



TUFFERSAURUS

A brief at-a-glance guide to commonly used words and phrases in the Tufnell lexicon . . .

Audi

a term used to describe a batsman scoring four noughts in a row (see also ‘Olympic’).

‘Tuffers is on an Audi here . . .’

Bunsen

a wicket that will take a bit of spin (i.e. Bunsen burner – turner).

‘It’s a raging Bunsen, Tuffers. You can fill your boots.’

cherry

the new ball.

‘We aren’t offered a new ball when we’re fielding in a Sport Relief game against Mohammad Azharuddin’s team, but Azhar’s team miraculously find a brand new cherry when it’s their turn to bowl.’

TUFFERS' CRICKET TALES

coffin

cricket bag.

“Hello Athers,” says chairman of the selectors Ted Dexter to the bemused dressing-room attendant carrying Mike Atherton’s coffin.’

don’t change the fly (courtesy of Allan Lamb)

refers to a left-arm spinner bowling perfect line and length tempting a batsman into a mistake, like an angler dangling the bait in front of the nose of a fish.

“Don’t change the fly, Tuffers. They’re rising!” said Lamby.’

featherbed

a flat pitch that does nothing for bowlers – also known as a ‘pudding’.

*“How the **** am I supposed to get a wicket on this featherbed,” grumbled Tufnell.’*

feng shui

to clean bowl a batsman or be clean bowled (i.e. rearrange the furniture/have your furniture rearranged).

‘Ooh, he’s just been feng shuied.’

fill your boots time

a time when either batsmen or bowlers are dominant and there is a chance for lots more runs/wickets.

See ‘Bunsen’ example above.

filth

poor bowling that gets carted to/over the boundary.

“That’s absolute filth, Tuffers,” said Goochy.’

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flan

a medium-pace delivery that is easy to hit – also known as ‘phantom bowling’ or ‘dobbers’ or ‘dolly-drops’.

‘That was a flan of the highest flan order.’

full bung

another way of describing a full toss – see ‘filth’.

‘The miserly Gus Fraser bowled his annual full bung to the grateful batsman.’

happy days

catch-all phrase to herald a positive outcome.

“‘Happy days,’ said Tuffers as Lord Gower sabred open another bottle of champagne.’

he’ll be disappointed with that . . .

tactful phrase to describe one the worst shots/deliveries/dropped catches in the history of mankind during *Test Match Special* commentary to avoid speaking the ugly truth.

‘He’ll be disappointed with that . . . massive heave across the line, particularly now his middle stump is catapulting towards the wicketkeeper and he’s going to have to walk back into the dressing room and face his teammates.’

jaffa

an unplayable delivery.

‘Oh, and that’s an absolute jaffa from Swanny . . .’

jazz hat

posh boy.

‘Straussy was a bit of a jazz hat as a youngster, but I could see he was England captain material.’

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knock one off the stump

to masturbate.

'His roommate mistakenly thought Tufnell was knocking one off the stump when in fact he was trying to work out how to bowl out Justin Langer.'

lose my/your/his whooper

to lose one's nerve, to bottle it.

'Tufnell totally lost his whooper throwing darts up on the famous stage at Lakeside.'

Majorca

yorker.

'What a Majorca there by Jimmy Anderson!'

Michelle

to take five wickets in an innings (i.e. Michelle Pfeiffer – five-fer).

'He's bagged a lovely Michelle.'

moose

to drive fast.

'I absolutely moosed it round the Goodwood track, and later I watched as the written-off Maserati was winched back to the pits on a crane.'

muppet

useful derogatory term to intimidate a debutant batsman.

*'"Who's this ****ing muppet?" said the fearsome David Smith as debutant batsman Tufnell trembled.'*

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Olympic

term used to describe an alleged batsman scoring five noughts in a row (see also 'Audi').

'Bloody hell, Tuffers has only got an Olympic.'

omelette

the rough outside leg stump (or off stump of a left-handed batsman) in the second innings of a game.

'Plop it in the omelette, Tuffers.'

overs kadovers

used when a game is effectively over even if the final ball is yet to be bowled.

'It's overs kadovers here at Headingley.'

penguin

to engage in deep mental analysis of batsmen in preparation for a game. Usually conducted while lying on one's back under the bed covers, arms by one's sides flapping involuntarily, like a penguin on its back. Not to be confused with 'knocking one off the stump' (see above).

'The main reason I was a good spinner was because I did a lot of late-night penguinning.'

ponce

to beg, steal, borrow.

'Luckily, Catalina had smuggled some ciggies into the jungle in her hair, so I ponced a couple from her.'

rock & roll

to lose a lot of wickets in quick succession.

'England have got to be careful not to get rock and rolled here.'

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seed

a beautifully bowled delivery.

'Oh, that's a good seed by Monty P.'

strangle

a wicket taken with a poor delivery.

'Always nice to get a strangle once in a while.'

spangled

to be very, very drunk.

'By the time the show starts, my interviewees Chris Adams and Murray Goodwin are absolutely spangled.'

timber

to fall over like a felled tree in a bar due to excessive alcohol intake.

'As Lara leaves the bar, I look round just in time to see Athers timbering over.'

twat

to strike the ball hard (note to self: this term is not suitable for usage during a live TV/radio cricket commentary).

'He's twatted through the offside . . . Sorry, what was that? I'm not allowed to say that on Sky?'

touched by the Lama

to feel lucky (particularly after shaking hands with the Dalai Lama).

“‘We're going to win,’ says Vaughanie. ‘We've been touched by the Lama.’”

unit

a very big man.

'Patrick Patterson was a sizeable unit.'

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wickets in the hutch

wickets in hand.

'England have wickets in the hutch and look to be marching to victory.'