

# Slang of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

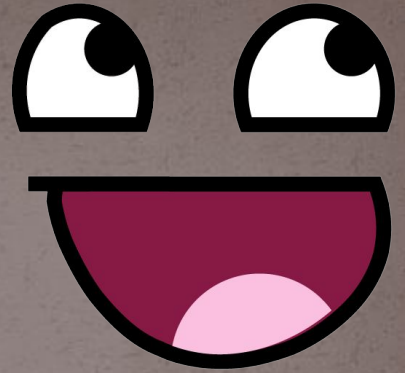




**Slang** - very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language, especially used by a particular group of people



# Some facts about slang:



- 1) Slang changes quickly
- 2) Slang is reincarnated over and over again - the same terms can be used by every generation but with different meanings
- 3) Used almost exclusively by the young
- 4) Every generation 'slangs' are very important for them
- 5) Studying slang is a way to understand a generation



# Why do people use slang?

Children use it to conceal the meaning from their parents



Slang identifies you as part of the tribe

It makes one feel special and important

It defies authority

# From 1900-1919

## Students used slang "locally"





WELL I'LL BE  
BLOWED



23 Skidoo

# 1920-30s. Flappers







- 1) Half-cut, fried, jammed, juiced, pie-eyed
- 2) Bat, brawl, buzz, rag, toot, wrestle, egg harbor
- 3) 5 Things: Gob stick, dog house, gobble pipe, skins, git box



## 1940s: From the War to Babies.

- 4) Drooly, pappy, swoony, BTO, PC,
  - An attractive man (big-time operator, prince charming)
  
- 5) 5 Things: Moss, blinkers, flops, schnozz, pillars
  - Body Parts: Hair, eyes, ears, nose, legs
  
- 6) Fatal pill, go-away kiss, lead pill, check out, blotto, in the drink
  - WWII Terms: Bullets and dying

## HIPPIE SLANG

“We had a gas at that party.”

“When my parents saw my grades, they went ape.”

His new car is boss!





to chill

to hang

to veg

to jell

to kick it

to ease



# Greetings





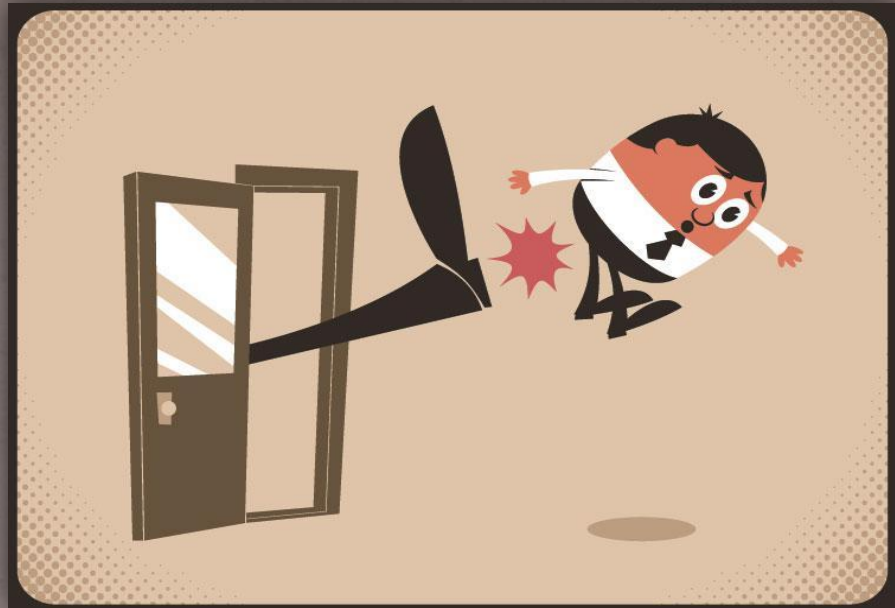
bones

jacks



franklins  
yard

clout



- 1) 23-Skidoo
- 2) That's George!
- 3) Big House





I have to go see a man about a  
dog

