

# What is the meaning of these words? A quiz from Madeley & District U3A

Most of these are archaic, but really deserve to come back into popular usage to give us all a bit of style in these days of banal words, acronyms and the clipped spelling used on social media.

## Mark the correct definition

1. Ferntickle
  - a. to sow crops
  - b. a freckle
  - c. a man getting amorous with a woman
  - d. to dress oneself in ferns for a summer festival
2. Blatherskite
  - a. a person who talks nonsense
  - b. an unfaithful wife
  - c. a corrupt politician
  - d. to skid up
3. Spindleshank
  - a. a wooden roof joist
  - b. a heron
  - c. to deceive
  - d. a person with long thin legs
4. Nammet
  - a. a person who hoards things
  - b. a packed lunch of bread and cheese
  - c. a type of cider
  - d. for goodness sake!
5. Boggart
  - a. a drunkard
  - b. an evil or mischievous spirit
  - c. stewed fruit
  - d. graffiti on the wall of a toilet
6. Grubble
  - a. a mixture of sand and gravel
  - b. to grope around in the dark
  - c. to beg
  - d. body hair
7. Snollygoster
  - a. a person without principles
  - b. a heavy cold
  - c. to slander someone
  - d. a peaked cap
8. Collogue
  - a. to wander around
  - b. to talk confidentially
  - c. a gentleman's walking cane
  - d. to cheat
9. Woofits
  - a. barking dogs
  - b. a hangover or drowsy state
  - c. to be madly in love
  - d. clips used in thatching
10. Humdurgeon
  - a. an aristocrat
  - b. an imaginary illness
  - c. a singer of folk songs
  - d. a jail sentence
11. Staddle
  - a. a horse's bridle
  - b. a support for ricks of hay/straw
  - c. a thick soup
  - d. a pool of water on a moor
12. Cicisbeo
  - a. an escort or lover of a married woman
  - b. a gullible person
  - c. a woman in heavy make-up
  - d. a corset

13. Rawgabbit

- a. uncooked food
- b. a card game similar to poker
- c. a tool for making holes in wood
- d. somebody who speaks with confidence about a subject of which they know nothing

14. Lanspresado

- a. someone who arrives with no money, having conveniently forgotten their wallet
- b. a 2 seater carriage drawn by a single horse
- c. a president of a society or club
- d. a fizzy drink made from elderflower

15. Vomitorium.

- a. a passageway to exit a building
- b. a gathering with people you find insufferable
- c. a dose of a substance to make you throw up to relieve drunkenness or stomach ache.
- d. the delivery of a speech by a politician

16. Cockalorum

- a. the crowing of rival cockerels
- b. a small man with a big opinion of himself
- c. a gathering of idiots
- d. a beach where cockles are prolific

17. Fudgel

- a. a large ladle for serving soup
- b. a person who is accident prone
- c. pretending to work when you're really doing nothing at all
- d. to hammer

18. Snecklifter

- a. a pickpocket
- b. someone who sticks their head into a bar to see if there's anyone who will buy them a drink
- c. a politician campaigning for your vote
- d. a crane for lifting barges

19. Gnashgab

- a. someone who complains all the time
- b. a fierce dog
- c. to stab with a knife
- d. to scrounge food

20. Fopdoodle

- a. to tickle someone
- b. a foolish or insignificant person
- c. a lapdog
- d. a person who takes no exercise

21. Gammer

- a. a card sharp
- b. to gossip
- c. a foolish mistake
- d. an old woman

22. Fizgig

- a. to exaggerate for effect
- b. a large cooking dish
- c. a flirtatious young woman
- d. stomach ache

23. Indite

- a. to write or compose
- b. to charge someone for an offence
- c. a complete muddle
- d. to bestow an honour

24. Jakes

- a. crikey!
- b. shivering fits
- c. an outdoor toilet
- d. members of a pressgang

25. Scullion

- a. a kitchen
- b. a menial servant
- c. a small rowing boat
- d. a rascal

26. Glabriety

- a. a stupid act
- b. baldness
- c. a wild celebration
- d. polite society

27. Fandangle

- a. to express admiration
- b. a useless or ornamental object
- c. a lively dance
- d. to play a joke

28. Avaunt

- a. go away!
- b. the leading horse pulling a carriage
- c. to seduce
- d. to avoid a potential disaster

29. Cottier

- a. a metal pin to secure wooden roof beams
- b. a rural labourer living in a cottage
- c. a valet subordinate to a butler
- d. a type of spinning wheel

30. Wassail

- a. to make merry with alcohol
- b. a wandering minstrel
- c. to sail into the wind
- d. to make patterns with ribbons on a maypole

31. Mayhap

- a. perhaps
- b. the proliferation of flowers in spring
- c. total confusion
- d. after you!

