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celebrity noun

Save Word

ce-leb-ri-ty | \ sə-ˈle-brə-tē \

plural celebrities

Definition of celebrity

- : the state of being celebrated : FAME  
// The actress lived a life of *celebrity*.
- : a famous or celebrated person  
// Many *celebrities* attended the awards ceremony.

Synonyms & Antonyms

More Example Sentences

Learn More about celebrity

Synonyms & Antonyms for celebrity

Synonyms

cause célèbre (also cause celebre), celeb, figure, icon (also ikon), light, luminary, megastar, name, notability, notable, notoriety, personage, personality, somebody, standout, star, superstar, VIP

Antonyms

nobody, noncelebrity

Visit the Thesaurus for More

Examples of celebrity in a Sentence

// The actress lived a life of *celebrity*.

// There were many *celebrities* at the party.

Recent Examples on the Web

// Since deleted, the post was part of a series in which *celebrities* like Mindy Kaling, Ina Garten and Seth Meyers choose their favorite New Yorker cartoons.

— Benjamin Vanhoose, *PEOPLE.com*, "Padma Lakshmi Responds to New Yorker Mistaking Her for Priyanka Chopra," 31 Dec. 2019

// So many *celebrities* joined Taylor Swift on stage for her 1989 World Tour in 2015 than even a fan made a hilarious parody about the excessive cameos.

— Christopher Rosa, *Glamour*, "Taylor Swift Is the Artist of the Decade—Whether You Like It or Not," 24 Dec. 2019

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'celebrity.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

See More

First Known Use of celebrity

15th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

History and Etymology for celebrity

Middle English *celebrite* "fame, renown," borrowed from Middle French & Latin; Middle French *celebrité*, borrowed from Latin *celebritās*, *celebritās* "busy or crowded conditions, reputation, fame," from *celebr-*, *celeber* "much used, frequented, widely known, famed" + *-itāt-*, *-itās* **-ITY** — more at [CELEBRATE](#)

Learn More about celebrity

Share celebrity



Time Traveler for celebrity

The first known use of *celebrity* was in the 15th century

See more words from the same century

Dictionary Entries near celebrity

celebratory

celebret

celebrious

**celebrity**

celebrityhood

celebrious

celebutante

See More Nearby Entries

Phrases Related to celebrity

cult of celebrity

local celebrity

Statistics for celebrity

Last Updated

3 Jan 2020

Look-up Popularity

Top 40% of words

Cite this Entry

"Celebrity." *The Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster Inc., <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/celebrity>. Accessed 8 January 2020.

Style: MLA

More Definitions for celebrity

celebrity noun

1

English Language Learners Definition of celebrity

*formal* : the state of being famous or celebrated

: a person who is famous

See the full definition for *celebrity* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

celebrity noun

ce-leb-ri-ty | \ sə-ˈle-brə-tē \

plural celebrities

Kids Definition of celebrity

1 : FAME

2 : a famous person

More from Merriam-Webster on celebrity

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *celebrity*

Spanish Central: [Translation of celebrity](#)

Nglish: [Translation of celebrity for Spanish Speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of celebrity for Arabic Speakers](#)

Comments on celebrity

What made you want to look up *celebrity*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

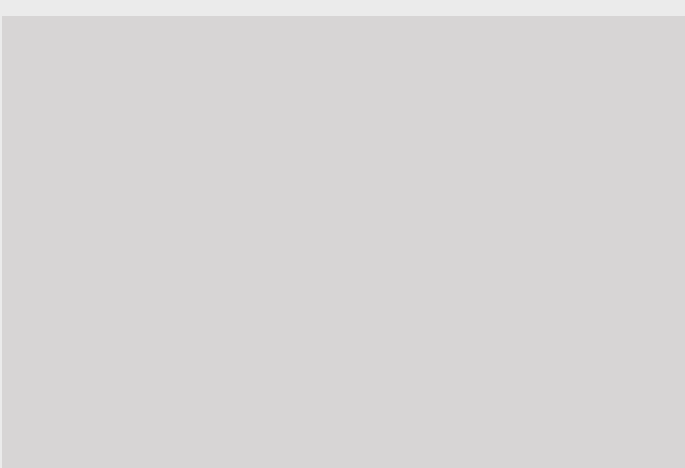
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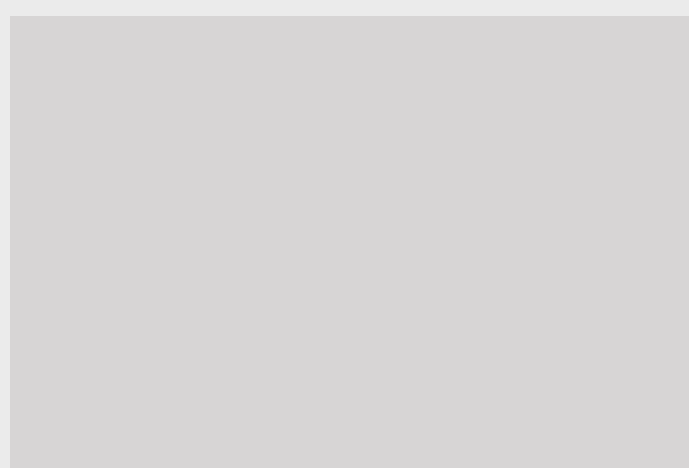
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WORDS AT PLAY



