

Talk a Lot

Media

20 Common English Slang Words and Phrases

1. a Z-list celeb	(n.) a celebrity who isn't very famous	2. to catch [a show]	(v.) to watch, listen to, or attend a show
3. rolling news	(n. un.) continuous 24-hour TV news	4. lol	(acr.) acronym used in text messages: "laughing out loud"
5. a glossy	(n.) a quality magazine, usually for women	6. the Top 40	(n.) the forty best-selling music tracks or albums
7. the [goggle] box	(n.) the television	8. a couch potato	(n.) a lazy person who watches TV / plays video games a lot
9. a freebie	(n.) sth given away free with a product, e.g. a free DVD	10. a geek	(n.) a person thought to be obsessed with technology
11. cloud computing	(n. un.) storing your files online rather than on a local hard drive	12. "Put a sock in it!"	(phr.) "Be quiet!"
13. a scoop	(n.) an exclusive interview or report, e.g. in a newspaper	14. a kiss-and-tell story	(n.) an article where sby discusses their private relationship
15. the telly	(n.) the television	16. a fanboy	(n.) a fan of a tech company who promotes their work
17. a non-starter	(n.) a project that fails before it begins	18. an earworm	(n.) a tune that you can't stop singing in your head
19. the Long Tail	(n.) a way for publishers to distribute more content for longer	20. the gutter press	(n.) low-quality tabloid newspapers

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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:



"OK, now it's my turn to speak." "No! Shut up!" "But, can I...?" "_____!"
The winner of last year's <i>Big Brother</i> is now considered to be a _____.
Kids today seem to spend their whole lives glued to _____.
The idea about the underwater cookery programme was a bit of a _____.
"I've had _____ all day! I can't get rid of it!" "What is it?" "Kylie's latest."
Tracey and Trisha never miss _____ on Sunday afternoons, because they can't wait to find out who'll be number one.
I rarely have time to watch _____, because I'm far too busy online.
Ken's sister calls him a _____, because he spends all day sitting on the sofa playing computer games.
"It's _____ that prints all of this rubbish. It's disgusting!"
"Did you _____ <i>Top Gear</i> last night?" "No, sadly not. I missed it."
Because of _____, all of Jeff's books are now available to order again.
The parti wuz wikid _____!! C U l8erz m8 xx oo xx ;))
Graham was really pleased to get his _____ about the bank fraud all over the front page of <i>The Chronicle</i> .
I would rather keep my data and files on my laptop, than trust _____.
I used to work for a _____, but now I write more freelance articles.
"Did you buy this DVD?" "No, it was _____. It came with a magazine."
Brian is an Apple _____. He's fixated with their stuff. He buys it all.
The problem for _____ channels is that there aren't enough big stories.
The _____ about Ryan's affair was splashed across pages 2, 3, 4, and 6.
Lauren is such _____. She's up on [knows about] <i>all</i> the latest tech news.

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Media – English Slang Words and Phrases Activities

Meaning and Context

1. Check for new vocabulary. Are there any words/phrases that you know already? Explain each meaning and give an example sentence or situation in which you could use it. Find the meaning of the rest by using a dictionary, then match the definition cards with the slang cards.
2. Who would you be speaking to when you used these words and phrases? Are there any words or phrases that you wouldn't use with certain people? If yes, 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: **Radio**, **Television**, **Journalism**, and **New Media**.
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... a) the *most likely* to say this, and b) the *least likely* to say it. 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 (literal).
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 or phrase.
6. replace the slang word or phrase in a sentence with the literal (boring) meaning. Compare the two 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

1. Choose the correct slang word or phrase. 2. Make a sentence about... a) yourself, b) a friend.
 1. This example of "text-speak" indicates that I found something funny.
 2. I might say this to a close friend or family member if I wanted them to be quiet.
 3. This is a catchy tune that I can't stop thinking about.
 4. This is a derogatory term for lowbrow newspapers that print scandalous stories.
 5. Find two different slang phrases that mean the same thing – and say what it is.
 6. This is a project that doesn't get off the ground – an idea that is badly conceived.
 7. An idle telly addict, or gamer, who seems to be attached to the sofa might be described as this.
 8. People who make use of this service can use any computer that is connected to the internet, and still access all of their files.
 9. If you listen to this, you will get a comprehensive view of which music is popular these days.
 10. You can find them at every showbiz party in town. In fact they never turn down an invitation!