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English 10 Mrs. Filor

Vocabulary Lesson 3: Yiddish Words Used in English

Directions: *Brighton Beach Memoirs* doesn’t have anydifficult vocabulary. Since the family in the story is Jewish, this vocabulary lesson is based on Yiddish words that have made their way into American vocabulary. Yiddish is a German Jewish dialect that very few people speak today. You are provided with the definition and part of speech. Write a sentence using the word that shows what it means through the context.

1. drek—(noun) excrement, inferior merchandise or work, insincere talk

sentence:

2. dybbuk—(noun) a soul condemned to wander for a time in this world because of its sins

sentence:

3. Mazel tov!—(interjection) Good luck! Congratulations!

sentence:

4. meshugeneh—(noun) a mad, crazy, insane woman

sentence:

5. mitsveh—(noun) a commandment, mostly always used to mean a good deed

sentence:

6. Oi, vay!—(interjection) Dear me! Expression of dismay or hurt

sentence:

7. shlep—(verb) to drag, carry or haul, particularly unnecessary things, to go somewhere unwillingly

sentence:

8. shmaltz—(noun) grease or fat, flattery

sentence:

9. shmooz—(verb) to chat, talk

sentence:

10. shmuts—(noun) dirt, slime

sentence: