

REGENCY ERA

TIMELINE

1811-1820 Prince Regent took over ruling when his father deemed unfit to rule

1820 Prince Regent became King George IV

1811 Peninsular War

1812 War of 1812 England vs United States

1813 first steam locomotive

1814 invasion of France, burning of White House by British, Napoleon exiled to Elba, gas lighting on London streets

1815 Battle of Waterloo

1819 first steam powered vessel from Savannah, GA to London

PEERAGE/Territorial Titles

Duke/Duchess (Duke of *Surname*): His Grace, Her Grace; the Duke/Duchess of Territory
Marquess/Marchioness (Marquess *Surname* OR Marquess of Territory): The Most Honorable the Marquess *Surname* of Territory; Lord/Lady Territory

Earl/Countess (Earl of Territory OR Earl *Surname*): The Right Honorable the Earl of Territory; Lord..., Lady... Territory

Viscount /Viscountess(Viscount *Surname* of Territory): The Right Honorable the Viscount of Territory; Lord/Lady *Surname*

Baron/Baroness(Baron *Surname* of Territory): The Right Honorable Lord/Lady *Surname*

Non-Peers

Baronets/Lady: Sir First Name *Surname*, Baronet; Lady *Surname*

Knights/Lady: Sir First Name *Surname*; Sir First Name; Lady *Surname*

CLOTHING & RELATED

bandeau: narrow band of stiffened fabric worn on the head to confine the hair

banyan: loose-skirted coat worn by men as a dressing gown; a robe, basically

beaver hat: black top hat made of beaver skin, waterproof; "topper"

Betsy: detachable collar made up of lace ruffles that could be worn with different dresses

bombazine: twilled or corded cloth of silk and wool or cotton and wool, often dyed black for mourning clothes

braces: suspenders worn to hold a man's lower garments up; worn over shirt, crossed in back over shoulders, hidden inside the waistcoat

breeches: short, close-fitting trousers that fastened just below the knees and worn with stockings; less popular after 1815

buckskins: fashionable trousers made from skin of deer

chapeau bras: man's hat that could be folded flat; 3-pointed style or 2-pointed style

chatelaine: set of decorative and useful items hung at waist with decorative chain; housekeeper kept the keys to the Manor on her person at all times; fashionable ladies would secure a watch, sewing or writing implements, small coin purses, etc.

chemise: "shift" is essentially a slip; sleeveless, mid-calf length of white cotton or muslin, worn next to the skin under the stays

corset: "stays," body-shaping garment for women to hold in the waist and lift the bosom, tightened by laces in the back; made of sturdy canvas, faced with silk, reinforced inside with whalebone

Cossacks: man's long trouser, extremely comfortable being of loose, baggy fit

cravat: gentleman's neckcloth of starched linen

décolletage: neckline of low-cut gown

epaulet: ornamental shoulder pad on military uniform

false calves: padding for a man's calves to fill out his stockings with more muscular look

fichu: piece of lace, muslin or other cloth worn about the neck to preserve a lady's modesty

fob: short chain or ribbon with attached medallion or ornament that connected to a man's pocketwatch

justian: coarse, heavy cloth made of cotton and flax

greatcoat: overcoat usually with 1 or several capes around shoulders

half-boots: ankle boots for ladies, made of kid leather for outdoor use or cloth for indoors; fancy ones made of velvet or silk and decorated with beads or embroidery

Hessian boots: high boots coming to just below the knee that have tassels on top

inexpressible: breeches (not considered polite for ladies to mention them by name)

leading strings: strips of fabric on children's clothes to hold onto them

livery: male servant's uniform with frock coat, knee breeches, white stockings, pumps (shoes), powdered wig

mantle: large, long, shapeless cloak with arm slits and a hood worn by ladies

muff: round fur-lined accessory for keeping ladies' hands warm

muslin: fine, thin, semi-transparent cotton; most popular material for ladies' gowns for day and evening

nankeen: sturdy but lightweight yellowish cotton cloth, popular for men's pantaloons

pantaloon: men's form-fitting garments to display the fine, manly figure; standard in 1815

