

Topic: American Slang Words

Level: Intermediate

Materials: Garfield Cartoon, “American Slang Words” PowerPoint, Handouts #1-2, Drawing Supplies

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to recognize and understand common American slang words.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate to demonstrate their knowledge of new vocabulary to describe a movie.
3. Students will be able to understand common word shortenings that native speakers use.

Warm-Up: Have students read the following Garfield comic strip. Have them talk to a partner about how they would describe the character of Jon (the human).



Transition: Today, we are going to learn some American slang words that we can use to describe people like Jon.

Vocabulary Presentation: “Slang” words are words that are not considered quite correct or proper. People say them all the time, but they are not usually taught in school, and you usually won’t find them written down. They are good to know so that you can talk to American people more easily and understand them.


Cover the following slang vocabulary words by using the “American Slang Words” PowerPoint presentation:

1. **Cool**—adj. great or fantastic.
2. **To hang out**—v. to spend time together, or do a fun activity together.
3. **To have a crush**—v. to be attracted to someone; to want to date someone.
4. **To dump (somebody)**—v. To end a dating relationship with another person; to break up with someone. Usually, one person wants the relationship to end, but the other does not.
5. **Geek**—n. A person who is unpopular; usually because they are interested in science, computers, or mathematics. Usually wears glasses and unstylish clothes.
6. **Dunno**—v. Slang form of “don’t know” or sometimes “I don’t know”
7. **Ain’t**—v. Slang form of “am not” or sometimes “is not”. Common in the southern U.S.
8. **Y’all**—pronoun. A contraction of “you all”. Often used in the southern US.
9. **Loser**—adj. or n. A person who is unpopular because of their personality or actions.
10. **Rip-off**—adj. or n. An item that is not worth its price; something that is low quality, but still costs a lot

Focused Activities:

- A. Have students work on Handout #1. They will identify each picture with an appropriate vocabulary word.
- B. Have students work in pairs. Have each pair think of synonyms, antonyms, draw a picture, and write an original sentence for each word to help identify its meaning.

Example: “Rip-off”

| | |
|---|--|
| Synonyms: Cheap, cheat, scam, piece of junk, expensive | Antonyms: Good deal, bargain, high quality |
| Picture:  | Sentence: They were trying to sell me a broken cup for \$60. What a rip-off! |

- C. Have students work on Handout #2. They will complete the cloze gap story with the target vocabulary.

Communicative Activities:

- A. Have students work with a partner to describe a movie that they have seen using these slang words. Can they think of a character in a movie who is a geek? Can they think of a character who has a crush on another character? Etc.
- B. Have students work in groups of two or three. Each group will randomly pull two vocabulary words out of a hat, and their task is to create an advertisement for how to solve a problem. For example, students could make a poster that says, “Dunno how you will pass your next math test? Call our Professional Geek Tutors, who can help you learn and study!” Have each group present their words and their advertisements.

Cool-Down: Have the class vote on which group made the best advertisement. Give an award to the best group.

The ESL Teacher Site

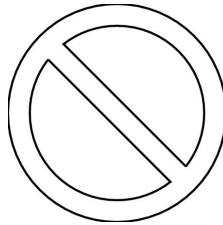
Handout #1

Directions: Match each picture to the best vocabulary word. Not every word will be used.

Word Bank:

ain't cool dump dunno geek

hang out have a crush loser rip-off y'all







Directions: Use the American slang words to try to complete the story below.

Peter was only interested in his science and computer classes in high school, so everyone called him a _____. All of the _____ students, like the football players and cheerleaders, refused to talk to him. But Peter secretly _____ on Julie, who was the prettiest and most popular girl in the school. One day, he heard that Julie was _____ by her boyfriend and that she was very sad. So Peter took his opportunity.

First, he went to buy a car. He did not want a _____, so he carefully researched which car was the best deal. He found an old sports car that was a good price and in good condition. He worked on his car for days, and finally it looked as good as new. When he finally drove it to school, it got everyone's attention. Nobody could believe that this _____ had such a nice set of wheels!

Soon, more and more people wanted to _____ with Peter. Finally, even Julie came to check out his nice car. This was Peter's chance!

"Do you want to go out for a ride?" He asked Julie. She jumped in.

"See _____ later!" she shouted to her friends. Julie looked around inside the car and turned on some music. She turned to Peter and said, "Nice ride!"

"You _____ seen nothing yet," Peter responded, trying to sound cool.

As they drove around the city, Peter did his best to get to know Julie. But when tried to ask her about her plans for after high school, he found she had no interest in higher education. He asked her which college she wanted to attend, but she only said, "_____."

Peter realized that no matter how pretty Julie might be, there was no way he could have a relationship with someone who didn't care about her academic future. There was just no way that it could work.