American Dialect Society
2013 Words of the Year
NOMINATIONS to be voted on by
the American Dialect Society
Jan. 3, 2014, Minneapolis

MOST USEFUL

because: introducing a noun or noun phrase (e.g., “because reasons,” “because Internet”)
selfie: a photo taken of oneself, typically with a smartphone and shared on social media
slash: used as a coordinating conjunction to mean “or” or “and/or” (e.g., “come and visit slash stay”)
struggle bus: metaphor for a difficult situation, as in “I’m riding the struggle bus.”

MOST CREATIVE

bitcoin: an anonymous, decentralized, digital, encrypted currency and payment system
catfish: to misrepresent oneself online, especially as part of a romantic deception
doge: an Internet meme with intentionally ungrammatical exclamations over an image of a dog (typically the Shiba Inu breed)
robo sapiens: a class of robots with human-like intelligence

MOST UNNECESSARY

cronut: a croissant-doughnut hybrid
sharknado: a tornado full of sharks, as featured in the Syfy Channel movie of that name
stack-ranking: a method of ranking employees on a primitive curve (used and abandoned by Microsoft)

MOST OUTRAGEOUS

fatberg: large deposit of fat, grease, and solid sewage found in London sewers
revenge porn: vindictive posting of sexually explicit pictures of someone without consent
scmeat: (blend of sheet + meat): meat product grown in a lab
thigh gap: a space between the thighs, taken by some as a sign of attractiveness (also box gap)
derunderbutt: the underside of buttocks, made visible by certain shorts or underwear

MOST EUPHEMISTIC

demised: laid off from employment (used by the bank HSBC)
least untruthful: involving the smallest necessary lie (used by intelligence director James Clapper)
slimdown: reinterpretation of “shutdown” used on Fox News site

WORD OF THE YEAR
Nominations to be made at final meeting.