

EXT. MUDDY BARNYARD -- DAY

An assortment of barnyard animals frolic in the mud. Our HOST, wearing a trendy wardrobe and nice shoes, steps into frame.

HOST

Austrian satirist Karl Kraus once wrote: "The closer the look one takes at a word, the greater the distance from which it looks back."

He continues his stroll through the barnyard.

HOST (CONT'D)

Yet, in an age of cell phones, blogs, and non-stop communications, most of us never stop to think about where the words we take for granted every day come from.

He steps into a pile of manure and looks down at his expensive shoe.

SUPER: "MANURE: FROM MIDDLE ENGLISH MANUREN, MEANING TO CULTIVATE LAND"

Host regains composure, shaking off his shit-covered shoe.

HOST (CONT'D)

On this episode of LinGo, we examine some of the most frequently used, most resilient, and most taboo words of them all...

He leans in to the camera like he's going to tell a secret.

HOST (CONT'D)

Words having to do with sex.  
(whispers)  
The so-called "dirty" ones.

BOGUS PROMO of DISCOVERY CHANNEL'S "DIRTY JOBS"

A BOGUS MIKE ROWE in rain gear stands in front of an adult book store. He puts on a plastic face mask and pulls on industrial-strength rubber gloves.

BOGUS MIKE ROWE (V.O.)  
On an all-new Dirty Words, we hit  
an adult book store and dive knee  
deep into the F-word.

BACK TO SCENE

HOST  
Wrong show. Right subject, though.

ROLL OPENING CREDITS

EXT. MOCK FIJIAN JUNGLE - day

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, dressed in his Royal British Navy garb,  
and two CREW MEMBERS march through the mock jungle. Our  
host is several steps behind them, attired in modern-day  
clothes.

SFX: FAINT TRIBAL DRUMS IN THE DISTANCE

HOST  
There are thousands of words in the  
English language designed to dance  
around taboo subjects.

EXPERT INTERVIEW

EXPERT #1  
Taboo is a word first introduced by  
Captain James Cook in one of his  
journal entries from 1777. It's a  
Fijian word meaning "sacred";  
something outsiders should leave  
alone.

EXT. MOCK FIJIAN JUNGLE - day

Cook hacks his way through the mock foliage and steps into  
a clearing. His face is bathed in the glow of an unseen  
campfire. He closes his eyes and looks away.

COOK  
Ew, that's just not right.

One of his eyes opens and he turns his head slightly to see  
again. He turns his head away again...then peeks yet again.

COOK (CONT'D)

(shudders)

Blimey, there ought to be a word  
for that.

EXPERT #2 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #2

In Western culture, sex was, and  
continues to be to this day, the  
biggest taboo of them all.

MOCK CLIP OF A "FOREIGN" FILM - possibly stock

A NUDE COUPLE, their genitals covered by the "gray dots" of  
censorship, are engaged in a fast-paced game of ping pong.

EXPERT #2 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Today, movies are a classic  
example. Show too much nudity or  
have too much strong language, and  
you'll probably wind up with  
restrictions. In the past strict  
perceptions in literature and  
common language forced society to  
find different words to  
communicate.

The gray dots move around with the players, frantically  
trying to keep up with their bouncing "naught bits." Unable  
to keep up, the dots expand until the only thing visible is  
the ball bouncing back and forth between two huge gray  
dots.

EXT. GARDEN -- DAY

Host dumps a bag of manure into a flower bed and begins  
digging into it with his hands.

HOST

But why are words like "dirty" and  
"filthy" and other words having to  
do with being unclean used so  
predominately when talking about  
sex? I mean, personally, I shower  
before AND after I have sex...

Host raises his eyebrow suggestively.

HOST (CONT'D)  
Sometimes even during.

EXPERT #3 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #3  
Obscenity absolutely has to do with filth. The word "obscene" comes from the Latin prefix *obs*, meaning "onto," and *cenum*, meaning filth. It literally means "to pile filth onto."

A MOVIE SCREEN - possibly stock

Stock Footage of a back hoe dropping dirt onto a dirt pile in the back of a dump truck plays on the screen.

