



With thanks to Anita Johnson Sullivan.

# The Best of QMS:

Wordnik Word of the Day Limericks 2013-2019

# In memoriam

Quentin M. Sullivan

August 22, 1945 - July 4, 2019





# **Preface**

Quentin M. Sullivan, or *qms* (as he was known to his fellow Wordniks) wrote nearly three thousand limericks celebrating Wordnik's word of the day.

From 2013 until his death in 2019 he hardly let a day go by without a contribution. His wit, kindness, and linguistic creativity are sorely missed.

This collection highlights a limerick of Quentin's for every day of the year. We hope you enjoy them!

The word *limerick* has been permanently adopted in Quentin's honor.

#### Jan 1, 2018 qualtagh

The generous folk who speak Manx Have swollen our lexical ranks. Oh, let us exalt it And welcome the qualtagh! The new year begins with our thanks.



#### Jan 2, 2016 sitzmark

A skier among trees when it's dark Can schuss on until he hits bark. The beasts of the night Delight in his plight And leave but a lingering sitzmark.



## Jan 3, 2019 chine

The barbering tar would opine,
"The hardest to shave's the jawline.
The prow of the chin
Is easy as sin
But not the damned barnacled chine."



# January 4, 2016 philomath

If thou wouldst know a false philomath Attend to the habit of speech he hath: Who scorns the prosaic For the pompous archaic— He treadeth not true wisdom's path.



# January 5, 2015 homologate

The dogmatist will not negotiate, Nor compromise nor tolerate. His will must prevail And foes must not fail To bow and to humbly homologate.



### January 6, 2015 burke

In a strange attributive quirk
To kill for a corpse is to burke.
Second billing's unfair
To poor William Hare
Who matched Billy Burke in the work.

## January 7, 2017 fadge

A clever bezonian bloke Has many a trick in his poke. He's able to cadge A freshly baked fadge With a jig, or a rhyme, or a joke.



#### January 8, 2015 hawbuck

The Backwoods Humorist
His patter full of "pshaw!" and "aw-shucks,"
His rustical tales are sure to draw yucks.
But he always outwits
The city-bred twits
To confirm the illusions of paying hawbucks.



# January 9, 2016 frondeur

A leader who's challenged must ponder How best to appease a fierce frondeur: Just gentle his grief With a French apertif. With absinthe the heart will grow fonder.



# January 10, 2018 androcracy

Our governors earn lots of mockery For mindlessly limp mediocrity. We need an infusion Of gender diffusion To stiffen the flaccid androcracy.

Y

## January 11, 2016 *napoo*

My allergies make much taboo— No peanut nor even cashew. My diet from hell Bans fish in a shell And gluten of course is napoo.

Y

#### January 12, 2017 anergia

The Church of Indifference's teaching Holds holiness not worth the reaching. Its superfluous clergy are Sunk deep in anergia And cannot be bothered with preaching. January 13, 2017

ophelimity

Affluence is happiness' mimicry.
To highlight the hidden asymmetry
They've coined a new word
You might not have heard:
The useful but awkward ophelimity.

Y

## January 14, 2019 cephalalgia

I've rhymed my long weary way Five years without missing a day. Now rest on nostalgia Or choose cephalalgia, The price the obsessive must pay?

Y

#### January 15, 2016

hanap

A chalice will serve for a nip, A rhyton ennobles the lip, But no vessel can cap The majestic hanap— The cup of the right royal sip.



## **January 16, 2015**

stertor

Unmoved by suasion or force A snorer must follow his course. An incessant stertor Won't justify murder But often results in divorce.



**January 17, 2015** 

blore

This candidate's pitch is a bore, His speech a monotonous snore. I like some bluster, An old-fashioned guster, A blowhard, a windbag, a blore.



**January 18, 2016** 

hesternal

The garden of memory's vernal If tended each day in a journal. For all we have known Already has flown And tomorrow today is hesternal.

#### January 19, 2015

asportation

The skid row crook soon comes to grief; His course to shame and jail is brief. But the mortifications Of mere asportations Are spared the grander Wall Street thief.



**January 20, 2017** 

prexy

Addicted to money and sex he Induces in some apoplexy. Oh, what's gone amiss That one such as this Today is anointed our prexy?



**January 21, 2014** 

glabrous

This Fall I took extended vacation From toilsome outdoor titivation. The garden left scabrous Is now glowingly glabrous, And swollen in snowy hibernation.



# January 22, 2017 wanhope

Like moles in the darkness we grope To unearth a rhyme or a trope. For means to compare Our sense of despair We dig in the mine of wanhope.

# **Y**

# January 23, 2015 corrade

When Nature is miffed she corrodes. If she really is pissed she erodes. Her wrath is displayed When you see her corrade But at peak of her pique she explodes.

# Y

# January 24, 2016

## jebel

Flatlanders must learn how to speak: A hillock's a hummock with cheek; A mountain is treble The size of a jebel And a cowlick on top is a peak.

#### January 25, 2018

## gnomology

It's published in ponderous tomes And shelved in the soberest homes. Despite what you thought Gnomology's not The frivolous study of gnomes.



### **January 26, 2015**

#### onomatope

I wish that we had an onamatope To capture the gait of the antelope. It's a crying shame We used up the name. It's wasted completely on cantaloupe.



# January 27, 2018

# loutrophoros

The ancient Greeks long before us Invented the play with a chorus And down all the ages We still love their sages But don't use the old loutrophoros.



# January 28, 2017 errorist

Some fail at the truth, though they try. Some fear climate change, so deny, But the true eco-terrorist's The cold-blooded errorist Who knowingly sells the big lie.

# Y

# January 29, 2018 morology

Oh, what can the cause of this folly be, This mad, inauspicious frivolity? Their mouths are uncivil And spewing forth drivel. The Congress is mired in morology!

# ¥

# January 30, 2015 ultimo

If you would let your learning show Do not cite simply "a month ago," Nor deal out the scanty, Like "pre-" and wee "ante-", When you can impress with "ultimo."

#### January 31, 2018

#### reboant

So warm and with sweet scents so redolent, And where is so private yet resonant? To feel music's power We sing in the shower, A chamber most cozy and reboant.



# **February 1, 2015**

# definiens

In Wordnik's unruly dominions You're free to assert your opinions. Invent a new word That no one has heard And you get to write the definiens.



# **February 2, 2016**

# vexillologist

For words in a text a philologist Might be an effective apologist. To decipher manners Of pennants and banners Consult with a sharp vexillologist.



# February 3, 2017 lairage

Consider the bees' looted hives And kine in their bucolic lives, Kept safe in their lairages From natural ravages En route to the abbatoir's knives.

#### Y

# February 4, 2016 frass

We Wordniks have authentic class And honor what others call crass. A frank designation Deserves celebration, So kudos to unabashed frass!

# Y

# February 5, 2019 *penannular*

A Celtic cloak fastener penannular Tells everybody how grand you are, And some chiefs more chic Give fashion a tweak With belt buckles big and triangular.

#### **February 6, 2018**

#### monocracy

For -ocracy I've run out of rhymes That dodge phonetical crimes. I dread the monotony Of such as monocracy; I've rhymed them too many times.

#### **Y**

## **February 7, 2015**

#### gamp

A brolly has too light a stamp; A parasol will fail the damp. For a serious roof When you're on the hoof A bumbershoot should be your gamp.

#### Y

# **February 8, 2019**

# dimidiate

King Solomon once had to mediate A hotly disputed wee kiddy's fate. He brought truth to light And set things aright, Proposing the claimants dimidiate.



# February 9, 2018 choplogic

Sam Johnson loved Hodge, his old cat Indulging him till he grew fat. Though be it choplogic For want of a Hodge lick He'd feed him an oyster or sprat.

# February 10, 2014

patzer

The old man advised, "As to that sir, If your aim is to be a true master—
Though timid and tame
May win the odd game
Be bold or be always a patzer."

## February 11, 2015

clevis

Between the idea and the start The want and the will stand apart. We need a strong clevis To tackle that crevice And harness the horse to the cart.

# February 12, 2016 trichromatic

A calico cat is a she; The shades of her coat are the key. It's quite automatic: If a cat's trichromatic A female is all it can be.

