Vice Slang

Tom Dalzell and Terry Victor
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‘Vice, for the purposes of this dictionary, encompasses only those guilty pleasures that the morally stringent disdain, and that don't fit neatly into the sex or crime drawers of our personal closets. Drinks, drugs and gambling – it’s a journey of discovery from A to Zulu, and you really should know better.’

From the preface by Tom Dalzell and Terry Victor
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PREFACE

Vice, for the purposes of this dictionary, encompasses only those guilty pleasures that the morally stringent disdain, and that don’t fit neatly into the sex or crime drawers of our personal closets. Drinks, drugs and gambling – it’s a journey of discovery from A to Zulu, and you really should know better.

But for those of us who are intrigued by unconventional English, the slang that oozes from these dissolute pastimes is justification enough for the most self-serving of sins. Yes, you can take the moral high ground and pretend to be appalled by this slang, or, more likely, the practices described, but if you weren’t amused with the wit and creativity of our unconventional vocabulary you wouldn’t be holding this book in your hands in the first place.

We are hard-wired with a linguistic resourcefulness that can disguise or betray our hopes and fears. Consider how often an uncomfortable joke is used to defend us from tragedy or despair and there you will discover the genesis of vice slang; this vocabulary is a series of punchlines to some of life’s darkest jokes. No matter how far you venture beyond the pale there’s always a word for it in these pages.

The need for slang as an intimate language and defender of moral transgression is readily apparent. The next generation – perhaps that should be degeneration – is always reinventing and refining the practices of drinking, drug use and gambling; the excitement of discovery and danger, of outrage and rebellion against the mainstream is evident in this small dictionary of vice slang.

This volume consists of approximately 3,000 headword entries drawn in large part from our New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, in which we recorded slang and unconventional English heard anywhere in the English-speaking world any time since 1945. In that work and here we included pidgin, Creolized English and borrowed foreign terms used by English speakers in primarily English-language conversation. We excluded no term on the ground that it might be considered offensive as a racial, ethnic, religious, sexual or other slur. This dictionary contains many entries and citations that will, and should, offend.

We used UK spelling for definitions and our commentary but used indigenous spelling for headwords and citations. This is especially relevant in the case of the UK arse and US ass. For Yiddish words, we used Leo Rosten’s spelling, which favours sh- over sch-. An initialism is shown in upper case without full stops (for example, ABC). Phrases are, as a rule, placed under their first significant word. For example, the phrase get your wings is listed as a phrase under the headword wings. By this placement scheme, we sought to avoid the endless pages of entries starting with prepositions or common verbs such as get.

In dealing with slang from all seven continents, we encountered more than a few culture-specific terms. For such terms, we identified the domain or geographic location of the term’s usage. We used conventional English in the definitions, turning to slang only when it is both substantially more economical than the use of conventional English and readily understood by the average reader.

We recognize that the accurate dating of slang is far more difficult than dating conventional language. Virtually every word in our lexicon is spoken before it is written, and this is especially true of unconventional terms. We dated a term to indicate the earliest citation that we discovered.

For each entry, we included a quotation, a citation or a gloss explaining where the term was collected. Sheer joy – or intoxication – is often found expressed in these quotations, while the citations and glosses give a sense of when and where the term was found.
If you’re looking for a high old time you can bet your bones you’ve come to the right place. The sign on the door says ‘Liquor in Front, Poker in Back’. By the time you have journeyed from A to Zulu you really will know better, and can’t ask for more than that.

Tom Dalzell, Berkeley, California
Terry Victor, Caerwent, Wales
Late Spring 2007
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our debt to Sophie Oliver defies description. With good humour and a saintly tolerance for our so-called wit and attempts to corrupt, she herded this project through from a glimmer in the eye to print on the page.

We bow to and thank the following who helped along the way: Mary Ann Kernan, who was charged with putting this project together in 1999 and 2000; John Williams, who must be credited for all that is right about our lexicography and excused for anything that is not; our contributors to the New Partridge, Richard Allsopp, Diane Bardsley, James Lambert, John Loftus, Lewis Poteet; and our Sex and Vice task-mistress Sonja van Leeuwen.

Tom Dalzell and Terry Víctor

This dictionary would never have seen the light of day without the time and support given me by my family: Cathy, Jake, Julia, Rosalie, and Charlotte. In the words of Lenny Bruce, I didn’t do all this, I only wrote it.

I thank: my slang mentors Paul Dickson and Madeline Kripke (and better mentors you could not hope for); Archie Green, who saved Peter Tamony’s work for posterity and encouraged me throughout this project; Reinold Aman, Jesse Sheidlower, Jonathan Green and Susan Ford, slang lexicographers, friends and comrades in words; Tom Miller, Bill Stolz, John Konzal and Patricia Walker, archivists at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri at Columbia, for their help and insights during my work with the Peter Tamony archives; and Richard Perlman for his patient technological help.

Lastly, I acknowledge Terry Víctor. With his joy of life and firm appreciation of the benefits of vice, he has made a considerable mark on the last eight years.

Tom Dalzell

Liz, for her patience, tolerance and understanding; that we don’t share any of the vices collected in this book is her achievement not mine. Thank you, Liz.

My inspirations cannot go unacknowledged; the seductive swirl of their slang led a young man astray, especially all those songs that weren’t about drugs, honest: ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’, ‘Sweet Jane’, ‘Another Girl, Another Planet’, ‘Golden Brown’, ‘Here Comes the Nice’, ‘Motorhead’ and more. It was cool to be in on the secret. They got me started, long before I had ever heard of Ebeneezer Goode or Eric Partridge.

But, above all, Tom Dalzell must be named and shamed as the Viceroy of Vice, for his slang scholarship and generosity – we are dancing in the dark places and he is leading the way.

Terry Víctor
Aa

A noun

1 amphetamine US, 1967
- “A” is considered very bad news, it rots your teeth and your mind. — Ruth Bronsteen, *The Hippy’s Handbook* 1967

2 LSD US, 1977
An abbreviation of ‘acid’.
- Street names[: ] A, acid, blotter].]

3 in a deck of playing cards, an ace US, 1988

ABC noun
in poker, the ace, two and three US, 1988

A bean noun
a capsule of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2003
- — Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

A-bomb; atom bomb noun
marijuana combined in a cigarette with cocaine, heroin or opium US, 1969
- — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

Abyssinian polo noun
a game of dice US, 1962
- — Frank Garcia, *Marked Cards and Loaded Dice* 1962

Acapulco gold noun
golden-leafed marijuana from southwest Mexico US, 1965
A popular, well-known strain of cannabis. The song ‘Acapulco Gold’ by the Rainy Daze was released in 1967 and had just begun its climb in the pop charts when programme directors figured out what it was about and pulled it off play lists.
- “Gold. It’s Acapulco Gold,” White Rabbit corrected the doctor, who was mixing up the slang names for different kinds of marijuana. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against* 1967

ace noun
1 one-eighth of an ounce of a drug US, 1989
- — Geoffrey Froner, *Digging for Diamonds* 1989

2 phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1981

3 in dice games, a rolled one US, 1999
- Three crap three, ace-deuce, no use.

4 in pool, the number one ball US, 1878
- Fifteen in the corner. Ace in the side.
  — The Hustler 1961

aces noun

in craps, a roll of two US, 1999

acey-deucey verb
(used of a jockey) to ride with the inside stirrup lower than the outside stirrup US, 1948
A riding style popularised by legendary jockey Eddie Acaro.

acey-deucy noun
in craps, a roll of a one and a two US, 1974

acid freak noun
a habitual user of LSD US, 1966
- In a town full of bedrock crazies, nobody even notices an acid freak.
  — Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* 1971

acid head noun
a habitual user of LSD US, 1966
- What they’ll do is arrest the blacks, the acid heads, and the vagrants.
  — Berkeley Barb 30th December 1966

acid test noun
an event organised to maximise the hallucinatory experiences of LSD US, 1966
Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters organised acid tests in Palo Alto, Portland (Oregon), Los Angeles and Mexico in 1966.
- Curiously, after the first rush at the Acid Test, there would be long intervals of the most exquisite boredom. — Tom Wolfe, *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* 1968
action noun
betting, gambling US, 1885
- The sina qua non is that he is a good “money player,” can play his best when heavy action is riding on the game (as many non-hustlers can’t). — Ned Polsky, Hustlers, Beats, and Others 1967

Ada from Decatur; Ada Ross, the Stable Hoss
noun
in a game of dice, a roll of eight US, 1918
A homophonic evolution of ‘eighth’.
- — Sidney H. Rander, Rander on Dice 1957

Adam noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1985
Almost an anagram.
- CALL IT... Adam, brownies, burgers, disco biscuits, doves, eckies, tulips, X[.] JUST DON’T CALL IT... MDMA – too scientific[.] — Drugs: An Adult Guide December, 2001

Adam and Eve noun
a pill of MDEA and MDMA, the recreational drugs best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
A combination of ADAM (MDMA) and the obvious partner; note MADMAN and MADWOMAN as synonyms for MDMA and MDEA respectively.
- — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

Aesop noun
in poker, any player who tells stories while playing US, 1996
- — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

affy bud noun
a type of marijuana that originates in Afghanistan UK, 2004
- — Steven Wishnia, The Cannabis Companion 2004

Afghani black; Afghani pollen noun
varieties of hashish from Afghanistan UK, 2003
- Afghani pollen produces a slightly lighter and crumblier hash than traditional Afghani black. — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003

Afkanastan noun
Afghan marijuana grown in Kansas US, 2001
- — Simon Worman, Joint Smoking Rules 2001

African noun
in US casinos, a black betting chip worth $100 US, 1983
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

African black noun
a potent type of marijuana, presumed to be from Africa, possibly Morocco US, 1970
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

African bush noun
marijuana US, 1979

African dominoes noun
dice US, 1919
- Then the colored gamblers set in to pleading with the African dominoes[.] — Guy Owen, The Flim-Flam Man and the Apprentice Grifter 1972

African golf noun
the game of craps US, 1919
- — Joseph Weingarten, American Dictionary of Slang 1954

A-head noun
1 an amphetamine abuser US, 1971
- She was a bit of an A-head and was a familiar figure at the fountain in her uniform after work. — Ed Sanders, Tales of Beatnik Glory 1975
2 a frequent user of LSD US, 1971
- — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

air barrel noun
in pool, that which backs a bet made without money to back the bet US, 1990
A BARREL is a betting unit; an ‘air barrel’ is thus an illusory betting unit.
- — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

airplane noun
1 a device used for holding a marijuana cigarette that has burnt down to the stub US, 1970
An abbreviation of the fuller ‘Jefferson Airplane’.
- — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970
2 marijuana UK, 1998
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003
ajax noun
in hold 'em poker, an ace and a jack as the first two cards dealt to a particular player US, 1981
Punning on the branded name of a cleaning agent.
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

Alameda noun
in bar dice games, a roll that produces no points for the player US, 1971
Alameda is an island city just west of Oakland. In Alameda, a worthless hand is called a 'Milpitas', alluding to a small and relatively poor city just north of San Jose.
• — Jester Smith, Games They Play in San Francisco 1971

Al Capone noun
heroin UK, 2002
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

alcho noun
an alcoholic UK, 1996
• I started because of what my step-dad used to do to me, and he was an alcho. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

aletank noun
a heavy drinker UK, 2002
• [T]wo of them must be fucking doorman seagulls, throwing this bit of an aletank seagull out the club.
— Kevin Sampson, Clubland 2002

Alice noun
LSD UK, 1972
A phonetic pun on the first two letters of LSD, influenced by Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, 1865, and Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There, 1871, which were considered inspirational works by the hippy sub-culture of the late 1960s.
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

alky; alkie noun
1 an alcoholic US, 1952
• I get high drunk, drop money on floor, am panhandled, play Ruth Brown wildjump records among drunken alky whores. — Jack Kerouac, Letter to John Clellon Holmes 8th February 1952
2 alcohol, especially methyl alcohol US, 1844
• Long before midnight its habitues have already made sleeping arrangements or are snoring in the alleys, cheap overnight lodgings or hallways, paralyzed by alky or cheap domestic red wine. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, Washington Confidential 1951

all-American drug noun
cocaine US, 1998
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

cocaine noun
all day adjective
in craps, said of a bet that is in effect until the shooter rolls his point or a seven US, 1983
• When you tell the dealer you're making an all day bet, that means it's a standard hardway bet rather than a one-roll proposition bet. — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

alley juice noun
denatured alcohol (ethyl alcohol) to which a poisonous substance has been added to make it unfit for consumption US, 1992

all star noun
da drug user who abuses many different drugs US, 1992

altered adjective
very drunk US, 1991
• — Judi Sanders, Don't Dog by Do, Dude! 1991

American Airlines noun
in hold 'em poker, the ace of diamonds and ace of hearts as the first two cards dealt to a player US, 1981
From the initials AA.
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

amp noun
an ampoule of methadone, used to break a heroin addiction UK, 1985
• — Liz Cutland, Kick Heroin 1985

amped adjective
under the influence of a central nervous system stimulant, usually amphetamines or methamphetamine US, 1972
amphet noun
amphetamine US, 1982
- When it comes to Class B, cannabis, amphetas, and the like, I’m not interested[.] — Duncan MacLaughlin, The Filth 2002

amy; amie noun
amyl nitrite; an ampoule of amyl nitrite US, 1966
- And have “amies” on hand too: poppers, banana splits, whatever you call them. — Angelo d’Arcangelo, The Homosexual Handbook 1968

amyl noun
amyl nitrite or butyl nitrate, when taken recreationally or to enhance sexual arousal US, 1971
- [M]ade me tip a whole bottle of amyl up my fucking nose. All at once. It set my nose alight. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

angel noun
cocaine AUSTRALIA, 1942
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

angel dust noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug also known as PCP US, 1970
PCP, a veterinary anaesthetic, a popular recreational drug that may be inhaled, smoked, ingested or injected; regarded as a cheap(er) substitute for other illicit drugs.
- “Ain’t it some bad shit, baby? It’s spiked with angel dust,” she slurred as she dropped her head to his naked lap[.] — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Airtight Willie and Me 1979

angel wing noun
a cigarette dosed with phencyclidine, the drug commonly known as PCP or angel dust US, 2002
- Six months ago, I was guzzling rotgut and smoking angel wings at boarding school. — David Henry Sterry, Chicken 2002

Angie noun
cocaine US, 1994
- — US Department of Justice, Street Terms August, 1994

Angola black; Angola noun
a potent marijuana from East Africa US, 1982
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

animal noun
amyl nitrate UK, 2002
- [T]hey tended to be more into speed and “animal”. — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002

Annie from Arkansas noun
in craps, an eight US, 1993
- — Frank Scoblete, Guerrilla Gambling 1993

annihilated adjective
drunk US, 1975
- — Rutgers Alumni Magazine February, 1986

antifreeze noun
alcohol US, 1953
- [S]pent the evening knocking back the anti-freeze[.] — Andrew Nickolds, Back to Basics 1994

any-to-come noun
in gambling, a type of conditional bet in which all or part of a winning is returned on another bet UK, 2001
May be abbreviated as ATC.
- — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

apartment house noun
in bar dice games, a roll from the cup in which some dice are stacked on top of others, invalidating the roll US, 1971
- — Jester Smith, Games They Play in San Francisco 1971

apostles noun
- the apostles
in craps, a roll of twelve US, 1999
- — Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999

apple noun
a particular type of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
Sometimes embellished to ‘apple E’ or ‘green apple’.
- [A]ll that happened when the adverts came out saying that Apple Es killed Leah Betts was that you couldn’t buy one for love nor money cos every raver wanted one. There was a lot of shit pills out there and those ads were just saying to people that apples were pukka[.] — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

apple core; apple noun
twenty pounds; in betting, odds of 20–1 UK, 1974
Rhyming slang for **score**.


