

street talk

a dictionary in progress

Compiled and edited by

David Blandy

Wayne Louis

Kusu Biti

Shauna Davis

Leon Emmanuel

Peter Emmanuel

Linda Ibrahim

Kamara Lionel

and Daniel Registe

This dictionary is part of ***Backslang***, an Artangel Interaction project by artist David Blandy and young people from The Avenues Youth Project, Queen's Park, London.

It accompanies their film ***Ya Get Me?*** (2003), a documentary investigating street talk and underground language in West London.

Abbreviations

<i>a.</i>	adjective
<i>adv.</i>	adverb
<i>arch.</i>	archaic, old-fashioned, historical, etc.
<i>cf.</i>	compare
<i>der.</i>	derivative, etc.
<i>derog.</i>	derogatory, etc.
<i>esp.</i>	especially
<i>ex.</i>	example
<i>i.</i>	intransitive
<i>int.</i>	interjection
<i>lit.</i>	literally
<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>pl.</i>	plural
<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>s.</i>	singular
<i>t.</i>	transitive
<i>v.</i>	verb

© David Blandy and Artangel, November 2003

Designed by Fraser Muggeridge

Artangel, 31 Eyre St Hill, London EC1R 5EW

www.artangel.org.uk

Supported by Arts Council England, London,
and the private patronage of the Company of Angels

Artangel



ă'ggie (ũp) *v.t.* hurt someone physically, ex. *I told the brer he was talking fraff so he tried to aggie me up.*

bā'dmăñ *n.* **1.** person with a reputation for antisocial behaviour. **2.** person who excels in a certain field.

bait *a.* inappropriately overt and morally suspect, ex. *You can't take his phone. That's bait!*

bă'ng *v.t.* have sexual intercourse.

bă'ngĩng *a.* very smelly.

bâre *a.* lots of, ex. *There's bare gal in South London.*

bă'shměnt *n.* Ragga music.

bă'ttỹmăñ *n. & a.* **1. n.** (derog.) homosexual male. **2. a.** (derog.) effeminate.

bill *n.* (monetary) one hundred pounds.

bĩ'tch *n. & v.* **1. n.** (derog.) woman. **2. v.** (derog.) complain.

blăck ũp *a.* intoxicated by marijuana or alcohol.

blĩng (blĩng) *a. & n.* **1. a.** (arch.) flamboyant, displaying wealth. **2. n.** (arch.) jewellery. (Now mainstream, bling is rarely used in street talk. Cf. punani and booyakasha receded in street use after mass appropriation by television character Ali G).

blood (-ũd) *n. & int.* **1. n.** friend or kin. **2. n.** person.

3. int. emphatic reinforcement, ex. *Ya get me, blood?*

bloo'dclõt (-ũ'd-) *n.* uttered curse (der. blood cloth. Jamaican Patois. A reference to the days before sanitary towels).

blues in twos (blōōs in tōōs) *n.* (*pl.* only) police officers.

boog (-ũg) *a. & n.* **1.** fake. **2.** nonsense.

bōōm *a.* **1.** scared. **2.** exceedingly good, ex. *That's boom!*

bõp *v.* **1.** walk. **2.** leave on foot.

bõre *v.* **1.** stab. **2.** have sexual intercourse.

bounce *v.* **1.** go. **2.** leave. **3.** move.

boy ĩn blue (blōō) *n.* police officer.

boyd (off) *v.* bullied, ex. *You got boyd.*

brass *a.* broke.

brě'drěñ *n.* (*s. & pl.* same) **1.** friend. **2.** brother. **3.** fellow.

breeze *a.* easy.

brër *n.* (*pl.* **brě'drěñ**) **1.** friend. **2.** brother. **3.** fellow.

browns *n.* (*s. & pl.* same) cigarettes.

brück *a.* without money (der. broke).