SFX: HORRIFIED SCREAMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

AUDIENCE MEMBER (O.S.)  
That's obscene!

EXPERT #3 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #3  
One reason sex is so closely affiliated with dirty is because of the close proximity of the human reproductive system to waste elimination. It really wasn't much of a jump to make the association. And the Church, which frowned upon sex for any reasons other than procreation, was only too happy to help convince people.

EXT. FIELD -- DAY

A dilapidated outhouse stands alone. A PRIEST anxiously waits outside. A PEASANT steps out, and the priest accosts him.

PRIEST  
My son, did ye happen to notice that the particular part ye just used to eliminate your dirty water

is the very part ye use to lie with  
a woman?

PEASANT

Aye, I sure did, father.

PRIEST

Bless, ye, son.

PEASANT

That's why I always make sure me  
woman gives it a good swabbin' with  
'er mouth first.

EXPERT #4 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #4

There's "smut," which is a type of  
fungus; "sordid," from the Latin  
*sorder*, to be dirty; and "filth,"  
derived from the same Germanic word  
as "foul." But dirty is still far  
and away the most popular metaphor.  
To this day, children still get  
their mouths washed out with soap  
for using "dirty" words.

FADE OUT:

CLOSE UP ON WOMAN'S LIPS

TITLE: "THE P-WORD"

WOMAN'S LIPS

(whispering)

The P-word.

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Host is sitting up in bed, reading a medical brochure on  
which the words NATURAL MALE ENHANCEMENT can clearly be  
seen. He lowers the brochure and addresses the camera.

HOST

"Penis." It's considered the most  
proper, scientific, politically  
correct word for the male sex  
organ, yet it still makes many  
people uncomfortable.

EXPERT #1 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #1

Lots of us are taught, when we're little boys, that our penis is something to be tolerated but, because it's considered to be a "dirty" body part, it should be left alone. Consequently, most of the words for the penis tend to be considered "naughty."

EXPERT #2 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #2

The word "naughty" derives from Old English na, which means "not," and wiht, meaning "thing." The word literally means, "not a thing." (smiles)  
Ironically, "thing," is fairly common euphemism used for the male penis.

ERRONEOUS EXPERT INTERVIEW

SUPER: "DR. E. RONEOUS"

ERRONEOUS EXPERT

Interesting fact: the English language has nearly as many words for the male sex organ as the Eskimo language has for snow.

EXPERT #4 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #4

That hundreds-of-words-for-snow Eskimo story is an anthropological urban legend. It likely started when, in 1911, anthropologist Franz Boaz mentioned that the Inuit tribe had four different words for snow. With each successive reference, the number grew--up to 400 words.

EXT. FAKE ARCTIC SCENE -- DARK

SPECIAL EFFECTS: The "northern lights," composed of some of the many words for penis, shimmer overhead.

Our host is dressed in a furry parka and ice fishing in a hole in the ice.

HOST

Even if it were true that Eskimos have hundreds of "snow" words, it still wouldn't hold a candle to the number of words for the male penis in the English language. In his book *The Lover's Tongue*, author Mark Morton lists over 1300, most of them only from 1900 on.

Host pulls a one-eyed fish from the hole.

HOST (CONT'D)

A one-eyed trout.

MARK MORTON INTERVIEW

MARK MORTON

The word "penis" is Latin for "tail," which is what both the male and female sex organ had been referred to since the 15th century--as in "chasing tail." "Penis" is also where the word "pencil" comes from. The first pencils were actually a type of paint brush--a stick with a hairy end. You can probably put two and two together to see how that association was made.

ERRONEOUS EXPERT INTERVIEW

ERRONEOUS EXPERT

As you can imagine, it used to be quite a scene when a teacher would tell his students to grab their pencils. That's how pens came to be more popular in the classroom setting.

MARK MORTON INTERVIEW

MARK MORTON

Who said that? That's the most  
ridiculous thing I've ever heard.

EXT. FARMER'S MARKET -- DAY

Host walks through the market, reporter style.

HOST

Penis is actually a relative late-  
comer, pardon the pun. Before it  
showed up in the late 1600s, many  
other words for the male "member"  
already existed...

He stops in front of a butcher case full of meat.

