

Pardon me?

By Cinnamon West

Don't beat yourself up over slang terms you don't understand, neologisms pop up all the time but do we truly know what they mean? Furthermore, do we know their etymology? Many of the new slang terms we use today have origins that may shock us. Here's a list to help you stay current with your friends and annoy everyone else.

Slang will always be a part of the language as long as people speak. But, let's not forget to research the definitions of the words. While slang may be fun, some terms have been around a lot longer than we realize and may not be as new as we think. Try asking your parents or grandparents what some of these words mean and you may be surprised to hear some of their answers.

"Merked" or "Murked" is not the nicest word, but it has several definitions. It can mean anything from being intoxicated or being defeated, but more frequently it is associated with someone who has lost a physical fight, been hurt or trash talked by somebody else. This word's origin is unknown, but its use is growing in popularity.

"YOLO" has picked up since the well-known rapper Drake start-

ed using it. It simply means "you only live once" and refers to taking a risk or questioning a situation. YOLO is the younger cousin of the Latin term "Carpe Diem" which means to seize the day.

"Ratchet" refers to when someone/ or something is rude, loud or obnoxious--someone who is acting classless. This word can be used to refer to anything from a person to an environment, as well as a car or job. Ratchet has taken the place of "ghetto" and has found its way into mainstream media.

"Flex" or "Flexin" originated in the urban community, and has been used for quite some time. It means to show off your assets or to pretend to have assets to show off.

"Swag" or "Swagger" this one may shock you. The term swag was invented in the early 60's by a group of homosexual men in Hollywood. It stands for 'secretly we are gay' and was most frequently used as code on posters announcing gay orgies. The new meaning for this word, however, is being or having something that is cool or unique.

"Cray" or "cray-cray" Surprisingly the term "Cray" is actually not a shortened form of "crazy." It is not even spelled "cray." It's actually spelled "Kray," in reference to the schizophrenic twins Ronald and Reginald Kray. The Kray twins were murderers in London in the 50's and 60's. That noted, today, this word usually means that something is out of control or wild.

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