



lingoda

# Slang and colloquialisation

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_3062X\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

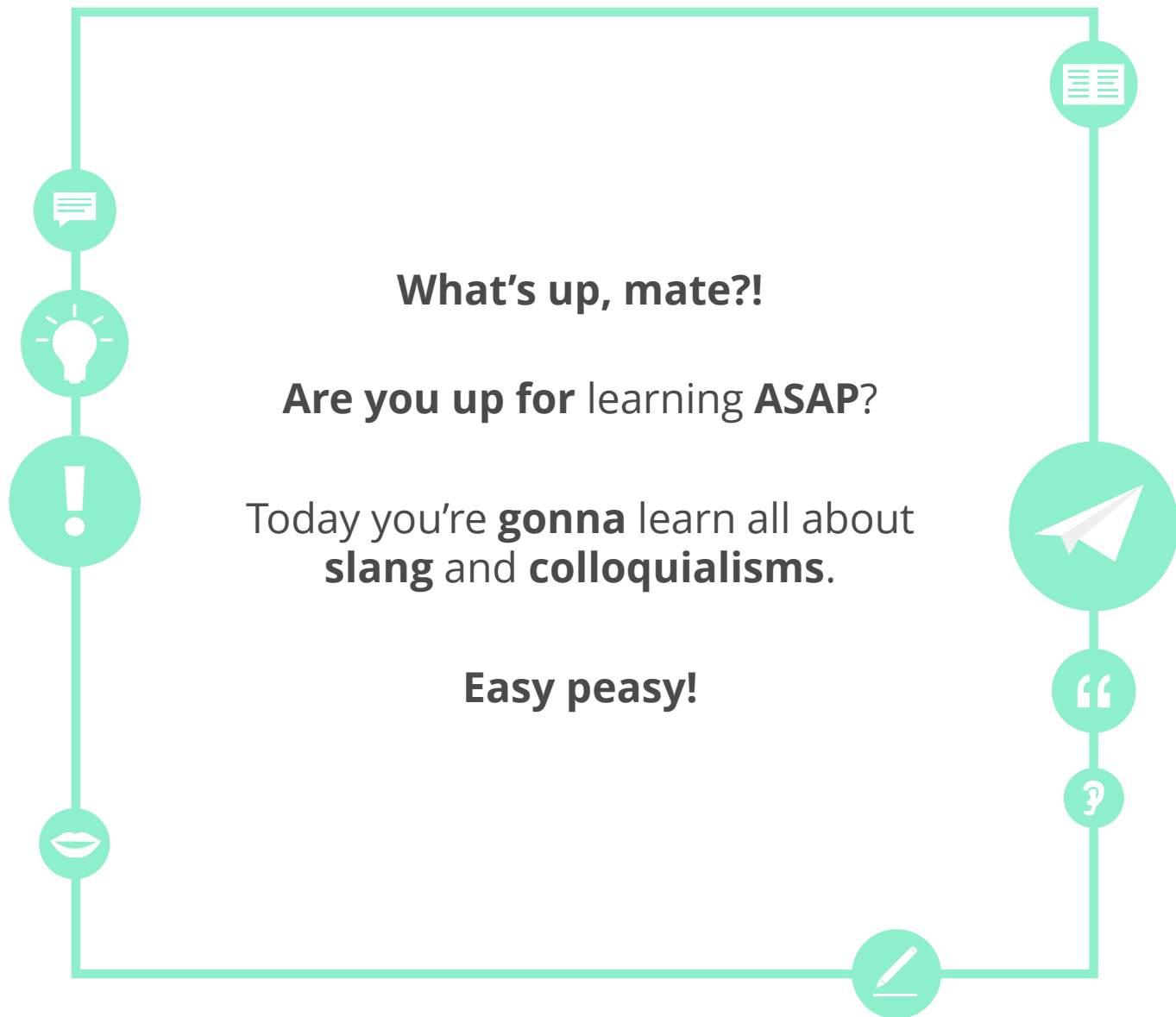




## Goals

- Can recognise some more advanced items of slang and colloquialisms, including Cockney slang.
- Can confidently use slang in conversation and explain its meaning using synonyms.







## Warm up

**What is slang?**



## Tell your teacher

**Discuss the possible meaning of the slang phrases below with your teacher.**



Bob's your uncle!

I am knackered!

