

Good morning all,

The time is 2006. The place is North America. The word list is the OWL and all kinds of excitement is in the air because...there are new words. New beautiful delicious crunchy words, additions to the word list that feel like getting a new baby in the family. Who doesn't remember fondly as we welcomed EMAILED, FEST, PST, and, yes, QI, and ZA into our cozy little lexicon. All these additions are new friends to be made, embraced, and welcomed. It was a giddy time.

Well let me tell you what -- there are MORE NEW WORDS. The entire world is rising up in jubilation as we welcome new friends such as INBOX and ALOO and GUQIN into the fold. And yes, while there are no new twos, there are nineteen new threes to welcome. And one, sadly, is going the way of EMF -- a farewell to a friend who will soon be erased from our board vision.

Those of us who have been immersing in Collins will enjoy this once-over of the new three-letter words -- but hold off on them until the first of the year! [1] And those of you who have been waiting for an opportune time to play Scrabble with the full English-language lexicon, the dawn of a new dictionary is a beautiful time to dip your toes into the softly roaring Collins ocean. The water is warm and the minnows are jubilantly dancing between your toes.

(Note that I'm sending this to world-scrabble as well as CGP -- the previous editions were only to CGP. If anyone not on CGP wants to see my mostly apocryphal series on Collins-only threes, it's been archived at the Seattle Scrabble Club website: http://www.seattlescrabble.org/data/ThemeLists/csw3s_SK8R_BOI.txt -- as well as in last February or March's issue of Cornelia Guest's excellent newsletter The Last Word.)

Without any further ado, here are the first ten additions:

ALU -- any Indian restaurant will have this, or its alternate spelling ALOO on the menu. It is a potato, and it is generally provided accompanied by the rest of a tasty vindaloo. Even though I just had lunch this list is already making me hungry! Takes the mouse. [2]

AME -- From the French âme, meaning "soul", from the Latin ANIMA. Used in English in the phrase "ame damnee", ie a person who does someone else's dirty work. Takes the mouse.

ANS -- "If ifs and ans were pots and pans, there'd be no need for tinkers' hands" goes the old rhyme. Similar sort of meaning to "If

wishes were fishes" or something like that.

ATS -- There are 100 ats to the Laotian kip. Also ATT, although ATT doesn't take the mouse.

AWK -- A clever command-line scripting language used in Unix, in shell scripts. Strange that I've hardly ever used AWK; I prefer SED myself. AWK takes the mouse. SED does not as it's the past tense of "SAY" sez the book.

ERM -- This word is, erm, used when the speaker, um, doesn't really know what, erm, is coming next.

GAK -- GAK is street slang for cocaine. Don't do GAK, kids. It takes the mouse to make it plural. As in the zero plural -- "I have no gaks in my house." Say no to drugs.

GAW -- A Scots word, indicating a rainbow which is only partially visible over the horizon that foretells bad weather -- the rainbow before the storm. Takes the mouse.

GER -- Mongolian for "home", a GER is similar to a yurt, but has certain structural differences to make it different from a yurt. Takes the mouse.

ING -- An ING is a water-meadow -- a low-lying meadow near a river, stream, or channel that is subject to seasonal flooding or is otherwise irrigated. The upshot is that since the low-lying ground is damp, it will resist frost in the spring and fall and give extra time for growing hay or whatnot. Takes the mouse.

Later this week -- nine more new threes. And one that's going away.

Chris Lipe

[1] Although if you come to Albany over New Year's we'll let you play these words a couple days early. Special bonus.

[2] The mouse is an S. In case anyone was wondering.

Okay okay okay so I promised to send this like two weeks ago. Well, meh, I just can't get excited about deadlines. Yes, you heard me. Meh. M - E - H. Meh.

So with no further ado or adon't, here are the final nine 3-letter words to be added to Scrabble come the end of the year:

MEH - An interjection expressing boredom or indifference. Popularised on "The Simpsons" in the early 2000's, it is now mainstream enuf to have made it into Harper-Collins' sights. Dinna take the mouse.

OIS - OI now has a new, non-interjectory definition which takes the mouse. Let's see.....WESPA claims it means "a bloke" but I like wikipedia's definitions better... let's go with, the Maori name for the Great Winged Petrel (as in, "Oi look at those ois!")

PEL - Like BINIT, it's an older form of a computer-type word; in this case today we use PIXEL as the word abbreviated from "picture element" but it was also at one time simply "pel". Takes the mouse, natch.

QIN - A kind of Chinese stringed instrument. Look at the wikipedia article for GUQIN for pictures -- it's a simple-looking thing, somewhat similar to a zither. Also, yes, GUQIN is being added to the lexicon -- it is the ancient version of the QIN (as opposed to contemporary qins.)

RAV - An SUV made by Toyota. No, seriously, it's the Hebrew word for rabbi, and also can be used more generically for a spiritual guide. Perhaps similar to a guru? Takes the mouse.

SOZ - A texter's or headline writer's abbreviation for "sorry". As in: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/02/07/u2_ticket_apology/

SUG - This is an acronym for "Selling Under the Guise of research". It's when someone pretends to be doing market research, but is really just trying to sell their product. Maybe sort of like those commercials you see where food bloggers are invited to a new "trendy restaurant" and served a frozen pasta dinner you can buy in the store. It's a verb, so SUGS, SUGGED and SUGGING.

TIK - South African (according to wiki) street name for crystal meth. Don't do tik, kids. Or "silly rabbit, tiks are for kids". Which they aren't. For kids I mean. Or adults, either. Drugs. They're bad for you.

UMS - UM is now a verb, and it means, um, to erm, lace your, um, speech with, um, um. Yeah, I was umming a lot there.

And finally, last, and apparently now, also least, is the three-letter word to whom we must bid fond adieux. One of the changes in CSW12 is the removed of plurals of some interjections. The objectionable interjectional pluralisations included the plural of one two-letter

interjection, so, it is with sadness in our hearts that we mourn the passing into Scrabble history the soon-to-be-nonword YOS. Yo, man, you're gone too soon.

This concludes your lengthy two-part introduction to the new three-letter words. I hope to see you all on the circuit playing QIN and AWK and GER very soon.

Chris Lipe