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The Names of Things You Didn't Know Had Names

Adelaster: meaning 'unknown star' in Greek, this is the name given to newly discovered plants awaiting classification by botanists

Aglet: the plastic covering on the end of a shoelace

Aphthongs: silent letters in words such as 'know' and 'psychology'

Armsate: the hole in a shirt or a jumper through which you put your hand and arm

Bonnet: the cap on a fire hydrant

Brannock device: the metal instrument used in shoe shops to measure feet



Brassard: a band worn around the upper arm

Buccula: a person's double chin

Chanking: food that's been spat out

Columella: the bottom part of the nose that separates the nostrils

Contrail: the thin line of cloud that forms behind an aircraft at high altitudes



Diastema: a gap between the front teeth

Drupelets: the bumps on raspberries

Epithalamium: a poem written to celebrate a wedding

Eyes: the holes in Swiss cheese

Ferrule: the metal band on the top of a pencil that holds the eraser in place

F-hole: the F-shaped opening in a violin

Fillip: the technical term for snapping your fingers

Gambrinous: the state of being full of beer

Griffonage: illegible handwriting

Gruntle: a pig's snout

Harp: the metal hoop a lampshade sits on

IDEO locator: the 'you are here' arrow on a map

Jiffy: 1/100th of a second

Keeper: the loop on a belt that holds the end in place after it has passed through the buckle

Lalochezia: the use of swearing to relieve stress or pain

Lemniscate: the infinity symbol



Lunt: a puff of smoke, such as that produced when someone smokes a pipe