

You Don't Know Sh*t

Until You've Read This Book!



By Walt Sautter

“Shit” –

It is the most common profanity (though soon to be eclipsed by the F word I fear). It is used in a vast variety of contexts. It is frequently used in outbursts, exclamations, descriptions, insults, and everyday expressions.

It is hard to recall a day during which the word has not been heard and/or used.

What I propose to do is to provide some humorous explanations of its usage in commonplace expressions and at the same time give educational commentary.

Okay, so let’s stop “shittn’ around” and get started!

READ THIS BOOK AND
YOU WILL REALLY KNOW

YOUR



SHIT!

How many times have you been told, “You don’t know shit! ”?

This book is designed to educate and end the embarrassment of that accusation.

From this point on, you will be able to respond with certainty and pride, “Yes, I do know my shit!”



Where did the word “shit” originate?

One theory tells us that in the past, animal wastes to be used as fertilizer, was transported, it was loaded in the lower decks of ships, which were often leaky. The reactions in the wet manure emitted methane gas (an explosive gas which we call natural gas).

After numerous accidental explosions, the practice was stopped and to make sure that the manure was kept dry it was labeled “S.H.I.T – Ship High In Transit”

Another theory of the word origin is that it is derived from the Old English word for diarrhea, “scitte” which has been reduced to one of our favorite four letter words, “shit”.

You decide which explanation is probably correct. I like the first one, not because it seems more factual but because it is less mundane.



“Think Your Shit Doesn’t Stink !”

In the digestive tract bacterial action creates gaseous components called indole, skatole and mercaptans (the chemical added to natural gas to give it an odor). All of these compounds contain sulfur, which makes them odorous. Additionally, the foul smelling, gas hydrogen sulfide (sewer gas and rotten eggs) is present.

Herbivores (plant eaters) consume fewer sulfur containing proteins therefore their feces has a much milder smell. Elephant dung, for example is practically odorless.

All of these gases present in combination make it highly unlikely that “your shit doesn’t stink” (unless you’re an elephant!).

Depending on the bacteria type and quantity present in your intestine and the sulfur content of the food that you have eaten, your shit may stink more or less than that of someone else.

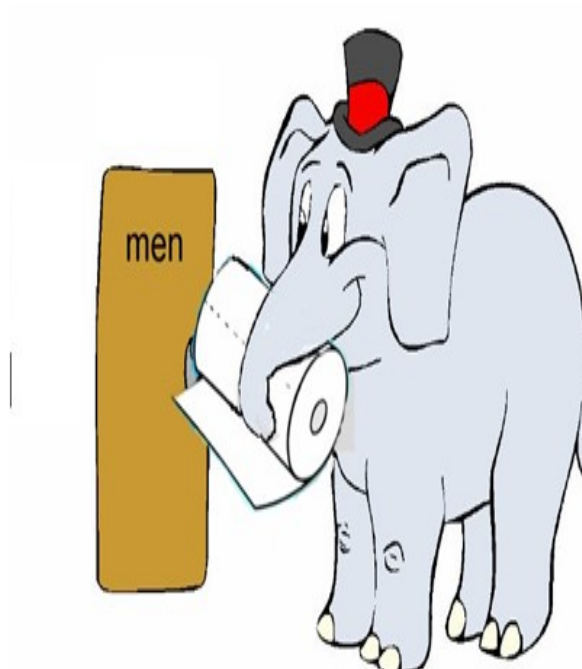


“Think You’re Big Shit! ”?

Elephants eat about sixteen hours a day consuming about 300 to 600 pounds of vegetation. Approximately sixty percent of that is indigestible plant fiber. This means that 180 to 360 pounds are excreted daily.

Human excrement is normally deposited in quantities ranging from three to eight ounces daily (a volume of only several ounces).

Now, do you think of yourself as a “big shit”?



“You’re Full of Shit!”

The average defecation rate for most people is between once every two or three days to three times a day. When this regularity is interrupted the appropriate term is constipation or “full of shit”.

Snakes are commonly “full of shit” since defecation occurs very infrequently. It has been reported that a large *Acanthophis* (a type of snake) will not defecate for some months after feeding.

So, compared to a snake, you’re never really “full of shit”!

