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December 1, 2020

Rules Committee of the Superior Court  
P.O. Box 150474  
Hartford, CT 06115-0474

**RE: *Proposal to Amend Rule 8.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct***  
***Via Email [RulesCommittee@jud.ct.gov](mailto:RulesCommittee@jud.ct.gov)***

Dear Committee Members

"An Englishman knows nothing of our common terms of disparagement, such as kike · · and rube." <sup>1</sup>

"A klansman said, 'Nigger, Look me in the face—And tell me you believe in The great white race.'" <sup>2</sup>

"I don't like you in that stuff. It makes you look like all those nasty pansies back in there." <sup>3</sup>

"Get out of the way you damn Polak!" <sup>4</sup>

"The Communists have recruited a considerable number of seedy unemployed—niggers, micks." <sup>5</sup>

"Call her Prostitute, Bawd, dirty Bitch." <sup>6</sup>

"Wops, said Boyle, I can tell wops a mile off." <sup>7</sup>

"Not that you were just a bimbo to me. · · I've discovered that I'm a little in love with you, too." <sup>8</sup>

All of these if uttered by an attorney would be actionable under the proposed rule. In my 50 years as a member of the Connecticut Bar I have never seen such a foolish proposal such as this.

I have during my life had worse words said to me. I have always looked upon the speaker as a fool, not worthy of my time, but to be tolerated if I was to achieve a result for my client. But in the long run that person was not worth any consideration from me in the future.

Those that say this conduct hurts me, well get over it. I have found that crass people are few in number. The overwhelming majority of people are good decent people. Do we need a rule to regulate decency?

This proposed rule is a waste of time. It is beneath the dignity of those who we have bestowed the title "Your Honor." Finally, for those who are offended by the quotes I have attached copies of the pages from whence they have come.

Very truly yours,

SEGAL & LASKA, LLC  
Kenneth John Laska

<sup>1</sup> 1919 Mencken Amer. Lang. 115

<sup>2</sup> 1964 L. Hughes in J. H. Clarke Harlem iv. 251

<sup>3</sup> 1971 F. Forsyth Day of Jackal xx. 335,

<sup>4</sup> 1922 E. E. Cummings Enormous Room iv. 61

<sup>5</sup> 1932 E. Wilson Devil take Hindmost vii. 38

<sup>6</sup> 1790 Wolcott (P. Pindar) Adv. Fut. Laureat Wks. 1812 II. 337

<sup>7</sup> 1924 E. Hemingway In our Time 17

<sup>8</sup> 1952 S. Kauffmann Philanderer (1953) xii. 194

**kike** *slang* (orig. *U.S.*).

(kaɪk)

[Said to be an alteration of *-ki* (or *-ky*), a common ending of the personal names of Eastern European Jews who emigrated to the U.S. at the turn of the 20th c.]

A vulgarly offensive name for a Jew. Also *attrib.* or as *adj.*

**1904** R. L. McCARDELL *Show Girl & her Friends* 49 And what do you think? He had the impudence to tell me that Louie Zinsheimer was a kike! **1912** McClure's Mag. XXXIX. 230/2 'It's a mascot, be-dad! Jam it, ye kike!' screeched Tracy. **1919** F. HURST *Humoresque* 211 A little red-haired kike like her! **1919** MENCKEN *Amer. Lang.* 115 An Englishman..knows nothing of our common terms of disparagement, such as *kike*..and *rube*. **1924** P. MARKS *Plastic Age* xviii. 201 You go chasing around with kikes and micks. **1932** J. Dos Passos *1919* 164 The little kike behind the desk had never been to sea. **1940** R. STOUT *Over my Dead Body* vi. 84, I don't care if the background is wop or mick or kike..so long as it's American. **1956** D. KARP *All Honorable Men* 74 If you repeat that lie, I'll wring that skinny kike neck of yours with my own hands! **1963** V. NABOKOV *Gift* iii. 179 My better half..was for twenty years the wife of a kike and got mixed up with a whole rabble of Jew in-laws. **1963** *Spectator* 21 June 815 He knocks down Stern's wife, calls her a kike. **1972** *National Observer* (U.S.) 27 May 17/3 When kikes are shrewd and dagos or wops are sly and murderous, it is only one step from the epithet to contempt.

**nigger**, *n.*

(ˈnɪɡə(r))

Also **niggar**.

[Alteration of **NEGER**. Cf. also **NIGER** and **NIGRE**.]

**1. a.** A Negro. (Colloq. and usu. contemptuous.) Except in Black English vernacular, where it remains common, now virtually restricted to contexts of deliberate and contemptuous ethnic abuse.

**1786** BURNS *Ordination* iv, How graceless Ham leugh at his Dad, Which made Canaan a nigger. **1811** BYRON in *Mem. F. Hodgson* (1878) l. 195 The rest of the world—niggers and what not. **1818** H. B. FEARON *Sk. Amer.* 46 The bad conduct and inferior nature of niggars (negroes). **1819** W. FAUX *Mem. Days Amer.* (1823) 9 Contempt of the poor blacks, or niggers, as they are there called, seems the national sin of America. **a 1849** H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) l. 164 A similar error has turned Othello..into a rank woolly-pated, thick-lipped nigger. **1867** LATHAM *Black & White* 127 Niggers (they are not 'coloured persons' yet in the South) are most artful flatterers. **1897** *Outing* (U.S.) XXIX. 333/1 What is wanted is a genuine nigger; not a colored person. **1931** D. L. SAYERS *Five Red Herrings* i. 11 Waters.., like all Englishmen, was ready enough to admire and praise all foreigners except dagoes and niggers. **1934** G. B. SHAW *On Rocks* ii. 70 Pandranath: you are only a silly nigger pretending to be an English gentleman. *Ibid.* 71, I am called nigger by this dirty faced barbarian whose forefathers were naked savages worshipping acorns and mistletoe..whilst my people were spreading the highest enlightenment yet reached by the human race from the temples of Brahma... You call me nigger, sneering at my colour because you have none. The jackdaw has lost his tail and would persuade the world that his defect is a quality. **1936** M. MITCHELL *Gone with Wind* 401 'You're a fool nigger, and the worst day's work Pa ever did was to buy you,' said Scarlett slowly... There, she thought, I've said 'nigger' and Mother wouldn't like that at all. **1937** C. HIMES in *Black on Black* 132 Uncle Tomism, acceptance, toadying—all there in its most rugged form. One way to be a nigger. Other Negroes did it other ways—he did it the hard way. The same result—a *nigger*. **1948** [see **coon** *n.* 2 c]. **1948** G. GREENE *Heart of Matter* i. i. 3, I hate the place. I hate the people. I hate the bloody niggers. Mustn't call 'em that you know. *Ibid.* ii. i. 179 A clerk knocked and said, 'There's a nigger for you, Wilson, with a note.' **1949** B. A. BOTKIN *Treas. S. Folklore* p. xxiii, In turning his laughter on himself as well as the whites, the Negro has taken over the objectionable word 'nigger' (though not 'darky') and made it a term of praise or blame. **1964** L. HUGHES in J. H. Clarke *Harlem* iv. 251 A klansman said, 'Nigger, Look me in the face—And tell me you believe in The great white race.' **1966** *Stage & Television Today* 6 Oct., When 'Ten Little Niggers' opened for a week's run at Birmingham Theatre on Monday members of the co-ordinating



committee against racial discrimination (CARD) staged a protest demonstration outside. **1968** C. BROWN in A. Dundes *Mother Wit* (1973) 232/1 Perhaps the most soulful word in the world is 'nigger'. **1969** D. L. LEE in A. Chapman *New Black Voices* (1972) ii. 286 Change, stop being an instant yes machine. Change. Niggers don't change they just grow. That's a change; Bigger and better niggers. **1971** *Black World* Apr. 56 Who the hell you think, nigger? **1972** D. ONYEAMA *Nigger at Eton* iii. 83, I remember that in conversation, some boys occasionally used 'nigger' in reference to black people. I never dreamt that it was a racial name and generally used with contempt; I just reckoned it was a harmless slang word for a black man. **1973** *Black World* Aug. 61/1 Even credit-card niggers didn't really trust banks. **1973** *Times Lit. Suppl.* 14 Dec. 1536/1 You do not reduce to only a ticket-collector, only an asthmatic, only a voter, only a politician, only a pools-winner, only a nigger.

