

Neologisms

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CRTDrills Bergamo 17 April 2020

Why do we want/need to invent new words?

- new technology
- **Your ideas, please.**
- new fashions
- sports & pastimes
- musical genres
- food & drinks
- lifestyle (sexuality, relationships, employment, accommodation, etc.)
- politics
- for fun! language play

When? (See handouts)

- 1940s

jeep (1941); bikini (1948)

- 1950s

shopping mall (1950); sci-fi (1955)

- 1960s

disco (1964); microwave oven (1965)

When? (See handouts)

- 1970s

junk food (1973); bulimia (1976)

- 1980s

hip-hop (1982); snail mail (1983)

- 1990s

screen saver (1990); loyalty card (1993)

Look at the last three: how are they formed?

How do we invent new words?

1. **Compounding:** word + word

Airport

Shopping mall

Snail mail

Video-conferencing

Text message

Mobile phone; smartphone

Couchsurfing

Toy boy

Street food

Knife crime has increased in London over the last few years

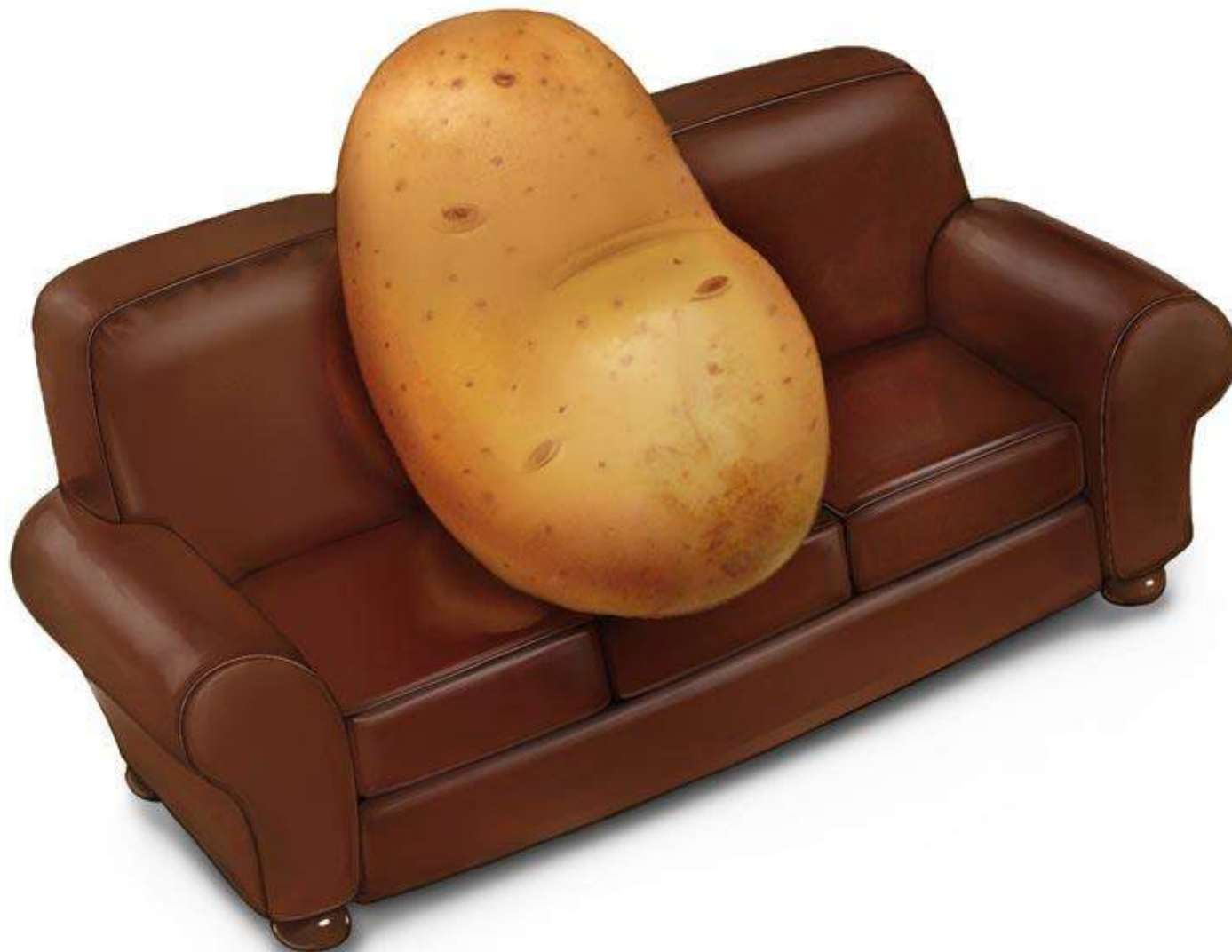
A **stab vest** is a kind of body armour



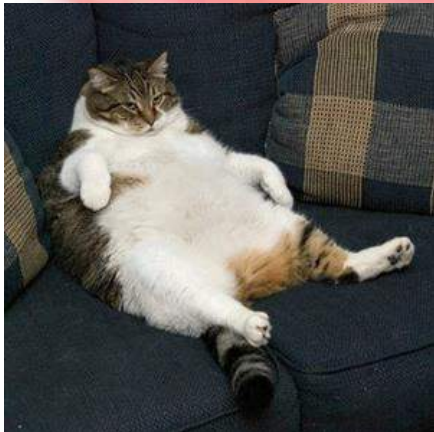
Grime artist Stormzy wearing a **stab vest** designed by Banksy at Glastonbury 2019



Couch + Potato ...



A **couch potato** (1979) in front of the television (1907) or TV (1948) with junk food (1973) & remote control (1904) or 'remote' (1966)



Another reprehensible way that men sit... 'manspreading' (2014)



How do we invent new words?

2. **Blending**: part of one word + part of another word

Swiss + watch = **Swatch**

motor (car) + hotel =

motel

smoke + fog =

smog

breakfast + lunch =

brunch

work + alcoholic =

workaholic

What do we call someone addicted to chocolate?

chocolate + alcoholic =
chocaholic (1976)



How do we invent new words?

2. **Blending:**

web + log =

Blog

modulator + demodulator =

Modem

situation + comedy =

Sitcom

Brother + romance =

Bromance

Fan + magazine =

Fanzine

Bombay + Hollywood =

Bollywood

How do we invent new words?

2. Blending:

COVID-19 =

COrona**V**irus **D**isease **2019**

Words/expressions created in the pandemic:

- Patient zero
- Super-spreader
- Social distancing
- Self-quarantine
- Self-isolate

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/new-dictionary-words-coronavirus-covid-19>

Back to blending: what do you call a holiday that you spend at or near home?

staycation

What's going on here?



Costume + play = cosplay
(1984, coined in Japan)





Actually, it is a
meme of 'Grexit'
(2012)

THE SCOTTISH
Sun **HOLS**
 THEY'RE BACK!
 SCOTLAND'S BEST-SELLING PAPER 55p
 FROM **£9.50**
 BOOKING FORM AND TOKEN IN 4-PAGE PULLOUT

EXCLUSIVE: PALACE BOMBSHELL

● **Civil war as Harry & Meg quit the Royals**

● **'Sad' Queen, Charles & Wills all left in dark**



'Deeply upset' ... the Queen
 By GAIL WOODFORD, London Editor
 HARRY and MEGHAN had just announced they will be quitting as senior royals — leaving the Queen 'deeply upset' and Charles and William 'incandescent with rage'.
 The couple posted out a headline statement — revealing they will split their time between the UK and North America — after their names were revealed in the Sun magazine.
 But they failed to ask other royals, which caused outrage.
 A source close to the Queen stated: 'This statement was not shared with anyone. It breaks all protocol. This is a declaration of war on the family. There is fury and now Harry's done this. Continued on Page five.'

MEGEXIT

Think of a name for these objects



Sporks!

spork = spoon + fork
(1909, then 1970s)



How do we invent new words?

