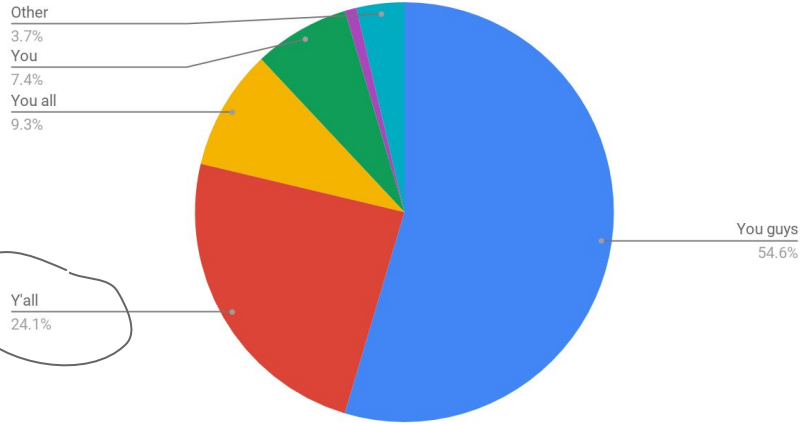


American Dialects: Examining Southern Speech

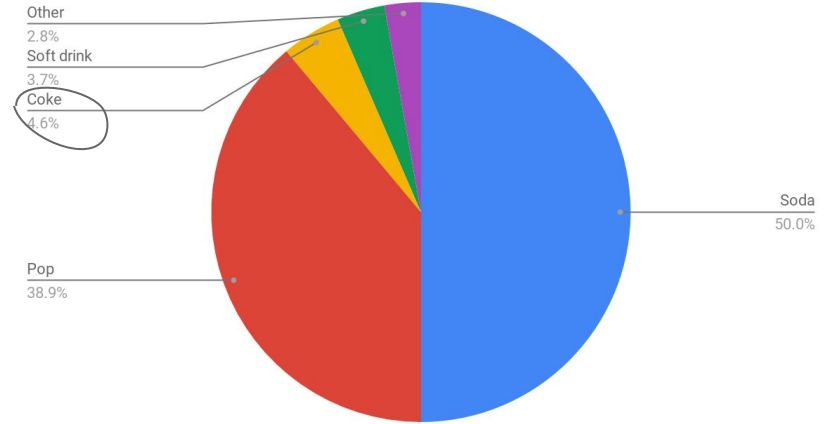
Helen White

A dark blue diagonal graphic that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, creating a triangular shape in the bottom right of the slide.

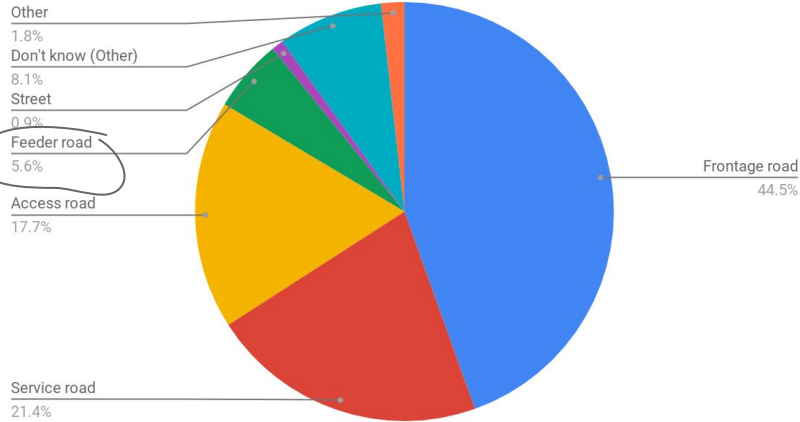
How would you address a group of multiple people?



