Let me set the scene: Easter 2020. Everyone’s stuck inside. Me and my three brothers decide to entertain ourselves by hiding eggs for each other. I was just a little bit nasty on my turn.

[READ DOWN FIRST COLLUM AND THEN DOWN SECOND]

M: You guys are so MEAN!

E: *giggles*

M: I can’t even find it.

E: *Continues to giggle*

Mom: *Laughs*

*Vrrrreph*

M: Can you tell me where it is so I-

E: NO

Dad: No.

Mom: No we’re not-

E: No, not in cupboards!

*Vrrrreph*

N: *giggles*

M: No. Elizabeth, this is illegal.

E: *laugh*

M: Wherever this hiding spot is.

E: *Enjoying the heck out of this giggles*

Mom: I… Oh yeah, he hasn’t asked for a hint yet.

Dad: No stone unturned, John.

M: I give up, tell me where it is.

*Vrrrreph*

M: WHERE IS IT!?!

E: *You’re not even looking for it and you’re frustrated :D*

Dad: Matthew is the suspense killing you?

*Vrrrreph*

Mom: You wouldn’t have-

Dad: How’d you do that?

Mom: where you hit it as you were running and clotheslined yourself is too far.

Dad: *laughs*

Mom: So you’re- i- its not beyond the counters.

*Highfive*

Dad: That one wins.

E: *giggle*

Dad: That wins.

*Vrrrreph*

Mom: Don’t say!!

Dad: I’ve never seen somebody **do something like that before!** *Grunt of pain cuz J sat on him*

J: Okay, where the hell did Dad see it…

M: I see it. NO! NOOO!!!

Mom: shhhh!

Dad: well actually now I can’t see anything.

M: NAAA-OH

Mom: SHHH!

*Vrrrreph*

Dad: Sit boy!

M: This’s just cruel!!

Dad: SSHH- Yes, that one’s really cruel

Mom: Shh Please quiet…

Dad: I agree

J: Get’cha ass outta the chair!!

Mom: *cackles* “Get out of the chair!” *laughs*

J: Get outta the chair!

Dad: *laughing*

E: *trying to breathe and laugh at the same time*

*Vrrrreph*

Dad: It’s more than challenging.

E: *snort*

Mom: *laugh* QUIET!!

J: How the hell am I supposed to see it from right here?

Mom: Quiet.

E: *Struggling to breath cuz she’s laughing too hard.*

Mom: Qui-et.

M: I saw it from right there.

Mom: STOPIT!

J: It’s in the kitchen??

Mom: It is in the kitchen. With Dina!

M: *Chuckle*

Dad: But it’s not someone.

Mom: *happy hum*

J: You rubber-banded it to the ceiling?

Mom: *Looses it*

XP

Yes, I affixed an egg to the ceiling. It was twist ties instead of a rubber band, but any way you slice it you cannot call it anything but “high spirited or mischievous activity,” (Merriam-Webster) simply put, a shenanigan. Most often used in the plural -shenanigans- the oldest sense of the word was used to refer to underhanded tricks, but nowadays it has evolved to refer to “tricky or questionable practices … and high-spirited behavior” (Merriam-Webster) Ever been at a sleepover, covered your friend’s hand with whipped cream and ticked their nose? Ever hidden around a corner to jump out at unsuspecting passerby? You were engaged in the fun phenomena of shenanigans. Even the word is just fun to say. Especially its variant shenaniganry.

But, talking about the word itself, did you know that the etymological world has no clue where it originates? As the Merriam-Webster dictionary says: “All we can say for certain is that the earliest known use of the word in print appeared in the April 25, 1855, issue of San Francisco's Town Talk.”

1855, what was happening in California? The Gold Rush. One of the funnest words to say just pops into existence in a place where people from all over the world are coming to, speaking all sorts of languages and mixing it all together. It’s not entirely surprising that a word born from that era is just a little hard to pin down on the “where did it come from?” front.

But that ain’t gonna stop people from trying, theories abound on shenanigan’s root word, coming from all over the world, including -and please forgive my butchering of these words-

* the Irish [*sionnachuighim*](sionnachuighim) “I play the fox” (Wictionary),
* the East Anglican dialect *nannicking* “playing the fool” (Wictionary),
* the French [*ces*](https://forvo.com/word/ces/)[*manigances*](https://www.howtopronounce.com/french/manigances) (two diff. links) “these fraudulent schemes” (Wictionary),
* 18th century German [*Scheinheiligen*](https://www.wordhippo.com/what-is/the-meaning-of/german-word-d2d27df36c5b9cbb29acf03926f148c07cd0ae7e.html) “sham holy man / sham holy action” (Wictionary),
* Spanish chanada, a shortened form of [*charranada*](https://www.howtopronounce.com/spanish/charranada) "trick, deceit (Etymonline)
* And, from Quora user Vir Gupta, the Indian word [*Chhaneda*](https://translate.google.com/?rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS841US841&biw=1280&bih=578&sxsrf=ALeKk01HnBJlYa0ot_4FPPdw8Qp_N32zaw:1601263721342&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQAzIKCAAQsQMQgwEQQzIICAAQkQIQiwMyBQgAELEDMgUIABCxAzIFCAAQsQMyBQgAELEDMgUIABCxAzICCAAyAggAMgUIABCxAzoECAAQRzoECCMQJzoECAAQQzoOCC4QsQMQxwEQowIQiwM6CAgAELEDEIsDOgsIABCxAxCDARCLAzoHCCMQ6gIQJzoOCAAQsQMQgwEQkQIQiwM6CAgAELEDEIMBOgsIABCxAxCDARCRAjoHCAAQQxCLAzoKCAAQsQMQQxCLAzoFCAAQiwNQ5WVYt3tgwHxoAXACeACAAWCIAeAGkgECMTGYAQCgAQGqAQdnd3Mtd2l6sAEKyAEIuAEDwAEB&uact=5&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hl=en&client=tw-ob#auto/en/Chhaneda) which means deceit, usually used for spirits who change their shapes. (Quora)

But none of these are quite perfect, and so the shenaniganry around shenanigan continues.

“Google Search - History of Shenanigans.” *Google Search*, Google, www.google.com/search?q=history%2Bof%2Bword%2Bshenanigans&rlz=1C1CHBF\_enUS841US841&oq=history%2Bof%2Bshenanigans&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j0.11398j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8.

“Shenanigan, n.” *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2020, www-oed-com.du.idm.oclc.org/view/Entry/177935?isAdvanced=false.

“Shenanigan.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/shenanigan.

“Shenanigan (n.)” *Online Etymology Dictionary*, <https://www.etymonline.com/word/shenanigan>

Gupta, Vir. “What Is the Etymology of 'Shenanigans'.” Quora, 22 Nov. 2019, [www.quora.com/What-is-the-etymology-of-shenanigans](http://www.quora.com/What-is-the-etymology-of-shenanigans).

Fast Forward Sound: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbvBrH-WYBE>

Mouse Click: <https://mega.nz/file/OrpjRAKL#0EhXDzqsQ0UBgje9YT0ExNv14XJNPrERZ_P1J9cabSQ>

During Intro: “Sneaky Snitch” <https://incompetech.com/music/royalty-free/index.html?isrc=USUAN1100772>

During easter vid: “Investigations” <https://incompetech.com/music/royalty-free/index.html?isrc=USUAN1100646>

Background: Ambient Tech Short <https://stock.adobe.com/search/audio?album=&asset_type=AUDIO&attribution=&currentPage=1&keywords=Ambient+Tech+Short&order=relevance&pageLimit=50>