

International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Funny English Words

English words can be weird and wacky. Sometimes they sound funny. Sometimes they sound like what they mean. Below are listed 15 words. Go through the list together reading the definition and example. Take turns making up your own example.

After your group has read all 15 make up a story using the words. There will be a prompt at the end of the paper to get your group started. Each person will use a word in the list to invent the story. You do not have to use the words in order, but try not to use a word twice. Make sure you have a brouhaha!

1. Brouhaha- an uproar or noisy response. "When the player scored a goal, the crowd responded with a brouhaha."
2. Canoodle- hugging and kissing. "The couple were canoodling in the park."
3. Discombobulate- to be confused. "The tourist felt discombobulated when he could not find his way back to the hotel."
4. Doozy- something really good. "The picnic was a real doozy."
5. Flatulence- to fart. "Excuse me. I have some flatulence."
6. Flummox- to perplex or bewilder. The grandpa was flummoxed when it came to using Instagram."
7. Gobbledygook- meaningless or nonsensical language. "The phone kept cutting out so the conversation sounded like gobbledygook."
8. Hooligan- troublemaker. "The hooligans threw eggs at the cars."
9. Kerfuffle- a commotion, fuss, over a disagreement. "The husband and wife had a kerfuffle in the street over the behavior of their dog."
10. Klutz- a clumsy or foolish person. "I am a klutz. I keep tripping over the curb."
11. Lollygag- to dawdle or be distracted as one goes on. "Don't lollygag. We need to be on time for the appointment."
12. Malarkey- words that are foolish and maybe untrue. "Her account of the accident is a bunch of malarkey."

13. Octogenarian- someone in their 80's. "My grandma is an octogenarian."
14. Rambunctious- uncontrollably excitable or exuberant. "Kids in middle school are rambunctious."
15. Shenanigan- silly behavior. "At Halloween, people play shenanigans."

Now is the time to start your story. Here is the first line. Each person should take a turn adding a sentence to complete your weird and wacky story.

"Once upon a time there was an octogenarian who loved to show off with shenanigans...."

Should you have time, check out the following item.

WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

 /grammarly -ANONYMOUS