bŭ'ckey *n.* fire arms.
bŭff *a.* sexually attractive.
bull (bōol) *a.* nonsense.
bŭm'bōclōt *n.* uttered curse (der. bottom cloth. Jamaican patois. A reference to the days before toilet paper).
bŭn *v.t.* smoke, ex. *Can I bun a head?*
bŭ'tters *n.* unattractive person.
bŭzz *v.* intoxicated by marijuana or alcohol.
bwoy *n.* boy.
căck *a.* worthless.
că'jŭn *n.* police officer.
căts *n.* (s. & pl. same) crack cocaine addict.
chăps *n.* (pl. only) 1. gold bracelet. 2. (arch.) people.
chōps *n.* (pl. only) (arch.) gold bracelet.
chŭng *n.* woman of easy virtue.
cō'ckle *n.* (monetary) ten pounds (der. Cockney rhyming slang).
cō'cōnŭt *n.* (derog.) black person perceived to be acting like a white person, ex. *She's black on the outside, white on the inside.*
cōld *a.* 1. heartless. 2. evil.
cōtch *v.* relax.
cŭss *v.* 1. argue. 2. insult.
cŭt *v.* & *a.* 1. *v.* leave, ex. *I'm cutting.* 2. *a.* cold, ex. *It's cutting out there.*
dī'dgĕts *n.* (pl. only) telephone number.
dī'ĕt *a.* weak, ex. *A diet spliff* (der. low fat food products).
dīss *v.* abuse verbally.
dō'nŭt *n.* & *a.* 1. *n.* idiot. 2. *a.* idiotic.
dōsh *n.* money.
do'wy *a.* 1. ungenerous, ex. *A dowy spliff.* 2. (Stonebridge only) odd, ex. *A dowy brer.*
draw *n.* marijuana.
drŭm *n.* house.
drŭmmed *v.* undergo house robbery, ex. *I was drummed.*
dŭck *v.* leave.
dŭst *v.* leave.
ĕdge *n.* fifty.

ĕdge nōte *n.* (monetary) fifty pound note.
ēē'diāt *n.* & *a.* 1. *n.* idiot. 2. *a.* idiotic.
fĕd *n.* police officer.
fĭt *a.* sexually attractive.
five-O *n.* (s. & pl. same) police officer(s).
flĕx *n.* & *v.* sexual intercourse.
frăff *a.* & *v.* 1. *a.* spoken nonsense, ex. *You're talking fraff.* 2. *v.* (rare) speak nonsense, ex. *Stop fraffing.*
fră'ggle *n.* idiot (der. 1980's television puppet show, *Fraggle Rock*).
frăss *a.* 1. tired. 2. drained out.
fro'wzy *a.* smelly.
găl *n.* girl.
gârms *n.* (pl. only) clothing.
găsh *n.* (derog.) girl.
grĭll *n.* mouth (der. front radiator grille on motor vehicle).
grĭ'zzle *n.* (rare) mouth (der. American rap slang. Popular substitution of the end of a word for -zzle, ex. *Chizzle my nizzle*, here applied to *grill*).
gŭ'bbĭe *a.* confused.
gŭ'blăsh *n.* confusion, ex. *You've got gublash; you're confused.*
head (hĕd) *n.* & *v.* oral sex.
īce *n.* diamond.
ī'tăl *n.* pure marijuana cigarette.
itch ŭp *a.* small, ex. *My man's itch up.*
jăcked *v.* & *a.* robbed.
jăcks *n.* & *a.* 1. *n.* (monetary) five pounds. 2. *a.* alone, ex. *I'm on my jacks.*
jăkes *n.* (pl. only) police officers.
John Brown *n.* (monetary) ten pounds.
kĕ'nrō *n.* hair braids (der. cain- or corn-row).
kĕ'ttle *n.* wrist watch.
kĭcks *n.* (pl. only) trainers.
kōō'bă *n.* crack cocaine.
krĕps *n.* (pl. only) trainers.
lă'brĭsh *n.* & *a.* 1. gossip. 2. chit-chat.
lĭ'kl mō(re) *int.* farewell.
mĕr'kŷ *a.* very good.

