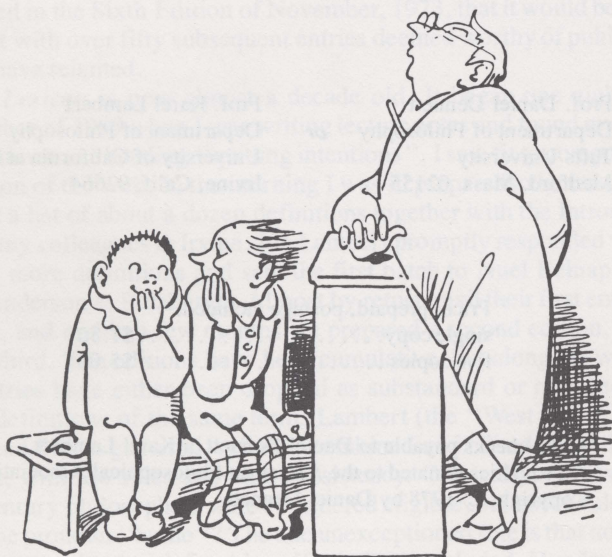


# THE PHILOSOPHICAL LEXICON



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## Preface to the Seventh Edition

This is the Seventh Edition of *The Philosophical Lexicon*, but the first to be published. Earlier editions circulated in mimeograph form. I promised in the Sixth Edition of November, 1973, that it would be the last, but with over fifty subsequent entries deemed worthy of publication, I have relented.

The *Lexicon* is now almost a decade old. It began one night in September of 1969 when I was writing lecture notes and found myself jotting down as a heading “quining intentions”. I saw fit to compose a definition of the verb. In the morning I was ill prepared to lecture, but handed a list of about a dozen definitions together with the Introduction to my colleagues at Irvine. Joe Lambert promptly responded with several more definitions and sent the first batch to Nuel Belnap and Alan Anderson at Pittsburgh. Almost by return mail their first entries arrived, and within a few months we prepared a second edition, and then a third. The editions have been cumulative, but along the way a few entries have either been dropped as substandard or replaced by better definitions of the same term. Lambert (the “West Coast Editor”) and I have gathered, refined, combined and edited as we have seen fit, with few rules and little consistency. Originally, only twentieth century philosophers were considered eligible, but how could we resist the pronoun “hume”? The one unexcepted rule is that no one has been permitted to define himself — editors included. Hundreds of entries have been submitted over the years, of which roughly a hundred are included — often drastically transformed — in this edition. Suggestions for an Eighth Edition will be gratefully received.

The (possibly incomplete) list of contributors, including those whose ideas were transmitted to me by others, is as follows:

James Alt	Dick Grandy	Stanley Munsat
Alan Ross Anderson	Martin Hollis	D. J. O'Connor
Nuel Belnap	Peter van Inwagen	Christopher Peacocke
Simon Blackburn	Robert Kane	David Pole
George Boolos	David Lewis	Amelie Rorty
David Braybrooke	Don Locke	Jay Rosenberg
Gordon Brittan	Bill Lycan	David Sanford
Jack Campin	Joe Margolis	Guy Sircello
Steven Davis	Julio Martinez	Steve Stich
David Depew	Robert Meyer	Bernard Williams
Bill de Vries	David Miller	Peter Woodruff
Rolf George	Peter Mott	David Wiggins

For this edition, all (living, locatable) *definienda* were sent advance copy of the *Lexicon* and given the opportunity to delete the entry on them if they wished, and express their opinions on the suitability of publishing this edition. We recognize that many if not all the definitions are unfair — but unfairness is of the essence of satire. It is, as one skewered definiendum put it, “perversely flattering” to be included, in however lopsided a portrayal. Our thanks for being good sports go to all our eponymous colleagues, and our apologies to all the illustrious members of the profession who deserve to be included but have so far failed to inspire a suitably pungent definition.

