

MORE SPECIALTY DEFINITIONS

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In the February 1970 Word Ways, Louis Delpino introduced Specialty Definitions, a hard-to-define activity best illustrated by examples such as SAWTURNE (carpenter's wine) and LOXATIVE (smoked salmon cathartic). This game seems to be popular with a number of authors. John G. Fuller, in Games for Insomniacs (Doubleday, 1966), describes a search for foods suitable for whodunit stories: COP SUEY, SCRAMBLED YEGGS, THYME BOMB. Mary Ann Madden devotes two chapters of Thank You for the Giant Sea Tortoise (Viking, 1971) to this sort of wordplay: general definitions such as ADAMANT (the first insect) and BORDELLO (laconic greeting), and definitions involving names such as DINAH SHORE (a prehistoric animal) and EMANUEL

DOLLY LLAMA, ASIA MYNA, CUFF LYNX. James Fixx tapped the resources of Mensa in Games for the Superintelligent (Doubleday, 1972) to come up with items such as QUESTIONABLE (interrogation of a cow's husband) and SIR LANCELOT (a busy medieval surgeon).

Despite all this activity, there seems to be an inexhaustible supply of Specialty Definitions waiting to be discovered -- Mary Ann Madden reported over one hundred of them restricted to words beginning with A and B. I believe that the collection of Specialty Definitions below are all original -- my apologies to anyone who has been unintentionally plagiarized.

Filchers of smuggled goods: CONTRABANDITS
 Russian 25 cent piece: QUADRUBLE
 Sportscaster's ticket fee: PRESSBUCKS
 Entrance to hairdresser's: POMPADOOR
 Angry toro: IRASCIBULL
 Energy potion: GO POWDER
 Chance poses: CIRCUM-STANCES
 All-white social event: C-OCCASION
 Parent in a Western film: CINEMAW
 Jovial hound: HYSTERRIER
 Fourth-term congressman: LEGIS-LATER
 Famous milk plant: LEGENDARY
 Amorous parasites: ROMANTICKS
 Schwinn public-relations employee: SPOKESMAN
 Needling inquiry: SOCRATEASE
 Quilting bee: SEW-CIETY

Trophy for policeman's wife: LOVING COP
 Calm dried fruit: SEDATE
 Prehistoric poet: HOMER SAPIENS
 Promiscuous pipefishes: SEA WHORES
 Spitting contest results: EXPECTOR-RATINGS
 Seed catalogue flowers: MAGA-ZINNIAS
 Slight of hand: COMPRESSED-TIDIGATION
 Juvenile delinquent: CHILD HOOD
 Suspicious wifely jealousy: ADULTERROR
 German lager beer: TEU-TONIC
 Ideological hunger strike: MANI-FAST-O
 Lonely bath towel: SOLID-TERRY
 Outcome of the Babel project: EDIFUSS
 Escaping unreformed convict: IN-TRANSIT-GENT
 Crowded matinee party: CAPACITEA
 Backyard clothesline: LAWN-DRY-MAT
 Mercenary's wartime expenses: BELLIGE-RENT
 British colonial war triumph: VICTORY-AN
 Propaganda printing machine: DUPE-LICATOR
 Emperor Nero's psychosis: PY-ROME-MANIA
 French revolutionary justice: GUILT-OTINE
 Two-car head-on collision: DI-WRECK-TION
 Undeveloped country: SUBORDI NATION
 Oriental washerwoman's leg joints: SHINE-KNEES
 Singles-only old maids' ball: PRUDE DANCE
 Crop of the Vatican: POPE CORN
 Letter-stuffing soldierettes: SEALING WACS
 Trial room sergeant-at-arms: COURT MARSHALL
 Billions of tons of garbage: GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT
 Sidewalk vegetable stand: SELL-ERY
 Eskimo charcoal bins: AL-ASHCANS
 Hawaiian stomach cramps: LU-OWS
 Final lexical item: DEF-FINISH-ION