

## Flapperspeak: Dictionary of Words From the 1920's and 1930's

From the AACA Potpourri website and Mark McCutcheon's  
*Writer's Guide To Everyday Life From Prohibition Through World War II.*

**Ab-so-lute-ly** – affirmative

**All six, hit on** – to hit on all six cylinders, 100% percent performance

**All wet** - describes an erroneous idea or individual, as in, "he's all wet."

**And how** - I strongly agree!

**And howl** – emphatic response like, “You said it!”

**Applesauce**- an expletive same as horsefeathers, As in "Ah applesauce!"

**Attaboy** - well done!; also Attagirl!

**Baby** - sweetheart. Also denotes something of high value or respect.

**Baby vamp** – attractive female usually used by college boys – other terms include: angel, thrill, bird, live one, peach, choice bit of calico, sweet patootie, panic

**Balled Up** - confused, messed up

**Baloney** - nonsense!

**Bank's Closed** - no kissing or making out - i.e. - "Sorry, Mac, the bank's closed."

**Barb** – college student that was not part of a fraternity

**Barleycorn, John** – popular personification of bootleg alcohol – this term was used throughout Prohibition

**Barrel House** – illegal alcohol distillation plant

**Bearcat** - a hot-blooded or fiery girl

**Beat it** - scam or get lost

**Beat one's gums** - idle chatter

**Bee's knees** - extraordinary person, thing, idea; the ultimate also “Cat’s Meow”

**Beef** - a complaint or to complain

**Beeswax** - business, i.e. *None of your beeswax.*"

**Bell bottom** - a sailor

**Bent** – drunk, ossified

**Berries** - That which is attractive or pleasing; similar to bee's knees, as in "It's the berries."

**Bible Belt** - Area in the South and Midwest where Fundamentalism flourishes

**Big six** - a strong man; from auto advertising, for the new and powerful; six cylinder engines

**Bimbo** - a tough guy

**Bird** - general term for a man or woman, sometimes meaning strange or odd

**Blind Pig** – place where illegal alcohol was served, like a speakeasy. Blind Pigs had deceptive or “blank” fronts –often were in basements, behind peep-holed doors or in the back of legitimate businesses

**Blocker** –Southern term for moonshiner or bootlegger

**Blotto** – drunk, ossified, bent

**Bluenose** - An excessively puritanical person, a prude

**Bohunk**- derogatory term to describe a central European immigrant (used from 1900-1930)

**Bootleg** - illegal liquor also called busthead

**Breezer** - a convertible car

**Brown** – Bootlegger’s term for whiskey

**Brown plaid** – bootlegger’s term for Scotch

**Bubs** – women’s breasts (used as description from 1900 on)

**Bug-eyed Betty** – unattractive or unpopular girl, often this term was used by college boys – other 1920's slang include: pig’s coattail, washout, mess, flat tire, chunk of lead, crumb

