

Examples of First Recorded Usage in Dickens from the *OED* (2012)

admonitorial: admonitory

1848 Dickens *Dombey & Son* li. 511 Miss Tox in her instruction of the Toodle family, has acquired an admonitorial tone.

aglitter: glittering

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* I. ii. xvi. 312 Mr. Lammle, all aglitter.

all-over: a feeling of nervousness or unease (occas. of annoyance), as if affecting the subject from head to foot.

1870 Dickens *Edwin Drood* xxiii. 180 But we're out of sorts for want of a smoke. We've got the all-overs, haven't us, deary? But this is the place to cure 'em in; this is the place where the all-overs is smoked off!

allowance (v): to give an allowance

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xxxiv. 323, I have made up my mind to allowance him. . .

allus: always

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* xlvi. 447 He wos allus willin fur to give me somethink he wos.

allwork: domestic work of all kinds

1838 Dickens *Little Dorrit* II. xxviii. 140 Brittles was a lad of all-work.

apron: to cover with an apron

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* II. iii. iv. 25, I mean to apron it and towel it.

apronless: without an apron

bibless: without a bib

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* II. iii. iv. 27 Bibless and apronless.

a-smear: smeared

1861 Dickens *Great Expectations* xx, in *All Year Round* 23 Feb. 458/1 All asmeared with filth and fat.

bandiness: being bandy-legged

1841 Dickens *Old Curiosity Shop* i. xxxvi. 298 If any moral twist or bandiness could be found, Miss Sally Brass's nurse was alone to blame.

beadlehood: state of being a beadle

1838 Dickens *Oliver Twist* I. xvii. 273 Mr. Bumble· was in the full bloom and pride of beadleism. [*Later edd. read* ‘beadledom,’ and ‘beadlehood.’ The latter is in the C.D. edn.]

beamer: one who beams

1857 Dickens *Little Dorrit* ii. xxxii. 603 The form of words which that benevolent beamer generally employed· ‘everything had been satisfactory to all parties’.

beeswax (v)

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. I. 17 The table-covers are never taken off, except when the leaves are turpented and bees’waxed.

Blondin: tightrope

1863 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller in All Year Round* 15 Aug. 588/2 An appalling accident happened at the People’s Park near Birmingham· the enterprising Directors· hanging the Blondin rope as high as they possibly could hang it.

boredom: state of being bored

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* xxviii. 277 [Her] chronic malady of boredom.

bowie-knife: US knife

1842 Dickens *Amer. Notes* I. iii. 110 A sewing society· which· never comes to fisty cuffs or bowie-knives as sane assemblies have been known to do elsewhere.

Bramah: machine inventor

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 2nd Ser. 46 Testing the influence of their patent Bramahs over the street-door locks to which they respectively belonged.

bulgy: unduly protuberant

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xxix. 290 A man with bulgy legs.

butter-fingers

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) vii. 69 At every bad attempt at a catch, and every failure to stop the ball, he launched his personal displeasure at the head of the devoted individual in such denunciations as· ‘Now, butter-fingers’—‘Muff’—‘Humbug’—and so forth.

cab (v): go in a cab

1835 Dickens *Let.* ?29 Oct. (1965) I. 84 Worth your while to walk or Cab so far East.

cannibalic: like a cannibal

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxviii. 294 The fat youth gave a semi-cannibalic leer at Mr. Weller.

cavatina: type of song

1836 Dickens in *Library of Fiction* I. 15 The popular cavatina of 'Bid me discourse'.

cellarous: like a cellar

1856 Dickens *Little Dorrit* (1857) i. xx. 173 He crept forth by some underground way which emitted a cellarous smell.

charcoal: suffocate with fumes of charcoal

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xxxvii. 364 Because she wouldn't shut herself up in an air-tight three-pair-of stairs and charcoal herself to death.

cheesiness: cheesy quality

1841 Dickens *Old Curiosity Shop* ii. l. 75 'How's the cream of clerkship, eh?' 'Why, rather sour, Sir. Beginning to border upon cheesiness, in fact.'

cheval-glass: type of long swinging mirror

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) ii. 14 The stranger surveyed himself in a cheval glass.

clobber: type of cobbler paste

1853 Dickens *St. Crispin in Househ. Words* 26 Mar. 79/1 If there are crevices and breaks in an old pair of shoes he insinuates into them a dose of clobber, which seems to be a mixture of ground cinders and paste.

clod-hopping: loutish

1843 Dickens *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1844) vii. 79 A common, paltry, low-minded, clodhopping, pipe-smoking alehouse.

coachfulness/coachlessness: full/absence of coaches

1863 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller* in *All Year Round* 1 Aug. 540/2 The Dolphin's Head, which everywhere expressed past coachfulness and present coachlessness.

