And What Does Google Say? – Web Search Results under Scrutiny: From Traditional to Web-Based Lexicography

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Google

A dictionary is a collection of words and their definitions (and sometimes other information). Such collections are usually printed as books, but some are now designed for use on computers.
The aims of the study – research questions

Set 1
• What do we get when looking for linguistic information on Google?
• What does Google (predominantly) suggest?
• What kind of resources and linguistic information dominate among the suggested topmost results?

Set 2
• What models of meaning description are adopted by the topmost resources?
• How much emphasis is placed on usage and evaluative meanings by these resources and how does this relate to the type of resource?
Motivation

• Generalisations about users’ search preferences: users resort to Google rather than individual (web-based or electronic) dictionaries. But what does it actually mean?
• What are we looking at when “consulting Google”?
• What are the directions that (new) language resources - professionally edited or collaborative - are taking in their approach to meaning description (length and complexity of description, usage, evaluative function)?
Methodology

First page of Google results for each search. Two sets of manual searches for the 11 lexical units (12 June and 11 July 2018).
The aim: to include examples of different parts of speech, individual words and phrases, evaluative meanings – a partly random selection:

ASCETIC
A PANOPLY OF
CONUNDRUM
CUT-RATE
DEVASTATE
MATERIALISTIC/MATERIALISM
MINORITIZE
ON THE VERGE OF
PLETHORA
TAKE A DECISION
THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

Mojca Šorli, EURALEX, Ljubljana, July 2018
crux of the matter. Also, heart of the matter. The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, In this trial the bloodstains represent the crux of the matter, or We think the second clause is the heart of the matter.

Crux of the matter | Define Crux of the matter at Dictionary.com
www.dictionary.com/browse/crux-of-the-matter

Crux of the matter - Idioms by The Free Dictionary
https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/crux+of+the+matter

Crux of the matter - definition of crux of the matter by The Free Dictionary
https://www.thefreedictionary.com/crux+of+the+matter

the heart / crux of the matter (phrase) American English definition and ...
https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/...the-heart-crux-of-the-matter
crux - Dictionary Definition : Vocabulary.com
https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/crux
People are always trying to get to the crux of a matter or the crux of a problem, while others try to distract them. The noun crux is often followed by the phrases "of the matter" or "of the problem." When people are trying to identify the crux of something, it's like they want to get to the heart of it.

expressions - Does the 'crux of the matter' in this phrase make ...
https://english.stackexchange.com/.../does-the-crux-of-the-matter-in-this-phrase-make...
Mar 18, 2017 - It doesn't really work here because what you're trying to describe is a dream vs. a sacrifice type situation, and you've set this up with conjunctive ...

expressions - Does the 'crux of the matter' in this phrase make sense ...
https://english.stackexchange.com/questions/379023/...crux-of-the-matter.../379035
It doesn't really work here because what you're trying to describe is a dream vs. a sacrifice type situation, and you've set this up with conjunctive phrase: "Even ..."

crux | Definition of crux in English by Oxford Dictionaries
https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/crux
Definition of crux - the decisive or most important point at issue. "the crux of the matter is that attitudes have changed". More example sentences. 'I think that ...'

Meaning of crux of the matter - My English Pages
crux of the matter. The phrase crux of the matter refers to the most important point of an issue. Another related idiom is heart of the matter. Crux has a Latin origin ...
Results collected on 12 June 2018

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Results: THE CRUX OF THE MATTER
Results: THE CRUX OF THE MATTER
Does the 'crux of the matter' in this phrase make sense?

I only recently came across the phrase 'crux of the matter'. I thought it would be quite useful. So, I tried forming a sentence, but I am not sure whether it is right? Could someone confirm it for me?

