

# *The Lone Gunmen*

## Vocabulary

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### **Contents**

Pilot.....	1
Bond, Jimmy Bond.....	1
Eine Kleine Frohike.....	1
Like Water for Octane.....	2
Three Men and a Smoking Diaper.....	2
Madam, I'm Adam.....	2
Planet of the Frohikes.....	2
Maximum Byers.....	3
Diagnosis: Jimmy.....	3
Tango de los Pistoleros.....	3
The Lying Game.....	3
All About Yves.....	4
The Cap'n Toby Show.....	4

## Pilot

**Cry wolf:** to give a false alarm

**Brass:** important or high-ranking officials, especially military officers: *the top brass*

**Spittoon:** a receptacle for spit, usually in a public place

**Plod:** 1) to make (one's way) or walk along (a path, road, etc.) with heavy usually slow steps 2) to work slowly and perseveringly

**Godspeed:** an expression of one's good wishes for a person's success and safety

**Cross-dress:** wear clothing typical of the opposite sex

**Eulogy:** 1) a formal speech or piece of writing praising a person or thing, especially a person who has recently died 2) high praise or commendation

**Funky:** evil-smelling; foul

**Wazoo:** in great, extreme, or excessive abundance. It is a slang term for the anus: *Sorry, I can't come out tonight, I've got homework out the wazoo.*

**Pop:** to shoot or fire at (a target) with a firearm

**Yonder:** at, in, or to that relatively distant place; over there

**Sporting:** relating or conforming to sportsmanship; fair

**Lead:** the firing of a gun, missile, etc., ahead of a moving target to correct for the time of flight of the projectile

**Downrange:** in the direction of the intended flight path of a rocket or missile

**Champers:** a slang name for champagne

**Pimpily:** having many pimples

**Pencil neck:** 1) a particularly weak, meek, or unimpressive person; a wimp: *No little pencil neck like you is going to give me orders, pal!* 2) a person who is very inclined toward academic or intellectual pursuits. *I always made sure to make friends with the pencil necks in my math classes so they would help me out with the homework.*

**Hunk:** 1) a large piece of something such as bread or cheese that is cut or torn off a larger portion 2) a man who is well-built and very attractive physically

**Camelot:** (in the US) the supposedly golden age of the presidency of John F. Kennedy, 1961-63

**Slum:** to suffer conditions below those to which one is accustomed

**Nads:** another word for testicles

**Breadboard:** 1) a wooden board on which dough is kneaded or bread is sliced 2) an experimental arrangement of electronic circuits giving access to components so that modifications can be carried out easily

**Yaw:** (of an aircraft, missile, etc.) to turn about its vertical axis

**Commandeer:** 1) to seize for public or military use 2) to seize arbitrarily

**Tilt:** to attack or overthrow (a person or people) in a tilt or joust

## Bond, Jimmy Bond

**Fore:** (in golf) a warning shout made by a player about to make a shot

**Smoke:** to kill; murder

**Match grade:** firearm parts and ammunition that are suitable for a competitive match. Sometimes, it also refers to other devices and parts that are made with high precision in mind.

**Fragible:** breakable or fragile

**Imbecile:** moron

**Jack squat:** nothing

**Peachy:** excellent; fine

**Tag:** a children's game in which one player chases the others in an attempt to catch one of them who will then become the chaser

**Corny:** 1) trite or banal 2) sentimental or mawkish 3) abounding in corn

**Quash:** 1) to subdue forcefully and completely; put down; suppress 2) to annul or make void (a law, decision, etc.) 3) to reject (an indictment, writ, etc.) as invalid

**Angle:** a selfish or devious motive or purpose

**Take a stab at:** 1) to attempt or try: *Would you like to take a stab at explaining the theory?* 2) to guess: *I'll take a stab at the answer, but I don't really know for sure.*

