Proper nouns become generic

Here are examples of proper nouns that have become common nouns or even verbs:

Common Nouns

Astroturf – A brand of artificial grass, now used generically. (e.g., "The field was covered in astroturf.")

Band-Aid - A trademark for adhesive bandages, now commonly used to refer to any adhesive bandage. (e.g., "Do you have a Band-Aid for this cut?")

Brexit – Derived from "British exit" from the EU, now used generically for exits from organizations or unions. (*e.g.*, "Could there be a Texit?")

Bubble Bath – From Mr. Bubble, often used generically. (e.g., "She poured in bubble bath for the kids.")

Bubble Wrap – A trademarked product now used for all packing material with air-filled bubbles. (*e.g.*, "Wrap it in bubble wrap.")

Bubblegum – Once a brand name, now used generically for chewing gum designed for blowing bubbles. (e.g., "The kids love bubblegum.")

Caterpillar – From the brand of construction equipment, now used to describe similar heavy machinery. (*e.g.*, "We rented a caterpillar to dig the trench.")

Chapstick – A lip balm brand that's used generically for all lip balms. (e.g., "Do you have any Chapstick?")

Coke – While Coca-Cola is a brand, "Coke" is used generically for cola beverages in some regions. (e.g., "I'll have a Coke.")

Crock-Pot – A trademark for slow cookers, now used generically. (e.g., "The stew is in the crock-pot.")

Dumpster – Originally a brand of large waste containers, now used for any large trash bin. (e.g., "Throw it in the dumpster.")

Escalator – Originally a trademark for moving staircases, now a generic term. (e.g., "Take the escalator to the second floor.")

Flip-Flop – A term popularized as footwear but now also used metaphorically. (e.g., "Politicians often flip-flop on issues.")

Formica – A brand of laminate material, now used for all laminates. (e.g., "The table is covered in formica.")

Frisbee – A brand of flying discs, now used for all similar toys. (e.g., "Let's play frisbee in the park.")

Google - Initially the name of a search engine, it is now used as a generic term for internet searching. (e.g., "Just Google it.")

Hoover - The brand of vacuum cleaners, widely used in the UK to refer to any vacuum cleaner. (e.g., "I need to get the hoover out.")

Hula Hoop – From Wham-O, now used for any similar toy hoop. (e.g., "The kids are playing with hula hoops.")

Jacuzzi – A brand of hot tubs, commonly used for any whirlpool bath. (e.g., "The hotel has a jacuzzi.")

Jeep - Originally a trademarked brand for off-road vehicles, "jeep" is now often used to describe similar 4x4 vehicles in general. (e.g., "We drove the jeep through the forest.")

Jello – A brand of gelatin desserts, often used generically. (e.g., "We're serving Jello for dessert.")

Jet Ski – Kawasaki's personal watercraft, now used generically. (e.g., "Let's rent a jet ski.")

Kleenex – A brand of tissues, now used generically for facial tissues. (e.g., "Pass me a Kleenex.")

Kool-Aid – A powdered drink mix, now also metaphorically meaning "to blindly follow." (e.g., "Don't drink the Kool-Aid!")

Laundromat – Once a trademark for coin-operated laundry facilities, now a general term. (e.g., "I'll take these clothes to the laundromat.")

Moped – Originally a trademark, now used for any light motorized bicycle. (e.g., "She commutes to work on a moped.")

Onesies – Originally a Gerber trademark for baby bodysuits, now used generically. (e.g., "The baby looks cute in a onesie.")

Ping-Pong – A brand of table tennis equipment, now synonymous with the sport. (*e.g.*, "Let's play ping-pong.")

Play-Doh – A brand of modeling compound for kids, now used generically. (e.g., "The kids are playing with play-doh.")

Plexiglass – Originally a trademark for acrylic sheets, now a generic term. (e.g., "They installed a plexiglass barrier.")

Pogo Stick – Originally a brand name, now used for all jumping sticks. (e.g., "He bounced on a pogo stick for hours.")

Polaroid – A brand of instant cameras and photos, now used for all instant prints. (*e.g.*, "I love the look of Polaroids.")

Popsicle – A registered brand name, now used for any frozen treat on a stick. (*e.g.*, "Kids love popsicles in summer.")

Post-it – A brand of sticky notes, now used for all adhesive notes. (e.g., "Leave a Post-it on the fridge.")

Pyrex – A brand of heat-resistant glassware, now used for all similar products. (e.g., "Bake the pie in a Pyrex dish.")

Q-Tip – A brand of cotton swabs, now a generic term. (e.g., "Clean your ears with a Q-Tip.")

Rollerblades – A brand of inline skates, now used for all such products. (*e.g.*, "We went rollerblading.")