parasol: small, lightweight umbrella used by women to protect from the sun

pattens: ladies footwear for inclement weather; rings strapped onto the bottom of a woman's shoes or boots to elevate her a couple of inches above the slush or mud

pelisse: coat with armholes or sleeves worn by ladies over their dresses, buttoning up the front, usually either full or three-quarter length

pumps: low-heeled, black or brown shoe worn by men, usually unadorned, some have understated bows or tassels; formal footwear
quizzing glass: single eyeglass or monocle; used to examine or quiz objects or persons

redingote: long, fitted outdoor coat with a belt, often trimmed with fur
reticule: purse made of cloth, often beaded, with drawstring closure
shirt: white cotton or linen, high collar, ruffled neck, button and loop

small clothes: knee-breeches, especially close-fitting ones

spencer: short jacket worn by ladies

tailcoat: double or single-breasted
tippet: abbreviated cape like a stole or boa; fancy scarf usually of swansdown or fur

trousers: long pants worn to ankles, bit looser than pantaloons or breeches, often with foot straps to secure in place; standard in 1815

waistcoat: man's vest, worn over shirt and under coat; colors, patterns and fabrics varied; high collar; single- or double-breasted, with or without collars or lapels

NAMES for HOUSES/ROOMS

drawing room: formal room for receiving visitors; chamber to which ladies withdrew to have tea after dinner (parlor or salon)

game room:

nursery: usually located out of earshot on top floor of residence; childcare area with children's beds and furniture, play areas and schoolroom areas, as well as quarters for the nurse, nanny, governess

NAMES for OTHER THINGS

apoplexy: an extreme of temper and rage

Banbury tale: nonsensical story

blunt: money

bumblebroth: tangled situation, mess

cap-set one's cap: try to catch a sweetheart or a husband

caps-pull caps: quarrel like two women, who pull each other's caps

cast up one's accounts: vomit

Cheltenham tragedy: to make a big deal out of nothing

claret-draw someone's claret: give someone a bloody nose

come out: young lady's first entry into society; first presented at the Royal Court, and a ball would be held in her honor; then free to attend society events and seek a husband

confinement: entire period of a woman's pregnancy, specifically to the latter stages when women withdrew from social scene

cups-in one's cups: drunk

cut, cut direct: refuses to recognize someone socially; look the other person directly in the face but pretend not to know him (cut direct); looking the other way (cut indirect); looking up at the sky until the person passed (cut sublime); looking at the ground or stooping to adjust one's shoes (cut infernal)

disguised: drunk

draper: store that sold fabrics

duel: to settle disputes of honor, a challenge issued, offending party could apologize but if didn't, they would meet on the "field of honor;" technically illegal, rarely prosecuted; usually the rich and powerful participated; in Regency period used pistols

dun territory: in debt

entail: limit the inheritance of property or title to specific line of heirs so cannot be passed to anyone else (entailed estate usually passes to the eldest son)

faradiddle: falsehood or lie

faro: card game, players bet on the order that cards will appear when dealt from bottom on deck

foolscap: writing paper, usually imprinted with watermark of a jester's cap

fortnight: 2 weeks

foxed: drunk

Friday-faced: dismal countenance
gammon: nonsense, humbug; deceive

glim: old word for a candle

high in the instep: haughty or proud

high ropes: to be on the high ropes; to be in a passion

introductions: new person to a party or gathering was always introduced by someone who knew them; new acquaintance would

curtsey or bow; self-introductions allowed by people of higher rank

jackanapes: rude or mischievous person, a knave
laudanum: tincture of opium used as a painkiller and sedative,

prescribed for headaches or insomnia; many people became addicted

leg-shackled: married

loo: card game in which players who fail to take a trick pay forfeits into a pool