3. Shortening

Zoological Garden =

Zoo

Gymnasium =

Gym

Examination =

Exam

Telephone =

Phone

How to invent new words: Shortening

Application =

App

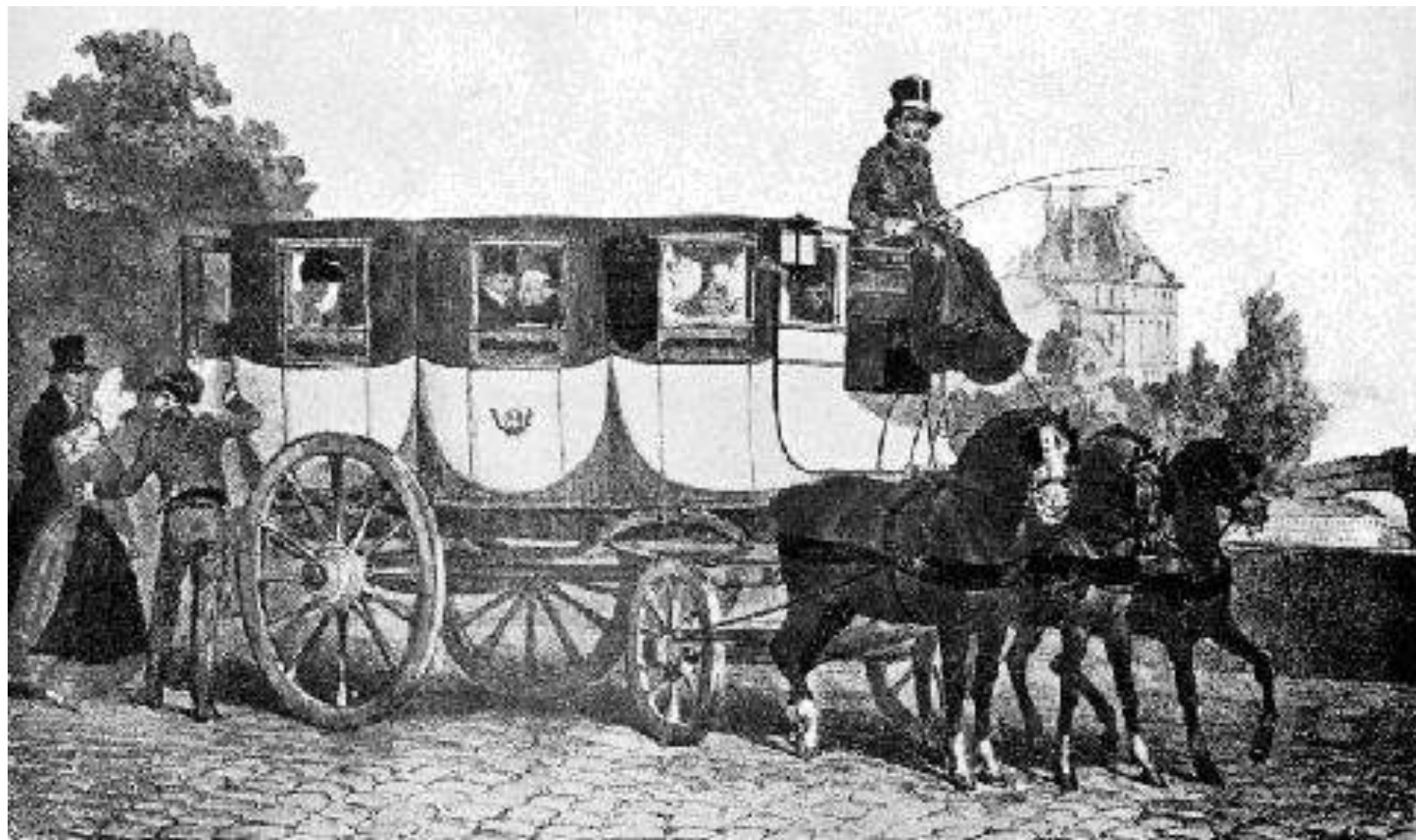
Fanatic =

Fan

Taximeter cabriolet =

Taxi cab (now either 'taxi' or 'cab')

And the next one?



voiture omnibus (France, 1826)



Shortening...

Omnibus becomes Bus!

'Bye' is a shortened form of:

'Goodbye'

'Goodbye' is a shortened form of:

'God Be With Ye'

How do we invent new words?

4. Extension of grammatical function:

e.g. using a noun as a verb, or a verb as a noun, etc.

- to text
- to friend
- to socially distance

How do we invent new words?

