Every year in December the good folks at Merriam-Webster's Dictionary chose the Word of the Year. This is a word that grows in popularity and importance or is created during the events of a particular year. For instance, see if you can imagine what year went with these past Words of the Year. (The answer key is at the end of the article.)

Truthiness

Bailout

Pandemic

Vaccine

Gaslighting

Its not hard to imagine "bailout" coming to prominence in 2008 is it? Or "vaccine" in 2021. It is a word that may help sum up what a year it was. But sometimes is a little dry compared to other words.

Not to be outdone, the Oxford Dictionary has its own Word of the Year. Not surprisingly to two words don't usually match up. Oxford is a bit more conversational if not trendy. See how you would do with this list. (Answer key at the end of the article.)

Rizz

Goblin Mode

Vape

Selfie

Unfriend

I'll be honest, I had to look up those first two. Rizz is the ability to charm a member of the opposite sex, as in "Wow, he asked that girl out and she shot him down! He has no Rizz!"

Goblin Mode is more about giving into your indulgences without regard to social norms. For instance, taking your shoes off and putting your tired feet up on the restaurant table. I know your feet are sore but don't go Goblin Mode in the restaurant.

For the Inbody Family, the word of the year 2024 would probably be Wedding or Expensive.

I remember my Professor in a General Semantics class told us once that Language is static, but reality is a process. He meant that language always has to catch up with how fast things change or develop. We often struggle to create new words at the speed of how fast things change around us.

My favorite example of this is in the computer industry, The computer was created so fast and developed so quickly that en engineers making the advancements just threw a quick term at it and, well, it stuck. Terms like – WYSIWYG (pronounced "Wizzy-Wig"). It an acronym for What You See is What You Get. Garbage In/Garbage Out, Bit, Byte, and my favorite Nibble. The term "debug" meaning to find the errors in a computer program and fix them litter came from the early days of computers when the computer was made of vacuum tubes. The glowing tubes would attract moths

and they would have to shut it down occasionally and clean out the dead bugs or "debug" the computer.

(Here's your answer key in order for Merriam-Webster: 2006, 2008, 2020, 2021, 2022).

(Here's your answer key for Oxford Word of the Year: 2023, 2022, 2014, 2013, 2009)