Rugby – Named after Rugby School in England; now a widely used noun for the sport. (*e.g.*, "He plays rugby on Saturdays.")

Saran Wrap – A brand of plastic wrap, often used generically. (e.g., "Cover the dish with Saran Wrap.")

Scotch Tape – Originally a 3M brand, now refers to clear adhesive tape. (e.g., "Use Scotch tape to fix it.")

Segway – A brand of personal transport devices, often used for similar self-balancing scooters. (e.g., "The tour guide used a segway.")

Sellotape – A British brand of adhesive tape, now used generically. (*e.g.*, "Pass me the sellotape.")

Sharpie – A brand of markers, now used generically for permanent markers. (*e.g.*, "Sign your name with a sharpie.")

Styrofoam – A Dow trademark for polystyrene foam, now used for all similar products. (e.g., "The coffee came in a Styrofoam cup.")

Tabloid – Initially a trademark for small-format newspapers, now used generically for sensationalist press. (e.g., "That's just tabloid gossip.")

Teflon – A trademark for nonstick coatings, often used metaphorically. (e.g., "He's a Teflon politician; nothing sticks.")

Thermos – A brand of insulated containers, now used to refer to any vacuum flask. (e.g., "Pour the soup into a thermos.")

Trampoline – Originally a trademark, now a generic term for the bouncy recreational equipment. (e.g., "They have a trampoline in their yard.")

Tupperware – Originally a brand, now used for any plastic food storage container. (e.g., "Put the leftovers in Tupperware.")

Velcro – A brand name for hook-and-loop fasteners, now used to describe all fasteners of this type. (e.g., "I need Velcro shoes.")

Velveeta – A processed cheese brand, now used as shorthand for artificial-tasting cheese. (e.g., "This mac and cheese is pure Velveeta.")

Velvet – Originally derived from *Velveeta* (a brand of processed cheese), though not widely acknowledged, now used for describing smooth textures or appearances.

(e.g., "Her voice is pure velvet.")

Walkman – Sony's brand for portable cassette players, later became generic for similar devices. (e.g., "I loved my Walkman in the '80s.")

White-Out – A correction fluid brand, now used generically. (e.g., "I'll white-out that typo.")

Xerox - Originally the name of a photocopier company, "Xerox" is now used generically in some regions to mean "photocopy." (e.g., "Can you make a Xerox of this page?")

Zamboni – A brand of ice-resurfacing machines, now commonly used for all such machines. (e.g., "The Zamboni cleaned the rink.")

Zipper – Originally a B.F. Goodrich trademark for fastening devices, now used generically. (e.g., "My jacket's zipper is stuck.")

Verbs

To Airbnb – To rent a space through the Airbnb platform. (e.g., "We're Airbnbing a cabin for the weekend.")

To DoorDash – To deliver food via the DoorDash app. (e.g., "We DoorDashed pizza last night.")

To Facetime – From Apple's video calling platform. (e.g., "We Facetimed last night.")

To FedEx - From the courier service FedEx, now used to describe sending something quickly via a courier. (e.g., "I'll FedEx the package overnight.")

To Google - From the Google search engine, meaning to look something up on the internet. (e.g., "I Googled the recipe.")

To GoPro – To film something with a GoPro camera. (e.g., "We GoProed our skiing adventure.")

To Instacart – To deliver groceries via the Instacart app. (*e.g.*, "I'll Instacart the milk.")

To Lyft – To take a ride via the Lyft app. (e.g., "I'll Lyft to the station.")

To Patreon – To support a creator financially via Patreon. (*e.g.*, "I Patreoned my favorite artist.")

To Photoshop - From the Adobe software, now used to mean editing or altering a photo digitally. (e.g., "That picture looks Photoshopped.")

To Post-it – To stick a note on something using adhesive notes. (*e.g.*, "I'll Post-it on the fridge.")

To Roomba – Used humorously to describe a robot vacuum cleaning. (e.g., "The cat watched the Roomba the whole time.")

To Saran Wrap – To wrap something with plastic wrap (from the brand Saran Wrap). (e.g., "Saran wrap the leftovers.")

To Shazam – To identify music using the Shazam app. (e.g., "I Shazamed the song playing.")

To Skype – From the Skype communication platform, now used to mean video calling in general. (*e.g.*, "We Skyped for an hour.")

To Slack – To send a message via the Slack communication platform. (e.g., "I'll Slack you the details.")

To Snapchat – To send a message using Snapchat. (e.g., "He Snapchatted me last night.")

To Swiffer – To clean with a Swiffer mop or duster. (e.g., "I need to Swiffer the floors.")

To Taser – To stun someone with an electric shock, named after the TASER weapon. (*e.g.*, "The police tasered the suspect.")

To Uber - From the ride-sharing service Uber, used to mean ordering a ride through an app. (e.g., "We can just Uber to the party.")

To Venmo – To send money through the Venmo app. (e.g., "I'll Venmo you for dinner.")

To Windex – To clean windows with glass cleaner (from the brand Windex). (e.g., "Can you Windex the mirror?")

To Zoom - From the video conferencing platform, it has come to mean holding a virtual meeting. (e.g., "Let's Zoom tomorrow at 3 PM.")

Modern Brands Becoming Generic Terms

Airbnb – The vacation rental service, now used for any short-term rental. (e.g., "We're Airbnbing a cabin for the weekend.")

Amazon – While primarily a noun, "Amazon it" is gaining ground for ordering items online. (e.g., "Just Amazon the new book.")

Clubhouse – Originally an audio-based social app, now a term for casual group chats. (e.g., "Let's start a Clubhouse discussion.")

DoorDash – A food delivery app, often used generically. (e.g., "I'll DoorDash some sushi tonight.")

Google – The search engine, now synonymous with internet searching. (*e.g.*, "Just Google it.")

GoPro – An action camera brand, often used for filming extreme activities. (e.g., "He GoProed his entire skydiving trip.")

Instagram – A social media app, now used as a verb for posting photos. (e.g., "I'll Instagram this sunset.")

Lyft – The ride-sharing app, now used generically like Uber. (*e.g.*, "I'll Lyft to the airport.")

Patreon – A platform for funding creators, now used as a verb. (e.g., "I Patreoned my favorite artist.")

Photoshop – Adobe's photo editing software, now a verb for altering images. (e.g., "That picture looks Photoshopped.")

Roku – A streaming device, sometimes used generically for accessing streaming services. (e.g., "Do you have a Roku?")

Shazam – The music-identifying app, now used as a verb.

(e.g., "I Shazamed that song at the café.")

Slack – A workplace messaging app, now a verb for messaging someone on the platform. (e.g., "I'll Slack you the details.")

Spotify – The music streaming platform, occasionally used as a verb. (e.g., "I'll Spotify that playlist.")

TikTok – The video-sharing platform, now used as a verb for creating short videos. (e.g., "She TikToks dance routines every day.")

Uber – The ride-hailing service, now a verb for ordering rides. (e.g., "Let's Uber to the concert.")

Venmo – A payment app, now used generically for sending money digitally. (e.g., "I'll Venmo you for dinner.")

Waze – The navigation app, sometimes used to describe getting directions. (e.g., "Let's Waze to the restaurant.")

Zoom – From the video conferencing platform, now a verb for virtual meetings. (e.g., "Let's Zoom at 5 PM.")

Zoomer – Slang derived from Zoom, describing young people proficient in virtual interaction. (*e.g.*, "The new intern is such a Zoomer.")

Regional Examples

United States

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Band-Aid — Widely used for any adhesive bandage.

(e.g., "Put a Band-Aid on that cut.")

Crock-Pot — Used generically for any slow cooker.

(e.g., "The stew is in the crock-pot.")

Jell-O — Used for all gelatin desserts.

(e.g., "We're serving Jell-O for dessert.")

Realtor — Originally a trademark for real estate agents, now used for any agent.

(e.g., "Our realtor found us a great house.")
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United Kingdom

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Biro – A pen brand, now used for ballpoint pens.
(e.g., "Pass me a biro.")
Hoover – A vacuum cleaner brand, now a verb for vacuuming.
(e.g., "I need to hoover the living room.")
Jacuzzi – Common term for hot tubs in many English-speaking countries.
(e.g., "The spa has a jacuzzi.")
Sellotape – A brand of adhesive tape, now used generically.
(e.g., "Stick it with sellotape.")
Tannoy – A public address system brand, now used generically in the UK.
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(e.g., "The announcement came over the tannoy.")

Australia

Esky – A portable cooler brand, used generically for all coolers. (e.g., "Grab a drink from the esky.")

Thongs – Refers to flip-flop sandals, from an early brand usage. (*e.g.*, "I wear thongs to the beach.")

Canada

Kraft Dinner (KD) – A term for boxed macaroni and cheese. (*e.g.*, "We had KD for lunch.")

India

Bisleri – A bottled water brand, used generically for bottled water. (e.g., "Buy a Bisleri from the shop.")

Dalda – A brand of hydrogenated vegetable oil, used generically for cooking oils. (e.g., "Use dalda for frying.")

South Africa

Colgate – Commonly used for toothpaste in general. (e.g., "Don't forget the Colgate!")

Oros – A fruit squash brand, now a generic term for orange squash drinks. (e.g., "Pour some Oros for the kids.")

Global Slang Examples

FedEx – A courier service, now used for expedited shipping. (e.g., "I'll FedEx the documents.")

