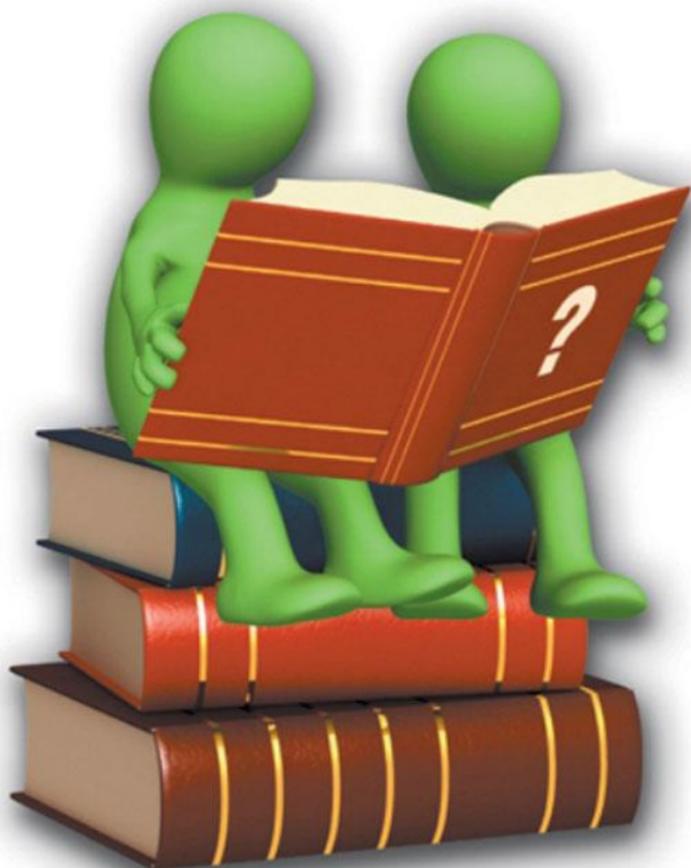


**BRIAN
ALLEN**

**DUBIOUS
DEFINITIONS:**

**A DICTIONARY OF
MISINTERPRETATION**



Dubious Definitions

**A Dictionary of
Misinterpretation**

Brian Allen



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*With loving thanks to Marie for her
unfailing encouragement and help.*



Many words in the English language have more than one meaning, but there are others that could work harder. All the words listed may be found in any good dictionary or encyclopedia.



AADVARK n.

Animal. One of the two members of the vark family; the other being the less aggressive soft or cuddly vark.

AASVOGEL. n.

Bird. The original winged creature that flies around in ever decreasing circles until it finally disappears up its own bottom.

ABALONE. n. (*AB = Able seaman,uk.*)

Unmarried sailor.

ABERRANT. n.

Ill-disciplined sailor.

ABNORMAL. n.

A well-disciplined sailor.

ABOMINATION. n.

Thoroughly unpleasant country.

ABORIGINAL. *n.*

Noah.

ABROAD. *n.*

Second class highway.

ABSEIL. *n.*

Deckhand on windjammer.

ABSALON. *n.*

Mess room for sailors.

ABSIT OMEN. *n.*

Trailer for B grade sit-com. L.

ABYSMAL. *n.*

Thoroughly unsatisfactory sailor.

ACCENT. *n.*

One hundred dollar bill.

ACCENTUATED. *n.*

Bearing an accent, of a word.

ACIDOPHILE. *n.*

Drug user.

ACOUSTIC. *n.*

Cattle probe.

ACQUAINTANCE. *n.*

Unusual friend.

ACRIMONY. *n.*

Disputed monetary legacy.

ACRONYCHAL. *adj.*

Descriptive of appointment of friend to a position, particularly political.

ACRONYM. *n.*

Nepotism.

ACROSTIC. *n.*

A mark grudgingly given by examiner to a correct answer.

ACTINODIUM. *n. vb.*

1. Unfavorable criticism of actor's performance. 2. To allow personal dislike to influence one's behaviour.

ADDICTION. *n.*

The almost unintelligible rapid speech of advertisers.

AD INFINITEM. *n.*

Long-running advertisement. L.

ADLAS. *n.*

Mixed salad.

AJUTAGE. *n.*

Female puberty.

ADAPT. *n.*

An appropriate advertisement.

ADMIRE. *n.*

Derogatory advertisement, mud throwing.
Use mainly restricted to politicians.

ADUMBRATE. *n.*

A 'B' grade for sheer stupidity.

ADULATE. *n.*

Overdue library book.

ADVERSE. *n.*

Advertising jingle.

ADYTUM. *n.*

Overlarge stomach.

AERATED. *n.*

Certificate of airworthiness.

AEROBICS. *n.*

In-flight snacks.

AGILE. *adv.*

Deceitful.

AGORAPHOBIA. *n.*

Fear of blood.

ALBERT ROSS. *n.*

The eighteenth century ornithologist who discovered the eponymously named wandering sea bird of the southern oceans.

ALBUM. *n.*

An over generous *gluteus maximus* muscle.

ALEATORY. *vb.*

To buy a conservative MP a drink.

ALGORITHM. *n.*

Universally appealing popular musical rhythm.

