

THE A-Z OF REALLY BRITISH ENGLISH

LMON HAGGIS
TEAM GB NHS
KNEES-UP FOOTBALL ADELE
KNACKERED

UNI TA!
MANDEM
MARDY

WHY AYE MAN!
I DONT GIVE
A MONKEY'S

PECKISH
HARRY
QUID

YORKSHIRE
PUDDING

ACROSS THE
POND
LOVELY JUBBLY
FRESHER'S WEEK
FLEABAG

BRIZZLE
ATTENBOROUGH
CUPPA

ROSY LEE
COCKNEY
INNIT!

EASTENDERS
JOLLY
GOOD!
FIVER
LON
SPEND A PENNY
BAKED BEANS
GUTTED
MATE

100
NEW WORDS
INCLUDED

1. A-Z OF BRITISH VOCABULARY

A&E (noun) /eɪ ən 'i:/ -
the accident and emergency
department in a hospital.

*'A&E departments have been
pushed to breaking point this
winter.'*

A-levels (noun) /'eɪ levlz/ -
Advanced level qualification in a
certain subject taken by students
usually aged between 16–18
in the UK (except for Scotland).
Students take A-levels after doing
GCSEs.

*'My daughter is planning to take 5
A-levels next year.'*

a bit of (me) (phrase) /ə bit əv/
- an informal phrase used to say
you like something or are inter-
ested in it.

'One Direction are a bit of me.'

ace (adjective) /eɪs/ -
good/cool.

*'Throwing Miko a surprise
birthday party is an ace idea guys,
well done!'*



across the pond (phrase)
/əkɾɒs ðə pɒnd/ -
a slang term for the USA/Canada.

*'So many bands have found it hard
to go across the pond and be as
successful as they are in the UK.'*

afters (noun) /'ɑ:ftəz/ -
another word for dessert.

*'What do you kids want for afters?
I've got ice cream or jelly.'*

airy-fairy (adjective) /'eəri feəri/ -
a disapproving term for something
that is vague and impractical.

*'All these business ideas are a bit
airy-fairy.'*

alcopop (noun) /'ælkəʊpɒp/ -
a type of fizzy alcoholic drink that
usually comes in fruity flavours.

*'All we ever drank at uni was
alcopops.'*

all mouth (and no trousers) (phrase)
- talk boastfully about yourself
without backing it up with actions.

*'Sven says he could run a marathon
without training, but I think he's all
mouth and no trousers.'*

all over the (shop/gaff/place) -
disorganised.

A) *'How was the game?'*
B) *'Terrible! We lost 5-0! The team
was all over the shop from the first
minute.'*

allotment (noun) /ə'lɒtmənt/ -
a small plot of green land that is
owned by the local council but rent-
ed to individuals to grow their own
plants and vegetables.

*'My grandma has had an allotment
by the canal for over 30 years.'*

alright! (exclamation) /ɔ:l'raɪt/ -
a common greeting.

'Alright Jack, how's it going?'

aggro (noun) /ægrəʊ/ -
short for aggression.

*'There was a lot of aggro at the
football yesterday.'*

agony aunt (noun) /'ægəni ɑ:nt/ -
a magazine or newspaper column
that offers advice to people with
problems.

*'I've never written into an agony aunt
but I'd be tempted if I had a serious
problem.'*

an arm and a leg (phrase) -
if something costs an arm and a leg
it's very expensive.

*'Flights to Dubai cost an arm and a
leg right now.'*

Angel of the North (noun)
/'eɪndʒəl ɒv ðə nɔ:θ/ -
a magnificent steel sculpture of an
angel created by Anthony Gormley
that measures 20 metres high and
stands just outside Gateshead in the
north-east of England.

*'If you take the train from London
to Edinburgh you pass the Angel of
the North just before coming into
Newcastle.'*

anorak (noun) /'ænərəæk/ -
a jacket that is worn to protect you
from rain and wind.

*'It's lucky we brought our anoraks. It
looks like it's going to rain very soon.'*

anorak (noun) /'ænərəæk/ -
someone who is really interested in
a hobby that most people think is
boring.

*'My uncle is such a transport anorak,
he loves collecting the serial numbers
of trains that he's ridden on.'*

anyroad (adverb) /'enirəʊd/ -
a phrase used in the north of
England instead of 'anyway'.

A) *'Did you hear there is a large
snowstorm coming our way?'*

B) *'Really?'*

A) *'Anyroad, you don't need to
worry. Your flight won't be affected
tomorrow.'*

argy bargy (noun) /'ɑ:dʒi 'bɑ:dʒi/ -
loud verbal disagreement that can
sometimes become physical.

*'There was some argy bargy at the
match so we left early.'*

arse (noun) /ɑ:s/ -
slang for bottom.

*'Does my arse look big in these
jeans?'*

arse over tit (phrase) /'ɑ:s əʊvə tit/
- if you go arse over tit, you fall over
in a dramatic and uncontrolled way.

*'We went ice skating last weekend
and as soon as my father-in-law got
on the ice, he went arse over tit.'*

arsehole (noun) /'ɑ:s həʊl/ -
a very rude insult for someone you
think is stupid or contemptible.

*'Melissa's boyfriend has been acting
like a complete asshole recently. I
wish she'd dump him.'*

arty-farty (adjective) /'ɑ:ti 'fɑ:ti/ -
a disapproving term for someone/
something trying too hard to be

cool/arty. It's similar to pretentious.

