

Forgotten English Words

#	Word	Definition + Source	Sentence
	hospitate	To reside under the roof of another. --Richard Coxe's <i>Pronouncing Dictionary</i> , 1813	
	galligant	To play the hoyden; to flirt; to "gallivant." In common use. --Joseph Wright's <i>English Dialect Dictionary</i> , 1896-1905	
	nabble	To gnaw. A stronger word than <i>nibble</i> , by a change of vowel. Mice <i>nibble</i> and rats <i>nobble</i> our victuals, and hares and rabbits our growing vegetables. --Rev. Robert Forby's <i>Vocabulary of East Anglica</i> , 1830	
	Hobbes' voyage	A leap in the dark, in allusion to the last saying of Thomas Hobbes the philosopher, "Now I am about to take my last voyage, a leap in the dark." --Albert Hyamson's <i>Dictionary of English Phrases</i> , 1922	
	antiquarium	A respository of antiquities. --Sir James Murray's <i>New English Dictionary</i> , 1888	
	cold cook	An undertaker of funerals, or "carrion-hunter." --Capt. Francis Grose's <i>Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue</i> , 1796	
	zouch	An ungenteeled man; a bookseller --John Awdelay's <i>The Fraternite of Vagabondes</i> , 1561	
	niggle	Small, fine, or cramped handwriting; a scribble, a scrawl. --Edward Lloyd's <i>Encyclopaedic Dictionary</i> , 1895	
	contumely	Rudeness, contemptuousness, reproach --William Grimshaw's <i>Ladies' Lexicon and Parlour Companion</i> , 1854	
	pulveration	A beating into powder. --Henry Cockeram's <i>Inperpreter of Hard English Words</i> , 1623	
	exlex	An outlaw; Latin <i>ex</i> , ot, away, and <i>lex</i> , law --Robert Hunter's <i>Encyclopaedic Dictionary</i> , 1894	
	doattee	To nod the head when sleep comes on whilst one is sitting up. This action is...to be noticed in church. --Frederick Elworthy's <i>Specimens of English Dialects</i> , 1778	

	celibataire	Bachelor. --T. Lewis Davie's <i>Supplemental English Glossary</i> , 1881	
	calf-love	Love in a very early stage of live, an attachment formed before reason has begun to set in. --John Jamieson's <i>Etymological Scottish Dictionary</i> , 1808	
	susy-lifter	A resurrectionist; from <i>susy</i> , a dead body taken from the grave. --Alexander Warrack's <i>Scots Dialectic Dictionary</i> , 1911	
	fribbler	A trifler; one who professes rapture for a woman yet dreads her consent. --Samuel Johnson's <i>Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 1755	
	green gown	green gown The supposed badge of the loss of virginity. --John Jamieson's <i>Etymological Scottish Dictionary</i> , 1808 A touse in the new-mown hay...beyond the bounds of innocent play. --Ebenezer Brewer's <i>Dictionary of Phrase and Fable</i> , 1898 <i>To give a lass a green gown: to throw her down upon the grass so that the gown was stained.</i> --Walter Skeat's <i>Glossary of Tudor and Stuart Word</i> , 1914	
	anabrochismus	An operation for removing the eyelashes...by means of a hair knotted around them. --Dr. Robley Dunglison's <i>Dictionary of Medical Science</i> , 1844.	
	unspoken water	Water from under a bridge over which the living pass and the dead are carried, brought in the dawn or twilight to the house of a sick person, without the bearer's speaking either in going or returning; used in various ways as a most powerful charm by the superstitious for healing the sick. --Alexander Warrack's <i>Scots Dialectic Dictionary</i> , 1911	
	widow's piano	Inferior instruments sold as bargains, so called from the ordinary advertisement announcing that a widow lady is compelled to sell her piano, for which she will take half price. --Ebenezer Brewer's <i>Dictionary of Phrase and Fable</i> , 1898	

	fangast	A marriageable maid. Norfolk. --Francis Grose's <i>Provincial Glossary</i> , 1811	
	stues	Those places which were permitted in England to women of professed incontinency, for the proffer of their bodies to all comers. It is derived from the French <i>estuves</i> , baths, because wantons are wont to prepare themselves for venereous acts by bathing. And this is not new. Homer shews, in the eight book of his <i>Odyssey</i> , where he reckons hot baths among the effeminate sort of pleasures...Henry VIII, about the year 1546, forbade them [the stews] forever. --Thomas Blount's <i>Law Dictionary and Glossary</i> , 1717	
	childwit	Power to take a fine of your bondwoman [servant] gotten with child without your consent. --Elisha Cole's <i>English Dictionary</i> , 1713	
	spinning-house	The place in Cambridge where street-walkers are locked up, if found out after a certain time at night. --J. C. Hotten's <i>Slang Dictionary</i> , 1878	
	pomander	A ball, or other form, composed of or filled with perfumes, worn in the pocket or about the neck. --Robert Nare's <i>Glossary of the Works of English Authors</i> , 1859	
	knocking up	One of the curious ways of earning a livelihood in the manufacturing towns. The "knocker up" wakes the different hands of a mill who cannot wake themselves, so that they can get to their work in time, and not be fined for being too late. The general pay of the knocker up is twopence a head, per week. I remember once a witness, being asked what he was, answering, "A <i>knocker up</i> ," deeming it, eventually, as much a trade as a tailor or a banker. --Edgerton Leigh's <i>Dialect of Cheshire</i> , 1877	
	dog-cart	A Sort of double-seated gig for four persons, those before and those behind sitting back to back. --T. Ellwood Zell's <i>Popular Encyclopedia</i> , 1871 A sportsman's vehicle having shafts and two wheels, with a box beneath the seat for setters and pointers. --Robert Hunter's <i>Encyclopaedic Dictionary</i> , 1894	

