

Glossary for "Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll from *The Annotated Alice*¹

Jabberwock - literally "the fruit of much excited discussion"

brillig - the time of broiling dinner; evening

slithy - a combination of "slimy" and "lithe"; smooth and active

toves - a species of badger with smooth white hair, long hind legs, and short horns like a stag;
lived on cheese

gyre - to scratch like a dog; to twirl

gimble - to bore holes

wabe - (derived from the verb "swab" or "soak") the wet side of a hill

mimsy - miserable or unhappy; contemptable

borogoves - extinct type of parrot

mome - grave or serious

raths - a species of land turtle with a mouth like a shark and a smooth green body; walked on its
knees

outgrabe - squeaked

Jubjub bird - dangerous animal

frumious - combination of "fuming" and "furious"; violently angry

Bandersnatch - another dangerous animal

manxome - something from the Isle of Man (Celtic name for that island is "Manx")

Tum-tum - the sound of a stringed instrument

uffish - a state of mind when the voice is gruffish, the manner roughish, and the temper huffish

whiffling - slang term in 19th century meaning "variable and evasive"

burbled - variant of "bubble"; can also mean "to perplex, confuse, or muddle"

snicker-snack - comes from the old English word "snickersnee," which is a large knife or means
"to fight with a knife"

galumphing - combination of "gallop" and "triumphant"; to march on exultantly with irregular
bounding movements

beamish - bright

frabjous - combination of "fabulous" and "joyous"; wonderful

chortled - laughing that is a blend of chuckling and snorting

¹ As taken from: Carroll, Lewis, and Gardner, Martin (annotator), *The Annotated Alice: The Definitive Edition* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2000). ISBN [0-393-04847-0](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0393048470).