

Gaming, Streaming & Online Subculture Vocabulary: Reference Compendium

Documented Meanings, Register, and Crossover Usage from Gaming and Fandom
Communities (100% SFW, CC BY 4.0)

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All SlangLane Academic Working Papers & PDFs: <https://slanglane.com/papers>

Interactive ESL Teacher Kit & Quiz Maker: <https://slanglane.com/esl>

Abstract & Scope

Traces how expressions from multiplayer gaming, streaming, and online fandoms (AFK, GG, nerf, buff, lore, NPC, side quest, headcanon, stanning, chad, sigma, looksmaxxing, mewing, mogging) cross over into everyday conversational English.

Interactive Companion Tools on SlangLane.com

Slang Age & Brain-Rot Diagnostic Lab: <https://slanglane.com/vibe-check>

Corporate Email <-> Gen Z Group-Chat Translator: <https://slanglane.com/roast>

Court & HR Legal Exhibit Stamp Generator: <https://slanglane.com/exhibit>

5x5 Classroom & Meeting Slang Bingo: <https://slanglane.com/bingo>

Side-by-Side Usage Comparisons (A vs. B): <https://slanglane.com/compare>

Indexed Thematic Entries (17 Headwords, Edition daily-2026-10-21)

1. AFK - [Gaming | informal]

In plain English, "AFK": away from keyboard. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/afk>

2. GG - [Gaming | informal]

In plain English, "GG": good game. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/gg>

3. AI slop (aliases: slop, AI-generated slop) - [Digital culture | Critical derogatory]

Low-quality AI-generated material, especially output produced in volume with little concern for accuracy, coherence, or usefulness. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/ai-slop>

4. algospeak (aliases: algo-speak, algorithm speak) - [Digital culture | Platform culture descriptive]

Altered words, spellings, euphemisms, or symbols people use because they believe platform algorithms may restrict the original wording. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/algospeak>

5. ate (aliases: ate that, ate and left no crumbs, left no crumbs) - [Internet essentials | Enthusiastic praise]

Performed brilliantly, looked excellent, or completely delivered. "Ate and left no crumbs" intensifies the compliment. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/ate>

6. aura (aliases: aura points, aura loss, negative aura) - [Internet essentials | Playful evaluative]

An impression of coolness, confidence, or striking presence. "Aura points" turn that impression into a joking, imaginary score. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/aura>

7. aura farming (aliases: aura farm, aura farmer) - [Internet essentials | Admiring or teasing]

Cultivating an effortlessly cool image through a pose, gesture, performance, or carefully timed moment. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/aura-farming>

8. banter (aliases: bants, bantering) - [Across the Atlantic | Playful relationship-dependent]

Playful, quick back-and-forth conversation, often involving teasing that the participants enjoy. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/banter>

9. based - [Internet essentials | informal]

based: praiseworthy despite being unpopular or controversial. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/based>

10. bet (aliases: aight bet) - [Internet essentials | Casual affirmative]

"Okay," "agreed," "sounds good," or "challenge accepted." The tone depends on what the speaker is responding to. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/bet>

11. brain rot (aliases: brainrot, brain-rotted, brain rot content) - [Internet essentials | Critical or self-mocking]

Low-value, repetitive online content, or the feeling of being mentally saturated by it. Also a joking name for an intense fandom obsession. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/brain-rot>

12. canon event (aliases: canon events) - [Social & memes | Storytelling metaphor often ironic]

A formative experience jokingly treated as an unavoidable part of someone's personal storyline, often embarrassing or difficult. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/canon-event>

13. Chad - [Internet essentials | Admiring, ironic or status-focused]

An internet archetype of a highly attractive, sexually successful man; in a meme, the label can express exaggerated admiration or contrast. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/chad>

14. cheers - [Across the Atlantic | Friendly informal]

A toast when drinking; also informal "thanks" or a friendly sign-off, especially in British and Irish English. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/cheers>

15. chronically online (aliases: terminally online, extremely online) - [Digital culture | Critical or self-mocking]

So immersed in internet culture or disputes that your references, assumptions, or priorities seem disconnected from ordinary offline experience. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/chronically-online>

16. chuffed (aliases: well chuffed, chuffed to bits) - [Across the Atlantic | Informal pleased]

Very pleased, proud, or delighted about something. "Chuffed to bits" is an especially enthusiastic version. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/chuffed>

17. clickbait (aliases: click bait, click-bait) - [Social & memes | Critical publishing language]

A headline, thumbnail, or piece of content built to win clicks, often by withholding the point, exaggerating, or misleading. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/clickbait>