



Eighties Slang

Sayings and such to help you through the night at your prom!

A

- adult child** Word(s) to describe grown-up children from dysfunctional families.
- airhead** A stupid or unaware person; moron, dim-wit. Origin: term implies that there is nothing but air in the subject's head. ("He's confused again. What an airhead!") Unrenowned to popular belief, Valley Girls did not invent this word. It was used to describe them.
- as if** I'd rather not. "Hey why don't you go out with that guy in the Izod shirt?" "AS IF!"
- awesome** a. 1. Causing awe; appalling; awful; as, an awesome sight. In the 80's, if something was cool, it was awesome. See also bad.

B

- bad** adj. very good, excellent; Cool, Awesome. See also awesome.
- bad to the bone** The group George Thorogood & the Destroyers had a hit in the early 80's that had started this quote. The movie Fast Times At Ridgmont High was bad to the bone! See also bad.
- barf bag** A type of insult. Something Jo on The Facts of Life might of called Blair for spilling something on her homework.
- barf me out** You might of heard this come from a Valley Girl after you've said something offensive to her. Also used to describe something you do not particularly like.
- bimbette** The use of bimbo would of been too outdated for use in the 80's. Bimbette would be used instead of calling a girl a "slut". Also used to describe a girl who is stupid.
- bodacious** An 80's guy's way to describe a woman who had a beautiful body. She is bodacious with gnarly ta-tas. See also gnarly & ta-tas for descriptions.
- bogus/bogue** Unfair or unfortunate. Having one night to do a term paper is so bogus!
- bonus** Used to denote satisfaction or one's approval. ie. "My parents are going away next weekend, I'm throwing a party!" "Bonus!"
- boinking** Having sex. Some say Bruce Willis's character on Moonlighting created this word.
- boho** A bohemian or artist. From the late 80's this word emerged. Probably from the Soho art district in Manhattan.
- bomb** Adj. Something favorable. See also awesome.
- boy toy** A word to describe a cute guy used as a toy for older woman. Madonna invented this one with her "Boy Toy" belt on her 1984 Like a Virgin album.

butt ugly Adj. Unattractive to the sight.



Totally Rad 80s Prom Gone Bad



C

- cap** As in to “cap” on someone. Meaning to insult.
- case** As in “casing on a person.” Meaning to insult.
- cheesy/cheezy** Adj. 1. In poor taste; lame, corny. The gift I received was really cheesy. 2. Overly sentimental or insincere.
- chill** v 1. to relax; hang out. Let’s go chill at your place. Dude, just chill. Made popular by black Americans in the rap phase of the 80’s.
- chocoholic** Word to describe an alcoholic. Became a somewhat popular word during the Nancy Reagan “Just Say No” era.
- clydesdale** Big, all-American boy. Meant as a word of praise. Usually used by mid-80’s preppy girls.
- cocooning** The act of fixing up your home. Investing in it for the long-term. Poor people make rent or mortgage payments, yuppies cocoon.
- cool beans** Agreeable.
- couch potato** Someone who sits in front of the TV on their couch or sofa. With the boom of cable, MTV and home video, more people parked their butts on their couches. Hence the term couch potato.
- crack** The most addictive form of cocaine. Not in the form of powder, but crystallized into a hardened form used to smoke. Popularized in 1985.

D

- def** Something very hip. ie. “That jam was def.”
- deep house** House music with a gospel flair. See also house music.
- deep shit** Word meaning you were in trouble. We are in deep shit!
- dink** Two incomes with no kids. A couple of yuppies with lots of money to burn.
- dipstick** n An unintelligent person; moron, dim-wit; idiot. Popularized by “Boss Hogg” on TV’s The Dukes of Hazzard. Also used instead of using the word dick. See also dick/dickbrain/dick-head.
- ditz** A less harsh way of describing a person who is not very smart. See also airhead.
- do lunch** One of the most used phrases in the 80’s. Notoriously used by yuppies to get together for power lunches or mixing lunch with business. Lets do lunch. One of the few surviving phrases of the 80’s ,used in the 90’s and possibly beyond!
- do the nasty** Having sex. They were doing the nasty last night when I tried to call her.
- do/doing the wild thing** To have sex. Popularized by Ton Loc’s 1989 hit “Wild Thing”. Not used too often today. See also do the nasty and boinking.
- dweeb** Geek, nerd. Someone who is not “in”.



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E

- eat my shorts** Phrase used as a comeback. Heavily in use in the 80's and also used on TV's The Simpsons. If someone was to put you down in anyway, you can reply with this phrase.
- ecstasy/X/XTC** "Designer drug" used to enhance sensations while dancing. Gained popularity in the early 80's. This drug is still popular if not more popular throughout the 90's among teens and young adults on the party scene.
- eurotrash** Europeans who were rich that frequented the club scene in the early to mid 80's.

F

- for sure/fer shur** To stress what you are saying. Usually in a valley type accent. Fer shur, fer shur dude!
- fresh** Cool, new. Duran Duran's new album is so fresh!

G

- gag me with a spoon** A typical Valley Girl response to something you dislike. Not meant to be taken literally.
- galpal** A spin on boy toy, used to describe a guy's girlfriend or a girl's girlfriend. Also used to describe a woman who is not openly gay.
- gnarly** Very good. Not commonly used today. She is gnarly!
- grody** Really, really gross. Sometimes used with: Grody to the max! Max being a degree of grossness.
- gross out/grotesque** To make someone sick. Most of the time - not literally.