**Apron** noun

- **out of the apron**
  (used of gambling in a casino) on money borrowed from the casino *US*, 1982
  - David M. Hayano, *Poker Faces* 1982

**Arm** noun

- **up the arm**
  in betting, odds of 11–8 *UK*, 1991

  From the **tick-tack** signal used by bookmakers.

**Arm candy** noun

recreational drugs that are injected into the arm *UK*, 2002

- What’s more that arm candy you liked so much is gotta get paid for too and that costs plenty. — Ben Elton, *High Society* 2002

**Armchair ride** noun

in horse racing, an easy victory *US*, 1976


**Armor** noun

- **in the armor**
  (used of beer) in a can *US*, 1967

  - American Speech February, 1967: ‘Soda-fountain, restaurant and tavern calls’

**Army** noun

a large bankroll *US*, 1990

- A player backed by an army can do battle all day. — Steve Rushin, *Pool Cool* 1990

**Army craps** noun

a game of craps in which the shooter serves as the banker *US*, 1984


**Army marbles** noun

dice *US*, 1963

- From the view that soldiers are fond of dice games.

**Army odds** noun

in a dice game, the true odds, not approximate odds often used in street games *US*, 1962

- Frank Garcia, *Marked Cards and Loaded Dice* 1962

**Aroma** noun

- **Amyl nitrite or butyl nitrite** *US*, 1980
  - Maledicta Winter, 1980: “Lovely, blooming, fresh and gay”: the onomastics of camp’

**Arseholed** adjective

very drunk *UK*, 1982

- CHRISSIE: How much money have we got? LOGGO: Enough. CHRISSIE: Good. ‘Cos I’m gonna get arseholed. — Alan Bleasdale, *Boys from the Blackstuff* 1982

**Artillery** noun

the equipment needed to inject a drug *US*, 1915

- A cabinet was filled with other “artillery” – the legal connotation addicts give shooting gadgets. — San Francisco News 5th December 1951

**Ashes** noun

marijuana *US*, 1977

- Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**Ass cache** noun

a supply of drugs hidden in the rectum *US*, 1992


**Astro turf** noun

marijuana *UK*, 2003

- Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

**A Train** noun

any central nervous system depressant *US*, 1975

- Only thing i know is that you been fucking with them A trains, again. — Miguel Pinero, *Short Eyes* 1975

**Atshitshi** noun

marijuana *SOUTH AFRICA*, 1977

- Shit disguised by using a variant of ‘secret language’ pig Latin.
  - Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**Aunt Hazel** noun

marijuana *US*, 2001

Aunt Mary noun
marijuana US, 1959
‘mary’ is a familiar pun on ‘marijuana’.
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

Aunt Nora noun
cocaine, 1994
• — Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

Aurora borealis noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1977
• — Drummer 1977

Australia noun
an ounce of marijuana or other drug UK, 2003
Punning the abbreviation ‘oz’ (ounce) with the familiar diminutive ‘Oz’ (Australia).
• — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003
B noun
1 Benzedrin™ amphetamine sulphate, a central nervous system stimulant US, 1986
    • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986
2 a matchbox full of marijuana US, 1971

B-40 noun
a cigar laced with marijuana and dipped in malt liquor US, 1998
Possibly named for the appearance and/or effects of the B-40 grenade launcher used by the Vietcong during the Vietnam war.
    • — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

B-52 noun
a powerful amphetamine tablet US, 1993
    • — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

baby noun
1 marijuana US, 1960
    • He say, “Man, don’t forgit the baby now!” He mean bring a few sticks of it out to the field, you see, that’s what he mean by that. He call it “charge,” too. Sho’. Them’s slang names. — Terry Southern, Texas Summer 1991
2 in poker, a 2, 3, 4 or 5 US, 1979
    • — John Scarne, Scarne’s Guide to Modern Poker 1979

baby blue noun
a tablet of Viagra, an erection-inducing drug US, 2002
    • — Amy Sohn, Sex and the City 2002

baby blues noun
capsules of the synthetic opiate oxycodone used recreationally US, 2003
    • Prosecutors in Florida, where Limbaugh has a $24 million estate, are now investigating whether he used one of his housekeepers to obtain OxyContin painkillers, known on the street as “Baby Blues.” — The Record (Bergen County, New Jersey) 23rd November 2003

baby habit noun
the irregular, unaddicted use of a drug US, 1992

baby T noun
crack cocaine US, 1994
    • — US Department of Justice, Street Terms 2nd October 1994

back-door; backdoor adjective
in poker, describing an unexpected hand produced drawing US, 1979
    • — John Scarne, Scarne’s Guide to Modern Poker 1979

backshow noun
in gambling on broadcast racing, any betting before the current show price UK, 2001
    • — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

back-to-back noun
heroin then crack cocaine used in sequence US, 1994
    • — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

backwards noun
any central nervous system depressant US, 1966
    • — J. L. Simmons and Barry Winograd, It’s Happening 1966

backwashing noun
after injecting a drug, the drawing of blood back into the syringe, with the intention of collecting any drug residue, and reinjecting the resultant mix UK, 2003
    • — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

bad noun
crack cocaine US, 1994
    • — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

badger noun
in horse racing, an inexpensive horse that qualifies its owner for race track privileges US, 1976
    • — Tom Ainslie, Ainslie’s Complete Guide to Thoroughbred Racing 1976

bad go noun
a small amount of a drug relative to the price paid US, 1971
    • — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971
bad seed *noun*
1 peyote; heroin *US, 1969*
   - Richard Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986
2 marijuana *UK, 1998*
   - Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

bad shit *noun*
high-quality drugs, especially marijuana, 1996

bag *noun*
▶ in the bag
  drunk *US, 1940*
  - *The next night when he came in she was half in the bag.[*] — George V. Higgins, *The Rat on Fire* 1981

bag *verb*
to bribe someone; to arrange an outcome
*US, 1948*
- Bagging of a baseball game down in the Carolina League came as a shock to fans and officials throughout the country. — *San Francisco Examiner* 3rd June 1948

baggage *noun*
a non-playing observer of a card or dice game *US, 1950*

bagged *adjective*
drunk *US, 1953*
- Sure, Gleason is consistently “bagged” throughout, by which is he such an angry drunk? — *Times Union (Albany, New York)* 13th October 2002

baghead *noun*
a habitual cocaine or heroin user *UK, 1996*
- I hate smack. I fucking hate fucking bagheads even worse[.] — Kevin Sampson, *Outlaws* 2001

baked *adjective*
drug-intoxicated, especially by marijuana *US, 1978*
- Now Vita was lighting a joint, needing to get baked before she could turn herself into an International Chick. — Elmore Leonard, *Be Cool* 1999

ball *noun*
1 crack cocaine *US, 1994*
   - US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994
2 black-tar heroin *UK, 2002*
   - Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

baller *noun*
a drug dealer, usually of crack cocaine *US, 2001*
- She tells me that when she was actively gangbanging, her father’s brother, Uncle Darryl (whom she describes as a “baller,” a successful drug dealer), supplied her with drugs to sell for him. — *Rolling Stone* 12th April 2001

balloon *noun*
a small amount of heroin, whether or not it is actually in a balloon *US, 1967*
- Richard Horman and Alan Fox, *Drug Awareness* 1970

ball team; baseball team *noun*
a group of gambling cheats who work in casinos *US, 1987*

balot; ballot *noun*
opium; heroin *US, 1986*
- Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

bam *noun*
1 a pill containing both a barbiturate and an amphetamine *UK, 1983*
   - Tom Hibbert, *Rockspeak!* 1983
2 a central nervous system depressant *UK, 2003*
   - Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

bamalam *noun*
marijuana *US, 1973*
- [D]iggin’ sounds after hours and smokin’ your bamalam and walking down the street stark noble savage naked to the world! — Lester Bangs, *Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung* 1973

bambalacha; bamba; bammy *noun*
marijuana *US, 1938*
- Marijuana is also known as loco weed, love weed, giggle weed, bambalacha and Indian hay. — *San Francisco Examiner* 19th October 1948

bambino *noun*
an amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant *US, 1992*
**HEROIN**

**beast noun, US, 1958**
heroin; heroin addition
- As long as Mable his whore was able / To satisfy his beast. — Dennis Wepman et al., *The Life* 1976

**Chinese rocks noun, US, 1975**
relatively pure heroin

**dead on arrival noun, UK, 1998**
- [S]lang [names for heroin] draws on words associated with death (“heaven dust”, “dead on arrival”, “hell dust”). — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

**golden brown noun, UK, 1981**
An elaboration of brown (heroin).
- What do you think it is, little girl? It's heroin, that’s for sure, golden brown, like in the song. — Ben Elton, *High Society* 2002

**H noun, US, 1926**
- Herman came back from his thirty-day cure on Riker’s Island and introduced me to a peddler who was pushing Mexican H on 103rd and Broadway. — William Burroughs, *Junkie* 1953

**horse noun, US, 1950**
- Ain’t nothing a greater blast than “horse.” It’s your privilege to wake up slow if you want. “Horse” is what puts the ice in a pimp’s game. — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), *Pimp* 1969

**Jones noun, US, 1970**
- Then I heard a knock on the door so I placed a New York News over the Jones and got up to answer the door. — A.S. Jackson, *Gentleman Pimp* 1973

**Mexican mud noun, US, 1977**
brown heroin that originates in the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico; heroin
- [It] brushes up against the competition, including Mexican-produced Black Tar, known derisively as Mexican Mud because of its poor quality; the more superior Mexican Brown in powder form; and especially high-grade Colombian White, its biggest rival. — *New York Times* 23rd June 2002

**shit noun, US, 1950**
- White people who know the difference between good shit and bad shit, this is the house they come to. My shit, I’ll take the Pepsi Challenge with Amsterdam shit any ol’ day of the fuckin’ week. — *Pulp Fiction* 1994

**Uncle Junk noun, US, 1985**
- The first time he saw Carl, Lee thought, “I could use that, if the family jewels weren’t in pawn to Uncle Junk.” — William Burroughs, *Queer* 1985

**Banana horse noun**
a racehorse that is part of a cheating scheme in a fixed race US, 1973
- We’d list the banana horse on the sheet that went out to all our bookmakers and he’d then refuse to take any action on that horse from anyone in the city. — Vincent Teresa, *My Life in the Mafia* 1973

**Banana race noun**
a fixed horse race US, 1967
- New England tracks are famous throughout the United States for their so-called “banana-races,” in which the winner is known in advance to a select few. — *Saturday Evening Post* 18th November 1967

**Banana split noun**
1 amyl nitrite; an ampoule of amyl nitrite
US, 1968

A reference to the banana-like smell of the drug vapours.
- And have “amies” on hand too: poppers, banana splits, whatever you call them. — Angelo d’Arcangelo, *The Homosexual Handbook* 1968

2 a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug
best known as ecstasy UK, 2002
From the logo pressed into the pill; after the cult children’s television programme *The Banana Splits* (originally broadcast 1968–1970).
- — Gareth Thomas, *This is Ecstasy* 2002

**bammer noun**
weak, low-grade marijuana US, 1997
- — Pamela Munro, *U.C.L.A. Slang* 1997

**banana noun**
in US casinos, a $20 chip US, 1985
From the yellow colour.
- — Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985
bang noun
1 an injection of a narcotic US, 1922
   • I found him in such a state of collapse
     that I had to give him a bang before he
could pull himself together and locate
the junk in the place where he’d
hidden it. — Ethel Water, His Eye is on
the Sparrow 1952
2 the sudden effect of a drug US, 1948
   • [T]he top grade, the gungeon, which
     produces a voluptuous “bang,”
     bringing as high as a dollar. — Jack
Lait and Lee Mortimer, New York
Confidential 1948

bang verb
1 to inhale or to inject a drug
   intravenously US, 1926
   • Angel nodded off immediately, hitting
     himself and banging it all in at
once[] — Hal Ellson, The Golden
Spike 1952
2 to swallow a tablet UK, 2001
   • I’ve done 12 [ecstasy tablets] in one
     night. You bang one, you go out, you
     have a good night. — Drugs: An Adult
     Guide [quoting Brian Harvey of pop
     group East 17] December, 2001

banger noun
a hypodermic needle and syringe US, 1986
   • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and
     Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

bang up verb
1 to prepare marijuana as a cigarette UK, 2000
   • “Hey, groovy, Ken – why not bang up a
     neat little one-skinner?” And that’s
     what I did. — Ken Lukowiak, Marijuana
     Time 2000

bar; barr noun
a mixture of codeine-infused cough syrup
and soda US, 1998
   • I’m also trying to find out the
     Pharmaceutical name for a drug in
     texas called syrup, lean or bar. It is a
     codeine based syrup, which tastes like
     some sweet cough syrup, but it is very
     strong. — alt.drugs.chemistry 22nd
     November 1998

Barbara Hutton noun
in hold ’em poker, a five and ten as the
first two cards dealt to a player US, 1981
Hutton (1913–1979) was heiress to the
Woolworth fortune; Woolworth was the
foremost five and ten cent store in America.

—— — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of
Gambling and Gaming 1987

barber pole noun
in casino gambling, a bet comprised of
various coloured chips US, 1980
   • Barber poles are to be broken down
     and paid color for color. — Lee Solkey,
     Dummy Up and Deal 1980

barf buddy noun
a drinking companion US, 1977
   • [S]ometimes longed for the
     uncomplicated life of lacrosse and
     rugby and hou-bro beevo parties, of
     happily hugging the toilet all night long
     with your barf buddies after draining a
     half-keg for no special occasion.
     — John Sayles, Union Dues 1977

bar-fly noun
a too-frequent frequenter of bars and
saloons US, 1906
   • In the dingy half-light, in the thick,
     stale miasma of tobacco smoke and
     alcoholic fumes which are the atmos-
     phere of the innumerable cocktail bars
     of our cities, a new character has
     entered the American scene. It is the
     female bar fly. — San Francisco
     Examiner 10th December 1947

barn money noun
in horse racing, money bet by purportedly
informed track insiders US, 1994
   • — Igor Kushyshyn et al., The
     Gambling Times Guide to Harness
     Racing 1994

bar of soap noun
in dominoes, the double blank US, 1959
   • — Dominic Armanino, Dominoes 1959

barrel noun
1 a tablet of LSD US, 1971
   Usually in the plural.
   • Acid pills roughly the shape and size of
     asprin tablets are called “barrels”
     because of their cylindrical shape.
     — Cam Cloud, The Little Book of Acid
     1999
2 in pool, a betting unit US, 1990
   • If you have $1000 and you’re playing
     for $100 a game, you’re packing ten
     barrels. — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool
     1990

base noun
1 basic cocaine from which the hydrochlo-
ride has been removed US, 1982
• After some of the fellas would step away from the blackjack table, and the bar, and get ready to buy a fiddy or a hundred dollars' worth of sniff, I would set them up with a hit of base in the back room. — *New Jack City* 1990

2 an amphetamine, 2001
• CALL IT... Sulphate, wake-ups, whizz, whites, base JUST DON'T CALL IT... Ice — *Drugs: An Adult Guide* December, 2001

**base** verb
to smoke freebase cocaine US, 1987
• At about five a.m. they wanted to base and shit and I knew Max didn't base either. — Terry Williams, *The Cocaine Kids* 1989

**base crazies** noun
obsessive searching behaviour experienced by freebase cocaine users US, 1989
• [A] kind of hallucination that leads an individual to search for the smallest particle of cocaine or crack in mistaken belief that they have lost some of the residue. — Terry Williams, *The Cocaine Kids* 1989

**base head** noun
a regular smoker of freebase cocaine US, 1986
• After a month or two, the place was full of just baseheads who would stay there all day or night, day after day, spending their money. — Terry Williams, *The Cocaine Kids* 1989

