

## Vocabulary: Unusual Words in English

Let's increase your vocabulary with some uncommon, but interesting words.

1) **thrice** (adverb)                      Meaning: **three times**

Example: I **thrice** knocked on her door, but she didn't open it.

2) **bamboozle** (verb)                      Meaning: **to fool or cheat somebody**

Example: The salesman **bamboozled** me into buying a vacuum cleaner that I really don't need.

3) **thrifty** (adjective)                      Meaning: **using money carefully/economically**

Example: My father has a lot of savings because he is very **thrifty**.

4) **serendipity** (noun)                      Meaning: **a lucky coincidence**

Example: When I arrived at the bus stop, I realized that I had no money with me. Just then, I noticed a money purse on the ground and found that it had some coins in it. What **serendipity**!

5) **discombobulate** (verb)                      Meaning: **to throw somebody into a state of confusion**

Example: I can't concentrate at the moment, I'm all **discombobulated**!

6) **makeshift** (adjective)                      Meaning: **serving as a temporary substitute**

Example: Lets put some chairs together to make a **makeshift** bed.

7) **segue** (noun/verb)                      Meaning: **a smooth transition**

Example: The speaker made a clever **segue** from economics to environmental policy.

8) **bunkum** (noun)                      Meaning: **something unbelievable**

Example: I don't believe anything that you said. What a load of **bunkum**!

9) **gobbledygook** (noun)                      Meaning: **confusing nonsense**

Example: I can't understand you. You're speaking **gobbledygook**.

10) **jalopy** (noun)                      Meaning: **very old car**

Example: I've got a real **jalopy** at home, but she rides well and she's reliable.

11) **hoojamaflip, thingamajig, thingamabob, whatchamacallit** (nouns)

Meaning: **a word for something whose name you've forgotten**

Example: You just attach the **thingamajig** to the **whatchamacallit**, and then you put the **hoojamaflip** on top. It's easy!

12) **humdinger** (noun)                      Meaning: **a remarkable or outstanding example**

Example: My God! That rainstorm was a real **humdinger**!

13) **nincompoop** (noun)                      Meaning: **idiot**

Example: You really are a big **nincompoop** sometimes!

14) **shenanigans** (noun)                      Meaning: **deception**  
Example: Financial **shenanigans** brought the whole company to its knees.

15) **scallywag** (noun)                      Meaning: **dishonest person**  
Example: Bob played the character as a skirt-chasing **scallywag**.

16) **skedaddle** (verb)                      Meaning: **leave quickly**  
Example: There was some **shenanigans** going on in our street yesterday. There was a guy trying to sell old computers as if they were new. He was a real **scallywag**. But the police appeared, and he **skedaddled**.

17) **lackadaisical** (adjective)              Meaning: **lacking enthusiasm and determination**  
Example: My teenage son is really **lackadaisical**. He's a hopeless case!

18) **ballyhoo** (noun)                      Meaning: **bad behaviour**  
Example: And while I'm gone, I don't want any **ballyhoo** – OK!?

19) **cockamamie** (adjective)              Meaning: **ridiculous**  
Example: I don't want to hear any of your **cockamamie** ideas!

20) **happenstance** (noun)                      Meaning: **coincidence**  
Example: She said that her trip to Iceland was the result of a **happenstance** and spontaneity.

21) **Kafkaesque** (adjective)                      Meaning: **having a bizarre or illogical quality**  
Example: Many immigrants to the USA can't understand the **Kafkaesque** immigration system.  
(The word refers to the bizarre writings of Franz Kafka)

22) **oomph** (noun)                      Meaning: **strength, power, glamour or passion**  
Example: My car doesn't have the **oomph** to tow another car.