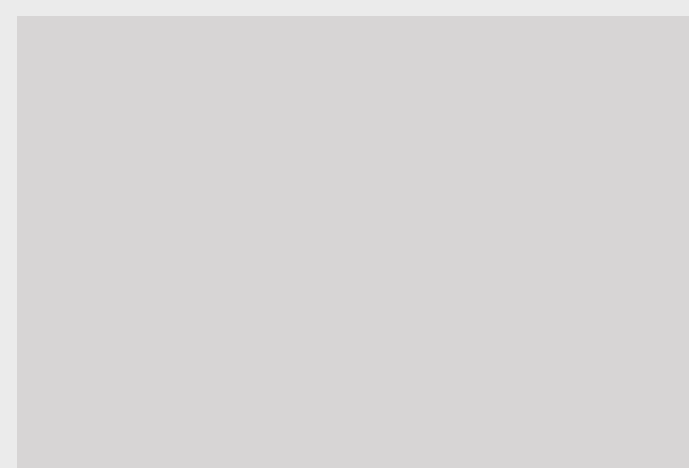
Forgotten Games: Or, What We Did Before The Internet

People had to pass the time somehow.



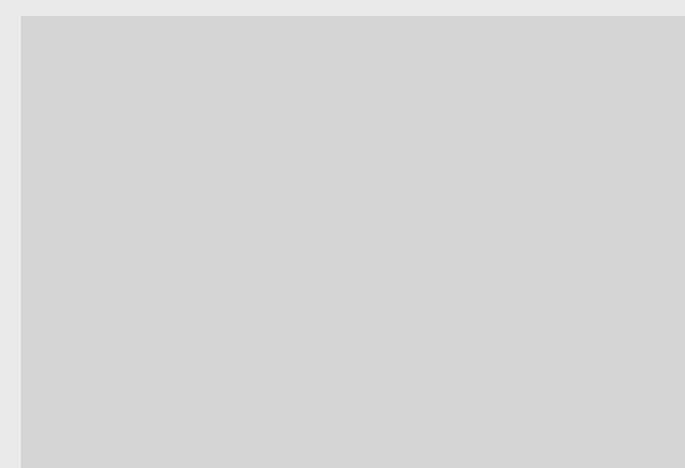
The Good, The Bad, & The Semantically Imprecise

Words from the week of 1/3/2020



The History of 'Nuclear Family'

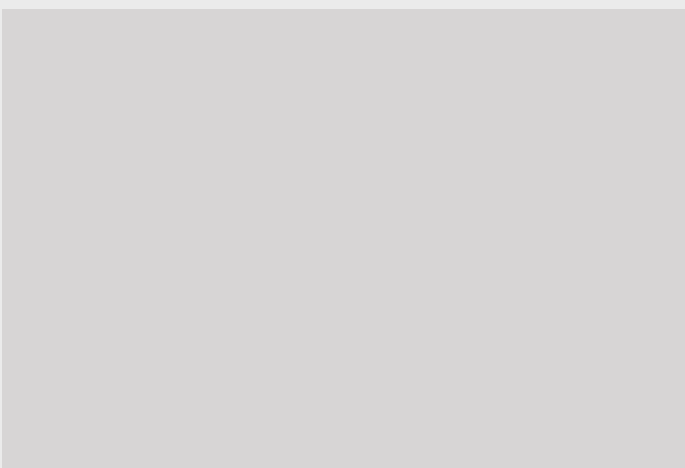
Getting at the core of it.



