



# A

**Adult baby:** One who dresses and/or role plays the part of a baby or toddler. May include wearing of a diaper (ABDL).

**Aftercare:** The time after a BDSM scene in which the participants calm down, and slowly come back in touch with reality. Aftercare may consist of some or all of the following components: Being away from noise, activity, bright light; physical closeness and touching with the partner; hydration with water or sport drink; keeping warm.

**Age play:** Scene (or entire relationship) in which one or more partners acts as though they are a different age than they really are, ages can range from infant to adult child. *May or may not include sexual relations. Does not usually include or imply aspects of incest or pedophilia,\** but rather the nurturing relationship of parent/child or teacher/student.

**Animal play:** (see pet play, ponygirl, ponyboy, pup-play) The sub behaves and/or dresses like an animal. The principal theme of animal role play is usually the voluntary or involuntary reduction (or transformation) of a human being to animal. Animal role play may or may not involve sexual activity.

**Auralism:** a fetish consisting of sexual arousal or excitement caused by sound, to be compared with voyeurism. This sound might be music, a voice, sex noises (including listening to others having sex) or other sounds.

# B

**Beating:** The Dom/Top uses an implement to hit the sub/bottom..

**Bladder/bowel control:** (1) Requiring the submissive to ask permission before toileting. (2) Training the submissive to be able to eliminate in the Dominant's presence.

**Blood play:** (See cutting or blood sports) The drawing of blood during play.

**Body modification:** Changes to the body, usually permanent. Includes tattoos, piercings, scarification, branding, permanent hair removal, breast augmentation or reduction, etc.



**Bondage:** Acts involving the physical restraint of a partner. Bondage may refer to total body restraint, or restraint of a particular body part, such as breast bondage.

**Boot worship:** To show respect for the Dominant's footwear, often by kissing, licking, or sucking, or by cleaning/polishing. May involve ritual components.

**Bootblack:** A person who polishes and/or spit-shines a pair of boots.

**Brat:** A "bratty" submissive has a reputation for talking back, being disrespectful or mildly disobedient. Brattiness is enjoyed by some Dominants, and may in fact be a large component of some power exchange relationship.

**Breath control, breath play:** The act by which the Dominant controls the submissive's breathing, often by choking, HOM (hand over mouth) or other forms of asphyxiation. Important: Many consider any form or degree of breath control to be extremely dangerous.

**Breeding:** Usually means to have unprotected sex; It can also refer to a breeding fantasy, where females will role-play being impregnated and carrying the baby, even up to the "birth."

**Butt plug:** Much like a dildo, only shaped slightly differently. Usually has a flared base to prevent it from entirely entering the rectum. They come in a variety of styles and sizes; some can vibrate.

## C

**Chemical play:** Using chemicals to produce sensations. Examples: wintergreen oil, Tabasco sauce, tiger balm, ginger, peppermint, rubbing alcohol, toothpaste, menthol, etc. *Caution: should be tested on less sensitive tissues first!*

**Cisgender:** relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex.

**Cock ring:** A device put around the penis to keep an erection.

**Collar:** Symbol used to represent that a sub or slave is Owned. Often an actual Collar, but can also be anything from an anklet to a bracelet to whatever the "couple" decides it to be.



- *Collared*: The state of a submissive or slave who is the consensual partner of a Master or Owner, usually in a long-term relationship. Sometimes referred to as Owned.
- *Collaring*: 1. The formal acceptance by a Dominant of a submissive's service. 2. A ceremony celebrating such an event. May be a simple act of commitment between two people, or a formal ceremony similar to a wedding.
- *Play collar* (see Collar): 1. A collar used only in play or at BDSM events. A play collar does not signify that the submissive or slave is owned but may signify that they are committed for the night or session. 2. A collar used for a specific type of play, as in a dog collar or any of a number of bondage collars.

**Consent:** Mutual agreement to the terms of a scene or ongoing BDSM relationship.

**Consensual non-consensual (CNC):** A mutual agreement that within defined limits, or subject to a safe word or other restrictions, and to common sense, consent to activities is given without foreknowledge of the exact actions planned.