loose fish: an unreliable sort

maggot in one's head: strange notion or whim
make a cake of oneself: make a fool of oneself
merchant class: business owners and their families
mews: housed hawks and hunting falcons; in London, a row of stables or "mews" built down center behind the townhouses to keep riding and carriage horses
middle class: more genteel professions such as barristers, physicians, clergy, politicians, professors, high level scholars
milliner's shop: ladies' hat and bonnet shop, also sold ribbons, feathers, artificial flowers for decorating hats
missish: squeamish, prim, prudish; behavior befitting a young miss
more hair than wit: not very smart
mushroom: person or family suddenly raised to riches and eminence
nonesuch: one that is unequalled
on dit: gossip
paragon: exemplary person, model of correct behavior and integrity
pin-money: woman's allowance for personal purchases; upperclass or peerage
pluck: courage, spirit
poaching: hunting game animals on a landowner's property, punishable by transportation to a penal colony
poppet: term of endearment
Port: sweet heavy red wine fortified with brandy, most frequently imbibed by gentlemen at dinner parties after the ladies withdrew to the drawing room
portmanteau: suitcase or traveling bag
primogeniture: eldest male offspring was sole legal recipient of deceased's title and entailed lands
queer in the attic: peculiar or crazy
Queer Street: to be of doubtful solvency

rag-mannered: ill-mannered
sixes and sevens: confused or unsettled
Spanish coin: flattery
stick one's spoon in the wall: to die
toad eater: sycophant or flatterer; a toady
ton: high society of Regency period, pronounced like "tone"
touched in the upper works: crazy
Town bronze: polish or style
upper orders: highest level of society
vowels: papers indicating a debt that is owed
wear the willow: to mourn the loss of a love or to be lovelorn
whist: card game somewhat like bridge for 2 players

NAMES for PEOPLE

bacon-brained: foolish, stupid
Bartholomew baby: person dressed in tawdry manner
bit o' muslin: woman who gives sexual favors in exchange for payment
bluestocking: lady interested in books, learning and scholarly pursuits
Bond Street Beau: fashionable gentleman
Bow Street Runners: small force of detectives attached to the court at Bow Street who investigated crimes
brown study: said of one absent, thoughtful; sad, melancholy, dull
by-blow: illegitimate child
chere-amie: gentleman's mistress
chit: saucy, forward girl
cicisbeo: married lady's admirer and escort
Cit: resident of the City, area of London where banks and businesses are located; members of middle or merchant class
climbing boy: boy used by chimney sweeps to climb into small places
cork-brained: foolish, stupid

Corinthian: gentleman who is fashionable and adept at sporting activities
coxcomb: van, conceited person
curate: clergyman who assists a pastor, rector or vicar
Cyprian: woman who gives sexual favors for payment; mistress or courtesan
dandy: gentleman overly concerned with his dress and appearance
debutante: young girl (usually 17) who has completed her education and is polished with social graces, presented to Society by her parents or guardians
demimonde: woman who gives sexual favors for payment
diamond of the first water: very beautiful woman
dowager: widow of a peer (the Dowager Countess of Essex)
duenna: chaperone
equipage: one's carriage and all the livery necessary to outfit it
footpads: thieves in the streets, muggers
fop: gentleman who dresses in excessively elaborate clothes and has affected manners
Four-in-Hand Club: notable club for gentlemen who were excellent drivers
frank: member of Parliament, including peers in House of Lords, could frank letters (mail them free of charge) by affixing his personal seal along with word "frank"
freebooters: person who robs and plunderers, especially pirates and smugglers
fribble: effeminate fop
gentleman: in financial terms, man who didn't have to work for a living because of savings and land holdings; chivalrous, educated, reliable, kind, polite, helpful, respectable, do one's duty
gentry: country landowners just below aristocrats (baronets, knights, non-titled squires); not

always migrate to London for the Season; long association with sol they owned and placed them above new money of the often richer middle class; could work in respectable professions as physicians and barristers
green girl: young, inexperienced girl
gull: person who is easily cheated
half pay: military officer not on active duty received half his usual pay
harridan: bad-tempered, disreputable old woman
hoyden: tomboy; girl who behaves in boisterous and unladylike manner
Ladybird: man's lover or kept mistress
Long Meg: very tall woman
macaroni: flashy or flamboyant man
nabob: very rich man, especially one who acquired his fortune in India
Original: lady with a unique style
Patroness of Almack's: one of the society ladies who could give vouchers to hopefuls seeking entrée into Almack's (Lady Castlereagh, Lady Cowper, Mrs. Drummond Burrell, Princess Esterhazy, Countess Lieven, Lady Jersey, Lady Sefton)
Peer of the Realm: nobleman with hereditary seat in the House of Lords: Duke, Marquess, Earl, Viscount or Baron
pockets to let: broke; without money
Quality: upper class
rake: dissolute, profligate gentleman; indulges in drinking, gambling and sexual conquests
sawyer-top sawyer: one who excels at driving horses
tabby: old maid
take: lady who did not "take" during her Season did not win any admirers or suitors