**Lucre:** money or wealth (especially in the phrase **filthy lucre**)

**Dope:** [C] a stupid person: *What a dope!*

**Scrimmage:** 1) a rough or disorderly struggle 2) (American football) the clash of opposing linemen at every down

**Fall guy:** 1) a person who is the victim of a confidence trick 2) a scapegoat

**Shake:** to fare or progress; happen as specified: *How's it shaking?*

**Cadence:** 1) the beat or measure of something rhythmic 2) a fall in the pitch of the voice, as at the end of a sentence 3) modulation of the voice; intonation 4) a rhythm or rhythmic construction in verse or prose; measure 5) the close of a musical phrase or section

**Slush fund:** 1) a fund for financing political or commercial corruption 2) a fund accumulated from the sale of slush from the galley

**Flat-ass:** absolutely; totally: *She opened it up as flat-ass fast as it would go.*

## Eine Kleine Frohike

**Cut/give someone some slack:** to be less strict with someone: *Cut him a little slack – his father just died.*

**Prefect:** (in France, Italy, etc.) the chief administrative officer in a department

**Croak:** to die

**(A bit of) slap and tickle:** sexual play

**Keen:** very good

**Caboose:** a mobile bunkhouse used by lumberjacks

**Tuba:** a valved brass instrument of bass pitch, in which the bell points upwards and the mouthpiece projects at right angles. The tube is of conical bore and the mouthpiece cup-shaped.

**Palindrome:** a word or phrase the letters of which, when taken in reverse order, give the same word or phrase, such as *able was I ere I saw Elba*

**In over one's head (with someone or something):** 1) in water that is deeper than one is tall: *Johnny! Don't go out too far! You are in over your head.* 2) too deeply involved with someone or something, beyond what one can deal with: *They are all in over their heads with this money business.* 3) having more difficulties than one can manage: *Calculus is very hard for me. I'm in over my head.*

**Schnapps or schnaps:** 1) a Dutch spirit distilled from potatoes 2) (in Germany) any strong spirit

**Swing:** to swap sexual partners in a group, especially habitually

**Toupee:** 1) a wig or hairpiece worn, especially by men, to cover a bald or balding place 2) (formerly) a prominent lock on a periwig, especially in the 18th century

**Hedge:** a row of shrubs, bushes, or trees forming a boundary to a field, garden, etc.

## Like Water for Octane

**Sweep up:** 1) to lift something or someone up with a swift, brushing motion: *He swept the child up into his arms.* 2) to cause something or someone to become lifted and carried by a current: *The wind swept the dust up into the air.*

**Subterfuge:** a stratagem employed to conceal something, evade an argument, etc.

**Cinder block=breeze block:** a light building brick made from the ashes of coal, coke, etc., bonded together by cement and used especially for walls that bear relatively small loads

**Fluke:** something surprising or unexpected that happens by accident

**Lumbering:** 1) awkward in movement 2) moving with a rumbling sound

**Onto:** having become aware of (something illicit or secret): *the police are onto us*

**Plant:** a thing positioned secretly for discovery by another, especially in order to incriminate an innocent person

**Tinfoil:** 1) thin foil made of tin or an alloy of tin and lead 2) thin foil made of aluminum; used for wrapping foodstuffs

**Valhalla:** the great hall of Odin where warriors who die as heroes in battle dwell eternally

**Pop:** an informal word for father

**Low:** the sound uttered by cattle; moo

**Screwy:** odd, crazy, or eccentric

**Udder:** the large baglike mammary gland of cows, sheep, etc., having two or more teats

**Oaf:** a stupid or loutish person

**Homestead:** a house or estate and the adjoining land, buildings, etc., especially a farm

**Whoop-de-do=whoop-de-doo:** 1) lively and noisy festivities; merrymaking: *the annual New Year's Eve whoop-de-do* 2) heated discussion or debate, especially in public: *a whoop-de-do over the new tax bill* 3) extravagant publicity or fanfare: *the whoop-de-do of a movie premiere*

## Three Men and a Smoking Diaper

**Fluff:** a mistake, especially in speaking or reading lines or performing music

**Torrid:** 1) so hot and dry as to parch or scorch 2) arid or parched 3) highly charged emotionally: *a torrid love scene*

