

### Dictionary

NEW YORK, Dec 6, (AP): Allyship, an old noun made new again, is Dictionary.com's word of the year.

The look up site with 70 million monthly users took the unusual step of anointing a word it added just last month, though "allyship" first surfaced in the mid-1800s, said one of the company's content overseers, John Kelly.

"It might be a surprising choice for some," he told The Associated Press ahead of Tuesday's unveiling. "In the past few decades, the term has evolved to take on a more nuanced and specific meaning. It is continuing to evolve and we saw that in many ways."

The site offers two definitions for allyship: The role of a person who advocates for inclusion of a "marginalized or politicized group" in solidarity but not as a member, and the more traditional relationship of "persons, groups or nations associating and cooperating with one another for a common cause or purpose."

The word is set apart from "alliance," which Dictionary.com defines in one sense as a "merging of efforts or interests by persons, families, states or organizations."

It's the first definition that took off most recently in the mid-2000s and has continued to churn. Following the summer of 2020 and the death of George Floyd, white allies — and the word allyship — proliferated as racial justice demonstrations spread. Before that, straight allies joined the causes of LGBTQ oppression, discrimination and marginalization.

"This year, we saw a lot of businesses and organizations very prominently, publicly, beginning efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. Allyship is tied to that. In the classroom, there is a flashpoint

around the term critical race theory. Allyship connects with this as well," Kelly said.

In addition, teachers, frontline workers and mothers who juggled jobs, home duties and child care in lockdown gained allies as the pandemic took hold last year.

Without an entry for "allyship," Kelly said the site saw a steep rise in lookups for "ally" in 2020 and large spikes in 2021. It was in the top 850 searches out of thousands and thousands of words this year. Dictionary.com broadened the definition of "ally" to include the more nuanced meaning. The terms "DEI" and "critical race theory" made their debuts as entries on the site with "allyship" this year.

What it means to be an authentic ally has taken on fresh significance as buzz around the word has grown louder. One of the aspects of allyship, as it has emerged, is how badly it can go.

### Diversity

Among the example's of how to use the word in a sentence cited by Merriam-Webster is this one written by Native activist Hallie Sebastian: "Poor allyship is speaking over marginalized people by taking credit and receiving recognition for arguments that the unprivileged have been making for their entire lives."

As global diversity, equity and inclusion executive Sheree Atcheson wrote in Forbes, allyship is a "lifelong process of building relationships based on trust, consistency and accountability with marginalized individuals and/or groups of people." It's not, she said, "self-defined — work and efforts must be recognized by those you are seeking to ally with."

Allyship should be an "opportunity to grow and learn about our-

selves, whilst building confidence in others," Atcheson added.

Among the earliest evidence of the word "allyship," in its original sense of "alliance," is the 1849, two-volume work, "The Lord of the Manor, or, Lights and Shades of Country Life" by British novelist Thomas Hall: "Under these considerations, it is possible, he might have heard of Miss Clough's allyship with the Lady Bourgoim."

Kelly did some additional digging into the history of allyship in its social justice sense. While the Oxford English Dictionary dates that use of the word to the 1970s, Kelly found a text, "The Allies of the Negro" by Albert W. Hamilton, published in 1943. It discusses extensively the potential allies of Black people in the struggle for racial equality:

"What some white liberals are beginning to realize is that they better begin to seek the Negro as an ally," he wrote. "The new way of life sought by the liberal will be a sham without the racial equality the Negro seeks. And the inclusion of the Negro in the day-to-day work, in the organization, the leadership and the rallying of the support necessary to win a better world, can only be done on the basis of equality."

On the other side of allyship, Kelly said, "is a feeling of division, of polarization. That was Jan. 6." Allyship, he said, became a powerful prism in terms of the dichotomy at a chaotic cultural time during the last two years.

