**British slang**

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**British slang** is [English language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language) [slang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slang) used in the [UK](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom). Slang is informal language sometimes peculiar to a particular social class or group and its use in Britain dates back to before the 16th century. The language of slang, in common with the English language, is changing all the time; new words and phrases are being added and some are used so frequently by so many, they almost become mainstream.

While some slang words and phrases are used throughout all of Britain (e.g., [*knackered*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knackered), meaning "exhausted"), others are restricted to smaller regions, even to small geographical groups. The nations of [England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England), [Scotland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland), [Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales) and [Northern Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland) all have their own slang words, as does [London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London). [London slang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_slang) has many varieties, the best known of which is [rhyming slang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhyming_slang). Some of these terms are used in other countries, such as [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia), [Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland) or [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada).

British slang has been the subject of many books including a seven volume dictionary, published in 1889. [Lexicographer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lexicographer) [Eric Partridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Partridge) published several works about British slang, most notably [*Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictionary_of_Slang_and_Unconventional_English), revised and edited by Paul Beale.