

Word	Definition
adit	near horizontal tunnel for draining water from a mine. May also be used for access.
adventurers	investors in mines/shareholders
air-machine	a fan to provide air/ventilation,could be hand driven
alluvial	deposited by rivers/water
arsenopyrite	arsenic sulphide,arsenic ore
arthritis	inflammation of the joints of the bones
assay house	where samples of ore were tested for their metal content
attle	waste rock of no value
bal	a mine
ball mill	revolving drum,containing steel balls,to crush ore to sand
banjo shovel	short handled shovel,named because it resembles a banjo
bannock	cooked pastry lump
battery lamp	modern lead-acid battery powered light
big hit	a sledge hammer
black powder	gun powder,explosive substance,mixture of sulphur,charcoal and salt-petre.
black-tin	powdered cassiterite,resembles black sand
blowing house	where tin was smelted
bonnet	bal-maidens traditional hat
borer	steel/iron bar for drilling holes by hand
boryer	steel/iron bar for drilling holes by hand
buccas	piskies,fairies,little people
bucking	the crushing of rock from gravel (3cm) size to sand (1mm).Follows after spalling and cobbing.
bucking hammer	flat faced hammer for crushing gravel to sand
buddle	settlement pit for separating heavy metal bearing sand from waste rock sand
burning fuse	safety fuse,hollow cord filled with gun powder that burns at a fixed rate,invented by William Bickford of Tuckingmill in 1831.
cage	the lift in which miners travelled up or down the shaft
calciner	roasting oven for removing sulphides from the ores
capsule	a detonator
carbide lamp	gas lamp,burns acetylene gas produced by adding water to calcium carbide powder
carbona	an irregular mass of ore, as found in St Ives Consols.
cassiterite	tin-oxide,main ore of tin
chalcopyrite	copper sulphide,copper ore
charging up	putting explosives in the hole
china-clay	decomposed feldspar from granite
clogs	wooden shoes
cobbing	the breaking of rocks to gravel size (3cm) to enable waste to be picked out.Follows spalling but before bucking.
compressor	machine for squashing air to use as a power source
compressor house	building housing the compressors
core	time spent working in the mine,a shift
cornish shovel	long handled shovel
counthouse	account house,mines office,pay office

Word	Definition
crib	food break,north cornwall
croust (silent.t)	food break, mid-cornwall
deads	waste rock of no value
detonator	small explosive charge in a metal tube which sets off the main charge of explosives
detonator pouch	bag for carrying detonators
developer	miner who digs horizontal tunnels
development	digging of horizontal tunnels
diamond drilling	diamond tipped drill used to take a drill-core for sampling
dip	miners name for a candle
double hand drilling	practice of using one miner to hold the borer and two to beat it in with sledgehammers
dressers	those who separate the tin from the waste on the surface
dressing floors	place where tin is separated from the waste
drill-core	cylinder of rock,used to sample lodes
druse	cavity in a rock containing crystals
dry	miners changing room
dynamite	explosive made from nitro-glycerine contained in a type of clay,inventen by Alfred Nobel in the 1860` s
elvan	quartz porphyry rock, a very hard metamorphic rock
engine house	the building containing a steam engine
fathom	measurement of six feet
feldspar	aluminosilicate,one of the main minerals that make up granite (long oblong crystals,mostly white)
fluorite	fluorspar,calcium fluoride,a common mineral with usually green or mauve cubic crystals
fuggan	Pastry containing dried fruit.
fuse	the item that is lit to give time to retreat from the explosives
galena	lead and silver sulphide
geode	cavity in a rock containing crystals
gook	a bal-maidens bonnet
granite	igneous rock,made up of quartz, feldspar and mica
greenstone	volcanic rock,contains hornblende and feldspar in micro-crystals (it is a very hard rock)
gun powder	black powder,explosive substance,mixture of sulphur,charcoal and salt-petre.
hand barrow	a barrow for carrying rock,having no wheel but handles at both ends and carried usually by two boys
head gear	the moving parts on top of a headframe
headframe	A structure over the shaft which supports the hoist rope pulley.
hematite	iron ore
hob-nails	miners boots
hoggan	Forerunner of the pasty, origin of the word 'oggy.
igneous	magmatic rock,formed from molten rock,e.g. granite
iron pyrite	iron sulphide,commonly known as fools gold
jumper drill	iron/steel bar,1.5m long,with a ball shape in the middle,used for drilling holes downwards,mainly used for quarrying
kaolin	geological name for china-clay