**Bull** - (1) a policeman or law-enforcement officer including FBI (2) nonsense (3) to chat idly, to exaggerate

**Bull Session** - Male talkfest, gossip, stories of sexual exploits

**Bum's Rush** - ejection by force from an establishment

**Bump Off** - to murder or kill

**Bunny**- term that conveys sympathy and endearment for lost or confused person

**Bus** – old, worn out big vehicle (used from 1915 onwards)

**Bushwa** – softer version of bull shit also spelled booshwash

**Butterfly's boots, the** – anyone or anything that is great or dreamy like the cat's meow

**Cake-eater** – a ladies' man

**Canned** – drunk, ossified, bent

**Caper** - a criminal act or robbery

**Carry a torch** - To have a crush on someone

**Cash** - a kiss

**Cash or check?** - Do you kiss now or later?

**Cast a kitten** – to have a fit

**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 or cat's whiskers or gnat's eyebrows

**Chase yourself, go** -get lost (from 1900 onwards)

**Chassis** - the female body from 1930

**Cheaters** - Eyeglasses

**Check** - kiss me later

**Chewing gum** – double talk

**Copacetic** - Wonderful, fine, all right

**Coffin varnish** – bootleg or homemade alcohol, also called horse liniment, stuff, and tarantula juice

**Crush** - An infatuation

**Daddy** - a young woman's boyfriend or lover, especially if he's rich

**Dame** - a female (term used since 1900, gained wide use in the 1930's and 1940's)

**Dapper** - a Flapper's dad

**Darb** - An excellent person or thing (as in "the Darb" - a person with money who can be relied on to pay the check)

**Dead soldier** - an empty beer bottle

**Deb** – a debutante

**Dick** - a private investigator

**Doll** - an attractive woman

**Dolled up** - dressed up

**Dope** - drugs

**Double-cross** - to cheat, stab in the back

**Dough** - money

**Drag** – college dance

**Dry** – person who is against drinking and for Prohibition

**Dry up** - shut up, get lost

**Dumb Dora** - a stupid female also called Dumbbell

**Earful** - enough

**Eel's hips** – variation of cat's meow

**Edge** - intoxication, a buzz

**Egg** - a person who lives the big life

Ethel – effeminate man

Fag – before 1920, a cigarette, after 1920, a cigarette or effeminate man

Fella - guy

Fire extinguisher - a chaperone

Fish -(1) a college freshman also can be a first timer in prison

Flapper –free-spirited young woman

Flat tire – a dull, insipid, disappointing date. Also known as a pill, pickle, drag, rag, oil can

Flivver - a Model T; after 1928, could mean any old broken down car

Flapper - A stylish, brash, hedonistic young woman with short skirts & shorter hair

Fly boy - a glamorous term for an aviator

Fried – drunk, ossified, bent

Frosh –first year student at college

Gay - happy

Giggle water - an intoxicating beverage; alcohol

Gin mill - An establishment where hard liquor is sold; bar

Glad rags - "going out on the town" clothes

Gold digger - A woman who associates with or marries a man for his wealth

Goods, the – the desired material

Goof – stupid bumbling person

Goon - hoodlum

Hair of the dog - a shot of alcohol

Half seas over – thoroughly drunk also known as “half under”

Heel – scoundrel

He-man - a masculine man

Hayburner - (1) a gas guzzling car (2) a horse one loses money on

Heebie-jeebies - The jitters, anxiety

High-hat - To snub or a snob

Hip – savvy –used since 1915

Hip flask – small container used to carry alcohol, hidden by the hip or in a big pocket –fad item in 1920's

Hit on all sixes - to perform 100 per cent; as "hitting on all six cylinders"

Hokey-Pokey – inexpensive candy or ice cream for children

Hooch - Bootleg liquor

Hooey - nonsense

Hoofer - Dancer

Horsefeathers - an expletive; same usage as applesauce

Hotsy - totsy - pleasing

Hurdy-gurdy – a hand organ often played in the streets

It - sex appeal

Iron - a motorcycle

Jack - money

Jake – all is okay, as in, "Everything is Jake."

Jalopy - Old car

Jane - any female

Java - coffee

Jitney - a car employed as a private bus. Fare was usually five cents; also called a "nickel"

