

# Over 700 Words And Phrases Of American Slang From 1920-1929: A Decade of Unforgettable Language

Step back in time to the 1920s, an era of jazz, flappers, and prohibition. It was a decade that saw a remarkable shift in American culture, and with it came a wave of new words and phrases that would forever shape the American vernacular. From the speakeasies of New York City to the jazz clubs of Chicago, this was a time when language exploded with creativity, capturing the spirit of an entire generation.

In this article, we'll take a trip down memory lane and explore over 700 words and phrases of American slang from the 1920s. Get ready to immerse yourself in the language of the roaring twenties, where the past meets the present in a whirlwind of words.

## The Language of the Speakeasies

Perhaps no other aspect of the 1920s was more influential in shaping American slang than the establishments known as speakeasies. These secret clubs, hidden behind unmarked doors, emerged as a result of the Prohibition era, when the production, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages were banned.

### **1920s Slang Dictionary: Over 700 Words and Phrases of American Slang from 1920 - 1929 (A Decade of Slang)** by Charlene Rossell Mitchell (Kindle Edition)

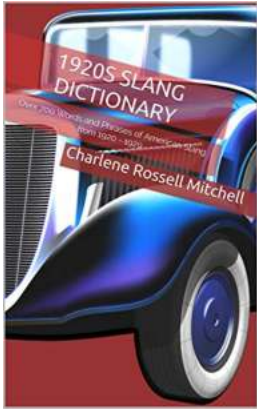
★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 956 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported



Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 84 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Speakeasies quickly became a hub of rebellion, where people gathered to enjoy illegal drinks, socialize, and dance to the rhythms of jazz. It was in these underground havens that new words and phrases were born, often serving as codes to communicate discreetly in order to avoid drawing unwanted attention from authorities.

One such example is the phrase "spill the tea", which meant to reveal gossip or secrets, a common occurrence in the speakeasies where people let loose and shared information. Similarly, "giggle water" referred to alcoholic beverages, serving as a playful way to discuss the forbidden drinks. These examples highlight how slang was not only a form of communication but also a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

## **From Flappers to Jazz Cats**

The 1920s were also characterized by the rise of the flapper, a term used to describe fashionable young women who rejected traditional societal norms. Embracing a carefree and independent lifestyle, flappers became icons of the era, complete with their own unique slang.

Words like "bee's knees," "cat's pajamas," and "know your onions" were often used to describe something or someone as exceptional or knowledgeable. They exemplified the spirit of the flapper, who was daring, fashionable, and unafraid to break free from societal constraints.

Jazz also played a significant role in shaping the slang of the 1920s. African American musicians, who were at the forefront of the jazz movement, introduced new words and phrases into the American lexicon. Terms like "hep" (meaning stylish or knowledgeable) and "jive" (meaning to talk or joke) became popular among jazz enthusiasts, eventually finding their way into mainstream slang.

## **From Charlie Chaplin to the Roadsters**

Not all slang from the 1920s was confined to the world of speakeasies, flappers, and jazz. The decade also witnessed significant advancements in technology, entertainment, and fashion, all of which left their mark on the ever-evolving language of the time.

Cinema was becoming a popular form of entertainment, with silent film stars like Charlie Chaplin enchanting audiences. Phrases like "the bee's knees," "the cat's whiskers," and "the elephant's adenoids" were used to express admiration for someone or something, often drawing parallels to the beloved stars of the silver screen.

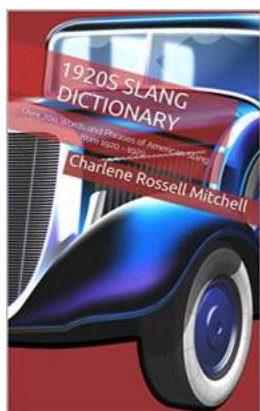
The rise of the automobile industry in the 1920s also led to an explosion of car-related slang. Words like "jalopy," "tin Lizzie," and "roadster" were used to describe different types of cars, reflecting the fascination and enthusiasm people had for this new form of transportation.

## **Preserving the Language of the 1920s**

As time goes on, it becomes increasingly important to preserve the language of bygone eras. The slang of the 1920s captures the spirit of an unforgettable decade, immortalizing the struggles, triumphs, and cultural shifts of the time.

Through films, literature, and personal accounts, we can continue to appreciate the unique language that emerged during this period. With over 700 words and phrases of American slang from the 1920s, we have a treasure trove of language that paints a vivid picture of an era that will forever be remembered as the roaring twenties.

So, let's raise a glass of giggle water and delve into the language of the 1920-1929, a decade of slang that continues to captivate and define an entire generation.