NEWSPAPERS

La Belle Assemblée: fashion magazine dedicated to the upper crust
The Times
The Observer

OCCUPATIONS

abigail: lady's maid
ape leader: spinster or old maid
apothecary: health practitioner specializing in herbal remedies and dispenses drugs
barrister: lawyer who argues cases in court (solicitor)
butler: answered doors, responsible for directing the male portion of the indoor household staff; oversaw service of meals, protecting the silverware from thieves, maintaining wine cellar, in charge of household security
chaperon: respectable female in charge of an unmarried young lady in public
cent per center: moneylender
coachman: drove family's coach
constables: peacekeeping officers appointed by local magistrate to arrest criminals
cook: responsible for cooking and kitchen affairs; one of the 3 top servants
dustman: collected refuse from fires burned for warmth and cooking
footman: rode on back of family's coach; served at dinner, accompanied ladies of house on errands and social calls, looked after lamps and candles; wore livery with knee-breeches and powdered wigs
governess: basically a babysitter for a teenage girl to keep her out of trouble, educate her in accomplishments and how to behave like a refined lady
groom: rode with coachman on coach

housekeeper: top-ranking female servant responsible for everything in house except cooking and kitchen affairs; responsibilities included all cleaning, laundry, household maintenance, supervising all the maids; wore a chatelaine with the keys
magistrate: justice of the peace, whom a suspected criminal brought before them upon being arrested
mantua-maker: dressmaker
modiste: dressmaker
nanny/nurse: caretaker for small children before put in care of a governess
physician: had gentleman status because didn't do manual labor, not touch the patient; treated by questioning patients on symptoms and writing out prescriptions for the local Apothecary
Prime Minister: head of English government
Prince Regent: Prince of Wales, George IV; regent 1811-1820, king 1820-1830; fiscal extravagance, well educated, self-indulgent, overweight, overdressed, oversexed, not popular with his subjects
solicitor: lawyer who handles wills and estate matters
sovereign: ruling monarch
steward: person who manages the finances and affairs of a grand estate; generally educated gentlemen of independent means
surgeon: hands-on treatment of patients from amputations to pulling teeth; also known as the "barber," lower status than physician
valet: gentleman's personal manservant; dressed and undressed his master, shaved him, did his hair, kept his clothes neat and meticulously ironed, blacked his boots, sewed buttons as needed
Weston: gentleman's tailor

PLACES/EVENTS

Almack's: exclusive assembly rooms in London on King Street, need voucher from a patroness to attend; most exclusive private balls of the ton held each Wednesday night of the Season

Ascot Racecourse: England's most prestigious horse-racing track, in Berkshire

assembly room: halls where dances, concerts, social events held

Astley's Royal Amphitheatre: circus in London featuring horseback riding, acrobats, clowns, etc.

Bedlam: insane asylum in London (Hospital of Saint Mary of Bethlehem)

Brighton: seaside town 45 miles from London, went to improve health in craze for sea-bathing and to party
Brooks's

Cheapside: area of London with trade and shopping, also has Covent Gardens and Fleet Street
coaching inn: hotel/pub, restaurant posted along major roadways to service stagecoaches; have meal, rent fresh horses, stay overnight
cotillion: French dance for 4 or more couples with complicated steps and changing of partners
country dance: dance of rural English origin in which partners face each other in 2 long lines

Covent Garden: Italian-style piazza; offered fashionable housing to the rich for a while; later became the main fruit and vegetable market of London by day; at night a red light district

Derby: major horse race in England, held in Epsom Downs in late May or early June

dower house: small house on estate to which the dowager retired when the new heir took up residence
Drury Lane

Fleet Prison: prison for debtors

Gretna Green: Scottish town just over border from England where couples would elope; simply had to declare their intention to marry in front of witnesses

haberdashery: shop that sells buttons, ribbons, threads, lace, trimmings; sometimes sold reticules, gloves, fans, bonnets, etc.