*transf.* **1889** RIDER HAGGARD *Allan's Wife* 262 As for that there claim, well, she's been a good nigger to me.

**b.** Loosely or incorrectly applied to members of other dark-skinned races.

**1857** DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* 251 This relationship with Polynesian Niggers, the native genealogists would probably scout with indignation. **1865** TREVELYAN *Cawnpore* 47 In the eyes of an English planter..bazaar-porters and Rajahs..are niggers alike one and all. **1891** *Melbourne Argus* 7 Nov. 13/5 The natives of Queensland are nearly always spoken of as 'niggers' by those who are brought most directly in contact with them. **1941** I. L. IDRIESS *Great Boomerang* xxii. 169 The cranky nigger who was on the job broke the only shovel. **1946** K. TENNANT *Lost Haven* (1968) 6 No grandson of mine,..is going to be brought up by them thieving, godless, nigger Detwinters. *Ibid.* xviii. 312 When that old nigger went past she turned up her nose.

**c. to work like a nigger**, to work exceptionally hard. orig. *U.S.*

**1836** C. GILMAN *Recoll. Southern Matron* in *Southern Rose* 23 July 186/1, I have toiled night and day, I've worked like a nigger, and more than any nigger. **1861** GEO. ELIOT *Let.* 13 Apr. (1954) III. 404 Charles..will..work like a nigger at his music. **1880** 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abroad* 40 He laid into his work like a nigger. **1889** E. DOWSON *Let.* 19 May (1967) 80, I have simply worked like a nigger this week. **1920** R. FRY *Let.* 20 June (1972) II. 481, I have worked like a nigger to arrange it [sc. an exhibition] well. **1931** D. L. SAYERS *Five Red Herrings* ix. 99 Dalziel has been working like a nigger all day, getting him identified by his family and by the station-master at Pinwherry and by the people at Larne.

**d. a nigger in the woodpile (or fence)**: a concealed motive or unknown factor affecting a situation in an adverse way. orig. *U.S.*

**1852** in *Kans. Hist. Quarterly* (1942) XI. 235 No 'nigger in the wood pile' here..; white men are at the bottom of this speculation. **1862** *Congress. Globe* 3 June 2527/1 [These gentlemen] spoke two whole hours..in

showing—to borrow an elegant phrase, the paternity of which belongs, I think, to their side of the House,—that there was ‘a nigger in the wood-pile’. **1897** *Congress. Rec.* 18 Feb. App. 61/1 Like a great many others ignorant of facts, he finds ‘a nigger in the wood pile’ when there is neither wood pile nor nigger. **1911** WOODROW WILSON in *Outlook* 11 Aug. 944 If you go through the schedules you will find some nigger in every wood pile. **1930** *Cambridge Daily News* 24 Sept. 7/6 Unless..there is a nigger in the wood pile,..the shares ought to be worth a mild flutter at round 8s. 6d. **1952** A. CHRISTIE *They do it with Mirrors* xii. 109 Well now, let's have your point of view. Who's the nigger in the woodpile? The G.I. husband? **1958** *Listener* 13 Feb. 285/1 ‘The starry heaven that we know..is inside us.’.. The nigger in the woodpile is to be found in the word ‘know’. **1958** ‘A. GILBERT’ *Death against Clock* 72 The nigger in the woodpile on this occasion being an elderly spinster of decided views. **1960** *Daily Tel.* 16 Jan. 8 This seems to be the nigger in the woodpile—the woodpile being an industrial recovery and activity remarkable by any standard. **1974** M. GILBERT *Flash Point* ii. 19 It wouldn't have been easy to spot... It's taken Jonas himself all this time to spot the nigger in the woodpile.

**1850** *California Courier* (San Francisco) 4 Sept. 2/6 The majority of the papers, however, think that there ‘is a nigger in the fence’ somewhere. **1888** B. HARTE *Phyllis of Sierras* i. iii. 90 Ef he aint scooped up by Jenny Bradley he'll guess there's a nigger in the fence somewhere. **1911** H. QUICK *Yellowstone Nights* xi. 286 He's always looking for a nigger in the fence.

## 2. a. The black caterpillar of the turnip saw-fly.

**1840** Cuvier's *Anim. Kingd.* 584 *Athalia centifoliæ* is extremely destructive to turnips, its larva being known under the name of the Nigger, or Black Jack. **1844** H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 774 The larvæ are known in different parts of the country by the names of black caterpillar, blacks, nigger, canker, etc. **1874** LUBBOCK *Orig. & Met. Ins.* i. 7 To this group belongs the nigger, or black caterpillar of the turnip.

## b. (See quot.)

**1855** MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 120 *Nigger*, the name of lady-bird larvæ in hop grounds.

## c. (See quot.)

**1855** OGILVIE *Suppl.*, *Nigger*, a species of holothuria, so called by the Cornish fishermen. It is very common in deep water off the Deadmen.

## d. Used in Comb. to denote a dark shade of colour, as **nigger-brown** (also *ellipt.*), **-grey**, **-pink**.

**1914** *Lady's Pictorial* 4 July p. v (Advt.), Soft Taffeta Hat..In Black,..Nigger, Mole, and White. **1915** *Home Chat* 2 Jan. 11/1 Nigger-brown cloth. **1917** *Ibid.* 3 Nov. 139/2 Nigger or, as it is now called, ‘Zulu’, is also to be seen.

**1922** D. H. LAWRENCE *England, my England* 116 She was wearing a wide hat of grey straw, and a loose, swinging dress of nigger-grey velvet. **1923** [see *desert-brown* adj.]. **1930** J. DOS PASSOS *42nd Parallel* i. 124 On each table there were niggerpink and vermillion paper flowers. **1960** V. WILLIAMS *Walk Egypt* 89 A dry-goods store showed a dress of 'nigger-pink'. **1973** *Times* 12 Nov. 4/4 Decorations in autumnal colours, that is, coral pink and what used to be nigger brown.

**3. U.S. a.** A form of steam-engine used on ships; a steam-capstan employed in hauling river-boats over bars or snags. **b.** A strong spiked timber by which logs are canted in a saw-mill.

**1867** J. A. HOSMER *Trip to States by Yellowstone & Missouri* 58 The boat..struck the bar; they then began to work with the spars and nigger, and at two o'clock we got off. **1875** KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* **1878** J. H. BEADLE *Western Wilds* 378 Then oaths, spars, 'nigger-engine' and all the other available machinery were set in operation. **1882** *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 175/2 One of the 'nigger' engines is suddenly called into service to tighten a two-inch rope, or wind up a discarded cable. **1890** *Cent. Dict.* **1900** *Atlantic Monthly* LXXXV. 103/2 'Carriages', bright with red and green lanterns..rush to and fro, seizing the logs as they come from the 'kickers' and 'niggers'. **1910** S. E. WHITE *Rules of Game* i. v. 32 When the car had flown back to its starting-point, the 'nigger' rose from obscurity to turn the log half-way round. **1929** *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 482/1 A steam or air 'nigger' (mechanically operated steel arms) helps to place the log in the proper position.

**4. a.** In *Soap-making*: (see quot.).

**1887** DITTMAR & PATON in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 203 On settling a dark-coloured 'nigger', or under-lye separates out.

**b. U.S.** An impurity in the insulating covering of an electrical conductor.

**a 1890** *Sci. Amer.* LIV. 308 (Cent.), The consequence..might be that what the workmen call a nigger would get into the armature, and burn it so as to destroy its service.

**c. slang.** (See quot. 1960.)

**1934** *Tit-Bits* 31 Mar. 12/1 The film world has a colourful compilation of expressions unlike those in other walks of life. 'Niggers' are not men of colour, but blackboards used to 'kill' unwanted reflections from the powerful lights. **1937** A. BUCHANAN *Film Making* iii. 52 'Niggers' are wooden oblong screens used to 'nigger-off' or shield light from faces, or shadows on walls, and so 'Her face needs a nigger' is not such an alarming statement as it sounds to the uninitiated. **1957** MANVELL & HUNTLEY *Technique Film Music* ii. 32 In silent film days we had all the apparatus we needed in the studios, with miles of cables, banks of arcs, and great screens (known in the industry as 'niggers') to reflect light and help shadow effects. **1960** O. SKILBECK *ABC of Film & TV* 89 *Nigger*, an adjustable Mask on a stand, used on the Floor to

shield the camera from, or to achieve effects with, lights.

