

Public Sector, Municipal Libraries & Civic Digital Literacy Reference Guide (Vol. 9)

Plain-Language Guide to Youth Hyperbole, Adult ESL Idioms & Synthetic Media Literacy for Public Institutions (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

Prepared for federal, state, and municipal public library systems, K-12 school districts, youth services, and civic communicators. Provides a 100% general-audience (SFW) reference index distinguishing harmless youth group-chat hyperbole (cooked, crash out) from platform-moderation evasion (algospeak) and synthetic media spam (AI slop, rage-bait, astroturfing).

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 (76 Headwords, Edition daily-2026-10-22-expansion)

1. 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>

2. 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>

3. astroturfing - [Digital culture | informal conversational]

Coordinated marketing or campaigning disguised as spontaneous grassroots enthusiasm from ordinary internet users. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/astroturfing>

4. banjaxed - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Broken, ruined, or completely exhausted in Irish English-used for everything from a dead car battery to a tired person. | Regions: IE, UK | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/banjaxed>

5. 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>

6. Bare Minimum Monday - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Starting the workweek at a deliberate, low-pressure pace to prevent Sunday-night anxiety and mid-week burnout. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/bare-minimum-monday>

7. bossware - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Employee-monitoring software that tracks mouse movements, keystrokes, or active status dots on remote workers' laptops. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/bossware>

8. career cushioning - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Quietly updating a resume, networking, and lining up freelance options while still employed in case of sudden layoffs. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/career-cushioning>

9. chancing your arm - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Taking a bold, optimistic shot at asking for a favor or upgrade even when the odds of success are slim. | Regions: IE, UK | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/chancing-your-arm>

10. cheeky - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Playfully irreverent or mildly indulgent-often used for an unplanned treat like a "cheeky pint" or "cheeky Nando's." | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/cheeky>

11. 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>

12. 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>

13. 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>

14. code-switching - [People & relationships | informal conversational]

Shifting between linguistic registers, dialects, or sociolects depending on the social group, setting, or power dynamic. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/code-switching>

15. coffee badging - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Swiping into the office just long enough to grab coffee and be seen by management before heading home to finish work remotely. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/coffee-badging>

16. context collapse - [Digital culture | informal conversational]

When multiple distinct audiences-such as family, coworkers, and close friends-simultaneously see a message meant for one group. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/context-collapse>

17. craic (aliases: the craic, what's the craic, good craic) - [Across the Atlantic | Informal social]

Enjoyable company, conversation, fun, or news. "What's the craic?" can mean "what's happening?" or "how are things?" | Regions: IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/craic>

18. dead internet theory (aliases: dead Internet theory) - [Digital culture | Theory / meme not established fact]

The idea that much online activity is automated or artificial rather than human; stronger versions make unsupported claims that most of the internet is fake. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/dead-internet-theory>

19. deadly - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Fantastic, brilliant, or genuinely great in Dublin and wider Irish conversational English. | Regions: IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/deadly>

20. dodgy - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Unreliable, suspicious, or of questionable quality-applied to sketchy Wi-Fi, a bad takeaway meal, or a dishonest excuse. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/dodgy>

21. dog whistle - [People & relationships | informal conversational]

Coded phrasing that sounds ordinary to a general audience while carrying a targeted secondary signal to a specific subgroup. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/dog-whistle>

22. echo chamber - [Digital culture | informal conversational]

A closed social or algorithmic environment where participants encounter only beliefs and slang that reinforce their existing views. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/echo-chamber>

23. eejit - [Across the Atlantic | pejorative]

A pejorative regional word for an idiot or fool, documented for Ireland and Scotland. | Regions: IE, UK | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/eejit>

24. emotional labor - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Managing one's own feelings and tone to keep customers, coworkers, or partners comfortable and regulated. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/emotional-labor>

25. faffing - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Wasting time on dithering, minor adjustments, or unproductive busywork instead of starting the main task. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/faffing>

26. fiver - [Across the Atlantic | informal]

fiver: banknote worth five units of currency. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/fiver>

27. gaff - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Informal British and Irish word for someone's house, flat, or apartment-as in "round at my gaff." | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/gaff>

