

**BOOKS & MAGAZINES
IN ENGLISH**



A REALLY BRITISH GUIDE TO ENGLISH

A book from:



**EAT
SLEEP
DREAM**
ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION

I've been British pretty much since the moment I was born. My mum used to say with pride that my first words were 'excuse me', 'chuffed' and 'I'd love a cuppa!'

OK, that isn't strictly true but I have been passionate about the English language for as long as I can remember.

I love how we use language to express our thoughts, feelings, and opinions. We use it to make sense of the world around us and shape our own individual identity.

“What we learn becomes a part of who we are”



Each lexical choice we make is an expression of who we are and how we want people to perceive us.

Do you say 'toilet' or 'little boy's room'? Is it 'aye up?' or 'how do you do?' Would you order a 'cuppa' or a 'brew'? The words you choose express who you are on so many levels. And this, to me, is the joy of language. A free space to assert your place in the world. After all, language is a dance, a dance we get to choreograph as we go.

So why have I written this book now? Well, I started Eat Sleep Dream English in 2016 with the aim of taking my passion for teaching to a global audience. I wanted students around the world to learn fresh modern British English, the language that's actually used in the streets, offices, and homes of the UK. Over the last few years I have released weekly videos on YouTube doing just this and it's been a dream come true.

However, as you can imagine, there is only so much you can teach in a 10-minute YouTube video – and so the idea for this book was born.

The purpose of 'A Really British Guide to English' is to dive deeper into the language and create a one-stop resource for English learners and anyone interested in the language and culture of the UK. We cover so much more here than we ever could elsewhere and I'm really excited for you to get started.

Please note that you will come across some rude words in this book. I took the decision to include them because they are part of modern British English and you will see and hear them if you spend any time here.

So, whether you are an English language learner, an English teacher, an Anglophile or just someone who randomly picked this book up at a friend's house enjoy!



—
Tom,
the Chief Dreamer

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1. LET'S GET STARTED

**A Very Short
Guide to Britain**

POPULATION: 66 million

CAPITAL: London

WORLD CUPS: 1 (England in 1966)

GEOGRAPHY

Let's start with the basics. What is the difference between The UK, Britain, England etc?

England, Scotland and **Wales** are all separate countries in their own right, and **Northern Ireland** is a province.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - a sovereign country made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Great Britain - a geographical term for the islands that include three countries: England, Scotland and Wales.

The British Isles - a geographical term for the two islands that are home to the two sovereign states of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland.

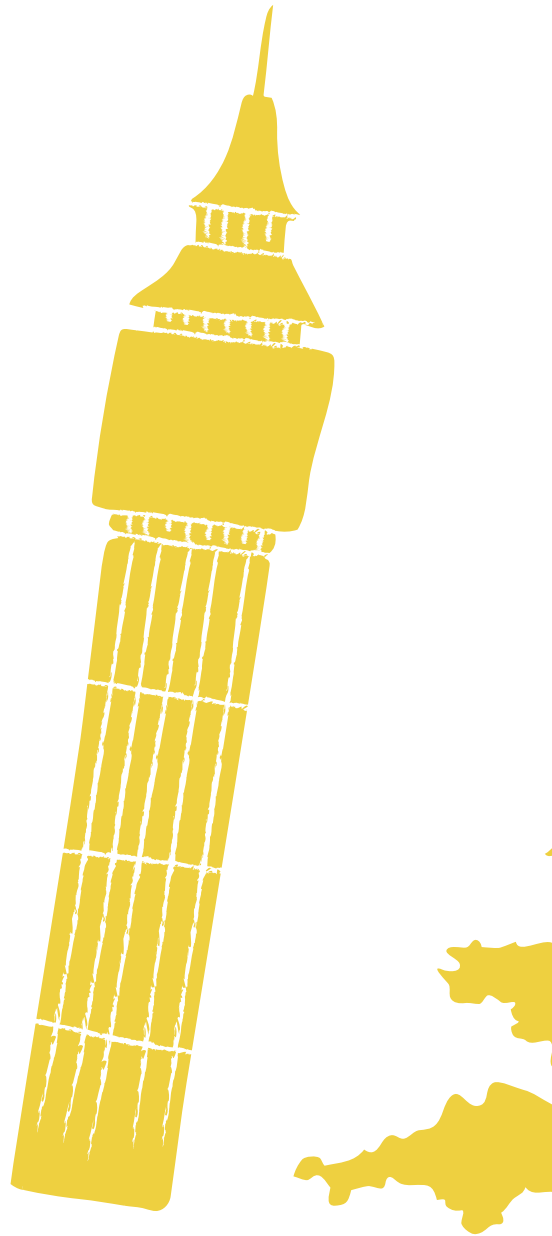
Commonwealth Realms - a group of 16 autonomous sovereign states that consider the Queen to be their head of state. These include Canada, Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Jamaica, and Barbados.

British Overseas Territories - a group of 14 non-independent territories around the world that still have a British military presence and consider the Queen as their head of state. Countries include Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, The Falkland Islands, and the British Virgin Islands.

Crown Dependencies - the three islands of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man which are self-governing entities that belong to the United Kingdom.

POLITICS

Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state for the United Kingdom but holds no political influence. As such it is the Prime Minister, as the Head of Government, who has the most political authority. The UK has a parliamentary government which meets in the Palace of Westminster (also known as the Houses of Parliament) in London. There are two main houses, the elected House of Commons and the unelected House of Lords. The three main political parties are the Labour Party, the Conservative Party, and the Liberal Democrats. Each country also has its own parties: The Scottish National Party (SNP) in Scotland, Plaid Cymru in Wales and the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland. The UK has a fixed-term parliament which states that a general election must be held on the first Thursday of May five years after the previous election, although an election can be called before then if required.





Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all have their own governments, which make decisions on matters such as education, healthcare, and local government. London has also had an assembly and a mayor since 2000.

RELIGION

The United Kingdom's official religion is Protestant Christianity with the Church of England as the state church of England and Wales. The UK is also often described as a multi-faith society in which any religion is accepted. There are large communities of people who follow Judaism, Catholicism, Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism. In addition, there is also a significant proportion of the population that doesn't identify with any religion. Because of this huge diversity, you can find communities observing all the major religious festivals throughout the year.

2. HOW TO SPEAK BRITISH

**A-Z of British
Vocabulary**

A&E (noun) /eɪ ən iː/
the accident and emergency
department in a hospital.

*'We spent 7 hours in A&E on
Friday night. It was utterly
miserable.'*

A-levels (noun) /eɪ levəlz/
Advanced level qualification in a
certain subject taken by students
aged between 16–18 in the UK
(except for Scotland). Students
take A-levels after doing GCSEs.

*'My daughter is planning to take
5 A-levels next year.'*

a bit of (me) (phrase) /ə bɪt əv/
an informal phrase used to
say you like something or are
interested in it.

'One Direction are a bit of me.'

ace (adjective) /eɪs/
good/cool.

*'Throwing Miko a surprise
birthday party is an ace idea
guys, well done!'*



across the pond (phrase)
/əkrɒs ðə pɒnd/
a slang term for the USA/Canada.

*'So many bands have found it hard
to go across the pond and be as
successful as they are in the UK.'*

afters (noun) /ɑːftəz/
another word for dessert.

*'What do you kids want for
afters? I've got ice cream or jelly.'*

airy-fairy (adjective) /eəri feəri/
a disapproving term for
something that is vague
and impractical.

*'Ling has had a lot of airy-fairy plans
since leaving uni; I think she just
needs to get a steady job.'*

alcopop (noun) /ælkəʊpɒp/
a type of fizzy alcoholic drink that usually comes in fruity flavours.

'All we ever drank at uni was alcopops.'

all mouth (and no trousers)
(phrase)
talk boastfully about yourself without backing it up with actions.

'I'm beginning to think the President is all mouth and no trousers.'

all over the (shop/gaff/place)
disorganised.

A) *'How was the game?'*
B) *'Terrible! We lost 5-0! The team was all over the shop from the first minute.'*

allotment (noun) /əlbɒtmənt/
a small plot of green land that is owned by the local council but rented to individuals to grow their own plants and vegetables.

'My grandma has had an allotment by the canal for over 30 years.'

alright! (exclamation) /ɔ:lraɪt/
a common greeting.

'Alright Jack, how's it going?'

aggro (noun) /ægrəʊ/
short for aggression.

'There was a lot of aggro at the football yesterday.'

agony aunt (noun) /ægəni ɑ:nt/
a magazine or newspaper column that offers advice to people with problems.

'I've never written into an Agony Aunt but I'd be tempted if I had a serious problem.'

an arm and a leg (phrase)
if something costs an arm and a leg it's very expensive.

'I love my new sofa but it cost me an arm and a leg.'

anorak (noun) /ænərəæk/
a jacket that is worn to protect you from rain and wind.

'It's lucky we brought our anoraks. It looks like it's going to rain very soon.'

anorak (noun) /ænərəæk/
someone who is really interested in a hobby that most people think is boring.

'My uncle is such a transport anorak; he loves collecting the serial numbers of trains that he's ridden on.'

anyroad (adverb) /enɪrəʊd/
a phrase used in the north of England instead of 'anyway'.

A) *'Did you hear there is a large snowstorm coming our way?'*

B) *'Really?'*

A) *'Anyroad, you don't need to worry. Your flight won't be affected tomorrow.'*

arse (noun) /ɑ:s/
slang for bottom.

'Did you see John slip on that banana and fall on his arse?'

arse over tit (phrase)
if you go arse over tit, you fall over in a dramatic and uncontrolled way.

'We went ice skating last weekend and as soon as my father-in-law got on the ice, he went arse over tit.'

arsehole (noun) /ɑ:shəʊl/
a very rude insult for someone you think is stupid or contemptible.

'Halima's boyfriend has been acting like a complete arsehole recently. I wish she'd dump him.'

arty-farty (adjective) /ɑ:ti fa:ti/
a disapproving term for someone/something trying too hard to be cool/arty. It's similar to pretentious.

'Simone is out with her arty-farty friends tonight, so I'm staying in and watching a film.'

ASBO (noun) /æzbəʊ/
acronym for 'anti-social behaviour order'. A court order issued to anyone who is causing the public harm or annoyance.

“ The USA and Canada are 'across the pond' and Australia is 'down under' ”



'He got his first ASBO when he was 14.'

at a loose end (phrase) /æt ə lu:s end/ have nothing to do.

'I'm at a bit of a loose end this afternoon. Do you fancy doing something?'

at Her Majesty's pleasure (euphemism) in prison.

'My uncle has been at Her Majesty's pleasure for as long as I can remember.'

aubergine (noun) /əʊbɜ:ʒi:n/ a large purple vegetable.

'You'll need to buy an aubergine if you want to make baba ganoush.'

autumn (noun) /ɔ:təm/ the season between summer and winter (September-November in the UK).

'Autumn is a beautiful season here particularly when the leaves change colour.'

'ave it (phrase) /æv it/ used to encourage someone to do something or go for something (short for 'have it'). Made famous by comedian Peter Kay in an advert for John Smith's beer.

'Come on Everton, let's 'ave it!'

aye (exclamation) /aɪ/ used to say yes particularly in the north of England and Scotland.

A) *'Are you coming to the party, Rob?'*

B) *'Aye, I'll be there.'*

aye up (phrase) /eɪ ʌp/ a greeting used mostly in the North and East Midlands to replace hello or hi.

'Aye up love, how's your day going?'

TOM'S TIPS

Aubergine is just one example of many words in English that have been borrowed from French. In fact around 30% of English is originally French. Other examples of words include 'fiancé, 'cul-de-sac' and 'omelette'.

bab (noun) /bæb/
affectionate term used
in the Midlands/North.

*'Come here bab, you must be so
tired. Let me give you a hug.'*

baccy (noun) /bæki/
rolling tobacco to make cigarettes.

*'Can I borrow some baccy?
I fancy a quick cigarette
before work.'*

backbencher (noun) /bæbentʃər/
an elected Minister of Parliament
who is not in the Cabinet. They are
called this because they sit
on the benches behind the front
bench which holds the Cabinet
or Shadow cabinet.

*'Several backbenchers rebelled
against the government in the latest
Brexit vote.'*

backhander (noun) /bækhændər/
if you give someone a backhander

B.

you give them a bribe (secret illegal
payment).

*'It is reported that the government
was receiving backhanders from the
construction companies to get big
contracts.'*

BAFTA (noun) /bæftə/
British Academy of Film and
Television Arts. A British organisation
that supports art forms such as film,
television, and gaming in the
United Kingdom.

*'The BAFTA awards are some of the
most important in the world for
film-makers.'*

bagsy (verb) /bægzi/
an informal word used to guarantee
the right to do or have something.

*'I've managed to bagsy the
front seat for our road trip
around Scotland.'*

bairn (noun) /beən/
a Scottish term for baby.

*'Your wee bairn is so cute. How old
is she?'*

balls something up (phrase)
to make a mistake or do something
stupid. Slang term.

*'I completely ballsed up that exam! I
wish I'd studied harder.'*

Baltic (adjective) /bɔ:ltɪk/
very cold.

*'Put on your coats kids. It's
absolutely Baltic outside.'*

bank holiday (noun) /bæŋk
hɒlədeɪ/
a public holiday in the
United Kingdom.

*'There are two bank holidays in the
month of May.'*

bang (verb) /bæŋ/
slang term for sex.

*'How many people have you
banged in your life?'*

banger (noun) /bæŋə/
a really great song.

*'Have you heard the new Stormzy
song? It's an absolute banger!'*

banger (noun) /bæŋə/
slang word for a sausage.

*'Kids, we are having bangers and
mash for dinner, is that ok?'*

banger (noun) /bæŋə/
an old car in bad condition.

*'I'm sick of driving an old banger,
I'm desperate to get myself
something new.'*

bang out of order (phrase)
if someone does something that is
bang out of order, it is not
appropriate, cool or reasonable.

*'What you said to Molly was bang
out of order, Elton. You should go
and apologise immediately!'*

bang tidy (adjective) /bæŋ taidi/
slang term for very attractive.

*'Have you seen Megan's new
girlfriend? She's bang tidy if
you ask me.'*

bang to rights (phrase) /bæŋ tə
raɪts/
enough evidence to prove that
someone is guilty of a crime.

'He literally had blood on his

“BARMY ARMY.”

hands so the police had him bang to rights.’

banter (noun) /bæntə/
teasing playful conversation usually between people that know each other.

‘There’s always a lot of banter between my colleagues at work.’

barking mad (adjective) /bɑ:kɪŋ mæd/
crazy.

‘You’d be barking mad to quit your job right now.’

barm cake (noun) /bɑ:m keɪk/
a bread bun (used in the north of England).

‘I’ll get us a couple of barm cakes for lunch.’

barmy (adjective) slang for crazy.

‘I’m not going on a date with Omar, are you barmy?’

Barmy Army (noun) /bɑ:mi ɑ:mi/
a name given to a large group of fans that follow the England cricket team.

‘The Barmy Army have been singing all afternoon during the first day of the final test between England and Australia.’

barney (noun) /bɑ:ni/
a fight or argument.

‘There was a huge barney down the pub last night.’

barrister (noun) /bærɪstə/
a senior lawyer in the United Kingdom who can argue cases in higher courts.

‘My niece is training to be a barrister.’

bawl (verb) /bɔ:l/
cry.

‘My little girl has been bawling for her Daddy ever since he left for work.’

BBC (noun) /bi: bi: 'si:/
the British Broadcasting Corporation is a television and radio organisation. (Also known as 'the Beeb')

'My sister worked for the BBC for 10 years.'

beastly (adjective) /bi:stli/
unpleasant.

'I don't understand why my boss is being so beastly to me today.'

Bedfordshire (noun) /befədʃaɪə/
a humorous alternative to 'bed' made popular by Bridget Jones.

'Ok guys, I'm off to Bedfordshire; see you all in the morning.'

bedsit (noun) /bedsit/
a room where someone lives with sleeping and cooking facilities.

'I lived in a bedsit in Notting Hill for 10 years before I was able to buy a one-bed flat in Hammersmith.'

Beefeater (noun) /bi:fi:tə/
traditional ceremonial guards of the Tower of London. They wear ornate red/black uniforms and are formally known as Yeomen Warders.

'I'm very proud to say my uncle was a Beefeater for his entire career.'

beer monster (noun) /biə mɒstər/
someone who can drink a huge

amount of alcohol.

'The uni rugby team were absolute beer monsters.'

bell-end (noun) /belend/
a very rude insult for someone stupid or contemptible.

'Look at that guy having a go at the bouncers. What a bell-end!'

belly up (phrasal verb) /beli ʌp/
if a company goes belly up it fails and goes bankrupt.

'My uncle's business went belly up during the recession in 2008.'

belt up (phrase) /belt ʌp/
an informal way to say 'shut up'.

'I was shocked when Mary told her kids to belt up! I'd never speak to my children like that.'

belter (noun) /beltə/
something that is excellent.

A) *'How was your weekend?'*
B) *'I had an absolute belter.'*

belting (adjective) /beltɪŋ/
wonderful or excellent.

'I've had a belting birthday so far guys, thanks so much for making me feel so special.'

bender (noun) /bendə/
a wild drinking session.

TOM'S TIPS

Britain is a **bicky** loving nation. Our favourites include chocolate digestives, hobnobs, rich teas, custard creams, and jammie dodgers. And if you want to start a debate with a British person simply ask them if they think 'Jaffa cakes' are biscuits or cakes... This question divides the country.

'For Matt's stag party we went on a two-day bender. I've never felt so ill afterwards.'

bent as a nine bob note (phrase)
dishonest. This comes from pre-decimalisation, when Britain used shillings instead of pounds. Another term for 'shilling' was 'bob'. There were 10 bob notes, but not 9 bob notes - hence the idea that if you found one it would be a fake.

'I love my uncle Harry but he's as bent as a nine bob note.'

berk (noun) /bɜ:k/
an insult for someone similar to idiot.

'Why is that berk trying to park in a bus lane?'

best-before date (noun)
the date printed on food that shows consumers when the product should be consumed. After this date the food is still edible, but the

quality becomes much worse.

'To be honest I generally ignore best-before dates.'

bevy (adjective) /bevi/
slang for alcoholic drink.

'Let's pop into the pub for a few bevies.'

bezzie (noun) /bezi/
an informal way to say best friend (also 'bestie' and 'bezzie mate').

'Mum, can I bring my bezzie home for tea on Friday?'

bicky (noun) /biki/
short for 'biscuit'.

'Do you want a bicky with your tea?'

bifter (noun) /bɪftə/
a cigarette (usually containing cannabis).

'Let's roll a bifter for the car ride.'

big girl's blouse (noun)

a humorous and slightly outdated phrase to describe a cowardly man with a low pain threshold.

A) *'I think you've broken my finger.'*

B) *'Don't be such a big girl's blouse. I barely touched you!'*

Billy no-mates (phrase)

/bili nəu meitz/

someone who doesn't have any friends.

'Both my flatmates are away at the moment, so I'm Billy no-mates for the weekend.'

bin man (noun) */bɪn mæn/*

someone who collects the rubbish. These days we would say 'refuse collector'.

'My dad was a bin man after he left school.'

bin off (phrasal verb) */bɪn ɒf/*

end a relationship (mostly used in the north of England).

'Did you hear Rita binned off Timmy and has started dating a new fella?'

bingo-wings (noun) */bɪŋgəʊ wɪŋz/*

a very informal phrase that describes the folds of fat that hang down from someone's arm as they wave. The phrase originates from old overweight ladies raising their arms as they shout 'bingo' in the bingo halls of Britain.

'I've joined a gym because I want to get rid of my bingo-wings.'

bint (noun) */bɪnt/*

a very offensive insult for a woman.

'Please don't call anyone a bint, it's terribly rude.'

bird (noun) */bɜ:d/*

a very informal word for 'woman' that can be seen as offensive by some.

'I hope there are loads of hot birds at the party tonight.'

bits and bobs (noun) */bɪts ən bɒbz/*

small objects/miscellaneous things. We often use it when we would

“ BINGO WINGS ”

take too long naming all the things or when we don't know the words for them.

'I'm just going to buy some bits and bobs from Tesco.'

blag (verb) /blæg/
use cunning, smarts or dishonesty to get something you want from someone e.g. getting into a concert without tickets or a free coffee.

'My cousin once blagged his way into a Prince concert.'

blag artist (noun) /blæg ɑ:tɪst/
someone who is extremely good at getting what they want using cunning or slight dishonesty.

'I can't believe how much free stuff Jenny gets. She is such a blag artist.'

blank (someone) verb /blæŋk/
to ignore someone deliberately.

'I walked past my old boss but she totally blanked me.'

blast (noun) /bla:st/
a good time.

'We had an absolute blast at your party. Thanks so much for inviting us.'

blast! (exclamation) /bla:st/
used to express annoyance or frustration.

'Blast! I accidentally threw away the receipt for this jacket and now I can't return it.'

bleeding (adjective) /bli:diŋ/
used to emphasise something. Often used in negative situations.

'That mattress is bleeding heavy. I'm going to need a hand carrying it.'

blighter (noun) /blaitər/
a person you see as irritating or you have pity for.

'Look at those poor blighters trying to get on the tube during rush hour. I'm so glad I'm not one of them.'

Blighty (noun) /blaiti/
an old-fashioned nickname for Britain often used by British people abroad.

'They haven't been home to Blighty since they were children.'

blinder (noun) /blaɪndə/
slang term for an excellent performance (also 'play a blinder').

'Tiger Woods played a blinder at the Ryder Cup.'

blinding (adjective) /blaɪndɪŋ/
a slang word for excellent.

'Francois had a blinding game in goal for us.'

blimey! (exclamation) /blaimi/
used to show surprise.

'Blimey! These shoes cost £200!'

block of flats (noun) /blɒk ɒv flæts/
a large building made up of flats/apartments.

'She grew up in a block of flats in

Hackney.'

bloke (noun) /bləʊk/
informal word for man.

'Kwan is such a lovely bloke.'

bloody (adjective/adverb) /blʌdi/
used to emphasise something in a slightly rude way.

'I don't mean to be rude, but that personal trainer is bloody useless, he has no idea what he's doing.'

bloody hell (phrase) /blʌdi hel/
used to show anger or annoyance.

'Bloody hell mate! Why did you eat my last piece of Dairy Milk?'

blooming (adjective before noun / adverb) /bluːmɪŋ/
used to emphasise something or express anger.

'It's a blooming long way to walk. Are you sure you don't want to take a taxi?'

blow me (exclamation) /bləʊ miː/
used to show surprise (also 'blow me down').

'Blow me! Andy has only gone and got a job at Google without telling me.'

blower (noun) /bləʊə/
informal word for telephone.

'Raheem has been on the blower with his girlfriend for hours!'

blue (noun) /bluː/
a term given to someone who has played sport for Oxford or Cambridge University against the other university.

'Sally became an Oxford blue when she rowed in the boat race last year.'

bob (noun) /bɒb/
an informal word used these days to describe an indefinite amount of money. It comes from when Britain used a pre-decimal system. Back then a 'bob' was the slang term for a shilling coin.

'Can you lend me a few bob?'

bobbins (adjective) /bɒbɪnz/
something not very good or worthless.

'My mobile is absolute bobbins! It doesn't even make calls.'

bobble hat (noun) /bɒbəl hæʔ/
a hat made of wool with a small wool ball on top worn usually in winter.

'My gran made me this bobble hat for Christmas.'

bobby (noun) /bɒbi/
slang word for policeman.

'You don't see so many bobbies on the street these days.'

Bob's your uncle (phrase)
a phrase used to say 'there it is' or 'and it's done'.

'You put all the ingredients in a bowl, put that in the oven and then Bob's your uncle, you have a delicious chocolate cake.'

bog (noun) /bɒg/
slang term meaning toilet.

'Juan has just popped to the bog, he'll be back in a minute.'

bog roll (noun) /bɒg rɔːl/
toilet paper.

'Can you buy some bog roll on your way home?'

bogey (noun) /bəʊgi/
a small piece of dried mucus found inside the nose.

'Mate, you've got a bogey hanging out of your nose!'

bog-standard (adjective) /bɒg stændəd/
average / ordinary / not special.

A) *'What kind of TV did you buy?'*

B) *'Nothing special, just a bog-standard one.'*

bollard (noun) /bɒlə:d/
a short post used to stop cars from entering an area.

'They put a load of bollards across Maltby Street so cars can't go down it anymore.'

bollocking (noun) /bɒləkɪŋ/
If you give someone a bollocking

you tell them off / reprimand them in a very strong, angry way.
A bit rude.

'Our hockey coach gave us an absolute bollocking after we lost the game by 5 goals.'

bollocks (noun) /bɒləks/
a rude slang term for a man's testicles.

'There is nothing more painful for a guy than getting hit in the bollocks.'

bollocks! (exclamation) /bɒləks/
a word used to show frustration, anger or disagreement.

'Oh bollocks! I've left my phone charger in the cafe.'

bonce (noun) /bɒns/
slang for head.

'Do you want to borrow a cap to cover your bonce? The sun is super strong today.'

Bonfire Night (noun) /bɒnfaɪə naɪt/
A celebration on 5th November when British people light bonfires and fireworks to remember the Gunpowder Plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament by Guy Fawkes in 1605. It's also called Guy Fawkes Night.

'There's a huge fireworks display at Alexandra Palace on Bonfire Night.'

bonk (verb) /bɒŋk/
slang term for sexual intercourse.

'The newly married couple bonked as soon as they were on honeymoon.'

bonkers (adjective) /bɒŋkəz/
slang word for crazy.

'Have you gone absolutely bonkers? Why did you buy another car when we already have a perfectly good one?'

boot (noun) /bu:t/
the compartment at the back of a car where you generally put luggage or objects to transport.

'Shall I put the bags in the boot?'

booze (noun) /bu:z/
alcohol.

'My Dad hasn't had any booze for a month.'

boozer (noun) /bu:zə/
a slang word for pub. It can also be a slang term for someone who drinks a lot.

'Do you know any good boozers in the centre of Birmingham?'

boss (adjective) /bɒs/
very good. Heard mostly in the north-west of England.

'Your trainers are boss! Where did you get them from?'

boss-eyed (adjective) /bɒs aɪd/
slang for someone who is crosseyed.

'I dated a guy who was boss-eyed and I never knew if he was looking at me or not.'

bosting (adjective) /bɒstɪŋ/
very good (used in the Midlands).

'Have a bostin' holiday mate.'

botch job (noun) /bɒtʃ dʒɒb/
a piece of work that is badly done.

'I asked my plumber to fix my taps but he did a complete botch job and made things worse.'

bottle (noun) /bɒtəl/
slang word for courage.

'I'd love to do parkour but I haven't got the bottle to jump off tall buildings like they do.'

bottle it (phrase) /bɒtəl ɪt/
used when someone doesn't do something because they don't have the courage.

'I was going to ask him on a date during lunch break, but I completely bottled it.'

bouncer (noun) /baʊnsə/
someone employed by a nightclub/pub to protect the customers and stop trouble from happening such as fighting/drug dealing etc.

'I used to work as a bouncer in a local nightclub while I was at uni.'

bouncy castle (noun) /ˌbaʊnsi kɑːsəl/
a large inflatable object filled with air that children (or adults) can jump and play on.

'We've hired a bouncy castle for Wasim's birthday party.'

Boxing Day (noun) /ˌbɒksɪŋ ˌdeɪ/
the day after Christmas Day.

'We always go and visit my cousins on Boxing Day and exchange Christmas gifts.'

brass neck (noun) /brɑːs nek/
someone who is confident to say or do whatever they want, but

who doesn't understand that their behaviour isn't acceptable to other people.

'She's got a brass neck asking me for money when she still owes me £1,000 from last time.'

brass-monkeys (adjective) /brɑːs mʌŋkɪz/
slang phrase for very cold.

'It was absolutely brass-monkeys this morning. I didn't want to leave my nice warm home.'

brassic (adjective) /bræsɪk/
if someone is brassic they have no money (also boracic).



“ Brexit is an example of a portmanteau. This is when two words are combined to make a brand new word e.g. Brexit = ‘Britain’ and ‘exit’. Other examples include ‘brunch’, ‘romcom’ and ‘Singlish’. ”

'I'm totally brassic till the end of the month.'

brew (noun) /bruː/
slang term for a cup of tea. Mostly used in the north of England.

'I'd love a brew if you are going to make one.'

Brexit (noun) /breksɪt/
the withdrawal of Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union.

'Every morning I turn on the radio and all I hear is people talking about Brexit.'

Brexiteer (noun) /breksɪtiə/
someone who voted for and supports Britain's exit from the European Union.

'Some of the most vocal Brexiteers have been Boris Johnson and Jacob Rees-Mogg.'

brick it (verb) /brɪk ɪt/
slang term to feel scared.

'I was bricking it before my driving test.'

brill (adjective) /brɪl/
short form of brilliant.

A) *'Maria says she can come to the wedding!'*

B) *'Brill!'*

Brit (noun) /brɪt/
short word for a British person.

'There are hundreds of thousands of Brits who holiday in the south of Spain every year.'

Brizzle (noun) /brɪzəl/
slang for Bristol.

'My cousins live in Brizzle.'

broolly (noun) /brɒli/
short for umbrella.

'Damn! I forgot my broolly and it's pouring with rain outside.'

Brum (noun) /brʌm/
affectionate term for the city of Birmingham.

'Alice is going back home to Brum for the weekend to see her parents.'

Brummie (noun) /brʌmi/
someone from Birmingham. It's also the name of the accent of the city. (also Brummy).

'The most famous Brummie I know is Ozzy Osborne.'

BST (abbreviation) /biː es tiː/
British Summer Time.

'Our meeting will be at 3 pm BST.'

Buck's fizz (noun) /bʌks fɪz/
an alcoholic drink made with orange and champagne.

'Do you remember when we went for drinks at sunset in Sydney and had Buck's fizz?'

budge up (phrasal verb) /bʌdʒ ʌp/
asking someone you are sitting/
standing next to to move along
and make space for you.

*'If we all budge up a bit, Katie
can sit on the bench too.'*

buff (adjective) /bʌf/
slang term for attractive.

*'You have to be buff if you want to
work at Abercrombie and Fitch.'*

bugger (exclamation) /bʌgə/
slightly rude word used to show
frustration, anger or annoyance.

*'Oh bugger! I've forgotten to
bring my phone charger. Can I
borrow yours?'*

bugger all (phrase) /bʌgə ɔ:l/
rude way to say 'nothing'.

*'We went on a whale-watching trip
in Patagonia and saw bugger all!'*

buggered (adjective) /bʌgəd/
offensive way to say broken.

*'My TV is buggered. Can I come
round and watch the match
at yours?'*

builder's (tea/brew) (noun) /bɪldəz
ti:/
a strong cup of English
breakfast tea.

*'I'll have a mug of builder's tea and
two coffees please.'*

building society (noun) /bɪldɪŋ
səsaɪəti/
a financial institution where people
can get loans or earn interest on
money they invest.

*'When I was a kid my Aunt set up
an account for me with a building
society.'*

built like a brick shithouse (phrase)
an impolite, humorous term
for someone who is really big
and strong.

*'Daisy's new boyfriend is built like
a brick shithouse.'*

bum (noun) /bʌm/
alternative term for bottom.

'Does my bum look big in this skirt?'

bumbag (noun) /bʌmbæg/
a small bag that wraps around
the waist.

'Do people still use bumbags?'

bunk off (verb) /bʌŋk ɒf/
take time off school or work
without permission.

*'Did you know that your son
bunked off school this morning,
Mrs Peters?'*

bung (noun) /bʌŋ/
a payment made to persuade
someone to do something,
usually illegally.

*'Half the cricket team took bungs
in order to lose the match.'*

bunged-up (adjective) /bʌŋd ʌp/
if you are bunged-up, your nose is congested which makes it hard to smell or breathe. It is usually a symptom of a cold.

'You sound a little bunged-up Marco. Are you feeling alright?'

bunny-boiler (noun) /bʌni bɔɪlə/
a derogatory term for a woman who acts in a possessive and jealous way towards a former lover. It originates from the film 'Fatal Attraction', in which a character played by Glen Close kills the pet rabbit of her ex-lover's daughter.

'Just because your ex is still sending you WhatsApp messages doesn't make her a bunny-boiler, mate.'

busker (noun) /bʌskə/
someone who plays music in the street for money.

'There are some really talented buskers if you walk around central London.'

butters (adjective) /bʌtəz/
slang term meaning disgusting or unattractive.

'Oh my days, this burger is butters!'

butty (noun) /bʌti/ a term used mostly in the north of England for sandwich.

'Can I get a chip butty and a can of Coke, please?'

buzzing (adjective) /bʌzɪŋ/
excited or euphoric.

'The girls were buzzing about going to Disneyland.'

by-election (noun) /baɪleɪkʃən/
an election to choose an MP who is replacing a politician who has quit or died during their time in parliament.

'Labour suffered an embarrassing defeat in the latest by-elections.'

By gum! (exclamation) /baɪ ɡʌm/
old fashioned way to express surprise.

'By gum! I think I just saw a snake in the garden.'

C of E (noun) /si: əv i:/
Church of England.

'I went to a C of E primary school.'

cabbie (noun) /kæbi/
slang term for a taxi driver.

'My uncle has been a cabbie for 30 years.'

Cabinet (noun) /kæbɪnət/
The Cabinet is a decision-making body led by the Prime Minister and includes the 21 most senior elected ministers in the UK government, known individually as Cabinet Ministers.

'The Cabinet met on Friday afternoon to discuss the new trade proposals.'

cake-hole (noun) /keɪk həʊl/
slang term for mouth.

'It's about time you shut your cake-hole and started listening to other people's opinions.'



caned (adjective) /keɪnd/
slang term meaning intoxicated on alcohol or marijuana.

'You're caned, aren't you? I can see it in your eyes. They've gone all red.'

cannae (verb) /kæni/
Scottish form of 'can't'.

'I cannae go to work today because I'm not feeling so well.'

canny (adjective) /kæni/
nice or pleasant (used in the north of England and Scotland).

'My new neighbour seems like a canny lad.'

can't be arsed (phrase)
a rude version of 'can't be bothered'. It's an expression to say that someone doesn't want to do something or doesn't have the energy to do it.

'I really can't be arsed to go to work today.'

can't be doing with (something) (phrase)
If you can't be doing with something, you don't have the patience or desire to deal with it.

'I can't be doing with all this Brexit nonsense. All the politicians do is argue and never get anything resolved.'

capital (exclamation) /kæpɪtəl/
old-fashioned way to say excellent.

'That's an absolutely capital plan guys.'

caravan (noun) /kærəvæn/
a vehicle, pulled by a car, in which people can live and sleep.

'One of my first memories is staying in my aunt's caravan near the Lake District.'

car boot sale (noun) /kɑ: bu:t seɪl/
an outdoor market where people sell items out the back of their car or on little tables next to their car.

'You can get some real bargains at a car boot sale.'

car park (noun) /kɑ: pɑ:k/
a place where you can park your car.

'They are building a car park next to my office, which will be handy.'

cardie (noun) /kɑ:di:/
a short form of cardigan which is a sweater with buttons.

'I just bought a new cardie from H&M.'

carry the can (phrase) /kæri ðə kæn/
take responsibility or blame for something that went wrong.

'The government are going to have to carry the can for these high unemployment figures.'

cash machine/point (noun) /kæʃ məʃi:n/
a machine that dispenses cash (also ATM).

'The only cash point in the village is a ten-minute walk away.'

CBE (noun) /si: bi: i:/
Commander of the Order of the British Empire. It is a British honour given by the Queen for exceptional service and contributions to Britain.

'Benedict Cumberbatch has a CBE.'

Ceefax (noun) /si:fæks/
an antiquated form of presenting information via text on television (trademark).

'I used to check the football scores on Ceefax but these days I just use the internet.'

cha (noun) /tʃɑː/

a slang word for tea that derives its origins from India (also char).

'Does anyone fancy a cup of cha?'

champagne socialist (noun)

a derogatory term for someone who has socialist values while also living a rich lifestyle.

'Islington in north London is often described as an area filled with champagne socialists.'

chance would be a fine thing

(phrase)

used when you want something to happen, but there is almost no possibility of it actually happening.

A) *'Do you think England can win the World Cup this year?'*

B) *'Chance would be a fine thing.'*

Chancellor of the Exchequer (noun)

/tʃɑːnsələ əv ði ɛkstʃekə/

the person in the UK government who sets the annual budget and deals with other financial matters.

'The Chancellor of the Exchequer has kept taxes at the same rate for the last two years.'

chancer (noun) /tʃɑːnsə/

a chancer is someone who is opportunistic and takes

advantage of situations to benefit themselves. They may take risks and do things that other people wouldn't do.

'A lot of the guys I met in the banking industry were chancers who fought hard to get where they were.'

TOM'S TIPS

- The Eurostar takes just over
- two hours to go from London
- St Pancras, through the
- **channel tunnel**, to Paris.
- Perfect for a quick trip!

The Channel Tunnel (noun)

/tʃænəl tʌnəl/

the Eurostar train line running under the English Channel from England to France.

'I remember when the Queen opened the Channel Tunnel in 1994.'

chap (noun) /tʃæp/

boy or man.

'Right chaps! Shall we head to the pub now?'

charity shop (noun) /tʃærɪti ʃɒp/

a shop that sells mostly second-hand items for the profit of a certain charity.

'As a way to practise their English, I always tell my students to volunteer in a charity shop.'

chat someone up (phrasal verb)
speak to someone in a manner
that shows them you are sexually
attracted to them.

*'I've never had the courage to chat
someone up in a bar or pub.'*

the chattering classes (noun)
/tʃætərɪŋ ,klɑːsɪz/
a derogatory term for intellectual
middle-class people who express
their liberal views about politics and
wider social issues.

*'The prospect of a no-deal Brexit
hasn't gone down very well with
the chattering classes.'*

chav (noun) /tʃæv/
a derogatory term for a young
lower-class person.

*'The stereotype of a chav is
someone who wears a tracksuit and
behaves in an anti-social way.'*

chavvy (adjective) /tʃævi/
a derogatory word that describes
something or someone that is seen
as low-class and lacking education.

*'The shop I work in only sells cheap
handbags and chavvy watches.'*

cheeky (adjective) /tʃiːki/
slightly rude but in a funny way.

*'At school, the teachers always said
I was one of the cheekiest girls in
the class.'*

cheeky (adjective) /tʃiːki/
consume or do something
enjoyable spontaneously or
without planning.

*'Do you fancy getting a cheeky
pint before going home?'*

cheerio (exclamation) /tʃɪəriəʊ/
informal way to say goodbye.

*'I'm going to head home
now, cheerio!'*

cheers (interjection) /tʃɪəz/
informal way to say thank you.

*'Cheers for the lift Zoe. I really
appreciate it.'*

cheesed off (adjective) /tʃiːzd ɒf/
annoyed.

“A CHEEKY PINT”

'I'm really cheesed off Joan's not coming to my leaving do.'

Chelsea Pensioner (noun)

/tʃelsi penʃənə/

A Chelsea Pensioner is a resident at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, a retirement home and nursing home in London for former members of the British Army. They are well known for wearing very distinctive red uniforms.

'You are quite likely to see a Chelsea Pensioner or two if you hang around the King's Road in west London.'

Chelsea tractor (noun) /tʃelsi

træktər/

a derogatory and humorous term for a four-wheel-drive vehicle typically driven around the streets of London. Chelsea is a particularly wealthy area of the city where they are said to be found.

'The school run is full of Chelsea tractors trying to drop their kids off.'

Chequers (noun) /tʃekəz/

the name of the official country home of the British Prime Minister.

'The Prime Minister has been in Chequers all weekend hosting the French President.'

childminder (noun)

/tʃaɪld,maɪndə/

a person that looks after children while the parents are out (also babysitter).

'I've booked a childminder for Friday night so Silvio and I can go out for dinner.'

chin chin (exclamation) /tʃɪn tʃɪn/
slightly old-fashioned phrase used to express good wishes before drinking, similar to cheers.

'Chin chin everyone. Let's hope for a prosperous new year.'

chinwag (noun) /tʃɪnwæg/

an informal conversation or chat.

A) *'Who was that on the phone?'*

B) *'It was my aunt. She just wanted a quick chinwag.'*

chippy (noun) /tʃɪpi/

a fish and chip shop.

'Did you see there's a new chippy that's opened up by the seafront?'

choccy (noun) /tʃɒki/

informal term for chocolate.

'Can you pick me up some choccy from the corner shop?'

chuddies (noun) /tʃʌdi:z/

a term of Indian-English origin for 'underpants' made famous by comedian show 'Goodness Gracious Me' which had the catchphrase 'kiss my chuddies'.

'I need to buy a new pair of chuddies.'

chuffed (adjective) /tʃʌft/
very pleased (also chuffed to bits).

'You must be chuffed to bits with your job promotion.'

chugger (noun) /tʃʌgə/
humorous and slightly rude slang term for someone that stands in the street trying to raise money for a specific charity. It's a portmanteau of 'charity' and 'mugger'.

'There is always a gang of chuggers standing outside HSBC bank.'

chunder (verb) /tʃʌndə/
slang word for vomit.

'Last night was the first time I've chundered in years.'

cider (noun) /saɪdə/
an alcoholic drink made from apples.

'The best cider is from the southwest of England.'

ciggy (noun) /sɪgi/
short for cigarette (also ciggie)

'I'm just going to pop out for a quick ciggy.'

clanger (noun) /klæŋə/
slang word meaning a mistake.

