

Talk a Lot

Problems

20 Common English Slang Words and Phrases

1. to be brown bread	(rhyming slang) to be in a lot of trouble; to be dead	2. "Like it or lump it!"	(phr.) it will be easier for you, if you accept this unpleasant thing
3. to get bladdered	(v.) to become very drunk	4. a zit	(n.) a spot [acne]
5. on the rock'n'roll	(rhyming slang) on the dole [claiming unemployment benefit]	6. to be in the red	(v.) to be in debt
7. Billy no-mates	(n.) a person who doesn't have any friends	8. a hoodie	(n.) a teenage hooligan; a hooded top
9. a junkie	(n.) a drug addict	10. a bookie	(n.) a betting shop; a person who works in a betting shop
11. a pushover	(n.) a person who is very easily persuaded / defeated	12. a minger	(n.) an unattractive person
13. hand-me-downs	(n. un.) second-hand items, usually clothes	14. a one-night stand	(n.) a date when two people have sex, but don't meet again
15. a coffin dodger	(n.) an old person who doesn't seem to be able to die	16. to do time	(v.) to serve a prison sentence
17. a bit on the side	(n.) the person with whom a married person has an affair	18. the pill	(n.) contraceptive tablets for women
19. a red bill	(n.) a letter from a utility company demanding payment which is overdue	20. mardy	(a.) grumpy because you can't have what you want

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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:

Kenny's cousin is currently _____ for armed robbery.
How can you fancy her? She's an absolute _____!
Oliver never reads _____. He just chucks them in a drawer.
I don't want your old _____! I'm going to buy some new trousers!
If I don't hand in this essay tomorrow, I'll be _____.
Clara had been on _____ for a year, when she found out she was pregnant.
A few of the lads went out on the town last night and _____.
Paul the security guard was keeping his eye on some _____, who were hanging around outside the chippie [chip shop].
Can you believe this _____ is still on TV? I thought he was dead!
You're coming to see Grandma, and that's final! You can _____!
"Do you know Kevin?" "Yes, we had _____, but nothing more."
Sally went overdrawn last month and now she's still _____.
We're going down the _____'s to put a bet on the horse in the 2.45.
Don't be so _____! We can stay with your parents <i>next</i> Christmas!
Please don't squeeze your _____ while I'm eating my tea!
"Is that James's girlfriend?" "No, it's just his _____."
Chantal never goes out any more. She's a right [complete] _____.
Tom became a _____ after first trying drugs at his mate Jim's flat.
Trevor's uncle's been _____ for a year. He says there aren't any jobs.
You know, you should tell him that you can't work on Saturday! Don't be such a _____.

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Problems – 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 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: **Children, Teenagers, Adults, and Elderly People.**
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 is a slang word for a pimple or spot.
2. This is a person who is unpopular and who nobody really likes.
3. This is a person who has to score their next fix.
4. This is what happens to a criminal who is locked up.
5. This is a person who could either help you win or lose money.
6. This is a very informal way to talk about getting drunk – but it isn't swearing.
7. This phrase means that I owe money to somebody, for example, a bank.
8. This is a person who always gives in too easily and doesn't stand up to other people.
9. If I had had an older brother, I would probably have worn these while I was growing up.
10. We can use this rather unkind phrase to describe an old person who doesn't seem to be in any hurry to depart this mortal coil.