

# WORD OF THE WEEK:

## ADDLED

ad·dle (ăd'ĭ)

### PART OF SPEECH/DEFINITION:

ADJ confused and vague; used especially of thinking

VERB To muddle; confuse

**SENTENCE:** Somehow in his addled brain, he felt he had received an “A” in the course, even though he had never studied, read any of the books, or passed an exam.



### STORY BEHIND THE WORD:

This participle (from verb *addle*) is mainly an adjective these days, and gets more mileage from its figurative sense (confused and vague) than from its original sense (denoting the condition of eggs that have rotted in the shell). Something to think about the next time you call someone an egghead.