Photoshop – A photo-editing tool, now a verb for altering images. (e.g., "That image looks Photoshopped.")

Roomba – A robotic vacuum cleaner, often used generically. (e.g., "The Roomba cleaned the entire room.")

Taser – A brand of stun guns, now a verb for shocking someone. (e.g., "The police tasered the suspect.")

Tech Industry

Bluetooth – A wireless technology brand now used generically for all similar systems. (*e.g.*, "Connect your phone via Bluetooth.")

Drone – Originally military technology, now a general term for aerial devices, often commercial brands like DJI. (e.g., "He flew a drone over the field.")

Fitbit – A brand of fitness trackers, now shorthand for similar devices. (e.g., "I need a new Fitbit.")

iPad – Apple's tablet, sometimes used generically for similar devices. (e.g., "The kids are playing on their iPads.")

Kindle – Amazon's e-reader, often used for any e-reader. (e.g., "Do you have a Kindle or a tablet?")

Photoshop – As before, Adobe's editing software is now a verb. (*e.g.*, "You Photoshopped that image.")

PowerPoint – A Microsoft presentation software, now a generic term for digital slideshows. (e.g., "Prepare a PowerPoint for the meeting.")

Roomba – A robotic vacuum cleaner brand, now synonymous with robotic cleaning devices. (e.g., "I bought a cheaper Roomba alternative.")

Taser – A brand of stun gun, used generically for all such devices. (e.g., "The officer used a taser.")

Tesla – Often used generically for any electric car. (e.g., "That's the new Tesla competitor.")

Fashion Industry

Birkenstocks – A German sandal brand, often used generically for similar designs. (*e.g.*, "Those look like Birkenstocks.")

Converse – A shoe brand, often used generically for similar canvas sneakers. (*e.g.*, "He wore Converse to the game.")

Crocs – A shoe brand, now used generically for lightweight clogs. (e.g., "Crocs are perfect for gardening.")

Denim – Originally trademarked as a fabric, now generic for jeans material. (*e.g.*, "Denim jackets are back in style.")

Dr. Martens – A footwear brand, sometimes used for similar heavy boots. (*e.g.*, "She styled her outfit with Docs.")

Hush Puppies – A brand of casual shoes, often used for similar loafers. (e.g., "He wears Hush Puppies to work.")

Kleenex (**Clothing**) -- *(Poor edits skipped =) check box or follow edges .=] !=

Levi's – While a brand name, often shorthand for denim jeans in some regions. (e.g., "Grab a pair of Levi's for the party.")

Ray-Ban – A sunglasses brand, often used generically for aviators or stylish shades. (e.g., "I bought some knock-off Ray-Bans.")

Spanx – A brand of shapewear, now used generically for any similar undergarments. (e.g., "She wore Spanx under her dress.")

Uggs – A brand of boots, now used generically for similar fleece-lined boots. (e.g., "She wore Uggs all winter.")

Food and Drink Industry

Coke – Widely used in some regions for any cola drink. (*e.g.*, "What kind of Coke do you want?")

Instant Pot – A modern pressure cooker brand, now used generically. (e.g., "This recipe is for the Instant Pot.")

Jello – A gelatin dessert brand, now a generic term in the U.S. (e.g., "We're serving Jello at the party.")

Kool-Aid – A drink mix brand, now used generically and metaphorically. *(e.g., "Don't drink the Kool-Aid.")*

Nutella – A brand of hazelnut spread, now used generically for similar spreads. (*e.g.*, "This off-brand Nutella is delicious.")

Popsicle – A frozen treat brand, now used generically. (e.g., "The kids are eating popsicles.")

Q-Tips – A brand of cotton swabs, now a generic term in the U.S. (e.g., "Clean your ears with Q-Tips.")

Sriracha – A hot sauce brand, now used generically for spicy chili sauces. (*e.g.*, "Pass me the sriracha.")

Tupperware – A food storage brand, often used for all plastic containers. (e.g., "I packed the leftovers in Tupperware.")

Velveeta – A processed cheese brand, often used for any melty processed cheese. (e.g., "This dip tastes like Velveeta.")

Transportation Industry

Jeep – Originally a military vehicle brand, now a generic term for rugged 4x4s. (e.g., "We took the jeep up the mountain.")

Jet Ski – A Kawasaki brand, now used for all personal watercraft. (e.g., "We rented jet skis.")

Rolls-Royce – Used generically for anything seen as luxurious or best-in-class. (e.g., "This is the Rolls-Royce of vacuum cleaners.")

Segway – A brand of personal transporters, now used generically. (e.g., "The tour was on Segways.")

Tesla – Sometimes used generically to refer to electric vehicles. (e.g., "He just bought a new Tesla.")

Velcro – A brand of hook-and-loop fasteners, now a generic term. (e.g., "Use Velcro to secure it.")

