



Elección presidencial 2016 en los Estados Unidos: nuevas tendencias en el vocabulario eleccionario

Con motivo de la elección presidencial que se llevó a cabo el pasado 8 de noviembre en los Estados Unidos, la Comisión de Idioma Inglés realizó una investigación sobre las palabras más utilizadas por los candidatos en el ámbito político y buscadas por los estadounidenses que marcaron tendencia durante toda esta campaña. Esperamos que les sea de utilidad para enriquecer su vocabulario o comprender ciertos contextos políticos.



| Por la Comisión de Idioma Inglés

Trumpery ★★★

Definición: *Worthless nonsense.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 3 de marzo de 2016.

Lookups for trumpery have been spiking periodically since the end of 2015, because of the burgeoning political fortunes of Donald Trump. Recently, people have begun posting trumpery definitions to various social media sites.

Trumpery has been in use in English since the late 15th century, and has been used, at one time or another, to refer to weeds, people (especially women of doubtful character), religious matters (especially those that are superstitious in nature), and generally worthless things in a broad sense.

Samuel Johnson, in his great dictionary of 1755, assigned three senses to trumpery, none of which was terribly appealing:

(1) Something fallaciously splendid; something of less value than it seems.

(2) Falsehood, empty talk.

(3) Something of no value; trifles.

While those opposed to Donald Trump may quote Samuel Johnson's secondary definition of trumpery («something of less value than it seems»), those in favor of him have pointed out that the word trump itself carries such favorable meanings as «a dependable and exemplary person» and «a decisive overriding factor or final resource».

Glass Ceiling ★★★

Definición: *An unfair system or set of attitudes that prevents some people (such as women or people of a certain race) from getting the most powerful jobs.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 7 y 8 de junio de 2016.

Eight years ago to the day, in a concession speech following her loss to President Obama in the 2008 primaries, Clinton said: «Although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it's got about 18 million cracks in it».

Uxorious ★★★

Definición: *Excessively fond of or submissive to a wife.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 27 de julio de 2016.

Lookups for uxorious spiked on July 27, after the word was used in Maureen Dowd's account of Bill Clinton's speech at

the Democratic National Convention. The speech marked the first time a potential First Husband addressed a national audience following the first-ever nomination of a woman to be president.

Uxorious means «excessively fond of or submissive to a wife» and comes straight from the Latin word for «wife», uxor.

Bigotry y Bombast ★★★

Definición: *Obstinate and unreasoning attachment to one's own belief and opinions with intolerance of beliefs opposed to them and speech or writing that is meant to sound important or impressive but is not sincere or meaningful, respectively.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 28 de julio de 2016.

Lookups for bombast spiked after Hillary Clinton's acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, in which she directly addressed Donald Trump's qualifications, readiness, and temperament to be president: «And in the end, it comes down to what Donald Trump

doesn't get: America is great because America is good! So enough with the bigotry and the bombast. Donald Trump's not offering real change, he's offering empty promises».

Bombast means «speech or writing that is meant to sound important or impressive but is not sincere or meaningful». Despite the resemblance to bomb and an association with explosive rhetoric and loud delivery, bombast isn't related to bomb at all. It comes from the Latin word bombax, which means «cotton» and refers to cotton padding or stuffing. Thus, bombast etymologically means speech that is overstuffed, not speech that resembles a bomb blast.

Pivot ★★★

Definición: *To turn on or as if on a pivot.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 16 de agosto de 2016.

Pivot spiked in lookups after Donald Trump announced that this was a thing which he had no plans of doing.

«I am who I am. It's me. I don't want to change. Everyone talks about, "Oh, well you're going to pivot". I don't want to pivot», Trump said in a Tuesday interview with Wisconsin television station WKBT. «I mean, you have to be you. If you start pivoting,

you're not being honest with people» (Igor Bobic, The Huffington Post, 16 Aug., 2016).

Although pivot has enjoyed a long life in English as a noun—it's been around since the 14th century—it has but recently (using recently rather relatively) come to be used as a verb. The earliest known use in this part of speech is from the 18th century, when the word began to be used by dentists in descriptions of the things that they would do to one's teeth. Pivot is often encountered these days in highly figurative use, indicating that a person is shifting positions or tactics.

Dystopia y Dystopian ★★★

Definición: *An imaginary place where people lead dehumanized and often fearful lives.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 21 y 22 de julio de 2016.

