

**Nebraska sign** *noun*

a completely flat reading on an electrocardiogram *US*  
An allusion to the endless flat prairies of Nebraska.

- —Sally Williams, *"Strong" Words (Dissertation)*, p. 151, 1994

**Nebruary morning** *adverb*

never *BARBADOS*

- —Frank A. Collymore, *Barbadian Dialect*, p. 76, 1965

**nebular** *adjective*

excellent *US*

- —Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang*, p. 5, Fall 1995

**necessary** *noun*

1 money, funds *UK, 1897*

- —Francis J. Rigney and L. Douglas Smith, *The Real Bohemia*, p. xvi, 1961

2 a latrine *US*

- —Linda Reinberg, *In the Field*, p. 149, 1991

▶ **the necessities**

the male genitals *UK*

- —Roderic Jefferies, *Exhibit No. 13*, 1962

**neck** *noun*

1 the throat *UK, 1818*

- [T]he government had decided to forge on with reform of the drinking laws to change the "get it down your neck" culture of binge drinking and to boost the tourism industry. —*The Guardian*, 3rd May 2001

2 a drink *UK*

From **NECK** (to drink).

- [I]f you want to take a quick neck before I tie you down, you'd better do it now. —Danny King, *The Bank Robber Diaries*, p. 69, 2002

3 a white prisoner *US*

A shortened 'redneck'.

- —John R. Armore and Joseph D. Wolfe, *Dictionary of Desperation*, p. 41, 1976

4 in horse racing, a distance of less than half a horse-length *US*

- —David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack*, p. 43, 1951

5 impudence, effrontery, self-confidence *UK, 1894*

From Northumberland dialect.

- Reason? Because Sean says the British Empire has a bloody neck. Will that do? —Maeva Binchy, *Light a Penny Candle*, p. 21, 1982

▶ **get it down your neck; get that down your neck**

to swallow it *UK, 1909*

Often, when in reference to an alcoholic drink, a light-hearted imperative.

▶ **get it in the neck; catch it in the neck; take it in the neck**

to be severely punished or reprimanded *US, 1887*

- It's clear the boss told him to keep a low profile or he'd get it in the neck. —*The Guardian*, 1st April 1988

▶ **get under your neck**

to usurp someone else's prerogative *AUSTRALIA*

- —Ned Wallish, *The Truth Dictionary of Racing Slang*, p. 55, 1989

▶ **up to the neck; up to your neck**

deeply *US, 1998*

- He's in the shit. Up to his neck and there's no one he can turn to for help and advice. —Jack Allen, *When the Whistle Blows*, p. 138, 2000

**neck** *verb*

1 to kiss in a lingering fashion *UK, 1825*

- Couples began to neck publicly. —James T. Farrell, *Saturday Night*, p. 50, 1947
- First Frank necked with one of the girls, then he swapped with Benny. —Irving Shulman, *The Amboy Dukes*, p. 29, 1947
- A couple necking on a flat bench beside the Park wall diddled a battery radio and it began to sing through its nose. —Philip Wylie, *Opus 21*, p. 169, 1949
- We parked down by the riverbank and necked for a couple of hours. Then she said, "My name is Pearl McBride." —Max Shulman, *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*, p. 124, 1951
- She starts necking some bastard in the kitchen when she gets tanked up. —J.D. Salinger, *Nine Stories*, p. 117, 1953
- The youth cut off the motor and put his arm around the frizzy-haired girl. They started necking. —Willard Motley, *Let No Man Write My Epitaph*, p. 98, 1958
- We were downstairs in the cellar playroom, her parents were asleep, and we decided to turn out the lights and neck a little. —Phyllis and Eberhard Kronhausen, *Sex Histories of American College Men*, p. 74, 1960
- Neck a lot but don't go to bed with him until married: June, 1954, at St. Paul's On-the-Lake. —Elmore Leonard, *Gold Coast*, p. 6, 1980

2 to swallow *UK, 1514*

- Quarter to ten and you've already necked a bottle. —Geoffrey Fletcher, *Down Among the Meths Men*, p. 18, 1966
- [N]ecking a quick cup of rosie before shooting off to Penge[.] —Greg Williams, *Diamond Geezers*, p. 16, 1997
- I've just necked half a thermos of cold coffee and my haemorrhoids are humming. —Simon Lewis, *In The Box*, p. britpulp128, 1999
- They necked a bottle of champagne and started dancing about. —Wayne Anthony, *Spanish Highs*, p. 82, 1999