Even though such extravagant weddings may sound like a dream-come-true to you, the crux of the matter is that you'll be wasting a lot of your money.
It's viable but, somehow out of place. I'd prefer something like "the important question is: are they a waste of money?". – Dan Bron Mar 18 '17 at 15:21

To be the crux of the matter something should be very definitely the central point. Wasting a lot of money is undesirable but to be the crux of the matter I would say it had to be more fundamental. "The crux of the matter is that we simply can't afford it" would be a better use of the phrase. Better still "but the crux of the matter is that, you don't have a fiancé(e). .. – davidlof Mar 18 '17 at 16:27

It doesn't really work here because what you're trying to describe is a dream vs. a sacrifice type situation, and you've set this up with conjunctive phrase: "Even though".

Even though X, the _________ is Y.

The blank space is where you've put "crux of the matter", but the crux of the matter really means the absolute, fundamental point that underpins an issue. The price of a wedding is one negative factor of wedding planning (the matter), but it is not the "crux" and it is used here out of context.

Even though such extravagant weddings may sound like a dream-come-true, the fundamental issue is that you'll be wasting a lot of your money.

This is an edited version where I have added "fundamental issue" because it hints at the negative. "Crux of the matter" does not hint at or imply anything negative, and the situation you are trying to portray is a positive vs. negative trade-off.

I would also remove the unnecessary "to you" after "dream-come-true" because you say "you'll" shortly afterwards and it isn't really needed.
Idiom Definition

"the crux of the matter"

the basic, central or critical point of an issue, topic or problem

Related words and phrases:

basics, bottom line, brass tacks, chief part, chief thing, cold fact, core, essence, essential details, essential part, focus, fundamentals, gist, hard fact, heart, important matter, kernel, meat, meat and potatoes, name of the game, nuts and bolts, quintessence, reality, root, soul, substance, the facts, the name of the game
### Crux of the Matter

**Synonyms - Similar Meaning:** 30

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Two basic approaches to lexicographic description

Traditional lexicographic definition vs. ‘Prototypical’ meaning description

Language as a list of static entities with lexical or “dictionary” value subject to selectional restrictions (based defining conditions)

Phraseological view of language that, for the most part, explains selectional preferences (Hanks 1987: 121).

(full-sentence definition, e.g., Collins Cobuild 1987)
**crux of the matter**

Also, **heart of the matter**. The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, *In this trial the bloodstains represent the crux of the matter,* or *We think the second clause is the heart of the matter.* Although crux is Latin for “cross,” in English it means “difficulty” or “puzzle,” and it is from the latter that this expression is thought to be derived. The variant employs *heart* in the sense of “a vital part” (as it is in the body). The first term dates from the late 1800s, the variant from the early 1500s.
crux of the matter
Also found in: Dictionary, Thesaurus.

the crux of the matter
The focal, central, or most important element of a topic, problem, or issue. *Over the course of this trial, the prosecution intends to get to the crux of the matter regarding this company’s shady financial dealings.*

See also: crux, matter, of

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crux of the matter
Also, heart of the matter. The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, *In this trial the bloodstains represent the crux of the matter,* or *We think the second clause is the heart of the matter.* Although crux is Latin for "cross," in English it means "difficulty" or "puzzle," and it is from the latter that this expression is thought to be derived. The variant employs heart in the sense of "a vital part" (as it is in the body). The first term dates from the late 1800s, the variant from the early 1500s.

See also: crux, matter, of

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Definition of crux

plural cruxes also cruces • \'krū-, se\z\n
1: a puzzling or difficult problem: an unsolved question • The origin of the word is a scholarly crux.

2: an essential point requiring resolution or resolving an outcome

3: a main or central feature (as of an argument)
**crux**

1 Entries Found:

- **crux** (noun)

---

**Learner's definition of CRUX**

**the crux**

- the most important part of something (such as a problem, issue, puzzle, etc.) — usually + of
  - *The crux of the matter is that people are afraid of change.*
  - *It's taken a while to get to the crux of the problem, but I think I finally understand it.*

---

**Comments & Questions**

What made you want to look up *crux*? Include any comments and questions you have about this word.

**Comments**  **Community**  **Login**
Main definitions of **crux** in English: **crux**¹ **Crux**²

### **crux**¹

**NOUN**

*(the crux)*

1. The decisive or most important point at issue.

‘the crux of the matter is that attitudes have changed’

---

More example sentences

‘I think that what the crux of the issue here is that marriage is not just a label.’