**Consideration (also under consideration):** Consideration is when the person receiving/having power is still considering or deciding whether to accept the lesser-power partner to a closer, more important, or more responsible (etc.) position or relationship.

**Contract:** A written agreement between the Dominant and submissive. Generally, it outlines the structure, guidelines, rules and boundaries of the relationship. It is not, nor is it intended to be, legally binding.

**Cuckold:** There are many variations on cuckolding, but the core essence is a couple where the female partner is having sex with other partners. The female partner may have one or more regular lovers or have sexual encounters with strangers. The male may or may not be aware of being cuckolded. The male may or may not be present to watch his partner with her lover(s) and may or may not participate with his partner and/or her lover(s).

- *Cuckquean*: Female version of cuckold (above)

**Crumbs:** Short for Breadcrumbs. This is used on Fetlife as a comment someone leaves.

**Cupping:** local suction is created on the skin with the use of heated cups.

# D



**Discipline:** Any activity in which one person trains another person to act or behave in a specified way, often by enforcing rigid codes of conduct or by inflicting punishment for failure to behave in the prescribed way.

- *Reward:* Positive reinforcement for the purpose of modifying the subject's behavior.
- *Punishment:* a penalty inflicted for an offense, fault, etc. Usually to correct behaviour. It can be a corporal punishment and involve pain or some other type that isn't physical
- *Funishment:* A lighter-hearted form of punishment or discipline that ends up being fun.

**Dominant:** Person who exercises control in a D/s relationship. Can be used for any gender. Some choose to use Dom for a male, Domina or Domme is for females. Also see Master, Mistress. Also known as a D-type.

- *FemDom:* A relationship in which the Dominant is female.
- *Financial Dominance or FinDom:* A situation in which submissives desire to give Dominant women money. There are other interactions such as paying tribute or buying an item on a Dominant's wish list on Amazon.com or other similar sites.
- *Master/slave or M/s:* A consensual relationship in which the Master has ownership of the slave. A relatively intense form of D/s relationship.
- *Top* - the person giving during the scene.
- *Service Top:* A Top whose focus is on giving a bottom what they desire..

**Drop:** When a top or bottom feels intense feelings after some time playing.

- *Dom drop:* The Dominant/Top's equivalent of "subdrop." In brief, it's an emotional condition caused by the sudden drop of adrenalin from intense BDSM play. It can manifest in a variety of emotional responses, including anger or depression. It's the reason aftercare isn't just for subs/bottoms. (Also called 'Top drop'.)
- *Sub drop (see aftercare):* An emotional condition following intense BDSM play. May experience a wide range of emotions. This can happen immediately after or hours or days later, making diagnosis difficult. It can last for a few hours or days. It can sometimes be prevented by aftercare immediately after the session.

**Dungeon:** A room or area with BDSM equipment and play space. *Examples: A corner in a Dominant's house, a facility owned or rented by a BDSM club, one or more elaborate rooms in a public club catering to the BDSM trade.*



- *Dungeon monitor (DM)*: A person appointed to supervise the interactions between participants at a play party to ensure their safety and adherence to the dungeon rules. The DM's directions must be accepted by all attending.
- *Dungeon rules* (may also be house, group or party rules): are established by the host of an event or play party, or a group or club. All attendees must agree as a condition of attending. These rules usually address such issues as safety, hygiene, consent, and good behavior.

## E

**Edge play:** Used for potentially dangerous activities, which require careful study and practice before attempting.

**Electric play:** Any of a variety of different practices involving the use of electrical current or electricity to stimulate a person. Some common forms of electrical play include using high-voltage, low-current devices such as violet wands or the use of controlled pulses of electricity to induce muscle contractions as with a TENS unit. Also a stun gun or cattle prod can be used.

**Exhibitionist:** A person who delights in, or obtains some form of gratification from, behaving extravagantly in order to attract attention.