**5. Comb.**, chiefly objective, as **nigger-breaker, -chaser, -dealer, -driver, -killer, -lover, -stealer, trader, worship(per), nigger-driving, -looking, -loving** adjs.

**1845** F. DOUGLASS *Narr. Life F. Douglass* 57 All of this added weight to his reputation as a '\*nigger-breaker'.

**1921** C. E. MULFORD *Bar-20 Three* xvi. 217 Most likely they'll be \*nigger-chasers th' way some folks'll be steppin' lively to get out of th' way.

**1853** F. W. THOMAS *John Randolph* 285 You know Robinson the \*nigger-dealer, who has the pen down town.

**1833** J. NEAL *Down Easters* I. 70 When the \*nigger-drivers falls out among themselves. **1861** FREEMAN in Stephens *Life* (1895) I. 270 Let the nigger-drivers go to the devil their own way. **1891** C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 198, I never came across such a beast of a nigger driver as this fellow Cole.

**1856** OLMSTED *Slave States* 108 If a man does not provide well for his slaves..he gets the name of a '\*nigger killer'. **1890** *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Grampus*, The whip-tailed scorpion,..also called mule-killer, nigger-killer.

**1837** *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 99 He has a half-caste, dropsical wife, and a sickly \*nigger-looking child.

**1909** R. E. KNOWLES *Attic Guest* xiii. 178 'Then you can take what you deserve, curse you for a \*nigger-lover,' I heard the Colonel retort madly. **1924** *American Mercury* Feb. 135/2 Shorty—Nigger-lover! *He throws the money in her face.* **1930** J. Dos Passos *42nd Parallel* II. 140 'Niggerlover,' yelled Joe in her ear... Janey began to cry. **1958** *Church Times* 21 Nov. 6/4 You can call a man a *Kaffir-Boetie* in Johannesburg and a nigger-lover in the Southern States; but both mean precisely the same thing and have the same accent. **1959** *Encounter* Dec. 45/2 They nick our boys and let the Spades go!.. Nigger-lovers! **1972** *Guardian* 3 July 8/2 Black Mountain College..was a seat of free love, communism, and nigger-lovers.

**1914** S. LEWIS *Our Mr. Wrenn* 3 Mrs Zapp was too conscientiously dolorous to be much cheered by the sympathy of a \*nigger-lovin' Yankee. **1962** *Guardian* 3 Oct. 1/6 It is still wise not to..admit you represent such a Nigger-loving Red publication as the 'Guardian'. **1975** J. RATHBONE *Kill Cure* III. iv. 106 You nigger-loving bitch.

**1839** R. M. BIRD *Adventures R. Day* I. xxv. 181, I was 'a kidnapper, a Georgeye \*nigger-stealer'. **1884** 'MARK TWAIN' *Huck. Finn* xxxiii. 314 Only I couldn't believe it. Tom Sawyer a nigger-stealer.

**1853** F. W. THOMAS *John Randolph* 285 He's not in favor of these regular \*nigger-traders is he? **1884** 'MARK TWAIN' *Huck. Finn* viii. 60 But I noticed dey

wuz a nigger trader roun' de place considerable lately en I begin to get oneasy.

**1862** RUSSELL in *Times* 29 Jan., The Conservative masses, which lie between negrolatry or \*nigger-worship and Secession.

**1866** *Cornh. Mag.* Jan. 37 The contempt which they..have expressed for \*nigger-worshippers during the Jamaica troubles.

**6.** *attrib.* (passing into *adj.*). **a.** Belonging to the Negro race; black-skinned. **nigger-baby, -blood, boy, girl, -lips, mouth**; also **nigger-blooded, -skinned** *adjs.*; **nigger-dead** *adj.*; **nigger minstrel**, one of a group of entertainers performing songs and dances typical of or based on plantation life in the Southern U.S., freq. by white men with blackened faces; also *ellipt.*, *nigger*.

**1872** SCHELE DE VERE *Americanisms* 117 The real \*nigger baby is known under the name of pickaninny.

**1833** J. NEAL *Down-Easters* I. 66 If there's a drop of \*nigger-blood in 'em, they'll always show it in their temper.

**1932** W. FAULKNER *Light in August* v. 96 'Take your black hand off of me, you damn \*niggerblooded—' The hand shut down again.

**1825** J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* III. 207 Nobody there, I guess, but a \*nigger boy.  
**1970** R. D. ABRAHAM *Positively Black* ii. 26 'Nigger boy,' he said to me, 'how'd you like to meet your maker right now?'

**1970** W. FORD in O. Coombs *We speak as Liberators* 43, I would tell of being Black and Proud and Black and Loud and Black and Bowed and Black and \*niggerdead.

**1836** MARRYAT *Pirate* iv, You've been sweet upon that \*nigger girl.

**1842** BARHAM *Ingol. Leg. Ser. II. Broth. Birch.* xlv, Their \*nigger inhabitants [devils] shook in their hoofs.

**1922** JOYCE *Ulysses* 219 From the hoardings Mr. Eugene Stratton grinned with thick \*niggerlips at Father Conmee.

**1860** A. J. MUNBY *Diary* 17 Mar. in D. Hudson *Munby* (1972) 56 My 'comic' friend suggested that I should apply to certain '\*niggers', who had just bowed themselves off the stage... In this den were two or three men with blackened faces, taking off their shabby nigger costume. **1860** E. COWELL *Diary* 13 Sept. in *Cowells in America* (1934) 155 A Company of 'nigger minstrels' are to be here tomorrow night. **1883** BLACK *Shandon Bells* xvii, He..made sure he was about to be serenaded by a nigger-minstrel. **1917** A. WAUGH *Loom of Youth* II. i. 93 And do you think he really imagines he is doing any good to his form by giving that nigger minstrel entertainment up there?

**1959** I. & P. OPIE *Lore & Lang. Schoolch.* i. 13 Nellie Bligh..was the heroine of a mid-nineteenth-century nigger minstrel song by Stephen Foster.

**1922** JOYCE *Ulysses* 365 The dark one [sc. girl] with the mop head and the \*nigger mouth.

**1938** \*Nigger-skinned [see *fawn-eyed* adj.].

**b.** Of or belonging to, occupied by, Negroes, as ***nigger culture, dialect, emancipation, land, melody, music, quarters, show, song***. Also *transf.*

**1970** J. B. COLE in A. Chapman *New Black Voices* (1972) iii. 493 When blacks refer to ‘\*Nigger culture’, they often very explicitly speak of soul and style.

**1834** Knickerbocker III. 445 And I would say too, that although *mighty smart*, and a *mighty smart chance, mighty big*, and *mighty little* was excellent ‘\*nigger’ dialect, yet it was not so refined, as an orator might use.

**1844** DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xxi, He has been, and is, the advocate..of \*Nigger emancipation.

**1834** R. H. FROUDE in *Rem.* (1838) I. 380 \*Niggerland is a poor substitute for the *limen Apostolorum*.

**1846** Knickerbocker XXVIII. 244 Captain Marin would give a touch from a sea-song, or a specimen of a ‘\*nigger-melody’. **1857** J. D. BORTHWICK *Three Yrs. in Calif.* xii. 212 My entertainers, producing two violins, favoured me with a selection of Nigger melodies. **1873** M. E. BRADDON *L. Davoren* I. Prol. ii. 21 Perhaps you could oblige us with a nigger melody. **1894** G. DU MAURIER *Trilby* I. iii. 219 He..can even scream with laughter at..a nigger melody.

**1948** A. LOMAX in A. Dundes *Mother Wit* (1973) 472/1 If you like this \*nigger music.

**1856** OLMSTED *Slave States* 61 You'll see some \*nigger-quarters.

**1856** C. E. DE LONG in *Calif. Hist. Soc. Q.* (1930) IX. 60 Went to a \*nigger show. **1884** ‘MARK TWAIN’ *Huck. Finn* xxvi. 261 They never go to the circus, nor theatre, nor nigger shows, nor nowheres. **1909** R. E. KNOWLES *Attic Guest* xiii. 156 They'll be flaunting that Uncle Tom's Cabin nigger show under your noses.