‘And this is the crux of the issue, the reality which is so often unmentioned.’

‘I want to add that this really isn’t the crux of the issue.’

‘The crux of the issue is this: is there no chance of a catastrophe, or a tiny chance?’
**Definition of 'crux'**

**crux**  
(kraɪks)  

Singular noun

The **crux of** a problem or argument is the most important or difficult part of it which affects everything else.

*He said the crux of the matter was economic policy.*

**Synonyms:** crucial point, heart, core, essence

[More Synonyms of crux]

---

**Crux** in British

(kraɪks)

[Word Frequency]
Meaning of “the crux” in the English Dictionary

English

"the crux" in English

› See all translations

the crux

noun [S] • UK /ˈkrʌks/ US /ˈkræks/

★ the most important or serious part of a matter, problem, or argument:

The crux of the country's economic problems is its foreign debt.

The issue of an arms embargo will be at the crux of the negotiations in Geneva.
crux - definition and synonyms

NOUN  Pronunciation  /k्रʌks/

Contribute to our Open Dictionary

PHRASE

the crux (of something)
the most important aspect of something

The police didn’t have much evidence against him. That’s the crux of the matter.

Synonyms and related words

Important thing or detail: feature, priority, element...

Explore Thesaurus
The essential point or problem is the *crux*. People are always trying to get to the *crux* of a matter or the *crux* of a problem, while others try to distract them.

The noun *crux* is often followed by the phrases "of the matter" or "of the problem." When people are trying to identify the crux of something, it's like they want to get to the heart of it. They want to peel back the layers and find out what something is really all about or what is causing the problem. No more beating around the bush!
ascetic

Want to live an ascetic lifestyle? Then you better ditch the flat panel TV and fuzzy slippers. To be ascetic, you learn to live without; it's all about self-denial.

Ascetic is derived from the Greek asketes, meaning “monk,” or “hermit.” Later that became asketikos, meaning “rigorously self-disciplined,” which gives us the Modern English ascetic. Ascetic can be a noun: a person with incredible self-discipline and the ability to deprive herself, or an adjective that describes such a people or their lifestyle.

Definitions of ascetic
1.
panoply

A panoply is a collection or an assortment of things. You might be eager to show off your panoply of bobble-head dolls when friends come to your house.

An array or display of things is a panoply, so you can show off your panoply of spooky clown paintings, but you can also display a panoply of dance moves or talk about the panoply of flags at the parade — as long as it’s a complete or impressive display, it’s a true panoply. In ancient Greece, the word was used exclusively to talk about military costumes which were always suits of armor.

Definitions of panoply

1
plethora

Plethora means an abundance or excess of something. If you have 15 different people who want to take you on a date, you have a plethora of romantic possibilities.

Plethora comes from the Greek for “fullness.” Although it was originally used only in old-fashioned medicine to describe the condition of having too much blood, we use it to talk about any excessive supply. If you run a theater and all the seats are taken, that’s a full house. But if the seats are full and people are standing in the aisles, you have a plethora of patrons. The stress is on the first syllable: PLETH-uh-ruh.

Definitions of plethora

plethora means:
- overplus
- verisimilitude
- optimum
- illegality
plethora

1. More than a few.
2. A quantity in excess of what is actually practical; an exorbitant amount.
3. Lots.
4. Tons.

Would you say I have a plethora of pinatas?

by Dan February 23, 2004
plethora

noun.

1. an excessive amount.

2. A lot.

This word is primarily used with great imprecision by inarticulate, pretentious college undergraduates who wish to express no more than "a lot," but want to do it with as many syllables and as annoyingly as possible.

Unbearable undergraduate#1: I just drank a plethora of coffee so I can study for the test today.
Unbearable Undergraduate#2: Dude, me too. I hope there's not a plethora of questions.

