

British Slang- Lesson#10

What is slang?



Slang is the use of very informal words and expressions. They are usually not considered standard language, but are often used in spoken language. Certain slang words are usually used by a particular group of people. Slang words and expressions are always changing and evolving, and words that are used a lot also change from year to year.

Here are some examples of British slang. As you work through these lessons you will notice they go in alphabetical order. Lesson 10 below has words starting with the letters W-Z.

Waffle: This means to talk a lot about nothing in particular. An example would be: “I was in his office for about two hours. He wouldn’t stop waffling on about nothing.”

Whinge: This means to *whine* or to *complain*.

Wind-up: This has two meanings. If you are *winding someone up*, it means you are *making fun of them*. However, if someone is *wound-up*, it means they are annoyed.

Wonky: If something is shaky or not straight, it is wonky. An example would be: “This chair is all wonky. Can I sit on another one?”

Zonked: Like the word *knackered* in Lesson#5, this means *extremely tired*. An example would be: “How was your day?” It was really busy. I’m zonked.”

1. Which of the following would be an alternative to the word “whinge”?

- a) waffle
- b) wonky
- c) complain

2. Complete the sentence:

“Is this a joke? Are you _____?”

- a) waffling on
- b) winding me up
- c) extremely tired

3. Complete the sentence:

“I had such a long day at work. I’m _____.”

- a) zonked
- b) wonky
- c) waffled

Answers: 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (a)

