

"Climate strike" is the Collins Word Of The Year 2019

14th November 2019

"Climate strike", a form of protest that took off just over a year ago inspired by the actions of Swedish school pupil Greta Thunberg and which has become a worldwide movement, has been named Collins' Word of the Year 2019.

Collins' lexicographers observed a **one-hundred-fold** increase in its usage in 2019, the largest increase noted of any term on the list.

Collins Dictionary's lexicographers monitor the 9.5 billion-word Collins Corpus - a database of terms taken from sources such as newspapers and social media worldwide - to create the annual list of new and notable words reflecting changing culture.

"Climate strike" was first registered in November 2015 when the initial event to be so named took place to coincide with the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. But over the last year "climate strikes" have **spread** and become a frequent reality in many of the world's largest cities.

This year, Collins Dictionary has also issued the Brexicon, a list of words related to Brexit and how the country, its people and politicians have reacted to it.

Also on the environmental theme, the word "rewilding" - returning land to a wild state - is also included as a word of the year.

Personal words have also made it on to the list. 'Bopo' - short for "body positivity", a movement advocating people being proud of their bodies whatever their shape or size - has seen a two-fold increase in usage.

Rapid changes in the political world bring with them new terminology.

It is a long time since we had more light-hearted words of the year such as "**binge-watch**" and "**photobomb**", but the politically charged atmosphere of recent years is clearly driving our language, bringing new words to the fore and giving new meanings and nuance to older ones.

Climate strikes can often divide opinion, but they have been inescapable this last year and have even driven a former word of the year, "Brexit", from the top of the news agenda, if only for a short time.

New political terms brought to the fore by Brexit include "milkshake" - the act of throwing a milkshake over

politicians, as happened to Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage in May.

"Entryist" also makes an appearance, referring to those joining political parties with the intention of changing party direction or policy.

 Adapted by ECP coach John Hird from [The Scotsman](#)

Before you read the article, find this vocabulary in the text:

take off: to become successful or popular, especially suddenly

one-hundred-fold: a hundred times as great or as much.

spread: to become widely known

binge-watch: watch multiple episodes of a television programme in rapid succession, typically by means of DVDs or digital streaming

photobomb: ruin a photograph by unexpectedly appearing in the camera's field of view as the picture is taken, typically as a prank or practical joke



www.englishcoachingprojects.net
info@englishcoachingprojects.net



Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Have you ever participated in a climate strike or demonstration?

Why do you think the word 'climate strike' is spreading so rapidly?

What is your opinion of Greta's campaign and tactics?

Are you a 'binge-watcher' if so, which series?

Do you know any other new words in English or your own language?

Social Events In English

Real-Life English in Vitoria-Gasteiz



Practical English Stuff

Real Language to Express Yourself Better

Dates for your diary!

Coffee Saturdays:

5th Oct ✓
2nd Nov ✓
7th Dec
11th Jan
1st Feb
7th Mar
4th Apr
2nd May
6th Jun

Cinema Nights:

25th Oct ✓
29th Nov
20th Dec
31st Jan
28th Feb
27th Mar
24th Apr
29th May
26th Jun

CINEMA NIGHTS!

Come and socialise in English!

Last Friday of every month

Cinema Nights!

Date: Friday, 29th November

Time: 19:30 to 21:30

Place: ECP Hub, C/San Ignacio de Loyola 15

LIVE!English presents:

COFFEE SATURDAYS!

Come and socialise in English!

First Saturday of every month

Coffee Saturdays!

Next date: Saturday, 7th December

Time: 11:00 to 12:30

Place: Panadería Bertiz, C/Francia 23

"It was hilarious when that giraffe suddenly appeared behind you when you took that selfie!"

This is the act of giving financial assistance to a failing business or economy to save it from collapse.

This is a suburban mother who spends a lot of time taking her children to play football or engage in similar activities.

This is a loose-fitting, one-piece leisure garment that covers both legs and torso. It's typically worn at home.

THE WORD OF THE YEAR

The **word(s) of the year**, sometimes abbreviated as "**WOTY**", refers to any of various assessments as to the most important word(s) or expression(s) in the public sphere during a specific year.

The German tradition, *Wort des Jahres*, was started in 1971. The American Dialect Society's Word of the Year is the oldest English-language version.

Match the words below (from previous years) to the examples and definitions.

Do you know any WOTY in your language?

**geek photobomb binge-watch
single-use hashtag onesie
mansplain bailout soccer mom**

You use this to identify specific topics on Twitter.

"You should really try to use coffee cups more than just once."

This is when a man explains something to a woman in a condescending and patronising manner.

"I didn't go to bed until I had watched every episode."

"My sister is obsessed with computers and video games. She hardly ever goes out!"