## F

**Facesitting, face sitting (see queening):** Practice in which one partner sits on or over the other's face, typically to allow, or force, oral-genital or oral-anal contact. Several styles of furniture (see queening bench) have been designed to facilitate this act.

**Fear play (psychological play):** Playing with a real fear in a safe and controlled manner. May be used to help a submissive get over a fear or "push" a limit, or simply for the Dominant's gratification.

**Feminization:** To be forced to dress up as a female, usually in frilly, lacy clothing and exaggerated makeup.

**Figging:** The act of inserting a prepared "finger" of ginger root or chili pepper into the anus. The burning sensation is said to induce intense pleasure.



**Fire play:** Using flammable liquids to create quick, fleeting instances of flame on the skin of the bottom.

**Foot worship:** To ritually respect the Dominant's feet, commonly by sucking, kissing, and/or licking. May include washing, pedicures, etc.

## G

**Gag:** Any device or object designed to be placed in the mouth, most commonly to prevent a person from speaking or making loud sounds, sometimes to hold the mouth open.

**Gorean:** Related to the rituals and practices created within the world of Gor in the fantasy/adventure novels by John Norman. Gorean culture is based on stereotypical gender roles, a rigid hierarchy, and an emphasis on ritual.

## H

### **Heteroflexible and homoflexible:**

- *Heteroflexible* - A person who identifies as primarily heterosexual but can occasionally find the same sex appealing; or is willing, in some situations, to have contact with the same sex.
- *homoflexible*: A person who identifies as primarily homosexual but can occasionally find the opposite sex appealing; or is willing, in some situations, to have contact with the opposite sex.

**Hog tie:** A bondage technique in which one or both ankles are bound to the wrists, usually behind the back.

**Humiliation:** Humiliation can come about in a variety of ways, from gentle teasing to objectification. Humiliation is desired by many submissives, as well as being pleasurable or entertaining to many Dominants. It can also be a tool for pushing limits.



# I

**Impact play:** Striking with various objects, including the hand (spanking), riding crops, floggers, whips, canes, paddles and more

- *Cane:* A thin rod used for striking. Commonly made of hardwood, bamboo, or acrylic.
- *Crop:* A thin, flexible instrument used for striking, consisting of a rigid but flexible shaft wrapped with leather or a similar material, with a handle at one end and often with a small leather loop at the other.
- *Dragon's tail:* An unusual type of whip. There is a wide triangular piece of thin leather or suede attached to the handle. This leather or suede forms a lash which is a hollow tube tapering to a point at the striking end.
- *Evil stick:* An implement made usually of carbon fiber that you bend it all the way back, let it snap back, and ouch. It causes a sharp pain and typically leaves a well-defined welt.
- *Flogger:* A tool of impact play, consisting of a handle with multiple lashes attached to it. The lashes may be made of leather, rope, suede, horsehair, or even rubber.
- *Over-the-knee spanking (OTK):* Traditional, "informal" spanking method.
- *Tawse or slapper:* A paddle with two pieces of leather that make a loud "popping" sound when used.

**Informed consent:** The principle that in order for consent to be genuine, the consenter must know all significant information about the object of consent. Another element of informed consent is that the consenter is *capable* of consenting; in other words, not under the influence of alcohol, drugs, coercion, exhaustion, subspace, etc.

# J

**Japanese bondage (shibari):** Any of a number of styles of rope bondage in which the emphasis is on artistic display rather than simple utility. Characterized by extremely elaborate and intricate patterns of rope.

# K





**Kink friendly:** Usually used in reference to someone who provides a professional service, such as a doctor, counselor, carpenter, etc. Might be D/s themselves, or accepts D/s as a healthy lifestyle choice and are willing to help a kinkster with their needs.

**Knife play:** The use of knives in a scene. Often for the psychological effect, without actually drawing blood; but sometimes used to cut as well (blood play).