**baser** noun
a user of freebase cocaine US, 1989
• Most of this thing about rock is really just because basers want more for their money, and regular sniffers do, too. — Terry Williams, *The Cocaine Kids* 1989

**Basil Brush** noun
marijuana UK, 1996
• — Angela Devlin, *Prison Patter* 1996

**basuco; bazuko** noun
coca paste, the basic ingredient in the manufacturing process of cocaine; hence, cocaine US, 1984
• CALL IT... Basuco, gianluca, blow, percy, lady, toot, white[,] JUST DON'T CALL IT... Charlie – too Eighties — *Drugs: An Adult Guide* December, 2001

**bat** noun
an extended period of drunkenness CANADA, 1977
• “Lil's still drinkin, if that's what you mean, Goldy,” Syd told her. “She's been on an awful bat for the past week.” — Hugh Garner, *The Intruders* 1977

**bathtub gin** noun
homemade alcohol, perhaps approximating gin US, 1974
• [H]e had been a cab driver in Chicago during the Roaring Twenties but had left town fast due to some trouble with the police over transporting bath tub gin in his cab. — Piri Thomas, *Seven Long Times* 1974

**bathtub speed** noun
methcathinone US, 1998

**bay and a gray** noun
in poker, a bet involving a red chip (the bay) and a white chip (the gray) US, 1951
• — *American Speech*, May, 1951: ‘The vocabulary of poker’

**bayonet** noun
a hypodermic needle US, 1986

**Bay State** noun
any standard medical syringe US, 1973
• — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, *Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction* 1973

**bazooka** noun
1 an extra-large, potent marijuana cigarette laced with cocaine US, 1984
• — Kenn 'Naz' Young, *Naz’s Dictionary of Teen Slang* 1993
2 cocaine; crack cocaine UK, 2003
• — Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

**bazuca** noun
the residue of smoked freebase cocaine, itself mixed with tobacco and smoked US, 1984
• [O]thers prefer a bazuca, in which the drug is sprinkled on cigarettes or joints and smoked. — Terry Williams, *The Cocaine Kids* 1989

**beak** noun
cocaine UK, 2001
A reference to the manner in which the drug is taken.
• Some of the best beak I've had in a long time. — Niall Griffiths, *Kelly + Victor* 2002

**beak baby** noun

a cocaine-user, especially female *UK, 2001*

• She's a beak-baby, plain and simple. — Kevin Sampson, *Outlaws* 2001

**beaked** adjective
cocaine-intoxicated *UK, 2002*

• He's beaked out of his brains. — Niall Griffiths, *Kelly + Victor* 2002

**beak lunch** noun
cocaine used around the middle of the day *UK, 2002*

• Anyone care for a spot of Beak Lunch? [...] just to see us through the afternoon. — *Uncut* October, 2002

**beam** noun

► on the beam
intoxicated on marijuana *US, 1970*

Later to take on a far greater place in the lexicon of crack cocaine.


**beamer** noun

a crack cocaine user *US, 1992*

• — Terry Williams, *Crackhouse* 1992

**beamers; beemers** noun
crack cocaine *US, 1988*

• They say “Beam Me Up, Scotty.”

**beam up to Scotty; beam up; beam** verb
to smoke crack cocaine and become cocaine-intoxicated *US, 1986*

From the pop phrase ‘Beam me up, Scotty’ used repeatedly on the first generation of *Star Trek* television programmes from 1966 to 1969.

• On the street, they say when you’re smoking crack, that you’re beamin’ up to Scotty, you’re goin’ to another world. — *New Jack City* 1990

**bean** noun

1 a capsule or tablet of Benzedrine™ (amphetamine sulphate), a central nervous system stimulant *US, 1967*

• After a particularly lackluster effort, I asked a friend of the Cal team what happened. “Oh, it was simple. We just ran out of beans (amphetamines).” — *San Francisco Chronicle* 23rd September 1971

2 a capsule of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy *US, 2000*

• — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* Spring, 2000

**beanies** noun
tabs of any prescription drug taken recreationally *UK, 1999*

• Man, we were amped to the max on those Glaxo Wellcome beanies. — Steve Beard, *The Last Good War* (britpulp) 1999

**beast** noun

1 heroin; heroin addiction *US, 1958*

• As long as Mable his whore was able / To satisfy his beast. — Dennis Wepman et al., *The Life* 1976

2 Milwaukee’s Best™, an inexpensive beer favoured by cash-strapped youth *US, 1987*

Appropriately, Milwaukee’s Best Light is simply ‘Beast Light’.

• — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* Fall, 1987

**beat bag** noun
tables of any drugs that is heavily adulterated or is completely counterfeit *US, 1993*

• — *Washington Post* 7th November 1993

**bebe** noun
crack cocaine *US, 1994*

• — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994

**bee** noun
don’t want to do anything *US, 1960*

Also known as ‘a bee that stings’.

• A bee is what he calls his habit; it’s always stinging him to get a fix. — Clarence Cooper Jr, *The Scene* 1960

**beer blast** noun
tables of any drugs that is heavily adulterated or is completely counterfeit *US, 1993*

• — *Washington Post* 7th November 1993

**beer me!**

please give me another beer! *US, 1986*

• — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* March, 1986
beer sandwich noun
a lunch consisting of beer, beer and more beer
NEW ZEALAND, 1998

beevo noun
an alcoholic beverage
US, 1977
— Sometimes longed for the uncomplicated life of lacrosse and rugby and hou-bro beevo parties, of happily hugging the toilet all night long with your barf buddies after draining a half-keg for no special occasion. — John Sayles, Union Dues 1977

beezer noun
in horse racing, a horse’s nose
US, 1951
— David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

behind preposition
(of a drug) under the influence of
US, 1967
— I could write behind STP, but not behind acid. — Joan Didion, Slouching Toward Bethlehem 1967

belly habit noun
a drug addiction, especially to an opiate
US, 1992

belly up verb
[to approach and stand against something, usually a bar]
US, 1907
— By the time they hit the doorway I bellied up to the bar, put a foot on the rail, one hand casually resting on the back of Susie’s chair. — Larry Heinemann, Close Quarters 1977

bellywash noun
any alcoholic drink
US, 1972
— Most of the stupid things I have done in my life I can blame on the bellywash. — Robert Byrne, McGoorty 1972

belt noun
1 a gulp, especially of strong alcohol
US, 1922
— After a frustrating day at the office a couple of belts lift me out of the dumps. — Lenny Bruce, How to Talk Dirty and Influence People 1965

2 the first, strong effect of a drug
US, 1948
— White women learned where they could get a “belt,” a “jolt,” or “gow.” — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, New York Confidential 1948

Belushi noun
a combination of cocaine and heroin
US, 1998
In memory of the SPEEDBALL mix that killed movie actor John Belushi, 1949–82.
— Robert Ashton, This Is Heroin 2002

ben noun
benzodiazepine, an antidepressant, especially Valium
UK, 1996
— Bens are commonly found in medicine cabinets[]. — Macfarlane Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

Ben; Bennie; Benjamin noun
Benzedrine™ (amphetamine sulphate), or another central nervous system stimulant
US, 1971
Truckers often personify stimulants, referring to “my good friend Benjamin” or saying “better let Bennie drive.”
— Montie Tak, Truck Talk 1971

bender noun
a prolonged session of hard drinking
US, 1845
— You go on a bender after all those years, it’s like all that sober time never was. — Richard Price, Clockers 1992

benny noun
an amphetamine, especially Benzedrine™ (amphetamine sulphate), a central nervous system stimulant
US, 1945
— I feel an incredible need to talk to you... Not because I’m high on Benny, and lone in the cursed kitchen, but as a matter of mood. — Jack Kerouac, Letter to Allen Ginsberg 13th November 1945

bent adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated
US, 1833
— CAMERON: Will Bogey get bent?
MICHAEL: Are you kidding? He’ll piss himself with joy. — Ten Things I Hate About You 1999

Berni; Bernice; Bernie noun
cocaine
US, 1933
— Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

Beverley Pills noun
the prescription drug Vicodin™ when taken recreationally
US, 2002
- In Beverly Pills March 29, 8 p.m. BBC World’s reporters speak to Hollywood stars about their battle with the drug.[4] — The Sunday Tribune (India) 10th March 2002

**bevo** noun

any alcoholic beverage **US, 2003**
- — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Spring, 2003

**bevvied; bevvied up** adjective

drunk **UK, 1960**
From bevv (an alcoholic drink).
- Once we got well bevvied up Marchmare let go. — Derek Raymond (Robin Cook), The Crust on Its Uppers 1962

**bevvvy; bevie; bevv** noun

an alcoholic drink, especially beer **UK, 1889**
Possibly from the circus term 'bevie' (a public house), or an abbreviation of 'beverage'; both derive from C15 ‘bever ’ (drink), and ultimately from Latin bibere.
- [If]e’s walking away and he’s half thinking about having a bet or a bevvvy or going home to give his missus stick. — Kevin Sampson, Outlaws 2001

**bhang** noun

marijuana, usually presumed to be from India; marijuana tea **INDIA, 1598**
Urdu for cannabis. Known in various forms since 1598, modern usage and variant spelling, ‘bang’, probably begins with hippies.
- In India, it is known as hashish, and is either smoked or drunk as an infusion with the colorful name of bhang. — Fortnight 24th September 1948

**bifta; biftah; bifter** noun

a marijuana cigarette; sufficient marijuana to make a cigarette **UK, 1996**
- [S]it back, skin up a bifta[.] — Sacha Baron-Cohen, Da Gospel According to Ali G 2001

**Big Ben** noun

Benzedrine™ (amphetamine sulphate), a central nervous system stimulant **US, 1966**
- — Mr. April, 1966: The ‘Hippie’s’ Lexicon

**big boy** noun

a marijuana cigarette **UK, 1999**
- I held up a pre-rolled big boy, with the minimum tobacco and maximum

Jamaican Sensee. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

**Big C** noun

cocaine **US, 1959**
- — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

**Big D** noun

LSD **US, 1966**
- — Donald Louria, Nightmare Drugs 1966

**big Dick** noun

in craps, a roll of ten **US, 1904**
Often embellished to ‘big Dick from Boston’, ‘big Dick from Battle Creek’ or ‘big Dick the ladies’ friend’. Gambling slang authority, the late Thomas Clark, theorised that ‘dick’ came from the French dix. Another popular folk etymology is that the original Big Dick was Boston dice cheater Richard Mantell who was shot to death as he switched dice while trying to shoot a ten. The addition of ‘the ladies’ friend’ leaves little doubt as to the most probable etymology – ten inches would indeed be big.
- — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

**Big H** noun

heroin **US, 1953**

**Big Joe from Boston** noun

in craps, a ten **US, 1957**
- — Sidney H. Radner, Radner on Dice 1957

**Big M** noun

morphine **US, 1959**
- Les, quite disheveled, still wearing his gray nut-house bathrobe, and totally strung-out in coming off the big M, had been trying to brief them as to the true nature of the movie they were producing. — Terry Southern, Blue Movie 1970

**Big O** noun

opium; heroin **US, 1957**
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

**big red** noun

secobarbital, a sedative-hypnotic drug marketed under the brand name Seconal™ **US, 2001**
He'd also legally scored far more interesting dope called secobarbital and sold as “Big Reds”. These actually produced a slice of long-lasting silent giggles. — Howard Marks, The Howard Marks Book of Dope Stories 2001

bigo time noun
heroin US, 1971
— Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

big train noun
in horse racing, a great racehorse US, 1951
— David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

bike noun
in lowball poker, a sequence from five down to ace US, 1978
— Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

Bill Daley noun
— on the Bill Daley in horse racing, having taken the lead at the start of the race and held it for the entire race US, 1932
— Tod [Sloan] got his horses away from the post fast and put them out in front. He was “off on a Bill Daley.” — San Francisco Examiner 28th June 1949

Billy Whizz; Billy Whiz; billy; bill noun
an amphetamine UK, 1985
whizz (amphetamine) disguised as cartoon strip character Billy Whizz, whose adventures started in the Beano in 1964.
— [H]e’d marked the outsides with a letter so he wouldn’t get mixed up. BW stood for Billy Whizz. — Nicholas Blincoe, Ardwick Green (Disco Biscuits) 1996

bingo noun
a cheap wine CANADA, 1963
— And the two boys [stood] amid a litter of paper and bingo bottles in a lane near River Street. — Maclean’s 6th July 1963

bingo verb
to inject a drug intravenously US, 1992

binky noun
a baby’s dummy (pacifier) that a heroin user has converted into a squeeze bulb for injecting a dose of heroin through an eye dropper and needle into the vein US, 1989
From the common children’s nickname for a dummy.
— Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

bip verb
to simultaneously take heroin and cocaine into the body through the nose, 2002
— Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

bird noun
Wild Turkey™ whisky US, 1984
— “I’ve never seen anybody that loved that ol’ Bird as much as Jim Ed. When he buys a bottle, he just throws the cap away.” — Ken Weaver, Texas Crude 1984

bird’s eye noun
a small dose of heroin US, 1973
— A bird’s eye is generally what a junker takes in his first bang after being on vacation for a while. — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drinks 1973

biro noun
a ballpoint pen used as an improvised means of injecting drugs UK, 1996
From the conventional generic sense of ‘biro’ as ‘a ballpoint pen’.
— Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

birthday card noun
in poker, the one card needed and drawn to complete an unlikely good hand US, 1996
— John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

biscuit noun
a white tablet of methadone, a synthetic narcotic used to treat heroin addicts US, 1972
• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

2 a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2002

• Biscuits – Big, flat and granular. None to date includes a cream filling.
  — Gareth Thomas, *This Is Ecstasy* 2002

**bite** verb

» *bite your lips*

to smoke a marijuana cigarette US, 1959

• Bite your lip and take a trip. — Curtis Mayfield, *Move On Up* 1970

**bits** noun

in betting, odds of 11–10 UK, 1991


**bits on the ear’ole** noun

in betting, odds of 13–8 UK, 1991

From the TIC-TAC signal used by bookmakers, an elaboration of EAR’OLE (6–4).


**biz; bizz** noun

the syringe and other equipment used by intravenous drug users US, 1949

• — Vincent J. Monteleone, *Criminal Slang* 1949

**black acid** noun

LSD US, 1970

• — Richard Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**black and white** noun

an amphetamine capsule, especially Durophet™ UK, 1978

From the colours of the capsule.


