

THE BODY:

A TREASURE

TROVE OF

MEANINGS IN

ENGLISH

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Indo-European Languages

Germanic

North Germanic

East Norse

Danish Swedish

West Norse

Icelandic Norwegian

Germanic

East Germanic

Gothic

Germanic

West Germanic

High German

German

Low German

Low German

Old Frisian Old English

Frisian Middle English

***Modern English**

*Although English is a **Germanic** Language, it has been strongly influenced by **Classical Greek** and **Latin**, **Vulgar Latin** as well as **Norman** and **Parisian French** (especially after the Norman Invasion of 1066).

Italic

Latin **(Romance)**

French Italian Spanish Portuguese Romanian Catalan
Provençal

Other Languages in the Indo-European Family of Languages

Hellenic Greek

Celtic (Keltic) Languages
Breton Irish Scots Gaelic Welsh

Slavic
Bulgarian Czech Macedonian Polish Russian Slovak
Slovenian Ukrainian Serbo-Croatian

Indo-Iranian
Sanskrit
Bengali Hindi Punjabi Urdu

Old Persian
Persian

The English Language

Old English

(Anglo-Saxon, Frisian, and Old Norse)
Germanic Invasions until after the dislocation as a result of
the Norman Invasion in 1066
450-1150*

Middle English

(strongly influenced by **Norman** French)
11th century – 14th century (Chaucer)

Early Modern English

(influenced by **Parisian** French)
Chaucer – Shakespeare

Modern English

Shakespeare – until the present

*included in this period were the Scandinavian invasions
between 850- 1042

Countries where English is spoken as the First language:

Great Britain and Europe

England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Gibraltar

North America

United States and Canada

Africa

Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Latin America and Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Dominica

Asia and Pacific Islands

Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka

Australia

Australia, New Zealand

Did you know that the vocabulary describing the body contains a *treasure trove of information*? Many of the words utilized to describe parts of the body usually have several grammatical functions. The word **hand**, for example, can be a noun, (I hurt my **hand**. Can you give me a **hand**?) or a verb (**Hand** me the tool). The richness of the vocabulary utilized to describe the body, however, does not stop at the level of structure. In fact, it goes hand in hand with the other with what can be another problematic aspect of not just English, but with any language. The literal versus the metaphorical meaning of a word. The body term **mind** is a prime example. The **mind** is only literal as a noun (its first and primary definition, the secondary definitions are figurative); as a verb **mind** is only figurative or metaphorical:

mind

1. intellect, intellectual faculty, cognitive function
His **mind** is something magnificent to observe.
2. psyche, ego, subconscious
3. soul, spirit, inner being
4. (slang) genius, mental giant, brain, Einstein, wizard, whiz
He is a **mind** that I would love to explore.
5. brain power, brains, wit, quickness, wittiness
He has a sharp **mind**; nothing escapes his attention.
6. (slang) gray matter, smarts, **good head on his shoulder**,
noggin, noodle

7. sanity, saneness, senses
8. (slang) marbles
He has lost his **mind**.
9. rationality, sense of reason, judgment, common sense
How his **mind** works is beyond me.
10. disposition, humor, temperament
11. bent, tendency, propensity
His **mind** tends to focus on the morbid.
12. feeling, partiality, bias, liking, belief
13. notion, whim, idea
14. intention aim, purpose, design

to mind

1. to attend, give one's attention to, pay attention to
Mind my words; it's not over.
2. to watch, to see, to observe, to pay heed to
3. to obey, follow, adhere to, to respect
If you do not **mind** me, you will pay the consequences.

4. to attend, to watch, to look after
Can you **mind** the children while I run to the store.

5. to guard, to be careful, to be wary, to think twice of, to weigh
Mind him; he can't be trusted.

6. to care about, to be concerned about
I do **mind** where and how you live.

7. to remember, to recall, to recollect
I **mind** the day when I first came here.

The body term **mind** is by no means unique. Many of the meanings of different body parts have been greatly stretched beyond the literal. Do you know what it is to be a **second-hand Rose**? Are you a **brain**? What's a **no brainer**? What does it mean to **press the flesh**? Have you ever had anyone **sweep you off your feet** or to **pull your leg**?

In the following sentences, can you determine the part of speech, (noun, verb, adjective, or adverb), of the words of the body? Does that information have anything to do with your understanding the meaning of the sentences? If so, why? Does, for example, the definition of the word '**head**' changes depending on whether it is a verb or noun? Are there sentences which you understand while others you have absolutely no idea of their meaning? Do you know why? Do you think that the literal versus figurative meaning has anything to do with your ability to understand a word? You probably know the literal meaning of each part of the body. That is a matter of study and memorization. However, do

you have any idea what words such as '**heart**', '**head**', '**face**', and '**stomach**' mean culturally in English? In other words, figuratively or metaphorically speaking, what do you know what the above words mean?

The Body

1. Whatever you decide to do, it **is no skin off my teeth**.
2. It's not true that one can not be too thin. She's only **skin and bones** and she looks horrible.
3. They **dropped to their knees** and prayed.
4. When the other car hit me from behind. I hit my **head**.
5. I'll **scratch your back** if you scratch mine; therefore, if you **back** my bill, I'll support yours.
6. It was not easy for him to **face** the child that he had abandoned.
7. He **shouldered** his way through the crowd.
8. I was able to do it because I **figured** that I could not lose.
9. He is always **throwing out his chest** and bragging about his accomplishments.
10. He had to **pay an arm and a leg** for the house.

11. After living abroad, I have a **cast-iron stomach**. I can eat anything with no problem of getting sick.
12. Despite my arguments and pleas, he **turned a deaf ear**.
13. That dress with its very long neckline is definitely **eye-catching**.
14. The child **mouthed** his response.
15. My God, they sure must be in lust. They are always **necking**.
16. His guilt is **as plain as the nose on his face**.
17. I'll **keep my fingers crossed** that everything goes according to plan.
18. He can't help you; he **is all thumb**.
19. She is always putting her life **on the back burner**. Everything and everyone come before her.
20. He has such a **big head** that I doubt he even knows that you exist.
21. Ever since she married, she has been living in the **lap of luxury**.
22. The reason that he was able to be promoted so quickly and easily was that he **got a leg up**.
23. I can't **stomach** not only her but anyone in her family.
24. She fought her attacker **tooth and nail**.

25. He **fingered** the man who robbed him.
26. They **handed around** the cigarettes.
27. You have the worst **handwriting** in the world.
28. The way that he was **eying** her was an embarrassment.
29. His guilt is **written all over his face**.
30. As he is the president of the company, he will **head** the meeting.
31. His method is **cutthroat**. Expect no mercy from him.
32. He only **pays lip service to** respecting the law.

From what has been written above, it is obvious the vocabulary describing the body contains a treasure trove of information. Much of the vocabulary utilized to describe body usually have several grammatical functions as well as metaphorical meanings.

Clarifyingit.com has created and published **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF MEANING** to help you to begin to understand the most creative, illuminating, and culturally specific area of English: **The Body**.

What do you know about the body and the words that describe it?

1) With the exception of the **jaw**, **face**, **penis**, **vagina**, **testicles** and the **figure**, the words which describe the external body come from the Germanic rather than Latin side of English. Therefore, English-, Dutch-, German-, Swedish-, and Norwegian-speakers share, or at least at one time had shared, many of the same words to name different parts of the body. The reason for this is simple. Most of words to describe the body in English are some of the oldest in the language. Many have been in the language before 900: **neck**, **mouth**, **tongue**, **tooth**, **ear**, **throat**, **chest**, **finger**, **eye**, **nose**, **toe**, **nail**, and **foot**. Others have been present since 1000: **lips**, **chin**, **breast**, **bosom**, **elbow**, **back**, **buttock**, **hip**, and **ankle**.

2) Although most of the words to describe the external body are Germanic, the vocabulary to describe the internal organs are much more balanced between the two areas of English, the Latin-based and Germanic-based. However, it should be noted that the most important organs in English are Germanic-based: **heart**, **mind**, **liver**, **bone** and **gut**. All these words became a part of English during the language earliest period; except for the **gut**, which entered the language before 1000, all entered into the language before 900.

3) The Latin-based names for internal organs, for example the **skeleton**, the **spleen**, the **stomach**, and the **spine**, are all relatively new to the language. **Skeleton** came into the language in the late 16th century, **spleen** in the late 13th to early 14th century, **stomach** in the early 16th century, and **spine** in the early to mid-15th century.

It should also be noted that those Latin-based words used to describe the outer-body are also relatively recent entries. **Face** came into

the language in mid 13th to early 14th century, **figure** in 12th century, and **vagina** and **penis** in the late 17th century.

4) There are a number of words in English, which may appear to come from the same source but do not. The word '**arm**' is a primary example. When referring to the part of the body, the word is one of the oldest in the language. It came into English before 900. It is of Germanic origin (Old English **earm**; Old Norse **armr**; Old Frisian **erm**; Old Swede, Old High German, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Frisian, African, Dutch **arm**, German and Swiss German **Arm**, Icelandic **armur** **handleggur**, Latin **brachium** **bracchium**, French **bras**, Spanish **brazo**, Italian **braccio**, Portuguese **braço**)

'Arm,' when it refers to weapons, as in a firearm, originated from Latin. It came into English through Old French. Its entrance into the vocabulary is relatively recent. As a verb, 'arm' came into the language from the early to mid 13th century (**to arm: Middle English and Anglo-French armen, Old French armer, Latin armare**). As a noun, it came into the language a hundred years later (Middle English *armes*, Latin *arma*).

The word for '**butt**' is also very interesting. When the word refers to the **buttock**, **derriere**, **backside**, or **rear end**, its origin is from the Dutch '**bot**', which means 'stumpy' and the Swedish and Danish 'but' which means 'stubby.' When '**butt**' means to strike or push with the head or horns, the origin of the word is the Anglo-French or Old French for 'to thrust or to strike' (**Anglo-French butter, Old French boter**). When '**butt**' refers to a target or a person who is the object of ridicule or contempt its origin is Middle French.

In British English, the term **marrow** has two very distinct meanings and, although it may not appear, two very different roots. As a body term, **marrow** is one of the oldest words in the English language. The root is Germanic. In British and Scottish English, the word **marrow** has another meaning which has nothing to do with any part of the body. It is a term used in northern England and Scotland for a partner, spouse or close friend. This makes sense ONLY if one understands that **marrow** used in the sense of fellow worker, helpmate or companion does not have the same root as the body term **marrow**. **Marrow**, meaning friend, although also Germanic in origin, did not come from the Old English **mearg** or **mearth**; rather, it came from the Middle English **marwe** which meant fellow worker and partner. The origins of **marwe** is Old Norse; it meant friendly. **Marrow**, as a body term, is one of the oldest words in the English language however as a term meaning friend it is not. It entered in English during the late Medieval period or early Modern period, 1400-1450.

The Body, figuratively speaking

Do you know what the **cheeks** symbolize? If I tell you to not give me any **cheek**, what am I saying? (*Don't talk back to me*). Did you know that the **shoulder** is both a noun and a verb? Did you also know that the figurative meaning of **shoulder**, as a verb, is to push, shove, bear, support, or assume responsibility? When **the cat has your tongue**, what does he have? (*your power to speak*) If you shout out to me, just before going out to do a performance, **break a leg**, are you wishing me harm? No. To shout '**break a leg**' means good luck or 'knock them dead.' If you '**lose your heart**' is it as bad as to '**lose your mind**.' No. '**To lose one's mind**' is not at all good. It only means 'to go crazy.' '**To lose one's heart**' can either be good or bad. It all depends on to whom you lose it. If it is to someone who does not feel the same way, it is bad and very painful. However, if the other person feels the same, it is not only good; it is fantastic. '**To lose one's heart**' is to fall madly in love or '**to fall head over heels**.' Does '**to not have teeth**' have anything to do with '**not having the stomach for something**.' No. It also has nothing to do with '**not having a heart**' or '**not having the heart**', '**the gall**', '**the nose**', '**the eye**', or '**the ear for**'. If something does not **teeth**, it has no power or force. A law or regulation only has **teeth** if it has the power to make people obey. If it does not, **it has no teeth**. **To not have the stomach for something** is not to have the desire to do something. If I don't have the **stomach** for a fight, it means that I do not want to fight. '**To not have a heart**' means that you are not a very nice person. '**To not have the heart**' means that you are unable to, not able to or not will to do something. If you **have gall**, it means that you are very audacious, bold, **cheeky** or imprudent. '**To have the nose for**' is to be good at finding and recognizing something or to have the talent for something. '**To have the nose for news**' means that you are either a

good reporter or gossip. If you **have the eye for someone** it means that you like that person; that you find that person attractive. '**To have the ear for something**' means that you have a natural or innate ability to learn music or languages.

Almost each part of the body symbolizes at least one characteristic or trait. At times, a body part represents more than one attribute. The **heart**, for example, does not only stand for love. In the expression, **to get to the heart of the matter**, **heart** is synonymous to the core, kernel, seed, and germ. In the expression **to learn something by heart** is to memorize or know something word for word. '**To eat one's heart out**' has nothing to do with the core of something, memorizing something, or being in love. In this expression the **heart** represents sorrow, mourning, pining for or agonizing over.

The attributes or qualities which a culture gives to different parts of the body reveal a great deal about how that culture sees itself and its members. **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** is an extensive dictionary which not only aids you in learning how different parts of the body are used both grammatically and semantically but it is also a *cultural text* whose main goal is to help you to understand how different parts of the English-speaking world see its reality.

How one sees the **mind**, the **heart**, the **liver**, the **gall-bladder**, the **penis**, the **eyes**, or **ears** has a lot to do with the culture in which one lives. In Spanish, for example, the digits on one's **hands** and one's **feet** have the same name (*dedos* and *dedos de pie*). In English, that is not the case. As odd as it might sound, English-speakers have much more of a relationship with the digits on their **hands**, (**fingers**), than on those on their **feet**, (**toes**). Did you know that in English each **finger** has a name?

The finger in English which is associated with insulting someone is **the middle finger**). It is **the ring finger** which is associated with both getting engaged and married. It is **the thumb** which is used to hitch-hike or get a free ride.

Fingers are used to express a variety of things in society. It is associated with controlling someone, (**to wrap someone around one's little finger**), with hoping for the best (**to cross one's fingers**) and with having a bad experience (**to get one's fingers burned**). Either individually or as a group, toes have no such associations. It should not be surprising, therefore, that, relatively speaking, there are almost no expressions which **toes**.

How can THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE help you?

Understanding how the body is seen in English allows you to go beyond the superficial. It helps you to get more than just a glimpse of how persons who speak English conceive and create their reality. Instead of consulting a vast number of dictionaries and language books of expressions, finally, there is a book which contains the overwhelming majority, if not all, the different meaning of words used to represent the body.

With **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE**, you can finally begin to **make heads or tails** (learn) of the metaphorical and cultural meanings of some of the most fundamental words of English. You will find that many jokes, puns, double-entendres and riddles will no longer **go over your head** (be outside your realm of understanding). At last you

will **have your feet firmly set on the path of** understanding and using English as it is actually understood and used.

As mentioned previously, the majority of the vocabulary used for the body are in Germanic in origin. However, English contains a number of Latin and Greek based affixes (prefixes and suffixes) which also mean parts of the body. **BODY LANGUAGE OR THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** contains some of the different Greek and Latin affixes which are in English. (See the example below) This section is especially important to the native speakers of English who is not familiar with the more formal or collegiate aspect of their vocabulary. This is the aspect of the language which must be mastered to pass the many standardized tests given throughout primary and secondary school. These are also the words that one must know to do well in the SAT's, ACT's or GRE's. In this work, the affixes will be presented with the definition; however, no examples will be given. To get a more detail explanation, including vocabulary, please consult the companion book, **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE: PREFIXES, SUFFIXES AND ROOTS.**

Also included in **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** are some of those verbs which naturally go with a particular body part. For example, in the section on the **'blood'**, a section on the verb **'to bleed'** will also be included. Another example would in the section on 'the mind,' a number of verbs, such as 'to think', 'to know' and 'to remember' will be examined from different perspective.

How THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE is structured:

There are quite a few of books on body idioms; however, there is no book on the market which is as complete as the one which you are now reading. Most books normally give the expression and a one sentence explanation. THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE gives the reader more, much more. Not only are you presented with an explanation of what a particular word means both literally and metaphorically, the different meanings are subdivided into categories: **standard**, **more stylized** or **formal**, **informal** or **idiomatic** and **slang**. Whenever possible, other expressions are also given. Therefore, with THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE you not only learn how, for example, the **head** or **eyes** are used in English but other frequently used expressions are also given. The following is a sample of how THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE is structured:

Skin

(entered into English before 1000)

Old English **scinn**, Middle English Old Norse **skinn**, Dutch **schinden**, Danish **hud skind**, Frisian **fel hûd**, Icelandic and Norwegian **hud**, Swedish **hud skinn skinna päls**, German **Schinden**, Latin **cutis**, French **peau**, Spanish **piel**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **skin:**

dermato-, **dermat-**, **dermo-**, **derm-** (from Greek *derma*, skin)
combining forms meaning skin, hide or covering

-dermis combining forms meaning skin, in general, or the layer of skin
just below the epidermis (known as the *derma*)

-dermatous combining forms meaning skin meaning possessing skin or
skinned

pell- (from Latin: *pell pellis* Greek: *pelz* a skin Latin: *pellicius* made
of skins) combining forms meaning skin

skin

1. epidermis, cuticle, derma, cutis, pellicle
2. (animal) hide, pelt, jacket, fleece, fell, fur, leather, vellum, integument
3. (fruit) rind, peel, hull, shell, husk, cover, covering, pod, case
4. overlay, coating, coat, layer, lamina, film
5. wineskin, pouch, container

to skin

1. to peel, scale, bark, strip, scalp, unwrap, remove, shed
It was not unusual **to skin** one's enemies in Ancient Mesoamerica.
2. (more stylized) to flay, exfoliate, scale, denude, excorticate, excoriate
3. (informal) to throw off, shed, strip off, cast off, peel off
4. (fruit or vegetables) to shell, husk, shuck, hull, rind, pare

skin and bones

1. on the decline, very skinny, unhealthy, corpse-like, frail, underfed, undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin

I don't know what happened to her but she's nothing but **skin and bones**.
2. (more stylized) gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless, hollow-eyed**, shrunken, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned, hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (informal) thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished
4. (slang) scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken or skinny as a railing

skin deep

1. superficial, on the surface, not very profound, not deep
What she feels for you is only **skin deep**. She doesn't love you.
2. (more stylized) shallow, outermost, outside, external. outward, exterior

It is true that beauty is only **skin deep**.

3. unreal, artificial, plastic, fake, fraud, delusion, phony

Can't you tell that that is she is only crying crocodile tears. Her feeling of sorrow is only **skin deep**.

4. (informal) hoax, make-believe, two-dollar bill, ruse, sham

5. empty, devoid, slight, meaningless, unimportant, signifying nothing, vacuous

His feelings for you are only **skin deep**. Can't you see that?

6. (more stylized) of little or no import, inconsequential, hollow negligible, insubstantial, inconsequential matter, inconsiderable, inappreciable, inane

7. (informal) petty, paltry, trivial, not worth mentioning, frivolous

8. (slang) no-account, picayune, penny-ante, fiddling, trifling, not worth a hill a beans, plug nickel, not worth the paper it is printed on, straw, red cent

skin flick

1. adult films, films dominated by sex, pornographic, obscene, lewd, vulgar or coarse, x-rated films, sexploitation

Another name for **skin flick** is pornography.

2. (more stylistic) films which are suggestive, prurient, indecent, profane, salacious, fulsome or erotic

3. (informal) films which are vile, nasty, filthy, raunchy, risqué, off-color, hard-core, soft-core or bawdy, peep shows, blue movies, pornography

4. (slang) films which are smutty, gross or blue, stag films, nudies, cheesecake, porn, **leg art**

skin flint

1. to be extraordinarily cheap, frugal, economical or thrifty

My aunt was a real **skin flint**. She would not lend a penny without asking for interest.

2. (more formal) brummagem, parsimonious, miserly,
3. (informal) **closed-fisted**, stingy, penny pincher, tight, **tightfisted**, cheapskate, tightwad, money-grubber, miserly, petty

What a **skin flint**!

to be wet to the skin

1. to be wet, very wet or soaked

He got caught in the rain and **was wet to the bone**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be imbrued, immerged saturated, immersed, infused, penetrated, impregnated, imbued, inundated
3. (informal) to be wringing wet, soggy, **soaked to the bone**, soak and wet, doused, drenched, wet down, soaked through, drowned, sopping, dripping, wet through, sappy, **wet to the bone** or soused

THE BODY AND ITS
TWISTED HISTORY IN
THE ENGLISH

The study of the language of the body in English is the study of the long, twisted, and, at times, incredulous development of one of most rigid, flexible, irregular, simplified and widely studied and spoken, languages to ever develop.

English is like an onion, each layer representing a period of great change. Although wrapped in an outer layer of Latin and French, this covering is somewhat a roost. Although the overwhelming majority of English words draw their origin from Old French, Anglo-French, Parisian French, Latin, and Greek, English is not a Romance language; it never has been. Even during the period of Roman domination, the period when many of the Romance languages in Western and Southern Europe were being developed, the Latin influence on the language and culture of what was then Britain was superficial, at best. With the exception of persons at the very highest level of society, most of the British remained Celtic, linguistically and culturally speaking.

Perhaps if the Romans had not been forced to withdraw, Roman culture and language would have slowly spread throughout Britain. And, as a result, Britain would have eventually developed the type of language and culture which had been flourishing across the channel in France. However, in 450 Britain's ties to the dying Roman Empire and its colonies were cut. It was in that year when factions of the western branch of the Germanic groups (Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians) crossed the North Sea to conquer and colonize what would eventually become England.

The invasion and colonization of England was unlike what had happened in other parts of the former Roman Empire. Across the Channel in France, for example, the Franks did not destroy the different

peoples whom they encountered; nor did the different Germanic peoples who invaded Spain and Italian. One of the main reasons for the non-annihilation was that what the Gauls, Visigoths and Goths found were highly Romanized hybrids. Rather than destroy, the victor assimilated with the vanquish. It is for this reason that France, Spain, Italy and Portugal remained culturally and linguistically an extension of the Roman Empire, long after its destruction. As a result, these countries developed closely related languages which belong to the Roman or Latin branch of the Indo-European Family of Languages.

England's fate was radically different. By the time the different Germanic groups invaded Britain, the little bit of Latin culture which had been adopted had been almost completely replaced by the native Celtic ones. The different Germanic groups were quite familiar, and as mentioned previously, greatly respectful of the Romans, their culture and language. They felt no such reverence toward the Celts. They either killed or drove westward most of the Celtic inhabitants of England. Prior to the Germanic invasions, Britain had belonged to Celtic language group. After, as a result of the almost complete destruction of the native population, the language, and culture, which developed and flourished in England firmly belonged in the Germanic camp. With the exception of a few place names, Celtic influence in English ceased.

Old English

The language which developed as a result of the Germanic invasion was purely Germanic. It is true that the different Germanic groups had, before, and especially after the conquest, had come in contact with Latin. However, the Latin adopted did not come from every area of the language. Most of the words were religious; which was only natural since most of the contact between the Germans and Romans was

through the Church in the form of Roman missionaries. The English also borrowed from Latin to express new ideas in the area of clothing, and food. All together, during this time, approximately 450 words from Latin were adopted into English. (see appendix 1)

Despite, the incorporation of Latin into English, the culture and language which developed in England, up until the twelfth century, were almost purely Germanic in nature. The Jutes and Saxons formed the basis of the Kentish and the Southern English dialects. The Anglians settled in two areas, the northern and center areas. They were responsible for the Midland and Northumbrian form of English. It was also during this period, as a result of the ascendancy of the West-Saxon kingdom, the written dialect of Wessex became, for a time, the written standard language of England. During that period, works were either written in West Saxon or works written in other dialects were translated into it.

For the first three centuries after the destruction of the Roman Empire, the western branch of the Germanic language formed the basis of the English language. It from this period that one hundred of the most common words in English come. (appendix 2)

The following are the words of the body which entered into English during its first three hundred years. This period of the English language is called, *Old English* or *Anglo-Saxon*:

Body Language

(entered into the language before 900)

Body

Old English **bodig**, Old High German **botah**

Flesh

Old English **flask**, Middle English **flask**, Old Frisian **flask**, Old High German **fleisk**, Old Norse **flesk**, German **Fleisch**, Dutch **vless**

Limb

Old and Middle English **lim**, Old Norse **lim**

Head

Old English **heafod**, Middle English **he(v)ed**, Old High German **houbit**, Old Norse **hofuth**, Dutch **hoofd**, Danish **hoved**, German **Kopf**, Swedish **huvud kranie**, Norwegian **leder lede hode**, Afrikann **kop**, Latin **caput**, French **tête**, Spanish **cabeza**

Hair

Old English **hær hære**, Middle English **here haire**, Dutch **haar**, German **Haar**, Old Norse **har hæra**, Old High German **haria**

Eye

Old English **ege** (**eage**), Middle English **eie ie**, German **Auge**, Dutch **oog**

Ear

Old English **eare ear æhher**, Middle English **ere**, Old Norse **eyra ax**, German **Ohr Ähre**, Dutch **oor aar**

Nose

Old English **nosu nasu næse**, Frisian **noas**, Icelandic **nōs**, Danish **næse**, Norwegian **nese**, Dutch **neus**, German **Nase**, Swedish **näsa**, Latin **nasus**, French **nez**, Spanish **nariz**

Mouth

Old and Middle English **muth**, Old Norse **munnr**, German **Mund**, Dutch **mond**

Tongue

Old and Middle English **tunge tungen**, Old Norse **tunga**, Dutch **tong**, German **Zunge**

Tooth/Teeth

Old and Middle English **toth**, Old Norse **tonn**, Dutch **tand**, German **Zahn**

Cheek

Old English **ce(a)ce ceoce**, Middle English **cheke**, Dutch **kaak**, Middle Lower German **kake**

Neck

Old English **hnecca**, Middle English **nekke**, Old Norse **hnakki**, Dutch **nek**, German **Nacken**

Shoulder

Old English **sculdor**, Middle English **sholder schulder shulderen**, Dutch **schouder**, German **Schulter**

Hand

Old and Middle English **hand hond**, Old Norse **hond**, Dutch **hand**, German **Hand**, Goth **handus**

Arm

Old and Middle English **earm**, Old Frisian **erm**, Goth **arms**, Old Norse **armr**, Old High German Old Swedish Dutch **arm**, German **Arm**

Finger

Old and Middle English **finger**, Old Norse **fingr**, Dutch **vinger**, German **Finger**, Gothic **figgers**

Thumb

Old and Middle English **thuma**, Old Norse **thumall**, Dutch **duim**, German **Daumen**, Old Swede and Old High German **dumo**

Nail

Old English **nægel næglan**, Middle English **nayl naille**, Old Frisian **neil**, Old Swede and Old High German **nagal**, Old Norse **nagl**, Germanic **naglaz**, Dutch **nagel**, German **Nagel**

Quick

Old English **cuic cwicu**, Middle English **quik**, Old Norse **kvikr**, Old Swede **quik**, German **queck keck**, Latin **vivus**, French **vif**, Spanish **carne viva**

Fist

Old English **fyst**, German **Faust**, Dutch **vuist**

Lap

Old English **læppa**, Middle English **lappe**, Old Norse **lappr**, Dutch **lap**, German **Lappen**

Knee

Old English **cneo**, Middle English **cneo(w)**, Old Norse **kne**, German **Knie**, Dutch **knie**, Latin **genu**, French **genou**, Spanish **rodillas**

Foot

Old and Middle English **fot**, German **Fuss**, Dutch **voet**, Greek **poús pod**, Latin **pes ped**, French **pied**, Spanish **pie**

Toe

Old and Middle English **ta**, Old Norse **ta**, German **Zeh Zehe**, Dutch **teen**, Latin **digitus**, French **doigit**, Spanish **dedo de pie**

Heel

(entered into English before 850)

Old and Middle English **hela**, Old Norse **hæll**, Dutch **hiel**

Behind

Old English **behindan**, Middle English **behinden**

Bone

Old English **ban**, Middle English **bon**, Germanic

bainan, Old Frisian and Old Swede **ben**, Old Norse

bein, Dutch **been**, German **Bein**, Latin **os ossis**,

French **os**, Spanish **hueso**

Marrow

Old English **mearg**, Middle English **marowe**, Old Norse

mergr, Dutch **merg**, German **Mark**, Latin **medulla**,

Spanish **médula**, French **moelle**

Brain

Old and Middle English **brægen gregen**, Low German

brägen, Dutch **brein**, Latin **cerebrum**, French **cerveau**,

Spanish **cerebro**

Breath

Old English **bræth**, Middle English **breth breeth**, Frisian

sike, German **Atem**, Swedish **andas pust**, Dutch

andem, Norwegian **pust ånde**, Latin **halitus spiritus**

flatus anima aura respiro, French **haleine souffle**

respiration, Spanish **aliento respiración**

Late Old English (Early Middle English)

The **northern branch of the Germanic language** did not begin to influence English until the latter part of the eighth and ninth century. From almost three hundred years, until the eleventh century, England was bombarded by invading groups from Scandinavia. The Scandinavians, depending on their nationality, settled in the urban as well as the rural areas of England. While the Norwegians colonized Ireland, the Scottish Island, the Isle of Man, and parts of England's north-west, the Danes settled mostly in the north and east part of England.

Unlike the first Germanic invasion of the Celtic Britain, the Scandinavian overrun of England did not lead to the elimination the English. The fundamental reason was simple. They were the same people; therefore, the racial and linguistic animosity which had marked the first invasion was absent. Destruction was replaced by absorption and assimilation. The language which the invaders spoke, Old Norse, helped to form the basis of what is now standard English.

At the core, Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse were the same language. Despite the differences in grammar, persons who communicated in Old English and Old Norse were mutually intelligible. In the area of vocabulary, many words were either identical or very similar. As a result, the type of influence that Old Norse had in English was not destructive. Although there were cases where Old Norse terms did replace Anglo-Saxons ones, the norm was that the borrowing of Old Norse words took place when there were no Old English equivalent. In the area of vocabulary, two of the most distinctive borrowings of Old

Norse into English were words with 'sk' or the 'sk' sound, (sky or scrub), and those with the hard 'g' sound, (get or egg).

Old Norse words which entered into the language were not only content words (**open class words**). People from one language group are constantly borrowing words from this area of the lexicon (nouns, verbs, adjective and adverbs). Although it should be mentioned that many of the **content words** borrowed from Old Norse were core words; that is, words which either have no synonyms or those which are used to name things in a language which do not have synonyms. What was extremely unusual about the influence of Old Norse on English was that **functions words** were also borrowed. Function words are structural or grammatical and, therefore, belong to **closed class words**. Very rarely, if ever, are new words added to this category.

Words from Old Norse did not begin to be used in English until after the 11th century, once the Vikings had invaded, and sacked, both south-west and south-east England.

Body Language (entered into English before 1000)

Skin

Old English **scinn**, Middle English Old Norse **skinn**, Dutch **schinden**, German **Schinden**

Brow/ lash

Old English **bru**, Middle English **browe**, Old Norse **brun**, German **braue**

Lip

Old English **lippa**, Middle English **lippe**, Dutch **lip**, German **Lippe**, Norwegian **lepe**

Chin

Old and Middle English **cin cinn**, Old Norse **kinn**, Dutch **kin**, German **Kinn chin**

Elbow

Old English **elnboga elboga**, Middle English **elbowe**, Old Norse **olnbogi**, Middle Dutch **ellenboghe elleboog**, Old High German **ellinbogo**, German **Ellenbogen**

Knuckles

Middle English **knokel**, Middle Low German Middle Dutch **knökel**, Dutch **kneukel (knok)**, German **Knöchel (Knochen)**

Back

Old English **bak**, Middle English **bæc**, Old Frisian **bek**, Old Norse Old Swede **bak**

Leg

Middle English and Old Norse **leggr**, Danish **læg**

Buttock

Old English **buttuc**, Middle English **buttok**

Blood

Old English **blod**, Middle English **blod**, Germanic **bloda**, Old

Norse and Goth **bloth** , Old Frisian and Old Swede **blod**, Old High German **bluot**, German **Blut**, African, Danish, Norwegian or Swedish **blod**, Dutch **bloed**, Latin **sanguis**, French **sang**, Spanish **sangre**

Ass (*vulgar*)

Old English **ærs ears**, *Middle English* **ars**, *Old Frisian* **ers**, *Old Norse, Middle Low German, Old Swedish, and Old High German* **ars**, *Dutch* **aars**

Although many of the words spoken during this period were later eliminated, according to some accounts eighty-five percent, the importance of Old English in Modern English can not be exaggerated. The fact is that Old English forms the backbone of the English which is spoken today. It is for this reason that, despite all the subsequent influence that Latin, (both the classical and vulgar version); Classical Greek; and French, (both the Norman and Parisian version); may have had, English is not a Romance language. At its core, English is a Germanic language. Because of Old English, the basic structure of English is Germanic. The bulk of the prepositions, pronouns, auxiliaries, conjunction as well as words of fundamental concept come to English from the old English period. Most of the most frequently used words in English trace their origin back to Old English. Therefore, to find the cognates of most, if not all, of the most basic, fundamental, and frequently used words of English, one must go to the different Germanic languages of both branches of the language tree. (appendix 4)

Middle English

The Norman Invasion took place in 1066. However, although the Normans greatly influenced the English language, for the first century or so Old English remained, in general, unchanged. For the student of the history of the English language, even fifty years or so after the Norman invasion, English had remained being a language which most English speakers would not easily recognize. Although inflections for both nouns and adjectives were becoming obsolete, inflections in other areas of the grammar were still important.

Old English started transitioning into Middle English around the mid point of the 12th century. Although not a language that most speakers of modern English would recognize, Middle English most definitely was a language much more recognizable. In every area, English was changing. In the areas of pronunciation, the pronunciation of vowels was becoming more like their pronunciation in modern English. For example, long vowels became short when they were before two or more consonants: sleep vs. slept/ deep vs. depth . Another example would be the elimination of diphthongs as in the word 'deop' to the simple vowel and the replacement of the 'y' in words such as 'hyll' or 'fyr' to the 'i' as in 'hill' and 'fire'. In the area of orthography the transition from Old to Middle English was nothing to sneeze at: 1) the elimination of the 'æ' to, depending on the word, the short 'a' or long 'e', 2) the replacement of the 'c' with the 'ch' as in 'child', 3) the replacement of 'cw' with 'qu' as in 'queen', 4) the elimination of þ and ð with the 'th' and 5) the replacement of the 'c' for the 'k' before front vowels as in the word 'keep' . In the area of grammar the changes were quite dramatic. In a nutshell, English ceased being a synthetic or inflected language in which

some words indicate such grammatical relationship such as number, case, gender or tense. English became an analytical language in which particles, rather than inflections, are used to express grammatical relationships (*handsomer* vs *more handsome*). In the area of verbs, English began to have only two cases, strong and weak, now known as regular and irregular.

Ironically enough, even a century after the Norman conquest, the influence of French in English was kept at a minimum. The reasons for this are numerous. For one, English was considered the language of the socially inferior; therefore, as a rule, it was treated by elites of the society, many of whom did not speak or understand English, with indifference. As a result, the language was, for almost two centuries, considered a dialect spoken by those who had no power. Norman French remained in its position as the official language until the forced separation of Normandy from England. Although during this period a great number of words from French enter into English, the number was no where near the amount that would be borrowed later.

French imported more than ten thousand words into English. As a result, hundreds of words from Old and Middle English were forced out of the language. (appendix 5) However, it must never be forgotten that despite tremendous influence that French had in English, it never had the impact that Old Norse had. Old Norse actually changed the very essence of English; French did not. The reasons are not hard to understand. By 1066, English was too well established in both its written and spoken form to be easily eliminated or changed. Norman French never became a natural language of England as a whole; it was only a means of communication to the tiny elite of the country. Also, intermarriage can not be ignored. The Normans did not remain separate from the population which they conquered. Many times the offspring of

such unions spoke either both Norman French and English or only English.

English remained English; French was incorporated within the existing structure to make it stronger and richer. In no area of structure did French change English. This fact can be easily demonstrated. For example, in the area of syntax (word order) only in very few cases do adjectives follow the noun (attorney general or court martial). In all other cases, the norm is that the adjective precedes the noun. Another example would be in the area of verbs. When French verbs entered into English, their grammatical structures remained outside. That is to say, only the essence of the verb was incorporated; all of their grammatical endings were eliminated. They generally came into the language as regular rather than irregular verbs. As a result, the 'weak' past inflection 'ed', became much more dominant, eventually becoming the normal ending of most verbs in English in the past tense. It is for this reason that the overwhelming majority of irregular verbs in the past are from the Germanic, rather than the French or Latin, area of English. (appendix 6) French did not enter the language English all at once. It did so in stages:

1. first one hundred years ---- no increase of French in English
2. last one half of the 12th century ---- slight increase
3. 1200-1250 ---- increase
4. post 1250 ---- greater increase
5. 1300-1400 ---- period of the greatest borrowing
6. 1400 ---- sharp drop and eventual tapering off

Words of the body which came into English prior to 1250

Figure

(1175-1225)

Old French and Middle English **figure**, Latin **figura**, French **forme**, Spanish **figura**

Skull

(1175-1225)

Middle English **scolle**, Old Norse **skalli skoltr**, Latin **calvaria calva**, French **crâne**, Spanish **calavera**

Words of the body which came into English post 1250

Face

(1250-1300)

Middle English, Anglo-French, Old French **facia**, Latin **facies**, Late Middle English **facen**, French **visage face**, Spanish **cara**

Whiskers (whisk + er)

(1325-1375)

whisk

Middle English (Scots) **wysk**, Scots **wisk quhisk**, Old Norse **visk**,
Swedish **viska**, Danish **vishe**, Old High German **wisken**

Jaw

(1325-1375)

Middle English **jawe jowe**, Latin **maxilla mala fauces**, Old
French **joue joe**, French **mâchoire**, Spanish **mandibula**

Palm

(1300-1350)

Old English **folm**, Middle English **paume**, Middle French and
Latin **palma**, French **paume**, Spanish **palma**

Stomach

(1300-1350)

Middle English **stomack**, Old French **stomaque estomac**,
Greek **stomakhos**, Latin **stomachus venter**, French
estomac, Spanish **estómago**

Testicles

(1375-1425)

Latin **testiculus**, French **testicules**, Spanish **testiculos**

to breathe

(1250-1300 (*derived from breath*))

Old English **bræth**, Middle English **brethen**, Frisian **sykhelje**,
German **atmen**, Afrikaans **asem**, Dutch **andemen**
ademhalen, Danish **ånde**, Latin **duco spiro respiro**,
French **respirer**, Spanish **respirar**

The late Middle Ages was one of great changes in England. The growth of towns, the death of feudalism, hastened by the Black Death, and the rise of the middle class and free, self-governing communities all led to the growing domination and self-assuredness of the English language and culture. Slowly, all levels of the population began to see that the language in which they communicated was more than a dialect that only the peasantry spoke.

The new attitude led to the growing importance of English in all areas of society. The fourteenth century witnessed the resurgence of English in the official and governmental spheres. In 1349, English began to replace French as the language of instruction; by 1382, it was rare to find a school where French, rather than English, was the language of instruction. In 1362, Parliament opened, for the first time, in English rather than French. It was also in that year that law courts were ordered to be conducted in English rather than Norman French.

The new growing self-awareness of English continued into fifteenth century. It was the period that the first monarchs who were completely fluent in English reigned, Richard II and Henry IV. It was also in that period that Geoffrey Chaucer wrote *Canterbury Tales*, William Langland wrote *Piers Plowman*, and John Wycliffe for the first time, successfully translated the entire bible into English.

As Englishmen became more confident in the language which they spoke, they opened up to possibilities which had once been rejected. As was shown in the table above, it was not until the fourteenth and fifteenth century that thousands of French words were allowed to enter into English. It was also during these centuries that a large number of Latin words entered English.

Throughout the history of English, Latin has, on and off, entered English. However, it was not until the period immediately prior to and during the Renaissance, did the English begin to borrow Latin in any great quantity. Although there were scholars such as Sr. John Cheke, who believed that English could be used to express any idea, there were those who believed that English was a language which could, without any problem, put into words less sophisticated, more concrete ideas. It was ideal to express blunt, straightforward and plain-spoken ideas. However, Latin and Greek were considered much better suited to verbalize the more abstract, nuance, subtle and conceptual areas of life.

Originally, much of the Latin which had come into English had done so indirectly French. That changed, however, once original Latin text became available. Latin, and eventually Greek, began to be borrowed directly.

By the time the early modern period, all the vocabulary used to describe the body was already well established. The only new words of the body which came into the language were those of the internal organs. The body parts which were discovered during the early modern and modern period have either Latin or Greek origin, languages which doctor and scientist continued utilizing long after the world had ceased. Of these parts of the body, almost none is rich in metaphors or symbolism.

THE BODY:

*A TREASURE TROVE OF
MEANINGS IN ENGLISH*

*VOLUME 9: THE MOUTH,
LIP AND TONGUE*

Mouth

(entered into English before 900)

Old and Middle English **muth**, Old Norse **munnr**, German **Mund**, Dutch **mond**, Afrikaans **mond**, Danish **mund munding**, Flemish **mond**, Frisian **mûle mûn útrin**, Icelandic **munnur**, Norwegian **muun**, Swedish **mun**, Swiss German **Muul**, Latin **os rictus**, French **bouche**, Spanish **boca**

Prefixes and Suffixes which pertain to the **mouth:**

buc-, **bucco-** (Latin: **mouth**)

or-, **oro-** (Latin: **mouth**)

-stom, **-stomat**, **-stomy** (Latin: **talk**, **speak**, **call**, **say**, **voice**, **word**)

loc-, **locu-** (Latin: **talk**, **speak**, **say**, **word**, **speech**)

dic-, **dict-**, **dit-** (Latin: **talk**, **speak**, **say**, **tell**)

voc-, **voca-**, **vocat-** (Latin: **talk**, **speak**, **call**, **say**, **voice**, **word**)

-vocation, **-vocative-**, **-vocable**, **-vok**, **-voke** (Latin: **talk**, **speak**, **call**, **say**, **voice**, **word**)

log-, logo- (Greek: **talk, speak, speech, word**)

-log, -logo, logian, -logist, -logy (Greek: **talk, speak, speech, word**)

-loque, -loquence, loquent, -loquently,
(Greek: **talk, speak, speech, word**)

mouth

1. orifice, oral opening, the masticating and chewing structure,
jawbone, jaw, mandible
He hit the man in the **mouth**.
2. (slang) kisser, yap, trap, chops, muzzle, gab, kisser, **jaws, jaw**
Shut your **mouth**!
3. utterance, expression, voice, vocalization
4. boasting, bragging, hot air, bombast
He **has** a big mouth.
5. imprudence, insolence, flippancy, disrespect,
rudeness, audacity
His **mouth** one day is going to get him in trouble.
6. (slang) freshness, **cheek**, back talk, sass
No more **mouth**!
7. opening, aperture, hatch
The **mouth** of the cave is very small.
8. doorway, gate, portal, entryway, passage
He left the boat at the **mouth** of the cave.
9. way out, exit, outlet, vent
10. from where flowing water is discharged
Do you know where the **mouth** of the Nile River is?
11. the opening of a hollow place or thing
Throw away that bottle; its **mouth** is chipped.
12. one who is dependent on another for substance

I don't have money or time for another **mouth**.

to mouth

1. to silently form words with one's lips
The child **mouthed** his response.
2. to utter softly, murmur, not speak distinctly
Stop **mouthing** your words! Say what you have to say.
3. to chew, rub, press at with the mouth or lips
The dog **mouthed** the bone.
4. to give lip service to, to speak insincerely or dishonestly
I don't believe him. He only **mouthed** his apology.

blabbermouth

1. being a person who discloses, reveals, talks too much or divulges secrets or who circulates rumors
Don't tell him anything; he is a **big mouth**.
2. (more stylistic) being untactful, unthinking, tactless, impudent, indiscreet
3. (informal) being a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, letting the cat out of the bag, **having a loose mouth**, blabbing, babbling, dishing the dirt, being a windjammer, driveller, gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, windbag, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox

by word of mouth

through oral rather than written communication, by oral, spoken or unwritten means

The best recommendation for a movie comes from **word of mouth** instead of from the newspaper or television.

diarrhea of the mouth

1. talking too much, divulging, disclosing, revealing secrets or circulating rumors
Don't tell her anything. She can't control her mouth; she has **diarrhea of the mouth**.
2. (more stylistic) being untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect or indiscreet
3. (informal) gossiping, rumor-mongering, having a **loud mouth**, not knowing how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue**, **jawing**, prattling, spilling the beans, letting the cat out of the bag, **having a loose mouth**, blabbing, babbling, dishing the dirt, **bending someone's ear off**
4. (slang) yakking, rattling or rambling on, yacketying-yakking, **shooting off one's mouth**, **running off at the mouth**, gibbering-jabbering, gabbing, **running on at the mouth**, **spilling one's guts**

down in the mouth

1. depressed, downcast, dejected, discouraged, dismayed, dismal, sad, unhappy, **heartsick**, **heartbroken**, downcast, **out of heart**, cast down
She's been **down in the mouth** since her boyfriend left.
2. (more stylized) sullen, morose, chapfallen, despondent, gloomy, disconsolate, doleful, inconsolable, crestfallen, **disheartened**, begone, melancholy
3. (informal) **downhearted**, down, glum, blue, **long faced**, forlorn, **broken-hearted**, **heavy-hearted**, sick at **heart**
4. (slang) down in the dumps, down in the doldrums, bummed out, in the pits, blue

extra-mouth to feed

1. being taken care of or being the responsibility of another person, being someone who is under the care or protection of another, another child, a child who is seen as a burden
I can't stop working because since my sister has come to stay, she is an **extra mouth to feed**.
2. (negative) being an obligation, **weight around one's neck** or burden
3. (more stylistic/negative) be an encumbrance, hinderance, affliction or impediment of another
4. (informal/negative) being a **millstone around one's neck**, an **albatross around one's neck**, dead weight, a cross or a cross that one must bear

foaming at the mouth

1. irrational, frantic, delirious, out of control, hysterical
2. (more stylistic) incoherent, in a dither, out of one's wits, frenzied, rabid, distraught, at one's wits, fanatical
3. (informal) wild, unstuck, ranting, beside oneself, all worked up, in a tizzy, raving, **out of one's head**, **off one's head**, unstrung, raging, **foaming at the mouth**, at the end of one's rope, stark raving mad, **wild eyes**

foot-in-mouth disease

1. to make insensitive, inapt, inappropriate, imprudent, ill judged or unsuitable statements
I suffer from a chronic case of **foot-in-mouth disease**.
2. (informal) to make statements which are out of keeping, out

of place, thoughtless, wrong-headed or uncalled-for

in everyone's mouth

1. being the subject of people's conversation, the one that everyone is talking about, the center of gossip or celebrated
After what happened, she is most definitely **in everyone's mouth**.
2. being acclaimed, famous, infamous, notorious, having one's person and name be in circulation, current or in the air
3. being **in the mouth of rumormongers, gossipmongers**, the scoop, inside info or the information, being the subject of a whispering campaign, in the news or **on everyone's lips**
4. (slang) being on the grapevine, be the poop, dirt, dope or low down, being talked of

mouth-honor

1. insincerity, butter, artificiality, phoniness, deviousness, dishonesty, untruthfulness, flattery, falseness, lying, crookedness, hypocrisy, oil
He is only giving **mouth-honor**. You can't believe a word that he says.
2. (more stylized) insidiousness, dissimulation, guilefulness, feigning, mendacity, disingenuousness, artfulness, cunningness, duplicity, falsity, prevaricating, sanctimony, self-righteousness, false piety, sycophancy, **lip-homage**
3. (informal) **two-facedness, crossed fingers, tongue in cheek**, foul play, token gesture, dirty tricks, false goodness, **mouth honor, underhandedness**, Judas kiss, **false-heartedness, lip service, smooth tongue, mealy-mouthedness**

4. (slang) dirty pool, toad-eating, sweet talk, soft soap, put-on, goo **eyewash**, hogwash, crocodile tears, wolf in sheep's clothing, oil slickness, oiliness, suaveness, smarminess, greasiness, toadyism, honey

5. **(vulgar) bull shitting, ass in lion's skin**

mouthpiece

1. negotiator, mediator, representative, spokesperson, spokesman, **acting head, assumed head**
He's the **mouthpiece** of the president. I think he has the power to act.

