondent Maggie Higgins, who wanted to be seen as a good newspaper man, not woman. She wanted equal opportunity for herself, not for her sex.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ A quality almost non-existent in society but often touted as an ideal. Defined by its absence.

- ♦ see also *brotherhood* (noun)

## Sisyphean (adjective)

### Sisyphean attempt

- they worked nonstop in a ~ to halt the inevitable (boat)

### Sisyphean task

- it is a ~ (creating a database)
- the ~ of digging out the hut from snow (Antarctica)

- ♦ "We were basically always pushing Jell-O up a hill." (The Federal bureaucracy.)

- ♦ "It's like herding mice." (A teacher.)

## sit (a house can sit somewhere, etc.)

### sat in a suburb

- his house ~ called...

### sits on the (northern) edge

- the city ~ of the African continent (Melilla)

### sits (comfortably) at the top of their group

- Italy ~ (soccer)

### sitting 2 points above the regulation zone

- Manchester United ~ (English soccer)

### sits behind a payroll

- the *Stockton Record* ~ (a newspaper)

### sat gleaming

- his gold accessories, custom-made for him, ~

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ A variant is "squat."

## sit (sit on something)

### sitting on the report

- the government is ~

### sits on his ideas

- so he ~ (Darwin takes his time to publish)

## sit (how does that sit with you, etc.)

### sit with you today

- how does that experience ~

- ♦ NBC news interviewer: How does that experience sit with you today? / Interviewee: It feels infuriating, I definitely felt...

## sit (sit on one's hands)

### see *hand* (sit on one's hands)

## sit by (verb)

### sit idly by

- I couldn't ~ (need to take action against barking dogs)



## sit down (verb)

sit down with the opposition  
we need to ~

sitting down with the Taliban  
we shouldn't be ~

## sit-down (other)

sit-down with the child  
have a serious ~ (a serious talk)

serious sit-down  
have a ~ with the child (a serious talk)

## sit out (verb)

sit out this year  
he can't afford to ~ (working during pandemic)

sit it out  
he could stay in Ulm and ~ until the Russians arrived

## sitting duck

sitting duck  
my brother's a ~ (snitch in prison)  
the convoys are ~s (Pakistan)  
you're a ~, you have no way to defend yourself (sniper)

became a sitting duck  
Usyk landed a 5-punch combination, and Joshua ~

## sit up (sit up and take notice, etc.)

sit up and take notice  
the score will no doubt have made their title rivals ~

♦ "The ruthless Gooners put six goals without reply past a stunned Hammers that led to many of the home fans departing at half-time, and will no doubt have made their title rivals sit up and take notice." ("West Ham 0-6 Arsenal: 'Massive' result puts Arsenal 'right in the race,'" BBC, February 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone sits up when startled.)

## size (and sized / affix)

bus-sized  
~ Tundra buggies haul tourists (Churchill / polar bears)

California-sized  
Kiribati has declared a ~ marine reserve (Phoenix Islands)

rice-grain-size  
a tiny ~ microchip (embedded in a pet)

queen-size  
see *queen-size* (and *queen sized*)

softball-sized  
~ spiders (Kandahar, Afghanistan)

♦ Marble / moth ball (.50); penny (.75); nickel (.88); quarter (1.00); half dollar (1.25); walnut / ping pong ball (1.50); golf ball (1.75); hen egg (2.00); tennis ball (2.50); baseball (2.75); tea cup (3.00); grapefruit (4.00); softball (4.50)... (Converting traditional hail size descriptions. Hail size (in.) / Object analog reported. From NOAA.)

♦ "It's got solar cells, batteries, two cameras... computer systems, navigation systems. All of this in a helicopter that's only the size of a chihuahua." (A drone on Mars.)

## size (one size fits all)

one-size-fits-all policy  
can Twitter have a ~ for every country (India, Turkey)

one-size-fits-all strategy  
it was a ~, and it didn't work (GOP politics)

cookie cutter, one-size-fits-all  
I tried not to develop that ~ home run call (an announcer)

## sizzle (verb)

sizzles with withering wit  
lacerating insults and dialogue that ~

cities sizzle  
as ~... (hot weather)

Europe sizzles  
people, pets seek shade and cool as ~ under a heat wave

no long sizzling  
the plant-based meat industry is ~

♦ "How the economy went from sizzle to fizzle."

## sizzle (noun)

sizzle reel  
an Amazon Studios ~ included... (*Road House* remake)

♦ "How the economy went from sizzle to fizzle."

## sizzling (economy, etc.)

sizzling jobs market  
what the country's ~ means for the economy

sizzling (summer) weather  
~ is hitting people in their pocketbooks (cost of AC, etc.)

♦ "How the economy went from sizzle to fizzle."

## sizzling (sex)

sizzling romance  
*The Taste of Things* is a ~ and feast (Justin Chang)

Sizzling-Hot  
"~ Reads For Cold Winter Nights" (steamy, hot, sultry)

♦ "But also stuffed in my backpack was my assigned reading, *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*. And the prose is very hot, but it's actually not explicit. And you know in that way it is actually still kind of sizzling... / Well, he's the one she's really not that into (Lynton)... / The feelings are absolutely still as sizzling as one might feel today... / Obstacles are sexy and there's no greater obstacle than a war... ("Sizzling-Hot Reads For Those Cold Winter Nights" by Barre (female) Hardyman, NPR, All Things Considered, February 13, 2015.)

## skein (entanglement)

messy skein  
he was already tangled in a ~ of indictments

## skeletal (adjective)

skeletal  
state services for victims are ~ (sex abuse / North Dakota)

skeletal force

the Alaska Defense Command, a ~ of 24,000 (W.W. II)

## **skeleton (secret)**

skeleton

who knows what ~s he's got in his closet (troubled)

skeletons in our closet

I knew we had ~ (newspaper's lack of coverage of...)

skeletons in its (Communist) closet

Poland exhumes ~

skeletons in the closet

all the ~ are spilling out (Turkey)

he has a few ~ that he doesn't want you to know about

newly revealed skeletons

~ joined old ones in his closet (a politician)

closetful of skeletons

he lied because he had a ~ (Murdaugh murder trial)

skeletons (in the closet) are spilling out

all the ~ (Turkey's past)

exhumes skeletons

Poland ~ in its Communist closet

♦ "I get that feeling too. It's like we've arrived in a small town and everybody knows everybody's dirty secrets, and we know there are skeletons in the closet, but we can't find the closets." (*The General's Daughter* by Nelson DeMille.)

♦ "There were many skeletons in his closet that were about to be exposed." (Dr. John Forge, University of Sydney.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "If you autopsy anybody's personal life deep enough, everybody's got skeletons." (A police chief under fire.)

## **skeleton (skeleton crew, etc.)**

skeleton crew

we are operating with a ~

we were able to open with a ~ (store after hurricane)

a ~ would remain aboard to maintain the vessel (ship)

skeleton staff

schools are operating with a ~ (pandemic)

## **skeleton (substance)**

skeleton

this is just a ~, you need to flesh it out (essay)

## **skeleton (resemblance)**

skeleton

she was skin and bones, a ~

charred skeleton

all that was left of the boat was a ~ (burned to waterline)

## **sketchy (adjective)**

sketchy stuff

there is still some ~ taking place (banks)

a little bit sketchy

details remain ~ at the moment (a criminal assault)

## **skewer (verb)**

skewered the powerful with his cartoons

he ~ (an editorial cartoonist)

skewered Mormonism

the Broadway show ~ (*The Book of Mormon* musical)

skewer (office) life and (business) norms

modern literary fiction often attempts to ~

♦ "These two women are such easy targets, a fingerless chef could skewer them." (A neat line from a book review by the critic Heller McAlpin.)

♦ "'SNL' skewers MSNBC's Trump obsession in fiery takedown of Rachel Maddow" by Chris Nesi, *The New York Post*, January 19, 2025.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ At one time spitjack was a job category and there was a dog, Canis vertigus, that was actually bred to turn a spit. Nowadays inserting a spit, once a common task, is a lost art. But the verb *skewer* will always exist, in the sense, "We skewered him at the comedy roast."

♦ see also *roast (verb)*

## **skewered**

skewered in an (attack) ad

he has been ~ for speaking French (a US politician)

## **ski (over one's skis, etc.)**

got out (a little bit) over his skis

he probably ~ (a premature announcement)

got far out over their skis

critics of the new law ~ (sanctions, etc.)

♦ "Critics of the Georgia elections law got far out over their skis." (Corporations sanctioned the state, and Major League baseball removed the All-Star Game from Atlanta.)

♦ OLD: we are getting ahead of ourselves... / NEW: we are getting over our skis...

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ For some reason this type of phrase gets tossed around a lot at my company. They'll say, "you don't want to get ahead of your skis" and I always have the urge to shout back "actually I don't want my skis to get ahead of me! Lol It's always distracting..." (MissySki, Apr 19, 2021, on "The Ski Diva forum titled "Can you really get "out over your skis"? by SallyCat, Apr 18, 2021.)

♦ See "Where Did the Phrase 'Over His Skis' Come From?" by Noreen Malone, *New York Magazine*, May 31, 2012.

## **skin (feeling)**

thick skin

he is known to be a survivor, to have very ~ (a politician)

thick-skinned

see *thick-skinned (adjective)*

thin-skinned

see *thin-skinned (adjective)*

in his skin

he is quiet, comfortable ~ (an executive)

got under his skin

I knew I ~ (at a trial)

got under my skin

she really ~  
this ~, because it touched something that mattered

gotten under his skin  
this has clearly ~ (irritated)

gotten under (NPR's) skin  
the allegation of bias has clearly ~

made my skin crawl  
it ~ (disgust)

♦ James Mossman: "You say that you don't care what the critics write about you, your work, yet you got very angry with Edmund Wilson once for commenting on your work, and you let off some very heavy field guns at him, not to say multiple rockets, so you must have cared..." / Vladimir Nabokov: "I never retaliate when my works of art are concerned. Here the arrows of adverse criticism cannot scratch let alone pierce the shield of what disappointed archers call my self-assurance. But I do reach for my heaviest dictionary when my scholarship is questioned..." (Vladimir Nabokov, BBC Author Archive Collection, "James Mossman talks to Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov in this 1970 interview.")

## skin (jump out of one's skin)

jump out of my skin  
loud noises make me ~

## skin (save one's skin)

save their skins  
executives sold their stock, hoping to ~ (Enron)

save your skin  
it's lucky they're taking you to the boss, that may ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can save your neck, save your skin, or save your scalp. Take your pick!

## skin (groups)

in her own skin  
today Sullivan is comfortable ~ (autistic, agender)

strengthens your skin  
just being here kinda ~ (autistic, agender)

♦ "There's something about having a place on the spectrum and feeling othered by the world but still just being here, no matter what, that really just like over the years kinda strengthens your skin." ("Transgender and non-binary people are up to six times more likely to also have autism" by Lesley McClurg, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, January 15, 2023.)

## skin (outside)

skin  
someone had tended to its guts, if not its ~ (a rifle)

mango skin  
the ~ ripping away from the fruit's flesh...

## skin-deep

skin-deep  
the reforms have only been ~

## skinflint (person)

skinflint northerners  
the scheme pits spendthrift southerners against ~ (Europe)

## skinny (adjective)

skinny  
department budgets are already ~ (state government)

skinny on results  
diet books are fat on profits, ~

skinny (coronavirus) bill  
the senate failed to pass even the ~

skinny budget  
believe it or not, this is what they all the ~, Scott

## skirmish (noun)

skirmishes  
it's important to know which ~ to join and which to ignore

skirmishes with the (New York literary) establishment  
one of his many ~ (Ishmael Reed)

budget skirmishes  
the budget is subject to annual ~

♦ "In every bureaucracy it is important to know which skirmishes to join and which to ignore." (The great 1995 film *Citizen X* with Stephen Rea and Donald Sutherland.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

## skirt (skirt an issue, etc.)

skirted the issue  
he ~

skirt around (the Vision Pro's X-rated) guardrails  
users seek to ~

## skirt (configuration)

skirt Xinjiang and Tibet  
the Kunlun Mountains ~

## skirt (woman)

hire a "skirt"  
Weinstein insisted his team ~ (a female attorney / rape trial)

## skittish (adjective)

skittish  
insurers are ~

skittish about crowds  
audiences are ~ (pandemic)

skittish about Gulf seafood  
consumers are still ~ (after oil spill)

skittish about talking

many people are ~ openly about race (cancel culture)

skittish bankers

easing the fears of ~ (marijuana business)

skittish investors

he could calm ~ and attract foreign capital (an economist)

meek and skittish

she is ~ in person...

felt skittish

she ~ about that (separate bank accounts / marriage)

left some investors skittish

the coup ~ (Myanmar)

grown skittish

many businesses have ~ in the face of weak demand

look skittish

it was important not to ~ (modern hooligans)

makes privacy experts skittish

the bill ~

remain skittish

investors ~

♦ "No sex please, we're skittish," is the title of a 2021 article in *The Economist* about the porn site OnlyFans. It plays on the title of the 1971 British play, *No Sex please, we're British*. Funny!

\*\*\* horses...

♦ Many things can make horses skittish, including the sound their hooves make on bridges...

♦ "Edison wired a whole district of lower Manhattan, around Wall Street, to be powered in two semi-derelict buildings on Pearl Street. Through the winter, spring and summer of 1881-2 Edison laid fifteen miles of cable and fanatically tested and retested his system. Not all went smoothly. Horses behaved skittishly in the vicinity until it was realized that leaking electricity was making their horseshoes tingle." (*At Home: A Short History of Private Life* by Bill Bryson.)

## sky (the sky can fall)

sky

the ~ is not falling (fears of attacks on Internet)

sky fell in on Ten Hag's team

Gakpo scored and the ~ (Man Utd -7 Liverpool)

♦ "This is not going to devastate us. Chicken Little said the sun will come out tomorrow, didn't he?" (Coach Kim Mulkey of the LSU Tigers, about her team's season opener loss to the number 20 ranked Colorado Buffaloes. Of course, Chicken Little said that the sky was *falling*.)

## sky (a clear blue sky, etc.)

a clear blue sky

the attack on the politician did not come out of ~

## sky (blue sky thinking)

"blue-sky thinking"

~ is a way to tackle intractable issues (conflict)

blue-sky thinking

now is not the time for ~, new approaches (the Balkans)

♦ see also *moonshot* (noun)

## sky-high

sky-high

fans were ~ after the win

emotions were ~ (at a murder trial)

sky high

costs are ~

♦ "Hopes and expectations were understandably sky-high..."

## skyrocket (to attention, etc.)

skyrocketed onto the (national political) scene

he ~ in 2018

## skyrocket (increase)

population has skyrocketed

in Europe's prisons, where the Islamic ~

price (of helium) is skyrocketing

the ~

prices skyrocket

'liquid gold' ~ due to poor harvest (Greek olive oil)

profits skyrocket

corporate ~ even as the economy remains stalled

unemployment is skyrocketing

the economy is crashing, ~ (politics)

## skyscraper (tall building)

earthquake-resistant skyscraper

architects design ~s

4,000 skyscrapers

a city that already has ~, double New York (Shanghai)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Shibam is one of the oldest examples of urban planning using vertical construction." (Yemen.)

## skyway (noun)

Cherochala Skyway

the ~ connects western North Carolina and Tennessee

tunnel and skyway

Montreal is known for its ~ network

Toronto and Minneapolis are known for their ~ networks

## slack (noun)

slack

she deserves a little ~

## slam (verb)

slammed the politician for his hatred and bigotry

he ~

slams Trump over 'violent' rhetoric

Harris ~ (NBC Nightly News)

slamming President Biden's decision

family members of the victims are ~ (death-row pardons)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ If you "slam" somebody for their "violent" rhetoric, aren't you being violent, too?

## slam-dunk (and slam dunk)

slam dunk

this case is anything but a ~, and whatever the outcome...  
in my mind it's a ~, based on the evidence (guilty)

slam dunk for Chelsea

it's a ~ (re-signing Lukaku is a good idea)

slam-dunk for him

this is no ~ (a tough boxing match)

slam-dunk for Republicans

this should have been a ~ (election)

slam-dunk (positive) drugs test

the case did not have a ~ to stand upon (sports doping)

slam-dunk variety

discoveries are unlikely to be of the ~ (Mars mission)

no slam dunk

there was ~, and the family knew it (a murder conviction)

\*\*\* In the NBA...

♦ In the NBA, when one player slam-dunks on another, it is seen as a sign of dominance. The dunker generally takes the opportunity to posture, often clenching his fists, pushing his chest out, and baring his teeth. The one who has been dunked on reels away in defeat, his posture lowered. The dunker's teammates often jump up and down, wave towels or place them over their heads, and hoot.

## slanted (news, etc.)

wanted it slanted

readers wanted the news, but they ~ (early newspapers)

## slap (awareness)

slaps you right in the face

this reality ~ (weekly death toll during pandemic)

## slap (punish)

slapped them on the face

last night we ~ (Iranian attack on US)

slaps them on the wrist

the law just ~and lets them drive again (drunk driving)

## slap (slap in the face, etc.)

slap in the face

the offer was a ~ (to relatives of dead miners)

slap to the prosecutor

his words were a ~ (judge orders new trial)

slap in the face of the German Army

the misconduct of some soldiers is a ~ (wild hotel party)

slap in the face of (U.S.) politicians

a ~ (Saddam's view of nine-eleven)

slap in the face for players

the NBA's plans are a ~

slap in the face for the US

the attack was a ~ (by Iran)

slap in the face to Chicagoans

his actions were a ~ (false accusation of hate crime)

slap in the face to the female students

it was a ~ (who had been molested at USC)

slap in the face to his victims

this was a ~ (Markeith Loyd penalty decision)

slap on the wrist

see *wrist* (*slap on the wrist*)

♦ "The Yankees surged ahead in the 10th..., but any exhale was followed by a slap to the face." (Freddie Freeman hits walk-off grand slam. The 2024 MLB World Series, Game 1.)

## slash (verb)

slash (state) agencies

he wants to ~

slash (private and corporate) taxes

his budget blueprint would ~ (politician)

## slash-and-burn (adjective)

slash-and-burn process

their approach to cutting costs is a ~ (politics)

## slate (a clean slate, etc.)

wiped my slate clean

I feel like God has ~ (executed for 6 murders)

## slaughter (military / noun)

dispatched to the slaughter

further semi-trained levies were ~ (Hungarians / WW II)

## slaughtered

slaughtered

some sacred cows are ~ on the way (educational theory)

get slaughtered

Democrats are going to ~ in 2022 and 2024

## slaughterhouse (military)

slaughterhouse for the Russians

Taipale was a ~ (the Russo-Finnish Winter War)

slaughterhouse mess

the ~ was being cleaned up (aid post hit by 8-inch shell)

become a slaughterhouse

the tiny bridgehead become a ~ (the Neva Patch / WW II)

## slave (verb)

slaved over this

I really ~ (a project)

## slave (slave to fashion, etc.)

slaves to the clock

we aren't ~, like the Americans

slave to duty

he did not wish to go, but Scott was always a ~

slave to fashion  
she is a ~

slave to laziness  
don't become a ~

slave to the past  
Turkey is not a ~

slave to the rules  
I refuse to be a ~

slave to tobacco  
to smoke is to be a ~ (public-health ad)

slave to trends  
she is chic, but not a ~

slave to forms and etiquette  
Scott was a ~ (Robert Falcon Scott)

debt slave  
don't be a ~ to your mortgage

become a slave  
don't ~ to laziness

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Do a favor for a beggar and you'll be his slave!

♦ Teach me one thing, and I am your slave.

## slave (dominated)

slave  
we will be your friend, not your ~

♦ "We will be your friend, not your slave." (Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, to the United States.)

### \*\*\* Christian slaves...

♦ The Battle of Lepanto, 1571, was the last great naval engagement to be fought with oared galleys. Fifteen thousand [italics mine] Christian galley slaves were set at liberty. "Among the Christian wounded was Miguel de Cervantes, aboard the Marquesa. He was struck twice in the chest, a third shot permanently maiming his left hand—to the greater glory," as he put it, 'of the right.' He was to describe Lepanto as 'the greatest occasion that past or present ages have witnessed or that the future can hope to witness', and to remain prouder of his part in it than of anything else in his life." The lives of Cervantes and Shakespeare were roughly contemporaneous; Shakespeare was seven years old when Cervantes was liberated from Turkish captivity, and both died in the same year, 1616. (The quotation is from *The Middle Sea: A History Of The Mediterranean* by the historian John Julius Norwich. To this day Turkey remains an important player in world history, particularly in the Middle East and Central Asia, all the way to Xinjiang, China. In 2023, Russia sacrificed Nagorno-Karabakh, with its 150,000 Armenian Christians, to the Turks (and Azerbaijan) in return for Turkish support in Russia's war with Ukraine.)

### \*\*\* African slaves...

♦ "Slavery was accepted as an institution in Africa as much as it was by Europeans or by settlers in the Americas." (The historian Hugh Thomas. This makes sense. There were too few Europeans in their small caravels to actually capture slaves, the locals were too fierce, and Europeans tended to die of African diseases. And so, from the Portuguese on, Europeans dealt and traded with African rulers.)

## sledding (tough sledding)

tough sledding  
it's been ~, but... (progress of war)

♦ "It's going to be a very difficult race; she has a tough campaign to run; we've got to be ready for anything; it's tough sledding ahead..." (Democrat political analyst James Carville—The Ragin' Cajun—cautioning against "triumphalism" about Kamala Harris as Democratic nominee for President.)

### \*\*\* "The Yukon lay at his feet..."

♦ "The Yukon lay at his feet, a sea of ice, disappearing around two great bends to the north and south, and stretching an honest two miles from bank to bank. Over its rough breast ran the sled-trail, a slender sunken line, eighteen inches wide and two thousand miles in length, with more curses distributed to the linear foot than any other road in or out of all Christendom." ("The Man With the Gash" by Jack London.)

## sledgehammer (noun)

taken a sledgehammer to America's trustworthiness  
he has ~ and credibility (politics)

taking a sledgehammer  
is he ~ to crack a nut here (overreaction)

## sleep (noun)

awakening from (its winter) sleep  
nature is ~

## sleep (lose sleep)

losing sleep over that question  
Trump is not ~ (politics)

## sleep (put something to sleep)

put *woke* to sleep  
it's time to ~

♦ Sam Sanders argues that the term *woke* has had its day and should be retired. ("Opinion: It's Time to Put 'Woke' To Sleep," NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, December 30, 2018.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can retire something or someone. An alternative is, "Time to send it off to the sanctuary." Or "put it out to pasture." A less benevolent idea is "Slaughter the donkey when its work is done." Or "It's time to send it to the glue factory." Or, "Put it to sleep." Or "Take it behind the barn." Take your pick!

## sleeping (consciousness)

sleeping majority  
I was one of the ~, but now I have woken up (Egypt)

## sleeping beauty

regarded as a sleeping beauty  
the city was abandoned and ~ (Matanzas, Cuba, revived)

## sleeping giant

see *giant* (*sleeping giant*)

## sleepwalk (verb)

sleepwalk through life  
two lonely souls who ~, doing dead-end jobs (film)

sleepwalking into a level of risk  
it's ~ you don't realize you have (funds cut to Navy)

sleepwalking towards (greatly increased) risk  
we are ~ (end of INF nuclear treaty)



## sleepy (activity)

sleepy backwater  
oil transformed Khartoum from a ~ to a modern city

sleepy community  
the ~ of...

sleepy oasis  
Korla, once a ~, is undergoing an oil boom (Xinjiang)

sleepy (little farm) town  
a ~

## sleeve (on one's sleeve)

with his heart on his sleeve  
he always fights ~ (the great boxer Johnnie Tapia)

wears the (capitalist rebel) badge on his sleeve  
he ~ (Domm Holland, technology)

wears his heart on his sleeve  
he ~ when it comes to his dad (Ray Mancini / boxer)

wear my influences on my sleeve  
I ~ (a writer)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ There were great husky men crying with the pain of gaping wounds and dreadfully swollen, discolored trench feet, who sank down exhausted the moment they stopped. There were strings of from eight to twenty blind boys filing up the road, clinging tightly and pitifully to each other's hands, and led by some bedraggled limping youngster who could still see... I wonder if I'll ever be able to look at marching men anywhere again without seeing those blinded boys, with five and six wound stripes on their sleeves, struggling painfully along the road." (*Sister: The War Diary of a Nurse* by Helen Dore Boylston.)

## sleeve (up one's sleeve)

up his sleeve  
he will have his own little tricks ~ (rugby coach)

♦ "I thought Pep had a trick up his sleeve? Turns out it was just his arm." (A snarky online commenter, about the football club Manchester City.)

## sleeve (roll up one's sleeves)

roll up the sleeves  
time to ~ once again and just get the job done (soccer)

rolling up our sleeves  
we are ~ for Canal Istanbul (Erdogan)

roll up their sleeves  
everyone will have to ~ and work collaboratively

rolls up their sleeves  
they want someone who ~, gets things done (politics)

♦ "This is not a time to throw up our hands, this is a time to roll up our sleeves." (Kamala Harris, in her concession speech at Howard University—an HBCU—following her loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Not all people and cultures wear clothes with sleeves.

♦ Who actually does this? (Rolls up one sleeves before getting to work.)

## sleight of hand

linguistic sleights of hand  
governments propagandize citizens with ~

## slender (adjective)

slender chance  
there was a ~ she would recover (sick)

slender victory  
Uruguay's ~ over Saudi Arabia ensured that...

## sleuth (person)

sleuth  
is not the biographer also a ~

internet sleuth  
armchair detectives and ~s are sharing their own theories  
the murder has set ~s off on their own investigations

online sleuths  
~ have successfully tracked down suspects (Jan 6 rioters)

social media sleuths  
~ dug up an old clip that indicated (a Twitter war)

♦ "When my family goes to sleep, I time travel and reframe stale evidence using twenty-first-century technology. I start clicking, scouring the Internet for digital clues authorities may have overlooked, combing digitized phone books, yearbooks, and Google Earth views of crime scenes: a bottomless pit of potential leads for the laptop investigator who now exists in the virtual world. I share my theories with the loyal regulars who read my blog." (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark* by Michelle McNamara.)

♦ "Armchair detectives and keyboard warriors piled on with conspiracies, speculation and fantasy." (See the Wikipedia article "Death of Nicola Bulley." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## slice (piece)

slices of the market  
in the ceaseless quest to stake out bigger ~

slice of the pie  
see *pie* (*piece of the pie, etc.*)

## slice (road slices, etc.)

slices through the land  
where a creek ~ near the house

slice through the town  
just north of the railroad tracks that ~

slices through the heart of the forest  
the Cuiabá-Santarém road, which ~

road slices  
the ~ through thick pine and spruce forest

## slick (adjective)

slick presentation  
they put together a ~ (impeachment trial)

## slide (slide to perdition, etc.)

slide to perdition  
give socialism a foothold, and nothing can arrest the ~

arrest the slide  
the company is doing everything it can to ~ in its stock price

### slide (verb)

slid into a depression  
she ~ of extraordinary depth and duration

### slim (small)

slim  
he knows his odds (of success) are ~

slim chance  
there's still a ~ that... (politics)

slim majority  
Republicans have a ~ in the Senate

very slim  
the chances (of success) are ~ (a cold murder case)

### slimy (personality)

slimiest promoter  
he's the ~ promoter to ever walk these shores (U.K. boxing)

### slink (slink in, etc.)

slunk in through a ship  
the deadly flu ~

### slip (noun)

ethical slip  
we all have the capacity for these ~s (cheating, lying)

### slip (fail)

slipping  
his grip on power is ~

slipping (further) into chaos  
the country is ~ (the U.S.)

slips into recession  
Italy unexpectedly ~

slipped in the rankings  
the U.S. has ~ (corruption)

### slip (sales have slipped, etc.)

slipping  
gun sales have been ~ under Trump

slipped 7 percent  
murders ~ last year

### slip (permission slip)

permission slip  
the US does not need a ~ to defend its security  
the verdict is a ~ that extremists have long sought

complicit in the permission slip  
they must disavow him or they are ~ (politics)

### slip away (time)

slipping away  
she writes to remember a past that is ~ (Nobel Prize)

### slippery (words, etc.)

slippery  
the word itself was ~ (the word *war* and Afghanistan)

slippery state  
closure is a ~, not so easily defined

slippery word  
that question was wrapped up in another ~: *culture*

slippery, vague  
this language has a ~ quality (Silicon Valley hype)

### slippery (difficult)

slippery  
the investigation will be ~ (difficult, problematic)

slippery process  
the ~ of counting immigrant jobs (disagreements)

slippery, vexing  
*Promising Young Woman* is a ~ film (not easy to describe)

prove slippery  
predictions of 'peak oil' production ~

### slippery (character)

"Slippery Jim"  
James Blaine was widely known as ~ (bad reputation)

slippery morality  
the ~ of those who cast the first stone...

### slipping (failing)

"slipping" (mental) acuity  
his ~ (a president)

### slipstream (in a slipstream)

in Tyson Fury's slipstream  
Anthony Joshua is ~ now (boxing)

### slip up (fail)

slip up or hit a plateau  
if you ~, don't beat yourself up (weight loss)

♦ "Iran put a banana peel in front of the United States and President Trump put his foot right on it." (Cali Nasir's analysis after an Iranian proxy militia in Iraq killed an American. The resultant US airstrike against the militia resulted in an outburst of Iraqi anti-Americanism, including an attack on the US Embassy in Baghdad.)

### slip-up (speech)

verbal slip-ups  
his ~ don't undermine his judgment (a politician)

## sliver (piece)

sliver of the electorate  
this impacts just a small ~

sliver of remorse  
he express what seemed to be a grudging ~

sliver of solace  
there may be a ~ in the fact that...

## slog (verb)

slogged a difficult road  
the team ~ to qualify for the tournament

## slog (long hard slog, etc.)

slog  
the long running time is occasionally a ~ (a film)  
in real life, politics is a ~ (victories a long time coming)

slog of lockdowns and death counts  
before life turned into this ~ with no definite end (Covid)

easy slog  
this is not going to be an ~

lifelong slog  
learn a language, getting there needn't be a ~ (an ad)

long hard slog  
the fight will be a ~ (war)  
the candidates have a ~ to go (election)  
the election campaign will be a ~  
it may be a ~ to bring about regime change (in Venezuela)

tough slog  
it was a ~ to get that done (legislation)

\*\*\* The mules exhausted themselves...

♦ "Making our way through the submerged forest was no easy job. The mules sank up to their knees in the mud, fell into deep holes, and exhausted themselves. / It was not till dusk that we managed to reach the hills on the right side of the valley. The mules were dead beat, but the men were still more tired." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Mud is a curse which seems to save itself for war." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II.)

## slope (on a slippery slope)

on a slippery slope  
she is ~ (celebrity bad behavior)

## slope (slippery slope)

slope  
the ~ is slippery in both directions (censorship)

slippery slope towards democracy  
this was the start of the ~ (South Africa)

slippery-slope argument  
the ~ (relating to precedents)

fear of a slippery slope

the ~ was pervasive (military intervention)

start of the slippery slope  
this was the ~ towards democracy (South Africa)

push the state down a slippery slope  
this will ~ of prosecuting thoughts (versus acts)

send our country down this slippery slope  
nobody wants to ~ (impeachment trial / precedent)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The term 'slippery slope' can be misused."

## sloppy (adjective)

sloppy display  
it was a ~ from Wales (soccer)

sloppy pass  
her ~ back almost gifted Cameroon a goal (World Cup)

## slot (The Slot, etc.)

The Slot  
~ is a channel in Monterey County, California

♦ Slot Creek is a creek in Fresno County, California.

♦ The Slot is an area in San Diego County, California.

## slot (epithet)

"the Slot"  
the New Georgia Sound was known as ~ by the Allies  
the Japanese from Rabaul regularly came down ~

slot of doom  
"the ~" narrows to a foot at its base (Otago, NZ)

Slot's (narrow siltstone) canyon  
it's an easy walk through the ~ (Anza-Borrego park / CA)

Steamer Lane-The Slot  
~ is usually safe and works all year (reef break / surfing)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "New Georgia Sound," "During the Pacific War of World War II, the New Georgia Sound was known as 'The Slot' by Allied combatants due to its geographical shape and the amount of warship traffic that traversed it. The Japanese naval efforts to resupply their garrison on Guadalcanal were referred to as the Tokyo Express." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## slot (shape)

slot canyons  
the area is famous for its ~

## slough (and sluff / verb)

sloughed off  
patients do the work doctors and hospitals have ~

slough off U.S. allegations  
Russian ~ of spying

slough off complaints  
Romney had been able to ~ that... (politics)

sloughed off convention  
he ~ (an artist, in his art and personal life)

sloughed off such criticism  
Orban ~ (of racism)

slough off the life  
if you could ~ you'd built...

\*\*\* **rocks, snakes, fur, skin...**

♦ "California has relatively young mountains from a geology standpoint, meaning much of its steep terrain is still in motion and covered in loose rocks and soil that can be sloughed off easily, especially when the ground is wet..." (Flooding, landslides, rockslides, mudslides, etc.)

♦ Every year thousands of people stop at the Visitor Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville, North Carolina. Few make the short walk across a gully-spanning bridge to the administration center. At one end of the bridge, if they examine the foliage carefully, they might see the sloughed off skin of a black snake on a branch. At the other end, in the rocks along a stone wall, they might see the sloughed off skin of a copperhead. Such things are always wonderful to notice.

♦ "Their fur sloughs off and drifts." (Camels. They also produce airborne balloons of saliva.)

♦ "From the stump of the arm, the amputated hand, / I undo the clotted lint, remove the slough, wash off the matter and blood; / Back on his pillow the soldier bends, with curv'd neck, and side-falling head; / His eyes are closed, his face is pale, he dares not look on the bloody stump, / And has not yet looked on it." ("The Dresser" by Walt Whitman, 1865.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Pronunciation: rhymes with "stuff." It is less commonly spelled "sluff."

♦ see also *shed* (verb)

## slow (adjective)

slow to ground  
the FAA was ~ the 737 MAX (after two crashes)

## slug (slug something out)

slugged it out  
Obama and Clinton ~ in the primaries

## sluggish (adjective)

sluggish  
growth has been ~  
tourism is still ~  
sales were ~ in July  
hiring remains ~  
economies range from ~ to staggering (downturn)

sluggish economy  
everyone is feeling the effects of the ~  
he found himself bedeviled by the ~ (president)

sluggish growth  
the report shows ~ (economy)

sluggish pace  
the economy is improving, but at a ~

sluggish response  
the city will investigate the ~ to the storm

remain sluggish  
economies in the US and Europe also ~

remains sluggish  
hiring ~

## slumber (noun)

shakes people from their slumber  
I hope this film ~ (the great filmmaker Spike Lee)

## slump (verb)

slumped  
economic growth ~  
ridership fell as tourism ~ (cabs)

slumping  
manufacturing is ~ in recent months (employment)

slumping (back) into recession  
Ireland is ~ (falling exports)

slumped to (its third) defeat  
the team ~ of the season as...

slumped to a (record) low  
the Syrian currency has ~

## slump (in a slump)

in a (record) slump  
the birthrate is ~ (USA)

remains in a (severe) slump  
the economy ~

## slump (other)

the Slump  
by 1933 ~ had spread like the plague (England)

slump in form  
the club has seen an alarming ~

slump in home sales  
furniture sales have been hit by the ~

"Trump Slump"  
because of the ~, shops have more guns than buyers

team's slump  
he is adamant he can fix his ~ (a manager)

economic slump  
Russia's ~ has been good for London

great slump  
the ~ could have turned into a Great Depression (2010)

ongoing slump  
the decline in the U.S. birthrate is an ~

slump is dragging on  
the ~

slump has hit  
the economic ~ the nation's truckers

slump is worsening  
Miami's housing ~

broke out of its slump

the team finally ~ (won)

bucked the retail slump  
the company has ~

get out of their slump  
the team won't ~ until they start scoring and...

hit a slump  
after years of blockbuster global sales, the iPhone has ~

reverse its (sales) slump  
the company hopes to ~

## slurry (noun)

slurry of bad news  
this year's exceptional ~ (2020)

\*\*\* **Aberfan, Wales, 1966...**

♦ "In this grim Welsh mining village of 5,000 there is turkey in plenty on the table, but the eyes of bereaved parents turn inevitably to empty chairs." ("Turkey Is Plentiful But Holiday is Sad in Aberfan, Wales," *The New York Times*, Dec. 25, 1966. One hundred and sixteen children between the ages of seven and ten, and 28 adults, died when a mountain of coal waste collapsed, hitting a school.)

## slut (enthusiasm)

photo slut  
~s, surfers going big on small waves for the money...

stats sluts  
he abhors the "~" (a football analyst)

♦ "It's this very unusual juxtaposition of veganism, which is often connected to what I'm *not allowed* to eat, with sluttiness, which is all the things that I'm *gonna do* even though I'm not allowed to." ("Special Sauce: The Slutty Vegan burger chain puts the party in plant-based eating" by Charles Bethea, *The New Yorker*, April 17, 2023. "Slut," "slutty," "sluttiness," and "sluttified" are mentioned 57 times in the article. See the excellent response to the article directly below.

\*\*\* **more conventional usage...**

♦ NOT SO LONG AGO: "The situation was complicated by large numbers of 'slut farmers'—men with sufficient private means not to worry about making their farms pay. They left their fields to get full of thistles and even thornbushes, which provided cover for game; and found rough shooting far more fun than uneconomic farmwork." (*The Long Week-End: A Social History of Great Britain 1918-1939* by Robert Graves and Alan Hodge.)

♦ NOT SO LONG AGO: "No one liked Henry Clinton, especially Clinton himself, who was, by his own account, 'a shy bitch.'" (*Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution* by Nathaniel Philbrick. Page 12.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Charles Bethea's entertaining piece on Slutty Vegan shows the burger chain's use of the word 'slutty' to be a savvy bit of branding, capable of capturing the paradoxical associations of cute promiscuity, chic vulgarity, and naughtily virtuous veganism ("Special Sauce," April 17th). The history of the word 'slut' reinforces its good-bad connotations. The word might be connected to the Old English 'slyt' (sleet) and seems related to words meaning 'muddy' and 'slushy.' Since its earliest appearance, in the fifteenth century, 'slut' has often, but not always, had a negative meaning: a dirty or slatternly woman, a licentious woman or man, a scullery maid, or simply a girl. In the past half century, some speakers have reclaimed 'slut' and used it proudly, as in SlutWalks, marches against stigmatizing victims of sexual assault. Other modern uses trade jokingly on its implications of promiscuity, as in 'I'm a TV slut. I'll watch anything.' Who knows how it will evolve in the future—perhaps into a common food term?" (PROMISCUOUS USAGE, by Judith Tschann, Redlands, Calif. From "The Mail," *The New Yorker*, May 15, 2023.)

♦ see also *whore* (*attention whore*, etc.)

## small-minded

small-minded  
she's ~

## smart (verb)

smarting from the last couple of weeks  
people are still ~ (a bruising political battle)

## smart (as noun)

putting smart to work  
we're ~ (an ad for a corporation)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## smart (technology, etc.)

smart bomb  
~s are less likely to go astray  
~s used to be guided by a laser  
~s hit the target, but rely on good intelligence  
~s and stealth technology won Gulf War I  
"brilliant" bombs are the ~s of the future  
all-weather ~s are guided by satellites  
JDAM ~s are guided by inertial guidance and GPS  
JDAM ~s are unaffected by clouds, dust, smoke  
the stock of satellite-guided ~s is depleted

smart cards  
~ that store data have been routinely cracked

smart devices  
~—smart PCs, smart cell phones...

smart dust  
"~"—tiny digital sensors, strewn around the globe  
~ would monitor, measure and understand the world  
~ remains a ways off  
~ has proved impossible because sensors need power

smart fuse  
a "~" for penetrating warheads uses an accelerometer

smart house  
~s could monitor the elderly  
~ could monitor those with chronic conditions

smart mine  
dumb mines versus ~s (self-destruct / self-deactivate)

smart motorway  
a grandmother died on a ~ which had the hard shoulder opened to traffic

smart munitions  
targeting of assets for attack by ~ (UAVs)

smart power  
~ includes diplomatic, economic tools

smart refrigerators  
~ can alert you to when the refrigerator door is left open

smart tractors

farmers could use it to keep tabs on autonomous ~ (5G)

smart elevators and window shades

complaints about ~ (new office building)

"smart" licenses and visas

~ that incorporate anti-counterfeiting chips

smart crosswalks

~ flash overhead warnings when you step off the curb

smart ID card

soldiers will be issued with ~s

smart and scatterable

~ mines and their delivery vehicles (military)

from dumb to smart to brilliant

~ bombs (military)

♦ "We call it a smartie, and her name is Ripley." (SpaceX vice president Hans Koenigsmann, about the dummy named Ripley sent into space on March 2, 2019. Cute!)

♦ "Smart doorbells becoming more intelligent."

\*\*\* jumping on the "smart" bandwagon...

♦ "Sen. Hillary Clinton said America must use 'smart power'—which includes diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal and cultural tools."

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "This message comes from NPR sponsor Smart Water. Smart Water is for the curious drinkers, the ones who are always looking for ways to make things a little bit better. That's why Smart Water created two new ways to hydrate... And now you can order Smart Water by saying, 'Alexa, order Smart Water.' Smart Water. That's pretty smart. (An advertisement on NPR. "Curious drinkers"?)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ News reader: South Yorkshire's police and crime commissioner has written to the government to say smart motorways should be abandoned. Dr. Alan Billings said they were unsafe. Earlier this week, a coroner at the inquest of two men who died on a smart motorway near Sheffield called for such roads to be reviewed... (From BBC's Six O'clock News, 24 / 01 / 2021, "SNP sets itself on collision course with Westminster.")

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. "The microwave is smart, but the refrigerator is woke." (A real-estate lady showing a kitchen to two potential customers. From *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2017.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "People want 'dumbphones'. Will companies make them?" by Brennan Doherty, BBC, 20 May 2024. (Answer: No.)

♦ see also *intelligent (technology)*

**smash (smash a record, etc.)**

smash everything

the crossword girl, she's about to ~ (Anna Shectman)

smash (leftist) pieties

Trump executive orders ~ that kept America paralyzed

smashed the (previous) record

he ~ (mountaineer Nirmal Purja)

**smear (verb)**

smear my character

I will not let her ~ (politics)

smear a doctor

MSNBC ~ in its endless crusade against Trump

smear my reputation

she tried to ~

smear (Chicago's) reputation

he has ~ (false hate-crime accusation)

smear somebody

information, disinformation, ~ (current state of politics)

smear at will

attack groups can ~ and do it anonymously (politics)

smear (people) casually

don't ~ on a podcast (politics)

**smear (noun)**

smear campaign

the allegations are part of a ~ by opponents

the ~ is based on unjustified and groundless allegations

there is no evidence of a ~ (against a film)

they instituted an aggressive ~ against Blake Lively

smear on conservatives

the Right condemned the report as a ~ (hate groups)

Nazi, Adolph Hitler smears

the left puts a target on his back with ~ (Donald Trump)

inflammatory and misleading smears

he described warnings over US farming practices as ~

cudgel and a smear

in recent years, the term 'racist' has become a ~ (Harvard)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Identity politics are at the root of the problem. No one wants to be called sexist or anti-LGBTQ+ or some other 'ist.' But what is really unbearable is to be called racist. If a Harvard student—or teacher—thinks there is an chance of being called racist, he or she will clam up... [I]n recent years, the term 'racist' has become a cudgel and a smear, especially amplified on the internet." (Evan Thomas '73. From Letters, *Harvard Magazine*, March-April, 2024.)

♦ "The left puts a target on Donald Trump's back with Nazi, Adolph Hitler smears." (Miranda Devine, *The New York Post*, Opinion, Oct. 23, 2024.)

**smear**

smear as a tool

the SAT has been ~ of white supremacy

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "He was done so dirty in how he was smeared..." (Nellie Bowls, about veteran *New York Times* reporter Donald G. McNeil Jr.)

**smell (corruption)**

smell of it

the public doesn't like the ~ (preferential treatment)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This stinks!

**smell (suspicion)**

smell right

something doesn't ~ (suspicion)



smells bad  
something ~ (suspicion)

smelled funny  
it ~ to him and he turned down the deal (music)

♦ "There's something dead up the branch." (A Southern Appalachians expression. A branch is a watercourse like a creek or a stream.)

♦ "Does it smell like an ambush to you?" (From the 2002 film *We Were Soldiers*, based on the book *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* by Lt Gen (Ret.) Hal Moore and Joseph L. Galloway. Book and film are about the Battle of the Ia Drang in 1965.)

## smell (evidence)

smell of disaster  
it began to ~ (a public-relations offensive)

small a phony actor  
he could ~ a mile away (the filmmaker John Ford)

smell an upset  
they began to ~ (a team playing well)

looks and smells  
it ~ like an important adaptation (to a virus)

## smile (verb)

smiled on him  
Lady Luck has ~

smiled on Modi  
but fortune ultimately ~ and his colleague

smiled on me  
God has ~  
fate ~ that day

smile on the Winter Olympics  
Mother Nature is finally starting to ~

smiled on (affirmative action) programs  
he has ~ from the bench (a judge)

smiled on us  
I think today Mother Nature ~ (NASA launch)

## smitten (effect)

smitten by the song  
I was ~

smitten by birding  
he was ~

## smitten (afflicted)

smitten by polio  
he was ~...

## smoke (evidence)

smoke  
where there is ~, there is fire

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Where there's smoke, there's fire. But when the fire has been disproved, the smoke remains." (Accusations, conspiracy theories, etc.)

## smoke (smoke clears)

smoke has cleared  
now that the ~, investigators... (stock-market plunges)

## smoke and mirrors

smoke and mirrors  
this is ~, nothing has changed (politics)  
he has accused ministers of using "~" over its plan...  
the industry is known for ~ (digital media / numbers)  
it kinda sounded like ~ to me, but... (genealogical DNA)  
Crypto was always ~

smoke and mirrors deal  
the government has done ~ with the energy companies

marijuana smoke and mirrors  
he described the case as laced with ~...

♦ "He described the case as laced with marijuana smoke and mirrors." (Federal case against militia members collapses.)

## smoke out (verb)

smoke out the opposition  
he is trying to ~

smoke out the truth  
he decided he would ~ (investigation)

## smokescreen (concealment)

smokescreen  
his aggressiveness is just a ~

smokescreen to divert attention  
it was a ~ away from discontent (politics)

poke through (White House) smoke screens  
it is our duty to ~ (journalists)

♦ "It is our duty to poke through White House smoke screens and find out the truth." (Former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson, criticizing the Washington, D.C. press corps for not reporting about President Joe Biden's cognitive decline. Biden would end up not running for reelection, and his successor, Kamala Harris, would end up losing. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## smoking gun

smoking gun  
the letter is a ~ that shows...  
the document is the ~ (investigation of Boeing)

three smoking guns  
they found ~ (forged data / academic paper withdrawn)

find a smoking gun  
prosecutors could not ~

finds no smoking gun  
he ~, no evidence that... (a historian)

provides the smoking gun  
Madagascar ~ for... (impacts from asteroids or comets)

turn up a "smoking gun"  
months of searching failed to ~ (UN / Iraq)

♦ "After years of investigating, researcher's found their smoking gun: tire particles." (The mysterious deaths of Coho salmon.)

♦ "They may never find a "smoking bat." (SARS-CoV-2.)

## smoke signal (noun)

sent a (huge) smoke signal to the staff  
that statement ~... (see quote below)

♦ "That statement sent a huge smoke signal to the staff inside the building to just go to the press, not the chief of staff." (Biden's Chief of White House Staff dismisses harassment complaints without investigating them.)

\*\*\* The affecting 1998 film *Smoke Signals*...

♦ Thomas: Hey, Victor! I'm sorry about your dad. / Victor: How'd you hear about it? / Thomas: I heard it on the wind. I heard it from the birds. I felt it in the sunlight. And your mom was just in here cryin'. (The emotionally affecting 1998 film *Smoke Signals*, based on the book by the great poet and writer Sherman Alexie. About Alexie, "He went to Reardan, a white high school, where he played on the basketball team and was the only real Indian on the Reardan Indians.")

\*\*\* The Vatican...

♦ The Vatican still employs a smoke signal when the College of Cardinals has elected a new pope.

## smolder (verb)

smolders  
the conspiracy theory still ~ today (spy issue)

tensions smolder  
racial and gender ~ (hiring firefighters)

## smoldering (adjective)

smoldering discontent  
they couldn't dampen the ~

## smooth (verb)

smooth over their frictions  
Britain and Pakistan hope to ~

smooth over its (rocky) relations  
the Chinese military wants to ~ with the Pentagon

smooth (capitalism's) rough edges  
her policies aim to ~ (a progressive)

smooth relations  
officials hope to ~ with Beijing

## smooth (smooth the road, etc.)

smooth the road  
there is no way to ~ to assimilation (forget racial past)

## smooth (speech)

smooth talker  
he is a ~

## smooth (character)

smooth and self-assured  
he is ~ (a politician)

## smooth (lack of flaws)

smooth ride  
the team's season has not been a ~ (sports)

smooth transfer

he seeks to ensure a ~ of power to his son

smooth transition  
the new administration has made a ~

smooth and speedy  
we should encourage a ~ transition to democracy

## smorgasbord (noun)

smorgasbord of sound  
the musical festival offers a virtually limitless ~ (SXSW)

smorgasbord of meetings  
the annual gathering is a ~ (UN general assembly)

biggest smorgasbord  
it's the ~ on TV (Olympics coverage)

veritable smorgasbord  
he admitted to a ~ of fraudulent conduct (politics)

## smother (amount and effect)

smothered her (little) boy with love  
she ~ and attention

smothered the trio in hugs and kisses  
her grandmother ~

## smother (cover)

smothered the grenade with his body  
he shouted a warning and ~ (combat)

smothered the ball  
the goalkeeper ~ to prevent the own goal (soccer)

sand dunes smother  
~ empty homes (desertification / northwest China)

## smother (oppress)

smothered me with their rules  
they ~ (angry teen about her parents)

campaign to smother  
an unsuccessful ~ separatist ambitions

## snag (noun)

technical snag  
a ~ aborted the test launch (satellite rocket)

hit a snag  
negotiations ~ over...

\*\*\* *Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain...

♦ "Fully to realize the marvelous precision required in laying the great steamer in her marks in that murky waste of water, one should know that not only must she pick her intricate way through snags and blind reefs, and then shave the head of the island so closely as to brush the overhanging foliage with her stern, but at one place she must pass almost within arm's reach of a sunken and invisible wreck that would snatch the hull timbers from under her if she should strike it, and destroy a quarter of a million dollars' worth of steam-boat and cargo in five minutes, and maybe a hundred and fifty human lives into the bargain." (*Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain.)

## snail (at a snail's pace)

at a snail's pace

moving ~ is the norm above 8,000 meters (climbing)

moving at a snail's pace

queues are ~ (Passports Department)

## snail (snail's pace / other)

snail's pace of the investigation

the ~ (murder)

snail's pace of (scientific) publishing

the ~

## snake (insult)

snake

the guy was a ~ (got her in trouble)

you don't play with ~s and not expect to get bit

snake and a traitor

Sanders loyalists called Warren a ~ (no endorsement)

♦ "Foreign Minister Erko was vilified as a crowing rooster, a writhing serpent, and a phobic rat." (*Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "I never see a pen but I think of a snake." (Nathan Bedford Forrest, quoted by the great Civil War historian Shelby Foote. According to Foote, Forrest was "A true, native-born genius... All his gifts were natural.")

♦ "There are no snakes in Vermont, but there are Vermonters."

## snake (head of the snake)

head of the snake

he is the ~ (a terrorist leader)

Raqq is the ~ (IS)

hit the head of the snake

I want to ~ of IS in Raqq (David Cameron)

described as the head of the snake

he was ~ (a people-trafficking kingpin)

♦ "The jihadist threat in Africa has many heads and tentacles."

## snake (cut off the head of the snake, etc.)

cut off the snake's head

if you want to resolve a problem, you should ~ (war)

the Iraqi government has ~ (al-Zarqawi)

cut off the head of the snake

the King urged Washington to "~~"

cut the head off the snake

they are urging the US to ~ (war)

you have to ~ if you want to kill it (cricket match-fixing)

cut the head off a snake

we're trying to ~, but the body is so damned long (crime)

it's better to ~ before it grows and reproduces (Taliban)

taken off the head of the snake

now we have ~ we're winning (against terrorism)

♦ "The Asheville School Board of Trustees is the root of the problem. Until the head of the snake goes, the rest is not going to get cleaned up." (An alumna of a high school supporting a sexual-abuse victim at her alma mater and calling for the resignations of two men.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "They cut off the head of the snake, Gaddafi. But now there are hundreds of snakes replacing him. We are still fighting for the same thing—to find a just ruler for Libya." (Anwar Suwan of Libya.)

♦ There's a saying that if you cut the head off a snake, two more will grow.

## snake (a trail can snake, etc.)

snake downward

the trails ~ (public cave)

snakes (its way) down Pakistan

the Indus River ~

snaked (its way) eastward

the road ~

snaked down the streets

lines of voters ~ outside polling places (Lusaka)

snakes between Boston and Cambridge

the Charles River ~

snake through the city

miles of fencing ~ (Washington DC security)

snake through the wilderness

logging roads ~

snaked through the long hallways

lines of people ~ (congressional hearing)

snakes (more than) 300 miles

the Trans-Ecuadorean pipeline ~

snakes from Lago Agrio to the Pacific

the Trans-Ecuadorean pipeline ~

trails snake

the ~ downward (public cave)

pipeline snakes

the Trans-Ecuadorean ~ more than 300 miles

## snake (snake-bit)

snake-bit

I'm ~ (Spike Lee on losing two Oscars to "driving" movies)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This means having bad luck, bad fortune. Snakes are everywhere, but few people get bitten.

## snake oil (noun)

snake oil of climate-change denial

how Charles Koch sold the ~ (politics)

snake-oil merchants

~ who promise protection (bogus cures)

vulnerable to snake oil

people who are desperate are ~ (health)

got the reputation as snake oil

in the 1980s, AI ~ (things have changed!)

♦ "Her wellness company has been accused of trafficking in overpriced snake-oil-ish self-optimization remedies." (*The New Yorker's* Naomi Fry about Gwyneth Paltrow.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the U.S., everything having to do with mental health or wellness is essentially snake oil.

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## snake pit

snake-pit atmosphere

the news division is known for having a ~ (ABC)

snake-pit culture

she was brought in to clean up the ~ (ABC News)

media snake pit

jump into the ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Psychiatric hospitals were referred to as snake pits for their chaos, distress and horror. Now many wish for their return.

## snap (verb)

snapped entirely

she ~ (Michelle Herczeg, Secret Service officer)

just snapped

he had a short fuse and he ~ (troubled veteran)

♦ "Gwin probably shouldn't have snapped, but everyone has a breaking point." (An honest merchant doused an aggressive, mentally ill homeless woman with a garden hose in an attempt to remove her from in front of his shop. His shop was subsequently vandalized by homeless-rights activists.)

## snapshot (picture)

snapshot of the epidemic

the studies were the first to provide a ~ in the US

snapshot of what

first, just give us a ~ you've been seeing... (NPR)

## snare (verb)

snared real people

his website had ~ (fake news)

## snare (noun)

caught in his snare

once they were ~, he pimped them (Sara Lawrence coeds)

\*\*\* *Chang: A Drama of the Wilderness (1927)*

♦ Watch the film *Chang: A Drama of the Wilderness (1927)*. It is an extraordinary silent documentary, and it shows the actual employment of pitfalls, deadfalls, and snares. It's free on YouTube but you have to search for it... The film was very popular in its time.

## snarl (verb)

snarled travel

the storm ~ (snow)

## snarl (impedance)

untangle the (supply) snarls

it could take a while to ~ (the economy)

## snarl (speech)

snarled

"Shut up!" he ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ What do you expect from a pig but a grunt! (And by analogy, what do you expect from a vicious animal but a snarl!)

## snatch (verb)

snatched defeat from victory

athletes who have ~

snatched victory

his late goal ~ (soccer)

## sneeze (verb)

sneeze

when the Met ~ we all get the cold (policing)

sneezes

if Wall Street ~, Europe gets a cold

when America ~, Europe catches a cold (identity politics)

♦ "The impact of Met failings are often felt nationally by other police forces and other staff and officers working in policing. As one senior officer said, 'when the Met sneeze we all get the cold.'" (Baroness Casey Review.)

## sniff out (verb)

sniffed out a new avenue

he soon ~ for his marketing genius (Southern Poverty Law)

sniff out intelligence

spies ~

sniffed out the rot

Shevardnadze ~ in the system (Georgia)

## snipe (verb)

snipe from the sidelines

tradition dictates former presidents don't ~

## sniping (noun)

Gingrich's sniping

~ has left Romney better prepared for... (politics)

digital sniping

the comment produced more ~ (politics)

\*\*\* the near-assassination of Donald Trump

♦ "One hundred thirty yards. That's a putt." (A special operations veteran about the shot that nearly assassinated Donald Trump. Another marksman compared it to a chip shot.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "If a camouflage is well made, little birds may land on the rifle." (Deki, a Serbian volunteer in the Donbas.)

♦ "If you are lucky, in that window will one day emerge the figure of the enemy. The JFK shot. Pink Mist." (The 2005 film *Jarhead*, based on the book by the great writer Anthony Swofford.)

♦ "Scout Snipers / The Grim Reaper / Confirmed kills [number obscured by a soldier]" (A sign in the background of a group photo of soldiers taken in front of a tent, An Hoi, Vietnam. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

♦ “Zaitsev began to tell the story of his battle of wits with a German sniper at the foot of Mamayev Kurgan. It had lasted for days. The German knew Zaitsev was watching him and he himself was keeping watch on Zaitsev. They seemed well-matched; neither could catch the other out...” (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. The great 2001 film *Enemy at the Gates* starred Jude Law as Zaitsev and Ed Harris as the German. It also starred Joseph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz.)

♦ [A quiet card game in the rear was disturbed by the shots of a sniper in a tree. A soldier from the West, a crack shot, dealt with the problem.] “‘That gray squirrel is pretty frisky, and I must stop his fun to stop him spoiling ours.’ He drew a bead on the man in the tree and fired. As the Confederate sharpshooter came crashing through the branches to the ground, the Westerner sat down and asked: ‘What’s trumps?’ He seemed as unconcerned as if he had killed a mosquito that had been annoying him. / ...[B]ehind all this was constantly present to our eyes and mind the scene of a great stream, a procession, so to speak of human souls on their way to eternity.” (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. The Civil War.)

♦ See the Homer Winslow picture “Sharpshooter (1863).” About snipers, Homer Winslow wrote that sniping was “as near murder as anything I ever could think of in connection with the army.” Winslow was never a soldier.

♦ “Early on [Benedict Arnold] realized that an officer on a gray horse was playing a prominent role in maintaining the integrity of the British right. Arnold rode over to Colonel Morgan on the American left and requested that he order a sharpshooter to aim at the British officer. It took three shots, but eventually the Indian fighter Tim Murphy managed to put a rifle ball into the gut of General Simon Fraser, the Scotsman who was Burgoyne’s intimate friend and the commander of the British right. The Americans had already begun to overwhelm the enemy, but the felling of Fraser by an American sniper appears to have precipitated the collapse of the British line...” (*Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution* by Nathaniel Philbrick.)

♦ “[T]he funeral of General Fraser took place under fire, and under circumstances extremely rare even in war. / The October evening was calm and clear, and the funeral procession, as it entered the great redoubt, with arms reversed and the mournful roll of the muffled drums, was followed by the eyes of hundreds of both armies; but some of the Americans, ignorant of its true nature, poured a constant cannonade upon the spot where the grave was dug. Unmoved by the danger, Mr. Brudenel, the chaplain, while the shot threw the sand and loose soil over his white surplice, read the touching burial service of the Church of England, while the sun sank down, and twilight added to the solemnity of the scene. / ‘Suddenly,’ says the Field-Book of the Revolution, ‘the irregular firing ceased, and the solemn voice of a single cannon boomed at measured intervals along the valley, and awakened the responses of the hills. It was a minute gun fired by the Americans in honour of the gallant dead. The moment information was given that the gathering in the redoubt was a funeral company fulfilling the last wishes of the noble Fraser, orders were issued to withhold the cannonade with balls, and render military honours to the fallen brave.’” (*British Battles On Land And Sea* by James Grant, “The Funeral of Fraser.” Arguably, Saratoga, 1777, was the battle that won the American Revolution. Benedict Arnold, the “American Hannibal,” would go on to betray his country in his role as Commandant of West Point. The revolution was, of course, also a bitter civil war between the Loyalists and the Patriots, or Americans.)

♦ Lt. Col. Dave Grossman notes that snipers operate at long range, as opposed to mid- and hand-grenade range, close range, edged-weapons range (bayonet, etc.), knife range, and hand-to-hand combat range. The closer to the victim, the stronger the resistance to killing in combat. For that reason snipers—and pilots and members of the artillery—suffer relatively fewer psychological side effects from their killing. (*On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society*, Revised Edition, by Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman.)

♦ Kill one, terrorize a thousand. (Snipers creed.)

## snooze (verb)

snooze beside walls and in museum courtyards  
cannons ~ (Istanbul)

## snout (orientation)

glacier’s snout  
a ~ can advance or retreat

\*\*\* pigs are smart...

♦ “Pigs can play video games with their snouts, Scientists find,” BBC, Feb 1, 2021.

## snow (marine snow, etc.)

plankton and “marine snow”  
sea squirts feed on ~ (dead debris and faeces)

## snowball (verb)

snowball  
their problems ~ (newly homeless)

snowballed across the internet  
truth pages have ~ (racism in education / Great Britain)

snowballed into beatings  
the abuse ~ (school)

snowball into panic  
a false alarm can ~

snowball into something  
this could ~ much worse (trade war)

snowball into trouble  
these trends could ~ for the US (conduct of war)

snowballed from there  
it ~ and the interest never died (windsurfing)

snowballed out of control  
it was an accident that ~ (murder trial)

snowballed and avalanched  
it quickly ~ (late August 2020 sports protest)

continued to snowball  
the effects ~

started to snowball  
the number of her Instagram followers ~

scandal has snowballed  
the ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

## snowball (snowball effect)

snowball effect  
entitlements like these always seem to have a ~

chain reaction, a snowball effect  
this will create a ~ (falling in a crowd crush)

created a snowball effect  
the media and public fascination with serial murder ~

## snowflake (person)

snowflake sensitivities

deference for our ~ (language)

today's snowflakes

Pogba and ~ are an embarrassment (rabid soccer fan)

targets snowflakes

the ad campaign ~ (British Army)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A similar term to *snowflake* is *teacup*. In the old days, such people were compared to plants: a *shrinking violet*; a *pansy*; a *wallflower*. The modern update on that is *orchid* (versus a *dandelion*).

## snuff (verb)

snuffed the rally with an interception

they ~ (football)

snuffed out the movement

a series of high-profile arrests soon ~ (in Syria)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When was the last time you snuffed out a candle?

## so (introductory)

So,

~ first thing, I think we have...

So basically

see *basically* (*contempo-speak*)

So, I mean

see *I mean* (*filler*)

so, like

see *like* (*filler*)

so yeah

see *yeah* (*and yah* / *introductory*)

right, so

~ I'm assuming...

Sure, so

~... (in answer to the question, "What's he done?")

Yeah. So

~ what we're seeing right now is...

Yeah, so

~ I think it's fuzzy, right...

~, uh, a teaching assistant, uh, you know... (NPR)

~, umm... (NPR's Bobby Allyn)

Yeah. So actually

see *actually* (*contempo-speak*)

Yeah, so I think

see *I think* (*filler*)

♦ "So, I was among the casualties today at *Sports Illustrated*..." (A text by Howard Beck, who was laid off.)

♦ Ari Shapiro: Why is [that] something to worry about? Allison Aubrey: Sure. So the WHO also... (Heard on NPR.)

♦ Ayesha Rascoe of NPR and Jessica Drun of the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub had a conversation on air that went like this:

Ayesha: What...? Jessica: So... / Ayesha: Why...? Jessica: So... / Ayesha: How...? Jessica: So... / Ayesha: Why...? Jessica: So... / Ayesha: What...? Jessica: The narrative we are seeing... / Ayesha: How...? Jessica: So... / Ayesha: Do you...? Jessica: I think... ("Why

China is reasserting its right of control over Taiwan," Weekend Edition Sunday, August 14, 2022.)

♦ Leila Fadel of NPR and Weihsueh Chiu, a Texas A&M professor, had a conversation on air that went like this: LF: So, what are you...? Is...? WC: So... So... / LF: So what does...? Are...? What does it...? WC: So... / LF: What would...? WC: So... / LF: So, if...? Should...? What should...? How long...? WC: Well, so... / LF: What should...? What is...? WC: So... / LF: How...? WC: I have confidence...("Scientists find high levels of hazardous chemicals in the air around Ohio town," NPR, Morning Edition, March 3, 2023.)

♦ Leila Fadel of NPR and Dr. Ashish Jha (male) had a conversation on air that went like this: LF: What... How...? AJ: Yeah, So... / LF: What... How...? AJ: Yes... / LF: How... Are...? AJ: Yeah, so... / LF: a statement posed as a question... AJ: Yeah... / LF: What... Does...? AJ: Yeah, so... / LF: What... Should...? AJ: Yeah, so... ("New variants contribute to COVID surge. What's the latest guidance?" by Leila Fadel and Dr. Ashish Jha, NPR, Morning Edition, August 15, 2024.)

♦ Steve Inskeep of NPR and Michaela Doucleff of NPR had a conversation that went like this: SI: Question / MD: So...; SI: Question / MD: So...; SI: Question / MD: So...; SI: Question / MD: Yeah, so...; SI: Question / MD: Exactly...; SI: Question / MD: Yes, of course...

♦ Rob Schmitz: How... / Dr. Dennis Whyte: Right, so... / Rob Schmitz: What... / Dr. Dennis Whyte: Right, so... / Rob Schmitz: So this experiment still took energy off the grid? / Dr. Dennis Whyte: That's correct... / Rob Schmitz: How long... / Dr. Dennis Whyte: Right, well... (A typical exchange on NPR.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type "right, so" into search at NPR, and you get an incredible 10,317 hits and counting.

♦ "So, What's The Big Deal With Starting A Sentence With 'So'?" by Geoff Nunberg, Opinion, Fresh Air, September 3, 2015. Almost all academic linguists are descriptive, not prescriptive.

♦ It is interesting to compare Geoff Nunberg and Richard Mitchel (1929-2002). Or Nunberg, Mitchel, Safire, and Orwell.

♦ see also *right* (*introductory*), *sure* (*introductory*), *yeah* (*and yah* / *introductory*)

## so (gushing)

so with us

he is ~ in spirit (Peter Coleman of Green Beer Sunday)

so online

our generation has been ~, dating IRL is a bit scary (Gen Z)

so back

we are ~ (a happy bitcoin investor)

so last year

Florida is ~ (as place to move to)

so high school

I was ~, so totally into self-loathing (Diane Keaton)

soo missed

Omg I can't believe this you will be ~ (TikToker dies)

sooo excentric

I thought *Poor Things* was ~ (Stephen Thompson, NPR)

so guilty

I am ~ of that (style competition / young female)

so unfunny

why Shane Gillis' swipes at disabled people were ~

so beyond

I'm ~ excited to... (a university coed)



so not

see *not* (*so not* / *sarcasm*)

so really

see *really* (*gushing*)

so super

it's ~ important and incredibly well done (some study)

so totally

see *totally* (*contempo-speak*)

so very

see *very* (*contempo-speak*)

actually so

this is ~ scary and disturbing and cringey

did so

I ~ hope that...

do so

I ~ wish we might, Polly...

I ~ wish I had some (daily routines or traditions)

you ~ want to believe...

we ~ want to believe the best for it (sport)

I ~ love the Grammys, particularly the part where...

just so

Crystal said she was ~ grateful for the love and support  
it's ~ bittersweet... (celebrity not invited back to show)

just like so

I was ~ amazed...

just seems like so

the current situation ~ the obvious result of...

obviously so

visibility is ~ important (the actor Elliot Page)

Really So

"Is Aging ~ Bad" (by NPR/TED Staff, May 22, 2015)

really so

is cheating ~ terrible (adultery)

is breakfast ~ important (NPR's Allison Aubrey explains)

I'm ~ grateful that you bring that up because I think...

to find out why people are ~ angry and upset

we were ~ happy, we each read a poem (wedding)

but is it ~ bad?

that was just ~ heartbreaking because...

this happened ~ close to... (terrorist bombing)

in the big picture, it's not ~ different from now

totally so

he is so hot Oh my God he is ~ hot

♦ "I feel embarrassed because the current situation just seems like so the obvious result of all the choices I've made." (Caroline Ellison to Sam Bankman-Fried.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Such" may also be used to gush. "It's really such an incredibly unique experience." Or, "This is such a thing right now."

♦ The Yale Grammatical Diversity Project English in North America has a discussion of what it calls the "Drama So." An example: "I am SO going to talk to him when he gets home!" The author notes it often occurs in the verb phrase, and the function might be, "whole-

heartedness." In other words, emotional. Similar to "very." Or "really."  
"I am so / very / really sorry I hit your car, sir, I had my earplugs in, I didn't hear you honking. I'm sorry."

## soaked

sun-soaked

the highway runs along ~ Pacific beaches (Hawaii)

## soak in (verb)

soaked in the moment

millions watching around the world ~ (Usyk vs. Fury)

## soak up (verb)

soaked up the sun

she ~

## soap opera (noun)

soap opera

it's the greatest ~ of the year (NBA Draft)

this continuing ~ surround his career (Ray Mancini)

~s keep millions of Ethiopians glued to their radios

soap opera with bad actors

I find it a ~ (group stage of Champions League soccer)

Bollywood soap operas

~ are not as steamy as Latin ones

perennial soap opera

Real Madrid is a ~ (conspiracy, intrigue, passion, etc.)

royal soap opera

this is a ~ about members of a royal family...

love a soap opera

we ~ in boxing (failure of 2 boxers to "get it on")

♦ "let's get back to old school boxing, flip this soap opera on its head." (A fight fan about the state of heavyweight boxing today.)

♦ "The league is a soap opera that happens to play basketball." (An NBA executive about the latest drama surrounding Kyrie "the Earth is Flat" Irving.)

♦ "He was born into a plotline in a soap opera watched by the whole planet." (The comedian Laura Lexx about Prince Harry. Her comment ended up being quite sympathetic.)

♦ "We love a soap opera in boxing. It's on, it's off, did he, didn't he, did she, didn't she, well guess what..." (The great boxing commentator Steve Bunce about the postponement of Usyk-Fury and the announcement of a new date.)

## soar (verb)

career was soaring

his ~ (an academic)

rents are soaring

~ (in France)

sales and profits soared

~ (a drug company)

toll soars

landslide death ~

## soar (a heart can soar)

hearts soared

our ~ when we realized that...

## sober (verb)

sobered voters about the costs

Iraq has ~ of big wars

## sober (adjective)

sober assessment

the panel has issued a ~ of National Defense Strategy

sober reminder

this report is a ~ of the expensive legacy costs of...

♦ "She decided to go 'boy sober' and said she has 'never been happier.'" (A 28-year-old Long Island law student, done with dating.)

## sobering (adjective)

sobering end

Scotland's dream came to a ~ (Euro 2020)

sobering figures

these are ~

sobering realization

it was a ~ (owners find their cat is obese)

## soft (soft on crime, etc.)

soft on Australia

he does not want to be painted as ~ (Indonesian politics)

soft on crime

he tarred his challenger as ~ (George HW Bush / Clinton)

soft on illegal immigration

he is ~

soft on sleaze

he has been accused of being ~ (Boris Johnson)

## soft (soft opening, etc.)

soft deadline

a ~ can encourage without the negative effects

soft launch

NBC introduced the website with a ~ (NBCBLK)

soft opening

the ~ is a tried-and-true tactic (getting ready, etc.)

## softball (noun)

softball questions

TV interviewers lobbed ~ at him

she's only fielded ~ from her own lawyer (a trial)

he asked mainly ~ (politics / an interview)

♦ "It was a softball, not a gotcha." (Laurence Tribe about the question, "Do calls for the killing of people violate policies at Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, and MIT?" For "context," see "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023.)

## softball (softball-size)

see *size* (and *sized* / *affix*)

## soften (verb)

soften the blow

the program intends to ~ of the economic downturn

soften their image

the rebels are on a mission to ~

soften the impact

the military is trying to ~ (families greet coffins)

soften the law

lawmakers have tried to ~ (marijuana)

softened her stance

she has ~ on the issue

## soften (speech)

soften his tone

the president appeared to ~ (tariffs)

softened their tone

the US and China have ~ (dispute)

## softheaded (and soft-headed)

soft-headed son of a bitch

I'll reform you, you ~ (*O Brother, Where Art Thou?*)

## softhearted (and soft-hearted)

soft-hearted woman

she's a ~

## soil (fertile soil, etc.)

fertile soil for the cultivation

Pakistan has proved to be ~ of terrorist activity

perfect soil for a growing insurgency

that chaos was the ~ (Iraq)

## soil (on one's soil)

on its soil

the government will protect foreign diplomats ~

## soldier (noun)

soldier in a team

I'm a ~, I do what I'm told (a jockey)

soldier in the (culture) wars

if you are a ~

foot soldier

see *foot soldier* (*duty*)

Street Soldiers

"~, " a violence prevention program (Richmond, California)

good soldier

the best way to rebuild her political capital was to be a ~

Laura is such a ~ and good person (her error cost game)

he decided to play the ~ and not make a fuss (a diplomat)

loyal soldier

he was more a ~ (vice-presidential debate)

good little soldier

I need you to be a soldier of God, a ~

played the (good) soldier

Vice President Kamala Harris ~... (supported Biden)

\*\*\* adult civilians, politicians...

♦ "I need you to be a soldier of God, a good little soldier." (Female victim testimony from the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (CICA) / Ryan Commission, which detailed Catholic Church abuse in Ireland. What the priest told a child in Catholic care prior to sexually abusing her.)

♦ "I've always said, 'I'm his soldier.' Jim's this director I'll do anything for, but he's in the trench right there next to me." (Hollywood actor Sam Worthington about *Avatar: The Way of Water* and its director, James Cameron.)

♦ "I mean, I've been in the Twitter war zone for a while, it takes a lot to phase me at this point. You can't take it personally, none of these people actually know you. It's like if you're fighting a war and there's some opposing soldier that shoots at you, it's not like they hate you. They don't even know you. So, just think of it like that. They're firing bullets, whatever, but they don't know you, so don't take it personally." (Elon Musk talking to Joe Rogan.)

♦ "Embracing collaborations...is critical to our shared success, and a *force multiplier* [italics mine] for delivering top-notch journalism across the country." (Senior Vice President of News and Editorial Director Nancy Barnes.)

♦ "We are here to provide you the approved short-term substitute training. I'm sorta the *captain* [italics mine] of today's shift, and I've got a wonderful crew..." (Chicago education.)

♦ Be a good soldier; be a loyal supporter; Don't upset the apple cart; fall in line; don't speak to anyone about this... (Government servants.)

♦ "Yeah, they have these belts on with like all these extra bullets and they're like dressed for war." (Leah talking to her Brit producer, Georgia, for their podcast about the militia movement.)

♦ "And the savage in you makes you adore it with its squalor and wastefulness and danger and strife and glorious noise. You feel that, after all, this is what men were intended for rather than to sit in easy chairs with a cigarette and whiskey, the evening paper or the best-seller, and to pretend that such a veneer means civilization and that there is no barbarian behind your starched and studded shirt front." (Harvey Cushing, a US surgeon during World War I. From *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by the brilliant Swedish historian and writer Peter Englund.)

♦ "How many men who listened to me have served their nation in the wars? How very many, are not here to listen? The war in Vietnam is not like those other wars. Yet, finally, war is always the same. It is young men dying in the fullness of their promise. It is trying to kill a man you do not even know well enough to hate. Therefore, to know war is to know that there is still madness in this world." (President Lyndon Baines Johnson, speaking about the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is known as the American War.)

\*\*\* children...

♦ "The servicemen from the trains were always so neatly dressed. My family and I always just wore overalls all the time—I had never seen anyone with uniforms like that. It was such a rat race, with them hurrying around—I didn't want to be like those guys. It was kind of scary. I was a little boy from a farm, nine years old. It was too much for me to want to be a part of." (A Nebraska boy seeing the activity at the North Platte Canteen) /// "It was such a different way of life for me to see. The sailor boys were so good-looking, to a young girl like me. The sailors and the soldiers would just come rushing in the door, like they couldn't believe there was enough food for them. They would play the piano and sing... that was so interesting for me, never having seen or done anything like that." (Marian Peterson, recalling when she was eight or nine and saw troop trains stop at the North Platte Canteen. From *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by the great *Chicago Tribune* writer Bob Greene.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Nobody can soldier without coffee." (A Union cavalryman, writing in 1865.)

♦ "[Our hosts] gave us some fat pork, corn bread, and a kind of coffee, made, I think, out of burned peas. But it was warm.... Hunger made that breakfast the most delicious we had in six months." (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby, about his service during the Civil War.)

♦ "I weighed one hundred eighty going in, and I came out weighing one hundred fourteen..." (From *Once Upon a Town, the Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by the brilliant *Chicago Tribune* writer Bob Greene.)

♦ "Stumpfe thought about food incessantly; he searched for it even when they were fighting... / Bach caught sight of the huge back and shoulders of this eternally hungry soldier. He was digging in a patch of wasteland where the kitchens and supply-depot has once stood... Then an old woman appeared...staring down at the ground as she stirred around in the snow with a hook made from a thick piece of twisted wire... / It was a summit meeting between the representatives of two great peoples. Bach was the only witness; the soldier and the old woman forgot the meeting immediately. / As it grew warmer, big flakes of snow settled on the ground, on the red brick-dust, on the crosses of graves, on the turrets of abandoned tanks, in the ears of dead men waiting to be buried." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Three, Chapter 37.)

♦ Who won the war? / The MPs won it. / How'd they win it? / Why, their mothers and sisters laying for Liberty Bonds. (Infantry chant while marching past MPs. From *Here to Eternity* by James Jones.)

♦ "It was the first day that passes were issued to the troops of the Hawaiian Department since the Saturday night before Pearl Harbor, and at ten o'clock in the morning a well-primed yowling horde of wild men from all around the 90-mile perimeter descended upon Honolulu like spokes descending upon a wheel hub and began to line up outside the bars and whorehouses until even the lines got entangled and men heading for the New Congress Hotel suddenly found themselves inside Wu Fat's restaurant four doors up the street ordering drinks. It stayed just about like that all day long until the curfew. It, and the two days following, were a sort of red letter day. Not a bartender in town will forget them. Neither will many of the madams who were there then. Even a few of the respectable people still remember it." (From *Here to Eternity* by James Jones.)

♦ "The French... were shocked by the attitude of some American soldiers, who seemed to think that when it came to young French women 'everything can be bought.' / In Pigalle, rapidly dubbed 'Pig Alley' by GIs, French prostitutes were coping with more than 10,000 men a day. The French were also deeply shocked to see US soldiers lying drunk on the pavements of the Place Vendome. The contrast with off-duty German troops, who had been forbidden even to smoke in the street, would hardly have been greater." ("An ugly carnival," by Antony Beevor, *The Guardian*, Thursday 4 June 2009.)

♦ "It don't mean a thang." (The Vietnam War. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is known as the American War.)

♦ "The Caravan is a hundred grenades, that missed / The Caravan is sand on your face / The Caravan, three toasts, a moment of silence / Someone's lost, someone's won / Caravan, caravan, caravan." (The haunting Soviet Afghan War Song. Try searching for "Soviet Afghan War Song Caravan." And read *Zinky Boys* by Svetlana Alexievich.)

♦ "The most ironic thing is that it became really quite serious and in the Falklands War the sailors sitting on the HMS *Sheffield* after they had been hit by an Exocet sang it for 3 hours while they were waiting to be rescued. And the RAF pilots would sing it in great jeopardy, when they were changing for their long, low-level bombing in the Bush Wars, Desert Storm. And so you know, it took on a kind of optimistic component to it..." (The "Bright Side" song by Monty Python, BBC. As late as 2016, Monty Python sketches were a favorite of civilian US Iraq and Afghanistan War combat veterans at Camp Vinnell in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, sitting around the pool at the Tiki Hut on the weekends. They knew the skits by heart. Or was it heartbreak? Search: "Inheritance Tracks, Eric Idle.")

♦ "Your mother had a pair and your little brother and your girlfriend and you nail them to a wall in some bar in the Philippines and you've spread yourself so far and wide that there's no way you can die because your dog tags are out there pulsing around the globe." (The great writer Anthony Swofford, *Marine*, who served in the Gulf War, 1990.)

♦ "The earth is bleeding." / "You better get used to it, because we're going to be living in it." Watch: Jarhead (2005): Most Memorable Scenes!

♦ "There's no beer, no prostitutes and people are shooting at us. It's more like Portsmouth." (A British soldier, on hearing that the British defense secretary Geoff Hoon had asserted that Umm Qasr, Iraq, was like Southampton.)

♦ "Camp Lejeune." (A US marine in Afghanistan, who had also served in Iraq, on being asked where he felt the threat was most dire. Camp Lejeune is in North Carolina in the United States.)

♦ "In combat, cleanliness for the infantryman was all but impossible. Our filth added to our general misery. Fear and filth went hand in hand..." (*With the Old Breed* by E.B. Sledge.)

♦ "With human corpses, human excrement, and rotting rations scattered across Peleliu's ridges, the blow flies or bluebottle flies underwent a population explosion. Those nasty insects were so large, so glutted, and so lazy that some could scarcely fly... It was revolting, to say the least, to watch big fat blowflies leave a corpse and swarm into our C rations... Each morning, just before sunrise, when things were fairly quiet, I could hear a steady humming sound like bees in a hive as the flies became active with the onset of daylight. They rose off the corpses, refuse, rocks, brush, and wherever else they had settled for the night like a swarm of bees. There numbers were incredible." (*With the Old Breed* by E.B. Sledge.)

♦ "The worst thing about Cassino [Town] was the smell. The stench was absolutely horrible because every time a mortar bomb went off, it raised a stench..." (The British para James "Jim" Knox, fighting with the New Zealanders. The stench was caused by the mortars' explosive exhumation of decomposing bodies and body parts from the rubble.)

♦ There was an all-pervasive stench of putrefaction and millions of fat blowflies filled the air. Even Junger, normally so cool, was shaken by what he saw. 'The ploughed-up battlefield was a scene of horror. The dead lay there among the living defenders. When we dug bunkers we saw how the dead lay in layers one above the other. One company after another had been mown down as they made a stand shoulder to shoulder under the drum fire; then their corpses had been buried under the tons of earth hurled up by the projectiles and new men had taken the place of the fallen.'" (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

#### \*\*\* a soldier's fate

♦ "The duke did what he could for his wretched men. He sent urgent appeals to the towns and churches of northern Spain, begging for the immediate dispatch of beds, clothes...for the 4,000 sick survivors ashore. That total steadily increased as further ships limped home. Some were in a terrible state..." (*The Spanish Armada* by Colin Martin and Geoffrey Parker.)

♦ Years ago they had marched thousands of miles to legendary battlefields... they had once gone to the ends of the earth and seen beyond the farthest horizon... We looked at these men in blue, existing in pensioned security, honored and respected by all... and we were in awe of them. Those terrible names out of the history books—Gettysburg, Shiloh, Stone's River, Cold Harbor—came alive through these men. They had been there... and to watch them was to be deeply moved." (*Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood* by Bruce Catton.)

♦ "Corday also comes across a representative of a new phenomenon, the soldier beggar. Of late it has become usual to see them at restaurants or cafes. They are often wearing medals on their chests, fine medals like the Croix de Guerre, awarded for heroism in the field. They sell picture postcards or sing patriotic songs to collect a little money. / The begging soldier Corday meets on the pavement has an arm missing. He is also drunk. He is meandering through the stream of people, asking one, then another, for a few coppers or for a cigarette at least. And he repeats the same word all the time: 'Peace... peace...'" (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England. He is writing about World War I.)

♦ "Saratov greeted Lyudmila rudely and cruelly... / At the tram-stop some young women quietly shoved past anyone who happened to be old or weak. A blind man in a Red Army hat, obviously only recently released from hospital and still unable to cope alone, moved anxiously from one foot to the other, tapping his stick rapidly in front of him... / People were jostling each other as they climbed into the tram-car—while he stood there, weeping and shouting..." (*Life And*

*Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ "This seems like anything but Christmas eve." (Bob Wilson, a civilian surgeon, in Nanking, 1937. From the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*.)

♦ "'O, Tannenbaum, O, Tannenbaum...'" / Out of the cold darkness of oblivion, as though from the depths of the sea, long-dead thoughts and feelings rose slowly up to the surface. They brought no joy, no relief, but their strength was a human strength, the greatest strength in the world..." (German soldiers. Christmas Eve. Stalingrad. *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Three, Chapter 36. Few would live to return to Germany. Many died of typhus in captivity. In Part Three, Chapter 28, Darensky says, on seeing German prisoners, "We never invited them to come here." And yet, in just 12 short paragraphs, he rebukes a Russian colonel for kicking one of them. Such is the pity of war.)

♦ see also *war (conflict)*

## soldier on (verb)

soldiered on

she and her mother ~ (in poverty, after divorce)

soldier on without him

his teammates had to ~ (red-carded)

soldiered on through (the last months of) 1964

as Joni ~ (poor, pregnant, unmarried)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Roll on, drive on, soldier on..."

♦ "Wiiiide River! / Wiiiide River! / River, of Saigon! / River, of Saigon! / Wiiiide River! / Wiiiide River! / Oh! One more river to cross / Oh! One more river to cross." (Marching cadence, Vietnam War training at Fort Knox. In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

## solid (character)

solid

Joe's ~ (good character, can be counted on, not a flake)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Hey I'm solid, Hey I'm steady, Hey I'm true down to the core." Watch: Toby Keith American Soldier (Radio Edition)

## solid (adjective)

solid evidence

there is no ~ that...

solid bet

investing in gold is not a ~

solid footing

the company is on ~ (profitable, etc.)

solid foundation

terrorism has weakened the ~ of our democracy

solid performance

she had a ~ (an athlete)

solid (backup) plan

the team has a ~

solid results

the bank has shown ~

rock solid

the case law is ~ (suit should fail)

he said the relationship with France was "~- (UK)

rock-solid

their ~ case began to crumble (murder)

she was a ~ witness (in murder case)

look solid

the economies of Southeast Asia ~

remain solid

the ties between our two countries ~

## Solomonic (adjective)

Solomonic choice

firefighters had to make a ~ (choose which fire to fight)

Solomonic compromise

supporters of the decision regarded it as a ~ (politics)

Solomonic decision

the three-judge panel made a ~

Solomonic solution

she suggested a ~

they fear her ~ will flood both sides (raising sluice gates)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ In 1941, 10-11 May, during the blitz, London firefighters had to make a Solomonic choice: fight the fire in the chamber of the House of Commons or the fire on the roof of Westminster Hall. They chose to save Westminster Hall.

## somebody (a somebody)

somebody

I went from being a ~ to being a nobody (immigrant)

everybody though I was ~ (a ruse)

♦ "To me, being a gangster was better than being President of the United States... To me, it meant being somebody in the neighborhood that was full of nobodies... They did whatever they wanted, they double-parked in front of a hydrant and nobody ever gave them a ticket." (Ray Liotta's opening voiceover for the film *Goodfellas*.)

♦ "Oh boy 2 nobodies hoping to be somebodies." (A BBC HYS online commenter about the announcement of the Whyte-Joshua rematch, scheduled for August 12, 2023. The fight was ultimately cancelled when Whyte failed a drug test.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we are all used to teaching "some," "any," and "no" with "body," "one," "where," "thing," etc. We all know the score. But do we ordinarily teach *this* usage? Perhaps we should, and perhaps it would actually stick with our students and become a productive part of their vocabulary.

## son (son of the South, etc.)

son of the city

Robert Louis Stevenson, also a ~ (Edinburgh)

son of the hills

like many a ~, he... (southern Appalachians)

son of the (October) Revolution

I am a ~ (an elderly Russian, born in 1917)

sons of the soil

we are the ~, we shouldn't leave (Hamid Karzai)

native son

don't you know me, I'm your ~ ("City of New Orleans")

*Native Son*

~ (the 1940 novel by Richard Wright about Bigger Thomas)

proud son

he is a self-described ~ of North Carolina

♦ "Say don't you know me, I'm your native son." (City of New Orleans. Arlo Guthrie at Wolf Trap, 1993. With Pete Seeger onstage. Try the following: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYjOMiki6qs>)

\*\*\* Johnny, Waylon, Willie, and Kris...

♦ The Highwaymen—City of New Orleans (American outlaws: Live at Nassau Coliseum, 1990)

## son (son of Concorde, etc.)

son of Concorde

NASA, Lockheed Martin debut supersonic '~' (X-59)

## soothe (sensation)

soothe concerns

what he said did not ~

## soothsayer (person)

soothsayer

I'm not a ~, I don't have a crystal ball

there were some ~s who were saying... (election results)

market soothsayers

TV allowed the ~ to reach a voracious audience

media soothsayers

all these ~ are crazy (sports)

stock market soothsayer

secrets of the ~ (David Schwartz)

## sophomore (second)

sophomore album

Megan Thee Stallion gets vulnerable on ~ 'Traumazine'

sophomore effort

the ~ is sort of doomed (a novelist)

## sore (affliction)

running sore

Bloody Sunday became a ~ in the body politic (Ireland)

## sore (sensation)

sore loser

he's just a ~ (boxer complains of decision)

sore spot

regional rivalries are a particular ~ (Central Asia)

sore subject

money can be a ~ in any relationship

## sorely

sorely missed

she was hugely loved, and she will be ~ by so very many

## sorrow (China's Sorrow, etc.)

China's Sorrow

the river is known as ~ (the Yellow River)

## sort of (contempo-speak)

sorta wanted

I ~ more from our relationship (Caroline Ellison / SBF)

sort of wish

I ~ I would have been...

sort of basically

see *basically* (contempo-speak)

sort of definitely

see *definitely* (contempo-speak)

sort of even

see *even* (contempo-speak)

sort of exactly

see *exactly* (contempo-speak)

sort of just

see just (*filler*)

sort of like

see *sort of like* (*filler*)

sort of maybe

see *maybe* (contempo-speak)

sort of pretty

see *pretty* (contempo-speak)

sort of very

see *very* (contempo-speak)

basically sort of

it ~ gets washed out (numb to staggering statistics)

Aaron Neville ~ says he wants to...

it's ~ the industry standard...

definitely sort of

it's ~ slightly different...

he was ~ forgotten...

it was ~ a Twilight Zone moment

it was ~ right time, right place

we've ~ played a role (between digital sleuths / FBI)

did sort of

a version of that ~ end up coming true, right?

I ~ have these wonders about how am I going to tour...

I ~ recognize Blackness as who I as...

and it ~ work in places...

do sort of feel like

see *feel like* (*feels like*, *felt like*)

does really sort of

it ~ take over your life (elite-level sport)

extremely sort of

that poem I think was ~ reflective of modern anxieties

just sort of

we're ~ in a holding pattern right now (a relationship)

you ~ don't want to go there

just sort of very

see *very* (contempo-speak)

just really sort of

I was ~ eyebrow raised (disbelief / *Who? Weekly*)

kind of, sort of

then he admits, ~, that he got in trouble when...

~, not really...

kind of sort of

I found that compelling that these two worlds ~ coexist

kind-of sort-of

well, ~...

kinda sorta

*Gourmet Magazine* is ~ coming back

this might be a way to ~ eliminate them (drag performers)

really sort of

the rest of the team ~ wilted (poor performance)

I was just ~ eyebrow raised... ("Who? Weekly")

♦ "Well, so, he based it on an W.H. Auden poem of the same title, and that poem ["Age of Anxiety"] I think was extremely sort of reflective of modern anxieties, of just young people living in cities and..." (Classical music columnist Fran Hoepfner.)

♦ Are you sure?!

♦ see also *kind of* (contempo-speak)

## sort of like (filler)

sort of like

at some point it was ~, "Well, I can do that, too"

sort of like passing

it's ~ the torch to another generation

sort of like saying

it's ~ you're going to put the foxes in charge of...

sort of like an ice hockey goalie

I look at my job as being ~ trying to stop bad pucks...

sort of like a magician

it's ~ where they pull a trick off and it seems so natural

sort of like someone

she is ~ I could see myself, like, meeting at a party

sort of like a tomboy

I was ~ growing up

sort of like the wild, wild west

it's ~ (no rules)

sort of like (doubly) bad

it's ~

sort of, like, political

but also ~

felt sort of like

it ~ being on a race track

feels sort of like

it ~ the ultimate ticket (aspirational)

inside, it ~ a basement bomb shelter (exam room)

it ~ we're in a park, but it's really a roof (condo patio)



looks sort of like

it ~ a cross between a spaceship and a covered wagon  
or...  
it ~ a hairdryer, but...  
it ~ a cello but doesn't sound like it (viola da gamba)

sounds sort of like

the device ~ a drummer tapping out a beat (landline  
phone)

actually sort of like

yeah, it is ~ I pictured...

basically sort of like

it —you know, it's a set of equations...

just sort of like

~ if they want to go softer or more intense...  
I was ~, this feels like something that...  
it was ~ a way for me to connect and communicate...

♦ "You know, HBO is sort of like, in my experience, they're sort of like a cool aunt that is just sort of like, 'As long as you're happy and you seem healthy,' they're like, 'I don't want to, I don't want to pry.'" ("Los Espookys' creator Julio Torres explains his fascination with Barbie dream houses," NPR, Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!, October 1, 2022.)

♦ see also *kind of like* (filler)

## sort out (analyze)

sort it (all) out

joining us to ~ is our media correspondent...

## soul (bare one's soul)

bare their souls to the authorities

it is not easy for women to ~ (rape, sex abuse)

♦ "Every soul's body is important, no matter what size it is. It is an absolute right for me to feel good in my body." (The plus-size model Emme.)

## soul (heart and soul)

see *heart and soul*

## soul (identity)

soul

every place has its ~ (Solovetsky Islands)

soul of the dance

the hand is the ~ (Cambodia)

soul of this nation

there's an epidemic of violence that is sickening the ~

soul of the Democratic Party

she has won a critical battle for the ~ (anti-Semitic Somali)

soul of snowboarding

he was the ~ (Jake Burton Carpenter)

political soul

a window into the dark corners of our ~ (conspiracies)

♦ "Andreas Baumann believes firmly that the cowbells are an essential part of the Swiss soul." (He is protesting efforts from people who have moved from the large cities to villages to ban them as noise pollution, in spite of the fact the bells are no longer necessary for identifying where the herd is.)

♦ "I accepted my Gemini soul, in fact I adored it." (Lenny Kravitz.)

## soul (sell one's soul to the devil, etc.)

sold its soul

English football has ~, to greed and corrupt owners...

sell my soul to the devil

I'd ~ for...

sold their souls to the woke mob

presidents who ~ (UPenn, Harvard, MIT)

♦ Michelangelo; Jimmie Hendrix; Stevie Ray Vaughan; Erling Haaland...

♦ see also *Faust* (noun), *Faustian* (adjective)

## soul (life)

soul baggage

they brought these emotions, the ~ (Dr. Tarek El-Ariss)

soul wound

some call it a '~' (Boarding School Syndrome)

like-minded soul

a place where women could find ~s (The Wing club)

lost souls

it's an echo chamber where ~ amp up one another

fearless, generous souls

two small girl—"~..." (*The Miracle Season*)

tortured driven soul

Nansen, the ~, a second Faust

bread for the soul

science is ~

eaten your soul

and then you are lost, he has ~ (accommodating a boss)

protect your souls

chaplains who will nurture and help ~

uplift their soul

I am interested to inspire people to ~ (Philippe Petit / wire)

♦ "She's a damaged soul with a haunted past." (David Bianculli about some character in some FX-on-Hulu series.)

♦ "We also offer chaplains from many different faiths here at Dartmouth. Chaplains who will nurture and help protect your souls. Please take advantage." (Professor Susannah Heschel, introducing a forum in the wake of the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. See the quote below by her close professional colleague.)

♦ "Some of them of course were upset, angry, scared, but they brought these emotions, the soul baggage also, and expressed it, but they expressed it in a thoughtful way, and things remained reasonable throughout." (Dartmouth professor Tarek El-Ariss, about the forums he and Professor Susannah Heschel held for Dartmouth students in the wake of the Saturday, October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas from Gaza on Israel. Sian Beilock, President of Dartmouth College, did not face scrutiny from Congress in 2024. The Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "This was bread, bread, black bread... Science is bread, bread for the soul." (Viktor Shtrum's physics breakthrough from *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ "I am interested to inspire people to uplift their soul and to look at the sky and say 'Wow, I can move mountains now, nothing is

impossible' so that's why I love what I do... I never leave anything to chance and I have weaved this safety net in my head for the past 55 years. So I value life too much to risk my life and I do something I think much more inspiring and noble, I don't risk my life, I carry my life across." (The remarkable high-wire artist Philippe Petit.)

♦ "In the desert, the soul empties and clears and becomes free and brave in the process. And so it enables you to defy the endless open space, challenge the horizon, and explore the emptiness that leads beyond the horizon, beyond the desert void. It invites you to face the other world, the hereafter. It was here, only here, in the labyrinths of never-ending desert plains, that the extremes converge—open expanse, horizon, and desolation—to form a firmament that expands outward, toward eternity, toward the afterlife." (*Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni. The desert plays a central role in the three Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.)

♦ see also *heart and soul*

## soul (death)

### loving soul

the family says he was a ~... (shot and killed by police)

### kind-hearted soul

he was a ~ (dead 14-year-old / GoFundMe)

### beautiful soul

to lose a friend who was such a ~ (a young suicide)  
we will mourn the loss of ~s (victims of campus shooting)  
a final prayer for five ~s (Minneapolis car crash)  
knowing and loving her ~ (mentally ill / found dead)  
she was just a ~ and she'll be missed (murdered in Chicago)  
we'll keep her and her ~ close to our hearts (YouTube star)  
she will be remembered as "a ~" (16-year-old / boat crash)  
just incredible energy and ~s (female pilots die in crash)  
she was a ~ (suicide)  
she was a ~ (suicide)

### gentle soul

he was remembered by family as a "~" (lost off cruise ship)

### genuine soul

he was the most ~ (died balcony jumping on Spring Break)

### good soul

I'm saddened to hear the world lost a ~ (murdered female)

### great soul

the world lost a ~ (ex-NFL player commits suicide, age 28)

### kind soul

he was a ~, I had no idea about his lifestyle (murdered)  
we pray the memory of her ~ lives on forever (GoFundMe)

### old soul

he was just such an ~, like, you know (dead 11-year-old)  
he had like an ~, like he was beyond his age...  
this singular kid, an ~ (Jennifer Senior / Bobby McIlvaine)

### open soul

Angus you were an ~ with the kindest heart (Angus Cloud)

### special soul

you are a ~ that will live on forever (died on Spring Break)

### wonderful soul

he was very vibrant, a ~ (young overdose death)

### beautiful human soul

he was a ~ (murdered by his wife)

### beautiful, eloquent, compassionate, courageous soul

she was a ~ (a 25-year-old suicide)

### fun, kind, and adventurous soul

what a ~ he was (died on honeymoon / jet ski)

### genuine, loving soul

you are one of the most ~s (died)

### kind, beautiful and gentle soul

he was a ~ adored by everyone (lost off cruise ship)

### wonderful and sweet soul

he always stayed in my mind as a ~ (died of drug OD)

### young beautiful soul

you were such a ~, imma miss youu girlie (a suicide)

### lamp of my soul

he was the ~ (mother about young son who "suicided")

### have your soul

they took your body but they ~ (murdered Sonic worker)

♦ "We are gathered here to honor the eleven souls who were taken from us." (A mass shooting.)

♦ "Oh, my god I cannot believe she is gone! Her soul was just too pure and beautiful." (A fan's tribute to porn star Sophia Leone.)

♦ "He had like an old soul, like he was beyond his age." (A 15-year-old who died subway surfing.)

♦ "You are one of the most vibrant, beautiful inside & out, genuine, loving souls." (A young influencer, about another young influencer who died.)

♦ "When Sinead O'Connor broke out on the music scene in 1987, she was just 20 years old and a brand-new mother. But the wisdom and depth in her voice immediately marked her as an old soul." (NPR's Anastasia Tsoulcas' appreciation of the Irish singer Sinead O'Connor, dead at the age of 56.)

♦ "Angus you were an open soul, with the kindest heart, and you filled every room with laughter." (Sydney Sweeney's tribute to Angus Cloud, age 25, who consumed a lethal combination of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, benzodiazepine, and other drugs.)

♦ "May God bless all their souls." (Taraja Ramsess.)

♦ "Eric, I'm sure you've seen a lot of TV deaths, how do you think this show handled mourning and grief." ("Succession" gets one step closer to finding a successor," NPR, All Things Considered, April 10, 2023.)

♦ "Navigating this hideous grief that has absolutely destroyed & shattered my heart and my soul into nothing has swallowed me whole." (A public expression of grief.)

♦ "[Such and such], a soul too pure for this world, a kid too fearless for his own good, a friend... a son... a brother..." (An online expression of grief by the sister of a young man who fell off a cliff. The sister self-identifies as someone who "grew up gay in a religious environment and lives with autism and depression." More and more we read public expressions of grief like these.)

♦ “No possible good can come from incarcerating a 71-year-old soul...” (From a 3-page letter written by David Simon, co-creator of *The Wire*, seeking leniency for Carlos Macci for the role Macci played in the overdose death of actor Michael K. Williams, who played Omar Little in the HBO crime drama.)

♦ OLD: Such and such has gone home to be with the Lord... / NEW: We would appreciate privacy as we navigate our grief...

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ [A quiet card game in the rear was disturbed by the shots of a sniper in a tree. A soldier from the West, a crack shot, dealt with the problem.] “That gray squirrel is pretty frisky, and I must stop his fun to stop him spoiling ours.” He drew a bead on the man in the tree and fired. As the Confederate sharpshooter came crashing through the branches to the ground, the Westerner sat down and asked: ‘What’s trumps?’ He seemed as unconcerned as if he had killed a mosquito that had been annoying him. / ...[B]ehind all this was constantly present to our eyes and mind the scene of a great stream, a procession, so to speak of human souls on their way to eternity.” (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. The Civil War. See the 1863 Winslow Homer painting, “Sharpshooter.”)

♦ “Kill ‘em all, let God sort ‘em out.”

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The language of mourning and grief is quite interesting, and it is changing rapidly, especially on social media. Read “ChatGPT use for wedding vows, eulogies stokes dispute over authenticity,” ABC.

♦ The usage of “soul” conventionally occurs with the word “light.”

♦ “Kubler-Ross once considered a belief in the afterlife a form of denial. But starting in the mid-1970s, she had a change of heart, compiling thousands of testimonies from those who’d had near-death experiences in order to show that our souls outlast us. / ‘I looked at life-after-death books, but they were too faith-based,’ Helen says. ‘I wanted to believe what I was taught in my Catholic upbringing. But what I liked about Kubler-Ross is that she had a science background.’ / It was precisely because she was a scientist, of course, that Kubler-Ross’s fellow physicians were so dismayed by this strange turn in her interests. They thought it kooky and unrigorous, a stain on her legacy. I tell this to Helen. She laughs. ‘Bet they didn’t sell millions of books.’” (“Twenty Years Gone,” also titled “What Bobby McIlvaine Left Behind” by Jennifer Senior. Her essay won a Pulitzer Prize. Senior then turned her essay into a book: *On Grief, Love, Loss, Memory*.)

♦ see also *light* (death)

## soul-searching

soul-searching

after much ~ we decided...

I did some ~, it was a wakeup call to me (athlete)

there will be ~ (boxing champ loses in shock defeat)

soul-searching in Australia

the judgment in the Chamberlain case caused much ~

career-oriented soul-searching

he did some ~

national soul-searching

the Holocaust memorial is the result of years of ~

## sound (perception)

sound of that

I don’t like the ~

## sound (measure)

sounds (dark comedic) depths

the play ~

## sound (solid)

scientifically sound

their theory isn’t ~ (about autism and the brain)

## sound off (verb)

sound off

citizens phoned in to ~

sound off about Angel Reese’s benching and absence  
former LSU stars ~ (basketball)

♦ Sound off. / One-two. / Sound off! / Three-four! / Bring it on down. / One two three four one two...three-four! (Military cadence, close-order drill.)

## soup (mixture)

soup of pollutants

the fish live in a ~ (tomcod in New York)

## sour (verb)

souring on the (administration’s) handling  
polls show the public is ~ of the catastrophe

soured many on service

a variety of things has ~ (military reservists)

soured investors

uncertainty over legislation has further ~ (Mexico)

soured relations

the incident ~ between the two countries

sour the relationship

raising the question of human rights could ~ (diplomacy)

soured some

her decision ~ in law enforcement (a district attorney)

relationship soured

but the ~ (between two politicians)

relationship has soured

the ~ between museums and archaeologists

## sour (adjective)

sour mood

the country is in a ~ (politics)

sour taste

the whole experience left a ~ in my mouth

gone sour

her perfect marriage had ~

turn sour

when did the relationship ~

so soon had victory begun to ~ (Amundsen)

turned sour

his life in England ~

went sour

a series of business ventures ~

## sour (personality)

sour person

she’s a ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we all know how we teach this. As a set: sweet / sour / salty / bitter, that relates to the taste of food. We seldom mention that all four of those adjectives can relate to character and personality and commonly do.

♦ Don't be so sour!

♦ Stop being so sour!

♦ He is such a sour person!

## south (numbers)

went south

crop prices ~ (worries of trade war)

## south (go south, etc.)

heading south

the lifeless Gunners are ~ (failing Arsenal football team)

going south

she knew things were ~ when he locked the door (rape)

going south quick

things were ~ (California wildfire)

went south

that's when things ~ (runaway locomotive)

then, things ~

things ~ pretty quickly

crop prices ~ (worries of trade war)

the economy ~ and jobs dried up

something ~ in the prosecutor's case, perhaps a witness

there was hope of an agreement, but things ~

went (seriously) south

something ~ in the prosecution's case (charges dropped)

♦ Michele Kelemen: "... [B]ut, you know, these promises could be hard to keep if things go south quickly for this Afghan government. / Audi Cornish: Not just south, I mean, if there's a threat that the government could collapse, what are you, what are you as diplomats doing to try and head that off?" (A very interesting and very odd conversation. Interesting because Audi Cornish seems to react sharply to the use of the cliché "head south" and very correctly restates the meaning as, "if there's a threat that the government could collapse..." But odd because Michele Kelemen does not represent the State Department, she is NPR's diplomatic correspondent. Were the two of them "acting out" a script? From "Biden To Meet With Afghanistan Leaders As Sept. 11 U.S. Troop Withdrawal Nears," All Things Considered, June 25, 2021.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Things can go sideways, south, belly-up, tits-up, or pear-shaped. Take your pick!

♦ See *direction (symbol)* for quotations about the cardinal directions as metaphors.

## sow (mines, a minefield)

sowed farmlands and fields with mines

combatants ~ (Balkans)

## sow (verb)

sown grief here

they have ~, they are destroying us (warfare)

sowed violence across the region

extremists have ~ (Northern Caucasus)

sow chaos

Assad's fall could ~ in Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon

sowed (such) confusion

he and his legal advisers ~ that... (a general)

sowed discord

the act ~ that lasted for years

sow fear

they use terrorism to ~ and undermine security

snipers ~ (combat)

sowed fear

the killings have ~ and apprehension (sniper murders)

sow goodwill

you can ~ by referring them to competitors (business)

sow instability

the drug war has helped ~, particularly in Bolivia

the insurgents seek to ~ (Iraq)

sow malware

they ~ that cripples networks (criminals / ransomware)

sow the seeds

enforced potty sitting can ~ of rebellion (toddlers)

sowing the seeds

he could be ~ of a new disaster (price control)

sown the seeds

this successes may have ~ of his demise (business)

sow terror

shooting and carjacking rampage ~ through city (news)

sow doubt and defeatism

a psy-op to ~ (military)

sowed fear and apprehension

the killings have ~ around the area (sniper)

sow fear and distress and anger

terrorists know that headlines ~

♦ "The BBC's mission, Reith decided, was to 'inform, educate and entertain.' The verb 'to broadcast' should hew to its Biblical and agricultural origins: seeds of knowledge and culture were to be dispersed far and wide, on rocky places and on fertile soil. 'The Sower,' a modernist stone sculpture, by Eric Gill stands in the lobby of the BBC's current headquarters, which was built in 1932." (From "London Calling: The power—and vulnerability—of the BBC" by Sam Knight, *The New Yorker*, April 18, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "He who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind."

♦ You don't harvest grapes from planting thorns. (Arab proverb.)

♦ see also *broadcast (verb)*

## sown (planted)

sown by his allies

the conspiracy theory ~... (politics)

## sown (conspiracy-sown, etc.)

conspiracy-sown

the ~ landscape of American politics...

## space (mental)

space where

anytime I'm in a ~ I'm scared (a teen debater)

headspace

see *headspace* (*frame of mind*)

some dark spaces

looking back at ~ in his life (cocaine addiction)

therapeutic spaces

he asked me to get into some ~ with him (talk therapy, etc.)

in the (mental health) space

most people ~ think it's a real issue (secondary trauma)

hold space

where I can ~ for grief and growth (Latesha Harris)

I simply can't '~' for it ("therapy speak")

I just can't ~ for you right now

♦ "Even if the marriage wasn't working, there was still this level of friendship and deep connection between us, right?... It's like we're kinda assigned to each other if that makes any sense in regards to working through our traumas. It's like we really know how to hold space for that. And so..." (Jada Pinkett Smith talking to Tonya Mosley on NPR's Fresh Air.)

♦ "You—whoever you are, be it a coach, a player, a parent, a friend—you need to remember that athletes aren't taught to hold space for the feeling of failure, or anything that resembles it... [W]hen you are an adult in this space, you have a massive responsibility to—above all else—make sure that the young adults with whom you work feel safe, loved, and valued." ("A Letter to College Sports" by Cailin Bracken.)

♦ "They are taking some space to work out whether or not the relationship is right for both of them." (Married celebrities.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "I have said 'holding space' to my friends without even fully understanding what that means." (Rebecca Fishbein. From "'Therapy speak' is everywhere, but it may make us less empathetic," NPR, All Things Considered, April 13, 2023.)

♦ "Help 'therapy speak' is infecting how everyone talks and I simply can't 'hold space' for it" by Mary Madigan, News.com.au, June 15, 2023.

♦ "I've seen it in a couple posts. I don't know how widespread, but you know, I am in queer media, so, that's my, you know, but yeah, it's happening." (*Out* magazine reporter Tracy Gilchrist, informing Cynthia Erivo that certain people were taking the lyrics of "Defying Gravity" and "really holding space with that and feeling power in that." From "This wacky 'Wicked' interview about 'holding space' has perplexed the entire internet" by Chris Nesi, *The New York Post*, Nov. 24, 2024.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ She's spacey. (A disparaging comment.)

♦ see also *place* (*mental*)

**space (in a space, etc.)**

in a space where

the assault happened at a time and ~ I was vulnerable

in spaces with people

in 2021, more robots will coexist ~

in spaces like that

I'm used to ~ fighting for air time (a Zoom meeting)

in this space

companies that play ~ are... (semiconductor fabrication)

she is a thought leader ~ (modifying boy's identities)

in these spaces

Black people are ~ (safe access to nature / Black birders)

so many people have to live ~ (basement apartments)

in the cannabis space

she has worked ~ for years (a lawyer...Cool!)

in the media space

tech giants collect the lion's share of revenue, profits ~

in those social-media spaces

followers ~ (on the internet)

in educational spaces

whiteness ~ (title of session at teachers' conference)

in a fragile space

the state of our relationship is ~, we're both at fault

in the same space

there are people ~ as me... (came out as gay)

they were just there ~ sharing life (students in school)

♦ "There are people out there in the same space as me that may not feel comfortable revealing their sexuality." (Jake Daniels.)

♦ "And you actually end your article talking about where Musk sits in the race to be the most powerful in the space of artificial intelligence. Where does he sit in this space now?" (Tonya Mosley, talking to Ronan Farrow about Elon Musk on Fresh Air. Sitting in a race? Sitting in a space?)

♦ OLD: industry, field, place, state, situation... / NEW: space...

**space (personal space)**

space and privacy

as a family we ask to be given ~ to mourn...

their own space

you have to let people have ~ (bad behavior in ghetto)

you just look past it, because everyone deserves ~ (ghetto)

personal space

a threat to ~ is tragically palpable (police shootings)

time and space

they would like some ~ to process the news and grieve...

ask for space

we appreciate all the love and support but ~ as we grieve

back down or give her space

French officials didn't ~, they threatened her (Naomi Osaka)

give her the space

it's important that we ~ and time she needs (troubled)

given yourself space

once you've ~, approach the person who harassed you...

give more space

native English speakers can talk less to ~ to non-native speakers

invading their space

women felt he was ~ and it was unwanted (a politician)

respect my space

please ~, you do not have a mask on (noncompliant Black woman to a policeman)

♦ "I'm confident that it will come together, but I just don't have the space to consider what that looks like until I know it's the real thing." (Zachary Quinto about Star Trek 4, in the works for years. Spacey use of language...)

♦ "The first day I was there, everyone tried to do everything for me. But now they give me space. This is a place I can study and achieve my goals." (Mary Bailey, the only female in a welding course with 18 males students.)

♦ "Back off; get out of my face; get your hands off me; I don't need your help..." (Common reactions to those who violate a person's space.)

\*\*\* bears, bison, etc.

♦ "If approached by a bear, park officials recommend slowly backing away to put distance between yourself and the animal, creating space for it to pass." (Great Smoky Mountains National Park.)

♦ "When a large animal such as a bison is near, the National Park Service advises people to 'give it space.'" (Woman gored.)

## space (groups, etc.)

### space where

we created a ~ it's okay to criticize Israel (BLM)  
anytime I'm in a ~ I'm scared... (a teen debater)  
social media is a ~ authors can... (an advertisement)  
President Trump has opened a ~ people are emboldened

### spaces where

when there are ~ we can flourish... (Black debaters)  
the dearth of ~ you can hear people speak honestly

### spaces of ignorance

Quinn tells how there are still "~" in women's soccer

### space of their own

they made a ~ (opened a lesbian club)

### space of the strange

she hardly the first musician to occupy the ~

### space of remembrance and healing

the Gun Violence Memorial Project is a ~

### spaces of employment and education

our ancestors fought to occupy ~ (a Dunghutti woman)

### space of empathy, of love, of understanding, of safety

we always will work together to create ~ (Uni of Chicago)

### space for (rebellious) artists

"Political Art" show provides a ~ (Poland)

### spaces (in sport) for trans athletes

I want ~ to be their authentic selves (a trans athlete)

### space for honest chats

it was a ~ (a podcast)

### space for cooperation

we must confront, compete but also leave that ~ (China)

### space for people

I want to contribute to creating a ~ to be heard

### space for fiction to develop

I'm interested in thinking about families as a ~ (V.V. Geneshananthan)

### spaces for them to make friends

there aren't a lot of ~ (young gays / exploited on Grindr)

### spaces in the 1980s

lesbian and queer ~ (gay bars)

### space racism

~ associates black neighborhoods, or spaces, with violence

### spaces and actors

misinformation originates from ~ (on the internet)

### spaces and institutions

those who live in and maneuver through ~ in a fat body

### space and opportunity

our goal is ensuring ~ for potential protesters (a mayor)  
Banned Books Week provides ~ to talk about censorship

### spaces and opportunities

the demand for "proper" English can be used to shut people out of ~

### space and place

freedom and slavery, ~ (social and cultural analysis)

### space and time

it's important that we give her the ~ she needs (troubled)  
ibogaine can give addicts the ~ they need to make changes

### women's spaces

men's intrusion into ~  
advocating the exclusion of trans women from ~ (group)

### our spaces

women must not allow men into ~ (Women's Movement)

### their own space

you have to let people have ~ (ignore behavior in ghetto)  
you just look past it, because everyone deserves ~ (ghetto)

### no space

there should be ~ for them (mushers who abuse dogs)

### so little space

there is ~, there's such scarcity (a Korean America)

### anti-hunger space

those of us who work in the ~ (director of food pantry)

### arts space

the storied Lower East Side ~ (the Nuyorican Poets Café)

### burial spaces

these cemeteries and ~ are precious black spaces (Burr Oak)

### climate-change space

Good Energy supports movie and TV production in the ~

### community space

for 50 years the store has been that ~ for Chinatown



crypto space  
China has for some time been putting pressure on the ~

drug-treatment space  
people who work in the ~ in Puerto Rico...

fan spaces  
make all Harry Potter ~ safe and welcoming (Gayly)

femme space  
I just thing that ~ has never been prioritized (lesbian bars)

information space  
the ~ is full of noise (fakes, disinformation, theories)

lesbian spaces  
we honor the history of ~ in the US (lesbian bars)

locker room spaces  
ensure ~ and sports facilities are less homophobic

online space  
TikTok has enabled a lot of people to jump into the ~

possibility space  
climate modelers frame the future as a “~” (vs. apocalypse)

queer spaces  
Desi ~ (South Asians)

white space  
a ~ that expects her to perform whiteness (high school)

white spaces  
my own upbringing in ~ (adopted Korean daughter)  
what it means to occupy ~ while black (Uni of Chicago)

white-majority spaces  
some blacks code-switch when entering ~

workspace  
Black people in the ~  
as people return to the ~ (vaccination requirements)

brave space  
the term ~ was first popularized in 2013

civic spaces  
traditional ~ like schools, colleges or workplaces (Gen Z)

commemorative spaces  
less than 1% of our ~ tell Latinx, indigenous stories...

cool spaces  
many are affected by the lack of access to ~ (heatwave)

digital spaces  
~ where the far-right gather...

Digital Spaces  
Performing Arts Education in ~

educational space  
whiteness in ~s (title of session at teachers’ conference)  
it also feels like an ~ (lesbian bar with older and younger)

elite spaces

these kind of microcosms, in these very ~ (a private school)

“free space”  
the term ~ was first used by Harry C. Boyte

geopolitical space  
the Arctic, a new ~ (Kathleen Hicks)

gracious spaces  
~ in school (kids sit knee to knee, discuss concerns)

greenspace  
it is a vital ~ for all New Yorkers (Central Park)

new spaces  
Knight Lab wants to push journalism into ~ (Northwestern)

non-essential spaces  
the mayor has threatened to close all ~ (pandemic)

bipartisan spaces  
veterans’ health appears to be one of the few ~ (politics)

political space  
being outrageous lets you occupy the ~

powerful spaces  
policymakers and others in ~ (*The Root* online magazine)

public spaces  
recontextualize the country’s current ~ and add new ones  
protesters have taken over ~  
attempts to bar Blacks from celebrating in ~ (Juneteenth)  
he’s been stopped for skateboarding in ~ before  
removing dangerous explosives from ~ (munitions depots)

sacred space  
he had to reimagine what a ~ looks like (architect)

safe space  
see *safe space* (groups)

same space  
you have two national movements competing for the ~ (Israelis and Palestinians)

smaller space  
to be female is to exist in a ~, to take up less room

social spaces  
~ that offer a sense of safety or security

supportive space  
for the most part women’s football is a ~ (“Quinn”)

virtual space  
in a place called Clubhouse, a ~, an app that launched...  
there will be ~a for black and Latino creators (Sundance)

important and fascinating space  
women athletes have carved out an ~ in the podcast landscape

large urban space  
Paris is a city with the challenges of any ~

majority white spaces  
misidentifying people of color in ~ (work, media, etc.)

perilous cultural space  
a powerful treatise on the ~ occupied by Black women...

safe and supportive space  
I provide a ~ and a gentle approach (inhabithealingarts)

positive, safe and empowering space  
our goal is to create a ~ where... (Morphe cosmetics)

precious black spaces  
these cemeteries and burial spaces are ~ (Burr Oak crime)

rhetorical and aesthetic space  
reclaim and repurpose the ~ of country music (Mali Obomsawin)

tranquil, multi-generational female space  
the ~ of Afsoon's beauty salon (Afghanistan)

virtual digital space  
"inhabiting a black persona" in ~ (digital blackface)

welcome and safe spaces  
~ to students of color (high schools)

2,500-acre space  
20 more elephants are expected at the ~ (Yulee refuge)

representation in all the spaces  
so that we have that ~ (black teen debaters)

dearth of space  
given the ~ where you can hear people speak honestly (Clubhouse)

disappearance of lesbian spaces  
the slow ~ (lesbian bars)

intrusion into (women's) spaces  
men's ~

much space left  
there isn't ~ to say you support Israel in the liberal camp

had the space  
we ~ to better come into our queerness when we met...

holding space  
I've said ~ without knowing what that means (relationships)

inhabit her own space  
they have let her ~ (Kamala Harris does her own thing)

providing a space  
it's about bringing people together, ~ (Chinatown store)

claiming and protecting space  
~ has always been fundamental in anti-racist protest

places and spaces  
an unapologetic focus on Black Folx in these ~

space is shrinking or (in many cases just) evaporating  
their ~ (Blacks in Los Angeles versus Latinos)

access (queer) spaces  
before the pandemic, I could ~ (gay bars)

allow men into our spaces  
women must not ~ (Women's Movement)

arrived at this space  
I wish that I would've ~ in my earlier years (contriteness?)

breach a space  
trying to ~ (2021 riot at Capital)

build spaces  
I wanted to ~ where women could be free and shine (an Afghan beauty parlour)

craved a space  
as a pastry chef, I ~ that was explicitly queer

create a space  
I wanted to ~ where everyone can feel safe (bookstore)

create a (safe) space  
~ at home (kids and post-lockdown anxiety)

create spaces  
~ for artists, especially LGBTQIA communities of color

disrupt space  
how social media can be used to ~ (Chaedria LaBouvier)

dominates that space  
the US ~, whether it's Instagram, Facebook

engaged in that space  
the players, the media and all of those ~ (media / tennis)

gave ourselves the space  
we never really ~ to ask that question (Muslim women)

get into spaces  
DJing or trying to ~ to DJ, I felt very unwelcome (female)

give her the space  
it's important that we ~ and time she needs (troubled)

give the Senate and Congress some space  
he wants to ~ to have that conversation (Biden / guns)

given us space  
the conversation has ~ to say, "I don't agree with..."

grant space  
it's important to ~ to women (a male feminist)

had the space  
we haven't ~ to politically organize (young Palestinian)

held the space  
my dear friend Shameka ~ at Injustice Square for 120 days

learn your (garden) space  
it takes 5 years to ~ (growing a garden)

leave some space

the ruling seemed to ~ for future lawsuits

make a space  
there is not space for much in the South, so you just have to ~ (two Black women start a lesbian bar)

made spaces  
these artists ~ where women could share thoughts, feelings

make space  
women shrink to ~ (vs. men, who take space)

negotiate this space  
how to ~ and develop a “cyberspace literacy” (internet)

occupies space  
she unapologetically ~, literally & figuratively (Aidy Bryant)

occupy space  
men spread, utilize and ~ (vs. women)

occupy the (political) space  
being outrageous lets you ~

occupy that space  
I had to research him before I could ~ (actor about a role)

occupy predominantly white spaces  
what it means to ~ while black (University of Chicago)

opening up this space  
her case is ~ to have these conversations where... (mental health and tennis)

preserve (white) spaces  
the purpose of hair discrimination is to ~ (NAACP)

putting pressure on the (crypto) space  
China has for some time been ~

reclaims the (genre) space  
the creator ~ for people of color (a horror film)

reclaiming space  
Ashley Minner, ~ for the Lumbee Indians of Baltimore

share a space  
figuring out how to ~ with predatory people (artwork)

shrinks the space  
spyware ~ for free expression and dissent (Ronald Farrow)

take (their own) space  
black characters leisurely ~ (the artist Elizabeth Colomba)

take up space  
seeing ourselves, it creates the momentum to ~ (blacks)  
men are not ashamed to ~ in the world  
white women have always been allowed to ~ in Black music

take up (less) space  
women have been taught to ~ in a patriarchal world (be quiet, be small)

take up (more) space  
I try to cry quietly so that I don't ~ (Robin DiAngelo)

take up (too much) space  
they are supposed to be contained, docile and not ~ (girls)

shut people out of spaces  
the demand for “proper English” can be used to ~ and opportunities

struggle for, occupy, craft, and mark space  
~ in order to establish ownership and autonomy

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “the various indignities that being Black in traditionally white spaces exposes you to... / “racial incorporation”...brought [many Blacks] into previously white spaces... / In predominantly white professional spaces... / normalize the presence of Black people in professional and other historically white spaces... / the loaded interrogations, and the other awkward moments and indignities that people of color experience in white spaces...” (“Black Success, White Backlash” by Elijah Anderson, *The Atlantic*, September, 2023. “Elijah Anderson is the Sterling Professor of Sociology and of African American Studies at Yale, and a recent Stockholm Prize laureate. His most recent book is *Black in White Space: The Enduring Impact of Color in Everyday Life*.”)

♦ “[H]ow you choose to cultivate and represent that space—whether real or imagined—matters.” (“21 Hip-Hop Albums That Reflected The Politics Of Race, Space And Place in 2017” by Rodney Carmichael, Bobby Carter, Jenny Gathright, Sidney Madden, Mosi Reeves, and Steffanee Wang, NPR, Best Music Of 2017, December 28, 2017.)

♦ “That was a direct result of her uplifting our space during her conversation.” (Fawn Pochel, who identifies as First Nations Ojibwe, about a speech by Cutcha Risling Baldy at Dominican University that resulted in \$200 in “unexpected” donations to the First Nations Garden.)

♦ “Space is a feminist issue.”

♦ “Orchestras have traditionally been a pretty white space.” (Diversity, equity and inclusion / DEI.)

♦ “I try to cry quietly so that I don't take up more space.” (Robin DiAngelo. She coined the term “White fragility” which has been characterized as silence, defensiveness, argumentation, certitude, and pushback.)

♦ “For Anders, although his newly brown skin is a constant physical reminder that he's no longer who he used to be, the greatest change may be in his psyche. He's now acutely aware of otherness and being observed, how he moves in the world and how he takes up space. When he returns to work...he's both drawn to and repulsed by the only other dark-skinned employee, who, unlike him, has always known what it's like to be treated as both invisible and hypervisible.” (Cady Lang's *Time* review of *The Last White Man* by Mohsin Hamid, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Exit West*. This paragraph deftly weaves together several tropes relating to inclusion and exclusion.)

♦ “I want spaces in sport for trans athletes to be their authentic selves and compete at the highest level, and know they are loved and that they belong there.” (Chris Mosier, about transgender athletes at the Tokyo Olympics.)

♦ “As you all know I have battled injuries my whole career, but this is one that I cannot come back from. I have done everything I can do to continue, but this is where the good Lord has called me to serve in a different space.” (NC State QB Grayson McCall, announcing his retirement from football after suffering at least his fourth concussion.)

♦ “The space of play, playing with dolls, the space of creating worlds with dolls is that space of dreaming. And now kids get to dream with a Laverne Cox Barbie, the first transgender Barbie—that is a beautiful space of dreaming and possibility.” (“Laverne Cox honoured as first transgender Barbie, BBC, 26 May, 2022. That's a lot of space!”)

♦ “Harrison announced that his would be a safe space and also a brave space where everybody could say things that were hard to say, without being judged.” (“Guns Down: With the number of shooting deaths rising, Shaina Harrison is teaching kids to turn anger into

advocacy," by Ian Frazier, *The New Yorker*, April 5, 2021. Harrison was addressing ninth graders.)

♦ "We've given them the flexibility to kind of determine what their spaces look like...you know, do they want to do rows...?" (Qynne Kelly, Associate Principal at Lincoln High School, Des Moines, about the guidelines teachers have for setting up their classrooms during the pandemic.)

♦ "We feel very proud to be Asian here, and we want to share kind of culture and space with each other but also with the rest of the city." (Joanne Kwong, President, Pearl River Mart.)

♦ "People have become accustomed to more car-free spaces during the pandemic." (Cities block streets so restaurant patrons can dine in the road, socially spaced. Ordinarily, this would be express as "car-free zones.")

♦ "It's so unfortunate that marginalized communities are in competition for the tiny allotment of space that society gives them." (Ani DiFranco.)

♦ "Watts (2001) has made the argument that to have a voice an agent must find a space where the voice can be concretized... The connection between voice and space becomes particularly critical when such a space is denied in the real world through marginalizing forces and a new space needs to be carved out." ("Voices of the Marginalized on the Internet" by Ananda Mitra.)

♦ "Black folk have always been aware that we've been excluded and othered. Even in spaces we've managed to create for ourselves, [non-Black] people violently infiltrate and occupy these spaces with no respect to the architects who built it." (Eric Louis, age 21, a Black TikTok "creator" who helped to organize the #BlackTikTokStrike, to protest cultural appropriation and preferential treatment.)

♦ "I think the superpower of a Black Woman is to occupy the space in the fullness of who she is." (The actress Aisha Hinds.)

♦ "The industry caught up to my ambitions and created space for me to have my voice." ("Faces of NPR HBCU Edition: Kia Miakka Natisse," Sommer Hill, NPR, February 16, 2022.)

♦ "It really is an unusual space in which we can come together and socialize and it doesn't feel anything like Zoom." (The 2021 virtual Sundance Film Festival.)

♦ "NPR arts editor Nina Gregory was an early adopter of Clubhouse—which she calls the 'third space' during the pandemic. The third space isn't home or work, she says, but rather acts as the coffee shops, bars, parks and other places where we connect with other people." ("What Is Clubhouse? The Popular Audio-Based Social Media App, Explained" by Tonya Mosley and Allison Hagan, WBUR, Feb. 10, 2021. Clubhouse is based around voice communication.)

♦ "Yeah, you're in a world, right, I mean, you're in something like a fantasy or a dream, and we all have that interior space all the time, but to get to go into someone else's interior space, how incredible is that?" (Miranda July.)

♦ Lulu Garcia-Navarro: Before we get to your new music, uh, I do want to talk to you about this meme about listening to Girl in Red. What does it feel like, sort of holding this space in LGBTQ and Gen Z culture? / Marie Ulven: Uh, I think it's really dope because... ("Marie Ulven Talks TikTok Fame, Sexuality And Her New Album," NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, May 2, 2021. Trendy!)

♦ "I studied theater, but I was focused on being an actor, and I noted that people seemed to have a very narrow view of what kind of space my body could occupy on stage—and I found that really frustrating. I decided to write plays." (The playwright Aleshea Harris.)

♦ "This girl in jean shorts standing in her house with eleven men. Like the female body in that space was what drew me to this for sure." (Tina Satter, theater director, about *Is This a Room: Reality Winner Verbatim Transcription*.)

♦ "I wanted to create a safe space not in the sometimes trite sense we see the term used, but a true and sacred space for all our queer family to feel safe enough for freedom, fun, and cathartic self-expression. I wanted to build an antidote for the Trump era. I wanted to build all of us a home." (Frankie Sharp, who is suing his former partners at The Q, one of New York City's largest LGBTQ nightclubs. So much for "a true and sacred space for all our queer family.")

♦ "Prentice (Penny), I was hoping you could talk a little bit about when and how [Black Twitter] kind of shifted from a cultural space where Black people from different parts of the world and country could talk

to one another and have this—I don't want to call it a safe space—a fun space, and a uniquely Black space—into something that actually fueled cultural and political movements in some ways, and also elevated local stories like George Floyd." ("Cultural space," "safe space," "fun space," "Black space..." That's a lot of "spaces!")

♦ Interviewer: As someone who's been first in a lot of spaces you've been in, a woman of color, knocking on the door to possibly be the next president, how do you protect your mental health and your mental space? / Kamala Harris: Well, number one rule, don't read the comments... (cackling). (Kamala Harris on All The Smoke with Stephen Jackson and Matt Barnes.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "I'm wondering how can [sic] a shared sense of space be created in places where Black and brown people are literally sharing the same physical space. I mean sharing being economically marginalized, overpoliced, unrepresented in big issues that affect both of them..." ("What the city council scandal reveals about LA's racial divides—and Solidarity," NPR, Morning Edition, Oct 14, 2022.)

♦ "When you're in a position in which you are a distinct minority, then there is a sense in which within a majority white culture you do start to see other people of color as rivals rather than as allies. Because there is so little space for you, there's such scarcity, and so you fight with other people who are of your same identity in order to get the spoils." (Korean American author Julia Lee, author of *Biting the Hand: Growing Up Asian in Black and White America*. From "Biting the Hand": Korean American author calls for weaponizing invisibility," NPR, Morning Edition, April 19, 2023.)

♦ "The assertions are strident, and the vocabulary is esoteric ('harm,' 'insurrection') as if it were translated from a foreign language. In a sense, it is. The language is legalese, and it is designed to build a foundation upon which a company can be held liable under civil-rights law in an American court. This activist tactic has been widely misunderstood... The word 'safe' is carefully chosen. It gestures at certain specific kinds of negligence for which a university could pay dearly in a court of law." ("The Inequality of 'Equity,'" by Christopher Caldwell, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ *Area*; the public *domain*; a safe and secure *environment*; the school is a safe *haven*; public *place* (Wikipedia article); a gathering *place* (like a high-school cafeteria, bars, coffee houses); the *workplace*; a parking *place*; the public *realm*; give the bear plenty of *room*; I don't have any *room* in my life for...; a crawl *space* under the house; office *space*; floor *space*; a tight *space* in a cave; a *space* (compartment) inside a ship; personal *space*; not enough *space* in the car or in the trunk of the car; a *space* of time; "He stole *space* in the penalty area"; "he controlled the ring *space* / boxing); outer *space*; public *sphere* (Wikipedia article); a parking *spot*; he was in a bad *state* mentally; a car-free *zone*... (Conventional, ordinary uses of *area*, *domain*, *environment*, *haven*, *place*, *realm*, *room*, *space*, *sphere*, *spot*, *state*, *zone*, etc.)

♦ NPR's Leila Fadel: After this long eventful week [2024 election of Donald Trump] imagine slipping away for a quick bit of quiet *in space* [italics mine]. NPR's Brian Mann snuck out before work one morning for a canoe trip on a wild river in Vermont." (Ordinarily, "in space" would be expressed as "in nature." Not at NPR!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "These days, everybody talks about spaces: the 'gastronomic space,' the 'podcast space,' even, on N.F.L. podcasts, the 'analytic space.' Derived from some combination of sociology and interior design, the word has elbowed aside terms like 'field' or 'conversation,' perhaps because it's even more expansive. The 'space' of a national election is, for that reason, never self-evident; we've always searched for clues." ("As Bad As All That: Donald Trump and the unmaking of America" by Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024. Gopnik goes on to use "space" in the following examples: (1) "And our own electoral space?" (2) "And then there's the galvanic space of social media." (3) "Though Trump can be situated in a transoceanic space of populism..." (4) "There is certainly a far-right political space..." (5) "The space is that strange.")

♦ You're spacey...; She's a space cadet... (Denigration.)

♦ "Man's happiness lies in open, empty spaces." (A Mongolian proverb.)

## space (space of time)

bittersweet space of time

she lived her dream if only for a ~ (Madalyn Davis)

## spade (in spades)

provides them in spades

sport ~ (so-called culture-war controversies)

\*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ "Morocco have brought back the beautiful game to the world in spade loads." (An online commenter about the Qatar World Cup.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Merriam-Webster says this relates to the suit of cards. It means "a large quantity or a high degree."

## spaghetti (throw the spaghetti at the wall, etc.)

throwing the proverbial spaghetti at the wall

MSNBC is just ~-to see what sticks (biased coverage)

## spaghetti (snarl)

"Spaghetti Junction"

the notorious ~ is a 4-level stack interchange (Atlanta)

spaghetti model

tracking hurricane Beryl, ~s, timing and more...

spaghetti plots

these are the ~ (storm approaches coast / weather report)

bowl of spaghetti

it's a ~, it's difficult to untangle (competing interests)

## span (lifespan, etc.)

life spans have declined

~ due to COVID

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The distance between the thumb and little finger.

## span (verb)

spanned five decades

his career ~

## spar (verb)

sparred over education and immigration

the candidates ~ (politics)

Republicans and Democrats sparred

~ during the third day of impeachment hearings

## spare (a minute to spare, etc.)

see *time (a minute to spare, etc.)*

## spark (verb)

sparked attention

the "frog vaccine" has ~ among foreign researchers

sparked a (land) boom

the lure of cheap homesteads and easy money ~

sparked a (wild) celebration

his winning penalty kick ~ (soccer)

spark conflicts

fences could ~ over access to water (nomads)

spark conversation

it will ~ and educate people (Aboriginal flag on bridge)

sparked a conversation

his death has ~ around the treatment of sumo wrestlers

spark conversations

the shootings should ~ about mental health, violence...

sparked his imagination

reading science fiction ~

spark (media) interest

parental kidnappings do not ~ (of kids)

sparked a (major) inquiry

her death ~

spark interest

these clouds continue to ~ (Noctilucent Clouds)

spark a new interest

sometimes learning will ~

sparked an outcry

his remarks ~ (racism)

spark outrage

"Drag marchers ~ with 'we're coming for your children'"

sparked outrage

the killing ~ around the world

the shooting was captured on video, and ~ across the city

sparking outrage

the Israeli raid is ~ around the world

sparked a recall

ignition problems ~ (automobile company)

sparked resentment

Chinese investment has ~ in Karachi (Sind)

sparked an (intense) search

her disappearance ~ that ended when...

sparked an uproar

his dismissal ~ on campus (popular coach Bobby Knight)

her transgender talk ~ (a Canadian feminist)

spark (widespread) violence

elections could ~ (Ivory Coast)

sparked a war

the border dispute ~ (Eritrea and Ethiopia)

sparked a wildfire

a single protest ~ (1848)

sparks the wildfire

Virginia will be the match that ~ of change (politics)

spark or reinforce

these stores can ~ the "Hillbilly" stereotype

## spark (noun)

spark

the taunts were the ~, underlying resentment the fuel

spark for his comeback

the rivalry was the ~ (a rapper)

small spark

the clash showed how a ~ could ignite another war

signs of a spark

her campaign never caught fire or even showed ~

sparks erupted

those ~ into a bonfire of civic rage

sparks flew

they had different ideas about money, and ~ (a couple)

~ during the debate

keep the spark alive

the dreams of what were ahead helped ~ for me (love)

put that spark in me

he ~ that made me want to be a scientist

created a (much-needed) spark

his visit ~ and drew the world's attention to the Bronx

♦ "My question was surely just a spark but the response was an earthquake." (The Italian journalist Riccardo Ehrman about his role in the fall of the Berlin Wall. See the Wikipedia article "Riccardo Ehrman." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## spark (spark of hope, etc.)

spark of hope

the ~ is getting smaller, but it hasn't gone out

## sparkling (superlative)

sparkling form

the Watford keeper was in absolutely ~ against West Ham

## spark plug (person)

team's spark plug

he's the ~

## sparring partner (role)

verbal sparring partner

she is his ~ and confident

## Sparta (Sparta of the North, etc.)

Sparta of the North

Prussia is often called the ~ (a militaristic society)

black Sparta

this small ~ (Dahomey)

♦ "This small black Sparta..." (The Victorian traveller Richard Burton, about Dahomey, which he visited in 1863. From *War: How Conflict Shaped Us* by the historian and Reith Lecturer Margaret MacMillan.)

## Spartan (epithet)

"The Spartans"

San Jose State University women's volleyball team, the ~

## Spartacus (the Black Spartacus, etc.)

Black Spartacus

the ~ died in the Swiss mountains (Toussaint Louverture)

## Spartan (Spartans of Australasia, etc.)

Spartans of Australasia

by 1876 the ~ were extinct (native Tasmanians)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The White population numbered 40,000 in 1831; the Black population numbered three hundred. Not 300 warriors, but 300 men, women and children. The Whites were armed with guns, the Blacks with clubs and spears. The Whites had fought the Blacks for a quarter of a century, and had tried every thinkable way to capture, kill, or subdue them; and could not do it. If white men of any race could have done it, these would have accomplished it. But every scheme had failed, the splendid 300, the matchless 300 were unconquered, and manifestly unconquerable. They would not yield, they would listen to no terms, they would fight to the bitter end... / In a very few years nothing but a scant remnant remained alive. A handful lingered along into old age. In 1864 the last man died, in 1876 the last woman died, and the Spartans of Australasia were extinct. / The Whites always mean well when they take human fish out of the ocean and try to make them dry and warm and happy and comfortable in a chicken coop..." (Following *The Equator: A Journey Around The World* by Mark Twain.)

## spartan (adjective)

spartan

my room was very ~

spartan way

the Marine Corps, true to its ~s...

Fox News reported it, very briefly, in a sort of very ~

spartan and claustrophobic

the Schwartz's flat was ~

\*\*\* the Marines at the DMZ in 1967...

♦ Dressed in rags; boots held together by medical tape; not enough food; not enough water; not enough rest or sleep; not enough ammunition; severely depleted ranks; outnumbered by enemy; outgunned by enemy; not enough space for them inside a firebase; too few medals awarded... (US marines defending the DMZ in 1967 during the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, the Vietnam war is called the American War.)

## spasm (noun)

spasms of bloodshed

~ continue (violent drug gangs)

convulsed in a spasm

for 3 minutes the casino ~ of violence (biker riot)

## spasmodic (adjective)

spasmodic (sectarian) slaughter

during the ~ of 2006-2007 (Iraq)

## spawn (verb)

spawned controversy

the agency has ~ (Darpa)



spawned a generation  
tanning beds ~ of tanning addicts

spawned a series of memes  
Kim Kardashian's look ~ on social media (Met Gala 2021)

spawned a (TV) miniseries  
the book ~

spawned an (Oscar-winning) movie  
her book ~ (*To Kill a Mockingbird*)

spawned (a great wave of) philanthropy  
Carnegie, Rockefeller and Mellon ~

spawned QAnon  
the site ~, the conspiracy theory (an internet website)

spawned terrorism  
the Taliban's militancy has ~ inside Pakistan

spawned three tornadoes  
severe weather ~

spawn (real-world) violence  
hate speech and incitement can ~

spawned (monster) waves  
the hurricane ~ that toppled beach houses

## spawned

spawned by the war  
the terrorism ~ in Chechnya

## speak (the people have spoken, etc.)

spoke  
people in Massachusetts ~ (elections)

spoken  
the people of this nation have ~ (election)

## speak (carry a message)

speak truth to power  
*see truth to power*

speaks to people  
she ~ (Lizzo)

speak louder  
actions ~ than words

internet has spoken  
once again, the ~ and *Pretty Little Liars* is trending

let the bones speak  
my job is to ~ (a forensic anthropologist)

## speak (NASA-speak, etc.)

Congress-speak  
in ~, it's a "motion to vacate the chair"

FAA-speak  
nicknamed, in typical ~, "Flow Control" (panes aloft)

HR-speak  
the genderless ~ name Scouting America (vs Boy Scouts)

I.S.A.-speak  
it is referred to in ~ as the Area (Intl. Seabed Authority)

NASA-speak  
entry, descent and land, or EDL in ~

PR-speak  
it sounds like ~ (reason for downsizing cereal)

PR speak  
what we saw was the real AJ stripped of his ~ (boxing)

TESOL-speak  
for a roasting of ~, read... (see below)

"chatspeak"  
what Geoff Nunberg calls ~ (texting)

doublespeak  
*see doublespeak (noun)*

TV executive speak  
she acknowledged it in a torrent of ~ (media punditry)

feminist-speak  
the new ~ ("her large dose of Woman Truth" / 1972)

influencer speak  
the phenomenon of "~" (upspeak, vocal fry, etc.)  
~ is a sort of prestige dialect on the internet

leetspeak  
the title of PEN15, the Hulu series, is an example of ~

management-speak  
he was notified, in vague ~, the job has fallen through

millennial-speak  
~ straight out of the 2012 twee-internet era ("kind," etc.)

newspeak  
*see newspeak (noun)*

prosecutor-speak  
usually "inspection" is ~ for a shakedown (Russia)

publisher-speak  
romance novel ~ ("cinnamon rolls," "golden retrievers")

therapy speak  
~ is everywhere, but it may make us less empathetic  
this kind of clinical sounding ~ language...  
is ~ making us selfish (Rebecca Fishbein / *Bustle*)  
Jonah Hill 'used ~ to control' ex-girlfriend, claims therapist  
how '~' is being weaponized (Jonah Hill scandal)  
the overuse of '~' or 'psychobabble' (men against women)  
'~' is infecting how everyone talks  
the kids are all on TikTok or the internet and understand ~  
many coaches are savvy in "~" (life coaches, etc.)

waterspeak  
Dressel is fluent in ~ (the swimmer Caeleb Dressel)

youthspeak

it's easy to bash ~ (J-K-L-R speech)

bureaucratic-speak

turning obtuse ~ into plain language (journalism)

contempo-speak

the gentle interrogative is ~ (written in 2008)

corporate-speak

Kendall's buzzword-laden ~ (TV series *Succession*)

the dispiriting ~ used to manipulate employees

corporate speak

a shift away from ~ (LinkedIn's "new emotional tone")

medical-speak

I'm not a doctor, I'm not going to try to speak ~  
(briefing)

new speak

"abs" is ~ for buttocks, right? (see below)

political speak

turning ~ into plain language (journalism)

silly-speak

Nanz has caught modern ~ disease (sports broadcasting)

social speak

corporate ~ all sounds the same (culture wars)

upspeak

see *upspeak* (*contempo-speak*)

♦ "I certainly would not say that we won't see another test article dramatically and excitingly disassemble." (Space industry analyst and BryceTech CEO and founder Carissa Bryce Christensen, speaking to NPR's "A" Martinez. From "Why SpaceX staff cheered when the Starship rocket exploded," NPR, Morning Edition, April 21, 2023.)

♦ OLD: the spacecraft experienced a rapid unscheduled disassembly... / NEW: the spacecraft experienced a rapid unscheduled disassembly...

\*\*\* **jumping on the "speak" bandwagon...**

♦ "PEN15, write out the title, you'll get it, has begun its second season on Hulu..." (A well-briefed Scott Simon of NPR. This is an example of leetspeak.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "What my clients hear when I forget they don't speak mortgage." (They just hear gibberish. A TikTok mortgage influencer.)

♦ For a first-rate roasting of "TESOL-speak," read "Gobbledygook: The proliferation of jargon in English language teaching" by Joshua D. Bernstein, TESOL Journal, Volume 12, Issue 1, March 2021.

♦ "Help 'therapy speak' is infecting how everyone talks and I simply can't 'hold space' for it" by Mary Madigan, News.com.au, June 15, 2023.

♦ "This kind of clinical sounding therapy speak language is all over the place in the U.S. these days, including personal relationships." ("Therapy speak' is everywhere, but it may make us less empathetic," NPR, All Things Considered, April 13, 2023.)

♦ "So I interviewed a lot of people for this story, and some of the people that I interviewed said, you know, I've also done this, and it's not even intentional it's just when you've been saturated with some of the phrases—either you're in therapy or you watch a lot of therapy TikTok—it can come out in your conversations with your friends. I have said "holding space" to my friends without even fully understanding what that means. But it's not that people are intentionally being cruel to their friends or trying to sound like a therapist, it's trending, it's in the lexicon." (Rebecca Fishbein. From "Therapy speak' is everywhere, but it may make us less empathetic,"

NPR, All Things Considered, April 13, 2023. Rebecca notes that therapy-speak might be picked up from a mental health professional, social media to include therapy TikTok, or from talking to one's friends.)

♦ "The likes of Jonah Hill—who was accused of misusing psychology vocab to 'control' his ex this weekend—have faced criticism for the overuse of 'therapy speak,' or 'psychobabble,' as a tool of manipulation rather than an expression of emotional vulnerability." ("How 'therapy speak' is being weaponized amid Jonah Hill 'boundaries' scandal" by Brooke Kato, *New York Post*, July 11, 2023.)

♦ **A CURIOUS CASE.** "Exploring how content creators speak on TikTok—it's known as influencer speak," NPR, January 31, 2024, now redirects to "Do you have 'TikTok voice'? It's OK if you don't want to get rid of it" by Claire Murashima, Leila Fadel, and Steve Inskeep, NPR, Updated on Morning Edition, February 1, 2024. The transcript does not match the audio. Mmmm... The audio is funny and good. I suspect that the original story was controversial at NPR.

♦ "I'm digging those abs. "Abs" is new speak for buttocks, right?" (A funny "What do you think?" comment by James on a picture of EmRata wearing a tiny giraffe-print string bikini. Cheeky!)

♦ "A tale of two pandemics' (October 22nd) abbreviated life expectancy as LE. This is an example of today's trend towards too much abbreviation (TMA). This makes it harder to read (HTR) than if you were to spell everything out (SEO). Please get off the TMA bandwagon and just SEO to make your writing ETR. TYVM." (Richard Taylor, the Woodlands, Texas. Printed in the Letters section of *The Economist*, November 19, 2022, under the title "Capital idea.")

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ At Wiktionary, type in "-speak," then click on "Derived terms" and you will get a large, comprehensive and interesting list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

♦ These terms are often derogatory.

♦ see also *boilerplate* (noun), *buzzword* (noun), *ese* (legalese, etc.), *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language* (types), *lip service* (pay lip service, etc.), *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing), *talk* (mediator talk, etc.), *word salad*

## speak for (speak for itself, etc.)

speak for itself

we hope the evidence will ~

the crime scene appeared to ~ (murder-suicide)

speaks for itself

the subpoena ~

our work ~ (World Health Organization)

the video ~ (of an arrest by police)

the verdict ~ (no broader McToo implications)

the video ~, the video's not going to change (a shooting)

speak for themselves

the test results ~

he expected his deeds to ~ (Roald Amundsen)

the evidence and the facts ~

spoke for themselves

his results ~ (the surgeon Harvey Cushing)

spoke for itself

his silence ~ (politician loses electoral vote)

♦ "Volcanoes like to speak in low-frequency sounds that humans can't perceive called infrasound. So we developed sensors that we can deploy to listen to the volcanos talk to us." (Dr. Jeffrey B. Johnson, Boise State volcanologist and National Geographic Explorer, about the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua.)

## speak out (verb)

speak out against (perceived) injustices

she feels compelled to ~

spoke out with a (contrary) opinion  
we ~

speak out and be heard  
it is time for the Aboriginal community to ~ (*Koori Mail*)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "People wrote about women speaking out with prayerful reverence, as if speech itself could bring women freedom." (Jia Tolentino.)

♦ For proverbs about the dangers of speech, see *tongue* (*danger*).

## speak to (speak to something)

speaks to our anxieties  
the film ~ about AI (M3GAN)

speak to anyone  
the film will ~ who ever wanted to board a train and escape

speak to the imagination  
lighthouses ~

speak to this moment  
the film doesn't ~ in history

speaks to us  
what the painter saw, and why it still ~ (Winslow Homer)

speaks to the women  
Emirates Woman is a magazine that ~ of today

speak to anyone, anywhere, at any time  
the questions ~ (philosophy)

## speak up (verb)

speak up  
they were too scared to ~ (a corporation)  
a manager warned her not to ~

spoke up  
he ~ and said, "This man is not qualified"  
she was glad that she ~

speaks up and amplifies  
the *Koori Mail* ~ Black voices (Australian newspaper)

courage to speak up  
the importance of having the ~ (military)

♦ "Each and every one of us has to step up, speak up, stand up, do something." (Arnitta Holliman, director of the Milwaukee Office of Violence and Prevention.)

♦ For proverbs about the dangers of speech, see *tongue* (*danger*).

## spear (tip of the spear / military)

"tip of the spear"  
they will be the ~ if America invades Iraq

tip of the spear of the armored column  
the ~ (7th Cavalry Regiment)

tip of the spear of Iran's regional network  
Hezbollah is the ~ (Lebanon)

tip of Iran's spear  
he was the ~ in the Middle East (Qasem Soleimani)

tip of the US military spear  
special-operations forces are still the ~, but...

♦ "The EOD team is the sharp end of the spear to suppress roadside bombings."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The best way to keep the blade sharp is to use it."

## spear (tip of the spear / non-military)

tip of the spear  
she is once again the ~ (a right-wing politician)

tip of the spear of fighting  
these two agencies are supposed to be the ~ this pandemic

♦ "First and foremost, there is this: Once again the national political conversation includes the name Sarah Palin. She is once again the tip of the spear, at least in the realms of the right, and not just another spear carrier..." ("Palin's Call For Impeachment Reopens Debate Over...Sarah Palin" by Ron Elving, NPR, July 16, 2014. Elving is well known for his use of over-wrought figurative language, and in that article he uses: "legion," "rabid," "lip-smacking," "doldrums," "command," "weighed in," "bruising," "scuttled," "thrust was parried," "blowback," "tip of the spear," "spear carrier," "standard bearers," "cutting edge," "lived on this media mountaintop," "trudge back to Alaska," "potency," "bedevil..." *Quelle dramatique!*)

## spearhead (verb)

spearhead the Orange Revolution  
Ms. Tymoshenko helped ~ (Yulia)

spearhead a campaign  
he called on radiologists to ~ to reduce dosages

spearheading the drive  
she is ~ to get him elected

spearheading the initiative  
Brazil, France, Mexico and Norway are ~

spearhead the project  
he helped ~ (downtown revitalization)

spearhead another City push  
he is ready to ~ for a Treble (Erling "Ha Ha Ha" Haaland)

looking to spearhead  
we are ~ a major shift...

## spearhead (noun)

spearhead of a (new) economy  
energy is the ~

spearhead of globalization  
the W.T.O. is the ~

spearhead of the (democratic) movement  
Solidarity was the ~ in Eastern Europe

spearhead for (Islam's) advance  
the Sufis were the ~ into South Asia

## special (as noun)

special happens  
when you take a chance, that's when ~

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ “There’s no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## special (groups)

### special

Mama persuaded us we were ~, not just white trash

### special soul

you are a ~ that will live on forever (died on Spring Break)

### special joy and passion

he carried a ~ (Alex Collins, ex-NFL player)

### make you special

the things that you feel make you outside of normal ~

- ♦ “This is why I love *Wicked*, because I think it encourages people to celebrate their differences. I think that the things that make you different, the things that you feel that make you outside of normal, are actually the things that make you special. And I would keep growing into those things. Don’t be afraid to be all of yourself. And if you’re around people who don’t celebrate those things, you’re around the wrong people.” (The queer actor Cynthia Erivo, b. 1987.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

- ♦ Brendan Depa was one of the “so-called exceptional students.” The special help they are given at school is called exceptional student education. (Video shows 6-foot-6 student beat teacher unconscious, Matanzas High School, Palm Coast, Florida.)

- ♦ “Well, Carl’s amazing.” (Wink wink, nudge nudge. Snarky, sarcastic male abuse about a weird underperformer who doesn’t fit in. A synonym for the old “retarded” or “special.” This is a good example of the euphemism treadmill.)

- ♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A passenger airplane, at first glance entirely full of huge lions. The human stewardess rolling the dinner cart down the aisle has stopped, and is asking, “Sir, did you order the special meal?” She is speaking to a hare, sitting in the middle seat between two great lions, one of whom is reading a newspaper, the other a book. The other lions on the plane are eyeing one another. *The New Yorker magazine*, June 5, 2023. The cartoon is signed “Kuper.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ OLD: crazy, moron, feeble minded, mentally retarded, mentally challenged, “special,” Petey (*American Pie 2*)... / NEW: intellectually and developmentally disabled, “amazing”... (The “euphemism treadmill.”)

## species (type)

### endangered species

see *species (endangered species)*

### different species

these heavyweights these days are a ~ (size and weight)

### birth of a new species

we’re living through the ~ of skyscraper (supertalls)

- ♦ “These heavyweights these days are a different species.” (Comment by a boxer about the new bridgerweight / Bridger-weight division.)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ “As a species, apps are hard to trust.”

## species (endangered species)

### endangered species

the walk-in is an ~ (NYC restaurant bars / new rules)

### Endangered Species

### “Relics Of The Space Race, School Planetariums Are An ~”

- ♦ “What will happen to bar culture!” (A restaurant bar denizen in New York City about the end of the first-come first-served “survival of the fittest” restaurant-bar ethos. Restaurant bars are now requiring reservations and only serving those with barstools. See the Wikipedia article “*Fin de siècle*.” View Edvard Munch’s “The Scream.”)

### \*\*\* “Many would like to re-exterminate them...”

- ♦ An animal might become extinct in a specific area, and then be reintroduced. Beavers—millions of which ended up as hats—were exterminated in Massachusetts, then reintroduced many decades later and now have achieved nuisance status under protection laws. Many people would like to re-exterminate them...

## species (vanishing species)

### vanishing species

he’s a ~ (moderate Republican)

he doesn’t feel he’s documenting a ~ (public libraries)

Roman numerals are a ~ (except for Super Bowls)

- ♦ “You know, I think people are familiar with the idea of vanishing species. But I’m not sure most people are familiar with the idea of vanishing languages...” (NPR host Michel Martin.)

### \*\*\* “I love it when an animal comes back...”

- ♦ I love it when an animal comes back. Good for the animals! May they be fruitful and multiply and repopulate their historic ranges! It thrills me when a right whale—hunted to the brink of extinction by whalers for its oil and baleen—is spotted in the Azores, or when a cloud leopard—still wearing its beautiful hide and possessing its claws—is spotted in Bangladesh. It gives me mordant cheer to know that Korean tigers are thriving in the no-man’s-land of the DMZ between North and South Korea, safe from people who would otherwise eat their meat and grind their bones into powder for medicines and aphrodisiacs.

- ♦ see also *extinct (adjective)*

## speck (amount)

### speck of shade

this is not throwing a ~ at LeBron James... (sports talk)

## speckled (configuration)

### speckled with (syntactical) errors

my effort to write in German was everywhere ~

### speckled with ships

the harbor of San Francisco was ~

### speckled with copses and farmhouses

rolling fields ~

### speckled trout

the ~ (brook trout)

### \*\*\* analysis

- ♦ Animals might be banded, bearded, crowned, dappled, marbled, mottled, necklaced, ringed, speckled, spotted, stippled, streaked, striped, and even spectacled!

## specter (noun)

### specter of Sept. 11

he is haunted by the ~

### specter of defeat

incumbents face the ~ (elections)

### specter of war

the ~ is rising

ugly specter  
the deal raises the ~ of conflict of interest

specter (of the past) lingers  
the ~

specter (of eating disorder) haunts  
the ~ many dancers

confront the specter  
once again, Americans ~ of impeachment (politics)

confronts the specter  
he ~ of mortality (aging)

facing the specter  
he is ~ of death

raises the specter  
rising crime ~ of the bad old days (Newark)  
rising corn prices ~ of higher prices for beef and pork...

haunted by the specter  
he is ~ of Hurricane Katrina

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Before the *scepter* [italics mine] of climate change ever reared up..." (Oops! Confusion of the two words *specter* and *scepter*? Misreading a text? An "eggcorn"? Who knows...)

## speed (up to speed)

up to speed on the details  
I'm sorry, I'm not ~

up to speed on that  
I'm not ~

time to get up to speed  
new hires need ~

bring him up to speed  
his advisors will ~ on the details (president)

get new workers up to speed  
experienced employees can help ~ quickly

keep its algorithm up to speed  
he has struggled to ~ (YouTube)

## speed (full speed ahead)

full speed ahead  
it will be ~ but not in a rushed way (vaccine rollout)  
the hype train chugged ~

## speed (supersonic speed, etc.)

*Speed of Light*  
*Life at the ~* (a book by Craig Venter)

lightning speed  
Omicron is spreading at ~

supersonic speed  
jetpack technology has been evolving at ~

## spell (spell disaster, etc.)

spells disaster

this ~ for urban peace (unemployment, guns, etc.)

spell disaster  
unattended daily challenges could ~ (Velux 5 race)

spells doom  
contact with outsiders often ~ for isolated tribes

spell trouble  
four of these symptoms could ~ (panic disorder)

spells trouble  
I think the whole thing ~ for the president (investigation)

spell (job-search) woes  
bad credit can ~

♦ The writing is on the wall...

## spell (under a spell)

under her spell  
she brought employees, investors and journalists ~ (fraud)

under the (nonconformist) spell of Thoreau  
he fell ~ (Andrew Martinez)

falls under its spell  
everyone ~ (a panda)

fell under its spell  
I quickly ~ (a book)

fell under Kelly's spell  
she ~ (sex abuse)

fell under Frederick's spell  
other former students who ~ (Bennington College)

## spell (cast a spell)

cast a spell on a ball  
he seemed to ~ (Juninho / soccer)

cast a spell over the (rapt) audience  
he ~ (a pianist)

## spell (in a dry spell)

in a dry spell  
I was ~, lacking imagination and incentive (an artist)

six-month dry spell  
having been in a ~... (dating)

## spell (into a dry spell)

fell into a (long) dry spell  
he ~ (athlete)

## spell (throughout a dry spell)

throughout that dry spell  
~ he showed composure (golfer)

## spell (dry spell / other)

dry spell ended  
and then the long ~ (investments and buying)

ended his dry spell  
the goal ~ (sports)

## spellbinding (adjective)

spellbinding story  
the play was the concluding chapter in a ~ (series)

spellbinding mug shot  
we look at his ~ and wonder why he did it (murder)

## spellbound (adjective)

spellbound  
I watched her, ~  
she listened ~ to his account

spellbound by (Old English) poetry  
he was ~ (Auden)

stunned and spellbound  
he confessed all he had done to a ~ courtroom

held us spellbound  
she ~ (an actor's performance)

kept the crew spellbound  
the aurora ~ for hours (the Far North)

## spelled out

spelled out in the handbook  
the policy is ~ distributed to every....

policy is spelled out  
the ~ in the handbook distributed to every...

## spelling (language)

Artic  
~ (no, it's the *Arctic* / poor pronunciation / spelling)

brakes out  
when a protest ~ (Hillcrest High School, Queens)

Calvary  
they were marched to Oklahoma by the US ~ (BBC!)

Caucuses  
small communities remain in the ~ (in Azerbaijan)

Cheifs'  
Patrick Mahomes throws during the ~ Super Bowl win

clamors  
"Octopus ~ around submerged Buddha statue" (ABC)

course  
we had some rather ~ and agitated people... (Bostonians)

dear  
antlers shed by ~ near Humboldt, Kansas (ABC)

desert  
the sweet, tart and mysterious ~ (bumbleberry pie / NPR)

do  
with all ~ respect

griefing

he died in front of me said the ~ father (NYP)

jolt's  
earthquake ~ California's Humboldt County (ABC)

martial  
they open up about parents' ~ problems (marital)

piece  
Evertonian here in ~ (a BBC soccer HYS / "peace")

steps  
in the ~ of Kazakhstan (NPR transcript)

tails  
they disarmed her with tall ~... (*The New York Post*)

tale  
Sanderson slipped that rope over the fish's ~ (NPR)

Trial  
the Appalachian ~ (trail / an eggcorn?)

week  
it was already ~ (his ankle / *The New York Post*)

probably cause  
the ~ affidavit sheds light on... (*probable* cause)

right of passage  
it used to be a ~ (sex with an older woman / funny!)

tow the line  
trying to ~ (toe the line)

♦ "Blood on Ur Hands." (A pro-Hamas graffito.)

♦ "It's Boston after all, so we had some rather course and agitated people who were willing to voice their displeasure in a colorful way." (Par for the coarse!)

♦ Archway (to Ryan). And the word you were looking for is spelled "you're," Cletus. / Ryan (to Archway). And *you're* still a weakling suburban white nerd who got shoved in lockers. (*Cletus* is a derogatory term for a yokel.)

♦ "Officiaonado'??!! You're not very good at spelling, are you?" /// It's HYS, not the King James Bible. The meaning was obvious. (A BBC HYS.)

♦ "Evertonian here in piece..." /// "It's peace not piece btw." (An online BBC soccer commenter and reply.)

♦ Joe Slobotnick: I can tell from his slopping criminal forehead and beedy eyes that he is guilty. Fry the low life. /// George Hotchkiss (to Joe Slobotnick): Huh? (Two online commenters about Bryan Kohberger.)

♦ "Chants of 'intifada' ring out from pro-Palestinian protests. But what's it mean?" by Adrian Florido, NPR, Morning Edition, June 4, 2024. This is happening more and more at NPR.

♦ "Commuters promptly noticed the embarrassing error, posting photos of it to X that have since gone viral... The spelling goof left PennDot officials embarrassed..." (A huge sign on Interstate 95 that read, "Cenrtal [sic] Phila Chester.")

♦ What do we want? *Spellcheck!* When do we want it? *Cow!*

♦ DYSLEXICS OF THE WORLD UNTIE!

♦ "Click here to report a spelling or grammar error. Please include the headline." (actionnews5.com in Memphis. If only ABC, NPR, the *New York Post*, etc. had such a link!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Government employees know that misspelling words on purpose can help evade FOIA requests.



♦ "Trying to tow the line." (See "Johnson Death nails and foul swoops," *The Economist*, July 17th, 2021. See also "Politics and the English Language" by George Orwell, 1946.)

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## spell out (verb)

spells out what

nothing in the law ~ to do with a student like her

spell out fees

contracts that don't ~ or... (assisted living)

spell it out

do I have to ~ in every ugly detail

spells (all) this out

the contract ~....

## spend (time)

see *time* (*spend time*)

## spend (spend energy, etc.)

spent a lot of energy

they ~ in the search

## spendthrift (person)

spendthrift southerners

the scheme pits ~ against skinflint northerners (Europe)

## spew (speech)

spewed venom

she ~ (neurotic woman)

hate-spewing

~ crazies rarely care about the facts

## sphere (cryptosphere, etc.)

biosphere

snacking and coffee culture have infiltrated The Ranch ~

blogosphere

see *blogosphere*

cryptosphere

institutions that act as gatekeepers for the ~

manosphere

navigating the ~ (incels)

REN joins with other figures in the "~"

the ~ versus feminism

mediasphere

the Chinese ~ has become more pro-Russian

the conservative ~ erupted in criticism (NPR's Ron

Elving)

picklesphere

Tom Dundon's takeover of the PPA rocked the ~ (sport)

relationship-sphere

scrolling through the ~ (#toxic, etc.)

scentsosphere

the ~, scentscapes, the "osmocism" (*New Yorker* article)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Wiktionary has an entry for "-sphere." Click on "English terms suffixed with -sphere" and you will get a very comprehensive list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## sphere (in the sphere)

in the economic sphere

~, things don't look good (pandemic)

in the informational sphere

we must clamp down on criminal activity ~

(ransomware)

♦ see also *space* (*groups, etc.*), which seems increasingly more popular.

## sphinx (noun)

sphinx of Washington

the silent ~ finally spoke at length (Robert Mueller)

Washington sphinx

for two years he was a ~, silent and mysterious (Mueller)

♦ His years as a senior member of the president's cabinet, facing down threats like the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War, had made him a cipher..." (*Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ "Hurbinek was a nobody, a child of death, a child of Auschwitz... Henek...sat beside the little sphinx... / Hurbinek died in the first days of March 1945, free but not redeemed. Nothing remains of him: he bears witness through these words of mine." (*If This Is A Man* by Primo Levi.)

## spice up (verb)

spice up your sex life

10 ways to ~

## spicy (adjective)

spicy

Khan vs. Brook, it's going to be ~ (boxing)

spicy comedy

why do you choose that brand of ~ (Sommore)

spicy stuff

she didn't know a lot about sex, the "~" (pastor's daughter)

spicy trends

~ (Ad / internet clickbait)

## spider (Eljif "the Spider" Elmas, etc.)

known as the Spider

he is ~ for his long legs (Eljif Elmas, North Macedonia)

## spider (Spider Rock, etc.)

Spider

they climbed "the ~," the snow-filled cracks (the Eiger)

the "~" towers above Upper Pine Lake (Colorado peak)

Spider Cave

~ contains a pictograph of “Spiderman” (Michigan)

### Spider Rock

~ is associated with Spider Woman (Canyon de Chelly)

### spider web

see *web* (*spider web* and *cobweb*, etc.)

### \*\*\* Spider Rock is a spire in the Canyon de Chelly...

♦ Spider Rock is a spire in the Canyon de Chelly on the Navajo Nation in Arizona, near the town of Chinle. It is associated with the Spider Woman. In one legend, she eats misbehaving children and leaves their bones scattered about. If you visit, be sure and tell your children not to misbehave or litter, and why...

## spider hole (military)

### spider holes

the ~ in which snipers may still be hiding (Vietnam)

### tunnels, spider holes and (underground) bunkers

the maze of ~ known as the Gaza Metro (Israel-Hamas war)

♦ “No one was there. Strange. I had seen the firing. We would have noticed anyone leaving the thicket. / Beck found two spider holes close to the forward edge of the thicket, partially covered by debris. Each opening was smaller than a basketball rim, barely large enough for a man to squeeze out. A cool, earthy smell emanated from them. / ‘Are the VC at the bottom of these holes, or do these go back to some room or tunnel?’ I asked Bratcher as Wooley came up. / I sent men out to the front as security and looked back at the spider holes. Spencer stuck a long bamboo pole down one. It hit bottom after about five feet and then, when Spencer pushed, it went down another four feet. We shined a flashlight down the holes. Both holes curved out of sight to our front. / Yelling ‘Fire in the hole,’ we threw in grenades and ducked behind trees. The explosions were muffled and only a small amount of dust came out and blew away. We walked carefully back to the holes and looked down. I said, ‘Damn. We either send someone down or we leave and keep on toward our TAOR.’ / Wooley told me to send someone down. I called one of the Puerto Ricans, PFC Fernandez-Lopez, the smallest man in the platoon...” (*Last Man Out: A Personal Account Of the Vietnam War* by James E. Parker Jr. “Cu Chi was not friendly.”)

## spigot (open / close, etc.)

### cash spigots

his Iowa performance won’t open any ~ (election)

### loan spigot

lenders opened the ~ (home loans and foreclosures)

### gushing (federal) spigot

many voters don’t want to shut off the ~ (deficit)

### spending spigot

the ~ must close (government spending)

### man at the spigot

Yamani was the ~ (Saudi oil / 1973)

### open the (military-spending) spigot

the Cold War helped to ~

### shut off the spigot

they are trying to ~ of Russian boar (invasive species)

♦ “We should put money into the economy. The question is how much. If your bathtub isn’t full, you should turn your faucet on. But that doesn’t mean you should turn it on as hard as you can and as long as you can.” (Lawrence Summers, speaking about economic stimulus during the COVID pandemic. Much language relating to economics is figurative.)

## spike (increase)

### spiked last week

gun and ammunition sales ~

## spike (spike in business, etc.)

### spike in business

dollar stores are seeing a ~

### spike in demand

we can expect a ~ (housing market)

### spike in its traffic

the new ~ began early Sunday in the US (a hashtag)

## spill (and spill out, etc.)

### spilled out

US special forces troops ~ of C-130s...

### spilled out into their back yard

trash ~ (hoarders)

### spilled into the streets

outrage ~ (protests)

### spilled (out) into the streets

people ~ (earthquake)

### spill across the border

problems from Somalia ~ (into Kenya)

### spilled over the border into Chad

the Darfur conflict has ~

### spill over into other countries

he believes this trend will ~, including...

### spill over onto MSRs

take action to ensure refugees do not ~ (military)

### spilled over the border

its forces opened fire when the fighting ~ (Thailand)

### spilled into Virginia

none of the protests ~ (from D.C. / IMF / World Bank)

## spill out (speech, emotions, etc.)

### spilled out

she pauses briefly before the words ~

### spills out

her indignation ~, but soon she calms down and...

♦ “I heard myself say to him, ‘Could you tell me something about your mother?...’ And he said, ‘It’s funny that you should ask me that... I remember...’ Out of him spilled and tumbled the essence of what is now in the first chapter of the *Autobiography of Malcolm X*.” (Alex Haley, speaking to Terry Gross about Malcolm X.)

## spin (spin out of control)

### spinning out of control

digital downloading and copying is ~

his personal life seemed to be ~

Nairobi is ~ (crime)

### spun out of control

the argument ~

## spin (message / verb)

spinning this in a way

they are ~ that looks good for them

spin the data

they are trying to ~ that plays to their narrative (politics)

## spin (message / noun)

spin

where does the science end and the ~ begin (COVID)

political spin

all the ~ in the world won't change that...

put an alarmist spin on the story

the reporter ~, as though the company were in bad shape

seen through the spin

I think that people have ~ (of powerful sex abusers)

## spin (spin control)

international spin control

official attempts at ~

attempts at (international) spin control

official ~

## spine (courage)

America's spine

we have seen the steel in ~

integrity and spine

Bezos showed ~ (against pressure from White House)

steel in (America's) spine

we have seen the ~

grow a spine

~ and fight for our rights (the Welsh government)

have (enough) spine

some Republicans ~ to stand up to the president (politics)

show (a bit of) spine

politicians must ~ (to unsympathetic audiences)

stiffened his spine

he showed signs of going wobbly, but Pelosi ~ (politics)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Grow a spine, you're an embarrassment."

