

American Dialect Society
2014 Words of the Year
NOMINATIONS to be voted on by
the American Dialect Society
Jan. 9, 2015, Portland, OR

MOST USEFUL

budtender: a person who specializes in serving marijuana to consumers, especially in legal dispensaries

Ebola: deadly virus that, in 2014, had a huge outbreak in West Africa that killed thousands

even: v. to deal with or reconcile difficult situations or emotions (from “I can’t even”)

robocar: a self-driving car

unbothered: not annoyed or distracted

MOST CREATIVE

columbusing: cultural appropriation, especially the act of a white person claiming to discover things already known to minority cultures

manspreading: of a man, to sit with one’s legs wide on public transit in a way that blocks other seats

misogynoir: misogyny directed toward black women

narcisstick (or **narcisstick**): pejorative term for a selfie stick

MOST UNNECESSARY

baeless: without a romantic partner

basic: plain, socially awkward, unattractive, uninteresting, ignorant, pathetic, uncool, etc.

lumbersexual: fashionably rugged man who adopts the stereotypical dress and facial hair of a lumberjack

MOST OUTRAGEOUS

God view: display mode used by ride-sharing service Uber providing employees with real-time information on all users

second-amendment: v. to kill (someone) with a gun, used ironically by gun control supporters

sugar-dating: pay-to-play relationship between an older, wealthier person (sugar daddy/momma) and a younger partner (sugar baby)

MOST EUPHEMISTIC

bye, Felicia: a dismissive farewell to someone deemed unimportant

conscious uncoupling: a divorce or romantic separation by polite mutual agreement

EIT: abbreviation for the already euphemistic “enhanced interrogation technique”

thirsty: so hungry for a romantic partner as to appear desperate

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

casual: a new or inexperienced person, especially a gamer (also in *filthy casual*)

plastiglomerate: type of stone made of melted plastic, beach sediment, and organic debris

salty: exceptionally bitter, angry, or upset

selfie stick: a pole to which a smartphone is attached to take selfies from a distance

LEAST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

normcore: “anti-fashion” trend of adopting an intentionally ordinary, inexpensive personal style from cheap off-the-shelf brands

pairage: term proposed by Utah legislator Kraig Powell to refer to same-sex marriages

platisher: online media publisher that also serves as a platform for creating content

MOST NOTABLE HASHTAG (new category)

#blacklivesmatter: protest over blacks killed at the hands of police (esp. Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., Eric Garner in Staten Island)

#icantbreathe: final words of Eric Garner, turned into rallying cry against police violence

#notallmen: response by men to discussions of sexual abuse, sexism, or misogyny that they see as portraying all men as perpetrators (countered by **#yesallwomen**, used by women sharing stories of bias, harrassment, or abuse)

#whystayed: explanation by women about staying in abusive domestic relationships

WORD OF THE YEAR

Nominations to be made at final meeting.
