

Worksheet 1

The Blog Monster

Using Slang

"The word blog comes from the word weblog," I began... "It was later shortened to blog by a man who broke the word as a joke.

Slang is a type of informal language that uses shortened words and phrases (such as g'day, c'mon, arvo, good on ya!) or when words are given an alternative name such as dunny (toilet) or mate (friend). Slang is something you probably use and hear every day.

Task 1: Create a Slang Dictionary using the words below. First put the words into alphabetical order and then write what each word actually means. Finally, put each word, in its slang form, in a sentence to show its meaning.

mozzie	drongo	cozzie	chook	stoked
cuppa	bizzo	sanger	whinge	snags
cobber	journo	arvo	blowie	dacks
yarn	lippie	servo	postie	undies
prezzie	sook	tucker	brekkie	rellie

Colloquialisms are also a form of informal language but come in the form of a phrase or a saying rather than an individual word. Some common examples of colloquialisms are 'feeling crook' (feeling sick), peace out (goodbye) and 'shut your trap' (be quiet).

Task 2: Make a list of 10-15 informal sayings that are common to your age group (no swearwords allowed!) and give them to an adult (a teacher in the school, the principal, your mum or dad or to evoke the highest form of bewilderment – your grandparents!) and see if they can interpret them. Get the adult to write a list of colloquialisms common to his or her age group and see if you can decipher them!

Extension Activity:

- Write a helpful guide for adults who are unfamiliar with commonly used modern acronyms used in social networking (e.g. lol – laugh out loud). Think of 15- 20 common examples and give it away to someone you think might need it! (Again, swearwords are not permitted!!)