

Parley vous TVR?

Years ago, when I was young, I was told that the German for Estate Car was: *Das Schnogginvagenmitderbagseroomfurtherrompininderbacken*. Knowing that Germans often put words together to make longer ones, I believed it! It was later, on a visit to Germany, that I discovered my mistake! What an embarrassment that was!

The quizzical looks I got were similar to those as I walked down the hotel corridor on my first morning, and everyone called out “Morgen!”, to which I replied, “Yes?”, “What?” and “You called me!”

Most languages are fascinating – including the unique TVR language.

I first became aware of the TVR language when my brother lent me a copy of “Marketplace” (the advert section) and Sprint magazine, before I purchased my TVR. When I started looking at the car adverts, I found that there were many abbreviations that I didn’t understand.

For instance did FTVRSH mean “Foto – To View Ring Seller’s Home” or maybe “Fabulous, Tremendous Value, Racey Sporty & Hot!”?

And when I read the main Sprint mag I was faced with other confusing language, like “Back Home” (was this the final destination once the AA have been called out?), “Track Days” (perhaps special days to get the wheels aligned?), and RO (was this a Raving Optimist – perhaps to do with weather or turnout of members?)

See what I mean? And those are the easy ones!

So, I decided that at the first Regional Meeting I went to, I would “earwig” a few conversations, and see if I could learn more. I spotted one man who had just arrived in a splendid Griffith, and who was talking to several others as his rather attractive wife (or “partner” to be PC!) remained in the car.

“She’s gorgeous,” I heard him say, as I approached the small group, “she’s been the love of my life for 4 years and never let me down once!”

How nice, I thought to myself, to hear someone say that about his lady friend. That’s the trouble today – people take their partners so much for granted.

“Her body work is in excellent condition....” he continued. I thought this was a little personal, but as the lady in question was now getting out of the car, I must say I had to agree!

“...and once you start her off, she goes like a train...” (I say! Steady on, old chap – this is getting a little too personal now), “...last week I lent her to one of my mates to try her out, and he’s made me a good offer for her...!”

At this point I decided that discretion was the better part of valour, and slipped away.

Another conversation I heard started with, “I have her underside regularly waxoyled, and with a new set of boots, she’s ready for a hard work out....!”

I went straight home and approached my beloved with the concept of me waxoyling her underside – I won’t bother you with her response!

Unless you really understand TVR-speak you can get yourself into all sorts of problems. You have to understand that just like words in English can have more than one meaning, so can words in TVR-speak. For instance, the word Tuscan can mean “lovingly resored 60’s vehicle”, “80’s racing beastie” or “sleek up to date product”.

This also applies to initials.

I heard someone say that there were some great TVR shots in the latest S & M magazine. So off I go to the nearest newsagent, and asked if they had the latest S & M magazine. He ferreted under the counter and produced something called “S & M Monthly”. I was a little surprised at the picture on the cover, but thought that as many car mags use attractive ladies for advertising, this must be OK. I guess the local vicar, who was standing behind me, was also surprised – he certainly gave me a strange look at church the week after, together with a definite wink!

Well, when I got it home, there wasn’t one single TVR picture in it at all. I was not pleased. Neither was my beloved - I did try and explain that I had bought it for the pictures of TVR’s! I can’t understand why she didn’t believe me!

It has taken me 12 months (and 12 editions of S & M Monthly) to discover that they meant Sprint & Marketplace magazine. (That reminds me, I’ve just had a note from the newsagents to advise me that my S & M Monthly subscription is due!)

So, just to help you to understand TVR-speak, here’s your quick reference guide, especially as it relates to adverts:

TIV = **T**remendously **I**mpressive **V**ehicle (or if you’ve ever tried to go on holiday with suitcases - **T**otally **I**mpractical **V**ehicle)

FTVRSH = **F**ast **T**horoughbred, **V**ariable **R**eliability, **S**ensitive **H**andling

SC4 = Welsh Language TV station

S/S exhaust = **S**uperb **S**ounding exhaust

Dry use only = not managed to work out how to put hood up

EW = **E**xtra **W**ind (see above)

No leaks = never out in the rain (see above)

Reluctant sale due to house purchase = Wife has said either it goes or I do (and I haven’t found anyone to take wife on!)

Reluctant sale due to impending wedding = Fiancée has removed all privileges until we are married (can’t afford the wedding and the Tiv!)

Reluctant sale due to baby on way = I made just one mistake!

Aircon = opening windows

Immobiliser = sometimes won’t start

PAS = **P**ure **A**drenaline **S**urge

Face off CD = the front is missing

LSD = drugs in glove box

Engine rebuilt = I thrashed it and knackered the old one

Reducing my vehicle collection = can't afford the big boy's toys anymore

Drives well = inside is trashed

Lots of history = had loads of other owners

Lots of bills = keeps going wrong/cost me a fortune

Half leather trim = one seat is missing

Modified bonnet = loads of stone chips

Spotless = solid colour

Never raced or rallied = who are you kidding!

BRG = Brown, red & green (bit of a mis match with the paint job!)

MOT = Mould on tyres

Lots of MOT = Lots of mould on tyres!

I hope you find that useful. I'm off to read the latest S & M magazine (Sprint & Marketplace that is!!)