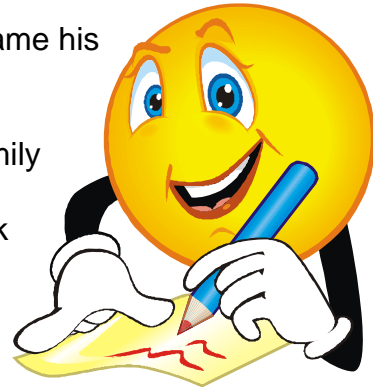


What Words Mean

The meaning of words – and their appropriate usage – is critical if we are to communicate effectively. Since I am an English major, words and their correct application (or misuse, as the case may be) have always fascinated me.

Oftentimes, the nuances of expression can be the basis of humor, and comedians thrive on the practice. As examples, here are some definitions in a tongue-in-cheek treatise:

- A **diplomat** is a person who, when asked to name his favorite color, answers “plaid.”
- A **critic** is someone who is quick on the flaw.
- **Hospitality** means treat your company like family and your family like company.
- **Flattery** is telling others exactly what they think of themselves.
- **Credit card**: What you use to buy what you can't afford tomorrow while you're still paying for it yesterday.
- A **gossip** is a person with a strong sense of rumor.
- **Boss**: A person who is always early when you're late and always late when you're early.
- **Budget**: A mathematical confirmation of your suspicions.
- **Calorie**: A scientific unit of measurement used to rate the popularity of food.
- **Split second**: The time between the light changing and the driver behind you honking his horn.



A tail is the rear part of an animal or the last part of something, and we have now reached the end of this tale.

– Beecher Hunter