♦ see also *backbone* (courage)

## spine (branching)

The Spine

~ is a ridge in Pinal County, Arizona

spine of South America

the Andes, the great ~

spine of the Roman Empire

the highway that formed the ~ (the Appian Way)

spine of the Pyrenes

behind us we have the ~ (on the French coast)

spine of the team

they are the ~ (the 3 Barrett brothers / All Blacks rugby)

agricultural spine

in the landlocked Central Valley, the state's ~ (California)

## spineless (courage)

spineless sheep

another class of ~ being led to the slaughter (YDS / Yale)

whiny spineless

to hell with this ~ generation

♦ "Another class of spineless sheep being led to the slaughter. Grow a pair and refuse." (An online commenter, about an article by an aggrieved Yale Divinity School coed.)

♦ "Now, it seemed, Bezos was suffering from degeneration of the spine." (David Remnick, squawking from his perch as editor of *The New Yorker*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## spin-off (noun)

spin-offs from (space) experimentation

the medical and technological ~

medical and technological spin-offs

the ~ from space experimentation

## spin up (verb)

spin up (late) at night

a lot of the protests we have seen ~... (street protests)

spun up an image

they've ~, it's just branding and optics (Silicon Valley)

## spiral (verb)

spiral (increase)

see *spiral* (increase / verb)

spiral downward

see *spiral* (spiral downward, etc.)

spiral upward

see *spiral* (spiral upward)

spiral out of control

see *spiral* (spiral out of control, etc.)

## spiral (noun)

anxiety spirals

these ~ are super common (NPR's Ailsa Chang / FOMO)

death spiral

see *death spiral*

in a spiral

see *spiral* (in a spiral)

into a spiral

see *spiral (into a spiral)*

spiral (on a downward spiral)

see *spiral (on a downward spiral)*

spiral (downward spiral, etc.)

see *spiral (downward spiral, etc.)*

## **spiral (increase / verb)**

expenses can (often) spiral

medical ~ out of control

violence (in Iraq) spiraled

as ~ beginning in 2003

violence is spiraling

~ in Russia's North Caucasus

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Even a little debt can spiral. (Credit cards / U.S.)

## **spiral (spiral downward, etc.)**

spiraled downhill

at home, he ~ (troubled soldier back from Iraq)

spiraled downward

the economy of Detroit has ~

## **spiral (spiral upward)**

spiral upwards

the reported tanker attacks caused oil prices to ~

## **spiral (spiral out of control, etc.)**

spiraled out of control

Rye's junior prom ~ (drunk teens)

events quickly ~ (Bosnian war)

spiraling out of control

in danger of ~

spiral out of control

medical expenses can often ~

his life seemed to ~ (drug addict)

spiraling out of control in the Caucasus

violence is ~

life spiraled out of control

his ~

prom spiraled out of control

Rye's junior ~ (drunk teens)

## **spiral (death spiral)**

“death spiral”

~ is quite a dramatic phrase, but the post office lost...

avalanche death spiral

the ~ is likely to continue (global warming)

in a death spiral

American newspapers are ~ (declining circulations)

on a death spiral

I would suggest that we are ~ (the Postmaster General)

part of the death spiral

going back to America was ~ (Marvin Gaye / Belgium)

cause a death spiral

it could ~, news sites will disappear (Google AI search)

## **spiral (in a spiral)**

in a death spiral

American newspapers are ~ (declining circulations)

## **spiral (into a spiral)**

plunged into a spiral of drug use

he ~ in his early teens

## **spiral (on a downward spiral)**

on a downward spiral

the team is ~ (sports)

he has been ~ over the past 6 months (alcohol, etc.)

## **spiral (downward spiral, etc.)**

downward spiral

sexual addiction is an ugly ~

her ~ began years ago when...

downward spiral of depression

the ~, which can lead to death

## **spiraling (increase)**

spiraling costs

the ~ of a college education

spiraling (health care) costs

how to cover the uninsured and control ~

spiraling (suicide) rates

~ sound a warning bell

spiraling violence

~ in the Middle East

## **spirit (feeling)**

spirit of the hajj

the ~, where all stand equal before God

spirit of adventure

wilderness education instills the ~ (high school)

safaris are antithetical to the ~ (luxury / Zambia)

spirit of camaraderie

developing a ~

spirit of the carnival

some say the true ~ is being lost (Rio / commercialism)

spirit of defiance

what I appreciate about Bonds is his ~ (baseball player)

spirit of the (American) military

the honorable and decent ~

spirit of the Olympics

taking controversial judging decisions in the ~

spirit of reconciliation	school spirit
work together in a ~ (Vietnam, US)	bonfire, and the ~ it inspires...
spirit of religion	team spirit
violence and terrorism are incompatible with the ~	they hold hands in a show of ~ (high-school football)
spirit of the sport	that magic moment when you feel the ~ coming together
what violates the ~ (doping, etc.)	cowboy spirit
spirit of wilderness	a latter-day extension of the ~
Windy Falls embodies the ~ to me	names that evoked the ~
spirit of exploration and adventure	start-up spirit
for centuries, the North Pole has inspired a ~	a corporate culture that maintains the ~
spirit of amateur competition	can-do spirit
supposedly this violated the ~ (1920s)	its ~ has given way to a civil-service culture (NASA)
spirit of sisterhood	NASA's original sense of mission and ~
encourage the true ~ (sorority)	enterprising spirit
spirit competition	the group's ~, anti-drug message
the annual Cheerleading Worlds—the Super Bowl of ~s	fighting spirit
spirit, courage and talent	no one questions the company's ~
a man of indomitable ~ (Mayor Giuliani)	she attributes her ~ to her father (singer with pink hair)
NASA's spirits	his exemplary ~ in the face of... (military)
the success lifted ~	uplifting spirit
city's spirit	it retains its ~ (film into a musical)
Rocky Balboa has come to symbolize the ~ (Philly)	American spirit
company's (fighting) spirit	he is an outstanding example of the ~ (hero bus driver)
no one questions the ~	adventurous spirit
festival's (innovative) spirit	she's an ~
the ~ (San Sebastian International Film Festival)	she has always had an ~
group's (enterprising) spirit	civic spirit
the ~, anti-drug message	Buffalo residents met the blizzard with ~
people's spirits	competitive spirit
the wet weather has dampened ~ (France)	the ~ (Ping-Pong players)
state's (independent) spirit	entrepreneurial spirit
the ~ (Nevada)	the ~ that built America lives on in Dubai
Christmas spirit	there is a deep ~ and a highly ambitious workforce
~—goodwill toward men	he spoke of their ~ and effort (Somali immigrants)
Hafa Adai spirit	America's open frontier and ~... (bail bond companies)
spread the ~ worldwide ("Hof-uh-day" / Guam)	free spirit
Ramadan spirit	she was a ~ who played the flute
local Muslims complain of a lack of ~ (Dubai)	good spirits
St. Patrick's Day spirit	she was in ~, but hungry and in pain (rescued POW)
get in that ~	independent spirit
community spirit	the state's ~ (Nevada)
unprecedented level of ~ (after tragedy)	indomitable spirit
holiday spirit	a man of ~, courage and talent (Mayor Giuliani)
share some ~	innovative spirit
pioneer spirit	the festival's ~ (San Sebastian International Film Festival)
the ~, the cowboy spirit	patriotic spirit
	people show their ~ (Veterans Day)
	true spirit
	encourage the ~ of sisterhood (sorority)

level of (community) spirit  
unprecedented ~ (after tragedy)

show of (team) spirit  
they hold hands in a ~ (high-school football)

honorable and decent spirit  
the ~ of the American military

band and spirit  
the ~ squads (college football)

body and spirit  
an ordeal of ~ (high Himalayan bivouac)

compassion, spirit, (even) gallantry  
residents show ~ (nursing home)

courage, spirit and (selfless) devotion to duty  
his ~

minds and spirits  
a place to renew our ~ (creative retirement center)

name, spirit and tradition  
the ~ of the school (Saint-Cyr)

Opportunity and Spirit  
NASA's durable twin rovers, ~ (Mars)

spirit changed  
her ~, she wasn't the same (after being beaten)

spirit dies  
you only give up when that competitive ~ (a boxer)

spirits sank  
my ~

boosted my spirits  
it ~

break my spirit  
no matter how long they keep me here, they can't ~ (jail)

dampened (people's) spirits  
the wet weather has ~ (France)

embodies the spirit  
he ~ of moderate Islam...

get in that (St. Patrick's Day) spirit  
it's not hard for her to ~

getting in the spirit  
we are ~ (Halloween)

inspired a spirit  
for centuries, the North Pole has ~ of exploration  
for centuries, the North Pole has ~ of adventure

keep their spirits up  
they sang and prayed to ~ (illegal migrants on boat)

lift our spirits  
the best thing to ~ is a sexy photo (man's magazine)

lifted (NASA's) spirits  
the success ~

prop up her spirits  
though her body sagged, her doctor helped ~

spread the Hafa Adai spirit  
~ worldwide (pronounced Hof-uh-day / Guam)

symbolize the (city's) spirit  
Rocky Balboa has come to ~ (Philly)

violated the spirit  
supposedly this ~ of amateur competition (1920s)

\*\*\* **"When Younghusband reached Lhasa..."**

♦ "When Younghusband reached Lhasa, he was greeted by hordes of clapping Tibetans. He took it as a gesture of welcome, not realizing that clapping was a traditional way of warding off evil spirits..." (The 1904 British invasion of Tibet.)

♦ "When the drum is made, before you cut the tree down, there is a spirit in the tree. Then the skin that is put on the drum, the skin is never dead because you will never get a sound out of a dead skin. Then, with the spirit of the person playing it, it becomes what...three...three spirits. It becomes an irresistible force against any, any immovable object. (Babatunde Olatunji.)

♦ "This is where my daughter's spirit was last. I'm more drawn to this spot than I am even to the cemetery where we keep her remains." (A bereft mother, clearing trash away from the roadside memorial where her daughter died in a car crash eight years earlier.)

**spirited**

spirited competition  
a ~

free-spirited  
the ~ girlfriend

mean-spirited  
~ defenders of traditional values

**spit (spit in the face / noun)**

spit in the face of Turkey and the UN  
the Ukraine denounced it as a ~

♦ I place a date in your lips, and you spit the pit in my face! (Ingratitude.)

**spit (spit down)**

spat down rain  
the sky ~

**spit (verb)**

spit you out  
the river will ~ like a pumpkin seed (enders / kayaking)

spit (tons of) lava  
Mount Nyiragongo ~ onto this central African border...

**spit out (verb)**

spit out  
high-tech machinery can ~ 400,000 lobster traps

**splash (effect)**

big splash  
why did we make a ~ about it (arrest of a spy)  
she made a ~ in her visit to the state (candidate)

major splash



he made a ~ early on (a writer)

felt the splash

when the Internet bubble popped, every Web site ~

made a splash

the book ~

he ~ when he accused...

make a (big) splash

why did we ~ about it (arrest of a spy)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Who looks upon a river in a meditative hour and is not reminded of the flux of all things? Throw a stone into the stream, and the circles that propagate themselves are the beautiful type of all influence..." (*Nature*, "Chapter 4 (Language)," by Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1836.)

## splashy (effect)

splashy new name

Facebook is about to come out with a ~

## split (noun)

generational split

the contest represents a ~ within the Democratic party

cause splits

they seek to ~ between the citizens and the government

## split (verb)

splitting the party

the issue is ~ (politics)

## split (split apart / up, etc.)

split families apart

our immigration policies ~

split up

Connie and Ivy ~ (marital problems)

## spoil (verb)

spoils it for everyone else

one bad apple ~

spoil it for the rest of us

don't let a few bad apples ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A name doesn't spoil a man, but a man can spoil a name." (A Finnish proverb.)

## spoiled (spoiled child, etc.)

spoiled athlete

he's a poster child for the ~

spoiled child

Israel is the West's ~

## spoils (of war, etc.)

spoils of victory

Usyk is being draped in the ~ (3 championship belts)

walk away with the spoils

Usyk would ~ (championship belts / boxing)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "He practiced "jackal diplomacy" to the extent that he requested for his nation a share of the spoils won by the British lion in combat; had Britain or China opposed his request, he was powerless to do more." (Commodore Lawrence Kearny in China, from *Far China Station: The U.S. Navy in Asian Waters 1800-1898* by Robert Erwin Johnson.)

♦ A French soldier found the Rosetta Stone in Egypt, but the British took it from the French by the Capitulation of Alexandria in 1801 as a spoil of victory, which is why it is in the British Museum, and not the Louvre, never mind the Grand Egyptian Museum.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "SPOIL: *formerly a hide*. In Latin, *spolium* meant the skin or hide of an animal that was stripped off. Hence, the arms and armor stripped from a conquered foe; later, the *spoils*, or anything looted from the enemy..." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 20, "A Basketful of Word Stories.")

## sponge (noun)

sponge

he's a ~ (a coachable tennis player)

he called her his ~ because she asked so many questions

he is a ~ when it comes to soaking up information

Emma is a ~, she learns so quickly (Emma Raducanu)

sponge of culture

it's a ~ (headquarters of an artists' collective)

sponge for ideas

she was a ~ (a cook with thousands of recipes)

sponge for (musical) ideas

he is a ~ from a great variety of sources (composer)

sponge for information

I'm a ~ (an arts organizer)

human sponge

he's a ~ (a comedy writer who collects words, ideas)

## spook (verb)

spooked the sailors

a rash of accidents and near-misses had ~ of the 7th fleet

spook them

horses know what to do if you don't ~

## spooked (feeling)

spooked

financial markets are ~

current bondholders would be ~

got spooked

he ~ (a suspect under police surveillance)

has people spooked

the new mutation ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

## spool (spool back)

spool back

but let me ~ very quickly (to review the past)

## spoon (silver spoon)

silver spoon

see *silver spoon* (noun)

## sport (team sport)

ultimate team sport

aviation safety is the ~ (regulators and manufacturers)

## sportswash (verb)

sportswash their (deeply tarnished) image

they are trying to ~ (foreign investment in EPL)

sportswash its appalling (human rights) record

the country must not be allowed to ~

## sportswashing (noun)

sportswashing

~ is nothing new (in British colonies)

~ is a new word for an old business

~ allows tyrannical regimes to launder their reputation

sportswashing project

it's still just a ~ though...

sportswashing stain

the ~ is obvious

sportswashing in action

fans' defense of repressive policies is ~

sports washing, financial doping...

~ (soccer fan criticizes English Premier League)

oil sportswashing

the EPL is beginning to look a bit like ~

accused the country of sportswashing

Amnesty International has ~

♦ Commenter 1: It's still just a sportswashing project though. /  
Commenter 2 (in response to commenter 1): Lather me up. (Inspired  
soccer repartee on a BBC HYS.)

## spot (tight spot, etc.)

in a tight spot

we're ~ with very little wiggle room

in a (very) difficult spot

this outcome puts him ~ (failed negotiations)

wriggled out of tight spots

he's ~s before (terrorist)

\*\*\* A fat man's squeeze...

♦ A "fat man's squeeze" is the name for a narrow spot in a cave.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Damn, we're in a tight spot." (*O Brother, Where Art Thou?* The film  
is loosely based on the *Odyssey*. Watch *O' Brother, Where Art  
Thou?* Clip-"Tight Spot" (2000) George Clooney (2000))

## spotlight (in / under the spotlight)

in the spotlight since high school

she has been ~ (college basketball player)

in the spotlight for the way

police are ~ they handled the case

in the national spotlight

the reporter put the case ~ (murder)

in the spotlight

how do you handle having your love life ~ (a celebrity)

under an (international) spotlight

its every move is ~ (a political group)

under a (very uncomfortable) spotlight

the Secret Service has been ~ since the near-assassination

sport is in the spotlight

the ~ after the death of...

put the case in the (national) spotlight

the reporter ~ (murder)

## spotlight (into the spotlight)

dragged into the spotlight

they had been ~ by...

thrust into the spotlight

I was ~ (Miss USA and the Haiti earthquake)

from the shadows to the spotlight

survivors have moved ~ (sex abuse)

## spotlight (out of the spotlight)

out of the (public) spotlight

he is now ~

keep him out of the spotlight

we are trying to ~, under the radar (troubled athlete)

## spotlight (shine a spotlight)

shine a light on the abuse

what he did was ~ (prison guard)

shined a spotlight on (racial) tensions

an attack that has ~ here (Long Beach)

shines a spotlight on the practices

he ~ and beliefs of the Mormons

## spotlight (steal the spotlight)

steal the spotlight

any team can ~ in the early stages of the Tour de France

## spotlight (other)

spotlight moment

this was a ~ (attention for a niche sport)

additional spotlight

new revelations have put an ~ on the incident commander

international spotlight

the ~ is bringing the country down (social media)

grab the spotlight

this gives China a chance to ~

put an additional spotlight on the incident

commander

new revelations have ~

shunned the spotlight

he ~ for the rest of his life (Neil Armstrong)

shift the spotlight to the president's handling  
we need to ~ of the economy (politics)

## spout (speech)

spout BS

she has free license to ~ (Jennifer Rubin)

spouting all these cliches  
pundits ~ (sports)

spout dialogue

they ~ from the playbook of sitcom cliches (bad review)

spouts (tin-eared political) lines

he still ~ (politics)

♦ "Jennifer Rubin is a prime example of what is wrong with MSM. Completely unhinged liberal with free license from her employer to spout BS." (An online commenter.)

♦ "How much do these 'pundits' get paid for spouting all these cliches and stating the obvious?" (An online commenter about the Qatar World Cup.)

♦ Feed (it) / eat up, Hoover up, snatch up, vacuum up / gobble up, ingested (the book) / regurgitate (everything), spit out... (What AI does. From "The alleged theft at the heart of ChatGPT," Planet Money, November 10, 2023. Other articles use words like *devour*, *scrape up*, *suck up* (language and ideas), *sweep up* / *regurgitated* (summaries / *spew* (false information), *spout* (misinformation), *vomit up* (words), etc.)

## sprawl (noun)

sprawl into every corner

reality TV was just beginning its ~ of consciousness

## sprawling (adjective)

sprawling city

Aleppo is a ~ of 3 million people

sprawling compound

he has retreated to his ~ (a dictator facing protests)

sprawling (criminal) investigation

Carson Block learned that he was a focal point of a ~

sprawling (intelligence) leviathan

9/11 helped to create a ~

sprawling (computer) networks

as we grow more dependent on ~, we grow vulnerable...

## spring (Arab Spring, etc.)

Arab Spring

the series of revolts represent an ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The Arab Spring is a term that was coined really by the media. In the media, we like to package large ideas and events into little words so that we don't have to keep explaining them over and over again. And so the Arab Spring was very very good because it was in the springtime, all the revolutions happened in the springtime, the spring also makes you think of an uprising, you're rising up, so it's springing, and also it's Arab. And so this sounds very very nice and clean and so the media has since called what's happening in the Middle East right now the Arab Spring." (Journalist Hadeel Al-Shalchi, speaking at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. In her talk, she mentioned that "Tahrir was a delight to cover." In the question and answer, nobody thought to ask about the CBS "60 Minutes" correspondent

Lara Logan, who had a completely different experience in Tahrir Square.)

## spring (spring into action, etc.)

sprang into action

scientists in Germany ~ to develop a test for the virus

spring into action

when a disaster hits, local responders ~

## springboard (noun)

springboard to the sacred

she uses nature as a ~ (a poet)

## Springsteen (epithet)

Bruce Springsteen of chat

Joe Rogan is the ~ (New Jersey, T-shirts, no BS, etc.)

## spring up (verb)

sprang up

many new housing developments ~

## sprinkle (verb)

sprinkled (nonscientific) rulers throughout the agency

she ~ (C.D.C.)

## sprinkled (configuration)

sprinkled with the names

Antarctica is ~ of explorers and scientists

sprinkled among the crowds

~ were far-right extremists

## sprint (noun)

sprint to election day

both sides are in ~ (2024 U.S. presidential election)

all-out sprint

both sides are in an ~ to election day (2024)

final sprint

we are getting ready for this ~ (preparations for Olympics)

in a (full) sprint

it feels like the campaign is ~ at this point (election)

## sprint (verb)

sprinted through seven hearings over five days

Republicans ~ (impeachment hearings)

## sprout (verb)

sprouting next to slum communities

you see high-rises ~ (Bangkok)

sprouting all around

condos and office buildings are ~

## spun up

spun up (very) quickly

both trauma teams were ~ (hospital after mass shooting)

## spur (verb)

spurred the international community to threaten  
the atrocity ~ the Serbs with Nato airstrikes (Bosnia)

spur growth  
the government is trying to ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Spur" meaning to urge on or stimulate goes back to at least 1390.  
And spurs used by riders of horses are ancient.

♦ Most roosters have four toes... and a very sharp and dangerous  
spur on their "ankle."

♦ The spurs a horse rider attaches to his boots are analogous to the  
spurs of a rooster. The "circular saw" at the end of a cowboy's spur is  
called a rowel.

## spur (shape)

spur ridge  
as we snowshoed up a ~

spur track  
trains roll in and out on the network of ~s

bone spur  
he removed a ~ that had developed (in elbow)

## spur (Geneva Spur, etc.)

Geneva Spur  
we slowly made our way up the ~ (Everest)

Mummery Spur  
they were swept away high up on the ~ (Nanga Parbat)

Snake Spur  
~ twisted before us (Queensland, Australia)

Sunrise Spur  
~ is in Queensland, Australia

Half Moon Spur  
we looked up ~ (New Zealand)

## spur (spur of the moment)

spur-of-the-moment  
the ~ brawl

on the spur of the moment  
it was not uncommon for them to go stargazing ~

## spur (earn one's spurs, etc.)

earned his spurs on the battlefield  
he ~ (General "Mad Dog" Mattis)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Spur" exercises and ceremonies are still held in the US military.  
This is similar to "earn one's stripes." In medieval times to win one's  
spurs meant to gain knighthood.

## spurn (verb)

spurned fizzy drinks  
Coke's earnings down as global consumers ~

spurned calls  
his rivals ~ to quit (politics)

spurned the chance  
Real Madrid ~ to go back above Barcelona (lost game)

## spurned

spurned by anyone  
bamboo bows are ~ who can afford a compound bow

gift spurned  
it was a ~ (soccer player misses easy goal)

## spurred

spurred to speak out  
he has been ~ out (environmental activist)

spurred to action  
he has been ~, to speak out (environmental activist)

## sputter (verb)

sputtering  
the economy is ~

## square (public square, etc.)

de facto town square  
Twitter has become kind of the ~ (Elon Musk)

modern public square  
Twitter is a ~ (lawsuit against Twitter)

modern town square  
Twitter is not merely a website, it is a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Unfortunately with these public squares, these forums where  
people can speak, you're going to get riffraff." (The owner of a Web-  
hosting service, about hosting a controversial website.)

## square off (verb)

square off in the general election on 6 November  
the two men ~

## square one

at square one  
after Pearlman's arrest, van der Wilt was ~ (career)

back at square one  
now we're ~

back to square one  
House Republicans are ~ (their bill fails to get votes)

finds itself back at square one  
the town ~ (an ongoing legal dispute)

puts him back at square one  
this ~ (a legal ruling / prisoner)

put you back at square one  
something comes along to ~...

## squash (verb)

squash it  
Facebook is taking this new step, hoping to ~ (Q-Anon)

## squeal (protest)

squealing

downstream industries are ~ (steel tariffs)

## squeeze (fit)

squeeze (5,500) inmates into a space  
prison officials, trying to ~ built...

squeeze the subject in  
he cajoles teachers to ~ (civics)

squeeze their experiences onto one page  
many try to ~ (resumes)

## squeeze (squeeze something from / out of something)

squeeze some good from his pain  
he began talking about it, hoping to ~

squeeze out a living from this terrain  
parents who ~ (mountains)

squeeze (so much) power out of engines  
how it was able to ~ so small

squeeze sales out of (fewer) resources  
helping businesses ~

## squeeze (coerce)

squeeze apologies from corporations  
~ (slavery)

squeeze settlements from corporations  
~ (slavery)

squeezed Kosovo for concessions  
he ~ (a US diplomat)

## squeeze (put the squeeze on something)

put the squeeze on a rival gang  
he ~ (Al Capone)

putting the squeeze on the economy  
the pandemic is ~

## squeeze (pressure / noun)

squeeze of 8.6% inflation  
he is feeling the ~ (a businessman)

squeeze from the outbreak  
hourly wage earners who are feeling the ~ (COVID)

financial squeeze  
the city is feeling the ~

feeling the squeeze  
the Florida orange industry is ~ (disease, weather, etc.)

## squeezed (oppressed)

squeezed

if the growers are ~, the banana workers feel the pain

## squeezed (fitted)

squeezed into a maze  
families are now ~ of vertical slums (Kabul)

squeezed onto 550 acres  
Dharavi is home to a million people ~ (Mumbai)

squeezed between Tajikistan, Pakistan and China  
the Wakhan Corridor is ~ (Badakhshan, Afghanistan)

## squirreled away

squirreled away at his house  
he still had the gun ~ (a cold-case murderer)

## stab (stab somebody in the back)

stab each other in the back  
how we like to ~ (Blacks)

stabbed her in the back  
he ~ (was unfaithful to his wife)

## stab (stab of pain, etc.)

stab of love  
she feels a ~ so fierce (mother for husband, kids)

stab of pain  
I felt a ~ in my ribs

stab of shame  
a nocturnal ~ at the thought of someone you once wronged

felt a stab of pain  
overwhelmed, she ~ in her stomach (in trouble)

## stab (stab in the dark)

stab in the dark  
it was a ~, but...

take a stab in the dark  
go ahead and ~ (make a prediction)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is like a shot in the dark. Any doubtful scenario can carry the equivalent idea, if the phrase is short and obvious and entails a target: "Go ahead, throw a dart at the dartboard with a blindfold on, and tell us what you think will happen..."

♦ A former California State prosecutor, speaking about a legal takedown, said, "This case was a huge *stab* in the right direction." (Step in the right direction? Stab or shot in the dark? Is this an "eggcom"?)

## stab (attempt)

stab at Everest  
Chantal Mauduit was making her seventh ~

stab at boxing  
many of my friends also took a ~

seventh stab  
Chantal Mauduit, who was making her ~ at Everest

making her (seventh) stab at Everest

Chantal Mauduit, who was ~ without oxygen

took stabs at boxing

many of my friends also ~, some for the workout...

take a stab at TV

sometimes filmmakers ~ (Bruckheimer, Spielberg, etc.)

## stabbing (stabbing pain, etc.)

stabbing pain

I felt a ~ in my side

stabbing things

one of the most ~ in this war is... (see quote below)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "They get awfully sick at the big-print headlines in some of the papers—"The Hill 60 Thrill"! 'Thrill, indeed! There's nothing thrilling about ploughing over parapets into a machinegun, with high explosives bursting round you,—it's merely beastly,' said a boy this evening, who is all over shrapnel splinters. / Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 A.M. [1915]—This is Der Tag. Could anybody go to bed and undress? / I have been cutting dressings all night. One of the most stabbing things in this war is seeing the lines of empty motor ambulances going up to bring down the wrecks who at this moment are sound and fit, and all absolutely ready to be turned into wrecks." (*Diary of a Nursing Sister on the Western Front: 1914-1915* by Kate (Katherine) Evelyn Luard.)

♦ see also *biting* (adjective), *gnawing* (gnawing doubt, etc.), *grinding* (grinding poverty, etc.), *pinching* (adjective)

## stability (noun)

restore stability

in the latest effort to ~ after a military coup...

## stabilize (verb)

stabilize the situation

US officials are trying to ~

## stable (condition)

stable

prices are ~

the number of deer is ~

solid and stable

the NIH is in a very ~ place

## stable (group)

stables of (blockbuster) authors

the two publishers have impressive ~

stable of (young) fighters

he has a ~ at the James Shuler Memorial Gym (Philly)

stable of stars

M-G-M's ~ (Hollywood)

stable of wrestlers

he may run his own ~ in the future (Hakuho)

♦ "I've been a Pats fan for years. Okay, Okay! I like the Giants and Jets too. A girl's gotta have a stable to pick from ya know?" (An online commenter who goes by the name of Miss Demeanor. Drag queen?)

## stack (blow one's stack)

blew my stack

I finally got fed up and ~

## stage (verb)

staged the abduction

police do not believe the missing girl ~

staged an (impromptu) parade

a million people ~ (French World Cup victory)

staged protests

angry citizens ~ against the government

staged an (unauthorized protest) rally

they ~ near Red Square

staged tests

he ~ under simulated combat conditions

staged a (phony) kidnapping

he ~ to cover up his crime

## stage (set the stage, etc.)

sets the stage for a confrontation

this ~

sets the stage for (further) violence

the incident ~

stage has been set

the ~ for another week of violence in Hong Kong

♦ "The stage was now set for the final battles..." (World War II.)

## stage (center stage)

center stage

Clinton's next opportunity to take ~

take center stage

Clinton's next opportunity to ~

## stage (attention)

vegetable stage

asparagus is one of the most versatile actors on the ~

national stage

this was his debut on the ~ (a politician)

actors on the (vegetable) stage

asparagus is one of the most versatile ~

burst onto the stage

he was one of several poets who ~ in the 60s (Russia)

returning to the world stage

China is ~

have the stage

they ~ now, and are forcing people to listen and understand

has the stage all to himself

he ~ (a controversy others can't comment on)

held the stage

for three weeks, Amundsen ~ alone (success at S. Pole)

leave the stage

Boris Johnson is leaving office but won't ~



\*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's better to leave the stage a year early than a day late."

## stage (life is a stage)

stage

all the world's a stage (*As You Like It*)

♦ "All the world's a stage / And all the men and women merely players; / They have their exits and their entrances; / And one man in his time plays many parts..." (William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*.)

♦ "The stir is over. I step forth on the boards... / And yet, the order of the acts has been schemed and plotted, / And nothing can avert the final curtain's fall..." ("Hamlet" by Boris Pasternak, translated by Bernard Guilbert Guerney, from the great translation of *Doctor Zhivago* by Max Hayward and Manya Harari.)

## staged (directed)

staged

the famous photo was not ~

there was nothing faked, nothing planned, nothing ~

staged by the government

the confessions were ~ for domestic consumption

staged by an ethnic group

the blockade is part of a strike ~ (Nepal)

staged for the auditor's benefit

the lesson was clearly ~ (school)

staged appearance

his ~ was an official show for the media (a dissident)

staged reading

their ~ of the Constitution was cynical (politics)

organized or staged

the accident has not changed how the event is ~ (race)

## stage-manage (verb)

stage-managed visits

the military ~ to troops (Afghanistan in 2006)

## stage-managed

stage-managed referendum

Russia had pulled off a hastily organized, ~ (Crimea)

## stagger (verb)

staggered the (scientific) community

he ~ (11-year-old William James Sidis)

## stagnant (adjective)

stagnant

wages are ~, jobs scarce, and credit tight

stagnant economy

employers are reluctant to add jobs in a ~

Republicans are to blame for the ~ (NYT)

## stagnate (verb)

stagnated under his rein

the office ~

## stain (verb)

stained everyone

he has ~ (cyclist denies doping, then confesses)

## stain (noun)

stain on our history

this is a ~ (lynching of blacks in the US)

stain on the honor

it is a ~ of the US military (anti-gay policy)

stain on (Illinois) politics

he is a ~ (jailed governor)

stain on the profession

he is a ~ (nurse who killed patients)

stain on his reputation

the ban lingered as a ~

the second ~ involves... (a US general)

great stain

the incident was a very ~ on the reputation of the Army

indelible stain

doping left an ~ on his record (sports)

reputational stain

the ~ is greater in these cases (sex abuse)

bore the stain

the city ~ of what had happened (Philadelphia, MS)

remove this stain

we must ~ from the laws of our nation (gays in military)

put a stain on her record

this could ~

## staircase (Devil's Staircase, etc.)

Staircase Canyon

~ is a valley in California

Staircase Creek

~ is a stream in Oregon

Staircase Falls

~ is a waterfall in California

Staircase Mountain

~ is a summit in North Carolina

Staircase Rapids

there are ~ on many rivers (kayaking, rafting)

Devil's Staircase

the ~ Wilderness is named after a waterfall (Oregon)

Giant Staircase

the ~ is a valley in Utah

Winding Staircase

~ Falls is a waterfall in Pennsylvania

~ Hollow is a valley in Arkansas

Grand Staircase

the ~ rises from the Grand Canyon (geological layers)  
the ~ is a cliff in Connecticut

## stairstep (noun)

stairstep progression  
the percentage began an upward, ~

## stairway (Stairway Falls, etc.)

Stairway Falls  
~ is in Queensland, Australia

## stake (importance)

stakes  
the ~ are high

raised the stakes  
the pope's opponents have ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This word relates to potential for gain or loss.

## stake (high stakes)

high-stakes test  
teachers prepare students for ~s

## stake (pull up stakes)

pulling up stakes  
it isn't ~, just shifting gears (Conan O'Brien leaves show)

## stake (stake through the heart, etc.)

see *heart (stake through the heart, etc.)*

## stakeholder (interest)

stakeholders in education  
there are many ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, stakeholders held the money of bettors.

## stake out (verb)

staking out their positions  
the two sides are ~ on the issue (politics)

stake out (bigger) slices  
in the ceaseless quest to ~ of the market

stake out (new) territory  
as Microsoft tries to ~

## stale (adjective)

stale  
there's nothing ~ about the new retail concept

stale manager  
he is a ~ in charge of a stale squad (soccer)

stale news  
this is ~ being recycled by those with personal agendas

stale trope  
the mixing of the mournful and the clownish is a ~

stale work  
he battled against the ~s of the reigning academics

feel stale  
he started to ~ and underachieving

grown stale  
the company's offerings have ~ (mobile phones)

went stale  
the relationship finally ~ (coach and team)

## stalemate (noun)

political stalemate  
infrastructure projects are at risk due to the ~

prickly stalemate  
that debate has come to a ~ (in linguistics)

## Stalingrad (non-military)

Stalingrad in China's war  
Wuhan was ~ against the virus

♦ "Wuhan has been praised for its sacrifice in the service of the nation, turning it into a sort of Stalingrad in China's war against the virus, commemorated in books, documentaries, TV shows and florid panegyrics from officials including head of state and leader of the Communist Party Xi Jinping." ("Wuhan returns to normal as world still battling pandemic" by Emily Wang Fujiyama, AP, 22 Jan 2021.)

## Stalingrad (Stalingrad of the East, etc.)

Stalingrad of the Adriatic  
the Battle of Ortona, the ~ (WW II)

Stalingrad of the East  
the campaign is often described as the ~ (Kohima / Imphal)

Stalingrad of Italy  
Mussolini spoke of turning Milan into the "~"  
(Wikipedia)

*Stalingrad on the Yangtze*  
*Shanghai 1937: ~* (by Peter Harmsen)

Syria's Stalingrad  
the once thriving city was now known as ~ (Homs)

dubbed the mission "Sangingrad"  
some soldiers ~ (Sangin, Helmand, Afghanistan)

turn Sloviansk into a "Stalingrad"  
he threatened to ~ (War in Donbass in 2014)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "In 2008, the U.S. Marines deployed to Sangin, reinforcing American Special Forces and U.K. soldiers. Britain's forces were beleaguered—a third of its casualties in Afghanistan would occur in Sangin, leading some soldiers to dub the mission 'Sangingrad.'" ("The Other Afghan Women" by Anand Gopal, *The New Yorker*, September 13, 2021.)

♦ **Hype?** James Holland, author of *The Savage Storm: The Battle for Italy 1943*, talking with John Batchelor, referred to the Battle of Ortona as "the Stalingrad of the Adriatic." The Wikipedia article for the battle states, "The battle was known to those who fought it as the 'Italian Stalingrad,' for the brutality of its close-quarters combat, which was only worsened by the chaotic rubble of the town and the many booby traps used by both sides." The Wikipedia article goes on to mention that the battle is still studied as an example of military

operations in urban terrain (MOUT). One big difference between Stalingrad and Ortona (among all the obvious ones) is that the Germans were beaten at Stalingrad. At Ortona, the Germans withdraw to defensive lines further north. The great Canadian writer Farley Mowat fought near Ortona and mentions the city several times towards the end of his book, *And No Birds Sang*: "Second Brigade, Kennedy told them, had managed to claw its way into the outskirts of Ortona but the street fighting which had then erupted had bogged them down in a bloody stalemate with the [German] paratroopers. Therefore, First Brigade would go back into the line, and the Regiment would lead a sweeping left hook around Ortona in an attempt to force the Germans to abandon the town... / He did not tell his officers what the Brigade intelligence office had told me: 'Monty blew into Div. H.Q. last night and he was frothing at the mouth. Passed the word to get on with it at any cost. The General told him the Div is worn down to the nub and ought to be relieved, but there ain't no reserves, so no reliefs. It's carry on, boys, and do-or-die, and bring me Pescara on a bleeding silver plate!' At war's end, the Germans *still* occupied the north of Italy.

\*\*\* **Stalingrad by Vasily Grossman...**

♦ "[A] long dismal wail from steamship hooters and factory sirens. This cry, prophesying death and disaster, hung in the air, as if conveying the anguish of all the city's inhabitants. It was the voice of the entire city—the voice not only of people but also of stone, of buildings, of cars, trucks and machines, of telegraph poles, of the grass and trees in the parks, of electric cables and tram rails; it was a cry let out not only by living beings but also by inanimate objects. All now sensed their coming destruction. Only a rusty iron throat could have engendered this sound, which expressed in equal measure animal horror and the anguish of a human heart. / It was followed by silence—Stalingrad's last silence. / Planes were coming from every direction... / Only people on the east bank of the Volga, ten or fifteen kilometres away...could see the fire as a whole and grasp the extent of the disaster..." (*Stalingrad* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert and Elizabeth Chandler.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ How was the Battle Of Shanghai like the Battle of Stalingrad? (1) Both battles were titanic "no quarter given" battles in wars that would shape and define the modern world (2) Both featured urban warfare, tanks in cities, soldiers fighting house-to-house in rubble (3) Rivers were important in both battles: in Russia, the Volga; in Shanghai, the Yangtze and the Whangpoo (Huangpu) Rivers. Of course, there were many differences. By definition, metaphor recognizes similarities and ignores differences.

## stalk (verb)

stalk the refugee camps  
malnutrition and disease ~ (Darfur)

stalks their every move  
death ~ (soldiers in Afghanistan / IEDs)

stalked the residents  
tragedy ~ of Maple Street

stalked one another  
migration and backlash have ~ for more than a century

♦ "Marinesko stalked his quarry for more than an hour." (The sinking of the MV *Wilhelm Gustloff* in the Baltic, 1945.)

## stalker (person)

online stalker  
the four signs of an ~

♦ "Fixed; obsessive; unwanted; repeated... (Four warning signs of an online stalker.)

♦ He followed her, then he requested that she follow him back, using an excuse. Now that he had access to her direct messages... (The M.O. of an online stalker.)

♦ "It's a modern dilemma: What happens when a show about a stalker unleashes a whole army of online stalkers?" ("The real twist in

Netflix hit 'Baby Reindeer': It's turned curious viewers into stalkers" by Kirsten Fleming, *The New York Post*, May 2, 2024.)

## stalking-horse (noun)

stalking horse  
the company was the system's ~ (sued)

\*\*\* **"The buffalo men would kill thirty-one million buffalo..."**

♦ Hunters discovered that if they hid behind a cutout of a horse, they would not frighten their prey.

♦ "Between 1868 and 1881 [the buffalo men] would kill thirty-one million buffalo, stripping the plains almost entirely of the huge, lumbering creatures... The first large-scale slaughter of buffalo by white men with high-powered rifles took place in the years 1871 and 1872. There was no real market for buffalo hides until 1870, when a new tanning technology allowed them to be turned into high-grade leather. That, combined with a new railhead in Dodge City, Kansas, meant that the skins could be shipped commercially. For hunters, the economics of the new business was miraculous, all the more so since the animals were so stupefyingly easy to kill. If a buffalo saw the animal next to it drop dead it would not flee unless it could see the source of the danger. Thus one shooter with a long-range rifle could drop an entire stand of the creatures without moving. A hunter named Tom Nixon once shot 120 animals in 40 minutes. In 1873 he killed 3,200 in 35 days... Surprisingly, only a few voices cried out against the slaughter of the buffalo, which had no precedent in human history." (*Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History* by S.C. Gwynne. To explain further, if the hunter stood up and was noticed, the buffalo would stampede. But if the hunter was concealed behind a blind, the herd would continue grazing even as its members dropped around it, unperturbed even by the sound of gunshots.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we all know that "subterfuge" is not likely to show up as a lesson in our teaching materials, even though it is a thoroughly modern and cross-cultural topic of interest to all people. Our teaching materials tend to focus on conventional "topics" like "shopping," "going to the doctor," or functions like "apologizing," etc. Perhaps that should change. This dictionary and thesaurus can help.

## stall (verb)

stalled  
negotiations have ~  
the economic recovery has ~

stalling over the Gulf Coast  
the hurricane is ~, dropping dangerous amounts of rain

## stalled (progress)

stalled talks  
a breakthrough in ~ on a bill that... (lawmakers)

remains stalled  
the economy ~ in a deep recession  
the governor's controversial plan ~ (by opposition)

## stalwart (noun)

stalwart of the club  
he has been a ~ for 40 years (cricket supporter)

stalwart of the (country) club  
he was well educated, a friend of the Bushes, a ~

stalwart of (modern) jazz  
Joe Mudele, a ~, died this week aged 93

conservative stalwart  
he faced ~ Ted Cruz (Beto O'Rourke)

Ireland stalwart

~ McCay set to win 300th Ireland cap (hockey)

## **stamp (impression)**

stamp of our experiences

our faces bear the ~

put a stamp on a great career

his performance ~ (athlete)

put its stamp on the national character

nature has ~ (Norway)

## **stamp (stamp of approval)**

government stamp of approval

the label is the ~ for energy saving (EnergyStar)

privacy stamp of approval

the company gives a ~ to Web sites

societal stamp of approval

it is doubtful the practice will ever win a ~

gave his company a stamp of approval

the government ~ (regulators)

gave its stamp of approval to the plan

the board ~

put its stamp of approval on the negotiations

the Arab League has ~

## **stamped**

stamped on the nation's conscience

the murders were ~ (Philadelphia, MS / civil rights)

## **stampede (noun)**

Klondike Stampede

"The ~" (by Tappan Adney, *Harper's Weekly*)

crowd stampede

a thousand people drowned in a great ~ (Lagos)

♦ On Sunday, January 27, 2002, an arms depot blew up on a military base in the densely packed Ikeja area of Lagos. A series of blasts shook the city, and chaos reigned as thousands fled, not knowing what was happening. At a canal several miles away, in the darkness, more than a thousand people drowned in a great crowd stampede. As is common in such stampedes, many of the victims were women and children. Read the Wikipedia article "2002 Lagos armoury explosion." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ Panic; crowds; stampede; fleeing; falling; trampling; falling shells; spreading fires; military unable to control the situation... (The 2002 Lagos armoury explosion.)

## **stamp out (verb)**

stamp out "criminal machismo"

he has vowed to ~ (abuse of women)

stamp out racism

we must ~ (in the sport of soccer)

stamp out superstition

Mao tried unsuccessfully to ~ (China / numbers, etc.)

stamp out many traditions

the ruling mullahs sought to ~ (Iran / Nowruz)

stamp out their way of life

Saddam drained the wetlands to ~ (marsh Arabs)

sought to stamp out

the ruling mullahs ~ many traditions (Iran / Nowruz)

vowed to stamp out

he has ~ "criminal machismo" (abuse of women)

## **stance (take a stance)**

take a stance on abortion

we would never ~ (editor of small paper)

take a (strong) stance against North Korea

China is under pressure to ~

took an assertive stance

he took an ~ (diplomacy)

take a strong stance

China is under pressure ~ against...

## **stand (resist / verb)**

stand against Hollywood

it's futile to ~ when... (film dispute)

stand against genocide

we ~ (a banner / a Hamas supporter)

stand our ground

we must ~ on education and health care (budget cuts)

stood their ground

the mayor and the police chief both ~ (criticism)

stood firm

he ~ and got his way and it is good he did

stand fast

the US will ~ against violence at its diplomatic missions

stand together

see *stand (stand together)*

"Still Standing"

his podcast is called, ~

futile to stand

it's ~ against Hollywood when... (film dispute)

## **stand (position / verb)**

stand on the issue

where does he ~

## **stand (position / noun)**

stand on abortion

people want to know his ~

brave stand

take a ~ against ongoing student protests

tough stand

his ~ could create instability (a world leader)

united stand

a ~ on African development

window-dressing public relations stand

he took a ~ on the coronavirus crisis (EU official)

stand reflects

his new ~ more politics than principles (politician)

take a stand

FIFA must ~ on fan racism

taken a stand

athletes have ~ by taking a knee (NFL)

♦ "Columbia University administrators seemed poised to take a brave stand against ongoing student protests Monday—and then totally wimped out, cowering in the face of student activists." (The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I'm an American soldier, an American / Beside my brothers and my sisters / I will proudly take a stand..." (Watch: Toby Keith—American Soldier (Radio Edit))

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Anytime you take a stand, you always take a chance..."

## stand (stand as one, etc.)

stand as one

we ~ (on policy issue)

## stand (stand together)

stand together

we're going to ~ and take a stand on behalf... (a protest)

Uvalde must ~ (after school shooting)

America and Israel must ~ (Netanyahu to U.S. Congress)

## stand (stand firm)

stand firm for social justice

we will ~

## stand (stand and fall / fate)

stand or fall by the expedition

I ~ (Robert Falcon Scott / Terra Nova expedition)

stand or fall on the strength

the theory will ~ of that argument

stood or fell by its alliance

the government ~ with...

♦ see also *live (live and die / fate)*

## stand (stand behind something, etc.)

stand behind their product

they ~ (satisfied J.C. Penney shopper)

stood by his decision

he ~ to fire her

stand tall

he will ~ for you (ad for politician)

## stand (stand in the way)

stand in the way

just a few contract details ~ (boxing)

never ~ of a person's dream

he has made it clear he will not ~ (investigation)

stand in their way

nothing is going to ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way!

## stand (endure)

stood up for thirty-five years

the book has ~ (a success)

stand the test of time

see *test (test of time)*

stood or fell

the government ~ by its alliance with...

last man standing

Donald Trump is the ~ on the Republican side (2016 / 24)

## stand (last stand, etc.)

her last stand

her senate appearance may prove to have been ~

(Rousseff)

last stand for Ted Cruz

is Indiana the ~ (republican presidential primary)

Southgate's last stand

this could be ~ (Euro 2024)

♦ "We are resetting, we are not retreating, and we are here, we have a vision, we are capable of fulfilling it. I mean, this is the hill on which I'm willing to die." (Ashley Judd of Time's Up, responding to criticism of that organization.)

♦ "It's quite obvious that Amber Heard is lying and it is making it harder for women who are victims of domestic abuse or sexual violence to be taken seriously; but apparently these Cretans are going to die on this hill with her! I can't say that I'm surprised." (Melissa Wiggins, who signed the "Fire Raven Smith From Vogue" petition at change.org.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ The rearguard action of a group of British soldiers at the village of Khig, following the British disaster in the Battle of Maiwand (27 July 1880) during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, was one of the most courageous last stands in military history. It helped to allow the bulk of the British troops to safely withdraw to Kandahar. The only survivor of the last stand was Bobbie, a terrier attached to the Berkshires, who made it all the way back to England. Bobbie visited Queen Victoria, who awarded him with a medal.

♦ The Battle of the Alamo is well known to Americans, as is Custer's last stand. Less well known is the fact that there was one survivor at Custer's last stand, Comanche, the favorite mount of Captain Myles Keogh. The horse was found wandering the battlefield, badly wounded. Comanche was transported by ship to Fort Lincoln, and then to Fort Riley, Kansas, to live out his life in peace, never ridden again, allowed to eat the flowers from the flower gardens, and called upon only to participate in "riderless horse" ceremonies.

♦ Another famous rear-guard action was the Battle of Thermopylae in Greece in 480 BC, against the invading Persians, who were eventually defeated. No evidence of the pass currently exists. It is now a plain, and the only bodies are those of trucks drivers who have pulled over and are sleeping under their trucks.

♦ "Marcus ['Get up, let's go'] Luttrell...was the lone survivor." (Operation Red Wings. The great American hero.)

## stand (a lamp can stand in a corner, etc.)

stands tall

the Palace of Westminster ~ on the left bank (Thames)

## standard-bearer

standard bearers of (American) tennis  
they are the ~ (Williams sisters)

standard-bearer for women's issues  
she is a ~ nationwide

standard-bearer for his issues  
he has been a consistent ~ for decades (Bernie Sanders)

Democrat's (presidential) standard bearer  
Biden is expected to be the ~ (2024)

Party's standard-bearer  
he was anointed as the ~ (Hubert Humphrey)

less controversial standard bearer  
some Democrats might vote for a ~ (primary election)

losing its standard-bearer  
the company is ~ (Starbucks)

♦ "Romney's isolation in Washington didn't surprise me. In less than a decade, he'd gone from Republican standard-bearer and presidential nominee to party pariah thanks to a series of public clashes with Trump." ("Is Kamala Harris Ready to Be President?" by Elaine Plott Calabro, *The Atlantic*, September 2023.)

♦ "First and foremost, there is this: Once again the national political conversation includes the name Sarah Palin. She is once again the tip of the spear, at least in the realms of the right, and not just another spear carrier..." ("Palin's Call For Impeachment Reopens Debate Over...Sarah Palin" by Ron Elving, NPR, July 16, 2014. Elving is well known for his use of over-wrought figurative language, and in that article he uses: "legion," "rabid," "lip-smacking," "doldrums," "command," "weighed in," "bruising," "scuttled," "thrust was parried," "blowback," "tip of the spear," "spear carrier," "standard bearers," "cutting edge," "lived on this media mountaintop," "trudge back to Alaska," "potency," "bedevil..." *Quelle dramatique!*)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ In the notes to his translation of Canto XXXII of Dante's *The Inferno*, John Ciardi writes, "At the battle of Montaperti [Bocca degli Abbatini] hacked off the hand of the Florentine standard bearer. The cavalry, lacking a standard around which it could rally, was soon routed." And so Bocca degli Abbatini ended up in the 9th circle of hell, "The Treacherous to Country," deserving completely a kick in the head.

♦ see also *colors* (true colors, etc.)

## stand by (verb)

stand (idly) by  
we cannot ~ while the dictator kills his people

## stand by (support)

stand by Israel  
the U.S. will ~ in its darkest hour (2023)

stood by him  
he thanked the fans that had ~ (scandal)

standing by me

I know he is ~

stood by his story  
his bosses ~ (a reporter)

♦ "Most key Democrats are pulling a Tammy Wynette and standing by their man." (Support for Joe Biden. "Pulling a Tammy Wynette" is a clever allusion to the classic song "Stand By Your Man" by Tammy Wynette: "But if you love him, you'll forgive him, even though he's hard to understand..." The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ Listen to: Ben E. King-Stand By Me (1961) -YouTube

## stand down (verb)

stand down  
planes were in the air when word came to ~

stood the military down  
the operation was in the early stages when Trump ~

ordered them to stand down  
news executives ~ ("catch and kill")

make me stand down  
threats, bullying and blackmail will not ~ (Ruby Rose)

♦ "You can't challenge another great player and expect him to stand down." (The National Football League / NFL.)

## stand for (verb)

stand for  
what does he ~ (a candidate)

stand for nothing  
his politics ~ (a critic of a politician)

## stand for (not stand for something)

won't stand for it  
they are desperately trying to erase the past, and we ~

## standing (reputation)

standing with the US  
they try to increase their ~ (some countries)

in good standing  
he is a doctor ~

standing will fall  
our ~ because of our performance (the US / pandemic)

## standing (continuing)

standing order  
the ~ was to take them out if... (combat)  
she had a ~ for refills (birth control pills)

longstanding  
see *longstanding* (adjective)

## standoff (noun)

standoff  
there's a ~ here and somebody has to blink (politics)

standoff between the US and Israel  
the diplomatic ~



standoff between a tribal elder and a high schooler  
viral ~ is more complicated than it first seemed

standoff over the North's (nuclear) activities  
the ~ (Korea)

standoff distance  
a 62-meter ~ from launcher to detonation point

hostage standoff  
a ~ ended early yesterday

destabilizing standoff  
US officials scrambled to defuse the ~ (in Iraq)

diplomatic standoff  
the ~ between the US and Israel

viral standoff  
~ is more complicated than it first seemed (quote below)

75-minute standoff  
after a ~

71-day standoff  
the ~ (Wounded Knee II)

standoff is continuing  
that ~ (Twitter vs. the Indian government)

♦ A group of Kentucky teenagers, a Native American, and black Hebrew Israelites all met by accident on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Read "Viral standoff between a tribal elder and a high schooler is more complicated than it first seemed" by Michael E. Miller, *The Washington Post*, Jan 22, 2019. Or the Wikipedia article "2019 Lincoln Memorial confrontation."

## stand on (verb)

stand on  
my faith was all I had to ~ (mental health issues)

## stand out (attention)

stand out  
two main courses ~ (restaurant review)

stands out  
she really ~

stood out  
some things ~ (murder investigation)

stand out from the crowd  
a good cover letter will help you to ~

stands out from the crowd  
one man ~

stood out among her (immediate) peers  
she ~ (investment banker)

stands out as something special  
the Ponzi scheme still ~

stand out in my mind  
there are so many images that ~ from that time...

stand out in the (reality-show) cesspool  
it's hard to ~ (TV)

stood out to me  
the thing that ~ was... (a reporter about gifted athlete)

♦ "If it has a crew working aboard, it's a yacht. If it's more than ninety-eight feet, it's a superyacht. After that, definitions are debated, but people generally agree that anything more than two hundred and thirty feet is a megayacht, and more than two hundred and ninety-five is a gigayacht. The world contains about fifty-four hundred superyachts, and about a hundred gigayachts. / For the moment, a gigayacht is the most expensive item that our species has figured out how to own." ("The Floating World" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, July 25, 2022. How to stand out from the rest of humanity.)

## standout (noun)

standout on the (basketball) team  
he is a ~ (high school)

standout in a regime  
Ali Hassan al-Majid was a ~ of criminals (Iraq)

## standpoint (perspective)

standpoint of manufacturing  
from the ~, America is a basket case

Monday morning quarterback standpoint  
we're all looking at this from a ~ (officer-involved shooting)

historical standpoint  
from a purely ~, there is no comparison between...

## stand still (time)

time can stand still  
time can move and ~

time stands still  
this is a place where ~ (Tibet)

time seems to have stood still  
~ (Mocha Island)

time was not standing still  
but ~...

## stand still (progress)

standing still  
his friends were moving ahead while he was ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It is strange how we move forward in some things, and stand still in others, and go backwards in yet others." (Msimangu about progress, from *Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.)

## stand still (development)

language doesn't stand still  
~ (it constantly changes and evolves)

## standstill (noun)

standstill traffic  
he spends 10 minutes on average in ~

at a standstill  
with politics ~... (lack of government action)  
his acting and singing careers appear to be ~ (disgraced)  
tourism has been ~ during the last year (pandemic)

the investigation for most of 2011 was essentially ~  
(cops)

brought Beijing to a standstill  
the vacation exodus ~ (Autumn Festival)

came to a standstill  
the main port in Chittagong ~ (Bangladesh)

come to a standstill  
life as we know it has ~ (pandemic)

## **stand up (stand up for something)**

stood up for  
if Joe believed in something, that's what he ~

stand up for what  
they are proud to ~ they believe in

stands up for what  
he ~ is right (ad for a politician)

stand up for (other) people  
she taught him to ~

stand up for students  
teachers admitted that they did not always ~

stand up for themselves  
children must learn to ~ (during abductions)

stand up for the students  
and we've had straight teachers who ~ (gay)

stand up for (all the) women  
I hope she will ~ in the world (father of abuse victim)

stand up for the little guy  
he isn't afraid to ~

♦ "Each and every one of us has to step up, speak up, stand up, do something." (Arnitta Holliman, director of the Milwaukee Office of Violence and Prevention.)

## **stand up (stand up to something)**

stand up to aggression  
we must ~

stood up to the (schoolyard) bully  
he ~ (student vs. record-industry lawyers)

stand up to bullies  
we are supposed to ~, not follow them (politics)

stand up to a bully  
you have to ~ (political demagogues)

stand up to employers  
employees must ~ (unions)

stand up to (religious) fundamentalists  
he was brave enough to ~ (assassinated)

stand up to the government  
it took a brave man to ~

STAND UP TO ALL HATE  
~ (2024 ad campaign by major sports leagues)

stand up to (scientific) scrutiny  
she has no figures which would ~

♦ "I'm standing up by stepping down." (Mariel Garza, about resigning from the *Los Angeles Times*.)

## **stand with (support)**

stand with the victims  
we ~ of injustice

## **star (shape)**

star dune  
~s have a high central column  
~s have 3 or more arms radiating outwards (deserts)

starfish  
the ~, or sea star...

star quilt  
a traditional ~ (Sioux style)

five-pointed star  
a Wiccan religious symbol, a ~ inside a circle  
Wicca's symbol, the pentacle, is a ~ inside a circle

## **star (Silver Star, etc.)**

gold star  
she awards a ~ for good work (teacher)

Silver Star, Bronze Star  
he won a ~, and Purple Heart (World War II)

## **star (rock star)**

rock star of the culinary world  
he was the original ~ (Bourdain)

rock star among advocates  
he is a ~ for decriminalizing drugs (Dr. Carl L. Hart)

rockstar cinematographer  
she was a ~ who will be missed (Halyna Hutchins)

rock-star mathematician  
~ Cedric Villani

rock-star roster  
this ~ of NPR women

Democratic rock star  
he went from ~ to political rock bottom (Beto O'Rourke)

♦ "The pilots were the rock stars and he was definitely the best-looking of them all." (Cheryl Agin about the great pilot Mark Stucky. They married in 2011.)

## **star (person)**

star of the climbing world  
a 16-year-old ~ has died (Luce Douady)

star of the sitcom  
the ~ (TV)

star of mixed martial arts  
Tito Ortiz, a ~, trains in gyms at Big Bear Lake

stars in show business

some of the biggest ~ were there (a party)  
 stars in Major League Baseball  
     international ~  
 star on the (acoustic music) scene  
     she's a fast-rising ~  
 star at the academy  
     she has been an academic ~ (Naval Academy)  
 star's ego  
     massaging a ~ is a necessary indignity  
 star athlete  
     a top student, a ~, and a caring girlfriend  
 star performer  
     recognize our ~s (customer service)  
 star power  
     the film hardly lacks for ~  
 star professor  
     ~s move from one university to the other  
 star quality  
     youth, ~ and idealism  
     the ~ that very few people have  
 star scorer  
     she was a ~ (basketball)  
 star turn  
     the case was full of dramatic ~s  
 star case agent  
     ~s fabricated reports (CIA)  
 Harvard's (rising academic) stars  
     he had been one of ~  
 movie's star  
     the ~  
 child star  
     she is a Hollywood ~ gone bad  
 movie star  
     it was my first experience with celebrities and ~s  
 pop star  
     Youssou N'Dour, the Senegalese ~  
 rap star  
     one of the first female ~s  
 rock star  
     fans of the Croatian ~ Marko Perkovic (Thompson)  
 soccer star  
     a ~ at J.E.B. Stuart High School  
     David Beckham, the ~  
     one of the world's highest-paid and highest-profile ~s  
 television star  
     writers, politicians, ~s...  
 basketball star

Len Bias was a ~  
 the ~ Michael Jordan  
 country-music star  
     a guitar signed by various ~s  
 gangsta-rap star  
     he is better known as the ~ DMX  
 Hollywood star  
     a biography of a ~  
     his client list once included many ~s (PI)  
 martial arts star  
     he looked up to the ~ Bruce Lee as a role model  
 rising star  
     the 25-year-old ~ (film actor)  
     Sgt. Murad is a ~ in this effort (Arabic speakers)  
     Ocasio-Cortez is the ~ in the progressive ranks  
     Joe Neguse has been considered a ~ in Democratic politics  
     ~ Poeti Norac has died (the French surfer)  
     he is regarded as a ~ in the Democratic Party  
     she was once Silicon Valley's fastest ~  
 rising (Hispanic) star  
     the GOP has a ~ in Texas (politics)  
 rising (academic) star  
     he had been one of Harvard's ~s  
 fast-rising star  
     she's a ~ on the acoustic music scene  
 widely known and highly paid stars  
     ~ (network-news anchors)  
 academic star  
     she has been an ~ at the academy (Naval Academy)  
     he had been one of Harvard's rising ~s  
 international star  
     ~s in Major League Baseball  
 political star  
     Pakistan's new ~ is bad news for the US  
 superstar  
     she evolved from star to ~ (an actor)  
     he is one of those ~ authors  
 nationally famous stars  
     from local acts to ~ (music)  
 25-year-old (rising) star  
     the ~ (films)  
 biography of a (Hollywood) star  
     the ~  
 star was born  
     a ~ (Tom Daley at Beijing Olympics)  
 make her a (Silicon Valley) star  
     Holmes' bold claims helped ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Gladys Knight: "He kept dreaming / That someday he'd be a star..." / The Pips: "A superstar, but he didn't get far..." / Gladys Knight: "But he just found out the hard way / That dreams don't always come true..." (A man fails to achieve his dreams in L.A., but his woman sticks with him. From *Midnight Train To Georgia* (LIVE)—Gladys Knight & the Pips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhnRyQCeqXI>)

## star (achievement)

star

his ~ continued to rise

Napoleon now became the idol, his ~ in the ascendant

star in the (neoconservative) firmament

Bloom had become a ~

Obama's star

~ is still rising

shooting star

Gale Sayers was football's ~

star is growing brighter

his ~ with each effort (a boxer)

star is still rising

Obama's ~

star rose

he won his first contest and his ~ quickly

star never quite rose

his ~ (an actor)

star continued to rise

his ~

## star (decline)

falling star

it looks as if you boys have hitched your wagon to a ~

star was (clearly) dimming

his ~ (a baseball player)

star has dimmed

the trailblazing 87-year-old's ~ in recent years  
(politician)

star (of Lucy Lunsford) has dimmed

how the ~

star was fading

her ~ fast (head of corporation)

star will fall

if he doesn't make significant achievements, his ~

star has fallen

his ~ (a teen idol)

star had (already) set

his ~ long before his death

star would wane

it would not be long before their ~ (Japs / WWII)

star had wobbled out of the heavens

in the end, her ~ (Whitney Houston)

## star (five stars, etc.)

five stars

he gave the restaurant ~

## star (north star)

north star

see *north star* (direction, goal)

## star (fate)

lucky stars

he needs to thank his ~, because...

stars align

sometimes the ~ and we're treated to an artist...

every song is a roll of the dice, but sometimes the ~ (a hit)

stars rarely align

the ~ to produce a winner (music)

stars are aligning

he feels ~ (timing)

stars aligned

the ~ when he was given a chance to direct his first film

stars have aligned

the ~ for Lopez Obrador (election)

stars are aligned

all the ~ in the wrong place (dire pandemic prediction)

stars aligning

it was just perfect timing with the ~ (boxing promotion)

stars lined up

the ~ (John Paul Stevens joins the Supreme Court)

stars have to align

a lot of ~ for those tax increased to pass (politics)

♦ "This was written in the stars, a million miles away. Before I was ever born I was destined to do what I did..." (The great boxer Tyson "The Gypsy King" Fury after his victory over Deontay Wilder.)

♦ "Oppenheimer, of course, knew Los Alamos well. Perro Caliente was a forty-mile horseback ride across the plateau. He and his brother had explored the Jemez Mountains on horseback over many summers. / Oppenheimer got what he wanted—a spectacular view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains—and General Groves got a site so isolated there was only a winding gravel road and one phone line into the place..." ("American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer" by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ Nina Totenberg: [John Paul] Stevens' rise was, to some extent, a fluke... / Clifford Sloan: It was an accident of history, and the stars lined up in a way that could not have been possible before that precise moment and probably could not have been possible after that precise moment." (John Paul Stevens had no political ties and was known as a judge's judge. Gerald Ford, who only became president after Nixon resigned, and who was vice president only because Spiro Agnew had resigned, suddenly had the appointment to fill, at a time after Watergate when people were sick of politics. Ford appointed Stevens to the Supreme Court. and he was swiftly confirmed with bipartisan support, 98-0 in the Senate. The confirmation of Supreme Court judges has been quite different since.)

♦ "The result of collaborative efforts and compromises often leads to the proverbial committee-designed racehorse becoming a giraffe. This process is inherent in the motion-picture business and will never change. / Sometimes, however the moons, the planets, and the stars

all line up... / My Hollywood experience may be atypical, and I may not be as lucky or fortunate on my next close encounter with Hollywood, but this time, the heavenly bodies did align." ("Author's Foreword: The General's Daughter, The Book & The Movie" by Nelson DeMille.)

♦ "You couldn't line up all the stars and moons the right way to get that scenario to play out." (A murder mystery.)

## star chamber (noun)

star chamber of (peculiarly) American character  
in this ~ (the so-called Gray Board / April 1954)

Star Chamber prosecutions

this is a throwback to the ~ (a defense lawyer)

♦ "Strauss was relieved when the hearing board finally convened ...in Building T-3, a dilapidated two-story temporary structure built during the war on the Mall near the Washington Monument at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution... / The opposing teams of lawyers sat across from each other at two long tables positioned to form a 'T.' On one side sat the AEC's lawyers... Facing them were Oppenheimer's defense team... At the bottom of the 'T' was placed a single wooden chair, where the defendant or other witnesses sat facing the judges. When Oppenheimer was not testifying, he sat on a leather couch against the wall, behind the witness chair." (*American Prometheus: The Triumph And Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "Such a wrong can never be righted; such a blot on our history never erased... We regret his great work for his country was repaid so shabbily." Henry DeWolf Smyth, about Robert Oppenheimer being stripped of his security clearance and having his reputation smeared in 1954.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The courtroom scenes in the great 1980 film *Breaker Morant* are quite affecting. The entire film can be seen as the contrast between the vibrant, vivid and complex scenes of life, love, duty, honor, war, and death outside the courtroom and the rigid formalism and predetermined verdict of the scenes inside the courtroom.

## star-crossed (adjective)

star-crossed affair

she had a ~ with the man of her dreams

star-crossed (Cuban) initiative

Grant reviewed the ~

## stare (stare at defeat, etc.)

staring at defeat

she was ~ at 4-1 in the second set (tennis)

## stare down (verb)

stared down his (personal) demons

he ~

staring down Iran

the US is ~ (diplomacy)

stared down his opponents

he ~ (a politician)

staring down the regime

protesters are ~

stare down risk

skiers ~ (crashes, fatalities, etc.)

## stare-down (noun)

stare-down over (budget) issues

they got into a ~ (ruling party and opposition)

stare-down with the police

some protesters stayed behind for a ~

stare-down contest

we had a ~, and he won (conflict)

stare-down game

in a kids' ~, you lose if you laugh or giggle

had a stare-down

he and the coyote ~

## start (running start)

running start

he's off to a ~ (politician runs for presidency)

## startling (adjective)

startling announcement

it was a ~ (diplomacy)

## starvation (noun)

starvation budget

scientific agencies on ~s

♦ "Starvation budgets; skeleton staffs and crews; bare-bones care for seniors; the need for budgetary 'belt-tightening'; 'I'm famished, let's eat!'; 'I could eat a horse!'"...

### \*\*\* the Great Bengal Famine of 1943; Auschwitz...

♦ "Just as our hunger is not that feeling of missing a meal, so our way of being cold has need of a new word. We say 'hunger,' we say 'tiredness', 'fear', 'pain', we say 'winter' and they are different things. They are free words, created and used by free men who lived in comfort and suffering in their homes. If the Lagers had lasted longer a new, harsh language would have been born; and only this language could express what it means to toil the whole day in the wind, with the temperature below freezing, wearing only a shirt, underpants, cloth jacket and trousers, and in one's body nothing but weakness, hunger and knowledge of the end drawing nearer." (*If This Is A Man* by Primo Levi, Chapter 13, "October 1944.")

♦ "The fear of starvation is always hanging over the Indian peasant. For several centuries, at recurrent intervals, famine has thrown its withering shadow over India, but in recent years the pace has quickened. One of the severest crises, the great Bengal famine of 1943, is still frighteningly fresh in the minds of the peasants... In 1943 the roads and railroads served the Indian people even less than usual, because of the prior claims of the military. While the outside world was losing its hundreds of thousands of lives on the battlefield, India was losing them from starvation... When more than a million dead clogged the streets of Calcutta and other millions of bodies lay strewn over the fields of several provinces, censorship within India kept the world outside from appreciating the ghastly extent of the tragedy." (*Halfway to Freedom* by Margaret Bourke-White.)

♦ "Grit of Women" by Jack London is one of the greatest love stories in world literature.

♦ see also *famine* (noun)

## starvation wages (noun)

starvation wages

sweatshop workers endure ~, dangerous conditions

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The old dictionary I use dates this phrase to 1898.

## starved

starved for attention

he is ~ (a boy)

starved for cash

the army has been ~ since the cold war's end (Iraq)

starved for originality

audiences ~ in copycat Hollywood

starved for sex

Meagan complained she was ~ (on national TV)

cash-starved

~ budgets

love-starved

visits a ~ wife in her house

sex-starved

we find ~ girls

sports-starved

our ~ nation's hunger for baseball (during pandemic)

## Star Wars (film)

Star Wars cantina

European Football is a ~ of leagues (2021 proposed EFL)

Star Wars bar scene

London was the ~ of jihad (1999)

♦ "I like that *Star Wars* reference there to describe the political landscape." (Political punditry by NPR's Leila Fadel.)

## statement (statement victory, etc.)

Statement (1981) Thong Panty

Calvin Klein Women's ~

statement victory

England battled hard to earn the ~ (vs. Germany)

made a statement

Santana's debut album ~ about Latin music

John Carlos ~ at the 198 Olympics (raised his fist)

make a statement

he wanted to ~ (a 15-year-old school shooter)

## statesman (elder statesman, etc.)

elder statesman

Jon Steward, the ~, has returned to television...

jazz ~ Anthony Braxton continues to defy expectations

elder statesman of jazz

Sonny Rollins, ~

elder statesman of a renewed Jewish left

now fifty-three, he's an ~ (Peter Beinart)

hip-hop's elder statesman

~ dies young (Guru)

♦ "I'm the young guy with the elder statesmen. These old guys, they got arthritis, they can't stand in one spot for too long." (Michael Jordan talking good-natured trash about his older teammates on the Olympic Dream Team of 1992.)

## stateswoman (elder stateswoman, etc.)

elder stateswoman

Billy Eilish, the ~ of anti-pop... (!)

## static (noun)

static of statistics

a story can dart through the ~ into people's hearts and minds

oceans of static

locating kernels of truth within ~

chaos and static and negativity

his ~ (politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When was the last time you tuned in a short-wave / wireless radio, or heard static on your car radio? And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

♦ see also *noise* (worthlessness)

## stature (noun)

true stature

Robert Reich, a man of ~ (physically under five feet tall)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Ruth "Ask Dr. Ruth" Westheimer has been referred to as "America's sex therapist." She never called herself a feminist. Nor did she call herself a Holocaust survivor, rather, "an orphan of the Holocaust." She survived the Holocaust in Switzerland. After the war she went to Palestine and trained as a sniper with the Haganah. While she never had to snipe anyone, she said she was prepared to do so, and she was badly wounded in an explosion. She was 4 feet 7 inches tall. Truly, one's stature in life is unrelated to how tall one might be!

## stay (stay of execution)

stay of execution

an increase to the yearly budget meant a ~ (project)

"stay of execution" on tree removal

the petition called for a ~ in the city

stay of execution until 2035

plug-in hybrid vehicles will probably get a ~ (before ban)

year-long stay of execution

the new plan gives library services a ~ (budget cuts)

get a (vital) stay of execution

renters will ~ (a temporary eviction ban during pandemic)

given a stay of execution

the couple ordered to pull down their eco-house was ~

## stay (what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, etc.)

what happens in Europe doesn't stay in Europe

but ~ (oil and gas needs)

♦ "What you see here, what you do here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here." (World War II. The Manhattan Project.)

## stay around (verb)

stay around



we don't know how long it will ~ (coronavirus)

## stay away (verb)

stay away from being arbiters  
they deliberately ~ of the truth (social media)

## stay out (verb)

stay out of the drama  
the US should ~ unfolding in Egypt (protests)

stay out of it  
we don't want controversy, we try to ~ (Hallmark)

## steady (character)

steady  
Hey I'm solid, Hey I'm ~, Hey I'm true down to the core

♦ "Hey I'm solid, Hey I'm steady, Hey I'm true down to the core."  
Listen to: Toby Keith American Soldier (Radio Edition)

## steal (steal the show, etc.)

stole the show  
Travis Pastrana ~ (X Games / motocross)  
she ~ at the MLS match (girl belts out national anthem)

steal headlines  
we aren't here to ~ (cold-case detectives)

steal the spotlight  
you can ~ in the early stages (Tour de France)

♦ Mike Metzger, a pioneer of freestyle motocross, in which participants launch motorcycles off ramps and pull tricks while soaring through the air, once sustained 4 concussions in two months, has broken his back 3 times, has broken his arms and legs, and lost a testicle after crashing. He has won 5 X Games medals. He set a Guinness record in 2006 when he launched 125 feet over the fountains at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, pulling a back flip. "People love to see people crash," he has said.

## steal (steal customers, etc.)

steal customers from convenience stores  
Kmart hopes to ~ like 7-Eleven

stole a (close) decision  
Trinidad ~ (against De La Hoya / boxing)

stole the round  
he ~ at the end (a boxer)

steal the vote from Gbagbo  
he was toppled when he tried to ~

## steal (steal dreams, etc.)

stolen my dreams and my childhood  
you have ~ (Greta Thunberg)

♦ "He stole my body, virginity and power over my body." (A coed who got drunk and passed out at a Baylor University frat party. Baylor University is in Waco, Texas.)

## steal (groups)

stealing the entire goddamn time  
they are ~ (Chaedria LaBouvier)

♦ "I am SO tired of these unoriginal ass White people writing about Basquiat, curating Basquiat and they are stealing the entire goddamn time." (Chaedria LaBouvier. From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis,

*The Atlantic*, November 2022. "Had the museum looked more closely at LaBouvier's feed, its board might have seen her complaints as part of a longstanding pattern of excoriating others who were interested in *Defacement* or Basquiat, even when they sought out her opinion.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## steal (steal a life)

steal a life  
see *life* (steal a life)

## stealth (stealth ad, etc.)

stealth ad  
~s are ads that don't look like ads

stealth corrections  
the *Times* has taken head for adding ~ (1619 Project)

stealth-gay  
a ~ aesthetic

stealth wealth  
2023 was the year of "quiet luxury" and "~"

♦ "I was just living by the rules of the day. Going through the journey in stealth. I was too busy trying to protect myself. Did I live large and fully, one hundred percent? No, and I would love to have some of those years back living fully." (Sandra Caldwell, actress, she / her, a trans woman.)

♦ "Affluence should whisper, not shout." (According to some random pop-culture writer, 2023 was the year of "quiet luxury" and "stealth wealth." Of course, this relates to social status.)

## stealth (stealth bomber, etc.)

stealth bomber  
the B-2 ~ first saw combat in the air war over Kosovo

stealth fighter  
an American F-117A ~

stealth technology  
smart bombs and ~ won Gulf War I

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Another resident of the Isle of Skye, Ross McKerlich, told the BBC that he was surprised to see the submarine outside his home when he awoke this morning." (The HMS *Astute*, stuck in the mud just yards off the coast of Scotland. The new submarine has been described as Britain's 'stealthiest' because its 39,000 acoustic panels rendered it invisible to enemy warships and submarines. The Navy used old-fashioned ropes and tugboats to tow it back out to deeper water.)

♦ "Sorry, we didn't know you were invisible." (The mocking Serbian apology offered in 1999 after its military shot down an American F-117A stealth fighter during NATO's bombing campaign.)

## stealthily

stealthily erased  
the *Times* later ~ it from the digital version (NYT)

## steam (verb)

steaming  
they said, "let's go," they were just ~ (angry)

steaming over this  
I'm ~ and ready to explode (angry)

## steam (blow / let off steam)

blew off steam

he ~ in the Kamnik Alps (troubled climber)

blow off (a little) steam

on Fridays after work I like to ~

let off steam

if your child is high-spirited, let her go outside to ~

let out steam

I've been running since law school, just to ~

♦ "[S]he and her nephew walked the mile and a half home, just to let the steam out their bodies. She had a drink for the first time in year." ("There's No Forgiveness for That. Ever!" by Jazmine Hughes, *The New York Times Magazine*, May 14, 2023.)

## steam (pick up steam, etc.)

gathering steam

job growth is ~

it looked like PMS as a defense was ~

pick up steam

it looks like it's starting to ~ (firefighter on wildfire)

picking up steam

the US job market is ~

\*\*\* The steam locomotives on the Jitong railway...

♦ "They seem almost like beasts, don't they? You stand close to one, and it gives off heat. The compressors pant. When it's going up a steep grade, the rods are going back and forth in a cyclic motion and the thing strains and grunts. To my mind, there is nothing more romantic. You can hear them from afar, and they speak to us of the ability to travel to different places and feel mystical things." (Gary Hunter, about the steam locomotives on the Jitong railway.)

♦ In late December 2009 modern electric rail service was disrupted in England by cold and snow which even shut down the Channel Tunnel. A steam locomotive offering "Christmas meal" trips was unaffected, however. On its final trip of the season, it picked up 100 stranded passengers at Victoria Station and carried them to cities in the south for free. (Old technology rescues new.)

## steam (full steam, etc.)

head of steam

Biden needs a ~ heading into Super Tuesday (election)

full steam ahead

prosecutors are moving ~

\*\*\* Steam under high pressure is dangerous...

♦ "Steam under high pressure is dangerous, of course. People were killed (140 in a gigantic boiler explosion in Charleston in 1838, for instance). Cassandras denounced what they saw as a troubling new American tendency to recklessness and blind ambition: 'Go Ahead!' seemed to one diarist of the time to be the watchword of the age, 'regardless of the consequences and indifferent to the value of human life.'" (*The Men Who United The States* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ "Most of the new passengers were Union soldiers, chiefly from Ohio and just released from Confederate prison camps such as Cahawba and Andersonville. The US government had contracted with the *Sultana* to transport these former prisoners of war back to their homes." (From the Wikipedia article "*Sultana* (steamboat)," a Mississippi River steamboat paddlewheeler that blew up on April 27, 1865, killing an estimated 1,800 of 2,400 aboard. Three of the ship's four boilers exploded, and the ship sank near Memphis.)

## steam (lose steam, run out of steam, etc.)

losing steam

the campaign was ~

ran out of steam

she ~ in the home straight (800-meter race)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "All dominant teams run out of steam in the end." (Red Bull Racing, etc.)

## steam (take the steam out, etc.)

take the steam out of the protests

the president is trying to ~ (France)

## steamroll (verb)

steamrolled his way to titles

he ~ in 2014 and 2015 (a wrestler)

steamrolling her way through the division

she is ~ (UK boxer Caroline Dubois)

steamrolled to victory

the Americans ~ (sports)

steamrolled into Iraq and Syria

the group ~ in 2014 (Isis)

steamrolled through the playoffs

the Detroit Pistons ~ (basketball)

steamrolled (rival) Bernie Sanders

Joe Biden has ~ in primary elections

steamroll the (traditional studio) system

streaming companies are going to ~

steamroll Siberia and the Far East

if the economy doesn't improve, China will ~

## steamrolled (and steamrollered)

steamrolled by a (billionaire) bully

I will not allow our food community to be ~

steamrolled by Ovechkin

Luongo is fine after being ~ (hockey collision)

steamrolled (here) by the pandemic

we were ~ but now infection rates are low (NYC)

get steamrollered

people will get hurt, people are going to get ~ (migration)

♦ "The people who come to California are brave, this is a high-risk, high-reward state. There is going to be a lot of road kill, people are going to get hurt, people are going to get steamrollered, but in the end you have some people who are going to succeed..." ("The California Century: From Hollywood to Silicon Valley," BBC, Sounds, 17 June 2020, wonderfully narrated by Stanley Tucci.)

## steamroller (noun)

fearless steamroller

his well-cultivated image as a ~

## steamy (sex)

steamy

Bollywood soap operas are not as ~ as Latin ones

steamy affair

Kidman plays a businesswoman having a ~ with an intern

steamy (sex) movie

I watched this ~

steamy (Australian) videos

tourists will want to buy ~

steamy, sordid

the ~ vibe (*Euphoria*'s party scenes)

got steamy

our phone conversation ~ (sex talk)

## steel (strength)

steel

you have been baptized in fire and come out ~ (combat)

balls of steel

Trump has shown ~

ring of steel

Times Square will be a ~ (New Year's security)

♦ "Love him or hate him, Trump has shown balls of steel over these threats to his life." (Piers Morgan.)

## steely (adjective)

steely-minded

Miss Marple is a ~ detective

steely look

Djokovic has been solid, he has that ~ in his eyes (tennis)

steely restraint

the 22-year-old has a ~ (an athlete, about criticism)

## steep (verb)

steeped myself in classics

at Oxford, I ~

steep myself in the (subject) matter

I try to ~ (a famous film editor)

steeped himself in the theories

at Oxford, he ~ of Richard Dawkins (scientist)

## steeped

steeped in blood

he is so ~ as to be beyond redemption (a Rwandan)

steeped in the (French Revolutionary) heritage

he was ~ (Napoleon)

steeped in history

this rivalry is ~ (Man U vs. Liverpool / soccer)

Lebanon is ~ (the Lebanon Mountain Trail / LMT)

steeped in suspense

the film is ~ about what will happen... (2024 *Femme*)

steeped in turmoil

the team is ~ (sports)

## steer (verb)

steered contracts to cronies

he ~ (political corruption)

steered money to his mistress' husband

he ~ (a politician)

steer money to a program

they tried to ~ that... (controversy)

steer patients towards abortion

counselors may ~ (genetic diseases)

steer them in the right direction

you have to ~ (training elite athletes)

steer mothers in the right direction

we need to ~ (breastfeeding)

steered people into returning

the recession has ~ to school

steer him from bad influences

some who worried did try to ~ (troubled football player)

steered away from describing

he ~ his injury (an athlete)

steer people away from generics

drug companies may hype expensive products to ~

steers the talk away from gay issues

she ~ (marriage)

steer the author away from stereotypes and cliches

the goal is to ~ ("sensitivity readers")

steers us off course

sometimes life ~

steers the conversation

he ~ (group therapy)

steered a middle course

he ~ (Abraham Lincoln)

## steer (steer clear of something)

steered clear of controversy

he has ~ (an ex-politician)

steer clear of drugs

programs to help students ~

steers clear of (clothing) styles

he ~ favored by Hispanic gangs

## steering wheel (control)

steering wheel of the Republican Party

there is a fight to grab control of the ~

at the wheel

the deputy attorney general will be ~ for the final weeks...

new bus driver ~ of Man Utd coach, same result (soccer)

put his hand on the wheel at the Justice Department  
Trump tried to ~ and control the investigation

grab hold of the industry's steering wheel  
Washington can no longer just ~ (auto making)

have two hands firmly on the steering wheel  
I'll ~ (PM Netanyahu's latest coalition)

♦ "There was this little girl who had the steering wheel that I didn't even see." (A celebrity female talking about her developmental, behavioral and relationship issues.)

## stellar (adjective)

stellar (boxing) ability  
Mayweather is honing De La Hoya's already ~

stellar (young) boxer  
Dmitriy Salita is a ~ and an Orthodox Jew

stellar (job) candidate  
she seems like a ~

stellar (employment) record  
he was denied partnership despite a ~ with the firm

stellar (performance) reviews  
he had ~ (a policeman)

stellar views  
the house has across the Anacostia to the Capitol

stellar year  
the company had a ~ (profits)

stellar body of work  
she has a ~ (a biologist)

## stem (from stem to stern)

from stem to stern  
the book is anti-religious ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ From head to toe; from head to tail; from its hat to its boots; from fore to aft; from its front bumper to its rear bumper; from end zone to end zone; from first to last; from start to finish; from beginning to end... (What can you think of? Figurative language is creative, and yet, it is creative *within bounds*.)

## stench (noun)

stench of corruption  
he has begun to remove the ~ (Newark mayor)

survive the stench  
will this institution ~ that this creates (US court decision)

### \*\*\* "A foul stench swept over the South African city..."

♦ "Authorities in Cape Town launched an investigation Monday after a foul stench swept over the South African city... [T]he source of the smell was discovered: a ship docked in the harbor carrying 19,000 live cattle from Brazil to Iraq."

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The worst thing about Cassino [Town] was the smell. The stench was absolutely horrible because every time a mortar bomb went off, it raised a stench..." (The British para James "Jim" Knox, fighting with the New Zealanders. The stench, of course, was caused by the mortars' explosive exhumation of decomposing bodies and body parts from under the rubble.)

## step (shape)

step pyramid  
Djoser's ~ at Saqqara (Egypt)

step waterfall  
a cascade or ~ isn't steep, doesn't plunge

## step (first step, etc.)

good first step  
the repeal is a ~ (politics)

first step toward stability  
housing is only the ~ (homeless)

first step towards keeping  
the measure is a ~ a campaign promise

first step in limiting  
EPA takes ~ aircraft emission

first step to repeal  
this is the ~ Obamacare (politics)

## step (step ahead / pursuit)

one step ahead of him  
I'm trying to stay ~ (woman being stalked)

one step ahead of them  
but every time he was ~ and he got away (hunt for KSM)

one step ahead of us  
he was ~ (a criminal)

## step (a step ahead / competition)

one step ahead of her daughter  
she tries to stay ~ (a 13-year-old / dating, etc.)

one step ahead of their teachers  
it's easy for students to stay at least ~ (cheating)

one step ahead of our kids  
we've got to stay ~

at least one step ahead  
cheaters are always going to be ~ of the testers

remained a step ahead  
AOL has ~, first with chat and email...

stay one step ahead  
she tries to ~ of her daughter (a 13-year-old / dating)

## step (a step away)

step away  
he's just a ~ from success (a singer)

## step (a step closer)

one step closer to Orwell's 1984  
and just like that, we are ~, wow...

one step closer to a second term  
he is ~ (Hawaiian politics)

one step closer to being  
he is ~ back in the NFL (Kaepernick)

### step (every step of the way)

every step of the way  
he was there ~ (supporting us)

### step (a step in the right direction)

step in the right direction  
from what I hear, it's a ~  
the decision is a small ~  
this is a ~, but there is still a long way to go

♦ "Rev Al Sharpton, the civil rights activist, said the decision was 'a step in the right direction but not the end of the walk.'" (President elect Biden nominates Lloyd Austin as his Secretary of Defense. Lloyd Austin was a superb SecDef and will be missed.)

♦ A former California State prosecutor, speaking about a legal takedown, said, "This case was a huge *stab* in the right direction." (Step in the right direction? Stab or shot in the dark? Is this an "eggcorn"? The language seems to go more and more haywire by the day, as more "voices" are heard.)

### step (a step in the wrong direction)

step in the wrong direction  
this is a ~

### step (a step forward)

step forward  
they are trying to take things a ~

one step forward  
it's been ~, one step back (USMNT / soccer)

big step forward  
this is an opportunity to take a ~

bold step forward  
the commission has taken a ~

tremendous step forward  
we think this is a ~ (a conference)

step forward from the ideological dark ages  
this is a ~ (education issue)

taken a (giant) step forward  
our nation has ~ on the issue of race

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ One step forward. One step back. How are we going to get ahead?

### step (a step back / backwards)

a step back  
the team has taken ~ (regressed)

a step back for us  
it's ~ today, but we need to shake it off and go again

a step backwards  
this is a ~ to the bad old days (homeless policy)  
the game was ~ (disappointed soccer coach)

a step backwards to the bad old days  
this is ~ of the 1980s (policy)

a (massive) step backward for the state of Iowa  
this bill is ~ (a Trans issue)

two steps back  
it's been one step forward, ~ (USMNT / soccer)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ One step forward. One step back. How are we going to get ahead?

### step (not one step back)

not one step back  
the time has come to finish retreating, ~

### step (in step)

in step with New Yorkers  
her views are more ~ (politician)

in step with the times  
he is not ~

in step with voters  
she is ~ (a politician)

more in step  
his conservatism is ~ with Republicans (politics)

marched in step  
his career has ~ with the growth of the field

♦ see also *lockstep* (in *lockstep*)

### step (out of step)

out of step with his colleagues  
he is ~ (a politician)

out of step with the consumers  
the company seems ~ (autos)

out of step with the (prevailing) ethos  
how does it feel to be ~ (at NPR)

out of step with the nation's  
his priorities are ~ (president)

out of the step with the times  
he may be ~, but... (songwriter)

out of step with their times  
they were men ~ (against abolition of slavery)

out of step with the values  
he is ~ of the modern Democratic Party (Joe Biden 2019)

out of step with the voters  
his views are ~ (politics)

out of step with the (state's) values  
his views are ~ (politician)

out-of-step, against-the-grain, different-drummer  
~ types

stay out of step  
politicians can only ~ with their political base for so long

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "It's never a fun thing to feel like you're out of step with the people around you."

## step (baby steps, etc.)

baby step in a complex number of steps  
this is one ~ (a web site concerning COVID vaccines)

toddler steps towards equality  
we have made some ~, and then we fall back

take baby steps  
let's ~ without rushing (post-COVID concerts, etc.)

\*\*\* On the ridge leading to the Hillary Step...

♦ "On the ridge leading to the Hillary Step I could only take baby steps..."

## step (step by step, etc.)

step by (careful) step  
~, news organization excavated the basic facts (politics)

## step (watch one's step)

watch their step  
foreigners must ~ (Egyptian nationalism)

## step aside (verb)

step aside for a younger man  
it is better that he ~ (boss)

calls to step aside  
Biden doubled-down on staying in race, despite ~

♦ "[We] saw Chris Harrison, the host, step in that controversy, then step aside, now he has stepped down." (Clever scripting on ABC. "Step in," "step aside," "step down.")

## step away (verb)

stepped away from boxing  
he ~ because of the politics of the sport (Quartey)

step away from our devices  
it's harder than ever to ~ (smart phones, computers, etc.)

step away from them  
I didn't want to ~ (a film directors speaks of themes)

## step back (perspective)

step back  
it's a good time to ~ and think about the future (NASA)  
it's important to ~ and see the big picture

step back ten feet  
if you ~ and ask...

step back and look  
~ at US interest more broadly, how would you define...

♦ "Some of us must say, 'Let's step back for a moment...and think through the implications of our actions today so that this does not spiral out of control...'" (Congresswoman Barbara Lee, the only person to vote against the congressional mandate for the war in Afghanistan following 9/11.)

♦ "But if you step back out [from the recent photogenic eruption and earthquake that caught the media's attention] and looked at it over the course of a year or a year and a half [there has been no change in the frequency of earthquakes and eruptions around the globe]. (Chuck Bailey, President of the Geological Society of America.)

♦ see also *zoom out* (noun), *zoom out* (verb)

## step back (sequence)

step back  
we are going to ~ now to explore another issue

## step back (step back from something)

step back  
they plan to ~ as senior members of the Royal Family

step back from the brink  
they must ~ (rioters battle soldiers)

## stepchild (and stepson, etc.)

stepchild position  
the ~ of intelligence officers...

her stepson  
he was now Fortune's pet, instead of ~ (change to good)

bad stepchild  
he portrays Sony management as the ~ (activist investor)

♦ "He was now Fortune's pet instead of her stepson." (Change in fortune to good fortune from awful fortune.)

♦ "The menstrual cycle is like the stepsister that gets ignored. It's considered unimportant in the grand scheme of things, but it actually really is important to people day-to-day." (Dr. Alison Edelman, quoted in "COVID vaccines may briefly change your menstrual cycle, but you should still get one" by Geoff Brumfiel, NPR, Morning Edition, January 6, 2022.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "There is nothing more difficult than to be a stepson of the time; there is no heavier fate than to live in an age that is not your own..." (Krymov, from *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part I, Chapter 12.)

## step down (verb)

step down  
protesters are calling on the King to ~

stepping down as the chief executive officer  
she is ~

steps down as the coach  
Klinsmann ~ of Germany (World Cup soccer)

steps down as (Cuban) leader  
Castro ~ (headline)

♦ "[We] saw Chris Harrison, the host, step in that controversy, then step aside, now he has stepped down." (Clever scripting on ABC. "Step in," "step aside," "step down.")

♦ "I'm standing up by stepping down." (Mariel Garza, about resigning from the *Los Angeles Times*.)

♦ "She needs to step down, she is way out of her league, adults need to be put in charge." (An online commenter about L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, about the 2025 L.A. wildfires.)

## step forward (verb)

step forward  
victims are reluctant to ~ in these cases (harassment)

## step in (verb)

step in  
the grownups must ~ and clean up the mess (finance)  
the president could ~ to fire people (politics)



step up and step in

I am begging parents to ~ (school shootings)

♦ "[We] saw Chris Harrison, the host, step in that controversy, then step aside, now he has stepped down." (Clever scripting on ABC. "Step in," "step aside," "step down.")

♦ see also *lean in* (verb)

## step into (verb)

stepped into the breach

ordinary citizens have ~ (disaster relief)

stepping into his truth

he is rebooting his life and ~ (gay who had wife, kids)

♦ "he is a man who is basically rebooting his life and stepping into his truth and embracing the fact that he's a gay black man in the South." (Katori Hall.)

♦ Step in / lean in and embrace it...

## stepmother (cruelty)

heartless stepmother

the EU is a ~ trying to drive Greece out of the family

## stepping stone

stepping stone

she characterized the deal as a "~" (to peace)

stepping stone to get

migrants see Italy as a ~ them to France

stepping stone to the EU

they are here to use Belarus as a ~ (refugees)

stepping stone on (South Sudan's) path

the polls are an important ~ to nationhood (2010)

stepping stone event

this is seen as a ~ ahead of next year's event (COP25)

important stepping stone

the negotiations are an ~ on the road to peace

using college basketball as a stepping stone

he went prep to pro, rather than ~ (LeBron James)

saw the job as a stepping stone

she ~ (modeling)

saw it as a stepping stone

Shackleton ~ (job with RSGS)

use Belarus as a stepping stone

they are here to ~ to the EU (refugees)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Be careful. Stepping stones can be slippery. Don't fall and break your leg or your neck. Or slip and fall and get swept downstream...

## step up (increase)

stepped up their courtship

both India and China have ~ of Africa

stepped up their drills

the marines have ~, a Pentagon adviser said

stepping up enforcement

officials are ~ of anti-discrimination laws in education

stepped up our game

we've ~ since 2016 (protecting US elections)

stepped up (naval) patrols

Italy and Libya have ~ to reduce the flow of migrants

stepped up the punishments

he ~ for food theft, which were already draconic

step up the tempo

NASA believes it can ~ of launchings (shuttle)

♦ "She needs to step up her wardrobe game, looks frumpy all the time." (Online celebrity snark.)

## step up (rise to the occasion)

step up

great leaders ~ and take responsibility

be a patriot, ~, do the right thing (Covid mask wearing)

stepped up to help

his colleagues ~ him (sick wife)

step up to their challenge

who among you will ~

step up to the plate

parents have to ~ (having "sex talk" with teen kids)

step up and step in

I am begging parents to ~ (school shootings)

step up and deal with it

we saw law enforcement ~ (Austin serial bomber)

step up or let down

you can ~ your colleagues

♦ "Each and every one of us has to step up, speak up, stand up, do something." (Amita Holliman, director of the Milwaukee Office of Violence and Prevention.)

## sterile (sterile security zone, etc.)

sterile security areas

the creation of "~" around Israeli settlements

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Wiktionary's fifth sense of "sterile" defines it as "Free from dangerous objects, as a zone in an airport that can only be entered via a security checkpoint." Wiktionary is wonderful.

## sterilize (verb)

"sterilize" a number of small villages

First Brigade was ordered to ~ (artillery observation posts)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Clean out...

## stern (from stem to stern)

from stem to stern

see *stem* (from stem to stern)

## steroids (on steroids)

AI on steroids

Amazon can deliver in two days because of ~

Amsterdam on steroids  
welcome to ~ (Tom “Mr. Weed” Kruesopon / Bangkok)

hang-glider on steroids  
they are a ~ (hypersonic weapons)

Pizzagate on steroids  
the theory is kind of a ~ (conspiracy)

Reaganomics on steroids  
Trump’s policy is ~

put it on steroids  
racism didn’t start with him, but he ~ (politics)

♦ “The report styles STEM as a shot of anabolics our workforce needs to stay in fighting shape.” (Education. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.)

♦ “There’s a lot of different factors that contribute to absenteeism in a normal year and they’re all put on steroids with the pandemic.” (FutureEd Associate Director Phyllis Jordan in 2023.)

♦ “Over the past few decades, new combinations of materials like microsilica and fly ash...have made concrete steroidally strong...and steel has gotten sturdier too...” (“Can A Building Be Too Tall?” by Bianca Bosker, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023. A rare use of “steroidally.”)

♦ “Then, of course, there’s the famous ‘release the Kraken!’ scene, as the giant multi-limbed beast (a kind of Creature from the Black Lagoon on performance enhancing supplements) is freed from the depths of the sea...” (The 1981 film *Clash of the Titans*.)

## stew (mixture)

stew of chemicals  
workers breathed a ~ (9/11)

stew of (caustic political) commentary  
the documentary film is a ~

stew of (energizing) contradictions  
it is a ~ (Game of Thrones)

stew of (inhaled) particles  
the burning ~ was composed of many things (9/11)

stew of religion, politics and (anti-immigrant) feeling  
the case involved a ~ (attempt to build mosque)

stew of (disappointed) separatists and Islamists  
the country is a seething ~

chemical stew  
sewers are ~s

plagiarism stew  
chatbots are creating “~” (News Media Alliance)

toxic stew  
the broken well produced a ~ of gas and chemicals

♦ *Roumeli* is a stew in which the ingredients, delicious as many are, never quite blend.” (“The End of the Road” by the great classist Daniel Mendelsohn.)

## steward (role / verb)

steward the stories  
we are honored to ~ of our community members

## steward (role / noun)

stewards of the Earth

we are ~

stewards of the environment  
native people as ~

stewards of the land  
native residents are better ~ than newcomers

## stick (stick by / stick with somebody)

stick by him  
we will ~

## stick (adhere to, follow)

stick to the evidence  
people in traditional medicine said he did not ~

stick to our plan  
let’s ~...

stuck to that principle  
and he ~ (Abraham Lincoln)

stick to the rules  
leaders tell citizens to ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

stuck to my story  
and I ~ (interviewed by FBI)

sticking to a (proven) strategy  
he was ~ (Tour de France)

stick to its (newly aggressive) strategy  
how long the US can ~ (in Iraq)

stick to Islamic values and traditions  
she urged women to ~ (Saudi royal)

stick with their given names  
many immigrants ~ (Takeru, Quirino, etc.)

stick with the rules  
he must ~ of the game

## stick (persist)

stick  
the allegations of child abuse didn’t ~ (messy divorce)  
there is uncertainty whether the recovery will ~  
the deal might not ~ (diplomacy)

stuck  
he threw policies at the wall and saw what ~ (FDR)

stuck at it  
he ~ (medical experiments)

stuck with me  
it has ~ ever since  
it was something that has ~ (bad memories from prison)

sticks to you  
it is stunning, and it ~ (the movie *A face in the Crowd*)

sticks in your mind  
it ~ forever (a combat memory)

throw something at a wall and see what sticks

see wall (throw something at a wall)

## stick (noun)

stick to hit Kennedy with

this is an easy ~ (Chappaquiddick / Mary Jo Kopechne)

♦ "And certainly, if you're a Republican, this is an easy, you know, stick to hit Kennedy with, and he deserves it." (Jon Ward, on Ted Kennedy, Chappaquiddick, and Mary Jo Kopechne.)

♦ see also *cudgel* (noun)

## stick it to (stick it to somebody, etc.)

stick it to her

~, that's what she was trying to do to you (lawsuit)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "'You should stick a pig,' said Ralph fiercely. 'They always talk about sticking a pig.'" (*Lord Of The Flies* by William Golding.)

## stick together (verb)

stick together

we women should ~

## sticky (a sticky situation, etc.)

sticky situation

even the most independent women face ~s

get sticky

getting involved in the rumor mill at work can ~

## stifle (verb)

stifled her mother

his father ~

stifle speech

big tech companies continue to ~ (de-platforming, etc.)

## stifling (adjective)

stifling

the byzantine regulations are ~

## stigma (noun)

stigma of adoption

we must break down the ~

stigma of AIDS

the ~ is still a heavy burden

stigma against furies

break down the ~ (cosplay / fetish group)

stigma, marginalization and discrimination

~ against the communities hit hardest (monkeypox)

period stigma

breaking ~ to end period poverty (WMC FBomb)

rape stigma

TV appearance of teen victims suggests the ~ is fading

STI stigma

we need to fight ~ (formerly known as STD)

weight stigma

the pain of ~ experienced in childhood

~ poses direct and significant consequences

severe social stigma

there is a ~ attached to depression

discrimination and stigma

the ~ they could face (coronavirus patients)

prejudice and stigma

why do heroin addicts face so much ~

shame and stigma

he wants to remove ~ around hoarding

stigma is fading

the TV appearance of teen victims suggests the rape ~

break down the stigma

we must ~ of adoption

erase the stigma

they seek to ~ of "so gay" (So Gay Rosé wine)

reduce the stigma

the changes are intended to ~ of being in jail (language)

♦ "New York has amended several state laws to remove 'inmate' and replace it with 'incarcerated person' to refer to people serving prison time. / The changes...are intended to reduce the stigma of being in jail. Prison reform advocates have said the term 'inmate' has a dehumanizing effect. Prisoners say it can feel degrading..." ("New York scraps word 'inmate' in state law" by Maysoon Khan, AP, August 12, 2022.)

♦ "This is my truth. I am not a stigma. I'm a person that walks their life." (Selena Gomez, quoted in *People* magazine, and again on a GMA feature story, touting Gomez's new mental-health platform WonderMind. "My truth." "I am not a stigma." "Walks their life.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "STIGMA: *literally a brand*. While a *stigma* with us is an unpleasant mark of disgrace it used to be a lot more painful than that. When the officials *stigmatized* a petty criminal in 17th-century England, they actually branded him with a red-hot iron...The word *stigma* in Greek meant a brand made by a pointed instrument." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 6, "Sources of Words of Attitudes and Emotions.")

♦ "Do you know the stigmatism [sic] of Alabama education?" (Kayvon Thibodaux, a football player. This usage may be increasing in the AAVE community.)

## stigmatization (oppression)

stigmatization of ethnic minorities

the ~ (Wiktionary)

weight-related stigmatisation

~ and bullying

kind of stigmatisation

this ~ is common (BBC Worklife)

avoid stigmatization

many wore face masks to ~ (Pride Parade)

♦ "There is a risk of stigmatization, and then, that community already has some other overlapping stigmatizations and perceptions, and that just kinda adds on to it." (Carlton Poindexter, Howard University, about testing schools' wastewater for drugs like cocaine and fentanyl. The results are published.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ No Wikipedia article yet. Redirects to "social stigma." No Merriam-Webster entry yet, redirects to "stigmatize." Recognized by Wiktionary, as both countable and uncountable, as it is used by Carlton Poindexter in the above quotation.

## stigmatize (groups)

stigmatize the mentally ill  
people still ~

♦ see also *normalize (groups)*

## stigmatized

fetishized and stigmatized  
Atlanta's most ~ commodity (trap music / Traplanta)

glamorized, fetishized, or it was stigmatized  
it was ~ (suicidal depression / negative attitude)

♦ Outsiders; outside; misfits; don't belong; not such a great childhood; not well loved; crappy, challenging upbringings in childhood; feeling like the weird one of the bunch; stigmatized; going through bad times... ("Vulnerable" Harry Potter fans, including gay teenagers.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the 1600s in England, a thief would be stigmatized, or branded, with the letter T.

## stigmatizing

less stigmatizing  
"infection" is more accurate, ~ than "disease" (STD / SIT)

## stillborn (adjective)

stillborn  
his only ever band was ~ (he refocused as solo artist)

stillborn effort  
he documents a ~ to develop new antiviral agents

## sting (noun)

take the sting out of giving and getting  
five tips to ~ advice

## stinging (adjective)

stinging accusations  
his ~ about EU institutions ring true

stinging article  
she wrote a ~ criticizing...

stinging blow  
the jury's decision was a ~

stinging criticism  
officials unleashed ~ at the Fed

stinging defeat  
it was a ~ for the Democrats (elections)

stinging rebuke  
the elections were a ~ to the Democrats  
the Vatican delivered a ~ to American nuns  
his comments are a ~ of Obama (diplomacy)

## stink (verb)

stinks

this situation ~

stank  
their football team ~ (an NFL team)

stink to high heaven  
this thing's gonna ~ (political impeachment)

stinks a mile away  
the prejudice ~ (partisanship)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This stinks! (Outrage.)

## stink (noun)

stink  
how big of a ~ does he make (a NFL quarterback)

## stink (raise a stink)

raising a huge big stink  
I'm ~ because it's wrong

raising a stink about the article  
no one is ~

## stir (effect)

stir in the (national news) media  
it created a ~

stir among the (general) public  
the issue has caused little ~

huge stir  
a gay student who ran for homecoming queen caused a ~

caused a stir  
the antiwar statements of a few Oscar winners ~

causing such a stir  
why Beto O'Rourke is ~ in 2020 race

created a stir  
it ~ in the national news media

## stir (verb)

stirred passions across North Africa  
the unrest in Tunisia has ~ (2011)

stirs the drink  
he's the straw that ~ in Congress

stirred fears  
the attacks ~ that...

stirred the (public) imagination  
the killer's ability to avoid capture has ~

stir the pot  
see *pot* (*stir the pot*)

♦ "The haters may hate the stirrers may stir but these memories will live with us forever." (A Manchester City fan after MC won the Treble. CTID.)

## stir up (resemblance)

stirred up a (great) dust

all of the activity ~ above the village (powwow)

## stir up (verb)

stir up controversy

he tries to ~ (college Republican)

stirred up a critical storm

the novel ~ (Thani Al-Suwaidi)

stir up gossip

this will ~

stir up (racial) hatred

she likes to ~ (a critic of MSNBC's Joy Reid)

stir up indignation

we hope to ~ and stimulate action (MSF)

stir up (Democratic) turnout

they sent leaders across the country to ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Don't be stirring things up! (A warning.)

## stitched together

stitched together

it's a plethora of individual mini-storylines ~ (a film)

♦ "Her videos were subsequently stitched by people who were shocked that a prisoner..." (See the Wikipedia article "Image stitching." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## stitch together (verb)

stitched the dispatches together into a story

he ~ (a journalist)

stitched together a community

we have ~ of nations

♦ "When American public schools macramé'd together the words *language, arts, and English*, starting in the 1970s, they created a tangle: ELA." (True that! And perhaps that was the beginning of the decline of the English language in the United States.)

## stock (worth)

stock

his ~ is surely set to soar (boxer after fight)

his ~ was high in the early weeks of the season (a coach)

his ~ has fallen so much (boxer loses championship)

stock has risen

his ~ steadily in the West Wing (vice-president)

his ~ even though he lost tonight (a boxer)

stock (in Ubud) shot up

after that, his ~ (*East of Home* by Santha Rama Rau)

♦ "Broncos Stock Report: Who's up, who's down after 16-9 win over Houston." (The NFL team the Denver Broncos.)

## stoic (adjective)

stoic about the lockdown

she was ~ (a boutique manager in Italy)

stoic (Norwegian immigrant) farmers

he grew up in a family descended from ~

stoic, tough, and American

the pressure to be ~ (an athlete with CTE)

remained stoic

he ~ as the verdict was announced

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Zeno... taught that the wise man should be calm, free from all passion, always submissive to the divine will... In these days, a *stoic* is one who, like Zeno, tries to control his emotions and practices indifference to both pleasure and pain." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 16, "Terms of Religion and Their Beginnings.")

## stoke (verb)

stoke (racial) animosity

the flag issue has helped to ~

stoke a debate

the incident seemed likely to ~ about...

stoked (furious) discussion

the issue has ~ at the Website

stoking fears

the government blames the media for ~ (Sri Lanka)

stoke the fire

increasing his punishment will only ~

stoking the (racial) fires

he is ~ (a politician)

stoked the fires

the issue has ~ of sectarian violence

stoke the flames

see *flame* (*pour gas on the flames, etc.*)

stoked hysteria

the media have ~ (public health)

stoked (local) outrage

the company's policies have ~ (mining)

stoked protests

the acquittal of the soldiers ~

stoke (racial) resentment

the right is trying to ~

stokes resentment

she ~ of elites (a politician)

stoking their wrath

the state media have been ~

## stoked (increased)

stoked, fueled, and manipulated

hatred can be ~ (Bosnia)

## stolen (death)

stolen

their lives were ~ (school shooting)

### \*\*\* the Israel-Hamas war...

♦ Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg-Polin addressed the 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC). Rachel explained, "Hersh's left forearm, his dominant arm, was blown off before he was loaded

onto a pickup truck and stolen from his life and me and John into Gaza." Jon Polin, thanking people for their messages of love, support and strength, said, "You've kept us breathing in a world without air." Hersh Goldberg-Polin ended up being executed by his captors in Gaza.

## stolen (taken)

stolen from you

you can have the election ~ (Hillary Clinton about 2016)

## stolen (stolen generation, etc.)

'stolen generation'

her father was part of the ~ (Australian aborigines)

had their childhoods stolen

these young women ~ (abuse of gymnasts)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The property was stolen from us because it was bringing Black and white people together to preserve democracy. The land should be repatriated, back to the Highlander Folk School, which is now the Highlander Research and Education Center." (Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson. From "Fight over future of library that sparked civil rights ideas" by Travis Loller, AP, September 3, 2022. A very interesting article.)

♦ "Melina Abdullah, a friend of Patrisse Cullors and co-founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, described the focus on narcotics as an 'assassination of Keenan's character after they've already stolen his body.'" ("A cousin of a prominent Black Lives Matter founder died after being tased by police" by Emily Olsen, NPR, January 14, 2023.)

♦ "But we know that this murder [of George Floyd] is only the latest in a long string of Black lives and Black people whose labor has been exploited, whose lives have been stolen by a state and a system that is built on settler-colonial genocide against indigenous people..." (Charlotte Kates of Samidoun, the Samidoun-Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity network. March 24, 2024, Columbia University.)

## stomach (accept / verb)

stomach being

I can no longer ~ a part of this (computer engineer quits)

stomach injustice

she could not ~ (Madeleine Albright / Kosovo)

hard to stomach

it's ~ (sudden death of young athlete)

## stomach (food)

stomach

an army marches on its ~

## stomach (eagerness)

stomach to plunge into endless war

the American people don't have the ~

stomach for battle

an Iraqi Army unit showed little ~

stomach for the (entitlement) fight

the president clearly has no ~

stomach for what's ahead

it's not clear that the American people have the ~ (war)

stomach for boxing

his heart and ~ are no longer there

stomach for fighting

he has no ~

stomach for tackling

politicians have no ~ the issue (immigration)

heart and stomach

his ~ for boxing are no longer there

have the stomach

do the American people ~ for what's ahead (war)

## stomach (turn one's stomach)

turned my stomach

I saw some stuff that ~ (combat in Iraq)

## stomach (the pit of one's stomach)

pit-of-the-stomach

fear, dread, that ~ feeling when the news broke...

in the pit of my stomach

it was pretty much dread ~ (pandemic)

I had a bad feeling ~ in the ninth inning (baseball)

in the pit of her stomach

she woke with a bad feeling ~ (wildfires)

♦ "I feel that same pit in my stomach as so many of you today do." (Governor Jared Polis of Colorado, expressing grief at a mass shooting at a gay bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado. An eggcorn?)

♦ "The pit in your stomach when the phone would ring..." (Tim Walz, Democratic vice-presidential nominee at the 2024 DNC. An eggcorn?)

♦ "From Carlin he headed south in a zigzag on rough dirt roads, avoiding cops and people, feeling the pit in his gut grow." ("The Machine Breaker: Inside the mind of an 'ecoterrorist'" by Christopher Ketcham, *Harper's Magazine*, November, 2023. An eggcorn?)

♦ "Maybe you've experienced the same feelings, that deep pit in my stomach, a palpable sense of dread about the future." (Michele Obama at the 2024 DNC. An eggcorn?)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "If you have a *feeling* [italics mine] in the pit of your stomach, you have a tight or sick feeling in your stomach, usually because you are afraid or anxious."

♦ More and more people seem to be saying, "I had a pit in my stomach." An eggcorn?

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## stomping grounds (and stamping grounds)

stomping ground of icons

Chicago is the formative ~ (Michael Jordan, the Obamas)

stomping ground of South Boston

the FBI brought him back to his old ~ to be tried (mobster)

Whitey Bulger's old stomping ground



South Boston, ~

her dependable stomping ground  
the dance floor was ~

his old stomping ground  
he returned to Seattle, ~

his old stamping grounds  
this was ~ (a red-light district)

♦ "It's his stomping ground. I mean, he grew up here. He knows the area really well. He's capable of hiding for a long time if he doesn't want to be caught." (A longtime neighbor about the mass shooting suspect Robert Card.)

## stone (throw stones, etc.)

stone throwing  
it's time to call a halt to all the ~

casting stones  
if all you're doing is ~, you probably won't get that far

throw stones  
people in glass houses should not ~

## stone (turn over every stone, etc.)

no stone  
~ has been left unturned (a criminal investigation)

♦ "No stone must be left unturned to getting to the bottom of what happened."

## Stone Age

Stone Age  
the very early days of the internet, Web 1.0, AKA the ~

colithic in outlook  
*The Times* leaders on 'motor-cars' were ~

take society back to the Stone Age  
they want to ~ (suppression of media)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "That period confirmed the ancient proverb, 'man is a wolf to man.' Traveler turned off the road at the sight of traveler, stranger meeting stranger killed for fear of being killed. There were isolated cases of cannibalism. The laws of human civilization were suspended. The jungle law was in force. Man dreamed the prehistoric dreams of the cave dweller..." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ "The driver stopped the car near the corpse of a dead horse...Lenard watched the anxious, unshaven men hewing off slabs of frozen horsemeat with hatchets. One soldier, standing between the horse's exposed ribs, looked like a carpenter up in the rafters of an unfinished roof.../ Suddenly the road and the ruined house were caught in the rays of the setting sun. The empty eye-sockets of the burnt-out building seemed to fill with frozen blood. The ploughed-up, soot-covered snow turned golden. The dark red cave of the horse's innards was lit up. The snow eddying across the road turned into a whirl of bronze.../ It was like a scene from the Stone Age. The grenadiers, the glory of the nation, the builders of the New Germany, were no longer travelling the road to victory.../ How was it that the dazzling energy of Hitler and the terrible power of a people moved by the most progressive of philosophies had led to the quiet banks of a frozen Volga, to these ruins, to this dirty snow, to these windows filled with the blood of the setting sun, to the quiet humility of these creatures watching over a steaming cauldron of horsemeat?" (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. Part Three, Chapter 31.)

## stone-faced (adjective)

stone-faced  
he was relatively ~ at the hearing (charged with murder)  
~ L.A. Mayor Karen Bass refused to answer questions

stone-faced villagers  
~ stared at us (Vietnam War)

silent and stone-faced  
most of the US women stood ~ for the national anthem

stood, stonefaced  
fellow competitors ~... (trans beats high-school girls)

♦ During the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup, most of the United States women stood silent and stone-faced for the United States National Anthem.

## stone-hearted

stone-hearted world  
this ~

## Stonehenge (America's Stonehenge, etc.)

America's Stonehenge  
it was known as ~ (Georgia Guidestones, Elberton, GA)

♦ Manhattanhenge; Chicagohenge; Baltimorehenge; Torontohenge... (Setting sun lights up urban canyons.)

## stone's throw

stone's throw from the JFK airport  
a ~ is a Portuguese neighborhood

## stonewall ("Stonewall" Jackson, etc.)

"Stonewall" Brigade  
the famous ~ and three batteries rushed out of the woods...

"Stonewall's" veterans  
~ opened at point-blank range on the Yankees...

♦ "Let us cross the river and rest in the shade under the trees..." (Last words attributed to Stonewall Jackson.)

## stonewall (Operation Stonewall, etc.)

Operation Stonewall  
~ interdicted Axis blockage runners from the Far East

## stonewall (verb)

stonewalled the Swiss  
the CIA ~ (investigation)

stonewalling  
he was ~ very successfully (expert witness at trial)  
the White House is ~ so aggressively

♦ "All I can really tell you is the Secret Service, FBI are basically dragging their feet. They're stonewalling us. We're not getting squat..." (Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), about the bipartisan Senate investigation into the near-assassination of Donald Trump in 2024.)

## stoop (behavior)

stooped to

this is something no self-respecting senator has ever ~

stoop to that

why would you ~ (behavior)

I won't call him names, I won't ~ (politics)

stoop to his level

don't ~

stoop to that level

it is not necessary to ~ (racial insults)

stoop so low

who would have thought people could ~ (discrimination)

## stop (stop at nothing)

stop at nothing

he will ~ to silence the truth

they are so desperate to win they will ~

they will ~ to destroy the president (politics)

stops at nothing

Candi Station ~ to create

## stop (pull out all the stops)

pull out all the stops

we're going to ~ to get our arms around this (vaccination roll-out)

pulled out all the stops

we ~ (investigation of child abduction)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This idiom relates to a pipe organ.

## stopped up

stopped up

the flow of convicts to North America was ~

♦ "As soon as the American outlet was stopped up, English prisons began to overflow." (*The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding* by Robert Hughes.)

## storm (verb)

stormed back

the team ~ to win (sports)

storming through the battlegrounds

Vice President Harris and Trump are ~ (election)

stormed the barricades

he ~s (to hold church accountable)

stormed the (park) gates

the kids ~

## storm (by storm)

took Hollywood by storm

she ~

taken the web by storm

what started as a joke has ~

taken the world by storm

her *Table Manners* podcast seems to have ~ (Jessie Ware)

taken the (music) world by storm

she has ~ (Lizzo)

took the world by storm

last year ChatGPT ~, this year... (Rabbit RI, etc.)

took the (whole music) world by storm

he ~ (Marvin Gaye's "Sexual Healing")

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The fire from the walls never checked the soldiers of the 3rd division for a moment—they reached them in perfect order, and, rearing their ladders, began to escalate; but for that the foe were fully prepared. Enormous beams of timber, huge stones, loaded shell, cold shot launched from the hand, grenades, and missiles of every kind, were rained upon their devoted heads, crushing to death all who planted foot on the foremost ladders; while a murderous discharge of musketry dealt destruction on the centre and rear of the columns...[O]ur intrepid soldiers still strove to reach the walls. By one ladder at last they were won." (Badajoz, 1812, from *British Battles on Land and Sea* by James Grant.)

## storm (Desert Storm, etc.)

*Storm King*

the USS ~ was commissioned in 1943 (a ship)

Desert Storm

he participated in direct-action missions during ~

Winter Storm

Operation ~ (Battle of Garfagnana)

## storm (Storm Peak, etc.)

Storm Branch

~ is a stream in Kentucky

Storm Canyon

~ is a valley in California

Storm Castle

~ is a summit in Montana

Storm Creek

~ is a stream in Idaho

Storm Hill

~ is a summit in South Dakota

Storm Islands

~ are islands in Alaska

Storm Lake

~ is a lake in Wisconsin

Storm Mountain

~ is a summit in Colorado

Storm Pass

~ is a gap in Colorado

Storm Peak

you get a fantastic view from the top of ~ (Idaho)

Storm Point

~ is a cliff in Wyoming

Storm Range

~ is a mountain range in Alaska

Storm Ridge

~ is a ridge in Colorado

## storm (weather the storm)

weather the storm

it remains to be seen if he can ~ (a politician)

weather this (economic) storm

cities need help to ~

♦ Restaurant Owner: I am really scared of the future. I thought that we'd weathered the storm [COVID] for the last two and a half three years. I felt I'd never experience something like that again, but this is very very frightening [ongoing inflation getting worse with no end in sight]. / Presenter: With more storm clouds gathering on the horizon, small businesses and families will be hoping for a swift downpour, rather than the extended rainy season. (BBC Six O'clock News, August 17, 2022.)

## storm (in the storm)

in the gathering storm

the hospital is rudderless ~ (deficits)

## storm (eye / center of the storm)

in the eye of the storm

the man ~ is its cofounder, Julian Assange (Wikileaks)  
Solskjaer is now the man ~ (Man U / criticism)

at the center of the storm

~ is Ayaan Hirsi Ali (Holland)

at the center of a (diplomatic and political) storm

he was ~

## storm (perfect storm)

perfect storm

it's really a ~ (shortage / online rental-car scams)

perfect storm of challenges

the team is trying to weather a ~ (sports)

perfect storm of events

a ~ caused the die-off (of dolphins in the Gulf)

perfect storm of risks

the world economy faces a ~

perfect storm of screwups

he called the death a ~ (Jeffrey Epstein's suicide in jail)

perfect storm of depression, concussion, overtraining

her father described a ~ (daughter commits suicide)

fiscal perfect storm

states have sailed into a ~ (debt)

created a perfect storm

the pandemic has ~ for eating disorders (children)

looking at the perfect storm

we are ~ (allergies and allergy season)

♦ "Well, I think, you know there was that movie *A Perfect Storm* about all these things came together to make a superstorm. I think there were a lot of factors that just converged for Tyson-Douglas. From Douglas' standpoint his mother had died, you know, a month and a half or whatever before the fight. And he was always talented, but he was not real dedicated to training and, you know, and showed up overweight and under-motivated. Well, his mother died. So, he

trained as he had never trained before, because he dedicated the fight to his mother's memory. That's on one hand. The other thing was that Mike Tyson had bought into the myth of his own invincibility... And there were rumors...that he was runnin' four, five or six girls a night—Japanese hookers—through his room. And if the old adage—you know, that sex takes your legs, you know—is true...it's amazing he had enough strength to crawl into the ring before the fight. And then once the bell rang, that was not the Buster Douglas he had expected, this was a different guy..." (Boxing writer Bernard Fernandez. From *Powerplay: The House of Don King*, "Episode 7: Buster Douglas Knocks Out Don King," BBC Sounds. With the great boxing commentator Steve Bunce and the great boxer Lennox Lewis. Super!)

## storm (amount and effect)

storm of accusations

a ~ of sexual abuse (Catholic Church)

storm of controversy

the ~ that has blown up around him over...

his solo ascent of Delicate Arch caused a ~ (Dean Potter)

storm of criticism

the ~ helped prompt NASCAR to...

the president returned home to a ~

after a ~, Labour withdraws support for Ashar Ali (U.K.)

storm of protest

the decision produced a ~ (government)

storm of (patriotic) rage

congressmen unleashed a ~

storm in a teacup

see *teacup* (*storm in a teacup*)

tweet storm

President Trump's latest ~ on immigration (NPR)

Kristof's column was slammed in a ~

Hilary Clinton unleashed a ~ Saturday

Twitter storm

I was right in the middle of the ~ (a writer)

Twitter Storm

~ What did Gary Lineker tweet (*The US Sun*)

social media storm

he caused a ~ (the Spanish TikTok star Naim Darrechi)

Slack or Twitter storms

those caught up in ~ (at the New York Times)

literary, legal and cultural storm

she is causing a ~ in France (tell-all book)

caused a storm

his solo ascent of Delicate Arch ~ of controversy

(climber)

unleashed a storm

congressmen ~ of patriotic rage

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A tweetstorm is a great number of tweets in a short period of time.

## storm (conflict)

Gathering Storm

"Rising above the ~" decries our loss of competitiveness

passing storm

this may be just a ~ (politics)

diplomatic storm

the Prime Minister's stance triggered a ~

economic storm

cities need help to weather this ~

political storm

her decision has set off a ~ in the Netherlands

the report has caused a ~ in Rwanda (genocide)

they are waiting for the ~ to pass over (NRA / shootings)

worst of the storm

the ~ is over (employment rises from historic lows)

storm was brewing

outside, the ~ (protests against the government)

storm is gathering

a ~ (US lack of innovation, competitiveness)

provoked a storm

the article ~

quiet the storm

the league issued a statement to ~ (controversy)

rode out the storm

the punch hurt him, but he ~ (boxing)

set off a (political) storm

her decision has ~ in the Netherlands

weathered (all sorts of) storms

the Catholic Church has ~ across the centuries

## storm (calm before the storm)

calm before the storm

this is likely to be the ~ (lull in computer hacking)

this is still the ~ (pandemic cases)

## storm (immune-system storm, etc.)

cytokine storm

the virus can ignite a ~ (cytokine release syndrome)

immune-system storm

an ~, anaphylactic shock, which can be fatal

## stormy (adjective)

stormy marriage

his ~ to...

stormy relations

the Shinnecocks have long had ~ with local authorities

stormy relationship

she divorced and began a ~ with...

he has had a ~ with management (network host)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The hardy sailor comes from stormy seas.

## story (horror story)

horror story

we've all heard ~s (bad landlords)

"horror stories" about methamphetamine

the press is full of ~

horror stories about family breakdown

all the ~

restaurant horror story

~s are on the rise

health-care horror story

a ~

managed-care horror story

another ~

## story (war story)

their war stories

their podcast focuses on ~ (two heroin junkies)

dating war stories

my brother's still single, he tells me all of his ~

recounts his war stories

as he ~ (about the film industry)

## story (Just-so story)

just-so story

he reaches for a kind of ~ that... (origin of patriarchy)

'just-so stories' about the present

it appropriates the past to support their ~ (1619 Project)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wikipedia has two articles. The first article is "Just So Stories," which describes the *Just So Stories for Little Children* written by Rudyard Kipling and published in 1902. The stories explain animal characteristics, such as how the leopard got its spots, or how the rhino got its skin, or how the camel got its hump. Those are the actual "Just So Stories." The second Wikipedia article is the figurative "Just-so story," which discusses something called the "anthropological sense."

## story (success story)

success story

the business had grown into a ~ (a winery)

## story (groups)

story

the ~ knits together many threads of Muslim grievances

stories

marginalised voices are telling ~ that need to be heard  
women whose ~ we didn't get to hear (the past)

story of a young girl

*Fierce Little Thing* is the ~

stories and voices

discover and elevate nonwhite ~

America's (central) story

Kamala and Tim have kept faith with ~ (Barak Obama)

Black Stories  
~, Black Truths Search NPR wherever you get podcasts

Black stories  
white people controlled how and when ~ have been told

neglected (origin) stories  
the ~ of Black America (Annette Gordon-Reed)

propaganda story  
the ~ feeds into the white manifest destiny thing

‘just-so stories’  
their ~ about the present (1619 Project)

better story  
America is ready for a ~ (politics)

central story  
Kamala and Tim have kept faith with America’s ~ (Obama)

remarkable story  
every queer person has a ~ (Meta VR advertisement)

appetite for stories  
the ~ about Black trauma

voices and stories  
the antiquated mentality that our ~ aren’t profitable enough

stories have been passed down  
their ~ (vicarious “race-based trauma”)

stories (passed down) prime us  
the ~ for traumatization (Blacks)

kept faith with America’s central story  
Kamala and Tim have ~ (Barack Obama at 2024 DNC)

share stories  
~ that will move people to take action (Lisa Sherman)

speak my story  
I tried to ~ (Gabby Hanna, aka “the Trauma Queen”)

steward the stories  
we are honored to ~ of our community members

tell their stories  
they have waited years to find their voice and ~ (abuse)

tell these stories  
it’s important to ~ now (Antoine Fuqua / *Emancipation*)

tell (historic civil rights site) story  
who gets to ~ (Highlander Folk School Library)

tell people my story  
I feel like I’m ready to ~ (Jake Daniels comes out as gay)

write their own stories  
a website for players to ~ with ghost editors (sports)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ “You have to be authentic, I want you to be authentic, your story matters.” (Maimouna Youssef to young artists about social-justice music and the new Grammy merit award for “Best Song for Social Change.”)

♦ “Dirks lives in Oakland and believes all stories are stories about power.” (Sandhya Dirks, Lead Producer of *On Our Watch*, NPR.)

♦ “At a moment in American culture when seemingly every issue is polarized, it’s more important than ever to share stories that will move people to take action.” (“How the Power of Collaborative Storytelling Inspires Action” by Lisa Sherman, Ad Council, August 22 2022.)

♦ “I think it had a lot to do with me being a Black woman, period. And having seen how historically, you know, if our stories, you know, have been presented to the world, oftentimes they’re misrepresented or they’re not represented in their fullness or there’s just like a sliver of us being presented. And so, I just felt like this is huge responsibility to not only show, like her—I would say ginormous levels of strength and resilience—but also to provide an audience like a window into the vulnerability.” (Katori Hall speaking about the great American-born Tina Turner, birth name Anna Mae Bullock, a Swiss citizen since 2013.)

♦ “It also does matter who is telling the story, because that can be directly tied to how the story is platformed and received.” (From “Queer villains, erotic noir, 90s pulp. ‘Basic Instinct’ and the backlash, rewind,” NPR, Pop Culture Happy Hour, Nov. 13, 2022.)

♦ “The Gender Cool Project, a youth-led organization surfacing positive trans stories...”

♦ “Bakhtiari said that too often stories like theirs will come out ‘in a scandal.’ / ‘But we’re openly showing it and proud of it,’ Bakhtiari, 34, said during a video interview, as Brown and Al-Khayyal sat on either side. ‘It should be destigmatized. It’s a very valid familial structure that people should embrace.’” (“Georgia lawmaker comes out as nonmonogamous: ‘I’m in love with two wonderful people’” by Jo Yurcaba, NBC, Sept. 28, 2022.)

♦ “This was the story of my childhood, and it was primarily authored by my father, who penned it with his absence.” (Fine writing by Adam F. Coleman about growing up in a single-parent household.)

\*\*\* **jumping on the “story” bandwagon...**

♦ “Politics is story-telling, and politics hopefully is about persuasion, about winning people’s hearts and minds.” (Senator Ted Cruz. Texas. Born in Canada. White mother. Cuban father.)

♦ “America is ready for a new chapter. America is ready for a better story. We are ready for a president, Kamala Harris.” (Barak Obama at the 2024 DNC. White mother. Kenyan father.)

♦ “She is one of the most qualified... and... dignified. A tribute to her mother, to my mother and to your mother too. The embodiment of the stories we tell ourselves about this country, her story is your story, it’s my story, it’s the story of the vast majority of Americans trying to build a better life.” (Michele Obama praising Kamal Harris at the 2024 DNC. Kamala’s mother was Indian, father Jamaican.)

♦ “Let us listen together to unique stories told by water.”

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ *Stories Are What Save Us: A Survivor’s Guide to Writing About Trauma.* (By David Chrisinger, Johns Hopkins University Press.)

♦ “We were left out of these stories.” (Carrell Augustus about his photography book *Black Hollywood: Reimagining Iconic Movie Moments*, which replaces white actors and actresses with Black ones or, alternatively, “puts black actors and actresses at the center of some of Hollywood’s most iconic movie images.”)

♦ “Share Every Story, Celebrate Every Voice.” (Scholastic’s collection of 60 or so titles with LGBTQ+ themes and discussions of race and racism. Elementary schools and public libraries now have the choice to opt in or out of the collection at Scholastic book fairs.)

♦ “Cis stories, white stories, male stories, I really wanted to disrupt that.” (From the advertisement for “It’s your world: LGBTQ+ VR Museum for Meta.”)

♦ “For some, this is where their Keytruda® story begins. (An advertisement targeting cancer patients.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “And if we’ve learned anything from Joe Biden, it’s that you make your own story and live your own truth.” (“Happy Warrior: The

Fabulous Hero" by David Harsanyi, *National Review*, May 17, 2021. Sarcasm.)

♦ "There are no sides of a story," Marco says. "There are just different stories. People either believe yours or the other one. Usually the other one." ("My Apology" by Sam Lipsyte, *The New Yorker*, July 5, 2021.)

♦ Michele: Hey, can I ask you a question. How come you don't have any stories? I've got lots of 'em and you don't have any..." The 1999 film *American Pie*. Watch: "This One Time at Bandcamp" American Pie Comedy Bites Vintage  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoD94bifGiA>

♦ Michelle: It's like, you know all our stories?" (Pronounced upspeak on "stories.") / Jim: (Confused and startled.) "Uh, was that a question?" / Michelle: "Well, I don't know. Maybe... Do you want to answer it anyway?" (The 2001 film *American Pie 2*. Since then, this sort of contempo-speak has only become more prevalent, to include males. Watch on YouTube: I Get Nasty When I'm H\*my! American Pie 2

\*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "That's my story, and I'm sticking to it!"

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "We embrace stories that have simple plots, good and bad characters and melodramatic trajectories."

♦ "The Rollo books, in fourteen volumes, were popular tales of moral instruction, playful and severe, by a prolific children's author, Jacob Abbot." (Anthony Lane.)

♦ In "Bookshop Memories," George Orwell wrote, "Modern books for children are rather horrible things, especially when you see them in the mass. Personally I would sooner give a child a copy of Petronius Arbiter than Peter Pan, but even Barrie seems manly and wholesome compared with some of his later imitators."

♦ "Nothing makes drier reading than the conscious juvenility of adults." (Malcolm Muggeridge.)

♦ Children are the greatest colony for leftist book publishers.

♦ STORY, n. A narrative, commonly untrue. The truth of the stories here following has, however, not been successfully impeached. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

## storybook (storybook romance, etc.)

storybook career

he delivered the biggest throws of his ~ (college football)

story-book ending

Oates simply had to have a ~ (*The Last Place on Earth*)

storybook moment

it was a ~ (glass-carriage royal wedding)

storybook romance

baby, won't you be my sweetheart, we could share a ~

storybook season

it's been a ~ for us (a basketball coach)

Baylor ended Gonzaga's ~ (NCAA basketball)

storybook tale

he came back to win in a ~ (Tiger Woods)

storybook victory

the validity of the ~ was questioned (sports)

storybook wedding

she filed for divorce one year after a ~ (actor Sophia Bush)

♦ "T.M. Landry school has become a viral Cinderella story, a small school...whose predominantly black, working-class students have escaped the rural South for the nation's most elite colleges. A video of a 16-year-old student opening his Harvard acceptance letter las

year has been viewed more than eight million times." ("Louisiana School Made Headlines for Sending Black Kids to Elite Colleges. Here's the Reality" by Erica L. Green and Katie Benner, *The New York Times*, Nov. 30, 2018.)

♦ "In 2023 actor Sophia Bush made headlines when she filed for divorce one year after a storybook wedding. By the fall it was public knowledge that she was in a new relationship. With a woman." ("Sophia Bush: 'I Finally Feel Like I can Breathe'" by Sophia Bush, *Glamour*, April 25, 2024. She now describes herself as "queer.")

♦ "She disappeared on their honeymoon in Jordan."

## storytelling (groups)

story-telling

~ is a powerful form of resistance (Alice Wong / disability)

Storytelling Unit

NPR's Enterprise ~ (products and launches)

data, audio and documentary storytelling

she has an interest in ~ (Tirzah Christopher)

*Collaborative Storytelling*

"How the Power of ~ Inspires Action" (Lisa Sherman)

communal story-telling

conspiracy theories are a form of ~ (social media)

original storytelling

millennials with a passion and talent for ~

power of storytelling

the healing ~ can change patients' lives (medicine)

the healing ~ (the film *News Of The World*)

Alice Wong uses the ~ (Disability Visibility Project)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "After receiving a multiple sclerosis diagnosis, Dr. Anne Brewster found that writing about her story put her back into control of her narrative and her healing." ("How 'The Healing Power of Storytelling' can change patients' lives," wbur, Here & Now, June 01, 2022.)

♦ "How do I become something I don't see?" From this simple question, The Delta Project was born. The Delta Project exists to break the generational cycle of incarceration by reconnecting youth of color and their families to community relationships through mentorship, coaching and storytelling. Help young men see what they can become. Take action. [thedeltaproject.co/action](http://thedeltaproject.co/action). (A full-page advertisement for The Delta Project in *The Atlantic*.)

♦ "Storytelling can be a powerful tool to convey information, even in the world of science. It can also shift stereotypes about who scientists are. We talked to someone who knows all about his—Liz Neeley, the Executive Director of Story Collider, a nonprofit focused on telling 'true, personal stories about science.'" ("The Science Behind Storytelling" NPR, Short Wave, August 19, 2020.)

♦ "A lot of Jewish anarchists have been bringing these storytelling practices as rituals into spaces that aren't just Jewish. We've been creating a lot of our own spaces..." (Cindy Milstein, a diasporic queer Jewish anarchist, activist, and writer, in an interview at [Oberlinreview.org](http://Oberlinreview.org).)

♦ "Story-telling is a powerful form of resistance." (The disability activist Alice Wong. She was a 2024 MacArthur Fellow.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "storytelling" bandwagon...

♦ Tirzah Christopher Roy W. Howard Fellow, Investigations Unit... She has an interest in data, audio and documentary storytelling.

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Storytelling that powers kindness, authenticity, empathy, and inclusion." (A speaker. \$7K+.)

\*\*\* analysis



♦ "In the age of social media, conspiracy theories are a form of communal storytelling, so you tend to have a lot of cooks in the kitchen." (NPR's Lisa Hagen.)

♦ OLD: journalism, reporting... / NEW: storytelling, digital storytelling...

## straddle (connect)

straddles the line between news and entertainment  
he ~ (TV personality)

straddled the worlds  
he ~ of mainstream and alternative medicine

## straddle (configuration)

straddles the border  
the community library ~ (between US and Canada)

straddles the road  
Hsenwi, which ~ to China (Burma)

straddles the border of China and Pakistan  
the gleaming, glacial monolith ~ (K2)

straddles West Texas and Southeast New Mexico  
the vast Permian that ~ (oil)

## straight (honest)

straight story  
give us the ~ on how common they are...

morally straight  
I want somebody physically fit, culturally astute, ~ (SOF)

set some people straight  
he ~

set the record straight  
I wish to ~

## straight (I straight lied, etc.)

straight disappeared  
she ~ (after conning people online)

straight lied  
I ~ (to get out of a problem)

♦ see also *straight-up (adjective)*

## straight (the straight and narrow)

walked the straight and narrow  
he has ~ for 14 years (defense asks for bail at trial)

## straight arrow (person)

straight arrow  
she didn't drink or do drugs, she was a ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A straight arrow is a person who is proper and conventional.

## straighten out (verb)

straighten out the (financial) mess  
the act appointed a trustee to ~

## straightforward (adjective)

straightforward approach

her ~ startles many (on pediatric safety)  
Carroll's rah-rah style and Stoop's more ~ vary sharply  
we take a ~ to business (honesty, integrity)

straightforward style  
others liked his ~ (a coach)

straightforward, down to earth  
he demonstrates ~ cooking

honest, truthful, straightforward, ethical  
you can't always expect ~ behavior from recruiters

## straight shooter (speech)

straight shooter  
I'm a ~, very candid

## straight-talking

straight-talking outsider  
he was a ~

## straight-up (adjective)

straight-up hell  
your fellow citizens can turn the city into ~

straight-up, full-on  
~ sex talk (Argentinian TV)

♦ see also *straight (I straight lied, etc.)*

## straightwash (groups)

Straightwashed Queer Lives and AIDS Activism  
"How Rent ~" (the article)

## strain (type)

strain of Islam  
Wahhabism, the rigid and puritanical ~

strains of Islam  
with radical ~ percolating through Europe (prisons)

strain of (Sunni) Islam  
the mainstream, Turkish-influenced ~ (Balkans)

radical strain  
with ~s of Islam percolating through Europe (prisons)

rigid and puritanical strain  
Wahhabism, the ~ of Islam

## strain (verb)

strained power grids  
the heat wave ~

## strain (pressure)

strains of (military) life  
the unique ~ (problems)

strain on our relationship  
it put a ~ (husband into motorcycle club)

strains among the (Western) allies  
intervention could create ~

under strain

I was ~ at work

## strained

strained

his relationship with his parents was ~

the supply chain is ~ (Clorox wipes / pandemic)

strained by demand

logistical elements can be ~ for ammo, etc.

strained relations

the ~ between our two nations (US / France)

strained relationship

he wanted to improve his ~ with his father

strained social compact

an already ~ grow yet more frayed

badly strained

relations were ~ in March (between 2 countries)

relations are (more) strained

~ than ever (between talent and the studios)

## strait (dire straits, etc.)

dire financial straits

contrary to the report, the company was not in ~

♦ "These are the straits that *Ulysses* asks us to navigate." (Desire and love, control and submission. From a review of a biography of James Joyce.)

\*\*\* **The Strait of Messina, the Torres Strait...**

♦ According to Wikipedia, *The Aeneid* links Scylla and Charybdis to the Strait of Messina. That strait, with its natural whirlpool and view of Mount Etna and Fata Morgana, and its location between the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Ionian Sea on a great flyway for migratory birds, would be a wonderful place visit!

♦ "It was in 1888, when in command of a ship loading in Sydney a mixed cargo for Mauritius, that one day, all of a sudden, all the deep-lying historic sense of the exploring adventures in the Pacific surged up to the surface of my being. / I sat down and wrote a letter to my owners, suggesting that, instead of the usual southern route, I should take the ship to Mauritius by way of Torres Strait... / I passed out of Torres Strait before the dusk settled on its waters. Just as a clear sun sank ahead of my ship I took a bearing of a little island..., an insignificant crumb of dark earth, lonely... But to me it was a hallowed spot, for I knew that the *Endeavour* had been hove to off it in the year 1762 for her captain, whose name was James Cook, to go ashore for half an hour. What he could possibly want to do I cannot imagine. Perhaps only to be alone with his thoughts for a moment... It may be that on this dry crumb of the earth's crust... he had tasted a moment of perfect peace." ("Geography and Some Explorers" by Joseph Conrad.)

♦ The Bab el Mandeb (the Gate of Tears); The Strait of Gibraltar (Jabal Tariq and the Bab al-maghrib)... (Famous and important straits.)

\*\*\* **analysis...**

♦ A strait, like a river, can divide, but it also can connect. The land equivalent is an isthmus.

## straitjacket (noun)

straitjacket of stress

a ~ shut me down (stuttering)

policy straitjacket

they put themselves in a ~ (euro zone)

chemical straitjacket

psychotropic drugs are a ~ (the mentally ill)

intellectual straitjacket

I began to realize my faith was an ~

absolutist and dogmatic straitjacket

they are confined in an ~ (Supreme Court justices)

escape the straitjacket

he could never ~ of the church

free the museum of the straitjacket

the museum is trying to ~ of ethnicity (MoMA)

puts nations into a straitjacket

targets ~

broken free from a straitjacket

he has ~ of his own making (a leader)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## strand (noun)

strands of Christianity

the focus of the day differs within the ~ (Epiphany)

strands of thought

these comments represent two ~

## strand (connection)

strand

the crisis ruined every ~ that knitted the country together

four strands

there are ~ to the novel...

## strand (strand of hair, etc.)

strand of hair

needles that are smaller than the diameter of a ~

strands of hair

she collects ~ (of famous people)

strands of lights

people decorate their houses with ~ (holidays)

strands of razor ribbon

there are five ~ on the inner fence

miles-long strand

longlines—s with hundreds of baited hooks

## stranded (separated)

left stranded

his system of critical judgment was ~ on the far shore

## stranger (and no stranger)

stranger to fear

Joan was a ~

no stranger to death  
like most climbers, Anker was ~

no stranger to (difficult legal) disputes  
the judge was ~

no stranger to flooding  
the Queen of the Adriatic is ~ (Venice)

no stranger to (verbal) miscues  
he is ~ (a politician)

no stranger to snowfall  
the city is ~ (Boston)

no stranger to (catastrophic) storms  
the state is ~ (Louisiana and hurricanes, etc.)

no stranger to conspiracy theories  
America is ~

no stranger to war  
Jaffna is ~ (Sri Lanka)

no stranger to wealth  
her family was ~

## stranger (other)

*Strangers in Their Own Land*  
~: *Anger and Mourning on the American Right* (book)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "We miss a lot by being afraid of strangers."

♦ "Don't be a stranger!" (Hospitality, camaraderie.)

## strangle (verb)

strangling Iraq  
the embargo is ~

strangle companies  
I've seen government bureaucracy ~ (a politician)

strangle the experiment in its cradle  
see *cradle (strangled in the cradle, etc.)*

## strangled

strangled in its cradle  
Bolshevism must be ~ (Winston Churchill / USSR)

strangled by poverty  
they are ~ (Gazans)

## stranglehold (noun)

stranglehold on America  
the monopolies had a ~

stranglehold on her social circle  
drugs and alcohol had a ~ (Las Vegas)

stranglehold on the transport  
Iraq has a ~ of oil from Iraqi Kurdistan

stranglehold over the app stores  
Apple and Google have a ~ (apps and data collection)

DEI stranglehold

the Democratic Party is unable to break its ~

virtual stranglehold  
a ~ on...

break their stranglehold  
he set out to ~ (a ruler versus elites)

had a stranglehold  
the monopolies ~ on America

## strangulation

strangulation of Iraq  
the ~ (embargo, etc.)

## strap yourself in

strap yourself in  
get ready, ~ (intro to eventful boxing podcast)

♦ It looks like we're in for a wild ride, so hang on. (A Wall Street bear market.)

### \*\*\* The Great American Scream Machine...

♦ The Drachen Fire, the Great American Scream Machine, Shockwave, the Mind Bender, the Mind Eraser, the Traumatizer... (Roller coasters.)

♦ see also *rollercoaster*

## stratosphere

put his career into the stratosphere  
the song ~ (Michael Jackson's "Thriller")

## stratospheric (adjective)

stratospheric  
such profits are ~, over the average (academic publishers)

stratospheric reaches  
the ~ of the entertainment world

stratospheric rise  
her ~ was brought low by personal tragedies (actor)

stratospheric success  
despite her ~, she continues to express her fears (B. Eilish)

stratospheric trajectory  
how long can he keep Apple on its ~ (Tim Cook)

went stratospheric  
she ~ in America (Miriam Makeba)

♦ "As [US Secretary of the Treasury Janet] Yellen noted, a lot of those goods prices have since come back to earth." (High inflation.)

## straw (last straw / final straw)

straw that breaks the camel's back  
see *camel (break the camel's back)*

final straws  
he posted two tweets that the company cited as the ~

last straw  
the ~ was the hike in the price of electricity (riots)

last straw scenario  
all these things have created this ~ (vote to censure)

♦ "This for me was like the one drop that made the bucket overflow."  
(Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, after receiving a red card for berating a referee's assistant.)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "An inconsequential event, after a series of indignities, causes an extreme reaction."

♦ The following online comment seems to conflate "the straw that broke the camel's back" and the related "the last / final straw": "It appears that the threat of taking her child using child protective services was the last sanity straw that was broken."

♦ see also *camel (break the camel's back)*

## straw man (noun)

"straw man" issues

Ryan assails Obama for ~ (politics)

## stray (behavior)

strayed

women whose husbands have ~ (been unfaithful)

stray (so far) from the limits

kids will disobey, but they won't ~ you set

## stray (direction)

strayed into the (restricted) airspace

the small aircraft inadvertently ~

stray out of sector

navigation problems can cause units to ~ (military)

strayed from its (intended) mission

Wall Street has ~ (to raise money, versus betting)

stray from the path

a good Muslim must not ~

stray (too far) from (Saudi Arabia's) path

but Qatar does not ~

strays from its route

we can disable a truck by remote control if it ~

stray from tradition

the younger generation has begun to ~

stray from the tenets and the values

black magic encourages people to ~ of Islam

strayed off course

it appeared the sub had not ~ (hit seamount)

stray even the slightest

his refusal to ~ from the Code of Conduct

stray too far

but Qatar does not ~ from Saudi Arabia's path

refusal to stray

his ~ even the slightest from the Code of Conduct

## streak (series)

streak of success

her latest achievement continues a ~ (ballet)

streak of severe weather

a ~ has swept the South and the Midwest

winning streak

Republicans have been on a real ~

## streak (violent streak, etc.)

streak of intolerance

he had a ~ toward his political foes (a politician)

streak of violence

someone who has a ~ (homeless veterans, etc.)

alpha-dog streak

he retained a bit of that ~ (high-school athlete in college)

evil streak

he has an ~ to him (arrested)

she has an ~ through her

mean streak

he's got a ~ an acre wide

you could call it a ~, he'd consider it tough love (a father)

violent streak

he showed a ~ early (murderer)

authoritarian, mean, dark streak

he could show an ~ (a tech entrepreneur)

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Animals might be banded, bearded, crowned, dappled, marbled, mottled, necklaced, ringed, speckled, spotted, stippled, streaked, striped, and even spectacled!

## stream (tears stream, etc.)

streamed down her face

tears ~

streamed down his face

blood ~ (a boxer)

## stream (direct)

stream video

what hardware is recommended to ~ on broadband

stream, burn, beam, buy or subscribe

should you ~ (Internet)

## stream (move)

streamed to the polls

Iraqis ~ (election)

streamed into Sydney

sex workers who have ~ (for the Olympics)

streamed into the Good Shepherd Chapel

people of all walks of life ~ (to honor Mychal Judge)

stream through town

about 15,000 tourists ~ hoping... (Churchill / bears)

stream (in) through the windows

light would ~ as she...

stream in

light would ~ through the windows as she...

streams in

another picture ~, this one of a Chinese teen (Internet)

## stream (amount & effect)

stream of casualties

the attacks are causing a steady ~

stream of contributions

fundraisers and a steady ~

stream of customers

a steady ~ (an electronics-repair shop)

stream of pilgrims

a ~ jammed the Via della Conciliazione (Vatican)

stream of preachers

the issue brought a ~ to the mike

stream of reports

a steady ~ that Israel has been providing

stream of residents

a ~ headed out of town (huge Colorado wildfire)

stream of text

one long, continuous ~ (e-book)

stream of tips

police are following up on the steady ~

stream of traffic

a constant ~ (city / vehicles)

steady stream

police are following up on the ~ of tips

the attacks are causing a ~ of casualties

a ~ of customers (an electronics-repair shop)

stream (of jihadists into the country) has been cut

the ~ to a trickle

endless stream

he saw an ~ of wounded and dead (Vietnam War)

♦ "Many different streams of migrants were to make their confluence in the future United States. But the British stream flowed first and remained foremost. From the beginning its leaders were out of sympathy with the Government at home. The creation of towns and settlements from the wilderness, warfare with the Indians, and the remoteness and novelty of the scene widened the breach with the Old World. During the critical years of settlement and consolidation in New England the Mother Country was paralysed by civil war. When the English State again achieved stability it was confronted with self-supporting, self-reliant communities which had evolved traditions and ideas of their own." (*A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, Volume 2, "The New World," by Winston S. Churchill.)

## stream (resemblance)

streams of excrement

the route to her hut is a path stinking with ~ (Kabul)

stream of fire

he continued his deadly ~ until... (battle)

streams of lava

the volcano sent ~ down the mountain

stream of urine

stopping the ~ is hard for many people (specimen)

ice stream

the glacier is sometimes called an outlet glacier or an ~

jet stream

the Everest peak is in the ~

the ~, a speeding river of high-altitude air

that river of wind, called the ~

the ~ veered far south

the ~ blows at around 30-36,000 feet

the ~ wanders between 30° and 60° in both hemispheres

commercial airlines often hitch a ride in the ~ (eastward)

the Germans first discovered the ~ in the 1930s

high-altitude winds of the ~ (climate, weather)

urinary stream

difficulty initiating the ~ (medical)

♦ "The icebergs' source, the Jakobshavn Glacier, is sometimes called an outlet glacier and sometimes an ice stream. Ice is always flowing, albeit slowly, from the center of the ice sheet toward the edges. In an ice stream, it flows particularly quickly. As Jakobshavn's calving front retreated, it also thinned, and the glacier's speed—already brisk for a block of ice—increased. In 2012, its flow rate exceeded a hundred and fifty feet a day, which is believed to be a glacial world record. Though it has since slowed down again, the glacier has still been losing a lot of ice—during the past few decades, some ninety billion tons of it. (All on its own, Jakobshavn is believed to be responsible for more than one per cent of global sea-level rise since 2000.)" ("When The Ice Melts" by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, October 14, 2024.)

### \*\*\* Noland Creek Trail outside Bryson City...

♦ The trailhead for the Noland Creek Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is almost at the end of The Road to Nowhere out of Bryson City, western North Carolina. In a little over a mile you will cross four wooden bridges. On the first, look to your left, and the current is going away. On the second, coming towards you. On the third, going away. On the fourth, coming towards you. Now that's twisty! It's a wonderful walk, in every season.

## stream (bloodstream, etc.)

arrival stream

a new runway will allow O'Hare three independent ~s

bloodstream

a blood clot can break loose and travel through the ~

funding stream

you've got to put together all of these ~s

mail stream

introduce new technology into the ~ (post office)

the Postal Service is adjusting to a new type of ~

the anthrax letters entered the ~ from a mailbox

revenue stream

another ~ is needed for public schools (state lottery)

ecommerce is tomorrow's ~

online advertising is yesterday's ~

cable TV's dual ~s: subscribers plus advertisers

wastestream

the elimination of mercury from hospital ~s

waste stream

food waste in the residential ~ (recycling)

reporting streams

the quantity of intelligence from multiple ~ (terrorism)

independent (arrival) streams  
a new runway will allow O'Hare three ~

multiple (reporting) streams  
the quantity of intelligence from ~ (terrorism)

\*\*\* a braided river...

♦ "A great Indian river, at low water, suggests the familiar anatomical picture of a skinned human body, the intricate mesh of interwoven muscles and tendons to stand for water-channels, and the archipelagoes of fat and flesh inclosed by them to stand for the sandbars. Somewhere on this journey we passed such a river, and on a later journey we saw in the Sotlej the duplicate of that river. Curious rivers they are; low shores a dizzy distance apart, with nothing between but an enormous acreage of sand-flats with sluggish like veins of water dribbling around amongst them; Saharas of sand, smallpox pitted with footprints..." (*Following the Equator: A Journey Around the World* by Mark Twain. Of course, he is talking about a braided river. See the Wikipedia article "Braided river." Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## streamed (digital)

streamed into the kiosks  
the music is ~ via the Internet

## streaming (digital)

streaming technology  
as ~ improves

download or streaming  
Walk Away Renee .mp3 is available for ~

## streaming (streaming media)

streaming media  
~ delivers audio & video over the Internet

streaming media for video conferences & meetings  
use ~

streaming media advertisement  
a ~ plays before the video

streaming-media division  
the Microsoft Corp. ~ division

streaming-media player  
ever improving ~s

streaming-media traffic  
~ is of growing concern

## streamline (speed up)

streamline the (permitting and approval) process  
we must also ~ (for building infrastructure)

## street (society)

street  
the ~ is not afraid of governments any more (protests)

Arab street  
the ~ reacts to rumors  
the ~ has risen up (Egyptian protests)  
Iran's leaders play to the ~  
the ~ sympathizes with the Palestinians

mood on the street

the ~ should be watched (protests in Egypt)

## street (cloud street, etc.)

cloud street  
~s can indicate thermals (hang gliding)  
~s are rows of cumulous clouds

## street (two-way street)

two-way street  
trust is a ~

## Streisand (Streisand effect)

Streisand Effect

The ~: When censorship backfires (BBC News)

reckoned without the Streisand Effect  
they ~, which saw the photo ban make headline news

♦ "Nice Streisand effect going on here." (An online commenter about Aaron Sorkin's criticism of Michael Jared Schulman's profile of the great actor Jeremy Strong in *The New Yorker*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The Streisand Effect is an attempt to censor that results in greater publicity. See the Wikipedia article "Streisand effect." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## stretch (verb)

stretch (limited) resources  
the costs will ~ (defense budget)

## stretch (extent)

stretches from Hollywood to the halls of academe  
the scandal ~ (admissions scandal)

stretched away  
the immense plain ~ into dim distances

## stretched (stretched thin, etc.)

stretched thin in Louisiana  
health-care workers are ~ (COVID)

## stride (in stride)

take it in my stride  
it's no pressure, I just ~ (darts championship)

taking things in stride  
most people are ~ (terrorism fears and alerts)

took the high water in stride  
residents ~ (a flood)

## stride (progress)

great stride forward  
the bill is a ~

made giant strides  
the city has made ~ in the last decade

made great strides  
Blacks have made ~ in all areas (desegregation)

made (giant) strides in the last decade  
the city has ~ in the last decade



made (great) strides in all areas

Blacks have ~ (desegregation)

### **stride (hit one's stride)**

hit its stride

it has ~ and keeps on gaining momentum (movie series)

hit his stride

he seemed to ~ when he talked about... (politics)

### **stride (knock somebody off stride, etc.)**

knock them off stride

dealing with something just before kickoff didn't ~  
(team)

### **strike (preemptive strike, etc.)**

called the mandate a "preemptive strike"

the mayor ~ (COVID restrictions)

made a preemptive strike

she ~ (threatens to sue paper before they publish story)

### **strike (his hour had struck, etc.)**

his hour had struck

when the job was announced, he knew that ~

my time will come

~ (a defeated boxer, looking to his future)

♦ Zhivago goes on a house call to treat a sick woman. Her husband tells Zhivago that a broken clock had suddenly rung just before his wife collapsed. She was convinced that her last hour had struck, and her husband thinks she is suffering from nervous shock. Zhivago diagnoses typhus. Zhivago returns home, and Tonia tells him a broken clock had suddenly chimed. "My hour for typhus has struck," Zhivago laughs. Four paragraphs later, he is delirious with typhus... (Dr. Zhivago by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ see also *time (the time can arrive or come, etc.)*

### **strike (affect)**

strikes some collaborators as impressive

his dedication ~ (an actor)

strike them

Musk did not ~ as an easy guy to dance with (business)

strike you

so how did the two events ~ (politics)

### **strike (strike a deal, etc.)**

struck a deal

in 1994, we ~

### **strike (forces of nature)**

strike Mexico

the hurricane was expected to ~ early Tuesday (Yucatán)

struck with a (13.9-foot) storm tide

Hurricane Audrey ~ (1957)

struck Monday

the storm ~ with little warning... (tornado)

struck at 1:34 p.m.

the quake ~ local time (Greece)

struck a church

a tornado ~ just as the minister said, "Be prepared..."

struck an (oil storage) tank

lightning ~ and set it on fire

struck (two of the) trees

lightning ~

earthquake struck

a powerful ~ off the Solomon Islands, causing a tsunami

a powerful ~ here Monday night (Afghanistan)

lightning struck

~ two of the trees

they were under a tree when ~, killing them...

monsoon (in 1942) struck

the ~ on the 13th of May (Burma)

quake struck

the ~ at 1:34 p.m. local time (Greece)

storm struck

the ~ Monday with little warning (tornado)

tornado struck

a ~ without any warning siren being sounded

warnings were delivered 11.5 minutes before a ~

tsunamis strike

catastrophic ~ less often (than major earthquakes)

typhoon struck

the ~ the coast at 3:50 p.m. in Fujian Province

landslide struck

the ~ late Saturday in Olongapo city

rainstorm struck

a freak desert ~ (Molotsog Els / Mongolia)

### **strike (tragedy, etc.)**

adversity strikes

when ~, Mormons roll up their sleeves

catastrophe struck

then, ~ (accident)

disaster strikes

his parents have told him what to do if a ~

disaster struck

~ and the men found themselves drifting... (fishermen)

tragedy struck

~ motor racing hard in 1999

### **strike (a road can strike a river, etc.)**

struck the Ohio River at Louisville

the road ~ (the Wilderness Road)

### **strike (three strikes, etc.)**

three strikes policy

he violated YouTube's longstanding ~

## strike down (verb)

struck down the law  
a judge ~

## strike out (verb)

strike out  
if you ~ at the source, work the edges (an investigation)

struck out  
I ~ (failed to accomplish something)

struck out  
law enforcement had ~ (child murder)

## strike out (start)

striking out on her own  
she is ~ with a solo album

## striking (adjective)

find it striking  
I ~ that...

## string (pull strings)

pull strings  
I can't ~ and make them perform (a teacher)

pull the strings  
politicians ~ and make the policies  
he believes insiders ~ (the so-called deep state)  
many believe malevolent powers ~ (conspiracy theories)

pull strings to get  
he had his father ~ him out of the draft

pull strings from behind the scenes  
they will ~ (politicians)

pulled strings in high places  
she ~ to get her access to...

tried to pull strings  
he ~ to secure an officer's commission

♦ "The Americans are the ones pulling the strings, and Moreno their puppet dancing to the tune of money." (Kristinn Hrafnsson of Wikileaks.)

## string (sequence)

string of murders  
he was guilty of a ~

## string (attachment)

with strings attached  
"free" credit reports often come ~

with no strings attached  
there are few "free" deals ~

without strings  
while they are evangelists, their help comes ~

no-strings-attached

we were both looking for ~ sex  
~ handouts sap incentive (welfare)

♦ "While they are evangelists, their help comes without strings." (Texans On Mission. Disaster relief. Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee thanks you! Hurricane Helene...)

## strip (verb)

stripped him of his security clearance  
the government ~

stripped him of command  
the Navy ~ of the aircraft carrier

strip unions of their (bargaining) rights  
he wants to ~ (politics)

## strip (strip something down)

strip it down to its core  
if we ~ (music)

## stripe (earn one's stripes, etc.)

earn your stripes  
you've got to ~ (stock-car racing)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ There were great husky men crying with the pain of gaping wounds and dreadfully swollen, discolored trench feet, who sank down exhausted the moment they stopped. There were strings of from eight to twenty blind boys filing up the road, clinging tightly and pitifully to each other's hands, and led by some bedraggled limping youngster who could still see... I wonder if I'll ever be able to look at marching men anywhere again without seeing those blinded boys, with five and six wound stripes on their sleeves, struggling painfully along the road." (*Sister: The War Diary of a Nurse* by Helen Dore Boylston.)

## stripe (of all stripes)

politicians of all stripes  
~ say they want to lower prescription-drug costs

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Minnesotans of all stripes include: the indigenous Americans; ethnic Norwegians; skunks; Somalis; bass; Hmong; ex-Houstonians; gophers; "nice" ones; passive-aggressive ones; ground squirrels; and the ones from the Twin Cities. As Anthony Edwards told Charles Barkley, "Bring ya ass!"

♦ Animals might be banded, bearded, crowned, dappled, marbled, mottled, necklaced, ringed, speckled, spotted, stippled, streaked, striped, and even spectacled!

## strip-mine (verb)

strip-mine public assets  
they ~ for their private interests (politicians)

\*\*\* coal, sand dredging...

♦ "People at my age don't like to move to a new place. But we have no choice. We have no water. The earth is sinking. The air is poisoned. And there's that big man-made mountain." (An elderly Shanxi Province villager in Shangma Huangtou, which is surrounded now on three sides by the An Tai Bao open-pit coal mine. From "The Not So Good Earth," by David Barboza, *The New York Times*, June 23, 2006.)

♦ "The coal industry calls this 'coal country.' I call it God's country... The Appalachian people have been lied to for the past 100 years, based on coal. Promised prosperity, based on coal. And I still don't see it... We pay the ultimate price for coal. The highest-producing coal counties in the US are the poorest. They have stolen the wealth from these communities and the people." (Maria Gunnoe in West Virginia, winner of the North American Goldman Environmental Prize in 2009 for confronting coal companies in Appalachia and their

program of mountaintop removal. Julia Bonds won for the same effort in 2003.)

♦ “Though most people never give it a second thought, sand is a crucial ingredient in the construction of roads and buildings—the skeletons of modern cities. Concrete and asphalt are largely just sand and gravel glued together with cement... / Worldwide, more than 48bn tonnes of ‘aggregate’—the industry term for sand and gravel, which tend to be found together—are used for construction every year. That number is double what it was in 2004. It’s an industry worth hundreds of billions of dollars annually. / Pulling all of that sand out of the ground, however, takes a severe toll on the environment. Across the world, riverbeds, beaches and floodplains are being stripped bare by sand miners. In response, authorities are trying to regulate the manner and location of extraction. In turn, it has spawned a global boom in illegal sand mining. ‘As the price of sand goes up, the ‘mafias’ get more involved,’ says Pascal Peduzzi, a researcher with the United Nations environment programme and author of a study on sand mining.” (The Pulitzer Center.)

♦ “Why the world is running out of sand” by Vince Beiser, BBC Future, 17th November 2019.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Food desert. It’s a term I’ve used myself...” (“Let’s Stop Using Metaphors that Celebrate Extraction, Colonialism, and Violence: Earth, Justice, and Our Classrooms” by Bill Bigelow, Rethinking Schools, Fall, 2022, Volume 37, No. 1.)

## stripped

stripped of her rights

she was and wants them back (a conservatorship)

stripped of his titles

he was ~ (for doping)

## stroke (stroke of midnight, etc.)

stroke of half-time

he cut the lead to one on the ~ (soccer)

## stroll (stroll to success, etc.)

stroll to victory

Manchester City looked like they would ~ when...

♦ “Argentina could hardly have asked for an easier evening. After a nervy opening half an hour it has been a stroll.” (80 mins: Netherland 0-2 Argentina at the World Cup in Qatar. The rest is history.)

## strong (language, etc.)

strong language

there might also be ~ in the videos you are about to see

strong words

these are ~ (appalling, makes me physically sick, etc.)

♦ “Human rights are where law and politics meet. It can be an unfriendly meeting. A few years ago the then Prime Minister, speaking to the House of Commons, described a recent Supreme Court judgment about human rights as appalling. The same Prime Minister, on a later occasion, said about another human rights decision, that it made him physically sick. These are strong words.” (Jonathan Sumption, Human Rights and Wrongs, The Reith Lectures.)

## strong (after tragedy, etc.)

America Strong tonight

and ~... (ABC World News)

Buffalo Strong

~ (a sign after mass shooting)

Kentucky Strong

#~, #PrayforKentucky (flooding)

Vandal Strong

we will remain ~ (2022 University of Idaho killings)

♦ “Lewiston Strong.” (A large homemade sign. The letter o’s have been replaced by red “heart shapes.”)

♦ “And America Strong tonight. Two American heroes reunited and ready to celebrate the holiday together.” (ABC World News, Nov. 27, 2024. A military dog-handler and a retired military dog.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “We don’t need ‘Buffalo Strong.’ We need for this to never happen again.” (A member of the Buffalo community after a mass shooting, on the inadequacy and sentimentality of the “Buffalo Strong” slogan.)

♦ “She takes issue with the social media hashtag #BuffaloStrong, because it could trick people into thinking that survival is the goal, when they really deserve to exist and thrive without the fear of being hunted down in a grocery store.” (“Buffalo’s poet laureate calls for change” by Raquel Maria Dillon, NPR, Race, May 17, 2022.)

♦ The “X Strong” cliché has been woven into the fabric of American culture.

## strong-arm (verb)

strong-armed subjects

he ~ to get them to lie (a prosecutor)

strong-arm him into joining

his strict father tried to ~ the family’s business

strong-armed members into voting

the leadership ~ with the president

strong-armed rather than cajoled

he ~, he intimidated rather than seduced to get his way

♦ “Cuomo strong-armed rather than cajoled; he used intimidation rather than seduction to get his way.” (“New York After Cuomo” by Michael Greenberg, *The New York Review*, October 7, 2021.)

♦ “Sen. Hillary Clinton said America must use ‘smart power’—which includes diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal and cultural tools.”

♦ Cajole, compel, force, make, mandate, make mandatory, mandate, nudge, persuade, require... (Language used by vaccine advocates about the vaccine reluctant. Words with like meaning include: “intimidate,” “strong-arm,” and “seduce.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Get them by their balls and their hearts and minds will follow.” (A saying popular among combat soldiers during the Vietnam War who were cynical about US government campaigns to “win the hearts and minds” of the Vietnamese people. In Vietnam the Vietnam War is known as the American War.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Applied behavior analysis.” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## stronghold (noun)

stronghold of apartheid sympathy

the Limpopo Province is a ~

stronghold in (eastern) Saudi Arabia

Qatif, a Shiite ~

stronghold for tigers

India is the world’s greatest ~

Ibo stronghold

Nigeria with its Yoruba heartland, ~s and Hausa north

Shiite stronghold

Qatif, a ~ in eastern Saudi Arabia

salmon stronghold

Kamchatka, one of the last ~s on earth

Democratic stronghold

Philadelphia is a ~ (politics)

lost control of (some of) its former strongholds

the party ~ (Mexico)

## **strongman (power)**

“strongman” image

his ~ many not win him votes (Narendra Modi)

strongman leader

he is a ~ in the mold of Erdogan and Putin (Narendra Modi)

military strongman

Khalifa Haftar is Libya’s ~

## **struck (affected)**

struck by how long

I was ~ it took him...

## **struck down**

struck down by the lower courts

the travel ban was ~ but upheld by the Supreme Court

struck down or neutered

the Supreme Court has ~ the Voting Rights Act (NPR)

## **stubborn (non-human)**

higher and more stubborn

inflation has been ~ than forecasters expected

## **stuck (adjective)**

stuck

without any other job prospects, he is ~

stuck with (obsolete) equipment

they are ~ (Philippine military)

stuck in a (forgotten) corner

Siberians no longer feel ~ of the globe

stuck in a (vicious) cycle

she's ~ (eating to relieve depression)

stuck in the doldrums

the economy is ~

stuck in the middle

we're ~, so we hide indoors (Afghan civilians)

stuck in the past

we can't be ~, we have to move forward (Middle East)

stuck in place

animals can move, but trees are ~

stuck in the same place

we're all ~, going nowhere (futility)

stuck in the trailers

the refugees may be ~ for years (Katrina)

stuck in the (Vienna) airport

most of his gear got ~ (climber)

stuck in a civil war

the Central African Republic has been ~ (2009)

stuck between adolescence and adulthood

he is ~ (a young snowboarder)

stuck between its past and its future

Haiti is ~

stuck between a rock and a hard place

I'm ~ (too poor to improve situation)

stuck between the underground and the mainstream

he is ~ (a young snowboarder)

stuck between his unit and the enemy

he was ~ (a moral issue)

stuck in aging schools

children ~ without air conditioning

feel stuck

Siberians no longer ~ in a forgotten corner of the globe

get stuck

we all ~ in bad beauty habits (cosmetics)

you don't have to ~ in that cycle (a gang)

got stuck

most of his gear ~ in the Vienna airport (climber)

## **stud (male)**

stud

he thinks he's a real ~ with the women

♦ “You blow me out of the water, and I’m a cerebral stud.” (Silly dialogue from the 2008 film *21* with Kevin Spacey. “Cerebral stud” is like “mathlete,” which combines *math* and *athlete*.)

## **study (noun)**

study in contrasts

he is, in many ways, a ~

## **study (quick study)**

quick study

he's a ~, but he has a lot to learn

## **stuff (content)**

stuff of headlines

he was the ~ (Nansen returns safe)

stuff of legends

to the outside world, India's riches were always the ~

## **stuff (like vampires and stuff, etc.)**

and stuff

people told me that I should get into it ~

I started modeling and booking gigs ~

bats are associated with like vampires ~

so he was there like in his wheelchair ~ (a writer)  
my past research ~ has been in like immigration...

### talk about this stuff

it is traumatic for her to ~ (Ronan Farrow)

♦ "My big thing is to do more stuff like this..." (Kyle Gordon about his song "Planet of the Bass" and his upcoming album.)

♦ MR: Getting into sort of X Y or Z newest wellness fad can for some folks kind of put them on this track, kind of filter them or funnel them closer and closer to anti-vax stuff, closer and closer to QAnon stuff, and QAnon itself is like closer and closer to organized white supremacy. AG: Yes. ("The Wellness to QAnon Pipeline," Maintenance Phase podcast.)

♦ "The right to my body is super important and I'm pro-choice. I also care about immigration. My past research and stuff has been in like immigration and refugees." (A UPenn coed, heard—where else!—on NPR's Morning Edition.)

♦ "This shit, it doesn't faze me too much, only because like I've seen like, like... I'll just say human life to me, the way I look at it if I don't know you if I don't know you is meaningless it's meaningless I'm just keeping it straight up but... Yeah, he's dead what can we do now?" (Alex Bodger aka GoraPakora on TikTok. He stood by and filmed the murder of Paul Stanley Schmidt on his cellphone.)

♦ "He has an unfortunate tic, when speaking about grave topics, of trailing off his sentences and adding filler words like *blah blah blah* and *all that stuff*." ("Arnold's Last Act" by Mark Leibovich, *The Atlantic*, April 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type in "and stuff" into search at NPR, and you get 3,567 results and counting... Not every usage represents this marker of inarticulacy, but many do.

