

# Unique language units of English

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# Object properties transfer models

- ▶ I have distinguished this kind of unique models based on their uniqueness taking its root in the applying properties of an object to an action, its manner of execution or to another object.

‘You wore your heart upon your sleeve’

- ▶ ‘Britain’s got talent’ – one of the members of the jury to a contestant.

## ‘Aces!’

- ▶ Lorne Malvo; Fargo – meaning ‘cool’ regarding the idea of his ‘friend’.

# Factoid

- ▶ It is a doubtful fact presented in the press without any extra proofs. People usually accept it as true, but unfortunately it's not true. It was introduced by Norman Mailer.
- ▶ McCarthy contributes the factoid, “We have four million more government jobs in America than manufacturing jobs.” [The Daily Beast](#)

## ‘Local colour’

- ▶ Zoltan Chivay; The Witcher 3 Wild Hunt – regarding local bandits, sots, gamblers and other members of ‘pleasant’ company

# ‘He collared one of the stableboys’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin; ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’; the author tells how Dunk stopped one of the stableboys;

‘Egg might look elegant in the dead boy’s finery, but he would be a boiled Egg by nightfall’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin; ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’; pun used by the author to describe the heat of the day in question; Egg is a shortened version for Aegon;



‘And each inch prouder than the last’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin; ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’; the author describes one of the knights;

‘The sound of Bennis cursing, a stream of such surpassing filth that it might have made Aegon the Unworthy blush’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin; ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’;  
‘stream’ used by the author to emphasize Bennis’  
eloquence;

# ‘The lords and their tails must cross first’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin’s ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’: A hedgeknight about lords and their escort;

# ‘That’s a leap’

- ▶ ‘Magicians’ tv-series; Alice to Quenting regarding one of his assumption meaning a ‘leap of faith’ and implying bold and farfetched conclusion.

‘I won’t forget to duck away’

- ▶ Mass Effect 3; Garrus Vacarian to Shepard before the battle;

‘- Surprised?  
- Godsmacked’

▶ Mass Effect 2; Jack and Shepard after killing  
Jack’s torturer;

# ‘Boot the door open’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; Valgard ‘boots the door open so hard that...’ – i.e. the character ‘kicks the door open’;

## ‘Bold red and blue’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; the ships approaching the bay have the ‘sails of bold red and blue’, ‘bold’ meaning ‘bright’ and ‘proud’;



## ‘To caravan’

- ▶ Ubin; The Banner Saga; the character upon encountering an old acquaintance says ‘we should caravan’ meaning ‘let’s travel together’;

## ‘To blanket’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; the guards ‘blanketed the inn’  
– i.e. there were plenty of them;

## ‘To cement’

- ▶ Hakon, The Banner Saga; the character says ‘to cement the alliance’ meaning to ‘provide additional security of the alliance’;

# ‘A casualty of merriment’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; the campsite is called ‘a casualty of merriment’, it’s disorder caused by drinking alcohol is implied;

## ‘Worm one’s way out’

- ▶ Rook, The Banner Saga; to Iver: ‘you’ve always wormed your way out of talking about...’ – i.e. ‘have managed to get away without telling much about...’;

# Object's attribute transfer models

- ▶ This pattern consists in transferring an object's attributes' properties onto another object, an action or its manner of execution with strong connection to the source-object.

## ‘Glass someone’

- ▶ The Walking Dead; TellTale Games; one of the options given to the main character upon him entering a bar and starting a conversation with a npc. Implies hitting the npc with the bottle made of glass.

‘A tall drink of water, with the olive skin  
and black hair of Dorne’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin’s ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’;  
description of one of the characters;



‘A town had sprung... a town of silk instead of stone’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin’s ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’; the author about pavilions of the knights;

# ‘Whiplash’

- ▶ Whiplash; the movie by Damien Chazelle; the word means hard work out of being forced by oneself or somebody else.

## ‘A caged yawn’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; Hakon gave away ‘a caged yawn’ – a yawn restrained by the fingers;

## ‘Steel smb up’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; ‘... you gather all supplies available, steel yourselves up and leave the village...’ – ‘steel up’ means to armor and/or arm yourself.

# Abstract attribute transfer models

- ▶ These models are based on applying more abstract attributes to an object, action or its manner of execution that carries less prominent connection to any object in particular.

# ‘Gutted’

- ▶ ‘Mr Robot’ tv-series; one of the characters after a hacking operation that took some efforts meaning ‘devastated’;

# ‘Made Redundant’

- ▶ ‘Parks and Recreation’ tv-series; Ron Swanson about his former employee;

## ‘A wary hand on a purse’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin; ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’; the author describes the alertness of the main character after receiving a substantial sum of money.



# ‘Direwolf’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin; ‘The Song of Ice and Fire’; a term invented by the author for a special kind of wolves of the bigger size and greater strength;

# ‘Chuckling brooks’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin; ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’; the author describes the nature of the location;

## ‘A loose bunch’

- ▶ Eirik, The Banner Saga; the character call a group of conspirators a ‘loose bunch of thugs’ by this choice of words emphasizing the futility of the attempts of those people to usurp power as a result of them being ill-organized;

# Action properties transfer model

- ▶ These models are distinguished by the transfer of properties of one action onto another.

## ‘Hit the road’

- ▶ The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim; bartender upon the main character’s entering;

# ‘Whatever strikes our fancy’

- ▶ The Witcher 3 Wild Hunt; Yennefer to Geralt about their plan for the future;

# ‘Break a sword, witcher’

- ▶ The Witcher 3 Wild Hunt; Avalac’h - meaning ‘break a leg’ before the battle;

‘The thickness of his calf, and the size of his waist elicited further grunts’

- ▶ G.R.R. Martin; ‘Tales of Dunk and Egg’; author tells how an armorer was taking Dunk’s measures.



## ‘Quick to superstition’

- ▶ Ubin; The Banner Saga; the character tells that unlike the rest in his caravan he is ‘not quick to superstition’ meaning that he doesn’t believe in omens or phenomena like that;

## ‘Under the breath’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; the guards ‘muttered things under their breath’ – spoke in undertone;

## ‘Sinks in that...’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; ‘it sanked in that they were not there for the cattle’ – one of the characters understood the reason of other characters coming;

## ‘Tower over’

- ▶ The Banner Saga; Iver ‘towered over the men’ – he was much taller than average;