



MENU 



REVIEWED

By Chris Tighe at 10:05 am, Feb 01, 2016

dilatory 

adjective | dil·a·to·ry |

Simple Definition of DILATORY

- : causing a delay
- : tending to be late : slow to do something

Full Definition of DILATORY

- 1 : tending or intended to cause delay <*dilatory* tactics>
- 2 : characterized by procrastination : **TARDY** <*dilatory* in paying bills>

—dil·a·to·ri·ly 

adverb

WORD OF THE DAY

FEBRUARY 1, 2016

abject 

low in spirit, hope, or state

Get Word of the Day daily email!

—dil·a·to·ri·ness

noun

Examples of DILATORY

<the homeowner is claiming that local firefighters were *dilatory* in responding to the call>

Origin of DILATORY

Middle English, from Anglo-French *dilatorie*, Late Latin *dilatorius*, from Latin *differre* (past participle *dilatus*) to postpone. differ — more at

Related to DILATORY

Synonyms
crawling, creeping, dallying, dawdling, slow, dillydallying, dragging, laggard, lagging

Rhymes with DILATORY

a priori, allegory, amatory, auditory, bedtime story, cacciatore, castratory,

BROWSE DICTIONARY

- diketo-
- dikkop
- diktat
- dil
- dilacerate
- dilectore

TRENDING NOW

- 1 **Amnesty**
Everyone's looking for 'amnesty'. Again.
- 2 **Mano a Mano**
Cruz challenged Trump to a 1-on-1 d...
- 3 **Evangelical**
What is 'the evangelical vote', and w...
- 4 **Pussyfoot**
Palin endorses Donald Trump for pre...
- 5 **Petulant**
Chris Christie calls Barack Obama a ...

categorycon amorecover

Learn More about DILATORY

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for "dilatory"

Britannica English: Translation of "dilatory" for Arabic speakers

Seen and Heard

WORD GAMES
What made you want to look up *dilatory* where you read or heard it (including the possible 3-minute break and test your skills!



What is the best definition of ignominious:

- skittish
- immortal
- doting
- humiliating



10 quick questions: hear them, spell them, and see how your skills compare to the crowd.

TAKE THE QUIZ >



Test Your Knowledge - and learn some interesting things along the way.

TAKE THE QUIZ >

WORDS AT PLAY



Whitewashing

Old word. New meaning.



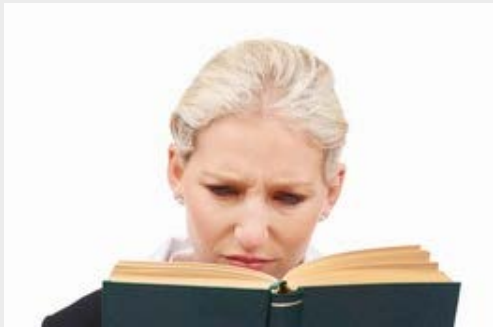
262 Years of Serendipity

A word inspired by a fairy tale



5 Drug Words Gone Mainstream

Like a chocoholic, but for booze



Peruse

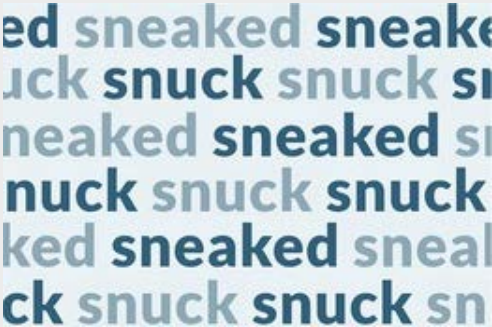
How the straightforward *peruse* became confused.

ASK THE EDITORS



The Awkward Case of 'His or Her'

Singular 'their' might be a better choice



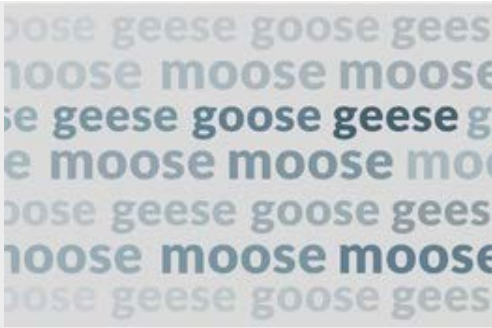
Sneaked vs. Snuck

How the irregular *snuck* sneaked into the dictionary



Irregardless

It is in fact a real word (but that doesn't mean you should use it).



Weird Plurals

One goose, two geese. One moose, two... moose. What's up with that?

WORD GAMES



January Words of the Day Quiz

How many of January's Words of the Day do you remember?



Name That Thing

Test your visual vocabulary with our 10-question challenge!



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What's that Smell?! Quiz

Words for odors and such...



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