

hypocorism



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Word of the Day - for Toastmasters everywhere
Tuesday 18th June 2024



hypocorism

(noun) hi-PO-cor-is-um

Pet-name, especially a diminutive; use of a pet name; baby talk.

Stage right, Michael Pennington's doting Dickens and Loo Brealey's giggling Nelly indulge in prolonged, shocking **hypocorism**.

Kate Bassett, *The Independent*, 22 July 2007. The Independent

Thus, although Brissie is the common spelling of the **hypocorism** for Brisbane it is always pronounced as though the spelling were Brizzie.

James Lambert, *Additions to the Australian Lexicographical Record*. Australian National Dictionary Centre

In Washington, the Modern Language Association of America accused the U.S. of having an inordinate bent for **hypocorism**, i.e., baby talk. Chief victims of adult **hypocorism**: 1) children, 2) pets, 3) lovers, 4) readers of advertising.

Unattributed, *Time Magazine*, 6 January 1947. Time Magazine

President Jimmy Carter has institutionalized his **hypocorism** with determination and skill, thus becoming the first President in history to get away with official use of a nickname.

Hugh Sidey, *Time Magazine*, 12 December 1977. Time Magazine.