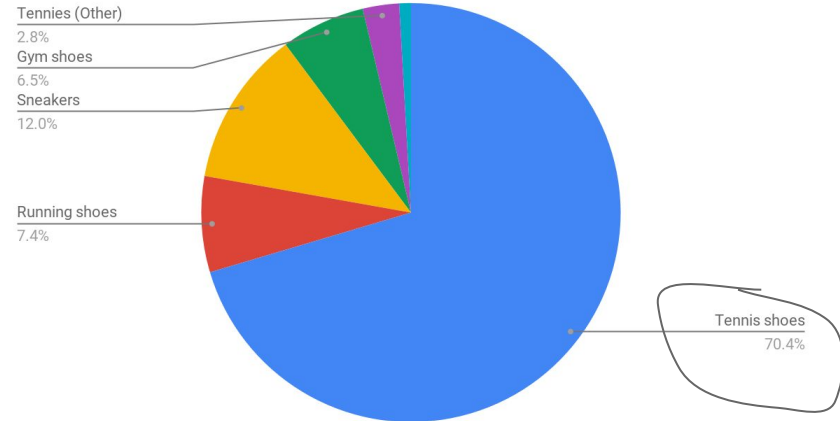
What would you call a carbonated beverage like Coca-Cola?



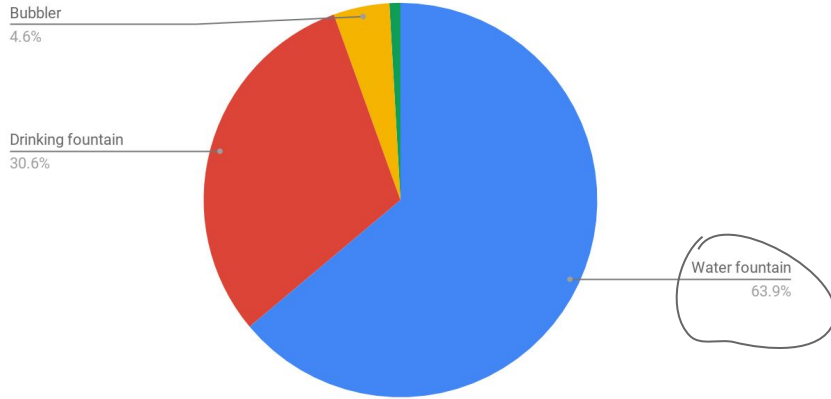
What do you call the road that runs alongside a highway?



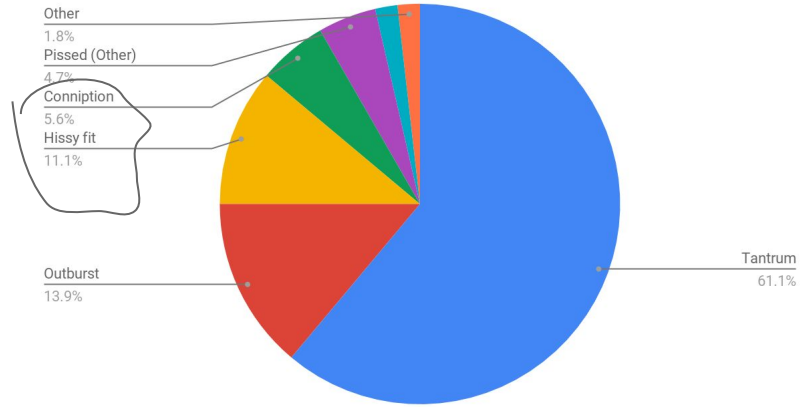
What do you call athletic shoes?