*'Simone is out with her arty-farty
friends tonight, so I'm staying in and
watching a film.'*

ASBO (noun) /'æzbəʊ/ -
acronym for 'anti-social behaviour
order'. A court order issued to anyone
who is causing the public harm or
annoyance.

*'He got his first ASBO when he was
14.'*

The Ashes (noun) /ði: 'æfəz/ -
a test cricket series played between
England and Australia.

*'Australia completely outplayed
England in the Ashes this year.'*

at a loose end (phrase)
/æt ə lu:s end/ -
have nothing to do.

*'I'm at a bit of a loose end this
afternoon. Do you fancy doing
something?'*

at Her Majesty's pleasure
(euphemism) -
in prison.

*'My uncle has been at Her Majesty's
pleasure for as long as I can
remember.'*

aubergine (noun) /əʊbəʒi:n/ -
a large purple vegetable.

'You'll need to buy an aubergine if you want to make baba ganoush tonight.'

Auld Reekie (noun) /əʊld 'ri:ki:/ - a nickname for Edinburgh.

'Auld Reekie means 'old smoky' in the Scots language.'

autumn (noun) /'ɔ:təm/ - the season between summer and winter (September-November in the UK).

'Autumn is a beautiful season here particularly when the leaves change colour.'

'ave it (phrase) /æv it/ - used to encourage someone to do

something or go for something (short for 'have it'). Made famous by comedian Peter Kay in an advert for John Smith's beer.

'Come on lads, let's 'ave it!'

aye (exclamation) /aɪ/ - used to say 'yes', particularly in the north of England and Scotland.

A) *'Are you coming to the party, Rob?'*
B) *'Aye, I'll be there.'*

aye up (phrase) /'eɪ ʌp/ - a greeting used mostly in the North and East Midlands to replace hello or hi.

'Aye up love, how's your day going?'

TOM'S TIPS

Aubergine is just one example of many words in English that have been borrowed from French. In fact around 30% of English is originally French. Other examples of words include 'fiancé', 'cul-de-sac' and 'omelette'.

earbashing (noun) /'iəbæʃɪŋ/ -
angry criticism said to someone.

'My boss gave me an earbashing for sending out the report without her checking it first.'

early doors (adverb) /ɜ:li 'dɔ:rz/ -
at or near to the beginning / at an early point.

'I told my boss early doors that I wouldn't be able to work over the Christmas holidays.'

East Ender (noun) /i:st 'endə/ -
someone from the East End of London.

'Even though we live in Birmingham both my parents are East Enders and we still have a lot of family living in Bethnal Green.'

easy peasy (lemon squeezy)
(phrase) /'i:zi 'pi:zi/ -
a playful/childlike way to say something is easy.

E.

'That driving theory test was easy peasy.'

eff and blind/jeff (phrase)
/ef ən blænd/ -
if you eff and blind you say swear words.

'I'm furious with Patricio! He was effing and blinding around the kids.'

effing (adjective) /'efɪŋ/ -
used to add emphasis and avoid using the F word.

'There's no effing way I'm going to their wedding after the way they treated me!'

eff off (exclamation) /'ef ɒf/ -

TOM'S TIPS

The **EPL** was founded in 1992 with Manchester United winning it a record 13 times. One of the greatest sporting shocks of all-time came in the 2015/16 season when the title was won by Leicester City.

used to tell someone to go away in a rude way (less rude than f**k off).

A) *'Joe wanted to borrow more money from me even though he hasn't paid me back for last time.'*

B) *'So what did you say to him?'*

A) *'I told him to eff off!'*

egg-chasing (noun) /'eg tʃeɪsɪŋ/ - humorous and dismissive term for rugby.

'I'm more of a football girl, I don't like all this egg-chasing nonsense.'

elevenses (noun) /ɪle'vɛnzɪz/ - a break in the late morning in which one might have a coffee or light snack. It's usually around 11 o'clock hence the name elevenses.

'I brought in some biscuits for our elevenses.'

EPL (noun) /i: pi: 'el/ - English Premier League.

'Millions of people watch the EPL all over the world.'

Essex girl (noun) /'esɪks ɡɜ:l/ - a derogatory and unfair stereotype of a young woman from the county of Essex, in which they are seen to be materialistic, lacking in taste and not very clever.

'I think it's about time people stop using the term Essex girl, it's rude and not accurate in my opinion.'

estate agent (noun) /i'steɪt eɪdʒənt/ - someone who sells houses/flats for a living.

'The estate agent who sold my house did a great job of finding the right buyer.'

estate car (noun) /i'steɪt kɑ:/ - a car with an extended boot so that you can fit more luggage in it. Considered useful for families or for people with lots of things to move.

'Since having kids we've upgraded our Mini to a Volvo estate.'

Estuary English (noun) /'estʃuəri ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ - an accent that is found in the south-

east of England around London. It's a mix of received pronunciation and cockney.

'I'd love to learn the different features of an Estuary English accent.'

euroseptic (noun) /juərəʊ, 'skeptik/
- someone who opposes Britain's involvement with the European Union.

'Even though my father was a euroseptic he always admired some of the European leaders.'

ex-council flat (noun)
/eks 'kaunsəl flæt/ -
a flat that used to belong to the local council and used for public housing but has since been bought by the tenant and is therefore privately owned. From then on it is known as 'ex-council'.

'All the properties the estate agent showed us were ex-council.'

expiry date (noun) /ik'spaɪəri deɪt/ -
the date printed on food containers that indicates the last day the food should be consumed.

'When's the expiry date on that pack of tomatoes?'

“**EASY
PEASY!**”