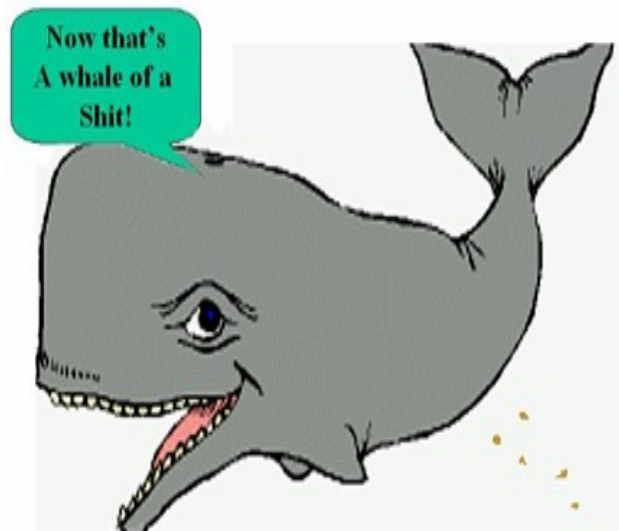


“That’s a Whale of a Shit”?

Contrary to popular belief whale shit is small, generally soft and mushy. Although large in volume, it is small in turd size. It can contain undigested items such as fish eyes and squid beaks but the content depends on the diet of the species.

The feces of the Martine Blue Whale is orange-red in color, very liquid and is exceptionally “stinky”.

So it appears that a “Whale of a shit” isn’t really that much of a big deal after all!



“You Don’t Know Shit!”

Feces consist of about seventy five percent water and twenty-five percent solid. The solid component is made up of dead bacteria, undigested food compounds such as cellulose (plant fiber often referred to as ‘roughage’), fats, inorganics (mineral salts) and small amounts of protein.

Cells from the intestinal tract, dead white blood cells and bile components are also contained in fecal matter. The brown color is the result of the bacterial breakdown of hemoglobin found in dead red blood cells.

Now, at least, you know the chemistry of shit.



“You’re an Ass wipe”?

In early England, the duty of a groom to the king could be to see ‘the house of easement be sweet and clear’, which literally means to be the king’s ass wipe. To make the job even more interesting, the invention of toilet paper did not come into being until the late nineteenth century.

Although the job had its obvious shortcomings (and long comings I am sure), it did have one important advantage. During the administration of one’s duties you were sure to have the king’s undivided attention. That is to say that you would have the king’s ear (or shall I say the king’s rear).

Now, if someone calls you an “ass wipe” you can proudly remind him the noble origin of your chosen profession.



“I Don’t Give a Royal Shit”?

Elimination of body wastes was not always a private affair, not even for the rich and famous.

The kings of France would often receive visitors and conduct business while in the act on the “royal throne”. It is reported that Louis XIV received the English Ambassador in such a state and he even announced his upcoming marriage.

Evidently, many kings did give a “royal shit”!



“Scared Shitless”?

You’re suffering from “rhyphobia”. Rhyphobia is defined as a persistent, abnormal and unwarranted fear of defecation, a strong fear of or dislike of defecation.

It is said that Jonathan Swift (Gulliver’s Travels) may have been affected with this phobia as indicated in his scatological poems (shit related poems) and obsession with bodily functions. Even the word “bowels” he regarded as disgusting.

If in the future someone suggests that he was “scared shitless”, your reply may now be, “I’m sorry to hear that you suffer from rhyphobia!”



“That’s a Lot of Bull Shit!”

Animal waste in America amounts to 910 million tons (or 220 billion gallons) per year.

Cattle waste accounts for 750 million tons (180 billion gallons) of that amount.

At least half of that is bullshit or 375 millions tons (90 billions gallons)

America surely does produce a lot of bullshit!



“Holy Bat Shit!”

A person who is “bat shit” is crazy or appears to act strangely.

Bat shit is called “guano” as is the feces of many seabirds. In the 1800’s, a ton of the stuff cost 10 British pounds, a handsome sum at the time. Paying high prices for shit would certainly seem crazy.

Guano is rich in nitrates which makes it an excellent fertilizer and more importantly useful in making explosives. Islands along the coast of Peru accumulated huge quantities of guano and 20 million tons per year (two billion dollars worth) were exported between 1840 and 1880.