Other dictionary companies in the word of the year game focused on the pandemic and its fallout for their picks. Oxford Languages, which oversees the Oxford English Dictionary, went for "vax" and Merriam-Webster chose "vaccine." The Glasgow, Scotland-based Collins Dictionary, meanwhile, plucked "NFT," the digital tokens that sell for millions.

### Variety



Canadian pop star Justin Bieber performs at a concert marking the end of the Formula One, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sunday, Dec. 5. (AP)

### Music

Alicia Keys teases new songs at small show

## Justin Bieber performs at Saudi F1 race

**LOS ANGELES:** Leftovers were on the menu for moviegoers in North America this weekend. "Encanto," "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" and "House of Gucci" repeated in the top three spots, according to studio estimates on Sunday. All three films are playing exclusively in theaters.

The weekend after Thanksgiving is usually pretty quiet at the box office and this year was no exception considering new offerings like "Flee" and "Benedetta" were playing only in limited release. Disney's "Encanto," an animated tale with original music from **Lin-Manuel Miranda**, earned \$12.7 million to take the top spot, down 53% from its opening last weekend. Globally, it's earned \$116.1 million to date.

"Ghostbusters: Afterlife" took second place in its third weekend with \$10.4 million, pushing it just past the \$100 million threshold. And **Ridley Scott's** ripped from the headlines "House of Gucci," starring **Lady Gaga** and **Adam Driver**, came in third place in its second weekend with \$6.8 million from 3,477 locations, bringing its domestic total to \$33.6 million.

The big surprise came from Fathom, which snagged the fourth place spot with "Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers." It isn't exactly a movie but an episode of a faith-based streaming series, that was shot specifically for a 10-day big screen run. Over the weekend, it grossed \$4.1 million from 1,700 screens. Since Wednesday, it's earned \$9 million and has become the highest grossing event in Fathom history.

"It just shows how powerful event cinema is and how movie theaters can benefit from non-traditional releases," said **Paul Dergarabedian**, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

In other notable showings, Warner Bros' brought "Dune" back to IMAX screens this weekend. The premium screens accounted for over half of its \$1.8 million domestic earnings.

In specialty releases, **Paul Verhoeven's** "Benedetta," released by IFC Films, grossed \$145,000 from 202 theaters and Focus Features' "Wolf" opened on 308 screens to \$80,000. Neon's animated documentary "Flee" also opened on four screens, earning \$25,033. The film is about a man who fled Afghanistan

**JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Dec 6, (AP):** Pop star Justin Bieber performed to a packed crowd in the Red Sea city of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, singing some of his most popular hits. The Sunday night concert took place even as human rights campaigners and activists called on Bieber to cancel his performance to protest the kingdom's arrests and crackdown of critics.

Bieber's model wife, Hailey Baldwin Bieber, posted a supportive video on Instagram of him on stage, with the words: "Go Baby." Other videos on social media showed Bieber on stage solo, wearing a coordinated red outfit. Pop and R&B singer Jason Derulo performed before Bieber with backup female dancers in sweatpants and baggy tops.

Only a few years ago, this would have been an unthinkable scene in Saudi Arabia, where ultraconservative norms prevailed. Concerts were banned and unmarried men and women were segregated in public spaces. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is behind the sweeping changes as he works to modernize society, attract foreign investment and create jobs for youth.

Human Rights Watch and others, however, have called on celebrities to boycott the kingdom, saying such events are aimed at diverting attention and deflecting scrutiny from Saudi Arabia's human rights record.

Bieber was the biggest name performer to take the stage as part of Saudi Arabia's Grand Prix, which saw Lewis Hamilton win ahead of the last race of the Formula One season.

The Canadian pop star has not commented on the public pressure surrounding his performance and calls for him to cancel the show. Weeks before his show in Saudi Arabia, the fiancée of slain Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi joined a chorus of voices urging him not to perform at the kingdom's

F1 race.

