

Fun with Stamps – 20

Stamps on the tip of your tongue

If we wanted to find our way around another country, it would be good to know some words of the language. We're exploring STAMP TERRITORY and we need some language to help us find our way. The words below are a GLOSSARY; a small dictionary of words about a particular subject. This glossary is about STAMPS and POSTAGE.

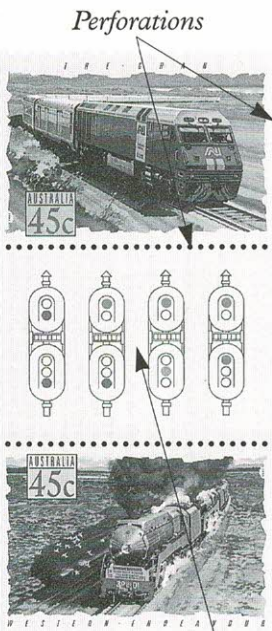
As you learn more, you can add to this list, or find examples of the terms used. You'll soon be able to find your way around stamp territory very easily.



Commemorative



Frama

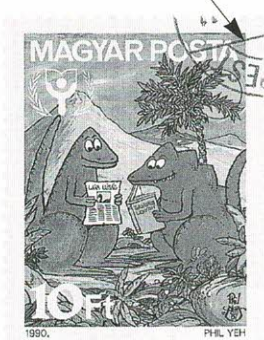


Perforations

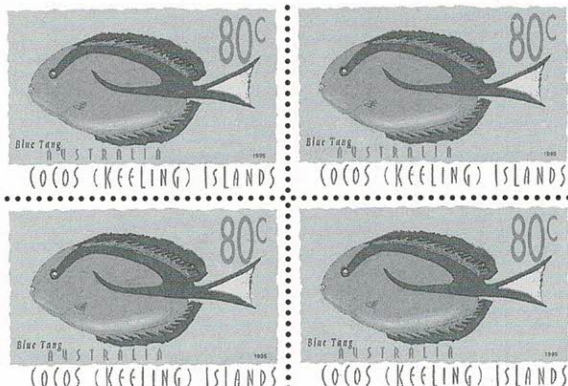
- Bisect a stamp cut in half by postal authorities, so that two stamps are created. Each 'new' stamp has half the value of the original uncut stamp.
- Block four or more joined stamps (but not stamps in a strip - see strip).
- Bogus a bogus stamp is not a real postage stamp, although it looks like one. A forgery is a copy of an existing stamp, but a bogus stamp comes from the maker's imagination. Some bogus stamps are even labelled with the names of countries that do not exist!
- Cinderella stamps . . . stickers and labels which resemble postage stamps but can not be used for postage.
- Commemorative . . . a stamp issued to celebrate a special event or anniversary. Commemorative stamps are usually issued for only a short period.
- Cover an envelope. A first day cover is an envelope postmarked on the first day of issue of the stamp it bears.
- Definitive a normal, 'everyday' stamp of a country. Definitive stamps usually are issued for long periods, sometimes for as long as a hundred years.
- Essay a suggested design for a stamp, which can take the form of a drawing, painting or photograph.
- Face value the postal value printed on a stamp; the amount at which the stamp was sold at the post office. Collectors often pay much more than face value for stamps.
- Fake a stamp which has been altered to make it look like a more valuable one; also a damaged stamp which has been repaired.
- Flaw a mark or blemish on a stamp, often caused by a damaged printing plate.
- Forgery an illegally printed imitation of a real stamp.
- Frama stamps stamps with an all-over pattern. Frama stamps are dispensed from machines outside some post offices.
- Gutter the white strip between two panes on a sheet of stamps. A gutter pair is two stamps with a gutter between them. Some stamp sheets have information or pictures printed in the gutters.
- Hinge a small piece of gummed paper used for mounting stamps in an album.

- Issue a number of related stamps produced and put on sale at the same time.
- Maximum card a postcard with an image related to a particular stamp design, and bearing the stamp and a postmark.
- Miniature sheet a small sheet of one or more stamps which are set within a frame of related illustrations or information.
- Mint an unused stamp in perfect condition.
- Pane a section of a sheet of stamps, separated from other sections by a gutter; a pane can also be a small sheet of stamps in a booklet.
- Perforations the small holes punched between stamps so that they can be torn apart.
- Philately stamp collecting. (Also the study of all things related to mail and postal service.)
- Postmark an official mark applied to a stamp to show that it has been through the post and cannot be reused.
- Se-tenant two or more stamps of a different colour, denomination or design joined together.
- Strip three or more stamps joined together in a single row, either horizontal or vertical.
- Tête-beche a pair of unseparated stamps where one is upside down in relation to the other.
- Unused a stamp which has not been through the post but is not in perfect condition. A mint stamp is an unused stamp in perfect condition.
- Used a stamp which has been sent through the post.
- Watermark a pattern pressed into stamp paper during production. Watermarks were once used as a precaution against forgery, but are very rare in modern stamps.

Postmark



Se-tenant



Block