

American Dialect Society 2015 Words of the Year

NOMINATIONS to be voted on by
the American Dialect Society
Jan. 8, 2016, Washington, DC

MOST USEFUL

mic drop: definitive end to a discussion after making an impressive point
microaggression: subtle form of racism or bias
shade: insult, criticism or disrespect, shown in a subtle or clever manner
they: gender-neutral singular pronoun for a known person, as a non-binary identifier
zero fucks given, ZFG: indication of supreme indifference

MOST CREATIVE

adult: (verb) behave like a grownup
ammosexual: firearm enthusiast
squad: one's posse or close circle of friends
yass, yaass, yaaass, etc.: expression of excitement, approval or strong agreement

MOST UNNECESSARY

dadbod: flabby physique of a typical dad
manbun: man's hairstyle pulled up in a bun
or nah: question tag expressing that something may not occur
trigger warning: alert for potentially distressing material

MOST OUTRAGEOUS

fish gape: posed expression with cheeks sucked in and lips slightly apart
fuckboy, fuckboi: derogatory term for a man who behaves objectionably or promiscuously
schlong: (verb) defeat soundly
sharewashing: deceptive marketing by companies treating services as "sharing"

MOST EUPHEMISTIC

af, asf: intensifier after an adjective ("as fuck")
lit: amazing, exciting or fun
Netflix and chill: sexual come-on masked as a suggestion to watch Netflix and relax
swipe right/left: accept or reject (based on gestures used on Tinder dating app)

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

CRISPR: gene-editing technology allowing biologists to alter and control DNA sequences
ghost: (verb) abruptly end a relationship by cutting off communication, in person or online
mom: admiring term of address for a woman seen by younger women as a mother figure
on fleek: excellent, impeccable, "on point"

LEAST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

Berniementum: momentum behind the candidacy of Bernie Sanders
hoverboard: self-balancing motorized skateboard
sitbit: device that rewards sedentary lifestyle (play on Fitbit fitness tracker)
Uber for X: pitch used by startups seeking to emulate Uber in different tech sectors

MOST NOTABLE HASHTAG (new)

#JeSuisParis: expression of solidarity after the Paris terror attacks
#LoveWins: celebration of Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage
#SayHerName: call to bring attention to police violence against black women
#StayMadAbby: ridiculing plaintiff in Univ. of Texas affirmative action case
#StayWoke: exhortation to remain vigilant and informed (used by #BlackLivesMatter movement)

MOST NOTABLE EMOJI (new)

: heart eyes (romantic, passionate)
: winking face (humorous, flirtatious)
: information desk person (sassy, sarcastic)
: eggplant (male genitalia, sexual innuendo)
: 100 ("keep it 100," "keep it real")

WORD OF THE YEAR

Nominations to be made at final meeting.
