

# New words and senses from COD11 revised

## abdominoplasty

- *n.* **Medicine** a surgical operation involving the removal of excess flesh from the abdomen.

## aerobicized or aerobicised

- *adj.* (of a person's body) toned by aerobic exercise: *aerobicized Hollywood women.*

## agroterrorism

- *n.* terrorist acts intended to disrupt or damage a country's agriculture.

### — DERIVATIVES

**agroterrorist** *n.*

## ahead

### — PHRASES

**ahead of (or behind) the curve** **chiefly US** (especially of a business or politician) ahead of (or lagging behind) current thinking or trends.

## avant-

- *comb. form* (especially with reference to popular music) original or innovative; avant-garde: *avant-rock.*

## bahookie

- *n.* **Scottish** a person's buttocks.

— **ORIGIN** 1930s: prob. a blend of **BEHIND** and **HOUGH** + **-IE**.

## beautiful

### — PHRASES

**the beautiful game** **Brit.** soccer.

## best

### — PHRASES

**best of breed**

- any item or product considered to be the best of its kind.

## big box

- *n.* **N. Amer. informal** a very large store which sells goods at discount prices, especially one specializing in a particular type of merchandise.

## Bikram yoga

- *n.* **trademark** a type of hatha yoga characterized by a set series of postures and breathing exercises, performed in a room heated to around 100° F.

— **ORIGIN** named after the Indian yoga teacher *Bikram Choudhury* (b.1946), who developed it.

## bippy

- *n.* **US informal** a person's buttocks.

— **ORIGIN** 1960s: of unknown origin.

## blame game

- *n.* **informal** a situation in which one party blames others rather than attempting to seek a solution.

— **DERIVATIVES**

**blame-gaming** *n.*

## blowback

- *n.*

2. **chiefly US** the unintended adverse results of a political action or situation.

## bosting

- *adj.* **dialect** very good; excellent.

— **ORIGIN** 1970s: prob. a dial. pronunc. of *bursting* or *busting*.

## bouncebackability

- *n.* **informal** (especially in sport) the capacity to recover quickly from a setback: *promotion-chasing sides need to show the requisite bouncebackability after defeat.*

## buy-in

- *n.*

4. agreement with, or acceptance of, a policy, suggestion, etc.

## celebutante

- *n.* a celebrity who is well known in fashionable society.

— **ORIGIN** 1930s: blend of **CELEBRITY** and **DEBUTANTE**.

## civil partnership (also civil union)

- *n.* a legally recognized union of a same-sex couple, with rights similar to those of marriage.

## crunk

- *n.* a type of hip-hop or rap music characterized by repeated shouted catchphrases and elements typical of electronic dance music, such as prominent bass.

- *adj.* **US, chiefly black slang** (of a person) very excited or full of energy.

— **ORIGIN** 1990s: perh. an alt. past part. of **CRANK**<sup>1</sup> or a blend of **CRAZY** and **DRUNK**.

## deal-breaker

- *n.* (in business and politics) a factor or issue which, if unresolved during negotiations, would cause one party to withdraw from a deal.

## Easter egg

- *n.*

2. an unexpected or undocumented feature in a piece of computer software or on a DVD, included as a joke or a bonus.

## elephant

— PHRASES

**the elephant in the room** a major problem or controversial issue which is obviously present but avoided as a subject for discussion because it is more comfortable to do so.

## elevator pitch

- *n. informal, chiefly US* a succinct and persuasive sales pitch.

— **ORIGIN** from the idea of having to impress a senior executive during a brief ride in a lift (elevator).

## emulsion

- *n.*

1.

- a fine dispersion of one liquid or puréed food substance in another:  
*ravioli with pea and ginger emulsion.*

## front-load

- *v.* distribute or allocate (costs, effort, etc.) unevenly, with the greater proportion at the beginning of the enterprise or process.

## gapper

- *n.* a student who is on a gap year.