♦ Linguist John McWhorter's analysis of "and stuff" is interesting, as always. He notes that "and stuff" is similar to "that sort / kind of thing." "The assumption [is] that that the things not being specified are known already, such that one need not take the time to elaborate." McWhorter also points out that "and stuff" can be expressed as "n' shit" "in today's robust vernacular." In his FACE typology of MPMs (modal pragmatic markers), he considers it to represent "Acknowledgment: I Hear You." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 1, "The Faces of English: Words Get Personal." Listen also to "The shifting Meanings Of Our Evolving Modern Language," wbur, on point, December 26, 2016.)

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types professor as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## stumble (verb)

stumbled offensively  
they have ~ (sports team)

stumbled out of the gate  
her campaign ~ but has since found its footing

economy is stumbling  
the ~

strategy stumbled  
that ~ when the group rejected...

talks have stumbled  
~ repeatedly over efforts to... (climate change)

## stumble (noun)

stumbles on the road  
there have been some ~ to reform

string of stumbles

her ~ changed that calculus (that she could win easily)

suffered a stumble

his campaign ~ before it began, when he... (politics)

## stumble (stumble across / on / upon)

stumbled across (skeletal) remains  
a game agent ~ (human)

stumbled across (an amazing) break  
we ~ (surfers)

stumbled across something  
but then she ~ that would change her life (chat rooms)

stumbled on a (major meth) lab  
authorities ~

stumbled on her story  
he ~ when he... (a journalist)

stumbled on a (new) way  
he ~ to do it

stumbled upon a (major) cache  
police ~ of weapons

stumbled upon the newly posted article  
I ~... (*The New York Times* online)

## stumble (stumble into a situation)

stumbled into a civil war  
Tajikistan quickly ~

## stumble (verbal stumble, etc.)

verbal stumbles

he has made a series of gaffes and ~ (a politician)  
the 81-year-old president spoke with only a few minor ~  
Biden has a history of ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## stumble (stumble over one's words)

stumbling over my words  
I tried to explain, but I was ~

## stumbling block

stumbling block in the negotiations  
the issue proved to be a major ~

major stumbling block  
the issue proved to be a ~ in the negotiations

proved a stumbling block  
immune-enhanced disease ~ in developing a vaccine

## stun (verb)

stunned the (Cardiff City) Stadium into silence  
Azerbaijan's goal ~ (soccer)

stunned authorities  
some of the incidents have ~ (youth violence)

stunned the nation  
the crime ~ (Central Park "wilding")

stunned visitors  
the death ~ of the community (animal attack)

stunned (U.S.) delegates  
the vote ~

stunned France  
when Senegal ~, 1-0 (soccer)

stunned Norfolk  
the killings ~

stunned many Russians  
the death toll ~ (military crash)

### **stung (feeling)**

stung by their breakup  
he was ~ (relationship)

remains stung  
she ~ by how she is being portrayed in the press

### **stunned (feeling)**

stunned  
the mountaineering world was ~ (by Tomaz Humar)  
I stood there, ~ (kayaker after near-death experience)  
doctors were ~ (new epidemic disease)

stunned to discover  
he was not the only one ~ they were drug traffickers

stunned to hear  
he was ~ that...  
she was ~ him say... (pedophile)

stunned to learn  
he was ~ about the Air Force's use of amphetamines

stunned at the number  
they were ~ of jihadists heading overseas

stunned by Cameroon  
Argentina was ~ 1-0 (soccer)

stunned by the ferocity  
commanders were ~ of the ambush (Afghanistan)

stunned by the hostility  
she was ~ (gender discrimination)

stunned by the (general's) murder  
he is still ~

stunned by what I saw  
I was ~ (effects of windstorm)

stunned bystanders  
entire houses floated by ~ (flash flood)

stunned mourners  
~ gathered (after Kurt Cobain's suicide)

stunned reporter  
the ~ kept repeating, "Oh, my goodness..."

stunned silence  
there was a brief, ~ (birders see rare bird)

stunned survivors  
he gathered the ~ into a defensive perimeter (combat)

stunned travelers  
the airport was thronged by ~ (after Bali bombing)

stunned courtroom  
no one in the ~ seemed prepared for...

stunned and helpless  
they watched in ~ awe (flash flood)

stunned and hurt  
her teammates were ~ (racist chants at sports event)

truly stunned  
I was ~ (UN decision to allow genocide to continue)

### **stunning (adjective)**

stunning news  
his arrest was ~ in the NHL (hockey)  
he summoned his staff and delivered the ~

stunning performance  
his ~ in the Alps and the Pyrenees (Tour de France)

stunning twist  
it was a ~

stunning victory  
he won a ~ Monday night (elections)

### **stunt (noun)**

political stunt  
the mayor called it a ~ (action by federal government)

PR stunt  
critics say it is an unnecessary ~ (politics)

\*\*\* the illusionist David Blaine...

♦ In 2020, the illusionist David Blaine soared four miles above the Arizona desert while holding on to 52 helium-filled balloons.

### **stunted**

stunted as a force  
we must not let the Internet be ~ for invention

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

### **stupendous (adjective)**

stupendous victory  
it was a ~ (sports)



## stupid (as adverb)

stupid excited

I'm ready, I'm excited, I'm ~ (Regis Prograis)

♦ "I'm ready, I'm excited, stupid excited." (Regis Prograis prior to his boxing match with Jack Catterall. Catterall won a unanimous and decisive decision.)

## stupid (as noun)

Planet Stupid

we live on ~...

bowl of stupid

did you have a big fat ~ for breakfast this morning

fix stupid

you can't ~, but you can laugh at it

photos proving you can't ~ (clickbait)

photos proving you can't ~ (Promoted: Upbeat news)

pay a price for stupid

sometimes you ~

pay for your dumb

did you ~, you seem to have an abundance (snark)

♦ "Did You Have A Big Fat Bowl Of Stupid For Breakfast This Morning?" (R. Lee Ermey meme.)

♦ "Why does stupid both persist and even grow?" (The great sports journalist Phil Mushnick.)

♦ "We live on Planet Stupid." (An online commenter about something or other.)

♦ "#VoteBlueToStopTheStupid #crime is actuallydown" (Some celebrity by the name of Lea Thompson on X.)

## stutter (verb)

stuttered a bit

Liverpool has ~ in terms of scoring goals recently

economy stutters

meanwhile, the pandemic accelerates, while the ~

markets stutter

as global ~ over the trade war between...

\*\*\* The great actor James Earl Jones...

♦ The great actor James Earl Jones dealt with a stutter his entire life.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## stuttering (adjective)

stuttering career

she has since endured a ~ (MMA)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis" by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## succumb (die / actual)

succumbed to his injuries

he was taken to Montefiore Medical Center where he ~

succumbed to life-threatening injuries

he ~ (set himself on fire in protest)

succumbed to the injury

he was given the best care possible but he however ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This has the sense of lying down to a superior force.

## succumb (verb)

succumbed to neglect and disrepair

the city ~ (Matanzas, Cuba, now revived and vibrant)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This has the sense of lying down to a superior force.

## suck dry (verb)

suck us dry

if they ~, what's left to feed off of (AI)

♦ "If they suck us dry, what's left to feed off of?" (AI search versus news media sites, which will go out of business without ad revenues or, in the case of Wikipedia, donations. Wikipedians are wonderful.)

## sucked in / into (involved)

get sucked in

do we want to ~ here even further (Middle East)

get sucked into the (Libyan) quagmire

Egypt might ~

get sucked into the (Fortnite) vortex

kids who ~

get sucked into trends and challenges

children who ~ (girl dies doing TikTok pass out challenge)

## suck up (verb)

suck up information

the F-35 can ~ and pass it to other aircraft

sucking up all of the political oxygen

impeachment going forward is ~ in Congress

♦ Feed (it) / eat up, Hoover up, snatch up, vacuum up / gobble up, ingested (the book) / regurgitate (everything), spit out... (What AI does. From "The alleged theft at the heart of ChatGPT," Planet Money, November 10, 2023. Other articles use words like *devour*, *scrape up*, *suck up* (language and ideas), *sweep up* / *regurgitated* (summaries / *spew* (false information), *spout* (misinformation), *vomit up* (words and sentences), etc.)

## suffer (groups)

suffer from menu anxiety

the young ~ (UK / language, prices, etc.)

suffer from "eyebrow blindness"

do you ~

suffers from the burden

she ~ of expectation

suffer the most

low income and marginalized students will ~  
academically

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Jackson believes that social media, a gathering threat for many years, tore open our collective reality in 2020; it created 'an alternate universe' in which identity-based suffering—or merely the claim to such, however implausible or vicarious—could be converted into social capital. In the theater world in particular..." ("The Radical Self-Awareness of Michael R. Jackson" by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)

♦ "More recently, we have approached the Israel-Hamas war and its spillover onto streets and campuses through the 'intersectional' lens that has jumped from the faculty lounge to newsrooms. Oppressor versus oppressed. That's meant highlighting the suffering of Palestinians at almost every turn while downplaying the atrocities of October 7, overlooking how Hamas intentionally puts Palestinian civilians in peril, and giving little weight to the explosion of antisemitic hate around the world." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

♦ Access (lack of access, etc.); disparity (racial disparities in education, etc.); disproportionate (disproportionate number of African-Americans, etc.); disproportionately (a disproportionately high rate, disproportionately burdening, affects women disproportionately, etc.); gap (gap between whites and blacks); inequity; parity; rates (suffer from higher rates); systemic; systematic; underrepresented (underrepresented accent groups), underserved (underserved communities, historically underserved); uneven (uneven growth and development)... (Words and phrases that typically occur with *equity*...)

♦ "*Blonde* focuses so narrowly on Monroe's pain and trauma, that it feels less like a biographical drama than a Passion Play. The film turns her into an avatar of suffering..." (The movie critic Justin Chang's negative review of the 2022 film *Blonde*.)

\*\*\* the great Slovenian climber Tomaz Humar...

♦ "We can control our heartbeat, which in cold, drawn-out bivouacs is preferably as slow as possible. It is necessary to disconnect the arms and the legs and draw most of one's blood into the core of the body and the head. We switch to other dimensions. We become insensitive to pain, cold, wind, homesickness, thirst, hunger. Instead of having dinner we separate from the physical world. But the further you go into the world where there are no reasons or consequences, points of the compass, time points like yesterday or today, where you only are—the harder it is to return. The reentry into the body is usually accompanied by pain." (*No Impossible Ways* by the great Slovenian climber Tomaz Humar.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "John J. Hardin, an Indiana volunteer, found it 'dreadful...to see the poor soldier just thrown in a ditch and covered over without any box.' / Burials like these dehumanized the dead and appalled many of the living. A Union chaplain observed that in pit burials bodies were 'covered over much the same as farmers cover potatoes and roots to preserve them from the frost of winter; with this exception, however: the vegetables really get more tender care...' Frequently, corpses were quite literally naked... Soldiers desperate for clothing robbed the dead... and thieves and scavengers appeared on battlefields immediately after the end of hostilities... / Soldiers worried that the piles of dead might include those still living, unable to speak..." (*The Republic of Suffering, Death And the American Civil War* by the great American historian Drew Gilpin Faust.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Every culture possesses what Edward Shorter, a medical historian at the University of Toronto, calls a 'symptom repertoire'—a range of physical symptoms available to the unconscious mind for the physical expression of psychological conflict.' In parts of India, patients are said to suffer from *dhat* syndrome: they complain of impotence and have the delusion that they are losing their semen. In Nigeria, students who can't retain information and report feeling a burning sensation in their heads are sometimes given a diagnosis of 'brain fog.' The illnesses are reinforced by a local belief that the symptoms are a sign of authentic suffering, worthy of expert attention and care." ("The Apathetic: Why are refugee children falling unconscious?" by Rachel Aviv, *The New Yorker*, April 3, 2017.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## suffocate (verb)

suffocate

the economy will ~ without new-jobs creation

suffocate every (natural) instinct

her parents tried to ~ in her (sex)

## suffocated

suffocated by this deluge

the coral reefs are slowly ~ of refuse (trash, nets, plastic)

## suffocating

suffocating

the feeling of isolation is ~ (an island off of Chile)

\*\*\* WARNING: to avoid danger of suffocation...

♦ WARNING: to avoid danger of suffocation, keep this plastic bag away from babies and children. Do not use this bag in cribs, beds, carriages or play pens. This bag is not a toy." (Wantdo.)

## sugarcoat (and candy-coat)

sugarcoat

he would give a sober assessment, he would not ~

sugarcoat what was being said

there wasn't much of an effort to ~ (diplomacy)

sugarcoat his feelings

he didn't ~ about the coach (criticized her)

sugarcoat history

lawmakers should not ~ or try to rewrite it (Armenians)

candy-coat it

I ain't gonna ~, I deserve to be executed (death row)

sugarcoat that

what she did was a crime, there is no way to ~

## sugarcoated

non-sugarcoated assessment

the president asked for a ~ assessment of the situation

## sugarcoating (noun)

sugarcoating

no ~, no cheerleading, just the truth (a sports report)

## sugar high (noun)

political sugar high

an "irrational exuberance" or a ~ (Kamalmania / politics)

♦ "So, is this a sugar rush, a media honeymoon, yes, those terms apply, but..." (Punditry by NPR's Ron Elving about Kamala Harris. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "There is...the invigorating if empty-caloric flash of Denzel Washington..." (Justin Chang's review of the 2024 film *Gladiator II* in *The New Yorker*.)

## suggest (indicate)

suggest

what it does ~ is that...

suggest that

we don't have any evidence to ~... (investigation)

suggest about how

what does this ~ this position is viewed by the president

suggest one bacterium over another

the character of the sputum may ~

suggest (overt political) bias

these cases ~ at the Department of Justice

suggest another diagnosis

these symptoms are uncharacteristic and should ~

suggests fracture

gingival bleeding at base of tooth ~

suggest the possibility

certain clues ~ of a struggle

suggest violence

pattern injuries ~

suggest abuse or battering

contusions that are circular or linear ~

suggested poisoning

his symptoms ~

advisory suggested

the ~ climbers descend... (bad weather)

analysis has suggested

matched cohort ~ a lower mortality rate in...

analyses suggest

similar ~ that whales evolved from land animals

data suggest

the ~ that mothers who smoke... (study)

new census ~ that there are far more...

~ that insignificant contact with bats may...

recent ~ that captopril may play a unique role in...

documents suggest

the ~ that the U.S. was eavesdropping on...

edema (also) suggests

the peripheral ~ deep vein thrombosis

estimates suggest

government ~ the strike has cost over...

evidence suggests

that idea is not quite right, ~

anecdotal ~ that most users are males under 40

a growing body of ~ that even brief bedrest is...

but some new ~ this one might be different

the overwhelming ~ that we eat too much salt

experience suggests

his own ~ that a typical corporate network suffers...

findings suggest

the following physical ~ a focal infection

the ~ that...

forecasts suggest

the administration's own economic ~ that... (jobs)

history (of vaginal discharge) suggests

a ~ that... (ED)

injuries suggest

pattern ~ violence (ED)

models (of ARDS) suggest

adult and infant animal ~ that...

profile had suggested

an FBI ~ the kidnapper is a predator, and possibly...

profile (also) suggested

the ~ that the killer... (FBI-created profile)

recommendations suggest

recent ~ treatment for 60 days with... (anthrax)

reconstruction (of this crash) suggests

as a ~, some accidents may be "normal" (plane crash)

reports suggested

preliminary ~ rough seas overwhelmed the boat

research suggests

but new ~ that even...

researchers suggested

some ~ that the study might have understated...

scores suggested

and test ~ that 70% of Fremont's students didn't...

signs suggest

nearly all ~ Armstrong is ready (Tour de France)

statistics suggested

that risk was, ~, far higher than... (shuttle)

studies suggest

some ~ that prolonged bedrest...

although ~ a greater prevalence in developed nations

current ~ that four or five times a week is best;

molecular ~ that SIV entered chimpanzees long after...

other ~ that 3-10% of elders are abused or neglected

surveys suggest

recent ~ that 36% of under-29-year-olds in Britain...

national ~ that 94% of parents acknowledge...

symptoms suggest

contraindicated in children whose ~ Reye syndrome

theory suggests

this ~ that elder abuse is caused by...

common sense suggests

~ that at some point...

vital signs may suggest

the ~ sepsis even if fever is absent

testing suggested  
shuttle ~ that the wings were vulnerable...

evidence to suggest  
there is no ~ that he informed school officials...

nothing to suggest  
there was ~ the action was in any way related to...

reasons to suggest  
there are plenty of ~ that...

fair to suggest  
it isn't ~ that the Central Asians are...

strongly suggests  
the evidence ~ that...

strongly suggest  
pink frothy sputum and dyspnea ~ pulmonary edema

**suggestion (evidence)**

suggestion of foul play  
there was no ~

**suicide (career suicide, etc.)**

suicide by a thousand cuts  
the company is committing ~ (failing)

suicide by social media  
he committed commercial ~ (Dudum / Hims & Hers)

suicide mission  
the prosecutors are on a ~ (taking case in trial)

suicide pact  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment is becoming a ~ (Gavin Newsome)

career suicide  
they have decided to risk ~  
he's committing ~ (prosecutor refused to drop case)

commercial suicide  
not to use the engine would have been ~ (Boeing)  
he committed ~ by social media (Andrew Dudum)

political suicide  
investigating our own agency would be ~  
it's ~ for the Democrats... (politics)  
it would be ~ to return to combat operations  
(Afghanistan)

social suicide  
you can't join mathletes, it's ~ (2004 film *Mean Girls*)

committed (political) suicide  
he ~ by announcing that...

\*\*\* language, political correctness...

- ♦ "I just watched the clip of her barreling down the street. Seems like she may be...trying to hurt herself in a permanent way (since I can't use the S word thanks to Yahoo censorship)." (An online commenter about the death of Hollywood celebrity Anne Heche. The S word is *suicide*.)
- ♦ "Top of mind to many who care about this topic is getting rid of the phrase 'committed suicide,' says Dese'Rae Stage, a suicide awareness activist who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and

is trained in crisis intervention." ("The words to say—and not say—about suicide" by Jessica Ravitz, CNN, June 11, 2018.)

- ♦ "Newsweek avoids saying a person 'committed' suicide—a dated phrase from a time when suicide was a crime. Instead, people 'die by suicide.'" (*Newsweek's* policies and standards.)

- ♦ "Around noon, family members called police to report that the father was talking about *dying by suicide* [italics mine] in the woods behind his house." (2022.)

- ♦ "Unfortunately, [she] lost her long battle with depression and passed away." (A suicide.)

- ♦ "A top Bed Bath & Beyond executive has died after falling from an NYC building" by Joe Hernandez, NPR, Business, September 4, 2022. Within the article, it clearly states, "The New York City Medical Examiner's Office told NPR on Sunday that it had determined the death was a suicide.")

- ♦ "Images released by investigators show him lying on a blood-stained classroom floor after he *turned one of his weapons on himself* [italics mine]." (Artyom Kazantsev, school shooter at school number 88 in Izhevsk, central Russia.)

- ♦ "The subject is deceased due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound."

- ♦ "Officials say he *completed* [italics mine] suicide Tuesday. (A WYMT report about Lance Preston Storz. Kentucky.)

\*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

- ♦ "The memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, recognized as the official Holocaust memorial of Germany, sits in the center of downtown Berlin, just south of the famous Brandenburg Gate and a block away from the site of the bunker where Hitler *died by suicide* [italics mine]." ("Monuments to the Unthinkable: America still can't figure out how to memorialize the sins of our history. What can we learn from Germany?" by Clint Smith, *The Atlantic*, December, 2022. Contrast this with what Andrew Roberts wrote about Churchill's 1945 visit to Hitler's bunker: "He had finally tracked the beast to its lair.")

\*\*\* suicide by cop, police...

- ♦ "Yet another case of a Black man committing suicide by police." (An online commenter.)

- ♦ "suicide by cop is suddenly reaching down towards a gun..." (An online commenter about the death of Chase Allan in Farmington, Utah.)

\*\*\* suicide and sports...

- ♦ "PLEASE, SEE THAT MY BRAIN IS GIVEN TO THE N.F.L.'S BRAIN BANK." (The final text message that Dave Duerson, former NFL Chicago Bears Football player with two Super Bowl wins, sent to his ex-wife and son before committing suicide by shooting himself in the chest, not the head, at age 50. He had graduated from Notre Dame. From an article by the great Alan Schwarz in *The New York Times*.)

- ♦ "It's indisputable. Dave Duerson had classic pathology of CTE and no evidence of any other disease and he has severe involvement of all the (brain) structures that affect things like judgment, inhibition, impulse control, mood and memory." (Dr. Ann McKee, a co-director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University's School of Medicine. The CSTE Brain Bank has the brains of more than 70 athletes and military veterans, with football players comprising more than half of the athletes. From "Study: Duerson had brain damage at time of suicide," by Howard Ulman, AP Sports Writer, Monday, May 2, 2011.)

- ♦ "When Len Boogaard arrived in New York from Ottawa in January, he barely recognized his son. Several times over several days, the toughest man in hockey bawled in his arms. / 'I had to hold him,' Len Boogaard said of Derek. 'It was like when he was younger, when he was a little kid growing up. He just sobbed away uncontrollably.'" ("Derek Boogaard: A Brain 'Going Bad,'" by John Branch (the third in a series), NYT, December 5, 2011.)

- ♦ "Terribly tragic news in the hockey world tonight as New York Rangers forward Derek Boogaard has passed away at the age of 28. / Mike Russo of the Star Tribune reports that the Boogaard family will donate his brain to the Boston University researchers who study brain disease in athletes. / Boogaard last played on Dec. 9 and missed the rest of his first season in New York with a concussion he suffered after a fight with Ottawa's Matt Carkner." ("Derek Boogaard of the New York Rangers passes away at 28," by Sean Leahy, Yahoo! Sports.)

♦ "I just got off the phone with Ryan Boogaard, Derek's middle brother. / Twenty minutes ago, Derek Boogaard's mother and father, Joanne and Len, signed papers to donate their oldest son's brain to the Boston University researchers who are studying for drain disease in athletes. / In March, it was announced that even through Bob Probert died of heart failure, Probert also had the degenerative brain disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Probert was the second hockey player from the program at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy to be diagnosed with the disease. The other was the 1960s enforcer Reggie Fleming. / I want to emphasize, this does not mean Boogaard died of complications of a concussion. It's just a selfless act by the Boogaards, who believe in these researchers who are trying to raise awareness when it comes to brain trauma." ("Family donates Boogaard's brain to Boston University researchers," by Michael Russo, *StarTribune*, May 14, 2011.)

♦ "The Boogaard family waited for results. One month. Two. Three. Two other N.H.L. enforcers died, reportedly suicides, stoking a debate about the toll of their role in hockey. / Four months. Five. The news came in a conference call to the family in October. / Boogaard had chronic traumatic encephalopathy, commonly known as C.T.E., a close relative of Alzheimer's disease. It is believed to be caused by repeated blows to the head... The degenerative disease was more advanced in Boogaard than it was in Bob Probert, a dominant enforcer of his generation..." ("Derek Boogaard: A Brain 'Going Bad,' by John Branch (the third in a series), *NYT*, December 5, 2011.)

♦ "Three N.H.L. players, all enforcers entrusted with protecting teammates through intimidation and the occasional flurry of fists, have been found dead since May, stirring debate over the role of fighting in hockey, the stress placed on enforcers and the possible impact of brain trauma on the men who absorb the sports' biggest beatings. / The three players—Derek Boogaard (28), Rick Rypien (27), and Wade Belak (35), who died Wednesday—combined to play 945 N.H.L. regular-season games, scoring only 20 goals while accumulating more than 2,000 penalty minutes. They dropped their gloves hundreds of times to fight, sometimes against one another, while meting out hockey's unique brand of jaw-cracking justice. / [Boogaard was] widely considered the most feared player in the N.H.L. Boogaard, a 6-foot-8, 270-pound 28-year-old, was found to have died of an accidental overdose of alcohol and prescription painkillers. / More than 20 former N.F.L. players have been posthumously found to have had chronic traumatic encephalopathy. It can be found only by examining the brains of the deceased." ("Hockey Players' Deaths Pose a Tragic Riddle," by John Branch, *NYT*, September 1, 2011.)

♦ "One of the nation's top baseball prospects, a bright student headed to Vanderbilt, was found dead along the side of a Tennessee road on Tuesday after an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, sending shockwaves through the Volunteer State baseball community. / Parsons Riverside High ace Stephen Gant was found dead in Perry County shortly after the local sheriff's office had been called about a man walking up and down the road with a gun threatening to commit suicide." ("Prep baseball superstar, possible first-round MLB pick, dies of mysterious apparent suicide," by Cameron Smith, *Yahoo Sports*, April 4, 2012.)

♦ "I was expecting it. It verifies all of our suspicions, Ray's included... I feel affirmed and I feel at peace. It made my heart hurt even more to know he suffered through that." (Mary Ann Easterling, on learning that her husband, Ray Easterling had had chronic traumatic encephalopathy. After his career, Ray suffered from dementia, depression and insomnia. He died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at the age of 62. From "Autopsy: late Falcons star had brain disease," *The AP*, 27 July 2012.)

### \*\*\* suicide and pop psychology...

♦ "The pain doesn't go away. It's just transferred to someone else." (A random commenter on an article about a successful, beautiful young woman, a former athlete, who "inexplicably" committed suicide. Another commenter wrote, "You'll never understand what it's like until you've walked a mile in our brain.")

♦ A common "pop psychology" response to suicide nowadays is that it is "a permanent solution to a temporary problem." Consider the case of mental health blogger and sailor Beth Matthews of England.

♦ "Sadness is a language too many of us are fluent in; and suicide is a dialect that's east [sic, "easy"] to pick up." ("A Letter To My Father," Eva Evan's Story, don't mind me.org. Linked from "TikTok star Eva Evans found dead from apparent suicide: 'A New York icon,'" by

Lauren Samer, *The New York Post*, April 23, 2024. "Evans was known for her videos about life as a 20-something in New York City." She left 300,000 followers.)

### \*\*\* Jack London, Ernest Hemingway...

♦ "Just a few of these fallen artists, all modern, make up a sad but scintillant roll call: Hart Crane, Vincent van Gogh, Virginia Woolf, Arshile Gorky, Cesare Pavese, Romain Gary, Vachel Lindsay, Sylvia Plath, Henry de Montherlant, Mark Rothko, John Berryman, Jack London, Ernest Hemingway, William Inge, Diane Arbus, Tadeusz Borowski, Paul Celan, Anne Sexton, Sergei Esenin, Vladimir Mayakovsky—the list goes on..." (Artistic types who committed suicide, mentioned in *Darkness Visible: Memoir of Madness* by William Styron.)

### \*\*\* suicide magnets...

♦ The Yangtze River Bridge (Nanjing); the Golden Gate Bridge (San Francisco); the Pancevo Bridge (Belgrade); two main bridges over the Han River (Seoul); the Aurora Bridge (Seattle); the Aokigahara Forest (on the northwestern flank of Mount Fuji); the Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad; The Gap (Sydney); the Vessel (Hudson Yards, New York City)... (Suicide magnets.)

♦ In Dante's *The Inferno*, the souls of suicides are encased within trees and vegetation in the Forest of the Suicides. "[The violent spirit] falls into the wood, and landing there, / wherever fortune flings it, it strikes root, / and there it sprouts..." (From the great translation by John Ciardi.)

### \*\*\* trigger warnings, lip service...

♦ "A warning. This episode contains discussion of suicide and domestic violence." (NPR's Pop Culture *Happy Hour*.)

♦ "Warning: Post contains mention of contemplated suicide." (BuzzFeed Community.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Duncan Gordon Boyes, Royal Navy, Midshipman of Her Majesty's Ship *Euryalus*... He carried a Colour with the leading company, kept it in advance of all, in the face of the thickest fire, his colour-sergeants having fallen, one mortally, the other dangerously wounded...The Colour he carried was six times pierced by musket balls." (From the citation, in the *London Gazette*, for Boyes' Victoria Cross, for his actions at Shimonoseki, Japan, in 1864. Born in Cheltenham, Glos., England, Boyes joined the Royal Navy at the age of 14. He received his VC at the age of 17. Later, he was kicked out of the navy for ill-discipline and went to New Zealand. Suffering from depression and alcoholism, he committed suicide at the age of 22.)

♦ "At last my watch ended with the first signs of dawn. I passed the word along the line for the company to stand-to arms. The N.C.O.'s whispered hoarsely into the dug-outs: 'Stand-to, stand-to,' and out the men tumbled with their rifles in their hands. Going towards Company Headquarters to wake the officers I saw a man lying on his face in a machine-gun shelter. I stopped and said: 'Stand-to, there! I flashed my torch on him and saw that one of his feet was bare. / The machine-gunner beside him said: 'No good talking to him, Sir.' / I asked: 'What's wrong? Why has he taken his boot and sock off?' / 'Look for yourself, Sir!' / I shook the sleeper by the arm and noticed suddenly the hole in the back of his head. He had taken off the boot and sock to pull the trigger of his rifle with one toe; the muzzle was in his mouth. 'Why did he do it?' I asked. / 'He went through the last push, Sir, and that sent him a bit queer; on top of that he got bad news from Limerick about his girl and another chap.' / ...Two Irish officers came up. 'We've had several of these lately,' one of them told me. Then he said to the other: 'While I remember, Callaghan, don't forget to write to his next-of-kin. Usual sort of letter; tell them he died a soldier's death, anything you like. I'm not going to report it as suicide.'" (*Good-Bye To All That* by Robert Graves.)

♦ "Raheel Siddiqui died after she threw himself off the barracks stairwell, falling 40 feet, while going through boot camp in 2016, an investigation into his death found." ("Family seeks Supreme Court in \$100M lawsuit for Parris Island Marine recruit's death" by Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, Feb 6, 2020. The Supreme Court declined to hear the case.)

♦ "I asked Mario D'Aliesio, branch head of behavior health for Marine and Family Programs at Camp Pendleton, whether he found the string of suicides shocking or disturbing. / 'Does it seem shocking? I don't know,' he said." ("Over Six Years, There Have Been More Than 30 Suicides at Camp Pendleton" by Will Huntsberry, *Voice of San*



Diego, July 19, 2022. The story was completed with assistance from the USC Annenberg Center for Health journalism.)

♦ see also *cide* (*ecocide*, etc.)

## suit (person)

suits and decision-makers

we walked into the room with all the ~ (two actors)

♦ "Yeah, let's get real emotional and pass laws based on emotion rather than common sense. Trey Gowdy is an empty suit. He got rich in Congress while doing nothing." (Criticism of the politician.)

## suit (follow suit)

follow suit

states feel pressure to ~ (gambling policy)

## suitcase (lived in a suitcase, etc.)

lived in a suitcase

I've ~ for two years (a chess player who travels a lot)

## suite (suite of tools, etc.)

suite of (terrorism) statutes

there are a ~ in the federal criminal code

suite of tools

the rover has a ~ (Mars Science Lab)

robust suite

the MQ-9 has a ~ of visual sensors for targeting

## suitor (noun)

suitors for Lehman Brothers

the ~ weren't really serious

a lot of suitors

but there are ~... (Sri Lanka and geopolitics, diplomacy)

suitors have been lining up

following his demand for a trade, potential ~ (an NBA star)

attract suitors

they will inevitably ~ in the summer (2 soccer players)

seeking suitors

the E.W. Scripps Co. is ~ for the *Rocky Mountain News*

♦ "Liverpool's Brazilian forward Roberto Firmino is not short of suitors..." (Soccer teams who want to sign him.)

## sully (verb)

sullied their relationship

the loan might have ~ (two naval officers)

sullied my reputation

the incident ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Dirtied...

## summit (at the summit)

at the summit of her achievement

the work stands ~ as an artist

at the summit of his fame

he turned his back on Hollywood ~

at the summit of his power

he died ~

## summit (other)

boxing's summit

Usyk reaches ~

\*\*\* "They were caught in a ferocious storm..."

♦ "They were caught in a ferocious storm near the summit of Les Droites..."

♦ "The lure of the summit proved stronger than a fear of death."

♦ "There are two kinds of climbers. Those who climb because their heart sings when they're in the mountains, and all the rest." (Alex Lowe.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Higher than the top of the mountain one cannot climb."

## sun (currency and obsolescence)

moment in the sun

he had his ~ (rock star)

I think they have had their ~ (team in World Cup)

new day in the sun

the research is having a ~ (on attention)

sun was (rapidly) going down

the ~ for the Empire of Japan (a W.W. II documentary)

sun has set

the ~ on the Kennedy era

sun is setting

the ~ on the dirty energy of the past

## sunset (sail into the sunset)

happily sail into the sunset

they can then ~ (retire from boxing after fighting)

## sunk in

sunk in

it's over, and that hasn't ~ yet

## sunlight (concealment)

sunlight

behind closed doors, without any ~ whatsoever (hearings)

sunlight of (open) debate

he exposed them to the disinfecting ~

disinfecting sunlight

he exposed them to the ~ of open debate

exposed them to the (disinfecting) sunlight

he ~ of open debate

## sunny (adjective)

sunny side

look on the ~ (advice to parent of toddler with problem)

sunny smile

a ~ seemed the antidote to adversity



danceable, sunny  
the group wrote ~ lyrics

\*\*\* SAD, seasonal affective disorder...

♦ SAD, seasonal affective disorder, was identified in the 1980s and always related to the diminishing hours of sunlight in winter. Now there is "summer SAD," which supposedly relates to anxiety about heat waves, smoke from Canadian wildfires, etc., which nicely ties in to worries about global warming...

## **sunset (ride into the sunset)**

riding into the sunset  
after tomorrow, I'm going to be ~ (vote)

## **sunset (sunset years, etc.)**

sunset years  
the ~ of tranquil retirement... (before death)

## **super (superlawyer, etc.)**

supercharge  
see *supercharge* (verb)

supersize  
see *supersize* (verb)

supercharged  
see *supercharged*

supersized  
see *supersized* (adjective)

supersizing  
see *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing)

Super Bowl  
see *Super Bowl*

superfan  
Giants ~ Joe "License Plate Guy" Ruback (NFL)

super-fight  
the most super of ~s delivered... (Usyk versus Fury)

superfog  
a "~" of smoke and fog caused multiple car crashes

superhero  
see *superhero* (contempo-speak)

superhighway  
see *superhighway*

superintelligence  
~, or artificial general intelligence (AGI)

supernova  
see *supernova* (achievement), *supernova* (attention)

superpower  
see *superpower* (groups)

super-spreader  
see *super-spreader*

superstar  
she evolved from star to ~ (an actor)  
he is one of those ~ authors

superyacht  
if it's more than ninety-eight feet, it's a ~

super adaptive  
their brains are ~ (babies / neuroplasticity / language)

super authentic  
everything here is ~... (Nova Music Festival Exhibition)

super awesome  
I just think it's ~ (said by female basketball player)

super bold  
I thought it was ~, I mean I could not believe... (NPR)

super colorful  
she is sitting in her ~ office at NPR HQ (a picture)

super common  
these anxiety spirals are ~ (NPR's Ailsa Chang / FOMO)

super creepy  
he's a ~ dude (Bryan Kohberger)

super early  
I had this job that I had to get up ~ for

super effective  
Ukraine has targeted Russian troops in a ~ manner  
regulations have been ~ (NPR's Camila Domonoske)

super elegant  
~, beautiful, very classy, very classic, very Chanel...

super-energetic  
Kevin Hart's comedy is ~ (Mark Twain Prize winner)

super-excited  
I'm ~ about having someone who has a female  
perspective

super expensive  
space tourism is ~ (NPR punditry / Geoff Brumfiel)

super-expressive  
he had a ~ (a girl about her dog)

super-fascinating  
the two legal cases are ~

super-fit  
he's ~, he's in the best shape... (a boxer)

super friendly  
our hosts Aza and Aubrey were ~ (Drunken Monkey)

super-happy  
oh my God, we are ~, it's amazing...

super hard  
it's been ~ going to work... (Generation Z teacher)

super-hard  
it's ~ to explain this topic in just a few minutes (apology)

super important  
it's ~ that you...  
it's so ~ and incredibly well documented (some study)

the right to my body is ~ (a UPenn coed)

super inaccurate  
don't spread base rumors, that can be ~ (female military)

super-motivating  
it was ~ to think what more could be possible

super personal  
therapy is ~ (an advertisement for... wait for it... therapy)

super-positive  
LinkedIn was a ~ experience for me (Benjamin Faw)

super proud  
I am ~ to be part of an organization that...

superrich  
New York's supertalls are homes for the ~ (skyscrapers)

super sad  
I always get like ~, it's all because I'm Trans...

super-scary  
it was a definite boundary violation and a ~ event

supersecret  
he had access to ~ intelligence programs (J. Edgar Hoover)

super-stressful  
the situation was already ~

super sure  
people were ~ that... (an excited Hadeel Al-Shalchi / NPR)

supertalls  
New York's ~ are homes for the superrich (skyscrapers)

super-tight  
yeah, money is ~, we're barely making ends meet

super true  
it's hard to find the time, that's ~ (to meditate)

super uncommon  
and actually, you know, this is not ~

super-upsetting  
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez called it "~" (a joke)

super viral  
her tweet went ~

super-hyper-mega-uber  
this ~ French entry (Barbara Pravi / Eurovision Contest)

super hyper-friendly  
the Mormon vibe is often ~ (according to Alyssa Grenfell)

most super  
the ~ of super-fights delivered... (Usyk vs. Fury)

obviously super  
see *obviously* (*contempo-speak*)

♦ "We've never witnessed buildings rise so much, so quickly. From high-rises, we've stretched to supertalls and even megatalls (double

the height of a supertall), and engineers are already discussing 'ultratalls' that would take us higher still." ("Can A Building Be Too Tall?" by Bianca Bosker, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023.)

♦ "If it has a crew working aboard, it's a yacht. If it's more than ninety-eight feet, it's a superyacht. After that, definitions are debated, but people generally agree that anything more than two hundred and thirty feet is a megayacht, and more than two hundred and ninety-five is a gigayacht. The world contains about fifty-four hundred superyachts, and about a hundred gigayachts. / For the moment, a gigayacht is the most expensive item that our species has figured out how to own." ("The Floating World" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, July 25, 2022.)

♦ "Everyone is super involved and engaged and supportive of each other, but not in a networky feeling way, in a way that's just really like uhh...." (Jac Jemc—pronounced Jack Jams—about her fellow Chicago writers.)

♦ "Everyone is just like super-nurturing and super-willing to take you under their wing and teach you how to do new things. I mean... (NPR's Isabella Gomez Sarmiento, gushing about her Kroc fellowship.)

♦ "Big thanks to our hosts, Aza and Aubrey, who were super-friendly." (Drunken Monkey Pub Crawl.)

♦ "It's super, it's heavy, it's superheavy." (An ecstatic commentator about the booster of a SpaceX Starship.)

♦ "It's super sticky, super heavy, super wet snow." (An enthusiastic young male Swiss podcaster in Zurich, about...a snowfall.)

♦ "Pipeline is really the ultimate challenge, it's super dangerous... super challenging, super abrupt, it gets very steep...it's really kind of the ultimate tube close to the beach, everyone can see, there's so much energy out there... most of us have lost somebody at Pipeline who has died over the years." (A surfer.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ The Swiss may be forgiven for their use of "super."

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, "try this genius hack to..." In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ see also *supersizing* (*linguistic supersizing*)

## Super Bowl

Super Bowl of spirit competitions  
the annual Cheerleading Worlds—the ~

Super Bowl of the canines  
the ~ (Westminster Dog Show)

Superbowl of church suppers  
the ~ (Wild Game Supper in Bradford, Vt.)

Super Bowl on steroids  
this is like the ~ (security for Cricket Matches / ISIS threat)

akin to the Super Bowl  
in the mountainous nations, the *Hahnenkamm* is ~ (skiing)

gearing up for their Super Bowl  
florists have been ~ (Valentine's Day)

♦ "This is our Super Bowl, absolutely, for entomologists, we've been looking forward to this." (An excited Michael J. Raupp, professor

emeritus at the University of Maryland, about an emergence of periodical cicadas, Brood X. He is also known as “the Bug Guy.”)

♦ “This is like the Super Bowl on steroids.” (Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, about security for 2024 cricket World Cup matches on Long Island after a threat to disrupt them by ISIS. The event has been entirely forgotten by everyone.)

## supercharge (verb)

supercharged each other  
the two communities ~ with their online conflict

supercharge productivity  
~ with the Copilot app (Microsoft)

supercharges the storm  
climate change ~ (hurricanes)

## supercharged

supercharged identity  
his background in law enforcement gave him a bit of a ~

## superhero (groups)

superhero  
~s are people, too...  
~s are everywhere... (US VP Kamala Harris)

superhero adaptations  
the shifting gender dynamics of ~

superhero (skincare) ingredient  
the ~ vitamin C

superhero movie  
a ~ for dads with brainworms (*Sound of Freedom*)  
audiences are sick of boring ~ ‘universes’

queer Latina superhero  
America Chavez, Marvel’s first ~

dietary superhero  
it’s a ~ (fiber)

modern superhero  
O’Connor turns ancient gods and goddesses into ~s

peak superhero  
have we reached ~

our very own superhero  
we will keep the memory of ~ (YouTuber Ben Potter)

Team of superheroes  
“A ~ is making the future bright” (Harvard dorm)

avatars and superheroes  
athletes are seen as ~

becomes a superhero  
he ~, helping save his neighborhood

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “I felt it was so important for someone like that to be given a voice and then to be shown that she is actually a superheroine...” (Actor Michelle Yeoh about her character in *Everything Everywhere All At Once*. From “Actor Michelle Yeoh wants to change the way we think of superheroes,” NPR, Fresh Air, April 25, 2022.)

♦ “The shifting gender dynamics of superhero adaptations.” (Female heroes.)

♦ “Zero is the nickname of Omar, the lead character, a young Black Italian delivery worker who is more or less ignored by the white society around him. But his metaphorical invisibility turns into a magical power when he discovers he can actually make himself invisible. He becomes a superhero, helping save his neighborhood...” (“In New Italian Netflix Series ‘Zero,’ A Black Hero Makes Invisibility His Superpower” by Sylvia Poggioli, NPR, May 27, 2021.)

♦ “To every Batgirl fan—THANK YOU for the love and belief, allowing me to take on the cape and become, as Babs said best, ‘my own damn hero!’ #Batgirl for life!” (Afro-Latina actress Leslie Grace, posting on Instagram, after Warner Bros. Discovery shocked Hollywood by shelving her Batgirl film after having spent \$90 million on it. The Batgirl character is from DC Comics.)

♦ “They hate, we ball... This is what you want... That’s the way we roll.” (Harvard Housing Day 2023, Currier House, Currier vs the World, YouTube. “A Team of superheroes are [sic] making the future bright.”)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “superhero” bandwagon...

♦ “Not all heroes wear capes. Some of them have white paws...” (Therapy dogs.)

♦ “Not all superheroes wear spandex or much of anything...” (NPR’s Scott Simon about two nudists who rescued a tourist under attack by a person dressed as a pirate in the Castro District of San Francisco. The nudists have been dubbed “The Naked Samaritans.”)

♦ “Rolling Stone called it ‘a superhero movie for dads with brainworms.’” (The 2023 film *Sound of Freedom*.)

♦ “I sometimes think of fiber as the Peter Parker of food—a seemingly boring, nerdy nutrient that’s actually secretly a dietary superhero.” (NPR. The “intersection” of comics and eating. Classic!)

♦ “Rodri showed the world that gunslingers don’t always wear cowboy hats.” (The online commenter Amin Yashed about Man City 3-1 Red Star. Smart use of language. It echoes the cliché, “Heroes don’t always wear capes.”)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ *Superheroes Are Everywhere* by Vice-President Kamala Harris is a children’s book that celebrates ordinary people.

♦ “He’s not a dignified old greybeard, like you know he’s not Sir Laurence Olivier or Liam Neeson, he’d be like you know this 21-year-old surfer dude from California with like sick abs.” (The 48-year-old George O’Connor thinking about the Greek God Zeus. From “Graphic novelist O’Connor turns ancient gods and goddesses into modern superheroes,” NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, April 16, 2022.)

♦ “What if these beloved comic book characters fucked? And also solved murders? And had super powers? (“Riverdale’ Will Finally Come to an End After Seven Absolutely Unhinged Seasons” by Jordan Julian, *Daily Beast*, May 19, 2022.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Have we reached peak Superhero?” (Marvel fatigue.)

♦ “Audiences are sick of boring superhero movie ‘universes’” by Johnny Oleksinski, *New York Post*, August 23, 2023.

♦ “Heroes don’t always wear capes. Carton of cigarettes to that man.” (A snarky online commenter. “That man” poured scalding water on the face of the reviled Frank Abrokwa at Rikers Island, where both were inmates.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one’s own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs.” (“Politics And The English Language” by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ see also *cape (superhero)*, *hero (person, child, queer, dog, rat, etc.)*

## superhighway

superhighway  
the road to stardom hasn’t been a ~ for her (actor)

shipping superhighway  
the Strait of Malacca is a ~

information superhighway  
popular culture now rides on the ~  
he mines the ~  
the railroad was the original ~

♦ "Social media is quickly becoming pay to play... It's no longer an information highway that connects people...it's starting to become a toll road."

## supernova (achievement)

tech supernova  
she was a ~ who said she had an amazing invention  
pitching supernova  
Dwight Gooden was a ~

## supernova (attention)

went supernova  
the conflict ~ in the pages of *The New York Times*

## superpower (groups)

superpower  
we believe now diversity is our ~ (Ed Zelich / Charleroi)

superpowers  
vulnerability and introspection are our ~ (Suzan-Lori Parks)

superpower of a Black Woman  
I think the ~ is to...

one of the superpowers  
this steeliness may have been ~ that produced his successes

race, queerness and superpowers  
~ (NPR / Code Switch)

discovers her superpower  
a Black feminist ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* by Brittney Cooper.

♦ "I think the superpower of a Black Woman is to occupy the space in the fullness of who she is." (The actress Aisha Hinds.)

♦ "Zero is the nickname of Omar, the lead character, a young Black Italian delivery worker who is more or less ignored by the white society around him. But his metaphorical invisibility turns into a magical power when he discovers he can actually make himself invisible. He becomes a superhero, helping save his neighborhood..." ("In New Italian Netflix Series 'Zero,' A Black Hero Makes Invisibility His Superpower" by Sylvia Poggioli, NPR, May 27, 2021.)

♦ "Wonder Woman Comics Celebrate 40 Years" by Leslie Breeding, NPR, March 13, 1982. "This story originally aired on All Things Considered on March 13, 1982. The digital preservation of this audio has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities."

♦ "By far and away I think Charlie is the most heroic man I have ever played. His superpower is to see the good in others and bring that out of them." (Brendon Fraser about his role in the film *The Whale*, in which he plays Charlie, a 600-pound-man who rarely leaves his couch. The article goes on to read, "Hunter, who also wrote the screenplay, said his play is personal. He started it 12 years ago when he was teaching a mandatory expository writing course at Rutgers University that no one wanted to take and everyone resented. He also pulled from his own background, setting the play in his

hometown of Moscow, Idaho, and weaving in his history of being depressed, self-medicating with food and going to a fundamentalist religious high school as a gay teenager." (From "Brendon Fraser celebrated for a comeback role in 'The Whale'" by Lindsey Bahr, AP Film writer, Sept 4, 2022.)

♦ "We believe now diversity is our superpower." (School Superintendent Ed Zelich in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, about Haitian immigrants.)

♦ "It's all about learning to have your sensitivity be your superpower." (Women film directors.)

### \*\*\* mental illness...

♦ "Living a life of mental illness, they call it—I like to say mental superpowers—you know, basketball was always my escape." (Former NBA player Delonte West, bipolar disorder.)

♦ "We really wanted to make sure that the show didn't veer towards being too saccharine or, you know, like, 'Oh, autism is my superpower!' she said. That's not the point of our show. It's about showing that, yes, there is struggle, but also there is community and also there is hope and there is joy. And honestly, there is autistic culture to learn about and to respect and to celebrate." (Librettist Rebekah Greer Melocik. From "'How to Dance in Ohio' is a Broadway musical starring 7 autistic actors," Jeff Lunden, NPR, Morning Edition, December 5, 2023.)

♦ "How 'Poor Things' actor Emma Stone turns her anxiety into a 'superpower,'" NPR, Fresh Air (with Terry Gross), January 31, 2024.

♦ "Being neuroatypical, I'm not always super comfortable moving through the world. But that's also connected to my superpower..." (Australian comedian Hannah Gadsby. Gadsby is a lesbian and uses "they/them" pronouns. They have a wife.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "superpower" bandwagon...

♦ "It's something I never started doing and now it feels a bit of a superpower..." (The film director Christopher Nolan chatting with Terry Gross about NOT having a cellphone.)

♦ "There are superpowers that can come out of trauma."

♦ "President Biden's age is, in fact, his superpower." The Hollywood movie mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg and co-chair of Joe Biden's re-election campaign.)

♦ "This cute mammal's poop has superpowers." (NPR, Manoush Zomorodi. Cute!)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Psychobiotics are a new class of products with a unique superpower." (A YouTube advertisement: Justthrivehealth.com. "Probiotics." "Prebiotics." "Psychobiotics." You get it.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Users can feel like they have superpowers." (Monkey dust / zombie dust.)

♦ "Self-examination is not his superpower."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Australia is the superpower of lifestyle."

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ see also *power* (*power to the people, etc.*)

## supersize (verb)

supersize itself  
everything seemed to just ~ (criticism of Harry Potter)

supersized all those policies  
the president ~ (border control)

supersizes the truth  
the story often ~ (history)

♦ “As we crossed over into the year 2000, suddenly everything seemed to just supersize itself.” (Criticism that the Harry Potter books promoted Satanism and witchcraft to children, etc.)

♦ “The story often supersedes the truth and comes with a side order of fibs.” (“American History’s Biggest Fibs,” BBC Select, with historian Lucy Worsley.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to the short Wikipedia article “Supersize,” “the phrase was particularly used by McDonald’s restaurants to upsze their French fries and soft drinks.” Wikipedians are wonderful.

## supersized (adjective)

supersized (personal) mandate

Boris Johnson’s premiership rests on a ~

## supersizing (linguistic supersizing)

linguistic supersizing

~ is everywhere (hyperbole / wretched excess / promotion)

♦ Afraid (terrified); agreement (landmark agreement); bad (hideous); all-too-believable (unbelievable); clever (genius); first (first ever); flavour (flavour bomb); hero (superhero); hot (sweltering); hungry (starving); newly reported information (a shocking reveal); nice (awesome); sad (tragic); storm (Frankenstorm); tired (shattered); tragedy (terrible / horrific tragedy); weather (weather bomb); uber; ova-; mega... (“How extroverts super-sized the English language,” BBC Reel, 13 May 2021, an excellent script and narration by Susie Dent.)

♦ Absolutely anything; absolutely horrific; absolutely huge; absolutely incredible; absolutely perfect; absolutely palpable; absolutely terrified; all kinds of brave (a female politician); astonishingly delicious; astonishingly realistic; completely awestruck; crazy delicious; endlessly refreshed; endlessly shocked; enormously touched; extraordinarily brave; extraordinarily generous; fabulously wonderful; fundamentally horrific; hugely useful; incredibly brave; incredibly fierce; lushly illustrated (a blurb for some book), mad funny; magnificently researched (a blurb for some book); magnificently accomplished (a woman); much beloved; particularly heinous; preposterously talented; profoundly saddened; REEEE-ly, REEEE-ly contagious (NPR); savagely denounced; stratospherically difficult; super-important; terribly rotten; tremendously excited (“I am tremendously excited to join NPR / Kathleen Maher); truly believe; truly dire; truly extraordinary (person / murdered); unfathomably brutal; utterly horrific... (Linguistic supersizing.)

♦ absolutely completely (destroyed); completely totally (different); extremely carefully; extremely seriously; incredibly highly (regarded); never ever; overwhelmingly positively; so tremendously (quickly); totally completely; tremendously quickly; very very extremely...

♦ Absolute pleasure; brutal cold (the weather); cataclysmic loss (a death); enormous challenges; ferocious achievements (a woman); great honor; heroic efforts; highest (academic) standards (a woman); huge bravery (a woman); infinite moments (of joy); invaluable contribution (a blurb for some book); rare achievement (a blurb for some book); remarkable stories; searing analysis (a woman); sincere sadness (eulogy); terrible tragedy; tragic passing; ultimate fashionista (the moss crab!); unfathomable impact; unimaginable horror; unspeakable tragedy... (Linguistic supersizing.)

♦ “She signed off ‘Big huge love.’” (The Irish actor Jessie Buckley to the writer Jordan Kisner. Kisner characterized the signoff as a “spirit of abundance.” From “Monster Talent: In role after indelible role, Jessie Buckley is exploring the darkest corners of human nature” by Jordan Kisner, photograph by Jennifer Cheng, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 4, 2022. “Big.” “Huge.” “Abundance.” “Monster.” “Role after indelible role.” “The darkest corners...”)

♦ “We need you to do something extraordinary: donate... Can you help? [Heart symbol] Yes, I’ll donate.” (NPR.)

♦ Horrid (adjective); horrible (adjective); horrific (adjective); horrifically; horrified; horrifying (adjective)... (A group of Black lady golfers was kicked off a golf course for playing too slowly. One of them described it as a “horrific” experience. In a similar vein: “Rory McIlroy’s horrific US Open collapse will take a long time to get over.”)

♦ “He has admitted to a huge, horrible mistake.” (Watched porn on cellphone.)

♦ “Unimaginable horror has somehow even gotten worse.” (A millennial war correspondent reporting from a café for NPR.)

♦ “[The] horrific horror of the attack...” (President Biden.)

♦ “The crucible of anxiety...” (College admissions.)

♦ “So this number of tables is very very extremely limited...” (A Fresh Air interview with a prissy maître d’.)

♦ The windemic (flu + COVID) is now a “tripledeemic” (flu + COVID-19 + RSV), according to NPR. A “quadrupledeemic” is next!

♦ “The Omicron virus is REEEE-lee, REEEE-lee contagious.” (Selena Simmons-Duffin of NPR. Type “really really” in the search box at NPR and you get 6,794 hits and counting...)

♦ “Crushing pressure, brutal cold and utter darkness; an epic journey into the unknown; alien worlds; bizarre creatures; extraordinary new behaviours; unendurable pressures; savage hordes of Humboldt squid...” (BBC enters the hype realm for *Blue Planet II*, *The Deep*.)

♦ “...dialogue that sounds unpremeditated but has a neutron-star density of drama and emotion.” (“Sally Rooney Addresses Her Critics” by Caleb Crain, *The Atlantic*, September 2021.)

♦ “In the time it took me to type two words into my resume, I was a newly proclaimed Data Scientist, ready to plunge into the Internet economy. I landed a job at a New York start-up called Intent Media.” (*Weapons Of Math Destruction* by Cathy O’Neil.)

### \*\*\* numbers

♦ “Our life was running at 150,000 miles an hour.” (The husband about his marriage to a pop celebrity, which ended badly.)

♦ “We as a society refuse to address the 9,000 pound gorilla in the room.” (Guns. That gorilla has been supersized up from 800 pounds.)

♦ “He’s a trillion percent right.” (The sports commentator Mike Greenberg about something having to do with the NFL player Deion Sanders.)

♦ “Yuh know, on the one hand, this is kind of nutty (huh-huh), on the other hand, hey, ya know what, uh, [Reagan’s] got a point, maybe you have to look at things from uh 20 billion miles up to get this kind of perspective.” (Fred Kaplan (journalist). From “The ‘Secret History’ Of Nuclear War,” NPR, Fresh Air, September 28, 2020.)

♦ “On March 25, about 2,400 miles away [from Portland, Oregon] in a Tennessee courtroom...” (School children in the United States should be taught that the country is approximately 3,000 miles across.)

♦ “Police tracked him thousands of miles.” (From Pullman, Washington, to Albrightsville, Pennsylvania. School children in the United States should be taught that the country is approximately 3,000 miles across.)

♦ According to the internet, the shortest distance from coast to coast is Jacksonville, Florida, to San Diego, California. School children in the United States should be taught that the country is approximately 3,000 miles across.)

♦ “The new Guinness World Record-holding marshmallow weighs over 1,400 pounds.”

### \*\*\* weather, climate

♦ Hot weather = a “heat apocalypse.”

♦ “These forest fires are really really real.”

♦ Climatic change or climate change or global warming has morphed to “the climate crisis” or the “climate emergency.” (“Word of the Week: ‘Emergency’” by Nicholas Clairmont, *Washington Examiner*, December 7, 2021.)

♦ “Brutal cold... ; It will feel like 8 degrees (windchill factor); Wind Chills Saturday Morning (a map of the East Coast and Midwest, showing wind chills, not the actual temperature); single-digit wind chills; an extremely rare and destructive tornado (EF1 in California); a rare and violent tornado (EF1 in California)...

♦ “WOW! Why do they always call these nor’easters “Dangerous”! Have they never had one before?” (TiredProgrammer.)

### \*\*\* astronomy, science

♦ “How to see the ‘Super Flower Blood Moon’...” (BBC. Uh, look up?)



♦ “Can we please just go back to the days when it was just a ‘full moon?’” An online commenter about an ABC article about a “Super Flower Blood Moon.”)

♦ “And astronomers tomorrow will witness a clash [dramatic orchestral music]. After creeping towards each other, Venus and Jupiter will seem to touch as they glow in the pre-dawn light... To us on earth, they will align in what is called a planetary conjunction.” (BBC “Science Reporter” Regina Reinhard.)

♦ “The Milky Way devours its neighbors, cannibalizing dwarf galaxies.”

♦ “Scientists think they’ve found a big, weird moon in a far-off star system.” (“Stellar” space reporting from NPR.)

♦ “Astronomers at Britain’s Durham University have found an ultramassive black hole.” ( “Stellar” “space” reporting from NPR.)

♦ “New telescope catches dead suns smashing together.” (BBC 2022.)

♦ “Space telescope records baby star’s first screams” by Jonathan Amos, science correspondent, BBC, November 3, 2023. Amos’s article is excellent, as usual. The clickbait headline is just wretched, though.

♦ “Some of our instruments literally look at the atoms that make up the crystals inside these rock, and when you’re working at that scale, a single stone is an infinite landscape to explore. We’ll be working on these materials for decades and decades into the future.” (Dante Lauretta, principal investigator, about the OSIRIS-Rex Sample Return. Or, as the BBC reader translated, “Every single grain will be carefully analysed.”)

### \*\*\* sports

♦ “It’s the biggest myth in the history of myths.” (John Madden, the bombastic sports broadcaster, reacting to comments about something or other that he had allegedly said or done. Sports broadcasters are often bombastic, flamboyant, and known for hyperbole. A perfect example is the great Stephen A. Smith.)

♦ “Arnie’s Army; Who Dat Nation; Chiefs Kingdom...” (Sports fandoms. Names of sports teams include “Galaxy” and “Cosmos.”)

♦ “It takes huge bravery to say what she’s saying.” (Simon Biles withdraws from Tokyo Olympics event to prioritize her wellbeing.)

♦ “Swagger; arguably their greatest ever performance; fierce Australian opposition; sensational growth under manager Sarina Wiegman; her status as the world’s best is unquestionable; led England to Euro 2022 glory; relentless winners; a crunching tackle; a masterclass in killing momentum; feverish excitement; a flourishing partnership; caused havoc; terrifying the hosts’ defence; deafening roars; fierce pressure; burst into life; pouncing; a sublime long-range goal; unwavering belief; I just wanted to be fearless; the biggest stage; go all the way; England were creating more history; steeliness and experience; a mission...” (“How England crashed Australia’s party to reach a World Cup final” by Emma Sanders, BBC Sport at Stadium Australia, 16 August 2023. Her article, “England beaten by Spain in Women’s World Cup final” was rather more subdued.)

♦ “Pretty much every other word out of their mouths is a superlative. If everything is ‘brilliant’, ‘tremendous’, ‘world class’, etc., then nothing really is, as the words lose all meaning. They need to talk a bit less and let the football speak for itself.” (A commenter about coverage of the Fifa 2023 Women’s World Cup.)

♦ “I always have to watch the women’s England games with the commentary muted because it’s just terrible” (A commenter about coverage of the Fifa 2023 Women’s World Cup.)

♦ “So, according to the BBC news reporter, this is ‘devastating’. I would suggest what happened at the Countess of Chester hospital was ‘devastating’—this is just ‘slightly disappointing’. (Spain beats England in the final of the Fifa 2023 Women’s World Cup.)

♦ “I stopped watching, reading and listening to the media hype when I heard the players being called ‘heroes’ after the Germany game. Get a grip BBC.” (Grommy on the BBC HYS on the eve of England vs. Ukraine, Euro 2020.)

### \*\*\* an international perspective

♦ In Italy, “*americanata*” refers to something big and flashy, over the top, like an oversized American car trying to force its way up a small, narrow Italian street. The term can be disparaging or admiring.

♦ “Ah, the word genius is passed around rather generously, isn’t it... Russians assign the thinner term TAL•ant, talent... It is a bizarre example of semantic discrepancy, the same word [genius] being more substantial in one language [Russian] than in another [English]. Although my Russian and my English are practically coeval, I still feel appalled and puzzled at seeing genius applied to any important storyteller... Genius still means to me in my Russian fastidiousness and pride of phrase a unique, dazzling gift, the gift of James Joyce, not the talent of Henry James.” (Vladimir Nabokov, BBC Author Archive Collection, “James Mossman talks to Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov in this 1970 interview.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Watch, “How extroverts super-sized the English language,” BBC Reel, 13 May 2021. An excellent script and narration by Susie Dent. Good show!

♦ “There’s a level of exaggeration that we’ve come to expect...” (An NPR report about a congressional hearing.)

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, “The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy.”

♦ “These are grim pictures, brutally terribly real.” (Narration to *Kokoda Front Line*. World War II. The narration fits the pictures and *doesn’t* seem like hyperbole.)

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, “try this genius hack to...” In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ MAGNIFICIENCE, adj. Having a grandeur or splendor superior to that which the spectator is accustomed, as the ears of an ass, to a rabbit, or the glory of a glowworm, to a maggot. (*The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ see also *buzzword* (noun), *boilerplate* (noun), *doublespeak* (noun), *ese* (*legalese, etc.*), *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language* (types), *lip service* (*pay lip service, etc.*), *newspeak* (noun), *speak* (*NASA-speak, etc.*), *talk* (*mediator talk, etc.*), *word salad*

## super-spreader

### super spreaders

“~” perpetuate conspiracy theories on social media

### super-spreader of disinformation / hate

social media has been a ~

### \*\*\* presentism, history in contempo-speak...

♦ “Even if these Masters died just when things were getting interesting, they were crucial superspreaders of the Renaissance, as anyone who attends ‘Siena: The Rise of Painting, 1300-1350,’ at the Met (Oct. 13), will be able to confirm.” (Duccio, Simone Martini, and Ambrogio and Pietro Lorenzetti all died of the plague. *The New Yorker*.)

## supine (adjective)

### supine media

a ~ made no effort to resist the narrative (politics)

### supine relationship

he embodies his party’s rather ~ to this president (politics)

### supine and silent

Congress has been ~

### remains supine

the press ~ (the mainstream media / politics)

### \*\*\* analysis



♦ Prone means lying on the stomach. Supine means lying on the back.

♦ "Don't expect me to take this lying down!"

## supinely

accepted supinely

physicians ~ this crucial flaw in Galen's material (anatomy)

## supple (adjective)

supple

artificial intelligence can be as ~ as a human's

supple intelligence

her ~ distinguished her (a political advisor)

supple sensitivity

he performs the songs with ~ (Sinatra)

supple voice

her ~ can caress and shock (a singer)

his ~ constantly transforms itself

supple (pop-jazz) voice

she has a ~

supple and durable

radio is a ~ technology

## Supreme Court

Supreme Court of (Facebook) enforcement

the Oversight Board is sort of a ~

French language's Supreme Court

the Académie Française, the ~

## supremacist (white supremacist, etc.)

white supremacist

the ~ origins of exercise...

white supremacist groups

the slogan "White Lives Matter" has been attributed to ~

white supremacist society

people talking about how this is a ~, and so on...

colonial, white supremacist

we refuse to platform ~ perspectives (Wing Luke Museum)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "The White Supremacist Origins of Exercise, and 6 Other Surprising Facts About the History of U.S. Physical Fitness" by Olivia B. Waxman, *Time Magazine*, Dec. 28, 2022. (The author may or may not have written the title.)

♦ "It's certain people, certain ideas, certain bodies of scholarship that are just undeserving. That don't fit into the sort of longstanding white supremacist patriarchal notion of the Academy, of brilliance, of intelligence." (Barbara Ransby, professor of history at the University of Illinois, Chicago, about Black academics accused of plagiarism. From "Right-wing activists are targeting Black scholars, and the scholars are pushing back" by Phillip Martin, GBH, June 27, 2024.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Look, I mean voters of color don't talk about voters of color. Who the hell lives in communities of color? The people I know live in neighborhoods. Right, so there's this whole you know sort of rhetorical lexicon the left of the Democratic party has become

obsessed with and insists on using. Which basically just alienates normie voters, including normie non-white voters. I mean, we have people in and around the Democratic Party talking about how all white people have white privilege, and how this is a white supremacist society, and so on, and I just don't think this is the way people think about the world, including you know normie non-white voters." (The political scientist Ruy Teixeira. From "Hispanic and minority voters are increasingly shifting to the Republican party," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 23, 2022.)

♦ "The way this issue has been reported, it's as if there is a thumb on the scale in favor of white supremacists. But as I understand this case, that's just not what the judge is doing." ("A look at Bruce Schroeder, the judge in the Kyle Rittenhouse trial," NPR, All Things Considered, Nov. 4, 2021.)

♦ "I'm not a racist, I don't have anything in common with the views of white supremacists." (Nicholas Wade, author of *A Troublesome Inheritance*, to Maryland Democrat Kweisi Mfume at a Congressional hearing in 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Even white supremacists don't want to be called racist." ("Not Racist' Is Not Enough: Putting In The Work To Be Anti-Racist" by Eric Deggans, NPR, Life Kit, August 25, 2020.)

## supremacy (white supremacy, etc.)

white supremacy

the term "~" is a rhetorical weapon

white-supremacy structure

quality is a ~ (DEI materials)

white supremacy culture

the guide calls out ~ (nitpicking, dress codes, etc.)

white supremacy, genocide, and violence

the destructive harms of ~ (Wing Luke Museum walkout)

language of white supremacy

Southern elected leaders spoke the ~ (after reconstruction)

flames of white supremacy

he has fanned the ~ in this nation (politics)

tool of white supremacy

I never heard before that math was a ~

the SAT has been smeared as a ~

racism / white supremacy

I remember a time before the left cried ~ over every issue

reject white supremacy

~, anti-immigrant and anti-blackness ideologies (USC)

served white supremacy

the gender binary has ~ (Sasha Geffen)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "In the workplace, white supremacy culture explicitly and implicitly privileges whiteness and discriminates against non-Western and non-white professionalism standards related to dress code, speech, work style, and timeliness. Some identifiable characteristics of this culture includes [sic] perfectionism, belief that there's only one right way, power hoarding, individualism, sense of urgency and defensiveness." (A Duke Medical School "anti-racist" 2021 guide, "Dismantling Racism and Advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the School of Medicine.")

♦ "To weaponize a panel of Black bodies of color to do your filth is insane. This is insane and this is how institutional white supremacy works." (Chaedria LaBouvier, calling out a Guggenheim Museum panel during a Q&A. From "The Scapegoat" by Helen Lewis, *The*

*Atlantic*, November 2022. "Weaponize." "Black bodies." "Of color."  
"Institutional white supremacy.")

♦ "Our goal is not just to change language but to honor and acknowledge inclusion and reject white supremacy, anti-immigrant and anti-blackness ideologies." (A memo from the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, announcing that the school had changed the Office of Field Education to the Office of Practicum Education. See "'Anti-racist' language change causes confusion" by Tomoki Chien, *Daily Trojan*, January 11, 2023.)

♦ MR: Getting into sort of X Y or Z newest wellness fad can for some folks kind of put them on this track, kind of filter them or funnel them closer and closer to anti-vax stuff, closer and closer to QAnon stuff, and QAnon itself is like closer and closer to organized white supremacy. / AG: Yes. ("The Wellness to QAnon Pipeline," *Maintenance Phase* podcast.)

♦ "We have 100+ statues and portraits in the Capitol. Almost all of them are of white men. The erasure of women & BIPOC from American history is a feature of white supremacy." (A tweet attributed to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez by *The New York Post*.)

♦ "White Supremacy is banning Sha'Carri Richardson for smoking weed while Megan Rapinoe gets praised for her use of CBD."

♦ "The thin ideal is definitely a white ideal... So celebrating a thin white body as the ideal body is a way to 'other' and demonize Black and brown bodies, bigger bodies, anyone who doesn't fit into that norm. So this is really about maintaining systems of white supremacy and patriarchy..." (Journalist Virginia Sole-Smith. Interview highlights. From "Diet culture can hurt kids. This author advises parents to reclaim the word 'fat,'" NPR, Fresh Air (Tonya Mosley), April 25, 2023.)

♦ "Donald Trump is an agent of chaos and white supremacy." (Abbas Al-Alawieh, who cofounded the Uncommitted Movement in Michigan. Broadcast and heard on National Public Radio / NPR. Listen to "Trump picks staunch Israel supporters for key roles worrying Arab Americans" by NPR's Ziad Buch, NPR, Morning Edition, December 3, 2024.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "And what I want people to make the connection to is actually white privilege is a part of white supremacy and it upholds white supremacy." (Layla Saad, author of *Me and White Supremacy*.)

♦ "Fuck White Supremacy" pinback button (\$1.82)

♦ "Dismantle White Supremacy" Patch (\$3.60)

♦ "Dismantle Racism, Abolish White Supremacy" sticker (\$2.85)

♦ "White Supremacy Is Terrorism" bumper sticker (\$9.50)

♦ "dismantle racism abolish white supremacy decolonize education" mug (\$17.00)

♦ "White Supremacy Is Terrorism" yard sign (\$17.97)

♦ "Fuck White Supremacy" snapback baseball hat cap (\$19.99)

♦ "Dismantle White Supremacy" Knit Beanie (\$23.00)

♦ "Dismantle White Supremacy" intersectional feminist t-shirt (\$25.49)

♦ "End White Supremacy" hooded sweatshirt (\$35.00)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "[Jordan Neely's] father (Andre Zachary) is now the temporary ally of the race-baiting leftists masquerading as civil rights champions who frame Neely's story as a product of white supremacy, not one of parental negligence." ("Jordan Neely's father blames racism and 'system' for son's death—but where was he?" by Adam B. Coleman, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Dec. 9, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "*Prejudiced* was once, after all, the word of choice for racist bias. *Racist* only took over starting in about 1970, with a major uptick after 1980... / *Sexist* replaced *chauvinist* around the same time *racist* did *prejudiced*, and for the same reason—potent terms need refreshment, especially when heavily used. This is why, more and more, *white supremacy* is easing out *racism*. It was only a matter of time, and dictionaries should be on notice." ("The Definition of Racism Has to Change" by John McWhorter, *The Atlantic*, June 22, 2020.)

♦ "What is white supremacy? It's a viral phrase that quickly infected our political lexicon while allowing each host to change the definition as he or she sees fit—but a definition that applies to everything

ultimately means nothing." ("Democrats' latest attempt to use a 'white supremacy' scare to crush their opposition" by Adam G. Coleman, *New York Post*, 2023.)

♦ "Why is white supremacy bad and black supremacy good? (Adam B. Coleman.)

♦ "I never heard before that math was a tool of white supremacy. I just can't keep up!" (An online commenter.)

♦ Slogans are the battle cries of our modern crowds.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## sure (introductory)

Sure

~, what I mean by that is...

Sure, so

see *so* (introductory)

Sure, well...

see *well* (filler)

♦ This is often pronounced "shore" nowadays, like the shore of a body of water. Rhymes with "bore."

♦ To hear a lot of introductory "Sure's," listen to "A new book explains how QAnon took hold of the GOP—and why it's not going away," NPR, Fresh Air, March 2, 2023. Terry Gross asks. Journalist Will Sommer answers, "Sure, (so) (well)..."

♦ see also *right* (introductory), *so* (introductory), *yeah* (and *yah* / introductory)

## surefire (a surefire investment, etc.)

surefire investment

I thought it was a ~

surefire recipe

this is a ~ to ruin the economy (politics)

surefire replacement

the team has no ~ for either player (sports)

surefire solution

there is no ~ for this

surefire technique

another ~ is to...

surefire way

it's a ~ to make money

no one has yet found a ~ to do that

showing some flesh is a ~ to get talked about (naked dress)

seems surefire

a scene that ~ in rehearsal can fall flat

## sure-footed (adjective)

sure-footed

he came off as defensive, not so ~ (a politician)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "No one knows how many mountain goats fall to their deaths."

## surf (computers)

surf the Internet

she likes to ~

\*\*\* "They provide themselves with a thin board..."

♦ “They provide themselves with a thin board, on these they swim off shore to meet the Surf... [They] manage so as to get just before it or rather on the Slant or declivity of the Surf & thus they lie...laying hold of the fore part of the board which receives the force of the water on its under side, & by that means keeps before the wave which drives it along with an incredible Swiftmess to the shore... We saw with astonishment young boys & Girls about 9 or ten playing amid such tempestuous Waves that the hardiest of our seamen would have trembled to face...” (David Samwell describing the scene at Kealakekua Bay, January 22, 1779.)

♦ Hitting a log the size of a telephone pole (Teahupoo); broken femur, neck, nose, burst eardrum, knee dislocation, getting your thigh ripped open by a surfboard fin; being stripped of your flotation vest, rash guard and trunks in the whitewater and left naked... (Just a few of the many surfing hazards.)

♦ “For the storm to be right here, it should be a lot better.” (A disappointed surfer in North Carolina, remarking on the smallish waves generated by Hurricane Earl.)

♦ “Eddie Aikau, Shane Dorian, Andy Irons, Bruce Irons, Kelly Slater, Sunny Garcia... (The great Makua Rothman listing just some of his influences. “Eddy would go!”)

♦ 2009, 2004, 1998, 1983, 1974, and the Big One in 1969... (Years for legendary surf on the North Shore of Oahu.)

## surface (intransitive)

surface

the truth may never ~ (rumors in the news)

surfaced on (several) gossip blogs

the video clip ~ last week

surfaced in Canada

they disappeared and then ~

surfaced in the Hollywood Reporter

allegations of sexual assault ~

eventually surface

the truth will ~ (disappearance of college coed)

evidence has surfaced

no new ~ in the case

name surfaced

his ~ during the investigation (terrorist)

## surface (as transitive verb)

surface our content

we began to ~ in the digital realm (OUP / commerce)

surfaced (upsetting) footage

he ~ of catastrophe and corruption (Spike Lee / *Epicenters*)

surface the basic, fundamental ideas

they did ~ (a discussion of abortion rights)

surfacing that for them

how are we ~ (good articles on cellphone / NYT editor)

surfaces content

TikTok ~ based on a variety of factors (search)

♦ “The Gender Cool Project, a youth-led organization surfacing positive trans stories...”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Ordinarily, “surface” is not a transitive verb unless it refers to “putting a new surface on,” or “bringing a sunken ship to the surface of the water.”

♦ “Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematic*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*...” (“How The Bobos Broke America” by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ “There’s no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words.” (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of “overwhelm” as a noun.)

## surface (on the surface)

on the surface

~, it looks bad

~ things are calm here, but underneath...

♦ “On the surface things are calm here, but underneath, there’s a lot of fear and anger on all sides.”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Surfaces are presumed to be trivial.”

## surface (under the surface)

under the surface

but ~, the sectarian divisions remain (Lebanon)

there is anger ~ ready to erupt at any time

bubbling (just) under the surface

conflict is ~

## surface (scratch the surface)

scratch the surface

these findings just ~

scratches the surface

even this huge number barely ~ (microbes in gut)

## surface (bring to the surface)

brought the (bitter) rift to the surface

the incident ~ (between military and government)

## surge (noun)

surge in violence

there has been a ~ (Chicago gang violence)

## surge (surge of anger, etc.)

surge of anger

he felt a ~

## surge (intransitive verb / increase)

membership surged

gang ~

numbers surging

why are the ~ (for testing accommodations)

## surge (intransitive verb / effect)

surged across the Americas

the disease ~ (dengue fever / 2019)

surging across the southern border

migrants are ~

## surge (transitive verb)

surging (more than) 500 officers  
the mayor is ~ to fight subway crime (NYC)

surged their (national) resources  
the ATF ~ (serial bombings in Austin, Texas)

## surgeon (doesn't take a brain surgeon, etc.)

take a brain surgeon  
it doesn't ~ to understand that...

♦ "He's not a rocket surgeon." (Jeremy Greene about an athlete's intelligence. Heard on the sports radio show the Sportsocracy. Conflates "rocket scientist" and "brain surgeon." Funny!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When people say, 'It doesn't take a brain surgeon,' they refer to the assumption that we are the smartest ones around." (A brain surgeon.)

## surgery (noun)

botched surgery  
the ~ they've carried out (Puffin Books / Roald Dahl)

drastic surgery  
~ seems the only answer (to cure ills of soccer team)

radical surgery  
France is resisting such ~ (austerity)

♦ "'You don't even need glasses to see and analyse where the problems are. It's not enough to do some minor amendments—cosmetic things. In medicine you would say this is an operation of the open heart.' The problem for Rangnick was that no everyone at United agreed such surgery had to happen." (Manchester United: The problems facing Erik ten Hag at Old Trafford" by Simon Stone, BBC Sport, 30 October 2023.)

♦ "Drastic surgery seems the only answer, amputate before infection spreads." (An unhappy Manchester United fan.)

♦ "The editors at Puffin (Books) should be ashamed of the botched surgery they've carried out on some of the finest children's literature in Britain." (Laura Hackett, deputy literary editor of London's *Sunday Times* newspaper, about revision made to the works of Roald Dahl. The revisions relate to such things as weight, mental health, gender, and race.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There is not a surgery that comes without risks."

♦ "Surgeons kill more people than we know about."

## surgical (adjective)

surgical approach  
for a century, the Supreme Court has used a more ~

surgical clarity  
he tells his story with a ~ (short story collection)

surgical fashion  
we are fighting this in very ~ (Israel vs. Hamas)  
the assassination was carried out in a ~ (M. Fakhrizadeh)

surgical precision  
lawmakers wrote the election law with ~ to exclude Blacks

surgical strike  
the killing was a ~ (an assassination)

a ~ on a car carrying the commander of...  
a brilliantly executed ~ by Israeli jets (in Syria)

surgical way  
we are prosecuting this war in the most ~

♦ "Drone strikes are supposed to be precise, *surgical* is the word most often used..." ("U.S. air strikes have killed thousands of civilians, NYT Magazine investigation finds," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, December 25, 2021.)

### \*\*\* a horrible case...

♦ BBC "Austria: Doctor fined for amputating wrong leg of patient," Europe, 1 December 2021.

## surprise (sarcasm)

surprise, surprise  
we don't actually know that, Ari, ~...

♦ "We don't actually know that, Ari, surprise, surprise..." (NPR's Nina Totenberg.)

## surreal (adjective)

surreal  
what's happening on reality TV is ~

'surreal' dream  
Welsh teenager Lewy Williams living his ~ (darts)

surreal (televised) interview  
he was forced to confess in a ~

'surreal' (January) wildfire  
~ shuts California highway (unseasonable)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Meriam-Webster cites first usage as 1937. It comes from the name of the post-WWI 1924 Surrealism movement, associated with Rene Magritte and the melting clocks of Salvador Dali.

♦ "Geoff Nunberg deconstructs this word in "'Horrific' And 'Surreal': The Words We Use To Bear Witness," NPR, Fresh Air, April 26, 2013.

## surrender (verb)

surrender their seats to (pregnant) women  
some refuse to ~ (New Yorkers)

surrendered his (medical) license  
he has ~ and can no longer practice

surrender (unlicensed) firearms  
the Interior Ministry appealed to citizens to ~

surrendered its artistic freedom  
criticism the opera house had ~

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Surrendering during battle is difficult." (Actual close-quarters combat.)

## survivor (groups)

survivor  
he's a ~ who always gets back up (a politician)

survivor of (childhood) trauma  
as a ~... (unspecified)

Survivor Corps  
Diana Berrent, Founder, ~ (Long COVID)

survivor credibility  
 questions surrounding ~ (Megan Thee Stallion trial)

COVID-19 survivors  
 what survivor's guilt looks like for three ~ (NPR)

rape survivor  
 activist and ~ Brenda Tracy (vs MSU coach Mel Tucker)

Hurricane Laura survivor  
 ~ among hundreds of thousands without power

heroic survivor  
 a ~ of brutal abuse (Amber Heard vs. Johnny Depp)

sexual assault survivor  
 NPR's Ailsa Chang talks with ex-football player and ~

police shooting survivor  
 the family of a ~ is speaking out...

black survivors  
 the lack of services for many ~ (crime)

cancer survivor  
 ~ Hayley will be the youngest American to visit space  
 the 63-year-old ~ leaves the foundation with a...

stroke survivor  
 she give voice to ~ in debut novel

trauma survivors  
 her mural explores themes of healing for ~

boarding school survivor  
 my mother was a ~ (native American)  
 the ~s, and the spirits of the children... (Denise Lajimodiere)

political survivor  
 she is a shrewd ~ (German Chancellor)

21 million (male) survivors  
 the estimated ~ (abuse by Catholic Church, Boy Scouts)

millions of survivors  
 ~ have been living with the impacts (domestic abuse)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ *Surviving the White Gaze.* (A memoir by Rebecca Carroll.)

♦ *American Teenager: How Trans Kids are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era.* (By Nico Lang.)

♦ "One thing we need to better understand is intergenerational trauma and history. All the research shows the survivors have no parenting skills. Now, there's something called Boarding School Syndrome—it's basically post-traumatic stress disorder. They have intrusive memories, flashbacks, nightmares, attachment disorder, personal shame—they're ashamed of being Indian—trouble sleeping, poor anger management, deficient parenting skills and the tendency to abuse alcohol. It's also called 'disenfranchised grief' because it can't be publicly mourned. Some call it a 'soul wound.'" (Denise Lajimodiere. From "Q & A with Denise Lajimodiere," *National Catholic Reporter*, July 22-August 4, 2022.)

♦ "You are so much more than just a survivor or just a victim. While that is a huge thing, you are a person of multitudes, and what someone has done to you doesn't define you. You define you." (Blake Lively, at the New York premiere of the 2024 film *It Ends With Us*.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "survivor" bandwagon...

♦ "The director, a Katrina baby himself, and his subjects, other Black survivors of both the storm and the government's opportunistic

response to the storm..." ("Lost Youth: Two new documentaries on HBO Max and Netflix" by Doreen St. Felix, *The New Yorker*, September 12, 2022.)

♦ "For Centenarian Survivor Of 1918 Flu Pandemic, Coronavirus Is Just Another 'Problem,'" NPR, All Things Considered, April 15, 2020. The "survivor," who was five years old in 1918, did not actually get the flu during that pandemic.

♦ "She is a third-generation Holocaust Survivor."

♦ "She said for years...she didn't identify as a survivor because she had not personally witnessed the carnage that occurred..." (A school-shooting survivor who "sees herself" as a survivor now.)

♦ "She is a *survivor* [italics mine] of Amache." (From "A rosebush, which hasn't bloomed in decades, adds color to a dim chapter in history" by Ryan Warner, NPR, Morning Edition, May 30, 2022. Cheesy, overproduced, historically inaccurate, and divisive.)

♦ "Miller's attorneys called him the 'only living execution survivor in the United States.'" ("Alabama 'execution survivor' reaches settlement with state" by Kim Chandler, Nov. 29, 2022. Officials were not able to establish an intravenous line to the 351-pound inmate Alan Eugene Miller. The "settlement" was that Miller would be executed by another means, to be determined. He was ultimately executed by nitrogen gas September 26, 2024. His final words were, "I didn't do anything to be in here.")

\*\*\* popular culture, social media...

♦ "[W]e take a look at why *Survivor* has been a staple of TV conversation for 20 years." ("Idols, Islands, Snakes & Rats: 20 Years Of 'Survivor' by Linda Holmes and Stephen Thompson, NPR, Review, Pop Culture Happy Hour, April 15, 2020.)

♦ "Another Los Angeles-based Ben survivor named Raven..." (#TheBenStage.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "Nassar abuse survivors reach \$380 million deal with USA Gymnastics, Olympic committee" by Joe Hernandez, NPR, updated December 13, 2021.

♦ "FBI opens settlement talks with gymnasts who survived abuse by Larry Nassar," Carrie Johnson, NPR Law, July 28, 2022.

♦ NPR's Michel Martin: Thank you so much for talking with us. I imagine this just has to be exhausting. / Aly Raisman: Thank you for having me on. You know, this is one of the moments where right now I'm definitely, I'm definitely feeling it, I'm definitely exhausted, but that's that's what surviving and healing looks like. You know, there are some moments where I feel okay and then other moments...."

♦ "JESSICA QUELLER / Author and Cancer Defier / For Women who defy the odds / White House Black Market / Women To Women." (A 2-page advertisement in the April 2017 *Vanity Fair*.)

♦ "How are we expected to survive without this!" (A nerdy bearded millennial man at an airport holds up a cellphone in a T-Mobile advertisement. "Travel with T-Mobile. Whether it's across the country or across the globe, your phone just works.")

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "This message is for Blake Lively. Hi Blake. I'm a domestic violence survivor and my heart honestly just broke for the domestic violence community because in this movie you represented us." (Ashley Paige, about the 2024 film *It Ends With Us*, responding to something or other that Blake Lively said.)

♦ "You know, they had a roof over their head, and they were getting meals, and that was not something they had any assurance of on the outside. And so, paradoxically, the War Relocation Authority really had to sort of *put the screws to the community to get them to leave* [italics mine]. They had to start shutting operations down, they had to start shutting down mess halls, they had to start eliminating employment..." (APM Reports, "Order 9066, Chapter 7: Leaving Camp," June 25, 2018.)

♦ Watch: Hank Williams, Jr. "A Country Boy Can Survive" (Official Music Video)

♦ OLD: a victim... / NEW: a survivor, a conqueror, a defier, one who has experienced something...

♦ "We told you that this would be a performance, the role of her lifetime as a heroic survivor of brutal abuse." (Camille Vasquez, in her closing arguments in the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)



### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The first Russian patrol came in sight of the camp about midday on 27 January 1945. Charles and I were the first to see them: we were carrying Somogyi's body to the common grave, the first of our room mates to die. We tipped the stretcher on to the defiled snow, as the pit was now full, and no other grave was at hand: Charles took off his beret as a salute to both the living and the dead. / They were four young soldiers on horseback, who advanced along the road that marked the limits of the camp, cautiously holding their sten-guns. When they reached the barbed wire, they stopped to look, exchanging a few timid words, and throwing strangely embarrassed glances at the sprawling bodies, at the battered huts and at us few still alive..." (*The Truce* by Primo Levi.)

♦ Only one percent of Polish Jews survived the war.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Survivor" has almost completely replaced "victim" in the context of medical illnesses like cancer. A cancer "survivor" might also be referred to as a cancer "conqueror" or even a "defier." Such is the euphemism treadmill.

♦ The Brandeis University Prevention Advocacy Resource recommends that people not use the term "survivor" for cancer victims, earthquake victims, etc. That's because the term implies the trauma is over, when in fact the trauma might linger for years. And so, they recommend you say somebody has experienced something. However, Google "rape experienter" and you only get four results.

♦ "A word is a thing on the move. This means wrapping our heads around something that cannot feel right at first, but that simple logic requires us to accept. To wit, any claim that people in general are using a word 'erroneously' is illogical... If a significant proportion of the people speaking a language are using a word in a way that dictionaries tend not to mention, it means that the word is moving—as we would expect, since words always do." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 2, "It's the Implication That Matters: Words on the Move," Subsection "But That Isn't What It's Supposed to Mean!")

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

♦ see also *victim (groups)*

## suspended

suspended between modernity and the Middle Ages  
Casablanca is ~

## suspended animation

entered suspended animation  
the Democratic primary season ~ (pandemic)

stuck in suspended animation  
his campaign is ~ (shut down by pandemic)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Hibernation. Brumation...

## sustenance (noun)

kind of sustenance  
words were a ~ (NBA speech)

♦ "This was bread, bread, black bread... Science is bread, bread for the soul." (Viktor Shtrum's physics breakthrough from *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

## Svengali (allusion)

### Svengali effect

he's got this ~ on people (suicide bombers)

### Svengali-like

Vicky Page seemed to be the victim of the ~ Lermontov

### Holmes's Svengali

Balwani was ~...

♦ "One school of thought is that she became captive to Balwani's nefarious influence. Under this theory, Balwani was Holmes's Svengali and molded her—the innocent ingenue with big dreams—into the precocious young female startup founder that the Valley craved and that he was too old and too male to play himself... But to place all the blame on his shoulders is not only too convenient, it's inaccurate." (*Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou.)

♦ see also *Lady Macbeth (epithet)*, *Machiavelli (Trump's Machiavelli, etc.)*, *Rasputin (epithet)*

## swagger (noun)

### swagger and hustle

~ are expected (in Silicon Valley / Fake it till you make it)

### swagger and (unexpected) sensitivity

Rivera brought ~ to the character (*Glee*'s Santana)

### 99% swagger

after *Iron Man* he's ~ (Jill Lepore about Elon Musk)

### plenty of swagger

she plays with ~ (Iowa basketball player Caitlin Clark)

### economic swagger

gone is the ~ (Australia)

### tradition and swagger

the team oozes ~ (Alabama football / Roll Tide!)

### put the "swagger" back in the department

he wants to ~ (US government)

♦ "Now, let's show them some good old-fashioned American swagger." (Tommy Lee Jones in the role of General Douglas MacArthur, biting down with an audible click on his long-stemmed corn-cob pipe, from the 2012 film *Emperor*.)

## swagger (verb)

### swagger

this culture rewards people who ~, until it doesn't...

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "This culture rewards people who swagger, until it doesn't..."

## swallow (accept)

### swallow

take as much sovereignty as you can ~ (Yeltsin)  
a "conflict" is easier to ~ than a war (terminology)

### swallowed his story hook, line and sinker

I ~ (army recruiter)

### swallow such absurdities

one needs not ~ as this... (ideas)

### hard to swallow



the results of such a study are ~

tough (one) to swallow

I'm gutted, it's a ~ (Conor McGregor loses to Poirier)

pill to swallow

getting advice can be a bitter ~

it was a hard ~ having medalled in the past (track loss)

♦ "If it means swallowing some humble pie, and it means eating some of your words, I can't think of a more excellent diet." (Prime Minister David Cameron, on his coalition government formed with the Liberal Democrats.)

♦ "I can get it out of my craw, it's stuck in it." (Skip Bayless, about a point of disagreement with Shannon Sharpe, on their wonderful sports show "Skip and Shannon: Undisputed.")

## swallow (disappearance)

swallowed him up

the streets ~ real quick (Detroit crime)

the sea just ~, queer... (*Moby Dick*)

swallowed (two unoccupied) cars

a sinkhole ~ in Seattle (broken main)

swallow huts

sand dunes threatened to ~ (desertification in Niger)

swallowed her life

the cult quickly ~ (a sex cult)

swallowed them

always the jungle rose and ~ (villages, civilizations)

sinkhole swallowed

a ~ a sewer-repair truck (Portland)

a ~ two unoccupied cars in Seattle (broken water main)

## swallowed

swallowed whole

the company's promises were ~ by the tech press (fraud)

## swamp (verb)

swamp Tibet with (Chinese) migrants

our main concern is that the railway will ~ (Qinghai-Tibet)

swamped the (entire) industry

the economic downturn ~ (journalism and newspapers)

## swamp (fever swamp)

fever swamp of the alt-right

this is sort of the ~ (books of a conspiracy theorist)

fever swamps of identity politics

the broadcaster's descent into the ~ (at NPR)

fever swamps of the (identitarian and anti-capitalist) left

protesters hailed from the ~ (pro-Hamas students, etc.)

online fever swamps

they dredge up wild beliefs from ~ (a podcast)

## swamp (drain the swamp)

drain the swamp

he promised to ~ of Congress

Twitter tries to ~

"drain the swamp" strategy

the Trump's campaign ~

## swamp (swamp of cliches, etc.)

swamp of cliches

sadly, he is trapped in a ~ (Will Smith / *Emancipation*)

♦ "This game has all the qualities of a neglected pond, turgid, stagnant and honking." (A disgruntled fan, about a Champions League final.)

## swamped

swamped by criticism

BP has been ~ as the oil leak gushes (in Gulf of Mexico)

swamped with patients

the VA is ~ with hearing problems

get swamped

you can ~ on every single issue (government)

## swan (verb)

swanned around the room

two camera-people ~, shooting footage (a celebrity)

## swan (black swan)

see *black swan* (rarity)

## swan song

swan song

it was the restaurant's ~ (celebration of bankruptcy)

swansong as James Bond

Daniel Craig's ~ (the film *No Time To Die*)

## swarm (verb)

swarming

lawyers are ~

swarm around foreigners

children and grown men ~ (Cox's Bazar)

swarms with pilgrims

during the week before Christmas Lalibela ~ (Ethiopia)

swarmed with troops

the snow-covered hills ~ (Korea)

swarming the city

security guards are ~ (Olympics)

swarmed the playground

the children ~ (opening ceremony)

lawyers are swarming

~...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In a delightful "Talk of the Town" article in *The New Yorker*, Michael Schulman points out that New Yorkers "swarm" for things like "flash mobs, Occupy Wall Street, the cronut line." His article, however, is about *actual* swarms of insects and how New York City's finest deal with them. ("Law and Order: Bee Cops," September 17, 2018.)

## swarm (noun)

swarm of (citizen) complaints

the noise has prompted a ~

swarm of earthquakes

authorities recorded a ~ (Taal Volcano erupts)

swarms of particles

the comet sheds ~ as it nears the sun (Leonids)

swarms of protesters

the meetings of the World Bank have drawn ~

swarms of shoppers

the nation's malls opened to ~ (holiday season)

swarm of tornadoes

a ~ and powerful thunderstorms belted the area

a devastating ~ left four people dead (Texas)

"swarm" of tremors

a ~ were felt last year (earthquakes in Surrey)

"swarm tactics"

~ will be used to overrun the enemy (Iraqi Freedom)

swarm technique

the ~ is where multiple officers use their body weight to...

earthquake swarm

in 1989, an ~ began west of Fugen-dake (Unzen eruption)

\*\*\* The wonderful science writer Carol Kaesuk Yoon...

♦ The wonderful science writer Carol Kaesuk Yoon has reported that in 1875 a swarm of Rocky Mountain locusts formed the largest recorded locust swarm in recorded history, 1,800 miles long and 110 miles wide... Just twenty-eight years later, the Rocky Mountain locust was extinct. The last live locust was collected in 1902, and today the only way scientists can study them is to examine the carcasses of those locusts blown off course and preserved in glaciers.

♦ Ants; bees; bugs; cicadas; crickets; fish; grasshoppers; locusts; mayflies; rats; termites... (Creatures that may swarm.)

♦ Flock, school, torus... (Creatures all moving together.)

♦ A meteor shower / swarm / outbreak...

## swat away (verb)

swatted away questions

he ~ of his mental fitness (Joe Biden)

## sweat (feeling)

made to sweat

the US side was ~ by the French (close US soccer victory)

## sweat (work)

blood, sweat and tears

he gave the franchise 20 years of his ~ (Kobe Bryant)

breaking a sweat

nobody is ~ over this work (progress bars on devices)

## sweep away (verb)

sweep away all guardrails

she wants to ~ protecting kids (Trans Rachael Levine)

## sweeping

sweeping change

the report called for ~ (shuttle safety)

there is not yet a groundswell of support for ~

sweeping curve

the ~ directly upstream of the falls (river)

sweeping impact

the ~ of fire on the sagebrush plains

sweeping (U.N.) resolution

a ~ against terrorist financing

## sweepstakes (win the sweepstakes)

temperamental sweepstakes

if you are impervious to self-doubt, you have won the ~

won the (temperamental) sweepstakes

if you are impervious to self-doubt, you have ~

## sweet (personality)

sweet personality

her ~ has made her a lot of friends (exchange student)

sweet-charactered

a suitable and ~ girl

sweet-faced

a TV show filled with ~ young men

sweet-tempered

a ~ boy

sweet and salty

the former officer is both ~ (a character in a play)

cute, sophisticated and sweet

fashion to make her feel ~ (adolescents)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we all know how we teach this. As a set: sweet / sour / salty / bitter, that relates to the taste of food. We seldom mention that all four of those adjectives can relate to character and personality and commonly do.

♦ C'mon. Be sweet!

## sweet (sweet dreams, etc.)

sweet dreams

you hug her and kiss her and wish her ~

## sweet (exclamation)

how sweet

Ohhh, ~ (Foxy Cleopatra to Mini-Me)

♦ "And I was like, "sweet." (Ironically, A bikini barista in Seattle, Washington, telling a videographer about how she served coffee to a customer who was masturbating.)

## sweetheart (vocative)

sweetheart  
hey, ~

## sweetheart (other)

sweetheart  
baby, won't you be my ~

sweetheart couple  
they were the media's ~ before they split in 2002

sweetheart deal  
China for so many years has had a ~ (politics)

America's sweetheart  
see *America (America's sweetheart, etc.)*

high school sweetheart  
she wed ~ Bobby

high-school sweetheart  
they had been ~s

kiss of my sweetheart  
the tender ~ on my cheek

## sweet spot

sweet spot on sleep  
so how do we hit the ~ (too much, little, etc.)

hit the sweet spot  
he ~ with two hits (a writer-director)

hits the sweet spot  
Pennsylvania maple ~ (best wood for baseball bats)

looking for a sweet spot  
a happy medium, something in between, they are ~

## swell (verb)

swollen in South Carolina  
welfare rolls have ~

swelled enrollment from 1,500 to 2,100  
a marketing push that has ~ (school)

swelled to (nearly) 8,000  
by the 1940s, the number of fire lookouts had ~

swelled to (more than) 1 million  
the population ~ (Everglades alligators)

swelled by (another) 1 million  
the capital of 1.3 million had ~ (Kabul)

swelled beyond (official) estimates  
struggling to help a group that has ~ (immigrants)

numbers swelled  
as their ~ to 437,000 (adjuncts)

numbers have swollen  
police ~ in Sydney's west and southwest (pandemic)

population swelled

the ~ to more than 1 million (Everglades alligators)

ranks swell  
their ~ out of sympathy (radicals)

staff swells  
its ~ to 400 with the approach of summer

♦ "Inflation is swelling like a pustule."

## swept away (emotion)

swept away  
he's ~ (drummer on a giant elk-skin drum)

## swept away (removal)

swept away  
the old order was ~ (Russian revolution)

swept away by regression and mediocrity  
significant progress is in danger of being ~

## swim (verb)

swim or sink  
see *sink or swim*

## swine (behavior)

absolute swine  
he was an ~ to him (a film director to an actor)

just swine  
these pundits are ~, gorging themselves at the trough

♦ "These pundits are just swine, gorging themselves at the trough of greed." (Commenter about BBC coverage of Qatar World Cup.)

♦ You can take a swine to the Rhine, but he'll still be a swine. (Higher education, junior year abroad programs, etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ What do you expect from a pig but a grunt! (An insult.)

## swing (take a swing)

took a swing at BP  
the President ~ (oil slick)

got in one more swing  
the Sander's campaign ~ against his opponent (politics)

## swing (in full swing)

in full swing  
the economic recovery is ~  
the fire season is ~  
the coronavirus crisis is ~

gets into full swing  
as fall ~... (the season)

## swing (swing around)

swung around  
this thing has ~ (losing boxer wins round)

## swing (development)

swing state  
Iowa is a ~

## swing (swing and a miss)

swing and a miss

intelligence reports were a “~” (Afghanistan)

swing and a miss for the Democrats

the hearings were a ~

♦ “SNL is taking a big swing in the cold open and it looks like it's going to be a miss...” (An online commenter.)

## swirl (verb)

swirl

new questions ~ over the downing of the plane

after Trump assassination attempt, questions ~ about...

swirling

questions are ~, “What happened” (murder of woman)

swirled around his death

conspiracy theories ~ (Adrian Lamo)

swirl around him

allegations continue to ~ (cheating, etc.)

swirled around Mulholland

those scandals ~, he ducked and dived... (Los Angeles)

swirling for two years

these allegations have been ~ (politics)

swirled for decades

rumors have ~ (assassination)

continue to swirl

questions ~ around Boeing after two deadly air crashes

continues to swirl

the mystery ~ about exactly what happened (crime)

♦ “After Trump assassination attempt, questions swirl about what happened.” (ABC.)

## Swiss cheese (noun)

Swiss cheese model

something known as the ~ (epidemiology)

♦ “No single intervention is typically enough to stop an epidemic. And the way I like to think about this and the way many epidemiologists think about this is something known as the Swiss cheese model. So imagine you have pieces of Swiss cheese that you're stacking up, and each of them have some holes in it, and they're random pieces of Swiss cheese, like you're making a sandwich, and you're piling up pieces of Swiss cheese, if each piece of Swiss cheese represents a defense, a layer of defense, for example, one piece is wearing masks, and another piece is closing schools, and another piece is banning gatherings, and another piece is washing your hands, and another piece is you know restricting travel or something, if each of those pieces represents some intervention, and each of the holes is sort of randomly positioned in each slice, by the time you've stacked up two or three or four slices, none of the holes overlap, and so a virus can't get through. It can't penetrate all the layers of defenses...” (Nicholas Christakis, “Denial And Lies Are ‘Almost An Intrinsic Part Of An Epidemic,’ Doctor Says,” NPR, Fresh Air, Oct. 29, 2020.)

## switch (kill switch)

kill switch

is there a ~, a way to shut the whole thing down (GPT-4)

guardrails and kill switches

so what ~ can we put on AI systems (AGI)

## switch (emotions)

flip a switch

I've seen him ~ and suddenly be... (emotions)

♦ “Elon can be so much hell and brimstone in meetings and just unpredictable as all get out. But I've also seen him flip a switch and suddenly be this incredibly effective, charismatic, high-emotional-intelligence business person, when he has to do it.” (JB Straubel about Elon Musk. From *Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

## swoon (verb)

swooning over the (new) products

retailers are ~ (trade fair)

swoon over the (artistic) renderings

architects still ~ (an eco-city)

swoon for him

Romney will never get voters to ~ (election)

caused critics to swoon

the band has ~

## swoop (verb)

swooped on the men

the R.O.S. ~ in Rome on Tuesday evening (spying)

## sword (Sayf Allah, etc.)

bestowed on him the title *Sayf Allah*

Muhammad (PBUH) ~

## sword (swordfish, etc.)

swordfish

tuna, ~, and marlin are almost gone (overfishing)

## sword (violence)

sword

the pen is mightier than the ~

he who lives by the ~, dies by the sword

sword and shield

the “~” version of WWII (de Gaulle and Petain)

used it as a sword

opposing counsel has ~ (statement from a lawyer)

♦ “Anonymity is often necessary as a shield for victims but opposing counsel has used it as a sword to publicly humiliate our client.” (Statement from a lawyer.)

♦ “I never see a pen but I think of a snake.” (Nathan Bedford Forrest, quoted by the great Civil War historian Shelby Foote. According to Foote, Forrest was “A true, native-born genius... All his gifts were natural.”)

♦ “Live by the sword, die by the sword.” (Trap music, drill music, gangsta rap, etc.)

♦ Live by the tweet, die by the tweet. (WAPO infighting leads to suspension, firing.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The ink of the scholar is more precious than the blood of the martyr.

## sword (cross swords)

crossed swords with the (US) administration on Iraq

he ~ (an Egyptian leader)

crossed swords with rights campaigners

he ~ (a country's leader)

cross swords over this

did you ever ~ (become antagonistic)

## **sword (at swords' points)**

at swords' points

they are ~

## **sword (fall on one's sword)**

fell on his sword

he ~ right away (admitted guilt)

fall on our swords

we don't need to ~ for this principle (practicality)

fall on my sword for expressing

if I have to ~ an opinion, so be it (Piers Morgan / ITV)

♦ "And that's exactly what she did, until Biden finally fell on the sword she'd dropped in front of him." ("Nancy Pelosi murdered Joe Biden's political career but now she wants him on Mount Rushmore—what a shameless hypocrite!" by Piers Morgan, *The New York Post*, Aug. 5, 2024. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## **sword (double-edged sword)**

double-edged sword

but early fame proved to be a ~ (Boris Becker / behavior)

double-edged sword of biotechnology

the ~ (germ warfare)

double-edged-sword

this is symbolic of the ~ nature to AI (Fei Fei Li)

## **sword (two-edged sword)**

two-edged sword

it's a ~ (injuries during football practices)

freedom of choice can be a ~ (too many choices)

## **sword (fate)**

sword

the whole agency has a ~ hanging over it (INS)

## **sword (put someone to the sword, etc.)**

put them to the sword

after Saliba headed in Arsenal ~ (West Ham 0-Gooners 6)

## **Sword of Damocles**

Sword of Damocles

it's a ~, and it's hanging over our head

there's a ~ hanging over lawmakers (reform)

♦ "As he raised his glass, he almost had faith in what he was peddling, and it was only out of the corner of his eye that he caught a flash of the sword that swung above him." ("Shelter" by Nicole Krauss, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022.)

♦ "It's like a sword of Damocles, you don't know when it's going to drop, you don't know what's going to happen..."

## **symphony (resemblance)**

symphony of frogs

the sound of thunder competes with a ~ (Yucatán)

symphony of croaking, grunting, barking, chirping

we listened to a spectacular ~, and squeaking (rain forest)

## **symphony (identity)**

symphony of brotherhood

transform the jangling discords into a beautiful ~ (MLK)

♦ "With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood." (Martin Luther King, Jr., from the "I Have a Dream" speech. Read the 2023 book *King: A Life* by Jonathan Eig.)

## **symptom (noun)**

symptom of changing times

another ~

symptom of a (much wider) pathology

he is a ~ infecting the entire system (politics)

## **synch (in synch)**

in synch with the president's

his hawkish ideas are ~

## **syndrome (noun)**

'Avatar' Syndrome

~, or Post-Pandoran Depression...

Boarding School Syndrome

there's something called ~, it's basically PTSD...

Caitlin Clark derangement syndrome

~ to rise—to toxic levels (Kirsten Fleming)

crab bucket syndrome

when others hold you back is the ~

empty nest syndrome

how to cope with ~ (kids go away to college)

"grass-is-greener syndrome

it's not *exactly* ~... (addicted to possibility)

imposter syndrome

an administration plagued by insecurity and ~ (politics)

she is not one to suffer from ~ (matchmaker Taparia)

Imposter Syndrome

"Racial ~: Here Are Your Stories" (by Leah Donnella)

leaking bucket syndrome

aid to Africa leaks out in debt repayments, the "~~"

lost move syndrome

the ~, the twisties, the Yips... (performance)

main character syndrome

~ on full display right there (guest upstages bride)

in the ~, you are the protagonist

in the ~, the people around you are supporting characters...

~: filming yourself crying (TraumaTok)

## Missing White Woman Syndrome

~ (coined by the journalist Gwen Ifill)

## Peter Pan syndrome

the ~, these men never grow up (NYC men)

## post-abortion syndrome

the unproved malady of “~” (pro-life activism)

## “Robert Falcon Scott” syndrome

the ~ (muddling through, failing and dying nobly...)

## “Selfhausen syndrome”

~ (a commenter about Grey’s Anatomy Elisabeth Finch)

## Truman Show Syndrome

the “~” was coined in 2008 by psychiatrist Joel Gold

## Trump derangement syndrome

he accused Democrats of suffering from ~ (TDS)

## velvet-rope syndrome

he exploited the ~ (“hard to get in” fraud Bernie Madoff)

## Vietnam syndrome

“By God, we’ve kicked the ~” (George H. W. Bush)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “One thing we need to better understand is intergeneration trauma and history. All the research shows the survivors have no parenting skills. Now, there’s something called Boarding School Syndrome—it’s basically post-traumatic stress disorder. They have intrusive memories, flashbacks, nightmares, attachment disorder, personal shame—they’re ashamed of being Indian—trouble sleeping, poor anger management, deficient parenting skills and the tendency to abuse alcohol. It’s also called ‘disenfranchised grief’ because it can’t be publicly mourned. Some call it a ‘soul wound.’” (Denise Lajimodiere. From “Q & A with Denise Lajimodiere,” *National Catholic Reporter*, July 22-August 4, 2022.)

♦ “Of course he bottled it...else he may have won a trophy..” (A sour sufferer of the “Robert Falcon Scott” syndrome about England-France at the World Cup in Qatar. In a completely unrelated online post—about Manchester United looking back to past glories—an online commenter wrote, “‘Twas ever thus. Looking back to those sunlit uplands. A bit like Britain in microcosm, really.”)

♦ “The condition went by different names: ‘Avatar’ Syndrome, Post-Pandora Depression, or PADS (Post-‘Avatar’ Depression Syndrome). It was marked by despair and suicidal ideation, brought on by the insurmountable gap between real life and Cameron’s C.G.I.” (“Into the Blue” by Jamie Lauren Keiles, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 4, 2022.)

♦ “Dickson and other concertgoers described having ‘post-concert amnesia.’ Dr. Soha Salman, a psychiatrist, said she experienced ‘post-Eras Tour amnesia.’” (“Taylor Swift fans who experienced ‘post-concert amnesia’ may have better luck at her movie, experts say” by Dr. Jade Cobern, GMA, October 12, 2023. “Dr. Jade A. Cobern, M.D., MPH, licensed and practicing physician, is a member of the ABC News Medical Unit.”)

♦ “Psychologists have come up with a term—solastalgia—for the feeling that occurs with the disappearance of what’s perceived as the normal, stable, healthy, natural world. The Australian philosopher Glenn Albrecht, who coined the term, identifies it as a suffering at the loss of solace, ‘a deep emotional response to the desolation of a loved home environment.’ The condition of solastalgia, then, is primarily one of grief, environmental grief, mourning for the death of home, which is the place of solace. (‘Stephen McRae seems to be a man who refused to ignore such emotion,’ Albrecht told me.)” (“The Machine Breaker: Inside the mind of an ‘ecoterrorist’” by Christopher Ketcham, *Harper’s Magazine*, November, 2023. There is a Wikipedia article “Solastalgia.”)

♦ “In terms of being analytical, many students are suffering from this syndrome of the internet generation of skimming everything on the surface, horizontal reading it’s called, and not going into depth...” (Niklas aka “The Social Media Professor” Myhr—pronounced Mear, rhymes with “beer,” a Swede—at Chapman University, southern California.)

♦ “NIH scientists, studying Havana syndrome patients, find no physical trace of harm” by Jon Hamilton, NPR, Morning Edition, March 19, 2023. The syndrome is associated with U.S. State Department employees.

♦ “I think I suffer with pareidolia, I think it’s called, where I see faces in everything.” (Chris Judge, Dubliner, who takes pictures of clouds, adds a few lines to make them look like bears and cats, etc., and posts at “Daily Cloud.” See the Wikipedia article “Pareidolia.”)

♦ “Our primary conclusion...is that without fresh real data in each generation of an autophagous loop, future generative models are doomed to have their quality (precision) or diversity (recall) progressively decrease. We term this condition Model Autophagy Disorder (MAD), making analogy to mad cow disease.” (“Self-Consuming Generative Models Go MAD,” arXiv.org.)

♦ SAD, seasonal affective disorder, was identified in the 1980s and always related to the diminishing hours of sunlight in the winter. Now there is “summer SAD,” which supposedly relates to anxiety about heat waves, smoke from Canadian wildfires, etc., which nicely ties into anxiety about global warming.

♦ “Do you search compulsively for health information online? You might have ‘cyberchondria’” by Melissa Rudy, Fox News (on the *New York Post*), December 14, 2023. (“Cyberchondria is a subset of health anxiety.”)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “It’s American main-character syndrome.” (An online commenter responding to a story about a person who was bumped from their airplane seat to accommodate a comfort dog.)

♦ To paraphrase Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s Sonnet 43, “How am I anxious? Let me count the ways. / I am anxious to the depth and breadth and height / my soul can reach...” (Funny!)

♦ Dr. Hiroaki coined the term Paris Syndrome in the 1980s. Hopefully this will not affect all those attending the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris!

♦ Read “Lesser-known Postpartum Mood Disorders” by Jena Friedman, *The New Yorker*, June 5, 2023. It’s in the Shouts & Murmurs humor section, and lists and describes such made up disorders as postpartum-anxiety anxiety; not-getting-paid-leave personality disorder; postpartum amazon amnesia; post-postpartum depression; and unspecified postpartum post-roe rage, etc. Funny!

♦ “I decided to call it Ataxic Neurodegenerative Satiety Deficiency Syndrome. So ataxic, meaning you don’t walk that well. And neurodegenerative means your brain stops working so you degenerate neurologically. Satiety is the sense that you’re full and that’s not working, so it’s deficient. (Dr. Steven Schlozman of the Harvard Medical School, a lover of zombie movies.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Odd syndromes listed in Wikipedia include the Stendhal syndrome and the Jerusalem syndrome.

♦ See the Wikipedia article “Factitious disorder.” Coined in the 1980s. An “expert” claims Elisabeth Finch of *Grey’s Anatomy* was a classic case. You be the judge...

♦ “Internet gaming disorder is its official name.” (Type that into Wikipedia, and you are redirected to “Video game addiction.” In that article, “controversy” is mentioned five times. “No medication is FDA approved for gambling.”)

♦ Complex regional pain syndrome; Stiff-person syndrome; Alpha-gal syndrome; Fish odor syndrome; ‘demon face’ syndrome (prosopometamorphopsia / PMO...) (Relatively recently noticed “syndromes” that all have Wikipedia articles and sometimes afflict celebrities. Are they real? You be the judge: “Her lawyers told reporters her Complex Regional Pain Syndrome had flared.”)

## system (circulatory system)

circulatory system of the global economy



companies like Maersk underpin the ~ (NotPetya worm)

**T**

## **table (on the table)**

on the table

is the offer still ~ (employment)  
all options are going to be ~ (diplomatic and military)  
all of this needs to be ~ and part of the discussion  
what kind of deal might be ~ (litigation)  
everything is ~ (response to virus)

## **table (under the table)**

pay employees under the table  
some employers ~ to escape taxes

## **table (head of the table)**

at the head of the table  
she has earned her place ~ (daughter controls business)

## **table (bring something to the table)**

brings a lot to the table  
she ~ (employee)

## **table (bring everything to the table)**

brought everything to the table  
I ~ (the boxer Bobby Czyz)

## **table (come back to the table)**

back at the table  
Biden say 'America is ~' as he wraps up G-7 summit

come back to the table  
so is your company ready to ~ (negotiate)

## **table (loudest seat at the table)**

loudest seat at the table  
science and data did not have the ~ (pandemic)  
we have to give science the ~ (pandemic response)

♦ "Having a seat at the table matters, but also having a voice at the table matters." (Management women in tech.)

## **table (off the table)**

off the table  
freedom of speech is ~

take it off the table  
there are good reasons not to ~ (to not use a chemical)

## **table (set the table)**

set the table for you  
I'll be with you for 3 hours to ~ (MMA pre-show)

"set the table" episode  
this is the ~ (Mike Tyson Part 1 *Crime in Sports*)

## **table (turn the tables)**

turned the tables

China ~ and expressed its own complaints (diplomacy)

turn the tables

the book is her way to ~ and have the final word (tell-all)  
they used the press to ~ on her (accusations)

turned the tables on her tutor  
she ~

## **table (seat at the table, etc.)**

decision-making table  
people around the world need a seat at the ~

place at (the white man's) table  
our ~ (a Black militant)

seat at the table  
the defense industry should have a ~, but not own the table

voice at the table  
having a ~ matters (versus merely a seat at the table)

table has been extended  
the ~ but is still within establishment walls (poetry)

claim a seat at the table  
by the '80s, the drive was on to ~ (minority poets)

deserve a seat at the table  
young people ~ (Poppy, 17)

gets a seat at our table  
we must ensure everyone ~ (the Golden Globes)

got a seat at the table  
the criticism around who ~

have a seat at the table  
the defense industry should ~, but not own the table

shake the table  
we will continue to ~ and shift the culture...

take our seat at the table  
we will ~ (LGBTQ)

### **\*\*\* various groups...**

♦ "The screen flashes to five faces. Those invited. All white faces. But the criticism around who got a seat at the table goes a lot deeper than just a lack of diversity." ("Biden's meeting with historians over threats to democracy draws criticism" by Sandhya Dirks, NPR, All Things Considered, Sept. 1, 2022.)

♦ "We must also ensure everyone from all underrepresented communities gets a seat at our table and we are going to make that happen." (Meher Tatna, about the 2021 Golden Globes.)

♦ "Birmingham was begging for our place at the white man's table." (A Black militant.)

♦ "Young people deserve a seat at the table and if you don't kind of give it to us we're just going to take it anyway." (The wonderfully named Poppy, 17, a "youth climate ambassador" at COP26.)

♦ "The facts are clear, our community is growing, and we will take our seat at the table." (A comment about a poll showing that 21% of Gen Z is LGBTQ.)

♦ "Having a seat at the table matters, but also having a voice at the table matters." (Management women in tech.)

♦ "When you are historically excluded from the table, now we're being key players." (Governor Stephen Row Lewis of the Gila River Indian

Community, about the tribe's decision to exchange its water rights for government benefits.)

♦ "So we're going to keep shaking the table, shifting the culture, and bringing you the best long-form hip-hop journalism possible." ("Beauty is in the eye of the male gaze: DreamDoll, DoeChii and Baby Tate," NPR, Louder Than A Riot, Season 2, Episode 3, March 30, 2023.)

♦ "I don't believe that people who disagree with me are the enemy. He wants to put them in jail. I will give them a seat at the table." (Vice president Kamala Harris at a rally, during the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Invite a beggar into your home and he will put his feet up on your table!"

## table (Table Mountain, etc.)

### Table Bay

- ~ was named after Table Mountain (Cape Town)
- ~ is a bay in Alaska

### Table Bench

- ~ is a bench in Utah

### Table Bluff

- ~ is a cliff in California

### Table Branch

- ~ is a stream in Texas

### Table Butte

- ~ is a summit in New Mexico

### Table Cliff

- ~ is a cliff in Utah

### Table Creek

- ~ is a stream in Oregon

### Table Gap

- ~ is a gap in Texas

### Table Island

- ~ has a flat top

### Table Lake

- ~ is a lake in Minnesota

### Table Mesa

- ~ is a summit in Utah

### Table Mountain

- ~ overlooks Cape Town (South Africa)
- ~ is a summit in Idaho

### Table Point

- ~ is a cape in Georgia

### Table Ridge

- ~ is a ridge in Nevada

### Table Top

- ~ is a cape in Washington
- ~ is a summit in New Mexico

### Table Wash

- ~ is a stream in Wyoming

♦ Table Rock is a pillar in Oregon, an island in Oregon, a summit in California, a ridge in Minnesota, a populated place in Missouri, and a bar in New York...

♦ In Elko County, Nevada, the Little Devils Table is the summit whereas the Big Devils Table is the flat. The two devils can eat within sight of one another!

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ In the United States, there are hundreds of "Table Mountains."

♦ The Table is a summit in Oregon and a bench in Nevada.

## table (shape)

### table

- a ~ might not be flat at all (landforms)

### table mountains

- two ~ can be seen to the north

## taboo (noun)

### taboos

- he was irreverent and unshocked by ~ (actor Dirk Bogarde)

### taboo of his era

- he married a white woman, the ultimate ~ (black boxer)

### taboos against homosexuality

- the ~

### taboo against use

- a longstanding ~ of nuclear weapons except...

### taboo in India

- public displays of affection remain largely ~

### taboo in Turkey

- the subject is still ~ (Armenian genocide)

### taboos about (sexual) behavior

- strong ~... (in conservative Muslim areas)

### taboo practice

- ~s tend to grow in popularity

### taboo site

- block access to ~s (Internet)

### taboo subject

- he found humor in ~s (comedian Richard Pryor)
- he addressed such ~s as race and sexuality (Pryor)
- why is menstruation still a ~ (Eilish McColgan)

### taboo topic

- raising taxes is a ~ (Republicans)

### taboo and mysterious

- people are attracted because it's so ~ (a sex act)

### longstanding taboo

- a ~ against use of nuclear weapons except...

### cultural taboo

- ~s and scientific advancement (autopsies)
- rape is a ~ in Sudan
- few carry it out because of strong ~s (suicide / Korea)

### moral taboos

- the ~ associated with germ weapons

### social taboo

- homosexuality is considered a ~... (US high schools)

she challenged a ~ (Egyptian refused abortion)

strong taboos

~ about sexual behavior (in conservative Muslim areas)

ultimate taboo

he married a white woman, the ~ of his era (black boxer)  
for many people, anal sex is the ~

a bit of a taboo

asking somebody what they earn is ~ (in US)

once strictly taboo

an intimacy ~ (see quote below)

breaker of taboos

she is a self-styled disruptor and ~ (Labor MP Dawn Butler)

breaking taboos

she is known for ~ (cringe comedian Sarah Silverman)

carries a taboo

voodoo still ~ (New Orleans)

challenged a (social) taboo

she ~ (refused an abortion and filed a paternity suit)

considered taboo

women work, often alongside men, once ~ (Algeria)

violating (cultural) taboos

joyfully ~, Lil Nas X... (who else?)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Tourists are strongly advised to consult an etiquette guide before visiting one of Thailand's revered temples. The lists of taboos is very long, and the country's ruling junta is strict. / Do not turn your back on a Buddha statue, the *Bangkok Post* cautions. Do not wear sleeveless tops to the temples, or show your knees. Even President Barack Obama had to remove his shoes when he toured the Wat Pho Royal Monastery a few years ago, lest he give offense." ("Two American Instagram stars bared their buttocks at a Thai temple. Now they're under arrest." by Avi Selk, *The Washington Post*, November 30, 2017.)

♦ "The fear of starvation is always hanging over the Indian peasant... / To an American it seems strange that under such distress these villagers never used their cows for food when it was inevitable that the animals would perish from lack of fodder. Only once on our trip did we hear—and then only in scandalized whispers—of a village that was actually 'eating its cows.' For a Hindu farmer to do away with a starving cow, even to put that beloved beast out of its misery, is as unthinkable as for him to slaughter it to feed his starving and equally beloved children. / Such prohibitions as these—too fantastic to seem credible to a Westerner—appear to separate the Indian from the American farmer by a distance greater than the curve of the world that divides them. And yet the problem of getting food out of the land has similarities which reach around the globe..." (*Halfway to Freedom* by Margaret Bourke-White.)

♦ "Incidentally, it is noticed that the Weissmuller haircut, or rather lack of cut, is quite the bang among the heart flutterers. A sort of long bob. Between tunes, the musicians now join the ladies at their tables, an intimacy once strictly taboo." ("New York Day by Day" by O.O. McIntyre, from the newspaper *The Day*, New London, CONN., Thursday Afternoon, April 1, 1937.)

♦ Eilish McColgan wrote a column entitled, "Why is menstruation still a taboo subject?" Is it *really* a taboo subject? And is it *really* a topic that should be brought up in any context? Say, at the family dinner table?

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Captain James Cook may have introduced this word to the English language following his visit to Tonga. The Tongan word *tabu* or *tapu* means not allowed, forbidden.

♦ The Turkana have few food taboos and will even eat fish.

♦ "Taboos can be useful."

## tack (verb)

tacked to the center

he has charted a new course and ~ (politician)

change tack

he decided to reverse these strikes, to ~ (military decision)

## tack (noun)

backward tack

I am embarrassed by the ~ of this administration

different tack

she took a ~ for her next project

one last tack

Boies tried ~ (*Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou)

took that tack

the tabloids ~ (that Hollywood is sordid)

## tackle (verb)

tackle its (drug) gangs

Mexico needs to ~

tackle that issue

the administration will ~

tackle it

soccer must face up to this problem and ~ (fan racism)

tackle our problems

we need to ~ in a practical way (Obama)

tackle (big-ticket) problems

scientists and engineers used to ~

tackle other projects

it sat in a drawer while I went on to ~ (a piece of writing)

## tail (chase one's tail)

chasing our tails

we're just ~

## tail (turn tail)

turned tail on the issue

he has ~ (a politician)

## tail (tail between one's legs)

with his tail between his legs

he left the company ~

he will come home ~

have their tails between their legs

the Supersymmetrarians ~ (physics)

♦ "This is a total tail between the legs kind of getting out of town and leave the field to others." (A pundit talking about US withdrawal from parts of Syria.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "If a dog can't bark, it licks." (An insult.)

## tail (orientation)

logistical tail

a ~ stretching hundreds of miles (war)

long tail

the journal *Nature*'s impact factor carries a ~ (a graph)

## tail end (the finish of something)

tail end of my career

I'm at the ~ but... (boxer touting next fight)

tail end of summer

restrictions are being lifted in time for the ~ (COVID)

tail end of the week

temperatures should start to dip by the ~

## tailor (verb)

tailors its coverage to support

it ~ Hamas (TV network)

tailor drills to fit

~ the situation and terrain you will encounter (military)

tailor METT-TC to fit

creative leaders ~ each situation (military)

## tailored

culturally tailored

menthol cigarette sellers use ~ advertising (to Blacks)

## tailor-made (adjective)

tailor-made for toxic groups

Facebook is ~

## tailspin (into a tailspin)

sent her into a tailspin

the news ~ (light sentence for her stalker)

throws the project into a tailspin

the vote ~

♦ "An Italian village in one of the world's few 'blue zones' is offering villas for \$1 to Americans who were sent into a tailspin after Donald Trump's decisive presidential election win [in 2024]." (Commune di Ollolai, central Sardinia.)

## tailspin (in a tailspin)

CNN is in a tailspin

~ (losing viewers)

## tailwind (noun)

economic tailwind

the president is riding an ~

national tail winds

the ~ blowing in their favor (Republicans / politics)

♦ "The president is riding an economic tailwind. The president is riding that tailwind very well... Any president as a pilot would be riding this tailwind, but for some reason this president can't seem to stay long enough [chuckling] in the jet stream to ride the tailwind that he

has in the economy. He goes off on tangent after tangent and doesn't seem able to ride the economic boom that he's sitting under because he just can't maintain the discipline to do that. He does not ride the tailwind that he has." (The overwrought ABC News Chief Political Analyst Matthew Dowd, Sunday, May 5, 2018.)

♦ "What the government was hoping was that, okay, there would be a headwind from tax increases, but there would be a tailwind from consumer spending, but also a tailwind from falling interest rates. And that's what we are not getting." (Sir Howard Davies, the former chairman of NatWest Group. Much language relating to economics is figurative.)

♦ see also *headwind* (noun)

## taint (noun)

taint of a bankruptcy

the ~ can be poisonous

taint of (any serious) crime

the ~ can blight a family (Japan)

## taint (verb)

tainted his data

his drug company financing ~ (doctor)

taint (a doctor's or researcher's) judgment

drug company ties can ~

taint his legacy

the revelations ~ (informant for FBI)

## tainted

tainted

the election was ~ (missing absentee ballots)

tainted by faulty methodology

scientists say his studies are ~ (autism)

tainted by (government lawyers') misconduct

the verdict was ~

tainted by partisanship

the process was ~ from start to finish (impeachment trial)

tainted by torture

he though evidence was ~ (military lawyer)

evidence was tainted

he thought ~ by torture (military lawyer)

## take (refuse to take)

take it

I'm not going to ~ (abuse from boss)

take it any more

I can't ~

take this lying down

don't think I'll ~

we weren't going to ~ (Tiger Bay)

take the allegations lying down

he was not about to ~

## take (take something / endurance)

took it on the chin

he ~ (arrested criminal refuses to snitch)

took a lot of shit from those bastards  
I ~ but I warriored through

### take (take us back / time)

takes me back  
that ~ (a song / memories)

take us back to 1965  
we pulled on this thread to ~ (old tapes of trial)

take us back to the dark ages  
the fundamentalists would ~

transported audiences back in time  
he ~ (a singer)

takes you back in time  
a trip to Abkhazia ~ to the Soviet past

### take (take somebody somewhere)

takes us  
the question is where that then ~ (boxing)

take us where  
the investigation will ~ it takes us

take us through  
~ what the response has been so far (radio interview)

takes us through  
the road ~ a dusty, reddish Martian landscape (Chile)

took me to new heights  
he ~ (sex)

take you to intriguing and frightening places  
his collection of stories will ~ (Stephen King)

### take (and hot take)

their take  
~ of what happened was more sympathetic than mine

hot take (for the tournament) is Turkey  
my ~ (Euro 2020 / a spectacularly bad prediction)

rise of the (unreported) hot take  
the ~, that maligned instant spin on the news of the day

hype and hot takes  
the show was unworthy of all the ~ (an SNL episode)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the online Merriam-Webster explanation of “hot take” at “Where Do Hot Takes’ Come From?” The dictionary entered the word in 2018. Since then its connotation seems to have changed from negative to neutral.

### take (destroy)

took the whole crop  
in recent times a cyclone ~, as you may say (Mauritius)

### takeaway (noun)

takeaways of this study  
one of the biggest ~ is that...

takeaway thoughts

are you left with any preliminary big ~ about what this means

big takeaway  
so give me the ~, what did you find (a new poll)

big top-line takeaway  
the ~ is what we already know (NPR political pundit)

biggest and most important takeaway  
what was the ~ from the report

### take away (a message, etc.)

take away  
the message I hope people ~ is...

took that away  
I ~, and it stayed with me for a long time (an insight)

### take back (take back one’s life, etc.)

take back his life  
whether to try to ~ or fade away

take back my life  
I will ~ (Ruby Rose vs. Warner Bros TV)  
this is my fight song, ~ song (Rachel Platten)

take back her narrative  
she tries to ~ (Monica Lewinsky)

take back her story  
she is fighting to ~ (Amanda Knox)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Mama’s boy’ is a flex, not an insult.” (According to NPR’s Neda Ulaby. See the Wikipedia article “Neda Ulaby.”)

♦ see also *appropriate (groups / verb)*, *appropriation (groups)*, *coopt (and co-opt)*, *misappropriate (groups)*, *misappropriated*, *misappropriation (groups, etc.)*, *reappropriate (groups)*, *reappropriation (groups)*, *reclaim (groups)*, *reclaimed (groups)*

### take down (kill)

take down the shooter  
officers on patrol managed to ~ (killed him)  
I was shocked it took so long to ~ (Uvalde school shooter)

### take down (verb)

took down a predator  
we ~ and put him behind bars (Hollywood mogul)

taken down a who’s who  
the fallout has ~ of the rich and connected (universities)

take them down  
videos are shared before Facebook and YouTube can ~

takes us all down  
time is undefeated and ~ (boxing)

### takedown (noun)

takedown of the marketplace  
300 have been arrested following the ~ (dark-web porn)

Thoreau takedown

this is the ~ I have been waiting for my entire life

literary takedown

I love a good ~ (failed fact-checking, plagiarism, etc.)

♦ "Why there are no winners after the BBC's two-footed tackle on Gary Lineker."

## take in (comprehend)

take it (all) in

he seemed to ~ (understand what I was saying)

## taken (through death)

taken away

he was ~ far too soon (drug overdose)

taken from us

our beloved daughter was ~ (selfie accident)

she has been ~ too soon (selfie accident)

## take off (verb)

take off

I think it's going to ~ great (a new directory)

taken off

none of these websites have ~ and caught fire (filtering)

'Air rage' has really ~ this year (Celia Rivenbark)

took off

for some reason it ~, it exploded (Plague of Justinian)

take off all over the country

his business is starting to ~ (Novosibirsk)

took off in a big way

his business ~

sales (of luxury cars) have taken off

~ (in China)

make e-reading take off

a Windows-compatible system will ~

♦ "That's something that has really taken off, this idea of sleep equity." (Lauren Whitehouse, an assistant professor of psychology and cognitive neuroscience at the University of Kentucky.)

## take on (verb)

take on the big banks

she has pledged to ~ (a candidate)

took on the powerful politicians

she was a political gadfly who ~ (Molly Ivins)

take on President Trump

a growing list of Democrats hope to ~ (election)

## take out (kill)

took out a (top Hamas) leader

the Israeli military says it ~ (in Gaza)

take you out

if you are a terrorist, the US will find you and ~

## talent scout (and spotter, etc.)

talent spotter for Iranian intelligence

she began working with a so-called ~ (American)

## Tale of Two Cities

tale of 2 cities narrative

the curfew reinforces the ~ (Sydney lockdown / a tweet)

♦ "In an interview on 'GMA 3' Friday, Xavier Becerra, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said there is a 'tale of two cities in America: one where you have rights, another where you don't, 15 miles apart. And it's a totally different world.'" ("HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra calls post-Roe US 'a tale of two cities'" by Allie Weintraub, ABC News, June 23, 2023. He was referring to Fairview Heights, Illinois, where abortion is legal and St. Louis, Missouri, where it is almost completely banned.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Please, Liberals: Stop Abusing 'A Tale of Two Cities'" by Reid Cherlin, *The New Republic*, Jan 2, 2014.

## talisman (noun)

Arsenal's talisman

~ Aubameyang worked his Wembley magic once again

England's talisman

Raheem Sterling, ~ in this tournament (Euro 2020)

Holland's talisman

Memphis Depay was ~ (Euro championship / Holland)

Portugal and their talisman

~ Cristiano Ronaldo (Euro 2020)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ For a while, at least, this word seemed to be very popular with BBC sportswriters.

## talismanic (adjective)

talismanic boss

AstraZeneca and its ~ Pascal Soriot

talismanic captain

Brazil's Neymar, the ~ (Rio 2016 football)

talismanic (young) defender

their ~ (Matthijs de Ligt)

## talk (as transitive verb)

talks fatherhood

country music artist Russell Dickerson ~

talk New Mexico

let's ~ (KUNM podcast)

Let's Talk Kids

the ~ parenting podcast honors the expertise parents have...

let's talk Bush, Bannon, Gold Star Families and Trump

~ (NPR's Lakshmi Singh with Mary, Sarah, and Danielle)

♦ "Bustles, Butlers, Baranski. Let's talk 'The Gilded Age.'" (Pop Culture Happy Hour with Glen Weldon, et. al.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The preposition has been dropped. Why?



## talk (talk about something / groups, etc.)

talk about equality

we're still in a place where we have to ~ (female sports)

talk about it

it's a lot of things that went on, no one wants to ~ (racism)

talk about that narrative

Yah, I want to ~ (NPR's Sarah McCammon)

talk about this

should we ~, that's an easy yes for me (racism)

need to talk about

one of the things that we ~ is... (race)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Mental illness & substance abuse is a real issue that we can't be afraid to talk about." (Master P.)

♦ Let's just say Nicki Minaj has taken to social media to talk about it. Maybe do a little more than talk..." (Ayesha Rascoe of NPR, chuckling with her guest.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ see also *conversation (groups, etc.)*

## talk (mediator talk, etc.)

AA talk

Jake, who is seasoned in ~... (Alcoholics Anonymous)

baby talk

parents often slip into ~ (parentese)

sports talk

Stephen A. Smith, the OG of ~

trash talk

see *trash talk (verb)* and *trash talk (noun)*

water talk

~ is an internet subculture (#WATERTOK, etc.)

'Girl Talk' vs. 'Boy Talk'

~ (NPR, Tell Me More, July 23, 2007)

♦ "When most adults, even older children, see an infant, they shamelessly slip into baby talk: Whooose a prettee baabee? Such a cutiee. Their speech gets smoother, slower, higher pitched and sing-songy. Researchers call this altered form of speech 'parentese,' but almost everybody does it—an uncle, a neighbor or the nice lady at the grocery store..." ("Scholars confirm what itsy bitsy babies around the world already know" by Susan Brink, NPR, Goats And Soda, August 4, 2022.)

♦ "The study calls it co-ruminating." (Girls sharing their problems, i.e. "girl talk." From "'Girl Talk' vs. 'Boy Talk' with Michel Martin, NPR, Tell Me More, July 23, 2007.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wikipedia redirects "parentese" to "Baby talk."

♦ Baby talk (which dog owners often use to address their pets) is not the same thing as "sexy baby voice." See the Wikipedia article "Sexy baby voice." That entry has an excellent audio clip of the phenomenon.

♦ see also *boilerplate (noun)*, *buzzword (noun)*, *doublespeak (noun)*, *ese (legalese, etc.)*, *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language (types)*, *lip service (pay lip service, etc.)*, *newspeak (noun)*, *speak (NASA-speak, etc.)*, *supersizing (linguistic supersizing)*, *word salad*

## talk (money talks, etc.)

'talk' to their other collections

curators like an archive to ~ (correspondence, etc.)

talk to us

we developed sensors to listen to the volcano ~

money talks

whether we like it or not, ~

numbers talk

~ (internet journalism and "eyeballs")

♦ "This time he let his tennis do the talking..." (Nick Kyrgios vs. Rafael Nadal.)

♦ "I will just let my legs do the talking." (A female runner about a Nike kerfuffle.)

♦ "I let my fists do the talking." (The boxer Conor Benn.)

♦ "Many people talk, but for me, when I talk, my numbers don't lie." (Deontay Wilder, being interviewed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, prior to his fight with Joseh Parker on the Day of Reckoning fight card. Of course, he was talking about his incredible knockout ratio.)

♦ "Money talks."

♦ Commenter 1 about sports teams, budgets, and winning: "Money talks" / Commenter 2: "Money talks, dignity walks." / Commenter 3: "And you talk XXXX." (A BBC HYS.)

## talk (the talk / groups)

The Talk

the existential danger is what necessitates '~'

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Having to pay a 'Black tax' as they move through white areas deepens this demoralization. This tax is levied on people of color in nice restaurants and other public places, or simply while driving, when the fear of a lethal encounter with the police must always be in mind. The existential danger this kind of encounter poses is what necessitates 'The Talk' that Black parents—fearful every time their kids go out the door that they might not come back alive—give to their children. The psychological effects of all of this accumulate gradually, sapping the spirit and engendering cynicism." ("Black Success, White Backlash" by Elijah Anderson, *The Atlantic*, September 2023.)

♦ "But the rest of the kids, we had to have a conversation, about, you know 'You see a gun, run, run, run.' And, that was a hard conversation to have... This is not something that we can keep doing. We can't keep on having this conversation." (Rabbi Tamar Manasseh, a Black woman, about gun violence on the South Side of Chicago. From "A Chicago rabbi was a committed advocate for gun safety. A recent attack changed that," NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 6, 2024. Gun violence has become so dangerous on a particular corner that she has washed her hands of it, and urges others to do the same for their own safety.)

## talk (talk the talk)

talks the talk

he can ~ but he can't walk the walk

talking the talk

he was better at ~ than of walking the walk (delegation)

talking the talk on democracy

we're ~, I'm not sure we're walking the walk (diplomacy)

♦ Trey Gowdy is all talk, no hat; all hat and no cattle; all clouds and wind, never any rain; all talk, no walk; bark bark bark, no bite; all show and no results; great at talking while saying nothing; just like, I say, just like Foghorn Leghorn; talks a good game but is full of hot air; talkin loud and sayin nuthin; a blowhard; he should put up or shut up;

talks like Big Tuff Guy, then does zero... (Opprobrium heaped upon the ex-politician and Fox bloviator. Foghorn Leghorn is a beloved cartoon Warner Bros. animated rooster.)

♦ "He was someone who could talk the talk—and then screw the country." (A British columnist about the billionaire inventor Sir James Dyson. The columnist pointed out the Dyson had touted the economic advantages of Brexit, but then moved his company's global head office to Singapore. Dyson said the article was vicious, and sued. Dyson lost.)

♦ "Money talks in this business and bullshit walks." (Congressman Michael Myers caught on an FBI sting video accepting a bribe. Abscam.)

♦ "If you're gonna talk the talk, you gotta post a win." (A snarky commenter about OSU football coach Ryan Day.)

♦ "Your mouth wrote a check that your ass couldn't cash." (A gleeful trash-talking radio commentator, about a boxer, known for talking trash, who lost.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This often occurs with "walk the walk."

♦ "It's easy to talk the talk, but how far are you willing to walk the walk?"

♦ "Will you put your money where your mouth is?"

♦ see also *walk (walk the walk)*

## talk (sweet talk)

sweet talk

just don't believe the ~ (from bar girls)

## talk (trash talk)

see *trash talk (verb)* and *trash talk (noun)*

## talk (talk somebody through something)

talk us through this

~, why... (explain)

## talk (talk over somebody)

talked over each other and the moderators

the candidates often ~ (electoral debate)

♦ "Look, if we're gonna have a conversation, we can't keep talking over each other." (Joe Rogan.)

## talk down to (somebody)

talk down to kids

these graphic novels don't ~

talk down to someone

if you ~, show disrespect, I will fire you (Joe Biden)

talk down to them

Eric didn't ~ (an adult to kids)

## talker (slick talker)

slick talker

he is a ~

## tame (verb)

tame your social anxiety

tips and techniques to ~

tame a (schoolyard) bully

how to ~

tame the deficit

we need to ~

tame inflation

she said her plans would help ~ (UK's Liz Truss)

tame a (rabies) outbreak

the authorities are trying to ~

tame a (great) river

it's impossible to ~ (floods)

tame traffic

efforts to ~ in our towns and cities (rising bollards, etc.)

tame her urge

she can't ~ to go shopping

tamed the Wild West

Google has ~ of copyright infringement

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Metaphorically, anything that can be tamed is like a wild animal.

## tame (adjective)

renders the munition tame

high heat ~ (mustard agent)

seemed tame

by today's standards, the editorial ~ (caused a riot)

## tangent (on a tangent)

went off on a tangent

he ~ (conversation)

## tangle (noun)

tangle of alliances

the US stepped into this minefield, this ~ (northern Syria)

## tangled

tangled in lawsuits

she and the company are ~

## tango (verb)

takes two to tango

it ~, and he is a cheater (judgment)

## tank (verb)

stock markets (around the world) tanked

~ as investors worried about what...

## tank (empty the tank, etc.)

energy tank

his ~ looked close to empty (Jones v. Tyson match)

tank was (well) empty

in the 11th round his ~ (a boxer who lost)

tank ran dry

the ~ for Okolie as he held on (vs. Cieslak)

empty the tank

he must ~ now and go for it (a boxing match)

use every last drop of fuel that was still in the tank  
he knew he had to ~ (Larry Bird, May 5, 1991 vs. Pacers)

## tantrum (noun)

tantrum

like a child, throwing a ~

childish tantrum

cue ~ because he didn't get his own way

♦ A globally broadcast tantrum; made yourself look silly with the tantrum; he brought a whole new meaning to the phrase, 'Throwing the toys out of the pram'; threw his toys out of the pram eh?; his comments came back to haunt him BLM chucking toys out of pram; AJ the spoilt brat revealed; the display of an entitled, petulant child; AJ exhibited the mentality of a spoiled child, selfish in Usyk's moment of glory; petulant and embarrassing; a selfish, childish, very sore loser, that's Joshua; grow up, do us a favour, and disappear... (Comments about Anthony Joshua's bizarre post-fight antics after his second loss to Oleksandr Usyk.)

## tap (verb)

tapped into the well

he ~ of grievance and skepticism (politics)

tap this anger

he wants to ~, feed it and nurture it (politics)

tap your creativity

we want to ~

tap the talent

the agency wants to ~s of people who...

tapped the vein

he has ~ of popular outrage over... (politician)

tap, feed and nurture

he wants to ~ this anger (politician appeals to base)

## tap (noun)

taps turned off

the ~ (money for refinancing loans)

## tap (on tap)

on tap

is there currently any legislation ~ that addresses this

on tap for tomorrow

heavy rain is ~ (weather forecast)

on tap for the South

more heavy rain ~

on tap from central Kansas and Oklahoma to...

stifling heat is ~

## tapestry (noun)

tapestry of laws

the new law is the latest thread in a ~ stigmatizing...

tapestry of incident and inference

her book is a ~ (no documentary record)

racial tapestry

the loosely woven seams of America's ~

wonderful tapestry

this will add to the ~ we call Minneapolis (Adhan)

thread in a tapestry

the new law is the latest ~ of laws stigmatizing...

melting pot, a (beautiful) tapestry, or a salad bowl

is the United States a ~

♦ "This points to a unique understanding of plurality of Indian society—it is more like a thali (an Indian meal comprising a selection of separate dishes served on a platter), rather than a melting pot." (Neha Sahgal, a lead author of a Pew study that found Indians support religious tolerance *and* religious segregation.)

## tap into (verb)

tapped into people's distrust

his ideas ~ of government (vaccinations)

tap into the video feed

~ between... (two cities)

tapping into the Black Joy movement

Kamala Harris is ~ (2024)

tap into funding

the president will ~ from other government agencies

tap into (new) markets

we are seeking to ~

tap into the reservoir

the militants can ~ of submerged hatred towards the West

tapped into a (long-standing millenarianism) tradition

he ~ (Hong Xiuquan of the Taiping Rebellion)

tapped into the (early 21st-century) zeitgeist

Morgan Spurlock ~ with *Super Size Me*

tap into (gut) feelings and emotions

neural systems ~

♦ "I had this huge aquifer underneath of stories that I wanted to tell and I stuck a pipe down in there and everything just gushed out. There's still a lot of it, but there's not as much now." (Stephen King: *The Rolling Stone Interview*.)

♦ see also *well* (source)

## tap out (verb)

tap out

I'm not ready to ~ yet, I'll hang in there (COVID teacher)

tapped out

if I can't train, I can't compete, so I ~ (injured bicyclist)

♦ Sound bite of Christopher Waller, a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors: I feel like an MMA fighter who keeps getting inflation in a chokehold, waiting for it to tap out. Yet it keeps slipping out of my grasp at the last minute. / NPR's Scott Horsley: Waller insisted, though, he and his colleagues are not going to let inflation out of the Octagon until prices are completely under control. / Steve Inskeep: (laughing) I appreciate the metaphor. Thank you for extending it, BUT, if... (Heard on NPR. Much language relating to economics is figurative.)

## tar (tar and feather, etc.)

tar all liberals

they used her essay to ~ (culture wars)

tar people's reputations  
reporters ~ based on past poor decisions (cancel culture)

tar Trump as an anti-Semite  
many liberal American Jews have tried to ~

tarred his challenger as soft  
he ~ on crime (George HW Bush)

tarring Trump with the same brush  
she is ~ that Trump used to tar Obama

## target (verb)

target them towards children  
the government will stockpile flu shots and ~

target the behaviors  
rewards should ~ you would like to encourage

## target (noun)

target  
every policeman is a ~

targets of anger  
family, friends and the health team are often ~ (the dying)

target of a bully  
being the ~ is not pleasant

target of (barracks) humor  
his innocence makes him the ~ (soldiers)

target of an investigation  
he was the ~ by the commission (corruption)

targets of jealousy  
Native American athletes risk becoming the ~

targets of a (domestic-terrorism) probe  
~ by the FBI

targets of revenge  
judges sometimes become ~

target of the (war's) supporters  
the interview made Arnett a ~ (Iraq War)

target of prejudice or (physical) harm  
fear of becoming a ~ (gays in sports)

target of (would-be) illegal immigrants  
Melilla is a major ~ (Morocco)

targets of bullying  
students who are ~ (grade 6-10)

targets of (last week's) rioting  
the ~ included...

target of kidnappings and killings  
the family has been the ~ (Colombia)

target on his back  
he's going to have a ~ (political debate)  
he had a ~, and his opponents took dead aim (politics)

target on your back

when you're leading the pack, everyone can see the ~

targets for (violent) individuals  
government agencies are often ~

target for (future human) exploration  
asteroids are a tempting ~

targets for (violent) perpetrators  
the elderly are easy ~

targets for poachers  
panhandler bears become easy ~

targets for (negative) stereotypes  
they are easy ~ (Irish Travelers)

targets for (reparations) lawsuits  
companies that are potential ~ (US)

target audience  
the ~

target date  
fund the project to completion by the ~ of 2030

target demographic  
its ~ of Jews in their twenties

target disease  
tetanus is one of the ~s of the WHO (neonatal)

target genes  
he's focusing on ~ for schizophrenia

target populations  
~ such as school-age children (public health)

target pressure  
pop-off valves set to the ~ (hyperbaric chamber)

tempting target  
~s for future human exploration (asteroids)

earnings target  
the company announced it would miss its ~

enlistment target  
the Navy fell short of its ~

takeover target  
smaller companies are easy ~

main target  
their ~s were...(looters following eruption)

numerical target  
we are not setting ~s for what they should buy

potential targets  
companies that are ~ for reparations lawsuits (US)

visible target  
he made himself a ~ (arrested)

become targets  
judges sometimes ~ of revenge

indicated the target

a yellow arrow ~ (BASE jump / landing zone)

put a target on his back  
soliciting pieces from conservatives had ~ (at NYT)

puts a target on your back  
standing up for principle ~ (at *The New York Times*)

zoom in on targets  
the cameras can ~ 3 miles away (Newark / police)

♦ "[S]tanding up for principle at the paper does not win plaudits. It puts a target on your back." (Bari Weiss about *The New York Times*.)

♦ "The left puts a target on Donald Trump's back with Nazi, Adolph Hitler smears." (Miranda Devine, *The New York Post*, Opinion, Oct. 23, 2024.)

## target (moving target)

moving target  
it's a ~ (trying to calculate loss due to plane groundings)  
authenticity is a ~ (cultural identity)

## target (hit the target)

hit all its targets  
the company has ~

## target (miss the target, etc.)

fell short of its (enlistment) target  
the Navy fell short of its ~

miss its (earnings) target  
the company announced it would ~

missing its teacher recruitment targets  
the government is ~

## target (soft target, etc.)

soft targets  
historians have become ~ in the Culture Wars

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "It was known as the Dragon's Jaw." (The Hanh Hoa railway bridge, a US air target during the Vietnam War. "Even in a single-seat jet, nobody flies alone..." In Vietnam, the Vietnam War is called the American War.)

♦ "It is very rare for an American service member to be captured and killed."

## target (easy target, etc.)

easy target  
they look at you as an ~ (young men in prison)

easy (takeover) targets  
smaller companies are ~

easy targets for violent perpetrators  
the elderly are ~

easy targets for poachers  
panhandler bears become ~

## target date

target date of 2030  
fund the project to completion by the ~

## targeted

targeted on social media  
they were ~ after the game (Rashford, Sancho, Saka)

targeted in social-media callouts, draggings, pile-ons  
some Y.A. books are ~

targeted killing  
fears about the repercussions of a ~ persisted

targeted (radiation) treatment  
a ~ (for breast cancer)

## tarnish (verb)

tarnishes the badge  
this ~ we all wear proudly on our chests (bad cop)

tarnished the image  
many lawyers believed that he ~ of the profession

tarnished the country's image  
the government has ~ abroad

tarnished the (Hernandez) name  
they felt she had ~

tarnished his reputation  
his massive accumulation of wealth ~ (politician)

tarnishes his reputation  
admitting to drug use ~ (an athlete)

tarnished his victory  
allegations of fraud ~ (elections)

## tarnished

tarnished by allegations  
his legacy is ~ he... (a boxer)

tarnished by (doping) scandals  
it is the latest black mark on a sport that has been ~

tarnished honor  
a plan to repair Syria's ~ (1973 Yom Kippur War)

tarnished image  
they are trying to sportswash their deeply ~ (EPL)

tarnished reputation  
this little film cleans the ~ of romantic comedies

burnished and tarnished  
reputations were ~ (2021 Trump impeachment trial)

jury pool had been tarnished  
his lawyer argued the ~ by the extensive press coverage

reputation is (forever) tarnished  
now his ~ (a professional athlete)

looking tarnished  
that reputation is ~ (Kenyan runners / doping)

## tarred

unfairly tarred

progressives acknowledge some have been ~ (canceled)

### taste (taste freedom, etc.)

taste abuse

she may also ~ (women who work abroad)

taste defeat

it's seven and a half years since he had to ~ (a boxer)

tasted defeat

he has ~ before (a boxer)

Belfast's Conor Quinn ~ as a professional (boxing)

taste a freedom

a woman may ~ from familial duties (abroad)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Are there not other alternatives than sending our armies to chew barbed wire in Flanders?" (Winston Churchill, in a letter of advice to Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith. The alternative turned out to be Gallipoli.)

♦ "No, they will fight more actively with empty bellies, and, besides, it would be a bad omen. You remember what a dessert they got to their dinner at Falkirk." (The Duke of Cumberland—"the Butcher"—on whether to allow his army its noontime meal prior to the Battle of Culloden. From *British Battles On Land and Sea* by James Grant. Culloden, 1746.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Revenge tastes sweet.

♦ Revenge is a dish best served cold.

### taste (taste of freedom, etc.)

taste of what

get a ~ Native Americans went through... (smallpox)

taste of (hostile) fire

they were getting their first ~ (marines)

taste of freedom

I wanted a ~

taste of home

the meal provided a ~ (Thanksgiving overseas)

taste of (cowboy) life

Americans seeking a ~

taste of regret

the bitter ~ (bad decisions)

taste of (business) success

a ~

taste of winter

western North Carolina gets ~ (snow showers, cold)

taste of acting

he got his first ~ when he was twelve years old

taste of (local) Fijian culture

we got our ~

bitter taste

the ~ of regret (bad decisions)

first taste

he got his ~ of acting when he was twelve years old

their ~ of America was the kindness of strangers

got our (first) taste

we ~ of local Fijian culture

seeking a taste

Americans ~ of cowboy life

wanted a taste

I ~ of freedom

\*\*\* "Their first taste of America was the kindness of strangers..."

♦ "But despite the tragic aura, the most striking thing about the hospital [on Ellis Island] is today how humane it was. The state-of-the-art facility, based on a design by Florence Nightingale, offered free health care to every third-class immigrant, many of whom were peasants who had never seen a doctor in their life or eaten such nutritious food. Of the million or so patients who stayed there, only 3,500 died; the vast majority were granted entry. / "Their first taste of America was the kindness of strangers." ("Wet and Wild" by Tony Perrottet, photographs by Gina LeVay, *Smithsonian*, May 2017. The map is superb.)

### taste (taste for violence, etc.)

taste for it

you have to have a real ~ (a culinary occupation)

taste for violence

women have developed a ~ (books, films)

taste for flashy cars

he displayed a ~ and elaborate mansions

taste for rice beer

elephants have developed a ~ (Guwahati)

taste for fighting

I've always had a ~ (a gang member)

consumer tastes

a new trend in ~

movie tastes

software to track ~ (Blockbuster)

higher-priced tastes

they seemed to have more money and ~ (Tulane)

acquiring a taste

nomads are ~ for the settled life (Saudi Arabia)

displayed a taste

he ~ for flashy cars and big mansions

developed a taste

elephants have ~ for rice beer (Guwahati);

he ~ for akpeteshie, palm-wine moonshine (Ghana)

had a taste

I've always ~ for fighting (a gang member)

lost its taste

England has not ~ for the fight (boxing)

lose her taste

she seemed to ~ for the game (injured athlete)

cater to all tastes

Sydney can ~ (sex)



## taste (in good taste, etc.)

in good taste

I think it is ~ (athletes' fashions)

## taste (judgment)

taste in décor

weight, wardrobe and ~ (hot-button issues for women)

taste in music

if you're unsure about his ~... (dating advice)

taste in popular culture

African-American girlfriends influenced Mankiller's ~

tastemaker

her authority as a ~

expensive taste

she was style conscious and had ~

personal taste

placement is a matter of ~ and preference (piercing)

events for every taste

there are ~... (concerts, contests / Sturgis biker rally)

judgment and taste

he revealed questionable ~

cultivate a (less conformist) taste

give her the courage to ~ (teens)

shown much taste

nor has McKenzie ~ in new repertory (A.B.T.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The language of aesthetic judgment is gustatory—one has good taste or feels something in one's gut..." ("Black-And-White Thinking" by Anna Shechtman, *The New Yorker*, December 27, 2021.)

♦ "Tastes may change but the general appetite doesn't."

## taste (a bad taste, etc.)

bitter taste

the ~ of regret (bad decisions)

sour taste

this has left a ~ (bad sportsmanship)

erased the (sour-milk) taste

helped by a bullpen that ~ of Friday's loss...

leaves a bad taste in one's mouth

but this ~ especially if...

## tasty (adjective)

tasty new TV

~ from Alan Ball and HBO

## tatters (in tatters)

left in tatters

the party has been ~

he risked seeing his career ~

left his career in tatters

the knockout has ~ (a defeated boxer)

leave his plans (for the Championships) in tatters

the injury could ~ (manager / player hurt)

## taut (nerves, etc.)

taut

nerves were ~, imagination on edge

## taxing (adjective)

taxing

the job was extremely ~

## T-bone (verb)

T-boned me

a semi-truck ran through a stop sign and ~

T-boned my mother's car

the teen ran a stop sign and ~

## T-boned

T-boned by a drunk

I was ~ on Christmas (in a car)

T-boned by a dump truck

five years ago, I was ~

## tea (gossip)

family tea

she spills '~' in her new documentary (Caitlyn Jenner)

spill the tea

towards the end, he began to ~, to talk about...

spills some tea

Garcelle Beauvais ~ in her new memoir

spill the tea about her

her friends devotedly refused to ~ (Greta Garbo)

♦ "Let's spill some shade, throw some tea..." (The transgender Natalie Wynn, reversing the collocating verbs. Noticed!)

♦ "Rewind and repeat: Here's all the tea on that steamy 'Bridgerton' carriage scene" by Lauren Sarner, *The New York Post*, May 20, 2024.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Spill the tea" is Black-, Gay-, and drag queen-adjacent. (See "Let's Talk 'Tea': Spill it, sip it: just make it hot," Words We're Watching, Merriam-Webster.)

♦ "Everyone knows. I'm not spilling any tea..." (Chris Rock about...)

## tea (weak tea)

weak tea

he called it "~" and "too little, too late" (politics)

he called the plan "~" ("not good enough" / politics)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can say, "It's weak tea." Or, "Pipi de sansonnet (starling pee)." Or, "Small potatoes." Or, "Small beans..." Take your pick!

## tea (cup of tea)

cup of mescal

its plotless drift won't be everyone's ~ (*Bardo* film)

## teacher (experience is the best teacher, etc.)

### best teacher

you know the name of a Bolshevik's ~ (experience)

### greatest and most powerful teacher

the land itself is the ~ (beauty, power of Bryce Canyon)

♦ "Clearly Marovo fishers possess a great deal of practical knowledge concerning the fishes of their waters that is unknown to science, putting them in the same league with Palauan fishers (Johannes 1981) and, for that matter, the nearby fishers of Roviana (Hamilton 1999)." ("Traditional Knowledge Possessed by the Fishers of Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands, Concerning Fish Aggregating Behaviour," by Robert E. Johannes and Edvard Hviding. TEK: traditional ecological knowledge.)

♦ Reality is a harsh teacher. (An online commenter about the death of Louisiana State University student Madison Brooks.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Study from new books but from old teachers." (Turkey.)

♦ "Time teaches more than books." (Po but siklos bersentar sar lilehtar / Roma.)

## teacher (teacher's teacher, etc.)

### actor's actor

she was an ~ and the core of the show...

he would never be an ~ (Paul Newman / too bourgeois)

### comic's comic

a ~, Roman was a... (Freddy Roman / the Friars Club)

### cop's cop

he was a ~ and mourned by hundreds

### dancer's dancer

Ohan-san, who is a geisha, is really a ~ (*East of Home*)

### d.j.'s d.j.

Danny Tenaglia is a ~

### explorer's explorer

he was the ~ (Roald Amundsen)

### fighters' fighter

Marvin Hagler, the ~, had a great impact on boxing (BBC)

### guitarist's guitarist

Jeff Beck, known as a '~,' dies at 78

### guy's guy

his dad was a ~ (snakeskin boots, Harley, muscle truck)

### journalist's journalist

she is a ~ (a controversial assertion / arguable)

Lou Cannon is a ~, and a classic American

### judge's judges

they are ~, they have the highest integrity (Supreme Court)

### linguist's linguist

Chuck Fillmore is a ~ (the teacher's teacher Martin Hilpert)

### man's man

he was a ~ (Edmund "Sir Ed" Hillary)

### Marine's Marine

he was a ~ (a Marine Staff Sergeant)

### pastor's pastor

mourners remember '~' and WWII veteran...

### singer's singer

the long and complicated career of a true ~

### soldier's soldier

he was popular, a ~

he was a ~, a warrior (Alwyn Cashe d. 2005)

### teacher's teacher

she was considered a ~ by her colleagues...

### veteran's veteran

he has developed into a ~ (boxer Saul "Canelo" Alvarez)

### woman's woman

more than Joni and Carole, Carly is a ~ (*Girls Like Us*)

♦ "The idea you could hold your liquor and type a new lead on a breaking story was a badge of honor." (The "journalist's journalist" Pete Hamill, about journalists back in the day.)

♦ "Court-martial him one day and sober him up the next and put him back in because he is a Marine's Marine." (A Marine Staff Sergeant.)

♦ "It's the mountaineer's mountain." (K2.)

## teacup (person)

### teacup

he's a ~ (emotionally fragile student)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A similar term to *teacup* is *snowflake*. In the old days, such people were compared to plants: *a shrinking violet*; *a pansy*; *a wallflower*. The modern update on that is *orchid* (versus a *dandelion*).

## teacup (storm in a teacup)

### storm in a teacup

this might sound like a ~ but... (Oxford prof harassed)

oh, dear, another twitter ~...

this small-town saga might seem like a ~

he described the rumors as a ~

♦ "Storm in a teacup. If the ref says it was low on the night then it was low, there's really nothing more to it..." (An online commenter about Olexander Usyk's victory over Daniel Dubois. DD hit OU with a low blow, stopping the fight for almost four minutes.)

## teak (wood)

### teak-tough

Baranchyk, a ~ operator, didn't fall (the boxer)

## tea leaves

### political tea leaves

the governor is going to read the ~ and make a decision

♦ "In some way, It's fair for us to say, okay, the court is giving us an indication of what it thinks about executive power and how far that power can reach, at least in the field of public health. On the other hand, I do think, although it's so tempting, I do think we need to be careful about reading tea leaves and saying, okay, this is what the court thinks about Biden's power, because, obviously, as we've already talked about..." (Jessica Levinson, law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. From "Supreme Court to hear cases that will bear on Biden's workplace vaccine orders," NPR, Morning Edition, Dec. 24, 2021. Actual tea leaves might be clearer!)

♦ "This had been sort of in the tea leaves for [pronounced "fur"] a little bit, right, I mean, obviously... (Esteban Bustillos, GBH News.)

## team (A-team, A team)

### A Team

Hamas has never been the ~

### C-team

it was time to bring in the ~ (denigration / politics)

♦ "Hamas has never been the A-team..." (As opposed to Hezbollah. A US analyst speaking about Israel's intelligence failure leading up to the Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ "[A]gencies don't necessarily get to send their first-string players when a crisis breaks. Whoever is on duty shows up with whatever tools they have available (mass shootings are 'come as you are,' he told me), and hopes that the A-team arrives soon after to take control." If the A-players aren't nearby..." ("American Cowardice" by Jamie Thompson, *The Atlantic*, March 2024.)

♦ "When Christie left, so did many establishment Republicans he'd lined up. It was time to bring in the C-team." (Anti-Trump snark by Caitlin Dickerson in *The Atlantic*.)

## team (dream team)

### dream team of civic leaders

he has put together a ~ (a promoter)

### dream team of lawyers

he had resources to throw at a ~ (Jeffrey Epstein)

### known as the Dream Team

they were members of the Simpson legal defence, ~ (trial)

## team (side)

### Team Democracy

it's trying to get everyone to join ~, so to speak... (NPR)

### Team Hamas

Bill Maher declares Harvard, UPenn '~'

### Team Biden-Harris

~ gave the Republicans the best deal... (Mika Brzezinski)

### opposing team

Henry James is the captain of the ~ (a *literary* issue)

### red or blue team

this issue has nothing to do with being on a ~ (politics)

### captain of the opposing team

Henry James is the ~... (a *literary* issue)

### bats for the other team

I don't care that he ~ (a comment about a gay wrestler)

♦ "A writer who belongs at the center of this story is Henry James...James is the captain of the opposing team, the non-meanderers. That is the debate, really..." ("National Treasure: Rediscovering Alessandro Manzoni's 'The Betrothed'" by Joan Acocella, *The New Yorker*, October 17, 2022.)

### \*\*\* diplomacy...

♦ "You mentioned that there was a time in your career when it was thought that Russia and China were so to speak coming onto our team." (NPR's Steve Inskeep speaking with retired diplomat Victoria Nuland.)

♦ "Well, I think it's [US diplomacy] capitalizing on the networks that are being made among these countries and it's trying to get everyone to join Team Democracy, so to speak..." ("How can the U.S. counter

China's expanding influence in Asia? Court its neighbors" by Michel Martin, Anthony Kuhn, NPR, Morning Edition, April 11, 2024.)

### \*\*\* politics...

♦ "This issue has nothing to do with being on a red or blue team, this is an American issue in terms of what we're facing on our campuses and shouldn't [be] a partisan issue." (New Jersey Congressman Donald Norcross. "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Dec. 5, 2023. Red mean Republican, blue means Democrat.)

♦ "I mean it's like firing the coach when your team isn't doing well, it kind of feels good, it's a response to a demand, it doesn't solve the problem." (Harvard Professor Steven Pinker about calls to replace Harvard President Dr. Claudine Gay following her testimony at "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Dec. 5, 2023.)

♦ *Middle-school* students asked a teacher, "Which team are you on," about the Israel-Hamas war. In American English, an issue can become a political "football."

♦ "There was Team Natural Origin... And on the other side, Team Lab Leak... We became fervent members of Team Natural Origin..." ("I've Been at NR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

### \*\*\* LGBTQ+...

♦ "Yes, I am transitioning. I have joined the other team." (Luc Sante, who is now Lucy Sante, having changed from a man to a woman. She is the author of *I Heard Her Call My Name: A Memoir of Transition*. A strange context indeed to be talking about "teams.")

♦ "I don't care that he bats for the other team." (A comment about a gay wrestler.)

♦ "I understand that this is a polarizing film...but I'm very much on the team with people who think this movie is just a hoot and a half from start to finish." (Stephen Thompson about the film *Poor Things*. From "2024 Oscars Preview: Who will win and who should win, NPR, Pop Culture Hour, March 8, 2024. "A hoot and a half.")

♦ "Pick a side and stay there!" (Charlotte from *Sex and the City* about a bisexual character.)

### \*\*\* other groups...

♦ "I know I will never fully understand the experiences of a deaf person because I am hearing, but by going to Gallaudet, I'm joining *their* team, I'm joining *their* culture, and that is something I'm really excited about." (Camryn Lexow, getting a Master's degree in counseling the deaf. She also happens to be the only hearing woman on their basketball team.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Here's the thing. When you talk about LeBron and Mike, the people who are on Mike's side are solidly on Mike's side, the people who are on LeBron's side are solidly on LeBron's side, so, you really can't move the needle..." (Justin Tinsley, senior sports and culture reporter at ESPN's *The Undeclared*, about who the greater player is.)

♦ It's disturbing to think that U.S. *middle-school* students would ask their teacher which *team* she was on, about the Israel-Hamas war.

## team up (verb)

### team up

fans ~ to bully and harass people online

## teapot (internet teapot, etc.)

### internet teapots

the tempest of these controversies remains confined to ~

## tear apart (verb)

### tore apart her (tidy) life

war ~ (a Serb in Kosovo)

### tear the social fabric apart

the stress of collapsing economies can ~

tearing United apart

Liverpool were ~ (Liverpool 5, Man U 0)

## tear down (verb)

tear down the system

they want to ~ ("No justice, no peace," defund, etc.)

tear him down

obviously many people were jealous and so they tried to

~

♦ "Obviously many people were jealous and so they tried to tear him down, but you know look what he did..." (An admiring commenter about the great boxing promoter Don King. Self-educated. Rose to great heights. Became rich.)

♦ "This whole criminal system needs to be torn down and rebuilt." (Philonise Floyd, George Floyd's brother.)

## tears (crocodile tears)

accused her of crocodile tears

a bereft family member ~ (Nicola Sturgeon / Covid)

cry crocodile tears

the Democrats whine, scream and ~ for the child victims

dismissed the concerns as "crocodile tears"

Iran has ~ (about sick schoolgirls, by Germans and U.S.)

♦ "Maybe amber will cry real tears now" (Snark about the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard trial and verdict.)

♦ "Too many lies, wrecking her own credibility, crocodile tearing over spilled milk." (Snark about the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard trial and verdict.)

\*\*\* "With wonderful presence of mind..."

♦ "When [Isaaco] had reached the middle of the river, a crocodile rose close to him, and instantly seizing him by the left thigh, pulled him under water. With wonderful presence of mind he felt the head of the animal, and thrust his finger into its eye; on which it quitted its hold.... The wound on the left thigh was four inches in length... Drew the lips of the wounds together with slips of adhesive plaister secured with a roller..." (Mungo Park, searching for the source of the Niger River.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "Crocodile tears." According to that article, people in antiquity believed crocodiles cried before and after eating humans. Christians talked about "fake repentance." Shakespeare used the phrase. Some thought it might be a tactic to disarm a victim. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ Superficial sympathy; fake; fake repentance; false; a hypocrite; insincere...

## tears (crying)

a lot of tears

that conversation with them, there were ~ (about race)

there have been ~, a lot of questions (upset teens)

people are very moved, there are ~ (a movie)

few tears

there have been ~ shed for the Assad regime (2024)

a lot of pain, a lot of tears, a lot of grief

that's ~ (Cuomo speech about the pandemic)

blood, sweat and tears

he gave the franchise 20 years of his ~ (Kobe Bryant)

blood and tears

enough of ~, enough (Palestinian-Israeli conflict)

trail of tears

see *trail of tears* (figurative)

vale of tears

life is a ~ (Christianity)

end in tears

it was always going to ~ (Ronaldo leaves Man U)

ends in tears

when managers try to be too clever it usually ~ (soccer)

shed a (single) tear

nobody ~ (CBS' Late Late Show cancelled)

## tears (trail of tears, etc. / migration)

Bridge of Tears

here was the separation, the ~ (Falcarragh, Ireland)

convoy of tears

the flight of panicked Vietnamese became known as the ~

Harbor of Tears

the ~ (Cobh Harbor / the Irish diaspora)

Island of Tears

Ellis Island earned the nickname "The ~"

trail of tears

see also *trail of tears* (migration)

♦ "By March 16, the flight of panicked Vietnamese becomes known as the convoy of tears." (1975. From the north and Hue to Da Nang. "The roads were just clogged with people, carrying anything they could.")

♦ The Harbor of Tears (Irish), the Trail of Tears (Cherokee), the Gate of Sorrows (China), the Door of No Return (Ouidah)...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "But despite the tragic aura, the most striking thing about the hospital [on Ellis Island] is today how humane it was. The state-of-the-art facility, based on a design by Florence Nightingale, offered free health care to every third-class immigrant, many of whom were peasants who had never seen a doctor in their life or eaten such nutritious food. Of the million or so patients who stayed there, only 3,500 died; the vast majority were granted entry. / "Their first taste of America was the kindness of strangers." ("Wet and Wild" by Tony Perrottet, photographs by Gina LeVay, *Smithsonian*, May 2017. The map is superb.)

## tears (grief)

Gate of Tears

the *Bab-el-Mandeb*, the ~ (the strait)

Highway of Tears

murders and disappearances on the ~ (MMIWG)

Palace of Tears

the *Tranenpalast*, the "~" (divided Berlin)

Spring of Tears

Te Puna Roimata Peak, the ~ (Mt Erebus, Ross Island)

Valley of Tears

it became known as the ~ (Golan 1973 battleground)

## tear through (verb)

tearing through (unvaccinated) communities  
COVID is ~

## tear up (verb)

tear up the treaty  
the president wants to ~

## tease out (verb)

tease that out  
let's ~ (talk radio)

tease out what  
well, let's try to ~ that might mean (talk radio)

## tectonic (adjective)

tectonic restructuring  
the ~ capped a week of turmoil at *The New York Times*

tectonic plates  
the ~ of French politics have shifted (Marine Le Pen)

tectonic (paradigm) shift  
this is an enormous, ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Tectonic plates are constantly shifting."

## teddy bear

teddy bear  
he's a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ On a hunting trip in Mississippi, Theodore Roosevelt turned down an opportunity to shoot a captive bear cub. An editorial cartoon of the scene sparked the craze for "teddy" bears.

