



Christmas Song Titles

in Gobbledygook*


by Margaret Whisnant

All together now. . .



A Set of Two Or More Hollow, Metal Instruments, Typically Cup-shaped or Spherical, with Internal Clappers, Pellets, etc, That When Suspended from Their Vertex and Shaken Will Render a Clinking or Tinkling Sound.



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Introduction. . .

What if your teacher handed back an assignment and said, "I have affixed the most highly desired alphabet character to your scholarly endeavor as an expression of its meritorious attributes?"

Well, for one thing, your teacher would be speaking **gobbledygook!**

Yes, it's a real word with real definitions. Here's one version:

gobbledygook *gä-bəl-dē-guŋk* -noun Language characterized by high-sounding, pretentious wording that is hard to understand; double talk; double speak; balderdash; gibberish; mumbo jumbo; baloney.

The term was coined in 1944 during World War II by Texas lawyer Maury Maverick while he was working for the Smaller War Plants Corporation. Fed up with bureaucratic double talk such as *combat emplacement excavator* instead of *shovel*, Mr. Maverick dashed off a memo banning "gobbledygook language." His made-up word purposely imitated the sound of a turkey call.

Rather than disappearing as Mr. Maverick commanded, gobbledygook has become quite commonplace. Bureaucrats still love it. Consider, for example, a hospital bill that lists *disposable mucus recovery system* as a chargeable item, or this announcement—*Refuse and rubbish shall not be collected from the site or receptacles thereon before the hour of 8:00 A.M. or after the hour of 6:00 P.M. any day*—issued by a town in Australia. Translation? Patients must pay for a box of tissue and the town will pick up garbage between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

It's enough to *drive your mental activity beyond the margins of reason* as you leave home wearing *gently-used attire* and ride in your parents' *preowned vehicle* to your *assigned institution of instruction* where you will *inhabit the student station designated specifically for your occupancy*!

Or, you can have bunches of fun with the whole idea! Let's start with the gobbledygook Christmas song title printed in the upper right-hand corner above the reindeer.

Aren't you glad you get to sing the simple phrase ***Jingle Bells*** instead?

Here's your chance to become proficient in spotting, investigating, and decoding this type of verbal pollution. Beginning on the next page, you will find titles of familiar Christmas songs written in gobbledygook. Study the convoluted verbiage and then write the actual title in the blank provided.

By the way, you made an *A* on the assignment. Your teacher said so!

Christmas Song Titles in Gobbledygook

Part One

Write the real titles in the blanks after each flood of balderdash!



1. An Anthropomorphic Representation of the Human Form Constructed of Two to Three Orbs of Compacted Frozen Precipitation, Often with Facial Features of Mineral and/or Vegetable Matter with a Moniker Referring to Freezing or Very Cold Temperatures

2. That Most Famous of All North Pole Residents Is Approaching at This Very Moment

3. The Holiday Celebrated the Twenty-Fifth Day of the Month of December on the Georgian Calendar and Described in This Particular Musical Composition as Being the Color of Pure Snow or the Outer Margins of This Page.
