

A Dictionary of

**Cockney
Rhyming
Slang**



A Dictionary of Cockney Rhyming Slang

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Cockney Rhyming Slang

The term ‘cockney’ originally meant someone who was born within the sound of the Bow Bells of St. Mary-le-Bow Church in Cheapside, London. In those days, all of the City of London would have been within that sound. These days, very few people would be born within the sound of Bow Bells. The area is largely filled with banks, financial institutions and offices.

Rhyming slang always involves two words or a small phrase. The last word of the pair or phrase will rhyme with the target word. So *apples and pears* will mean *stairs*; *linen draper* will mean *paper*.

In conversation, only the first word of the phrase will be used: “I’m just going up the apples” or “There’s not a sausage left”.

The meaning of the phrase is unlikely to have any relationship with the meaning of the target word – it’s the rhyme that’s important.

At times, there can be a connection via humour, such as *Mae West* for *chest* or *trick cyclist* for *psychiatrist*.

Some rhyming slang words are used in everyday language without people realising their origin, such as *Use your loaf*. Words like ‘raspberry’ and ‘Berk’ are also used everyday in polite society without most people realising where they come from.

Rhyming slang started developing from around the late 18th century and the early 19th century.

There seems to be no definitive reason as to why it started, but the most popular theories are:

1. It was developed as good-humoured joking by Cockneys so that outsiders, such as the gangs of Irish navvies working on canal and railway construction, could not understand them.
2. It was started by thieves and criminals to communicate in public without being understood by outsiders.
3. An oppressed minority developing a secret language as a defence measure to give them a bit more inner strength.

In due course, rhyming slang has come from other sources. From Ireland comes such words as:

Rory O'More	door
cowhide	wide; i.e. aware of
Glasgow boat	coat
chocolate trifle	rifle

Australia and, to a lesser extent, America have proved to be good sources of their own rhymes:

Steel Rudds	spuds – potatoes
giddy goat	tote – totalizer
mad mick	pick
lean and fat	hat

From Glasgow there is

deaf	bully beef
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Allowing for the Scottish accent

There are a few rare examples of the last word in the rhyming phrase being spoken rather than the first word, such as ‘tart’ in *Jam tart* for *sweetheart*, although now it tends to carry a negative connotation.

Another is *coffee and cocoa* for *Say so* (I should cocoa)

The origins of the rhyming phrases are many and varied. Most come from everyday words and expressions, such as currant bun, fine and dandy, and Oxo cube.

Other sources are:

- Music hall performers:
Gertie Lee, Kate Karney
- Famous characters within London circles or world-wide:
Charles James Fox, Harry Nash, Dr. Crippen
- Places, particularly around London:
Hampstead Heath, Albert Hall, Barnet Fair, Robinson and Cleaver (a former London store)
- *Barnaby Rudge* for *judge* might be from the Dickens character or from the late 18th. century dance, the Barnaby.
Bubble and squeak for *beak* comes from the dish of fried cabbage and potatoes.

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Abergavenny

Adam and Eve

penny

believe

Would you Adam and Eve it?

to leave

To make a hurried departure

airs and graces

faces

Epsom races

braces

Albert Hall

wall

alderman's eyes

flies – house-flies

alderman's nail

tail – particularly a dog's

all afloat

coat

See *I'm afloat*

alligator

later

almond rocks

socks

Me almonds are wet

See *peppermint rocks*

Alphonse

ponce

Andy Cain

rain

Andy MacNish

fish – generally fried fish

Anna Maria

fire – a domestic hearth

'apenny dip

ship

apples and pears

stairs

apples and rice

nice

apple fritter

bitter – beer

apple pie

sky

apple pips

lips

April fools	tools stools – esp. in public houses pools – football pools
April showers	flowers
Aristotle	bottle Generally reduced to <i>Arry</i>
army and navy	gravy
army rocks	socks
artful dodger	lodger
Auntie Ella	umbrella
Auntie Nellie	belly – mainly with reference to indigestion
Aunt Maria	fire See <i>Anna Maria</i>



babbling brook	cook Usually reduced to <i>babbler</i> crook
baby's cries	eyes See <i>mince pies</i>
bacon and eggs	legs <i>A nice pair of bacons</i>
ball of chalk	walk <i>Take a ball of chalk</i> – to dismiss someone
balloon car	saloon bar

band in the box	pox
band of hope	soap – From the name of the Temperance Mission
Barnaby Rudge	judge
Barnet Fair	hair
Barney Moke	poke – pocket
bat and wicket	ticket
bath-bun	son sun See <i>currant-bun, penny-bun</i>
battle-cruiser	boozer – public house
bazaar	bar – of a public house
bear's paw	saw – the tool
Beecham's piIl(s)	hill(s) bill(s) – referring to the notice displayed by a beggar still – photograph
Beecham's pills	testicles – Pronounced testi-kills <i>Don't talk pills</i> – stupidity
beef and ham	pram
beef-hearts	farts beans The double meaning with beans associated with wind
bees and honey	Money <i>I ain't got any bees left</i> See <i>pot of honey</i>

beggar my neighbour	on the Labour (Exchange) i.e. on the dole
bell ringers	fingers
Benny Hill	till
Berk	fool 'Berk' is short for 'Berkshire Hunt', meaning cunt, as in fool
Betty Lee	tea See <i>Rosy Lea</i>
Big Ben	ten – £10
Billy Prescot	waistcoat See <i>Charlie Prescot</i>
bird lime	time – time of day or prison sentence
biscuits and cheese	knees
bits and bats	knick-knacks – specifically assorted jewellery
blackbird and thrush	brush – especially shoes See <i>song of the thrush</i>
bladder of fat	hat
bladder of lard	playing card
blue ruin	gin See <i>Brian O'Linn, mother's ruin</i>
boat race	face
Bob Squash	wash – the washing section of a public convenience <i>Working the Bob</i> is picking pockets from hanging coats