2. (negative) puppet, operative, **figurehead, titular head, nominal head**
You have no power; you are only the director's **mouthpiece**.

3. (negative/informal) hireling, henchman, tool, instrument, man of straw, man Friday

4. (negative/slang) stooge, jackal, flunky, doormat, toady, hack, lackey, yes- man, cat's-paw, spaniel, bootlicker

mouthwatering

1. appetizing in aroma and appearance, delicious, flavorful, scrumptious, tasty or good tasting
The Christmas meal was **mouthwatering**.

2. (more stylized) delectable, tempting, relishable, savory, enviable, desirable, luscious, succulent, savory, palatable, or succulent

3. (informal) yummy, **finger-lickin', finger-lickin' good, toothsome**

one and one's big mouth

(said when one is angry at one's own or another's indiscretion)

1. **Me and my big mouth**, what can I say.
2. **You and your big mouth**, you need to watch what you say.

out of the mouths of babes

the truth is sometimes said by children

Out of the mouths of babes comes many funny things.

puckering one's mouth

1. protruding or thrusting one's lips to show one's displeasure or sullenness, frowning, moping, pouting
Puckering your lips at me will not change my mind. You can't go and that's the end of the story.
2. grimacing, looking sullen, cross or miffed, sulking, glowering, brooding, **putting on a wary** or **long face**, being sulky or peeved
3. **hanging the lip**, looking black, knitting the brows, looking daggers, **pulling on a long face**, being mad, ticked off or sore

putting one's head in the mouth of the lion

1. confronting boldly, opposing directly, confronting, encountering, meeting courageously, challenging, standing up to, provoking, daring, standing in opposition of, standing opposed to, brazening, brazening out, brazening through
Putting one's head in the mouth of the lion is very dangerous.
2. (more stylistic) affronting, oppugning, encountering, crossing, thwarting, **facing in defiance**, threatening, defying
3. (informal) not running away from, skating on thin ice, **putting one's head in the lion's mouth**, **facing**, braving, **facing up to**, courting destruction, tempting Providence, **meeting eyeball to eyeball**, bearding, throwing down the gauntlet, **coming face to**

face, bearding the lion in his den, twisting the lion's tail, **flying in the face of**, making bold, calling into question, **being in one's face**, **meeting head on**, taking up the gauntlet, throwing down the glove or gage, **knocking the chip off one's shoulder**, crossing the line in the sand, **facing down**, **bringing face to face**

4. (slang) taking the bull by the horn, belling the cat, dancing on the razor's edge, double-daring

running off at the mouth

1. talking too much, divulging, disclosing or revealing secrets, circulating rumors
Running off at the mouth can be very dangerous.
2. (more stylistic) untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) being a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, being a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue**, **jawing**, prattling, gossiping, spilling the beans, letting the cat out of the bag, **having a loose mouth**, blabbing, babbling, dishing the dirt, bending someone's ear off, bandying words, rattling on, **bending someone's ear**
4. (slang) yakking, rattling or rambling on, yacketying-yak, **shooting off one's mouth**, **running on at the mouth**, gibbering-jabbering, gabbing, **having diarrhea of the mouth**, **spilling one's guts**, gabbing, chattering, jabbering, prattling, **running one's mouth**, yapping, clacking, clattering, chatting, chit-chatting, spouting, chitter-chattering, shooting the bull, yapping, gushing

running on at the mouth

1. talking too much, divulging, disclosing or revealing secrets, circulating rumors
Running on at the mouth can be very dangerous.

2. (more stylistic) untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) being a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, being a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue**, **jawing**, prattling, gossiping, spilling the beans, letting the cat out of the bag, **having a loose mouth**, blabbing, babbling, dishing the dirt, bending someone's ear off, bandying words, rattling on, **bending someone's ear**
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running one's mouth

1. talking too much, divulging, disclosing or revealing secrets, circulating rumors
Running one's mouth at inappropriate times is not a very good idea.
2. (more stylistic) untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) being a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, being a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue**, **jawing**, prattling, gossiping, spilling the beans, letting the cat out of the bag, **having a loose mouth**, blabbing, babbling, dishing the dirt, bending someone's ear off, bandying words, rattling on, **bending someone's ear**
4. (slang) yakking, rattling or rambling on, yacketying-yak, **shooting off one's mouth**, **running on at the mouth**, gibbering-jabbering, gabbing, **having diarrhea of the mouth**, **spilling one's guts**, gabbing, chattering, jabbering, prattling, **running one's mouth**,

yapping, clacking, clattering, chatting, chit-chatting, spouting, chitter-chattering, shooting the bull, yapping, gushing

shooting off one's mouth

1. speaking or talking out of turn, saying or doing something that embarrasses one, making a fool out of oneself, not thinking carefully about one's actions or words, talking at an inappropriate moment
Shooting off your mouth isn't very healthy.
2. (informal) blundering, botching up, messing up, making a faux pas, slipping up, stumbling, mangling, **making a mess of, putting one's foot in one's mouth**
3. (slang) screwing up, screwing up royally, pulling a boner, goof up, blowing it, flubbing, lousing up, making mince meat out of
4. being a person who talks too much, who divulges, discloses or reveals secrets or who circulates rumors
Shooting off at the mouth should be avoided.
5. (more stylistic) being untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect or indiscreet
6. (informal) being a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, being a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue**, **jawing**, prattling, gossiping, spilling the beans, letting the cat out of the bag, **having a loose mouth**, blabbing, babbling, dishing the dirt, **bending one's ear off**, bandying words, rattling on, **bending one's ear**
7. (slang) yakking, rattling or rambling on, yacketying-yak, **shooting off one's mouth**, **running on at the mouth**, gibbering-jabbering, gabbing, **having diarrhea of the mouth**, **spilling one's guts**, gabbing, chattering, jabbering, prattling, **running one's mouth**, yapping, clacking, clattering, chatting, chit-chatting, spouting, chitter-chattering, shooting the bull, yapping, gushing

8. bragging, coloring, overstating, flaunting, stretching, adorning, dressing up
When he's **shooting off his mouth**, you can not believe a word that he's saying
9. boasting, vaunting, exaggerating, singing one's own praises, trumpeting, hyperbolizing, strutting, overdrawing, embellishing
10. (informal) talking big, tooting one's own horn, **shooting off one's mouth**, beating the drum, telling a fish story, crowing, blowing one's own horn, making much of, **shooting off one's face**
11. (slang) blowing hard, being windy, shooting the bull, piling it higher and higher
12. (vulgar) bull shitting, piling the shit up high

keeping one's mouth shut

1. cease talking, remaining silent, keeping quiet, not speaking, maintaining one's silence
Keeping your mouth shut is essential.
2. (informal) **holding one's tongue**, shutting up, **keeping one's mouth closed**, leaving off, **closing** or **sealing one's lips**, **buttoning one's lips**, **staying one's tongue**
3. (slang) playing dumb, **keeping one's trap closed**, **keeping one's yap shut**, dummifying up, making like a clam
4. not divulging, revealing, or disclosing information, not communicating or relating what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. He knows that **keeping his mouth shut** and not spill what he knows to the police.

5. (informal) not letting the cat out of the bag, leaking, bringing out into the open, spilling the beans, bringing into the light, making known, letting be known, giving away, letting slip, coming out with or telling everything one knows about something
6. (slang) not squealing, ratting on, stooling, finking, blowing the whistle or pulling the plug about something, muffling, muzzling, stifling, hushing up, putting the kibosh on, dummying up, clamming up, putting the lid on, keeping mum, keeping one's trap shut, keeping one's yap shut about something

straight from the horse's mouth

1. (in reference to information) direct, dependable, sure, straight, reliable, firm
I know that it sounds incredible but my information is **straight from the horse's mouth**. It is not **second** or **third hand**; it is **first hand**.
2. (more stylized) unmediated, dependable, personal, immediate
3. (informal) **not second hand**, straight as an arrow, **first hand**, one-to-one, one on one, **not third hand**, **straight from the horse's mouth**, **face-to-face**
4. **vis-à-vis, tête-à-tête**

watering at the mouth

1. drooling, dribbling, slobbering, dripping saliva slavering, driveling
Watering at the mouth, the dog jumped around waiting to eat.
2. desiring or wanting something very much, being stimulated by one's surroundings or environment
The smell of your father's cooking has me **watering at the mouth**.

to bad-mouth

1. to speak or talk badly about, libel, speak ill or evil of, revile, backbite, slander
He is always **bad-mouthing** his family.
2. (more stylized) to disparage, denigrate, villify, malign, berate, defame, deride, asperse, impugn
3. (informal) to run down, throw mud on, pull to pieces, do a hatchet job on, give a bad name to, put down, slur, smudge, drag through the mud, cut up
4. (slang) to do a number on, dump on, heap dirt on, cut up, smear shred, cut to pieces

to be a big mouth

1. to speak or talk too loudly, speak at a deafening level, be boisterous, noisy, brash, vociferous, loud
She is embarrassing; she **is such a big mouth**.
2. to boast, brag, swagger, show off, be arrogant
Here comes John; he **is such a big mouth**.
3. (more stylized) to be haughty, pretentious, presumptuous, assuming, be a strutter, peacock or egotist
4. (informal) to be a bluster, blowhard, windbag or bluffer, big headed, swell headed or pompous, sing one's own praises, toot one's own horn, blow one's own trumpet
He **is a big mouth**; he can not back up his words with action.
5. (slang) to be full of hot air, be a bull shooter
6. **(vulgar) to be full of bull shit, a bull shitter**

7. to be a person who talks too much, who divulges, discloses or reveals secrets or who circulates rumors
Don't tell him anything; he **is a big mouth**.
8. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
9. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, **jaw**

to be a blabbermouth

1. to be a person who discloses, reveals, talks too much or divulges secrets or who circulates rumors
Don't tell him anything; he **is a big mouth**.
2. (more stylistic) to be untactful, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) to be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, be a windjammer, driveller, gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, windbag, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox

to be a loud mouth

1. to be a braggart or boaster
He **is such a loud mouth**, always bragging about his accomplishments.
2. (more stylized) to be a strutter, bluster, poseur, peacock, boaster or swaggerer

3. (informal) to be a blowhard, windbag, peacock or bluffer, be a person who blows or toots one's own horn, pats oneself on the back or sings one's own praises, **be a swellhead**
4. (slang) to **be a** gas bag or **big mouth**, be a person who lays it on thick or piles it higher and deeper, be a bull shooter
5. **(vulgar) to be a bull-shitter, to bullshit**
6. to be a gossip or a person who talks too much or who circulates rumors or spread stories or gossip
7. (informal) to be a magpie, blabbermouth, rumor monger or chatterbox, be chatty
Don't tell him anything; he **is a loud mouth**.
8. (slang) to **run off at the mouth**, **have diarrhea of the mouth**, **be a tongue-wagger**, be gossipy

to be a mealy-mouth

1. to not be direct, explicit, candid, frank or open, be vague, ambiguous
Don't **be such a mealy-mouth** and say what you want to say!
What are you scared of?
2. (more stylistic) to be prevaricating, abstruse, ambiguous, vague ambivalent, obscure, cryptic, false, calculating or mincing
3. (informal) to mince words, to not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, left-handed, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
He **is such a mealy-mouth** that no one is able to pin him down.
4. to be queasy, overnice, overduplicate, delicate, over-refined, squeamish, oversensitive or over-subtle
She drives me crazy; she **is a mealy mouth** who

- watches every single word that she says.
5. (stylized) to be pious, prudish, priggish, prim, prim and proper, sanctimonious, holier-than-thou, Miss Prim and Proper, fastidious, dainty
 6. (informal) to be too nice for words, uptight, goody-goody, nice-Nelly, namby-pamby, **bluenose**, goody two-shoes, la-di-da or simpering
 5. to be fawning, unassertive, tractable, deferential, compliant, submissive, menial, groveling, or crawling
He's not a man; he **is nothing but a mealy mouth** excuse for a human being.
 6. (informal) to be slivering, scraping, bowing, grovel or bowing and scraping
 7. (slang) to be Tomish, Uncle Tomish, bootlicking, apple-polishing, kiss the hem of, or footlicking, kowtow
 8. **(vulgar) to be a brown-noser, brown nose, to brown nose**

to be a mouthpiece

1. to be a spokesman, spokeswoman, surrogate, spokesperson, intermediary, stand-in, representative, proxy, rep
Although he **is only a mouthpiece** of the president, I think that he has the power to act.
2. (negative/informal) to be an operative, instrument, puppet, rubber stamp, front, tool, yes man, lackey
You have no power; you **are a mouthpiece**.
3. (negative/slang) to be a rubber-stamp, door mat, cat's paw, apple polisher, backscratcher, bootlicker or toady

4. (slang/negative) to be a lawyer
He **is a mouthpiece**. What do you expect?
5. **(vulgar) to be a brown-noser, brown nose, to brown nose**

to be a smart mouth

1. to be brash, impudent, impolite, insolent, uncivil, ill-mannered, uncivil, insulting, pert, fresh, disrespectful, brazen, rude, bold, outspoken, stinging, rude or snarling
I know that intellectually that he is the best man for the job but I can't stand him. He **is such a smart mouth**.
2. (more stylized) to be presumptuous, impertinent, audacious, acrimonious, tactless, venomous indiscreet, caustic or disparaging
3. (informal) to be bold, forward, nifty, **cheeky**, shameless, **loud mouthed, smart mouthed, have a mouth on oneself, loud mouth, be mouthy**, out of line, **bold face, barefaced** or **brazen face, have a smart mouth**, loud mouth, big mouth, **mouth off**
4. (slang) to be brassy, fresh, saucy or flip, be a whippersnapper, a wise guy, a smart aleck, a smarty pants, spout off, sass, shoot off, **go off at the mouth**
5. **(vulgar) to be a smart ass, wise ass, have a lot of balls, hussy (woman)**

to be all mouth

1. to be a person who does not act but only talks, be all talk
You can't depend on him, he **is all mouth**.
2. (informal) to be a person who only **runs his** or **her mouth**
3. to be a loud, bragging, boastful or an overbearing person
Ignore him! He **is all mouth**.

to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth

1. to be born in a wealthy well-connected family, inherit wealth
This president **was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.**
2. to start on third base, to be born on home plate, **born with or have a leg up, have a head start**

to be down in the mouth

1. to be depressed, downcast, dejected, discouraged, dismayed, dismal, sad or unhappy
Don't **be so down in the mouth.**
2. (more stylized) to be sullen, morose, chapfallen, despondent, gloomy, disconsolate, doleful, inconsolable, crestfallen, **disheartened**, begone or melancholy
3. (informal) to be downhearted, down, glum, blue, **long faced**, forlorn, **broken-hearted**, **heavy-hearted** or sick at **heart**
4. (slang) to be down in the dumps, down in the doldrums, bummed out or in the pits
5. to be heartsick, heartbroken, downcast, **out of heart** or cast down
The child **was down in the mouth** because her father had to go on a business trip.
6. (more stylized) to be disconsolate, inconsolable, crestfallen, disheartened or begone
7. (informal) to be **broken-hearted**, **heavy-hearted**, **sick at heart**

to be foaming at the mouth

1. to be so angry, enraged, or infuriated that one is almost

out of control, be ranting, out of control or raging, be beside oneself with anger

He had me so angry that I **was foaming at the mouth**.

2. (more stylized) to be wrathful, seething, ireful, wrath, rabid or irate
3. (informal) to be fit to be tied, smoking, livid, mad as a hornet, mad as a wet hen, red or white-hot, ranting and raving, fuming or flared up, be in a state, **frothing at the mouth** or boiling over

to be frothing at the mouth

1. to be enraged, incensed, raging, furious, livid, or rabid, not be rational or in control
I have never be so angry that I **am frothing at the mouth**.
2. (more stylized) to be wrathful, ireful, wrath, rabid or irate
3. (informal) to be hot under the collar, **blue in the face**, worked up, **foaming at the mouth**, white hot, ranting and raving, fuming, flared up, in a state, boiling over, worked up in a lather, carrying on, smoking or be fit to be tied

to be in everyone's mouth

1. to be the subject of people's conversation, be the one that everyone is talking about, be the center of gossip, be celebrated, **be in the public eye, have the public's eye**
After what happened, she **is most definitely in everyone's mouth**.
2. to be acclaimed, famous, infamous, notorious, to have one's person and name be in circulation, current or in the air
3. to **be in the mouth of rumormongers, gossipmongers**, be the scoop, inside info or the information, be the subject of a

whispering campaign, in the news, **on everyone's tongue** or **on everyone's lips**

4. (slang) to be on the grapevine, be the poop, dirt, dope or low down, be talked of

to be left with one's mouth opened

1. to be amazed, astounded, stupefied, or awestruck by what one is looking at or seeing
When he said that I won, I **was left with my mouth open**.
2. (more stylistic) to stand aghast or agog, be stunned, agog, rendered speechless, disconcerted, agape, discomfited, bewildered or confounded
3. (informal) to be flabbergasted, knocked over or out by, boggled, thrown for a loss, thunderstruck, taken aback, floored or bowled over by, **rub one's eyes, be left open-mouthed, not be able to believe one's eyes, not be able to believe one's ear, not believe one's eyes, not believe one's ear**, thrown off guard, **be hit between the eyes, left breathless, set one back on one's heels, take one's breath away**
4. (slang) to **blow one's mind**

to be mouthwatering

1. to appetizing in aroma and appearance, delicious, flavorful, scrumptious, tasty or good tasting
The Christmas meal **was mouthwatering**.
2. (more stylized) to be delectable, tempting, relishable, savory, enviable, desirable, luscious, succulent, savory, palatable, or succulent
3. (informal) to be yummy, **finger-lickin', finger-lickin' good** or **toothsome**

to be foaming at the mouth

1. to be hysterical, raving, uncontrollable, out of control, beserk, ranting, mad, wild
He **was foaming at the mouth** with anger.
2. (more stylistic) to be seething, crazed, storming, frantic, frenzied, overwrought, demented, deranged, frenetic
3. to be out of wits, **out of one's mind**, beside oneself, **wild-eyed**, carried away, **foaming at the mouth**, **out of one's head**, or ranting and raving

to be straight from the horse's mouth

1. to receive, get, obtain or have information or news directly from the source
What I'm now telling you **is straight from the horse's mouth**.
2. (informal) to get the inside story, info or word from an informant
3. (slang) to get the poop, scoop, dirt, low down or dope from a tipster or **Deep Throat**
4. to receive, get, obtain or have information or news on good, reliable, creditable or trustworthy authority
I know what I'm saying is true; you can take it to the bank.
It **is straight from the horse's mouth**.
5. (informal) to get the inside story, info or word from a source which is tried and true or steadfast
6. (slang) to get the poop, scoop, dirt, low down or dope from a source which is good as one's word, honest as the day is long or true blue

to be straight from the horse's mouth

1. (in reference to information) direct, dependable, sure, straight, reliable or firm
I know that it sounds incredible but my information is **straight from the horse's mouth**. It is not **second** or **third hand**; it is **first hand**.
2. (more stylized) unmediated, dependable, personal, or immediate
3. (informal) to be **not second hand**, straight as an arrow, **first hand**, one-to-one, one on one, **not third hand**, **straight from the horse's mouth** or **face-to-face**
4. **vis-à-vis, tête-à-tête**

to close one's trap

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
While he speaks, you are to **close your trap shut**.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, keep one's lips sealed, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, button up, **keep one's trap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazooka shut, let ride, cool it
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. **Close your trap** or pay the consequences.
5. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known,

give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back

6. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's yap shut, not spill one's guts**

to close one's yap

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
While he speaks, you are to **close your yap shut**.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, keep one's lips sealed, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, keep one's trap close, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Close your yap or pay the consequences.
5. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
6. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names,

weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut, not spill one's guts**

to come out of someone's mouth

to be said, expressed, spoken, uttered or vocalized

You would not believe what **can come out of his mouth** when he gets angry.

to foam at the mouth

1. to get angry, enraged or infuriated
Every time I remember what happen I **foam at the mouth**.
2. (more stylized) to seethe, smolder, raise Cain
3. (informal) to be fit to be tied, smoking, livid, mad as a hornet, mad as a wet hen or red or white-hot, rant and rave, fume or flare up, be in a state, **froth at the mouth**, boil over, hot under the collar, boil, **foam at the mouth**
4. (slang) to get all steamed up, blow one's top, make a fuss, breathe fire, steam, see red

to froth at the mouth

1. to get angry, enraged or infuriated
Every time I remember what happen I **froth at the mouth**.
2. (more stylized) to seethe, smolder, raise Cain
3. (informal) to be fit to be tied, smoking, livid, mad as a hornet, mad as a wet hen or red or white-hot, rant and rave, fume or flare up, be in a state, **froth at the mouth**, boil over, hot under the collar, boil, **foam at the mouth**

4. (slang) to get all steamed up, blow one's top, make a fuss, breathe fire, steam, see red

to get it straight from the horse's mouth

1. to receive, get, obtain or have information or news directly from the source
I know because I **got it straight from the horse's mouth.**
2. (informal) to get the inside story, info or word from an informant
3. (slang) to get the poop, scoop, dirt, low down or dope from a tipster or **Deep Throat**
4. to receive, get, obtain or have information or news on good, reliable, creditable or trustworthy authority
I **got it from the horse's mouth.**; therefore, I do not doubt that it's the truth.
5. (informal) to get the inside story, info or word from a source which is tried and true or steadfast
6. (slang) to get the poop, scoop, dirt, low down or dope from a source which is good as one's word, honest as the day is long or true blue

to give mouth-honor

1. to be insincere, artificial phony, devious, dishonest, untruthful, false, lying, crooked or hypocritical, truckle up to, flatter, truckle, fawn, curry favor to
He is only **giving mouth-honor.** You can't believe a word that he says.
2. (more stylized) be insidious, be feigning, disingenuous, artful, cunning, duplicitous, false or self-righteous, prevaricate, pay false piety, feign, dissimulate, **pay** or **give lip-homage**, praise, exalt, praise to an excess, fawn upon, pay court to

3. (informal) to toady to, butter up, **be two-faced**, **cross fingers**, **be tongue in cheek**, bootlick, **pay mouth honor**, apple-polish, **be underhanded**, give the Judas kiss, **be falsehearted**, **pay** or **give lip service**, **have a smooth tongue**, shine up to, **lick one's feet**, **be mealy-mouthed**, be a yes man, fall all over
4. (slang) to toadeat, sweet talk, soft soap, put-on, **eyewash**, give a lot of hogwash, be a wolf in sheep's clothing, oil, slick, suave, smarmy, greasiness or toady, bootlick
honey
5. **(vulgar) to brown nose, bull shit, ass in lion's skin, kiss ass**

to give mouth to

1. to voice, air, ventilate, communicate, say, make known, vent, vocalize, express, let out, verbalize
He was able to **give mouth to** her fears and concerns.
2. to put into words, come out with, put forth, bring to one's attention, give one to understand, give vent to, give voice to

to have a big mouth

1. to speak or talk too loudly, speak at a deafening level, be boisterous, noisy, brash, vociferous, loud
She is embarrassing; she **has such a big mouth**.
2. to boast, brag, swagger, show off, be arrogant
Here comes John; he **has such a big mouth**.
3. (more stylized) to be haughty, pretentious, presumptuous, or assuming
4. (informal) to be a bluster, blowhard, windbag or bluffer, big headed, swell headed or pompous, sing one's own praises, toot one's own horn, blow one's own trumpet
He **has a big mouth**; he can not back up his words with action.