Today, fertilizers and gunpowder components are obtained chemically from other sources and guano is no longer highly prized. You can buy it for about five dollars a pound if you’re interested?

It is interesting to note however, that at one time people were “bat shit” over bat shit!



“Shitting a Brick”

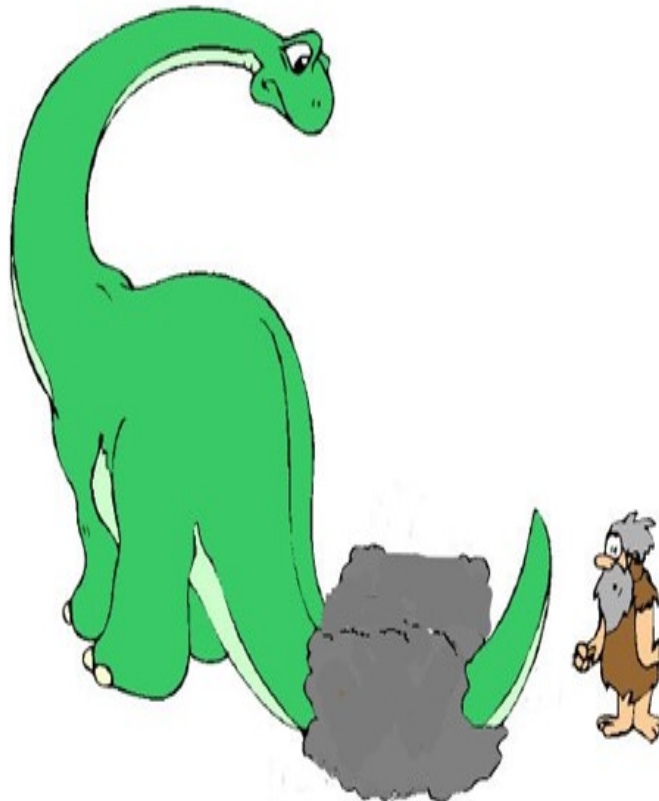
Coprolites are fossilized excrement. The study of coprolites allows scientists to tell about the diet of prehistoric animals.

Coprolites are sometimes sold at rock and gem shows. Often the coprolites sold are not authentic as evidenced by the lack of calcium phosphate, which is present in actual coprolites. In other words some of them are “fake shit”.

One of the largest coprolite ever found was in Saskatchewan. It had a volume of 2.4 liters (over half a gallon!).

An even bigger fossilized turd was found Alberta, Canada. It was six liters, measuring 64 centimeters (over two feet) long and 17 centimeters (over one half foot) wide.

When it comes to “shitting a brick” it looks like T. Rex has the record.



“So You Had a Shitty Day at Work!”

A report from Paderborn, Germany in 1998 tells of zookeeper (Friedrich Riesfelt) being concerned about the constipated of an elephant in his charge, fed the animal extensive doses of laxative.

When this remedy failed, he proceeded to attempt an enema as a last restore. This treatment was successful for Stefan (the elephant) but unfortunately fatal for Mr. Riesfelt.

He was felled by the elephant’s sudden ejection, struck his head, became unconscious and was buried alive in 200 hundred pounds of elephant dung and suffocated to death.

The moral of this story is “Don’t try this a home! Even professionals find giving elephants enemas can be a dangerous business”.

Now, do you really think YOU had a SHITTY DAY AT WORK??



"I Don't Give a Flying Shit!"

Flying shit can be a serious problem! A whole series of fatal or debilitating diseases are contracted from bird feces. Some examples are:

Cryptococcosis infection from bird feces especially pigeons can result in encephalitis or pneumonia when the bacteria are inhaled.

Even domesticated birds can carry Psittacosis or parrot fever. The disease is carried by infected feces and results in coughing, vomiting, chest pain and fever.

Cryptosporidiosis is caused by a protozoa carried by infected birds. The transmission route to humans is the consumption of oocysts (eggs) of the microorganism contained in the bird feces. The symptoms are diarrhea, abdominal pain and nausea.

Evidently, you and everyone else should give a flying shit about flying shit!



“Holy Shit!”