Bonnie Dundee	flea
bo-peep	sleep
boracic lint	skint – penniless See <i>pink lint</i>
bottle and glass	arse <i>On the bottle</i> – male prostitution
bottle of beer	ear
bottle of fizz	whizz – to steal
bow and arrow	sparrow
Brahms and Liszt	pissed
brass tacks	facts – details A rare case of the whole phrase being used
bread and butter	gutter
bread and cheese	sneeze
bread and lard	hard – as in lack of sympathy <i>Ain't that bread and lard?</i>
Brian O'Linn	gin Usually reduced to <i>Brian</i> or <i>Bri</i>
Brighton sands	hands
Bristol Cities	titties <i>A nice pair of Bristols</i>
Britney Spears	ears beers
Brussels sprout	boy scout a tout – a bookmaker's agent or a racing commentator clout

bubble and squeak	beak – the magistrate speak – inform
bucket and pail	jail
bull and cow	row – noise
bullock's horn	pawn
bully beef	chief – the chief warden
bung it in	gin
burnt cinder	window – pronounced winder <i>A stiff burnt</i> – a plate-glass window
Burton on Trent	rent
bushel and peck	neck – specifically the throat <i>Get this do your bushel</i> See <i>half a peck</i>
bushel o'coke	bloke – a man See <i>heap of coke</i>
Bushey Park	lark – joke
butcher's hook	look <i>Have a butcher's at this</i>

C cab rank	bank
Cain and Abel	table
Cambridge punt	cunt See <i>Berkshire Hunt, Joe Hunt</i>
Camden Town	brown – copper coin See <i>Kentish Town</i>

canal boat	tote
can of oil	boil – swelling Usually reduced to <i>canov</i>
Cape of Good Hope	soap See <i>Charlie Pope</i>
Captain Cook(s)	book(s) – library betting book
careless talk	piece of chalk – in darts
car park	nark – police informer
carpet bag	drag – three months imprisonment
carving knife	wife
cash and carry	marry
cat and mouse	house
cattle truck	fuck <i>He's cattled</i> – ruined <i>She needs a good cattling</i>
Chalk Farm	arm
Charing Cross	horse – rhyming with -aws
Charles James Fox	box – in the theatre
Charlie Dilke	milk
Charlie Frisky	whisky See <i>I'm so frisky</i>
Charlie Howard	coward
Charlie Mason	basin – pudding To have a share in; a basinful

Charlie Pope	soap See <i>Cape of Good Hope</i>
Charlie Prescott	waistcoat See <i>Billy Prescott, Colonel Prescott</i>
Charlie Randy	brandy See <i>Jack a Dandy</i>
cheerful giver	liver
cheese and kisses	the misses – wife
cherry hogs	dogs – greyhound races Reduced to <i>cherries</i>
cherry ripe	pipe tripe – rubbish
Chevy Chase	face
china plate	mate <i>Me ole china</i>
chips and peas	knees
chocolate whirl	girl See <i>Winds do whirl,</i> <i>Twist and twirl</i>
chop(ping) sticks	six – Bingo
chunk of beef	chief – boss
clickety-click	sixty six – Bingo
clothes pegs	legs See <i>Scotch pegs</i>
coals and coke	broke
coat and badge	cadge

cobbler's awls	balls – testicles <i>That's a load of cobblers</i>
cock(le) and hen	ten – for ten shillings ten years in jail
cock linnet	minute
cockroach	coach
cock sparrow	barrow
coffee and cocoa	say so <i>I should cocoa</i>
Colney Hatch(es)	match(es)
Colonel Prescott	waistcoat
Conan Doyle	boil
corns and bunions	onions <i>He knows his corns</i>
country cousin	dozen
couple of bob	damp swab – used in darts
cow and calf	laugh half
cow's lick	nick
crowded space	suitcase
crust of bread	head – head not mind
cuddle and kiss	miss – girl
currant bun	son sun
currant-cakie	shaky – after drinking
custard and jelly	telly

cut and carried

married

A woman left home and
provided for by her husband

cuts and scratches

matches

From cheap matches which cut
the box but did not light



daffadown dilly

silly

Daily Mail

tale – con man's trick
nail

daisy roots

boots – including shoes
Need a new pair of daisies

Davy Large

barge

day and night

light – ale

Denis Law

policeman

Derby Kelley

belly

deuce and ace

face

deaf and dumbs

plums
I'll have a pound of deafs

dickory dock

clock
cock – penis

Dick Turpin

thirteen – darts

dicky bird

word – of honour

dicky dirt

shirt

didn't ought

port – the drink

dig in the grave

shave

ding-dong	sing-song song
ding dong bell	hell
dinky-doo	twenty two – Bingo
Dr. Crippen	dripping – bread and dripping
dog and bone	phone
do me good	wood – timber
do me goods	woods – Woodbines, cigarettes
door knob	bob – one shilling <i>See kettle on the hob,</i> <i>Touch me on the knob</i>
drum and fife	wife knife
Drummond and Roce	knife and fork – from drum and fife, knife; and roast pork, fork. Roast reduced to <i>roce</i>
Dublin tricks	bricks
Duchess of Fife	wife <i>She's me old Dutch</i>
Duke of Kent	rent
Duke of York	walk talk cork chalk fork – finger – fist – <i>Put up your Dukes</i>
dustbin lids	kids <i>See saucepan lids</i>



early door

whore

early hours

flowers

earwig

twig – understand

eau de Cologne

telephone

Reduced to *odour*

Edna May

way

eighteen pence

sense

elephant's trunk

drunk

engineers and stokers

brokers – referring to a bailiff

engineer's spanner

tanner – old sixpence



family tree

lavatory

far and near

beer

feather and flip

kip

bed

feather plucker

fucker

See *pheasant plucker*

field of wheat

street

fife and drum

bum

fine and dandy

brandy

finger and thumb

rum

See *Tom Thumb*

Finsbury Park

arc – arc-lamp

fireman's hose

nose

first of May

say

fisherman's daughter	water See <i>miller's daughter</i>
five to two	Jew
fleas and itchers	pictures – cinema
flowery dell	cell – prison
four by two	Jew
fourth of July	tie
France and Spain	rain
Friar Tuck	fuck <i>I don't give a Friars</i>
fried eggs	legs
frog and toad	road
front wheel skid	yid



garden gate	magistrate eight
gay and frisky	whisky See <i>I'm so frisky</i>
gay and hearty	party
German band	hand
German flutes	boots
Gertie Lee	thirty three – Bingo
giggle and titter	bitter – beer
ginger beer	tear queer engineer

