

## The American Talk: Confusing Slang Terms

**Slang-** A kind of language especially occurring in casual and playful speech and usually made up of informal vocabulary or invented words used in place of standard terms.

**All-nighter** – A phrase used by a student who will stay up all night to do homework. Example: *Yeah, tonight I am going to pull an all-nighter.*

**All right** – Something is under control. Example: *It's all right; it was a false alarm*  
Also can be used to respond 'yes' to someone.

**Awesome** – Can have the same meaning as amazing, impressive, or great.  
Example: *That movie was awesome!*

**Bling Bling** – Flashy or expensive jewelry  
Example: *I like the bling bling you have on your wrist (refers to a watch).*

**Blog** – An online website forum, used to display the host's freethinking ideas, on any number of topics.

**Break up** – A verb used to describe a couple that stops dating.  
Example: *Jenny and I broke up last night.*

**Bite me** – An insulting retort if someone says something bad about you. Usually said with emphasis.

**Bubbler** – A Wisconsin term, other parts of America call this a 'drinking fountain' or a 'water fountain'

**Buck** – Used in reference to a dollar bill  
Example: *Can I borrow a buck?*

**Bugs me** – Something is bothersome.  
Example: *That noise my car started making bugs me.*

**Catch some z's** – Going to sleep or to bed.  
Example: **Roommate:** *Do you want to go to the dance?*  
**Other roommate:** *No, I think I am going to catch some z's.*

**Cheap** – Can refer to something being low priced. Example: *six cents for Ramen Noodles is cheap.* Or an insult. Example: *Your tie looks cheap.*

**Cheesehead** – Someone who is from Wisconsin. Also used in reference to Green Bay Packer fans.  
Example: *There were a bunch of cheeseheads at the game.*

**Cheesy** – Something or someone who try to look polished, but is not quite there; results in looking fake or cheap. Example: *His tie looks cheesy.*

**Chill out** – A phrase meaning calm down or stop worrying. Example: *Chill out man.*  
Chill by itself can also mean wait here. Example: *We'll chill until he gets back.*

**Close call** – Something unpleasant, possibly even dangerous, was narrowly avoided. Example: *That was a close call; that car almost hit me!*

**Cool** – Can be used in many situations. Example: *That's cool.*—that's good or great. Example: *Cool.*—agreement with something that was said. Example: *It was cool.*—given situation was enjoyable. Example: *It is cool out.*—the weather is chilly.

**Couch Potato** – Someone who is lazy. Example: *He is a real couch potato.*

**Crash** – To sleep at someone else's house. Example: *I am going to crash at Ben's house.*

**Crazy** – Often used to describe someone who's acting in a foolish or unusual manner, Example: *He was acting crazy at the party.* In addition Example: *That's crazy.* which might describe some weird or strange course of action.

**Ditched** – To be left behind, usually on purpose. Example: *My friends ditched me at the mall.*

**Dork, Nerd, Dweeb, Geek** – a person who is socially awkward and excessively interested in a subject area that is not mainstream. Example: *You're such a dork!*

**Drained** – Used to replace the word tired, for instance. Example: *I didn't get any sleep last night, I'm really drained.*

**Drinking** – Similar to 'to have a drink,' when used alone often refers to an alcoholic beverage. Context clues are required to be certain of meaning. Example: *They went out drinking.*

**Dude** – Another word for a guy or an interjection. Examples: *Hey dude, how have you been?* or *Dude! That was cool.*

**Duh** – A retort meaning what was just said was terribly obvious and unnecessary. Example: *Well, duh!*

**Freaky** – Something is unusual or weird. Example: *That guy was freaky.*

**Get over** – To recover from an ended relationship. Example: *He got over her.*

**Gotta Run** – I have to go. Example: *I gotta run to Target.*

**Hang Out** –To get together with your friends. Example: *I was hanging out with my friends Friday night.*

**Hey** – Can be a greeting, Example: *hi* or an exclamation, Example: *Hey! Get back here.*

**Hit the Sack** – Another meaning to going to sleep or to bed. Example: *Well today has been a long day, so I am going to hit the sack.*

**How's it going?** – A common hallway greeting, also typically answered with something similar to good, ok, bad.

Example: **Person One:** *How's it going?* **Ann**

**Person Two:** *Good!*

**Lame** – Not impressive. Example: *That joke was lame.*

**Later** – A short farewell. Example: *See you later.*

**Loser** – Derogatory term for someone. Example: *He is a loser. He's going no where in life.*

**Messed up** – Either a situation or a person is unusual. Example: *Their relationship is messed up.* Also if a person is hurt or possibly under the influence of illegal substances. Example: *He was messed up.*

**Messing with you** – Fooling around, joking, being sarcastic. Example: *I wasn't serious; I was messing with you.*

**Morning** – Short for good morning. Example: *Morning George or g mornin Bob.*

**My Bad** – A saying used in conversations to relay responsibility for an incident or accident to one's self.

Example: **Person One:** *Did you do your paper for class?*

**Person Two:** No, I forgot, my bad.

**My Ex** – Refers to a past relationship, normally a previous boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, or wife.