#plethora #a lot #lots #pretentious #inarticulate

by Bourbon Diction Andy October 14, 2018

me too something you say to mean that you are also in the same situation... can be used for comical, or annoyance purposes

ALPHABETICAL LIST
Pleskun
pless
materialistic

Word family (noun) material materialism materialist materials materialization (adjective) material immaterial materialistic materialist (verb) materialize (adverb) materialistically materially

From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

materialistic /meˌteriˈɒlistɪk/ ə-, trı-/ adjective

concerned only with money and possessions rather than things of the mind such as art, religion, or moral beliefs – used to show disapproval

He’s so materialistic.

the materialistic values of American society

—materialistically /ˈkeɪli/ adverb

Examples from the Corpus

materialistic

- Darwin challenged this approach with his revival of the materialistic alternative.
- Christmas has become materialistic and commercial.
- I am not materialistic and I am not snobby, I hope.
If you describe a person or society as **materialistic**, you are critical of them because they attach too much importance to money and material possessions.

[disapproval]

*During the 1980s, Britain became a very materialistic society.*

**Synonyms:** consumerist, worldly, grasping, greedy

[More Synonyms of materialistic]
materialistic

Who doesn't love the nice things that money can buy? But if all you care about is the stuff you have and the stuff you want to buy, you are materialistic.

Anyone who is obsessively focused on money, or cares deeply about owning luxury goods can be described as materialistic. Material is a synonym for matter: anything that exists. Originally, materialism was a philosophy that "only matter exists." But in 1851, American fiction writer Nathaniel Hawthorne tweaked the definition to mean "a way of life based entirely on consumer goods," a meaning that endures.

Definitions of materialistic

materialistic means:
- uneven
- worldly
- implacable
- partial
CONCLUSIONS: Question set 1

• It would be possible to group the topmost resources listed by Google roughly into 3 large categories: 1 traditional (digital) dictionaries; 2 language forums and chat rooms; 3 collaborative projects.

• Google can be used to organise and select web-based text according to the user’s needs, but it is not in itself a (lexical/linguistic) resource. We may perceive it as such because it is now a starting point for enquiries and data searches of all forms.

• Google typically suggests established (edited) works with long publishing traditions (in their new digitised environments), products of collaborative lexicography or language forums.

• Dictionary as “a device through which the user will observe the living language ... language through the dictionary ... the next target of progressive lexicography” (Sinclair 1987: 5). Has the objective been achieved?

Mojca Šorli, EURALEX, Ljubljana, July 2018
CONCLUSIONS: Question set 2

• Although most traditional resources insist on brief and concise definitions, there are some that depart from this model to provide more information on pragmatic and discursive aspects of language.
• This is evident in the now well-established Cobuild definitions, which still dominate in the Collins English Dictionaries, and some new attempts have been made (Vocabulary.com, Urban dictionary, etc.).
• Lexicographers can learn a lot about users’ needs and expectations from alternative approaches to language description, but professionally edited resources still seem to deliver on more counts.
• Dictionaries (in the traditional sense) are still among the most popular language tools, be it in monolingual or bilingual user situations.
Thank you!

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Verlinde et al. (2010)
Lexicography triangle

User
(psycolinguistic, sociolinguistic insight)

Access
(information theories)

Data (linguistic theories)
The distinctions (and overlaps) between purely “web-based” resources, and their “traditional” counterparts, on the one hand, and between “traditional” – in the sense “professionally edited” – and “collaborative” resources, on the other.

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Finally, a dictionary with a soul.

Our dictionary was written for humans, by humans. Look up a word, and you'll read a friendly explanation that you'll actually remember. It's as if your favorite teacher were explaining it to you.

Real world examples, hot off the presses.

Read thousands of example sentences from current newspapers, magazines, and literature. We show you how words live in the wild and give you usage tips so that you're more confident about using the words you learn.

Try the world's smartest, fastest dictionary.

Find the word you're looking for faster than with any other online dictionary. Just start typing a word and our dictionary will display the most likely results. We want you to find the word's definition as quickly as possible, without having to look through a lot of clutter.

featured word

adversity

When circumstances or situations work against you, you face adversity. Refugees from war-torn countries encounter terrible adversity.

