

*new*

^ **Dictionary** (1967)  
*Interpreted by Austin Donnell*

*My own dictionary is a tossed salad of instant coffee and tobacco crumbs and India Paper. My dictionary, it is a dear leviathan.*

**le·vi·a·than** *noun* \li-'vī-a-than\  


1. Often capitalized : a sea monster defeated by Yahweh in various scriptural accounts
2. capitalized : the political state, especially a totalitarian state having a vast bureaucracy
3. something large or formidable

*I mean that this book is heavy  
and pregnant and makes you think.*



*Regarding the English dictionary,  
they have made brave beginnings.*

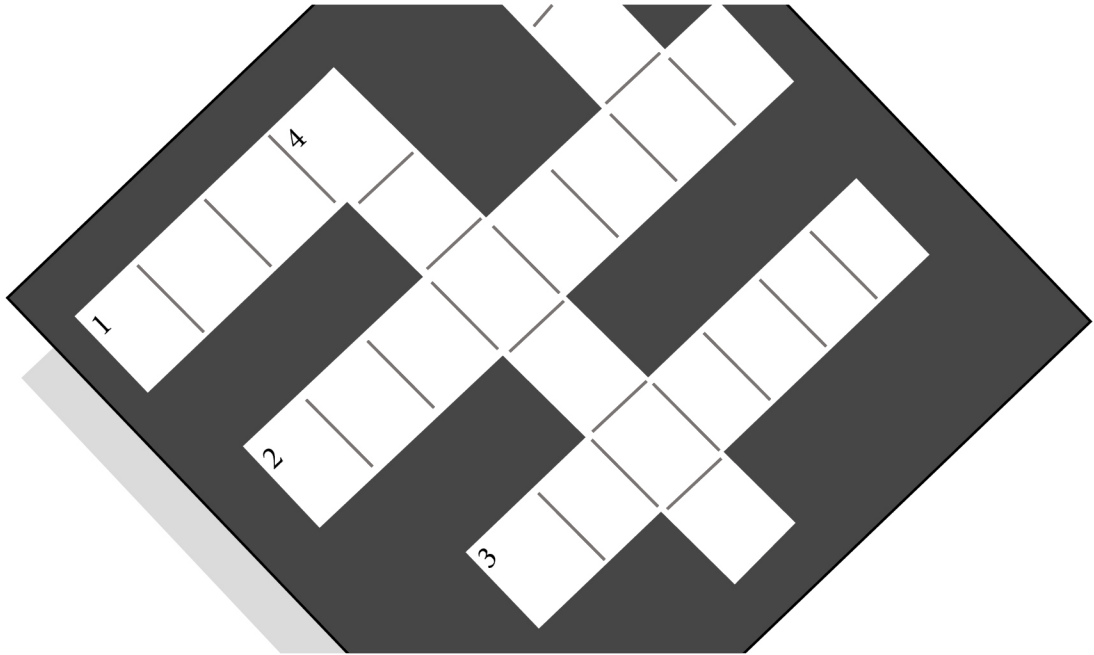


*As a child, I would have never gone through unabridged dictionaries if I hadn't suspected there were dirty words in there.*

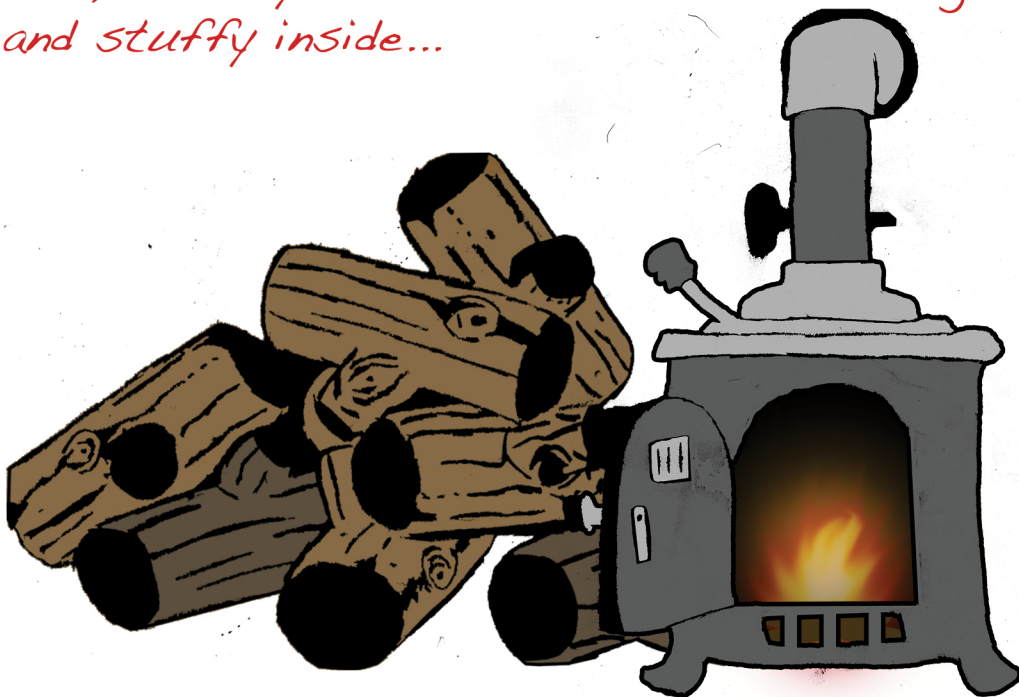


*It seemed as though only grown-ups were supposed to find them...*

*Of course, most people use dictionaries for crossword puzzles and Scrabble games...*



*But, I always ended the searches feeling hot and stuffy inside...*





To find out whether a dictionary is prescriptive or descriptive, you look up "Ain't" and "Like".

