

Resources

1920's Slang

All Wet	Describes an erroneous idea or individual, as in, "he's all wet."
Applesauce	A term of derision for nonsense, lies; same as baloney, banana oil, bullshit, buncombe, bunk, hokum and horsefeathers.
Ball and Chain	One's wife, especially if she's domineering.
Bee's Knees	An extraordinary person, thing, idea; the ultimate.
Berries	That which is attractive or pleasing; similar to bee's knees, As in "It's the berries."
Bible Belt	Area in the South and Midwest where Fundamentalism flourishes
Big Cheese	The most important or influential person; boss. Same as big shot.
Bluenose	An excessively puritanical person, a prude, Creator of "the Blue Nozzle Curse."
Bronx Cheer	A loud spluttering noise, used to indicate disapproval. Same as raspberry.
Bull Session	Male talkfest, gossip, stories of sexual exploits.
Bump Off	To murder.
Cake-Eater	An effete ladies' man, or someone who attends tea parties.
Carry a Torch	To suffer from unrequited love.
Cat's Meow	Something splendid or stylish; similar to bee's knees.
Cat's Pajamas	Same as cat's meow.
Cheaters	Eyeglasses.
Copacetic	Wonderful, fine, all right.
Crush	An infatuation.
Darb	An excellent person or thing (as in "the Darb"-a person with money who can be relied on to pay the check).
Drugstore Cowboy	A fashionable idler who hangs around public places trying to pick up women.
Fall Guy	Victim of a frame.
Flapper	A stylish, brash, hedonistic young woman with short skirts and shorter

hair.

Flat Tire	A dull witted, insipid, disappointing date. Same as pill, pickle, drag, rag, oilcan.
Frame	To give false evidence, to set up someone.
Gams	A woman's legs.
Giggle Water	An intoxicating beverage.
Gin Mill	An establishment where hard liquor is sold.
Gold Digger	A woman who associates with or marries a man for his wealth.
Heebie-Jeebies	The jitters.
High-Hat	To snub.
Hooch	Bootleg liquor.
Hoofer	Dancer.
Hotsy-Totsy	Pleasing.
It	Sex appeal.
Jake	OK, as in, "Everything is Jake."
Jalopy	Old car.
Joint	A club, usually selling alcohol.
Keen	Attractive or appealing.
Kisser	Mouth.
Line	Insincere flattery.
Lounge Lizard	A ladies' man; a social parasite; a ne'er do well.
Middle Aisle	To marry.
Moll	A gangster's girl.
Mrs. Grundy	A priggish or extremely tight-laced person.
Neck	Kissing with passion.
Nobody Home	Describes some one who is dumb.
Pet	Same as neck, but more so.

Pinch	To arrest.
Pushover	A person easily convinced or seduced.
Real McCoy	The genuine article.
Ritzy	Elegant (from the hotel).
Sheba	A woman with sex appeal (from the movie Queen of Sheba).
Sheik	A man with sex appeal (from the Valentino movie).
Speakeasy	An illicit bar selling bootleg liquor.
Spifflicated	Drunk. The same as canned, corked, tanked, primed, scrooched, jazzed, zozzled, plastered, owled, embalmed, lit, potted, ossified or fried to the hat.
Spiffy	An elegant appearance.
Struggle-Buggy	A car in which men try to seduce women.
Stuck On	Having a crush on.
Swanky	Ritzy.
Swell	Wonderful. Also: a rich man.
Take for a Ride	To drive off with someone in order to bump them off.
Torpedo	A hired gun.
Whoopee	To have a good time, especially with sex included (as in "making whoopee").