coach-horser: one who provides horses for stagecoaches

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xlii. 463 The embarrassed coach-horser was ordered to be discharged forthwith.

coal-whipper: one who lifts coal out of a ship

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 299 At the appearance of the coal-whippers, and ballast-heavers.

commoney: type of marble

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxxiii. 358 Whether he had won any *alley tors or commoneys* lately.

complexionless: colourless

1863 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller in All Year Round* 12 Sept. 64/2 Four male personages · complexionless and eyebrowless.

conductorial: of a conductor

1853 Dickens *Let.* 17 Nov. (1993) VII. 200 *Keep 'Household Words' imaginative!* is the solemn and continual Conductorial Injunction.

confusingly: in a confusing manner

1863 Dickens *Let.* 17 May (1998) X. 246 He feels the school to be confusingly large for him.

connubiality: characteristic of marriage

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) xx. 207 'Think, Sir!' replied Mr. Weller; 'why, I think he's the wictim o' connubiality'.

conspiratorial: like a conspiracy

1856 Dickens *Little Dorrit* (1857) i. xxv. 221 To unite [glasses] in a general conspiratorial clink.

consularity: consulship

1857 Dickens *Little Dorrit* ii. xv. 458 The British Consul hadn't had such a marriage in the whole of his Consularity.

convulsing: that convulses

1843 Dickens *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1844) ix. 113 Gander, in a convulsing speech, gives them the health of Bailey junior.

copying: that copies

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 198 Low copying-clerks in attorneys' offices.

corkscrew (v): to move spirally

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxxiv. 380 Mr. Bantam corkscrewed his way through the crowd.

counter (v): furnish with a counter

1843 Dickens *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1844) xxvii. 324 The offices were · newly countered.

crush hat: hat that can be crushed flat

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xix. 180 Folding his crush hat to lay his elbow on.

Cuba: type of cigar

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxix. 308 He emitted a fragrant odour of full-flavoured Cubas.

deadlong: based on livelong

1843 Dickens *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1844) xxiv. 297 Through half the deadlong night.

demnition: euphemism for damnation

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* lxiv. 617 It is all up with its handsome friend, he has gone to the demnition bow-wows.

Denmark: from Denmark

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 2nd Ser. 107 A pair of Denmark satin shoes.

devil-may-care: wildly reckless

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xlvi. 525 He was a mighty, free and easy, roving, devil-may-care sort of person.

dissective: of dissecting

1860 Dickens *Let.* 7 Jan. (1997) IX. 194 The three people who write the narratives in these proofs, have a *dissective* property in common.

distributionist: one who advocates a system of distribution

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. I. 76 The distributionists trembled, for their popularity was at stake.

divulgence: disclosure

1851 Dickens *Our School in Househ. Words* 11 Oct. 51/2 The Chief 'knew something bad of him', and on pain of divulgence enforced Phil to be his bondsman.

dolly: like a doll

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* xxviii. 276 A dolly sort of beauty perhaps.

drabbish: somewhat drab in colour

1842 Dickens *Amer. Notes* II. ii. 56 Dressed in a dusty drabbish-coloured suit.

draggle-haired: with wet and untidy hair

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* II. iii. x. 96 Draggle-haired, seamed with jealousy and anger.

drysaltery: drysalter's store

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xxiii. 234 The smell of which drysaltery impregnated the air.

dustbin

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xvii. 161 The Captain's nosegay · was swept into the dust-binn next morning.

earthquaky: like an earthquake

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xliv. 486 Legs shaky—head queer—round and round—earthquaky sort of feeling—very.

economizer: person who is economical

]1841 Dickens *Old Curiosity Shop* ii. lxii. 149 Sarah's as good an economizer as any going.

effaceable: capable of being effaced

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* vi. 42 Washed off all effaceable marks of the late accident.

egg-box

1854 Dickens *Hard Times* i. iv. 20 That was the cot of *my* infancy; an old egg-box.

embowerment: action of embowering

1846 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) viii. 72 Plants · of a kind peculiarly adapted to the embowerment of Mrs. Pipchin.

emetically: like an emetic

1863 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller in All Year Round* 2 May 229/2 Sneaking Calais, prone behind its bar, invites emetically to despair.

