

A-Level English Language

You have already had access to induction material, preparing tasks for the July induction day. In addition the following need to be completed over the summer and brought with you in September.

Task One: do we need new words?

The English language is always generating new words. New words can be created out of nothing (neologisms) or be formed by using other words – or parts of words – together in new combinations (what are called compounds and blends). Sometimes initials of words in a phrase might be used (acronyms and initialisms) and you might also see parts of words being added to the front or end of another word to give it a new form (prefixes and suffixes). Most A-level English language courses look at how and why new words are formed, but there is also debate about whether we need new words and when (or whether) they should appear in dictionaries.

Look at the list below of some of the new words that have appeared (or suddenly become much more popular) in English over the last few years

1. Have you heard of these words before? Have you used any of them? RAG rate each word. If it's a red – find out what it means.
2. Choose two words from the list that you think are an important addition to the language. Try to come up with a sentence or two explaining why they are so important
3. Then choose two words from the list that you think are pointless and insignificant. What's the problem with these words and why do you think they shouldn't be included? Again, write a sentence or two explaining your thinking
4. What are your predictions for the most popular and widely-used words for the next 12 months?

Gaslight	Twerving	Dadbod	Cancel culture
Climate strike	Influencer	Nonbinary	Hamsterkaufing
WFH	Mansplaining	Floss	VAR

Task Two: wider reading on slang/new words

If you are interested in looking at the history of new words and slang terms that have appeared in the language, read/watch the following:

[10 slang phrases that perfectly sum up their era](#) (BBC)

[Slang: what it is, and when \(or when not\) to use it!](#) (YouTube)

[How slang spreads...](#) (YouTube)

Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you in September