ginger pop	slop – police constable, via 'ecilop'
gipsy's warning	morning
give and take	cake – also for a wad of money
Glasgow boat	coat
Glasgow Rangers	strangers – warning for the police coming
glass of beer	ear
glorious sinner	dinner
God forbid	kid <i>The godfors are back</i> Yid, Jew lid
golliwogs (gollies)	dogs – greyhound races
goofy gear	ear
goose and duck	truck
gooseberry pudding	old woman
goose's neck	cheque <i>To sausage a goose –</i> <i>To cash a cheque</i> <i>See sausage and mash</i>
Gordon and Gotch	watch
grasshopper	copper – police informer
greengages	wages <i>I've just got me greens</i>
green pea	key
grumble and grunt	cunt <i>See Berkshire Hunt, Joe Hunt</i>
Gunga Din	gin



haddock and bloater	motor
half-a-lick	sick
half an Oxford scholar	half a dollar – half a crown in old money
half a peck	neck <i>See bushel and peck</i>
half-inch	pinch – steal pinch – arrest
half ounce	bounce – cheat
halfpenny	<i>See 'apenny</i>
ham and beef	chief – warder
ham and legs	legs
hammer and nail	tail trail
Hampstead Heath	teeth Pronounced <i>Ampsteads</i> or <i>Amps</i> <i>See Hounslow Heath</i>
Hampton Wick	prick <i>He gets on my wick</i>
ha'penny dip	ship
happy hours	flowers
harbour light	all right
Hardwicke Grange	change – money
Harry Lauder	border – the side wings on a stage
Harry Nash	cash
Harry Randle	candle

Harry Tagg	bag
Harry Tate	1. state – of mind 2. mate
Harry Wrag	fag – cigarette
Harvey Nichol	pickel – predicament
Harvey Nichols	pickles
hay stack	back
heap of coke	bloke See <i>bushel o'coke</i>
hearth rug	mug – drinking
hearts of oak	broke – money
heavens above	love
hedge and ditch	pitch – cricket or sports
Henry Halls	balls – human
Herman Finck	ink
hey-diddle-diddle	fiddle – violin fiddle – swindle
highland frisky	whisky See <i>I'm so frisky</i>
hit and miss	kiss piss
Hobson's choice	voice
holla boys holla	collar
holy friar	liar
horse and cart	tart

horse and trap	clap – VD crap <i>See pony and trap</i>
horses and carts	darts
hot cross bun	on the run nun
Hounslow Heath	teeth <i>See Hampstead Heath</i>
hurricane deck	neck

i ice-cream freezer	geezer – a person
I'll be there	chair
I'm afloat	coat <i>See all afloat</i>
I'm so frisky	whisky Reduced to <i>I'm so</i> <i>See Charlie Frisky, Gay and frisky, Highland frisky</i>
in and out	snout stout – the drink
inky smudge	judge
Irish jig	wig
Irish Mike	bike
Irish rose	nose – mainly a drunk's red nose
Irish stew	true <i>All too Irish</i>

iron hoof	poof – homosexual
iron horse	toss – a coin
iron tank	bank See <i>tin tank</i>
Isle of Wight	right all right
I suppose	nose

J	Jack a Dandy	brandy
	Jack O’Dandy	brandy
	Jack alive	five – Bingo or £5
	Jack and Jill	till – cash bill hill
	jackdaw	jaw
	jackdaw and rook	book
	Jack Jones	alone on one’s own <i>He’s on ’is Jack</i> See <i>Pat Malone, Tod Sloan</i>
	Jack Tar	bar – in a public house
	Jack the Ripper	kipper
	jam jar	car tram-car
jam tart	sweetheart Usually reduced to <i>tart</i>	

J. Arthur Rank	bank Reduced to <i>J. Arthur</i>
Jem Mace	face See <i>boat race</i>
Jenny Lea	tea
Jenny Linder	window See <i>burnt cinder</i>
Jeremiah	fire See <i>Obadiah</i>
Jerry O’Gorman	Morman – also used for a man seen with many different girls
Jerusalem artichoke	moke – donkey
Jim Britts	shits – diarrhoea See <i>thre’penny bits</i>
Jimmy O’Goblin	sovereign
Jimmy Riddle	piddle – urinate
Jimmy Skinner	dinner See <i>saint and sinner</i> , <i>Lilley & Skinner</i>
Joanna	pianna – piano
Joe Blake	steak
Joe Gurr	stir – a prison
Joe Hunt	cunt – a fool Reduced to <i>Joey</i>
Joe Rook	book – bookmaker crook
John Mills	wheels

Johnnie Horner

corner – street corner
Gone round the Johnnie –
meaning gone for a drink

joy of my life

wife
See *trouble and strife*,
war and strife, *worry and strife*

Joynson Hicks

six

K

Kate and Sidney

steak and kidney pudding

Kate Karney

army

Kennington Lane

pain

Kentish Town

brown
See *Camden Town*

kettle on the hob

bob – one shilling in old
currency

Bob – Robert

Khyber Pass

arse
Stick that up your Khyber

kidney punch

lunch

King Dick

brick
bricklayer

King Dickie

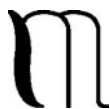
brickie

King Lear

ear – reference to ear biting
i.e. borrowing money
queer

lace curtain	Burton – beer
la-di-dah	car – referring to a new car
Lady Godiva	five – £5
Lady of the Manor	tanner – old sixpenny piece
Lakes of Killarney	balmy – foolish
laugh and joke	smoke
lay me in the gutter	butter
lemon squasher	washer
lemon squeezer	geezer – man
Levy and Frank	want
Liffey water	Porter – the beer
light and dark	park
Lilian Gish	fish
Lilley & Skinner	dinner
Lincoln's Inn	finn – a £5 note
	fin – the hand
	gin
linen draper	paper
lion's lair	chair
L.K. Clark	mark – place and time of starting
loaf of bread	head – mind, common sense <i>See crust of bread</i>
lollipop	shop – to inform against
loop the loop	soup <i>Want some more loopers?</i>