In the Bible, (Ezekiel 4:12), Ezekiel is told by God to mix human feces in his bread and eat it in the presence of the Israelites. After protesting to God about this “unclean act”, God allows him to substitute animal feces instead (a real concession for Ezekiel!).

I wasn't there of course, but had I been, my response to this command certainly would have been “Holy Shit! Are you kidding me God?”



More "Holy Shit"

In Indian scriptures, a perfect saint need not defecate since he is able to digest all that he eats. Not to defecate was a sign of holiness!

My advice to all Indian Holy men is, "Eat lite!!"



“Shit Faced!”

Many old remedies involve the use of body excrement. One, said to cure acne, is to wash one’s face with a used diaper!

I don’t know if the used diaper would really cure your pimples but I am sure if you applied the treatment, very few people would associate with you. You would therefore suffer much less of the embarrassment and ridicule due to your acne.

Additionally, if being “shit faced” cures acne, then a large percentage of the population should be blemish free every weekend and holiday!



“Shit Faced” (Again!)

In the book “History of Shit” by Dominique Laporte, it is told of aristocratic French women using condensed vapors from freshly excreted turds as a beauty potion to prevent aging of the skin.

To me, it seems that just the opposite effect would result. Certainly, a lot of face wrinkling must have occurred as one recoiled from the odor during application of the liquid!



“Hot Shit!”

Dried animal dung has been used for centuries as fuel in areas where wood was scarce. Desert tribes often used camel excrement for cooking and warmth.

Recently, however, human “dung” is being used as a fuel source. Thousands of prisoners in Rwanda are having their food cooked with “natural gas” (the human type). Feces from the prison are converted into methane gas (they call it biogas) thus saving about one million dollars per year in energy costs.

“Round up Grandma and let’s have a barbeque!”



“Up Shit’s Creek”

In 1858 the river Thames in London became so polluted with sewerage that it gave off overpowering odors. Even window hangings, soaked in chloride of lime were unable to quench the smell. The stench became so strong as to require Parliament to be closed.

Thus the year 1858 became known as the “Year of the Great Stink”. Soon after this incident, monies for proper sewerage treatment were made available.



“Shit Head”

Many old fashion remedies involved the use of shit. Even as a child living in rural New Jersey a mixture of cow shit and mud could be used to effectively relieve the pain of a bee sting (the ammonia content of the cow shit did the trick).

In the sixteenth century the recommended cure for baldness was a “lotion” of rat dropping mixed with honey and onion juice (I think the onion juice was to kill the smell).

After watching numerous late night infomercials on baldness I’m not so sure that the old treatment might not be just as effective (at least it would be a lot cheaper!).



More “Hot Shit”

Abnormal attraction and interest in feces is referred to as coprophilia (love of shit). Feces even sexually excite some people! This is a recognized psychiatric disorder.

If then, you are accused of being a shit lover, knowing this, your response may now be “I’m sorry honey. I suffer from coprophilia and I’m trying to get better”.



“Swallowed Some Shit”

Many folk remedies involved the use of shit. Often the cure sounds like it is designed to silence the complaints of the ill rather than actually cure the ailment.

To cure a cough, boil some cow dung in water and gargle three times a day (or until you vomit!).

Placing a pan of fresh chicken droppings under the bed can cure whooping cough. (Even if you are not cured I am sure you will be out of bed sooner than expected).



“You Don’t Know Shit From Shinola”

Shinola is an old fashion shoe polish. I don’t think that polishing one’s shoes with shit would really restore their original luster. A “shit shine” would not work nearly as well as a “spit shine”. However, that evidently was not always the belief!

In the Halacha (the legal section of the Talmud which is the Hebrew record of Jewish law, ethics, customs and legends) the problem of compelled divorce is discussed. A forced divorce by a wife can only occur under one of the following circumstances: (1) the husband has boils (2) he has a mole on his nose (3) he does not support the household (4) he does not have sexual relations with his wife or (5) he uses dog feces to soften leather!



“Give a Shit” (In the Right Place That is!)

A southern California company has developed a product, which *targets* the market. It is a nighttime toilet navigation light (the NavLav Night Light), which alerts users to the toilet seat orientation. A lighted sensor is mounted on the bottom of the seat and responds to approaching footsteps. It shines red if the seat is up and green if the seat is down.