'ere: here

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xliv. 489 I'm wery much mistaken if that 'ere Jingle worn't a doin' somethin' in the vater-cart vay!

essayical: like an essay

1860 Dickens *Let.* 25 Sept. (1997) IX. 318 Remarks · a little too essayical for this purpose.

fairy story: fairy tale

1849 Dickens *David Copperfield* (1850) xix. 193 Life was more like a great fairy story, which I was just about to begin to read, than anything else.

fingerless

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xxxi. 303 After putting on his fingerless gloves with great precision.

flannel (v): rub with flannel

1834 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* (1836) 1st Ser. I. 189 The second-floor front was scrubbed, and washed, and flannelled.

fluey: covered with flue

1861 Dickens *Great Expectations* xxii, in *All Year Round* 2 Mar. 485/1, I went upon 'Change, and I saw fluey men sitting there under the bills about shipping.

fluffiness: quality of being fluffy

1860 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller* in *All Year Round* 24 Mar. 514/1 An air of mingled fluffiness and heeltaps.

flummox: bewilder

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxxii. 345 He'll be what the Italians call reg'larly flummoxed.

footlights

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 205 The foot-lights have just made their appearance.

fretty: irritable

1844 Dickens *Let.* ?15–16 Sept. (1977) IV. 194 O'Connell's speeches are the old thing: fretty, boastful, frothy.

funky: nervous

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxx. 326 [The nervous junior counsel in Bardell v. Pickwick is named 'Mr. Phunky'.]

galvanizing

1854 Dickens *Hard Times* i. ii. 5 He seemed a galvanising apparatus, too.

gardenful

1859 Dickens *Tale of Two Cities* ii. v. 56 Like a great sunflower pushing its way at the sun from among a rank garden-full of flaring companions.

gasper: person who gasps

1845 Dickens *Let.* 27 Sept. (1977) IV. 389 When I think of the possible consequences—of little gaspers like Papa— a chill runs through my blood.

gingerous: ginger-coloured

1864 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. i. x. 93 Mr. Lammle takes his gingerous whiskers in his left hand, and frowns furtively at his beloved, out of a thick gingerous bush.

gingery

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* xix. 184 The very learned gentleman who has cooled the natural heat of his gingery complexion in pools and fountains of law.

gonoph: pickpocket

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* xix. 188 He's as obstinate a young gonoph as I know.

gorm: God damn euphemism

1849 Dickens *David Copperfield* (1850) xxi. 220 Gorm the t'other one.

gran: granny

1863 Dickens *Mrs. Lirriper's Lodgings* i, in *All Year Round* Extra Christmas No., 3 Dec. 11/2 And now dear Gran let me kneel down here where I have been used to say my prayers.

Guinness

1834 Dickens in *Monthly Mag.* Aug. 180 A large hamper of Guinness's stout.

half-baptize: baptize privately

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. I. 14 He got out of bed to half-baptize a washerwoman's child in a slop-basin.

halloa

1841 Dickens *Barnaby Rudge* x. 290 'Halloa there! Hugh!' roared John.

head-voice

1850 Dickens *David Copperfield* xxxvi. 377 He has a remarkable head-voice.

head-work: brainwork

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* liv. 587 How the blazes you can stand the head-work you do, is a mystery to me.

heavens (adv): very

1858 Dickens *House to Let: Going into Society in Househ. Words* Extra Christmas No., 7 Dec. 21/1 A shy company through its raining Heavens hard.

hopping: hop-picking

1860 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller in All Year Round* 16 June 234/2 The whole country-side · will swarm with hopping tramps.

hunchy: humped

1841 Dickens *Old Curiosity Shop* i. v. 105 I'm a little hunchy villain and a monster, am I?

ickle: childish little

1846 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) i. 5, I came down from seeing dear Fanny, and that tiddy ickle sing.

invalided: made an invalid

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xliv. 486 Mr. Pickwick cut the matter short by drawing the invalided stroller's arm through his, and leading him away.

-ization

1864 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. i. xi. 107 He was not aware · that he was driving at any ization.

jeff: circus slang for rope

1854 Dickens *Hard Times* i. vi. 37 Tight-Jeff or Slack-Jeff, it don't much signify: it's only tight-rope and slack-rope.

jostlement: jostling

1859 Dickens *Tale of Two Cities* ii. xii. 94 To the jostlement of all weaker people.

jowled: having jowls

1861 Dickens *Great Expectations* xliii, in *All Year Round* 1 June 218/1 Drummle glanced at me, with an insolent triumph on his great-jowled face.

jungled: covered with jungle

1842 Dickens *Amer. Notes* II. iii. 84 Primeval forests · where the jungled ground was never trodden by a human foot.

Kensal Green: type of cemetery

1842 Dickens *Let.* 26 Apr. (1974) III. 211 What would I give if the dear girl whose ashes lie in Kensal-green, had lived.

key-bugle: bugle with keys

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 212 The loud notes of a key-bugle broke the monotonous stillness of the street.

kibosh: dispose of

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 2nd Ser. 149 'Hoo-roa,' ejaculates a pot-boy in a parenthesis, 'put the kye-bosh [*later edd. read kye-bosk*] on her, Mary.'

knifer: one who uses a knife as a weapon

1870 Dickens *Edwin Drood* xxiii. 188 Jacks. And Chayner men. And hother Knifers.

lace-up: fastened with a lace

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 2nd Ser. 98 To fit a pair of lace-up half-boots on an ideal personage.