## tee off (start)

teed off an advertising boycott  
the tapes have ~ (politics)

## tee off on (verb)

tee off on him  
it was another chance for his rivals to ~ (politics)

teed off on senators  
he ~ who walked out of his testimony

## teeter (verb)

teetering on the brink  
the factory is ~ of insolvency  
the country is ~ of default (Greece / economy)  
the world was ~ of war

teeters on the edge  
the air travel network ~ of collapse

teetered on the edge  
his campaign ~ of electoral abyss, but it is scrambling back

## teetertotter (verb)

teetertottering  
they are ~, they are not sure...

♦ "A lot of them are teetertottering, am I gonna do it, am I not going to do it..." (The drummer Travis Barker about kids committing to their passion versus getting a safe job.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

♦ see also *seesaw* (noun)

## teeth (in / into the teeth of)

in the teeth of the (financial) crisis  
~, Ireland decided to...

in the teeth of Syrian fire  
they crossed 800 meters of open ground ~ (Golan / 1973)

in the teeth of the (current) recession  
~, companies have been forced to cut staff and...

in the teeth of these (challenging) times  
but ~ (politics, economy)

ran (right) into the teeth of the defense  
he ~ (football game)

sailed into the teeth of a storm  
the ship ~ they knew was coming (*Viking Sky*)

## teeth (danger)

showed his teeth  
when criticized, he ~

♦ "Buried secrets have teeth." (Ad for *Truth Be Told* TV series.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Just because you can see the teeth of the lion, don't think that he is smiling at you!"

## teeth (force)

teeth  
the regulations must have enough ~ (enforcement)

lack teeth  
the so-called reforms ~ and will do little

♦ "Russian people! Brave descendants of brave Slavs! You have broken the teeth of lions and tigers who have attacked you more than once. Unite! With the cross in your hearts and weapons in your hands, no human power can defeat you." (Tsar Alexander I, 1812.)

## teeth (take the teeth out)

taken the teeth out of the law  
they have ~ (no mechanism for enforcement)

## teeth (to the teeth)

armed to the teeth  
they are ~

arming Taiwan to the teeth  
the United States is ~

## teeth (kick in the teeth)

kick in the teeth  
it's been a real ~

real kick in the teeth  
it's a ~ because we conceded late (Porto 1-0 Arsenal)

## teeth (gnash one's teeth)

gnashing their teeth  
Democrats are ~ (over third-party candidacy)

♦ "If you are just now gnashing your teeth about what has happened to *Sports Illustrated*, you are getting on this bus very, very late."  
("Opinion: What the Sports Illustrated AI debacle is telling us" by Will Leite, CNN, November 29, 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ When does this actually happen? (That someone gnashes one's teeth in rage.)

## teeth (cut one's teeth)

cut her teeth (in politics in the 1980s) interning  
she ~ for Wilma Mankiller

cut my teeth in patrol  
this is where I ~ (L.A. / "Fort Apache")

cut our (reporting) teeth  
we ~ in Edinburgh and worked on big stories

## teeth (sink one's teeth into something)

sink my teeth into  
I wanted a role that I could really ~ (actor)

sinks her teeth into a case  
she's a pit bull, she ~ and doesn't let go

sink my teeth into something  
I'm a pit bull, I ~ and don't let go (crime investigator)

## teething

teething issues  
there are always new ~ (very young airplanes)  
there have been some ~ as businesses get used to...  
(Brexit)

teething problems  
the COVID-19 detecting apps face ~  
he described the difficulties as ~ (post Brexit fishing)  
disruptions in the fish trade are ~ (Brexit)

teething troubles  
the novices were over their ~ (dog driving)  
there are reasons to hope that these are ~ only (TV show)

## Teflon

Teflon figure  
Boris Johnson is a ~, nothing sticks to him until now

teflon politician  
he has all along been a ~, but this may stick (Partygate)

## telegraph (Daily Telegraph, etc.)

Daily Telegraph

she was the United States Editor for the ~ (a newspaper)

### \*\*\* "A sailor fight in Bombay, hard frosts in Siberia..."

♦ "[The Alpena Evening Echo in Michigan] could not tell why the telegraph company caused it to be sent a full account of a flood in Shanghai, a massacre in Calcutta, a sailor fight in Bombay, hard frosts in Siberia, a missionary banquet in Madagascar, the price of kangaroo leather from Borneo and a lot of nice cheerful news from the Archipelagos—and not a line about the Muskegon fire."  
(Information overload. Quoted in *Krakatoa* by Simon Winchester. From *The Victorian Internet* by Tom Standage, 1998.)

♦ "The great events which are now transpiring in Europe are, in themselves and in their relation to the rest of the world, without a parallel in the history of the human race. We seem, as it were, to be present at the enactment of a sublime and terrible drama, with the Crimea for its stage, and all Europe and America gazing, as in a theatre, with agonized interest at what is passing, as incident after incident brings us gradually, through one tragic scene after another, to the approach of the last awful catastrophe. For, although in other periods of the world's history, events of equal magnitude and interest may have occurred, still they never before happened under circumstances of the same publicity, so to speak, as now, when the celerity with which information is propagated the Press, the Telegraph and by steam, and the general dissemination of intelligence, have the effect of placing every incident almost before the eyes simultaneously of all mankind..." ("The Crimean Drama," the *New York Times*, 24 April 1855.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Prisoners can communicate with one another using the prison tap. But no one uses a telegraph anymore. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## telegraph (verb)

telegraph (to the audience) that  
expressions of racism are used to ~ a character is terrible

telegraphs his punches  
he ~ (boxer)

telegraph our punches  
the US is not going to ~ one way or another (Yemen)

telegraph or preview  
I'm not going to ~ anything (possible military action)

## telegraphed

telegraphed  
every character beat, plot point and narrative turn is ~  
(film)

### \*\*\* "A telegraph line from Vladivostok via Nagasaki to Shanghai..."

♦ "While the Korean expedition must naturally dominate any account of John Rodger's command of the Asiatic Squadron, one other development was to attain greater significance with the passage of time. The extension of a telegraph line from Vladivostok via Nagasaki to Shanghai in 1871 made possible rapid communication between the Navy Department and the most remote of the distant stations. The dispatch reporting that the Koreans had fired on the squadron's surveying boats, which the *Palos* delivered to a Shanghai-bound steamer off Chefoo on 5 June 1871, seems to have been the first to be telegraphed from the station by the U.S. commander in chief." (*Far China Station: The U.S. Navy in Asian Waters, 1800-1898* by Robert Erwin Johnson.)

## telescope (noun)

end of the telescope  
you can look at this from either ~ (worker vs. CEO)



## tell (data can tell us something, etc.)

tell

a skin test is the only way to ~ if you have TB infection

tells everyone

a tie ~, "I respect you, my job, and myself" (an opinion)

told me

my conscience ~...

my experience has ~ that...

my body ~, 'dude, you are not sleeping enough' (Grant Wahl)

told the story

their faces ~ of that fight (Beterbiev vs. Yarde)

tell a very different story

the facts ~ (a murder investigation)

telling a totally different story

but the autopsy is ~

tell us

what did the data ~ at the time (investigation)

tell us everything

the next couple of weeks will probably ~ we need to know

tell you something

trust and act when your instincts ~ (I've got a bad feeling)

tell the rest of the story

history will judge this and the future will ~ (Afghan War)

♦ "Cookbooks tell you so much about the time, without meaning to." (Ruth Reichl.)

## tell-all (book)

tell-all

his book is not a ~ (military figure)

## telling (revealing)

telling

the terms used were ~ (G-20 negotiations)

telling sign

that's a ~ (beaten boxer clinches)

very telling

the double standard is ~ (male / female)

## temperature (raise / lower the temperature)

bring down the temperature

the way you bring order is to ~ (protests)

lower the temperature

I want to ~ in America, not raise it (politics)

he is trying to project calm and ~ (contested election)

raise the temperature of (public) debate

questions over rights ~ (gay students)

raise the temperature of the debate

this will ~ (impeachment)

turn down the temperature in the Gulf

the US wants to ~

lower the temperature in the region

a ceasefire would ~ (Israel-Hamas war)

raised the temperature by threatening

organizers ~ her with expulsion (Naomi Osaka)

♦ "Could you feel this temperature change in the room when there are these moments of conflict or verbal denial?" (A question about the mood in a Clubhouse chatroom.)

♦ "It will further erode the political temperature in the country and that's not good for Pakistan given how volatile the political situation is." (A Pakistani politician, speaking impeccable British English. "Erode" for "temperature," however, strikes a wrong note.)

♦ "I hope that the adults in the room on both sides of the aisle get together and help to bring the temperature down, but it's far from a guaranteed outcome." (A pundit about events in Slovakia, including the attempted assassination of Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico.)

♦ "My fellow Americans, I want to speak to you about the need for us to lower the temperature in our politics..." (A rare Oval Office address by President Joe Biden the day after the attempt to assassinate Donald Trump.)

## temperature (the political temperature, etc.)

political temperature

I've spent the last few days taking the ~ (a reporter)

rhetorical temperature

we must lower the ~ in this country (politics)

♦ "I know the temperature of the water now and I'm ready to take over." (The boxer Francis Ngannou after his split decision loss to Tyson Fury. He knocked Fury down, and many fight fans believe he won the match.)

## tempest (noun)

tempest

this ~ has already swept away governments (economy)

tempest of these controversies

the ~ remains confined to a handful of internet teapots

storm in a teacup

this might sound like a ~ but... (Oxford prof harassed)

international tempest

the report caused an ~

\*\*\* a black buran, a pampero wind...

♦ "Just on the stroke of seven o'clock we heard a shrill whistling in the north-east, and, two or three minutes later, down came a black buran. Shagdur set out to return to his own sleeping-place. Half an hour later...he [re-] appeared at the opening of the yurt. He had lost his way, although his sleeping-place was only 15 paces from mine...It was pitch dark [and] impossible for any man to stand. Shagdur had been on his hands and knees the whole time. Only those who have been out in such a storm can form any conception of what it is like. You get bewildered, and want to keep going, without knowing where...and it affects the brain. Next morning, the effects of this grim desert tempest were very easy to see; the sand was heaped up all round my yurt, and there were little mounds on the sheltered side of

the camels." (A windstorm on the salt desert of Lop Nur in Xinjiang. From *Central Asia and Tibet* by Sven Hedin.)

♦ "Four times on the River Parana we were forced to take refuge from the howling pampero wind, which drove upstream holding back the wide river, piling up greeny-gray waves, blowing the tops of the steep seas until the whole surface turned into a mass of seething white water. Even the five-knot current was stopped, and on one memorable occasion it was actually reversed. Swooshing out of a low, cigar-shaped cloud, the dusty pampero flattened the greeny-gray grass and forced cattle to kneel with their heads bowed, as if in homage. / A cold wind, it blew all the way from Patagonia, almost 2,000 miles to the south. A sudden hush, fraught with tension, heralded its arrival; birds grew silent, wild horses galloped for refuge in the hollows of the riverbank. Then, on the southern edge of the curved world of grass and water, a long black line rose into the sky. Under the cigar-shaped cloud, between it and the pampa, loomed a band of dirty brown weather, the underside of which shone silver white over the wide river. Quickly, we secured *Sea Dart* to the sandy river bed with two anchors and to the pampa foreshore with six mooring lines firmly bent onto as many heavy wooden stakes of *palo blanco*, the toughest wood in the world. Huanapaco and I had driven the stakes, about ten feet long, into the ground until there was only a foot of wood showing before securing the mooring lines. Even so, when the roaring pampero arrived, it turned everything around us into dust and white water. It was strong enough to send derelict trees floating back upstream! Over the banks the gray water rushed backwards, shifting the bank's position and turning the river to a sandy yellow under a sky as black as night in the bitter cold wind. The temperature dropped *seventy* degrees in four minutes! Hoar frost formed on the pampas grass minutes after we had been sweltering in a humid heat of over a hundred degrees!" (In Argentina. From *The Incredible Voyage* by Tristan Jones. As to whether or not Tristan Jones was telling the truth or lying, see *Wayward Sailor: In Search of the Real Tristan Jones* by Anthony Dalton.)

## tempestuous (adjective)

tempestuous relationship

Donald Trump, known for his ~... (BBC)

mutually tempestuous

their relationship was ~

## template (noun)

template for success

my state I believe is a ~ in our climate policies

meme templates

trending ~, curated for you

revenge template

the film conforms to Hollywood's standard ~

served as a template

the move has ~ for Missouri leaders (politics)

set the template

the Arbuckle affair ~ for the celebrity scandal

## temple (noun)

temple of (American) Democracy

the Capitol, our ~ (U.S.)

temple of glamour

the Festival is a ~ (Cannes film festival)

temple of my profession

that job took me into the ~ (journalist / *New York Times*)

'temple of speed'

Red Bull has struggled at the so-called ~ (Monza / F1)

## tempo (noun)

travel temp

our existing protectees are steadily increasing their ~

never ending high operational tempo

a ~ (the Secret Service)

♦ "Ever-increasing responsibilities place the agency in the unenviable position of having to stretch the workforce continually to satisfy a never ending high operational tempo." ("U.S. Secret Service July 13-Mission Assurance Report Summary." The report also states that "The former president's [Trump's] schedule involves a steady cadence of outdoor events and activity.")

## tendril (resemblance)

tendrils of mist

~ were wrapping across the top of Lhotse (Everest)

dark little tendrils

gray-green clouds dropped virga in ~ (mountains)

## tendril (growth)

tendrils of (international) terror

efforts to find the ~ in the US

## tenor (noun)

tenor of this conversation

I am distressed and disappointed with the ~

political tenor

there's an undeniable ~ to the debate

## tension (noun)

tension (between Russia and the U.S.) builds

~ (over Ukraine)

## tent (pitch one's tent)

pitch their tents with the Americans or the Russians

Romanian and Bulgarian elites are deciding whether to ~

♦ "Romanian and Bulgarian elites are deciding whether to pitch their tents with the Americans or the Russians, depending on which one seems to have more staying power in the region." (*Balkan Ghosts* by Robert D. Kaplan.)

## tent (fold one's tent)

folded her tent

she did what any prudent prosecutor would do, she ~

fold its tents

many think the football program should quietly ~

fold our tents

we don't ~ and run... (prosecutors vs. appeals)

## tent (inclusivity)

big tent

Mr Sanders said his campaign was a 'a ~'

bigger tent

a narrow definition of bluegrass versus a ~ (inclusion)  
fighting for the Methodist Church to become a ~ (gays)

big-tent philosophy

we no long want to espouse a ~ philosophy (politics)

### big-tent-theology

the Methodist Church has always been a ~ church

### racial and cultural tent

feminism broadened its ~

### inside the tent

they were glad to be back “~” (consulted by government)

### outside the tent

better to observe him there than have him ~ (government)

### inside or outside the tent

does she want him ~ (government)

### drawn into the tent

we want people to get ~ of conservation (Joel Sartore)

### expand that tent

let’s all make an effort to ~ (Golden Globes)

### expand-the-tent

he maintains his base strategy versus an ~ strategy (politics)

### open the tent

the Hillel was unable to “~” to include the “Open Hillel”

♦ “Bring everyone in and shut no one out, take no one for granted, write nobody off. So I’m for everyone.” (The politician Beto O’Rourke.)

♦ “We must also ensure everyone from all underrepresented communities gets a seat at our table and we are going to make that happen.” (Meher Tatna, about the 2021 Golden Globes.)

♦ Summer Lee: “You can’t say that the Democratic Party is a big tent and then in the same breath say that that tent is big enough for Joe Manchin, but that tent is not big enough for a Black progressive woman.” / Susan David: “Exactly who is welcome in that tent is one of the many questions to be answered in this year’s elections.” (“Some Democratic House members face opposition because of their criticism of Israel,” NPR, All Things Considered, April 4, 2024.)

♦ “Thank you to all of you for everything.” (An especially obsequious politician.)

\*\*\* **“Suppliants lay on the sand in the tent-mouth...”**

♦ Suppliants lay on the sand in the tent-mouth, or beyond, waiting their turn.” (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence.)

♦ Auda’s tent, a huge hall seven poles long and three wide... / Afterwards we sat by the wall of Nuri’s manor, and saw the women take down the great tent, greater than Auda’s, eight-bayed of twenty-four poles in all...” (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence.)

♦ “Beyond us the black tents of the Beni Sakhr were like a herd of goats spotting the valley.” (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “The best way to neutralize people is to bring them inside the tent.” (An AIDS activist giving grudging respect to how Anthony Fauci handled their protests in the 1980s. Fauci *literally* invited them into his home.)

♦ “Better to have him inside the tent pissing out, than outside pissing in.” (President Lyndon Baines Johnson about J. Edgar Hoover.)

♦ A friend to all is a friend to no one.

♦ “Invite a beggar into your house and he will put his feet up on your table!”

## tentacle (noun)

tentacles (all) through Central America

he had ~ (a drug kingpin)

tentacles in California, Arizona, Chicago

he had ~ (“El Chapo” Guzman)

### network’s tentacles

the ~ reached far (human-organ trafficking)

### long tentacles

a history that has ~ into the present (race)

### tentacles are dug deeply

their ~ into our culture (leftists at universities)

### extend its tentacles

Indians helped imperialism ~ (East Africa)

### has tentacles in every part of live entertainment

Live Nation-Ticketmaster ~ (Federal antitrust lawsuit)

♦ “The jihadist threat in Africa has many heads and tentacles.”

## tentpole (movies, etc.)

### Tentpole Age

we are in the ~ (movies)

### tentpole events

~ are cultural, trending and popular (Super Bowl, etc.)

### tent pole movies

adult dramatic fare performs less well than branded ~

### tent-pole movies

~ can run to \$300 million or more in total costs

### tentpoles and their multiple offshoots

superhero ~ have a corporate stranglehold on film culture

### two-hour-plus tentpoles

the film is short compared to today’s ~

### summer tentpole

what more could you want from a ~

### typical tentpole

the daily cost for filming was on par with a ~

### make only tent poles

a climate of fear pushes studios to ~ (G. Clooney)

♦ “Phoenix and Phillips are satisfied that they’ve slipped something that feels like auteur cinema under a tentpole usually reserved for blow-em-up teenage fare...” (The *Vanity Fair* article about Joaquin Phoenix by Joe Hagan.)

♦ “These kind of tent-poles, those blockbusters... You just can’t bounce from tentpole to tentpole, you need middle of the road product.” (A film-industry pundit.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ “Everyone on the Slate Culture gabfest has suddenly started using [the word *tentpole*] this month, and now the NYTimes too.” (Liz Schenck Phillips in the “What made you look this word up?” section for the word on the Merriam-Webster website.)

## tepid (adjective)

### tepid

support for the proposed center is ~

reaction to the president’s speech was ~ at best

public support for it is decidedly ~ (impeachment)

### tepid about her candidacy

many members of Congress were ~

tepid response

performers who get a ~ say they died on stage

tepid support

the proposed change won his ~

strangely tepid

he was ~ when asked for a recommendation

## terminated (killed)

terminated

he should have been ~ long ago (a terrorist)

## termite (insult)

termites

he has referred to them as ~ who need to be wiped out

“termites”

he described illegal immigrants as ~ (government official)

## terrain (area)

terrain

they have shown themselves adept at navigating the ~

native terrain

his ~ is modern Britain (a filmmaker)

changing terrain

the deal highlights the ~ as investors adjust

master much terrain

a contemporary musician must ~

## terrain (dangerous terrain, etc.)

dangerous terrain

management is stepping into ~ (NPR fires Juan Williams)

difficult terrain

the Midwest, with its job losses, is ~ for Democrats  
she explores ~, including her husband's death (a writer)

rocky terrain

she adeptly negotiated the ~ of the NYC publishing world

## terrain (known and unknown terrain)

familiar terrain

the farther you travel from the ~ of the legacy world

new terrain

the Emmys have entered ~ (backstage Webcasts)

## territory (known and unknown territory)

familiar territory

they are heading into ~, an important division game (sport)

uncharted territory

we're in ~ in terms of predicting his recovery... (coma)  
sending public opinion into ~  
legally, this is a bit of ~

unfamiliar territory

he tells stories that follow familiar conversations into ~

unknown territory

he was at 62, ~ for a man who'd never won (golf)

in uncharted territory

we're ~ in terms of predicting his recovery... (coma)  
it's very hard to know right now, I think we are ~

heading into familiar territory

they are ~, an important division game (sports)

sent public opinion into uncharted territory

this has ~

♦ NPR's Leila Fadel: Can this be de-escalated at this point or has a line been crossed with these attacks? / Danny Citrinowicz: Well, it's very hard to know right now. I think that we are in uncharted territory. (Iran's attack on Israel with drones and missiles.)

## territory (come with the territory, etc.)

come with its territory

his book avoids the pitfalls that ~ (a biography)  
these things ~ (internet abuse of diplomat)

comes with the territory

getting blamed ~ (a basketball coach)  
this ~ when you work in a hospital (long hours)

goes with the territory

some people are skeptical, but that ~ (diplomacy)

♦ "People say it goes with the territory, and it does, but the people who usually say that haven't been in the territory." (The actor Tom Selleck, who wasn't really comfortable with his *Magnum, P.I.* persona and fame.)

## territory (assigned area)

home territory

cell-phone users outside their ~s

outside their (home) territories

cell-phone users ~

## territory (stake out territory)

stake out new territory

as Microsoft tries to ~

## territory (area)

fringe territory

their most recent article veered into ~ (UFOs / NYT)

vast territory

the ~ between the extremes has been bridged (book retailing)

seized the territory

when cancer stories were brought up as story lines, she ~

## test (challenge)

failed the test

some outlets ~ miserably (objective reporting)

## test (test of time)

stands the test of time

what ~ (our favorite books)

stood the test of time

standards of honor that have ~  
their marriage has ~ (arranged)

withstood the test of time

Saudi-US relations are longstanding and have ~

## test (pressure test)

federal “pressure tests”

a system for ~ of major systems (for AI)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A “pressure test” might involve “red teaming.”

## test (stress test)

stress test

banks must take a ~ (check finances in case of crisis)

stress test of our ideals

this is a ~ (a contentious national election)

♦ “Stress tests are (inaudible) general health checkups. They check your heart, they check your liver, they check your kidneys, because any of them can bring down a bank. It was a mistake to take them away, we’ve gotta put them back.” (Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, about the failure of the Silicon Valley Bank in early 2023. “Stress tests” for banks were put in place after the global financial crisis of 2007 but done away with in 2018.)

## test (smell test)

go by the smell test

jurors tend to ~ (versus instructions from the judge)

pass the smell test

this is problematic, it doesn’t ~ (Catholic misconduct)

it doesn’t ~ (a *New York Times* article about UFOs)

doesn’t ~ to me (commenter about an attack)

pass an ethics smell test

it doesn’t ~ (jumping the vaccination line)

♦ “Those instructions [from the judge], I’m a lawyer and I couldn’t understand them... They’ve gotten to be too much. They’re legalese. And jurors tend to go by the smell test. Does it seem right? Does it seem wrong. And that’s what we wanted the jury to do.” (Mark Richards, Kyle Rittenhouse’s attorney, speaking to Ailsa Chang. From “Kyle Rittenhouse’s defense attorney discusses the trial and acquittal,” NPR, All Things Considered, Nov. 19, 2021.)

♦ “My antenna is up. I have a strong ‘Jussie Smollett’ feeling. This isn’t passing the smell test.” (An online commenter. See the Wikipedia article “Carlee Russell disappearance hoax.” About Jussie Smollett, see the Wikipedia article “Jussie Smollett hate crime hoax.” Wikipedians are wonderful.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.” (Marcellus, from *Hamlet*. The meaning is that something is wrong.)

♦ “There’s something dead up the branch.” (A Southern Appalachians expression. A branch is a watercourse like a creek or a stream.)

♦ Something is fishy.

♦ Something stinks!

## test-drive (verb)

test drive what

he will ~ his life could be like if he lived in Helsinki

test-drive Helsinki

a practical way to ~ (temporary relocation package)

test-drive life

he and 15 others were selected to ~ in the Finnish capital

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Kick the tires, look under the hood, and perhaps test-drive...

## testimony (noun)

testimony that

the ruins are ~ in antiquity this was a thriving city  
(Trieste)

testimony of our own eyes

do you believe lies over the ~ (politics)

## tethered

tethered to their computers

doctors and nurses are ~ (criticism of healthcare)

tethered to the pandemic

the economy is still ~

## textbook (noun)

textbook

everything they did subsequently was ~ (survival)

textbook case

they are a ~ of radicalization (two brothers)

this is a nearly ~ of discrimination

this is a ~ of racist, dog-whistle politics

it’s the ~ to declare an emergency (US monkeypox)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “Jungle warfare is a new kind of warfare. It tears up text books and confounds the experts.” (Narration to the short war documentary “Kokoda Front Line 1942.” Papua New Guinea, World War Two.)

♦ “Up until that point, the Marines had been fighting with smaller arms in the jungle and in rice paddies. So in his final hours before joining the battle, Cheatham sought out a large trunk that the battalion carried around. It contained field manuals—and Cheatham found the ones on fighting in urban settings and attacking heavily fortified positions. / ‘And he spent the night reading them and realizing that what he was going to need were heavier weapons than what he had,’ Bowden says. ‘He went to the battalion armory, and there were these heavy-duty bazookas, which were World War II-era rocket launchers which fired a big, fat, 3 ½ pound rocket, which made a big hole in things.’ / Cheatham and his weapons officer rounded up as many of these unused bazookas, anti-tank rifles and tear gas canisters as they could find. / And then they headed into Hue. / By the time Cheatham arrived, the Marines in Hue had suffered about 100 total casualties and gained just a block and a half. They’d have to go about another 10 blocks to take the southern part of the city. / Cheatham began putting what he’d read into practice. Instead of sending men charging into the street, he’d start by using the heavier weapons. / ‘To essentially hammer the target building, fill it full of holes and then pump tear gas into it,’ Bowden explains. ‘This would clear out most of the enemy before he actually sent men running across the street. And instead of going through doors, you blew holes in the walls and sent men in through those holes because the enemy would likely have set up their guns to cover the entrances.’” (“How An NFL Lineman Changed The Course Of The Battle Of Hue” by Martin Kessler, Only A Game, NPR / wbur, September 16, 2017.)

## thanks (thanks to something)

thanks to (two) headers

the Dutch reached the semis ~ in the second half (soccer)

thanks to his seatbelt

he survived the crash, ~

thanks to TikTok

the song's massive blowup is partially ~

partially thanks

the song's massive blowup is ~ to TikTok

♦ "The earth shook thanks to the tunneling action of mammoths, who expired on contact with sunlight." (*The Shaman's Coat, A Native History of Siberia* by the great journalist Anna Reid.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This seems to mean "because of" and as such it is one of those two-word prepositions.

## thanks (and thank you / sarcasm)

Thanks Nostradamus

~, we are all proud of you (about your prediction)

thanks (a lot) for the (totally bone headed) decisions

Wow, ~ (college football players arrested / sarcasm)

thanks for clearing that up

~ ("mindfulness cultivates intimacy with awareness")

♦ Thanks Nostradamus. We are all proud of you." (A sarcastic commenter, responding to a commenter who posted, "I called it 2 years ago," about some political tempest in a teapot.)

♦ "Thanks pride crowd." (A sarcastic / disgusted comment about monkeypox.)

♦ "people give trolls too much elevation thanks social media" (Using social media to disparage social media. The commenter may well be a troll. Thanks!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Thanks for nothing!"

## thank you (and thanks)

thank you to Justice Ginsburg, for giving us a life

~ so worthy of celebration (a tribute after her death)

thank you to the movies for saving him

it's one man's ~ (the 2022 film *The Fabelmans*)

♦ "Thanks to the water, and thanks to the moon. The water provides many things. The water gives us life." (Kay Kimsong, on the meaning of Cambodia's annual Water Festival.)

♦ "We talk to the trees. We say, 'OK, we need some of your bark to help us; we'll make something beautiful,'" Fran James said. "You have to talk to it and thank it for giving you the bark. You have to go with a good heart. You can't be cranky and fussy." (A Lummi speaking of gathering bark from the cedar tree.)

♦ "Her father would have tenderly poured a little fresh water in the seal's mouth, ready for the next life; held its claws and said 'hello again' and 'Kuana' (thank you) before dividing the meat." (An Inuit elder in Paulatuk, Canada.)

### \*\*\* The status of "Thanks" and "You're welcome" at NPR...

♦ It is rare to hear an NPR reporter, analyst, pundit, etc. respond to an NPR's host's "Thank you" or "Thanks" with "You're welcome." The script is almost always, "Thank you," "Thank you!" Either speaker will often use a first name: "Thank you so much, Jane," "Thank you, Andrea," "Thanks, Leila," "Thanks, Mary Lou," "Thank you so much, Rodney," etc. Or, the person thanked might say something breezy, like "No problem," "You bet," or "Happy to do it" as a signifier for their relative "youth" and "hipness." The effect on the listener is to enforce the notion that NPR is a clubby, self-congratulatory, breezy place where the employees all share the same ideas and spend a lot of time congratulating one another.

♦ "Thanks Elissa." / "You bet, Ari."

♦ NPR's Ari Shapiro: That's NPR's Frank Morris covering the severe damage from those tornadoes in Iowa yesterday. Thanks Frank. / NPR's Frank Morris: You bet, Ari. Catch you later. (Breezy!)

♦ NPR's Scott Simon: Asma, thanks so much for being with us. / NPR's Asma Khalid: Sure. Happy to do it. (Are you not *paid* "to do it"?)

♦ "The way that the place operates is really congenial, but in that congeniality what you lose is the friction of differing opinions and people saying 'no, I don't agree with that, you know, I don't agree with that policy, where's the evidence' or the things that people do when they have really intellectually honest disagreements, I think we lose a lot of that." (Uri Berliner talking about NPR with Bari Weiss. From "NPR Editor Speaks Out: How National Public Radio Lost Americans' Trust," Honestly with Bari Weiss.)

♦ "Throughout these exchanges, no one has ever trashed me. That's not the NPR way. People are polite. But nothing changes. So I've become a visible wrong-thinker at a place I love. It's uncomfortable, sometimes heartbreaking." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024. NPR CEO Katherine Maher called Berliner's criticism "profoundly disrespectful, hurtful, and demeaning.")

### \*\*\* some rando named Millie on TikTok

♦ "It was the hardest thing to shake when I spent time in Australia, and somebody would say, 'thank you,' and I would say, 'Yep! Oh—uh, I mean, 'you're welcome!' Because to me, it's kind of rude—like, it's not rude, but saying 'yep' and 'sure' is the equivalent of saying 'no problem,' and that is more polite in America than saying 'you're welcome.'" (Some random person named Millie on TikTok.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Level up your grooming game, your balls will thank you." (A Manscaped advertisement.)

## thaw (verb)

thaw

the freeze began to ~ when... (relations)

## thaw (noun)

thaw in relations

the border will reopen after a ~ (Burma and Thailand)

the 2 leaders promised a ~ (two countries)

geopolitical thaw

would there be any sign at all of a ~ (international relations)

### \*\*\* "How delighted I was when, for the first time, I saw..."

♦ "How delighted I was when, for the first time, I saw the breaking up of the ice in the Dwina! Sometimes the immense blocks seemed to assume the shape of a lion, a dog, a swan, and every kind of figure, beautiful or grotesque, according to the fancy of the spectator... [T]he flocks of wild swans; the solitary sea-mew, skimming with snowy pinions the liberated waves—formed a scene altogether strange and beautiful." (*The Englishwoman in Russia; Impressions of the Society and Manners of the Russians At Home by a Lady, Ten Years Resident in That Country*, 1856.)

♦ "While Yuri Andreievich slept his fill, the spring was heating and melting the masses of snow... / Ancient pine trees perched on dizzy heights drank the moisture almost from the clouds, and it foamed and dried a rusty white at their roots like beer foam on a mustache. / Yuri Andreievich woke up, stretched, raised himself on one elbow, and looked and began to listen." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ Weather helped cause the famine (drought), and weather helped delay the relief (thaw), and a return to cold weather helped the relief (hard ground). (The Great Famine of 1921-22 in Russia. See "America's Gift to Famine Stricken Russia," PBS, American Experience.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Under ordinary wintertime conditions, by late February, the ice over the gulf would have become too unstable and too dotted with thin spots, to support heavy vehicle traffic. But this year, it remained



frozen as solid as ever, capable of bearing the weight of trucks, light tanks, and up-to-medium-caliber field artillery. 'General Winter' had turned traitor." (The Gulf of Viipuri. From *Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40* by William R. Trotter. The frozen ice was to the advantage of the Russians.)

♦ "In the meantime, the thaw we had been fearing for so many days had started, and as the snow slowly disappeared, the camp began to change into a squalid bog. The bodies and the filth made the misty, muggy air impossible to breathe." (*The Truce: A Survivor's Journey Home From Auschwitz* by Primo Levi.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "No thaw is forever."

## theater (performance)

theater

hearings are in part fact-finding, but in part ~ (Congress)

negotiation theater

it looks serious, but it might just be ~ (trade talks)

diplomatic theater

it provided ~ of the most electrifying kind (UN)

political theater

get out your popcorn, get ready for ~ today (hearing)

the vote was a bit of ~

the candidate debate reprised a piece of ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "All the world's a stage, / And all the men and women merely players; / They have their exits and their entrances..." (Shakespeare, *As You Like It*.)

## theater (appearance)

theater and hot air

many thought him all ~ (national leader)

♦ Bore-fest; carnival; circus; (set of) clowns; con; fake; (corrupt) fakery; farce; FARSE!!!; farcical (WBA, IBF, IBU, WBC, WBO, IBA, WBU, WBF, IBC, IBO, Ring); faux; greed; joke; (absolute) joke; marketing; media show; money; pantomime; phoney; politics; promotion; rubbish; Schtick!; (clown) show; (comedy) show; sideshow; (nonsense) titles; for promoters and fools to watch; one fight a year nowadays... (Disappointed boxing fans who follow the heavyweight division. They might just as well be talking about politics and politicians or...)

## theater of the absurd

theater of the absurd

call this what this is, which is a ~ (politics)

## theatrics (noun)

cheap "theatrics"

the ~ (politics)

## theft (groups)

theft of my identity

it's the ~ as a human being (Trans artist / generative AI)

theft of the right

the ~ to control our own bodies (Destie Hohman

Sprague)

theft and erasure

the ~ of one's own history

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## them (us versus them, etc.)

see *us versus them* (*us and them, them and us, etc.*)

## theology (noun)

theology of globalization

the ~ in the 1980s (US moves manufacturing overseas)

## there (there is no there there, etc.)

there's no there there

~ (articles of impeachment)

~ (claims of election fraud)

I have no regrets, ~ (a political scandal)

there's no 'there' there

it's impossible to have a relationship with a junkie, ~

there was no there there

they had all looked into the allegations and found ~

there is there there or not

there hasn't been any inquiry into whether ~

♦ Let's not go there (discuss it). / Why not? / Because there is no there there.

♦ "There is a hell of a lot of there there..." (A political scandal.)

♦ "Today, soccer enjoys a presence in America that the sport has never had before: Lionel Messi now plays here, and the 2026 World Cup will take place in 11 U.S. cities. 'Ted Lasso' and 'Welcome to Wrexham' have made soccer popular television. Yet for all that, it sometimes feels as if there's no 'there' there." ("Indoor Soccer" by Adam Elder, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 28, 2024. As one sports analyst said, "Soccer is the future of America... and always will be." Nobody in the world wishes to see the US control soccer in the same way it controls everything else.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ For an excellent article about this, see "Why Gertrude Stein's 'No There There' Is Everywhere" by Ben Zimmer, *Wall Street Journal*, Feb 2, 2018.

♦ see also *nothing-burger*

## there (there for me, etc.)

there for me

the community was ~ (in time of grief)

## there (destination)

not there yet

we're ~ (resolution of trauma)

♦ "I don't think the American public is there yet." (To accept an idea.)

## there (let's not go there)

go there

let's not ~ (topic of conversation)

I just can't ~ (think about it)

they don't want to discuss that, they don't want to ~

he's comfortable enough to ~ publicly (say it)

he said don't ~ and pulled them off the case (coverup)

I don't want to ~ and create backlash (make excuses)

♦ Let's not go there (discuss it). / Why not? / Because there is no there there!

♦ "The first place that they go is his age." (Critics of an elderly politician.)

## there (out there, etc.)

### out there

we focused on her story because his story is ~  
(publicized)  
there's a lot of information ~ (murder investigation leaks)  
there's another world ~, you just can't see it  
there is a whole world of gossip and innuendo ~ to  
explore  
there are a lot of loose cannons ~ (crazy people)  
it's a jungle ~ (survival of the fittest)  
Man, there's a whole Who Dat Nation ~  
the noise and confusion that is ~ (getting COVID  
vaccine)  
he didn't want any of this information ~ (an exposé)  
we're studying some theories that are ~ (the military)  
there are outliers ~ that are preaching nonsense (COVID)  
we need help from anybody ~ to bring Kiera home

### out there on their own

nobody wanted to go first, to be ~ (me too movement)

### out there for all to see

what happened behind closed doors may soon be ~

### out there in public

today's world is today's world and everything is ~  
(online)

### evil out there

there was ~ (unsolved child murders terrorize city)

### get out there

pull your big-girl pants up, ~ and show them what you  
got

### get our information out there

we want to ~ (to media, reporters)

### put the theory out there

our strategy has been to ~

♦ The story is out there, in the open...

## there (been there, etc.)

### been there

I understood where he was mentally because I'd ~  
I haven't ~ myself but I know women who have (abuse)  
many of us have ~ before (Irish and overserved at a bar)  
he felt he understood better than most, he had ~ (accused)

♦ "I just don't need to prove myself anymore, I've done that, I've been  
there, I just let it go..." (Hilaree O'Neill, Hkakabo Razi, Myanmar.)

## there (not all there)

### clearly not all there

he's ~, he's all over the place emotionally (troubled)

### incompetent and "not all there"

he was cast as ~ (President Donald Trump / politics)

### incompetent, over the hill and not all there

they have tried to paint Biden as ~ (politics)

♦ "When I lived in LA, I knew a lot of actresses. Most of them are not  
all there, from drugs, alcohol, or living in a dream world. If you want  
anything bordering on normality stay away from actors."

## thermometer (noun)

### thermometer

a ~, a temperature reading of what is happening (a poll)

### feeling thermometer

how do people feel, a ~, we call it (polling)

## Thermopylae (Britain's Thermopylae, etc.)

### Britain's Thermopylae

it has been described as ~ (Battle of Kohima / W.W. II)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Three months before Needham traveled toward the front, the  
Japanese advance westward had been halted, decisively, at the  
famous battle of Kohima in the Indian state of Assam, described  
variously as the 'Stalingrad of the East,' 'Britain's Thermopylae,' and  
'one of the greatest battles in history.' Between April and June 1944 a  
small British contingent held off thousands of Japanese, the climax  
coming in the legendary 'Battle of the Tennis Court,' hand-to-hand  
fighting in the gardens of the deputy commissioner's bungalow,  
ending on the tennis court's center line. Kohima was the most  
westerly point the Japanese ever attained: after June they were being  
relentlessly pressed back toward Tokyo, and fought like tigers as they  
went..." (*The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester.)

♦ "Nobody else ran, and there's the glory of the field of nettles. Six  
hundred fifty men of the Tryon County militia make their own  
Thermopylae there in the woods of the western Mohawk Valley... /  
Gardiner was knocked down...; both of his thighs were pinned to the  
ground with bayonets... / The Bayonet Tree got its name when one of  
Herkimer's men was crucified on it." (*The Mohawk* by Codman  
Hislop. His book is about the Mohawk River.)

### \*\*\* analysis...

♦ The pass where the great battle of Thermopylae between the  
Spartans and Persians took place is gone. Fifty years ago the only  
bodies were those of the truck drivers sleeping underneath their  
trucks. The landscape has become flat, but not in the imagination...

## Thermopylae (figurative)

### series of Thermopylaes

white blood cells rush to an endless ~ to man the pass

## thick (in the thick of things)

### in the thick of things

she was right ~ (government response to Katrina)

## thick (adjective)

### thick

the tension between them was ~ (two film actors)

### thick with people

the pavement was ~ (Dublin)

♦ "The pavement was thick with people." (A downtown street in  
Dublin on Halloween. Great crowds had assembled for a Halloween  
carnival advertised on social media. There was no carnival. This is  
funny, because "thick" also means "stupid.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The opposite of *thick* is *thin*...sometimes!

## thicket (noun)

### thicket of bureaucracy

they have created a ~ (a government agency)

### thicket of challenges

Netflix is trying to navigate a dense ~  
thicket of regulation and complexity  
the system is a ~ (health insurance in the U.S.)

bureaucratic thickets  
he knew how best to cut his way through the ~

dense thicket  
Netflix is trying to navigate a ~ of challenges

regulatory thicket  
the government wants to set up a ~

## thick-skinned (adjective)

thick-skinned  
I'm ~ so it doesn't bother me

tough and thick-skinned  
New Yorkers are thought to be ~

tough, thick-skinned  
he is known as a ~ leader

become thick-skinned  
making fun of someone helps them build character and ~

♦ "Thick-skinned, sharp-elbowed, ball-busting New Yorkers..." (With hearts of gold...)

♦ "Nancy Pelosi has what we British would call a 'brass neck.' / It's a saying that alludes to someone so thick-skinned, it makes them utterly impervious to any sense of shame for their self-interested or hypocritical actions. / It's an open secret in Washington that Pelosi just did to Joe Biden what Marcus Brutus did to Julius Caesar." ("Nancy Pelosi murdered Joe Biden's political career but now she wants him on Mount Rushmore—what a shameless hypocrite!" by Piers Morgan, *The New York Post*, Aug. 5, 2024.)

♦ see also *skin (feeling)*, *thin-skinned (adjective)*

## thief (thief of joy, etc.)

thief of joy  
comparison is the ~ (athletic achievement, etc.)

silent thief  
the ~ of inflation unleashed by Joe Biden

den of thieves  
see *den (den of thieves, etc.)*

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Friends are thieves of time."

♦ "Set a thief to catch a thief." / "It takes a thief to catch a thief."

## thin (size)

razor-thin  
the election was decided by a ~ margin

## thin (substance)

thin  
the add-on could work, but the evidence is ~ (IVF)

thin on whether  
the evidence has been ~ convalescent plasma can help

thin case  
this was a very ~, very little evidence (acquitted)

astoundingly thin  
the evidence was ~ (a murder conviction)

pretty thin  
that argument is ~ right now (that schools are overpoliced)

so thin  
the evidence was ~ the judge set a low bail

## thin (thin on the ground, etc.)

thin on the ground  
British artists were ~ (awards show)  
police officers are ~ (looting in Minneapolis)  
the tourists are ~ (in Mallorca, due to pandemic)

## thing (prior reference)

Reagan-Gorbachev thing  
the ~ ultimately fell apart (relationship)

generational thing  
we rarely see this ~ (*Good Luck To You, Leo Grande*)

## thing (a matter, issue)

a thing  
we didn't even know that was ~ (trench coats / shootings)

a thing for me  
I was black, which wasn't ~ when I was little (immigrant)

a thing for us  
work-life balance wasn't really ~ (consumed by work)

a thing for years  
hang on, hasn't "post viral fatigue" been ~

a thing all these decades later  
sagging might still be ~ because... (the fashion statement)

a thing, after all  
polysemy is ~ (Merriam-Webster website)

win-it-for-coach thing  
he still sounds worried about the whole ~ (Coach K)

a YOLO thing  
is this ~ (spontaneous, not premeditated)

a f\*\*\*ing thing  
we'll talk about this, this car turns into ~, man (podcast)

a superstition thing  
it's not really a ~... (tennis player Coco Gauff)

a big thing  
it's a ~ in Hull (East Side vs. West Side / Beverley Rd.)

an entire thing  
her nomination became ~ (an Oscars controversy)

a huge thing  
Donald Trump is off Twitter and that is a ~

a real thing  
is "porn addiction" ~  
and that's ~ and there's nothing you can do about it

this is an issue, it's ~, we don't want problems  
(elections)  
the environment is ~ (punditry heard on NPR)

a constant, (almost) around-the-clock thing  
it's ~ (farm chores)

deny that it's a thing  
so many people ~ (racist fan abuse)

♦ "Hair was always a thing. People would ask, 'Can I touch your hair?' How does it stand up like that?' I had to deal with things like that my entire life." (Gymnast Nia Dennis on training with white people in Ohio.)

♦ "I think the dance between those two things will always be a thing." (Tiana Kaye Blair, an artist-in-residence at the Dallas Theater Center.)

♦ "I started wearing earplugs, and they've now become a thing, I can't go to sleep without them." (BBC, Fortunately...with Fi and Jane, #168.)

♦ "It's not really a superstition thing, I'd say I'm not a superstition person." (The tennis player Coco Gauff about listening to hype music before her matches.)

♦ "Oh, it's not a problem, it's not a thing, stop talking about it... (Racist fan abuse in soccer.)

♦ "I even had some people would be like, 'What is that?' They were like, 'I didn't even know this was a thing.'" (A homosexual US man with monkeypox in 2022.)

♦ "Memes has [sic] to be a thing, TikTok has to be a thing..." (The Democrat influencer Stuart Max Perelmutter, founder and CEO of the firm atAdvocacy.)

♦ "Rage sex is a thing, yet it is."

♦ "It was about 'her.' That was a thing. It was that [Hillary] was a woman." (Pennsylvania Congresswoman Madeleine Dean.)

## thing (fad, etc.)

thing  
today is bubble wrap appreciation day, yes, it's a ~  
(ABC)  
I didn't know that was a ~  
is that really a ~

still a thing  
is steampunk ~ (Google ask and answer)

'in thing'  
not long ago Osaka was the latest ~ to blow in (vs. Gauff)

next thing  
Dennis was always looking for the ~ (music)

such a thing  
this is ~ right now (heard on NPR)

Chubby Bunny was a thing  
I started doing it back when that game ~

became (quite) a thing  
that haircut then ~ people wanted after that film

♦ Rachel Martin: All right, I don't know about you, Noel, but I got a Christmas card in the mail at the end of January, and my son's Valentine card from his grandmother still hasn't shown up. / Noel King: This is such a thing right now. / Rachel Martin: It is such a thing, the mail is very slow, and yesterday Congress... (NPR, Morning Edition, Feb 25, 2021.)

♦ "So, I had no idea that this was a thing that was actually happening." (Heard on NPR.)

♦ "Dr. Pepper and pickles has become a thing..." (NPR—Breaking News, Analysis, Music, Arts & podcasts...)

♦ "Do you remember that moment, when amazeballs was a thing?"

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This echoes the old cliché, "The next big thing..."

♦ If something is "having a moment," then it is a "thing." "X" is having a moment." "Really? I didn't know that was a thing."

♦ "Whatever Happened To... That Guy Who wanted to Make Quinoa A 'Thing' in Rwanda?" by Malaka Gharib, GOATS AND SODA, NPR, August 27, 2018.

## thing (the next big thing)

the next big thing  
he is tipped to be ~ in basketball (Zion Williamson)  
apparently, it's the ~ (the metaverse)

the Next Big Thing  
the suckers who want to get in on ~ (stocks)

the heavyweight's next big thing  
Dubois left the ring as ~ (KOs AJ)

maybe the next big thing  
Silicon Valley sees it as ~ (BeReal v. Instagram)

seen as the next big thing  
he was ~ in finance (SBF / sentence to 25 years)

♦ see also *new (orange is the new black, etc.)*

## thing (one's thing)

my thing  
hockey is ~

## think (Democratthink, etc.)

Democratthink  
per ~ everything is racist when it needs to be...

doublethink  
see *doublethink (noun)*

groupthink  
see *groupthink (noun)*

herdthink  
see *herdthink (noun)*

right-think  
see *think (right-think)*

wrongthink  
see *think (wrongthink)*

♦ see also *groupthink (noun), herdthink (noun), think (right-think), think (wrongthink)*

♦ see also *doublethink (noun)*

## think (right-think)

prevailing right-think  
the same ~ (DEI)

♦ see also *groupthink (noun), herdthink (noun), think (Democratthink, etc.), think (wrongthink)*

♦ see also *doublethink (noun)*

## think (wrongthink)

wrongthink dragnet  
this ~ (Global Engagement Center)

guilty of wrongthink  
Americans ~ (Global Engagement Center)

♦ see also *grouphink* (noun), *herdthink* (noun), *think* (*Democratthink*, etc.), *think* (*right-think*)

♦ see also *doublethink* (noun)

## thin-skinned (adjective)

thin-skinned  
he is ~, prone to ill-advised eruptions  
he was abnormally ~ when it came to criticism  
writers can be ~

thin-skinned about criticism  
he is ~

♦ see also *skin* (feeling), *thick-skinned* (adjective)

## thirst (quench one's thirst, etc.)

quench America's thirst  
Canada helps ~ for energy (oil exports)

♦ "Gannett hired a Taylor Swift newsman to quench an undeniable thirst for all things Taylor." (The pop star Taylor Swift.)

\*\*\* **The Great Thirst: William Mulholland (PBS)**

♦ "He quenched the thirst of Los Angeles." (William Mulholland. Los Angeles had a need. That need happened to be, literally, water.)

## thirst (noun)

thirst for energy  
Canada helps quench America's ~ (oil exports)

thirst for knowledge  
his collection hinted at his ~

thirst for revenge  
the suicide bombers are driven by a ~  
a ~, religious zeal and dreams of glory (suicide bombers)

thirst for wealth  
the human ~ is unquenchable

thirst for oil and gas  
China has a bottomless ~

thirst for the vulgar and obscene  
our ~ seems unquenchable (US)

America's thirst  
Canada helps quench ~ for energy (oil exports)

ever-increasing thirst  
the world's ~ for oil

bottomless thirst  
China has a ~ for oil and gas

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ A thirst trap is an online picture that makes you look sexy.

## thirsty (adjective)

thirsty for change

people are ~ (politics)

thirsty for knowledge  
they're really ~ and to pull themselves ahead (education)

thirsty for glowy, healthy skin  
everyone is ~

thirsty for yield  
investors are ~ (municipal bonds)

thirsty for parties and social gatherings  
people were very ~ (Seoul Halloween crowd crush)

♦ "I can be thirsty over a guy." (Deaf activist Raven Sutton.)

## thorn (noun)

thorn of terrorism  
the ~ has been removed today (killing of al-Zarqawi)

thorn in (Polish-Soviet) relations  
the massacre has been a ~ for decades (Katyn Forests)

thorn in our side  
Samarra has been a little bit of a ~ (military)

thorn in Mr. Bush's side  
he is a ~ (Al Gore)

thorn in Austria's side  
Bavaria was particularly to prove a ~

constant thorn  
she has been a ~ in the side of the Biden administration

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Someone might be a burr in your saddle. Or a stone in your shoe. Or a pain in the neck. Or a pain in the butt. Or a thorn in your side. Take your pick!

♦ You don't harvest grapes from planting thorns. (Arab proverb.)

## thorny (adjective)

thorny issue  
~s remain a source of tension (diplomacy)

thorny problem  
curbing online hatred is a ~ (in the US)

thorny topic  
the president tackled the ~ of immigration

## thoroughbred (noun)

performance of (true) thoroughbreds  
this was a ~ (5 Liverpool – 0 Manchester United)

♦ "England carthorses roundly beaten by Spanish racehorses." (An online commenter, about Spain's victory in the final of the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup.)

## thrall (noun)

in (a strange) thrall  
Machhapuchhare's pinnacle held me ~

in thrall to the Democratic party  
the mainstream media is ~

in thrall to enterprise technologies  
newsrooms are already ~...

in the thrall of autocracy  
the party is very much ~ (politics)

held me in (a strange) thrall  
Machhapuchhare's pinnacle ~

## **thrash (Nicole is thrashing the Bahamas, etc.)**

thrashing the Bahamas  
Nicole is ~ (the named hurricane)

## **thrash (verb)**

thrashed Saudi Arabia  
Russia ~ (World Cup soccer)

## **thrashed**

thrashed  
they waved their flags in defiance as their team was ~

## **thrashing**

handed out a thrashing  
Liverpool ~ (Liverpool 5, Manchester United 0)

## **thread (connection)**

thread  
the ~ connecting doctrine and tactics is training

thread in a tapestry  
the new law is the latest ~ of laws stigmatizing...

common thread  
we found a ~ between the two accidents  
in some places, suicides seem to have root causes or ~s

narrative thread  
the ~ can get lost (procedure and Congressional hearings)

vivid threads  
several ~ run through their narratives (stories of grief)

knits together many threads  
the story ~ of Muslim grievances (suicide bomber)

unravel the threads  
we can't let them ~ of our democracy (Mazie Hirono)

## **thread (investigation)**

thread  
so now there was a ~, and we started pulling on it  
(murder)

threads to this thing  
there are so many ~ (Kent State killings)

dangling thread  
the tapes were a ~ to connect us back to 1965 (murder)

followed the thread  
we ~ and began to unravel the case (tapes of old trial)  
we ~ and unraveled a strange and illuminating story

pulled on this thread  
we ~ to take us back to 1965 (old tapes of trial)

pulled on the thread  
we ~ and realized it was woven into the fabric of life then

## **thread (verb)**

threaded itself into the fabric  
the gang has ~ of the village

## **thread (a trail can thread, etc.)**

thread the Alpine mountains and valleys  
hiking trails ~ (Switzerland)

## **thread (by a thread)**

hanging on by a thread  
we were ~ (money problems and bills)

hanging on to my job by a thread  
I'm ~

hang by a thread  
their hopes of advancing ~ (tournament)  
Medvedev's title hopes ~, if that (lost to Djokovic)

hanging by a thread  
his career is ~

### **\*\*\* Karl Wallenda walked across the Tallulah Gorge...**

♦ In 1970 the German born Karl Wallenda walked across the Tallulah Gorge in northern Georgia (the US state, not the country) on a high wire. He performed 2 handstands—one in honor of the US troops in Vietnam—as 30,000 men, women and children looked on. When he reached the end of the walk, his wife handed the 65-year-old Wallenda a martini.

♦ "I am interested to inspire people to uplift their soul and to look at the sky and say 'Wow, I can move mountains now, nothing is impossible' so that's why I love what I do... I never leave anything to chance and I have weaved this safety net in my head for the past 55 years. So I value life too much to risk my life and I do something I think much more inspiring and noble, I don't risk my life, I carry my life across." (The remarkable high-wire artist Philippe Petit.)

### **\*\*\* analysis**

♦ Atropos was the Greek goddess of fate and destiny who cut the thread of people's lives, thus ending them. In Dante's *Inferno*, Friar Alberigo explains that "So privileged is this rim / of Ptolomea, that often souls fall to it / before dark Atropos has cut their thread." (Translated by John Ciardi.)

♦ "We will remember that there were three goddesses of *fate* in Roman mythology: *Clotio*, who held the distaff or spindle; *Lachesis*, who drew out the thread; and *Atropos*, who snipped it off, as she would snip off your life. These magic three were supposed to control our destiny." (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 16, "Terms of Religion and Their Beginnings.")

## **thread (lose the thread)**

lost the thread  
I've ~ of your argument...

## **threadbare (adjective)**

almost threadbare  
his campaign is ~ (presidential election)

## **threaten (verb)**

threatens South with (severe) thunderstorms  
Christmas week storm ~

threaten to erode  
divisions ~ France's tradition of equality (Muslims)



threatening to reach  
the thermometer is 99 degrees Tuesday

threaten the (economic and cultural) health  
problems that ~ (reindeer people)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Don't threaten me!"

## threshold (cross the threshold)

crossed the threshold into a new dimension  
Sputnik ~

crossed a threshold to extinction  
lizards have already ~ (global warming)

## threshold (below the threshold)

live below the (poverty) threshold  
75 percent of adults ~ of \$1 a day (World Bank)

## threshold (on the threshold)

on the threshold of their futures  
they were literally ~ (guy kills his girlfriend)

## threshold (portal)

threshold to the grave  
nursing homes are viewed as the ~

## threshold (measurement)

threshold for lead poisoning  
lead levels in their blood were four times the ~

threshold of old age  
typically 60 or 65 years is considered the ~

threshold of \$1 a day  
75 percent live below the World Bank's poverty ~

epidemic threshold  
the number of weekly cases exceeded the ~ of 237

panic threshold  
their ~ is higher... (solo sailors don't panic easily)

poverty threshold  
75 percent live below the World Bank's ~ of \$1 a day

below the threshold  
help keep tensions between nations ~ of conflict

low (pain) threshold  
if you have a ~, don't get a tattoo at the base of your spine

lower threshold  
a ~ for admission should be considered (the elderly)

four times the threshold  
lead levels in their blood were ~ for lead poisoning

threshold is reached  
salt added to water will dissolve until a ~

exceeds a threshold  
if the level ~ set by the system...

lower the (seizure) threshold  
the drugs ~ and should be used cautiously

## thrive (verb)

thrived at the company  
he ~

thrive under (enormous) pressure  
some people are able to ~ (jobs)

thrives on sensationalism  
the media ~

## throat (Devil's Throat, etc.)

Devil's Throat  
~ is a must (Iguazu Falls)

Devils Throat  
~ is a reservoir in Clark County, Nevada  
~ is a crater in Hawaii County, Hawaii

Devil's Throat Cave  
~ is a popular tourist spot (Bulgaria)

Cutthroat  
~ Gulch, California

Cut Throat  
~ Coulee is a valley in Montana  
~ Lake is a reservoir in Oklahoma

\*\*\* analysis

♦ There is a cutthroat trout. According to the Wikipedia article "Cut throat trout," the name "refers to the distinctive red coloration on the underside of the lower jaw."

♦ The Devils Throat crater in Hawaii is not what you might imagine. See the Wikipedia article "Pit crater."

♦ As for the valleys named "Cut Throat," topographical place names sometimes have a story connected to them. I would be willing to bet somebody's throat got cut in at least one of them. I would be happy to learn I was wrong.

♦ See the Wikipedia article, "Devil's Throat Cave," which is in Bulgaria. I, for one, would not want to get close to its edge.

## throat (resemblance)

shredder throat  
insert paper into the ~ (paper shredder)

insert paper into the (shredder) throat  
~ (paper shredder)

## throat (stick in one's throat, etc.)

sticks in my throat  
apologizing to you just ~

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON (from 1803). Napoleon is trying to stuff a globe of the world into his mouth. The part of the globe he is unable to get into his mouth shows and is labeled Great Britain. John Bull is watching, and saying, "I'll tell you what, Mr. Boneypartee, when you come to a little spot I have in my eye, it will stick in your throat and choke you!" ("An attempt to swallow the world!!!" April 6, 1803 by W Holland, Cockspur Street. The same cartoon might have appeared in 1939, with France's Napoleon replaced by Germany's Hitler.)

## throat (ram something down the throat)

ladled down my throat by schoolmasters  
before I was ten years old I was having Dickens ~

ram the reform down our throats  
the government tried to ~

ramming Utd down everyone's throat  
the BBC really are ~ again, totally impartial (sarcasm)

shoved down our throats  
the whole LGBTQ is ~

♦ "Thank you Spain, you have just saved us from 4 years of how great women's football is, rammed down our throats everyday." (An online commenter on the BBC HYS about Spain's victory against England in the final of the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup.)

♦ "I'm constantly affected by the actions taken place this season, and I have been around the females, and just my team in general, who have felt almost silenced to speak about it because the whole LGBTQ is shoved down our throats." (A 16-year-old female cross country runner at a high school in Riverside, California, speaking to the school board about a trans girl who was added to the school team.)

♦ see also *force-feed* (and *force feed*)

## throat (predation)

been at each other's throats  
they had just ten days previously ~

going for your throat  
this isn't a joke, she's ~

grabbed it by the throat  
she ~ (Iowa's Caitlin Clark takes control of game)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I know of another guy—a former racketeer's bodyguard—who once found two Germans sleeping together to keep warm, remembered an old Ghoum trick, and slit the throat of one, leaving the other alive so he would wake up and see his bunkmate the next morning. Most of the doggies thought it was a good stunt, and it kept the Germans in his sector in a state of uproar and terror for several days." (*Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, World War II. See the Wikipedia article "Moroccan Goumier.")

## throat (jump down someone's throat)

jumped down my throat  
she ~ when I told her...

jump down my throat for this  
the tranny activists are going to ~, but... (Dan Savage)

♦ "I would probably dump Twitter tomorrow if it weren't a situation where people I work for are just so down-your-throat about social media as a means of promoting your product." (Alec Baldwin.)

## throe (death throes)

in its death throes  
the once-mighty iceberg A68a looks to be ~ (splitting up)

## throne (Blondie's Throne, etc.)

Blondie's Throne  
~ is a flowstone (Marvel Cave, Missouri)

Devils Throne  
~ is a summit in Idaho

Vulcans Throne  
~ is a summit in Mohave County, Arizona

Vulcan's Throne  
~ is a cinder cone volcano (Grand Canyon)

Great White Throne  
the ~ is in Zion National park, Utah

## throne (power)

contenders to the throne  
there are many ~ (to replace sick leader)

power behind the (home-video) throne  
he is a ~ (DVD producer)

## throne (in line for the throne)

in line for the throne  
she is ~ (a fashion designer)

## throne (pretender to the throne)

pretender to the throne of (champion) Jack Dempsey  
he is the French heavyweight ~

chief pretender to the throne  
he reigns as king, or at least ~ (sportswriter of a horse)

## throne (primacy)

challenger to their throne  
the Celtics rebuffed a ~ (sports)

contender for Nadal's throne  
he has established himself as a ~ (tennis)

perch atop the throne  
he may soon lose his ~ (a baseball pitcher)

regained his throne  
Humpty Dumpty has ~ (the egg as a healthy product)

yielded the throne  
the old guard has ~ (world soccer)

knocked off the throne  
he has been ~ (a tennis player)

## throttle (full throttle, etc.)

full-throttle defense  
he has launched a ~ against charges that...

full-throttle dissent  
such ~ is unparalleled (Japan and Olympics)

full-throttle style  
he had a ~ (Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp)

at full throttle  
he starts every day ~, slowing only for naps (toddler)

in full throttle  
when he's in front of a crowd, he's ~ mode (musician)  
the presidential campaigns are ~

campaign full-throttle  
candidates ~ before election day

going full throttle  
with just 3 weeks to go, the candidates are ~ (election)

### throughout (time)

throughout the day  
~ of 24 June 1807...

throughout this time  
we will do that as long as is necessary ~ (investigation)

♦ In every place...

### throw (throw oneself into something)

threw herself into piano lessons  
she ~

threw herself into renovating  
she ~ the space (art gallery)

### throw (throw it all, etc.)

threw it all at the wall  
see *wall* (*throw something at a wall*)

threw everything at it  
we ~, search teams, dogs, aerial units, the whole nine  
(cops)

throwing everything at it  
Shapovalov is still ~ (a tennis match)

### throw (accusations, etc.)

throw more darts  
he logged back in to ~

threw accusations at each other  
they ~

### throwback (noun)

throwback to the past  
when he talks about crime, it can sound like a ~

throwback to the Star Chamber prosecutions  
this is a ~ (a defense lawyer)

throwback to an earlier time  
the carousel is a ~ (Mansfield, Ohio)  
he is a ~

throwback to the 1890s  
Dawson City is a ~

throwback boxer  
Usyk is a proper ~ (praise after victory)

vaudeville throwback  
a U.S.O. tour is a raunchy ~ (US military)

### thrown out (dismissed)

thrown out of court  
he is seeing to get the criminal case ~

### thrown out (cast)

thrown out in the heat of passion  
threats are often ~

### throw out (verb)

threw out the (rape) conviction  
the court ~ of...

threw him out  
her father ~

### throw up

see *retch* (*and puke, vomit, throw up*)

### thrum (verb)

thrummed with the promise  
Shanghai ~ of glamorous, fast-paced living

### thrust (verb)

thrust him into the (national) spotlight  
his heroics ~

### thrust

thrust into the spotlight  
I was ~ (Miss USA and the Haiti earthquake)

### thumb (Devils Thumb, etc.)

Thumb Point  
looking south toward ~ (USCG Station, Ft. Pierce, FL)

Devils Thumb  
the ~ is a striking summit on the Alaska-BC border  
the NW face of the ~ has never been climbed  
the NW face of the ~ rises from the Witches Cauldron  
the NW face of the ~ is 6,700 feet

Devil's Thumb  
are pets allowed at ~ Ranch Resort & Spa (Colorado)

Broken Thumb  
the ~ is a vanadium and uranium mine in Colorado

♦ "Devils Thumb is a monolith of ice and granite." (The Stikine Icecap, the Alaska Panhandle, Southeast Alaska.)

♦ Dieter Klose, who made three attempts to climb the 6,700-foot Northwest Face of the Devils Thumb, on the border of Alaska and British Columbia, likened this climb to Sirens who attempted to lure Ulysses to his death.

### thumb (under the thumb)

under the thumb of a Stalinist regime  
the people of Basra are ~

under her father's thumb  
back ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be under someone's thumb. Or under their foot. Or heel. Or under the yoke... Take your pick!

### thumb (put a thumb on the scale, etc.)

see *scale* (*put one's finger on the scale, etc.*)

## thumbs-down

thumbs-down on the proposal  
stockholders turned ~

## thumbs-up

thumbs-up  
the spectacle gets a ~

thumbs-up from a podcast host  
he got a ~ with 7 million subscribers (a politician)

thumbs-up reviews  
the technology is getting largely ~ (computers)

## thunder (sound)

thunder of ice  
the ~ going out (spring ice-out)

muffled thunder  
the ~ of their horses' hooves

drowned out by the thunder  
informed voices were ~ of the partisan lynch mob

\*\*\* "Why does the thunder get so angry?"

♦ Child: Why does it do that? Adult: Well, the lightning says something to the thunder, and the thunder answers back. Child: The lightning must be nasty. Adult: Not really. Child: Then why does the thunder get so angry? It makes me want to cry. Adult: Well, when anything bothers me and I'm feeling unhappy, I just try and think of nice things... (The beloved 1965 film *The Sound of Music*. This bit of dialogue leads into the song, "My Favorite Things.")

♦ "Thunder, that is Agdy. When the devil stays too long in one place, then the God Enduli sends thunder, and Agdy drives the devil away. That is to say, at the spot where the storm burst out the devil was sitting. When the devil had been chased away, that is after the storm, there was peace around. Animals, birds, fishes, insects, and the grass, all knew that the devil had gone, and were happy and cheerful again. / As to the thunder and snow together, [Dersu] said that previously they used to have thunder and lightning only in summer, and that it was the Russians who brought winter thunder with them. This was the third winter thunderstorm that he could remember in his lifetime." (Dersu speaking to V.K. Arseniev on the lower Kusun after a rare thundersnow. Just previous to the storm, a native Solon with the group had determined the presence of a devil on a large rock, which had caused them to move their camp. During the storm, a small landslide occurred from the rock. From *Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "Thunder and lightning, once rare, have become commonplace. An eerie warm wind now blows in from the south. Hunters who prided themselves on their ability to read the sky say they no longer can predict the sudden blizzards. 'The Earth,' one hunter concluded, 'is turning faster.'" (Yanrakynnot, Russia.)

♦ In Saudi Arabia, I once experienced thunder, lightning and rain during a dust storm. To my knowledge, there is no name in English for such a storm, as there is for "thundersnow." By analogy, it would be "thunderdust."

## thunder (steal thunder, etc.)

steal our thunder  
it will ~ (a double wedding)

steal much thunder  
it was a tough weekend for a tennis player to ~

stolen so much of baseball's thunder  
the NFL has ~ (viewership and interest)

## thunder (speech)

thundered that  
he ~ God was the answer (a rally)

♦ "It wasn't long ago when a Republican President Ronald Reagan thundered, 'Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.'" (President Joe Biden's 2024 State of the Union address to Congress.)

## thunderbolt (noun)

hurled thunderbolts  
he ~ at his own party (a politician)

## thunderclap (noun)

thunderclap  
when a 16-year-old was killed, it was a ~ (gangs)

thunderclap surprise  
we shall seize the bridges with ~ (*A Bridge Too Far*)

legal thunderclap  
a ~

served as a thunderclap  
the new analysis ~

## thunderstruck (adjective)

thunderstruck  
we were ~ (by Arctic fox's epic trek)

thunderstruck with surprise  
I'm sure the Germans will be ~ (Market Garden / WWII)

thunderstruck by what  
he was ~ he heard

## thunderous (adjective)

thunderous explosion  
~s shook buildings (war)

thunderous silence  
see *silence* (*society's silence*, etc.)

thunderous stillness  
in the ~, which is as chilling as any sudden loud eruption

♦ "Your silence is thunderous."

## ticket (and punch one's ticket, etc.)

ticket to doing everything  
pursuing nursing was my ~ that I want to do

ticket to the middle class  
college shouldn't be the only ~ (Barak Obama)

ticket to a new life  
their Jewish heritage offers a ~ (in Israel)

ticket to obscurity  
historically the vice presidency has been a ~

ticket to success  
the Internet can be your ~ (online degrees)

ticket to the top  
it's your ~ (a job offer)

ticket to transition

trainers are the ~ (military trainers to Afghans)

ticket out of the pandemic

the vaccine is their ~, why do they reject it

ticket out of poverty

it was her ~ (new career as technical writer)

ticket home

that pain is your ~, you should be grateful (combat injury)

get our tickets punched

we all hoped to ~ for Germany (instead of Vietnam / war)

handed Tampa a ticket

the penalty ~ to the Super Bowl (NFL)

punched her ticket

she recently ~ to Tokyo (qualified)

punched their ticket

The Avalanche have already ~ to the final by beating...

see boxing as a ticket

many Indian girls ~ to a middle-class life (India)

seized the (golden) ticket

they have ~ (viruses that hop to humans)

♦ "Now me, I graduated high school in 1988, got my college degree in 1993, and that college degree in '93 did not mean as much, it was not a ticket, it was not a voucher, it was not a free pass go to anything, so I ask the question, what does your college degree mean?" (The great actor Mathew McConaughey from his terrific University of Houston speech, Jan 7, 2016.)

♦ "Together they bought that ticket; now together they can ride that ride." (A law enforcement officer. A young woman murdered a man, but two others with her were also charged with murder.)

## tick on (and tick by)

minutes ticked by

as the ~...

time ticks on

Brazil are starting to lose hope as the ~ (World Cup)

## tick-tock (noun)

tick-tock of events

tell us how this all happened, what the ~ was

minute-to-minute tick tock

I don't have the ~ (press briefing on a SOF raid)

tick tick tick

~, the escalation of this crisis continues

♦ "Is there any info about how this all happened, what the tick-tock of events was?" (Heard on NPR / National Public Radio.)

♦ "So tick-tock, the clock is on..." (NPR's A Martinez, discussing politics with some pundit. An election, legal trials, politics...)

♦ "Tick-Tock! Time for an affordable PC update at Dell Outlet. Everything you need to know about refurbished computers. Extending the lifecycle. Reducing the cost."

## tidal wave (in a tidal wave)

in a tidal wave of (voter) discontent

Democrats lost control of Congress ~

drown in a tidal wave

he has been trying not to ~ of evictions (lawyer for poor)

swept away in a tidal wave

their aboriginal rights were ~ of development

## tidal wave (other)

tidal wave of calls

a ~ to 911 (due to prevalence of cellphones)

tidal wave of (criminal) charges

the ~ and civil lawsuits (priest abuse)

tidal wave of (Muslim) immigrants

the ~ arrive from India (Karachi)

tidal wave of data and information

computers are creating a ~

human tidal wave

the city has been hit by a ~ (Phoenix / immigrants)

propaganda tidal wave

the shameless ~ of the mainstream media (culture wars)

face a tidal wave

parents ~ of pressure (from kids for sexualized products)

see also *tsunami* (noun)

## tide (on a tide)

on a tide of discontent

he was swept into office ~

on a tide of (anti-Washington) sentiment

state lawmakers are capitalizing ~

on a tide of (military) success

he was elected ~

on a tide of goodwill and emotion

the team is riding ~ (Iraqi national soccer team)

## tide (turn the tide, etc.)

tide is turning

the ~ in the war

the ~ against insurgents in the province

the ~--in the direction of sanity (no males in girls' sports)

tide turning

is the ~ towards impeachment for President Trump

turned the tide

in 1943, the Allies ~ (war in Europe)

turn this tide back

we must do whatever we can to ~ (CIA and communism)

turned the tide in the fight

countries that have successfully ~ against HIV

turned the tide of battle

Capt. Rubio's singularly heroic act ~

turned the tide of the war

the Russians had ~ (Kursk, 1943)  
trucks and tanks and airplanes ~ (Russian industrialization)  
by the end of 1943, the Allies had ~ in North Africa

successfully turned the tide  
countries that have ~ in the fight against HIV

### **tide (buck the tide)**

buck the tide  
he was an iconoclast, willing to ~ (doctor)  
swimming against a (mighty) tide  
I am ~ in my profession (an objective journalist / NYT)

### **tide (rising tide)**

rising tide  
he claims free trade is a ~ that will lift all boats  
rising tide of (Arab and Islam) bashing  
the ~ in America  
rising tide of gentrification  
the ~ (Miami Beach and sea-level rise)  
rising tide of intolerance  
the ~ among the reporters at the *New York Times*  
rising tide of Internet retail mania  
the ~  
rising tide of problems  
prescription drugs are being linked to a ~  
rising tide lifts many boats  
on Wall Street, though, a ~

### **tide (stem the tide, etc.)**

slow the tide  
what needs to be done to ~ of immigration  
resist the tide  
few politicians have done more to ~ of progress  
stem the tide of junk mail  
we must ~  
stem the tide of divorce  
measures to ~  
stem the tide of foreclosures  
little can be done to ~  
stem the tide of questions  
he had struggled to ~ (minister forced to resign)  
stem the tide of suicide  
how can we ~ (doctors)

stem the tide of scandals  
the NCAA wants to ~ (sports)

### **tide (other)**

tide of anticommunism  
as the ~ rose in postwar America (WWII)

tide of filth  
publication of the letters drenched him in a ~ (a writer)

tide of immigration  
what needs to be done to slow the ~

tide of loss  
the great ~ sweeping across Ukraine (war)

tide of migrants  
a swelling ~ is moving into South Africa (Zimbabweans)

tide of optimism  
a new ~ was already sweeping across our land

tide of tourism  
the ~ cannot be stemmed (the Arctic)

tide of (Arab and Islam) bashing  
the rising ~ in America

changing tide  
both countries are worried about the ~ of politics (Gulf)

rising (democratic) tide  
there is a ~ in the region (for reform)

swelling tide  
a ~ of migrants is moving into South Africa

democratic tide  
there is a rising ~ in the region (for reform)

great tide  
the ~ of loss (Ukrainian losses in combat)

populist tide  
the ~ is not ebbing (2020 US election)

viral tide  
the book got swept up in a ~ (The Atlas Six)

tide is not ebbing  
the populist ~ (2020 US election)

tide (of anticommunism) rose  
as the ~ in postwar America (World War II)

tide is running against him  
the political ~

swelled the (pilgrim) tide  
a growing population ~ (the Middle Ages)

swept up by the tide  
they have been ~ of domestic technology

swept away on a tide  
agrarian England was ~ of industrialization

♦ "The yellow and blue of Ukrainian flags whip above each grave in the gentle breeze—there are hundreds of them. Each is a marker in the great tide of loss that sweeps daily across eastern and southern battlefields, filling cemeteries in towns and villages the length and breadth of Ukraine." ("Dying by the dozens every day"—Ukraine losses climb" by Quentin Sommerville, BBC, August 28, 2023.)

♦ [B]ehind all this was constantly present to our eyes and mind the scene of a great stream, a procession, so to speak of human souls on their way to eternity." (*Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby. The Civil War.)



♦ "One becomes aware, at times of tides, onrushing and receding, mountainous and terrible, and all the water motions in between, down to the shallows' ripple, moving not only through oceans but through nations..." (The preface to *The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop. The book is about the river, and it is just one in the series "Rivers of America.")

\*\*\* **Kiribati** (pronounced *kee-ree-bahs*, *Keer-a-boss*)

♦ At low tide, the 33-island nation of Kiribati can be three times larger than at high tide! Believe it or not...

## tie (verb)

tied him to the gang  
police ~

## tied (constraint)

tied to his job  
he is ~

closely tied  
Moldova is ~ to Moscow

## tier (hierarchy)

top tier  
he is in the ~ of Hollywood directors

top tier candidate  
this looked like the rally of a ~ (presidential candidate)

third-tier cities  
writers are popping up in ~ (China)

third- or fourth-tier  
the ~ cities of China are no longer cultural wastelands

## tie together (verb)

tie the two crashes together  
the FAA was waiting to ~

## tiger (tiger mosquito, etc.)

tiger mosquito  
the ~ is spreading in Europe (dengue fever, etc.)  
the Asian ~, *aedes albopictus*...

## tiger (tiger mother, etc.)

tiger on the campaign trail  
he was a real ~, you couldn't stop him (a politician)

tiger mother  
and you thought the ~ was tough (Amy Chua / strict)

## tiger (Arkan's Tigers, etc.)

El Tigre  
Azcarra was nicknamed ~ (Emilio Azcarra)

Tiger of Malaya  
Tomoyuki Yamashita, the ~ (World War II)

Tiger of Mysore  
Tipu Sultan, also known as the ~

Arkan's Tigers  
~ fought in Croatia and Bosnia (Yugoslav Wars)

Flying Tigers

the ~ of Claire Lee Chennault (US / WW II)

## Tamil Tigers

the ~ of Jaffna (LTTE)

♦ "Everywhere within and about the palace, evidence met the eye or ear of [Tippoo's] depraved and sanguinary tastes. His name meant tiger; he called his soldiers his tigers of war; and the tigers of the Indian jungles were his pets, and often his executioners—for the attendant that offended him, or the prisoner that was brought into his presence, was not unfrequently turned into a barred room, or large cage, where the savage animals were let loose upon him. Near the door of his treasury an enormous tiger had been found chained. There were other tigers in the edifice, and so numerous as to give some trouble to Colonel Wellesley. / They became the subject of a postscript to the first letter written by Colonel Wellesley to his commander-in-chief after succeeding Baird in the command within the town and fort. / 'There are some tigers here,' says the colonel, 'which I wish Meer Alum would send for; or else I must give orders to have them shot, as there is no food for them, and nobody to attend them, and they are getting violent.'" (*History of India* by Charles Macfarlane. "Tippoo's Cruelties." The Battle of Seringapatam, 1799. Colonel Wellesley would go on to use the military skills he developed in India to force the French out of the Iberian Peninsula in the Peninsular War and ultimately defeat Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815.)

## tiger (noun)

tiger  
Pakistan couldn't get down from the ~ it rode  
the street is a ~, you must be careful (children)

paper tiger  
see *paper tiger*

dangerous tiger  
religion is a very ~ to ride in international politics

tribal tiger  
it takes temerity to want to ride the ~ in Yemen

ride the tiger  
RINOs could not ~ that is Trump (politics)

♦ "Well, we're really just getting the first paw swipes of Ida here on St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans. Light rain, blustery wind, a big slate-grey sky..." (NPR reports on a hurricane.)

♦ "I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the fire, 'cause I am a champion, and you're gonna hear me roar." (Lyrics of the song "Roar" sung by Katy Perry.)

♦ "He found himself with a tiger by the tail." (Al Pacino with the actress Tuesday Weld.)

♦ "Anthony Joshua has never had the eye of the tiger." (Boxing snark.)

\*\*\* **"The majority of tigers are bagged with the aid of elephants..."**

♦ "The majority of tigers are bagged with the aid of elephants... / The call of a tigress in search of a mate cannot be described in words." (*Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow (Viceroy of India 1936-1943). It is a wonderful account of hunting actual man-eating tigers. The Jim Corbett National Park is in Uttarakhand. Tigers live there.)

♦ In the Sundarbans, some who go into the jungle wear the mask of a human face on the back of their heads, to deter a tiger attack from behind.

♦ Vladivostok celebrates Amur Tiger Day in late September. Children enjoy dressing up as tigers. However, tigers have been known to venture into the suburbs of the city.

♦ "Tigers are gods, who protect ginseng from men." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "To the Lord Tiger who dwelleth in the Forest and the Mountains. In ancient days, in the time of the Khan dynasty, He saved the state. Today his Spirit brings happiness to man." (An inscription at a shrine)

in the Sihoté Alin mountains, noticed by Dersu Uzala and V. K. Arseniev. From *Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "There are always a few tigers roaming about Singapore, and they kill on an average a Chinaman every day, principally those who work in the gambir plantations, which are always made in newly-cleared jungle..." (*The Malay Archipelago* by Alfred Russel Wallace.)

♦ According to a BBC article, a tiger is able to leap 33 feet forward from a seated position.

♦ Tiger Leaping Gorge is 82 feet wide at its narrowest, with a rock in the middle of the river. Legend has it the gorge got its name from a hunted tiger, who leapt across the river, using the rock, to escape hunters. It is a lovely legend for a spectacular place.

♦ "I wish to bring to your attention that you're upsetting a goddamn tiger." (A quote attributed to Roy of Sigfried & Roy. Roy, of course, was famously mauled by the white tiger that he and Sigfried called Mantecore.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "He who rides the tiger can never dismount."

♦ "Dictators ride to and fro upon tigers which they dare not dismount. And the tigers are getting hungry." (Winston Churchill.)

♦ "To have a tiger by the tail" or to "ride a tiger" is similar in meaning to "hold a wolf by the ears."

♦ "The street is a tiger, you must be careful of it." (Educational materials of the Little Teacher Movement, circa 1947, in Shanghai. Mentioned by Santha Rama Rau in her wonderful book *East of Home*. As true today as it was then.)

## tight (money)

### tight

things are rather ~ (lack of money to pay bills)

wages are stagnant, jobs scarce, and credit ~

### super-tight

money is ~, we're barely making ends meet (Trump voter)

♦ "One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied." (The beginning of "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. One of the greatest love stories ever written. To this day people put pennies on the grave of its author in Riverside Cemetery, Asheville, North Carolina, USA.)

## tight (relationship)

### tight with her family

even friends who were ~ began to shun her

## tight (constraint)

### tighter

space is ~ in ships and submarines (pandemic)

### security is tight

~ in Washington, DC (for an inauguration)

## tight (close)

### tight margin

Johnson has a ~ in the House (politics)

### tight race

this will be a ~ in a closely divided country (politics)

## tighten (tighten control, etc.)

### tightening its control

China is ~ of vital minerals

### tightened controls

Germany ~ over livestock feed (dioxin scare)

### tighten (immigration) laws

many campaigned to ~ (elections)

### tighten oversight

we must ~ of the industry

### tighten lending

banks continue to ~

## tight-knit

### tight-knit community

the ~

### tight-knit network

a ~ of family and clan protected him (Saddam)

♦ "The Perth football community is tight-knitted." (BBC.)

## tight-lipped (adjective)

### tight-lipped about any leads

police have been ~

### tight-lipped about the plan

they remained ~

## tightrope (fate)

### tightropes in politics

it's one of the hardest ~ to walk now (abortion issue)

### diplomatic tightrope

the US is walking a ~

### rhetorical tightrope

no one walks a ~ as deftly as Dave Chappelle (comedian)

### treads diplomatic tightrope

Biden ~ on Israel-Iran

### walk this tightrope

they have to ~ of how much change they can change

### walked his nation across an incredibly narrow

### tightrope

he ~ in 1944 (Carl Gustav Mannerheim of Finland)

### walking a tightrope on these matters

the Home Secretary is, though, ~ (Blacks against the police)

### \*\*\* Karl Wallenda, Philippe Petit...

♦ In 1970 the German-born Karl Wallenda walked across the Tallulah Gorge in northern Georgia (the US state, not the country) on a high wire. He performed 2 handstands—one in honor of the US troops in Vietnam—as 30,000 men, women and children looked on. When he reached the end of the walk, his wife handed the 65-year-old Wallenda a martini.

♦ "I am interested to inspire people to uplift their soul and to look at the sky and say 'Wow, I can move mountains now, nothing is impossible' so that's why I love what I do... I never leave anything to chance and I have weaved this safety net in my head for the past 55 years. So I value life too much to risk my life and I do something I think much more inspiring and noble, I don't risk my life, I carry my life across." (The remarkable high-wire artist Philippe Petit.)

♦ see also *high wire (fate)*

## tilt (world-title tilt, etc.)

tilt at greatness

he will attempt one last ~ (aging Tour de France rider)

world-title tilt

Benn is a handful of fights away from a ~ (boxing)

♦ see also *Quixote (Don Quixote), windmill (tilt at windmills, etc.)*

## tilt (tilt towards, etc.)

tilting towards the West

once in Moscow's orbit, Moldova has been ~ recently

## tilt (tilt the scales, etc.)

see *scale (tilt the scales)*

## Timbuktu (remoteness)

Asia's Timbuktu

~, Ulan Bator...

FSB TIMBUKTU

WELCOME TO ~, HOME OF THE 12TH CAVALRY

from here to Timbuktu

it's a question that has been asked ~ (about women)

\*\*\* "A Golden Dining Experience at Poulet d'Or Restaurant..."

♦ "From Here To Timbuktu: Myth And Reality At The World's Edge" by Scott Neuman (NPR, World, January 29, 2013) is a very nice report on a place that is "still a byword for the end of the earth."

♦ "A Golden Dining Experience at Poulet d'Or Restaurant..." (Eating out in Timbuktu today.)

♦ see also *Mongolia (Outer Mongolia), Siberia (exile)*

## time (buy time, etc.)

bought us time

the lockdown ~ (pandemic)

bought us (some) time

it ~ but we didn't use it wisely (travel ban / pandemic)

buying time

so basically we were ~ (astronauts face death)

buy some time

the Strategic National Stockpile can ~ (pandemic supplies)

buy as much time as we can

we want to ~ (protecting Mississippi River from salt water)

helped Sinwar to buy time

the pause in the fighting ~ (Israel-Hamas war)

## time (spend time)

spent the night on cots

about 20 people ~ (tornado survivors)

spent a day in combat

the academic professional who has never ~

spent weeks in the hospital

she ~ recuperating

spent 19 days in jail

she ~

spent the night in the (dining hall) lodge

they ~ (climbers)

spent years in exile

they ~ in Iran (Hakims / Iraq)

spent 29 years in the Navy

Ms. Evans ~

spent years in school

I ~ studying a foreign language

spent less time at high altitude

I'd ~ (Everest)

spent a few hours with Hani Shukrallah

I ~

spent eight months (in jail) awaiting

he ~ until...

spent three years building

I just ~ this (an inn destroyed in flood)

spent (most of) his (adult) life climbing

he has ~

spent about two hours digging

the group ~ the cave by hand (climbers)

spent about 15 minutes examining

the trauma team ~ the boy

spend several weeks feeling

I ~ incredibly guilty about the situation

spent the afternoon hiking

we ~

spent the afternoon and early evening paddling

we ~ (sea-kayaking)

spent endless hours practicing

she ~ basketball (SuAnne Big Crow)

spent three hours removing

surgeons ~ the arrow (hunting accident)

spent a week searching

police ~ the area

spent their 77-hour ordeal standing

the miners ~, wet (trapped)

spent three months studying

he ~ English in Santa Monica

spend the last four years studying

he has ~ oceanography

spent the evening talking

they ~

spent his career training

he ~ young men and women for war  
 spent a lot of time trying  
 I ~ to fix it  
 spend days waiting  
 they can ~ in line (Chinese truck drivers / coal)  
 spent the morning watching  
 I ~ TV  
 spent his life working  
 having ~ in hospitals...  
 spent six hours working  
 he ~ on the framework (space-station spacewalk)  
 spent several years working  
 he ~ at a restaurant  
 spent most of my time rock climbing  
 At 20 I ~ (Reinhold Messner)  
 spent the day sightseeing  
 he ~ on the Las Vegas Strip  
 spent her (two) pregnancies nauseated and vomiting  
 she ~  
 spend (Monday) night  
 I'll ~ someplace outside of Washington (trip)  
 ♦ "Spend the night, not a fortune." (A sign for the Scenic View Motel, Bryson City, North Carolina.)

### time (cost time, etc.)

cost drivers 15 minutes  
 construction delays on I-15 ~

### time (have time)

have (much) time  
 we don't ~ (facing a deadline)

### time (time on one's side)

on their side  
 time is ~ (negotiation and diplomacy)  
 the responders acted as if they had time ~ (Uvalde)

### time (steal time, etc.)

steal time  
 I had to ~ away from the daily grind (to go climbing)

♦ "Friends are thieves of time."

### time (give time)

give her the (space and) time she needs  
 it's important we ~ (a troubled woman)

### time (a minute to spare, etc.)

ten minutes to spare  
 he called the attack off with ~ (President Trump)

### time (time has passed)

time has passed  
 it's a tradition whose ~

the person remains, yet his ~ (*Life and Fate*)  
 time may have (already) passed  
 it's a gimmick whose ~ (augmented reality phone app)

### time (passage of time)

passage of time  
 the curve relates forgetting to the ~  
 the ~ has been on her mind lately (an aging actor)

### time (borrowed time)

borrowed time  
 he was living on ~  
 the building had been on ~ (collapsed)  
 Morocco might be on ~ (World Cup / Qatar)  
 he could be living on ~ (Yevgeny Prigozhin)

### time (take your time, etc.)

take your time  
 don't hurry, ~

### time (take time, etc.)

take time  
 this will ~

### time (long time / short time)

long time  
 Biden has been around a ~ and has a lot of baggage  
 I've been on the Doncic bandwagon for a ~ (basketball)

short time  
 he arrived a ~ later

♦ see also *long* (a long time, etc.)

### time (run out of time)

running out of time  
 we're ~ (press conference)  
 in the new academic world, she's ~ (adjunct)  
 my greatest fear is ~ (a filmmaker)

time is running out  
 ~ (negotiations)

Time is running out  
 ~ Everyone loves rewards (Dell Technologies ad)

♦ "Time was now Scott's most precious commodity, and time was running out." (*The Last Place on Earth* by Roland Huntford. It tells the story of Scott and Amundsen in Antarctica.)

### time (time left)

sixty-four seconds left  
 there were ~ on the clock (a football game)

### time (time where)

see *where* (time where)

### time (make time)

making time to be here  
 thank you for ~

## time (find time)

find time for this  
you can make time, you can ~... (a doctor)

## time (waste time)

wasting (too much) time  
we are ~

wasted (precious) time  
first responders ~ (Uvalde school shooting)

run the clock down  
all the Giants had to do now was ~ (NFL game)

♦ TWOT = Total waste of time

## time (lose time, etc.)

losing time  
come on, we're ~  
we're ~ (slow response to cholera epidemic in Angola)

lost (precious) years  
these young men ~ (released from prison)

gain or lose  
the atomic clock won't ~ a second in 20 million years

♦ "Space we can recover, time never... I may lose a battle, but I shall never lose a minute." (Attributed to Napoleon.)

## time (lost time)

make up lost time  
they needed to ~

♦ "You can't make up for lost time." (Oil, refining, and gasoline prices.)

## time (use time)

use that last minute  
he wanted to ~ to score again (NFL football)

use their time  
candidates must decide how best to ~  
he studies how people ~ (a sociologist)

use their time on the job  
the surprising ways Americans ~

use it (very) wisely  
it bought us some time but we didn't ~ (mandate / COVID)

use their time wisely  
prosecutor want to make sure they ~

## time (the time can arrive or come, etc.)

the time has arrived  
~ to take a stand

the time has come  
~ to finish retreating, not one step back

my time will come  
~ (a defeated boxer, looking to his future)

new day has come

a ~ (political optimism)

come and go  
see *come and go* (time)

♦ see also *strike* (his hour had struck, etc.)

## time (it's time, etc.)

time  
if you have things to do, now is the ~ (hurricane)

it's (about) time  
~ we started tackling this

it's time to pay  
~ student athletes (universities)

## time (time flies)

time flies  
~ when you're having fun  
~ and the days pass quickly  
it's so crazy how ~, my boys are so tall now

## time (space of time)

space of time  
how had Napoleon in so short a ~ been able to...

## time (time will tell)

time will tell  
whatever happens in the future, who knows, I guess ~

only time will tell  
that old journalist canard, ~ (what will happen in the future)

## time (in time / future)

in time  
we will recover, ~ (politics)

realize that in time  
he will come to ~

## time (past time)

past time for Americans to set aside myths  
it's ~ about the Civil War and its aftermath

past time to stop them  
coaches are killing kids and it's ~ (heat stroke, etc.)

past time to confront the realities  
it's ~ (Civil War)

## time (at the time, etc.)

at the time  
this was normal ~

♦ At that place...at that time...

## time (over time)

over the last few decades  
~, Ketchikan has moved from timber to tourism

over time

memories dim ~ (criminal cases)  
~, the trail went cold (murder investigation)

♦ Over time, over the last few miles...

## time (course of time)

in course of time  
~ I came to know his sons

## time (gift of time)

gift of time  
it was a legal victory, the ~ (trial postponement)

## time (time off)

took some time off  
I ~ when I got sick

## time (dead time)

dead time  
being aware of waiting is the most painful kind of ~

## time (down time / activity)

down time  
I don't usually do well with ~ (stays busy)

## time (window of time)

narrow window of time  
the ship had a ~ to take out a ballistic missile

small window of time  
we only have a ~ (to prosecute rape cases)

## time (ahead of his time, etc.)

one step ahead  
he was also kind of a visionary and ~ (Gregor Mendel)

ahead of his times  
he was ~ (a comedian)  
Gregor Mendel was ~ in the way he used math

ahead of her time  
Betty Davis was ~ (the Funk and R&B singer)  
she in many ways was so far ~ (Carson McCullers)

ahead of its time  
the environmentalism was ~ (in an author's writings)  
the anti-consumerism was ~ (Travis McGee character)  
it was a horror ~ (the Bath bombing in Michigan)

centuries ahead of its time  
the notion was ~ (fiction and the *Tale of Genji*)

♦ "When we speak of artists as being 'ahead of their time,' we often mean that they were operating in a time, place or space that was not prepared for them, and wouldn't be prepared for years or decades to come. A very specific ache in the Connie Converse story is that she was ahead of her time, but by only minutes." ("Fugitive Desires" by Hanif Abdurraqib, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 14, 2022. Finely conceptualized and written.)

♦ "Johnson certainly sounds wise, ahead of the curve." (A comment about Samuel Johnson, the British lexicographer, about Johnson's acknowledgement of language change.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Ahead of his time" and "before his time" have the same meaning, different conceptions of time. The former seems to represent the time queue, the latter the idea that "the future is forward" and moving towards us.

## time (before her time, etc.)

before his time  
it makes you feel that Kaufman was slightly ~ (a 1980s TV pilot that was turned down)

♦ "Ahead of his time" and "before his time" have the same meaning,

♦ "Fore" means forward and "aft" is to the rear.

## time (behind the times)

behind the times  
they said I was ~, a dinosaur (early critic of opioids)

## time (with the times, etc.)

in step with the times  
he is not ~

out of step with the times  
he may be ~, but... (songwriter)

move with the times  
times change, you either remain a dinosaur or ~ (boxing)

♦ "It never gets old this sport, does it, no matter how long you've been doing it... You just have to keep evolving, and moving with the times, just checking the pulse of the sport, he's done that for decades and he's not stopping now." (A commentator about Frank Warren, prior to the Day of Reckoning fight card in Riyadh Saudi Arabia.)

## time (a man of his time, etc.)

man of his time  
he definitely was a ~ (a writer who objectified women)  
of course, he was a ~, slavery was a fact of life...  
he was very much a ~ (supported eugenics)  
his misogyny and racism were hardly unusual for a ~

product of a particular time  
the Jerry Springer show is a ~...

women of that time  
black ~ just knew they would have to forge on...

\*\*\* millennials, gen-Z...

♦ "I used to be in punk bands when I was a kid and I just kind of suddenly thought, 'I killed Captain Cook' sounded like a really good name for a Hawaiian punk band to have made..."

♦ "This shit, it doesn't faze me too much, only because like I've seen like, like... I'll just say human life to me, the way I look at it if I don't know you if I don't know you is meaningless it's meaningless I'm just keeping it straight up but... Yeah, he's dead what can we do now?" (Alex Bodger aka GoraPakora on TikTok. He stood by and filmed the murder of Paul Stanley Schmidt on his cellphone.)

♦ "As annoying human beings, we all want attention to some degree." (The TikToker Edvasian, 880K.)

\*\*\* the past...

♦ Glyn Williams, naval historian: "There is the Cook, which is you say, is one of the great, supreme navigators, and that part of his reputation remains. But there are worries, there is an uneasiness among many I think today, particularly among the Pacific peoples, about the legacy of Cook. I think most white Australians, most white New Zealanders, would still see Cook as a kind of founding father, a hero, almost an iconic figure, but the Maori, Aborigines, Hawaiians, many of those see a very different Cook, a despoiler, a destructive force." / Greg Dyke: "You have to place him in context, you have to



place him in time, and what he did at the time was amazing." (Captain James Cook, BBC, Sounds, Great Lives, December 2002.)

♦ "That's the way I think history should be written. As if you were living in that time. It's totally unfair to look at it from 150-odd years later and pass judgment on what those people did without knowing what their values were and what the laws were, even. It's what causes an awful lot of misunderstanding, trying to apply a different set of standards to a different nation, really." (The great Civil War writer Shelby Foote.)

♦ "It is unfair, of course, to judge someone by the standards of later times. 'Civil War surgeons had to work without knowledge of the nature of infection and without drugs to treat it,' wrote one student of the field. 'To criticize them for this lack of knowledge is equivalent to criticizing Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee for not calling in air strikes.'" (*Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky.)

♦ "You will remember I was not a Sweet Girl Graduate of a Library School. I was a Scholar and Frontiersman and a Two-fisted He-  
Person and that I went to the roots of that Sissy Library and made it, within two years, an Institution of Character, a He-Library, of which we were all proud." (Charles Lummis, the head librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, quoted in the wonderful *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, author of *The Orchid Thief*, who correctly and rightly gives full credit to Lummis in the evolution of the library, in spite of attitudes that seem a bit old-fashioned nowadays.)

♦ "As appears from his name, Oppenheimer is a Jew, but entirely without the usual qualifications of his race. He is a tall, well set-up young man, with a rather engaging diffidence of manner, and I think you need have no hesitation whatever for any reason of this sort in considering his application." (Percy Bridgman's letter of recommendation to Rutherford's lab at Cambridge for J. Robert Oppenheimer. As the authors correctly and rightly note, Bridgman's words were "not unusual for that time and place." From *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The popular 2023 film *Oppenheimer* was based on this book.)

♦ "Despite the peril in judging action (or inaction) from twenty-five years ago through the lens of society's current views regarding the crime of sexual assault and our service's significant efforts to eliminate it, a few things are clear..." ("Fouled Anchor" Investigation—Final Report. The United States Coast Guard.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "I don't get it. (Dumfounded.) Yes, I do get it. (Exasperated.) Part of social justice under this idea of being offended is that you prove you're a good person by sticking your middle finger up at very dead people in order to show that you disagree with their views." (The linguist John McWhorter about the renaming of campus buildings. "John McWhorter: Pitfalls in the Policing of Language—YouTube." Watch and listen: [youtube.com/watch?v=FeR2yb5qgWE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeR2yb5qgWE) )

♦ "We are told that Columbus was no worse than the men of his race and generation—that his vices were 'those of his time.' No vices are peculiar to any time; this world has been vicious from the dawn of history, and every race has reeked with sin. To say of a man that he is like his contemporaries is to say that he is a scoundrel without excuse. The virtues are accessible to all. Athens was vicious, yet Socrates was virtuous. Rome was corrupt, but Marcus Aurelius was not corrupt. To offset Nero the gods gave Seneca. When literary France groveled at the feet of the third Napoleon Hugo stood erect." ("COLUMBUS" by Ambrose Bierce.)

## time (a man out of time, etc.)

man out of time

the umpire can already seem a ~

stuck out of time

ghostly voices, ~ (old recording devices, etc.)

♦ "The umpire can already seem a man out of time, like a milkman or a doctor who makes house calls." (Balls and strikes are now determined by technology.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This suggests time travel: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's court*, "Rip Van Winkle (1819)," the 1998 film *Pleasantville*, *Back to*

*the Future*, *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*, etc. *Groundhog Day* was about getting stuck in time, and having to repeat the same day.

## time (in our time, etc.)

in our time

~ the printed best seller speedily reaches across space

## time (travel in / through time, etc.)

time machine

see *time machine*

time traveller

see *time traveller (person)*

## time bomb (person)

time bomb of rage

he was a ticking ~ (member of a hate group)

ticking time bombs

they are ~ (Wendy's employee murders customer)

## time bomb (ticking time bomb, etc.)

time bomb

the company's debt load is a ~ waiting to go off

time bomb inside your body

you could have a ticking ~ (pancreatic cancer)

time bombs all over the West

wildfire suppression and global warming have created ~

privacy time bomb

it's a ticking ~ (compiling lists of Web searches)

ticking time bomb

Hillary Clinton called Sudan a ~

it's a ~ (San Onofre nuclear-power plant waste)

these dogs are all ~s waiting to go off (pit bulls)

there are a lot of ~s out there with pent up rage (murder)

ticking timebomb

these aging oil platforms are all just a ~ (leak)

environmental time bomb

Central and Eastern Europe our littered with ~s

generational time bomb

what can be done to defuse this ticking ~ (wokeism)

latent time bomb

a computer command set off the ~ (Mars glitch)

little time bombs

her tweets were ~ she'd unwittingly armed (as a teen)

political timebomb

COVID is a bigger ~ in the short run than anything else

psychological time bomb

reflex-quick killing can be a ~ (the Army)

viral time bombs

hundreds could be ~ (coronavirus pandemic)

zoonotic time bombs

wet markets are ~ (avian flu, SARS, COVID-19, etc.)  
 made his writings a time bomb  
 the printing press ~ (Lorenzo Valla)  
 binding ourselves to a time-bomb  
 we are ~ (one-year timeline to bring referendum into law)  
 \*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**  
 ♦ "We stopped a ticking time bomb." (Israeli strike on Hamas in Gaza. The Israel-Hamas war.)  
 \*\*\* **analysis**  
 ♦ "You never really want to have any situation described as a ticking time bomb."

## time capsule (noun)

time capsule  
 it's a ~ (a historic building)  
 his film was a ~ in case he didn't make it back (war)  
 each box was a ~ (old evidence relating to a cold case)

time capsule of the Chicago of the 1920s  
 it's a ~ (The Green Mill Jazz Club)

time capsule of the era  
 the TV show is a ~

time-capsule of manners  
 the book is a ~

time capsule to archaeologists  
 the site offers a ~

time capsule to another era  
 the stories offer a ~

time capsules from 4½ billion years ago  
 they are ~ (comets)

time capsules for the solar system  
 asteroids are ~ (OSIRIS-Rex Sample Return)

time-capsule details  
 there's a poignancy in those ~ (Walkman, camcorder / film)

time-capsule charm  
 the building has ~

time capsule and a witness  
 it serves like a ~ (the Finnish film *Fallen Leaves* / Ukraine)

cinematic time capsule  
 the film is a ~

extraordinary time capsule  
 they were an ~ of the 60s (Richard Goodwin papers)

linguistic time capsule  
 Dictionary.com calls it a "~" (2024 WOTY "demure")

Soviet time capsule  
 the state is a ~ (Abkhazia)

get out of the time capsule  
 wake up, ~

serve as time capsules  
 primitive asteroids like Bennu ~

unearth a time capsule  
 to read the book today is to ~, to recall an era when...

♦ "This is a freezer, not a time capsule." (A cute ad for Progressive Home Insurance that makes fun of young homebuyers turning into their parents.)

♦ "Dictionary.com calls it a 'linguistic time capsule.'" (Their silly "word of the year" for 2024, "demure." Pandering, much?)

♦ "Cookbooks tell you so much about the time, without meaning to. Most people, when they're writing history, they know that's what they're doing. But these are little unconscious time capsules." (Ruth Reichl, about cookbooks.)

♦ "He also said it would have been impossible to make a movie without having the war present. It serves like a time capsule and a witness so that whenever someone sees the movie in the future they will know that this was going on." (Alma Poysti speaking to NPR's Scott Simon about the 2023 Finnish film *Fallen Leaves*. Throughout the film, the radio broadcasts news and information about the war in Ukraine.)

♦ Pompeii and the nearby town of Herculaneum were buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The excavated Pompeii is today a Unesco World Heritage Site and a time capsule for life in the Roman era, right down to its graffiti.

♦ see also *frozen* (*frozen in time*)

## time machine

time machine  
 you're in a ~ as you go up the bay (an ecologist)

jump in the time machine  
 ~, go back a few years... (a talk about legacy programming)

♦ "This is more like a guidebook, has a lot of pictures from the wartime and maps and so-on. It gives you really street by street, and neighborhood by neighborhood. Umm. What happened. Yeah. In that sense also kind of time machine on paper." (Historian Bianca Stigter about her book, *Atlas of An Occupied City*, Amsterdam 1940-1945.)

♦ "The Wayback Machine is a digital archive of the World Wide Web." (Wikipedia.)

## times (times 1,000, etc.)

time 1,000  
 this is ISIS ~ (atrocities)

♦ "This is ISIS times 1,000." (Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-Wis), a former Navy Seal, about Hamas atrocities in Israel, October 7, 2023. The Israel-Hamas war.)

## time traveller (person)

time traveller  
 was Ludwig Bemelmans a ~

♦ The film *Back to the Future* was extremely popular. That's the one with Marty McFly, played by Michael J. Fox, and a crazy scientist, and a DeLorean car.)

## time warp

Soviet time warp  
 Abkhazia is living in a ~ (frozen in time)

paradisiacal time warp  
 the forests of Bucovina seemed to exist in a ~

## tinderbox (resemblance)

tinderbox

the whole forest is a ~ (wildfires)

turned (much of) the state into a tinderbox  
California's severe drought and extreme weather have ~

## tinderbox (violence, etc.)

tinderbox

the city is a ~ (trouble in Jerusalem)  
the country is a ~ just waiting for a match (Bulgaria)

tinderbox forests

crews go into ~ with shovels and axes (wildfires)

volatile tinderbox

in that ~ of a time, Kennedy led with a steady hand

leaving behind a tinderbox

he is ~ in the Middle East for his successor (election)

## tin ear (noun)

showed her tin ear

she again showed her ~ (politics)

## tin-eared (adjective)

tin-eared (political) lines

he still spouts ~ (politics)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A tin-eared politician, of course, would be tone-deaf...

## tinker (verb)

tinkering with the rules

they are ~

## tip (tip one's hand)

tips his hand

under pressure from his audience, the candidate ~

## tire (kick the tires)

kick the tires of who's gonna be the nominee

they get to kinda ~ (the election primaries)

kicking the tires, and looking under the hood

Microsoft is ~ of Tik-Tok (possible merger)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Kick the tires, look under the hood, and perhaps test-drive...

## tired (groups)

so tired

I am ~ of journalists attempting to depict me

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "This need to constantly perform respectability for white people is a psychological drain, leaving Black people spent and demoralized." ("Black Success, White Backlash" by Elijah Anderson, *The Atlantic*, September 2023.)

♦ "I am so tired of scavenging journalists attempting to speak for me, or depict me... Should you fuck this up—which you will—I will be on your ass like white on rice on a paper plate in a snowstorm at a KKK rally." (Chaedria LaBouvier. Lovely!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## tired (condition)

tired categories

we must break out of these ~ (John Searle)

tired narrative

the same ~ gets thrown out there (disgust)

## tired (feeling)

tired of America being

I'm ~ a babysitter for the world (illegal immigration)

tired of people calling

she's ~ health care workers heroes (a doctor)

tired of being

farmers are ~ collateral damage in trade wars

tired of the finger-pointing

parents are ~ (school issues)

tired of the nonsense and the noise

if you are ~ in our politics... (Amy Klobuchar)

so tired

I'm ~ of this (NPR's Ailsa Chang / life's milestones)

sick and tired

see *sick and tired (feeling)*

♦ "Tired of stumbling off curbs or bumping into other pedestrians while consulting a map on your smartphone? When you wear **Lechal Insoles**, a gentle vibration in one shoe or the other will tell you when and in which direction to turn. (\$150, amazon.com.)

## tit-for-tat (adjective)

tit-for-tat relation

this ~ is deteriorating (China-US conflict)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This seems to relate to "a blow for a tap," in other words, reciprocation for getting hit by hitting back.

♦ Some write this as tic for tac: "Simple tic for tac, these women knew who he was..." (An unsympathetic commenter about an allegation of sex abuse in Hollywood. Is such a usage an eggcorn?)

## Titan (Tennessee Titans, etc.)

Titans

the ~ brushed aside their hosts (NFL football)

## titan (noun)

titan

in an age of romantic giants he was a ~ (Goethe)

titan of Soviet cinema

tributes to a ~ (Andrey Myagkov, *The Irony of Fate*)

titan of Hollywood

once a ~, the actor and producer now faces charges...

titan of the Surrealist movement

this ~ strode on stage (Salvador Dali on Dick Cavett show)

two titans

~ of Silicon valley are in a bitter fight (Facebook v. Apple)

Hollywood titan  
the ~ forced his way into her apartment and raped her

corporate titans  
~ like the Walton family

economic titans  
Asia's ~, China and Japan...

global titans  
the Quakers had become ~ of the whaling industry

"Battle of the Titans"  
Lennox Lewis vs. Vitali Klitschko, billed as ~

## ***Titanic* (the ship)**

*Titanic* of publishing disasters  
Messenger shuts down in "the ~" (media startup)  
this will be remembered as the ~ (The Messenger)

like the *Titanic*  
imagine a powerful man as a ship, ~

on the *Titanic*  
we feel we're ~ (declining enrollments / English)

moving the deck chairs on the *Titanic*  
essentially they're ~ (political criticism of a bill)

rearranging deck chairs on the *Titanic*  
it's the same as ~ (a poor solution)

♦ Camille Vasquez: You also wrote, quote, "Imagine a powerful man as a ship, like the *Titanic*. That ship is a huge enterprise. When it strikes an iceberg, there are a lot of people on board desperate to patch up holes—not because they believe in or care about the ship, but because their own fates depend on the enterprise." (Taps microphone to illustrate the point.) In this op-ed, you're saying Mr. Depp is a ship, right? / Amber Heard: I'm making an analogy to a powerful man as a ship. / CV: The powerful man you're referring to in this analogy is Mr. Depp, right? / AH: Uh, I was talking about a bigger issue actually than just Johnny... / CV: The iceberg is you in this analogy, right, Miss Heard? / AH: (Obviously surprised) Um, I would not say that, I hadn't, I had not... (exhales) That was not what I intended, no. (The Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

♦ "She is rearranging the deckchairs on the *Titanic* and trying to run up new flags on it as it's hurtling right into an iceberg, and that iceberg is the energy crisis..." (Ben Judah about Liz Truss. From "The United Kingdom's next prime minister could be a foreign policy hardliner," NPR, All Things Considered, September 2, 2022.)

♦ "And to the Chinese, if you jump on the Putin train now, you're dumber than dirt. It would be like buying a ticket on the *Titanic* after you saw the movie. Don't do this." (A vile and stupid threat from a U.S. Republican Senator.)

♦ "I was so excited for the maiden voyage and launch of Cynisca. One press release, a brief pause, and they've become the *Titanic*." (Inga Thompson, Olympian, removed as Director for Cynisca Cycling. Inga opposes transgender athletes in women's sports. The company claimed she "affected Cynisca's brand and reputation." Cynisca was a Spartan princess.)

♦ "We're not going to keep doing incremental changes on a contract that no longer honors what is happening right now with this business model that was foisted upon us. What are we doing? Moving around furniture on the *Titanic*? It's crazy." (Fran Drescher, President of SAG-AFTRA, announcing a strike. Drescher's speech is SUPER: "Watch: Fran Drescher delivers fiery speech on SAG-AFTRA strike" Live CBS News. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4SAPOX7R5M>)

♦ "At that point I realized that his film is like the *Titanic*, but it's not about Jack and Rose, it's about the people who decided to stay back on the *Titanic* and go out playing their violins." (Vinay Shukla, about his documentary *While We Watched*, out on PBS.)

♦ "The situation is now that much closer to the iceberg." (Some random pundit heard on NPR speaking about Chinese-US relations. A reference to the *Titanic*.)

\*\*\* "Shut up, shut up! I am busy; I am working Cape Race!"

♦ "Shut up, shut up! I am busy; I am working Cape Race!" (First Operator John George Phillips to wireless operator Cyril F. Evans of the *Californian*, just 10 miles away from the *Titanic*, and just 40 minutes before the *Titanic* glanced the iceberg with a grinding jar. Evans had contacted Phillips to warn him of icebergs but never got a chance to give the message. Evans went off duty a bit later and the *Californian*, the closest ship to the *Titanic*, never went to its aid.)

♦ "All the boats together could carry 1178 people. On this Sunday night there were 2207 people on board the *Titanic*." (*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord. There were 675 survivors. Not all the lifeboats were full. In cases where the women requested that lifeboats return to pick up survivors, the sailors at the oars advised against doing so. In cases where the sailors spoke up about returning, the women advised against it.)

♦ "Into the halls they poured, gently prodded along by the crew [of the *Titanic*]... / Up the stairs they trooped—a hushed crowd in jumbled array... / Automobiling, as practiced in 1912, affected the attire of many ladies—Mrs. C. E. Henry Stengel wore a veil tightly pinned down over her floral hat, Madame de Villiers a long woolen motoring coat over her nightgown and evening slippers." (*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord.)

♦ "Lord had access to many survivors... Jack Thayer, a teen-age passenger from Philadelphia's Main Line, who was one of only a handful of people picked out of the water by lifeboats, later recalled that the sound made by the many hundreds of people flailing in the twenty-eight-degree water, drowning or freezing to death, was like the noise of locusts buzzing in the Pennsylvania countryside on a summer night." ("Unsinkable, Why we can't let go of the *Titanic*," by Daniel Mendelsohn, *The New Yorker*, April 16, 2012.)

♦ "It was not the only sound that drifted over the water. All the time while Collapsibles A and B were filling up and painfully struggling away from the scene, hundreds of swimmers were crying for help. Individual voices were lost in a steady, overwhelming clamor. To Fireman George Kemish, tugging at his oar in Boat 9, it sounded like a hundred thousand fans at a British football cup final. To Jack Thayer, lying on the keel of Boat B, it seemed like the high-pitched hum of locusts on a midsummer night in the woods back home in Pennsylvania." (*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord.)

♦ "Another survivor, a boy of nine at the time, realized long after settling with his family in the Midwest that he couldn't bring himself to go to the Detroit Tigers games because the noise that greeted home runs reminded him of the cries of the dying." ("Unsinkable, Why We Can't Let Go of the *Titanic*" by Daniel Mendelsohn, *The New Yorker*, April 16, 2012.)

♦ "What troubled people especially was not just the tragedy—or even its needlessness—but the element of fate in it all. If the *Titanic* had heeded any of the six ice messages on Sunday...if ice conditions had been normal...if the night had been rough or moonlit...if she had seen the berg 15 seconds sooner—or 15 seconds later...if she had hit the ice any other way...if her watertight bulkheads had been one deck higher...if she had carried enough boats...if the *Californian* had only come. Had any one of these 'ifs' turned out right, every life might have been saved. But they all went against her—a classic Greek tragedy." (*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord.)

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "SS Waratah," "The story of *Waratah*, with the loss of 211 people, has often been compared with that of RMS *Titanic* which sank three years later, with the loss of over 1,500 people. Consequently, *Waratah* has been referred to variously as the 'Titanic of the southern seas', the 'Titanic of the south' or, alternatively, 'Australia's *Titanic*.' Like the *Titanic*, the *Waratah* had watertight compartments and was considered to be unsinkable. Joseph Conrad wrote about the fate of the *Waratah* in an article in *The Daily Mail* (London, UK, Sept 18, 1909) titled "The Silence of the Sea." In it Conrad writes that the sea "is not tamed enough to surrender what terrors have been left to it by the progress of science and...the perfect riveting of water-tight bulkheads." What happened to the *Waratah* remains a mystery. In this, the *Waratah* was much like Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which disappeared in 2014. All three disasters are very much worth comparing and contrasting.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Not too long from now, a spacecrafts with its astronauts and passengers will be listed as "overdue, missing."

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## title (love, live, eat, etc.)

*BoyMom*

~ (by Ruth Whippman)

*Nightbitch*

~, a black comedy film (the 2024 film *Nightbitch*)

Show/Boat

~: A River (David Herskovits / the slant is *tres* creative!)

"Eat Pray Love"

she was to have an ~ experience (Aggi Lal)

Eat, Slay, Love

~ stars Nivea, Eva Marcille and Tammy Rivera

*Live, Love, Eat!*

~: *The Best of Wolfgang Puck* (the chef)

*Love, Loss, Memory*

*On Grief*: ~ (by Jennifer Senior)

*Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat*

~ (Samin Nosrat's cookbook)

Self/less

Tarsem Singh's 2015 science fiction film ~

*Sweetbitter*

~ (by Stephanie Danler / restaurant-worker life)

*Biography of a Poem*

see *biography* (*non-human, etc.*)

Hidden Life

see *life* (*hidden life, hidden lives*)

Secret History

see *history* (*secret history*)

Secret Life

see *life* (*secret life, secret lives*)

♦ "Eat Prey Love: The unsettling book behind a classic children's movie" by Kathryn Schulz, *The New Yorker*, January 24, 2022. (It is about wild animals and hunting, hence the spelling "prey." Clever!)

♦ "Live Love Lebanon" (The tourism slogan of that country. Trendy, and awesome alliteration!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "The Hidden life of X" or "the Secret life of X" or "The Secret History of X" is a title trope, beloved by publishers.

## toast (finished)

toast

if you are trying to please them, you're ~ (auditions)

could be toast

wheat farmers ~ if the dams are removed (title of article)

♦ "After decades of abuse, the man's shoulders are toast. His knees are shot, his back is sore..." (Arnold Schwarzenegger, who *still* works out at Gold's Gym in Venice, California.)

## toast (verb)

toast to Robert Burns' birthday

people around the world ~

toasts a record wine grape harvest

California ~

## toast (acknowledgment)

Toast To The Montreal International Jazz Festival

A ~ at 40: Jazz, Blues & Much More (title of article)

## today (the present)

today

he is as committed ~ as he was yesterday & the day before

today's crime

~ is the foundation of tomorrow's virtue (a Nazi)

today's economy

it's tough to stay alive in ~ (a business)

today's potatoes

they are the ancestors of ~ (Peruvian wild potatoes)

today's tech world

~ worships at the altar of disruption

today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow

we are well prepared ~ (German response to pandemic)

♦ "I hope that young people today will listen to his song. His lyrics are still as relevant as they were yesterday as I think they will be tomorrow." (Bianca Jagger about Bob Dylan's "Blowing in the Wind." "Inheritance Tracks Bianca Jagger." Super!)

## toe (on one's toes)

on their toes

at this point, everybody is ~

on your toes

you've got to be ~ (a paramedic)

keep them on their toes

he will ~ (the debate moderator)

## toe (step on toes)

stepped on a lot of toes

he ~ with his stories (murdered journalist)

stepping on a few toes

we'll be ~, that's for sure (*Millennium* magazine)

stepped on the toes of old theories and beliefs

his discoveries ~ (Pasteur)

♦ "It was ticklish business. Powerful economic toes in the shoes of pseudo-science had to be stamped on." (*Men Against Death* by Paul De Kruif. From the chapter "Death in Milk" about Alice Evans and her work on undulant fever.)

♦ [The exile of Stephen Crane's *Red Badge of Courage* from the high-school curriculum] is hard to explain, given that it crosses no pieties, offends no taboos, and steps on no obviously inflamed corn." ("American Stoic: What Stephen Crane left behind" by Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, October 25, 2021.)

♦ “Dude should have looked into living there a little better before stepping on locals’ toes like that, especially if he took his family—he owed it to them to look out for their welfare...” (A commenter on the article “2 Hawaiian men found guilty of hate crime for attacking white homeowner” by Michelle De Pacina, Yahoo / NextShark, November 21, 2022.)

## toe (dip one’s toes in water, etc.)

dipping its toes into digital apps

Mattel is ~

dipping a toe into public life

they are ~ (two sons of celebrity start YouTube channel)

dipping his toe in the (church-as-business) waters

perhaps Kanye West is ~

dipped his toe in the world of punditry

he has already ~ (an athlete)

♦ “For the NRL, this was a dip of the toes into American waters.” (Four teams from the National Australian Rugby League play in Las Vegas. Super!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “When you want to test the depths of a stream, don’t use both feet.” (Chinese.)

## toehold (noun)

toehold within the city

Grbavica gave the Serbs a ~ (war in Bosnia)

toe-hold on the opposite bank

these units managed to secure a ~ (World War II)

toehold on a computer

automated tools get hackers a ~

political toehold

women have been unable to gain a ~ (Massachusetts)

♦ “Julius Caesar had been expanding into Gaul and even putting a toe into Britain.”

## toe-to-toe (go toe-to-toe, etc.)

go toe to toe

the two warriors ~ (*Deadliest Warrior* TV show)

to ~, to fight for that truth (convict claims innocence)

going toe to toe

it’s two up-and-coming greats ~ (NFL quarterbacks)

go toe-to-toe with the US military

they certainly can’t ~, but...

## together (as noun)

together awaits

your ~ (ad for Vrbo / holiday bookings / family fun)

## toilet (in the toilet, etc.)

down the toilet

two years of his life ~ (see quote below)

as her campaign heads ~ (politics)

in the toilet

morale is ~ (military)

heads down the toilet

in her desperation as her campaign ~ (politics / election)

♦ “Two years of his life down the toilet, the lost opportunities, the stress of being falsely accused as a violent rapist: How does he rewind the clock.” (An online commenter about a former MLB pitcher accused of assault. See the Wikipedia entry “Trevor Bauer.”)

♦ “There is no way to sugarcoat the fact that Harris, in her desperation as her campaign heads down the toilet, has just invited more assassination attempts on her political rival.” (“The left puts a target on Donald Trump’s back with Nazi, Adolf Hitler smears” by Miranda Devine, *The New York Post*, Opinion, Oct. 23, 2024.)

♦ “Lookin all googly eyed at her while his life is in the toilet.” (An online commenter about celebrity infidelity, race, etc.)

## token (groups)

Token Youth Activists

“These Teens Don’t Want To Be The U.N.’s ~”

token Black

it used to be the ~, now I’m the token woman (1972)

‘token’ female ad executive

the ~ (1972)

token woman

now I’m definitely the ~ (1972)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “You’ve heard it before—someone being referred to as a ‘token.’ Like the token Black friend, the token Asian—and tokenism isn’t limited to race or ethnicity, either. You can be the token lesbian, the token Gen Zer, the token herero bff... you get the idea...” (“Ask Code Switch: Am I the ‘token’ at work?” by Lori Lizarraga, Schuyler Swenson, Courtney Stein, Lauren Gonzalez, NPR, Code Switch, October 14, 2024.)

♦ “It used to be the token Black. Now I’m definitely the token woman.” (“‘Working’ Then And Now: Terkel Interviews ‘Token’ Female Ad Executive” by Radio Diaries, NPR, Morning Edition, September 28, 2016. A 3-Minute Listen. The interview took place in 1972. Super!)

## tokenize (groups)

tokenize for political benefit

they just looked for transgender people to ~ (White House)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, you put a subway token into a turnstile, or you gave somebody a small gift as a token of your appreciation or affection or love. You might say, “By the same token...”

## toll (take a toll, etc.)

exact a (terrible emotional) toll

stuttering can ~

takes its toll

not getting enough sleep day after day ~

taking its toll

the buildup to war, too, was ~

took its toll

the heat and humidity ~ (heat-related deaths)

took their toll

years of graffiti “missions” ~ (arrests, etc.)

## toll (other)

toll of the war

he wrote a report on the psychological ~ (on soldiers)



toll on my faith  
it has taken a ~ (lack of “critical thinking” in Christianity)

toll on the (entire) family  
their condition can take a ~ (autistic kids)

toll on musicians' bodies  
hours of practice take their ~

toll on lives and places  
war's ~ (Cambodia)

war's toll  
the ~ on lives and places (Cambodia)

actual (annual) toll  
the ~ might be 10,000 (vs. reported) (mine deaths)

emotional toll  
stuttering can exact a terrible ~

heavy toll  
rebel resistance was taking a ~  
the US raid, while brief, inflicted a ~

huge toll  
my job took a ~ (presidential advisor)

human toll  
the ~ was high

psychological toll  
he wrote a report on the ~ of the war  
the ordeal had taken a profound ~ (climbing accident)

unseen toll  
researchers confront the ~ of their work (extremism)

**tomahawk (Tomahawk cruise missile, etc.)**

Tomahawk cruise missiles  
the submarine is armed with ~

**tomorrow (future)**

tomorrow  
~ is already here  
dominant industries today give way to new industries ~

tomorrows  
“I'd trade all my ~, for that one single yesterday”

tomorrow's revenue stream  
ecommerce is ~

tomorrow's virtue  
today's crime is the foundation of ~ (a Nazi)

better tomorrow  
dreams of a ~ for our kids

today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow  
we are well prepared ~ (German response to pandemic)

building a (better) tomorrow  
we are ~

♦ “I hope that young people today will listen to his song. His lyrics are still as relevant as they were yesterday as I think they will be tomorrow.” (Bianca Jagger about Bob Dylan's “Blowing in the Wind.” “Inheritance Tracks Bianca Jagger.” Super!)

♦ “Own Your Tomorrow.” (A Charles Schwab advertisement.)

## ton (amount)

ton of attention  
Charlottesville did bring a ~ to these groups (protest)

ton of confusion  
the briefings have led to a ~ about what is really going on

ton of football  
we've got a ~ for you (TV)

ton of detail  
we've heard vague reports, but there's not a ~

## tone-deaf (adjective)

tone-deaf  
his response to the accusation was ~

tone deaf to the problems  
she is ~ that average women face (an executive)

tone-deaf response  
his ~ sparked widespread outrage in Germany

tone deaf or blinded  
many online accused her of being by privilege (celebrity)

tone deaf and cringe-worthy  
the video was criticised as being ~ (the pandemic)

tone deaf and ignorant  
she was accused of being ~ to racial sensitivities

tone deaf, insensitive, and insane  
it was ~ (2017 Pepsi ad with Kendall Jenner)

insensitive, tone-deaf and dumb  
she apologized calling the post ~ (MSNBC's Joy Reid)

legalistic and tone deaf  
her responses were ~ (Harvard's Claudine Gay / Congress)

♦ “What I would say is that there were any number of meetings that I had with Tom, and I witnessed, where he was a participant in the meetings and he was—I don't want to say tone-deaf, because that overstates it—but he wasn't as sensitive to what was going on in the room as he might have been.” (Tom had to resign under pressure. Was ruining the brand.)

♦ “Now, someone said in the *Boston Globe* that I'm tone deaf. Okay, maybe I am...” (A man whose job offer in education was rescinded because he addressed members of a committee as “ladies.”)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A tin-eared politician, of course, would be tone-deaf...

## tone down (verb)

toning down his rhetoric  
he is ~

## tongue (resemblance)

tongue of ice  
a ~ spilled over a ridge (Russell Glacier)

glacier's tongue

a ~ can extend hundreds of miles

## tongue (danger)

tongue

your ~ is your horse, protect it and it will protect you  
keep the ~ in your mouth a prisoner

punishment of his tongue

what a man suffers in life is the ~ (Turkey)

bridle for the tongue

a ~ is a necessity...

♦ "I don't know what his end game is." (Shannon Sharpe to Skip Bayless on *Undisputed* about the NBA player Kyrie "I'm a free thinker" Irving.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A bridle for the tongue is a necessity ...."

♦ "You can trap an ox by his horns and a man by his words." (Madagascar.)

♦ "The tongue is but three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet tall." (Japanese.)

♦ "Eat when the meal is ready, speak when the time is right." (Ethiopia.)

♦ "The walls have ears."

♦ "Who gossips to you, will gossip of you." (Turkish.)

♦ "Gossiping and lying go together."

♦ "A knife wound heals; a wound caused by words does not." (Turkish.)

♦ "Speech is silver, silence is gold."

♦ "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."

## tongue (language)

mother tongue

see *mother tongue*

foreign tongue

he was speaking in a ~

native tongue

as a boy he was flogged for speaking his ~  
children must be taught in their ~ (Nigeria)

## tongue (hold one's tongue)

hold your tongue

I would advise you to ~

held his tongue

he has largely ~, but on Friday he let loose (politics)

held his tongue about the actions

Obama has largely ~ of his successor but...

unable to hold her tongue

she is ~

## tongue (bite one's tongue)

bitten my tongue

I have ~ despite feeling I should say something

♦ "The kid wasn't saying anything one way or another but I could see him smirking. He had a little smile. Looking back, I think he was biting his tongue. Nothing we discussed will have sat well with him." ("The

kid" probably disagreed with the older men, who supported Donald Trump, but kept silent. "The Kid" was Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, who nearly assassinated Donald Trump in 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can bite your tongue and not say what you are thinking. But you can also be rebuked to "bite your tongue" after you have said what you are thinking. For example, "Bite your tongue! Speak no ill of the dead."

## tongue (lose one's tongue)

lost your tongue

have you ~ (saying nothing, silent)

## tongue (stick one's tongue out, etc.)

stick their tongues out at the pieties

writers who ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Sticks one's tongue out to show disdain, other than children.)

## tongue (slip of the tongue)

slips of the tongue

~ are entirely normal in kids

## tongue-lashing

tongue lashing

the older player gave her a ~ (teen golfer)

tongue-lashings from the coach

~ (basketball)

tongue-lashing from Kathy

I took a ~ (wife)

## tongue twister

tongue twister

do you know a ~

♦ She sells sea shells by the sea shore.

♦ The sixth sick sheik's sheep's sick.

## tongue-twisting

tongue-twisting name

the ~ eosinophilic esophagitis

## tonic (effect)

tonic

military victory is anticipated as the ~ that will...

tonic for the country

the team's revival has been a ~ that needs it (World Cup)

tonic for the sport

her arrival proved a ~ (Danica Patrick)

♦ "On June 14, 1909, Shackleton returned to London and to a tumultuous welcome, painfully unlike Scott's own muted homecoming from *Discovery*... / While Britain still appeared the greatest power on earth, unease was gnawing just beneath the surface... Into this atmosphere laden with uncertainty and doubt, burst Shackleton, genial, swaggering, breezy, the precise figure of reassurance for a troubled country. / King Edward VII, a shrewd monarch, understood this when he knighted Shackleton, while Scott had to make do with a C.V.O. Scott, with his neurotic worries and suspicion, was too much a

mirror of the times for comfort; Shackleton was a tonic." (*The Last Place on Earth* by Roland Huntford.)

## tool (help)

### tool

the military is not a ~ well suited for remaking a society

### tool to combat

it remains the principal ~ street homelessness

### tool to educate

Senior Step is a ~ older amputees (magazine)

### tool to save

it's the best ~ lives in avalanches (air bags)

### tool of genetic genealogy

he was identified through the investigative ~ (murderer)

### tool of repression

the Iraqi military was a ~ (Kurds)

### tool in the toolbox

antibody tests are a ~ that will have some value

### tools in our toolbox

I'd like to see more ~ (interrogations of terrorists)

### tool for (AIDS) prevention

the classroom as a ~

### tool for law enforcement

the antiterrorism law is an essential ~

### tools for (consumer) advertising

magazines are ~

### tool for analyzing

Microstran, an advanced ~ structures (software)

### tools for evaluating

their arsenal of ~ applicants (colleges)

### tool for measuring

the CATCS, a new ~ student cynicism (college)

### tools menu

on the ~, click mail merge (computers)

### assessment tool

the CATCS, a new ~ for measuring student cynicism

### communications tool

e-mail is a ~, not an information tool (hoaxes)

### hacker tools

Web sites specializing in ~

### information tool

e-mail is a communications tool, not an ~ (hoaxes)

### management tool

wilderness bonding as a ~

### research tool

the M.R.I. and PET are crucial ~s (brain)

### cancer-research tool

the virus became a widely used ~

### performance evaluation tool

the job description may also be a ~

### high tech tool

~s that could help in the war on terrorism

### learning tool

computers are kid's toys and ~s

### marketing tool

a subtle ~ to get out the message

wine has become a ~ as well (restaurants)

### recruiting tool

the parachutists are deployed as a ~

### screening tool

there is a need for better ~s for depression

### teaching tool

adopted as a standard ~; as a ~ he had a chart made

### depression screening tool

a nine question ~ (public health)

### fire-fighting tools

a growing arsenal of ~ (wildfires)

### advanced tool

Microstran, an ~ for analyzing structures (software)

### widely used (cancer-research) tool

the virus became a ~

### additional tools

~ to augment deadly force (nonlethal means)

### basic tool

education is the most ~ for helping you with diabetes

### biometric tools

~ (fingerprinting, facial recognition, iris scans)

### diagnostic tool

the CAT scan, a ~ used in hospitals worldwide

### essential tool

the antiterrorism law is an ~ for law enforcement

### indispensable tool

the typewriter was once an ~ in the writer's life

### political tool

forswore the use of violence as a ~

### powerful tool

password systems give merchants ~s

the technology can be a ~ to help doctors (MRI)

### principal tool

it remains the ~ to combat street homelessness

### psychiatric tool

brain imaging has been oversold as a ~ (psychiatry)

### standard (teaching) tool

adopted as a ~

### subtle (marketing) tool

a ~ to get out the message

arsenal of tools

their ~ for evaluating applicants (colleges)

arsenal of (fire-fighting) tools

a growing ~

creator of a (Web publishing) tool

Dave Winer, ~ called... (computers)

repository of (Sybase) tools

a non-commercial ~

access to ("cracking") tools

al Qaeda has ~ (cyberwarfare)

bonding as a (management) tool

wilderness ~

violence as a (political) tool

forswore the use of ~

develop tools

~ for addressing stereotypes when you hear them

oversold as a (psychiatric) tool

brain imaging has been ~

♦ "That's not to say it can do everything, but it is a tool with profound benefits, a great tool." (Dr. James A. Brink, on the importance of CAT scanners.)

♦ "You're realizing your medical tools are inadequate to help." (Ex-NIH head Francis Collins. He was not particularly religious until a dying patient asked him about what he believed in. From "Next chapter: Ex-NIH head Francis Collins works to bridge the country's divides," NPR, Morning Edition, January 24, 2022.)

## toolbox (noun)

management toolbox

there are a whole host of tools that are in that ~  
(wildfires)

diplomatic toolbox

what are the tools left in the West's ~ (Russia)

tool in the toolbox

antibody tests are a ~ that will have some value

tools in our toolbox

I'd like to see more ~ (interrogations of terrorists)

vaccine in our toolboxes

we have another ~ (COVID)

## toolkit (noun)

teacher's toolkit

the techniques and strategies in a ~

## toolshed (noun)

in the toolshed

this is another tool ~ to fight that fight (a political app)

## tooth (The Tooth, etc.)

Tooth

The ~ is an Alpine rite of passage just 2 hours from  
Seattle

Tooth Cove

~ is a bay in Alaska

Tooth Island

~ is off the coast of Australia in the Coral Sea

Tooth Lake

~ is a lake in California

Tooth Mountain

~ is a summit in Alaska

Tooth Rock

~ is a pillar in Coconino County, Arizona

~ is a summit in Nevada

Bear Tooth

~ is a pillar in Montana

Bears Tooth

~ is a ridge in Montana

~ is a summit in Montana

Bulls Tooth

~ is a summit in Washington

Devils Tooth

~ is a summit in Wyoming

~ is a summit in Idaho

Dog Tooth

~ Bend is a bend in Missouri

~ Peak is a summit in Wyoming

~ Rock is a pillar in Montana

Elephants Tooth

~ is a pillar in Arizona

Elk Tooth

~ is a pillar in Colorado

Grizzly Tooth

~ is a pillar in New Mexico

Horse Tooth

~ is a summit in South Dakota

Moses Tooth

~ is a summit in Alaska

Shark Tooth

~ Hill is a summit in Alaska

Baby Snaggletooth

~ are a set of rapids in Yavapai County, Arizona

Big Tooth

~ Reservoir is a reservoir in Colorado

Black Tooth

~ Mountain is a summit in Wyoming

Gold Tooth

~ Smith Spring is a spring in Arizona

Jagged Tooth

~ Tank is a reservoir in Arizona

## Saw Tooth

~ is a ridge in Utah

## Sawtooth

~ Mountain is a summit in Alaska

~ Peak is a summit in California

## Wisdom Tooth

~ is an arch in Baca County, Colorado

♦ The Antarctic iceberg D28 has come to be known as "Molar Berg." It is adjacent to an area that was nicknamed "Loose Tooth." See "How a colossal block of ice became an obsession" by Jonathan Amos, BBC, 15 Jan 2022.)

♦ Address all correspondence to: Tooth Island, Great Sandy Strait, Coral Sea, Southwestern Pacific Ocean, Pacific Ocean. (Sean Connery, formerly of McLeods Publick House Pub, 5540 W Main St #9, Dothan, Alabama.)

## tooth (a tooth for a tooth)

### tooth for a tooth

an eye for an eye, a ~

## tooth and nail (fight tooth and nail, etc.)

### tooth and nail

she fought him, ~

they fought ~ to keep the evidence out (trial)

### fighting (the effort) tooth and nail

the industry is ~ (regulation)

### fight tooth and nail for her power

she has to ~ (the opera character Carmen)

## toothless (adjective)

### toothless resolution

this is yet another ~ from the Security Council (UN)

### timid and toothless

Ten Hag's team were ~ (Man U vs. Bayern Munich)

### scorned as toothless

the regulatory agency is widely ~

## toothpaste (put the toothpaste back in the tube)

### put (all) that toothpaste back in the tube

it's very hard to ~ (morality)

### putting that toothpaste back in the tube

there's no ~ (history of disputes between athletes on team)

♦ "The toothpaste is out of the genie." (A wonderfully creative and funny conflation of "the genie is out of the bottle" and "you can't put the toothpaste back in the tube." From "Football and its insufferable broadcast coverage are back" by Phil Mushnick, *The New York Post*, August 26, 2023.)

♦ see also *genie* (initiation)

## top (blow one's top)

### blew his top

he ~ in front of a group of colleagues

## top (hierarchy)

### top Republican

~ backpedals on tax pledge

### top (tech) companies

the company has catapulted into the ranks of ~

### top four

Manchester United is lurking on the margins of the ~

### top of the food chain

women at the very ~ at the studios (executives)

### top of the (root server) hierarchy

at the ~ is the "A" root server

### top of the (corporate) ladder

arrogance and ego at the ~

### top of the pyramid

the people at the ~ know exactly what they are doing

### top-down chain of command

older workers are used to a ~ (business)

### top priority

his ~ is to improve team chemistry (sports)

### At The Top

the opinion piece was entitled, "The Rot ~" (corruption)

### on top

the people are ~ nowadays (*Doctor Zhivago*)

society is like a layer cake, with the upper class ~

### to the top

it's your ticket ~ (a job offer)

### finished on top

San Jose ~ last season (soccer)

### go out on top

like any other boxer, he wants to ~

### motivated to be on top

he was ~ (Jeremy Lusk)

### take him to the top

he hoped his right hand would ~ (a boxer)

### made it (back) to the top

he ~ (a troubled boxer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "No directors go out on top." (Hollywood films. The same might be said for authors and boxers. And teachers, I suppose.)

## top (dominance / winning)

### on top

Bucs defence ~ (Super Bowl)

### came out on top

it was a crappy situation, but we ~ (Rangers)

## top (on top / control)

### on top of this

we are ~ (an emergency)

get on top of this

we need to ~ (pandemic)

getting on top of this virus

we are nowhere near ~ (pandemic)

stay on top of a project

he will ~ until it is done

stay on top of things

the aim of the game is to ~ (COVID)

## top (excellence)

top (talent) incubator

the art gallery has emerged as a ~ (Damascus)

top student

a ~, a star athlete, and a caring girlfriend

top talent

ENA is an incubator for France's ~

top tier

he is in the ~ of Hollywood directors

this looked like the rally of a ~ candidate (for president)

he is vaulting into the ~ of TV interviewers

top-grade

this is ~ political dirt

at the top of his game

he is ~

he was ~ when he was shot and killed (a comic)

## top (on top of / at the same time)

on top of the (ongoing) battle

the 500-year flood comes ~ with the coronavirus

pandemic

## top (over the top)

over the top

are school proms ~ (US / Yes)

some of the criticism has been ~ (Scottish soccer)

55% of people thought the response was ~ (swine flu)

only 12% thought the response to Covid-19 was ~

over the top and ridiculous

that's just so ~ (tennis penalizes Naomi Osaka)

entreatingly over the top

some fine actors have gone ~ (playing the Joker, Cruella)

♦ "This has been the most dizzying, jaw-dropping, eyeball-popping, head-spinning news conference I have ever attended. And I was at Bill Clinton's news conference in 1998 when he faced the press for the first time over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky." (An over-caffeinated John Soper for the BBC, following a press conference with President Trump on Monday, April 13, 2020. Soper would make a good sports commentator, in the mold of John Madden or Stephen A. Smith.)

♦ "It's the biggest myth in the history of myths." (John Madden, the bombastic sports broadcaster, reacting to comments about something that he had allegedly done. Sports broadcasters are well known for being bombastic, flamboyant, and for their hyperbole. A great example is the wonderful *Steven A. Smith*, who is always worth listening to.)

♦ "Basketball can be the greatest game in the world. But when you lose it's like somebody reaches in and grabs your heart and shakes it right in front of you, and just sort of taunts you a little bit." (A crying coach Roy Williams about North Carolina's loss to Wisconsin in the 2021 NCAA tournament. Some were disturbed by his behavior and language. A short time later, the storied coach retired.)

♦ The politician Howard Dean screamed or shrieked (some characterized it as a battle cry) while running for president in 2004, which only helped to ruin his chances. See the Wikipedia article "Dean scream." The scream went "viral" in the early days of the internet, and some claim it was the very first political meme.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The meaning is *excessive* and *exaggerated*, like hyperbole. Merriam-Webster gives first use of this meaning to 1984. Many websites claim the phrase somehow relates to World War I soldiers going over the top of trenches.

♦ see also *over-the-top* (adjective)

## top dog (hierarchy)

top dog

there was no doubt he was the ~ (young Federal lawyer)

top dogs

they are ~ in the history of the sport (college basketball)

♦ A funny video! Watch: "Dingo bites tourist sunbathing in Australia BBC."

## topography (noun)

favorable political topography

this is a ~ for us (the Republican senate)

## topple (verb)

topple the government

he was charged with attempting to ~ by force and conspiracy

toppled the government

his self-immolation started the riots that ~ (Tunisia)

toppled the (Taliban) government

US troops ~

toppled (entrenched) leaders

the protests have ~ in Egypt and Tunisia

topple the regime

they wish to ~ (rebels)

## topsy-turvy (upside down)

turned (centuries of medical) dogma topsy-turvy

he ~

## torch (carry a torch)

carry the torch for the political allies

judges should not ~

## torch (pass the torch)

pass the torch to Andre

now I'll ~ (second speaker at lecture)

passing of the torch

a real ~ (Alcaraz defeats Djokovic at 2023 Wimbledon)



♦ "We are an intergenerational torch that is going to burn brighter and we're going to pass it on until the need for Time's Up becomes obsolete." (Ashley Judd, reacting to criticism of that group.)

♦ Changing of the guard; passing of the torch... (Both phrases were used by online commenters after the youthful Alcaraz defeated the older Djokovic at 2023 Wimbledon.)

## torch (other)

torch

the ~ has been passed (from the Kennedys to O'Rourke)

torch of (Syrian contemporary art)

for a long time the ~ was carried by Mustafa Ali

political torch

he passed the ~ to his vice president (Clinton to Gore)

carry on the (family's singular political) torch

there is no one to ~ (Kennedys)

pick up that torch

she died helping people and we have to ~

## torchbearer (person)

last torchbearers

her generation is perhaps its ~ (Anglo-Indians in India)

## torn (divided)

torn between past and present

Turkey, ~

torn between modernity and traditionalism

Turkey, ~

torn between the statements and the lack of evidence

both juries were ~

torn between two career directions

are you ~

torn between admiration and annoyance

he was ~

torn over whether

I'm ~ I should...

conflict-torn

~ areas such as Kosovo and the Palestinian territories

violence-torn

~ East Timor

war-torn (m)

drilling for oil in this ~ area (Colombia)

this poor, hungry, ~ backwater

## tornado (Tartan Tornado, etc.)

Tartan Tornado

the win went to the ~ (Scot boxer Josh Taylor)

## tornado (force)

tornado

he was a ~ made of chiffon (William Ivey Long, designer)

beautiful tornado

Girl Power was the most ~ that ever hit your town

(Lizzo)

economic tornado

people are stuck in the middle of a ~ (a Scot / tax rise)

\*\*\* the sound of a tornado...

♦ People compare the sound of a tornado to trains and jets.

♦ "... a piercing shriek, like the sounds of thousands of nails being wrenched from the boards they anchor." (A survivor of the 1974 Xenia tornado, describing the sound it made.)

♦ Read the Wikipedia article "1965 Palm Sunday tornado outbreak." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## torn up

torn up about it

I was kind of ~

## torpedo (verb)

torpedo (congressional) approval

he made an unsuccessful attempt to ~ of the agreement

torpedoed the (entire) company

the Newton nearly ~ (Apple in 1993)

torpedoed a (main EU) initiative

the tariffs have ~ (Kosovo / Serbia)

torpedoing morale

the overhaul of the system is ~ (education)

torpedoes her plea

that ~ for self-defense

torpedoed their season

the loss ~ (football)

torpedo her career and family life

her alcoholism threatened to ~ (Aretha Franklin)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Captain R. L. McClintock invented the Bangalore torpedo in 1912 in India. The weapon was used successfully in World War I to cut paths through trenches six feet deep and 30 feet across filled with coils of barbed wire. Militaries use versions of it to the present day.

♦ An international investigation came to the conclusion that North Korea torpedoed the South Korean warship *Cheonan*, killing 46 sailors.

♦ During the Falklands War, the submarine HMS *Conqueror* torpedoed and sank the ARA *General Belgrano*.

♦ "Robert watched people jump from the rails. / The ship continued to move; its stern rose higher. His [heavily pregnant] mother held him close. And then the sea seemed to leap forward, and his mother was gone... The ship disappeared. / Later, a passenger reported seeing a woman giving birth in the water. The idea that this might have been his mother would haunt the boy for the rest of his life." (*Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson. Robert was seven years old when the ship was torpedoed by Captain Walther Schwieger in the U-20.)

## torpedo (noun)

torpedo

it was the ~ that sank the prosecution's case (forensics)

fired a torpedo

he has ~ that has blown a hole in the White House

## torpor (noun)

torpor and schlock

he came back from years of ~ (Elvis Presley)

## torrent (noun)

torrent of abuse

his remarks unleashed a ~

torrent of criticism

the decision provoked a ~

in the aftermath of the shooting, a ~ (Alec Baldwin)

torrent of data

genomics has released a ~

torrent of (irate and obscene) e-mails

he awoke to a ~

torrent of fury

in the play's scorching final scene, she unleashes a ~ at...

torrent of information

filtering, organizing, and customizing this ~ (Web)

## tortoise (tortoise and hare, etc.)

tortoise-versus-hare

the history of AI has been a ~ contest between...

## torture (afflict)

tortured me for months

my daughter ~ (potty training)

torturing Alabama

at least 17 reported tornados are ~ (ABC News)

tortured him

the rumors ~

cancer ~

the weeks ~, as he knew people were dying

torturing us

hunger was now ~ (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev)

## torture (affliction)

torture of waiting

all this ~ (for an arrest in murder case)

legal torture

the way we feel is that we are going through ~ (family)

mental torture

it was a form of ~ (soldiers talking about great meals)

became torture

her work life ~ (Me Too movement)

puts his body through the torture

he ~ required to prepare... (a boxer)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Traveling is a form of torture." (Arabic.)

## tortured

tortured about his sexuality

a man ~ (closeted gay Republican politician)

tortured by bad weather

this is an area that has been ~ (spring tornadoes)

tortured emotions

such ~ (towards sex)

tortured path

it's been a long ~ for the project (space)

tortured childhood

he cries when he recalls his ~ (homosexual)

tortured, difficult and painful

relations are often ~ (politics)

♦ "Thirty-five-year-old Messi has been tortured for much of his stellar career by not winning a world cup title for his country. The stage is perfectly set..." (Tom Goldman, NPR sports correspondent.)

## torturous

slow, torturous

a ~ death by drowning, hypothermia suffocation (sub)

## toss back (verb)

tossed political gerrymandering back to the states

the Supreme Court has ~

## toss out (verb)

tossed his suit out of court

a judge ~

## totally (contempo-speak)

totally binge-worthy

the series is ~ if you want it to be (Victoria Whitley-Berry)

totally, like

see *like* (filler)

totally so

see *so* (gushing)

just totally

and I ~ disagree with it

many students here are ~ floored when I tell them that...

it was ~ arbitrary and random

public school felt ~ wild to me

I think they're ~ going overboard there

it is ~ false

I felt ~ hopeless

he was looking like ~ exhausted (NPR / Becky Sullivan)

kind of like totally

so this is ~ new for me

like totally

'Clueless' ~ changed '90s fashion and vernacular (NPR)

it's ~ bittersweet to step away...

like, totally

OMG, retailers are, ~ giving me free stuff (NPR staff)

Paris Hilton: ~ ready to lead (NPR / Evie Stone)

The Mall...~, as....Art? (NPR / Sarah Handel)

obviously totally

it's ~ real (lioness roaming outside Berlin / false alarm)

really totally

they're just ~ cool people

they are ~ driven in a very passionate and spiritual way  
if I were a vegan, I'd be ~ skeeved out (NPR Eyder  
Peralta)

she was ~ disabled (NPR's Nina Totenberg)

so totally

I was ~ into self-loathing (Diane Keaton)

Kristen Stewart is ~ thrilled to be here

this record was ~ different

this is ~ true

as he plays, he gets ~, totally lost in the music

that is ~ the answer I wanted (Peter Sagal, host)

♦ "That feeling when your kid laughs or when your kid says something that's so totally, like, amazingly weird, or insightful, or sensitive..." (NPR Staff.)

♦ "Completely" also fits the bill. "It was like completely on purpose, I was shocked..." "I completely loved this story, especially..."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Type "like totally" into search at NPR and you get 120 hits and counting.

♦ Linguist John McWhorter's analysis of "totally" is interesting, as always. "It refers to feelings between you and the person you are talking to." It says that "the naysayers are wrong." "Totally tracks and nods to the opinions of others with an air of warm fellow feeling." "Totally is about shared sentiment." In his FACE typology of MPMS (modal pragmatic markers), he considers it to represent "Acknowledgment: I Hear You." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 1, "The Faces of English: Words Get Personal.")

## totem (noun)

totem of survival

the gun, not the plough, was the ~ (Tasmania)

totem for (a certain kind of American) bravado

Sinatra was a ~ ("My Way")

familiar totem

the Christmas tree is a ~ of the holiday season

outdated and environmentally irresponsible totems

big dams are seen as ~, wasteful symbols of national pride...

tearing down French totems

by ~ Zemmour is showing.... (about WWII)

used Sinatra as a totem

Anka ~ for a certain kind of American bravado (My Way)

♦ Anthem; emblematic; metaphor; represent; (cultural) figurehead; trademark; influence... ("A Toast to 'My Way,' America's Anthem of Self-Determination" by Sonari Glinton, *All Things Considered*, Nov 19, 2019.)

## totem pole

low on the totem pole

Flint was apparently ~ (in a company)

\*\*\* "We saw many curious and interesting things..."

♦ In the museum we saw many curious and interesting things...[A]nd the totem-posts were there, ancestor above ancestor, with tongues protruded and hands clasped comfortably over bellies containing other people's ancestors—grotesque and ugly devils, every one, but lovingly carved, and ably... / Also we saw a complete skeleton of the giant Moa." (Christchurch, New Zealand. From *Following The Equator: A Journey Around The World* by Mark Twain.)

## touch (nobody will touch this, etc.)

touch this

nobody in the mainstream media will ~ (achievement)

## touch (verb / emotion)

touched everyone

the loss ~ (children die in house fire)

touched many lives

throughout his life, he ~

touches so many others

each person's life ~ (the film *It's a Wonderful Life*)

## touch (lose touch)

lost touch with her

officials said they had ~

loses touch with reality

he ~ (a schizophrenic)

lost touch with firefighters

fire officials ~ trying to... (poor communications)

lost touch with their father

they ~ and Native heritage (Laguna Pueblo)

## touch (connection)

touch with reality

he loses ~ (a schizophrenic)

human touch

the ~ comes naturally (a lawyer)

## touchdown (success)

touchdown after touchdown

her book scores ~ (a sports romance)

total touchdown

forming an authentic connection is a ~ (Ad Council)

♦ "Forming an authentic connection with your intended audience is a total touchdown." (The Ad Council.)

♦ Touch Down / Field Goal / First Down / Fumble ("What's your take on this story?" The rating system for *New York Post* sports stories.)

♦ "They're in the last 20 yards, and you can't let them cross that goal line. You can't let them score a touchdown." (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about Iran's nuclear-weapon program. He was speaking on NBC's Meet the Press.)

## touching (adjective)

touching story

this was the most ~ I've ever heard

## touchstone

touchstone of a generation

it was the ~ (Woodstock Music Festival / US)

touchstones of (medical) progress  
vaccines and antibiotics are seen as ~ (vs. diagnostic test)

touchstone in (American) culture  
her case became a ~ (Terri Schiavo)

touchstone in German Holocaust studies  
the book became a ~ (by H. G. Adler)

touchstone for a set  
the painting is a ~ of ideals ("Kindred Spirits")

"touchstone" (1960) book  
Harper Lee's ~ (*To Kill a Mockingbird*)

Democratic Party's touchstone  
DEI is the ~

holiday touchstone  
"It's a Wonderful Life" is now a ~ (film)

cultural touchstone  
"American Psycho" has become a ~ (US / a book)  
it is a ~ (dominoes / Latinos / NYC)  
her fourth book is a ~ (*Eat, Pray, Love*)

emotional touchstone  
Jerusalem is an ~ for many people in the Middle East

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A touchstone was a dark stone such as slate used to determine, or assay, the purity of a precious metal, like gold. It is similar in meaning nowadays to *litmus test*. The word seems to relate to authenticity, genuineness, or shared experience.

## touchy (adjective)

touchy subject  
abortion is a ~ for some radio programmers

## touchy (personality)

touchy about his baldness  
he's ~

## tough-minded

tough-minded  
he is ~ and not afraid to take risks (commander)

nimble, tough-minded and effective  
we need government that is ~

## tourism (slum tourism, etc.)

tourism ambassador  
Messi has a role as a ~ for Saudi Arabia (soccer player)

agritourism  
~ is growing rapidly in rural communities

animal tourism  
he tried to steer the market of ~ from brutal to ethical

battlefield tourism  
~ flourished... (Waterloo)

birth tourism  
~ businesses have long operated in California  
~ businesses cater to the Chinese, Russians, Nigerians

authorities arrested two in a crackdown on ~ operators

civil rights tourism  
~ may protect Mississippi history  
some think ~ could help lift these little towns  
(Mississippi)

dark tourism  
the appeal, ethics and sensitivities of so-called "~"  
~ (visiting atrocities, disasters, tragedies, deaths, etc.)

disaster tourism  
it's a ~ destination (Moynaq, Uzbekistan)

elephant tourism  
~ may not recover from the pandemic (Thailand)  
Saengduean Chailert is a pioneer in ethical ~ (Thailand)  
expert warns Americans about ~ after law student killed

event tourism  
Singapore promotes ~ (Taylor Swift's Eras Tour, etc.)

Gay Tourism  
"The answer to Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis Might Be ~"

gay tourism  
~ is booming... (NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro)  
Shai Doitsh, 30, promotes ~ in Tel Aviv (NPR)  
~ destinations (NPR's Greg Allen)

medical tourism  
~ will boost the economy

noctourism  
"~" has been named a top travel trend for 2025 (aurora)

sex tourism  
~ flourishes...

slum tourism  
~ is like poverty porn (2009)

space tourism  
~ is in the not-so-distant future

war tourism  
he engaged in what was basically ~ (Bill Donovan / OSS)

investment in (civil rights) tourism  
some think ~ could help lift these little towns  
(Mississippi)

♦ "Byron visited; so did the Wordsworths—twice—and the architect and collector John Soane and thousands of others. They carried away skulls—Sir Walter Scott had one—and fingers and teeth and bullets and cannon balls... A century later such battlefield tourism would flourish even if its more gruesome collecting tastes were suppressed." (The site of the Battle of Waterloo, in Belgium. From *The Work of the Dead: A Cultural History of Mortal Remains* by Thomas W. Laqueur.)

♦ "We the oldest community in the county, and we look like the oldest community in the county. We've been left behind. We have not benefiting as we should with this history." (Mayor Johnny Thomas of Glendora, Mississippi, about efforts to create an Emmett Till National Historic District. The mayor is referring to civil-rights tourism.)

♦ "Some 'farmers' say they need agritourism to make extra money. These 'farmers,' however, are often Millennial and Zoomer 'blow-ins' from urban areas, and, as a result, they have poor or no relations with their neighbors. Agritourism includes such things as providing event spaces for weddings and corporate retreats, cooking classes, pie classes (on a small blueberry farm), farm dinners, or using the

farmhouse as an Airbnb. Naturally, nobody attending a wedding in the country wants dust or bad smells, no matter when in the agricultural season. Farmers say fertile land should be used for farming. In the Skagit Valley in Washington State, the locals are considering new zoning codes to reduce agritourism, and they are snitching on their new neighbors, resulting in stricter enforcement. It's very much an old story. Locals versus outsiders, newcomers, immigrants. It mirrors gentrification in the cities. It mirrors the surf line-up in Hawaii, which favors locals, of course. There's the culture clash of "urban refugees" versus fifth-generation farmers. Money is involved. Law enforcement and lawyers are getting involved.

♦ Dark tourism; memorial tourism; thanatourism; morbid tourism; grief tourism... (This sort of tourism can range from visiting an old Civil War battleground like Gettysburg to visiting the site of the Jonestown mass murder-suicide in Guyana or the sites of famous crimes in Los Angeles.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Disaster tourism." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## tour of duty

tour of duty as James Bond

the film concludes Daniel Craig's ~ (*No Time To Die*)

## tout (person)

tout for the educational-technology industry

he is a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "In the early 18th century [a tout] was a lookout or watchman for thieves, but by the middle of the 19th century he had become a spying fellow who secretly watched and timed the trials of race horses so that he might give out advance tips to the betters, which is the way the racetrack *tout* makes his living today." (*Word Origins And their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 4, "Where Words About Human Beings Come From.")

## tout (verb)

tout the wonders

Mexican officials ~ of Mexico (tourism)

## touted

touted as an anxiety-relieving panacea

digital detoxes are ~

## tow (in tow)

moral in tow

there is no ~ (criticism of book)

## towel (throw in the towel)

thrown in the towel

she would be disappointed that he has ~ so quickly

threw in the towel on adding

he ~ a citizenship question (on the census)

ready to throw in the towel

she's not ~

Croatia aren't ~ yet (versus Brazil in Qatar)

### \*\*\* "You don't know the pain what he was experiencing..."

♦ "A lot of people say he quit... But you don't know the pain what he was experiencing. I dunno, I've not been in that position. His eye socket was smashed up... It's things like that when it's through injury, I don't think people got a place to call people quitters..." (The great boxer Josh Taylor on BBC's 5 Live Boxing with Costello & Bunce.)

## towering (towering figure, etc.)

towering figure

Jacky Robinson was a ~ in American sports

he was a ~ who rose above party politics (McCain)

Ike was one of the ~s of the 20th century (Eisenhower)

## town (Chinatown, etc.)

Asia Town

the city's ~ (southwest Houston)

Chinatown

San Francisco's ~

♦ "There's Chinatown, Little Italy and Little Ethiopia. But in Philadelphia, a downtown section of the city officially has a new name and people are talking." ("Welcome to the 'Gayborhood?'," NPR, Tell Me More, May 1, 2007.)

♦ "Everywhere we moved, one of the first things that my parents always did was find the Chinatown." (A Chinese immigrant family.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Chinatown" for a list of Chinatowns around the world. Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *little* (*Little Moscow, etc.*)

♦ see also *Chinatown* (*the film*)

## toxic (adjective)

toxic

rap culture is ~ (Swedish rapper Einar murdered)

toxic atmosphere

political leaders have contributed to a ~ (politics)

toxic doctrine

the ~ of racial superiority (Nazis)

toxic environment

it has been a ~ for 8 years (actor on a TV show)

toxic (political) environment

incumbent politicians are at risk in the ~

toxic (online) environment

Facebook creates a ~ by doing nothing (fake news)

toxic (work) environment

employees complained that he created a ~ (a boss)

toxic masculinity

~ in *The Power of the Dog* (the film)

toxic myths

the ~ around creativity (writing rooms, etc.)

toxic person

she is a ~

toxic relationship

their ~ ended in murder

toxic political warfare

this will pour fuel on the fire of ~

politically toxic

the subject of climate change is ~

become toxic

the modern culture of the prom has ~ (critics)

growing toxic

the marriage was ~ (husband murders wife)

♦ Your girlfriend is toxic; how to deal with toxic friends; 7 ways to cut a toxic friend out of your life; tips for eliminating toxic people from your life; cutting off people who are toxic for you; how to identify a 'toxic person'; #toxic posts are popular; one of the easiest explanations for the 'toxic' trend is that young people are misanthropes...(Collocations for "toxic" from "That's It. You're Dead To Me. Suddenly everyone is 'toxic'" by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Positive affirmations encouraging you to live your best life can be found almost everywhere. / But what if you don't feel like it? For mental health advocate and author Dave Tarnowski, society's penchant to push what he calls 'toxic positivity' felt like brainwashing." ("Pushing back at a culture of relentless 'toxic positivity'" by Terry Ward, CNN, Thu May 2, 2024.)

♦ "Why is this happening? [Young people determining that certain people are 'toxic,' even family members.] Maybe young people have been inspired by the impermanence and infinite choice baked into online dating and social media. Maybe our brains have been pickled in wellness culture and 'self-care' rhetoric, which stress the need to privilege our own well-being above all else. Or maybe we're just good American capitalists, encouraged by the cult of individualism to think of ourselves as compelling brands, the main characters of cinematic star vehicles, the centers of the universe." ("That's It. You're Dead To Me. Suddenly everyone is 'toxic'" by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

♦ "The word has gone into hyperinflation, often used to dramatically label situations that aren't actually 'poisonous', but rather negative experiences with a lousy manager. 'Toxic' is so overused that I don't react when I see it now." (Thomas Erikson, author of *Surrounded By Bad Bosses*.)

♦ OLD: My new job is irritating, disappointing, frustrating... / NEW: my new job is toxic...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When 'toxicity' in the workplace has grown to mean so much, it's also come to mean so little." ("How every workplace became 'toxic'" by Alex Christian, BBC Worklife, 16 October 2023. It's a superb article that includes a very nice history of the word. Bravo!)

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "He ain't toxic, he's my brother." (A paraphrase of the old song lyric, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother.")

**track (on track)**

on track to jump

the number of Wi-Fi cards sold is ~ 75 percent

on track to meet

the services are ~ reserve manpower goals (military)

on track for a shot

a win would keep him ~ at the title (boxer)

on an academic track

he is ~ (vs. vocational program) (high school)

on the right track

we are ~ (making progress towards our goal)

back on track

we are ~ (making progress)

they will get ~ today with a new bill (politics)

still on track

US policy there is ~ (Central Asia)

organized and on track

keep your job search ~

stay on track

your script should help you ~ (job interviews)

keep your job search (organized and) on track

how to ~

get back on track

treatment options to help you ~ (depression)

it is possible to ~ (debt in economy)

get us (back) on track

I've got a solution that will ~

get our economy (back) on track

to help ~

**track (fast track)**

on a fast track to a vote

the resolution is ~ on the floor of the senate

♦ "Academic queer theory is being mainlined into America's public schools."

**track (across the tracks, etc.)**

lives across the tracks

the horror genre ~ in the literary community

**track (cover one's tracks, etc.)**

cover your tracks

you didn't ~ very well, you were easy to find

cover his tracks

people wondered if he disappeared to ~ (crime suspect)

his aides were trying to ~ (a politician)

cover his (digital) tracks

he failed to ~ (an Internet hacker)

covered their tracks

whoever did it was very careful and ~ (unsolved murder)

covered his tracks well

he had assimilated into the upper class and ~ (England)

hide their tracks

they used Iranian access hoping it would ~ (hackers)

throw people off the track

this story was a false narrative to ~

♦ "TOR drags branches behind your digital footsteps so people can't tell where you're going or where you've been."

**track (stop something in its tracks)**

stopped the (FBI) investigation in its tracks

the plea agreement ~

stopped his meteoric rise in its tracks

a racial slur has ~ (a country singer)



## track (stopped in one's tracks, etc.)

halted in its tracks  
the tournament was ~ (Coronavirus)

got stopped in its tracks  
the idea ~ (opening a liaison office)

## track (off the beaten track)

off the beaten track  
the whirlpools are ~

go off the beaten track  
he doesn't hesitate to ~

## track (direction)

career track  
I didn't take the traditional ~

traditional (career) track  
I didn't take the ~

take the (traditional career) track  
I didn't ~

## track down (verb)

track down John Sergeant  
I decided I would ~ and ask him what...

track down a (caller's) location  
in order to ~... (police)

track down his (work) phone  
it took some effort to ~

tracked down the relatives  
Moroccan officials ~ of the man (terrorist)

tracked down the (first) vehicle  
authorities ~, a Subaru Outback...

track down victims  
early efforts to ~ turned up... (identity theft)

track down water  
how hard it can be to ~ in the Mojave

track down (dog-friendly) cafes and hotels  
~ (a Web site)

track down (high-school) girlfriends  
they ~... (NFL background checks)

track down the financing  
our efforts to ~ of al Qaeda

tracked down this sickness  
Evans ~ lurking in the milk supply (undulant fever)

tracked him down at a (corner) dice game  
she ~

effort to track down  
it took some ~ his work phone

## tracked (followed)

tracked all over campus  
students are ~ (security systems)

tracked at factories, office parks, stadiums  
people are ~ (security systems)

tracked through the system  
parts must be ~ (military logistics)

information should be tracked  
this ~ in the TOC and the CTCP (military)

## tracker (person)

tracker app  
check out our ~ to see the progress of your delivery

tracker remover  
feel free to hide ~ while we find and remove... (McAfee)  
~ will permanently delete these files (McAfee antivirus)

### \*\*\* a Tohono O'odham "Shadow Wolves" tracker...

♦ "He read the signs like a map." (A "Shadow Wolves" tracker, Tohono O'odham.)

♦ "Bedouin have a remarkable ability to find their way across the desert. There is an Arab saying that a Murra (Al Murrah) tribesman can be taken on a 3-day journey across trackless country, blindfolded, and then told to bury a coin in the sand at night. A decade later he will be able to return and locate his coin." (George B. Cressey.)

♦ "Tigers, lynxes, bears, wolverines, wapiti, deer, roe, pig, all are resident in this rich taiga. / Dersu strode on in silence, serenely seeing everything. I was reveling in the view, but he looked at a twig broken off at the height of a man's arm, and from the way it was hanging knew the direction in which the man had been going. From the freshness of the fracture he judged the time that had elapsed. Whenever I passed by a particularly obvious track, Dersu would chuckle, wag his head, and say: / 'H'm! Just like small boy. Go walk, wag head; have eyes, no-can look-see.' / As we went, I trod upon a thorn..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev. Translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "The reconstruction of jungle events from signs on the ground has always held great interest for me." (*Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow (Viceroy of India 1936-1943). It is a wonderful account of hunting actual man-eating tigers and leopards. The Jim Corbet National Park is in Uttarakhand. Tigers live there.)

## tracking

tracking of immigrants  
the need for the government to improve its ~

tracking information  
for ~, visit us at... (post office)

tracking number  
~ 844553785371 (Federal Express)

eye-tracking  
usability experts may use ~ software

missile-tracking  
Russia has constructed a large, ~ radar

period tracking  
the USWNT and NWSL used ~ as a strategy (menstruation)

radio tracking  
animals fitted with ~ collars

acquisition and tracking  
frequencies of enemy ~ systems

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Backtracking, doglegging or other countertracking methods..." (The military.)

## track record (good)

track record of accomplishments  
years of experience and a ~ (resume)

track record in improving  
he has a ~ schools (election)

track record for success  
he's got a ~

skills, achievements and track record  
your ~ (job hunting)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This usage refers to a runner's time.

## track record (bad)

track record of these methods  
given the ~... (poor)

track record of getting the big issues wrong  
he has a ~, time after time (Federal Reserve candidate)

## traction (gain / build / get traction)

traction with customers  
none of their products have gained significant ~

traction on social media  
his comments about the movie gained ~

serious national traction  
his campaign failed to gain any ~ (RFK, Jr. in 2024)

build traction  
her campaign is starting to ~ (politics)

gain traction  
rumors ~ in an atmosphere of uncertainty

gaining traction  
an effort to establish industrywide safety standards is ~

getting traction  
the economic recovery was finally ~

struggled to gain traction  
her campaign has ~ (elections)

## trade (verb)

traded some ideas  
we ~ on how we could work collectively (diplomacy)

## trademark (noun)

trademark word salad  
she served up another helping of her ~ (Vice President)

## tragedy (noun)

act of the tragedy  
the first ~ has been enacted (war)

farce and tragedy  
man walks a narrow line in nature between ~ (Antarctic)

ended in tragedy  
the hostage drama ~ when...

follow tragedy with farce  
this will undermine them, you will ~ (politics)

look at the tragedy from a new angle  
these conclusions help us ~

♦ "City authorities called his death a 'tragedy.'" (An "unsheltered community member" entered a lake and drowned while swimming away from the police, who had been called to the scene after an altercation between the drowned man and his partner. The word "tragedy" is quite rightly in quotation marks.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When Marx wrote that history repeats itself, "the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce," he was specifically comparing Napoleon Bonaparte to his nephew, Napoleon III, the very same ruler Victor Hugo disparaged as Napoleon the Little. Winston Churchill had a somewhat more judicious view of Napoleon III: "For more than twenty years this amiable, dreamy figure was to play a striking and not always ineffective part upon the European scene."

♦ War; violence; catastrophe; sacrifice; betrayal; justice; retribution; horror; suffering; wrath; madness; power; fallen kings; family curses; destiny; fate; cycles of carnage; hidden reasons; invisible gods pulling strings; dark patterns and connections; secret flaws; "the sins of the fathers and the sufferings of the children"; the devastating relationship of the present to the past; public rites; mourning; "the reassertion of order and ritual," dark solace..." (Elements of Greek drama and tragedy mentioned in "JFK, Tragedy, Myth" in *Ecstasy and Terror: From the Greeks to Game of Thrones* by the great classist Daniel Mendelsohn.)

## traffic light (or traffic signal)

"traffic light" regime  
operators should observe a ~ (fracking / England)

traffic light system  
there is now a ~ in place (pandemic travel to countries)  
a ~ sets out rules for entering the UK

## trail (follow)

trailed him  
the accusations have ~ for years (of sexual misconduct)  
the allegations that ~ finally caught up to him

## trail (competition and progress)

trails so many countries  
the U.S. ~ in health-care

trailed the Celtics by 20 points  
the Warriors ~ in the fourth quarter

## trail (blaze a trail)

blazed  
thank you, Penny Marshall, for the trails you ~

blazed the trail for many young film makers  
he ~ (Samuel L. Jackson on death of John Singleton)

blazed a trail between Greeks and Turks  
they have ~ with their music

blazed a trail into the workplace  
women like her ~

blazed his own trail  
he ~

♦ “Questioned about her art, Lydia launches into an impassioned riff on the nature of musical time; asked about gender, she names various trailblazers who took to the podium before her but seems otherwise unconcerned with couching her achievement in strictly feminist terms. Her trail is her own.” (“Baton Charge: ‘Tar’ by Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*, October 10, 2022.)

## trail (throw somebody off the trail, etc.)

trail went cold  
over time, the ~ (murder investigation)

throw the police off their trail  
their effort to ~ failed (runaway mom)

## trail (digital trail, etc.)

trail of blood  
officers followed a ~ to a vacant house

trail of breadcrumbs  
see *breadcrumb* (evidence)

trail of clues  
the murderer left a ~ (arrested)

trail of deceit  
this industry has left a ~ (tobacco)

trail of devastation  
deadly tornadoes leave a ~ in Florida (newspaper)

trail of (blood) drops  
a ~ led away from the bodies

trail of (secret) settlements  
there is a paper ~ (NBC and sex abuse)

accelerant trail  
the ~ led into her bedroom (arson)

blood trails  
the guides have been following ~ (hunting)

data trail  
they followed the ~ to his computer (criminal)

digital trail  
investigators are going through a ~ of text messages

meteor trail  
the ~ persisted for over a minute before disappearing

money trail  
they are following the ~

paper trail  
officials follow extensive ~s  
there is a ~ that exonerates him (State Department)

scent trail  
bloodhounds found no ~ (an abduction)

## trail (trail of thought, etc.)

lost the trail of my thought  
where was I, I ~ (forgot what he was going to say)

\*\*\* **delightful usage...**

♦ “That Oxford guy is so smart, I’ve lost a trail of his thought.” (A snarky comment about Casper Grathwohl, left at an online video. Super!)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ One can also “lose the plot.”