## L

**LDR:** Long Distance Relationship.

**Leather (culture):** Sometimes referred to as Old Leather or Old Guard is the term used to describe the highly formal, protocol-oriented, military-inspired gay leather BDSM subculture. This tradition is credited with originating the concept of the BDSM "club". Women ("leatherdykes") were allowed to participate starting around 1980, usually as a "sister" chapter. This type of system is often referred to as "old school". There are many other variations as well.

**Limits:** What someone will not do (hard) or is hesitant to do (soft).

- *Soft limit:* A limit which is not necessarily set in stone. It may be flexible, may be pushed or may change over time and/or with experience or knowledge
- *Hard limit:* A limit which much is set in stone. An activity that must not be done.

**Little or little boy/girl:** One who takes the role of a submissive child in age play. *May or may not be sexual; does not imply actual incest or pedophilism!*

- *Middles:* an adult who roleplays as an older child during age play scenarios. Typically, a middle identifies at any age from 11 to 17.

## M





**mindfuck:** To toy with one's concept of reality; to cause a state of confusion and befuddlement.

**mummification:** Immobilizing the body by wrapping it up, usually with multiple layers of shrink wrap or food film. Creates a feeling of total bodily helplessness. Sometimes used as an element of sensory deprivation.

**Munch:** A meeting of a group of kinksters at a "vanilla" place such as a club or restaurant, usually for discussion, not play. Munches are often used to introduce (and evaluate) prospective people before giving them sensitive information, such as the location of meetings or play parties.

## N

**Needle play:** Temporary piercings done with sterile needles, usually only for the duration of a scene.

**Negotiation:** Communication before a scene, or during the formation of a relationship, in which the parties reach agreement about the goals, expectations, and limits of one another.

**Newbie:** Someone new to BDSM. Not a derogatory term, but sometimes used in a derogatory sense, e.g.: "stupid newbie mistakes". *It may be difficult to tell the difference between a well-meaning newbie and a possibly dangerous wannabe; see red flags,*

**Nipple clamps:** Any clamp or clamp-like device designed to compress the subject's nipples. May include a mechanism for adjusting or limiting the amount of pressure applied to the nipple. *Note: Clamps when applied are generally not painful, just uncomfortable. If applied for several minutes, then removed, the blood rushing back into the nipple creates a painful, burning sensation.*

## O

**Objectification (humiliation play):** The subject is dehumanized; treated as an animal, slave, furniture, toy, etc.

**Orgasm control or denial:** The practice whereby the subject is not permitted to reach sexual orgasm without permission, for a set period of time, or sometimes at all, even though that person may be permitted (or required) to engage in sexual activity.



- *Chastity*: A form of erotic sexual denial or orgasm denial whereby a person is prevented from access to, or stimulation of, their genitals, save at the choice of their partner
- *Edging*: A sub being brought to the edge of orgasm, then denying them release, often done over and over again. It may be done by their Dominant, or they may be allowed to self-manipulation. If eventually allowed to cum, it tends to be more intense.
- *Forced orgasm*: An orgasm induced in a person against that person's will.

## P

**Pegging**: The practice of using a strap-on dildo for penetration (generally applied female-to-male anal).

**Pervertable**: Common item which can be applied for a BDSM purpose; i. e. wooden spoons, chopsticks, spatulas, clothes pins, belts, saran wrap, etc. (lots of pervertables in electro).

**Play**: 1. To engage in a BDSM scene or session (see scene). 2. A type of D/s or fetish activity, as in humiliation play, age play, toilet play, edge play.

- *Play party*: A gathering for the purpose of enjoying BDSM play. May be held at someone's home, or in a club-owned or commercial space (often referred to as a dungeon) specifically intended for the purpose.
- *Scene*: 1. A period of time devoted to BDSM activity. 2. Of or about the BDSM community, usually capitalized ("*the Scene*").

**Polyamory**: Having multiple relationships with persons not in the same household; also called open marriage, open relationship.

- *Compersion*: Feeling expansion in joy and in love when a person you love finds happiness derived from their experience with another person. Used a lot in polyamory
- *Metamour*: The lover of your lover. A term used in poly relationships.

