

A.Word.A.Day

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Mar 12, 2013

This week's theme
Terms with connections to the number 19

This week's words
[nineteenth hole](#)
[suffragist](#)
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A.Word.A.Day
with Anu Garg

suffragist

PRONUNCIATION:
(SUHF-ruh-jist) 

MEANING:
noun: An advocate of extending the right to vote, especially to women.

ETYMOLOGY:
Via French from Latin suffragium (voting tablet, right to vote). Ultimately from the Indo-European root bhreg- (to break) that also gave us break, breach, fraction, fragile, fractal, infringe, irrefragable, and fractious. Suffrage? Remember, a broken piece of tile was used as a ballot in the past. Earliest documented use: 1822.

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NOTES:

While we have come a long way in treating people equally regarding the right to vote, there are still places where a woman is not considered fit to vote or to run for an office, for example Saudi Arabia and the Vatican.

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USAGE:

"Women had not won the right to vote; one suffragist slapped Song Jiaoren in the face for not taking up their cause."

The Song of Song; The Economist (London, UK); Dec 22, 2012.

Explore "[suffragist](#)" in the Visual Thesaurus.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

A man may be very industrious, and yet not spend his time well. There is no more fatal blunderer than he who consumes the greater part of life getting his living. -Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817-1862)

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