

# GOBBLEFUNK – The Language of the BFG

‘Words is oh such a twitch-tickling problem to me all my life... I know exactly what words I am wanting to say, but somehow or other they is always getting squiff-squiddled around.’

‘Here is the repulsant snozzcumber!’ cried the BFG, waving it about. ‘I squoggle it! I mispise it! I dispunge it! But because I is refusing to gobble up human beans like the other giants, I must spend my life guzzling up icky-poo snozzcumpers instead!’

-extracts from *The BFG* by Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl loved playing with words and inventing new ones! For *The BFG*, he created Gobblefunk, a collection of 238 new words. They didn’t all make it into the final version, but these words did:

*Humplecrimp   swallowp   crumpscoddle   fizzwiggler   gumfrog*

Do you know what they mean? Can you guess?

## DAHL’S CHICKENS

One of the ways the BFG gets his words wrong is to mix up the first letters of words or syllables. This kind of mistake is called a spoonerism. One of the funniest in *The BFG* is ‘Dahl’s Chickens’, a spoonerism of Charles Dickens.

Here are some more spoonerisms from the book.

Can you guess what they should be?

- catasterous disastrophe
- frack to bunt
- crook and nanny
- curdbloodling
- swigpill

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Can you come up with your own spoonerism?

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**Invent some new words of your own by putting something from the first column with something from the second column.**

What do your new words mean?

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|---------|----------|
| frob    | slush    |
| whiz    | dilly    |
| scuttle | figgling |
| swogg   | culus    |
| glump   | raffe    |
| squiff  | idgy     |
| crump   | ty       |
| slosh   | wise     |
| grubble | tick     |
| buzz    | humper   |
| gunzle  | lers     |
| humple  | swizzle  |

My new word

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means

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My new word

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means

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My new word

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