'My boss dropped a real clanger

in her presentation today.'

clapped-out (adjective) /klæpt aʊt/
if a machine is clapped-out, it has been used so much that it no longer works very well.

'It's impossible to do your job as a teacher when you've only got a clapped-out photocopier to work with.'

claret (noun) /klærət/
slang for blood.

'That fight in the pub was vicious. I saw loads of claret on the floor.'

clearing (noun) /klɪərɪŋ/
the system British universities and colleges use to fill spare places on their courses. Once A-level students receive their results in August, they can use Clearing to find a place on a course they want.

'My A-level results weren't as good as I'd hoped for, so I used clearing to get a place at Cardiff uni.'

clear-out (noun) /klɪə raʊt/
an occasion when you sort through all your things and throw away what you don't need.

'I had a good clear-out at the weekend and gave loads of stuff to charity.'

cling film (noun) /klɪŋ fɪlm/
plastic used to wrap food.

'Wrap the sausages in cling film and

put them in the fridge and we'll have them tomorrow.'

clobber (noun) /klɒbə/
very informal word for clothes or personal items.

'I bought some new clobber with the money I got for Christmas.'

clock (verb) /klɒk/
see or notice something.

'Did you clock Yuki trying to chat up Natsumi?'

clunge (noun) /clʌndʒ/
very rude slang term for a vagina.

'I have never said the word clunge in all my life.'

cobblers (noun) /kɒbləz/
nonsense.

A) *'I hardly ever use Instagram, honestly!'*

B) *'Ha! What absolute cobblers! You are always on it.'*

Cockney (noun) /kɒkni/
someone from the East End of London.

'My grandmother was a Cockney born and bred but she lived in Canada for most of her life.'

cock-up (noun) /kɒkʌp/
a mistake.

'They've made a massive cock-up with our room booking. It looks like

we'll have to wait a few hours until we can check in.'

codswallop (noun) /kɒdzwɒləp/
nonsense.

A) *'I think Arsenal will win the Premier League this year.'*

B) *'What? That's absolute codswallop! They have got no chance against Manchester City.'*

(the) collywobbles (noun) /kɒliwɒbəlz/
a strong feeling of nervousness and mild fear.

'I always get the collywobbles before I fly.'

come a cropper (phrase) /kʌm ə krɒpə/
suffer a defeat or get injured badly.

'Wales won their first game, but they came a cropper against Italy in the second.'

comprehensive school (noun) /kɒmprihensiv sku:l/
a school for anyone in the UK between the ages of 11 and 18.

'The comprehensives in this area all got excellent in their Ofsted inspections.'

Conservative Party /kənsə:vətɪv pɑ:ti/
a British political party.

'Margret Thatcher was leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990.'

constituency (noun)

/kənstitʃuənsi/

an area in which someone is elected as its representative in parliament.

'The constituency of Hackney North has been a Labour stronghold for years.'

Cool Britannia (noun)

/ku:l britænjə/

this was a period during the 1990s in which there was an increased pride in British popular culture, led by the Spice Girls, Oasis, Blur, and the election of Tony Blair and New Labour.

'The years of Cool Britannia seem like a long time ago now.'

cop off (phrasal verb) /kɒp ɒf/

very informal phrase meaning to have a sexual encounter with someone.

'Did you see Maria cop off with Shana at the Christmas Party?'

copper (noun) /kɒpə/

slang term for police officer.

'I saw a pickpocket run along Oxford Street chased by two coppers.'

coppers (noun) /kɒpəz/

slang word for 1p and 2p coins.

'I've got nothing in my wallet except for a bunch of coppers.'

Cor blimey! (interjection)

/kɔ: blaimi/

used to show surprise (shortened to 'blimey!').

'Cor blimey! Have you seen what Jackie wore to the wedding?'

Corbynista (noun) /kɔ:bini:stə/

a slang term for someone who supports Jeremy Corbyn.

'I always vote Labour, but I wouldn't call myself a Corbynista.'

corner shop (noun) /kɔ:nə ʃɒp/

a local convenience store that sells basic food, drinks, and everyday items.

'Dad's just popped to the corner shop to buy some milk for tea.'

“ **CRACK**
ON ”

Cornish pasty (noun)

/kɔːnɪʃ pæsti/

a traditional pastry filled with vegetables and meat originating from Cornwall.

'When you go to Cornwall you have to try a Cornish pasty.'

Corrie (noun) /kɔːri/

affectionate name for the popular soap opera Coronation Street.

'If you grew up in the north of England, it was basically compulsory to watch Corrie.'

council estate (noun)

/kaʊnsəl ɪsteɪt/

an area of public housing provided by the government.

'My husband grew up on a council estate in Glasgow.'

council house/flat (noun)

/kaʊnsəl haʊs/

a house or flat provided by the local council for people on the lowest incomes.

'We've lived in a council flat in South Manchester for 5 years now.'

county (noun) /kaʊnti/

an area of Britain e.g. Yorkshire, Surrey or Essex.

'The largest county in Britain is Yorkshire.'

county council (noun)

/kaʊnti kaʊnsəl/

a group of elected people who represent a county.

'Kent county council have worked very hard to improve the infrastructure in the local area.'

courgette (noun) /kɔːzɛt/

a long green vegetable (zucchini in American English).

'All you need to do is chop up a few courgettes, add them to the soup and you are done.'

Cup Final (noun) /kʌp faɪnəl/

a term that traditionally referred to the FA cup final (football), but could be used to talk about any sporting Cup Final.

'Newcastle United haven't got to the Cup Final since 1999.'

cuppa (noun) /kʌpə/

short for a cup of tea.

'Would you like a cuppa?'

curate's egg (noun) /kjʊərəts ɛg/

something that is partly good but mostly bad.

'Coldplay's new album is a bit of a curate's egg in my opinion.'

current account (noun)

/kʌrənt əkaʊnt/

a bank account that you can withdraw money from easily, but one that doesn't earn much interest.

“I’M CHUFFED TO BITS.”

‘I’ve just opened a current account for my daughter before she starts university next year.’

cushty (adjective) /kʊʃti/
very good or pleasing.

‘I have two weeks off work, so life is pretty cushty right now.’

cutlery (noun) /kʌtləri/
the collective word for knives, forks, and spoons.

‘Can you put all those knives, and forks in the cutlery drawer?’

crack on (phrase) /kræk ɒn/
start/continue doing something often with enthusiasm and energy.

A) *‘Do you mind if I start organising the stationery cupboard?’*

B) *‘Yeah absolutely, crack on!’*

crack someone up (phrasal verb)
/kræk ʌp/
make someone laugh.

‘No one cracks me up as much as my little nephew. He’s hilarious!’

crackers (adjective) /krækəz/
a slang word for someone crazy.

‘You must be crackers if you think I’m going to let you borrow my car.’

crap (adjective) /kræp/
an impolite way to say not very good.

'Don't bother going to see the new action hero film, it's crap.'

crikey (exclamation) /kraiki/
used to show surprise.

'Crikey! I can't believe Stephanie has grown up so fast. When I last saw her, she was a little girl playing with her dolls, and now she's a trainee solicitor.'

Crimbo (noun) /krɪmbəʊ/
a short form of Christmas.

'Are you going to your parents house for Crimbo?'

crumbs (exclamation) /krʌmz/
a slightly old-fashioned way to express surprise or worry.

'Crumbs! Is that the time? We need to get going otherwise we'll miss our coach.'

CV (noun) /si:vi:/
short for Curriculum Vitae. The document you submit to a potential employer with a list of your relevant education and work experience.

'You'll need to update your CV before applying for that job at Sony.'

dab hand (noun) /dæb hænd/
someone that has a high level of
competency and skill in a certain
activity.

*'My dad is a dab hand at fixing
electronics if you want him to take
a look at your computer.'*

daft (adjective) /dɑ:ft/
silly or stupid.

*'Let's take the bus to the cinema.
It'd be daft to try and walk there in
this rain.'*

damp squib (noun) /dæmp skwɪb/
an event that doesn't live up to
expectations and is ultimately
disappointing.

*'The climate protest was a bit of a
damp squib in the end.'*

dead (adverb) /ded/
a slang word for very.

*'That film was dead good, I want to
watch it again.'*

D.

dear (adjective) /diə/
expensive.

'Blimey! Those shoes are a bit dear.'

dear (noun) /diə/
an affectionate term of
endearment for someone.

*'Morning dear, what would you like to
drink? I've just made a pot of coffee if
you'd like some.'*

death warmed up (phrase) /de θ
wɔ:md ʌp/
a humorous phrase meaning very ill.

*'Mate, go back to bed. You look like
death warmed up.'*

deffo (adverb) /defəʊ/
short for definitely.

A) *'Who do you think is going to win Strictly Come Dancing?'*

B) *'Deffo Angela and George. They are easily the best dancers on the show.'*

detached house (noun) /dɪtætʃt haʊs/

a house that is not connected to any other houses.

'One day, I'd love to live in a detached house in the country.'

devoed (adjective) /devəʊd/
abbreviation of devastated
(mainly used in Liverpool).

'I'm proper devoed Emma can't come to our wedding.'

dickhead (noun) /dɪkhed/
a very rude insult for someone you think is an idiot.

'A guy on the bus called me a dickhead because I was wearing a Chelsea shirt and an Arsenal scarf.'

dicky (adjective) /dɪki/
used to refer to body parts to say that they are not well or working properly.

'My uncle isn't as active as he used to be because of his dicky heart.'

diddle (verb) /dɪdəl/
to cheat or trick someone of their money.

'The shop keeper tried to diddle me out of ten quid.'

diddums (interjection) /dɪdəmz/
Used to express sympathy to a child or sarcastically to an adult.

A) *'Daddy, I hurt my foot playing football.'*

B) *'Awww diddums!'*

dig (noun) /dɪg/
a remark that is deliberately meant to criticise or make fun of someone.

'Whenever I see my brother, he makes digs at me about how I'm not married yet.'

digs (noun) /dɪgz/
place of residence.

'My student digs were located miles from campus and weren't very luxurious, if I'm honest.'

dim (adjective) /dɪm/
not very intelligent.

'Harry is a sweet little boy, but he can be a little dim sometimes.'

ding dong (noun) /dɪŋ.dɒŋ/
a very lively argument.

'My ex-boyfriend and I used to have massive ding dongs whenever we got drunk.'

dinky (adjective) /dɪŋki/
small in a positive way.

*'Awww your babies are gorgeous.
Look at how dinky their hands are!'*

dirty weekend (noun) /dɜːti
wi:kend/
a weekend away with a sexual
partner with the focus on having
lots of sex.

*'Kwame and I have booked a dirty
weekend in Paris together before
Easter.'*

dishy (adjective) /dɪʃi/
old fashioned term for good-
looking. Usually used to refer
to men.

*'My Mum always thought Cliff
Richard was very dishy.'*

divvy (noun) /divi/
an idiot (also div).

*'Charlie, why are you acting like
such a divvy?'*

divvy up (phrasal verb) /divi ʌp/
share or divide something.

*'If we win the lottery, we will have
to divvy up the winnings between
the four of us.'*

DIY (abbreviation) /di:aiwaɪ/
DIY is short for do-it-yourself. This
is the activity of making or repairing
something inside your home
instead of paying someone else
to do it.

*'I'm doing some DIY this morning
and then I'm off to the football this
afternoon.'*

do (noun) /du:/
slang word for party.

*'Are you coming to Chinami's
hen do?'*

do (verb) /du:/
punish/prosecute.

*'I've been done twice for speeding
by the police.'*

do (verb) /du:/
rip off, outsmart or cheat someone.
Often used in the passive.

“ **DEAD**
GOOD ”

A) 'How much was that jacket?'

B) '£120'

A) 'You've been done, mate!'

do a runner (phrase) /du: ə rʌnər/
leave somewhere like a restaurant
without paying.

*'We used to do runners from cafes
all the time as teenagers.'*

be doing (verb)
things happening.

*'I went to Steve's house party
to see what was going on, but
there wasn't anything doing so
I came home.'*

do (somebody's) nut in (phrase)
informal phrase to say someone is
really annoying you.

*'The kids have been doing my nut
in all day. I can't wait for the school
holidays to end.'*

do one (exclamation) /du: wʌn/
a rude way to tell someone to
go away.

A) 'There's no way you are passing
your driving test tomorrow!'

B) 'Do one!'

do someone over (phrasal verb)
informal way to say to attack
someone with punches and kicks.

*'He was done over by a group
of lads while walking home
last night.'*

dob someone in (phrasal verb)
inform a person of authority about
someone's illegal actions
or wrongdoings.

*'I'm going to dob you in to the
teacher unless you give me back
my pencil case.'*

doddle (noun) /dɒdəl/
something really easy to do.

*'My Spanish test was an
absolute doddle.'*

dodgy (adjective) /dɒdʒi/
dangerous.

*'I wouldn't walk around here at
night time. It can be a bit dodgy.'*

dodgy (adjective) /dɒdʒi/
untrustworthy.

*'I'm looking to move flats because
my landlord is super dodgy. He
changes the rent every month.'*

dog's bollocks (phrase) /dɒgz
bɒləks/
rude way to say brilliant/fantastic
(synonym of mutt's nuts).

*'Elif is the dog's bollocks when it
comes to darts. She is unbeatable.'*

dogsbody (noun) /dɒgzbɒdi/
a person who is asked to do all the
menial tasks and jobs no one else
wants to do.

'The worst job I ever had was at a garden centre where I was basically just a dogsbody.'

(on the) dole (noun) /dəʊl/
the dole is the money the government gives people who are unemployed. It is also known as the Jobseeker's Allowance.

'My sister-in-law has been on the dole since she left school.'

donkey's years (noun) /dɒŋkɪz jɪəz/
a long time.

'I haven't seen my school friends for donkey's years.'

dosh (noun) /dɒʃ/
slang for money.

'How much dosh have you got on you?'

doss around/about (phrasal verb)
/dɒs əraʊnd/
spend your time not doing very much.

'Isn't it time you got a job, Jamal? You've been dossing around for weeks now.'

doss (noun) /dɒs/
if something is a doss, it is very easy and doesn't require a lot of effort.

'To be honest, I don't really like my job, but it's a bit of a doss.'

dosshouse (noun) /dɒʃhaʊs/
a place where homeless people can spend the night.

'When my parents kicked me out of their home, I had to spend a few nights in a dosshouse.'

dotty (adjective) /dɒti/
an informal way to say someone is slightly strange or mentally ill.

'Her grandad has gone a little dotty since his wife passed away.'

double-barrelled name (noun)
/dʌbəl bæərəld neɪm/
a family name made up of two names put together, usually joined by a hyphen e.g. Walker-Peters.

'It's become more and more common to have a double-barrelled name these days.'

double dutch (noun) /dʌbəl dʌtʃ/
spoken or written English that is incomprehensible.

'Have you read the CEO's email to the board? It's double dutch!'

double yellow (line) (noun) /dʌbəl jeləʊ laɪn/
two yellow lines painted along the sides of some streets. It indicates that you may not park your car there.

'Why did you park on a double yellow? What if a traffic warden had walked past?'

dough (noun) /dəʊ/
slang word for money.

'Can you lend me some dough until payday?'

Down Under (noun) /daʊn ʌndər/
an informal phrase for Australia or New Zealand.

'He's been living Down Under with his boyfriend for 5 years.'

dual carriageway (noun) /dju:əl kærɪdʒweɪ/
a road with two lanes going in each direction that is divided by a strip of grass and usually a barrier.

'This dual carriageway takes us all the way to Leeds.'

duck (noun) /dʌk/
a term of endearment used particularly in the north of England.

'How are you, duck? Were you out last night?'

duck and dive (phrase) /dʌk ən daɪv/
use your resourcefulness and cunning to deal with a problem, situation or possibly an illegal activity.

'If you come from my part of London, you learn to do a lot of ducking and diving to survive.'

dummy (noun) /dʌmi/
a smooth object given to babies to suck on in order to soothe them when they are upset.

'When I went to the USA and asked where I could buy a dummy, the sales assistant looked confused.'

dungarees (noun) /dʌŋgəri:z/
an item of clothing that includes trousers, a piece of material over the chest, and two shoulder straps.

'I haven't worn dungarees since I was a child.'

dressed up like a dog's dinner (phrase) wearing clothes that show you are making an effort, but which are not appropriate for the situation.

'My parents turned up at my sister's birthday party dressed up like a dog's dinner. I had to tell them to go home and get changed into something more formal.'

drink-driving (noun) /drɪŋk draɪvɪŋ/
the act of driving under the influence of alcohol.

'The police pulled him over under the suspicion of drink-driving.'

dross (noun) /drɒs/
poor quality or of no use.

'To be honest, most of the programmes on TV these days are absolute dross.'

earbashing (noun) /ɪəbæʃɪŋ/
angry criticism said to someone.

'My boss gave me an earbashing for sending out the report without her checking it first.'

early doors (adverb) /ɜ:li dɔ:rz/
at or near to the beginning / at an early point.

'I told my boss early doors that I wouldn't be able to work over the Christmas holidays.'

East End (noun) /i:st endər/
someone from the East End of London.

'Even though we live in Birmingham both my parents are East Enders and we still have a lot of family living in Bethnal Green.'

easy peasy (lemon squeezy)
(phrase) /i:zi pi:zi/
a playful/childlike way to say something is easy.

'That driving theory test was easy peasy.'

A large, bold, black letter 'E' followed by a solid black circle, resembling a period or a dot. The 'E' is composed of thick horizontal bars and a vertical stem.

eff and blind/jeff (phrase) /ef ən blænd/
if you eff and blind you say swear words.

'I'm furious with Patricio! He was effing and blinding around the kids.'

effing (adjective) /efɪŋ/
used to add emphasis and avoid using the F word.

'There's no effing way I'm going to their wedding after the way they treated me!'

eff off (exclamation) /ef ɒf/
used to tell someone to go away in a rude way (less rude than f**k off).

'I'd love to learn the different features of an Estuary English accent.'

euroseptic (noun) /juərəʊ, skeptɪk/
someone who opposes Britain's involvement with the European Union.

'Even though my father was a eurosceptic he always admired some of the European leaders.'

ex-council flat (noun)
/eks kaunsəl flæt/
a flat that used to belong to the local council and used for public

housing but has since been bought by the tenant and is therefore privately owned. From then on it is known as 'ex-council'.

'All the properties the estate agent showed us were ex-council.'

expiry date (noun) /ɪkspɪəri deɪt/
the date printed on food containers that indicates the last day the food should be consumed.

'When's the expiry date on that pack of tomatoes?'



“ One of Britain's favourite soap operas is “EastEnders’. It is set in a fictional part of the East End of London called ‘Walford’. It’s a portmanteau of ‘Walthamstow’ and ‘Stratford’ two real areas in east London. ”

FA (noun) /ef eɪ/
stands for Football Association.
This is the governing body that
runs football in England.

'The FA was founded in 1863'

FA Cup (noun) /ef eɪ kʌp/
first played in 1871, the FA Cup
is the oldest national football
competition in the world. All teams
who belong to England's Football
Association compete to win the
silver trophy in May every year.

*'Tottenham Hotspur have won the
FA Cup 8 times.'*

fag (noun) /fæg/
slang for cigarette.

*'My grandma smoked 30 fags
a day until she died.'*

fairy cake (noun) /feəri keɪk/
a small round cake with icing
on the top.

*'We made fairy cakes with the kids
yesterday afternoon.'*

F.

faith school (noun) /feɪθ sku:l/
a school in the United Kingdom that
teaches a general curriculum but
which has a formal link to a certain
religion or faith-based organisation.

*'I'd like my children to go to a faith
school if possible.'*

fancy (verb) /fænsi/
if you fancy someone you are
attracted to them sexually.

*'All the girls used to fancy this boy
called John Williams at school.'*

fancy (verb) /fænsi/
to want/desire something.

*'I really fancy getting an Indian
takeaway tonight. What do you
reckon?'*

fancy dress (noun) /fænsi dres/
the special clothes people wear to themed parties. For example, at a Halloween party you might wear a skeleton costume.

'I'm thinking of making my 21st birthday party fancy dress.'

fanny around (phrase) /fæni əraund/
wasting time instead of getting on with the task you need to get done.

'Can we stop fannyng around and actually leave the house before we are late for the wedding?'

Father Christmas (noun) /fɑːðə krɪsməs/
a man in a red suit who brings presents to people around the world on the 25th December (also Santa Claus).

'Father Christmas was very generous this year and brought me and my little brother a PlayStation!'

festive season (noun) /festɪv siːzən/
the period of time before Christmas and continuing through to New Year's Eve.

'Are you going back up north for the festive season?'

fill your boots (phrase) /fɪl jɔː buːts/
informal phrase used to mean 'have as much as you want' e.g. at a buffet or at dinner.

'We've laid on a few snacks and drinks for you guys so please fill your boots.'

first floor (noun) /fɜːst flɔːr/
the floor above the ground floor.

'She bought a first floor flat two years ago.'

fit (adjective) /fɪt/
slang word to describe someone as attractive/hot.

'Have you seen the new guy that works in Hollister? He's so fit.'

fitba (noun) /fɪtbə/
Scottish pronunciation of 'football'.

'Did you go to the fitba on Saturday?'

fiveer (noun) /faɪvər/
slang for five pounds.

A) *'How much are those flowers?'*

B) *'They're a fiveer.'*

flag (verb) /flæg/
informal word that means to get tired or weak

'Can we stop walking for a minute guys? I'm flagging a little.'

flaming (adjective) /fleɪmɪŋ/
used to intensify something particularly in an angry way.

'You flaming idiot! You nearly broke my foot with that dumbbell.'

flaming nora (expression) /fleɪmɪŋ nɔːrə/
used to show surprise or irritation.

'Flaming Nora! HMRC have sent me a huge tax rebate.'

flash/flashy (adjective) /flæʃ/
ostentatious.

'You know who Francois is. He's the guy that drives a flash car to the office.'

flat (noun) /flæt/
a place where people live that is part of a larger building.

'How long ago did you buy your flat?'

flatmate (noun) /flætmeɪt/
the person you live with in a flat.

'I live with two flatmates at the moment.'

the flicks (noun) /fliks/
slightly old-fashioned term for the cinema.

'Shall we go to the flicks on Friday night?'

flies (noun) /flaɪz/
the zipper on a pair of trousers (also 'fly').

'Mate, your flies are undone!'

flog (verb) /flɒg/
to sell something, usually quickly, and for a reduced price.

'Our neighbours are trying to flog their old Ford Capri, do you think Marco would want to buy it?'

fluff (verb) /flʌf/
to fail to do something successfully.

'I hope I don't fluff my lines in the play tonight.'

fluke (noun) /fluːk/
something good that comes from luck or chance.

'It was pure fluke that I got this job.'

flukey (adjective) /fluːkiː/
a person or thing that benefits from luck or chance.

'Manchester United scored one of the flukiest goals you will ever see.'

flutter (noun) /flʌtə/
a small bet.

'I always like to have a flutter on the Grand National.'

fly-tipping (noun) /flaɪtɪpɪŋ/
the illegal dumping of unwanted items (usually next to roads and other public locations).

'Fly-tipping has become a real problem around here since the Police stopped patrolling the streets.'

“FULL OF BEANS”

‘The Prime Minister knows his frontbench will support his new plans.’

frontbencher (noun) /frʌnt bentʃər/
a government minister or member of the shadow cabinet.

‘Government frontbenchers are furious about the Prime Minister’s decision to enter into discussions with the opposition leader.’

fruitcake (noun) /fru:t keɪk/
a slang term for someone crazy.

‘Look at that fruitcake swimming out there on a freezing day like today.’

fry up (noun) /fraɪ ʌp/
another phrase for a full English breakfast.

‘My grandad used to have a fry up every morning before work!’

full English breakfast (noun) /ful ɪŋɡlɪʃ brekfəst/
a traditional English breakfast usually consisting of sausages, eggs, bacon, baked beans, tomatoes, mushrooms, black pudding, and toast.

‘When you visit London you’ve got to try a full English.’

full monty (noun) /ful mɒnti/
used to describe something that has everything you require or

expect. It is also a term used for a male striptease (see the film 'The Full Monty' for more details).

'Our safari was amazing we saw lions, tigers, elephants, gorillas, the full monty!' (*not the male striptease).*

full of beans (phrase) /fʊl əv bi:nz/
to have a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

'Christina never looks tired, it seems like she's full of beans 24/7.'

further education (noun) /fɜːðər edʒukeɪʃən/
this is education for people who

have left school but who are not at university.

'It's important for more people to have access to further education.'

the fuzz (noun) /fʌz/
slang term for the police.

'It took ten minutes for the fuzz to finally arrive and break up the fighting.'

gadgie (noun) /gædzɪ:/
man (used in Scotland and North
East England) (also gadge).

*'Did you see that proper drunk
gadgie walking in the street?'*

gaff (noun) /gæf/
slang word for house.

*'We're about to drive past Dave's
new gaff.'*

gaffer (noun) /gæfər/
boss.

*'Have you asked the gaffer if you
can have Friday off?'*

gag (noun) /gæg/
an informal word for joke.

*'David Walliams and Harry
Enfield did this hilarious gag
about The Queen.'*

gagging (for something) (verb)
/gæɡɪŋ/
desperate for something.

*'I'm absolutely gagging for a glass
of water.'*



gagging for it (phrase) rude phrase to
suggest someone is eager for sex.

*'Go and chat to that guy over there,
he's clearly gagging for it.'*

gak (noun) /gæk/
slang word for cocaine.

*'It's crazy how many guys on the stag
party were doing gak.'*

gallus (adjective) /gæləs/
a Scottish term for someone daring
or bold.

*'Isla's more gallus than me if she's
actually going to climb Ben Nevis
on her own.'*

gammon (noun) /gæmən/
a modern insult for red-faced angry
old men with right-wing views. It was

coined by a Twitter user who used the term to describe a group of men who supported Brexit and who supposedly had faces that resembled gammon steaks.

'The town I live in is absolutely full of gammon. I want to move somewhere more liberal.'

gammy (adjective) /gæmi/
if a part of your body is gammy it is painful, stiff or doesn't work properly.

'I've had a gammy knee ever since I did the marathon.'

gan (verb) /gæn/
slang for 'go' used in North East England.

'I'm gannin' down the chippy, do you want anything?'

gander (noun) /gændər/
have a look around or at something.

'Let's have a gander around the old town and see if we can find a nice pub for a drink.'

gap year (noun) /gæp jɪər/
a year between leaving school and starting university in which the individual usually works or travels to gain some life experience.

'He spent his gap year working on a vineyard in Tuscany.'

gash (noun) /gæʃ/ - an offensive slang term for a vagina.

'I first heard the word 'gash' used on 'The Inbetweeners'.'

gastropub (noun) /gæstrəʊpʌb/
a pub that serves high-quality food.

'They are turning the old cinema into a huge gastropub.'

gawp (verb) /gɔ:p/
look at someone/something for a long time in a rude or stupid way.

'Mina, stop gawping at the barista and go chat to him.'

gazump (verb) /gəzʌmp/
if you are buying a house and the seller agrees to sell it to you but then sells it to someone else for more money, you have been gazumped.

'We thought we'd bought a semi-detached house in York but frustratingly we were gazumped at the last minute.'

GBH (noun) /dʒi: bi: eɪtʃ/
abbreviation for Grievous Bodily Harm. This is a legal term for a physical attack by one person on another.

'He's in court for GBH and armed robbery.'

GBP (noun) /dʒi: bi: pi:/
abbreviation for British Pound.

“GEEZER”

'GBP is now weaker against USD than it was this time last year.'

GCSE (noun) /dʒi: si: es i:/
General Certificate of Secondary Education. A qualification in a certain subject taken by students in the UK (except Scotland) between the ages of 14–16. Once students complete their GCSEs they can go on to study A-levels.

'I took nine GCSEs and managed to get all 7s except for one subject in which I got an 8.'

geet walla (adjective) /gi:t wɒlə/
very big (used in Newcastle).

'There was a geet walla queue at the bus stop so I decided to walk.'

geezer (noun) /gi:zər/
slang word for a man. It's often used with specific collocations e.g. top geezer, diamond geezer, old geezer, dodgy geezer.

'I got chatting to this old geezer in the pub who said he knew Bobby Moore, the England captain at the 1966 World Cup.'

(the) gents (noun) /dʒents/
euphemism for male toilet.

'I think the gents is upstairs and along the corridor.'

gentry (noun) /dʒentri/
the aristocratic class who own land around Britain.

'The House of Lords used to be made up of aristocrats and landed gentry.'

Geordie (noun) /dʒɔ:di/
someone from Newcastle.

'My flatmate is a Geordie and she pops back home to Newcastle every other weekend.'

get a wriggle on (phrase) /get ə rɪɡəl ɒn/
hurry up.

'Come on kids, get a wriggle on otherwise we'll be late for Grandad's birthday.'

get the nod (phrase) /get ðə nɒd/
be selected or given permission.

'Two Liverpool youngsters have got the nod from manager Jurgen Klopp for Saturday's match with Everton.'

get off (phrasal verb) /get ɒf/
to kiss and cuddle with someone in a romantic way. Similar to make out with someone.

'All I remember from my school discos were teenagers getting off and bad music.'

get on someone's wick/nerves/tits (phrase) annoy someone.

'I love my brother but he's really starting to get on my wick. I think I'm going to ask him to find somewhere else to stay.'

get your end away (phrase) /get jɔːr end əweɪ/
if someone gets their end away they have sex.

'On Friday nights all Teddy cares about is getting his end away.'

get your head down (phrase) /get jɔːr hed daʊn/
work hard and focus on what you are doing.

'Tomorrow I'm going to get my head down and revise for my French exam.'

get your kit off (phrase) /get jɔːr kit ɒf/
humorous phrase you might say to someone meaning 'take your clothes off'.

'Come on lads, get your kit off!'

get your knickers in a twist (phrase)
a humorous phrase meaning to get upset/annoyed about something.

'Steve, don't get your knickers in a twist. We'll get to the airport in time!'

ghastly (adjective) /gɑːstli/
very bad or unpleasant.

A) *'How was your weekend in Wales?'*

B) *'It was wonderful although the weather was ghastly for most of our time there.'*

ginnel / gennel (noun) /ɡɪnəl/ or /ɡenəl/
a narrow alleyway between terraced houses in the north of England.

'We used to play games in the ginnels by my gran's house in Blackburn.'

gip (verb) /ɡɪp/
retch or feel like vomiting.

'The strong smell of fish in that market made me gip.'

git (noun) /ɡɪt/
an unpleasant individual.

'I don't talk to my neighbour. He's a bit of a git if I'm honest.'

give over! (phrase)
a way to tell someone to stop

doing something that's annoying.

A) *'Are you going to finally ask Chiara out?'*

B) *'Oh give over! You know I'm not interested.'*

give someone a bell/ring/call (phrase) /gɪv sʌmwʌn ə bel/
to call someone on the phone.

'I'll give you a bell when I get out of class.'

give someone stick (phrase) /gɪv sʌmwʌn stɪk/
criticise or verbally abuse someone.

'The fans gave the opposing players a lot of stick when they came onto the football pitch.'

giz (verb) /gɪz/
slang variation of 'give us'.

'Giz back my pen you little thief!'

“ Each city has a term for the people that are from there. The technical term is a 'demonym'. People from Newcastle are 'Geordies', someone from Glasgow is 'Glaswegian' and if you come from Liverpool you are a 'Scouser'. ”

glandular fever (noun) /glænd jələ fi:vər/
an infectious disease that lasts a long time and makes you feel weak and sick.

'Roberto has been off work for a week with glandular fever.'

Glasgow kiss (noun) /glɑ:zgəʊ kɪs/
a slang term for a head-butt i.e. using your head to hit someone.

'She's threatened to give me a Glasgow kiss if I don't leave the party now.'

Glaswegian (noun) /glæzwɪ:dʒən/
someone from Glasgow.



'My grandmother was a Glaswegian but lived most of her life in Edinburgh.'

GMT (noun) /dʒi: em ti:/
abbreviation for Greenwich Mean Time, which is the time measured from the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London.

'We are going live on YouTube at 3 pm GMT.'

go down (phrasal verb)
/gəʊ daʊn/
to be sent to prison.

'Gemma's boyfriend went down for armed robbery.'

go off (phrasal verb) /gəʊ ɒf/
if food goes off it turns bad, changes smell or colour and becomes inedible.

'I'm going to get some more eggs, these ones have gone off.'

go tits-up (verb) /gəʊ tɪtʃ ʌp/
if something goes tits up it goes wrong/fails.

'My plans to throw Juliana a surprise birthday party have gone completely tits-up. She saw a text I sent a friend with the time and date of it so she knows I'm planning something.'

gob (noun) /gɒb/
slang for mouth.

'Shut your gob!'

gobby (adjective) /gɒbi/
someone who talks in a loud opinionated way.

'Their son has turned into a right gobby so and so.'

gobshite (noun) /gɒbʃaɪt/
a rude insult for someone stupid or contemptible.

'Don't be such a gobshite, Terry!'

gobsmacked (adjective)
/gɒbsmækt/
very surprised.

'Your mother was gobsmacked when you arrived for her birthday party.'

the Gods (noun) /ðə ɡɒdz/
an informal phrase for the seats in a theatre that are furthest from the stage and highest up.

'Even though we were sat in the Gods, we could see the play perfectly well.'

golly gosh (exclamation) /gɒli ɡɒʃ/
an old-fashioned way to show surprise or worry.

'Golly gosh! I never knew my neighbour was the daughter of a famous film star.'

goose pimples (noun)
/gu: s pɪmpəlz/
tiny raised areas of your skin that occur because you are excited, nervous or thrilled in some way.

'Watching Meghan Markle walk down the aisle gave me goose pimples.'

Gordon Bennett (exclamation) /gɔːdən benɪt/
an old fashioned phrase used to show surprise or annoyance.

'Gordon Bennett! Have you seen what the kids have done to the kitchen?'

gormless (adjective) /gɔːmləs/
foolish / slow-witted.

A) *'Is that you in the photo? You look so young!'*
B) *'Yeah, that's me and my friends at school. Wow! We look so gormless.'*

got (past participle)
UK - get got got
USA - get got gotten

GP (noun) /dʒiː piː/
a general practitioner i.e. a doctor who deals with general medical issues.

'I've got to see my GP about vaccinations for my trip to Thailand.'

graft (verb) /graːft/
work hard.

'You have to really graft if you want to be successful in this world.'

grafter (noun) /graːftər/
someone who works hard.

'I'm so impressed with the builders doing up my house, they are such grafters.'

grammar school (noun) /græmə sku:l/
a type of state school in Britain for children aged 11-18. All students are required to pass an entrance exam. They are much less common now than in the past.

'My grandmother was the first in our family to go to a grammar school.'

grand (noun) /grænd/
one thousand pounds sterling.

'Did you hear the CEO is getting a fifty grand bonus?'

grand (adjective) /grænd/
great.

'We had a grand time in Blackpool last weekend. I really recommend going.'

grass (noun) /graːs/
someone who tells the police/an authority figure, information about another person's wrongdoing (usually criminal).

'The gang never found out who the grass was.'

grass on someone (phrasal verb) /graːs ɒn/
if you grass on someone you tell the police/authorities about their wrongdoing.

'Simon grassed on me to the teacher about stealing his homework.'

greasy spoon (noun) /gri:si spu:n/
a cheap and cheerful cafe that sells mainly fried food like full English breakfasts, chips, burgers etc.

'My grandad used to take me to the local greasy spoon every Saturday for a full English.'

greedy-guts (noun) /gri:di gʌts/
a term to describe someone who is greedy, especially about food.

'Did you eat all the chocolate biscuits? You are such a greedy-guts!'

green belt (noun) /gri:n belt/
The area of protected countryside surrounding towns and cities in which there are restrictions on building development.

'Protesters demanded the end of a bill that allowed building on the green belt.'

grockle (noun) /grɒkəl/
a derogatory term used in the south of England (Devon and Cornwall) for a holidaymaker or tourist.

'The town is full of grocks during summer, it's unbearable.'

grotty (adjective) /grɒti/
dirty or unpleasant.

'I've stayed in some grotty hotels in my time but this one was the worst.'

ground floor (noun) /graʊnd flɔ:r/
the floor that is at the same level as the ground/street.

'She bought a ground floor flat in Selly Oak, Birmingham two years ago and the value has gone up 10%.'

**“I’LL GIVE
YOU A
BELL.”**

grub (noun) /grʌb/
slang word for food.

'Mum left us some grub for when we got back from football.'

guttled (adjective) /gʌtɪd/
very disappointed.

'Oh look, the kids are guttled about the match. Maybe we should do something to cheer them up.'

the gutter press (noun)
/gʌtə pres/
sensationalist or low quality newspapers.

'As a journalist, Owen only ever worked for the gutter press.'

guy'nor (noun) /gʌnənər/
a slang term for someone in charge or used as a greeting to show respect to someone in authority.

'You're the guy'nor so you let us know how you want your loft extension to look and we'll do it.'

Guy Fawkes Night (noun) /gʌi fɔ:ks nait/

A celebration on 5th November when British people light bonfires and fireworks to remember the Gunpowder Plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament by Guy Fawkes in 1605. It's also known as Bonfire Night.

'There's a huge fireworks display at Alexandra Palace on Bonfire Night.'

gyp (noun) /dʒɪp/
pain.

'My ankle is really giving me gyp.'

hacked-off (adjective) /hækt ɒf/
annoyed/pissed off.

'I am so hacked-off I didn't get invited to Marlon and Emily's wedding.'

hackney carriage/cab (noun)
/hækni kærɪdʒ/
the proper term for a London black taxi.

'There's nothing more iconic in London than the hackney carriage.'

haggis (noun) /hæɡɪs/
a traditional Scottish dish made of a sheep's or calf's offal mixed with suet, oatmeal, and seasoning.

'If you go to Scotland, you have to try haggis.'

half (noun) /hɑ:f/
half a pint (284 ml).

'I'll just have half a Guinness, please.'

half-board (noun) /hɑ:f bɔ:d/
a hotel room which also includes breakfast and either lunch/dinner.

'We've booked 2 nights half-board in a seaside hotel in Cornwall.'



half term (noun) /hɑ:f tɜ:m/
a week-long break for schools in the middle of each term.

'Are you guys going away for half term?'

half-arsed (adjective) /hɑ:f ɑ:st/
do something in a careless and lazy way.

'She made a half-arsed attempt to apologise after forgetting my birthday.'

halls of residence (noun)
/hɔ:l əv rezɪdəns/
a residential building where students live.

'Will you walk me back to my halls of residence?'

happy slapping (noun) /hæpi slæpiŋ/

the act of attacking someone randomly, filming it and sharing it with people online for your own entertainment.

'Thankfully happy slapping seems to happen much less frequently these days.'

hard (adjective) /hɑ:d/

tough and willing to fight.

'You've got to be hard to work as a bouncer.'

hard done by (phrase) /hɑ:d dʌn baɪ/

when you have not been treated fairly you could say that you 'feel hard done by'.

'Justina must feel pretty hard done by not getting that promotion. She totally deserved it.'

hard shoulder (noun) /hɑ:d ʃəʊldə/

the area along the side of a motorway where cars are permitted to stop if they have a problem.

'Let's pull on to the hard shoulder and see what's wrong with the car.'

Harley Street (noun) /hɑ:li stri:t/

a street in London that is extremely well known and respected for its private medical professionals. It has long been the go-to place for wealthy clients

to get advice from Britain's leading surgeons.

'Dr Sing has opened a small practice on Harley Street.'

have a bash at something (phrase)

try to do something.

'I'm going to have a bash at writing a song on the piano.'

have a face like the back end of a bus (phrase)

offensive way to say someone is ugly.

'Not only is he a crap reality TV contestant, he also has a face like the back end of a bus.'

have a go at someone (phrase)

/hæv ə ɡəʊ æt/

if you have a go at someone you criticise them (sometimes unfairly).

'I'm not having a go at you Andrey, I'm just saying it would have been nice if you had asked before borrowing my car.'

have a laugh (phrase) /hæv ə lɑ:f/

have fun or joke around.

'I had such a laugh on Friday night with my uni mates.'

having a laugh (phrase) /hævɪŋ ə lɑ:f/

used to challenge a ludicrous or insulting thing someone has said.



“ Brits love a euphemism for sex. Some examples include ‘hanky panky’, ‘how’s your father?’ and ‘get your end away’. ”

A) ‘How much are these running shoes?’

B) ‘£299’

A) ‘Are you having a laugh?’

have kittens (phrase) /hæv kɪtənz/
to be very anxious or worried.

‘If we are not back before midnight my parents will have kittens.’

have (someone) on (phrasal verb)
attempting to fool or deceive someone, usually as a joke.

‘My sister says she’s met George Clooney. I’m sure she’s having me on.’

have the hump (with someone)
(phrase) /hæv ðə hʌmp/

if you have the hump with someone you are upset with them or angry.

‘I’ve got the hump with my boss because she won’t give me two days off work to go on my mate’s stag do.’

head girl/boy (noun) /hed ɡɜ:l/bɔɪ/
the top girl or boy who is the leader of the prefects and represents the school at events.

‘Do you think Luisa will be a good head girl?’

headteacher (noun) /hed ti:tʃər/
the teacher in charge of a school. It can be used for males or females.

'I've no doubt Joe will be a headteacher sooner rather than later.'

hen party/do (noun) /hen pati/
the celebration a woman has before she gets married.

'So many hen parties go abroad these days.'

her indoors (phrase) /hɜːr ɪndɔːz/
a humorous term for one's wife.