**black beauty** noun

a black amphetamine capsule US, 1969

• They are known as “black mollies” or “black widows” or “black beauties,” because they were put in black capsules. — *San Francisco Chronicle* 19th January 1972

**black bomber; bomber** noun

any central nervous system stimulant, especially a capsule of diethylpropion (Durophet™), an amphetamine-like stimulant UK, 1963


**black dot** noun

a type of LSD UK, 1996

• The girls on the other hand have swallowed a black dot each that they scored from one of the DJs. — Kevin Williamson, *Heart of the Bass (Disco Biscuits)* 1996

**black gold** noun

highly potent marijuana US, 1946

• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**Black Jack** noun

black-labelled Jack Daniels™ whisky US, 1982

• — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* Spring, 1982

**Black Maria** noun

in a deck of cards, the queen of spades US, 1988

• — George Percy, *The Language of Poker* 1988

**black mo; black moat; black mote** noun

highly potent, dark coloured marijuana resin US, 1972

• — David W. Maurer and Victor Vogel, *Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction* 1973

**black molly** noun

1 a black amphetamine capsule US, 1970

• They are known as “black mollies” or “black widows” or “black beauties,” because they were put in black capsules. — *San Francisco Chronicle* 19th January 1972

2 a barbiturate capsule US, 1973

• — David W. Maurer and Victor Vogel, *Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction* 1973

**black tar** noun

crude, impure, potent heroin from Mexico US, 1986

• [t]It brushes up against the competition, including Mexican-produced Black Tar, known derisively as Mexican Mud because of its poor quality; the more superior Mexican Brown in powder form; and especially high-grade Colombian White, its biggest rival. — *New York Times* 23rd June 2002

**bladdered** adjective

very drunk UK, 1997
Six pints of it. Enough to get you bladdered, if it was strong lager.
— Greg Williams, *Diamond Geezers* 1997

**blancas** noun
amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulants US, 1967
Border Spanish used in English conversation; from the Spanish for ‘white’.
• It’s something like bennies – blancas – only not as good. — Malcolm Braly, *On the Yard* 1967

**blanco** noun
heroin; cocaine US, 1973
Spanish for ‘white’.
• — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994

**blast** noun
an injection of a drug US, 1952
• I want it main line for one blast.
— George Mandel, *Flee the Angry Strangers* 1952

**blasted** adjective
highly intoxicated on any drug or alcohol US, 1928
• The only things to do in an airport are shop, drink, drink, shop, and then get completely blasted. — Wayne Anthony, *Spanish Highs* 1999

**blast off** verb
as used and become intoxicated by a drug US, 1961
• She immediately broke it in two and blasted off one half right there[.]
— Lanre Fehintola, *Charlie Says...* 2000

**blaze** noun
in a deck of playing cards, a face card US, 1987

**blaze** verb
to light a marijuana cigarette or other drug-smoking conveyance US, 1985
Also expressed as to ‘blaze up’.

**bleeder** noun
in poker, a player who methodically if undramatically drains money from the game by conservative, steady play US, 1988
• — George Percy, *The Language of Poker* 1988

**blim** noun
a small crumb of cannabis resin UK, 1996
• I’d pick up blims which I would then stick down cigarettes to smoke[.]
— Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, *The User* 1996

**blim burn** noun
a scorch mark or a tiny burn-hole as a result, when smoking hashish, of burning particles; a small burning cinder of cannabis resin UK, 2003
• I sparked up a fat spliff of fucking soapbar / a blim-burn burnt right down to my dick[.]
— Goldie Looking Chain *Soap Bar* 2004

**blind** adjective
1 very drunk UK, 1630
• But you – being a man – don’t care if the boys get blind. — Philip Wylie, *Opus 21* 1949

2 highly drug-intoxicated US, 1952
• Later, they entered the movie house blind and sat down upstairs. — Hal Ellson, *The Golden Spike* 1952

**blinky** noun
freebase cocaine US, 1992

**bliss** noun
any drug that is smoked, especially a mixture of heroin, methamphetamine and MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1996
• Bell had some of this shit called bliss. Sort of a cross between smack, E and ice. You’ve got to smoke it in a little pipe... “Hey, Todd, wanna come back to my place and do some bliss?” — Will Self, *The Sweet Smell of Psychosis* 1996

**blister** noun
a bump placed on a playing card by pressing it against a small sharp object, used by card cheats to identify the value of the card US, 1991
blitzed adjective

drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1966

- “Mmm,” replied Sundays distractedly, still breaking down, measuring and bagging his blocks. — Diran Abedayo, My Once Upon A Time 2000

blockbuster noun

a capsule of pentobarbital sodium (trade

block noun

marijuana or hashish compressed in a block

UK, 2000

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CLASS A

dust noun, US, 1916

a powdered narcotic, especially cocaine or heroin

- Do you ever get high? A walk on the wild side? Ever do dust? — Nashville 1975

gow noun, US, 1922

a drug, especially opium

- [W]hite women learned where they could get a “belt,” a “jolt,” or a “gow.” — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, New York Confidential 1948

hocus pocus; hocus noun, UK, 1938

cocaine, heroine, morphine or opium; also marijuana

Best remembered as a stage magician’s incantation.

- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

junk noun, US, 1918

heroin; morphine; cocaine

- Gribbs got twenty years just because he said hello to some fuck who was sneaking around selling junk behind his back.

- Goodfellas 1990

mojo noun, US, 1935

hard drugs, especially powdered drugs: cocaine, heroin, morphine

From the sense ‘a kind of magic’; first recorded in this sense as applying to ‘morphine’.

- — Haldeen Braddy, American Speech May, 1955: ‘Narcotic argot along the Mexican border’

old lady white; old white lady noun, US, 1942

a powdered drug: cocaine, heroin or morphine

- How long have you been on old lady white?

- — Douglas Rutherford, The Creeping Flesh 1963

polvo noun, UK, 1980

powdered drugs; heroin; cocaine

Directly from Spanish polvo (powder): POWDER (heroin). Also variant ‘polvito’.

- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

snow noun, US, 1914

a powdered drug, especially cocaine but at times heroin

- [T]he hemp makes me limp and I’m ready to go when the cat hollers slow. Like I’m not lame in the brain from a snort of cocaine. — Dan Burley, Diggeth Thou? 1959

sweet Jesus noun, US, 1967

morphine; heroin

- — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

wings noun, US, 1953

any powdered drug, especially cocaine, heroin or morphine


name Nembuta™), a central nervous system depressant US, 1970

Sometimes shortened to ‘buster’.

- — Clarence Major, Dictionary of Afro-American Slang 1970

blizz | blocked

1 a large amount of cocaine US, 1999

- So of course there was a blizzard, a never-ending, complimentary blizzard for your nasal enjoyment. — James St. James, Party Monster 1999

2 the cloud of thick, white smoke produced when smoking freebase cocaine US, 1992

- — Terry Williams, Crackhouse 1992

block noun

marijuana or hashish compressed in a block

UK, 2000

- — Michael Dalton, Blackjack 1991

Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung 1977

blizzard noun

- — Michael Dalton, Blackjack 1991
blocks noun
dice US, 1962
• — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

block-up adjective
marijuana-intoxicated UK, 2002
• I’m totally block-up[.] — Nick Brownlee, This is Cannabis 2002

blood noun
wine US, 1959
• I told him like I did every stud / that it wasn’t shit for me to drink two or three fifths a some real good blood. — Bruce Jackson, Get Your Ass in the Water and Swim Like Me 1964

bloomer noun
in horse racing, a horse that performs well early in the morning during the workout but not in a race later in the day US, 1951
• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

blootered adjective
drunk UK, 1911
• ANDRA. (RAISING GLASS.) I’m for getting blootered! — Ian Pattison, Rab C. Nesbitt 1988

blotter noun
a tiny piece of absorbent paper impregnated with LSD and ingested as such US, 1971
• He was rummaging around in the kit bag. “I think it’s about time to chew up a blotter,” he said. — Hunter S. Thompson, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1971

blotto adjective
very drunk; in a drunken stupor UK, 1917
• The pleasure of being blotto and not knowing for a little while what a mess everything is. — John Conway, Love in Suburbia 1960

blow noun
1 cocaine US, 1971
• “I think I’ll have a little blow before we begin,” he said as he produced the folded hundred-dollar bill in which he carries his cocaine. — Christina and Richard Milner, Black Players 1972

2 heroin US, 2002
• “We’ve been sitting out here for the last couple hours and haven’t heard anyone shouting about ‘rocks’ and ‘blows,’” said Talley, 65, referring to the street slang for crack and heroin. — Chicago Tribune 3rd August 2003

3 a dose of a drug, especially a dose of cocaine to be snorted US, 1953
• After a while Lalin said, “Carlito where can we go for a blow?” I wasn’t too much into candy anymore since I came out. — Edwin Torres, After Hours 1979

4 marijuana UK, 1996
• Evenings spent on the steps, smoking blow, listening to the pirates[.] — Mark Powell, Snap 2001

➤ have a blow
5 to sniff glue NEW ZEALAND, 1998
• — David McGill, David McGill’s Complete Kiwi Slang Dictionary 1998

blow verb
1 to smoke, especially to smoke marijuana US, 1772
• Shorty would take me to groovy, frantic scenes in different chicks’ and cats’ pads, where with the lights and juke down mellow, everybody blew gage and juiced back and jumped. — Malcolm X and Alex Haley, The Autobiography of Malcolm X 1964

➤ blow a shot
2 while trying to inject a drug, to miss the vein or otherwise waste the drug US, 1966
• You keep blowing shots like that and all you’ll have for an arm is abcesses. — James Mills, The Panic in Needle Park 1966

➤ blow a vein
3 while injecting a drug, to cause a vein to collapse US, 1974
• — Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

➤ blow your mind
4 to have a hallucinogenic experience; to experience a psychotic break as a result of drug use US, 1965

blowback noun
any improvised method of forcing marijuana smoke for another to inhale UK, 1996
• If we didn’t have a bong, we used to get my brother’s motor-cycle helmet, put it on, and get blowbacks into it through a crack in the visor. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996
blown adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1980
• On the way over to the band’s house, I saw that I was still pretty seriously blown. — Stephen Gaskin, Amazing Dope Tales 1980

blowing noun
the sniffing of glue or other industrial solvents UK, 1982
• Black youth, comfortable with it’s spliffs, disdains glue-sniffing... or blowing as it is often called by the glue-sniffers themselves. — Time Out 8th January 1982

blue noun
1 methylated spirits as an alcoholic drink UK, 1966
• The usual practice is to extend it [metal polish] with lemonade or a shot of blue. — Geoffrey Fletcher, Down Among the Meths Men 1966
2 an amphetamine tablet UK, 1992
• I’d had a couple of blues and I was proper on it. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

blue almonds noun
a recreational drug cocktail of Viagra™, an erection-inducing drug, and MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy AUSTRALIA, 2003
Apparently in popular use amongst lesbians in Sydney.
• — Popbitch 3rd December 2003

blue baby noun
a capsule of the synthetic opiate oxycodone used recreationally US, 2003
• Extracts reproduced in the tabloid show Limbaugh referring to “small blue babies” and “the little blues.” — Broward Business Review 18th November 2003

bluebird noun
a capsule of amobarbital sodium (trade name Amytal™), a central nervous system depressant US, 1953
• Her equipment is a small bottle of knockout drops (chloral hydrate) or “blue-birds,” (sodium amytol). — Lee Mortimer, Women Confidential 1960

blue bomber noun
a central nervous system stimulant UK, 1966
• Geordie the Pill, who makes no charge for delivering the blue bombers and petrifying liquid he peddles on the Row. — Geoffrey Fletcher, Down Among the Meths Men 1966

blue boy noun
an amphetamine tablet US, 1952
• [T]aken two or three at one time with coffee, they gave a wonderful jag. The capsules were blue so we called them blue boys. After we got jagged we found no one would know what we were talking about when we said blue boys. — Chester Himes, Cast the First Stone 1952

blue cheer noun
a type of LSD (usually mixed with Methedrine™) supplied in blue pills or capsules US, 1970
From Blue Cheer™, a branded detergent.
• In the package, 250 caps of Blue Cheer, so I thought I would give a party. — Richard Neville, Play Power 1970

bluegrass verb
to commit someone to the Lexington (Kentucky) Federal Narcotics Hospital US, 1953
Kentucky’s nickname is ‘the Bluegrass State’.
• “They blue-grassed me to Lex, and all that shit,” Red said sullenly. — Ross Russell, The Sound 1961

blue haze noun
the sense of euphoria and distance produced by a large dose of alprazolam (trade name Xanax™), a benzodiazepine used for short-term relief of symptoms of anxiety US, 1993
• — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

blue in the armor noun
a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer US, 1967
• — American Speech February, 1967: ‘Soda-fountain, restaurant and tavern calls’

blue John noun
strong, homemade whisky US, 1986
• Masters of moonshine prided themselves in their ancient, father-to-son recipes and the white lightning, blue John, red eye, happy Sally, and stumphole whiskey they made, Smith said. — Chicago Tribune 15th January 1986
blue lady noun
methylated spirits NEW ZEALAND, 1988
• Meths is blue or white lady, and steam is a mixture of meths and sherry. — Dominion Sunday Times 14th February 1988

blue meanie noun
a mushroom with potent psychactive properties NEW ZEALAND, 1991
• Since touching down they’d been taking nothing but Blue Meanies, the notorious South American mushrooms believed to contain mysterious powers, and used by the Incas for thousands of years. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

blue nitro noun
the recreational drug GHB US, 1998
• Three young people were treated at Southwest Washington Medical Center on Thanksgiving and released apparently after taking a drug called GHB or “Blue Nitro.” — The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington) 27th November 1998

blues noun
methylated spirits as an alcoholic drink UK, 1966
• All he wanted was a cigarette. Cigarettes are all they ever want – except for the blues and money. — Geoffrey Fletcher, Down Among the Meths Men 1966

blue sky noun
heroin US, 1987
• — Carsten Stroud, Close Pursuit 1987

blues man noun
a methylated spirits drinker UK, 1966
• In fact, the real gone blues man has created a new dimension in which to live – way out there in the environs of Skid Row. — Geoffrey Fletcher, Down Among the Meths Men 1966

blue velvet noun
a combination of cough syrups, especially codeine-based syrups, used as a weak heroin substitute US, 1994
• — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

bluey noun
a capsule of Drinamy™, a combination of amphetamine and barbiturate UK, 1963

bluey | boat

blunt noun
1 marijuana rolled and smoked in a hollowed-out cigar US, 1988
Generic usage but originally made with a Phillies Blunt™.
• Purchase a Philly, not the city of Philly / Silly punk, I’m talking ‘bout the shit called the Philly blunt / Lick the blunt and then the Philly blunt middle you split[.] — Redman, How to Roll a Blunt 1992
2 a mixture of marijuana and cocaine UK, 2003
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003
3 a capsule of Seconal™ or other barbiturate in a black capsule US, 1980
• — Edith A. Folb, Runnin’ Down Some Lines 1980

blunted adjective
marijuana-intoxicated US, 1993
• I get too blunted off funny homegrown[.] — Eminem (Marshall Mathers), Role Model 1999

blunted up adjective
marijuana-intoxicated UK, 2001
• They’re gonna get so blunted-up out there that their eyes will go bright red and they’ll be speaking about UFOs up in the sky and shit[.] — Mixmag, The Drugs Issue February, 2001

bo noun
marijuana US, 1975

boat noun
1 phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1984
A shortened form of LOVE BOAT.
• With a police officer on every corner directing traffic, dealers simply lined the curbs along 11th Street and silently formed the word “boat,” street slang for PCP, with lips pursed like a fish. — Washington Post 29th July 1984
2 heroin US, 1993
• — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993
a combination of marijuana and phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust UK, 2003
- Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

boat race noun
a fixed horse race or other competition US, 1917
- I bet crooked horse races – “boat races” we called them. My two detectives at the track would hear of a fix. They’d telephone me. I’d say get down a hundred for me. I made about $50,000 on “boat races” when I was chief of detectives. — San Francisco News 16 November 1950

Bob Hope noun
marijuana UK, 1992
Abbreviates to ‘Bob’. British-born American entertainer Bob Hope (1903–2003) is not associated with drugs except as a rhyme for DOPE.
- Don’t ask me – I’ve been smoking Bob all afternoon. — Bodmin Dark, Dirty Cockney Rhyming Slang 2003

Bob Marley noun
cocaine UK, 2001
Rhyming slang for CHARLIE (cocaine); after reggae musician Bob Marley (1945–1981), a Rastafarian.
- Got any Bob Marley? Sorted. — Mixmag September, 2001

bogart verb
to overdose on drugs UK, 1996
- Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

boiler water noun
whisky US, 1977
- Ramon Adams, The Language of the Railroader 1977

