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Brief Extracts from

## *Mullen's Word and Phrasebook of Contemporary English*

Mindful of the hurt suffered by so many older people and ethnic minorities whose English is what they learnt in schools and at their mother's knee, and who in consequence are unable to find their way about our vibrant twenty-first-century culture, Rev. Dr Peter Mullen is compiling a word- and phrase-book of contemporary English, to empower these underprivileged citizens, and enable them to move forward and take on board the language they deserve. The definitions of the new language are in the English they may have spoken way back in 1990. Here are some extracts, including a few contributed, in a co-operative spirit, by your editors.

**Active, actively:** *energetic intensifier without lexical meaning as in I am actively seeking, we are taking active measures etc.*

**Adult** (1): childish (2): filthy, pornographic

**Beautiful/bubbly/outgoing girl with her whole life before her/determined to live life to the full:** phrases required to be used by parents (usually, but see **partner, live-in lover**) of any **teenager** brutally murdered: *probable sense* she was an ugly unpleasant little sod and we're glad to see the back of her.

**Brings to life:** (*of works of art*) kills: *as in* brings Shakespeare to life by e.g. *cutting the dialogue, deleting politically-incorrect language, dressing the cast of (say) Julius Caesar as Nazis and transferring the action to 1930s Berlin*

**Celebrity:** someone you've never heard of whose name is the answer to questions on TV quiz programmes

**Challenging:** *financial* desperate *as:* in the summer of 2007 Northern Rock faced a challenging situation.

**Choice:** the belief that there are qualitative differences between washing machines/DVDs/pre-cooked meals/state schools/NHS hospitals etc.

**Concert:** noise, nuisance, disturbance, breach of the peace. *See music.*

**Critical but stable:** very ill (*compulsory solecism from: critical (obsolete)* something that is in the moment of being judged, in the balance, i.e. unstable)

**Cull:** kill

**Deserve:** want *as in* the standard of living we all deserve

**Desperately need:** want: cf. **deserve**

**Diversity:** (1) sameness. *See also multicultural;* (2) the range of sexual practices formerly described as perverse

**Discrimination:** *archaic* refined and developed tastefulness, ability to recognise quality, to differentiate one thing from another—*as in* knows his onions; *now only pejorative, except between brews of beer, types of mobile phone. See elitist and judgmental.*

**Eighteen-** [or larger number] **point strategy for tackling:** inertia; despair: cf. **package of measures, actively**

**Elitist:** (*pejorative*) one who supposes that things/activities differ in value, e.g. Beethoven is better than The Fucking Decibels. *Exception: it is not elitist to claim that e.g. Chelsea FC are*

better than Hartlepool United *or that one brand of mobile phone is superior to another.* Cf. **discrimination**

**Entertainment:** noisy tedium (**Light Entertainment:** heavy tedium)

**Feeling:** (a) *that which has replaced thought, a concept not found in current English* (b) the licence for the public expression of any emotion. *The authenticating criteria of the sentimental society, as in* How did you feel when your mother/sister/hamster died? *Also* I can't help the way I feel.

**Gender:** sex (*obsolete* a term in (*obsolete*) grammar)

**Guideline:** compulsion

**Inner city:** slum

**Love:** *arch.* that which desires the good of the beloved. *Currently:* sex, Schmaltz, sentimentality, mawkishness, funny feeling in the tummy etc. See **charity**.

**Mobile phone:** a means of self-advertisement; a fashion statement; a public nuisance; *vulg.* a fucking nuisance. Gadget for repeating totemic phrases *e.g.* I'm on a train. Also part of the apparatus for blowing up the train.

**Moving on; moving forward; drawing a line in the sand:** ignoring the present situation

**Music:** noise *esp.* public noises reviewed in **quality newspapers.** *e.g.* "The Fucking Decibels provided a night to remember with their gig at the Royal Festival Hall."

**Newspaper, tabloid:** a newspaper for people who don't want to read the news. See **learning difficulties.**

**Newspaper, broadsheet/heavy/quality/upmarket:** a newspaper for people who don't want to read the news but want to give the impression they do

**Opinion:** any view whatever except those resulting from **discrimination** or **elitism**, *as in* everybody's opinion is as valid as anyone else's.

**Package of measures** and **raft of measures:** (*politics*) long file of meaningless words

**Partner:** temporary participant, of either sex, in serial monogamy, with a person of either the same or different sex

**Phone-in:** radio/TV game the point of which is for people with **learning difficulties** to exhaust the possibilities of repetition. *E.g.* Hi, It's Roger . . . . Hi, Roger . . . . Hi . . . . Hi, it's me Roger . . . . Hi

**Popular culture:** (*euphemism*) noise: *see music*

**Reforms:** destruction. *As in* NHS reforms *or* educational reforms *or* constitutional reforms

**Refute:** gainsay, deny, shout down etc. (*obsolete:* a series of arguments disproving a proposition)

**Relocate:** move

**So:** *compulsory enclitic so adding nothing to sense*, *e.g.* Tomatoes are **so** afternoony. *See also*

**Like.** *Occasionally together e.g.* It's like I was so pissed *etc.*

**Soulmate:** drinking partner *notable for survival of archaic* soul

**Spin:** lies; that which has replaced *obsolete* truth, *a concept not found in contemporary English*

**Technology:** technique

**Terminally ill:** dying

**University:** (1) body funded by government to outlaw **discrimination, judgementalism, elitism** and the concept of excellence. Former technical colleges turned into holiday camps. (2) training school for careers in consumerism *e.g.* golf studies with ten pin bowling; travel, tourism & hairdressing

**Vibrant:** frantic, noisy

**Wicked:** *arch.* evil; *currently* the superlative degree of **cool**

**Wristbands:** *formerly* identification bracelets; *currently* advertisements for *e.g.* prostate cancer, AIDS etc. See also **Feeling, Sentimental Society.**