Loddon: type of lily

1882 *Dickens's Dict. Thames* 28/3 It [*sc. the summer snowflake*] is very abundant in the meadows by the Loddon, and hence called 'Loddon lilies'.

looking-forward (n)

1837 Dickens *Let.* 3 Nov. (1965) I. 328 Anxious lookings-forward to the pleasure of your society.

lor': Lord

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. I. 81 'Lor! how nice!' said the youngest Miss Ivins.

lummy: first-rate

1838 Dickens *Oliver Twist* III. xlii. 122 Jack Dawkins—lummy Jack—the Dodger—the Artful Dodger.

mairie: town hall

1864 Dickens *Mrs. Lirriper's Legacy* i, in *All Year Round* Extra Christmas No., 1 Dec. 8/2 The Major went down to the Mairie.

manslaughter (v)

1843 Dickens *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1844) iv. 46 Those who hooked and crooked themselves into this family by getting on the blind side of some

of its members before marriage, and manslaughtering them afterwards by crowing over them to that strong pitch that they were glad to die.

mantrap (v)

1851 Dickens & M. Lemon *Mr. Nightingale's Diary* (1877) i. 82 Which the blessed innocent has been invaygled of, and man-trapped—leastways boy-trapped.

manty-making: dressmaking

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xxi. 195 This here's the mantie-making con-sarn, a'nt it?

melodramatically

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) xiii. 129 The honourable Samuel Slumkey· melo-dramatically testified by gestures to the crowd, his ineffaceable obligations to the Eatanswill Gazette.

meltability

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* II. iv. vii. 225 The brittleness and meltability of wax.

Mephistophelean

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xxix. 294 The Major['s]· face and figure were dilated with Mephistophelean joy.

messiness

1836 Dickens *Let.* 5 Feb. (1965) I. 124, I shall consequently be in great confusion and messiness.

metropolitaneously

1852 Dickens *Let.* 19 Oct. (1988) VI. 781 Are you never coming to town any more? Never going to drink port again, metropolitaneously, but *always* with Fielden?

mildewy

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 205 The damp, mildewy smell which pervades the places.

millinerial: relating to millinery

1844 Dickens *Let.* 29 Mar. (1977) IV. 89 Ask her to save the dress. · · Let it never grow old, fade, shrink, or undergo millinerial alteration.

missis

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xlii. 414 'Don't *Missis* me, ma'am'· returned Miss Squeers.

m'lud

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* i. 4 'Mr. Tangle,' says the Lord High Chancellor. · 'Mlud,' says Mr. Tangle.

mo: month

1836 Dickens *Let.* ?24 Aug. (1965) I. 169, 25£ per mo: after Nov. 8th.

monkey-nut: coconut

1857 Dickens in *Househ. Words* 17 Jan. 67/1 The tree of the monkey-nut is a palm. The rude resemblance to the face of a monkey having given a name to the nut, the likeness of the leaf to the palm of the hand gives a name to the tree.

monomaniacally: obsessively

1856 Dickens *Little Dorrit* (1857) i. xxi. 186 Young Sparkler hovering about the rooms, monomaniacally seeking any sufficiently ineligible young lady.

Mormonist: Mormon

1842 Dickens *Amer. Notes* I. v. 181, I should like to try the experiment on a Mormonist or two to begin with.

mother-in-law (v)

1857 Dickens *Little Dorrit* ii. xiv. 443, I will not submit to be mother-in-lawed by Mrs. General.

mustard-poultice (v)

1858 Dickens *Let.* 18 Aug. (1995) VIII. 628, I got home at ½ past 10, and mustard-poulticed and barley-watered myself, tremendously.

narratable

1852 Dickens *Let.* 22 Nov. (1988) VI. 809 If you should think of any other idea, narratable by an old man.

natural-looking

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 328 Plaid tulips, and other equally natural-looking flowers.

new boy

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xli. 410 Here is the table upon which he sat forlorn and strange, the 'new boy' of the school.

newspapered: provided with a newspaper

1857 Dickens *Little Dorrit* ii. xvi. 462 Mr. Dorrit, dressing-gowned and newspapered, was at his breakfast.

nohows: nohow

1848 Dickens *Dombey & Son* lvi. 566 I'm gone about and adrift. Pay out a word or two respecting them adventures, will you! Can't I bring up, nohows? nohows?

nutcracker (v)

