

LANGUAGE CORNER: Ask George! September 2009.

1. Prolegomena.

Now that we know for sure that English, according to the Americans, has hit the million, what do we intend to do about it ourselves? I propose **A Word A Day**, in order to get on with this major language, and try our best to very modestly approximate the million.

2. A Word a Day: **aeon.**

eon or **aeon** is a noun which means a very long, even immeasurable, period of time. It comes from the Greek *aion*. It is the counterpart of **zillion**, already discussed here in the merry month of May, q.v. ! **eon** is not a technical word at all: D. H. Lawrence uses it in 1932, in a poem, thus— "*And so, in the great aeons of accomplishment and débâcle, the wild cry of every electron is heard: God is born!*"

Words to meditate upon during September: **arm candy** (6 meanings). **lollipop** (7 meanings). I suggest you work on them with <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=arm+candy>

3. A Word of Wisdom!

Nostalgia is like a grammar lesson: you find the present tense, but the past perfect. (by historian Owens Pomeroy)

George's Question: Is the grammar all right in the above aphorism? Do you see anything weird about it? Can you explain what it is?

ends