Bolivian marching powder noun
cocaine US, 1984
- All might come clear if you could just slip into the bathroom and do a little more Bolivian Marching Powder. — Jay McInerney, Bright Lights, Big City 1984

bollocks noun
- do your bollocks
  1 to lose all your money gambling UK, 2000
    - They must hold back $10 each to ensure they could get a cab back to Epsom should they do their bollocks. — Jimmy Stockin, On the Cobbles 2000
  2 drink- or drug-intoxicated UK, 2005
- off your bollocks
  1 an extra large, thick or potent marijuana cigarette US, 1949
    - There’s a eight-year-old kid in there twisting up hash-bombers big as cigars. — Terry Southern, Blue Movie 1970
  2 a tablet or capsule of amphetamine or barbiturate, hence a generic name for amphetamine or barbiturate in any form US, 1950
- I’ve written some great songs when I’ve been off my bollocks. — Uncut January, 2006

bollocksed; ballocks’d adjective
drunk UK, 2003
- Pete Brown, Man Walks into a Pub 2003

bolloxed adjective
drunk US, 1986
A variation of BOLLOCKS.
- [M]angled caned w**nkered bolloxed.[.] — Stuart Walton, Out of It, cover 2001

bolts and jolts noun
a combination of central nervous system stimulants and depressants US, 1946
- Dr. Freireich’s discovery was anticipated by bored Bordawaytes, who had made a pastime of “bolts and jolts” – mixtures of barbiturates and Benzedrine which knock them for a loop, then slap them to. — Time 1st July 1946

bomb noun
a marijuana cigarette, especially a large one US, 1951
- Take a head of this Skunk / Twist up a big bomb of this serious dope / Smoke it down to the dub or roach tip.[.] — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

bomb verb
to swallow a quantity of a powdered drug and its cigarette-paper wrapping UK, 2000
- Christ, ee bombed abaht a gram av crystal meth yesterday, ee'l be aht av it fa days[.] — Niall Griffiths, Grits 2000

bombed adjective
extremely drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1956
- She gets totally bombed anyway, but having him around makes it worse. — Bret Easton Ellis, Less Than Zero 1985

bomber noun
- an extra large, thick or potent marijuana cigarette US, 1949
  - There’s a eight-year-old kid in there twisting up hash-bombers big as cigars. — Terry Southern, Blue Movie 1970
- 2 a tablet or capsule of amphetamine or barbiturate, hence a generic name for amphetamine or barbiturate in any form US, 1950
bombs away noun

heroin UK, 2002

[S]lang [names for heroin] draws on words associated with death... or its methods (“bombs away”). — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

Bom-de-Bom noun

Ba Muoi Ba beer, a staple in Saigon during the Vietnam war US, 1990

Nobody in Maverick’s platoon could pronounce the name, so they just called it Bom-de-Bom. — Dennis J. Marvicsin and Jerold A. Greenfield, *Maverick* 1990

bone noun

1 a marijuana cigarette; hence, marijuana US, 1978

A visual pun.

I used to go out wid him, but he’s a e-dyat [idiot] man, smokes too much bone. — Courttia Newland, *Society Within* 1999

2 a measurement of crack cocaine sold for $50 US, 2003

We got Rocks, we got Bones, we got Brown, we got Stones. — Julian Johnson, *Urban Survival* 2003

3 in private poker games or other private gambling, a white betting chip US, 1866


bonecrushers noun

the very painful symptoms of withdrawal from drug addiction US, 1990

I’ve held off the bonecrushers two days, rationing that stuff up my nose – horned the last just an hour ago. — Seth Morgan, *Homeboy* 1990

bones noun

dice UK, 1400

The term has journeyed from colloquial to standard English and now to slang.

And I’d take some loaded craps down there, some bones, and I would beat the paddy boys out of all their money. They were the only ones who were dumb enough to shoot craps with bones. — Claude Brown, *Manchild in the Promised Land* 1965

boneyard noun

in dominoes, the pile of unused tiles US, 1897

Never mind the sun, Homer – help yourself to the boneyard – you’re 5 pegs from a skunking. [Homer comic strip] — *San Francisco Examiner* 2nd April 1963

bong verb

to drink beer directly from a keg, using a hose and funnel US, 1982

— Mary Corey and Victoria Westermark, *Fer Shurr! How to be a Valley Girl* 1982

bong; bhong noun

a pipe with a water-filled bowl through which marijuana or crack cocaine smoke is drawn for inhalation US, 1971

I like a blunt or a big fat coal / But my double-barrel bong is gettin me stoned / I’m skill it, There’s water inside don’t spill it — Cypress Hill, *Hits from the Bong* 1993

bong land noun

a state of marijuana intoxication UK, 2002

[T]he thumping bass and rolling acidline will make the walls veritably crawl after a visit to bong-land. Tread carefully! — Ministry May, 2002

bongo-ed adjective

drug-intoxicated, especially as a result of marijuana UK, 2006

Everyone was getting completely bongo-ed all the time. — *Uncut* June, 2006

bong up verb

to become intoxicated by inhaling marijuana through a water-filled pipe UK, 1996

We used to bong up on oil after that. — Macfarlane, *The User* 1996

Bonny Prince noun

cocaine UK, 2002


boo noun

marijuana US, 1959

“Boo is a crutch fo you,” Lee snorted. — Clarence Cooper Jr, *Black* 1963

book noun

a betting operation US, 1917
One of my rules, forty years in the business – going back to the syndicate days – twenty years running my own book, you have to always know who you’re doing business with. — Elmore Leonard, *Riding the Rap* 1995

**book** verb

- **book the action**
  
  If a player puts down a roll of dimes, you book the action. — Lee Solkey, *Dummy Up and Deal* 1980

**boom** noun

1 **potent marijuana** US, 1946

- Look: you was after the boom poly [Polynesian marijuana] an’ I got two kees. — Nick Barlay, *Curvy Lovebox* 1997

2 **fake crack cocaine** US, 2001

- One of the officers patted him down and felt a “rock-like substance,” said Sgt. Clifford Gatlin. Smith told the officer it was “boom,” street slang for fake crack cocaine. — *Daily Town Talk* (Alexandria, Louisiana) 25th April 2001

**boomers** noun

LSD UK, 2004

- — Harry Shapiro, *Recreational Drugs* 2004

**boot** noun

- any central nervous system depressant US, 1992


**boot** verb

1 while injecting a drug, to draw blood into the syringe, diluting the drug dose so as to prolong the effect of the injection US, 1952

  - “Lou’ll turn on next if Fay ever stops booting it.” Fay’s thick, dark, purplish-red blood rose and fell in the eye-dropper like a column of gory mercury in a barometer. — Alexander Trocchi, *Cain’s Book* 1960

2 to vomit US, 1971

- Booted his insides all over my God damn shoes and my last pair of dry socks. — John Sayles, *Union Dues* 1977

**boot-and-shoe** adjective

(used of a drug addict) desperately addicted US, 1936

- He said she was “just a boot-and-shoe hype” with a $60-a-day heroin habit. — *San Francisco Examiner* 9th March 1962

**booted** adjective

- intoxicated by marijuana, or another narcotic drug US, 1995

  - We was too booted to see the cops comin’. — Lois Stavsky et al., *A2Z* 1995

**bootleg** noun

- illegally manufactured alcohol US, 1898

  - We would buy five-gallon containers of bootleg, funnel it into the bottles, then deliver, according to Hymie’s instructions, this or that many crates back to the bars. — Malcolm X and Alex Haley, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* 1964

**booty juice** noun

- the drug MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, dissolved in any liquid US, 1997

  - — Jim Crotty, *How to Talk American* 1997

**border work** noun

- subtle markings on the printed edge of the back of a playing card for identification of the card by a cheat US, 1988


**bosh** verb

- to swallow drugs, especially in tablet-form; to inhale drug-smoke UK, 1996

  - [W]hen odd-balls like your gran’s favourite, Michael Barrymore, get discovered boshing eccies [E] and hoovering gak [snorting cocaine], you know things have turned weird. — *Ministry* January, 2002

**boss** noun

1 in poker, the best hand at a given moment US, 1990


2 pure heroin US, 1961


**bottle** noun

- in betting, odds of 2–1 UK, 1991


**bottle and a half** noun

- in betting, odds of 5–2 UK, 1991

bottle baby noun
an alcoholic US, 1925

• We were on another plane in another sphere compared to the musicians who were bottle babies, always hitting the jug and then coming up brawling after they got loaded. — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

bottle dealer noun
a drug dealer who sells pills in large quantities US, 1971

• — Edward R. Bloomquist, Marijuana 1971

bottle to the field noun
in racing, bookmaker’s odds of 2–1 UK, 1967

• — Sunday Telegraph 7th May 1967

bottoms noun
dice that have been marked to have two identical faces US, 1962

• — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

bouncing powder noun
cocaine US, 1971

• — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

Boutros Boutros Ghali; boutros noun
cocaine UK, 2003
Rhyming slang for CHARLIE (cocaine), from the name of the Secretary General of the United Nations, 1992–1996.

• I’ve had a couple of lines of Boutros and my Boris Becker (penis) is the size of a Tic Tac. — Bodmin Dark, Dirty Cockney Rhyming Slang 2003

bowl noun
a pipe for smoking marijuana, hashish or crack cocaine US, 1974

• I’m at my best after some methical or a bowl of sense[.] — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

box noun

• off your box; out of your box
drunk or drug-intoxicated UK, 1981

• I did everything I wanted to. Went to Thailand, get out of my box, meditated, get into yoga. — Ask 7th March 1981

breakers noun

• 1 in horse racing, high odds US, 1934
From the high numbers used to identify railway carriages.

— Robert Saunders Dowst and Jay Craig, Playing the Races 1960

2 in a game of dice, a roll of two sixes US, 1949

• I learned about percentage dice that are shaved to favor an ace-six – and a plentitude of snake eyes and boxcars. — Jimmy Snyder, Jimmy the Greek 1975

3 in poker, a pair of sixes or three sixes US, 1988

• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

boy noun
heroin US, 1953

• But now he had the boy; he could lie around up in his crib, twisted, drugged to the verge of insensibility. — Clarence Coope Jr, The Scene 1960

boys and girls noun
heroin and cocaine, mixed and injected together US, 1993

• — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

brace and bit; brace noun
the equipment needed to prepare and inject a drug NEW ZEALAND, 1999
Rhyming slang, from outfit.

• — Harry Orsman, A Dictionary of Modern New Zealand Slang 1999

Brahms and Liszt; Brahms adjective
drunk UK, 1978
Rhyming slang for PISSED (drunk).

• You must’ve been Brahms that night. — Anthony Masters, Minder 1984

brain noun

• out of your brain
drunk or drug-intoxicated UK, 1973

• Where have I been? / Out of my brain on the five fifteen. — The Who 5.15 1973

brain-boshing adjective
intoxicating UK, 2002

• [H]igh velocity, brain-boshing techno [music][.] — Ministry May, 2002

brand x noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1992


breakers noun
in certain games of poker, cards that qualify a player to open the betting US, 1988
breakfast club noun
a nightclub operating after other clubs close at 2am, staying open until the early morning when breakfast is served US, 1954
- Wilbur Stump, the noted pianist, opened a “breakfast club” (one of those bring-your-own bottle joints, opening at 2 a.m.) on the second floor at 207 Powell. — San Francisco Examiner 4th September 1954

breakfast of champions noun
1 crack cocaine UK, 1998
A new, ironic application for the slogan used by Wheaties™ since the 1930s; adopted as the title of a 1973 novel by Kurt Vonnegut Jr, and released as a film in 1999.
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

2 beer US, 1976
- She handed one to Steve, then took a long drink from her own. “Breakfast of Champions” she proclaimed, holding up the can in a mock toast until Steve had taken a drink. — Jack W. Thomas, Heavy Number 1976

breakfast of losers noun
methaqualone, the recreational drug best known as Quaalude™ US, 1987
- — Carsten Stroud, Close Pursuit 1987

break in the weather noun
in betting on horse racing, a change of luck AUSTRALIA, 1989

brew noun
beer; a glass, bottle or can of beer US, 1907
- [W]ith a few brews my fingers flail and less than fly as usual. — Jack Kerouac, Letter to Neal Cassady 10th June 1951

brewski; brewsky noun
beer; a serving of beer US, 1978
Mock Polish.
- JD: This is Ohio. If you don't have a brewski in your hand you might as well be wearing a dress. — Heathers 1988

brick noun
1 a die that has been shaved on one face US, 1950
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

2 a kilogram of, usually compressed, marijuana, or, less commonly, another drug US, 1967
- CRASKY: Oh yeah? How much blow you do tonight? I heard they had a fuckin' brick. — Copland 1997

brickhouse noun
in poker, a full house that is not the best hand US, 1996
- — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

bridge jumper noun
in horse racing, a person who regularly bets on favourites and is distraught if the favourite does not win US, 1951
- — David W. Naurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

broad noun
in a deck of playing cards, a queen UK, 1781
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

broad tosser noun
the operator of a three-card monte game swindle US, 1980
- — Joe McKennon, Circus Lingo 1980

Brodie; Brody noun
a feigned drug withdrawal spasm US, 1936
- A drug addict's life is dedicated to cheating, lying, conniving, and “conning” to obtain illegal drugs. It’s an obsession. And they'll go to any length to achieve their purpose. They'll pull a “Brodie” or “Cartwheel” (feigned spasms) to elicit sympathy. — San Francisco News 5th December 1951

brown noun
heroin, especially if only partially refined US, 1962
- Feels nice and still / Good thing about brown is it always will. — The Streets Stay Positive 2002

brownie noun
any amphetamine; MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2001
- CALL IT... Adam, brownies, burgers, disco biscuits, doves, eckies, tulips, X[.] JUST DON'T CALL IT... MDMA — too scientific — Drugs: An Adult Guide December, 2001

brown slime noun
a mixture of cola syrup and nutmeg, used as a substitute for drugs by the truly desperate US, 1992
brown sugar noun
grainy, poor quality heroin US, 1981
• With “Brown Sugar” [a record released in 1971], which compared the taste of unrefined heroin to a black dancer’s pussy, [the Rolling Stones] let the public know they had jumped the divide between soft and hard drugs. — Black Vinyl White Powder 2001

Boutros Boutros Ghali; boutros noun, UK, 2003
Rhyming slang for Charlie (cocaine), from the name of the Secretary General of the United Nations, 1992–1996.
• I’ve had a couple of lines of Boutros and my Boris Becker (penis) is the size of a Tic Tac. — Bodmin Dark, Dirty Cockney Rhyming Slang 2003

Charlie; charlie; charley noun, US, 1935
The phonetic alphabet has ‘Charlie’ for ‘C’ in use from around the same time that ‘charlie’ for ‘cocaine’ first appears.
• Next time you’re introduced to Charlie, by all means enjoy his company. — Nick Constable, This Is Cocaine 2002

Colombian marching powder noun, UK, 2000
• And what about the... Colombian Marching Powder, shouted, then hissed Jan, suddenly remembering we were in a cab. — James Hawes, Dead Long Enough 2000

COCAINE

devil’s dandruff noun, US, 1981
cocaine; crack cocaine
• [H]e “made love all night” after being introduced to the Devil’s dandruff by a lap dancer. — Q October, 2004

disco dust noun, UK, 1999
• [T]op DJs on the decks and lots of disco dust in carefully situated little stashes. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

flake noun, US, 1961

gack; gak noun, UK, 1997
• [W]e do a couple more dabs of gak from Nood’s bag. — Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

nose ningle noun, UK, 2006
• Divorced, living in the Four Seasons, itching for some nose ningle[.] — The Word June, 2006

party powder noun, UK, 2003
• I’ve lost my nasal septum through excessive use of party powder. Does this make me trash? — Trash July, 2003

bubbly noun
champagne UK, 1920
• Nabokov only got two-fifty. You’re getting top dollar! Break out the bubbly! — Terry Southern, Now Dig This 1991

bucket bong; bucket noun
a water-pipe improvised using a bucket of water and a plastic bottle used for smoking marijuana AUSTRALIA, 1994
• But their lifestyle hasn’t changed. Smoke before work. Beers at lunch. Buckets after dinner. — John

buddha noun
1 a marijuana cigarette embellished with crack cocaine US, 1989
• — Terry Williams, The Cocaine Kids 1989

2 potent marijuana, usually of Asian origin US, 1988
Also spelt ‘buddah’ or ‘buda’.

brown sugar | buddha
• I hit they’ ass like the buddah thats stinke[.] — Cypress Hill, Stoned Is the Way of the Walk 1991

**Buddha stick** *noun*

marijuana from Thailand packaged for transport and sale on a small stick *US, 1982*

• [They] went into the business of picking up drops of Thai sticks, also known as Buddha sticks, dried and compressed cannabis from the Golden Triangle of South-East Asia — *Guardian* 14th July 1981

**buddy** *noun*

• a beer *US, 1994*

**buds; budz** *noun*

marijuana, especially the most psychoactive part of the plant *US, 1997*

• — Jim Emerson-Cobb, *Scratching the Dragon* April, 1997

**bug** *noun*

1 an illegal numbers lottery *US, 1963*

• The numbers game, or, to use the regional term, “the bug,” remains the most lucrative racket. — *Saturday Evening Post* 9th March 1963

2 in horse racing, a weight handicap *US, 1941*

• They’ve got Imarazzo on her. He gets the five-pound bug and she’s running against stiffs, except for Green Grip. — Vincent Patrick, *The Pope of Greenwich Village* 1979

**bug** *verb*

to talk and act in a disassociated, irrational way while under the influence of crack cocaine *US, 1992*

• — Terry Williams, *Crackhouse* 1992

**bug juice** *noun*

an opiate or other depressant used as knock-out drops *US, 1949*

• — Vincent J. Monteleone, *Criminal Slang* 1949

**bugle** *noun*

cocaine *UK, 1997*

Adopted from the sense of the word as the nose, which is the favoured point of entry for most cocaine.

