

Word of the Day - Schadenfreude

by Rev. Joe Dirt - Thursday, September 07, 2023

<https://curmudgeon-alley.com/word-of-the-day-schadenfreude/>

- **Noun: Schadenfreude**

1. Often capitalized: enjoyment obtained from the troubles of others
2. **Did you know?** Schadenfreude is a combination of the German nouns Schaden, meaning “damage” or “harm,” and Freude, meaning “joy.” So it makes sense that schadenfreude means joy over some harm or misfortune suffered by another.

- **Synonyms:**

gloat
epicaricacy
malicious glee
ghoulish joy
lulz

- **Usage:**

“The great Burning Man Muddening of 2023 was almost scientifically engineered to evoke **schadenfreude**. Wealthy, insufferable attendees? Check. Improbable details, such as the fact that the rain was causing a bunch of three-eyed fairy shrimp, which can survive as eggs in sediment for decades, to come alive? Check. The fact that climate activists, angry about private jets and single-use plastics at the event, tried to shut down the festival and were jeered at by annoyed attendees, then vindicated by mother nature? Check. A situation that was uncomfortable but not life-threatening? Check! (I should note that one person did die at the festival, but organisers have clarified that it wasn’t related to the weather.)”

- **Encountered:**

An article on Guardian.com: [Why all the Burning Man schadenfreude? Where do I start ...](#)

One of my brothers used this word in a group text recently. At the time I did not know the meaning, and little ole OCD me had to look it up. Probably because I am now aware of it, the word has popped a few times in my readings and conversations. Are you stalking me schadenfreude?

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