Hyde Park: 400-acre park in London's ultra-fashionable West End; 5 o'clock was the fashionable hour to see and be seen
promenading along its manmade ornamental pond called the Serpentine, or driving one's fanciest carriage around the graveled roads known as the Ring.
Rotten Row was stretch of road notorious for speed demons on horseback or in carriages. **Ladie's Mile** was for the women.

King's Theatre: main place for opera in London (also known as Royal Italian Opera House)

Little Season: smaller version of the Season, Sept-mid Nov
Little Theater, Haymarket
Hyde Park London

Marriage Mart: the London Season, when young ladies would seek mates

Marshalsea Debtors Prison

masque: costume ball; masquerade

Mayfair: most desirable neighborhood in London, located by Hyde Park

mill: boxing match or fight

minuet: graceful dance for 2 people, small steps in time with slow music; usually the first dance at an assembly or ball

Newgate Prison: main prison in London where public executions took place

Newmarket Racecourse

opera: popular entertainment for upper classes

promenade: either a public or a private area reserved for walking

Pump Room: room at a watering place where one drank curative mineral waters and gossiped (most famous is in Bath)

quadrille: dance in square formation for 4 couples
Regent's Park

Rotten Row: path for horse riding in southern part of Hyde Park
Royal Circus
Saville Row

Season: prime time for social events in high society London; began after Easter and lasted through June

Tattersall's Repository: popular horse market in London; sold horses, carriages, hounds, harnesses, etc.

Town: always refers to London

Vauxhall Gardens: pleasure garden across the Thames from fashionable London that offered a variety of entertainments including music, dancing, fireworks; numerous dark walks suitable for assignations

waltz: considered somewhat shocking because of the contact maintained between partners

White's Club: premier gentleman's club

TRANSPORTATION

barouche: carriage with 4 wheels, folding hood, and 2 seats facing each other inside

bath chair: wheelchair, used by many invalids taking the waters in Bath

cabriolet: light, 2-wheeled carriage for 1 horse, seats 2, driven by the gentleman himself, folding leather hood; perch in back for the "tiger" or groom

chaise: light, open carriage, usually with folding top, 2 wheels, sit 2 people, drawn by 1 horse

coach: large, 4-wheeled closed carriage pulled by 4-6 horses,

seated 4, might have family's coat of arms on door, driven by coachman on elevated exterior driver's box at front, maybe with a groom by his side, pair of liveried footmen in back

curricle: fashionable, sporty, two-wheeled carriage pulled by 2 horses

gig: light, 2-wheeled, 1-horse carriage especially used in country

hackney carriage: carriage for hire

landau: 4-wheeled carriage with 2 inside seats facing each other and a top made in 2 parts that could be folded back

mail coach: coaches with regular routes and schedules that carried both mail and passengers around the country

packet: ship running regular, short-distance routes to carry mail and passengers

phaeton: light, 4-wheeled carriage with open sides, with or without a top, with 1 or 2 seats, drawn by 1 or 2 horses; high-perch phaeton was a particularly dashing vehicle

post chaise: small closed carriage that could be rented for long journeys

Smithfield bargain: marriages contracted solely for monetary gain

special license: license issued by Archbishop of Canterbury for a fee that allowed a couple to marry at any time or place

WEDDINGS/MARRIAGE

banns, reading of: notice of impending marriage on 3 consecutive Sunday's in one's parish church

breach of promise: if one's intended broke off the engagement, one could sue for breach of promise and receive moderate financial compensation

fleet marriage: clandestine marriage performed at prison without need for licenses or banns in 17th & 18th centuries (ended by Marriage Act of 1753)

parson's mousetrap: marriage

parti: person considered as a matrimonial match