

personal
english



W₄ O₁ R₁ D₂

Word #27

Shenanigans

UP FOR
Some
Shenanigans

Shenanigans are **devious tricks** used especially for an underhand purpose. Though nowadays it is commonly used in the plural form, this Americanism for '**mischief**' or '**trickery**' was first recorded as 'shenanigan' (in the singular form) in **1855** in **California**. The etymology is uncertain: suggestions include **Spanish** *chanada* (a shortened form of *charranada* 'trick, deceit') or, less likely, German *Schenigelei* (peddler's argot for 'work, craft') or the related German slang verb *schinäglen*. Another more plausible guess centers on **Irish** '**sionnochwhigam**', meaning 'to play tricks'.

You are too naive; you need to smarten up to see through shenanigans of various kinds...