3 to drink *AUSTRALIA*

- He's half immersed in lukewarm water, necking blue cocktails and beers[.] —*Sun-Herald (Sunday Life)*, p. 6, 17th May 1998
- East is at the foot of the bed, necking a beverage, fag held between two fingers. —Mark Powell, *Snap*, p. 151, 2001

4 in prison, to swallow a package of drugs with the intention of retrieval after excretion *UK*

- —Angela Devlin, *Prison Patter*, p. 79, 1996

5 to commit suicide *AUSTRALIA*

- It went on and on and when I awoke after the two-hour trip he was still going, threatening to neck himself. —Paul Vautin, *Turn It Up!*, p. 42, 1995

**necking** *noun*

the act of kissing, caressing and cuddling *UK, 1825*

- The slippery slope is pretty much everything: brightly colored linoleum, necking or petting before marriage, public schools, flesh-colored stockings [...] and so on. —*San Francisco Bay Guardian*, 29th January 2003

**necklace; necklace of fire** *noun*

a tyre doused or filled with petrol, placed around a victim's neck or shoulders, and set alight *SOUTH AFRICA, 1985*

- Queenstown is unique. It is known as the Necklace Capital of the World. —Antjie Krog, *Country of My Skull*, p. 419, 2000
- [In Lagos] the popular mode of execution was the necklace of fire—a tyre around the neck doused with petrol and set on fire. —Chris Abani, *Graceland*, p. 30, 2004

**necklace** *verb*

to set fire to an automobile tyre that has been doused in petrol and placed around a victim's neck *SOUTH AFRICA, 1986*

An innocent-sounding term for a horrid practice, usually practised black-on-black in the waning days of the white supremacist government in South Africa.

- —*Cape Times*, 12th February 1986

- —*American Speech*, Spring 1989

- A woman guerrilla, of my age, told me how when you necklaced a man – poured gas into a tyre, slung it around his neck, and set fire to it – the heat was so great the skull popped like an egg in a microwave oven. —Aidan Hartley, *The Zanzibar Chest*, p. 109, 2003

**necklacer** *noun*

an executioner who, in the name of some informal justice, kills by means of the necklace (a petrol-doused tyre placed around the neck or shoulders and set alight) *SOUTH AFRICA, 1987*

- Here in the mornings, necklacer and victim sit in the sun to-gether. —Antjie Krog, *Country of My Skull*, p. 419, 2000

**necklacing** *noun*

an act, or the action, of killing by means of the necklace (a petrol-doused tyre placed around the neck or shoulders and set alight) *SOUTH AFRICA, 1986*

- [Y]oung radicals and older moder-ates-were going at it with necklacings and machetes. —P.J. O'Rourke, *Holidays in Hell*, p. 163, 1988
- Ivorian police stood by and watched the "necklacings," too afraid to intercede. —Robert D Kaplan, *The Ends of the Earth*, p. 14, 1996
- "Necklacing" was a form of black-on-black violence that emerged in the mid-1980s. —Antjie Krog, *Country of My Skull*, p. 63, 2000

**neck like a jockey's bollocks**

used descriptively of a scrawny neck and analogously for personal qualities of toughness and insensitivity *IRELAND*

- You need tough skin in this job [Irish football coach]. I guess you could say I've got a neck like a jockey's bollocks. —*The Guardian*, 27th May 2002

**neck oil** *noun*

alcohol, especially beer *UK, 1860*

- [A] few chilled tubes of neck oil[.] —Barry Humphries, *Bazza Pulls It Off!*, 1971
- —Barry Humphries, *The Traveller's Tool*, p. 131, 1985
- The people at KZ must have been delighted, and the EON folk, who came fourth, may also have cracked the odd bottle of neck oil. —*The Herald*, p. 4, 4th April 1988
- (RCAF, WWII) "Neck oil lubricates the throat. —Tom Langeste, *Words on the Wing*, p. 193, 1995