

press release

DO YOU SPEAK AMERICAN? Slang Glossary

*Here's a collection of slang expressions from around the country featured in Robert MacNeil's latest three-part series, **DO YOU SPEAK AMERICAN?**, and its companion book, co-authored by MacNeil and William Cran. The series premieres nationally on Wednesday, January 5, 2005, 8-11pm (ET) on PBS (check local listings).*

All swole up – irritated; proud and self-absorbed, in Texas

Ayuh – “yes,” if you live in Maine

Babushka – head scarf used for a bad-hair day, in Pittsburgh

Bling bling – jewelry, in urban street talk

Cattywampus – something that doesn't fit/is out of line, in Texas

Cunnin' – cute, in Maine

Dad blame it – euphemism to avoid swearing Down South

For real – really, in urban street talk

From away – describes anyone not from Maine

Full on – surfer speak for doing something with all your effort

g2g – “got to go” in Instant Messaging

Hoi-Toiders – locals in Outer Banks Brogue (North Carolina), utilizing their unique pronunciation of “high” and “tide”

It's my bad – “I made a mistake,” in urban street talk

jc – “just chillin' ” (relaxing) in Instant Messaging

Mo chagren – “I'm sorry,” in Cajun (Louisiana)

Peeps – friends, in rap

Poke – a bag, if you live in Appalachia

Pro-nasty – the very best, derived from hip hop

Ripping – skateboarding aggressively and having a good time

Rustys – crabs, in the Gullah dialect (South Carolina)

Stoked – excited, in the California surfer scene

Stomps it clean – pulling off a snowboard trick perfectly

Wassup dawg? – “hi” in urban street talk, derived from Chicano and African-American English

“Well butter my butt and call me a biscuit” – “hi” or “all right”, in Texas



Wicked – “very,” in Maine

Yins – plural of “you” in Pittsburgh

Zines – fan magazines

Teen slang from across the country:

Abe Lincoln – the superlative of cool

It’s my ennui – there’s no way to get around something, but it’s not the end of the world

Props – compliments

That’s ill – means it’s good

Uber – “supersizes” any adjective, like an Uber nerd is a super nerd

Teen American for good or excellent:

coolio, smooth, super, kickin’, juice, keen, funky, monster, noble, proper, phat, rad, trippy, tubular, sweet, stellar

Teen American for bad:

heinous, cheesy, bogus, bunk, buggin’, busted, drip, wack, messed

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