



Elementary

Today you are going to learn some new words that are going to be published in a new version of a popular dictionary.

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Source: <http://www.simpleenglishnews.com/18555words.shtml>

English Will Be Bigger

Close to a hundred new words will be added to the English language later this year.

The next Merriam-Webster dictionary will include Bollywood (the Indian film industry), sudoku and speed dating.

Other words are ginormous, a cross between gigantic and enormous; crunk, a type of rap music from the American south; and DVR, digital video recorder.

1. Why is English going to be bigger?
2. Write a synonym for almost.
3. What is sudoku?
4. What is speed dating?
5. What is ginormous?
6. What is crunk?
7. What is DVR?

Intermediate

Today you are going to learn some new words that are going to be published in a new version of a popular dictionary.

Source: <http://www.m-w.com/info/newwords07.htm>

Match the new words with their definitions.

Here's a sample of the nearly 100 new words and senses now deemed *ginormous* enough to be included in the **2007 copyright version** of the best-selling **Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Eleventh Edition**—available this fall in bookstores everywhere. How many of these words are already a part of your vocabulary?

1. agnolotti
2. Bollywood
3. chaebol
4. crunk
5. DVR
6. flex-cuff
7. ginormous
8. gray literature
9. hardscape
10. IED
11. microgreen
12. nocebo



13. perfect storm
14. RPG
15. smackdown
16. snowboardcross
17. speed dating
18. sudoku
19. telenovela
20. viewshed

- A. structures (as fountains, benches, or gazebos) that are incorporated into a landscape
- B. the act of knocking down or bringing down an opponent / a contest in entertainment wrestling / a decisive defeat / a confrontation between rivals or competitors
- C. pasta in the form of semicircular cases containing a filling (as of meat, cheese, or vegetables)
- D. the natural environment that is visible from one or more viewing points
- E. digital video recorder
- F. a shoot of a standard salad plant (as celery or arugula)
- G. a family-controlled industrial conglomerate in South Korea
- H. an event at which each participant converses individually with all the prospective partners for a few minutes in order to select those with whom dates are desired
- I. extremely large
- J. a critical or disastrous situation created by a powerful concurrence of factors
- K. a puzzle in which several numbers are to be filled into a 9x9 grid of squares so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9
- L. improvised explosive device
- M. the motion-picture industry in India
- N. a computer language that generates programs from the user's specifications especially to produce business reports
- O. a plastic strip that can be fastened as a restraint around a person's wrists or ankles
- P. a soap opera produced in and televised in or from many Latin-American countries
- Q. written material (as a report) that is not published commercially or is not generally accessible
- R. a harmless substance that when taken by a patient is associated with harmful effects due to negative expectations or the psychological condition of the patient
- S. a snowboard race that includes jumps and turns
- T. a style of Southern rap music featuring repetitive chants and rapid dance rhythms

Advanced

Today you are going to learn some new words that are going to be published in a new version of a popular dictionary.

Source: <http://www.boston.com>

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Merriam-Webster's new words 'ginormous'

It was a ginormous year for the wordsmiths at Merriam-Webster. Along with embracing the strange-sounding combination of "gigantic" and "enormous" with the obvious definition of "extremely large," the dictionary publishers also got into Bollywood, sudoku and speed dating.



But their newfound affection for India's motion-picture industry, number puzzles and trendy ways to meet people was all meant for a higher cause: updating the Collegiate Dictionary, which goes on sale this fall with about 100 newly added words.

As always, the yearly list gives meaning to the latest lingo in pop culture, technology and current events.

There's "crunk," a style of Southern rap music; the abbreviated "DVR," for digital video recorder; and "IED," shorthand for the improvised explosive devices that have become fixtures in news stories about the war in Iraq.

If it sounds as though Merriam-Webster is dropping its buttoned-down image with too much talk of "smackdowns" (contests in entertainment wrestling) and "telenovelas" (Latin-American soap operas), consider also it is adding "gray literature" (hard-to-get written material) and "microgreen" (a shoot of a standard salad plant.)

No matter how odd or newfangled some of the words might seem, the dictionary editors say each has the promise of sticking around in the American vocabulary.

"There will be linguistic conservatives who will turn their nose up at a word like `ginormous,'" said John Morse, Merriam-Webster's president. "But it's become a part of our language. It's used by professional writers in mainstream publications. It clearly has staying power."

One of those naysayers is Allan Metcalf, a professor of English at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill., and the executive secretary of the American Dialect Society.

"A new word that stands out and is ostentatious is going to sink like a lead balloon," he said. "It might enjoy a fringe existence."

But Merriam-Webster traces ginormous back to 1948, when it appeared in a British dictionary of military slang. And in the past several years, its use has become, well, ginormous.

Visitors to the Springfield-based dictionary publisher's Web site picked "ginormous" as their favorite word that's not in the dictionary in 2005, and Merriam-Webster editors have spotted it in countless newspaper and magazine articles since 2000.

That's essentially the criteria for making it into the Collegiate Dictionary -- if a word shows up often enough in mainstream writing, the editors consider defining it.

But as editor Jim Lowe puts it: "Nobody has to use `ginormous' if they don't want to."

For the record, he doesn't.

1. What do wordsmiths do?
2. List as many new words as you can.
3. What was their aim with these new words?
4. What are the topics of these new words?
5. Do they hope to establish the use of these words in British English?
6. Do they expect any opponents?
7. What is their argument for adding these words?
8. What is the all-time favourite among the new words?