

Slang of the Roaring Twenties

- **All Wet** - Describes an erroneous idea or individual, as in, "he's all wet."
- **Applesauce** - an expletive; same as horsefeathers, As in "Ah applesauce!"
- **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.
- **Blind Date** - going out with someone you do not know
- **Bluenose** - An excessively puritanical person, a prude, Creator of "the Blue Nozzle Curse."
- **Bump Off** - To murder, To kill.
- **Cake-Eater** - An effete ladies' man, or someone who attends tea parties.
- **Carry a Torch** - To have a crush on someone.
- **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.
- **Cheaters** - Eyeglasses.
- **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).
- **Dogs** - feet.
- **Drugstore Cowboy** - a guy that hangs around on a street corner trying to pick up girls
- **Dumb Dora** - a stupid female.
- **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; alcohol.

- **Gin Mill** - An establishment where hard liquor is sold; bar.
- **Hard Boiled** - a tough, strong guy.
- **Heebie-Jeebies** - The jitters.
- **High-Hat** - To snub.
- **Hooch** - Bootleg liquor
- **Hooper** - Dancer.
- **Horsefeathers** - an expletive; same usage as applesauce.
- **Hotsy-Totsy** - Pleasing.
- **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 guy that is sexually active.
- **Moll** - A gangster's girl.
- **Neck** - Kissing with passion.
- **Ossified** - a drunk person.
- **Pet** - Same as neck, but more so.
- **Pinch** - To arrest.
- **Pushover** - A person easily convinced or seduced.
- **Ritzy** - Elegant (from the hotel).
- **Scram** - Ask someone to leave immediately.
- **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).
- **Speakeasy** - An illicit bar selling bootleg liquor.
- **Spiffy** - An elegant appearance.
- **Struggle Buggy** - the backseat of a car. A parent's worst nightmare.
- **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.
- **Upchuck** - To vomit when one has drunk too much.
- **Whoopee** - To have a good time.