In an open letter published by The Washington Post, Hatic Cengiz had urged the megastar to cancel his performance to "send a powerful message to the world that your name and talent will not be used to restore the reputation of a regime that kills its critics." She noted that the decision to host the F1 race and invite a star like Bieber "comes directly" from the crown prince.

But like other stars, such as Mariah Carey in 2019, Bieber performed anyway to excited fans. It's unclear how much celebrities have been paid for their appearances in the kingdom. Saudi youth are the main attendees of these concerts, enjoying the country's newfound social changes.

Prince Mohammed attended the F1 race and social media showed him taking selfies with young Saudi men who lined up to meet the powerful heir to the throne. The F1 race marked the first time the kingdom hosts the premier sporting event, though it has hosted the lesser known Formula-E race and other sporting events in past years in an effort to raise the country's profile as a tourist destination.

Bieber's concert in Saudi Arabia comes shortly before he opens a world tour next year. The tour is being promoted by Live Nation, the company that owns Ticketmaster. Saudi Arabia's state-owned sovereign wealth fund — steered by Prince Mohammed — is among the largest institutional holders in Live Nation, with a stake worth some \$1.4 billion.

### Also:

**MIAMI:** R&B singer-songwriter **Alicia Keys** guided a few hundred people at a small show in Miami through a 10-minute meditation before asking them to make some choices.

Keys wanted concert goers gathering for an immersive exhibit on the eve of Art Basel Miami

Beach to listen to her new material, and then pick either the relaxing piano versions the Grammy-winning artist is best known for, or the more-produced tracks with a different beat for the same songs.

"I say that's even" said Keys, seemingly surprised after singing and then playing bits of "Is it Insane," a jazzy and melancholic tune. The three songs she teased will appear on her new album, which is being released on Dec. 10 with two versions she is calling "Originals" and "Unlocked," produced by **Mike Will Made-It**.

Wearing a long tail yellow dress, Keys headlined an experiential art show at Superblue Miami, appearing as one of the main performers trekking down to Miami for the international art fair that runs from Thursday to Saturday.

Rapper **Tinie Tempah** was among the artists attending the "secret" Alicia Keys concert at a dark space with sunflowers were projected on the walls. The previous night celebrity attendees at a **Louis Vuitton's** fashion show included **Maluma**, **Pharrell** and **Joe Jonas**.

Keys and her husband, producer **Swizz Beatz**, are no strangers to the art fair, having supported struggling artists allowing them to keep 100 percent of their commissions from the show.

One of the installations at the exhibit where Keys performed was by **James Turrell** and featured a room with the floor, walls and ceiling fully lit up in uniform neon colors that at times appeared foggy and made it difficult to discern where the room ended. There was also a maze of mirrors meant to resemble the respiratory system of trees.

During the meditation portion of the evening, Keys asked guests to inhale and exhale at the same pace as these mechanical flowers that were hanging from the ceiling opened and closed. Keys said they looked like jelly fish in the ocean.

as a child in the 1980s.

Things should pick up next week as Steven Spielberg's take on "West Side Story" dances into theaters nationwide.

"We're heading into the home stretch of the box office year at \$3.7 billion," Dergarabedian said. (AP)



Lady Gaga



Driver

**NEWRY, Maine:** Santa is back to "sleighting" it on the ski slope.

More than 230 skiing and snowboarding **Kris Kringle**s took to a western Maine resort on Sunday to raise money for charity.

The jolly ol' St Nicks took a break last year because of the global pandemic. But they returned to kick off the ski season in

full holiday garb, including white beards, red hats and red outfits.

A sea of red Santa suits descended the mountain, carving wide turns as their beards fluttered in the icy wind. At least one green-costumed Grinch snuck his way into the mix, disguised in Santa's coat and hat.

The event took place in the western Maine town of Newry,

home to the Sunday River Ski Resort, the state's busiest.

Before dashing through the snow, the Santas must all donate a minimum of \$20, which helps support local education and recreation programs. The event raised several thousand dollars for the Sunday River Community Fund, a local charity. (AP)