5. (slang) to be full of hot air
6. **(vulgar) to be full of bull shit, bull shitter**
7. to be a person who talks too much, who divulges, discloses or reveals secrets or who circulates rumors
Don't tell him anything; he **has a big mouth**.
8. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
9. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, **jaw**
10. (slang) to yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **shoot off one's mouth, run off at the mouth**, gibber-jabber, **have diarrhea of the mouth**, gab, **run on at the mouth, spill one's guts**

to have a dirty mouth

1. to be a person who speaks in an indecent, profane, vulgar, immodest, unseemly, unbecoming, crude, boorish, coarse, insensitive, sensational, inappropriate or suggestive manner
You **have a very dirty mouth**. You need to clean up your language or you're going to have to get another job.
2. (more stylistic) to be a person who is lewd, indecorous, churlish, untoward, ribald, indelicate, prurient, inapt or risqué manner
3. (informal) to speak in a manner which is off-color, vile, out of keeping, bawdy, raunchy, off-key, dirty, out of bounds, low or out of keeping, place or line, **have a foul mouth**

4. (slang) to be a person who is raunchy, blue, gross, smutty, nasty, filthy, trashy, raunchy

to have a foul mouth

1. to be a person who uses obscene, pornographic, risqué, baseborn, tasteless, crude, shameless, crass, tactless, rough, base, brash, raw, uncouth, rustic, offensive, sordid, insulting
I don't like to go out with him; he **has such a foul mouth**, especially when it comes to women. Disgusting!
2. (more stylistic) to be a person who is salacious, indelicate, gauche, ill-mannered, injudicious
3. (informal) to use language which is loose, spicy, bawdy, wanton, gross, earthy, low, perverted, base, not fit for mixed company, not fit for delicate ears, not fit to print, salty, vile or tacky, **have a dirty mouth**
4. (slang) to use language which is gutter, base, trashy, raunchy, smutty, scruffy, nasty, low-down, mean, foul, sleazy, grungy

to have a loose mouth

1. to talk too much, be indiscreet, to have the tendency to gossip, reveal secrets, divulge confidences, circulate rumors, spread stories
Having a loose mouth is dangerous.
2. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a big** or **loud mouth**
Don't tell him anything; he **has a very loose mouth**.

4. (slang) to yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **shoot off one's mouth**, **run off at the mouth**, gibber-jabber, **have diarrhea of the mouth**, gab, **run on at the mouth**, **spill one's guts**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, jaw

to have a mouth to feed

1. to take care of or be responsible for another person (normally a child), care for or be the caretaker of another
I can't stop working because I **have three mouths to feeds**.
2. (negative) to have the obligation, hardship, worry, trouble, weight or burden of another
3. (more stylistic/negative) to have the encumbrance, hinderance, affliction or impediment another
4. (informal/negative) to **have a millstone around one's neck**, to **have an albatross around one's neck**, be a dead weight, cross, cross that one must bear

to have a smart mouth

1. to be impudent, impolite, insolent, uncivil, ill-mannered, insulting, stinging, rude or snarling
I know that intellectually that he is the best man for the job but I can't stand him. He **has such a smart mouth**.
2. (more stylized) to be presumptuous, impertinent, audacious, acrimonious, tactless, venomous indiscreet, caustic or disparaging
3. (informal) to be bold, nervy, **cheeky**, shameless, **have a mouth on oneself**, **loud mouth**, **mouthy**, out of line, **bold face**, **brazen face**, **be a smart mouth**, **mouth off** or **barefaced**
4. (slang) to be brassy, pert, fresh, saucy, flip, or brazen, be a whippersnapper, a wise guy, a smart aleck, a smarty pants, spout off, sass, shoot off, **go off at the mouth**

5. **(vulgar) to be a smart ass, wise ass, have a lot of balls, hussy (woman)**

to have an extra-mouth to feed

1. to take care of or be responsible for another person (normally a child), care for or be a caretaker of another
I can't stop working because since my sister has come to stay, I **have an extra mouth to feed.**
2. (negative) to have the obligation, hardship, worry, trouble, weight or burden of another
3. (more stylistic/negative) to have the encumbrance, hinderance, affliction or impediment of another
4. (informal/negative) to **have a millstone around one's neck**, to **have an albatross around one's neck**, be a dead weight, cross, cross that one must bear

to have diarrhea of the mouth

1. to be a person who talks too much, who divulges, discloses or reveals secrets or who circulates rumors
Don't tell her anything. She can't control her mouth; she **has diarrhea of the mouth.**
2. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, to bend someone's ear off, **jaw**

4. (slang) to yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **shoot off one's mouth, run off at the mouth, gibber-jabber, gab, run on at the mouth, spill one's guts**

to have mouth on oneself

1. to be impudent, impolite, insolent, uncivil, ill-mannered, insulting, stinging, rude or snarling
Intellectually he is the best man for the job but I can't stand him.
He **has more mouth on him** than I am able to take.
2. (more stylized) to be presumptuous, impertinent, audacious, acrimonious, tactless, venomous indiscreet, caustic or disparaging
3. (informal) to be bold, nervy, **cheeky**, shameless, **have a smart mouth, loud mouth, mouthy**, out of line, **bold face, brazen face, be a smart mouth, mouth off** or **barefaced**
4. (slang) to be brassy, pert, fresh, saucy, flip, whippersnapper, wise guy, smart aleck, smarty pants or brazen
5. **(vulgar) to be a smart ass, wise ass, have a lot of balls, hussy (woman)**

to have one's heart in one's mouth

1. to be afraid, startled, frightened, terrified or scared
With the way he drives, during the entire trip I **had my heart in my mouth.**
2. to **send chills down one's spine, make one's blood run cold, make one's skin or flesh crawl, send shivers down one's spine**, fill with terror, put the fear of God into, **put one's heart in one's mouth, curdle one's blood**
3. to make someone break out in cold sweat, scare the bejesus out of, scare someone stiff, scare the hell out of, scare the living daylight

out of, **make one's hair stand on end**, scare to death, frighten out of one's wits

4. to be worried, distressed, apprehensive, alarmed, uneasy, anxious, disturbed or nervous about
Every time that I am with him, I always have my **heart in my mouth**. He makes me so nervous.
5. (informal) to be on pins and needle, upset, on edge, jittery, ruffled, edgy, keyed up or on tenterhooks about, be waiting for the other shoe to fall or for the bomb to explode
6. (slang) to be antsy, uptight, jumpy or in a tizzy about, have the willies, the creeps, the heebie-jeebies or the jitters about

to have one's mouth shut

1. to have someone killed or murdered
I promise you that he won't talk. I **had his mouth shut**.
2. (informal) to have someone liquidated, put out of the way, silenced, carried off, dispatched, finished off
3. (slang) to have someone erased, blotted out, gotten rid of, nipped in the bud, hit, zapped, eighty-sixed, wiped out, rubbed out, wasted, polished off, muzzled, put the kibosh on or shushed

to keep one's mouth closed

1. to not talk, to maintain one's silence
You talk entirely too much; you must learn how to **keep your mouth closed**.
2. (informal) to keep quiet, not make noise, not make any noise
3. (slang) keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut

4. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
You better not say anything and **keep your mouth closed**.
5. (more stylized) to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not breathe a word, maintain one's silence
6. (informal) to **seal one's lips**, not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip or come out with or tell everything, **hold one's tongue**
7. (slang) not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug, muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on

to keep one's mouth closed about

1. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You need to **keep your mouth closed about** what happened last night or you're going to have problems.
2. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something
3. (slang) not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut about something

to keep one's mouth shut

1. to not talk, to maintain one's silence
You talk entirely too much; you must learn how to **keep your mouth shut**.

2. (informal) to keep quiet, not make noise, not make any noise
3. (slang) keep mum, **keep one's trap shut**, **keep one's yap shut**
4. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
If the police ask you anything, don't say anything. **Keep your mouth shut.**
5. (more stylized) to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not breathe a word, maintain one's silence
6. (informal) to **seal one's lips**, not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip or come out with or tell everything, **hold one's tongue**
7. (slang) not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug, muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on

to keep one's mouth shut about

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You need to **keep your mouth shut about** what happened last night or you're going to have problems.
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3. (slang) not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut about something

to keep one's trap closed

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
While he speaks, you are to **keep your trap closed**.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, keep one's lips sealed, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Keep your trap closed or pay the consequences.
5. (more stylized) to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not breathe a word, maintain one's silence
6. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
7. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's yap shut, not spill one's guts**

to keep one's yap closed

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent

While he speaks, you are to **keep your yap close**.

2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, keep one's lips sealed, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, keep one's trap close, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Keep your yap closed or pay the consequences.
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to keep one's trap shut

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
While he speaks, you are to **keep your trap shut**.

2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, keep one's lips sealed, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, button up, **keep one's trap closed**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it, **keep one's yap closed**
4. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Keep your trap shut or pay the consequences.
5. (more stylized) to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not breathe a word, maintain one's silence
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to keep one's yap shut

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
While he speaks, you are to **keep your yap shut**.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's**

tongue between one's teeth, keep one's lips sealed, seal one's lips

3. (slang) to play dumb, keep one's trap close, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Keep your yap shut or pay the consequences.
5. (more stylized) to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not breathe a word, maintain one's silence
6. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
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to laugh on of the other side of one's mouth

1. to be dishonored, humiliated, discredited, belittled or disgraced
2. (more stylistic) to be humbled, meekened, rebuked, made to be contrite, shamed, demeaned, disparaged or chastened
Now that all the numbers are in, he's **laughing on the other side of his mouth.**
3. (informal) **to be slapped in the face**, brought down a peg or two, made to eat humble pie, **have one's ears pinned back**, get what

one has been asking for, be put in one's place, squelched, **brought to one's knees**

4. to be dismayed, discouraged, dejected or **disheartened**
5. (informal) to be in the doldrums, **take the heart out of**, take the starch out of, damper one's spirit
6. (slang) to be down in the dumps, be bummed out

to leave a bad taste in one's mouth

1. to leave, leave or remain behind or have remaining behind an offensive, bad, objectionable or unpleasant impression once one has departed or left
What he said **left a bad taste in my mouth.**
2. (informal) **leave a nasty taste in one's mouth**

to leave a nasty taste in one's mouth

1. to leave, leave or remain behind or have remaining behind an offensive, bad, objectionable or unpleasant impression once one has departed or left
What he said **left a bad taste in my mouth.**
2. (informal) **leave a bad taste in one's mouth**

to live from hand to mouth

1. to barely survive economically, to have no economic reserves, be economically shaky, fickle, irregular, unsteady, undependable or vulnerable
While in university, many students **live from hand to mouth.**
2. to have an economic situation which is precarious, capricious, unpredictable, volatile or erratic

3. to live a life which is economically in doubt, hairy, not to be depended on, touch-and-go, stop-and-go, in the balance, flighty, hanging by the thread, come-and-go, here today gone tomorrow, ticklish, chancy

to look a gift horse in the mouth

1. to be very critical, overly critical, not be grateful or thankful for, not trust, be distrustful of, or look at with suspicion or skepticism on one's good fortune, pessimistic, critical and questioning or unbelieving of what one is being given or receiving
2. (more stylistic) to be incredulous, dubious, mistrustful, apprehensive, leery, cautious
3. (informal) **to have a jaundiced eye**, doubting Thomas, pick holes in, hard or difficult to please, be from Missouri, be wary, **mindful** or on one's guard

to look like butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth

1. to appear innocent and sweet but to be in reality cold, tough, and hard, outward appearance can never be used as an indication of true character
She only **looks like butter wouldn't melt in her mouth**. She is a very tough cookie.
2. to be a wolf in sheep clothing, appearances can be deceiving, can not judge a book by its cover

to mouth off

1. to express oneself in a disrespectful manner, be impudent, impolite, insolent, uncivil, ill-mannered, insulting, stinging, rude or snarling
He **is always mouthing off**. He needs to think before speaking.
2. (more stylized) to be presumptuous, impertinent, audacious, acrimonious, tactless, venomous indiscreet, caustic or disparaging

3. (informal) to be bold, nervy, **cheeky**, shameless, **have a mouth on oneself**, **loud mouth**, **mouthy**, out of line, **bold face**, **brazen face**, **have a smart mouth**, **be a smart mouth** or **barefaced**
4. (slang) to be brassy, pert, fresh, saucy, flip, or brazen, be a whippersnapper, a wise guy, a smart aleck, a smarty pants, spout off, sass, shoot off, **go off at the mouth**
5. **(vulgar) to be a smart ass, wise ass, have a lot of balls, hussy (woman)**

to never open one's mouth

1. to never speak or utter a word because one is shy or afraid
He **never opens his mouth** at these kinds of events. He doesn't like to draw attention to himself.
2. (informal) to never breathe or whisper a word, keep one's lips sealed or closed, keep one's mouth shut, to keep quiet, not make noise, not make any noise
3. (slang) keep mum or mute, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut

to not dare open one's mouth

1. to not be bold, daring, confident, nor self-assured, be shrinking, afraid, fearful, apprehensive, weak or distrustful
He did **not dare open his mouth** when he was confronted by the police. He was too scared.
2. (informal) to be afraid of one's own shadow, **not have the heart**, be cowardly, **faint-hearted**, **weak-kneed** or cowed, be a scaredy or fraidy cat, milksop, Milquetoast or jellyfish, **not open one's mouth**
3. (slang) to **be lily-livered**, **white-livered**, **yellow-bellied**, mousy, **chicken-livered**, **milk-livered**, milk-soppy

4. **(vulgar) to be a pansy, pantywaist, candy-assed, sissy-assed**

5. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brothing talking to the police. He **won't dare open his mouth** and spill what he knows to the police.
6. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something
7. (slang) not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut about something

to not open one's mouth

1. to not be bold, daring, confident, nor self-assured, be shrinking, afraid, fearful, apprehensive, weak or distrustful
At the party she was so shy that she did **not open her mouth**. She was a wallflower.
2. (informal) to be afraid of one's own shadow, **not have the heart**, be cowardly, **faint-hearted**, **weak-kneed** or cowed, be a scaredy or fraidy cat, milksop, Milquetoast or jellyfish, **not open one's mouth**
3. (slang) to **be lily-livered**, **white-livered**, **yellow-bellied**, mousy, **chicken-livered**, **milk-livered**, milk-soppy
4. **(vulgar) to be a pansy, pantywaist, candy-assed, sissy-assed**
5. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. He **won't dare open his mouth** and spill what he knows to the police.

6. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something
7. (slang) not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut about something

to open one's mouth

1. to be a person who talks too much, who divulges, discloses or reveals secrets or who circulates rumors
He is always **opening his mouth** at inappropriate times.
2. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, to bend someone's ear off, **jaw**, bandy words
4. (slang) to yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **shoot off one's mouth, run off at the mouth**, gibber-jabber, gab, **have diarrhea of the mouth, spill one's guts**, gab, chatter, jabber, prattle

to open one's mouth too wide (vulgar)

to ask for too much money, to have one's hand out

to give mouth-honor

1. to be insincere, artificial phony, devious, dishonest, untruthful, false, lying, crooked or hypocritical, truckle up to, flatter, truckle, fawn, curry favor to

He is only **paying mouth-honor**. You can't believe a word that he says.

2. (more stylized) be insidious, be feigning, disingenuous, artful, cunning, duplicitous, false or self-righteous, prevaricate, pay false piety, feign, dissimulate, **pay** or **give lip-homage**, praise, exalt, praise to an excess, fawn upon, pay court to
3. (informal) to toady to, butter up, **be two-faced**, **cross fingers**, **be tongue in cheek**, bootlick, **pay mouth honor**, apple-polish, **be underhanded**, give the Judas kiss, **be falsehearted**, **pay** or **give lip service**, **have a smooth tongue**, shine up to, **lick one's feet**, **be mealy-mouthed**, be a yes man, fall all over
4. (slang) to toadeat, sweet talk, soft soap, put-on, **eyewash**, give a lot of hogwash, be a wolf in sheep's clothing, oil, slick, suave, smarmy, greasiness or toady, bootlick, honey
5. **(vulgar)** to suck up to, **brown nose**, **bull shit**, **ass in lion's skin**, **kiss ass**

to poor-mouth

1. to defame, belittle, smear, smirch, besmirch, slur, mar or smudge
Her revenge on me was to **poor-mouth** me to all our friends.
2. (more stylistic) to denigrate, impugn, taint, malign, misrepresent, traduce, impute, vilify, cast aspersions on, calumniate, sully, defile or libel
3. to dump on, talk down, talk badly about fling dirt on, throw dirt on, drag through the mud, drag through the mire, give a bad name, heap dirt on, engage in personalities, run down
4. (slang) to **badmouth**, dump on, do a hatchet job on, wipe the floor with, shred, **backbite**

to pucker one's mouth

1. to protrude or thrust one's lips to show one's displeasure or sullenness, frown, mope, pout
Don't **pucker your lips** to me. You can't go and that's the end of the story.
2. to grimace, look sullen, cross or miffed, sulk, glower, brood, **put on a wary** or **long face**, be sulky or peeved
3. to **hang the lip**, look black, knit the brows, look daggers, **pull on a long face**, be mad, ticked off or sore

to put one's foot in one's mouth

1. to speak out of turn, say or do something that embarrasses one, make a fool out of oneself, not think carefully about one's actions or words
You must stop **putting your foot in your mouth**.
 2. (more stylized) to err, be amiss, mistaken in error or erroneous
 3. (informal) to blunder, botch up, mess up, make a faux pas, slip up, stumble, mangle, **make a mess of**, **shoot off one's mouth**, **stick one's foot in one's mouth**
 4. (slang) to screw up, screw up royally, **pull a boner**, goof up, blow it, flub, louse up, make mince meat out of, boo-boo, goof
- 4. (vulgar) to fuck up, to fuck up royally, bitch**

to put one's head in the lion's mouth

1. to defy or challenge danger, be fearless, unafraid, brave, unshrinking, unblinking, bold or daring
To prove that he wasn't scared, he **put his head in the lion's mouth**.

2. (more stylistic) to be audacious, venturesome, valiant, valorous, dauntless, intrepid, undaunted, Spartan, unblenching
3. (informal) Spartan, stout-hearted, play with fire, dance on the razor's edge, skate on thin ice, tempt Providence, go in harm's way, square off, **be gutsy**, **nervy** or **red-blood**
4. (slang) spunky, manly, manful, plucky, one's own man, **march up to the canon's mouth**, **thumb one's nose to danger**, court destruction, beard the lion, double-dog dare, **thumb one's nose at**, **snap one's fingers at**
5. **(vulgar) to be ballsy, have balls**

to put one's money where one's mouth is

to talk less and act more, prove the truth of one's sincerity by action
You said that you support his candidacy; therefore, **put your money where your mouth is**.

to put words into someone's mouth

to falsely, wrongly or incorrectly accuse someone of saying something
I did not say that. Please do not **put words into my mouth**.

to run off at the mouth

1. to be a person who talks too much, who divulges, discloses or reveals secrets or who circulates rumors
You better stop **running off at the mouth**.
2. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill

the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, to bend someone's ear off, **jaw**, bandy words, rattle on, **bend someone's ear**

4. (slang) to blab, yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **shoot off one's mouth**, **run on at the mouth**, gibber-jabber, gab, **have diarrhea of the mouth**, **spill one's guts**, gab, chatter, jabber, prattle, **run one's mouth**, yap, clack, clatter, chat, chit-chat, spout, chitter-chatter, bull, chin, shoot the bull, yap, yak, gush

to run on at the mouth

1. to be a person who talks too much, who divulges, discloses or reveals secrets or who circulates rumors
You need to stop **running on at the mouth so much**.
2. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
3. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue**, **jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, to bend someone's ear off, **jaw**, bandy words, rattle on, **bend someone's ear**
4. (slang) to yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **shoot off one's mouth**, **run off at the mouth**, gibber-jabber, gab, **have diarrhea of the mouth**, **spill one's guts**, gab, chatter, jabber, prattle, **run one's mouth**, yap, clack, clatter

to run one's mouth

1. to talk too much, divulge, disclose or reveal secrets, circulate rumors
He is always **running his mouth** at inappropriate times.
2. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet

3. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, to bend someone's ear off, **jaw**, bandy words
4. (slang) to yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **shoot off one's mouth, run off at the mouth**, gibber-jabber, gab, **have diarrhea of the mouth, spill one's guts**, gab, chatter, jabber, prattle

to shoot off one's mouth

1. to speak or talk out of turn, say or do something that embarrasses one, make a fool out of oneself, not think carefully about one's actions or words, talk at an inappropriate moment
Stop **shooting off your mouth**. You need to think before opening your mouth.
2. (informal) to blunder, botch up, mess up, make a faux pas, slip up, stumble, mangle, **make a mess of, put one's foot in one's mouth**
3. (slang) to screw up, screw up royally, pull a boner, goof up, blow it, flub, louse up, make mince meat out of
4. to be a person who talks too much, who divulges, discloses or reveals secrets or who circulates rumors
You better stop **running off at the mouth**.
5. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet
6. (informal) to be a gossip, rumormonger, **loud mouth**, magpie, **blabbermouth** or chatterbox, be a person who does not know how to keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, to bend someone's ear off, **jaw**, bandy words, rattle on, **bend someone's ear**

7. (slang) to yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **run off at the mouth**, **run on at the mouth**, gibber-jabber, gab, **have diarrhea of the mouth**, **spill one's guts**, gab, chatter, jabber, prattle, **run one's mouth**, yap, clack, clatter, chat, chit-chat, chitter-chatter, to bull, chin, shoot the bull, yap, yak
8. to brag, color, overstate, flaunt, stretch, adorn, dress up
When he's **shooting off his mouth**, you can not believe a word that he's saying
9. to boast, vaunt, exaggerate, sing one's own praises, trumpet, hyperbolize, strut, overdraw, embellish
10. (informal) to talk big, toot one's own horn, **shoot off one's mouth**, beat the drum, tell a fish story, crow, shoot off one's face, blow one's own horn, make much of, **shoot off one's face**
11. (slang) to blow hard, be windy, shoot the bull, pile it higher and higher
12. (vulgar) to bull shit, pile the shit up high

to shut one's mouth

1. to stop, quit, cease talking, remain silent, keep quiet, not speak
Sometimes, I don't know how to **shut my mouth**.
2. (informal) to **hold one's tongue**, shut up, **keep one's mouth**, leave off, close or seal one's lips, button one's lips, stay one's tongue
3. (slang) to play dumb, keep one's trap close, keep one's yap shut, dummy up, make like a clam
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something

You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. He knows how to **shut his mouth** and not spill what he knows to the police.

5. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something
6. (slang) not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut about something

to shut one's trap

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
While he speaks, you are to **close your trap shut**.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, keep one's lips sealed, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, button up, **keep one's trap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. **Shut your trap** or pay the consequences.
5. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back

6. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's yap shut, not spill one's guts**

to shut one's yap

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
While he speaks, you are to **shut your yap shut**.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, keep one's lips sealed, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, **keep one's trap close**, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Shut your yap or pay the consequences.
5. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
6. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut, not spill one's guts**

to shut someone's mouth

1. to assure that someone does not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. My threats **shut his mouth**. He won't be revealing any information to anyone.
2. (informal) to assure that someone does not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something
3. (slang) to assure that someone does not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut about something
4. to kill or murder someone
He won't be talking to the police again. I have **shut his mouth**, permanently.
5. (slang) to bump off, **blow the brains out of**, pump full of lead hammer, put out of the way, bump off, snuff out, knock off, send west, take for a ride, put out of one's misery

to shut someone's trap

1. to assure that someone does not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. My threats **shut his trap**. He won't be revealing any information to anyone.
2. (informal) to assure that someone does not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or

tell everything one knows about something, **shut someone's mouth**

3. (slang) to assure that someone does not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut about something**
4. to kill or murder someone
He won't be talking to the police again. I have to **shut his trap**, permanently.
5. (slang) to bump off, **blow the brains out of**, pump full of lead hammer, put out of the way, bump off, snuff out, knock off, send west, take for a ride, put out of one's misery

to shut someone's yap

1. to assure that someone does not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. My threats **shut his yap**. He won't be revealing any information to anyone.
2. (informal) to assure that someone does not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something
3. (slang) to assure that someone does not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut** about something
4. to kill or murder someone

He won't be talking to the police again. I have to **shut his yap**, permanently.

5. (slang) to bump off, **blow the brains out of**, pump full of lead hammer, put out of the way, bump off, snuff out, knock off, send west, take for a ride, put out of one's misery

to stand convicted out of one's own mouth

to have one's own words used against one

He **stood convicted out of his own mouth**. He's has no one to blame but himself.

to stick one's foot in one's mouth

1. to speak out of turn, say or do something that embarrasses one, make a fool out of oneself, not think carefully about one's actions or words
You must stop **sticking your foot in your mouth**.
2. (informal) to blunder, botch up, mess up, make a faux pas, slip up, stumble, mangle, **make a mess of**, **shoot off one's mouth**, **put one's foot in one's mouth**
3. (slang) to screw up, screw up royally, pull a boner, goof up, blow it, flub, louse up, make mince meat out of
4. **(vulgar) to fuck up, to fuck up royally, bitch**

to stick out one's mouth

1. to protrude or thrust one's lips to show one's displeasure or sullenness, frown, mope, pout
Don't **stick out your mouth** to me. You can't go and that's the end of the story.
2. to grimace, look sullen, cross or miffed, sulk, glower, brood, **put on a wary** or **long face**, be sulky or peevish

3. to **hang the lip**, look black, knit the brows, look daggers, **pull on a long face**, be mad, ticked off or sore

to stop someone's mouth

1. to prevent or stop someone from continuing to talk
The minute that he starts getting sarcastic, you must **stop his mouth** as quickly as possible.
2. to assure that someone does not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. My threats will **stop his mouth**. He won't be revealing any information to anyone.
3. (informal) to assure that someone does not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something
4. (slang) to assure that someone does not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut about something
5. to kill or murder someone
He won't be talking to the police again. I have **stopped his mouth**, permanently.
6. (slang) to bump off, **blow the brains out of**, pump full of lead hammer, put out of the way, bump off, snuff out, knock off, send west, take for a ride, put out of one's misery

to take the words out of someone's mouth

to say what someone else was about to say
You **took the words right out of my mouth**.

to talk out of both sides of one's mouth

1. to lie, dodge, talk or speak untruthfully or in a contradictory manner, to be deceitful, insincere, false, untrustworthy or hypocritical, deceive, hedge
She's always **talking out of both sides of her mouth.**
2. (highly stylized) to qualify, vacillate, be Machiavellian, **Janus-faced** or disingenuous, tergiversate, palter, hold with the hare but run with the hounds, equivocate, compromise, prevaricate
3. (informal) to quibble, be someone who would **stab one in the back, be double-tongued**, crooked, **underhanded**, double-dealing, a snake in the grass, beat around the bush, **two faced** or **false-hearted**, straddle, double-talk, fudge
4. (slang) to fudge, shilly-shally, waffle

to watch one's mouth

1. to choose one's words very carefully, be vigilant, hesitant, or apprehensive about what one says, be on constant guard to not speak out of turn
When I'm with my mother, I must **watch my mouth.**
2. to **not put one's foot in one's mouth, not stick one's foot in one's mouth, not run off at the mouth, not run on at the mouth, not have diarrhea of the mouth**

to water at the mouth

to drool, dribble, slobber, drip saliva, slaver, drivel
The dog was jumping around and watering at the mouth.

Butter wouldn't melt in someone's mouth

1. to be cold, **heartless**, ice cold, hardened
She is so cruel that even **butter wouldn't melt in her mouth.**

2. (informal) to **be cold-blooded, cold-hearted, hard-hearted**, stony, unruffled, **thick skinned**

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

to not be very critical, overly critical, suspicious or skeptical of one's good fortune, be grateful or thankful for what is receiving

Hush your mouth! (slang/Southern)

Shut up, Keep quiet, Stop talking

Hush your mouth or pay the consequences.

My heart is in my mouth.

I am very touched. I am, at this moment, very emotional.

Watch your mouth!

Be very careful of what you say!

foul-mouthed

obscene, profane, insulting, vulgar, lewd

It's not good to be **foul-mouthed**.

loud mouthed

1. to be a braggart or boaster
He **is a loud mouthed** person always bragging about his accomplishments.
2. (more stylized) to be a strutter, bluster, poseur, peacock, boaster or swaggerer
3. (informal) to be a blowhard, windbag, peacock or bluffer, be a person who blows or toots one's own horn, pats oneself on the back or sings one's own praises, **be a swellhead**

4. (slang) to **be a** gas bag or **big mouth**, be a person who lays it on thick or piles it higher and deeper, be a bull shooter
5. **(vulgar) to be a bull-shitter, to bullshit**
6. to be a gossip or a person who talks too much or who circulates rumors or spread stories or gossip
7. (informal) to be a magpie, blabbermouth, rumor monger or chatterbox, be chatty
Don't tell him anything; he **is a loud mouthed** jerk.
8. (slang) to **run off at the mouth, have diarrhea of the mouth, be a tongue-wagger**, be gossipy
9. brash, impudent, impolite, insolent, uncivil, ill-mannered, uncivil, insulting, pert, fresh, disrespectful, brazen, rude, bold, outspoken, stinging, rude, snarling
I know that intellectually that he is the best man for the job but I can't stand him. He **is loud mouthed** and brazen.
10. (more stylized) presumptuous, impertinent, audacious, acrimonious, tactless, venomous indiscreet, caustic or disparaging
11. (informal) bold, forward, nervy, **cheeky**, shameless, **loud mouthed, smart mouthed, have a mouth on oneself, loud mouth, be mouthy**, out of line, **bold face, barefaced** or **brazen face, have a smart mouth, loud mouth, big mouth, mouth off**
12. (slang) brassy, fresh, saucy or flip, be a whippersnapper, a wise guy, a smart aleck, a smarty pants, spout off, sass, shoot off, **go off at the mouth**
13. **(vulgar) to be a smart ass, wise ass, have a lot of balls, hussy (woman)**

smart mouthed

1. brash, impudent, impolite, insolent, uncivil, ill-mannered, uncivil, insulting, pert, fresh, disrespectful, brazen, rude, bold, outspoken, stinging, rude, snarling
I know that intellectually that he is the best man for the job but I can't stand him. He is **smart mouthed** and brazen.
2. (more stylized) presumptuous, impertinent, audacious, acrimonious, tactless, venomous indiscreet, caustic or disparaging
3. (informal) bold, forward, nifty, **cheeky**, shameless, **loud mouthed**, **smart mouthed**, **have a mouth on oneself**, **loud mouth**, **be mouthy**, out of line, **bold face**, **barefaced** or **brazen face**, **have a smart mouth**, **loud mouth**, **big mouth**, **mouth off**
4. (slang) brassy, fresh, saucy or flip, be a whippersnapper, a wise guy, a smart aleck, a smarty pants, spout off, sass, shoot off, **go off at the mouth**
5. **(vulgar) to be a smart ass, wise ass, have a lot of balls, hussy (woman)**

to be closed-mouthed

1. to be quiet, **tight lipped**, taciturn, reserved, mute, uncommunicative
He **is so closed-lipped** that I've never seen him smile.
2. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, be secretive
He's not going to say a thing. He **is closed-mouthed**.
3. (informal) to not spill the beans, not let the cat out of the bag, not say a word, not let leaked, not blow the whistle
4. (slang) to not sing, not squeal, not weasel, not leak, not blow the lid on, not name names, not let slip

to be foul-mouthed

1. to be a person who uses obscene, pornographic, risqué, baseborn, tasteless, crude, shameless, crass, tactless, rough, base, brash, raw, uncouth, rustic, offensive, sordid, insulting
I don't like to go out with him; he **is foul mouthed**, especially when it comes to women. Disgusting!
2. (more stylistic) to be a person who is salacious, indelicate, gauche, ribald, ill-mannered, injudicious, profane or scurrilous
3. (informal) to use language which is loose, spicy, bawdy, wanton, gross, earthy, low, perverted, base, not fit for mixed company, not fit for delicate ears, not fit to print, salty, vile or tacky, **have a dirty mouth**
4. (slang) to use language which is gutter, base, trashy, raunchy, smutty, scruffy, nasty, low-down, mean, foul, sleazy, grungy

to be hard mouthed

1. to be ornery, obstinate, stubborn, inflexible, unyielding or adamant
He **is the most bullheaded** person that I have ever known.
2. (more stylish) implacable, inexorable, intransigent, tenacious, intractable, impervious, steadfast, wayward, pertinacious, uncompromising or refractory
3. (informal) to be mulish, **wrongheaded, hard-mouthed**, set, set in one's ways, hard, **headstrong, stiff-necked, pig-headed, hardheaded**, hard as a rock, **muleheaded, headstrong, bullheaded** or **single-minded**
4. (slang) to be dogged, cussed or bulldogged

to be left open-mouthed

1. to be surprised, astonished, stunned by what is being said
When he said that I won, I **was left open-mouthed**.

2. to **be hit between the eyes, left breathless**, bowled over, floored, **set one back on one's heels**, flabbergasted or thunderstruck, **not be able to believe one's ears, left with one's mouth open** or awestruck

to be mealy-mouthed

1. to not be direct, explicit, candid, frank or open, be vague, ambiguous
Don't **be so mealy-mouthed** and say what you want to say!
2. (more stylistic) to be prevaricating, abstruse, ambiguous, vague ambivalent, obscure, cryptic, false, calculating or mincing
3. (informal) to mince words, to not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, left-handed, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
He **is such so mealy-mouthed**. No one is able to pin him down.
4. to be queasy, overnice, overdelicate, delicate, over-refined, squeamish, oversensitive or over-subtle
5. (stylized) to be pious, prudish, priggish, prim, prim and proper, sanctimonious, holier-than-thou, Miss Prim and Proper, fastidious, dainty
6. (informal) to be too nice for words, uptight, goody-goody, nice-Nelly, namby-pamby, **bluenose**, goody two-shoes, la-di-da or simpering
7. to be fawning, unassertive, tractable, deferential, compliant, submissive, menial, groveling, or crawling
8. (informal) to be slivering, scraping, bowing, grovel or bowing and scraping

9. (slang) to be Tomish, Uncle Tomish, bootlicking, apple-polishing, kiss the hem of, or footlicking, kowtow

10. (vulgar) to be a brown-noser, brown nose, to brown nose

to be open mouthed

1. to be surprised, startled, astonished, stunned, amazed, astounded, shocked, staggered
2. to **be hit between the eyes, left breathless**, bowled over, floored, **set one back on one's heels**, flabbergasted or thunderstruck, **not be able to believe one's ears, left with one's mouth open** or awestruck
3. to speak or talk too loudly, speak at a deafening level, be boisterous, noisy, brash, vociferous, loud or unruly
She is embarrassing; she **has such a big mouth**.
4. to be greedy, voracious, ravenous, famished, or starving

to be smart mouthed

1. brash, impudent, impolite, insolent, uncivil, ill-mannered, uncivil, insulting, pert, fresh, disrespectful, brazen, rude, bold, outspoken, stinging, rude, snarling
I know that intellectually that he is the best man for the job but I can't stand him. He **is smart mouthed** and brazen.
2. (more stylized) presumptuous, impertinent, audacious, acrimonious, tactless, venomous indiscreet, caustic or disparaging
3. (informal) bold, forward, nervy, **cheeky**, shameless, **loud mouthed, smart mouthed, have a mouth on oneself, loud mouth, be mouthy**, out of line, **bold face, barefaced** or **brazen face, have a smart mouth, loud mouth, big mouth, mouth off**

4. (slang) brassy, fresh, saucy or flip, be a whippersnapper, a wise guy, a smart aleck, a smarty pants, spout off, sass, shoot off,
go off at the mouth

5. **(vulgar) to be a smart ass, wise ass, have a lot of balls, hussy (woman)**

mouthful

1. bite, small portion, spoonful, forkful, small part, small piece
He only had a few minutes; therefore, he took only a **mouthful** of food.

2. (more stylized) nip, modicum, morse, crumb

3. (informal) dab, driblet, bit, smidgen, scrap, pinch, splotch, trace, snatch, thimbleful

4. a spoken remark of great effectiveness or impact
You said a **mouthful!**

to be a real mouthful

to say a lot

That sure **was a real mouthful.**

to give someone a mouthful

to angrily tell someone what one really thinks

Last night, she **gave him a mouthful.**

to say a mouthful

to angrily tell someone what one really thinks

He **said a mouthful.**

to swallow a mouthful

to eat something in a gulp (without chewing first)

bad mouthing

1. defaming, belittling, smearing, smirching, besmirching, slurring, marring, smudging, attacking, slandering, sneering at, lampooning, abusing
Badmouthing me to all our friends will one day come back to haunt you.
2. (more stylistic) denigrating, impugning, tainting, maligning, misrepresenting, traducing, imputing, vilifying, casting aspersions on, calumniating, sullyng, defiling, libeling,
3. dumping on, talking down, talking badly about, flinging dirt on, throwing dirt on, dragging through the mud, **badmouthing**, dragging through the mire, giving a bad name, heaping dirt on, engaging in personalities, running down, **backbiting**
4. (slang) **badmouthing**, dumping on, doing a hatchet job on, wiping the floor with, shredding, **backbiting**

poor mouthing

1. defaming, belittling, smearing, smirching, besmirching, slurring, marring, smudging, attacking, slandering, sneering at, lampooning, abusing
Poor mouthing me to all our friends will one day come back to haunt you.
2. (more stylistic) denigrating, impugning, tainting, maligning, misrepresenting, traducing, imputing, vilifying, casting aspersions on, calumniating, sullyng, defiling, libeling,
3. dumping on, talking down, talking badly about, flinging dirt on, throwing dirt on, dragging through the mud, **badmouthing**,

dragging through the mire, giving a bad name, heaping dirt on, engaging in personalities, running down, **backbiting**

4. (slang) **badmouthing**, dumping on, doing a hatchet job on, wiping the floor with, shredding, **backbiting**

mouthy

1. to be impudent, impolite, insolent, uncivil, ill-mannered, insulting, stinging, rude or snarling
I know that intellectually that he is the best man for the job but I can't stand him. He **is so mouthy** that he is his own enemy.
2. (more stylized) to be presumptuous, impertinent, audacious, acrimonious, tactless, venomous indiscreet, caustic or disparaging
3. (informal) to be bold, nervy, **cheeky**, shameless, **have a mouth on oneself**, **loud mouth**, **be a smart mouth**, out of line, **bold face**, **brazen face**, **have a smart mouth**, **mouth off** or **barefaced**
4. (slang) to be brassy, pert, fresh, saucy, flip, or brazen, be a whippersnapper, a wise guy, a smart aleck, a smarty pants, spout off, sass, shoot off, **go off at the mouth**
5. **(vulgar) to be a smart ass, wise ass, have a lot of balls, hussy (woman)**

Lip

(entered into English before 1000)

Old English **lippa**, Middle English **lippe**, Dutch **lip**, German **Lippen**
Lippe, Norwegian **lepe leppe**,
Afrikaans **lip**, Danish **læbe**,
Flemish **lip**, Frisian **lippe**,
Icelandic **vör**, Swedish **läppm**,
Swiss German **Lippe**, Latin **labrum**
labium, Latin **labium labia**
labra, French **lèvre**, Spanish
labio

**Prefixes and Suffixes which
pertain to the **mouth**:**

labi- (Latin: **lip**)

lip

1. one of the two edges of the mouth, labia
She bites her lower **lip** when she gets nervous.
2. (slang) chops,
You are not to say anything; keep your **lips** sealed!
3. imprudence, insolence, impertinence, audacity
I don't want any more of your **lip**.
4. edge, rim, verge, brink, ledge, border, margin
Throw away that glass. Can't you see its **lip** is chipped.
5. (music) intonation, proficiency, competence, control, touch, technique, prowess, virtuosity, mastery, command, proficiency, style, fineness

lip service

1. insincerity, artificiality, phoniness, deviousness, dishonesty, untruthfulness, flattery, falseness, lying, crookedness, hypocrisy
He is always giving **lip service**.
2. (more stylized) insidiousness, dissimulation, guilefulness, feigning, mendacity, disingenuousness, artfulness, cunningness, duplicity, falsity, prevaricating, sanctimony, self-righteousness, false piety
3. (informal) **two-facedness, crossed fingers, tongue in cheek**, foul play, token gesture, dirty tricks, false goodness, **mouth honor, underhandedness**, Judas kiss
4. (slang) dirty pool, sweet talk, soft soap, put-on, **eyewash**, hogwash, crocodile tears, wolf in sheep's clothing
5. **(vulgar) bull shitting, ass in lion's skin**

lipstick

make-up to put color on one's lips

lipstick lesbian (vulgar/offensive)
a lesbian who dresses especially feminine

French lips

full or large lips, usually obtained as a result of cosmetic surgery

on everyone's lips

1. being the subject of people's conversation, the one that everyone is talking about, the center of gossip or celebrated
After what happened, she is most definitely **on everyone's lips**.
2. being acclaimed, famous, infamous, notorious, having one's person and name be in circulation, current or in the air
3. being **in the mouth of rumormongers, gossipmongers**, the scoop, inside info or the information, being the subject of a whispering campaign, in the news, **on everyone's lips** or **on everyone's lips**
4. (slang) being on the grapevine, be the poop, dirt, dope or low down, being talked of

pouting lips

1. protruding or thrusting one's lips to show one's displeasure or sullenness, frowning, moping, pouting
Pouting lips aren't going to change my mind. The answer is still no.
2. grimacing, looking sullen, cross or miffed, sulking, glowering, brooding, **putting on a wary** or **long face**, being sulky or peeved

3. **hanging the lip**, looking black, knitting the brows, looking daggers, **pulling on a long face**, being mad, ticked off or sore
Your

sealed lips

1. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
Sealed lips are what I'm looking for. I need someone who knows how to **keep his mouth shut**.
2. (more stylized) to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not breathe a word, maintain one's silence
3. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
4. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's yap shut**, **not spill one's guts**

song on one's lips

1. not showing or expressing one's sadness, distress, or depression on one's face, cheery, aglow, happy, joyful, warm, shining
Even when she's in a bad mood, she always has a **song on her lips**.
2. (highly stylized) genial, blither, optimistic, enthused, hiding one's wretchedness, dolor, agony, angst or woe, buoyant, in good spirits, ebullient, mirthful, happy as a lark, effervescent
3. (informal) **bright eyed**, not **wearing one's heart on one's sleeve**, airy, **light hearted**, full of cheer, **with a song on one's lips**,

chipper, upbeat, not **showing one's heartbreak** or **heartache**, full of vim or vigor, **bright eyed and bushy tailed**

to be on everyone's lips

1. to be the subject of people's conversation, be the one that everyone is talking about, be the center of gossip, be celebrated
After what happened, she **is most definitely on everyone's lips**.
2. to be acclaimed, famous, infamous, notorious, to have one's person and name be in circulation, current or in the air
3. to **be in the mouth of rumormongers, gossipmongers**, be the scoop, inside info or the information, be the subject of a whispering campaign, in the news, **on everyone's tongue** or **in everyone's mouth**
4. (slang) to be on the grapevine, be the poop, dirt, dope or low down, be talked of

to bite one's lip

1. to repress, hold, stay, stop, suppress, check, arrest or confine one's words or anger, control one's anger, **shut** or **close one's mouth**, refrain from acting
If I had not **bitten my lip**, I would have said some very horrible truths.
2. (more stylized) to arrest, confine, still, bridle, proscribe, bind
3. (informal) to muffle, keep in check, hold in check, hold or keep in, sit on, curb, keep down, hold or keep back, keep to oneself
4. (slang) to stifle, shut up, box up, cork up, bottle up, gag, choke to hold one's hand, pull punches, keep back, muzzle, stifle

to button one's lip

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything
You are here in the library; therefore, you must **button your lip**.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, put a finger to one's lip, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, keep one's trap close, button up, keep one's yap shut, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something, keep secret
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police. He knows how to **button his lip** and not spill what he knows to the police.
5. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep under one's hat, cover up, keep mute, keep back
6. (slang) not squeal, rat, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut

to curl one's lip

1. to show one's disdain, scorn, disgust, contempt, disregard or condescension, consider beneath oneself, slight, treat with contempt, abhorrence or loathing
He **curled his lip** at the teacher question.