Adversity, a noun which has been part of the English language for over 800 years, comes from the Latin adversus, literally "turned against," and figuratively "hostile or unfavorable." When things seem against you — circumstances or a stroke of bad luck — you are facing adversity. Sometimes people use a form of the phrase "turning adversity into opportunity." This refers to the ability some people or companies have to take a bad situation and make it into a successful one.
devastate

If a storm devastates your town, it comes pretty close to destroying it. To devastate is to cause destruction to or overwhelm.

Really bad news can devastate a person, or leave them devastated. They are so upset, they feel crushed. A basketball team can devastate an opponent by running roughshod over their defense. The root of the word is the Latin vastare which means to lay waste, which comes from vastus meaning desolate or empty. Imagine a city laid waste after a major earthquake and you’ve got the picture!

Definitions of devastate

1. cause extensive destruction or ruin utterly
Definition of 'devastate'

**devastate**
(devestart)

Word forms: 3rd person singular present tense **devastates**, present participle **devastating**, past tense, past participle **devastated**

verb

If something **devastates** an area or a place, it damages it very badly or destroys it totally.

*A few days before, a fire had devastated large parts of Windsor Castle.* [VERB noun]

**Synonyms:** destroy, waste, ruin, sack

*More Synonyms of devastate*

*More Synonyms of devastate*
plethora
(plēˈθoə) (noun)

A **plethora of** something is a large amount of it, especially an amount of it that is greater than you need, want, or can cope with.

**[formal]**
A plethora of new operators will be allowed to enter the market. [+ of]

**Synonyms:** excess, surplus, glut, profusion

Derived forms
of the matter.'

'And as poignant as that analogy may be, it is not the crux of the matter.'

'In a private conversation with Liam, he told me the crux of his issue.'

'But they also report that the crux of the issue might be the date of her reporting of the deal.'

'First, she was never charged with insider trading, which really was the crux of the issue.'

'The crux of the issue - it has wheels and can move, but since it doesn't have an engine or a license plate, is it classed as a vehicle?'

'This gets at the crux of the issue I am raising, and I want to fundamentally disagree.'

'So the crux of the matter is really that there is no such miracle cure.'

'They both think in terms of a zero-sum game and this is the crux of the ongoing crisis.'

'It is time to put down the sticks and stones and get down to the crux of the issue.'

'That process requires lots of energy, and how you generate that energy is the crux of the issue.'

'This is not meant to be definitive, but to highlight the crux of the issue.'

'This is the crux of the matter; the answer will determine Europe's future for decades to come.'

1.1 A particular point of difficulty.

'both cruces can be resolved by a consideration of the manuscripts'
crux in British
(krʌks)

noun

Word forms: plural cruxes or cruces (ˈkruːsiːz)

1. a vital or decisive stage, point, etc (often in the phrase the crux of the matter)
2. a baffling problem or difficulty
3. mountaineering
   the most difficult and often decisive part of a climb or pitch
4. a rare word for cross

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Word origin of 'crux'
C18: from Latin: cross

Crux in British
(krʌks)

noun

Word forms: Latin genitive Crucis (ˈkruːsis)

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verge

Think of an edge, a border, a boundary, and you are thinking about the **verge**, the point where something begins or ends.

We talk about a nervous person being on the verge of a breakdown, or about a scientist being on the verge of a major breakthrough, but the British have another good physical meaning: they call the strip of grass that borders a walkway the verge, giving you a clear mental picture that goes beyond the abstract.

