

## Answers Unit 12

1. Here are the entries from the OED and Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary:

### **OED:**

1. a. An animal of the genus *Sus* or family Suidæ, comprising bristle-bearing non-ruminant hoofed mammals, of which the full-grown male is called a boar, the full-grown female a sow; esp. the common species *Sus scrofa*, domesticated from early times by Gentile nations for its flesh, and regarded as a type of greediness and uncleanness. (Now only literary, dialectal, or as a generic term in zoology, etc., being superseded in common use by pig or hog: see these words.)
2. fig. Applied opprobriously to a sensual, degraded, or coarse person; also (in mod. use) as a mere term of contempt or abuse.

### **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary:**

1. (informal) an unpleasant person;
2. (old use or technical) pigs.

And here are several concordance lines from the **British National Corpus** ([www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk](http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk)):

A18 1174 In Eternity, like the madman in the story who got rid of his devils when they were driven out of him and into the swine, Russia will sit healed at the feet of Jesus.

AC2 631 He was an ungallant swine for deliberately not coming to her aid, but in truth he really wanted to see which of the likely lads, would dash forward.

AK9 1549 But the award went to Ms Rose Twisk, of Llandudno, for `; You unscrupulous swine!

AKM 27 An individual friend may not persuade you to jump off a cliff, but peer-group pressure can make Gadarene swine of us all.

APR 1236 Hard for modern children to stomach who grieve for the Gadarene swine.

B38 1720 Course Television Coverage of the Arts is mainly a matter of pearls before swine and horses before carts.

B71 53 In a letter to The Lancet Teas suggests that the AIDS virus may be a modified strain of the virus that causes African swine fever (vol i. p 923).

B71 55 There are many similarities between AIDS and African swine fever (ASFV).

B71 65 The virus was first discovered to infect two species of tick and three species of wild swine in Africa.

BMX 34 The village swine fed on the beech mast on Steep Ridgery.

BPK 1563 The locals say they believe he was a swine thief, but it all seemed a bit serious to represent merely the chase and capture of a robber who stole pigs belonging to the monks of Jervaulx Abbey.

BPK 1573 Enraged by finding his path barred by his swine dead in rows of nine, the giant confronted the crowd, but the hermit pointed behind him to where his castle was on fire.

CEV 402 Bobbing around like airborne swine?

CMG 485 In the summer of that year there was an outbreak of swine fever

among the workhouse pigs.

EDT 410 Morgan amid the flood of red ink submerging the likes of the Chase Manhattan: that's Morgan's reward for going against the swine in, of all things, its conservatism.

EWB 382 He owned a savage wolfhound called Wolfhead and a herd of swine who roamed the forest and fields below Penhill.

F9R 2385 `; Or is it that you think so highly of her that you can't bring yourself to cast her pearls before swine?

FPK 1219 Then he would go in there, turn everything out of the cupboards, eat his fill, and leave the place looking like a herd of swine had trampled through it.

FRC 2620 She began to respect her Uncle Philip's commercial acumen; although he was a swine, he was a clever swine.

FS0 1726 We'd done it --; but now we'd have to be friendly with the little swine!

FSF 509 He ranted and raved because he found out years afterwards what it was the other swine had taken.

G33 786 Until the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1973 --; which was passed after a disastrous outbreak of swine vesicular disease --; a farmer could feed a pig virtually anything a pig would eat.

GV8 3324 And where did Emma get off, calling her only brother a swine?

H8Y 1953 `; Ungrateful little swine, ' said Hilary.

H94 623 `; You swine! ' gasped Meredith.

HGT 286 What an absolute swine!

HNK 2304 `; This little swine put his hand up my skirt and groped me.

JY1 588 `; You c-can't... ' she spluttered, trying not to panic that, if she'd got it right --; and she couldn't see how else this swine of a man could threaten her --; he was saying that her job was on the line!

JY1 775 She liked her job, she needed her job, the building society with whom she had her mortgage would very much like her to keep her well-paying job --; but she had no idea how she could go about keeping it if that swine in the new extension said, `; On your way '.

JY1 1281 Swine, in her book, was much, much too good for him!

JY2 3653 `; I bet the cold, unfeeling swine took advantage of you, seduced you --; '.

The dominant use of *swine* in present-day English is metaphorical, as a term of abuse for human beings. Practically all literal uses are allusions to the Bible or in idioms (*cast pearls before the swine*).

2. The OED entry for *cattle* shows that the relevant sense here is "property", which indeed fits the passage perfectly, and also sheds light on a complicated history of borrowing which results in the two modern terms *cattle* and *chattels*, which have distinct meanings although going back to a common source.