mo'nkey (mũ-) *n.* (monetary) five hundred pounds.
moved (mōōv-) *v.* & *a.* **1.** arrested **2.** robbed.
munch *n.* & *v.* **1.** *n.* food, ex. *I'm gonna get some munch.*
2. *v.* eat, ex. *I've gatta munch.*
mũ'nchies *n.* hunger felt after consuming marijuana.
mũsh *n.* lips.
năng *a.* very good.
nũ'ggèt *n.* (monetary) pound coin.
pā'per *n.* coin and note money.
pea'măck *n.* unattractive female.
pĩ'dgĩn *n.* person who spends money on expensive items rather than bare necessities.
pĩ'nkỹ *n.* (monetary) fifty pounds.
plũm *n.* idiot.
põnce *n.* person who asks for money or things from someone who has less.
prẽss *v.* sexual intercourse, ex. *Did you press her?*
quās *a.* & *pron.* little (bit), ex. *Would you like a quas?*
ră'ggō *adv.* & *v.* **1.** *adv.* (emphatic) obviously, ex. *I'm dustin', raggo.* **2.** *v.* act in an aggressive manner, ex. *I saw them cotchin' and I went raggo.*
rass *n.* & *int.* **1.** *n.* (anatomical) bottom. **2.** *int.* exclamation of surprise.
ra'ssclõt *n.* uttered curse (der. arse cloth. Jamaican Patois. A reference to the days before toilet paper.)
reach *v.* come (along).
rẽd eye (ĩ) *n.* & *a.* jealous person.
rĩnse *v.* **1.** over-use, ex. *Ali G rinsed the word punani.* **2.** wear out.
rĩ'nsed *a.* cursed.
rĩ'ppĩng *a.* (meteorological) cold.
scõre *n.* & *v.* **1.** *n.* (monetary) twenty pounds.
2. purchase recreational drugs, esp. marijuana.
skră'tty *n.* girl.
scrẽetch *v.* relax.
sẽ'ckle *v.* settle (down) (der. occasional substitution in Jamaican Patois of -ck for -tt, as in *bockle* for *bottle*).
sẽn *int.* **1.** (arch.) affirmative interjection, ex. *That whip's boom,*

seen. **2.** synonym for yes, of course, ex. *Are you reaching tonight? Seen!* **3.** expression of comprehension, ex. *A score is twenty pounds, ya get me? Seen!*
skĩn ùp *v.* roll a marijuana cigarette.
skĩns *n.* **1.** cigarette paper. **2.** sexual intercourse. **3.** (arch.) girl or woman, ex. *She's my skins.*
skrũb *n.* & *a.* **1.** *n.* person without money. **2.** *a.* poor.
sōō'rtẽd *a.* done.
spârk *v.* punch.
spârkẽd *a.* knocked out.
splĩff *n.* marijuana cigarette.
sprăng *a.* **1.** shocked. **2.** scared.
stă'ndârd *int.* & *n.* **1.** *int.* affirmative statement, ex. *That whip's boom, standard.* **2.** *int.* synonym for yes, of course, ex. *Are you reaching tonight? Standard!* **3.** *n.* good form, ex. *Thierry Henry's on standards.*
stũsh *a.* hard to get, ex. *That girl's stush. She won't give me her didgets.*
tăxed *v.* robbed.
tĩck *a.* sexually attractive, ex. *She looks tick, blood.*
tĩng *n.* **1.** thing. **2.** (*pl.* only) recreational drugs.
tõ'sser *n.* (derog.) idiot (lit. person who masturbates).
tũ'sky *a.* having a strong desire for sexual intercourse.
two-twos (tōō-tōōs) *n.* and then, ex. *I was on my way to a rave, two-twos now, my car broke down.*
wă gwān *int.* greeting (lit. what's going on?)
wă'nker *n.* (derog.) idiot (lit. person who masturbates).
wẽdge *n.* money.
wēẽd *n.* marijuana.
whĩp *n.* car.
yă gẽt mē *int.* affirmation often used at the end of a sentence. (lit. you understand).
yăm *v.* eat.
yârd *n.* house.
yă'tty *n.* girl.
zĩ'ggy *n.* **1.** roll-up cigarette. **2.** marijuana cigarette.
zōõt *n.* marijuana cigarette.