

Dictionary work

Some questions to challenge you!

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hobble

hō'bble¹ *v.* **1.** *v.i.* walk lamely, limp; (fig.) proceed haltingly in action or speech. **2.** *v.t.* Cause to hobble; tie together legs of (horse etc.) to prevent it from straying etc.; tie (legs) thus. [ME, prob. f. LG; cf. HOPPLE, and Du. *hobbelen* rock from side to side]

hō'bble² *n.* **1.** uneven or infirm gait; (arch.) awkward situation. **2.** rope, clog, etc., for hobbling a horse etc.; ~ **skirt** (so narrow at foot as to impede wearer in walking). [f. prec.]

hō'bbledēhoy (-beld-) *n.* (colloq.) clumsy or awkward youth between boyhood and manhood; hence ~**HOOD** *n.*, ~**ISH**¹ *a.*, (-oi'-). [16th c., of unkn. orig.]

hō'bbý¹ *n.* favourite subject or occupation that is not one's main business; (arch.) small horse; (Hist.) early type of velocipede. [ME *hobyn*, *hoby*, f. pet-forms of *Robin*; cf. **DOBBIN**]

hō'bbý² *n.* small species of falcon, *Falco subbuteo*. [ME, f. OF *hobé*, *hobet* dim. of *hobe* small bird of prey]

hō'bbý-hōrse *n.* wicker horse used in morris dance etc.; child's stick with horse's head; rocking-horse; horse on merry-go-round; topic to which one constantly recurs. [f. **HOBBY**¹ + **HORSE**¹]

hō'bgōblin *n.* mischievous imp; bogy, bugbear. [f. **HOB**¹ + **GOBLIN**]

hō'bnail *n.* **1.** heavy-headed nail for boot-soles; hence ~**ED**² (-ld) *a.* **2.** ~**(ed) liver** (with many small projections due to cirrhosis). [f. **HOB**² + **NAIL**¹]

hō'b-nōb *v.i.* (-bb-). drink together; talk informally (*with*). [f. *hob or nob* = give or take, of alternate drinking; earlier *hab nab*, = have or not have]

***hō'bō** *n.* (*pl.* ~**es**). wandering workman or tramp. [19th c.; orig. unkn.]

Hō'bson *n.* ~'s choice, option of taking the one offered or nothing. [f. T. ~, Cambridge carrier d. 1631. who let out horses on this basis]

Examine the dictionary entries in the attached box.

Refer to the entries for "hobble":

1. There are two entries for "hobble". What is the main difference between them? (2)
2. The abbreviation "fig" is used in the first entry? What does it mean? (1)
3. What does the abbreviation "arch" mean in the second entry? (1)
4. Why is "hobbelen" printed in italics? (1)

Refer to the entry for "hobbledehoy"

5. What is the meaning of "(-beld-)" in this entry? (1)
6. What is the etymology of "hobbledehoy"? (2)
7. What is the function of adding "~HOOD" and "~ISH" to words? (2)

Refer to the entry for "hobby-horse"

8. What is the figurative meaning of "hobby-horse"? (2)

Refer to the entry for "Hobson":

9. Explain in your own words the meaning of the term "Hobson's choice". (1)
10. Hobson was a real person. Explain in your own words what you know about him. (2)

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