Lord Lovell	shovel
Lord Mayor	swear
Lord of the Manor	tanner – old sixpenny piece
lost and found	pound
Lousy Brown	Rose and Crown – pub name
Lucy Locket	pocket
lump of ice	advice
lump of lead	head – a hangover head Not reduced See <i>pound of lead</i>



macaroni	pony – £25 Reduced to <i>macker</i>
Madam De Luce	spruce – deceive <i>Don't give that old madam</i>
mad Mick	prick See <i>Pat and Mick, Uncle Dick</i>
Mae West	chest breast
Major Loder	soda – soda-water
Major Stevens	evens – equal odds
man and wife	knife
Maria Monk	spunk
Marie Correlli	telly – television
Mark Foy	boy

Mary Ann	hand
Mary Blane	train
me and you	blue menu
merry-go-round	pound – money
Micky Mouse	house – the theatre, the audience
milk jug	mug – a fool
miller's daughter	water <i>See fisherman's daughter</i>
mince pies	eyes <i>See mutton pies, pudding and pie</i>
misbehave	shave
mocking bird	word
Molly Malone	phone
Molly O'Morgan	organ
monkeys' tails	nails
mortar and trowel	towel
mother and daughter	quarter – quarter-posts for mooring
Mother Hubbard	cupboard
mother of pearl	girl
mother's ruin	gin <i>See blue ruin, Brian O'Linn</i>
Mrs. Duckett	bucket fuck it
Mrs. Chant	aunt – as a euphemism for toilet

muffin baker Quaker
Mutt and Jeff deaf
mutton pies eyes
See *mince pies*
my mother's away the other day
my word turd



Nancy Lea tea
See *Rosy Lea*
nanny goat boat
coat
Tote
National Debt bet
Naughton and Gold cold – in the head
near and far bar – pub
car
Ned Skinner dinner
See *Lilley & Skinner*
needle and pin gin
Nellie Blighs flies – house-flies
Nervo and Knox socks
docks
goggle box – television
Newington Butts guts – courage
nits and lice starting price

Noah's Ark

nark – informer

lark – fun

north and south

mouth

no soap

no hope

nose and chin

win



oak

joke

oak and ash

cash

Obadiah

fire

See *Jeremiah*

oh my dear

beer

oily rag

fag – cigarette

okey-doke

poke – pocket

Old King Cole

the dole

old pot and pan

old man – father or husband

Oliver Twist

fist

once a week

beak – magistrate

Reduced to *oncer*

cheek

one and eight

plate

one and t'other

mother

brother

one and two

loo – toilet

one for his nob

bob – shilling in old currency

on the floor

poor

on the ooze	on the booze See <i>River Ouse</i>
orchestra stalls	balls – testicles
Oscar Asche	cash
over the stile	sent for trial
Owen Nares	chairs
Oxford scholar	dollar – 5 shillings in old currency
Oxo cube	tube – London Underground



Paddy Rammer	hammer
panorama	hammer
Pat and Mick	prick
Pat and Mike	bike
Pat Malone	alone – without equal one one's own See <i>Jack Jones, Tod Sloan</i>
peas in the pot	hot <i>It's too peasy in 'ere</i>
Peckham Rye	tie shy
pen and ink	stink
pen and inker	stinker
penn'orth of chalk	walk – a term of dismissal
penny a mile	smile

penny a pound	ground
penny bun	sun son See <i>bath bun, currant bun</i>
penny come quick	trick
peppermint rocks	socks See <i>almond rocks</i>
pheasant plucker	fucker See <i>feather plucker</i>
photo-finish	Guinness
piccolo and flute	suit See <i>whistle and flute</i>
pick and choose	booze
pickled pork	talk See <i>rabbit and pork</i>
pig's ear	beer
pig's fry	tie
pillar and post	ghost
pimple and blotch	Scotch – whisky
pimple and wort	quart – pub drinks measure
pineapple and wart	quart
pineapple chunk	bunk
pink lint	skint
pitch and fill	bill – a notice used by beggars See <i>Beecham's pill</i>
pitch and toss	boss

plain and gravy	navy See <i>pudding and gravy,</i> <i>soup and gravy</i>
plates of meat	feet
pleasure and pain	rain
Polly Flinder	window
pony and trap	crap See <i>horse and trap</i>
Pope of Rome	home
pot and pan	old man
potatoes in the mold	cold <i>It ain't half taters</i>
pot of honey	money See <i>bees and honey</i>
potato peeling	shilling – old currency
pound of lead	head See <i>lump of lead</i>
premier	beer
pride and joy	boy
Prussian guard	card – playing card in Bingo
pudding and gravy	navy See <i>plain and gravy</i>
pudding and pie	eye
pudding and pies	eyes See <i>mince pies</i>
puff and dart	heart start – of a race

push in the truck

fuck
See trolley and truck

Q

Quaker oats

coats

quarter to two

Jew
See ten to two, four by two

Queen's Park Rangers

strangers

R

rabbit and pork

talk
He doesn't half rabbit on
See pickled pork

raspberry tart

fart – *blowing a raspberry*
heart

rat and mouse

house
louse – informer

rattle and clank

bank

rattle and hiss

piss

Rawalpindi

windy – the weather

read and write

fight

red rose

toes

rhubarb

sub – an advance on wages

rhubarb pill

bill

Richard the Third

bird – feathered, and meaning
disapproval from an audience

rip and tear

swear

River Ouse	booze See <i>on the Ouze</i>
roast pork	talk – referring to a complaint <i>Are you roasting again?</i>
Robert E. Lee	quay
Robin Hood	good
Robinson and Cleaver	fever
rock of ages	wages
rocks and boulder	shoulder
rolling billows	pillows
Rolls Royce	voice
Rory O'More	door floor
rosebuds	spuds – potatoes
Rose of Thileen	green
Rosy Lea	tea See <i>River Leas, Betty Lee, Nancy Lee</i>
round me's	See <i>round the houses</i>
round the haystack	round the back – of a building or meaning going to the lavatory
round the houses	trousers – trousers Reduced to <i>round me's</i>
Royal Mail	bail
rub-a-dub-dub	pub sub – wage advance
Russian Turk	work