## garms

- *pl. n. informal* clothes; garments: *why should girls have all the best garms?*

## ghaghra (also ghagra)

- *n.* (in South Asia) a long full skirt, often decorated with embroidery, mirrors, or bells.

— **ORIGIN** Hindi *ghaghra*, from Sanskrit *gharghara* 'gurgle, rattle'.

## guanxi

- *n.* (in China) the system of social networks and influential relationships which facilitate business and other dealings.

— **ORIGIN** Mandarin, 'connection'.

## hard power

- *n.* a coercive approach to international political relations, especially one that involves the use of military power. Compare with **SOFT POWER**.

## hardscape

- **n.** chiefly US the man-made features used in landscape architecture, e.g. paths or walls, as contrasted with vegetation.

— **DERIVATIVES**

**hardscaping** *n.*

**heffalump**

- **n.** a child's term for an elephant.

— **ORIGIN** 1920s: coined by A. A. Milne in *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

**helicopter view**

- **n.** informal (especially in business) a general survey; an overview.

**hoody** (also **hoodie**)

• **n.**

- informal a person, especially a youth, wearing a hooded top.

**hooptie**

- **n.** US informal a car, especially an old or dilapidated one.

— **ORIGIN** 1960s: of unknown origin.

**hot spot**

• **n.**

3. a place in a public building that is equipped with a device enabling computer users to make a wireless connection to the Internet.

**identity theft**

- **n.** the fraudulent practice of using another person's name and personal information in order to obtain credit, loans, etc.

**kakuro**

- **n.** a number puzzle in which players have to insert numbers into a crossword-like grid, with numbered clues and some blank squares.

— **ORIGIN** blend of Japanese *kasan* 'addition' and *kurosu*, representing a Japanese pronunc. of *cross*.

**keylogger**

- **n.** a computer program that records every keystroke made by a computer user, especially in order to gain fraudulent access to passwords and other confidential information.

— **DERIVATIVES**

**keylogging** *n.*

**knowledge economy**

- **n.** an economy in which growth is dependent on the quantity, quality, and accessibility of the information available, rather than the means of production.

**leaf peeper**

- **n.** **US informal** a person who visits particular areas, especially in New England, to view the autumn foliage.

— **DERIVATIVES**

**leaf peeping** *n.*

**liposculpture**

- **n.** the use of liposuction to accentuate specific bodily features.

**mash-up**

- **n.** a mixture or fusion of disparate elements, especially a musical track comprising the vocals of one recording placed over the instrumental backing of another.

**mentee**

- **n.** a person who is advised, trained, or counselled by a mentor.

**mesotherapy**

- **n.** (in cosmetic surgery) a procedure in which multiple tiny injections of pharmaceuticals, vitamins, etc. are delivered into the mesodermal layer of tissue under the skin, to promote the loss of fat or cellulite.

**moblog**

- **n.** a weblog that consists of pictures and other content posted from a mobile phone.

— **DERIVATIVES**

**moblogger** *n.*

**moblogging** *n.*

- **ORIGIN** early 21st cent.: blend of **MOBILE** and **WEBLOG**.

**muller**<sup>2</sup>

- **v.** **Brit. informal**

1. wreck or destroy (something).

- beat or defeat (someone).

2. [as *adj.* **mullered**] extremely drunk.

- **ORIGIN** 1990s: of unknown origin.

**mzee**

- **n.** (in East Africa) an older person; an elder.

- **ORIGIN** Kiswahili, 'ancestor, parent, old person'.

**nuclear option**

- **n.** the most drastic or extreme response possible to a particular situation.

**obesogenic**

- **adj.** tending to cause obesity.

**photoshop**

- **v.** (**photoshops, photoshopping, photoshopped**) alter (a photographic image) digitally using computer software.
- **ORIGIN** 1990s: from *Adobe Photoshop*, the proprietary name of such a software package.

## pig

### — PHRASES

**pig in the python** **chiefly US** a sharp statistical increase represented as a bulge in an otherwise level pattern, used especially with reference to the baby-boom generation regarded as having a gradual effect on consumer spending, society, etc. as they grow older. [from the shape of such an increase being likened to that of a pig swallowed by a python.]