**1844** *United Service Jrnl.* XLIV. 21 He was never at rest,—now singing a \*nigger song on the deck. **1851** H. MAYHEW *London Labour* I. 273/1, I sell ballads and manuscript music., which is ‘transposed’..from the nigger songs.

**c.** In special uses, as ***nigger caterpillar, -hair, -jockey, Latin*** (see quotes.); **nigger cloth** = *Negro cloth* ([NEGRO 7](#)); **nigger corner** *U.S.*, a part of a public



building to which Negroes were confined; **nigger fish**, a small grouper, *Cephalopholis fulvus*, found in the West Indies and off the coast of Florida; = **CONY, CONEY** *n.* 7 b; **nigger goose** *N. Amer. local* (see quot.); **nigger heaven** *U.S. slang*, the top gallery in a theatre; **nigger heel** *Naut.* (see quot.); also **nigger-heeled** *a.* (see quot. 1961); **nigger hunt**, the organized pursuit of Negroes for the purpose of attacking them; so **nigger-hunter, -hunting**; **nigger lice** *U.S.*, informal name of the prickly awns of various species of plants, esp. of the genus *Desmodium*; **nigger luck**, exceptionally good luck; **nigger shooter** *U.S. slang*, a catapult; **nigger-stick** *U.S. slang* (see quot. 1974); **nigger toe** *U.S.*, a Brazil nut.

**1850** **LOUDON** *Encycl. Gard.* (ed. 2) 498 The black jack, or \*nigger caterpillar, being the larva of *Athalia centifoliæ*.

**1857** *Chambers's Jnl.* 3 Jan. 3/2 The garments of..copper-coloured \*nigger cloth. **1860** J. G. **HOLLAND** *Miss Gilbert's Career* iv. 61 You see he sells some of his nigger cloth for goods. **1955** W. **FOSTER-HARRIS** *Look of Old West* i. 38 Typically the cloth was linsey-woolsey... 'Nigger cloth' it was called. It had been much used for slaves' garments, [etc.].

**1894** 'MARK TWAIN' in *Century Mag.* June 233/1 In the '\*nigger corner' sat Chambers.

**1876** G. B. **GOODE** *Catal. Fishes Bermudas* 60 The red form corresponds to *Terranus ouatalibe*, and is known as the \*Nigger-fish. **1888** *Amer. Fishes* 321 Next in importance to the Plaice, comes the Flat Fish, *Pseudopleuronectes Americanus*... New York anglers call it the 'Nigger Fish'.

**1917** T. G. **PEARSON** *Birds of Amer.* I. 97/2 The Cormorants have many local names, such as 'Shag', 'Lawyer', and '\*Nigger Goose'. **1941** R. **FAHERTY** *Big Old Sun* 313 You can eat curlew, or kill duck or coot or niggergoose if they come flying out yonder. **1947** *National Geographic Mag.* Sept. 339/1 A large flight of cormorants, called there [sc. in North Carolina] 'nigger geese', passed close aboard. **1957** W. L. **McATEE** *Folk-Names Canad. Birds* 5 Double-crested Cormorant..nigger goose (in allusion to its colour and its goose-like appearance, especially when in flight in the V-formation so closely associated with the common Canada goose).

**1852** *Smithson. Contrib. Knowl.* V. II. 41 This plant [*Polysiphonia arietina*] is common in various places in Long Island Sound... 'Pooh! that's what we call "\*nigger-hair"'.

**1878** A. **DALY** in J. F. **Daly** *Life A. Daly* (1917) 249 There is a '\*Nigger Heaven' (as the third tier is called in Troy) here, & as 'tis very capacious I have been liberal with my pencilled passes. **1931** 'D. **STIFF**' *Milk & Honey Route* xiv. 151 These..entertainments..have raised their prices beyond the reach of the hobo, unless he wants to go to 'nigger heaven'. **1973** A. **DUNDES** *Mother Wit* 222 This extension or transformation of the 'Nigger Heaven' stereotype has no doubt contributed to the continued currency of Harlem folk speech.

**1901** *Rudder* XII. 302/2 The after leech would take an incurve or ‘\*nigger heel’, as sailmakers call it.

**1922** C. G. DAVIS *How Sails are Made* (ed. 2) 63 A double-bighted sail would, if not carefully handled and hauled out too hard on peak and clew, become ‘\*nigger-heeled’, as a hollow leech was called. **1934** *Yachting Monthly* LVII. 11/1 We were watching a hawse~fallen sloop beating in under a badly nigger-heeled mainsail. **1961** F. H. BURGESS *Dict. Sailing* 150 *Niggerheeled*, said of the leech of a sail that curves inward of a line from peak to clew, and is therefore not roached.

**1834** *Chambers's Edin. Jrnl.* III. 135/3 When a slave runs away..a party is made up for a \*nigger hunt. **1940** E. CALDWELL *Trouble in July* x. 165 This ain't no nigger-hunt—this here's a jawing match!

**1959** *Encounter* Mar. 87 The young ‘\*nigger-hunters’ of Notting Hill.

**1834** *Chambers's Edin. Jrnl.* III. 135/3 In Kentucky..\*nigger-hunting is a favourite sport. **1958** *Encounter* Dec. 4/2 They had then armed themselves,..and had gone on what they described..as a ‘nigger-hunting expedition’. **1971** in C. Mullard *Black Britain* (1973) iv. xi. 142 The racists, who were no doubt nigger hunting, as they call it, felt that this was easy meat.

**1838** HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. II. iii, A \*nigger-jockey..is a gentleman that trades in niggers,—buys them in one state, and sells them in another, where they arn't known.

**1859** M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 65 It is in perpetual conflict with the rules of good Latinity,..partly from the addle~headed understanding of the characters supposed to write this \*nigger Latin.

**1933** *Sun* (Baltimore) 11 Sept. 6/7 The iron weed with its deep color, and..great clumps of ‘\*nigger lice’. **1940** H. L. MENCKEN *Happy Days* 43 Sometimes a black-hearted boy would sneak into the adjacent brickyard, which was covered in large part with Jimpson weeds, plantains and other such vegetable outlaws, and return with a large ball of nigger-lice. **1946** *Sun* (Baltimore) 2 Oct. 12/3 When I spoke the other day of ‘nigger lice’, I was referring to the tick trefoil, its scientific name.

**1851** R. GLISAN *Jrnl. Army Life* (1874) 90, I occasionally made him a little envious by my \*nigger-luck, as he is pleased to term it. **1900** R. H. SAVAGE *Midnight Passenger* (1901) 135 It has been a great stroke of nigger luck. **1909** *Dialect Notes* III. 352 You can't beat me playing dominoes. It's jest your nigger-luck that gets away with me.

**1876** E. W. HEAP *Diary* 26 Feb. in *Publ. Amer. Dial. Soc.* (1969) LII. 53, I had a job on hand making \*Nigger shooters for Dr's children. **1883** SWEET & KNOX *On Mexican Mustang through Texas* 339 Just about the time people have got



used to tops buzzing about their ears, the 'nigger-shooter' mania breaks out. **1901** ADE *Forty Mod. Fables* 172 All you wanted to do was to tear out with those Toughs and kill Birds with Nigger-Shooters. **1963** R. I. McDAVID *Mencken's Amer. Lang.* vi. 284 In the South it [sc. a slingshot] is still sometimes called a *nigger-shooter*.

**1971** *Guardian* 18 Sept. 11/7 Conditions inside American prisons... Prisoners live their lives at the end of gun barrels and what are often known as '\*nigger-sticks'. **1973** *Black Panther* 15 Sept. 17/3 They were attacked and brutally beaten by 50 to 60 guards armed with tear gas, plexiglass shields and four-foot long 'nigger sticks'. **1974** *Guidelines to Volunteer Services* (N.Y. State, Dept. Correctional Services) 42 *Niggerstick*, officer's baton.

**1896** *Dialect Notes* I. 421 \**Nigger toes*: for *Brazil nuts*. **1958** J. M. LACY in A. Dundes *Mother Wit* (1973) 597/2 He buys..nuts called 'nigger toes'. **1973** *Times* 27 Aug. 5/8 In Virginia brazil nuts are called *nigger-toes* and chewed with great relish.