2. (more stylistic) to treat someone in a manner which was deigning, patronizing, scornful or disparaging, to treat with revulsion, contemptuousness or superciliousness, deride, vilipend, shun
3. (informal) to snicker, show one's amusement, smirk, smile or simper at, chuckle at, make a face, low opinion of, loathing or contempt of, look down at, turn one's back on, **turn one's nose up at**, flout, **give a cold shoulder to**, **look down one's nose at**
4. (slang) to have no use for, pooh-pooh, have nothing to do with, **wipe one's feet on**, cackle at, sniff at, scoff at, **thumb one's nose at**, snub

to give one a fat lip

to drub, give a drubbing to, beat up, smack, show a thing or two, show who's boss

If you don't shut up, I'm going to **give you a fat lip**.

to give one lip

1. to reply, answer, return or respond in a disrespectful manner
I won't allow a child to **give me lip**.
2. (more stylistic) to retort, riposte, rejoin, make a rejoinder, counterreply
3. (informal) to back talk, sass back, have a snappy comeback, **mouth**, **mouth off**, get fresh, get smart, speak out of turn, forget one's place or oneself, answer or talk back, answer in kind, **lip off**
4. (slang) to return the compliment, crack back, shoot back, have a comeback, comeback at, comeback with a snappy answer, answer in kind, make a wisecrack, sass

to hang on the lips of

1. to give one's undivided or full attention, pay careful attention to, listen devotedly, hard, carefully or sharply, listen with great interest, be attentive or awake
So that I didn't miss anything, I **hung on the lips of** the speaker.
2. to **bend an ear**, hang on every word, **give ear**, **be all ears**, **be all eyes and ears**, **prick up one's ears**, **keep one's ears open**, listen up, be on alert

to have a song on one's lips

1. to not show or express one's sadness, distress, or depression on one's face, be cheery, aglow, happy, joyful, warm or shining
She has such a pleasant personality. She always **has a song on her lips**.
2. (highly stylized) to be genial, blither, optimistic or enthused, hide one's wretchedness, dolor, agony, angst or woe, be buoyant, in good spirits, ebullient, mirthful, happy as a lark or effervescent
3. (informal) to be **bright eyed**, not **wear one's heart on one's sleeve**, airy, **light hearted**, full of cheer, **with a song on one's lips**, chipper or upbeat, not **show one's heartbreak** or **heartache**, full of vim or vigor, **bright eyed and bushy tailed**

to keep a stiff upper lip

1. to face misfortune without complaining or without showing fear, fearless, unfearing, stay or hold fast, be unwavering, unquivering or nerveless, uncringing
Because she was able to **keep a stiff upper lip**, I admire her.
2. (informal) to **hold up one's head**, hang tough, **face up to**, not shrink from, **face adversity**, bite the bullet, **keep one's chin up**, go down with all colors, hang on, not flinch from, keep up one's courage, hang in there, **face with what may come**, hang tough, **face the music**, deal with what may come, not shrink from
3. to not show or display one's emotions, keep one's emotions

under strict control, remain stoic, sure
He **kept a stiff upper lip** through the whole affair.

4. (informal) to squelch, stifle, still, mute, muffle, choke or gag one's emotions or feelings, fight back the tears, be calm, cool and collected, keep one's feeling to oneself, **have an steady hand**, steel oneself, **turn the other cheek**, refuse to budge, not blink, be unblinking, **without batting an eye**

to keep one's lips sealed

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
While he speaks, you are to **to keep one's lips sealed**.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, put a finger to one's lip, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, **keep one's trap close**, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Keep your lips sealed or pay the consequences.
5. (more stylized) to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not breathe a word, maintain one's silence
6. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back

7. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's yap shut, not spill one's guts**

to lick one's chops (slang)

1. to show one's eagerness, keenness or enthusiasm, to be eager, keen or enthusiastic, anticipate, look forward to, look toward, relish
When he heard my plans, he could not help but **lick his chops**.
2. (more stylistic) to be zealous, feverish, ardent, vehement, impassionate, ravenous or voracious for
3. (informal) to be wholehearted, be all fired or stirred up, heartfelt, greedy or for desirous for
4. (slang) to be mad about, hot for, lusting for, wild about, turned on
5. to enjoy, take pleasure in, show delight or pleasure, derive pleasure from, relish in, feast on, like, revel in, delight in
Just the thought of the dinner has me licking my chops.
6. (informal) to gloat over, slobber or drool over, smack one's lip over
7. (slang) to dig, get a kick out of, get a boot out of, get a charge out of
8. **(can be considered vulgar) to get off on, eat up**

to lick one's lips

1. to show one's eagerness, keenness or enthusiasm, to be eager,

- keen or enthusiastic, anticipate, look forward to, look toward, relish
When he heard my plans, he could not help but **lick his lips**.
2. (more stylistic) to be zealous, feverish, ardent, vehement, impassionate, ravenous or voracious for
 3. (informal) to be wholehearted, be all fired or stirred up, heartfelt, greedy or for desirous for, **smack one's lip**
 4. (slang) to be mad about, hot for, lusting for, wild about, turned on
 5. to enjoy, take pleasure in, show delight or pleasure, derive pleasure from, relish in, feast on, like, revel in, delight in, savor
Just the thought of the dinner has me **licking my licks**.
 6. (informal) to gloat over, slobber or drool over, **smack one's lip over**
 7. (slang) to dig, get a kick out of, get a boot out of, get a charge out of
 8. **(can be considered vulgar) to get off on, eat up**

to lip off

1. to reply, answer, return or respond in a disrespectful manner
I won't accept you **lipping off**.
2. (more stylistic) to retort, riposte, rejoin, make a rejoinder, counterreply
3. (informal) to back talk, sass back, have a snappy comeback, **mouth, mouth off**, get fresh, get smart, speak out of turn, forget one's place or oneself, answer or talk back, answer in kind, **give lip**

4. (slang) to return the compliment, crack back, shoot back, have a comeback, comeback at, comeback with a snappy answer, answer in kind, make a wisecrack, sass

to lip-read

to understand what one is saying by interpreting the movement of one's lips, read someone's lips

Many people who are deaf can **lip read**.

to lip sync

1. to dub a film or television program
It must be difficult to **lip sync** a film.
2. to move one's lips in synchronization with a soundtrack
I had to study for many years to learn how to **lip sync**.

to maintain one's lip sealed

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
You better **maintain your lips sealed!** about what happened last night or you're going to have problems.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, put a finger to one's lip, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, **keep one's trap close**, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to say nothing, not to say anything, keep a secret, not communicate or relate what one knows
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.

Maintain your lips sealed or pay the consequences.

5. (more stylized) to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not breathe a word, maintain one's silence
6. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
7. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's yap shut, not spill one's guts**

to never pass one's lips

1. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Don't worry! What you have told me will **never pass my lips**.
2. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
3. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut, not spill one's guts**

to not pass one's lips

1. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate

or relate what one knows about something

You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
Don't worry! What you have told me will **not pass my lips**.

2. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
3. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut, not spill one's guts**

to offer lip service

1. to offer insincere, hollow, false, empty, meaningless, deceptive, worthless, insignificant, false, trivial or superficial words, not mean what one is saying, be dishonest, untruthful, cunning or false
He only **offered lip service**.
2. (more stylistic) to be mendacious, feigned, prevaricative, dissimulated, spurious, hyperbolic, unveracious, specious, disingenuous or Janus-faced, be a Trojan horse, duplicitous
3. (informal) to be crocodile tears, two-faced, sweet talk, soft soap, hog-wash, not worth it, double-dealing, wily, artful, slippery or underhanded, lubricated
4. (slang) to be monkey business, hokey, bogus, shady, jive, snaky, buttery, smooth, funny business, sly, shifty, oily

to pass one's lips

1. to drink, sip, imbibe

Not one drop of alcohol will **pass my lips**. I am the designated driver.

2. (informal) to sip, wash down, drain, pull, belt
3. (slang) to guzzle, belt down, toss off, guzzle down, swill, swill down
4. to eat, consume, lunch, breakfast, dine, take a meal
Because I am fasting, no food will **pass my lips** for at least a day.
5. (informal) to devour, break bread
6. (slang) to garbage down, gobble down, wolf down, gulp down, tie on the feedbag, **stuff one's face**, pack away, gobble up
7. to talk, utter a word, speak, express oneself, say, reveal, mention, divulge, disclose
When I get the party, not one word about her and her problems will **pass my lips**.
8. (informal) to open one's mouth, let out, mouth, come out with

to pay lip service to

1. to not mean what is being said, offer insincere, hollow, false, empty, meaningless, deceptive, worthless, insignificant, false, trivial or superficial words, not mean what one is saying, be dishonest, untruthful, cunning or false
He only **paid lip service to** respecting the law.
2. (more stylistic) to be mendacious, feigned, prevaricative, dissimulated, spurious, hyperbolic, unveracious, specious, disingenuous or **Janus-faced**, be a Trojan horse, duplicitous

3. (informal) to be crocodile tears, **two-faced**, sweet talk, soft soap, hog-wash, not worth it, double-dealing, wily, artful, slippery or **underhanded**, lubricated
4. (slang) to be monkey business, hokey, bogus, shady, jive, snaky, buttery, smooth, funny business, sly, shifty, oily

to put a finger to one's lip

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
She **put a finger to her lip** to indicate that she wanted to remain silent.
2. (inform) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, maintain one's lips sealed, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, **keep one's trap close**, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
You don't have to worry about my brother talking to the police.
He **put a finger up to his lips** to indicate that he was not going to **spill his guts**.
5. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back
6. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, to muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the

lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut, keep one's yap shut, not spill one's guts**

to read lips

to be able to understand or interpret the movement of another's lips, read someone's lips, lip read

Although she can not hear, she is able to **read lips**.

to screw up one's lip

1. to show or display on one's face one's disagreement, dislike, annoyance or displeasure to what is being said

The minute I told him what I felt, he **screwed up his lips**.

2. (more stylized) to demonstrate on one's countenance one's chagrin, umbrage, indignation, ire, vexation, exasperation, discontentment, discord

to smack one's lips

1. to show one's eagerness, keenness or enthusiasm, to be eager, keen or enthusiastic, anticipate, look forward to, look toward, relish

When he heard my plans, he could not help but **smack his lips**.

2. (more stylistic) to be zealous, feverish, ardent, vehement, impassionate, ravenous or voracious for

3. (informal) to be wholehearted, be all fired or stirred up, heartfelt, greedy or for desirous for

4. (slang) to be mad about, hot for, lusting for, wild about, turned on

5. to enjoy, take pleasure in, show delight or pleasure, derive pleasure from, relish in, feast on, like, revel in, delight in, savor
She **smacked her lips** when she saw the meal.

6. (informal) to gloat over, slobber or drool over, **smack one's lip over**

to stick out one's lips

1. to protrude or thrust one's lips to show one's displeasure or sullenness, frown, mope, pout
Don't **stick out your lips** to me. You can't go and that's the end of the story.
2. to grimace, look sullen, cross or miffed, sulk, glower, brood, **put on a wary** or **long face**, be sulky or peeved
3. to **hang the lip**, look black, knit the brows, look daggers, **pull on a long face**, be mad, ticked off or sore

to stick out one's lower lip

1. to pout, grimace, frown, be in a bad mood, contort one's face
If you're angry, you can leave but don't **stick out your lower lip** to me.
2. (more stylistic) be out of sorts, out of humor, look sullen, scowl,
3. (informal) to **make a wary face**, **make a long face**, knit one's brow, **hang the lip**, look black, give a nasty look
4. (slang) to don the hate mug, look daggers, give a nasty look

My lips are sealed!

I won't say a word!

Loose lips sink ships

People who talk too much can cause a lot of problems.

None of your lip!

Don't talk back to me! No back talking! No sassing!

Read my lips!

Take note of what I'm saying!

Stop sticking out your lips!

to not pout, sulk, mope, look daggers, frown, make a long face

to be full-lipped

to have large or French lips

to be thin-lipped

to have lips which are thin

to be tight-lipped

1. to be quiet, closed-mouthed, taciturn, reserved, secretive, mute, uncommunicative
He **is so tight-lipped** that I've never seen him smile.
2. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information
He's not going to say a thing. He **is tight-lipped**.
3. (informal) to not spill the beans, not let the cat out of the bag, not say a word, not let leaked, not blow the whistle,
4. (slang) to not sing, not squeal, not squeal, not weasel, not leak, not blow the lid on, not name names, let slip

to be lippy (informal)

1. to have large and prominent lips
2. to be impudent, impertinent, insolent, ill-bred, out-of-line
One day she is going to be told off; she **is so lippy**.
3. (informal) to **be cheeky**, fresh, sassy, brassy,
mouthy, saucy, **smart mouth**

Tongue

(entered in English before 900)

Old and Middle English **tunge**
tungen, Old Norse **tunga**, Dutch
tong, German **Zunge**, Afrikaans
tong, Danish **tunge**, Flemish
tong, Frisian **tonge**, Icelandic
tunga, Norwegian **tunge**, Swedish
tunga, Swiss German **Zunge**,
Latin **lingua**, French **langue**,
Spanish **lengua**

**Prefixes and Suffixes which
pertain to the **mouth**:**

lingu-, **lingua-**, **linguo-** (Latin: **tongue**)

-linguist, **-linguistic**, **-linguistcal**,
-linguistcally, (Latin: **tongue**)

gloss-, **glosso-**, **glot-**, **glott-**, **-glotto-**,
(Latin: **tongue**)

tongue

1. an organ of speech
Watch your **tongue!**
2. the language of a particular place
In the US, there are several **tongues** which are spoken.
3. type or manner of speech, phrasing, wording, terminology
4. dialect, localism, colloquialism, jargon, slang
5. diction, talk, accent, tone
6. empty talk, nonsense, foolishness
7. (informal) gibberish, mumbo jumbo, chatter, bunk, rubbish, rigmarole, balderdash
8. (slang) garbage, bull, bunk, hogwash, drivel, gook, hoey, crock
9. **(vulgar) bull shit, shit**
10. the flap of the shoe over which laces are tied

to tongue

to caress or touch with the tongue, lick

cutting tongue

1. unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, tart, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing, disdainful
He has a **cutting tongue** which destroys on contact.

2. (more stylistic) mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible, trenchant
3. (informal) jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, mocking, scoffing

dirty tongue

1. obscene, pornographic, risqué, baseborn, tasteless, crude, shameless, crass, tactless, rough, base, brash, raw, uncouth, rustic, offensive, sordid, insulting, inappropriate, risqué, indecent, offensive or pornographic language
You **have a dirty tongue**. I don't allow such talk in my home.
2. (more stylistic) salacious, indelicate, gauche, ill-mannered, injudicious, vile, fulsome, ribald, suggestive, scurrilous, Cyprian, prurient, Paphian
3. (informal) loose, spicy, bawdy, wanton, gross, earthy, low, perverted, base, not fit for mixed company, **not fit for delicate ears**, not fit to print, salty, vile, tacky, **have a foul mouth**, **have a dirty mouth**, off-color, blue, gross, goatish, **foulmouthed**, foul, raunchy, rank, off-putting, smutty, rank
4. (slang) gutter, base, trashy, raunchy, smutty, scruffy, nasty, low-down, mean, foul, sleazy, grungy

forked tongue

1. to lie, deceive, not say the truth, mislead, tell a falsehood, tell a white lie, tell a lie, hide or disguise the truth
2. (more stylistic) to prevaricate, fabricate, exaggerate the truth, deviate from the truth, euphemize, be untruthful, evade the truth, misspeak

3. (informal) to stretch the truth, make out of whole cloth, lead down the garden path, doctor, slant, color, gloss, dress up, embellish, puff up, twist the truth, varnish the truth, mince the truth, talk with crossed fingers
4. (slang) to fib, whitewash, lie like a rug, waffle, lie like a trooper

giving someone the rough edge of one's tongue

1. berating, reprimanding, chastising, disciplining, rebuking, castigating, reproaching, admonishing, scolding, chiding
Giving a tongue lash is sometime worse than receiving a belt lash. One's voice can be extremely harsh.
2. (more stylized) execrating, objurgating, reprovng, excoriating, imprecating, lambasting, fulminating against
3. (informal) calling on the rug, hauling over the coals, calling on the carpet, raking over the coals, railing at, **giving a piece of one's mind, skinning alive**, blasting, **giving someone the rough edge on one's tongue**, calling to account, taking to task, **giving a tongue-lash**, bawling out, **tongue lashing**
4. (slang) laying into, giving someone the business, telling off, sticking to, dressing down, chewing out, coming down hard on, lambasting, chiding, jumping all over, **getting on one's back**, giving what-for, slamming, reading the riot act, **jumping down someone's throat**

giving someone the rough edge of one's tongue

1. berating, reprimanding, chastising, disciplining, rebuking, castigating, reproaching, admonishing, scolding, chiding
Giving someone the rough edge of your tongue is extremely painful. You don't know how harsh your voice is.
2. (more stylized) execrating, objurgating, reprovng, excoriating, imprecating, lambasting, fulminating against

3. (informal) calling on the rug, hauling over the coals, calling on the carpet, raking over the coals, railing at, **giving a piece of one's mind**, **skinning alive**, blasting, **giving someone the rough edge on one's tongue**, calling to account, taking to task, **giving a tongue-lash**, bawling out, **tongue lashing**
4. (slang) laying into, giving someone the business, telling off, sticking to, dressing down, chewing out, coming down hard on, lambasting, chiding, jumping all over, **getting on one's back**, giving what-for, slamming, reading the riot act, **jumping down someone's throat**

golden tongue

1. flowing, eloquent, well-spoken, articulate
Be careful, he has a **golden tongue**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, orotund,
3. (informal) smooth-talker, smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **golden tongued**, gift of gab, **silver tongue**, **silver-tongued**
4. shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating
5. (more stylized) stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy, Byzantine
6. (informal) oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty, **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not being plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, hedging, shifty, left-handed, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, cagey

7. (slang) slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, smooth as a baby's behind, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billiard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av, sweet

holding one's tongue

1. remaining silent, keeping quiet, not speaking, not uttering or saying a word, not saying anything, not talking, remaining quiet, keeping silent
Holding your tongue, here is essential. You are in the library and people are here to concentrate.
2. (informal) holding one's peace, **buttoning one's lip**, muzzling oneself, **keeping one's mouth shut**, **not running on at the mouth**, keeping hush, buttoning up, **shutting one's mouth**, **staying one's tongue**, **keeping one's mouth shut**, **closing one's mouth**, **saving one's breath**, **keeping one's mouth close**, **biting one's tongue**, **keeping one's tongue between one's teeth**, **maintaining one's lips sealed**, **sealing one's lips**
3. (slang) playing dumb, **keeping one's trap close**, buttoning up, **keeping one's yap shut**, dummying up, making like a clam, keeping mum, being like the wise old owl, keeping one's bazoo shutting, letting ride, cooling it
4. not divulging, revealing, or disclosing information, not communicating or relating what one knows about something
Holding one's tongue is an important part of being a part of organized crime.
5. (informal) to not letting the cat out of the bag, leaking, bringing out into the open, spilling the beans, bringing into the light, making known, letting be known, giving away, letting slip, coming out with or telling everything one knows about something, keeping secret, covering up, keeping mute, **keeping back**, not breathing a word, keeping one's own counsel, not informing on, not telling any tales out of school, not telling tales
6. (slang) not singing, not leaking, not telling tales out of school, not

fingering, not snitching on, not selling down the river, not naming names, weaseling, ratting, ratting on, not squealing, stooling, finking, blowing the whistle, not pulling the plug or pulling the plug about something, muffling, muzzling, stifling, hushing up, putting the kibosh on, dummifying up, clamming up, putting the lid on, keeping mum, **keeping one's trap shut, keeping one's yap shut, keeping one's tongue between one's teeth, not spilling one's guts**

honey-tongue

1. flowing, eloquent, well-spoken, articulate
Be careful, he has a **honey tongue**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious
3. (informal) smooth-talker, smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued, honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding, **golden tongued**, having the gift of gab
4. shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating
5. (more stylized) stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy, Byzantine
6. (informal) oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty, **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not being plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, hedging, shifty, left-handed, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, cagey
7. (slang) slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

loose tongue

1. indiscreet, too talkative, imprudent, gossip, spread rumors, divulge information, reveal secrets
Watch out! She has a **loose tongue**.
2. (informal) chattering, jabbing, prattling, blabbing, dishing the dirt, buzzing, yakking, **running off at the mouth**

mother tongue

one's original or native language

Although she speaks a number of languages, her **mother tongue** is French.

on everyone's lips

1. being the subject of people's conversation, the one that everyone is talking about, the center of gossip or celebrated
After what happened, she is most definitely **on everyone's tongue**.
2. being acclaimed, famous, infamous, notorious, having one's person and name be in circulation, current or in the air
3. being **in the mouth of rumormongers, gossipmongers**, the scoop, inside info or the information, being the subject of a whispering campaign, in the news or **on everyone's lips**
4. (slang) being on the grapevine, be the poop, dirt, dope or low down, being talked of

on the tip of one's tongue

1. about to say
It was **on the tip of my tongue** to tell him to go to hell.
2. (informal) on the verge, point, brow or brink of, soon to

3. to nearly or almost remember, recollect, or recall something
His name was **on the tip of my tongue**.
4. (informal) **at one's fingertips**

poisonous tongue

1. using one's mouth and words in a spiteful, slanderous, malignant, malicious, lethal or hateful manner
Because of her experience, she has developed a **poisonous tongue**.
2. (more stylistic) using one's words in a virulent, venomous, pernicious, mortiferous, invidious, calumnious or vitriolic manner

silver tongue

1. flowing, eloquent, well-spoken, articulate
Be careful, he has a **silver tongue**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent
euphonic, euphonious
3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **golden tongued**, have the gift of gab
4. (more stylistic) to be shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating
5. (more stylized) to be stealthy, suasive, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy, Byzantine
6. (informal) oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty, **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, to not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or

aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey

7. (slang) slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av, sweet

razor-edged tongue

1. to be unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, tart, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing, disdainning
I would stay as far as away from her as possible; she **has a razor-edged tongue** that she loves to use to hurt.
2. (more stylistic) to be mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible, trenchant
3. (informal) to be jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, gibing, mocking, scoffing

sharp tongue

1. to be unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, tart, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing, disdainning
He **has such a sharp tongue** that people avoid him.
2. (more stylistic) to be mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible, trenchant
3. (informal) to be jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering,

jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, gibing, sharp-tongued, mocking or scoffing

silver tongue

1. well-spoken, smooth-spoken, persuasive, convincing, compelling, facile, fluent, disarming, devious
I don't believe a word he says; he has a **silver tongue**.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious
3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, **silver tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **golden tongued**, have the gift of gab
4. to be shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating
5. (more stylized) to be stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy, Byzantine
6. (informal) oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty, **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, to not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, left-handed, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
7. (slang) slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, smooth as a baby's behind, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av, sweet

slip of the tongue

1. err, indiscretion, slip, mistake, gaffe, error, inaccuracy
That **slip of the tongue** is going to cost you your job.

