

Be College Ready

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUMMER ACTIVITY



THE ORIGINS OF NEW WORDS (ETYMOLOGY)

WORD OF THE YEAR – 'TOXIC', 'YOUTHQUAKE', 'SELFIE' AND 'CLIMATE EMERGENCY'

The Oxford English Dictionaries Word of the Year is a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of interest over the last 12 months. Every year, the OED debates which word they should select for word of the year and choose a winner that is judged to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of that particular year and to have lasting potential as a word of cultural significance.

OVERVIEW OF THE WORD

Post-truth was listed as The Oxford English Dictionaries word of the year in 2016 and has gone from being a peripheral term to being a mainstay in political commentary, now often being used by major publications without the need for clarification or definition in their headlines.



THE ECONOMIST CITING OF THE WORD



Obama founded ISIS. George Bush was behind 9/11. Welcome to post-truth politics *http://econ.st/2eCASwE*

ART OF THE LIE

Politicians have always lied. Does it matter if they leave the truth behind entirely?

economist.com





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THE INDEPENDENT

'We've entered a post-truth world and there's no going back' http://ind.pn/2fPyZ3v

Anyone who has closely watched a campaign that has captivated and besmirched its followers in equal measure could name several contenders for Most Lastingly Significant Quote.

independent.co.uk



The term has moved from being relatively new to being widely understood in a year – demonstrating its impact on the national and international consciousness. The concept of post-truth has been simmering for the past decade, but Oxford shows the word spiking in frequency this year in the context of the Brexit referendum in the UK and the presidential election in the US, and becoming associated overwhelmingly with a particular noun, in the phrase post-truth politics.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF POST-TRUTH

The compound word post-truth exemplifies an expansion in the meaning of the prefix post- that has become increasingly prominent in recent years. Rather than simply referring to the time after a specified situation or event – as in post-war or post-match – the prefix in post-truth has a meaning more like 'belonging to a time in which the specified concept has become unimportant or irrelevant'. This nuance seems to have originated in the mid-20th century, in formations such as post-national (1945) and postracial (1971).

Post-truth seems to have been first used in this meaning in a 1992 essay by the late Serbian-American playwright Steve Tesich in The Nation magazine. Reflecting on the Iran-Contra scandal and the Persian Gulf War, Tesich lamented that 'we, as a free people, have freely decided that we want to live in some post-truth world'. There is evidence of the phrase 'post-truth' being used before Tesich's article, but apparently with the transparent meaning 'after the truth was known', and not with the new implication that truth itself has become irrelevant.

A book, The Post-truth Era, by Ralph Keyes appeared in 2004, and in 2005 American comedian Stephen Colbert popularized an informal word relating to the same concept: truthiness, defined by Oxford Dictionaries as 'the quality of seeming or being felt to be true, even if not necessarily true'. Post-truth extends that notion from an isolated quality of assertions to a general characteristic of our age.

Check your understanding of the terms - compound word and prefix



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TASK - WHAT CAN WE FIND OUT ABOUT NEW WORDS?

- What do you think the word of the year will be for 2020? Why?
- Select a new word from word of the year link below and research an overview, citing and detailed explanation of the term, using the example of **POST-TRUTH** as a guide

https://en.oxforddictionairies.com/word-of-the-year-2019

https://collinsidctionary.com/woty

https://americandialect.org/woty

The English team look forward to seeing your completed task in September