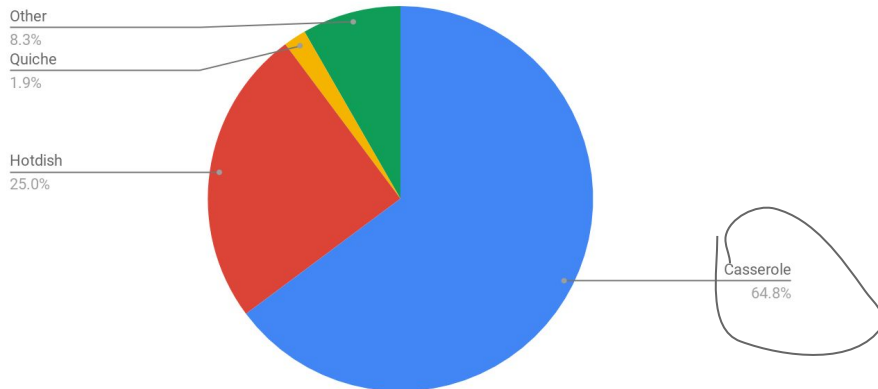
What do you call the machine that you drink water from at school or in other public places?



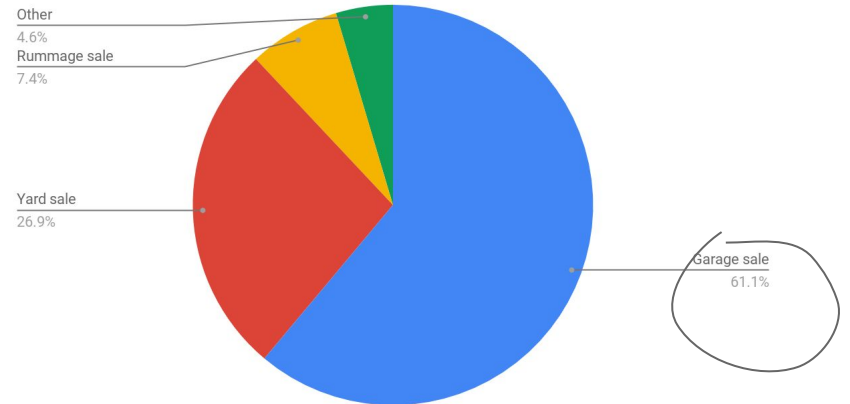
What do you call it when someone gets very angry?



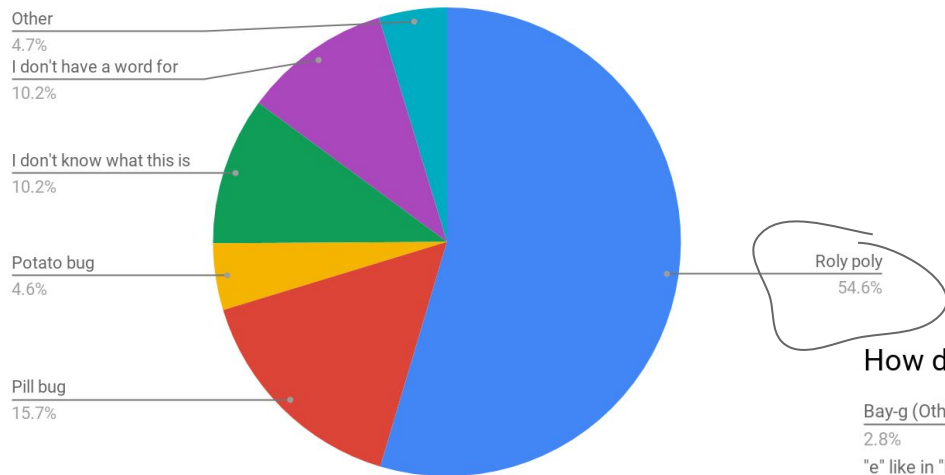
What do you call a meal involving many ingredients baked in the oven?