'It's her indoors that makes all the decisions in this family.'

hereditary peer (noun) /həredɪtəri piə/
a member of the hereditary nobility in Britain. This title is passed down from one generation to the next and 92 are permitted to sit in the House of Lords.

'The concept of hereditary peers is such an old fashioned one. I can't believe it still exists in 21st century Britain.'

het up (adjective) /het ʌp/
agitated, anxious or angry.

'Don't get so het up over Brexit.'

high street (noun) /haɪ stri:t/
the principal street in the centre of a town that has the main shops and buildings.

'A lot of the shops on the high street have their sales on right now.'

high tea (noun) /haɪ tiː/
a light meal in the afternoon usually containing tea, sandwiches, scones, and cakes.

'My mother and I make a tradition of going for high tea every year for her birthday.'

Highway Code (noun) /haɪweɪ kəʊd/
the official set of rules that apply to all road users in the United Kingdom.

'Before you pass your driving test you have to learn everything you can from the Highway Code.'

hire purchase (noun) /haɪə pɜːtʃəs/
a way to pay for something like a TV or car in which the purchaser pays a small amount upfront and then regular instalments thereafter.

'We bought this fridge on hire purchase.'

HMS (abbreviation) /eɪtʃ em es/
short for Her/His Majesty's Ship. It goes before every ship in the British navy.

'One of the biggest tourist attractions in London is HMS Belfast which is moored by the South Bank.'

hoarding (noun) /hɔːdɪŋ/
a large board by the side
of a road with adverts on.

*'During the election it felt like every
advertising hoarding had Boris
Johnson's face on.'*

hob (noun) /hɒb/
the surface top of a cooker on
which pans can be heated.

*'The hobs on my cooker don't seem
to be working so I can't cook any
pasta at the moment.'*

Hogmanay (noun) /hɒgməneɪ/
the name of the New Year's Eve
celebration in Scotland.

*'We're heading to Edinburgh
for Hogmanay.'*

hole in the wall (noun)
/həʊl ɪn ðə wɔːl/
informal phrase for an ATM
(automatic cash dispenser).

*'Is there a hole in the wall
anywhere around here? I need
to get some cash.'*

Holyrood (noun) /hɒlɪruːd/
a metonym for the Scottish
parliament.

*'A decision to change the legal
drinking age in Scotland will be
made by Holyrood this week.'*

Home Office (noun) /həʊm ɒfɪs/
the UK government department
responsible for visas, passports,
counter-terrorism and for making
decisions about people who want

“YOU'RE
HAVING
A LAUGH”

to move to the UK from abroad.

'I've applied to the Home Office for a new passport.'

Home Secretary (noun)

/həʊm sekɾətəri/

the government minister in charge of the Home Office.

'The new Home Secretary is going to announce new visa rules for overseas students.'

hoodie (noun) /hudi/

a young person wearing a hooded top who is thought to be up to no good.

'There were a bunch of hoodies hanging around the entrance to the estate so I decided to take a different route home.'

hooter (noun) /hu:tər/

slang term for a nose.

'The first thing you notice about him is his enormous hooter.'

hoover (verb) /hu:vər/

a British trademark, it is used as a verb meaning to clean the carpet with a vacuum cleaner.

'George, can you Hoover the stairs before the guests arrive?'

horses for courses (proverb)

a phrase used to say that different people like different things or that different people have different skillsets to other people.

'Half the team like working in the office and half like working from home. It's horses for courses.'

House of Commons (noun) /haus

əv kɔ:mənz/

the lower house in which 650 elected members of parliament meet in Westminster, London.

'You can go to the House of Commons when it is in session. It's a fascinating experience.'

House of Lords (noun)

/haus əv lɔ:dz/

the upper house of the UK Parliament. The members of the Lords are unelected which is in contrast to the House of Commons. They look at bills that have been approved by the House of Commons.

'The House of Lords is in session this afternoon.'

how long is a piece of string?

(phrase) used to say it is impossible to give an exact answer to a question.

A) *'How much is the Christmas party going to cost?'*

B) *'How long is a piece of string?'*

howay! (exclamation) /həweɪ/

a greeting in the North East of England.

'Howay man! Did you have a good weekend?'

how's your father (euphemism)
/haʊz jɔːr fɑːðər/
old fashioned humorous term
for sexual intercourse.

*'Sounds like they are having a bit of
how's your father upstairs!'*

HRH (abbreviation) /eɪtʃ ɑːr eɪtʃ/
short for His/Her Royal Highness
which is a title for some members
of the royal family.

*'Prince William is HRH the Duke
of Cambridge.'*

hundreds and thousands (noun)
/hʌndrədz ənd θaʊzəndz/
small colourful pieces of sugar that
are sprinkled on the top of cakes.

*'Let's finish off our fairy cakes
by adding some hundreds and
thousands on top.'*

hunky-dory (adjective)
/hʌŋki dɔːri/
an old-fashioned term. If everything
is hunky-dory it's fine / going well.

*'Everything was hunky-dory on the
roads today so thankfully I got to
work a little early.'*

HQ (noun) /eɪtʃ kjuː/
an affectionate colloquial term
for Twickenham stadium, the
home of the England rugby team.

*'We're going to HQ for the big
match against South Africa on
Saturday.'*

“ **HOW'S
YOUR
FATHER** ”

ice lolly (noun) /aɪs lɒli/
a fruit flavoured ice stick.

*'Let's make ice lollies
this afternoon.'*

icing sugar (noun) /aɪsɪŋ ʃʊgər/
the powdery sugar used for icing
on the top of cakes.

*'We'll need to buy some eggs and
icing sugar if we want to make a
cake for Charlie's birthday.'*

identity parade (noun) /aɪdɛntɪti
pəreɪd/
a row of people including a
suspected criminal. A witness
or victim is asked to identify the
suspect correctly.

*'They had an identity parade on
Eastenders and I swear all of them
looked exactly the same.'*

in for a penny (in for a pound)
(saying) used to express someone's
intention to complete a task no



matter how hard it might become.

*'Well we've started climbing Mount
Snowdon and we can't turn back, so
in for a penny I guess.'*

in the buff (phrase) /ɪn ðə bʌf/
slang for nude.

*'Next week I'm posing for an art
class completely in the buff.'*

independent school (noun)
/ɪndɪpɛndənt sku:l/
another way to say private school
which is fee-paying.

*'There is a list of the top 50
independent schools in this
week's Sunday Times.'*

infant school (noun) /ɪnfənt sku:l/
school for children between the ages of 4-7 (also known as 'the infants').

'Jasmine is in her last year of infant school.'

innit (contraction) /ɪnɪt/
Initially it was a contraction of 'isn't it' but it has now become widely used to replace any auxiliary in a question tag. It can also be used to agree with someone. It's extremely informal and mainly used by younger members of society.

'You support Arsenal, innit?' = 'you support Arsenal, don't you?'

'You've been to Poland, innit?' = 'You've been to Poland, haven't you?'

“ I love the word 'innit'!
You can use it to replace any auxiliary in a question tag, so there's no need for any complicated grammar..... that's genius, innit? ”

ISA (noun) /aɪsə/
abbreviation for 'individual savings account'. A tax-free savings account available to people in the UK.

'I'm going to open up an ISA and start saving for a deposit on a house.'

ITV (noun) /aɪ ti: vi:/
The first independent television channel in Britain.

'One of the shows that is synonymous with ITV is Coronation Street.'



Jack-the-lad (noun)

/dʒæk ðə læd/

an overly confident young man who thinks he is attractive and a bit of a bad boy.

'Blimey! Shaun has turned into a bit of a Jack-the-lad, hasn't he? He used to be such a quiet, sweet boy.'

jacksie (noun) /dʒæksi/

slang term for 'bottom'.

'Pull your trousers up lad! I can see half your jacksie.'

jammy (adjective) /dʒæmi/

very lucky often without doing anything to deserve it.

'I can't believe that jammy little brother of mine got an interview at Facebook.'

jelly (noun) /dʒeli/

a wobbly sweet fruity dessert.

'Can we have jelly for dessert Mummy?'



jelly baby (noun) /dʒeli beibi/

a small baby-shaped fruity sweet.

'When we were kids my Dad always bought us a packet of jelly babies for long car journeys.'

jessie (noun) /dʒɛsi/

An offensive term for a man who is seen as weak or oversensitive.

'The coach called me a jessie for wearing gloves during football practice.'

jim-jams (noun) /dʒɪm dʒæmz/

a child-like way to say pyjamas.

'OK kids, go upstairs and put on your jim-jams.'

Job centre (noun) /dʒɒb sentər/
the place unemployed people go to look for work or get advice about employment issues.

'I'm going to pop down to the Job centre later and see if they've got any workshops on interview skills.'

Jobseeker's Allowance (noun)
/dʒɒbsi:kəz əlauəns/
the money the government give people in search of work.

'Half of the people I went to school with are on Jobseeker's Allowance.'

jock (noun) /dʒɒk/
a derogatory slang term for someone from Scotland.

'The BBC were criticised heavily for using the word jock in one of their news articles.'

Joe Bloggs (noun) /dʒəʊ blɒgz/
the name used to represent the average or typical man.

'The challenge for every politician is to try and understand what Joe Bloggs wants.'

johnny (noun) /dʒɒni/
slang for condom
(also rubber johnny).

'I always get so embarrassed buying johnnies at the chemists.'

jolly (adverb) /dʒɒli/
a slightly old-fashioned way to say 'very'.

'Samantha, that's a jolly nice coat you are wearing. Where did you get it from?'

jolly good (phrase) /dʒɒli gud/
old-fashioned way to express approval or pleasure.

“**JOLLY
GOOD**”

A) *'Sebastian and Farhana can come to my graduation, Mum.'*

B) *'Oh, jolly good!'*

jolly well (adverbial phrase)

/dʒɒli wel/

old-fashioned phrase used for emphasis particularly when you are annoyed or angry.

'I should jolly well hope you are sorry after what you did.'

joy (noun) /dʒɔɪ/

success or help usually used in the negative. Used in questions and negatives.

'Did you have any joy finding that dress you were looking for?'

jumble sale (noun) /dʒʌmbəl seɪl/

a sale (usually for a good cause/charity) in which people sell different types of second-hand items.

'My daughter's school had a jumble sale to help support Oxfam.'

jumped-up (adjective)

/dʒʌmpt ʌp/ an informal way to describe someone who believes they are more important than they actually are. Used mostly in a work context.

'Dan is such a jumped-up idiot. Why does he try to give me orders when we do the same job?'

jumper (noun) /dʒʌmpər/

a knitted garment worn on the top half of your body usually on top of a t-shirt.

'I'm going to take a jumper to the picnic just in case it gets a bit cold this afternoon.'

junior school (noun) /dʒuːniə sku:l/

school for children between the age of 7-11 (also 'the juniors').

'Once you finish infant school you go on to junior school.'

kecks (noun) /keks/
slang word for trousers
or underwear.

'Do you like my new kecks? I got them from Zara.'

keen (adjective) /ki:n/
very interested in something.

'My dad's a really keen gardener so for his birthday I always get him something related to gardening.'

keen as mustard (phrase)
very enthusiastic.

'The class were keen as mustard to go on their geography field trip with Mr Stone.'

keep your hair on! (phrase)
/ki:p jɔ:r heər ɒn/
used to tell someone to calm down and not get so angry.

A) *'Jenny I can't believe you didn't pay our electricity bill!'*

B) *'Keep your hair on! I'll do it tomorrow morning.'*



ken (adjective) /ken/
a word used in Scotland
to mean 'know'.

'I dunnae ken what you are talking about.'

kerb-crawling (noun) /kɜ:b krɔ:lɪŋ/
the activity of driving around the streets trying to pick up prostitutes.

'The police are trying to reduce kerb-crawling along the Seven Sisters Road.'

kerfuffle (noun) /kɜ:fʌfl̩/
a big fuss, commotion or excitement about something.

'There was a bit of a kerfuffle as passengers tried to get on the train.'

khazi (noun) /kɑ:zi/
old fashioned word for toilet
(also karzi / karzy).

'I'm just popping to the khazi.'

kick off (phrasal verb) /kɪk ɒf/
suddenly become angry and start
fighting or arguing.

'I think it's going to kick off between the Leeds and Millwall fans.'

kick something into touch (phrase)
decide not to deal with a problem
immediately.

'The government has kicked plans to raise taxes into touch as they seek a general election first.'

kick your heels (phrase) /kɪk jər hi:lz/
forced to waste time waiting for
something or someone.

'I've been kicking my heels since 10 o'clock waiting for my Dad to pick me up. He's an hour late.'

kickabout (noun) /kɪkəbaʊt/
an informal game of football played
just for fun.

'Shall we take the kids to the park and have a kickabout?'

kip (verb/noun) /kɪp/
sleep.

'Don't make any noise, grandad's having his afternoon kip.'

knackered (adjective) /nækəd/
slang word meaning very tired.

'The kids were absolutely knackered after our day trip to Brighton.'

knackers (noun) /nækəz/
slang term for testicles.

'The ball hit my knackers and I had to sit out of the match for 10 minutes.'

knacker's yard (phrase) /nækəz
jɑ:d/
a place we say things go when they
are too old to be useful anymore.

'I think your car is ready for the knacker's yard mate!'

● TOM'S TIPS ● ● ● ●

- The phrase '**knees up**' comes
- from a popular song from the
- early 20th century 'Knees up
- Mother Brown.



knees-up (noun) /ni:z ʌp/
slang for party.

'After the wedding, we all had a knees-up at our house.'

knickers (noun) /nɪkəz/
a term for female underwear.

'I'm just popping to Primark to buy some new knickers.'

knighthood (noun) /naɪthud/
a British rank awarded by The Queen for exceptional service to Britain. It is given to men who can then take the title 'Sir'.

'Knighthoods have been awarded to several politicians this year.'

knob (noun) /nɒb/
a slang term for a penis. It is also used as an insult for someone (also knob-head).

'His pants ripped and he accidentally showed everyone his knob.'

knockers (noun) /nɒkəz/
slang word for female breasts.

'I haven't heard anyone call breasts 'knockers' since the days of Page 3.'

knock/hit someone for six (phrase)
an informal phrase meaning someone is really shocked or overcome by something e.g. bad news or an illness.

'That virus really hit me for six. I

couldn't leave my bed!'

knock-off (noun) /nɒk ɒf/
a copy or imitation.
'All the football shirts at this market are knock-offs.'

knocking shop (noun) /nɒkɪŋ ʃɒp/
a slang term for a brothel.

'There are quite a few knocking shops right next to where I go to college.'

know your onions (phrase) /nəʊ jər ʌnjənz/
have a good knowledge of a particular subject.

'When it comes to world geography Sally really knows her onions.'

the knowledge (noun) /ðə nɒlɪdʒ/
the training course a London black cab driver has to take before they get a licence. It consists of 25,000 streets within a six-mile radius of Charing Cross.

'It takes 2 years to study for the Knowledge.'

“ **KEEP YOUR
HAIR ON** ”

la' (noun) /la:/
abbreviation of lad used instead of mate (used mainly in Liverpool).

'Alright la', fancy a trip to Blackpool tomorrow?'

Labour (noun) /leɪbər/
the British Labour Party.

'My family have been voting Labour for generations.'

lad (noun) /læd/
a boy/young man.

'Alex Turner is a local lad. He was born here in Sheffield.'

lad (noun) /læd/
a man who behaves in a way that's typical of young men e.g. gets drunk, chats up girls, fights etc.

'Declan used to be a bit of a lad before he got married and settled down.'

lad mag (noun) /læd mæg/
a magazine that focuses on male-



dominated topics such as sport, male fashion, semi-naked women etc.

'My favourite lad mag when I was growing up was called Loaded.'

laddie (noun) /lædi/
a Scottish form of address for a male.

'Come here then laddie and let's measure you up for a kilt.'

laddish (adjective) /lædɪʃ/
behaving in a boisterous, loud, sometimes rude way.

'Alex and Julio are lovely guys but when they get together they can be a bit laddish.'

ladette (noun) /lædet/
a slang word for a female that acts boisterously and drinks a lot.

'This town turns into a place full of lads and ladettes on a Saturday night.'

ladies (noun) /leɪdɪz/
euphemism for female toilet.

'I'm just going to pop to the ladies before we leave.'

the lads (noun) /ðə lædz/
used to refer to a group of friends.

'Me and the lads are going to Lisbon for a long weekend.'

lager lout (noun) /lɑːgə laʊt/
a man who gets drunk on beer and acts violently.

'After midnight the town centre is just full of lager louts.'

lairy (adjective) /leəri/
noisy and aggressive in an unpleasant way, usually after drinking.

'There were these two guys in the pub getting quite lairy so we decided to leave.'

lamp (verb) /læmp/
to hit someone or something.

'This random geezer got into a fight with my mate Charlie and lamped him.'

lashings (noun) /læʃɪŋz/
a slightly old-fashioned way to say 'lots of' mostly used for food and drink.

'I love my mum's apple crumble with lashings of home-made custard.'

lass (noun) /læs/
a term used mostly in the north of England and Scotland for a girl/young woman (also lassie).

'Did you hear Mary and Jeremy have had a wee lass? They are going to name her Olive.'

last orders (noun) /lɑːst ɔːdəz/
in British pubs the bar person will shout 'last orders' which is an indication that the pub will close soon and that you have a few minutes (usually 15) to buy one more round of drinks.

'That's last orders everyone, last orders at the bar!'

laugh (noun) /lɑːf/
informal word that means a source of fun.

'Reggie is a laugh, isn't he? We should invite him to dinner again.'

laugh like a drain (phrase) /lɑːf laɪk ə dreɪn/
laugh a lot.

'The guy next to me at work laughs like a drain, it is starting to get a bit annoying.'

“LOVELY JUBBLY”

laughing gear (noun) /lɑːfɪŋ ɡiə/ slang term for the mouth.

‘Get your laughing gear around this beer and let’s celebrate your birthday in style!’

lay-by (noun) /leɪ baɪ/ a small area beside a road in which vehicles can pull into and stop for a short time so that they don’t disrupt traffic.

‘Why don’t we pull into a lay-by and check the map before continuing?’

leave it out (phrase) a phrase used to tell someone to stop doing something e.g. taking the piss/nagging.

A) *‘Come on son, when are you going to get a good job?’*

‘B) *‘Dad leave it out! I’ll get one as soon as the summer is over.’*

lefty (non) /lefti/ someone who supports left-wing politics (also leftie).

‘My dad thinks I’m a complete lefty but I actually voted Conservative in the last election.’

leg it (phrase) /leg it/ run away from something as quickly as possible.

‘Franco legged it home from school so he could say goodbye to his grandad who was flying back to Italy.’

let (verb) /let/ rent a room or building.

‘Have you seen how many great holiday homes there are to let in Whitstable?’

Liberal Democrats (noun) /lɪbərəl deməkɹæts/
a British political party
(also Lib Dems).

'I voted for the Liberal Democrats in the last general election.'

lido (noun) /li:dəʊ/
an outdoor swimming pool.

'Every Friday evening during the summer I try and do a few laps at Brockwell Lido.'

lie down (noun) /laɪ daʊn/
have a short rest usually horizontally on a sofa or bed.

'Do you want to have a quick lie down before we go out for dinner?'

lie-in (noun) /laɪ ɪn/
the act of staying in bed longer than is usual.

'I get up so early during the week so it's always a treat to have a lie-in on Saturdays.'

life peer (noun) /laɪf piə/
a position in the House of Lords and the title of Lord for people who have done great things in their career. The title cannot be inherited by their children.

'It is a great honour to become a life peer.'

lift (noun) /lɪft/
a machine that takes people up and down in buildings between floors (elevator in American English).

'Have you noticed that Kwame never takes the lift back to our office, he always walks up the stairs.'

li-lo (noun) /laɪləʊ/ (trademark)
this is a plastic mattress you fill with air and use to float on water.

'Let's blow up our li-los and go float in the sea before lunch.'

like a headless chicken (phrase)
someone who has lost their composure, self-control and ability to think sensibly.

'After Arsenal went 4-0 down the players just ran around like headless chickens.'

like the clappers (phrase)
very fast.

'When Florence wants to, she can run like the clappers.'

lippy (adjective) /lɪpi/
a shortened form of lipstick.

'Sweetie, can I borrow your lippy?'

lippy (adjective) /lɪpi/
if you are lippy, you speak to someone in a disrespectful way.

'The kids in my class are so lippy to the teacher, I'm shocked!'

listed building/structure (noun) /lɪstɪd bɪldɪŋ/
a building that is deemed significant for historical/architectural reasons

very recently but now he's an Uber driver.'

lose the plot (phrase) /lu:z ðə plɒt/
if you lose the plot you are no longer able to understand a situation and deal with it.

'After his wife left him Fergus completely lost the plot for a while.'

lounge (noun) /laundʒ/
another word for sitting room.

'Let's go into the lounge and open the presents there.'

love (noun) /lʌv/
an affectionate term for someone (also luv).

'Alright love, how was your day?'

love bite (noun) /lʌv baɪt/
a red mark on the skin of someone made by someone else sucking with their lips on the skin.

'The most embarrassing moment of my life was when my Grandfather asked me why I had a love bite on my neck in front of the whole family.'

lovely (adjective) /lʌvli/
enjoyable or pleasing.

'We had such a lovely weekend in Cornwall. I can't wait to go back.'

lovely jubbly (phrase) /lʌvli dʒʌbli/
an expression made famous in a TV show called 'Only Fools and Horses'.

It's used to express happiness or approval.

A) *'OK, I've ordered the pizzas. They should be here in 20 minutes.'*

B) *'Lovely jubbly.'*

lucky dip (noun) /lʌki dɪp/
a game in which participants select a prize from a container of prizes all concealed from view.

'There's always a lucky dip at the staff Christmas party.'

lughole (noun) /lʌghəʊl/
humorous slang term for an ear.

'I think you kids need to clean your lugholes because you didn't hear a word I just said, did you?'

lurgy (noun) /lɜ:gi/
an unspecific illness that isn't very serious but is easy to catch.

'Little Freddy has caught the lurgy from one of the kids at nursery.'

lush (adjective) /lʌʃ/
a slang word meaning very impressive or desirable. Mainly used in the West Country (also 'gert lush').

'Wow! That birthday cake looks lush.'

M1 (noun) /em wʌn/
the main motorway in England connecting London to the north of England or, if you prefer, the north of England to London.

'Let's take the M1 north until junction 25.'

Mackem (noun) /mækəm/
someone from Sunderland.

'Mackems and Geordies have a big footballing rivalry.'

mad (adjective) /mæd/
crazy.

'You are going out without an umbrella when it's pouring down with rain. Are you mad?'

mad for it (phrase) /mæd /fər it/
a phrase coined in Manchester to mean you are full of enthusiasm to do something.

'Let's go out lads, I'm mad for it!'

made up (adjective) /meɪd ʌp/
happy.

M.

'I'm absolutely made up your Auntie Tess can come to your wedding in June.'

maisonette (noun) /meɪzənət/
a small flat with two floors that is part of a larger block of flats but has its own entrance.

'I grew up in a maisonette just a street away from the old West Ham stadium.'

mam (noun) /mæm/
a variation of Mum used in the north of England.

'My mam is set to retire this year after working 26 years at the local primary school.'

Mancunian (noun) /mæŋkjʊ:niən/
someone from Manchester (also Manc).

your meat and two veg? It's bloody painful!

melt (noun) /melt/
a slang term for someone that acts in a pathetic wimpy way in the pursuit of a girl/boy.

'Seamus has got no chance with Laura. He's too much of a melt.'

mental (adjective) /mentəl/
slang term for someone insane or crazy.

'Have you gone absolutely mental? Why would you think we can afford to go on a yoga retreat when we can hardly pay our rent?'

Metropolitan Police (noun)
/metrəpɒlɪtən pəli:s/
London's police force (also 'The Met').

'The Metropolitan Police are responsible for policing 32 London boroughs.'

MI5 (noun) /em ai faɪv/
the United Kingdom's domestic security service responsible for protecting British political and economic interests as well as counter-terrorism and espionage within the UK.

'I'd love to apply for a job at MI5 but I don't think I've got the necessary skills.'

MI6 (noun) /em ai sɪks/
Formally known as the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6 is responsible for foreign intelligence gathering to help protect the United Kingdom's national security.

'The MI6 headquarters is that impressive building by the river at Vauxhall station.'

milk float (noun) /milk fləʊt/
a vehicle that would deliver milk to people's houses. It's now become a somewhat old fashioned system and the majority of people get their milk from the supermarket.

'I remember hearing the milk float coming up our road every morning before 6 o'clock.'

minger (noun) /mɪŋər/
derogatory term for someone ugly.

'There's no way I'd go on a date with him, he's an absolute minger.'

minging (adjective) /mɪŋɪŋ/
a person who is ugly or something that is smelly and unpleasant.

'Your shoes are minging. Please give them a good clean before bringing them into the house.'

mint (noun) /mɪnt/
slang term for good or excellent.

'Your new speakers are mint, mate. Where did you get them from?'

minted (adjective) /mɪntɪd/
very wealthy.

*'I didn't realise just how minted
Alison's parents are!'*

misery guts (noun) /mɪzəri ɡʌts/
someone who is quite negative,
miserable and likes to complain.

*'I love spending time with Katie, but
her husband Noel can be a bit of a
misery guts.'*

mockney (noun) /mɒkni/
when someone affects the
pronunciation features of cockney
even though they are not a
Cockney. They might do this to fit
into a social situation or appear
'cool'. It is usually done by someone
from the upper-middle classes
trying to be seen as one of the
common people.

*'People often accuse Jamie Oliver
of being a mockney.'*

money for old rope (phrase)
/mʌni fɔːr əʊld rəʊp/
receive money for doing
something you consider easy.

*'Honestly tutoring maths to primary
school kids is money for old rope.'*

monkey (noun) /mʌŋki/
London slang for £500.

*'I can't believe that car only costs
a monkey!'*

Morris dancing (noun) /mɔːrɪs
dɑːnsɪŋ/
a traditional English folk dance by a
group of people dressed in a special
costume usually with bells attached.

*'If you visit Broadstairs Folk Week
you'll see lots of Morris dancing.'*

motorway (noun) /məʊtəweɪ/
a road with several lanes on which
cars can drive at high speed. In
Britain, they are named M and then
a number e.g. M25.

*'I think we have to take the M6 to
get to Manchester.'*

move the goalposts (phrase)
to change the rules/requirements
while someone is trying to do
something.

*'Our marketing team had come up
with a great strategy for the year,
but then the CEO changed her
mind and moved the goalposts,
so now we need to rethink the
whole thing.'*

MP (noun) /em piː/
Member of Parliament. A person
who has been elected to become
a politician and represent their
constituency.

*'A large number of Conservative
MPs voted against the government.'*

muck about/around (phrasal verb)
/mʌk ə'baʊt/
waste time and behave in
a silly way.

'This class is the hardest to teach. All they want to do is muck about!'

muck in (verb) /mʌk ɪn/
share tasks that need to be done.

'If everyone mucks in with the cleaning, we can all go home early.'

muck up (phrasal verb) /mʌk ʌp/
make a mistake that means something is spoiled.

'I keep mucking up this Mozart piece I'm learning for the school concert next week. It's so frustrating.'

mucker (noun) /mʌkə/
slang term for friend.

'Hello my old mucker, come in and I'll make you a cuppa.'

mufti day (noun) /mʌfti: deɪ/
a school day in which the pupils can wear whatever clothes they like and are not required to wear their school uniforms.

'I always loved mufti day so I could go to school wearing my favourite purple dress.'

mug (noun) /mʌg/
insulting word to describe someone as a fool or idiot.

'Look at that mug over there trying to park his car! The man can't drive. They should take away his driving licence.'

mug someone off (phrasal verb) /mʌg ɒf/
make someone look an idiot or fool.

'Did you text your ex-girlfriend last night? Don't try and mug me off, I know you did!'

mummy's boy (noun) /mʌmɪz bɔɪ/
a boy/man who is severely influenced by his mother and does what she says.

'Don't you think Sammy is a bit of a mummy's boy? He doesn't seem to have a mind of his own.'

“MUSN'T GRUMBLE.”

munter (noun) /mʌntər/
derogatory word for someone ugly.

A) *'Charli why have you only ever gone out with munters?'*

B) *'Get lost!'*

muppet (noun) /mʌpɪt/
a foolish person.

'I'm such a muppet! I've left my laptop at home so I can't access my emails today.'

muso (noun) /mju:zəʊ/
someone who is really into music.

'I've never met a bigger muso than Nick. He knows his stuff, particularly 90s hip hop.'

mustn't grumble (phrase) /mʌs.ənt
grʌmbəl/
a humorous phrase used to say that life is OK and you have no cause to complain.

A) *'How's life, Harry?'*

B) *'Oh you know how it is, mustn't grumble.'*

mutt's nuts (phrase) /mʌtz nʌts/
brilliant or fantastic (synonym of dog's bollocks).

'This sausage roll is the mutt's nuts.'

mutton dressed as lamb
(derogatory phrase) /mʌtən drest
æz læm/

an older/middle-aged lady* who wears clothes that might be considered more suitable for a younger woman. *it's noticeable that we don't have a word for an older man who does something similar.

'People think she's mutton dressed as lamb, but I think she looks great. Good on her!'

nae (adverb) /neɪ/
Scottish English for no.

'I'll give you a lift to the station, it's nae bother.'

naff (adjective) /næf/
without style or class.

'Look at that naff jacket that politician is wearing! Don't you think he should have worn something more formal?'

naff off (phrasal verb) /næf ɒf/
used to say go away in a rude way.

- A)** *'When are you guys going to finally get married?'*
B) *'Oh naff off! Why does everyone keep asking us that?'*

nah (adverb) /næː/
a spoken variation of 'no' used in many British English accents.

- A)** *'Have you got a phone charger I can borrow?'*
B) *'Nah mate, sorry.'*

N.

nan (noun) /næn/
slang for grandmother.

'My nan makes the best chocolate cake in Manchester.'

nappy (noun) /næpi/
a piece of absorbent towel that babies wear to soak up their urine or faeces.

'Will you pick up some nappies while you are in Tesco?'

narked (adjective) /nɑːkt/
angry about something.

'Don't get narked but I think Marie has stolen your last piece of chocolate.'

narky (adjective) /nɑ:ki/
easily annoyed.

'There's no need to get narky! All I said was that I liked Pablo's cooking more than yours because he's a professional chef.'

National Curriculum (noun)
/næfənəl kærɪkjʊləm/
almost all state schools in England and Wales follow the National Curriculum, which is an established course of study for each subject between the ages of 5-16.

'There are plans to change the National Curriculum next year.'

National Grid (noun) /næfənəl grɪd/
the system of power lines that connect across Britain.

'The National Grid was established to make sure the power supply around Britain was always met.'

National Insurance Number (noun)
/næfənəl ɪnʃʊərəns nʌmbər/
a number given to every UK citizen to help with the administration of tax and social security.

'I can never remember my National Insurance Number.'

National Living Wage (noun)
/næfənəl lɪvɪŋ weɪdʒ/
this is a statutory minimum wage given to all workers 25 years old and above.

'The government has just raised the National Living Wage by 5%.'

National Minimum Wage (noun)
/næfənəl mɪnɪməm weɪdʒ/
this is a statutory minimum wage given to all school leavers aged 16 and over. The amount varies depending on how old you are.

'At the moment my daughter is only earning minimum wage but hopefully she'll get a promotion and earn a little more soon.'

National Trust (noun)
/næfənəl trʌst/
a British organisation that is concerned with maintaining and preserving historic buildings and natural habitats in England and Wales.

'The National Trust does an amazing job preserving historic buildings.'

neck (verb) /nek/
to drink the entire contents of your glass in one go.

'Jess, let's neck our drinks and go to another bar.'

neeps and tatties (noun)
/ni:pz ən tæɪz/
a Scottish side dish served with haggis made of swede and potatoes.

'You've always got to have neeps and tatties with haggis.'

new town (noun) /nju: taun/
a town that is designed and built to create a new place for people to live usually on land that wasn't used before. English examples include Welwyn Garden City and Milton Keynes.

'New towns like Milton Keynes were built in the 1960s.'

NHS (noun) /en eitʃ es/
National Health Service. The service in Britain that provides free medical care to everyone living here.

'The NHS was founded in 1948.'

“ Established by the Labour party in 1948, the NHS was one of the first universal health care systems in the world. ”

Nice one! (phrase) /nais wʌn/
used to show approval

A) 'We've just been invited to Kaz's wedding.'

B) 'Nice one!'

nick (verb) /nik/
informal way to say steal.

'When I was 12 I nicked a packet of sweets from my local corner shop.'

be in (good) nick (phrase)
good condition or health.

'Even though my grandma is 80, she's still in pretty good nick.'



the nick (noun) /ðə nɪk/
slang for prison.

'He's been in the nick for as long as I can remember.'

niggle (noun) /nɪɡəl/
a small pain, annoyance or worry.

'Harry Kane has got a little niggle in his ankle, but he should be able to play on Saturday.'

niggle (verb) /nɪɡəl/
if something is niggling at you, it causes you worry, annoyance or pain.

'What my boss said to me about my future at the company is really niggling away at me.'

nip (verb) /nɪp/
go somewhere quickly and for a short time. It can be used with lots of different prepositions.

'I'm just going to nip downstairs and put the kettle on. Do you want a drink?'

nippy (adjective) /nɪpi/
chilly/cold.

'It's really warm during the day, but then it gets a bit nippy in the evening, so bring a jumper with you.'

northerner (noun) /nɔːðənər/
someone from the north of England.

'Northerners are much more friendly than Southerners.'

northern monkey (noun)
/nɔːðən mʌŋki/
offensive term for someone from the north of England.

'If I'm a northern monkey mate, you are a southern softie.'

nosh (noun) /nɒʃ/
slang word for food.

'Do you kids want some nosh before footy?'

nosy (noun) /nəʊzi/
a look around a location because you are curious to see what it is like.

'I'd love to have a nosy around Buckingham Palace and see how the Queen lives.'

nosy parker (noun) /nəʊzi pɑːkər/
someone who is overly interested in other people's business/affairs.

'Why do you want to know who I was speaking to? You are such a nosy parker!'

not a patch on (phrase)
/nɒt ə pætʃ ɒn/
not nearly as good.

'Have you tried soy milk? It's not a patch on oat milk.'

not a sausage (phrase) /nɒt ə səʊsɪdʒ/
humorous slightly old-fashioned phrase meaning nothing.

A) *'Do you have any coins I can borrow to feed the parking meter?'*

B) *'Sorry mate, I haven't got a sausage.'*

not cricket (phrase) /nɒt kɹɪkɪt/
old-fashioned phrase to describe something that is not honest or moral.

'The way that newspaper secretly recorded people's phone calls is just not cricket!'

not half (phrase) /nɒt ha:f/
an informal phrase used to emphasise a positive statement.

'It wasn't half hot in Mallorca.'
(meaning 'it was very hot in Mallorca')

'He doesn't half look like his Dad.'
(meaning 'he looks a lot like his Dad')

“
**NOT
MY
CUP OF
TEA**
”

not give a monkey's (about something) (phrase)

if you don't give a monkey's about something, you are not worried about it or don't care.

'I don't give a monkey's if you are hungover, we have to go to this brunch with my friends.'

not know your arse from your elbow (phrase)

incompetent, stupid and unable to do simple tasks.

'Don't ask Frank to build your wardrobe. He doesn't know his arse from his elbow.'

not my cup of tea (phrase)

/nɒt maɪ kʌp əv tiː/

if something is not your cup of tea, it isn't something you like.

A) *'Have you ever gone fishing, Gabriela?'*

B) *'Yeah, I went once with my dad but to be honest it's not really my cup of tea.'*

not on your nelly! (phrase)

/nɒt ɒn jɛ:l neli/

old fashioned phrase meaning 'no way' or 'absolutely not'.

A) *'Mum, can we get a big bottle of Fanta to share?'*

B) *'Not on your nelly!'*

not short of a few bob or two

(phrase) an informal phrase used to say someone is wealthy.

'She's obviously not short of a bob or two if she's living in a two-bedroom flat in Mayfair.'

now then! (expression) /nau ðen/

a way to greet someone in some parts of the north of England.

'Now then Andy, how are you lad?'

nowt (pronoun/adverb) /naut/

a word used in the north of England to replace 'nothing'.

'I've got nowt in my fridge except for milk and cheese.'

number plate (noun)

/nʌmbə pleɪt/

the sign fixed to the front and back of a car with letters and numbers that denotes the car's registration number.

'When he bought his new car he also got a personalised number plate with his name: BOB1.'

Number 10 (noun) /nʌmbə ten/

this refers to 10 Downing Street, the official home of the Prime Minister (also No.10).

'The Prime Minister left Number 10 early this morning in preparation for the G8 summit.'

numpty (noun) /nʌmpti/

a stupid person.

'You are such a numpty. Why did you leave the front door unlocked?'

nut (verb) /nʌt/
head-butt someone i.e. use your head to hit someone violently.

'The only time I have seen a fight, I saw this super drunk guy nut this other man.'

nutmeg (noun/verb) /nʌtmeg/
the act of playing a ball between someone's legs while playing football.

'Dele Alli is the king of nutmegs!'

nutter (noun) /nʌtər/
a crazy person.

'You are a nutter if you think I'm going to go skydiving with you.'

NVQ (noun) /en vi: kju:/
abbreviation for National Vocational Qualification. This is a practical skill-focused qualification in subjects such as auto repair and carpentry.

'My nephew is studying an NVQ in plumbing.'

TOM'S TIPS

In the north of England there are certain words and phrases that you are unlikely to hear anywhere else in the UK, e.g. 'now then!' as a greeting or 'nowt' meaning nothing. When you are in the UK it's useful to know the regional variations for different words. For example in a bakery you'd order a 'barm cake' in the North and a 'bread roll' in the South.

OAP (noun) /əʊ eɪ piː/
an acronym for old age pensioner.

'My grandparents don't like it when I call them OAPs.'

OBE (noun) /əʊ biː iː/
Officer of the Order of the British Empire. It is a British honour given by the Queen for exceptional service and contributions to Britain.

'British boxer Anthony Joshua was given an OBE in 2018.'

odds and sods (noun) /ɒdz ən endz/
miscellaneous items.

A) *'Have you finally unpacked and settled into your new flat?'*

B) *'Almost! I've got a few odds and sods in a box I need to unpack.'*

off (adjective) /ɒf/
rude.

'I just think it's a bit off that he didn't get you a Valentine's card.'



off the back of a lorry (phrase) /ɒf ðə bæk əv ə lɒri/
if something is off the back of a lorry

it has been acquired dishonestly and therefore is being sold for a cheaper price.

'There's a market in London where everything is off the back of a lorry.'

off-licence (noun) /ɒf laɪsəns/
a shop that sells alcohol (also offy/offie).

'All the off-licences in the town have closed down.'

off one's trolley/rocker (phrase)
an informal way to describe someone as crazy.

'You must be off your trolley if you think I'm going to do your homework for you.'

Official Secrets Act (noun)

/əfɪʃəl si:krəts ækt/

a law in the UK forbidding government workers from sharing secret information about the government.

'When she joined the Ministry of Defence she had to sign the Official Secrets Act.'

Ofsted (noun) /ɒfsted/

this is the short name for the non-ministerial department of the government that deals with standards in education. All schools in England have Ofsted inspections to determine if they meet the required standard.

'My school just had an Ofsted inspection and everyone was on their best behaviour.'

oi (interjection) /ɔɪ/

used to get someone's attention.

'Oi kids, come down here and finish your dinner.'

old banger (noun) /əʊld bæŋər/

an old car that has nearly stopped working.

'I bought this old banger for 250 quid 7 years ago and it's still working fine.'

old bean (noun) /əʊld bi:n/

old-fashioned term of endearment.

'Good morning old bean, how are you today?'

old bill (noun) /əʊld bɪl/

a slang term for the Police.

'I've called the old bill so they should be here shortly.'

old girl/boy (noun)

/əʊld gɜ:l/ or /bɔɪ/

a former student of a school.

'They've invited all the old girls back to my school for a reunion in the summer.'

omnishambles (noun)

/ɒmnɪʃæmbəlz/

a situation that has been completely mismanaged by a large number of people or departments. This word derives from a British TV show called 'The Thick of it'.

'Let's be honest, Brexit has been a complete omnishambles.'

on the blink (phrase) /ɒn ðə blɪŋk/

not working or functioning properly

'My hot water is on the blink at the moment so I'm showering at the gym every day.'

on the blob (phrase) /ɒn ðə blɒb/

a very slang term for a woman's period. It can be seen as offensive.

“HELLO OLD BEAN”

‘I’m on the blob until the end of the week.’

on the piss/razz/lash (phrase)

/ɒn ðə pɪs/

slang phrase to describe the act of heavy drinking.

‘That’s the uni rugby team over there. They’re clearly on the lash tonight after winning the league earlier today.’

on the pull (phrase) /ɒn ðə pul/

if you are on the pull you are actively looking for someone to kiss or have sexual relations with.

‘Let’s go on the pull tonight and see if we can have some fun.’

be not on (phrase) /nɒt ɒn/

not acceptable or reasonable.

‘Our neighbours’ plans to build an extension on their house is just not on!’

one-armed bandit (noun)

/wʌn ɑːmd bændɪt/

a slang term for a slot machine with a large handle on the side you pull down. It’s a form of gambling.

‘Whenever I come to this pub Frank is always on the one-armed bandit.’

one of the lads (phrase)

/wʌn əv ðə lædz/

a man (or woman) who is accepted as part of a group of men who behave in a way that is seen as masculine.