2. (more stylistic) Freudian slip, saying what one did not intend or want verbalized, making a faux pas, having a lapse
3. (informal) slip up, fool mistake, foul-up, louse up, flub, slip, slip up, slip of the pen, foul up, of the pen, blunder, **put one's foot in one's mouth**
4. (slang) boo-boo, blooper, **boner**, clinker, screw up, peccadillo, **putting one's foot into it**, goof, clunker, **boner**, drop the ball, goof, **making** or **pulling a boner**
5. (Latin) lapsus linguae

tongue in cheek

1. in fun, in jest, half-seriously, for fun, playfully
The remark was not meant to offend; it was done **tongue in cheek**.
2. (informal) with a chuckle, **with a poke in the ribs**, full of beans, **with a straight face**, without cracking a smile, **pull one's leg**, put someone on, razz, **with a gleam in one's eye**
3. ironically, sarcastically, mockingly, derisively, cynically, with a double-edged, with an edge
I don't necessarily like her **tongue in cheek** humor.
4. (more stylistic) scornfully, sardonically, disdainfully, biting, scathing, virulently, acrimoniously, caustically, satirically

tongue-lash

1. reprimand, castigation, upbraiding, chastisement, admonishment
She gave the child a horrible **tongue-lash**.
2. (more stylistic) reprehend, reproach, reproof, reproof, rebuke, animadversion, vituperation

3. (informal) scolding, **rap on the knuckle**, talking to, calling to account, trimming, bawling out, dressing down, a word to the wise, **slap in the face**

tongue lashing

1. berating, reprimanding, chastising, disciplining, rebuking, castigating, reproaching, admonishing, scolding, chiding
What a **tongue-lashing** she gave her employees.
2. (more stylized) execrating, objurgating, reproving, excoriating, imprecating, lambasting, fulminating against
3. (informal) calling on the rug, hauling over the coals, calling on the carpet, raking over the coals, railing at, **giving a piece of one's mind, skinning alive**, blasting, **giving someone the rough edge on one's tongue**, calling to account, taking to task, **giving a tongue-lash**, bawling out
4. (slang) laying into, giving someone the business, telling off, sticking to, dressing down, chewing out, coming down hard on, lambasting, chiding, jumping all over, **getting on one's back**, giving what-for, slamming, reading the riot act, **jumping down someone's throat**

tongue-twister

a sequence of words which are difficult to say rapidly
she sells sea shells by the sea shore

tongues

religious experience in which people speak in so-called ancient languages
In my church, there are many persons who speak in **tongues**.

tongue-tied

1. disconcerting, confounding, confusing, paralyzing, upsetting, unsettling

Because she is so beautiful, she always **tongue-ties** the men around her.

2. (informal) bawling over, shaking up, throwing off balance, throwing out of whack, throwing out of kilter, discombobulated, ruffled, rattling, flustering
3. dumbfounded, astonishing, amazing, disorientated, bewildering
His words were so unexpected that they **tongue-tied** his opponents and enemies.
4. (informal) be taken aback, jarring, jolting, catching up short, taking one's breath away, flooring, striken dumb founded, being at a loss for words

vicious tongue

1. using one's mouth and words in a vile, perverted, foul mean, odious, malicious, embittered, caustic, sardonic, venomous, hateful, vindictive or vengeful manner
Stay away from her; she has to be a **vicious tongue**.
2. (informal) expressing oneself in a manner which is catty, spiteful cat and dog, dog eat dog, **cold-blooded** or **cold-hearted**, cattiness, having a **wicked tongue** or **poisonous tongue**, **letting one's nails come out**
3. **(vulgar) bitchy**

wicked tongue

1. using one's mouth and words in a harsh, biting, or bitter manner
She has a **wicked tongue** which she uses to wound.
2. expressing oneself in a manner which is vulgar, filthy, coarse, unseemly, indecent, crude, or foul
Children should not be around him; he has a **wicked tongue**.

3. expressing oneself in a manner which is malicious, offensive, malignant or malevolent

to be a slip of the tongue

1. to be an err, indiscretion, slip, mistake, gaffe or an error
That **slip of the tongue** is going to cost you your job.
2. to be a Freudian slip, the saying what one did not intend or want verbalize, making a faux pas or having a lapse
3. (informal) to be a slip up, fool mistake, foul-up, louse up, flub, slip of the pen or a blunder, the **putting one's foot in one's mouth**
4. (slang) to be a boo-boo, blooper, **boner**, clinker, screw up, peccadillo, goof, clunker, **boner**, goof, the dropping of the ball, **making** or **pulling a boner** or **putting one's foot into it**

to be on everyone's tongue

1. to be the subject of people's conversation, be the one that everyone is talking about, be the center of gossip, be celebrated
After what happened, she **is most definitely on everyone's tongue**.
2. to be acclaimed, famous, infamous, notorious, to have one's person and name be in circulation, current or in the air
3. to **be in the mouth of rumormongers, gossipmongers**, be the scoop, inside info or the information, be the subject of a whispering campaign, in the news, **on everyone's tongue** or **in everyone's mouth**
4. (slang) to be on the grapevine, be the poop, dirt, dope or low down, be talked of

to be tongue-tied

1. to be unable to get one's words out or talk smoothly and fluently
I **was so tongue tied** that all I could was stutter.
2. (informal) to be unable to get a word out
3. to be shocked, amazed, astounded or speechless
I don't know what to say; I **am tongue-tied**.
4. (informal) to be floored, at a loss for words, dumbstruck, choked up, dumb stricken or wordless
5. to be taciturn, uncommunicative, reserved, quiet, bashful, shy or reticent
He **is so tongue-tied** that he was not able to speak to her.
6. (informal) to be closed-lipped, buttoned up tight-lipped, mum, mute

to bite one's tongue

1. to prevent oneself from being indiscreet or inappropriate, repress one's desire to express oneself, keep one words in check
I had to **bite my tongue** or I would have insulted her.
2. (informal) to hold one's peace, **shut one's mouth, stay one's tongue, keep one's mouth shut, close one's mouth, save one's breath, put a finger to one's lip, keep one's mouth close, bite one's tongue, keep one's tongue between one's teeth, seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, **keep one's trap close**, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it, **button one's lip**, box or shut up, hold back

to cause tongues to wag

1. to be the reason or motive for gossip, be the cause of furor, scandal, turmoil or commotion, outrage, appall, disturb
Her behavior **caused tongues to wag**.
2. to do something so that one **is on everyone's lips** or **in everyone's mouth**, jar, **raise eyebrows**, **step on people's toes**, ruffle feathers, **set tongues to wag**
3. (slang) to do something so that one is on the grape vine, cause an hullabaloo, hubbub, to-do or a big stink

to feel the rough side of one's tongue

1. to be reprimanded, castigated, scolded or chastised
I **felt the rough side of her tongue** and I'm still shaken by the experience.
2. (informal) to be upbraided, dressed down, chided, bawled out, chewed out, laid out in lavender or called to task, **give someone the piece of one's mind**
3. (slang) to **jump down someone's throat**, come down hard on, give someone hell, **pin someone's ear back**, let someone have it with both barrels, rake over the coals

to find one's tongue

1. to assert, affirm, say, state emphatically, to set forth, put forward, say with confidence, declare earnestly
What's the matter? Can't **find your tongue**? Tell me what you think.
2. (more stylistic) to asseverate, aver
3. (informal) pipe up, speak out, **open one's mouth**, **speak one's mind**, take the floor, speak up, have one's say

to get one's tongue round

1. to be able to say, articulate, voice, enunciate, enounce, utter, or pronounce, not render unintelligible or make unrecognizable
I can't **get my tongue round** that word in German.
2. (informal) to not flub, mangle, butcher, cut up, mutilate, hack up, foul up, chop to pieces, butch, garble, gum up, botch up or louse up, not make a mess or hash of

to give a ready tongue

1. to say what one feels without restriction or limitation, not repress, deny, refuse, restrain, contain or suppress what one wants to say
She always **gives a ready tongue**.
2. (informal) not hold oneself back, **not bite one's tongue**, not pull punches, not keep back, not stifle, not shut up, **not button one's lip**, **not find one's tongue**

to give someone a tongue-lashing

1. to reprimand, chastise, discipline, rebuke, castigate
He sure **gave him a tongue-lashing**.
2. to call on the rug, haul over the coals, call on the carpet
3. (slang) to lay into, give someone the business, tell off, stick to, dress down, chew out

to give someone the rough edge on one's tongue

1. to reprimand, chastise, reproach, rebuke, admonish
She **gave her employee the rough edge on one's tongue**.
2. (informal) to rake over the coals, rail at, **give a piece of one's mind**, **skin alive**, blast, call to account, take to task

3. (slang) to come down hard on, lambaste, rail at, chide, jump all over, **get on one's back**, give what-for, bawl out, read the riot act

to give tongue

(vulgar/US) to give someone oral sex, perform oral sex on, give head, blow, go down on someone

to give tongue to

1. to speak, utter, say, give voice to, express, articulate, vocalize
He could not **give tongue to** what he was seeing in his head.
2. to put in words, mouth, come out with

to have a cutting tongue

1. to be unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, tart, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing, disdainful
He has a **cutting tongue** which destroys on contact.
2. (more stylistic) to be mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible, trenchant
3. (informal) to be jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, mocking, scoffing

to have a dirty tongue

1. to be a person who uses obscene, pornographic, risqué, baseborn, tasteless, crude, shameless, crass, tactless, rough, base, brash, raw, uncouth, rustic, offensive, sordid or insulting
You **have a dirty tongue**. I don't allow such talk in my home.

2. (more stylistic) to be a person who is salacious, indelicate, gauche, ill-mannered, injudicious or vile
3. (informal) to use language which is loose, spicy, bawdy, wanton, gross, earthy, low, perverted, base, not fit for mixed company, not fit for delicate ears, not fit to print, salty, vile or tacky, **have a foul mouth, have a dirty mouth**
4. (slang) to use language which is gutter, base, trashy, raunchy, smutty, scruffy, nasty, low-down, mean, foul, sleazy or grungy

to have a golden tongue

1. to be flowing, eloquent, well-spoken, articulate or flowing
Be careful, he **has a golden tongue**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine
3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued, honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue, have a silver tongue, have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billiard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

to have a honey-tongue

1. to be flowing, eloquent, well-spoken or articulate
Be careful, he **has a honey tongue**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suasive, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine
3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue**, **have a silver tongue**, **have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

to have a loose tongue

1. to be indiscreet, too talkative, or imprudent, to gossip, spread rumors, divulge information, reveal secrets
Watch out! She **has a loose tongue**.
2. (informal) to chatter, jab, prattle, blab, dish the dirt, buzz, yak, **run off at the mouth**

to have a silver tongue

1. to be flowing, eloquent, well-spoken or articulate
Be careful, **he has a silver tongue**. He can convince you of anything.

2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suasive, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine

3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue**, **have a silver tongue**, **have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey

4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

to have a razor-edged tongue

1. to be unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, tart, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing, disdainful
I would stay as far as away from her as possible; she **has a razor-edged tongue** that she loves to use to hurt.

2. (more stylistic) to be mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible, trenchant

3. (informal) to be jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, gibing, mocking, scoffing

to have a sharp tongue

1. to be unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, tart, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing or disdainful
He **has such a sharp tongue** that people avoid him.
2. (more stylistic) to be mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible or trenchant
3. (informal) to be jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, gibing, sharp-tongued, mocking or scoffing

to have a silver tongue

1. to be well-spoken, smooth-spoken, persuasive, convincing, compelling, facile, fluent, disarming or devious
I don't believe a word he says; he **has a silver tongue**.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine
3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue**, **have a silver tongue**, **have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billiard, silken,

satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

to have a slip of the tongue

1. to err, make a mistake, make a slip
I did not mean to say anything; I **had a slip of the tongue**.
2. to make a Freudian slip, say what one did not intend or want verbalize, make a faux pas, have a lapse
3. to blunder, fluff, flub, **put one's foot in one's mouth**, make a blooper, bungle, slip up
4. to **put one's foot into it**, screw up, **pull a boner**, drop the ball, goof, **make a boner**

to have a smooth tongue

1. to be well-spoken, smooth, persuasive, eloquent, flowing, courtly, gracious, unfailingly polite or decorous
He can persuade anyone to do anything. He **has such a smooth tongue**.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonic, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine
3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue**, **have a silver tongue**, **have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey

4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

to have a tongue which runs away with one

1. to talk too much, not to be able to hold or repress one's mouth or tongue
He **has a tongue which is always running away with him.**
2. (informal) to babble on, gab on, rattle or run on, talk through one's hat, **run off at the mouth**, gush
3. (slang) to **have diarrhea of the mouth**, gibber-jabber, scuttlebutt, prattle, cackle, blather
4. to be indiscreet, gossip, spread rumors, circulate rumours, divulge or reveal information, divulge secrets
She can't be trusted; she has **a tongue which runs away with one.**
5. to let slip, repeat everything one has heard, blurt out

to have an acid tongue

1. to be a person who belittles and demeans other with one's words, to be a person who is stinging, sarcastic, piercing or caustic, be unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing or tart
She does not control her mouth. She **has an acid tongue.**
2. (more stylistic) to be mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible or trenchant

3. (informal) to be jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, gibing, mocking or scoffing

to have an evil tongue

1. to be a person who speaks badly of others or who belittles and demeans others, to be acrimonious, malicious, malignant, bitter, virulent, venomous, unkind, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing or tart
I have never met a person who **has such an evil tongue**.
2. (more stylistic) to be mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible or trenchant
3. (informal) to be jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, gibing, mocking or scoffing

to hold one's tongue

1. to remain silent, keep quiet, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
Hold your tongue, you are, after all, in a funeral.
2. (informal) to hold one's peace, **button one's lip**, muzzle oneself, **keep one's mouth shut**, **not run on at the mouth**, keep hush, button up, **shut one's mouth**, **stay one's tongue**, **keep one's mouth shut**, **close one's mouth**, **save one's breath**, **keep one's mouth close**, **bite one's tongue**, **keep one's tongue between one's teeth**, **maintain one's lips sealed**, **seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, **keep one's trap close**, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something

You don't have to worry about my brother; he knows how to **hold one's tongue**.

5. (informal) to not let the cat out of the bag, leak, bring out into the open, spill the beans, into the light, make known, let be known, give away, let slip, come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back, not breathe a word, keep one's own counsel, not inform on, not tell any tales out of school, not tell tales
6. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut**, **keep one's yap shut**, **keep one's tongue between one's teeth**, **not spill one's guts**

to keep a civil tongue in one's head

1. to speak and behave in a manner which is respectful, well-mannered, not vulgar, not coarse or not ill-mannered, be mannerly, polite or tactful, be a person who uses obscene, pornographic, risqué, baseborn, tasteless, crude, shameless, tactless, rough, base, brash, raw, uncouth, rustic, offensive, sordid, crass or insulting language
I know that it is difficult but you need to **keep a civil tongue in your head**.
2. (more stylistic) to be a person who is not salacious, indelicate, gauche, ill-mannered, injudicious or uncivil be well-bred, courtly, decorous, discreet, chivalric, debonair or polished
3. (informal) to use language which is not loose, spicy, bawdy, wanton, gross, earthy, low, perverted, base, salty, vile or tacky, not **have a foul mouth**, not **have a dirty mouth**
4. (slang) to not use language which is gutter, base, trashy, raunchy, smutty, scruffy, nasty, low-down, mean, foul, sleazy, grungy

to keep one's tongue between one's teeth

1. to not talk, keep quiet, not say a word, restrain or stop oneself from talking, remain silent, not speak, not utter or say a word, not say anything, not talk, remain quiet, keep silent
He needs to **keep his tongue between his teeth**. We are, after all, in the library.
2. (informal) to hold one's peace, **button one's lip**, muzzle oneself, **keep one's mouth shut**, **not run on at the mouth**, keep hush, button up, **shut one's mouth**, **stay one's tongue**, **keep one's mouth shut**, **close one's mouth**, **save one's breath**, **keep one's mouth close**, **bite one's tongue**, **keep one's tongue between one's teeth**, **maintain one's lips sealed**, **seal one's lips**
3. (slang) to play dumb, **keep one's trap close**, button up, **keep one's yap shut**, dummy up, make like a clam, keep mum, be like the wise old owl, keep one's bazoo shut, let ride, cool it
4. to not divulge, reveal, or disclose information, not communicate or relate what one knows about something
When you go to the police, you're to **keep your tongue between one's teeth**.
5. (informal) not blab, not come out with, not blurt out, not let drop, not spill the beans, tip off, bring out, bring out into the open, not let slip, not tell secrets out of school, not circulate rumors, not let be known, not let the cat out of the bag, not leak, not bring out into the open, not spill the beans, not bring into the light, not make known, not let be known, not give away, not let slip, not come out with or tell everything one knows about something, keep secret, cover up, keep mute, keep back, not breathe a word, keep one's own counsel, not inform on, not tell any tales out of school, not tell tales
6. (slang) to not sing, not leak, not tell tales out of school, not finger, not snitch on, not sell down the river, not name names, weasel, rat, rat on, not squeal, stool, fink, blow the whistle, not pull the plug or pull the plug about something, muffle, muzzle, stifle, hush up, put the kibosh on, dummy up, clam up, put the lid on, keep mum, **keep one's trap shut**, **keep one's yap shut**, **keep one's tongue between one's teeth**, **not spill one's guts**

to loosen one's tongue

1. to talk too much (usually as a result of drinking too much)
If you want to **loosen his tongue**, get him drunk.
2. (more stylistic) to be untactful, indiscreet, unthinking, tactless, impudent, uncircumspect, indiscreet (usually as a result of drinking too much)
3. (informal) to blabber, chitter-chatter, rattle on, not keep a secret or **hold one's tongue, jaw**, prattle, gossip, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, **have a loose mouth**, blab, babble, dish the dirt, to bend someone's ear off, **jaw**, bandy words
4. (slang) to yak, rattle or ramble on, yackety-yak, **shoot off one's mouth, run off at the mouth**, gibber-jabber, gab, **have diarrhea of the mouth, spill one's guts**, gab, chatter, jabber, prattle

to put out one's tongue

to make a face by showing, sticking out, poking out or jutting out, one's tongue

The baby **put out his tongue** and laughed.

to roll off one's tongue

to be easy to say, flow out of one's mouth or be spoken without difficulty

I wish French would **roll off my tongue**. I have such a hard time.

to roll one's tongue

to twirl or whirl one's tongue

The Scots **roll their tongue** when they pronounce the 'r.'

to roll over the tongue

1. to feast on, devour, eat up, swallow up, gorge

2. (informal) to eat like there's no tomorrow, gobble up, gulp down
put away, put down, pack away
3. (slang) pig in, **stuff one's face**, tuck in, make a pig of oneself

to set tongues wagging

1. to be the reason or motive for gossip, be the cause of furor, scandal, turmoil or commotion, outrage, appall, disturb
Her new boyfriend **set tongues wagging**.
2. to do something so that one **is on everyone's lips** or **in everyone's mouth**, jar, **raise eyebrows**, **step on people's toes**, ruffle feathers, **set tongues to wag**
3. (slang) to do something so that one is on the grape vine, cause an hullabaloo, hubbub, to-do or a big stink

to speak in tongue

to talk in gibberish or jabber during religious ecstasy
I do not believe that people can **speak in tongues**.

to speak with a forked tongue (dishonest 305)

1. to lie, deceive, not say the truth, mislead, tell a falsehood, tell a white lie, tell a lie, hide or disguise the truth
2. (more stylistic) to prevaricate, fabricate, exaggerate the truth, deviate from the truth, euphemize, be untruthful, evade the truth, misspeak
3. (informal) to stretch the truth, make out of whole cloth, lead down the garden path, doctor, slant, color, gloss, dress up, embellish, puff up, twist the truth, varnish the truth, mince the truth, talk with crossed fingers

4. (slang) to fib, whitewash, lie like a rug, waffle, lie like a trooper

to stick out one's tongue

to make a face by showing, sticking out, poking out or jutting out, one's tongue

Don't **stick your tongue out** at me!

to tongue-lash

1. to berate, reprimand, chastise, discipline, rebuke, castigate, reproach, rebuke, admonish, scold, chide
He always **tongue-lashing** her employees.
2. (more stylized) to execrate, objurgate, reprove, excoriate, imprecate, lambaste, fulminate against
3. (informal) to call on the rug, haul over the coals, call on the carpet, rake over the coals, rail at, **give a piece of one's mind**, **skin alive**, blast, **give someone the rough edge on one's tongue**, call to account, take to task, **give a tongue-lash**, bawl out
4. (slang) to lay into, give someone the business, tell off, stick to, dress down, chew out, come down hard on, lambaste, rail at, chide, jump all over, get on one's back, give what-for, slam, read the riot act, **jump down someone's throat**

to tongue-tie

1. to disconcert, confound, confuse, paralyze, non-plus, upset, unsettle, imbalance, unbalance
Because she is so beautiful, she always **tongue-ties** the men around her.
2. (informal) to bawl over, shake up, throw off balance, throw out of whack, throw out of kilter, discombobulate, ruffle, rattle, fluster

3. to dumbfound, astonish, amaze, disorientate, bewilder
His words were so unexpected that they **tongue-tied** his opponents and enemies.
4. (informal) to take aback, jar, jolt, catch up short, take one's breath away, floor, strike dumb-founded, be at a loss for words

to trip off one's tongue

to be easy to say, roll or flow off one's tongue

I wish French would **trip off my tongue**. I have such a hard time.

to wag one's tongue

1. to gossip, tell secrets, divulge or reveal information, circulate rumor, spread stories
She is always **wagging her tongue**.
2. (informal) to tell tales, blab, dish the dirt, let leak, let slip, talk behind one's back, bend one's ears, start a whisper campaign, tell secrets out of school, tell tales
3. (slang) to yak, rattle on, chin, gab, run off at the mouth, run off at mouth, chat, chitchat, prattle, tattle tales

Does the cat have your tongue?

1. to be too shy, or timid to speak
2. (informal) to be too bashful, shrinking, or blushing to speak

I could have bitten my tongue off

to be angry or furious at oneself for one's own indiscretion

Hold your tongue!

1. Stop talking! Be silent! Silence!
2. (slang) Dummy up! Keep your trap shut! Shut your yap! Button up! Clam up! Put a lid on it!

Watch your tongue!