HOST (CONT'D)

Including "tarse," first recorded  
in an 11th century book on the  
medicinal use of herbs. And "meat,"  
or "mett" as it was pronounced in  
the 15th century ballad, *A Talk of  
10 Wives on Their Husbands' Ware*.

CLOSE UP OF MEAT DISPLAY

15TH CENTURY WOMAN (V.O.)

"I knowe the mett, well and fyne;  
the length of a snayle."

EXPERT #3 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #3

"Cock" was a very popular word for  
penis starting in the 17<sup>th</sup> century  
and continuing through to this day.  
One theory on how it became ass-  
ociated with penis is because, when  
a cock crows, his wattles and comb  
fill with blood, causing them to  
swell and brighten.

INT. NEWS SET

SUPER: "WORD UPDATE"

Host, seated behind a desk, looks up from his papers.

HOST

This just in: Puritan Americans were so uptight with the word cock, they invented the word "rooster" for male chickens. On a side note, NOT a good idea to EVER invite a Puritan to a cockfight.

EXPERT #1 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #1

Weaponry has long been used to describe the penis, which has helped males to promote their sexual prowess. The word "weapon" itself was used to denote penis in Old English, dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It's hard not to feel empowered when you're speaking about a pike or a lance or a missile hanging between your legs.

EXT. MEDIEVAL VILLAGE WELL -- DAY

A KNIGHT and a JESTER and an EXECUTIONER are gathered around the village well a la the office water cooler. They drink from wooden ladles and tell stories.

KNIGHT

So she says to me, "Percy, conquered me with your blandishment, you 'ave. Now take yer broad sword and run me through." So I give 'er 'er wish. Good, I did.

EXECUTIONER

Merlin, baby. Pure Merlin!

KNIGHT

At least with me lance I is. Both the one I carry into battle and the one in me trousers!

They all share a BIG LAUGH until TWO MAIDENS walk past the well and smile sheepishly.

MAIDEN #1

'Ello, Percy.

JESTER

Stable girl's lookin' pretty swive.

KNIGHT

As Willy S. put it, I'd sheath me  
sword to the hilt.

EXECUTIONER

Little bit of close-quarter battle,  
eh?

KNIGHT

Do not they call me Lance-a-lot for  
nothing? Feel me?

They all touch knuckles, gangsta style.

JESTER

None dubious, Sire. None dubious.

STAGE -- GREEN SCREEN

Our host stands in front of a background that is a GIANT  
NAME TAG reading: "HELLO, MY NAME IS"

HOST

Roger seems to be the first  
recorded reference to the penis as  
a man's name, followed closely by  
Thomas, Dick, Peter, Willie, and  
several others...

ON HOST'S ZIPPER

He unzips his pants, and a little version of himself walks  
out from behind the zipper.

LITTLE HOST

But how did men's names come to  
represent the male sex organ?

EXPERT #4 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #4

Naming one's sex organ seems to be  
a uniquely male talent that started

happening in the early 1800s. The names chosen were considered typically male, every-man names, sort of like Joe Blow, or any Tom, Johnson, Dick, or Harry--Peter being the exception. Peter derives from the Greek word petros, which means stone.

STAGE -- GREEN SCREEN

Several men, wearing sashes that read DICK, JOHN THOMAS, PETER, WILLIE, and ROGER warm up at a starting line. The STARTER'S PISTOL goes off and the race is on.

STOCK FOOTAGE changes constantly in the background as they run in place.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And they're off! It's Roger, fast out of the gate, with Thomas right behind...

The racers jockey in position in accordance with the ANNOUNCER'S call of the race.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Dick is coming on with a spurt, but he's falling behind to Peter, who's surging forward. This is truly some stiff competition. Willie and John Thomas are neck and neck...but wait, Dick is coming from the rear...He's coming, coming, coming...Dick thrusts across the finish by mere inches!

FADE OUT:

CLOSE UP OF A WOMAN'S LIPS

TITLE: The C-Word

WOMAN'S LIPS

(whispers)

The C-word.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

Host reads a copy of *The Vagina Monologues* from the comfort of a plush chair. He lowers the book.

