

All About Nothing

by

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So, I've spent an unproductive hour pondering what I should write about. Then it came to me. I could write about nothing. We've all heard words like 'cycling', which obviously means the act of cyc, and words such as 'running', the word used when someone runs. But how come 'noth' (pronounced 'nuth') is never used? How come 'I'm nothing about the place' is a correct phrase to describe inactivity, but 'I'm going for a noth', apparently isn't? Could it be that that would be making things too non-confusing for people learning the language? Think about it, a spy has managed to infiltrate England, and has plans to steal super sought after drafts of my first book, 'The Danger of Proverbs'. He already has a lot on his plate, having to remember mission briefings and how to fake a convincing accent, etc., so less energy can be spent on memorising the lingo. Soon enough, his signed copies of five of my scripts starts to arouse suspicions, and he gets captured.

'Explain what 'doing nothing' means, now!!' The interrogator would scream. 'Well, that would mean 'not doing anything...'' The spy would reply, nervously. 'That is correct, now use the word 'noth' in a sentence...' 'I'm going for a noth, obviously...' 'A-ha! No Englishman would ever say that. We've tricked you!' The spy has been imprisoned, and I'm raking in the dough, from royalties. (I hope). That's one theory. Another theory why the word 'noth' is so obscure it's non-existent, is because it's been covered up. 'A noth' and 'enough' sound very similar, right? Imagine the confusion when a failing employee hears the phrase 'enough is enough' as 'enough is a noth', (as in 'enough is nothing'). His boss thinks he is being clear. However, instead of the confused worker sorting himself out, he does the exact opposite and thinks he can do no work, whatsoever. Consequently he quickly gets sacked, as does half of the UK's workforce. Not good, is it?

So what else to say about the word? Isn't it hard to imagine absolutely nothing? Why is that? Probably because its full meaning been covered up. How the government did this, I don't know. For my own sanity, I'm going to stop wondering and move on. (Once again). Here's a thought: How come 'nothing' is pronounced 'nuthing', and not 'no-thing'? The latter makes more sense, as 'nothing' means 'no things', doesn't it? Maybe that's because... Ohhhh... I don't know. Maybe it's to catch spies, again. Next!... Can you get someone nothing as a gift? As in 'what do you want me to get you?' 'Nothing'. How does that work? Where would you put the nothing, and how would you hand it over? Would you even have to try? This is something everyone has to think about this Christmas, as we all have that selfish gran who wants to get a present that can't even be comprehended.

To sum up, 'nothing' is a bit of a mystery. It's even dangerous thing to think about, as its complexity can drive one insane.

Should it be removed from the dictionary altogether, like (I think) 'noth' was? Yes, it probably should. But action must be taken to get the necessary results; marches, petitions... not self immolation, certainly not, but you get the idea. What else have I got to say? Nothing. But how should I express that, without making the whole confusion worse? Maybe I should simply stop writing.