28. gas - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Hilarious, entertaining, or absurdly funny in Irish English-as in "she's pure gas" or "that's gas altogether." | Regions: IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/gas>

29. gaslighting - [People & relationships | informal conversational]

Manipulating someone into doubting their own memory, perception, or sanity-though often used loosely online to mean any disagreement. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/gaslighting>

30. ghosting (aliases: ghosted, ghost someone) - [People & relationships | Informal relationships and contact]

Ending or abandoning an ongoing connection by stopping communication without an explanation. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/ghosting>

31. gobsmacked - [Across the Atlantic | informal]

gobsmacked: utterly astonished and speechless. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/gobsmacked>

32. grand (aliases: that is grand, that's grand, I'm grand) - [Across the Atlantic | Informal reassuring]

In Irish English, often "fine," "okay," or "no problem." It does not necessarily mean magnificent or unusually impressive. | Regions: IE, UK | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/grand>

33. green flag (aliases: green flags, greenflag) - [People & relationships | Approving reassuring]

An encouraging sign that someone or something may be trustworthy, compatible, or worth pursuing. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/green-flag>

34. gutted - [Across the Atlantic | Informal deeply disappointed]

Very disappointed, upset, or crushed by an unwelcome result. Often used for a loss, cancellation, or missed opportunity. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/gutted>

35. hallucination - [Digital culture | context-dependent]

hallucination: confident but incorrect AI response. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/hallucination>

36. haunting - [People & relationships | context-dependent]

haunting: hard to forget, staying in the mind. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/haunting>

37. ick (aliases: the ick) - [People & relationships | Informal aversion]

A feeling or expression of disgust or aversion. "The ick" can describe a reaction that makes someone suddenly feel put off. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/ick>

38. imposter syndrome - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Persistent internal doubt that one's achievements are undeserved and that colleagues will eventually expose one as a fraud. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/imposter-syndrome>

39. kip - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

A short nap or sleep in British and Irish English; in Dublin, can also mean a messy room. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/kip>

40. knackered - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Completely exhausted or worn out after work, travel, or a late night; a staple of everyday British and Irish speech. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/knackered>

41. loud quitting - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Openly voicing dissatisfaction with company leadership or resigning publicly on social platforms rather than leaving quietly. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/loud-quitting>

42. love bombing - [People & relationships | context-dependent]

love bombing: manipulative over affection tactic. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/love-bombing>

43. mate (aliases: mates) - [Across the Atlantic | Familiar tone-sensitive]

A friend or a familiar way to address someone. It can sound warm, neutral, sarcastic, or confrontational depending on delivery. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/mate>

44. mates' rates - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

A friendly discount given by a tradesperson, freelancer, or shopkeeper because the customer is a friend. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/mates-rates>

45. the messages - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Grocery shopping or household errands in Irish and Scottish English-as in "doing the messages" on Saturday morning. | Regions: IE, UK | Canonical entry:
<https://slanglane.com/terms/messages>

46. miffed - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Slightly annoyed, offended, or put out by a small slight without being full-blown furious. | Regions: UK, IE, US | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/miffed>

47. mineral - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Traditional Irish English word for a carbonated soft drink or soda such as lemonade or orange. | Regions: IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/mineral>

48. mouse juggler - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

A tiny hardware plug or script that moves a cursor slightly so a remote worker's chat status stays green while away. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/mouse-juggler>

49. orbiting - [People & relationships | informal]

orbiting: stopping direct contact while still watching or interacting online. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/orbiting>

50. pookie - [People & relationships | Affectionate, cutesy or playful]

An affectionate name for a loved person, such as a partner, friend or relative; as an address, roughly sweetheart or darling. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/pookie>

51. proper - [Across the Atlantic | colloquial]

A UK and Irish colloquial use of proper as an adverb meaning thoroughly or completely. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/proper>

52. quiet cutting - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Reassigning employees to lower-status roles or Eliminating their projects so they resign voluntarily without severance. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/quiet-cutting>