Dan Dennett  
Tufts University

## Introduction

The pantheon of philosophy has contributed precious little to the English language, compared with other fields. What can philosophy offer to compare with the galvanizing volts, ohms and watts of physics, the sandwiches, cardigans, and raglan sleeves of the British upper crust, the sado-masochism of their Continental counterparts, or even the leotards of the circus world? We speak of merely platonic affairs, and Gilbert Ryle has given his name to a measure of beer (roughly three-quarters of a pint), but the former is inappropriate to say the least, and the latter is restricted to the *patois* used in certain quarters of Oxford. There are, of course, the legion of pedantic terms ending in "ian" and "ism", such as "neo-Augustinian Aristotelianism", "Russellian theory of descriptions", and such marginally philosophic terms as "Cartesian coordinate" and "Machiavellian", but these terms have never been, nor deserved to be, a living part of the language. To remedy this situation we propose that philosophers make a self-conscious effort to adopt the following new terms. With a little practice these terms can become an important part of your vocabulary, to the point that you will wonder how philosophy ever proceeded without them.

**aiken**, adj. Said of one who is in the grip of some urgently occurrent aesthetic emotion, or in whom merely pleasurable impressions of reflection have given way to paroxysms. "Leo was moved by the performance, but as the orchestra finished the adagio of the Beethoven, Henry was just aiken."

**alvinize**, v. To stimulate protracted discussion by making a bizarre claim. "His contention that natural evil is due to Satanic agency alvinized his listeners."

**ameliorortate**, v. To complicate discussion of a theory or topic by drawing attention to a panoply of distinctions, difficult examples, and writings whose relevance had hitherto been conveniently underestimated. "We were really making progress until she had to go and ameliorortate the issue."

**anscombe**, v. (1) To gather for safe-keeping. "She anscombed with all the notes and letters." (2) To go over carefully, with a fine-tooth comb, in an oblique direction.

**armstrong unit**, n. Measure of the wavelength of belief (= 10 micro-smarts).

**arthurdantist**, n. One who straightens the teeth of exotic dogmas. "Little Friedrich used to say the most wonderful things before we took him to the arthurdantist!" — Frau Nietzsche

**austintatious**, adj. Displaying a fine sense for niceties of the language. "I'm not sure what his point was, but his presentation was certainly austintatious."

**ayer**, v. (from Spanish, *ayer*, meaning yesterday) To oversimplify elegantly in the direction of a past generation. "Russell, in the *Analysis of Mind*, ayers a behavioristic account of belief."

**bahm**, v. To devastate with reprints. "He bahmed the country with his latest piece."

**baier**, n.m. One who obtains his ethical theory from a vandler. Also, n.f., one who obtains her philosophy of mind from sellers.

**bambrough**, n. (1) a rare and umbrageous tree in the shelter of which all philosophical perplexity can be charmed away.

Where the bread fruit fall  
And the penguin call  
And the sound is the sound of the sea  
Under the bam  
Under the brough  
Under the bambrough tree.

(2) (from *bang-brow*) a comment of such transcendent obviousness that were any hearer actually informed by it, he would smite his forehead with the heel of his hand. "Such a bambrough! Why didn't I think of it?"

**barcan**, n. the cry of the bulldog. "Tho' bitin' may scar us, no barcan can mark us" — Old Professor's Song at Yale.

**bar-hillel**, n. A whipping post. "We've got him over a bar-hillel."

**bedau**, n. A water bed, equipped with a light show and a hi fi system with recordings of the sea surf; one lies gently lulled by the sound of the sea going on and on. It is reputed by its users to foster a heightened sense of social justice, and hence is often advocated by rehabilitationists as a benign alternative to the electric chair. "You'll get the chair for this — or at least the bedau!"

**belnap**, n. (from *bel-*, beautiful, + *carnap*) A carnap felicitously defined in ordinary idiomatic language (e.g. "synonymous" for "intensionally isomorphic").