#### **February 13, 2018**

gestic

A limerick's light and domestic. Though hobbled by feet anapestic It paces and sways In familiar ways That can be beguilingly gestic.

# February 14, 2019

leman

"You say that she apples your eye, Your peach, your adored sweetie pie, But *leman*, though apt Will get your face slapped— Too bitter a fruit to apply.



# **February 15, 2018**

sisu

A Finn, if you press him, resists you; Compliance is always at issue. Despite your appeals He digs in his heels To show he has true Finnish sisu.



#### **February 16, 2018**

delectate

As all of God's creatures must defecate Let no one the humble bug deprecate. Let praises be sung Of beetles (type dung) Whose appetites droppings delectate.



## **February 17, 2019**

joyance

My solitude is an annoyance But calls from my love give me buoyance, And word that she's wending Toward her absence ending I hear with a heartwarming joyance.



#### **February 18, 2016**

**cvmatics** 

Those youthful acoustical antics That blast from garages and attics Can so shake the breeze That resonant trees Give lessons in outdoor cymatics.



#### **February 19, 2019**

algedonic

To artists whose gig is harmonic Applause is an absolute tonic. They notice its length And assay its strength By internal rules algedonic.



# February 20, 2016

thrupple

Should a stiffly conventional couple Aspire to a more daring thrupple Then yoga and flexing Had best be their next thing. They're going to need to be supple.





# February 21, 2014 pourboire

You must leave a tip if you'd be a mensch, But *gratuity* has a vulgar stench. *Lagniappe* is preferred Or *pourboire* is the word. Like *escargot*—it's better in French.



# February 22, 2017

crypsis

Like words that hide in ellipsis Or planets obscured by eclipses, Some peace-seeking prey Have mastered a way To thrive under threat using crypsis.



# February 23, 2014

spoony

Our passions are gentled by age, So sorrow scars over our rage, An obsession once loony Becomes merely spoony And the pedant retires a sage.



eristic

We know it from lore and statistic: A boy who's persistently fistic Will find legal brawling His natural calling, Rewarding his talents eristic.



#### February 25, 2018

petrography

While some study subjects that bleed Or classify flower and weed, Petrography suits More disciplined troops For rocks are hard science indeed.



# February 26, 2019

thermantidote

Air conditioning's a sensible plan— Does more than a swamp cooler can. A thermantidote Might garner my vote If I can't have a lackey with fan.





#### **February 27, 2019** aplustre

Now fitful and ill-omened gusts stir The sails that once swelled with his bluster. The ship of state drifts And fades in the mists From bowsprit to drooping aplustre.

#### millesimal **February 28, 2018**

A homeopathic professional Doles dosages infinitesimal. He need never wrestle With mortar and pestle; His pipette drops portions millesimal.

#### **February 29, 2016** nyctinasty

Beware, little fly, entombment ghastly! That blossom could be what you'll last see, For should you alight When day turns to night The beckoning bud turns nictinasty.



#### March 1, 2015

# dynamitard

"Mad bomber" he thought a bit hard. His name had been shamefully tarred, But French will go far To melt away tar: He's pleased to claim "dynamitard."



#### March 2, 2017

#### pomato

Tomato's no veg, as you may know, And maybe it's true if you say so, But the brute is a fruit And the spud is a root So how'd they beget a pomato?



# March 3, 2014

#### axolotl

In Mexico you can watch them waddle And think them conjured from a bottle. Seeing fish seem to walk Can be quite a shock, But it's not the booze. It's the axolotl.





# March 4, 2016 mulierose

His passion unrulier grows, Provoking peculiar throes: It's part of the essence Of male adolescence, The curse of the mulierose.

Y

# March 5, 2017 *barm*

A brewery to Angus has charm; He feels there he's safe from all harm: The vats and the kegs, The browst and the dregs, Enfold like a comforting barm.



# March 6, 2016 sabulous

For tender feet rarely unshod Sharp shingle's an unpleasant plod, But beaches more sabulous Are likely to jab you less And need not be so gingerly trod. March 7, 2015

tapinage

The cat lurks in impatient tapinage
To pounce on a perch for her napinage.
A bend in my waist
Is most to her taste—
Her preference is for lapinage.



#### March 8, 2014

limitrophe

It's a grandiose pose he affects.
It shows in the words he selects.
Though peasants may scoff
He'll use *limitrophe*Where the vulgar would settle for "next."



# March 9, 2017

chirm

The birds in dawn chorus confirm The early bird captures the worm. The cries of the winners And slugabed sinners Produce a cacophonous chirm.





March 10, 2016 ebriety

When Ernest imbibes in society
His drinking's done quickly and quietly
His voice low and whiskeyish
Condemning "preshcriptivishts"
Is the sign he's achieved his ebriety.

niaiserie

The French lend us more than their pastry. Their language for blunders and japery Is varied as cheese: Faux pas and bêtise And the typical bumpkin's niaiserie.

March 11, 2015

March 12, 2017 diuturnal

The wise man will write in his journal And capture the day while it's vernal, For time, we know, flies And memory lies, But truth written down's diuturnal. March 13, 2018 clinquant

Ludmila's taste lapses are frequent, Her judgment amiss or delinquent. For drama's effect She's tinsel bedecked And enters all slinkily clinquant.

March 14, 2019 circle-squarer

The Word of the Day is the bearer Of either delight or of terror. Will triumph of wit Or misery's pit Await this obsessed circle-squarer.

March 15, 2017 *cloop* 

The oenophile's tightly knit group Has formed its own musical troupe. The bibulous chums, Indifferent to drums, Will march to the beat of the cloop.

24 25



#### March 16, 2015

nurdle

The sound of the word's oddly fertile: A pellet of plastic to choke a turtle, A toothpaste squiggle
Or cricketer's wriggle—
Both little and tricky hide in nurdle.

Y

#### March 17, 2015

cacotopia

Some theories of wealth quite confound: They claim it will drain to the ground. Such greedy myopia Begets cacotopia For we, the poor worms who will drown.

Y

#### March 18, 2014

camofleur

A usage too broad surely errs. It could be his work or else hers. A camofleur must be Uniquely a he.
The female we call *camofleuse*.

Y

#### March 19, 2015

chiliad

Take comfort in views chiliastic: Stay calm and do nothing drastic. Though things may be bad In this chiliad The next one will sure be fantastic.

Y

#### March 20, 2016

jimply

My cat finds contentment so simply: After dining she drapes herself limply, Sufficiently fed And flopped in her bed That catches the sunbeam just jimply.

Y

# March 21, 2014

nixie

A mood of nostalgia afflicts me For a tube that was cool in the sixties. No pallid LCD Or soulless LED Has the tremulous glow of the nixie.



March 22, 2019 roturier

When dressed by a brilliant couturier A confident rogue may rule the day. Celeb or new royal,
The skilled handlers toil
To hide any taint of roturier.

Y

March 23, 2015 henotheism

The dogmatists may think it odd But others find much to applaud: There's nary a schism In henotheism. A doubter can pick a new god.

Y

March 24, 2019 blatter

There's babble, there's gabble and chatter; There's jabber and gibber and patter. You can, if you'd rather, Abide by plain blather Or flatter the word fans with blatter. March 25, 2018

merism

I've stalked them from dusk until dawn With middling success off and on:
Some words to share rhythm
And shape a merism;
I've hunted them hither and yon.

Y

March 26, 2018

noema

Prof. Husserl directs your attention To quite a confounding invention. He calls it *noema*, A psychic edema Inflating an act of intention.

Y

March 27, 2015

ethnarch

Most princes aspire to be ethnarch, But Phillip's ambition was less stark. For Herod's young scion A quarter of Zion Contented him nicely as tetrarch.



# March 28, 2015 cowpooling

The infighting often is grueling,
With lying betraying and dueling
As people take dibs
On haunches and ribs.
It's cutthroat, the world of cowpooling.

Y

# March 29, 2015 dapifer

A housemaid will always be neat; A footman you'll know by his feet. And might a chap infer That fellow's a dapifer Who carries a trencher of meat?

Y

## March 30, 2018 grumous

Our appetites finally doom us; Our blood becomes fatty and grumous. The lesson thus learned Is painfully earned And wisdom is sadly posthumous.

