

## Putting a new Word into Daily Practice

Not many of you profess to be a walking dictionary. Usually you get by on a select set of dependable words that fit most situations perfectly fine.

This past year we did have one amazing student, Emily Mike in Mount Morris, Livingston County who went to the National Spelling Bee finals in Washington D.C. and displayed her wide range of word accumulation.

There are a few who use five-dollar vocabulary words just to impress the pants off everyone else in their company. If you are like me, you wonder if they know what they are talking about themselves, or are they a bit pretentious?

Others, like Jane Oakes, local historian, researcher and knowledgeable speaker in the Genesee Valley area, utilize words literally off the tip of their tongues. In her case, Jane can add wordsmith on her resume, too, and not defraud the public.

Slip into a conversation with Jane, and you are in for a treat. As you stand still, you watch Jane twist and turn beautiful sentences into shaped pieces of art. You will come out second best – there's no contest here – no matter how hard you try. The fun is the listening aspect, and the smile when you leave her presence.

I don't often mention names in my columns, but rules can be broken, too.

Let me explain.

“I am delightfully **redolent** of basil and garlic right now, having just put 8 pints of fresh pesto into the freezer.” Jane Oakes gleefully commented on Facebook in a recent post.

I read her comment and took a double-take. “Here she goes again,” I thought to myself. Certainly, that was a polite way of putting it. I don’t ever remember using **redolent** consistently in adult life conversations.

Of course, I had to go to the dictionary and study the finer points of the word, **redolent**, for my personal satisfaction. Could I put it into my everyday life like Jane’s penchant for pesto?

***redolent of/with**) strongly reminiscent or suggestive of (something): names redolent of history and tradition. • literary strongly smelling of: the church was old, dark, and redolent of incense.*

*Reminiscent, evocative, suggestive*

It’s been quite a while since I have paid attention to anything to do with the SAT, and I found some enlightening new information. According to the College Board, the new SAT emphasizes “the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact.”

Since the new SAT got rid of the rote vocabulary question category entirely in 2018, there is no longer the need for students to memorize hundreds of obscure words.

Perhaps, all that means is that higher-ups on the education food chain are admitting that a student shows a higher level of analyzation when untangling words in context.

Audacious of me, huh?

This morning after I poured my drink, the glass was **redolent** with the smell of orange juice.

So there.