## plank

- **n.**

3. **Brit. informal** a stupid person.

## plugged-in

- **adj. informal** up to date; aware of the latest developments or trends.

## ponzu

- **n.** (in Japanese cookery) a sauce or dip made with soy sauce and citrus juice.

— **ORIGIN** Japanese, from *pon* 'smack, pop' + *zu*, from *su* 'vinegar'.

## productize

 or productise

- **v.** make or develop (a service, concept, etc.) into a product:  
*consulting firms are productizing proprietary technology.*

### — DERIVATIVES

**productization** **n.**

## pushback

- **n. chiefly US** a negative or unfavourable response: *we got some pushback on the new pricing.*

## radar

- **n.**

• used to indicate that someone or something has or has not come to the attention of a person or group: *he's off the radar in the UK but in his country of birth he's a well-known figure.*

— **ORIGIN** 1940s: from *ra(dio) d(etection) a(nd) r(anging)*.

## radge

**Scottish informal**

- **n.** a wild, crazy, or violent person.
- **adj.** wild, crazy, or violent.

— **ORIGIN** 1920s: appar. an alt. of **RAGE**.

## reggaeton

- **n.** a form of dance music of Puerto Rican origin, characterized by a fusion of Latin rhythms, dancehall, and hip hop or rap.
- **ORIGIN** early 21st cent.: from **REGGAE** and Sp. *-ton* after *-thon* as in **-ATHON**.

## rendition

• **n.**

- 3.** (also **extraordinary rendition**) (especially in the US) the practice of sending a foreign criminal or terrorist suspect covertly to be interrogated in a country with less rigorous regulations for the humane treatment of prisoners.

## retronym

- **n.** a new term created from an existing word in order to distinguish the original referent of the existing word from a later one that is the product of progress or technological development (e.g. *acoustic guitar* for *guitar*).
- **ORIGIN** 1980s: blend of **RETRO-** and **-ONYM**.

## riad

- **n.** (in Morocco) a large traditional house built around a central courtyard, often converted into a hotel.
- **ORIGIN** Arab. *riyad*, *riad*, lit. 'gardens', pl. of *rawdā* 'garden'.

## riffage

- **n. informal** guitar riffs, especially in rock music.

## scrote

- **n. Brit. informal** a contemptible person.
- **ORIGIN** 1970s: from **SCROTUM**.

## Shaolin

- **n.** [usu. as *modifier*] any of various styles or schools of Chinese martial arts developed by the monks of the Shaolin Temple, a Buddhist monastery in China.
- **ORIGIN** from Chin. *Shàolín**sì*, lit. 'young forest temple'.

## shawarma

- **n.** (in some Arabic-speaking countries) a doner kebab.
- **ORIGIN** colloq. Arab. *sawirma*, from Turk. *çevirme* 'sliced meat roasted on a spit' from *çevirmek* 'turn, rotate'.

## shoulder-surfing

- **n.** the practice of spying on the user of a cash-dispensing machine or other electronic device in order to obtain their personal identification number, password, etc.

— DERIVATIVES

**shoulder-surfer** *n.*

**SIPP**

- *n.* (in the UK) a self-invested personal pension, a pension plan that enables the holder to choose and manage the investments made.

**slamming**

- *n.* the practice of switching a customer from one telephone service provider to another without the customer's authorization.

**slice**

— PHRASES

**slice and dice** divide a quantity of information up into smaller parts, especially in order to analyse it more closely or in different ways.

**soft power**

- *n.* a persuasive approach to international relations, typically involving the use of economic or cultural influence. Compare with **HARD POWER**.

**supercell**

- *n.* **Meteorology** a large slow-moving area of updraught and downdraught which causes violent thunderstorms, heavy hail, and tornadoes.

**superfood**

- *n.* a nutrient-rich food considered to be especially beneficial for health and well-being.