## trail (campaign trail, etc.)

campaign trail  
the 2000 presidential ~

comeback trail  
they are on the ~ after serious injuries (skiers)  
the genre is on the ~ (hard rock music)

## trail (canoe trail, etc.)

Canoe Trail  
the 740-mile Northern Forest ~ (New York to Maine)

Civil Rights Trail  
the U.S. ~ has over 130 stops across 14 states

civil rights trails  
~ across the South have proven to be an economic driver

Fly Fishing Trail  
the Western North Carolina ~, created in 2009

Heritage Trail  
the Coal ~ (US 52 and Route 16 in West Virginia)

Historic Trail  
adding routes to the existing Trail of Tears National ~

menu trail  
a “~” guided visitors to seven restaurants... (see below)

Mural Trail  
the Appalachian ~ is bringing new energy to small towns

Snorkel Trail  
the Blue Ridge ~ (mountain streams)

Water Trail  
the Hudson River Greenway ~ has a landing every 10 miles

♦ “In her native Orange County [Virginia], a recent ‘menu trail’ guided visitors to seven restaurants serving meals based on Lewis’ recipes. Offerings included smothered braised rabbit at Vintage Restaurant, roast quail stuffed with wild rice and white grapes at Spoon and Spindle and a classic apple brown betty at both Gordonsville Ice House and ClearWater Fire Grill.” (“Food: The Grande Dame of Southern Cooking” by Taryn White, *Smithsonian*, June 2023. Edna Regina Lewis led a remarkable life.)

♦ “Ale Trail Pass. (Jackson County). Program rewards craft beer fans for visiting local breweries...After visiting at least four breweries, participants can pick up a Jackson County pint glass and stickers at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.”

♦ “Minnows, shiners, darters, blue-head chubs, crayfish, salamanders, trout...” (Wonderful sights to see on the Blue Ridge

Snorkel Trail. Stick your head under the water and enjoy! From "The Blue Ridge Snorkel Trail offers an immersive nature experience" by Paul Garber, NPR, Morning Edition, June 27, 2024. Radio station wfdd. Super!)

\*\*\* the Appalachian Trail, the Sinai Trail, the Via Dinarica...

♦ The Milford Track (New Zealand); Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania); the Inca Trail (Peru); the Annapurna Circuit trek (Nepal); the Appalachian Trail (eastern US); the Pacific Crest Trail (Rocky Mountains)... (Great treks and trails.)

♦ "You know what's good? Instant mashed potatoes mixed with ramen noodles. Now, that's good." (A hiker at the "Fontana Hilton" trail hut on the Appalachian Trail in Graham County, North Carolina, poised to enter the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Hikers generally eat only what they can carry.)

♦ "The Sinai Trail began as a 220km (137 mile), 12-day hiking route run by three Bedouin tribes. It opened in 2015, running from the Gulf Of Aqaba to the top of Egypt's highest mountain, Jebel Katherina. / This year the trail was extended to 550km, taking 42 days to finish. The expansion brought in five additional Bedouin tribes. / The extended trail shows the most beautiful parts of the Sinai to the world... / Tribesmen of the Muzeina and Alegat tribes sit in a cave, sheltering from the midday sun. Today, around 50 Bedouin from the eight tribes work regularly on the Sinai Trail as cooks, guides, hosts and traders. / More than 500 hikers from Egypt and other countries have hiked the Sinai Trail since it opened three years ago. Here a group passes a small chapel hidden amongst the hills. / The Bedouin form a special bond with their camels, walking with them, feeding them and caring for them when they are sick." ("In pictures: Hiking the Sinai Trail," BBC, 3 August 2018. Magnificent photos by Wael Hussein Al Sayed and Nour El Din Sherif.)

♦ "In 2014, American adventure magazine *Outside* named the Via Dinarica the world's best new hiking trail. In 2015, *Paste* magazine did the same. *Wanderlust* travel magazine and *The Guardian* shortlisted the trail as a must-do adventure stop for 2016." (The Via Dinarica Alliance: A Mega Hiking Trail Across the Western Balkans.)

♦ "This year, visitors can walk roughly 250km of trails across Georgia's mountains as part of a planned 1,500km walking route that will eventually link the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, connecting Georgia with Armenia and Azerbaijan. Known as The Transcaucasian Trail (TCT), the hope is it will lure visitors..." ("A new hiking route between Europe and Asia" by Matthew Ponsford, BBC, July 2021.)

♦ "The Yukon lay at his feet, a sea of ice, disappearing around two great bends to the north and south, and stretching an honest two miles from bank to bank. Over its rough breast ran the sled-trail, a slender sunken line, eighteen inches wide and two thousand miles in length, with more curses distributed to the linear foot than any other road in or out of all Christendom." ("The Man With the Gash" by Jack London.)

## trailblazer (person)

trailblazer

she was a ~

trailblazer for (African-American) directors

Singleton was considered a ~ in the 1990s

rebel or trailblazer

he was asked if he regarded himself as a ~ (LIV Golf)

## trailblazing

trailblazing research

~ in capital punishment

## trail of tears (figurative)

trail of tears

the training can be a ~ (PJs / military)

sort of a trail of tears

it's a ~, it goes on (photos of DC murder victims)

two-mile trail of tears

our walk is a ~ (hot in Austin for SXSW music festival)

tear trail of terror

what we called the ~ (Mayor Johnny Thomas)

♦ "Right here in the barn there he was beaten and then taken on what we called the tear trail of terror." (Mayor Johnny Thomas of Glendora, Mississippi, about Emmett Till's murder in 1955.)

♦ In a 2013 playoff game in Alabama, the McAdory High School football team played the Pinson Valley High School "Indians." The McAdory cheerleaders prepared a "bust thru" banner which read, "Hey Indians. Get ready to leave in a Trail of Tears. Round 2." Following criticism, school officials later apologized for the banner and sought to deflect responsibility: "The person who would normally be responsible for approving such signs is out on maternity leave" and "The cheerleading squad will be disciplined." Of course, throwing the girls and their pregnant leader under the bus only provoked further criticism.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Trail of Tears" refers to the removal of the Cherokee Indians from the Southeast to Oklahoma, and to the removal and resettlement of other Indian groups. In other words, the forced relocation of groups of people.

## trail of tears (migration)

made a trail of tears to some other reach of the state  
a quarter million people have ~ and country (post-Katrina)

♦ The "Arduous March..." (An official term used by Kim Jong-il in the 1990s for the famine years.)

♦ Many died during the "Great Leap Forward." (China.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Trail of Tears" refers to the removal of the Cherokee Indians from the Southeast to Oklahoma, and to the removal and resettlement of other Indian groups. In other words, the forced relocation of groups of people.

## train (failure)

train wreck

see *train wreck*

runaway train

see *train (runaway train, etc.)*

wheels are coming off the train

the ~ in the mortgage business

\*\*\* "The hissing horror..."

♦ "Horses shied at the hissing horror that scorched by them at fifteen miles an hour..." (Early trains.)

♦ Mr. Webb: Well, she's late. Reckon she might've jumped the tracks. / Loretta Lynn: Oh, Daddy, them things [trains] don't do that. Do they? / Mr. Webb, grimly: They've been known to. (From the great 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*.)

## train (hype train)

hype train

the ~ was derailed (for Y.A. book, by sensitivity readers)

well managed money making hype train

he is nothing but a ~ (boxing snark)

hype train chugged full speed ahead

the ~

hype train has come to an end

the ~ and Usyk will put him down (AJ / boxing)

hype train derailed

the ~ AGAIN (England soccer / Qatar 2022)

hype train derails

what happens when the ~ (people write you off / boxing)

derailed the AJ hype train

Ruiz ~ (boxing)

get off the (hype) train

he is hype, and the sooner people ~ the sooner... (boxing)

halted the (Johnny Walker) hype train

he ~ with a first round TKO (MMA)

♦ "This train isn't stopping anytime soon." (Crossover boxing matches, YouTubers like Jake Paul boxing for massive amounts of money, etc.)

## train (legal train, Trump train, etc.)

Trump train

she was on the Donald ~ (politics)

campaign train

seats on Joe Biden's ~ are starting to fill up (endorsers)

impeachment train

is an ~ beginning to chug out of the station (politics)

MAGA train

by then, most Republicans insiders had boarded the ~

legal train

the ~ chugs forward, unperturbed...

on the (Donald Trump) train

she was ~...

train (just) keeps on rolling

the victory ~ (a golfer)

boarded the (MAGA) train

by November, most Republicans insiders had ~

♦ "Nine out of the last eleven times in Democratic party politics, the person who has won Iowa has gone on to win the nomination... They'll first have a job uniting the party. And then, further down the track, Donald Trump will be waiting. The Democrats have a fight on their hands, a brutal one." (BBC's North America editor John Sopel reporting from Iowa on BBC Newshour. What is interesting and noteworthy is that his comments are *accompanied* by train horns and crossing-track warning signals, at first faint, then rising to a crescendo. This is a rare case of the use of a metaphor with sound effects.)

♦ "Each of those times [her election victories] she was on the Donald Trump train. And this time she not only stepped off that train, she lay down on the track in front of it." (Ron Elving, NPR political pundit, about Liz Cheney.)

## train (train is pulling into the station, etc.)

train is pulling into the station

the ~, he will be acquitted (impeachment trial)

♦ Dan Harris, ABC presenter: "Are there potentially any twists that could come at the end to derail the march towards acquittal?" / Melissa Murray, NYU Law Professor: "I think it would take an absolute political tornado to derail this, this train is pulling into the station, the president is likely to be acquitted as it were on Wednesday."

♦ "I'm standing at the station / But the train never comes / Still I'm hanging on / Like some old ghost town..." Listen to: Joe Cocker, The Great Divide

## train (train has left the station, etc.)

train has left the station

that ~, I can't see stopping that (active-shooter drills)

train has (already) left the station

that ~

train was leaving the station without him

he realized the ~ (merger plans)

train is too far down the tracks

the ~ to stop it...

miss the train

it's important we don't ~

♦ "Your dad loved her very much. It there was one other cat in this world that could have loved her and treated her as well as your dad, then it was me. But, unfortunately, for yours truly, that train has sailed." (Austin Powers to Vanessa Kensington from the film *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*. A hilarious mixing of metaphors!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "That train has left the station." "That ship has sailed." Take your pick!

## train (future)

train has been coming down the tracks

this ~ for the past 10 years (change in government)

## train (runaway train, etc.)

runaway train of drug addiction

data show the ~ has slowed down

unstoppable train

the group is an ~ of life-affirming shredding (SXSW)

## train (in one's train / at a later time)

in their train

the Chinese arrived with disease ~ (eastern Siberia)

## train (sequence)

train of (liberal) abuses

this initiative is the latest in a long ~ (politics)

train of thought

see *train of thought* (noun)

## train (get on the train, etc.)

get on the Trump train

Republicans must ~ or else

got on the Trump train

when he ultimately ~, he stuck to it (politics)

boarded the Trump Train

many of the events took place before he ~ (politics)

♦ "When one Obama does well, we all feel like we're riding on that same train." (An African-American, about Black support for football Coach Deion Sanders.)

## train of thought (noun)

lost her train of thought  
she ~

♦ "First, NPR needs to get the little things right. If it can't, what does that say about the accuracy of the bigger issues?... / Second, errors of grammar and usage tend to break the listener's concentration. If a listener stops to wonder if he or she really heard an error or a syntactical lapse, then whatever else the reporter or announcer was saying is lost because the listener's train of thought has been derailed." ("Listeners' Language Concerns" by Jeffrey A. Dvorkin, NPR Public Editor, March 29, 2005.)

## train wreck

train wreck  
that interview with those NALF women was a real ~  
he is a ~ waiting to happen (job)  
she is a ~ who has destroyed everything in her path

train wreck of a term  
his ~ has 30 months to go... (president)

train-wreck (former) actress  
thank God this ~ didn't maim or kill someone

cinematic train wreck  
it was a ~ (2003 film *The Room* / now a cult film)

civilizational train wreck  
our slow-motion ~ (wokeism and Gen Z)

fiscal train wreck  
a ~ looms ahead (deficit government spending)

extent of the train wreck  
the diplomats don't fully comprehend the ~ (UN)

headed for a train wreck  
we are ~ (a politician about budget proposal)

♦ "AH, she's a lost cause, this train wreck has derailed." (A comment about the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard trial.)

♦ "7.5 million followers??? Guess everyone is signing up to watch the train wreck go over a cliff. Same reason people slow down to look at car accidents. Don't get it." (A comment about a wellness check carried out by police on Gabbie Hanna, a Millennial online personality who goes by the name "Trauma Queen.")

♦ "I mean, as messy as all my relationships have been publicly, I'm glad I'm not going to touch this shit. Like the family side, I'm gonna leave alone because I have my own fucking train wreck of personal family shit out there..." (An ex-NBA player talking about the latest NBA sex scandal.)

♦ "Only a laser-like focus on reforming schools can avert our slow-motion civilizational train wreck." ("Why young people become woker and woker: A cultural emergency" by Eric Kaufmann, Opinion, *The New York Post*, May 18, 2024.)

\*\*\* the great 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*...

♦ [Mr. Webb]: Well, she's late. Reckon she might've jumped the tracks. / [Loretta Lynn]: Oh, Daddy, them things [trains] don't do that. Do they? / [Mr. Webb, grimly]: They've been known to. (From the great 1980 film, *Coal Miner's Daughter*. Sissy Spacek played Loretta Lynn.)

♦ see also *shipwreck* (noun)

## traitor (person)

traitor to his class  
he was a ~

traitor to my race

critics said I was a ~, a coonish Uncle Tom (Eric Deggans)

traitor, a backstabber and a fraud  
former fans have been waiting to call him a ~ (basketball)

class traitor  
he appeals to his base by positioning himself as a ~

'race traitor'  
he was attacked as being a ~ on several blogs (Jeff Ma)

snake and a traitor  
Sanders loyalists called Warren a ~ (no endorsement)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Benedict Arnold; Wang Jingwei (died in Japan of wounds from an assassination attempt); Vidkun Quisling (executed by firing squad); Pierre Laval (executed by firing squad); Philippe Petain (died in the throes of dementia); William Joyce (aka Lord Haw-Haw / hanged)... (Notorious traitors.)

♦ "He's a human being; we should treat him the same as we treat any other G.I. In my opinion, I think the boy deserves it; he just got off on the wrong track. And I know for a fact when he went to Korea, he didn't know whether he was going to come back or he was going to stay there. So, maybe he got a little scared when he was captured. Maybe he was pressured, tortured. I don't think it's the boy's own fault. No doubt at the time—I never seen him or never met him—No doubt he was young and he wasn't trained properly." (Charles E. Kelly, World War Two veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, when he was asked by Mike Wallace, "How do you think that we should treat US Army turncoats?" like Samuel David Hawkins, who had just returned home to the US from China in 1957. Hawkins had been a POW who, at the end of the Korean War, had decided to defect to China instead of returning home immediately. Hawkins was the youngest of only 22 American and British servicemen to defect to China after the war. The oilman M. H. Champion paid for Hawkins' return and gave him a job. In general, Hawkins was accepted on his return to the US.)

♦ "In the old days, deserters were shot... right?" (Donald Trump, campaigning for president, as the crowd cheers and whistles. He was referring to Bo Bergdahl, who walked off his COP in Afghanistan and was held captive by the enemy for five years.)

## trajectory (noun)

trajectory  
he started out on another ~ entirely (career)

trajectory of the war  
he helped formulate the strategy that reset the ~

epidemic's trajectory  
a trial could have slowed the opioid ~

life's (natural) trajectory  
sport compresses ~ of ascent, apogee and decline

stalled trajectory  
she got depressed at the ~ of her once-promising career

artistic trajectory  
the album's single is emblematic of Batiste's ~

familiar trajectory  
their love story had followed a ~: hot, warm, cool, cold

political and cultural trajectory  
this country's ~ over the past 50 years

wobble in its trajectory  
Vance's rocket developed a ~ right after launch



alter the trajectory  
the caucus could ~ of the race (US election)

followed a (kind of) trajectory  
Lenny ~ (Lenny Pozner, Sandy Hook parent)

set the trajectory  
the right college will ~ for the rest of your child's life

reset the trajectory  
he helped formulate the strategy that ~ of the war

shifted the trajectory  
new information has ~ their probe (police)

♦ "Vance's rocket developed a wobble in its trajectory right after launch." (NPR's Ron Elving, speaking about JD Vance, Donald Trump's pick for vice-president. Elving is well known for his use of over-wrought figurative language.)

## trample (verb)

trample on his rights  
that doesn't allow you to ~

## trampled

trampled underfoot  
the rights of victims were effectively ~ (clergy sex abuse)

\*\*\* delightful usage...

♦ "It is so clear the dream of Afghan people stepped under the feet of animals." (An Afghan, speaking in English. He lacks the word "trampled" but his meaning is perfectly clear.)

## tranquil (activity)

tranquil  
with the international scene apparently ~, Admiral Davis...

## transactional (adjective)

transactional  
he is totally ~, without honor, courage, integrity...  
how ~ their relationships have been with him  
(*Succession*)  
this was not ~, rape is rape (Sarah Ransome)  
for him, truth is purely ~, "What is in it for me"  
(politician)

transactional approach  
the ~ attaches strings ("vaccine diplomacy")

transactional exchange  
this was a ~ of sex for information (a journalist)

transactional marriage  
she has a ~ with her husband (tabloid)

transactional mentality  
a ~ has led to paradoxical demands (student as customer)

transactional relationship  
a strategic partnership has become a largely ~  
public profiles and ~s are all-important (NYC, etc.)

transactional sex  
this was simply "~" with women seeking to get ahead

transactional terms  
the president largely sees foreign policy in ~

transactional word  
"cancel" is a very ~ (cancel culture)

transactional and contractual  
a society based primarily on ~ relations (vs Church, class)

transactional and insulting  
his tour was transparently ~ (an Elon Musk hater)

transactional or transformative  
it can be ~ (a pundit on national election)

much more than transactional  
their time together is ~ (*Good Luck To You, Leo Grande*)

commercial, (rather) transactional  
it used to be a strictly ~ relationship with China

consensual, transactional  
his lawyer called the incident "~ sex" (Harvey Weinstein)

tactical, transactional, impulsive  
his approach is ~ (not strategic)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Democracy was never meant to be transactional, 'You give me your vote, I make everything better.'" It requires an active and informed citizenry." (Barak Obama, 2020.)

♦ "Gratitude is not a relevant concept in international relations and never has been."

## transition (die)

transitioned  
my youngest and only daughter has ~ (died)

♦ "Ronald Powell Transitioned Earlier Today. REST IN POWER..."

## translate (verb)

translate words into reality  
the failure to ~... (diplomacy)

translate the language of science into terms  
he can ~ people understand

translate into votes  
endorsements don't always ~ (politics)

translate into (operational) safety  
design safety does not necessarily ~ (factories)

## transparency (noun)

transparency in (government) procurement  
~ (part of WTO agenda)

Transparency measures  
Article 7 ~ (UN convention against landmines)

transparency and accountability  
the need for financial ~ (PLO)

financial transparency  
the need for ~ and accountability (PLO)

a lot of transparency

we don't have ~, a good view into how it decides  
(Twitter)

transparency turned opaque  
the seeming ~ (historical allegation of rape with  
settlement)

lacks transparency  
the process ~

♦ "I know... one of the best things that the prison system is good at  
doing is hiding behind the walls." (Paul Taylor, "the man who started  
the Strangeways Prison riot." The riot occurred in Manchester,  
England, in 1990.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Sunlight is the best disinfectant."

## transparent (adjective)

comprehensive, transparent and independent  
the investigation should be ~ (plane crash)

free and transparent  
ensuring ~ elections (Kosovo)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "This administration has been more translucent than transparent."  
(Chicago politics. The more things change, the more they stay the  
same... in Chicago.)

## transplant (noun)

Atlanta's transplants  
creating a hometown atmosphere for ~ (sports bars)

recent transplant  
he mistook Miles for a ~ (vs. a born-and-raised native)

## transport (in time)

transports her readers to the monuments and history  
she ~ of Aphrodisias in Turkey (a historian)

transported audiences back in time  
he ~ (a singer)

## trap (verb)

trapped me in a web of deceit  
he ~

## trap (noun)

in a trap  
I'm ~, I can't get out of it

## trap (Chinese finger trap)

Chinese finger trap  
engaging with Trump is like a ~ (Joe Biden)

♦ Trying hard to remove your fingers only makes the trap tighter.  
Sometimes, if you are in a jam, it is better to relax.

## trap (military / noun)

trap was sprung  
the ~, Paulus's Sixth Army was surrounded... (Stalingrad)

escape the trap  
Stalin, alarmed that the prey might be about to ~...

♦ Asparagus beds, Czech hedgehogs, Dragon's teeth... (Anti-tank  
obstacles, or tank traps.)

## trap (other)

trap  
his proposal is not a solution but a ~ (diplomacy)

clickbait trap  
threading the needle of writing a headline to avoid the ~

death trap  
it's known as a ~ (Angel's Billabong / Bali)

debate traps  
Macron avoids ~ (against Le Pen)

Debt Trap  
The ~: How Student Loans Became a National  
Catastrophe

likeability trap  
women must stop falling into the ' ~ '

speed trap  
the State Police set up ~s to catch speeders

thirst trap  
I promise this is my last ~ pic (dressed up)  
I get more likes when I post ~s (Gen Zer influencer)

tricks and traps  
car dealerships deploy ~ to make money from you

trap is set  
the ~ (a stratagem to catch a criminal)

trap is sprung  
at the right opportunity, the ~ (politics)

avoid these traps  
her new book examines how to ~ (women)

escape (at least one of) the traps  
he had managed to ~ Bradley had laid for him

fallen into a trap  
the Bush administration has ~ (by invading Iraq)

fallen for the trap  
many online personals users have ~ (scam)

laid a trap  
he ~ (Andy Lee knocks out John Jackson 2014)

lays a trap  
it feels good now but it ~ for us later on (Fed decision)

♦ Falling into a pattern is falling into a trap." (Ex-FBI profiler, speaking  
about the D.C. sniper attacks.)

♦ "More screen time obviously means less time spent cultivating  
meaningful relationships. Additionally, many young people fall prey to  
the 'compare and despair' trap that social media presents."  
(Generation Z, or Gen Zers. The Anne E. Casey Foundation.)

\*\*\* Chang: A Drama of the Wilderness (1927)

♦ Watch the film *Chang: A Drama of the Wilderness* (1927). It is an  
extraordinary silent documentary, and it shows the actual  
employment of pitfalls, deadfalls, and snares (traps). It's free on  
YouTube but you have to search for it... The film was very popular in  
its time.

## trapdoor (computers)

trap door

~s' allow outsiders access to the system (computers)

## trapped

trapped in a (sodomasochist) love affair

he was ~ with a former RAF pilot

trapped in the battle

~ between his warring parents

trapped as a (permanent) adjunct

you could end up ~ forever (colleges)

trapped by dogma

don't be ~ (Steve Jobs / Apple Computer)

feel trapped

Britney Spears knows what it's like to ~

feels trapped

she ~ (in a small town)

got trapped

they ~ in a cycle of drug-taking (prostitutes)

end up trapped

you could ~ as a permanent adjunct forever (colleges)

♦ "Britney Spears knows what it's like to feel trapped: First by poverty, then by fame, then by her family." ("Britney Spears' book: *The Woman In Me* is an angry, cautionary tale" by Mark Savage, BBC, October 24, 2023.)

## trash (verb)

trash her

conservatives lined up to ~ (WAPO's Jennifer Rubin)

trash each other's work

campaigns by competing studios to ~ (the Oscars)

trash talk

see *trash talk* (verb)

♦ "Throughout these exchanges, no one has ever trashed me. That's not the NPR way. People are polite. But nothing changes. So I've become a visible wrong-thinker at a place I love. It's uncomfortable, sometimes heartbreaking." ("I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, The Free Press, April 9, 2024. NPR CEO Katherine Maher called Berliner's criticism "profoundly disrespectful, hurtful, and demeaning.")

♦ "The way to address that is through training and mentorship. It's not by blowing the place up, by trashing your colleagues, in full view of people who don't really care about it anyway." (Morning Edition host Michel Martin. From "NPR suspends veteran editor as it grapples with his public criticism" by David Folkenflik, NPR, Media, updated April 16, 2024.)

♦ "Newsrooms run on trust. If you violate everyone's trust by going to another outlet and shitting on your colleagues (while doing a bad job journalistically, for that matter), I don't know how you do your job now." (A tweet from NPR's Danielle Kurtzleben @ titonka. She is the NPR presidential campaign correspondent 2024. While she did not mention Uri Berliner, she was obviously referring to him. For context about her, listen to Slate dot com "The Waves, "Penis Politics: Why macho men run amok on the campaign trail," Nov 02, 2023. Kurtzleben describes herself as "a real piece of work" and "absolutely a girlboss.")

## trash (noun)

trash

you're no better than the ~ that shot this little boy

he's nothing but ~ (assault allegations)

TRASH

Boebert is ~ (one US representative about another)

trash talk

see *trash talk* (noun)

trailer trash

she went from ~ to rich as sin and back

she's not ~, but she sure acts that way

white trash

Mama persuaded us we were special, not just ~

full of trash

the Internet was ~ that threatened to follow me for life

piece of trash

the book is a filthy ~ (*Lolita* by VN)

sweep the trash off the streets

it's time for NYC law enforcement to ~ (crime)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "She'll be back in the system, trash is trash." (A comment about a woman, convicted of murder as a teen, being released early from prison.)

♦ see also *rubbish* (noun)

## trash talk (verb)

trash talk

they don't have to ~, they talk with their feet (NFL)

they ~ in what they think is a private call

~ is baked into the culture of play (basketball)

♦ "He was the originator of getting in your face and talking trash." (Orlando Woolridge about the great NBA player Larry Bird, a Hoosier from French Lick, Indiana.)

♦ "Your mouth wrote a check that your ass couldn't cash." (A gleeful trash-talking radio commentator, about a boxer, known for talking trash, who lost.)

♦ "He's a young puppy, I'm a big dog here, whatever I say, goes." (Magic Johnson good naturedly talking trash about Michael Jordan at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The team was famous for its chemistry.)

♦ "If there's a girl who thinks she can beat me, she better wake up and stop dreaming." (The remarkable boxer Claressa Shields, from Flint, Michigan. According to her, she has the "gift of the gab as well as the gift of the jab.")

♦ "Well, people tell me, even my girlfriend, she says, 'Hey, you talk a lot of trash.' I said, 'Did I, did I?' really, I mean, it's just the truth..." (A laughing Otto Wallin in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, prior to the Day of Reckoning boxing event.)

♦ "He broke through his motormouth tormentor." (Daniel Dubois beats Jerrell "Big Baby" Miller at the Day of Reckoning boxing event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.)

## trash talk (noun)

trash talk

the ~ escalated to violence

too much ~, too much mouth from... (NFL)

trash talking and hype

months of ~ preceded the boxing match

♦ In *Smithsonian* (June 2011) there is a page showing a pretty, smiling young woman sitting behind a pile of trash consisting of empty plastic bottles. The page is titled "TRASH TALK" and points the reader to an article on sustainable development.

## trashy (adjective)

trashy

you might think I'm ~ ("Redneck Woman")

described the attitude and aesthetic as "trashy"

he ~ (brat summer)

♦ "NFL overtime rules are so trash. Which is honestly an insult to trash." (NBC Philadelphia Sports reporter Taryn Hatcher.)

♦ "To call this season a dumpster fire would be an insult.....to dumpster fires." (NFL Las Vegas Raiders snark.)

## trauma (groups, etc.)

trauma

~ can occur, even vicariously... (race-based trauma)

trauma dump

there are sketchy ways people will ~ (Kendall Jenner, etc.)

trauma of being Black

the ~ in America (Kathryn Fink)

trauma of being oneself

"On a new album, 'Heterosexuality,' Shamir tackles the ~"

trauma of life

the ~ that makes one want to fight

trauma industry

as the ~ was building steam and attracting clients...

trauma model

the biggest beneficiaries of the ~ are trauma theorists

trauma porn

it's easy to descend into ~ (the great writer Phil Klay)

trauma-porn

she characterized her former friend as a ~ star (contrived)

trauma queen

he's an oversharing ~ (a celebrity)

trauma dumping

the lady ~ in the drive-thru was so horrible to watch

trauma sharing

~ (J. McCurdy / *I'm Glad My Mom Died*)

trauma-informed

~ therapies for anxiety, depression & PTSD

a course on ~ sexual-assault investigations

*Traum-Com*

"*The Rise of The ~*" (*Vanity Fair*, June, 2022)

trauma therapist

U.S. ~ Maddie Spear...

trauma and injury

when people don't validate you that's another ~

contrived trauma

she stubbornly refused to move on from her ~

*Racialized Trauma*

*My Grandmother's Hands*: ~ (Resmaa Menakem)

race-based trauma

many Black experience "~" (vicariously)

race-related trauma

debilitating ~ for Asian, Black, indigenous, and Latinx...

birth trauma

women dealing with miscarriage or ~

Black trauma

the appetite for stories about ~

identity politics, ~ narratives...

family trauma

we're all fractured with issues, ~, addictions (Halle Berry)

microaggression trauma

most of the world doesn't care about your ~

African trauma

the Eurocentric narrative will always discount ~

ancestral trauma

a healing mechanism for ~ (NATIFS / food)

how ~ informs patients' health decision making

foundational trauma

the ~ of its 20<sup>th</sup> century (Russian Civil War / pop history)

collective trauma

dealing with ~ in the wake of mass shootings (NPR)

generational trauma

when I trace it back I realize that this was just ~ (Black)

the ~ First Nations communities feel (suicide, addiction)

historical trauma

she entered a doctorate program to study ~

intergenerational trauma

the ~ of Black people

it's a young adult love story that explores ~ and racism

*Molly* forces its reader to look deeply into the well of ~

racial trauma

~ in Minneapolis

~ expert weights in on...

secondary trauma

~ comes from hearing about or seeing a traumatic event

~ is trauma with no direct connection (news, picture, etc.)

I'm sure you've heard of the term ~ (clinical social worker)

~ felt after events like mass shootings

historical, racial and intergenerational trauma

the negative impacts of ~ on my mom's wellbeing

## **grief and trauma**

understanding intergenerational ~ (a Cherokee Indian)  
it has added a layer of ~ (Latinos / NPR)

## **balm for the trauma**

her films are a ~ that adolescents feel

## **fetishization of (Black) trauma**

this ~ epitomizes an industry (entertainment)

## **comedy in trauma**

there's ~ (Amy Schumer, Bridget Everett, etc.)

## **born into trauma**

these brothers were ~ and are now sharing it

## **creating more trauma**

closed schools are ~ (pandemic)

## **navigates (generational) trauma**

an immigrant family ~

## **punished for their trauma**

other colleagues have been ~ (fired WAPO reporter)

## **turned it into trauma**

blackness gave virality its teeth, ~ (the Internet)

### **\*\*\* various groups...**

♦ "One thing we need to better understand is intergenerational trauma and history. All the research shows the survivors have no parenting skills. Now, there's something called Boarding School Syndrome—it's basically post-traumatic stress disorder. They have intrusive memories, flashbacks, nightmares, attachment disorder, personal shame—they're ashamed of being Indian—trouble sleeping, poor anger management, deficient parenting skills and the tendency to abuse alcohol. It's also called 'disenfranchised grief' because it can't be publicly mourned. Some call it a 'soul wound.'" (Denise Lajimodiere. From "Q & A with Denise Lajimodiere," *National Catholic Reporter*, July 22-August 4, 2022.)

♦ "Yeah, I mean, spend any time in Miami in the heart of the Cuban-American community, and in some sense, it's as if, these things from 60 years ago had just happened yesterday. I mean the stories and legends are kept alive, that sense of kind of inherited generational trauma, is very very strong."

♦ "These brothers were born into trauma and are now sharing that trauma with those around them." (Professor Niigaan Sinclair, an Anishinaabe, head of indigenous studies at the university of Manitoba, about Myles and Damien Sanderson, 2022. See the Wikipedia article "2022 Saskatchewan stabbings.")

♦ "I truly believe it's a matter of time. And again, this isn't about taking anything from anyone, it's actually about lifting trauma and..." (Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, seeking to change New Zealand's name to Aotearoa.)

♦ "The trauma that sometimes comes with being a black student at predominately white institutions is tangible. In their 2015 paper, 'Reimagining Critical Race Theory in Education: Mental Health, Healing and the Pathway to Liberatory Praxis,' Ebony O. McGee, a professor at Vanderbilt University, and David Stovall, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, found that black college students who weather the effects of studying and living on predominately white campuses suffer from a 'physical and mental wear-and-tear that contributes to a host of psychological and physical ailments.'" ("For Black College Prospects, Belonging and Safety Often Top Ivy Prestige" by Denene Millner, NPR, Code Switch, Opinion, February 26, 2017.)

♦ "Tanya [Mosely] is also the host of the podcast *Truth Be Told*, which has a new season coming in April, exploring advances in the use of psychedelics to treat PTSD due to racial trauma." (NPR, Fresh Air, Dave Davies, March 17, 2023.)

♦ "[S]ome researchers want to expand the definition of trauma that's fueled by the experience of racism." ("Coping While Black: A Season

Of Traumatic News Takes A Psychological Toll," Cheryl Corley, NPR, All Things Considered, July 2, 2015.)

♦ "Zionism weaponized Jewish Trauma." (An antisemitic and pro-Hamas graffiti in Central Park, New York City. The Israel-Hamas war.)

### **\*\*\* jumping on the "trauma" bandwagon...**

♦ "Megan Thee Stallion gets vulnerable on hot sophomore album 'Traumazine,'" NPR, All Things Considered, August 12, 2022. Traumazine is "the *fictional* [italics mine] chemical that is released in your brain when you're forced to deal with painful emotions caused by traumatic events and experiences."

♦ "I love dealing with my trauma in funny ways." (Gabbie Hanna, the Millennial online personality who goes by the name "Trauma Queen.")

♦ "Maybe I'll lean into the pain narrative, write that and get a good advance, ya'll pay me for that, right." (Fantasy author L.L. McKinney.)

♦ "My great-great-great-grandparents' home was burned to the ground by a mob in Illinois. You don't forget stuff like that." (A Mormon.)

♦ "With the moral injury, that was going on with the officers, because of the scrutiny from the public, umm, uhh... I'm sure you've heard of the term compassion fatigue and secondary trauma, we felt it..." (Andy Carrier, clinical social worker, who counseled Uvalde school-shooting officers.)

♦ "I didn't know the connective tissue between my brother and my medical trauma and my depression and PTSD and anxiety." (Elisabeth Finch of *Grey's Anatomy*, trying to explain her compulsive lying.)

♦ "There are superpowers that can come out of trauma."

### **\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "It was a trauma-pa-looza." (A disparaging online commenter about Prince Harry's online therapy session with Gabor Mate.)

♦ "7.5 million followers??? Guess everyone is signing up to watch the train wreck go over a cliff. Same reason people slow down to look at car accidents. Don't get it." (A comment about a wellness check carried out by police on Gabbie Hanna, a Millennial online personality who goes by the name "Trauma Queen.")

♦ "The producers of the opera say the story will hopefully inspire white people to confront racism, others, though, worry it depicts Black trauma for white entertainment while masquerading as activism." ("A new opera about Emmett Till is criticized for being created from a white perspective," NPR, Morning Edition.)

♦ "There are sketchy ways people will trauma dump, with ulterior motives. (The TikTok Edvasian, 880K, about Kendal Jenner coming out...as sad about her acne.)

♦ "The representation of emotion plays to the gallery." (Humiliation, anguish, distress, etc.)

♦ "The way it kind of leans on trauma sometimes felt a little swicky." (A discussion about Alex Garland's 2022 film *Men* on NPR's Pop Culture Happy Hour.)

♦ "The lady trauma-dumping and projecting in the drive-thru was so horrible to watch." (TraumaTok.)

♦ "The subgenre of TikToks called TraumaTok, where we sort of normalize posting extremely traumatic events... No need for rollercoasters now when we can cry, laugh and angry [sic] in 15 seconds. While it's good to express yourself, be vulnerable at times, it's starting to desensitize ourselves to emotions that should be kept private or within a small group of friends, and not shared with randoms." (The TikTok Edvasian, 880K.)

♦ "It's gone from being a hallmark to being a cliché. Any time there's a [horror trope?] you know you're going to be dealing with trauma." (Films like *Halloween* (2018) with Jamie Lee Curtis, *Men*, etc.)

♦ "The trauma plot flattens, distorts, reduces character to symptom, and, in turn, instructs and insists upon its moral authority." ("The Key To Me" by Parul Sehgal, *The New Yorker*, January 3 & 10, 2022.)

♦ Read "The Rise Of The Traum-Com: Childhood cancer, alcoholism, humiliation, and death become the stuff of wistful comedy" by Rebecca Ford, *Vanity Fair*, June 2022.)

♦ "I've been silent about this for years. However, over [the] past two weeks watching Rachel stubbornly refuse to move on from her

contrived trauma, ever brazen and unchecked, while going on every show that will have her, I thought—now I have to.” (Anna Sorokin aka Anna Delvey about Rachel DeLoache Williams.)

♦ **A FUNNY CARTOON.** Three pieces of silverware are sitting at a bar. A spoon and a fork, sitting together, are side-eyeing a fork, who is sitting a little apart with a martini in front of him. That fork’s tines are all twisted, and his eyes are discombobulated. The spoon is saying to the fork, “He once fell into the garbage disposal and doesn’t like to talk about it.” (*The New Yorker*, May 8, 2023. The cartoon is signed m.e.mcnaire)

### \*\*\* Tell it to the judge!

♦ “In a letter to the judge, Singer blamed his actions on his ‘winning at all costs’ attitude, which he said was caused in part by suppressed childhood trauma.” (“Varsity Blues’ mastermind faces sentencing for college scam” by Alanna Durkin Richer, AP, Jan 4, 2023.)

♦ “She carried grief over her family’s past.” (Brittany Martin, found guilty of breaching the peace in a high and aggravated manner in South Carolina. From “A Black protester voiced anger at police in South Carolina. She got 4 years in prison,” NPR-AP News, Sept 6, 2022. It’s a very interesting article.)

♦ “Harris’ attorneys had sought a six-year sentence, followed by eight years of supervised release, arguing in court documents filed last month that he is ‘both victimizer and victim’ after being assaulted as a minor. ‘The trauma he experienced as a child normalized his skewed version of what he understood to be appropriate relationships,’ his attorneys said.” (“Former ‘Cheer’ star Jerry Harris sentenced to 12 years in Prison for sex crimes,” by Meredith Deliso, ABC News, July 06, 2022. Crimes against boys.)

♦ “These brothers were born into trauma and are now sharing that trauma with those around them.” (Professor Niigaan Sinclair, an Anishinaabe, head of indigenous studies at the university of Manitoba, about Myles and Damien Sanderson, 2022. See the Wikipedia article “2022 Saskatchewan stabbings.”)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “Case 16.—N.M.M.—, major 14th Tennessee regiment, aged 30, wounded at the second battle of Manassas August 30th, 1862. A common musket ball struck the left side of the head, a little in front of, and on a level with the parietal protuberance... He was not examined by a surgeon on the field, as no one who saw him thought he would live beyond a few hours at the most. The day following a large piece of bone was removed by his brother with his finger... At present, July 1st, 1863, he is walking about with the assistance of a crutch. His paralysis is getting very slowly better; but he speaks with a good deal of difficulty... There is a large cicatrized surface covering a depression two and a half inches long and three-fourths of an inch wide, beneath which, when the head is bent forward, the pulsations of the brain can be seen and felt distinctly...” (“Eighteen Cases of Gun-Shot Wounds of the Head, observed at the General Hospital, Charlottesville, Virginia. From Prof. J. L. Cabell, University of Virginia.” Reprinted in *The Richmond Medical Journal*, E.S. Gaillard, M.D., and W.S. McChesney, M. D., Editors and Publishers, Volume 1, Richmond, VA., 1866.)

♦ “The wounds caused by shell high-explosive fragments and by bombs and grenades are so infinitely various that it is not possible to describe a characteristic shell wound as a type... The large fragments tear away from the limbs or trunk huge masses of skin and muscle... [A]s a result of these injuries, the exposed muscle often loses all its natural characteristic appearance and looks exactly like a mass of mud... In other cases fragments of big shells may tear away the abdominal wall and expose the viscera, or may carry away portions of the face or neck, while the bones of the limbs may be fractured or the limb itself may be completely shot away...” (From the 1915 Bradshaw Lecture on Wounds in War by Surgeon-General Sir Anthony Bowlby, K.C.M.G., A.M.S., Surgeon in Ordinary to H.M. the King; Consulting Surgeon to the British Expeditionary Force in France; Surgeon to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital.)

♦ “Then Blough kept asking if his balls were all right and the corpsman muttered, ‘Yeah, yeah,’ but Blough was getting freaky about it, so the doc finally took Blough’s unwounded right hand and cupped it against his groin. ‘Your balls are there.’ / Meanwhile, the vet corpsman had his cherry corpsman working on Blough’s left foot. As instructed, he cut away the frayed jungle boot, and the horror of the sight suddenly dribbled from his mouth, ‘Oh my God, look at his foot!’ / I must be pretty fucked up, Blough thought. He couldn’t tell. He was in pain, but mostly he was numb, especially after the senior corpsman

thumped a morphine Syrette into his leg... Blough was lifted into a poncho. A Sea Horse landed in their smoke-marked clearing-turned-land zone. The one-legged black Marine, who was in bad shape (but who would survive), was hefted into the cabin; and the other wounded man was being helped in when Blough, waiting his turn, thought he heard the soft exit of a mortar round from its tube over the slap-slap-slap of the vibrating chopper’s propellers... / Then Gunny Santomasso also heard the pops of a 60mm mortar... The Sea Horse, nose down, roared out of the LZ with its three bloody, bandaged Marines as the first shells began exploding around Alpha Company.” (The affecting *Operation Buffalo: USMC Fight for the DMZ* by Keith William Nolan.)

♦ “I wrote Bill every day for two and a half years, from 1943 to 1945... He was on Saipan... I think he got every letter I wrote... Writing every day was something I wanted to do... [When he got back] we got back in the groove pretty quickly.” (*Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by the great *Chicago Tribune* writer Bob Greene.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “It is not healthy if you circle too much around your own navel. And it is not good to recall all the traumata of your childhood. It’s good to forget them, it’s good to bury them. Not in all cases, but in most cases... Psychoanalysis is not my thing.” (Werner Herzog talking to Terry Gross in 2023.)

♦ Time heals all wounds.

♦ “When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ “One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one’s own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase... into the dustbin where it belongs.” (“Politics And The English Language” by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

## traumatic (groups)

traumatic for students

active-shooter drills in schools could be ~

traumatic childhood

Amber McLaughlin’s ~ and mental health issues (trans)

traumatic harm

malicious responses to the survey caused ~ (I identify as...)

traumatic legacy

Indian boarding schools’ ~ (native Americans)

traumatic memories

~ of...

traumatic news

a season of ~ (for Blacks)

traumatic stress

“~ injury” is different from “post-traumatic stress disorder”

traumatic week

Orlando wrestles with a ~ (the Florida city)

‘traumatic’ (bodycam) video

police release ~

post-traumatic stress disorder

see *PTSD (and post-traumatic stress disorder)*

rarely discussed and thus deeply traumatic  
queer listeners’ ~ human truths...



painful, humiliating and traumatic  
this ~ practice must end (WHO / virginity tests)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Then a cannonball streaked through the air near Grant, missing him but shattering the skull of an enlisted man, spattering his blood and brains on surrounding soldiers. The sudden blast inflicted a disfiguring wound on a Captain Page in Grant's regiment. 'The under jaw is gone to the wind pipe and the tongue hangs down upon the throat,' Grant wrote. 'He will never be able to speak or to eat.'" (*Grant* by Ron Chernow. An incident from the Mexican-American War. Chernow's biography of Alexander Hamilton inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda to create his Broadway musical.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, Horizon, April 1946.)

traumatic (mental health)

just traumatic

it has been such an emotional roller coaster and ~

time consuming, difficult and (even) traumatic  
jury duty can be ~

♦ "'Traumatic.' Interesting. Say more." (NPR's Michel Martin interviewing NFL player Darren Waller.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, Horizon, April 1946.)

traumatization (groups)

vicarious traumatization

vivid imagery producing "~~" that has been used for...  
psychologists say there is such a thing as "~~"  
there's a phenomenon called ~, well-documented...

re-traumatization

see *retraumatization (groups)*

prime us for traumatization

the stories passed down ~ (Blacks / race-based)

♦ "We're hearing comments from survivors that, similar to Dr. Ford, they're experiencing a retraumatization..." ("Sexual Assault Hotline Callers Report Retraumatization Following Ford Testimony," WBUR, October 03, 2018.)

\*\*\* "If there is a God..."

♦ "'If there is a God,' she said to herself. / She was looking at Tom just before she slipped his night-cap on. He had caught the iron over his head and shoulders. He was blind, of course, and his nose was burnt off, and his mouth was like a buttonhole with his teeth all black inside, and his head was naked and a purplish colour. He would have been about thirty, then, and my father said he had been a well-favoured man and the finest tenor in the Valley. Now he could only make funny noises in his throat, and I am not sure he knew Mrs. Tom or his little girls. So looking back I am not sure I can blame her for saying what she did." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Bierce developed an innovative prose style—limpid, severe, restrained, at once offhand and punctilious—that allowed him to take in the most dreadful scenes (a soldier's face with 'a great red gap' where his lower jaw ought to have been, wild boars eating the stomachs of still-living battlefield casualties) with a flat precision." ("Great American Cynic," by Benjamin Schwarz, the *Atlantic*, October 2011. Read Ambrose Bierce's "On a Mountain" and "The Coup De Grace." Bierce was a combat veteran.)

♦ "An unfortunate man, especially horribly and hideously mutilated, was being carried on a stretcher. The bottom of an exploded shell, which had split his face open, turning his tongue and teeth into a bloody gruel, but without killing him, was lodged between his jawbones in place of his torn-out cheek. The nurse (Lara) imagined that, under the influence of his moaning, the lightly wounded men walking beside him were about to pull this horrible iron splinter out of his cheek with their bare hands. / 'No, you can't do that! A surgeon will do it with special instruments. If it gets that far. (God, God, take him, don't make me doubt Your existence!)" (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, Horizon, April 1946.)

traumatize (verb)

traumatize people

law enforcement can ~ in the Black community

traumatize (some) people

the fireworks may ~ (New Year's Eve)

traumatize students

this approach could ~ (lockdown drills)

traumatized (Atlanta) election workers

Trump's lies ~

emotionally and physically traumatize

gym environments continue to ~ young gymnasts

♦ "She didn't want me to see it because she was afraid it would traumatize me, and it did. In a good way." (Greg Nicotero, who decided he wanted to "do special effects" after seeing the film *Jaws* as a 12 year old. From "Jaws' Shark Gets His Bite Back: A Love Story" by Cory Turner, NPR, Movies, August 9, 2019.)

\*\*\* the USS *Indianapolis*, etc.

♦ Torpedoed by a Jap sub, the USS *Indianapolis* sank in 12 minutes. Of the 1,195 crew, eight hundred and ninety sailors lived to make it into the water. Of those, only 316 survived before rescue. Many of those were killed by sharks. The men in the water clung together, forming little islands, and the marauding sharks savaged those on the outer edges. This was at a time when sailors on boats would poke a lifejacketed man in the water with a stick. If the lifejacket flipped over, it meant the man's body was gone from the waist down. (The sinking of the USS *Indianapolis* was central to the character of Quint in the 1975 film *Jaws*.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, Horizon, April 1946.)

## traumatized (groups)

### traumatized by life

a handful of students say they've been ~ in Compton

### traumatized dogs

~ learn to trust humans again (fearful, undersocialized)

### traumatized dolphin

I hope the ~ gets counseling

### traumatized penguins

the recovery of the ~

### traumatized (urban) spaces

they seek to transform the energy in ~ (Urban Alchemy)

### traumatized and humiliated

she felt ~ (Malak Afaneh, UC Berkeley)

### shaken, traumatized

survey finds a ~ people (the unemployed)

### triggered and traumatized

Amy Schumer says she's ~ by...

♦ Mother: He's a bit jumpy, he's frightful... / Female interviewer: He's traumatized. / Mother: He is. / Female interviewer: Yeah. / Mother: He absolutely is. (An interview shown on NBC.)

♦ "Still triggered and traumatized... I'm still in shock and stunned and sad... Waiting for this sickening feeling to go away from what we all witnessed." (A tweet from Amy Schumer after Will Smith slapped Chris Rock onstage at the 2022 Oscars / 94th Academy Awards.)

♦ "It was by far the worst experience I've ever had in my entire life. When I say I was traumatized, I was really traumatized." (An ex-worker on NBC's *The Kelly Clarkson Show*.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "traumatized" bandwagon...

♦ "Twenty-five penguins were in route from the Indianapolis Zoo to a new home in Galveston, Texas, when the refrigerated truck carrying them overturned. Four of them died, but the survivors are squawking and walking and doing remarkably well." ("The Recovery of the Traumatized Penguins," Melissa Bloc, NPR, All Things Considered, August 10, 2006.)

♦ "In Winder, uh the state (Georgia) is opening what's called a community recovery center today, people can go there for spiritual and mental healthcare, there will be representatives from several faith-based organizations, but the wounds of what happened are running really deep and it's not just for people who were inside the school, it's the hundreds or thousands of others traumatized by what happened this past week." (Chase McGee of Georgia Public Broadcasting about a school shooting. Heard on NPR.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Students are increasingly seeking help for, and apparently having emotional crises over, problems of everyday life. / Recent examples mentioned included a student who felt traumatized because her roommate had called her a 'bitch' and two students who had sought counseling because they had seen a mouse in their off-campus apartment." ("Declining Student Resilience: A Serious Problem for Colleges" by psychologist Peter Gray at his "Freedom to Learn" blog, *Psychology Today*, Sept. 22, 2015.)

♦ "I hope the traumatized dolphin gets counseling. I definitely will need it after just seeing it." (Abhaya, commenting on "A topless woman attempting to ride a lost dolphin trying to find its way back to the sea, video shows" by Alia Shoaib, Yahoo Insider, July 23, 2022.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Three pieces of silverware are sitting at a bar. A spoon and a fork, sitting together, are side-eyeing a fork, who is sitting a little apart with a martini in front of him. That fork's tines are all twisted, and his eyes are discombobulated. The spoon is saying to the fork, "He once fell into the garbage disposal and doesn't like to talk about it." (*The New Yorker*, May 8, 2023. The cartoon is signed m.e.mcnair)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Officers come out of the line presumably for extra study, but mostly for a rest and a good time. And they must have a girl, or girls. They have seen enough of men for a while. So they fall enthusiastically in love with the first girl they meet, and everybody has a gorgeous time. But I wonder, now and then, if they ever really see us as individuals? I doubt it. Anyway, everybody forgets everybody else as soon as they are gone, and that's that. It's a fascinating game, this playing at love with people who can't stay long enough to be serious. One feels so safe. I'm getting to hate long-drawn-out affairs. Once in a while, of course... / John left today... He stayed about an hour, and we finally parted with all the necessary drama. He is the first of the crowd at the school to go. The thought of it makes me sick. The crowd at the school will all be killed. They always are. I don't see why we aren't all crazy. Maybe we are. We ought to be." (*Sister: The War Diary of a Nurse* by Helen Dore Boylston. World War I.)

♦ View the brilliant and affecting 2007 documentary film *Nanking*. Read the Wikipedia article "Minnie Vautrin."

♦ "The Old City had erupted. Hindus and Muslims, who had for centuries lived there cheek by jowl, in the closest proximity. Mainji's son, my inner-city first cousin, was in his late teens at the time. He left his house for some minor shopping and did not return for several days. By then he had lost his mind. Literally. Was he beaten? Raped? Tortured? He never spoke coherently after that. / Delhi's Muslims began disappearing, making their way to Pakistan. All of my Muslim classmates left without farewells. I can only assume they had safe journeys. I have not seen even one of them since..." (*Climbing The Mango Trees: A Memoir Of A Childhood In India* by Madhur Jaffrey. It's a wonderful book.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ "One cannot change this all in a moment, but one can at least change one's own habits, and from time to time one can even, if one jeers loudly enough, send some worn-out and useless phrase...into the dustbin where it belongs." ("Politics And The English Language" by George Orwell, *Horizon*, April 1946.)

## traumatizing (groups)

### traumatizing

it can be ~ (teen girls messaging about distant tragedy)

### traumatizing for black Americans

the last couple days have been incredible ~ (George Floyd)

### traumatizing for the boy

it could have been ~ (cops drive Black shoplifter home)

### traumatizing experience

her ~ getting a green hair dye and pixie cut

### traumatizing impact

he warned of a ~ (schools named after Confederates)

### traumatizing losses

he's endured endless seasons of ~ (Boston sports fan)

### traumatizing time

the ~ he had to sing in front of his music class...

### traumatizing, isolating and burdensome

it can be incredibly ~ (COVID precautions)

### re-traumatizing

see *re-traumatizing (groups)*

### depressing, if not traumatizing

these celebrity trials have been ~ (*New Yorker's* Naomi Fry)

hurtful and traumatizing  
she received ~ messages (from racist *Star Wars* fans)

scary and traumatizing  
it was really (Lizzo falls to ground rope swinging to river)

terrifying and traumatizing drills  
those ~ (Randi Weingarten / school active shooter drills)

♦ Terry Gross: Do you think that the hearing was even more traumatizing than the assault? / Christine Blasey Ford: Definitely. ("For Christine Blasey Ford, the fallout of the Kavanaugh hearing is ongoing" with Terry Gross, NPR, Fresh Air, March 19, 2024.)

♦ "Jazmin Ellis talked about her traumatizing experience getting a green hair dye and pixie cut." ("Tennessee Beauty School Teaches Importance Of Working With Black Hair" by Ambriehl Crutchfield, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, July 4, 2021.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

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♦ see also *re-traumatizing (groups)*

## traveller (person)

time traveller  
see *time traveller (person)*

## traverse (verb)

traverse the two worlds  
he is trying to ~ (rural and urban / a comic)

### \*\*\* Tom Hornbein and Willi Unsoeld...

♦ In 1963, in one of the great feats of mountaineering, Tom Hornbein and Willi Unsoeld climbed Mount Everest by the West Ridge and descended by the South Col. It was the first ascent of the West Ridge, and the first traverse of Mount Everest.

## travesty (noun)

travesty  
voters will not forget this ~ (Wisconsin)  
it was a ~, going nowhere (DOD program in Vietnam)

sham, a travesty, a dark blot  
it is a ~ on our country (politics)

## trawl (verb)

trawled through (400,000) documents  
the panel ~ (investigation)

trawled (daily) through (student) websites  
police ~ run by Muslim student groups at Yale

trawl through his social media history  
FBI investigators were able to ~

### \*\*\* "Pelagic fishing uses huge vessels and trawl nets..."

♦ Pelagic fishing uses huge vessels and trawl nets and is a highly effective method of catching an enormous volume of fish. Pelagic fishing methods present a major threat to whales and dolphins.

♦ "The industrial fish fleet outshines Buenos Aires in satellite photos taken at night."

♦ "From the time of Cabot, it seemed as though the supply of cod on the Newfoundland Grand Banks was inexhaustible. But new technology changed that. First there was hand-lining. Then long-lining, gill nets, the steam engine, Birdseye's techniques of freezing fish, fish sticks / fish fingers, the fast-food market, and finally, in the 1960s, factory ships with trawl nets that scooped up everything from the bottom. Fleets of these ships came from Russia, Japan, Spain, Korea, and many other fishing countries. In 1992, the unthinkable happened. The cod literally ran out. The fishery was closed down and remains closed to this day." (Information taken from *Atlantic: Great Sea Battles, Heroic Discoveries, Titanic Storms, and a Vast Ocean of a Million Stories* by Simon Winchester.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Food desert. It's a term I've used myself..." ("Let's Stop Using Metaphors that Celebrate Extraction, Colonialism, and Violence: Earth, Justice, and Our Classrooms" by Bill Bigelow, *Rethinking Schools*, Fall, 2022, Volume 37, No. 1.)

## tread (tread carefully, etc.)

treading a (delicate) line  
the government is ~ between...

tread heavily  
you ~, but you speak the truth...

tread lightly  
we have to ~ here (a murder investigation)  
even Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has ~ around B.D.S.

tread carefully  
they need to ~  
I'd advise you to ~ (an investigation)

treading carefully  
Republicans up for election are ~ during the pandemic

♦ "A good many of you are probably acquainted with the old proverb: "Speak softly and carry a big stick—you will go far". If a man continually blusters, if he lacks civility, a big stick will not save him from trouble; and neither will speaking softly avail, if back of the softness there does not lie strength, power." (Address of Vice President Roosevelt, Minnesota State Fair, Minneapolis, Sept. 2nd, 1901.)

## treadmill (noun)

treadmill  
the ~ isn't likely to stop anytime soon (language change)

treadmill of daily radio  
get off the ~ and see what's next

treadmill, hamster wheel  
you're on this really crazy ~... (NFL's Tom Brady retires)

euphemism treadmill  
the ~ (Steven Pinker, Harvard University)  
the ~ (tramp / bum / homeless / unhoused, etc.)

minimum-wage treadmill  
she discusses how people can get off the ~

exhausting treadmill  
it's an ~ (trying to manage time to meet deadlines)

economic treadmill

many are caught on an ~ with no hope of getting ahead  
step off the (industry's promotional) treadmill  
by 2010 he was ready to ~ (a country singer)

**\*\*\* analysis**

- ♦ "A treadmill doesn't take you anywhere."
- ♦ Decompression's really important; take time to unwind...
- ♦ The rat race is for rats!

**treason (noun)**

cultural treason  
rabbis and Jewish leaders accused Roth of ~ (the writer)

**\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...**

- ♦ Benedict Arnold; Wang Jingwei; Vidkun Quisling; Pierre Laval; Philippe Petain; William Joyce (aka Lord Haw-Haw)... (Notorious traitors.)

**treasure (verb)**

treasure our loved ones  
it's also a time to ~ and to take stock... (pandemic)

read, treasure and want to share  
books that people ~ with their children

**treasure (money)**

treasure and blood  
how much more can we give in ~ (foreign wars)

blood and treasure  
we have wasted an enormous amount of ~ in Afghanistan  
it's a complete waste in terms of ~ (Afghanistan)  
President Johnson reflected on the cost in ~ (Vietnam)  
we need to pull out and save American ~ (Afghanistan)

blood, treasure and effort  
after so many years, and so much ~ (US in Afghanistan)

**treasure (worth)**

national treasure  
she's a sort of ~ (Francoise Hardy / France)  
Yellowstone is a ~  
some consider him a reclusive ~ (actor Bill Murray)  
once a ~, the comedian was jailed for sexual assault  
China considers pandas a ~

**treasured (worth)**

treasured member  
she was a ~ of the Georgetown law community (RBG)  
treasured novel  
it is arguably America's most ~ (*To Kill a Mockingbird*)

as treasured as pistols  
typewriters were ~ (revolutionaries pre-W.W.II)

**treasure house**

treasure house of the writings  
the library is a ~ at the core of the Western tradition

**treasure trove (and trove)**

trove of documents

a ~ was published by WikiLeaks

trove of (internal) documents  
he turned over a ~ to the Wall Street Journal (Facebook)

treasure trove of information  
a ~ from a data recorder (space shuttle)

trove of information  
intelligence agencies are acting on a ~  
soldiers discovered the tape among a ~

treasure-trove of (fossilized) jellyfish  
a ~ discovered in Wisconsin

trove of material  
the new ~ was being sifted for fresh clues (terrorism)

treasure trove of (grand, poetic) rhetoric  
the black church has always been a ~

trove of (bowling) treasure  
the Webers' home is a ~

treasure trove of trivia  
he has compiled a ~ about every president

treasure trove of plant life  
the Appalachians are a ~

treasure trove for a historian  
these materials were a ~

stunning trove  
scientists have discovered a ~ of fossils (Qingjiang biota)

geological treasure trove  
obtaining rocks from the mantle layer would provide a ~

acting on a trove of information  
intelligence agencies are ~ found during...

**treat (in for a treat)**

in for a treat  
you are ~

**tree (resemblance)**

boot tree  
~s can prevent wrinkles and cracking (leather boots)

**tree (branching system)**

decision tree  
we're going to develop a ~ for hospitals to use...  
(COVID)

decision making trees  
~ to decide appropriate paths forward (public health)

family tree  
see *family tree*

phone tree  
a ~ is a fast way to send a message to many people  
a ~ of known international terrorists  
he ran ~s for the refugees (US leaves Afghanistan 2021)

♦ "Trees sprout up just about everywhere in computer science."  
(Donald Knuth.)

## tremor (noun)

created tremors

the article ~ throughout Silicon Valley

## trench (in the trenches)

in the trenches

he spent 34 years ~ (a teacher)

the game is won ~ (football)

what is your advice for mothers ~ with young children

in the trenches of bulimia

opening up about life ~ (Jennette McCurdy)

in the dating trenches

friends of mine ~ have similar tales of woe (ghosted)

so in the trenches

when you're ~ of hardship (Sophia Bush / *Glamour*)

get into the trenches

we've got to ~ and figure out... (public health)

went into the trenches

I ~ with him (a boxer about a tough bout)

♦ "Take it from me, when you're in the trenches, you want Joe Biden right there next to you." (US representative Conor Lamb, Pennsylvania, 2020. Lamb was a Marine lawyer who, according to his Wikipedia article, "prosecuted cases of rape and sexual assault" at a Marine base on Okinawa.)

♦ "My first summer on the doors..." (Selling door-to-door.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Arriving draftees were shipped up in cattle cars and marched over duckboard to their new homes in the earth, where everything revolved around the trench—you had a trench knife, a trench cane, a rod-shaped trench periscope and, if you were unlucky, trench foot, trench mouth, or trench fever." (*The Arms of Krupp* by William Manchester.)

♦ "There's almost as many men drowned as killed: when they're wounded they fall into the water." (World War I trench warfare in late December on the Western Front.)

♦ "When we dug bunkers we saw how the dead lay in layers one above the other." (*The Storm of Steel* by Lieutenant Ernst Junger, quoted in *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter England.)

## trench (other)

trenches of the (boardroom) battlefield

she witnessed the corporate culture wars from the ~

*Chiffon Trenches*

*The ~*, the memoir by Andre Leon Talley...

update from the trenches

~, keep red-pilling (a QAnon site)

♦ *The Chiffon Trenches* is a memoir by Andre Leon Talley, a fashion journalist who has had a long relationship with *Vogue* magazine.

## triage (verb)

triage between (bad and worse) options

they have been forced to ~ (flooding)

## triage (noun)

triage in flight delays

there is no ~ (US airports)

triage mode

aging forces democracies into ~

fiscal triage

they have resorted to ~ (government)

political triage

Democrats plan ~ to retain the House (election funding)

strategy of triage

Democrats have begun a ~ (elections)

doing triage

Theranos was ~ (troubled corporation)

## trial (show trial)

"show trial"

the investigation is a ~ (politics)

show trial

we don't see the need for a ~ (political gaffe)

she was betrayed and subjected to a ~ (Edith Cavell)

## trial (trial by fire)

faced a trial by fire

she ~ (politics)

## trial balloon

trial balloon

his office floated a flurry of ~s (baseball)

## triangle (the Iron Triangle, etc.)

"triangle of death"

the so-called ~ south of Baghdad

triangle of death

the area known as the ~ (Yusufiya, Iraq / 2006)

Sunni triangle

the so-called ~ (Iraq)

Iron Triangle

the ~ was a Viet Minh stronghold (Vietnam War)

## triangle (area)

India-Japan-Australia triangle

China sits at the center of the ~ (trade)

coral triangle

the ~ exhibits astonishing marine biodiversity

three-and-a-half-acre triangle

a ~

♦ "And people get trapped in this iron triangle of apartment, water source—which will be a standpipe or an ice hole in one of the canals or the river—and food shop...where they spend hours and hours and hours queuing." (YouTube, "Author Anna Reid discusses new book 'Leningrad' 2011.)

## triangle (Ilemi Triangle, etc.)

Afar Triangle

the ~ is also known as the Danakil Depression

## Golden Triangle

a mountainous region known as the ~ (Mexico drugs)  
the ~ (Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar)

## Ilemi Triangle

the ~ is contested by Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya

## Northern Triangle

the ~ is a violent region (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador)

## Polynesian Triangle

they navigated the ~ (New Zealand, Hawaii, Rapa Nui)

## Yigra triangle

the dispute centers on the ~ (Eritrea and Ethiopia)  
the 250-square-mile piece of rocky land known as the ~

## triangle (fire triangle, etc.)

### fire triangle

the ~ is fuel, oxygen and heat (wildfires)

## triangle (love triangle, etc.)

### triangle of misery

he called it the ~ (3 connected people)

### love triangle

she attacked her romantic rival in the ~  
the play portrays a ~  
*The Room* navigates a steamy ~ (the 2003 film)  
a ~ filled with lies, betrayal and tragic consequences

### lesbian love triangle

it's a soccer ~ (Ruesha Littlejohn 2023 World Cup)

### apex of a romantic triangle

she was the ~

### ensnared in a love triangle

she was ~

♦ "And I bet the guy that she was killed over is a total nothing."  
(Online comment.)

♦ "Yeah, them love triangles are rough, I was involved in a love trapezoid once." (Online comment.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When the stories involve more than 2 people, I can't follow along."  
(An online commenter about a lesbian triangle in women's soccer.)

## tribal (groups)

### tribal affiliation

what people take as fact is based as much on ~ as evidence

### tribal divisions

Brexit was both a symptom and cause of ~

### tribal identity

this alliance has solidified into a ~ (England / elections)

### tribal politics

we're already in a civil war, the ~ is beyond belief

### become "tribal"

American politics have ~

### become (more and more) tribal

our country has ~ (misinformation / politics)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "If you could picture young buck warriors, we're very tribal. And anyone who's not in our tribe is basically the enemy as far as we're concerned. Just to varying degrees... So, we were all just like super judgey and like, you know, 'Oh, look at these guys,' you know, 'we're not talking to them...'" (Sam Williams, Sgt, 1<sup>st</sup> BTN, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines, about the arrival of two embedded journalists in Fallujah in November 2004. Those embeds were the great combat journalist Dexter Filkins and the great Aussie combat photographer Ashley Gilbertson. From the emotionally affecting documentary *Once Upon A Time In Iraq: Fallujah* FRONTLINE. With Lance Corporal Christian Dominguez. And, of course, the spirit of the fallen Marine Bill Miller.)

♦ "One soldier was singing; another, his eyes half-closed, was full of dire forebodings; a third was thinking about home; a fourth was chewing some bread and sausage and thinking about the sausage...a seventh, still furious, was dreaming of giving his enemy—the commander of the tank in front—a good punch on the jaw..." (*Life and Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

♦ Who won the war? / The MPs won it. / How'd they win it? / Why, their mothers and sisters laying for Liberty Bonds. (Infantry chant while marching past MPs. *From Here to Eternity* by James Jones.)

♦ "SWOs eat their own" is a common Navy refrain." (Jealousy.)

## tribalism (groups)

### tribalism

maybe ~ is just in her DNA (politics)

### tribalism, (a) them-and-us

this ~ divisiveness, is a leitmotif in Scottish history

### instincts of tribalism

partisan politics are playing to the worst ~ (Britain)

### think of political divisions as tribalism

we often ~, and I think that's probably true (the U.S.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Geoff Nunberg's commentary about this word is interesting. See "As Fissures Between Political Camps Grow, 'Tribalism' Emerges As The Word Of 2017," NPR, Fresh Air, December 6, 2017.

## tribe (group)

### tribe

we are a ~, we have our ways of working (a journalist)

### girl's "tribe"

he must play up to the ~ (her friends / teen dating)

### rainbow tribe

they are a ~, black, Asian, white, biracial (kids at a pool)

### gay tribe

going to Fire Island and being with my ~

### new tribe

the ~ (politics)

### political tribes

the geography of American ~ (Geoff Nunberg)

### "gathering of the tribe"

many refer to it as a ~ (Masters / surfing)

### opinions of a (particular) tribe

he does not blindly follow the ~ (Joe Rogan podcast)

### \*\*\* various groups...



♦ "Surprise on surprise," [Mr. Elijah Jonas-Session] said, while I looked at him. "Perhaps that hammering will teach you that your ways are not ours. There is no wonder that civilized men look down upon Welshmen as savages. I shudder to think of your kind growing up. However, I shall endeavor to do my utmost with you, helped by a stick. Remember that. And keep your eyes off me, you insolent little blackguard..." (From *How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn. Though only a boy, Huw understood that "[Mr. Jonas]' greatest trouble was his Welsh blood, so ashamed he was of it, and so hard he tried to cover it... Nothing that was of Wales or the Welsh was any good or had any goodness in his eyes.")

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "The SEALs are a tribe within a larger tribe, the Navy."

\*\*\* "Townspeople stared in disbelief at the naked Nukak."

♦ "Townspeople stared in disbelief at the naked Nukak." (Colombia. It is unknown how the Nukak felt.)

♦ "Forty years ago the Udehé had been so numerous along the coast, old Liurl told us, that when the swans were flying from the Kosun to Olga Bay they turned black from the smoke coming out of the countless wigwams of the natives." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr. Liurl said this in 1907, on the Sea of Japan north of Vladivostok.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "What if we were wrong?... Maybe we pushed too far... Maybe people just want to fall back into their tribe." (Attributed to Barack Obama in 2016. From "It Can Happen Here" by David Remnick, "The Talk Of The Town," *The New Yorker*, November 18, 2024.)

## tribune (person)

Emancipists' tribune

the role of the ~ was less politically useful

## tributary (noun)

numerous tributaries

the main river of human lineage was split into ~  
(Denisovans, etc.)

♦ "How do the tributaries of democracy flow down into this one little block in Brooklyn." (Wesley Morris, film critic, about the great 1989 Spike Lee film *Do the Right Thing*.)

## tribute (pay tribute)

paid tribute to its fallen detective

the NYPD ~ (killed in the line of duty)

pays tribute to fallen service members

for Memorial day, Biden ~

## tribute (groups)

Tribute To Ahmaud Arbery

"Runners Across U.S. Pay ~ With

#IRunWithMaud"

tribute to self-love

Carly Rae Jepsen's '*Party for One*' is a ~

tribute to Black and Brown women

Devon Gilfillian's '*Brown Sugar Queen*' is a '~'

tribute to Black LGBTQ music and culture

*Renaissance* pays ~ (Beyonce)

Super Bowl halftime tribute

'SpongeBob Squarepants' gets ~

pay tribute to Ahmaud Arbery

runners across U.S. ~ with #I RunWithMaud

pays tribute to George Michael

Andrew Ridgeley pays ~

pays tribute to Mac Miller

Ty Dolla \$ign ~ (NPR / Bobby Carter)

pays tribute to 'the women who raised' her

Kandace Springs ~ (NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro)

tributes are pouring in

~ for Urvashi Vaid, who fought for LGBTQ rights

### \*\*\* various groups

♦ "Nick Cannon gets Father's Day tributes from THREE of his baby mommas..."

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "Bury the Great Duke / With an empire's lamentation, / Let us bury the Great Duke / To the noise of the mourning of a mighty nation, / Mourning when their leaders fall, / Warriors carry the warrior's pall, / And sorrow darkens hamlet and hall." Stanza III: "Lead out the pageant: sad and slow, / As fits an universal woe, / Let the long long procession go, / And let the sorrowing crowd about it grow, / And let the mournful martial music blow; / The last great Englishman is low." ("Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington" by Alfred Lord Tennyson. Wellington died in 1852 and a million and a half people watched his funeral process.)

♦ "Abraham Lincoln's Funeral Train: How America Mourned for Three Weeks: Millions of Americans bade farewell to the assassinated president as his body made a 1,700-mile journey home" by Christopher Klein, Feb 7, 2022.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

## trickle (noun)

trickle of information

the ~ handed out so far (by police)

trickle of papers

a ~ became a flood (scientific papers on topic)

trickle of (surrendering) soldiers

a ~ became a flood

trickle, flow, gush

we had a theory called, "~" (to rescue hostages)

slowed to a trickle

the outpouring of generosity has ~ (aid)

the export of Libyan oil has ~

the flow has ~ (migrants)

cut to a trickle

the stream of jihadists into the country has been ~

♦ "Joni had lots of friends—chief among them, a funny, freeloading young, wire-specs-wearing American guitar player named David Rea, who was one of the trickle-turning-into-a-flood of American males coming north to escape the draft during these early months of the Vietnam War..." (*Girls Like Us* by Sheila Weller.)

♦ "There has been a trickle, not a flood, of letters from conservative MPs. Boris Johnson's allies expected those letters to dry up, after his response to the [Sue] Gray Report, but some of his critics now feel the dam is coming closer to breaking." (BBC Six O'Clock News.)

## trickle (trickle in / out)

trickling in

foreign tourists are ~ (Wakhan)

trickle in at inflated prices  
items ~ (Kisangani)

trickle out  
yesterday, the news started to ~ (politics)

## trident (three)

attacking trident  
excitement about the ~ (Nunez, Gakpo, Salah / Liverpool)

## trigger (groups / verb)

triggers me so hard  
them being teachers ~ (commenter at Libs of TikTok)

trigger feelings  
pedantic language may ~ of ostracism (TESOL)

triggered a hurt  
these questions ~ (Cory Booker, politician)

trigger millennials  
my ability to ~ is insane (the writer Bret Easton Ellis)

triggered outrage  
the online book ~

trigger you  
I don't want to ~...

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Why does 'Black Lives Matter' trigger so many people?"

♦ Fresh Air's Terry Gross: I've been trying to stay away from the specifics of the alleged assault because I don't want to trigger you. But still, like, you're talking about that whole experience. / Christine Blasey Ford: Yeah, there were days writing the book where I would get completely triggered and have a fight or flight response and not sleep for—very well for a few days. And then I would be exhausted and I'd calm down and I'd be able to get back to work. ("For Christine Blasey Ford, the fallout of the Kavanaugh hearing is ongoing" with Terry Gross, NPR, Fresh Air, March 19, 2024.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Body-worn cameras, implicit bias training, crisis intervention training... we even changed the uniforms because people said the old uniforms triggered them. So what are you protesting." (Ferguson, Missouri Police Chief Troy Doyle, after an altercation between Elijah Gantt, 28, of East St. Louis, Illinois, and Police Officer Travis Brown, 36, left Brown in the hospital with serious injuries. Gantt and other protestors were commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the shooting of Michael Brown.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## trigger (a war, etc.)

triggered an avalanche  
the Netflix drama series ~ of interest in the case (murder)

triggered my decision  
what ~ was...

triggered a firestorm  
he ~ of controversy (a politician's remarks)

trigger a panic  
the government does not want to ~ (epidemic)

trigger a (regional) war

he is willing to ~ (Assad)

trigger fear and chaos  
their aim is to ~ (political assassins)

## trigger (a cause)

triggers of asthma  
~ include allergens, infections, exercise, anxiety, reflux

trigger for abuse  
low income or stress may be a ~ (spousal abuse)

trigger for the accident  
the failure of the heat shielding may have been a ~

triggers for my bulimia  
industry events were often huge ~ (young actress)

trigger for conflict  
water can be a ~ (world's rivers)

trigger warning  
*see trigger warning*

allergy trigger  
asthma and the effect of pets or other ~s

heartburn trigger  
there are many ~s (food, cigarettes, drugs, etc.)

mass trigger  
the pandemic acted as kind of a ~ for them (eating disorders)

viral trigger  
identifying a potential ~ is helpful, but... (AFM)

pets or other (allergy) triggers  
asthma and the effect of ~

## trigger (emotion, memory, etc.)

memory triggers  
~ lurk in wait all around (war and suffering)

♦ "A few boys were playing in the yard when I got there, but I waited until they had run down to the other end before I went in the door. The same smell of chalk, that I hate to this day, and quiet... / 'Well,' [Mr. Motshill] said. 'What is it?' / 'I have come to join school,' I said. / 'Speak English,' he said..." (*How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn.)

♦ "One of the girls she was very sick. I let her come into my bed one morning, she was very ill. They brought me down to the shoe room, they stripped me off, they threw cold water over me... (prior to severe beating)...It was the shoe room you know where all the shoes were, even now if I get the smell of shoe polish, the feeling of enclosurement, it was awful..." (The long-term effects of physical and emotional abuse. From the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (CICA / Ryan Commission), the record of abuse (female witnesses), Chapter 9, 2009, Ireland.)

♦ "Another survivor, a boy of nine at the time, realized long after settling with his family in the Midwest that he couldn't bring himself to go to the Detroit Tigers games because the noise that greeted home runs reminded him of the cries of the dying." ("Unsinkable, Why We Can't Let Go of the Titanic" by Daniel Mendelsohn, *The New Yorker*, April 16, 2012.)

♦ "Memory triggers lurk in wait all around—a particular outdoor tap or fire hydrant, the drone of an aeroplane or the squeak of sled runners, the smell of jointer's glue or just the sight of untrodden snow on a city pavement. One man never puts up a New Year's tree, because it reminds him of the one underneath which his father lay dying of

hunger; others always detour round particular streets or bridges. For Grechina, one day in 1978, it was the smell of a bonfire, drifting in at her window. Having for years given the conventional version of the siege in talks to students, she sat down at her desk and wept and wrote for two days and nights, releasing a torrent of long-pent-up grief and anger." (*Leningrad* by the great writer Anna Reid.)

♦ "Those were dreadful days and nights after that—the bombing and the fires. Even now I can never listen to the sound of dried autumn leaves blowing along the roads because that was the sound the fires made in the wooden houses near the hospital." (Sakiko, speaking about having her baby during air raids in wartime Japan. From *East of Home* by Santha Rama Rau.)

## trigger (pull the trigger, etc.)

quick trigger

the referee has a ~ in stopping fights (boxing)

pull the trigger

nobody wanted to ~ and do a deal (publishing houses)  
they have been a little slower to ~ (cancel sports season)  
we don't want to ~ until we have to (sanctions)

pulled the trigger

finally, finally, he finally ~, a little late (he took action)

pulled the trigger on sending

the Browns finally ~ on sending him to the Panthers  
(NFL)

pull the trigger immediately

Musk was ready to ~ (fire people)

quick to pull the trigger

when Musk gets angry, he's ~ (act)

♦ "The referee Howard Foster always has a quick trigger in stopping fights and stepping in between opponents." (A commentator during the boxing match between Zhilei "Big Bang" Zhang versus "Joe" the Juggernaut" Joyce.)

♦ "When Musk gets angry, he is quick to pull the trigger. He fired three production quality chiefs in quick succession." (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

## triggered (groups)

triggered by trans folks

why are y'all ~

triggered by Trump inauguration

MSNBC anchors ~ (Rachel Maddow / Joy Reid / 2025)

triggered by that

I don't know why people are ~ (comedian He Huang)

triggered and traumatized

Amy Schumer says she's ~ by Will Smith's slap

triggered and unsafe

there was a small group that felt "~"

felt (really) triggered

I was seething, I ~ (anxiety, anger, etc.)

sound triggered

you ~ (snark, sarcasm)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "To use a very contemporary word, I was 'triggered.'" (The author J.K. Rowland.)

♦ "You sound triggered, Glenn..." (Leftist snark directed at some Glenn Greenwald tweet. Or perhaps the snark comes from a troll. Who knows? The usage is more like a gleeful taunt.)

♦ "'Body Normalcy' is a large contributor to the unhealthy state of Americans of both sexes today. Fat (sorry if you are triggered by the word) is not healthy unless you are a walrus." (An online commenter.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ OLD: upset, angry... NEW: triggered...

## triggering (groups)

triggering for some readers

this essay may be ~ (anorectics, bulimics)

triggering incident

this was not a spontaneous act by a mob angered by a ~

very triggering

I'm revisiting those old thoughts, it's ~ (Tierra Whack)

sensitive or triggering

the hosts bring levity when addressing ~ topics

feels (kind of) triggering

for a lot of people it ~ (low-rise waists / fashion)

\*\*\* **various groups**

♦ "I'm revisiting those old thoughts that I had—being insecure, just not being confident... [I]t's very triggering." (Tierra Whack speaking to Rodney Carmichael.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "This is our reality and we need to face it. Maybe that's what we needed, to be given a beating in order to grow." (Xavi, after Barca loses 0-3 to Bayern and crashes out of the Champions League.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## trigger warning (groups)

Trigger Warning sparks Backlash

AMC's 'Goodfellas' ~ Due to 'Cultural Stereotypes'

attach trigger warnings to pieces by conservatives

one editor urged me to ~ (at *The New York Times*)

puts trigger warning on Puccini's *Turandot*

NYC's Metropolitan Opera ~

\*\*\* **National Public Radio (NPR)**

♦ "A warning. This piece contains the sound of gunfire." (An NPR news report.)

♦ "And here's where I have to let you know that in this piece you will hear the sounds of gunshots and sirens." (NPR's Michel Martin.)

♦ "This story, which lasts about four minutes, includes details of violence." (NPR's Steve Inskeep.)

♦ "A warning that this report has disturbing sounds of gunfire and panic." (NPR's Scott Detrow.)

♦ "Warning: This story briefly mentions thoughts of self-harm." (NPR.)

♦ "Now before we begin, heads up for listeners. Tierra speaks openly about the suicidal thoughts that came with success, sent her to therapy, and ultimately inspired some of her darkest, brightest music yet..." (Rodney Carmichael on NPR.)

♦ "A warning. This episode contains discussion of suicide and domestic violence." (NPR's Pop Culture *Happy Hour*.)

♦ "Much of this discussion may be painful to hear." (NPR's Scott Simon talking to Charles Spencer about the latter's memoir, *A Very Private School*. During the interview, Scott Simon says, "You write... 'to meet their own darker needs.' What were those so-called needs.")

Simon also says, "I feel the need to be specific, what would he do to you his students at night.")

♦ "And we should warn, this story contains some vulgar language..." (NPR's Steve Inskeep.)

♦ "Just a heads up. There is a smidge of colorful language in this episode. I mean I think it is very well placed cursing. I'm going to let you be the judge." (NPR's Rachel Martin.)

♦ "And just to let you know, there is some bleeped profanity in this conversation." (NPR's Leila Fadel.)

♦ "There's a new tourism slogan making the rounds in Minnesota. Instead of "Minnesota Nice," often used to describe the friendliness of the state's residents, the new one is still friendly but also a little salty. Credit the star player of the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves for the change. And, a warning, the phrase includes a word that could be considered vulgar." (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe. From "Minnesota Nice" has been replaced by a new, cheeky slogan for the state" by Peter Cox, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, May 26, 2024. "Brig ya ass.")

♦ "Heads up, this next interview discusses sexual assault. Come back in about five minutes if you'd like to miss it." (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe.)

♦ "And before we start, a warning. We are going inside an operating room while doctors remove organs from a donor who has been declared dead." (Mary Louise Kelly, NPR.)

♦ Terry Gross: If I ask anything that would be too traumatizing, too upsetting to talk about, I hope you'll let me know. And that way, I can be guided and drop it. / WNBA player Brittney Griner: Ah, thank you so much, I appreciate that.

♦ "This is Fresh Air, I'm Terry Gross. As a heads-up to our listeners, the introduction I'm about to give describes a sexual assault." ("For Christine Blasey Ford, the fallout of the Kavanaugh hearing is ongoing" by Terry Gross, NPR, All Things Considered, March 19, 2024.)

\*\*\* **BBC, etc.**

♦ "And there will be as well some reference to anti-trans and other forms of hate speech, so just be forewarned in advance." (Nese Devenot / she / they.)

♦ "This film includes language and/or cultural stereotypes that are inconsistent with today's standards of inclusion and tolerance and may offend some viewers." (AMC, introducing the 1990 film *Goodfellas*, the critically acclaimed film directed by Martin Scorsese.)

♦ "Warning. Some of the details of this story are graphic." (BBC Six O'Clock news. At least one listener was startled to hear such a "trigger warning." It seemed more like something from NPR.)

♦ "Warning: This article contains an image that some people may find offensive." ("Uefa investigating Turkey's Demiral over goal celebration," BBC, 3 July 2024. The picture is the very first thing you see, then the warning, and then the article. In other words, it is a warning after the fact. Obvious boilerplate. As NPR gets worse and worse, BBC seems to look more and more to it as a model.)

\*\*\* **the very first entry in the trigger warning Hall of Shame**

♦ Fly Me To The Moon Running time: 132 minutes. Rated PG13 (some strong language and smoking). In theaters July 12.

\*\*\* **an international perspective...**

♦ "But I completely agree with you about the description of an elephant being killed, slam, slam, slam, the bullets go in, and he says the elephant takes on an incredible senility... You know, I've had students year after year cry when we read that text, and I can tell you it takes a lot to make a student cry over a text... It is a wonderful, wonderful passage." (Robert Colls, Start the Week, "Heart of Darkness: Conrad and Orwell," BBC Sounds, 6 Nov 2017. British academics and students are, of course, utterly different from American ones, and that was especially true in 2017. If Colls, Professor of World History at De Montfort University, Leicester, had been teaching in the US, he would have issued a "trigger warning" before reading George Orwell's "Shooting An Elephant," and, in spite of that, he would have been cancelled for claiming it had a "wonderful, wonderful passage." God only knows what students would have said about him on the "Rate My Professor" website, especially if he was a strict grader.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ I regularly click past NPR stories nowadays, but not because of any trigger warning...

♦ "The bias had become so pervasive, even in the senior editing ranks of the newsroom, as to be unconscious. Trying to be helpful, one of the top newsroom editors urged me to start attaching trigger warnings to pieces by conservatives. It had not occurred to him how this would stigmatise certain colleagues, or what it would say to the world about the *Time's* own bias." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## trilogy (noun)

trilogy of fights

he lost for the second straight fight in their ~ (McGregor)

## trim (trim the fat, etc.)

trim money from the (defense) budget

he proposed to ~

trim the fat from some departments' budgets

there is always room to ~ (U.K.)

trim (state) spending

he has been able to ~ (politician)

## trinity (Holy Trinity)

holy trinity

the ~---cilantro, onion and lime (actor Danny Trejo)

holy trinity of the Asian spice trade

pepper, clove, and nutmeg were the original ~

holy trinity for tabloid culture

they formed a ~ (Britney, Lindsay, and Paris)

## triple threat

triple threat

he was a ~, he could dance, sing and act (Patrick Swayze)

faces a triple threat

the nation ~ (storms, heat, hurricane)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ According to the online Merriam-Webster site, this phrase appeared in 1920 to describe a football player who was exceptional at running, kicking, and passing.

## trip up (verb)

trip up the president

this could ~

## tripwire (warning)

tripwire between the two Chinas

the Seventh Fleet acted as a ~

geopolitical tripwire

Russian military advisers in Venezuela act as a ~

## tripwire (initiation)

tripwire event

*The Sopranos* was the ~ that set off the golden age of TV

set off trip wires

sexual scenarios ~ in American minds (*Slave Play*)

♦ "The murder of a female officer is the trip wire that causes an explosion that rocks the Army to its foundations." (*The General's Daughter* by Nelson DeMille, with a new foreword by the author.)

## tripwire (danger)

legal tripwires

she avoided ~ (Supreme Court confirmation hearing)

treated as a trip wire

the topic is ~ (fitness of VP to be President)

♦ "If Americans feel like tripwires are everywhere, and they don't know exactly what they can and can't say, you end up in a scenario where millions of Americans opt out of the national political conversation." (Aaron Terr, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "I found a piece of red detonating cord between my legs. That's when I knew I was screwed." (Gunnery Sgt. Michael Burghardt, aka "Iron Mike" and "Gunny," just before getting blown up by a trap while investigating an IED in Ramadi. Incredibly, he was not too badly wounded. A photo of him "flipping off" whoever detonated the trap became famous on the Internet.)

## triumvirate (noun)

triumvirate of the great mountains

the ~ would be Everest, K2 and Nanga Parbat (Joe Simpson)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The First Triumvirate in 60 B.C. consisted of Julius Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus.

## Trojan horse (computers)

viruses, worms and Trojan Horses

~ (computers)

## Trojan Horse (subterfuge)

Trojan horse of Putin

Italy could become the ~ (politics)

Trojan Horse for the Chinese Communist Party

Huawei has been accused of being a ~ (politics)

Trojan Horses of the 21st century

cargo containers are the ~ (terrorism)

Trojan Horse in our midst

the INS may be a ~ (editorial in state paper)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Dante put Ulysses in hell for being an evil counselor. Ulysses convinced Achilles to sign up for the war, breaking Achilles' mother's heart, and causing his girlfriend, Deidamia, with whom he had had a child, to commit suicide. Ulysses stole the sacred statue of Pallas, on which the security of Troy depended, from the Palladium. And, of course, he came up with the ruse of the Wooden Horse. According to Dante, Ulysses never made it home to Ithaca to be reunited with his old dog. Instead, he sailed through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Atlantic and headed south. His ship went down in a storm near Tristan da Cunha.

## troll (fish / verb)

trolling for votes

he is a cynical politician ~

## troll (verb / computers)

troll Cowboys fans

listen, as much as I ~ everywhere... (Stephen A. Smith)

provoke, (to) tease, (to) troll

he's long used his account to ~ (Elon Musk / Twitter)

♦ "I thought people were trolling, but nope. It's real... Yes, these are children holding teddy bears dressed in bondage outfits." (A commenter about a Balenciaga ad campaign described as frightening, creepy, wrong, gross, and infuriating.)

♦ "They troll me all the time, I'm gonna start trolling them. If a nuclear bomb dropped, three things would survive: rats, roaches, and the Cowboy fans..." (The great sports commentator Stephen A. Smith.)

## troll (noun / computers)

troll

~s ask stupid questions and see who rises to the bait

~s provoke strangers online

~s love a vicious group hunt

~s push peoples' buttons

~s have caused people to commit suicide

~s posted flashing images to a Web site for epileptics

people give ~s too much elevation thanks social media

troll-wrestling

he calls this ~, trolling the trolls (internet feud)

trollish

there's a ~, deadpan, sorry-not-sorry quality... (internet)

body-shaming trolls

Sydney Sweeney claps back at ~

Web Troll

Prolific ~ Arrested (headline)

♦ "I was a troll, full stop. And I am so sorry." (Someone named Chrissy Teigen, who is apparently married to a singer named John Legend, which sounds like a made-up name.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In the old days, trolls lurked under bridges or in dark forests and caught and ate unsuspecting people. Nowadays, trolls are provocateurs who lurk online. They identify a person they consider to be a "blowhard" or "full of it" and provoke and attack him. While the person who is attacked goes nuts, the trolls sit back and laugh!

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Shitposting." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## troll (Troll Wall, etc.)

Troll Wall

the ~ is the tallest rock face in Europe (Norway)

## troop (and troops / supporters)

shock troops

see *shock troops* (supporters)

rallying their troops

conservative luminaries are ~ against Obama (politics)

## trophy (trophy boyfriend, etc.)

trophy assets

buyers pursue these ~ (No Mans Fort, etc.)

trophy boyfriend

Asian boyfriends are the next "~s"

trophy girlfriend

she's found herself a young, hot ~

♦ "Squatting next to a bear you just murdered is such a weird flex." (A female who is not a hunter, apparently.)

## trot (on the trot)

on the trot

the Azzurri made it 10 wins ~ (Euro soccer)

## trotted out

trotted out

it's a charge that is often ~ (sportswashing)

## trouble (in trouble)

in trouble

the magazine is ~ (libel)

## troubled

troubled company

the ~ is in bankruptcy

## trough (direction)

in a trough

we're ~ (technology seems to have slowed down)

peaks and troughs

the regional patterns of ~ could change (rising sea levels)

## trough (greed)

trough of greed

these pundits are swine, gorging themselves at the ~

keep their snouts in the trough

so they can ~ financially (FIFA)

♦ "They're looking to have World Cups every two years so they can keep their snouts in the trough financially." (FIFA.)

♦ "These pundits are just swine, gorging themselves at the trough of greed." (Commenter about BBC coverage of Qatar World Cup.)

## trounce (verb)

trounced Bush

John Major backed the wrong horse, Clinton ~

## trounced

trounced 4-0 at Everton on Sunday

they were ~ (Manchester United)

## trousers (wear the trousers, etc.)

wore the trousers

it was madame who ~

## trove

see *treasure trove* (and *trove*)

## truce (noun)

call a truce

let's ~ (interpersonal problem)

reached a (shaky) truce

they have ~ in their trade dispute

♦ "This has been among the front lines of the culture wars, and now we have a truce." (Ron DeSantis vs. Disney.)

## truck (control)

my truck

this is ~, and in my truck we go by my rules

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This is like the person who said, "You're either on the bus or not on the bus, and I'm driving the bus."

## truckload (amount)

truckloads of money

they have spent ~ (Manchester United)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Bucketful, truckload, container ship-load...

## true (true to oneself, etc.)

true to himself

he is speaking out and staying ~ (queer)

true to your (gender) identity

while staying ~... (Queer, Punk and Latin)

true to your (authentic) self

when you are ~... (teens)

true to yourself

the quest to be ~ (a trans woman)

♦ "Be true to yourself. Never apologize. Burn it to the ground." (Support to the comedian Michelle Wolf, whose remarks at the 2018 White House Correspondents' Dinner were widely criticized.)

## Trump (Trump of the Tropics, etc.)

Trump of L.A.

Alex Villanueva has been called the Donald ~ (Sheriff)

Trump of the Tropics

he is often called the ~ (Jair Bolsonaro)

British Trump

Boris Johnson has been described as the ~

## trumpet (blow one's own trumpet)

blow her own trumpet

she was unashamed to ~ (the great Nancy Hargreaves)

## trumpet (verb)

trumpeted the drug

he ~ as a potential treatment

trumpeting its own product

the company is ~

trumpeting their victory

conservative groups were ~ (court)

## trunk (branching system)

trunk road

we drove along France's old ~ (N7)

Grand Trunk Road

I drove along the ~ to the Khyber Pass



♦ Route Nationale 7 has been called France's Route 66. It links Paris to the Cote d'Azur. Like Route 66, it has been superseded by expressways, but still preserves its charm and history.

## truth (speak one's truth, etc. / groups)

truth is that

her ~ she's transgender (black drag queen Chablis)

truth of this moment

dive into the ~ (*Love in the Time of Corona*)

truth to power

see *truth to power*

truth about the past

we can't understand the problems without speaking ~

truth tellers

~, sharing their experiences and their opinions...

truth telling

now is a time for ~, listening, and for action

shared truth

they want to articulate the ~ of their experience (a female professor who teaches a feminism class, about females)

'Own Truth'

Poet Encourages Others To Find ~ In Poetry

her truth

it's incredibly brave that she has revealed ~ (mental illness)

no need to be judgmental of ~, eh? (Queer)

his truth

I'm a person who spoke ~ and I spoke about what I felt

my truth

I defended ~ (Amber Heard, speaking about Johnny Depp)

I failed to convey what is ~ (Dr. Claudine Gay / Harvard)

our truth

all of ~ is out there for the world to see (an official report)

Black Truths

Black Stories, ~ Search NPR wherever you get podcasts

Woman Truth

her large dose of ~ (feminist-speak / *Rolling Stone* /1972)

full truths

I hope it inspires younger queer artists to share their ~

in our truth

we live ~ (Ashley Judd / MeToo movement)

in your truth

when you come to people ~, 'Yo, this is me...'

living my truth

queer joy is the freedom and resilience that comes from ~  
~, unapologetically so... (Gomez identifies as they / them)

sharing his truth

the NFL family is proud of Carl for courageously ~ (gay)

sharing her truth

radiating joy after ~ (JoJo Siwa / her label)

speaking his truth

Kit Connor has received global support after ~ (bi)

defended my truth

I ~ (Amber Heard, about Johnny Depp)

distort her truth

people will try to ~ (Michelle Obama about Kamala Harris)

live her truth

she's always managed to ~ (personal / professional life)

live his truth

he gets to ~ and his authentic self (came out as gay)

live their truth

Olympians unable to ~ because of this world (trans)

live their truths

the cast chose to ~ (Jagged Little Pill)

owning your truth

he thanked Carl Nassib for "~" (gay NFL)

reveals his truth

"The Bachelor" star ~ (comes out as gay)

sang their truth

he ~ (Michael K. Williams / *The Wire*)

share his truth

seeing him ~ is such a relief (gay NFL player)

speak truth

it is important to ~ about the role of racism in the US  
we must "~" about history of racism

speaks truth

when one person ~, it gives license for all of us...

speaks his truth

former "Bachelor" ~ and comes out as gay

speak their truth

students ~ in winning podcast  
they didn't ~ until they retired (gay NFL)

speak your truth

how do you feel about the palace hearing you ~ (Oprah)

speaking his truth

but now he is ~ (came out as gay)

spoke truth

he ~, how is that pushing an 'agenda'

stepping into his truth

he is rebooting his life and ~ (gay after having wife, kids)

tell your truth

what does it mean to be a woman and to ~ (music)

take control of their own truth

social media lets celebrities ~ and rebut claims to followers

## wrapped in our truths

women artists show women as we are, ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "He is a man who is basically rebooting his life and stepping into his truth and embracing the fact that he's a gay black man in the South. And so, I've always been that type of person who uses the truth, umm, and it's inspired by just what I've gone through, my folks go through, and people who are close to me go through, and then I weave it into fiction..." (Katori Hall.)

♦ "We've been silenced and misrepresented. And so, any time you get an opportunity to tell your truth, you are pushing back against so many lies and falsehoods...And being an artist and in demanding that the world just looks at you, you oddly are being an activist." (Katori Hall.)

♦ "I'm coming out as non-binary, I'm speaking my truth, and you know what, this is who I am, and I'm gonna own it, and I am taking the power back from what you have to say about me." (Demi Lovato.)

♦ "I hope it inspires younger queer artists to share their full truths in song." (Brittney McKenna about Ty Herndon's re-recording of "What Mattered Most.")

♦ "But we live in our truth." (A disappointed Ashley Judd, after movie producer Harvey Weinstein is granted a retrial in New York.)

♦ "He's someone who is looking for truth—truth from the world, and truth from himself. [His latest album is] so full of truth he originally wasn't sure if he should release it at all." ("Hiss Golden Messenger Is Looking For Truth On 'Terms Of Surrender,'" heard on NPR, World Café WXPB, January 15, 2020.)

♦ "Blow it the fuck up. That was moving closer to my truth." (Jada Pinkett Smith, talking to the BBC's Kirsty Young.)

♦ "My man at @X is tweeting some truth dis' mornin'!"

### \*\*\* jumping on the "truth" bandwagon...

♦ "I reiterate that our top priority is to serve younger and more diverse audiences... Now is a time for truth telling, for listening, and for action. As a news organization, we act by bearing witness and elevating voices..." (A message to staff from John Lansing, President and CEO of National Public Radio. Uri Berliner's comments about Lansing are interesting. Read, "I've Been at NPR for 25 Years. Here's How We Lost America's Trust" by Uri Berliner, *The Free Press*, April 9, 2024.)

♦ "Now, unfortunately, we know what comes next. We know folks are going to do everything they can to distort her truth." (Michele Obama at the 2024 DNC, speaking about Kamala Harris.)

♦ "He was telling his truth and I think unfortunately some of that has been distorted due to some other factors, but I do think he did not intend to tell a truth that wasn't his truth." (Juror Samantha Imrie explaining her vote in the Gwyneth Paltrow-Terry Sanderson trial.)

♦ "I am with you. I stand by you. People forget you're paid for your opinion and that you're just speaking your truth." (Sharon Osbourne defends Piers Morgan in a tweet after the latter criticized Meghan Markle, saying, "I don't believe a word she says... I wouldn't believe her if she read me a weather report." He was commenting on an Oprah Winfrey-Meghan Markle interview.)

♦ "Alana Thompson is no longer 'Honey Boo Boo,' and is speaking her truth." (ABC News.)

♦ "The truth is there is now extreme anxiety in Washington and Tokyo about how to deter China's growing threat to the island. In the meantime, President Biden seems to have been speaking his own truth, that a friendly democracy must be defended." (BBC Six O'Clock News, 23/05/2022.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*. (A memoir by Kamala Harris. With a young reader edition.)

♦ *Barbara Jordan: Speaking the Truth with Eloquent Thunder*, edited by Max Sherman, University of Texas Press.

♦ "This is my truth. I am not a stigma. I'm a person that walks their life." (Selena Gomez, quoted from *People* magazine, on a GMA

feature story about Gomez's new mental health platform WonderMind.)

♦ "My Truth, My Power Unisex T-shirt, Positive Vibes Shirt, Inspirational Tee, Motivational Gift, Self-Expression Shirt \$25.94+." (Etsy.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "They keep sayin' I should get help, but I don't even know what I need, they keep sayin', 'Speak your truth,' and at the same time put it onto me." (Megan Thee Stallion, "Anxiety.")

♦ "The same formula again and again. I want to post pictures of myself in bathing suits. When I get criticized I'll say I want to do it for others and for body positivity. When I get criticized for that, I will show sadness that the world doesn't support mental health and I'm a victim, and finally I'll get praised for being so brave for living my own truth." (Bob Loblaw. A BBC HYS about "SI Swim model Natalie Mariduena wants to 'be an example' of 'body normalcy'" by Stephanie Nolasco, August 20, 2022.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A well-appointed young woman with good hair (but oddly unfocused eyes) is in the witness box of a court and saying, "Whole Truth, And Nothing But My Truth..." A frumpy tousle-haired public defender at a table is whispering to her male colleague, "College Professor." (Chip Bok, Townhall.com, Dec 13, 2023. Funny!)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "Suppose he's tellin' the truth, that fella?" / (Grimly.) "He's tellin' the truth. The truth for him. He wasn't makin' it up." / "Was it the truth for us?" / "I don't know." (Dialogue from John Ford's great film *The Grapes of Wrath*, based on the book by John Steinbeck.)

♦ "Volleyball player 'fights for truth' after being severely injured by trans opponent: 'If only my rights had been more important than a man's feelings'" by Rikki Schlott, *The New York Post*, Dec. 17, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This version of *truth* is characterized by the absence of the definite article "the" and its replacement with a possessive adjective: "my" truth, "our" truth, "your" truth, "his" truth, "her" truth, "their" truth... But not always. "The truth" may also be code for "my truth."

♦ Refers to nothing real.

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

♦ TRUTH, n. An ingenious compound of desirability and appearance. Discovery of truth is the sole purpose of philosophy, which is the most ancient occupation of the human mind and has a fair prospect of existing with increasing activity to the end of time." (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ Truth (noncount and count noun): (a) Whatever you can convince yourself of (b) Whatever you can convince others of (c) Whatever you can get away with—"I didn't do nuffin!" (A definition written in the spirit of Ambrose Bierce's *The Devil's Dictionary*.)

♦ see also *reality* (*real*, *truth*, *lies*, *facts*, *etc.*)

## truth to power

truth to power

where was ~ (criticism of a politician)

hold truth to power

Mexico's journalists ~

speak truth to power

people do not have to risk their jobs to ~ (tenure)

speaking truth to power

we are ~ (protesters)

but then she started ~ (the latest Glennon Doyle)

spoke truth to power

*Outside The Lines* ~ (the cancelled ESPN show)

told truth to power

the "Cronkite Moment" has it the anchorman ~ (arguable)

♦ "She spoke truth to power to expand political participation and economic rights for all Americans." (Fanny Lou Hamer.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "Are you really speaking truth to power, or do you think you look cool in a keffiyeh?" (Bill Maher about student activists in the United States who support Hamas. The Israel-Hamas war.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "If you're going to speak truth to power, at least tell the truth."

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Speaking truth to power." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## tsunami (noun)

tsunami of cases

Germany hopes to avoid the ~ seen in Italy (pandemic)

tsunami of (omicron) cases

due to the ~, hospitals... (January, 2022)

tsunami of lawsuits

the company faces a ~ (opioid epidemic)

tsunami of fake news

Brazilian voters faced a ~ before the election  
disinformation, partisan news, and social media's ~

tsunami of problems

the ~ that the government confronts (UK)

tsunami of traffic

the Web site experienced a ~ (celebrity gossip)

tsunami of reality TV

I had no idea the ~ lay just below the horizon (Peter Weir)

tsunami warning

Democrats face a ~ (elections)

tsunami of misinformation and disinformation

he warned about a "~" in his country (Dr. Anthony Fauci)

cicada tsunami

brace yourself for a ~ (Brood X)

refugee tsunami

the world has not seen a ~ like this since World War II

steroid tsunami

the ~ nearly washed out Major League Baseball

digital tsunami

it will be a challenge to keep up with the ~ (power)

electoral tsunami

we will see an ~ on Nov. 2 (elections)

green tsunami

voters turned out for her in a "~" (Brazil)

slow-motion tsunami

all we can do is watch this ~ (elections)

wave or a tsunami

this wasn't just a ~, it was a red asteroid (Republicans win)

survive the (economic) tsunami

companies are struggling to ~ (downturn)

♦ "The Florida Democratic Party has completely collapsed. This wasn't just a wave or a tsunami. It was a red asteroid that hit them in Florida." (Giancarlo Sopo, Republican strategist, after the 2022 midterm elections. In the U.S., red is the color of Republicans.)

♦ "I had no idea the tsunami of reality TV lay just below the horizon." (Peter Weir, about his 1998 film *The Truman Show*.)

♦ "There is no dearth of prose describing the mass of humanity that made its way to the feet of the Great Emancipator that day; no metaphor that has slipped through the cracks waiting to be discovered, dusted off, and injected into the discourse a half century on. The March on Washington has been compared to a tsunami, a shockwave, a wall, a living monument, a human mosaic, an outright miracle. / It was all of those things..." (*Behind the Dream: The Making of the Speech that Transformed a Nation* by the fine writer Clarence B. Jones.)

♦ "Urging people 'not to speculate on details of the incident while the incident is ongoing' has all the effect of a mop and bucket against a tsunami." (The murder of children by Axel Rudakubana, Southport, England.)

\*\*\* **"I am not afraid of it, ghosts or something..."**

♦ "I am not afraid of it, ghosts or something. If a ghost comes to haunt me, I will just ask where his body is so I can pick him up." (Muzahar, 26, an Indonesian, paid to collect dead bodies following the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami, which killed up to 230,000 people.)

♦ "It was fate. If you were meant to die, you died. People visiting here to see friends, or foreigners here on holiday, all were here because their time had come to die. I've lived here all my life but I was spared. How do you explain that? My time had not yet come. When I think like this, it makes me feel better. Nature decides. Things come and things disappear. If you don't just let go, it can make you crazy." (Am Changkrai-Chok, 68, Thai fisherman, talking about who and who didn't survive the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.)

♦ see also *tidal wave*

## tube (go down the tubes)

goes down the tubes

this is what happens when a corporation ~

## tucked

tucked between Australia and Fiji

Vanuatu, ~

## tug of war

tug-of-war

it's a ~ which ideology will control the party

tug-of-war over the house

a post-divorce ~

tug-of-war between the airlines and FAA

part of a familiar ~

tug of war between the aircraft and the crew

the false reading created a ~ (MCAS / airline disasters)

tug of war between Congress and the administration

the ~ over (border wall) funding took a new turn today

tug-of-war between progressives and centrists

Biden's whole presidency has been a ~

post-divorce tug-of-war

a ~ over the house

constitutional tug-of-war

the ~ between Moscow and the regions

ideological tug of war  
the ~ inside *The New York Times*

legal tug-of-war  
he has been the subject of a long ~ between...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

## tumble (decline)

Dow tumbled  
the ~ more than 500 points (2008 financial crisis)

prices have tumbled  
gas ~

ratings tumble  
she has seen her ~

## tumble (take a tumble)

took a tumble  
the financial markets ~ today

## tumble down (verb)

came tumbling down  
but it all ~ when... (a happy life)

## tumor (noun)

cancerous tumor  
he described the country as a ~ (leader)

## tumult (disruption)

political tumult  
the ~ of the 1960s

## tune (in tune, etc.)

in tune with his teammates  
on Thursday he was ~ (soccer game)

in tune with the views  
he is not ~ of his constituents (a politician)

in tune with (Bush's) view  
he is more ~ of North Korea (a leader)

dance to the tune  
many politicians ~ of the latest opinion poll or tweet

♦ "The old hurdy-gurdy is once again playing the tune about Russian doping. Someone is diligently turning the handle." (The Russian Olympic Committee, after disgruntled losers at the Tokyo Olympics suggested that Russian winners were doping.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "I imagine they'll sing in tune after the revolution." (Viktor Komarovsky, at a restaurant where he is feting Lara, about the singing of demonstrators on the street outside. He receives a standing ovation from the other diners. It is a wonderful moment in the great 1965 David Lean film *Doctor Zhivago*.)

## tune (out of tune)

out of tune with the needs  
education is ~ of the economy

## tune (different tune)

singing a different tune  
but he is ~

## tune (change one's tune)

changed his tune  
in May he ~ and confessed to doping (Tour de France)

changed their tune  
it doesn't mean the bad guys have ~ (Baghdad)

## tune (change in tune)

change in tune  
this is a ~ (US will leave troops in Syria after all)

## tune (dance to the tune)

dances to the tune of a different drummer  
she says her state "~~" (South Carolina)

## tune (and tune up)

tune up for the World Cup  
friendly matches will help them to ~ (soccer)

tune up my (50-something) brain  
I want to ~ (brain exercises)

tune up your relationship  
need to ~ (advice)

tune up the vaccine  
we can use new genetic information to ~ (pertussis)

## tuned (stay tuned)

stay tuned  
he urges people to ~ (to an ongoing issue)

stay tuned to find out  
~ (a politically motivated lawsuit)

\*\*\* the wireless telegraph, radio...

♦ "The others... were deeply confused and afraid, and most of them wished that the emir would cover the radio up again and put it away, because 'anything can happen in this world.' Most of them were not ready to hear any explanation or comment, because the strange device could talk, sing, tell stories and perhaps do many other things as well, in spite of its tiny size. The people inside it might be strange enchanted creatures, probably badly deformed as well. The only one to dare ask a question was Ibn Naffeh, though he was apprehensive and a little afraid. / 'Who made this calamity?'" (*Cities of Salt* by Abdelrahman Munif.)

## tune-up (noun)

tune-up for the playoffs  
the game was a good ~ (sports)

in need of a tuneup  
the program is badly ~ (state monitoring of pollution)

getting a tune up  
the painting is ~ (restoration of old master)

## tuning fork (noun)

tuning fork for writing

his nearly infallible ~ allowed him to appreciate...

♦ "William Dean Howells, the good guy of American letters in his day, whose nearly infallible tuning fork for writing, which had allowed him to appreciate Emily Dickinson before almost anyone else did, also enabled him to respond to Crane." ("American Stoic: What Stephen Crane left behind" by Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, October 25, 2021.)

♦ "I am classically trained in music theory and music performance, so I have an innate ear and actually a highly skilled ear when it comes to frequency and harmony and dissonance and melody. So for me, it's this thing that I can feel in my body. I'm almost like a tuning fork where if I hear the beat and I vibrate at the level that I'm supposed to, I know that that's what I want to get on." ("Lizzo on Feminism, Self-Love And Bringing 'Hallelujah Moments' To Stage," *Fresh Air*, May 23, 2019. Prince was a Lizzo fan. Nuff said.)

## tunnel (resemblance)

tunnel of (mature) rhododendron  
a long arched ~

## tunnel (light at the end of the tunnel)

light at the end of the tunnel  
sometimes it doesn't seem like there's a ~ (troubles)  
it's not the end of the pandemic, but certainly a bright ~

♦ "I think I see the light at the end of the tunnel. And this time, it is not a freight train." (A restaurateur, about the end of COVID restrictions.)

♦ "It seemed like there was light at the end of the tunnel, and then... (The Omicron variant / pandemic.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "You can only go halfway into the darkest forest, then you are coming out the other side." (Chinese.)

## tunnel vision

tunnel vision  
a kind of ~ dominates his perspective  
tension tends to induce instant ~  
I had ~ (an athlete who drove, shot, scored, won game)  
detectives are looking at all angles to avoid getting ~

tunnel vision thing  
it was just kind of like a ~ (rescuer didn't hear screams of bystanders)

tunnel vision versus an open mind  
~ (criminal investigations)

♦ "He's got target fixation." (A military pilot.)

♦ "I've been looking through a cardboard tube." (A comment on narrowness of vision due to work.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ GOOD ADVICE. Don't get tunnel vision on that 300-pound bear walking near your picnic table. Look for its trailing twin brother.

## turbocharge (verb)

turbocharged this (global social-media) ecosystem  
the alt-right has ~ of hatred

turbocharged the movement  
the military escalation of the war in Vietnam ~ (New Left)

turbocharge that process  
#booktok can ~ (word-of-mouth recommendations)

turbocharge the early-warning system

we need to ~ (COVID variants)

## turbocharged

turbocharged by fresh debate  
discussion of the novel has been ~ (*The Well of Loneliness*)

## turbulence (disruption)

economic turbulence  
the world's drowning in debt, brace yourself for ~

political turbulence  
the ~ in the Palestinian Authority

## turbulent (turbulent childhood, etc.)

turbulent relationship  
they had a ~

turbulent childhood  
he emerged from a ~ emotionally brittle

## turf (control)

enemy turf  
treading on ~

home turf  
bring it to his ~

## turf (turf war, etc.)

turf battle  
~s likely to ensue (federal agencies)

turf wars between the C.I.A. and F.B.I.  
~ (9/11)

alcohol turf war  
allegations of an ~ (Saudi Arabia)

absurd turf wars  
a series of ~ between the C.I.A. and F.B.I. (9/11)

bloody turf wars  
the gang endured ~s

bureaucratic turf battle  
it was not just a ~ (control of Opinion at *New York Times*)

fights over turf  
~ for distributing the drugs (gangs)

series of (absurd) turf wars  
a ~ between the C.I.A. and F.B.I. (9/11)

## turkey shoot

turkey shoot  
this was an armed retreat, not a ~ (Highway of Death)

called it a turkey shoot  
newspapers called it a ~ (Highway of Death / Kuwait)

## turn (transform)

turns from a hobby into an obsession

it ~ after a while (yo-yoing)

turns into real action  
it will be a long process before the talk ~

turn into (physical) confrontations  
verbal confrontations that ~ (police)

turned into a love affair  
their friendship ~

turned into something more  
it ~ (a relationship)

turned him into an advocate  
his accident ~ for spinal cord research (Reeve)

turned (former) foes into allies  
he has ~ (leader of Mexican drug cartel)

turned the telegraph into an antique  
the telephone ~

turns a poem into a companion  
memorization ~ (Billy Collins)

turns any meal into a feast  
a good piece of fry bread ~

turns global into globalization  
the kind of intercourse that ~ (Silk Road)

turned Yakutat into a (surfing) hotspot  
they have ~ (Alaska)

turn the discussion into a lecture  
don't ~ (advice to teachers)

turned Patteson into a (Christian) martyr  
the murder ~ (Melanesia)

turned his (difficult) childhood into music  
50 Cent ~ (rapper)

turned the dream into a nightmare  
the loans have ~ (home ownership)

turn a cult activity into a mainstream sport  
he helped ~ (surfing)

turned to grief  
but euphoria ~... (all miners but one actually dead)

turned to panic  
fear ~ (1918 flu pandemic)

turns to trust  
distrust ~ when people get to know you

turned it to his advantage  
he ~

turned angry  
the march ~

turned fatal  
his good deed ~ when...

turn tragic

a relatively minor mistake can ~ (climbing)

turned from bad to worse  
the situation in Somalia has ~

♦ "Mental illness and substance abuse is a real issue and we hope to turn this tragedy into a testimony." (Master P.)

**turn (turn to something, etc.)**

turn  
I didn't know which way to ~

turned to the Internet to get  
she ~ information on how to...

turn to plastic surgery to look  
they ~ young

turned to Sununu to strike back  
he ~ (politics)

turn to Crazy Horse for answers  
I ~

turn to God for forgiveness  
we must constantly ~

turn to traditional healers for help  
8 in 10 South Africans ~ (sangomas)

turn to (school) officials for help  
young lesbians will not ~ when...

turns to the I.M.F. for a loan  
the next time it ~

turning to Islam  
they are ~

turns to Allah  
if a person sincerely ~, seeking His help...

turned to his allies  
Zhou ~ in the local police (labor problems)

turn to anybody  
when there's no one else to listen to you, you'll ~ (gay)

turn to drugs  
youth who ~ in an effort to escape their circumstances

turned to drugs  
they ~ as a way of dealing with isolation... (gay students)

turn to faith  
to cope with combat, soldiers often ~

turned to poetry  
he ~, his source of solace in times of difficulty

turning to sources  
Western scientists are ~ they once disparaged...

turned to sports  
they ~ to boost sagging morale (soldiers in war zone)

turn to terrorism  
enemies who cannot compete conventionally often ~



turned to the (Wyoming) can-do spirit  
but talk at the meeting ~

turned to the Adult Friend Finder  
he ~ dating service...

turn to traditional healers  
8 in 10 South Africans ~ for help (sangomas);  
undocumented workers ~ (Mexicans in US)

no one (there for me) to turn to  
there was ~

## **turn (turn against / turn on something)**

turned (ruthlessly) against e-mail  
Mr. Ferriss ~ (author of "The 4-Hour Workweek)

turned against the war  
he was a Vietnam veteran who later ~

turned on her  
her friends ~

turned on each other  
two of the main rebel factions have ~ (Darfur)

turned on him  
the public quickly ~ (Richard Jewell)  
the U.K. media ~ (a *Love Island* contestant)

turn on the president  
he won't ~

turn on them  
you could feel the crowd ~ (soccer)

turned on us  
the tools we use have ~ (technology)

turned on Tom Brady and Alex Guerrero  
and what got me the most was that Antonio Brown ~

\*\*\* **An animal can turn on its master...**

♦ "The enraged elephant then turned on the tourists, charging the crowd."

♦ "The performing elephant turned on its handler and then charged..."

## **turn (take a turn)**

taken a turn  
the case for the missing teen has ~

took a turn for the better  
their marriage ~  
our luck ~...

took a turn for the worse  
at nightfall, Jason ~ (injured Ranger / combat)  
her condition has taken a ~

took a dark turn  
their relationship ~ (boyfriend murders girlfriend)

took a devastating turn  
and then the case ~ (missing woman found murdered)

took another dramatic turn

the case ~ when... (murder)

took a grim turn  
his troubled life ~ when he was shot... (bipolar)

taken a new turn  
the investigation has ~

took a romantic turn  
their friendship ~

took a sharp turn  
his uncertain health ~ for the worse

took a sour turn  
the day ~ when... (fight at park)

took a tragic turn  
events ~ (student party)

took an unexpected turn  
the case ~ (murder trial)

taken an ugly turn  
things have ~ (awkward moment)

path took an (unexpected) turn  
her life's ~ (serious injury)

## **turn (development)**

turn of events  
parishioners expressed their sadness over the ~ (abuse)

turns of events  
stunned by ~ you never saw coming

plot turn  
~s, notable scenes, acting performances

upturn  
our management team is focusing on the ~ (business)

180-degree turn  
a ~ of public opinion

twists and turns  
the plot has many ~ (movie)  
his career has taken many ~

## **turn (wrong turn)**

historical wrong turns  
like a lot of ~, *LGBTQ* means well (the term)

wrong turns and dead ends  
the series had some ~ (a TV show)

## **turnabout (reversal)**

turnabout  
for the computer industry this is a ~

turnabout reflects  
the ~ a recognition that... (diplomacy)

## **turn around (turn things around, etc.)**

turned around CBS  
he ~ (an executive)

turn around the economy  
he will help Republicans ~

turned (Manchester United's) fortunes around  
he has ~ (the manager)

turn his life around  
he is trying to ~ (a troubled athlete)

turned his life around  
he had ~ and learned from his mistakes (re-arrested)

turn things around  
we can ~  
we can still ~ (a crisis)

turn this thing around  
we're going to ~ (improve schools)

## **turnaround**

turnaround plan  
the ~ has not worked (hospital in debt)

abrupt turnaround  
the decline in his fortunes represents an ~ since autumn

dramatic turnaround  
in another ~ (football coach's fortunes)

## **turn back (verb)**

turn back  
we can't ~ now... (plan)  
we've gone too far to ~ now (politics)  
we are in this fight for our lives, and we will not ~  
(candidate)

## **turncoat (person)**

turncoat Tricia  
Democrats condemned her as "a ~"

hero (to some) and a turncoat  
he is a moral ~ to others (Peter Beinart / Jewish politics)

weaklings and turncoats  
GOP ~ (politics / culture wars)

♦ "A North Carolina Democrat reportedly jumped her party's ship Tuesday, cementing the Republican supermajority in the state House of Representatives." (Democrats condemned her as "a traitor," "a spy," and "turncoat Tricia" and her action as "a betrayal" and "deceit of the highest order." She said she switched sides because the Democrats were "close-minded bullies.")

♦ "People just couldn't believe that he would suddenly become a turncoat, so to speak, and try and damage the office by making these allegations. I mean, you've been in the office for so long and all of a sudden just turn against it because you had a falling out with the boss?" (A district attorney about a former district attorney.)

## **turn down (verb)**

turn down clients  
they were not allowed to ~ (sex slaves)

turn down an invitation  
never ~ to go out... (dating)

turn down an offer  
it's tempting to verbally ~ and skip writing a letter

turned down the part  
he ~ (in a film)

turned down the (immigrants') requests  
Italy has ~ for political asylum

turned down their requests  
Germany ~ for political asylum

turned down his (zoning) request  
Ann Arbor officials ~

turned down an (athletic) scholarship  
he ~ from Villanova because...

turn down (extra) work  
pilots invoked their contract right to ~

turn this offer down  
few ~ ("John" school instead of court)

turned them down twice  
school officials ~ (students request gay club)

## **turned down**

turned down for a job  
if you are ~ because of credit problems...

no one is turned down  
get a degree without tests, ~ (diploma mill)

get turned down  
so many things that are very good ~ (screenplays)

## **turn off (turn people off, etc.)**

turns (a lot of) people off  
NPR ~ (its ideology, mindset, electioneering, etc.)

## **turned off**

turned off by the confrontational optics  
allies might be ~ of a street protest

turned off by (e-tailers') customer service  
consumers are ~

## **turned on (sex)**

turned on by her  
I was ~

really turned on  
I was ~ by him

## **turned up (discovered)**

turned up by the FBI  
based on information ~

## **turn in (give)**

turn in (uninspiring, half-hearted) performances  
boxers content to ~ (vs. Ward and Gatti)

turned in a performance  
if the US team ~ that was better than... (soccer)

## turning point (noun)

turning point in World War II  
the battle of El Alamein was a ~

turning point in the battle  
a ~ against entertainment violence

turning point of her career  
it was the ~

turning point in my life  
this was the ~

turning point in the history of the world  
it was a major ~ (gas attack at Ypres in 1915)

major turning point  
it was a ~ in the history of the world (gas attack at Ypres)

marked the turning point  
the battle ~

♦ see also *fulcrum (noun)*, *hinge (hinge event, etc.) point (tipping point)*

♦ see also *ground zero (noun)*, *zero (place and time, etc.)*

## turnip (Turnip Rock, etc.)

Turnip Branch  
~ is a stream in Pike County, Kentucky

Turnip Coulee  
~ is a valley in Montana

Turnip Creek  
~ is a stream in Virginia

Turnip Hill  
~ is a summit in Caldwell County, Kentucky

Turnip Island  
~ is an island in Maine

Turnip Knob  
~ is a summit in Missouri

Turnup Rock  
the sun rises over ~ (Michigan)  
~ stands in Lake Huron near Port Austin, Michigan

### \*\*\* Where babies come from...

♦ Traditionally, when small children asked where their new brother or sister came from, their parents would say they got it from the turnip patch. Or the mail carrier. See the following quote.

♦ "‘She liked to say she delivered babies, too’ Wells remembers with a chuckle. ‘There was a little fella who always waited for her at the box. He wasn’t there one day. As she was pulling off, he called to her. When she stopped, he said, ‘Why’d you leave that baby at my house?’ His parents had told him the mail lady brought it. After that, she would laughingly tell people she delivered babies, too.’ / Children would often wait for Clawson at their mailbox..." (The remarkable Addie Clawson, who went to work as a mail carrier in Watauga County, western North Carolina, in 1936, after ranking in the top three on a civil-service examination. Few thought she would succeed, or wanted her to succeed. She succeeded. Julia Ebel, a Boone, North Carolina resident, has written a book about Clawson, *Addie Clawson: Appalachian Mail Carrier*. From "Appalachian Mail Carrier" by Marla Hardee Milling, *Our State*, March 2007.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Turnip Rock in Lake Huron has the shape of a turnip. But other geographical places with "turnip" may simply indicate where turnips grow, or grew.

## turn-off (disgust)

turn-off for (most) women  
a lack of humor is a major ~

## turn on (excite)

turns me on  
it ~ (risk of getting caught / adolescent lesbian)

## turn-on

turn-on for men  
the pursuit of revenge is a ~ (brain studies)

major turn-on  
her scent is a ~

## turn out (create)

turn out 10 times the amount  
super labs ~ of drugs (methamphetamine)

turned out hits  
they ~ which included "Midnight Train to Georgia"

## turn out (develop)

turned out  
I was surprised by how it ~  
it makes sense the way it ~

turn out that  
it may ~ some anxiety disorders are caused by...

turns out that  
it ~ his girlfriend has already seen a lawyer

turn out to be the case  
that didn't ~

turn out to be nothing  
it may ~

turn out (quite) the way  
the next months did not ~ Scott had hoped

turn out to be easy  
that second goal didn't ~

turned out to be flawed  
the studies ~ (education)

turns out to be true  
it's a rare event when an Army rumor ~

turn out as advertised  
in Russia, things rarely ~ (Siberian adventure)

turned out OK  
my child ~ and I spanked him...

turn out best  
things ~ for people who make the best of things

turn out well

when you make a decision and it doesn't ~ (regret)  
they can turn out to be heroes if things ~ (doctors)

turned out a lot worse

the swim could have ~ considering... (kayaking)

## **turn out (rally / verb)**

turn out in force

activists will ~ to back those who stood up... (gays)

turned out in (record) numbers

rural voters ~ to vote out...

turned out in (far greater) numbers

demonstrators ~ than predicted

turn out in droves

democrats predicted minority voters would ~

turn out for revival

thousands ~, river baptisms (Cane River, NC)

fans turn out

only a few thousand ~ at JFK to watch (women's soccer)

## **turnout (people)**

turnout at the polls

the election is expected to hang on ~

voter turnout

~ was less than 20 percent

there was a surge in ~ (Iraq election)

low turnout

the election was marred by ~

surge in (voter) turnout

there was a ~ (Iraq election)

stir up (Democratic) turnout

they sent leaders across the country to ~

## **turnover (work)**

turnover rate

nursing aides and their high ~ rate

staff turnover

~ has been high (English school in Qatar)

teacher turnover

~ has also been high

nursing staff turnover

~ has been harmful

high turnover

a teaching corps marked by ~ (middle school / NYC)

## **turn up (increase)**

turned up the heat

then he really ~ by starting a Web site accusing...

turning up the volume

the democratic candidates are ~ against the president

turned it up to eleven

I had ~ and had to go even higher (intensity / an actor)

♦ "The violence is decidedly turned up to 11." (A film.)

♦ Elisabeth Moss: I just did it, and just kind of went as big as I could and threw it all at the wall knowing the only mistake we could make was not going far enough. And so we just went for it... / Rachael Martin: Did he ever have to pull you back. I mean did it ever feel too far, or were you like, "Nope..." / Elisabeth Moss: I had turned it up to eleven and then realized I had to go even higher... ("In 'Her Smell,' Elisabeth Moss 'Turned It Up To 11,' Then Turned It up Some More," Morning Edition, NPR, April 19, 2019.)

♦ "There's irony in everything he does. He operates on an irony setting that goes up to eleven but never goes below four." (Max Levchin about Elon Musk. From *Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

## **turn up (appear)**

turned up at (local) parades

he ~ (a politician)

turn up at (gun) shows

blowguns also ~

turned up in (Robert's) bedroom

the knives later ~, bearing traces of blood

turn up in dormitories, co-ops, bookstores

Flugennock posters ~

turn up in a few days

it'll ~ (a lost shoe)

turn up within a few weeks

most are found or ~ (the missing)

turn up during (road) construction

old bombs ~ (Germany)

turned up for the pig roast

around 2,000 people ~ (Indonesian Papua)

turn up next

where it might ~ (anthrax)

turned up next

the school rash ~ in northern Virginia

turned up well armed

Belgian troops ~ and ready to perform (UN force)

turned up dead

one more gangbanger who ~ beside a ditch;

Lina disappeared in 2000 and ~

turn up (here) regularly

now prominent foreigners ~ (Afghanistan)

virus has turned up

the dreaded West Nile ~ in New York City again...

body turned up

her ~ four days later with the corpse of...

nothing turned up

but ~ (search for missing woman)

something turns up

if ~, you're terminated (criminal background checks)

## turn up (discover)

- turned up anything  
we never ~ in that case (a detective)
- turned up the drugs  
a search of the car ~ (busted)
- turned up (other) evidence  
their inquiries ~ (murder investigation)
- turned up (39) incidents  
a computer check ~ over 15 years (crime)
- turns up (unanticipated) information  
sometimes an investigation ~
- turn up problems  
renovation at the high school did ~ with asbestos
- turned up proof  
intelligence services had never ~ of wrongdoing
- failed to turn up  
the schools ~ evidence of hazards (mystery rash)
- investigation turned up  
an ~ no criminal activity...
- search (of her apartment) turned up  
a ~ her packed luggage, jewelry...
- search (of the car) turned up  
a ~ drugs (busted)

## tweak (noun)

- small tweaks  
the administration has made ~ to regulation and policy

## twilight (in / into the twilight, etc.)

- twilight of his (political) career  
now the 78-year-old senator is approaching the ~
- in the twilight of the Soviet Union  
they came of age ~ (a generation)
- in the twilight of his career  
now, ~ (a minister)
- in the twilight of democracy  
we are ~ (authoritarianism)
- in the twilight of their lives  
recognition has come ~ (Kinkaseki POWs)
- in the twilight of his presidency  
Biden is now ~ and increasingly acknowledges it in public
- in the twilight of the republic  
we are in the ~ (US)
- into the twilight of his career  
Federer is well ~ (the great tennis player)

## twilight (in a legal twilight, etc.)

- legal twilight  
the ruling leaves her in a ~ (immigrant)
- twilight zone  
the school has been caught in the ~ of “orphan” academies

## Twilight Zone

- from the Twilight Zone  
the latest accusation is ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Wikipedia article “*Black Mirror*” refers to *The Twilight Zone* twelve times. Will “*Black Mirror*” ever replace “*Twilight Zone*” as an allusion?

♦ see also *Black Mirror*

## twin (two)

- Twin Cities  
the Somali community in the ~ (Minneapolis-St. Paul)
- twin failures  
the ~ of 1999 forced NASA to... (Mars missions)
- twin (suicide) bombings  
Istanbul suffered ~ (terrorism)

- twin lakes  
the ~ of Ohrid and Prespa (Balkans)

- twin relics  
polygamy and slavery, the ~ of barbarism

## twin (relationship)

- twin masters  
bow to their ~: the ratings and advertisers (network TV)

- twin threats  
~ face Russia's polar bears—global warming and poaching

- South's (familiar) twins  
the ~, temperature and humidity

- deadly twin  
TB has become AIDS' ~

- evil twin  
September is the ~ of spring fever  
film and its ~, commerce...

- familiar twins  
the South's ~, temperature and humidity

- scientific twins  
forecast and evolution were ~ (FitzRoy and Darwin)

## twin (the Twins, etc.)

- the Twins  
we visited ~ (Marshall Islands)
- Twin Rocks  
we sailed around ~ (Kemps Bay, the Bahamas)

Twin Peaks

I hiked to ~ (Australia)

Twin Lakes

she has a cabin on ~ (Ontario)

## twist (twist the truth, etc.)

twisted the facts

the magazine ~

twist the truth

his lawyers tried to ~ during the trial

twist our words

they will change our words, they ~

## twist (noun)

twist in the case

it was a sad ~

twist in the trial

this was a dramatic ~ (Trump's second impeachment)

latest twist

he will speak about the ~ (diplomacy)

EFPs are the ~ in a lethal game of measure, countermeasure

sad twist

it was a ~ in the case

stunning twist

it was a ~

♦ "Is high school theater becoming a battleground in the culture wars? ... One such case is in Cardinal High School in Middlefield Ohio. As NPR's Elizabeth Blair reports, the story there took an unexpected pirouette." (NPR's "A" Martinez. From "Adults complained about a teen theater production and the show's creators stepped in" by Elizabeth Blair, NPR, Morning Edition, March 9, 2023.)

## twist (twist and turn / twists and turns)

twists and turns

the plot has many ~ (movie)

twist and turn of this case

he has been following every ~ since the very beginning

twist and turn in the story

he has covered every ~ (a reporter)

## twisted (corruption)

twisted for (political) gain

in Washington, anything can be ~

twisted into a web

his death has been ~ of disinformation and paranoia

twisted logic

genocide followed a ~

this is an example of ~

twisted psychology

the trial has been a showcase of ~ (murder)

perverted, twisted

he is a man with a ~ mind

twisted world

she lives in a ~

mentally twisted

he is ~ (animal abuser)

## twisted (character)

twisted killer

he is a ~

twisted predator

a vivid and meticulous investigation of a ~ (true-crime book)

twisted soul

he is a ~

strange, twisted

it takes a ~ person to do what she did

## twitch (quick-twitch)

quick-twitch media

a ~, desperate to get it out, amplified flaws in the reporting

## twitter-lashing (noun)

twitter-lashing by President Trump

this ~ towards the Kochs

## Twitterverse (noun)

in the Twitterverse

she has a lot of love ~ (a liberal)

Twitterverse went crazy

and the ~ (about something or other)

♦ "Between Twitterland and the Muskverse was a radical divergence in outlook that reflected two different mindsets about the American workplace." (Elon Musk by Walter Isaacson.)

## two point zero, two point oh (2.0)

Globalization 1.0

how Vikings launched ~

GOP 2.0

he is focusing on what he calls ~ (politics)

JCPOA 2.0

there needs to be a ~ (a new nuclear deal)

Johnny Appleseed (of Agriculture) 2.0

she is the ~ (brings together entrepreneurs, investors)

lockdown 2.0

~ is here (second surge of coronavirus pandemic)

NAFTA 2.0

it's ~, a modest tweak, an updating (USMCA)

Taliban 2.0

the "moderate" ~ never emerged (Afghanistan)

~ was a mirage... (post-2021)



♦ "Meet the 'chicken from hell' 2.0: a newly discovered dinosaur" by Michael Levitt, Justine Kenin, and Mary Louise Kelly, NPR, Science, All Things Considered, February 1, 2024. A 4-Minute Listen.

## tyrant (noun)

tyrant

he's a ~, micromanages, appreciates only himself

he was a ~, he fired people so often...

household tyrant

he was a terrible ~

ogre and a tyrant

his employees describe him as an ~

called him a tyrant

Republicans ~ for imposing mask restrictions

## U

## uber (uber-interesting, etc.)

uber-fun

this ~ and exhilarating set (NPR tiny desk concerts)

uber-interesting

his Afrofuturism class is ~ and a piece of cake... (Uni)

uber talented

she is young, ~ and enigmatic (Amythyst Kiah)

uber-competitive

I was on a team that was not ~

uber confident

~ take-no-nonsense female presenters bossing it on TV

uber-masculine

ever ~ hit record (Black male rappers)

uber-powerful

Dan Schneider, once the ~ for Nickelodeon...

ubersselective

~ schools... (colleges and universities)

uber-sensual

she had transitioned into her ~ Janet (Janet Jackson)

super-hyper-mega-uber

this ~ French entry (Barbara Pravi / Eurovision Contest)

♦ "Like many women of my age, I wanted to be Sara Cox on Channel 4's *The Girlie Show*. Up to that time there had been very few uber confident take-no-nonsense female presenters bossing it on TV."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, "The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy."

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled*?), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, "try this genius hack to..." In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ see also *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing)

## Uber (the Uber of towing, etc.)

aimed to be "the Uber of towing"

his former startup ~ (Domm Holland)

## ugly (adjective)

ugly blemish

the Charlottesville tragedy was "an ~" on the US (2017)

ugly byproduct

domestic violence is an ~ of the culture of machismo

ugly cousin

sarcasm is anger's ~

ugly cry

*Love Story* was an ~ (the movie)

ugly detail

do I have to spell it out in every ~

ugly divorce

the UK and the EU are having an ~

ugly picture

she painted an ~ of him as a drug user (trial)

ugly rhetoric

I thoroughly reject and repudiate his ~

ugly scenes

there have been ~ in some places (panic buying)

players, coaches and officials were involved in ~ (brawl)

ugly sister

eugenics and its ~, eugenic euthanasia (Nazis)

ugly specter

the deal raises the ~ of conflict of interest

ugly truth

police revealed the ~ (Keith Simms, the Bondi Beast)

ugly turn

things have taken an ~

ugly underside

the ~ of America's most popular sport (football)

ugly and repellent

she called his political rhetoric ~ (Anne Applebaum)

get ugly

late at night, the protests ~ (street protests)

♦ "Fury continues to dominate. He's turned it up a bit more this round. The eyes on Chisora aren't good, his face is battered. Stop this fight. This is ugly and getting uncomfortable." (Fury versus Chisora III, Round 9. The ref stopped the fight in Round 10.)

♦ "These posts are ugly. The hating on Meghan is offensive." (An online commenter.)

♦ "Some people say they are awfully homely, awful bad looking, but to me... they are beautiful fish, just like a beautiful blonde." (Pat Wudtke, 73, in Wisconsin. He has speared sturgeon—living fossils—for 50 years during the state's annual season.)

♦ "Even the ugly sharks are beautiful..." (Shark enthusiast Katherine Rundell, specifically mentioning the goblin shark, which is a living fossil.)

♦ “Of course I litter the public highway. Every chance I get. After all, it’s not the beer cans that are ugly; it’s the highway that is ugly.” (Edward Abbey, author of the *Monkey Wrench Gang* and a godfather of Earth First.)

♦ Life asked Death, “Why does everyone love me and hate you?” Death replied, “Because you are a beautiful lie and I am the ugly truth.”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we rarely spend much time on this. The old American Language Course textbook (ALC-DLI) showed pairs of pictures. The pair I remember is, “This sofa is ugly. The other sofa is beautiful.” We could do more with this word to better reflect its usage.

♦ “Every monkey is a gazelle to its mother.” (Arabic.)

♦ see also *beautiful* (adjective)

## ulcer (noun)

Napoleon’s “Spanish ulcer”  
the Peninsular War was ~

bleeding ulcer

Commander Stanley McChrystal called Marjah “a ~”

## ultra (ultra-conservative, etc.)

ultra processed

~ foods make up half the average British diet (health risks)

ultrarunners

~, a bizarre band of pain junkies...

ultra-aggressive

he is ~, on and off the track... (an F1 racer)

ultra-competitive

Caitlin Clark’s ~ nature (college basketball)

ultra-conservative

he was a victim of a mutiny by ~s (politics)

ultraconservative

the ~ German political theorist..

ultra defensive

Real Madrid offered ~, boring football...

ultra-familiar

the fish-out-of-water dynamic is ~ (2024 film *Immaculate*)

ultra-lux

the ~ Maldivian hotel where Sienna Miller babymooned

ultramassive

astronomers have found an ~ black hole  
the discovery of ~ black holes (BBC)

ultra-private

they were very nice but ~ (neighbors / filicide-suicide)

ultra-rare

it’s an ~ condition (prosopometamorphopsia / PMO)

ultrawealthy

funding from an ~ investor

♦ “We’ve never witnessed buildings rise so much, so quickly. From high-rises, we’ve stretched to supertalls and even megatalls (double the height of a supertall), and engineers are already discussing

‘ultratalls’ that would take us higher still.” (“Can A Building Be Too Tall?” by Bianca Bosker, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023.)

♦ “Enormous; ferocious; gargantuan; giant; huge; immense; large; massive; monstrous; terrifying // overmassive; supermassive; ultramassive // astonishingly big; stupendously large // beasts; behemoths; monsters; titans // (ferociously) devour material; eaten lots of material; falling into a slumber; hiding at the centres of some galaxies; lurking out there; (found) skulking in the middle of a quasar...” (“Stupendously large: How big can black holes get?” by Jonathan O’Callaghan, BBC, 7 October 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ As Michael Goldhaber said, “The value of true modesty or humility is hard to sustain in the attention economy.”

♦ Much in U.S. society is and always has been and always will be commercial, promotional, and self-promotional. And our language reflects it: *big, super-, ultra-, giga-, trendy, performative, curated, boutique, artisanal, craft, custom, heirloom, designer, bespoke, bedazzled* (or is it *bejazzled?*), *uber, meta, hyper, upcycled, -forward, -informed, -driven, -ized, reinvented, pop-up, verb-up, kinetic, fluid, deep, massive, generational, transactional, intersectional, insanely cool*, “try this genius hack to...” In warfare, bombs and missiles have gone from *dumb* to *smart* to *brilliant*.

♦ see also *supersizing* (linguistic supersizing)

## umbilical (connection)

curly umbilical

you can see the ~ from the descent stage to the rover

## umbrella (protection)

air defense umbrella

air cover or an ~ is necessary

the passes lay outside the Egyptians’ ~ (Sinai / 1973)

protective umbrella

the Saudis did not want a U.S. ~

nuclear umbrella

the US could extend its ~ to Israel, Egypt, and the Gulf

under the (American national security) umbrella

any number of countries ~ have done quite well

♦ “To my family, friends and umbrellas thank you for your continued support... To my Family my Friends and to the Umbrellas World Wide... all things One Umbrella will now be promoted on my main page... (Tory Lanez, the Canadian rapper.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Umbrellas were originally designed as sun shades for protection against the sun. In Latin, “umbra” means “shadow.”

## umbrella (under an umbrella)

under the Taliban’s umbrella

it is one of the main groups fighting ~

under the social studies umbrella

disciplines ~

under that huge umbrella

all of the sub-genres that go ~ of hyperpop (music)

work under the U.N. umbrella

7,000 de-miners are at ~ (Afghanistan)

## umbrella (umbrella group, etc.)

umbrella agencies

get in touch with the ~ below...

umbrella catchphrase

it has morphed into an ~ with little concrete meaning (ESG)

umbrella species

they're an ~ (eels)

umbrella term

"transgender" is an ~ to describe people who...

♦ "It's not a panda, or something big and majestic, and it's not a cuter otter. Eels are slimy, weird, snakelike things. But they're an umbrella species. Saving them means saving broad swaths of habitat from the ocean all the way up to the headwaters." (John Wyatt Greenlee. From "Ghosts On The Water" by Paige Williams, *The New Yorker*, June 24, 2024.)

## un (unhoused, etc.)

unhoused

LA's struggle to address its ~ crisis

the ~ population is facing new restrictions around sleeping

some ~ people prefer the streets to shelters

tiny homes for ~ veterans

~ people and extreme heat

murders committed by people who are ~ (NYC)

unparented

an ~ teen-ager

unsheltered

Philadelphia will provide vacant houses to ~ residents

unhealthy, unschooled, unfed and unpaid

women comprise the majority of the world's ~

uncomfortable

see *uncomfortable (groups)*

unserious

see *unserious (adjective)*

♦ "Of particular concern to me is the plight of women and girls, who comprise the majority of the world's unhealthy, unschooled, unfed, and unpaid..." (Hillary Clinton's Confirmation as Secretary of State under President Obama.)

## un (undo this hurt, etc.)

undo this hurt

~, unbreak my heart... (Toni Braxton)

unlearn the information

I wanted to ~ as soon as I read it (about a suicide)

♦ "I wanted to unlearn the information as soon as I read it." ("A Letter to College Sports" by Cailin Bracken.)

## un (contempo-speak)

unlearn

I wanted to ~ the information (Cailin Bracken / bad news)

untrusting

I'm afraid, ~ and ashamed (a Yale Divinity School coed)

unsurprised

they were ~ (versus "not surprised")

uncareful

~ encroachments on sharks' habitat (Katherine Rundell)

unserious

see *unserious (adjective)*

untame

the novelist is ferociously ~ (Lydia Millet)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ A female shark enthusiast in a *New Yorker* article wrote about our "uncareful encroachments" on sharks' habitat. Merriam-Webster recognizes "uncareful" as a word, but also has the following: "Love words? You must—there are over 200,000 in our free online dictionary, but you are looking for one that's only in the Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary. Start your free trial today and..."

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## unapologetic (groups)

unapologetic

being ~, being Afro-Latina (Janel Martinez)

unapologetic Blackness

the first big era of ~

unapologetic confidence

young, sexy and black: 32 songs for ~ (LaTasha Harris)

unapologetic heroine

an ~ who's not gentle flower (exploited / exploiter)

unapologetic ode

Sasheer Zamata's special is an ~ to women... and witches

unapologetic (Trump) resistance

Naomi Klein's call for an ~ (liberal activist, 2017)

unapologetic and brash

there was something fearless in Pee-wee, ~ (Herman)

unapologetic, cocky

an ~ moment ("drill on your ho, livin' my goals")

bold, determined and unapologetic

her ~ personality (politician Shirley Chisholm)

fearless and unapologetic

*Positions* is ~ (Ariana Grande)

notorious and unapologetic

Russell Peters, ~ (Indian-Canadian comedian)

\*\*\* **various groups...**

♦ "Be true to yourself. Never apologize. Burn it to the ground." (Support to the comedian Michelle Wolf, whose remarks at the 2018 White House Correspondents' Dinner were widely criticized.)

♦ "Johnson, who is forty-seven, grew up in what the curator Naomi Beckwith calls 'the first big era of unapologetic Blackness.'" ("No Room For A Masterpiece: Rashid Johnson's art of masculine vulnerability is going to the Guggenheim" by Calvin Tomkins, *The New Yorker*, December 16, 2024.)

♦ OLD: an unrepentant white extremist... / NEW: an unapologetic Black woman...

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "I make no apologies," said by a Trump supporter, simply doesn't and *can't* have the drama and resistance of this usage. Wrong group.

♦ "In the mid-1980s, 'wildin'' became one of many ways to describe someone acting in an uninhibited or reckless manner... Uninhibited Blackness has always inspired fear in mainstream America..." ("The

Words On The Street" by Miles Marshall Lewis, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 13, 2023. "The Hip-Hop Issue.")

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

## unapologetically (groups)

unapologetically became a safe space  
Slant'd ~ (a literary magazine for AAPIs)

unapologetically confronts  
*Buffalo: What's Next* ~ racism... (mass shooting)

unapologetically embraces  
*Fresh Off the Boat* ~ Asian-American family life

unapologetically occupies space  
she ~, literally and figuratively (Aidy Bryant)

unapologetically New Orleans  
everything Ambre does is intentional and ~

unapologetically herself  
she is ~ (queer)

unapologetically me  
I'm ~...

unapologetically femme  
Saucy Santana's ~ aesthetics

unapologetically queer  
created space for ~ men in wrestling (Saul Armendariz)

unapologetically loud  
~ women who push boundaries (Pussy Riot, etc.)

unapologetically Black and radical  
she is a dark-skinned Black woman who is ~ (jailed)

unapologetically crazy and tender  
a strange, large Indian man, at once ~ (older Native men)

unapologetically crude and outspoken  
Lolo is ~

unapologetically so  
living my truth, ~... (Gomez identifies as they / them)

unapologetically acting and making  
women ~ in ways that defy this "male gaze"

loudly and unapologetically  
Woopie Goldberg lives her life ~

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "It paints an intimate portrait of the real-life gay wrestler Saul Armendariz, and his fight to create space for unapologetically queer men in a male-dominated sport and society. / **Who is he?** Known as the Liberace of Lucha Libre, Saul Armendariz broke out as a new kind of luchador in the late '80s and '90s." ("Cassandro" honors the gay wrestler who revolutionized lucha libre" by Isabella Gomez Sarmiento, NPR, September 22, 2023.)

♦ "FLETCHER is unapologetically herself." (The queer Cari Fletcher.)

♦ "I stand firm on everything that I say/do. I made my honest testimony unapologetically as a Black man in America and I won't be apologizing for anything." (The activist Khymani James, they/them.)

♦ "I would define Black Twitter as anywhere where Black culture gets to be unapologetically itself, and that really happened on the platform in a big way." (Prentice Penny explaining Black Twitter on MSNBC.)

♦ "Woopie Goldberg lives her life loudly and unapologetically... She hasn't been afraid to go after what she wants and deserves." (NPR's Ayesha Rascoe's gushing tribute and interview.)

♦ OLD: defiantly, unabashedly, unashamedly... / NEW: unapologetically...

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Respectability politics." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ "Nyanzi practices what scholars have called 'radical rudeness...' (The Wikipedia article "Stella Nyanzi.")

♦ IYKYK...

♦ The clientele knows...

## unblemished

unblemished record  
he came to Glasgow with the title and an ~ (boxer)

## unbowed (adjective)

ultimately unbowed  
he was ~, he defended himself (Jack Welch)

## unbridled

unbridled ambition  
Qatar has leveraged its oil wealth and ~  
he is a man of ~

unbridled authority  
state's attorneys don't have ~ to appoint special prosecutors

unbridled capitalism  
~ undermines traditional social relations

unbridled enthusiasm  
he has the ~ of his party (a politician)  
there are problems with ~

unbridled expression  
the Internet allows ~

unbridled greed  
our ~ caused the economic crisis  
good for the company for saying no to ~ (a publisher)

unbridled growth  
low interest rates fueled ~ in the tech sector (US)

unbridled (economic) growth  
pollution has been one of the downsides of China's ~

unbridled imagination  
musicians admired him for his ~ (a fellow musician)

unbridled optimism  
people praised his ~ in the face of his illness

unbridled optimist  
she is an ~

unbridled passion  
he has energy, enthusiasm and ~ of what's possible

## uncanny (adjective)

uncanny valley

see *uncanny valley* (noun)

## uncanny, cyber-Botoxed

it's distracting to see its ~ counterpart (film "de-aging")

♦ "Zemeckis has always been fascinated by how people and places change over the decades—just think of *Forest Gump* itself, as well as his *Back to the Future* trilogy. He has also long been fascinated by digital innovation, which accounts for the creepy animated mannequins, created using real actors and motion capture technology..." ("New Tom Hanks film *Here* and the unsettling 'de-aging' technology keeping stars forever young" by Nicholas Barber, BBC, July 2, 2024. "There is no end to what computerised trickery can do.")

## uncanny valley (noun)

### uncanny valley

the phenomenon known as the ~

### 'uncanny valley' (makeup) trend

the viral ~ is taking over TikTok (look like an android)

### uncanny valley of dolls

one craftswoman is populating the ~ (see quote below)

♦ It's a phenomenon known as the uncanny valley—if something looks human-like but not believably so, it becomes unnerving and even frightening." / As Prof Helen Hastie says: 'If it's too human-like, it will put off the human.'" ("Tesla's Optimus and the problem with humanoids" by Zoe Kleinman, BBC, October 8, 2022.)

♦ "Uncanny valley" is the term used to describe the uncomfortable feeling people have when making eye contact with an android—a robot made to resemble a human." (According to an article about the viral "uncanny valley" makeup trend on TikTok. The #uncannyvalleymakeup has 41.5 million views.)

♦ "Creepy new AI animates photos to bring the dead back to life" by Joshua Hawkins, June 8th, 2022. (The app *Deep Nostalgia* from MyHeritage.)

♦ "One master craftswoman is singlehandedly populating the uncanny valley of the dolls. Denise Hall, a 37-year-old doll artist from Wales, creates hyperrealistic silicone babies that she later hawks for more than \$4,000." ("Vally of the dolls I make 'scary' realistic dolls—but parents love them like real babies" by Brooke Kato, *New York Post*, October 27, 2023.)

♦ NPR's Ailsa Chang: Is there a way that we as consumers can spot an AI-generated piece? Is there something that's a telltale sign that Oh! This is totally AI. What would you suggest. / Maggie Harrison Dupre: In general, you should always be looking at the byline no matter what, but, maybe zoom in a little, see if something feels a little *uncanny* [italics mine] about it. The text might be super-repetitive, stilted and weird. You know I spend a lot of time, of course, in these articles. They generally feel like an alien came to earth and had never used a vacuum, does not even understand what a vacuum is, but somehow has access to every single piece of information about a vacuum that's ever been created, and bottled that into a review. Like, correct information, but a lack of understanding or expertise..." ("AI-generated articles are permeating major news publications," NPR, AI Things Considered, May 16, 2024.)

\*\*\* "There's something ghastly about a monkey imitating the ways of a man..."

♦ "There was something improbable about how very bourgeois and ordinary it all was: the more normal, the more human the conversation, the less the speaker seemed like a human being. There's something ghastly about a monkey imitating the ways of a man... At the same time Krymov had a clear sense that he himself was no longer a human being—when had people ever had conversations like this in front of a third person...?" (The investigator at the Lubyanka interrupts his interrogation to have a banal, flirty conversation with his wife, while Krymov listens and waits for his interrogation to resume. From *Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books.)

\*\*\* "The sensation of gloom and ill-omen was felt by all."

♦ "Over the pass we dropped at once into a gulch. The place was extraordinarily broken. Deep screees, encumbered with boulders and

trunks, streams and rocks, all thickly overgrown with a carpet of moss; the whole scene reminded me vividly of a picture of Walpurgis Night. It would be hard to imagine a wilder and more repellent scene than that grim gorge. / Sometimes it happens that mountain and forest have such a cheerful and attractive appearance that one would be glad to linger there for ever. In others mountains seem surly and wild. It is a strange thing that such impressions are not purely personal and subjective, but were felt by all the men in the detachment. I tested this several times and was always convinced that it was so. That was the case here. In that spot there was an oppressive feeling in the air, something unhappy and painful, and the sensation of gloom and ill-omen was felt by all." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## uncharted (adjective)

### uncharted territory

see *territory* (known and unknown territory)

### uncharted water

see *waters* (uncharted waters, etc.)

### uncharted wilderness

new routes into the ~ of the 21-century economy

♦ "You have to invent not just the car but the way to make the car. So, the more uncharted the territory, the less predictable the outcome." (Elon Musk about producing the Tesla Cybertruck at scale.)

## unclear (adjective)

### unclear

facts are scarce and sources are ~ (news rumors)

it's very ~ what happened (school shooting)

## uncomfortable (groups)

### uncomfortable

it's going to be ~ (a dialogue on racism)

### Uncomfortable Conversations

he created "~ With a Black Man" (Emmanuel Acho)

### uncomfortable conversations

I want to have ~ (David Archuleta)

### uncomfortable moments

how to handle ~ (being misgendered)

### made them uncomfortable

close, physical interactions with Joe Biden ~ (women)

### made the grownups uncomfortable

hip-hop that ~ ("WAP" / Cardi B & Megan Thee Stallion)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "People with disabilities can share the ways that encounters with non-disabled people make them uncomfortable." (#AbleDs Are Weird.)

♦ "How To Survive Uncomfortable Holiday Conversations," NPR, All Things Considered, November 22, 2017.

♦ "...and those hormones have no place to go." ("The Wedge" Explores How Being Uncomfortable Builds Human Resilience," wbur, Here & Now, May 28, 2020. Jeremy Hobson interviews author Scott Carney.)

♦ "Thank you for the opportunity, but I'm satisfied that I've conveyed our deep commitment to free expression, recognizing that it's uncomfortable." (Dr. Claudine Gay, President of Harvard University. "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023.)

\*\*\* *In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand And Terrible Polar Voyage...*

♦ "When they tried to sleep, the heat of their own bodies would melt the mush snow beneath their rubber blankets, and soon they would be lying in puddles of cold water. Dr. Ambler wrote that 'sleeping in wet clothes in a wet bag on wet ice makes every bone and separate muscle ache in the morning. To-day I have not been able to draw a breath without pain.'" (*In the Kingdom of Ice: the Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette* by Hampton Sides.)

♦ "Before evening that day there put in its first appearance the curse of the taiga, flies. The settlers call them gnus, horror or abomination, and they are indeed the plague of the forest. Their bite draws blood and the wound itches desperately, and the more it is scratched the worse it becomes. When there are many biting flies about, it is impossible to expose the head for an instant. The flies blind your eyes, become entangled in the hair and ears, crawl up your sleeve, and savagely bite your neck. Your face swells up as though with erysipelas." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## uncork (verb)

uncorked a declamation

he ~ on why America is no longer the greatest (TV show)

uncorked (long-suppressed) public opinion

the riots have ~

## uncover (verb)

uncover

she would be surprised at the information she would ~

uncovered (more) bodies from a canal

rescue efforts ~ (Nigeria)

uncovered crimes

investigators dug into actions and ~

uncover explosives

troops conduct raids to carry out arrests and ~

uncover the (true) extent

he worked to ~ of bullying (schools)

uncovered an (unnerving) fact

he ~ (scientist / about influenza)

uncovered evidence

scientists digging south of Denver say they have ~ of...

well, we've ~ that points in a different direction (crime)

uncover any links

as federal agents work to ~ to terrorists

uncovered a (solid) motive

the investigation has not yet ~ (rap-star shooting)

uncovered a plot

police ~ to blow up commercial jetliners (terrorists)

uncovered the (Sept. 11) plot

the FBI mishandled info that could have ~

uncovered a (growing muti-smuggling) racket

a newspaper has ~ (Swaziland)

uncovered (one or two more of the) terrorists

we could have ~... (9/11)

police uncovered

~ thousands (tapes by militant Islamists)

investigations can uncover

~ things that result in lawsuits

## under (hierarchy)

under him

but because I was ~... (a company)

## under (underdeliver, etc.)

underdeliver

hopefully, the storm will ~, but it could overdeliver

underpromise

~, overdeliver...

under-protect

parents ~ kids online but overprotect them in the real world

underprotecting

the imbalance of overpolicing and ~ (groups)

under-resourced

so, we're over-policed and ~ (a black woman)

underserved

~ communities (black, brown, etc.)

historically ~ (Black, brown communities)

she drove growth among ~ audiences (Katherine Maher)

underwhelming

~ was an understatement (snark)

♦ "Millions of women are 'under-muscled.'" (Diet (lack of protein), exercise.)

♦ "Undermanned, underequipped, under rested, and undertrained Marine companies went nose-to-nose with North Vietnamese regulars along the DMZ." (*Operation Buffalo* by Keith William Nolan.)

♦ see also *over* (*overshare*, etc.)

## underbelly (soft underbelly, etc.)

soft underbelly

Liverpool knew where the ~ lay (victory against City)

## underbelly (concealment)

underbelly of globalization

this is the ~ (toxic dumping in third world)

underbelly of that protection

the ~ is physical and sexual violence (homeless women

under wing of homeless veterans)

underbelly of drugs, violence and fear

the investigation uncovered a dark ~ (a small town)

Glasgow's (dark) underbelly

~ of vulnerability and danger (murdered prostitutes)

corrupt underbelly

did he know too much about boxing's ~ (Sonny Listen)

dark underbelly



the ~ of just how far parents are willing to go (college admissions scandal)

grim underbelly  
ballet has a ~

seedy underbelly  
Hollywood's ~, the casting couch...

violent underbelly  
this city is beautiful with a very real and very ~ (cop)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "[T]he human eye is constructed in such a way that we can never see any object entirely. If you look at a cube, you can only see three sides... / Everything you look at is only half of what is there... / [T]his sounds strange, as if I'm a philosopher pondering things over and over again..." (The remarkable writer Steven Millhauser talking about *Disruptions*, his latest collection of short stories.)

## undercurrent (noun)

undercurrent of extremism  
there is a serious ~ (in a country)

constant undercurrent  
the quest for identity is a ~ in the Middle East

♦ "The movie has a Christian undercurrent that occasionally becomes an overcurrent, as when..." (*Variety's* review of the 2023 film *Sound of Freedom*.)

## undercut (verb)

undercut her  
she stood her ground and didn't let the defense ~ (trial)

## underdog (competition)

underdog  
we don't consider ourselves ~s (basketball team)  
we're the ~s (sports team)  
he is an ~ (politics)

underdog candidates  
~ gulped much-needed political oxygen (TV debate)

underdog potential  
who has that ~ (NCAA tournament)

underdog status  
Dillian Whyte will relish the ~ (vs. Tyson Fury / boxing)

front-runners and underdogs  
~ loved him (a race car driver)

consider ourselves underdogs  
we don't ~ (member of a basketball team)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The underdog has nothing to lose and everything to gain. (Boxing.)

♦ "Who doesn't love an underdog?" (Sports.)

♦ "What animates [his] obsession with underdog status?" (Criticism of a famous Black athlete, who had advantages many other's didn't.)

## underdog (hierarchy)

underdog  
she was an ~ some cheered for (Anna Nicole)

underdog story

it's an ~ set during the Depression (a film)  
people love an ~ (footballer Jamie Vardy)

bias towards the underdog  
journalists have a ~, all kinds of biases...

## underground (noun)

underground bookshelves  
the ~ started by this teacher (banned books)

underground church  
millions of Chinese Catholics worship in ~

underground (extremist) group  
the ~ Army of God

underground libraries  
some teachers have been building ~ (book bans)

underground magazine  
an ~ about dog fighting (illegal in US)

underground market  
drugs available on the ~

underground (anti-slavery) movement  
an ~

underground music  
acid-house was ~

underground railroad  
see *underground railroad*

underground rock scene  
an ~ in the city's shadows (the Leningrad Rock Club)

underground churches and sects  
the spread of ~

underground and the mainstream  
he is stuck between the ~ (Shaun White in 2010)

cyber underground  
the ~ was abuzz with rumors

drives it underground  
cracking down on sex trafficking just ~

drive sex offenders underground  
Iowa's residency rules ~

♦ "In Texas, where hundreds of school book bans have been reported, some teachers and students have been building underground libraries." ("A secret shelf of banned books thrives in a Texas school, under the nose of censors," Neda Ulaby, NPR, Morning Edition, February 21, 2024. See the Wikipedia article "Neda Ulaby.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "People were still uncomfortable and nervous about going underground. The only reason you go underground is when you're dead. They viewed it as a place where the devil lived, where rats lived." Doug Most, author of *The Race Underground*, a history of the Boston- New York subway rivalry.)

## underground railroad

underground railroad  
an ~ to get workers across the border (from Mexico)

## Operation Underground Railroad

Tim Ballard is the founder and CEO of ~ (OUR)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Prime Minister to General Ismay. (24.VI.40.) It seems most important to establish now before the trap closes an organisation for enabling French officers and soldiers, as well as important technicians, who wish to fight, to make their way to various ports. A sort of 'underground railway' as in the olden days of slavery should be established and a Scarlet Pimpernel organisation set up. I have no doubt there will be a steady flow of determined men, and we need all we can get for the defence of French colonies. The Admiralty and Air Force must co-operate. General de Gaulle and his Committee would, of course, be the operative authority." (Winston S. Churchill, *The Second World War Volume II, Their Finest Hour*. Second Edition, 1950. "X The Bordeaux Armistice." Page 193.)

♦ "Led by the draper, the townsfolk mobilised quickly, finding safe houses, supplying food and blankets to people in hiding, and collecting money to help those who could not afford to pay for the journey." "Gilleleje: Denmark's seaside town that saved Danish Jews" by Laura Hall, BBC Travel, 2nd October 2023. "It's hailed as one of the greatest acts of collective resistance during World War Two.")

♦ "After World War II, there were some 250,000 displaced Jews in Europe. They'd escaped the Nazis or survived concentration camps. Once they returned home, however, they found their houses occupied, their communities decimated and many of their non-Jewish neighbors unwelcoming. They decided the only place they could build a new life and find true sanctuary was in British Palestine—or, as they call it, Eretz Yisrael. / Still, a great many obstacles stood in their way. A plan to circumnavigate them came by way of a clandestine organization called the Bricha. The Hebrew word means 'escape' or 'flight,' and the journey was both. It was also illegal." (Escape From Austria" by Rebecca Frankel, *Smithsonian*, January / February 2023. See also the Wikipedia article "Kielce pogrom" and the Wikipedia article "Bricha.")

♦ "He's one of the key members of the underground railroad that takes people through China into Southeast Asia." (A pastor who helps North Korean defectors in China.)

## underhanded (or underhand)

underhand tactics

his side was subjected to ~ (sports)

underhanded tricks

protect yourself from ~

underhanded ways

she employs ~ to get ahead

covert and underhanded

racism can be ~ (versus in your face)

## underlie (verb)

underlie the (chronic) inflammation

allergic symptoms may ~

underlie the insurgency

we must address the problems that ~

underlie mating games

she is testing out the social skills that ~ (a teen girl)

### \*\*\* geology...

♦ Geological basins and basement rocks underlie the Nullarbor Plain. (Geology.)

## underline (attention)

double underline

we need to ~ the conclusion (of a report)

underline, highlight

the Soviets did not ~ the tragedy of the Jews (WWII)

## underlying (adjective)

underlying causes

an understanding of the ~

underlying concept

the approach and its ~s

underlying condition

does not help the ~

underlying explanation

no one challenged the ~ for the sudden death

underlying factors

the ~ that contributed to the disaster (NASA)

underlying felony

armed robbery was the ~ in the murders

underlying infrastructure

a deep flaw in the ~ (Microsoft security flaw)

underlying injuries

the diagnosis of ~

underlying issues

~ include emotional immaturity, feelings of inferiority

underlying message

understand their ~ (autistic behaviors)

underlying principle

a world in which modesty is the ~ (Muslim girl)

underlying (Buddhist) principles

a draft constitution based on ~ (Bhutan)

underlying (psychological) problems

were there ~

underlying question

imaging research has not answered the ~ (psychiatry)

underlying theme

CBS stuck to the ~ of the report (expose)

underlying unity

our quest for some elusive ~

underlying medical condition

regardless of their ~

## undermine (verb)

undermine assumptions

the finding, if upheld, would ~ that... (migration)

undermine cohesion

disparities in compensation ~ among troops

undermined confidence

fear has ~ in the food supply (avian flu)

undermines (investor) confidence

corruption ~ in new ventures

undermine cooperation

selfish, exploitative people quickly ~

undermine (U.S.) credibility  
deliberate lies ~ (foreign policy)

undermine the (Eritrean) government  
Sudan's government tried to ~ (1990s)

undermined the law  
religious fanaticism has ~ (Pakistan)

undermine morale  
inefficient distribution of mail can ~ (military)

undermine the narrative  
facts are ignored if they are inconvenient or ~ (at NPR)

undermine relationships  
you can ~ with insecurity and jealousy

undermines their (own academic) reputation  
reviewers may react harshly to research that ~

undermine security  
they use terrorism to sow fear and ~

undermine (global) security  
a missile-defense system will ~

undermined (fundamental) values  
popular culture has ~

undermines his sex drive  
his performance anxiety ~

undermined his self-confidence  
the rejections ~ (job hunting)

threatens to undermine  
lawlessness ~ investor confidence

## **underneath (basis)**

underneath the bravado  
~ there is fear

♦ "On the surface things are calm here, but underneath, there's a lot of fear and anger on all sides."

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Surfaces are presumed to be trivial."

## **underscore (attention)**

underscores the importance  
this breakdown in talks ~ of negotiations (with Iran)

underscores the need  
the report ~ for better data

underscore the pressure-cooker atmosphere  
the accusations ~ in the region

## **underside (noun)**

underside of the miracle  
but the ~ is... (booming economy but problems)

ugly underside  
the ~ of America's most popular sport (football)

## **undertaker (The Undertaker, etc.)**

The Undertaker

Mark William Calaway, better known as ~ (wrestler)

undertaker of Silicon Valley  
the ~ stays busy (Martin Pichinson)

♦ "Everything has been hit. I never in my life thought I'd see a black swan. This is a black swan." ("The 'Undertaker Of Silicon Valley' Stays Busy As Startups Lay Off Thousands" by Bobby Allyn, NPR, All Things Considered, April 20, 2020. The COVID pandemic.)

## **undertone (noun)**

veiled undertones

his irritation can be detected in ~ in his diary

racial undertones

the media's coverage of Sterling has ~ (Great Britain)

## **underwater (adjective)**

underwater

her poll numbers were ~ and she faced an uphill battle

\$20.5 billion underwater

the federal flood insurance program is currently ~

dipped underwater

polling shows Biden's approval rating ~ in August, 2021

## **underway**

underway

an economic recovery is ~

efforts ~ to develop job opportunities for those...

underway in Azerbaijan

the alphabet reform ~

underway on the dam

construction is ~

already underway

a disaster accelerates economic changes that are ~  
an improvement plan is ~

currently underway

a second, larger study is ~ (rehab therapy)

now underway

an NIH-sponsored double-blind study is ~ to evaluate...

well underway

construction is ~ on the dam

buzz was underway

the water cooler ~ (Olympic controversy)

coup was underway

one of the rogue officers denied a ~ (Philippines)

work is underway

construction ~ on Ethiopia's huge Gibe III dam

trials are underway

randomized controlled ~ (medicine)

gets underway

the next big federal trial ~ next month (opioid suits)

got underway

as the trial ~, prosecutors knew they had an uphill climb

## underworld (noun)

underworld figures

the bar is a favorite for ~ (crime)

Kyrgyzstan's (powerful criminal) underworld

the government may be trying to rein in ~

♦ "The signs were there that it could flow over from the underworld to the upper world, and now that has happened." (Vouter Loumans, author of *Mocro Mafia*.)

## undoing (destruction)

its (final) undoing

this summer's warmth has been ~ (ice-shelf breaks up)

your undoing

you are going down a road that will be ~

laid the groundwork for his own undoing

he had ~

## undone (destruction)

coming undone

behind all the glitter of the 1970s, Iran was ~

## unearth (verb)

unearth documents

the unit can ~ erased from hard drives (police)

unearthed evidence

FBI investigators ~ to show his involvement in IS

the podcast claimed it had ~ that corroborated his alibi

he also ~ of contact between... (politics)\

\*\*\* "Workmen recently unearthed a 500-pound bomb..."

♦ Workmen recently unearthed a 500-pound World War II bomb at Portsmouth Naval Base. It was detonated by bomb-disposal experts.

## unearthed

unearthed experiment

a recently ~ prompted US authorities to apologize

## unfathomable (adjective)

unfathomable

this murder is so senseless, it's ~

unfathomable to him

the decision was ~ (business)

unfathomable stupidity

he survived due to the ~s of the regime (W.W. II)

heartbreaking and unfathomable

his murder was ~ (a rapper)

seem unfathomable

falsely admitting to a crime may ~ to many

♦ "He came up with proposals Blair described as not so much unthinkable as unfathomable." (Social-security Minister Frank Field, who resigned.)

## unfettered

unfettered

they can buy weapons ~ (in US)

unfettered access

she has ~ to files (an investigator)

the church will give ~ to documents (sex abuse)

unfettered press

people paid attention to their increasingly ~ (change)

live unfettered

he was determined to ~ by excessive obligations (a writer)

## unfold (discover)

unfolding details

investigators are rapidly ~ of the plot (terrorism)

## unfold (develop)

unfolding in chapters

the mystery is ~ (missing plane)

still unfolding

the story is ~

crisis unfolds

as the coronavirus ~...

events will unfold

agility requires an ability to visualize how ~ (military)

watched their own drama unfold

passengers ~ on satellite TV sets (JetBlue Flight 292)

## unfolding (developing)

unfolding in Japan

a catastrophe has been ~ (nuclear problem)

unfolding disaster

a Greek chorus comments on the ~

still-unfolding

a chapter in the ~ story

## unfolding (opening)

unfolding blossoms

the ~ of the fruit trees

## unglued (emotionally)

came unglued

she ~ in the courtroom

## unhealthy (condition)

unhealthy focus

the internet's ~ on opinion (Jia Tolentino)

something unhealthy at Manchester United

there is ~

## unhinged (adjective)

unhinged

he seemed like a guy who was ~

“unhinged” bride  
~ makes her bridesmaids...

unhinged liberal  
she is a completely ~ (Jennifer Rubin)

unhinged mind  
the gloriously ~ of James Gunn (film *The Suicide Squad*)

unhinged partisans  
shame on these ugly ~, deranged by their hatred (politics)

unhinged, insane and (unintentionally) hilarious  
the mainstream media reaction was ~ (Trump’s win 2024)

gloriously unhinged  
the ~ mind of James Gunn (film *The Suicide Squad*)

so unhinged  
he’s ~ he’s actually scary

become so unhinged  
liberal activists and social justice warriors have ~ that...

