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# **DIVERSIONS**

#### THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Jokabulary: Old words, fake meanings

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1480 the Empress once again dug up some obscure words at random from the Oxford English Dictionary and asked the Loser Community to totally make up definitions for them.

#### 4th place:

Anglewitch (actually fishing bait): A homemade doll hung in Scandinavian bathrooms. traditionally believed to bring improved aim to males in the family. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

#### 3rd place:

**Eftersoons** (meaning soon after): Illusory upcoming time periods in which people will "hang out," "do lunch" or "get the kids together." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

#### 2nd place and the electronic 'easy' button:

Wayzgoose (a printers' festival): The 12-mile GPS detour around a traffic backup that cleared up in two minutes. (Allan Zackowitz, Brookeville)

#### And the winner of the **Clowning Achievement:**

Lushburg (antique coin from Luxembourg): A village so full of drunks, they have a Town Teetotaler. (Frank Mann, Washington)

#### N'OED: **Honorable mentions**

Agonistarch (trainer for ancient athletic games): That piece of bagel that gets stuck halfway down your gullet. "Gaack, I need a glass of water; I have an agonistarch!" (Jenny Epel Muller, Cold Spring, N.Y., a First Offender)

**Agonistarch:** What laundries put on dress shirt collars because neckties aren't uncomfortable enough. (Gary Crockett, Chevy

Chase; Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City) Agruw (to shudder in horror): To quarrel when inebriated. "How come every time I come home at 2 a.m. we get into an agruwment?" (Byron Miller,

Cobble Hill, B.C.) Anglewitch: Picasso's Halloween costume. (Frank

Mann) Batie-bummil (a lazy fellow, a fool): Elizabethan term for a spanking. "Hearken, churl; mind thy comportment, else thou shalt endure a most grievous batiebummil!" (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Battologist (one who keeps repeating oneself): A selfproclaimed military expert. "My parents sent me away to military school, so now I'm a better battologist than any general alive. None of them will even play Risk with me, I'm so good." (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

**Bawrel** (a kind of hawk): To take out a loan in the Deep South. (Frank Mann)

Cotty (entangled, matted): A sleep-in outhouse. "I booked Joe Manchin's cotty in West Virginia for just \$25 a night — found it on Darebnb." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Cotty: The gist of many a onestar mattress review. (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

**Doob** (a type of grass): Unit of tempo in a Sinatra song: "Frank sang 'Strangers in the Night' at 67 doobs per minute." (Steve Bremner, Philadelphia)

Fankle (to entangle): To annoy a team's followers. "You've renamed the WFT what? Oh, that's gonna fankle." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Fankle: To go to your team's away game and irritate the home crowd. "Those Eagles people sure know how to fankle the season ticket holders at FedEx no wonder they're the only ones left in the fourth quarter." (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Fankle: An air-conditioned sock, high-tech sportswear still in beta: "The smell wafting from Jim's fankles cleared the theater." (Frank Osen)

**Fistmeal** (the width of a fist): What Chris Rock and Will Smith went out for after the Oscars. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Fladge (a broad piece of something): An Old Glory pin worn to display self-proclaimed patriotism. "CPAC requires conference attendees to wear their fladges at all times." (Steve Smith, Potomac)

Fladge: Sludge from Florida. "DeSantis is as slimy as Okeechobee fladge." (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Galp (to gape or yawn): Exclamation often heard at the top of the double black diamond



BOB STAAKE/ILLUSTRATION FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

# New contest for Week 1484: Two ways about it

Something you might say at the gym AND at the hairstylist: "Look how much I can curl!"

Something you might say in elementary school AND at the hairstylist: "WHAT are you doing with those scissors?"

Something that might be said in elementary school AND at the Jan. 6 committee hearings: "And if he asked you to jump off the bridge, would you do that too?'

Here's another run of a double-entendre contest we did in 2019, with all new categories except for an encore of "at the hairstylist" and that ever-popular "in bed." This week: What's something (printable) you could say in two - or more - of these situations:

In bed In elementary school At a religious service At a gas station At the gym At the hairstylist To a telemarketer On a hike

**During a Supreme Court session** To the Jan. 6 committee

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1484 (no capitals in the Web address). See the entry form or The Style Conversational for how to format entries. Deadline is Monday, April 25; results appear May 15 in print, May 12 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a vintage My Cup Punneth Over mug, one of our nicest runner-up prizes ever,



We giveth over this vintage 2011 Loser Mug as this week's one of 144 that were made in 2011. This particular one was regifted by Loser Howard Walderman (he's decluttering), who'd snared it for his thirdplace bank headline in Week 987. Like all our Loser mugs, this hefty 15ouncer was designed by Our Own Bob Staake.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser

magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly treeshaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviteFAQ. The headline "Jokabulary" is by Jon Gearhart; Kevin Dopart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's, published late Thursday, April 14, at wapo.st/ conv1484.

run on Mont Blanc. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

Hardhaw (a plant): A laugh that could shatter plexiglass. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

**Impanate** (contained in *bread*): To reshape a cartoon character's head with a skillet. "Oof, Popeye got impanated bad — good thing his head popped back into place 10 seconds later." (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

