**A rather limited glossary of some educational terms (Phil Race)**

| **Term** | **Meaning** |
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| **Adaptive feedback** | **The sort of shock you get when plugging in too many devices to an electrical adapter.** |
| **Adaptive testing** | **Seeing how many different things you can plug in to a single adapter before it catches fire.** |
| **Andragogy** | **The name given to intensive studies of the learning behaviours of people called Andrew or Andrea.** |
| **Assessment** | **The extent to which measured or observed behaviours relate to characteristics of members of the donkey family.** |
| **Asynchronous learning** | **Particularly studied in connection with the training of kitchen porters and sous-chefs who spend much of their working life with their hands in sinks.** |
| **Authentic assessment** | **Done by referees and book reviewers, who measure how good writers are at ‘authing’.** |
| **Bologna** | **The common term used to describe agreement upon what should constitute one particular spaghetti sauce.** |
| **Case study** | **Term used in leisure and tourism studies, paying particular attention to luggage tracking.** |
| **Coaching** | **A more luxurious means of transportation (e.g. from the station to the conference) than bussing.** |
| **Constructive alignment** | **Process used by those erecting scaffolding, to ensure that vertical bits are vertical, and horizontal bits are level enough.** |
| **Constructivism** | **Addiction to various kinds of play, often starting with Lego bricks, and in extreme cases Meccano sets.** |
| **Criterion referenced** | **Writing a reference specifically to help the candidate demonstrate that they have achieved specific criteria.** |
| **Dissertation** | **A particular local form of writing, originating in a town between Ipswich and Norwich.** |
| **Essay** | **A traditional strong bitter beer, still produced in Cardiff by a company called ‘Brains’.** |
| **Evaluation** | **A study in English language studies (for example) of the importance of the vowel ‘e’ in writing and speech.** |
| **External assessor** | **Someone who looks to judge how good your outsides are.** |
| **Formative assessment** | **Very common tactic used in selection of candidates for jobs, where how well the forms are filled in is judged.** |
| **Group Assessment** | **Judging and ranking of pop groups, normally done by groupies.** |
| **Holistic assessment** | **Careful measurement of the width and depth of holes.** |
| **Inter-assessor reliability; Intra-assessor reliability** | **A pair of terms used interchangeably, to hoodwink gullible people into believing that the user knows what they mean.** |
| **Ipsative** | **A term used by one author in particular, to test whether any copy editor has ever heard of it.** |
| **Learning Objective** | **An objective which learns all by itself.** |
| **Learning Objects** | **Various ways and means of objecting against learning.** |
| **Learning outcome** | **A way of getting people to disagree about what is supposed to be learned.** |
| **Learning sets** | **Study of making jellies, glues, cements and other colloidal substances.** |
| **Marking scheme** | **Way of deciding where to put the marks, for example dotted white lines in the middle of roads.** |
| **Metadata** | **Weather forecasting information.** |
| **MLE** | **Abbreviation for ‘Emily’.** |
| **Moderation** | **Process leading towards becoming a ‘mod’ (rather than a ‘rocker’).** |
| **MOODLE** | **Term used to describe a mood of relatively short duration.** |
| **Multiple choice questions** | **Where there is more than one starter, main course, and dessert.** |
| **Multiple response** | **Where one chooses more than one starter, main course and dessert.** |
| **Norm referenced testing** | **Where Norman is tested by how well he can write references.** |
| **Open book exams** | **Done in libraries, for example, where readers are tested on the basis of how many books they can open per minute.** |
| **Open notes exams** | **A particular form of exam in musical composition, where closed notes such as crotchets and quavers are banned, and the whole piece has to be composed in open notes such as minims and breves.** |
| **Oral Assessment** | **Done by dentists and dental hygienists.** |
| **OSCEs** | **Believed to originate from Australia, and studies relating to locks.** |
| **Pedagogy** | **Study of feet, and use of feet – e.g. pedestrianisation.** |
| **Peer Assessment** | **Judgements made by or on Lords.** |
| **Plagiarism** | **Study of epidemics and pandemics.** |
| **Portfolio** | **Records kept by harbour masters.** |
| **Presentation** | **Particularly important at Christmas and birthdays, where gifts are given and received.** |
| **PBL (‘Peeble’)** | **The particular dialect used in the Scottish town of Peebles.** |
| **Quality assurance** | **Assurance that everything has some kind of quality, whether good, bad or indifferent.** |
| **Reliability** | **The ability to tell the same lie more than once.** |
| **Rubric** | **Practice of rubbing bricks, sometimes done by people with their backs to the wall.** |
| **Standardised test** | **Used by opticians, to determine the standard of one’s eyesight.** |
| **Subjective test** | **Used by monarchs, to determine the extent to which people are their subjects.** |
| **Summative assessment** | **Tests used to see whether people can add up. Notable failures seem to include banks.** |
| **Test** | **A short exam** |
| **Testicle** | **An even shorter exam** |
| **Thesis** | **Fairly common mistake made by less literate people, when they should have written ‘these are...’.** |
| **Time constrained** | **Tautology, as time is always constrained (e.g. using clocks).** |
| **Unseen** | **Not noticed.** |
| **Validity** | **Believed to be derived from those living in valleys, including poetry and other ditties.** |