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Yak. To chatter, ramble on. First observed in Australia about 1880, 'yak' became popular in the U.K. in the 1950s – 'This feller kept me yakking about jazz all day' (*Jackie*, 25 January 1964) – and it appears now to be a permanent part of the language. There is usually an implication that the talk is lengthy or boring, but this is not necessarily the case, as the following example shows – 'I was yakking to the Paramounts' (*Jackie*, 6 June 1964).

Yonks. Years, ages. First used during the 1960s by young people of the student type, the word then had wider popularity among the same age group for a while, but is now rarely heard, except from people closely resembling the original users – 'One of the best heavy metal albums I've heard in yonks' (letter in *Sounds*, 28 April 1979).

Yucky. Messy, revolting. A teenager word of the 1960s and apparently entirely British – 'Use flesh-tinted creams to cover up – much less yucky than spot creams' (*Jackie*, 20 December 1969). The interjection 'Yuck!', meaning 'disgusting', is a back-formation from this.

Yummy. (i) A vague and rather childish adjective indicating pleasure of some kind, often in connection with food or sexual attractiveness. Originally this very British expression was used only by younger teenage girls and by the magazines catering for them, but its market has recently expanded – 'What a yummy place to work' (*Jackie*, 15 February 1964); 'The yummy Leif Garrett' (*Pink*, 12 May 1979); '. . . the gorgeous girls and three yummy hunks of manhood on the stage before you' (*Sounds*, 24 January 1981).

(ii) A sexually attractive young girl. This usage has been confined to young men in their twenties – 'What a little yummy!' (*Oz* 43, July/Aug 1972).