V

#### March 31, 2017

titubate

He rises to urgently micturate
But, tending to totter and titubate,
He's slow to the door—
Can hold it no more—
Arriving, alas, just a bit too late.

\*

## **April 1, 2017**

thimblerig

Court jester was never a simple gig Though tired you danced a nimble jig Since courtiers were fond At times to be conned You had to have mastered the thimblerig.

¥

# April 2, 2018

cagoule

No storm makes a proud Frenchman snool No matter how windy and cruel. Courage, mon ami! With Gallic esprit Look cool in your boots and cagoule!



#### **April 3, 2017** fent

My jacket I know has a vent But too little time have I spent In learning the lesson Of clothes that I dress in To praise the ubiquitous fent.

#### April 4, 2018 bimble

The critic is mentally nimble, Uncovering subtext and symbol, But given the chance Reads tales of romance— A thinking man's indolent bimble.

#### **April 5, 2018** fouter

In morals he's perfectly neuter, Self interest uniquely his tutor. Should sanctity buy us He's publicly pious, In private an unabashed fouter.



#### **April 6, 2016** wadcutter

Though fans of mass transit may mutter Of trains that melt distance like butter, Amtrak can't compare With bullets elsewhere. Our train is at best a wadcutter.



#### **April** 7, 2014

#### basbleu

In the past we coded women by hue, So color served as a character cue: If she was a harlot We painted her scarlet; The high-minded we labeled basbleu.



# **April 8, 2014**

#### unco

At night when the campfire has sunk low, Then kids hone their skills spinning bunco. They fill their friends' ears With engineered fears, Weaving tales of the weird and the unco.



# April 9, 2019 sangschaw

Old Abner cut plugs with a chainsaw And chewed one before every sangschaw. The music ensuing He paused in his chewing But finished the night with the same chaw.

Y

# April 10, 2016 ushabti

From golden shoes to double pschent Young Tut displayed a dandy's bent. His tomb room ushabti Were notably natty Befitting the shade of a gent.

Y

# April 11, 2017 pyrheliometer

You've busted the boffin's barometer! You're too hot for one nerd's thermometer! The charms that he's treasured Can only be measured By means of a a pyrheliometer.

V

# April 12, 2016 acescent

We're carefree until we're pubescent, Ambitious until we're senescent. Our ripeness is fleet; Let's pray it be sweet Before we are old and acescent.

\*

#### April 13, 2018 vulpicide

The woes of the gentry are multiplied; And country house pastimes are stultified. Laws new and obnoxious Protect the damn foxes, And limit the pleasures of vulpicide.

\*

# April 14, 2019 tychism

When viewing the species' sad state I'm weary and feebly irate.
If tychism's spin
Could give us a win
I'll take it in preference to fate.

•



# April 15, 2019 pervicacious

A man whose beliefs are fallacious Can err without being mendacious, But rise in defiance Of that vile alliance Of knowing men still pervicacious.



#### April 16, 2014 choke-pear

How sweet to conclude a dispute By serving up wit's bitter fruit— Your foe in despair And sucking choke-pear, Left helplessly fuming but mute.



## April 17, 2017 tummler

He dances, who once was a stumbler. She sings, who once was a mumbler. The shy and unsure Find solace and cure Emboldened by wine and the tummler.



# **April 18, 2018**

#### sunbow

There's nonsense and much mumbo-jumbo In this, our linguistical gumbo: In absence of rain, The pedants explain, You must call a rainbow a sunbow.



#### **April 19, 2019**

# solastalgia

With age comes refinement of friends As seen in the news that each sends. It's like-minded pals we are Who share solastalgia, Regretting at length the late trends.



# **April 20, 2019**

# ecosocialism

The "et cetera" here is the key Suggesting all healthy and free. Ecosocialism harks To much more than Marx, It's life as you'd like it to be.





# **April 21, 2014**

garua

The water is scarce in coastal Peru Where rainstorms are feeble and few, So the moisture imbuer Is a mist called garua That enfolds all the plants in its dew.

Y

#### **April 22, 2018**

flexuosity

A contortionist hailing from Ossipee Won fame as a great curiosity. From this we may know How far you can go With hard work and sheer flexuosity.

Y

#### **April 23, 2018**

vowess

They prayed, "May the Good Lord endow us
With a novice of kitchen skill prowess."
He answered their plea
With well-fed Marie,
The convent's most welcome new vowess.

Y

#### **April 24, 2018**

bibliopolist

The pages of books can offer this: A personal mental Acropolis, A temple and shrine That's uniquely mine Whose priest is the old bibliopolist.

\*

#### **April 25, 2017**

nociceptive

The master must make his objective Instruction that's clear and effective. The best way to train Is with a quick cane For young'uns are quite nociceptive.

Y

# **April 26, 2015**

pygophilist

As Luke surely wrote to Theophilus It's all right if you are a pygophilist. While you ought to confess When e'er you transgress, As sins go it isn't the awfullest.

•



# **April 27, 2014**

seidel

The sailor in youth is bound to roam; In age he prefers the comfort of home. At last warm and idle The froth on his seidel Is all he will know of cold and foam.



#### **April 28, 2019**

paleoclimate

I'm all for the paleoclimate And ingenious ways that they time it, But I've an objection To this shrewd projection: It's a damnable challenge to rhyme it.



## **April 29, 2017**

musaceous

A blender is most efficacious At rendering foodstuff pultaceous You'll whip up a doozy Of banana smoothy With yogurt and fruit that's musaceous.



#### April 30, 2016

doorcase

A Murphy bed's shy but polite; In daytime it keeps out of sight. It hides in a doorcase To free up some floor space And only comes out in the night.



#### May 1, 2015

operose

Hard labor is banned on this day Devoted by custom to play. Forsaking the operose, Embracing the otiose, Be frivolous the first day of May.



# May 2, 2017 *rap-full*

Assessing the speed of fast yachts You'll estimate headway in knots. A crew that's not bashful Will keep the craft rap-full; The knots that they make will be lots.





#### May 3, 2016 craunch

A lion in murderous launch Sinks teeth in a wildebeest haunch. There's no tune that cheers The leonine ears More than the sound of that craunch.



#### May 4, 2018 tritanomaly

Because of severe tritanomaly I view my environs abnormally. You may think it crazy But critics still praise me No matter I paint so abominably.



#### May 5, 2015 prosopography

A single life limned is biography. A people detailed is demography. If a history lacks Both gossip and facts It's probably prosopography.



#### May 6, 2014 parapraxis

At times when a pet passion waxes Our mask of discretion relaxes. What we meant to conceal By mistake we reveal When we slip and commit parapraxis.



#### May 7, 2016 strepitus

Preserve me from neighbors obstreperous, And night squalls appallingly crepitous. My sleep, so hard won, Must not be undone By any disturbance or strepitus.



#### May 8, 2015 apricate

Since snow came early and late No surfeit of sunshine will sate. Now all that I ask Is to blissfully bask, To languidly lie and apricate.



May 9, 2019 eutectic

If calmness is hard, then affect it, With practice you may well perfect it. Though news, deeply felt, May tempt you to melt, Stay cool and be less eutectic.

Y

May 10, 2016 *swire* 

While some to bare hilltops aspire And others scale cliffs of desire, The sage wisely seeks The way between peaks And tranquilly travels the swire.

Y

May 11, 2015 sequacious

The truthers are loud and loquacious. Their grip on belief is tenacious, But fervor distracts
From an absence of facts
And reasoning less than sequacious.

May 12, 2018

cottabus

We drank from the shell of a nautilus Till skolion wearied the lot of us Then made dirty jests And bragged of conquests And spent the last wine playing cottabus.

Y

May 13, 2018 *scrumpy* 

It calms the old girl when she's jumpy And cheers her on days when she's grumpy. The proper elixir For all that afflicts her Is pomaceous nectar called scrumpy.

Y

May 14, 2019 *urostege* 

A scale in the bathroom can't harm me.
To scale a small mountain would charm me.
But I get the heebie-jeebies
When I think of urosteges,
For scales on a snake do alarm me.

¥



# May 15, 2019 *chartaceous*

If a baker's to be efficacious
He must be both strong and tenacious.
Puff pastry's a test
To challenge the best
To roll the dough out till chartaceous.

