

## Nominations for the American Dialect Society's 2007 Words-of-the-Year Vote

Submitted by David Barnhart of Lexik House Publishers.

Contact:

<http://lexikhouse.com/>  
[info@lexikhouse.com](mailto:info@lexikhouse.com)  
(914) 850-8484

Each year in January the American Dialect Society convenes the New Words Committee in order to nominate and examine candidates for Words of the Year. Hudson Valley lexicographer and neologist, David K. Barnhart, will present his list of candidates for consideration at next month's meeting in Chicago.

"Some words fly, others die" according to Harry Homa, retired English teacher in the New York City public school system. Only time will prove which are useful and which are mere fanciful stunt words. David K. Barnhart has been collecting new words and meanings as well as other changes in usage for over 40 years. As a member of the American Dialect Society committee on new words, he has witnessed the birth and demise of hundreds of words. "Those words that don't serve some social need shall surely perish," Barnhart says.

This year's crop of recent concoctions includes some brand-spanking new terms, some revivals, and several stunt words (just for the fun of it). Some are slang, some technical and some from everyday vocabulary.

**by-stander effect** disconnect for responsibility among a crowd of on-lookers

**breeder document** driver's license, birth certificate, or similar document used as proof of identity used in acquiring another I.D.

**CFL** (for *compact fluorescent light bulb*) an energy-efficient fluorescent bulb for use in a normal lamp socket

**chipmunking** resembling the feeding posture of a chipmunk, especially when one is using a Blackberry or similarly small electronic device

**congestion fee** (old but of recent importance) tax for using an auto, truck, boat, etc., in an area of congested traffic

**cringe reading** the reading aloud to a group from one's unedited private diary

**crowd sourcing** using the Internet as a broad-ranged source of information

**cut and walk** to stop doing something and leave, albeit without haste

**dwell time** (for large number [12] of meanings unrecorded in dictionaries) (most recently) the period of time someone spends away from the battle field

**e-mailitis** excessive dependence upon e-mail communications

**evo-devo** evolution with a focus upon development in a species

**Facebook**, v to examine the profile of someone on the Facebook Web site

**format-agnostic**. able to play a variety of electronically formulated platforms

**geofencing** electronic barrier defining a geographic area, used in monitoring movement of people

**Green Monday** the second Monday of December when eBay experiences the beginning of holiday shopping on-line

**Green Tuesday** the Tuesday following Thanksgiving when environmentally-friendly holiday shopping begins

**mash-up** an interview on-line that allows the viewer to pick and choose what questions and answers to view

**MRSA** [for *methicillin-resistant Staph(ylococcus) aureus*] (1979) a very robust bacterium resistant to antibiotics, sometimes fatal

**no-e-mail Friday** Friday set aside as a day when people refrain from using electronic mail

**no-match letter** a written letter sent by a government agency to an employer indicating that an employee is an undocumented alien

**Oprah effect** (another oldie but goodie) the impact of the opinion of Oprah Winfrey, most recently upon the candidacy of a politician

**parkour** [<French] the practice of leaping from building to building

**quorum sensing** the ability of a mass of bacteria to begin some action

Waldo: **play Waldo** or **place where's Waldo** to challenge someone for not being where they should be or doing what they should do, especially when used by a politician criticizing another

**Zumba** group fitness based upon rumba dancing

Some of these are funny, some serious, some useful, and some are not very useful. Taken together they reflect events of the year.