H

- hacker** Computer genius. In WarGames, Mathew Broderick played a hacker.
- have a cow** Being overly excited or to make a big deal out of something.
- hellacious** Bad, not good.
- hosier** Loser, jerk. Rob Moranis & Dave Thomas as "Bob and Doug McKenzie" made this a popular slang word. See also take off/take off to the great white north.
- house music** Disco type dance music, very repetitive. See also acid house and deep house.

I

- ill** Uncool, unhip. "You be illin". Sometimes used if someone looks under the weather, unhappy or even if they have suffered a catastrophe.

"In your dreams!" A phrase used usually when a person totally disagrees with something someone said.

J

- joanie** A boring, not-so-hip girl. From the 70s and 80s show Happy Days, Erin Moran, the character of Joanie Cunningham the unhip girl of the 50s.

"Just Say No" First Lady, Nancy Reagan's slogan of the early 80's. Sometimes thought of as an oversimplified slogan aimed to teach kids not to use drugs.



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L

- lame** Used to describe something or someone who is not cool or acceptable.
- like** A word used before every sentence in the 80's. "Like, are you going to the prom?"

M

- major** To stress something you say, immensely. "You are a major dipstick, Major!"
- mall chick** Girl who spends most of her time at the mall. Big meeting place of the 80's.
- Mint** adj; Meaning perfect; Awesome; beautiful; i.e. "That chick is mint!"
- Moldy** Meaning if one does something stupid or embarrassing they feel moldy "you feel moldy" Can also be used as "you feel Molded".

N

- "Not even!"** Used when someone says something you don't like or disagree with.
- networking** To meet well-connected people at parties. Sometimes old friends and most of the time, new people. A way for yuppies to get ahead and make connections.
- new wave** A type of heavily synthesized pop music performed by groups like A Flock of Seagulls, Duran Duran, The Busboys, Thompson Twins and Eurasure. A form of disco that had an essence of the future. This spun off people who dressed "new wave". Lots of mouse or gel in the hair, makeup on the face, loud colors, etc.

O

- o-rama** Suffix you affix to a word to describe the whole spectrum of the meaning. "He is a Dweeb-o-rama". Meaning, you are describing someone that is every sense of that word.
- out the door** A suffix used at the end of a phrase. "Gag me out the door." Meaning, something gaged them so much they had to leave the room.

P

- paninaro** Italian slang for a person or persons who are fashion conscious. Came from the Pet Shop Boys with their song "Paninaro".
- party hearty/party hardy** To party excessively.
- PC** 1. Personal Computer (early 80s) 2. Political correctness.
- pencil you in** To tentively set an appointment with someone. If you were not sure you will make the appointment, you would say, "I'll pencil you in, just in case something comes up".
- Phat** To be phat is a good thing. If someone says you are phat, it doesn't mean you are overweight. Sort of like telling someone they are bad. A term still used today. See also bad.
- Pisser/Pissa** Funny; Hilarious; "He's a pissa".
- Poser** A 'wannabe' spin off
- preppie/preppy** A collegiate type, someone who wore Polo or Izod shirts, deck shoes and a cloth belt. Preppies usually grew up to be yuppies. See also yuppies.
- psych** A term meaning "gotcha"! Psych was usually used after telling someone something not true.



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R

- rad/radical** If something is rad, it's not only attractive, it's attractive immensely.
- rap** Speaking or singing rhythmically over a beat in the background. One who raps is a rapper.
- rush/head rush** Big thrill. "That roller coaster was such a head rush!"

S

- Sex, drugs and rock 'n roll!** This phrase may not of been coined in the 80's, but it sure was used often enough.
- slamdance** Punk teens throwing themselves while "dancing", trying to harm either themselves or others for enjoyment. The same sort of dancing resides today in mosh pits.
- spazzing** Overly excited. An exaggeration of being excited.
- stoked** To be ready to do something.
- stud** A macho guy, man or teenager. Guys used to call each other studs as well as woman referring to a good looking guy as a stud. Also used to describe a man who is sexually active.

T

- to the max** To the extreme. Taking it to the max or maximum level.
- totally** Another way to stress what one is saying. "That is totally tubular". -or- "School is totally uncool".
- tubular** Something that is cool. Something overwhelming. "Tubular, totally tubular."

V

- Valley Girl/Val** Airheaded, spoiled girls in California's San Fernando Valley. Later, valley girl talk or valspeak inhabited the 80s across America. A Valley Girl would of said something like: "That stud is like, omygod, so rad!"
- veg** Term used to describe chilling out or taking it easy. Derived from the word vegetable or someone who is paralyzed. A couch potato would be a veg. See also couch potato.

W

- wannabe** A person who would like to be like someone else. Usually a pop star or a person in the public eye. There were lots of Madonna wannabe's in the mid-80s.
- wicked** Another word for good, radical or bad. See radical and bad. "She is wicked nice."
- word** Adjective; Very cool or wicked. "That movie was word!" "Truth". Something you said when you would agree with someone.
- word-up** Another variant of "word".
- word to your mother** And yet another variant of word and word-up; something that is true or a way to express that you agree with something someone said or done.

Y

- yuppie** Young urban professional -or- young upwardly mobile professional. A well educated, career oriented, almost always white and driven by lots of money. This person is also into the social scene especially if it could better their business or career.