**Power exchange**: Any situation where two or more people consensually and voluntarily agree to a relationship in which one (or more) people assume authority and one (or more) people yield authority, either for a predetermined time, or indefinitely. Relationships based on indefinite power exchange are often referred to as Total Power Exchange (TPE) relationships. The defining factor of power exchange is the conscious, deliberate construction of a power dynamic in which at least one person assumes psychological control to some agreed-upon extent over at least one other person.



**Predicament bondage:** A type of bondage in which the intent is to place the bound person in an awkward, difficult, inconvenient, or uncomfortable situation, or to set out a challenge for the bound person to overcome.

**Pro-Dom/pro-Domme/pro-sub:** professional who dominates or submits to paying customers.

## Q

**Queening (also face sitting):** Practice in which one partner sits on or over the other's face, typically to allow, or force, oral-genital or oral-anal contact. queening stool/seat/bench: A low stool with a hole or space in the center, designed to facilitate facesitting.

## R

**Red flags:** Behaviors in a prospective BDSM partner that indicate the person may be prone to abusive or undesirable behavior.

**Role play:** Scene in which one or more participants assumes the role of a character (*e. g.: police, secret agent, superhero, historical figure, character from book or movie, vampire, wolf, etc*). May include costume play as an enhancement.

**Rope bunny:** usually a demo model for rope work, such as shibari, Japanese rope bondage.

## S

**Sadomasochism:** An activity or practice involving the inflicting or receiving of pain and/or humiliation.

- *Sadist:* A person who enjoys inflicting pain and/or humiliation on another, or observing others being hurt or humiliated, either for power and control or for sexual arousal.
- *Masochist:* A person who enjoys receiving pain or humiliation. Also pain slut.



**Safe, Sane and Consensual (SSC):** A standard of conduct for the healthy enjoyment of BDSM participants; an emphasis on making any activity as “safe” and “sane” as possible.

- *Risk-Aware Consensual Kink (RACK):* A standard of conduct for the healthy enjoyment of BDSM participants; similar to SSC, but acknowledges that there are always risks in any kind of activity which must be understood and accepted.
- *PRICK:* stands for Personal Responsibility, Informed, Consensual Kink and was developed as a response to make it clear that all kinksters should take personal responsibility for their kink.

**Safeword:** A predesignated word or nonverbal cue used to stop or slow down a BDSM scene.

**Sapiosexuality:** The attraction to or arousal by intelligence and its use.

**Scat play:** Play involving the handling of feces.

**Sensation play:** Play where the intent is to push the subject's sensory limits, using light touch, heat/cold, objects of different textures, etc. Often in conjunction with sensory deprivation.

**Sensory deprivation:** Use of various objects such as blindfolds, ear plugs, etc. to deprive the subject of one or more senses. The intent may be to enhance other senses, such as touch or to cause insecurity. Often used as an exercise in pushing limits or fostering increased trust.

**Service:** Acts, chores, or labor, sexual or otherwise, performed by a sub for the benefit of a Dominant.

**Sissy:** Has many definitions. Simplified (and limited), a male sub who uses feminization (dressed as a “girl” or naked), often to reach a different emotional or mental state.

**Sound:** A smooth rod, usually metal, for insertion in the urinary passage; comes in a set of graduated sizes. Medically used for expanding the urethra in cases of genital defect, or damage resulting from illness or injury. In BDSM, used for urethral play. The activity is called sounding.

**Sploshing:** The use of copious amounts of food (whipped cream, pudding, Dinty Moore's beef stew, etc.)

**Stapling:** Usage of a medical grade stapler to staple things to your body or body parts together.

**St. Andrew's Cross:** A popular type of bondage furniture consisting of an X-shaped cross, equipped with restraint attachment points.



**Submissive:** Person who desires to give up control of themselves, or of certain aspects of their lives, to a Dominant partner. *There are as many "styles" of submissiveness as there are submissives.*

**Sub frenzy:** A very strong, sometimes overwhelming, desire to find a Dominant partner or to become immersed in BDSM-related activities. Tends to be seen in people who have either newly discovered their submissive side or who have not partaken in BDSM-related activities for a long time. People in the grip of "sub frenzy" may make unwise or unsafe choices.