5. **Affixes:** adding

prefixes (e.g. in- un- re- dis- anti-) *or*

suffixes (e.g. -able -ness -ment -er)

- to **defriend** *or* to **unfriend** (not ‘befriend’)
- a **blogger**
- **fandom**
- an **influencer**
- **super-spreading**
- **rewilding**

Or taking affixes away:

- to **baby-sit** (1947) *from* **baby-sitter** (1937)

Watergate scandal, 1972-4



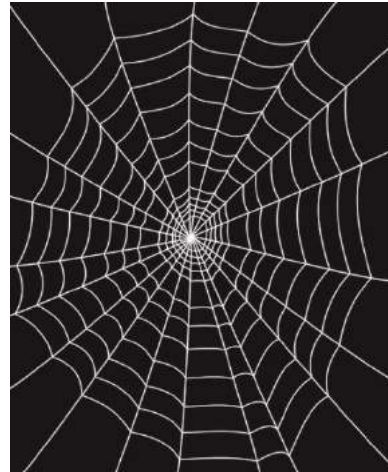
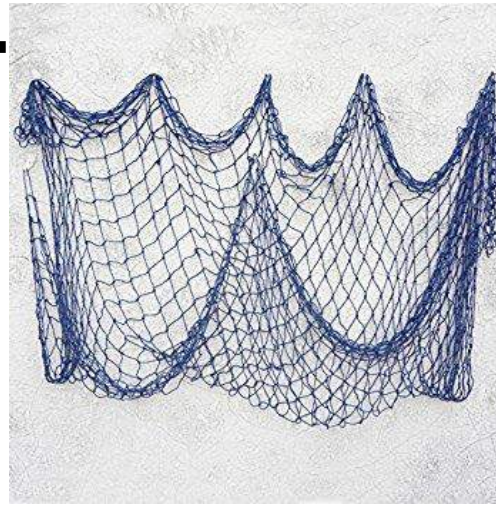
After, '-gate' a suffix for a scandal (*meme*)
e.g. '-opoli' in Italian

How do we invent new words?

6. Same word, change of meaning:

Examples: see next slide...

Name these things...



**mouse – net – cookie
troll – web – icon – tweet**

What are the oldest and newest words on the previous slide?

6. Same word, change of meaning: e.g.

- mouse (1965)
- icon (1982)
- net (short form of Internet, 1986)
- troll (1992)
- web (1994; short form of World Wide Web, 1990)
- cookie (1994?)
- tweet (2007; verb and noun derived from the Twitter service, 2006)

WHAT'S THIS???



1930: a new canned meat product
blend of 'spiced' + 'ham'



1980s: TV sketch by comedy group 'Monty Python's Flying Circus'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLih-WQwBSc>

song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBcY3W5WgNU>

1990s: unsolicited commercial mail



An example from politics

- **spin** (1978): a bias or slant on information, intended to create a favourable impression when it is presented to the public
- **spin doctor** (1984): political press agent or publicist who promotes a favourable interpretation of events to journalists
- spin doctoring, to spin doctor, spin-doctored

How do we invent new words?

7. **Abbreviation** (e.g. television > TV)

self-contained underwater breathing apparatus = **scuba** (an **acronym**)

digital video disc = **DVD** (a **capitalisation**)

WYSIWYG =

what you see is what you get

graphics interchange format =

GIF (1987)

acquired *immune deficiency* syndrome =

AIDS

SARS =

severe *acute respiratory* syndrome

BOGOF =

Buy one, get one free!