sailors on the sea
saint and sinner

Salford docks

salmon and trout

salt and pepper

Sandy McNab

San Toy

saucepan lids

sausage and mash

sausage roll

saveloy

Scapa Flow

Scotch mist

Scotch pegs

Scottish reel

Sexton Blake

shake and shiver

ship in full sail

shower bath

Silas Hocking

tea

dinner

See *Jimmy Skinner*,

Lilley & Skinner

rocks

stout – beer

leper

cab

boy

See *Saveloy*

kids

cash *Not a sausage left*

Pole – Polish person

young boy

See *San Toy*

go – run away

fist

legs

peel

cake

river

pint of ale

Reduced to *ship*

half – ten shillings in old
currency, 50 pence

stocking

Sinbad the sailor	tailor
six months' hard	playing card – Bingo
skin and blister	sister
sky pocket	pocket
slave and Turk	work See <i>Russian Turk</i>
smoked haddock	paddock
soldier bold	cold – in the head See <i>warrior bold</i>
song of the thrush	brush See <i>blackbird and thrush</i>
sorry and sad	bad
soup and gravy	navy See <i>plain and gravy</i>
South of France	dance
spin and plate	mate
spit and drag	fag – cigarette
stammer and stutter	butter
stand at ease	fleas cheese
stand from under	thunder
steak-and-kidney pie	eye See <i>mince pies</i>
steam roller	bowler – hat
steam tug	mug – a fool <i>He's a right steamer</i>
struggle and strain	train

sugar and honey
swallow and sigh
swear and cuss
Sweeney Todd

money
collar and tie
bus
flying squad

f

tale of two cities
tartan banner
tea grout

titties – breasts
tanner – sixpence in old currency
boy scout
See *Brussel sprout*

tea leaf
tea leafing
tea-pot lid

thief
thieving
quid
Yid – a Jew
See *tin lid*

ten to two

Jew
See *quarter to two, four by two*

there you are
these and those
threepenny bits

bar – in public house
clothes
tits
shits

tiddler's bait
tiddlywink

late
pink
drink
A little bit tiddly

Tilbury Docks

socks

tin lid	Yid – a Jew See <i>tea-pot lid</i>
tin plate	mate – Naval first officer
tin tack	track – racing
tin tank	bank See <i>iron tank, J. Arthur Rank</i>
tit for tat	hat Reduced to <i>titfa</i>
titwillow	pillow See <i>weeping willow</i>
Tod Sloan	alone – without equal alone – on one's own <i>All on his Tod</i> See <i>Jack Jones, Pat Malone</i>
tom cat	door mat
tomfoolery	jewellery
Tom and Dick	sick
Tom Mix	six – darts score fix – a problem
Tommy O'Rann	scrán – food
Tommy Roller	collar
Tommy Tucker	supper
Tom Thumb	rum
tom tit	shit
tom tug	mug – a fool See <i>steam tug</i>
too Irish stew	too true Reduced to <i>too Irish</i>

toot	loot – money
Tooting Bec	peck – food
total wreck	cheque
touch me on the knob	bob – shilling in old currency
trams	gams – legs
trick cyclist	psychiatrist
trolley and truck	fuck <i>See push in the truck</i>
trouble and strife	wife
true till death	breath
tumble down the sink	drink <i>I'll buy you a tumble</i>
	turpentine Serpentine – lake in Hyde Park
twist and twirl	girl
two and eight	state – of mind <i>See Harry Tate</i>
two eyes of blue	too true <i>See Irish stew</i>
two thirty	dirty
typewriter	fighter

U

uncle and aunts	pants
Uncle Ben	ten – Bingo
Uncle Bert	shirt

Uncle Dick

sick
Feeling dicky today
prick

Uncle Fred

bread

Uncle Ned

bed

Uncle Willy

silly
chilly

V

Vera Lynn

gin
grin

Vicar of Bray

tray

W

Walter Joyce

voice

warrior bold

cold – a cold in the head
See *soldier bold*

weasel and stoat

coat

weep and wail

tale – a yarn

weeping willow

pillow
See *tit-willow*

West Ham Reserves

nerves
He gets on me West Ham's

Westminster Abbey

shabby

whip

ship – referring to the ship one
is serving on

whistle and flute	suit <i>Love the new whistle</i>
whistle and foot	loot – money
widow's mite	light – for a cigarette
Wilkie Bards	playing cards
William Powell	towel
windjammer	hammer – with carpenters on film sets
winds do whirl	girl See <i>chocolate whirl, twist and twirl</i>
wooden pegs	legs See <i>scotch pegs</i>
Woolwich & Greenwich	spinach
worry and strife	wife See <i>trouble and strife, war and strife, joy of my life</i>



Yard of silk	pint of milk
Yarmouth bloater	motor
yellow silk	milk
yet to be	free
Yorkshire tyke	mike – microphone
you and me	tea See <i>Rosy Lea</i>

you must
yours and ours

crust – of bread
flowers

English – Cockney





advice

all right

alone – on one's own or
without equal

arc – arc-lamp

arm

army

arse

arse – referring to a male
prostitute

aunt – a relative and as a
euphemism for toilet

lump of ice

harbour light
Isle of Wight

Tod Sloan
She's on her Tod
Pat Malone
Jack Jones

Finsbury Park

Chalk Farm

Kate Karney

Khyber Pass
Stick it up yer Khyber

bottle and glass
On the bottle

Mrs. Chant
I'm off to see me aunt



back

bad

bag

bail

balls

balls

balls – human

hay stack

sorry and sad

Harry Tagg

Royal Mail

orchestra stalls

cobbler's awls
That's a load of cobblers

Henry Halls

balmy – foolish	Lakes of Killarney
bank	J. Arthur Rank Reduced to <i>J. Arthur</i> cab rank iron tank rattle and clank tin tank
bar – in a public house	Jack Tar near and far bazaar there you are
barge	Davy Large
barrow	cock sparrow
basin – pudding	Charlie Mason
beak	bubble and squeak
beak – magistrate	once a week <i>He's in front of the oncer today</i>
bed	feather and flip
bed	Uncle Ned
beer	pig's ear far and near oh my dear premier
beers	Britney Spears
believe	Adam and Eve <i>Would you Adam and Eve it?</i>
belly	Auntie Nellie Derby Kelley

bet	National Debt
betting book	Captain Cook(s)
bike	Irish Mike Pat and Mike
bill	Beecham's pill(s) Jack and Jill rhubarb pill pitch and fill
bill – a notice used by beggars	
bird – disapproval from an audience	Richard the Third
bitter – beer	apple fritter giggle and titter
bloke	bushel o'coke heap of coke
blue	me and you
boat	nanny goat
bob – one shilling	door knob one for his nob kettle on the hob touch me on the knob
Bob – Robert	kettle on the hob
boil	Conan Doyle
boil – swelling	can of oil Reduced to <i>canov</i>
book(s) – library	Captain Cook(s) jackdaw and rook
book – bookmaker	Joe Rook