AL FRESCO. *n.*

Highly talented Italian painter and decorator of the 16th century. Not to be confused with Alf A Romeo 4th century B.C. maker of racing chariots. Itl.

ALLEGORY. *n.*

Serious injury to the leg.

ALLIANCE. *n.*

Political coalition based on the usual degree of political truthfulness.

ALLOPHONE. *n.*

Answer-phone.

ALTERNATIVES. *vb.*

To convert local people.

AMBIVALANCE. *n.*

Double-sided curtain.

AMIABLE. *interrog.*

Query seeking confirmation of one's ability.

AMPERSAND. *n.*

Type of builder's container for carting gravel etc.

AMSTERDAM. *n.*

1. Dutch cap, contraceptive. 2. Female hamster.

ANALGESIA. *n.*

Anal anesthetic.

ANATOMIZE. *v.*

Castrate a tomcat.

ANCHORITE. *n.*

Specialized form of extra secure anchor.

ANDALUSIAN. *adj.*

Of or pertaining to an appliance with insecure handle.

ANECDOTAGE. *n.*

Over-talkative old age.

ANECDOTE. *n.*

Sexually driven fetish with fixation on neck.

ANGLOPHILE. *n.*

Specialized mechanic's tool for smoothing in corners.

ANNUS HORRABILIS. *n.*

Hemorrhoids. L.

ANODYNE. *n.*

A strict form of diet.

ANONYMOUS. *n.*

Unclassified rodent.

ANOREXIA. *n.*

Little known saint. Saint Ann of Rexia, a rural region in Turkistan. Possibly related to Anne of Cleves. Patron saint of the diet

conscious; canonized after a lethal bout of over enthusiastic asceticism.

ANTAGONISTIC. *adj.*

Possessed of a great dislike of *graffiti*.

ANTENATAL. *n. adj.*

Contraceptive.

ANTIGROPELOS. *n.*

Item of clothing for protection against sexual harassment.

ANTIPHLOGISTIC. *adj.*

Opposed to use of corporal punishment.

ANTONYM. *n.*

Cleopatra's pet name for her lover, Roman general Mark Antony.

ANTIMONY. *n.*

Spendthrift.

ANTISEPTIC. *n.*

A believer, the opposite of skeptic.

APARTMENT. *n.*

Separation.

APHORISM. *n.*

A vote in favor.

APHRODITE. *n.*

African folk song.

APIARY. *n.*

Public toilet.

APOSTOLIC. *n.*

An over enthusiastic letter writer.

APOSTULATE. *n.*

The act of missing the post.

APPOGGIATURA. *n.*

Similar to a coloratura, but paler and fatter.

APPOSITE. *n.*

Location for latrines, tech, mil.

AQUATIC. *n.*

Fish parasite.

ARCHIMEDES. *n.*

Nickname of scientist and philosopher
Archibald Medes.

ARGON. *n.*

Affected manner of speech in which Rs are
pronounced as Ws; much in favour with the
self-styled British upper classes, cf Gloss.

ARISTOCRATIC. *n.*

Insect often found in the houses of the self-styled upper classes.

ARISTOPHENES. *n.*

His mother's pet name for the playwright more properly known as Harold Stophenes. He had a well known cousin Harold Stotle.

ARSENIC. *adj.*

Unusually well-formed, of buttocks.

ASCEND. *n.*

Lower portion of an object.

ASCENT. *n.*

Donkey BO.

ASLOPE. *n.*

Donkey Derby.

ASPEN. *n.*

Donkey stable.

ASPERSORIUM. *n.*

A place or container for keeping asps.

ASPIC. *n. vb.*

1. Parliamentary election. 2. To scratch one's bottom.

ASPIRATE. *adj.*

Emotional state of snake which bit Queen Cleopatra.

ASPIRATION. *n.*

Death by asp bite, initiated by Queen Cleopatra.

ASSAIL. *n.*

Disease of donkeys.

ASSEMBLAGE. *n.*

1. Herd of donkeys. 2. Parliament in session.

ASSENT. *n.*

Successful Parliamentary candidate due to take up seat.

ASSIZE. *n.*

Hip measurement.

ASSOIL. *n.*

Treatment for donkeys' hooves.

ASSURANCE. *n.*

Life insurance for donkeys.

ASTEROID. *n.*

Performance enhancing drug for participants in Donkey Derby.

ASTRAL. *adj.*

Pertaining to donkeys.

ATOMIC. *n.* (*Tom slang prostitute, uk.*)

Proprietor, madam of a brothel.

ATTESTATION. *n.*

Exam venue.

AU FAIT. *adj.*

Mediumistic. F.

AU FOND. *adj.*

Attracted but not quite in love. F.

AU NATUREL. *n.*

Mineral water. F.

AU PIED DE LA LETTRE. *phr.*

Post office motto, "Letters by foot." F.

AUTO DA FE. *n.*

Motor show.

AUTOEROTISM. *n.*

Sexual activity in a motor vehicle.

AVOIR DU POIS. *adj.*

Well presented, calm, lit having poise. F.

AWESTRUCK. *adj.*

Rowing misadventure, to have caught a crab.

AWFUL. *adj.*

Generating the greatest possible degree of awe.

AWSOME. *adj.*

Generating a partial degree of awe.

AXIOMATIC. *n.*

Four-wheel-drive vehicle.

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