obsolete: I. Property, article of property, chattel. Obs. (Forms catel, cattel(l.)) 1. a. Property, substance; strictly personal property or estate, wealth, goods. Obs. [ME. catel, a. ONF. catel (= central OF. chatel, Pr. captal, capdal): late L. capt le, L. capit le, neuter of the adj. capit lis head-, principal, CAPITAL, used subst. in mediæval times in the sense 'principal

sum of money, capital, wealth, property'; cf. mod. Eng. CAPITAL = stock in trade. Thus Papias has 'capitale, caput pecuniæ, capitis summa', the Catholicon 'capitale, pecunia'. Under the feudal system the application was confined to movable property or wealth, as being the only 'personal' property, and in English it was more and more identified with 'beast held in possession, live stock', which was almost the only use after 1500, exc. in the technical phrase 'goods and catells (cattals)' which survived till the 17th c. In legal Anglo-French, the Norman catel was superseded at an early period by the Parisian chatel; this continued to be used in the earlier and wider sense (subject however to legal definition), and has in modern times passed into a certain current use as CHATTEL, so that the phrase just cited is now also since 16th c. 'goods and chattels'. Down to 1500 the typical spelling was catel; in the 16th c. this became cattel, cattell; only since 1600, and chiefly since 1700, spelt cattle. As this spelling is never found in earlier use, and, hence, never in the earlier sense, it would be possible to treat this sense as a separate word Catel, property; but on the other hand the modern sense has all the forms catel, cattel(l, cattle, according to date, and the history is better elucidated by treating the word as a historical whole. CHATTEL, however, as a distinct modern form and sense, is dealt with in its own place.

3. Synonyms: *abandon* – *leave*; *society* – *company*; *female* – *woman*; *perish* – *die*

Touchstone uses a Latinate word and then explains it by means of a simpler (usually, with one exception, Germanic) word. Clearly, the Latinate word is considered more elaborate than the more common ("vulgar", "boorish", "common") Germanic one. The humour resides in the fact that Touchstone is so obviously over-doing the "prestige" bit. As similar excesses seem to have taken place in real life at the time, Shakespeare's contemporaries coined the phrase "inkhorn term" to denote artificial borrowings from Latin which were felt to be superfluous.

*abandon*: Old French

*leave*: Old English

*society*: Old French

*company*: Old French

*female*: Old French/Latin

*woman*: Old English

*perish*: Anglo-Norman/Old French

*die*: Germanic

Words of Old French/Latinate origin are usually considered to be on a higher stylistic level than Germanic ones. Whether the two French borrowings *society* and *company* were distinct in status at Shakespeare's time remains to be investigated on the basis of more texts. Today, the contrast between these two is semantic rather than stylistic.

4. *quick*: Semantic change: from "animate, alive" to "moving, or able to move, with speed; swift; doing something swiftly or in a short time": specialisation of meaning

*extravagant*: Semantic change: from "wandering out of bounds; straying, roaming, vagrant" to "exceeding the bounds of reason or propriety; excessive, irregular, fantastically absurd; now with stronger sense: Astonishingly or flagrantly excessive or extreme": development of concrete sense into more abstract sense, with new, usually negative connotation

*nice*: Semantic change: from "difficult, tricky" to "agreeable, pleasant, satisfactory; attractive": amelioration; note that the very first attested sense of this adjective is "ignorant" (from Latin *nescius*)

*want*: Semantic change: from "be without, to lack; to have too little of; to be destitute of, or deficient in; to fail to have, or get" to "desire, to wish for": development of new sense through conventionalisation of habitual conversational implicature of the type: "I lack something – therefore it follows that I desire it." The example thus shows how a new "semantic" in the linguistic system is brought about by pragmatic processes.

5. To answer this question, you can use the following (diachronic) corpora:

- *Helsinki Corpus of English Texts* (<http://ota.ox.ac.uk/desc/1477>)
- *Lampeter Corpus of Early Modern English Tracts* (<http://ota.ox.ac.uk/desc/3193>)

The expected trends are (a) a regularization of irregular verb forms and (b) the obsolescence of the form *have you any money ...?*, which does not fit easily into the core grammar of present-day English as it lacks *do*-support in questions. Broadly speaking, these trends are actually attested, though as a look at 20th-century corpora of British and American English will show, they play themselves out at differential speeds in different varieties and registers. In particular, while both British and American English show the archaic ("*do*-less") question for *have* becoming rarer, the two varieties differ with regard to the replacement they prefer: *have you got any money?* in British English but *do you have any money?* in American English.

## 6. Dictionaries:

OED: new entry added in October 2018

Oxford advanced learner's dictionary (2000): not recorded, included since the 2018 edition

Langenscheidt *Collins Großwörterbuch Englisch* (2004): not recorded

**Corpora:**

BNC: 1 hit: CNG 139 Regarding the anticipated competition in the market between Microsoft Corp's Windows NT and Unix, Noorda coined a new word, co-opetition -- co-operation and competition -- to describe the new culture. (no precise date provided, but BNC data are from late 1980s/1990s; the source is a computer journal)

WebCorp ([www.webcorp.org.uk](http://www.webcorp.org.uk)): earliest citation from 1996, in a book about co-opetition. On the basis of this citation, we can assume the authors of the book, Brandenburger & Nalebuff, of the Harvard and Yale Business Schools, to have coined the word, or at least to have crucially contributed to its popularity.

The "News on the Web" corpus (NoW, <https://www.english-corpora.org/now/>) will allow you to chart the use of the word since 2010. When counting occurrences, do clean up the data by removing duplicate examples.

7. Make up your own mind about this question, for example by holding this advertisement against a contemporary consumer advert for soap or detergents!  
As a starting point, have a look at the frequent use of the passive voice in the text, which would be extremely unlikely in more recent advertisements.

8. initial /t/ > initial /z/

medial /t/ > /s/

In these cognates, there is no change because of the initial consonant clusters in the English words.

Like the /st/ and /str/ clusters, /sp/ and /spr/ clusters prevent the plosive /p/ from turning into the affricate /pf/.