

complete etymology of this word, it being held that it is connected with *boss*, a round, salient protuberance which rises, so to speak, in a superior manner above the surrounding surface; but most philologists agree in deriving it from the Dutch *baas*, master; *den baas speelen*, to play the master, to domineer, to lord it, the pronunciation of *baass* and *boss* being the same. And this origin is borne out by the circumstance that the French argot has *beauasse* for the master of a house, rich citizen, man of importance, which was borrowed from Flemish vagabonds and thieves. In Norfolk *boss* is used in the sense of master, or one who can beat and overcome another. In the North of England "bossock" and "bossy" mean large, fat, with a large belly. The last word bears a close resemblance to the French *bossu*; but of course a "bossy" man and a *bossu* differ in respect of the position of the protuberance.

In America *boss* is also used as an adjective with the sense of principal, large, fine, as a *boss* lot of apples.

Many a time have I let the "*boss* mine," or the "*boss* ranch" slip through my fingers!—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

*Boss* is often used as a verb, with the signification to own, manage, superintend, conduct.

Our gallant chief, *bossing* the situation as usual, insisted upon the National Anthem being played at the conclusion of the sport, and subsequently called for three cheers for the Queen.—*Sporting Times.*

"Old Blivins, who *bossed* the local sheet,  
And the lawyer who worked for beer  
as a fee;  
In a maudlin state wandered down the  
street,  
Having had a dejected kind of spree."  
—*Keighley Goodchild: Waif.*

In short, with no other counteracting force than an old lady and a youth of eighteen, it is easy to see that a "free-booter" like the Captain *bossed* the show, just as he had done at the Pantheon.—*Sporting Times.*

He was *bossing* the cooking himself that evening, and at that moment was engaged in stirring some beans that he was frying in the Mexican style, bacon-fat being substituted for lard.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

"*Bossed* his own shoes," managed his affairs personally.

At any rate, the elder Hegner has hitherto *bossed his own shoes*, &c.—*Truth.*

The Australian employé generally speaks of his master as the *boss*, though he seldom would address him as *boss* except when the master is really in the same station of life as himself. It is disrespectful to address a man as *boss* in Australia. The "Larrikin" is rather fond of prefacing his impertinences to passers by with, "I say, *Boss*."

I remember a certain South Australian aide-de-camp, who was a tremendous "masher," coming over to Melbourne for "the Cup." He was wearing one of those stiff-starched four-inch collars, irreverently styled "jampots," and was saluted in Bourke Street on the "Cup night" with "I say, *Boss*, how much for the celluloid?" from an individual who was not to be crushed by a withering glance through a deliberately screwed-in eyeglass.

—*D. E. W. Sladen.*