

snweys

shamus



Word of the Day - for Toastmasters everywhere
Friday 12th July 2019



shamus

(noun) SHAY-mus

Private detective, police officer.

Somebody puts up a reward, every **shamus** in town is gonna try to pick it up.

Peter Chester, *Murder Forestalled*.

"Looks like your game's over," the **shamus** shrugged.

Lenneth McLeod, *Washington Post*, 19 August 2007. *Washington Post*

While the wise-cracking **shamus** can sneer all he wants at the notion of mass amnesty for mass murderers, his own wartime membership in the SS (a technical requirement for every police officer) makes him a pawn in the devious schemes of multinational plotters and their governments.

Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times*, 10 September 2006, *New York Times* reviewing Philip Kerr's *The One From The Other*.

"As a detective he makes a good parking-lot attendant," sneers a Canadian **shamus** named Sheila, whose feminist detective agency proves unequal to the task of discovering which of her lovers has murdered a promiscuous young woman.

Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times*, 10 March 1991, *New York Times* reviewing Josef Skvorecky's *The Return of Lieutenant Boruvka*.

Detective: I'm like you! A brother **shamus**!

The Dude: You mean, like, an Irish Monk?

Dialogue by The Coen brothers for *The Big Lebowski*. Amazon DVD