



## WODEHOUSE IN THE OED – 2

Of over 1,600 P G Wodehouse quotations in the current edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, some 192 are principal citations, indicating either the first or only use of a word or of the particular nuance for which it appears. The first 32 were included in *By The Way* Number 5, September 1998.

Citations in the *OED* are derived from research by a large panel appointed by the Editors, augmented by information provided by the public. One cannot say definitively that these words or their usage were Wodehouse inventions, merely that the Editors have learned of no earlier use. In fact, readers will recognise that PGW himself used certain expressions earlier than the quotations selected.

**Dog** 1923 *Leave It To Psmith*, ch10

“... you’ll pick up your dogs and run round as quick as you can make it ...”

**Double blank** 1927 *The Small Bachelor*, ch1

“It has been well said of Sigsbee H Waddington that, if men were dominoes, he would be the double-blank.”

**Down to earth** 1930 *Very Good, Jeeves* (*Jeeves and the Impending Doom*)

... I had for some little time been living, as it were, in another world. I now came down to earth with a bang: ...

**Early Victorianness** 1914 *The Man Upstairs* (*Pots O’ Money*)

It was the gruesome Early Victorianness of it all that took the heart out of him.

**Earth** 1928 *Money For Nothing*, ch7

“What’s the matter with you that you always want the earth?”

**(Nothing On) Earth** 1910 *Psmith in the City*, ch18

Master Edward Waller ... in frocks, looking like a gargoyle; ... in sailor suit, looking like nothing on earth.

**End** 1929 *Mr Mulliner Speaking* (*The Man Who Gave up Smoking*)

“This,” he said in a shaking voice, “is the end. From this moment I go off the stuff.”

**Eyebrow** 1925 *Carry On, Jeeves* (*The Artistic Career of Corky*)

“There was a fellow, one would have said, clear up to the eyebrows in the soup. To all appearances he had got it right in the neck.”

**Fan-letter** 1932 *Louder and Funnier* (*My Gentle Readers*)

“Look here,” says Galsworthy, abruptly, “how many fan-letters did you get last week?”

**Fifty-fifty** 1913 *The Little Nugget*, ch6

“Say, Sam, don’t be a hawg. Let’s go fifty-fifty in dis deal.”

**Fish-faced** 1963 *Stiff Upper Lip*, *Jeeves*, ch18

“But he’s worse than that fish-faced blighter.”

**Fishiness** 1919 *A Damsel in Distress*, ch14

The extreme fishiness of Albert’s sudden production of a cousin from America ...



Flap 1925 *Carry On, Jeeves (Jeeves Takes Charge)*

... it was the work of a moment with me to ... dive into a bush ... and stand there with my ears flapping.

Flat 1923 *The Inimitable Jeeves*, ch16

I'm bound to say it isn't very often I find my own existence getting a flat tyre.

Flop 1919 *A Damsel in Distress*, ch8

"You see, the summertime number flopped on the second night, ..."

Form-Book 1923 *The Inimitable Jeeves*, ch14

The race went by the form-book all right.

Fungus 1925 *Sam the Sudden*, ch13

"... where did you get the fungus?"

Gaper 1903 *A Prefect's Uncle*, ch8

"... seeing you miss a gaper like that right into your hands made me think I was playing stump-cricket with the juniors."

Gentlemen's Agreement 1929 *Mr Mulliner Speaking (Those in Peril on the Tee)*

"... what we had better do is to have a gentleman's agreement."

Gimme 1927 *Meet Mr Mulliner (Came the Dawn)*

"... I don't care how bad you've got the gimme's if only you'll sign on the dotted line."

Go 1922 *The Clicking of Cuthbert (The Rough Stuff)*

"I've had three ginger ales," observed the boy.  
"Where do we go from here?"

Gruntled 1938 *The Code of the Woosters*, ch1

He spoke with a certain what-is-it in his voice, and I could see that, if not actually disgruntled, he was far from being gruntled, ...

Gutter press 1958 *Cocktail Time*, ch5

"... to hurry off and sell this information to the gutter press for what it will fetch, ..."

Half 1932 *Hot Water*, ch1

"And that's not the half of it."

Half-portion 1919 *The Coming of Bill*, pt1, ch5

"He certainly is a kind o' half-portion, ma'am."

Hawk-faced 1932 *Louder and Funnier (Thrillers)*

... just one more of those curt, hawk-faced amateur investigators.

Home-body 1924 *Bill the Conqueror*, ch2

"He said this girl was one of those domestic girls, a little home-body, and might be leaving the party any moment now."

Hotted up 1923 *The Inimitable Jeeves*, ch10

The atmosphere was consequently more or less hotted up when Cyril ... breezed down centre ...

Hotsy-totsiness 1935 *The Luck of the Bodkins*, ch22

"And a fat chance ... there is of any hotsy-totsiness resulting from anything Ambrose can do, ..."

Include himself in 1967 *Company for Henry*, ch2

"You surprise me. A free meal, and he made no attempt to include himself in?"

Inside Stand *Hot Water*, ch13

"Oily's got himself into the house, and he's planning to let Soup in when he's good and ready ... It's what's known as the inside stand."

Iris Out *Plum Pie (George and Alfred)*

"... after a terrific struggle the hood called it a day and irised out."

*A Further Selection of Principal Citations Will Appear in By The Way, September 2000*