This remarkable integration of high technology and basic biology (rivaling genome research) sells for \$30. To date several thousand have been sold!

I guess this shows, that when it comes too frivolous spending, Americans really don't “Give a shit”!



“Talking Shit”

When it comes to talking shit the Toilet Annunciator or Talking TP gets cracking. The Annunciator talks shit from inside the toilet tank while the Talking TP (toilet paper) spews its dribble via the toilet paper roll holder.

Witticisms such as “Don’t forget to wash your hands” and “This is a bathroom not a library” are issued when the toilet paper is unrolled.

Ain’t technology grand?



“The World is Going to Shit!”

November nineteenth was declared World Toilet Day was by seventeen toilet associations around the world in 2001. In addition to this new public holiday, an annual World Toilet Summit conference has been established.

The ends of World Toilet Organization are to share the latest on rural toilets (such as corn fields!) and urban toilets (such a parking garages!), encourage clean toilets for everyone (including gas station customers) and build more and better toilets for the less fortunate.

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“Sack of Shit”

Now you can safely and easily create your very own “Sack of Shit”. The Restop Corporation’s Disposable Travel Toilet Kit lets you avoid the frantic search for a gas station without an “Out of Order” sign on the restroom door. It also helps you end the nagging suspicion that the leaves you used as toilet paper might have been poison ivy.

Now there is no need to abandon your vehicle and run into the woods.

Thanks to Restop, you can now pull off the highway, even in bumper-to-bumper traffic, and take a dump right there at the roadside in safety and securely behind your opened car door.



“Some Fancy Shit”

Show everyone the asshole that you really are, with monogrammed toilet paper (one letter, two rolls for \$18.95). Gold lettering and three letter monogramming (48 rolls for \$550) is available for the truly sophisticated assholes.

Also, no toilet would be complete, without a leopard print toilet plunger offered by the same company for a mere \$48!



“Fake shit”

You’ve doubtlessly heard of knockoff watches and clothing, but what about knockoff shit?

Yes, “fake shit” literally does exist! A shit factory in Sudbury, Massachusetts squeezes out tons of it yearly.

It is used for testing purposes: diapers, incontinence aids and quality control in medical testing.

Today, “fake shit”, thanks to modern chemistry, has come a long way from the old days of using mashed potatoes, brownie mix, peanut butter or pumpkin pie filling. (Thanksgiving dinner will never be the same after reading this!)

The new formula consists of a water base, a thickening agent, a stabilizing agent, a preservative, a peroxidase and, of course, to complete the illusion, an odorant additive.



“Doggone Shit”

Did you ever run over a pile of dog shit with your lawn mower?

Well, with the introduction of this most recent invention, all that will become a fond memory.

It's the “Flush Toilet for Dogs”.

The toilet itself is constructed of metal or plastic (tree bark, old fire hydrants or artificial human legs might also be considered). This device is mounted on a flush toilet. The dog is led (kicking and barking I'm sure) into a restraint frame where he makes his deposit into the toilet.

Suggested enhancements for the “Flush Toilet for Dogs”:

- (1) a training manual to teach Fido to flush the toilet himself**
- (2) an artificial dog turd for Fido to roll on after he's finished defecating**
- (3) a magazine support where Fido can read some doggie porn while defecating.**



“Are you shittin’ me?”

An old rural outhouse in upper New York State.

A five holer!

Three adults and two children. A real family affair!



” This tastes like shit!” - How would one know? Here’s how!

**Hey! I just found some dung over here!
Let’s have a cookout!**

The dried manure of animals has also been used as fuel throughout history. For example, dried manure of camels and other animals (usually known as dung) was an important fuel source in deserts where wood was scarce. It was used for many purposes, in cooking fires (and cookouts) and to combat the cold desert nights.



“What a crock of shit!”

More politely known as "a pile of poo", the term "a crock of shit" derives from an ancient Roman custom that coincidentally took place in Roman times. It referred literally to a pot into which people would excrete if they were particularly bored by whichever freelance philosopher happened to be talking rubbish at the time. The Roman empire employed crock-monitors who were each assigned to a philosopher, and it was their job to monitor the pot (or crock). Should the crock become full, it would be presented to the philosopher, who was obliged, by law, to announce that it bore a remarkable resemblance to himself, thus proclaiming he was full of crap and was, in fact, talking a crock of shit.