‘To be honest, even though I was in all the school football teams I was never really one of the lads.’

one-off (noun) /wʌn ɒf/
if something is a one-off it is only done once. If someone is a one-off they are unique and special in some way.

'I can babysit tonight but it's a one-off. I'm not great with kids.'

ono (abbreviation)
stands for 'or nearest offer' used in informal adverts where people are trying to sell something. They set the price they want and write 'ono'. It's an invitation to offer an amount you think is reasonable. It is used in written English rather than spoken English.

'Bike for sale, 2 years old. £80 ono.'

Open University (noun)
/əʊpən ju:nɪvɜ:sɪti/
a British university in which students study from home and submit their work online/by post. It was designed for older people who had never gone to university (also known as the OU).

'I did a course with the OU last year and absolutely loved it.'

OTT (adjective) /əʊ ti: ti:/
it stands for 'over the top'. It's used

to describe something that is excessive or extreme.

'Breaking up with Vladimir because of his affair is one thing, but locking him out of the house as well seems a bit OTT.'

our kid (phrase) /ɑ:r kɪd/
a slang term for younger brother or sister mainly used in the North.

'Our kid's going to join us for a drink later.'

owt (pronoun) /aʊt/
a word used in the north of England to replace 'anything'.

'Do you want owt from shops?'

Oxbridge (noun) /ɒksbrɪdʒ/
a term used to refer to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

'20% of students from this school go on to get places at Oxbridge.'

Oz (noun) /ɒz/
a short form of Australia.

'She grew up in Oz but moved to the UK when she was 8.'

P45 (noun) /pi: fɔ:ti faɪv/
the official document issued to
someone when they have stopped
working at a company.

*'Your P45 will be sent to you in the
next few weeks.'*

P60 (noun) /pi: sɪksti/
the end of tax year certificate
showing someone's taxable income
and deductions made by PAYE.

*'Can you please send us a copy of
your P60 and proof of address?'*

PA (noun) /pi: eɪ/
abbreviation of personal assistant.
This is someone who helps a person
of authority with their basic tasks
like arranging meetings etc.

*'I worked as a PA in the city for
many years before leaving to start
my company.'*

pack it in (phrase) /pæk it ɪn/
an exclamation used to tell
someone to stop doing something

P.

usually because it's annoying you.

*'Kids, can you pack it in! I've had
enough of you running around
screaming.'*

packed lunch (noun) /pækt lʌntʃ/
a meal prepared at home and taken
to school, work or on an excursion.

*'My mum used to make the most
delicious packed lunches.'*

page 3 (noun) /peɪdʒ θri:/
this was a feature on the third page
of The Sun newspaper in which a
young woman posed topless. It was
stopped in 2015.

*'I can't quite believe page 3 still
existed as recently as 2015.'*

pain in the arse/neck (phrase)
rude way to say something/
someone is very annoying.

'This weekend's Tube closures are a real pain in the arse.'

Pancake Day (noun)
/pænkeɪk deɪ/
(also Shrove Tuesday) a Tuesday
in February/March when people
traditionally eat pancakes before
a period of fasting called Lent.
Although it is a religious day it
is widely celebrated by people
who aren't of the Christian faith
in the UK.

'This year Pancake Day falls on my birthday so we're having pancakes instead of birthday cake.'

pantomime (noun) /pæntəmaɪm/
a traditional theatrical performance
around Christmas time. It always
involves a well-known story like
Robin Hood or Aladdin with lots of
topical jokes, colourful costumes,
and music (also 'panto').

'My family always go to the pantomime at the Hackney Empire.'

pants (noun) /pænts/
another word for underwear.

'Did you pack enough pairs of pants for your trip?'

pants (adjective) /pænts/
slang term for not very good.

'The music at the club last night was pants.'

paracetamol (noun) /pærəsi:təməʊl/
a pain-relief drug.

'If your tooth still aches this afternoon, take some paracetamol.'

parky (adjective) /pɑ:ki/
slang word meaning cold

'It's a bit parky today, I might go home and get my jumper.'

pavement (noun) /peɪvmənt/
the area on the side of a road on
which pedestrians walk.

'The pavements here are in such bad condition, the council really should do something about it.'

PAYE (abbreviation) /pi: eɪ waɪ i:/
pay-as-you-earn tax system used in
the UK.

'I have always paid my tax with PAYE but now I'm self-employed I have to do a tax return myself.'

PC (noun) /pi: si:/
police constable.

'PC Robinson chased the burglar out of the house and into the garden.'

pea-souper (noun) /pi: su:pər/
an old-fashioned term for very
thick fog.

'What a shame we can't see Big Ben, it's a real pea-souper today.'

peaky (adjective) /pi:ki/
pale and unwell.

'You look a bit peaky, love. Do you want to have a lie-down?'

go pear-shaped (phrase) /peəʃeɪpt/
if a plan or activity goes pear-shaped it goes wrong.

'My plans to go travelling over the summer went pear-shaped when I broke my leg'

peckish (adjective) /pekɪʃ/
a little bit hungry.

'I'm always a little peckish around 11 o'clock in the morning.'

pelican crossing (noun) /pelɪkən
krɒsɪŋ/
a pedestrian crossing operated by lights.

'Don't cross there guys! Let's walk to the pelican crossing, it's much safer.'

pet (noun) /pet/
a term of endearment for someone most commonly heard in the north of England.

'Alright pet, how's your mum doing?'

petrol station (noun) /petrəl
steɪʃən/
the place where you can buy petrol for your vehicle. There is usually a small shop too.

'Excuse me, do you know where the nearest petrol station is?'

PGCE (noun) /pi: dʒi: si: i:/
an abbreviation of Postgraduate Certificate in Education. This is the qualification required for teachers in mainstream education for children.

'So many of my friends are doing the PGCE right now.'

pie (verb) /paɪ/
slang term meaning to break up with someone.

'He got pied by his girlfriend via text message.'

piece of cake (phrase) /pi:s əv keɪk/
If something is a piece of cake it is easy to do.

'Learning how to drive was a piece of cake.'

piggy in the middle (phrase)
/pɪɡi ɪn ðə mɪdəl/
a game usually played by children in which two people throw a ball to each other and try to make sure a person in between them doesn't get it.

'One of my favourite games to play

with my little cousins was piggy in the middle.'

pillar box (noun) /pɪlə bɒks/
a large red post box in the street where you put your mail (also post box).

'Where's the nearest pillar box? I need to post this letter.'

pillock (noun) /pɪlək/
a rude way to call someone an idiot.

'Gavin is such a pillock. He left the car lights on all night and now the battery is dead.'

pinch (verb) /pɪntʃ/
steal.

'Have you pinched my lighter?'

pint (noun) /paɪnt/
a measurement of alcohol (568 ml).

'I'll have a pint of Guinness, please.'

piss about/around (phrasal verb)
slang phrase to say waste time doing unimportant things.

A) *'Did you write your essay?'*
B) *'No! I've just been pissing around all day avoiding it.'*

piss artist/head (noun) /pɪs ɑ:tɪst/
a rude way to describe someone who drinks a lot of alcohol.

'When I was at uni I'd definitely have classified myself as an absolute piss artist. I went out drinking every night and never went to lectures.'

piss down (with rain) /pɪs daʊn/
a slang term for heavy rain.

'We'll need to take an umbrella, it's pissing it down out there.'

piss off (phrasal verb) /pɪs ɒf/
a rude way to say 'go away'.

“PIECE
OF
CAKE”

'I'm sick of you moaning about everything. Piss off and leave me alone.'

piss (someone) off (phrasal verb) /pɪs ɒf/
make someone annoyed or angry.

'He never texts me back. It's really starting to piss me off.'

pissed (adjective) /pɪst/
a slang word for drunk.

'I've never seen my uncle as pissed as last night.'

pissed off (adjective) /pɪst ɒf/
angry.

'Haruki is really pissed off we forgot his birthday.'

piss-take (noun) /pɪs teɪk/
the act of making fun of or teasing someone.

'Don't take what I said so seriously. It was just a piss-take.'

piss-up (noun) /pɪs ʌp/
a slang term for a group of people getting together to drink lots of alcohol.

'Let's have a piss-up to celebrate John's birthday.'

piss yourself (laughing) (phrase) /pɪs jɔː self lɑːfɪŋ/
to laugh a lot.

'We all pissed ourselves when Sven slipped over on the dance floor and ended up flat on his face.'

plaster (noun) /plɑːstər/
a small sticky strip that is used to cover a small cut or wound.

'When we were kids we used to have plasters with Mickey Mouse on them.'

playgroup (noun) /pleɪɡrʌnd/
a group for pre-school children aged 3-5 years old.

'I have very fond memories of going to playgroup.'

play up (phrasal verb) /pleɪ ʌp/
if someone plays up they behave badly. If something plays up it stops working properly.

'The kids have been playing up all day so I've said they can't have any screen time this evening.'

plonk (noun) /plɒŋk/
slang for cheap wine.

'Shall we get a bottle of plonk to have with our meal?'

plonk (verb) /plɒŋk/
put something down on a surface carelessly or heavily.

'Don't just plonk your chair there otherwise we won't be able to see the TV.'

plonker (noun) /plɒŋkər/ idiot.

'I'm such a plonker! I've left my keys at the office. I'll have to go back and get them.'

PMQs (noun) /pi: em kjuz/
abbreviation of Prime Minister's Questions which is a session in the House of Commons every week when MPs can ask the Prime Minister questions.

'I love watching PMQs and seeing how the Prime Minister deals with tough questions.'

polling station (noun)
/pəʊlɪŋ steɪʃən/
the place where people go to vote in an election.

'The nearest polling station is about a mile away.'

pommie (noun) /pɒmi:/
technically an Australian English word meaning someone from the United Kingdom (also pommy).

'The stadium in Sydney was packed with pommies cheering on the England cricket team.'

pony (noun) /pəʊni/
London slang for £25.

'Can I borrow a pony to buy Grandma a birthday present?'

pootle (verb) /pu:təl/
move in a leisurely and relaxed way or do things that you enjoy but aren't essential.

'I think we're just going to pootle around town for a bit before heading home.'

pop (verb) /pɒp/
to go somewhere for a short time and return. It is often used with a preposition.

'I'm just going to pop out for a minute to get some fresh air.'

pop (noun) /pɒp/
slang term for a carbonated drink.

'Would you kids like a bottle of pop for the journey home?'

poppycock (noun) /pɒpɪkɒk/
old fashioned way to say that something is nonsense.

'This new housing bill the government has announced is absolute poppycock.'

porridge (noun) /pɒrɪdʒ/
old-fashioned term for a prison sentence.

'My grandad did porridge at Wormwood Scrubs prison in west London.'

posh (adjective) /pɒʃ/
classy or sophisticated.

'We went to that new posh restaurant that has just opened on Park street.'

posho (noun) /pɒʃəʊ/
a posh person you find annoying.

'He's friends with a bunch of poshos from west London.'

postcode (noun) /pəʊst kəʊd/
a series of letters and numbers that represent a specific area of Britain. It helps the post to be delivered to the correct place.

'The postcode for their flat in Brixton is SW2 1BE'

postcode lottery (noun)
/pəʊst kəʊd lɒtəri/
the unfortunate situation in which people are able to get different levels of medical treatment and health services depending on which area of Britain they live.

'It's a disgrace that Jihyun can't get adequate health services just because of where he lives. It's just another example of the postcode lottery.'

postgraduate (noun)
/pəʊstgrædʒuət/
someone studying for a further qualification having received their degree (also postgrad).

'The postgraduates on my course are mostly in their 30s with families and kids.'

poxy (adjective) /pɒksi/
something of little value or importance.

'Do you know what he gave me for my birthday? This poxy mug and a pair of socks.'

prefect (noun) /pri:fekt/
a senior pupil in secondary school who has extra duties and responsibilities.

'I really wanted to be a prefect at school just so I could boss my friends about.'

preggers (adjective) /pregəz/
slang for pregnant.

'Have you heard Jenny is preggers?'

premium bond (noun)
/pri:miəm bɒnd/
a government-run lottery. You can buy a ticket and draws are made monthly.

'My aunt bought me some premium bonds when I was a child.'

prep school (noun) /prep sku:l/
a private school for children aged 7-13 (short for preparatory).

'Our sons go to a prep school in Hampstead.'

prezzie (noun) /prezi/
alternative form of present.

'We need to buy your nan a birthday prezzi.'

private school (noun) /praɪvət sku:l/ a school that is not government-funded and requires parents to pay a fee every term.

'I'd love my kids to go to private school but we simply don't have the money to afford it.'

PTA (noun) /pi: ti: eɪ/ parent-teacher association. An organisation of parents and teachers that meet in order to think of ideas to help improve the school.

'The PTA meets once a month.'

pub (noun) /pʌb/ short for public house. A building in which alcohol is sold and consumed.
'There are so many great pubs in Manchester.'

pub-crawl (noun) /pʌb krɔ:l/ visiting numerous pubs, one after the other and having at least one drink in each.

'There's a pub-crawl tonight at the university if you fancy coming?'

public school (noun) /pʌblɪk sku:l/ an elite group of British private schools in which students pay very high fees to attend. The most famous examples of public schools are Eton and Harrow.

'It's no surprise that many of our Prime Ministers have gone to public school.'

pudding (noun) /pʊdɪŋ/ a sweet dish served at the end of a meal. It's a synonym of dessert (short form is pud).

'What's for pudding Dad?'

pukka (adjective) /pʌkə/ slang word meaning very good.

'These pies are pukka Mrs Brown, can I have the recipe?'

pull (verb) /pʊl/ succeed in having sexual relations with someone.

'Whenever Tony goes out he's always looking to pull.'

pull a sickie (phrase) /pʊl ə sɪki/ to take the day off work or school by pretending you are ill even though you are perfectly healthy.

'I can honestly say I've never pulled a sickie in my life.'

Punch and Judy Show (noun)
/pʌntʃ ən dʒuːdi ʃəʊ/
a puppet show that is traditional British seaside entertainment for children.

'We used to go and watch Punch and Judy every week when we were kids.'

punnet (noun) /pʌnɪt/
a small container that holds fruit.

'They are selling punnets of strawberries for £2 in Tesco.'

punt (noun) /pʌnt/
informal word for small bet.

'I'm going to take a punt on Wales winning the World Cup.'

punter (noun) /pʌntər/
a customer/user of services or someone who gambles.

'Theme parks are reducing their prices to get more punters through the door.'

purple patch (phrase) /pɜːpəl pætʃ/
successful or lucky for a period of time (usually in sports).

'Tottenham are having a bit of a purple patch right now with 5 wins in a row.'

pushchair (noun) /pʊʃtʃeər/
a foldable seat on wheels to transport babies (also buggy /bʌɡi/).

'The price of a good pushchair these days is crazy!'



“ A ‘pony’ is just one example of a slang term used in British English for money. Others include a ‘monkey’, a ‘quid’ and ‘shrapnel’. ”

QC (noun) /kju: si:/
Queen's Counsel. A senior barrister.

'Her mother is a QC so she's decided to study law too.'

quango (noun) /kwæŋgəʊ/
a quasi-autonomous non-governmental UK organisation started by the government but not run by them.

'The British Council is a quango that promotes British interests around the world.'

Queen's English (noun)
/kwi:nz ɪŋɡlɪʃ/
the pronunciation of the royals and upper classes in Britain.

'The only time I ever hear the Queen's English is when I watch 'The Crown' on Netflix.'

queue (noun/verb) /kju:/
a line of people or vehicles waiting for something.



'There is always a massive queue to get into the Wimbledon tennis championships.'

queue-jumping (noun)
/kju: dʒʌmpɪŋ/
the act of someone unfairly moving ahead in a queue.

'If there's one thing I hate, it's people queue-jumping!'

quid (noun) /kwɪd/
slang for one pound sterling.

'Can I borrow a quid so I can get a cup of tea?'

RAF (noun) /ɑːr eɪ ef/
Royal Air Force. The airforce of the United Kingdom.

'Our son is thinking of joining the RAF when he leaves school.'

radge (noun/adjective) /rædz/
angry/wild/crazy (used in Scotland and the north-east of England).

'She seems a little bit radge, did you say anything rude to her?'

rah (noun) /rɑː/
a very posh person.

'There were so many rahs at Bristol Uni.'

rank (adjective) /ræŋk/
disgusting.

'The food at that place is rank! Let's go somewhere else.'

rather (exclamation)
old-fashioned way to say yes.

R.

A) *'Do you think we should host a New Year's Eve party this year?'*

B) *'Rather!'*

ratty (adjective) /ræti/
becoming annoyed quickly.

'Jen's husband gets a bit ratty when he hasn't eaten.'

read (verb) /ri:d/
study a subject usually at university.

'She went to Edinburgh to read English and Politics.'

readies (noun) /redi:z/
slang word for cash.

'Have you got any readies I can use to pay the builders?'

recce (noun) /reki/
short for reconnaissance. The act of gathering information about something.

'When I worked in TV we used to do recces for potential filming locations all the time.'

received pronunciation (noun) /rɪsi:vɪd prənʌnsi'eɪʃən/
a British English accent associated with the educated and wealthy. It has no geographical root but it is commonly found in London and the south of England (abbreviation RP).

'In received pronunciation, it's very important to pronounce every sound as clearly as possible.'

reception (noun) /rɪsɪpʃən/
the first year of infant school for children aged 4-5.

'Mrs Bakewell is teaching reception next term.'

reckon (verb) /rekən/
synonym of think.

'My girlfriend reckons I should get a haircut'

red-brick (adjective/noun) /redbrɪk/
red-brick universities are British universities that were built in the industrial cities such as Liverpool and Birmingham around the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They derive their name from the gothic architecture of the buildings.

'My teachers are really encouraging me to apply to one of the red-brick universities to read History.'

redundant (adjective) /rɪdʌndənt/
unemployed because your employer no longer needs you.

“ **A
BIT
RATTY** ”

'They've made 100 people redundant this week in the hope of cutting costs.'

redundancy (noun) /rɪdʌndənsi/
the situation in which someone is told they are no longer needed by their employer.

'A large number of my colleagues are facing redundancy after the company announced huge losses.'

remembrance poppy (noun) /rɪmɛmbrəns ˈpɒpi/
this is the red poppy that people wear in the first weeks of November as a way to remember and acknowledge the sacrifice made by people in the British and Commonwealth military who died for their country.



'I lost my poppy somewhere on the Tube while rushing to meet you.'

Remembrance Sunday (noun) /rɪmɛmbrəns sʌndei/
a day for people to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth soldiers in conflicts, principally the 1st and 2nd World Wars. It's held on the nearest Sunday to 11th November. It is marked with a 2-minute silence at 11 o'clock.

'Every year on Remembrance Sunday people lay wreaths at the Cenotaph on Whitehall.'

remoaner (noun) /rɪməʊnə/
derogatory term for someone who believed the UK should stay in the EU.

“ If you want to sound like a posh British person you could use words like ‘rather’ and ‘rigger’. Other words that are associated with the upper classes include ‘spiffing’, ‘tally-ho’ and ‘jolly good show’.”

'I'm sick of hearing remoaners demand a second referendum.'

return (ticket) (noun) /rɪˈtʌ:n tɪkt/
a travel ticket from one place to another and then back again.

'I'd like a return to St Albans please.'

revise (verb) /rɪvaɪz/
reread work that you have already studied in preparation for an exam or test.

'Harry's coming round to revise for our Maths exam.'

rib (someone) (verb) /rɪb/
tease someone.

'My mates used to rib me because I would always blush when I talked to girls.'

right (adjective) /raɪt/
used in a similar way to very or really.

'You were a right little naughty boy when you were at school.'

ring (verb) /rɪŋ/
call or phone someone.

'Your sister rang for you but she didn't leave a message.'

roadman (noun) /rəʊdmən/
slang term for a young male connected to drugs, violence and other anti-social behaviour.

'All the kids in my area aspire to be a roadman, it's so worrying.'

rollicking (noun) /rɒlɪkɪŋ/
a very strong telling off or reprimand.

'We got an absolute rollicking from the Headteacher for letting off the school fire extinguisher.'

ropey (adjective) /rəʊpi/
not feeling very well or not good quality.

'Are you ok Marina? You look a bit ropey.'

rota (noun) /rəʊtə/
a list with the order in which different people have to do a particular job e.g. waiters and waitresses in a restaurant etc.

'I'll put July's rota up on the wall tomorrow so please make sure to check your schedule.'

round (noun) /raʊnd/
a set of drinks bought for a group of people usually within a system. Each person takes it in turn to buy a round for everyone else.

'What do you want lads? It's my round.'

roundabout (noun)
/raʊndəˈbaʊt/
a circular area where three or more roads meet. A car goes around the roundabout until it reaches the road it requires.

'When I was doing my driving lessons I hated going near roundabouts.'

row (noun/verb) /rau/
a loud argument.

'My boyfriend and I broke up because we found ourselves rowing about almost anything.'

Royal Mail (noun) /rɔɪəl meɪl/
a postal service in the United Kingdom.

'I sent your birthday card via Royal Mail.'

rubbish (adjective) /rʌbɪʃ/
slang term for not very good.

'This book is absolutely rubbish, don't waste your time reading it.'

rucksack (noun) /rʌksæk/
a bag that you wear on two shoulders.

'Would you like to get a new rucksack before the school term starts?'

rugger (noun) /rʌgər/
slang term for rugby.

'I think the BBC are showing the rugger this afternoon.'

rumpy-pumpy (noun)
/rʌmpɪ ɹʌmpɪ/
a humorous way to describe sexual intercourse.

'The film isn't really suitable for kids. There's a bit of rumpy-pumpy at the beginning.'

**“ YOU LOOK
A BIT
ROPEY ”**

sack off (phrasal verb) /sæk ɒf/

if you sack something off you avoid or stop doing it.

'I was going to go for drinks after work but I'm quite tired so I'll probably sack it off.'

saddo (noun) /sædəʊ/

an insulting term for a socially inadequate person similar to a loser.

A) *'Only saddos play computer games.'*

B) *'What are you talking about? It's super cool these days.'*

samey (adjective) /seɪmi/

boring because there is no variety.

'I really don't like blues music, it's all so samey.'

sarky (adjective) /sɑ:ki/

another way to say sarcastic.

'I can't help making sarky comments'

S.

at work, I'm going to get myself into trouble one of these days.'

sarnie (noun) /sɑ:ni/

another way to say sandwich.

'I really fancy a sarnie for lunch.'

SAS (noun) /es eɪ es/

abbreviation for 'Special Air Service' which is an elite military force in the British army that conduct highly dangerous secretive missions.

'I signed up to an SAS training camp and didn't survive the first day.'

scally (noun) /skɒli:/
an offensive slang word for a young boisterous, often uneducated, boy/girl.

'There are a bunch of scallies hanging outside our house smoking, drinking and causing a lot of noise.'

scarper (verb) /skɑ:pər/
leave or escape very quickly.

'By the time the police had got there the thieves had scarpered.'

school run (noun) /sku:l rʌn/
the journey parents make when they take their children to school and bring them back home.

'I'm going to leave home early tomorrow so I can avoid the traffic from the school run.'

Scouse (noun) /skaʊs/
accent and dialect found in and around the Liverpool area.

'My flatmate speaks with a thick Scouse accent'

Scouser (noun) /skaʊsər/
someone from Liverpool.

'Do you know if all the Beatles were Scousers?'

Scots (adjective) /skɒts/
from Scotland (people or things) (also Scottish).

'She has a lovely Scots accent.'

scran (noun) /skræn/
food (used mostly in northern dialects).

“ The term ‘Scouse’ comes from ‘lobscouse’ which was a traditional lamb/beef stew served to sailors in Liverpool. ”



'Do you want some scrap before you go out?'

scrap (verb/noun) /skræp/
fight.

'When I was at school we used to have scraps all the time with the school down the road.'

scrote (noun) /skrəʊt/
derogatory term for someone deemed a low-life or unpleasant. Mainly used in the north of England.

'Mind out for the little scrotes hanging around the chippy, they are causing a bit of trouble.'

scruff (noun) /skrʌf/
someone who is untidy.

'Sam you look like an absolute scruff in that suit. At least iron your shirt.'

Secretary of State (noun)
/sekrətəri əv steɪt/
a politician in charge of a particular government department e.g. Secretary of State for Health.

'They've just announced the new Secretary of State for Education.'

semi-detached house (noun)
/semi dɪtætʃt haʊs/
a house which is connected to another house on just one side.

'In the suburbs of London, you'll see lots of semi-detached houses.'

send someone to Coventry (phrase)
a slightly old-fashioned phrase. If you send someone to Coventry you refuse to speak to them as a way of punishing them.

'Has anyone ever sent you to Coventry for some reason?'

shadow cabinet (noun)
/ʃædəʊ kæbɪnət/
members of the opposition party who hold ministerial positions to mirror the government's cabinet of ministers.

'Another shadow cabinet minister has just resigned.'

shag (verb) /ʃæg/
to have sex.

'How old were you when you first shagged someone?'

shandy (noun) /ʃændi/
an alcoholic drink of beer mixed with lemonade.

'Barman, can I have a pint of cider and half a shandy, please?'

shambles (noun) /ʃæmbəlz/
if something is a shambles it is badly organised and confusing.

'The office party was an absolute shambles! There wasn't any food, the organisers hadn't booked a DJ and half the people there didn't even work for our company.'

TOM'S TIPS

- If you are ever struggling
- to go to sleep, turn on the
- BBC's **shipping forecast**. The
- soothing monotone voice will
- help you drift off into a sweet
- slumber within minutes.

shambolic (adjective) /ʃæmbəʊlɪk/
completely and utterly chaotic and disorganised.

'I loved working for my previous company but it was completely shambolic in the way that it was run.'

sharpish (adverb) /ʃɑ:pɪʃ/
quickly.

'We need to leave sharpish otherwise we'll miss our train.'

shattered (adjective) /ʃætəd/
slang for very tired.

'The kids are shattered, let's put them straight to bed.'

shedload (noun) /ʃedləʊd/
a slang term for a large amount of something.

'Don't bring any beer, I've got a shedload in my fridge leftover from our last party.'

shell-out (verb) /ʃel aʊt/
spend a lot of money on something.

'We had to shell-out a ton on alcohol for the staff Christmas party.'

shipping forecast (noun)
/ʃɪpɪŋ fɔ:kɑ:st/
a radio programme broadcast on the BBC that describes the weather at sea around the United Kingdom.

'There's something really reassuring about listening to the shipping forecast when you are in bed at night.'

shire (noun) /ʃaɪər/
(also the shires) a county in England/Wales e.g. Yorkshire, Leicestershire etc.

'You should definitely try and explore some of the shires while you are in England.'

shirty (adjective) /ʃɜ:ti/
very informal word for bad-tempered.

'There's no need to get shirty, I'll do the dishes when I get back.'

shit stirrer (noun) /ʃɪt stɜ:rər/
an offensive term for someone that causes trouble deliberately, usually by passing on information that is secret or untrue.

'I never said I didn't like my new flatmates! Don't be such a shit stirrer.'

shite (noun) /ʃaɪt/

an offensive word used as an alternative to 'shit'.

'It looks like the weather is going to be shite for the next few days.'

shout (noun) /ʃaʊt/

an informal word meaning someone's turn to buy a round of drinks or dinner.

'What do you guys want? It's my shout!'

short-arse (noun) /ʃɔ:t a:s/

a rude word to call someone short.

A) *'How are you so tall? Are your parents tall as well?'*

B) *'No, my Dad is a short-arse.'*

shrapnel (noun) /ʃræpnəl/

slang for loose change i.e. coins.

'Have you got any shrapnel I can borrow to put in the parking meter?'

skew-whiff (adjective) /skju: wɪf/

not straight.

'That painting is hanging a little skew-whiff, don't you think?'

skint (adjective) /skɪnt/

broke/have no money.

'When is payday? I'm absolutely skint!'

skive (off from something) (verb) /

skaɪv ɒf/

not attend school or work without a good reason.

'We used to skive off from school all the time.'

silly billy (noun) /sɪli bɪli/

someone that behaves in a silly way.

'Oh Rafael, you are a silly billy. If you keep splashing in the bath, you'll get water everywhere.'

simples (exclamation) /sɪmpəlz/

used after a statement that has given the solution to a problem. It comes from a TV advert featuring a Russian meerkat.

'Mate, if you want to lose weight, you've got to go to the gym more often. Simples!'

slag (noun)

really offensive term for someone (often female) who is perceived to have a lot of sex with multiple partners.

'Calling anyone a slag is an extremely offensive thing to do.'

slag (someone) off (phrasal verb)

/slæg ɒf/

criticise someone in a mean way.

'Why does Finn always slag off his friends behind their back?'

slanging match (noun)

/slæŋɪŋ mətʃ/

an argument between two sides in which they exchange angry insults.

'My sister and I had a huge slanging match on Saturday night after she'd said my boyfriend wasn't invited to her birthday party.'

slap and tickle (noun) /slæp ən tɪkəl/
humorous slightly old-fashioned term for kissing, cuddling and other sexual activity.

'We went back to her place after the club and had a bit of slap and tickle.'

slapper (noun) /slæpər/
very offensive term for a woman who has lots of sex.

'I can't believe she called you a slapper! That's awful.'

slash (noun) /slæf/
slang term meaning go to the toilet to urinate.

'Thiago's just having a slash and then we can go.'

slip road (noun) /slɪp rəʊd/
a road that allows drivers to get on or off a motorway.

'Remember to slow down when you turn off at the slip road.'

Sloane Ranger (noun) /sləʊn reɪndʒər/
a derogatory term used to describe the stereotypical young upper-class female from west London. There is an area in Chelsea called

Sloane Square and the people who live there are generally extremely wealthy (also Sloanie).

'If you've ever seen the TV programme 'Made In Chelsea' you'll know exactly what a Sloane Ranger is.'

small print (noun) /smɔ:l prɪnt/
the text in formal agreements written in very small font. It usually holds important information that they hope won't be noticed.

'You have to check the small print before signing a contract.'

snaffle (verb) /snæfəl/
quickly take something without asking, usually something that isn't yours.

'Who has snaffled all the biscuits?'

snap (noun) /snæp/
informal word for a photograph usually taken without professional equipment.

'Hey, do you want to see my holiday snaps from my trip to Thailand?'

snog (verb) /snɒg/
slang for kiss.

'How old were you when you first snogged a boy?'

SNP (noun) /es en pi:/
an abbreviation for the Scottish

National Party which is a political party in Scotland.

'The SNP have done better than expected in the local elections.'

so-and-so (noun) /səʊ ən səʊ/
a person who is considered to have a negative characteristic.

'My neighbour is a nosy old so-and-so.'

sod (noun) /sɒd/
a rude term to call someone.

'You've deleted all the data from my hard drive, you stupid sod!'

sod it/that (exclamation) /sɒd it/
slightly rude way to show anger or annoyance at something or someone.

'Ah sod it! Let's give up trying to build this wardrobe for today and try again tomorrow when Jessica gets here to help.'

sod off (phrasal verb) /sɒd ɒf/
a rude way to tell someone to go away.

'Sod off and leave me alone! I've had enough of you moaning for one day.'

solicitor (noun) /səˈlɪsɪtər/
a British lawyer who gives legal advice.

'I've hired a solicitor to help me with the selling of my house.'

soppy (adjective) /sɒpi/
overly emotional and romantic in a way that seems silly or embarrassing.

'Pepe wrote me a really soppy note saying how much he missed me.'

sorted (adjective) /sɔːtɪd/
organised or arranged.

'I've sorted us two tickets to see Ed Sheeran at Wembley!'

sorted (exclamation) /sɔːtɪd/
a slang term used mainly in the north of England to mean OK or great.

A) *'You'll never guess what, I just passed my driving theory test!'*

B) *'Sorted, mate!'*

sound (adjective) /saʊnd/
good or nice.

'My new colleagues seem really sound.'

southern softie (noun)
/sʌðən sɒfti/
an offensive term for someone from the south of England.

'Mate, it's not cold at all! You are such a southern softie!'

southerner (noun) /sʌðənər/
someone from the south of
England.

*'Some people say you are not a true
southerner unless you were born
south of Watford!'*

spag bol (noun) /spæg bɒl/
informal term for spaghetti
bolognese.

*'Do you kids want spag bol for
dinner?'*

spanner in the works (phrase)
/spænər ɪn ðə wɜːks/
something that stops or spoils a
plan or process.

*'The rain has put a real spanner
in the works for our picnic this
afternoon.'*

sparky (noun) /spɑːki/
slang term for an electrician.

*'My son is training to be a sparky
just like his Dad.'*

spend a penny (phrase)
/spend ə peni/
an old-fashioned phrase meaning
to go to the toilet.

*'I'm just going to spend a penny
before we leave.'*

spiffing (adjective) /spɪfɪŋ/
old-fashioned term for excellent.

*'Oh George, thank you for hosting
last night's party. It was a spiffing
occasion.'*

splash out (on something) (phrasal
verb) /splæʃ aʊt/
spend a lot of money on something.

*'Let's splash out for our wedding
anniversary and go to a fancy
restaurant.'*

spod (noun) /spɒd/
a geeky person who studies a lot
and isn't fashionable.

*'My data science class is full of spods
like me, I love it!'*

spots (noun) /spɒts/
raised red marks on the skin
(commonly found on teenagers).

*'I had terrible spots growing up
and I still get the odd spot on my
forehead.'*

spot on (adjective) /spɒt ɒn/
exactly correct.

A) *'I reckon a house around here
costs about £350,000. Am I right?'*

B) *'Spot on!'*

sprog (noun) /sprɒg/
slang word for child.

'They've had 4 sprogs in 5 years.'

spud (noun) /sprʌd/
slang word for potato.

'Would you like some spuds with your roast chicken?'

squaddie (noun) /skwɒdi/
a private soldier in the British army.

'All the squaddies come into Chelmsford for drinks because there is an army barracks nearby.'

squidgy (adjective) /skwidʒi/
soft and changing shape easily.

'I've bought my niece a squidgy toy for her to play with.'

squire (noun) /skwaɪər/
an old fashioned and informal way to address a man usually of higher social standing (although that doesn't always have to be the case).

'Good morning squire, can I help you with your bags?'

the squits (noun) /skwɪts/
slang term for diarrhoea.

'Mate, I've had the squits all weekend. It's been miserable.'

stag party/do (noun) /stæg pɑ:ti/
the celebration a man has before he gets married.

'I said I wouldn't have a stag do but then my friends organised one anyway!'

starkers (adjective) /stɑ:kəz/
naked (humorous).

'My mother-in-law walked into our room without knocking and my wife and I were completely starkers.'

state school (noun) /steɪt sku:l/
a school that is funded by the government and therefore free to attend for all children.

'The vast majority of children in the UK go to a state school.'

steady on (phrase) /stedi ɒn/
an expression used to tell someone to be more reasonable or modify what they have just said.

A) *'That's it! Didier is going to have to move out. I'm sick and tired of his behaviour.'*

“ STAG PARTY ”

B) *'Steady on! Let's have a chat about it with him first.'*

steam in (phrasal verb) /sti:m in/
join or start a fight.

'A bunch of Birmingham City fans went steaming in to a group of Cardiff fans and it all kicked off.'

STI (noun) /es ti: ai/
an abbreviation of 'sexually transmitted infection' (also STD - sexually transmitted disease).

'There's a clinic in the hospital where they test for STIs.'

stick (noun) /stɪk/
abuse/criticism.

'The England rugby team received a lot of stick after losing their 5th consecutive game.'

stodgy (adjective) /stɒdʒi/
an adjective to describe food that is heavy and filling.

'I had this beef pie for lunch that was so stodgy I couldn't finish it.'

stonking (adjective) /stɒŋkɪŋ/
informal term for something very big.

'Blimey Maggie! That's a stonking great garden you've got.'

strop (noun) /strɒp/
a bad mood usually because you have to do something you don't want to do.

'Now the kids are teenagers we have to deal with a lot more strops than we used to.'

stroppy (adjective) /strɒpi/
moody and unpleasant.

'Were you a bit of a stroppy teenager?'

(get) stuck in (phrase) /stʌk in/
do something in a determined enthusiastic way.

'Come on, let's get stuck into the cleaning so we can relax and watch a movie tonight.'

stuffed (adjective) /stʌft/
very full after eating a lot.

'That Sunday roast was delicious guys, I'm absolutely stuffed.'

sub (noun) /sʌb/
the amount of money paid to be a member of a club or team.

'Have you guys paid your subs for the new season?'

subway (noun) /sʌbweɪ/
an underground walkway allowing pedestrians to go under a busy road safely.

'Let's take the subway instead of trying to cross this dangerous road.'

summat (pronoun) /sʌmət/
a variation of 'something' mainly used in the north of England.

'Do you want to do summat this weekend?'

sunshine (noun) /sʌnfaɪn/
a term of address for someone, usually affectionate.

'Alright sunshine, are you ready to go?'

suss (something) out (phrasal verb)
/sʌs aʊt/
discover or find out the things you need to know about something or someone.

'We finally sussed out why Kiara has been so distant lately. Her girlfriend doesn't like her hanging out with us.'

sweet Fanny Adams (phrase)
/swi:t fæni ædəmz/
a slightly rude phrase that means

'absolutely nothing' (also 'sweet FA').

'I won sweet Fanny Adams at the horse racing today.'

swot (noun) /swɒt/
a slightly mean term for someone (usually a child) who studies very hard.

'All the kids at school called me a swot because I did extra homework every night.'

swot up on something (verb)
/swɒt ʌp ɒn/
to learn a lot about a subject particularly for an exam.

'I need to swot up on my maths before the exams next week.'

ta! (interjection) /tɑː/
thank you.

- A) 'Here's your tea, Mum.'
- B) 'Ta love!'

ta-ra (exclamation) /tə rɑː/
a way of saying goodbye, used
mostly in the north of England.

'One of Liverpool's most famous personalities, Cilla Black, used to say 'ta-ra chuck' as one of her catchphrases.'

ta-ra a bit (exclamation) /tə rɑː ə bɪt/
goodbye mainly used in
Birmingham.

'I'm off to the Bullring, ta-ra a bit.'

tad (noun) /tæd/
a small amount.

'It's a tad cold in here, don't you think?'

taffy/taff (noun) /tæfi/
derogatory term for a Welsh person.



'The use of the word taff is not socially acceptable anymore.'

tailback (noun) /teɪlbæk/
a long line of traffic that moves very
slowly or not at all.

'There are tailbacks all along the north circular tonight after an accident.'

take the piss (out of someone)
(phrase) /teɪk ðə pɪs/
tease or mock someone.

'My mates used to take the piss out of me because I listened to metal music' (also take the mickey).

tart (yourself) up (phrasal verb)

/tɑ:t ʌp/

usually about a female, very informal/humorous way to say that you make yourself more attractive with makeup, clothes, jewellery etc.

A) *'Where are the girls?'*

B) *'They are in the ladies tarding themselves up.'*

Tartan army (noun) /tɑ:tən ɑ:mi/

the name given to the group of fans who follow the Scottish football team.

'The Tartan army celebrated their victory over England in Trafalgar Square.'

tat (noun) /tæt/

an item that is absolute rubbish or low quality.

'In my opinion, most of the shops around Leicester Square sell tourist tat.'

tea (noun) /ti:/

used mainly in the north of England as the word for the evening meal.

'Mam, can Stan come round for tea tonight?'

Team GB (noun) /ti:m dʒi: bi:/

the Great Britain and Northern Ireland Olympic team.

'Team GB won a record number of

gold medals at the 2016 Rio Olympics.'

tear up (noun) /teər ʌp/

a fight.

'He was the only guy I knew who enjoyed having a tear up every now and then.'

tekkers (noun) /tekəz/

sporting skills.

'Stan's got the best tekkers in the team.'

telly (noun) /teli/

short for television.

'There's nothing good on the telly tonight.'

ten a penny (phrase) /ten ə peni/

very common (also two a penny).

'Around Shoreditch, trendy coffee shops are ten a penny.'

tenner (noun) /tenər/

slang for ten pounds.

'Do you have that tenner I lent you last week?'

terraced house (noun)

/terəst haus/ a house connected to houses on both sides.

'My family lived in a terraced house in the East End of London until the 1960s.'

the Territorial Army (noun)
a voluntary reserve army force (now known as the Army Reserve).

'I joined the Territorial Army so that I could get basic army training and learn new skills.'

tick (noun) /tɪk/
informal term for a very short moment.

'I'll be there in a tick, just wait where you are.'

ticket tout (noun) /tɪkɪt taʊt/
someone who buys tickets and sells them on for a profit.

'There are always ticket touts standing outside the big concerts trying to sell tickets.'

tickety-boo (adjective)
/tɪkəti: bu:/
old fashioned way to say everything is as you want it to be.

A) *'How's your trip going?'*
B) *'Tickety boo, thanks.'*

ticking off (noun) /tɪkɪŋ ɒf/
a light scolding or telling off.

'I just got a ticking off from my neighbour for parking in front of his drive.'

tight-arse (noun) /taɪt ɑ:s/
someone who is stingy and not willing to spend money.

'My old boss was such a tight-arse who refused to give his staff bonuses.'

tights (noun) /taɪts/
an item of clothing usually worn by females made of thin material like nylon that covers the legs up to the waist.

'Oh bother! I've got a ladder in my tights!'

Tipp-Ex (noun) /tɪp eks/
Trademark. A white liquid used to correct written mistakes.