1861 Dickens *Great Expectations* xxiii, in *All Year Round* 9 Mar. 507/1 Are infants to be nutcracked into their tombs?

odd-job (v)

1859 Dickens *Tale of Two Cities* iii. ix. 206 A gentleman like yourself wot I've had the honour of odd jobbing till I'm grey at it.

offsetting

1857 Dickens *Perils Eng. Prisoners* iii, in *Househ. Words Extra* Christmas No., 7 Dec. 30/2 The off-settings and point-currents of the stream.

off time: off duty

1866 Dickens *Mugby Junction* i, in *All Year Round* Extra Christmas No., 10 Dec. 6/1 The answer to his inquiry, 'Where's Lamps?' was that it was his off-time.

oh (v)

1837 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 2nd Ser. 241 All of them talking, laughing, lounging, coughing, o-ing, questioning, or groaning.

old dear

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) xiii. 126 She did not hesitate to inform him that Mr. Pickwick was 'a delightful old dear'.

ological: relating to an ology

1854 Dickens *Hard Times* i. xv. 120, I hope you may now turn all your ological studies to good account.

oner: an expert (slang)

1841 Dickens *Old Curiosity Shop* ii. lviii. 121 Miss Sally's such a one-er for that.

oo: who

1857 Dickens *Little Dorrit* ii. xiii. 433 'I have seen some one,' returned Baptist, 'I have rincontrato him.' 'Im? Oo him?' asked Mrs. Plornish.

out-sharpen (v)

1864 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. ii. i. 168 She would glance at the visitors with a look that out-sharpened all her other sharpness.

oystery: characteristic of an oyster

1844 Dickens *Let.* 2 Jan. (1977) IV. 2, I opened the despatch, with a moist and oystery twinkle in my eye.

panner: one who pans for gold

1853 C. Dickens in *Househ. Words* 3 Dec. 322/1 Here is a pan half-full of gold. As the soil and small pebbles are skilfully washed out, and the yellow metal appears glistening beneath, the panner's eyes flash back upon it.

panspermist: advocate of panspermia (germs are everywhere)

1868 Dickens in *All Year Round* 7 Mar. 301/1 M. Pouchet, the zealous opponent of those he calls the panspermists.

paperchase

1856 Dickens *Scapegrace* in *Househ. Words* 26 Jan. 28/2 What leapers of brooks, what runners in paper chases!

participled: damned (euphemism)

1862 Dickens *Somebody's Luggage* in *All Year Round* 4 Dec. 8 11/1 'But these people are', he insisted 'so,' Participled, 'sentimental!'

party-like: suited to a party

1832 Dickens *Let.* 30 July (1965) I. 7, I give you this early notice not because there is anything formal or party like in the arrangements.

patroness (v): act as a patroness

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* I. ii. xiv. 297 Why am I to be Patroned and Patronessed as if the Patrons and Patronesses treated me?

paybox: box office

1851 Dickens *Flight* in *Househ. Words* 30 Aug. 531/2 He darts upon my luggage· pays certain francs for it, to a certain functionary behind a Pigeon Hole, like a pay-box at a Theatre.

pay-off

1864 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. i. ii. 32 Twemlow received an invitation to dine at Veneerings, expressly to meet the Member, the Engineer, the Pay-off of the National Debt, the Poem on Shakespeare, the Grievance, and the Public Office.

perruquarian

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. I. 160 The shining locks of those *chef-d'œuvres* of perruquarian art.

petful: peevish

1852 Dickens & A. H. Sala *First Fruits in Househ. Words* 15 May
190/2 Sitting with petful impatience in the parlour.

petticoat-governed: henpecked

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. I. 175 Mr. Calton seized the hand of the petticoat-governed little man.

Pickwickian

1836 Dickens *Let.* 18 Feb. (1965) I. 132 Believe me (in Pickwickian haste) Faithfully Yours *Charles Dickens*.

Podsnappery: blinkered self-satisfaction

1864 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. i. xi. 98 These may be said to have been the articles of a faith and school which the present chapter takes the liberty of calling, after its representative man, Podsnappery.

polka (v)

1846 Dickens *Let.* 5 July (1977) IV. 580 The common people waltzed and polka'd, without cessation, to the music of a band.

poll-parrot: chatter incessantly

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* I. ii. xii. 271 What are you Poll Parroting at now? Ain't you got nothing to do but stand a Poll Parroting all night?

polygamically

]1863 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller in All Year Round* 4 July 448/1 To suppose the family groups of whom the majority of emigrants were composed, polygamically possessed, would be to suppose an absurdity.

pompey (v)

1860 Dickens *Great Expectations* vii, in *All Year Round* 22 Dec. 242/1 When I was old enough, I was to be apprenticed to Joe, and until I could assume that dignity I was not to be what Mrs. Joe called 'Pompey', or (as I render it) pampered.