He has well and truly lost the plot.



## Warm up discussion

What slang phrases do you know in English?

Name as many slang phrases as possible to the teacher!



## Slang

**Slang** refers to words and phrases which are used **informally**, generally in **local contexts**.

**Slang** is known to be fluid, **changing swiftly** with the **times**.

**Slang** words and phrases are often limited to special social groups, with the vocabulary defining the culture and values of the groups that use it.



One of the most defining experiences of visiting London is hearing the colourful variations of **slang** on the city's streets.

## Colloquialisms

**Colloquialisms** are informal expressions which are used in everyday speech.

It is the most widely used spoken variety of a language, usually employed in conversations or informal settings.



Mastering local **colloquialisms** will be of a great help on your trip abroad.





## Talk to the teacher

Why is slang so popular and widespread?  
Talk to your teacher about some of the reasons people use slang.



## Origins of slang

**Read the article about the origins of slang below.  
Where did the word 'slang' initially come from?**

The earliest use of the word 'slang' seems to be from 1756. Originally it referred to the vocabulary of 'low or disreputable' people. By the 1800s, it was no longer associated with disreputable types, but was regarded as language below the standard of educated speech.

While the precise origins of the word are unknown, it is believed that it was connected to **thieves' cant**, a secret language in Britain used by thieves, beggars and other types operating outside the field of law.

Another theory connects the word 'slang' with the verb 'to sling'. To sling means 'to throw' and some scholars note the similarity – slang is 'thrown language'.

Slang is often used as a marker of a subculture, helping to connect young people to their social networks. In this way, language becomes a conduit of values and culture.



## Translate

**Talk to the teacher using slang you know from the subcultures below.**

**What other subcultures have distinctive slang?**

Millennial

Rastafarian

Hip hop

YouTuber



## Netspeak

**Talk to your teacher about some of the new forms of slang presented by technology.**

**How has texting and the internet created new forms of slang?**



LOL

TL;DR

U OK?



## Read the conversation with your teacher. Reread it in standard English.

I'll come over  
soon.

I have no money

a few drinks

Are you  
interested?



I'm very tired  
after a busy  
week.

My wife and I  
will be relaxing  
this evening.

Come over to my  
house later.

I'll help you out.

Blimey bruv, I'm skint! Spot me a fiver 'til Sat'dy?

Aye, good one mate. I'll rock over in a bit then.

You and me both brother. But to be honest I do fancy a few jars. Up for it?

Ah no bother then. Maybe half an hour or so!

Heya pal. If you wanna swing by later I can sort you out.

I'll just be chilling at home. Pretty wrecked from the week.

Nah me and the missus will just wind down tonight. When do you reckon you'll drop by?



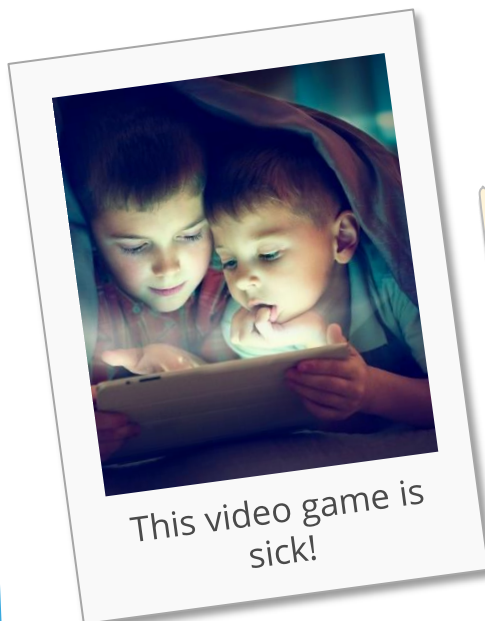
**Talk to the teacher about the positive and negative effects of slang from the perspective of a language learner.**





## Slang

**Translate the slang from the boxes below.  
Ask your teacher for help if you need it!**



The cat's pyjamas

It's all gravy!

I'm chuffed!

That's the bee's knees.

That takes the biscuit.

He is minted!

She's telling pork pies.

I'm so gutted.

That looks dodgy.

She cracks me up!

Better leg it.

I'm going to take a little kip.

I'm zonked!

Would you like a cuppa?

That threw a spanner in the works.

It cost me an arm and a leg!



