



## *Ye Olde Medieval English Terms*



### *A*

1. **Acclumsid:** numbed, clumsy.
2. **Aceasecomic:** One whose hair was never cut.
3. **Acopon:** A southing salve, poultice, or plaster to relieve pain.
4. **Adam's Ale:** A humorous term for water, the only drink for Adam and Eve.
5. **Afterling:** An inferior
6. **Agrum:** A swelling of the cheeks or mouth.
7. **Agauw:** To horrify, to cause shuddering.
8. **Aimcrier:** An applauder or encourager; the person who cried "Aim!: to encourage an archer; the one who stood near the target to report the results of each round.
9. **Aletude:** Obesity, bodily fatness.
10. **Ataballes:** Kettle-drums.

### *B*

11. **Back-slang:** The technique of pronouncing words backwards.
12. **Backstress:** A female baker.
13. **Barilla:** A marine plant used in manufacturing soap.
14. **Bawdreaming:** Bawdy misbehavior.
15. **Bedswerver:** A person unfaithful to the marriage bed.
16. **Beek:** to bask in the sun or before a fire.
17. **Bellibone:** A lovely maiden, pretty lass.
18. **Bell-penny:** Money one saves for his own funeral.
19. **Bellytimber:** Food.
20. **Blashy:** Thin or weak, as applied to tea or beer.
21. **Blob-tale:** A tattle-tale or gossip.
22. **Blonk:** A large, powerful horse.
23. **Blore:** To cry out or bleat and bray like an animal.
24. **Blutter:** To blurt out.
25. **Boose:** A cow stall.
26. **Brangle:** To squabble or brawl.
27. **Breedbate:** A person or something that creates strife.
28. **Bubble-bow:** A lady's pocketbook.
29. **Bugle-beard:** A shaggy beard like buffalo hair.
30. **Bulse:** A package of diamonds or gold dust.



31. **Butter-teeth:** The two upper middle incisors.

## C

32. **Calliblephary:** A coloring for eyelids.

33. **Carked:** Fretfully anxious.

34. **Chair day:** The evening of life, that time when a person is old and usually infirm but passes his time in ease and comfort.

35. **Chinkers:** money, coins.

36. **Chitty-face:** A person with a thin, pinched face; a term of contempt.

37. **Corsned:** The ordeal by bread, a medieval test to determine guilt. The accused was ordered to swallow an ounce of bread consecrated by a priest with an exorcism. If he went into convulsions he was pronounced guilty, but if he had not reaction he was proclaimed innocent.

38. **Cosh:** A small cottage, hut.

39. **Crinet:** A hair.

40. **Cruck:** Peasants lived in cruck houses. These had a wooden frame onto which was plastered wattle and daub, which was a mixture of mud, straw and manure.

41. **Crug:** Food



## D

42. **Daggle-tail:** An untidy woman.

43. **Darg:** A day's work.

44. **Dentiscalp:** Toothpick.

45. **Dimpse:** The dimming of daylight, twilight.

46. **Donge:** A mattress.

47. **Downsteepy:** Steeply descending, precipitous.

48. **Drassock:** A drab, untidy woman.

49. **Dretch:** torment.

50. **Dringle:** To waste time in a lazy manner.

## E

51. **Earthapple:** A cucumber or potato.

52. **Eldnyng:** Jealousy or suspicion.

53. **Erendrake:** A messenger.

54. **Eyethurl:** A window.

55. **Eyndill:** Jealous.

## F

- 56. **Fadoodle:** Nonsense, something foolish.
- 57. **Faffle:** To blow in sudden gusts.
- 58. **Fairhead:** Beauty.
- 59. **Fanger:** A guardian, one who protects, as do fanged animals.
- 60. **Farnet:** A company of attendants.
- 61. **Fasels:** Chick-peas, kidney beans.
- 62. **Fearbabe:** A thing designed to scare a baby.
- 63. **Feat:** A dangling curl of hair.
- 64. **Feather-head:** A silly, lightheaded person.



