

Say What?

A Glossary of College Slang

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hen your son or daughter leaves for college, chances are that they're going to come back with some new slang terms. Generally speaking, these terms vary from campus to

campus, but there are some prevalent trends that seem to span students from coast to coast. You may find some of the words that your child is using bizarre, and you may not understand exactly what he or she is trying to say. This "vocab list" should help you out.



"Peace" • interjection. *Good-bye.*

Don't worry, it's not a Woodstock resurgence.

For example: "Okay, I have to go. See you tomorrow. Peace!"

"Dank" • adj. *Great, delicious, awesome*

It's true that "dank" actually means something along the lines of "damp and musty," but your student is probably using it to mean something much more positive.

For example: "Wow, Dad, thanks for the dank steak. I never eat like this at school."

"Sick" • adj. *See "dank," above.*

For some reason, negative words often have slang definitions that mean the exact opposite.

For example: "Did you see that movie? It was sick – I have to see it again."

"Wicked" • adj. *Extremely, really.*

"Wicked" is often used to describe something with more force.

For example: "Mom, tonight's dinner was wicked sick. I think I'm going to live at home again after I graduate."

"Mos" • adj. *Very.*

This word can be pronounced with or without the "s" sound.

For example: "I'm mos tired. Think I'll just go to bed."

"Pumped" • adv. *Excited.*

A version of "pumped up," this is used to communicate excitement.

For example: "I'm so pumped about the sweet lecture tonight!"

"Gank" • v. *Obtain by force, steal.*

Gank this word and impress your children with your knowledge!

For example: "Want one of these bananas? I ganked them from the cafeteria this morning."

"My bad" • noun/phrase. *"I'm sorry," "my mistake."*

This one causes some problems for those who appreciate good grammar, but it is basically an admission of fault.

For example: "I know there's Chex Mix all over the floor, it was my bad— I'll vacuum when I get home."

"Rock on" • interjection. *"Good job," "I agree," "okay."*

A general statement of affirmation or agreement.

For example: "I got an A on my Later 18th Century British Lit paper!" "Nice, rock on!" or: "I think I'm going to the party on Grove Ave, first, and then I'll ride my bike up to Rowe Street later." "Rock on, I'll see you there."

"JV" • adj. *Sub-par, less than.*

JV – short for "junior varsity"—is used to express distaste or disappointment.

For example: "You only went to the gym for 20 minutes? That's JV."

An Avalanche of Abbreviations

Other strange but prevalent slang fads include excessive abbreviations. There is no reason to explain why this happens, other than laziness. These abbreviations can simply involve chopping off sections of words, or they can be initials.

For example:

"I'm late for anth again, I lost my pod and my comp is broken. My g-rents are coming to visit tomor and I really need to clean my room – my poor mate, it's totally my B. Plus, I have no food. Want to meet me in the Q before din?"

Translation:

"I'm late for anthropology again, I lost my iPod and my computer is broken. My grandparents are coming to visit tomorrow and I really need to clean my room—my poor roommate, it's totally my bad. Plus, I have no food. Want to meet me in the quad before dinner?"

Do with it what you will, but sometimes, abbreviating is just easier. Like the old (or brand new) saying goes, "Life is short, abbrev!"