American Dialect Society 2016 Words of the Year

NOMINATIONS to be voted on by
the American Dialect Society
Jan. 6, 2017, Austin, TX

POLITICAL WORD OF THE YEAR
deplorables (basket of): epithet used by
Clinton in speech about Trump supporters
nasty woman: epithet used by Trump
addressing Clinton in final presidential debate
Pantsuit Nation: popular Facebook group for
Clinton supporters
post-truth: belonging to a time in which facts
matter less than beliefs and emotions
unpresidented: erroneous version of
unprecedented in a tweet by Trump

EUPHEMISM OF THE YEAR
alt-right: umbrella term for extremist racial
ideologies including white nationalism and
white supremacy
fake news: misinformation, hoaxes, and
propaganda, especially as spread on social
media sites to boost web traffic
locker-room banter: lewd, vulgar talk (used by
Trump to downplay Access Hollywood tape)
small/tiny hands: jab at hand size implying
other anatomical deficiencies

DIGITAL WORD OF THE YEAR
fam: one’s crew, squad, circle of friends, etc.
Harambe: gorilla killed at Cincinnati Zoo,
launching numerous tributes and memes
tweetstorm: series of connected tweets about a
particular subject, often a passionate rant
@: (verb) reply on Twitter using the @ symbol

WTF WORD OF THE YEAR
bigly: in a significant manner (from widespread
mishearing of Trump’s use of big-league)
cuck, cuckservative: derisive term for
mainstream Republicans by alt-right
pussy: term for female genitalia used by Trump
in Access Hollywood tape
yuge: dialect pronunciation of huge used by
Trump and Bernie Sanders

SLANG WORD OF THE YEAR
fire: (adj.) cool, fun, stylish
receipts: proof (as in “show me the receipts”)
slay: succeed, be excellent or amazing
woke: socially aware or enlightened

HASHTAG OF THE YEAR
#blackgirlmagic: celebration of black
women and their achievements
#NoDAPL: protest against construction
of the Dakota Access Pipeline
#OscarsSoWhite: criticism of Academy
Award nominees’ lack of diversity
#pussygrabsback: rallying cry
responding to Trump’s “pussy” remark

MOST USEFUL/LIKELY TO SUCCEED
chip: (verb) insert a bank card into an electronic
chip reader (as opposed to swipe)
gaslight: psychologically manipulate a person
into questioning their own sanity
normalize: render normal that which was
previously deemed beyond acceptable bounds
turn up: get excited, have fun, enjoy oneself

MOST CREATIVE
-exit: combining form relating to departure,
after Brexit (Calexit, Texit, Brangelexit)
facticide: killing or distortion of facts
gynotician: politician seen as interfering with
women’s healthcare
laissez-fairydust: magical effect brought upon
by laissez-faire economics

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