**Joe** - coffee

**Joe Brooks** – someone who is fashionably dressed

**Joe Zilch** – any male college student also known as Joe College or Joe Yale

**John** - a toilet

**Joint** - an establishment

**Juice joint** - a speakeasy

**Joint** - A club, usually selling alcohol, also called speakeasy, club, juice joint

**Kale** - money

**Keen** - Attractive or appealing

**Knock-up** – get pregnant not on purpose

**Know One's Onions** – know what you are talking about

**Lady legger** – female bootlegger

**Lam, on the** – running away from the police

**Lay off** – knock it off

**Level with me** - be honest

**Line** - Insincere flattery

**Live wire** - a lively person - wild

**Milquetoast** – timid, mild person

**Mind your own potatoes**- mind your own business

**Moonshine** – bootleg alcohol

**Neck** - Kissing with passion

**Nifty** - great, excellent

**Ofay** – African American term to describe white people

**Old Boy** – male term to address other men also “Old man”

**On the lam** - fleeing from police

**On the level** - legitimate, honest

**On the up and up** - on the level

**Ossified** - a drunk person

**Owl** - a person who's out late

**Palooka** (1) a below-average or average boxer (2) a social outsider, from the comic strip character Joe Palooka

**Pet** - Same as neck, but more so

**Piker** - (1) a cheapskate (2) a coward

**Pill** - (1) a teacher (2) an unlikable person

**Pin** – announce an engagement or agreement to be serious by giving or receiving a sweetheart's fraternity pin

**Pinch** - To arrest

**Pinko** – liberal

**Pip** – extraordinary person or thing, sometimes used sarcastically

**Prom-trotter** – gregarious student who attends school social functions and likes to dance

**Putting on the Ritz** - after the Ritz hotel in Paris; doing something in high style

**Quiff** – cheap prostitute

**Rag-a-muffin** - a dirty or disheveled individual

**Razz-** to make fun of or take the piss out of, heckle

**Ritzy** - Elegant (from the hotel)

**Rub** – student dance party

**Rube** – hick

**Rummy** – drunk, alcoholic

**Rush** – try to get into a fraternity

**Sap** - a fool

**Says you** - a reaction of disbelief

**Scratch** – money

**See a man about a dog, have to** – phrase to describe “I need to leave now”, often referring to foing out and buying bootleg whiskey

**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)

**Shiv** - a knife

**Sinker** - a doughnut

**Sitting pretty** – in a great position

**Snake’s hips** – cat’s whiskers or bee’s knees

**Snoot full, have a** – to be drunk

**Snuggle pup** – teenager term for a sweetheart who likes to cuddle

**Sockdollager** – knock out punch

**So’s Your Old Man** – reply showing irritation from 1915 onwards

**Speakeasy** – Irish word to describe an illicit, undercover bar selling bootleg liquor also called blind pig and scatter

**Spifflicated** - Drunk. The same as canned, corked, tanked, primed, scrooched, jazzed, zozzled, plastered, owled, embalmed, lit, potted, ossified or fried to the hat

**Spoon** - to neck, or at least talk of love

**Stuck On** – infatuated, in love with

**Struggle buggy** - the backseat of a car (where young couples made out)

**Stuck On** - Having a crush on

**Swanky** - Ritzy

**Swell** - Wonderful. Also: a rich man – more in later 1930’s

**Talkies** – movies with sound

**Tin Pan Alley** - the music industry in New York, located between 48th and 52nd street

**Tomato** - a female

**Toot, on a** – drinking spree

**Up and up** – on the level, legitimate

**Wet** – stupid, unsophisticated also can be someone who is against Prohibition and for the legalization of alcohol

**Wet Blanket** - a solemn person, a killjoy

**Whisper Sister** – female proprietor of a speakeasy

**Whoopee** - To have a good time

**Wife** – affectionate term to describe college dorm roommate

**Wooden nickels, don’t take any** – a fad expression of 1920, that meant “don’t do anything stupid – take care of yourself.”

## **TERMS FOR DRUNKENNESS**

Bleary-eyed, bent, blind, blotto, boiled, boiled as an owl, burning with a blue flame, canned, corked, corned, crocked, edged, embalmed, fried, four sheets in the wind, full, ginned, half-cocked, half seas over, half-screwed, half-shot, happy, high, hoary-eyed, jazzed, jingle, lathered, liquored, lit, lit up like a Christmas tree, lit up like a store window, lit up like the commonwealth, loaded, loaded for beer, loaded to the muzzle, lubricated, oiled, over the bay, ossified, owled, paralyzed, plastered, pie-eyed, pickled, piffed, piped, polluted, potted, primed, saturated, slopped, sloppy, stiff, stinko, soused, squiffy, stewed, sprung, tanked, tight, lit, under the table, wall-eyed, wet, woozy

