

Words You Thought You Knew

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Welcome to *Words You Thought You Knew*, a frequent newsy commentary on words.



I'm not a perfectionist, and most times I get too caught up in the story to look up a word I don't know. Kindle has made this easy, but when you're reading an actual book, this is how it goes: find a word you don't know, stop reading, look up in the dictionary, find the place where you stopped, and get back into the flow of the book.

A recent title I picked up from a library sale was [B*tch in a Bonnet: Reclaiming Jane Austen from the Stiffs, the Snobs, the Simps, and the Saps \(Volume 2\)](#) by Robert Rodi. This book is not for purist Jane Austen fans (ahem, my younger sister). Admittedly, the cover and the title hooked me. Our heroine on the cover looks like a laudanum addict. The author, Robert Rodi, has written a modern-day running commentary on every book Jane Austen wrote. He provides comical entertainment that keeps one reading way past their bedtime.

Below, is a compiled list of words I came across that I thought I knew but didn't. Usually, I would whiz past them and try to get the meaning from other words used in the sentence.

So, test your vocabulary. Do you know these words, or do you *think* you know these words?

1. **Schlemiel:** An awkward or unlucky person.
2. **Beatific:** Blissfully happy. Imparting holy bliss.
3. **Valedictory:** Serving as a farewell.
4. **Interminable:** Endless.
5. **Riposte:** A quick, clever reply to an insult or criticism.
6. **Hawt:** American slang. See urban dictionary. Slang for the word hot.
 - a. My only chance of having a smokin' hot body is cremation.
 - b. My only chance of having a smokin' hawt body is cremation.
7. **Somnambulant:** Sleepwalking.
8. **Emendation:** Make corrections and improvements to (a text).
9. **Imbroglia:** Extremely confused, complicated, or embarrassing situation.
10. **Gambol:** Run or jump about playfully.
11. **Scarpered:** To run away.
12. **Avarice:** Extreme wealth or material gain.
13. **Obsequious:** Obedient or attentive to an excessive or servile degree.

14. **Dastardly:** Wicked, evil, or cruel.

15. **Gambit:** An opening in which a player makes a sacrifice, typically of a pawn, for the sake of some compensation advantage.

16. **Rapaciousness:** Aggressively greedy or grasping.

Your conversation or running commentary are welcome. For the next edition, I promise, I'm off my Austen kick.