

## B

- Bazillion* An quantitative measure an order of magnitude greater than *trillion* and usually conveyed by progressively extending the arms out (*million, billion, trillion, bazillion...*) until falling to the ground overcome by the concept of such enormity.
- Submitted by the author on behalf of his younger self.
- Bolleyvall* *Volleyball*, a court game in which opposing teams (six to nine players per team) compete to keep the ball aloft in their court and earthbound in their opponents’).
- Submitted by the author on behalf of his younger self's friend.
- Brown John Virgin* *Round yon Virgin* or possibly *Long John Silver* or an amalgam of both. *Round yon Virgin* appears in the Christmas carol “Silent Night” (words by Joseph Mohr, 1818). The English translation by John F. Young abbreviates *Around yonder Virgin* in the first verse as follows:
- “Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
**Round yon Virgin** Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace.”*
- Note:** In Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1883 novel “Treasure Island”, *Long John Silver* is a pirate; he doesn’t factor at all into the Nativity.
- Submitted by Marijke Blok of Saint John on behalf of her younger self.
- Busghetti* *Spaghetti*, an Italian pasta dish popular with young people (provided it contains no mushrooms or other vegetables—yuck).
- Submitted by Judi Piggott of Vancouver on behalf of her younger self.

## C

- Centre Victorious* Although no such-named shopping mall is known to exist where even the Queen would be happy (and glorious) with the savings (why wouldn’t she be?—God has ordained it!), *Send her victorious* appears in the Anthem “God Save the Queen” first sung publicly in London in 1745:
- “God save our gracious Queen!  
Long live our noble Queen!  
God save the Queen!  
**Send her victorious,**  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen.”*
- Submitted by Tristan Nixon of Ann Arbor on behalf of his late father’s younger self.

*Copalella*

*Helicopter*, a type of flying rotorcraft that supplies its lift and thrust by rotors.

**Note to adult readers:** Where space constraints necessitate economy, *copalella* would be a preferable term for *police helicopter*.

—Submitted by Michele Hall of Vancouver on behalf of her daughter  
Alexandra Hall Moss, age ?

**E***Elemenoh*

The twelfth letter of the alphabet or depending on how your count it, the twelfth-through-fifteenth letters of the alphabet (el-em-en-oh). Usually understood by young people as “that word you say midway through a recitation of the alphabet.”

—Submitted by Julia Allen of Toronto on behalf of her younger self.

**G***Gijantic*

*Gigantic*, a measure of large size. By reversing the G and J, the young speaker can utilize *Gijantic* to convey a sense of size an entire order of magnitude larger the *Gigantic*. See also *Bazillion*.

—Submitted by Marijke Blok of Saint John on behalf of her younger self.

*Gladly, the  
cross-eyed bear*

Sadly there is no such-named visually challenged bear, although the phrase *Gladly the cross I'd bear* appears in the hymn “Keep Thou My Way” (words by Fanny Crosby, music by Theodore E. Perkins). Some editions prefer “Gladly the cross **I'll** bear”, although this adult edit is undoubtedly intended to thwart giggling in the choir stalls.

The phrase appears in the third verse:

*“Keep Thou my all, O Lord, Hide my life in Thine;  
O let Thy sacred light O'er my pathway shine;  
Kept by Thy tender care, **Gladly the cross I'd bear**  
Hear Thou and grant my pray'r, Hide my life in Thine.”*

—Submitted by Michele Hall of Vancouver on behalf of John Moss\*, former chorister  
with St. Paul's Boys' Choir, London.

\*Possibly apocryphal as this interpretation is widespread among young choristers.

**H***Hangabur*

*Hamburger*, a sandwich containing a beef patty, condiments, and a bun and popular with young people (provided it contains no raw onions).

**Note:** Although *Hamburger* derives its name from city of Hamburg (a man from Hamburg), the many English-language derivations (Cheeseburger, Baconburger, Mozzarellaburger, etc.) have no German municipal equivalents.

—Submitted by Alan Fairweather of Toronto on behalf of his younger self.

## L

*Lightning bug*

*Firefly*, a family of insects known for their use of evening bioluminescence to attract mates or prey. Although *lightning bug* is a common young person's term, it is frowned upon for its inaccurate inference that the insect's light source is meteorological.

**Note to adult readers:** As *firefly* derives its light from a chemically produced "cold light" source (not actual fire), prefer the scientific term *Lampyridae* (except, of course, when addressing young people).

## M

*Monocoly*

*Monopoly*<sup>™</sup>, a board game by Parker Brothers<sup>®</sup> Game Company. Designed around the theories of Adam Smith's free market economics, it invariably channels all capital into the hands of the few while the many are reduced to penury (and usually tears).

**Note:** This game occasionally ends violently as exploited players foment revolution and literally up-end the game.

—Submitted by Marijke Blok of Saint John on behalf of her younger self.

## O

*One a ponce a time*

*Once upon a time*, a common opening line for fairy tales read to young people.

—Submitted by Alan Fairweather of Toronto on behalf of his younger self.

## P

*Pena pow*

*Peanut butter*, a sandwich spread made from peanuts and popular among North American children.

—Submitted by Michele Hall on behalf of her son Tristan, age ?

*Piggyback*

*Pick-a-pack*, a 16<sup>th</sup> century term for goods transported in packs that people or animals would carry. Today, the game *piggyback* refers to one child riding on the back of an adult or another—usually larger—child. Although pigs never figured into the original name, other animals have found their way into derivations of the game (such as *horsieback*).

**Note to adult readers:** Rather than the original *pick-a-pack*, contemporary adult English has adopted *piggyback* to refer to one type of transportation unit carried on the back of another, as in intermodal transportation and combined transport.

*Principal Lion*

*Prince Edward Island*, an eastern Canadian province usually described—*notwithstanding this leonine version*—as Canada's smallest.

—Submitted by Julia Allen of Toronto on behalf of her younger self.

**R**

*Ralph snake* Rather than a given name popular among certain venomous dessert snakes (that is, a snake called Ralph), *ralph snake* describes the entire subfamily of rattlesnakes.

—Submitted by Douglas Hansen of Vancouver on behalf of his nephew, age 4.

**S**

*Shooting star* *Meteor*, a space rock pulled by gravitational forces to earth and burning up due to friction with the planet's atmosphere. While large meteors have been known to affect the course of life on earth, an actual star shooting into earth's atmosphere would be an extinction-level event well beyond apocalyptic.

**T**

*Ticatar* *Guitar*, a six-stringed musical instruments played by plucking the strings. To do this, the guitarist maintains long fingernails occasionally producing a "tic-a-tar" sound.

—Submitted by Alan Fairweather of Toronto on behalf of his younger self.

*Toomaka* *Jamaica*, an island country in the Caribbean Sea.

—Submitted by Alan Fairweather of Toronto on behalf of his younger self.

**V**

*Varine* *Ravine*, a V-shaped wooded valley (hence the preference toward the letter V).

—Submitted by the author on behalf of his younger self.