

Birthday Words

Use the advanced search functionality of the *OED* (on campus or using [eduVPN](#)) to list words first attested in your year of birth (by selecting the “First use” radio button under “Date of use,” then entering your year of birth in both the “From” and “To” fields). Dictionary aficionados refer to words thus arrived at as “birthday words.” Pick your favourite from the list and:

1. Identify the exact process by which it was formed (cf. course slides and/or concepts on Word Formation);
2. Reflect on why you think the word might have been introduced at that particular time (was there no need for it before? What cultural pressures may have played a role?);
3. Assess how the word’s popularity has been trending since its first introduction;
4. Reflect on what might explain the word’s lasting success or lack thereof.