

Wordsworth's Newsletter

Words of Wisdom from The Words Workshop



Ask Wordsworth ... Where does the name Milton Keynes come from?

Most local people will know that Milton Keynes is the name of one of the villages incorporated in the new city and not something concocted by modern developers. The word *Milton* is of Anglo Saxon origin meaning middle farm, or a settlement with a mill, while *Keynes* is a corruption of the Norman family name de Cahaigues who owned the land in the 12th century.

What's the difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion?

Tax avoidance is a legitimate legal activity to reduce your tax liability, things like claiming all your allowances and using ISAs to keep savings. Tax evasion on the other hand is failing to pay tax which is due or fraudulently claiming allowances to which you are not entitled. The other difference is about four years in jail!

What does *antidisestablishmentarianism* mean?

It means the link between the Church of England and the State should be maintained and not be 'disestablished'. These days *antidisestablishmentarianism* is almost never used other than as an example of a long English word.

Wordsworth's words of the month ...

Licence/License

In British English the noun is *licence* as in driving licence and fishing licence, while *license* is the verb, as in licensed to sell alcohol, etc. Many people make the mistake of only using the latter spelling, probably because it is the usual practice in American English.

Dependant/Dependent

In British English, *dependant* is the noun, as in children and other dependants. **Dependent** is the adjective as in dependent relatives, or Britain is heavily dependent on oil imports. In American English the adjective is spelt the same but the noun may be spelt either way.



Wordsworth's quote of the month (despite the above)

"I don't give a damn for a man that can only spell a word one way."

Mark Twain



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