**Subspace:** A "natural high" that a bottom may experience during a scene. The sub may feel disconnected from time, space, and/or their body, and may have limited ability to communicate. It is critical that the Dominant takes responsibility for the submissive and care for their well-being while they are in subspace. Subspace can vary widely between submissives and in any sub's reaction to a given "scene."

**Suspension:** Bondage (usually rope) in which the submissive's weight is totally or partially suspended. Often considered an art form, and can take hours to construct.

**Suture play:** The practice of temporarily suturing or sewing parts of the body, particularly the genitals, for sexual gratification.

## T

**The Next Generation (TNG):** A nationwide coalition of BDSM clubs intended to target the 18-35 age group. *(While their goal is to make D/s more accessible to younger practitioners, some feel that their intent is to protect "their" young submissives from "poaching" by older Dominants.)*

**Topping from the bottom (TFTB) or Topping from below/beneath:** A submissive or bottom who attempts to manipulate the Top, in an attempt to gain attention or to have their own needs met; for example, intentionally misbehaving to draw punishment. *(This is generally considered to be extremely negative behavior. However, in some relationships, a certain amount of "pushiness" or "brattiness" is tolerated and enjoyed.)*



**Total power exchange (TPE):** A high level of D/s practice, striving for living in a D/s context as much as possible. The Dominant has complete and total power over the submissive's life. Some TPE relationships do not recognize contracts, safewords, or limits.

- *24/7*: A D/s relationship which is in effect at all times. A Total Power Exchange, or TPE, relationship would be the most extreme form of *24/7*; some consider the terms equivalent.

**Toy (part of objectification):** One who is treated and used, not like a person but like a toy; sex toy, play toy, dog toy, fuck toy.

**Troll (see wannabe):** A person who uses online resources, primarily as a source for prospective partners. May pretend they are experienced in BDSM when they are not.

**Twoo, twue:** A derogatory term for those that believe there is one 'true' way to do things, the kind of people that will say you are not a true submissive if you do not immediately fall at their feet, or you are not a true Dom if you don't chase them around with a whip *24/7*.

## U

**Under consideration:** When the person having power is still considering or deciding whether to accept the lesser-power partner in a D/s relationship.

**Unicorn:** "The elusive, mythical creature that is a bi-female willing to join a couple for the perfect MFF (male/female/female) threesome."

## V

**Vacuum bed:** A bondage device composed of a latex envelope spanned by a frame. A suction pump removes most of the air in the envelope. The person inside the envelope breathes through a tube. Other varieties may have an opening for the head.

**Vampire gloves:** Gloves used for sensation play which have a large number of short spikes or needles protruding from the palms and/or fingers.



### Vanilla:

- Person who is not in the BDSM/fetish lifestyle.
- Anything not involving kinky activities (example: "my vanilla job").
- Behavior which does not encompass kink activity (for example: a D/s couple may have "vanilla" sex).

**Voyeurism:** Witnessing others' play. Often provides the person watching with sexual arousal. May occur without the knowledge or consent of one or more of the parties involved.

## W

**Wartenberg pinwheel:** A small implement consisting of a short handle to which is affixed a small wheel with a number of sharp needle-like projections around its outer edge.

**Watersports:** Any play that involves urination, usually involving one person urinating on another for sexual gratification. Sometimes referred to as a Golden Shower.

**Wax play:** The top drips hot wax on the bottom. ) Safety note:*It is important what kind of candle is used. Plain paraffin is best. Scented, colored, "long burning", "dripless" and beeswax candles can burn very hot.*

## Z

**Zapper:** A red stick, sort of like a very low-level cattle prod. It appears to cause about as much pain as those fly zappers that look like tennis rackets.

**Zipper:** An arrangement of clothespins or spring clamps tied along a length of cord or twine, which can be placed on the body and then yanked off one by one or all at once.