## Rewrite the slang sentences into plain English

1. He is two sandwiches short of a picnic!



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2. That restaurant was a rip off. Food not my cup of tea either really.



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3. Ahh, what are you on about? I love that place! It's the cat's pyjamas!



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4. To be honest I think he's a bit nuts. He really took the biscuit with his carry on last night.



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5. I thought things were going pear-shaped, but in the end everything was hunky dory.



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## Cockney

A **Cockney** is a native of London's East End. Throughout its history, the boroughs of East London have fostered a colourful and rich dialect, born from the neighbourhood's working class roots.

Cockney can also refer to this **dialect of English**.



Hackney is a borough with strong **Cockney** roots.



He couldn't understand the **Cockney** English of the bus driver.



## Understanding slang

Read through the written transcript of someone talking about their night out.

Guess what the slang and colloquialisms are based on their context!

I went to my mate's **neck of the woods** last night and had the **time of my life**. Adam was **taking it easy** after a long day at work. When I got there I could tell he'd been **getting** his chef hat **on**. He can cook a **good feed** and I noticed my stomach was grumbling. It was my first time in his new **pad** and I must admit it was pretty **mint**!

We sat down to some **grub**. Adam knew my favourite dish of all – **bangers and mash**! I **tucked** right **into** it. Of course I helped out with the dishes when we'd **had our fill**.

Afterwards we sat down to watch the game and it was just like old times. We **had a** good **yarn** about the old days and the things we **got up to** with the crew. We **had some laughs** and before I knew it was **a hundred o'clock**.

'**Crikey**, look at the time!' I remember saying. It had been a **righteous** evening, but I was **proper knackered**. I also had a strict **game plan** for the morning so had to get back to my **digs** for a decent **snooze**.



## Thinking about slang

**Discuss the following questions in relation to the text you read on the previous slide.**



1

What is your initial reaction to the way this person speaks?

2

Do any of the terms seem natural or logical to you?

3

Did you notice any slang or colloquialisms you think might be used somewhere other than London?



## Listening to slang

Listen to the teacher read out the transcript below.

I was **having a gander** in the supermarket down the road with **a fiver to burn**. I'd just found some **nosh** and was **heading to** the counter. Everything was **hunky dory** until I saw James **swanning** down the aisle. He's a real **twit** – **two sandwiches short of a picnic** if you ask me. I tried to look **tied up**, like I had **a lot on my plate**, but the **lad** didn't get the message. Some people were **born yesterday**!

He started talking about Frankie and **laid down some dirt on** Tom too. Really, I've never heard someone **talk** so much **rubbish**. It didn't take long for him to **cross the line**.

I decided to **leg it**. The only way I could **make myself scarce** was to pretend my keys were **MIA**. After a quick excuse I **cleared off, leaving** my groceries **in the lurch**. I don't normally **leave** people **out in the cold** like that but James really **rubs me the wrong way**. I can't stand how he **slags people off**!



## Your opinion

**Discuss this quote from the transcript with the teacher.**

**What do you think it means?  
Can you translate it into standard English?**

“

After a quick excuse I cleared off, leaving my groceries in the lurch. I don't normally leave people out in the cold like that but James really rubs me the wrong way. I can't stand how he slags people off!

”



## Your reactions

**Do you find this kind  
of language easy to  
understand, or did you  
have to read it over  
and over again?**



## Check in

Do you have any questions about  
the transcripts?

## Cockney rhyming slang

**Cockney slang** is famous for its **rhyming** quality. It initially developed as a way of **obscuring the meaning** of what was said to those who didn't understand the slang.

It is uncertain whether this happened in a natural linguistic way, to strengthen community identity, or shield thieves and criminals from being overheard.

Look at the examples below.



Porky = pork pie = lie (That's the biggest **porky** I ever heard!)