**bergson**, n. a mountain of sound, a "buzzing, blooming confusion".

**berlin**, n. An old fashioned stage coach, filled with international travelers, all talking rapidly and telling anecdotes of vivid life elsewhere. "As the berlin came through town, one could hear many accents one had never heard before, and delightful tales."

**bertrand**, n. (1) A state of profound abstraction of mind and spirit; a trance. "He went into a bertrand and began to babble about the class of all classes which are not members of themselves." (2) The state of a person who suffers from delusions (e.g. as of one who doubts that, when he sees a table, he sees a table), or has visions (e.g. of the present King of France). (3) A state of linguistic amnesia, as of one who believes that "this" is a proper name and "Plato" a description.

**Black Max, the**, n. Coveted decoration, annually awarded to the philosopher who stays aloft the longest by flying in circles.

**block**, n. A small but obdurate obstacle preventing the smooth operation of a mechanism, a spanner in the works. Hence, *mental block*, an objection to functionalism obsessively maintained in the face of all manner of refutations, blandishments and appeals to common cause.

**bouwsma**, n. The sound made by a dogma, hence *bouwsmatic*, said of one who philosophizes by ear.

**brandt**, v. To take a flexible and complex position and stun it by affixing a slogan description, with its own mark attached as a label. "The argument was good for a long run until he brandt it, and then all it could do was look dazed and sorry."

**brodbeck**, n. A female expert in a predominantly male field; especially one who can carry the extra load involved.

**brouw**, n. Intuition. Hence, *heybrouw*, adj., of refined intuition.

**bunged-up**, adj. Full of unnecessary material.

**carnap**, n. A formally defined symbol, operator, special bit of notation. "His prose is peppered with carnaps" or "the argument will proceed more efficiently if we introduce a few carnaps."

**cartwright**, adj. Characterizing one who takes such pains in constructing the cart that one never gets to see whether the car is put before or after the horse. Hence, *cartwrong*, adj., slapdash.

**castaneda**, n. An elaborate musical instrument, emitting a confused sound when agitated. "The original theme was lost in the sound of the castaneda."

**cavell**, v. An exquisitely sensitive distinction of language, hence *cavellier*, adj., characterizing a writing style common among extraordinary language philosophers.

**chihara-kiri**, n. The death of aleph-nought cuts.

**chisholm**, v. To make repeated small alterations in a definition or example. "He started with definition (d.8) and kept chisholming away at it until he ended up with (d.8''''''')."

**chomsky**, adj. Said of a theory that draws extravagant metaphysical implications from scientifically established facts. "Essentially, Hume's criticism of the Argument from Design is that it leads in all its forms to blatantly chomsky conclusions." "The conclusions drawn from Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle are not only on average chomskier than those drawn from Gödel's theorem; most of them are downright merleau-ponty."

**church**, n. A tightly constructed heavily defended medieval place of worship, now primarily a tourist attraction.

**copiwrite**, v. To come out with a revised edition for some purpose (e.g. to remove inconsistency or cut off the used book market).

**croce**, n. A method of knitting spaghetti; thus, an intricate tangle.

**curry**, n. A work well seasoned with neologisms; hence, *curried*, adj., "His work was an indigestible mass of curried grice."

**dagfinn**, n. One of the two possible outcomes of crossing a shark with a dolphin (the other is the follesdal). The dagfinn is toughminded and tenderhearted, while the follesdal is soft-minded and hard-hearted; travelling together in symbiotic pairs, they are the only intelligent creatures at home in deep waters.

**davidsonic**, adj. of speed: minimum superforward velocity required to keep a research program in the air. *superdavidsonic*, of research program for which this speed is zero. Hence, *davidsonic boom*, the sound made by a research program when it hits Oxford.

**dennett**, v. To while away the hours defining surnames; hence, *dennettation*, n. The meaning of a surname. "Every surname has both a meinong and a dennettation."

