

SUBJECT: English

LEVEL/YEAR GROUP: Various

Semantic Change

ICE-BREAKER

TIME: 15 minutes

Cut out all of the sections and mix them up. Students are to work in groups and match the word with one of its less-familiar senses. The *OED* can be used to check answers, if the class are to practice dictionary skills (turning this into a full lesson) - or the teacher can give out the answers to keep the activity short.



<p>SILLY, adj. 15th century</p>	<p>Worthy, good. Also: pious, holy.</p>
<p>NICE, adj. 14th century</p>	<p>Foolish, silly, simple; ignorant.</p>
<p>TERRIFIC, adj, and n. 17th century</p>	<p>Causing terror, terrifying; terrible, frightful.</p>
<p>GIRL, n. 14th century</p>	<p>A child of either sex; a young person.</p>
<p>AFTERMATH, n.¹ 15th century</p>	<p>A second crop or new growth of grass.</p>
<p>BUMF, n. 19th century</p>	<p>Paper of any kind; toilet paper.</p>
<p>TOILET, n. 16th Century</p>	<p>A piece of cloth used as a wrapper or covering for clothes.</p>



ELECTRIC, adj.
19th century

Designating a steely, brilliant, or metallic colour or shade.

DEER, n.
Old English

An animal: usually a quadruped, as distinguished from birds and fish.

PINEAPPLE, n.
14th century

A pine tree.

TOWN, n.
Old English

An enclosed piece of ground; a field, a garden.

NERVOUS, adj.
17th century

Of the nature of a sinew; resembling a sinew in texture; tough, strong.

CLUE, n.
17th century

A ball of yarn or thread.

ABANDON, n.¹
15th century

Complete control.

COMPUTER, n.
17th century

A person who makes calculations.

TRAIN, n.²
14th century

A branch or shoot of a tree.