# 1920's Slang Dictionary

## A

**Alderman:** A man's pot-belly.  
**Ameche:** Telephone  
**Ankle:** (n) Woman; (v) To walk

## B

**Babe:** Woman  
**Baby:** A person, can be said to either a man or a woman  
**Bangtails:** Racehorses  
**Barber:** Talk  
**Be on the nut:** To be broke  
**Bean-shooter:** Gun  
**Beef:** Problem  
**Bee's Knees:** An extraordinary person, thing or idea.  
**Beezer:** Nose  
**Behind the eight ball:** In a difficult position, in a tight spot  
**Bent Cars:** Stolen cars  
**Big Cheese, Big Shot - The boss:** Someone of importance and influence  
**Big House:** Jail  
**Big One:** Death  
**Big Sleep:** Death  
**Bim:** Woman  
**Bindle:** the bundle in which a hobo carries all his worldly possessions  
**Bindle punk or bindle stiff:** Chronic wanderers, migratory harvest workers, and lumber jacks.  
**Bing:** Jailhouse talk for solitary confinement  
**Bird:** Man  
**Bit:** Prison sentence  
**Blip off:** To kill  
**Blow:** Leave  
**Blow one down:** Kill someone  
**Blower:** Telephone  
**Bluenose:** A prude.  
**Bo:** Pal, buster, fellow.  
**Boiler:** Car  
**Boob:** Dumb guy  
**Boozehound:** Drunkard  
**Bop:** To kill  
**Box:** A safe or a bar  
**Box job:** A safecracking  
**Brace (somebody):** Grab, shake up  
**Bracelets:** Handcuffs  
**Break it up:** Stop that, quit the nonsense  
**Breeze:** To leave, breeze off: get lost  
**Broad:** Woman  
**Bruno:** Tough guy, enforcer  
**Bucket:** Car  
**Bulge, The:** The advantage

**Bulls:** Plainclothes railroad cops; uniformed police; prison guards  
**Bum's rush, To get the:** To be kicked out  
**Bump:** Kill  
**Bump Gums:** To talk about nothing worthwhile  
**Bump off:** Kill; also, bump-off: a killing  
**Burn powder:** Fire a gun  
**Bus:** Big car  
**Butter and egg man:** The money man, the man with the bankroll, a yokel who comes to town to blow a big wad in nightclubs  
**Button:** Face, nose, end of jaw  
**Button man:** Professional killer  
**Buttons:** Police  
**Butts:** Cigarettes  
**Buzz:** Looks person up, comes to persons door  
**Buzzer:** Policeman's badge

## C

**C:** \$100, a pair of Cs = \$200  
**Cabbage:** Money  
**Caboose:** Jail  
**Call copper:** Inform the police  
**Can:** Jail, Car  
**Can house:** Bordello  
**Can-opener:** Safecracker who opens cheap safes  
**Canary:** Woman singer  
**Carry a Torch:** Suffering from an unrequited love.  
**Case dough:** Nest egg  
**Cat:** Man  
**Cat's Meow:** Something splendid or stylish  
**Cat's Pajamas:** term of endearment as in "I think you are really really cool".  
**Century:** \$100  
**Cheaters:** Sunglasses  
**Cheese it:** Put things away, hide  
**Chew:** Eat  
**Chicago lightning:** gunfire  
**Chicago overcoat:** Coffin  
**Chick:** Woman  
**Chilled off:** Killed  
**Chin:** Conversation; **chinning:** talking  
**Chin music:** Punch on the jaw  
**Chinese squeeze:** Grafting by skimming profits off the top  
**Chippy:** Woman of easy virtue  
**Chisel:** To swindle or cheat  
**Chiv:** Knife, "a stabbing or cutting weapon"  
**Chopper squad:** Men with machine guns  
**Chump:** person marked for a con or a gullible person.  
**Clammed:** Close-mouthed (clammed up)  
**Clean sneak:** An escape with no clues left behind  
**Clip joint:** In some cases, a nightclub where the prices are high and the patrons are fleeced  
**Clipped:** Shot



**Close your head:** Shut up  
**Clout:** Shoplifter  
**Clubhouse:** Police station  
**Con:** Confidence game, swindle  
**Conk:** Head  
**Cool:** To knock out  
**Cooler:** Jail  
**Cop:** Detective, even a private one  
**Copped, to be:** Grabbed by the cops  
**Copper:** Policeman  
**Corn:** Bourbon ("corn liquor")  
**Crab:** Figure out  
**Crate:** Car  
**Croak:** To kill  
**Croaker:** Doctor  
**Crush:** An infatuation.  
**Crushed out:** Escaped (from jail)  
**Cut down:** Killed