"I am talking a crock of shit", Socrates 429 BC



“Ape Shit about ape shit”

Eyewitness accounts do offer some indications about the diet of Sasquatch. John Green reported that, based on newspaper reports, personal letters, and eyewitness accounts, Sasquatch is probably an omnivore.

Knowing the diets of the potential animal sources of coprolites being examined is always useful. Andrew Genzoli of the *Humboldt Times* tumbled upon an enormous mass of human-shaped droppings. He shovelled them into a gallon can and found they occupied exactly the same volume as a single evacuation from a 1,200-lb horse!



“Excuse me!”

Contrary to common belief, it's not cow farting that produces large quantities of the pollutant gas methane, it's belching due to enteric fermentation. However, a small percentage of methane is also produced in the cow's large intestine and then expelled.

Statistics vary regarding how much methane the average dairy cow expels. Some experts say 100 liters to 200 liters a day (or about 26 gallons to about 53 gallons), while others say it's up to 500 liters (about 132 gallons) a day. In any case, that's a lot of methane, an amount comparable to the pollution produced by a car in a day.



DO I FART TOO MUCH?



The Answer is Blowin' in the Wind!

The next time you complain that the toilet paper was put in the wrong way!

The xylospongium (greek) or tessorium (roman), also known as sponge on a stick, was a hygienic utensil used by ancient Romans to wipe their anus after defecating, consisting of a wooden stick.



Lucky for them that these had not yet been invented!



And You Think Your Job “Stinks”

“Night soil” was the name euphemistically given to human waste because it was removed from privies under the cloak of darkness so that polite society would be spared from confronting its own feces as the men carted the crap away, leaving a trail of stench in their wake. Each year in cities across the country, thousands of carts brimming with excrement rattled through the night streets.



Night Soil Men - 1870s NYC

Back in the Day Everybody Got “Corn-Holed”

Modern toilet paper wasn't commonly available in the United States until the mid 19th century

Prior to this, in rural agrarian communities, handfuls of straw were frequently used, but one of the most popular items to use for clean-up was dried corncobs. They were plentiful and quite efficient at cleaning. They could be drawn in one direction or turned on an axis. They were also softer on tender areas than you might think. Even after toilet paper became available, some people in Western states still preferred corncobs when using the outhouse.



Don't Have A Pot to Piss In

Urine used to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were 'piss poor'.

If you were really, really poor – you didn't "have a pot to piss in".



“Shoveling Shit”



CLASSIC AND COMMONLY USED EXPRESSIONS

“Like shit through a goose” – a very quick activity

“Hanging around her like flies on shit” – she’s very popular

“Busy as a cat covering shit on a hot tin roof” – very active

"Busier than a cat covering shit on a tile floor" – very active

"As full of shit as a Christmas turkey" – tells tall tales

"Shaking like a dog shittin' razor blades" - very nervous

"10 pounds of shit in a 5 pound bag" - a very difficult or unlikely task

“You don't know jack shit!” – ignorant of the facts

“Tough shit!” – it’s your problem

“I'm going to beat the shit out of you” - threaten bodily harm

“Who gives a shit?” - I don't care

CLASSIC AND COMMONLY USED EXPRESSIONS (continued)

“Shithead” – a foolish person

“Swallowed a lot of shit” – taking insults or abuse

“Hot shit” - an important person

“Shit list” – due for chastisement

SOL “Shit out of luck” - due for a poor outcome

“Shit happens” – indicates resignation

“Talking Shit” – voicing insults

“Built like a brick shithouse” – has a good physique

“Bullshit” – misinformation

“Shit hit the fan” - trouble is coming

“Shit lips” – a liar

“No shit” – I already know

A GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS OF THE WORD “SHIT”

Noun:

I found a pile of *shit* on the floor.

Pronoun:

The office had been searched and *shit* was thrown onto the floor.

Verb:

He *shit* on the floor.

Adjective:

He did a *shitty* job of cleaning the floor.

Adverb:

He felt *shitty*.

Interjection:

Oh *shit!*

The End - “No Shit”

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