Hence '**niggerdom**', collectively. '**niggerish** a., pertaining to, characteristic of, the Negro. '**niggerism**, (a) Negro blood; (b) a term or expression peculiar to Negroes. '**niggerling**, a little Negro.

**1862** *Congress. Globe* 28 Mar. 1414/2 New England, where they hate \*niggerdom worse than the devil. **1868** *Good Words* 1 Oct. 603/2 The conquering nigger..caught many of the Aborigines, blacked them over, and sent them off to proclaim the glories of Niggerdom. **1876** BESANT & RICE *Gold. Butterfly* xxx, The modern Arabs, the gipsies, niggerdom in general.

**1825** J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* II. 67 Ye great \*niggerish lookin', wap-sided haw. **1866** *Atlantic Monthly* XVIII. 79 When I say 'colored', I mean one thing, respectfully; and when I say 'niggerish', I mean another, disgustedly. *Ibid.*, My Auntie's piety was not of the niggerish kind.

**1844** *Fraser's Mag.* XXIX. 656 An individual tainted even in the eighth degree with \*niggerism. **1844** *St. Louis* (Missouri) *Reveille* 24 Nov. 2/4 Scrub and whitewash your spiritual niggerism, or you will forever rest in the valley of *Sheol*! **1856** *Illinois State Register* (Springfield) 19 June 2/1 For every democrat who deserts to niggerism, one hundred old line whigs join the democracy against it. **1873** *Porcupine* 19 Apr. 38/3 For the occasional dash or suspicion of niggerism in the mangling of the words, common custom and coincidence will quite account. **1883** WINTHROP Edwin *Brothertoft* II. v, [To] ventriloquize derisive niggerisms through the larynx. **1970** G. JACKSON *Let.* 10 June in *Soledad Brother* (1971) 33 He and my mother went to great pains to impress on me that it was the worst form of niggerism to hook and jab..at other blacks.

**1842** Hood *Black Job* viii, All the little \*Niggerlings emerge As lily white as mussels.

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### Additions 1993

Add: **[1.] e.** A person of any colour considered to be despicable or inferior; one who is socially or economically disadvantaged. (*contemptuous* or *disparaging*.)

[**1837**, etc.: see *white nigger* s.v. **WHITE a. 11 a.**] **1922** C. T. CAMPION tr. *Schweitzer's On Edge of Primeval Forest* x. 164 Without this safeguard he [sc. the missionary] is soon in danger of becoming a nigger, as it is called here. **1978** *Maledicta* II. 164 The author was once warned by a black gang-leader that 'them Chinese niggers is the worst kind'. **1979** W. KENNEDY *Ironweed* v. 120 It was the church where the Italians went to preserve their souls in a city where Italians were the niggers and micks of a new day. **a 1986** R. DELLUMS in WEBSTER Add. s.v., It's time for somebody to lead all of America's niggers..all the people who feel left out of the political process.

**[6.] d.** As *adj.* Supposedly used by, characteristic of, or suitable for Blacks (*dismissive* and *offensive*); contemptible, disreputable, or despicable; inferior. *U.S. slang*.

**1930** W. FAULKNER *As I lay Dying* 190 She would maybe buy a cheap comb or a bottle of nigger toilet water. **1953** *Sun* (Baltimore) 15 Aug. (B ed.) 10/6 John Kissel..received a nigger offer from the Ottawa Rough Riders, and accepted it. **1965** 'MALCOLM X' *Autobiogr.* (1966) vi. 162 White gangsters had awakened to the fortunes being made in what they had previously considered 'nigger pennies'; and the numbers game was referred to by the white racketeers as 'nigger pool'. **1978** J. UPDIKE *Coup* (1979) vii. 258 In my student need across the seas I had held a variety of lowly jobs—'nigger work', in the friendly phrase of the lily-white elite of Franchise. **1978** *Maledicta* II. 165 *Nigger logic*, any inferior, erroneous, overly simplistic or absurdly convoluted form of reasoning.

**pansy**, *n.*

(*ˈpænzɪ*)

Forms: 5 **pensee**, 6 **pensy**, **pawnsy**, **paunsie**, 6–7 **pancy**, 6–8 **pansie**, 7–**pansy**. Also β. 6 **pances** (?*pl.*), **pawnce**, **paunse**, 6–7 **panse**, **paunce**.

[Formerly *pensee*, *pensy*, a. F. *pensée*, *pencée* (a 1500 in Godef. *Compl.*), a fanciful application of *pensée* ‘thought’. The β form *panse* is not given in Fr. dicts.; but OF. had *pense*, *panse*, beside *pensée*, *pansée*, in the sense ‘thought’.

A reference to the popular or ‘vulgar’ standing of the name in France occurs in the French botanist Ruel or Ruellius *De natura stirpium* (1536) 595 ‘*Violæ inodoræ genus esse putaverim quam vulgus gallicum penseam vocat*’.]

**1. a.** The common name of *Viola tricolor*, esp. of the cultivated varieties; the wild plant is a common weed in cornfields, etc., with small flowers compounded of purple, yellow, and white; the cultivated form is a favourite garden plant, with very numerous varieties having large richly and variously coloured flowers. Also called **HEARTSEASE**, *q.v.*, and dialectally and locally by various fanciful names, as *kiss-me-at-the-garden-gate*, *love-in-idleness*, *three-faces-under-a-hood*, etc.

**a 1500** *Assembly of Ladies* 62 With margarettes growing in ordinaunce..Ne-m'oublie-mies and sovenez also; The povre pensees were not disloged there. **1530** **PALSGR.** 251/2 Pancy floure, *menve pencee* [cf. 231/1 Hertesease, *menve pensee*]. *Ibid.* 253/1 Pensy floure, *pensee*. **1592** **GREENE** *Upst. Courtier in Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) II. 217 The checkerd paunsie, or party coloured harts ease. **1597** **GERARDE** *Herbal* II. ccxcix. §1. 703 Harts ease is named..Pansies, Liue in Idlenes. **1629** **PARKINSON** *Paradisi in Sole* lii. 283 In English Hartsease, and Pansies of the French name *Pensees*. Some giue it foolish names, as Loue in idlenesse, Cull me to you, and Three faces in a hood. **1637** **MILTON** *Lycidas* 144 The Pansie freakt with jeat. **1697** **DRYDEN** *Virg. Past.* II. 66 Pancies to please the Sight, and Casia sweet to smell. **1771** **LANGHORNE** *Fables of Flora, Violet & Pansy* vii, On that fair bank a Pansy grew, That borrow'd from indulgent skies A velvet shade and purple hue. **1866** *Treas. Bot.* 1218 The endless varieties of Heartsease, or Pansy, are all derived from the cornfield weed *V[iola] tricolor*, and the allied species *V. altaica* from Tartary, and *V. grandiflora* from Switzerland.

β **1548** **TURNER** *Names of Herbes* H v, Called in english two faces in a hoode or panses. **1579** **SPENSER** *Sheph. Cal.* Apr. 142 The pretie Pawnce And the Cheuisaunce, Shall match with the fayre flowre Delice. **1601** **HOLLAND** *Pliny* xxi. x. 92 The purple March Violet..after them the Panse. **1617** **B. JONSON** *Vision of Delight* 164 The shining Meads Doe boast the Paunce, the Lillie, and the Rose. **c 1620** **ROBINSON** *Mary Magd.* I. 316.

**b.** A figure or representation of the flower of the pansy as an ornament. [So in 16th c. Fr.]

**1553** *Richmond Wills* 76, I beghweytt and gyff to my broder Constable my pawnsy of golde with the ruby in it.

**c.** Comb., as **pansy-culture, -flower, -grower, -growing, -tint, -velvet; pansy-coloured, -dark, -like, -purple, -violet, -yellow** adjs.  
[Cf. F. *pensée* 'couleur d'un violet brun' (Littré).]

**1891** *Daily News* 22 June 6/2 A yoke of pansy-coloured velvet. **1909** *Daily Chron.* 18 Mar. 10/3 Lady Kenmare in black and Georgiana Lady Dudley, tall and beautiful in pansy-coloured cloth, were Lady Mayo's assistants.