**Jusson** (pertaining to commands): Rearranging. "I caught my son jusson himself 20 or 30 times last week." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Knowperts** (a plant): Commentators who say "I'm no expert, but . . ." meaning, "There is no doubt in my mind that . . ." or "Why should that stop me?" (Coleman Glenn)

Limbeck (a distilling apparatus): Conspiracy claptrap inspired by right-wing radio hosts. "Her texts to Mark Meadows were rife with limbeck." (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda)

Lushburg (an old coin): A neighborhood of heavy drinkers who live within stumbling distance of one another. (Leslie Atkin, Kensington, a First Offender)

Lushburg: A tiny principality that produces the most wine per capita in the world, but doesn't export any. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

**Lushburg:** A neighborhood known for its expensive landscaping. "I thought it would be nice and quiet when I moved to the lushburg, but all I hear are leaf blowers from dawn to dusk!"  $(Hannah\ Seidel,\ Alexandria)$ **Lushburg:** Where life is easy. "Pemmican Point, Alaska, ain't exactly Lushburg." (Jonathan Jensen)

Mesonoxian (relating to *midnight)*: This miracle supplement will prevent middle age - and old age as well! - Dr.Oz (Dottie Gray, Alexandria)

**Sprauchle** (move clumsily): The second-person masculine past imperative form of whatever it was Zarathustra did. (Lynda Hoover, Shepherdstown, W.Va.)

Stoach (to trample): Ryanair's new ticket class where you can fly half-price by stuffing yourself into an overhead bin. (Donald Norum, Charlottesville; Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

Sweven (a dream or vision): A bad answer to "Just how many drinks have you had?" (Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)

Wayzgoose: GPS enhancement that pinches you in the butt when you make a wrong turn. (Fred Shuback, Silver Spring)

Wayzgoose: Someone who blindly follows the GPS. "When Siri said to turn right, the wayzgoose drove off the bridge." (Bird Waring; Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

And Last: Cag-mag (inferior *meat*): The "Crappy Alternative Gift" Loser magnet. (Beverley Sharp)

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 18: Our big annual foal-name wordplay contest. See wapo.st/invite1483.

#### L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

79 Nytol competitor 80 "I'm not \_\_ brag,

but ...

81 Urban park

snack snitcher 84 Finishing touch

for foppish

Happy Birthday | April 17: You are high-spirited with an excellent sense of humor. Your inner strength helps you overcome obstacles. You take your responsibilities seriously. This year it's time to take inventory and let go of people, places and whatever is no longer relevant in your life. Clear the decks for a new year next year.

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Scorpio.

xwordeditor@aol.com

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You experience financial surprises. Everything is up in the air regarding cash flow, earnings and your possessions. For example, you might find money or you might lose money. Protect what you own against loss, theft or damage.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is an exciting, fast day. Communications with others will be stimulating! Thinking patterns are rapid, and your intuition is active. You will have inventive, original ideas and suggestions. Why not write them down?

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Today your ruler Mercury is lined up with unpredictable Uranus, which will create a busy feeling within you. You might jump to conclusions. Avoid rash behavior. Be like the wise carpenter: Measure twice, cut once.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Parents should be extra vigilant about their kids today, because this is an accident-prone day. Meanwhile, an upset with a friend is likely. (This is also a rocky day for romance.) Social plans might change, possibly a lovely invitation.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a poor day to make your pitch to the boss or ask for permission or approval, because interactions with authority figures are completely unpredictable. Things could go south in a New York minute.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today you will might encounter new faces and see new places. Travel plans might suddenly change. Unexpected news about higher education, publishing or the media is likely. A surprise that is related to medicine and the law also might occur.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Double-check issues related to banking, shared property, inheritances or insurance disputes,

because something unpredictable could impact these areas in your life. Guard your money and your possessions, because you might encounter financial surprises.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today the Moon is in your sign at odds with unpredictable Uranus. This could bring about some surprises when dealing with close friends, partners and spouses. People might be rebellious. You might want more freedom. It's a tricky day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is a restless day for you because unexpected events might throw you a curveball. Expect detours related to your work. Something unexpected might relate to your pet or even your health today. Be vigilant and ready to respond.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might encounter a new friend or

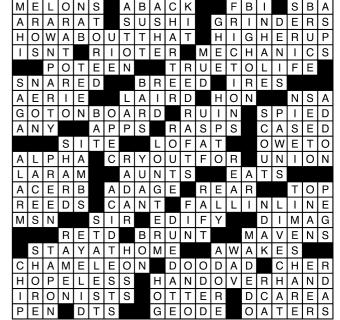
someone who is unusual today. Or possibly a friend or a member of a group will do something that surprises you. You might learn new information about a group that you did not suspect. Keep your eyes

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Relations with bosses, parents and the police are unpredictable today. For starters, something unexpected might take place at home. Small appliances might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Someone unexpected might appear at your door. Get dressed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might have to take a sudden trip today. Or possibly a scheduled trip will be canceled. Travel plans are unpredictable. Likewise, legal and medical matters are up for grabs. Because this is a mildly accidentprone day for you, pay attention to everything you say and do.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.



4/10/22