

1920s Slang Journal/Letter

Assume the role of one of the individuals below. Write a description of **changes or demonstrate the changes in the living and/or working conditions of your chosen character from the period 1900-1929**. You may make inferences about social, intellectual, and technological changes that may have influenced changes in life and/or work. You may use any of the slang terms from the 1920s to tell your story. Have fun in someone else's shoes.

- A. a teenager living on a farm
- B. a teenager living in a city
- C. a female office worker in a city
- D. a domestic servant in a small town or in a city
- E. the operator of a motion picture theater
- F. a labor union member working in an industrial plant on an assembly line
- G. a resident of Harlem
- H. a Native American living on a reservation
- I. a newspaper reporter in a large city
 - (NY, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, etc.)
- J. a drama critic for a major daily newspaper of the time
 - (Washington Post, NY Times, Chicago Herald, San Francisco Examiner, Winston-Salem Journal)
- K. a banker on Wall Street (or a stock broker)
- L. an owner of a factory that produced the new electrical appliances
- M. a farmer in the Midwest
- N. a World War I veteran



Requirements: Your letter/journal must have a **minimum of 2 paragraphs (5 sentences each)**.

You also need to include a minimum of 10 slang terms.

<u>Slang</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
all my whiskers	nonsense
all wet	wrong, incorrect
and how!	definitely!
audies	sound movies
banana oil	nonsense
bathtub gin	homemade gin
bee's knees	great!
berries, the	the best
<u>between a rock and a hard place -in a difficult situation</u>	
big cheese	an important person
bim	girl friend
blind dragon	chaperone
blind pig	a speakeasy
blotto	drunk
bootleg	make or sell illegal liquor
breeze in	drop in unexpectedly
bug wash	hair oil
bull session	group discussion
bunk	nonsense!
caper	a robbery
<u>carhop</u>	<u>waitress at a drive-in a restaurant</u>
cats, the	outstanding
cat's meow	outstanding
cat's pajamas	good, super
cheaters	eyeglasses
chopper	submachine gun
crush	being infatuated with
darb	excellent
dig dirt	to gossip
divine	nice, enjoyable
do in	to eat a _____
dumb dora	an idiot, especially a woman
fat cat	wealthy person
flapper	uninhibited woman, a style of dressing
flick	movie
fridge	refrigerator
gaga	crazy, silly
get hot!	Dance! Go for it!
giggle-water	whiskey, liquor

<u>Slang</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
goon	a thug, ruffian
governor	father, one's superior
grand	good
ham-and-egger	ordinary person
high hat	to snub someone
hooch	bootleg liquor
hoof	to dance
horsefeathers	nonsense!
hotsie-totsie	very good
hyper	excited, thrilled
jalopy	an old car
Jane	a plain girl
jinny	a speakeasy
juice-joint	a speakeasy
keen	attractive, good
kisser	the mouth
lickety-split	quickly
lounge lizard	a ladies man
lousy	bad, inferior
lug	a dull man
main drag	main street
malarkey	lies, nonsense
nitwit	idiot
nuts	nonsense!
park	made out in a car
pash	passion
pinch	to arrest
pip-squeak	a useless person
rah-rah	overly enthusiastic
raspberries	nonsense!
ricky tick	ragtime music of 20's
ritzy	elegant
rock	a dollar
sad sack	an odd person
scram	to leave hurriedly
sheba	girlfriend
sheik	handsome man
sloppy	messy
smeller	the nose
smooch	kiss/hug
speakie	a movie with sound

<u>Slang</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
struggle buggy	car
stuck on	having a crush on
stuffy	prudish
swell	fine
talkie	movie with sound
tin Lizzie	Model T Ford
torpedo	a hired gunman
upchuck	to vomit
white cow	vanilla milkshake
wise up	become aware, learn
wish book	catalog
wowser person	prude, self-righteous person

Journal or Letter Entry:

