

- If a broad dropped her drawers, right away she lost her rating – even to the scrounge who copped them[.]—Edwin Torres, *Carlito's Way*, p. 11, 1975

**scrounge** *verb*

to rummage; to search *UK, 1909*

- I scrounged through the mess on his dresser[.]—Janet Evanovich, *Seven Up*, p. 51, 2001

▶ **scrounge off**

to freeload; to sponge off someone *UK*

- I wouldn't spend the rest of me days scrounging off me family.—Clive Exton, *No Fixed Abode [Six Granada Plays]*, p. 122, 1959

**scrounger** *noun*

a person known for their ability to beg, borrow, buy or steal what was needed *US*

Respected and valued.

- A "scrounger" in the Marines is a highly experienced artist and not a mere thief. The scrounger's idea is that everything is basically government property, and the government belongs to its citizens. As a citizen in good standing, the scrounger feels en—Russell Davis, *Marine at War*, p. 171, 1961
- He was a decent scrounger; had hustled Haskins for eggs and bacon and No. 10 cans of fruit, and real ground coffee.—Larry Heinemann, *Close Quarters*, p. 228, 1977

**scroungy** *adjective*

cheap, always in search of help *US*

- —American Speech, p. 154, May 1959: 'Gator (University of Florida) slang'

**scrub** *noun*

1 a contemptible or insignificant person, especially one who does not share your high-standards of morality, style or personal hygiene *UK, 1900*

- [A] scrub is checkin' me / But his game is kinda weak / And I know that he cannot approach me / Cuz I'm lookin' like class and he's lookin' like trash[.]—TLC *No Scrubs*, 1999

2 a person attending a dance who is not asked to dance for long periods of time *TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1971*

- —Lise Winer, *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad & Tobago*, 2003

3 a first-year college student *US*

- —Pamela Munro, *U.C.L.A. Slang*, p. 74, 1989

4 a substitute player on a sports team *US, 1892*

- [H]e had benched his regulars and sent in his scrubs, and as a result, the Rockets had been creamed the next three times in a row.—Max Shulman, *Rally Round the Flag, Boys!*, p. 224, 1957
- —Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang*, p. 7, Spring 1990

5 in hip-hop culture, a performer of little or no talent *US*

- I rock ya like Chubb and burn scrubs like a dum-dum[.]—Redman *Headbanger*, 1992

**scrub** *verb*

2 to cancel something; to forget something; to reject something *UK, 1943*

A figurative application of the conventional sense to 'erase'; originally recorded in 1828, current use dates from military use in World War 2.

- The team's original objective—the capture of a Covenant ship—had been scrubbed in the face of a new enemy offensive.—Eric Nyland, *First Strike*, p. 2, 2003

▶ **scrub round**

to cancel something to forget something, especially by agreement *UK, 1943*

- Scrub round it, will you?—Harold Pinter, *The Dumb Waiter*, 1960

**scrub-bash** *noun*

a journey through thick bushland *AUSTRALIA*

- From the plains the peak is a more formidable proposition, involving a fairly direct scrub-bash and the frontal assault of a few minor cliff faces.—*Tasmanian Tramp*, p. 76, January 1972

**scrub bash** *verb*

to make a path through thick bushland; to drive a vehicle through bushland *AUSTRALIA, 1964*

- It soon became a mission impossible as Ferrets cannot scrub bash off the roads as fast as vehicles running on the roads.—*Ich Dien*, p. 21, #11 1983

**scrub-bashing** *noun*

the clearing of bushland *AUSTRALIA*

- 'The old man will get nowhere with his scrub-bashing,' they declared.—Mary Durack, *Kings in Grass Castles*, p. 99, 1959

**scrubber** *noun*

1 a sexually promiscuous woman *UK, 1959*

- this aged scrubber, Mrs Marengo—Derek Raymond (Robin Cook), *The Crust on its Uppers*, p. 28, 1962
- —Louis S. Leland, *A Personal Kiwi-Yankee Dictionary*, p. 89, 1984
- "Dear oh dear – not the singing scrubber?" "What d'you call her? [...]" That is a very special young lady, Terence."—Anthony Masters, *Minder*, p. 67, 1984
- TANYA: Can you believe that guy? He called my mum a scrubber. [SHE PULLS UP HER KNICKERS.]—Bernard Demsey & Kevin McNally *Lock, Stock... & Two Sips*, p. 289, 2000

2 an unattractive woman *AUSTRALIA, 1977*

- —Jim Ramsay, *Cop It Sweet!*, p. 79, 1977
- I don't like them talking too much, like the last scrubber I had.—Sandra Jobson, *Blokes*, p. 105, 1984
- —Robert G. Barrett, *Davo's Little Something*, p. 45, 1992

3 an inferior horse bred in the country *AUSTRALIA, 1874*

- Mooti was no scrubber either.—Joe Andersen, *Winners Can Laugh*, p. 81, 1982
- This was no scrubber from the bush.—Joe Andersen, *Winners Can Laugh*, p. 176, 1982

**scrubout** *noun*

a weekly mass cleaning *ANTARCTICA*

- —*Cool Antarctica*, 2003: 'Antarctic slang'

**scrubs** *noun*

loose-fitting, sterilised clothing worn in hospital operating rooms *US*

- In a holding cell crowded with offenders wearing state-blue uniforms that were like hospital scrubs.—Elmore Leonard, *Maximum Bob*, p. 2, 1991

**Scrubs** *noun*▶ **the Scrubs**

Her Majesty's Prison Wormwood Scrubs in west London *UK*

- The Scrubs is what they call an "allocation" prison, one where you go temporarily[.]—Dave Courtney, *Stop the Ride I Want to Get Off*, p. 71, 1999
- This went off in the Scrubs, D-wing[.]—J.J. Connolly, *Layer Cake*, p. 168, 2000

**scrub up** *verb*

to appear after grooming *AUSTRALIA*

Always followed by a positive adjective or adverb.

- I scrub up good, but basically I look bad.—Barry Dickins, *What the Dickins*, p. 17, 1985

**scruffbag** *noun*

a scruffy-looking person *UK, 1973*

Originally, 'a down-and-out'.

- [The Beatles] were real scruffbags onstage.—*Uncut*, p. 47, July 2001

**scruff puppy** *noun*

a girl as the object of social and sexual desire *US*

- —Michael V. Anderson, *The Bad, Rad, Not to Forget Way Cool Beach and Surf Discretionary*, p. 18, 1988

**scruffy and dirty** *noun*

in betting, odds of 100–30 *UK*

Rhyming slang.

- —John McCririck, *John McCririck's World of Betting*, p. 59, 1991

**scrum** *noun*

something of little or no value *AUSTRALIA*

Obsolete rhyming slang for a 'threepenny bit', rhymes on synonymous 'thrums'; back in circulation as the perceived worth of the old coin.

- [N]ow I wouldn't give a scrum, it wouldn't bother me in the slightest[.]—Luke DesForges, *Cool Places*, p. 190, 1998

**scrumdiddliumptious** *adjective*

extremely delicious or delightful *UK*

An elaboration of **SCRUMPTIOUS**.

The boy has just got his brand new scrumdiddliumptious candy bar[.]—Craig David, 6th December 2000

- —Chris Lewis, *The Dictionary of Playground Slang*, p. 196, 2003

**scummy; scummie** *adjective*

excellent; delicious *UK, 1915*

An abbreviation of **SCRUMPTIOUS**; often used as an exclamation of delight.

- Well, something smells scummie. What time were you aiming for eating.—Jennifer Saunders, *Absolutely Fabulous*, p. 120, 1992
- The waiter arrived now with my and Sheba's soup. "How scummy!" Sheba exclaimed, tasting hers.—Zoe Heller, *What Was She Thinking?*, p. 69, 2003