♦ “*The Dinner Party*, [Joshua] Ferris’ first collection of short stories, is filled with men who become so unhinged you’re tempted to call a carpenter.” (“At ‘The Dinner Party,’ Stories That Walk The Line Between Tragedy And Comedy” by Heller McAlpin, NPR, Book Reviews, May 3, 2017.)

♦ “What if these beloved comic book characters fucked? And also solved murders? And had super powers? (“Riverdale’ Will Finally Come to an End After Seven Absolutely Unhinged Seasons” by Jordan Julian, *Daily Beast*, May 19, 2022. Jordan seems to be a freelance entertainment writer. She also seems to do a lot of paid content articles.)

♦ “Why Is The Discourse Around Sydney Sweeney’s Breasts So Unhinged?” by Kate Lloyd, *Vogue*, March 31, 2024.

♦ “Jennifer Rubin is a prime example of what is wrong with MSM. Completely unhinged liberal with free license from her employer to spout BS.” (An online commenter.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Life with Dead Metaphors: Impairment Rhetoric in Social Justice Praxis” by Tanya Titchkosky, University of Toronto. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 9.1 (2015). She gives many examples of words that relate to disability, used figuratively, including amnesia; amputated; aphasia; autistic; blind; crazy; cripple; crippled; deaf; deformed; lame; limping...

## unicorn (unicorns of the sea, etc.)

“unicorns of the sea”  
narwhals are the ~

## unicorn (tech “Unicorn,” etc.)

unicorn of a movie  
it’s a ~, it must be seen to be believed (Sasquatch Sunset)

unicorn boom  
the gold rush of the “~” (Silicon Valley startups)

“unicorn” paper  
a ~ is publishable as is (no revising / an academic editor)

NBA’s latest European unicorn  
7-foot-4 Victor Wembanyama, the ~ (basketball player)

tech “Unicorns”

Blipper was one of the UK’s ~

*\$47 Billion Unicorn*  
*WeWork: Or the Making and Breaking of a ~* (Hulu)

quite a unicorn  
that is ~ (a person to fit job requirements)

poster child of the unicorns  
the ~ was Uber, the ride-hailing smart-phone app

♦ “That is quite a unicorn.” (A fluent speaker of Mandarin, with a background in artificial intelligence, willing to work as a spy for the CIA!)

♦ “We have been the grateful recipients of many fine and interesting papers, but have yet to come across what I think of as a ‘unicorn’ paper—one that has been unanimously deemed ‘publishable as is’ by all of its review editors.” (The swelled-head editor of some minor academic journal.)

♦ “A Unicorn Of A Movie. It Must Be Seen To Be Believed.” (According to *Variety*. According to IndieWire, “Hilarious and Dementedly Poignant.” Watch: Sasquatch Sunset Official Red Band Trailer Blecker Street.

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A tech unicorn is a start-up worth \$1 billion or more.

## unicorn (Scotland, etc.)

unicorn  
~s are ubiquitous in Scotland

Lion and the Unicorn  
the ~ appear on the UK royal coat of arms

\*\*\* analysis

♦ See the excellent article, “What unicorns mean to Scottish identity” by Mike MacEachern, BBC Travel, 9th April 2019. It includes very nice pictures of unicorns.

## universe (noun)

Luca’s universe  
you’re there to live in ~ (an actor about Luca Guadagnino)

surfer’s (turquoise) universe  
the ~ (tubes, barrels, pipelines, etc.)

Nickelodeon universe  
the ~ dominated children’s TV in the late ‘90s and aughts

Clash of Clans universe  
Erling Haaland is immortalised in the ~ (as Barbarian King)

*Real Housewives* universe  
I love reality TV, especially the ~

Yellowstone Universe  
Matthew McConaughey is joining the ~ (the TV series)

basketball universe  
Indiana is the center of the ~ (Rick Mount, Larry Bird, etc.)

board-sport universe  
in the ~

movie ‘universes’  
audiences are sick of boring superhero ~

social media universe

a ~ that rewards engagement over truth (misinformation)

yachting universe

Cape Horn is regarded as the Mount Everest of the ~

academic universe

more settled fields in the ~ (vs. black studies)

aesthetic universe

the ~ of *Avatar* (the film)

new universe

he told of the mysterious world of microbes as a ~

canon in the (Zepotha) universe

their movie will become ~ (a challenge for creatives)

center of the (basketball) universe

Indiana is the ~

♦ Something referred to as "The Marvel Cinematic Universe" comprises 30+ films. Who knew?

♦ "Audiences are sick of boring superhero movie 'universes'" by Johnny Oleksinski, *New York Post*, August 23, 2023.

♦ "Once again, we trudge out at the end of an MCU film—the 33rd—moaning, 'How much longer can this godforsaken cinematic universe possibly drag on?'" (Johnny Oleksinski's withering review of the 2023 film *The Marvels*.)

♦ "The community forming around the fake movie *Zepotha* is not that different from fandoms of real movies." (The TikTok "Zepotha trend" created by Emily Jeffri has inspired fan fiction, movie posters, cosplay, etc.)

♦ She's the center of her own universe... (Conceited, selfish, self-centered, "all that," etc.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Or maybe we're just good American capitalists, encouraged by the cult of individualism to think of ourselves as compelling brands, the main characters of cinematic star vehicles, the centers of the universe." ("That's It. You're Dead To Me. Suddenly everyone is 'toxic'" by Kaitlyn Tiffany, *The Atlantic*, September, 2022.)

♦ "Get over yerself, you ain't the center of the universe, everything don't revolve around you..."

♦ "Every person is an entire universe." (The Torah.)

♦ see also *verse* (*metaverse*, etc.)

## university (experience)

real university

the Arctic was his ~, the Inuit his professors (Amundsen)

♦ "A whale-ship was my Yale College and my Harvard." (*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville. To John Updike, Winslow Homer was "painting's Melville.")

♦ "The Eskimos were right!" (An excited scientist in a helicopter in 1994, noticing a bow whale swimming with a group of beluga whales. The native peoples had told him bow whales did that, something he didn't know.)

♦ Indigenous knowledge (IK); traditional knowledge (TK); traditional ecological knowledge (TEK); local knowledge; folk science; indigenous science; local and indigenous knowledge (Unesco)... (Terms for the same thing.)

♦ "A friend of mine, who was deported to the women's Camp of Ravensbruck, says that the camp was her university. I think I can say the same thing, that is, by living and then writing about and pondering those events, I have learned many things about man and the world." ("Postscript: The Author's Answers to His Readers' Questions" by Primo Levi. Translated by Ruth Feldman. From *If This Is A Man The Truce* by Primo Levi, translated by Stuart Woolf.)

\*\*\* Harvard, UPenn, MIT, Columbia, etc.

♦ "It was a softball, not a gotcha." (Laurence Tribe about the question, "Do calls for the killing of people violate policies at Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, and MIT?") For "context," see "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023.)

♦ "Identity politics are at the root of the problem. No one wants to be called sexist or anti-LGBTQ+ or some other 'ist.' But what is really unbearable is to be called racist. If a Harvard student—or teacher—thinks there is an chance of being called racist, he or she will clam up... [I]n recent years, the term 'racist' has become a cudgel and a smear, especially amplified on the internet." (Evan Thomas '73. From Letters, *Harvard Magazine*, March-April, 2024.)

♦ "The Harvard online course catalog has a search box. Type in 'decolonize.' That word... is in the title of seven courses and the descriptions of 18 more." ("Reaping What We Have Taught" by Harvard Professor Harry R. Lewis, Contributing Opinion Writer, *The Harvard Crimson*, January 8, 2024.)

♦ "How did your campuses get this way? What is it about the way you hire faculty and approve curriculum that's allowing your campuses to be infected by this intellectual and moral rot." (Congresswoman Ms. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, Chairwoman at the hearing, "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, December 5, 2023. Congresswoman Foxx directed her questions to (1) Claudine Gay, president of Harvard (2) M. Elizabeth Magill, President of the University of Pennsylvania, and (3) Sally Kornbluth, President of MIT.)

♦ "They hate, we ball... This is what you want... That's the way we roll... A Team of superheroes are making the future bright... And we do our homework too..." (Watch: Harvard Housing Day 2023, Currier House, Currier vs the World, YouTube)

♦ "A recent Gallup poll shows that US adults are nearly equally divided among those who have a lot of confidence (36%), some confidence (32%), or little or no confidence (32%) in higher education. In 2015, Gallup found that 57% had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence and 10% had little or none." ("Why colleges became the center of the culture wars: ANALYSIS" by Kiara Alfonseca, *The New York Post*, September 3, 2024.)

♦ see also *Harvard* (*epithet*), *school* (*experience*)

## unleash (verb)

unleashed a (\$350 million) campaign to persuade  
Microsoft ~... (advertisement)

unleash (even more) oil into the Gulf  
it could ~ (a plan to stop oil spill)

unleashed a (powerful) shot from 20 meters  
he ~ (soccer)

unleashed a (mortar) barrage  
the Wa ~ and the Thais responded with...

unleashed his blows  
Tyson charged up to Lewis and ~... (boxing)

unleash your (inner) conservative  
~ (politics)

unleashed the demons  
WWI ~ of political disorder, extremism, and cruelty

unleashed feelings  
Donald Trump ~ that were not expressed publicly before

unleash a flood  
Tibetans fear the rail line will ~ of Han immigrants  
defeat of the bill will ~ of negative advertising (politics)

unleashes forces



war ~ that cannot be predicted or controlled

unleashed its fury  
the massive storm ~ (tornadoes)

unleash a monster  
that's what happens when you ~ (violence)

unleashed (additional rocket) salvos  
Palestinians have ~ (from Gaza)

unleashed a storm  
congressmen ~ of patriotic rage

unleashed (heavy) rain and (strong) winds  
thunderstorms ~ across parts of the Midwest

unleashes a torrent  
in the play's final scene, she unleashes a ~ of fury at...

unleashed a wave  
they ~ of protest

unleashed a bloodbath  
the bombing of the Mosque of the Gold Dome ~

unleashed a whirlwind  
the dictator's ouster ~ of pent-up civic forces (Suharto)

unleash a civil war  
then Mr. Taylor returned to Liberia to ~

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "Unleash your full creativity." (Dell Technologies. Workstations for creators.)

♦ "Unleash the power. Take the power. Search with the power." (An email from Microsoft Copilot.)

## unleashed

unleashed against dissidents  
the repression ~

unleashed by (fanatical) terrorists  
the violence ~

unleashed by (emotional) trauma  
hysteria as a nervous-system disorder ~

genie (of racial hatred) has been unleashed  
the ~ (Ivory Coast)

## unlock (verb)

unlocks the mystery  
this could be the key that ~

## unmaking (destruction)

making and unmaking  
the book describes her ~ (Elizabeth Holmes)

## unmask (verb)

unmask (vile and prolific) abusers  
the technology is there to ~ (on social media)

unmask this individual  
Republicans are trying to ~ (a whistleblower)

## unmoored

unmoored from its stated purpose  
Congress allowed the mission to become ~ of... (war)

## unpack (verb)

unpack  
there's a lot to ~ in this scene, it's confusing (a film)  
there is so much to ~ here (an NPR host)

unpacking (implicit racial) bias  
for two decades she has been ~

unpack the idea  
the way I ~ is that...

unpack it  
you got to explain it, ~

unpack that  
let me ~...

unwrap and unpack  
different ways to ~ race and identity ("Race Unwrapped")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is similar to *unpick*, which literally means to remove sewing stitches.

♦ Hosts and pundits *break down, unpack, unpick, discuss, walk us through, give us an overview of, and help us* with their respective topics. In the past, this might have been expressed with the word "explain" or "analyze."

## unpalatable (adjective)

unpalatable options  
in Syria, the US weighs a range of ~

uncomfortable and unpalatable  
ideas that are ~ (the comic Dave Chappelle)

## unpick (verb)

unpick one or two of those things  
let's ~ (discussion of Hapsburg Monarchy on BBC)

unpick this chain of events  
we sought to ~ in our film

unpicking the mechanics of hatred  
in this series I'll be ~ (a history of hate)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This literally means to remove sewing stitches.

## unpolished

unpolished charm  
the movie's ~ dissolves into predictability

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ It is good to know there is an opposite for *lapidary*.

## unravel (fail)

unraveling  
the system that has controlled her life is ~ (Britney)

unraveled at an accelerating pace  
those norms have ~

unraveling in Iraq  
with no criminal or psychiatric history, he had started ~

started unraveling  
with no criminal or psychiatric history, he had ~ in Iraq

began to unravel  
her life ~ when...  
Swallow's story ~ (an escaped convict)

case (against him) may be unravelling  
the ~

harmony (of Russia's nationalities) is unraveling  
the enforced ~

meeting (quickly) unraveled  
the ~ (diplomacy)

narrative (of deceit) unraveled  
after her ~ (the Australian influencer Belle Gibson)

norms unraveled  
those ~, replaced by an ethos of "anything goes"

pact unraveled  
the power-sharing ~ (Sierra Leone)

## unravel (unravel a mystery, etc.)

unravel the case  
we followed the thread and began to ~ (tapes of old trial)  
looking for a clue that would ~

unravel the mystery  
they are trying to ~ of tornadoes (storm chasers)

unraveled the mystery  
satellites have ~ of Mars' geological patterns ("spiders")

unraveled a (strange and illuminating) story  
we followed the thread and ~

## unraveled (explained)

unraveled  
there are mysteries yet to be ~ (crop circles)

## unsavory (adjective)

unsavory connections  
he has ~ (a tribal leader)

unsavory means  
he became rich through ~

unsavory methods  
he is known for his ~ (politician)

unsavory past  
he is a loose cannon with an ~ (politician)

unsavory reality  
using a famous last name is an ~ of power and politics

unsavory reputation  
he has an ~

unsavory side

he showed his ~

illegal or unsavory  
he engaged in practices that were ~ (businessman)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Something may taste or smell savory. Stews and goulashes can have a savory smell. *Savory* is related to *palatable*.

## unscathed (adjective)

left the debate unscathed  
his main rival ~ (politics)

## unseat (verb)

unseats our idea  
this idea ~ that lesbianism equals female masculinity

## unserious (adjective)

unserious age  
it's an ~ (and ungrammatical, stupid, etc.)

unserious man  
in many ways, Donald Trump is an ~ (per Kamala Harris)

unserious young people  
student debt must not be dismissed as a problem for ~

unserious , overpriced  
~ aromatic water (Jiayang Fan / *The New Yorker*)

deeply unserious  
they were like, 'Well, this is ~'

"outlandish" or "unserious"  
a dance that could be considered ~ (humor)

calls the plan unserious  
he ~

♦ "In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man." (Kamala Harris at the 2024 DNC. Compare this usage to, "Accidental rise of Kamala Harris is a symptom of an unserious age" by Martin Gurri, *The New York Post*, Aug. 5, 2024.)

♦ "I have better distribution, and if I were writing a newsletter for The Washington Post, people would not have had any problem with that. It's because my platform is TikTok that they were like, 'Well, this is deeply unserious.' I think that is a bias that legacy media can have." (The newsfluencer V Spehar of UnderTheDeskNews.)

♦ "The novelist is ferociously untame." (Lydia Millet.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "When did 'unserious' become a word? (Google. People also ask.)

♦ Why do people keep saying 'unserious'? (Google. People also ask.)

♦ "Is unserious a word reddit." (Google. People also search for.)

♦ "What is with the rise of the word 'unserious'?" (Reddit.)

♦ "Unserious" is turning up a lot nowadays in articles in *The New Yorker*.

♦ "Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematize*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*..." ("How The Bobos Broke America" by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ "There's no stopping people who want to improve (or improvise) existing words." (The editor Merrill Perlman, writing specifically about the use of "overwhelm" as a noun.)

## unstable (adjective)

unstable  
the regime is ~

## unshackle (verb)

unshackle itself from the past  
hopefully, the sport can ~ (cycling and doping)

## unspool (verb)

unspool what  
fans and music critics have been trying to ~ it all means

unspool the history  
he joins us to ~ that led up to...

unspool the (song's multiple) layers  
to help us ~ of meaning...

unspool his role  
investigators are working to ~ in the affair (politics)

unspool the (sordid) story  
we ~ and talk with survivor families

unspool slowly  
the reasons for her alienation ~ (a book)

unspool as Iraq did  
the great fear is that Afghanistan could ~

## unstoppable (force, etc.)

seem unstoppable  
Manchester City ~ with Erling Haaland

## unsung (praise)

unsung hero  
the ~ for me was... (a championship soccer game)  
he is a bit of an ~ (the remarkable Martyn Stewart)  
the ~s (five maintenance workers at pre-K-12 school)

My Unsung Hero  
time now for ~, a series from Hidden Brain (NPR)

unsung masterpiece  
*Justified* was an ~ of the Peak TV era

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Sing, O Muse, of..." (The opening line of Homer's the *Iliad*.)

## untangle (verb)

untangled the history from the mythology  
we ~ to get the true story of what happened (podcast)

untangle the supply snarls  
it could take a while to ~ (economy)

## untouchable (protected)

viewed as untouchable  
she had long been ~ (divisive CBC exec forced to resign)

♦ Divisive; "Machiavellian"; created her own universe of loyalists; long viewed as untouchable; her stunning fall; a "head on a stick" moment; forced to resign... (A CBS executive. As Dateline NBC might put it, "She was untouchable...until she wasn't.")

## untouchable (hierarchy)

untouchables of academia  
it's a caste system, and we are the ~ (an adjunct)

## unvarnished (adjective)

unvarnished advice  
he had some ~ for him

unvarnished authenticity  
his ~ (the boxer Gervonta Davis)

unvarnished and emotional  
their stories are ~ (not sensationalized or trivialized)

♦ "His rags-to-riches backstory, crowd-pleasing style and unvarnished authenticity... (The boxer Gervonta Davis.)

## unveil (make public)

unveiled a new approach  
the government ~ to...

unveiled its (welfare) reforms  
the government ~

## unwavering (adjective)

unwavering  
his support is ~

total and unwavering  
our amazing veterans deserve our ~ support

## unwelcoming (groups)

unwelcoming to immigrants  
is the U.S. really ~

unwelcoming atmosphere  
an ~ for illegal immigrants in the state

unwelcoming environment  
the encampment has caused an "~" for Jews (Columbia U.)

unwelcoming to victims  
a system of reporting ~ (of rape / abortion)

unwelcoming households  
LGBTQ+ students who live in ~

unwelcoming place  
it was such an ~ for them (women comedians in the past)

increasingly unwelcoming  
as the country has become an ~place for young Africans...

harsh, unwelcoming and offputting  
the immigration rhetoric seemed ~ (election)

hostile and unwelcoming  
some described the Confederate names as ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "It was such an unwelcoming place for them." (Women comedians back in the day.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Obama went back in history to take shots at the Alien and Sedition Acts, repealed in 1802, and the Chinese Exclusion Act, repealed in 1943. He was apparently trying to depict America as unwelcoming to immigrants, even though the nation has welcomed more immigrants than any other.” (“National Review: A Misleading Speech On Immigration” by Michael Barone, *Opinion*, NPR, July 7, 2010.)

\*\*\* **war, conflict, the military...**

♦ “After World War II, there were some 250,000 displaced Jews in Europe. They’d escaped the Nazis or survived concentration camps. Once they returned home, however, they found their houses occupied, their communities decimated and many of their non-Jewish neighbors unwelcoming. They decided the only place they could build a new life and find true sanctuary was in British Palestine—or, as they call it, Eretz Yisrael. / Still, a great many obstacles stood in their way. A plan to circumnavigate them came by way of a clandestine organization called the Bricha. The Hebrew word means ‘escape’ or ‘flight,’ and the journey was both. It was also illegal.” (Escape From Austria” by Rebecca Frankel, *Smithsonian*, January / February 2023. See also the Wikipedia article “Kielce pogrom” and the Wikipedia article “Bricha.”)

## unwind (relax)

unwind

he watched TV and tried to ~ after work  
crime documentaries have become my default way to ~  
how does he ~ (Anthony Fauci, a workaholic)

## unwind (reverse)

unwind them

Joe Biden has taken steps to ~ (2 Trump policies)

## unwind (analyze)

unwind the scandal

it won’t be easy to ~ (doping allegation / Olympics)

## up (increase / verb)

up the ante

Moscow might ~ if the West continues to ignore...

up our game

we need to ~

up their game

companies need to ~ in cybersecurity

upped the tariffs

the Trump administration has ~

## up (higher)

up

employment is ~  
suicide rates are ~

## up (science up, etc.)

amp up

see *amp up* (verb)

armor themselves up

distrustful people ~ to feel safe

brain up

don’t “dumb down,” but “~” (Teletubbies)

butch up

“Dear Ari, Please, ~” (NPR’s Ari Shapiro)

cowboyed up

Baratunde Thurston ~ in Idaho (*America Outdoors*)

dapping people up

Chris Olave is moving his arms, ~ from his stretcher (NFL)

eyed up

Brian Daboll ~ his special teams coordinator after...

fail up

see *fail up* (verb)

focus up

we’ve got to ~ and nail this audition

lawyered up

both parties have ~ amid negotiations

level up

see *level up* (as verb)

love up

see *love up* (and *love up on*, etc.)

magic up

see *magic up* (verb)

network up

don’t just ~, do it with your peers (networking)

ramp up

see *ramp up* (verb)

rehab it up

we’ll ~ and I’ll be ready (sprained ankle / athlete)

science things up

we’d love for Joe Biden to really ~

sexed-up

why stars have ~ (clickbait)

sexes up

Chelsea Handler ~ late night (TV comedy)

skill up

~, level up (an ad for the University of Montreal)

staff up

we need to ~ (increase staff)

welcome up

please help me ~ our next speaker (a protest rally)

amped up

the dish is ~ with plenty of chilies

angered up

oh my, the bigots are all ~ (snark on discussion board)

cached up

guard who fled with inmate was ~ (withdrew \$90,000)

fired up

see *fired up*

loved up

he is currently ~ with Lauren Silverman (shacked up?)

loved-up

the pair posed for a few ~ snaps (celebrities)

“teched-up”

mindfulness can help you in a 24/7 ~ world

“xanied up”

he was ~ (the prescription drug Xanax)

♦ If someone talks about *managing up*, they are referring to a set of common-sense ways of dealing with the boss. There have been articles about this, even in *The Wall Street Journal*.

♦ Girl Up, a U.N. Foundation campaign, promotes the rights of adolescent girls around the world.

♦ “Up the ‘Ra!’” (Nigel Farage, perhaps not knowing what he was saying.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ I had to humble down and realize I’m flawed.” (The actor Will Smith.)

## up (time is finished, etc.)

time is up

my ~

## up (up to now, up to date, etc.)

up to date

the students keep us young, ~ (Darryl “Pepe” Diaz)

led up to the French Revolution

in the years that ~...

bring us up to date

~, where are we now, exactly (Ailsa Chang, NPR)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This is an instance of up-down metaphors for time and contrasts with *down* (*down through the centuries*). Time seems to come down from the past and then up to the present. Perhaps this reflects a cyclical view of time, or simply a hilly topography.

## up (feeling)

up

keep your hopes ~

## up (what’s up, etc.)

up with you

I know something’s ~ (a mother about a troubled child)

## up (ups and downs)

ups and downs

there’s going to be a lot of ~ in the months to come

~ are simply a part of life (self-compassion)

she had her ~ (an athlete)

## up (up for something)

up for the challenge

people wonder if he is ~ (running for president)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ You can be down for something or up for something with similar meaning. English is crazy.

## up against

see *against* (*up against*)

## up-and-coming (and up and coming)

up-and-coming

seaweed farming is ~

up-and-coming greats

the two ~ going toe to toe (2 NFL quarterbacks)

up-and-coming rapper

an ~ who went the way of Pop Smoke (both murdered)

♦ see also *comer* (*up-and-comer*, etc.), *arrive* (*attainment*)

## up and down

up and down

my career has been ~, and I like up better (Ray Liotta)

up and down, rollercoaster

it’s been an ~ week (impeachment trial)

## upbeat (adjective)

remained upbeat

she ~, taking the positives out of the day’s events

## upcoming (adjective)

upcoming (boxing) match

his ~ with Apinun Khongsong (Josh Taylor)

upcoming trial

he was back in court ahead of his ~ (Markeith Loyd)

## upend (verb)

upended many campuses

sit-ins and disruptions ~ last year (Israel-Hamas war)

upended his career

the scandal ~ (Hollywood)

upend the (financial) industry

looming challenges will ~

upended (entire) industries

Amazon, Netflix and Uber ~ (technology)

upended the (presidential) race

he ~ this week by picking...

upended old rivalries

the re-alignment has ~ and created new ones

upended the game table

he ~ of politics in 2016

upended conventional wisdom

this really ~ (a “natural” experiment / economics)

upend and destabilize

sports podcasts often ~ stereotypes about black athletes

♦ “The huge re-alignment of conferences has upended old rivalries and created new ones.” (College sports.)

## upheaval (disruption)

upheaval

the miners’ action has opened the floodgates to more ~

upheaval of Ruiz's shock win  
a few weeks of calm after the ~ over Joshua (boxing)

great upheavals  
periods that precede ~ such as Europe on the eve of 1914

political upheavals  
the last few years have seen a series of ~ (England)

in upheaval  
our world is ~ (Netanyahu addresses U.S. Congress)

## uphill (difficult)

uphill battle  
see *battle* (*uphill battle*, etc.)

uphill climb  
as the trial got underway, prosecutors knew they had an ~

uphill fight  
it will be an ~ (to win an election)

uphill struggle  
a difficult and ~

difficult and uphill  
a ~ struggle

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ see *downhill* (*go downhill*, etc.) for why "downhill" can mean to decline.

## upon (tragedy upon tragedy, etc.)

tragedy upon tragedy  
~ (3 mass shootings in California in 3 days)

## upper (river, etc.)

upper reach  
this is what one might call the ~ of the Lower Yangtze

## uppercutting

upper-cutting guests with a sharp line of questioning  
she was known for her tough interviewing style, ~

## upright (upright man, etc.)

upright man  
he was an ~ of starchy integrity (law and government)

## uprising (resistance)

wave of (democratic) uprisings  
a ~ is transforming the Islamic world

## uproar (controversy)

ensuing uproar  
in the ~, scientists battled over the risks and benefits...

political uproar  
the politics of mother's milk has created a ~

uproar (eventually) died down  
the ~ (dismissal of coach)

caused an uproar  
the sanitized edition of 'Huckleberry Finn' has ~

provoked uproar  
the case has ~ (guns versus domestic violence)

sparked an uproar  
his dismissal ~ on campus (popular coach Bobby Knight)  
her transgender talk ~ (a Canadian feminist)  
the sisters' case ~ (abuse)

triggered the uproar  
what ~ was an incendiary post at a Website

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "At sunrise, Sunday morning, May 3, 1863, the battle opened with terrific cannonading. Simultaneously commenced the bursting shells and the harsh, crashing sound of musketry, reminding one of a dreadful storm, the coming of mighty, angry winds, driving the dark and threatening clouds, sweeping everything material in their path, the rolling reverberations of great thunder-bolts that seem to give fitting expression to the thoughts of an offended God." (*The Battle of Chancellorsville. From Memoirs of Chaplain Life by W. Corby.*)

## uproot (verb)

uproot the system  
we're going to need to ~ (Greta Thunberg, climate activist)

## uprooted

uprooted from rebel-held east Aleppo  
thousands have been ~

## upset (upset the apple cart, etc.)

upset the (boxing apple) cart  
he ~ (Joseph Parker beats Deontay Wilder in Riyadh)

## upside (noun)

upside  
the ~ is things could be worse

has an upside  
the financial system has an ~  
depression ~

have an upside  
the predicament could ~

## upside down (disruption)

upside down  
I wasn't expecting this, my whole world is ~ (health)

turned upside down  
then her life ~ (World War II)

turned our lives upside down  
his illness ~

turn the system upside down  
the proposed new tests will ~ (education)

turning the town upside down  
the mystery is ~ (missing children)

### \*\*\* the upside-down flag

♦ The upside-down flag is supposed to be a signal of extreme distress, according to the U.S. Flag Code. It is now used by both rightists and leftists to support their respective, opposite agendas. "Illiberalism" is a word that means opposite things to its users. To leftists, "illiberal" means faux democracy. To rightists, "illiberal" means



out-of-control leftist orthodoxy. It is as if Americans have developed two different vocabularies, using the same words and signs but with diametrically opposite meanings. It can get confusing and bodes poorly for any kind of actual communication.

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Flag desecration." Then see the sub-sub-section "Flying a U.S. flag upside down."

## upspeak (contempo-speak)

you know all our stories (upspeak on "stories")  
it's like, ~ (2001 film *American Pie*)

Here's why that matters?

Starbucks is struggling. ~ (ABC.com)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Tom Cruise has gone to great lengths to avoid the press for more than a decade. But maybe I would track him down anyway?" ("Mission: Impossible" by Caity Weaver, *The New York Times Magazine*, July 23, 2023.)

♦ "Apologizing only works when it clears up the reason why?" (A *New York Post* article by Ariel Zilber, quoting Jay Jaye, founder of Ace of Spades branding agency.)

♦ "'Come here for a sec?' she says. 'Where did you go last night? I came out and you weren't on the couch.' / 'I was probably in the bathroom?'" ("Getting Up" by Oliver Munday, *The Atlantic*, November 2022.)

♦ "While Ed was manly, the strong, silent type, Bobby was extraordinarily effeminate. His voice was singsong with a trilling inflection that would have turned your head in the street if you overheard him. He tended to raise the pitch when he ended a sentence as if he was asking a question. It was a baroque touch that, together with the way he tossed his head, and the way his hands were held near his face, created the illusion that he was Salome wearing a diaphanous veil, not Bobby Keller, the salesperson." (*My Own Country: A Doctor's Story* by Abraham Verghese.)

♦ "I mean I think back to like just being pretty confused about what I was experiencing (upspeak). When I first tried to explain my identity, I was talking to my sister, and we just like tried, we were like, well, that means you're a lesbian, like I'm pretty sure, that kinda lines up, and it's like, we were looking for the only words that we had. / It's really hard to articulate what's going on if you don't have words for it (upspeak). It took a long time for me to even know that there were people who were non-binary, to know that I wasn't the only person in the world that had my gender identity (upspeak). (One Climber's Story. They / Them film and panel. Lor Sabourin.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ A CURIOUS CASE. "Exploring how content creators speak on TikTok—it's known as influencer speak," NPR, January 31, 2024, now redirects to "Do you have 'TikTok voice'? It's OK if you don't want to get rid of it" by Claire Murashima, Leila Fadel, and Steve Inskeep, NPR, Updated on Morning Edition, February 1, 2024. The transcript does not match the audio. Mmmm... The audio is funny and good. I suspect that the original story was controversial at NPR.

♦ Michelle: "It's like, you know all our stories?" (Pronounced upspeak on "stories.") / Jim: (Confused and startled.) "Uh, was that a question?" / Michelle: "Well, I don't know. Maybe... Do you want to answer it anyway?" (The 2001 [italics mine] film *American Pie 2*. Since then, upspeak has only become more prevalent, to include males. Funny! View on YouTube I Get Nasty When I'm H\*rny! *American Pie 2*

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Two young men are sitting at a table. The man on the left is in despair: His elbows are on the table, his head is bowed, and his hands are on the top of this head, so that you can't see his face. It is a very good rendering of despair. Across the table, his nerdy Zoomer friend is saying, "Maybe try turning the mug around so its inspirational message faces you?" On the table is a mug. Looking closely, you can see that the "inspirational message" on the mug is the yellow smiley face. The upspeak indicated by the question mark in the caption is priceless. *The New Yorker*, November 7, 2022.)

♦ "The little engine that could do another round, if everyone else is?" (A not very funny cartoon, but notable for the question mark indicating upspeak. *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Upspeak used to come at the end of the sentence, but now it is quite common to hear upspeak on *any* word.

♦ Online commenters have begun putting question marks at the end of statements, indicating how they would say them with upspeak. At the end of 2022, the following headline appeared at ABC online: "Harry and Meghan always planned to be on TV?" by Andy Tillet, *New York Post*, Dec. 8, 2022.)

♦ Upspeak is associated with females, particularly young ones. However, older females, especially in broadcast media, have affected upspeak, most likely to sound "younger" for that demographic. Upspeak is also associated with gay men. Males or females may acquire upspeak from their own group, or affect it in solidarity with a group.

♦ People (mainly women) who use upspeak, baby talk and vocal fry are widely considered hesitant and weak, and their language is considered affected and irritating. The matter has been widely discussed and needs no comment. NPR's Selena Simmons-Duffin's "Talking While Female" animation (2014), and the *comments* relating to it, say everything that needs to be said. The issue has been settled: listen to the two *Fresh Air* Terry Gross episodes about the matter. The first was critical of upspeak, the second was essentially a retraction. The consensus is, it is wrong to criticize or judge the speech of young women.

♦ Linguist John McWhorter's analysis of upspeak (or uptalk or uptick) is interesting, as always. "Do you understand? Do you share the same basis of knowledge and evaluation?" "It ongoingly establishes that you and the other person are on the same page." In his FACE typology of MPMS (modal pragmatic markers), he considers it to represent "Acknowledgment: I Hear You." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 1, "The Faces of English: Words Get Personal." Listen also to "The shifting Meanings Of Our Evolving Modern Language," wbur, on point, December 26, 2016.)

## upstage (verb)

upstaged me

I released my statement the same day you did, but you ~

upstaged them on their home snow  
he ~ (an Olympic skier)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Upstage, downstage, stage right, stage left, house left, house right... (Orientation in the theater.)

## upstanding (adjective)

upstanding member

he is an ~ of the community

## upstream (swim upstream)

swimming upstream

modern women are ~ (juggling various duties)

♦ "He once spent a glorious summer on the Nantahala, trying to attain the Ledges Rapid, to force his way against the current into the big easy, the long welcoming pool above it. Try as he might with all his skill and might, he was never able to beat the last six feet of current, the wild green heart—the muscular organ—of that spirited little river. And perhaps it was just as well. For he never felt any regret at his failure, only the good clean memories of the attempt and the effort against that adversary of real worth. There was a good lesson in that. It was an attainment just six feet too far..."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Upstream; downstream; river right; river left; the left bank; the right bank... (Orientation on a river.)

## upstream (orientation)

upstream assets

oil and gas fields are ~ (source)

upstream interventions

~ are things like free rides to medical appointments  
(health)

upstream suppliers

~, meaning the supplier's supplier (marketing)

♦ "Everything downstream everything past that early perceptual process, will be affected..." (The linguist Lera Boroditsky.)

♦ *Mitigating the Downstream Impact of US-China Competition on American Democracy* by Jessica Chen Weiss, Cornell University.

\*\*\* **Noland Creek...**

♦ "New York's two greatest rivers, the Hudson and the Mohawk, join about a mile below the falls of the latter, at Cohoes... / Rather than river's end, let this be, for us, river's beginning. Men have always looked upstream when they came to the Mohawk, for upstream was west. Let us head west, then, with that low-lying barge, the *Seneca*, heavy with gasoline, as it climbs the first water-stairs on its way to ports on the Great Lakes." (*The Mohawk* by Codman Hislop.)

♦ The trailhead for the Noland Creek Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is almost at the end of The Road to Nowhere out of Bryson City, western North Carolina. In a little over a mile you will cross four wooden bridges. On the first, look to your left, and the current is going away. On the second, coming towards you. On the third, going away. On the fourth, coming towards you. Now that's twisty! It's a wonderful walk, in every season.

♦ Upstream; downstream; river right (kayaking); river left (kayaking); the left bank; the right bank; the north / south / east / west bank; the headwaters; the upper reaches; the middle reaches; the lower reaches... (Orientation, position on a river.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ If you go upstream on a river, eventually you reach its source.

♦ In the oil business, oil and gas fields are upstream assets (source), pipelines are midstream, and refineries and retail outlets are downstream.

♦ In the area of health, upstream interventions are things like wireless scales for weighing people, and free rides to medical appointments. These measures are largely preventative in nature and save money in the long run. Downstream outcomes are things like hospitalizations and surgeries.

♦ A gangbanger is arrested for murder. What are the upstream events that led to that? What are the downstream events he will face?

♦ see also *downstream* (orientation)

**upsurge (noun)**

upsurge in (volcanic) activity

there is no suggestion the ~ is related

**uptick (noun)**

uptick in attacks

there has been an ~ (war)

dramatic uptick

there has been a ~ in the time it takes...

**upturn (noun)**

upturn in exports

there has been an ~

upturn in the market

the company will profit from any ~

economic upturn

there are hopes for an ~ in the spring or summer

sharp upturn

the political unrest has caused a ~ in oil prices

upturn is under way

experts believe an ~ (economy)

derail this (vulnerable economic) upturn

a conflict with Iran could yet ~ (in US)

signal an upturn

the numbers ~ in the economy

**upvote (and downvote)**

282 upvotes

~, 30 downvotes...

**us (us versus them, etc.)**

see *us versus them, us and them, them and us*, etc.

**us versus them (us and them, them and us, etc.)**

us versus them mentality

the ~ (MMA in early days, before acceptance as sport)

us-them thinking

~ relies on the culturally familiar

"us" than "them"

thankfully, there are still more of ~

between us and them

the country is hopelessly divided ~ (politics)

♦ "And most of all, Donald Trump wants us to think that this country is hopelessly divided. Between us and them. Between the real Americans—who of course, support him—and the outsiders who don't." (Barak Obama at the 2024 DNC.)

♦ "Us-them thinking relies on the culturally familiar, longstanding, comfortable... Us-them thinking is a very flexible response to duress." (New York University professor Marcia Pally. From "The use of 'they' adds to how some Americans see politics in terms of Us vs. Them" by Steve Inskeep, NPR, Morning Edition, September 23, 2024.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Thankfully, there are still more of 'us' than 'them.' The Antifa activists are loud, but they're also masked, skinny, and marginalized." (A patriotic military man about the leftist radicals.)

**usher in (verb)**

usher in a new age

the Republicans seek to ~ of limited government

ushered in the Age

the Age of Columbus ~ of Copernicus (celestial navigation)

usher in a more socially conservative approach

democrats warn Trump's choice will ~ to abortion

usher in change

much blood has been shed to ~

ushered in a second sexual revolution

the digital revolution has ~

usher in the sixties

he helped to ~ with a new style of journalism (Tom Wolfe)

## usurp (verb)

usurping Serbian heritage

they are ~ (Croatia creates Tesla coins)

usurp her mark

four rivals failed to ~ (Charlotte Worthington / Olympics)

usurp the (congressional) power

his plan will ~ of the purse (politics)

usurp her teammate

can Chenchen Guan ~ Xijing Tang (for gold medal)

## U-turn (noun)

U-turn on (school) reform

scholar's ~ shakes up debate

scholar's U-turn

~ on school reform shakes up debate

massive U-turn

today's move is a ~ for the Prime Minister (politics)

made a U-turn

they ~ and admitted it was their fault (shot down plane)

forced into a U-turn

the government was ~ (French labor strike)

♦ "So perhaps the party leadership haven't so much effected a U-turn as a swerve..." (Labour / an education matter)

## V

## vacuum (noun)

vacuum of power

there is a ~ developing in the Middle East

policy vacuum

there was a ~ in Washington (government)

creating a vacuum

we're ~ that will be filled by bad elements (withdrawal)

## valedictory (farewell)

valedictory salute

it's a moving ~ to the actor (*No Time To Die* / Daniel Craig)

## valence (attraction)

valence for Black Americans

"40 acres of land" has a particular ~

hateful valence

the ~ of that gesture is an open question (okay sign)

## Valentine

valentine of a book

it's a warm and affectionate ~ (*The Finns and Their Country*)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can write an ode to something. Or a hymn. Or a love letter. Or a Valentine. Take your pick!

♦ see also *love letter* (noun), *ode* (praise)

## Valhalla (military)

in Valhalla

see you ~, chum (combat)

Til Valhalla

~, brother...

~, sister...

♦ "She [the landing craft] was empty except for her crew...and one small khaki figure standing stiffly at attention in the gaping bow opening. Suddenly he began to move, *marching* up the ramp, rifle at the slope, free arm swinging level with his shoulders. Tiny Sully was coming off that sardine can as if on ceremonial parade at Aldershot...except that his eyes were screwed tight shut. / A cluster of mortar bombs shrilled out of the pellucid sky, and the waters into which Tiny had plunged boiled upward with visceral thunder. Tiny Sully had gone from us...marching blindly to Valhalla." (*And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat. Italy. The Invasion of Sicily. World War II.)

♦ "Ah well, what the hell? Who wants to make old bones? See you in Valhalla, chum." (*And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat. Italy. The Moro River. World War II.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Do Not Give In To / The War Within / End Veteran Suicide." (The logo of a Korey Shaffer "Til Valhalla Project" T-shirt.)

## Valhalla (noun)

Valhalla of men

they have earned their places in the ~ against death (microbe hunters)

## valley (noun)

valley of death

see *valley of death* (figurative)

Silicon Valley

see *Silicon Valley*

uncanny valley

see *uncanny valley* (noun)

peaks and valleys

it's a long season, you're going to have ~

## valley (the uncanny valley, etc.)

see *uncanny valley* (noun)

## valley of death (figurative)

Valley of Death

~, a term from the pharmaceutical industry

♦ "When you talk to the CEOs of these companies, they are backed by venture capital and they all talk about what they call the Valley of Death, which is a term you usually hear from the pharmaceutical industry, when they've invented a new drug, but getting it to the marketplace before they run out of money is a real challenge. And the Valley of Death is now a term you hear in the defense industry from these high-tech Silicon Valley-styled military start-ups." (Getting Pentagon defense contracts to companies before they fail. From "NY Times" reporter details the struggle within the military to modernize its forces," NPR, Fresh Air, September 13, 2023. The excellent journalist Eric Lipton.)

## valve (relief valve)

relief valve

comedians are the only ‘~’ we have left

♦ “I frankly don’t know where this world would be without comedians...it’s the only ‘relief valve’ we have left.” (A commenter about criticism of the comedian Chris Rock.)

## vampire (noun)

vampire devices

so-called ~ raise your electrical bill

~ include electronics left on standby

vampire facial

the 3 women got “~” procedures (and HIV)

♦ A “vampire facial” is also known as a platelet-rich plasma (PRP) facial. It involves withdrawing blood from a person, processing it, and then re-injecting it.)

♦ see also *Dracula* (noun), *heart* (stake through the heart, etc.)

## vampiric (adjective)

vampiric heartthrob

Blyth, who is that ~ type that’s very in vogue

♦ “Blyth, who is that vampiric heartthrob type that’s very in vogue at the moment...” (A review of *The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*.)

♦ see also *Dracula* (noun), *heart* (stake through the heart, etc.)

## vandal (noun)

army of vandals

Rome’s art heritage is under attack by an ~

## vandalism (noun)

cultural vandalism

it’s ~ of the worst kind (Puffin Books rewrites Roald Dahl)

cyber vandalism

Obama called the Sony Pictures hack an act of “~”

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “When people wantonly destroy property, particularly cultural objects, they are still called *vandals*, even though a millennium and a half have gone by since the *Vandals* sacked Rome...History tells us that the *Vandals* were destroyers of art and culture though, in point of fact, they seem to have torn down very few of Rome’s monuments. But *vandalism* is a symbol of barbarianism just the same.” (*Word Origins And Their Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 3, “These Words Came from Proper Names.”)

## vanguard (in the vanguard)

in the vanguard of (iceboat) design

the company is ~

## vanguard (other)

vanguard of change

young people are acknowledged as the ~

acknowledged as the vanguard

young people are ~ of change

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Palsars serve in the vanguard of the Israeli military forces.

## vanish (extinction)

vanished

many other old customs have ~

## vanishing (disappearance)

vanishing plants

save the genetic legacy of ~ (seed vault on Svalbard)

vanishing species

he’s a ~ (moderate Republican)

## vantage point (from a vantage point)

from our vantage point

it’s difficult to believe ~ (now)

from the vantage point of the victims

~, justice was not done

## vapor (noun)

vapor

centering people’s humanity, blah-blah-blah-blah-blah, it was ~ (a politician)

pedagogical vapor

the acronym, coined in the early 1990s, is ~ (STEM)

## varsity (and junior varsity, JV)

varsity

this is not the JV team, this is the ~ (a gang)

♦ “ Hamas has never been the A-team...” (As opposed to Hezbollah. A US analyst speaking about Israel’s intelligence failure leading up to the Israel-Hamas war.)

♦ “At the moment, where [AI] is most dangerous, is taking what I would call a kind of JV criminal actors or foreign actors and making them varsity level. What I’m more concerned about is the day which is coming fast where AI is going to be good enough to take the sort of black belt adversaries and make them that much more effective.” (FBI Director Chris Wray.)

## vaudeville (noun)

vaudeville series

18th-century Europe saw a ~ of priority disputes (science)

## vault (verb)

vaulting into the top tier

he is ~ of TV interviewers

## vector (noun)

one vector

that was ~ that there might be extremism (Facebook)

## veer (verb)

veered from the chorus

he has ~ (has a contrary opinion)

veer into (unintended military) conflict

make sure competition doesn’t ~ (diplomacy)

veered into the pop lane

a lot of people have ~ (from country music)

veered into fringe territory  
their most recent article ~ (UFOs / NYT)

veer off course  
it is easy for a dictionary user to ~ as they try to...

tastes veer  
boxing used to be huge, times change, ~

## vegetable (consciousness)

vegetable  
if she makes it she'll probably be a ~ (head injuries)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ *Cabbage* is sometimes used with this meaning.

## veil (covering)

veil of (glowing) clouds  
an hour after sunset a ~ appears (noctilucent)

veil of (limestone) dust  
a slab resting on the dirt floor under a ~

## veil (under a veil)

under the veil of darkness  
the rustlers steal cattle ~ (Dakota)

## veil (concealment)

veil of mystery  
the desert "wears a ~" (Edward Abbey)

veil of secrecy  
sky watchers have pierced the ~ (spaceplane)  
the ~ was finally lifted over the weekend...

parted the veil  
US officials have ~ of secrecy to reveal...

pierced the veil  
sky watchers have ~ of secrecy (spaceplane)

ripped that veil from my eyes  
the pandemic ~ (that schools care about teachers, students)

## veiled

veiled in secrecy  
how money was disbursed was ~ (US aid to Pakistan)

veiled accusations  
he made ~ of cheating against... (chess)

veiled references  
the song has ~ to the shooting (rap feuds)

veiled threats  
direct or ~ of harm

thinly veiled  
~ contempt  
reporters used ~ racist terms—gorilla, beast (Liston)

not-so-veiled  
a ~ reference to his homosexuality

direct or veiled  
~ threats of harm

## vein (source)

vein of pain  
there's a pretty deep ~ that runs through these songs

rich vein  
Lukaku is enjoying a ~ of form (the soccer player)  
Kane's ~ of form continues (for Bayern Munich)

feel for the main vein  
he had a ~ of popular sentiment (politics)

♦ "Peter Shapiro wrangled the remaining members into a series of stadium concerts, a supposedly final goodbye called Fare Thee Well. But instead of sealing the mine, this extravaganza opened a new vein. Weeks later, Weir announced a new outfit, called Dead & Company..." ("Dead Reckoning: At the Sphere, a fan wrestles with what the Grateful Dead have left behind" by Nick Paumgarten, *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2024.)

## vein (tap a vein)

tapped the vein  
he has ~ of popular outrage over... (politician)

tapping that vein of American sentiment  
he is ~ (nativism and anti-immigrants)

## vein (in that vein, etc.)

in that vein  
~, the campaign released an online ad on Monday...

in a similar vein  
~, what do you think is the greatest failure...

## vein (ice in one's veins, etc.)

ice in his veins  
he has ~

courses through their veins  
partisan rage ~ (Democrats)

running through his veins  
he has aviation fuel ~ (a pilot)

## Velcro (attachment)

Velcro Dogs  
dog breeds that are so loyal they're considered "~~"

## velvet (Velvet Revolution)

Velvet Revolution  
the ~ ended communist rule (Czechoslovakia / 1989)

## vendetta (noun)

vendetta against him  
he believes the group has a ~

academic feud  
this ~ began to poison the project (undersea mapping)

partisan vendetta  
they are wasting time on ~ (politics)

## political vendetta

he has called the case a ~ (convicted politician)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A funny cartoon in *The New Yorker*, December 13, 2021, shows a happy academic with a goatee in the spotlight on a stage behind a podium at an awards ceremony in a great hall, addressing a packed audience. He is saying, "None of this research would have been possible without all the bitter professional vendettas that kept me going..")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Hey, what's the strongest force in the universe? It's not gravity. It's jealousy." (Robert P. Kirshner of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, on controversies in the field.)

♦ Jumbo shrimp, clean dirt, mud bath, American culture, academic fellowship... (Oxymorons.)

♦ see also *feud* (noun)

## veneer (appearance)

### veneer of civilization

the ~, it's a very very thin veneer (Hugh Grant)

### veneer of officialdom

the presentation at the UN gave the accusations the ~

### democratic veneer

despite a ~, the government retains oppressive control

### religious veneer

they offer a ~ but they are ruthless and corrupt

### thin veneer

civilization is a very very ~

### pulled back that (wholesome) veneer

he ~ to get at the darkness (filmmaker David Lynch)

♦ "The veneer of civilization, the older I get, the more I think that's a very very thin veneer. I actually see it all over the place at the moment..." (The actor Hugh Grant, hawking his film *Heretic* on NPR.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "And the savage in you makes you adore it with its squalor and wastefulness and danger and strife and glorious noise. You feel that, after all, this is what men were intended for rather than to sit in easy chairs with a cigarette and whiskey, the evening paper or the best-seller, and to pretend that such a veneer means civilization and that there is no barbarian behind your starched and studded shirt front." (Harvey Cushing, a US surgeon during World War I. From *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by the brilliant Swedish historian and writer Peter Englund.)

## venerate (verb)

### venerate Ronald Reagan

Republicans ~

### venerated him

everyone ~ (an Ethiopian leader who died)

### venerates its pathfinders and pacesetters

jazz ~ (its elders)

## venerated

### venerated as one of the all-time comedy greats

Dave Chappelle, ~, is facing criticism (from Dahlia Belle)

## Venice (Venice of the North, etc.)

"Venice of Africa"

Makoko, known as the ~, is built on stilts (Lagos)

## Venice of the Middle East

Basra was once called the ~ (for its canals)

## Venice of the North

St. Petersburg, the ~

Amsterdam claims to be the true "~"

Wroclaw, nicknamed by locals as "~" (canals, rivers, etc.)

## Venice of the East

Alappuzha on the Arabian Sea, often called "the ~"

Bangkok was known as "the ~" (in 19<sup>th</sup> century)

## venom (noun)

### social venom

they are sowing hatred and ~ (politics)

### with venom

Benn had already been landing ~ (boxing)

### rhetoric, the venom, the demagoguery

after witnessing the inflamed ~

### spewed venom

she ~ (neurotic woman)

## venomous (adjective)

### venomous

the debate is becoming increasingly ~

### venomous creatures

women were these ~ (a teen girl bullied by other girls)

## vent (verb)

### vented her frustration to the TV cameras

she ~ (after another school shooting)

### vent their anger with stones

they ~ (angry Palestinian kids)

### vent about the issues

he wanted to do more than just ~ (a terrorist)

### vented about illegal immigration to the U.S. and inflation

they ~ (Hispanic voters / 2024 U.S. presidential election)

### vent for a while

take her someplace calm and let her ~ (crying kid)

### vented their anger

voters ~ by voting him out of office

### vented their disdain

fans ~ through chants

### vent frustration

it offers her a safe place to ~ (New Teacher Institute)

### vented frustration

the president ~ with his own party

♦ "They vented about what they saw as too much focus on..." (Voters. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)



## verdict (noun)

verdict on how

what was the ~ she did (a politician's speech)

verdict is (still) out on that

the ~ (a policy)

## verge (on the verge)

on the verge of being sent

she is ~ to jail

on the verge of a catastrophe

the country is ~ (AIDS)

on the verge of collapse

the provincial government is ~ (Iraq)

on the verge of combat

troops ~

on the verge of elimination

now the Jazz are ~ (NBA playoffs)

on the verge of eradication

the disease had been ~ (polio)

on the verge of extinction

some languages are ~ (few speakers left);

to others we are the "noble savages" ~ (Canada)

bluefin tuna are ~ in the Mediterranean

on the verge of orgasm

she was ~

on the verge of sex

being ~ and discovering you've got no birth control

on the verge of tears

he seemed ~ as the verdict was read

on the verge of war

with the US ~ with Iraq

on the verge of a (nervous) breakdown

I'm ~

on the verge of overrunning

when they again seemed ~ the small force

on the verge of passing out

14-year-olds vomiting, ~ (high-school dance)

on the verge of losing consciousness

he doesn't inhale until ~ (drowning)

## verge (to the verge)

to the verge of war

Kashmir has pushed them to the ~ (Pakistan and India)

pushed them to the verge

Kashmir has ~ of war (Pakistan and India)

## vermin (insult)

compared his political opponents to vermin

he ~ (the U.S.)

♦ "Sinwar has likely *scurried* (italics mine) back to Khan Younis in the north of the Gaza Strip... [Colin] Clarke said the only way for Israel to locate him is...getting someone on the inside to rat him out." ("The Butcher of Khan Younis,' hiding like a 'cornered rat' in Gaza's Hamas tunnels.")

## Versailles (Russian Versailles, etc.)

"Russian Versailles"

Peter the Great's ~ (Peterhof / the Grand Palace)

## verse (metaverse, etc.)

Bataverse

in the ~... (a review of the film *The Batman*)

fediverse

the idea of the ~ is it is like email

users may not be able to access everything on the ~

the ~ allows data to flow freely among social networks

Garciaverse

a Margaritavilling of the ~ (the Dead Forever Experience)

Juliaverse

here, in the ~... (a food blogger about Julia Childs)

Maas-verse

her fans think the future of the ~ (Sarah J. Maas)

Marvelverse

but now that the ~ has Leto going full Dracula...

Muskverse

between Twitterland and the ~...

metaverse

see *metaverse*

multiverse

see *multiverse*

pedoverse

concerns about the ~ (grooming on social media)

Potter-verse

the ~ fandom has not dwindled over the years

Sandliverse

there are perks to being in the greater ~ (Adam Sandler)

Schradaverse

the ~'s patterns... (the film director Paul Schrader)

*Spider-Verse*

*Spider-Man: Into the ~* (an animated film)

*Spider-Man: Across the ~* (*the Sony film*)

Taylorverse

Paramount's ~ will include 9 shows (Taylor Sheridan)

Sheridan's old quote caused a disturbance in the ~

Twitterverse

see *Twitterverse*

universe

see *universe (noun)*

♦ "Between Twitterland and the Muskverse was a radical divergence in outlook that reflected two different mindsets about the American workplace." (*Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Fediverse."

♦ Type in "-verse" at Wiktionary, then click on "Derived terms," and you will get a long list. Wiktionary is wonderful.

## very (contempo-speak)

very, very

~ pure water (an advertisement / see below)

very very very

this is a ~ divided country (NPR's Domenico Montanaro)

very obviously

see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

actually very

it's ~, very widespread

definitely very

I think that was ~ triggering for me

the movie is ~ sappy (NPR's Elizabeth Blair)

it's ~ promising and very exciting that...

we're ~ concerned with there being an...

I was ~ aware that it is...

it's something I'm ~ aware of (gender identity)

definitely very, very

it was ~ important to... (violinist Esther Yoo)

just very

it's ~ emotionally draining

we were ~ surprised to see that in this day and age...

it's been ~ difficult the last number of years...

so I was ~ happy that it inspired people...

just very, very

it's not a criminal offense, it's ~ stupid (White House)

really just very

we're all ~ concerned that democracy is on the line

he published a lot of ~ smart, talented veteran writers

these were ~ short speeches... (Emmy telecast)

I'm ~ grateful, and I love you, and I thank you

really just very, very

it was ~ overwhelming (a singer)

kind of very

Russia and the Ukraine are ~ close countries (NPR)

and I find that ~ inspiring

and so that's ~ interesting to me (writer Walter Mosley)

like, very

the book was, ~ reassuring...

like very

I heard a lot of homophobic things, ~ ignorant comments

they are ~ thankful...

obviously very

that's ~ different than 2020

I am ~ happy with the outcome of this case

but the lady was ~ ashamed...

he took a knee to the pelvic area that was "~painful"

the stakes are ~ high

the historical experiences are ~ different

really very

these data are ~ exciting

the analysis of the data was ~ favorable to the drug

this is going to sound ~ egotistical, but I wish I had...

and that's ~ hard for people to accept

I would say I'm ~ comfortable performing on the cello

it's not ~ entertaining from my point of view

he did some things that weren't ~ nice

really very, very

that's ~ tragic

it's ~ magical

I was ~ happy to see that... (heard on NPR)

so very

so, ~ sorry this has happened, my heart is broken

sort of very

will that ~ severe decline become less severe as...

I think what I love is that it's a ~ smart satire of...

IDEO, which is this ~ legendary design firm

and people, ~ naturally, ask the question, why is it...

this is where the ribbon is ~ commonly worn, on the lapel

just sort of very

and he is ~ direct

it's ~ hard to comprehend what she must have been through

♦ "Very, very pure water... Visit [gewater.com](http://gewater.com) to learn more. imagination at work GE" (A 2-page ad in *Smithsonian*.)

♦ "You have to realize that this is a very very very divided country..." (An excited Domenico Montanaro on NPR.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type in "definitely very" into search at NPR and you will get 80 results and counting.

♦ Type in "so very" into search at NPR and you will get 1,633 results and counting.

♦ Type in "really very" into search at NPR and you will get 1,260 hits and counting...

♦ see also *really* (*gushing*)

## vest (close to the vest, etc.)

keep that evidence very close to the vest

we tried to ~ but it was leaked (police)

plays that close to his vest

as to whether he is a socialist, he ~ (a politician)

## veteran (noun)

veteran of the New Jersey music scene

he's a ~ that launched Springsteen's career (Van Zandt)

agency veteran

Dr. Woodcock, an ~ of more than three decades (FDA)

Broadway veterans

three ~ prepare for opening night after the pandemic

hiatus

Shakespeare veterans

both actors are ~ (Succession)

twenty-year veteran

a ~ of NPR, Neda Ulaby...

crafty veteran

he is a ~ of Middle East negotiating

political veteran

she is a ~ and an Emmy-Award winning journalist

♦ “They are veterans, this isn’t their first rodeo...” (Oleksander Usyk versus Tyson Fury, “Ring of Fire,” “Riyadh Season,” Saudi Arabia. Super!)

♦ “Forget everything you learned in the academy.” (The standard greeting a rookie police officer receives from his veteran partner.)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “For Americans, My Lai was supposed to be a never-again moment. In 1969, the antiwar movement turned one of [Ronald L.] Haeblerle’s photographs of dead women and children into a poster, overlaid with a short, chilling quote from [Paul] Meadlo: ‘And babies.’ It was largely because of My Lai that returning Vietnam veterans were widely derided as ‘baby killers.’” (“The Ghosts of My Lai” by Shaun Raviv, *Smithsonian*, January / February 2018. The text for the famous poster comes from an interview Mike Wallace had with Paul Meadlo: Mike Wallace: So you fired something like sixty-seven shots? / Paul Meadlo: Right. / Mike Wallace: And you killed how many? At that time? / Paul Meadlo: Well, I fired them automatic... So I might have killed ten or fifteen of them. / Mike Wallace: Men, women, and children? / Paul Meadlo: Men, women and children. / Mike Wallace: And babies? / Paul Meadlo: And babies... / The day after the massacre, Meadlo’s right foot was blown off when he stepped on a landmine.)

♦ On the ‘retrograde’ movement from Choshin Reservoir, 17-year-old Marine Jimmy Fastenrath from Michigan went to his Sergeant and told him his boots were too tight and his feet were freezing. His Sergeant found him a larger size, saving Jimmy’s feet from frostbite and amputation. A few days later, Jimmy walked past that same sergeant—a corpse tied to the front of a jeep—as the Marines fought their way south to Inchon. (The Korean War. Also known as the “Forgotten War.”)

♦ “Oral history interview with Ralph Martire recorded 2010 Mar. 27, Central Connecticut State University Digital Collections / Veterans History Project. World War II.

♦ In a footnote, Peter Englund writes, “Such cases existed in all the warring countries, as did the policy of isolation—for the most part, voluntarily—in closed nursing homes. In France, 9,900 men with destroyed faces formed a special veterans’ association after the war.” From *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter Englund. World War I.)

♦ “An incident occurred on his night march [toward Manassas] that I have often recalled: My shoes had begun to give out, and I had to fasten the soles to the upper leathers by making holes through each and tying them together with leather shoe-strings passed through these holes, a device that did not serve to prevent gravel and sand from freely entering the shoes to my great discomfort, impeding my marching and compelling me at times to fall behind the line... / The next morning [after the battle] it was my purpose to provide myself with a pair of shoes from some dead Federal soldier, but upon inquiring I soon discovered that I ought to have set about this at a much earlier hour, as there had been during the night and early morning a very general removing of shoes, not only from the Federal dead, but also from many of the dead Confederates. So I abandoned all hope of getting a pair until, on my way, with a party of my regiment, from the wagons to the place of rendezvous, we came to a dead Confederate lying near the roadway, on whose feet were a pair of good shoes. Noticing this, one of our party, pointing to the dead man, said to me, ‘There is a pair of that will fit you.’ I went to this poor fellow’s feet, untied one of his shoes and began to pull it off. This was, of course, not easy work, and whilst engaged at it I suddenly fully realized what I was doing—taking a dead man’s shoes, and these the shoes of a dead Confederate! I at once stopped, and swore I would go bare-footed before I would do an act which was so repugnant to my feelings. My comrades rather ridiculed my squeamishness, but I felt better at having let the dead Confederate retain his shoes. My feet might suffer, but my conscience would not. (War Talks of Confederate Veterans, compiled and edited by Geo. S. Bernard, Petersburg, VA.)

veteran (adjective)

veteran diplomat

the ~ has held multiple roles at the State Department

veteran musicians

how ~ keep things fresh over the long haul (pandemic)

veteran nurse

she’s a ~ so she remembers paper charts...

veteran roster

the US must add young blood to its ~ (women’s soccer)

viable (adjective)

viable campaign

most do not think he can mount a ~ (election)

viable challenger

it is doubtful there will be a ~ to the President (election)

viable solution

there is still no ~ in sight

stay viable

rural schools are working to ~

viability (political viability, etc.)

political viability

many like his ideas, but his ~ has been questioned

via dolorosa

via dolorosa

for Oates, it was a ~ (he couldn’t pull, frostbitten feet)

♦ “About 9 A.M. we attacked a true Via Dolorosa, the normal road of the Lower Congo.” (Richard F. Burton.)

Viagra (ratings Viagra, etc.)

ratings Viagra

MSNBC to cut anchor’s salary by \$5M despite being “~”

vibe (character / feeling)

Body Vibes

Gwyneth Paltrow and ~

Jewish vibe

it’s got a ~, a little snappier, funnier (Hallmark film)

Mormon vibe

the ~ is often super hyper-friendly (Alyssa Grenfell)

Pride vibe

16 LGBTQ art shows that keep the summer ~ flowing

X-Files vibe

there was a very ~ to the congressional hearing (UAPs)

“Bosch” or “True Detective” vibes

it gives me heavy ~ (*Every Arc Bends Its Radian*)

Rivendell’s vibe

~ hews toward the crunchy and outdoorsy (bikes)

bad vibes

be prepared for that hurricane of ~ over you (success)

Blair Witch-y (sort of) vibe

there is sort of a ~ (outdoors at night)

over-all vibe

Rivendell's ~ hews toward the crunchy and outdoorsy

rapey vibe

I kinda like his ~ (a commenter about HBO's *The Idol*)

sinister vibe

she felt "the most ~s ever" (hearing "Uptown Girl")

steamy, sordid vibe

the ~ (*Euphoria*'s party scenes)

aesthetic, the vibe

for bars, they talk about the ~ (Gen Z TikTok searches)

capturing the vibe

they're not perfect imitations but they're ~ (film actors)

create a fun vibe

we want to ~ and a great atmosphere to welcome everyone

get that vibe

the whole décor of the place is to ~ (of a tiki bar)

had a vibe

we just ~, we wanted to keep going with it (singing group)

♦ "I love the dark academia aesthetic, the outfits, the vibe, the books..."

♦ "So, be prepared for that hurricane of bad vibes over you." (Johan Cruyff's advice to Ruud Gullit. "Inheritance Tracks, Ruud Gullit.")

♦ "The crowd was younger, and more diverse. And they were experiencing a new emotion: joy." ("The 180-shift in the Democratic campaign" by Tamara Keith, NPR, July 26, 2024. "Out: Tom Petty. In: Beyoncé." A rally for Kamala Harris. Other words used were "met the mood," and "vibe." The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ "Maybe this has happened to you. You go out to eat at a restaurant you haven't tried before but you're not sure about the vibe so you don't know what to wear so you worry, will I look out of place, could I get turned away at the door..." (Heard on NPR.)

## vicious circle

vicious circle

it's in the nature of ~s that they're hard to stop

'Vicious Circle' Of Jailing The Poor

Is America In A ~? (NPR, Fresh Air, 2016)

reverse a vicious circle

people of good will can ~

## victim (fall victim to something)

fell victim to a (common human) failing

he ~ (padding his resume)

fall victim to the (cheap) hashish

the young easily ~ (Arab immigrants in France)

fall victim to the stress

but there are ways to not ~ (sports psychology)

fell victim to accident or illness

whether someone simply ~ (vs. crime)

falling victim to black magicians

more and more hapless people have been ~ (in the UAE)

fallen victim to human trafficking

thousands of Moldovan women have ~

fell victim to a rush to judgment

she ~ by police following the murder

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "I am a stupid girl from a little village." (An Eastern European girl, forced to work in an Israeli brothel.)

## victim (groups)

victims of racism

he issued a heartfelt apology to the ~ (Cricket Scotland)

victim advocate

she was working as a professional ~ (Sunda TeBockhorst)

victim complex

the French view is "woke" Americans are indulging a ~

victim expression

it's like that dead eye, ~ (acting, performing victimhood)

victim mode

Goldberg is perpetually in ~ (Whoopi Goldberg)

'victim' rather than the aggressor

they claim to be the ~ (passive-aggressives)

Twitter victim

just another ~ (reporter fired for tweets)

professional victim

she's a ~ with a permanent chip on her shoulder

good, likeable victim

I'm not a ~, I get it (Amber Heard loses lawsuit)

painted herself as a victim

she ~ (Malak Afaneh, UC Berkeley)

play the victim

she is trying to ~ (the Heard versus Depp trial)

side with celebrities over victims

the public tends to ~

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "He issued a heartfelt apology to the victims of racism." (Cricket Scotland.)

♦ "American prisons are full of inmates prosecuted for victimless crimes."

♦ "Harris' attorneys had sought a six-year sentence, followed by eight years of supervised release, arguing in court documents filed last month that he is 'both victimizer and victim' after being assaulted as a minor. 'The trauma he experienced as a child normalized his skewed version of what he understood to be appropriate relationships,' his attorneys said." ("Former 'Cheer' star Jerry Harris sentenced to 12 years in Prison for sex crimes," by Meredith Deliso, ABC News, July 06, 2022. Crimes against boys.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "victim" bandwagon...

♦ "An OnlyFans star was kicked out of the supermarket for her skimpy outfit, but she believes she's a victim of 'hot phobia.'" ("I was kicked out of a store over my shorts—I'm a victim of 'hot phobia'" by Adriana Diaz, *New York Post*, April 26, 2023.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ OLD: a victim... / NEW: a survivor, a conqueror, a defier, one who has experienced something... (Political correctness.)

♦ “You are so much more than just a survivor or just a victim. While that is a huge thing, you are a person of multitudes, and what someone has done to you doesn’t define you. You define you.” (Blake Lively, at the New York premiere of the 2024 film *It Ends With Us*.)

♦ “The Problem with the More than a Victim Discourse” by Kathleen Wash, *Glamour*, opinion piece.

♦ “This woman, Gisele Pelicot, she doesn’t want to be considered a hero, she says, ‘I’m not a hero, I’m a victim, and there is no shame in being a victim.’” (The French writer Pauline Arrighi about the mass rape trial that shocked France.)

♦ “[Carrere] talked about a number of ‘false victims’ of November, 2015—including Alexandra Damien, a woman who claimed to have been at a bar that was attacked. She had shown reporters a scar that, she said, came from that night. (It was the result of a kite-surfing accident.) He recalled that the president of a group for victims of the attacks in which Damien became involved had told him, ‘She was completely lost. We liked her. We were the first friends of her life.’ She had escaped social solitude by inserting herself into this community. For Damien, Carriere said, ‘it was an identity to be a victim.’” (“The First Rule Is Not to Lie: Emmanuel Carrere’s bracingly personal reportage” by Ian Parker, *The New Yorker*, July 11 & 18, 2022.)

♦ “But the second she sees the camera is on her, she kinda goes stoic, puts her face down, and then she has a completely different expression when she looks back up, it’s like that dead eye, victim expression...” (A commenter on the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial.)

♦ “The same formula again and again. I want to post pictures of myself in bathing suits. When I get criticized I’ll say I want to do it for others and for body positivity. When I get criticized for that, I will show sadness that the world doesn’t support mental health and I’m a victim, and finally I’ll get praised for being so brave for living my own truth.” (Bob Loblaw. A BBC HYS about “SI Swim model Natalie Mariduena wants to ‘be an example’ of ‘body normalcy’” by Stephanie Nolasco, August 20, 2022.)

♦ “the shooter is now the victim, shaking my head and rolling my eyes.” (An online commenter.)

♦ “Raped’ teenage boys... That is hilarious. A woman does not rape a teenage boy. She lets them do it with her.” (An online commenter about a woman who had sex with boys.)

♦ “This family will never stop playing the victims.” (An online commenter.)

♦ “I am a stupid girl from a little village.” (An Eastern European girl, forced to work in an Israeli brothel.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In the context of cancer, “victim” has morphed to “survivor” and even “conqueror.” Or the latest, “one who has experienced cancer.”

♦ “There can be real power in the victim posture.”

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ see also *survivor (groups)*

## victimhood (groups)

### victimhood

agency is generally used to mean the opposite of ~

### victimhood competition

is there no end to ~

### victimhood and oppression

the constant alleged ~

### victimhood and outrage

he is now a self-appointed scourge of ~ (a writer)

### communities of victimhood

NPR seeks to perpetuate ~ (National Public Radio)

### ‘poor me’ and ‘victimhood’

they revel in their own narrative of ~

### claim victimhood

he has the gall to ~ (Aidan Maese-Czeropski)

### flip victimhood into empowerment

the art exhibit is designed to ~

### wallows in victimhood

it ~ (National Public Radio / NPR)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “[M]any readers today have reached adulthood in educational institutions where a generalized sense of helplessness and acute anxiety have become the norm. In these institutions, young people are increasingly encouraged to see themselves not as agents in life but as potential victims: of their dates, their roommates, their professors, of institutions and of history in general. In a culture where victimhood has become a claim to status, how could Yanagihara’s book—with its unending parade of aesthetically gratuitous scenes of punitive and humiliating violence—not provide a kind of comfort? To such readers, the ugliness of this author’s subject must bring a kind of pleasure, confirming their preexisting view of the world as a site of victimization—and little else.” (“A Whole Lotta Pain” by Daniel Mendelsohn, *The New York Review of Books*, December 3, 2015, and included in Mendelsohn’s book *Ecstasy And Terror: From the Greeks to Game Of Thrones*.)

♦ “When victimhood is a source of prestige, there’s no incentive to get better.”

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## victimization (or victimisation)

### victimization porn

I don’t get how ~ helps minorities (NPR)

### purported victimization

Ms. Heard’s ~... (legal case versus Johnny Depp)

### grievance and victimization

NPR has worked hard to be the national voice of ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Victimisation” has a Wikipedia article, which is part of a series on Discrimination. Part of the article is on “revictimisation.”

♦ see also *revictimization (or revictimisation)*

## victimize (groups)

### self-victimize

she is able to ~ and still make millions of dollars (celebrity)

### sexually victimized

the pastor repeatedly ~ her

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Wikipedia redirects “self-victimize” to “Victim playing.”

♦ see also *revictimize (groups)*

## victimized (groups)

### victimized

a lifetime of trauma for those who are ~ (sex assault)

Black landowners have been ~ by...

### victimized by climate change

nations ~

### victimized by (sex-negative) shame

Lil Nas X refuses to be ~ or his own past trauma  
 victimized again  
 the father said he would be ~ if... (murder)  
 victimized over and over again  
 these families have been ~ (Sandy Hook school shooting)  
 victimized and killed  
 Black Americans being ~ by the police is an epidemic  
 (NPR)  
 sexually victimized  
 Biles and so many other gymnasts were ~...  
 the CDC estimates that 1 in 6 men have been ~

♦ see also *revictimized (groups)*

## Vietnam (Egypt's Vietnam, etc.)

Britain's Vietnam  
 "the War in Afghanistan, ~" (*Daily Mail*, 2006)

Egypt's Vietnam  
 Nasser lamented war in Yemen had become ~ (1967)

Israel's Vietnam  
 the 1982 Lebanon War was ~ (Caitlin Smith)  
 the 1982 incursion in Lebanon was ~ (unpopular, etc.)

Sri Lanka's Vietnam  
 the fight against the Tamils was ~

"Nasser's Vietnam"  
 the North Yemen Civil War was widely described as ~

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "A quad bike bounces across battle-ravaged desert, the remains of three dead British soldiers lashed to its back, while a Chinook buzzes overhead... / Shortages of ammunition and even rations. / Water has run out, so soldiers drink from disease-carrying rivers. They eat bread scrounged from Afghan troops. / Squaddies are tormented by sand flies and scorpions and are driven mad by stress. They are attacked by Taliban militiamen on motorbikes who open fire while clutching children in front of themselves. / 'That place is a shithole anyway. The first wagon got IED'd then as a rescue wagon came down they RPG'd it...' / The soldiers had to use a spade to cut the body of one of their comrades from the wreckage. 'Then we released the hatch to get the body out while getting contacted at the same time. The worst part was stepping over the body to gather it all up and looking for dog tags.'" ("War in Afghanistan: Britain's Vietnam" by Mark Nicol, *Daily Mail.com*, 01 October 2006.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ In Vietnam the Vietnam War is called the American War.

## view (verb)

view stress as a challenge  
 some workers ~ rather than a burden  
 view drownings as avoidable accidents  
 juries tend to ~  
 view drugs as part of their social lives  
 they ~ (young people)  
 view it as their main job  
 high school is demanding, and kids need to ~  
 view the computer as another toy  
 a tot under age 3 will ~ at his disposal

view this as a case of doping  
 we don't ~ (competitive bicycling)

view the other members as competition  
 people often ~ for jobs (networking)

view the problem as (pretty) serious  
 I ~

view things through an ethnic lens  
 he refused to ~ (Afghan military man)

view conflict through a theological lens  
 he does not ~ (Middle East)

view both with skepticism  
 we should ~ (explanations and prophecies)

view him with deep suspicion  
 we should ~ (a pastor)

view these programs skeptically  
 many judges ~ (for batterers)

## view (in view of)

in view of the changes  
 ~ e-commerce is bringing, can book stores survive

in view of yesterday's action  
 ~, what's your position on that...

in view of lack of concealment  
 close-air support is more important in desert warfare ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is a 3-word preposition, and it seems to mean the same as 'in light of' or 'because of' or "considering."

## view (in somebody's view)

in the view of (tobacco) critics  
 ~, label warnings are not enough

in the view of specialists  
 ~, the situation...

in the view of the Special Representative  
 ~, there is no doubt... (UN)

in Morison's view  
 ~ there is a 1-in-5,000 chance that...

in his view  
 ~, the Cherokee culture is in danger because...

in my view  
 ~, interpretation has an important role to play in...

in your view  
 which of the five Central Asian nations, ~, can we trust...

## view (opinion)

view that  
 scientists challenged the ~...

view of abortion  
 whenever I asked what the local ~ was...



view of the (Jack the Ripper) story  
a revisionist ~

view of sin, marriage and human nature  
a more tolerant ~ (adultery)

views on children  
we both have the same ~

views on the issue  
her ~ changed (Ann Landers / divorce)

view on (social) issues  
the mainstream Saudi ~ (women in sports, etc.)

views on race  
whatever his ~

views on politics and religion  
his complex ~

views on intelligence and genetics  
he holds controversial ~

views on how  
indigenous peoples have ~ the land should be utilized

views on whether  
he called in to offer his ~ Arab nationalism was dead

views on Islam  
the mosque attracted worshippers with militant ~

view on Wall Street  
the consensus ~ is...

views on stoning  
she tried to avoid stating her ~ (Iranian official)

views and opinions  
we encourage individuals to express their ~

President's view  
what's the ~ on that (press question)

administration's view  
what is the ~ how the talks stand right now

outsider's view  
an ~

consensus view  
the ~ on Wall Street is...

establishment view  
the BBC tended to take an ~

minority view  
the Hippocratic Oath represented the ~

mainstream (Saudi) view  
the ~ on social issues (women in sports, etc.)

anti-establishment view  
prison terms strengthen ~s

opposing views  
to justify their ~s....

accepted views  
his studies were controversial and challenged ~

distorted view  
the media has presented a ~ of the case

widely held view  
the books debunk the ~ that...

Saudi view  
the mainstream ~ on social issues (women and sports)

Western and Arab views  
the difference in perspective between the ~ of Hezbollah

complex views  
his ~ on politics and religion

controversial views  
he holds ~ on intelligence and genetics

conventional view  
scientists said their findings challenged the ~ that...

different view  
they have a ~ of what they believe justice is (youth)  
there were a number of ~s on this

dim view  
lawmakers took a ~ of people who...

local view  
whenever I asked what the ~ of abortion was...

militant views  
the mosque attracted worshippers with ~ on Islam

optimistic view  
whites hold a more ~ than minorities about race relations

pessimistic view  
those holding this ~

racist views  
~ have influenced his decisions (politics)

revisionist view  
a ~ of the Jack the Ripper story

same views  
we both have the ~ on children

strong views  
this article includes some ~  
indigenous peoples have ~ about the land

tolerant view  
a more ~ of sin, marriage and human nature (adultery)

unpopular views  
speakers with ~

politically correct views  
Abraham-Santos had all the appropriate ~

more optimistic view  
whites generally hold a ~ about race relations

number of (different) views

there were a ~ on this  
 speakers with (unpopular) views  
 worshippers with (militant) views  
 the mosque attracted ~ on Islam  
 view (on the issue) changed  
 her ~ (Ann Landers / divorce)  
 views evolved  
 yet she was not rigid, and her ~ (Ann Landers)  
 view is echoed  
 his ~ by many Central Asians... (a university professor's)  
 debunk the (widely held) view  
 the books ~ that...  
 express their views  
 we encourage individuals to ~ and opinions  
 heard a different view  
 I ~ from Dr. Muhammad al-Musfir  
 make your views known  
 ~ (elections, democracy)  
 denounced the view as hypocritical  
 he ~

## view (perspective)

view of the economy  
 Trump has a "big-picture, 10,000-foot ~"  
 viewpoint  
 see *viewpoint (perspective)*  
 helicopter view  
 sometimes you have to take the ~  
 warped views  
 he denigrates ideas that don't dovetail with his ~  
 10,000-foot view  
 Trump has a "big-picture, ~ of the economy"  
 long view  
 see *view (long view)*  
 panoramic view  
 a ~ of the terrain and history (Battle of Shanghai)  
 strategic view  
 they are taking the ~ (terrorists chose not to fight)  
 bird's-eye view  
 drones give commanders a ~ of the battlefield  
 you get a ~ from a plane  
 fisheye view  
 a ~ from Spirit's navigation camera shows... (Mars)  
 wider-angle view  
 if you take a ~, what comes in focus is... (historian)  
 point of view  
 (see *point of view*)

colors his views  
 his vegetarianism ~ of certain countries  
 taking the strategic view  
 they are ~ (terrorists chose not to fight, wait US out)

## view (out of view)

dropped out of (public) view  
 he ~ (politician)

## view (attention)

public view  
 wall off some things from ~

## view (long view)

long view  
 India has always taken the ~

♦ "Any building must be new once, one tells oneself..." (The destruction of the old and its replacement with the new.)

## viewed (perceived)

viewed as apostasy  
 conversions from Islam are ~ (Egypt)

viewed (by many Estonians) as a symbol  
 the monument is ~ of... (USSR)

viewed as a tradition  
 the practice is ~ (polygamy / eastern Turkey)

viewed as the will of God  
 in the Philippines, pain is ~

viewed with suspicion  
 Mormonism is ~ by Christian conservatives (politics)

## viewpoint (perspective)

viewpoint diversity  
 the lack of ~ (at NPR / Uri Berliner)  
 NPR suffers from the absence of ~ (too progressive)

Panglossian viewpoint  
 it's easy to make fun of his ~

\*\*\* artists...

♦ "I am going to make a long trip among the mountains to look for points of view." (Vincent Van Gough.)

♦ see also *perspective (other)*, *point of view (other)*

## vigilante (person)

online vigilantes  
 ~ unearthed his parents' address and threatened his family

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Lynchings and running people out of town on a rail after having tarred and feathered them have been replaced by doxing, swatting, pile ons, and cancellation. Ain't we civilized.

♦ The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## village (online village, etc.)

your little online village  
 you just have to find a Reddit chat and you find ~

## villain (character)

villain of Sunday

the ~ was the weather... (2023 Ashes cricket)

villain in the plot

there's always an other, somebody who is the ~

villain to (climate) savior

mining recast from environmental ~ ("green" minerals)

villain du jour

the ~ is inundated with hate (social media)

villain role

that's fine, I'll take the ~ (LSU's Angel Reese)

college football villain

Michigan becomes ~ as cheating scandal rocks sport

Queer villains

"~, erotic noir, 90s pulp. 'Basic Instinct' and the backlash."

prominent villain

Facebook is broadly seen as the most ~ (tech companies)

heroes or villains

in times of crisis, New Yorkers appoint ~

cast your boss as a villain

try not to ~ (a *Wall Street Journal* "managing up" article)

considered a villain

today he is largely ~ (J. Edgar Hoover / not in his day)

named as the villain

the tourism industry will be ~ again (if COVID returns)

recast as a villain

a guard cast as a hero was ~ (Richard Jewell)

♦ "The media making me a villain, the fans making me a villain and then that just creates a whole different persona on me. So now you think I intended to hit LeBron James in the nuts..." (An NBA player, thrown out of a game for hitting LeBron James in the nuts, who has a history of hitting opposing players in the nuts. The great boxer Andrew "the Foul Pole" Golota had the same quirk.)

♦ "That's fine. I'll take the villain role. I'll take the hit for it, but I know we're growing women's basketball." (LSU's Angel Reese, about her rivalry with Caitlin Clark. Women's basketball.)

♦ "[Ben] Bolch on Monday wrote on social media that he 'failed miserably' with his choice of words and he wanted to sincerely apologize to the LSU and UCLA programs. The piece referred to UCLA as 'America's sweethearts' and 'milk and cookies.' Conversely, it referred to LSU as 'dirty debutantes' and 'Louisiana hot sauce.' Bolch said he tried to be clever with alliteration but didn't understand at the time how the connotations were deeply offense." ("LA Times edits column and apologizes after drawing the ire of LSU coach Kim Mulkey" by Thomas Schlachter, CNN, April 1, 2024. The article quotes Mulkey, "Take your phone out right now and google 'dirty debutantes' and tell me what it says. 'Dirty debutantes?' Are you kidding me?" The original article was entitled, "UCLA-LSU is America's sweethearts versus its basketball villains." The offending parts of the article have been erased.)

♦ "Should we avoid the controversy or should we dive right into it? I say of course we dive right into it, we confront this thing head on." (Adrian Lamo and "Informants: villains or heroes?")

♦ "It's been an amazing roller coaster ride. I've become a villain to some, a hero to others." (Anthropologist Elizabeth Weiss, formerly of San Jose State University.)

## \*\*\* analysis

♦ "There's always an other, somebody who is the villain in the plot." (Believers of conspiracy theories.)

## vine (wither on the vine)

wither on the congressional vine

even overwhelmingly popular laws will ~ (US)

## vintage (similar vintage, etc.)

similar vintage

imperialists who were themselves of a ~ to Churchill

## viral (viral video, etc.)

viral firestorm

the wrongly edited footage set off a ~

viral phrase

'White supremacy' is a ~ that has infected the lexicon

viral video

what to release in an age of ~ (reporting school massacre)  
he's watching a ~ of a drunk cat (party)

go viral

she saw a video of herself ~ on YouTube (a celebrity)

gone viral

in a TV interview that has ~...

went viral

the pictures ~ on the Internet

♦ "The ad soon went viral." ("Kamala is for they/them. President Trump is for you." At least one version appeared to show a picture of Sam Brinton, the Department of Energy "suitcase thief." The 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

## \*\*\* A group of illnesses called viral hemorrhagic fevers...

♦ "Yellow fever belongs to a group of illnesses called viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs). VHFs, which also include dengue fever and Ebola, are viruses that affect multiple organ systems in the human body and cause severe bleeding..."

## virgin (noun)

virgin market

the Arab markets are a ~ for local TV (Afghanistan)

virgin wilderness

Kekexili, the last ~ of China... (*Mountain Patrol Kekexili*)

gambling virgin

we're ~s (two young women at Las Vegas)

♦ "Kekexili, the last virgin wilderness of China... / In Kekexili (keck-uh-SHE-lee), each step may be the first human footprint ever made on that spot since the world began." (From the great film, "Kekexili: Mountain Patrol," about Tibetans trying to preserve the Tibetan antelope from poachers. A Tibetan antelope was one of the symbols of the great Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics.)

## \*\*\* The story of Abdullah and Gamila...

♦ "Virginity is a very real issue for Egyptian women, as illustrated in the popular film "The Wedding." It tells the story of Abdullah and Gamila, a young couple who signed their marriage contracts years ago but couldn't afford the marriage ceremony that would, by tradition, allow the union to be consummated. But the couple has been having sex all along... ("Artificial Virginity Device Sparks Backlash In Egypt," by Peter Kenyon, NPR, Oct. 13, 2009.)

♦ "If they think they can get a pure-hearted girl this way they are really mistaken. To me, the way people are taking virginity as a commodity these days is such a sad thing." (A Chinese woman, on the practice of very rich Chinese businessmen advertising for virgin brides, and then interviewing them.)

♦ The boto is a dolphin that can transform itself into a human to impregnate impressionable young virgins. (The Amazon.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Purity applies to women, but not men.

## virulent (adjective)

virulent form

our social ailments include a ~ of stupidity (elections)

virulent hatred

they espouse a ~

virulent opposition

the statement provoked ~ from the Communists

\*\*\* Emile Roux...

♦ "Roux injected virulent stuff from rabid rabbits into the brains of other healthy dogs." (*Microbe Hunters* by Paul De Kruif.)

## virus (affliction)

virus

wokeness is a ~ more dangerous than any pandemic

\*\*\* "Further complicating prevention..."

♦ "If a mosquito bites a person with dengue, the mosquito can pass the virus to the next person it bites. If that person flies to another country with mosquitoes, he or she can unknowingly spread the virus even further. Complicating prevention, 90 percent of those infected develop only mild symptoms or no symptoms, inadvertently serving as a reservoir for the virus. Even those who do fall ill become infectious days earlier, making any potential quarantine useless, experts say." (Wayne Arnold, *The New York Times*, October 1, 2005.)

♦ The Ebola virus is named after the Ebola River.

## virus (computers)

computer virus

a ~ is spreading

♦ "Amazon has banned more than one million products which claim to protect against the coronavirus—or even cure it. / The online retailer told Reuters it had also removed 'tens of thousands' of overpriced health products from unscrupulous sellers." ("Coronavirus outbreak 'getting bigger'—Who," BBC Live, Feb 29, 2020.)

## vise (pressure)

vise is closing

a ~ on Saddam's regime (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

caught in the (same) vise

middle-class teenagers ~ (police interrogation)

held in a vise

the citadel of Ulm was now ~ on three sides (Napoleon)

put Baghdad in a vise

troops attacking from the north and south would ~

## visibility (groups)

visibility of the trans community

recently there's been more ~

Visibility Week

she helped found First Generation ~ (FGLI / at Harvard)

visibility or (that) representation

being the person creating that ~ can be painful (trans)

visibility, representation and equality

thanks to increases in ~, more LGBTQ folks can come out

Disability Visibility

Alice Wong founded the ~ Project (DVP)

lesbian visibility

~ and political change (the Lesbian Avengers)

Lesbian Visibility

~ Week was first observed in California

queer visibility

as ~ increased in pop culture (*Basic Instinct*, etc.)

~ is growing around the world (Fifa Women's World Cup)

why ~ in baking matters (pastry chef Camilla Wynne)

Trans Visibility

United Airlines featured her on ~ Day (Kayleigh Scott)

transgender visibility

~ at the Olympics (Tokyo)

political and cultural visibility

increasing the ~ of people with disabilities (Alice Wong)

commitment to visibility

the series reflects her lifelong ~ (Lola Flash)

day of visibility

at the trans ~ event, they got up to express their joy

Day of Visibility

March 31 marked the annual Transgender ~  
she shared her transition story for a Trans ~ video  
(suicide)

representation and visibility

~ are so important (NFL player comes out as gay)

increasing the (political and cultural) visibility

~ of people with disabilities (Alice Wong / MacArthur)

visibility matters

~ (Big dykes)

improve visibility

they take risks to ~ (groups)

sing a community into visibility

they ~ (L.G.B.T.)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "A choir of L.G.B.T. Catholics, protesting their exclusion from a meeting of church leaders, perform 'We Are Family' outside the event, singing a community into visibility." (Deep Cuts: How 'Soul Man' gets to the heart of a song" by Hua Hsu, *The New Yorker*, December 13, 2021.)

♦ "Today, we send a message to all transgender Americans. You are loved. You are heard. You are understood. You belong. You are America..." (A White House statement marking Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31, 2024.)

♦ Alice Wong founded the Disability Visibility Project (DVP). She was a 2024 MacArthur Fellow.

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ *Disability Visibility: First Person Stories From The Twenty-First Century* by Alice Wong. She was a 2024 MacArthur Fellow.

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## visible (groups, etc.)

visible queerness

we're kind of bringing ~ into spaces...

visible, courageous and present

folks have been so ~ (a group)

authentically visible

being ~ is an art form... (see quote below)

hypervisible

my Korean face made me ~ where we lived

respected, visible, and represented

a space for students to feel ~ (gay / Yeshiva University)

made visible

the desire for certain marginalised identities to be ~

\*\*\* **various groups...**

♦ "It feels like we're kind of bringing visible queerness into spaces that don't always have it that much." (Scarlett Hutchin of the group Molly-No Mates, which performs Morris dancing. North Bristol, England.)

\*\*\* **monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...**

♦ "Being authentically visible is an art form. It's pure energy. My purpose is to empower you to bring that to life." (A speaker. \$5K+.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "The desire for certain marginalised identities to be 'made visible' is an imperative that can wrongly equate visibility with progress, which in turn raises questions about the burden of an individual to represent the collective and, as a result, who can—and should—hold the power to speak for a particular identity or social group." (Dr. Christopher Holliday, lecturer in Liberal Arts and Visual Cultures Education at King's College, London. Quoted in "Have film and TV got Gen Z all wrong?" by Emily Maskell, BBC, Culture.)

♦ "I was brought into this world visible, but I identify as invisible. My preferred pronouns are who/where." (Funny snark from an online commenter about a "woke" celebrity.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## vision (noun)

vision of an editor

the power of a writer and the ~

vision of the founder

staying true to the ~ (J.C. Penney)

vision of the future

his dark, sadistic and medieval ~ (al-Zarqawi)

vision of the world and the universe

the Maya, Toltec and Iztec ~ (Chichen Itza)

vision for space travel

his most lasting legacy is his ~ (Von Braun)

America's vision

~ of personal reinvention and hope (vs. Europe)

Maya, Toltec and Iztec vision

the ~ of the world and the universe (Chichen Itza)

television

village elders say ~ is a particularly disturbing force

medieval vision

his dark, sadistic and ~ of the future (al-Zarqawi)

sphere of vision

there is a much bigger picture than your immediate ~

dream, fantasy, or vision

the only way to keep a ~ intact or rosy is never...

voices and visions

she claims ~ led her to drown her five children

pursues his vision

Wangurri clan Elder Timothy Buthimang ~

takes vision

it ~ to involve the common good (versus profit)

## visionary (adjective)

visionary plan

he had a ~ to digitalize the library's collection

## visionary (person)

tech visionaries

~ have, unfortunately, made the future come true

## vitriol (noun)

anti-American vitriol

Iran's leaders escalated their ~

subjected to yet more vitriol

he was ~ from the fans (Raheem Sterling)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Acid attack." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *acid (acid debate, etc.)*, *vitriolic (adjective)*

## vitriolic (adjective)

vitriolic attacks

the ~ on Trump from the left are unceasing

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Acid attack." Wikipedians are wonderful.

♦ see also *acid (acid debate, etc.)*, *vitriol (noun)*

## vivisect (verb)

vivisects experiences

the book adeptly ~ of fandom obsession (Y/N by Esther Yi)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ In the old days, people simply analyzed the results. Nowadays, people autopsy, biopsy, dissect, vivisect, or hold a post mortem. Take your pick!

## vivisection (noun)

vivisection of Michael Bloomberg

her strongest effort was her ~ (election debate)

## vocabulary (and language / words / groups)

vocabulary for (pernicious) doubt

Alex Jones popularized a ~ (“truthier,” etc.)

multiracial vocabulary

America’s ~ (*Blaxican*, etc.)

peculiar vocabulary

the ~ of the dominant campus left (“colonialism,” etc.)

part of our fashion vocabulary

the punk movement has become ~ (ripped shirts, etc.)

embedded in our vocabulary

“moron” and “idiot” are ~ and need to be omitted

have the vocabulary

she does not yet ~ to describe herself or her desire (lesbian)

we don’t ~, the tools to discuss race

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “When I was young, I didn’t really have the vocabulary to articulate how I felt about it... But music has always been a tool for me to express feelings I fear would be unacceptable... (NoSo / Abby Hwang about being trans / queer / nonbinary.)

♦ “Before (roller) derby, I knew I was on the spectrum of queer and pansexual, but I didn’t have the language or support until I met my derby mates who genuinely wanted to see me become my best self. My derby league was the first place I asked people to use they/them pronouns for me.” (Lauren Macadaeg.)

♦ “I couldn’t verbalise what I was feeling before and I didn’t have the right language to articulate how I was feeling before that... / “I’m really open for my team-mates wanting to talk to me. I wasn’t taught throughout the course of my life what it meant to be trans, all the language around it. I think that’s something that’s new for a lot of people.” (“Quinn: Canada’s transgender footballer on being ‘visible’ and playing at the Olympics” by Katie Gornall & Katie Falkingham, BBC Sport, 23 September 2020.)

♦ “I mean I think back to like just being pretty confused about what I was experiencing (upspeak). When I first tried to explain my identity, I was talking to my sister, and we just like tried, we were like, well, that means you’re a lesbian, like I’m pretty sure, that kinda lines up, and it’s like, we were looking for the only words that we had. / It’s really hard to articulate what’s going on if you don’t have words for it (upspeak). It took a long time for me to even know that there were people who were non-binary, to know that I wasn’t the only person in the world that had my gender identity (upspeak). (One Climber’s Story. They / Them film and panel. Lor Sabourin.)

♦ “When the words finally came, and Willow could express herself in saying she wanted to present as a girl...” (The mother of a young transgender girl.)

♦ “I was incapable of articulating the depth of pain I was in.” (The actor Elliot Page.)

♦ “I was fifteen, I was fifteen years old when I read my first diverse book, Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*. And the whole world fell away from me. It was the first book [wagging her finger] at fifteen I ever read with a Black protagonist. That book gave a voice to my silences, my secrets, it gave words to my pain, and my confusion of being raped at nine years old. Until *Caged Bird*, I didn’t know that there was a language, there were words, for what had happened to me or that any other human being on earth had experienced it...” (Oprah Winfrey on stage at the 74th annual National Book Awards.)

♦ Terry Gross: So, talk a little bit about how you wish your mother had been...had had a language and the ideas to have more control of her life and to broaden her life... (Terry Gross speaking to the historian Drew Gilpin Faust about the latter’s mother. It is an oddly specific

question and Faust’s reply is an utter disconnect. I suspect the question was written by a much younger producer.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “He does things for which he has no vocabulary of apology or shame.” (An author talking about his novel.)

♦ “[Pin] is sensitively drawn as a young butch lesbian who does not yet have the vocabulary to describe herself or her desires.” (A review of *Curious Toys* by Elizabeth Hand.)

♦ “Gwyneth Paltrow and Body Vibes didn’t know how to develop the vocabulary of their marketing.” (Richard Eaton, president of AlphaBio Centrix, a stress-patch company. Eaton is a believer in the Rife machine.)

### \*\*\* terror, misery...

♦ “When one walks through the streets...[o]ne sees so many people who for different reasons have deviated from all that is natural and so have lost their real and inward life... for in the evening one sees all kinds of black figures wandering around, of men as well as of women, in whom the terror of the night is personified, and whose misery one must range among the things that have no name in any language.” (*Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*, Edited by Irving and Jean Stone.)

♦ “Just as our hunger is not that feeling of missing a meal, so our way of being cold has need of a new word. We say ‘hunger,’ we say ‘tiredness,’ ‘fear,’ ‘pain,’ we say ‘winter’ and they are different things. They are free words, created and used by free men who lived in comfort and suffering in their homes. If the Lagers had lasted longer a new, harsh language would have been born; and only this language could express what it means to toil the whole day in the wind, with the temperature below freezing, wearing only a shirt, underpants, cloth jacket and trousers, and in one’s body nothing but weakness, hunger and knowledge of the end drawing nearer.” (*If This Is A Man* by Primo Levi, Chapter 13, “October 1944.”)

♦ “The mental adjustment took longer. It was a continual surprise to encounter no queues at food shops—like a man who braces himself to pick up a heavy suitcase,” wrote Ginzburg, ‘and finds it empty.’ The words ‘I’m hungry,’ recently so charged with desperation and despair, only slowly reverted to their old function of expressing an ordinary desire for lunch.” (*Leningrad* by the great writer Anna Reid.)

♦ “We lack the vocabulary of such pain.” (U.S. Attorney Raj Parekh speaking about the grotesque crimes of El Shafee Elsheikh, an ISIS “Beatle.” Presumably, Parekh is referring to *Dante’s Inferno*, Canto XXVIII 3-5.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The notion of “lacking language or vocabulary” to understand feelings is a popular LGBTQ trope. Type in “have the vocabulary” at NPR and you get 23 results and counting.

♦ “I just didn’t have language to describe what it was that I was experiencing...” (Ariana Remmel. Non-binary. Grew up in American South. Very Catholic family. Grew up “very gendered” to “present” as a “Godly Catholic child.” Mom was Mexican-American. Dad was white. Brought up among white relatives. No relatives to “help me navigate what I was feeling.” Personal pronoun: they. They say things like, “I actually found it to be surprisingly really useful” and “ultimately, we’re actually...” From “Organic Chemistry Helped Me Embrace My Identities” by Madeline K. Sophia, Brit Hansen, NPR, Short Wave, June 29, 2021. A 13-minute listen. During that time, Ari (Ariana) says the first person singular subject pronoun “I” sixty-eight times.)

♦ see also *quote (and quotes)*

## vocabulary (language)

### wrong adjective

abhorrent (fact checking and accuracy) abilities

the AI has ~ (ChatGPT / *abysmal*?)

believed gunman

officials identified McRae as the ~ (*alleged?* *suspected?*)

biggest notoriety

his ~ came when he...



blistering cold  
how he survived the wilderness and ~ (NBC news)

disembodied arm  
~ found by kids walking to school (*New York Post*)

disembodied leg  
mystery of ~ found on tracks solved (*severed?*) (NYP)

disheveled house  
authorities executed a search warrant at his ~ (NYP)

full of (friendship) bracelets  
he showed off his wrist which was ~ (NYP)

hyperbolic to say  
it's not ~... ("variants or less commonly" / *hyperbole*)

infamous Lockheed 10-E Electra  
her ~ (Amelia Earhart)

infamous Manhattan Project  
as scientists rushed to complete the ~ (*New York Post*)

inflattering story  
an ~ involving him (*unflattering*)

injured  
Marine ~ in blast (by suicide bomber / *wounded?*)

illegible for asylum  
immigrants who are not ~ (NPR immigration correspondent!)

martial challenges  
they open up about their parents' ~ (*marital!*)

picaresque Santa Susana Mountains  
the ~ (*picturesque!* / what is *wrong* with ABC?)

poignant question  
one ~ was about cell-phone towers... (NPR's Juliana Kim)

riddled  
they had planned to drive a bomb~ car into the crowd

roarous chants  
their ~ filled the streets (protesters / *New York Post*)

salient  
the *Terminator* scenario where the drones become ~

starch warning  
experts offered a ~ not to get too close (*stark* / NYP)

tremendous conditions  
airports have canceled flights in preparation for the ~ (storm)

**wrong noun**

Calvary  
they were marched to Oklahoma by the US ~ (*BBC!*)  
~ come soon, Knicks need help... (*The New York Post*)

comma  
the brutal knockout left him in an induced ~ (NYP)

heals  
Jets put on ~ by Chargers (heels!)

incidence  
they were telling the truth in that ~ (the police)  
we had multiple ~s of our officers... (the police again)

locust  
the ~ of evil, Atlanta, Georgia (an eggcorn? Funny!)

pace  
he was losing blood at a rapid ~ (*rate*)

partier  
cops arrest spring-break ~s ("variants or less commonly")

routing out  
Israel has made progress in ~ Hamas in Gaza (*rooting?*)

shatters  
a couple's dream of the perfect wedding is in ~ (*tatters?*)

stigmatism  
do you know the ~ of Alabama education  
fat liberation—ending the ~ of being overweight

the nother  
it's hard for lice to go from one head to ~ (pundit on NPR)

troves  
videos showed ~ of students running... (mass shooting)

wounds  
~ indicated she had jumped or fallen (NYU suicide)

**wrong verb**

abandoned demands  
he ~ from members of his party (*rejected* / *ignored*)

captivated the nation  
the murders that ~ (ABC "University of Idaho killings")  
the grisly 1989 murders that ~ (Menendez Brothers)  
the case has ~ for 3 decades (JonBenet Ramsey / ABC)

complemented me  
you ~ on my socks (*complimented* / stupid)

decimated the mansion  
the blast ~ (natural gas explosion / *leveled?*)

desecrated  
he had been shot and later ~ with a knife (*mutilated?*)

deserted the following April  
the ships, trapped in ice floes in 1846, were ~ (*abandoned?*)

deteriorated my mental health  
the job ~

exuded (a different level of) confidence  
how I've ~... ("Quinn," the Canadian soccer player)

exuded power  
the family ~ over the state's Lowcountry region (ABC)

garnish things from a game

people ~ (*garner?* *glean?* see quote below)

irate people more  
it seemed to ~ (the internet)

kicked off a firestorm  
her story ~ (*set off?* *started?* *ignited?*)

milling about the campus  
they frequently saw him ~ (*loitering?* / *New York Post*)

oozed kindness  
he ~ wherever he went (*radiated?* obituary of student)

put down (Hawaii's) wildfires  
how the US military is helping to ~ (*put out?* *extinguish?*)

recuperating a fumble  
Howard scores a touchdown after ~ (NYP / photo caption)

revered their motorcycles  
some 100 bikers ~ (*revved* / *New York Post* is illiterate)

sowed together  
the article ~ a number of atrocities... (CNN / *connected!*)

tainted with his DNA  
pieces of the broken taillight were ~ (NYP)

teeming with excitement  
Kansas City is ~ since the Chiefs beat the Bengals (NFL)

vanish tooth decay  
this can regrow your gums and ~ (an eggcorn?)

**wrong preposition**

inside of  
the two were stabbed ~ the pub (NYP)  
shots were fired ~ the club (ABC)  
there is a strict ban on taking images ~ the Sistine Chapel

**wrong adverb**

aptly watching  
people were just ~ the TV screens (NPR / funny!)

audibly shaken  
family members ~ (a reporter)

did it anyways  
the Trump campaign ~ (NPR's Quil Lawrence)

♦ Type "bellweather" into search at National Public Radio (NPR) and you get 12 hits.

♦ "Do you know the stigmatism of Alabama education?" (Kayvon Thibodaux, an NFL football player.)

♦ "He showed off his wrist full of friendship bracelets." (*The New York Post*. "Full of?")

♦ "Kyler is his own individual. He's his own person, he beats to his own drum." (One NFL player about his quarterback. "Marches to the beat of...?")

♦ "The protesters' roarious chants filled the streets." ("Roarious"?! It sounds like a word that might have been included in Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky"!)

♦ "I'm like, what are you talking about? People garnish things from a game and have their own opinions... Some stuff is worth conversation, other stuff is like, alright, alright, alright." (An NFL

football player, responding to criticism of a gesture he made after a play was completed. Garner? Glean? Collect? Notice? )

♦ "She watched the shwerm (rhymes with "worm") of police." (A person who witnessed the police arrive at a school where a school-shooting had been reported. Presumably the reporter on NPR meant "swarm.")

♦ "Cow-towing to the woke cancel culture mob is pathetic." (An article from *The New York Post*. Presumably "kowtowing." See "analysis" below.)

♦ "Sadly we did see some of those family members come out of the reunification site audibly shaken and audibly upset..." (A local female reporter about a shooting at a Virginia Walmart, heard audibly on NPR.)

♦ "Kohberger was arrested on Dec. 30 in his home state of Pennsylvania in connection to the quadruple murders that *captivated* [italics mine] the nation." (Emily Shapiro, ABC News, Jan 12, 2023. Horrified? Shocked? Gripped?)

♦ "Language models can just wholecloth make things up." (ChatGPT, etc.)

♦ "They are not wholecloth falsehoods [with upspeak] but they reassemble things that are true or close to being true into stories that are just wildly and completely different from what actually happened."

♦ "The fact that she had pro-police social media posts, and her late father had worked as a police officer only seemed to irate people more." (Morgan Bettinger at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. "Irate people more"? What world do we live in?)

♦ Original photo caption: "Snow piles on vehicles before their owners clear them off on Thursday in central Lincoln." ABC photo caption via AP: "Vehicles are stacked with snow are seen [sic] before their owners clear them on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, in Lincoln, Neb."

♦ "Other videos showed an officer shoving a man who had his hands up to the ground and kicking him in the groin [sic]." (ABC news. An eggcorn? Funny!)

♦ "Rikers Island inmate found dead for 7th time this year."

♦ "Standing at just 5ft 2in, Ball gave away six inches of height to his opponent and was at a significant reach advantage." (The BBC. An online commenter posted: I see the proof readers are on strike again! If you picture it, it's funny! "*Disadvantage!*")

♦ "CAM said the man's 'unhinged' rant came completely provoked..." (*Unprovoked!* What is *wrong* with *The New York Post*?)

♦ "Marine *injured* [italics mine] in Kabul airport blast says..." (He lost his right arm and a leg to a suicide bomber. He was wounded.)

♦ "*Wounds* [italics mine] indicated she had jumped or fallen." (A female student who committed suicide at New York University. This should be "injuries.")

**\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ "First, NPR needs to get the little things right. If it can't, what does that say about the accuracy of the bigger issues?... / Second, errors of grammar and usage tend to break the listener's concentration. If a listener stops to wonder if he or she really heard an error or a syntactical lapse, then whatever else the reporter or announcer was saying is lost because the listener's train of thought has been derailed." ("Listeners' Language Concerns" by Jeffrey A. Dvorkin, NPR Public Editor, March 29, 2005.)

♦ What is *wrong* with *The New York Post*? "Howard scores a touchdown after recuperating a fumble..." Obviously, it should be "recovering" a fumble. Mistakes like these detract from the newspaper's journalism and commentary, which can be excellent. It gives the reader a sense that the paper doesn't care about what it publishes and is "just" a tabloid.

**\*\*\* analysis**

♦ "But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?" (Richard Mitchell, 1929-2002. "The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.")

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## vocal fry (contempo-speak)

♦ “Yang has a laid-back, vocal fry cool...” (The comedian Bowen Yang.)

♦ Rachel Syme, in “Feeling Better Now?” (*The New Yorker*), describes a podcast host “affecting a high-pitched tone dusted with vocal fry.” The important word is “affecting.”

♦ People (mainly women) who use upspeak, baby talk and vocal fry are widely considered hesitant and weak, and their language is considered affected and irritating. The matter has been widely discussed and needs no comment from me. NPR’s Selena Simmons-Duffin’s “Talking While Female” animation (2014), and the *comments* relating to it, say everything that needs to be said. The issue has been settled: listen to the two *Fresh Air* Terry Gross episodes about the matter. The first was critical, the second was essentially a retraction. The consensus is, it is wrong to criticize or judge these things.

♦ A CURIOUS CASE. “Exploring how content creators speak on TikTok—it’s known as influencer speak,” NPR, January 31, 2024, now redirects to “Do you have ‘TikTok voice’? It’s OK if you don’t want to get rid of it” by Claire Murashima, Leila Fadel, and Steve Inskeep, NPR, Updated on Morning Edition, February 1, 2024. The transcript does not match the audio. Mmmm... The audio is funny and good. I suspect that the original story was controversial at NPR.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “The best example of this is from the journalist Sarah Koenig, and you can hear her going from being in her thirties to being in her forties, over the 21st century, actually developing this vocal fry manner of speaking.” (John H. McWhorter of Columbia University, on his Slate podcast *Lexicon Valley*.)

♦ “But the question is not: Can we understand this typist (who types *professor* as *proffessor*)? It is: How did this typist come to be, and what does this mean for us all?” (Richard Mitchel, 1929-2002. “The Underground Grammarian advocates ridicule.”)

♦ This sort of language has many possible explanations.

## voice (one voice, etc.)

one voice united

this could work if we are ~ on this problem

spoke with one voice

7 expert witnesses ~ that it was not an accident (trial)

speak with a single voice on this issue

we must ~

speak with one voice on this issue

Democrats don’t ~ (impeachment)

speaking with one voice on the topic

they seem very much to be ~

## voice (voice of reason)

listen to the voice of reason

I was in no reason to ~

sound like the voice of reason

he is beginning to ~

welcomed as a voice of reason

he was ~

## voice (groups)

voice

the poor and the powerless don’t have a ~

they want to make sure their ~s are heard

voice of Eastern European Jewry

he was the ~ (Sholem Aleichem / Sholem Rabinovich)

voice of millennials

he positioned himself as the ~ (candidate)

Voice of the Mountains

the ~ (the *Asheville Citizen-Times* newspaper)

voice of NPR

womanhood has long informed the ~ (approving comment)

voice of the people

the ~ will be heard

voice of grievance and victimization

NPR has worked hard to be the national ~ (public radio)

voice for change

does it get tiring being a ~ in the comics community

voice for the needy

colleagues praised him as a ~ (a politician)

voice for our people

we must keep being a ~ (*Koori Mail* newspaper)

voice in that conversation

he has been a crucial ~, too (sports and race)

voices and presence

the ~ of genderqueer folks

voices and stories

the antiquated mentality that our ~ aren’t profitable enough

tennis’ (most powerful) voices

she has become one of ~ with her activism (Naomi Osaka)

no voice

populations that have ~ (MSF)

anti-immigration voice

he’s the leading ~ in town (Arkansas town)

leading voice

she has become a ~ for action on climate change (Greta)

marginalised voices

~ are telling stories that need to be heard

trans voices

I rise in honor of ~

Himalayan voices

here the ~ called me (Tomaz Humar in Slovenia)

additional voice

there’s room and a need for an ~ (new newspaper)

authentic voices

a think tank that centers ~ (the New Lines Institute)

crucial voice

he has been a ~ in that conversation, too (sports and race)

inner voice

just follow your ~

louder voice  
her power gives her a ~ than we have... (disgruntled)

national voice  
the national ~ of grievance and victimization (NPR)

necessary voice  
hers is a ~ (creator of the 1619 Project)

political voice  
Americans who found their ~ during last summer's activism

"powerful voice"  
she was a ~ in the Black Lives Matter movement (UK)

strong, powerful voice  
Johnson is a ~ for our people and our community

using my voice  
~ has been very empowering to me (an elite athlete)

voices are heard  
they want to make sure their ~

adding their voices  
among those ~ to the debate over gun control are...

add my voice  
I am writing to ~ to the many others who...

empower voices  
these teams ~ the world needs to hear (MacKenzie Scott)

find their voice  
they have waited years to ~ and tell their stories (abuse)

found my voice  
I couldn't fight back because I hadn't yet ~ (sex abuse)

found her voice  
how a shy introvert has ~ (Naomi Osaka / tennis)

found their (political) voice  
Americans who ~ during last summer's activism

given voice  
she has ~ to the aching despair many feel (politician)

given people a voice  
social media is a powerful tool, it has ~, a way to organize

have a voice  
I sympathize with the poor who don't ~

make our voices heard  
if we make a stand, if we ~ (athletes)

make their voices heard  
protesters are using the delay to ~

protect (queer and minority) voices  
~ (a sign held by a demonstrator)

raise my voice  
I started thinking and I had to ~ (about AIDS)

speak their voices  
different races and gender identities can ~ more clearly

take your voice  
a defamation lawsuit is meant to ~ (Amber Heard)

taking my voice back  
I'm ~, it's mine, not theirs (rape victim vilified)

use her voice  
she is stepping out of the shadows to ~ to fight hate

using her voice  
I'm so proud of her for ~ (Britney Spears' sister)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "Hip-hop is a voice for people who don't have another voice."

♦ "My belief is that we should be centering the voices and the experiences of the most marginalized people and communities at all times. So when I think about what fat liberation looks like to me, I think about centering the voices of those who live in and who maneuver through spaces and institutions in a fat body." (Zyahna Bryant, activist, who has partnered with the soap and beauty company Dove to promote fat liberation, or size freedom.)

♦ "Watts (2001) has made the argument that to have a voice an agent must find a space where the voice can be concretized... The connection between voice and space becomes particularly critical when such a space is denied in the real world through marginalizing forces and a new space needs to be carved out." ("Voices of the Marginalized on the Internet" by Ananda Mitra.)

♦ "I couldn't fight back when Jeffrey Epstein sexually abused me, because I hadn't yet found my voice. Well, I found my voice now, and while Jeffrey may no longer be here to hear it, I will not stop fighting and I will not be silenced anymore."

♦ "It took me a while to find my voice, but I have found it, and I am going to use it." (Rape victim.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the "voice" bandwagon...

♦ "I see my company (NPR) trying to better represent America with the voices we put on the air, and I'm looking at my own sourcing, and I get too much credit. Every voice I bring to the airways from India is a person of color. Check the box, you know. That's diversity from my bosses' point of view. But I'm looking at different types of diversity in India and thinking...caste." (NPR's Lauren Frayer, whose reporting on India has been controversial.)

♦ "NPR 50 Hear Every Voice."

♦ "The industry caught up to my ambitions and created space for me to have my voice." ("Faces of NPR HBCU Edition: Kia Miakka Natisse," Sommer Hill, NPR, February 16, 2022.)

♦ "I rise in honor of trans voices that deserve to be heard—not silenced and not criminalized." (U.S. Representative for Massachusetts Katherine Clark, House Minority Whip.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "The deceased must be protected and given a voice." (The motto of 1-800-Autopsy, in Los Angeles.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "'Y'all' supplants the patriarchal 'you guys,' and 'elevate voices' replaces 'empower,' which used to be uplifting but is now condescending." ("The Moral Case Against Euphemism" by George Packer, *The Atlantic*, April 2023.)

## void (noun)

fill the void  
nobody will be able to ~ (death of politician)

## volatile

volatile atmosphere  
it's a ~ (national outrage over child abuse by clergy)

volatile behavior

despite his ~ on the court (basketball)

volatile border

fighting along the ~ (Kashmir)

volatile crises

he was sent in to defuse ~ (FBI hostage negotiator)

volatile markets

shaky banks, ~...

volatile relationship

they had a ~

volatile temper

she has a ~

volatile Persian Gulf

ease China's reliance on a ~ for its energy needs

volatile West Africa

its reputation as an oasis of peace in ~ (Ivory Coast)

volatile Horn of Africa

terrorists in the ~... (Somalia, Eritrea)

extremely volatile

their marriage was ~

highly volatile

we live in ~ times (English politics in 2019)

politically volatile

the tiny nation is among the most ~ in the Gulf

tense and volatile

Basra remained ~ (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

prices will be volatile

~ for the foreseeable future

becomes (a little more) volatile

have you been in a situation where the crowd ~ (policing)

## volcanic (adjective)

volcanic temper

his ~ led to his firing (a coach)

he has gotten a pass for his ~ (Hollywood producer)

## volcano (pressure)

volcano

it's a ~ and its now starting to erupt (a scandal)

this place is a ~ waiting to erupt (death in small town)

volcano of revenge

a ~ has built up inside him (Shiite in Baghdad)

## Voldemort

Penny Voldemort

somebody was moving up in the polls, ~...

called him Voldemort

she ~, you know, the Harry Potter villain (politics)

♦ Neera Tanden was forced to withdraw her nomination to become budget director, partly because of her social-media posts, some of

which disparaged politicians. In one of them, she referred to the Senate minority leader, Mitch McConnell, as Voldemort.

♦ "Somebody was moving up in the polls—Penny Voldemort." (A very funny BBC topical satire show, referring to the politician Penny Mordaunt. The line caused much laughter.)

♦ "The Gayly Prophet is an intersectional, queer Harry Potter analysis podcast hosted by Jessie Blount, a queer Black woman, and Lark Malakai Grey, a white disabled trans boy... It is also unflinchingly critical of JK Rowling and everything that she stands for."

♦ Outsiders; outside; misfits; don't belong; not such a great childhood; not well loved; crappy, challenging upbringings in childhood; feeling like the weird one of the bunch; stigmatized; going through bad times... ("Vulnerable" Harry Potter fans, including gay teenagers.)

♦ "You know, Christie accused them all of treating Trump like Voldemort, the villain in Harry Potter who is talked about as 'he shall not be named.'" ("5 major takeaways—and one thing missing—from the fourth Republican debate" by Domenico Montanaro, All Things Considered, December 7, 2023.)

## volley (volley of abuse, etc.)

volley of abuse

she has faced a ~ from critics

volley of questions

when she does speak, it is often in a ~

## volume (turn up the volume, etc.)

turning up the volume

the democratic candidates are ~ against the president

## vomit

see *retch* (and *puke*, *vomit*, *throw up*)

## voracious (adjective)

voracious appetite

our ~ for scores that we can use to rank our kids (education)

for the last few years, China has had a ~ for bauxite  
China's ~ for timber is deforestating Siberia

voracious audience

TV allowed the market soothsayers to reach a ~

voracious reader

a ~, he donated 20,000 books... (PM Gladstone)

he was a ~ and autodidact, a lover of knowledge

I was a ~, I could read a book a day, sometimes two

voracious sun

eight fell prey to the ~ (stranded whales)

## voraciously

voraciously interested

he was a farmer, but ~ in the news...

voraciously follow

those who ~ this stuff... (politics)

read voraciously

she ~ as a child in Nigeria

I ~ in prison

## vortex (noun)

vortex of all this fury and hatred

he was at the ~ (an Israeli leader)  
plunging into a vortex  
South Sudan, born in great jubilation, is ~ of violence  
get sucked into the (Fortnite) vortex  
kids who ~

### **vote (vote with one's feet, etc.)**

vote with their feet  
without some straight answers, fans may ~ (Ibrox)  
voted with their feet  
fans ~ (Newcastle United fans give up on team)  
voting with their feet  
the population is ~ (refugees leave camps)  
the result sees Texas parents ~ (home schooling)

vote with their wallets  
people ~ (support of bistros in France)

### **vote (noun)**

vote of confidence  
he has my ~  
got my vote  
he's ~ for the most improved player

### **vow (verb)**

vowed to find  
he ~ a solution to the problem

### **vow (noun)**

vow of loyalty  
the song is a ~ ("You've Got A Friend")

### **vulnerability (emotional, etc.)**

vulnerability  
"Maps" shows how both sex and love are about ~  
the sweetness of her melodies indicates ~, not passivity  
vulnerability is not shameful (Selena Gomez)

Vulnerability  
"Our ~ Is Our Strength" (Colin Bates)

vulnerability competition  
everything is a ~ on who can overshare the most

Vulnerability in Certainty  
"Missy Higgins Finds the ~" (by Barbara Mitchell)

vulnerability and introspection  
~ are our superpowers (playwright Suzan-Lori Parks)

vulnerability and mistakes  
her Facebook page presented ~ (PM Jacinda Ardern)

emotional vulnerability  
men who express ~, and do housework, may get more sex  
that ~ is a big draw for her readers (Maas female fandom)

psychological vulnerabilities  
features exploit young people's ~ (TikTok)

public vulnerability  
most people are not capable of ~ and self-critique

Radical Vulnerability  
"Brandi Carlile On The ~ Of Joni Mitchell's 'Blue'"  
(NPR)

raw vulnerability  
here ~ and palpable intensity (WILLOW)

sense of vulnerability  
there's a ~ that feels sincere (Ruby Rose)

courage and vulnerability  
you showed ~ with your testimony (Megan Thee Stallion)

humility and vulnerability  
his ~ (food writer Stephen Satterfield, *High on the Hog*)

openness and vulnerability  
I do feel like maybe having an ~... (contempo-speak)

Violence and Vulnerability  
"~ in Clarke's 'Lusthaus'" (Steve Inskeep / 2003!)

power, reasoning and vulnerability  
his work investigates ~ (Ben Platts-Mills)

conflate vulnerability for weakness  
athletes can ~ (mental health / universities)

expressing vulnerability  
warrior culture conflicts with ~ and asking for help  
(Marines)

Mixes Assertiveness With Vulnerability  
"Miranda Lambert ~ On Her New Record" (Ken Tucker)

pivots to vulnerability  
Chicago rapper G Herbo ~ and scores a hit

took advantage of the vulnerability  
she ~ of this minor to... (a female teacher)

#### **\*\*\* various groups...**

♦ "Women are turned on by him—his vulnerability, his sexuality, his sensuality." (The producer Marty Bregman about the actor Al Pacino.)

♦ "I Miss You" (an earnest love song); expressing feelings; passions; emotions; dropping the mask; crying; gushing; begging for her to return; pleading to her to come back; the feminine side of the man; a vulnerable man; becoming helpless; he never gives up; love does conquer all... ("Love In A Time Of Urbanization: The Twofold Vulnerability Of An East African Pop Hit" by Eyder Peralta, NPR, All Things Considered, August 30, 2017. About Tanzanian superstar Diamond Platnumz.)

♦ "More readers are asking for 'cinnamon rolls'—described as sweet, supportive and kind types of dudes, and 'golden retrievers'—men sporting floppy energy and positive attitude." (Kaitlin Olsen, a senior editor at Atria, a division of Simon & Schuster. From "Romance novels ditch hunks for 'squishy-centered' men—Fabio calls it 'hogwash'" by Jerry Oppenheimer, *The New York Post*, June 17, 2023.)

♦ "His willingness to be embarrassing and abrasive edged into a kind of generosity, and a vulnerability. This is the heart of his appeal." (The writer Jia Tolentino about the 34-year-old British rock star Matty Healy. "He sang like a louche Elvis and played a lipstick-red guitar." ("Front Man: Matty Healy, of the 1975, remains torn between the heartfelt and the arch" by Jia Tolentino, *The New Yorker*, June 5, 2023.)



♦ “I think they have a very hard time still naming what it is to be scared or vulnerable or afraid, and it’s not just that they can’t talk about it—it’s that they can’t sometimes even identify what they’re feeling...When I hear sometimes my male friends talking about these manifestations of what, to me, is clearly fear, or clearly shame, they really can’t even express the word itself.” (Hanya Yanagihara, author of *A Little Life*, quoted by Daniel Mendelsohn in “A Whole Lotta Pain” from *Ecstasy And Terror: From The Greeks To Game Of Thrones*, New York Review Books.)

♦ NPR Music: Vulnerability is a theme that really comes across on the record. How did you learn to be vulnerable both with yourself and others? / Abby Hwang: I’ve been pretty reserved since I was a kid because I felt like things I would say would not be acceptable in the homogenous town I was in—especially my thoughts about being trans... (“NoSo’s debut album is a care package for someone in need: Their younger self” by Elle Mannion, NPR, Music Interviews, July 7, 2022.)

♦ “Rose is in a place of self-reflection. Although she’s chatty and seems relaxed, there’s a sense of vulnerability that feels sincere...” (“Ruby Rose: ‘I’ve not always been the best representation of myself,’” by Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen, *The Guardian*, 9 Jul 2023.)

♦ “I think it’s really hard to hide from the stress of climbing. Like, when you go out, you’re like, you’re really choosing to be vulnerable.” (The climber Lor Sabourin, FTM trans.)

♦ “How feeling ‘vulnerable’ helped climber Lor Sabourin explore their identity. Sabourin welcomes the vulnerability that climbing forces you to confront.” (They are a FTM trans.)

♦ “We are so grateful to you for being so vulnerable and sharing your story with us. As the parents of a non-binary tween, having role models such as yourself is so important. Thank you Lor. Thank you also Black, Justin & team, your family and Patagonia. (A commenter about the film *They/Them: One Climber’s Story*.)

♦ Outsiders; outside; misfits; don’t belong; not such a great childhood; not well loved; crappy, challenging upbringings in childhood; feeling like the weird one of the bunch; stigmatized; going through bad times... (“Vulnerable” Harry Potter fans, including gay teenagers.)

♦ “Can we talk about that scene when Lucy is first telling Jade about her feelings, they’re laying [sic] in bed, having a sleep-over after a drunken night out and it’s just so raw and vulnerable and earnest. Walk us through that scene.” (Host Juana Summers of NPR. From “Directors of ‘Am I OK?’ shine light on what it means to find your sexuality,” NPR. All Things Considered, June 7, 2024.)

♦ “You showed incredible courage and vulnerability with your testimony despite repeated and grotesque attacks that you did not deserve. You faced unjust and despicable scrutiny that no woman should ever face and you have been an inspiration to others across LA County and the nation.” (Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascon, about Megan Thee Stallion. From “Rapper Tory Lanez found guilty on all charges in shooting of Megan Thee Stallion” by Deena Zaru, ABC News, Dec. 23, 2022. Gascon also called Megan Thee Stallion “brave.”)

♦ “She was so strong, so driven but had such willingness to be vulnerable. As a female in this industry, it’s so difficult to be vulnerable without seeming weak... I’m certain she will mostly be remembered for remaining exceptionally human while doing superhuman things.” (Climber Melissa Arnot Reid about the ski mountaineer Hilaree Nelson.)

♦ “She was a force, strong and powerful, but she also was not afraid to be vulnerable, express her fears, and be honest.” (Climber Emily Harrington about ski-mountaineer Hilaree Nelson.)

♦ Barely afloat; recently separated; seductive; vulnerable; touchy; acute; reduced; no money... (A female character in a novel.)

♦ “I was talking with my therapist about how I didn’t mind being vulnerable as long as I knew the other person would be warm, that they wouldn’t judge me and all that...” (Tania Israel, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.)

♦ “Tony Adams fought his own battles with addiction and mental illness and went on to help other top players do the same. Does he think elite sport is honest enough about the vulnerability of its stars?” (BBC HARDtalk Tony Adams, former Captain, Arsenal Football Club.)

♦ “Under the surface, even the most mentally resilient and unflinching of athletes can be vulnerable.” (BBC rugby correspondent Chris Jones, about England Rugby Union Captain Owen Farrell’s

announcement that he would take a break from international competition and miss the 2023 Six Nations Championship in order to prioritize his and his family’s mental well-being. Jones said it was a “brave move” and praised his “courage.” England head coach Steve Borthwick also praised Farrell’s “courage” and offered his full support.)

♦ “Part of the school’s mission is to create a safe emotional space where young men can feel vulnerable. Where they can talk about the world as it is and learn to share their feelings. Anger. Happiness. Fear and frustration.” (“Raising Kings: A Year Of Love And Struggle At Ron Brown College Prep. Episode 3: The Fierce Debate Over High Standards,” NPR, Code Switch, November 1, 2017.)

♦ “A first. Earlier this year, NPR’s Student Podcast Challenge asked students to share their stories about mental health. Hundreds of middle-and high schoolers responded. Our judge listened to them all, and we are now awarding our first ever prize in this important category. / Grace Go, a Korean-American: [T]his was the first piece that I’ve made where I put myself in the spotlight.” / Janet W. Lee: And that vulnerability really caught our judges’ attention...” (“Living with an eating disorder, a teen finds comfort in her favorite Korean food” by Janet W. Lee, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, July 18, 2023.)

♦ “But that in fact wasn’t my healthy... I do feel like maybe having an openness and some sort of vulnerability—something good might come from it, I don’t know.” (Ariana Grande addressing online “comments” and “conversations” that she is too thin at present based on comparison to her past size.)

♦ “Her worried parents believe their daughter is vulnerable and left the house in a ‘difficult state of mind.’” (A 23-year-old woman. This seems to be a euphemism for mentally ill, but who knows? What is a “difficult state of mind”?)

♦ “At fifty-nine, Harris is only four years younger than Barack Obama, but she has arrived at a time when voters, especially young ones, are less patient with the sheen of politics, with figures who seem just out of reach. Instead, they want a performance of approachability—what the sociologist Julia Sonnevend, in her recent book, ‘Charm,’ calls ‘personal magnetism that rests on proximity.’ It’s a method exemplified by Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand’s young Prime Minister, whose Facebook page, Sonnevend writes, ‘presented vulnerability and mistakes as features rather than as bug.’ As Harris reintroduced herself to the public, fans collected indicators of normalcy: clips of her hamming it up with kids in a marching band, cooking videos of her cracking eggs (‘one-handed!’), stories about her supplying jasmine-scented candles as parting gifts to guests at the Vice-President’s residence.” (“The Ascent: Can Kamala Harris defy her doubters—and end the Trump era?” by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, October 21, 2024. No.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Gone are the days of showing the highlight reel of your best life on Instagram. Now, it’s trendy to celebrate your worst moments. What attracts eyeballs in today’s social media market is tears, and content creators are incentivized to be vulnerable for views.” (“How TikTok has become a dangerous breeding ground for mental disorders” by Rikki Schlott, *New York Post*, March 12, 2022.)

♦ “Even five years ago people didn’t open up so much. Now there’s greater awareness of people’s vulnerabilities, such as mental health and LinkedIn has magnified this.” (Douglas Rode of the recruitment giant Page Group in the U.K and Ireland about LinkedIn’s “new emotional tone.”)

♦ “Want to Grow an Exceptional Person Brand? Be Vulnerable.” (Allan Draper interviews Jay Jaye.)

♦ “CEO posts crying selfie on LinkedIn after laying off employees—and it goes viral” by Sophie Kiderlin, Aug 11 2022.)

♦ “Vulnerability has become something to be marketed rather than denied outright.”

### \*\*\* jumping on the “vulnerability” bandwagon...

♦ “I do feel like maybe having an openness and vulnerability...” (A Gen-Z contempo-speaker.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “I don’t know! I’m not no soft person so I’m not gonna say I’m all about to tear up and all that, but...” (A D.C. high-school student, on learning his favorite teacher was not returning the following year. From “Raising Kings: A Year Of Love And Struggle At Ron Brown

College Prep. Episode 3: The Fierce Debate Over High Standards," NPR, Code Switch, November 1, 2017.)

♦ "The subgenre of TikToks called TraumaTok, where we sort of normalize posting extremely traumatic events... No need for rollercoasters now when we can cry, laugh and angry [sic] in 15 seconds. While it's good to express yourself, be vulnerable at times, it's starting to desensitize ourselves to emotions that should be kept private or within a small group of friends, and not shared with randoms." (The TikToker Edvasian, 880K.)

♦ "Are we at that stage with social media where everything is a vulnerability competition on who can overshare the most?" (The TikToker Edvasian, 880K.)

♦ "The likes of Jonah Hill—who was accused of misusing psychology vocab to 'control' his ex this weekend—have faced criticism for the overuse of 'therapy speak,' or 'psychobabble,' as a tool of manipulation rather than an expression of emotional vulnerability." ("How 'therapy speak' is being weaponized amid Jonah Hill 'boundaries' scandal" by Brooke Kato, *New York Post*, July 11, 2023.)

♦ "Men! This is exactly why it's not good to be 'vulnerable' with your girlfriend!" (An online commenter about Obama's 1982 letter to an old girlfriend Alex McNear.)

♦ "Seriously. Take it to the locker room and cry in a bathroom stall if you have to. Otherwise, it's just attention-seeking." (An online commenter about Caleb Williams of the USC Trojans sobbing after losing to the Washington Huskies.)

♦ "Be vulnerable with me. No shallow stuff. I didn't wiretap your phone to hear you make small talk." ("I want to know you" by Rima Parikh, *The New Yorker*, October 3, 2022. A psychotic female stalker who wants her prey to be "vulnerable." Hilarious!)

### \*\*\* vulnerability in real life

♦ "He—you know, he didn't physically force me. There was [sic] no bruises on my body. But he was able to set me up in an emotionally vulnerable situation and to get me alone and to have it sort of seem normal..." (Child sex abuse.)

♦ "I am a stupid girl from a little village." (An Eastern European girl, forced to work in an Israeli brothel.)

♦ See the Wikipedia article "Oxford child sex abuse ring."

♦ "Out-of-town drug gangs prey on vulnerable people." (Rhyl, Wales.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "[Arnold recognized] a key vulnerability in the enemy line... / Early on he realized that an officer on a gray horse was playing a prominent role in maintaining the integrity of the British right. Arnold rode over to Colonel Morgan on the American left and requested that he order a sharpshooter to aim at the British officer. It took three shots, but eventually the Indian fighter Tim Murphy managed to put a rifle ball into the gut of General Simon Fraser..." (*Valiant Ambition* by Nathaniel Philbrick. Read also "Saratoga, 1777" in *British Battles On Land and Sea* by James Grant for the affecting details of Fraser's burial under fire.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "We don't usually ask people such direct questions. That's not the way conversations are usually built. Normally trust is established by sharing something about ourselves and you build up a mutual understanding. So a part of me just resists the form of this. And [your personal questions and analyses are] also just slightly rude...." (The actor Anne Hathaway, interviewed by David Marchese for *The New York Times Magazine*.)

♦ "Real people don't show their feelings, they try to hide them."

♦ Of course, women want men to be vulnerable.

♦ "Aussies are only vulnerable when they are drunk."

## vulnerable (emotionally, etc.)

### vulnerable

thanks to Lor for having the courage to be ~ (trans)  
if you're angry, frustrated, or happy, share it, be ~  
he's being ~, showing them love (tough love principal)

### vulnerable move

asking someone to hang out for me is like a very ~  
(Isabel)

### vulnerable people

there was an edge of picking off ~ (online fandom trolls)

### emotionally vulnerable

when you're ~, you're in need of a caring human  
the angst-ridden teen is ~ (*Rebel Without a Cause*)

### open and vulnerable

how to be more ~ (happier and better / relationship)

### personal and vulnerable

your speech is very ~

### scared or vulnerable or afraid

what it is to be ~

### willing to be vulnerable

unless he is ~ and share his grief, fear, insecurity  
(therapy)

### choosing to be vulnerable

you're ~ (a binary climber about climbing)

### feel vulnerable

a safe emotional space where young men can ~ (D.C.)

♦ For quotations, see *vulnerability (emotional, etc.)*

## culture (culture culture)

### culture culture

let's make it more difficult for ~s to appropriate AAVE

### called out as a "culture culture"

Miles is ~ by a black man (*Blindspotting*)

♦ "Every step I've taken has gaslighted those whom I love... I am not a culture culture. I am a culture leech. You should absolutely cancel me, and I absolutely cancel myself." (Rachel Dolezal, an academic who claimed "identities of color," including Black Caribbean, North African Blackness, US rooted Blackness, Caribbean rooted Bronx Blackness, *Boricua*...)

♦ "As both rose from obscure culture cultures to industry players..." (Comedians Bowen Yang and Matt Rogers.)

## culture (behavior)

### cultures

critics are ~ whose gnawing at the entrails...

### culture behavior

this was ~, callous and emotionally predatory (social media)

### Culture Club

he's a member of the "~" (journalists who follow conflict)

### culture fund

agreement was reached with two ~s (Liberian debt relief)  
every ~ on Wall Street (private-equity firm closes hospital)

### social media cultures

the ~ are coarsening out nation (snark, schadenfreude, etc.)

### cultures are (already) circling

the ~ on the web (gossip about Chancellor's health)

feed that kind of vulture

we shouldn't ~ (by showing failed TikTok stunts)

\*\*\* "the vultures of the abyss..."

♦ "Hagfish are the vultures of the abyss, feeding on carcasses of dead fish."

♦ Marine snow includes the settling of organic materials in the oceans. Organism can or may survive on this.

\*\*\* Sky burials, Towers of Silence...

♦ "In this great city (Calcutta)...vast areas were dark with ruin and black with the wings of vultures that hovered impartially over the Hindu and Muslim dead..." (*Halfway to Freedom* by Margaret Bourke-White.)

♦ "The deceased was an eleven-year-old girl who had died from a ruptured liver after being thrown from a horse. A priest in an apron laid the corpse on a stone and began cutting away. Now standing, now squatting, he wielded hatchet and knives with practiced hands... [The] birds swarmed to their dinner table. The feast began... This was the sky burial... To Tibetans this is natural and right." (An eyewitness account by the great photojournalist Kazuyoshi Momochi of a sky burial, from his wonderful book *Pilgrimage*.)

♦ In the film *Mountain Patrol: Kekexili*, the reporter Ga Yu and Ritai first notice one another and lock eyes at the sky burial for a patrolman murdered by poachers. It is an unforgettable moment in a great film.

♦ "Towers of Silence, such as this one in Chilpyk, Uzbekistan, are where Zoroastrians would leave the bodies of the dead to be consumed by birds."

♦ "We have an unusual method of disposal of the dead. The Parsi corpse is exposed to the rays of the sun and the corpse is consumed or devoured by birds of prey: vultures, kites and crows." (Khojeste Mistree, a Parsi in Mumbai.)

♦ "There were far-going Arab dhows on the pearly waters, and gaily dressed Parsees wading out to worship the sunset. Of their creed I knew nothing, nor did I know that near our little house on the Bombay Esplanade were the Towers of Silence, where their Dead are exposed to the waiting vultures on the rim of the towers, who scuffle and spread wings when they see the bearers of the Dead below. I did not understand my mother's distress when she found 'a child's hand' in our garden, and said I was not to ask questions about it. I wanted to see that child's hand." (*Something of Myself* by Rudyard Kipling, which he wrote "Looking back from this my seventieth year." At the time, he was a boy of perhaps four, in 1869.)

♦ "After being properly necklaced, according to custom, with great garlands made of yellow flowers, and provided with betel-nut to chew, this pleasant visit closed, and we passed then to a scene of a different sort: from this glow of color and this sunny life to those grim receptacles of the Parsee dead, the Towers of Silence. There is something stately about that name, and an impressiveness which sinks deep; the hush of death is in it. We have the Grave, the Tomb, the Mausoleum, God's Acre, the Cemetery; and association has made them eloquent with solemn meaning; but we have no name that is so majestic as that one, or lingers up on the ear with such deep and haunting pathos. / On lofty ground, in the midst of a paradise of tropical foliage and flowers, remote from the world and its turmoil and noise, they stood—the Towers of Silence; and away below was spread the wide groves of cocoa palms, then the city, mile on mile, then the ocean with its fleets of creeping ships all steeped in a stillness as deep as the hush that hallowed this high place of the dead. The vultures were there..." (*Following the Equator: A Journey Around the World* by Mark Twain. When he visited Bombay in 1895, he was an old man of 60.)

W

wade (wade in / wade into)

waded into war

lessons from the last time Cairo ~ in Yemen (1960s)

wading into uncharted water

the NCAA is ~

waded into (treacherous political) waters

he has ~ (taking sides in controversy)

wagon (circle the wagons)

circle the wagons

they ~ in a time of crisis (universities, church)

they began to ~ trying to protect the vice president

circling their wagons

right now, the government is really ~ (security leak)

circled the wagons around the misconduct

it was very clear they had ~ (district attorney's office)

circle the wagons round the unpopular lawmaker

few Republicans seemed willing to ~ (Matt Gaetz)

"circle-the-wagons mentality"

the ~ backfired...

close ranks, (they) circle the wagons

the groups ~ (bands, sororities, fraternities / hazing)

wagons were circled

the ~ (opposition to desegregation in Mississippi)

♦ "The 'racial wagons' have been circled around Gay." (The embattled Dr. Claudine Gay, President of Harvard University, facing accusations of insensitivity to Jewish students and academic plagiarism.)

♦ "We're seeing them close the wagon so to speak..." (ESPN's Michele Steele on NPR. An eggcorn? Presumably "circle the wagons.")

♦ "Adam Smith, a congressman from Washington State, told me that, the day after the debate, 'I called up the White House and went, 'Guys, we all know what has to happen here.' I hung up thinking, He'll do the honorable thing. And instead I watched the palace guard go, 'Nope, fuck off,' and start circling the wagons.' Washington is full of Biden loyalists..." ("Life Of The Party: The Democrats seem rejuvenated by their new candidate. Why was it so hard to get one?" by Andrew Marantz, *The New Yorker*, September 2, 2024.)

wagon (hitch one's wagon to something)

hitched its wagon to Adam Schiff

NPR ~ (the Democratic congressman from California)

hitched his wagon to Donald Trump

he ~ and saw his life unravel

hitching his wagon to (complete) flops

he is always ~ (a celebrity)

hitched our wagons to (a variety of) warlords

we ~ (US in Afghanistan)

♦ "Hitching a struggling media industry to the wagon of generative AI and surveillance capitalism won't serve Australia's interest in the long run." ("Is artificial intelligence a threat to journalism or will the technology destroy itself?" by Samantha Floreani, Opinion, *The Guardian*, Sat 5 Aug 2023.)

wagon (get off the wagon)

smartphone wagon

getting off the ~ makes sense (dumbphones)

wait (sirens, etc.)

sirens waited

~ on the campus (school shooting)

## wail (verb)

wail and moan

they'll ~ and write outraged editorials...

## waist (noun)

“waist” of Finland

the narrow ~ (1939-40 / Suomussalmi)

joined by a narrow waist

the Mediterranean, divided like a butterfly into 2 halves ~

\*\*\* **The Strait of Sicily...**

♦ The “narrow waist” of the Mediterranean is the Strait of Sicily, guarded on its eastern side by Malta. The Siege of Malta during World War II was a crucial struggle to control the Mediterranean. Operation Pedestal in August 1942 may have saved the island for the Allies. That operation was a “very close-run thing.”

## wait (in wait)

lurk in wait

memory triggers ~ all around (war and suffering)

lying in wait

the hackers created back doors to come and go and are ~

\*\*\* **“There was a constant pursuing and lying in wait...”**

♦ The Sutton-Taylor feud was the longest and bloodiest in Texas. (According to the Texas State Historical Association Handbook of Texas, in an article written by C. L. Sonnichsen: “Persons who wished to live in the area had to take sides, there was constant pursuing and lying in wait...”)

## waiting game

waiting game

for us, it's a ~ (police investigation of serial killings)

waiting game with the weather

they played a ~ (military operation)

## wake (resemblance)

wakes

while man sleeps, the jungle ~ (animal activity)

## wake (effect)

deal with the wake

he jet-skied through my life, and I was left to ~

♦ “We now know that they separated not long after he returned home, and eventually divorced. “Yoga” describes only the effect of the rupture—the wash from a boat that’s out of frame. He’s suddenly living alone, and ‘as lonely as a rat.’ He doesn’t bathe...” (“The First Rule Is Not to Lie: Emmanuel Carrère’s bracingly personal reportage” by Ian Parker, *The New Yorker*, July 11 & 18, 2022.)

## wake (in the wake of / at a later time)

in the wake of disaster

how strong we can be ~ (terrorism)

in the wake of (terrorist) hijackings

new security measures ~

in the wake of the invasion

the potential for chaos ~ (Iraq)

in the wake of another (accounting) scandal

~ hitting a US giant...

in the wake of a (sleet) storm

in Mid-December, ~

in the wake of Sept. 11

flag-waving ~

\*\*\* **NO WAKE ZONE...**

♦ **NO WAKE ZONE** (A sign directed at boats with motors.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ This seems to represent one conception of time, “Earlier events are in front of later events.” “In the wake of” might just as easily be stated as “after” or “following.”

## wake (in a wake)

in his wake

he left his rivals ~ (Olympic swimming)

## wake up (activity)

woke up in the fourth

the Phillies’ bats ~ as... (baseball)

wakes up from a nap

we’ll see if ‘Odie’ ~ (“Odysseus” moon lander / IM-1)

♦ “The Zhurong rover has yet to wake up since going into hibernation for the Martian winter nearly a year ago.”

♦ “We’ll start listening at sunrise and see if ‘Odie’ wakes up from a nap.” (Tim Crain, chief technology officer and IM (Intuitive Machines) co-founder, about the moon lander called ‘Odysseus’ but referred to as ‘Odie,’ after the cartoon character. Cute! It landed softly but fell over.)

## wake up (awareness)

wake up

people are starting to ~ (a public-health issue)

woke up

an Arab nation ~ (Tunisia / 2011)

woken up

I was one of the sleeping majority, but now I have ~

wake up to the dangers

West African states have begun to ~ of the drug trade

waking up to the reality

now we’re ~ and the question is... (Afghanistan War)

wakeup call

see *call* (*wakeup call*)

people have woken up

the Baluch ~ (Brahmadagh, a rebel leader)

♦ “Hey, wake up, what’s going on?” (Marvin Gaye. Read “The Story of... ‘What’s Going On’ by Marvin Gaye” by Tom Eames, *Smooth Radio*, 24 May 2021. The text, photos, and video links are exceptional.)

## walk (walk the walk)

walking the walk

he was better at talking the talk than of ~ (delegation)

we’re talking the talk on democracy but not ~ (diplomacy)

walk the walk

I want her and other actresses to ~ (vs lip service / Me Too)

walked the walk

you knew he ~ (a biker outlaw)

♦ "Money talks in this business and bullshit walks." (Congressman Michael Myers caught on an FBI sting video accepting a bribe. Abscam.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This often occurs with "talk the talk."

♦ "It's easy to talk the talk, but how far are you willing to walk the walk?"

♦ see also *talk* (*talk the talk*)

## walk (walk and chew gum at the same time)

walk and chew gum

Democrats can ~ (work with Trump and impeach him)

Democrats can ~ (U.S. Rep Ayanna Pressley)

we on the Left can ~ (Brandon Unger)

'walk and chew gum' image

a ~ image for the party (Democrats)

♦ "The focus on non-impeachment issues is further evidence that Pelosi (D-Calif.) and other Democratic leaders are aiming to sell a 'walk and chew gum' image for the party—that they can investigate and possibly impeach President Trump while also working to make progress on jobs, health care and other concerns." ("Pelosi-backed group gives House Democrats cover amid impeachment probe" by Mike DeBonis, *The Washington Post*, Oct. 6, 2019.)

♦ "Incoming Rules Committee Chairman Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., insists the new majority can 'walk and chew gum' at the same time."

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "We Gotta Be Able To Walk And Chew Gum At The Same Time." (Sticker from \$1.29. Also a T-shirt at \$31.67. REDBUBBLE.)

♦ "Word Knowledge Instruction: We Can Walk and Chew Gum at the Same Time" by Kathy Ganske and Mia C. Heller, 20 July 2022. 48-Hour online access: \$10.00. Online-only access: \$18.00. PDF download and online access: \$42.00.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "She had clearly better options, starting with Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro—who *can* walk, talk and chew gum at the same time, and might well have helped her carry his must-win state." ("Tim Walz is a walking warning about Kamala Harris' decision-making" by Post Editorial Board, *The New York Post*, Oct. 28, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "So three years in, 2500 lives later, more than 18,000 wounded, our statesmen's prose akin to a schoolyard fist fight after a disputed call in a game of four-square. Instead of two boys tussling, it's our distinguished representatives labeling each other commitment-phobes, traitors, quitters, cowards, cutters-and-runners, with coddled, air-conditioned pampered porcine backsides. And your mother's ugly too." ("A War of Words," NPR, Day to Day, Opinion, by Brian Unger, June 19, 2006. Unger was talking about debate over Iraq, but he might just as well have been talking about the current level of political discourse.)

## walk (walk somebody through something)

walk us through how

~ this unfolded, did you know how...

walks us through how

she ~ white nationalists are using live-streaming to...

walk me through why

~ somebody would be afraid to participate (census)

walk me through what

but first ~ you have heard from people about...

walk us through what

can you ~ police are doing right now (breaking news)

so can you just ~ the president is saying now...

could you just ~ has led Haiti to this moment (NPR)

walk us through (exactly) what

~ happened here (tell us what happened)

walk us through the data

so ~, what did you find (talk radio)

walk us through that moment

can you ~ that you found out... (TV interview)

walk us through the procedure

could you ~ (explain)

walk us through the results

and here to ~ is our lead political editor (new poll)

♦ "Ellis walks the reader through all the balls Madison was juggling as he advocated and negotiated at the Constitutional Convention..." (Scott Detrow, NPR Book Review. An odd image indeed! You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.)

## walk (walk somebody back)

walk us back a bit

could you ~ (speak about what happened before)

## walk (crawl, walk, run)

crawl, walk, run

instruction should follow a ~ sequence (military)

crawl, walk and run

we are essentially helping the states to ~ (HHS / 988 #)

## walk (slow-walk)

slow-walked to confirm

they ~ the test, it took them a month... (horse's doping test)

slow-walked his investigation

NBC ~ and then shut it down (Ronan Farrow)

♦ "Democrats accuse him of slow-rolling requests for the whistleblower's complaint or just blocking it altogether." (Politics.)

## walk (walk away from something)

walked

he ~, and the project was thrown into disarray (film)

walk away

mining companies ~ without paying for cleanups (gold)

walked away

he spoke to the BBC about why he ~ (quit Royal Ballet)  
his sponsors all ~ (sportsman and racial slur)

walked away from a (potential) deal

the president ~ (negotiations)



walked away from an exclusive trading club  
Britain ~ (Brexit)

walk away from it  
why didn't you just ~ (a scam)

walk away from the European Union  
should the United Kingdom ~

walk away or try to hang on  
you can ~ (aging NFL players)

throw up our hands and walk away  
we can't just ~

♦ "We will not walk away, we will not bow down, I will not bow down."  
(President Joe Biden's 2024 State of the Union address to Congress,  
about his opposition to the Russian leader and his support for  
Ukraine. During that same address, Steven Nikoui—the father of  
Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui, killed at Hamid Karzai International Airport  
during the chaotic withdrawal of the U.S. from Afghanistan—shouted  
"Remember Abbey Gate" and was removed from the chamber and  
arrested.)

## walk back (noun)

walk back  
let's talk about the ~ (reversal)

## walk back (verb)

walk back his (previous) comments  
he tried to ~ (a politician)

walked back his earlier statement  
the witness ~

walked back from earlier pledges  
he has ~ to overturn reforms

walked the advisor's assertion back  
his campaign manager ~

walk that back  
I don't know how you ~ (statement by official)

## walk on by (verb)

walk on by  
~, the tears and sadness you gave me (Dionne Warrick)

## walkover (noun)

walkover  
the campaign won't be a ~  
the war won't be a ~

## wall (blue wall, etc. / police)

blue wall  
Frank Serpico pierced the ~ of silence (police)

♦ see also *blue (the blue / police)*

## wall (red wall, etc. / sports)

wall of green  
Saudi players run to the ~ and celebrate with their fans

orange wall  
they all sprinted toward the ~ in the corner (Dutch soccer)

Red Wall  
passionate Wales fans, the ~ (Euro 2020)

Yellow Wall  
playing in front of Dortmund's raucous "~" (soccer)

♦ "Wonderful, incredible scenes of celebration on the pitch. Saudi  
Arabia players are hugging, smiling, crying. / They run to the wall of  
green and celebrate with their fans. / What a moment." (Qatar, the  
FIFA World Cup, 2022, Saudi Arabia 2-Argentina 1. Mashallah!  
"Raise our Green Flag!")

## wall (emotions)

put up a wall  
he ~, he wouldn't get close to anyone (Navy corpsman)

## wall (brick wall)

electoral brick wall  
in 2016 Sanders hit an ~ after New Hampshire  
(primaries)

banged their heads on the brick wall  
Liverpool ~ that was Everton's defence (soccer)

hit a brick wall  
this new bill is expected to ~ in the Senate (politics)

run into a brick wall  
law enforcement has ~

♦ "This much was clear as the famous old stadium echoed to the  
taunts of 'You Lost The League at Goodison Park' as a leggy,  
lacklustre Liverpool banged their heads on the brick wall that was  
Everton's defence and outstanding goalkeeper Jordan Pickford."  
("Everton apply final blow to Liverpool title challenge" by the great  
sportswriter Phil McNulty, BBC, 24 April 2024.)

## wall (obstacle)

wall of (Republican) opposition  
President Obama ran into a stone ~

wall of privacy  
biographers ran up against a ~

wall of silence  
breaking down the famous "blue ~" (NYC police)  
our biggest challenge is the ~ (Shasha Johnson shooting)  
police face a ~ (university hazing tragedies)  
the Democratic ~ surrounding Hunter Biden is crumbling

brick wall  
see *wall (brick wall)*

firewall (computers)  
see *firewall (computers)*

paywall  
see *paywall (obstacle)*

stone wall  
President Obama ran into a ~ of opposition

bureaucratic wall  
it felt like I had hit a ~

cultural walls  
the ~ that keep the rest of the world out (reservation)

broke the wall



she ~ of silence on the issue (protection rackets)

set up (high) walls

kings ~ of etiquette to keep the world out

♦ "All in all you're just another brick in the wall." (Pink Floyd.)

♦ "Something there is that doesn't love a wall..." (The first line of "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost. Twice his neighbor says, "Good fences make good neighbors.")

## wall (hit a wall, etc.)

hitting a wall

some heretics argue that deep learning is ~ (AI)

hit a (bureaucratic) wall

he sought police help but initially ~

run into a (brick) wall

law enforcement has ~

ran into a (stone) wall

President Obama ~ of Republican opposition

run into (stone) walls

journalists have ~ with the administration

ran up against a wall

biographers ~ of privacy

## wall (wall of flames, etc.)

wall of fire

a ~ came down over the Rumanian positions (WWII)

wall of flames

fleeing a ~ (wildfire firefighters)

wall of sound

he transformed pop with his "~~" recordings (Phil Spector)

Scotland's Eilish McColgan rode a ~ to a 10,000m win

wall of water

the dam failure sent a ~ downstream

the ~ destroyed everything in its path (tsunami)

a ~ that can move onshore (storm surge / hurricane)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "[A] flight of Crusaders came in right off the deck, supersonic winged darts flashing past the road-bound grunts, placing their bombs and napalm cannisters precisely where Bird Dog had marked his targets. Again, Bravo Company experienced a napalm wall from only seventy-five meters, and again, it worked. Not another AK47 round was fired at them." (*Operation Buffalo: USMC Fight For the DMZ* by Keith William Nolan.)

## wall (constraint)

walls come down

this is where the ~ (Las Vegas partying)

## wall (ricochet off the wall)

ricocheting off the wall

she's going to be ~ (surprised / upset / unhappy)

## wall (throw something at a wall and see what sticks)

throwing at the wall

I can write things that I'm just ~ and see how people react

threw it all at the wall

I just did it, ~ (Elisabeth Moss' commitment to a role)

throws plenty of jokes (and its lead actress) at the wall

'Marry Me' ~ (Pop Culture Happy Hour)

throws a lot at the wall

the dream psych-pop band ~ (Shana Falana)

♦ "I just did it, and just kind of went as big as I could, and threw it all at the wall knowing the only mistake we could make was not going far enough. And so we both just went for it... I had turned it up to eleven and then realized I had to go even higher..." (Elisabeth Moss on performing in *Her Smell*.)

♦ "[Ms. Heard] slings an exceptional amount of mud at the wall in the hope that something might stick." (Johnny Depp's attorneys." This seems to combine *mudslinging* and *wall (throw something at a wall, etc.)*)

♦ "Trump looked like a president throwing anything he could at the wall to try and stay in power." (NPR.)

♦ "What the pro-life movement is doing is throwing every type of spaghetti at the wall and seeing what sticks." (Mallory Quigley of the anti-abortion rights Susan B. Anthony List.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The meaning seems to be, "to try everything" in order to see what works (or "sticks"). There seems to be an element of desperation to it. Like the cliché "to wrap one's arms around something" it is not immediately obvious what the physical basis for this expression is.

## wall (the walls have ears)

wall

the ~s have ears

## wall (walls close in)

walls may be closing in on him

the ~ (manhunt)

## wall (wall-to-wall)

wall-to-wall coverage

despite the ~ that his previous trial had generated...

## wallet (money)

implications on your wallets

what is the ~

worried about their wallets

they're more ~ than moral issues

open their wallets

they have inspired millions to ~ (aid to Haiti)

watch their wallets

retirees need to ~ (US)

## wallow (verb)

wallow

rather than ~, she decided to make the best of it...

wallows in nostalgia

the show ~

wallow in self-pity

my job means that I can't ~

wallow (so happily) in stories

why do we ~ of violence (media, entertainment)

wallows in victimhood

it ~ (National Public Radio / NPR)

\*\*\* **"Sambur used this pool as a wallow..."**

♦ "Sambur (Sambar) and other game used this pool as a drinking place and wallow." (*Man-Eaters of Kumaon* by Jim Corbett, Introduction by Sir Maurice Hallett, Preface by Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India 1936-1943.)

♦ "He found a mud hole, let out a tremendous cry, and rolled and wallowed." (An elk during rut.)

♦ Bear Wallow; Buffalo Wallow; Burro Wallow; Cub Wallow; Elk Wallow; Gator Wallow; Hog Wallow; Horse Wallow; Sheep Wallow... (Place names with the name of an animal and "wallow." There is even a Hen Wallow Creek—in Cocke County, Tennessee—a Duck Wallow, and a Coon Wallow!)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Stop wallowing in self-pity!"

♦ Animals enjoy wallowing, and wallow for comfort. So do people.

♦ see also bask (verb)

## wallpaper (configuration)

wallpaper of Black America

I was a child of Bill Cosby, he was part of the ~

wallpaper of American life

skin color is but a part of ~

conversational wallpaper

"so" has become ~ (linguist Geoff Nunberg)

♦ "As wave after wave of pain and outrage swept through the *Times*, over a headline that was not damning enough of Trump or someone's obnoxious tweets, I came to think of the people who were fragile, the ones who were caught up in Slack or Twitter storms, as people who had only recently discovered that they were white and were still getting over the shock. Having concluded they had got ahead by working hard, it has been a revelation to them that their skin colour was not just part of the wallpaper of American life, but a source of power, protection and advancement. They may know a lot about television, or real estate, or how to edit audio files, but their work does not take them into shelters, or police precincts, or the homes of people who see the world very differently. It has never exposed them to live fire. Their idea of violence includes vocabulary." ("When the New York Times lost its way" by James Bennet, *1843 Magazine (The Economist)*, Dec 14th 2023.)

## Wall Street (Wall Street of fish, etc.)

Wall Street of the South

Charlotte, North Carolina, the ~ (Bank of America)

Wall Street of fish

Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market was once the ~ (set prices, etc.)

Black Wall Street

the Greenwood area of Tulsa was referred to as the ~

## Walter Mitty

Walter Mitty of the war

Juan Pujol Garcia was the ~ (British double agent)

Walter Mittys with Everest dreams

~ need to keep in mind... (climbing)

♦ "President Walter Mitty" (A disparaging remark by an online commenter about a Joe Biden story involving the military. Other commenters described the story more harshly, as an example of "stolen valor.")

♦ "Not everyone admires the [A&E's Cold Case Files message board on EAR-ONS] board sleuths or their efforts [to identify the Golden State Killer]. One agitator came on recently to rant about what he characterized as wannabe cops with a twisted, pathetic obsession. He accused them of being untrained meddlers with an unhealthy interest in rape and murder. / 'WALTER MITTY DETECTIVE,' he wrote, / By then I was convinced one of the Mittys was probably going to solve this thing." (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark* by Michelle McNamara.)

\*\*\* **Not so fast! You're driving too fast!**

♦ "Not so fast! You're driving too fast! What are you driving so fast for? You were up to fifty-five. You know I don't like to go more than forty. You were up to fifty-five. You're tensed up again. It's one of your days. I wish you'd let Dr. Renshaw look you over... Remember to get those overshoes while I'm having my hair done." (The harridan / virago Mrs. Mitty. From the short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber.)

## waltz (last waltz)

last waltz

and so, there was a ~ (dinner at bankrupt restaurant)

## waltz (waltz to success, etc.)

waltz to gold

US men ~ in basketball

waltzed to re-election

he should have ~ but is now in a fight (politics)

waltz to victory

a tough fight might allow the opposition to ~ (politics)

waltzed to a (virtually drama-free) victory

Parker ~ (against Deontay Wilder / Day of Reckoning)

## waltz in (verb)

waltz (right) in

we shouldn't let them just ~ (terrorists return to England)

## wand (magic wand, etc.)

magic wand

I wish I could wave a ~ and make it all better  
there's no ~ (to fix aging Chicago El system)  
you can't just wave a ~ and reopen the economy  
(pandemic)

power wand

I didn't have a ~ that I waved (Kevin Spacey at trial)

imaginary (magic) wand

programmers don't have an ~ that prevents ALL attacks

had a (magic) wand

it I ~, I would change...

## wander (mind, attention, etc.)

wander

where did your mind ~ (during pandemic lockdowns)

♦ "It's hard to meditate because the mind is all over the place." (Concerns, etc.)

## wane (on the wane)

on the wane

his once promising ability is ~ (athlete)  
summer is ~ and autumn on the way  
tolerance is ~ and extremism is thriving  
support for the climate bill is ~  
empathy is ~  
America's power and influence is ~

## wane (verb)

wanes a bit

my new-found euphoria ~ (for new hobby)

wax and wane

see *wax and wane*

career waned

his ~ after his "Airwolf" heyday (actor)

epidemic is (now) waning

the cholera ~, having run its natural, devastating course

influence (in Iraq) is waning

the American's ~

popularity has waned

since then, however, its ~... (barbiturate abuse)

sense of urgency wanes

people forget and the ~... (wildfires)

star had (also) waned

in America, however, his ~ (Amundsen lecture tour)

starts to wane

the fight's urgency ~ (pit bulls)

tendency (for the effect) to wane

there is a ~ after... (a medication)

♦ Immunity wanes over a period of time (pandemic).

## wannabe (and want-to-be / person)

wanna be boxer

absolute joke putting a ~ in the ring (a crossover fight)

wannabe filmmaker

a ~ living in Berkeley

wannabe influencer

a 15-year-old ~

wannabe-podcasters

her class of ~

wannabe writer

she was a ~ (a young Harper Lee in New York City)

Spice Girls 'Wannabe'

the 1996 ~ (what do girls want)

♦ "Former Gang Member Gives 15-Year-Old Wannabe Gangster a Reality Check." (Dr. Phil.)

♦ "Everyone has dreams..." (Said by one man to another man, who was buying a ticket for a lottery at a gas station in Asheville, North Carolina.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Often self-disparaging, or said disparagingly about another person.

♦ "Wannabe" is recognized by the online Merriam-Webster. It is *not* in the old print dictionary that I use. Dictionaries are weird.

## want (I want her home, etc.)

want my family back

I ~ (kidnapped by Hamas)

want her home

I ~ (arrested abroad)

♦ "I just want my brother home... We need [the Cubans] to open [the search] again... The search crew needs to keep searching for our (nickname of missing passenger)!!!! We need answers, we need updates!!!" (The sister of a college student who "went overboard" from the largest cruise ship in the world, in the waters near Cuba.)

♦ "I want Keith back. I want him back now...I want people to have a better life...The war needs to stop..." (Aviva Siegel, held hostage by Hamas for 51 days before being released. Her husband Keith is still being held hostage.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ This usage is like a performative: I want it done; I want him cancelled; I want him dead; we want her home (abducted), etc.

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we have all taught "want" in the same way. Not ordinarily used in the progressive, followed by a to-infinitive. The way we customarily teach it simply does not reflect the reality of how it is now used. "Following the shooting, police were wanting to talk to the baby's father..." (ABC, Meredith Deliso.) "You might want this turned off if you need greater PC performance." (Anti-virus.)

♦ see also *need* (*she needs to*, etc.)

## want (want somebody back / sarcasm)

see *call* (*Orwell called*, etc. / *sarcasm*)

## war (epithet / figurative)

War on Drugs

the collateral damage due to the ~ was horrible

## war (the war to end all wars, etc.)

"War to end all wars"

World War I, the ~

"Madeleine's War"

critics dubbed it ~ (Kosovo 1998-9)

Egypt's Vietnam

see *Vietnam* (*Egypt's Vietnam*, etc.)

## war (at war)

at war with her (nagging) fears

her hopes were ~ (health of child)

at war with a virus

we need to remember, we're ~, not one another (COVID)

## war (flame war)

flame war

spam, ~s, dumb jokes...

burst into flame wars

Web sites ~

sparked a flame war

he ~ by writing that... (Internet)

## war (conflict)

war

this is ~ (attempts to repeal the death tax)

war to make the Internet safe

the ~ was lost long ago

war of attrition

he turns football into a ~

war of nerves

see *war of nerves*

war of (racially charged) slurs

they fought a ~ (high schoolers)

war of words

an interesting ~ develops between... (politics)

the arrests provoked a ~ between the two countries

the two men have been engaged in a ~ (boxers)

*War of Words*

*The Argument Culture: Stopping America's ~* (D. Tannen)

war of insults and namecalling

a virtual ~ between Turks and Greeks on YouTube

war on Islam

what he called the West's ~

war on their bosses

Corps officials quietly declared ~, skipping meetings

war on cancer

Richard Nixon began America's ~

*War on Children*

*The ~* (2024 film documentary by Robby Starbuck)

War on Drugs

the ~

war on meth

in 2003 Thailand launched an all-out ~ (Yaba)

war on piracy

~ bears fruit (pirated music, software in Dubai)

War on Poverty

the 1960s produced the ~

war on poverty

finding a drug for black hypertension is cheaper than a ~

war on rodents

NYC Council to pass Rat Action Plan, stepping up ~

war on smallpox

Dr. Donald A. Henderson led the successful ~

war with the European Union

the banana ~ over imports

war with multiple fronts

China and the US are locked in an escalating ~ (media, etc.)

war against doctors

the D.E.A.'s ~ (drugs-for-sex cases)

war against the environment

the ~ is also a war against traditional people

war against the people

Macron and the elites are ~ (COVID mandates)

war against traditional people

the war against the environment is also a ~

war against cybercafes

Beijing declares ~

war (with the European Union) over imports

the banana ~

war over (union) representation

sparked a labor ~

war between the two

it's not a ~ (sales and marketing)

war between consumers and record labels

the file-sharing ~ (burning)

war between theorists and engineers

the ~ (over artificial intelligence)

wars among (Ecstasy) dealers

turf ~

war on Black history

he has declared ~ (a critic / politics)

war chant

fans and players intoned their ~ (football)

warhorse

see *warhorse* (*and war horse*)

war politics

Karine Jean-Pierre used the term '~' three times

war room

see *war room* (*strategy, etc.*)

war-simulation

a ~ game (console game)

war stories

as he recounts his ~ (about the film industry)

war-gaming

civilian ~ spread...

war or battle

we're not in a ~ with Facebook (government official)

"banana war"

the ~ with the European Union over imports

banana war

the ~ has been the world's longest running trade dispute

culture war

~ issues have taken over college and university campuses  
"~s" that have wracked universities...

colleges have increasingly become battlefields in the ~s	full-blown (gang) war this was the beginning of a ~ (LA)
drug war Colombia's ~ the ~ became a bipartisan effort	civil war see <i>civil war</i> (noun)
gang war this was the beginning of a full-blown ~ (LA)	diplomatic war he has won the ~
labor war a ~ over union representation	forever war see <i>forever war</i>
lightning war this ~ on public education (billionaires support charters)	phoney war see <i>phoney war</i> (noun)
price war fierce ~s have reduced profits a ~ broke out (illegal drugs)	"virtual war" a ~ of insults and namecalling between Turks and Greeks
proxy war debates about language are always ~s (Geoff Nunberg)	12-round war a ~ that was one of the year's best fights (boxing)
public opinion war they would lose the ~ (educational vouchers)	in the midst of a (culture) war America is ~
PR war it lost a significant battle in the ~ (Facebook v. Australia)	front line of the (culture) war the judiciary committee is the ~ (U.S. politics)
sign wars residents describe neighborhood ~ (Trump v. Harris)	language of war its language is the ~ (US football)
taxi war the ~s are a national problem in South Africa (rival cartels)	battle in the (culture) war these bills are the latest ~ waged over the rights of...
technology war America has declared a ~ on China ( <i>The Economist</i> )	battlefields in the culture wars colleges have increasingly become ~
trade war sanctions could set off a ~	soldier in the (culture) wars if you are a ~
Twitter war Warren and Musk are in the middle of a full-scale ~	war broke out a price ~ (illegal drugs)
vaccine war maybe the UK wants to start a ~ (EU Justice Commissioner)	war continues and escalates the ~ (Internet popup ads)
Wiki Wars these quarrels, known as “~” (among Wikipedians)	declared war Corps officials quietly ~ on their bosses
one-man war he was waged a ~ against the bill (government)	declares war Beijing ~ against cybercafes
all-out war it had become an ~ (Egypt and US issue)	engaged in a war the two men have been ~ of words (boxers)
full-scale (Twitter) war Warren and Musk are in the middle of a ~	go to war Usyk was fresh and ready to ~ (boxing)
reading wars the so-called ~—the battle over the best method	launched an (all-out) war in 2003 Thailand ~ on meth (Yaba)
file-sharing war the ~ between consumers and record labels (burning)	lose the (public opinion) war they would ~ (educational vouchers)
bidding war a ~ had begun for exclusive photo rights	prepare for (a long) war the right must ~ (against Critical Race Theory)
	set off a (trade) war by imposing sanctions, the administration could ~

sparked a (flame) war  
he ~ by writing that... (Internet)

wage war  
communities in this state ~ on their youth

♦ "He's waging total jihad against 'comprised of' across five million English language Wikipedia articles and he's vowed not to stop until he's driven it into the sea." ("Don't You Dare Use 'Comprised Of' On Wikipedia: One Editor Will Take It out" by Geoff Nunberg, the University of California, Berkeley, on NPR, Fresh Air, March 12, 2015.)

♦ "And the thing about the culture wars is that its warriors and conscripts are always looking for new fields of battle. Sport provides them in spades. Just look at the debate right now over transgender athletes." ("How cash and culture are shifting the goalposts for sports journalism," *Journo*, 14 July 2022. The Judith Neilson Institute.)

♦ "What if this newly emerging culture war is forcing people to pick a side when they don't really need to?"

♦ "I mean, I've been in the Twitter war zone for a while, it takes a lot to phase me at this point. You can't take it personally, none of these people actually know you. It's like if you're fighting a war and there's some opposing soldier that shoots at you, it's not like they hate you. They don't even know you. So, just think of it like that. They're firing bullets, whatever, but they don't know you, so don't take it personally." (Elon Musk talking to Joe Rogan.)

♦ "Jean-Pierre used the term 'war politics' three times as she fielded fiery questions aboard Air Force One from journalists as Biden, 82, flew to Angola for an official visit hours after the pardon, which Biden said was necessary because his son was being 'selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted.'" ("Karine Jean-Pierre claims 'war politics' is the reason for Hunter Biden pardon—but insists DOJ isn't weaponized as Trump claims" by Steven Nelson, *The New York Post*, Dec. 2, 2024.)

### \*\*\* proverbs, sayings, expressions, quotations...

♦ The first casualty of war is the truth.

♦ War can kill all things except bad ideas.

♦ There's a right way, the wrong way, and the Army way.

♦ Tactics are for amateurs; logistics is for professionals / experts.

♦ "What cannot be supported logistically cannot be accomplished tactically." (An old military adage.)

♦ Logistics is the difference between a click and a bang."

♦ "No plan survives contact with the enemy." (Attributed to Field Marshall Helmuth von Moltke.)

♦ No battle is free of mistakes.

♦ "It is well that war is so terrible—lest we should grow too fond of it." (Robert E. Lee, 1862.)

♦ "Nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won." (The Duke of Wellington, in a letter to his brother after his victory at Waterloo.)

♦ "You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it." (General William T. Sherman, 1864.)

♦ You can win a battle and still lose the war. (A tactical victory, but a strategic defeat.)

♦ You can win the war and still lose the peace.

♦ "Wars don't end in peace."

