

**American Dialect Society 2009 Words of  
the Year/2000-2009 Word of the  
Decade NOMINATIONS** to be voted  
on by the American Dialect Society  
January 8th in Baltimore

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**WORD OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES**

**-er** A suffix used in such words as *birther*, someone who questions whether Obama was born in the United States; *deather*, someone who believes the government has death panels in its healthcare reform plan; *Tenther*, someone who believes the Federal government is mostly illegal because it usurps rights which belong to the States, in violation of the 10th Amendment; and *truther*, someone who doubts the official account of the 9/11 attacks.

**fail** A noun or interjection describing something egregiously unsuccessful. Usually used as an interjection: "FAIL!"

**H1N1** The virus that causes swine flu.

**public option** A government-run healthcare program, desired by some to be part of the country's healthcare reform.

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**MOST USEFUL**

**fail** (explanation above)

**-er** (explanation above)

**rogue** Someone who acts in an unexpected way.

**un-** As prefix used in some online verbs: *unfriend*, *unfollow*, *unlike*, *unfavorite*, *untag*, etc.

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**MOST CREATIVE**

**botax** A proposed levy which would be charged on cosmetic procedures and surgeries. It would be used to help pay for healthcare reform. A play on Botox, a trade name for a substance used to smooth skin wrinkles.

**bragabond:** A person who travels a lot and brags about it a lot.

**Dracula sneeze:** Covering one's mouth with the crook of one's elbow when sneezing, seen as similar to popular portrayals of the vampire Dracula, in which he hides the lower half of his face with a cape.

**Kanye interruptus** An important speech or event that is interrupted. Also, to **kanye**, to interrupt someone else's speech.

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**MOST UNNECESSARY**

**birther** A person who believes Barack Obama was not born in the United States and, therefore, is disqualified to be president.

**micronumerosity** The state of having too small a sample of data. *micro* + *numerosity* state of being numerous; numerousness. ca1991.

**Octomom** Nadya Suleman, who gave birth to octuplets in January.

**Salahi** To gate-crash. Named after Tareq and Michael Salahi, who visited a White House event without an invitation.

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**MOST OUTRAGEOUS**

**death panel** A supposed committee of doctors and/or bureaucrats who would decide which patients were

allowed to receive treatment, ostensibly leaving the rest to die.

**sexting** The sending of sexual messages or pictures by mobile telephone.

**teabagger** A derogatory name for attendees of Tea Parties, an organized gathering of anti-tax, anti-government, and/or anti-Obama protestors.

**underpants bomber/pants bomber/ crotch**

**bomber/panty bomber** Umar Farouk

Abdulmutallab, the Nigerian man who tried to blow up a passenger plane over Detroit on Christmas Day using a liquid bomb in his underwear.

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**MOST EUPHEMISTIC**

**hike the Appalachian trail** To go away to have sex with one's illicit lover. Follows on a statement by South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford, who went to Argentina to visit his mistress.

**public option** (explanation above)

**sea kittens** Fish, as coined by PETA.

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**MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED**

**charging station** A place where electric cars recharge their batteries.

**green shoots** Signs of a country's economic recovery or of a company's financial turnaround. Widely used in the UK during the 1990's, but now spread to the rest of the English-speaking world.

**twenty-ten** A pronunciation of the year 2010, as opposed to saying "two thousand ten" or "two thousand and ten."

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**LEAST LIKELY TO SUCCEED**

**Naughties, Oughties**, etc.: Any name of the decade 2000-2009.

**Poliwood** Stars who are political

**slow media** Newspapers and other paper-based periodicals.

**tether** To connect a laptop to a phone for Internet access.

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**WORD OF THE DECADE 2000-2009**

**9/11** The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Pronounced "nine eleven."

**blog** A web site for publishing a chronological and ongoing series of related entries, especially when they are all by the same person(s) or on the same topic. Also a productive combining form: *blogosphere*, *blogerati*, *milblog*, *blogola*.

**google** Verb meaning "to search the Internet." Generic form of the trademarked "Google," the world's dominant Internet search engine.

**green** Related to ecological or environmental conservation or protection. Also a productive combining form: *greenwashing*, *green collar*, etc.

**text** Verb: to send a text message via a mobile phone. Noun: such a message.

**war on terror** A global effort to prevent terror and terrorists.