

NEW WORDS IN ENGLISH

New words enter the English language from all areas of life, describing changes and developments that happen on a daily basis. Technological advances are one of the best examples of how fast certain language can adapt to the changing world. Here are some words that have been coined over the last few years. Test how well you keep up with all these changes:

A) Match the expression on the left with its corresponding explanation on the right.

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|-------------------------|--|
| a) screenager | 1 a new member of any group, community, or activity |
| b) e-waste | 2 a new fashionable word or expression commonly used in specialized work environments or age-groups |
| c) recessionista | 3 a young person or teenager who spends a lot of time in front of the computer screen |
| d) netiquette | 4 a form of English used on the web and known for its use of abbreviations, acronyms, small letters, absence of punctuation and hyphens etc. |
| e) weblish | 5 electronic material and devices that have been thrown away |
| f) funemployed | 6 someone who enjoys not having a job because they have more time for leisure and fun activities |
| g) buzzword | 7 a person who succeeds in dressing stylishly on a tight budget |
| h) newbie | 8 set of rules for appropriate behaviour and courtesy on the internet |

Key: a3, b5, c7, d8, e4, f6, g2, h1

B) For some words it is difficult to believe that they have been added to the Oxford English Dictionary which is widely regarded as the accepted authority on the English language. Such examples you can find in the following list:

cyberslacking gaydar lookism frankenfood ego-surfing meatspace blamestorming

Can you guess what they mean? Complete the gaps with the correct word from the list:

- a) prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of appearance= _____
- b) the physical world, as opposed to virtual = _____
- c) searching the Internet for instances of one's own name or links to one's own website = _____

- d) spending one's employer's Internet and email facilities for personal activities during working hours = _____
- e) a food that contains genetically modified ingredients (derogatory) = _____
- f) an ability to identify another person as homosexual by interpreting subtle signals conveyed by their appearance, interests, etc. = _____
- g) a method of collectively finding one to blame for a mistake no one is willing to confess to, which often occurs in the form of a meeting of colleagues at work = _____

Key: *lookism, meatspace, ego-surfing, cyberslacking, Frankenfood, gaydar, blamestorming*

C) Read the sentences and choose the best option.

- 1 A new _____ will force wealthy people to hand over at least a quarter of their income to the Treasury.
a) rich tax b) tycoon tax c) wealth tax
- 2 India ordered the arrest of a tour operator who had organized _____ and published the video of naked women dancing in front of the police in return for food and water.
a) 'tribe safari' b) 'people safari' c) 'human safari'
- 3 Samsung has introduced their new product which is a hybrid between a smartphone and a tablet computer, called _____.
a) phablet b) tabphone c) moblet
- 4 On their website people can _____ images and videos on the virtual boards, thus creating online displays of their likes and dislikes.
a) pin b) stick c) paste
- 5 Northern Ireland is top of the UK league when it comes to so-called _____ — a new trend of using a medium such as Twitter to comment on what you are watching on TV.
a) 'chatboxing' b) 'comboxing' c) 'chatterboxing'
- 6 The use of equipment that measures brain impulses to assess how people respond to products is called _____.
a) brain marketing b) impulse marketing c) neuromarketing
- 7 Now that the retirement age is set to rise even higher, the trend for _____, i.e. tendency to change careers during a lifetime, is set to become the norm.
a) 'job changing' b) 'job flipping' c) 'job switching'

Key: 1b, 2c, 3a, 4a, 5c, 6c, 7b