ponging: projecting

1854 Dickens *Hard Times* vi, in *Househ. Words* 15 Apr. 190/1 Missed his tip at the banners, too, and was loose in his ponging.

prima ballerina

1868 Dickens *All Year Round* 23 May 565/2 The prima ballerina raises her left leg in the air at right angles with her body, and gently waves her arms to and fro.

prisonous/streety: like a prison/street

1856 Dickens *Little Dorrit* (1857) i. vi. 47 His son began to be of the prison prisonous and of the street streety.

prodding

1864 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. ii. vii. 231 Whether I gave myself up to prodding, or whether I gave myself up to scooping, I couldn't do it with that delicate touch so as not to show that I was disturbing the mounds.

prop: piece of jewellery (slang)

1850 Dickens *Three 'Detective' Anec. in Househ. Words* 14 Sept. 579/1 In his shirt-front there's a beautiful diamond prop, a very handsome pin indeed.

prosily: in a dull manner

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) xiv. 134 The Peacock presented attractions which enabled the two friends to resist, even the invitations of the talented, though prosily inclined, Mr. Pott.

pruney: prim

1857 Dickens *Little Dorrit* ii. xix. 486 Notwithstanding what may be called in these pages the Pruney and Prismatic nature of the family banquet, Mr. Dorrit several times fell asleep while it was in progress.

psychographer: type of medium

1854 Dickens *Let.* 7 Mar. (1993) VII. 286 A thing called a Psychographer, which writes at the dictation of spirits.

puff-puff

1856 C. Dickens in *Househ. Words* 28 June 559/1 The word Puff-puff, which I now apply to a train or a railway, is borrowed from my eldest daughter, eighteen months of age.

punchy

1843 Dickens *Let.* 2 Mar. (1974) III. 452 A complication of Punchy smells.

pupil-less

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* II. iii. x. 95 Sometimes accompanied by his hopeful pupil; oftener, pupil-less.

railway time: standard time used by a railway system

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xv. 155 There was even railway time observed in clocks, as if the sun itself had given in.

rampacious: rampageous

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) xxii. 228 A stone statue of some rampacious animal with flowing mane and tail, distantly resembling an insane cart-horse.

rampage

1860 Dickens *Great Expectations* ii, in *All Year Round* 1 Dec.

171/1 She's been on the Ram-page this last spell, about five minutes.

red tapeworm: red tape

1851 Dickens in *Househ. Words* 15 Feb. 484/1 A similar Museum could be established, for the destruction and exhibition of the Red-Tape-Worms.

retelegraph: signal back

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* vii. 62 'Ale, Squeery?' inquired the lady, winking and frowning to give him to understand that the question propounded was, whether Nicholas should have ale, and not whether he (Squeers) would take any. 'Certainly,' said Squeers, re-telegraphing in the same manner. 'A glassful.'

ringing up: of a theatre curtain

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 205 Let us take a peep 'behind,' previous to the ringing up.

rose-pink: make up

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 208 'Where's that bloody officer?' 'Here!' replies the officer, who has been rose-pinking for the character.

rough-dry (v): dry roughly

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) xvii. 173 The process of being washed in the night air, and rough-dried in a close closet.

round the clock

1852 Dickens *Bleak House* (1853) xxv. 251 The complete equipage whirls through the Law Stationery business at wild speed, all round the clock.

ruler (v)

1849 Dickens *David Copperfield* (1850) vii. 66, I think he was caned every day that half-year, except one holiday Monday when he was only ruler'd on both hands.

rulering: beating with a ruler

1849 Dickens *David Copperfield* (1850) vii. 77 Tear-blotted copy-books, canings, rulerings.

saucepanful

1868 Dickens *Holiday Romance* ii, in *All Year Round* 8 Feb.

206/2 The other Princes and Princesses were squeezed into a corner to look at the Princess Alicia turning out the saucepan-full of broth, for fear they should get scalded.

saveloy: type of sausage

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* liv. 587 Mr. Solomon Pell regaling himself with a cold collation of an Abernethy biscuit and a saveloy.

sawbones: slang

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxix. 307 'What! don't you know what a Sawbones is, Sir?' enquired Mr. Weller; 'I thought every body know'd as a Sawbones was a Surgeon.'