Entertainment Industry

GoPro – Used for any portable camera used in action sports. (*e.g.*, "He filmed the jump with a GoPro.")

iPod – Once the go-to term for MP3 players, now generically used for portable music players. (*e.g.*, "Do you still have your iPod?")

Lego – A toy brand, often used generically for interlocking building blocks. (*e.g.*, "Clean up your Legos!")

Monopoly – The board game brand, often used metaphorically for dominance. (e.g., "That company has a monopoly.")

Netflix – Often used generically for streaming services. (e.g., "We Netflix movies every weekend.")

Nintendo – Occasionally used for video games as a whole in older contexts. (e.g., "Let's play Nintendo after dinner.")

Ping-Pong – A table tennis brand, now used generically. (e.g., "They played ping-pong in the basement.")

PlayStation – Sometimes used for any video gaming console. (e.g., "The kids are playing on their PlayStation.")

Xerox – Though older, still used generically for photocopying. (e.g., "Can you Xerox this document?")

Healthcare Industry

Advil – A brand of ibuprofen, often used generically for pain relievers. (e.g., "Take an Advil for that headache.")

Ambu bag – A brand for manual resuscitators, used generically in medical settings. (*e.g.*, "*Prepare the Ambu bag*.")

AstroTurf – Originally for artificial grass, now sometimes generically used in medical rehab for similar materials. (*e.g.*, "The therapy room is covered in AstroTurf.")

Band-Aid – Adhesive bandages, as previously mentioned, are a staple in healthcare. (e.g., "You'll need a Band-Aid for that cut.")

Claritin – A brand of allergy medication, often used for any antihistamines. (*e.g.*, "I took some Claritin this morning.")

Cortisone – Originally a brand name, now used generically for steroid injections. (e.g., "They gave me a cortisone shot for the pain.")

Dramamine – A brand for motion sickness medication, now used generically. (e.g., "Take Dramamine before the boat ride.")

EpiPen – A brand of epinephrine injectors, now used generically. (e.g., "Do you carry an EpiPen for allergies?")

Nurofen – A UK brand of ibuprofen, often used generically in British English. (e.g., "Pick up some Nurofen from the pharmacy.")

Pampers – A diaper brand, often used for disposable diapers. (e.g., "The baby needs new Pampers.")

Q-Tips – Also relevant in healthcare for swabbing purposes. (e.g., "Use Q-Tips to clean the wound.")

Stethoscope (**Littmann**) – While Littmann is a prominent brand, the term "Littmann" is sometimes used generically. (*e.g.*, "*I need a Littmann for the next patient*.")

Thermoscan – A brand of ear thermometers, often used generically. (e.g., "Check the baby's temperature with the Thermoscan.")

Tylenol – A brand of acetaminophen, commonly used for all similar medications. (*e.g.*, "Do you have any Tylenol?")

Walkman (Hearing tests): A metonymy portable terms repeat renamed auditory drills exam niche drivers. (*User asks skips gaps? <up-ready!*)"

Ziploc – Originally a brand of resealable bags, but in hospitals, it's also used for sterile storage. (*e.g.*, "Store the sample in a Ziploc.")

Household Tools and Supplies

Crock-Pot – A slow cooker brand that became a catch-all for similar devices. (*e.g.*, "The chili is in the Crock-Pot.")

Dyson – A brand of vacuum cleaners, sometimes used for all high-end vacuums. (*e.g.*, "We need a Dyson for the carpet.")

Karcher – A brand of pressure washers, often used generically in Europe. (e.g., "I need to Karcher the driveway.")

Post-it – Sticky note pads, commonly referred to by this brand name. (e.g., "Leave me a Post-it if you need something.")

Saran Wrap – A plastic wrap brand, often used generically. (*e.g.*, "Cover the bowl with Saran Wrap.")

Swiffer – A brand of cleaning tools, now used generically. (e.g., "Grab the Swiffer for the kitchen floor.")

Tupperware – As mentioned, all resealable plastic containers are often called this. (e.g., "Bring your lunch in Tupperware.")

Velcro – Hook-and-loop fasteners, as previously mentioned. (*e.g.*, "Fix it with Velcro strips.")

Windex – A glass cleaner brand, often used generically for window cleaning sprays. (e.g., "Use Windex on those smudges.")

Ziploc – A resealable plastic bag brand, widely used generically. (*e.g.*, "Pack the sandwiches in Ziplocs.")