	hand-fasting	Cohabitation for a year with a view toward ultimate marriage. --Alexander Warrack's <i>Scots Dialectic Dictionary</i> , 1911	
	flagellantes	In Church history, certain enthusiasts in the thirteenth century who maintained that there was no remission of sins without flagellation, or whipping. Accordingly, they walked in procession, preceded by priests carrying the cross, and publically lashed themselves till the blood dropped from their...backs. --James Barclay's <i>Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 1848	
	dead men's shoes	To <i>wait for dead men's shoes</i> , to wait for a place till it becomes vacant by the death of the present possessor. This corresponds with the adage, "He goes long bare-foot that wears <i>dead men's shoes</i> ," spoken to them who expect to be some man's heir, to get his place, or his wife, if he should die. --John Jamieson's <i>Etymological Scottish Dictionary</i> , 1808 <i>Waiting for dead men's shoes</i> : looking out for legacies; looking to stand in the place of some moneyed man when he is dead and buried. --Ebenezer Brewer's <i>Dictionary of Phrase and Fable</i> , 1870	
	high-jinks	Formerly in Scotland, boisterous and hilarious merriment, in which the dice were thrown to determine the person on whom some ludicrous penalty should be imposed, or should be called upon to empty his cup of liquor. --Reverend James Stormonth's <i>Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 1884 An obsolete drinking game; drinking by lot. --Alexander Warrack's <i>Scots Dialectic Dictionary</i> , 1911	
	locutorium	This was a place in the monasteries where the monks [who otherwise maintained verbal silence] met and talked together among themselves, from whence we call such a place in our houses a <i>parlour</i> . They had another room which they called <i>locutorium forinsecum</i> , where they might talk with lay-men. --Thomas Blount's <i>Law Dictionary and Glossary</i> , 1717	

	<p>nose-bag</p>	<p>A visitor at a watering-place or house of refreshment who carries his own victuals. Term applied by waiters. --J. C. Hotten's <i>Slang Dictionary</i>, 1887 A visitor to a house of refreshment who brings his own victuals and call for a glass of water or lemonade. The reference is to carrying the feed of a horse in a nose-bag to save expense. --Ebenezer Brewer's <i>Dictionary of Phrase and Fable</i>, 1898</p>	
	<p>colt's-tooth</p>	<p>The love of youthful pleasure. Horses have, at three years old, the colt's-tooth. The allusion is to the colt's teeth of animals, a period of their life when their passions are strongest. Chaucer uses the word "coltish" for skittish. --Ebenezer Brewer's <i>Dictionary of Phrase and Fable</i>, 1898 Elderly persons of juvenile tastes are said to have a colt's tooth, a desire to shed their teeth once more, to see life over again. --J. C. Hotten's <i>Slang Dictionary</i>, 1878</p>	
	<p>cross-buns</p>	<p>These buns were made of the dough kneaded for the host, and were marked with a cross accordingly. As Good Friday buns are said to keep for twelve months without turning mouldy, some persons still hang up one or more in their house as a charm against evil. The round bun represents the full moon, and the cross represents the four quarters of the moon. They were made in honour of Diana by the ancient Roman priests somewhere about the vernal equinox. --Ebenezer Brewer's <i>Dictionary of Phrase and Fable</i>, 1898</p>	
	<p>cumberground</p>	<p>Anything utterly worthless and in people's way, something that ought to be destroyed or buried out of sight. --Charles Mackay's <i>Lost Beauties of the English Language</i>, 1874</p>	
	<p>succubus</p>	<p>A devil or demon which assumes a woman's shape to lie with a man. --Nathaniel Bailey's <i>Etymological English Dictionary</i>, 1749</p>	

	japers	<p>The japers, I apprehend, were the same as the <i>bourdours</i>, or <i>rybauders</i>, an inferior class of minstrels, and properly called <i>jesters</i> in the modern acceptance of the word, whose wit, like the <i>merry-andres</i> of the present day, consisted in low obscenity, accompanied with ludicrous gesticulation. They sometimes found admission into the houses of the opulent.... It was a very common and a very favorite amusement, so late as the sixteenth century, to hear the recital of verses and moral speeches, learned for that purpose, by a set of men who, without ceremony, intruded themselves not only into taverns and other places of public resort, but also into the houses of the nobility.</p> <p>--Joseph Strutt's <i>Sports and Pastimes of England</i>, 1801</p>	
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