32. Scaramouch

- a. scarring from chicken pox
- b. a boastful but cowardly person
- c. a highwayman
- d. a low-backed settee

33. Peregrinate

- a. to mix a powerful drink
- b. to keep peregrine falcons for hunting
- c. to indulge in wishful thinking
- d. to wander from place to place

34. Hie

- a. to bow when meeting someone
- b. go quickly!
- c. to tie someone up
- d. to call for a carriage or sedan chair

35. Froward

- a. an order for a horse to go forward
- b. a person who is difficult to deal with
- c. an ambitious or pushy person
- d. a scrounger

36. Demit

- a. reduce wages for bad performance
- b. resign from office
- c. to demonstrate a skill
- d. get out of my sight!

37. Behoof

- a. a benefit or advantage
- b. to take off a horse shoe
- c. to be given credit or acknowledgment
- d. go away!

38. Cordwainer

- a. a person scything
- b. a basket-maker
- c. a shoemaker
- d. a jovial character

39. Palfrey

- a. a devoted servant
- b. a docile horse
- c. insignificant
- d. a platform for building work

40. Poltroon

- a. a coward
- b. a unit of troops formed into squares
- c. a shed for keeping chickens
- d. to stride purposefully.

41. In sooth

- a. I don't believe it!
- b. actually
- c. recovering from a fever
- d. engaged to be married

42. Varlet

- a. a holder of land by feudal tenure
- b. a rogue
- c. a wooden wheelbarrow
- d. to value property

43. Prithee

- a. a pretty young girl
- b. to congratulate
- c. please!
- d. confidential

44. Lurdan

- a. an overloaded ship likely to capsize
- b. a person suffering a contagious disease who should be avoided
- c. an idle or incompetent person
- d. a cool cupboard in a kitchen for storing meat

45. Grimalkin

- a. a catty old woman
- b. a wet overcast day
- c. to round up cows for milking
- d. looking sad to gain sympathy.

46. Doxy

- a. covered in spots
- b. a mistress or prostitute
- c. to bluff
- d. nearby

47. Guerdon

- a. a metal skewer
- b. a loyal military servant
- c. a barricade
- d. a reward

48. Contumely

- a. cuddlesome
- b. insulting language or treatment
- c. as a result of
- d. childish misbehaviour

49. Fain

- a. pleased or willing to do something
- b. affected or exaggerated behaviour
- c. hardly
- d. to lie or pretend

50. Forfend

- a. to upset someone
- b. to make excuses
- c. leave me alone!
- d. raise a sword in preparation for a fight

51. Prate

- a. upright
- b. to talk foolishly
- c. an idiot
- d. to interfere

52. Bawd
- a. fed up
  - b. to make a hole in a horseshoe
  - c. a drunkard
  - d. a woman running a brothel

53. Perpend
- a. to consider
  - b. to knock over
  - c. a right to enter property
  - d. stop it!

54. Simular
- a. the same as
  - b. counterfeit
  - c. happy
  - d. threatening

55. Yare
- a. ready
  - b. stop at once!
  - c. a long rein attached to the leading horse of a carriage
  - d. to stare

56. Mickle
- a. pretentious
  - b. a large amount
  - c. to mix socially
  - d. a sharp tool for cutting flax

57. Parlous
- a. talkative
  - b. relaxing
  - c. just between ourselves!
  - d. dangerous

58. Bawbling
- a. crying uncontrollably
  - b. insignificant
  - c. knitting
  - d. combing hair

59. Bosky
- a. domineering
  - b. wooded
  - c. cheeky!
  - d. strong beer

60. Delation
- a. a healing potion
  - b. a group of politicians
  - c. an accusation
  - d. cooling down after exercise or hard work.

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