53. quiet firing - [Work & online life | context-dependent]

quiet firing: act of neglect that pushes employees to quit. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/quiet-firing>

54. quiet quitting - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Performing the exact duties specified in one's job description during paid hours while declining unpaid overtime or hustle culture. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/quiet-quitting>

55. rage applying - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Sending out dozens of job applications in a single burst of frustration after being passed over or micromanaged at work. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/rage-applying>

56. red flag (aliases: red flags, redflag) - [People & relationships | Warning sometimes exaggerated]

A warning sign that something may be wrong or deserves closer attention, especially in a relationship or decision. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/red-flag>

57. resenteeism - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Staying in an unsatisfying job out of financial necessity while feeling openly bitter and disengaged every day. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/resenteeism>

58. revenge bedtime procrastination - [Digital culture | informal conversational]

Staying up late scrolling or gaming to reclaim personal leisure hours after an exhausting, overscheduled workday. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/revenge-bedtime-procrastination>

59. scarleh - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Playfully mortified or embarrassed on someone's behalf in Dublin slang (from "scarlet" for blushing). | Regions: IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/scarleh>

60. scroll fatigue - [Digital culture | Emerging informal]

A feeling of being mentally worn out by prolonged scrolling through feeds or other online material. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/scroll-fatigue>

61. shift - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

In Irish youth and nightclub slang, to kiss or make out with someone; distinct from working a job shift. | Regions: IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/shift>

62. situationship (aliases: situationships) - [People & relationships | Informal dating language]

A romantic connection whose status, expectations, or commitment have not been clearly defined. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/situationship>

63. skint - [Across the Atlantic | informal]

skint: broke, with insufficient or no money. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/skint>

64. soft launch (aliases: soft-launch, soft launching, soft-launched) - [People & relationships | Social media indirect reveal]

Hinting at a romantic relationship online without clearly identifying the partner or explicitly announcing the relationship. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/soft-launch>

65. sorted - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Resolved, arranged, or taken care of-used in British and Irish conversation to confirm that a problem is handled. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/sorted>

66. sound (aliases: sound person, sound as) - [Across the Atlantic | Informal approving]

Decent, reliable, friendly, or good. As a short reply, "sound" can mean "okay," "agreed," or an appreciative acknowledgment. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/sound>

67. stonewalling - [People & relationships | informal conversational]

Shutting down a conversation by refusing to reply, giving one-word answers, or withdrawing completely during a disagreement. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/stonewalling>

68. taking the piss - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Mocking someone, joking around, or acting unreasonably-such as overcharging or abusing someone's generosity. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/taking-the-piss>

69. task masking - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Typing loudly, carrying a laptop briskly, or keeping spreadsheets open to look intensely busy in an open-plan office. | Regions: US, UK, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/task-masking>

70. tasteslop (aliases: taste slop) - [Digital culture | Emerging critical]

A critical label for AI-generated style or lifestyle content that appears tasteful and curated but feels generic, derivative, or empty. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/tasteslop>

71. throw a wobbly - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Lose one's temper suddenly or have an exaggerated tantrum over a minor frustration. | Regions: UK, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/throw-a-wobbly>

72. trauma dumping - [People & relationships | informal conversational]

Sharing intense, unprocessed personal distress with an unprepared acquaintance or public chat without checking their capacity first. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/trauma-dumping>

73. vibe coding (aliases: vibe code, vibe-coded, vibecoding) - [Digital culture | Technical culture debated scope]

Building software by repeatedly prompting an AI and reacting to the result, especially when the person pays little attention to the underlying code. | Regions: Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/vibe-coding>

74. voluntold - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Being assigned an extra task or committee under the polite illusion that you volunteered for it voluntarily. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/voluntold>

75. weaponized incompetence - [Work & online life | informal conversational]

Pretending to be bad at a household or workplace task so that someone else gets frustrated and takes over the responsibility. | Regions: US, UK, IE, Online | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/weaponized-incompetence>

76. zonked - [Across the Atlantic | informal conversational]

Completely drained of energy and ready to fall asleep immediately. | Regions: UK, US, IE | Canonical entry: <https://slanglane.com/terms/zonked>