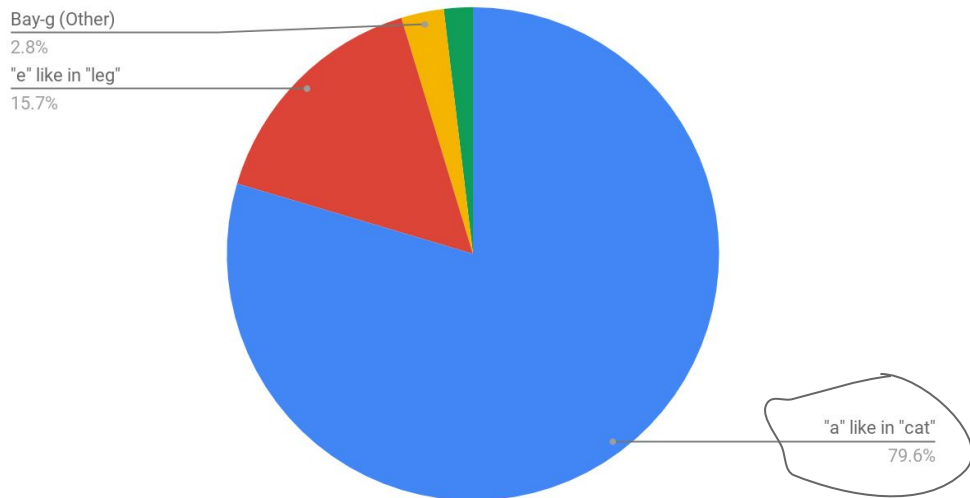
What do you call the sale of items at someone's house?



What do you call the little gray bug that curls up into a ball when you touch it?



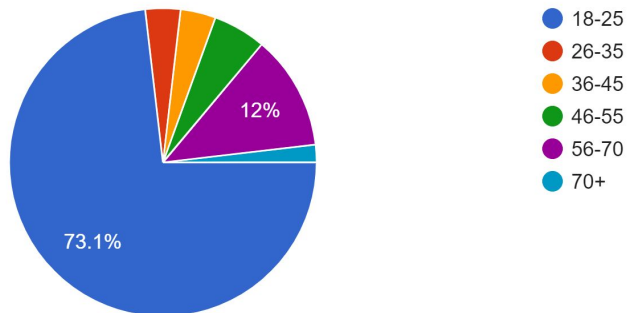
How do you pronounce "bag"?



Personal Information

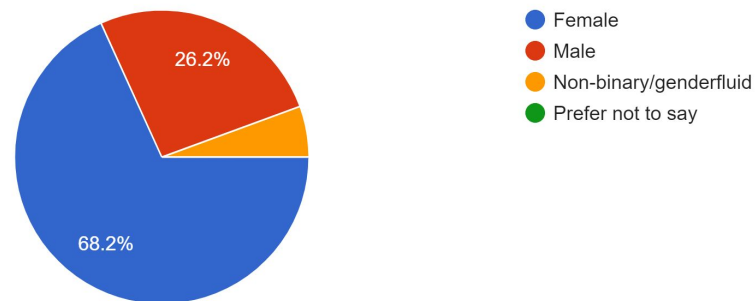
What is your age?

108 responses



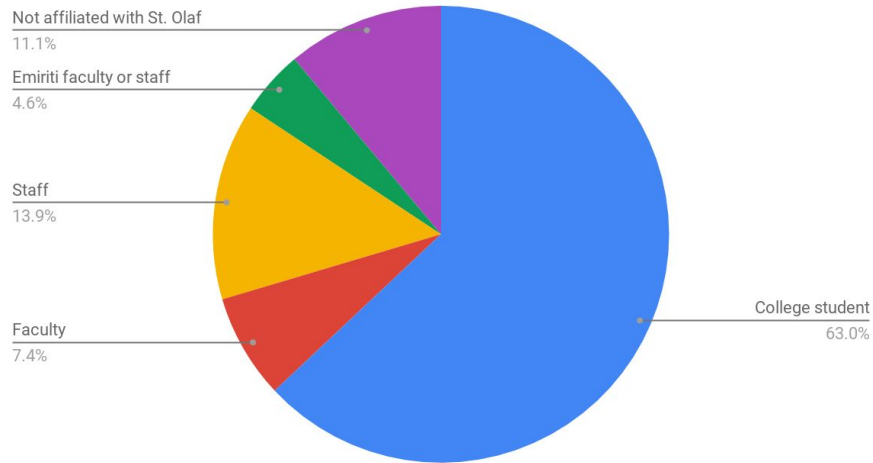
What is your gender identity?