- 65. **Fellowfeel:** To share another's feelings, to sympathize with.
- 66. **Felly:** Harshly, destructively.
- 67. **Firefanged:** Scorched, overheated.
- 68. **Fizgig:** A frivolous person, especially a woman.
- 69. **Flag-Fallen:** Unemployed.
- 70. **Flactchet:** A sword.
- 71. **Fleak:** An insignificant person.
- 72. **Flerd:** Deceit.
- 73. **Flesh-spades:** Fingernails.
- 74. **Fliperous:** A proud gossip, a prattler.
- 75. **Floccinaucinihilipilification:** Belittling others' achievements.
- 76. **Flockard:** A veil floating from a headdress.
- 77. **Flosh:** A swamp or stagnant pool overgrown with weeds.
- 78. **Fnast:** To pant or snort.
- 79. **Fonkin:** a little fool.
- 80. **Fopdoodle:** A simpleton.
- 81. **Frush:** To crush, strike, or break.
- 82. **Fucus:** Rouge made from rock lichen, which produced a red dye. This false color became a cosmetic cover-up.

## G

- 83. **Gang-teeth:** Projecting teeth.
- 84. **Gaptoothed:** Having teeth set wide apart.
- 85. **Gardyloo:** A warning cry before throwing dirty water from windows into the street.
- 86. **Givel:** To heap up.
- 87. **Gleed:** Squint-eyed.
- 88. **Glop:** To swallow greedily.
- 89. **Gofe:** The pillory.
- 90. **Graff:** To dig.
- 91. **Gundygut:** A glutton.

## H

92. **Hadivist:** To express regret at making a mistake.
93. **Ha-Ha:** A sunken trench or ditch not visible until someone steps into it.
94. **Handband:** A covenant made by joining hands.
95. **Hardshever:** A stonemason.
96. **Heanling:** A humble or base person.
97. **Hoddypeak:** A simpleton, blockhead.
98. **Hoful:** Careful.
99. **Hoodpick:** A miser or skinflint.
100. **Hudder-mudder:** Secrecy, privacy.
101. **Hufty-tufty:** A braggart.
102. **Hum:** A strong liquor, a mixture of ale or beer and spirits.

## I

103. **Iimp:** To happen, befall.
104. **Inwit:** Conscience.
105. **Iqueme:** Pleasing, agreeable.
106. **Istink:** Transitive verb – to smell.
107. **Iswonk:** Toil, to work.

## J

108. **Jubbe:** A large vessel for liquor.
109. **Juvement:** Aid!; Help!

## K

110. **Keak:** To cackle.
111. **Kell:** A woman's headdress, cap.
112. **Kerchief-of-pleasance:** An embroidered cloth presented by a lady to her knight to wear for her sake. He was bound by the code of honor to upt it on his helmet.
113. **Kew-Kaw:** Upside down.
114. **Kidcote:** Prison.
115. **Killbuck:** A fierce looking fellow.
116. **Killcow:** A braggart, swashbuckler, or bully.
117. **Kiss the Hare's Foot:** To be so late as to miss dinner; to eat left-over scraps.
118. **Kissing comfits:** sweets to make the breath pleasant.
119. **Knosp:** An architectural ornament in the form of a bud or knob.



## L

- 120. **Landcheap:** A fine paid to the lord of a manor when leaving his land.
- 121. **Lennow:** Flabby
- 122. **Lickspigot:** One who fawns or behaves in a servile manner.
- 123. **Lip clap:** Kissing.
- 124. **Lovecup:** a local market duty or tax.
- 125. **Lubber-word:** Food of no nutritional value, “junk food”

## M

- 126. **Magsman:** A swindler.