**desousaphone**, n. A musical instrument, descended from the harmonica (q.v.); like the bassoon, it is often used to provide comic effects in program music.



**donagan**, v. To subject a thinker to periodic revival, as in "I thought it was time to rediscover Collingwood, but I found he had already been donaganned."

**donnellan**, v. Contraction of "don't know from nothing." "This stuff about reference I donnellan."

**dreyfus**, n. (from "dry" & "fuss") an arid *ad hominem* controversy. "What began as an interesting debate soon degenerated into a dreyfus."

**dummett**, v. Contraction of "thumb through it"; as in "I'm afraid the only index this book has is almost the same as the table of contents, so you'll just have to dummett."

**ew.**, v. To work in an impenetrable medium. "He spent his whole life ewing an idealistic line."

**feigl**, v. (with *out*) To give up a previously held position. "Once the antinomy was pointed out to him he feigled out."

**feinberg**, n. A mountain of finely grained distinctions; hence, *feinberg*, v. To work one's way out of a corner by building and mounting a feinberg. "I was pinned in by his argument, but then managed to feinberg my way out."

**feyerabend**, n. (fr. German "feuer" & "abend") The last brilliant moment of a conceptual framework before death and transfiguration. Every conceptual framework has its feyerabend.

**feys**, n. An important work (text or reference) in an esoteric subject. "To all who observed him, the graduate student appeared to be going through a feys." Hence, *feys*, v. To seem on first reading to be an important work. "Quine's latest book did not feys him for a minute."

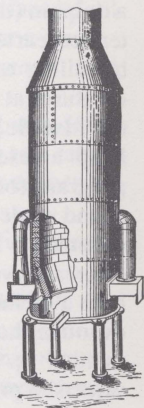
**findlay**, n. An implement used in the exploration of caves. It is not known exactly what it is because it is only used in total darkness.

**fitch**, v. To seek sound arguments for positions no one holds. "In his last article he really went fitching." Hence, *fitch*, n. Such an argument, and *fitchous*; adj., describing such arguments (e.g. a fitchous circle), also *fitchy*, adj. "His argument struck me as fitchy."

**flew**, (1) n. An old-fashioned device for blowing smoke into churches. "He was so annoyed by the fitch that he stuck it up the flew." (2) v. To glide rapidly and superficially over difficult terrain (cf. *foot* and *randall*). "We were trying to heidegg the suppositions in hampshire but he just flew right by."

**fodor**, n. A jaunty hat worn at a rakish angle, under which one keeps one's katz-kradle (q.v.).

**fogel**, v. (with *in*) (cf. *feigl out*) To adopt a position just after its futility has been widely acknowledged (e.g., to accept the chairmanship of Yale in the mid-sixties).



flew

**foot**, v. To work one's way close to the ground, in a descriptive manner, avoiding all flights of construction. (cf. *flew*, *randall*)

**foucault**, n. A howler, an insane mistake. "I'm afraid I've committed an egregious foucault."

**frege**, n. (only in the idiom, *to beg the frege*) To acknowledge the inconsistency of one's position but maintain it anyway.

**gadam**, v. To expound the meaning of abstruse writings, dreams, arcane and necromantic symbols, and the rest of the universe, in ways pleasing to the humanist. Hence, *gadamer*, n., one who gadams. Hence, also the adjective, *gadam*, *gadamer*, *gadamest*, of or pertaining to the activity of gadaming. "I done my gadamest."

**geach**, n. Indefinable term, which can be learned only by ostension, having to do with the way one reacts to a philosophic issue or individual. "It made me want to geach." "They were sitting in the bar, geaching at Whitehead." "It is hard to say whether he is seriously chisholming the definition or just geaching off."

**gerasimos santas**, interj. Ritual chant of the moravcsiki.

**getty**, adj. Describing a counterexample that obtains its conclusion. "Your first ryle raises some interesting questions, but your second is gettier."