**Hide the salami:** sexual intercourse

**The slammer:** prison

**The fix is in:** a process (for example, a court case) has been rigged behind the scenes and its outcome will not reflect true justice

**Hoosegow:** a slang word for jail

**The pokey:** a slang word for jail

**Bump off:** to murder; kill

**Blab:** 1) to divulge (secrets) indiscreetly 2) to chatter thoughtlessly; prattle

**Coo:** 1) to make a soft low sound like a bird (a dove) 2) to speak in a soft, gentle voice: *He went to the cot and cooed over the baby.*

**Dish the dirt:** to spread malicious gossip

**Let the chips fall where they may:** to allow events to unfold naturally; to accept what occurs without prejudice, worry, or regret

**Peekaboo:** a game for young children, in which one person hides his face and suddenly reveals it and cries "peekaboo"

**Pour one's heart out:** to express one's innermost thoughts or feelings

**Turncoat:** a person who deserts one cause or party for the opposite faction; renegade

**Bumbling:** clumsy, awkward

**Cool one's jets:** to become less excited, intense, or active; to exercise self-restraint

**Lunkhead:** a fool or idiot

**Carouse:** to have a merry drinking spree; drink freely

**Bug off:** used to tell somebody to leave one alone

## Madam, I'm Adam

**Lavender:** 1) any of various perennial shrubs or herbaceous plants of the genus *Lavandula*, especially *L. vera*, cultivated for its mauve or blue flowers and as the source of a fragrant oil (oil of lavender)

**Carve up:** 1) to cut (something) into pieces 2) to divide or dismember (a country, land, etc.)

**On the hook:** 1) waiting 2) in a dangerous or difficult situation

**Yammer:** 1) to utter or whine in a complaining or peevish manner 2) to make (a complaint) loudly or persistently 3) (especially of an animal) to howl or wail plaintively or distressingly; yelp or yowl

**Nancy:** a) an effeminate or homosexual boy or man b) (as modifier) *his nancy ways*

**Pogo stick:** a stout pole with a handle at the top, steps for the feet and a spring at the bottom, so that the user can spring up, down, and along on it

**Slop:** liquid or semiliquid food of low quality

**Come over:** to undergo or feel a particular sensation: *I came over funny.*

**Break in:** to use or wear (shoes, new equipment, etc.) until comfortable or running smoothly

**Spaz(z):** (slang, pejorative, offensive) to have a tantrum or fit

**Dip:** an offensive term that deliberately insults somebody's intelligence or common sense

**Above board:** (aboveboard when prenominal) in the open; without dishonesty, concealment, or fraud

**Doozy:** something excellent: *the plot's a doozy*

**Drop the ball:** to fail in one's responsibilities or duties, or to make a mistake, especially at a critical point or when the result is very negative

## Planet of the Frohikes

**Rub:** (preceded by the) an obstacle or difficulty (especially in the phrase **there's the rub**)

**Shuffle off:** to thrust off or put aside: *shuffle off responsibility*

**Contumely:** 1) scornful or insulting language or behavior 2) a humiliating or scornful insult

**Insolence:** disrespect

**Spurn:** 1) to reject (a person or thing) with contempt 2) (often followed by *against*) to kick (at)

**Quietus:** 1) anything that serves to quash, eliminate, or kill: *to give the quietus to a rumor* 2) a release from life; death 3) the discharge or settlement of debts, duties, etc.