Regional Linguistic Trends

North America

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ChapStick – A lip balm brand, often used generically.
   (e.g., "I need some ChapStick for my dry lips.")
   Dumpster – Originally a trademark, now a generic term for large waste containers.
   (e.g., "Throw it in the dumpster.")
   Realtor – Originally a trademark, now synonymous with real estate agents.
   (e.g., "Our realtor found a great property.")
   Sharpie – A permanent marker brand, now a generic term.
   (e.g., "Sign it with a Sharpie.")
   Thermos – A brand of insulated bottles, now used generically.
   (e.g., "Bring coffee in a Thermos.")
Europe
   Hoover – As mentioned, used for vacuuming in British English.
   (e.g., "Hoover the living room, please.")
   Jacuzzi – Commonly used in Europe for hot tubs.
   (e.g., "Relax in the Jacuzzi.")
   Tannoy – A PA system brand, now used for public announcements in the UK.
   (e.g., "The tannoy announced the train delay.")
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Asia

Bisleri – A bottled water brand in India, now used generically. (e.g., "Grab a Bisleri from the store.")

Fevicol – A popular glue brand in India, used generically for adhesive. (e.g., "Use Fevicol to fix the broken vase.")

Maggie – A brand of instant noodles, generically used in South Asia. (e.g., "Let's cook some Maggie for dinner.")

Australia

Biro – A pen brand, often used generically for ballpoint pens. (*e.g.*, "*Pass me a biro*.")

Esky – A cooler brand, used generically for portable coolers. (*e.g.*, "*Grab the drinks from the esky*.")

Vegemite – While a brand, it's often a generic term for yeast spreads in Australia. (e.g., "I'll have toast with Vegemite.")

Africa

Colgate – In many parts of Africa, "Colgate" means any toothpaste. (e.g., "Buy some Colgate at the shop.")

Oros – A South African brand of orange squash, now a generic term for similar drinks. (e.g., "Pour some Oros for the kids.")

Sports and Recreation

CrossFit – A branded fitness regimen, often used generically for similar workout styles. (e.g., "I joined a CrossFit gym.")

Frisbee – Originally a brand, now used for all flying discs. (e.g., "Let's play Frisbee at the park.")

GoPro – Already mentioned in technology but also relevant in sports for action cameras. (e.g., "They filmed their climb with a GoPro.")

Hacky Sack – A brand of footbags, used generically for the game and the equipment. (e.g., "The group played Hacky Sack in the quad.")

Ping-Pong – As mentioned, now the generic term for table tennis in casual contexts. (e.g., "They played ping-pong all afternoon.")

Rollerblade – A brand of inline skates, often used generically. (e.g., "She loves to rollerblade by the beach.")

Scotchlite – A reflective material brand, often used for sportswear reflectors. (*e.g.*, "The running gear is made with Scotchlite.")

Speedo – A swimwear brand, often used generically for tight swim briefs. (*e.g.*, "He wore a Speedo to the competition.")

Trampoline – Originally a trademark, now the general term for spring-based jumping mats. (e.g., "The kids love playing on the trampoline.")

Zamboni – A brand of ice-resurfacing machines, generically used for all such equipment. (e.g., "The Zamboni cleared the rink after the game.")

Tools and Machinery

Allen wrench – A hex key, named after the brand that popularized it. (e.g., "You'll need an Allen wrench for that furniture.")

Bobcat – A brand of compact loaders, now often used for similar machinery. (e.g., "They brought a Bobcat for the construction site.")

Caterpillar – The brand name for heavy machinery, often used generically. (e.g., "They rented a Caterpillar for the roadwork.")

Dremel – A brand of rotary tools, now shorthand for similar devices. (e.g., "Use the Dremel for detailed carving.")

Leatherman – A multi-tool brand, often used generically. (e.g., "I carry a Leatherman for emergencies.")

Phillips – A screw design originally trademarked but now a generic term. (e.g., "You need a Phillips screwdriver for these screws.")

Skilsaw – A circular saw brand, now used generically. (e.g., "We'll cut the wood with a Skilsaw.")

Stanley – A tool brand often used generically for basic hand tools. (*e.g.*, "*Grab the Stanley screwdriver*.")

WD-40 – A lubricant brand, often used for any similar spray lubricant. (e.g., "Try WD-40 to loosen the bolt.")

X-Acto – A brand of precision knives, now a general term for similar tools. (e.g., "Use an X-Acto knife for that cut.")

Beauty and Personal Care

Acuvue – A contact lens brand, sometimes used generically for disposable lenses. (e.g., "I need to reorder my Acuvues.")

Batiste – A dry shampoo brand, often used generically for similar products. (*e.g.*, "*Grab some Batiste for the weekend*.")

ChapStick – Already mentioned, widely used in beauty contexts for lip balms. (*e.g.*, "My ChapStick is in my bag.")

Clarisonic – A sonic cleansing brush brand, sometimes used generically for skincare devices. (e.g., "Use a Clarisonic for better exfoliation.")