Scheherazade : story teller

1851 Dickens *Let.* 25 Nov. (1988) VI. 545 My Dear Scheherazade—for I am sure your powers of narrative must be good for at least a thousand nights and one.

scrunched: crushed

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 2nd Ser. 304 He had compromised with the parents of three scrunched children, and just 'worked out' his fine, for knocking down an old lady.

sea-going

1848 Dickens *Dombey & Son* lxii. 623 Released from sea-going, after that first long voyage with his young bride.

seediness

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xlii. 457 A casual visitor might suppose this place to be a temple dedicated to the Genius of Seediness.

sell (n): act of betraying

1838 Dickens *Oliver Twist* II. xxvi. 100, I say, what a time this would be for a sell! I've got Phil Barker here, so drunk that a boy might take him.

set piece: painting of a group

1846 Dickens *Pictures from Italy* 190 The hollow-cheeked monk went down on his knees, in a corner, before this set-piece.

sharp practice

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) xx. 209 'Dodson and Fogg—sharp practice their's—capital men of business is Dodson and Fogg, Sir.' Mr. Pickwick admitted the sharp practice of Dodson and Fogg.

short-timer: child allowed to attend school less than full time

1863 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller* in *All Year Round* 20 June 400/2 The Short-Timers, in a writing competition, beat the Long-Timers of a first-class National School.

shriven

1846 Dickens *Pictures from Italy* 114, I had my foot upon the spot, where the shriven prisoner was strangled.

sit-down

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. I. 264 Jemima thought we'd better have a regular sit-down supper, in the front parlour.

slinking

1841 Dickens *Barnaby Rudge* xxxv. 137 His manner was smooth and humble, but very sly and slinking.

slow-coach

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxxiii. 359 What does this allusion to the slow coach mean? It may be a reference to Pickwick himself, who has been a criminally slow coach during the whole of this transaction.

sniggerer

1860 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller* in *All Year Round* 5 May 87/1 The sniggerers tempt him to secular thoughts of marbles.

snobbish

1841 Dickens *Old Curiosity Shop* ii. lvi. 112 This form of inquiry he held to be of a disrespectful and snobbish tendency.

soupy

1869 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller* in *All Year Round* 2 Jan. 109/1 The dirty table-cloths, the stuffy soupy airless atmosphere.

spectacularly

1859 Dickens *Tale of Two Cities* ii. i. 34 Then only was he permitted to be seen, spectacularly poring over large books.

spification: total destruction

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xxvii. 262 Conjecturing that smifligation and bloodshed must be one and the same thing.

spoffish: fussy

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 124 As a little spoffish man · entered the room.

spongeless

1863 Dickens *Uncommerc. Traveller in All Year Round* 12 Sept. 62/1 My sponge being left behind at the last Hotel, · I went, spongeless.

squashed

1856 Dickens *Little Dorrit* (1857) i. ix. 66 Such squashed hats and bonnets · never were seen in Rag Fair.

stoutish

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 2nd Ser. 314 A stoutish man of about forty.

strop: sharpen

1841 Dickens *Barnaby Rudge* xxv. 80 The raven · after a long inspection of an epitaph · would strop his beak upon the grave to which it referred.

Suffolker

1849 Dickens *David Copperfield* (1850) xi. 117 The men generally spoke of me as · ‘the young Suffolker’.

swarmer: one of a swarm

1844 Dickens *Martin Chuzzlewit* lii. 598 ‘Oh, vermin!’ said Mr. Pecksniff. ‘Oh, bloodsuckers! · vermin and swarmers.’

swarry: soiree

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxxvi. 393 A friendly swarry, consisting of a boiled leg of mutton with the usual trimmings.

tagliarini: egg noodles

1846 Dickens *Pictures from Italy* 49 Real Genoese dishes, such as Tagliarini; Ravioli · with fresh green figs.

tcha: pshaw

1844 Dickens *Martin Chuzzlewit* xxxvii. 435 ‘Tcha, Mr. Pinch!’ cried Charity, with sharp impatience.

tin-tack

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xxxv. 346 A · parcel of tin tacks and a very large hammer.

tip-cheese: ? error

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxxiii. 360 He forgets the long familiar cry of 'knuckle down', and at tip-cheese, or odd and even, his hand is out.

toke: bread

1843 Dickens *Let.* 7 June (1974) III. 503 Now, we don't want none of your sarse—and if you bung any of them tokes of yours in this direction, you'll find your shuttlecock sent back as heavy as it came.

tousled

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xxv. 250 Rob the Grinder · stood then, panting at the Captain, with a flushed and touzled air of Bed about him.

trembly

1846 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) i. 5 So trembly and shakey from head to foot.

trucker: labourer who uses a truck

1853 Dickens *Down with Tide in Househ. Words* 5 Feb. 484/2 The Truckers · whose business it was to land more considerable parcels of goods than the Lumpers could manage.

turpentine (v)

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. I. 17 The table-covers are never taken off, except when the leaves are turpented and bees'waxed.

unassertive

1861 Dickens *Great Expectations* lvii, in *All Year Round* 27 July 411/1 He would sit and talk to me · in the old unassertive protecting way.

