

1920's Slang

1. Ab-so-lute-ly - affirmative
2. All Wet - describes an erroneous idea or individual, as in, "he's all wet."
3. And How - I strongly agree!
4. Applesauce- an expletive same as horsefeathers, As in "Ah applesauce!"
5. Attaboy - well done!; also Attagirl!
6. Baby - sweetheart. Also denotes something of high value or respect.
7. Balled Up - confused, messed up
8. Baloney - nonsense!
9. Bank's Closed - no kissing or making out - i.e. - "Sorry, Mac, the bank's closed."
10. Bearcat - a hot-blooded or fiery girl
11. Beat it - scam or get lost
12. Beat one's gums - idle chatter
13. Bee's Knees - An extraordinary person, thing, idea; the ultimate
14. Beef - a complaint or to complain
15. Beeswax - business, i.e. None of your beeswax."
16. Bell bottom - a sailor
17. Berries - That which is attractive or pleasing; similar to bee's knees, As in "It's the berries."
18. Bible Belt - Area in the South and Midwest where Fundamentalism flourishes
19. Big Cheese - The most important or influential person; boss. Same as big shot
20. Big six - a strong man; from auto advertising, for the new and powerful; six cylinder engines
21. Bimbo - a tough guy
22. Bird - general term for a man or woman, sometimes meaning "odd," i.e. "What a funny old bird."
23. Blind Date - going out with someone you do not know
24. Bluenose - An excessively puritanical person, a prude, Creator of "the Blue Nozzle Curse."
25. Bootleg - illegal liquor
26. Breezer - an convertible car
27. Bronx Cheer - A loud spluttering noise, used to indicate disapproval. Same as raspberry
28. Bull - (1) a policeman or law-enforcement officer including FBI (2) nonsense (3) to chat idly, to exaggerate
29. Bull Session - Male talkfest, gossip, stories of sexual exploits
30. Bum's rush - ejection by force from an establishment
31. Bump Off - To murder, To kill
32. Butt me - I'll take a cigarette
33. Caper - a criminal act or robbery
34. Carry a Torch - To have a crush on someone
35. Cash - a kiss
36. Cash or check? - Do you kiss now or later?
37. Cat's Meow - Something splendid or stylish; similar to bee's knees; The best or greatest, wonderful.
38. Cat's Pajamas - Same as cat's meow
39. Chassis - the female body
40. Cheaters - Eyeglasses
41. Check - kiss me later
42. Ciggy - cigarette
43. Clam - a dollar
44. Copacetic - Wonderful, fine, all right
45. Crush - An infatuation
46. Daddy - a young woman's boyfriend or lover, especially if he's rich
47. Dame - a female
48. Dapper - a Flapper's dad
49. Darb - An excellent person or thing (as in "the Darb" - a person with money who can be relied on to pay the check)
50. Dead soldier - an empty beer bottle
51. Deb - an debutant
52. Dick - a private investigator
53. Dogs - feet
54. Doll - an attractive woman
55. Dolled up - dressed up
56. Don't know from nothing - don't have any information
57. Don't take any wooden nickels - Don't do anything stupid