'Can I borrow your Tipp-Ex? I've written the wrong date on my essay.'

tiping it down (phrase)
/tɪpɪŋ ɪt daʊn/
raining heavily.

'Take your umbrella with you, it's absolutely tiping it down out there.'

tired and emotional (phrase)
/taɪəd ənd ɪməʊʃənəl/
a euphemism for drunk.

'I'm going to take Felipe home, he's a little tired and emotional.'

tit (noun) /tɪt/
an insult similar to idiot.

'Get down from the bar, you tit! You'll hurt yourself.'

“TOM, DICK, AND HARRY”

titchy (adjective) /tɪtʃi/
very small (also ‘titch’ as a noun).

‘Oh my goodness! Your hamster is so titchy! How old is she?’

thou/thee (pronoun) /ðəu/ /ði:/
used in the Yorkshire dialect as a replacement for the second person singular.

‘How are thee today Sam?’

todger (noun) /tɒdʒər/
rude slang term for penis.

‘How many other words for penis other than todger can you think of?’

toe-rag (noun) /təʊræg/
someone who behaves in a naughty or malicious way.

‘That little toe-rag has stolen my bike!’

toff (noun) /tɒf/
derogatory term for a posh/rich person.

‘The opera is just for toffs, it’s so elitist!’

(get) toggled up/out (phrasal verb) /tɒgd ʌp/
get dressed for a special occasion.

‘All the lads got toggled out for the rugby club Christmas party.’

Tom, Dick, and Harry (noun) /tɒm dɪk ænd hæri/
a phrase used to refer to ordinary people (also Tom, Dick, or Harry).

‘Darts isn’t a sport! Any Tom, Dick and Harry could play it to a high level with enough training.’

top oneself (verb) /tɒp/
slang phrase for commit suicide.

'Enrique threatened to top himself last night so we've called the authorities for help.'

top-up (noun) /'tɒp.ʌp/
an extra amount of something to meet the necessary amount e.g. money or liquid.

'Do you need a top-up on your phone credit this month?'

Tory (noun) /tɔːri/
someone who supports the Conservative party.

'My grandad has been a Tory all his life.'

tosh (noun) /tɒʃ/
nonsense.

'I've never heard so much tosh in all my life.'

tosser (noun) /tɒsər/
a rude insult for someone you think is an idiot.

'I just saw this complete tosser throw his crisp packet on the floor.'

touch wood (phrase) /tʌtʃ wʊd/
if you say 'touch wood' you hope to have good luck about something you have just said.

'Touch wood we get sunny weather for our BBQ on Sunday.'

tower block (noun) /tauə blɒk/
a very tall building used for flats or offices.

'They are building a huge tower block right next to my office.'

trump (verb) /trʌmp/
to pass wind/fart.

A) *'Did you just trump?'*

B) *'No, it was the dog!'*

trustafarian (noun) /trʌstəfɛəriən/
a young person from a wealthy background whose trust fund allows them to live an alternative lifestyle without working. They generally choose to live in poorer places than they need to in order to seem cool.

'Let's be honest, Kate and Oscar are total trustafarians. They live in a dodgy part of the city and yet they both went to public school.'

the Tube (noun) /tʃuːb/
the Tube is an alternative term for the London Underground.

'The quickest way to get to Hammersmith from here is to take the Tube from Green Park.'

tummy button (noun)
/tʌmi bʌtən/
informal term for navel.

'Don't tickle my tummy button, I really don't like it.'

twit (noun) /twɪt/
someone who is stupid.

'Don't be such a twit, Boris, you know your plans will never work.'

twat (noun) /twæt/
offensive word for an idiot.

'Look at those twats over there trying to fight each other.'

twee (adjective) /twi:/
disapproving way to describe something overly cute, pretty or sentimental.

'I enjoyed our holiday but I found the village we stayed in to be a bit twee.'

two fingers (noun) /tu: fɪŋgəz/
a rude way to show your anger

at someone by physically or metaphorically raising your two fingers in a V sign.

'She basically put two fingers up at her boss.'

two-up two-down (noun)
/tu: ʌp tu: daʊn/
a small house with two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs.

'My grandad was raised in a two-up two-down in Tottenham.'

“ The Tube (aka the London Underground) was the world's first ever underground railway when it was opened in 1863. ”



UCAS (noun) /ju:kæs/
an abbreviation for Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. UCAS organises the admissions process for British universities.

'Have you filled out your UCAS form yet?'

undercarriage (noun)
/ʌndə,kæri:dʒ/
euphemism for a person's private parts.

'This bike is really uncomfortable on my undercarriage.'

undercrackers (noun)
/ʌndəkrækəz/
slang term for men's underwear.

'Pull up your trousers dude! I can see your undercrackers.'

the Underground (noun)
/ʌndəgraʊnd/
the most common name for the London Underground Tube network.

U.

'The best way to get around London is on the Underground.'

under the cosh (phrase)
/ʌndər ðə kɒʃ/
under pressure or in a difficult position.

'Liverpool were under the cosh for the entire second half against Barcelona.'

undies (noun) /ʌndi:z/
short for underwear.

'Khaled you left your undies in the bathroom. Can you go and pick them up?'

uni (noun) /ju:ni/
a short form of university.

'I'm seeing my uni mates this weekend.'

Union Jack (noun) /ju:niən dʒæk/
the red, white and blue flag that represents the United Kingdom.

'The Union Jack is flown above Buckingham Palace.'

up for something (phrase) /ʌp fɔ:/
enthusiastic to do something.

'Are you up for going to Brighton next weekend?'

up sticks (phrase) /ʌp stɪks/
go and live somewhere else.

'At the end of the year, I think we're going to up sticks and move to Australia.'

up the duff (phrase) /ʌp ðə dʌf/
slang for pregnant.

'I didn't know Chika is up the duff!'

up the (noun) e.g. Up the Blues! / Up the Reds! (phrase) /ʌp ðə/
used to show support for a group or sports team.

'West Ham fans shout 'up the Hammers!' to show support for their football team.'

use your loaf/noggin'/brain
(phrase) use your common sense.

'Mate, don't ask me how to do the task, use your loaf!'

TOM'S TIPS

One big distinction between accents in the north and south of England is the /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds. In the South they say both /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ but in the North they only use /ʊ/. A phrase like **'up the duff'** showcases this perfectly. In the North it's /ʌp ðə dʌf/ whereas in the South it's /ʌp ðə dʌf/.

VAT (noun) /vat/

Value-added tax. This is the tax paid during the production of goods and services and by the end customer.

'The prices listed on the menu already include VAT.'

veg (noun) /vedz/

short form for vegetables.

'My diet growing up was meat and two veg every night.'

veggie (noun/adjective) /vedzi/

informal term for vegetarian.

'My Mum was a veggie her whole life.'

Victoria Cross (noun)

/vɪktɔːrɪə krɒs/

the highest honour for bravery in the United Kingdom (abbreviation VC).

'The Victoria Cross was first presented by Queen Victoria in 1856.'



voddy (noun) /vɒdɪ/

slang term for vodka.

'Can I have a voddy red bull and a cider please?'

vox pop (noun) /vɒks pɒp/

a short video clip of a member of the public commenting on a topic that is then broadcast on a TV show.

'BBC Wales did vox pops around Cardiff city centre asking people what they thought of Welsh independence.'

waffle (on) (verb/noun) /wɒfəl/
say or write a lot of words without really saying anything interesting or important.

'Professor Wong's lectures are really dull. He just waffles for most of them and then doesn't give us time to ask questions at the end.'

WAG (acronym) /wæg/
stands for 'wives and girlfriends'. A slightly derogatory term that refers to women who are married to or date football players.

'The England team and their WAGs stayed in a hotel near my town in Northern France.'

wally (noun) /wɒli/
idiot.

'Did you see what that wally did? He just drove through a red light!'

wanker (noun) /wæŋkər/
a very rude insult for someone you think is stupid or contemptible.

A large, bold, black letter 'W' followed by a solid black circle, resembling a period. The 'W' is composed of thick, blocky strokes.

'Harry, stop being a wanker and tell me where you've hidden my phone.'

wanky (adjective) /wæŋki/
stupid or pretentious.

'Holly wants to go to some wanky club for her 30th.'

washing up liquid (noun)
/wɒʃɪŋlɪd̩ ˌlɪkwɪd/
the liquid used to clean cutlery and plates in a sink.

'Have we got any more washing up liquid? I want to do the dishes.'

watering hole (noun)
/wɔːtərɪŋ ˌhəʊl/

humorous term for a pub.
'Shall we try and find a good watering hole around here and get out of the rain?'

waz (verb/noun) /wæz/
if you need a waz, you need to urinate (also wazz).

'Does anyone need a waz before we leave the pub?'

wazzock (noun) /wæzək/
a stupid person.

'Don't be such a wazzock, Tony! Of course you can't drink and drive.'

WC (noun) /dʌbəlju: si:/
abbreviation of 'water closet', meaning toilet. Only used in written English.

'WC on the second floor.'

wedding tackle (noun)
/wedɪŋ tækəl/
euphemism for male private parts.

'I accidentally saw his wedding tackle when he got out of the shower.'

wee (adjective) /wi:/
a mostly Scottish term for little/small.

'Can I have wee bit more wine please, if you have any?'

weedy (adjective) /wi:di/
physically weak.

'It's hard to believe you were a weedy little teenager when I first met you.'

weegie (noun) /wi:dʒi/
someone from Glasgow (mainly used by people from Edinburgh).

'I lived with a bunch of weegies when I was at uni.'

well (adverb) /wel/
used before adjectives to add emphasis.

'That new Mission Impossible film is well good.'

wellington boots (noun)
/welɪŋtən bu:ts/
waterproof rubber boots usually worn in rainy, muddy conditions (also wellies).

'Put on your wellies kids, it's really muddy in the woods.'

wet (adjective) /wet/
having a weak character and lacking strength of personality.

'My dad doesn't like my new boyfriend, he says he's a bit wet and needs to toughen up.'

wet the baby's head (phrase)
celebrate the birth of a baby by having an alcoholic drink.

'We're going to wet the baby's head on Saturday if you'd like to join us.'

whacked (adjective) /wækt/
slang term for tired.

'I'm really rather whacked, I might go and have a lie down on my bed'

whatevs (exclamation) /wɒtevz/
used to show a sense of indifference to someone's comment. It's another way to say that you don't care.

A) *'Did you see Jackie has started dating your ex?'*

B) *'Whatevs!'*

wheelie bin (noun) /wi:li bin/
the large rubbish bin outside a house that is on wheels so that it can be collected by a refuse collector.

'Charlotte, can you put this rubbish bag straight into the wheelie bin please?'



wheeze (noun) /wi:z/
a clever or amusing idea or plan.

'I've got a brilliant wheeze that might earn us enough money to pay for our Glastonbury tickets.'

whiffy (adjective) /wɪfi:/
smelly.

'Rafa, your sports bag is really whiffy. Go and put everything into the washing machine immediately.'

whinge (verb) /wɪndʒ/
complain about something.

'Kids, stop whinging! We are nearly home, you can have something to eat when we arrive.'

Whitehall (noun) /waɪthɔ:l/
a term used for the British civil service. It's a street in London

“ The term ‘Whitehall’ is an example of a metonym. This is a word that represents something closely associated to it so when people talk about ‘Whitehall’ they are referring to the civil service and government. Another example is ‘The City’ which refers to the financial industry in London. ”

where many of the civil service offices are located.

'A new plan for a Brexit deal is being discussed in Whitehall.'

whip-round (noun) /wɪp raʊnd/
when a group of people all put money into a collection in order to buy a gift for someone e.g. when someone leaves a job, a birthday present etc.

'Let's have a whip-round and buy Joyce a goodbye gift.'

white van man (noun) /waɪt væn mæn/
a male van driver whose driving is aggressive.

'I was driving around the ring road and this white van man cut me up.'

whoopsie daisy (phrase) /wʊpsi: deɪzi/
a phrase used to acknowledge a mistake e.g. someone falling over or the spilling of a drink. It was popularised by Hugh Grant in the 1999 film Notting Hill. (also oops-a-daisy/upsie daisy).

'Whoopsie daisy! Katie has just spilt her milk on the carpet. Can you get a cloth?'

why aye (man)! (phrase) /waɪ aɪ/
yes or of course, used largely in the north-east of England.

A) *'Shall we get a fish supper tonight?'*

B) *'Why aye man!'*

wicked (adjective) /wɪkɪd/
great or brilliant.

'I watched a wicked new series on Netflix about hip hop music.'

wide boy (noun) /waɪd bɔɪ/
a young man, who is wealthy but who earns it in a dishonest way.

'For some reason that I don't understand, Lucy only seems to date wide boys.'

wind someone up (phrasal verb) /waɪnd ʌp/
to tease or annoy someone.

'Sally, don't wind your brother up and please give him back his hat.'

wind-up merchant (noun) /waɪnd ʌp mɜːtʃənt/
someone who enjoys teasing or annoying other people.

'There's a guy at work who is a complete wind-up merchant. He tries to annoy me on a daily basis.'

windscreen (noun) /wɪndskri:n/
the glass panel at the front of a car.

'Dude, you need to clean your windscreen, it's filthy!'

wireless (noun) /waɪələs/
slightly old fashioned word for radio.

'Turn on the wireless, I think the United game is on.'

wobbly (noun) /wɒbəli/
if you throw a wobbly you suddenly become very angry or upset.

'Jane throws a wobbly every time I come home late from the pub.'

wonga (noun) /wɒŋgə/
slang for money.

'My Dad has made so much wonga betting on horses over the years.'

wotcha (exclamation) /wɒtʃə/
very informal greeting similar to 'hey' (also wotcher).

'Wotcha Malik, how's school going?'

WPC (abbreviation)
/dʌbəlju: pi: si:/
Woman Police Constable.

'We'd like to welcome WPC Jones to the police force here in York.'

wrinkly (noun) /rɪŋkli/
humorous slang term for an old person.

'Look how many wrinklies are queuing up for this music night, don't you think we are a little young to be here?'

write-off (noun) /raɪt ɒf/
a vehicle that has been damaged to the point where it is no longer drivable.

'My old Toyota is a complete write-off, you'll never get it started again.'

wrong 'un (noun) /rɒŋən/
a bad or untrustworthy character.

'Christina only ever seems to date guys you'd class as wrong'uns.'

“WHY AYE
MAN”

yam yam (noun) /jæm jæm/
someone from the black country
which includes Wolverhampton,
Dudley, and Walsall.

*'My boss is a yam yam and I love her
accent.'*

yank (noun) /jæŋk/
a disapproving term for someone
from the USA.

*'Why are there so many yanks in this
bar?'*

yea big (phrase) /jeɪ bɪg/
a term used when using your
hands to demonstrate the size
of an object.

*'Her old TV is about yea big. Do
you think you have space for it
in your flat?'*

year (noun) /jɪər/
the particular level a student is at
school or university.

'Isla is in her second year at uni.'



yellow line (noun) /jeləʊ laɪn/
a yellow line of paint along the side
of a road indicating that vehicles
cannot be parked there at certain
times.

*'I think we can park here between
9-5, it's only a single yellow line.'*

Y-fronts (noun) /waɪ frʌnts/
underwear worn by males that are
Y-shaped.

*'I stopped wearing Y-fronts when I
was 12.'*

job (noun) /jɒb/
a young person who behaves in an
aggressive, rude way.

“YORKSHIRE PUDDING”

‘There is always a group of yobs hanging outside the arcade at night.’

yonks (noun) /jɒŋks/
an informal word meaning a very long time.

‘Blimey! I haven’t seen my old headteacher Mrs Jelani for yonks.’

yooof (noun) /ju:f/
humorous non-standard spelling of ‘youth’.

‘I don’t know anything about yooof culture these days.’

Yorkshire pudding (noun)
/jɔ:kʃəˈpuːdɪŋ/
a traditional side dish eaten with a Sunday roast. It’s a batter consisting of eggs, flour, and milk or water.

‘My mum makes the fluffiest Yorkshire puddings in the world.’

young offender (noun)
/jʌŋ əˈfendər/
a criminal under the age of 21.

‘It’s hard for young offenders to re-enter normal society after they have been released.’

young offender institution (noun)
/jʌŋ əˈfendər ɪnˌstɪˌtʃuːʃən/
a type of prison that is designed to hold young offenders from as young as 15 all the way to 21.

‘A lot more funding needs to go into young offender institutions’

youth hostelling (noun)
/juːθ ˌhɒstəlɪŋ/
the act of staying in youth hostels and traveling between them.

‘When I was 12 we went youth hostelling in Cornwall.’

yummy mummy (noun)
/jʌmi ˈmʌmi/
a mother who is attractive.

‘There are so many yummy mummies in this area.’

Z /zed/

'Do you know how to pronounce all the letters of the alphabet A to Z?'

zebra crossing (noun)

/zebrə krosɪŋ/

an area across a road where pedestrians can cross. Zebra crossings are painted white and black.

'The Beatles walked across a zebra crossing in their iconic Abbey Road album cover photo.'

zero hour contract (noun)

/zɪərəʊ aʊər kɒntrækt/

a fairly modern concept in which the employer isn't obliged to offer the employee a minimum number of working hours. It is seen as highly unfair to workers but is commonplace in many workplaces.

'I'm sick and tired of working in places that only offer zero-hour contracts.'

Z.

zimmer frame (noun)

/zɪmə freɪm/

the metal frame frail or ill people use to help them have more balance when they are walking.

'They think Grandma is going to need a zimmer frame when she gets out of hospital.'

2. HOW TO SPEAK BRITISH

**What Brits Say
and What They
Actually Mean**

As if learning a new language wasn't hard enough, Brits have chosen to add an extra layer of complexity for you. What we say isn't always what we mean. This is an important lesson to learn early because you can avoid years of misunderstandings and confusion. We use certain phrases that may appear to say one thing but in actual fact, the speaker's intention is entirely different. Have a look at this conversation between two Brits.



Let's test your ability to decode what this Brit meant. Is B saying...

- 1) yes, I want to
- 2) we literally have the ability to play in the rain
- 3) no, I really don't like that idea

If you chose option 3, you are of course correct. While it might appear that B responded with an affirmative response, 'could do' is actually a subtle way to show a lack of enthusiasm to a suggestion. Now clearly a lot of meaning lies in the intonation of the speaker, and how they said the phrase must be taken into account. Below are a few light-hearted examples of where a Brit might say one thing but mean another (don't take them too seriously).

could do - a perfect way to show a lack of enthusiasm for a suggestion. It's usually followed very quickly by a counter suggestion to move the conversation off the previous idea.

sorry - please don't think for one minute that when someone bumps into you on the Tube and then says 'sorry' they are genuinely apologising (OK they might sometimes). It's much more likely that they are using 'sorry' to avoid embarrassment and social awkwardness. We use it to acknowledge that something awkward has happened and that using any more words would cause further embarrassment and awkwardness. If in doubt just say 'sorry' and you'll be fine.

we should meet up soon (or a variation of this) - used when you bump into someone you know and you have to make small talk. The only way to exit this situation politely is to promise to 'meet up soon'. Clearly, neither of you have any intention of doing so, ever!

that's an interesting point - if you hear someone say this, what they really mean is 'I have tried to erase what you just said from my memory. In fact, I'm not sure I ever really listened in the

first place'.

I'll see what I can do - used as a reply to someone's request. Essentially you are saying 'I really can't do what you've asked' either because you genuinely can't or you simply don't want to.

I'll bear it in mind - this may sound like your boss is going to consider your suggestion but don't be fooled! They've already dismissed it in their mind as a terrible idea. You'll probably be fired the following day.

that's not bad - this may sound negative but in actual fact, it's a positive affirmation that someone likes something. So if you show a colleague a piece of work and they respond with 'that's not bad' they think it's pretty decent and you should be quietly pleased with yourself.

I'd love to but... - this is the perfect way to reject someone's invitation politely. It sounds to the invitee that you want to do the activity but you can't, when in actual fact you never had any intention of doing it. You can add any excuse after this phrase e.g. 'I'd love to but I've already got plans', 'I'd love to but I have to take my dog for a walk' or 'I'd love to but I need to wash my hair.' I challenge you to find a more useful phrase in English.

I'm not entirely sure - when someone responds to your question with 'I'm not entirely sure' it's another way of saying 'I have absolutely no idea'.

What do you want to study at University?

I'm not entirely sure

anyone want the last piece?

- imagine one last piece of chocolate cake on the table and someone says 'anyone want the last piece?' It's natural to think they are genuinely offering it to you, but they are not! They want it and they are willing to kill for it. But they don't want to seem rude so they ask this question. Be careful how you reply. Do you really want that piece of cake?

alright/you alright? - to the untrained ear, this sounds like the person is asking you about your health and mental wellbeing but really it's just another way to say 'hi'. Answer back with 'alright' and you have navigated another tricky British interaction successfully.

by the way - if someone introduces a seemingly incidental piece of information by saying 'by the way' it is NOT incidental! It is, in fact, the most important point that they have been wanting to say all along. Here's an example...

- A) 'I'm going to Katie's party on Saturday, are you?'
- B) 'Yeah, I'm going.'
- A) 'Oh by the way, have you seen my hairdryer anywhere? I left it on the kitchen table.'

What's really going on here? Does A care whether B is going to the party? No! Of course not. All A cares about is where that bloody hairdryer has got to and if B has sneakily borrowed it.

“I'D LOVE TO BUT...”

I might see you there -

sounds like they are coming, right? Wrong! I'm sorry but they have no desire to come to this party, social gathering, dinner or whatever it is you are talking about. The use of might is what tells us this. If they were coming they'd say 'I'll see you there.'

can I have a quick word? -

translation: 'you are in trouble'. If someone in your office asks you if they can have a quick word, start panicking. 9 times out of 10 it'll be about something you did wrong like break the photocopier or make the intern cry. Still, there's always the chance it's that 1 out of 10 job promotion and big bonus news you were dreaming of... so not all bad.

make yourself at home - what's this? You think you can behave as if their home is yours? Turn the TV on and put your feet up? Ha! You have been fooled again! Don't under any circumstance think you have free rein to do as you please. You may sit in the designated visitor's chair and you may use the loo (with permission) and that is all.

you've caught the sun - translation 'the sun has burned you to a crisp, you idiot!'

3. IT'S A LONDON THING

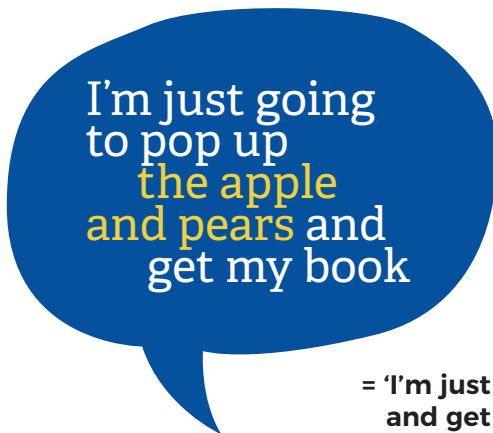
**Cockney
Rhyming Slang**

For anyone not from London, all 7 billion of you, Cockney rhyming slang can be a bizarre and slightly confusing concept. Stick with me while I explain it, it's worth the effort. So as we know, Cockneys are the people born within the sound of the Bow Bells in the East End of London. During the 1800s a new type of slang developed within this community. Although the exact origins are uncertain, it is believed that it was within the criminal underworld that these slang phrases first appeared. It was used as a type of cryptolect, a way for the thieves and pickpockets to communicate with each other without the authorities understanding. These days, Cockney rhyming slang isn't as widely used as it was in the past. Having said that, modern versions are still created and added to the growing list of rhyming phrases (see **Britney Spears**).

So how does it work?

1. Take a phrase like 'apples and pears'.
2. Find a word that rhymes with the last word - 'pears' = stairs
3. You have the meaning - 'apples and pears' = stairs

Let's use it in an example sentence:



= 'I'm just going to pop up **the stairs** and get my book.' (Standard English)

Now it's important to note that we don't always use the full phrase. For example 'Barnet fair' means 'hair' but we only use the word 'Barnet'.

I'm going to get my **Barnet** cut this afternoon

= I'm going to get my hair cut this afternoon. (Standard English)

So to summarise, there are two main types of rhyming phrases. Ones where we use the whole phrase and others where we can use just one word.

This is by no means a complete list of Cockney rhyming slang. It's simply a sample of the ones I have heard most commonly in and around London. The big question is should you use Cockney rhyming slang? To be honest, it's unlikely you will ever hear it, let alone need to speak it, but it's interesting to know and if you want to have a go, I say why not? I personally love using certain phrases in my daily conversations. If you want to hear it being used, listen to TV personality Danny Dyer speaking or films like 'Green Street' and 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels'.

Adam and Eve - believe

'Did you hear Sharon and Phil are getting divorced? I can't Adam and Eve it!'

Alan Whickers - knickers / underwear

'I haven't got any clean Alans!'

(Aunt) Joanna - piano (In a Cockney accent it's pronounced 'pianna')

'My grandad used to play the old Joanna for a living.'

apple and pears - stairs

'I'm just popping up the apples and pears to grab my scarf, do you need anything?'

bag (of sand) - a grand (£1,000)

'Oi, you still owe me a bag for the car you bought last year.'

Barnet (fair) - hair

'Mate, what have you done to your Barnet? It looks terrible!'

battle cruiser - boozer (pub)

'We're going down the battle cruiser tonight if you want to join us.'

bees (and honey) - money

'I've got no bees until payday.'

bird (lime) - time (in prison)

'My brother did bird for robbing a Post Office when he was 18.'

Brahms and Liszt - pissed (which is slang for very drunk)

'We got absolutely Brahms and Liszt at Yewande's party last night.'

Bristol (City) - titty (female breasts)

'My Bristols didn't feel comfortable in that bra.'

a butcher's (hook) - look

'Have a butcher's at my new car. What do you think?'

bread (and honey) - money

'I'm not making enough bread at the moment to pay the rent.'

Britney (Spears) - beers. This is a relatively modern one and is a good example of how new slang phrases develop alongside popular culture.

'Shall we get a couple of Britneys after work?'

brown bread - dead

'When the police found him in his home he was brown bread.'

bubble (bath) - laugh

'Are you having a bubble? There's no way you got tickets for Elton John!'

Chevy Chase - face. This is another relatively modern one that comes from popular culture.

'I could look at her Chevy Chase for hours.'

china (plate) - mate/friend

'How are you doing me ole china?'

cream-crackers / crackered - knackered (very tired)

'You guys look absolutely cream-crackered, have you been running?'

Currant Bun - The Sun newspaper

'Did you know you can't buy the Currant Bun in Liverpool?'

daisy roots - boots

'Jerry, clean your daisy roots before you go out tonight.'

Desmond (Tutu) - a 2.2 (a lower 2nd class UK university degree)

A) *'What grade did you get for your degree?'*
B) *'I got a Desmond.'*

Dicky (Bird) - word

'I won't tell a Dicky Bird to anyone about your little secret.'

dog and bone - phone

'I'll get on the dog and bone and call the restaurant for you.'

donkey's (ears) - years (a long time)

'I haven't seen my school mates for donkey's.'

so I can buy a sandwich?'

loaf (of bread) - head

'Use your loaf before you do something stupid like that again.'

half-inch - pinch / steal

'Someone's half-inched my phone from the table.'

Hampstead (Heath) - teeth

'Two of my Hampsteads got knocked

“LET’S HAVE A BUTCHERS”

frog (and toad) - road

'I'm just going down the frog to see Claudia, I'll be back in an hour.'

Jack Jones - alone / on your own

'Murat has gone for a run and left me all on my Jack Jones.'

Jimmy Riddle - Piddle (wee)

'Is there a toilet near here? I'm desperate for a Jimmy Riddle.'

Lady Godiva - fiver (five-pound note)

'Can you lend me a Lady Godiva

out while I was playing rugby.'

Hank Marvin - starving

'I'm absolutely Hank Marvin. Is there anything in the fridge?'

on your tod - alone (originates from a jockey called Tod Sloane)

'I've got to go to the party on my tod because my girlfriend's away.'

Pete Tong - wrong (modern-day Cockney rhyming slang)

'Oh this cake is a disaster, it's all gone Pete Tong.'

pony (and trap) - crap / not very good

'My football team are absolutely pony, but we just love playing for the fun for it.'

pork pie - a lie

A) *'Did you eat the last piece of chocolate?'*

B) *'No!'*

A) *'Don't tell me porkies.'*

B) *'Honestly, I didn't!'*

rabbit (and pork) - talk

'This geezer has been rabbiting on his phone the entire bus journey at the top of his voice.'

radio rental - mental/crazy

'Mum went radio rental when she saw the mess I'd made in the kitchen.'

Rosy (Lee) - a cup of tea

'Do you want a cup of rosy before we start the film?'

rub-a-dub-dub - pub

'Are we going down the rub-a-dub-dub tonight or what?'

Ruby (Murray) - curry

'Shall we get a couple of Rubys on the way home tonight for our dinner?'

Scooby (Doo) - clue

'I haven't got a Scooby where I left my car keys.'

septic tank - yank

'Loads of septic tanks work in my office.'

syrup (of figs) - a wig

'My grandfather used to wear a black syrup.'

tea leaf - thief

'That tea leaf has gone and stolen my last piece of chocolate. The little git!'

trouble (and strife) - wife

'Trouble's on her way up north to see her family for the weekend.'

Vera Lyn - gin

'I can't drink any more Vera otherwise I'll be sick.'

whistle (and flute) - suit

'I've gotta buy a whistle for Stan and Mary's wedding.'

3. IT'S A LONDON THING

**Modern
London Slang**

Multicultural London English, or MLE as it's also known, is a dialect used by the city's young multi-ethnic citizens. Walk down Oxford Street or take a ride on a local bus and you will be sure to overhear someone speaking MLE. As the name suggests, it is a reflection of the social make-up of the city and its immigrant communities. The words and phrases found in MLE have their roots in Caribbean patois, Arabic, South Asian, and even Polish.

The majority of these words have yet to enter standard dictionaries, in part because of how new they are, so I felt it was important to document them here. They are all slang terms and therefore extremely informal. A lot of them describe things that relate to the issues of youth culture like social hierarchy, sex, money, and violence. MLE is also known for its 'hypersynonymy'. This is when there are multiple words for the same thing much like how in British English we have a plethora of words for 'drunk' or Inuits have numerous words for 'snow'.

aks (verb) - an alternative way to pronounce 'ask'

'Let me aks you, why are you still going out with Jake?'

allow (it/that) (phrase) - leave it / don't worry about it

A) *'I'm going to tell Asha her boyfriend asked me out.'*
B) *'No! Allow it! Don't get involved.'*

bait (adjective) - obvious

'Kasim is going to beat you on FIFA bruv, that's so bait!'

bare (adverb) - intensifier meaning very / a lot

'There were bare mandem at Luke's party.'

beef (noun) - a grudge or disagreement

'There has been beef between these two boxers for years.'

beg (friend) (noun) - a person who sucks up to other people in order to be their friend.

'Louis was such a beg. Why did we let him chill with us?'

bennin (verb) - laugh out loud

'I went to The Comedy Store last night and I was bennin the whole time.'

big man ting (noun) - used to assert high status

'You can't work out with me fool. The gym is a big man ting!'

blaze (verb) - smoke marijuana

'What have you done except for blazing all day?'

blud (noun) - used instead of friend/mate

'Yes blud, what's going on?'

bossman (noun) - it can be used as mate or guvnor but also to address a proprietor of a shop.

'Yes bossman, I'll have the spicy chicken burger and a Coke.'

bozz (noun) - leader

'Paris is the bozz of this crew so show him some respect.'

braap! (exclamation) - a sound that's made when something good has happened like defeating an opponent in a video game. It's a similar sound to a gun being fired or an engine revving.

'Yes, you beat Sam at Call of Duty. Braap!'

brederin' (noun) - friend

'Fabian and Marcus have been brederins since they were at school.'

buff (adjective) - attractive/hot

'I've heard Jack's got a buff mate called Leon.'

bun (verb) - smoke (usually cannabis)

'Come we go bun a joint in the park.'

bruv (noun) - a short form of brother used to greet a male.

'Bruv when is your birthday?'

chirpse (verb) - chat to someone in a flirtatious manner

'The only reason I came to the club tonight was to chirpse ladies.'

cotch (verb) - hang out / relax

A) *'What are you doing?'*
B) *'I'm just cotching at man's yard.'*

crease (verb) - laughing out loud

'Oi fam! Why are you creasing?'

creps (noun) - shoes

'Fam your creps are fresh! Where did you get them?'

dead (adjective) - not very good / boring

'Man, this film is dead.'

dizzy (adjective) - crazy mad

'That guy is dizzy! Why is he walking on the train tracks?'

dope (adjective) - cool / excellent

'Fam, those sunglasses are dope. Where did you get them from?'

dun know (phrase) - you already know / you know it

'Boy, you dun know I'm gonna beat you at FIFA!'

dutty (adjective) - dirty

'Don't come in man's yard with your dutty trainers on.'

dry (adjective) - boring

'This film is dry, let's just play Fortnite instead.'

ends/endz (noun) - area/
neighbourhood

'My ends is dangerous fam.'

fam (noun) - very close friend

'Yes fam, let's go Oxford street.'

fassy (noun) - a derogatory word for
someone who lacks courage

'Come let's tell the headteacher what just happened. Don't be such a fassy!'

feds (noun) - police

'There are so many feds by the underground station. Something serious must be going on.'

finesse (verb) - to rob or take
something

'Bruv, did you finesse those trainers cos there's no way you can afford to buy them.'

flex (verb) - show off

'Did you see AJ flexing his new car around the ends today?'

for real (phrase) - an expression
used to show surprise, excitement
or shock.

A) *'Stormzy just announced he's going to release a track with Kanye.'*
B) *'For real? That's crazy news!'*

garms (noun) - clothes

'I need to get some new garms before my trip to Ibiza next week.'

gassed (adjective) - excited

'I'm gassed about the new FIFA game.'

gully (adjective) - cool / excellent

'Your Nikes are gully fam!'

TOM'S TIPS

- If you want to hear modern London slang and
- the MLE accent check out two British TV shows
- 'Top Boy' and 'People just do nothing'.

gyal (noun) - girl

'There are some peng gyals at this party.'

gyaldem (noun) - a group of girls

'My gyaldem were looking hot last night.'

heads (noun) - people

'There were bare heads at the house party last night.'

heavy (adjective) - really good

'That new Jay-Z tune is heavy.'

hench (adjective) - muscular

'Mate you are looking hench! Have you been hitting the gym hard?'

hush up (expression) - shut up

'Hush up you fool, I don't want to hear what you've got to say.'

jack (someone/something) - to rob someone or steal something

'Did you hear Jay got jacked in Wood Green yesterday?'

jokes - fun/enjoyable

'Your sister is jokes fam, why are you so boring?'

leng (adjective) - attractive/good looking (a synonym of peng)

'Troy's new girlfriend is leng.'

licked (adjective) - drunk

'Man was licked last night! I had the worst hangover today.'

link (up) (verb) - meet up with someone

'Yo, let's link up next week and get a drink or something.'

long (adjective) - if something is long it requires too much effort

A) Come let's go Westfield and get McDonalds'

B) Westfield? Bruv that's long! Let's just go Nando's on the High Street.

mad (adjective) - amazing

'Yo, that Dele Alli goal against Arsenal was mad!'

“**MANDEM**”

mad ting (adjective) - used as a way to show surprise, amazement or, agreement with someone

'That party was a mad ting!'

man (pronoun) - used as a replacement for 1st person singular (I/my/me)

'Man doesn't care if it's late fam, let's go club.'

mandem (noun) - a group of friends

'All the mandem were at the house party last night.'

man like (phrase) - a way to re-affirm / talk about someone

'Man like Harry Kane is scoring mad goals for Tottenham at the moment.'

mazza (noun) - madness

'It was mazza in Westfield today fam.'

merk (verb) - kill someone or insult someone

'I heard Lee merked you at FIFA!'

my man (pronoun) - used to replace 3rd person singular

'My man is getting hench!'

nang (adjective) - impressive or really good

'Your freestyle was nang bro.'

off the hook (phrase) - if something is off the hook it's awesome or super cool.

'That rave in Brixton was off the hook!'

oh my days! (phrase) - used to express shock or surprise

'Oh my days! Have you seen that video of those guys walking on the top of skyscrapers without any safety harnesses?'

on my life (phrase) - a phrase used to emphasise that the speaker is telling the truth

'On my life, I didn't tell Mum you took her hairdryer.'

P (noun) - money

'I'm earning mad Ps in my new job.'

paigon (noun) - an enemy or friend who lies

'Don't waste your time with Sam, he's a paigon.'

peak (adjective) - if you have had bad luck or an injustice against you, you could say it's peak.

'We've got a surprise Maths test? That's peak bruv!'

peng (adjective) - hot / good-looking

'Wow! The girls at this party are peng.'

piff (adjective) - good or attractive

'These are some piff chips!'

Rah! (expression) - wow / expression of surprise

'Rah! Man City just lost to Crystal Palace!'

ramp (verb) - mess with or tease someone

'You met Harry Kane! Don't ramp me fam.'

rasclart (noun) - idiot/fool

'Tony you rasclart! Why did you switch off the light? I'm trying to read my book'

rinse (verb) - use something up

'I've totally rinsed my phone credit. Can I borrow your phone to call my mum?'

roadman (noun) - a young person who hangs around on the streets

'All those boys in my endz want to be a roadman.'

rude boy/rude girl (noun) - a term for a man/woman which has its origins in Jamaica and ska music culture. These days it is used much more generally as a term of endearment (also rudie)

'Yes rude boy, how's it going?'

rush (verb) - attack someone in a group

'We got rushed by a bunch of boys in the park and ended up having to run for help.'

safe (exclamation) - used to greet someone/agree/show approval or to say goodbye.

'Safe blud, wah'gwan?'

screwface (noun) - an angry facial expression

'Why are you giving me a screwface?'

shook (adjective) - shocked/scared

'You look shook bruv, what just happened?'

shot (verb) - sell drugs

'Reece was shotted when he was a teenager but now he's back in education'

sick (adjective) - cool, awesome, very good.

'Bruv, that is a sick jacket. Where did you find it?'

sket (noun) - a derogatory term for a female who has multiple romantic partners

'Don't call her a sket, she's not like that at all!'

“WAH'GWAN”

“WASTEMAN”

standard (adjective) - normal

'West Ham lost again today, standard!'

swear down (phrase) - seriously / I'm telling the truth

A) 'There's no way you got an interview at Google!'

B) 'I swear down! It's next Tuesday.'

tonk (adjective) - muscular

'Janay's new boyfriend is tonk!'

twos (verb) - share something (also 'get twos on something')

'Can I twos your cigarette?'

vex (adjective) - angry

'You should have seen Selina. She was proper vex after chatting to Misha.'

wallad (adjective) - foolish stupid male (very derogatory)

'That wallad just tried to shoplift and got caught by the police!'

wasteman (noun) - a man who doesn't do anything with their life/ a loser

'My cousin is such a wasteman, he needs to get a job fam!'

wah'gwan - greeting like 'what's going on?'

'Wah'gwan mandem?'

yard (noun) - someone's home

'Come round man's yard and watch the football.'

(you) get me? (phrase) - a phrase meaning 'do you understand what I mean or said?'

'Man needs to see some sunshine soon fam, you get me? I'm done with this rain.'

yute (noun) - a young person

'The yutes in my area are all wearing North Face jackets now.'

3. IT'S A LONDON THING

**My Perfect
Weekend
in London**

**“WHEN A MAN
IS TIRED
OF LONDON,
HE IS TIRED
OF LIFE ”**

- SAMUEL JOHNSON, 1777

London is a city of villages, from genteel Hampstead to trendy Shoreditch, each one with its own unique charm and identity. I've spent my life exploring the city's streets and I still haven't scratched the surface. Over the years, I've loved stitching the city together in my mind and seeing how it all fits together like a giant patchwork quilt. One thing I've realised is that London is so much more than just the tourist traps of Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus. The real London lives in local pubs and street markets, it lives in the buzzing high streets and greasy spoon cafes. It's incredible free museums and night buses, it's tube strikes and Nando's! So with this guide 'My Perfect Weekend in London', I attempt the impossible. You can't see this city in just one weekend but you can get a pretty awesome feel for the energy and atmosphere of the place... so here we go.

SATURDAY MORNING

Walk along the South Bank - My favourite way to reconnect with the city after a period of time away is to walk along the **South Bank**, west to east, from Waterloo to London Bridge (or Tower Bridge if I'm feeling energetic). It's a route that takes you past some of the most iconic London landmarks such as the **London Eye, St Paul's Cathedral and Tate Modern**. But more importantly, it's a route that connects you to London's energy. You've got the fast-flowing river on your left, the South Bank skaters on your right and a mix of street entertainers, tourists and runners all around you. Look out for the **Millennium Bridge** nicknamed the 'wobbly bridge' after it swayed in the wind soon after opening. If you have time, walk across it to the north side and find a building called **One New Change**. Take the lift to the top floor for magnificent (free) views and photo opportunities looking back towards **St Paul's Cathedral**. I like to finish the walk in **Borough Market**, which is back on the south side of the river. Grab a coffee from **Monmouth** and peruse the food stalls for something delicious to nibble for lunch.



SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Experience a live football match -

The Premier League has become a globalised phenomenon with millions of people watching games on their TVs and phones across the world but nothing beats watching the action live in the stadium. London has (at the time of writing) five Premier League teams, each one with its own



history and identity. For me, there is no greater way to spend a Saturday afternoon than going to a match. The energy and excitement are palpable. Even if you don't like football, it's a great way to get a feel for the local people and culture. Buying tickets for Premier League games is quite hard these days so you could also try a Championship team instead, where tickets are easier to obtain. I advise researching good pubs to go to before the game and maybe learn one or two of the songs so you can be a part of the atmosphere.

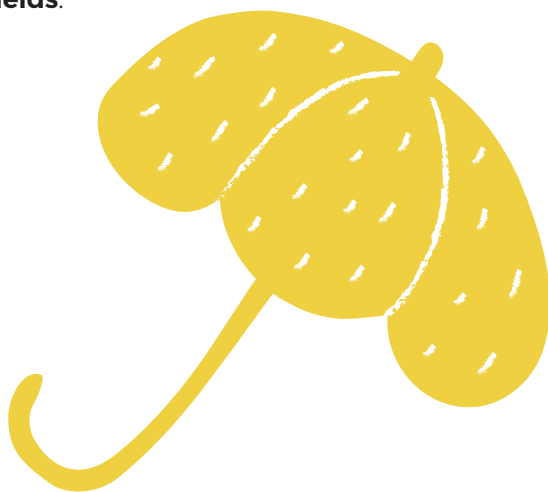
SATURDAY EVENING

So we've had a super fun day and our team has just won 3-0 so we need to celebrate. What better way to do that than with dinner and drinks? Depending on my mood I might choose **SushiSamba** for the views, **Tayyabs** in Whitechapel for the bustling atmosphere or **St John's** for the imaginative dishes. The night would then continue at **Wilton's Music Hall**, a music venue dating back to 1859. It's my favourite place in London. You can literally feel the history as you walk through the doors. I highly recommend you get tickets for a show in the main theatre or go to one of the super fun swing dance nights organised by **Swing Patrol**. Alternatively, you could have a drink in the Mahogany bar and imagine you have been transported to Victorian London.

SUNDAY MORNING

Of course on my perfect London weekend it's a sunny Sunday, so that means I'll start the day with a walk in my favourite green space **Victoria**

Park. Set in east London, this glorious park was created in 1845 after 30,000 local petitioners demanded a place for recreation in one of the city's most overcrowded areas. I'd have brunch at the **Pavilion cafe** next to the lake. I thoroughly recommend the veggie breakfast. If you aren't hungry, sit a while with a coffee and people/dog watch. Look out for their delicious turmeric buns too! I would then walk west along **Regents Canal** to **Columbia Road Flower Market**. This is my favourite market in the city because it's a little hidden oasis of colour and charm. You've got locals rubbing shoulders with tourists, all set to the soundtrack of authentic Cockney flower sellers trying to flog their stock before 3 pm. Pick up a bunch of flowers and continue on to **Brick Lane**. If there's one food item you have to try in London it's a salt beef bagel from **Beigel Bake**. The queue is long and the service is grumpy at best but that's all part of the fun. Walk down Brick Lane and explore the various shops and markets in the area, including **Spitalfields**.





SUNDAY AFTERNOON

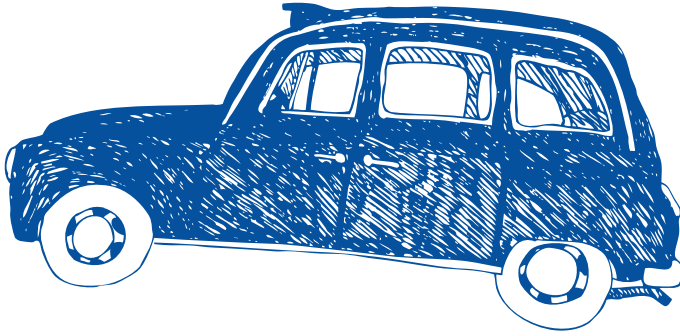
We could have spent all day in east London, but for a change of pace, I would head to **Primrose Hill** in north London for my favourite view of the city. Walk to the top of the hill, enjoy the panorama and see if you can name ten buildings in the London skyline. If it's sunny, grab a picnic or a bottle of wine and sit in the long grass for the rest of the afternoon. Make sure you walk around the village and take in the colourful houses around **Chalcot Square**. If you are still hungry, I'd recommend lunch at **Lemonia**, a wonderful family-run Greek restaurant.

SUNDAY EVENING

After a full weekend of fun, I'd want to spend the evening in a pub with good friends debating the weekend's football results or sharing Netflix recommendations. Pub culture is a huge part of London life and there are so many good pubs to choose from. Some of my favourite ones include **The Flask** in Highgate, **The Prospect of Whitby** in Wapping, **The Mayflower** in Rotherhithe, **Crate Brewery** in Hackney Wick, **The Cow** in Notting Hill and for great views of London, **Frank's rooftop bar** in Peckham.

3. IT'S A LONDON THING

**TOM'S LONDON
NEED-TO-KNOWS**



Black cab - One of London's most iconic sights, London black cabs are a popular form of transportation around the city. Because they are fully licensed they are the only taxis you can hail from the street. Drivers (cabbies, as they are known) are required to pass a gruelling test called 'The Knowledge' in order to get their licence. It takes two years and they must memorise 25,000 streets within a six-mile radius of Charing Cross. This is signified by cabbies wearing a green licence. There is a minimum fare of £3 at all times.

Boris Bike - The nickname given to the bicycles used in London's cycle hire scheme, officially known as Santander Cycles. The scheme was introduced in 2010 when Boris Johnson was the Mayor of London. The bikes became synonymous with him and the name stuck.

Canary Wharf - A busy financial area in London where a number of large banks and financial institutions have their headquarters. It is located along the Thames to the east of the centre and is served

by the DLR and Jubilee lines. Its most iconic building is One Canada Square which is the second tallest building in London.

Cockney - A Cockney is someone born in London within the sound of the Bow Bells, the bells of St Mary-Le-Bow church. Traditionally, a Cockney speaks with a working-class dialect also known as Cockney. We explore the main features of the accent in this guide and there is a section on Cockney rhyming slang too.

Congestion Charge - A daily charge for anyone driving a vehicle within the charging zone located across central London. There is also now an Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in the same area which encourages vehicles to meet the ULEZ emissions standards or drivers could pay a larger charge. The zone stretches from Kings Cross in the north to Shoreditch in the east and from Elephant & Castle in the south to Mayfair in the west.

DLR - The Docklands Light Railway was opened in 1987 to connect

the City of London with the redeveloped Docklands area in east London and in particular, the new financial area of Canary Wharf. It is unique in that trains are above ground and fully automated so they don't require a driver. If you get the front seat you can pretend you are the driver.

East End - The traditional working-class area of London set to the east of the City of London. How far it actually spreads is debated but it certainly stretches eastwards from Tower Bridge and includes areas such as Bethnal Green, Hoxton, Shoreditch, Stepney, and Bow. For centuries it was known for its deprivation and poor living conditions, with many residents living in slums and tenement buildings. During the Second World War it was devastated by German air raids, a time known as The Blitz, and much of the area was completely destroyed. Over the years the East End has been home to many immigrant groups settling in London, most notably the Ashkenazi Jews who settled in the 1800s, and more recently a sizeable Bangladeshi community. These days the East End is changing rapidly with the regeneration of the docks, The Olympic Park development in Stratford and the gentrification of areas like Shoreditch and Hoxton.

Elizabeth Line / Crossrail - A brand new rail network that will run through London from east to west linking Essex with Berkshire. It was due to open in December 2018 but due to delays in the construction work, the opening date has been

pushed back to late 2020. While it's under construction it is commonly known as Crossrail but once it is opened it will be named after the Queen and become the Elizabeth Line.

Emirates Stadium - The home stadium of Premier League football team Arsenal. The club moved into their new 60,260 capacity home in 2006. It has also hosted several international matches featuring Brazil.

Evening Standard - The 'Standard', as it's commonly known, is London's free daily newspaper published Monday to Friday. For 180 years it was sold by sellers shouting 'Standard, get your Standard' (and variations of that phrase) in the busiest areas of London e.g. Tube stations and near offices. In 2009 it became free but you can still hear the iconic cries of 'Standard' by distributors if you are in Central London. The paper covers international and national events as well as all things London.

Fleet Street - Fleet Street is a metonym for the British national press. Traditionally this central London street was home to all the major newspapers in the country, and so it became a term used to refer to the industry. These days many of the papers have moved to other parts of London.

Football nicknames - Football is a huge passion in the Capital and the four major teams in the city all have nicknames which you will hear or read if you spend any time here.

The Hammers - West Ham United, a team who play in the London Stadium in Stratford, east London. They are known as the Hammers because they were formed by workers at an iron works.

The Gunners - Arsenal, a north London team who play at the Emirates stadium in Islington. They are originally from Woolwich Arsenal in south London which is where the Royal Artillery Barracks are located, hence the name Arsenal and the club emblem which is a canon.



The Blues - Chelsea, a club in the west of the city, are called the Blues because they play in an all-blue kit.

Spurs - Tottenham Hotspur, a team from north London, are named after a Shakespearean character called Sir Harry Hotspur.

Gatwick Airport (LGW) - Located about 30 miles to the south of central London, Gatwick is the second busiest airport in the United Kingdom. It has two terminals, North and South and is a major base for British Airways and low-cost airlines like easyJet and TUI Airways.

Harrods - Possibly Britain's most famous shop, Harrods is a department store in Knightsbridge, London. It moved to its current location in 1849 and has become a true icon of British retail. There are over 300 departments within the store, dedicated to everything from women's fashion and children's toys to Christmas decorations and, of course, its famous food hall. A dress code was introduced in 1989 for customers, which includes no flip flops or beach shorts. Harrods has featured in both TV and film including the 2018 version of 'Peter Rabbit' and 'Merry Christmas Mr Bean', in which Mr Bean accidentally turns off the Harrods lights.

Heathrow Airport (LHR) - The second busiest airport in the world behind Dubai International airport for international passenger traffic. Heathrow is located 14 miles west of central London and is accessible via the Heathrow Express or the Piccadilly line. It has four functioning terminals including terminal 5 which houses all British Airways flights. Heathrow stars in many films, mostly famously the 2003 classic Love Actually.

Home Counties - This is the term used to describe the counties that surround London. They are Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Sussex and Berkshire. Other counties are sometimes included as there is no strict definition. You will often hear 'London and the Home Counties' used to describe the south-east area of England.

LDN - This is a modern abbreviation for London.

London City Airport (LCY) - Located in the east of the city near Canary Wharf, City Airport is the fifth busiest airport in the London area. It is conveniently placed to serve the business community in Canary Wharf and The City. The best way to get there is via the DLR.

Lord's - Lord's Cricket Ground is a sports stadium in St John's Wood, an area in north-west London. Often referred to as the 'home' of cricket, its most distinctive feature is a Grade II listed Pavilion which was built in 1889. Both England and Middlesex play their cricket matches here.

M25 - The motorway that orbits London. It is notorious for having traffic problems and some Londoners joke that anything north of the M25 is 'the north of England'.

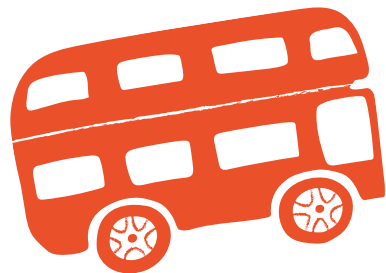
Night bus - An absolute institution in London, the night bus is a bus service that runs through the night. They usually run on a reduced service and the routes will have the prefix 'N' in front of them. So, for example, the '43' will become 'N43' at night.

Number Ten - A metonym for the Prime Minister and their staff. The name comes from the fact that the Prime Minister's residential address is Number 10 Downing Street.

Oyster card - Possibly the most important part of any trip to London! The Oyster card is your

smart card for the whole city allowing you to ride on public transport. That includes the Tube, buses, trams, the overground, the DLR, boat services and the Emirates Airline. It's a pay-as-you-go system in which you need to add money to your card at Tube stations or newsagents. These days you can also use your contactless bank card instead of an Oyster card. However, check to see if your bank charges for overseas payments. **Expert tourist tip** - remember for the Tube you need to touch in and out when you enter and exit, whereas on a bus you just need to touch in (don't touch out).

Routemaster bus - A classic red double-decker bus that used to be ubiquitous around London but has now become much rarer to find. Its distinctive feature was its open door from which you could hop on or off at any time (safety permitting). The original Routemaster buses were withdrawn from service in 2005. However, one heritage route was kept and still runs today. The number 15 bus runs from Trafalgar Square to the Tower of London and is well worth a ride for any visitors to London. The Routemaster bus design was updated with safer doors and can be seen around London.



Scotland Yard - The headquarters for the Metropolitan police. Official name New Scotland Yard. It is also used as a metonym for the police force in London.

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre - A beautiful reconstruction of the original Globe Theatre which was built in 1599, but was later destroyed by a fire. Shakespeare's Globe theatre has sat by the River Thames on the South Bank since its construction in 1997. It holds 1,400 spectators, half of whom choose to stand in the yard in front of the stage as a 'groundling' for a much-reduced price. The theatre is also open-air which means performances can often be interrupted by rain, birds or helicopters, which all add to its charm. Alongside the main theatre, there is also an indoor theatre called the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. A visit to London should certainly include a performance at the Globe if you can get tickets.

South Bank - The South Bank is an area that runs along the south side of the River Thames from the London Eye to Tower Bridge. The walkway passes several iconic London landmarks and cultural institutions including the Royal Festival Hall, BFI, Tate Modern, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. It is, in my opinion, the best place to walk in London and really connect with the city. Start at Westminster Bridge and slowly make your way along to London Bridge or Tower Bridge if you have the energy.

Stamford Bridge - The home stadium of Premier League football team Chelsea.

Stansted Airport (STN) - London's third busiest airport, located about 40 miles north-east of the city centre in Essex. It mostly caters for low-cost airlines like easyJet and Ryanair.

Tate Modern - One of London's top tourist attractions, Tate Modern is home to some of the best modern art in the world. Sitting by the bank of the River Thames, it is situated in the old Bankside Power station which was converted into an art gallery in 2000. Perhaps the most iconic part of the gallery is the enormous Turbine Hall which houses larger exhibits. There is also a cafe on the sixth floor which offers wonderful views of the London skyline towards St Paul's Cathedral.

TFL (Transport For London) - The organisation in charge of running the London transport network which includes the Tube, trams, buses, boats, and cycles.

The Cheese grater - Another City of London skyscraper, The Cheese grater is one of the city's most distinctive buildings with its unique cheese-grater shape. It is formally known as 122 Leadenhall Street.

The City - A term used to describe the central business district of London (also known as The Square Mile). As well as containing major financial institutions, it is the historic centre of London. If someone

says they 'work in the City' it is a metonym for working in London finance.

The Gherkin - Formally known as 30 St Mary Axe, The Gherkin is a commercial skyscraper in the City that resembles the shape of a gherkin. It was opened in 2004 and stands on the former site of the Baltic Exchange and the Chamber of Shipping which were damaged in an IRA bomb in 1992.

The London Eye - Sitting on the south bank of the River Thames, The London Eye is an observation wheel that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. It was opened in 2000 as part of the millennium celebrations and was initially supposed to be a temporary structure, but in 2002 it was given permanent status. There are 32 glass pods and it takes 30 minutes to do a full revolution of the wheel.

The London Stadium - The home stadium of Premier League football team West Ham United since 2016. It was originally built as the centrepiece venue for the 2012

London Olympic Games. The entire Olympic Park was developed on disused land in Stratford, east London and has now become a hub for sport, business, and technology. After the games, the stadium was redeveloped into a multi-purpose venue that hosts concerts and other sporting events alongside football.

The North Circular - This is the inner ring road around the north side of London, from Woolwich in the east to Chiswick in the west. It's often congested and slow. It's probably not somewhere you will want to add to your London itinerary if you can help it.

The Oval - London's second major cricket ground, The Oval is the home of Surrey County Cricket Club and also hosts England matches. It's located in Kennington, south London and holds 25,000 spectators.

The Overground - A train line opened in 2007 with 112 stations across all of London. It serves some of the trendier parts of London like Shoreditch High Street, New Cross,

TOM'S TIPS

If you want to know whether the Queen is at home or not, look at the flagpole on top of Buckingham Palace. If the Royal Standard is flying she's in, if it's the British flag she's away... probably clubbing in Ibiza or backpacking in South-East Asia.

and Dalston. Because it's under the management of TFL you can use your Oyster card on it.

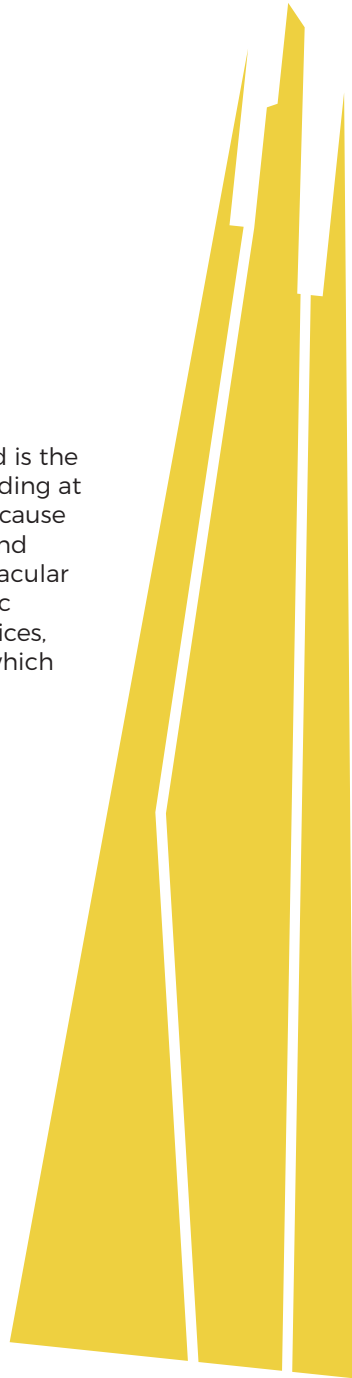
The Palace - A short name for Buckingham Palace, The Palace is, of course, The Queen's London residence. It contains a mind-boggling 775 rooms and is opened to the public from August to September. The Palace has always been a place for Brits to gather during times of celebration and mourning.

The Shard - Opened in 2012, The Shard is the United Kingdom's tallest building, standing at 95 storeys high. It's called the Shard because of its resemblance to a shard of glass and indeed it reflects the sunshine in spectacular fashion on a sunny day. There is a public viewing gallery at the top alongside offices, restaurants and the Shangri-La hotel, which occupies the 34th to 52nd floors.

The Silicon Roundabout - Also known as the East London Tech City, this is an area containing a large number of high tech businesses. It originated around the Old Street roundabout in 2008, but has expanded towards Shoreditch. Notable companies that have offices in the area are Google, Amazon, and Microsoft.

The Square Mile - Another term for The City, this is the historic and financial centre of London. It's known as the Square Mile because it is indeed a square mile in area, and includes The Gherkin, The Walkie Talkie, and Bank. It is also a metonym for the UK's financial industry.

The Thames - London's iconic river



runs through the centre of the city from west to east dividing the city into north and south. It truly is the heartbeat of the city with The Houses of Parliament, The Tower of London, Tate Modern and many other famous landmarks all dotted along its banks. It has long been the inspiration for music, art, and literature. The Kinks mentioned the 'dirty old river' in their song Waterloo Sunset, and much of Charles Dickens' work name-dropped the river in some way or another. The Thames also hosts the Oxford vs Cambridge boat race every April. The race starts at Putney and finishes a few miles west at Mortlake. Remarkably, in 2006 a northern bottle-nosed whale got lost in the Thames estuary and swam up the river as far as the Houses of Parliament.

The Thames Barrier - The Thames Barrier stretches across the river to the east of the city and is designed to prevent the flood plain of London from tidal surges. It was officially opened by the Queen in 1984 and since then there have been 15 boat collisions into the barrier.

The Tube - This is the nickname for the London Underground. Use it and you'll sound like a local immediately. The first line was built in 1863 and it has expanded to 11 lines and 270 stations. The famous Tube map was designed by Harry Beck in 1933 and its success can be put down to its simplicity. There are a few unwritten rules of the Tube. Always stand on the right-hand side of an escalator (not on the left!), conversations with strangers are

seen as very unusual and, of course, always always always mind the bloody gap!

Twickenham - The stadium for the England national rugby team. It holds 82,000 people and is located in an affluent area of south-west London. It's also referred to by people within rugby as HQ.

The V&A - Founded in 1852 and named after Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, The Victoria and Albert Museum is one of the world's great homes for art and design. Located in South Kensington near the Natural History Museum it holds over 2 million objects including sculptures, ceramics, jewellery, and fashion. The architecture of the museum itself is very striking, and there is a beautiful central garden to find some peace and calm after a long day walking around the museum.

The Walkie Talkie -

The nickname for '20 Fenchurch Street' a skyscraper in the City of London. Apart from resembling a walkie talkie, it is also known for its Sky Garden at the top which offers panoramic views of the city. In 2013 a sunbeam reflection off the building's windows caused damage to a parked car below by melting the bodywork. The developers were required to pay the owner almost £1,000 in costs. Even more improbably, a journalist was able to fry an egg on the pavement where the reflected beams had heated up the area to over 90°C.

The West End - The area in London



where most of the main tourist attractions, entertainment venues and shops are located. It is situated to the west of the City of London and includes areas like Covent Garden, Soho, Oxford Street, and Leicester Square.

The Westway - An iconic elevated dual carriageway that runs from Paddington and heads westwards past Ladbroke Grove towards East Acton. It was part of a plan in the 1960s to create a circuit of high-speed ring roads within London. The plan was scrapped but not before the Westway was built. It has since become the subject of numerous songs including The Clash's 'London's Burning' and Blur's 'For

Tomorrow'.

Wembley Stadium - Wembley is the national stadium of the men's England football team. It was redeveloped in 2007 to hold 90,000 spectators and was given a distinctive arch that hangs above the pitch and lights up when a goal is scored. It hosts both the League Cup and FA Cup finals as well as large music concerts.

White Hart Lane | Tottenham Hotspur Stadium - The home stadium of Premier League football team Tottenham Hotspur. It was completed in April 2019 and contains 62,000 seats.

4. FOOD AND DRINK

**Tom's
Essential Guide
to British Pubs**

If there is one thing Brits do well, it's going to the pub. Thursday night after work, Friday night because it's the weekend, Saturday night because it's a friend's birthday, Sunday afternoon for a roast... you get the idea. Brits' love of a pub isn't just about alcohol though, it's about social bonding. Back in the day, public houses (pubs) were the centre of the community and the one warm, dry place where people could gather. Where many cultures socialise over food, the British generally prefer to do it over a beer or glass of wine. Each pub has its own charm and character. It'll have its regulars (people who frequent it on a regular basis) and it'll probably have a curious name like 'The Dog and Duck' or 'The Cock in Cider'. A visit to a pub is an absolute must for anyone in Britain, so here are a few tips on what to expect.

“ PUB CRAWL ”

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IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW IN A PUB

OBEY THE INVISIBLE QUEUE

Even though it may not look like it, there is an 'invisible' queue at the bar. Everyone knows who is ahead of them so make sure you know who is ahead of you and make sure you don't jump the queue.

BAR SNACKS

While some pubs do food, it's common for people who just want to drink to order a few bar snacks as well. These range from peanuts and crisps through to sausage rolls and pork pies. It all depends on the pub.

ROUNDS

In Britain, we generally buy our drinks in rounds. This is a set of drinks bought for a group of people within a system. Usually everyone in the group is supposed to buy a round, therefore making it fair and equal. Make sure you buy your round when it's your turn as it's really frowned upon if someone 'forgets' to buy theirs.

SIZES

If you would like a beer you can ask for a pint (568ml) or a half pint (284ml). Wine is usually served in a 175ml glass. However, you can ask for large or small depending on the pub. Spirits are served in shots. One shot is 25ml and a double is 50ml.

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR

The barman/lady will ask 'What can I get you?' or 'What would you like?'

WHAT YOU SAY

You can say something like 'A pint of lager please' or 'Can I get a pint of Guinness, please?'

NO TABLE SERVICE

Firstly you'll need to go to the bar as there is no table service.

'MIND YOUR BACKS'

Pubs are often crowded places, and carrying drinks from the bar to your table can be tricky. Use 'Mind your backs', 'Mind yourselves' or 'Excuse me' to warn people that you are passing them with drinks in your hands, and they should make space for you.

THE BELLS

When you hear the first bell ring that means it's last orders. You usually have 15 minutes to order your last drinks before the bar closes. When you hear the second bell it means the bar is closed. So listen out for the bell and be quick.

NO SMOKING!

Remember: smoking has been banned in pubs since 2007.

NO TIPPING

We don't tip in pubs, but if you want to express your gratitude to the bar staff you can offer to buy them a drink by saying 'get one for yourself' as you are ordering.

DON'T ALL GO TO THE BAR

If you are with friends you don't all need to go to the bar. One or two of you should go to the bar and order while the rest of your group sits down.

PUB QUIZ

Lots of pubs have weekly quizzes that are open to anyone. They are usually good fun and a great way to meet new people and test your general knowledge

PUB CRAWL

A pub crawl is a tour of several pubs by a group of people visiting one pub after another. It's custom to have one drink in a pub and then move on to the next one and so on. From my experience pub crawls are a lot of fun, but can get very messy, so you have been warned. Needless to say, always drink responsibly, guys.

TOM'S TOP

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SLANG ALTERNATIVES FOR DRUNK

pissed up
/pɪst ʌp/

fucked
/fʌkt/

rat-arsed
/rætɑːst/

blotto
/blɒtəʊ/

wrecked
/rekt/

sloshed
/slɒʃt/

mullered
/mʌləd/

trolleyed
/trɒlɪd/

paralytic
/pærəlitɪk/

destroyed
/dɪstrɔɪd/

sozzled
/sɒzəld/

blathered
/blæðəd/

pished
/pɪʃt/

pissed
/pɪst/

leathered

/leðəd/

shit-faced

/ʃɪtfeɪst/

under the table

/ʌndə ðə teɪbəl/

steaming (drunk)

/sti:mɪŋ/

wasted

/weɪstɪd/

half-cut

/hɑ:fkʌt/

smashed

/smæʃt/

boozed-up

/bu:zd ʌp/

out of it

/aʊt əv ɪt/

slaughtered

/slɔ:təd/

twatted

/twætɪd/

plastered

/plɑ:stəd/

legless

/legləs/

bladdered

/blædəd/

wankered

/wæŋkəd/

hammered

/hæməd/

off your tits/face/pickle

/ɒf jɔ:r tɪtz/

bevvied up

/bevi:d ʌp/

4. FOOD AND DRINK

**Tom's Must-Try
British Food
and Drink**

British food is often criticised for being bland and, frankly, not very tasty. Of course, I'm going to disagree with that. Anyone who says such a thing simply hasn't sampled the good stuff. Approach British food with an open mind (and open mouth) and you will be rewarded. Do your research and find local recommendations for the best Sunday roast, fish and chips or full English in your area. Promise me this: you won't eat a supermarket scotch egg and think you've 'done' British food! Be brave and try some of the food items on this list. You might surprise yourself!

baked beans - a British classic! Baked beans are a delicious combination of haricot beans in a tomato sauce. They are usually served on toast or as part of a full English breakfast.

Bakewell tart - an almond flavoured tart with white icing and layers of jam that originates in a Derbyshire town called Bakewell.

Balti - a British style of curry served in a metal dish that originates in Birmingham. There is an area called the Balti Triangle in the south of the city which has a large number of Balti houses.

bangers and mash - sausages and mashed potato, usually served with onion gravy.

beef wellington - a very special dish using a large beef fillet which is covered in a pâté and then surrounded by puff pastry.

black pudding - a type of blood sausage made with pork blood, cereal, and oats. It's most commonly eaten as part of a full English breakfast.

bread and butter pudding - a traditional pudding made of layered bread slices, eggs, cream, vanilla, and dried fruit. It's baked in the oven and served hot.

bubble and squeak - essentially a recipe that uses up leftovers, bubble and squeak is usually made up of potato and cabbage. However, it can contain many different vegetables depending on what someone has available. It can be eaten as part of a full English breakfast.

chicken tikka masala - with origins in the South Asian community of Britain, the chicken tikka masala has been voted as Britain's most popular dish. It's a creamy aromatic chicken curry served with rice or naan bread. Highly recommended.

cider - an alcoholic drink made from apples that is most associated with Somerset and the West Country. Most ciders in the UK are sparkling and come in three main varieties: sweet, medium dry and dry. It has also become very common for cider to be made with pears and other types of fruit.

cullen skink - a thick Scottish soup made of smoked haddock, potatoes, and onions.

Cornish pasty - one of the most iconic British dishes, the Cornish pasty is a must-try for any visitor to these shores. It's a type of warm semi-circular pie made from shortcrust pastry and filled with beef, potato, and vegetables. It originates in Cornwall and was the staple food for the local tin miners in the area thanks to its portable nature.

cottage pie - a dish of minced meat in gravy with a mashed potato topping that is cooked in the oven. Very similar to a Shepherd's pie but made with beef, not lamb.

cream tea - a light meal taken in the afternoon consisting of tea, scones, clotted cream, and jam. It originates in Cornwall and Devon. However, there is a dispute as to how it should be eaten. In Cornwall,

one should put the jam on first and the clotted cream on top, whereas in Devon it's clotted cream first then jam. It's a controversial issue! Either way, it's a British institution that should be tried by every visitor.

deep-fried Mars bar - Exactly what it sounds like! A chocolate bar dipped in batter and then deep-fried. This delicacy originated in the fish and chip shops of Scotland. Let's just say it's an acquired taste.

digestive biscuit - a round biscuit usually eaten as a snack in between meals and often with a cup of tea.

Eccles cake - a small sweet cake filled with dried fruit and covered in flaky pastry. It originates in a small town called Eccles near Manchester.

English breakfast tea - a black tea blend served with milk and sugar (optional). It is the classic tea used for a British 'cuppa'.

“PIE & MASH.”

fish and chips - possibly Britain's most famous dish. It consists of a white fish, usually cod or haddock, dipped in batter, deep-fried and then served with chips. There are regional differences as to how it's served. In the north of England, mushy peas are very common and chips are often eaten with gravy or curry sauce. In the south, tartare sauce is popular and chips are often eaten with ketchup or mayonnaise. If you are in Britain and visit a seaside town like Brighton or Blackpool, a trip to a fish and chip shop is an absolute must.

full English - the ultimate breakfast! A full English contains many of the following items: bacon, sausage, eggs any style, baked beans, mushrooms, grilled tomatoes, black pudding, hash browns, bubble and squeak, and fried bread or toast. It's important to say at this point that British people DO NOT eat this every day for obvious reasons.

gin & tonic - G&T, as it is known, is another classic British alcoholic drink, although gin's origins lie across the sea in Holland. Gin became popular in Britain in the 17th century and many distilleries, particularly in London, started producing it in vast quantities. These days it is mixed with tonic and served with a slice of lime, and perhaps a little mint too. M&S do a great G&T in a green can that's a personal favourite of mine for long-distance train journeys.

haggis - a Scottish dish made of sheep's heart, liver, lungs, and stomach along with onion,

oatmeal, suet, and spices. It is served with neeps and tatties and traditionally eaten during Burns Night.

jellied eels - a traditional East End dish of chopped eels covered in jelly that is eaten cold alongside mashed potato. You can find jellied eels in London's Pie and Mash shops like L. Manze in Walthamstow and Goddard's in Greenwich.

kedgeree - a lightly spiced rice dish with smoked fish, onions and eggs. Its origins are disputed but it seems that it was first created in India during the colonial era and adapted by Scottish troops returning home who yearned for Indian flavours. It's usually served for breakfast or brunch.



Lancashire hot pot - said to have been invented by the millworkers of Lancashire, this dish is a stew of lamb and vegetables, topped with sliced potato before being cooked in the oven so that the top is crispy.

laverbread - a traditional dish from Wales that, despite its name, is not actually bread. It's boiled seaweed that is then added to oatmeal and fried. It can be served on toast or as part of a Welsh breakfast. Famous

Welsh actor Richard Burton is quoted as describing laverbread as 'Welsh caviar'.

Marmite - made of yeast extract Marmite is a spread commonly served on toast. It's definitely an acquired taste and their ad campaign had the line 'you either love it or hate it'.

mushy peas - marrowfat peas cooked and then mushed up. They go very well with fish and chips.

neeps and tatties - a Scottish dish served with haggis, made of mashed swede/turnip and mashed potato.

pie, mash, and liquor - the traditional working-class food from the East End of London. It consists of a minced beef pie, mashed potato and covered in a thin parsley sauce. Pie and Mash shops can still be found in various locations in London such as L. Manze in Walthamstow.

Pimm's & lemonade - a quintessentially British alcoholic drink that's very popular on a hot summer's day. Pimm's itself is a gin-based liqueur with herbs and citrus flavours and when mixed with lemonade and chopped pieces of fresh fruit becomes the perfect summer drink.

pork pie - a type of meat pie made from chopped pork and pork fat with bits of jelly encased in pastry. It's commonly eaten on picnics or as a snack. There are different types of pork pies but perhaps

the most commonly eaten is the Melton Mowbray pork pie from Leicestershire. They can be eaten hot or cold

porridge - a grain (often oats) simmered in milk or water that is eaten for breakfast. In Scotland, people tend to cook it with salt whereas that isn't the case elsewhere. The big question is what toppings you go for! These days there is a wide variety of things one can add such as sugar, honey, fresh fruit, seeds etc.

scone - a small lightly sweetened cake served as part of an afternoon tea (see Cream Tea).

scotch egg - classic picnic food that also makes a great snack. It's a boiled egg wrapped in pork meat then covered in breadcrumbs and deep-fried. In my opinion, it's best served warm with a slightly runny yolk. In a lot of London food markets, you can find interesting variations on the traditional recipe using chorizo or smoked haddock instead of pork. Personally, I think the supermarket scotch eggs don't taste as good as the gourmet versions found in food markets and gastro-pubs.

shepherd's pie - Exactly the same as a cottage pie but made with lamb (hence the name Shepherd's pie).

steak and kidney pie - this is proper British comfort food. A traditional pie with diced beef and kidney in gravy and topped with pastry.

strawberries and cream - a summer classic! Fresh strawberries covered in double cream and sprinkled with a little sugar if you fancy it. The perfect dessert or treat famously served at the All England Tennis Championships at Wimbledon.

Sunday roast - the most quintessentially British meal. A proper Sunday roast contains a roast meat (beef, chicken, lamb, pork), roast potatoes, a variety of cooked vegetables and gravy. There are certain traditions that go with each type of meat. Beef is served with Yorkshire pudding. Chicken often comes with sage and onion stuffing. Lamb is served with mint sauce and pork usually comes with apple sauce. On a personal note, I love Yorkshire puddings so much I break with convention and have them with any type of meat. As the name suggests this meal is traditionally served on Sunday and was often the main family meal of the week. It is an absolute must-try when you come to Britain, with veggie options often available. It's also known as a roast dinner.

tartare sauce - a condiment served with fish made of mayonnaise and chopped capers/pickles.

toad in the hole - a delicious combination of sausages cooked in a Yorkshire pudding batter and served with vegetables and onion gravy.

trifle - a classic English dessert consisting of layers of fruit, sherry-soaked sponge fingers, custard, and whipped cream. Made famous by Rachel from Friends when she attempts to make it and adds a layer of meat and peas in between the fruit and custard. This was because the trifle and Shepherd's Pie recipe pages got stuck together in her cookbook.

Yorkshire pudding - hands down my personal favourite British dish. It's essentially a fluffy batter made of eggs, flour, milk, and water. They are put in the oven where they rise up into quirky uneven shapes. The outside should be crispy while the inside should remain fluffy and doughy. They are served as a side dish with roast beef in a Sunday Roast. However, in Yorkshire they are much larger and act almost as a bowl inside which the roast meat and vegetables are placed. Either way, they are delicious!

TOM'S TIPS

- There are lots of popular brands of tea but my
- personal favourite is 'Yorkshire Gold'

5. CULTURE

**Tom's Must-
know British
Public Figures**

Olivia Colman - An English actress who won an Oscar for her portrayal of Anne, Queen of Great Britain in the 2018 film 'The Favourite'. She is also well-known for her roles in 'Peep Show', 'The Crown', and 'Fleabag'.

Phoebe Waller-Bridge - An English actress and writer. Waller-Bridge wrote and starred in British breakout hit 'Fleabag'. She also developed and wrote the hit 'Killing Eve'. Most recently she has been part of the scriptwriting team for the 25th James Bond film.

Emma Watson - English actress who most famously played Hermione Granger in 'Harry Potter'. Watson has gone on to have a successful career in Hollywood starring as Belle in 'Beauty and the Beast'. She is also well known for her tireless work as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador.

Piers Morgan - Currently co-presenter of Good Morning Britain on ITV, Piers Morgan is also a well-known journalist with outspoken views and a very active Twitter account.

Akala - A man of many talents, Akala is an author, rapper, poet and activist. His book 'Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire' was a Sunday Times best seller. In addition to all these achievements, he also set up the Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company.

Sir Norman Foster - One of Britain's leading architects, Sir Norman Foster has designed some of the world's most famous buildings. His works include Wembley Stadium, The Gherkin (30 St Mary Axe), Hong Kong International Airport, The Millennium Bridge and Apple Park in California.

Danny Dyer - Much loved English actor who currently stars in legendary BBC soap opera 'EastEnders'. His distinctive Cockney accent combined with his likeable manner make him one of the most popular faces on TV. He has also starred on the big screen in 'The Football Factory' and 'Mean Machine'. Recently on the BBC show 'Who do you think you are?' Dyer discovered he was related to distant royalty in King Edward III.

Raheem Sterling - Manchester City and England footballer who has become an unofficial spokesperson for issues of racism within British football and media. His talents on the field have led to several Premier League trophies and FA Cups, and he is a key part of the English national team.

Sir David Attenborough - A true great of British broadcasting, Sir David Attenborough pioneered natural history programming. His voice and style of presenting have become iconic and series such as 'Planet Earth' and 'Blue Planet'

TOM'S TIPS

- Sir David Attenborough is the nation's grandfather.
- If you want to see him at his best, search for a clip of his encounter with some mountain gorillas in BBC documentary 'Life on Earth'

have made him a global name. To honour him he has had at least 15 species named after him including one spider and a butterfly.

Jamie Oliver - Essex born celebrity chef and restaurateur Jamie Oliver has gone from sous chef at The Riverside Cafe to becoming one of Britain's household names. Alongside his successful TV programmes like 'The Naked Chef' and 'Jamie & Jimmy's Friday Night Feast', he has also been the figurehead of several campaigns to improve children's diets in schools both in Britain and the USA.

Mary Berry - A renowned British chef who has released over 75 cookbooks and in recent times has become best known as a judge on 'The Great British Bake Off' until 2016.

Gemma Chan - English actress who made a name for herself playing Astrid Leong-Teo in the Hollywood hit film 'Crazy Rich Asians'. Gemma has also played roles in 'Captain Marvel' and sci-fi TV series 'Humans'.

Jack Whitehall - English comedian and actor, Jack has become a familiar face on British TV over the last few years. He first appeared on Channel 4 series 'Fresh Meat' a show about university students. He has gone on to write and star in several films and has his own Netflix show 'Jack Whitehall: Travels with My Father'.

Chris Evans - Radio DJ and TV presenter who has found his niche on breakfast radio. He presented the Radio 1 and Radio 2 breakfast shows and has now moved his talents to Virgin Radio UK. He also hosted iconic 1990s show 'The Big Breakfast' and 'TFI Friday' as well as 'Top Gear' for a brief period.

Ed Sheeran - Hugely successful British musician who has sold over 100 million singles. His best-known songs include 'Shape of You', 'Thinking Out Loud' and 'Perfect'. He has also written songs for other successful artists including 'Love Yourself' by Justin Bieber.

Gareth Bale - Real Madrid footballer and Welsh international Gareth Bale

was once the most expensive player in the world when he moved from Tottenham Hotspur to Real Madrid for a reported €100.8 million.

Boris Johnson - Conservative Prime Minister, BoJo, as he is also known, has held the posts of Mayor of London (2008 - 2016) and Foreign Secretary (2016- 2018). He was one of the main voices behind the Leave campaign prior to the Brexit referendum. Perhaps most importantly, his name is given to the bicycles in London's cycle hire scheme, 'Boris bikes'.

Harry Styles - Styles made it famous on the British reality TV show 'The X-Factor' with his band One Direction. The band have been on hiatus since 2016 but he continues to make music as a successful solo artist. He also had a role in the film 'Dunkirk'.

Martin Lewis - English financial journalist and TV presenter, Lewis has become the go-to expert for those seeking advice about money. He has his own programme 'The Martin Lewis Money Show' on the BBC, which provides viewers with information about everything from bank charges to energy bills.

David Beckham - Former Manchester United, Real Madrid, and England footballer David Beckham is a football and fashion icon, in Britain and across the world. Married to Victoria Beckham, a former Spice Girl, he is also a UNICEF UK ambassador.

Adele - London-born singer Adele has become a global star, winning numerous Brits and Grammy awards. She even won an Oscar for 'Skyfall', the theme song to the James Bond film of the same name. She featured in an episode of Eat Sleep Dream English.

Anthony Joshua - World heavyweight boxing champion Anthony Joshua is a British sporting icon. He rose to fame when he won gold at the 2012 London Olympic Games. His fight against Wladimir Klitschko in 2017 had an audience of over 90,000 spectators.