**1897** *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Jan. 10/1 He turned his attention to pansy-culture.

**1862** G. M. HOPKINS *Vision of Mermaids* (1929), Their pansy-dark or bronzen locks were strung With coral shells.

**a 1548** HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII* 81 The Frenche kyng & his bend..with garlondes of friers knottes of white satten, and in euery garlond liij. paunse flowers, whiche signified, thinke on Fraunces.

**1865** R. BUCHANAN *Sutherland's Pansies* iv, But pansy-growing made his heart within Blow fresh.

**1898** *Atlantic Monthly* Apr. 460/1 The velvety, pansy-like variety of the birdfoot violet.

**1898** *Daily News* 11 May 4/4 A gown of pansy-purple velvet. **1901** *Westm. Gaz.* 13 July 2/1 A wild upheaval of pansy-purple volcano-shaped peaks. **1940** C. DAY LEWIS tr. *Virgil's Georgics* iv. 89 Eridanus, than which through fertile lands no river Rushes with more momentum to the pansy-purple sea.

**2.** The colour of a pansy; *spec.* a shade of blue or purple.

**1914** JOYCE *Dubliners* 227 A red-faced young woman, dressed in pansy. **1926** *Eaton's News Weekly* 26 June 13/1 Bathing suit...in blue, cardinal, pansy, black. **1935** *Amer. Speech* X. 193/2 The following terms are applied to blue...: *slate, aster, indigo, pansy*, [etc.].

**3. a.** An effeminate man; a male homosexual.

**1929** M. LIEF *Hangover* 210 'Say, what do you know about this?' he said. 'One of those pansies was trying to date me up!' **1937** M. ALLINGHAM *Dancers in Mourning* xiv. 192 You don't want to feel that every other user of the road privately feels that your club is nothing but a pack of pansies on bicycles. **1947** A. P. GASKELL in D. M. Davin *N.Z. Short Stories* (1953) 276 He struck a chesty attitude standing naked on the seat. 'Do I look like a pansy?'

'Not with that thing.' **1956** [see *CAMP a. (and n.<sup>5</sup>)*]. **1957** [see *boy friend, boy-friend s.v. BOY n.<sup>1</sup> 7*]. **1960** J. BETJEMAN *Summoned by Bells* ix. 98 There Bignose plays the organ And the pansies all sing flat. **1967** G. JACKSON *Let.* 16 May in *Soledad Brother* (1971) 115 They make emotional pansies of the boys with that sanctimonious dogma. **1971** F. FORSYTH *Day of Jackal* xx. 335, I don't like you in that stuff. It makes you look like all those nasty pansies back in there. **1975** *Amer. N. & Q.* XIII. 146/2 Evidence that Sir Thopas is a 'pansy' or a 'queer', who would be ridiculed as a homosexual. **1976** BOTHAM & DONNELLY *Valentino* vii. 52 A group of degenerate art students, most of whom he considered pansies.

**b. Comb., as *pansy-ass, -boy*.**

**1934** *New Statesman* 15 Sept. 318/2 Reminiscences of the fate of Heines and Röhm were reflected in shouts about 'pansy-boys'. **1976** N. THORNBURG *Cutter & Bone* viii. 192 He learned all about the ingratitude and stupidity of the man's..pansy-ass sons.

**Polack**, *n.* (*a.*)

(*ˈpəʊlək*, *ˈpəʊlək*, *ˈpəʊlə:k*)

Also 6–7 **Polake**, 7 **Polaque**, **-eak**, **-ach**, (9 **-ak**) 9 **Pollack**, **Pullack** and with lower-case initial.

[*a.* Pol. *Polak* a Pole; Ger. *Polack*, F. *Polaque*.]

**A.** *n.*

**1.** A native or inhabitant of Poland; a Pole; in quot. 1609, the king of Poland. So †**Polaker** *Obs. rare*.

**1574** SIDNEY *Let.* 27 Nov. in *Wks.* (1968) III. 99 The Polakes hartily repente their so fur fetcht election. **1599** SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 192 Then for his Catholikes the Polakers, they clearly slip collar. **1601** R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 127 The last of these fower vertues the Polacks want, that is, celeritie. **1602** SHAKES. *Ham.* II. ii. 63. **1609** MIDDLETON *Sir R. Shirley* *Wks.* (Bullen) VIII. 307 He was received with great magnificence..both of the Polack himself and of his people. **1657** *North's Plutarch, Add. Lives* (1676) 80 *margin*, The Moscovites discomfited by the Polacks in the battle of Orsa. **1895** *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, *Polack*, same as *Pole*. **1922** M. F. LIDDELL in *Contemp. Rev.* Dec. 770 Danzig fears and hates the 'Polacks' and still more the French. **1933** S. K. PADOVER *Let Day Perish* 140 You cowardly little sneak! It's craven pups like you that make the Polacks trample on us! If we Jews would learn to..kill..like they do, the—Polacks would grovel at our feet—!

**2.** A Jew from Poland.

**1834** *Manch. Old Hebrew Congregation Acct. Bk.* in B. Williams *Making of Manchester Jewry* (1976) iii. 71 Given him the Polack for leaving Town 8/6. **1892** [see **LITVAK**]. **1909** *Cent. Dict.* (Suppl.) *Polack*, a name given to the Jews of the Polish provinces, by their Lithuanian co~religionists. **1971** M. A. SHULVASS *From East to West* i. 23 It is hard to arrive at any accurate estimate of the numbers of Jews who emigrated westward in this period... The strongest indication that they came in considerable numbers is the fact that the nickname Pollack was current both in the Germanies and in the Hapsburg monarchy. *Ibid.* iv. 111 Following the great influx of *Betteljuden* from Poland to the West, the nickname Pollack assumed a more derogatory connotation than ever before.

**3.** *N. Amer.* A (usu. disparaging) term for a Polish immigrant or person of Polish descent.

**1898** F. P. DUNNE *Mr. Dooley in Peace & War* 234 'Well,' said Mr. Dooley, 'ye'er thoughts on this subject is inthrestin', but not conclusive, as Dorsey

said to th' Pollack, that thought he cud lick him.' **1900** *Congress. Rec.* 7 Feb. 1625/2, I have some Polacks in my district, and..the blood of Pulaski, the brave Pole who fell at Savannah in the defense of American liberty, has never been avenged. **1905** [see [COLD a. 1 c](#)]. **1922** E. E. CUMMINGS *Enormous Room* iv. 61 Get out of the way you damn Polak! **1935** W. SAROYAN *Daring Young Man* 108 All that mattered was this moment, Wolinsky in love, alive, walking down Ventura Avenue, in America, Wolinsky of the universe, the crazy Polak with the broken nose. **1944** *Sun* (Baltimore) 2 Aug. 2/3 'You know, I sure did hate to shoot him,' said the sergeant, 'Because he might have been a Polack, but he wouldn't stop.' **1952** F. L. ALLEN *Big Change* iii. 53 They were scornfully known as Dagoes, Polacks, Hunkies, Kikes. **1965** P. DE VRIES *Let me count Ways* vii. 101, I now recognized him as a blond Polak I had seen around town. **1971** [see [HUNK n.<sup>3</sup>](#)]. **1976** *National Observer* (U.S.) 26 June 1/3 The Crusher's a clean-living Polack from Milwaukee who don't truck with no drugs or bad women.

**B. adj.** Polish. Also, of Polish origin or descent.

**1602** SHAKES. *Hamlet* v. ii. 388 You from the Polake warres, and you from England Are heere arriued. **1831** CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* iii. xii, Any soldier, were he but a Polack Scytheman, shall be welcome. **1928** [see [FLY v.<sup>1</sup> 5 a](#)]. **1930** [see [BOHUNK](#)]. **1966** E. V. CUNNINGHAM *Helen* iv. 45 You're some cheap Polack hooker that was tossed out of a parochial school fer diddling little boys. **1974** L. DEIGHTON *Spy Story* xix. 199 Any sign of that goddamn Polack sub?



## Mick<sup>1</sup>

(mɪk)

Also **mick**.

