

What is slang?

Slang words and expressions are only found in **informal language**. Slang includes rude words and words used with special informal meanings. For example, if you say that something is *bad* or *wicked*, meaning that it is 'good', then you are using slang. Slang also includes words used informally by a particular group of people or in particular situations, such as *flame*, which is computing slang for an e-mail sent to annoy or provoke someone.

When should you use slang?

It is important not to use slang when you need to be formal, for example in school essays, or in job applications, and it is polite not to use slang when you know that the person you are talking to will not understand what you are saying. For example, it is polite not to use *wicked* to mean 'good' if you're talking to an elderly person.