## D

**Daisy:** None too masculine  
**Dame:** Woman  
**Dance:** To be hanged  
**Dangle:** Leave, get lost  
**Daylight, as in "fill him with daylight":** Put a hole in, by shooting or stabbing  
**Deck, as in "deck of Luckies":** Pack of cigarettes  
**Derrick:** Shoplifter  
**Dib:** Share (of the proceeds)  
**Dick:** Detective (usually qualified with "private" if not a policeman)  
**Dingus:** Thing  
**Dip:** Pickpocket  
**Dip the bill:** Have a drink  
**Dish:** Pretty woman  
**Dive:** A low-down, cheap sort of place  
**Dizzy with a dame, To be:** To be deeply in love with a woman  
**Do the dance:** To be hanged  
**Dogs:** Feet  
**Dope fiend:** Drug addict  
**Dope peddler:** Drug dealer  
**Dough:** Money  
**Drift:** Go, leave  
**Drill:** Shoot  
**Drop a dime:** Make a phone call, sometimes meaning to the police to inform on someone  
**Droppers:** Hired killers  
**Drum:** Speakeasy  
**Dry-gulch:** Knock out, hit on head after ambushing  
**Duck soup:** Easy, a piece of cake  
**Dummerer:** Someone who pretends to be deaf and/or dumb to appear a more deserving beggar  
**Dump:** Roadhouse, club; or, more generally, any place  
**Dust out:** Leave, depart

## E

**Egg:** Man

**Electric cure:** Electrocutation

**Elephant ears:** Police

## F

**Fade:** Go away, get lost

**Fakeloo artist:** Con man

**Fella:** a man

**Fin:** \$5 bill

**Finder:** Finger man

**Finger, Put the finger on:** Identify

**Flaming Youth:** Male counterpart to a flapper.

**Flapper:** A stylish, brash young woman with short skirts and shorter hair.

**Flat Tire:** A dull-witted or disappointing date.

**Flattie:** Flatfoot, cop

**Flimflam:** Swindle

**Flippers:** Hands

**Flivver:** A Ford automobile

**Flogger:** Overcoat

**Flop:** Go to bed or fallen through, not worked out

**Flophouse:** A cheap transient hotel where a lot of men sleep in large rooms

**Fog:** To shoot

**Frail:** Woman

**Frau:** Wife

**Fry:** To be electrocuted

**Fuzz:** police

## G

**Gal:** Woman

**Gams:** A Woman's Legs

**Gasper:** Cigarette

**Gat:** Gun

**Get Sore:** Get mad

**Getaway sticks:** Legs

**Giggle juice:** Liquor

**Giggle Water:** Liquor

**Gin mill:** Bar

**Glad rags:** Fancy clothes

**Glaum:** Steal

**Goofy:** Crazy

**Goog:** Black eye

**Goon:** Thug

**Gooseberry lay:** Stealing clothes from a clothesline

**Gowed-up:** On dope, high

**Grab (a little) air:** Put your hands up

**Graft:** Con jobs or cut of the take

**Grand:** \$1000

**Grift:** Confidence game, swindle  
**Grifter:** Con man  
**Grilled:** Questioned  
**Gumshoe:** Detective  
**Gumshoeing:** Detective work  
**Gun for:** Look for, be after  
**Guns:** Pickpockets, Hoodlums  
**Guy:** a man

## H

**Hack:** Taxi  
**Half, a:** 50 cents  
**Hard:** Tough  
**Harlem Sunset:** Some sort fatal injury caused by knife  
**Hash House:** A cheap restaurant  
**Hatchet men:** Killers, gunmen  
**Have the Bees:** To be rich  
**Head doctors:** Psychiatrists  
**Heap:** Car  
**Heat:** Police  
**Heater:** gun  
**Heebie-Jeebies:** The jitters.  
**Heeled:** Carrying a gun  
**High-Hat:** To snub.  
**High Pillow:** Person at the top, in charge  
**Highbinders:** Corrupt politician or functionary  
**Hinky:** Suspicious  
**Hitting the pipe:** Smoking opium  
**Hitting on all eight:** In good shape, going well  
**Hock shop:** Pawnshop  
**Hogs:** Engines  
**Hombre:** Man, fellow  
**Hooch:** Liquor  
**Hood:** Criminal  
**Hooper:** Dancer.  
**Hoosgow:** Jail  
**Horn:** Telephone  
**Hot:** Stolen  
**Hotsy-Totsy:** Pleasing.  
**House dick:** House/hotel detective  
**House peeper:** House/hotel detective  
**Hype:** Shortchange artist