Shortened form of proper name *Michael*, applied jocularly to an Irishman. Also sometimes applied derogatorily. Also *attrib.* or as *adj.*

**1856** *Butte Record* (Oroville, Calif.) 20 Sept. 3/3 One of the 'bucks' jerked something from his belt..and made for a Mick. **1882** 'MARK TWAIN' *Innoc. at Home* ii, When the Micks got to throwing stones through the Methodis' Sunday-school windows. **1893** A. FULLER *Lit. Courtship* x. 93 If once she gets hold of that fact, you will wish you had been born a 'mick'. **1894** P. L. FORD *Hon. Peter Stirling* lvii. 369 Fortunately it's a Mick regiment, so we needn't worry over who was killed. **1913** J. LONDON *Valley of Moon* 27 They's been too much drink, an' you know what the Micks are for a rough house. **1932** E. WILSON *Devil take Hindmost* vii. 38 The Communists..have..recruited..a considerable number of seedy unemployed—niggers, micks. **1943** [see **GEORDIE 2**]. **1961** *Spectator* 12 Aug. 254 Labels such as Wop, Polack and Mick. **1970** M. KENYON *100,000 Welcomes* iv. 32 Where's Ireland, huh? Who needs Micks?

**b.** A Roman Catholic. Also **Mickey**. Freq. derogatory. Also *attrib.* or as *adj.*

**1924** P. MARKS *Plastic Age* 201, I suppose you refer to..my one mick friend, although he isn't Irish. **1948** P. WHITE *Aunt's Story* 258 He says that Mother is wrong to send a girl to a convent with a lot of micks. **1956** 'N. SHUTE' *Beyond Black Stump* ii. 57 Stanley and Phyllis went to Church of England schools..but all the rest of us are Micks. **1960** *Times* 28 Jan. 15/5 Religious rivalries from Salvationists to Plymouth Brethren—united in hatred of the 'Mickey's' or Catholics. **1971** *Guardian* 27 May 13/7 Curiously, in the circumstances of the Australian fondness for the 'o' suffix, a Roman Catholic is apparently never a Catho, but remains, in lower-level Protto usage, a Mick. **1973** *Times* 31 July 12/7 On this theory the Council of Ireland can be presented as a second inter-Parliamentary tier—'a place where the Micks and Prods can get together occasionally' as one Assembly member put it—built on a structure that already exists.

**c.** Examples of various *slang* (usu. derogatory) extended uses.

**1928** F. SCOTT FITZGERALD in *Sat. Even. Post* 28 Apr. 4/2 In sordid poverty, below the bluff two hundred feet away, lived the 'micks'—they had merely inherited the name, for they were now largely of Scandinavian descent. **1937** in Partridge *Dict. Underworld* (1949) 437/2 *Mick*, a road mechanic. **1941** J. SMILEY *Hash House Lingo* 37 *Mick*, Englishman. **1958** L. A. G. STRONG *Light above Lake* 94 He's a dismal ould mick of a God. **1974** *Amer. Speech*



1971 XLVI. 81 *Mexican*: greaser, spick, wetback, mick, halfbreed.

**d. mad mick**: a pick. *slang*.

**1924** *Truth* (Sydney) 27 Apr. 6 *Mad mick*, a pick. **1935** A. J. POLLOCK  
*Underworld Speaks* 74/1 *Mad mick*, a pick (prison) **1973** F. HUELIN *Keep*  
*Moving* 78 Well, I won't buy drinks f'r any bloody ganger, just f'r a chance to  
swing a mad mick.

**bitch**, *n.*<sup>1</sup>

(bɪtʃ)

Forms: 1 **bicce**, **bicge**, 3–4 **bicche**, 4 **bycche**, **biche**, 5 **bych(e)**, (**begch**), 5–6 **bytch(e)**, 9 Sc. **bich**, 6– **bitch**.

[OE. *bicce*, elsewhere in Teutonic only in ON. *bikkja*: it is altogether uncertain what is the relation of the two words, whether they are cognate, or if not, which is adopted from the other. If the ON. *bikkja* was the original, it may, as shown by Grimm, be ad. Lapp. *pittja*: but the converse is equally possible. Ger. *betze*, *petze* (only modern), if related at all, must be a germanized form of *bitch*. The history of the F. *biche* bitch, and *biche* fawn, and their relation, if any, to the Eng. word, are unknown. There is a Sc. form *bick* sometimes affected in the pronunciation of sense 1, to avoid association with sense 2.]

**1. a.** The female of the dog.

**c 1000** ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker *Voc.* 120 *Canicula*, *bicge*. **c 1000** Sax. *Leechd.* I. 362 *Biccean meolc*. **c 1300** K. *Alis.* 5394 *Comen tiges many hundre; Graye bicchen als it waren*. **1387** TREVISA *Higden Rolls Ser.* III. 141 *He fonde a bicche zeue þe childe souke*. **1398** Barth. *De P.R.* xviii. i. (1495) 742 *The bytche bringeth forth blynde whelpes*. **1542** BRINKLOW *Complaynt* xxiv. (1874) 63 *As chast as a sawt bytch*. **1598** SHAKES. *Merry W.* III. v. 11 *A blinde bitches Puppies, fiteene i'th litter*. **a 1680** BUTLER *Rem.* xvii. (1759) 12. **1842** LEVER *Handy Andy* ii. 14 *All the dogs are well, I hope, and my favourite bitch*.

**b.** The female of the fox, wolf, and occasionally of other beasts; usually in combination with the name of the species. (Also as in sense 2.)

**1555** EDEN *Decades W. Ind.* III. II. (Arb.) 144 *The dogge tiger beyng thus kyllled they..came to the denne where the bytche remayned with her twoo younge suckynge whelpes*. **1569** SPENSER *Sonn.* vii. **a 1687** COTTON *Aeneid Burlesqued* (1692) 70 *I saw Mischievous bitchfox Helena*. **1749** FIELDING *Tom Jones* x. vii, *We have got the dog fox, I warrant the bitch is not far off*. **1820** SCOTT *Monast.* xxxvi, *As if ye had been littered of bitch-wolves, not born of women*. **1825** Bro. *Jonathan* III. 265 *The whelp of a bitch-catamount*.

**2. a.** Applied opprobriously to a woman; strictly, a lewd or sensual woman. Not now in decent use; but formerly common in literature. In mod. use, esp. a malicious or treacherous woman; of things: something outstandingly difficult or unpleasant. (See also [SON OF A BITCH](#).)

**? a 1400** Chester *Pl.* (1843) 181 *Whom calleste thou queine, skabde biche?* **1575** J. STILL *Gamm. Gurton* II. ii, *Come out, thou hungry needy bitch*. **1675** HOBBS *Odysey* xviii. 310 *Ulysses looking sourly answered, You Bitch*. **1712**

ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* (1755) 9 An extravagant bitch of a wife. **1790** WOLCOTT (P. Pindar) *Adv. Fut. Laureat Wks.* 1812 II. 337 Call her Prostitute, Bawd, dirty Bitch. **1814** BYRON *Let.* 15 Oct. (1830) I. 586 It is well that *one* of us is of such fame, since there is a sad deficit in the *morale* of that article upon my part,—all owing to my ‘bitch of a star’, as Captain Tranchemont says of his planet. **1833** MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1834) 446 You are a..son of a bitch. **1904** KIPLING *Traffics & Discov.* 165 After eight years, my father, cheated by your bitch of a country, he found out who was the upper dog in South Africa. **1913** D. H. LAWRENCE *Sons & Lovers* I. iv. 60 ‘Look at the children, you nasty little bitch!’ he sneered. **1931** T. E. LAWRENCE *Let.* 10 June (1938) 722 ‘She’ says the incarnate sailor, stroking the gangway of the *Iron Duke*, ‘can be a perfect bitch in a cross-sea.’ **1931** R. ALDINGTON *Colonel's Daughter* I. 50 What a preposterous old bitch that woman is. **1944** WYNDHAM LEWIS *Let.* 20 Aug. (1963) 378 For it may be a bitch of a Peace. **1956** S. BECKETT *Godot* I. p. 37 That's how it is on this bitch of an earth.

**b.** Applied to a man (less opprobrious, and somewhat whimsical, having the modern sense of ‘dog’). Not now in decent use.

**a 1500** *E.E. Misc.* (1855) 54 He is a schrewed byche, In fayth, I trow, he be a wyche. **1749** FIELDING *Tom Jones* xvii. iii, Landlord is a vast comical bitch. **1893** STEVENSON *Catriona* xi. 123 Ay, Davie, ye're a queer character..a queer bitch after a', and I have no mind of meeting with the like of ye. **1916** JOYCE *Portrait of Artist* v. 203 Is your lazy bitch of a brother gone yet?

