

SOUND & SENSES

The sound of words often gives us clues about their meanings...

◆ Initial consonant clusters with [s-]

☞ [sl-] conveys downward movement, direction or position ↓
slack, slalom, slant, slash, slaughter, slave, slender, slice, slide, slight, slim, slit, slither, slope, slouch, slow, sluggish, sluice, slump...

Often a generally negative association: **slag, slander, slang, slap, sleazy, slime, slink, slob, slosh, sloth, slovenly, sludge, slum, slur, slurp, slush, slut, sly...**

☞ [sn-] conveys unpleasantness: ✖ ☠
snaffle, snag, snail, snake, snatch, sneak, sneeze, snide, sniff, snigger, snipe, snitch, snivel, snob, snoop, snooty, snort, snot, snout, snub, snuffle...

☞ [sw-] conveys smooth or wide-reaching movement: ✨
swagger, swallow, swamp, swarm, swat, sway, sweep, swell, swift, swill, swing, swipe, swirl, swish, swivel, swoop...

● Laterals

☞ [-3:(r)l] conveys roundness: ◎
curl, furl, gnarl, pearl, purl, swirl, twirl, whirl, whorl;
 also [-r-l] in **barrel, roll, spiral...**

☞ [gl-] conveys brightness and light: ○
glamour, glare, glass, gleam, glimmer, glimpse, glint, glisten, glitter, globe, glossy, glow...
 Other 'bright' words: **glad, glee, glib, glide, glory...**

☞ [-l] (preceded by a short vowel + single consonant) ▼↗
 conveys uncertain or repeated movement, or lack of size, structure or importance:

babble, bubble, chuckle, couple, cuddle, dabble, diddle, doodle, dribble, fiddle, freckle, gabble, giggle, gobble, haggles, huddle, joggle, juggle, muddle, nibble, niggle, pebble, piddle, piffle, puddle, pummel, rabble, raffle, rubble, rustle, shuffle, snaffle, snuffle, snuggle, speckle, squiggle, tipple, toddle, topple, trickle, twiddle, waffle, waggle, wiggle, wobble, wriggle...

◆ Final consonants ↑

... [-ʃ] conveys swift or strong movement: ⚡
bash, brush, cash, crash, crush, dash, flash, gash, gnash, gush, lash, mash, push, rash, rush, splash, whoosh...

Other forceful words: **brash, fresh, harsh, hush, posh, swish...**