Word	Definition
kibble	iron bucket for raising ore
killas	sedimentary clay- slate
knockers	pisky/fairy miners
labrinth	flue between a calciner and its chimney for collecting arsenic
lode	crack or fissure, filled with minerals,from which the miners extract the ore
lump hammer	hammer held in one hand
magazine	a mines explosive store
magma	Molten rock beneath the surface of the earth.
man-engine	device for lifting and lowering miners,resembles a mechanised ladder
metamorphic	Rock that has had its form changed by heat and pressure
mica	phyllosilicate mineral,one of the main minerals that make up granite (small,black plates)
mill	processing building for the ore
mine-captain	the person in charge of a mine,some mines had a surface captain and an underground captain.
miners jack	a miners water container
miners lung	silicosis,mining discease caused by dust in the lungs
mossel	food break,west-cornwall
mossel room	a small room for eating your food in
native	found as a single element.e.g.gold
oggy	a pasty
pare	a team
pinch bar	long iron/steel bar for prising rocks etc.
piskies	pixies,little people,buccas
poll-pick	miners pick,one end is for hammering and the other end is for using as a pick
quartz	silicon dioxide,found in many colours,usually white when associated with the lodes.Also one of the main minerals that make up granite.
radon	slightly radioactive gas
rod of quills	goose quills,filled with gun powder and connected together to form a rod to use as a fuse.
safety fuse	see burning fuse
sample house	where samples are prepared for assaying
sampling	the taking of a small sample of the lode for assaying
sedimentary	rock formed from sediments
serpentine	a type of igneous rock,makes up most of the Lizard
shaking table	vibrating table used to separate heavy ore bearing sand from light waste sand using water and movement.
shift	core,length of working day
silicosis	miners lung,lung discease caused by dust
single hand drilling	the practice of hand drilling by yourself,with the borer in one hand and the hammer in the other
sledge hammer	long handled hammer,held using both hands
smelter	person who melts the black tin to extract the tin metal
spale	a fine for breaking a mines rules

Word	Definition
spalling	the breaking of ore to manageable lumps (15cm). Followed by cobbing and bucking.
spalling hammer	large hammer, much like a sledgehammer.
stamps	machine for crushing ore
stoper	a miner who extracts the lode working vertically
stopping	mining vertically
straw	rod of quills, fuse
stream-tin	alluvial tin, generally in pebble form
tallow candle	animal fat candle, usually sheep fat
tin floors	place where tin is put into bags
tinitus	hearing problem, ringing in the ears
tin-stone	old Cornish miners name for cassiterite
tourmaline	boro-silicate, schorl, black mineral often seen as lines in granite
towser	bal-maidens apron
trench foot	rotting of the flesh of the feet due to constant immersion in water
tribute	practice of working for a percentage of the value of the minerals you find
tull	old mining hat, usually thick felt hardened with resin
tutwork	practice of being paid for the distance dug, measured in fathoms.
vugg	cavity in a rock containing crystals
wagon	metal container that runs on tracks to transport ore
wheal	works or workplace
whim	a winding machine
white finger	blood circulation problem of the hands caused by the vibrations generated when using a mechanical drill
winder	the machine for lifting or lowering men/materials in the shaft
winder house	building containing the winding engine for lifting and lowering men/materials in the shaft
wolfram	tungsten ore