**Bodkin:** 1) a blunt large-eyed needle used especially for drawing tape through openwork 2) a dagger 3) a pointed steel tool used for extracting characters when correcting metal type 4) a long ornamental hairpin

**Fardel:** a bundle or burden

**Bourne:** 1) a destination; goal 2) a boundary

**Digs:** lodgings

**Bidet:** a small low basin for washing the genitals and anal area

**Scoop:** 1) a large quick gain, as of money 2) a news story reported in one newspaper before all the others; an exclusive 3) any sensational piece of news

**Diss:** to treat (someone) with contempt

**Groundswell:** 1) a considerable swell of the sea, often caused by a distant storm or earthquake or by the passage of waves into shallow water 2) a strong public feeling or opinion that is detectable even though not openly expressed: *a groundswell of discontent*

**Spill:** to disclose something confidential

**Hook, line, and sinker:** totally: *She fell for our story hook, line, and sinker.*

**Tuft:** a bunch of feathers, grass, hair, etc., held together at the base

### Maximum Byers

**On the lam:** running from the police: *Richard has been on the lam for a week now.*

**Outlaw:** [C] (old-fashioned) (used in past times) a person who has done something illegal and is hiding to avoid being caught

**Bark up the wrong tree:** to misdirect one's attention, efforts, etc.; be mistaken

**Sissy:** effeminate, weak, or cowardly

**Lisp:** 1) a minor speech difficulty in which the sounds "s" and "z" are pronounced like the "th" sound. Small children whose front teeth have not come in yet often have a temporary lisp. 2) the sound produced when "s" and "z" are pronounced like the soft "th" sound in "third" or "thick"

**Fall out:** to leave organized ranks or positions, or break up organized ranks or positions

**Work over:** to assault or thrash

**Shopkeeper:** a person who owns or manages a shop or small store

**Rap:** to strike (a fist, stick, etc.) against (something) with a sharp quick blow; knock: *he rapped at the door*

### Diagnosis: Jimmy

**Arthroscope:** a tubular instrument that is inserted into the capsule of a joint to examine the joint, extract tissue, etc.

**Hog:** a selfish, greedy or slovenly person

**Shell out:** to pay out or hand over (money)

**Rile:** 1) to annoy or anger; irritate 2) to stir up or agitate (water, etc.); roil or make turbid

**Lay up:** to incapacitate or confine through illness

**Dig:** to like, understand, or appreciate

**Ganglion:** 1) an encapsulated collection of nerve-cell bodies, usually located outside the brain and spinal cord 2) any concentration of energy, activity, or strength 3) a cystic tumor on a tendon sheath or joint capsule

**Rambunctious:** boisterous; unruly

**Diorama:** a miniature three-dimensional scene, in which models of figures are seen against a background

**Joker:** a person: *who does that joker think he is?*

**Alopecia:** loss of hair, especially on the head; baldness

**Gripe:** [C] (informal) a complaint about somebody/something

**Sting:** 1) a swindle or fraud 2) a trap set up by the police to entice a person to commit a crime and thereby produce evidence

### Tango de los Pistoleros

**Stick it to someone:** to treat severely or wrongfully

**Cut one's losses:** to discontinue an effort that seems unlikely ever to bear fruit

**Hightail:** to go or move in a great hurry

**Impose:** to force (oneself, one's presence, etc.) on another or others; obtrude

**Down pat:** thoroughly practiced, rehearsed, or understood; mastered

**Junta:** 1) a group of military officers holding the power in a country, especially after a coup d'état 2) also called **junto:** a small group of men; cabal, faction, or clique 3) a legislative or executive council in some parts of Latin America

**Pull the rug out from under:** to betray, expose, or leave defenseless

**Sugar-coat:** 1) to coat or cover with sugar 2) to cause to appear more attractive; make agreeable

**Slink:** 1) to move or act in a furtive or cringing manner from or as if from fear, guilt, etc. 2) to move in a sinuous alluring manner 3) (of animals, especially cows) to give birth to prematurely

**Mongrel:** 1) a plant or animal, especially a dog, of mixed or unknown breeding; a crossbreed or hybrid 2) a person of mixed race

**Fake out:** to deceive, mislead, or trick (someone)

**Rumba:** 1) a rhythmic and syncopated Cuban dance in duple time 2) a ballroom dance derived from this 3) a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance

**Ninny:** a dull-witted person

**Cut a (or the) rug:** to dance, especially in a vigorous manner and in one of the dance styles of the first half of the twentieth century

