

● ENGLSKI ZA RADOZNALE

Malo „mozganja“, malo vežbanja

A. Slang and colloquial words

Slang – language which is not usually acceptable in serious speech or writing, including words, expressions, etc., regarded as very informal or not polite, and those used among particular groups of people. Slang often goes in and out of fashion quickly.

Colloquial words are words which are quite acceptable in spoken English but not in written English. **Colloquial speech** is used in everyday, informal situations when the speaker is not paying particular attention to pronunciation, choice of words, or sentence structure. Educated native speakers of a language normally use colloquial speech in informal situations with friends, fellow workers, and members of the family.

The line between slang and colloquial words is not at all clear and many words considered colloquial by some people would be considered slang by others.

1. The slang words in the sentences below are printed in italics. Replace each slang word with a word or phrase from the following list.

alcohol cigarettes discarded made nuisance policeman pound(s)
prison television without money

- a. He smokes thirty *fags* a day. Too many!
- b. He drinks a lot. He must spend twenty *quid* a week on *booze*.
- c. Jack thought his soup was cold. When the waiter brought his bill he *kicked up* a fuss and would not pay.
- d. Tom lost all his money at a casino last night. He's absolutely *skint*.
- e. Jack stole a car. Now he's in *the nick*.
- f. Madge got bored with her boyfriend and *ditched* him.
- g. There's a good film on *the box* tonight, but I've got to go out. What a *drag*!
- h. Jack wouldn't like to be a *copper* directing traffic in the street in this bad weather.

2. The colloquial words in the sentences below are printed in italics. Replace each colloquial word with a word or phrase from the following list.

bicycle child dismiss drunk joking newspaper possessions
short sleep upper class without money

- a. Her boss said he would *sack* her if she was late again.
- b. He made a lot of money and now he lives in a very *posh* district.
- c. When Tom was a *kid* he went everywhere by *bike*.
- d. My grandfather usually has a *snooze* after lunch.
- e. I'm *broke*. Can you lend me some money?
- f. I'm afraid I drank too much and got a bit *merry*.
- g. You can't believe everything you read in the *paper*.
- h. Did you really find a bag full of money, or are you *kidding*?
- i. Jane's very untidy. She leaves her *stuff* lying all over the place.

B. Pairs of words often confused

1. Choose the correct verb in each sentence below.

steal, stole, stolen/rob, robbed, robbed

- a. She (**stole/robbed**) a box of chocolate from the shop.
- b. The old woman was stopped and (**stolen/robbed**) by two armed young men.
- c. In the old days they used to hang people who (**stole/robbed**) sheep.
- d. We've been (**stolen/robbed**). Look, all our jewellery's gone!
- e. Three kiosks were (**stolen/robbed**) last week.
- f. Sue (**stole/robbed**) some clothes from her landlady.
- g. Jack and his brother were planning to (**steal/rob**) a shop in their neighbourhood.
- h. If you leave your money there, it'll be (**stolen/robbed**).
- i. My bicycle was (**stolen/robbed**) while I was in the shop.
- j. Lucy used to (**steal/rob**) money from her father's desk drawer.

2. Choose the correct verb in each sentence below.

lie, lay, lain; lying/lay, laid, laid; laying

- a. Maggie gave the baby a kiss and **(lay/laid)** it on the bed.
- b. Windsor **(lies/lays)** on the Thames west of London.
- c. The wounded man was **(lying/laying)** on the battlefield.
- d. The man **(lay/laid)** in prison for ten years.
- e. Hurry up! **(Lie/Lay)** the table!
- f. The rain quickly **(lay/laid)** the dust.
- g. Tom had **(lain/laid)** on the pavement for twenty minutes before help came.
- h. The hens aren't **(lying/laying)**.
- i. The dogs entered the room and **(lay/laid)** down near the fire.
- j. The soldiers ordered the terrorists to **(lie/lay)** down their arms, and then to **(lie/lay)** down on the ground with their hands behind their backs.

C. Verbs made from adjectives

Make verbs ending in *-en* from the following adjectives, making any necessary spelling changes, then put them in the correct places in the sentences below.

bright broad dark deaf deep flat less loose
quiet ripe sharp sweet tight weak wide

1. They'll have to _____ the well if they want more water.
2. These apples _____ in July.
3. This road is very narrow but they're planning to _____ it.
4. This music will _____ us all!
5. Tom gave his baby sister a toy to _____ it.
6. The illness _____ her heart.
7. The sky quickly _____ after sunset.
8. He managed to _____ the ropes round his wrists and escape.
9. That screw's loose. _____ it with a screwdriver.
10. I like travelling. It _____ the mind.
11. You can _____ the risk of theft by locking your bicycle.
12. You should _____ this dish by adding sugar.
13. She has _____ (up) my whole life.
14. They are going to _____ that rough area to make a football pitch.
15. Pass me the knife, please. I want to _____ my pencil.

Key:

A. 1. a. cigarettes; **b.** pound(s), alcohol; **c.** made; **d.** without money; **e.** prison;
f. discarded; **g.** nuisance; **h.** policeman;

fag = pljuga; *quid* = funta (novac); *booze* = šljoka, piće; *to kick up a fuss* = dizati galamu, praviti frku; *skint* = dekintiran, švorc; *the nick* = ćuza, zatvor; *to ditch* = odbaciti, otkačiti; *the box* = televizija, televizor; *drag* = davež, dosada (*What a drag!* = Kakav davež!); *copper* = pajkan, cajkan, policajac.

2. a. dismiss; **b.** upper class; **c.** child, bicycle; **d.** short sleep; **e.** without money;

f. drunk; **g.** newspaper; **h.** joking; **i.** possessions.

sack = otkaz (*to give sb the sack* = dati nekome otkaz, otpustiti s posla); *posh* = gospodski, elitni; *kid* = klinac; *bike* = bicikl; *snooze* = dremka; *broke* = švorc; *merry* = pripit; *paper* = novine; *to kid* = zezati; *stuff* = stvar.

B. 1. a. stole; **b.** robbed; **c.** stole; **d.** robbed; **e.** robbed; **f.** stole; **g.** rob; **h.** stolen;

i. stolen; **j.** steal.

2. a. laid; **b.** lies; **c.** lying; **d.** lay; **e.** Lay; **f.** laid; **g.** lain; **h.** laying; **i.** lay; **j.** lay, lie.

C. 1. deepen; **2.** ripen; **3.** widen; **4.** deafen; **5.** quieten; **6.** weakened; **7.** darkened; **8.** loosen;

9. Tighten; **10.** broadens; **11.** lessen; **12.** sweeten; **13.** brightened; **14.** flatten; **15.** sharpen;

Adapted from:

Intermediate Vocabulary

by B J Thomas, London, 1988