

DISCOVERING WORDS ON MONDAYS NOVEMBER 17th – “TRAVEL” THEME

The aim of this record is to help you to follow up any points of interest.

(*PIE means Proto-Indo-European i.e. the prehistoric language believed to be the root of all languages in Europe and parts of Asia, which linguists have reconstructed from research, there being no written records of it.)

TRAVEL - comes from mid 15thC “*travail*” from “*travaillen*” meaning journey (1300) “to make a journey”. Originally to struggle, toil or labour. It’s a variant form of travail used in a specific sense which has flourished while the old word has faded.

The root is from the Latin *tripalium* which was an instrument of torture. A three pronged instrument - three stakes tri +paulius indicating that travel was tortuous. In Old French the Latin word evolved into travailler – to suffer or toil.

May have developed from “go on a difficult journey”, link to old English verb “*faran*”.

Late 14th C: traveller was one who makes journeys often with horses, by 1550s. one who visits distant lands. Word used in the general sense of “move, go or pass from one place or position to another is, by 1660s also in mechanical use i.e. applied to the physical distance a component moves.

“**Travel light**” - (1921) is to travel with little luggage.

Travelling library - first recorded around 1727.

Travelling salesman - is attested by 1885 in the commercial sense of “go from place to place to sell goods.

Travelogue - is a talk on travel experiences typically illustrated (1903), a hybrid word with second part derived from Greek – logue- abstracted from monologue.

TRAVEL AGENT- term used in US from 1895, described as a function done by "carrying companies" in British Empire e.g. travel agent Cox & Kings, was established in 1758 to provide financial and logistical support for the Foot Guards, and eventually most British regiments. Travel agent Thomas Cook began in 1841 with the first organised one-day train trip for the Leicester Temperance Society, which is considered the world's first package tour. .

TRIP - as a verb meant to move around nimbly or dance. Related to words in Dutch and German. Dance meaning seen in phrase "trip the light fantastic". Further meaning to stumble or fall over is found from 15th C. As a noun, a journey or voyage is also 15th c. Psychedelic experience late 20th C.

VOYAGE - 14th C as "viage" related to "via". "Viaticum" provisions for a journey related to "victuals". Could be religious, military, diplomatic. Figurative use for a spiritual journey. Later came to chiefly mean a passage by sea.

JOURNEY - meant the distance travelled in a day (French: journée).

PILGRIM - a traveller to a holy place, also a foreigner or stranger.

TOUR - original notion "turn" or completing a circular motion. From this, a ramble or excursion. Tour d'horizon -a general survey. Tour de France.

TOURISM - a rare word in 1895 but late common as it developed as a business. "Tourist" known by 1802.

WANDER - to move about with no aim. Used also for the mind and eyes.

PIE* root in "wendh-". Football has rovers and wanderers..

TRAIPSE - Untidy movement, tramping, trudging. Mid-Dutch "trappen" cf. "trip".

ROAD - same root as "ride". A passage between two points. Also used for stretches of coastal water. Many phrases, r.hog, r.test, r.rage, r.map.r.trip. Hit the r.

GALLIVANT - origin unknown. To spend time gadding about in frivolous pleasure. Recorded in a comic song 1809.

JALOPY - a battered old car. Origin unknown. One theory connects it with the export of used cars from USA to Xalapa, Mexico.

JET LAG - Originated in the 1960s, coined to describe the symptoms of disrupting the body's natural rhythm due to the new speed of jet aircraft travel. The earliest known use of the phrase was in a 1966 article in the *Los Angeles Times*, though the phenomenon was discussed earlier under names like time zone syndrome. At the same time as the emergence of jet lag, was the term jet set. The effects of crossing multiple time zones were known even before the term jet lag was coined, but prior to jet travel, the slower pace of journeys by boat or train was so slow that it allowed for a more gradual adjustment to new time zones.

TREK - It's a noun and a verb and originated from the Dutch and Afrikaans *trekken*, meaning to travel or to pull, and was historically used to describe migrations or journeys by ox wagon in South Africa. It particularly references the Great Trek IN 1836 when 12,000 to 14,000 Dutch settlers left the Cape Colony to go into the interior of modern South Africa from 1836 onwards. These Boers rebelled against the policies of the British government and went in search of fresh pasturelands beyond the Cape's British colonial administration. Boers who took part in the Great Trek identified themselves as **voortrekkers**, meaning pioneers or pathfinders in Dutch and Afrikaans. Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria.

Originally meant to pull or draw, "trek" is related to English "track". Those who went into the country to avoid air raids in World War Two were nicknamed "trekkers".

Trek can be used

- for a long and often difficult journey on foot – we trekked the 100 kms next to the river
- for a difficult or arduous trip – our trip to Manchester was a real trek on the M1
- as an informal term for any long walk – you could say that our regular Sunday walk is a real trek
- to move slowly or unwillingly – he trekked all the way across town and back in vain.

The name of the American bicycle company Trek was chosen in 1976 to evoke a sense of adventure, while the science fiction franchise Star Trek adopted the name to represent exploration in space.

CRUISE - The first use of the term dates back to the 1650s, when the Dutch started using the word *kruisen* to mean to cross, or to sail to and fro. It is also related to French *croiser* to cross, Spanish *cruzar*, German *kreuzen*.

Can be used:

As a noun

- most commonly refers to a pleasure trip on a ship

As an adjective

- a low-flying, guided missile. A cruise missile

As a verb

- to sail or travel for pleasure on water
- to move at a steady speed: eg an aircraft, vehicle, or ship traveling smoothly and effortlessly or a car can cruise on the highway
- to search in a public place looking for a sexual partner.
- to achieve victory without difficulty in a competition.
- to drive around aimlessly but ostentatiously and at leisure. "She cruised the neighbourhood in her new convertible

On a cruise, an upside-down pineapple is a secret symbol for couples looking to swing or participate in partner-swapping. This code is used to subtly indicate that a couple is interested in adult fun. While the right-side-up pineapple can signify hospitality, the upside-down version is a signal within a specific subculture of cruising.

A pink flamingo is a symbol used by some passengers to indicate they are interested in swinging, or partner swapping. It serves as a discreet alternative to the more widely recognized but increasingly policed upside-down pineapple symbol. This is a passenger-to-passenger signal and not a message for crew members.

How cruises on ships came about

In the early 1800s, ships were primarily for transporting mail and cargo. Companies like Cunard started in 1840 with transatlantic mail contracts, and these journeys were considered functional. Cruises evolved from these 19th-century mail and cargo ships, particularly P&O, which began offering pleasure trips to destinations like the Mediterranean in 1844. The idea gained momentum as shipping lines, like P&O and Cunard, shifted from just transport to providing a luxurious, leisure-focused experience, eventually leading to purpose-built cruise ships at the turn of the 20th century.

The first leisure voyages were advertised by P&O in 1844, taking passengers on sea tours to Mediterranean ports like Gibraltar and Athens, a revolutionary concept at the time.

The emergence of steam-powered ships and competition among companies like Cunard led them to focus on creating a luxurious experience for passengers, with comfortable suites and fine dining.

By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, competition drove the creation of ships built specifically for pleasure. A German of the Hamburg America Line is credited with commissioning the first such vessel in 1900.

This marked a major shift, with companies like P&O and others building ships purely for luxury holidays, and a new industry was born.

The largest cruise operator in the world, with over 100 luxury cruise ships, is Carnival Cruise Lines, owned by a Romanian Israeli family, the Arisons. Micky Arison, the son of the founder is chairman of the company and worth \$9.7 billion and his sister is worth \$4.4 billion – the 8th richest woman in Israel.

The most expensive cruise in the world is a 140-day world voyage on the Regent Seven Seas Splendor, with a top price of up to \$839,999 per person for the Regent Suite. This includes a private spa, a \$200,000 bed, and a personal butler. The journey includes 71 ports in 40 countries across six continents and will depart on 11 January 2027. Other, less expensive suites start at \$91,499 per person.

LUGGAGE - from the verb to *lug*, “to drag or carry with difficulty” combined with the suffix “-age. Scandinavian meaning “to pull by the hair”. First used in late 1500s to describe “inconveniently heavy baggage”. The original meaning directly reflects the nature of early travel trunks which were often very heavy. Made of heavy wood and leather, they had to be physically dragged or carried. Usually required strong servants to carry them.

BAGGAGE - with the same meaning comes from the old French 14th C word “*baque*” meaning portable equipment (usually military) or “pack, bundle or sack”. We have “cabin baggage” used on ships or aircraft (overhead lockers), “carry on baggage,” and “checked baggage”. “To carry a lot of baggage” describes someone with a lot of complicated issues.

COACH - In the 15th C the village of Kocs made its living from building carts and transporting goods between Vienna and Budapest. Around this time an unknown artisan in Kocs devised a larger more comfortable vehicle – a carriage – that would be used to carry people rather than goods. It was called a “Koczi szeter” meaning a “Wagon of Kocs. This was then shortened to Kocsi. Over the next century the Kocsi became more popular and was produced throughout Europe. It was called “Kutsche” in German, “coche” in French and “coach” in English. From that came the horse-drawn stage coach, motor coach and finally coach class (economy) in air travel (USA) We still have coaches in trains, bus coach etc.

Then the word coach came to mean a *mentor*, first applied in education, not sport as we might suppose. In 18th C England the term was used as slang by students to describe tutors who prepared them for exams, to carry them smoothly and comfortably to their goal of passing them. The name came into more common use in the late 1880s when it was transferred to include athletic coaches. Today we think of a coach standing on the side lines yelling out instructions or corrections, more like a drill sergeant than a “comfortable carriage”.

CODDIWOMPLE - is an English slang word meaning to travel purposefully toward a vague or unknown destination. It describes a journey taken with a sense of purpose, but without a fixed end goal, embracing the journey and its unexpected discoveries. The term can be used literally for travel or metaphorically for life, career, or other endeavours.

1. **Literal meaning:** To travel with purpose but without a clear destination, such as taking a scenic detour or exploring a city without a strict itinerary.
2. **Metaphorical meaning:** To live life purposefully, not in pursuit of a single, final goal, but on a path of evolving discoveries and constant growth.
3. **Origin:** While it has become popular online, the word is of recent and unclear etymology, not appearing in established dictionaries of regional or historical English slang until more recently.

GONGOOZLER - a person who stares protractedly at anything

ORIGIN - This noun originally denoted, in the canal people's slang, **an idler who stares at length at activity on a canal**. Although it probably dates back to the 19th century, it is first recorded in *Glossary of Canal Terms*, in *Bradshaw's Canals and Navigable Rivers of England and Wales* (1904), by Henry Rodolph de Salis (1866-1936):

Gongoozler, an idle and inquisitive person who stands staring for prolonged periods at anything out of the common. This word is believed to have its origin in the Lake District of England.

The etymology of the word is unknown. Henry Rodolph de Salis mentioned Cumbria, in north-western England, as its possible place of origin, but it has been speculated that **gongoozler** is related to two verbs recorded in the dialect of Lincolnshire, on the east coast of England:

- **to gawn**, meaning **to yawn, gape** and **to stare vacantly or curiously**,
- **to gooze**, also **to goozen**, meaning **to stare aimlessly, gape**.

WANDERLUST - "first recorded in English in 1902, from German *Wanderlust*, literally "desire for wandering". The term originates from the German words **wandern** ('to hike') and Old High German **wantalon** (to "walk, wander") + **lust** ("desire").

Lust - Old English **lust**, ("desire, sensuous pleasure"), from Proto-Germanic **lustuz** meaning "pleasure, desire", from PIE* **“*las”**- "to be eager, wanton, or unruly".

In Middle English, lust meant "any source of pleasure or delight," including "a liking for a person". The specific and pejorative sense of "sinful sexual desire, degrading animal passion" (now the main meaning) developed in late Old English from the word's use in Bible translations, such as *"lusts of the flesh"*.

Wanderlust was associated with German Romanticism i.e. revolt against a world of reason, material progress, and industrialisation. Now, they use the word **fernweh**. which links the words **fern**, or distance, and **wehe**, an ache or sickness, so the word means the opposite of homesickness.

RUMSPRINGA - This is the name for a rite of passage used in some Amish communities in Pennsylvania in which, between the ages of 17 and 21, Amish teenagers are given the opportunity to experience the outside world, including travelling to different places, before deciding to join the community as adults. Since some Amish are descended from German immigrants, the origin of rumspringa is German *rumspringen* 'to jump around'.

ITINERANT - originates from the Latin term *itinerari*, meaning “to travel,” which in turn derives from *iter*, signifying “journey” or “route.”

