



O frabjous day!

by Ursula Schoenberg

At the risk of boring you, I can only repeat that language is a wonderful thing. A token of the resilience of the human spirit is the fact that new words are being born daily, even while their creators are slaving in the midst of corporate life. I've collected a few examples to amuse you:

bobbleheading: The mass nod of agreement by participants in a meeting to comments made by the boss - even though most have no idea what he just said.

C-gull: A C-level executive with the habit of swooping in and out meetings and leaving a huge mess for subordinates to clean up.

clockroaches: Employees who spend most of their day watching the clock instead of doing their jobs.

marginalienation: Cryptic comments scribbled in the margins of a document that leave you questioning the author's sense of reality.

meanderthal: Someone who has a difficult time getting to the point when giving a presentation.

mercky: Pharmaceutically dubious, as in "Data from the Vioxx trials are in and the results appear to be mercky."

monopologue: A one-sided "discussion" in which an individual monopolizes the dialogue, giving no one else a chance to get a word in.

pajamahadeen: The new media watchdogs. Bloggers who spend their days surfing the Net, challenging and fact-checking the traditional media.

prairie dogging: A modern office phenomenon. Occurs when workers simultaneously pop their heads up out of their cubicles to see what's going on.

salmon day: The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed and die in the end, as in "I've really had a salmon day."

sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

verbicidal: Condition that exists when a person believes he or she is skilled in the use of words (a verbalist), but in reality is grammatically challenged.

See also:

<http://www.buzzwhack.com/buzzcomp/indac.htm>

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A limerick for EMWA

Do medical writers thrive in their trade
presenting research that others made
are they wizards with words
or bookworms and nerds
do they like to hide in the shade?

In EMWA we meet and take courses
on CTDs, adverbs and how to find sources
ghostwriting guidelines
tasting of wines
Come to EMWA, let's join our forces!

Kari Skinningsrud

Public Relations Officer

Kari invites members to submit their limericks to her at pr@emwa.org

Who spoke Pidgin English?

At seaports in China in the middle of the nineteenth century Chinese traders bartered with Europeans in a special form of simplified English. The language they used became known as 'bidgin' English, reflecting a Chinese pronunciation of the word 'business'. 'Bidgin' later corrupted to 'pidgin' and became the expression for any kind of simplified language used by those who were otherwise unable to communicate. But making assumptions can be imprudent. A typical story is that of a lady who found herself sitting next to a Chinese man at an official dinner. Throughout the dinner she spoke to him in Pidgin English. At the end of the dinner he was called to give a speech, which he delivered in perfect English. On returning to his seat he asked the lady "Likee speechee?"

Source: Collins Dictionary of Curious Phrases by Leslie Dunkling, HarperCollins, Glasgow, 2004. ISBN 0 00 716596 X