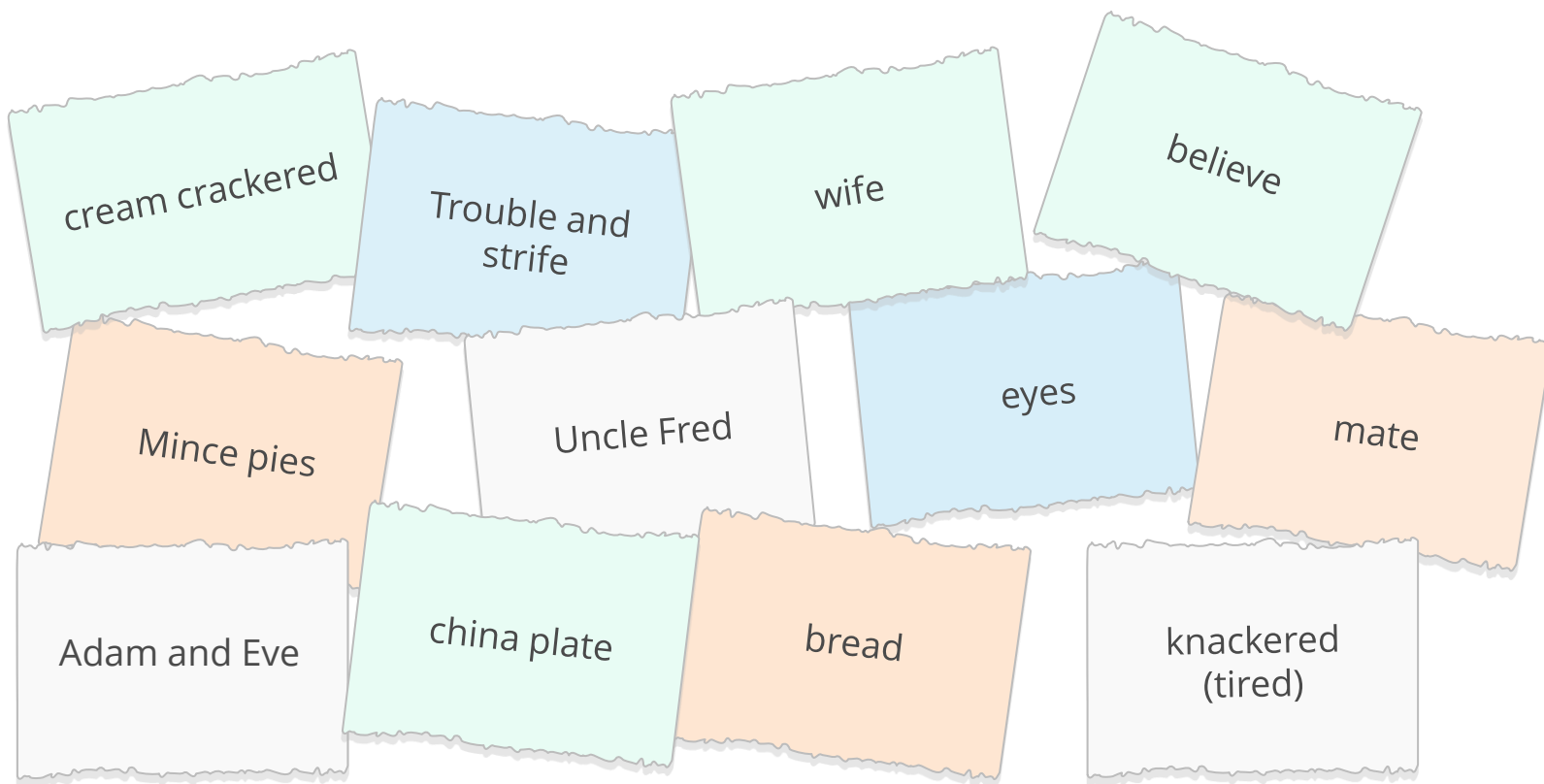
Adam and Eve = believe (Can you **Adam and Eve** it?)





## Cockney rhyming slang

Look at the rhyming slang and their synonyms below and match them.