Putting 'Edible' and 'Eatable' on the Table

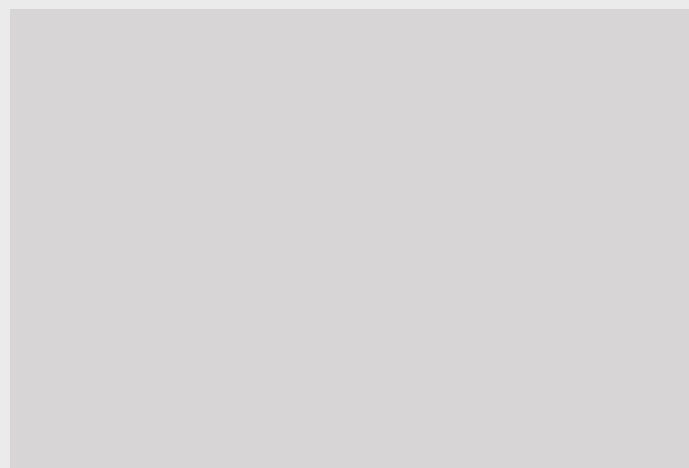
Giving you something to chew on.

ASK THE EDITORS



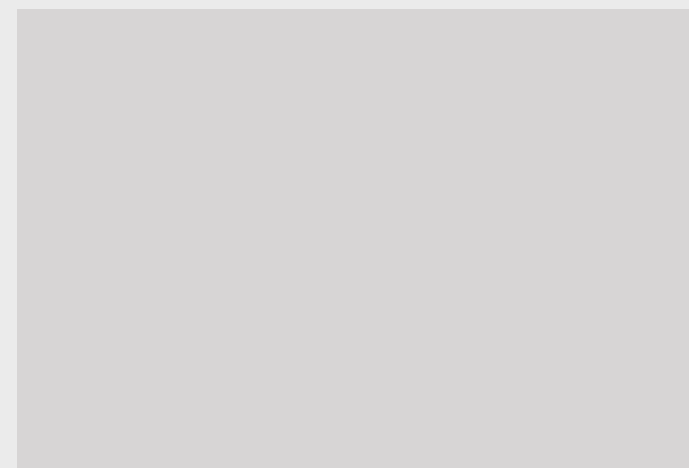
2019 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes

How we chose 'they'



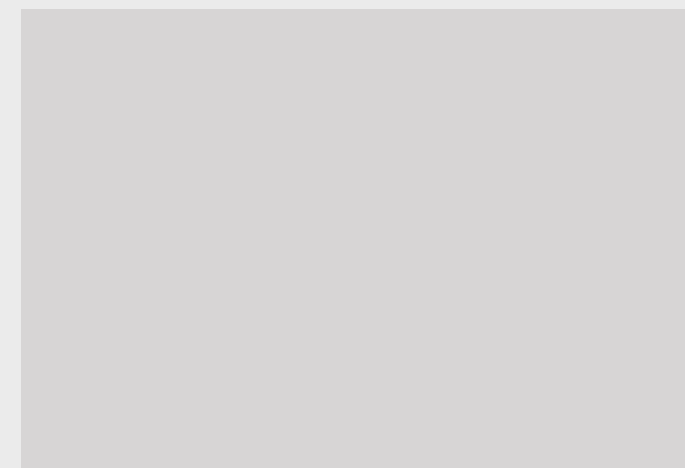
Is It 'Hanger' or 'Hangar'?

How to remember which is which



Literally

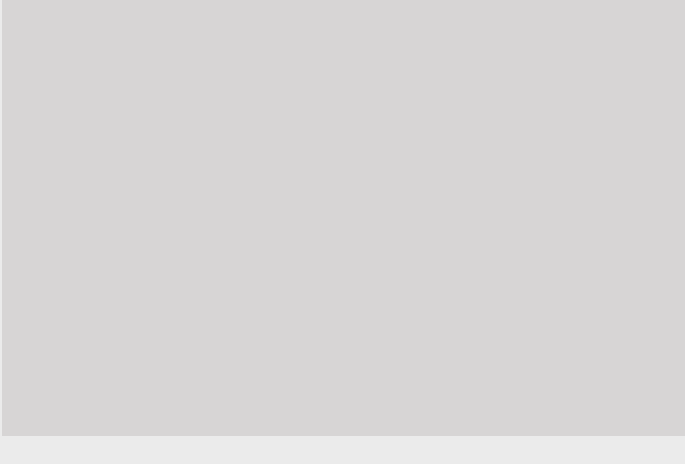
How to use a word that (literally) drives some people



Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?