• They’re not even going through the motions of sloping off to the WC for their bugle, these lads. It’s right there, racked out in fat lines on the table. — Kevin Sampson, *Outlaws* 2001

**build** *verb*

to construct a marijuana cigarette *UK, 1994*

• Back at his yard [home], he built up a killer spliff and enjoyed it. — Donald Gorgon, *Cop Killer* 1994

**bulldog** *verb*

(used of a professional insider in horse racing) to falsely claim to have given good information in a completed race *US, 1968*

• — *San Francisco News* 14th February 1968

**bulldozer** *noun*

a poker player whose aggressive betting is not contingent upon holding a good hand *US, 1988*

• — George Percy, *The Language of Poker* 1988

**bullet** *noun*

1 in cards, an ace *US, 1807*

• The banker spread his hand. A flush. “Four bullets,” Rick said joyously, slapping them down. — John D. McDonald, *The Neon Jungle* 1953

2 a quart bottle of beer, especially of Budweiser™ beer *US, 1967*

• — *American Speech* February, 1967: ‘Soda-fountain, restaurant and tavern calls’

**bull horrors** *noun*

the terror of the police felt by a drug addict *US, 1927*

• — Vincent J. Monteleone, *Criminal Slang* 1949

**bull jive** *noun*

marijuana that has been adulterated with catnip or another leaf-like substance *US, 1973*

• — David W. Maurer and Victor Vogel, *Narcotics and Narcotics Addiction* 1973

**bumble bee** *noun*

an amphetamine tablet *US, 1980*

• — The National Institute on Drug Abuse, *What Do They Call It Again?* 1980

**bummer** *noun*

a bad experience with LSD or another hallucinogen *US, 1966*

• Bummers were when the acid had something in it that didn’t agree
null
bush herb noun
unremarkable marijuana UK, 1994
• [It] was now almost impossible to find anything but the basic bush herb.
  — Donald Gorgon, Cop Killer 1994

business noun
1 a syringe employed by intravenous drug users US, 1949
• — American Speech February, 1952: ‘Teen-age hophead jargon’
2 the actual cheating move of a card cheat US, 1973
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

• do business
3 in pool, to intentionally lose a game or other competition US, 1989
• — Mike Shamos, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Billiards 1993
4 in horse racing, to cooperate in the fixing of a race US, 1951
• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

businessman noun
in horse racing, a jockey who may be persuaded to lose a race intentionally US, 1951
• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

businessman’s special; businessman’s lunch noun
DMT (dimethyltryptamine), a powerful but short-lasting hallucinogen US, 1967
An allusion to the fact that it can be taken, experienced and recovered from in short order.
• They call this the Businessman’s lunch. This is a twenty minute, half-hour psychedelic trip. — Stephen Gaskin, Amazing Dope Tales 1980

busters noun
dice that have had their spots altered to aid cheating US, 1962
• — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

bust in verb
in a dice cheating scheme, to introduce altered dice into a game US, 1963
• — John S. Salak, Dictionary of Gambling 1963

bust out verb
in a dice cheating scheme, to remove altered dice from a game and reintroduce the legitimate dice US, 1963

bust-out joint noun
a casino or gambling establishment that cheats gamblers US, 1979
• I started in this business behind the bar in bust-out joints on Third Street. Strippers hustling drinks between their numbers. — Vincent Patrick, The Pope of Greenwich Village 1979

busy bee noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1994
• — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

button noun
1 the edible, psychoactive portion of a peyote cactus US, 1953
• Peyote is a small cactus and only the top part that appears above the ground is eaten. This is called a button.
  — William Burroughs, Junkie 1953
2 opium UK, 1996
• — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996
3 a tablet of Mandrax™, a branded tranquilliser SOUTH AFRICA, 2002
• — Surfrikan Slang 2002
4 in poker, a marker on the table that signifies the dealer; the dealer UK, 2003
• “Paul is the button.” The button acts last and is the most desirable seat[.]
  — Dave Scharf, Winning at Poker 2003

buy verb
to gamble on a result higher than the bookmaker’s favoured spread UK, 2001
• The “spread” in spread-betting is a pair of values, usually a point or two apart, which represent the bookmaker’s favoured outcome. The investor has two choices: to bet higher, known as “buying”, or bet lower, known as “selling”. — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

buyer noun
a gambler who bets on a result higher than the bookmaker’s favoured spread UK, 2001
• Brian is optimistic about Arsenal’s chances and decides to be a buyer (bets higher) at £10 per point. Sally, on the other hand, is pessimistic. She is a seller (bets lower), also at £10 per point. — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001
buzz noun
  an immediate sensation of a drug or alcohol US, 1849
  - I don’t get strung out on any speed; there’s no chemical I need. I like the buzz. I like the rush. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against* 1967

buzz verb
  1 to feel pleasurable sensations resulting from drug-use UK, 1996
    - I was proper buzzing[.] — Dave Courtney, *Raving Lunacy* 2000
  2 to engage in solvent abuse UK: SCOTLAND, 1985
    - He just started buzzin because there’s nothin else to do round here. — Michael Munro, *The Patter* 1985
    - buzzing your tits off
  3 very drug-intoxicated UK, 2003
    - Not long after they left the airport Alison realised that Stan was buzzing his tits off. — Colin Butts, *Is Harry Still on the Boat?* 2003

buzzed adjective
  1 drunk US, 1952
    - — Judi Sanders, *Don’t Dog by Do, Dude!* 1991
  2 drug-intoxicated US, 1972
    - STACY is getting more buzzed by the minute. He takes a drag from a big, fat joint[.] — *Menace II Society* 1993

buzzed up adjective
drug-intoxicated UK, 2000
  - We milled around in a buzzed-up but aimless fashion[.] — Diran Abedayo, *My Once Upon a Time* 2000

buzzer noun
  in horse racing, a battery-powered device used illegally by a jockey to shock a horse during a race US, 1942
  - Jockey Gets ‘Life’ for Using Buzzer [Headline] — *San Francisco News* 26th May 1950
Cc

c noun
cocaine US, 1921
  • The guy and the girl are both plenty loaded with C and feeling high.
    — William J. Spillard and Pence James, Needle in a Haystack 1945

caballo noun
heroin US, 1970
  Spanish for ‘horse’.
  • — Richard Horman and Allan Fox, Drug Awareness 1970

cabbaged adjective
under the influence of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1991
  • Ecstasy (a combination of mescaline and amphetamine) and LSD were a big help in reaching the ultimate state of “getting cabbaged.” — The Commercial Appeal (Memphis) 10th June 1994

caca noun
heroin, especially low-quality heroin US, 1986
  • — Gilda and Melvin Berger, Drug Abuse A-Z 1990

cactus juice noun
tequila; mescal US, 1971
  • If tequila spin-doctors can transform cactus juice into snob central, why not gin? — Riverfront Times (St. Louis) 21st January 2004

caddy blackjack noun
a private game of blackjack US, 1981
  • — Michael Dalton, Blackjack 1991

cadet noun
a new drug user US, 1949
  • — Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

cadillac noun
cocaine US, 1953
  • “Are the Marmon and Cadillac working tonight?” “Yeah.” “That Marmon’s an eight, isn’t it? And Cadillac’s a twelve?” — William J. Spillard and Pence James, Needle in a Haystack 1945

cadillac express noun
the drug methcathinone US, 1998

caged lion noun
in horse racing, a racehorse battling back from apparent defeat to win a race AUSTRALIA, 1989

caine; cane noun
cocaine, crack cocaine US, 1983
  • What d’ya know. A kilo of ‘caine.
    — The Bad Lieutenant 1992

cake noun
1 marijuana resin UK, 2001
  • — V.S. Ganjabhang, The Little Book of Pot 2001
  ► off your cake
2 confused, drug-intoxicated UK, 2000
  • I got proper fucking off my cake, I did.
    — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

Calamity Jane noun
in a deck of playing cards, the queen of spades US, 1888
Martha Jane ‘Calamity Jane’ Canary (1852–1903) was a legendary figure in the settling of the western US.
  • — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

Cali noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, originating in California, 1999
A shortening of CALIFORNIA ECSTASY.
  • We all dropped a Cali and hit the dance floor. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

California bible noun
a deck of playing cards US, 1960
  • — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

California coffee noun
inexpensive wine US, 1976
  • — Elementary Electronics, Dictionary of CB Lingo 1976

California cornflakes noun
cocaine US, 1976
  • — Elementary Electronics, Dictionary of CB Lingo 1976

California ecstasy noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, originating in California, 1999
• [A] narcotic selection box: top quality
Peruvian flake [cocaine], California
Ecstasy and Caribbean smoke
[marijuana]. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish
Highs 1999

California sunrise noun
a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug
best known as ecstasy; a blend of amphet-
amine and caffeine marketed as MDMA UK,
1996
• Street names: Adam, big brownies,
California sunrise. — James Kay and
Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete
Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

California turnaround noun
any powerful central nervous system stimu-
ant US, 1976
So potent that a trucker who takes one can
drive to California and back.
• — Wayne Floyd, Jason’s Authentic
Dictionary of CB Slang 1976

call verb
► call Earl
to vomit US, 1968
• — Collin Baker et al., College
Undergraduate Slang Study Conducted
at Brown University 1968

► call for a cab
(of a jockey) to make jerky arm movements
as he battles to remain in the saddle UK,
1961
• — Ned Wallish, The Truth Dictionary of
Racing Slang 1989

► call Ralph
to vomit US, 1983
• — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH
Campus Slang Spring, 1983

calley noun
marijuana JAMAICA, 1975
• — Horace Andy, Better Calley (aka
Better Collie) 1975

callibogus noun
an alcoholic drink of spruce beer, rum or
whisky, and molasses CANADA, 1995
• Recipes differ for callibogus, a
Canadian Maritime drink, but it’s
usually spruce beer fortified with rum
or whisky, sometimes with a dollop of
molasses added. — Bill Casselman,
Canadian Words 1995

calling card noun
needle marks on a drug user’s arm US, 1971
• — Eugene Landy, The Underground
Dictionary 1971

calmer noun
a barbiturate or other central nervous
system depressant UK, 1999
• Fuck it. I got a few calmers off Jimmy
and steadied down. — Jeremy Cameron,
Brown Bread in Wengen 1999

Calvin Klein special noun
a mixture of cocaine and the recreational
drug ketamine US, 1995
A back formation from the initials.
• Users pay from $20 to $40 per dose, or
“bump,” usually to be mixed with
heroin or cocaine and sniffed (the
coke/ketamine combo is called CK or
the “Calvin Klein Special”) UK.
• — The Record (Bergen County, New Jersey)
5th December 1995

Camberwell carrot noun
an exceptionally long and fat marijuana
cigarette UK, 1987
• It’s called a Camberwell Carrot because
I invented it in Camberwell [in London]
and it looks like a carrot. — Withnail
and I 1987

can noun
1 marijuana UK, 1986
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and
Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

► in the can
2 not trying to win US, 1951
• Somebody on the golf tour used to be
a hustler who went in the can and
intentionally lost a lot of amateur
tournaments one time. — Dan Jenkins,
Dead Solid Perfect 1986

Canadian noun
a multiple bet UK, 1991
• The Canadian, also known as a Super
Yankee, combines five selections in 10
doubles, 10 trebles, five four-horse
accumulators and one fivefold. A £1
Canadian costs £26. — John McCririck,
John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Canadian black noun
dark marijuana from Canada US, 1969
• — Simon Worman, Joint Smoking Rules
2001

Canadian bouncer noun
the central nervous system depressant
Seconal™, manufactured in Canada US,
1971
• — Eugene Landy, The Underground
Dictionary 1971
can-a-piss noun
a can of beer NEW ZEALAND, 1998

canary noun
a person who is perceived to bring bad luck US, 1974
— [A]nybody who is a carrier of such disasters is known in Las Vegas as a “canary.” The word canary is derived from the Yiddish word, kinnahora, which means evil eye. — Edward Lin, Big Julie of Vegas 1974

cancer stick noun
a cigarette US, 1958
— Dally searched his pocket for a cigarette, and finding none, said, “You gotta cancer stick, Johnny-cake?” — S.E. Hinton, The Outsiders 1967

c and d noun
cocaine and marijuana UK, 1997
— [J]ust see the scene, C and D, coke and dope, don’t do nothing about scoring. — Joel Rose, Kill Kill Faster Faster 1997

C and E noun
in craps, a bet on any craps and eleven US, 1985
— Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

C and H noun
cocaine and heroin US, 1980
— Edith A. Folb, Runnin’ Down Some Lines 1980

C and M noun
a mixture of cocaine and morphine US, 1950
— Hyman E. Goldin et al., Dictionary of American Underworld Lingo 1950

candy noun
cocaine US, 1931
— Me he caught with some bad candy at a party years back.] — Edwin Torres, Carlito’s Way 1975

candycaine; candy cane noun
cocaine US, 1989
Punning on the Christmas hard peppermint ‘candy cane’ and ‘cocaïne’.
— Ellen C. Bellone (Editor), Dictionary of Slang 1989

candy flip noun
1 a combination of LSD and MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, taken at the same time US, 1992
— Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Spring, 1992
2 an LSD-based drug-experience enhanced with a multiplicity of other intoxicants US, 1996
— Part of the new upsurge in psychedelia, the band’s name [Candy Flip] refers to a drug cocktail. — Simon Warner, Rockspeak! 1996

candyman noun
a drug dealer, especially a cocaine dealer; a heavy cocaine user US, 1969
— He’s a little brought down / Because when you knocked / He thought you were the candyman — Richard O’Brien, The Rocky Horror Show 1973

candy store noun
a casino with rules that favour gamblers US, 1991
— Michael Dalton, Blackjack 1991

caned adjective
drug-intoxicaded, drunk UK, 1997
— Sample too much ketamine and you can “take risks and do things you’d normally never do,” [...] Which is worrying, especially if you’re with caned strangers.] — Sky Magazine July, 2001

cane it verb
to react, especially beyond sensible physical limitations, to chemical stimulants taken recreationally UK, 2002
— The London Chamber of Commerce reckons UK industries lose £2billion a year because of employees caning it and taking time off. — Mixmag February, 2002

canned adjective
tipsy, drunk US, 1918
— And one I’m half-canned, I don’t mind admitting it – I’m punyani [women] crazy. — Kevin Sampson, Outlaws 2001

canned up adjective
drunk on canned beer or lager UK, 1999
— Look, this is just the ale talking, the pair of you are canned up. — Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash, The Royle Family 1999

cap noun
a psychoactive mushroom US, 1999
Conventionally, the domed upper part of a mushroom.
- I took three, she ate the other twenty-two caps.[] — Eminem (Marshall Mathers), My Fault 1999

caper noun
cocaine UK, 2001
Etymology uncertain.
- I’ve taken fucking massive packages of caper round in the boot, done up like a kid’s birthday present. — Kevin Sampson, Outlaws 2001

