

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Merriam-Webster Announces “Slop” as the 2025 Word of the Year

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. December 15, 2025 —Today Merriam-Webster announced the 2025 Word of the Year: *slop*.

Slop is defined as “digital content of low quality that is produced usually in quantity by means of artificial intelligence.”

Throughout 2025, lookup volume of *slop* on Merriam-Webster.com reflected a flood of slop into everyday life, including absurd videos, off-kilter advertising images, cheesy propaganda, fake news that looks pretty real... and lots of talking cats.

“All that stuff was dumped on our screens,” says Greg Barlow, President of Merriam-Webster, “and the Word of the Year captured it in just four letters. The English language came through again.”

In 2025, amid all the talk about AI threats, *slop* set a tone that’s less fearful, more mocking. According to Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster Editor at Large, “it’s almost like the word sends a little message to AI: when it comes to replacing human creativity, sometimes you don’t seem too superintelligent.”

Other words in Merriam-Webster’s lookup data revealed experiences and ideas that shaped the year:

Gerrymander – As both political parties created odd-looking districts that evoke the “salamander” in this word’s origins.

Performative – For a wide range of attention-getting behavior involving activism, patriotism, matcha, sensitive men, and more.

Touch grass – Often used insultingly, but also as an aspiration for people wanting to break their digital addiction.

Six seven – The hit Gen Alpha slang term of 2025. Meaning nothing in particular, and sometimes repeated in a sing-song voice, it tended to delight kids and frustrate almost everyone else (which is one reason it delighted kids).

Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg – Encountered, for those who dared, in advanced modes of a hit spelling game on Roblox.

“In a world full of clutter and noise,” says Barlow, “it’s gratifying that people keep turning to our dictionary for accurate information, carefully researched and crafted by humans – the exact opposite of slop.”

[Get more detail on all the 2025 Words of the Year](#)

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