The word was first used in English in reference to **circuit courts**, where judges travelled from place to place to preside over cases. The related English word **itinerary**, meaning a plan or route of a journey, also stems from the same Latin root *iter* via the Late Latin *itinerarium* ("account of a journey").

Now, “itinerant” may have negative associations with vagrancy and lack of a fixed abode.

The OED's earliest evidence for *itinerant* is from 1576, in the writing of William Lambarde, antiquary and lawyer. Lambarde is also particularly remembered as the author of *A Perambulation of Kent* (1576), the first English county history.

PERAMBULATION - The word "perambulation" comes from the **Latin verb *perambulare*, meaning "to walk through."** It is a compound of *per* ("through") and *ambulāre* ("to walk"), which is also the root of the English word "amble". From the mid-15c., the word was recorded as *perambulacioun*, "a journey or tour of inspection," especially a walk around the borders of a property, parish, etc., to determine the boundaries.

Now old-fashioned, the word survives in common usage as “**pram**” from perambulator, although pushchairs and buggies are most popular with parents using cars or public transport rather than walking everywhere.

PEREGRINATION - No longer in common use. this comes from the **Latin *peregrinari*, which means “to travel abroad.”** A **peregrination is a journey or pilgrimage**, especially one that's made on foot. It typically applies to travelling for an extended period of time or over a great distance.

Delving further into the word's origin, it comes from *peregrinus* "from foreign parts, foreigner," from *peregre*, "from abroad, found outside Roman territory," from *per* "away" + *agri*, from *ager* "field, territory, land, country".

The **peregrine falcon**, was so called because it was **noted as migrating long distances**. So from the Middle Ages it was named in Latin, “*falco peregrinus*”, with “falcon” derived from its curved wingspan which resembled a sickle (Latin “*falx*”).

PERIPATETIC - often applied to music teachers, for whom it is necessary to visit a number of different schools.

The word refers to “walking about” but has a philosophical origin.

In the mid-15c., ***Peripatetik*, "a disciple of Aristotle**, was one of the set of philosophers who followed the teachings of Aristotle," derived from the Medieval Latin *peripateticus* "pertaining to the disciples or philosophy of Aristotle," but **originally from the Greek *peripatētikos* "given to walking about"** (especially while teaching), from *peri* "around, about" + *patein* "to walk, tread" This is because Aristotle's custom was to teach while strolling through the covered walkways (*perípatos*) of his school, the Lyceum in Athens.

So in English, the philosophical meaning is older than that of a "person who wanders about", recorded from the 1610s, as meaning, "walking about from place to place, itinerant," from 1640s, often with a tinge of humour.

A COUNTRY MILE - A sports reporter today may say, "He won by a country mile".

"Mile" is derived from the Latin "mille passus" meaning "a thousand paces". An ancient Roman mile was 1,000 double paces (one step with each foot), for about 4,860 feet

The literal use of a "country mile" infers that to cover the distance of a mile in the country along winding lanes takes longer than a straight-line mile in the city.

As an idiom, the figurative use of a *country mile* highlights something of tremendous or unexpectedly long distance.

In 1851, Samuel Maunders called "a north-country mile... equal to two statute ones" in his book "The Treasury of Knowledge and Library of Reference."

The term "country mile" probably dates from when the English Statute Mile was established in 1593. Before this time, there was no consistent measurement of a mile. And it probably took rural inhabitants longer to adjust to the accepted length than urban dwellers: hence a *country mile* versus an urban one.

The oldest reference to a *country mile* was published in 1829 in Frederick de Kruger's poem "The Villager's Tale":

*The travelling stage had set me down
Within a mile of yon church-town;
'T was long indeed, a country mile.
But well I knew each field or style;*

Although the term originated in England, it quickly spread to neighbouring English-speaking countries and the US. It has taken on various other names, such as a **farmer's mile, Welsh mile, and Scottish mile, but all mean the same thing: to exaggerate a distance.**

In America, it has become a famous catchphrase in baseball when a hit is knocked out of the park. It was first used in this manner in 1935 in the "Saturday Evening Post" when sports reporter Peter Tamony wrote:

"He is the answer to a scout's prayer. He can throw a baseball into a barrel at 100 yards, is a ten-second sprint man, and can hit a ball a country mile."