

Dustine, Justine and Bustine

There are three friends, Dustine, Justine and Bustine having a beer in a pub to celebrate that they've just obtained their degree in English. Bustine asks the others:

-Do you know what the longest word in English is?

-Yes. I know –says Dustine. – The longest word in English is an adverb, it is “sympathetically”[\[13\]](#) with sixteen letters.

-Quite good- answers Bustine- but far from the correct answer.

-Let me see- says Justine tapping his lips with his index finger[\[14\]](#). I've got it. –He says snapping[\[15\]](#) his fingers.- The longest word in English isn't an adverb but[\[16\]](#) a noun. The longest word is “ straightforwardness”[\[17\]](#) with nineteen letters.

-Well, I don't know if it's the longest but I'm sure that it is less straightforward than simple- Bustine added wryly[\[18\]](#).

-Yes. I agree with you- said Justine.- But remember that “simple” is only used with things; and “straightforward” with people.

-So? Is “straightforward” the correct answer? -asks Justine.

-No it isn't –answer Bustine.

All of them keep quiet. Justine and Dustine look at Bustine who feels a little naughty[\[19\]](#). Then he asks his mates – Have you come up with[\[20\]](#) the solution?

-No – they answer at the same time.

-The answer is...-it sounded as if he had a skeleton in the closet[\[21\]](#)- the answer is “smiles” – he says smiling- because between one “s” and the other there is a mile.

Dustine, Justine and Bustine laugh together.

The End

[\[13\]](#) Sympathetically: (adv.) Comprensivamente, con compasión.

[\[14\]](#) Index finger: Dedo índice.

[\[15\]](#) To snap: Chascar, chasquear.

[\[16\]](#) But: (conj.) 1. Pero. 2. Sino.

[\[17\]](#) Straightforwardness: Sencillez

[18] Wry: Ironía. Wryly: Irónicamente.

[19] Naughty: Travieso.

[20] To come up with: Ocurrírsele, encontrar (una idea, solución, respuesta...)

[21] A skeleton in the closet: Un oscuro secreto