

“Cookestwithbin”  
99, Kerching Drive  
Twickenham, Middx, UK

Oxford English Dictionary  
Oxford University Press  
Great Clarendon St.  
Oxford OX2 6DP

23<sup>rd</sup> November

Dear Sir,

I was wondering what it took to get a word accepted into the *Oxford English Dictionary*? I have quite a few that I would like you to consider and if possible add to the next edition, whenever that may be.

**Hostulate.** *verb.* To interrupt after a question has been asked. BBC Interviewers seem to *Hostulate* when requesting a speedy answer under pressure to a question. Using the phrase “To sum up in one word”.

Very similar to:

**Enprickle.** *verb.* Hostility under pressure, especially in an interview.

**Didogratory.** *adverb.* Inability to sing in tune whilst creating exceptionally boring and repetitive melodies.

**Hucknard.** *noun.* One who sings painfully sharp.

**Wubble.** *noun.* Someone unable to pronounce the letter “R”. A fashion so it would appear with most personalities.

**Excrescentainer.** *noun.* Someone totally lacking in talent.

And similar to: **Nabilitive.** *adverb.* Devoid of any ability. Sadly these two words describe most TV presenters, and B, C, D and E-Z list celebrities.

I would also like to find out what you know about **Fockule** and **Ouble**? Both excellent words.

I await with interest your reply and hopefully good news with respect to inclusion in the next edition of the Dictionary. I have attached an invoice for my new words. Once they're paid for they are yours!

Yours most sincerely

Bob Howard

Sales Invoice

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Invoice No: \_\_\_\_\_  
From: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Description	Amount exclusive of V.A.T.E
	To: Cost and Ownership of the following words:	
	Hostulate.	£56.00p
	Enprickle	£39.99p
	Didogratory	£45.87p
	Hucknard	£67.00p
	Wubble	£32.88p
	Excrescentainer	£78.78p
	Nabilitive,	£18.99p
	Total payable	£339.51p

A/Ask Oxford/JEAF/mc

1 December

Dear Mr Howard,

Thank you for your letter of 23 November to the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

The answer to your initial question, 'What does it take to get a word accepted into the *Oxford English Dictionary*?' is chiefly concerned with usage and currency. We would not begin to consider researching into a word or sense that was not yet in the dictionary until we were able to find a substantial body of published evidence for its use. This evidence could be from any kind of published material, but would need to be from a range of different sources and authors, and would need to cover a timespan of at least ten years.

Once such evidence could be found, we would then be able to initiate research to enable us to build up as complete a picture as possible of the word's history and origin and current usage. At this stage it would still be possible for us to decide that there was not enough evidence to justify an entry in the *OED*, bearing in mind that once a word is included it cannot be removed.

I think you will see from this that the words you mention, enjoyable though they are, are likely to be too ephemeral or otherwise limited in their application to become a significant part of the language.

I am sorry that I can tell you nothing about the words 'foccule' and 'ouble', as they do not feature as words in any of our current resources, except that 'ouble' can be found accidentally isolated as part of longer words such as *double* and *trouble*.

I am sorry if you will find this response disappointing.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J. E. A. Field  
Senior Editor  
Oxford English Dictionary