

American Dialect Society 2018 Words of the Year

NOMINATIONS to be voted on by
the American Dialect Society
Jan. 4, 2019, New York, NY

POLITICAL WORD OF THE YEAR

blue wave: major Democratic electoral gain
caravan: procession of Central American asylum seekers to US/Mexico border
lodestar: guiding principle (used in op/ed by anonymous White House staffer)
nationalist: displaying a staunch belief in one's own nation (used by Trump and supporters)
(the) wall: proposed barrier along the US/Mexico border to prevent illegal crossings

DIGITAL WORD OF THE YEAR

blackfishing: pretending to be black on social media by using makeup and hair products
deepfake: realistic digitally composed video used to misrepresent someone
demonetize: remove ads from a YouTube channel to deprive the creator of revenue
finsta: fake Instagram account
techlash: backlash against tech innovators

SLANG/INFORMAL WORD OF THE YEAR

big dick energy: calm, unassuming attitude
canceled: firmly rejected or dismissed
mood, big mood: strong emotion of agreement
weird flex but OK: rejoinder to improper boast
yeet: indication of surprise or excitement

MOST USEFUL

himpathy: flow of sympathy away from female victims toward their male victimizers
orbiting: ending communication with someone while still monitoring them on social media
preferred pronoun: pronoun that a person opts to use for himself/herself/themself/etc.
situationship: undefined personal relationship
Voldemorting: avoiding mention of unpleasant person or topic by using a replacement term

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

cli-fi: science fiction relating to climate change
climate grief: negative feelings caused by climate-change-related weather events
hothouse Earth: runaway global warming
single-use: to be used once and destroyed

MOST CREATIVE

girther: person skeptical of the president's reported weight and height
procrasti-: related to procrastination
today years old: indication that someone has just recently learned something
treasonweasel: epithet for a traitorous person
white caller crime: white people calling police on black people for doing mundane things

EUPHEMISM OF THE YEAR

executive time: presidential down-time
Individual 1: pseudonym for Trump in documents from the Mueller investigation
racially charged: circumlocution for "racist"
tender-age camp/shelter/facility: government detention center for asylum-seekers' children





WTF WORD OF THE YEAR

emotional support peacock: therapy animal that airline passenger tried to bring on board
incel: involuntary celibate (online subculture)
shithole countries: Trump's epithet for places he does not want to accept immigrants from
soy boy: term for a man perceived as not conforming to male gender stereotypes

HASHTAG OF THE YEAR

#neveragain: call for gun-control measures after the Parkland shooting
#nottheonion: reporting something true that seems like satire from The Onion
#thankunext: expressing gratitude and readiness to move on (from Ariana Grande)
#timesup: movement protesting sexual assault

EMOJI OF THE YEAR

: lobster (adopted by trans community)
: nail polish (indicating air of nonchalance)
: facepalm (indicating exasperation, disbelief)
: thinking face (indicating bemused pondering)

WORD OF THE YEAR

Nominations to be made at final meeting.