## I

**Ice :** Diamonds  
**Ing-bing,** as in to throw an: A fit  
**Iron:** A car

## J

**Jack:** Money

**Jalopy:** An old car.

**Jam:** Trouble, a tight spot

**Jane:** A woman

**Java:** Coffee

**Jaw:** Talk

**Jerking a nod:** Nodding

**Jingle-brained:** Addled

**Jobbie:** Man

**Joe:** Coffee, as in "a cup of joe"

**Johns:** Police

**Johnson brother:** Criminal

**Joint:** Place, as in "my joint"

**Juice:** Interest on a loanshark's loan

**Jug:** Jail

**Jump, The:** A hanging

## K

**Kale:** Money

**Keen:** Attractive or appealing.

**Kick off:** Die

**Kiss:** To punch

**Kisser:** Mouth

**Kitten:** Woman

**Knock off:** Kill

## L

**Lammed off:** Ran away, escaped

**Large:** \$1,000; twenty large would be \$20,000

**Law, the:** The police

**Lead:** "fill ya full of lead": the term used for bullets

**Lead poisoning:** To be shot

**Lettuce:** Folding money

**Lid:** Hat

**Line:** Insincere flattery.

**Lip:** (Criminal) lawyer

**Looker:** Pretty woman

**Look-out:** Outside man

**Lousy with:** To have lots of

## M

**Mac:** a man

**Made:** Recognized

**Map:** Face

**Marbles:** Pearls

**Mark:** Sucker, victim of swindle or fixed game

**Maroon:** person marked for a con or a gullible person.

**Meat wagon:** Ambulance  
**Mickey Finn:** A drink drugged with knock-out drops  
**Mill:** Typewriter  
**Mitt:** Hand  
**Mob:** Gang (not necessarily Mafia)  
**Mohaska:** Gun  
**Moll:** Girlfriend  
**Monicker:** Name  
**Mouthpiece:** Lawyer  
**Mugs:** Men (especially refers to dumb ones)

## N

**Nailed:** Caught by the police  
**Nevada gas:** Cyanide  
**Newshawk:** Reporter  
**Newsie:** Newspaper vendor  
**Nibble one:** To have a drink  
**Nicked:** Stole  
**Nippers:** Handcuffs  
**Noodle:** Head  
**Number:** A person

## O

**Off the track,** said about a person who becomes insanely violent  
**Op:** Detective  
**Orphan paper:** Bad checks  
**Out on the roof:** To drink a lot, to be drunk  
**Oyster fruit:** Pearls

## P

**Packing Heat:** carrying a gun  
**Pal:** a man  
**Palooka:** Man, probably not very smart  
**Pan:** Face  
**Paste:** Punch  
**Patsy:** Person who is set up; fool, chump  
**Paw:** Hand  
**Peaching:** Informing  
**Peeper:** Detective  
**Peepers:** Eyes  
**Pen:** Penitentiary, jail  
**Peterman:** Safecracker who uses nitroglycerin  
**Piece:** Gun  
**Pigeon:** Stool-pigeon  
**Pinch:** An arrest, capture  
**Pins:** Legs  
**Pipe:** See or notice  
**Pipes:** Throat

**Plant:** Someone on the scene but in hiding, Bury  
**Plug:** Shoot  
**Plugs:** People  
**Poke:** Bankroll, stake  
**Pooped:** Killed  
**Pop:** Kill  
**Pro skirt:** Prostitute  
**Puffing:** Mugging  
**Pug:** Pugilist, boxer  
**Pump:** Heart  
**Pump metal:** Shoot bullets  
**Punk:** Hood, thug  
**Pushover:** A person easily convinced of something.  
**Puss:** Face  
**Put down:** Drink  
**Put the screws on:** Question, get tough with

