



Old Fashioned Words

Can you and your loved one guess the meaning of these words that are now rarely heard or used? Can you try and use them in a sentence?

afear'd/afeared	frightened
affright	frighten (someone)
ague	malaria or a similar illness
apothecary	a person who prepared and sold medicine
asunder	apart
bedlam	an asylum
behold	see or observe
behoof	benefit or advantage
blackguard	a scoundrel
bridewell	a prison or reform school for petty offenders
brimstone	sulphur
britches	pants
buck	a fashionable and daring young man
bumper	a generous glass of an alcoholic drink
buss	a kiss
camelopard	a giraffe
clerk	a literate or scholarly person
compass	encircle or surround
conjure	implore (someone) to do something
cordwainer	a shoemaker
corrupt	rotten or putrid
coxcomb	a vain and conceited man; a dandy

coz	cousin
crinkum-crankum	elaborate decoration or detail
crookback	a person with a hunchback
cutpurse	a pickpocket
dame	an elderly or mature woman
damsel	a young unmarried woman
darbies	handcuffs
davenport	couch
degrade	reduce to a lower rank, especially as a punishment
doxy	a lover or mistress
drab	a slovenly woman
espousal	a marriage or engagement
fair	beautiful
fandangle	a useless or purely ornamental thing
fishwife	a woman who sells fish
fizgig	a silly or flirtatious young woman
forsooth	indeed
fourscore	eighty
gadzooks	an expression of surprise or annoyance
gallant	a dashing gentleman
galoshes	waterproof shoes
gammer	an old woman
glabriety	baldness
go-cart	a baby walker
God's acre	a churchyard
greenwood	a forest
grimalkin	a cat
handmaid	a female servant
hearken	listen
hence	from here

horseless carriage	a car
icebox	refrigerator
inscribe	enter the name of (someone) on a list
iron horse	a steam locomotive
jade	a bad-tempered or disreputable woman
jakes	an outdoor toilet
jalopy	old car
knave	a dishonest or unscrupulous man
leech	a doctor or healer
leman	a lover or sweetheart
love apple	a tomato
maid	a girl or young woman
man-at-arms	a soldier
mayhap	perhaps; possibly
melodist	a singer
mooncalf	a foolish person
morrow, the	the following day
noise (something) about	talk about or make known publicly
nylons	stockings
otiose	lazy; slothful
parlor	living room
peeler	a police officer
picaroon	a scoundrel
pistoleer	a soldier armed with a pistol
plain over	lament; cry over
pocketbook	purse
poltroon	an utter coward
quaggy	marshy or boggy
quality	high social standing
rapscallion	a mischievous person

rover	a pirate
salamander	a red-hot iron or poker
sanative	healing
sanguinary	involving or causing much bloodshed
scapegrace	a mischievous person; a rascal
schoolmarm	a teacher
scruple	a very small amount of something, especially a quality
scurvy	worthless or contemptible
slugabed	a lazy person who stays in bed late
small beer	weak beer
steed	a horse
stoup	a container for drinking beer, etc.; a flagon
stripe	a blow with a lash
strumpet	a promiscuous woman
sweetmeat	an item of confectionery or sweet food
thenceforth	from that time, place, or point onward
therewith	with or in the thing mentioned
thither	to or toward that place
thrice	three times
turnkey	a jailer
'tween	between
twelvemonth	a year
unhand	release from one's grasp
up to snuff	up to the required standard
water closet	toilet
wench	a girl or young woman
whence	from what place or source
wherefore	for what reason
wherewith	with or by which
whither	to what place or state

yoke	the amount of land that one pair of oxen could plough in a day
yonder	over there
zounds	an expression of surprise or indignation