

Talk a Lot

Hotel

20 Common English Slang Words and Phrases

1. a punter	(n.) a customer in a service industry	2. a skiver	(n.) a lazy person
3. a dump	(n.) a shabby, unpleasant building	4. aggro	(n. un.) trouble; verbal abuse; potential violence
5. "Time, gentlemen, please!"	(phr.) "The bar will close soon."	6. a no-show	(n.) a booked client who doesn't arrive
7. a full English	(n.) cooked breakfast with bacon, eggs, etc.	8. a pig-sty	(n.) an untidy room
9. a travel bore	(n.) sby who tells tedious stories about their trips	10. a watering hole	(n.) a place where you can eat and drink
11. "Grub's up!"	(phr.) "Your food is ready!"	12. to chillax	(v.) to spend time relaxing
13. the boss	(n.) the manager	14. awesome	(adj.) great, wonderful
15. a jumped-up little _____	(n.) a proud, arrogant person	16. bangers and mash	(n. un.) a meal of sausages and mashed potatoes
17. kids eat free	(phr.) there is no charge for children's meals	18. argy bargy	(n. un.) fighting
19. a salad dodger	(n.) a fat person	20. bloody	(int.) very, really

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English Slang Words and Phrases – Matching Game

Match each sentence below with one of the slang words and phrases from this unit.
Change forms where necessary:



My brother's a total _____ . He only seems to eat burgers and kebabs!
The hotel we stayed in was a real _____ . I would never go back there.
What are the best _____ in your town?
How many _____ have we got booked in for next week?
This restaurant is, like, totally _____ , dude! [mate / friend]
I can't wait for my _____ tomorrow morning!
There was a load [a lot] of _____ outside the nightclub last night.
There were some lads in the bar giving the barman a bit of _____ .
When I tried to pay, that _____ waiter refused to accept my credit card!
" _____ " "OK – great! I'm famished!" [very hungry]
Geoff's a real _____ . He's never around when you need him!
_____ – before 6pm. [On a notice in a restaurant / café]
Yeah, you know, I've been _____ on the beach all morning.
" _____ " "OK, it's last orders. What do you fancy? Another pint?"
I want to see your _____ – straight away!
Their room was an absolute _____ !
The _____ taxi's late! We're going to miss our flight!
I got stuck next to this _____ on the train. He never stopped yakking on (talking continuously) about Peru.
Mr and Mrs Byford were _____ , I'm afraid. Should I give them a call?
I fancy _____ for tea tonight, mum. What about you?

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Hotel – English Slang Words and Phrases Activities

Meaning and Context

1. Are there any words/phrases that you know already? Explain each meaning and give an example sentence or situation in which you might hear it. Find the meaning of the rest by using a dictionary, then match the meaning cards with the slang cards.
2. Who would you be speaking to when you use these words and phrases? Are there any words or phrases that you wouldn't use with certain people? Explain why not.
3. Do any of the slang words and phrases exist in your first language? Translate them.
4. Divide the slang into four categories: **facilities**, **guests**, **staff**, and **food and drink**.
5. Take some cards. Describe the slang word or phrase on a card without saying it.
6. How many slang words/phrases can you remember when they are all turned over?

Practice Activities

Choose a random slang word or phrase (or one that particularly interests you) and...

1. think of a time or situation in your life when you... a) could have used this slang (past), and b) might use this slang (future).
2. say the name of a person you know who would be the most likely to say this. In what kind of situation?
3. others guess while you act it out without speaking, although you can make sounds!
4. others guess while you draw a picture to represent both forms – slang and dictionary.
5. analyse the word(s). Is it at all possible to guess the meaning from the words – or completely impossible? Research the origin and background of this slang word/phrase.
6. replace the slang word or phrase in a sentence with the literal (boring) meaning. Compare the sentences. Which sounds better? Why?
7. think of another slang word or phrase that has the same or a similar meaning.
8. tell a story or devise a dialogue/role play by linking one slang word/phrase to the next.

Topic Questions

Choose the correct slang word/phrase, and make a sentence about... a) yourself, b) a friend:

1. that you might use with a close colleague, but not with an important client.
2. that you could use to talk about a person who wasn't working as hard as you.
3. that you might hear in an English pub at around quarter to eleven at night.
4. that you might hear in a *greasy spoon*¹ café to indicate that your meal is ready.
5. that you could use as a classic example of Great British cuisine.
6. that somebody might call you if they thought you were *getting too big for your boots*, or *too full of yourself*².
7. that is a person who you might want to avoid sitting next to on a long-haul flight.

¹ a cheap, low-quality café or restaurant

² both phrases are idioms that mean "overly self-important"