The awkward case of 'his or her'

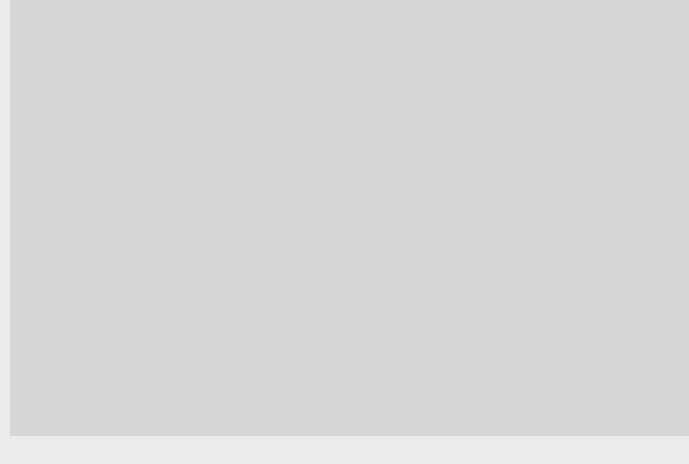
WORD GAMES



Liar, Liar Quiz

Test your knowledge of words for lies, liars, and those being

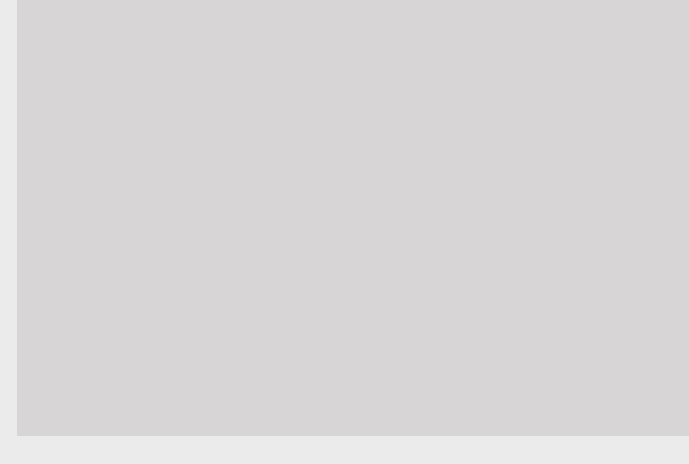
TAKE THE QUIZ >



Winter Words Quiz

Winter has returned along with cold weather. Wrap yourself in

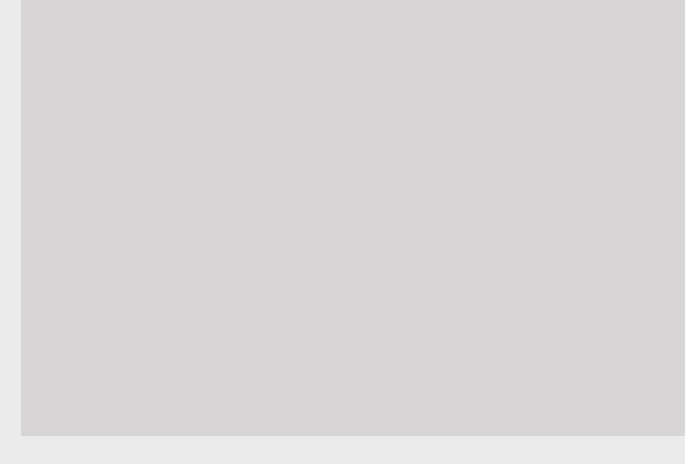
TAKE THE QUIZ >



Spell It

Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words?

TAKE THE QUIZ >



Add Diction

Build a chain of words by adding one letter at a time.

PLAY THE GAME >

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Jonathan Moore

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WORD OF THE DAY

surfeit

an overabundant supply or an excess

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TEST YOUR VOCABULARY

Liar, Liar Quiz

Someone who pretends to be sick in order to avoid work is a:

malingerer Duke-of-the-nether-willies

port-hound fabricationist

SPELL IT Can you spell these 10 commonly misspelled words? TAKE THE QUIZ >>

Test Your Knowledge - and learn some interesting things along the way. TAKE THE QUIZ >>

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Liar, Liar Quiz