Example: *I hate it when my ex calls my cell phone.*

**Night** – Short for good night. Example: *Night Alex, I will see you at class tomorrow.*

**No way** – An emphatic no. Example: *There's no way I'm going parachuting.*

**Nothin' Much** – Not doing a lot.

Example: **Friend:** *What are you doing?*

**Other friend:** *Nothin' much.*

**Now You're Talkin'** – In agreement with what another person is saying.

Example: **Jack:** *I will sell the car to you for \$1000.*

**Bob:** *Now you're talkin'.*

**O.K.** – An abbreviation to replace *okay*, which when used in a conversation, displays agreement with one another.

**Out of it** – Not aware of surroundings, not feeling well and therefore not able to pay attention.

Example: *I was out of it today in class because I felt sick.*

**Peace** – A phrase originating in the 60's, it has a very similar meaning to goodbye. Example:

*Peace out, man.*

**Rocks** – Used to describe an enjoyable situation or occurrence. Example: *This rocks! I got an A.*

**Run Out of Gas** – A person who is physically exhausted. Example: *I ran out of gas, after running the marathon.*

**Shot Down** – Rejected. Example: *Man, you got shot down by her.*

**Shut up** – A minor offensive term used to cut off another persons conversation. Usually conveys disagreement or disbelief with the person to whom you speak it, but can also be used between friends jokingly.

**Sick** – Said as an adjective, it can describe something that was exciting, Example: *Snowboarding is Sick.* It can also apply to somewhat who is insane, demented, or mentally instable.

**Soda** – A regionalism for carbonated beverages, is also *Pop* or *Coke* in other areas of America.

**Space out** – Not pay attention to your surroundings, also stare off into space. Example: *The class was very boring, and I started to space out while the teacher was talking.*

**Sucks** – As in *that sucks*, means this situation is negative or unpleasant.

**Sup?** – Short for *what's up?* A greeting, means *how's life?* Can be answered with either a returned *sup* or possibly *not much*, is often very slurred and can be difficult to understand. A response is not always necessary.

**Sweet** – Neat or impressive. Example: *That sports car is sweet.*

**Take it Easy** – Normally used to calm down an excited person, or as a departing phrase to replace goodbye.

**Tight** – A substitute for cool, normally used to describe someone's actions. Example: *Casey that shot was tight.*

**Totaled** – Ruined or destroyed. Example: *His car was totaled in the accident.*

**Uptight** – Describes a person who is overly sensitive about a subject or easily annoyed. Example: *She was very uptight about her car.*

**Whatever** – A response that means you do not care what the other person is saying.

Example: **Roommate:** *"This room is a mess!"*

**Other roommate:** *"Whatever."*

**Wicked** – Refers to something exciting. Example: *That movie was wicked!*

**Word** – A one-word affirmation, used to support or agree with something that has just been said.

**Y'all** – A southern regionalism, short for *you all* or, more grammatically correct, *all of you*

**Yo** – Can be a greeting similar to *hi*, is also sometimes used to mean *yes*, but only in casual situations.

### Useful Websites

This website has great information on American slang, English grammar, proverbs, idioms, and common mistakes that all relate to the English language. [www.englishdaily626.com/slang](http://www.englishdaily626.com/slang)

This website is an online dictionary that contains numerous slang terms and it is user friendly. [www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~wrader/slang/](http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~wrader/slang/)

This is a great website directed towards ESL student. It has tools relating to slang; breaking slang terms down into nouns, adjectives, verbs greeting, a test, and famous headlines.

[www.schandlbooks.com/AmericanSlang.html](http://www.schandlbooks.com/AmericanSlang.html)

Examples:

**"Parents to be Pitt-Jolie go public."**

Parents to be = future parents (it is definite)

**"Hasselhoff's marriage goes under."**

goes under = completely fails

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