

IN ENGLISH Education

AT POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



CENTRE OF LANGUAGES AND COMMUNICATION - **ABOUT US**

Centre of Languages and Communication at Poznań University of Technology would like to warmly welcome all students in the new academic year!

We are aware that in the current situation everyone has a great number of questions, but we hope to answer at least some of them by providing you, the students, with a bit of basic information about the CLC.

First and most important of all of all, the CLC is located on the third floor of the building of Faculty Of Automatic Control, Robotics And Electrical Engineering (if you want to be sure you got the right one: it's the tall grey building without the digital clock on top, right next to the one with the digital clock.)

Current events, news, detailed information about your teachers and class schedules can be found at our website. You will also find information about the annual events organized by the CLC, our international projects and all the channels you can use to contact us. Visit us here: <http://www.clc.put.poznan.pl/>

But if you want the quickest updates, daily dose of activities, and everything language-related – Facebook is the best choice <https://www.facebook.com/cjikput>

Follow our website and social media if you want to be up-to-date, and contact us if you have any doubts or questions – we are here to support you and ensure the best learning experience possible.



A project update

We have just started another year of Finnish-Spanish-Polish collaboration to create a course of English for students that enables them to work together in small multinational groups across cultures and across their discipline of studies.

This year we are working hard on another pilot of the course, which will be launched in mid-October, so we will be recruiting students of various faculties and fields of studies. As in the previous edition, we will be looking for students whose English is at B2 level and who are eager to collaborate in international teams and learn new skills.

The content and the layout of the course have been improved and we hope our project will be even more successful.

The team is having another virtual session on the 23-24 of September within the Train the Trainer formula. In addition to the core participants of the project, the meetings will be attended by a group of teachers recruited in Finland, Spain and Poland who will be learning how to implement 'Design Sprint' method with the use of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as well as help boost the course with new ideas and foster its dissemination in the future.

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“Communication Corner” has been the column appearing regularly which covers articles written cyclically that our readers can enjoy to learn about various communication styles. This month’s issue is devoted to slang expressions which seem to be confusing – but only when you do not know their meaning. You do not have to burn the midnight oil to learn them. After reading this article you will surely be an ace at using them. Enjoy your reading ;-)

Do you often play hooky? Are you a couch-potato? If you hear such a phrase, you may either get confused or laugh it off. However, there is a true meaning to these types of phrases, belonging to a linguistic category of a slang. Interestingly, slang words and expressions are widely-used and nobody is in awe when one hears them, e.g., in the UK. Though, they may be confusing to English learners. However once learn the ropes, you will be amazed how meaningful they are in everyday conversation. Thus, instead of using dry, formal expressions, it is sometimes funky to spice up your language and brush up on your new slang expressions.

Due to the fact that language is not a static entity, it does not exist in a vacuum, and most importantly, it is used by language speakers who share different knowledge of languages, there exist many language forms which pertain to specific groups or communities. The slang words in English may be borrowed from other languages, e.g., Latin, German, French, or even Yiddish.

Why People Use Slang

The use of slang is ubiquitous and is not determined by any special needs of the society and its users. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy to point out the fact that slang represents informal style of expression and can at times be vulgar or inappropriate in various social occasions.

Slang Helps People Belong

Every speech community develops its own specific way of communication within its own mother language. Slang serves as a means of creating a sense of belonging between various groups of individuals. It not only facilitates effective communication but also helps to express emotions, friendly attitude, helps to increase the sense of being part of the “in-crowd”, and allows to understand popular culture.

SLANG

in the English language

The Evolution of Slang

Slang is what keeps language fresh and dynamic. Some common words are vivid expressions to describe society in its milieu, that is, they are a mirror reflection of an up-to-date lexicon which becomes rejuvenated due to language change. Slang is the evidence for the dynamism and plasticity of language use among speakers of a given speech community. For example, some words which have been widely used have faded from use and only recently have been revived by the current generations. A case in point is the word “cool” that used to become a cliché and now has been again peculiar to a given social class or group.

Sub-groups and their Slang

Slang has been used by miscellaneous groups within society which can be divided according to their beliefs, occupation, gender, situation or culture in general. Some of the school expressions include expressions like crib (paper with answers used by students when passing exams). Other words include swot, play hooky (truant), bugs (biology), cram (study a lot), or hit the books (study). There also exists car slang which is interesting too. Some of the most common include: jalopy (falling apart old vehicle), joyride (stealing a car and driving it fast), and juice (petrol). If you are into sports, some of the expression you can come across are: bush league (an amateur play or behaviour), blitz (a defensive attack in football), hoops (the game of basketball), and many, many more.

Just in case you couldn't make head or tails of some of the words or other expressions, here is a glossary to help you understand some of them.

Glossary:

- Play hooky – wagarować
- Couch-potato – kanapowy leń (osoba oglądająca dużo telewizji)
- Laugh sth off – obracać w żart
- To be in awe – zachwycać się
- To learn the ropes – nauczyć się fachu, pojąć sztukę
- To spice up – urozmaicić
- Brush up on sth – doszlifować
- To exist in a vacuum – istnieć w próżni, nie być związanym z innymi elementami
- Yiddish – jidysz (język Żydów aszkenazyjskich)
- Ubiquitous – wszechobecny
- Milieu – środowisko

- Lexicon – słownik
- Cliché – frazes, banał, utarty zwrot
- Peculiar – dziwny
- Crib – ściągą (np. na egzaminie)
- Swot – kujon
- Jalopy – gruchot, stary samochód
- Come across – spotkać
- Bush league – ostatnia liga, liga podwórkowa
- Blitz – atak obrony
- Make head or tails of sth – zrozumieć coś

Opracowała: Marta Strukowska, M.A.

References:

- English Matters (2014). Vol. 10
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slang>
<https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/slang/how-slang-affects-the-english-language.html>

23rd National Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities

The Centre of Languages and Communication is very pleased to announce the 23rd National Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities. Every year Poznan University of Technology hosts this big event, with hundreds of students taking part and with a significant number of sponsors and special guests attending. It is incredibly worth joining us and we hope you feel very encouraged to register ;-)

The purpose of the Olympiad is to popularize the English language among students of technical universities and colleges in Poland and show that English is a big asset for every young engineer.

Currently, we do not know when the first stage is going to take place and we are working on setting the dates of the Olympiad. But at this point we can firmly state that as it will be held at participants' own universities, as every year.

For the time being please follow our website <http://www.clc.put.poznan.pl> to find the most current information on

the Olympiad and do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

The whole event is organized and managed by a small team of English lecturers from Poznan University of Technology with Waldemar Korczyk, M.A. as a coordinator, and Katarzyna Sobańska, M.A., Joanna Potrzebska, M.A., Hanna Nowak, M.A. as team members.

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Do not let us down! We are waiting for you!!!

Mgr Hanna Nowak