

# St Mark's Word of the Week



# Shenanigans

Are you familiar with this word?

What does it mean?

Can you use it in a sentence?

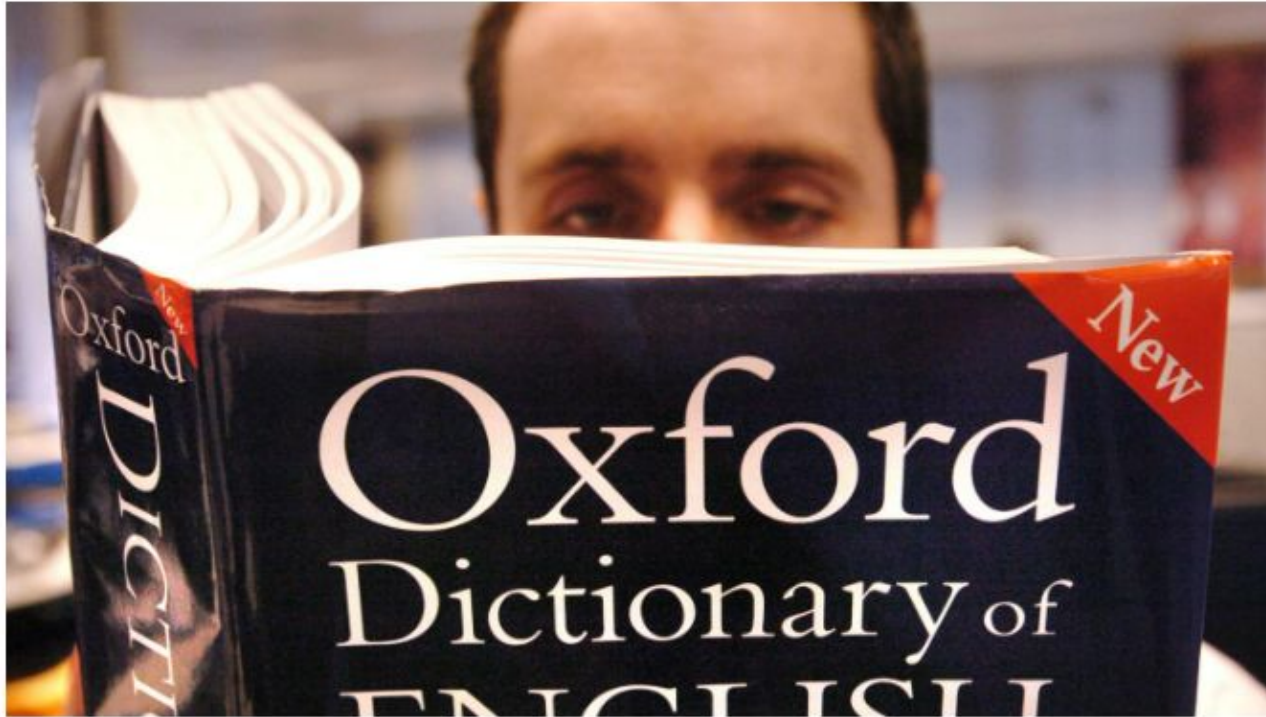
Why was it in the news last week?



# Why was it in the news?

UK NEWS

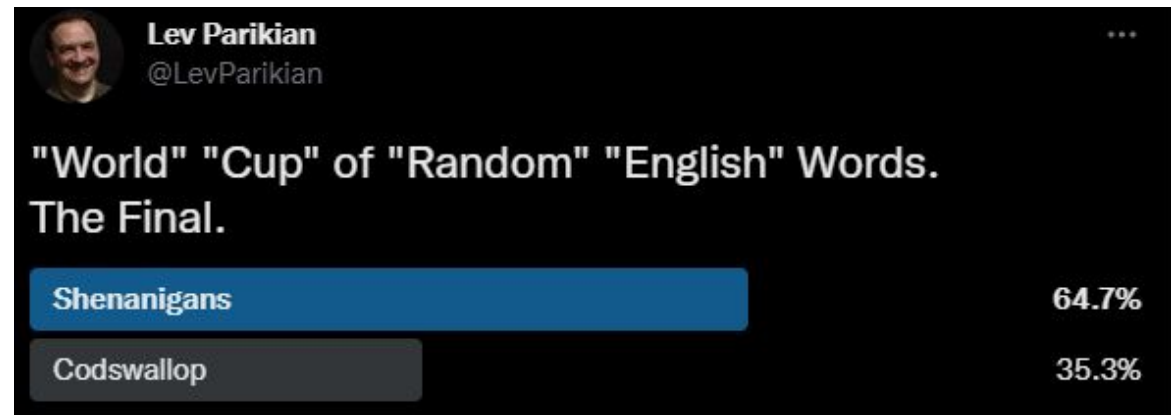
## Shenanigans wins World Cup of words



Over the past year, the conductor Lev Parikian has held a 'World Cup of Words', putting pairs of words against each other in polls on Twitter.

Millions of votes were cast to choose from 4096 words.

On New Year's Eve, the final poll took place...



# Shenanigans (noun)

## Definition

- Secret or dishonest activity.
- Silly or high-spirited behaviour

## Examples:

- The suspicious looks on the students faces made the teacher suspect shenanigans had been occurring.

National News

## The World Darts Championship attracts sports fans and shenanigans alike

By [Juana Summers](#), Erika Ryan, Christopher Intagliata  
Published January 3, 2023 at 5:00 PM EST

## LFC Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's 'Christmas shenanigans' with Perrie Edwards makes fans swoon

Perrie Edwards lifted the lid on the the family's festive day

**NEWS** By [Ryan Paton](#) SEO Writer  
17:44, 26 DEC 2022

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Comments 21

## Emiliano Martinez's shoot-out shenanigans take gamesmanship to a new level

The Argentina keeper's career is a testament to perseverance – from loan spells at Oxford and Rotherham to spot-kick hero

By [Sam Wallace](#), CHIEF FOOTBALL WRITER, AT LUSAIL STADIUM  
18 December 2022 • 9:27pm



# Shenanigans (noun)

## Definition

- Secret or dishonest activity.
- Silly or high-spirited behaviour

### Can you think of any synonyms for shenanigans?

- antics
- monkey business
- capers
- Horseplay
- Mischievousness
- Devilry
- High jinks

Any others?



# Shenanigans (noun)

## Definition

- Secret or dishonest activity.
- Silly or high-spirited behaviour

Where does the word come from? What is its etymology?

## Shenanigans

**We don't know!**

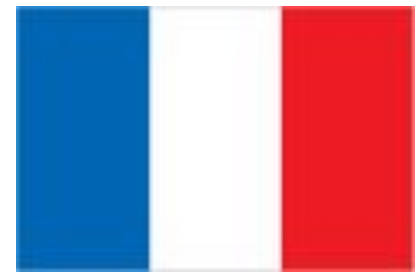
**Some words don't have an obvious root, but there are theories as to where it came.**





The first recorded use of shenanigans was in California in 1855. At the time people from many different countries lived there which has led to several theories as to its origins.

It could come from:



“Ces manigances”

“These fraudulent schemes”



“Charranada”

“Trick, deceit”



“Sionnachuihim”

“I play the fox”



“Nannicking”

“Playing the fool”



“Scheinheilige”

“Fake holy actions”

Before this word was ever written down, it could have been a mispronunciation of any of these. Which do you think sounds most likely?

