
Wash your mouth out

Washing out mouths with soap is a traditional form of physical punishment that consists in placing soap, or a similar cleansing agent, inside a person's mouth so that the person will taste it, inducing what most people consider an unpleasant experience.

It was a common punishment for children using profanity and swear words.

Dunce

The Dunce hat symbolised by a large paper cone was another form of punishment for children used for misbehaving or failing to perform their studies.

Cane

Caning was banned in NSW public schools in 1995, and NSW private schools 1997.

Caning was banned in NT public schools in 2016

Shakespeare

Twelfth Night Act 2, Scene 5
Malvolio reads letter:

By my life, this is my lady's hand
These be her very c's, her u's, and her t's, and
thus makes she her great P's.
It is in contempt of question her hand.

The letter's **C U** ('and her t's' - becomes **N** her **T**'s) And out of that (her cunt) she makes great **P** (pee)

Adeliade
Lana
Miles
Annabelle
Tim
Peter
Charlotte
Lakshmi
Stanley
Che
Danica
Daisy
Oliver
Lauren
Brendon
Anney

Curly Fries

Artworks

Level 1
Reject
Soap
Video
Fairy Bread
Swear Jar
Audio

Level 2
Class
Writing
Ink
Dunce
Dictionary
Definitions

Detail of Concepts behind artworks please visit
theleftoverscollective.com/more

Pamphlet References - Ad J.J.M. Vingerhoets
2013. Hartford Court 2017. Science Alert 2017.

DON'T GO TO THIS SHOW

A Leftovers Collective
Performative Exhibition

Produced with the
City Of Sydney

x
All Hail Your Magnificence

The Evolution of Swear

Could swearing play a role in our children's future? Can we teach and trust young people to play in the taboo? Can this freedom of language liberate and create a new future?

Swearing in the Renaissance of Poetry was firmly established by Shakespeare in the 16th century.

His plays are full of swearing loyalty to Kings, Queens, to God and to others, as in oaths as well as insults, not to mention to oneself. Over history, there has always been some resistance against the use of swearing. Used as a way to connect and distance - it's found proliferation in social, educational and work areas. In the 15th century cursing was punished by imprisonment, cutting out of the tongue, or even the death penalty. Shadows which still remain today.

Swear words can take on many grammatical forms; a noun (fuck / a fuck) a verb (fuck off) an adjective (fucking great) an adverb (that's fucked).

Original profane words that were potent, anarchic, and liberating are the ones using religion. Examples include; God, Christ, Jesus, Mary, Mother and various sacred things, all proper nouns. Interesting to note - 'swounds was considered heinously taboo in the 16th century. It means 'God's wounds' and was used as one uses Fuck nowadays, However Fuck has more grammatical flexibility.

Religious swear words have fallen out of favour. We have travelled away from these symbols / icons and moved towards the human body and its functions. Shit. Piss. Fuck. Cock. Dick. Cunt. Tit. Wank. Blood. Cum. These words are and can be used creatively in many ways. They are free from the rules of grammar. One could argue they liberate language.

Why the body? What is it about the body and it's functions that make it 'dirty,' 'bad,' or 'profane?' The body is the vehicle we make our way through life with. It's functions and practicality could be celebrated as opposed to criticised. Having a good shit is a sign of health. The gut where digestion starts is made with the same tissue as the brain, and is known as the second brain. To be able to fuck or have sex is evolutionary (and joyous). Do we hate ourselves? Use of taboo language has developed from the outside of ourselves (religion), to our present selves (the human body and it's functions).

Currently in the Netherlands diseases are also used as a taboo category for swearing. We are moving deep inside ourselves for swear inspiration.

Euphemism is widely sanctioned in place of swearing. However, is not the intention the same? What is it about softening the power of words to make language acceptable? Do we need to dampen our points to be heard? A recent Science Linguistic study found that those most proficient in language were indeed the most fluent in swearing.

Swearing impulsively and freely is located in the right hemisphere of the brain, the seat of creativity.

Give yourself 1 pt for
yes and 2 pt's for no, 0 for not
sure

Are you allowed to swear?

yes/no/not sure

Are you free to swear?

yes/no/not sure

Is swearing Language?

yes/no/not sure

Score

- 0 - 2 Wash your mouth with soap
- 2 - 4 Wash your mouth with profanity
- 5 - 6 Wash your mouth with poetry