Y

## May 16, 2014 spoondrift

The sea, growing calm, will soon lift The veil of tempest-strewn gift, That wind-woven cloth Of glistening froth That rimed her grim face in spoondrift.

Y

# May 17, 2016 *guiser*

Her lover may come as a guiser Obscured in a Carnival vizor, Concealing his visage From casual quizzage To intrigue and then to surprise her.

#### May 18, 2017

schav

Consider the choices you have Selecting a soup of the Slav. There's bigos, quite thick, Or pick one that's quick And dine on a fresh bowl of schav.

\*

#### May 19, 2016

satisfice

When asked if the hairdo is nice Know truth can exact a high price. Dispense with your honor And heap praise upon her For timorous lies won't satisfice.

Y

#### May 20, 2015

euphuist

To fact he will always hew truest But flourishes never strew fewest. Expect, willy-nilly, That he'll gild the lily. The man's a committed euphuist.

•



May 21, 2015

guggle

Getting ketchup to move is a struggle. Some swear by the inverted juggle, But the xanthan emulsion Will give it propulsion So shaking will make that jug guggle.

Y

May 22, 2018 ultramundane

It's no term of slighting disdain; Like "out of this world" it's no stain. Without taint of "boring" But downright adoring, It's good to be ultramundane!

Y

May 23, 2016 nyckelharpa

The gamelan comes from Jakarta And Stockholm supplies nyckelharpa. When they jam together Regardless of weather They dress in sarong and a parka. May 24, 2015

chaffeuse

The race at The Brickyard's a doozie But begs for a victor more newsy. Them Hoosiers with class Will root for the lass And cheer for a winning chauffeuse!

Y

May 25, 2018

necrology

A Christmas card list has a quality At first of good cheer and frivolity. By decades that column Grows more and more solemn And ossifies into necrology.

Y

May 26, 2017

astrobleme

The Yucatan narrates the birth Of changes for old Mother Earth. The pastoral scene Hides a vast astrobleme, The secret to dinosaur dearth.



# May 27, 2014 portemonnaie

There are some too refined to purvey The commoners' language for pay. Despite what they call it It still is a wallet And no higher class as portemonnaie.



#### May 28, 2014 bumblepuppy

If you must play and cannot refuse Demeanor is still yours to choose: Be stiff and stuckuppy Or play bumblepuppy To show you don't care if you lose.



# May 29, 2019 *bolide*

She thought she could star if she tried And see her name shining worldwide But her star, though bright Only flickered a night A striking but short-lived bolide.



#### May 30, 2016

#### diegesis

A parable mates sundry pieces: The set-up we call diegesis, But all who are able To tinker a fable Will use it to prop up a thesis.



#### May 31, 2014

#### celadon

There is in this valley's mellow dawn A soul-soothing hue to dwell upon. The color you'll find That's balm for the mind Is mist-mingled green of celadon.



#### June 1, 2015

# espieglerie

The fables of Wodehouse quite regularly Exemplify manic integrity.
This brilliant absurd,
In Bertie's own word,
Grows out of inspired espieglerie.





# June 2, 2015 gubbings

The scales come off with the scrubbings. The salt goes on with the rubbings. When the codfish are done To dry in the sun The gulls come to feast on the gubbings.

Y

# June 3, 2018 clough

Aren't gorge and ravine quite enough For valleys and such hollowed stuff? Barranca and canyon Don't need a companion. I think we'll dispense with this "clough".

Y

# June 4, 2015 typomania

It began as a mere hypomania But grows ever stronger and zanier, First paper and ink Now blog, tweet and link— The web abets wild typomania.

.

## June 5, 2018 vacillant

Be patient with Malcolm the malcontent. It's not that he's always recalcitrant, But suffers from bouts
Of worries and doubts
That make him reluctant and vacillant.

\*

#### June 6, 2018

spruit

What praise has this rivulet due it That dies if the dew not renew it? But readers are fickle And even this trickle Gains charm if you call it a spruit.

Y

# June 7, 2015 cosmolatry

His worship provokes general jollity. Its breadth seems a sign of frivolity But, science his psalter And nature his altar, He practices peaceful cosmolatry.



June 8, 2015 tappen

Dismissing those uncertain "coulds" We once affirmed, sure of the goods. But, considering tappens, Tell me what happens:

Does a bear always shit in the woods?

Y

June 9, 2017 *ichthyophagy* 

Ecologists warn us that fish Are not a sustainable dish. Enlightened philosophy Eschews ichthyophagy, Or so would the scientists wish.

**Y** 

June 10, 2017 *fibbery* 

If fibbers are guilty of fibbery
Then sybarites wallow in sybary.
A scribe who is given
To squibs hasty scriven
Is lost in the thickets of squibbery.

V

June 11, 2016

lusk

Some oxen are known for their musk And narwhals are typed by the tusk. The sloth is a creature Whose defining feature Is being quite perfectly lusk.

Y

June 12, 2016

vareuse

To give some cachet to a jacket That otherwise simply would lack it You can, if you choose, Say it's a *vareuse*. It's a ruse of the high fashion racket.

Y

June 13, 2017

mortiferous

May God in his mercy deliver us From beasts that are wild and carnivorous, From shoal-ridden shores And humorless bores, And all things that tend toward mortiferous.



June 14, 2015 *miffy* 

To banter with Grandpa is iffy. His temper is lost in a jiffy, So raillery's out If he's feeling his gout. It's then that he's at his most miffy.

Y

June 15, 2014 belvedere

I seek for the grand a humble peer: For ancient wines an ice-cold beer, For sculpted bowers My box of flowers, The window ledge my belvedere.

Y

June 16, 2016 nesh

Still warm from the oven and fresh A new loaf heals spirit and flesh. Succumb to the spell Of crust like a shell And crumb that is fragrant and nesh. June 17, 2016

skilts

Some folks with Highlandish tilts Affect rather outlandish lilts But nurse an aversion To whole Scots conversion By dressing in two-legged skilts.

\*

June 18, 2018 chiliagon

There's many a line to be drawn To finish my chiliagon. With pencils and rules And paper my tools With patience I'll see you anon.

Y

June 19, 2017 dewfall

Meditation is surely our true call, Let light that's inside us imbue all The mists that conceal Resolve and congeal And peace will descend like the dewfall.

¥



# June 20, 2018 estivate

When striving and troublesome quest abate
And days of diversion and rest await,
I'll work to no goal
Nor pay labor's toll,
For starting tomorrow I'll estivate.

# **Y**

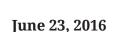
# June 21, 2017 jobation

Expressions of disapprobation Have many a nasty mutation: The cold look that lingers, The wagging of fingers, But worst is the endless jobation.



# June 22, 2017 frugivore

The pattern is hard to ignore:
Buy local and you are a locavore;
If seeking cheap eats
In veggies and meats
You're frugal and known as a frugivore.



## euthenics

There's much that a spa can instill: Cold showers can stiffen the will; Applying euthenics Can calm the splenetics, While mud baths cure many an ill.



# June 24, 2018 oniomania

Now some people browse for a swap And others use Paypal to shop, But oniomania Infects certain crania And online they never need stop.



theriac

## June 25, 2014

Ask poor Mother Eve, it goes way back. We sensibly dread the viper attack. But no asp can surpass
The snake in the grass
For whose venom there is no theriac.





June 26, 2018 weasand

The harried mom desperately reasoned Her brat needed mush highly seasoned. The trick was a help; It silenced her whelp By stifling his cries in his weasand.

•

June 27, 2015 agraffe

While buttons may service the riffraff A zipper is bourgeois—a gaffe. An elegant closure Delights in exposure: Apply to your fly a bright agraffe.

Y

June 28, 2014 georgic

To make a point that's likely to stick Compose some lines pithy and quick. Not verse pedagogic Or, worse yet, a georgic. Be memorably rude with a limerick. June 29, 2017

nympholepsy

The folks in a mystical cult Sip potions to help them exult. The visions adepts see Provoke nympholepsy, Which is the desired result.

Y

June 30, 2018 *velarium* 

The place was a burning solarium So, wilting, he waved his orarium; Thus Caesar conveyed His need for some shade, And slaves trotted out the velarium.