## 1920s Slang Dictionary: Over 700 Words and Phrases of American Slang from 1920 - 1929 (A Decade of Slang) by Charlene Rossell Mitchell (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

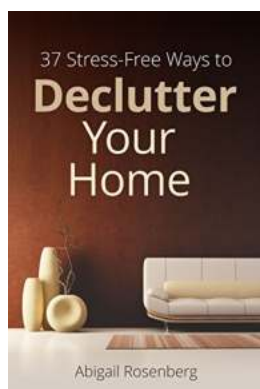
Language	: English
File size	: 956 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 84 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Over 700 words and phrases of slang from the Jazz Age (1920 - 1929). This is a great reference to use for fun!

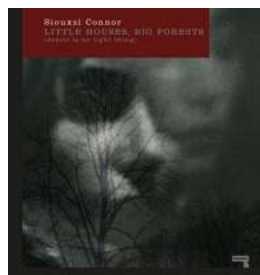
You will find this pocket guide great for:

- \*Quick Reference
- \*Murder Mystery Parties
- \*Theme Parties
- \*Reference for Writing (e.g. stories, plays, etc.)
- \*Fun!



## **37 Stress Free Ways To Declutter Your Home**

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the chaos in your home? It's time to declutter and create a calming, stress-free environment. We've got 37 easy and effective ways to help you...



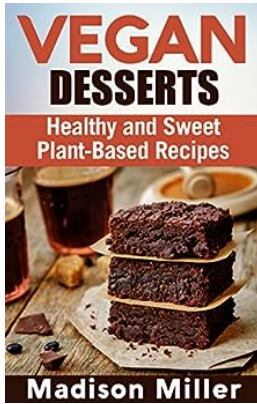
## **The Enchanting Journey of Little Houses Big Forests: Discover the Beauty and Magic of Tiny Homes Immersed in Nature**

Every now and then, the human heart seeks solace and refuge from the chaos of a fast-paced urban life. The desire to retreat to a cocoon of serenity,...



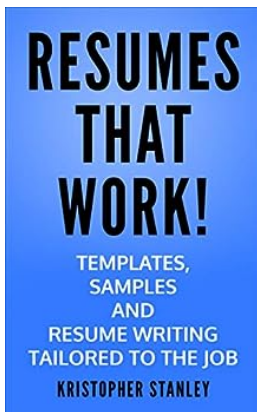
## **Not Your Daddy's Tattoo Shop: Breaking Stereotypes in Ink Art**

Gone are the days when tattoos were perceived as rebellious or only meant for a certain type of person. Today, tattoos have evolved into intricate works of art,...



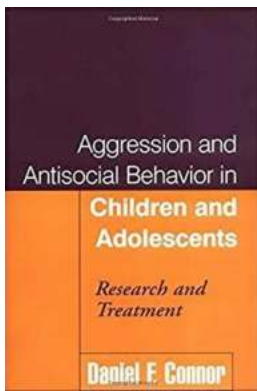
## 10 Healthy and Sweet Plant-Based Recipes That Will Delight Your Taste Buds

Are you ready to embark on a delicious journey of plant-based cooking? If you're looking for innovative ways to enjoy healthy and sweet treats while following a vegan...



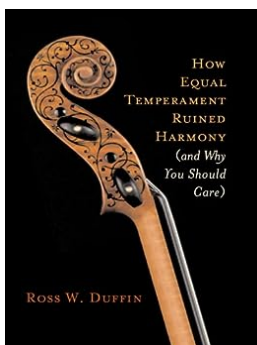
## Templates Samples And Resume Writing Tailored To The Job

Are you tired of sending out countless resumes without getting any response from potential employers? It might be time to rethink your approach to resume writing. With the...



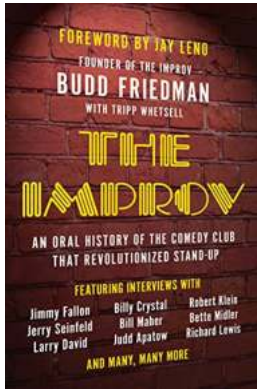
## Understanding the Root Causes of Aggression And Antisocial Behavior in Children And Adolescents

As parents, educators, and caregivers, it is essential to understand the underlying factors that contribute to aggression and antisocial behavior in children and...



## How Equal Temperament Ruined Harmony And Why You Should Care

Have you ever wondered why some classical music sounds harmonious while some modern music feels off? The answer lies in a seemingly innocuous development in the world...



## An Oral History Of The Comedy Club That Revolutionized Stand Up

Comedy clubs have long been the breeding ground for talented comedians, giving them a platform to showcase their wit and humor. These venues have witnessed the rise of...