- 127. **Maw-wallop:** A badly cooked mess of food
- 128. **Melpomenish:** Tragic.
- 129. **Mentimutation:** A change of mind.
- 130. **Merry-gall:** A sore produced by chafing.
- 131. **Merry-go-down:** Strong ale.
- 132. **Mildful:** Merciful
- 133. **Misgloze:** Misinterpret
- 134. **Mobard:** Clown, boor. A term of contempt.
- 135. **Mubblefubbles:** Melancholy
- 136. **Muckender:** Bib or handkerchief
- 137. **Mumper:** a beggar, one who sponges off others.
- 138. **Mung:** A crowd of people.
- 139. **Murfles:** Freckles or pimples

## N

- 140. **Nabcheat:** A hat or a cap.
- 141. **Nesh:** Fresh, delicate, soft, as applied to fruit, vegetables, and foliage.
- 142. **Nickpot:** A fraudulent innkeeper.
- 143. **Nithe:** envy, hatred
- 144. **Nose of Wax:** A fickle personality.
- 145. **Nott-headed:** Having hair closely cut.
- 146. **Nyle:** Fog or mist.

## O

- 147. **Odam:** A son-in-law.
- 148. **Oddwoman:** A female umpire or arbitrator.
- 149. **Okselle:** Armpit.
- 150. **Ongle:** Claw.



151. **Ong-tongue:** a gossip, a tattle-tale. Same as blob-tale.  
 152. **Outwit:** Knowledge, information, or learning that one gains.

## P

153. **Paggle:** To bulge or hang loosely.



154. **Pancart:** A placard with public notices.  
 155. **Pash:** Forehead.  
 156. **Penistone:** Course woolen cloth woven in the town of Penistone, England.  
 157. **Philotimy:** Love of honor.  
 158. **Pingle:** To eat with very little appetite.  
 159. **Pitchkettled:** Puzzled.  
 160. **Poop-Noddy:** A fool or simpleton.  
 161. **Poplolly:** A little darling; a female favorite; or a mistress.  
 162. **Porknell:** One who is as fat as a pig.  
 163. **Pumpkinification:** Pompous behavior or exaggerated praise.  
 164. **Purfle:** to decorate or adorn.

## Q

165. **Quetch:** To moan and twitch in pain.

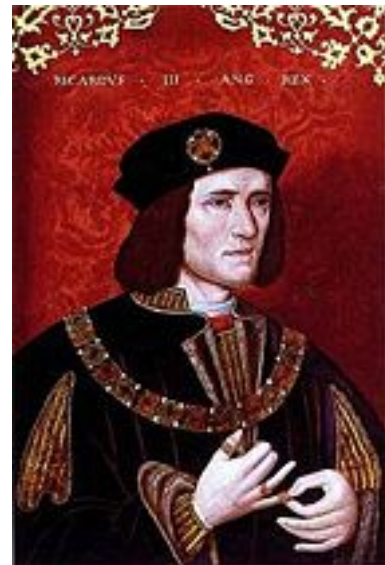
## R

166. **Reaks:** Pranks or practical jokes.  
 167. **Recooper:** Recovery.  
 168. **Redmod:** Hasty or rash action.  
 169. **Reelpot:** One who makes a drinking pot go around.  
 170. **Ribble:** A wrinkle, furrow.  
 171. **Ringo:** A treat; a sweet made from the candied root of the sea holly.  
 172. **Rixle:** To rule, or have dominion over others.  
 173. **Roaky:** Hazy, nebulous, not clear.  
 174. **Roberdavy:** A kind of wine in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.  
 175. **Rooped:** Hoarse, as with bronchitis or a throat cold.  
 176. **Rutterkin:** A swaggering gallant or bully.

## S

177. **Sanded:** Half-dead.  
 178. **Sanap:** a strip of cloth placed over the outer part of a tablecloth to keep it from being soiled.