**tap<sup>2</sup>**

- *v.* (**taps, tapping, tapped**)
- 2. (**tap someone up**) **Brit. informal** approach (a sports player) illegally with a view to signing them to another club while they are still under contract with their current one.

**tectonic**

- *adj.*
- 3. (of a change or development) very significant or considerable): *a tectonic shift in public attitudes.*

**tent pole**

- *n.*
- 1. a pole supporting a tent.
- 2. [as *modifier*] **informal, chiefly US** (of a film) expected to be very successful and therefore able to fund a range of related products or films: *the studio will generate five tent-pole movies to support its other titles.*

**therapize** or **therapise**

- **v.** subject to psychological therapy: *you don't need to therapize or fix each other.*

## tick<sup>1</sup>

### — PHRASES

**tick all the (right) boxes** *Brit. informal* fulfil all the necessary requirements.

## tri-band

- **adj.** (of a mobile phone) having three frequencies, enabling it to be used in different regions (typically Europe and the US).

## twonk

- **n.** *Brit. informal* a stupid or foolish person.

— **ORIGIN** 1980s: perh. a blend of **TWIT**<sup>1</sup> or **TWAT** and **PLONKER**.

## upskill

- **v.** [often as *noun* **upskilling**] teach (an employee) additional skills.
- (of an employee) learn additional skills.

## UWB

- **abbrev.** ultra wideband, a radio communications technology for the transmission of signals over a very broad range of frequencies, typically using very low-energy pulses with a duration of a nanosecond or less.

## Vajrayana

- **n.** the Tantric tradition of Buddhism, especially when regarded as distinct from the Mahayana tradition from which it developed.

— **ORIGIN** Sanskrit *vajrayana*, from *vajra* 'thunderbolt' (the god Indra's symbolic vehicle) and *yana* 'path, journey'.

## value proposition

- **n.** (in marketing) an innovation, service, or feature intended to make a company or product attractive to customers.

## viral load

- **n.** *Medicine* a measure of the number of viral particles present in an organism or environment, especially the number of HIV viruses in the bloodstream.

## visioning

- **n.**

1. the action of developing a plan, goal, or vision for the future.
2. the action or fact of seeing visions.

## VOX

- **n.** (especially in music journalism) vocals; voice: *his matinee-idol vox.*

— **DERIVATIVES**

**-voxed** *adj.*

— **ORIGIN** 1980s: shortened from *vocals*, prob. after L. *vox* 'voice'.

## vulture fund

- **n.** **Finance** a fund which invests in companies or properties which are performing poorly and may therefore be undervalued.

## Wagyu

- **n.** any breed of Japanese cattle.
  - the tender beef obtained from such cattle, typically containing a high percentage of unsaturated fat.
- **ORIGIN** Japanese, from *wa* 'Japanese' + *gyu* 'cattle'.

## walk

— **PHRASES**

**a walk in the park** *informal* something that is very easy to accomplish.

## walled garden

- **n.** a garden enclosed by high walls, giving protection from winds and cold weather to the plants inside.
- **Computing & Telecommunications** a restricted range of information to which subscribers to a particular service are limited.

## warp speed

- **n.** *informal* an extremely high speed: *you talk at warp speed.*
- **ORIGIN** 1970s: popularized by the US television series *Star Trek* (orig. referring to a faster-than-light speed attained by a spaceship travelling in a space warp).

## weblink

- **n.** **Computing** another term for **HYPERLINK**.
- a printed address of a website in a book, newspaper, etc.

## wedge issue

- **n.** **US** a very divisive political issue, regarded as a basis for drawing voters away from an opposing party whose supporters have diverging opinions on it.

## Yogalates (also trademark Yogilates)

- **n.** a fitness routine that combines Pilates exercises with the postures and breathing techniques of yoga.
- **ORIGIN** 1990s: blend of **YOGA** and **PILATES**.

## zombie

- **n.**
- 3.** a computer controlled by a hacker without the owner's knowledge, which is made to send large quantities of data to a website, making it inaccessible to other users.