Y

July 1, 2015 dacquoise

A skilled chef will manage the pause While diners await the dacquoise. The tension will build Till hopes are fulfilled And the room can erupt in applause.

¥



July 2, 2016 chewet

You fill it with lean meat or suet And call it a mortress or chewet, But if crust enfold it So that you can hold it It's pie any way you construe it.

Y

July 3, 2018 autarchy

Good people be silent and hark ye! Believe not the goblin's malarkey! He'll wheedle and flatter But words do not matter. He means to construct an autarchy.

Y

July 4, 2016 pyrotechny

At mid-day they pander abjectly; By twilight they cry out "elect me!" But shrill pleas are drowned By sight and the sound Of Fourth of July pyrotechny.

July 5, 2015 entremet

A great dinner like a great play Will nourish and charm all the way. Delight should be certain From prologue to curtain, From hors d'oeuvre to last entremet.

Y

July 6, 2016 centesimate

A general of Rome grown irate In heat may incline to decimate, Or soothed by the touch Of one he loves much Relent and benignly centesimate.

Y

July 7, 2016 baisemain

A courtier with little shame feigns He's smitten by royal plain janes. He'll hint at hot bliss To a credulous miss But give her no more than baisemains.



July 8, 2015

dux

Your typical high muckamucks Are experts at passing the bucks. Avoiding all blame Is part of their game— A skill that is learned as a dux.

Y

July 9, 2018

aversation

The landscape's a bleak desolation, Too grim to bear long contemplation. A guy could do worse Than write silly verse While giving the news aversation.

Y

July 10, 2016

diverb

Ignite a spark by useful friction With symmetry in contradiction. Inspire or perturb By a clever diverb— An ancient tool of formal diction.

Y

July 11, 2014

attercop

The tuffet Miss Muffet once sat atop
Was home to a peace-loving attercop
Who ransomed tranquility
With a show of hostility
To make her quite maddening chatter stop.

Y

July 12, 2018

tarriance

Your status you may well enhance By carefully casual dalliance. The rich and the great Are stylishly late, And greater the longer the tarriance.

Y

July 13, 2016

iatric

A master of matters iatric If blessed with some talent theatric And good looks to boot Can scoop up some loot In scoring the tv doc hat trick.

•



#### July 14, 2017 carmagnole

Your dress and gesture bespoke your role And safest in those days was prole To retain your head For a cap of bright red While dancing a mad carmagnole.



#### July 15, 2018 manway

I'd rather be elsewhere than stay In caverns where nightmares can prey. It's foolish, not brave To enter a cave Unless you've been shown a manway.



#### July 16, 2015 lampas

The gaucho done roaming the pampas And scholar at home on his campus Both think that it suits Their glorious glutes To rest on a divan of lampas.



#### July 17, 2017

#### fakement

Beware lest like Eve you should meet A serpent who lies for a treat. That wily old snake meant To purvey a fakement For sheer love of simple deceit.



#### July 18, 2014

#### fraidy

Must a bird be grumpy to be a grouse? How vile the bug before it's a louse? And if it comes to that, We say "fraidy cat" So why not refer to a "timor-mouse?"



#### July 19, 2018

#### fricandeau

My loaf is a shame and a woe But means to save face now I know, Not slighting the bread But praising instead By claiming it's called fricandeau.



#### July 20, 2014 vicissitude

Said the guru in solemn solicitude, "Let neither despair nor bliss intrude. Take calm as your norm; Be the eye of the storm. Be still and transcend all vicissitude."



#### July 21, 2015 *spawl*

When he starts to rant and to bawl The Donald can empty the hall. Such violent throes Will drench the front rows In a mist of his venomous spawl.



#### July 22, 2018 caesaropapism

In this so disconsolate season, When fear tries to rule over reason, Is caesaropapism Refreshing escapism Compared to the rumors of treason.



#### July 23, 2016 drownage

Young ladies in crinoline gownage Refrained from riparian clownage Else they might have slid As Ophelia did To prolonged, if picturesque, drownage.



#### July 24, 2016 balneal

The best way I know how to heal A pestilent rash popliteal Is immersing your knees As hot as you please Applying the cure-all balneal.



#### July 25, 2018 ginglymus

An internal metronome swings in us And insight when rhymed aright clings to us, But flexion is key In lines four and three For they are the limerick's ginglymus.





#### July 26, 2018 aiguillette

Attachments to clothes in most cases Will stab you in sensitive places, However a tag well met Is the wee aigulette That stiffens the end of your laces.

Y

#### July 27, 2016 panada

When hungry how low will we stoop Our dwindling strength to recoup? A bowl of panada Is better than nada. If need be I'll eat some bread soup.

Y

#### July 28, 2017 luteous

It's strange what comes to be beauteous: If renal disease put its root in us
The optimist's eye
Will ceaselessly try
To spy the elusively luteous.

July 29, 2016

tucket

He fondled each farthing and ducat Before dropping them into his bucket. The comforting sound As they rattled around To him was both nocturne and tucket.

Y

#### July 30, 2016

hamshackle

When casting with fly fishing tackle
The novice who has not the knack'll
Find that such angling
Is deeply entangling
And wind up impaled and hamshackled.

Y

#### July 31, 2017

mulligrubs

Enmeshed by so grievous events The sharp pang of panic relents. Sour fate dully rubs And makes mulligrubs From fevers of old discontents.

Y



**August 1, 2017** neocracy

The hot show in town is neocracy With wonders the people will flock to see: The kleptocrat's portion! The moral contortion! A circus of preening hypocrisy!

**August 2, 2018** plutonomy

Deluded, resentful, they throng to see His orgy of bombastic bonhomie. The whole horde agrees To be worker bees And strive in the hive of plutonomy.

**August 3, 2014** captious

She notices every failing and glitch; Her need to complain is like an itch. It's a built-in synapsis. Some call her captious (A polite way to say she's a bitch.)

August 4, 2016

crepuscule

The heat of the day can be cruel. We swelter and yearn to be cool, To sip a cold drink And watch the sun sink And soak in the sweet crepuscule.

**August 5, 2017** pokelogan

The footwear that's always in vogue in The Maine woods is clearly the brogan. They'll withstand the suck Of voracious muck Awaiting in every pokelogan.

August 6, 2015 cacolet

A howdah is an elegant way To ride in the heat of the day, Or else sit astraddle A horse in a saddle Or lounge in a cool cacolet.



August 7, 2018

riant

Ensure that you're trademark compliant Promoting your company's giant. It's copyright folly To say "green and jolly" So boast that he's vernal and riant.

Y

**August 8, 2017** 

adit

They say the great pyramid had it, Though sheathing of marble once clad it: The way to the tomb (And curses of doom) Began with a well-hidden adit.

Y

August 9, 2016

collogue

Some private exchanges are fraught As innocent converse is not. In voices that collogue Hear treachery's prologue, The reptilian hiss of a plot.

Y

August 10, 2017

autotheist

On tv at most he was B-list (Absent a C- or a D- list) But still self-assessed As clearly the best. The goblin's a true autotheist.

Y

**August 11, 2017** 

twistical

Don't fall for the cynical listicle Where news is typically mythical. The 'ten things you must' Are hot air and dust, Just click-bait that's wickedly twistical.

Y

August 12, 2016

paronymous

"Gregarious" hints at a commonness,
"Egregious", however's, more ominous.
The first is preferred
As part of the herd
But, cousins, the words are paronymous.

•



#### August 13, 2018 seamark

Historically sailors would hark To foghorns that blast in the dark, But these days they heed The GPS feed And don't even need a seamark.

Y

#### August 14, 2014 *kneip*

In towns where young students are found Will sessions of talk and drink abound, Long nights of a type
The Germans call kneip
That memory will color profound.

Y

#### August 15, 2014 smearcase

Deplore any foods that displease, Defame with inconsequent ease, But spread no disgrace To humble smearcase: Only bullies will smear a soft cheese. **August 16, 2017** 

avolation

When bound for the last destination I hope to create no sensation, Ask no trumpet blast To hear at the last But subtle and sweet avolation.

Y

#### August 17, 2016

coelostat

A sailor who finds where he's at Adjusts to the long and the lat; Astronomers though To check any flow Will stick with a strict coelostat.