♦ PEACE, n. In international affairs, a period of cheating between two periods of fighting. (*The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.)

♦ "In time of peace prepare for war."

♦ "War is the normal condition of mankind; peace is the abnormal condition," Bellevue's Frank Hamilton observed in his influential tome, *A Treatise on Military Surgery and Hygiene*, published in 1865. 'This statement is not flattering to a people claiming Christianity and boasting of its civilization; but it is nevertheless true.'" (*Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky.)

♦ "War is a way of teaching geography."

♦ "War is good for rats." (Public health.)

♦ It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber. (A U.S. bumper sticker.)

♦ Read *War: How Conflict Shaped Us* by Margaret MacMillan.

### \*\*\* children and war

♦ "Take an old broomstick, and to one end nail a slim triangle of wood, suitably whittled; you than have a Kentucky rifle, as good as anything Daniel Boone had... All you have to do is crook your finger and say, 'Bang!' loudly, and you have killed a moose, or a grizzly bear, or a redskin. / If you preferred to be an Indian the same shooting iron would serve. There were enough dead sticks lying around in the woodlot to build a wigwam... As an Indian, of course, you were never shot by Daniel Boone; instead, you shot him, and with a wooden knife whittled out of any stray piece of a packing box you could dash in and lift his scalp. / A pal sometimes joined me in this game, and we found that it was best if we were both on the same side—that is, each of us was an Indian, or each was a frontiersman, and our foes were wholly imaginary. Splitting up, and hunting each other, usually led to arguments about who had really shot whom, and the game was likely to break up in a row. Also, it was easier to scalp a victim who did not really exist than it was to scalp a living, active small boy. He was apt to complain that you pulled his hair too hard, and there was always the danger of sticking a wooden scalping knife in his eye. On the whole, it was better to be Indians than to be frontiersmen; we had an excuse to yell, giving the blood-curdling war whoop, and off in the woods there were no adults to lean out of windows and tell us we were making too much noise. We had the world to ourselves." (*Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood* by Bruce Catton.)

♦ "The object of the Germans in making Zeppelin raids on London was to produce panic and a cry for peace. It did neither... / But while there was no panic there were great hardships, as a visit to any of the Tube stations in the East of London on the night of an air-raid would have shown—the stairs crowded with half-awakened and hungry children, the platforms so packed with humanity that there was not a vacant square foot. I used to wonder how many of these children would feel the permanent effects. On the whole, however, young children between five and thirteen really seemed to enjoy air-raid nights. They were full of excitement, and you would take them out of bed wrapped in blankets and give them unexpected meals. It was a little grim when one knew the reality to hear from infant lips, 'Oh, Daddy, I do hope there'll be an air-raid to-night.'" (*Queer People* by Basil Thomson, head of the Criminal Investigation Department at Scotland Yard. World War I.)

♦ "Living was resumed in San Pietro. Children are able to forget quickly. Yesterday, they wept. Today, there are smiles, even laughter. Tomorrow it will be as though the bad things had never happened." ("The Battle of San Pietro" 1945 U.S. Army Documentary John Huston WWII Italian campaign 80824. Up next for the surviving soldiers on both sides and the Italian civilians was the Battle of Rapido River, and the Battle of Monte Cassino.)

♦ "When I was born in Munich only two weeks later a bomb hit the house next to us and our place was half destroyed and my mother discovered me—the baby—under a foot of shards of glass and debris. But I was unhurt but my mother fled to the remotest mountain valley in Bavaria and we got stuck there... [I]t was occupied by sixty Americans at the very end of the war... And sixty Americans moved in in jeeps, and they were totally relaxed, chewing gum, and I had the feeling this was all the Americans of the world and for the first time I saw a black man. And I was totally mesmerized by seeing him because I had only heard about black people in fairy tales. And I immediately became friends with him and talked to him for hours... [O]nly when I was eleven and the war was well over I saw destroyed cities and bombed out places and I developed a concept of what must have happened... [I]t's strange because everybody thinks that German children who grew up in the post-war time had a terrible childhood. On the contrary, nobody was frightened. All my school friends who grew up in the cities, they were...are delirious about speaking of this time when they grew up in ruins and it was pure anarchy in the best sense of the word. There were no fathers around to tell them what to do and how to do things, they would be the masters and the kings of let's say a whole block that was bombed out and it was a most wonderful playground for children... [T]he childhood of practically all the children who grew up in the post-war time was wonderful, as strange and as paradoxical as it may sound... ("Werner Herzog on the Story Behind 'Rescue Dawn,'" NPR, Fresh Air, July 6, 2007. Herzog was born in 1942.)



♦ "The Second World War was one of the most horrific events of the 20th century. But for me, it was one of the greatest things. It meant evacuation, escape from the Blitz with my brother and mother, the second time around. We were transported from smoke-choked London to the bliss of the Norfolk countryside, where I could run around in the fresh air and nick apples and have a massive cart-horse as a pet. There was very little sugar, no sweets, but free orange juice, cod-liver oil and vitamins. For most people, rationing was terrible, but for people like me, the wartime diet was a great improvement. My rickets were cured, and I shot up, like a weed. Because of the war, I got the opportunity to take the eleven plus exam, to get a place at grammar school. Very unusual for a boy from my background. My father survived Dunkirk, El Alamein, and the liberation of Rome, and came back tired, sadder, but a daily reminder of how lucky we were. The telegram we had dreaded every day of the war had never arrived, and when I came back to London after the war, twelve years old, still lanky, but now six feet tall, we were re-housed in a pre-fab... It had electric lights, hot water, a proper bath, a refrigerator, an inside toilet. These were all firsts for us, and it felt like luxury." (*Blowing the Bloody Doors Off* by Michael Caine, BBC, Book of the Week.)

♦ "He explained that night on his balcony that growing up, on some level, he had liked the war. When it started in 1975, he was only three years old. Yet even though war had become his generation's normalcy, he knew that it was not an ordinary life. It was better! One morning he might have school, and then the next day school would be closed. He felt free and played endlessly, even when in the dark in the underground bunkers where he had spent days and nights as the war raged on—a constant—above them. / It was what he saw in American movies come to life. He knew that without conflict, there would be none of the stories of heroism and drama that entertained him endlessly. And like in the movies, he didn't see anyone directly get hurt. Death was meaningless, just like it was on the big and small screens. Like many Beirutis, his family would migrate to relatively safer regions each time things heated up where they were. Intense clashes in Beirut? They would head to the mountains to wait it out." (*The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria* by Alia Malek.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

♦ see also *soldier* (noun)

## war chest

war chest

his ~ is below the poverty line (a politician)

war chest of \$200,000

armed with a ~ that they'd raised...

war chest and grassroots army

his ~ make him an unstoppable juggernaut (politics)

campaign war chest

he has a much larger ~

bulging war chest

the Southern Poverty Law Center has a ~ (endowment, etc.)

## warehouse (neglect)

Dickensian warehouses

it's orphanages became famous as ~ (Romania)

Europe's refugee warehouse

Turkey will not be ~ (President Recep Tayyip Erdogan)

## warehouse (amount)

viral warehouses

monkeys are ~

## warehousing (data)

data warehousing

~ and consumer information

data-warehousing

he develops ~ software

## warfare (noun)

warfare against Democrats

there is likely to be a session of trench ~ (politics)

trench warfare

this has become political ~ (politics)

it will be paralysis, partisan ~ (politics)

political lawfare

it's ~, a witch hunt... (partisan politics)

♦ "Earlier this week, you heard the Guatemalan president (elect) tell NPR he was facing a coup by lawfare."

♦ "Is this an example of political lawfare, is it a witch hunt, is it something that, you know, the other party is doing to the Republican party..." (Republican Congressman August Pfluger of Texas, about the legal cases against Donald Trump.)

## warhorse (and war horse)

warhorse musical

the ~ (*Gypsy*)

opera world's (most regularly performed) warhorses

*Turandot* is one of the ~ (opera)

touring war horse

John Prine continues to function as a ~ (2010)

♦ "War Horse" premiered at the Royal National Theatre in London on October 17, 2007. The *Times* called it "the theatrical event of the decade." In the US, in 2011, it won 5 Tony Awards, including best play.

♦ "Brown's work on the warhorse Jule Styne-Stephen Sondheim musical will not include Jerome Robbins' original choreography." ("The Boards: Taking The Space, by Henry Alford, 'The Talk Of The Town,'" The New Yorker, November 25, 2024. The "warhorse" musical, of course, is *Gypsy*.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ Bucephalus (Alexander the Great); Veillantif (Roland); Marengo (Napoleon); Ronald (Lord Cardigan at the Charge of the Light Brigade); Cincinnati and Jeff Davis (U.S. Grant); Little Sorrel (Stonewall Jackson); Traveller (Robert E. Lee); Renzi (renamed Winchester by General Philip H. Sheridan); Comanche (the Battle of Little Bighorn); Kidron (Black Jack Pershing)... (The names of famous war horses. Wheeled and tracked vehicles replaced horses in World War II—unless donkeys were needed, as in Italy—and in Vietnam the helicopter carried troops into combat.)

♦ "Colonel George Clarke, Scots' Greys, with the horse, Sultan, wounded at Balaklava, rump is branded '2D' for 2nd Dragoons. LC-USZC4-9115." (The caption of a Roger Fenton photograph from the Crimean War. "Summary: Colonel George Clarke, full-length portrait, wearing uniform, standing beside his horse, Sultan, facing left; horse's reins are held by a man who is possibly a servant; horse's rump is branded '2D' for 2nd Dragoons; encampment of tents in background.")

♦ "Meade wrote orders for Sheridan and his ten thousand horsemen to ride past the rear of Lee's army, drive toward Richmond, and

harass the enemy... Now Sheridan issued a full-scale challenge to Stuart's cavalry. For the next sixteen days, detached from the Army of the Potomac, Sheridan, with matchless gusto, played havoc with Lee's army, even penetrating Richmond's outer defenses... On May 11 [1864], at Yellow Tavern near Richmond, Sheridan's men routed Confederate cavalry under Stuart, who was mortally wounded, robbing Lee of a premier lieutenant. A flamboyant figure partial to ostrich-plumed hats and scarlet-lined capes in battle, James E. B. Stuart was an inspired warrior whom the South couldn't afford to lose. Upon hearing of his death, Lee fought off tears... Earlier in the war, the Confederate cavalry had been preeminent but now, thanks to [Sheridan], the Union cavalry matched and overtook it." (*Grant* by Ron Chernow.)

♦ "On Sept. 19, 1862, just two days after the Battle of Antietam, Alexander Gardner, an employee of the photographer Mathew Brady, began documenting the battle's grim aftermath. One of Gardner's photographs, titled 'Dead Horse of Confederate Colonel: both killed at Battle of Antietam,' depicted a milky-white steed lying on the field in an eerily peaceful repose...[The Horse] very likely belonged to Colonel Strong, and it became something of a landmark among the Union soldiers left on the field because of its strangely peaceful appearance. Gen. Alpheus Williams wrote, 'The number of dead horses was high. They lay, like the men, in all attitudes. One beautiful milk-white animal had died in so graceful a position that I wished for its photograph. Its legs were doubled under and its arched neck gracefully turned to one side, as if looking back to the ball-hole in its side. Until you got to it, it was hard to believe the horse was dead. / Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. saw the horse four days after the battle while searching for his wounded son. Later, Holmes examined Gardner's photograph and said it was the same horse.' ("The Dead of Antietam," by Terry L. Jones, *The New York Times*, September 24, 2012.)

♦ "The wounded were, many of them, placed in the Chancellorsville mansion... The Confederates got exact range of the building, and in a short time the location became 'very hot.' As Gen. Hooker stood on the porch, a cannon-ball struck the pillar against which he was leaning at the time, and the violent concussion so stunned him that he fell to the floor... Still another came and struck a poor soldier who was quenching his thirst at the well near the building. We were unwilling to leave the wounded, and while we were in a dilemma as to what was best to do, another ball came and struck the fore-leg of a beautiful bay horse belonging to an officer on Gen. Hooker's staff. It smashed the entire leg from the breast to the hoof. The poor horse jerked back, broke the halter-strap, fell on his back, then recovered himself, arose and hobbled away on three legs, dangling the hoof of the fourth leg, which was held suspended by a strip of skin. This strip of skin, about two inches wide, and the hoof were all that remained of the fore-leg. Blood flowed profusely and streaked the ground wherever he passed. He was soon shot and put out of pain. I hardly remember a sight that touched my heart so keenly during the entire battle. The innocent animal had no part in the fight, but he was a silent victim." (Chancellorsville. From *Memoirs of Chaplain Life* by W. Corby.)

♦ "Comanche was known as the sole survivor of the General George Custer's command at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876. A mustang captured as a wild horse and gelded, he became the favorite mount of Captain Myles Keogh of the 7th Cavalry. He saw frequent action and sustained some 12 wounds. A burial party found him severely wounded on the battleground and transported him by steamer to Fort Lincoln, 950 miles away, where he spent the next year recuperating. He was never again to be ridden, and orders excused him from all duties. Most of the time he freely roamed the Post and flower gardens. At formal regimental functions he was led, draped in black, stirrups and boots reversed, at the head of the Regiment. When the Cavalry was ordered to Fort Riley, Kansas, in 1888, Comanche, aging but still in good health, accompanied them and continued to receive full honors as a symbol of the tragedy at Little Bighorn. Finally, on November 7, 1891, about 29 years old, Comanche died of colic." (The Smithsonian Institute.)

♦ "It is estimated that 16 million animals served during the First World War, and by 1916 alone the warring nations had raised 103 cavalry divisions with over a million horses."

♦ Of the 14 ships [chartered by the Army to carry AEF troops to France at the start of the war], 10 were designated to carry human passengers, while 4 were designated as animal ships. Animal ships carried horses and mules, up to 500 at a time. The ships were generally cargo ships that had to be modified with ramps and stalls. There was initially a great mortality rate of up to four percent for the

horses and mules. But then the military began transporting veterinarians and veterinary detachments with the animals, and the mortality rates dropped, sometime to zero percent. The crossing could take up to 22 days. One such ship was the SS *El Oriente*. At the end of the war, it was refitted to carry troops home. Other animal ships were the *El Occidente* and *El Sol*.

♦ "Every British officer understood animals, as a point of honor." (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Book VIII, Chapter XCV by T.E. Lawrence.)

♦ "Almost two hundred horses lay on the ground in their death throes, or fled in all possible directions, maddened by pain and with blood spurting from their dangling guts. Any riders whose feet had been caught in the stirrups were dragged with them and any soldiers foolish enough to try to stop them were trampled under their hooves." (Rafael de Nogales at the Second Battle of Gaza in April 1917. His tightly packed cavalry division has been bombed by six or seven British biplanes. From *The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter Englund.)

♦ "They have been slaughtering the draught animals and the mules for some time but they have consciously been sparing the riding animals. That is no longer possible. Another attempt to relieve them has run into the sand and orders have now been given that the last horses will have to be slaughtered in order to feed the besieged garrison, which will soon be starving. / [Edward] Mousley tears up some fresh grass and goes to where the horses are lined up. His own horse, Don Juan, obviously recognises his owner and welcomes him eagerly in the way he has taught the horse to do. Mousley feeds him the grass. / Then the slaughter begins. / A non-commissioned officer shoots the horses. There is the crack of a gunshot and one by one the big, heavy animals crumple to the ground. The blood flows. At first Mousley watches, noting that the horses follow the proceedings, trembling as they wait their turn. Like the other horses Don Juan stamps uneasily but otherwise remains quite still. When it is almost Don Juan's turn Mousley can watch no longer; he asks the man with the gun to take careful aim and to tell him when it is all over. Then he kisses the horse's cheek and walks away. He can see how the horse turns and watches him go. / Then there is another crack from the gun. / His dinner that evening is Don Juan's heart and kidneys. (These parts of the horse are always reserved for the owner—Mousley has also kept Don Juan's black tail.) Admittedly it feels strange, but he does not think there is anything wrong about it. He writes in his diary: 'I am sure he would have preferred that I, rather than another, should do so.'" (*The Beauty and the Sorrow* by Peter Englund. The place is Kut al-Amara, Mesopotamia, 10 April 1916.)

♦ Germany's invasion of Russia on June 22, 1941, was the largest invasion in military history, involving perhaps 4 million troops. According to the Wikipedia article "Operation Barbarossa," the invasion included about 600,000 motor vehicles... and over 625,000-700,000 horses for non-combat operations.

♦ "The first Russian patrol came in sight of the camp about midday on 27 January 1945. Charles and I were the first to see them: we were carrying Somogyi's body to the common grave, the first of our room mates to die. We tipped the stretcher on to the defiled snow, as the pit was now full, and no other grave was at hand: Charles took off his beret as a salute to both the living and the dead. / They were four young soldiers on horseback, who advanced along the road that marked the limits of the camp, cautiously holding their sten-guns. When they reached the barbed wire, they stopped to look, exchanging a few timid words, and throwing strangely embarrassed glances at the sprawling bodies, at the battered huts and at us few still alive..." (*The Truce* by Primo Levi.)

♦ "The various SF teams that were in Afghanistan or would soon arrive split into smaller three-man and six-man cells to cover more ground. Some of them quickly found themselves on borrowed horses, in saddles meant for Afghans much lighter and shorter than American Green Berets. Most had never ridden before, and they learned by immediately riding for hours, forced to keep up with skilled Afghan horsemen..." ("First to go: Green Berets remember earliest mission in Afghanistan" by Elizabeth M. Collins, U.S. Army, army.mil, February 8, 2017. Those soldiers arrived in Afghanistan immediately after 9/11 and embedded with the Northern Alliance and the great Ahmad Shah Massoud, the Lion of the Panjshir.)

♦ see also *cavalry* (*mechanized cavalry*, etc.)

## warm (verb)

warmed up to California  
in time, he ~

## warm (adjective)

warm  
the relationship between them has never been ~ (politics)

warm heart  
he praised her for her ~ can concern for others

warm reception  
we got a ~ everywhere we went

warm welcome  
they gave us a ~  
they found a ~ in Washington (Democratic capitalists)

warm 28-year-old  
she is a ~ with big brown eyes

warm and receptive  
the audience was ~ (for a folksinger)

warm and sympathetic  
voters perceive her as ~

## warmed-up

getting warmed-up  
I'm just ~

## warmhearted (adjective)

warmhearted person  
she is a ~

## warmly

greeted us warmly  
he ~

received us warmly  
she ~

## warmth

support, encouragement, and warmth  
she provides ~

## warn (a sign can warn, etc.)

sign warns  
a road ~, "Watch for children and dogs"

signs warn  
~ visitors to stay clear of the falls

sign warned  
a ~, "Danger Do Not Enter Steep Drops" (cliffs)

## war of nerves

war of nerves  
how soldiers cope with the ~ (waiting for combat)

## warp (verb)

warped and narrowed  
what they consumed online ~ their vision of the world

## warped

warped view  
he denigrates ideas that don't dovetail with his ~

## warpath (on the warpath)

on the warpath  
but the admirals were no match for Sir Clements ~  
President Biden is ~ (against Big Tech)  
his baby mama is ~ (trying to serve papers)

on the warpath against cutbacks  
labor leaders are ~ (pensions, health care)

on the warpath with Wall Street  
his finer days were as attorney general ~

back on the warpath  
nativists are ~

gone on the warpath  
they have ~

put Elizabeth on the warpath  
the inspector's surprise visit had ~ (Theranos)

put him back on the warpath  
it angered him and ~ (a snub)

♦ "In her new book 'On the Warpath'—the very title of which is considered offensive by some—..." (By the anthropologist Elizabeth Weiss, formerly of San Jose State University.)

\*\*\* "The Song of Hiawatha" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow...

♦ "Fiercely the red sun descending / burned his way along the heavens / set the sky on fire behind him / as war parties when retreating / burn the prairies on their war trail..." (It's a nice way to think of the word when you notice a particularly vivid red sunset.)

## warren (noun)

warren of rooms  
inside, beyond the entrance hall, lay a ~

warren of shops  
the casbah of Nablus is a ~, selling...

warren of tenements  
East London was a ~, a "rookery" of the poor

warren of step stairs and cramped corridors  
the ship is a ~ (*Polarstern*)

rabbit warren  
the building is a ~ of cubicles (Merriam-Webster)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Warrens were built for rabbits and were traditionally surrounded by a moat, as rabbits don't like to swim and avoid water. Warrens are also associated with prairie dogs, people living in slums, and office workers in cubicles. The raising of rabbits for fur and meat is called cuniculture, from the Latin word for rabbit, *cuniculus*.

## warrior (ironic)

warriors and conscripts

its ~ are always looking for new battles (culture wars)

#### armchair warriors

I have zero tolerance for ~ (a veteran)  
some shameful ~ on here (BBC HYS / boxing)

#### cancel culture warriors

could you imagine the reaction from the ~ if...

#### climate warriors

~ have been screaming 'the end is nigh' for some 48 years  
~s have lost their minds

#### DEI warriors

she is widely followed and quoted by ~ (Jo Boaler)

#### keyboard warrior

some brave ~s on here tonight (BBC HYS boxing)  
they are ~s having a pop at people (twitter)  
probably wouldn't say it to his face would you, ~  
armchair detectives and ~s piled on (Nicola Bulley)

#### Twitter warriors

~, keyboard warriors, whatever you call them (sports)

#### weekend warriors

nobody is going to pay to watch ~ play in the NFL

#### weekend (lionfish) warriors

~ are not going to solve this problem alone (invasive species)

#### social justice warriors

the book takes a clear aim at '~' (*The Ink Black Heart*)

#### joyful warriors

the 2024 DNC, and its "~" (politics)

♦ "Some brave keyboard warriors on here tonight." (Sarcastic comment on BBC HYS boxing.)

♦ "Twitter warriors, keyboard warriors, whatever you call them, they're not out here with us practicing hard." (An NFL players, responding to online criticism of his performance in a practice video.)

♦ "And if we've learned anything from Joe Biden, it's that you make your own story and live your own truth." ("Happy Warrior: The Fabulous Hero" by David Harsanyi, *National Review*, May 17, 2021.)

♦ "Some people are genuinely just bitter, twisted and childish keyboard warriors. Sad acts the lot of them." (An online commenter about England's loss to Spain in the final of the Fifa 2023 Women's World Cup.)

♦ "I want to get more politically involved, I'm tired of being a keyboard warrior, it's time to make my face known." (Politics.)

♦ "Being a keyboard warrior does not make you safe from the law." (An upset Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley, suggesting there could be legal consequences about online misinformation. See the Wikipedia article "2024 Southport stabbing.")

### warrior (girls and women)

#### warrior for the Democrats

she was seen as a party ~

#### Warrior Girls

"~" is about the injury epidemic of young female athletes

#### breast cancer warriors

the 'Glam Van' delivers hope to ~

#### Love Warrior

~ by Glennon Doyle

#### mental-health warrior

leader, role model, ~ (Nastia Liukin about Simon Biles)

#### joyful warrior

see *joyful (groups)*

#### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "*Carry On, Warrior* honors women committed to slogging through the muck of domesticity." (The book by Glennon Doyle. Doyle is a queer activist who also wrote *Untamed* and *Love Warrior*. She and the American soccer star Abby Wambach got married in 2017. Prior to that Doyle was married to Craig Melton.)

♦ *Warrior: My Path To being Brave* by Lisa Guerrero. (According to Wikipedia, her given name is Lisa Coles.)

♦ "But, you know, the way we see it in this house is mommy's a warrior, not accepting defeat..." ("Self-proclaimed 'bad girl' Drea de Matteo slams 'nasty' OnlyFans reactions: Why not get paid to be in my underwear?" by Lauren Samer, *New York Post*, Sept. 14, 2023. Internet commentators tended to be supportive.)

♦ "Be a love warrior, a justice warrior." (Cornel West.)

#### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ *Warrior Girls* is about the injury epidemic of young female athletes. (Michael Sokolove.)

♦ "You get to decide what your life looks like." ("A Letter to College Sports" by Cailin Bracken.)

♦ "The red mist had metaphorically descended over the defendant's eyes..." (The ruling by Mr Justice Martin Spencer in *Czernuszka v King*. From "Reading rugby player wins compensation over revenge tackle" by Marcus White, BBC News, 23 Feb 2023. Natasha King, captain of the Bracknell Ladies rugby team, had referred to her opponents as "c\*\*\*s" and said, "That f\*\*\*ing number 7, I'm going to break her." An appalling case with real-life consequences.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Young girls have more options now.

### warrior (other)

#### warrior

he is extremely ill but still fighting like the ~ that he is

#### warrior spirit

he has no ~ (criticism of a boxer who lost)

#### eco-warrior

Dave Foreman, ~, has died (Earth First!)

#### partisan warriors

his colleagues were reliable ~ (at Fox News)

#### "wolf warrior"

China's ~ diplomat, Zhao Lijian

#### gladiator, a warrior

I'm a ~ to the bitter end (boxer Daniel Dubois KOs AJ)

♦ "The Scot is nothing if not a warrior." (A commentator about the second Jack Catterall-Josh Taylor fight.)

♦ "And Mike Tyson, traditionally no robe, no socks, he says it makes him feel like a warrior, makes him feel like a gladiator." (The excited broadcaster as Mike Tyson enters the ring for his fight against Mitch "Blood" Green.)

### warrior through (verb)

#### warried through

the cut was serious, but he ~, so much heart (Tyson Fury)

## war room (strategy, etc.)

### war room

teams can have a '~' to make their selections (NFL draft)  
Detroit Lions brass went wild in their ~ (about draft pick)

### War Room

she knocked once and entered the ~ (police HQ / task force)

### "War Room" podcast

Steve Bannon's ~ (politics)

### campaign's war room

the Trump ~ account posted on X...

### Mar-A-Lago

President-elect Trump is working from his ~

### Trump War Room

the Trump account ~ (on X)

### assembling a war room

the White House is ~ as impeachment looms

### launched a war room

she ~ to fight Trump (White House counsel Dana Remus)

♦ "The social media behemoth has established a 'war room' at its headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., where specialists try to detect and disrupt bad actors attempting to delegitimize elections, spread fake information and suppress the vote." ("Facebook, Exploited by Influence Campaigns, Tries to Clamp Down With 'War Room'" by Tim Mak, NPR, October 22, 2018.)

♦ "Latino Democrats launch 'Our Lucha' war room using Spanglish to combat GOP" by Claudia Grisales, NPR, Politics, February 15, 2024.

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "We must take September 15 as the culminating date... / It was one of the decisive battles of the war, and, like the Battle of Waterloo, it was on a Sunday... / The Group Operations Room was like a small theatre, about sixty feet across, and with two storeys. We took our seats in the Dress Circle. Below us was the large-scale map-table, around which perhaps twenty highly-trained young men and women, with their telephone assistants, were assembled. Opposite to us, covering the entire wall, where the theatre curtain would be, was a gigantic blackboard divided into six columns with electric bulbs, for the six fighter stations... One after another signals came in, '40 plus', '60 plus'; there was even an '80 plus'. On the floor-table below us the movement of all the waves of attack was marked by pushing discs forward from minute to minute along different lines of approach, while on the blackboard facing us the rising lights showed our fighter squadrons getting into the air, till there were only four or five left at 'Readiness'... / Presently the red bulbs showed that the majority of our squadrons were engaged. A subdued hum arose from the floor, where the busy plotters pushed their discs to and fro in accordance with the swiftly-changing situation. Air Vice-Marshal Park gave general directions for the disposition of his fighter force... There was not one squadron left in reserve..." (*Their Finest Hour* by Winston S. Churchill, Book II, "Alone," Chapter XVI, "The Battle of Britain.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Attack ads; battleground states; blood; political bombshells; crash and burn; campaigns; carnage; crosshair; drop dead; fire away; catch flak; gun ("they bring a knife, you bring a gun"), outgunned; kill (and killing); lock and load; marching orders; take no prisoners; shoot down; shot through; target; war rooms... ("How traumatic Events Change Our View of Language," Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, January 20, 2011.)

♦ Back room, boiler room, engine room, war room, nerve center... Take your pick!

## warts (warts and all, etc.)

### warts and all

I do know him very well, ~ (a famous politician)

### war zone

### war zone

Lewiston mass shooting shows the ~ we have at home

### mean war zone

Twitter is a ~

### Twitter war zone

I mean, I've been in the ~ for a while (see quote below)

### grew up in a war zone

we ~ (Baltimore, Maryland)

♦ "I mean, I've been in the Twitter war zone for a while, it takes a lot to phase me at this point. You can't take it personally, none of these people actually know you. It's like if you're fighting a war and there's some opposing soldier that shoots at you, it's not like they hate you. They don't even know you. So, just think of it like that. They're firing bullets, whatever, but they don't know you, so don't take it personally." (Elon Musk talking to Joe Rogan.)

♦ "We grew up in a war zone, so, here's the deal. Drugs were going to be part of your life. Okay, you could use drugs, you could be a drug dealer's girlfriend, you could sell drugs. There was no not having a relationship to drugs. Right? And so you just figured out okay what relationship do you want to drugs, right?... You know, I mean, going to clubs, you knew there was going to be a shootout, but we went anyway. Hands down, there was going to be a shootout, you are going to hit the floor, you are going to be running, somebody is pulling out, you know that. That's entertainment. And you're like, "It's cool," you're like, you just ready!... You don't expect to live, so it's like you going to sit in a house?... Listen... We were going to funerals like barbecues." (Jada Pinkett Smith talking to Tonya Mosley on NPR's Fresh Air. Jada graduated from the Baltimore School for the Arts, and attended the North Carolina School of the Arts before embarking on her highly successful career.)

## wash (straightwash, etc.)

### artwash

see *artwash*

### dark-wash

~ (by analogy, see quote below)

### greenwash

see *greenwash*

### pinkwash

see *pinkwash*

### sportswash

see *sportswash*

### straightwash

see *straightwash*

### whitewash

see *whitewash (groups)*

♦ "She refers to the company's official-sounding data as 'science washing.'" (Wellness and anti-anxiety patches.)

♦ "Dark-washing characters won't disappear race, nor will believing that brown kids are our future. / Yet this kind of magical thinking will no doubt continue to meet with success in an era obsessed with the conviction that we are all in a moment of racial reckoning." ("A World Without White People: Mohsin Hamid's empty parable of race transformation" by Namwali Serpell, *The Atlantic*, September 2022. A



negative review of *The Last White Man*. Serpell gives a superb inventory of works relating to the "tradition of stories about race transformation" going back to 1931, yet astonishingly leaves out *Black Like Me* (1961). Namwali Serpell is an English professor at Harvard.)

## washboard (bumpy)

washboard road  
driving down a ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ How many Gen-Z females have ever used a washboard to wash their clothes? And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## washed-up (adjective)

washed up  
at age 50, I found myself ~  
a woman was all ~ after 21...

## wash in (verb)

washed into Germany  
millions of migrants have ~

## washing (sportswashing, etc.)

agewashing  
Katzenberg was accused by donor of “~” Biden  
Hollywood donor feel Katzenberg misled them by ~  
Biden  
Jeffrey Katzenberg is being accused of “~” Biden

art-washing  
~ a genocide (activists vandalize the Pace Gallery)

brainwashing  
see *brainwashing* (noun)

dark-washing  
~ characters won’t disappear race (whites become Blacks)

greenwashing  
see *greenwashing* (noun)

pinkwashing  
see *pinkwashing*

science washing  
she refers to official-sounding data as ‘~’

sportswashing  
see *sportswashing* (noun)

straightwashing  
~ is portraying queers as heterosexuals

Straightwashing  
see the Wikipedia article, “~”

sane-washing  
it’s been sort of dubbed “~” (see quote below)

♦ “Dark-washing characters won’t disappear race, nor will believing that brown kids are our future. / Yet this kind of magical thinking will no doubt continue to meet with success in an era obsessed with the conviction that we are all in a moment of racial reckoning.” (“A World Without White People: Mohsin Hamid’s empty parable of race transformation” by Namwali Serpell, *The Atlantic*, September 2022. A

negative review of *The Last White Man*. Serpell gives a superb inventory of works relating to the “tradition of stories about race transformation” going back to 1931, yet astonishingly leaves out *Black Like Me* (1961). Namwali Serpell is an English professor at Harvard.)

♦ “Yeah, no, and I was going to say, you know, David (Folkenflik) mentions this idea of the way of the way this has been framed and sometimes, I find that our colleagues really have a difficult time in trying to just say what they know to be independently verifiably true, and it’s been sort of dubbed ‘sane-washing,’ which is sort of taking something that Trump says that might be incoherent but then making it a subject-verb-object thing that then is seemingly more rational and understandable. Also...” (An excited Domenico Montanaro on NPR, speaking to Mary Louise Kelly about the first Harris-Trump debate. From “The major takeaways from last night’s debate,” NPR, All Things Considered, September 11, 2024.)

## washing machine (the washing machine, etc.)

referred to (locally) as the ‘washing machine’  
Pillsbury Sound is ~ for its rip currents (Virgin Islands)

## wash up (verb)

washed (back) up  
when was the next time the picture ~ in your life

washed up  
his dishonesty had finally ~ at his brother’s feet

## waste (lay waste)

lay waste to the myths  
it is time to ~ of Soviet propaganda (Katyn)

## wasteland (environment)

wastelands of everyday existence  
men who saw in Polar deserts an escape from the ~

wasteland of (vapid, consumerist) content  
the video service is a ~ (YouTube kids)

cultural wastelands  
the third- or fourth-tier cities are no longer ~ (China)

emotional wasteland  
in this ~, new romance bloomed (divorce)

woke wasteland  
ESPN used to be the video bible of sports, now it’s a ~

♦ “I invite each of you to sit down in front of your television set when your station goes on the air... Keep your eyes glued to that set until the station signs off. I can assure you that what you will observe is a vast wasteland.” (Newton Minow’s “Wasteland Speech” delivered to the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington, D.C. in 1961.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ “We traveled through an area that had been left a wasteland after a month of airstrikes and just over a week of a ground invasion. I didn’t see a single building that wasn’t badly damaged or destroyed.” (A military wasteland.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Food desert. It’s a term I’ve used myself...” (“Let’s Stop Using Metaphors that Celebrate Extraction, Colonialism, and Violence: Earth, Justice, and Our Classrooms” by Bill Bigelow, *Rethinking Schools*, Fall, 2022, Volume 37, No. 1.)



## watch (on one's watch)

on my watch

not ~

it will not happen ~ (constitutional sheriff)

on his watch

Bush was haunted by a replay of 9/11 ~

on our watch

~, hope can now be spotted across the seas and oceans

happened on your watch

these problems ~ (investigation)

♦ "When is the world going to step up and say we're not going to allow that to happen on our watch?" (Sports doping, specifically at the Olympics. Of course, there are numerous organizations and groups and thousands of people trying to prevent doping in sport.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ A full-page advertisement for the "Oyster Perpetual Sea-Dweller" Rolex watch on the back cover of *The New Yorker* magazine says, "ON OUR WATCH. Hope can now be spotted across all our planet's seas and oceans." In small print at the bottom it reads, "Rolex supports Mission Blue in its commitment to protecting 30% of the oceans by 2030."

## watchdog (noun)

watchdog

every industry needs a ~

Watchdog Journalism

the Murrey Marder Nieman Fellow in ~

watchdog organization

a national ~

public's watchdog

the media is supposed to be the ~

drug industry watchdog

his self-appointed role as the ~

## watcher (Royal watcher, etc.)

politics watchers

~ turn their attention to the first primary (elections)

Royal watcher

if you're a ~ like me... (writer Elizabeth Holmes)

Supreme Court watchers

~ claim politicization of court has eroded trust

Weight Watchers

~ now competes with diet apps, online services...

Jean Nidetch, founder of ~, dies at 91

## water (deep water)

found himself in deep water

he ~ (a boxer during match)

## water (uncharted water)

see *waters* (*uncharted waters*, etc.)

## water (blow something out of the water)

blows your theory out of the water

this ~

blew Phelps out of the water

Lochte ~ (Olympics)

blown out of the water

that theory was ~ (criminal trial)

## water (keep one's head above water)

keep our heads above water

we are struggling to ~ (financial woes)

## water (tread water)

treading water

the middle class is still ~, and trying not to drown

\*\*\* Do ducks *really* tread water to keep from drowning?

♦ "Many of us have heard of the 'duck syndrome' at Dartmouth: It's week five midterms are crashing into you... And yet, you must appear calm above the surface of the water... If someone were to peek underneath, however, they would see webbed feet paddling away... to keep from drowning. Nobody would know from appearance that the duck is just barely remaining afloat..." ("The College's ratio of students to mental health providers is abysmal and it shows" by Anna Roodnitsky, *The Dartmouth*, 22 July 2022. It's an interesting conceit to consider, and Anna gets some of it right. Actual ducks, when frightened, do appear calm but can be seen to paddle harder, seemingly to gain the momentum necessary to take flight. But do ducks paddle to keep from drowning? I just highlighted "do ducks paddle to keep from drowning?" right-clicked, clicked search, and was astonished to discover the article, "The New Duck Metaphor | The Stanford Daily." It's a wonderful opinion by Adam Johnson who had the same question I had and answered it. Interestingly, it was datelined September 26, 2012, ten years *before* Roodnitsky's article. It's a shame there is not more intercourse between Dartmouth and Stanford students; the distance between California and New Hampshire no doubt explains it.)

♦ "Sink or swim."

## water (hold water)

hold water

the theory doesn't ~

the idea you can add adversity to the SAT doesn't really

~

## water (throw cold water on something)

poured cold water on these claims

the Pentagon quickly ~ (mystery drones over New Jersey)

pouring cold water over the idea

Trudeau is now kind of ~ (peacekeepers to Haiti)

"poured cold water" on the article's apparent premise

ABC News sources ~

poured cold water on the theory

Biden ~ that the Taliban could swiftly take Afghanistan

pour cold water on (earlier) theory

scientists ~ about...

threw cold water on the idea  
he ~ that... (an investigation)

♦ "That suggests the job market is still hotter than the Federal Reserve would like, and also suggests the central bank is likely to keep pouring cold water on the economy by raising interest rates to control inflation..." (Punditry related to the economy—a "hot" job market, "pouring cold water on the economy," etc.—often consists almost entirely of figurative language.)

\*\*\* CICA / Ryan Commission...

♦ "One of the girls she was very sick. I let her come into my bed one morning, she was very ill. They brought me down to the shoe room, they stripped me off, they threw cold water over me... (prior to severe beating)...It was the shoe room you know where all the shoes were, even now if I get the smell of shoe polish, the feeling of enclosurement, it was awful..." (The long-term effects of physical and emotional abuse. From the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (CICA / Ryan Commission), the record of abuse (female witnesses), Chapter 9, 2009, Ireland.)

## water (poison the water / waters)

poisoned the waters  
his statement ~ for anyone seeking an honest answer

## waterboarding (noun)

fiscal waterboarding  
the country is being subjected to a ~ (austerity)

## water cooler (digital water cooler, etc.)

water cooler buzz  
the ~ was underway (Olympic controversy)

water-cooler conversation  
we talk about ~

watercooler shows  
*Succession*, and other ~

digital water cooler  
the Website is a sort of ~ for the tech industry

♦ "We talk about water-cooler conversation. Well, the television was the gigantic water cooler around which the entire country congregated." (Neal Gabler, historian. From the affecting and emotionally wrenching documentary *Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story* 2005, about TV in the late 50s and early 60s.)

♦ "Imagine something innocuous like a water-cooler conversation in an office. Imagine that it's happening in a fully-monitored metaverse environment—that is certainly going to have life-changing consequences..." (Alex Rice, the co-founder of online security company HackerOne.)

♦ "Okay, so what are people going to be talking about at the watercooler, whatever the modern watercooler is, this morning." (Leila Fadel talking to Tamara Keith the day after the first Harris-Trump debate.)

\*\*\* Flannery O'Connor's great 1955 short story...

♦ "[Mr. Head] particularly wanted the boy to see the toilet so they went first to the men's room and examined the plumbing. Mr. Head demonstrated the ice-water cooler as if he had invented it and showed Nelson the bowl with the single spigot where the travelers brushed their teeth." (Mr. Head takes his grandson on the boy's first train trip. From the great short story by Flannery O'Connor, published in 1955.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The actual water cooler with its Dixey cone water cups is a relic of the past. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

## water down (verb)

water down the program

the government wants to ~

## watered down

get watered down  
most reform bills ~ (US)

## Waterloo (figurative)

Waterloo for Mr. Brown  
the debates could be a ~ (politics)

Obama's Waterloo  
the Republicans hope to turn health care into ~

mayor's Waterloo  
failure to clear snow can be a ~ (Chicago, etc.)

a kind of Waterloo  
it was a bad defeat for me, a ~ (an argument)

## waterproof (adjective)

ironclad, waterproof, bulletproof, (legally) binding  
we need ~ guarantees (Sergey Ryabkov / diplomacy)

## waters (uncharted waters, etc.)

uncertain waters  
Egypt has sailed into freer but more ~

uncharted water  
the NCAA is wading into ~ (NIL, transfer portal, unions)

uncharted waters  
we're in ~ here, or very little charted waters (legal issue)  
this was ~ for us (youthful sex)

uncharted (legal) waters  
the charges have led the country into ~ (soldiers)

♦ "He was sort of sailing on uncharted waters, no one really knew how good this fellow was, and those waters got choppy, here and there..." (Richie Woodhall speaking to the great boxing commentator Steve Bunce about Tyson Fury. "This fellow" was the remarkable Cameroonian Francis Ngannou, whose next fight, against Anthony Joshua, was much anticipated by many fight fans. See the Wikipedia article "Francis Ngannou." It's an extraordinary story!)

## waters (dangerous waters, etc.)

dangerous waters  
you are in ~, Mr. Starbuck (*Moby Dick*)

choppy waters  
the cruising industry is still in ~ (COVID cases)

rough waters  
UN climate talks hit ~

treacherous (political) waters  
he has waded into ~

in troubled (political) waters  
Biden is already ~ (over Afghanistan)

perilous and uncharted waters  
we are entering ~ here (Bolivian politics)

pour (lower tariff) oil on troubled waters  
an offer to ~ (the US and the EU)

\*\*\* The Marion was hove to under storm canvas...

♦ "The *Marion* was hove to under storm canvas, and boiler fires were lighted; but she labored so violently in mountainous seas that several boilers began to work loose in their saddles and all leaked badly. Water was pouring into the vessel through deck and side seams, while waves breaking on board carried away a boat and several gunport covers... But the *Marion* and her men were equal to this occasion... Oil streamed from the weather bow exerted its calming effect on the troubled waters, lessening the impact of the waves. The gale diminished markedly the next day..." (*Far China Station: The U.S. Navy in Asian Waters 1800-1898* by Robert Erwin Johnson.)

## waters (muddy the waters)

muddy the waters about salt and health  
the Salt Institute has done nothing but ~

muddy the (legal) waters  
the case did nothing but ~

## waters (test the waters)

testing the waters  
they are ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "When you want to test the depths of a stream, don't use both feet." (Chinese.)

## watershed (noun)

watershed  
the death of Tom Simpson was a ~ (athletes doping)

watershed in the history  
it was a ~ of British policing (Stephen Lawrence murder)

watershed in (American) politics  
the 1968 presidential election was a ~

watershed in that (fractious) relationship  
this day could be a ~ between fans (Liverpool / Man U)

watershed event  
it was a ~ for the company

watershed moment  
the arrival of the drones will be a ~ (war)  
the affair was a ~ for British Muslims (Rushdie book)  
this is a ~ for China to lead (pandemic)  
the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is at a ~  
your first fight with Amanda was such a ~ (Katie Taylor)

historic watershed  
the violence was a ~ (Sri Lanka / 1983)

political watershed  
it is a ~ (Citizens United Supreme Court decision)

♦ "This is a watershed. This is a Rubicon. And I'm worried this could be just a starter. More draconian bans in the name of the law could be lurking around the corner." (A protester.)

\*\*\* "Both ascent and descent were steep..."

♦ "A couple of days later we came to the watershed. Both ascent and descent were steep. On the far side we came on to a path at once, which brought us to the cabin of a Chinese sable-trapper... Towards evening that day we managed to reach the Noro. / The upper reaches of the Noro are regarded as the most remote and wildest parts of Ussuria." (*Dersu Uzala* by V. K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

## watertight (adjective)

legally watertight  
they will ensure their position is ~

## wave (Wave Rock, etc.)

Wave  
the ~, Paria Canyon, Arizona

Wave Rock  
natural wonders like ~ in western Australia

## wave (shape)

wave clouds  
rare ~ amaze sky-watchers in Wyoming

waves of (wind-hardened) snow  
~ called "sastrugi" (Antarctic)

stony wave  
Half Dome looms over Yosemite Valley like a ~

## wave (crest of a wave)

crest of a wave of public popularity  
he was on the ~ (a politician)

\*\*\* rag-doll wipeouts, getting swept over the falls...

♦ Rag-doll wipeouts on massive faces; getting sucked / swept over the falls; getting nailed by your surfboard or somebody else's; getting struck square on the head by the lip of a wave; traveling 500 yards underwater (Teahupoo); taking a five-wave set on the head; three-wave hold-downs; getting blown off a Jet Ski; colliding with an upside-down Jet Ski; getting rammed in the groin by a Jet Ski; Jet Skis cavitating in foam... (Some of the hazards of surfing.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Never turn your back on the sea.

♦ "If you want to learn how to pray, go to sea." (Portuguese.)

♦ "If you want to ride the ultimate wave, you have to be willing to pay the ultimate price." (Mark Foo.)

## wave (wave of the future, etc.)

wave of the future  
online banking is the ~

wave of relevance  
creators are using tired tropes to ride the ~ (TikTok)

wave of (anti-incumbent) sentiment  
Trump rode the ~ back to the White House (2024 election)

next big wave  
the ~ was cloud computing

wave (of relevance) has passed  
content creators vie for views before their ~ (TikTok)

catch the wave  
some companies were too big to ~

ride the wave  
I'm not going to be short of options, we'll just ~ (boxer)

riding on a new artistic wave  
he is ~ which has captured the public's imagination

surf this wave

those who failed to ~ will have to wait (weather / Everest)

take advantage of this wave

Pablo was perfectly positioned to ~ (cocaine)

## **wave (make waves, etc.)**

making waves

he is ~ here in the US (a Chinese billionaire)

don't make waves

this is where you end up when your policy is '~'

♦ Audi Cornish: Looking back at the way that the virus moved across the U.S., early on we heard about different waves. Is this actually a good way to think about it? / Will Stone: A wave does not quite capture it, because the pandemic has not crashed across the country all at once and then gone away. This is how Dr. Roger Shapiro at Harvard describes the U.S. coronavirus outbreak. / Dr. Robert Shapiro: A better way of thinking about it is a wave that went into a pool and in that pool it's sloshing around. Wherever it hasn't been yet, it's gonna go, to places where it has already been, it could go back. / Will Stone: So what we have now is this constant reservoir of disease splashing around, infecting people at different times in different places. ("Tracing The Course Of The U.S. Pandemic," All Things Considered, October 9, 2020.)

## **wave (in a wave)**

in a wave of dissention

the team dissolved ~, losing all 3 matches (soccer)

in a wave of kidnappings

dozens of foreigners have been abducted ~ (Iraq)

in the (first) wave of infections

hospital workers infected ~ (SARS)

in a (weeklong) wave of violence

more than 100 were killed ~

in the first wave

hospital workers infected ~ of infections (SARS)

in a great wave

engulfed ~ of hate and anger (mob)

in a weeklong wave

more than 100 were killed ~ of violence

dissolved in a wave

the team ~ of dissension, losing all 3 matches (soccer)

abducted in a wave

dozens of foreigners have been ~ of kidnappings (Iraq)

engulfed in a (great) wave

~ of hate and anger (mob)

infected in the (first) wave

hospital workers ~ of infections (SARS)

## **wave (amount and effect)**

wave

this ~ is going to build and grow (flexible workplace)

wave of (neo-Nazi) activity

we must combat a ~

wave of (cigarette) advertising

the new ~

wave of (new) applications

a ~ for accommodations (SAT disability)

wave of arrests

this summer, there was a further ~ in Saudi Arabia

wave of (Palestinian) attacks

a ~ killed five Israelis

wave of (HIV-positive) babies

a ~ still to be born

wave of (commercial space) cameras

the new ~

wave of criticism

the slow response has brought a ~

wave of (digital) disruption

the first ~ has been profound (AI and journalism)

wave of emigration

the ~ that followed (the fall of Soviet Union)

wave of emotions

the resignations set off a ~ from sadness to relief

wave of euphoria

the South Korean ~ (World Cup)

wave of explosions

a ~ marred Algeria's independence celebration

wave of fury

the nominee list set off a ~

waves of grief

the wreck is sending ~ across the mountains

waves of immigrants

the cold war's end has brought ~

~ who have crossed the sea to live in France

wave of immigration

the latest ~ threatens to change...

a ~ that has changed schools and neighborhoods

he came here as part of a ~ from Uzbekistan (to Israel)

waves of immigration

the ~ to the US over the past 20 years

wave of (national) indignation

a ~

wave of nationalism

what this ~ might mean for Europe...

wave of popularity

she had been riding an even bigger ~ when...

wave of pride

his success has set off a ~ (Japanese ballplayer)

wave of self-criticism

a ~ swept the press

wave of (reported) sightings  
a ~ in 1993 (UFOs)

wave of sympathy  
setting in motion a fast-rolling ~ (psychogenic illness)

wave of (national) unity  
the ~ following 9/11

wave of unrest  
the ~ has toppled two presidents (Middle East)

wave of (democratic) uprisings  
a ~ is transforming the Islamic world

wave of (sectarian) vengeance  
a ~ is sweeping the capital (Baghdad)

waves of arrivals and departures  
orchestrated ~ (busy airport)

wave of (criminal) charges  
the ~ and civil lawsuits (church sex abuse)

wave of (corporate) divestitures  
the next ~ and spin-offs

wave of car bombs  
a ~ against westerners (Saudi Arabia)

wave of kidnappings  
victims of a ~ (Lebanon)

waves of killing and ethnic cleansing  
subjected to ~ (Hutu-Tutsi)

wave or a tsunami  
this wasn't just a ~, it was a red asteroid (Republicans win)

Republican wave  
a ~ swamped them (elections)

attack wave  
the main ~

crime wave  
unassimilated immigrants have set off ~s in Europe

enemy wave  
slowed the on-coming ~ with machine gun fire

heat wave  
a killer ~ claimed an estimated 10,000 lives (France)

immigration wave  
the US is in an ~ that rivals the start of 20th century

murder wave  
a ~ engulfed the U.S. around 1960

populist wave  
a new ~ had already been swelling for years (politics)

technology wave  
you're riding on a ~ that's going to crash

on-coming (enemy) wave  
slowed the ~ with machine gun fire

fast-rolling wave  
setting in motion a ~ of sympathy (psychogenic illness)

orchestrated wave  
~s of arrivals and departures (airport)

first wave  
he was part of the ~ of immigrants from Laos (Hmong)

second wave  
this is the ~ of climate-change suits against oil companies

big wave  
there is a ~ coming (demand for non-alcoholic drinks)

further wave  
this summer, there was a ~ of arrests in Saudi Arabia

great wave  
engulfed in a ~ of hate and anger (mob)

human wave  
the determined enemy launched ~ assaults (war)

latest wave  
the ~ of immigration threatens to change... (France)  
experts hope this ~ of the pandemic will recede

main (attack) wave  
the ~ (military)

new wave  
the ~ of commercial space cameras  
the ~ of cigarette advertising

New Wave  
the French ~, especially Truffaut and Goddard

next wave  
the ~ will be "semantic web" applications

previous waves  
~ of US immigrants

successive wave  
each ~ of (U.S.) strikes (military)

consequences of a wave  
one of the many ~ of immigration (schools)

victims of a wave  
~ of kidnappings (Lebanon)

wave has crested (and the waters receded)  
the ~ to reveal a changed landscape (refugee tsunami)

wave (of digital disruption) is looming  
an even more damaging ~ (generative AI and journalism)

wave (of the pandemic) will (continue to) recede  
experts hope this latest ~

wave has begun to recede  
the Omicron ~ (pandemic / January 2022)

wave has spread  
the revolution ~ from Egypt to Libya

wave (of sectarian vengeance) is sweeping

a ~ the capital (Baghdad)

wave (of self-criticism) swept  
a ~ the press

wave (of immigration) threatens  
the latest ~ to change...

waves are washing  
the ~ over other parts of the region (Ethiopia-Eritrea  
peace)

brought a wave  
the slow response has ~ of criticism

combat a wave  
we must ~ of neo-Nazi activity

riding the wave  
but today he was ~ of his success (and feeling confident)

riding an (even bigger) wave  
she had been ~ of popularity when...

rode that wave  
two years later she ~ of attention to a seat in the US  
Senate

sending waves  
the wreck is ~ of grief across the mountains

set off a wave  
the resignations ~ of emotions from sadness to relief  
the nominee list ~ of fury  
his success has ~ of pride (Japanese ballplayer in US)

subjected to waves  
~ of killing and ethnic cleansing (Hutu-Tutsi)

♦ "The Florida Democratic Party has completely collapsed. This wasn't just a wave or a tsunami. It was a red asteroid that hit them in Florida." (Giancarlo Sopo, Republican strategist, after the 2022 midterm elections. In the U.S., red is the color of Republicans.)

\*\*\* When the wave height reaches three quarters of the water depth...

♦ When the wave height reaches three quarters of the water depth, the wave breaks.

♦ Rogue waves, also known as freak or monster waves, have sunk ships and snatched people from coastlines.

## waver (verb)

wavering over what to do  
the city has been ~

give up or waver  
are we going to ~ when things get tough (a protest)

## wavelength (on the same wavelength)

on the same wavelength  
his two most threatening players are clearly ~ (soccer)  
politically they're ~

on the same (social) wavelength  
I'm not ~ as others (autism diagnosis)

on the same wavelength as his teammates  
he has not been ~ (a soccer striker)

## \*\*\* analysis

♦ A "mind meld" is when two people are on the same wavelength. This is almost always the case at National Public Radio / NPR.

## wax and wane

wax and wane  
separation anxiety tends to ~ (toddlers)

waxed and waned  
anti-American protests have ~ in South Korea  
their grip on the area ~

waxes and wanes  
her apparent awareness ~ (GHB rape on video)

## \*\*\* a waxing crescent moon...

♦ It's always a treat to see a very young moon, such as one that is 24 hours old or less. It takes clear skies and good eyesight or binoculars. The moon will appear like a golden wire.

♦ "Right arc wrax (wax), left arc lane (wane)." (A way to determine if the moon is waxing or waning. If the right curve of the moon is evident, it is waxing. If the left curve of the moon is evident, it is waning.)

## way (along the way)

along the way  
so many friends we've lost ~

## way (in harm's way)

in harm's way  
people and homes are ~ (wildfire)

go in harm's way  
I intend to ~ (combat)

puts volunteers in harm's way  
the Peace Corp commonly ~

## way (out of harm's way)

out of harm's way  
I directed myself toward river right, ~ (kayaking)

dragged him out of harm's way  
he ~ (combat)

## way (know one's way around)

knows his way around the European Union  
he ~ (a British politician)

## way (out of the way / remote)

geographically out of the way  
Siberia may be ~, but...

## way (in the way)

unwanted, in the way, and useless  
some old people feel ~

get in the way  
don't let anger or prejudice ~ of peace  
the Washington Democrats are the ones who ~

gets in the way  
all this stuff ~ of instruction (adolescent problems)



gets in his own way  
the president constantly ~ on these things (by his tweets)

stand in your way  
let nothing ~ (dreams)

stands in her way  
she will hurt anyone who ~

stood in her way  
she didn't care who ~

stand in the way  
just a few contract details ~ (boxing)  
if you want to quit, I won't ~

stand in their way  
and nothing is going to ~

### **way (get out of the way)**

get out of my way  
people were smart enough to ~ and let me handle it

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way!

### **way (out of the way / obstacles)**

out of the way  
Americans praise Indian enemies once they are ~

got their jitters out of the way  
our guys finally ~ (sports)

### **way (go out of one's way)**

go out of their way  
moray eels do not ~ to attack humans

go out of the way to explain  
they don't ~

goes out of its way  
it ~ to be out of the ordinary (a HBO series)

went out of his way to meet  
the President ~ with opposition leaders

gone out of his way to woo  
he has ~ friends in the other party  
Gates has ~ to woo Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

### **way (way out / escape)**

way out  
there is simply no other ~ (a Palestinian State)  
so is there a ~ (a political impasse)

way out is to fund  
the ~ the government and leave these fights to the side

way out of the abyss  
he worked his ~ of crime and hopelessness

way out of the (poor) neighborhood  
the Army was a ~

way out of this pandemic  
vaccines are the ~ (COVID)

way out of a (dire) situation  
she sought a ~

way out of (criminal) trouble  
you can often buy your ~ (police corruption)

way out for the UAW  
I don't see a real ~ (corruption probe of union)

easy way out  
teens will take the ~ (cheating)  
I took the ~ (didn't graduate from high school)

only way out  
she saw suicide as her ~

no way out  
there was ~ (hopelessness)

buy your way out  
you can often ~ of trouble (corruption)

dig his way out  
he found a way to ~ of his problems

find some way out  
we must try to ~ of it (world economies)

found a way out  
he ~ of his own wreckage with the therapist's help

lie her way out  
she tried to ~ of it, but she got caught

look for a way out  
teen suspects often ~ (false confessions)

looked for a way out  
and so he ~ (of a bad situation)

sought a way out  
she ~ of a dire situation

take the (easy) way out  
teens will ~ (cheating)

worked his way out  
he ~ of the abyss of crime and hopelessness

saw suicide as her (only) way out  
she ~

♦ "Oh, wait, it's upside-down." (A member of a group of people lost in a corn maze, referring to their map of the maze.)

### **way (get one's way)**

gets its way  
as an arm of the Kremlin, Gazprom usually ~

get her way  
she schemes and plans and manipulates to ~

### **way (autumn is on the way, etc.)**

autumn is on the way  
summer is on the wane and ~

## way (on the way out)

on its way out

the fastest way down is ~ (firehouse poles)  
gun control is ~ (US attempts to regulate guns)  
he was born into a way of life that was already ~

on their way out

the network anchor and evening news are ~

♦ "Cynics may believe the genre is already on its way out. But...I'm convinced there's still life in the old form. Particularly as women and people of color fill a larger space in the genre." ("Samantha Bee's cancellation hints at tough times for women and POC in late night TV" by Eric Deggans, NPR, television, July 28, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ A dying way of life; a lost era; the good old days; he was born into a way of life that was already on its way out; he heard the whistle of its departure... (Small farms, cattle in Texas.)

## way (give way to something)

giving way to diesel

by the nineteen-seventies, steam was ~ (India / trains)

gives way to knowledge

what happens when innocence ~

gives way to the new

the old order ~

give way to the lit stage

the fading daylight began to ~ (concert)

gave way to a (gentler) slope

the steep shale ~ of snow (South Col)

give way to new industries

dominant industries of today will ~ tomorrow

gave way to palaces and villas

during the Renaissance, castles ~ (Italy)

gives way to clear-cutting

selective logging often ~ (Amazon)

## way (go the way of something)

going the way of the phone booth

street-corner mailboxes are ~ (email)

going the way of the corset

the push-up bra may be finally ~ (Victoria's Secret)

going the way of the rotary dial

common courtesy is ~

go the way of the dinosaur

frats and sororities should ~ (yet another hazing death)

go the way of buggy whip manufacturers

they are going to ~ (non-green corporations)

go the way of the rotary-dialed phone

residential white-page phone books may ~

♦ "Like American men in general, our top male rappers appear to be in crisis: overwhelmed, confused, struggling to embody so many contradictory ideals. As a result, the art is suffering, too. If the music were any more existentially morose, or stylistically comatose, mainstream hip-hop made by men might be headed the way of hair

metal or disco." (The Future Of Rap Is Female" by Niela Orr, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 13, 2023. "The Hip-Hop Issue.")

## way (go a long way)

go a long way

American dollars ~ in Canada

goes a long way

a little humiliation ~ (resistance)

go a long way towards improving

this will ~ things

## way (lead the way)

leading the way

the Democrats are ~ on this (vote of disapproval)

## way (lose one's way)

lost our way

we've ~

we have all ~ from time to time

we have ~ and it's time that we get back on track  
(politics)

lost its way

Manchester United has ~ (2018-19)

Breareley's obsession with race must stop, the school has  
~

academia has ~ (wokeism, antisemitism, plagiarism, etc.)

♦ "How did NPR lose its way, and how did it change?" (Bari Weiss talking with Uri Berliner. From "NPR Editor Speaks Out: How National Public Radio Lost Americans' Trust," Honestly with Bari Weiss.)

♦ "Columbia University has lost its way." (Pro-Hamas student demonstrations and disruption.)

### \*\*\* "Lake Hanka, in the Gold language Kenka..."

♦ "How, captain, us soon go back or not? Me think will be bad night.' / Across the horizon on the north was a sort of fog, like smoke. / Dersu called my attention to the birds. He noticed that something was upsetting them. It was not a steady migration, but a headlong flight. They were flying in disorder. / The great freshwater sea now had a menacing aspect; the water lashed into foam as though boiling in a kettle. / The black fog which I had seen on the horizon suddenly began to rise into the air. The sun was now completely hidden. / 'Captain, us must go back quick,' said Dersu. 'Me little afraid.' / 'Water him rise,' said Dersu, looking at the stream. / We decided to go round... We went to the left... Then I decided to try our luck on the right side. / Evidently we had lost our way. The situation was taking a serious turn. / It was growing dark, and at the same time some snow-flakes were fluttering in the air. The stillness lasted only a few minutes, and then came the blizzard. / I felt a tug of fear. / Then I realized the full horror of our position..." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr. First Expedition, Chapter VI, "The Blizzard On The Lake." The 1975 Soviet-Japanese film *Dersu Uzala* by Akira Kurosawa dramatizes this scene wonderfully.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Midway in our life's journey, I went astray / from the straight road and woke to find myself / alone in a dark wood. How shall I say // what wood that was! I never saw so drear, / so rank, so arduous a wilderness! / Its very memory gives a shape to fear." (*The Inferno*, from the wonderful translation by John Ciardi.)

♦ see also lost (direction)

## way (the wrong way)

going the wrong way

we're ~

## way (find one's way)

find my way

it was easy to ~ (a difficult job)

find our way

but we'll ~ (out of a problem)

find his own way

I'm not trying to force the boy, I know he will ~

finding our way

we are ~ (how to teach during pandemic)

## way (pave the way)

pave the way for the (surfing) boom

Hoffman helped ~

pave the way for (new) drugs

the landmark discovery could ~ to beat viruses

paves the way for gays

the bill ~ to serve openly in the military

paved the way for an recovery

the government program ~ (economy)

paved the way for (better) relations

the treaty has ~ between the two countries

paved the way for the rise

repeal of the Fairness Doctrine ~ of Fox News

paved the way for an (economic) comeback

the government program ~

## way (come a long way, etc.)

long way to climb

the people of Africa have a ~

long way to go

we've got a ~, but we've had some success

there is still a ~ (a legal process)

Liverpool looks good, but there is still a ~ (soccer season)

long way towards meeting

we've come a ~ that goal

long way from throwing

we're a ~ in the towel

come a long way

we've ~ towards meeting that goal

the city has ~ (Warsaw / improvement)

the field has ~ but still has far to go (AI)

go a long way

she will ~ (a young singer)

gone a long way

we have ~

have a long way

the people of Africa ~ to climb

## way (a long way off)

a long way off

the 2024 election is ~

## way (a long way from, etc.)

long way from where

I'm a ~ I want and need to be (mental health)

♦ see also *far* (*far from, etc.*)

## way (go the other way, etc.)

gone the other way

events could have ~

## way (part ways)

parted ways

she and NPR have ~

## way (every step of the way)

every step of the way

they've helped us ~

her mother had approved the relationship ~

## way (all the way)

all the way

a suit won't get them ~ they need to go to stop the president

## way (route)

way to (anyone's) heart

the quickest ~ is with an MCL gift card

quickest way

the ~ to anyone's heart is with an MCL gift card

## way (not in a good way)

see *not* (*not in a good way*)

## ways (foodways, etc.)

Artways

Ancient ~ Conservation LLC

colorway

the bike has matte-black ~ with a "stealthy aesthetic"

the trio of fresh ~s (see quote below)

Folkways

~ Records was founded in 1948 by Moses Asch

Smithsonian ~ is the record label of that institution (1987)

folkways

reporters learned the culture and ~ of the NYT (in the past)

she acted as an interpreter of Ivy League ~ for him (at Yale)

foodways

Southern food and African American ~

she helped to legitimize Black and Southern ~ (Edna Lewis)

www.southern~.org

## lifeways

our languages, our traditions, our ~ (native Americans)

## songways

the ~ of my past (songs grown up with, from childhood)

## culture and folkways

reporters learned the ~ of *The New York Times* (in past)

♦ "She helped to legitimize Black and Southern foodways," says Joanne Hyppolite, curator of record for foodways at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. ("Food: The Grande Dame of Southern Cooking" by Taryn White, *Smithsonian*, June 2023. Edna Regina Lewis led an extraordinary life, and Taryn White's comprehensive article is accompanied by wonderful photos.)

♦ "The songways of my past." (A creative use about memory, childhood, and songs. Every individual and generation has memories of songs: "I've got a girl in Kalamazoo.")

♦ "But as we stand here together, my friends and relatives, we know that the federal government failed. [Applause, whoops.] It failed to annihilate our languages, our traditions, our lifeways, it failed to destroy us because we persevered." (Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.)

\*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ "While the trio of fresh *colorways* [italics mine]—Heathered Oatmeal, Army Green and Spruce Green—won't hit the site until Thursday, shoppers can still snatch up 'snatched' styles, including the wear-with-anything beige Cotton Rib Tank (\$36) seen on Cardi." ("Cardi B is 'sexy' and 'snatched' in Kim Kardashian's new Skims campaign" by Hannah Southwick, *New York Post*, Oct. 16.2023. "Page Six may be compensated and/or receive an affiliate commission if you buy through our links." An online commenter posted about the "WAP" star, "That fat tattooed dog was never sexy," and another posted, "Women, please protect your kids from these two idiots you call celebrities...")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Ways" refers to beliefs, customs, traditions. The compiler of this work has analogized this to "byways."

♦ see also *line* (*songline*, etc.)

## wayside (fall by the wayside, etc.)

fallen by the wayside

the US has ~ (competitive weightlifting)

pushed to the wayside

free speech has been ~ for political correctness (campus)

went (quickly) by the wayside

the idea ~ by the onslaught of events

## weak (fragile)

fragile and weak

the caretaker government is ~

## weak-minded (adjective)

weak-minded man

he was a ~

## wealth (amount)

wealth of (forensic) evidence

police have a ~

wealth of experience

he's bringing a ~ into the classroom

wealth of (allosaurus) fossils

the area is known for its ~ (Jurassic Monument in Utah)

wealth of information

the flight data recorder provided a ~ (crash)

wealth of (company) information

the ~ held by the government

wealth of materials

he uncovered a ~ (sunken boat)

wealth of (educational) options

giving parents a ~

wealth of talent

the team has a ~

wealth of titles

producing a ~ (publishing houses)

wealth of information, perspective, opportunities

we provide you with a ~ (ad for Fidelity Wealth)

## wean (verb)

wean itself off coal

the US cannot ~ quickly

wean countries off coal

the European Commission seeks to ~

wean yourself off cigarettes

it's a bad idea to ~ with smokeless tobacco

wean himself off heroin

he was able to ~ with the help of his family

wean the nation off fossil fuels

we must ~

wean ourselves off of fossil fuels

we must ~ (energy independence)

wean itself from ad revenues

the magazine wants to ~ (vs. subscriptions, online fees)

wean the US from (messy and expensive) heating oil

while federal officials try to ~, Main remains addicted

wean the planet from the burning

we must ~ of fossil fuels

## weapon (help)

weapons of the weak

~ include foot-dragging and feigned ignorance

weapon in the arsenal

the googly is a major ~ of a leg spin bowler

weapon in the (COVID) fight

it is the third ~ (third vaccine approved)

weapon in solving

seamless teamwork can be a potent ~ disease outbreaks

weapon against prejudice

black and gay comedians have wielded jokes as a ~

potent weapon

teamwork can be a ~ in solving disease outbreaks

make it a weapon

I'm always trying to ~ (her service game / Ashleigh Barty)

♦ "So it was that in these three days at Breslau this Koch put a sword Excalibur into the hands of men, with which to begin the fight against their enemies the microbes, their fight against lurking death; so it was that he began to change the whole business of doctors from a foolish hocus-pocus with pills and leeches into an intelligent fight where science instead of superstition was the weapon." (*Microbe Hunters* by Paul De Kruif. The 34-year-old Koch exhibited the anthrax bacillus at the university.)

## weapon (political weapon, etc.)

political weapon

Sadat gained diplomatic leverage using oil as a ~ (1973)

denies using energy as a weapon

the Kremlin ~ (Moldova)

become weapons

memes ~ in Ukraine-Russia conflict

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Words and terms can certainly be used as weapons. See "How 'Phobic' Became a Weapon in the Identity Wars" by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 26, 2016. It's a brilliant article.

## weapon (secret weapon)

secret weapon of diplomacy

cultural exchanges are the ~

secret weapon for Nokia

better developer tools could be a ~

secret weapon in fighting

women are his ~ lawlessness

campaign's secret weapon

she has been the ~ (politician's wife)

group's secret weapon

technology has been the group's ~

virus's secret weapon

evolution is a ~

unleashed a secret weapon

supporters of reform have ~ (clerical support)

♦ "Say hello to your holiday shopping secret weapon. Price comparison gives power to find the best deals, without any of the hassle. Microsoft Edge is not only the best browser for shopping, it brings you the best of the web every day."

## weapon of mass destruction (WMD)

weapon of mass destruction

this is a ~ (Pegasus spyware)

♦ "This is a weapon of mass destruction, surveillance is not just information-gathering, it is intimidation, and it inevitably shrinks the space for free expression and dissent." (Ronan Farrow about Pegasus spyware, etc.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ TBMs and CMs can deliver WMD / WME.

## weaponization (noun)

weaponization of social media

the ~ to influence elections and sow discord

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Weaponization: Metaphorical Ubiquity and the Contemporary Rejection of Politics" by Greggor Mattson, an associate professor of Sociology at Oberlin College, is the final word on this word and "metaphor emergence from coinage to conventionality."

## weaponize (verb)

weaponize children

the Democrats are happy to ~ (immigration)

weaponize the virus

they are trying to ~ politically (Democrats)

weaponizes Ukraine's drinking water

Putin ~ (2022 / Ukraine cut water to Crimea in 2014)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. The cartoon shows a host, bringing a heaping, over-the-top tray of apple crisp to his two guests. His wife is saying to two guests, "Charlie has weaponized apple crisp." (*The New Yorker*, October 24, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This means, "illegitimate politicization." Merriam-Webster dates this to 1957, and interestingly provides no synonyms. An obvious one is "politicize." Or "instrumentalize." And compare with *operationalize*: "The North's foreign and military policies *operationalize* those core precepts of state."

## weaponized

weaponized to round up

RICO was ~ groups of black men (gangs)

weaponized as a tool

the Eucharist is being ~ in political warfare (communion)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ What *can't* be weaponized? (See "Weaponization: Metaphorical Ubiquity and the Contemporary Rejection of Politics" by Greggor Mattson.)

## weariness (groups)

fear, anger and a weariness

Black Americans describe ~ about tragic killings...

sense of weariness

there's a ~ that people have to go through this (Blacks)

♦ "As protests continue around the country against systemic racism and police brutality, black Americans describe fear, anger and a weariness about tragic killings that are becoming all too familiar." (Being Black In America: 'We Have A Place In This World Too' by Maquita Peters, NPR, June 5, 2020.)

♦ see also *exhausted (groups)*, *exhausting (groups)*, *exhaustion (groups)*, *tired (groups)*

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Refers to nothing real.

## wear on (verb)

winter wears on

as the ~, he tries to act like everything is normal

week wore on

but as the ~...

1950s wore on  
as the ~...

## weary (feeling)

weary of England  
~, hungry for adventure, he found himself in Bratislava...

weary of war  
the public is ~ (US)

## weasel (weasel words, etc.)

weasel words  
this article contains ~, clarify or remove...

♦ "This article contains weasel words: vague phrasing that often accompanies biased or unverifiable information. Such statements should be clarified or removed. (From the Wikipedia article "Marginal Utility.")

♦ "Stella Assange said the 'co called assurances' were made up of 'weasel words.'" ("WikiLeaks founder facing pivotal moment in long fight to stay out of US court" by Brian Melley, AP (ABC News), May 19, 2024.)

♦ "After all, it was he who first publicly plunged the knife into Biden's back with a withering op-ed in the New York Times in which he demanded his presidential head on a plate." ("George Clooney's weasel words can't hide his wolf-like killing of Biden's career" by Piers Morgan, *The New York Post*, Sept. 2, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ See "Safire: 'Change' and Other Old Political Phrases," NPR, Morning Edition, April 10, 2008. At the very bottom of the article Safire has a section about 'weasel words.'

♦ The weasel is a wonderful animal and in no way deserves its bad reputation in the language.

## weasel (verb)

weaseled its way into cosplay and selfie culture  
it has also ~ (the Ahegao face)

weasel in on the action  
businesses are trying to ~, too ("promposals")

weasel out of blame  
he tried to ~ by saying...

## weasel (military)

weasel  
an elite team called Saumur, ~ (tunnel combat)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "An elite team called Samur, 'weasel' in Hebrew, has been trained for tunnel combat."

## weather (groups / verb)

'weather' the body  
how poverty and racism ~ (Fresh Air's Dave Davies)

weathers the body  
being Black ~  
the lived experience of being Black in America ~

weather the effects  
Black students who ~ of living on white campuses

♦ "The trauma that sometimes comes with being a black student at predominately white institutions is tangible. In their 2015 paper, 'Reimagining Critical Race Theory in Education: Mental Health, Healing and the Pathway to Liberatory Praxis,' Ebony O. McGee, a

professor at Vanderbilt University, and David Stovall, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, found that black college students who weather the effects of studying and living on predominately white campuses suffer from a 'physical and mental wear-and-tear that contributes to a host of psychological and physical ailments.'" ("For Black College Prospects, Belonging and Safety Often Top Ivy Prestige" by Denene Millner, NPR, Code Switch, Opinion, February 26, 2017.)

♦ "[I]f you're Black, even if you are middle class, there is something about the lived experience of being Black in America that weathers the body. And this is the theory of Dr. Arline Geronimus from the University of Michigan. And she believes that the high-effort coping of dealing with racism in America makes the body prematurely aged. And so if your body is older, then you're more susceptible to every kind of health problem." Linda Villarosa, from "How Systemic Racism Continues To Determine Black Health and Wealth In Chicago," NPR, Fresh Air (with Terry Gross), May 6, 2021.)

♦ "Black Americans 'live sicker and die quicker.'"

♦ see also *weathered (groups)*, *weathering (groups)*

## weather (survive)

weather the (15-month) closure  
she was able to ~ with the help of grants (pandemic)

weather their (financial) crisis  
the extra income allowed them to ~

weathered the storm  
he ~ until the 11th round (Plant vs. Saul "Canelo" Alvarez)  
Wilder ~ and survived the storm (but lost to Joseph Parker)

weather this (economic) storm  
cities need help to ~

weathered (all sorts of) storms  
the Catholic Church has ~ across the centuries

## weather (environment)

regulatory weather  
there has been a change in the ~ (*The Economist*)

change in the (regulatory) weather  
there has been a ~ (*The Economist*)

weather had changed  
but this week the ~ (*Financial Times* / crypto down)

## weathered (groups)

weathered  
we are ~, which is a kind of premature aging... (Blacks)

weathered at younger ages  
African Americans are more likely to be ~

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ "They looked weathered, like they'd been exposed to the elements." (Exploited undocumented Chinese field hands in New Mexico.)

♦ see also *weather (groups / verb)*, *weathering (groups)*

## weathering (groups)

weathering  
black Americans experience a phenomenon known as "~"

weathering effect  
racism and experiencing racism contributes to this ~



## idea of weathering

the other thing is the ~ (journalist Linda Villarosa)

♦ "Geronimus coined a term for this chronic stress—she calls it 'weathering.'" (Arlene Geronimus, University of Michigan.)

♦ "Clearly racism and experiencing racism, that also contributes to this kind of weather effect. You're in fight-or-flight mode. And so that has a real significant biological effect that contributes to premature aging." (Joseph Betancourt of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Heard on "Death Rate Among Black Americans Declines, Especially For Elderly People," NPR, All Things Considered (with Rob Stein), May 2, 2017.)

♦ "Author Linda Villarosa has been writing about the racial disparities in health outcomes for decades and recently covered the topic for the New York Times' 1619 Project. She says that while she used to think poverty was to blame for Black Americans' health problems, she's now convinced that bias in the health care system and the 'wearing' affect (sic) of living in a racist society are taking a serious toll on African Americans." ("1619 Project" journalist lays bare why Black Americans 'live sicker and die quicker,'" NPR, Fresh Air (with Dave Davies), June 14, 2022.)

♦ "The other thing is the idea of weathering. So weathering is the idea that fighting against discrimination day in, day out ages you prematurely. Each time an incident happens, it fires up the systems of your body, including your blood pressure, your cortisol, your stress hormones and even your pulse rate. So if that happens over and over and over, as it does in the case of people who are Black in this country, it weathers the body the way a storm might weather a home—knocks the shutters off, chips the paint. If we are weathered, which is a kind of premature aging, then it's not a shock why we would have worse COVID outcomes at younger ages." (The journalist Linda Villarosa, heard on "How COVID exposed racial disparities in all aspects of the healthcare system," NPR, All Things Considered (with Karen Grigsby Bates), June 20, 2022.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "The great actor James Earl Jones has died at the age of 93."

♦ "The Reverend Cecil Murray passed away last week at the age of 94."

♦ "Christine King Farris, sister of Martin Luther King Jr., dies aged 95."

♦ "Harry Belafonte, a singer, actor and activist, has died at age 96." (The beloved American figure was a paragon of "style, class and charisma," and always was "his generous heart wide open." He was born in Harlem.)

♦ "Indiana Hunt-Martin died at the age of 98." ("Six Triple Eight: The battalion of black women erased from history" by Oprah Flash & Amy Johnston, BBC, July 5, 2023. The Google query, "How many Americans served in World War II?" returns the answer, "16 million.")

♦ "Tuskegee Airman Raymond Cassagnol dies at 102."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ NPR's Scott Simon: Mr. Teasley, may I ask how old you are? / Mr. Ron "Schoolboy" Teasley: Ninety-six years old. / Scott Simon: Boy, you sound good!

♦ "Black don't crack." (Black people look younger than their age.)

♦ see also *weather* (groups / verb), *weathered* (groups)

## weathervane (and weather vane)

weather vane of the hip-hop world

the show, a longtime ~, now attracts politicians (*The Breakfast Club*)

weathervane for what

Biden is a ~ the center of the left is (politics)

weathervane for where

Biden is a ~ the Democratic center is going

weathervane for the (American) mood

he's a ~ (ESPN's Pat McAfee)

weathervane-patriots

the rooms were jammed with Tories and ~ (1777)

political weathervane

she's a ~, shifting with the winds

♦ "A couple of weeks ago, while delivering a highly climactic prediction that Texas A. & M. would win its matchup against Notre Dame—Notre Dame ended up winning—McAfee ripped off his shirt to reveal his reddish barrel of a torso. He called out a 'big-ass American flag' in the crowd, hyping himself and everybody else up. There at the desk, soaking in the cheers, making the guys in the suits seem ancient, he looked like a weathervane for the American mood." ("The football Bro: Pat McAfee brings a casual new style to ESPN" by Vinson Cunningham, *The New Yorker*, September 23, 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." ("Subterranean Homesick Blues" by Bob Dylan.)

## weave (create)

weave this story

the state is trying to ~ of his guilt based on...

weaves a tale

she ~ of first contact (author)

## weave (a trail can weave, etc.)

trail weaved

the ~ downhill... (mountain biking)

## weave (move)

weaves in and out of (Indian) stereotypes

he ~ (Native American writer)

weave to his right

Tyson would take a short step and ~ (the boxer)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Donald Trump was widely criticised for "weaving" between ideas. It was a criticism that he gleefully accepted. The 2024 U.S. presidential election.

## weave (mixture)

weave of information

the Web's tangled ~ and misinformation (hoaxes)

tangled weave

the Web's ~ of information and misinformation

## weave together (verb)

weave together what

I wanted to ~ life is like in the city (a book)

## web (entanglement)

web of lies

he has created and spread a ~ about the election (politics)

web of lawsuits

a thick ~

web of bribery

a ~, kickbacks, theft and conspiracy (war contracts)

thick web

a ~ of lawsuits

caught up in a web  
~ of drug addiction and crime

twisted into a web  
his death has been ~ of disinformation and paranoia

## web (situation)

web of (drug) addiction and crime  
caught up in a ~

## web (spider web and cobweb, etc.)

cobweb of crevasses  
he was enmeshed in a ~ and fogbound (Antarctica)

spiderweb of canals  
between the ponds is a ~ (a beaver complex)

spider web of (mountain biking) trails  
there is a ~ (in a state park)

spider-web cracks  
if there are ~ leading from the bolt hole... (climbing)

♦ "I made two turns and the entire slope spider-webbed is what we call it, just kind of cracked all the way around me, and the entire slope essentially just drops out from underneath you. Your first instinct is to try to ride it out and try to ski out of it, you know. I thought I was going to make it, and then..." (Jimmy Chin. From "The Beast Born Of Snow: What It Feels Like In The Jaws Of An Avalanche" by Peter Breslow, NPR, Weekend Edition Saturday, July 3, 2016. A super listen!)

## web (spin a web)

spinning a web  
they are accused of ~ of lies (murder)

♦ "...Lady Macbeth's arachnid schemes."

## wedded

wedded to the past  
FitzRoy was a pioneer, but he was also ~

## wedding (war)

wedding  
is the ~ going to be soon (major battles)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "They drank to the success of their common task. Then, as always happens, they discovered they had friends in common from their days at military school or the Academy. They went on to talk about their superior officers, about how cold and unpleasant the steppes were in autumn. / 'Well,' said Lopatin. 'Is the wedding going to be soon?' / 'It won't be long,' said Novikov. / 'There's sure to be a wedding if there are Katyushas around,' said Magid." (*Life And Fate* by Vasily Grossman, translated by Robert Chandler, New York Review Books. On the eve of the offensive that would encircle Von Paulus' Army at Stalingrad.)

♦ see also *bride (war)*

## wedge (edge of the wedge)

thin edge of the wedge  
politicians fear this is the ~ (sending a few troops)

## wedge (drive a wedge, etc.)

wedge issue  
it's becoming a major ~ among Democrats (Israel)  
they have turned it into a very effective ~ (politics)

drive a wedge between Muslims, Christians  
a sinister attempt to ~

♦ A British negotiator being interviewed on NPR about sanctions against a country used the verb *wedge-drive*: "They will see this an opportunity to wedge-drive between the EU and the United States' allies in Europe."

## wedged

wedged between the DRC and Republic of Congo  
Cabinda is ~ (enclave of Angola)

wedged between Switzerland and Austria  
Liechtenstein, ~

wedged between Ukraine and Romania  
Moldova is ~

wedged between the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman  
the UAE, ~

## weed (in the weeds)

deep in the weeds  
we are ~ of Machiavellian machinations (politics)

get in the weeds  
it's not my job to ~ (lack of knowledge of details)

get into the weeds  
streaming video is available for anyone who wants to ~

get (more) into the weeds  
we can get ~ during the question-answer period

got into the weeds  
this was the shocking fact when I ~ on it (sports issue)

dive into the weeds  
he would ~ and explore the most detailed elements

\*\*\* analysis

♦ In *Metaphors We Live By*, Lakoff and Johnson mention a fascinating metaphor: *mundane reality is down*. The example they give is "down to earth." Language that might illustrate this metaphor, besides *earthiness*, could include *grassroots*; a *worm's eye view*; "she has *stars in her eyes*" versus the mature girl who has *both feet on the ground*; journalists *on the ground*; the teacher who spent 34 years *in the trenches*, actually teaching; the leader with a willingness to *dive into the weeds* to explore detailed elements; people from *all walks of life*, *earth-bound* (reality), etc.

## weed out (verb)

weed out bad products  
her agent helps ~ (a social-media influencer)

weed out the rebels  
we will ~, but they are dug in

weed out recruits  
Greek organizations use hazing rituals to ~

weed out the slackers  
it's time to ~ who aren't pulling their weight

weeds out (struggling) soldiers  
the course ~ (Green Berets)

## weigh (analyze)

weigh the merits against the risks

we ~ (the press and the publishing of secrets)

weighed whether

parents ~ to send their kids to school or... (sniper)

weigh the benefits

commanders must ~ of a rigid versus a flexible plan

weighing bids

the Coast Guard is ~ from three companies (for boats)

weigh the credibility

they must ~ of various threats (police)

weigh all the evidence

a decision-maker will ~

weigh his fate

it will be up to jurors to ~

weigh the merits

we ~ of publishing against the risks (press / secrets)

weighing the offer

she is ~ (of employment)

weigh my options

I have to ~

weighed plans

Rumsfeld ~ to deploy up to 200,000 troops in the Gulf

weighed the price

weary but optimistic, he ~ of success (a rapper)

weighs response

India ~ after Kashmir attack

weigh the risks

your doctor can help you ~ and potential benefits

weigh the value

registrars must ~ of transfer credits

weigh the pros and cons

you must ~ (job offers)

weighed the pros and cons

~ of joining in the condemnation

weigh the successes and inadequacies

they ~ of the criminal-justice-dominated approach

## weigh (weigh heavily)

weighed heavily

Beijing's opposition ~

weighs heavily on the city

the bank's decline ~

weighing heavily on their conscience

the events must be ~ (a hit and run)

weighed heavily on my mind

those experiences ~ (wildfires)

the decision ~

weighed heavily on her mind

the bombings ~ (Northern Ireland)

weighing (quite) heavily on the players

the responsibility was ~

## weigh (oppress)

weigh (down) on me

it's all starting to ~ (pressure)

weighs on you

it ~ like a ton of bricks (harassment / gay students)

weighed on my conscience

it ~ (terrorism)

weigh on your conscience

if you have any sense of decency it will ~ so much (terror)

weighing on her mind

that's still ~ as she sits... (no classes for adjunct)

let grief weigh him down

he didn't ~

## weighed down

weighed down by debts and deficits

the nation is ~

## weigh in (verb)

weighing in

now his mother is ~ (expressing her opinion)

weigh in on (major strategic) decisions

he will still ~ (executive takes sick leave)

weighing in on the issue

women are ~

weigh in (more heavily) on the issue

Congress has begun to ~ of...

weighed in on the (newspaper's) Web site

hundreds of readers ~

weighed in with concerns

groups ~ about the FBI's use of...

weighed in with a national study

JAMA ~ asserting that...

weighed in against the project

Sen. Barbara Boxer ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Boxers weigh in before a fight.

## weight (under the weight)

under the weight of so many laws

the people are ~

caved in under the weight

the regime finally ~ of its impossible contradictions

\*\*\* There is no question that donkeys are damnably treated...

♦ "There is no question that the donkeys are damnably treated... / This kind of thing makes one's blood boil, whereas—on the whole—the plight of the human beings does not. I am not commenting, merely pointing to a fact. People with brown skins are next door to invisible. Anyone can be sorry for the donkey with its galled back, but it is generally owing to some kind of accident if one even notices the old woman under her load of sticks." ("Marrakech" by George Orwell, *New Writing*, Christmas 1939.)

♦ "A woman without a donkey is a donkey herself." (Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. Ethiopian women are extraordinarily fond of their donkeys.)

## weight (weight on one's shoulder)

see *shoulder* (*weight on one's shoulder, etc.*)

## weight (pull one's weight)

pulling their weight

we need to weed out the slackers who aren't ~

\*\*\* the Egyptian pyramids...

♦ Were the blocks of stones that comprise the great pyramids pulled or lifted or floated into place? It's an enduring mystery. However it was done, it must have entailed great knowledge and effort.

## weight (put / throw one's weight behind something)

throw its weight behind the (democracy) movement  
the US did not ~ (diplomacy)

throwing their weight behind the opposition  
they are ~ (an organization)

put all of their weight behind trying  
the government ~ to prevent us from publishing

## weight (throw one's weight around, etc.)

throw his weight around  
he was not afraid to ~ (a boxing promoter)

## weight (punch above one's weight, etc.)

punches above its weight  
Hungary ~ in math, it has produced many mathematicians

fight above our weight  
we're going to have to ~ (politics)

punch above our weight  
we are a small nation but we ~ (Wales at Euro 2020)

punching (way) above their weight  
Liverpool ~ ever since Klopp arrived

punches above its weight in math  
Hungary ~, it has produced many mathematicians

## weight (effect)

weight of the law  
he needs to feel the full ~ (a school shooter)

feel the weight  
they ~ every day (White House scandal)

cope with the weight  
she is still learning to ~ of international celebrity (athlete)

## weight (substance)

weight of the data  
the ~ would suggest that... (inconsistent studies)

weight of the tragedy  
as the full ~ fell over the neighborhood (AIDS)

weight with listeners  
her apology didn't carry much ~ (a singer)

weight and attention  
these fears are given too much ~ (of AI)

full weight  
as the ~ of the tragedy fell over the neighborhood (AIDS)

great weight  
his words and opinions carry ~

moral weight  
his being a Catholic helped give ~ to his speech

carry weight  
such recommendations do ~ (a government taskforce)

carry (much) weight  
her apology didn't ~ with listeners (a singer)

gives more weight  
the ranking system ~ to selectivity than efficacy

♦ "[About the length of the movie], it's about the weight of the subject, it deserves nothing less. This couldn't be an hour-and-a-half movie." (The film director Steve McQueen about his film, *Occupied City*. It is 4 hours 22 minutes long with a 15-minute intermission. This will, no doubt, be a "bridge too far" for the TikTok generation.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Cognitive linguists have conducted experiments based on the idea that the actual thickness and weight of something, like a paper file, can influence people's attitudes about the importance of a person.

## weighted

weighted variables  
his methodology relies on 7 ~ (college rankings)

weighted equally  
the three criteria were all ~ (a rating survey)

## weighty (substance)

weighty decision  
it was a ~  
what to do was a ~ (war)

weighty issue  
Congress has taken up a series of ~s

weighty step  
renouncing one's citizenship is a ~

weighty topic  
she writes about ~s

weighty (literary) works  
he was known for filming ~ (Joseph Strick)

## welcome (welcome news, etc.)

### welcome news

the new economic data is ~

### not welcome

but the negative publicity was ~

\*\*\* some rando named Millie on TikTok

♦ "It was the hardest thing to shake when I spent time in Australia, and somebody would say, 'thank you,' and I would say, 'Yep! Oh—uh, I mean, 'you're welcome!' Because to me, it's kind of rude—like, it's not rude, but saying 'yep' and 'sure' is the equivalent of saying 'no problem,' and that is more polite in America than saying 'you're welcome.'" (Some random person named Millie on TikTok.)

## welcome (verb)

### welcomed Disney with open arms

Orlando and Florida ~ (Magic Kingdom)

### welcomes change

the Democratic Party ~, not as an enemy but as an ally

### welcomed the Confucius Institute

many universities have ~ with open arms

### welcome an investigation

we ~

### welcome the world

Paris will ~ this summer (2024 Summer Olympics)

### happy to welcome

local companies have been ~ whoever signs up (Everest)

♦ "The brain really welcomes multiple languages." (According to Betty Gladstone, a Blackfeet-language advocate.)

♦ "Paris will welcome the world this summer." (The 2024 Summer Olympics. To include drag queens doing a tableaux of "The Last Supper" during the opening ceremonies!)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ How I miss that wonderful greeting, "*Ahlan wasahlan*."

## welcome (noun)

### wore out his welcome

the talented but troubled diva ~ (NFL football player)

## welcome (safe and welcome / groups)

### welcome, included and seen

people should feel ~

### welcome here

gender diversity is ~ (Twitter)

### safe and welcome

it was important to create a space where we felt ~

♦ "The signs on the restroom said, "Gender diversity is welcome here." (Twitter HQ toilets.)

## welcomed (groups)

### represented, welcomed and accepted

fostering a culture where people are ~

## welcoming (groups)

### welcoming to Black people

projects that make the outdoors more ~

### welcoming to our voices

the power structure is not ~ (Tiffany Cross / ex-MSNBC)

### welcoming environment

issues that make NPR a less than ~ for people of Color

### welcoming place

a more ~ for others who look like them (music industry)

### less welcoming

this is a bill that makes our state a ~ state (for Trans)

### safe and welcoming

make all Harry Potter fan spaces ~ for everyone (Gayly)

### safe, inclusive, respectful, and welcoming

create psychologically ~ environments (EDI)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ "It was such an unwelcoming place for them." (Women comedians back in the day.)

\*\*\* jumping on the "welcoming" bandwagon...

♦ "I believe if players are happy, if they feel welcome, if they feel joy when they go on the court, they're going to be a much better version of themselves." (Coach Mark Madsen, about accepting the job of coach of the men's basketball team at the University of Berkeley. His team has a 3-29 record, a 38-87 record with its previous coach, 6 consecutive losing seasons, and a 16-game losing streak. As the great boxing promoter Don King said, "Only in America!")

♦ see also *friendly* (*queer-friendly*, etc.)

## welcoming (other)

### welcoming place

Antarctica is not a ~

## welfare (mental, etc.)

### welfare check

she was found dead after officers conducted a ~ (suicide)

the ~ may be connected to another death (murder)

officers entered the home for a ~ (dismembered body)

she was found brutally slain at her mobile home during a ~

♦ "A jury acquitted a former Texas police officer of criminally negligent homicide Monday after a gunshot meant for a menacing dog instead killed a woman whose welfare he had been sent to check..." ("Ex-North Texas officer acquitted of crime in woman's death," AP, August 29, 2022.)

\*\*\* "Effects of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina..."

♦ Hurricane Helene hit Asheville, cutting off almost all communication with the outside world. A resident of an apartment complex felt dread when he met two officials performing a "welfare" check on a buddy. He feared the worst. Could it be his buddy was suicidal, or dead in the flood waters? Hadn't he just seen his buddy a few days earlier, hale and hearty and cheerful and positive and healthy? A day later, he was overjoyed to see his buddy, returning home from work. He mentioned the two officials, and his buddy snorted and said, "Yeah, that was my sister. She's an idiot."

♦ see also *mental wellbeing* (and *mental well-being*), *mental health* (noun), *mental wellness* (noun), *self-care* (and *self care*), *wellbeing* (noun), *wellness* (noun)

## well (poison the well)

### poison the well of information

establish a false persona, then ~ (Facebook)

poison the well for bipartisanship  
if he goes that route, he could ~ (politics)

poison the well for cooperation and bipartisan  
progress  
that would really ~ (rules change in Senate / politics)

well was poisoned  
the ~ between them even before... (bad relations)  
from that point on the ~ (prosecutorial misconduct)

\*\*\* Yet another humanitarian relief effort goes awry...

♦ Perhaps the worst mass poisoning of a population in history has taken place in Bangladesh. Around 25 million people have been exposed to arsenic through runoff from agriculture and industry into man-made ponds and the water table. Ironically, many of the contaminated ponds and boreholes were dug with the help of international relief organizations to protect villagers from unclear water.

## well (resemblance)

inkwell  
he dipped his quill into the ~...

tree well  
a snowboarder is stuck upside down in a ~  
♦ "A snowboarder is stuck upside down in a tree well." (A remarkable video, showing the skier Francis Zuber saving a snowboarder from asphyxiation. Super!)

## well (source)

well (of training and experience) to draw from  
some officers have a ~ (school shootings)

well of outrage  
the ~ is bottomless (fundamentalists)

well of patience  
my ~ has run dry

well of resistance  
there is still a deep ~ to a woman president

well of (intergenerational) trauma  
*Molly* forces its reader to look deeply into the ~

well of (wifely) goodwill and loyalty  
her ~, which had overflowed for so long, was drained dry

well of grievance and skepticism  
he tapped into the ~ (politics)

content well  
everybody is just dipping their bucket into this ~ (media)

deep well  
there is still a ~ of resistance to a woman president  
he has a ~ of institutional knowledge (foreign policy)

well (of outrage) is bottomless  
the ~ (fundamentalists)

well (of patience) has run dry  
my ~

well that never runs dry  
it is the ~ (excitement for heavyweight boxing division)

dipping their bucket into this (content) well  
everybody is just ~ every day (athlete interviews)

going back to the well  
Kelsey Grammer and company are ~ (*Frasier* reboot)

tapped into the well  
he ~ of grievance and skepticism (politics)

look (deeply) into the well  
*Molly* forces its reader to ~ of intergenerational trauma

♦ "The Well was the world's first online community." (The Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link / 1985.)

♦ "He was just a kind of wellhead for all this emotion and burgeoning sexuality as America loosened up after the Second World War." (Author Adam Victor about Elvis Presley.)

♦ "I had this huge aquifer underneath of stories that I wanted to tell and I stuck a pipe down in there and everything just gushed out. There's still a lot of it, but there's not as much now." (Stephen King: *The Rolling Stone Interview*.)

♦ "So, I mean, there was a deep well of people I was drawing on for this thing, even unconsciously." (The actor Paul Giamatti about his performance in the 2023 film *The Holdovers*.)

♦ "Finally, has the well run dry for South Africa? They were exhausted against England and didn't have any energy but by the skin of their teeth they found something in the scrum to pull off the win. Can they do it again? It'll be absolutely fascinating." (Excitement about the 2023 Rugby World Cup final.)

♦ "Why is this epic poem a well we keep returning to?" (Dante's *Divine Comedy*, particularly *The Inferno*. Translations, interest, etc.)

\*\*\* *The Travels of M. Caillie in Central Africa...*

♦ "60 feet in depth; the water brackish, unwholesome, abundant." "1 foot; water brackish." "3 or 4 feet; water brackish and abundant." "Wells sometimes dry." "7 or 8 feet; water very salt and bad." "7 or 8 feet; water muddy, salt, but not bad." "4 feet; water sweet, but in small quantity." "Excellent water." "Shallow." "Tolerably good water." "4 or 5 feet; water very salt and bad." "7 or 8 feet; water clear and delicious." "From 20 to 25 feet; water good." "The water is taken up by hand; it is abundant and good." ("Depth of the wells, and quality of the water. *Geographical Remarks and Inquiries Concerning the Travels of M. Caillie in Central Africa*, by M. Jomard, Third part of the Travels. These are wells M. Caillie used on his trip from Timbuctoo to Morocco.)

♦ see also *tap into* (verb)

## well (health)

get well  
we're sorry this happened, ~ soon (Treaty Oak in Austin)

♦ In 1989, Paul Stedman Cullen tried to kill the Treaty Oak in Austin, Texas. Thousands of kids addressed letters to the Treaty Oak, hoping it would get well.

## well (filler)

Well  
~, researchers at the CDC...

Well, actually  
see *actually* (contempo-speak)

Well, I mean  
see *I mean* (filler)

Well, I mean, obviously  
see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

Well, I think  
see *I think* (filler)



Well, I don't know. Maybe  
see *maybe* (*contempo-speak*)

well, you know  
see *you know* (*filler*)

Absolutely. Well  
~, I mean, what we need to do is to...  
~, game on...

absolutely...well  
it was ~, electrifying...

I mean, well  
Yeah, ~, that's the idea...

I think, well  
and so, for me, ~, we were talking about...  
~, you know, I kind of fell into that trap also

right, well  
~, it means that...

Sure, well  
~, there's always been a connection between... (NPR)

♦ "And when I look back, I think, well, you know, I kind of fell into that trap also."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Linguist John McWhorter's analysis of "well" is interesting, as always. "Well acknowledges what someone has said (i.e., what they think) while nicely venturing an additive or correction." In his FACE typology of MPMs (modal pragmatic markers), he considers it to represent "Acknowledgment: I Hear You." (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 1, "The Faces of English: Words Get Personal.")

## well-being (status)

Boeing's well-being  
Renton is very dependent on ~ (Washington State)

## wellbeing (noun)

well-being  
our focus was on his ~... (self-harming trans son)  
~ is a key priority (the CIA)

wellbeing  
putting you in control to improve your ~ (Ka'Chava ad)

wellbeing at work  
Dr. Jim Harter shares the key practices that improve ~

Well Being In Color  
"~, " a peer mental health program for students of color

wellbeing of players  
we forget about the ~ (Van Dijk on criticism of teammate)

wellbeing challenges  
he will not compete following some ~ (athlete sent home)

well-being check  
the incident, labeled ~... (family did not press charges)

Wellbeing Officer  
"The Rise Of The Chief ~" (by Colleen Reilly / Forbes)

wellbeing office  
the CIA just appointed a ~ (Jennifer Posa)

Well Being Trust  
psychologist Ben Miller, President of ~

wellbeing, motivation and job satisfaction  
burnout, stress and poorer levels of ~

comprehensive wellbeing  
~ (mental, emotional, physical, financial, professional)

Linguistic Well-Being  
Racism and ~ in ELT (TESOL 2023 convention)

mental wellbeing  
see *mental wellbeing* (*and mental well-being*)

psychological well-being  
nature benefits our ~ (Audubon Society)

sexual wellbeing  
STI testing is part of ~ (public health / syphilis)  
her ~ brand (influencer Leeza Mangaldas)

sense of well-being  
mindfulness can enhance our connection to nature and ~

health and wellbeing  
her dedication to ~ (Belle Gibson / *The Whole Pantry*)  
I can't jeopardize my ~ (Simone Biles)  
exercise is important for general ~  
Liz Lagone, head of ~ for Meta... (Molly Russell inquest)

mental health and well-being  
full-time streamers must focus on their ~ (Twitch, etc.)

mental health and wellbeing  
Sciver pulls out of India series to 'focus on ~' (cricket)

self and wellbeing  
~ / How I found the special joy of nature in cities

peace, health and well-being  
~ in exchange for our time, money, and attention (a critic)

wealth, family life, charity, and well-being  
*abundance*, a roomy word that includes ~ (motivational)

Immersive Technology, and Well being  
I am a Ph.D. focusing on Digital Transformation, ~

welfare and wellbeing  
children's ~

concern over her well-being  
Britney Spears is fed up with the ~

assess his well-being  
lack of consular access means we can't ~ (jailed abroad)

privilege our own well-being  
self-care rhetoric makes us ~ above all else

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ "I remain unconvinced that the Metropolitan Police is consistently considering children's welfare and wellbeing." (Dame Rachel de Souza, England's children commissioner, about the 650 strip-searches of students in London by police from 2018 to 2020. 95%

were boys, and 58% of those were black boys. 53% of children who were strip-searched were released without further action.)

♦ “We are pleased that Ja is taking accountability and prioritizing his well-being.” (Nike, about NBA player Ja Morant, who was suspended 25 games for flashing a gun in a video, his second offense in a month. Nike will continue to see the Ja 1 shoe line.)

### \*\*\* jumping on the “wellbeing” bandwagon...

♦ “We also need to shift how we think about mental health—away from crises and toward mental well-being. / Business leaders have a tremendous role to play here...” (“Opinion: CVS Health CEO: It’s time for business leaders to get serious about mental health” by Karen S. Lynch, Sept 12, 2022.)

♦ “In these unprecedented times, comprehensive wellbeing (mental, emotional, physical, financial and professional) in the workplace is so important.” (From “The Rise Of The Chief Wellbeing Officer” by Colleen Reilly, contributor. “I cover positive change for individuals and organizations.”)

♦ “Motivational speakers often tell reps that the ultimate goal is ‘abundance,’ a roomy word that comprehends not just wealth but also family life, charity, and well-being. Knockers (door-to-door salesmen) remove impediments to abundance by continually taking up new disciplines. They pump weights, try intermittent fasting or paleo, adopt Wim Hof breathing techniques, and undertake 75 HARDs, seventy-five-day programs requiring twice-a-day workouts, abstention from alcohol, and immersion in self-help books. It you’re betting on yourself, then everything you do to make yourself faster and tougher and more focussed improves your odds.” (“The Hard Sell” by Tad Friend, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “Ready to get healthier? Meet Ka’Chava... Putting you in control of your nutrition. To improve your wellbeing...” (A YouTube advertisement.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “What are the motives of the people who are presenting all of these fad diets, all of these wellness trends, like what’s the story behind it.” (“New podcast examines wellness trends and beliefs, like what weight means about health,” NPR, All Things Considered, October 29, 2021.)

♦ “If my kids can pursue education for its mental pleasure, I believe, it will naturally increase their well-being... Maybe they won’t even need to spend their higher education learning banal tips to well-being (take naps, look at flowers, etc.) in courses called Positive Psychology (among Harvard’s most popular courses) or Psychology and the Good Life (the most popular course ever at Yale)...” (“How we loved to love pedagogical vapor” by Virginia Heffernan, *Wired*, January 2020. The “pedagogical vapor” she decries is STEM: science, technology, engineering, mathematics.)

### \*\*\* more conventional usage...

♦ “I have real concerns about her well-being.” (A pundit about the jogger Eliza Fletcher, who was violently kidnapped off the street in Memphis. She was eventually found murdered.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “To be sure, many observers, beginning with de Tocqueville, have remarked that Americans are singularly concerned with their individual well-being. Since the 1830s, when de Tocqueville visited America, the United States has been swept by a series of popular movements concerned with improving health variously through diet, exercise, moral purity, positive thinking, and religious faith. Today, were a revived de Tocqueville to observe Americans jogging in parks, shopping in health food stores, talking psychobabble, and reading endless guides to keeping fit, eating right, and staying healthy, he would probably conclude that, if anything, the obsession is now more pronounced.” (*The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr, winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction.)

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ see also *mental health* (noun), *mental wellness* (noun), *self-care* (and *self care*), *welfare* (mental, etc.), *wellness* (noun)

## wellness (status)

health and wellness

those pumps were so critical to the ~ of the experiment

## wellness (groups)

wellness

~ is just one more task that women have to excel at

~ is a way to make us feel bad

~ has no ultimate goal, just the idea of feeling better

wellness of mind

there is a path to ~

wellness blogger

the perfectly-curated Instagram profile of the ~

wellness call

an officer on a routine ~ approached a house...

wellness center

he filmed himself at a ~ doing drugs

Wellness Center

additional resources include the Student ~ (Dartmouth)

wellness center

Safeway’s ~s (*Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou)

wellness check

the officers came for a ~ (for Gabbie Hanna)

the dispatcher called for a high-priority ~ at the house

wellness company

she launched the ~ Stripes (Naomi Watts)

‘Wellness-Industrial Complex’

breaking down the ~ (the podcast *Maintenance Phase*)

wellness industrial complex

I refer to SoCal as the ~ (health food, pseudo-science, etc.)

wellness culture

our brains are pickled in ~ and “self-care” rhetoric (selfism)

Wellness Day

the university is having a ~ (suicides)

wellness days

colleges are offering ‘~’ to students (suicides)

wellness destination

“Why Iceland is the hottest ~ in the world”

wellness devices

savvy marketers position their products as “~” (sex toys)

wellness experts

she heard about mouth taping at night from multiple ~

wellness facility

Wendy Williams enters ~ to manage ‘overall health issues’

wellness grifters

there are a lot of ~ out there (“Lose body fat,” etc.)

“wellness” influencers

online ~ who peddle positivity for likes, clicks, and profit

wellness journey  
first, let's check in about where you are on your own ~

wellness narrative  
as the ~ toggles between self-improvement and self-acceptance... (*Vanity Fair*)

"wellness play"  
Burd was asked about Safeway's mysterious ~ (Theranos)

wellness retreat  
Becky leads workshops at a popular New England ~

wellness routine  
mouth taping is a positive addition to her ~ (during sleep)

wellness scams  
the junk science behind ~ (Maintenance Phase podcast)

wellness (care) system  
we've got to shift to a ~ (depression / people of color)

*Wellness Trap*  
Christy Harrison, a journalist and author of *The ~*

wellness trend  
popular dietary advice and ~s  
podcast examines ~s and beliefs (what weight means, etc.)  
mouth taping, the viral ~... (at night)

wellness visionary  
self-professed "~" Lisa Odenweller (Kroma)

wellness and weight loss  
~, debunked and decoded (*Maintenance Phase* podcast)

wellness startups and apps  
the numerous ~

indulgent wellness  
it's more like ~ (The Ranch Hudson Valley)

mental wellness  
see *mental wellness* (noun)

sexual wellness  
Maude, the ~ website

beauty and wellness  
Marlene Lenthang is a freelance writer covering ~

health and wellness  
people are really concerned with ~

Health and Wellness  
Out ~ ("reduce sex partners to avoid monkeypox" / NBC)

health and wellness  
he won't run for re-election "to focus on ~" (politician)

health, wellness, and lifestyle  
she created the world's first ~ app (*The Whole Pantry*)

*Gospel of Wellness*  
*The ~: Gyms, Gurus, Goop and the False Promise of...*

## queen bee of wellness

Belle Gibson was the ~ (*The Whole Pantry*)

### \*\*\* various groups...

- ♦ "First, let's check in about where you are on your own wellness journey. When was the last time you had your vagina steamed?" ("Well, it was just the one time.")
  - ♦ "And here we get into questions of philosophy. My V-steam cost \$50, which is a lot to pay for sitting over hot vapor. Is your money well spent on this stuff? It depends on what you're looking for. It also depends on how much money you have and how you define wellness. Is a massage only supposed to feel good, or is it supposed to lead to a tangible state of bliss? Is it a pleasure of the now or an investment in tomorrow?" ("We Have Found a Cure! (Sort of...)" by Taffy Brodesser-Akner, *Outside Magazine*, 11/12/2022.)
  - ♦ "The officers came for a wellness check and I asked them if any of them wanted a hug and they all said they wouldn't like one." (Gabbie Hanna on TikTok, after some of her 7.5 million fans called the police, concerned about her mental state.)
  - ♦ "What to know about mouth taping, the viral wellness trend that has people taping their mouths shut at night" by Katie Kindelan, ABC, Nov. 7, 2022.)
  - ♦ "Davies-Balch is the president and CEO of BLACK Wellness and Prosperity Center, a nonprofit in Fresno that aims to help African American women and babies." ("These Black Moms Gave Birth Early. They Don't Want Their Experiences To Be Normal" by Annie Russell, NPR, July 02, 2021.)
  - ♦ "Two of the authors...teach puberty classes and co-founded an online puberty education hub called Girlology. The third, [Dr. Kathryn] Lowe, is a pediatrician who helps steer the AAP on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender health and wellness." ("A new puberty guide for kids aims to replace anxiety with self-confidence" by Pien Huang, NPR, April 23, 2022. The guide is called *You-ology: A Puberty Guide for Everybody*, and its aim is "to be more inclusive.")
  - ♦ "That's the biggest part about this work is returning tribal stewardship, but it's also about cultural lifeways, providing tribal workforce development opportunities. And all of that really underlines the concept of community healing and health and wellness for communities that have really been marginalized and pushed out of the places that they've been forever." (Megan Rocha, a member of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network leadership council and executive director of Resighini Rancheria, a tribe of Yurok people. From "California tribes reclaim 200 miles of coastline and will manage it using tradition" by Mallika Seshadri, Mallory Yu, Sacha Pfeiffer, NPR, All Things Considered, October 21, 2022. "Community healing and health and wellness for communities...")
  - ♦ "An officer on a routine wellness call approached a house with his gun drawn..." (Also referred to as a welfare check, as in "The welfare check at the lake may be connected to another death...")
  - ♦ "San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies responding to a request for a wellness check reached the area off Highway 395 outside the community of El Mirage around 8:15 p.m. Tuesday and found..." ("6 bodies are found at a remote Mojave Desert crossroads" by The Associated Press, NPR, January 24, 2024.)
- \*\*\* jumping on the "wellness" bandwagon...
- ♦ "Leveraging the cultural capital of barbershops to promote wellness." (trapmedicine.org / barberswithout borders. "Are you a barber interested in partnering with us?")
  - ♦ The Audubon Society and its magazine has jumped on the "health and wellness" bandwagon; what trendier way to maintain its relevance, particularly with young people? Especially when you're promoting birds, and not, say, a rave. In an article titled "The Nature Antidote" by Jill U. Adams (Winter, 2019), the following medical words appear: antidote; anxiety; depression; diabetes; doctor's advice; dose (doses of green space); heal; health; mental health; mindfulness; prescription (how people "fill prescriptions" i.e. visit green spaces); (medical) professionals; PTSD; public health; Rx (the nonprofit Park Rx America); stress; therapeutic; well-being; wellness... There is also practical advice on the way you must deal with minorities in nature.
  - ♦ "The wellness effort is part of a large rebrand, designed to court Gen Z hires [into the CIA]." (The Talk of the Town, Wellness Dept., "Safeguarding," *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2023.)

♦ “Our goal is to evaluate each case individually and help students regain the level of wellness required to return actively to the Dartmouth community.” (Diana Lawrence, a Dartmouth spokeswoman, about a student who had been involuntarily withdrawn after a suicide attempt and sent home, where she successfully committed suicide.)

### \*\*\* monetizing, commerce, biz, ads, merch, pods, books...

♦ “People are losing 67 pounds as they sleep by simply adding a pinch of this tropical ingredient to their glass of water before bed. Whistleblower scientist Doctor Yang confirmed for the first time ever that...” (The YouTube ad goes on and on and gets better and better!)

♦ “Primark Wellness hits stores with 80 curated “eco-conscious” products.” (Primark is a department store chain with many stores in the United Kingdom, with more stores being established on the continent. There is a Primark Store in Chicago. Among other things, Primark specializes in “fast fashion,” trendy clothes at astonishingly low prices.)

♦ “Want lifestyle and wellness news delivered to your inbox? Sign up here for Yahoo Life’s newsletter.”

♦ “Wellness, parenting, body image and more: Get to know the who behind the hoo with Yahoo Life’s newsletter.”

♦ “WonderMind will adopt a more approachable and comfortable tone, similar to that of entertainment and lifestyle content. The plan is to eventually expand into other forms of media, such as books, TV shows and movies.” (“Selena Gomez to launch new mental health platform, WonderMind” by Megan Stone, GMA, Culture, November 19, 2021. A link in the article leads to the following statement from Wondermind’s official Instagram statement: “[Funding] will be used to accelerate the building of Wondermind’s mental fitness ecosystem across our daily online content, CPG products, and original storytelling for all platforms.” A faux reporter on a street tells us, “Selena Gomez, out with a new single, she has a new show, and a new make-up line, is hoping to help others who are struggling...”

♦ “And when Dr. McClain dropped the final bombshell—video footage of the results he experienced after using the method on himself—it became clear that the discovery is nothing short of incredible, of course your individual results will vary.” (“How To: Repair Your Body,” a full page advertisement in the *Smithsonian*, December 2017. One cannot NOT immediately think of the Scarecrow from the Wizard of Oz, on receiving a diploma: “The sum of the square roots of any two sides of an isosceles triangle is equal to the square root of the remaining side.”)

♦ “Grant Cardone’s motto is to ‘10X yourself.’ But why cap it at ten? I like the idea of ‘InfinX.’ I’m a huge fan of mindfulness—and of coupling that with success... Call it religion, call it personal development, call it whatever...but I feel compelled to compete with the Tony Robbins to impact millions around the world, by teaching them to sell themselves on life! We’re building out a goal-setting life-management system with accountability that’s pretty dope. It’ll tell you, ‘Did I expand my life or not?’ and then deliver content into your app.” (Sam Taggart, a door-to-door salesman and hopeful dreamer with goals. From “The Hard Sell” by Tad Friend, *The New Yorker*, August 8, 2022.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Employers, which have long been nickel and diming workers to lower their costs, now have a new tactic to combat these growing costs. They call it ‘wellness.’ It involves growing surveillance, including lots of data pouring in from the Internet of Things—the Fitbits, Apple Watches, and other sensors that relay updates on how are bodies are functioning.” (*Weapons of Math Destruction* by the remarkable Cathy O’Neil.)

♦ *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou is instructive about “wellness.” Chapter 9 is entitled “The Wellness Play.” So much for “wellness centers.”

♦ “In Chicago, executives at Walgreens were astonished to learn of the scale of the test voidings. The pharmacy chain had been trying to get answers from Theranos about the impact on its customers for months. On June 12, 2016, it terminated the companies’ partnership and shut down all the wellness centers located in its stores.” (*Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou.)

♦ “Weed use is taking off as more states move to legalize it. And with all the buzz over medical marijuana, it’s starting to gain an aura of healthfulness. But there are some serious health risks associated with frequent use. One of the more troubling ones is the risk of having

a psychotic episode.” (“Daily Marijuana Use And Highly Potent Weed Linked To Psychosis” by Rhitu Chatterjee, NPR, Public Health, March 19, 2019.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “What are the motives of the people who are presenting all of these fad diets, all of these wellness trends, like what’s the story behind it.” (“New podcast examines wellness trends and beliefs, like what weight means about health,” NPR, All Things Considered, October 29, 2021.)

♦ “To be sure, many observers, beginning with de Tocqueville, have remarked that Americans are singularly concerned with their individual well-being. Since the 1830s, when de Tocqueville visited America, the United States has been swept by a series of popular movements concerned with improving health variously through diet, exercise, moral purity, positive thinking, and religious faith. Today, were a revived de Tocqueville to observe Americans jogging in parks, shopping in health food stores, talking psychobabble, and reading endless guides to keeping fit, eating right, and staying healthy, he would probably conclude that, if anything, the obsession is now more pronounced.” (*The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr, winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction.)

♦ What exactly is wellness? “Wellness” includes lifestyle; self-help; self-improvement; self-care; fad diets; detoxes (“re-sets”); alternative medicines; mental health (everything from happiness to suicide); physical health; spiritual wellness; wellness at work; corporate monitoring and surveillance to cut costs; personal safety (police wellness checks); drug addiction / substance abuse; unregulated supplements and vitamins; anti-aging creams; exercise programs; yoga; wellness books and magazines; pop celebrities like Selena Gomez; sports celebrities like Serena Williams; celebrity actors like Gwyneth Paltrow; wellness coaches; wellness consultants; wellness gurus; wellness product lines at stores; wellness platforms; wellness apps for your phone; a puberty guide that includes transgender health and wellness; Back wellness and prosperity...

♦ Everyone knows someone for whom the pursuit of wellness is a mania. See the Wikipedia article “Belle Gibson.”

♦ When a term can mean anything to anyone, or includes everyone, it means nothing.

♦ see also *mental health* (noun); *mental wellbeing* (and *mental well-being*), *mental wellness* (noun), *self-care* (and *self care*), *welfare* (mental, etc.), *wellbeing* (noun)

## wellspring (source)

wellspring of pride

a ~ in the gym (Sequoyah High’s women’s basketball)

wellsprings of our society

sacrifice and self-reliance are the ~

wellspring of American innovation and economic growth

federal investment was long the ~

♦ “You use your own humanity, that’s your source, that’s your wellspring.” (BJ Miller, a doctor who is also a triple amputee.)

♦ “Love’s wellspring is forgiveness.” (Dante.)

## west (go west / obsolete)

‘goes west’

a one-pounder ~ (destroyed by tank in WW I)

gone west

in ten days McCray had ~ to join McClintic (both died)

gone West in the cause of science

guinea-pigs ~ (died / killed)

♦ “Why care for these dead bodies? They really have no friends but the worms or fishes. Their owners were coming to the New World, as Columbus and the Pilgrims... I saw their empty hulks that came to land; but they themselves, meanwhile, were cast upon some shore yet further west, toward which we are all tending, and which we shall

reach at last..." ("The Shipwreck" by Henry David Thoreau, writing about the Irish immigrant ship *St. John*.)

♦ "It's a mile to your objective now, but it's a mile of thrills... A one-pounder in a hedge scares you with several well-placed shots before it 'goes west' [is destroyed]." (A member of a tank crew in World War I.)

♦ "The Montana doctor, McCray, had tried to find a serum to guard his fellow citizens and one morning woke up with bloodshot eyes and an ache in his bones. In ten days McCray had gone West to join McClintic..." (McCray died, as had McClintic before him. From *Men against Death* by Paul De Kruif.)

♦ "At Annezin, we found everything in confusion. 'We're standing-to—at half an hour's notice for the trenches,' they told us. We packed up hastily, and in a few minutes the whole Battalion was out in the road in fighting order. Our destination was the Hohenzollern Redoubt, new trench maps of which were now issued to us. The men seemed in high spirits, even the survivors of the show: singing to the accompaniment of an accordion and a penny-whistle. But once, when a 'mad-minute' of artillery noise began, they stopped and looked at each. / 'That's the charge,' Sergeant Townsend said sententiously. 'Many good fellows going west at this moment; maybe chums of ours.'" (*Good-bye to All That* by Robert Graves. World War I. The Western Front.)

♦ "Things have changed so much since Sicily. Too many pals gone West... Pray God we get a decent break. We need it worse than you could ever know..." (*And No Birds Sang* by Farley Mowat. World War II. Italy. The Moro River.)

♦ "Go West, young man." (For opportunity, and to satisfy America's Manifest destiny. Attributed to Horace Greeley. See the Wikipedia article "Go West, young man.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This expression is out of favor.

♦ see also *direction (symbol)* for quotations about the cardinal directions as metaphors.

## West Point (epithet)

Thailand's West Point

Chulachomklao Military Academy is considered to be ~

Australian West Point

he studied counterinsurgency at Duntroon, the ~

## wet (the wet, the dry, etc.)

Big Dry

the ~, also known as the Millennium Drought (Oz)

the ~ was a nine-year drought (Australia)

in the wet

he took a brilliant maiden pole position ~ (F1 / rain)

wind and wet

as we drove through ~ (sailing ship at Cape Horn)

## whack-a-mole (and whack a mole)

whack-a-mole

the whole affair is just ~ (online content moderation)

whack-a-mole with the virus

we are in for a long, protracted game of ~

whack-a-mole over and over again

it's ~ (defending abortion rights against opponents)

whack-a-mole clashes

today there's been ~ in central Dhaka (NPR /Diaa Hadid)

whack-a-mole situation

you are almost facing a ~ where... (misinformation)

game of whack-a-mole

it's a macabre ~ (resurgences of COVID)

it became a ~ as the YouTube police hunted it down

go to whack-a-mole

they could dismantle a group, instead they ~ (underlings)

♦ "Tackling the gangs was like playing whackamole. Take out one group, and another will quickly spring up. That's because the cross Channel trade in people is so lucrative, despite the dangers." (England's attempts to defend its borders from immigrant smugglers from France and the European Union.)

### \*\*\* moles, gophers, groundhogs, muskrats, hedgehogs...

♦ Moles are very reclusive; they tend to stay underground. Many Americans associate whack-a-mole with the film *Caddyshack* and the character played by the great actor Bill Murray. Of course, Murray fought a gopher, not a mole. And the 1993 film *Groundhog Day* was concerned with a groundhog / woodchuck. A muskrat is different, a hedgehog is a cute little miniature porcupine, everyone knows what the mighty beaver is, and chipmunks are not involved in any of this. Americans tend to hate subterranean rodents that dig up their lawns, gardens, fields, and dams, and kill them. Watch *Caddyshack* 1980-Think Like a Gopher Scene

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

## whale (epithet)

whales of (psychiatric) science

the assembled great ~ (1909 medical congress / Budapest)

whale hunting

you don't have to go ~ (Pat Riley / NBA free agency)

land a "whale"

Heat president Pat Riley stated his desire to ~ (free agent)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This epithet is less used nowadays; the modern term might be "old dead white men."

♦ In the *New York Magazine*, a writer recently referred to two competing Hollywood and Broadway producers as "silverbacks." A silverback is a mature male mountain gorilla.

## whale (White Whale)

Michelle's white whale

~ was the Golden State Killer (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark*)

second white whale

last season he got a yacht, Italy is the ~ (a showrunner)

focus on that White Whale

if he continues to ~, it's going to bring him down (politics)

♦ "[Liz] Cheney, by contrast, had stopped going to House Republican conferences entirely, spent almost no time campaigning for re-election in Wyoming, lived in the Washington area and maintained a Captain Ahab-like focus on Donald Trump as a singular threat to American democracy." ("Inside the Jan. 6 Committee" by Robert Draper and Luke Broadwater, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 1, 2023.)

♦ "Judge Juan Merchan's vendetta against Trump has reached Captain Ahab-level madness."

♦ "Even the central metaphor...doesn't work... If the protagonist, Charlie, is the whale, then who is his Ahab? Society? Or is Charlie Ahab and his Moby Dick is [sic] pizza? More importantly, who reads Moby Dick in eighth grade!? / To the film-makers: You are not on the gallows with us; you are the hangman..." ("The Whale is not a



masterpiece—it's a joyless, harmful fantasy of fat squalor" by Lindy West, *The Guardian*, 10 March 2023. Her mention of "gallows humor" seems to be the only connection to her metaphor of gallows and hangmen.)

♦ "Kaestner's quest to hit 10,000 (personally sighted bird species) is his personal Dawn Wall, an obsession he's sustained over decades, and he will not stop until he reaches his goal..." ("Damn It Feels Good to Be a Lister" by Jessie Williamson, *Outside*, May/June 2023. Birding. About Jessie Williamson, she is a Cornell ornithologist. The Dawn Wall is a difficult climb in Yosemite, and a great accomplishment.)

## whataboutism, etc.

whataboutism

"~, " a strategy of false moral equivalences

♦ "Leave it to the *Times* to both sides it." ("Both sides" is used as a verb. The *Times* is *The New York Times*.)

## wheat (separate the wheat from the chaff)

separate the wheat from the chaff

we need to ~ (real cases vs. imagined of a syndrome)

separating the wheat from the chaff

G-2 had great difficulty ~ (military intelligence)

## wheel (break someone on the wheel, etc.)

wheel of Gladstone's sanctimony

thus he was at last broken on the iron ~ (politics)

## wheel (grease the wheels)

grease the wheels

the government is trying to ~ of growth (economy)

flattery and civility ~ of all human dealings

## wheel (control)

at the wheel

the deputy attorney general will be ~ for the final weeks...

put his hand on the wheel at the Justice Department

Trump tried to ~ and control the investigation

grab hold of the industry's steering wheel

Washington can no longer just ~ (auto making)

take the wheel

the state legislature should ~ and tweak the law (parole)

## wheel (asleep at the wheel)

asleep at the wheel

several Republican incumbents have been ~ (election)

many states have been ~ (girls marrying too young in US)

the World Health Organization was ~ (epidemic response)

Joe Biden is ~ and we're heading over a cliff (politics)

## wheel (training wheels)

on training wheels

direct mail was microtargeting ~ (vs. today)

remove the training wheels

we're going to ~

♦ The Vice President of the US, Joe Biden, explained the 2012 withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan as removing the training wheels from a bicycle.

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Words we associate with childhood can relate to important and profound things.

## wheel (wheels are falling off, etc.)

Wheels Are Falling Off

City fans responded to chants of "Ole's At The Wheel" with "The ~"

wheels are starting to come off the bus

I do think the ~ (US Congress / democracy)

wheels came off the carriage

the ~ (Caitlin Flanagan about Charles III)

wheels are coming off the train

the ~ in the mortgage business

wheels are (well and truly) off at Manchester United

well, the ~ (disgruntled fan)

♦ "Nurses are the linchpins of hospitals, and when we lose them the wheels of medicine fall off." (A linchpin is a fastener used on hitches and axles. In the case of axles, it prevents the wheels from fall off.)

## wheel (spin one's wheels)

spinning our wheels

we're in a rut and are ~ (financial reform)

spinning our wheels in Iraq and Afghanistan

we're just ~

spinning our wheels on too many important issues

we've been ~ (government politics)

just spinning our wheels

we're ~, hoping to get out of the ditch

## wheel (hamster wheel)

hamster wheel of social media

we spend our time on this ~ and our newsfeeds

hamster wheel of technology and productivity

knitting draws people way from the ~ (the hobby)

hamster wheel

the ~ that has happened in our brain (anxiety)

♦ "[Running for anxiety] takes the focus off the hamster wheel that has happened in our brain that puts us in an anxious state." (A licensed clinical social worker who suffers from anxiety and who is also a runner.)

♦ "Have you seen the new monthly magazine, *Horizon*, that Cyril Connolly & Stephen Spender are running? They are trying to get away from the bloody political squirrel-cage, & about time too." (Eric Blair to Geoffrey Gorer, 1940.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ The Rat Race is for Rats! (A bumper sticker.)

♦ Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat. (A bumper sticker.)



## wheel (wheel of fate or fortune, etc.)

wheels of fate

the ~ had started to turn, and for me there was no way out

wheels of fate were starting to turn

but the ~, for me there was no way out ("Fancy" / Reba)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "No mortal power may stay her spinning wheel. / The nations rise and fall by her decree. / She passes, and things pass... / ...Season by season / her changes change her changes endlessly." (Dante's *Purgatory*, translated by John Ciardi. In medieval times she was known as Dame Fortune, to the Romans she was Fortuna, to the Greeks she was Tyche. Today she might be referred to as Lady Luck.)

## wheel (spin of the wheel, etc.)

turn of the wheel, the spin of the wheel

federal judges are assigned the case by the ~

## wheel (wheels of justice, etc.)

wheels of capital

they want us to keep oiling the big ~ (in the U.S.)

wheels of commerce

the ~ are turning (in the U.S. / unfairness)

wheels of the European economy

they keep the ~ turning (truckers held up at border)

wheels of government

the ~ turn slowly

wheels of justice

the ~ must now turn (Hillsborough disaster / soccer)

the ~ in Atlanta move slowly

PR wheels

OMG, the ~ are spinning on how to save Anne's career

## wheel (wheels turn slowly, etc.)

wheels (of justice) operate slowly

the ~ (grand-jury investigation)

wheels (of government) turn slowly

the ~

wheels (many feel) turn (too) slowly

a justice system whose ~

## wheel (set the wheels in motion)

set (all) the wheels in motion

he ~ (for a trip)

## wheelhouse (noun)

in my wheelhouse

it's not exactly ~

in his wheelhouse

the issue is scientific and technical, not really ~ (politician)

in the executive branch's wheelhouse

things that are clearly ~ (rules, regulations)

outside the city's wheelhouse

he believes the huge undertaking falls ~

really outside my wheelhouse

what you want me to do is ~ (a lawyer)

so far outside his wheelhouse

why he devoted years to a subject ~ (an academic)

## Wheel of Fortune (snark)

I'll solve the puzzle, Pat

~ (an online commenter)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Pat Sajak hosted *Wheel of Fortune*, along with Vanna White. "I'll solve the puzzle, Pat" is a meme. This is the game based on "hangman."

♦ see also *Jeopardy!* (snark)

## wheeze (condition)

wheezing businesses

a landscape dominated by abandoned street fronts and ~

## where (conversations where, etc.)

where you realize

it's like a real chilling reveal moment ~ that... (a film)

conversations where

we're having these dishonest ~ children... (race)

have these ~ people can you know choose mental health...

future where

a dystopian ~ children are homeless castaways

moment where

we're in this ~ there's so much fakery (media)

place where

see *place* (*place where*)

point where

the war plan got baroque, insane, to the ~... (nukes)

situation where

you could find yourself in a ~ you keep boosting (Covid)

there is no ~ you go to the media (chain of command)

we can be a David in a ~ there's a Goliath (politics)

world where

we live in a digital ~ many get their news from the internet

♦ "There was a moment where I was like, you know, I'm this privileged person..."

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Traditionally, "where" would be "in which" or "at which," or "when." It seems that, for the younger generation, situation, time, and development have all become places, expressed as "spaces."

## where (time where)

time where

at a point in ~ contracts extension talks would start...

in this pandemic ~ everything's so fragile

this is our ~ we need to stand up (politics)

that was really the first ~ I was using my camera to...  
this app came into my life right at a ~ I... (Clubhouse)  
a ~ a skinny black girl can dream of...  
it helped me get closer to my mom during a ~ she...  
reimagining my life at a ~ I thought it was over  
but there was a ~ bold political ideas flourished  
they lived in a ~ gay people were made to feel like...  
this is all coming at a ~ China is a touchy subject (NPR)

time (and place) where

have we really come to a ~ debate is feared

♦ "Ishiguro's latest novel, *Klara and the Sun*, is set in a future time, where children no longer go to school..."

♦ "There are periods in time where we really need rest and we really need to heal. And I think we're in a time where that's certainly the case." (A doctor and the director of psychiatry at a concierge-style health care start-up with offices in New York, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.)

♦ "We're moving toward a time when COVID won't disrupt our daily lives, where COVID won't be a constant crisis." (White House Covid Advisor Jeff Zients.)

♦ "Especially at a time like now where we see anti-Black racism..." (A female Tulane University sociology professor.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ As ESL or EFL teachers, we have all taught the "time when" and "place where" distinction. It seems to apply less and less nowadays.

## where (situation / development)

where are we

bring us up to date, ~ now, exactly (Ailsa Chang, NPR)

where we ended up

I'm super happy with ~ (=the results)

where it is

when I first got here, this team wasn't ~

where she is

on ~ with her body now

where we are

catch us up on ~ (about the Britney Spears story)

this is ~ now (Martin Luther King)

where we are today

we will need to have a conversation as to ~ (power failure)

where they are

we have to meet people ~ (addiction treatment)

where he is at

he has shown courage by acknowledging ~ (troubled)

where they are at

sometimes you have to meet people ~ (psychologically)

where we need to be

that's not how we're gonna get to ~ (a better place)

we're still so far from ~ (testing for COVID)

where we want to be

the vaccines are going to get us ~ (COVID pandemic)

where I plan on being

to be on ~, world champion, I should win this fight

where we wanted to be

we are basically two months behind ~ (vaccine production)

where the Lions and Matt Safford were last year

by next January, they could be in a place similar to ~

where it all began

let's go back to ~ (a podcast)

where things go

~ from here is quite honestly up in the air

where we are headed

there is so much fear about ~ (Covid Delta strain)

where we are and where we're going

the general will address ~ (Afghan evacuation / bombing)

where we want to be, need to be, can be

we are not ~ (Thomas Tuchel, sacked by Chelsea)

right back where

they will be ~ they are now (next season / sports)

♦ "When this is over, we'll need to have a conversation, a serious conversation, as to why we are where we are today." (Houston mayor Sylvester Turner about why the Texas power grid experienced difficulties during cold weather in February 2021.)

♦ "Thanks for having me, well, uh, so it started yesterday morning where [italics mine] the national police service [?] received a phone call regarding..." (Mickey Djuric, a female, Saskatchewan correspondent for the Canadian Press.)

♦ The following is fascinating: "I don't understand where we got to a place where we have such a targeted community of people." (The "targeted community" is transsexuals. The speaker is the mother of a transsexual. And, of course, the first use of "where" would be conventionally expressed as "how.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "Where we are today" equals "the situation now."

♦ see also *place (situation)* and *place (place where)*

## whet (whet the appetite)

whet audiences' appetites for films

movie trailers ~

whet people's appetite for spending

museums try to ~

whet the appetites of fans

the ad campaign is designed to ~ (TV)

whet the appetites of investors

the company's performance will not ~

whet appetites for a rematch

their fight ~ (boxing)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ When was the last time you used a whetstone to sharpen a knife, or paid an itinerant knife sharpener to sharpen it for you? And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

♦ Even a whetstone needs a whetstone.

## whiff (noun)

whiff of anxiety

there's a ~ in the Asian air (various issues)

whiff of bias

journalists must be free of any ~

whiff of corruption

the organization is tainted by the ~

whiff of incompetence

the government's handling of the crisis has the ~

whiff of insolvency

the ~ had reached the sensitive noses of his creditors

whiff of insurrection

the ~ is in the air (street protests)

whiff of opportunism

behind his good intentions is a ~

whiff of scandal

only one ~ has tainted the casino (Cherokee)

whiff of (Western) supremacy

some critics detect a ~ in his book

♦ "There's something dead up the branch." (A Southern Appalachians expression. A branch is a watercourse like a creek or a stream.)

## whimper (noun)

exited with a whimper

to say Italy ~ would be kind (Euro 2024)

## whine (verb)

whine, scream and cry

the Democrats ~ crocodile tears for the child victims (guns)

♦ "All I'm hearing is waaaaahhhhh!" (Online snark.)

## whiner (person)

hand wringers, worriers and whiners

~ (foreign policy)

## whining (noun)

whining

her ~ is rubbing fans the wrong way (auto racer)

stop whining

she just won't ~, she blames everyone other than herself

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Stop whining! Do something!

## whiny (adjective)

whiny spineless

to hell with this ~ generation

## whip (violence)

whipped them into shape

it took a while, but I ~ (a coach)

## whip (crack the whip)

crack the whip

he taught his deputy how to ~ (politician)

cracking the whip on them

he is ~ (President against BP for oil spill)

## whip (resemblance)

whipped the snow into a frenzy

the winds ~ (ground blizzard)

## whip (movement)

whipped around

she ~ and said...

## whip hand (noun)

whip hand in the bidding process

Tahiti had the ~ (a surfing competition)

has the whip hand

Iran ~ (in the Gulf)

♦ "Major Sleeman reveals the fact that the trade union and the boycott are antiquities in India. India seems to have originated everything. The 'sweeper' belongs to the bottom caste; he is the lowest of the low—all other castes despise him and scorn his office. But that does not trouble him. His caste is a caste, and that is sufficient for him, and so he is proud of it, not ashamed... A footnote by Major Sleeman's editor, Mr. Vincent Arthur Smith, says...'The sweepers cannot be readily coerced, because no Hindoo or Mussulman would do their work to save his life, nor will he pollute himself by beating the refractory scavenger.' They certainly do seem to have the whip-hand... Just like a milk-route; or like a London crossing-sweepership." (*Following the Equator: A Journey Around the World* by Mark Twain.)

## whiplash (noun)

legal whiplash

the ~ voters are experiencing this year (rules go to court)

feeling whiplash

many Americans are ~ from the changes (COVID rules)

## whipping boy (person)

whipping boy

China is used as a ~ in the campaign (politics)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The whipping boy was punished in the prince's stead at school.

## whirl (noun)

whirl of activities

he was in a ~ (very busy and engaged)

## whirlpool (in a whirlpool)

in a whirlpool of thought and bewilderment

they were lost ~ (Bedouins)

stuck in a whirlpool

we are ~ of violence and extremism

## whirlpool (other)

whirlpool of (religious) violence and extremism

his murder laid bare the ~

entering the whirlpool

the film was made as the Greek economy was ~

## whirlwind (noun)

### whirlwind

for the two women, the next few days would be a ~  
we've had wild travel schedules lately, it's been a ~  
he was a ~ (a skateboarder who committed suicide)

### whirlwind of attention

he has been at the center of a ~ (Nobel Prize)

### whirlwind of controversy

a ~ surrounds him

### whirlwind of impeachment enquiry

Kurt Volker caught up in ~

### whirlwind of (pent-up) civic forces

the dictator's ouster unleashed a ~

### whirlwind of success

boxing, so far, has been a ~ for Karriss Artingstall

### whirlwind of (constant) attention, scrutiny, and pressure

since I was 12 years old, my life as a golfer has been a ~

### whirlwind of excitement and endless possibilities

my time at NPR has been an exhilarating ~ (young female)

### whirlwind for the (production) company

the past 36 hours have been a ~ (chaotic moves)

### whirlwind existence

she lived at a totally different pace from her husband's ~

### whirlwind romance

they got married after a ~

### whirlwind relationship

they had a ~ and got married

### whirlwind tour

a ~ ensued (of a factory)

### whirlwind (first foreign) trip

Biden is back in Washington after his ~

### whirlwind visit

he made a ~ to Afghanistan (Obama)

### whirlwind 12 months

it has been a ~ since he returned to the sport (a boxer)

### whirlwind years

he saved my life during those ~ (Barry Manilow / husband)

### multitasking whirlwind

she was a ~ (sports, school, etc.)

### romantic whirlwind

throughout the ~, Carly continued to write new songs

### viral whirlwind

the ~ he created in 2014 (Bobby Shmurda "Hot Boy")

### released the whirlwind

you have ~ and you will pay the price (politics)

### unleashed a whirlwind

the dictator's ouster ~ of pent-up civic forces (Suharto)

### reap the whirlwind

he who sows the wind shall ~ (Bible)

♦ "Since I was 12 years old, my life as a golfer has been a whirlwind of constant attention, scrutiny and pressure... / Social media never sleeps, with comments and criticisms flooding in from around the world. It can be exhausting to maintain a smile on the outside while grappling with struggles on the inside." ("Pro golfer Lexi Thompson retires at 29, citing mental health struggles" by Katie Kindelan, GMA, May 29, 2024.)

### \*\*\* Between Riyadh and Rumah...

♦ He stopped his vehicle to admire the sight. Below, he could see three great dust devils—mini-tornadoes—rising to great heights from the desert floor. He liked what he saw. He like how he felt. He liked where he was. He liked the temperature... (Somewhere between Riyadh and Rumah.)

♦ In the US, people speak of dust devils. Dust whirlwinds are called *zawabi* in Arabic. In Australia, a whirlwind is called a willy willy.

♦ "Just on the stroke of seven o'clock we heard a shrill whistling in the north-east, and, two or three minutes later, down came a black buran. Shagdur set out to return to his own sleeping-place. Half an hour later...he [re-] appeared at the opening of the yurt. He had lost his way, although his sleeping-place was only 15 paces from mine...It was pitch dark [and] impossible for any man to stand. Shagdur had been on his hands and knees the whole time. Only those who have been out in such a storm can form any conception of what it is like. You get bewildered, and want to keep going, without knowing where...and it affects the brain. Next morning, the effects of this grim desert tempest were very easy to see; the sand was heaped up all round my yurt, and there were little mounds on the sheltered side of the camels." (A windstorm on the salt desert of Lop Nur in Xinjiang. From *Central Asia and Tibet* by Sven Hedin.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ He who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind.

## whirlwind (ride the whirlwind, etc.)

### riding the whirlwind

he's ~

## whisker (come within a whisker, etc.)

### got within a whisker of the South Pole

he ~ in 1909 (Shackleton)

### passed by a whisker

the referendum ~ (Switzerland)

## whisper (sound)

### whisper of a (distant) waterfall

the ~

## whisper (not shout)

### whisper, not shout

affluence should ~

♦ "Affluence should whisper, not shout." (According to some popular-culture writer, 2023 was the year of "quiet luxury" and "stealth wealth." Of course, this relates to social status.)

## whisperer (horse whisperer, etc.)

### Acne Whisperer

"Five questions with NYC's '~' facialist Sofie Pavitt"

Adele-whisperer  
jazz pianist and repeat ~ Greg Kurstin (producer)

animal whisperer  
Roy, the ~, the dreamer, fabulist, spark (Siegfried & Roy)

“baby whisperer”  
called the ~, Brazelton... (a noted pediatrician)

“brand whisperer”  
*Forbes* declared him a ~ (singer Travis Scott)

Bro Whisperers  
“Where Are The ~?” (*The New York Times*)

customer whisperer  
a ~ with tips on how to defuse a patron... (on airlines, etc.)

*Date Whisperer*  
*The ~* (A 2023 Hallmark TV movie)

*Elephant Whisperers*  
*The ~* has earned an Oscar nomination (documentary)

elk whisperer  
the ~ speaks English, Spanish and elk (Mark Casillas)

horse whisperer  
the ~ feels the horse’s childlike skittishness and fear  
the ~ sees and hears himself through its eyes and ears

quarterback whisperer  
he is known to be a ~ (coach Jim Harbaugh)

race whisperer  
the latest pop-cultural ~ (Charlamagne tha God)

serial killer whisperer  
the Los Angeles Times called him a “~” (James Holland)

‘swim whisperer’  
the ~ teaches kids to be water-safe (Conrad Cooper)

Vagina Whisperer  
meet the ‘~,’ a pelvic floor therapist  
Susan Reardon, known as “the ~”  
Susan Reardon runs the ~ website and Instagram account

“vegetable whisperer”  
some people call Jeremy Fox the ~ (Californian chef)

warrior-whisperer  
the ~ role of Macrinus (*Gladiator II* / critic Justin Chang)

“whale whisperer”  
he refers to himself as a ~ (sued for defrauding investors)

wind-whisperer  
developers consult a ~ like Derek Kelly (skyscraper design)

whistleblower whisperer  
the ~ (the whistleblower lawyer Jordan Thomas)

♦ “In a chapter about ‘vaccine whisperers’ in Quebec...” (“Beyond The Vaccine” by Jerome Groopman, *The New Yorker*, April 5, 2021.)

♦ “Meet ‘the Vagina Whisperer,’ a pelvic floor therapist who wants people to get comfortable with their vulvas” by Kailin Reilly, yahoo

life, January 12, 2023. The caption of a photo reads, “Sara Reardon, known as ‘the Vagina Whisperer,’ poses in a vulva costume.” To quote the great boxing promoter Don King, “Only in America!”)

♦ *The Elephant Whisperers* has been nominated for an Oscar for short documentary. It was created by Kartiki Gonsalves, and it highlights the Kattunayakan people of Tamil Nadu.

♦ “Trump’s Win Leaves Democrats Asking: Where Are The Bro Whisperers?” (A New York Times article about the result of the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “The OG Yield Curve Whisperer” by Stacey Vanek Smith and Cardiff Garcia (NPR, Planet Money, August 9, 2018) requires a bit of analysis. OG stands for “Original Gangster” and is AAVE. The “yield curve” relates to predictive economics. And the “whisperer” is Campbell Harvey, a finance professor at Duke University. NPR excels in silly headlines like these.)

♦ There seems to be no end to the various kinds of “whisperers.” Trendy!

## whistle (blow the whistle)

blow the whistle on corruption

~, bribery, or abuse

blow the whistle on them

maybe they were afraid he might ~

## whistle (dog whistle)

dog whistle

it’s not even a ~, it’s so blatant (anti-Latin sentiment)

dog whistles

these are ~, Islamophobic tactics (politics)

dog whistle from a losing politician

this is a desperate ~ (politics)

dog whistle for anti-feminist, anti-POC stories

ideological diversity is often a ~ (NPR’s Katherine Maher)

dog-whistle comment

some people are calling that a ~ against Muslims

dog whistle crap

he called concerns about Afghan refugees “~”

dog whistles and race

he used ~ in his campaign (a president)

racist dog whistles

he is launching his election campaign with ~

“misinformation” is a dog whistle

~ (to denigrate and censor conservative)

racist, dog-whistle

critics say this is a textbook case of ~ politics

♦ In the US, a white politician claimed a black politician would “monkey things up.” The black politician replied, “He’s not using a (racist dog) whistle, he’s using a bullhorn.”

♦ “He called worries about Afghan refugees ‘dog whistle crap.’” (Gov. Tony Evers of Wisconsin, about the Afghan refugees at Fort McCoy, after 2 refugees were charged with crimes.)

♦ “Ideological diversity is often a dog whistle for anti-feminist, anti-POC stories about meritocracy.” (NPR’s CEO Katherine Maher.)

♦ In the Claremont world, manliness is a bit of a dog whistle, and Senator Josh Hawley has blown on it hard with his recent book,

*Manhood.*" (The Anti-Democracy Think Tank" by Katherine Stewart, *The New Republic*, September, 2023.)

♦ "In Republican circles, 'misinformation' is a dog whistle for the denigration and censorship of conservatives by the leftist press." (Search NPR for misinformation and you get 3,071 hits...and counting.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "The nature of a dog whistle is that I can't definitively prove what was in somebody's mind or heart when they said it, but the echoes are very strong." (Andrew Marantz, author of *Antisocial: Online Extremists, Techno-Utopians, and the Hijacking of the American Conversation*.)

♦ "It occurred to me that, because the world media establishment had ignored the Balkans for so long..., these people never had to learn, as the Israelis and Arabs did, how to talk in code, so as not to offend Western sensibilities with their racial hatred. In the Balkans, people spoke more honestly than in the Middle East, and therefore more brutally." (*Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* by the superb traveler, writer, and correspondent Robert D. Kaplan.)

## whistleblower (noun)

whistle-blower

he's a ~

a ~ has filed a complaint

whistleblower complaint

the charges, contained in a ~ (against FAA)

drawn criticism from whistle-blowers

the company has ~

♦ "I'm coining a new term: #whistleposturing. 1. The masking self-interested behavior as an act of whistleblowing. 2. The encouragement of others to view self-interested behavior as an act of whistleblowing." (A tweet from *The New Yorker* staff writer Raffi Khatchadourian, seemingly in defense of the magazine.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Many older Americans, when they think of a whistleblower and whistleblowing, think of the 1983 film *Silkwood*.

♦ Not all whistleblowers' motives are pure, or their complaints legitimate.

## white (White Sea, etc.)

White Nile

the Blue Nile and the ~ come together in Khartoum

White Sea

the Solovetsky Islands are in the ~

White Volta

the ~ is a tributary of the Volta River

♦ The White Volta's main tributaries are the Black Volta and the Red Volta.

## white elephant

white elephant

in English a ~ is simply a useless extravagance

Glasgow's £10m ~ (Glasgow Science Centre tower)

sports cathedral or white elephant

is the Tokyo Olympic stadium a ~

vanity project, a white elephant

the rail link between London and Birmingham is a ~

## white flag (surrender)

ran up the white flag

the BBC ~ and forced him off air (Gary Lineker)

## white hat (good)

'white hat' hacker

he became a ~, consultant, and author (Kevin Mitnick)

white hat-black hat

they have this ~ mentality (social groups)

put Raylan in a white hat

all the same, the show ~ (*Justified*)

## white knight

white knight

they needed a ~ to save the hospital

## whitewash (noun)

whitewash

it's a ~, they're brushing it under the carpet (PS752)

whitewash of justice

the mayor, police Superintendent railed against it as a ~

branded a whitewash

a public inquiry was ~ by victims' families

## whitewash (verb)

whitewashed its review

UKA ~ and turned a blind eye to the concerns (doping)

textbooks whitewash

a number of ~ Japan's wartime conduct (in Japan)

## whitewash (groups)

whitewashes its cast

*21* ~ (the film *21*, with Kevin Spacey)

whitewashes the role

the film completely ~ south Asians played in WWI

♦ "Think about what that means. They didn't even cast a Black gay actor, or a Black gay character. It's played by a straight [laughing] Italian American man. So just like process that... that erasure." ("Bonus: Remembering the iconic, complicated Andre Leon Talley," NPR, Code Switch, Jan. 23, 2022. The commentators are discussing the idea that Stanley Tucci's character in the 2006 film *The Devil Wears Prada* represents Andre Leon Talley.)

♦ "Here's an interesting thing about the Hollywood Cross stuff. When I wrote the first Alex Cross book, I didn't have a lot of money and Hollywood came calling—knock, knock, knock, knock, knock. They offered seven figures, and I did not have a lot of money. They said, 'We just want one change; we want Alex to be a white guy.' And I said, 'Fuck you.'" (James Patterson, in his interview with Brande Victorian for *The Hollywood Reporter*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Merriam-Webster only added this sense in September 2019. The 2019 film *The Aeronauts* with Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne is a good example of a film that tries hard to achieve the new standard. Himesh Patel plays John Trew, and many crowd scenes are peppered and spiced with black and oriental faces.

## whittled

whittled away

his control has been ~ (a ruler facing protests)



## whittling (whittling down)

task of whittling down

he will leave the ~ the embassy to his successor (in Iraq)

## whoa (slow down, stop, etc.)

whoa, slow down

~, buddy...

♦ Hold your horses!

## whoa (and woah / astonishment, etc.)

like whoa

people are ~ (surprise, delight, acknowledgment)

♦ "People are like whoa, real badass over here!" (An approving reaction to a surprising idea. The speaker leans back, with both hands up in the air, palms facing outward.)

♦ "I'm like 'woah!' This is powerful, it really hit me..." (A personal reaction to the musical *Suffs*.)

♦ "WHOA!" (Closed caption. A whale sighting.)

♦ "Whoa, he said. / Is that a bad whoa? I asked. / I don't know, Ken said, squinting. / I'll pour another one, then. / That's not what I mean, Ken said, waving his hands. It feels—and tell me if this is stupid—like you meant it?" ("Last Coffeehouse On Travis" by Bryan Washington, *The New Yorker*, September 16, 2024.)

## whore (attention whore, etc.)

attention whore

just a guy who climbed, an ~, I guess... (see quotes below)

book whore

try the \$33 Bonfire T-shirt that reads, "~" (litcore fashion)

media whore

he went from being totally private to being a ~ (SBF)

media who&e

AOC is just a ~ (politics)

♦ "When Sam saw the response to the *Forbes* billionaires list, and the *Forbes* cover that followed, any doubts he had about the value of public relations evaporated... Sam went from being totally private to being a media whore." (With the caveat, "so long as he could play a video game while doing it." From *Going Infinite: The Rise And Fall Of A New Tycoon* by Michael Lewis. It is about Sam Bankman-Fried and FTX.)

♦ "For me, personally, I wanted to support the students, and the younger generations, I have empathy for what they're going through." ("Community member" Victoria Van Holder holding a sign offering free hugs. From "A year after Michigan State University shooting, museum has preserved memorial items" by Sophia Saliby, NPR, All Things Considered, February 13, 2024. See the Wikipedia article "2023 Michigan State University shooting.")

♦ "Visibility is obviously so important." (The actor Elliot Page.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Interesting wardrobe. If ya ain't selling it, don't put it in the window." (An online commenter about a young lady who dresses provocatively on social media. He ended his comment with a laughing cross-eyed emoji.)

♦ "Seriously. Take it to the locker room and cry in a bathroom stall if you have to. Otherwise, it's just attention-seeking." (An online commenter about Caleb Williams of the USC Trojans sobbing after losing to the Washington Huskies.)

♦ "I don't get it either... just a guy who climbed.. attention whore I guess.." (A negative comment about a FTM trans rock climber.)

♦ Who gives a fuck; I'm not sure why we're celebrating this; Who.the.fuck.cares; Why is this a celebrated achievement; attention whore I guess... (Members of the climbing community respond to an article about the first non-binary climber to send a 5.14 trad at East Coast Fist Bump in Sedona, Arizona.)

♦ Attention hog; blowhard poser; narcissist; hubris; he decided to go public and cash in; maybe he promotes too much, I don't know...; he betrayed the code; bragging and identifying himself... (Online commenters about a Navy Seal.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "A 'photo slut' is a pro doing aerial tricks on small waves for the benefit of a camera. If a photo is published, the surfer makes money. 'The other guys were slutting out...' " (Surfing.)

♦ Americans seem to instinctively resent and resist people who they view as "cashing in on / amplifying" a personal tragedy, especially to promote a political or social agenda. This even applies to the parents of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and the student activists associated with the Parkland high school shooting.

♦ see also *slut* (enthusiasm)

## Who's Who

Who's Who of (left-leaning) economists

they hosted a brunch for a ~, including...

who's-who of ('80s musical) legends

the artist lineup was a ~ (1984 Olympics)

who's who of (big) names

a ~ were present (the funeral of the great Aretha Franklin)

who's-who of (WNBA) stars

the team's players are a ~ including... (Olympic gold)

who's who of (comedy) talent

the magazine is known for producing a ~ (*The Lampoon*)

'Who's Who' of virologists

the ~ meet to talk bird flu in Geneva

who's who of the rich and connected

the fallout has taken down a ~ (universities)

who's who of the music world

the room is heavy with the ~ (MTV VMAs afterparty)

who's who in health policy

he has enlisted a veritable ~ to come up with standards

who's who list

his economic team is a ~ of Democratic veterans

the ushers were a ~ of titans (funeral of Cokie Roberts)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "Suella Braverman was knocked out despite being endorsed by MPs Desmond Swayne, Jason McCartney and MP Henry Smith, a regular "Who's That?" of British politics." (A BBC topical satire show. The line drew hearty laughs.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The title is now in the public domain.

♦ "Who's who" has been supplanted by Crain's "40 under 40" (Crain's Detroit Business magazine's list of business leaders); Forbes 30 under 30 (which carries a curse); "20 under 20" (GLAAD / LGBTQ people); Time Magazine's 100 most influential people... There is no end to this promotion.

## wicked (as adverb)

wicked fast

Scott Horsley, ~ reporter...

## wicked (adjective / slang)

wicked guitar player

Mayer is obviously a ~ (John Mayer / Dead & Company)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Bad, badass, beast, blow up, catch fire, chill, coup, crazy, crush, destroy, dope, dynamite, filthy, freakish (ability, powers, etc.), gangster (original gangster / OG), kill, killer, killa, mean, monster, nasty, ridiculous; sick, slay, wicked... (Words that sound bad but can have positive connotations. English is crazy.)

## wild (behavior)

wild beast

those ~s shot you in the back (said at funeral)

wild celebration

the victory set off a ~ at the finish line (Olympics)

wild child

he was always mature for his age, he wasn't a ~

wild look

she burst through the door, a ~ in her eyes

wild melee

a ~ broke out (soccer riot in Kabul)

wild (tailgate) parties

the ~ outside Arrowhead Stadium

wild rampage

dozens of teenage boys set off on a ~ (Central Park)

wild revelry

feasting accompanied by ~ (Mardi Gras)

wild side

I love to show my ~ every now and then (sex)

wild streak

he must have brought out some ~ in me

wild youth

whether to remember his ~ or forget it

wild rite of passage

Las Vegas becomes a ~ for new 21-year-olds (booze)

wild and crazy

he was ~, young and dumb

wild and crazy

the NFL has its ~ side

wild and reckless

I was at times ~ (gang member)

crazy and wild

it was ~ (wedding in non-traditional location)

“Girls Gone Wild”

the creator of the " ~" video series (spring break)

dudes-gone-wild

such ~ comedies as *Pineapple Express* and *The Hangover*

went wild

the 100,000 fans at the Camp Nou stadium ~ (soccer)

social media ~ (over Anna Sorokin)

drives scientists wild

this is the kind of thing that ~ (political interference)

♦ “Tuesday’s done some wild, wild things and screwed up many, many guys. She’s highly sexual.” (The blond actress Tuesday Weld.)

♦ “In the mid-1980s, ‘wildin’ became one of many ways to describe someone acting in an uninhibited or reckless manner... Uninhibited Blackness has always inspired fear in mainstream America...” (“The Words On The Street” by Miles Marshall Lewis, *The New York Times Magazine*, August 13, 2023. “The Hip-Hop Issue.”)

## wild (control)

wild ending

in a ~ to the regular season (basketball)

wild guess

the '~' is that 100,000...

wild hunch

she acted on a ~ (an inventor)

wild rumor

another ~ going around was...

wild shot

he flung up a ~ that missed horribly (basketball)

wild swings

protect consumers from ~ in energy prices

wild (conspiracy) theories

his death became the subject of ~

♦ “The novelist is ferociously untame.” (Lydia Millet.)

## wild (nature, etc.)

wild campers

Canton Glarus has witnessed a surge of ~

wild swimming

“Why ~ is Britain’s new craze” (BBC, Jun 4, 2021)

♦ “The tiny Swiss canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden has voted to prohibit the phenomenon of naked hiking. Among naked hikers, there is disappointment... Swiss lawyers say the ban is illegal, as the Swiss parliament voted to remove public nudity from the penal code in 1991... The decision is being watched closely by other alpine regions... Just over the mountains in canton Glarus, there is nervousness that if naked hikers are driven out of Appenzell, they may choose Glarus as their next favorite spot.”

## wild (run wild)

run wild

I will not ~ when my teacher is away

“running wild” in care homes

coronavirus is ~ for elderly people

running wild in Australia

Omicron is ~, it’s raging through this country

let their imaginations run wild

painters in the 18th Century ~ in the ruins (Piranesi, etc.)

let students run wild

many schools have elected to simply ~ (student protests)

## wildcard (computers)

wildcard

you can fine-tune a search by using ~s (computers)

wildcard character

type the ~ and other text in the Find What box

word combinations, wildcards, part-of-speech tags  
~ (searching)

## wild card (person)

wild card

Saddam Hussein is a ~

branded Walker a 'wild card'

he branded ~ and worried that... (politics)

## wild card (other)

wild card

the weather is always a ~ (mountaineering)

## wilderness (voice in the wilderness)

voice in the wilderness

I am a ~, but history will vindicate me (politics)

some voices in the wilderness

there are ~ calling for a digital Geneva Convention

voice in the wilderness of (intellectual) life

Chomsky is an important ~ in America

## wilderness (in / into the wilderness)

in (history's) wilderness

his spell ~ is at an end (Alfred Russel Wallace)

in the (career) wilderness

he spent years ~ (an actor having a renaissance)

in the (international) wilderness

he spent 3 years ~ (player left off national team)

in the (musical) wilderness

she managed to record her album after a painful period ~

quarter of a century in the wilderness

the team hopes to reach the Super Bowl after a ~

30 years in the wilderness

maybe ~ is long enough (Liverpool fail to win EPL)

on their own in the wilderness

they felt as if they were ~ (public investigators)

wondering in the wilderness

formerly in charge of the city, now ~ (a leader)

spend the next decade in the political wilderness

he was to ~ (Jean-Marie Le Pen 1962-72)

spent a year in the wilderness

after Carlson was fired, he ~ (Tucker Carlson)

spent 30 months in the wilderness

he was suspended from the sport and ~ (a boxer)

led him into the political wilderness

his campaign ~ (against self-government for India)

## wilderness (society)

wilderness years

the play was written during his ~ (while struggling)

the "~~" when he was not in power (1930s / Churchill)

## wilderness (area)

uncharted wilderness

new routes into the ~ of the 21-century economy

online wilderness

international students are often in an ~ (universities)

\*\*\* "It is rough, steep, mountainous country..."

♦ "It is rough, steep, mountainous country where we were trekking, covered with dense virgin forest, the famous taigá of Siberia, in places almost impenetrable, especially where the ground is littered with fallen giants smashed down by storms." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr. The country Arseniev describes lies between the Amur and Ussuri Rivers and the Sea of Japan, north of Vladivostok, and includes the Sihoté-Alin mountain range.)

♦ Watch the film *Chang: A Drama of the Wilderness* (1927). It is an extraordinary silent documentary, and it shows the actual employment of pitfalls, deadfalls, and snares. It's free on YouTube but you have to search for it... The film was very popular in its time.

♦ "Midway in our life's journey, I went astray / from the straight road and woke to find myself / alone in a dark wood. How shall I say // what wood that was! I never saw so drear, / so rank, so arduous a wilderness! / Its very memory gives a shape to fear." (*The Inferno*, from the wonderful translation by John Ciardi.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "You can only go halfway into the darkest forest, then you are coming out the other side." (Chinese.)

## wild West

Wild West

this is the ~, there's a lot of things to figure out (venture)

it's like the ~, there are no rules (Instagram)

it really is a ~ in terms of facial recognition (no rules)

wild west

it's the ~ with automatic weapons (Afghanistan)

'wild wild west'

why Oklahoma is a cannabis ~ (hands-off approach)

"Wild West" of unregulated tests

the current ~ is creating confusion (antibody tests)

Wild West-ish

the Mani, the ~ tip of the southern Peloponnese

digital-era Wild West

Silk Road was the new frontier of crime, a ~ (drugs)

a bit of the Wild West

it was ~, you could write your own rules...

in a Wild West

we are left ~ of antibody testing (unregulated)

tamed the Wild West

Google has ~ of copyright infringement

## wilt (verb)

wilted in his (first Grand Slam) final  
he ~ (tennis / lost)

wilt in the face of threats  
we will not ~

wilted in the second half  
the team ~

wilted in the heat  
the city's residents ~

wilted in theaters  
the film ~

wilted under cross-examination  
he ~ (convicted)

wilted under pressure  
the offense ~ (sports)

wilted under his successor  
the investigation ~

wilted sales  
the sweltering heat ~ (retail)

efforts have wilted  
legislative ~ (climate action)

stocks (also) wilted  
European ~ (downturn)

## win (verb)

hunger won  
but the next morning, ~ (convict Alexander Pearce story)

## wind (get / catch wind of something)

caught wind of this  
she first ~ in March (press investigation)

caught wind of Ulven's music  
the Web site called NRK Urørt ~

gotten wind of an attack  
a few days earlier, US intelligence had ~

got wind of some improprieties  
he ~ (fraud)

get wind of the war  
the Israelis did not ~ (1973)

♦ Sportswriter: Have you, you know, gotten any wind of what's going to happen with Nick? / NFL player: I don't got nothing to say about that man. You're a clown, bro. Get out of my face, bro.

## ☐ "There's something dead up the branch." (A Southern Appalachians expression for something suspicious. A branch is a watercourse like a creek or a stream.)wind (throw something to the wind)

threw caution to the wind  
I just ~ and went for it

throwing civil liberties to the wind  
we are ~

## wind (dangle in the wind)

left dangling in the wind  
the prosecutor was ~ (not supported by others)

## wind (wind at one's back, etc.)

wind is at their back  
unions feel like the ~

put wind in Biden's sail  
these results will ~ (primary election victory)

## wind (wind of change, etc.)

wind of change  
but the ~ is blowing (rural areas)  
there is a ~ blowing (state politics)

winds of (political) change  
the bracing ~ are blowing across Washington (Trump)

new wind  
~s were whipping on the political stage (history)

political winds  
anticipate the ~ blowing in Washington  
the shifting ~ on campuses these days (Title IX)

winds were blowing  
Oppenheimer was fully aware of which way the ~ (policy)

buffeted by the (political) winds  
the Hmong were ~ that blew through Vietnam

winds have changed  
the political ~ (more people support gun control)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Rain and winds, and whatsoever occurs by local impulse alone, can be caused by demons. It is a dogma of faith that the demons can produce winds, storms, and rain of fire from heaven." (St. Thomas Aquinas, in his *Summa Theologica*. The rain of fire is lightning.)

♦ Arabian horse are called "drinkers of the wind" because of their flaring nostrils.

## wind (wind its way)

winding their way through the courts  
their cases are ~ (migrants)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “An assembly line of discovery, invention, deployment, and trust wound its way through centuries and landed at the tip of a needle.” (The final dose of vaccine that resulted in the eradication of smallpox. From “The Eureka Theory of History Is Wrong: The Real Reason American Progress Has Stalled” by Derek Thompson, *The Atlantic*, January / February 2023. The final paragraph is wonderful, but the metaphor is better stated as a voyage. No assembly lines back then.)

## wind back (verb)

wind back to the spring  
to understand, ~ of 2014

## wind down (verb)

winding down  
the murder trial is ~  
the party was ~ anyway

wound down  
as 2010 ~...

## wind down (relax)

wind down  
after a performance, it takes him a long time to ~  
he took a sleeping pill to ~

## windfall (noun)

windfall of \$1.7 billion  
higher commodity prices contributed to a ~ (BHP)

windfall for local governments  
it was a ~ (a COVID relief bill)

oil windfall  
elites use their ~ to ensconce themselves in power

financial windfall  
rising oil prices have brought them a ~

investigative windfall  
finding the server was an ~ (cybercrime)

political windfall  
she accused him of seeking a ~ from the aid package

\*\*\* trees and dead limbs, fruits, nuts, etc.

♦ “There is another thinning of the fruit, commonly near the end of August or in September, when the ground is strewn with windfalls; and this happens especially when high winds occur after rain. In some orchards you may see fully three quarters of the whole crop on the ground, lying in a circular form beneath the trees, yet hard and green,—or, if it is a hill-side, rolled far down the hill. However, it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. All the country over, people are busy picking up the windfalls, and this will make them cheap for early apple-pies.” (*Excursions* by Henry David Thoreau.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ A windfall is an unanticipated benefit. See the Wikipedia article “Windfall gain.”

## window (and shop window, store window)

showcase and a shop window  
it’s supposed to be a ~ for women’s football (World Cup)

put it in the window  
if ya ain’t selling it, won’t ~ (dressing like a slut)

♦ “Interesting wardrobe. If ya ain’t selling it, don’t put it in the window.” (An online commenter about a young lady who dresses like a slut on social media. He ended his comment with a laughing cross-eyed emoji.)

## windmill (tilt at windmills, etc.)

windmills of ‘inequity’  
tilting at the ~ (criticism of liberal academics)

tilting at windmills  
he suggested that Trump is ~ (attributed to Xi Jinping)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ Eric Drooker’s November 15, 2021 cover of *The New Yorker* is superb. In the foreground is Don Quixote on his horse, on a bit of barren ground. His lance is pointed downward and he is looking up at four enormous wind turbines in the midground. In the background is the edge of a great city with skyscrapers and a suspension bridge. The colors are industrial orange and yellow.

♦ “Tilting at windmills” is associated with *Don Quixote de la Mancha* by Cervantes, a surprisingly modern book for having been written so long ago. Quixote means different things to different people. The phrase “tilting at windmills,” especially, can be viewed sympathetically or negatively.

♦ see also *Quixote* (*Don Quixote*), tilt (*world-title tilt*, etc.)

## window (window of opportunity)

window of opportunity  
there was a little, little ~ (to win an Olympic medal)

small window of opportunity  
there is a ~ for the motor system (peak performance)

window of opportunity to solve  
the ~ the crimes is closing (passage of time)

window of opportunity is closing  
the US’s ~ fast (diplomacy)

window of opportunity could slam shut  
the ~ (stopping AIDS in India)

missed our window of opportunity  
we’ve ~

## window (launch window, etc.)

window  
the ~ for doing a deal is small and closing  
people don’t realize how close or narrow that ~ is  
(climate change)

window of time  
we only have a small ~ (to prosecute rape cases)

window of good weather  
the climbers had been waiting for a ~

windows between the (guard’s) rounds  
the 15-minute ~ (prison suicide)

application window  
a second ~ will be opened (computer)

evacuation windows  
~ narrow as Hurricane Milton approaches Florida

launch window  
we don’t think we can make the ~ for March (NASA)

the ~ for Wednesday's mission opens at 0900 (space)  
the ~ runs for 3 hours and 22 minutes (space)

#### summit window

weather forecasts show a potential ~ (Everest)  
more and more are climbing during the same good ~s

#### weather window

Nasa had a ~ of 65 minutes to launch  
everyone tries to reach the summit in the same 12-hour ~  
climbers wait for the right ~ for the summit climb

#### clear-weather window

the first feasible ~ was 19 and 20 May (Mount Everest)

#### legal window

the eight-year ~ when a suit could be filed

#### narrow window

the ship had a ~ of time to take out a ballistic missile

#### small window

the ~ between the end of the night and beginning of the day (birdsong)

#### 15-minute windows

the ~ between the guard's rounds (prison suicide)

#### eight-year (legal) window

the ~ when a suit could be filed

#### lookback window

the ~ lasts a year (suspension of state of limitations / abuse)

#### window is closing

that ~, we need to act now (global warming)

#### window would close

there was a risk the weather ~ (Mount Everest)

#### windows narrow

evacuation ~ as Hurricane Milton approaches Florida

#### make the (launch) window

we don't think we can ~ for March (NASA)

### window (window to the West, etc.)

#### window to the capital

the Gare du Nord acts as a ~ (needs renovation)

#### window to the West

'Dallas' in Finnish was our ~ (a 37-year-old Estonian)

#### window to the world

the computer screen is his ~ (homeless man)

#### window on Europe

the city allowed Russia to open a ~ (St. Petersburg)

#### window on a nervous planet

the Diplomatic Security Daily is a ~

#### window on relations

the leaked cables are a ~ with the world (diplomacy)

#### "window on the West"

St. Petersburg was Russia's ~ (Peter the Great)

#### window into the dark corners

conspiracy theories are a ~ of our political soul

#### window into mammoth evolution

the DNA gave the scientists a unique ~

#### window into his mind

his letters to his wife were a ~ (a politician)  
this statement is a ~ (politician's gaffe about rape)

#### window into who

this is a ~ he really is (politics)

#### windows into (other) worlds

they were ~ and landscapes (museum dioramas)

#### window onto the wonders

his narrow focus opens a larger ~ of natural science

#### windows and mirrors

novels are both ~

#### world's window

the ~ to Thailand (the Bangkok Post)

#### illuminating window

the case is an ~ into the pitfalls of capital punishment

#### opens a window

she ~ on Cape Verde's music (a singer)

♦ "The media sometimes serves as a window and sometimes as a mirror. Shows and characters that resonate the most are actually both. You see yourself reflected in them, but you also get to learn about other things through them." (Mariana Diaz-Wioczek. From "Kids need to see themselves reflected in media. Here are some recommendations," Elizabeth Blair, NPR, December 26, 2021.)

♦ "Novels are both windows and mirrors."

### window (out the window)

#### window

gender goes out the ~ (female sports broadcaster)

#### go out the window

those best practices can mostly ~

#### gone out the window

common sense has ~ (soccer and VAR)

#### went out the window

his game plan ~ (a boxer)  
the idea this was terrorism got shot down and ~

#### threw it out the window

we took the entire model and ~ (Andrei Doroshin)

#### throw that gut feeling out the window

~ (a defense lawyer during final argument)

#### thrown the law out the window

the judge has ~

♦ "Sometimes tactics are going to go out the window, you've just got to box..." (In other words, box on instinct.)