David Walliams - Actor and Comedian Walliams came to the nation's attention in British comedy show 'Little Britain' in 2003. However, it's now his children's books that he is most famous for. Titles include 'Gangster Granny' and 'The Ice Monster'. Most impressively he also managed to swim the English Channel 21 miles from England to France.

Dame Judy Dench - Considered British acting royalty, Dame Judy Dench has starred in countless films earning her seven Oscar nominations. She played M in several James Bond films as well as Queen Elizabeth I in 'Shakespeare in Love'. In her early career she made a name for herself in the theatre with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Idris Elba - He first made his name as Stringer Bell in HBO series 'The Wire'. He has gone on to be one of Britain's top actors, starring in Luther and 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'.

Stephen Fry - Multi-talented icon of British culture, Stephen Fry is a comedian, TV presenter, author, actor and all-round legend. He is known for being one half of comedy act Fry and Laurie, and he was also the voice for all seven Harry Potter audiobooks.

Sir Andy Murray - British tennis player who won Wimbledon twice, in 2013 and 2016 as well as Olympic gold in 2012 and 2016. He also managed to become World Number 1 over Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

Benedict Cumberbatch - British actor from London who is best known for playing 'Sherlock Holmes' in the TV series Sherlock. He has also starred in 'The Imitation Game', 'Doctor Strange' and 'Avengers'. He was given a CBE by the Queen for his services to performing arts and to charity.

Stormzy - British rapper and award-winning musician Stormzy is one of the biggest names in music today. He has collaborated with Ed Sheeran and performed the live entrance music for World Heavyweight boxing champion Anthony Joshua.

Harry Kane - England football captain and Tottenham Hotspur striker.

Deliciously Ella - Ella Woodward found fame under the name Deliciously Ella. Known for her promotion of clean eating and plant-based diets she is a successful author, blogger, and entrepreneur.

Sir Richard Branson - British entrepreneur who founded the Virgin Group, which has over 400 companies including Virgin Atlantic Airline and Virgin Records. He was knighted in 2000 for his services to entrepreneurship.

Grayson Perry - British artist who is known for his tapestries, social commentary, and love of cross-dressing. He was awarded the Turner Prize in 2003 and has gone on to present a number of TV shows on Channel 4.

Laura Kuenssberg - The first female political editor of BBC News, Laura Kuenssberg has been an ever-present face during Brexit, reporting every twist and turn to the nation.

JK Rowling - One of Britain's most famous authors. JK Rowling found fame with her Harry Potter books that were later turned into Hollywood films. She has won multiple awards and sold over 500 million copies of her books.

Sir Alan Sugar - British businessman who is perhaps best known these days as the presenter of the TV show 'The Apprentice'.

Sir Mo Farah - British distance runner who won double gold medals at both the 2012 London and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.

Simon Cowell - Most famous for being the judge on reality TV shows like Britain's Got Talent, The X Factor, and Pop Idol. Simon Cowell has a blunt, no-nonsense style to

his judging that has made him a household name in Britain. He is also known for helping start the musical careers of One Direction and Westlife.

Gareth Southgate - Current England men's football manager, he was also a renowned player. He played for Aston Villa and Middlesbrough and went on to represent England. He found infamy when he missed the deciding penalty in the Euro 96 Semi-final against Germany. He is also known for his sartorial excellence, particularly his love of waistcoats.

Graham Norton - Born in Ireland, Graham Norton is a comedian and tv/radio presenter who has found fame in Britain. He is currently most famous for starring in his very own TV chat show 'The Graham Norton Show' on the BBC.

Lewis Hamilton - Five-time Formula One World Champion, Lewis Hamilton is one of Britain's most successful sportsmen. He currently races for Mercedes AMG Petronas.

Zoella (Zoe Sugg) - Zoella is one of Britain's most famous YouTubers. She is a beauty vlogger, author and business owner. Her brother, Joe Sugg, and boyfriend Alfie Deyes are also YouTubers.

Jon Snow - British news anchor and TV presenter Jon Snow has been the face of the Channel 4 news since 1989.

Kate Moss - Croydon-born model and businesswoman, Kate Moss is one of the most iconic names in British culture. She has been a top model since she was spotted by a talent scout at the age of 14 in JFK airport, New York.

Yotam Ottolenghi - Israeli-British chef and restaurant owner who is also a best-selling author. His titles include Jerusalem, Plenty and Simple. He has a weekly column in The Guardian newspaper called 'The New Vegetarian.'

Sir James Dyson - British inventor and Chief Executive of Dyson Ltd. Sir James is best known for inventing the Dual Cyclone bagless vacuum cleaner. He has also been a loud voice in favour of Brexit.

Gary Lineker - Former England football player and current presenter of the BBC's football highlights show 'Match of the Day'. He is also the face of a long-running ad campaign for Walkers Crisps. He won the Golden Boot at the 1986 World Cup and is England's third-highest goalscorer.

Joe Wicks - Fitness coach and author of several popular cookbooks, Joe Wicks found fame on YouTube and Instagram. His channel 'The Body Coach TV' has over 2.5m subscribers and he now has a TV show on Channel 4.

Sadiq Khan - British politician who was elected Mayor of London in 2016. He had previously been a Labour MP for Tooting in London.

Professor Brian Cox - English physicist from Oldham who has become best-known as the presenter of numerous science programmes on television.

Zadie Smith - Best selling author whose debut novel 'White Teeth' won numerous prizes when it was released in 2000. This book, and Smith's subsequent releases, deal with themes of multiculturalism, life in London and Britain's relationship with its former colonies. She is now a tenured professor of fiction at New York University.

Reni Eddo-Lodge - Award winning author, journalist and podcaster Reni became the first black British author to top the UK's official book charts with her debut non-fiction title 'Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race'.

KSI - YouTuber, rapper and all round entertainer KSI is one of Britain's biggest internet personalities. He is a member of YouTube gaming collective 'Sidemen', who first made their name creating gaming content. In late 2019, KSI made his professional boxing debut defeating fellow YouTuber Logan Paul on a split decision.

Rita Ora - A hugely successful singer, Rita Ora was born in Kosovo but grew up in Notting Hill, west London. She once auditioned for Eurovision, before finding fame and going on to appear as a judge on the 'X Factor' and 'The Voice UK'.

Ricky Gervais - Comedian and writer Gervais first made his name as David Brent on legendary British

TV show 'The Office'. He has won several BAFTAS for his work and has even hosted the Golden Globe Awards in America.

Tracey Emin - British artist brought up in Margate who is known for her provocative work. In 1999 she was shortlisted for the Turner Prize for her controversial piece 'My Bed'. She is currently a Royal Academician of the Royal Academy of Arts.

Lauren Laverne - Radio DJ and TV presenter from Sunderland, North East England. Lauren hosts the breakfast show on BBC 6 Music and the iconic BBC Radio 4 programme 'Desert Island Discs' in which well-known guests select the eight songs they would take to a desert island.

James Corden - Actor, writer and talk show host Corden's rise to fame has been stratospheric. His most notable early work was co-writing and starring in British sitcom 'Gavin and Stacey'. He then went on to play the lead role in the stage production of 'One Man, Two Guvnors'. In 2015, he took over as host of 'The Late Late Show' in America and introduced the world to his now legendary 'Carpool Karaoke' skit where he drives around with famous stars singing songs with them.

Louis Theroux - TV presenter, author and podcaster best-known for his TV documentaries that explore subcultures such as white supremacists in America or the Church of Scientology. In 2020 he started a podcast series called 'Grounded' on which he interviews a plethora of famous people like Jon Ronson and Helen Bonham Carter.

5. CULTURE

**Tom's
Favourite British
TV Shows to
Learn English**

The Apprentice - A reality TV show hosted by successful businessman Sir Alan Sugar in which contestants have to prove their ability and skills through a series of business-related challenges. Lord Sugar has become known for his tough, no-nonsense manner and he's coined the phrase 'you're fired' whenever he eliminates a contestant from the show.

LANGUAGE

Wide variety of accents | Natural conversational English | Business English | Debate language | Phrases to express ideas and suggestions

CULTURE

British entrepreneurship

Black Mirror - British science fiction series created by Charlie Brooker. Black Mirror takes an often dark look at how technology shapes our present/future. It was first broadcast on Channel 4 but moved over to Netflix in 2015 and has become an international hit.

LANGUAGE

Variety of accents
(American/British)

CULTURE

Technology

Britain's Got Talent - A talent show on ITV created by Simon Cowell, in 2007. The show involves auditions across Britain for thousands of hopeful contestants with various skills ranging from juggling to dancing. Four judges, including Cowell, mentor the contestants and a winner is eventually chosen in a public vote.

LANGUAGE

Phrases to give opinions

CULTURE

British pop culture

Countdown - Long-running British game show on Channel 4 in which contestants have to complete word and number puzzles. It is a great show for anyone who enjoys English language word games.

LANGUAGE

Vocabulary building |
Spelling & mathematics

CULTURE

British culture

Coronation Street - Much-loved British soap opera set in Weatherfield, a fictional place in Manchester. The first episode was aired in 1960 and in 2010 it entered the Guinness Book of Records as the longest-running soap opera. It's known for its depiction of a working-class community in northern England and notably, most characters possess a Mancunian accent which is the accent of Manchester.

LANGUAGE

Mancunian accent | Everyday conversational English

CULTURE

Insight into life in the north of England

The Crown - The biographical story of Queen Elizabeth II and her reign as Queen of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It has been praised for its accurate portrayal of the Queen and is a great show to learn about the British monarchy and the Queen's English.

LANGUAGE

Formal structures | Advanced vocabulary | The Queen's English accent

CULTURE

British royal family

Doctor Who - Running since 1963, Doctor Who is a science-fiction show with a large cult following. It follows the adventures of 'the Doctor' who travels the universe in a time-travelling space ship called the Tardis. There have been 13 actors who have played 'the Doctor'.

LANGUAGE

Advanced vocabulary | Fast dialogues | Conversational English

CULTURE

British culture

Downton Abbey - Historical period drama set in the early 1900s. It takes place on a Yorkshire country estate and follows the lives of two different worlds, the aristocratic Crawley family upstairs and the servants downstairs. There is a great range of accents from very posh received pronunciation through to a strong Yorkshire accent.

LANGUAGE

Received pronunciation | Variety of northern accents

CULTURE

Historical British class systems

Dragon's Den - Business reality show in which hopeful entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to 5 business experts known as 'The Dragons'.

EastEnders - A British institution, EastEnders is a BBC soap opera set in the East End of London. It follows the lives of several families living in a fictional place called Albert Square. There have been many famous characters over the years such as Phil and Grant Mitchell, their mum Peggy Mitchell, Dot Cotton, Alfie Moon, Mick Carter etc. Because it is set in east London it has always tried to reflect the local community through a multi-cultural cast and many characters having a Cockney accent.

First Dates - A British reality TV show on Channel 4 in which people are invited to have a first date with someone they have never met before. They are filmed having a meal in a central London restaurant and then interviewed afterwards to see if they are compatible as a couple. It is known for its funny awkward conversations. It has a wide cross-section of British society so you'll hear a variety of accents.

Fleabag - Hugely popular British comedy starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge who also wrote the series. It centres around a young woman living in London and her struggle to navigate the friendships and relationships in her life, usually with hilarious consequences. For anyone

LANGUAGE

Business vocabulary | Question forms | Persuasive language

CULTURE

British entrepreneurship

LANGUAGE

Cockney accent | Slang phrases

CULTURE

Insight into what life is like in the East End of London

LANGUAGE

Wide variety of accents | Natural conversational English

CULTURE

British people

LANGUAGE

Received pronunciation | Natural everyday conversational language | Profanity and swear words

CULTURE

Contemporary London | British people

interested in contemporary London life this is must-see television. It also stars Olivia Colman who is one of Britain's finest actresses.

The Great British Bake Off -

A hugely popular baking competition in which amateur bakers compete against each other. They complete baking challenges with the hope of impressing the judges and winning. It was first aired in 2010 on BBC2 and starred Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood as the judges. When it became more popular it moved to BBC1, until 2017 when it moved over to Channel 4. It is currently presented by Noel Fielding and Matt Lucas, with Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith judging the contestants. It's a show that has inspired a new interest in baking and is seen as quintessentially British.

LANGUAGE

Wide variety of accents |
Cooking/baking vocabulary

CULTURE

British food | British people

Gogglebox - Reality TV show on Channel 4 in which ordinary everyday people from different parts of Britain sit at home, watch television programmes and comment on them while being filmed. It started in 2013 and has grown a cult following with many of the families and groups of friends on the show becoming famous.

LANGUAGE

Wide variety of accents |
Giving opinions and discussion

CULTURE

British people | British television

Love Island - A reality dating show with a cult following that has grown in popularity in the past few years. A group of attractive young men and women are put into a villa and asked to couple up. Over the course

LANGUAGE

Variety of accents |
Modern slang vocabulary

CULTURE

Modern British youth culture

of the show some are eliminated or replaced by new contestants. It is a fascinating window into a side of British culture that doesn't usually get seen abroad. There are usually a variety of accents including Essex, Estuary English and many more from across Britain.

Match of the Day - A British institution, Match of the Day (MOTD as it's also known) is the BBC's primary football highlights show aired every Saturday night during the Premier League season. Hosted by former footballer Gary Lineker, it is the world's longest-running football programme, having first aired in 1964. It also has an iconic theme tune that every Brit is able to hum or whistle.

Peaky Blinders - A crime drama set in Birmingham, England, just after World War I. It was first aired in 2013 on the BBC and it has gone on to win several BAFTAs. The show can also claim to have brought the flat cap back into fashion.

Question Time - A long-running topical panel show in which politicians and public figures discuss the latest news and issues. It is currently shown on BBC1 and is hosted by Fiona Bruce.

Sherlock - British crime drama based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective stories Sherlock Holmes. It is set in modern-day London and stars Benedict Cumberbatch as

LANGUAGE

Football related vocabulary

CULTURE

Premier league football

LANGUAGE

Variety of accents including Brummie

CULTURE

Historical insight into Britain in the early 20th century

LANGUAGE

Wide variety of accents | Vocabulary across a wide range of topics | Question forms

CULTURE

Current affairs in Britain

LANGUAGE

Advanced vocabulary | Fast dialogues

CULTURE

British culture

Sherlock and Martin Freeman as Watson.

Strictly Come Dancing - Strictly is a hugely popular dancing reality show that airs on the BBC. Hosted by Claudia Winkleman and Tess Daly, the show pairs celebrities with professional dance partners who work together over several weeks to train and then compete in the live shows. Each week a couple is eliminated until one couple is crowned the winner. In America, it's known as 'Dancing with the Stars.'

Top Gear - Popular car programme that sees the hosts attempt motoring-based challenges alongside vehicle reviews and other features. Airing on BBC2 on Sundays it has become a worldwide hit for the BBC since its relaunch in 2002. Previous hosts Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May left in 2015 under some controversy. A main feature of the show is a time trial where celebrities try to beat the time of someone called 'The Stig' who is an anonymous racing driver.

The X Factor - A hugely popular music competition produced by Simon Cowell. Wannabe singers from all around Britain audition to progress in the competition and earn the mentorship of the judges. Previous contestants include Little Mix, One Direction and Olly Murs.

LANGUAGE

Phrases to give praise, advice & criticism

CULTURE

British celebrities and pop culture

LANGUAGE

Car vocabulary | Idiomatic language | Conversational English

CULTURE

British motorsports | British pop culture

LANGUAGE

Phrases to praise and criticise | Narrative tenses | Storytelling vocabulary

CULTURE

British pop culture

5. CULTURE

Great British TV Catchphrases

So much of what bonds us as Brits is shared culture, and there is no better example of this than British TV catchphrases. Universally known, they bring us together as a nation. It's common for us to incorporate them into our conversations in a humorous way, and they give us the opportunity to be playful with language. Some of the examples below are from old TV shows that are no longer on air. However, the catchphrases live on long after the shows have died. I suggest you go and find clips of them on YouTube to get the full flavour.

“AM I BOVERED”

FROM THE CATHERINE TATE SHOW

Catherine Tate played a schoolgirl called Lauren who had a disdain for anything and everything. This catchphrase summed up her attitude perfectly. You'll notice she uses the /v/ sound instead of the /ð/ on 'th'. That's very common in British regional accents like cockney and estuary English.

“YOU'RE FIRED!”

FROM THE APPRENTICE

Alan Sugar uses this brutal line to sling one of the hopeful candidates out of the show. It's paired with a devastating pointed finger so they are in absolutely no doubt who he wants off the show. Ouch!

“AHA!”

FROM KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU WITH ALAN PARTRIDGE

One of the great British comedy characters, Alan Partridge greeted his audience and guests with this catchphrase. It is inspired by lyrics from 'Knowing me, knowing you' by Swedish pop group ABBA.

“LOVELY JUBBLY”

FROM ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES

Although this colloquial phrase existed before the show, it was Del Boy from Only Fools and Horses who made it famous. Whenever he wanted to show delight he would say ‘lovely jubbly’ and rub his hands with glee. Sounds best in a cockney accent. The show also had another great catchphrase ‘Rodney, you plonker’. This can be adapted nicely for your own purposes, just insert your friend/partner’s name.

“I WANT THAT ONE”

FROM LITTLE BRITAIN

This famous catchphrase was said by a character called Andy played by Matt Lucas. He would point to things and say ‘I wan’ tha’ wun’ which as you can imagine is very fun to copy when you are in the supermarket with a friend or partner.

“I DON'T BELIEVE IT”

FROM ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE

This show featured a miserable old man called Victor Meldrew who expressed his annoyance and frustration with everything in life by saying ‘I don’t believe it’.

“DON'T PANIC!”

FROM DAD'S ARMY

This was a show set in the Second World War and had a character called Mr Jones who would often have a fit of anxiety and start shouting ‘don’t panic!’

“EXTERMINATE!”

FROM DOCTOR WHO

An oldie but a goodie. The Daleks would announce that they were about to kill you with the words ‘exterminate!’ said in a robotic voice. I spent many happy days in my childhood chasing my friends while saying ‘exterminate’. You should try it.

“TONIGHT MATTHEW, I’M GOING TO BE...”

FROM STARS IN YOUR EYES

Another oldie but one that is still quoted. Stars in Your Eyes was a show in which people did impressions of their favourite singers. They would introduce who they’re going to be to presenter Matthew Kelly by saying ‘Tonight Matthew, I’m going to be...’

“TO ME, TO YOU”

FROM THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS

This slightly odd (in retrospect) kids TV show spawned the phrase ‘to me, to you’. It was used when Barry and Paul Chuckle moved objects together. As a result any time I’m moving a table or bed with someone I’ll say ‘to me, to you’ in their distinctive Yorkshire accent.

“LOADSAMONEY!”

FROM HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS

In the 1980s and 1990s Harry Enfield was possibly the most famous comic in Britain, with his sketches satirising British life. ‘Loadsamoney!’ was a response to the materialistic yuppie culture of the 1980s and the policies of the Thatcher government. Other Harry Enfield catchphrases include ‘Calm down, calm down’ said in a Scouse accent and ‘only me!’

5. CULTURE

**Tom's Must-
know British
Cultural Events**

Burns Night - A Scottish festival that celebrates the life of the famous poet Robert Burns. He wrote, among other things, Auld Lang Syne which is sung at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. Burns Night is held every year on his birthday, the 25th January. Traditionally, people eat haggis with neeps and tatties and attend gatherings with poetry readings and folk music.

Changing of the Guard - A ceremony that happens in front of The Queen's residence, Buckingham Palace in which one set of uniformed soldiers changes place with another set. It is a very popular tourist attraction and a great photo opportunity.

Chelsea Flower Show - One of the most colourful events of the British calendar, the Chelsea Flower Show showcases the very best landscapes and garden designs. It is held on the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in west London and is attended by the Royal Family every year.

Chinese New Year - In Jan/Feb every year CNY is celebrated by London's Chinese community and it is reportedly the biggest celebration of its kind outside Asia. There are special events including a huge parade, stage performances and of course, lots of food stalls. The main celebration in London is located around Chinatown, Leicester Square, and Trafalgar Square.

Christmas Day - As opposed to other European countries who celebrate Christmas on the 24th December, the biggest day of the year in British culture is 25th December, Christmas day. It is a day where families get together and celebrate in their own unique ways. Some traditions include eating Christmas dinner which usually includes roast turkey, watching the Queen's Speech, opening presents under the Christmas tree, going to church in the morning, watching Christmas specials on TV, playing board games etc. and generally eating and drinking too much!

Diwali - First celebrated in 2001, 'Diwali in London' is an outdoor event held in Trafalgar Square with dancing, talks, and food for all attendees to enjoy.

Edinburgh Fringe Festival - Established in 1947, The Fringe, as it's also known, is the world's largest arts festival. Happening throughout the month of August, the festival takes over Edinburgh as attendees criss-cross the city going from improv comedy shows to spoken word poetry and everything in between. Venues for performances vary from grand theatres to public phone boxes and black taxis. It truly is a festival for everyone.

Eid - Londoners celebrate the end of Ramadan with a large event in Trafalgar Square. There are family activities and food stalls as well as a main stage with music and entertainment.

Glastonbury - If there is one cultural event that encapsulates what it is to be British, I think Glastonbury might be it. It's an epic five-day music festival held on a farm in Somerset and has been running since 1970. Over 100,000 festival-goers descend on the picturesque site in the English countryside for the biggest and best contemporary music acts including Coldplay, Rolling Stones, Kylie Minogue, Ed Sheeran, and Beyoncé. The festival is run and curated by Michael and Emily Eavis, a father-daughter team who live on the farm. Together they have created a diverse cultural event of music and entertainment unlike any other in the UK. If you have the chance to go, I thoroughly recommend it at least once. Just make sure you take your wellington boots in case you get a rainy year.

Glyndebourne - As the website announces, 'Glyndebourne is an opera house in the heart of the Sussex countryside.' More broadly, it is an annual opera festival held during the summer with a resident orchestra from the London Philharmonic. Popular with the London elite, it is part of the summer social season for many. One of the great attractions is the beautiful grounds on which attendees can have picnics during intervals.

Great North Run - As the name suggests, the Great North Run is a running race from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne to South Shields in the north-east of England. It is the largest half marathon in the world and attracts some of the best athletes from

around the world. Past winners include Sir Mo Farah and the great Ethiopian runner Haile Gebrselassie.

Guy Fawkes Night (also known as Bonfire Night) - This is a British celebration on 5th November to commemorate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot by a man called Guy Fawkes. In 1605 he planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill King James I. However, it was uncovered before Guy Fawkes could carry it out and he was promptly executed. To celebrate his failure to kill the King people burned bonfires around London, and the day soon became a national celebration. We now have local bonfires and firework displays, and there is a particularly large celebration in Lewes, East Sussex with up to 80,000 attendees.

Halloween - While not as big over here in the UK as it is in the United States, Halloween is still marked every year on the 31st October. Its roots go far back to a Celtic festival called Samhain which was meant to mark summer's end. These days children go from door to door trick or treating and there are fancy dress parties up and down the country (also known as All Hallows' Eve).

Harvest Festival - It occurs in late September and is an annual celebration to express gratitude for a successful harvest. There are special Harvest Festival church services and it's common for schools to organise donations of non-perishable food to those in the community who are most in need.

Henley Royal Regatta - One of the events of the English social scene, the Henley Royal Regatta is a rowing competition held every July. It attracts the rich and beautiful to the banks of the Thames for five days of international class rowing and partying. This is where posh Brits come to let their hair down and they do it all following the strict somewhat over-the-top dress code (no trousers for women).

Hogmanay - The Scottish celebration of New Year on 31st December and 1st January. There are huge festivities across Scotland with various traditional events such as parades and fireball swinging. It is also common for partygoers to sing an old traditional Scottish song 'Auld Lang Syne' at the stroke of midnight.

Manchester Pride - An annual LGBTQ+ pride festival held every August bank holiday in Manchester's Canal street area. Over the ten-day festival, there are film screenings, community workshops and cabaret events and it all culminates in a big music festival featuring artists like Arianna Grande and Rita Ora.

New Year's Eve - The 31st December is a huge celebration in Britain with parties and events going on all over the country. The main celebration centres around the London Eye and Big Ben, where there is a spectacular fireworks display at the stroke of midnight. One of the main traditions is for people to sing Auld Lang Syne as the clock strikes 12.

New Year's Day - Although most of the country wakes up with a hangover, the 1st January is still a day of celebration here in the UK. It's a public holiday and in London there is a New Year's Day Parade along Piccadilly past Trafalgar Square and onto Parliament Square.

Notting Hill Carnival - Possibly the most colourful and lively event in Britain, the Notting Hill Carnival has been named Europe's largest street festival. It is set in the affluent area of Notting Hill and has been a celebration of London's Caribbean community since 1966. For anyone attending, it's a glorious mix of food, music, costumes, dancing and everything in between. It's a partygoer's heaven. It happens every year on the August bank holiday and there is a family-friendly day on the Sunday with a more raucous day on the Monday.

The Peter Pan Cup - A great example of British eccentricity, there has been a swimming race on every Christmas morning since 1864. Members of the Serpentine Swimming Club meet at the Serpentine in Hyde Park for the very chilly swimming race. It's a great spectator sport if you are in the area.

The Queen's Christmas Message - Since 1952 the Queen has delivered a message on Christmas Day which is broadcast on the BBC at 15:00 GMT around the world. The theme of the speech usually reflects the big events of the past year (also known as 'The Queen's Speech').

Remembrance Sunday - A day for people to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth soldiers in conflicts, principally the 1st and 2nd World Wars. It's held on the nearest Sunday to 11th November. It is marked with a 2-minute silence at 11 o'clock, and people wear red poppies on their clothes.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo - A military festival that takes over the cobbled streets of Edinburgh Castle every August. Marching bands and bagpipes from the British Armed Forces and forces from around the world come together in a celebration of military prowess and tradition, with crowds of people cheering from the sides.

St Andrew's Day - St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, and St Andrew's day is celebrated on the 30th November. Although it is a holiday in Scotland not everyone has the day off work, but the day is marked by some with ceilidhs (pronounced /keili/) which are traditional Scottish dances.

St David's Day - St David is the patron saint of Wales, and on the 1st March Welsh people wear daffodils or leeks (the two symbols of Wales). There are also parades in the main cities.

St George's Day - St George is the patron saint of England and his day falls on the 23rd April. According to the legend, St George slew a dragon and saved a princess while in the Roman army. As a result, he is seen as a symbol of bravery by the

English, although there are no large events or celebrations on his day.

St Patrick's Day - St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and his day falls on the 17th March. Curiously this is celebrated in Britain with much more exuberance than any of the other patron saint days, possibly owing to the large Irish population living here. There is a St Patrick's day parade in London and other events in many other cities across Britain.

Trooping the Colour - A military display to mark the official birthday of the Queen in June. Marching soldiers, horses, and musicians all come together in a great display of military skill and power. It's an impressive event with crowds lining the streets to see the parade go down The Mall towards Horse Guard's Parade. Of course, the Royal Family are always in attendance and the event is closed with a fly-past by the RAF.

Valentine's Day - A day for all the romantics in Britain! Well, those that want to celebrate their love of love on the 14th February every year. There are of course many cynics who see the day as overly commercial and frankly a bit of a rip-off. It's customary to send Valentine's Day cards to the one/ones you love, and possibly stretch the budget to a bunch of flowers or a romantic dinner.

5. CULTURE

**Tom's
Biggest British
Sporting Events**

All England Championships

(Wimbledon) - Sport doesn't get more British than this. Beautiful grass courts, elegantly dressed crowds and of course strawberries and cream. Wimbledon is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments of the year and is watched by millions all over the world. It's usually held at the end of June when the weather in Britain is notoriously unpredictable and rain delays are common. It's a great day out for anyone in London, although queues can be very long just to gain access to the outer courts.

The Ashes - The rivalry between the Australian and English cricket teams goes back to the late 1800s when Australia came to England and beat them in a test match series. The British press declared this the metaphorical 'death' of English cricket and said that the Australians had taken the ashes back home with them. From this moment on, any test series between the two fierce rivals has been known as The Ashes. To fit with the name, the trophy for the winning team is a tiny urn said to hold the ashes of the cricket stumps from one of the first matches. If you are in England when an Ashes series is on I thoroughly recommend going for a day, even if you don't know anything about cricket. Take a picnic and a bottle of wine and enjoy a day in the sunshine (fingers crossed).



British Grand Prix - A race in the Formula One World Championships, the British Grand Prix (pronounced /grɒn pri:/) is raced at Silverstone circuit in Northamptonshire.

The Calcutta Cup - A passionate rugby match between Scotland and England. It's usually held during the Six Nations tournament and has one of the coolest trophies as the prize. The trophy is a majestic silver cup with cobras for handles and an elephant on top. This is because the first-ever Calcutta Cup was played in Calcutta in 1873 between two groups of English and Scottish men.

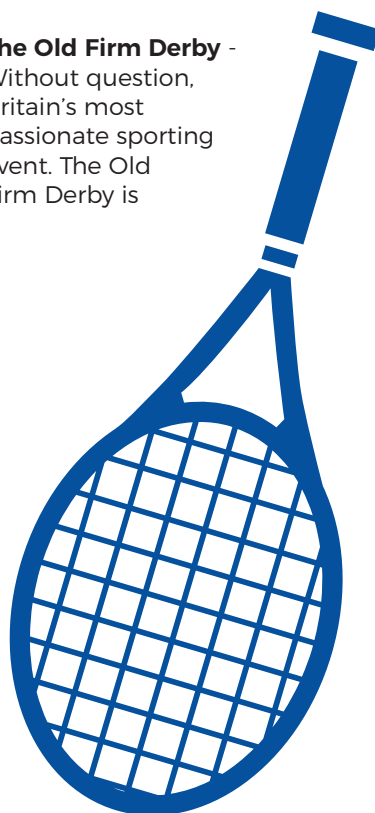
The FA Cup - The longest-running national football competition in the world. The FA Cup has a special place in the hearts of English football fans. Over 700 teams from 10 levels of national football are eligible to enter. As a result, it has a real David versus Goliath feel to it. There are often 'giant-killings' with small teams eliminating Premier league teams. The semi-finals and final are held at Wembley and the winner receives the famous FA Cup trophy decorated with ribbons in the club's colours (FA stands for Football Association).

The Grand National - If there is one horse race that British people bet on, it's this one. First run in 1839, The Grand National is the nation's biggest horse race, with millions of people tuning in to watch it live. It's held at Aintree Racecourse near Liverpool and has become somewhat notorious for having some very high fences. There have been several horse fatalities over the

years. According to reports, British punters place bets totalling £300 million on the race and personally I always like to have a little flutter.

London Marathon - In my opinion, this is the most emotional sporting event in the British calendar. Every year central London is closed to traffic on one Sunday in May for thousands of professionals and amateurs to run the 26-mile course. It's a wonderful event to attend as crowds line the streets and cheer on the runners. It is customary for many of the runners to do it for charity and often the stories are very personal, making it such an emotional event.

The Old Firm Derby - Without question, Britain's most passionate sporting event. The Old Firm Derby is



a football match between the two biggest teams in Glasgow: Celtic and Rangers. The rivalry goes back to 1888 and is based upon the social, political and religious differences between the two clubs. Glasgow Celtic are the team of the Irish Catholic community and Glasgow Rangers are the team of the Protestants. While the matches are usually fast and furious it's the incredible atmosphere generated by the fans that makes this derby so special.



The Open Championships

One of the four major tournaments in professional golf. The Open, as it's known, is held in different locations within Britain every July and attracts the world's best golfers to compete for the famous Claret Jug trophy.

Oxford Cambridge Boat Race -

An annual rowing event between these two world-famous universities. First held in 1829, the Boat Race sees teams of 8 rowers race from Putney Bridge on the River Thames, upstream to Mortlake. There are both men's and women's races with Oxford wearing dark blue and Cambridge wearing light blue. It's a fun spectator sport with crowds lining the river bank to watch the boats pass by.

Royal Ascot - As the name suggests this is a week-long horserace meeting attended each year by the Queen and other members of the royal family. Located in Berkshire,

just west of London, Ascot is a major event in the British social calendar. There is a strict dress code in the Royal Enclosure, requiring men to wear top hats and for women not to show their bare midriff or shoulders. Ladies' Day is held on the Thursday when there is also the Gold Cup, Royal Ascot's centrepiece race.

The Six Nations - An intense and bruising professional rugby tournament between France, Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, and Italy. Each team plays each other once in a league format to decide who wins the trophy. The team that comes bottom of the league 'wins' a wooden spoon as the loser. It is held every February and March and it's well worth attending a match to see how passionate the atmosphere gets inside the stadiums.

6. BRITISH VS AMERICAN ENGLISH

**British vs
American English
differences**



A&E ER

AEROPLANE

AIRPLANE

ANTICLOCKWISE

COUNTERCLOCKWISE

AUBERGINE

EGGPLANT

AUTUMN

FALL

BANK HOLIDAY

FEDERAL HOLIDAY

BARRISTER

ATTORNEY

BEETROOT

BEETS

BILL

CHEQUE

BIN

TRASH CAN

BISCUIT

COOKIE

BLOCK OF FLATS

APARTMENT BUILDING

BONNET

HOOD

BOOT

TRUNK

BUMBAG

FANNY PACK

BRACES

SUSPENDERS

BRACKETS

PARENTHESES

BREAK TIME

RECESS

CAR PARK

PARKING LOT

CHEMIST'S

DRUGSTORE

CHIPS/FRIES

FRIES

CINEMA

MOVIE THEATRE

CITY CENTRE

DOWNTOWN



CLING FILM

SARAN/PLASTIC WRAP

CORIANDER

CILANTRO

COUNCIL ESTATE

HOUSING PROJECT

COURGETTE

ZUCCHINI

CURRENT ACCOUNT

CHECKING ACCOUNT

CURRICULUM VITAE

RESUME

CRISPS

POTATO CHIPS

DRAUGHTS

CHECKERS

DRAW

TIE

DRAWING PIN

THUMB TACK

DRESSING GOWN

BATHROBE

DRESSING TABLE

VANITY

DRINK-DRIVING

DRUNK DRIVING

DRIVING LICENCE

DRIVER'S LICENSE

DUMMY

PACIFIER

DUNGAREES

OVERALLS

DUSTBIN

GARBAGE CAN

ESTATE AGENT

REALTOR / REAL

ESTATE CAR

SUV

EXPIRY DATE

EXPIRATION DATE

FAIRY CAKE

CUPCAKE



FINANCIAL YEAR

FISCAL YEAR

FIRE ENGINE

FIRE TRUCK

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

FLAT

APARTMENT

FLYOVER

OVERPASS

FOOTBALL

SOCCER

FRINGE

BANGS

FULL STOP

PERIOD

GARDEN

YARD

GLANDULAR FEVER

MONONUCLEOSIS

GOALKEEPER

GOALTENDER

GRILL

BROIL

GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

HEN PARTY

BACHELORETTE PARTY

HIGH STREET

MAIN STREET

HOLIDAY

VACATION

HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS

SPRINKLES

ICE LOLLY

POPSICLE

ICING SUGAR

POWDERED SUGAR



IDENTITY PARADE

INDICATOR

JACKET POTATO

JAM

JELLY

JUMBLE SALE

KICKABOUT

KIT

LADYBIRD

LIFT

LORRY

MARK

MATHS

MINCED MEAT

MOBILE PHONE

MOTORWAY

NAPPY

NOUGHTS AND CROSSES

NUMBER PLATE

OFF-LICENCE

LINEUP

TURN SIGNAL

BAKED POTATO

JAM/JELLY

JELLY-O

YARD/RUMMAGE SALE

PICKUP GAME

UNIFORM

LADYBUG

ELEVATOR

TRUCK

GRADE

MATH

GROUND MEAT

CELL PHONE

HIGHWAY/EXPRESSWAY

DIAPER

TIC-TAC-TOE

LICENSE PLATE

LIQUOR STORE



PARACETAMOL

ACETAMINOPHEN

PAVEMENT

SIDEWALK

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

CROSSWALK

PETROL

GAS

PITCH

FIELD

PLASTER

BAND-AID

PORRIDGE

OATMEAL

POST

MAIL

POSTCODE

ZIP CODE

PUB

BAR

PRAM/BUGGY

STROLLER

PRIMARY SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

QUEUE

LINE

RAILWAY

RAILROAD

RETURN TICKET

ROUND TRIP

REVERSE THE CHARGES

CALL COLLECT

RING ROAD

BELTWAY

ROCKET

ARUGULA



| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ROTA | ROSTER |
| ROUNDAABOUT | TRAFFIC CIRCLE |
| RUBBER | ERASER |
| RUBBISH | GARBAGE |
| SALES ASSISTANT | SALES CLERK |
| SECONDARY SCHOOL | HIGH SCHOOL |
| SELLOTAPE | SCOTCH TAPE |
| SERIES | SEASON |
| SHOP | STORE |
| SHOPPING TROLLEY | SHOPPING CART |
| SMOKED SALMON | LOX |
| SOLICITOR | LAWYER |
| SPANNER | WRENCH |
| SPRING ONION | SCALLION/GREEN ONION |
| STAG PARTY | BACHELOR PARTY |
| STATE SCHOOL | PUBLIC SCHOOL |
| STORM IN A TEACUP | TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT |
| SWEETS | CANDY |
| TAP | FAUCET |



TAXI CAB

TERM

SEMESTER

TERRACED HOUSE

ROW HOUSE

TOILET/LOO

RESTROOM/BATHROOM

TORCH

FLASHLIGHT

TOUCH WOOD

KNOCK ON WOOD

TRADE UNION

LABOR UNION

TREACLE

MOLASSES

TROUSERS

PANTS

UNDERGROUND

SUBWAY

UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE

WAISTCOAT

VEST

WARDROBE

CLOSET

WELLINGTON BOOTS

RUBBER BOOTS

WINDSCREEN

WINDSHIELD

ZEBRA CROSSING

CROSSWALK

ZIP

ZIPPER

6. BRITISH VS AMERICAN ENGLISH

**Rude
Words**

AMERICAN ENGLISH WORDS THAT ARE RUDE IN BRITAIN

Trump (noun/verb) - Donald Trump's name is actually a slang word for fart in British English. So if you have trumped in Britain, you have farted.

bum (noun) - a derogatory word for a homeless person in American English. This is another word for bottom/arse in British English.

bird (noun) - an animal with two wings in both the USA and the UK. It is also a slang term for a young woman in Britain that can be seen as a bit offensive.

fanny pack (noun) - a bag tied around one's waist in America. A fanny is another word for vagina in British English.

Randy (noun) - a male name in America that means 'sexually charged' in Britain. This gives the phrase 'Hi, I'm Randy' an interesting twist.

pants (noun) - not rude as such but you have to be careful. Pants in America are trousers whereas pants in Britain are underwear. The confusion comes when an American says to a Brit 'I love your pants!'

BRITISH ENGLISH WORDS THAT ARE RUDE IN THE USA

rubber (noun) - in British English a rubber is something you use to erase a mistake made in pencil. This would be an eraser in American English. The confusion lies in the fact that rubber is a slang word for condom in the USA so 'can I borrow a rubber?' makes for a funny question.

fag (noun) - in British English it's a slang word for cigarette whereas in American English it's a derogatory word for a homosexual person.

hooker (noun) - in British English it's a position in a rugby team however in American English it's a slang term for a prostitute.

dummy (noun) - the small plastic thing put in a baby's mouth to calm it down. In American English, dummy is used as an alternative to idiot.

7. BRITISH LIFE

**9 Tips to Avoid
Culture Shock |
One Spanish Lady's
Struggles in Britain**

As a Spaniard who lived in Cambridge for four years and is married to a British man, there are a few things that I could never really get used to during my time in, as I like to call it, fish and chips land.

- 1.** All seasons in one day: you wouldn't be considered a nutter for putting a raincoat and a pair of sunglasses in your backpack. The weather changes constantly – one minute it's sunny, the next it's spitting, then it's boiling hot and finally it's pissing it down.
- 2.** Putting vinegar on chips: while the Brits look astonished when I add some salt on my salad, it still amazes me when I observe their faces of joy while munching their soggy chips covered in rivers of vinegar.
- 3.** Massive spiders: I was fairly fond of the little cottage where I used to live in the English countryside. However, living in fear of waking up with a huge spider crawling over my face made me pretty uneasy. There are spiders everywhere!
- 4.** Transport prices: if you're going to spend some time in England, you'd better be in good shape or get a bike as soon as you arrive. So that you get an idea, buying a monthly return train ticket from Cambridge to London will cost you around £400, which is the same price that you would pay to rent a single room in Cambridge. The reason for this is that the British railway system is not managed by the government, but by private companies instead.
- 5.** Two separate taps: I know life is all about choices and making decisions, but this is just too cruel. The hot tap water is basically 'burning hot' and the cold water tap is more like 'freezing to death cold water'. Pick yours and happy hand washing!

