

A Lexicon of Philosophy of Physics

brown (adj.)

of a deeply saturated rufous color, sometimes overwhelming the senses with its vivacity

bluffink (vb.; abbrev. uffink)

to master and explicate a subject so thoroughly as to bluff everyone else into thinking there is nothing left to say

butterfield (n.)

an expanse of beautiful flora extending as far as the eye can see, in which all genera and species of flowers are elegantly juxtaposed, the complexity of the detail becoming ever more confusing the more closely one looks

curiel (adj.)

unusual, esoteric, unexpected (esp. of spacetime theories), as in: “It is a curiel feature of General Relativity that it permits no satisfactory definition of global energy”. (Also as in L. Carroll, “‘Curieler and curieler!’, cried Alice.”); hence (n.): curious anomaly, the exception to the rule; hence (vb.): to curiel

ear (vb.)

to listen without responding, because it wouldn’t have done any good; hence **earman** (n.): one who ears

hart (vb.)

to use Bayesian methods to decide to commit with heartfelt sincerity to more than one human can accomplish; hence **hartmann** (n.): one who harts

lehmkuhl (n.)

a rich, fertile loam particularly suited for the growing of obscure vegetation [for non-German speakers: the pun is on ‘lehm’, which means ‘loam’]

manhack (vb.)

to shackle with a set of inescapable manacles forged from mathematical theorems

maudlin (adj.)

rumbustious, ready with high spirits to take on all comers

nor-ton (vb.)

a unit of measure suited to large reams of paper, generally filled with disjunctive negations of every possible position on a given issue

pitts (adj.)

deep mines where the fabled massless, spin-2 particle is said to reside

pooley (adj.)

capable of staying afloat and even making headway in deep pools of murky water

roberts (adj.)

characterized by a state of high-spirited, generous vigor in which every possible aspect of an issue or question is examined too quickly for any listener to follow

stein (n.)

a slowly, inexorably rolling stone, crushing all in its path, magically leaving in its wake a verdant, fruitful yet nearly impassable forest, by an action almost invisible to the non-specialist's eye

valente (vb.)

to act at a distance

wall-ace (n.)

an ace at winning arguments by doggedly driving one's opponent up against the wall

weatherall (vb.)

to provide shelter in every possible meteorological condition for those few who understand how to take it