boots – including shoes	daisy roots <i>I like your new daisies</i> German flutes
booze	pick and choose River Ouse
boozer	battle cruiser
border – the side wings on a stage	Harry Lauder
boss	pitch and toss
bottle	Aristotle Reduced to <i>Arry</i>
bounce – cheat	half ounce
bowler – hat	steam roller
box – theatre	Charles James Fox
boy	Mark Foy pride and joy San Toy saveloy
boy scout	tea grout Brussels sprout
braces	airs and graces
brandy	Charlie Randy fine and dandy Jack a Dandy Jack O’Dandy
bread	Uncle Fred
breast	Mae West
breath	true till death

brick	King Dick
brickie	King Dickie
bricklayer	King Dickie
bricks	Dublin tricks
broke – financially	coals and coke hearts of oak
brokers – referring to a bailiff	engineers and stokers
brother	one and t’other
brown – copper coin	Kentish Town Camden Town
brush – verb and noun	song of the thrush blackbird and thrush
bucket	Mrs. Duckett
bum	fife and drum
bunk	pineapple chunk
Burton – beer	lace curtain
bus	swear and cuss
butter	lay me in the gutter
butter	stammer and stutter

C

cab	Sandy McNab
cadge	coat and badge
cake	Sexton Blake


cake – also for a wad of money	give and take
candle	Harry Randle
car	jam jar near and far
car – referring to a new car	la-di-dah
card – in Bingo	Prussian guard
card – playing card	bladder of lard
cash	Harry Nash oak and ash Oscar Asche sausage and mash <i>Not a sausage left</i>
cell – prison	flowery dell
chair	I'll be there lion's lair
chairs	Owen Nares
chalk	Duke of York
change – money	Hardwicke Grange
cheek	once a week Reduced to <i>oncer</i>
cheese	stand at ease
cheque	goose's neck total wreck
chest	Mae West
chief – boss	bully beef chunk of beef

chief –warder	ham and beef
chilly	Uncle Willy
clap – VD	horse and trap
clock	dickory dock
clothes	these and those
clout	Brussels sprout
coach	cockroach
coat	all afloat
	Glasgow boat
	I'm afloat
	weasel and stoat
coats	Quaker oats
cock – penis	dickory dock
cold	potatoes in the mold
	<i>It ain't 'alf taters</i>
cold – a cold in the head	warrior bold
	soldier bold
	Naughton and Gold
collar	holla boys holla
	Tommy Roller
collar and tie	swallow and sigh
cook	babbling brook
copper – police informer	grasshopper
cork	Duke of York
corner – street corner	Johnnie Horner
	<i>Gone round the Johnnie</i> –
	meaning gone for a drink

coward	Charlie Howard
crap	horse and trap pony and trap
crook	Joe Rook babbling brook
crust – of bread	you must
cunt	grumble and grunt Cambridge punt Joe Hunt Reduced to <i>Joey</i>
cupboard	Mother Hubbard



damp – a swab in darts	couple of bob
dance	South of France
darts	horses and carts
deaf	Mutt and Jeff
dinner	glorious sinner Jimmy Skinner Lilley & Skinner Ned Skinner saint and sinner
dirty	two thirty
docks	Nervo and Knox
dog	Cherry Hogg

dogs – greyhound races	golliwogs Reduced to <i>gollies</i> cherry hogs Reduced to <i>cherries</i>
dole	Old King Cole
dollar – 5 shillings in old currency	Oxford scholar
door	Rory O'More
door mat	tom cat
dozen	country cousin
drag – three months in prison	carpet bag
drink	tiddlywink <i>A little bit tiddly</i> tumble down the sink <i>I'll buy you a tumble</i>
dripping	Dr. Crippen
drunk	elephant's truck
	
ear	bottle of beer
ear	glass of beer goofy gear
ear – reference to ear biting or borrowing money	King Lear
ears	Britney Spears
eight	garden gate
engineer	ginger beer

Epsom Races

evens – equal odds

eye

eyes

airs and graces

Major Stevens

pudding and pie

steak-and-kidney pie

mince pies

Reduced to minces

baby's cries

mutton pies

pudding and pies



face

faces

facts

fag – cigarette

fart

farts – via beans

feet

fever

fiddle – swindle

boat race

Chevy Chase

deuce and ace

Jem Mace

airs and graces

brass tacks

The whole phrase is used here

Harry Wrag

oily rag

spit and drag

raspberry tart

Blowing a raspberry

beef-hearts

plates of meat

Robinson and Cleaver

hey-diddle-diddle

fiddle – violin	hey-diddle-diddle
fight	read and write
fighter	typewriter
fin – the hand	Lincoln's Inn
fingers	bell ringers
finn – a £5 note	Lincoln's Inn
fire	Aunt Maria Jeremiah Obadiah
fire – domestic hearth	Anna Maria
fish	Andy MacNish Lilian Gish
fist	Oliver Twist Scotch mist
five – Bingo or £5	Jack alive
five – £5	Lady Godiva
fix – a problem	Tom Mix
flea	Bonnie Dundee
fleas	stand at ease
flies – house flies	alderman's eyes Nellie Blighs
floor	Rory O'More
flowers	April showers early hours happy hours yours and ours
flying squad	Sweeney Todd

fool – idiot

fork – finger – fist

free

fuck

fuck it

fucker



gams – legs

gaol – prison

geezer – a person

ghost

gin

Berk

Duke of York

Put up your Dukes

yet to be

push in the truck

trolley and truck

Friar Tuck

I don't give a Friars

cattle truck

He's cattled (ruined)