Y

#### August 18, 2017

badigeon

Oh, thanks to the generous pigeon Contributing his humble smidgen! He's doing his part For out-of-doors art With dollops of fresh white badigeon.

Y



## August 19, 2015 rundle

Each tumbrel its despairing bundles To death by the blade slowly trundles. At Guillotine's ladder What effort is sadder Than climbing of those bloody rundles.

#### Y

#### August 20, 2016 pleochroism

A rock hound when he is wistful dreams gemstones garnered by fistful, And rock turned to prism
By pleochroism—
The trick of a magical crystal.

#### Y

#### August 21, 2014 mallemaroking

When whalers are done with whale stalking
And wearied of scrimshaw and talking,
Then, free of their labors,
They visit the neighbors
For long nights of mallemaroking.

## August 22, 2015

#### tenace

When young I thought old age a menace But wiser now I shrewdly senesce. If victory's spelt By the next card dealt, I'll take the last trick with my tenace.



#### August 23, 2017

#### facetely

How praise when the show fails completely? Why, smiling, just comment discreetly, 'You've never been better!' It's true to the letter And solves your dilemma facetely.



#### August 24, 2018

#### cacodorous

Despite our indignant chorus Polluters still mock or ignore us And now heaps of swill On Capitol Hill Grow fouler and more cacodorous.





August 25, 2014

ratoon

Those who forage for lexical loot Examine the stem and the root. An old word that's hewn May spread by ratoon And sprout many a succulent shoot.

Y

August 26, 2015

fother

Her garden relentlessly draws her. It's care is her joy, not a bother. It is all-consuming From planting to blooming And veg gathered in by the fother.

Y

August 27, 2016

incony

An odd one, this old-time incony: The word is elusive and funny; Meaning artless or fragile But, shifting and agile, It hops like a lexical bunny.

Y

August 28, 2014

cenobite

Each hunched in a humming den of lights The faithful women and men of nights At every net node Are inputting code— Those blear-eyed software cenobites.

Y

August 29, 2016

vaticinate

Young prophets who'll live out the fate Must cautiously anticipate. The old and the wise 'uns With looming horizons Have freedom to boldly vaticinate.

Y

August 30, 2015

cachalot

An unhappy sperm can trash a yacht; Those fierce white teeth can gnash a lot. Recall Ahab's leg, That cold wooden peg He got for offending a cachalot.

Y



### August 31, 2016 bilocation

How quantum mechanics is quaint, Giving physics a mystical taint! Wee bits in rotation Achieve bilocation Which had been reserved to the saint.

#### Y

#### September 1, 2017 opuscule

When light fades to dim crepuscule
Take heart in a new opuscule.
A limerick writ
Means brains that are fit,
That time's not yet claimed a new fool.

#### Y

#### September 2, 2015 palynology

Be calm and please give me your trust: While, true, it's a pest-laden gust, Palynology's not The horror you thought, But knowledge of organic dust.

#### September 3, 2014

#### kenspeckle

Some villains look mild and respectful, As Hyde was concealed in Doc Jekyll. The cruel one within Who's seeking to sin Succeeds if he's never kenspeckle.



#### September 4, 2018

#### cramoisie

I like my cheesecake framboise-y, A scarlet and ivory jamboree The cake's at its best When liberally blessed With berries all lushly cramoisie.



#### September 5, 2017

#### mopeful

My tossing and turning has ceased— The sun has arrived in the East. In darkness I'm mopeful But dawn makes me hopeful I'll grind out a couplet at least.





#### September 6, 2018 maledicent

The annals record not a precedent For comments like these of our president. Some language was salty Or grammar was faulty But none so obtuse or maledicent.

#### Y

#### September 7, 2014 eldritch

It's the tolling of faint elfin bells which Makes night in each dingle and dell rich With sounds that awaken Deep mem'ries forsaken, And echoes most eerily eldritch.

#### **Y**

#### September 8, 2017 pauciloquy

Use language with careful facility. Let silence project as humility. Some, when laconic, Seem downright moronic, The artful are praised for pauciloquy.

# September 9, 2018

#### stupe

The witch who was doc for the group Would steep an old napkin in soup. When spells went awry A broth of newt's eye Would make a most excellent stupe.



#### September 10, 2017 holophrastic

If new to environs monastic You'll find that the silence is drastic. They frown on the phonic So monks are laconic, Conversing in bursts holophrastic.



#### September 11, 2016 singultus

A life can be rendered tumult'ous If plagued by persistent singultus And peace so much riven That some folk are driven To seek out the help of occultists.

•



#### **September 12, 2015** amphibolic

It's odd how indulgence alcoholic Can mix the manic and melancholic, How sadness and cheer Combine in a beer. The stuff is downright amphibolic.

#### **September 13, 2016** costrel

A wonderful vessel, the neti pot, A tool every New Ager's got: A sort of a costrel You stick up your nostril To sluice out your stubbornest snot.

#### dunderfunk **September 14, 2018**

The pirates triumphant are plunder-drunk, Their hardships for now all in wonder sunk, Engorged with their loot Of viands and fruit. Forgetting their dinners of dunderfunk.



#### **September 15, 2016** stover

The cows feast on green grass and clover Till seasons of fresh growth are over, Then autumn fields shorn To dry stalks of corn Will make up their wintering stover.



#### **September 16, 2017** equipoise

A wise soul takes pause and enjoys The balance of duties and joys. When harsh day is done Yet night not begun He savors the brief equipoise.



#### **September 17, 2015** sciolist

You may well disparage the nihilist But I rank him less than the vilest. I prefer abnegation To smug affectation— The insufferable sin of the sciolist.





#### September 18, 2016 waney

Some lumberjacks, when it is rainy, Make tabletops—rustic and grainy. It's work they can get When weather is wet And uses what's knotted and waney.

#### Y

#### September 19, 2014 grass-comber

The admiral, raised a grass-comber, Has rendered the term a misnomer. The furrows he plows Part white at the bows And close up astern the old roamer.

#### Y

#### September 20, 2016 mouchoir

Curmudgeons will always get cranky At toffs who won't call it a hanky: "To call it a mouchoir Is Frenchified bushwa, But snot rag does fine, very frankly."

#### **September 21, 2017**

#### mizmaze

The farmer must fill up his days In trimming his crop so it pays. Folks stray in their walks Through maize in its stalks Enjoying the autumn mizmaze.



#### September 22, 2014 jument

Rich glory's the dream of each student But the world will insist we be prudent. When timidity beggars us We don't soar like Pegasus But trudge with head down like a jument.



#### September 23, 2016 emargination

The stock of his gun, so it's said, He notched for each man he shot dead; What meaning then place on The emargination That pocked the headboard of his bed?



#### September 24, 2017 inveterate

A rhymer should be fairly literate
And rewriting must be inveterate
To polish and shine
And tune every line
Until the damned verses are better writ.

#### Y

#### September 25, 2018 fulminant

"A bull fight's a basically cruel event, Provoking a harmless great ruminant By pain and affronts And daredevil stunts To actions soon fatally fulminant.

#### Y

#### September 26, 2016 cumbrous

When Autumn turns chilly and umbrous And burdens once light become cumbrous, The long shadows deepen, The way seems to steepen. And pilgrims grow weary and slumbrous.

## **September 27, 2016**

#### ambigu

A buffet for plain folk must do, Though some will say smorgasbord too, But a table of nosh If the setting is posh Turns into a true ambigu.



#### **September 28, 2015**

#### riggite

Though Franklin was pleased to ignite The colonists' spirit to fight, When not incendiary Old Ben was very merry— A maker of mischief, a riggite.



#### **September 29, 2018**

#### latchet

A bad shoe can drive a man batshit. It shouldn't be work to attach it. You needn't bend over To put on a loafer. To hell with the laces and latchet!





### September 30, 2018 enthalpy

A physicist, stars in his eyes, Cried, "Love is a lovely surprise! The system's enthalpy Is measurably paltry But, oh! How it does energize!"

Y

#### October 1, 2015 geognosy

A worm is indifferent to poesy; His interests are mundane and prosy, But he will be furious If you call him incurious, Ignoring his deep geognosy.