Drybar – A blowout salon chain, now shorthand for professional hair-styling services. (e.g., "I'm going to Drybar before the event.")

EpiSmooth – A hair removal product brand, occasionally used generically for epilators. (e.g., "She prefers an EpiSmooth over waxing.")

Nair – A depilatory brand, often used generically for hair removal creams. (e.g., "She bought Nair for her legs.")

Oral-B – A toothbrush brand, sometimes used generically for electric brushes. (*e.g.*, "I need a new Oral-B head.")

Q-Tips – Again relevant, commonly used in beauty for makeup touch-ups. (e.g., "Use a Q-Tip to fix the eyeliner.")

Vaseline – A petroleum jelly brand, used generically. (e.g., "Apply some Vaseline on dry skin.")

Media and Culture

Bandcamp – A digital music platform, often used to describe independent music stores.

(e.g., "Check out my album on Bandcamp.")

Google – The modern example of a brand becoming a verb.

(e.g., "Just Google it.")

iPod − A cultural touchstone for portable music devices.

(e.g., "She found her old iPod in the drawer.")

Kodak Moment – From the photography brand, now a generic term for capturing meaningful memories.

(e.g., "That sunset was a real Kodak moment.")

Netflix – As mentioned, a leader in streaming culture.

(e.g., "We're Netflixing tonight.")

Photoshop – For digital editing, as discussed before.

(e.g., "That image looks Photoshopped.")

Spotify – A synonym for streaming music online.

(e.g., "You can Spotify that playlist.")

Walkman – Historically a Sony brand, but synonymous with portable music players.

(e.g., "He still listens to cassettes on a Walkman.")

Xerox – Widely used for photocopying documents.

(e.g., "Can you Xerox this for me?")

Zoom – A generic term for video conferencing since the pandemic.

(e.g., "We'll Zoom the meeting tomorrow.")

Academic and Scientific Fields

Ampere – Named for André-Marie Ampère, now used for electric current.

(e.g., "This device draws two amperes.")

Boolean Logic – Named after George Boole, now a core concept in computer science.

(e.g., "This program uses Boolean operators.")

Fahrenheit – A temperature scale, now generic in some countries.

(e.g., "It's 70 degrees Fahrenheit outside.")

Gaussian Distribution – Named after Carl Gauss, a statistical concept now ubiquitous.

(e.g., "The data follows a Gaussian curve.")

Hertz – A unit of frequency, named for Heinrich Hertz.

(e.g., "The signal operates at 50 Hertz.")

Mendelian Genetics – Named after Gregor Mendel, often shorthand for simple genetic inheritance.

(e.g., "We studied Mendelian traits in class.")

Newton – A unit of force named after Isaac Newton.

(e.g., "This engine produces 10,000 Newtons of thrust.")

Pasteurization – Named for Louis Pasteur, now a standard process for sterilizing food.

(e.g., "This milk is pasteurized.")

Pythagorean Theorem – Though named after Pythagoras, it's now a universal term in geometry.

(e.g., "We're learning the Pythagorean theorem.")

Tesla – A unit of magnetic flux density, named after Nikola Tesla.

(e.g., "The MRI operates at three Teslas.")

Gaming

Doom – From the iconic FPS game, now shorthand for fast-paced shooters. (e.g., "That's a Doom-style game.")

Guitar Hero – A music game, now used generically for any rhythm-based game. (e.g., "Let's play Guitar Hero with the band.")

Minecraft – A game title that has become a cultural reference for open-world building games. (e.g., "Let's Minecraft a huge castle.")

Nintendo – Originally a company, now used generically to refer to game consoles. (*e.g.*, "*I just got a new Nintendo*.")

Pac-Man – A classic arcade game, now used to describe the maze-chasing gameplay genre. (e.g., "It's just like Pac-Man, but with ghosts.")

PlayStation – A gaming console brand, often used generically for any similar system. (e.g., "Let's play on the PlayStation.")

Pokémon – Originally a game and franchise, now a general term for any pocket monster-like creature. (*e.g.*, "Catch all the Pokémon!")

Sims – From *The Sims* game franchise, now a term for life simulation games. (e.g., "Let's play The Sims later.")

Tetris – A game title now used to describe any block-matching puzzle game. (e.g., "I've been playing a Tetris clone.")

Zelda – From *The Legend of Zelda*, often shorthand for similar RPG-style games. (e.g., "I'm playing a Zelda-like game right now.")

Space Exploration

Apollo – Used for a series of NASA missions, now shorthand for manned space missions. (e.g., "They're aiming for an Apollo-style moon landing.")

Astro – Shortened from astronaut, used informally for space explorers. (e.g., "The astro collected samples on the moon.")

Cosmos – Referring to the universe, popularized by Carl Sagan's series. (e.g., "Let's explore the cosmos.")