HOST

There are three words considered so taboo in the English language that we refer to them simply by their first letter: the N-word, the F-word, and perhaps the most taboo of them all, the C-word.

EXPERT #2 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #2

Up until the 14th century, the C-word really had a neutral status. In fact, in the 13th century, many street names in London and Oxford, like Gropecuntlane, had the word incorporated in them.

EXPERT #1 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #1

Around the 14th century, the word appears to have shifted towards the taboo. Chaucer uses the word, but he spells it Q-U-E-Y-N-T-E," probably in an attempt to move away from its original form. Or Chaucer's spelling could be a reflection of his notion that the word derived from "quaint," one of quaint's meanings at the time being "skillfully designed or cunning."

ERRONEOUS EXPERT INTERVIEW

ERRONEOUS EXPERT

It's a little-known fact that the word is actually a shortened version of "country"...with the "O" dropped, of course. I mean, how many guys haven't sworn allegiance to that particular country at one point or another in their lives?

EXPERT #3 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #3

What's this guy a doctor in? No, that's completely erroneous, although Shakespeare did have Hamlet make a bawdy pun using the word "country" in Hamlet.

INT. THEATER STAGE

Two actors, HAMLET & OPHELIA, re-enact Shakespeare's Hamlet, Act III, Scene 2.

HAMLET

Lady, shall I lie in your lap?

OPHELIA

No, my lord.

HAMLET

I mean, my head upon your lap?

OPHELIA

Aye, my lord.

HAMLET

Do you not think I meant country matters?

Hamlet pauses, waiting for the audience to react to his pun.

WINGS OF THE STAGE -- CONTINUOUS

A neurotic, nervous Shakespeare bites his nails, waiting for a laugh.

SFX: Crickets chirping

SHAKESPEARE

(whispered shout)

Say it again! With emphasis!

HAMLET (O.S.)

I say, do you not think I meant COUNTRY matters?

Beat, as Shakespeare flop sweats...the AUDIENCE BURSTS INTO

LAUGHTER, and the nervous bard wipes his forehead with his puffy sleeve.

EXPERT #4 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #4

There are lots of different theories on the origin of the word. Some say it derives from the Germanic word *kunton* with the root of *ku*, which means "hollow place." Others say it comes from the Latin word *cunnus*, the vulva, which means "to cover up" or, literally, a sheath. That works hand-in-hand with the whole penis-as-a-weapon connotation. The male sports a weapon between his legs, and woman sports a place for him to put it.

MARK MORTON INTERVIEW

MARK MORTON

There's also an Arabic word, *khunt*, which means femininity. But the bottom line is, no one really knows the origin for sure.

EXPERT #3 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #3

I think the important thing about the word is the power it carries, and how the emphasis changes through the ages. Yeah, it's a word for female genitalia, but it also has the power to reduce a woman to a sex object, in an extremely raw way. It's not the same for a man. Call a guy a "dick," and he'll probably smile and say, "Yeah, I am." Although, it seems to be getting more that way with women, as they seize control of the word. (smiles)  
And the Irish sure seem to find creative ways to use it.

INT. IRISH PUB

An IRISH GUY sits at the bar, nursing a Guinness.

IRISH GUY

Now that was a c-BEEP-nt of a thing  
for that that guy to say now,  
wasn't it?

EVE ENSLER INTERVIEW - Vagina monologues

EVE ENSLER

Naming things, breaking taboos, and  
denial can be dangerous, terr-  
ifying, crucial work. But freedom  
begins with naming things. And  
humanity is preserved by it.

EXPERT #4 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #4

Whereas many of the euphemisms  
males use for their penises have to  
do with power and prowess, many of  
the euphemisms used for the C-word  
had connotations having to do with  
shame, presumably from Eve con-  
vincing Adam to taste the apple.  
Names like the "everlasting wound,"  
"the divine scar," and "the mark of  
the beast."

INT. IRISH PUB

Host comes in and sits down at the bar next to the Irish  
guy from the previous scene.

HOST

While it has nowhere near as many  
euphemisms as the P-word, there are  
still quite a few. The problem is,  
many of them are considered nearly  
as vulgar as the C-word itself,  
which means we can't say them on  
this program.