Y

#### October 2, 2014 cacodemon

There are many invisible wee men Who pester though we don't see them. There are fairies and sprites But the prince of dark knights Is the horrid and fierce cacodemon. October 3, 2015

ree-raw

If a wide oscillation's a seesaw And a wild celebration a ree-raw A laugh uninhibited With tonsils exhibited Can fairly be labeled a hee-haw.

Y

#### October 4, 2016

hubbly

Swamp gases make pond water bubbly And snowfall confuses things doubly. The mingling's not nice For mid-winter ice, Which skaters will find sadly hubbly.

Y

#### **October 5, 2014**

badaud

He wanders in search of the odd, As willing to mock as applaud— A voice in the crowd, A mote in a cloud, The anchorless gawking badaud.

Y



#### October 6, 2014 noodledom

The polling reports a brutal sum: Small hope a better mood'll come. The people are sunk In electoral funk, In carefully nurtured noodledom.

Y

#### October 7, 2015 ruderal

When clearcutters take their brutal toll No tree of size protrudes at all. The scenery left Is sadly bereft Of all that's not wretchedly ruderal.

Y

#### October 8, 2017 amain

"The lexical drudge must explain And make every mystery plain. The job is to teach The details of speech And spew forth examples amain.

Y

#### October 9, 2018 cosmogony

Some think there are mischievous progeny Descended from tales of cosmogony. No maker need be A he nor a she But a being of holy androgyny.

\*

#### October 10, 2014 lecanomancy

The osteo- method is bone; The lecano- version throws stone. We've got the 'mancy To scry what you can't see! So call! We'll divine on the phone!

\*

#### October 11, 2017 cantillation

Good Juliet, a nursing sensation, Would burst into sweet cantillation. Her unbidden trilling Made illness less chilling And filled me with warm consolation.

•



#### October 12, 2018 burgee

May each dreaming sailor's keen urge be To break from the dock and to surge free With wind at her back From tack after tack Her hair streaming out like a burgee.

#### Y

#### October 13, 2015 fadaise

In words and in flamboyant ways
He labored to charm and amaze.
He strove to be Wilde
But his wit was too mild.
His <i>mots</i> were not <i>bons</i> but
fadaise.



## October 14, 2016 femtobarn

The boffins with patient precision Examine each tiny collision And don't give a darn— Not one femtobarn— For ignorant cries of derision.



#### October 15, 2015

#### dizain

A dutiful rhymer must strive To keep dying verse forms alive. The limerick style Succeeds in its trial So long as its lines number five.

With negligible metrical strain Are limericks linked in a chain; The reader's not troubled By limericks doubled To make a neglected dizain.



#### October 16, 2016

#### volery

Our laughter when humor is light May soar like the swallows at night But cynical drollery Can conjure a volery Where fluttering never takes flight.



## October 17, 2017

#### probabalist

Though pains of the past still endure What oracle forecasts a cure? For that job enlist A probabalist—
Mistrust any sage who's too sure.



#### October 18, 2018 camlet

There once was a prince, name of Hamlet, A madman (or did he just sham it?), Who wore silken pants For his epic rants But talked to the dead wearing camlet.

#### Y

#### October 19, 2014 manchet

It's bread, when all's said and done, But have your frenchified fun. If you want to enhance it Then call it a manchet, But a loaf in the hand is a bun.

#### Y

#### October 20, 2016 elutriate

A consummate broth, experts say, Is filtered the albumin way. The soup you create When you elutriate Is elegant clear consommé.

#### V

#### October 21, 2015

#### pomely

To some a horse is made homely By a coat that's mottled and pomely, But my heart is kindled By all that is brindled, Recalling my old pinto pony.



#### October 22, 2017

#### encenia

In Oxbridge they boast of their past But plain speech would leave dons aghast, So high academia Will call it encenia To hide that they're having a blast.



#### October 23, 2018

#### assoil

His minions must always be loyal, Defending his hopeless turmoil. They fall out of favor Who waffle or waver; He does not forgive or assoil.





#### October 24, 2017 proem

They say that you can't write a poem. So set yourself down and you show 'em! Give 'em rhythm and rhyme And make it sublime, With epilogue, footnotes and proem.

#### Y

#### October 25, 2018

listric

Its signature characteristic
Is ponds that bespeckle the district.
By locals it's said
They mark giants' tread.
More likely their forming was listric.



### October 26, 2017

younker

The boys at the bar slump and hunker And lie as they get ever drunker. Truth little avails To tame their tall tales Of conquests each made as a younker.



#### October 27, 2015

wayleave

Should Bessie, my cow, ever wander
To unfriendly fields over yonder
Should I beg for wayleave
To retrieve my stray beeve
Or hope that soon homeward she'll maunder?



#### October 28, 2018

zoosemiotics

The boffins who deal in robotics Avoid the weird look of exotics So study a lot To mix pet and bot, Applying zoosemiotics.



#### October 29, 2015

comptometer

The lady has ways that seem funky. Her tech she prefers to lean clunky. Expenses she'll monitor On a vintage comptometer Because of its aura steampunky.





#### October 30, 2017 mungy

Buy tripe that is bright white and spongey Then braise it with onions and fungi And leave it to simmer Till pallor grows dimmer And all is deliciously mungy.

#### Y

#### October 31, 2014 barghest

The English keep a catalogue Of monsters who lurk in the fog, And fiercest and largest, The black northern barghest, is an ominous uncanny dog.

#### Y

### November 1, 2018 auberge

"Old friends will at times feel the urge To lay down their tools and converge To learn how each fares, Their hopes and their cares, In the warmth of a cozy auberge.

#### **November 2, 2015**

#### nacarat

When ends the rain, how rare is that! The ark come aground on Ararat, And man and beast Turn eyes to the East To clouds aglow in nacarat.



#### November 3, 2018

#### curtilage

"The yard has a drive and a fertile edge Set round by a well trimmed myrtle hedge. It's modest for sure But green and secure, A bargain in comfortable curtilage.



### November 4, 2014 psephologist

While some are ill-hidden apologists, And some are mystics or phrenologists, Their common vernacular Is Pompous Oracular. All claim to be expert psephologists.





#### **November 5, 2018** parrel

There once was a parrot named Darryl Who perched by the store's pickle barrel. In his salty past He'd sailed 'fore the mast So chattered of halyard and parrel.

#### November 6, 2014 bucranium

This wisdom received from a brainy chum: To put down one who is plainly dumb, "You're a horse's ass," Is needlessly crass, But fulsomely praise his bucranium.

#### **November 7, 2014** franion

It's rhyme that will keep a man young, For prose is a morose companion. But what's even worse? That strumpet free verse! That chattering, frivolous franion.



#### **November 8, 2016** psephology

#### **Election Day, 2016**

We simply don't know what to think! Just how have we come to this brink? In absence of knowledge we Abandon psephology And flee to the solace of drink.



#### November 9, 2017 lamback

"Stunt artists must practice the sham smack To make it look real—not a ham whack, And mime with precision The fist/face collision, Persuasively faking a lamback.



#### **November 10, 2018** ponderate

Lexicographers eagerly explicate. Though some are disposed to pontificate A scholar who's prudent Is modesty's student, Inclined to first quietly ponderate.





#### November 11, 2016 tirl

It can mean to whine or to twirl, To quiver or else to unfurl, A wheel or a sample Or thrill, for example. My head's in a whirl over tirl.

#### Y

#### November 12, 2016 choenix

Boys come to the Greek teacher's door When cheated by Cook and implore, "He's up to his mean tricks And shorting my choenix. I pray you, Dear Master, some more!"

#### Y

### November 13, 2016 pseudoplastic

As ketchup can tend to confuse The kids must be given some clues: It's goop pseudoplastic So shaking extracts it; Unshaken it never will ooze.

**November 14, 2017** 

#### hastilude

"Old Camelot's typical habitude Promoted a genial placitude. Their war was all talk And battles were mock, Replcaed by fine costume and haslitude.



#### November 15, 2015

#### bêtise

To put your poor elders at ease You must be unheard and yet please. So be a good child, Be modest and mild; Above all commit no bêtise.



