



Speak English like a Native

American Slang

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Thanks for reading!

This report was made for people learning English. You will learn a variety of words and phrases commonly used in the United States.

What is slang?

Slang is words or phrases that are informal and not usually taught in textbooks or your regular English class.

Where do you hear or use slang?

Short answer: Everywhere! You hear it in the movies, on TV, in music and real people use it every day.

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American Slang

Slang you Hear at Work

	Slang Term	Meaning	Example
1	a big deal	very important	The boss always makes a <u>big deal</u> about our projected sales.
2	to be up on (something)	to know the latest information about something (a certain subject).	Brian is up on the <u>latest</u> technology.
3	deadline	due date, when something needs to be finished	Friday is the <u>deadline</u> for turning in proposals to the marketing department.
4	bazillion	infinite number (number that keeps going)	I have a <u>bazillion</u> things to do this week.
5	get (it)	understand	I don't <u>get it</u> . Why are we changing computer systems again?
6	uptight	nervous, anxious	The new girl is so <u>uptight</u> . She needs to relax a little or she will never make any sales.
7	corporate	main office or headquarters	We are waiting for <u>corporate</u> to approve the budget.
8	yes man	someone who always agrees with the boss or supervisor	Marco is such a <u>yes man</u> .
9	case of the Mondays	feeling bad/not ready to be back to work after the weekend	It sounds like you have a <u>case of the Mondays</u> .
10	punch in	to start one's work shift by punching time card or starting work week	I have to <u>punch in</u> before I can start working.

American Slang Used at School/University

	Slang Term	Meaning	Example
1	pull an all-nighter	stay up all night	I had to pull an <u>all-nighter</u> to finish my history project.
2	ace	to pass a quiz/test or do well on an exam/test	Amy <u>aced</u> her math exam.
3	hang in there	don't give up	<u>Hang in there</u> . If you keep studying you will get it.
4	flunk	fail	Peter <u>flunked</u> his biology class.
5	bust	caught	My brother got <u>busted</u> for skipping class.
6	101	a beginner's course	I am in English <u>101</u> this semester.
7	bomb	fail/do horrible	I <u>bombed</u> the chemistry quiz this morning.
8	brainstorm	invent/make a list of ideas (as many as possible)	Let's <u>brainstorm</u> a list of animals with four legs.
9	busy work	worksheets and activities that keep students busy	Ms. Anderson gives us tons of <u>busy work</u> .
10	cheat sheet	a paper with information on it to help a person cheat on or pass a test	Eric made a <u>cheat sheet</u> for the exam because he was too lazy to study.

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Slang You Hear at Home or from Friends

	Slang Term	Meaning	Example
1	to make a mess	have things dirty, untidy or unorganized	The kids always <u>make a mess</u> on the weekends.
2	couch potato	someone who watches too much television	Jimmy is a <u>couch potato</u> . He watches TV all day long.
3	fool or horse around	to spend time idly or frivolously, horse play	Paul loves to <u>fool around</u> with the kids. James is always <u>horsing around</u> .
4	hang out	pass time, spend time in a place	On Saturday, we are going to <u>hang out</u> at my aunt's house.
5	slob	a lazy and/or messy person	My thirteen year old son is a huge <u>slob</u> .
6	honey-do-list	list of things that your husband or boyfriend should do around the house	You better get to work. Your <u>honey-do-list</u> is getting really long.
7	rile up	get excited	If you <u>rile up</u> the kids, they will never go to sleep.
8	screw up	make a mistake	I didn't read the recipe. Now I <u>screwed it up</u> .
9	piss off	be angry	She is really <u>pissed off</u> at you.
10	B.S.	bullshit, lies	Peter, I'm tired of your <u>B.S.</u>

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Slang You Hear Kids Say

	Slang Term	Meaning	Example
1	scaredy cat or chicken	coward, afraid, scared to try/ or do things	My brother is a <u>chicken</u> . He won't even try to ride his new bike. My sister is a <u>scaredy cat</u> . She is afraid of the dark.
2	brag	boast or talk highly about	Emily <u>brags</u> about everything.
3	goof off	waste time	The kids are always <u>goofing off</u> after school instead of doing their homework.
4	wimp	weak	It is not that heavy. Don't be a <u>wimp</u> .
5	dork or geek	someone that studies a lot	Your brother is a <u>dork</u> .
6	icky, gross or nasty	disgusting	That is so <u>icky</u> . I don't want to eat broccoli. It is <u>gross</u> . I hate beans. They are <u>nasty</u> .
7	pee or potty	urinate	Mom, I have to go <u>potty</u> . I have to <u>pee</u> . Where's the bathroom?
8	poop	defecate	The baby <u>poops</u> all the time.
9	know-it-all	someone who thinks they know everything	My big sister is such a <u>know-it-all</u> .
10	snob	a person that believes they are better or superior to others	Marisa is a <u>snob</u> . This thinks she is so important.

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Slang You Hear at a Party or Bar

	Slang Term	Meaning	Example
1	booze	alcohol	Mary drinks a lot of <u>booze</u> .
2	cash	money	I'm all out of <u>cash</u> .
3	rails	mixed drinks	Do have any specials on <u>rails</u> ?
4	bubbly	champagne	Pour me some more <u>bubbly</u> .
5	DJ	disk jockey (person that plays music)	This <u>DJ</u> is great.
6	brawl	a physical fight	Two guys got into a <u>brawl</u> at the bar.
7	hangover	negative effects of alcohol the day after drinking (feeling sick, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.).	I had fun last night but now I have a horrible <u>hangover</u> .
8	peeps	people	What's up my <u>peeps</u> ?
9	keg	large barrel of beer	They had three <u>kegs</u> at the party.
10	24/7	non-stop, never stopping	He likes to party <u>24/7</u> .
11	cops, po-po	police	The <u>cops</u> came because the music was too loud.