58. Double-cross - to cheat, stab in the back
59. Dough - money
60. Drugstore Cowboy - a guy that hangs around on a street corner trying to pick up girls
61. Dry up - shut up, get lost
62. Ducky - very good
63. Dumb Dora - a stupid female
64. Earful - enough
65. Edge - intoxication, a buzz. i.e. "I've got an edge."
66. Egg - a person who lives the big life
67. Fall Guy - Victim of a frame
68. Fire extinguisher - a chaperone
69. Fish -(1) a college freshman
70. (2) a first timer in prison
71. Flat Tire - A dull witted, insipid, disappointing date. Same as pill, pickle, drag, rag, oilcan
72. Flivver - a Model T; after 1928, could mean any old broken down car
73. Flapper - A stylish, brash, hedonistic young woman with short skirts & shorter hair
74. Fly boy - a glamorous term for an aviator
75. Frame - To give false evidence , to set up someone
76. Gams - A woman's legs
77. Get a wiggle on - get a move on, get going
78. Giggie Water - An intoxicating beverage; alcohol
79. Gin Mill - An establishment where hard liquor is sold; bar
80. Glad rags - "going out on the town" clothes
81. Gold Digger - A woman who associates with or marries a man for his wealth
82. Goofy - in love
83. Hair of the Dog - a shot of alcohol
84. Handcuff - an engagement ring
85. Hard Boiled - a tough, strong guy
86. Hayburner - (1) a gas guzzling car (2) a horse one loses money on
87. Heebie-Jeebies - The jitters
88. High-Hat - To snub
89. Hit on all sixes - to perform 100 per cent; as "hitting on all six cylinders"
90. Hooch - Bootleg liquor
91. Hood - hoodlum
92. Hooper - Dancer
93. Horsefeathers - an expletive ; same usage as applesauce
94. Hotcha – expression of approval or delight
95. Hotsy - Totsy - Pleasing
96. It - Sex appeal
97. Iron - a motorcycle
98. Jack - money
99. Jake - OK, as in , "Everything is Jake."
100. Jalopy - Old car
101. Jane - any female
102. Java - coffee
103. Jitney - a car employed as a private bus. Fare was usually five cents; also called a "nickel"
104. Joe - coffee
105. John - a toilet
106. Joint - an establishment
107. Juice – liquor
108. Juice Joint - a speakeasy
109. Joint - A club, usually selling alcohol
110. Keen - Attractive or appealing
111. Kisser - Mouth
112. Left holding the bag - (1) to be cheated out of one's fair share (2) to be blamed for something
113. Level with me - be honest
114. Line - Insincere flattery
115. Live wire - a lively person
116. Middle Aisle - To marry
117. Mrs. Grundy - A priggish or extremely tight-laced person
118. Moll - A gangster's girl
119. Neck - Kissing with passion
120. Nifty - great, excellent
121. "Now you're on the trolley!" - Now you've got it, now you're right!
122. Nobody Home - Describes someone who is dumb
123. On the lam - fleeing from police
124. On the level - legitimate, honest
125. On the up and up - on the level
126. Orchid - an expensive item

127. Ossified - a drunk person
128. Owl - a person who's out late
129. Palooka (1) a below-average or average boxer (2) a social outsider, from the comic strip character Joe Palooka
130. Pet - Same as neck, but more so
131. Piker - (1) a cheapskate (2) a coward
132. Pill - (1) a teacher (2) an unlikable person
133. Pinch - To arrest
134. Pipe down - stop talking
135. Pushover - A person easily convinced or seduced
136. Putting on the Ritz - after the Ritz hotel in Paris; doing something in high style
137. Rag-a-muffin - a dirty or disheveled individual
138. Razz- to make fun of
139. Real McCoy - The genuine article
140. Ritzy - Elegant (from the hotel)
141. Rubes - money or dollars
142. Sap - a fool
143. Says you - a reaction of disbelief
144. Scram - Ask someone to leave immediately
145. Sheba - A woman with sex appeal (from the movie Queen of Sheba) or (e.g. Clara Bow)
146. Sheik - A man with sex appeal (from the Valentino movies)
147. Shiv - a knife
148. Sinker - a doughnut
149. Speakeasy - An illicit bar selling bootleg liquor
150. Spifflicated - Drunk. The same as canned, corked, tanked, primed, scrooched, jazzed, zozzled, plastered, owled, embalmed, lit, potted, ossified or fried to the hat
151. Spiffy - An elegant appearance
152. Spoon - to neck, or at least talk of love
153. Struggle Buggy - the backseat of a car. A parent's worst nightmare
154. Stuck On - Having a crush on
155. Swanky - Ritzy
156. Swell - Wonderful. Also: a rich man
157. Take for a Ride - To drive off with someone in order to bump them off
158. Tin Pan Alley - the music industry in New York, located between 48th and 52nd street
159. Tomato - a female
160. Torpedo - A hired gun
161. Upchuck - To vomit when one has drunk too much
162. Wet Blanket - a solemn person, a killjoy
163. What's eating you? - What's wrong
164. Whoopee - To have a good time
165. You slay me - that's funny