## R

**Rags:** Clothes  
**Ranked:** Observed, watched, given the once-over  
**Rap:** Criminal charge  
**Rappers:** Fakes, set-ups  
**Rat:** Inform  
**Rate:** To be good, to count for something  
**Rats and mice:** Dice, i.e. craps  
**Rattler:** Train  
**Red-light:** To eject from a car or train  
**Redhot:** Some sort of criminal  
**Reefers:** Marijuana cigarettes  
**Rhino:** Money  
**Right:** Adjective indicating quality  
**Ringers:** Fakes  
**Ritzy:** Elegant.  
**Rod:** Gun  
**Roscoe:** Gun  
**Rub-out:** A killing  
**Rube:** Bumpkin, easy mark  
**Rumble, the:** The news

## S

**Sap:** A dumb guy  
**Sap poison:** Getting hit with a sap  
**Savvy:** Get me? Understand?  
**Sawbuck:** \$10 bill (a double sawbuck is a \$20 bill)  
**Schnozzle:** Nose  
**Scram out:** Leave  
**Scratch:** Money  
**Scratcher:** Forger  
**Send over:** Send to jail

**Shamus:** (Private) detective  
**Sharper:** A swindler or sneaky person  
**Sheba:** A woman with sex appeal  
**Sheik:** A man with sex appeal  
**Shells:** Bullets  
**Shiv:** Knife  
**Shylock:** Loanshark  
**Shyster:** Lawyer  
**Sing:** Make a confession  
**Sister:** Woman  
**Skate around:** To be of easy virtue  
**Skid rogue:** A bum who can't be trusted  
**Skirt:** Woman  
**Slant, Get a:** Take a look  
**Sleuth:** Detective  
**Slug:** a bullet or to knock unconscious  
**Smoked:** Drunk  
**Snap a cap:** Shout  
**Snatch:** Kidnap  
**Sneeze:** Take  
**Snitch:** An informer, or to inform  
**Snooper:** Detective  
**Speakeasy:** An illicit bar selling bootleg liquor.  
**Spiffy:** Looking elegant  
**Soak:** To pawn  
**Sock:** Punch  
**Soup:** Nitroglycerine  
**Soup job:** To crack a safe using nitroglycerine  
**Spill:** Talk, inform  
**Spinach:** Money  
**Spitting:** Talking  
**Square:** Honest  
**Squeeze:** a female companion or girlfriend.  
**Squirt metal:** Shoot bullets  
**Step off:** To be hanged  
**Stiff:** A corpse  
**Sting:** Culmination of a con game  
**Stool-pigeon:** Informer  
**Stoolie:** Stool-pigeon  
**Stuck On:** Having a crush on  
**Sucker:** Someone ripe for a grifter's scam  
**Sugar:** Money  
**Swanky:** Ritzy  
**Swell:** Wonderful

## T

**Tail:** Shadow or follow

**Take a powder:** Leave

**Take on:** Eat

**Take for a Ride:** Drive off with someone in order to bump them off

**Take the air:** Leave

**Take the bounce:** To get kicked out

**Take the fall for:** Accept punishment for

**That's the crop:** That's all of it

**Three-spot:** Three-year jail term

**Throw lead:** Shoot bullets

**Ticket:** P.I. license

**Tiger milk:** Some sort of liquor

**Tighten the screws:** Put pressure on somebody

**Tin:** Badge

**Tip a few:** To have a few drinks

**Tomato:** Pretty woman

**Tooting the wrong ringer:** Asking the wrong person

**Torpedoes:** Gunmen

**Trap:** Mouth

**Trigger man:** Man whose job is to use a gun

**Trouble boys:** Gangsters

**Twist:** Woman

**Two bits:** \$25, or 25 cents

## U

**Under glass:** In jail

## W

**Weak sister:** A push-over

**Wear iron:** Carry a gun

**Wise head:** A smart person

**Wooden kimono:** A coffin

**Wop:** derogatory term for an Italian

**Worker, as in "She sizes up as a worker":** A woman who takes a guy for his money

**Wrong gee:** Not a good fellow

**Wrong number:** Not a good fellow

## Y

**Ya Follow:** do you understand?

**Yap:** Mouth

**Yard:** \$100

**Yegg:** Safecracker who can only open cheap and easy safes

## Z

**Zotzed:** Killed