Captain Hicks noun
in craps, the number six US, 1941
- — Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

carburettor noun
a tube with holes used for smoking marijuana; a hole that is designed to let air into a pipe used for smoking marijuana US, 1967
- — High Times May, 1976

carga noun
heroin US, 1965
Border Spanish used in English conversation by Mexican-Americans, from its literal sense as ‘a charge (of explosive)’.
- [Y]ou take your first hit of carga before you get laid. — Oscar Zeta Acosta, The Revolt of the Cockroach People 1973

Carolina noun
in craps, a nine US, 1950
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

carpet noun
in betting, odds of 3–1 UK, 1967
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

carpet and a half noun
in betting, odds of 7–2 UK, 1991
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

carpet joint noun
a fancy, high-class casino US, 1961
- And he saw the “carpet joint” for what it was – an institution designed with neither windows, doors, chairs, nor wall clocks in order to mesmerize the tourists therein trapped into losing track of time and place as they squandered money. — Gerald Petievich, Shakedown 1988

cartwheel noun
an amphetamine tablet US, 1966
- I asked what they were and somebody beside me said, “Cartwheels, man. Bennies. Eat some, they’ll keep you going.” — Hunter S. Thompson, Hell’s Angels 1966

Casablanca gold noun
a variety of hashish produced on the higher slopes of the Rif Mountains UK, 2003
- [T]he quality of Casablanca gold is a cut above your average. — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003

Casey Jones noun
in poker, a player who draws the last card of a rank, the case card US, 1988
John Luther ‘Casey’ Jones (1864–1900) was an American locomotive engineer whose death in a train accident made him a legend celebrated in ballad and song.
- — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

casino perfects noun
high-quality dice used in casinos US, 1997
- Besides letter “imperfections,” the Sabre Bay casino perfects probably also have black-light marks or some other identifying device. — Stephen Cannell, Big Con 1997

Casper; Casper the ghost noun
crack cocaine US, 1994
Based on the cartoon-strip character Casper the Friendly Ghost; from the cloud of smoke produced when smoking the product.
- — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

cat noun
1 a poorly performing racing greyhound AUSTRALIA, 1989
2 in poker, a nonstandard hand such as the ‘little cat’, ‘big cat’, etc US, 1988
- — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988
3 methcathinone US, 1995
- The recipe for cat, based on (widely available) ephedrine, has been widely disseminated on the Internet. — Steven Daly and Nathaniel Wice, alt.culture 1995

catch verb
1 in an illegal number gambling lottery, to win US, 1949
- — American Speech October, 1949
beamers; beemers noun, US, 1988

Catholic asprin noun
a tablet of Benzedrine™ (amphetamine sulphate), a central nervous system stimulant US, 1973
From the cross scores on the white tablet.
— David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

catnip noun
poor-quality, adulterated or entirely fake marijuana US, 1962

cloud noun, US, 1994
From the thick white smoke produced when smoked.
— US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994
due noun, US, 1989
the residue left in a pipe after smoking crack cocaine
— Terry Williams, The Cocaine Kids 1989
French fries noun, US, 1993
3-inch sticks of crack cocaine with ridged edges
— Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993
cave noun
a deep sore at the site of repeated drug injections US, 1973
— David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973
caviar noun
residue in whatever utensils are used for manufacturing crack cocaine US, 1993

Catmint, the botanical genus nepeta, known in the US as ‘catnip’, may be passed off as marijuana.
— Anthony Romeo, The Language of Gangs 1962
cat’s eyes noun
in craps, a roll of three US, 1945

CRACK

catch a fish
2 in poker, after making a small bet with a good hand (the bait), to lure another player into increasing the bet US, 1988
— George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

cat tranquilizer noun
the recreational drug ketamine CANADA, 2002
— I do identify with 2.5 bumps of cat tranquilizer. — Suroosh Alvi et al., The Vice Guide 2002
criss noun
poor-quality, adulterated or entirely fake marijuana US, 1962

CC noun
Canadian Club™ whisky US, 1971
— You had about two hundred cases of C.C. on that truck[]. — George V. Higgins, The Friends of Eddie Doyle 1971
cellar dealer noun
a card cheat who deals from the bottom of a deck US, 1988
- — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

cement arm noun
an intravenous drug user's arm that is toughened with scar tissue over the veins US, 1973
- — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

cess noun
marijuana, possibly of inferior quality US, 1995
- That cess got me buggin’. — Lois Stavsky et al., A2Z 1995

CFD noun
a chilled 12-ounce can of beer US, 2002
An abbreviation of ‘cold frothy dog’.
- — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang October, 2002

chain it verb
to chain smoke UK, 2001
- [M]e and Charlie sit a couple of feet away from him chaining it until the bastard chokes. — Danny King, The Burglar Diaries 2001

chalice noun
a pipe for smoking marijuana JAMAICA, 2000
A word with wider religious significance adopted into ritual by Rastafarians and hence into more general use. Celebrated in the song ‘Chalice to Chalice’ by Tappa Zukie, 1996.
- [H]im puff a serious Planet Zion chalice. — Diran Adebayo, My Once Upon a Time 2000

chalk noun
in sports betting, the contestant or team favoured to win US, 1991
- — Bay Sports Review November, 1991

chalk verb
to prepare cocaine for inhalation UK, 1997
- Nood starts chalkin’ a few lines on the desktop includin’ a real fat one for Joe. — Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

chalk-eater noun
in horse racing, a better who consistently bets on favourites US, 1951
From the old custom of a bookmaker chalking odds on a blackboard.
- — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

champagne drug noun
cocaine US, 1998
- Cocaine prices dropped dramatically from 1980 onwards as the drug cartels successfully expanded their client base, bringing in many people who previously could not afford to use the “champagne drug.” — Richard Rudgley, The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Substances 1998

chang noun
cocaine UK, 2002
- [T]hey’ve got a huge appetite for chang and don’t mind bashing you in some horrible old toilet. — Ministry 2002

channel noun
a vein, especially a prominent vein suitable for drug injection US, 1994
- — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

charas; churus noun
hashish from India INDIA, 1957
- Charas is the cream of Indian hashes with the pollen being collected for it’s [sic] production before the resin is removed from the leaves[.] — Mike Rock, This Book 1999

charge noun
1 an intoxicated sensation, emotional or narcotic UK, 1950
- She was scarcely out with the needle when the charge set in. — George Mandel, Flee the Angry Strangers 1952

2 marijuana US, 1941
- I got all the charge I wanted, the good stuff, and we had another arrangement. — Hal Ellson, Duke 1949

3 an injection of a drug US, 1925
- She applied the needle herself, jabbed quickly and gasped, then pumped the charge and drew it back with her blood[.] — George Mandel, Flee the Angry Strangers 1952

charged; charged up adjective
drug-intoxicated US, 1942
- Now these very same guys do all their shillings on charlie [cocaine], in cold blood, fuck the consequences, grafting
all week just to get charged up[.]
— J.J. Connolly, _Layer Cake_ 2000

**Charles** noun
cocaine UK, 1997
More familiarly known as **CHARLIE**.
- I wouldn’t mind some Charles but I’m a bit skint. What about the fast stuff [amphetamine]? — Colin Butts, _Is Harry on the Boat?_ 1997

**Charlie; charlie; charley** noun
1 cocaine US, 1935
The phonetic alphabet has 'Charlie' for ‘C’ in use from around the same time that ‘charlie’ for ‘cocaine’ first appears.
- Next time you’re introduced to Charlie, by all means enjoy his company.
  — Nick Constable, _This is Cocaine_ 2002
2 crack cocaine UK, 2000

► **go to see Uncle Charlie**
3 to use cocaine, especially to go to a lavatory for discreet ingestion of the drug UK, 2001
- She was obviously tipsy and had been to see her uncle Charlie during the evening[.]
  — Garry Bushell, _The Face_ 2001

**charlie bender** noun
a prolonged session of cocaine abuse UK, 1997
- [H]e flashes his shades on an’ off givin’ out insane stares like he’s on a charlie bender. Which I guess he is.
  — Nick Barlay, _Curvy Lovebox_ 1997

**charlie cocaine** noun
cocaine UK, 1997
- How much of the charlie cocaine was you after?
  — Nick Barlay, _Curvy Lovebox_ 1997

**charlied; charleyed; charlied up; charleyed-up**
adjective
cocaine-intoxicated UK, 1999
- Love the way smokin feels when I’m charlie’d, me lungs openin wide, chest swellin.
  — Niall Griffiths, _Kelly + Victor_ 2002

**Chas** noun
cocaine UK, 1999
A conventional diminutive of **CHARLIE**.
- It was far easier for the boys in blue to nick the odd knobhead for possessing a gram of Chas a few miles down the road.
  — Garry Bushell, _The Face_ 2001

**chase** verb
► **chase the bag**
to engage yourself in a near constant search for drugs to buy US, 1970
- — Geoffrey Froner, _Digging for Diamonds_ 1989

► **chase the dragon**
to inhale heroin smoke, especially from heroin burnt on a piece of aluminium foil US, 1961
- [T]he Central Drugs Squad boasted a Chinese Dragon as its emblem, based on the famous phrase “chasing the dragon”, where addicts sniff the swirling smoke of burning heroin[.]
  — Duncan MacLaughlin, _The Filth_ 2002

► **chase the tiger**
to smoke heroin UK, 2002
- — Robert Ashton, _This is Heroin_ 2002

**chaser** noun
a crack cocaine user with obsessive compulsive behaviour US, 1992
- — Terry Williams, _Crackhouse_ 1992

**chastity belt** noun
in gambling, the loss limit that some players impose on themselves US, 1996
- — John Vorhaus, _The Big Book of Poker Slang_ 1996

**check** noun
a gambling token US, 1974
- And then a rush for the cage to cash in the chips (which, for whatever this information may be worth, are always called “checks” by the people who work in the casinos and “chips” by everybody else).
  — Edward Lin, _Big Julie of Vegas_ 1974

**cheeba; cheeb** noun
marijuana US, 1989
- Cause when we’re together, blazin’ tha cheeba / She does things to me that you wouldn’t believe
  — Tone Loc, _Cheeba Cheeba_ 1989

**cheer** noun
LSD UK, 1998
an abbreviation of **BLUE CHEER**.
- Street names[.]: A, acid, blotter, cheer, dots[.]
  — James Kay and Julian Cohen,
cheer-up noun
an anti-depressant tablet; an amphetamine
or other central nervous system stimulant
UK, 1999
  • Yeah she was on the pills. Not likely
she got any bars so she probably had
a jar of cheer-ups. — Jeremy Cameron,
Brown Bread in Wengen 1999

cheese noun
1 a powdery concoction containing heroin,
designed for beginning users US, 2006
  • A new heroin-laced powder known as
“cheese” is popping up in middle and
high schools in Texas. — USA Today
27th April 2006
2 money; a gambler’s bankroll US, 1985
  • A location popularised by Minnesota
Fats, as in, ‘I never lost when we
played for the cheese.’ — Mike
Shamos, The Illustrated Encyclopedia
of Billiards 1993

chemical noun
1 crack cocaine US, 1994
  • — US Department of Justice, Street
Terms October, 1994
2 any drug with addictive characteristics
UK, 2003
  • — Susie Dent, The Language Report
2003

cherry kicks noun
the first drug injection enjoyed by someone
just released from prison US, 1971
  • — Eugene Landy, The Underground
Dictionary 1971

cherry menth; cherry meth noun
the recreational drug GHB US, 1995
  • Police have identified a substance that
left three people unconscious and
close to death on a Fillmore sidewalk
last month as a legal yet potentially
dangerous drug known as “Cherry
Meth.” — Los Angeles Times 4th
November 1995

cherry patch noun
a poker game being played by a group of
poor players, ripe for the taking by a good
professionall US, 1982
  • — David M. Hayano, Poker Faces 1982

Chester and Esther noun
in craps, a bet on any craps and eleven US, 1985

A back formation from the initials ‘c and e’.
  • — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

chiba noun
marijuana US, 1981
Spanish slang embraced by English-
speakers.
  • 11 of 12 tracks are dedicated to the
joys of boo, tea, dope, grass, ganga,
chiba, the doob – whatever street
you’re on. — Riverfront Times
(Missouri) 21st November 2001

Chicago leprosy noun
infections, scars and abscesses caused by
prolonged intravenous drug use US, 1992
  • — Jay Robert Nash, Dictionary of Crime
1992

chickenfeed noun
methamphetamine US, 1964
  • She believes crystals are a form of
Methedrine and that “they’re called
chicken feed because they’re actually
given to chickens.” — San Francisco
News Call Bulletin 17th February 1964

chicken yellow; chicken fever; chicken powder noun
the recreational drug PMA US, 2001
  • Also known as “Chicken Yellow” or
“Chicken Fever”, PMA is often
contained in a thick white tablet.
— The Guardian 14th January 2001

chief noun
LSD US, 1966
  • — Steve Salaets, Ye Olde Hiptionary
1970

chillum; chilum noun
a pipe for smoking marijuana JAMAICA, 1970
Originally late C18 Hindi for the bowl
(chilam) of a ‘hookah’ (hugga) intended for
tobacco. More than 150 years later a
modified usage rolled up in the West Indies.
Widely used in the UK thanks, in part, to
‘head shop(s)’.
  • Most Rastas have no interest in violent
action – and with such devotion to
consuming vast quantities of the very
finest sinsemilla ganja in chalices,
chillums or spliffs the size of ice-cream
cones, how could it be otherwise?
— Harry Shapiro, Waiting for the Man
1999

China cat noun
strong heroin US, 1994
China girl noun
Fentanyl™, a synthetic narcotic analgesic that is used as a recreational drug UK, 2004
- US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994
- Harry Shapiro, Recreational Drugs 2004

Chinaman noun
an addiction to heroin or another opiate US, 1948
- You know, man, Win’s just about got the Chinaman off her back! — John Clellon Holmes, Go 1952

China white noun
eroin; less frequently, cocaine US, 1974
- We all know the story of the whore, who finding her China white to be less and less reliable a friend no matter how much of it she injected into her arm, recalled in desperation the phrase “shooting the shit”, and so filled the needle with her own watery excrement and pumped it in[.] — William T. Vollman, Whores for Gloria 1991

Chinese adjective
in horse racing, said of blurred numbers on the tote board US, 1947
- Dan Parker, The ABC of Horse Racing 1947

Chinese flush; Chinese straight noun
in poker, a worthless hand approximating but not equalling a flush or straight US, 1979
- Maledicta 1979: ‘A glossary of ethnic slurs in American English’