### November 16, 2016 scientism

Competitive pumpkiners know
The road to blue ribbon is slow.
Accomplish your giantism
With patience and scientism
And pray that the monster will grow.





#### November 17, 2018 shadoof

The pyramids furnish the proof
We need but the hand and the hoof,
For camel and manpower
Built every grand tower,
Assisted by levers, the sledge and shadoof.

#### Y

#### November 18, 2015 osmosis

His drinking, prolonged and atrocious, Produced a fine case of cirrhosis. So he sips no libations But bathes in gin basins To take up his booze by osmosis.

#### Y

### November 19, 2018 *ventosity*

He's not much at subtle philosophy And stranger to grace, wit or prosody, But his vulgar sallies Do gin up his rallies. He's champ when it comes to ventosity.

#### November 20, 2014 ponerology

For promoting a form of idolatry Some theorists owe an apology. The trickle down creed In time of great need Is simply applied ponerology.



#### November 21, 2015 conscient

Good guidance is subtle but constant, In tone only gently remonstrant. Your job is fulfilled By values instilled And a pupil who's morally conscient.

#### •

### November 22, 2016 spoon-meat

The bird as a whole is a boon treat
But remnants are what we will soon eat
In fragments instead—
In fritters, on bread,
And finally we'll sip it as spoon-meat.

Y



#### November 23, 2017 gemmary

The fading of recall is cruel So savor Thanksgiving and Yule And keep them in memory As though in a gemmary For each is a luminous jewel.

#### Y

#### November 24, 2016 harvest-home

The harvesters in from the gloam, Kids bright from the scrub and the comb. The windows alight Bejewel the night As darkness enfolds harvest-home.

#### Y

### November 25, 2016 cosmorama

Victorians loved their melodrama And spectacles like cosmorama, Now stale and passé; Amusements today Derive more from digits or pharma.

#### November 26, 2014 *megalophonus*

The seal and the walrus are loud. Thus vocally richly endowed, Chat megalophonous Renders cacophonous The prissiest pinniped crowd.

#### •

#### November 27, 2017 *obduration*

Pigheadedness' better relation Is stubbornness raised up a station, But reason defied With obstinate pride We dignify as obduration.

#### **Y**

### November 28, 2017 rakehelly

As Byron confessed to pal Shelley, "Mysterious urges compel me. I'm misunderstood. I'm trying to be good But forced to be always rakehelly."

Y



#### November 29, 2015 imbricated

The palate and eye are both sated By pastry so much celebrated. With passion and art Her famous pear tart Is meticulously imbricated.

#### Y

#### November 30, 2018 lapstone

Fresh leather, uneven and knobbled, Must always be thoroughly cobbled, But whacking on lapstones Is hard on a chap's bones And prospects of offspring are hobbled.

#### Y

#### December 1, 2015 katabatic

Phenomena purely climatic Can seem to us eerily vatic. That cold mountain breath Doesn't whisper of death It's merely a gust katabatic.

#### **December 2, 2014**

#### strass

Mere gemstones are tacky and crass. We Rhinestones are true upper class. Diamonds are coal Dug from a hole But we are descendants of Strass.



#### **December 3, 2016**

#### **bobbery**

Thus endeth a season of bobbery Replete with conspicuous daubery. The master of squabbles Now gathers the baubles. Prepare for a circus of jobbery.



### December 4, 2017 idoneous

In hiring be never erroneous; The new guy could turn out felonious, So google his name In search of ill fame And pray that you find him idoneous.





#### December 5, 2018 catadromous

It's deep sea that makes a shad amorous But love misapplied is calamitous. How bad must she feel To fall for an eel Then learn that her lover's catadromous.

#### Y

#### December 6, 2016 fautor

The true sporting fan's not a shouter, No brazen uncritical touter. He's both mind and heart, Like a patron of art: A loyal but discerning fautor.

#### Y

### December 7, 2017 fantigue

Her frenzy has stirred some intrigue; It's a fit in a whole different league. We're not overawed By a simple fantod But she has achieved a fantigue.

#### **December 8, 2015**

#### larmoyant

His moods are weirdly erratic But never are less than emphatic. In sunshine he's buoyant On gray days larmoyant But always he's melodramatic.



#### **December 9, 2017**

#### noetic

In swaddling we're merely zoetic. At school we are coaxed to noetic, And if we're well taught And deepen our thought We gracefully age to poetic.



### December 10, 2014

#### jurant

Admittedly I'm not *au courant*. It's an opinion—I'm no jurant. But I'd be suspicious Of offers of riches. You may believe, but I sure can't.





#### December 11, 2017 renitency

"A pause before action is hesitancy. A trifling aversion is reticency, But if the refusal Is firmer than usual Reluctance amounts to a renitency.

#### December 12, 2015

razure

If sin should take its heavy toll A conscience cure should be your goal. If you cannot stay pure Then seek a razure; Let shrift amend your battered soul.

#### December 13, 2015 sialorrhea

Now diarrhea, I've heard of it, And know it's an excess of shit, But had no idea That sialorrhea Is the word for a surfeit of spit.

### December 14, 2017 jockteleg

The rough fellows draining the keg, Though wasted, played mumblety peg. It never would fail That one would impale A foot with a foul jockteleg.

#### December 15, 2016 circumzenithal

The sun sends at times an epistle Through water condensed into crystal. A solar hello To creatures below In an arc called circumzenithal.

#### **December 16, 2014**

umbo

A mogul's what skiers call a hump— A term for a glorified bump. The kids like them jumbo But I'll take an umbo— Content with a notional jump.



#### December 17, 2015 taigle

In mornings my juvenile grumbler Attempts to impede and encumber. He'll tarry and taigle And try to finagle A few more sweet minutes of slumber.

#### December 18, 2018 kymograph

Might science discover a measure For comedy's varying pressure, A new kymograph For giggle and laugh To trace precise records of pleasure?

#### December 19, 2018 couvade

Let all of us be on our guard Lest judgment be hasty and hard. Is it tenderest sharing Or harsh and uncaring For a husband to suffer couvade?

### December 20, 2015 reechy

Smug folk, the pompous and preachy; And rich ones, so haughty and chichi, Like us were begotten By primates besotten In some cavern frigid and reechy.

#### December 21, 2017 *obmutescence*

Be quicker to pray than to preach, More eager to learn than to teach; For wisdom's true essence Can be obmutescence And silence be deeper than speech.

#### December 22, 2016 chronogram

A chronogram for a desolate scene, A twelvemonth both wretched and mean: Though **MeM**ory's vexed There's hope that the ne**X**t Impro**V**es on v**I**le twenty-s**I**xteen.



#### December 23, 2017 repastination

Comedians in cold calculation Know old jokes still cause cachinnation; So spade up and sift There's many a gift Unearthed in repastination.

## December 24, 2018 nascency

These days in their fruitful adjacency Can tempt us to hope and complacency. The new year and yule— A birth and renewal— Seem marks of a new age in nascency.

#### December 25, 2016 frumenty

He's downed milk and cookies aplenty So after a weary descent he Is pleased with the treat Of hot milk and wheat, For Santa is fond of frumenty.

#### December 26, 2016 novation

Engage only with trepidation Those debts that proceed in rotation. The risk is substantial In matters financial That trap you in endless novation.

#### December 27, 2014 *edulcoration*

Dilute the truth for presentation And be accused of adulteration. So sweeten your views With bits of good news And succeed through edulcoration.

#### December 28, 2016 earthlight

The breadth of the new moon's girth might Be darkest when viewed on the first night, But the sun's growing blaze On successive days Will outline the glow of the earthlight.



#### December 29, 2018 empressement

Our energies ought to be less spent In making the past year's assessment. To Hell be it sped! Let's focus instead On next year with hopeful empressement.



#### December 30, 2017 anomie

He publicly calls for sweet amity
While counting a critic an enemy.
He widens each rift,
Unmoored and adrift
And tossed on the billows of anomie.



## December 31, 2017 perennity

Indulge in a cleansing obscenity
Then face the new year with serenity.
Despair put away!
You've aged but a day;
The changed date marks only perennity.

Wordnik's word of the day can be found at <a href="https://www.wordnik.com/word-of-the-day.">https://www.wordnik.com/word-of-the-day.</a>
We encourage your contributions!