**gödel**, adj. Said of a contribution: fundamental. (see *kleene*).

**good<sub>ij</sub>**, n. An entry in a utility matrix — more specifically, the utility of act<sub>i</sub> in the event of outcome<sub>j</sub>.

**goodman**, n. An apparent straw man that does not succumb to repeated glancing blows, a riddle that resists solution. "It's hard to keep a goodman down."

**grice**, n. Conceptual intricacy. "His examination of Hume is distinguished by erudition and grice." Hence, *griceful*, adj., and *griceless*, adj., "An obvious and griceless polemic." pl. *grouse*, A multiplicity of grice, fragmenting into great detail, often in reply to an original grice note.

**grunbaum**, n. (in German folklore) A tree which, when one of its fruits is bruised, produces another of the same shape, taste, and texture but five times as large.

**gunderstanding**, n. Machine intelligence. Also, *gunderstatement*, n., a print-out.

**gustav**, n. Metaphysical abandon. "He conducts the argument with great gustav."

**habermass**, (from the Middle High German *halber Marx*; cf. *ganzer Marx*) n. A religious ceremony designed to engender an illusion of understanding through chants describing socio-economic conditions. Hence also, *habermass*, v. "He habermassed Einstein; he attempted to deduce the special theory of relativity from the social structure

of the Zurich patent office.” “Nothing but a gadam habermass” — H. S. Truman.

**hack**, v. To deal vigorously with. “He spent years hacking his way through the stochastic jungle.” See also *ew*, a gentler variant.

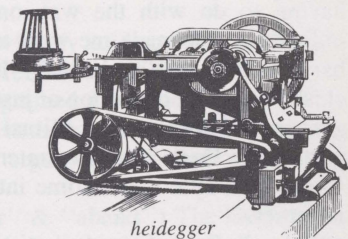
**hampshire**, n. A scenic bit of English countryside, providing broad prospects and distant horizons, but one must foot one’s way carefully; under the marsh there is a bog.

**hare**, n. Standard unit of moral indignation, as felt by Professor Hare when observing a motorist breaking the Highway Code. (Standard, of course, to be specified.)

**harmanica**, n. A musical instrument played with tongue in cheek. Also, *harmaniac*, n. One who does not realize a harmanica is played with tongue in cheek.

**harp**, v. To converse at great length and with immense enthusiasm about something totally incomprehensible to one’s listener.

**heidegger**, n. A ponderous device for boring through thick layers of substance. “It’s buried so deep we’ll have to use a heidegger.”



**hempel**, adj. (only in the idiom *hempel-minded*) Said of one who insists on recasting the problem in first order logic.

**henk**, v. To accuse someone of not having first-hand acquaintance with what he is talking about. (cf. the German “*daraus werde der Henker klug*”) “The mathematicians held a henk-in at the philosophy colloquium.” “I’m henked even if I know.”

**hintikka**, n. A measure of belief, the smallest logically discernible difference between beliefs; “He argued with me all night, but did not alter my beliefs one hintikka.”

**hosper**, v. To publish philosophical textbooks and anthologies with great frequency; hence, *hosperous*, adj., said of one who hospers.

**hume**, pron. Indefinite personal and relative pronoun, presupposing no referent. Useful esp. in writing solipsistic treatises, sc. “to hume it may concern.” (2) v. To commit to the flames, bury, or otherwise destroy a philosophical position, as in “That theory was humed in the 1920’s.” Hence, *exhume*, v., to revive a position generally believed to be humed.

**jaspers**, n. The hours when darkness returns; a time for self-examination, and meditation upon the human condition.

**kaplan**, n. Ecclesiastical spokesman appointed by the A.P.A. to deliver a lengthy impromptu benediction after every paper at a recognized colloquium.

**katz**, n. (shortened from *katz-kradle*) A device of wires and pulleys for determining meanings.

**kenny**, adj. Clever.

**kleene**, adj. Exhaustive, complete; "Kleeneness is next to gödelness."

**körner**, n. Quasi-quotation. Also, *körner*, v. To paraphrase. "He körnered my ideas with great accuracy, but his criticisms were well wide of the mark." Hence also *körner corn*, v. To dennett.

