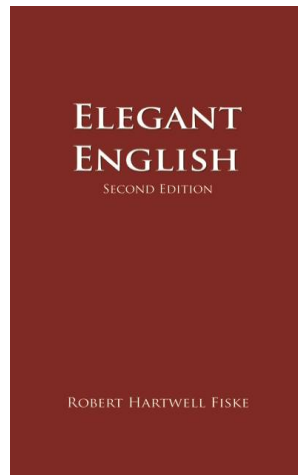


Δείτε με ποιες λέξεις εμπλουτίζουν και αναβαθμίζουν την γλώσσα τους οι Άγγλοι:



The point of this book is to show that the language can, indeed, be spoken or written with **grace** and **polish** — qualities that much contemporary English is benefit of and could benefit from.

You can order *Elegant English* from [Vocabula](#) or [Amazon](#).

**abyssopelagic** (ah-BIS-so-pah-lah-jik) — of, like or pertaining to the depths of the ocean. It refers to the bottom of the ocean — how great is that? The sinister "abyss" recalls Tartarus, and overall conjures a gorgeous image of blind prognathous fish constellating the dark with the aching lambency of their bioluminescence.

**acatalepsy** (EY-kat-i-lep-see) — 1. incomprehensibility; a word much used (in its Greek form) by the later Academics and Skeptics (Carneades, Arcesilaus, etc.), who held that human knowledge never amounts to certainty, but only to probability, and who advocated a suspension of judgment upon all questions, even upon the doctrine of acatalepsy itself. 2. uncertainty in the diagnosis or prognosis of diseases. 3. a weak understanding; mental deficiency. It sounds like a medical condition, but it describes most humans and our path through life.

**aesthetic** (es-THET-ik) — 1. relating to the philosophy or theories of aesthetics. 2. of or concerning the appreciation of beauty or good taste. 3. characterized by a heightened sensitivity to beauty.

**agape** (ah-GAH-pay) — 1. love as revealed in Jesus, seen as piritual and selfless and a model for humanity. 2. love that is spiritual, not sexual, in its nature. 3. in the early Christian Church, the love feast accompanied by Eucharistic celebration. It's unconditional love; how beautiful is that?

**agrestic** (ah-GRES-tik) — 1. rural; rustic. 2. unpolished; awkward. Not the prettiest sounding word, but the sound has a nice balance.

**alexithymia** (ah-lek-sah-THI-mee-ah) — inability to describe emotions in a verbal manner.

**anacoluthon** (an-ah-kah-LOO-thon) — An abrupt change within a sentence to a second construction inconsistent with the first, sometimes used for rhetorical effect; for example, *I warned him that if he continues to drink, what will become of him?* That a single word describes such a slippery concept is a delight.

**anathema** (ah-NATH-ah-mah) — 1. a formal ecclesiastical ban, curse, or excommunication. 2. a vehement denunciation; a curse. 3. one that is cursed or damned. 4. one that is greatly reviled, loathed, or shunned.

**anemone** (ah-NEM-ah-nee) — 1. any of various perennial herbs of the genus *Anemone*, native chiefly to northern temperate regions and having palmately lobed leaves and large flowers with showy sepals. Also called windflower. 2. a sea anemone. This word just sounds beautiful and is wonderful to say.

**cacophony** (kah-KOF-ah-nee) — 1. jarring, discordant sound; dissonance. 2. the use of harsh or discordant sounds in literary composition.

**callipygian** (kal-ah-PIJ-ee-en) 🍑 — having beautifully proportioned buttocks.

**diaphanous** (DI-af-ah-nes) — 1. of such fine texture as to be transparent or translucent. 2. characterized by delicacy of form. 3. vague or insubstantial. Pretty and evocative; the texture of light above running water, or something.

**ethereal** (i-THIR-ee-el) — 1. characterized by lightness and insubstantiality; intangible. 2. highly refined; delicate. 3. of the celestial spheres; heavenly; not of this world; spiritual. 4. of or relating to ether.

**dicephalous** (di-SEF-ah-les) — having two heads.

**isthmus** (IS-mes) — 1. a narrow strip of land connecting two larger masses of land. 2. a narrow strip of tissue joining two larger organs or parts of an organ; a narrow passage connecting two larger cavities.

**misogyny** (mi-SOJ-ah-nee) — hatred of women.

**megalomaniac** (meg-ah-lo-MAN-ee-ak) — 1. a person with a psychopathological condition characterized by delusional fantasies of wealth, power, or omnipotence. 2. a person who has an obsession with grandiose or extravagant things or actions.

**oniochhalasia** (oh-nee-oh-cha-LAY-see-ah) — buying as a means of mental relaxation.

**oxymoron** (ok-see-MOR-on) — a rhetorical figure in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined, as in "a deafening silence" and "a mournful optimist."

**phantasmagoria** (fan-taz-mah-GOR-ee-ah) 1. a fantastic sequence of haphazardly associative imagery, as seen in dreams or fever; a constantly changing scene composed of numerous elements. 2. fantastic imagery as represented in art.

**sycophant** (SIK-ah-fant) — a self-seeking, servile flatterer; fawning parasite. One of my favorite words; it slithers off the tongue.