

WORD OF THE WEEK:

AVANT-GARDE

a-vant-garde (ä'vänt-gärd')

PART OF SPEECH/DEFINITION:

NOUN A group active in the invention and application of new techniques in a given field, especially in the arts.

ADJ. The adjective form is used in English, to refer to people or works that are experimental or innovative, particularly with respect to art, culture, and politics.

SENTENCE: The avant-garde thing to do nowadays is to read and change the world.



STORY BEHIND THE WORD:

The term was originally used to describe the foremost part of an army advancing into battle (also called the vanguard) and now applied to any group, particularly of artists, that considers itself innovative and ahead of the majority.