### As for the use of LIKE

#### MERRIAM-WEBSTER 1ST EDITION

Issues the use of like as a conjunction meaning as (as, Do like I do)

#### MERRIAM-WEBSTER 2ND EDITION

Says that like as a conjunction "is freely used only in illiterate speech and is now regarded as incorrect."

#### MERRIAM-WEBSTER 3RD EDITION

Offers no warnings whatsoever and flaunts models of current, O.K. usage.

### Here is the rundown on AIN'T

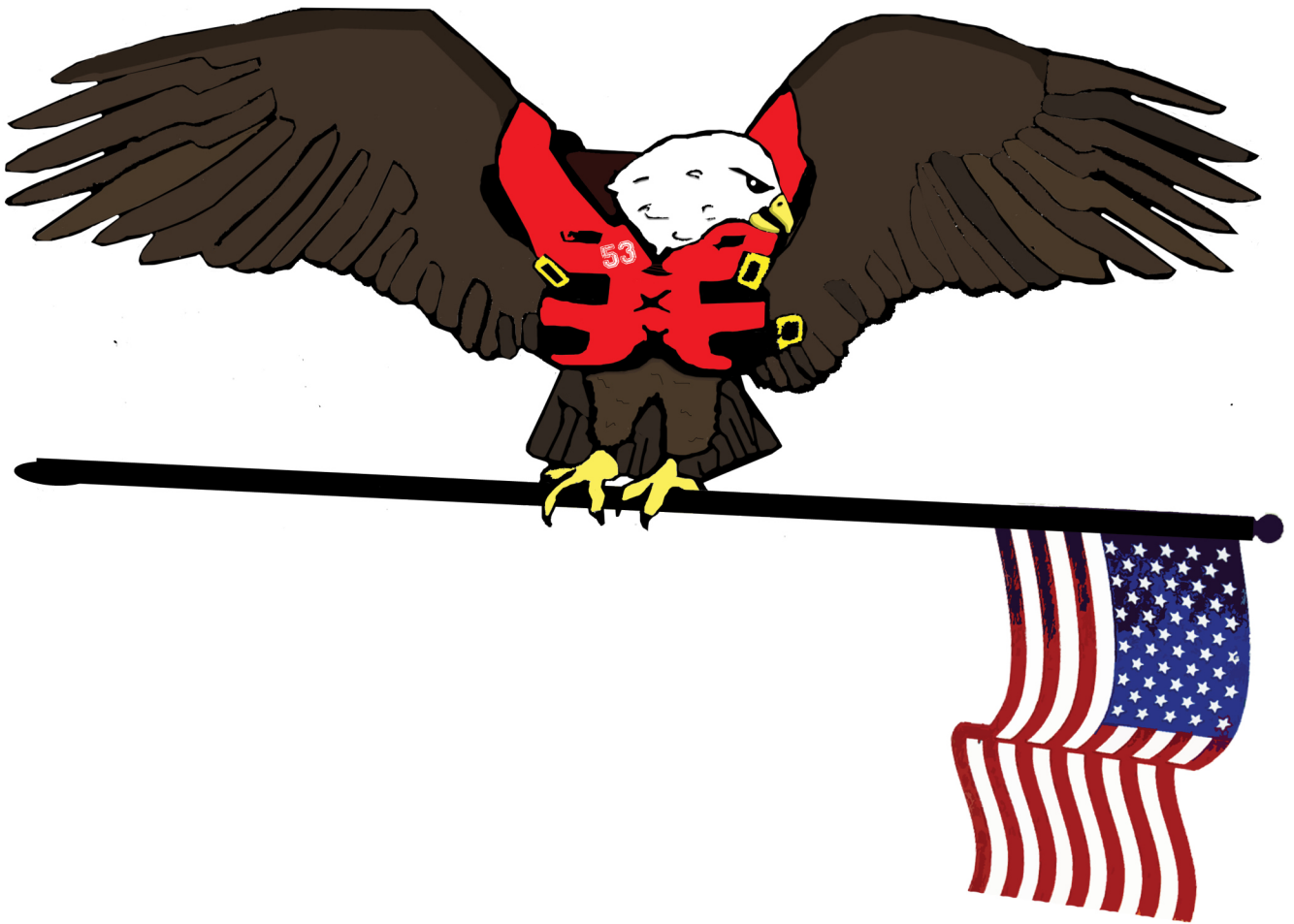
Merriam-Webster 1st Edition says that it is colloquial or illiterate, the second says it is dialect or illiterate, and the third says that ain't is, "though disapproved by many and more common in less educated speech, used orally by many cultivated speakers especially in the phrase ain't I."

*As you run through this new dictionary, looking for dirty words and school mannerisms, you're tempered by worldliness.*



*If General Motors or Ford decide to crash the unabridged dictionary game, they will winnow this work heartlessly for bloopers.*

*One dictionary is as good as another for most people. There's no reason why the English language shouldn't wear sports clothes too.*



*Homo Americanus is going to go on speaking and writing the way he has, no matter what dictionary he owns.*



*Moral:*

*Everybody associated with a new dictionary ain't Samuel Johnson.*