**Primary Meanings of verge**

1. the limit beyond which something happens or changes
2. a ceremonial or emblematic staff

**Start learning this word**

Think you know verge? Quiz yourself:

- religion
- sample
- champion
- border

Add to List... Thesaurus Share It
Vocabulary.com

Full definitions of

**verge**

1. **n** the limit beyond which something happens or changes

   “on the verge of tears”

   Synonyms: brink

   Type of: bound, boundary, limit
   the greatest possible degree of something

   **n** a region marking a boundary

   Synonyms: brink, threshold

   Type of: bound, boundary, edge
   a line determining the limits of an area

   **n** a grass border along a road

   Type of: border
   a strip forming the outer edge of something

   **v** border on; come close to

   “His behavior verges on the criminal”

   Type of: border, bound
   form the boundary of, be contiguous to

2. **n** a ceremonial or emblematic staff

   Synonyms: scepter, sceptre, wand

   Types: bauble
   a mock scepter carried by a court jester

   Type of: staff
   a rod carried as a symbol
cut-rate

Definitions of cut-rate

1. adj costing less than standard price

“cut-rate goods”

Synonyms: bargain-priced, cut-price
cheap, inexpensive
relatively low in price or charging low prices

Word Family

cut-rate

the “cut-rate” family

Please Examples
**Definition of 'panoply'**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Learner: panoply</th>
<th>English: panoply</th>
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**panoply**

(pænɔpli oun)

**singular noun**

A **panoply** of things is a wide range of them, especially one that is considered impressive.

*informal*

He was attended, as are all heads of state, by a full panoply of experts. [+ of]

...the marvellous panoply of exhibitions laid on this year.

**More Synonyms of panoply**

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**panoply** in British

(pænɔpli oun)

**noun plural -plies**

1. a **complete** or magnificent **array**

2. the **entire equipment** of a **warrior**

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**Derived forms**

panoplied (pænɔplid) **adj**ective
conundrum

The tricky word conundrum is used to describe a riddle or puzzle, sometimes including a play on words or pun.

One of the most famous conundrums is the riddle of the Sphinx, famously in the play Oedipus the King by Sophocles. Oedipus encounters the Sphinx, a mythical beast, who asks him, "What walks on four legs in the morning, two in the afternoon, and three in the evening?" The answer is "A person": crawling as a child, walking as an adult, and using a cane in old age. The scary thing is that if the Sphinx asked you the riddle and you didn't know, she'd eat you!

Definitions of conundrum

1.
Definitions of materialistic

1. marked by materialism
   Synonyms: mercenary, worldly-minded
   secular, temporal, worldly
   characteristic of or devoted to the temporal world as opposed to the spiritual world

conforming to the standards and conventions of the middle class
   Synonyms: bourgeois, conservative
   middle-class
   occupying a socioeconomic position intermediate between those of the lower classes and the wealthy

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Word Family
materialistic
materialism materialist materialistic
material materialist materials
the “material” family

Usage Examples
All Sources Fiction Arts / Culture News
Business Sports Science / Med Technology
crux

noun \ˈkrʌks, krəks\  

Popularity: Top 30% of words | Updated on: 3 Jul 2018.

Definition of crux

plural cruxes also crudes  \ˈkrʊ-, séz\  

1: a puzzling or difficult problem: an unsolved question • The origin of the word is a scholarly crux.

2: an essential point requiring resolution or resolving an outcome

3: a main or central feature (as of an argument)
Look up a word, learn it forever.

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As you play Vocabulary.com, we figure out which words you know and which ones you need a little help with. We keep practicing with you until you master the tough ones.
Something that's *dewy* is slightly damp, or beaded with moisture. The *dewy* grass early in the morning might leave wet marks on your sneakers.

Anything that has *dew* on it — the tiny water drops left overnight by condensation — is *dewy*. The ground, leaves, blades of grass, and even your car might be dewy on a cool spring morning. You can also describe something very smooth and glowing, especially a person’s skin, as dewy. The Old English root word is *ðéawig*.

**Definitions of dewy**

1. wet with dew
**crux**

The most difficult part. Used in many **extreme sports** to **define the area** of most difficulty.

*Once you get** **passed** the crux, you should be able to **flash the rest.**

_by Rock Crudson_ June 02, 2004_

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**crux**

p33ning people **in the face** with **burst** fire **famas**

_I just **Cruxed** him **in the face** from across **the map**_

_by enphstar_ November 20, 2004_
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