## Create your own slang

**Try to create Cockney rhyming slang for the items below.**

**Try to use them in sentences with your teacher!**

English

Basketball

Bad mood

Fish and chips



## Discuss

**Is learning slang  
important to you?**

**What makes it useful?**

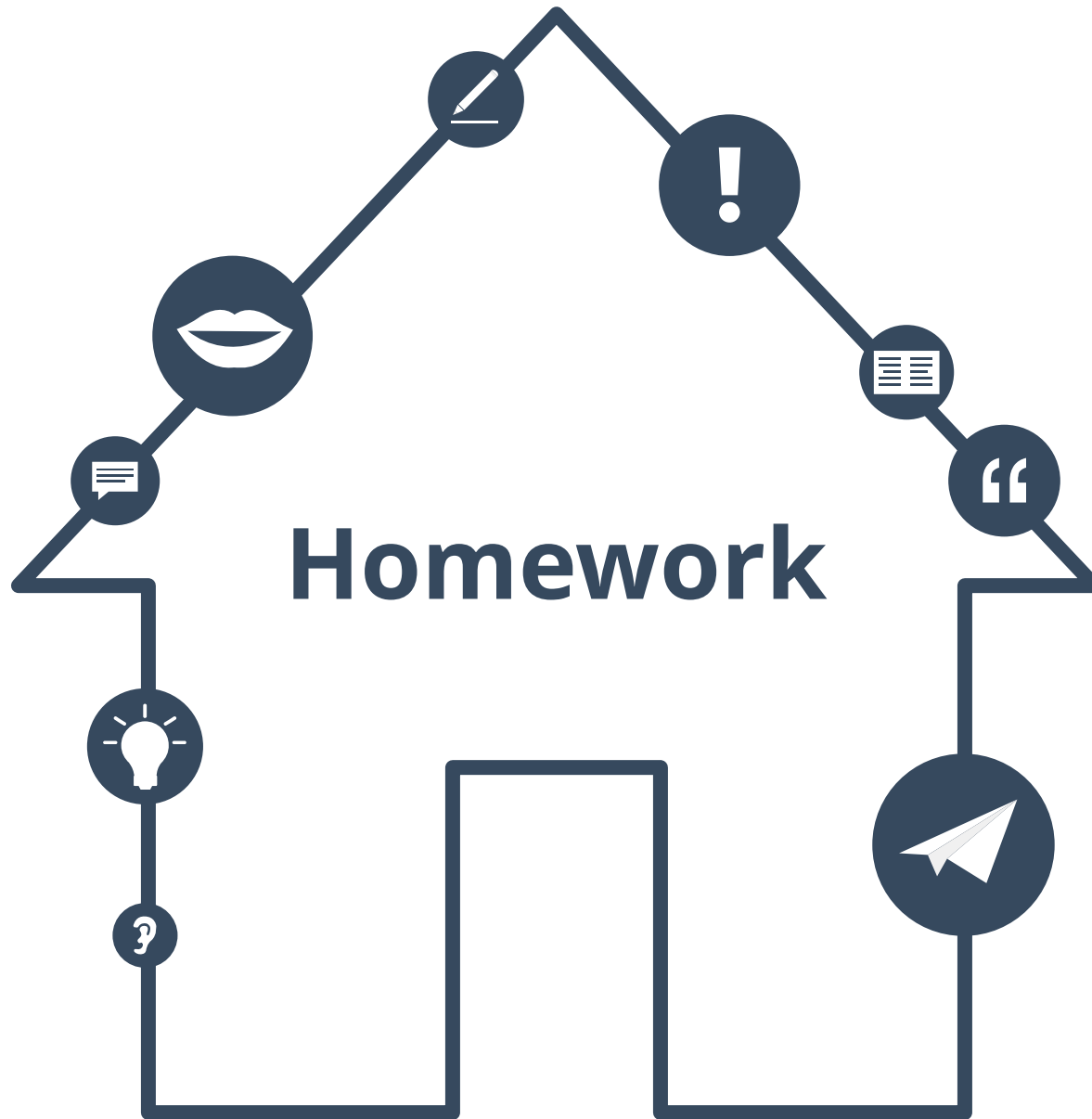


## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

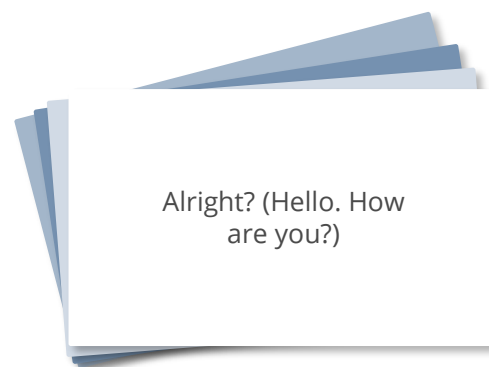
Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







**Write a dictionary of English slang to make use of in the future.  
Be sure to add to it when you hear more in your conversations!**



## Writing

**Write a conversation and attempt to use all of the slang and colloquialisms in the boxes below.**

brill

peanuts

cheerio

naff

gutted

dodgy





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