♦ "Before the quarter-hour mark, that plan was out the window." (An embarrassing Sheffield United defeat.)

### window (Overton Window)

#### Overton Window



see *Overton Window*

## window dressing

window dressing

I was ~ (hired to fix problems, but ignored)  
this was a farce, ~ (the Savoy plebiscite)  
the referendum was ~ (rigged results)  
a lot of that is ~ (women in prominent positions)

window dressing on a coup

some wonder if this new prime minister is simply ~

window-dressing public relations

he took a ~ stand on the coronavirus crisis (EU official)

## wing (wing it)

winging it

the president is just kind of ~ (pardons)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ "On the run." "On the fly." "On the wing." "On the hoof." Take your pick!

## wing (division)

wing of Extinction Rebellion

XR Youth, the UK-based independent ~

right wing

in the US, the ~ is adamantly opposed to abortion

"political" and "military" wings

no difference between ~ (terrorists)

## wing (building)

amputee wing

Ward 57, the ~ at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

## wing (under one's wing)

took her under his wing

Clark Terry noticed Reeves' abilities and ~ (jazz)

took her under its wing

the Lawn Tennis Association ~ from an early age

took Liston under his wing

Father Alois Stevens ~ (Missouri State Penitentiary)

took me under his wing

he ~ (a film mentor)

took the teacher under his wing

he ~ (mentor / first-year teacher)

took Tommy under his wing

so Andy ~ (*Shawshank Redemption*)

got you under our wing

we have ~ (support)

♦ "Everyone is just like super-nurturing and super-willing to take you under their wing and teach you how to do new things. I mean..." (NPR's Isabella Gomez Sarmiento gushing about her Kroc fellowship with NPR.)

## wing (in the wings)

in the wings

there are extremists ~

waiting in the wings

many fine musicians are ~

♦ "So the idea is to create this perfect shiny world on the Eurovision stage that is united by music, but just offstage, the ugliness of the real world is always waiting in the wings." (Glen Weldon. From "Eurovision 2024: Here are the songs with the best shot at glory," NPR, Morning Edition, May 9, 2024.)

## wing (clip / stretch one's wings)

political wings

the military is behind this campaign to clip Khan's ~

roots and wings

the only thing you can give your children is ~

stretch my wings

my fans have allowed me to ~

clipped his wings

his bosses had ~ (cop assigned to desk)

## wingman (person)

wingman's role

he played a ~ (an uncritical biographer)

wingman weekends

he takes small groups of men out for "~~" (a dating coach)

Congressman's wingman

he acted as the Florida ~ (friend, associate, procurer, etc.)

♦ "NYC wingwoman LLC, a relationship coaching service based in New York City, offers matchmaking, wingwoman services, 1-on-1 Coaching, and intensive weekend bootcamps."

\*\*\* the Battle of Britain...

♦ "The tactics of the Luftwaffe were immeasurably better suited to the realities of air fighting. The basic formation was the Rotte of two aircraft, a leader and his wingman, whose duty it was to support the leader at all times." (The Battle of Britain, 1940 and 1941.)

## wink (noun)

wink

there's a bit of a ~, it's a joke (the subtitle of a book)

there's a bit of a ~, we're all in on it (subtitle of book)

this sort of ~, which the meme is...

wink-wink

they've just gone ~ and done the research anyway  
(viruses)

wink and nod

he is playing a risky game of ~

wink, wink, nod, nod

green energy with reliance on Russia for oil and gas (~)

wink wink nudge nudge

you got it, ~

wink, wink, nudge, nudge

*Son of Samson* was a '~~' to gay audiences (1960 film)

with a wink

it's all done ~ of course (a drag-queen renovation show)

with a bit of a wink

he has often, ~, called Mishima his favorite writer

♦ "PEN15, write out the title, you'll get it, has begun its second season on Hulu..." (A well-briefed Scott Simon of NPR. This is an example of leetspeak.)

♦ maryann 03: From CA: Welcome. I highly (wink wink nudge nudge) recommend online ordering and home delivery. Always tip your delivery person. They are your friend. (An ABC "Join the Discussion" comment on "New York legalizes recreational marijuana...")

♦ "Showing these struggles is important and necessary because they are very rarely told from this Black and brown perspective, and so much history about queer life has been and continues to be erased. (I don't recall ever studying LGBTQ issues in my history classes at school; like many kids growing up in the United States in the 1990s, my textbooks came from Texas. And well...you know.) (The last sentence is the "wink wink, nudge nudge." From "Farewell To 'Pose,' Which Fused Grief And Joy, Right Up To The Finale" by Aisha Harris, NPR, June 6, 2021.)

♦ "He dots all the "I"s and crosses all the "T"s for Michigan (wink wink).....plus the Athletic Director is afraid of him" (An online commenter about the volatile coach Juwan Howard, who is Black. The commenter probably meant, "checks all the boxes.")

♦ "The chain acknowledges that many consider 'Hooters' a slang term for a portion of the female anatomy. Hooters does have an owl logo and uses an owl theme sufficiently to allow debate to occur over the meaning's intent. The chain enjoys and benefits from this debate. In the end, we hope Hooters means a great place to eat." (Hooters.)

♦ "There's no doubt *Son of Sampson* was a heavy 'wink, wink, nudge, nudge' to gay audiences in the still heavily closeted early 1960s." (The 1960 film.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Who actually does this? (Winks to secretly communicate.)

♦ Be careful! Overseas a wink might mean something entirely different!

## winking (adjective)

winking acknowledgment

beyond his ~, he said he would address the matter later

## winner (noun)

winner

I don't think there are any ~s (politics)

## winnow (verb)

winnows (preparatory) info to a concise packet  
his staff ~

winnowed away many social services  
the government has ~

♦ "My sister midwifed their winnowing while I sifted through family history, embodied in our belongings." (Helping aged parents move out of their home of 54 years. Many older people refer to this as "decluttering." "Midwifed their winnowing?" You can point out people's odd or mixed metaphors, or you can have friends.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Farmers around the world still winnow the chaff from grain by throwing grain into the air. The wind blows away the lighter chaff from the heavier grains.

♦ "Winnow out" can mean both "remove" and "select." You can winnow out something undesirable or unwanted. But you can also "winnow out" what is desirable. According to Google's AI Overview, "A single word that can also mean its opposite is called a contronym." Microsoft Word spellcheck underlines "contronym" as a spelling mistake and suggests "contranym." English is crazy.

## win over (verb)

win over Brexiteers

can she ~ (English Prime Minister)

win over Hispanics

they are trying to ~ (politics)

## winter (decline)

winter of his life

he didn't complain at the inexorable arrival of the ~  
what he describes as the ~ (Paul Auster)

in the winter of my life

now ~, it was a great honor to... (explorer Don Walsh)

winter has (finally) come

~ to *Game of Thrones* (final two episodes)

♦ "I salute Victor Vescovo and his outstanding team for the successful completion of their historic explorations into the Mariana Trench. Six decades ago, Jacques Piccard and I were the first to visit that deepest place in the world's oceans. Now in the winter of my life, it was a great honour to be invited on this expedition to a place of my youth." ("Mariana Trench: Deepest-ever sub dive finds plastic bag" by Rebecca Morelle, BBC, May 13, 2019.)

## winter (resemblance)

winter sleep

nature is awakening from its ~

## winter (nuclear winter, etc.)

A.I. winter

the seventies proved to be the so-called "~-"

crypto winter

a recession could lead to another ~ and last for a long time

in past ~s, trading revenue declined significantly

Coinbase has survived through four major ~s

a ~, a downturn that has gone on and on...

we've been living in the ~ for the better part of a year

impact winter

debris from a comet strike could produce an ~

nuclear winter

a full-blown nuclear war would be followed by a ~

## wire (down to the wire)

going down to the wire

business leaders are furious because the new change is ~ (Brexit)

## wired (and hardwired)

hardwired into the nation's DNA

confrontation and conflict are ~ (US)

hardwired to find myself

I knew I was ~ in that situation (an abusive relationship)

hardwired for that

I was ~, drawn to it, or I drew that to me (female abuse)

wired to worry

we're ~, it's a survival mechanism

## witch (Witches Cauldron, etc.)

### Witches Cauldron

the ~ is a glacier in Petersburg Borough, Alaska

### Witches Cauldron

the ~ is a crater in Klamath County, Oregon

### Witch Creek

~ is a stream in Cochise County, Arizona

### Witch Dance

~ Hill is a summit in Chickasaw County, Mississippi

### Witch Hill

~ is a summit in Essex County, Massachusetts

### Witch Hollow

~ is a valley in Knox County, Kentucky

### Witch Island

~ is an island in Lincoln County, Maine

### Witch Lake

~ is a lake in Marquette County, Michigan

### Witch Rocks

~ make up a cliff in Summit County, Utah

### Witch Spring

~ is a spring in Custer County, South Dakota

### Big Witch

~ Gap is a gap in Jackson County, North Carolina

♦ "As the sky was clear, he did not bother to set up a brush shelter. He simply scraped together a bed of leaves, as a wild animal might do. / However, he took the human precaution of piling them under a shade that moonlight would not strike through. If one sleeps in the moonlight he will go crazy. Also he broke off a willow fork and drew a circle with it around his bed. That was to keep witches away. Then he took a piece of rubber band from his pocket, where he always carried it, snapped off a bit and burned it in the fire, so no ghost would bother him that night." (*Smoky Mountain Magic* by Horace Kephart.)

#### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Seeing the phantom-like outline of the Dolomites against the night sky, it feels harder to sneer at stories of witches, sorcerers and secret gates to the underworld. Perhaps these legends are the last reminders of a time when we didn't need to believe in heaven and hell—the landscape was mysterious enough in itself." (At Lago di Braies, near the mountain of Sass dia Porta. From "Legends of the Italian Dolomites," by Oliver Smith, BBC, 28 August 2012.)

## witch (person)

### witch

she's a ~ (disliked or feared woman)

♦ "Why can't somebody throw a bucket of water on this witch." (An online commenter about the celebrity Amber Heard. The allusion is to the beloved 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, and the Wicked Witch of the West, portrayed by Margaret Hamilton. "I'll get you, my pretty...and your little dog too!")

#### \*\*\* This was Zlydarikha or Kubarikha...

♦ "With the arrival of the womenfolk a new figure appeared in the camp. This was Zlydarikha or Kubarikha, a soldier's wife who was a cattle healer, a veterinarian, and also, secretly, a witch..." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ "Siquijor is one of more than 7,000 islands in the Philippines—it has tropical sun, white sand and an azure sea, but it is also famous for

witchcraft... Consing Achay is not quite what I imagined a witch to be. She is devoutly Catholic and sees no contradiction between her religious faith and her traditional spells." ("Healing rituals and bad spirits on a Philippine island," by Kate McGeown, BBC, 4 February 2012.)

♦ "A 40-year-old mother of two was burned alive in central Nepal after she was accused of being a witch, police said Saturday. / She was attacked and set on fire by family members and others after a shaman allegedly accused her of casting a spell to make one of her relatives sick, Police Officer Hira Mani Baral said. / The attack occurred in Bagaunda in Chitwan district, about 50 miles southwest of Kathmandu... / Police arrested 10 people, including two shamans, five women and an 8-year-old boy, in connection with the burning. / 'Those arrested have confessed to their crime and will be charged with murder,' Baral said. / Mahato had just finished cleaning a cowshed early in the morning when she was attacked, Baral said. / She was beaten with sticks and rocks before being doused with kerosene and set afire, an attack witnessed by her 9-year-old daughter, according to the local police report. / Neighbors told police they were alerted to the attack but by then it was too late to save her. / Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai appealed to the people not to heed to shamans and faith healers." ("Nepalese woman accused of witchcraft and burned alive," from Manesh Shrestha, CNN, Feb. 18, 2012.)

♦ In Ghana in 2008, 5,000 alleged witches, mainly elderly women, were living in six "witch camps," including the Gambaga Outcast Home.

♦ Traditional medicine and psychiatry may relate to black magic, the evil eye, an evil spirit, a ghost, magic, muti, sorcery, a spell, voodoo, or witchcraft. Practitioners of traditional medicine include the inyanga, medicine man, sangoma, shaman, sorcerer, traditional healer, witch, witch doctor, and yerbero.

## witch hunt

### witch hunt

the campaign has sparked a ~ (for pedophiles)

### witch hunts of the late 1940s

the anti-Communist ~ and early '50s

### "witch-hunt" on Wikileaks

Assange urges the US to end its ~

### "witch-hunt" against Wikileaks

Assange has urged the US to renounce its ~

### witch hunt tactics

I will not be subjected to your ~

### celebrity witch-hunt

police denied a ~ (sex offenses against boys)

### Democratic witch hunt

this is a ~, everyone knows it (politics)

### political witch hunt

the administration claims this is just a ~

### anti-Communist witch hunts

the ~ of the late 1940s and early '50s

### victim of a (political) witch hunt

many Zulus believe Mr Zuma to be the ~

### end witch-hunt

~, Assange urges US (on Wikileaks)

### renounce its "witch-hunt"

Assange has urged the US to ~

### turned into a hysterical witch-hunt

the Tailhook scandal ~

♦ "The Department of Justice ended a controversial program nearly two years ago... Now, a proposed House spending bill wants to bring the initiative back." (The China Initiative.)

\*\*\* **Witchcraft allegations, refugee protection and human rights...**

♦ "Witch hunts have been triggered by health crises in the past: during a tetanus epidemic in Benin, following dysentery and malaria deaths in Papua New Guinea, and during a meningitis outbreak in Ghana. In communities in the DRC, Papua New Guinea, and Tanzania, among others, HIV / AIDS is perceived to be linked to witchcraft. ("Witchcraft allegations, refugee protection and human rights: a review of the evidence," from the series New Issues in Refugee Research, Paper No. 169, by Jill Schnoebelen, UNHCR, January 2009.)

## with (support)

with you

I am ~

with him all the way

I am ~ (politics)

with you shoulder to shoulder

we are ~ (US troops withdrawn from Afghanistan)

## with (what's with, what is with)

what's with all the yelling

so ~ these days (female rage)

## withdrawal (feeling)

withdrawal symptoms

when you're not around them, do you get ~ (a birder)

going through withdrawal

sports fans are ~ because of coronavirus lockdowns

## with (verb)

withered

his faith in the government ~

wither in our (education) system

children ~ (rote learning)

wither on the vine

see *vine* (*wither on the vine*)

♦ "Nothing is withering in Waco... nothing is withering... There's a lot of blooming. I'm gonna say not withering; there's some stuff blooming in Waco..." (An irate Baylor head coach Nicki Collen, commenting on a stupid article by Kent Babb in *The Washington Post* about LSU's head coach Kim Mulkey.)

## withering (adjective)

withering barrage

their report came under a ~ of criticism (education)

withering criticism

he has faced ~

withering questioning

he faced ~ from upset lawmakers (Boeing exec)

## with us (no longer with us)

no longer with us

unfortunately, he was found in a pond and he is ~ (body)  
we've located them and they're ~ (Delphi murders)

♦ A-Wang: (Busy cutting meat with a knife on a chopping board, creating a lively chopping sound.) My radio is broken. What's the latest news? / Ritai: Qiangba's not with us anymore. / A-Wang: (Jovially.) Chasing after another girl? / Ritai: (Somberly.) He was killed. / A-Wang: (The busy chopping sound he has been creating goes silent for several beats.) / Ritai: You be careful. (From the great film *Mountain Patrol: Kekexili*.)

## with us (with us forever, etc.)

with us for more than fifty years

conceptual art has been ~

with us always

clickbait will be ~

remain with us

the costs of Vietnam ~ (troubled vets, sons, etc.)

♦ "I don't feel any guilt or blame about it. I think my view really is if we hadn't done it someone else would have. And it would be with us in any case." (Lilli S. Hornig, who worked on the Manhattan Project. From "The Bomb," PBS, 2015.)

## witness (noun)

witness roses

these ~ are saying, "Welcome home, pilgrims"

witness trees

it is one of the best known ~ at Gettysburg (Sickles')

time capsule and a witness

it serves like a ~ (the Finnish film *Fallen Leaves* / Ukraine)

bore witness

he had been captured and tortured, as livid scars ~

♦ "These witness roses are saying, 'Welcome home, pilgrims.'" (From "A rosebush, which hasn't bloomed in decades, adds color to a dim chapter in history" by Ryan Warner, NPR, Morning Edition, May 30, 2022. A "survivor" of the Amache Japanese-American internment camp witnesses a "miracle." Cheesy, overproduced, historically inaccurate, and divisive.)

♦ "These Trees At The U.S. Capitol Have Surprising Stories To Tell" by Sanford Ungar, NPR, April 30, 1982. "This story originally aired on All Things Considered on April 30, 1982. The digital preservation of this audio has been made possible in part by the National Endowment of the Humanities." Melanie Choukas-Bradley is delightful.

♦ "He also said it would have been impossible to make a movie without having the war present. It serves like a time capsule and a witness so that whenever someone sees the movie in the future they will know that this was going on." (Alma Poysti speaking to NPR's Scott Simon about the Finnish film *Fallen Leaves*. Throughout the film, the radio broadcasts news and information about the war in Ukraine.)

♦ "And off this corner in the wild, / Where these are driven in and piled, / One tree, by being deeply wounded, / Has been impressed as Witness Tree / And made commit to memory / My proof of being not unbounded." ("Beech" by Robert Frost from *A Witness Tree*.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "Witness trees have incredible stories to tell."

## witness (verb)

witnessed two cataclysmic events

the 15th century ~

## Wizards (Washington Wizards, etc.)

Washington Wizards

~ point guard Russell Westbrook

## wizard (person)

### math wizard

only gifted ~s understand it (Poincare Conjecture)

### dot-com wizard

~s becoming billionaires

### Wall Street wizard

he had a reputation as a ~ (Bernie Madoff)

### marketing wizard

a ~ who hopes he had found the path to riches

### financial wizard

he is regarded as a ~ and bankruptcy expert

♦ Reporters, editors, and digital whizzes...

\*\*\* They resemble humans, but...

♦ "They resemble humans, but their mouths are wider and their legs are much longer than ours, with the feet facing backward. They have wings to fly through the air, and are clad in green robes." (Mashraf Khan, the royally appointed wizard of Hunza, speaking of the snow fairies that, in Hunza tradition, inhabit the surrounding mountains in northwest Pakistan. Mashraf says that they have a king and a queen, and the queen makes prophecies, such as 'A girl will die a month from now, falling into the river to the north.' Mashraf says he dances with the fairies. People watch him dancing, but the fairies are invisible.)

♦ Ian Brackenbury Channell was a winner of the Queen's Service Medal and was also considered "a living work of art." ("New Zealand council ends contract with wizard after two decades of service" by Eva Corlett, *The Guardian*, Friday 15 October 2021.)

## wizard (Wizard of Menlo Park, etc.)

### Wizard of Menlo Park

Edison was known as "The ~"

### Welsh Wizard

the new champion of the world, the ~, Joe Cordina

## Wizard of Oz

### Wizard of Oz defense

he is using the ~ (pay no attention to that man behind...)

### Wizard of Oz curtain

when normal standards get applied, the ~ comes open

### Wizard of Oz effect

the ~ (it seems like it's powerful, but it's really not)

♦ "When normal standards get applied, the Wizard of Oz curtain comes open." (A scandal at CNN involving ethics and sex, resulting in three high-level dismissals.)

♦ "Why can't somebody throw a bucket of water on this witch." (An online commenter about the celebrity Amber Heard. The allusion is to the beloved 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, and the Wicked Witch of the West, portrayed by Margaret Hamilton. "I'll get you, my pretty...and your little dog too!")

♦ "And when Dr. McClain dropped the final bombshell—video footage of the results he experienced after using the method on himself—it became clear that the discovery is nothing short of incredible, of course your individual results will vary." ("How To: Repair Your Body," a full page advertisement in the *Smithsonian*, December 2017. One cannot NOT immediately think of the Scarecrow from the Wizard of Oz, on receiving a diploma: "The sum of the square roots of any two sides of an isosceles triangle is equal to the square root of the remaining side.")

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "Two Australian brigades carried on the attack and swept east and southeastward. They sang at that time a song they had brought with them from Australia which soon spread to Britain: "Have you heard of the wonderful wizard, / The wonderful Wizard of Oz, / And he is a wonderful wizard, / If ever a wizard there was." This tune always reminds me of these buoyant days..." (Winston Churchill, about the Battle of Bardia, early January 1942. From "Their Finest Hour" by Winston Churchill. The Australian troops referred to their tanks as "Matildas.")

♦ "The word **Oz** reproduces in writing the pronunciation of an abbreviation of *Aussie*, *Australia*, or *Australian*. The first evidence appears as **Oss** in 1908, and this form is likely to rhyme with *boss*. Overwhelmingly the later evidence is for the **Oz** spelling, with the final sound pronounced as 'z'... It is possible that the form **Oz** was influenced by *The Wizard of Oz*, a film that gained worldwide popularity following its release in 1939. The first record of **Oz** meaning 'Australia' appears not long after this in 1944, in the context of a wartime troop newsletter: 1944 *Barging About: Organ of the 43rd Australian Landing Craft Co.* 1 September: All the tribes of Oz did gather together." ("Meanings and origins of Australian words and idioms" by the Australian National University, School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics.)

## wizardry (noun)

### high-tech wizardry

the new weapon is a bit of ~

### technological wizardry

in an age of ~...

## wobble (flaw)

### wobble in its trajectory

Vance's rocket developed a ~ right after launch

♦ "Vance's rocket developed a wobble in its trajectory right after launch." (NPR's Ron Elving, speaking about JD Vance, Donald Trump's pick for vice-president. Elving is well known for his use of over-wrought figurative language.)

## wobble (commitment / verb)

### wobbles on tanks for Ukraine

Germany's Scholz ~

\*\*\* analysis

♦ You can stand fast / firm... or wobble.

## wobbly (condition)

### wobbly on policy

we have seen her sometimes ~ (politics)

### wobbly state

City Opera has been in a ~ since 2008

### looking (slightly) wobbly

it was perceived Britain was in decline and ~ (history)

## wobbly (commitment)

### went wobbly

he ~ but she stiffened his spine (politics)

## woke (groups)

### "woker" than their Black classmates

it is white students who are "~" (academia)

### woke activists

Cambridge Dictionary bows to '~' (definitions)

### woke babble

the left's ~ (*Latinx*, etc.)

“woke” capitalism  
~ waters down the left (David Brooks)  
the ESG movement has been labeled as ~

woke capitalism  
“~” is a derogatory reference to ESG

‘woke’ content  
who is reaping the benefits of all the ~ that we produce

woke culture  
~ is threatening Western values (Oliver Dowden, Tory)

woke definition  
so by ~ literally everything is racist

woke fans  
J.K. Rowling not worried about losing ~ (Harry Potter)

woke incarnation  
*Teen Vogue*, in its current ~...

woke (gender) ideology  
keep ~ out of schools

woke interpretation  
~ is heavy on self-flagellation (v. self-congratulation)

woke left  
those who dissent with the tenets of the ~

woke liberals  
~ see “racism” in everything

woke messaging  
Hollywood force-feeds diversity and the ~

Woke Mind  
what Elon Musk calls the ~ Virus

woke mob  
I realize I’m in the crosshairs of the ~ (QB Aaron Rodgers)  
we will never ever surrender to the ~ (Governor DeSantis)  
Disney has once again surrendered to the ~ (*Snow White*)  
presidents who sold their souls to the ~ (MIT, Harvard...)

woke orthodoxy  
I’ve been outspoken about my disagreements with the ~

woke overreach  
~ drove pro-Trump backlash (Rich Lowry)

woke people  
the cancel culture people, the ~ (the beloved John Cleese)

woke playbook  
their opinions are incompatible with the current ~

woke police  
the ~ is out there (Chris Harrison)  
the only police that need defunding are the ~

woke policy

Microsoft is the latest major company to ditch the ~ (DEI)

woke prompt  
the language model creates a ~ (AI image generation)

*Woke Racism*  
~: *How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America*

“woke” rhetoric  
they have turned ~ against their opponents

woke wasteland  
ESPN used to be the video bible of sports, now it’s a ~

woke worldview  
I’ve seen how the ~ trivializes actual bigotry (a student)

woke zombies  
where do these ~ come from (PACBs)

woke and (needlessly) bitchy  
it’s tediously ~ (*And Just Like That*)

woke, preachy, and boring  
it’s better to be offensive than ~

super woke  
she’s like ~, you know, she’s like policing me (a father)

tediously woke  
it’s ~ and needlessly bitchy (*And Just Like That*)

too woke  
America is ~, progressives have lost their minds

ineffective, woke, unaccountable  
an ~ military is an affront to its fighting men (a soldier)

weak and woke  
ESPN is both ~ (Phil Mushnick, the “conscience of sport”)

became woke  
a prejudiced white character who ~ (a book)

gone woke  
the big banks have ~ and let the community down (ESG)

\*\*\* various groups...

♦ Get Woke. Stay woke.

♦ Woke ISNT [sic] THE ENEMY / SLEEPING IS / #NOTOUTRAGED?PAYATTENTION (A protest sign. The protester is holding it aloft over her head with both hands; her mouth is open. The protest occurred at New College of Florida (NCF), one of 11 state-run universities. A liberal arts school, it has a total student enrollment of about 700, 29 of whom are graduate students.)

♦ Woke 4 Life (A t-shirt worn on the narrow chest of some rando white male ally.)

♦ “T-shirts emblazoned with the words ‘Stay Woke...’” (At Twitter, before Elon Musk took over.)

♦ “You really could have inserted the word *accountable* or *accountability* instead of *woke police*... You don’t get to say what you want. That’s just not how it works.” (The former Bachelorette Rachel Lindsay, calling out Chris Harrison, longtime host of *The Bachelor* TV show. Who gets to say what and how to say it is an important characteristic of “woke” folks.)

\*\*\* jumping on the “woke” bandwagon...



♦ “Get Lit, Stay Lit.” (The name of a solar power project that seeks to “put solar panels on one restaurant in every New Orleans neighborhood.”)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ Go woke go broke. (Pushback against “woke” corporations.)

♦ “WOKE EQUALS FAILURE.” (Donald Trump, about the USWNT’s loss to Sweden in the 2023 World Cup.)

♦ “Should the Lincoln Memorial come with a spoiler alert? Should schoolchildren be taught to question the very name of the nation’s capital?” (“Once the future, US now captive to its past” by Nick Bryant, BBC New York, 18 June 2021.)

♦ “Why young people become woker and woker: A cultural emergency” by Eric Kaufmann, Opinion, *The New York Post*, May 18, 2024.)

♦ “Museums are even more woke than universities.” (Anthropologist Elizabeth Weiss, author of *Repatriation and Erasing the Past and On the Warpath*.)

♦ “Some people are so ‘woke’ they are delirious from lack of sleep.” (Online discussion board shade / snark / sarcasm.)

♦ “The language model takes your prompt, runs it through these set of rules, and then sends the newly generated woke prompt (which you cannot access or see) to the image generator... Google has to literally put words in your mouth by secretly changing your prompt before it is submitted to the image generator.” (Adrew Torba, about images of women Popes, Black George Washingtons, etc.)

♦ “‘Stop WOKE Act’ regulates what schools and workplaces can teach about race and identity.” (Florida.)

♦ Sam Sanders argues that the term *woke* has had its day and should be retired. (“Opinion: It’s Time to Put ‘Woke’ To Sleep,” NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, December 30, 2018.)

♦ “Most people are just not into this Woke New World.” (An online commenter.)

♦ “Watching the woke brigade predictably lose its collective s-t over Donald Trump’s stunning comeback win made me laugh out loud.” (“Memo to the wailing whiny wokesters STILL losing it over Trump win: SHUT UP!” by Piers Morgan, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 18, 2024.)

♦ “‘Whispered conversations’ on woke overreach drove pro-Trump election backlash” by Rich Lowry, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 18, 2024.)

♦ “Pete Hegseth will de-woke the Pentagon and restore the military’s mission.”

♦ “What is wrong with ‘being alert’ to injustices?” (An online commenter.)

♦ “It’s a cruel woke world out there...” (Jake, from BBC’s hilarious *Ed Reardon’s Week*, Series 14, “You’re Cancelled.”)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. “The microwave is smart, but the refrigerator is woke.” (A real-estate lady showing a kitchen to two potential customers. From *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2017.)

### \*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ “The Hutu extremist magazine *Kangura* (Wake Them Up) promoted hatred of Tutsis before the genocide.” (“Roots of Rwanda’s Genocide” by Helen Epstein and Claude Gatebuke, *The New York Review*, June 10, 2021.)

♦ “Washington just felt like Baghdad... / I was just so struck with the America I’d lived in had become unrecognizable from the America I fell in love with. It was in such a state of disunion, a state of cold civil war, really. Such a polarized nation...” (“Journalist Nick Bryant reflects on life at a crossroads,” abc listen presented by Geraldine Doogue, Fri 3 Sep 2021. A 21-minute listen. A first-rate account by an educated, international, professional man with a wife and kids.)

♦ see also *awake* (adjective)

## wokeness (groups)

### wokeness

I realized ~ was different from my liberal values (student)

~ is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker

### peak (campus) wokeness

we’re past ~, the tide has turned and is receding... (2023)

### newfound wokeness

the museum’s ~ (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

### corporate wokeness

the governor wants to take on ~ (Ron DeSantis)

### earnest, uncompromising wokeness

her ~ (NPR CEO Katherine Maher)

### weakness and wokeness

the ~ of the Biden administration has made us less safe

### ‘wokeness’ comes

when ~ to Middle-earth (CNN / *The Rings of Power*)

### infected by wokeness

the intensity and brazenness of today’s young people ~

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ “Wokeness is a virus more dangerous than any pandemic hands down.” (The politician Nikki Haley at CPAC.)

♦ “Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematic*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*... Wokeness becomes a way to intimidate Boomer administrators and wrest power from them.” (“How The Bobos Broke America” by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ “We will never ever surrender to the woke mob. Florida is where woke goes to die.” (Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.)

### \*\*\* an international perspective...

♦ “It was possible to interpret [Macron’s] emphasis on her embrace of universalism as a rebuke of the ‘wokisme’ that some members of the government believe is eroding national cohesion.” (“Paris Postcard: Maman at the Pantheon,” *The Talk of the Town*, *The New Yorker* magazine, December 13, 2021, about Josephine Baker, originally from St. Louis, who became a French citizen in 1937.)

♦ “Many in the French mainstream are correct to note that wokeness is philosophically incoherent—trying to end racism by elevating race—and, if taken far enough, dangerous. The politics of identity that undergirds the obsession with social justice obliterates individuality. It subordinates human psychology—always an ambiguous terrain—to sweeping platitudes and self-certain dictates; it boxes all of us in. Worst of all, it smacks of determinism, trapping the present in a never-ending past that steals the innocence from any collective future.” (“The French Are In A Panic Over Le Wokisme” by Thomas Chatterton Williams, *The Atlantic*, March 2023.)

## wolf (predation)

### wolf

a ~ can wear scrubs or doctor’s clothing or be a woman

### wolves

Smurf was one of the ‘~’ (Jamaica Queens via Trinidad)

### wolves in here

there are a lot of ~ who will prey on the sheep (prison)

### wolf in sheep’s clothing

see *wolf* (wolf in sheep’s clothing)

♦ “I had been with the real wolves..., killers, you know, real wolves, I survived that. So the attitude...” (Jada Pinkett Smith talking to BBC’s Kirsty Young. Jada graduated from the Baltimore School for the Arts,

and attended the North Carolina School of the Arts before embarking on her highly successful career.)

♦ "Forgive me. I was raised by wolves." (A funny bumper sticker seen in Asheville, North Carolina, U.S.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "That period confirmed the ancient proverb, 'man is a wolf to man.' Traveler turned off the road at the sight of traveler, stranger meeting stranger killed for fear of being killed. There were isolated cases of cannibalism. The laws of human civilization were suspended. The jungle law was in force. Man dreamed the prehistoric dreams of the cave dweller..." (*Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak.)

♦ "It is better for your mother to be crying than for my mother to be crying." (A Romanian saying, about killing or being killed.)

♦ "We are holding a wolf by the ears, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go." (Similar to holding a tiger by the tail, or riding a tiger.)

### \*\*\* She was set upon by three arctic wolves...

♦ "Early on Sunday the 36-year-old victim—who was staying at a lodge within Thoiry park—strayed into the main Safari Zone, which is reserved for cars. / She was set upon by three arctic wolves..." ("Woman attacked by wolves in safari park near Paris" by Henri Astier, BBC News, 23 June 2024.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ If you are not a wolf, a wolf will eat you. (Said in Saudi Arabia.)

♦ "Sometimes wolves can be difficult to locate."

## wolf (wolf at the door)

keep the wolf away from the door

my streaming earnings are not significant enough to ~

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "You can bet I stand ready, when the wolf growls at the door." Watch: Toby Keith—American Soldier (Radio Edit)

♦ The great 2001 film *Enemy at the Gates* has a scene in it with a young boy and a wolf. Watch: *Enemy At The Gates* (2001)-Wolf Scene

## wolf (wolf in sheep's clothing)

wolf in sheep's clothing

we've all heard of a ~ (district attorney)

two Middle East scholars portray him as a ~

a ~, Huckle fooled people into believing... (a pedophile)

the antisemitic motif of the ~

♦ "That a young, smiling woman in blue NHS scrubs could carry out these crimes is somehow even worse..." (See the Wikipedia article "Lucy Letby.")

♦ "'Killer' does not fit into our 'nurse' schema." (FSKs.)

♦ Lucy Letby; Kristen Gilbert; Reta Mays; Genene Jones... (Hospital-based serial killers.)

♦ "Terrorism and laxity, it seems afflicts not only foreigners with different complexions and religions, but—in exceptional cases—perhaps also those with white lab coats and military haircuts." ("Profile Of a Killer" by Nicholas D. Kristof, *The New York Times*, Jan 4, 2002, writing about the "2001 anthrax attacks.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ He's a wolf in sheep's clothing.

♦ "A wolf can wear scrubs or doctor's clothing or be a woman."

## wolf (cry wolf)

cry wolf

we certainly don't want to ~

we can't ~ every time we suspect something

boy who cried wolf

the media is the proverbial ~ (can't trust it)

♦ "Joselu went down after his shirt was pulled, but maybe he was seen as the boy who cried wolf at that point. Play went on..." (Scotland 2-0 Spain.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "You know, we have a situation where a handful of people are crying wolf, about social media. But we don't actually have the data, we don't have the materials we need to build a wolf detector." (Professor Andrew Przybylski of the Oxford Internet Institute (OII). From "Facebook's growth not linked to psychological harm, study finds" by Chris Vallance, BBC, August 9, 2023.)

## wolf (throw somebody to the wolves)

threw Gary to the wolves

the museum ~ (activists at SFMOMA)

threw him to the wolves

I'm not going to ~

threw me to the wolves

my bosses ~

throwing them to the wolves

America is ~ (Afghans / US flees Afghanistan / 2021)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "We used to talk about making somebody a scapegoat, or throwing them to the wolves. Now we're more like to talk about throwing them under the bus..." (The linguist Geoff Nunberg. From "Primaries Toss Some 'Under the Bus,' Fresh Air, NPR, April 22, 2008.)

♦ You can be thrown to the sharks. Or thrown to the wolves. Or thrown under the bus. Or hung out to dry. Or crucified. Or have your head stuck on a stake. Or be made a scapegoat. Take your pick!

## wolf (thrown to the wolves)

thrown to the wolves

they are about to get ~ (Me To movement)

thrown to the (financial) wolves

the city will be ~ (bankruptcy)

thrown to the wolves and blamed

somebody who could be ~ for what happened

(stockholders)

effectively thrown to the wolves

we were ~ (Antifa and counter protesters, no police)

♦ "If they don't [restructure]... the city will be thrown to the financial wolves... Everyone will want their scrap of what money is left." (Detroit.)

## wolf down (food)

wolfed down his meal

he ~

## wonderful (as noun)

wear your wonderful

Shein, ~, Free return (clothing)

## woo (female vocalization)

woo

yeah, definitely '~~' (male sarcasm about young females)

"wooing" for justice

you're ~, right (young females cheer Luigi Mangione)

"woo" cheers

their loud and disingenuous ~ (transgressive young women)

♦ "During Saturday's 'Weekend Update' segment, Jost namedropped Mangione as he went into his wind-up for a joke, which instantly prompted raucous cheers from what sounded like mostly women." ("SNL" blasted over 'shameful' moment audience cheers for accused CEO killer Luigi Mangione" by Chris Nesi, The New York Post, Dec. 22, 2024.)

♦ "LFG!" (High-pitched whooping. Female soccer players and fans.)

♦ "Recently I got to do something I'd only dreamt of. Talked to an astronaut who's hanging out on the International space station, that global party house and space lab orbiting the earth 16 times a day... Astronaut food! Which in my book is definitely as important as all the science." (Regina Barber on NPR. From "An astronaut tells NPR what life is like on the ISS," NPR, All Things Considered, Jan 17, 2023. Whoo-whooh! LFG!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Online Merriam-Webster has entries for "woo-hoo" (interjection) and "whoo-hoo" (interjection).

## woo (verb)

wooed doctors with free trips  
the company aggressively ~ to seminars

woo the masses with (new) spending  
he could attempt to ~ (a politician)

woo students to enroll  
they're still trying to ~ (universities during pandemic)

woo voters  
millions of dollars are being spent to ~ here (NC)

woos (far-right) voters  
Sarkozy ~ after losing narrowly (elections)

## Woodstock (whitewater Woodstock, etc.)

Woodstock for capitalists  
the Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting, the "~~"

Woodstock for Kyles  
I've heard this described as a ~ (Kyle, TX promotion)

our Woodstock  
it was ~ (Atlanta's "Freaknik" spring breaks)

Black Woodstock  
"Questlove Revives '~' In 'Summer of Soul' Documentary"

Whitewater Woodstock  
it's a ~ (Green River Narrows Race / North Carolina)

♦ "Trust Me, Your Momma & Daddy Got Down." (The official trailer for the 2024 Hulu documentary *Freaknik: The Wildest Party Never Told*.)

♦ "If you tried to bring back Freaknik, it wouldn't be what it was." (Shanti Das, former music executive, from the official trailer for the 2024 Hulu documentary *Freaknik: The Wildest Party Never Told*. The same would be true for the *actual* Woodstock, which took place during America's bloody, brutal and divisive war in Southeast Asia during which almost 60,000 American service members died.)

♦ About Questlove's documentary which features the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival, see the Wikipedia article "Summer of Soul." Or watch: Summer of Soul Official Trailer

♦ "I've heard this described as a Woodstock for Kyles." (A radio commentator. For information see the Kyle City, Texas, website, "2024 Gathering of the Kyles," City of Kyle. It was an official attempt

to break the Guinness World Record for the largest same-first-name gathering. It was also the city's *fifth* attempt to wrest the record from Kupreski Kosci (Kupres) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for its gathering of "Ivans.")

## woodwork (come out of the woodwork, etc.)

came out of the woodwork  
they ~ for whatever reason (people falsely confessing)

come out of the woodwork  
it's all hype, win a few games and all the Man U fans ~  
you sad little haters ~ (Beyonce's mother, about critics)

come (streaming) out of the woodwork  
first dull Super Bowl in years and the whingers ~

coming out of the woodwork  
people are ~ (survivors of wildfire thought dead)  
armed groups are now ~ (fighting in Khartoum)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Things that come out of the woodwork are generally unwelcome and not good.

## wooded

wooded to aerial skiing by the US Ski Team  
she was ~

## woods (out of the woods)

out of the woods  
she was not ~ after the operation (transplant)  
we are not in any way ~ (hurricane)  
firefighters are not ~ yet (wildfires)  
we're not ~ yet (Iran crisis)  
we're making progress but we're not ~ yet (pandemic)

out of the inflationary woods  
while Britain is not ~, a path through has opened up (BBC)

out of the woods and into the clear  
we are not ~ yet (pandemic)

♦ An ABC news reader, speaking about a resurgence of COVID, warned, "Another reminder that we are not out of the clear just yet." Surely, she meant, "out of the *woods* and *into* the clear."

♦ "We are not yet over the mountain, the danger remains among us." (The coronavirus in Austria, which is famous for its mountains.)

### \*\*\* Every time I enter a forest...

♦ "Every time I enter a forest which stretches for several miles I have an involuntary feeling of something like humility. Such a primitive forest is a kind of elemental force, and it is not to be wondered that even the aborigines, these simple nomads of the forest, before crossing its threshold which separates it from the inhabited world, first utter prayers to their gods and beg protection against the evil spirits which haunt the wooded wastes." (*Dersu Uzala* by V.K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr.)

♦ "Midway in our life's journey, I went astray / from the straight road and woke to find myself / alone in a dark wood..." Dante's *The Inferno*, translated by John Ciardi.)

♦ "You can only go halfway into the darkest forest, then you are coming out the other side." (Chinese.)

## woods (neck of the woods)

neck of the woods

someone from our ~ (Western North Carolina)

happening in your neck of the woods  
here's what's ~ (national TV weather report)

make its way to our neck of the woods  
the storm will ~ (weather report / North Carolina)

**word (the last word)**

the last word  
it's phase 1, so this might not be ~

**word (P-word, etc.)**

A word  
physicians should not be afraid to say the ~ ("abortion")

"a-word"  
he didn't say the ~ ("abortion" / NPR about Trump)

A word  
yes, there's that ~ again ("anthropomorphizing")

B word  
in an era when the ~ for billion was shocking (1930s)

B word  
they all loved the Beatles, they called it the ~ (Nirvana)

B-word  
she has been referred to by the ~ ("bitch" / a politician)  
calling a woman "difficult" is a code word for the ~

b-word  
my friends and I called each other the ~ ("bitch")

B word  
she's not deserving of it, she's a ~ ("bitch")

"B" word  
I didn't say the ~, I used euphemisms (low vision v. blind)

B word  
he objected to being called a ~ ("bastard" or "bully")

B-word  
she called it the other "~" ("bossy" / Sheryl Sandberg)

C word  
he used the ~ to describe Helen MacNamara... ("cunt")

C-word  
See you next Tuesday is a euphemism for the ~ (C U N T)

D-Word  
Obama called ~ ("dick" / NPR / 2011)

D Word  
the dreaded ~ (the economy / "depression")

d word  
the sports world is using the ~ ("dynasty" / K.C. Chiefs)

F-Slur  
Pope Francis used the ~ ("*frociaggine*" / faggotry)

f—t  
being called a dyke or a ~ (faggot / trans male)

f-word  
Sunday Puzzle: No, not that ~ (NPR, being coy)

F-word  
is the ~ ever okay in the classroom ("fuck")

'F' word  
Mr. Rogers just said the ~ ("fuck" / a startled listener)

F-word  
it's treated as taboo, as the ~ ("feminism")

"F" word  
the dreaded ~ ("feminism" / Time Magazine Katy Perry)

F-word  
Jets GM Joe Douglas used the ~ ("freak" = player's ability)

F-Word  
the CDC's reluctance to use the '~' (NPR / "firearms")

"F" word  
Trump's detractors debate whether the ~ applies ("fascist")

f-word  
Barack Obama was using the ~ privately in 2016 ("fascist")

*G Word*  
Adam Conover stars in Netflix's *The ~* (government)  
*The ~* is a comedy-documentary series

"H" word  
the documentary avoids mentioning the ~ ("Hindu")

"h-word"  
using the ~ ("I hate broccoli" vs hating groups, etc.)

"i-word"  
he definitely did say the ~ (NPR / "indict" / about Trump)

*L Word*  
Showtime's *The ~* ("Lesbian" / TV / 2004 to 2009)  
*The ~: Generation Q* ("Lesbian" / TV / 2019-2023)

m-word  
Walton used the "~" (ex-NBA and Deadhead / "midget")

N word  
the ~ ("Negro," used by MLK, Jr., but now out of favor)

N-word  
should the ~ be purged from Mark Twain's *Classic* (NPR)  
she used the ~ 33 times (a silly drunk white coed)  
"What's up, ~" can mean "buddy" (Black to Black)

n word  
so he said the ~, read it off an iPad (Coach Cale Gundy)  
he apparently used the ~ on live television (a broadcaster)

n-word  
Rachel Richardson was called the ~ (Duke volleyball)

we never spell out the ~ (Newsweek's policies & standards)

#### P-word

the ~ should be sent to the dustbin of history ("Paki")

#### P-Valley

Hall adapted "~" from her 2015 play, "Pussy Valley"

#### R-word

"Black crime" and "kung flu" add up to the ~ ("racism")

#### R-word

he called the brother the ~ slur ("retarded")

don't use the ~ for people on the spectrum (autism)

Chris Broussard later apologized for using the ~ (sports)

#### "R" word

derogatory words such as the ~ ("retarded")

#### S word

I can't use the ~ thanks to Yahoo censorship ("suicide")

#### 'S' Word

"Activists Reclaim Use Of The ~" ("Slut" / NPR, 2011)

#### s-word

the ~ will forever be harmful ("spaz" / Lizzo)

#### S Word

Name Change: The ~ (Squaw Valley to Palisades Tahoe)

#### "S" word

he explains how the ~ was used in the past ("Socialist")

#### "T" word

the ~ to him is like a warm bed ("trauma" / disparagement)

#### T-word

the ugly revelations inch closer to the ~ ("torture" vs. enhanced interrogation)

♦ "Yes, there's that A word again." ("Anthropomorphizing." Barbara J. King, author of "How Animals Grieve," answering a question and defending her work. She is into animal welfare, rights, emotions, etc.)

♦ "They don't criminalize physicians' speech, right, so, physicians should not be afraid to say the A word." (Elizabeth Sepper, a professor of law at University of Texas at Austin. From "3 abortion bans in Texas leave doctors 'talking in code' to pregnant patients," NPR, Morning Edition, March 1, 2023. "Abortion.")

♦ "That was an era when the B word for billion was as shocking to the ear as the T word is today." ("In The 1930s, Works Program Spelled HOPE for Millions Of Jobless Americans" by Ron Elving, NPR, The Coronavirus Crisis, April 4, 2020.)

♦ "Rendon accused the fan of calling him a 'b----.'" (ESPN, about the MLB player Anthony Rendon. *The New York Post* headline was, "Angels' Anthony Rendon takes swing at A's fan: 'Called me a bitch.'" Snarky fan comments included, "Well, he does slap like one," "Swing and a miss," and "The A's have fans?")

♦ "Diaz called Chimaev a 'b----ass rookie.'" (UFC 279, as reported on ABC. "Bitch-ass?" "Broke-ass?")

♦ "She's not deserving of it, she's a B word." (The boxer Claressa Shields, from Flint, Michigan, about a rival. Claressa was talking about respect. She claimed her opponent didn't deserve it.)

♦ "The messy feud between two of MAGA world's biggest stars burst into public view on Wednesday, when Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) called Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) a 'little bitch' to her face on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives." ("Marjorie Taylor Greene Calls Boebert a 'Little Bitch' on the House Floor" by Zachary

Petrizzo and Sam Brodey, *The Daily Beast*, June 21, 2023. Both "solons" are women.)

♦ "He especially objected to being called 'a 'B word'" on the editorial page. It wasn't clear if he meant 'bastard' or 'bully'—the paper has referred to him as both." ("Done Fighting This Madness," Akron Mayor Steps Down" by M.L. Schultze, NPR, Morning Edition, May 15, 2015.)

♦ "I call disabled viewing platforms the 'cripple pen.'" (A disabled commenter, reclaiming the word "cripple." From "After the N-word, the P-word" by Rajni Bhatia, BBC, 11 June 2007.)

♦ "And she said that he used a vulgar epithet, like the most I think vile epithet that you can use for a woman..." (NPR's David Folkenflik, like I think clutching his pearls.)

♦ "ESPN fires MLB reporter for calling fellow reporter 'f-king c-t.'" (Both reporters were women.)

♦ "He was a c-t." (The actress Miriam Margolyes about the actor Steve Martin. A woman referring to a man. "Cunt.")

♦ "Kevin Aviance's 1999 song, 'C—y' is sampled in Beyonce's "PURE / HONEY" on the Renaissance album. ("Cunty," an "iconic classic," is one of the most sampled songs in "ballroom." Kevin is "a nightlife staple" and "drag legend.")

♦ "Once in a while, he'd disappear behind a curtain and come out wearing a pair of fluid trousers, or a lacy top or a burgundy suit... When something tickled him, he let his voice rise to a high, smoky giggle. 'That's cunt,' he sometimes said. Between costume changes, he chatted about recent movies..." ("Outside Man: Jeremy O. Harris, before and after 'Slave Play'" by Vinson Cunningham, *The New Yorker*, September 25, 2023.)

♦ "See you next Tuesday" is a euphemism for the C-word: C U N(ext) T(uesday). This seems to be in the spirit of, "Miss Mullins, you're the man" from the great 2003 film *School of Rock*.

♦ "The red mist had metaphorically descended over the defendant's eyes..." (The ruling by Mr Justice Martin Spencer in *Czernuszka v King*. From "Reading rugby player wins compensation over revenge tackle" by Marcus White, BBC News, 23 Feb 2023. Natasha King, captain of the Bracknell "Ladies" rugby team, had referred to her opponents as "c\*\*\*\*s" and said, "That f\*\*\*\*ing number 7, I'm going to break her." An appalling case with real-life consequences.)

♦ BBC political correspondent Nick Eardley: "The enquiry was also shown a number of messages showing Mr. Cummings using explicit language about officials and ministers. He used the C-word to describe Helen MacNamara, the deputy cabinet secretary. He threatened to handcuff her and escort her from Number Ten. He was equally explicit in his language about cabinet ministers." / Interrogator: "You called ministers useless (bleep) pigs, morons, (bleep) in emails and WhatsApps to your professional colleagues. Do you think you contributed to a lack of effectiveness on the part of ministers and of the cabinet?" / Dominic Cummings, Chief adviser to PM Boris Johnson: "My appalling language is obviously my own. But, uh, my judgment of a lot of senior people was widespread." / Nick Eardley: "Mr. Cummings admitted his language had been appalling, but he denied misogyny. Mr. Cummings also remained defiant about..." (BBC Six O'Clock News, 31/10/2023, "Covid Inquiry hears Boris Johnson believed elderly should have been allowed to catch Covid.")

♦ "She called Florida the 'd\*\*\* of the country.'" ("Tiffany Cross, on Comedy Central's Charlamagne Tha God's program Hell of a Week, in the segment entitled "One's Gotta go." A "dick" is slang for a penis.)

♦ "I don't like the D-word. I think calling soil that word is not helpful because it assumes that this is an abundant resource that we can take for granted." (Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, a soil scientist at the University of California-Merced. "Dirt.")

♦ "What it was, was all those f-gs, those Catholic f-gs..." ("WVU reviewing incident after Huggins uses anti-gay slur on air" by Myron Medcalf, ESPN, May 8, 2023. "Fag.")

♦ Pope Francis was condemned for using the Italian word "frocchiaggine," which translates as "faggotry." He apologized.)

♦ "For roughly the entirety of Trump's political career, his detractors have debated, exhaustively and exhaustingly, whether the 'f' word is reasonably applied to him..." ("Fascist, fascism." From "Listen to Trump" by Charles Homans, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 28, 2024.)



♦ *FBoy Island* is a dating reality TV series hosted by the comedian Nikki Glaser. A man is either a nice guy or a F-boy. A spinoff called *FGIRL Island* is in the works.

♦ “Look, I’ve never seen a circumstance where you ride through certain rural areas of the country and people have signs there [unintelligible] saying “Eff Biden” and the little kids standing there, puttin’ up his middle finger.” (President Joseph Biden speaking to Lester Holt two days after Donald Trump was nearly assassinated.)

♦ “Little People of America (LPA) called Walton’s use of the term ‘m-t’ deplorable and inexcusable.” (The great ex-NBA star and Deadhead Bill Walton. “Midget.”)

♦ “I’m from the South, and I’ve been through the traditional kind of campaigns where everybody got to call you the N-word, the B-word, or the C-word.” (Donna Brazile, interim chair of the D.N.C. From “Active Measures” by Evan Osnos, David Remnick, and Joshua Yaffa, *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2017.)

♦ “What did he say? All the articles I’ve seen so far have said that he said a racial slur but none of them include what it is he was supposed to have said. Pretty weird omission.” (An online commenter. The player who made the remark was Belgian, the on-field disruption resulted in 21 minutes of extra time being added on to the game, and the game ended in a 1-1 draw. Such is soccer.)

♦ “And it was in KSI’s answer that he made the racist slur, using an offensive word sometimes used towards people from South Asian backgrounds. Looking down at letters, he looks up and says, ‘I don’t mean this maliciously, but the word is BLEEP.’” (The spoof of the Countdown Challenge took place on a YouTube channel. “Paki.”)

♦ “Ann Coulter branded the former president a ‘gigantic p-y.’ (Trump. “Pussy.”)

♦ Doowopron: May I buy some vowels? I was curious also—gotta be some Aussie slang? / Tigers Blood: I’m sorry that I’m just not very hip, but...what inappropriate word is ‘r\_\_\_\_\_d’? / Laura: Yea [sic] I was wondering myself. / Rita S: I don’t know either. ????. / Danny: I’m thinking retarded. / t.laf: Yes, and the fact that it is deemed inappropriate is retarded. (Online commenters about the article “F-k you”: Teen’s fiery response following alleged machete robbery” by Hamish Spence, *News.com.au*, Sept 4, 2022.)

♦ “Cheerleaders are dancers—who have gone retarded.” (The silly 2000 Film *Bring It On*.)

♦ “Linguist Geoff Nunberg explains how the ‘S’ word was used in the past—and why it’s come up now.” (“Socialist” Charge Draws On Old Fears” by Geoff Nunberg, NPR, Fresh Air, October 29, 2008.)

♦ “In accordance with Secretary’s Order 3404 the BGN (Board on Geographic Names) has approved replacement names for all official features that included the word “Sq\_\_\_\_\_” in their name. The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is being updated to reflect these changes. More information is available in the Derogatory Geographical Names FAQs.” (“Squaw.”)

♦ “She f-king jumped into me, you tw-t!” (Allysha Chapman, Canadian soccer player, to Australia’s coach Tony Gustavsson, about physical contact with Hayley Raso in a 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup game that left Raso on the ground. “Twit”? “Twat”? “Twot = total waste of time”? Only Allysha knows.)

♦ “My V-steam cost \$50, a lot to pay for sitting over hot vapor.”

♦ “And a warning: his report contains some choice language...” / “Hancock is so far up BJ’s ass his ankles are brown.” (Heard on BBC, Six O’clock News, 08/11/2023. The Covid Inquiry.)

♦ “A pidgin English field guide would list buk-buks, pakes, buddaheads, katonks, makes, titas, popolos, yobos, blalahs, haoles and portagees.” (Ethnic and racial labels used in Hawaii.)

\*\*\* **jumping on the “word (P-word, etc.)” bandwagon...**

♦ “Is Swearing The Secret Sauce To Successful Sales Relationships?” Spiro, September 22, 2016. (“Spiro... AI-Powered CRM for Manufacturers.” CRM is Customer relationship management. Swearing can represent “sincerity,” etc.)

♦ “There’s a [sic] few things that are as effective as a well-placed cuss word. And I think Anthony Edwards just hit it on the head. (Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, who was born and raised in Virginia, about “Bring ya ass.” Read “Minnesotans of all stripes are cashing in on Anthony Edwards’ cheeky tourism slogan” by Eder Campuzano, *Star Tribune*, May 22, 2024. NPR just *loved* this story. Listen to “Minnesota Nice” has been replaced by a new, cheeky slogan for the

state, NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, May 26, 2024.” Introduced by NPR’s Ayesha Rascoe with a cute trigger warning, it’s a report by Peter Cox. Minnesota was crushed by the Dallas Mavericks in the following series, 4-1. So much for “Bring ya ass.”)

♦ “That’s Shatane Porter, a counselor at Ron Brown College Preparatory High School. And yes, he is talking about the F-word. And whether it’s OK for students to say it. In class. In front of their teacher.” (“Is The F-Word Ever OK In The Classroom?” by Ariana Figueroa, nprEd, October 29, 2017. A 46-Minute Listen.)

\*\*\* **problems, criticism, pushback, snark...**

♦ “The F-word—once a vulgarity for which you were sent to the principal’s office, your parents summoned for your inexcusably antisocial misconduct—has become the new word for public-figure adults to very publicly speak to emphasize sincerity, conviction and diminished social standards....[P]andering to the lowest denominator—watching our sports as they self-destruct and eliminate the right-minded rather than risk offending the most offensive—has become the preferred, gutless, classless, downpointed response.” (“Golden Knights’ William Karlsson joins social disaster of sports stars freely using F-bombs” by Phil Mushnick, the *New York Post*, June 24, 2023. Mushnick truly deserves the epithet “the conscience of sport.”)

♦ “Can never understand why the BBC persists reproducing this pejorative, mildly abusive slang on its ‘Have Your Say’ columns.” (“Pom,” mentioned by commenters after England defeated Australia in the Fifa 2023 Women’s World Cup. In Australia, certain representatives of England are referred to as “Pommie bastards,” and for good reasons! Fair dinkum, mate!)

♦ The epithet “carpetbagger” seems to be perfectly acceptable by all today, despite its pejorative use during the Reconstruction era.

♦ “I think ‘hillbilly’ is the one epithet people are allowed to use. The rest are politically incorrect. If they want to look down upon us, then that is their problem. The ignorance is one-sided, and in that way I’ve never had a problem with it.” (Fred Chappell, North Carolina poet laureate.)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ View “John McWhorter on Cursing, Anti-Racism, and Why ‘We Need to Stop Being So Afraid,’” YouTube, ReasonTV. It is a fascinating interview with a distinguished linguist who is always interesting. As the introduction says, “McWhorter’s latest volume to hit store shelves is *Nine Nasty Words*, a study of how curse words such as “fuck” and the N-word became commonplace, unsayable, or something in between. [ReasonTV] talked with McWhorter about the shifting status of curse words and accusations of systemic racism in contemporary America.”

♦ “And, I’m not going to say the word, but that other word. This new idea that to refer to the N-word is the same thing as using it is absurd. It is utterly absurd. And the reason I’m putting it that way is because...” (It’s not using the word, it’s referring to it. The linguist John McWhorter, speaking at the Citrin Center at the University of California Berkeley. “John McWhorter: Pitfalls in the Policing of Language—YouTube.” Watch and listen to: [youtube.com/watch?v=FeR2yb5qgWE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeR2yb5qgWE)

♦ “Rude words are a constant, but their ability to cause offense is in flux.”

♦ see also *bomb* (F-bomb, etc.), *freaking* (F, effing, fricking, frickin’, friggin’, etc.)

## word salad

### word salad

~, means absolutely nothing (a VP’s jumbled remarks)

### word-salad locutions

her ~ give ammunition to her critics (politics)

### word salad talking

her ~ (a “woke” celebrity)

### officialdom word salad

her memo in the ~ (Edith Chapin defends NPR)



## trademark word salad

she served up another helping of her ~ (Vice President)

### \*\*\* various groups...

♦ “So, during Women’s History Month, we celebrate and we honor the women who made history through history, who saw what could be unburdened by what had been.” (U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.)

♦ “I think it’s very important, as you have heard from so many incredible leaders, for us at every moment in time, and certainly this one, to see [seize?] the moment in time in which we exist and are present, and to be able to contextualize it, to understand where we exist in the history and in the moment as it relates not only to the past but the future.” (Vice President Kamala Harris in her speech at Howard University, Tuesday, April 25, 2023.)

♦ “I understand this is a different moment in time that we’re in.” (White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.)

♦ “Look folks, you all know in your lives. Setbacks are unavoidable. But giving up is unforgivable. Setbacks are unavoidable but giving up is unforgivable. We all get knocked down. But the measure of our character as my Dad would say is how quickly we get back up. Remember, a defeat does not mean that we are defeated. We lost this battle. The America of your dreams is calling for you to get back up...” (President Biden addresses the nation following Kamala Harris’ loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.)

♦ “We think this is long overdue, we’re making a sizeable investment in this, and that’s just a downpayment on, you know, further investment in making sure that we are making sure that voters have accurate information.” (Congresswoman and chairwoman of Bold PAC Linda Sanchez. From “Latino Democrats launch ‘Our Lucha’ war room using Spanglish to combat GOP” by Claudia Grisaes, NPR, Politics, February 15, 2024. The “making sure that we are making sure that” was cleaned up in the transcript.)

♦ Astrologer and relationship expert Colin Bedell is the author of *Queer Cosmos: The Astrology of Queer Identities & Relationships*. He is at Colin Bedell @queercosmos. View “Everything you need to know about Mercury going into retrograde in Gemini,” ABC News, May 28, 2021.

♦ “I mean this is the whole beauty of like horror movies is that it’s such like weird circumstances and there’s so much like weird rules about them that it’s fun to subvert them and it’s also like, the horror movies themselves were doing subverting, were like trying to like, be twisted and do this weird stuff and have these weird commentaries, and this is what makes *Scream* so good, right.” (Alex Abad-Santos, a self-professed “flagrant homosexual.” From “M3GAN, murder, and mass queer appeal,” NPR, It’s Been A Minute, January 17, 2023. Weird.)

♦ “There has to be more room for us as artists. We have to be able to be seen in our fullness in terms of our own artistic agency, and we’re a long way from that.” (The artist Judy Chicago.)

♦ “Yes, it feels to me like a moment where people are sort of battering down the hatches and picking the safe lane.” (Film producer Dede Gardner, mixing her metaphors.)

♦ “I feel that same pit in my stomach as so many of you today do.” (Governor Jared Polis of Colorado, expressing grief after a mass shooting at a gay bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado. An eggcorn? This usage is becoming increasingly common.)

♦ “So, that’s one of the lines that I had in the book, it’s like, you know, people love to uh make Black women feel that they don’t matter, you know what I’m saying? And just kinda that social attitude that you know women Black women are the least protected and seemingly the least relevant. Of course we’re proving that to be completely wrong these days, with what’s happening, you know.” (Jada Pinkett Smith, explaining what she means by “irrelevant.”)

♦ “If someone went into my grandma’s house with a f-ing shotgun and blew her brains out, I’m going to be sad, I’m going to go through the whole f-ing array of human emotions, but at some point, if I’m able to really sit with that, there’s no level or retribution that’s going to make me feel any type of way.” (Chas Moore, head of the Austin Justice Coalition in Austin, Texas. Quoted in “Leader of anti-police group wants no prison time for murder, burglars to clean homes as punishment” by MaryAnn Martinez, *The New York Post*, April 5, 2023.)

♦ “Yah, um, I definitely do see, among my peers and with myself, that, even though it is still this popular app, um, I find that a lot of people have some of the most problems with it, um, in terms of, like what we’ve been talking about right now, in terms of anxieties and the different pressures that come with social media.” (With upspeak, heard on NPR.)

♦ “It was the hardest thing to shake when I spent time in Australia, and somebody would say, ‘thank you,’ and I would say, ‘Yep! Oh—uh, I mean, ‘you’re welcome!’ Because to me, it’s kind of rude—like, it’s not rude, but saying ‘yep’ and ‘sure’ is the equivalent of saying ‘no problem,’ and that is more polite in America than saying ‘you’re welcome.’” (Some rando named Millie on TikTok.)

♦ “I think that’s so interesting because the idea of networking has always been really intimidating to me, but building real relationships feels much more natural, so I like to hear you say that.” (A GMA host talking to Aliza Licht, author of *On Brand*.)

♦ “I just like thank God that I like, you know, thank God I stood up for myself and said exactly what I wanted.” (Jamie Lynn Spears, sister of Britney Spears.)

♦ “You know, why nuns? Uh, why not. You know, I really respond to characters with passion, you know, coming from *Big Bang* and you had these physicists who their passion was science and umm you know exploring those whose passions are the divine which is sort of a total pivot starting from a place of these women who have this full and total commitment and and feeling like that’s so far outside of my experience, and wanting to sort of understand and unpack and just coming from a place of curiosity first and foremost...” (Tara Hernandez. From “Tara Hernandez and Damon Lindelof on creating the Peacock series ‘Mrs. Davis,’ NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday, April 23, 2023.)

♦ “She is in this real empirical phase of her career.” (Nora “Absolutely” Princiotti of the *Ringer* speaking to Ari Shapiro on NPR about Taylor Swift. She has 12K followers.)

♦ “I felt like I kind of realized who I was by being with him—or like, I felt like I was allowed to be who I was, and I didn’t feel like I needed to be anybody different.” (A contemporary woman about her relationship with her husband.)

♦ “I hear all this rummaging upstairs in the kitchen. It sounded like multiple people, so my heart started like beating...” (A Temple University coed, about yet another home invasion off campus, in Philadelphia.)

♦ “Yeah, I was a little bit understanding at first and then it sort of become [sic] frustrating in how it’s like straight aggravating (upspeak on “aggravating”) because it’s like leave us alone (exasperation vocalization) a little bit umm...” (A coed at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, about the 2022 University of Idaho killings, and the national interest in finding the perpetrator or perpetrators.)

### \*\*\* woke...

♦ “Because you just end up in that place where you feel like you’re in this sort of this embattled environment where at times it’s really difficult to be the person who’s talking about trees.” (*Battle Grounds: Culture Wars in the Countryside*, “Episode 4. Trees,” BBC, Sounds 9 Nov 2023.)

♦ “My belief is that we should be centering the voices and the experiences of the most marginalized people and communities at all times. So when I think about what fat liberation looks like to me, I think about centering the voices of those who live in and who maneuver through spaces and institutions in a fat body.” (Zyahna Bryant, activist, who has partnered with the soap and beauty company Dove to promote fat liberation, or size freedom.)

♦ “It feels like an impossible place to be worrying about this material we hold without interrogating what it is, what narratives there are to be understood in a more profound way, and how the material came to be in our collection.” (Melanie Keen. From “Wellcome Collection closes ‘racist, sexist and ableist’ Medicine Man display” by Rachel Russell, BBC, November 28, 2022.)

♦ “[It was upsetting] to see her, as a white woman, take on these tropes and profit off of them. She was presenting Latinas in a very toxic way. I think that was definitely very triggering for me as someone who has to conform to certain standards of whiteness, especially in the academic and personal space.” (*Graduate student* [italics mine] and content creator Marlene Ramirez about popular creator Chiara King, who is from the U.K. From “How Latin identity

became fodder for content" by Manuela Lopez Restrepo, NPR, Pop Culture, Dec. 10, 2022.)

♦ "He was telling his truth and I think unfortunately some of that has been distorted due to some other factors, but I do think he did not intend to tell a truth that wasn't his truth." (Juror Samantha Imrie explaining her vote in the Gwyneth Paltrow-Terry Sanderson trial.)

♦ A mental health / social justice activist talked about discrimination against people with "behavioral health disabilities." If you type that phrase into Wikipedia, you are sent to "Emotional or behavioral disability." The disclaimer says, "The examples and perspective in this article deal primarily with the United States and do not represent a worldwide view of the subject..."

### \*\*\* popular "science"...

♦ "Brain science; brain scans; we are wired to form...; fire the empathic part of the brain; reactivating...; brain region lights up; regions of the brain that say attachment or fondness; the brain's natural impulses are...; neuroscientists; how our brains actually work; releasing a brain hijacked by defensive emotions..." ("Loyalty to groups helped humans survive. That instinct still shows up in conflicts" by Yuki Noguchi, NPR, All Things Considered, October 30, 2023.)

### \*\*\* journalism...

♦ "Boston police said Michael Perry, 37, was charged with murder Friday after he tried to flee an apartment with a corpse found in it earlier this week, only to end up hanging upside down a dozen floors above the street." ("Alleged Boston killer caught dangling from high-rise by his underwear" by Jacob Geanous, *New York Post*, December 17, 2022. The caption of a photo reads, "Cops said Michael Perry tried to flee with a corpse before they caught him." The caption of another photo reads, "Police arrested Michael Perry and charged with murder on Friday." Commenters remarked on the horrible writing and lack of editing.)

♦ "VA probes trooper hired to killed teen's family" by Denise Lavoie, Associated Press, December 20, 2022, on ABC news. After clicking, you find this: "Virginia probes hiring of trooper who killed teen's family." To further clarify: "The Virginia Office of the State Inspector General is investigating the state police hiring of a man who drove across the country, kidnapped a 15-year-old California girl and killed her mother and grandparents."

♦ "Synagogue attacker took hostages, moved jails." (A headline, again at ABC news. After clicking, you find this: "Synagogue attacker moved to new prison after taking hostages.")

♦ "He 'served the Palmdale and Antelope Valley communities without absolute distinction.'" (ABC News.go, about a murdered sheriff. "Without absolute distinction"?)

♦ "Boeing shares tank." (The actual headline was, "Boeing shares tank after aerospace giant warns it will burn through cash in 2024." It took my mind three times to realize that the verb was "tank.")

♦ "He drove to a police station and gave himself in." (NPR's Eric Westervelt. Gave himself up? Turned himself in?)

♦ Tom Llamas of NBC Nightly News: Back here at home to the tragedy in North Texas where authorities say four people were killed and eleven injured when a van rolled over on a highway. Kathy Park is there for us tonight and Kathy, you're getting some new reporting. I understand. One person somehow walked away from this? / Kathy Park, NBC New Correspondent: Tom, that's right, officials say one person is dead..." (Huh? Sadly, this state of affairs is becoming the new media norm.)

♦ Michele Martin: Was there any warning (for Lebanese civilians to evacuate Beirut, or perhaps for Israeli attacks)? / Jane Arraf: Well it's been building... (For the next two minutes Arraf talks about history, and we hear a voice snippet of Netanyahu. She never does answer the question. Sadly, this is becoming quite common at NPR. A host asks a question and the NPR reporter / journalist / analyst / pundit never answers it. A problem with the script? Poor tape splicing?)

### \*\*\* mental illness...

♦ "Mr. de Ruiter told his son he had a 'knowing' that he was meant to 'be with a number of women in sexual relations with a purpose of meaning' the *Globe* reported." ("Self-styled spiritual leader John de Ruiter charged with sex crimes" by Holly Honderich, BBC News, 24 Jan 2023.)

♦ "They hurted me; I don't want to be a American african; They made me who I'm am today a killer; My father as nothing to do with this; sorry for my hand writing (at top left corner); racist mother fuckers..." (From the note in the pocket of Anthony Dwayne McRae, 43, who committed suicide after he murdered three students at Michigan State University and critically injured others.)

♦ "Those crackers going to private fancy schools with those fancy kwakis [sic] and sports backpacks. W/thier daddies [sic] mustangs and convertibles..." (Audrey / Aiden Hale, a transgender man, who murdered 3 nine-year-olds and 3 adults at their school. See the Wikipedia article "2023 Nashville school shooting.")

♦ "The self-identified 'Hamas fighter' was arrested..." (Patrick Dai, a Cornell University engineering student. See "Who Is Patrick Dai '24, Student Charged for Posting Antisemitic Threats?" by Julia Senzon and Marian Caballo, *The Cornell Daily Sun*, November 1, 2023.)

♦ "I learned that if I shouted 'Scotty!' I could stop this cycle. In the stunned silence while the feedback loop was momentarily arrested, I could ask Scotty a question about himself, and the echolalia—the parroting of what I said—did not resume. Instead, a torrent of speech would commence, a veritable word-salad that climbed up the drapes, bounced off the ceiling and circled the bed." (*My Own Country: A Doctor's Story* by Abraham Verghese.)

♦ "One common sign of psychosis is disorganization. To us, on the outside, it can look like someone talking fast, getting lost in tangents, or even just stringing seemingly random words together." (Breaks from reality.)

### \*\*\* public testimonies of grief...

♦ "There's barely been even a day in my life when you were not with me by my side..." (Drug overdose death testimonial.)

♦ "I will hold you so tight every day in my heart you gorgeous loving amazing fierce human being." (A sister's tribute to her brother, who died of a drug overdose.)

♦ "Oh, my god I cannot believe she is gone! Her soul was just too pure and beautiful." (A fan's tribute to porn star Sophia Leone.)

♦ "Kyle loved and lived fiercely." (TikToker dead at 36.)

### \*\*\* Sam Bankman-Fried...

♦ "No one ever asked about the risk engine. I don't know what I would have done if asked. I would have done one of two things. Either I would have answered a different question, or I would have made a word salad." (Sam Bankman-Fried, as quoted by Michael Lewis in his book *Going Infinite: The Rise And Fall Of A New Tycoon*. He was found guilty on all charges in his federal fraud, conspiracy, and money laundering trial. The jury deliberated for a little over four hours before reaching its verdict.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "This is the most election [sic] of our lifetime." (Kamala Harris. Commenters about her various speeches have posted, "Kamala Harris goes full Xanax and weed with her word salad"; "Obviously intoxicated and starting to panic"; "a poser"; "insanely idiotic"; "rambling"; "incoherent"; and "vapid.")

♦ Fake accent; nothing authentic; cheap; contrived; desperate; fake; gold-digging; inauthentic; obnoxious; a big phony; overly produced; no substance; social climbing victim and narcissist; virtue signalling; low whispering voice; whining... (Snark directed at the "mustang" wife of a British aristocrat, the couple currently residing in the U.S. Her speech has been reviled as "woke" and "word salad.")

♦ "MSN, Microsoft's in-house news aggregation site, sparked outrage after it published an artificial intelligence-powered obituary of former NBA player Brandon Hunter which referred to him in the headline as 'useless'... The news story that MSN published about Hunter's death bore a headline which read: 'Brandon Hunter useless at 42.'" Much of the story was linguistic "word salad," or gibberish. Commenters were outraged. One posted, "AI should not be writing obituaries. Pay your damn writers MSN." From "MSN slammed by users after insane AI-powered headline calls deceased ex-NBA pro 'useless,'" by Ariel Zilber, *New York Post*, Tech, Sept. 18, 2023.)

♦ "Im afraid we have seen the best of AJ and its simply not good enough. Listening to him speak is torturous, he makes zero sense... time to hang them up AJ you day has come and gone" (A fight fan.)

♦ "Hey Trump supporters, take 20 seconds and listen to this heaping pile of hot mess, and then don't ever complain again about 'word salad' coming from Harris." (A snarky tweet from someone named

Joe Walsh @ WalshFreedom on X. He must be somebody, though, because his tweet was shown and read on NBC by Lester Holt.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. A contemporary young woman, driving a car, is speaking to another contemporary young woman who for some reason is sitting in the backseat. The young lady who is driving is saying, "I'm not angry, I'm just disappointed. And, to be honest, I'm not really disappointed, either, I'm just hungry." (*The New Yorker*, June 5, 2023. The cartoon is signed W. McPahil. Funny!)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ According to the Wikipedia article "Word salad," this type of language can indicate logorrhea, aphasia, or a personality disorder. As more and more "voices" are heard and "stories" are told, we will get more and more of it.

♦ Journalism has never been worse, and things will only get worse, as proofreading is automated and more and more of what we see and hear is generated by artificial intelligence.

♦ see also *boilerplate (noun)*, *buzzword (noun)*, *doublespeak (noun)*, *ese (legalese, etc.)*, *funny language*, *gobbledygook*, *language (types)*, *lip service (pay lip service, etc.)*, *newspeak (noun)*, *speak (NASA-speak, etc.)*, *supersizing (linguistic supersizing)*

## work (work one's way up)

worked her way up in Hollywood

she ~ (Halyna Hutchins)

## workhorse (noun)

workhorse

he's a ~

workhorse of an airplane

the 767 is a ~ (flying since 1981, also used for cargo)

workhorses of the aviation world

the 737 and A320 are the ~

## workings (noun)

inner workings

she started to get involved in the ~ of the party

they are like black boxes whose ~ are mysterious (brains)

inner workings of the party

she started to get involved in the ~ (DNC)

## world (exploration)

totally different world

I was taken by the ~ down there (caving)

♦ "After the Roc Noir, I had the feeling of closing a door behind me. I was entering another world. I was far from the world of the living. I had never had this feeling on any other mountain." (Jean-Christophe Lafaille on the east ridge of Annapurna in 2002.)

♦ "I was taken by the totally different world down there. I began to go caving every weekend." (David Bunnell.)

♦ "Under the earth's crust there exists such an enormously great world, in absolute darkness, that we can with some justice speak of a new continent." (Alfred Bogli.)

♦ "You can't really say very much, if anything at all, about below the surface." (David E. Smith, chief of NASA's Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics.)

♦ "The deep sea is full of surprises. We may find species unlike any seen before. The Cayman Trough may be like Arthur Conan Doyle's 'Lost World.'" (From the Web site of Britain's National Oceanography Center.)

## world (on top of the world, etc.)

on top of the world

he was ~ again (happy)

he owned the sport, he was ~ (Hector "Macho" Camacho)

♦ "I'm the king of the world!" (Jack, from the film *Titanic*. And why wouldn't he say that? He is Leonardo DiCaprio!)

## world (fantasy)

dream world

it was her ~

the curious Occupation ~ (Japan, 1947)

live in a fantasy world

people think I ~

you can't ~

lived in a make-believe world

I ~ that afforded me great comfort (abused)

retreated into a fantasy world

she ~ (9-year-old after father jailed)

♦ "We always knew it was a very different world over at The New York Times..." ("News-meeting trigger warnings: A window on the decline of The New York Times" by Post Editorial Board, *The New York Post*, Nov. 5, 2024.)

## world (the whole world, etc.)

whole world

the anger broke out into the open for the ~ to see

whole world of gossip and innuendo

there is a ~ out there to explore

## world (a world of difference, etc.)

world of difference

listening can make a ~

world of good

it did me a ~

## world (means the world to me, etc.)

means the world to them

it ~ (care packages to military abroad)

meant the world to me

she ~ (a kind person)

Archie blessed the ground, it just ~ (an online powwow)

thought the world of Elizabeth

Robertson ~ (affection, admiration, etc.)

## world (Disney World, etc.)

World of Warcraft

he spent a lot of time online playing ~

Disney World

live entertainment in all four ~ parks

Trumpworld

the key to understanding ~ is... (politics)

## world (in the world, in her world, etc.)

in the (fickle) world of (New York) restaurants

he did what he could to survive ~

in the (staid) world of sumo

a rare event ~

in the (tempestuous) world of boxing  
nothing is impossible ~

in the world of (horse) racing  
he is a force ~

in the world of mountain biking  
North Shore riding is legendary ~ (BC)

in the (murky) world of the (Japanese) bar trade  
foreign women working ~

in today's world  
it is risky, ~, to go to work (workplace violence)

in her world  
it doesn't count ~ (snark about a judge)

in their own world  
they're ~ (females having party-within-party at party)

in the design world  
people ~ think...

in the bowling world  
~, he is perceived as a...

in the surfing world  
there have been a number of movies set ~

in a simulated world  
influencing events and characters ~ (computers)

in the academic world  
a debate that's currently going on ~

in the ancient world  
the temple, a pilgrimage site ~

in both worlds  
unlike some relatives, he lives ~ (Hispanic in US school)

in different worlds  
experimentalists and theorists live ~s

in a digital world  
we live ~ where many get their news from the internet

in a perfect world  
~ we would be able to...

in the non-Indian world  
~ (Native Americans)

force in the world  
he is a ~ of horse racing

live in (different) worlds  
experimentalists and theorists ~

set in the (surfing) world  
there have been a number of movies ~

survive in the (fickle) world  
he did what he could to ~ of New York restaurants

## world (other)

world of (midtown) Manhattan  
the ~

world of Washington  
the ~ and the business world

world of ghosts  
the ~ that blankets Southeast Asia (fortunetellers, etc.)

world of (branded) goods  
the competitive ~

world of (academic) medicine  
the publish-or-perish ~

world of tomorrow  
fixed-wing aircraft will still exist in the ~ (military)

world of (dive) travel  
the ~

world of Black Twitter  
within the ~...

world of black magic and voodoo  
a bizarre ~ (muti murders)

world of street life  
the twilight ~ and girls for hire

world of cyberdrugstores  
the new ~

world of boxing  
welcome to the ~ (a Web site)

world of (extreme) kayaking  
the ~

world of haves and have-nots  
a Dickensian ~

world of rock and roll  
the sex-and-drug-filled ~

man's world  
Silicon Valley was overwhelmingly a ~ (VCs, etc.)

nomad's world  
the Tibetan Plateau is a ~ (over 13,000 feet)

today's world  
~ offers us more choices but, ironically, less satisfaction

art world  
the ~

art-world  
a comment on ~ politics

aviation world  
the ~ uses nautical miles (vs. statute miles)

blog world  
some restaurants have embraced the ~ (instant marketing)

business world

does the ~ really need Harvard  
 the world of Washington and the ~  
 the ~ he inhabits  
 chess world  
   young Soviet-trained players dazzled the ~  
 entertainment world  
   the stratospheric reaches of the ~  
 Girl World  
   in ~, all the fighting had to be sneaky (2004 *Mean Girls*)  
 hockey world  
   the news of his arrest shocked the ~  
 magazine world  
   the New York ~  
 rave world  
   he opened the door to the ~ for us  
 spirit world  
   long journeys to the ~ (Inuit)  
   West African Islam maintains ties to the African ~  
 twilight world  
   the ~ of street life and women for hire  
 plant, animal and insect worlds  
   how electrification has affected the ~  
 dog show world  
   Mick is the Michael Jordan of the ~ (a blue terrier)  
 music-business world  
   the ~ of midtown Manhattan  
 high-tech world  
   he's striking alliances throughout the ~  
 celebrity-mad world  
   a ~  
 3-D world  
   players roam around a ~  
 online world  
   the ~ has its perils (pro-ana, suicide sites, etc.)  
 boxing world  
   Foreman astounded the ~ by returning to the ring  
 collecting world  
   the ~ (artifacts of pop culture)  
 sportscasting world  
   open up the ~ for women  
 sex-and-drug-filled world  
   the ~ of rock and roll  
 Muslim world  
   the Kaaba is literally the center of the ~  
 Arab world  
   the anger and humiliation emanating from the ~  
   he is a folk hero in much of the ~ (Muntader al-Zaidi)

Islamic world  
   the Jews who came to Israel from the ~  
   the troubled ~  
   when Baghdad was capital of the ~ (9th century);  
   Iran wants to be a leader in the ~  
 Dickensian world  
   a ~ of haves and have-nots  
 academic world  
   the close-knit Polish ~  
   the sentences sent a chill through the ~  
   following the war and his return to the ~  
   the ~ has started a self-examination  
 avian world  
   the ~ is known for its great migrations (tern, albatross)  
 bizarre world  
   a ~ of black magic and voodoo (muti murders)  
 different world  
   it was a ~ when he started (coaching)  
 literary world  
   the ~ of Belfast  
 natural world  
   people and the ~ are on a collision course  
 new world  
   the ~ of cyberdrugstores  
 secret world  
   the ~ of childhood (Eskil Vogt / *The Innocents*)  
 Secret World  
   he's curating an exhibition, "The ~ of Elephants"  
   (museum)  
 tribal worlds  
   the mountains shelter ~ lost in time (Caucasus)  
 virtual worlds  
   computer games that create ~ onscreen  
 leave-me-alone world  
   she retreats into her own ~ (athlete on game day)  
 Michael Jordan of the dog-show world  
   Mick is the ~ (a blue terrier)  
 reaches of the (entertainment) world  
   the stratospheric ~ of the ~  
 within the world  
   ~ of Black Twitter...  
 lives in both worlds  
   unlike some relatives, he ~ (Hispanic in US school)  
 opened up a (whole new) world  
   it ~ (radio)  
 open up the (sportscasting) world  
   ~ for women  
 reshape the world

this lawsuit could ~ of digital publishing

see the world

people who ~ from a different perspective (autism)

shocked the (hockey) world

the news of his arrest ~

maintains ties to the (African) spirit world

West African Islam ~

opened the door to the (rave) world

he ~ for us

♦ "It's radio silence from Kamala and Kamala World." (A political donor, about the Vice President and her plans post-Biden.)

♦ "What arrogance! Apparently, only Trump is a real criminal in Biden World. Joe and hunter's family business 'shenanigans' are just a right-wing conspiracy. Move along. Nothing to see here." (A letter to the editor of *The New York Post*, after President Biden pardoned his son.)

♦ "It's Mark Zuckerberg's world and we're all just living in it." ("Surfin' U.S.A.")

♦ "It's Glen Powell's world and we're all just living in it." (The buzzy heartthrob actor.)

♦ "I'd rather live in his world / than live without him in mine." (Gladys Knight and the Pips.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhnRyQCeQXI>

♦ "Do you not see it, the little things that keep this wooden world together, the hard work, the discipline... (Capt. Jack Aubrey, played by Russell Crowe, in the film *Master and Commander*.)

## world (into a world)

stroll into another world

Wright Creek Trailhead— ~

## world (lost world)

celebrate that lost world

I'm going to ~ (rock journalism)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ *The Lost World*, written by Arthur Conan Doyle, was published in 1912. See the Wikipedia article "Lost world." Wikipedians are wonderful.

## worm (verb)

wormed into Pakistan's military

have militant groups ~

wormed its way into my heart

this book ~

wormed its way into our culture and language

paper has ~ ("paper things over," etc.)

## worm (insult)

"worms"

she frequently referred to her millions of subjects as ~

## worm (can of worms)

open up a can of worms

an investigation will ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This seems to mean "a tangled mess." "A can of worms" lacks the sense of affliction that "Pandora's box" entails.

## worm (computers )

worm

he took an existing ~ and tweaked it (a variant)

worm's code

it required only a few changes to the original ~

worms and pop-ups

spam, spyware, viruses, ~ (Internet)

Code Red worm

protect themselves from the ~ (computers)

Slammer worm

the ~ that downed corporate networks in January

network worm

the ~ struck many corporations and compromised data

Internet worm

a new ~, "Goner," spread across the globe via e-mail

e-mail worm

the ~ can send itself to all addresses in Outlook

the ~ attempts to shut down anti-virus products

authors of (viruses and) worms

~ and viruses (computers)

viruses and worms

authors of ~ (computers)

## worm (brainworm)

see *brainworm* (obsession)

## worm (earworm)

see *earworm* (noun) **wormhole** (noun)

wormholes of online content

don't get distracted by the various ~

entered a strange wormhole

we ~ relevant to now (Oklahoma bombing podcast)

follows its protagonist down an Internet wormhole

the book ~

get drawn down these wormholes into strange worlds

people ~ (conspiracy theories)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ This is similar to *rabbit hole*. A *memory hole* is different.

## worm's-eye (adjective)

worm's-eye charm

the book has a ~ (about a lowly adjunct)

## worship (verb)

worship at the feet

many car enthusiasts absolutely ~ of Jay Leno (collector)

worship Snowbird Creek

trout fishing devotees ~ (Graham County, NC)

worshiped her



Gregory just ~ (Gregory Peck / Nelle Harper Lee)

hero-worship

without wanting to sort of ~ them (alcoholic writers)

## worship (noun)

Manchester United worship

the BBC's usual ~, what a disgrace

## worth (benefit)

worth it

it's not ~

worth (far) more than compulsion

voluntary discipline is ~

## wound (self-inflicted wound)

self-inflicted wounds

he also suffered politically from ~, like when he...

a campaign with so many ~ (Man U / Champions League)

due to self-inflicted wounds

the Chiefs have lost to worse teams ~ (NFL)

unforced error and a self-inflicted wound

he described it as an ~

left him with self-inflicted wounds

the pandemic has ~ (a politician)

\*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "...the constant danger of attack from Bolshevik forces caused a number of soldiers to intentionally wound themselves for the purpose of evading service at the front; these men were court-martialed, as was a soldier guilty of 'misconduct before the enemy.' Apparently, self-inflicted gunshot wounds were not the only method used to avoid combat: Pvt. Charles F. Kingan was convicted of contracting 'a venereal disease through neglect thereby unfitting himself for active military duty against the enemy.' Some seventy men were convicted of this last offense; almost all received three months confinement at hard labor to discourage such behavior in the future." ("Bolsheviks, Polar Bears, and Military Law: The Experiences of Army Lawyers in North Russia and Siberia in World War I," by Fred L. Borch III.)

♦ A FUNNY STORY. (Mordant.) "A bloke in the Munsters once wanted a cushy, so he waves his hand above the parapet to catch Fritz's attention. Nothing doing. He waves his arms about for a couple of minutes. Nothing doing, not a shot. He puts his elbows on the fire-step, hoists his body upside-down and waves his legs about till he gets blood to the head. Not a shot did old Fritz fire. 'Oh,' says the Munster men, 'I don't believe there's a damned square-head there. Where's the German Army to?' He has a peek over the top—crack! he gets it in the head. Finee.'" (*Good-Bye To All That* by Robert Graves. World War I.)

♦ see also shoot (shoot oneself in the foot)

## wound (salt in a wound)

salt on the wounds

it's ~ of the family (a tragic family accident)

pouring salt on their wounds

the arrest is only ~ (a tragic family accident)

rub salt in the wounds

it ~ to find that...

rub salt into Saints' wound

to ~, Liverpool immediately scored (YNWA)

rub (some kind of) salt in the wound

does that ~ that... (injustice on top of injustice)

## wound (lick one's wounds)

lick their wounds

the battered Anglo-French forces retired to Shanghai to ~

Man U flew home to ~ after their Europa League trauma

licking their wounds

a lot of stock market investors are ~

♦ "Manchester United must now lick their wounds..." (Man Utd 0-7 Liverpool.)

♦ "I'll just have to lick my wounds and come back stronger." (A classy Joe Joyce, about his second loss to Zhilei "Big Bang" Zhang.)

## wound (figurative wounds of Vietnam, etc.)

wounds of Vietnam

healing the ~ (dissent vs. service)

wound of an unresolved conflict

the open ~

wounds of the past

cold cases rip open the ~ (crime investigations)

wounds of silence

the ~ (sexual problems can wreck people's lives / *Economist*)

wounds of war

and with the ~ all but healed... (US / Vietnam)

wounds of the war

the center addresses both the invisible and visible ~

war wounds

the ~ are still raw (between Japan and its neighbors)

childhood wound

real healing of our ~s

long-standing wounds

the report could heal ~ (Hillsborough disaster)

soul wound

some call it a ~ (indigenous boarding schools)

deep wounds

the racist taunts opened ~ (Indonesian West Papua)

emotional wounds

people use drugs or sex to medicate ~

invisible wound

soldiers suffer from ~s (combat)

trying to heal the ~s caused by gunfire (gang violence)

old wounds

talking with me opened ~ (World War II vets)

open wound

this is an ~ in Swedish society (murder of Olof Palme)

because it is still an open case it is an ~ (manhunt)

racial wounds

help heal old ~

invisible and visible wounds

the center addresses both the ~ of the war

carry those wounds into adulthood

those who ~ (sexual abuse)

heal (old racial) wounds

help ~

heal the wounds

a ceremony of reconciliation meant to ~ (Nez Perce War)

licking their wounds

a lot of stock market investors are ~

open (old) wounds

these pictures will ~ (prisoner abuse repeated)

opens (old) wounds

today's decision ~ (results of a Swiss referendum)

reopen (old) wounds

trials would ~ (Bloody Sunday)

reopen (these old) wounds

why ~ (historic civil rights crimes)

rip open the wounds

cold cases ~ of the past (crime investigations)

♦ "You've got to open the wound and clean it before it can heal. It's as if we've had this open gash on the arm for 40 years and have done nothing but put a bandage on it." (James E. Prince III, on the arraignment of Edgar Ray Killen for the murders of 3 civil-rights workers 40 years earlier in Mississippi.)

♦ "Afghanistan is my sucking chest wound... wars do not end with a withdrawal or retreat or retrograde or the signing of a peace treaty. / Instead, they ebb and flow within the memories of those who were there and the ones who received an unfortunate knock on the door one day from people in uniforms." ("A U.S. Marine, A Curious Boy And An Unfathomable Moment" by AP investigative reporter James LaPorta, at NPR, September 9, 2021.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Time heals all wounds."

♦ "Time apparently doesn't heal all wounds."

♦ "A knife wound heals; a wound caused by words does not." (A Turkish proverb.)

## wound (tightly wound)

tightly wound

he was bright, hardworking, but he seemed ~

## wounded (emotionally)

wounded egos

her lack of interest in tending to the ~ (Liz Cheney)

wounded pride

~, that's all that is...

walking wounded

their union of the ~ was short-lived (2 actors)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "A knife wound heals; a wound caused by words does not." (A Turkish proverb.)

## wounded (condition)

wounded

the only candidate he trails is ~, perhaps mortally so

wounded nation

we were proud of our ~ (directly after 9/11)

fatally wounded

the campaign is ~ (politics / election)

remains (badly) wounded

the economy ~

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "Marine *injured* [italics mine] in Kabul airport blast says..." (He lost his right arm and a leg to a suicide bomber. The Marine was not injured. He was wounded.)

♦ "*Wounds* [italics mine] indicated she had jumped or fallen." (A female student who committed suicide at New York University. She did not incur wounds. She incurred injuries.)

## woven

woven into the fabric

cheating is ~ of accepted conduct

Arab Americans are deeply ~ of America

Mexico is deeply ~ of the US economy

woven through the fabric

their legacy is ~ of our nation today (WW II generation)

## wow (verb)

wowing audiences

he has been ~ for decades (a singer)

wow him

I did everything I could to ~ (an actor about his director)

## wow (as noun)

wow factor

there's no "~~" there (a man's service record)

I enjoyed the theatrics, the ~ (some tech show)

'wow' goals

Russo is developing a habit of scoring ~ at Euro 2022

wow moment

it creates a really ~ ("Deep Nostalgia" at MyHeritage)

stop at wow

his curiosity tended to ~ without getting to why (interview)

## wrangle (verb)

wrangles over health care

GOP ~ (politics)

wrangle over debt limit

lawmakers continue to ~

wrangle over visas

U.S. and Cuba ~

wrangle for water

farmers and frackers ~ in shadow of drought (California)

wrangled everyone together  
they kind of ~, took them into a trailer (film extras)

wrangles his girls  
Richard ~ (an overbearing tennis father)

wrangles Texas Longhorns  
Alabama Crimson Tide ~ (American football)

wrangle those votes  
he's using the full power of his office to ~ (politics)

\*\*\* **livestock...**

♦ Movin', movin', movin', / Though they're disapprovin' / Keep them dogies movin', rawhide! / Don't try to understand 'em, / Just rope 'em, throw, and brand 'em, / Soon we'll be livin' high and wide... / My heart's calculatin' / My true love will be waitin' / Be waitin' at the end of my ride..." (The song "Rawhide.")

## wrangler (person)

Data Wranglers  
Online Editor, ~, VFX Artists... (job categories / films)

political wrangler  
to get things done you needed a ~ (James Baker)

press wrangler  
she started on the campaign as a ~ (press office)

snake wrangler  
Pinyo is Bangkok's chief ~ (snake removal)

♦ "Once the ice blocks are lined up, they're pushed into a wooden chute and lifted, by pulley, into the ice house. A group of young, energetic 'wranglers' takes over from there. The ice blocks glide in like giant, high-speed hockey pucks. The crew inside has to be capable of dodging the blocks, hooking them with an ice pick and then stacking the 250-300-lb blocks one layer at a time until the ice house is nearly full." ("In Maine, Residents Slice Through Thick Ice To Keep A tradition From Melting Away" by Susan Sharon, NPR, All Things Considered, February 26, 2020. It's a slippery business!)

♦ "No, no, no, we don't need a coat wrangler." (A cute advertisement from Progressive Insurance. A man is trying to de-program first-home buyers from acting like their parents, in a movie theater.)

♦ "It's Tyler Owens. Calls himself the tornado wrangler." (Silly dialogue from the silly 2024 film *Twisters*.)

\*\*\* **the paniolos (Hawaii)**

♦ "By 1830, nearly 20,000 wild cattle...roamed the main island alone, pillaging gardens, hiding in forests and ravines, and posing a serious threat to the locals. As the authors casually remind us, 'longhorns were the same breed of cattle that wranglers in Alta California would sometimes pit against grizzly bears for sport.'" ('Aloha Rodeo' Offers Alternative To The Cowboy Cliché" by Carson Vaughan, NPR, Book reviews, June 27, 2019. The book is by David Wolman and Julian Smith. It focuses on the cattle trade and the *paniolas*, the cowboys of Hawaii.)

## wrangling

wrangling  
after weeks of ~, an Israeli government takes shape

wrangling over subpoenas  
the legal ~ (politics)

backstage wrangling  
after weeks of ~, the Party has decided...

political wrangling  
Constitution reading sparks ~ (Congress)

aggravating procedural wrangling  
~ has wasted valuable time (climate change)

years of wrangling  
after ~, the VA will provide vets with housing on...

rancor and wrangling  
the election will cause much ~ (politics)

wrangling (over Yellowstone snowmobiles) ends  
15 years of ~ (new rules)

## wrap (under wraps)

kept the book under wraps  
government pressure ~

kept his debt under wraps  
he ~ (financial infidelity)

keep it under wraps  
if they know something, they ~ (cops)

keep their wedding under wraps  
the couple tried to ~

kept under wraps  
terms of the agreement were ~

## wrap (take the wraps off something / inauguration)

took the wraps off its (latest) project  
on Monday, Microsoft ~

## wrap (take the wraps off something / concealment)

takes the wraps off a (top-secret) mission  
the book ~

## wraparound

wraparound porch  
on the west side of its ~ porch

wraparound (double) deck  
its ~ of stands

wraparound (NASCAR) sunglasses  
they've got ~ and mullets

## wrapped (covered)

wrapped with (thick) clouds  
the upper mountain was ~ (Everest)

♦ "The living glow of the desert dawn wrapped a blue turban around the mountain's lofty peak" (From *Gold Dust* by Ibrahim al-Koni.)

## wrapped (wrapped up in something)

wrapped up in the sex trade  
middle-class kids also get ~

wrapped up in being  
my identity had been ~ an athlete

get wrapped up in the sex trade

middle-class kids also ~

## wrap up (verb)

wrap up within a few weeks  
the work might ~ (investigation)

wrap up in 2020  
the construction project was expected to ~

wrap up in May or June  
that investigation is expected to ~ (government)

wraps on April 15  
the session ~ (state legislature)

wrapped up the case  
we ~ (an investigation)

wrap up a deal  
is that possible that this week they could ~

wrap up the demonstration  
activists agreed to ~ if the police...

wrapped up his report  
he ~ on the president's address by... (newscaster)

wraps up today's show  
that ~, thanks to everyone...

## wreck (verb)

wrecked his career  
a throwing problem ~ (catcher can't throw to pitcher)

wrecking the markets  
his wildly irresponsible comments are ~ (politics)

## wreck (train wreck)

see *train wreck*

## wreck (person)

wreck  
emotionally, he was a ~

coke-sniffing wreck  
he was a ~

nervous wreck  
I was a ~ at the job interview

## wreckage (noun)

wreckage of misfortune  
money to salvage a decent life from the ~

social wreckage  
she describes the ~ of her bipolar episodes

salvage a (decent) life from the wreckage  
money to ~ of misfortune

found a way out of his own wreckage  
he ~ with the therapist's help

♦ "Hedge funds, after all, didn't make these markets. They just played in them. That meant that when the market crashed, as it would, rich opportunities would emerge from the wreckage. The game for hedge

funds was not so much to ride markets up as to predict the movements within them. Down could be every bit as lucrative." (*Weapons Of Math Destruction* by Cathy O'Neil. Much language relating to economics is figurative.)

## wrecked

wrecked by (phone) hacking  
her life was ~

## wrecking ball (noun)

wrecking ball to the status quo  
the Black Panther Party promised radical action, a ~

wrecking-ball agenda  
they have a ~ that is rooted in nationalism (politics)

5ft 10in wrecking ball  
there was nowhere to hide against the ~ (Tyson vs. Bruno)

anti-globalist wrecking ball  
she has done much to protect the UN from Trump's ~

take a wrecking ball to the organization  
are you going to ~ (an financial official)

taken a wrecking ball to reform  
they have ~ (Supreme Court)

takes a wrecking ball to its past  
a danger of excess if the country ~ (cancel culture)

♦ "Australia has a long and depressing history of inadvertently introducing wrecking ball species as pets and livestock, or for sport. Examples include foxes, pigs and rabbits, goats, camels and cats... but it is the cane toad that is widely reviled about all else." ("The rapid spread of Australia's cane toad pests" by Phil Mercer, BBC, 22 March 2017.)

♦ "My nose always goes, it's boxing, you're going to get a little nosebleed, it's what makes champions." (The Kirkby-born boxer Nick Ball, who is known as "the Wrecking Ball." Of course he is! Kirkby is near Liverpool.)

## wrench (throw a wrench into something)

wrench in the gears  
antiviral drugs are a ~ of the genetic machinery

wrench in (long-term U.S.) policy  
China just threw a major ~ by... (see quote below)

monkey wrench  
the announcement has thrown a ~ into those plans (antitrust)

throw a wrench into (contract) talks  
the investigation could really ~ (union)

throw a wrench into the works  
this could ~

throw a wrench in the works  
does this ~ (negotiations)

♦ "China just threw a major wrench in long-term U.S. policy in the Middle East by arranging the Saudi-Iranian negotiations. It's a very severe blow to the United States. Control of the Middle East has been a prime concern of U.S. foreign policy." (Noam Chomsky, who for some reason views the Abraham Accords as sinister.)

## wrenching (adjective)

wrenching (personal) account  
a ~ (*I'll Be Gone In The Dark* by Michelle McNamara)

wrenching climax  
the novel reaches a ~

## wrestle (verb)

wrestling over her emotions  
she is ~ (a celebrity)

wrestles over whether  
he ~ he should have moved to Atlanta

wrestle with  
that's one of the issues we have to ~ (terrorism)

wrestle with (tough) decisions  
as you ~

wrestling with these issues  
the government is ~ (info in wartime)

wrestle with its (economic) problems  
Uzbekistan is now free to ~

wrestle with changing  
they ~ the system

### \*\*\* the Nuba Mountains in southern Sudan...

♦ In "A Photographer's Pilgrimage," the great Kazuyoshi Nomachi has wonderful pictures and text relating to the actual annual wrestling matches in the Nuba Mountains in southern Sudan. A victor might win a wife.

♦ An important national holiday is Naadam. During this holiday, Mongolians participate in the traditional sports of horse racing, archery, and wrestling. Very young boys get to ride horses in the long-distance races.

## wring (create)

wring a (big) profit from his restaurant  
he hopes to ~

wring art out of the rubble  
in Kosovo, artists ~

wring (more) water from (existing) supplies  
conservation can ~

## wring (coerce)

wring concessions from banks  
the government hopes to ~

wring (pay) concessions from the union  
the city wants to ~

## wring (wring one's hands)

see *hand* (*wring one's hands*)

## wringer (through the wringer)

through the wringer  
Nooo, this is terrible, that poor family has been ~  
social-media wringer

Y.A. titles that passed through the ~ (books)

emotional wringer  
Man U is putting their supporters through an ~ this season

gone through the wringer  
she has ~ with assorted investigations (a politician)

going through the wringer  
you been ~ with all this shit going on (Bob Menery)

put contestants through the wringer  
they ~ (a quiz show)

put the FAA through the wringer  
the congressman ~ (congressional hearings)

put her through the wringer  
his affairs ~ (married him anyway, divorced him for same)

put his (approval) rating through the wringer  
the government shutdown ~ (politics)

put through the wringer  
a black comedy about a weakling being ~  
he has been ~ this week and deserves it (a sports doper)  
Jolie is ~ in the film (*Those Who Wish Me Dead*)  
England fans have been ~ yet still they sing (Euro 2024)

♦ "Manchester United seem determined to put themselves and their supporters through an emotional wringer this season." (Phil Dawkes, BBC Sport, about FC Copenhagen 4-3 Manchester United.)

♦ "He's been through the ringer here in the city, and it's tough, man, they have high expectations..." (Quarterback Zach Wilson finally plays well and the New York Jets win a game.)

♦ A FUNNY CARTOON. Three pieces of silverware are sitting at a bar. A spoon and a fork, sitting together, are side-eyeing a fork, who is sitting a little apart with a martini in front of him. That fork's tines are all twisted, and his eyes are discombobulated. The spoon is saying to the fork, "He once fell into the garbage disposal and doesn't like to talk about it." (*The New Yorker*, May 8, 2023. The cartoon is signed m.e.mcneair)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Younger teachers might not know what the washboard in a *washboard road* refers to. But I can remember my mother using one, as well as an electric wringer, and a clothes line. Clothes pins were always fun to play with! I once got my arm caught in our electric wringer, which means I went through an *actual* wringer, and I have the pale white scar to prove it. As a rambunctious kid who often returned home bruised or bloodied, you could say I put my *parents* through the wringer! Few young people have ever used or even seen a manual or electric clothes wringer. And yet, the expression persists in the language. It lives on!

♦ see also *mill* (*through the mill*)

## wrinkle (noun)

another wrinkle  
~ in the trans-Atlantic relationship concerns Moscow

some wrinkles  
there are ~ to be ironed out

iron out wrinkles  
they still need to ~ in their new contract

## wrist (slap on the wrist)

slap on the wrist

he needs more than just a ~ (justice / sentencing)  
this ~ is an absolute miscarriage of justice  
he served 13 years, not exactly a ~ (prison)

slap on the wrist for a pedophile  
a ~ (title of article)

financial slap on the wrist  
the FTC's fine will be more than just a ~ (on Facebook)

♦ "He deserved a bloody nose, but we gave him a slap on the wrist."  
(A pundit speaking about the Ayatollah of Iran, about retaliatory air strikes for the deaths of three U.S. soldiers.)

## write (create)

write more chapters  
it's been a storybook season, hopefully we can ~ (team)

write a (new) chapter  
the protests could ~ in Arab politics

write his most glorious chapter  
on Sunday he could ~ (Raheem Sterling, Euro 2020)

## write (write out / off)

write you out  
don't let anybody ~ (dwarf plays basketball)

wrote him off  
people ~, said he had no heart, he quit... (a boxer)

wrote me off  
my last fight everybody ~ (a boxer)

## writing (writing on the wall)

writing on the wall for his campaign  
with the ~, he announced his withdrawal (election)

saw the writing on the wall  
I don't think anyone ~ (private-equity firm shuts hospital)

see the writing on the wall  
Ramaswamy was quick to ~ (drops out of race)

## written (written on it, etc.)

written all over it  
the attack has Iran ~

written all over this  
this has got upset ~

## written (fate)

written  
it was ~ (said by a Muslim)

written in the stars  
Neymar struck the winning penalty, it was ~, perhaps

♦ Auda: (To a stricken-looking Lawrence) Well, Lawrence...  
(Lawrence, distraught, rushes away, and Auda addresses Ali.) What  
ails the Englishman? / Ali: That that he killed was the man he  
brought out of the Nefud. / Auda: It was written, then... Better to  
have left him. (From the great 1962 David Lean film *Lawrence of  
Arabia*.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can tempt fate. Some innocuous action or event might seal  
your fate. Then you will meet your fate. If you are lucky, you can

cheat or escape your fate. If not, you will succumb to your fate. Some  
think they can determine their fate. Fate can be kind. More likely, fate  
will be cruel. It's best to accept your fate.

♦ Cattle die / Friends die / Thou thyself shalt die / I know a thing /  
That never dies / Judgement over the dead

## written off

basically written off  
he was ~, but he defied all his critics (Marvin Gaye)

## wrong (sarcasm)

wrong on all levels  
the chant is ~ ("Rent boy" chant / Chelsea soccer)

bigger than the club...WRONG  
he thought he was ~ (soccer snark)

what could go wrong  
parents go on vacay and leave house to teens, ~  
cranks with guns, ~ (a protest)

what possibly could go wrong  
and now the same guy is in charge, ~ (sarcasm)

just wrong  
this is ~ (a Trans Day of Vengeance protest in D.C.)

so wrong  
this is ~

♦ "he thought he was bigger than the club...WRONG." (Soccer snark.)

♦ "I always joke, like, running thousands of feet of pipe filled with  
water in the Minnesota winter, like, what could go wrong, right?"  
(Maintaining an ice park for winter climbing.)

♦ "He would disparage another physicist by saying, 'He is not even  
wrong.'"

♦ "holy crap, this is idiotic on so many levels" (A tweet about a tweet.)

♦ "This is so horribly wrong what happened." (Mother about her  
murdered son.)

### \*\*\* war, conflict, the military...

♦ "There's a right way, a wrong way, and the Army way."

## wrong-foot (verb)

wrong-footed his own country's intelligence  
community  
he ~ by... (*The Guardian*)

## wrongheaded

wrongheaded  
the U.S. approach to this war is ~

## X

## x (Chicanx, etc.)

Chicanx  
~ activists and writers (1970s)

Filipinx  
the gender-neutral terms "Latinx" and "~"

girlx  
~ is for all who identify as girls or with girlhood



sports night for ~ (Cambridge, MA / *elementary* age)

Latinx

the ~ community

Afro-Latinx

Lin-Manuel apologizes for lack of ~ actors in *The Heights*

Folx

an unapologetic focus on Black ~ in these places and spaces

folx

~ is a nod to the gay community  
Merriam-Webster has an entry for ~

womxn

“~” removes the “man” from “woman”

Womxn

she won WWU’s ~ of Color Empowerment Faculty Award

\*\*\* jumping on the “X” bandwagon...

♦ “Thinx: Absorbs Period Worries.” (Thinx to pay millions to settle class-action lawsuit.)

\*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ A Pew Research Center survey found that about one in four U.S. Hispanics have heard of the term Latinx, but just 3 percent use it, and those are usually young Hispanic women.

♦ “Latinx. Please stop it.” (An online commenter.)

♦ “The company confirmed to Fox Business that it...is ditching the term ‘Latinx’ (which only 4% of Hispanics use themselves) in corporate messaging.” (“Walmart ditches DEI, because, duh, dividing people doesn’t bring them closer together,” by Rikki Schlott, Opinion, *The New York Post*, Nov. 26, 2024.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Wokeness is not just a social philosophy, but an elite status marker, a strategy for personal advancement. You have to possess copious amounts of cultural capital to feel comfortable using words like *intersectionality*, *heteronormativity*, *cisgender*, *problematic*, *triggering*, and *Latinx*... Wokeness becomes a way to intimidate Boomer administrators and wrest power from them.” (“How The Bobos Broke America” by David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, September 2021. Bohemian values, bourgeois lives.)

♦ “It’s not going to catch on beyond a certain crowd.” (The linguist John McWhorter, speaking specifically about the term “LatinX.”)

**x-ray (noun)**

X-ray of the (New England) mind

her list is an ~ (Harvard theses / 1770s)

X-ray of (Iranian) society

*A Hero* feels like an ~ (Asghar Farhadi)

x-ray of the weaknesses

the pandemic has been an ~ of our social safety net

X-ray eye

he has an ~ about people, situations (comic Colin Quinn)

♦ “Mungiu is offering an anatomical scan of the Romanian body politic. But not only the Romanian one...” (“This Romanian film about immigration and vanishing jobs hits close to home” by John Powers, NPR, Fresh Air, May 2, 2023.)

\*\*\* analysis

♦ “Moms have X-ray eyes.”

**Y**

**y (websites, drug names, etc.)**

abtasty

~.com (“A/B testing”)

Bitly

~, build strong digital connections...

Blavity

~ is a tech company for Black millennials

Blissy

100% pure mulberry silk pillowcases by ~™

Brainly

~ is a Polish education technology company...

chewy

~.com, where pet lovers shop

Etsy

~ sellers launch strike over increased fees

Gayety

~, the LGBTQ news outlet

Glossy

sign up for the ~ Daily Newsletter  
~ for “fashion and beauty”

goatse

~.cx, the internet shock site...

Grammarly

let ~ do that for you...

livestly

Ad \$ ~ (“See If You have This Penny Worth \$1.2 million”)

Muckety

~ creates maps showing paths of influence (website)

mugshawty

the popular ~ Instagram account  
Rayanna Belle Brock on the ~ Instagram account

Nerdly

Matthew Turner at ~

Newsy

~ to rebrand as Scripps News

Optimizely

~.com (“A/B testing”)

Ozy

~ Media shuts down after reports of...

Poppi

the future of soda is now, and it’s called ~

Queerty

~ covers gay-oriented lifestyle and news

Reedsy

~ can recommend book review blogs  
Tess Patalano is a writer at ~

Resy

book your Traif reservation now on ~

Sequeerity

~ works with LGBTQ and communities of color

Streamy

the YouTube ~ Awards (the Streamys)

Swiggy

popular Indian food aggregator ~

Teami

shop ~ detox teas (skinny, colon cleanse, etc.)

Tubi

watch films for free with ads on ~

Wegovy

~ works (obesity drug)

Wondery

~ is an American podcast network (2016)

♦ "Why Do Dogs Eat Poop. How Do I Make It Stop." (BeChewy.  
Promoted Links by Taboola.)

♦ "BeChewy provides tips and tricks for the entire pet parent  
experience, from potty training a new puppy to baking up homemade  
treats for your fur baby." ("Potty training," versus house-breaking. "Fur  
baby.")

\*\*\* analysis

♦ The question, as always, is *why*... Is it because long "e" is a "cute"  
sound?

**y (pulpy, etc.)**

animal-y

the samples were very ~ (a male evolutionary biologist)

angsty

~ music genre with roots in D.C. (crossword clue)  
we were listening to the same ~ music (proto Pop-punk)  
the ~ Zeitgeist of his generation  
God, I'm just so ~ (closeted lesbian teen)  
does she really have to be miserable to feed her ~ fans

artsy

Manhattan's ~ Greenwich Village

awards-y

some of his performances have felt ~

baddie

the cop is a stock ~, tossing N-bombs... (a play)  
why are British actors so good at playing ~s

ballsy

she's ballsy, awesome (Travis Kelce about *Taylor Swift*)

barnyardy

a ~ cayenne tang (sweaty subway car)

beachy

the aptly named Crabby Shack, casual and ~ (restaurant)  
Dua Lipa shares ~ pics from down under

more ~ fun for less (get trip ideas)

besti

when someone you think is your ~ doesn't... (best friend)

bikini

Bella Hadid is all laced up in ~ pink ~ in Cannes  
her sheer dress over a ~ created an empowered look  
EmRata wore a tiny giraffe-print string ~  
I guess you'd call it a fur ~ (Raquel Welch poster)  
my sister was my guinea pig for a Brazilian ~ wax  
Beyonce slayed so hard in her cowboy ~ look  
~ baristas put up with a lot (men exposing themselves)

bitchy

it was a really ~ thing for her to do

Blair Witch-y

there is sort of a ~ sort of vibe (outdoors at night)

bloopy

so the mud pods are, like, very ~ (Yellowstone Park)

Bluey

the children's TV cartoon ~  
~ is a kids show with lessons for everyone (Disney+)  
~ has just as much to say to the adults watching (NPR)

boozy

easy shortcakes with ~ whipped cream (Grand Marnier)

bougie

Tiffany, a ~ sorority sister...  
the ~ part of downtown (across Atlantic Avenue)  
~ 25-year-olds who value branding over substance  
the couple's ~ Calabasas life style  
the east coast setting is more ~ (than The Ranch Malibu)

bouncy

her breasts, so ~

bratty

the ~ and the bold  
when Rachel Zegler says the same thing it's ~  
~, wealthy Beverly Hills kids...

breezy

let's not knock ~ distraction (*New Yorker's* Naomi Fry)  
finicky photorealism and ~ artistic license (*The Crown*)

breffie

Rihanna posts a "~" of her with RZA (breastfeeding)

bro-y

he has a brash, ~, right-wing persona (Srinivasan)

bubbly

"Hi, guys," the ~ senior says to the cops (noise  
complaint)

buzzy

see *buzzy* (*adjective*)

cakey

you want a kind of ~ texture (a gay man making bread)

campy

we like the same trashy, ~ acting tropes I have a slightly ~ side (female dresses as John Wayne)	wedded bliss gets really ~ in ‘Don’t Worry Darling’ I wouldn’t say he did it in like a rapist, ~ way...
cartoony a fantastical, ~ realm (Teletubbies) they style it in a very ~ style (Linda Holmes)	cringeey see <i>cringeey</i> ( <i>adjective</i> )
catchy it’s punk but it’s still ~ (Pop-punk) her music is masterfully ~ (Leah Kate)	cringy see <i>cringeey</i> ( <i>adjective</i> )
catty ‘~’ workplace conflict (women)	crispy Lay’s Classic potato chips are yummy and ~
cheeky the singer’s ~ charisma the pair went IG official with a pair of ~ selfies their ~, charming personalities (One Direction boys)	crunchy it was not a young crowd, or a particularly ~ one (concert) Rivendell’s vibe hews toward the ~ and outdoorsy (bikes)
cheesy it was super ~ you know, it sounds a little bit ~ to say, but I was really... ahhh, the era when movies were ~ but not cringeey easy, ~ (the film <i>Into the Blue</i> ) hey, I like to be ~ sometimes (Thom Browne, fashion)	cuddly he was really cute and ~ (a piglet)
chestnutty the more you make these trees American ~ (tree breeding)	culty a ~ celebrity church based on Hillsong... fellow ~ extremists lauded him (suicide Aaron Bushnell)
chocolatey McDonald’s adds new ~ pretzel McFlurry to the menu and then the brown color got like a denser, thicker ~?	cunty they’re both ~, it’s a little ‘A Star Is Born’ (Alexis Bittar)
Christmassy old classics or any ~ movie starring...	curdy a ~ scramble of eggs, tomatoes... (Hannah Goldfield)
clickbait-y Facebook changed its algorithm to exclude “~” headlines some of her thumbnails are ~ (content creator) ~ words like “here” and “this” (“A/B testing)	cutie you’re a ~
clickbaity frenetic, ~, hot-take websites ~ “sponsored content” (chumboxes)	cutesy women seem to prefer ~ language a ~ nickname for...
clingy antidepressants made me less needy, and ~, and happier “Bug a Boo” is about a guy who’s too ~	dishy ~ show-business anecdotes (Dana / female) <i>Dirty Laundry</i> , a ~ game (dirty little secrets) ~, trashy family sagas (TV)
comfy snuggle up in ~ pajamas	ditzy the Mom seems a bit ~
corny the ~ aspects of my personality people with guns could be pretty ~ about them	doomy carefree music, ~ lyrics...
coupley they are like almost vomit-inducingly cute and ~ (a pair)	dopey a slick yet ~ lawyer who’s good in bed... this makes you look ~ (Linda Holmes about Bieber fans)
creamy deliciously ~ with 2 grams of protein...	dreamy it’s a ~ call to get as an actor Amanda Seyfried looks ~ in couture the ceremony was so beautiful and ~
creepy the cinematography was just as ~ as it was in... she’s ~, kooky, mysterious and ooky (Wednesday Adams)	dudey he has a ~ energy (Vinson Cunningham about Matt Rife)
	egg-shelly I’m putting it out there so no one is in the dark or feels ~
	explode-y some of them are kind of sad and ~ (films with explosions)

faggoty  
~, desperate, religious, patriotic, queer (Allen Ginsberg)

FBI-y  
something ~, please (editor's request to photo staffers)

feely  
officers aren't typically touchy ~, huggy type people

fetishy  
if it smells racially ~, it probably is (Sisonke Msimang)

flirties  
this girl's gonna have the ~ rollin' in (online dating)

flirty  
they sparked romance rumors with their ~ display  
romantic country getaways and ~ after-work drinks (ABC)  
they were spotted getting ~, touchy-feely...  
he had never been cruel, abusive or ~ (Gen Z relationship)  
the ~, 'Bridgerton' aesthetic that's taking over our homes

foodie  
*The Taste of Things* is a sizzling romance and ~ feast (film)  
buttering up the ~ crowd...  
the word "~" was coined in 1980 by critic Gael Greene

foody  
this Italian ~ spot...

fratty  
she sought to update the "~" humor (epic marketing fail)

Freaky  
"Super ~ Girl" by Nicki Minaj...

fringe-y  
some ~ men's rights groups (NPR's Bob Mondello)

fringey  
a zany, ~ show (New Yorker's Helen Shaw)

fringier  
still, her ~ thoughts distressed her (Joshua Ferris)

frisky  
if you're feeling a little ~, check out... (NPR's Ailsa Chang)

fudgey  
her sweet, ~ red velvet shortbread sticks

fuzzy  
see *fuzzy* (adjective)

Gayly  
the ~ Prophet, a queer Harry Potter analysis podcast

geeky  
his childhood was solitary and ~

genocide-y  
he said the slogan was 'a little more ~' (Bill Maher)

gimmicky

the ~ 'response record' trend (female rappers / "beefs")

girlie  
she was very sort of feminine really and ~  
remember Shrek~~ (Heidi Klum / Who? Weekly)  
I'm an aisle ~ (air travel)

girlies  
~ who want to lose weight...

girly  
the two "~ girls" spend time together  
Teddy is definitely more ~ and feminine (her daughter)

girly-girly  
Minaj's ~ alter-ego...

Glenny  
Oh i'm feeling it ~ boy (valeryeholcomb / Glen Powell)

glowy  
everyone is thirsty for ~, healthy skin...

goeey  
when it comes to pandas, the internet goes all ~

goofy  
I was a pretty ~ kid (a FTM trans)  
it's ~ and glitchy (*Saints Row* video game)  
the cast of *White Lotus* share a ~ moment (SAG awards)

goopy  
the speech is pretty ~ (Helen Shaw / *The New Yorker*)

gory  
when everything's ~, what's scary? (NPR's Linda Holmes)

gossipy  
I found myself being too ~ sometimes (petty, bickering)

Gothy  
it's sort of self-consciously ~ (movie review)

grabby  
Anwar was handsy and needy, ~ (married and dating)

grifty  
this is so bad and so ~ (wellness fraud / an influencer)

grungy  
the bratty and the bold, the ~ and the poppy (Gayle)

gushy  
executives talk in ~ company profiles (entertainment)

hammy  
~, in sort of a Marlin Brando way (NPR's John Powers)

handsy  
he was photographed getting ~ with... (celebrity gossip)  
they were photographed getting ~ in Rome (PDA)  
Anwar was ~ and needy, grabby (married and dating)  
Kevion Spacey says he was 'too ~' in the past (!!!)

Hanky-Panky  
save on Jennifer Aniston's favorite ~ underwear (Amazon)

helicopter-y  
apologies for being “~” (advice and instructions)

hellscapey  
it sounds a bit ~ to me (Zoe Kleinman about Twitter)

hiphop-y  
may coolness, my inner gangster, my ~-ness (female)

homie  
you ain’t my ~

hosty  
I’m gonna put on my most naïve ~ voice (Scott Simon!)

Hottie  
Megan Thee Stallion’s video series “~ World”  
The ~ and the Nottie (the great 2008 Film)

hottie  
the haughty ~ was disgusted by...

hotties  
Carly had belt-notched all those coveted ~ (Carly Simon)

huggy  
officers aren’t typically touchy feely, ~ type people

Huggy  
a horror video game character named ~ Wuggy

icky  
when you talk about your followers, it becomes a little ~  
because men think they’re ~... (periods)  
it’s very, very ~ (shaming)  
Ann Kendrick recalls “~” time...  
I feel ~ about it

insiderly  
I squeezed in as much ~ gay-culture stuff as I could...  
all of that is pretty ~ (political-party machinations)

itty-bitty  
Bella Hadid is all laced up in ~ pink bikini in Cannes

janky  
the ~ Comuta-Car (Simone Giertz’s Cheese Louise)  
he offered his driver a ~ gamsahamnida (thank you / Korean)

jankey  
supply chains are still kind of ~ (Jacob Goldstein / NPR)

jazz-handy  
a Broadway ~ thing (Glen Weldon)

jokey  
~ barbs about the group (a response track / females)

judgy  
we live in a ~ age (Louis Menand / *The New Yorker*)  
we try not to be very ~  
she refused to say the ‘~’ jokes (NBC’s *The Office*)  
I’m so ~ with myself (a female)

kooky  
I don’t like spooky, I like ~ (Who? Weekly podcast)  
a series of ~ encounters

mathy  
it can be a really ~ high (solving crosswords)

mazy  
pinched storefronts and dark, ~ alleys...

meaty  
see *meaty* (substance)

micromanagey  
I became more ~ (Caroline Polachek)

name-droppy  
this cannot sound anything but ~ (comedian Bowen Yang)

needy  
Anwar was handsy and ~, grabby (married man / dating)  
Oh, my God, how ~ was that? (a female)  
in German, it’s really, really bad, you are ~...

nerdy  
Rachael Parker specializes in “~ themed” weddings...

networky  
everyone is super supportive but not in a ~ feeling way

new-agey  
Adam Neumann and his ~ wife Rebekah (WeCrashed)

newsy  
~ documentaries are coming off as rushed...  
let’s start with a ~ question (NPR “science”)  
women’s pages tend to have less ~ content  
the op-ed was “~” (Rhoades Ha, *New York Times*)

New Yorky  
he actually lives in D.C., which is like ~ (silly dialogue)

normie  
~ voters, including ~ non-white voters

nothingy  
a poor match between two ~ players (Wimbledon tennis)

oomphy  
she favors ~ colourful creations (the queer Cynthia Erivo)

Oscar-iest  
“King Richard is Will Smith at his ~” (NPR Pop Culture)

outdoorsy  
everyone can be ~ (PBS America Outdoors)  
Rivendell’s vibe hews towards the crunchy and ~ (bikes)  
he was a well-liked, athletic, ~ kid

outsiderly  
it felt like ~ type of music (Pop-punk)

parachute-y  
hang glider, ~, I don’t know... (NPR’s Ari Shapiro)

performancy  
she had tattoos down her arms and was very ~,  
dramatic...

pervy  
they both look ~ (a Hollywood producer and director)

plasticky  
real vs. ~ Christmas trees (sustainability anxiety)

plucky  
Janine, *Abbott Elementary*'s ~ protagonist...

poopy  
there's ~ diapers and less sleep, things like that, right?  
we live in a fallen, gross, ~ reality (Glen Weldon)  
it had a ~, stinky kind of flair to it, you know what I mean?  
the interview has been edited so it isn't too ~ (Linda Poon)

poppy  
it's punk but ~ (Pop-punk)  
the bratty and the bold, the grungy and the ~ (Gayle)  
a couple of songs are really fun little like ~type things

Poppy  
the game ~ Playtime (with Huggy Wuggy)

possum-y  
its ~ heart ("Each Mortal Thing" by Kathryn Schulz)

potty  
children yelling ~ words at smart speakers (Ari Shapiro)

poufy  
a back bikini top and ~ tutu

pouty  
a punchy and ~ rock nugget (10 Things I Hate About You)

pricey  
still ~ even when it's marked down (Blissy™ pillowcases)

pulpy  
~ filmmaking at its entertaining best  
I can read a bit faster if the book is ~ (Molly Young)

punchy  
really ~ powerful moments (a queer LatinX youth poet)  
"10 Things I Hate About You" is ~ and pouty (Leah Kate)

pushy  
see *pushy* (people, etc.)

queenie  
gay men were loud and silly and ~ (Richard Lawson)

quirky  
bright, ~ music... ("Lavender" language / linguistics)  
a ~ preteen deals with life (a YA book)  
Rachel does have a ~ style and a unique character

radio-producery  
and you approached this in a very ~ way (podcaster)

rapey  
Choe described engaging in "~ behavior" in 2014  
one of his buddies was getting all date~~ with Treece...  
my girlfriend says he's got ~ eyes (Portland, Oregon)  
Tedros has a "~" vibe (HBO's *The Idol*)

rascally  
the flavor of ~ pop punk is now everywhere (SOUR)

really  
see *really* (gushing)

rebukey  
the ~ kid strikes, are you a Pee Wee Herman disciple (gay)

right-wingy  
there's this ~ immigration network here (Caitlin Dickerson)

rom-comy  
so sweet and traditionally ~ (*Heartstopper* TV series)

roséy  
what was once a ~ side hustle (rosé wine / *Vulture*)

salady  
heavy, fatty, creamy or lighter, fresher ~ (Yotam Ottolenghi about asparagus recipes)

sappy  
the movie is definitely very ~

same-y  
the conventional wisdom is all pretty ~ (fashion industry)  
everything felt very ~

samey  
hip-hop has returned to a new, ~ orthodoxy

saucy  
you know I got the sauce, you know I'm ~ (Rihanna)  
her captions are coy, her poses ~ (gymnast Olivia Dunne)

sausage-y  
Ew it's really... ~ (a female)

scammy  
he cold-called prey to sell them on ~ investments

*schweetie*  
he's a real ~ (a gay man about his dog)

schoolies  
high-school grads revel during ~ week (Australia)

science-y  
the ~ biopic (2023 film *Oppenheimer*)  
something ~, like 'The frontal lobe explains...'

scold-y  
politics is quite moralistic and ~ in tone now

scoldy  
~ types called it objectification (Sydney Sweeney's breasts)

scuzzy  
in all its sweaty, ~ glory (Justin Chang reviews film *Queer*)

selfie  
are you ready to pout for your next ~ sesh  
the pair went IG official with a pair of cheeky ~s



she fell off a cliff while taking a ~	~ trends (Ad / online clickbait)
sexy see <i>sexy</i> (adjective)	spoil-ery now we'll get into the more ~ aspects of the film... our discussion will be so ~, right? (about a film)
shame-y it's not ~ or puritanical (2023 film <i>Bottoms</i> )	spoillery there is a plot turn too ~ to reveal
sheisty (schiesty, etc.) that's as ~ as it gets... (an approving NFL player)	spooky I don't like ~, I like kooky (Who? Weekly podcast)
shitty your ~ parents they are pioneers of this ~ form of heckling 469 results for "~" and counting at NPR	sporty 'tenniscore' trend serving ~, elegant looks...
sing-songy their speech gets ~ (adults talk to infants)	spunky she was sharp and funny and ~
skanky she's a ~ stripper (one woman about another)	squirmy the ~ things in her personal life
skeevie people are ~ (monkeypox)	squishy he's been kind of ~ on this (female political pundit)
slangy how ~ a word is... (Erica Brozovsky Ph.D.)	stabby I'm feeling ~ today (meme) but it's only a matter of time before things get ~ ( <i>X</i> film)
sleazy where he draws the line between sexy and ~ (John Legend)	Stinky <i>Babytalk</i> magazine's "~ Diaper Awards" (to anti-moms) From ~ Cheese To Cat Pee... ( <i>Fresh Air</i> / Terry Gross)
Slutty ~ Vegan burger chain puts the party in plant-based eating	stinky "Why ~ sweat is good" by Michaelleen Doucleff, NPR Des Moines, Iowa, is in a ~ situation she nicknamed the satellite dish "~" (USN Grisel Marrero) 5,035 results and counting for "~" at NPR
smiley she has blond hair, she's very ~ (a child)	Stonehenge-y two ~ monoliths of concrete (Patricia Marx)
Snaky Mister ~ Pants... (NPR's Scott Detrow)	Streamy Gabbie Hanna at the 2018 ~ Awards
sneaky in <i>Girl World</i> , all the fighting had to be ~ (2004 <i>Mean Girls</i> )	suffer-y this really deeply ~ experience (climber Emily Harrington)
snotty I support Jeremy O Harris being ~ about TV (in NYT)	sunnies the ~ best suited to the open road (fashion sunglasses) Corey Worthington's yellow ~ (Australia)
snowflakey boomers are being a bit ~ (about ageist language)	sweary Strong language, A ~ blog about swearing ~ parrots become unlikely stars
soapy a YA adaptation with lots of ~ complications (TV series) as a ~ drama... (Grey's Anatomy)	sweaty in all its ~, scuzzy glory (Justin Chang reviews film <i>Queer</i> )
spammy a lot of the links were ~ (after reports of school shooting) sponsored or ~ links and junk content ("search" results)	swicky the way it kind of leans on trauma sometimes felt a little ~
sparkly the 20-year-old wore a sleeveless ~ black dress his suit was very ~ for a ~ moment I felt like maybe... (a lesbian)	swoony romanticism his ~ (Justin Chang reviews 2024 film <i>Queer</i> )
sparky they have a ~, opposites-attract chemistry (in a film)	
spicy	

talky  
this is a very ~ show (*Straight Line Crazy*)

tasty  
~ new TV from Alan Ball and HBO

teary  
she took a ~ selfie and posted it

techy  
we should not overlook less ~ remedies for loneliness  
Oh, the digital ~ people, you're like gods... (snark)

thingies  
I'm just trying to get more of these ~ (female)  
see those yellow sparkly ~ right behind Dr. Strange  
a pleather tunic with shoulder ~ (Glen Weldon)

thingy  
and that glitter spray ~ (Glen Weldon)  
a metal glove~ called the Infinity Gauntlet  
"Deal with it, move on" is an important ~ (Johan Renck)

thirsty  
everyone is ~ for glowy, healthy skin  
I can be ~ over a guy (deaf activist Raven Sutton)

thotty  
Beyonce's 'Renaissance' is ~, naughty and ethereal

touristy  
~ fans gather to watch (ABC's GMA in Times Square)

touchy feely  
the police aren't typically ~, huggy type people

touchy-feely  
they were spotted getting flirty, ~ (celebrities)

trashy  
it's blithely vulgar and joyfully ~ (Glen Weldon / *Dicks*)  
dishy, ~ family sagas (TV)  
we like the same ~, campy acting tropes

trendy  
pumpkin cheesecake cookies are the ~ fall treat...  
the science behind the ~ claims (lemon-water detox)  
vintage names are making a ~ comeback (Edith, etc.)

tricky  
navigating one's identity can be a little ~  
the need to be liked can be ~ (Andee Tagle)

trippy  
the ~ animated TV series...

troll-y  
it seemed more than a bit ~ (Dahlia Lithwick)

Trumpy  
GOP braces for more ~ moments (The Note: ABC News)  
upstate New York is VERY conservative and ~

Turny  
"For September, 3 Twisty, ~, Thrill-Packed Romances"

twerpy  
it can come off as a bit ~ (a rock performance)

Twisty  
"For September, 3 ~, Turny, Thrill-Packed Romances"

vampy  
her ~ off-Broadway comedy *Nollywood Dreams*

vibesy  
bands producing Khruangbin~ music... (KB!)

vibey  
he brings us "~" and melodic sounds  
~ neo-soul and blunted chillwave (music)  
solidifying the dark and ~ tone of the record  
5,474 results and counting for "~" at NPR

voicy-y  
you're not supposed to be ~ (NYer Jennifer Wilson)

wacky  
she brings a certain ~ sensibility

WASPy  
such ~ pomp (at university / writer Xochitl Gonzalez)

wastey  
Taylor is code red ~... (drunk / an episode of RHOC)

whiny  
see *whiny* (*adjective*)

whoopie  
making ~ on the beach as others look on and laugh

Whoopsies!  
~ we can't find what you're looking for (NPR link to store)

'Who-y'  
this is a very ~ thing for a Them (*Who Weekly*)

wiggly  
it's not as freely ~...

winky  
the vibe is meant to be ~ and fun...

witchy  
whimsigoth, the ~ aesthetic

yucky  
how to make poached eggs that are not ~  
I don't think it's ~, its normal (vaginal seeding)  
15,378 results for "~" and counting (at NPR)

yummy  
anything pumpkin is ~  
Oh ~ yummy yummy yummy (female gives treats to cat)  
Lay's Classic potato chips are ~ and crispy

zany (pronounced with a long "a")  
a ~, fringe show (New Yorker's Helen Shaw)

zany (rhymes with "fanny")  
the percs, ~s, Oxys... (xanax)

zeitgeist-y  
*Sex and the City* is about as ~ a show as one can get  
the first season proved a ~ hit (HBO's *Industry*)

zeitgeisty

the controversies and ~ debates (over the old Teletubbies)  
a bullshit, ~ social media argument

zippy

this ~ novel takes place... (*How To Leave The House*)

zither-y

a ~ score (NPR's Linda Holmes / films)

\*\*\* cute, cutesy, childish, infantile, female, gay, not so serious...

♦ "They're creepy and they're kooky, / Mysterious and spooky, / They're all together ooky, / The Addams Family." (The Addams Family theme song.)

♦ "Whooose a prettee baabee? Such a cutiee. (Baby talk.)

♦ "More than two million people follow a 'Peggy and Molly' profile online." (Molly is a magpie, Peggy a bull terrier dog. They seemingly have bonded. In Australia.)

♦ "It doesn't embrace the overblown-y-ness of... (Linda Holmes of Pop Culture Happy Hour reviewing a film. Y plus ness! "One hundred stars, Summer." In another podcast with Linda, a female said, "My coolness, my inner gangster, may hip-hop-y-ness.")

♦ "The way it kind of leans on trauma sometimes felt a little swicky." (A discussion about Alex Garland's film *Men* on NPR's Pop Culture Happy Hour.)

♦ "Guess Which 52-Year-Old Hottie Shared This Teeny Black Bikini Selfie!" (TMZ. "Hottie." "Teeny." "Bikini." "Selfie.")

♦ David Thompson, aka Tinky Winky... (The original Teletubbies.)

♦ "Sheryl was really exceptionally talented..."

♦ "You're an absolute powerhouse, of a person. I think you're a powerhouse of a person. I don't even want to use the expression ballsy, because that's all about men. That is very, very strong." (BBC *Young Again with Kirsty Young*, "6. Jada Pinkett Smith," released on 07 Nov 2023. Warning: explicit language.)

♦ "He he...; deeply deeply...; really really...; very very...; obviously...; already...; effortlessly...; especially...; understandably...; deeply...; truly...; obviously...; finally... (Female "gushing" with pronounced—strongly marked—adverbs ending in long e. White. Born and raised in Ohio. Successful author. Born 1967-1968 (early Gen X). Lives in Kansas. Straight with children.)

♦ "So the mud pods are, like, very—I would say they're very bloopy—bloop, bloop, bloop. Because you have some gas coming up through that, that's just coming up through the mud, and it makes a cool sound." (A female high-school biology teacher leading students on a field trip to Yellowstone National Park.)

♦ "When kids yell 'Alexa, play poop,' you'll hear these songs," NPR, All Things Considered, September 9, 2022.)

♦ Squealy; jazzy; campy... (A young white male music critic.)

♦ Crunchy; filthy... (Contempo-speak about contempo-music.)

♦ "This message comes from NPR sponsor Yogi Tea. For a delicious way to start your day, steep a citrusy cup of Yogi Sweet Tangerine Positive Energy Tea, blended with invigorating Yerba Mate..."

♦ "Easy blackberry mint biscuit shortcakes with boozy whipped cream..."

♦ "Every Bay film is cheesy, but his one counts as high-speed cheese, grilled to the max by Danny's thoughtful advice: 'Just. Drive. Fast.'" ("Restless: 'Paris, 13th District' and 'Ambulance,' by Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*, April 18, 2022.)

♦ "It can generally go in one of two ways. There's a heavy, fatty, creamy route, and then there's a lighter, fresher salad path, as in this crispy asparagus-and-green-bean salad. Both are great..." (Yotam Ottolenghi.)

♦ "It's a bit nutty." (Austin Powers drinks Fat Bastard's stool sample, thinking it is coffee, in *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*.)

♦ Watch on YouTube NPR's Delicious Dish: Schweddy Balls SNL

♦ Absolutely (contempo-speak); actually (contempo-speak), basically (contempo-speak), definitely (contempo-speak), obviously

(contempo-speak), really (*gushing*)... (Adverbs beloved by contempo-speakers that end with long e.)

♦ Abby (Abigale); Addie; Addy (Adriana); Aggie (Agnieszka); Ailee; Alexee; Ali (Alexandra); Allie; Ally; Amy; Andee; Andi; Andie; Annie; Archie (Archana); Ashlea; Ashley; Aubrey; Audrii; Audry; Avery (female); Bambi; Barbi; Barbie; Berly (Kimberly / female); Bethany; Birdie (female); Bodhi (female); Billie (female); Bobbi (female); Bobbie (female); Bodie (a fictional female character); Brandi; Bri; Brie; Briony; Britney; Brittanee; Brittany; Brittney; Brittni; Cady; Callee; Caity; Candi; Carley; Carli; Carrie; Casey (female); Cassidy (female); Cassie (Casandra); CC (initials); Celie (pronounced See-Lee); Charity; Charlie (female); Charly (female); Chelsea; Chelsy; Cheri; Chloe; Chrissy; Cindi; Cori (female); Daisey; Dani (female); Darcy; Debbi; Debbie; Debi; Dede; Dee; Dee Dee (Dorice); Delaney (female); Destinee; Didi (Didrik); Dree (female); Ebony (female); Elly; Emily; Emmy; Evie; Fani (pronounced FAWN-ee); Felicity; Freddie (Frederique); Gabbie; Gabby; Georgie (female); Greenley (female); Hailey; Haley; Halsey (female); Hayley; Holley; Holli; Hollie; Hopi; Ivey; Izzy (female character); Jackie; Jamie (female); Jaqui; Jeannie; Jennie; Jessie (female); Jodie (female); Jody; Joey (female); Jori; Juli; Julie; Kari (female); Katie; Katy; Kaylee; Keely (female); Kelley; Kelli; Kelly (female); Kelsea (cute spelling, I like that!); Kelsey; Kelsi; Kennedy; Kennedy; Keke; Keri; Khaleesi; Kiki\_Bee (text); Kirstie; Kitty; Konni; Kristi; Kyle; Kylie (female); Leslie (female); Lexi; Lexie; Libby (Liberty); Lili; Lilli; Lilly; Lily; Livvy (Olivia); Lori; Lucie; Macee; Macy; Madi; Maddie; Maggie; Mackynzie (!); Makensy (!); Mallory; Mandy; Marly (female); Matty (female); Maycee; Mazi; Melanie; Melody; Meri (female); Mickey (female); Micki (female); Miley; Millie; Mimi; Mindy; Missy; Misty; Molly; Natalie; Nathalie (!); Nicki; Nikki; Nikky; Paisley; Patty; Pattie; Penni; Phoebe; Pixie; Polly; Poppy; Railey; Rainey; Raleigh; Randi (female); Riki (Erika); Rikki (female); Riley (female); Ronnie (female); Rosie; Rylee; Sadie; Sally; Sandy (Sandra); Shelby (female); Sherry; Sidney (female); Sigi; Sophie; Stacey (female); Stephanie; Stormi; Suki; Sunny (female); Suri; Sydney (female); Taffy (female); Tammi; Teddi; Teddy (female); Teri; Tiffany; Toby (female); Tomi ("Tommy" / female); Tommi; Toni (female); Tori; Traci; Tracy; Vicky; Virzi; Wendi; Weslie (female); Whitney; Whoopi; Winnie (female); Yuki; Zadie; Zawe; Zoe; Zoie; Zoey (trans woman)... (Contemporary American female names ending in long "e.")

♦ "Hallie." "Allie." (An NBC reporter and an NBC Host, acknowledging one another. Heard on NBC News.)

♦ "He thinks the spelling is cute and just makes her unique." (The father of Ghiluiette, pronounced "Juliet." Supported by some, lambasted by many on social media.)

♦ Wally Funk flew Blue Origin to the edge of space. Her feel-good story was widely reported, and she was always referred to by her nickname "Wally." Her actual name is Mary Wallace Funk. But "Wally," of course, sounds cuter, especially if the female is older.

♦ "We'll start listening at sunrise and see if 'Odie' wakes up from a nap." (Tim Crain, chief technology officer and IM (Intuitive Machines) co-founder, about the moon lander called 'Odysseus,' but referred to as 'Odie' (IM-1), after the *Garfield* cartoon character. Cute! It landed softly but fell over on its side.)

♦ "I just fell in love with Stumpy (gushed as Stumpyyyy). I saw him and I looked him up two years ago and found out he has a Facebook page." (Oregon eighth-grade history teacher Debby, about the named cherry tree near the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. "Stumpy." "Debby." "Cherry." Impairment rhetoric?)

♦ "Charles Bethea's entertaining piece on Slutty Vegan shows the burger chain's use of the word 'slutty' to be a savvy bit of branding, capable of capturing the paradoxical associations of cute promiscuity, chic vulgarity, and naughtily virtuous veganism ("Special Sauce," April 17th). (PROMISCUOUS USAGE, by Judith Tschann, Redlands, Calif. From "The Mail," *The New Yorker*, May 15, 2023. "Slutty." "Savvy." "Promiscuity." "Vulgarity." "Naughtily.")

♦ Boback: Scott, I haven't looked at the list yet, but yes, there are some really cute names that they've come... / Detrow: Wow. / Boback: Up with. / Detrow: If Mr. Snaky Pants isn't a name yet, it should be now. ("This webcam allows you to see into a 'mega den' of pregnant rattlesnakes, NPR, All Things Considered, July 17, 2024. Popular science reporting gets cuter and cuter.)

♦ "Postparty depreshy: A cutesy nickname for postpartum depression which your cool new mom friend has coined to minimize the severity of this very real, destabilizing disorder." ("Lesser-known Postpartum Mood Disorders" by Jena Friedman, *The New Yorker*, June 5, 2023.



## yeah (and yah / introductory)

Yeah, yeah

~, Elijah McClain was doing nothing illegal (NPR)

Yeah, exactly

see *exactly* (contempo-speak)

Yeah, I mean

see *I mean* (filler)

Yeah, I mean, I think

see *I think* (filler)

Yeah. I mean, you know

see *you know* (filler)

Yah, I mean, I think, you know

see *you know* (filler)

Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously

see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

Yeah, no

~, it looks like... (female punditry)

~, thank you, um, so... (male punditry)

~, that's not my fiancé (Sydney Sweeney hosts SNL)

~, that's total BS...

~, it's definitely been super super helpful (Jake Paul)

Yeah, yeah, no

~ (a cashier, Visitors Center Blue Ridge Parkway / AVL)

Yeah, so

see *so* (introductory)

Yeah, so I think

see *I think* (filler)

Yeah. So actually

see *actually* (contempo-speak)

Yeah, well, yah know...

see *you know* (filler)

♦ "What do we know about her?" / "Yeah, so..." (Typical question and response format at NPR. In fact, practically the default.)

♦ Scott Simon of NPR: Are they in a tight spot? / Michele Steele: Yeah, well, ya know...

♦ Scott Simon of NPR: The Rangers versus the Houston Astros...who has the edge? / Howard Bryant of Meadowlark media: Yeah, exactly, but let's go one other place, Scott... (Howard then talks about the Philadelphia Phillies for a minute and a half before Scott Simon interrupts him by saying, "Texas Houston..." Interestingly, Howard Bryant never *does* answer Scott Simon's question!)

♦ NPR: Did you yourself start out as a skeptic or a booster? / ESPN pundit: Yeah, I did at first. I, I, I really remember asking myself... (More and more, answers like these force one to wonder if many of the sports pundits we hear are stoned.)

♦ CHANG: Right. Well, I'm curious—are there some crimes that are more likely than others to see higher numbers of wrongful convictions, like when they're prosecuted? / WISE: Yeah. So actually, drug crimes... (NPR.)

♦ "Yeah, exactly, yeah, so..." (NPR's sports correspondent Becky Sullivan.)

♦ "No, that's real (true)." (Agreement.)

♦ Interviewer: "Can you help me understand why this conflict was so singular for you. Like I'm thinking of somebody at State. The US makes arms deals with the Saudis, right, like we've had complicated

relationships with so many countries, why was this the moment that makes you go into your boss' office and say, 'I'm done.'" / Josh Paul, who resigned from the State Department: "Yeah, no, thank you, umm, so that's a really important question, I think the difference here is one of... (Note the long introductory word salad before Josh Paul responds. Is Paul confused about what the question is, or is he trying to figure out an answer, or is it his way to bask in the spotlight of his 15 seconds of fame on National Public Radio? Or is there some other reason for it? The question as always is, "Why?")

♦ "Yeah, no, and I was going to say, you know, David (Folkenflik) mentions this idea of the way of the way this has been framed and sometimes, I find that our colleagues really have a difficult time in trying to just say what they know to be independently verifiably true, and it's been sort of dubbed 'sane-washing,' which is sort of taking something that Trump says that might be incoherent but then making it a subject-verb-object thing that then is seemingly more rational and understandable. Also..." (An excited Domenico Montanaro on NPR, speaking to Mary Louise Kelly about the first Harris-Trump debate. From "The major takeaways from last night's debate," NPR, All Things Considered, September 11, 2024.)

♦ "Yeah, no, my mom was umm you know she was so just [unintelligible] I just remember feeling like... (Selena Gomez.)

♦ "Yeah, umm, so, it's, it's funny, I did not, I was not, uh, it didn't crystalize for me that..." (Nora Princiotti of *The Ringer*, heard on NPR. The astonishingly long "frontloading" before saying anything of substance is a characteristic of contempo-speak.)

♦ Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously... (Esther Zukerman of VOX on NPR.)

### \*\*\* problems, criticism, pushback, snark...

♦ "NPR newscasters and reporters have gotten completely casual and unprofessional, so much so that I fully expect one to respond to another in quick staccato with the new affirmative phrase: 'Yeah yeah, yeah yeah yeah!'" (One of 2,371 comments to an article at *The Washington Post* titled, "NPR is losing some of its Black and Latino hosts. Colleagues see a larger crisis," by Paul Farhi and Elahe Izadi, Jan. 5, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Type in "yeah so" at NPR and you get 6,077 hits and counting. Not all of the hits will be an acknowledgement, but many are.

♦ "'Yep. Nope. Very definitely.' Kathryn Schulz, a writer for *The New Yorker*, heard that seemingly-contradictory response to a question recently..." ("No, Yes, Definitely: On The Rise Of 'No, Totally' As Linguistic Quirk," NPR, All Things Considered, April 12, 2015. NPR loves this sort of language.)

♦ Watch: YouTube Fargo | Marge Questions Hookers Scene

♦ see also *right* (introductory), *so* (introductory), *sure* (introductory)

## yellow (Yellow Sea, etc.)

Yellow River

the ~ is known as the cradle of Chinese civilization

Yellow Sea

the ~ lies between China and the Korean Peninsula

## yellow brick road

no yellow brick road

it was ~, it's a story of perseverance...

dancing down a yellow brick road

the party is ~ to what it hopes is victory (politics)

♦ "I struggled my first two years in the minor leagues and A Ball and Double A... I struggled for those first three years in the major leagues. So it was no yellow brick road, it's a story of perseverance..." (The great MLB player Keith Hernandez speaking about his 2018 book *I'm Keith Hernandez* with Dave Davies on Fresh Air.)

♦ "I saw a football field as a 'yellow brick road,' one that would take me beyond the coal mines and steel mills surrounding me in western Pennsylvania and on to an easier life..." (The great NFL quarterback Joe "Montani" Montana.)

## yesterday (the past)

one single yesterday

"I'd trade all my tomorrows, for that ~" (Pink)

yesterday and the day before

he is just as committed today as he was ~ (anti-terrorism)

happened yesterday

it has the feeling that it just ~ (9/11)

♦ "I love Balthazar but it seems like yesterday and this seems like today." (A nightlife-loving New Yorker about Cafe Chelsea at 218 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, associated with the legendary Chelsea Hotel.)

♦ "I hope that young people today will listen to his song. His lyrics are still as relevant as they were yesterday as I think they will be tomorrow." (Bianca Jagger about Bob Dylan's "Blowing in the Wind." "Inheritance Tracks Bianca Jagger." Super!)

## yesterday (I need it yesterday, etc.)

yesterday

this should have happened ~

moving US forces should have happened ~ (a hawk)

## yesteryear

standards of yesteryear

can Russia maintain the ~ (Soyuz rocket malfunction)

## yoke (under the yoke)

under the yoke of corruption

the people have suffered for too long ~

under a yoke of hatred

~, prejudice and bigotry (Armenians in 1915)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ You can be under someone's thumb. Or under their foot. Or heel. Or under the yoke... Take your pick!

## yoke (from the yoke)

from the yoke of (Arab) domination

we must liberate them ~ (Darfur)

free themselves from the yoke

they seek to ~ of the federal government

liberate the people from his yoke

we will ~ (Churchill / Hitler)

rescued them from the yoke

we ~ of dictatorship

wrest itself from the dollar yoke

China is seeking ways to ~ (SWIFT)

## yoke (other)

take up the yoke

more people must ~ of responsibility

threw off the yoke

they ~ of British colonial rule

throwing off the yoke

South American leaders are ~ of US imperialism

\*\*\* The three types of yokes are...

♦ The three types of yokes are: the head yoke, the neck yoke, and the withers yoke. India has the largest number of working oxen or cattle in the world.

## Yosemite (Yosemite of the East, etc.)

Yosemite of Central Asia

people were calling the Ak-Su Valley the ~ (Kyrgyzstan)

referred to as the Yosemite of the East

Panthertown Valley, ~ (western North Carolina)

## you know (filler)

you know what I'm saying

he wasn't a bad kid, ~ (murdered)

You know, absolutely

see *absolutely* (contempo-speak)

you know, actually

see *actually* (contempo-speak)

you know, kind of

see *kind of* (contempo-speak)

actually, you know

and ~, this is not super uncommon...

I mean, I think, you know

~, people who aren't necessarily...

kind of, like, you know

it was just his ~, extravaganza, so I didn't really like it

kinda you know

like I was still ~...

like you know

there was this moment where I was ~, I'm privileged...

like, you know

I'm ~, fame to me is very important (Howard Stern)

I just like thank God that I ~, thank God I...

just kind of felt like, you know

I ~, for several years, I...

well, you know

I think, ~, I kind of fell into that trap also

Yeah, well yah know

~ (Michele Steele answering a yes-no question / NPR)

Yeah. I mean, you know

~, why...

Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously

see *obviously* (contempo-speak)

♦ "[Her case] is opening up this space to have these conversations where people can you know choose mental health over you know necessarily you know showing up to work when they're feeling miserable." (ABC, "Naomi Osaka Steps Away.")

♦ "I think it had a lot to do with me being a Black woman, period. And having seen how historically, you know, if our stories, you know, have been presented to the world, oftentimes they're misrepresented or their not represented in their fullness or there's just like a sliver of us being presented." (Katori Hall speaking about the great American-born Tina Turner, birth name Anna Mae Bullock, a Swiss citizen since 2013.)



♦ “No, no, um, although you know, NASA says... (NPR's Nell Greenfieldboyce.)

♦ Yah, I mean, I think, you know, obviously... (Esther Zukerman of VOX on NPR.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Don’t use conversation fillers like ‘umm,’ ‘you know,’ and ‘like.’” (“Presenter Tips and Tricks: Quick Tips: Things to consider: Don’t...” the TESOL 2023 International Convention & English Language Expo.)

♦ Linguist John McWhorter’s analysis of “you know” is interesting, as always. “To say you know is to take a quick trip into your interlocutor’s mind, this time in order to facilitate your presentation of a point by suggesting that the other person knew what you know all the time. One can even use it when that shared perspective seems unlikely...” In his FACE typology of MPMs (modal pragmatic markers), he considers it to represent “Acknowledgment: I Hear You.” (*Words on the Move* by the linguist John McWhorter, Chapter 1, “The Faces of English: Words Get Personal.”)

♦ “It’s all about justice, right, you know? Jus’ because...”

♦ Wait; Stop; Whoa; Hold on; Hold your horses; Just a second; What exactly do you mean?; What!... (What you can say to interrupt the flow of polemical people who pepper their speech with “You know?” in an attempt to bulldoze you. A curt “No, I *don’t* know” always produces a gratifying “record scratch” moment...)

♦ see also *just because* (polemical), *right* (right? / polemical)

♦ see also *feel* (I feel you, etc.)

## young (adjective)

### young

we’ll see, the day is ~... (if government votes on bill)

### young aircraft

very ~ also carry a high risk (of crashing)

### young country

Macedonia is a ~

### young (autumn) ice

Scott insisted on crossing to Cape Evans over the ~

### young moon

a ~, just 24 hours old (astronomy)

### young sea

the Mediterranean itself is a ~

### young storm

a ~ of this type is called a tropical depression (38 mph)

### young, thin

the ~ sea ice (RV *Polarstern*)

### too young

the French wines had been drunk ~

he says the data is ~ to be sure (increase in fire tornadoes)

### \*\*\* It’s always a treat to see a very young moon...

♦ It’s always a treat to see a very young moon, such as one that is 24 hours old or less. It takes clear skies and good eyesight or binoculars. The moon will appear like a golden wire.

## youngster (noun)

### relative youngster

Ellison’s Orange is a ~ (apple originated 1911)

♦ “For a youngster—she’s playing in her first world cup—but she really understands the game...” (Soccer player Sophia Smith, 2023.)

## Young Turk

### no Young Turk

Churchill was ~ daringly challenging received orthodoxy

### \*\*\* They wanted reform, and westernisation...

♦ “The very first cell is in fact said to have been formed by army medical students as early as 1889—and though its members were by no means all military, nearly all were from the young officer class. They were not, in these early stages, dedicated to the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire; all they wanted was reform, and in particular westernisation. They remained, nonetheless, a potentially dangerous threat, and as time went on gave ever-increasing anxiety to Abdul-Hamid’s secret police.” (*The Middle Sea: A History of the Mediterranean* by the great historian John Julius Norwich.)

## youth (development)

### rowdy youth

he personified the American West in the days of its ~  
(Pete Marker)

## yo-yo (verb)

yo-yoed between Academia.edu and the Borscht Belt  
the prose ~ (*The Silence of the Girls*)

## yo-yo (yo-yo dieting, etc.)

### yo-yo dieting

~ is not good

### yo-yo team

why the Tigers are such a ~ (Bangladeshi cricket)

### \*\*\* The World Yo-Yo Championship...

♦ The World Yo-Yo Championship is held each year and has its own website.

♦ “Figure 7.13. (a) The modern yo-yo, basic version, which gives every indication of being the same as the (b) 480 BCE version from ancient Greece.” (*Why the Wheel Is Round: Muscles, Technology, and How We Make Things Move* by Steven Vogel.)

## Yugoslavia (Asian Yugoslavia, etc.)

### Asian Yugoslavia

Indonesia could have become an ~ (after Suharto)

## Z

## zaddy (noun)

### Zaddy

~, an older ‘Daddy’ who is attractive, has extra swag...

♦ “So basically Harry Styles would be classified as a Daddy, and George Clooney a ‘Zaddy.’” (“My fling wanted me to call him Daddy and really turned me off” by Jana Hocking, news.com.au, March 10, 2023.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ “Oof, Y’all, Dictionary.com Just Added Over 300 New Words and Definitions” by Josie Fischels, NPR, Pop Culture, July 16, 2021. (One of them was “Zaddy.”)

♦ The word “zaddy” has an entry at Wiktionary, tagged as “African-American Vernacular, slang.” Merriam-Webster does not (yet) have an entry.

♦ “It’s not going to catch on beyond a certain crowd.” (The linguist John McWhorter, speaking specifically about the term “LatinX.”)

## zeitgeist (noun)

zeitgeist of cognitive dissonance  
this is a perfect example of the ~...

zeitgeist of that time  
the series tapped into the cultural ~ (*People v. OJ*)

zeitgeist of language and action  
the ~ ripped from the headlines (drug ballads / Mexico)

zeitgeist-y  
*Sex and the City* is about as ~ a show as one can get  
the first season proved a ~ hit (HBO's *Industry*)

zeitgeisty  
a bullshit, ~ social media argument...

post-pandemic zeitgeist  
the concept has captured the ~ ("quiet quitting")

Gen Z zeitgeist  
Hollywood is on a mission to grapple with the ~

cultural zeitgeist  
the series tapped into the ~ of that time (*People v. OJ*)

one step behind the zeitgeist  
the Oscars are often ~ (movie awards)

captured the post-pandemic zeitgeist  
"The concept of quiet quitting has ~" (Alina Selyukh)

connects with the zeitgeist  
when it works, it really ~ (the TV show SNL)

making waves in the zeitgeist  
it's still ~ (*The Secret History* by Donna Tartt)

tapped into the (early 21st-century) zeitgeist  
Morgan Spurlock ~ with *Super Size Me*

♦ "The challenge is to make enough noise to capture the zeitgeist."  
(Adult superhero films. Also, to separate one from another by  
introducing diverse characters, etc..)

♦ "[The film *Barbie* had] an overwhelming chokehold on the zeitgeist."  
(NPR's Aisha Harris. Picture that! Leglock? Hammerlock?)

♦ The concept of quiet quitting has captured the post-pandemic  
zeitgeist" by Alina Selyukh, NPR, Morning Edition, Sept 15, 2022. ("Is  
it bad, is it real, are millions of people clocking out early...?" More and  
more, NPR reports on...the internet.)

♦ "this is a perfect example of the zeitgeist of cognitive dissonance  
permeating our devolving society." (An online comment about "NJ  
transgender woman transferred from women's only prison after  
impregnating 2 inmates, report says" by Stephen Sorace, Fox News,  
July 17, 2022.)

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Time and spirit / ghost. Or, the spirit of the age...

## zenith (at the zenith)

at its zenith  
the fall marathon season is ~  
Portugal then was ~ (history)

at the zenith of influence  
he is ~ in Washington

## zenith (during the zenith)

during its (commercial) zenith  
the division sold millions ~ (cars)

## zenith (other)

zenith of (judicial) restraint  
the decision is the ~

zenith of splendor  
under those Mogul emperors, Lahore reached a ~

zenith of wealth and power  
Djenne and Timbuktu reached their ~ in the 16th century

glow of its zenith  
the band has tried to capture the ~ (music)

zenith comes  
the ~ on July 12 (Protestant marching in N. Ireland)

passed its zenith  
liberal democracy has ~ (opinion)

reached its zenith  
opera ~ during the romantic period

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ ZENITH: *over your head*. "We call the *zenith* that point in the sky  
directly overhead. The word *zenith* derives from the term *samt* in the  
Arabic phrase *samt arras*, 'way over the head,' which is just what we  
mean by the word a millennium or two later... The point in the  
celestial sphere right under your two feet is called the *nadir*, and this  
comes directly from the Arabic *nazir*, 'opposite,' for in this case its  
spelling wasn't monkeyed with much." (*Word Origins And Their  
Romantic Stories* by Wilfred Funk, Litt.D. Chapter 19, "Terms of  
Place, Time, Shape, and Size, and Their Origins.")

## zero (place and time, etc.)

ground zero  
see *ground zero* (noun)

patient zero  
~, the first documented patient... (epidemiology)

Year Zero  
this was the US version of ~ (9/11)

'year zeros'  
1485 is taken by historians to be one of the great ~ of  
history

♦ "I said, 'No, the history begins today.'" (Richard Armitage, cutting off  
General Mahmood Ahmed, who was trying to explain to the former  
who the Taliban were. From "The Lie of Nation Building" by Fintan  
O'Toole, *The New York Review of Books*, October 7, 2021.)

♦ When the Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia in 1975, Pol Pot  
declared Year Zero. Everything before was to be eradicated.

♦ "Emily Bazelon's article, 'The Battle Over Gender Therapy'  
uncritically used the term 'patient zero' to refer to a trans child  
seeking gender-affirming care, a phrase that vilifies transness as a  
disease to be feared." ("For the attention of Philip B. Corbett,  
associate managing editor for standards at *The New York Times*.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ "In 1485 Henry Tudor slew Richard III and routed his army at the  
Battle of Bosworth Field. It was a decisive victory which founded a  
bold new dynasty; and this date like 1789 and 1066 has been taken  
by historians to be one of the great 'year zeros' of history. Suddenly  
the muddled Medieval World with its robber barons, feudal barbarism  
and bloody Wars of the Roses was banished, and the modern age of

centralised government and King's Justice was ushered in." ("The Tudor State," BBC, In Our Time with the great Melvyn Bragg.)

♦ see also *ground zero* (noun)

♦ see also *fulcrum* (noun), *point (tipping point)*, *turning point* (noun)

## zero (from hero to zero, etc.)

gone from hero to zero

he has ~ (a politician)

went from pandemic hero to a political pariah

he ~ (Gov. Andrew Cuomo)

♦ "It's been six years of trying times—so strange when one day you're Cinderella, so to speak, and then in 0.6 seconds, you're Quasimodo." (The actor Johnny Depp, about how people's attitudes towards him have changed.)

## zero hour (noun)

at the zero hour

the plot has been nipped in the bud ~

## zero in on (verb)

zeroing in on his location

police are ~

zero in on a suspect

investigators have been unable to ~ (Delphi IN murders)

zero in on the suspects

hundreds of tips helped them ~

## zig-zag (verb)

zig-zag

people ~ to avoid one another (social distancing / Covid)

zigged and zagged on the issue

he has ~, trying to please all sides (President Joe Biden)

## zig-zag (noun)

zig-zag economy

Britain's ~ (ups and downs)

zig-zag line

drivers are baffled by a double yellow ~ in the busy road

zig-zag lines

the yellow ~ mean stopping or waiting is prohibited

"zig-zag" path

the ~ connects Highcliffe Castle with the beach (Dorset)

## zilla (bridezilla, etc.)

BOSS-ZILLA!

~ (WSJ article about a Hollywood / Broadway producer)

Bridezilla

the ~ was hauled off from her reception to jail

Coffeezilla

his channel ~ has over a million subscribers

Tiffany Fong and YouTuber Stephen "~~" Findeisen

Dormzilla

~, as it has been nicknamed (Charlie Munger's dorms)

Eventzilla

President @ ~

Godzilla

see *Godzilla* (force)

guinea-zilla

meet ~, a guinea pig the size of a buffalo (Venezuela)

Mechazilla

~ will be a giant robotic launch and landing tower

SpaceX's ~ will catch Starship rockets

the arms of ~ will function like colossal chopsticks

a Starship being stacked by the ~ arms (photo)

~ is the whole tower with its arms, or "chopsticks"

'Squawkzilla'

scientists discover prehistoric giant ~ parrot (NZ)

Tacozilla

Toyota's SEMA Show project, the ~ Tacoma Camper

toadzilla

the record-breaking "~~" found in Australia (a large toad)

♦ "Bridal magazines were thick, and brides were zilla'd." (In the 1990s. A nice usage from "TOTN Summer Movie Series: Agony, Ecstasy, Felony—It Must be Matrimony" by Barrie Hardyman, NPR, Blog Of The Nation, August 7, 2008.)

♦ "Scientists Discover Prehistoric Giant 'Squawkzilla' Parrot, As Big As Small Child" by Vanessa Romo, NPR, Science, August 7, 2019.)

♦ "Put on the mask, we'll call you dwarfzilla." (Logan Paul to his good buddy Evan Eckenrode, aka "Dwarf Mamba.")

## zip (verb)

zipped through (many) witnesses

we ~ today (a trial)

## zombie (can't kill it, back from the dead)

zombie claim

it's a ~, it keeps coming back

zombie fires

so-called ~ are burning under thick layers of snow

(Canada)

~, also called overwintering fires (Canada)

zombie mortgages

~ come back to haunt thousands of homeowners

zombie myth

it's a ~ that will not die (MSG cause headaches)

♦ "It's a zombie claim, no matter how many times you kill it, it keeps coming back." (Claims of election fraud.)

♦ "Girl, you're being ghosted? I'm being zombied. It's like ghosting, but he comes back from the dead after a couple of months and hits you up." (Singer-songwriter Mariel Darling on TikTok to her 255,900 followers.)

## zombie (computers)

zombie

computers recruited as ~s need to be on when called

zombie attack

~s have tried to block access to Web sites

## zombie computer

the user of a ~ is unaware it has been commandeered  
~s can be used for denial-of-service attacks  
one case involves as many as 300,000 ~s  
the use of ~s to launch attacks is not new

## zombie network

those seeking to create ~s, known as botnets

## army of zombies

they band these computers together into an ~ (botnets)

## ranks of zombies

hundreds of thousands of computers belong to the ~

## zombie (control)

### Zombie cells

"~ central to the quest for active, vital old age" (AP)

### zombie cell

can the ~ buildup be stopped (AP)

### Zombie ice

'~' from Greenland will raise sea level (AP)

## zombie satellites

~ are no longer under human control  
~ have failed to some degree  
beacons can still operate on ~

## zombie wells

many of the so-called ~ are leaking (oil and gas)  
~ pose a risk to ground water and...  
so-called ~, abandoned oil and gas wells left to rot...

♦ "Zombie ice' from Greenland will raise sea level 10 inches" by Seth Borenstein, AP Science Writer, Aug. 29, 2022. It is almost certain that some editor wrote the headline. The ice is "zombie" because it is "dead" with "one foot in the grave" and not being replenished by parent glaciers and so is "doomed" to melt, even if climate change is reversed.)

♦ Perhaps that same AP editor is responsible for the headline, "Zombie cells central to the quest for active, vital old age" by Laura Ungar, August 31, 2022. The conceit is, cells die and are removed from the body, but some linger "like zombies" and can hurt nearby cells "like moldy fruit corrupting a fruit bowl.")

### \*\*\* analysis

♦ Similar to ghost ships that drift with no control.

♦ "Zombie" wells have also been referred to as "orphan wells." But "zombie" is more catchy, and attracts more attention. Hence the usage by mainstream media, such as ABC, NBC, etc.

## zombie (drugs)

### zombie (drug) addicts

sad footage shows ~ (at Alberta bus station)

### zombie dust

monkey dust, also referred to as "~"... (synthetic cathinone)

### City of Zombies

Kensington: The ~ (Philadelphia / drugs)

### Kensington's "zombies"

the ~ (drug addicts / Philadelphia)

### overmedicated 'zombie'

mom who killed kids was ~ (according to her lawyer)

♦ "The streets are full of zombies." (The Hub / The "Broadway of the Bronx" / Roberto Clemente Plaza / 3 Avenue-149 Street Station / the "fentanyl fold"....)

## zombie (behavior)

### mindless zombies

we are becoming ~ (reliance on smart phones, etc.)

### woke zombies

where do these ~ come from (PACBs)

### \*\*\* Moms and zombies...

♦ "Finally on this Halloween, it's not just the children, it's the moms, in costume, and in the fight to help other moms. Tonight, in Fairfield, Connecticut, it's the MOMbies. They're all dressing up for Halloween, but it's not just their costumes, it's their dance moves... Michael Jackson's 'Thriller.'" (ABC World News Tonight with David Muir, October 31, 2023. Unfortunately, the previous segments were (1) Israeli airstrike hits Gaza refugee camp (2) FBI: Threat of attack on U.S. soil has risen to "a whole other level" (3) Protesters disrupt Sec. Blinken at Senate hearing for Israel aid (4) 90 million Americans from Texas to New York under deep freeze alerts this Halloween (5) Army warned Maine mass shooting suspect should not have gun months before deadly shooting (6) Pilot rescued after crashing small plane in the Everglades (7) Charges filed against pilot for threatening captain with a gun mid-flight (8) Officials warn parents about medicine that looks and tastes like Halloween candy. And so, the final "feel good" segment of the show showing grotesque, ghoulish, cadaverous, *living dead mothers* dancing around fell a bit flat. ABC #AMERICASTRONG.)

♦ The 2016 action comedy horror Jane Austen-parody film *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* got mixed reviews and was a commercial failure. One critic complained, "The result lacks bite."

♦ "I decided to call it Ataxic Neurodegenerative Satiety Deficiency Syndrome. So ataxic, meaning you don't walk that well. And neurodegenerative means your brain stops working so you degenerate neurologically. Satiety is the sense that you're full and that's not working, so it's deficient. (Dr. Steven Schlozman of the Harvard Medical School, a lover of zombie movies.)

## zone (combat zone)

### combat zone of massage parlors

the seedy, neon-drenched ~

### known then as the 'Combat Zone'

Boston's red-light district, ~ (1979)

♦ "Our children are trained to operate in a combat zone, in a hostile environment." (School shootings.)

## zone (target zone)

### "target zone" for your heart rate

exercising in a ~

## zone (red zone, etc.)

### red zone

that area is considered a ~, where you should not go

## zone (dead zone, etc.)

### dead zone

the courthouse was a ~, as far as communication went

## zone (one's comfort zone)

### outside my comfort zone

it was way ~...

### get out of your comfort zone

~, we have to challenge ourselves (Simon Reeve)

♦ "An Italian village in one of the world's few 'blue zones' is offering villas for \$1 to Americans who were sent into a tailspin after Donald Trump's decisive presidential election win [in 2024]." (Commune di Ollolai, central Sardinia.)

## **zoo (environment)**

zoo

it's a kind of ~ (social scene at Newport mansion)

♦ "We know who's who in the zoo, and we know how to find it out if we need to." (A member of the Metro Gang Unit about Salt Lake City and County. Law enforcement personnel must deal with Asian, Latino, and white supremacist gangs, not to mention the Tongan Crip Gang.)

## **zoo (group)**

menagerie of (unruly and curiously assorted) ships  
an admiral called it a ~ (British Navy in the 1880s)

zoo of (subatomic) particles  
the Standard Model includes a ~ (physics)

\*\*\* **analysis**

♦ "All zoos are both beguiling and repellent." (Author Thomas French)

## **zoom out (noun)**

zoom-out of the larger war  
the role of the US and the ~ on drugs

## **zoom out (verb)**

zoom out

I think we have to ~ and see some of the context here  
I want to ~ a bit and get your sense of how... (NPR)  
but when you ~, explanations get murky (homelessness)

zoom out to other organizations  
if we ~, we've seen... (from Oath Keepers to others)

## **Zuckerberg (the Russian Mark Zuckerberg, etc.)**

known as the Russian Mark Zuckerberg  
Telegram was found in 2013 by Pavel Durov, ~