Irish guy turns to host.

IRISH GUY

Oi, words for c-BEEP-nt? That's  
easy: there's tw-BEEP-t, sl-BEEP-t,  
g-BEEP-sh, sn-BEEP-tch...

HOST

Thank God for the Irish.

EXPERT # 4 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #4

The "acceptable" word most used is  
"vagina," but that technically  
refers to one very specific part.  
The C-word incorporates all the  
parts; the whole kit & kaboodle.  
(smiles)  
In fact, maybe I should submit kit  
& kaboodle.

EXT. MEDIEVAL BARNYARD -- DAY

Two milk maidens, an older MOTHER and her late-teens  
DAUGHTER milk cows together.

SUPER: ENGLAND, 1200 A.D.

SFX: SENSITIVE MUSIC AND CHIRPING BIRDS

DAUGHTER

Mum, can I ask you a personal  
question?

MOTHEr

Of course, dear.

DAUGHTER

Do you ever get that not-so-fresh  
feeling?

MOTHER

Oh, yes. Yer father says me morning  
breath puts the cows to shame.

DAUGHTER

No, mum. I meant a bit lower.

MOTHER

(sniffs at arm pit)

Oh, yes, dear. Yer father says  
after a day in the field me arm  
pits smell like a hung pheasant.

DAUGHTER

No, no, mum, even lower. I mean yer  
plum, yer cabbage...yer  
cauliflower.

MOTHER

(confused)

I'm still not following you, dear.

DAUGHTER

The promised land, the green  
meadow, the gentlemen's pleasure  
garden.

MOTHER

You mean yer c-BLEEP-nt?

DAUGHTER

Mum!

MOTHER

What? It's only the year 1200;  
we've got another hundred years  
before it becomes taboo.

EXT. FIJIAN JUNGLE -- CONTINUOUS

Captain Cook, his hands still over his eyes, lowers them.

COOK

And 500 more before "taboo" is  
introduced into English.

INT. IRISH PUB -- CONTINUOUS

Irish guy and host are both at the bar, an army of empty  
pints in front of them. Irish guy TURNS TO CAMERA.

IRISH GUY

Now that's a c--

HOST

Can't!

IRISH GUY  
Of a sketch about c--

HOST  
Can't say that!

They clink their glasses together and pound their beers.

FADE OUT:

CLOSE UP OF A WOMAN'S LIPS

TITLE: The F-Word

WOMAN'S LIPS  
(whispers)  
The F-word.

INT. BEDROOM -- EVENING

Host reads a copy of *Lady Chatterly's Lover* from bed. He lowers the book.

HOST  
There are three words considered so  
taboo in the English language that  
we refer to them simply - -

DIRECTOR (O.C.)  
We covered that. Move on.

Host thinks for a minute, counting on his fingers as he recounts his progress.

HOST  
Let's see, we covered the male sex  
organ, then the female one. What  
would logically come next...?

A light bulb goes off in his head.

HOST (CONT'D)  
Of course, the H-word. Hermaph-  
rodites: dudes with breasts or  
chicks with di - - ?

DIRECTOR (O.C.)  
Cut! The F-word, you idiot!

### EXPERT #3 INTERVIEW

#### EXPERT #3

There are lots of theories on the origin of the F-word. Some say it comes from the German word *ficken*, which means to strike or bang. Another theory is that it came from the word *firk*, widely used from the 11<sup>th</sup> century through the 17<sup>th</sup> century, meaning a sharp blow or thrust. Then there's the theory that it derives from a now-lost form of Scandinavian, based on the fact that the Dutch word *fokken*, the Swedish word *focka*, and the Norwegian word *fukka* all mean "to copulate."

### ERRONEOUS EXPERT INTERVIEW

#### ERRONEOUS EXPERT

It's pretty well accepted in academic circles that the F-word originates from the acronym standing for "for unlawful carnal knowledge." They used to jot it down next to the names of fornicators back in olden days.

### EXPERT #2 INTERVIEW

#### EXPERT #1

"Olden days?" That's certainly specific. No, I'm afraid that is one of the best-known, but totally erroneous folk etymologies.