- 6.** No kissing and only one kiss for family and friends: in Spain, we kiss strangers all the time and we give tight hugs to close friends and family. Shaking someone's hand while I'm having a pint in a pub is just so weird. So just bear in mind, if it's a stranger, just shake their hand and keep the distance!
- 7.** Full English breakfast: this is almost impossible in the beginning if you're used to a continental breakfast, such as toast, orange juice, coffee, fruit ... But try it on a Sunday morning after you've been to a party the previous night, and it will do wonders for your hangover!
- 8.** Greeting cards: don't get me wrong, I absolutely love receiving birthday or Christmas cards in the post but British people will jump at any opportunity to send them. New job, new baby, new house, getting engaged, getting married, getting divorced... They even have card shops where you can purchase a card for every occasion. I always felt really guilty about throwing them away, but after a few years of living in Britain, I accumulated hundreds! Call me cold-hearted but it makes no sense to me. Why send a tacky card to someone you see every day?
- 9.** British gastronomy: apart from crumpets, scones, custard cream biscuits, carrot cake, Cornish pasties, cheese & onion crisps, fish & chips, Marmite, apple crumble, bubble and squeak, bacon rolls, Sunday roast ... Trust me, there's not much left to eat in Britain. Just type 'British food' on Google images and you'll understand why one of the British people's favourite things to do on a Saturday night is to go for a curry!

However, if you'd like to have the full British cuisine experience, go and order some pork pies and scotch eggs as starters, toad in the hole for the main, and spotted dick for dessert.

Ahhh complaining is always so much fun, isn't it? But please don't misunderstand me - there are so many things I adore about Britain and the Brits, such as:

British punctuality, British politeness, respecting queues, free museums, British music, Christmas spirit and decorations, Shetland ponies, country cottages, fresh flowers in every supermarket, fashionable grannies who drink vodka and go dancing on Saturday night, people minding their own business, stunning countryside and respect for nature, being called love & sweetheart by strangers, double-decker buses, red phone boxes (only from the outside, inside they smell of pee), beer gardens, antique and charity shops, men walking around in skirts without being noticed ... I could go on and on!

I hope you had fun reading this and thank you so much to the chief dreamer Tom for letting me share it with you.

Keep going, Eat Sleep Dreamers!

xoxo



ISABEL

amigosinglesees.com
An English teaching blog for
super motivated students.

7. BRITISH LIFE

**British Identity
in the 21st
Century |
A Short Essay**

My family and I were in deep conversation one night after coming back from a party; I had some things on my mind that I needed to get off my chest. A guy at the party made a joke about how my Tamil wasn't up to scratch. Although I was born and raised in England, my mother tongue is Tamil and I've spoken it with my parents at home as my first language. Practising your mother tongue can be incredibly difficult away from one's homeland.

When the guy decided to insult me, I decided to respond in a passive-aggressive way in true British fashion. This wasn't necessarily impactful in that particular setting though, as everyone at the party was Tamil. They probably all missed my sarcasm and passive-aggressive language. I asked my parents for some advice about the best way to have handled the situation based on our cultural Tamil values. They explained various social cues and norms to me in Tamil social settings, which got me thinking about different sides of my identity. I realised we are continually showcasing our identities in different ways, which becomes more apparent in multicultural settings.

What does it mean to be British? There are hundreds on this list, but I find our passive-aggressive subtext in everyday phrases and sharp-witted sarcasm a classic element of British culture. But in the 21st century, what makes a good Brit is our ability to adapt ourselves to other cultures and acquire a level of understanding and sympathy to realise that everyone comes from different walks of life and may not relate to you in every sense. I find that in British culture we're very good at adapting our language to match the situation we're in. We're calm, we're patient, we're understanding. I see that as an example of what it means to be British in the 21st century. But here's a complex thought to ponder over a cuppa: is the definition of British culture static and permanent? Are we all just incorporating a mix of different cultures in our globalised world? I definitely have incorporated habits from other cultures. Or is the definition of being British completely changed from what it once used to be because of multiculturalism?

I often tell people I'm proud to be Tamil, but I'm also proud to be British. It's possible to be proud of both cultures, by drawing upon the best of both worlds.

WRITTEN BY ANPU
anpu.london

8. BRITISH ACCENTS

**An Introduction
to British Accents**

To hear the audio for all the **PRACTICE SENTENCES** in this section, go to: eatsleepdreamenglish.com

There is no one 'British' accent! If I had a penny for every time a student has asked me to help them acquire a 'British' accent I'd be a rich man - well, I'd be able to buy a pair of Harry Potter socks from Primark at the very least. In Britain, we have over thirty different regional accents, each with its own distinctive pronunciation. Towns that are ten miles apart can have widely different pronunciation features. Broadly speaking, in England, accents are divided into two categories: those in the North and those in the South. Meanwhile in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, accents all contain variations between cities or regions. In this section we go into five of the most predominant British accents: Received Pronunciation, Cockney, Multicultural London English, Scouse, and Mancunian.

One of the things I love most about accents is how we use them to help construct our identity. An accent can tell you so much about a person. It can indicate where someone is from, their social background, their age, their education, their job, their cultural influences etc. And yet Britain's relationship with its accents is a complicated one. For example, received pronunciation was once the only accent you would hear on the BBC and was seen as the accent of education and authority. While this mindset has shifted over the years, and regional accents are now heard on the BBC, this old perception of RP being the 'proper' way to speak still lingers for some. The aim of this section is to give you some background information about each accent, outline the most distinctive features so you can identify them and then give you some examples of famous people who speak with these accents. It is by no means an exhaustive list, but can be used as a foundation for anyone who wants to understand the basics. There are practice sentences with voice recordings so that you can hear the sounds modelled in each accent and then practise them yourself. Enjoy!

RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION

Received Pronunciation, or RP as it's also known, is perhaps the most commonly studied accent for learners of British English. It has been used by many course books, dictionaries and teachers as the 'standard' model of British English, despite less than 5% of the population of England actually speaking it. There are two main reasons for this: firstly it has long been perceived to be the accent of the educated and privileged within British society. And secondly, it was the accent of the BBC and other media outlets. These two factors have cemented RP's status as the preferred accent for the majority of students learning British English as a foreign language. Unlike other accents, the use of RP is not confined to one geographical area, although it is often associated with the south of England. As such, you can have RP speakers from London, Yorkshire or Scotland. Indeed, as with any accent, RP can vary considerably and has certainly changed a lot over time. We are going to focus on two main forms, traditional 'conservative RP' and the more modern version known as 'contemporary RP'. In this section, we will identify the distinguishing features of RP with examples.

1) The trap/bath split - /æ/ and /ɑː/

One feature that clearly distinguishes RP and other southern accents from northern ones is the use of two vowel sounds on 'a', as seen here.

/ɑː/ - bath / fast / laugh / scarf / glass / grass / dance
/ banana / ask / photograph / chance / France

/æ/ - man / hand / Japan / can / hamster / Harry /
gas / chat / action / pasta / maths

It is important to note that because RP speakers can be found across Britain there may be some local influence on how individuals pronounce certain words i.e. an RP speaker from Harrogate might say 'bath' /bæθ/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Harry had a banana in the bath.'

2) The glottal T

The topic of the glottal T is a controversial one with some speakers of RP seeing it as lazy or even uneducated. However, it has become more and more common for speakers of RP to incorporate it into their accent and this is one feature that differentiates contemporary RP from conservative RP. In the latter, a glottal T would almost never be used. The only exception to this would be when a 't' is in the end position e.g. that / wait. In contemporary RP it is more common to incorporate a glottal T into a word especially when it is in the mid-position e.g. Scotland / daughter.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'My daughter's flat in Scotland didn't have any hot water.'

3) i: vs /ɪ/

At the end of a word with a 'y' contemporary RP uses /i:/ whereas conservative RP uses the shortened /ɪ/ e.g. 'very' /veri/ or 'happy' /hæpi/

Other words include - city / slowly / really / naughty / Piccadilly / Italy / pretty / likely / Mary

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I walked slowly through the city to Piccadilly.'

4) Yod-coalescence vs Yod-retention

In conservative RP the /j/ sound is present when there is a /u:/ after /t/ /d/ /s/ however this has disappeared in contemporary RP, something we call yod-coalescence. This is when the /j/ sound merges with the preceding consonant to make new sounds like /tʃ/ and /dʒ/.

Conservative RP

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| 'tuna' | duty | super | opportunity |
| /ˈtju:nə/ | /dju:ti/ | /sju:pə/ | /ɒpətju:nəti/ |

Contemporary RP

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|---------------|
| 'tuna' | duty | super | opportunity |
| /ˈtʃu:nə/ | /dʒu:ti/ | /su:pə/ | /ɒpətʃu:nəti/ |

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'There's a super opportunity at YouTube to be a producer.'

5) The tapped r

Received pronunciation is a non-rhotic accent which means the /r/ sound is only pronounced before a vowel. In conservative RP there is something called a tapped r. This is when the tip of the tongue hits the alveolar ridge (roof of the mouth) to pronounce the /r/. This happens when the /r/ is between two vowels e.g. Harry or after a dental fricative e.g. throw. In contemporary RP the tapped /r/ doesn't exist.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'The very first time I saw Mary I knew I was meant to marry her.'

6) Smoothing of triphthongs

A triphthong is a collection of vowels that occur together in a word for example /auə/ in power. While /pauə/ would be the correct pronunciation in contemporary RP, it is very different in conservative RP. The three sounds become one in a process of smoothing, resulting in /pauə/ becoming /pɑ:./

/auə/ becomes /ɑ:/ e.g. tower (/tauə/ = /tɑ:/)
power (pauə/ = /pɑ:./) shower (/ʃauə/ = /ʃɑ:./)
/aɪə/ becomes /ɑ:/ e.g. fire (/faɪə/ = /fɑ:./)
liar (/laɪə/ = /lɑ:./) inspire (/ɪnspɑɪə/ = /ɪnspɑ:./)
/eɪə/ becomes /ɛ:/ e.g. layer (/leɪə/ = /lɛ:./)
player (/pleɪə/ = /plɛ:./)

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I had a shower for an hour.'

7) /ɒ/ vs /ɔ:/

In conservative RP when an 'o' comes before a voiceless fricative /f/ /s/ and /θ/ it's pronounced /ɔ:/ e.g. off /ɔ:f/ cough /kɔ:f/ boss /bɔ:s/

In contemporary RP the 'o' is pronounced /ɒ/ e.g. off /ɒf/ cough /kɒf/ boss /bɒs/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'My boss looks a little bit off. She's got a sore throat and a cough.'

8) Linking /r/

As mentioned previously the /r/ sound is not present when it occurs in the end position of a word e.g. water /wɔ:tə/. However, when the next word begins with a vowel, the /r/ sound links the two words together.

e.g. water aid /wɔ:tə reɪd/ or better off /betə rɒf/. This is a common part of RP and many other British English accents. Strictly speaking, a speaker of conservative RP might prefer to pronounce each word separately.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I think you are better off leaving the letter on the table.'

9) /ʊ/ vs /ʌ/

Another distinguishing feature of RP and southern accents is the distinction between /ʊ/ vs /ʌ/. This distinction is not made in northern accents.

/ʊ/ - put / foot / good / woman / would / could / sugar / cushion / butcher

/ʌ/ - putt / shut / nut / butter / summer / thunder / up / run / truck / Sunday

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Did you have a good Sunday putting pictures up?'

10) /əʊ/

In conservative RP the articulation of /əʊ/ is made at the front of the mouth with lips in a rounded position close together. Words with /əʊ/ include - ago / know / throw / elbow / phone / those / home.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Long ago I lost my phone on the way home.'

11) Clear /l/ and dark /l/

In RP there are two main ways to pronounce L when it occurs in a word. There is the clear /l/ which is when the tip of the tongue touches the alveolar ridge (roof of the mouth behind the top

teeth) and air is released from the mouth e.g. letter/light/allow. The dark /l/, which occurs after a vowel or before a consonant, is made by drawing the tongue down and back e.g. jewel/fuel/beautiful.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'The sunlight on that lovely jewel is beautiful.'

12) Intonation and speed

Because speakers of RP focus so much of their attention on being clear and understandable the pace of speech is slow, steady and hardly ever rushed. In terms of intonation, it rises and then falls at the end of a sentence. This is the case for most RP speakers although some younger speakers of contemporary RP might use something called uptalk. This is when the speaker's intonation rises at the end making their utterance sound like a question. This is believed to be the influence of Australian English although linguists are not entirely certain about this.

SPEAKERS OF RP

Benedict Cumberbatch, Gemma Chan, Emma Watson, Boris Johnson, Naomi Harris, Ed Sheeran, Sir David Attenborough, Daniel Radcliffe, Dev Patel, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Dame Judy Dench, Henry Golding, Claudia Winkleman, Louis Theroux and Princes William and Harry.

TOM'S TIPS

- I have analysed the accents of The Queen,
- Emma Watson, Prince Harry, Adele, Stormzy
- and David Beckham on my YouTube channel.

COCKNEY

Cockney is the traditional accent of the working class in London. Strictly speaking, to be considered a true Cockney you have to be born within the sound of the Bow Bells which are located in St Mary-Le-Bow church in the Cheapside area of London. A study was undertaken in 2000 to see how far the bells could be heard and it concluded that if you were born six miles to the east of the church, five miles to the north, three miles to the south, and four miles to the west you were a Cockney. These days, while the Cockney accent is associated with the East End of London, it is common to find speakers all across London and the Home Counties. Cockney is much more than just an accent, it's an entire culture. Take for example Cockney rhyming slang which is a unique set of words and phrases particular to speakers of Cockney. They were designed to confuse outsiders who weren't aware of the meanings. The Cockney accent has been captured in numerous films such as 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels', 'Green Street' and rather less successfully by Dick Van Dyke in 'Mary Poppins'. It can also be heard on one of Britain's best-loved soap operas 'EastEnders' which is set in a fictitious area of east London called Walford. Today the Cockney accent has migrated from its original roots as many working-class Londoners have left the city for the Home Counties e.g. Essex, Hertfordshire, and Kent. Here we look at the main pronunciation features of the accent and identify what it is to sound like a true Cockney.

1) Glottal T

This is perhaps the quintessential feature of the Cockney accent. Any /t/ in the mid or final position is articulated with a glottal stop. This means the airflow is stopped in the vocal folds and is not released, creating the glottal stop. Phonemically it is represented by /ʔ/ so 'water' pronounced with a glottal T would be /wɔ:ʔə/. It's important to note that a glottal T cannot be used on a /t/ at the front-position of a word i.e. top. The act of glottalisation also occurs with /p/ and /k/ e.g. paper /peɪʔə/ like /laɪʔ/

Mid-position words - water / daughter / hotter / better / Tottenham / Italy / Batman / letter / butter

End-position words - that / hot / sat / chat / cat / tracksuit / bat / planet / paint

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'The hotter the water, the better it is.'

2) th-fronting

In received pronunciation and other British accents, there are two sounds for 'th' /θ/ (throw) and /ð/ (this). However in Cockney /θ/ is replaced with a /f/ sound e.g. 'thing' /fɪŋ/, 'bath' /bɑ:f/, 'Thursday' /fɜ:zdeɪ/. The /ð/ sound on 'th' is replaced by /v/ so 'other' would be pronounced /ʌvə/. If 'th' is found at the beginning of a word however it is more likely to be dropped completely or replaced by a /d/ sound so 'that' would be /æt/ and 'the' would be /d/.

/f/ on 'th' - thing / think / bath / thanks / throne / throw / cloth / thunder / birthday / tooth / healthy

/v/ on 'th' - other / brother / mother / bother /
although / clothes / together / weather / father /
either

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I think it was my mother's birthday the other day.'

3) /h/ dropping

It is common for a Cockney speaker to drop Hs at the beginning of words or in the middle. For example 'help' /elp/ - 'hospital' /ɒspitəl/ - 'behave' /biɛv/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I need some help getting Harry to the hospital.'

4) L vocalisation

A very distinctive feature of Cockney is something called L vocalisation. When an /l/ occurs a) after a vowel b) before a consonant in the same syllable or c) as a syllable itself it becomes a vowel sound. This sound can vary depending on the speaker and to many people, the sound that best represents L vocalisation is actually a semivowel /w/ which is how I transcribe it phonetically.

a) 'full' /fuw/ - 'tall' /tɔ:w/ - 'Paul' /pow/

b) 'milk' /miwk/ - 'help' /hewp/

c) 'bottle' /bɒ?əw/ - 'table' /teɪbəw/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I've given Paul the milk bottles to put on the table.'

5) Yod-dropping

There is a tendency to drop the /j/ sound on /u:/'

when it comes before /t/ and /d/ e.g. 'Tuesday' /tu:zdeɪ/ or 'due' /du:ɪ/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Is the essay due on Tuesday?'

6) -ing /ɪŋ/ and -thing /ɪŋk/

It is common in Cockney for words ending -ing to be pronounced /ɪŋ/ e.g. 'singing' /sɪŋɪŋ/ - 'running' /rʌnɪŋ/

On words that end -thing it is common, though not always, for a /ɪŋk/ to occur at the end of the word e.g. 'something' /sʌmfɪŋk/ - 'anything' /enɪfɪŋk/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'She loves singing anything at karaoke.'

7) /r/ as /w/

In some speakers of Cockney, but certainly not all, there is a tendency to replace the /r/ sound with a labiodental /w/ sound e.g. 'alright' /ɑ:wai?/ - 'really' /wɪəli:/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I don't remember nothing, is that alright?'

8) /ɑ:/

Cockney follows the same pattern as many southern English accents and RP by having a broad /ɑ:/ sound on many words like 'bath', 'laugh', 'after', 'banana' etc.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I've only eaten half a banana this afternoon.'

9) /æ/

Before a voiced consonant it's possible to hear /æ/ as /e/ or /ei/ e.g. back /bek/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I've got a bad back.'

10) Diphthongs

/au/ is pronounced /æə/ or /æu/ e.g. how /æəw/ - now /næu/ - allow /əlæu/

/ei/ is pronounced /æi/ - paper /pæi?ə/ - train /træin/ - plane /plæin/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Hurry up, the train's coming now.'

11) Double negatives

Unlike standard English, double negatives are a common feature in Cockney syntax. It is not an error, simply a non-standard variation. They occur when two negatives are used in the same clause to express a single negative idea.

PRACTICE SENTENCES

'I didn't see no one' meaning 'I didn't see anyone'

'We ain't got nothing' meaning 'We haven't got anything'

SPEAKERS OF COCKNEY

Adele, David Beckham, Danny Dyer, Ray Winstone, Harry Kane, Harry Redknapp, Michael Caine, Idris Elba and Jason Statham.

MULTICULTURAL LONDON ENGLISH

Multicultural London English, or MLE as it's also known, is the youngest of all the British accents having only really developed in the last 30 years or so. It is the perfect representation of contemporary London: young, diverse and constantly evolving. It is the accent of the city's young multi-ethnic citizens and has pronunciation features that reflect this. It is also heavily influenced by the traditional white working-class Cockney accent. MLE can be heard all across London and indeed it has travelled, via social media, to other major urban areas in Britain, where its influence is felt by young people.

1) Glottal T

The /t/ sound is such a distinctive part of British English and it's no different in MLE. Generally speaking, it is articulated with a glottal stop which means the air is restricted by the vocal folds. Just as in Cockney you'll find words like 'butter' pronounced /bʌʔə/ or 'water' as /wɔːʔə/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I'll have a can of Coke and a bottle of water, please.'

2) /h/ dropping

Unlike Cockney the /h/ sound is often pronounced e.g. 'happy' /hæpi/ 'Hackney' /hækni/ and 'horse' /hɔːs/. There are instances in which it might be dropped such as 'have' /æv/. However, this can often depend on the individual speaker who may or may not decide to drop the /h/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'If we get off at Hackney Central we'll have time to go

back home.'

3) /a:/ and /æ/

Because this is a southern English accent it follows the same pattern as RP and Cockney. There is a distinct difference between /a:/ and /æ/.

/a:/ - laugh / half / class

/æ/ - hand / fam / gas

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I'm gassed that you're going to be in my class next year.'

4) th-fronting

One of the main distinctions between MLE and all other British English accents is the pronunciation of 'th'. While it can follow the th-fronting pattern of Cockney where /θ/ becomes /f/ and /ð/ turns into /v/ it also has its own unique articulation. The best example of this is when /θ/ transforms into /t/ in 'thing' /tɪŋ/. For other words with /θ/ like 'three', 'thanks' and 'thin' speakers would generally lean towards /f/ over /t/. The other pattern to note is the use of /d/ instead of /ð/ so that 'there' becomes /deə/ and 'this' becomes /dis/.

/t/ on 'th' - thing / think / thanks

/d/ on 'th' - there / this / that / those / brother / mother

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Are these things yours or are they your brother's?'

5) Non-standard use of 'be'

It's common for MLE speakers to use a non-

standard conjugation of 'be', in the affirmative that means simply using 'was' for all subjects. In turn, the negative form is 'weren't'. It should be noted that 'man' is used as a first/second/third person pronoun and conjugates with was/weren't too.

I was / weren't
You was / weren't
He / She / It was / weren't
We was / weren't
They was / weren't

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'We was proper late for our school.'

6) Non-standard dropping of 'to'

It's very common to drop 'to' after 'go' e.g. 'Come we go cinema' or 'Man went Soho yesterday.'

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Let's go McDonald's and get some nuggets.'

7) /ɔɪ/

This sound is articulated more at the front of the mouth than in RP or Cockney e.g. boy /bɔɪ/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I swear that boy goes to my school.'

8) /aɪ/

Wide articulation of /aɪ/ in words such as like /laɪk/

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'No fam, I don't like it!'

9) Stress patterns

Stress plays a very noticeable role in the spoken English of MLE. Speakers will often use heavy stress on certain syllables to emphasise what they are saying or make something clearer. For example adjectives of opinion will often be heavily stressed e.g. 'That's PEAK blood!'

SPEAKERS OF MLE

Stormzy, Dizzee Rascal, Alesha Dixon, Raheem Sterling, Akala, The Chicken Connoisseur (YouTube Channel) and AJ Tracey

SCOUSE

Liverpool, as a city, has a very proud and unique identity. Famously home to the Beatles and Liverpool football club, it also has one of the most distinctive accents in Britain. Known as 'Scouse' the accent is heavily influenced by the Irish migrants who came to Liverpool in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It has pronunciation features found in other northern accents as well as a few sounds not found elsewhere.

1) /k/

The /k/ sound is a really distinctive feature of the Scouse accent. When it appears at the end of a word or syllable it is pronounced as a fricative e.g. back/look/tracksuit/New York/rucksack

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Don't look back in anger!'

2) /ð/ as /d/

Words with /ð/ can be realised with a /d/ sound e.g. 'there' /ðeə/ becomes /deə/ or 'that' /ðæt/ becomes /dæt/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'She didn't do that there, did she?'

3) /t/ as an affricate

The /t/ sound can be pronounced with an /s/ sound so that a word like 'start' would sound like /stɑ:tʃ/ and 'tea' would be /tʃi:/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I'm popping into town to buy some tea.'

4) /h/ dropping

It's common for many Scouse speakers to drop the /h/ sound just like in Cockney so 'hotel' would become /əutel/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I've booked a hotel by the harbour.'

5) Final /t/ as /h/

Whereas in most British accents the /t/ sound is often glottalised, in Scouse it is replaced with /h/. So 'it' would sound like /ih/ or 'that' would sound like /dæh/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Wait one minute and I'll show you that hat I was talking about.'

6) Tapped /r/

Scouse speakers have a tendency to make a tapped /r/. That means that the tip of the tongue touches the roof of the mouth quickly. This would be found in words like 'right', 'road' 'very' etc.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Take the road on your right and go round the round-a-bout.'

7) Intervocalic /t/

When a /t/ is found between vowels it can be pronounced as a flapped /r/. There was a famous celebrity from Liverpool called Cilla Black and her catchphrase was 'A lorra lorra laughs'. The 'lorra' part was her Scouse pronunciation of 'lot of' in which the /t/ became a flapped /r/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'What a lot of fun we've had.'

8) /ɜ:/

The /ɜ:/ sound is pronounced quite distinctly in Scouse. The sound is made further forward in the mouth with the tongue positioned at the front instead of drawing back as it does in RP. This affects words like 'sir', 'fur', 'bird' etc.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'That's the third bird I've seen in my garden today.'

9) Two different /əʊ/ realisations

Unlike in RP where the tongue sits in the middle of the mouth for the /əʊ/ sound, Scouse has two alternative realisations. One where the tongue is at the back and one where the tongue is at the

front of the mouth. So words like 'no', 'go' and 'throw' can be pronounced in two different ways depending on the speaker.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I didn't know there was snow in Spain.'

10) Other vowel sounds

As with other northern English accents, there is no difference between 'trap' and 'bath' so /æ/ is used for both. In southern English accents 'bath' would have a longer /ɑ:/ sound. Equally the /ʌ/ sound is not used so words like 'sun', 'run' and 'shut' all have a /ʊ/ sound.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'We had a right laugh on Sunday at Mum's birthday.'

SPEAKERS OF SCOUSE

Sir Paul McCartney, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Abbey Clancy, John Bishop, Steven Gerrard, Jamie Carragher, Mel C, Wayne Rooney, Katerina Johnson-Thompson, Craig Charles, Jodie Comer and Ringo Starr.

MANCUNIAN

The Mancunian (or Manc) accent is spoken in Manchester, a city in the north-west of England. It is perhaps one of the country's best-known accents, largely because of the exposure given to it by popular ITV soap 'Coronation Street' and famous Mancunians like Noel and Liam Gallagher from Oasis. It has a distinct nasal quality to it and follows similar pronunciation patterns as other northern English accents. That said, it is quite different from the Scouse accent of Liverpool despite the cities only being 30 miles apart.

1) /ʌ/ and /ʊ/

One of the biggest differences between accents in the north and south of England is the /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds. Mancunian speakers would use /ʊ/ for words like 'up', 'tough' and 'but'.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Alright love, can you help me get this cupboard up the stairs?'

2) /æ/ and /ɑ:/

As with other northern English accents, the Mancunian accent doesn't follow the 'trap' 'bath' split so it uses /æ/ for words like 'laugh', 'bath', 'scarf' and 'dance'.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I love a dance and a laugh with my mates on a Friday night.'

3) /h/ dropping

In line with many other accents in Britain, /h/ tends

to be dropped at the beginning of words or in the middle position e.g. 'behind', 'hotel' and 'hang out'

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Man United are behind at half time.'

4) /e/ on final 'y'

In RP words like 'lazy' or 'easy' end with an /i:/ sound whereas in Mancunian the final vowel is pronounced as more of an /e/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'He's a proper easy-going geezer.'

5) th-fronting

Like other British accents, there is a degree of th-fronting in Mancunian so that /θ/ can become /f/ and /ð/ turns into /v/

/f/ on 'th' - thing / thanks / healthy

/v/ on 'th' - brother / weather / either

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I think the weather is going to get better this weekend.'

6) -ing as /ɪŋ/ or /n/

There are two main articulations of the -ing. It can either be /ɪŋ/ for example 'sing' /sɪŋ/ or it can be /n/ 'singing' /sɪŋɪn/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Are you thinking of singing at the school talent show?'

7) Glottal /t/

The /t/ sound is glottalised in a Mancunian accent. As with other accents it can be found occurring in the middle and final positions so 'butter' is pronounced /buʔə/ and water is /wɔ:ʔɔ/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'Can you pass me a bottle of water?'

8) Other vowel sounds

One of the more distinctive sounds in Mancunian is how the final unstressed syllable is articulated. In RP and other accents words like 'better', 'later' and 'brother' have a schwa sound on the final syllable whereas in Mancunian it can sound more like an /ɒ/.

PRACTICE SENTENCE

'I saw your mother and brother at the sports centre.'

SPEAKERS OF MANCUNIAN

Liam and Noel Gallagher, Marcus Rashford, Nick Grimshaw, Jason Manford, Brian Cox, Danny Boyle, Gary Neville, Tina O'Brien, Gary Barlow, Shaun Ryder, John Cooper Clarke and Karl Pilkington.

9. PRACTICE

EXERCISE ONE: INITIALS

What do the initials stand for?

1. People can write to their local MP about problems where they live.

A. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

B. MAIN PARTNER

C. MAJOR POLITICIAN

2. He had his operation done on the NHS, not privately.

A. NURSES AND HOSPITALS SOCIETY

B. NEED HELP? SHOUT!

C. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

3. Phone for sale, £100 ono.

A. ONE NICE OWNER

B. OR NEAREST OFFER

C. OR NAFF OFF

4. PC Daniels arrested the suspect.

A. PERSONAL COMPUTER

B. POPULAR CAPTAIN

C. POLICE CONSTABLE

5. The FA Cup Final is always held at Wembley Stadium.

A. FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

B. FINEST ATHLETES

C. FOOTBALL ALLIANCE

6. My GP signed me off work for two days.

A. GOVERNMENT PHYSICIAN

B. GIVER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

C. GENERAL PRACTITIONER

EXERCISE TWO:

EXPRESSIONS WITH ANIMALS

Choose the right animal to complete the phrases.

MONKEY

MONKEYS

DOG (X2)

KITTENS

PONY

ZEBRA

DONKEY

STAG

HEN

1. Yesterday was a bit chilly, but today is absolute brass-_____.
(slang phrase for very cold)
2. This new app is the _____'s bollocks.
(a rude phrase to say that something is the best)
3. I haven't been back to my home town in _____'s years.
(a long time)
4. Don't tell your parents you're doing a skydive. They'll have _____!
(to be very anxious or worried)

5. I got paid a _____ for repainting that house.

(London slang for £500)

6. Let's not go somewhere expensive. I've only got a _____ in me pocket.

(London slang for £25)

7. I got myself a job in the shop as a general _____sbody - stocking shelves, sweeping the floor, that sort of thing.

(a person who is asked to do all the menial tasks and jobs no one else wants to do)

8. Helen's having her _____ party the weekend before the wedding.

(the celebration a bride has before she gets married)

9. James' best man organised his _____ do - with a few surprises.

(the celebration a groom has before he gets married)

10. Drivers should stop at the _____ crossing and let pedestrians cross.

(an area painted white and black across a road where pedestrians can cross)

EXERCISE THREE: SOMETHING AND SOMETHING

Choose the right word to complete the phrases. All the phrases have the form '_____ and _____'.

SODS

EMERGENCY

BLINDING

TATTIES

BOBS

CAMBRIDGE

SO

THOUSANDS

1. We've almost got everything we need for the barbecue. We just need a few more bits and _____ but we can get them last-minute.

(Small objects/miscellaneous things. We often use this phrase when it would take too long naming all the things or we don't know the words for them)

2. Did you see Ronaldo when he got sent off? He started effing and _____ to the ref!

(Saying swear words)

3. That cupcake with the hundreds and _____ on top is so good.

(small colourful pieces of sugar that are sprinkled on the top of cakes)

4. You lazy so-and-_____! Why don't you give me a hand once in a while?

(a person who is considered to have a negative characteristic)

5. Neeps and _____ are the traditional thing to serve with haggis.

(a side dish served with haggis made of swede and potatoes)

6. An ambulance will take too long to get here. I'd better drive you to A&E myself.

(the accident and _____ department in a hospital)

7. A) What's in that box over there?
B) Just a few odds and _____ from my old flat.'

(miscellaneous items)

8. Ahmed's dream is to get into Oxbridge, and then become a politician.

(a term used to refer to the universities of Oxford and _____)

EXERCISE FOUR: NAMES FOR PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE UK

Match the people with the place where they're from.

1. A BRUMMIE

A. SOMEONE FROM THE EAST END OF LONDON

2. AN EASTENDER

B. SOMEONE FROM GLASGOW

3. A GEORDIE

C. SOMEONE FROM BIRMINGHAM

4. A GLASWEGIAN

D. SOMEONE FROM MANCHESTER

5. A LONDONER

E. SOMEONE FROM NEWCASTLE

6. A MACKEM

F. SOMEONE FROM LONDON

7. A MANCUNIAN

G. SOMEONE FROM LIVERPOOL

8. A SCouser

H. SOMEONE FROM SUNDERLAND

EXERCISE FIVE: SLANG

Choose the right slang expression for the sentence.

1. Somebody's made a massive _____. We ordered two items but they've delivered 20!

A. KNEES-UP

B. COCK-UP

C. BUST-UP

2. Sam, you look _____. Have you been running?

A. CHUFFED

B. KNACKERED

C. GUTTED

3. Have we run out of milk? I'll just pop out to the _____.

A. CORNER SHOP

B. CHARITY SHOP

C. OFF-LICENCE

4. We don't really need the premium package. Let's just get the _____ one.

A. BOG-STANDARD

B. A-LEVEL

C. FULL MONTY

5. I've got to get out of this pub before the football match starts. I _____ all the shouting and screaming.

A. CAN'T BE DOING WITH

B. CAN'T WAIT FOR

C. HAVE THE HUMP WITH

6. That documentary last night was _____ good. When's the next episode?

A. ACE

B. DODGY

C. DEAD

7. I had to work a 12-hour shift without a proper break.
I'm _____!

A. SORTED

B. SHATTERED

C. JAMMY

8. That T-shirt's a bargain. Only costs _____.

A. A MONKEY

B. A GRAND

C. A FIVER

9. I was working on this massive project at work but it all _____
when the buyer pulled out of the deal.

A. WENT DOWN

B. WENT PEAR-SHAPED

C. PISSED OFF

10. I think I passed the exam, _____. I'll get the results next
month.

A. MUSTN'T GRUMBLE

B. TOUCH WOOD

C. JOLLY GOOD

11. Can I pay you back next week? I'm absolutely _____ at the
moment.

A. ACE

B. MINTED

C. SKINT

12. That area's a bit _____. I wouldn't walk alone round there,
especially after dark.

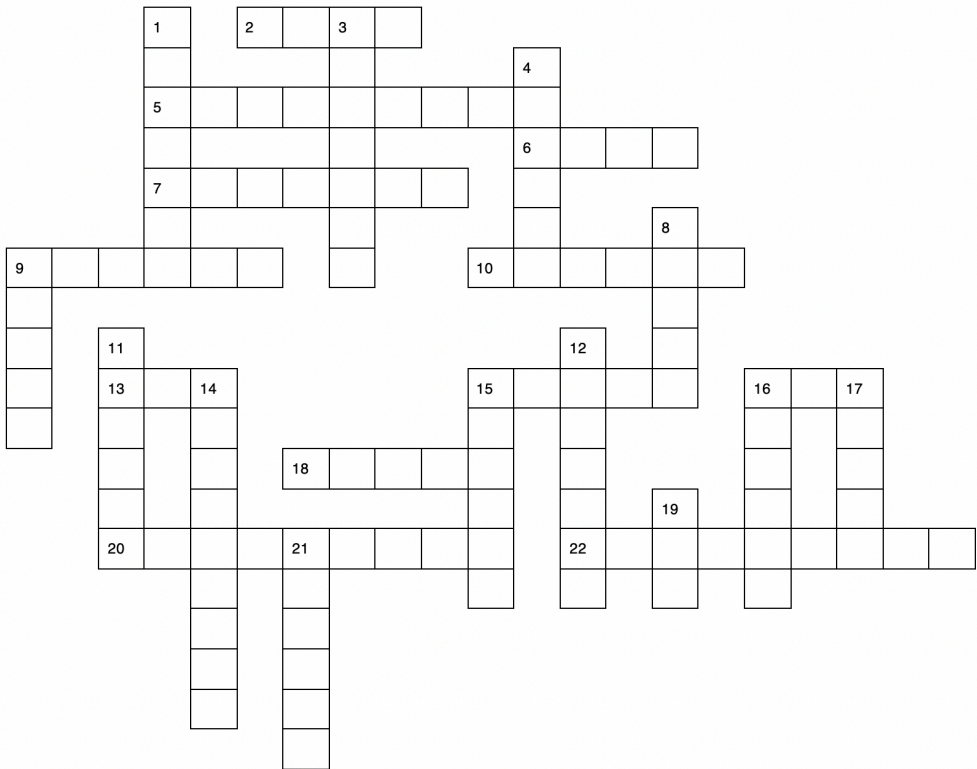
A. DODGY

B. POSH

C. RUBBISH

EXERCISE SIX: FOOD AND DRINK

Use the clues to complete the crossword.



ACROSS

2. A slang term for a cup of tea. Mostly used in the north of England.
5. A long green vegetable (zucchini in American English).
6. Slang word for food.
7. A sweet dish served at the end of a meal. Synonym of dessert. The short form is pud.
9. A fish and chip shop.
10. A wild drinking session.
13. The evening meal. Used mainly in the north of England.
15. A term used mostly in the north of England for sandwich.
16. A building in which alcohol is sold and consumed. Short for public house.
18. A greasy _____ is a cheap and cheerful cafe that sells mainly fried food.
20. A _____ pudding is a traditional side dish eaten with a Sunday roast made of batter consisting of eggs, flour, and milk or water.
22. A break in the late morning in which one might have a coffee or light snack. It's usually around 11 o'clock.

DOWN

1. A type of fizzy alcoholic drink that usually comes in fruity flavours.
3. A full _____ breakfast is a traditional breakfast usually consisting of sausages, eggs, bacon, baked beans, tomatoes, mushrooms, black pudding, and toast.
4. Informal term for vegetarian.
8. A wobbly sweet fruity dessert.
9. Short for a cup of tea.
11. An adjective to describe food that is heavy and filling.
12. Feeling very full because you've eaten a lot of food.
14. A large purple vegetable.
15. A sausage.
16. A small container that holds fruit.
17. _____ fizz is an alcoholic drink made with orange and champagne.
19. Short for vegetables.
21. An alcoholic drink of beer mixed with lemonade.

EXERCISE SEVEN:

THE GREAT BRITISH QUIZ

1. What is the second biggest city in Britain by population?

A. EDINBURGH

B. MANCHESTER

C. BIRMINGHAM

2. Who is the patron saint of Scotland?

A. ST ANDREW

B. ST JOHN

C. ST DAVID

3. Who lives at Number 10 Downing street?

A. THE QUEEN

B. THE PRIME MINISTER

C. DAVID BECKHAM

4. What year did London most recently host the summer Olympic Games?

A. 1948

B. 2012

C. 2016

5. What is the most popular pub name in Britain?

A. THE WHITE HORSE

B. THE KING'S HEAD

C. THE RED LION

6. What is the longest running British soap opera on TV?

A. EMMERDALE

B. CORONATION STREET

C. EASTENDERS

7. Where is the highest point in Great Britain?

A. MOUNT SNOWDON

B. BEN NEVIS

C. HOLME FEN

8. What is the name of the British flag?

A. UNION JOHN

B. UNION JIM

C. UNION JACK

9) Who is next in line to the throne?

A. PRINCE WILLIAM

B. PRINCE HARRY

C. PRINCE CHARLES

10) Which team plays their football matches at Anfield?

A. LIVERPOOL

B. MANCHESTER UNITED

C. WEST HAM UNITED

11) Which British king established the Church of England?

A. GEORGE V

B. HENRY VIII

C. JAMES II

12) How old do you have to be to receive a personalised birthday card from the Queen?

A. 1

B. 50

C. 100

13) What is the tallest building in the United Kingdom?

A. THE GHERKIN

B. THE SHARD

C. CANARY WHARF (ONE CANADA SQUARE)

14) Which British national doesn't need a passport?

A. THE QUEEN

B. THE PRIME MINISTER

C. THE FOREIGN MINISTER

15) The legal drinking age in the UK is

A. 16

B. 18

C. 21

16) What is the longest river in Britain?

A. THE THAMES

B. THE TRENT

C. THE SEVERN

17) What accent comes from Liverpool?

A. COCKNEY

B. GEORDIE

C. SCOUSE

18) How many times have the England men's football team won the World Cup?

A. NEVER

B. ONCE

C. TWICE

19) Who was the first female British Prime Minister?

A. MARGRET THATCHER

B. THERESA MAY

C. HARRIET HARMAN

20) How many people live in the United Kingdom?

A. 66 MILLION

B. 86 MILLION

C. 106 MILLION

1. Birmingham
2. St Andrew
3. The Prime Minister
4. 2012
5. The Red Lion
6. Coronation Street
7. Ben Nevis
8. Union Jack
9. Prince Charles
10. Liverpool
11. Henry VIII
12. 100
13. The Shard
14. The Queen
15. 18
16. The Severn
17. Scouse
18. Once
19. Margaret Thatcher
20. 66 million

THE GREAT BRITISH QUIZ

1. alcopop
3. English
4. veggie
8. jelly
9. cuppa
11. stodgy
12. stuffed
14. aubergine
15. banger
16. punnet
17. Bucks
19. veg
21. shandy

Down

ANSWERS:**EXERCISE ONE**

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. a 6. c

EXERCISE TWO1. monkeys 2. dog 3. donkey 4. kittens 5. monkey 6. pony 7. dog
8. hen 9. stag 10. zebra**EXERCISE THREE**1. bobs 2. blinding 3. thousands 4. so 5. tattoos 6. emergency
7. sods 8 Cambridge**EXERCISE FOUR**

1. c 2. a 3. e 4. b 5. f 6. h 7. d 8. g

EXERCISE FIVE

1. b 2. b 3. a 4. a 5. a 6. c 7. b 8. c 9. b 10. b 11. c 12. a

EXERCISE SIX**Across**

2. brew

5. courgette

6. grub

7. pudding

9. chippy

10. bender

13. tea

15. butty

16. pub

18. spoon

20. Yorkshire

22. elevenses

10.

MISCELLANEOUS

Word List

1. bat
2. bath
3. dance
4. laugh
5. water
6. better
7. city
8. good
9. food
10. beer
11. pool
12. pull
13. Paul
14. poor
15. tune
16. duty
17. boy
18. buy
19. bought
20. about
21. no
22. throw
23. meet
24. mate
25. last
26. later
27. think
28. brother
29. singing
30. very
31. really
32. ask
33. cook
34. hello
35. little
36. happy

All audio clips are available on my website:

eatsleepdreamenglish.com

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Words by Tom Rees
Book design by Luke Jones
- lenjonesjunior.com

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