**kreisel**, n. An imperfect crystal. Hence, *kreisel-clear*, adj., obscure.

**kripke**, adj. Not understood, but considered brilliant. "I hate to admit it, but I found his remarks quite kripke."

**kuhn**, n. A fox often mistaken for a hedghog; it is usually attended by such a commotion that it appears more than twice as heavy as it really is.

**lakoff**, v. To rub the deep structure of a sentence until it expresses its logical form. "Too much laking off can cause insanity."

**lambert**, n. The whinny of a non-existent horse. "Pegasus lamberted plaintively: 'E!E!E!E!'"

**leblanc**, n. A place-holder symbol. "When a variable isn't available use leblanc."

**levi**, n. A betting rate or tax.

**lewis**, adj. (said of an argument) Having premises and conclusions unrelated in content, (e.g. The entailment of "Russell is the Pope" by " $2 + 2 = 5$ "). If the argument is valid, the relation between premises and conclusion is that of *lewis implication*.

**locke**, v. To mistake a contemporary philosopher with an earlier philosopher of the same name. "I'm afraid you have David and C. I. Lewis locked"; hence, *to unlocke*, to become *otherwise* (q.v.).

**lucas-pocus**, interjection, An incantation, ritualistically uttered by users of the abracadabracus, an organic, non-mechanistic calculating device for producing Gödel sentences.

**ludwig**, n. A small beetle that looks exactly like an earwig, but is invisible.

**lycan**, n. An automated trash sorter containing a powerful solvent; one deposits a jumble of theories in it, pushes a button, and the mess is dissolved into its components, neatly packaged and ready to discard.

**macintyre**, n. An inflated wheel with a slick, impervious coating; hence, derivatively, an all-terrain vehicle equipped with macintyres.



*lycan*

“If you want to cover that much territory that fast, you’d best use the macintyre.”

**malcolm**, n. Measure of resistance to the encroachment of scientific results on a philosophic position; hence *malcolment*, n. one who so resists. (Malcolments have been said to rely heavily on a certain text known as the *vade malcolm*.)

**martin**, v. To overwhelm with carnaps. “If he was martinned by the book, he should not have agreed to review it.”

**massey**, adj. Describing the work of someone who is hemple-minded.

**mctaggart**, n. A black hole which not only sheds no light but in which time stands still. “Some mctaggarts are rather broad.”

**meinong**, n. The intension of a meaningless term.

**merleau-ponty**, adj. In the wrong order, with confused foundations, said of a theory; figurative synonyms are upside-down, topsy-turvy, front-to-back. “The sense-datum approach to certainty was all merleau-ponty in the first place.”

**moore**, v. To try to win an argument by taking something out of your pocket. “I couldn’t think of anything to say so I hauled off and moored him.”

**mooring**, n. A common-sense belief, attitude, etc. “In his youth he was so overcome by Hegelian rhetoric that he lost his moorings.”

**moravcsiki**, n. pl. Subversive mystery cultists who worship Plato and Aristotle.

**neurotto**, adj. Obsessed with protocol.

**nicknack**, n. An interesting oddity of no real importance. “He devoted his time to such nicknacks as the Cartesian Circle, the Naturalistic Fallacy, and the Ontological Argument.” Hence, *nicknackian*, n. One preoccupied with nicknacks, and *nacknickian*, n. a merleau-ponty nicknackian.

**noam**, n. Unit of Resistance. “Hilary is a popper noam.”

**nozick**, n. (from nostrum + physick) Political snake oil, a patent medicine, esp. a cathartic or purgative. “Waste not logick, not yet strong physick, on the Leviathan; serve it nozick, and stand back.” — Hobbes.