179. **Scrogglings:** Small, worthless apples left hanging on a tree after the crop is gathered.
180. **Scrow:** The sky.
181. **Shab:** To get rid of, or to put something over on someone.
182. **'sheart:** Shortening of the phrase *God's heart*, meaning to make an oath.
183. **Shongable:** A tax on making certain shoes.
184. **Slibber-sauce:** A nauseating concoction that is used for medicinal purposes.
185. **Sloomy:** Lazy, dull, sleepy.
186. **Smellsmock:** A licentious man.
187. **Snapsauce:** Pilfering food; or licking one's fingers after a meal.
188. **Snawk:** To smell.
189. **Snirtle:** To snicker.
190. **Snotter-clout:** A pocket handkerchief.
191. **Spitchcock:** Eel cooked with bread crumbs.
192. **Spit-frog:** A small sword; or a term of contempt.
193. **Spuddle:** To assume an air of importance without reason; or to make trifles seem important.
194. **Squiddle:** To waste time with idle talk.
195. **Squint-a-pipes:** Slang for a squinting man or woman.
196. **Steven:** The voice, a loud outcry; a set time, or appointment.
197. **Stoop-gallant:** Something that humbles the great and makes one a mere man.
198. **Storge:** A natural love, especially of parents for their children.
199. **Straight-fingered:** Thoroughly honest.
200. **Suggill:** To beat black and blue.
201. **Swerked:** To become troubled, gloomy.



## T

202. **Tablinghouse:** A gambling house.
203. **Teenful:** Troublesome, irritating.
204. **Tenterbelly:** A glutton.
205. **Theek:** To cover a roof with straw thatch; or to protect.
206. **Theow:** A servant or slave.
207. **Thibble:** A stick used to stir porridge.
208. **Thigging:** Begging.
209. **Thrip:** To snap one's fingers.
210. **Thrunch:** Very angry, displeased.
211. **Tidliwink:** A tavern.
212. **Tipsycake:** Cake saturated with wine or liquor, stuck with almonds, and served with custard.
213. **Tirliry-puffkin:** Light-headed, flighty woman; or a flirt.
214. **Trantles:** Articles of little value.
215. **Trundle-tail:** A low-bred dog.
216. **Turngiddy:** Dizzy

217. **Tutmouthed:** Having protruding lips or a projecting lower jaw.  
 218. **Tuzzy-Muzzy:** A collection of flowers.

## U

219. **Ug:** Fear or dread  
 220. **Umbecast:** To consider or ponder.

## V



221. **Vasquine:** A petticoat  
 222. **Vecke:** An old woman.  
 223. **Vellication:** A twitching or convulsive movement.  
 224. **Venenate:** To poison  
 225. **Voil:** A town.

## W

226. **Waghalter:** A rogue likely to swing in a gallows.  
 227. **Wallydraigle:** A worthless, slovenly woman.  
 228. **Wam:** A scar  
 229. **Wang-tooth:** A molar (tooth)  
 230. **Welkin:** A sky with wooly clouds.  
 231. **Wheep:** An ineffectual attempt of a man to whistle loudly.  
 232. **Whifling:** An insignificant creature.  
 233. **Whipperginnie:** An abusive term for a woman.  
 234. **Whistersnefet:** A blow to the ear.  
 235. **Whiteliver:** A coward.  
 236. **Whoopubb:** A hubbub.  
 237. **Widdershins:** Unlucky, prone to misfortune.  
 238. **Wind-sucker:** An envious, covetous person.  
 239. **Wink-a-peeps:** eyes.  
 240. **Woodness:** Madness, insanity.  
 241. **Woup:** A ring of plain metal, unset with stones.  
 242. **Wurp:** A glance of the eye.

## X

243. **Xenodochial:** Hospitable to strangers.  
 244. **Xiph:** A swordfish.



## y

- 245. **Yarken:** To prepare.
- 246. **Yerd:** To beat with a rod.
- 247. **Younghede:** A youth.
- 248. **Yuky:** Itchy.

## Z

- 249. **Zegedine:** A drinking cup.
- 250. **Zopissa:** An old medicinal application that was made from the wax and pitch scrapped from the sides of ships.
- 251. **Zuche:** A tree stump.



Resources:

Susan Kelz Sperling, *Poplollies and Bellibones, A Celebration of Lost Words*, 1977

Manorial Language: <http://home.olemiss.edu/~tjray/medieval/manorial.htm>