

1920s Jazz Age Slang Assignment

compliments

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."

big cheese - The most important or influential person; boss. Same as big shot.

cat's meow - Something splendid or stylish; similar to bee's knees; the best or greatest, wonderful.

cat's pajamas - Same as cat's meow.

darb - An excellent person or thing (as in "the darb" - a person with money who can be relied on to pay the check).

hard boiled - a tough, strong guy.

hotsy-totsy - Pleasing.

Jake - OK, as in, "Everything is Jake."

keen - Attractive or appealing.

ritzy - Elegant (from the hotel).

spiffy - An elegant appearance.

swanky - Ritzy.

swell - Wonderful. Also: a rich man.

put-downs or upsets

all wet - Describes an erroneous idea or individual, as in, "he's all wet."

applesauce - an expletive; same as horsefeathers, As in "Ah applesauce!"

bluenose - An excessively puritanical person, a prude, Creator of "the Blue Nozzle Curse."

dumb Dora - a stupid female.

flat tire - A dull witted, insipid, disappointing date. Same as pill, pickle, drag, rag, oilcan.

horsefeathers - an expletive; same usage as applesauce.

pushover - A person easily convinced or seduced.

party time

cake-eater - A ladies' man, or someone who attends tea parties.

flapper - A stylish, brash, hedonistic young woman with short skirts and shorter hair.

giggle water - An intoxicating beverage; alcohol.

gin mill - An establishment where hard liquor is sold; bar.

hooch - Bootleg liquor

hoofer - Dancer.

joint - A club, usually selling alcohol.

ossified - a drunk person.

Speakeasy - An illicit bar selling bootleg liquor.

upchuck - To vomit when one has drunk too much.

whoopee - To have a good time.

misc.


cheaters - Eyeglasses.

heebee-jeebies - The jitters.

high-hat - To snub.

jalopy - old car.

scram - Ask someone to leave immediately.



romance & hanky-panky

blind date - going out with someone you do not know

carry a torch - To have a crush on someone.

crush - An infatuation.

drugstore cowboy - a guy that hangs around on a street corner trying to pick up girls

gams - A woman's legs.

kisser - Mouth.

line - Insincere flattery.

lounge lizard - a guy that is sexually active.

necking - Kissing with passion.

petting - Same as neck, but more so.

Sheba - A woman with sex appeal (from the movie Queen of Sheba) or (e.g. Clara Bow).

sheik - A man with sex appeal (from the Valentino movies).

struggle buggy - the backseat of a car. A parent's worst nightmare.

stuck on - Having a crush on.

mobs

bump off - To murder, To kill.

fall guy - Victim of a frame.

frame - To give false evidence, to set up someone.

Moll - A gangster's girl.

pinch - To arrest.

take for a ride - To drive off with someone in order to bump them off.

torpedo - A hired gun.