



Fireworks scare dogs.

Sainsbury's stops selling fireworks

The supermarket Sainsbury's will no longer sell fireworks in any of its 2,300 shops. Last year, more than 300,000 people signed a petition (an official request) asking for fireworks to be banned. Some say they hurt people and damage buildings. Others worry that the noise they make can scare animals and children. Charities say they agree with the decision.



Exercise boosts test scores

Students who take part in physical exercise during lessons achieve better exam results, according to new research. Researchers from University College London looked at 42 case studies from around the world, which involved a total of 12,663 children aged between three and 14. Pupils whose lessons involved physical activities, such as jumping on the spot to answer maths questions, performed better in exams than those who stayed in their seats.



A village made from cake

An entire Derbyshire village has been recreated using fruitcake. Lynn Nolan spent three months turning 65 cakes into a miniature version of Eyam. Nolan's creation, complete with hand-decorated shops, homes and pub, has gone on display in the local church – which also features in the cake. She hopes it will raise money for a local transport charity.



A lightsabre in *Star Wars*.

BIG BOOK

In 1884, five years into a planned 10-year project to make the first Oxford English Dictionary, the editors had only got as far as the word ant.

Kapow! New words added to the Oxford English Dictionary

A selection of new words and phrases, including five from the *Star Wars* films, have been added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED). The dictionary is updated four times a year, and the October 2019 version includes 203 new words.

Words from the *Star Wars* universe dominate the list, including lightsabre and Jedi. In fact, the *Star Wars* universe has been recognised five times; Padawan (an apprentice Jedi), the Force (a mystical universal energy field that certain individuals, such as the Jedi, can harness to gain special powers or abilities) and Jedi mind trick have also been added. The word kapow (representing the sound of an explosion, gunshot, hard punch or blow, commonly found in comics) also made the list. Not all the words are current, though; some of them were first used more than 1,000 years ago. Ange, for example, is an old word for a feeling of anxiety.

TV advertising has also made an impact on our language: "Simples", the catchphrase of Compare the Market meerkat Aleksandr Orlov, is included. Its first use was in a tweet from January 2009, when the advertising campaign was launched.

More recently it was used by former Prime Minister Theresa May in Parliament. Politics is also responsible for the newly added word omnishambles, which means a situation that has been badly managed or is full of blunders and mistakes. The word has been used regularly by UK politicians to describe the uncertainty surrounding Brexit in the past few years.

Other additions include slang terms, such as sumfin (something), whatever (whatever), chewy (chewing gum) and chillax (to calm down and relax).

Take our OED-inspired quiz

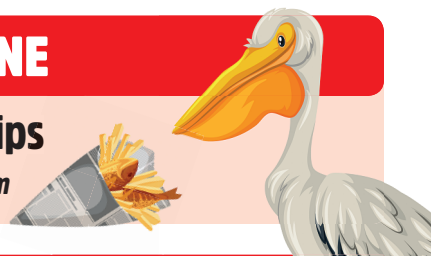
- 1 Which one-letter word symbolises a hug?
- 2 True or false? Angst rock is a sort of stone used by some people to boost positivity.
- 3 Which of these words describes an anxiety about not having access to a mobile phone?
a) Satoshi b) Nomophobia c) Summum malum

Answers: 1 O 2 False, it is a type of rock music 3 b) Nomophobia. Satoshi is a term related to the Bitcoin currency, and summum malum describes the greatest evil. All three were added in the latest OED update.

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THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Pelican waits in line at fish and chips restaurant in Australia" uk.news.yahoo.com





Kapow! Newwords added to the Oxford English Dictionary

Read the article and then try the following activities...

Hold a debate

Is it really necessary to keep expanding the official English language? We already have over 170,000 words – more than almost anyone could possibly learn or use. Why bother to complicate things further? Why can't we just use quirky new terms informally without needing to make them part of standard English. Or do you like the way our language keeps evolving? Surely, English has always changed to reflect the changes in our lives – why stop now? Are some people just too snobby about words? What do you think?

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Writing challenge!

Choose one of the following writing warm-ups.

1 Write a short, two- or three-paragraph story that includes each of the following words appropriately, as described in the article: kapow, padawan, ange, nomophobia and summum malum.

or

2 Create your own dictionary definitions for these three imaginary words: breffingle, nopperhast, yoochitrat. Make sure you say what class of word they are (noun, verb, etc.), explain what they mean and ideally put them in a sentence.

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Investigate

English has incorporated words from all over the world. Find and briefly define three English words that originated from each of the following cultures: Anglo Saxon, Norman, Viking and Indian.