unbear: free a horse from the bearing-rein

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* lvi. 543 Unbear him half a moment to freshen him up.

uncertificated

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 199 A disappointed eighth-rate actor, · a retired smuggler, or an uncertificated bankrupt.

uncolonial

1861 Dickens *Great Expectations* xlv, in *All Year Round* 8 June 242/1 A certain person not altogether of uncolonial pursuits.

under-sawyer: subordinate

1864 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. i. xii. 109 There were no top-sawyers; every passenger was an under-sawyer.

undiscussible

1860 Dickens *Great Expectations* viii, in *All Year Round* 29 Dec. 266/1 She said it so finally, and in such an undiscussible way.

undistinctive

1851 Dickens *On Duty with Inspector Field* in *Househ. Words* 14 June 270/2 As undistinctive Death will come here, one day, sleep comes now.

unhooped

1860 Dickens *Great Expectations* i, in *All Year Round* 1 Dec. 170/2 Like an unhooped cask upon a pole.

unmunched

1870 Dickens *Edwin Drood* xii. 90 Even Durdles pauses · and looks at him, with an unmunched something in his cheek.

unpensioning

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* xl. 399 An ungrateful and unpensioning country.

unprisoned: released from prison

1841 Dickens *Old Curiosity Shop* ii. lii. 88 Perhaps not one of the unprisoned souls had been able [etc.].

unpromisingly

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xiii. 125 Looking over his white cravat, as unpromisingly as Mr. Dombey himself could have looked.

unruffable

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxxii. 339 Sam · obeyed all his master's behests with · unruffable composure.

unscavengered

1846 Dickens *Pictures from Italy* 18 The undrained, unscavengered, qualities of a foreign town.

unshiplike

1842 Dickens *Amer. Notes* I. v. 185 A sullen, cumbrous, ungraceful, unshiplike leviathan.

unsnap

1862 Dickens *Somebody's Luggage: His Boots* in *All Year Round* Extra Christmas No., 4 Dec. 7/1 As if nothing should ever tempt her to unsnap that snap [of the fingers].

unsoaped (as noun)

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxiv. 253 The unsoaped of Ipswich brought up the rear.

unsoftening

1857 Dickens *Little Dorrit* ii. xxx. 588 She · with an unsoftening face, looked at the worked letters within.

un-swanlike

1837 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* xxix. 311 Mr. Winkle · was being assisted over the ice by Mr. Weller, in a very singular and un-swan-like manner.

unyielding

1847 Dickens *Dombey & Son* (1848) xl. 402 Looking upon him with neither yielding nor unyielding, liking nor hatred.

utilitarianism

1839 Dickens *Nicholas Nickleby* xxxvi. 347 But knockers may be muffled for other purposes than those of mere utilitarianism.

wagonful

1846 Dickens *Pictures from Italy* 179 A waggon-full of madmen, screaming and tearing to the life.

water-cart (v)

1851 Dickens *Our Watering Place in Househ. Words* 2 Aug. 433/1 The great metropolis is · so much more water-carted · than it usually is.

waxy: angry

1853 Dickens *Bleak House* xxiv. 250 It would cheer him up more than anything, if I could make him a little waxy with me.

way: call to a horse to stop

1836 Dickens *Sketches by Boz* (1839) 370 Away went the donkey · ‘Way-way! Wo-o-o-o-!’ cried Mr. Cymon Tuggs.

well-cured

1838 Dickens *Oliver Twist* I. xvii. 271 A side of streaky, well-cured bacon.

well-housed

1838 Dickens *Oliver Twist* II. xxiii. 48 It was a night for the well-housed and fed to draw round the bright fire and thank God they were at home.

whizz-bang

1836 Dickens *Pickwick Papers* (1837) ii. 9 Fired a musket · rushed into wine shop · back again—whiz, bang.

whoosh (v)

1856 Dickens *Let.* 13 July (1995) VIII. 162 The boys · whooshing, and crying, (after Tigerish Cat No. 2) ‘French! Here she comes!’

willed: disposed of by will

1865 Dickens *Our Mutual Friend* II. iii. ix. 80, I am the willed-away girl.

wimick: dialect

1850 Dickens *David Copperfield* li. 518 ‘Wen Mrs. Gummidge takes to wimicking,’—our old county word for crying,—‘she’s liable to be considered to be · peevish-like.’

woa: woah

1841 Dickens *Old Curiosity Shop* ii. xxxviii. 3 Woa-a-a then, will you?

yaw-yaw: talk affectedly

1854 Dickens *Hard Times* ii. ii. 147 They liked fine gentlemen. · They became exhausted in imitation of them; and they yaw-yawed in their speech like them.