She needs a good cattling

Mrs. Duckett

pheasant plucker

feather plucker

trams

bucket and pail

ice-cream freezer

lemon squeezer

pillar and post

mother's ruin

blue ruin

Brian O'Linn

bung it in

Gunga Din

Lincoln's Inn

needle and pin

Vera Lynn

girl	chocolate whirl mother of pearl twist and twirl
go – run away	Scapa Flow
goggle box – television	nervo and knox
good	Robin Hood
gravy	army and navy
green	Rose of Thileen
grin	Vera Lynn
ground	penny a pound
Guinness	photo-finish
guts – courage	Newington Butts
gutter	bread and butter

h

hair	Barnet Fair
half	cow and calf
half – ten shillings in old money; now 50 pence	shower bath
half a dollar – half a crown in old money	half an Oxford scholar
hammer	Paddy Rammer panorama
hammer – with carpenters on film sets	windjammer

hand	German band <i>Me Germans are freezing</i>
hands	Brighton sands
hard – lack of sympathy	bread and lard <i>Ain't that bread and lard?</i>
hat	tit for tat Reduced to <i>titfa</i> bladder of fat
head	crust of bread loaf of bread pound of lead
head – a hangover head	lump of lead Not reduced
heart	puff and dart strawberry tart
hell	ding dong bell
hill	Beecham's pill(s) Jack and Jill
home	Pope of Rome
horse – rhyming with -aws	Charing Cross
hot – also for sexual reference	peas in the pot <i>It's a bit peasy in 'ere</i>
house	cat and mouse rat and mouse
house – the theatre, the audience	Micky Mouse

i ink
idiot

Herman Finck
Berk
Short for 'Berkshire Hunt',
meaning cunt, as in fool

j jail
jaw
Jew

bucket and pail
jackdaw
four by two
ten to two
five to two
quarter to two

jewellery
joke
judge

tomfoolery
oak
Barnaby Rudge
inky smudge

k key
kid
kids

green pea
God forbid
saucepan lids
dustbin lids

kip – sleep
kipper
kiss
knees

feather and flip
Jack the Ripper
hit and miss
biscuits and cheese
chips and peas

knick knacks

knife

knife and fork

bits and bats

drum and fife

man and wife

Drummond and Roce

Roast reduced to *roce*

From drum and fife, knife;
and roast pork, fork



lark – fun

late

later

laugh

lavatory

leave – in a hurry

legs

Bushey Park

Noah's Ark

tiddler's bait

alligator

cow and calf

family tree

Adam and Eve

bacon and eggs

clothes pegs

fried eggs

ham and legs

Scotch pegs

wooden pegs

salt and pepper

holy friar

God forbid

day and night

widow's mite

leper

liar

lid

light – ale

light – for a cigarette

lips	apple pips
liver	cheerful giver
lodger	artful dodger
loo – toilet	one and two
look	butcher's hook <i>Take a butcher's at this</i>
loot – money	whistle and foot toot
louse – informer	rat and mouse
love	heavens above
lunch	kidney punch



magistrate	garden gate
mark – place and time of starting	L.K. Clark
married	cut and carried cash and carried
marry	cash and carry
matches	Colney Hatch(es) cuts and scratches
mate	china plate <i>Me ole china</i> Harry Tate spin and plate
mate – Naval first officer	tin plate

menu	me and you
mike – microphone	Yorkshire tyke
milk	Charlie Dilke <i>Want a glass of charlie?</i> yellow silk
minute	cock linnet
miss – girl	cuddle and kiss
misses – wife	cheese and kisses
moke – donkey	Jerusalem artichoke
money	bees and honey <i>I've got no bees left</i> pot of honey sugar and honey
Morman	Jerry O'Gorman
morning	gipsy's warning
mother	one and t'other
motor	haddock and bloater Yarmouth bloater
mouth	north and south
mug – drinking	hearth rug
mug – a fool	steam tug <i>He's a right steamer</i> milk jug tom tug



nail
nails
nark – police informer

navy

Daily Mail
monkeys' tails
Noah's Ark
car park

plain and gravy
pudding and gravy
soup and gravy

neck

half a peck
hurricane deck

neck – throat

bushel and peck
Get this do your bushel

nerves

West Ham Reserves
He gets on me West Ham's

nice

apples and rice

nick

cow's lick

no hope

no soap

nose

fireman's hose
I suppose

nose – mainly a drunk's
red nose

Irish rose

nuns

hot cross buns



old man – father or husband

pot and pan
old pot and pan

old woman

gooseberry pudding

on one's own

Jack Jones
He's on 'is Jack
Pat Malone

on the booze

on the Labour – dole

on the run

onions

organ

on the ooze

beggar my neighbour

hot cross bun

corns and bunions

He knows his corns

Molly O'Morgan



paddock

pain

pants

paper

park

party

pawn

peck – food

peel

penny

phone

smoked haddock

Kennington Lane

uncle and aunts

linen draper

light and dark

gay and hearty

bullock's horn

Tooting Bec

Scottish reel

Abergavenny

dog and bone

eau de Cologne

Reduced to *odour*

Molly Malone

piano – pronounced *pianna*

pickel – predicament

pickles

pictures – cinema

Joanna

Harvey Nichol

Harvey Nichols

fleas and itchers

piddle – urinate	Jimmy Riddle
piece of chalk – darts	careless talk
pillow	titwillow
	weeping willow
pillows	rolling billows
pinch – arrest	half-inch
pinch – steal	half-inch
pink	tiddlywink
pint of ale	ship in full sail
	Reduced to <i>ship</i>
pint of milk	yard of silk
pipe	cherry ripe
piss	hit and miss
	rattle and hiss
pissed	Brahms and Liszt
pitch – cricket or sports	hedge and ditch
plate	one and eight
playing card	bladder of lard
playing card – Bingo	six months' hard
playing cards	Wilkie Bards
plums	deaf and dumbs
	<i>I'll have a pound of deafs</i>
pocket	sky pocket
	Lucy Locket
poke – pocket	Barney Moke
	okey-doke

