

A P A R E N T ' S
T O
G U I D E

Teen Slang

2017 Edition

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Welcome to the World of Teen Slang

Lost? Confused? Unable to understand your teens? Don't worry; you're in good company. Keeping up with teen slang is nearly impossible. New words are constantly being introduced, thanks to the influence of music, the Internet, apps, and celebrities (not to mention regional vernacular!). You may feel overwhelmed and lost when listening to your children/grandchildren speaking, and it'll only get worse when reading social media posts and hashtags. Use this guide as a reference for what's widely popular right now in order to translate what teens are saying.

Fun, Harmless, Silly

Bae = Before Anyone Else; also a synonym for "babe" or "baby."

Basic = A way to describe someone who lacks originality and enjoys the most mainstream and predictable things.

Dead/dying = When something is so funny, you can't handle it.

Done = To be completely over a task, person, emotion, or situation.

Extra = Over the top, excessive, dramatic. "I aspire to be this level of extra at my graduation."

Fam = Family, to denote one's actual family or one's closest friends.

Fire = Cool, awesome. "This party is fire!" Also denoted by the fire emoji.

FR = For Real.

Goat = Greatest Of All Time.

Gucci = Good, cool.

Hundo P = One Hundred Percent.

IRL = In Real Life.

Live/living = When something is so incredible, it's finally making you "live." Could also be said to be giving you "life."

Like recent = Using one social media platform to tell one's followers to like his/her most recent post on another social media platform.

Lit = Cool, awesome. "This party is lit!" Can also mean to be drunk or high: "Let's get lit and jump off the roof!" (Not as cool of a word as "fire" these days.)

Neglect = To intentionally or unintentionally abandon someone in the middle of text message conversation for a prolonged period of time. "I totally fell asleep last night. I didn't mean to neglect you!"

NMH = Nodding My Head, i.e. expressing agreement or approval.

SMH = Shaking My Head, i.e. expressing disagreement or disapproval.

Savage = To be hardcore, fierce, bada**. Can refer to arguments, takedowns, and a general disregard for consequences.

Ship = Short for "relationship." Used to endorse/support a romantic coupling, even one that's not reality. "I ship Ron and Hermione." "I see a ship developing!"

Shook = To be so completely surprised, scared, or caught off guard that your body is shaking.

Squad = Friend group. Often used as #squadgoals, meaning, "I hope my friends can someday be this cool!" **Newer, cooler synonym: Tribe.**

Take the L = Take the loss. Can be used in many situations where one is perceived to lose.

TBH = To Be Honest.

TFW = That Feeling When. “TFW you accidentally spill your Venti Frap all over your car.”

V = Abbreviation for “very.”

Weak = Used to mean “That was funny!” Originates from that weak feeling you get when you laugh really hard.

———— Be Aware Of

AF = As F***. Used to emphasize something: “It’s hot af in here.”

Curve = To reject someone romantically or sexually.

Gastbying = Intentionally posting something to social media to attract one’s romantic interest’s attention. So named after the elaborate parties Gatsby threw to get Daisy’s attention in *The Great Gatsby*.

Ghost = To stop responding to one’s texts, messages, posts, etc., effectively disappearing from their digital world.

Haunt = To occasionally view, comment on, or like posts from someone with whom you were once romantically involved, as if to intentionally remind them, “Hey, I’m still here!” Typically the other person will feel creeped out.

HBIC = Head B**** In Charge.

Igging = Ignoring (made most famous by the song “Tunnel Vision” by Kodak Black).

Jocking = Copying someone else’s style. From Bruno Mars’ song “24K Magic.”

Low Key = A warning that someone doesn’t want everyone to know what they’re saying. “Keep this low key.”

Mooning = Using the “Do Not Disturb” mode (denoted by a tiny moon on iPhones), which turns off notifications, on a specific conversation so as to mute/ignore them.

Murk = To kill, dominate, etc. Often used in reference to video games.

Straight Fire = Hot or trendy. “That outfit is straight fire!”

Sip Tea = Mind one’s own business. Usually means you don’t want to get involved in the drama, but you have no problem watching it from the sidelines.

Salty = To be bitter/angry/upset. “She was salty because she lost.”

Skurt = To leave.

Stan = Abbreviation of “stalker” and “fan”; refers to an overly obsessed, maniacal fan of a celebrity. (Also originates from the main character of Eminem’s song “Stan.”) “Those Taylor Swift stans are creeping me out.”

Sus = Short for “suspect.” “My bank card got declined. That’s sus.”

Throw Shade = Give someone a dirty look or say/post something mean about them.

Vaguebooking = Intentionally posting vague Facebook status updates, either for attention or as a cry for help. E.g. “Wondering if there’s a point to anything.”

Woke = To be fully aware of current events; living in a state of awareness that is above expectations. “Stay woke, son!”

— Red Flags

9 = Parent watching!

Breadcrumbing = Sending out flirtatious, but noncommittal text messages to members of the opposite sex in order to lure a sexual partner without expending much effort.

Break Green = To share marijuana with others.

Catfish = Someone who pretends to be someone they're not on social media, either for dating or sexual purposes.

CU46 = See You For Sex.

D = Short for d***. "She just wants the D."

Down in the DM = Using private messages (DM=Direct Message) on social media to ask for nude photos and/or to filter through people to find a casual hookup.

GNOC = Get Naked On Camera.

Hooking up = Has various levels of meaning. Could refer to anything from making out to having sex.

Netflix and chill = A euphemism for hooking up. Someone uses the pretense of watching Netflix as a reason to hang out or "chill," but really has no intention of actually watching anything.

NIFOC = Naked In Front Of Computer.

NP4NP = Naked Pic For Naked Pic.

NSFW = Not Safe For Work. Used to mark something as sexually inappropriate or explicit.

POS = Parent Over Shoulder.

Scarfig = Intentionally strangling oneself (with a scarf or other material) during sex or masturbation to decrease blood flow to the head and therefore increase pleasure during climax. Many young men have accidentally committed suicide while scarfig.

Smash = To have casual sex.

Stealthing = Secretly removing one's condom during sex.

Thirsty = Desperate, eager for something; often refers to one's sexual appetite or desire to gain attention on social media.

— A Final Thought

As you can see, there's a lot to keep track of! We hope knowing these terms helps you discern when your teens are just engaged in harmless fun and when they're in need of intervention. *One caveat:* Teens are all about authenticity. They can smell inauthenticity a mile away. So carefully consider the choice to add these words to your vocabulary. Your teens may think it's cool or funny that you're using them . . . or they may find it totally uncool and therefore be embarrassed by your use of them.