

English Verbiage

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English is a difficult language. It is sometimes nearly impossible to find just the right descriptive word or adjective to enhance the sentence structure, the meaning and perhaps the passion of the thoughts we are trying to convey. Here are some examples:

- We know if something is invalid, it should not be used. If it should be, then is it onvalid?
- Someone is called an invalid if they are not well. Can they then be 'outvalid' if they are well?
- We all know what an instant is. Does that mean an 'outstant' is longer?
- If you see something that isn't there, it is an illusion. If it is there, is it a 'wellusion'?
- I will occasionally imbibe in a drink or two. If I don't drink, do I 'unbibe'?
- Get a flu shot and you may be immune to the flu. Without the shot, are you then 'unmune'?
- We all know that ingress means 'going in' and egress means 'going out.' Why isn't 'going out' called 'outgress'?
- We can all be humane or inhumane, which means the opposite. Why then do 'flammable' and 'inflammable' mean the same thing?
- Ladies underwear is sometimes called 'undies.' Why then isn't their outerwear called 'outies'?
- We all have important things to do. If they are not important, why aren't they 'unportant'?
- We all know that instinct means doing something without conscious thought. Does 'outstinct' then mean we have to go to the bathroom?
- If you travel by ship, it is a cruise. If you travel on foot instead, shouldn't it be an 'uncruise'?

It is no wonder that immigrants have difficulty learning our language. Even our native young people sometimes have that problem. In the words of a teenage essay, 'I was like, you know, looking up, in the like, dictionary, what it would be like to, you know, like, see the, like, meaning of so many, like, words.' I think I just gave myself a migraine. I wish it could be 'yourgraine'!