Pole – Polish person

policeman

ponce

pony – £25

poof – homosexual

pools – football

poor

Port – the drink

Porter – the beer

pound – money

pox

pram

prick

psychiatrist

pub

sausage roll

Denis Law

Alphonse

macaroni

Reduced to *macker*

iron hoof

April fools

on the floor

didn't ought

Liffey water

lost and found

merry-go-round

band in the box

beef and ham

mad Mick

Pat and Mick

Uncle Dick

Hampton Wick

He gets on my wick

trick cyclist

rub-a-dub



Quaker

quart – drinks measure

muffin baker

pineapple and wart

pimple and wort

quarter – quarter-posts
for mooring mother and daughter

quay Robert E. Lee

queer ginger beer
King Lear

quid tea pot lid



rain Andy Cain
France and Spain
pleasure and pain

rent Burton on Trent
Duke of Kent

right Isle of Wight

river shake and shiver

road frog and toad

rocks Salford docks

Rose and Crown – pub name Lousy Brown

round the back – of a round the haystack
building or a euphemism
meaning going to the lavatory

round me's See *round the houses*

round the houses trousers – trousers

row bull and cow

rum finger and thumb
Tom Thumb

S	saloon bar	balloon car
	saw	bear's paw
	say	first of May
	say so	coffee and cocoa
		<i>I should cocoa</i>
	Scotch – whisky	pimple and blotch
	scouts	Brussels sprouts
	scran – food	Tommy O'Rann
	sense	eighteen pence
	sent for trial	over the stile
	Serpentine – the lake in Hyde Park	turpentine
	shabby	Westminster Abbey
	shaky	currant-cakie
	shave	dig in the grave
		misbehave
	shilling – old currency	potato peeling
	ship	'apenny dip
		ha'penny dip
	ship – while serving on a ship	whip
	shirt	Uncle Bert
		dicky dirt
	shit	tom tit
	shits – diarrhoea	threepenny bits
		Jim Britts
	shop – to inform against	lollipop

shoulder	rocks and boulder
shovel	Lord Lovell
shy	Peckham Rye
sick	half-a-lick Tom and Dick Uncle Dick <i>Feeling dicky today</i>
silly	Uncle Willy daffadown dilly
sing-song	ding-dong
sister	skin and blister
six	Joynson Hicks
six – Bingo	chop sticks
six – darts score	Tom Mix
sixty six – Bingo	clickety-click
skint	boracic lint pink lint
sky	apple pie
sleep	bo-peep
slop – police constable, via ecilop	ginger pop
smile	penny a mile
smoke	laugh and joke
sneeze	bread and cheese
snout	in and out

soap	band of hope Charlie Pope Cape of Good Hope
socks	army rocks almond rocks <i>Me almonds are wet</i> Nervo and Knox peppermint rocks Tilbury Docks
soda – soda-water	Major Loder
son	currant bun bath bun penny bun
song	ding dong
soup	loop the loop <i>Want some more loopers?</i>
sovereign	Jimmy O’Goblin
sparrow	bow and arrow
speak	bubble and squeak
spinach	Woolwich and Greenwich
spruce – deceive	Madam De Luce <i>Don’t give that old madam</i>
spuds – potatoes	rosebuds
spunk	Maria Monk
stairs	apples and pears
start – of a race	puff and dart
starting price	nits and lice

state – of mind	Harry Tate two and eight
steak	Joe Blake
steak and kidney pudding	Kate and Sidney
still – photograph	Beecham's pill
stink	pen and ink
stinker	pen and inker
stir – a prison	Joe Gurr
stocking	Silas Hocking
stools – pub	April fools
stout – beer	salmon and trout
stout – the drink	in and out
strangers – warning for the police coming	Queen's Park Rangers
street	field of wheat
sub – an advance on wages	rhubarb rub-a-dub
suit	whistle and flute <i>Love the new whistle</i> piccolo and flute
suitcase	crowded space
sun	currant bun bath bun penny bun
supper	Tommy Tucker
swear	Lord Mayor rip and tear

sweetheart

jam tart
Reduced to *tart*

T

table

Cain and Abel

tail – dog's

hammer and nail
alderman's nail

tailor

Sindbad the sailor

tale – a con man's trick

weep and wail
Daily Mail

talk

rabbit and pork
He doesn't half rabbit on
Duke of York
pickled pork

talk – referring to a complaint

roast pork
Are you roasting again?

tanner – old sixpenny piece

Lady of the Manor
Lord of the Manor
engineer's spanner
tartan banner

tart

horse and cart

tea

Rosy Lea
Betty Lee
Jenny Lea
Nancy Lea
sailors on the sea
you and me

tear

ginger beer

teeth	Hampstead Heath <i>Ampsteads</i> or <i>Amps</i> Hounslow Heath
telly	Marie Correlli custard and jelly
ten	Big Ben
ten – Bingo	Uncle Ben
ten – years in gaol	cock(le) and hen
testicles	Beecham's pills <i>Don't talk pills</i> – rubbish
the dole	Old King Cole
the other day	my mother's away
thief	tea leaf
thieving	tea leafing
thirteen – darts	Dick Turpin
thirty three – Bingo	Gertie Lee
thunder	stand from under
ticket	bat and wicket
tie	fourth of July Peckham Rye pig's fry
till – cash	Benny Hill Jack and Jill
time – prison sentence and time of day	bird lime
tits	threepenny bits

titties – breasts	Bristol Cities <i>A nice pair of Bristols</i> tale of two cities
toes	red rose
too true	too Irish stew Reduced to <i>too Irish</i> two eyes of blue
tools	April fools
toss – a coin	Iron horse
Tote	canal boat nanny goat
tout	Brussels sprout
towel	mortar and trowel William Powell
track – racing	tin tack
trail	hammer and nail
train	struggle and strain Mary Blane
tram-car	jam jar
tray	Vicar of Bray
trick	penny come quick
tripe – rubbish	cherry ripe
trousers, trousers	round the houses Reduced to <i>round me's</i>
truck	goose and duck
true	Irish stew <i>All too Irish</i>

want	Levy and Frank
wash	Bob Squash
washer	lemon squasher
watch	Gordon and Gotch
water	fisherman's daughter miller's daughter
way	Edna May
wheels	John Mills
whisky	Charlie Frisky gay and frisky highland frisky I'm so frisky Reduced to <i>I'm so</i>
whizz	bottle of fizz
whore	early door
wife	trouble and strife worry and strife drum and fife joy of my life carving knife Duchess of Fife <i>She's me old Dutch</i>
wig	Irish jig
win	nose and chin
window	burnt cinder Jenny Linder Polly Flinder
windy – the weather	Rawalpindi

wood – timber	do me good
woods – Woodbines, cigarettes	do me goods
word	mocking bird
word – of honour	dicky bird
work	Russian Turk slave and Turk



Yid – a Jew

front wheel skid
tin lid
tea-pot lid
God forbid