**otherwise**, adj. Knowing the difference between two philosophers with identical interests and the same name, hence *otherwisdom*, n. Also, v. (with “up”), “I got otherwisely up about the Smullyans.”

**outsmart**, v. To embrace the conclusion of one’s opponent’s *reductio ad absurdum* argument. “They thought they had me, but I outsmarted them. I agreed that it was sometimes just to hang an innocent man.”

**owen**, v. To be indebted to the entire Greek corpus for one’s views. “I owened winning the argument to 1094 b 12-14.”

**parfit**, adj. Generally used in poetic and fanciful fiction, to describe a medieval knight on a single-minded but learned quest for an invisible and impossible goal. Cf. "He was a gentel, parfit knight." — Chaucer.

**partee**, n. (in the idiom, *to be a partee to*) To become an enthusiastic spokesperson for someone else's theory. Hence, *repartee*, n. repeated championing.

**pastin**, n. A statement (ordered triple of sentence, proposition and condition of assertion) with an infinitely convoluted warrant profile. (acronym from *p* is accepted by *s* at *t* even though intelligible only after  $> n$  readings).

**phippogriff**, n. (also *phillippogriff*) A legendary creature, now almost inaccessible to either knowledge or belief.

**pitcher**, n. A perceptually caused, non-imagistic belief. "I'm having this mental pitcher of Mary" — "What?" — "I'm causally-receiving in the standard visual way a perceptual belief about Mary" — "Oh."

**planting**, v. To use twentieth century fertilizer to encourage new shoots from eleventh century ideas which everyone thought had gone to seed; hence, *planter*, n. one who plantings.

**popkin**, n. An expletive indicating great doubt.

**popper**, adj. Exhibiting great moral seriousness; *impopper*, frivolous.

**prior**, n. What one must know if one is to know anything about a subject. "When it comes to tense logic he doesn't know his prior from his posterior."

**putname**, n. A presumed expert authorized by a society to name a natural kind and determine its members.

**quine**, v. (1) To deny resolutely the existence or importance of something real or significant. "Some philosophers have quined classes, and some have even quined physical objects." Occasionally used intr., e.g., "You think I quine, sir. I assure you I do not!" (2) n. The total aggregate sensory surface of the world; hence *quinitis*, irritation of the quine.

**ramsify**, v. To simplify. E.g., ramsified theory of types.

**randall**, n. A brisk entertaining stroll through a philosophical subject, footing none too carefully and proceeding too fast to allow for thorough acquaintance with the terrain. Hence *randall*, v. with *on*. "His book randalls on about Plato, but it is far too long."



putname

**rawl**, n. A fishing line, baited with a few apparently innocent intuitions about fairness, but capable of bringing in such big fish as Pareto optimality and God knows what else. “But some who use a rawl are only fitching.” Hence, *rawl*, v. “When he rawled that slender line in, I could hardly believe my eyes.”

**resch**, (1) v. To evince an extravagant or pathological degree of intellectual energy in many directions. “He is always resching into print — one can’t keep up with his stuff.” (2) *rescher*, n. A unit for measuring the volume of printed pages, equal to the collected works of Francis Bacon (hence, a rescher of Bacon). 1 rescher = 10,000 sheffers. “The new wing will increase the library capacity by over a thousand reschers.”

**richmond**, n. The capital of the possible U.S. in which the Confederates won.

**roderick**, n. The art of writing purely decorative scholarly footnotes. “The first principle of roderick is to quote authors whose names are known widely but whose works are read seldom.” — John Venn. (The *trivium*, or lower division of the seven liberal arts, consists of transformational grammar, modal logic, and roderick.)

**rort**, n. m. An incorrigible report; hence, *rorty*, adj., incorrigible.

**royce**, v. To involve the topic “in such adamant cobwebs of voluminous rolling speculation that no one could regain his senses thereafter.” — John Jay Chapman, *Memories and Milestones*, 1915.