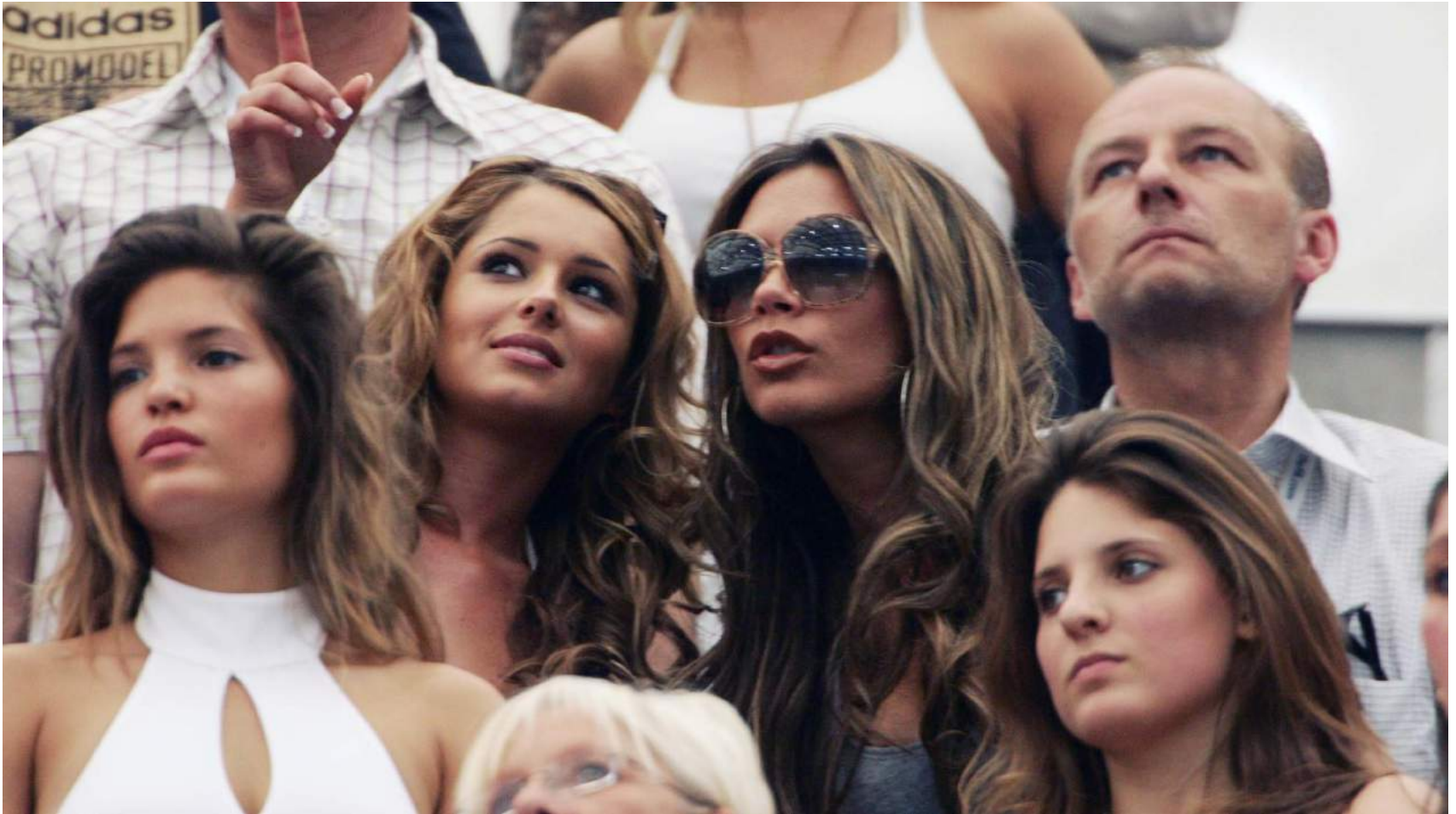
What kind of car is this?



SUV is an abbreviation for 'sport utility vehicle'.



Who are these?



WAGS LA



E

Wives and girlfriends = **WAGS**



A **wag**. 'Back formation'.
(not possible to say 'a wife or girlfriend')



How do we invent new words?

8. **Borrowing:** also called 'loan words', i.e.

Taking words from other languages.

Match the words to the languages.

(see handouts)

Afrikaans (from South Africa): Algonquian, a native
American language: Arabic: Native Australian
languages: Chinese: Czech: Dutch:
Eskimo: Finnish: German: Hawaiian:
Hebrew: Hindi: Italian: Japanese:
Kikongo (language of the Congo): Nahuatl (language of
the Aztecs): Norwegian: Persian: Quechuan
(language of the Andes): Russian: Sanskrit (Old
Indian): Spanish: Swahili: Tahitian:
Tongan: Turkish.

apartheid / boomerang / chocolate / cookie / igloo /
ketchup / kindergarten / kosher / llama / moccasin /
pizza / potato / robot / safari / sauna / shampoo /
sheikh / ski / sofa / steppe / sudoku / taboo / tattoo
/ wiki / yoga / yoghurt / zombie

Loan words into English from other languages

- Afrikaans:

apartheid

- Algonquian (native American language):

moccasin

- Arabic:

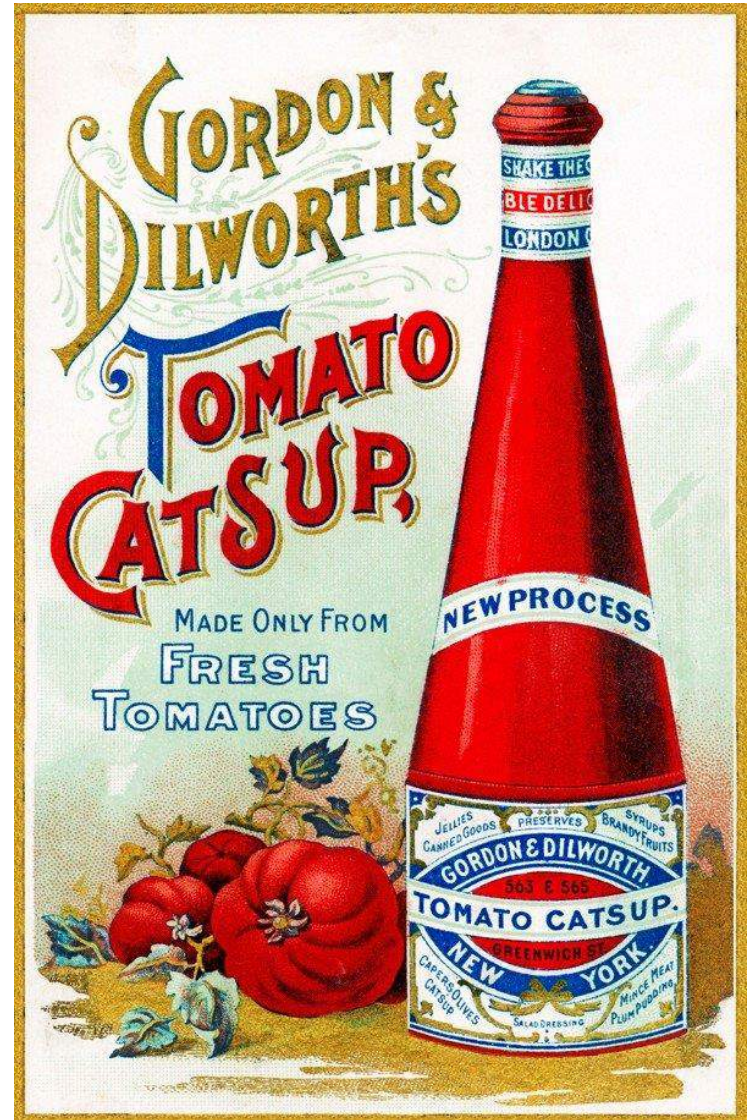
sheikh

- Native Australian languages:

boomerang

A preserved fish sauce called kê-chiap in southern China (300 BCE)

- a 1732 English recipe for “Ketchup, in paste, from Sumatra”.
- tomatoes only entered the recipe in the 19th century.
- Americans later added the sugar.
- *Right, an 1870 US advert*



- Chinese:

ketchup

- Czech:

robot

- Dutch:

cookie

- Eskimo:

igloo

- Finnish:

sauna

- German:
kindergarten

- Hawaiian:
wiki

- Hebrew:
kosher

- Hindi:
shampoo

- Italian:
pizza

- Japanese:

sudoku

- Kikongo (language of the Congo):

zombie

- Nahuatl (language of the Aztecs):

chocolate

- Norwegian:

ski

- Persian:

sofa

- Quechuan (language of the Andes):

llama

- Russian:

steppe

- Sanskrit (Old Indian) :

yoga

- Spanish:

potato

- Swahili:

safari

- Tahitian:
tattoo
- Tongan:
taboo
- Turkish:
yoghurt

English loan words in Italian

- Fast food
- Slow food
- Sandwich
- Lifting
- Hooligan
- Jogging
- Jeans
- Supermarket
- How many more can you think of?

Italian loan words in English

- Ghetto
- Lido
- Gondola
- How many can you think of?

Websites

The **Macmillan Dictionary** 'buzz words' is a good collection of neologisms:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/recent.html>

- What is 'seaganism'? Choose another word, from 2019, which makes you curious

Websites

Oxford English Dictionary: Updates

<https://public.oed.com/updates/>

- Find the meaning of:
[*mentionitis*](#), [*awesomesauce*](#), [*safe space*](#),
and [*shticky*](#).

[Oxford English Dictionary Word of the Year:](#)

<https://languages.oup.com/word-of-the-year/>

Websites

The **Collins English Dictionary** has an excellent 'word of the year' section

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/woty>

Websites

Merriam-Webster Dictionary (USA)

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/video/2019-word-of-the-year-behind-the-scenes>

- What was 'Word of the Year' for 2019 and why was it chosen?

Words of the year are not necessarily neologisms:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_Merriam-Webster%27s_Words_of_the_Year

Websites

American Dialect Society ‘Word of the Year’

<https://www.americandialect.org/woty>

- What is ‘woke’ and ‘self-partnered’?
Choose another word, from 2019, which makes you curious.

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