

## Words of the Year (2019) and Words of the Decade (2010-2019)

NOMINATIONS to be voted on by  
the American Dialect Society  
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### POLITICAL WORD OF THE YEAR

**#IMPOTUS**: derogatory reference to Trump  
(IMPeached President Of The United States)  
**quid pro quo**: exchange of favors (central to  
Trump/Ukraine impeachment scandal)  
**squad**: nickname for four House Democrats  
(Reps. Ocasio-Cortez, Omar, Pressley, Tlaib)  
**Trumpschmerz**: suffering induced by constant  
updates about the Trump administration

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### MOST USEFUL/MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

**ok boomer**: retort to someone older expressing  
out-of-touch or condescending views  
**plant-based**: made from plants, for food  
products marketed as meat alternatives  
**stan**: to be devoted or enthusiastic about  
**zoomer**: member of Generation Z

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### SLANG/INFORMAL WORD OF THE YEAR

**and I oop-**: catchphrase of VSCO girls,  
expressing shock, surprise, or embarrassment  
(first used by drag queen Jasmine Masters)  
**hot girl summer**: a call to live one's best life  
(after Houston rapper Megan Thee Stallion)  
**zaddy**: gender-neutral variation of "daddy" for  
an attractive older person with money

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### MOST CREATIVE

**(X)-curious**: interested in something  
**gerrymeandering**: drawing convoluted  
congressional district lines for political gain  
**nobody**: phrasal template mocking someone  
providing an unsolicited opinion  
**sksksk**: keysmash exclamation, expressing  
laughter, awkwardness, or amazement

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### EUPHEMISM OF THE YEAR

**freedom gas / molecules of U.S. freedom**:  
natural gas (used by Energy Dept. officials)  
**Heckboy**: Hellboy (used on the marquee of a  
Tennessee movie theater)  
**people of means**: rich people (used by  
Starbucks executive Howard Schultz)  
**self-partnered**: single (used by Emma Watson)

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### DIGITAL WORD OF THE YEAR

**📠**: facts (pun on "fax machine" emoji)  
**im🍓**: emoji representation of "impeach"  
**VSCO girl**: young woman who posts trendy  
pictures of herself on the VSCO photo app

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### WORD OF THE YEAR (2019)

**ok boomer**: retort to someone older expressing  
out-of-touch or condescending views  
**cancel**: withdraw support from someone  
considered problematic or unacceptable  
**(my) pronouns**: introduction for sharing one's  
set of personal pronouns ("pronouns: she/her")  
**Karen**: stereotype of a complaining, self-  
important white woman, typically a member  
of Generation X (also "Generation Karen")

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### WORD OF THE DECADE (2010-2019)

**#BlackLivesMatter**: expression of protest over  
police violence against African Americans  
**climate**: used in phrases related to the impact of  
climate change, including "climate crisis,"  
"climate emergency," and "climate strike"  
**emoji**: small icon in electronic communication,  
used to convey information or emotional  
attitude, or as a playful substitution for words  
**meme**: a shared cultural item in the form of a  
phrase, image, or video circulated online,  
often with humorous, creative alterations  
**#MeToo**: expression of solidarity for women  
surviving sexual assault or harassment (coined  
by Tarana Burke)  
**opioid crisis**: epidemic of opioid-related drug  
overdoses across the U.S.  
**selfie**: a photograph that one takes of oneself,  
typically with a digital camera and shared on  
social media  
**they**: gender-neutral singular pronoun for a  
known person, particularly as a nonbinary  
identifier ("they," "them," "themselves")  
**woke**: socially aware, especially about issues of  
racial and social justice (also used negatively  
to mock ostensibly enlightened attitudes)