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Neutral words

Nonce word (chance word, occasional word) –

- ✓ *A word coined for one single occasion only*
(Oxford English Dictionary)
- ✓ *A word that someone invents for a particular purpose or occasion*
(Macmillan Dictionary)
- ✓ *A lexeme created for a single occasion to solve an immediate problem of communication*
(Wikipedia)

The term was created by James Murray, the editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, in the late 19th century.

Nonce words can often be found:

- ✓ in children's speech
- ✓ in the speech of adults for making humorous effect
- ✓ in commercials, TV programs, TV series, etc.
- ✓ in literature for nominating things and notions that don't really exist
- ✓ in poetry (especially written for children) for the sake of keeping rhyme and rhythm of a poem

Horace Walpole's Nonce Words (the 18th century)

- ✓ Greenth - for *greenness*
- ✓ Blueth - for *blueness*
- ✓ Betweenity – for *intermediateness*

“Curiuoser and curiouser!” Cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English).

- Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Trough the Looking-Glass*





Nonce words created by Lewis Carroll:

Chortle = chuckle + snort

Frumious = fuming + furious



Galumphing = galloping + triumphant

Slithy = lithe + slimy

Mimsy = flimsy + miserable



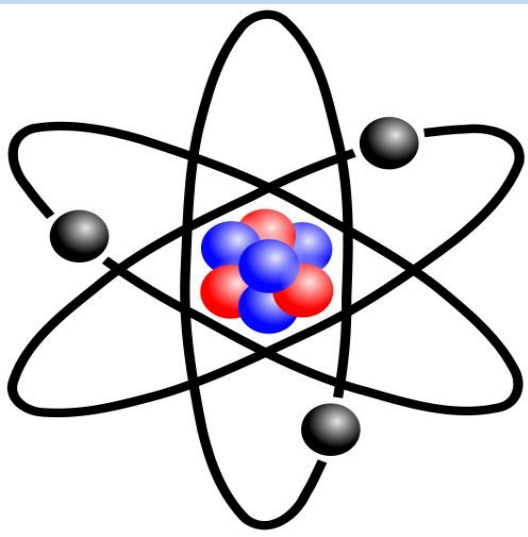
Quark – the cry of the seagull



(invented by James Joyce, appeared in the book
Finnegans Wake in 1939)

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Adopted by a physicist Murray Gell-Mann in 1963



Quark – a subatomic particle

Grok – to understand someone intuitively or by empathy,
to merge with someone emotionally



Coined by Robert A. Heinlein
for his 1961 sci-fi novel,
Stranger in a Strange Land,
to define the notion
that didn't exist
in the human language,
only in the language of
the Marsians



✓ Embiggen -
to make something larger



✓ Cromulent - fine or acceptable



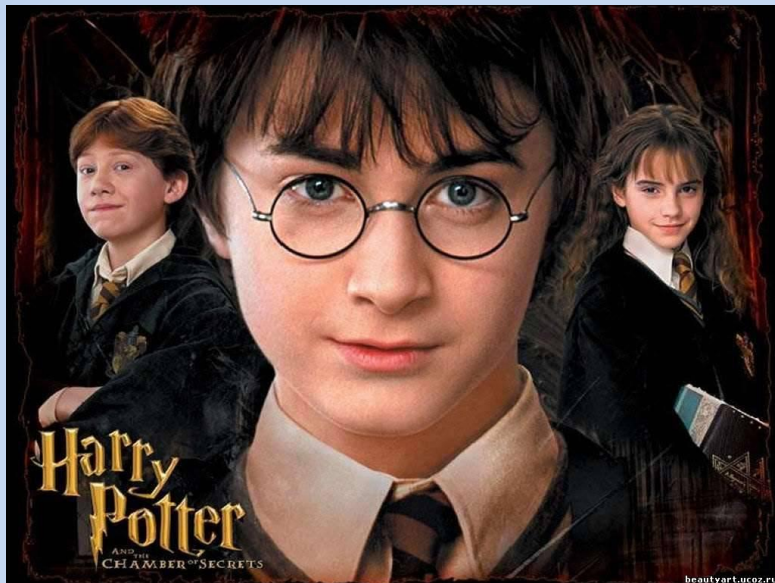
Coined by David X. Cohen
The Simpsons

J.R. Rowling's Nonce Words

✓ Muggle



✓ Animagus



✓ Quidditch, etc.

Thank you!