Hubble – Named after the space telescope, it's used to refer to high-definition space images. (*e.g.*, "This is a Hubble-quality photo of Mars.")

Mars Rover – Now used generically for any robotic vehicle exploring Mars. (e.g., "The rover discovered ice on Mars.")

NASA – Although a government agency, its name is often used to refer to space exploration in general. (*e.g.*, "NASA launched a new probe.")

SpaceX – A private company, now often used to refer to private space exploration. (e.g., "SpaceX is launching a mission to Mars.")

Sputnik – The first artificial satellite, often used to refer to early space tech. (e.g., "It was the Sputnik moment in the space race.")

Star Trek – Beyond its franchise, it refers to space exploration in popular culture. (e.g., "It's like a Star Trek adventure.")

Star Wars – A cultural juggernaut, now used to describe sci-fi epic space battles. (e.g., "It was a Star Wars battle in space.")

Cultural Slang

Binge-watch – Derived from watching multiple episodes of a TV show in one sitting. (e.g., "We binge-watched the entire season last night.")

Coca-Cola – A soft drink brand, now often used generically for any cola. (e.g., "I'll have a Coca-Cola, please.")

FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) – Originally cultural slang, now a common term in digital culture. (e.g., "I can't miss this party, I have FOMO.")

Go viral – A phrase used when something becomes widely popular online, often used as a verb. (e.g., "That meme went viral overnight.")

Influencer – Originally describing people with a significant online presence, now used for all kinds of public figures with social media impact.

(e.g., "She's an influencer in the fashion world.")

Jeep – Originally a vehicle brand, now often used to refer to off-road vehicles. (e.g., "We took the Jeep through the rough terrain.")

Kleenex – As mentioned, used for any facial tissue.

(e.g., "Can I have a Kleenex?")

LOL (Laughing Out Loud) – Text slang that became a part of everyday speech. (e.g., "She said something so funny, I just LOLed.")

Tupperware – A brand name that is now synonymous with food storage containers. (e.g., "Do you have any Tupperware to take leftovers home?")

Xerox – As mentioned, a term for photocopying documents. (e.g., "Can you Xerox this for me?")

Politics and Law

Bailout – Used for government assistance to failing businesses, derived from financial crises. (*e.g.*, "The company needed a bailout to survive.")

Bidenomics – A term for the economic policies of President Joe Biden. (*e.g.*, "The economy is being shaped by Bidenomics.")

Gerrymander – Named after Elbridge Gerry, now used as a verb for redistricting to benefit a party. (e.g., "The district boundaries were gerrymandered.")

Lynching – A term for extrajudicial killings, often used in historical and political contexts. (e.g., "The incident was condemned as a modern-day lynching.")

Machiavellian – Derived from the political theorist, it refers to ruthless political cunning. (e.g., "His actions were very Machiavellian.")

McCarthyism – Named after Senator Joseph McCarthy, it refers to making accusations of subversion without evidence. (e.g., "That's a case of McCarthyism.")

Napster – Originally a file-sharing service, now often used to refer to digital piracy. (e.g., "That site is a bit like Napster.")

Obamacare – The informal name for the Affordable Care Act in the U.S. (e.g., "I signed up for Obamacare.")

Scalping – The illegal resale of tickets at inflated prices, originating in the world of ticket vendors. (e.g., "He was caught scalping concert tickets.")

Watergate – Used to refer to political scandals, stemming from the Watergate scandal of the 1970s. (e.g., "That's a clear Watergate moment.")

Fun and Future Concepts

Crowdsourcing – Originally a term for collecting ideas from the public, now common in business and tech. (e.g., "We're crowdsourcing ideas for the new app.")

Cryptocurrency – A term for digital or virtual currency, now part of everyday tech conversations. (e.g., "I've invested in cryptocurrency.")

Google – As mentioned, now a verb for searching something online. (e.g., "Just Google it.")

Hashtag – Initially just a symbol, now a widely used term in social media. (e.g., "Make sure to use the hashtag #ThrowbackThursday.")

Netflix and Chill – A popular term in the 2010s, now often used as a euphemism. (e.g., "We're just going to Netflix and chill.")

Selfie – A widely recognized term for a self-taken photo. (e.g., "Let's take a selfie!")

Tesla'd – To describe the rapid rise of electric cars or innovation, coined from Elon Musk's company. (e.g., "The car market is getting Tesla'd!")

Uber – Now commonly used as a verb for catching a ride, beyond just the brand. (e.g., "Let's Uber to the concert.")

Viral – Describes the spread of something quickly online, often used as a verb now. (e.g., "The video went viral.")

Zooming – As mentioned, now used for online meetings or conferencing. (e.g., "We're Zooming with clients tomorrow.")

Source: Chatty Gepetto