**c.** A primitive form of lamp used in Alaska and Canada.

**1904** E. ROBINS *Magnetic North* I. 233 ‘I'll light a piece of fat pine,’ shouted the Boy... ‘Where's your bitch?’ said Dillon... ‘Haven't you got a condensed milk can with some bacon grease in it, and a rag wick?’ **1927** C. M. RUSSELL *Trails plowed Under* 159 In the long winter nights their light was coal oil lamps or candles—sometimes they were forced to use a ‘bitch’, which was a tin cup filled with bacon grease and a twisted rag wick. **1961** *Canadian Geogr. Jnl.* Jan. 14/2 ‘Office’ work was done by candlelight and sometimes by nothing better than a ‘bitch’—a wick in a shallow tin of tallow.

**3.** *Comb. and attrib.*, as (sense 1) **bitch-puppy, -whelp**; (sense 2) **bitch-baby, -clout, -daughter, -hunter, -son**; †**bitch-daughter** (*obs.*), the nightmare; **bitch-fou** *a.* (*Sc.*), as drunk and sick as a bitch, ‘beastly’ drunk; **bitch-goddess**, in William James's phr. (see quot. 1906); cf. [SUCCESS n. 3](#).

**a 1400** *Cov. Myst.* 218 Come fforthe, thou hore, and stynkyng \*byche-clowte.

**1483** *Cath. Angl.* 31 be \*Bych-doghter, *epialta, noxa*.

**1786** BURNS *Interv. Ld. Dare*, I've been..\*bitch-fou 'mang godly priests.

**1906** W. JAMES *Let.* 11 Sept. (1920) II. 260 A symptom of the moral flabbiness born of the exclusive worship of the \*bitch-goddess *success*.

**1928** D. H. LAWRENCE *Lady Chatterley* ix. 125 He realized now that the bitch-goddess of success had two main appetites: one for flattery, adulation, stroking and tickling such as writers and artists gave her; but the other a grimmer appetite for meat and bones. **1960** *Cambr. Mag.* 21 May 554/2 The pursuit, in our time, in the University and outside, of the Bitch Goddess Success, of a 'better living' without quality.

**1787** HUNTER in *Phil. Trans.* LXXVII. 255 My Lord Clanbrassil purchased a \*Bitch-puppy.

**c 1330** *Arth. & Merl.* 8487 \*Biche sone! thou drawest amis.

**c 1480** *Gloss.* in Wright *Voc.* 251 *Hec catula*, a \*byche qwelpe.

**1601** HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 220 The \*bitch-whelp that commeth of the first litter.

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► **bitch tits** *n. slang* (orig. *Bodybuilding*) = *man breasts n.* at *MAN n.*<sup>1</sup>  
*Compounds 2a.*

**1985** K. BUTLER & L. RAYNER *Best Med.* I. viii. 53 '\*Bitch tits', the growth of the nipples and surrounding tissue, which often requires surgery. **1998** J. UHLs *Fight Club* (film script) 4 He developed bitch tits because his testosterone ration was too high and it caused his body to up the estrogen. **2005** *Hotdog* Dec. 55/1 [She] at least writes about what she knows..ageing fat men who wouldn't know a rave if it bit them on the bitch-tits.

**wop**, *n.*<sup>2</sup> and *a. slang* (orig. *U.S.*).

(wop)

Also **Wop**.

[Origin uncertain; perh. ad. It. dial. *guappo* bold, showy, ruffian, f. Sp. *guapo* bold, dandy, f. L. *vappa* sour wine, worthless fellow.]

**A. n. a.** An Italian or other southern European, esp. as an immigrant or foreign visitor (see also quot. 1914). Now considered *offensive*.

[**1912** A. TRAIN *Courts, Criminals & Camorra* ix. 232 There is a society of criminal young men in New York City... They are known by the euphonious name of 'Waps' or 'Jacks'. These are young Italian-Americans who allow themselves to be supported by one or two women... They form one variety of the many gangs that infest the city.] **1914** JACKSON & HELLYER *Vocab. Criminal Slang* 88 *Wop*, noun. Used principally in the east. An ignorant person; a foreigner; an impossible character... Example: 'You couldn't find a jitney with a search warrant in this bunch of wops.' **1915** WODEHOUSE *Psmith, Journalist* xix. 138 He's a wop, kid... A wop. A dago... An Italian. **1924** E. HEMINGWAY *In our Time* 17 Wops, said Boyle, I can tell wops a mile off. **1930** G. B. SHAW *Apple Cart* ii. 78 *Lysistrata*. What they call an American is only a wop pretending to be a Pilgrim Father. He is no more Uncle Jonathan than you are John Bull. *Magnus*. Yes: we live in a world of wops, all melting into one another. **1940** N. MITFORD *Pigeon Pie* i. 7 Luke's Italian was far more affected than that of any native wop. **1942** *R.A.F. Jnl.* 13 June 26 The pilots..suggested that the 'Wops were yellow' or that they could not 'take it through cloud'. **1952** E. F. DAVIES *Illyrian Venture* ii. 26 We had breakfast in the mess tent, waited on by a cheerful wop. **1973** 'I. DRUMMOND' *Jaws of Watchdog* ii. 26 Sandro dived into the pool... 'You great fat clumsy Wop,' said Jenny, 'you've put my cigarette out.'

**b.** The Italian language.

**1937** [see *for all I know* s.v. *know* v. 11 g]. **1938** E. POUND *Let.* 6 May (1971) 313 'Sardinia is Barbagia' don't seem either English or Wop. **1982** A. MELVILLE-ROSS *Trigger* xx. 225 There's a lot of chat in Wop which I doesn't understand.

**B. adj.** Italian.

**1938** E. POUND *Let.* 8 Jan. (1971) 303 'Praedis': I don't care how you spell your wop painters. **1940** [see *KIKE*]. **1941** C. MILBURN *Diary* 15 Feb. (1979) 83 We have dropped parachutists in Italy... A very nice surprise for our 'Wop' enemy! **1955** E. WAUGH *Officers & Gentlemen* 326 You'll find her full of wop prisoners. **1983** S. F. X. DEAN *It can't be my Grave* iv. 64 Are you telling me,

you Wop son of a bitch, that I can't get into my father's lift?

**'bimbo**<sup>2</sup> *slang* (orig. *U.S.*).

Pl. **-os, -oes**.

[It., = little child, baby; cf. [BAMBINO](#).]

**a.** A fellow, chap; usu. contemptuous.

**1919** *Amer. Mag.* Nov. 69/1 Nothing but the most heroic measures will save the poor bimbo. **1924** WODEHOUSE *Bill the Conqueror* xx. 285 The bimbo Pyke arrived. **1936** R. CHANDLER *Killer in Rain* (1964) 53 There's a thousand berries on that bimbo. A bank stick-up, ain't he? **1947** WODEHOUSE *Full Moon* v. 90 Bimbos who went about the place making passes at innocent girls after discarding their wives.

**b.** A woman; esp. a whore.

**1929** *Amer. Speech* IV. 338 *Bimbo*, a woman. **1937** *Detective Fiction Weekly* 3 Apr. 20/2 We found Durken and Frenchy LaSeur, seated at a table..with a pair of blonde bimboes beside them. **1952** S. KAUFFMANN *Philanderer* (1953) xii. 194 Not that you were just a bimbo to me... I've discovered that I'm a little in love with you, too.

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► *derogatory*. A young woman considered to be sexually attractive but of limited intelligence. (Now the usual sense.)

**1927** *Vanity Fair* (*U.S.*) Nov. 67/2 Among some of Conway's more famous expressions are: 'Bimbo' (for a dumb girl); [etc.]. **1976** 'W. ALLEN' *Without Feathers* 33 Sure, a guy can meet all the bimbos he wants. But the really brainy women—they're not so easy to find. **1988** *Stage* 4 Aug. 17/5 The empty-headed hair-twisting bimbos who describe themselves as 'singer, actress, and model'. **2002** *Empire* Dec. 156/4 The Mangler 2..gets points for the most gratuitous jiggle of the year as bimbo prefect Daniella Evangelista flees the killer dressed fetchingly in a Hawaiian luau outfit.