Be careful of what you say! Watch your words!

double-tongued

1. deceitful, insincere, false, untrustworthy, hypocritical, disloyal
I wouldn't trust him as far as I could throw him.
He is **double-tongued**.
2. (highly stylized) lost to shame, Machiavellian, **Janus-faced**,
disingenuous, fraudulent, dead to honor
3. (informal) someone who would **stab one in the back**,
be **two faced**, crooked, false-hearted, **underhanded**, double-
dealing, a snake in the grass, **false-hearted**

free-tongued

1. frank, outspoken, candid, direct
You can trust what he says because he will be **free tongued**.
2. (more stylistic) **straight from the shoulder**, tactless, uninhibited,
straightforward, impetuous, brash, unreserved, unconstrained,
forthright or unequivocal, without constraints or restraint, not
being reticent, be unambiguous or unequivocating

3. (informal) **flat-footed**, unshrinking, plain-spoken, free-tongued, downright, out and out, outright, plain-spoken, free-spoken, explicit, blunt, point blank

golden-tongued

1. flowing, eloquent, well-spoken, articulate
Be careful, he **is so golden tongued**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy, Byzantine
3. (informal) smooth-talker, smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued, honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding, **silver-tongued**, having the gift of gab, a **honey tongue, silver tongue**, or **smooth tongue**, oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty, **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, to not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward, aboveboard, hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, cagey
4. (slang) slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av, sweet

honey-tongued

1. flowing, eloquent, well-spoken, articulate
Be careful, he **has a golden tongue**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy, Byzantine

3. (informal) smooth-talker, smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding, **silver-tongued**, having the gift of gab, a **honey tongue**, **silver tongue**, or **smooth tongue**, oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty, **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, to not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward, aboveboard, hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, cagey
4. (slang) slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av, sweet

loose-tongued

1. indiscreet, too talkative, or imprudent, to gossip, spread rumors, divulge information, reveal secrets
Be careful, he **is loosed tongued**.
2. (informal) being chattering, jabbing, prattling, blabbing, dishing the dirt, buzzing or yakking, **running off at the mouth**

sharp-tongued

1. unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, tart, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing, disdainful
He **is so sharp tongued** that people avoid him.
2. (more stylistic) mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible, trenchant
3. (informal) jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, gibing, **sharp-tongued**, mocking or scoffing

silver-tongued

1. well-spoken, smooth-spoken, persuasive, convincing, compelling, facile, fluent, disarming, devious
I don't believe a word he says; he **is so silver tongued**.
2. (more stylistic) fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy, Byzantine
3. (informal) smooth-talker, smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding, **silver-tongued**, having the gift of gab, a **honey tongue**, **silver tongue**, or **smooth tongue**, oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty, **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, to not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward, aboveboard, hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, cagey
4. (slang) slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av, sweet

smooth-tongued

1. well-spoken, smooth, persuasive, eloquent, flowing, courtly, gracious, unfailingly polite, decorous
He can persuade anyone to do anything. He **is so smooth tongued**.
2. (more stylistic) fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, false, ingratiating, deceitful, insincere, untrustworthy, hypocritical cunning, crafty, plotting, deceitful, dishonest, shrewd, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy, delusive, Byzantine, misleading, illusory, **Janus-faced**, disingenuous
3. (informal) oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty, **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, winning, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be

hedging, shifty, left-handed, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey, shifty, slippery, canny, cagey, not be plain-spoken, **double-tongued**, crooked, **underhanded**, double-dealing, a snake in the grass, **talking out of both side of one's mouth**, **false-hearted smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, winning, smooth, sweet-sounding, **golden tongued**, sharp, cagey, having the gift of gab, a **honey tongue**, a **silver tongue**, a **smooth tongue**

4. (slang) be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, foxy, oily, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av, shifty, slippery, canny, cagey, be a smooth talker

to be double-tongued

1. to be deceitful, insincere, false, untrustworthy, hypocritical, or disloyal
I wouldn't trust him as far as I could throw him.
He **is double-tongued**.
2. (highly stylized) to be lost to shame, Machiavellian, **Janus-faced**, disingenuous, fraudulent or dead to honor
3. (informal) to be someone who would **stab one in the back**, be **two faced**, crooked, false-hearted, **underhanded**, double-dealing, a snake in the grass or **false-hearted**

to be free-tongued

1. to be frank, outspoken, candid, direct
You can trust what he says because he will **be free tongued**.
2. (more stylistic) to be **straight from the shoulder**, tactless, uninhibited, straightforward, impetuous, brash, unreserved, unconstrained, forthright or unequivocal, be without constraints or restraint, not be reticent, be unambiguous or unequivocating

3. (informal) to be **flat-footed**, unshrinking, plain-spoken, free-tongued, downright, out and out, outright, plain-spoken, free-spoken, explicit, blunt or point blank

to be golden-tongued

1. to be flowing, eloquent, well-spoken or articulate
Be careful, he **is so golden tongued**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine
3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued, honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue, have a silver tongue, have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billiard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

to be honey-tongued

1. to be flowing, eloquent, well-spoken, articulate or fluent
Be careful, he **is honey tongued**. He can convince you of anything.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning,

unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suasive, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine

3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue**, **have a silver tongue**, **have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

to be loose-tongued

1. to be indiscreet, too talkative, or imprudent, gossip, spread rumors, divulge information, reveal secrets
Be careful, he **is loosed tongued**.
2. (informal) to chatter, jab, prattle, blab, dish the dirt, buzz, yak, **run off at the mouth**

to be sharp-tongued

1. to be unkind, bitter, harsh, insulting, spiteful, insensitive, mean, brutish, savage, surly, rude, sardonic, pointed, astringent, tart, venomous, blunt, acrid, pungent, keen, pointed, piercing or disdainful
He **is so sharp tongued** that people avoid him.
2. (more stylistic) to be mordant, excoriating, petulant, sarcastic, peevish, obnoxious, bilious, acrimonious, acerbic, inquisitorial, virulent, invidious, irascible or trenchant

3. (informal) to be jeering, crusty, crabbed, thorny, doggish, prickly, touchy, double-edged, gibing, edgy, gruff, cutting, biting, sneering, jeering, snorting, wise-cracking, gibing, **sharp-tongued**, mocking or scoffing

to be silver-tongued

1. to be well-spoken, smooth-spoken, persuasive, convincing, compelling, facile, fluent, disarming or devious
I don't believe a word he says; he **is so silver tongued**.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning, unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suave, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine
3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue**, **have a silver tongue**, **have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billiard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

to be smooth-tongued

1. to be well-spoken, smooth, persuasive, eloquent, flowing, courtly, gracious, unfailingly polite or decorous
He can persuade anyone to do anything. He **is so smooth tongued**.
2. (more stylistic) to be fecund, suave, mellifluous, mellifluent euphonic, euphonious, shifty, clever, persuasive, subtle, crafty, wily, resourceful, canny, insincere, flattering, fawning,

unfailingly polite, ingratiating, stealthy, suasive, impelling, glib, designing, fulsome, insinuating, Machiavellian, stealthy or Byzantine

3. (informal) to be a smooth-talker, be smooth spoken, winning, smooth, **smooth-tongued**, **honey-tongued**, silver toned, sweet-sounding or **silver-tongued**, have the gift of gab, **have a honey tongue**, **have a silver tongue**, **have a smooth tongue** be oily, slick, sneaky, tricky, crafty or **mealy-mouthed**, mince words, not be plain-spoken, straight, straightforward or aboveboard, be hedging, shifty, **left-handed**, slippery, hard to catch, roundabout, hard to pin down, or cagey
4. (slang) to be slimy, soapy, soft-soaping, with it, **smooth as a baby's behind**, sly, smooth as glass, smooth as a billiard, silken, satiny, Madison Avenue, Mad Av or sweet

Appendix 1

Religious-based words which entered into the English language from the Church as a result of Christianization:

abbot, alms, altar, angel, anthem, ark, candle, canon, chalice, cleric, deacon, disciple, epistle, hymn, litany, manna, martyr, mass, minister, noon, nun, offer, organ, palm, pope, priest, psalm, relic, rule, shrine, stole, synod, temple, tunic, Antichrist, apostle, cantor, cell, cloister, collect, creed, demon, font, idol, nocturne, prime, prophet, Sabbath, synagogue

Non-religious Latin based words which came into English through the Church:

cap, sock, silk, purple, chest, mat, sack, beet, lentil, pear, radish, doe, oyster, lobster, mussel, to cook, box, pine, lily, marshmallow, myrrh, rue, savory, master, school, Latin, grammatical, verse, meter, gloss, notary, anchor, fan, fever, place, sponge, elephant, phoenix, circle, legion, giant, consul, talent, accent, to brief, decline, history, paper, term, title, cucumber, ginger, winkle

Appendix 2

Most Frequently Used Words In English

Agricultural terms

sheep, shepherd, ox, earth, plough, swine, dog, wood, field, corn

Days of the week

Monandæg (day of the moon), Tiwesdæg (day of the god, Tig), Wodnesdæg (day of the god, Woden), Ðunresdæg (day of the god, Thunor), Frigedæg (the day of the goddess, Friga), Sæternesdæg (the day of the Roman god, Saturn), Sunnandæg (the day of the sun)

Other words

the, is, you, man, and, for, for, of, in, on, to, under, æfter, beforan, behindan, bi (by), hwæt (what), hwy (why), ofer (over), æt (at), socc (sock), scoh (shoe), mete (meat), butere (butter), milc (milk), egg, hunig (honey), ceses (cheese), summer, winter, the, is, you, man, house, God, heaven, hell, Holy Ghost, Doomsday, god-spell, Gospel, Easter (from the Anglo-Saxon goddess, Eostre), Yule (from the midwinter god, Geol (pronounced 'Yule')) call, shirt, hat, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother, time, corn, night, wood, blood, gold, burg, home, wine, word, book, life, king, sea, water, old

Old English

mann
wif
cild
hūs
benc
mete
gærs
leaf
fugol
god
heah

Modern English

man
wife
child
house
bench
meat, food
grass
leaf
fowl, bird
good
high

strang	strong
etan	eat
drincan	drink
slæpan	sleep
libban	live

Appendix 3

Terms and words from the Old Norse Period

closed class words

Old Norse

Anglo-Saxon

they	hie
their	hiera
them	him
are	aron

other closed class words

both, same, through, till, are

Old Norse word which replace Anglo-Saxons

Old Norse

Anglo-Saxon

egg	ey
sister (syster)	sweostor
loan	læn
weak (wac)	veikr
take	niman
anger	torn, grama, irre

bark
wing
sky
window

rind
feþra
uprodor/wolcen
eagþyrel

Words brought into English from Old Norse which had no equivalent in Old English

call, die, rugged, flat, tight, kid, steak, anger, awe, bait, boon, crooked, saw, wand, wrong, freckle

Old Norse supplied English with useful pair of synonyms

English

shatter

sick

carve

wish

craft

hide

no

whole

rear

from

Norse

scatter

ill

cut

want

skill

skin

nay

hale

raise

fro

Words which entered into English from Old Norse after 1000

nouns

band, booth, bull, dirt, down (feathers), egg, fellow, freckle, kneel, kid, leg, link, reindeer, reef, scab, scales, scrap, seat, sister, skin, skirt, sky, snare, steak, swain, window, birch, boon, gait, gap, guess, loan, race, rift, score, skill, slaughter, snare, stack, swain, thrift, tidings, trust, want, window

verbs

call, crawl, die, get, give, lift, raise, rid, scare, take, cast, clip, crave, droop, gape, kindle, nag, scowl, snub, sprint, thrust

adjectives

flat, loose, low, odd, tight, weak, awkward, ill, meek, sly, rotten, tattered, muggy

pronouns

they, their, them, both, same, though, till

Words which begin with "sk" normally came from Danes

scalp, scrape, scrub, scare, scathe, score, skate, skew, ski, skid, skill, skin, skip, skirt, skull, sky

Appendix 4

Germanic and English Cognates of some of the most common words

English	Frisian	Dutch	German	Swedish	Danish
cheese	tsiis	kaas	Käse	ost	ost
day	dei	dag	Tag	dag	dag
goose	goes	gans	Gans	gås	gås
through	troch	door	durch	igennem	igennem
yesterday	juster	gisteren	gestern	i går	i går
sun	sinne	zon	Sonne	sol	sol
fox	foks	vos	Fuchs	räv	ræv
sit	sitte	zitten	Sitzen	sitta	sidde
book	boek	boek	Buch	bok	bog, bestille
red	read	rood	Rot	röd	rød
sleep	sliepe	slapen	Schlafen	sova	sove søvn
night	natt	nacht	nacht	nat	
snow	snie	sneeuw	schnee	snö	sne
seven	sân	zeven	sieben	sju	syv
foot	foet	voet	fuss	fot	fod, pote
fish	fisk	vis	fisch	fisk	fiske, fisk
heart	hert	hart	herz	hjärta	hjerte
ten		tien	zehn	tio	ti
tooth	tosk	tand	zahn	tand	tand
eat	eat, ite	eten	essen	äta, fört	ära æde

sword	swurd	zwaard	Schwert	svärd, värja	
path	paad	pad	Pfad	stig, bana	sti
hand	han	hand	Hand	hand	hånd
help	helpe	helpen	helfen	hjälp,	hjalpa
three	trije	drie	drei	tre	þrír
heart	hert	hart	Herz	hjärta	hjarta
oak	iik	eik	Eiche	ek	eik

English

cheese

day

goose

yesterday

sun

fox

sit

book

red

sleep

night

snow

seven

Norwegian

ost

dag

gås

i går

sol

rev

sitte

bok

rød

sove, søvn

natt

sne

sju

foot	fot
fish	fisk, fiske
heart	hjerte
ten	ti
tooth	tann
eat	fortære
path	sti
hand	hand
help	hjelp
three	tre
heart	hjerte
oak	eik

Appendix 5

Old English

eam
 anda
 andig
 andian
 æpele
 æpeling
 dryhten/ frea
 leod
 dema

French (replacement)

uncle
 envy
 envious
 to envy
 noble
 nobleman
 prince
 people
 judge

dom	judgment
cyphere	witness
firen	crime
scyldig	guilty
here	army
cempa	warrior
sibb	peace
blæd	flower
bleo	color
adl	disease
ieldu	age
lof	praise
lyft	air
hold	gracious
earn	poor
sltpe	cruel
gecynde	natural
wuldor	glory
wlite	beauty
wlitig	beautiful
andettan	confess
beorgan	preserve, defend
bieldan/ elnian	encourage

dihtan	compose
flitan	contend
healsian	implore
herian	praise
leanian	reward
miltsian	pity

Appendix 6

French words which came into English

1066-1250

abbot, canon, cardinal, clergy, countess, empress, duke, court, rent, cell, justice, miracle, Baptist, dame, prince, chapel, image, lion, reason, pilgrim, saint, virgin, obedience, religion, sermon, prophet, patriarch, archangel, circumcision, sacrament, fruit, sepulcher, custom, admiral, crown, astronomy, council, journey, rob, large, silence, dangerous, jealous, glutton, joy, tempt, witness, chapter, lesson, story, medicine, confessor, constable, heir, chair, butler, peace, justice, uncle, aunt, cousin, lamp, rose, catch, change, mercy, poor, rich, wait, ,prove, war, arrive, pay

1250-13.50

action, cost, deceit, dozen, ease, fault, force, grief, labor, number,
opinion, pair, piece, season, sound, square, substance, task, use,
bucket, calendar, face, gum, , metal, mountain, ocean, people, actual,
brief, certain, clear, common, contrary, eager, easy, final, honest, real,
second, single, solid, strange, sudden, usual, allow, apply, approach,
arrange, carry, close, continue, count, cover, defeat, destroy, excuse,
force, form, increase, inform, join, move, please, proceed, push,
remember, travel

By 1300 the following French words were already used in English

nouns

action, adventure, affection, age, air, bucket, bushel, calendar,
carpenter, cheer, city, coast, comfort, cost, country, courage, courtesy,
coward, crocodile, cruelty, damage, debt, deceit, dozen, ease, envy, error,
face, faggot, fame, fault, flower, folly, force, hour, joy, malice, manner,
marriage, metal, mountain, number ocean, odor, order, pair, person,
piece, point, poverty, powder, power, quality, quart, rage, reason, river,
scandal, seal, season, sign, sound, sum, tailor, tavern, unity, use, vision,
waste

adjectives

able, abundant, active, actual, amiable, amorous, barren, blank, brief, calm, certain, chaste, chief, clear, common, contrary, courteous, cruel, double, eager, easy, faint, feeble, fierce, final, firm, foreign, frail, frank, gay, gentle, gracious, hasty, honest, horrible, innocent, jolly, liberal, malicious, mean, moist, natural, nice, obedient, original, perfect, pliant, poor, principal

verbs

advance, advise, aim, allow, apply, approach, arrange, arrive, betray, butt, carry, change, chase, close, comfort, commence, complain, conceal, consider, continue, count, cry, cull, deceive, declare, defeat, defer, defy, delay, desire, destroy, embrace, enclose, endure, enjoy, enter, err, excuse, flatter, flourish, force, forge, form, furnish, grant, increase, inform, inquire, join, languish, launch, mount, move, murmur, muse, nourish, obey, oblige, observe, pass, pay, pierce, pinch, please, practice, praise, prefer, proceed, propose, prove, purify, pursue, push, quit, receive, refuse, rejoice, relieve, remember, reply, rinse, rob, satisfy, save, scald, serve, spoil, strangle, strive, shun, succeed, summon, suppose, surprise, tax, tempt, trace, travel, tremble, wait, waive, waste, wince

Law

plea, suit, plaintiff, defendant, judge, advocate, attorney, bill, petition, complaint, inquest, summons, hue and cry, indictment, jury, juror, panel, felon, evidence, proof, bail, ransom, judgment, verdict, sentence, decree, award, punishment, prison

Fashion and Social Life

apparel, habit, gown, robe, garment, attire, cape, coat, frock, collar, veil, train, chemise, petticoat, lace, embroidery, buckle, button, to embellish, to adorn

colors

blue, brown, vermilion, scarlet, saffron, russet, tawny

fruit, food, herbs, and etc.

raisin, fig, date, grape, orange, lemon, cherry, peach, confection, pasty, tart, jelly, spice, clove, thyme, herb, mustard, vinegar, cinnamon, nutmeg, to roast, to boil, to stew, to fry, to broach, to blanch, to grate, to mince

Art, Learning, and Medicine

art, painting, sculpture, music, beauty, color, figure, image, tone, title, volume, chapter, parchment, paper, pen

Post 1350

adolescence, appellation, tort, combustion, distribution, immensity,
pacification, representation, sumptuous

Other words from French adopted into English:

fashion, gown, robe, lace, button, boot, satin, fur, ruby, pearl, blue
dinner, supper, taste, feast, tension, beef, veal, mutton, pork, toast,
cream, sugar, salad, lettuce, fruit, cherry, peach, herb, roast, boil, stew,
fry, grate, mince, goblet, saucer, plate, platter, table, palace, mansion,
ceiling, chimney, tower, porch, curtain, lamp, medicine, physician,
surgeon, pain, stomach, place, part, use, city, line, state, sure, change,
close, course, pay, please, face, quit, coat, brown, air, country, flower,
hour, manner, noise, number, people, river, able, large, nice, poor, real,
safe, second, carry, move, pass, wait, to preach, to pray, to change, to
repent, to confess, to adore, to sacrifice, to convert, to anoint, to ordain,
to usurp, to oppress, to repeal

Appendix 7
The etymology of irregular verbs in English

List one

Those verbs which entered into English prior to 900:

to arise

to be

to bear

to beat

to become

to break

to burn

can

to cling

to come

to creep

to deal

to do

to draw

to drink

to drive

to drop

to eat

to fall

to feel

to fly

forbear

to forego

to forget

to forgive

to give

to go

to grow

to hang

to have

to hear

to hide

to hold

to know

to lead

to lean

to leap

to learn

to leave

lend

to let

to lie

to light

to lose

to make

may

to mean

to meet

to read

to ride

to ring

to say

to see

to seek

to sell

to send

to set

to sew

to shake

to shear

to shine

to shoot

to show

shrink

to sing

to sit

to slay

to sleep

to sow

to speak

to spin

to spring

to stand

to steal

to string

to swear

to swell

to swim

to swing

to teach

to tear

to tell

to think

to tread

to understand

to wake

to wear

to weave

to weep

to win

to wind

to wring

to write

List two

Those verbs which entered into English prior to 1150:

to awake

to back

to backbite

to begin

to bend

to bind

to bite

to bleed

to blow

to breed

to bring

to build

to burst

to buy

to choose

to feed

to feel

to fight

to forbid

to grind

to hit

to keep

to kneel

to prove

to put

to rise

to run

to shed

to sink

to slide

to slink

to smell

to spend

to spill

to stick

to sting

to stink

to stride

to strike

to take

to throw

List three

Those verbs which entered into English after 1175:

to backslide (entered into English between 1575 to 1585)

to bet (1585-95)

to browbeat (1575-85/ brow (before 1000))

to catch (from Latin and Norman French/ 1175-1275)

to cost (entered English between 1200 to 1275/ Anglo-French)

to cut (entered English between 1175 to 1225 from Old English 'cyttan'
akin to Old Swedish 'kotta' and Old Norse 'kuti')

to dig (entered English between 1275 to 13.75/ derived from Old English
'dic' (ditch) which entered into the language before 900)

to fling (entered English between 1275-13.00)

to foretell (entered English between 1250-13.00)

to get (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old Norse 'geta')

(to obtain, to beget)

to hurt (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old French 'heuter' and Old Norse 'hrutr')

to lay (entered English between 13.00-13.50 derived from Middle French)

to pay (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Middle French 'payen' which had been derived from Old French paier)

to quit (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Old French 'quite')

to rid (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old English 'ryddan' (to trash) which was derived for ryhja (to clear)

to sling (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Old Norse 'slyngva' (to sling) Old English slingan (to wind or twist)

to slit (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from the Germanic 'schlitzen (to split or slit) Old English 'slite' (a slit), Anglo-Saxon 'slitan' (to tear or break through) Danish 'slide'

to sneak (entered English between 1590-1600 derived from Middle English 'sniken' Old English 'snican')

to spell (entered English between 1250-13.00 derived from Old French 'espeller' Old English 'spellian' (to announce) Old High German - spellon Old Norse spjalla

to split (entered English between 1570-1580 derived from Middle English 'splitten' Dutch 'splitten' which is akin to Middle High German 'splizen' German 'spleissen')

to spoil (entered English between 13.00-13.50 derived from Middle English spoilen Old French espoillier Latin spoliare)

to spread (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old English sprædan Middle English spreden)

to strive (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Middle English 'striven' (to quarrel, to strive) Old French 'estriver' Dutch strijven German 'streben' (to strive))

to sweep (entered English between 1125-1275 derived from Middle English 'swepen' Old English 'gesepa' German 'schweifen')

to thrive (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Middle English thriven Old Norse 'thrifast' (to thrive))

to thrust (entered English between 1125-1275 derived from Middle English 'thrusten' Old Norse 'thrysta' (to force or press))

to try (entered English between 1250-13.00 derived from Middle English 'trien' (to try a legal case) Anglo-French and Old French 'trier' Late Latin tritare (to separate the corn from the stalk) Latin 'trilus' (to thresh corn))