107 responses

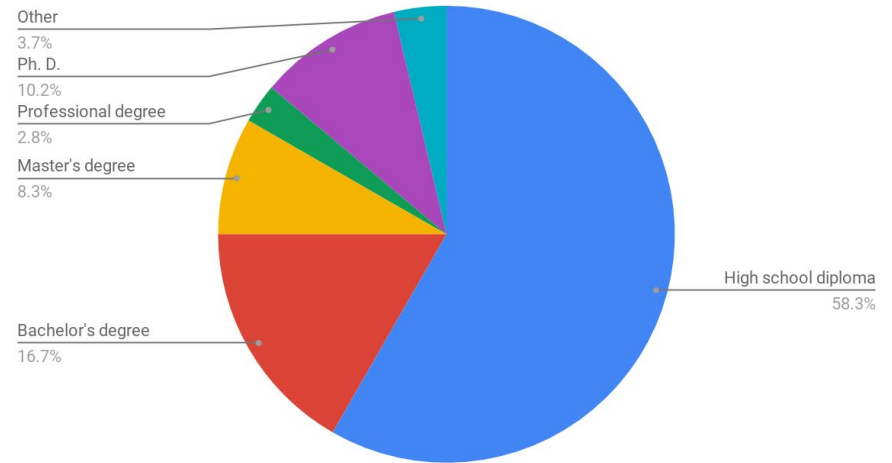


Personal Information (cont.)

What is your role at St. Olaf?



What is your highest level of education?



Limitations

- Limited pool of respondents, from Minnesota and Texas mostly
- Most of respondents from St. Olaf, meaning they had more exposure to Northern speech many times
- Southern speech varies, not only one correct variant in reality
- Other ways to measure Southern speech

Scoring system/findings

Score from 0-10 based on how many responses aligned with the traditionally Southern responses:

Y'all
Coke
Tennis shoes
Roly poly
Garage sale
Water fountain
Feeder road
Hissy fit/conniption
Casserole
"A" like cat

Split into categories:

Young exposure to southern dialect, then other dialect later in life: 5.3 (2.8%)
Young exposure to other dialect, then southern dialect later in life: 5.0 (1.9%)
Young exposure to both southern and other dialect: 5.7 (8.3%)
From the South only: 7.0 (6.5%)
From the North only: 3.8 (45.3%)
From the West only: 4.8 (14.8%)
From the Midland only: 4.3 (7.4%)
From the North, raised by immigrant parents: 3.7 (2.8%)
From the South, raised by immigrant parents: 7.5 (1.9%)
From the West, raised by immigrant parents: 6.0 (0.9%)
From the Midland, raise by immigrant parents: N/A
From another country: 3.9 (7.4%)

Findings, continued

- Older population and men have more extreme dialects (lower or higher scores)
- Western dialect most similar to Southern dialect
- Northern dialect most different from Southern dialect
- Out of Northerners, Wisconsinites most like Southern speech
- Highest score: 10, Louisiana
- Lowest score: 0, Northerner with immigrant parents
- Highest Northern score: 7, South Dakota
- Greatest influencing factor: young exposure to some Southern dialect, whether from parents, having grown up there in early years, etc.
- People from other countries or who have lived abroad are widely mixed, seemingly divulge from areas of the United States where they have lived at times
- Most Northern respondents from Minnesota, most popular Southern state Texas (because of pool)

Main Sources:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/upshot/dialect-quiz-map.html> by Josh Katz and Wilson Andrews
- http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/cambridge_survey/ by Bert Vaux