MACQUARIE DICTIONARY
WORD OF THE YEAR 2026

SHORTLIST

agentic
adjective (especially of artificial intelligence) able to act or make decisions independently.

AI;DR
a term used by a reader to indicate to others that an online item has been created by AI and is not worth reading. [AI + *d*(*on't*) or *d*(*idn't*) *r*(*ead*); modelled on TL;DR]

analog bag
noun a bag containing a range of non-digital items, such as tactile games, puzzles, crafts, journals, activity books, etc., designed to replace smartphones, tablets, game consoles, etc., as sources of entertainment, relaxation and distraction.

boy kibble
noun Colloquial a low-effort, high-protein meal, such as cooked minced meat and rice, often cooked in large batches, importance being placed on convenience and protein content rather than taste or appearance. [from the resemblance to dry pet food]

boysober
adjective Colloquial abstaining from dating men, often as a response to negative feelings and experiences with current dating culture.

choppelganger
adjective Colloquial someone or something considered similar, but inferior to, another person or thing, especially in appearance. [[blend of CHOPPED and DOPPELGANGER]

creaming
noun the practice of an employment service provider of prioritising a jobseeker who they deem more likely to find employment, meaning less time and effort is required to successfully place the jobseeker and thus earn the client's commission. Compare **parking**.

digital dementia
noun a supposed condition characterised by short-term memory loss, attention deficit, impaired decision-making, etc., thought to result from an excessive reliance on digital devices and artificial intelligence.

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grwm
Colloquial (*get ready with me*) an abbreviation used on social media to indicate that the content of a video comprises a person carrying out a routine in order to prepare for something, such as applying make-up for an event, going through a skincare regimen before bedtime, etc., while providing a commentary offering advice and extra information.

human-in-the-loop
adjective 1. relating to a largely automated system which includes a level of human supervision and decision-making. *noun* 2. a person in such a system.

limbs
noun Colloquial an overwhelmingly excited reaction to a sports match by an audience, characterised by arms waving in the air.

Marrickville pause
noun Colloquial a temporary halt in conversation by people in the inner-west suburbs of Sydney, to await the passing of a loud, low-flying aircraft, after which the conversation continues.
[so called because the suburb *Marrickville* lies directly beneath a flight path, in very close proximity to the international airport]

nudify
verb to digitally manipulate an image of a person so that they appear naked or semi-naked, especially through the use of artificial intelligence and without the subject's knowledge or consent.

pervert glasses
plural noun Colloquial camera glasses.
[from the use by some of filming or taking photos of others without their knowledge or consent]

PMOS
noun (*polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome*) a disorder, possibly genetic, leading to irregularities in ovulation and menstruation in women; associated with acne, excess hair growth, insulin resistance, and obesity. Formerly known as PCOS (*polycystic ovarian syndrome*).

safe phone
noun a mobile phone with a prepaid service, intended especially for use by victims of domestic violence, the phone being kept secret so the user can call, text, email, etc., without fear of being tracked.

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shark band
noun a magnetic device worn on the wrist or ankle of a swimmer, diver, surfer, etc., designed to deter sharks, the magnetic field thought to disrupt a shark's electroreceptors.

terramation
noun a process by which a dead body is placed in a steel container, covered with a mixture of plant material, such as wood chips, hay and sawdust, then heated and aerated over a period of weeks or months until the body and mixture break down into compost, the bones removed and ground before being returned to the mixture; human composting; natural organic reduction.

vertical drama
noun a genre of scripted content designed for viewing on a smartphone, typically with episodes of 60 to 120 seconds in duration.

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