### EXPERT #4 INTERVIEW

#### EXPERT #4

The main meaning of the F-word is to denote sexual activity, in just about the crudest way possible. There are lots of words for the sex act, ranging from the biblical to the scientific to the raunchy. But the F-word is the Holy Grail of

them all...which is probably why it was, and remains, so popular.

INT. BEDROOM

A HUSBAND and WIFE lie in bed together, both reading magazines. Husband lowers his magazine and begins nibbling on her neck.

HUSBAND

Know what I'm in the mood for?

Wife responds playfully.

WIFE

I think I can guess. You want to "sleep" with me. To "know" me.

HUSBAND

Nope.

Wife turns it up a bit.

WIFE

Intercourse? Copulation? Coitus?

HUSBAND

Nope.

Wife gives him a racy, longing look.

WIFE

To roger me? To screw me? To give me a good shagging?

HUSBAND

Nope, not those either.

Wife is thoroughly excited. She takes a DEEP BREATH.

WIFE

Oh, Stanley--to f-BEEP me?

He pops out of bed and heads for the door.

HUSBAND

Nope, a ham sandwich. Want one?

LAWRENCE PAROS INTERVIEW

LAURENCE PAROS

In literature, the word was first recorded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century poem *Flen Flyys*. It later made the rounds of several 16<sup>th</sup> century Scottish poems, and then seems to have gone underground. As late as the 1940s, writers were frantically searching for replacement words, with Norman Mailer using "fug" instead in *The Naked and the Dead*. But then, thanks to a Supreme Court ruling on *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, it made a comeback, actually appearing about 258 times in the original manuscript of *From Here to Eternity*.

EXT. MOCK MINE FIELD

The HOST carefully walks in front of fenced field. A sign reads "Mine Field - Use Caution". He holds a large letter "F" made to look like an explosive device.

SFX -- TICKING

HOST

One of the most volatile, and versatile, of all words in the English language, the F-bomb can be used as a noun, a verb, an adjective, an interjection--even a gesture.

He holds his hand up and gives the finger (grayed out), but ends up dropping the bomb in the process.

HOST

F me.

SFX -- EXPLOSION

SCREEN FLASHES TO WHITE.

EXPERT # 2 INTERVIEW

EXPERT #2

Aside from the act of sex, the F-word can be used to describe a multitude of conditions and phenomena, from making a mess of something...

A BUBBLE in the lower right hand corner POPS up similar to a hearing impaired simul-cast. Inside, a MAN reenacts the meaning of the term previously mentioned by the expert.

BUBBLE MAN

That's a f-BEEP-ed up!

Bubble man appears perturbed at being bleeped.

EXPERT #2

To being casual or provocative...

BUBBLE MAN

F-BEEP off, dude.

BM looks around to see where the beeping is coming from.

EXPERT #2

To be estimable...

BUBBLE MAN

F-BEEP-ing A!

BM looks around again, growing agitated.

BUBBLE MAN

Man, cut the sh-BLEEP-t out!

EXPERT #2

To being baffled...

BM hesitates...he goes for it.

BUBBLE MAN

I'm f-BEEP-ed if I know?

EXPERT #2

To being disgusted...

BUBBLE MAN

Aww, man--F-BEEP this.

BM vacates his bubble, exiting stage left. Expert #2 isn't sure if he should continue, what with no one to punctuate his words.

After a beat, our host enters the bubble, stage right. Expert #2 continues.

EXPERT #2

And so on. It probably reached its zenith during the Second World War, when it worked its way into several acronyms like SNAFU and FUBAR...

HOST

Situation normal--all f-BEEP-ed up! Ooh, that is frustrating.

The BUBBLE EXPANDS, nudging out the expert and eventually filling the entire screen.

HOST

Hundreds of years since these words were first spoken, and censors still deem them to be unspeakable on network TV. You know, with all the repeated exposure to BLEEPs within the context of questionable content we experience on television, this host can't help but wonder if, in another hundred years, the "B-word" won't be the most offensive word in the English language.

Host steps out of his bubble.

HOST

I'm TBD for LinGo...and I'm BEEP-ing out of here.

He exits the frame.

FADE TO BLACK