**Tap out:** to force (an opponent) to submit: *He tapped his opponent out in what seemed like ten seconds.*

**Wig out:** to become extremely excited

### The Lying Game

**Pasty:** 1) of or like the color, texture, etc., of paste 2) (especially of the complexion) pale or unhealthy-looking

**On the money:** accurate; correct: *every criticism she made was right on the money*

**John:** a slang word for lavatory

**Keep it in (one's) pants:** to not be promiscuous. Literally: "keep (one's) penis in (one's) pants."

**Payoff:** a bribe

**Cheesed off:** bored, disgusted, or angry

**Preach to the choir:** to make one's case primarily to one's supporters; to make one's case only to those people who are present or who are already friendly to the issues

**Compunction:** a feeling of remorse, guilt, or regret

**Impound:** to take possession of (a document, evidence, etc.) and hold in legal custody

**Tarp=tarpaulin:** 1) a heavy waterproof material, especially treated canvas, used as a covering and to protect things from moisture 2) a sheet of tarpaulin

**Damsel:** a young unmarried woman; maiden

**Mesh:** anything that ensnares, or holds like a net: *the mesh of the secret police*

**Afoot:** 1) in circulation or operation; as: *mischief was afoot* 2) on or by foot

### All About Yves

**Coup:** [C] 1) (also **coup d'état**) a sudden, illegal and often violent change of government: *a coup to overthrow the President • an attempted coup (= one which did not succeed)* 2) a clever and successful thing to do: *Getting that promotion was a real coup.*

**Sorority:** a social club or society for university women

**Arrivederci:** goodbye

**Morsel:** 1) a small slice or mouthful of food 2) a small piece; bit

**Valet:** 1) a manservant who acts as personal attendant to his employer, looking after his clothing, serving his meals, etc. 2) a manservant who attends to the requirements of patrons in a hotel, passengers on board ship, etc.; steward

**Twang:** a sharp ringing sound produced by or as if by the plucking of a taut string: *the twang of a guitar*

**Etruscan or Etrurian:** 1) a member of an ancient people of central Italy whose civilization influenced the Romans, who had suppressed them by about 200 BC 2) the non-Indo-European language of the ancient Etruscans, whose few surviving records have not been fully interpreted

**Lode:** 1) a deposit of valuable ore occurring between definite limits in the surrounding rock; vein 2) a deposit of metallic ore filling a fissure in the surrounding rock

**Chroma key:** a technique by which a block of a particular color (often blue or green) in a video image can be replaced either by another color or image, enabling, for example, a weather forecaster to appear against a background of a computer-generated weather map

**Bite me:** used to say to someone that they have made you feel angry or embarrassed

**Lay something out:** to explain a plan of action or a sequence of events: *Lay out the plan very carefully, and don't skip anything.*

**Cinch:** 1) an easy task 2) a certainty

### The Cap'n Toby Show

**For one's money:** in one's opinion

**Pan for something:** to search for a precious metal, usually gold, by using a pan to locate the bits of metal in sand and gravel in a stream bed: *When I was in Alaska, I panned for gold in a little stream set aside for tourists.*

**Dross:** 1) the scum formed, usually by oxidation, on the surfaces of molten metals 2) worthless matter; waste

**Pipe down:** to stop talking, making noise, etc.

**Porthole:** 1) a small aperture in the side of a vessel to admit light and air, usually fitted with a watertight glass or metal cover, or both 2) an opening in a wall or parapet through which a gun can be fired; embrasure

**Stagehand:** a person who sets the stage, moves props, etc., in a theatrical production

**Humongous:** enormous

**Calliope:** the Muse of epic poetry

**Toot:** to give or cause to give (a short blast, hoot, or whistle)

**Pot sticker:** a dumpling filled with ground meat, vegetables, or other ingredients that is browned on one side and then simmered

**Snotty:** 1) dirty with nasal discharge 2) contemptible; nasty 3) snobbish; conceited

**Know-it-all:** somebody who professes to know more or better than anyone else about everything