**rush rhees**, n. A type of plaited prayer-mat used by pietist sect founded by the spiritual leader, Ludwig II.

**ryle**, v. To give examples. “He ryles on and on without ever daring a conclusion.” Hence, n. An example. “His argument was elucidated by a variety of apt ryles.” “The original ryle has been chisholmed beyond recognition.” (2) A variety of smooth, lucid, thin ice that forms on bogs.

**salmon**, n. An inductive fitch.

**santayana**, n. A hot, exhausting wind originating in the desert areas of Spain.

**schilpp**, n. A high level of distinction, hence *on the schilpp*, adj., said of someone who has nowhere to go.

**schlick**, adj. Characterising a theory or position close-shaven by Occam’s razor. “Push, pull, schlick, schlick.”

**scrive**, v. To write in tongues, the orthographic equivalent of glossolalia. “What can’t be said, can’t be said, and it can’t be whistled either — but it can be scriven.” — attributed to F. P. Ramsey.

**searley**, adj. Contemptuous of leftist political thought, because of presumed lack of rigor. “When the demonstrators asked whether

'academic freedom' meant freedom to pursue war research, the Dean turned quite searley."

**shoemaker**, n. A cobbler's body that has been entered and informed by the soul of a prince.

**skin**, v. To ignore the inside of something. "There is more than one way to skin a katz." Hence, *skinner*, n. one who skins.

**slote**, v. To swallow something large or cumbersome (e.g., a sword, a horse, an epistemic principle). "She just opened her throat and sloted the goat", "If you can slote that you must be pretty ungly."

**smart**, v. To argue against someone until what is going on in him is like what would be going on in him had he sat on a tack. "That smarts." See also *outsmart*.

**strawson**, n. The descendant of a strawman, a position obscurely descended from a position never occupied.

**supposition**, n. Any assumption equivalent to the axiom of choice.

**taylor**, v., (in the idiom, *to taylor the argument*) To defend an absurd position or conclusion by inventing equally absurd premises or inferences; as in, "It's easy to get a proof of fatalism if you know how to taylor the argument." Also, *taylor's dummy*, an absurd principle on which to hang bits of metaphysical nonsense.

**thomson gun**, n. A double-barreled sniping weapon developed at M.I.T.

**unger**, n. Extreme epistemic undernourishment, often developing into a sceptic ulcer. "The suggestion that no one knows what he had for breakfast this morning is strictly from unger."

**vendle**, v. To attempt to sell a philosopher a linguistic bill of goods; hence, *vendler*, n. One who vendles.

**vlastos**, n. Ceremonial denunciation by the moravcsiki of anyone doubting the contemporary relevance of Plato or Aristotle. Hence, *vlast*, v. with *off*, to issue a *vlastos*.

**wang**, n. (not in polite usage): the organ of ramification.

**warnock**, n. a bruise, sustained in fencing. "I was lucky to get away from Oxford with nothing more than a couple of warnocks."

**weiss**, adj. Said of one who roycles. "He's a weiss guy."

**wej**, n. The sign of disjohnson.

**wiggins**, n. pl. A series of small jumps, inserting missing premises between any two others. "As we proceeded along with our wiggins, the conclusion seemed to get farther and farther away."

**wilfrid**, adj. Said of a theory one presumes to be true but finds incomprehensible; "You physicists all seem to agree, but it's wilfrid to me." "I'm sorry, your Holiness, but every time you explain the Trinity to me it goes all wilfrid in my mind." Also, said of a person, *bewilfrid*.



**winch**, n. A delicate shudder of incomprehension. "Give him a winch and he'll take a ryle." Hence, *winchcraft*, an incomprehensible social institution.

**wisdom**, n. A state of clarity and understanding so complete and exhaustive yet also so detailed and complex, as to be totally incommunicable.

**wollheim**, n. A leisurely investigation, with well-intentioned desires to return home to the point, but always wandering off again.

**ziff**, n. A nasty philosophical dispute. "I had a ziff with him once in the journals."