Dystopia means «an imaginary place where people lead dehumanized and often fearful lives». The word itself is based on utopia, a word that in Greek literally translates as «no place» —since its perfection is unattainable. Dystopia translates literally as «bad place».

Here's an example of its use in a typical commentary: «For four nights, convention speakers portrayed the U.S. as a grim dystopia: impoverished and ridden with violence» (Melanie Mason, The Washington Post, 22 July 2016).

The adjectivedystopian was used even more frequently: «Mr. Trump gave a grim, angry acceptance speech to close a grim, angry convention, casting America as a dystopian hellscape and himself as the only leader capable of saving it from murder, terrorism, financial ruin, and an uncontrolled wave of immigrants» (James Poniewozik, The New York Times, 22 July 2016).



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Unfettered ★★★

Definición: *Not controlled or restricted.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 1.º de agosto de 2016.

Lookups for unfettered spiked after Senator John McCain issued a statement condemning Donald Trump's negative comments about the parents of a U.S. Army soldier killed in Iraq: «While our Party has bestowed upon him the nomination, it is not accompanied by unfettered license to defame those who are the best among us».

Unfettered means «not controlled or restricted» and is a synonym of free and unrestrained. It comes from fetter, which means «a chain or shackle for the feet» and has the figurative meaning of «restraint», or something that confines.

Unfettered has been in use in English since at least the beginning of the 17th century, when it was used by Thomas Dekker: «O happy persecution I embrace thee with an unfettered soul; so sweet a thing it is to sigh upon the race of love» (Thomas Dekker, Blurt Master-Constable, 1602).

The word is a combination of the prefix un- and fetter. Fetter is an old word, going back to Old English, which existed initially as a noun and later became a verb with both a literal meaning of «to put fetters on» and a figurative one of «to restrain from motion, action, or progress». Fetter's Old English ancestor, feter, is etymologically shackled to fōt, the Old English ancestor of foot.

Bigly o «Big League» ★★★

Definición: *The adverbial form of big, which does in fact exist, and big time, respectively.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 26 de septiembre de 2016.

Lookups for big and bigly spiked on September 26th and 27th. Many people heard bigly when Trump said big league in the debate: «I'm going to cut taxes big league and you're going to raise taxes big league. End of story».

Trump often uses the phrase big league in a figurative sense; the manner in which he pronounces these words have caused many people to assume that he was using a single word (bigly), rather than two.

Big league has been in use since 1882 as a term for the major league of professional baseball (particularly in the United States, although it has also been used to refer to the upper echelons of other sports). The term began to see figurative use in the early 20th century.

The adverbial use of big league favored by Trump is not often encountered.

Stamina ★★★

Definición: *Staying power; perseverance.*

Comienzo de la tendencia: 26 de septiembre de 2016.

Stamina spiked dramatically in lookups on September 26th, following Donald Trump's repeated claims that it was something that Hillary Clinton lacked. «She doesn't have the look. She doesn't have the stamina. I said she doesn't have the stamina, and I don't believe she does have the stamina. To be president of this country, you need tremendous stamina» (Donald Trump, Presidential Debate Transcript, 26 September 2016).

Stamina comes from the Latin plural of stamen («warp, thread of life spun by the fates»). The etymology of the word makes sense in light of the initial sense of the word when it entered the language in the middle of the 17th century: «the essential or fundamental parts, elements, or nature of something especially an organism».

The sense of stamina meaning «staying power; perseverance» came about in the early 18th century.

Clinton replied, «Well, as soon as he travels to 112 countries and negotiates a peace deal, a cease-fire, a release of dissidents, an opening of new opportunities and nations around the world, or even spends 11 hours testifying in front of a congressional committee, he can talk to me about stamina».

Fuente: Merriam-Webster: Dictionary and Thesaurus (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/trending-words-from-election-2016>).

A lo largo de nuestra investigación nos hemos encontrado con otros términos peculiares utilizados por los candidatos:

Anchor baby: *A child born to a non-citizen mother in the U.S. The*

child's birthright of U.S. citizenship, granted by the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, could be used to improve the mother or relatives' chances of being allowed to remain in the U.S.

Ejemplo: *Donald Trump: «A lot people don't think "anchor babies" are actually U.S. citizens».*

Red state: *A U.S. state that typically votes Republican.*

Purple state: *A U.S. state that is closely split between Republican and Democrat Voters.*

Ejemplo: *The red states that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are turning purple in 2016.*

(<https://www.bloomberg.com/quicktake/american-political-jargon>). ■