

...Where was I...? Oh yeah... I was telling you about the company where I work. So anyway, above me is my boss, who is from Australia. He's a nice enough guy, but he swears all the time. He's having a *liaison* with my friend Tanya even though it's officially against company policy and both of them could be fired for it...

As Olya tells me about her job I notice that in almost every sentence she is using one of my eleven yellow words. And as she says it over and over again, I try my best to ignore it.

Without success.

...I mean Tanya always says that the real reason is that foreigners, I mean even Australians, are way more respectful of women than Russian guys. I told her that's not necessarily true... I mean for example Russian guys will bring you flowers and help you put your coat on, but the guys from America don't. I mean it's like they've never even seen it done it before! Can you imagine... I mean...

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...and splits and dices and sets the table. Carefully she is arranging plates and silverware and chairs around the long table in the living room. Wiping the bottles of wine. Wiping the bottles of champagne. Wiping the bottles of vodka. Placing each of them at arm-length intervals on the table. Excitedly, she is waiting for the wedding party to return.... Happily, she is peeling and grating, re-tasting and re-testing, salting and sugaring, dipping and sprinkling...

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In theory *значит* means *it means*, which means it means both *it means* as well as *значит*. But that is in theory. In practice *значит* not only means *it means*, but also *doesn't mean it means*. In fact, *значит* doesn't mean *it means* as much as it doesn't mean *it means*; and this means that although it means *it means*, *значит* doesn't really mean anything at all. In fact it means nothing.

Although it's as frequent as *finally*, it is, at the same time, as meaningless as *I mean*.

Значит...