Chinese needlework noun
intravenous use of narcotics US, 1942

Chinese rocks noun
1 relatively pure heroin US, 1975
- Wanna go cop / Wanna go get some Chinese Rock / I’m livin’ on Chinese Rocks — Dee Dee Ramone and Richard Hell, Chinese Rocks 1975
2 crack cocaine UK, 1996
- [H]e turned a couple of blue-rinsed old bints on to the joys of Chinese Rocks[.]
- Dean Cavanagh, Mile High Meltdown (Disco Biscuits) 1996

ching noun
in betting, odds of 5–1 UK, 1991
- John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

ching and a half noun
in betting, odds of 11–2 UK, 1991
- John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

chink ink noun
an indelible ink used by card cheats to mark cards US, 1988
- George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

chip verb
to use drugs occasionally or irregularly US, 1964
Applied to all narcotics but especially heroin.
- Well, all the studs I knew was on stuff now, and their habits was a good mile long / but I thought I could chip and never get hooked, for my will was strong. — Bruce Jackson, Get Your Ass in the Water and Swim Like Me 1964

chippy; chippie noun
a person in a gambling casino who tries to hustle or steal chips US, 2003
- Victor H. Royer, Casino Gamble Talk 2003

chippy verb
to use drugs occasionally and not habitually US, 1924
Applied particularly to heroin.
- “Hoss was his Boss.” He had chippied around and gotten hooked. — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Pimp 1969

chippy; chippie noun
1 a person who uses addictive drugs occasionally without developing a habit US, 1924
- She’s no chippie, man. — Alexander Trocchi, Cain’s Book 1960
2 a modest drug addiction US, 1964
- At the moment, like Sammy, he had only a chippy, and got most of the heroin he needed by hanging around other addicts who occasionally turned him on with a taste[.]. — James Mills, The Panic in Needle Park 1966
chiseler noun
a gambler who places small, conservative bets US, 1950
— The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

chiva noun
US, 1967
From the Spanish of Mexican-Americans.
— Next to the highgrade chiva he dealt, La Barba was proudest of his lowrider.
— Seth Morgan, Homeboy 1990

chocolate chip cookies noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, mixed with heroin or methadone UK, 2002
— Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

chocolate hearts noun
a variety of LSD, 2001
— LSD (about 300 micrograms in the form of five “chocolate hearts”) with four St. John’s Wort tablets... one of the best drugs ’n’ sex combos. — Simon Napier-Bell, Black Vinyl White Powder 2001

chocolate rock noun
a blend of crack cocaine and heroin that is smoked, 2002
— Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

chocolate Thai; chocolate thi; chocolate noun
a variety of marijuana UK, 1995
— The chocolate thai got me nice in ten minutes. — Loi Stavsky et al., A2Z 1995

chonga noun
marijuana UK, 2002
— We adjourn to the van to sample the chonga[.] — Niall Griffiths, Kelly + Victor 2002

chop verb
< chop a wing-ding to feign a seizure while in prison in the hope of obtaining drugs in treatment US, 1992

chuck verb
▸ chuck a wing-ding
to feign a seizure while in prison in the hope of obtaining drugs in treatment US, 1992

chuck horrors noun
the painful symptoms of withdrawal from drug addiction US, 1926
— “You look like you’ve got the chuck horrors,” he commented[.] — Morton Cooper, High School Confidential 1958

chucks noun
1 a powerful craving for food associated with withdrawal from heroin addiction US, 1953

Christmas tree noun
1 a capsule of amobarbital sodium and secobarbital sodium (trade name Tuinal™), a combination of central nervous system depressants US, 1968
— Tuinal is what I like. Some people call them Christmas Trees. That’s the underworld slang for them because they’re a kind of a green and kind of a red[,] — Bruce Jackson, Outside the Law 1972

2 an assortment of multi-coloured pills US, 1992

3 marijuana US, 1987
— Anyway, he said the shit was garbage... Christmas tree smoke. — Jim Carroll, Forced Entries 1987

chronic noun
potent marijuana US, 1992
A word popularised in hip-hop usage. ‘The Chronic’ by Dr Dre (1992) is one of the biggest-selling rap albums of all time.
— Beeitch, if you ain’t got no kinda chronic, yo punk ass gots to go!
— Snoop Doggy Dogg, A Day in the Life of Snoop Doggy Dog [Cover art] 1993

chronic bubonic noun
marijuana that is more potent than simple ‘chronic’ or simple ‘bubonic’ US, 2001
— Pamela Munro, U.C.L.A. Slang 2001
Also ‘chuckers’.

• This excessive desire for sweets is the beginning of what is known as the chucks, an enormous hunger which addicts experience in the last stages of withdrawal.[.] — Emmett Grogan, Ringolevio 1972

2 the craving for food that follows the smoking of marijuana US, 1970

• — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

chug verb
to swallow a drink in a single draught US, 1989
An abbreviation of CHUGALUG.

• DeChooch chugged three fingers and got some color back into his face. — Janet Evanovich, Seven Up 2001

chugalug; chuglug verb
to drink without pausing to breathe US, 1936

• Pooks, I couldn’t care less how fast Schoons can chug-a-lug a beer. — John Nichols, The Sterile Cuckoo 1965

chunder noun
in poker, a weak hand that wins US, 1996

• — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

chunk verb
to vomit US, 1994

• — Judi Sanders, Mashing and Munching in Ames 1994

chunky; chunks; chunkies noun
hashish US, 1971

• — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

church key noun
a can and bottle opener US, 1951

With the advent of the pull-ring (1962), the pop-top (1963) and the stay-on tab can (1974), the device and term all but disappeared.

• The real hoods, the serious ones who’d been up the night before fighting with churchkeys and tireirons or knocking up “cheap” girls, spent the days dozing fully clothed[.] — Eve Babitz, Eve’s Hollywood 1984

Church of England noun
in craps, a bet that the next roll will be 1, 2, 11 or 12 US, 1983

A back-formation from C AND K, itself the initials of ‘crap-eleven’, the conventional name of the bet.

• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

’cid; cid; sid noun
LSD US, 1986
abbreviation of ‘acid’.

• — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang October, 1986

ciggy; ciggie noun
a cigarette US, 1915

• The youngsters eat at Walgreen’s drugstore, 44th Street and Broadway, and the drugstore, in the Astor; instead of cocktails they sip cokes and smoke ciggies. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, New York Confidential 1948

Circle K noun
the recreational drug ketamine US, 1998
A punning allusion to a US national chain of convenience stores.

• The stolen drugs include pentobarbital, Valium, and ketamine – known on the streets as “Circle K.” — Press Journal (Vero Beach, Florida) 14th March 1998

circus noun
feigned spasms by a drug addict to convince a doctor to prescribe a narcotic US, 1949

• — Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

civilian noun
in twelve-step recovery programmes such as Alcoholics Anonymous, a person who is not involved in and does not need to be involved in a recovery programme US, 1998

• — Christopher Cavanaugh, AA to Z 1998

CK noun
a mixture of cocaine and the recreational drug ketamine US, 1995

• Users pay from $20 to $40 per dose, or “bump”, usually to be mixed with heroin or cocaine and snorted (the coke/ketamine combo is called CK or the “Calvin Klein Special”)[.] — The Record (Bergen County, New Jersey) 5th December 1995

CK1 noun
a mixture of nine parts cocaine and one part the recreational drug ketamine UK, 2001
The brand name of a popular fragrance by Calvin Klein.
• Meanwhile in London, a ready-mixed wrap of powder called CK1 is doing the rounds. — Sky Magazine July, 2001

crack cocaine mixed with phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1994
• — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

crack cocaine US, 1992
Because of the orgasm-enhancing characteristics of the drug.

cocaine, heroin and other drugs that are legally categorised as Class A narcotics UK, 1999
• I slowly slipped into a farcical but forceful world of contention, materialism... and class-As. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

cocaine, heroin and other drugs that are legally categorised as Class A narcotics AUSTRALIA, 1989

cocaine, heroin and other drugs that are legally categorised as Class A narcotics UK, 1999
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

crack cocaine US, 1992
From the thick white smoke produced when smoked.
• — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

clubber's cold noun
a runny nose, as a side-effect of drug use UK, 1999
• [i]f you are genuinely unwell you don’t dare blow your nose in a club without

cocaine US, 1992

54 clack | clubber's cold
risking attracting hordes of bimbos, people after a toot or bouncers eager to search you. — Alon Shulman, *The Style Bible* 1999

cluck noun
a crack cocaine user US, 1994
— Mark S. Fleisher, *Beggars and Thieves* 1995

cluck verb
to withdraw from any drug UK, 1996
— Jeremy Cameron, *Brown Bread in Wengen* 1999

clucker noun
in the urban drug culture, someone who brings buyers to sellers US, 2002
— Detroit News 20th September 2002

clucking adjective
showing an addict’s hunger for drugs, especially crack cocaine UK, 1996

C-note charlie noun
in a casino, a gambler who insists on betting with hundred-dollar notes, not betting chips US, 1949

cocaine US, 1986
— Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

cocked adjective
drunk US, 1737

cock-eyed adjective
drunk US, 1737
First recorded by Benjamin Franklin.
— There, one night, cockeyed, he shot two inoffensive customers. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, *New York Confidential* 1948

cocktail noun
a marijuana cigarette, partially smoked and inserted into a regular cigarette US, 1966
— As the cigarette began to burn his finger, Prince put the reefer out and made a cocktail out of the roach.
— Donald Goines, *Black Gangster* 1977

cocktail verb
to insert a partially smoked marijuana cigarette into a tobacco cigarette US, 1960
— The bomber in her hand was now a “roach.” I cocktailed it for her.
— Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), *Pimp* 1969

co-co noun
cocaine US, 1997
— RUCKER: My girl at Chase says Figsy was missing payments – what with the his and her co-co problems and whatnot. — Copland 1997

cocaine puff noun
a combination of marijuana and cocaine UK, 2003
— Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

Coco the Clown noun
cocaine UK, 2002
A disguise for co-co; from the professional name of Latvian-born Nicolai Polakovs, 1900–1974, who, in the mid-C20 was the best-known clown in the UK; Coco, now, is almost a generic for any clown.
— He had done it. Knocked Coco the Clown on the head. — James Hawes, *White Powder, Green Light* 2002

coffeemate noun
any central nervous system stimulant US, 1976

coal noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1993
— Cypress Hill, *Hits from the Bong* 1993

coca; coka noun
cocaine US, 1986
— Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

coffee
any central nervous system stimulant US, 1976

coff ee
any central nervous system stimulant US, 1976

coffeemate noun
any central nervous system stimulant US, 1976
Punning on a non-dairy coffee cream-substitute.
  — Lanie Dills, The Official CB Slanguage Language Dictionary 1976

coke noun

1 cocaine US, 1903
  • Wow, I don’t believe it. You mean to tell me you guys have never snorted coke? — Annie Hall 1977

2 crack cocaine UK, 2000

coked; coked out; coked up adjective
cocaine-intoxicated US, 1924
  • “You look just like David Bowie,” Alana, who is obviously coked up out of her mind, tells Daniel. — Bret Easton Ellis, Less Than Zero 1985

cokie noun

a frequent user of cocaine US, 1916
  • The girls never bother the alkies and cokies of the street with their joke[]. — John M. Murtagh and Sara Harris, Cast the First Stone 1957

Cokomo Joe; Kokomo Joe; kokomo noun

a cocaine user US, 1938
  • — J.E. Schmindt, Narcotics Lingo and Lore 1959

cold and hot noun
cocaine and heroin combined for injection US, 1986
  Based on the initials.
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

cold bluff noun
in poker, a large bet on a poor hand designed to mislead other players US, 1980
  • — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

cold crotch noun
the application of an ice pack on the scrotum of a man who has overdosed on heroin US, 1993
  • — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

cold deck noun
in card games, a stacked deck of cards US, 1857
  • Was back in thirty-two when times were hard / I had a sawed-off shotgun and a cold deck a cards. — Bruce Jackson, Get Your Ass in the Water and Swim Like Me 1964

cold turkey noun
an act of withdrawing from addictive drugs suddenly; the time period of that withdrawal US, 1925
  • I promise you anything / Get me out of this hell / Cold turkey has got me / on the run. — John Lennon, Cold Turkey 1970

cold turkey verb
to withdraw from a habit or addiction suddenly and without any tapering off US, 1949
  • Two days later, Chico told himself, “I’m going to cold turkey it. That’s the hard way but the only way to bust my habit.” — Hal Ellson, The Golden Spike 1952

cold turkey adverb
(used of an attempt to break a drug addiction) suddenly and completely without narcotics or medication to ease the withdrawal symptoms US, 1922
  • Included as a medical record from the hospital when he had made her go cold turkey, which is dope-addict talk for an all-out cure. — Mickey Spillane, I, The Jury 1947

collie noun
marijuana JAMAICA, 1970
  • [A] variety of ganja, nowadays rendered as colley or colly[]. — Harry Shaphiro, Waiting for the Man 1999

collie man noun
a marijuana dealer JAMAICA, 1977
  • Quaju Peg the collie-man / Sell the best collie in sea port town — Congos, Row Fisherman Row 1977

Colombian marching powder noun
cocaine UK, 2000
  • And what about the... Colombian Marching Powder, shouted, then hissed Jan, suddenly remembering we were in a cab. — James Hawes, Dead Long Enough 2000

color noun
in a casino, any betting token worth more than one dollar US, 1977

**colorado** noun

a red barbiturate capsule, especially if branded *Seconal™* US, 1971

From Spanish *colorado* (the colour red). Often abbreviated to ‘colie’.

• Got any colorados, chico? — Louis Stavsky et al., *A2Z* 1995

**Colorado Kool Aid** noun

*Coors™* beer US, 1972

Brewed in Colorado, and for several decades not marketed nationally.

• “Oh, he’ll drink that Colorado Kool-Aid,” said Jim Tom[,] “He don’t like it any more than he likes gettin’ fed and fucked before sundown.” — Dan Jenkins, *Semi-Tough* 1972

**color for color** adverb

in American casinos, the method of paying bets – one denomination at a time US, 1980

• — Lee Solkey, *Dummy Up and Deal* 1980

**comeback** noun

an adulterant used to dilute crack cocaine US, 1989

• And like you Gee Money I have also been doing some experimenting and discovered by cutting the caine with comeback we make more product not less. — New Jack City 1990

**comedown** noun

a period during which the diminishing sensations of a drug are felt UK, 1984

• Lacking the harsh edge and crashing “come-downs” associated with stronger stimulants like speed or coke, acid’s mild stimulant effect often lingers for a while after the psychedelic effects have dissipated. — Cam Cloud, *The Little Book of Acid* 1999

**come down** verb

to experience the easing of drug intoxication US, 1959

• You’re high and you need to come down. Sleep it off, Dirk. — *Boogie Nights* 1997

**come on** verb

(of drugs) to start having an effect UK, 1996

A variation of the earlier *come on*.

• [...] just dropped a tab. Should be coming up nicely in a moment[,] — Nicholas Blincoe, *Ardwick Green (Disco Biscuits)* 1996

**come up** verb

(of drugs) to start having an effect UK, 1996

• — Terry Willliams, *Crackhouse* 1992

**condominiums** noun

in bar dice games, a roll from the cup in which some dice are stacked on top of others, invalidating the roll US, 1976

• — Gil Jacobs, *The World’s Best Dice Games* 1976

**conductor** noun

an experienced LSD user who acts as a guide for another who is experiencing the drug’s effects; LSD US, 1982

• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**cone** noun

1 a cone-shaped marijuana cigarette UK, 2000

• He was sitting alone on a small brick wall, smoking what I recognised, before I could even smell it, as a cone of grass. — Ken Lukowiak, *Marijuana Time* 2000

• **pull a cone**

2 to smoke the entire contents of a a detachable conical receptacle of a marijuana pipe AUSTRALIA, 1987

• He offered her his home-made bong. “Pull a cone,” he said magnanimously. — Kathy Lette, *Girls’ Night Out* 1987

**connection** noun

a drug dealer; a drug deal US, 1928

• — I saw her today at the reception / A glass of wine in her hand / I knew she was gonna meet her connection / At her feet was a footloose man — Rolling
Stones, You Can’t Always Get What You Want 1969

constitutional noun
a drug addict’s first injection of the day US, 1959

• — J.E. Schmidt, Narcotics Lingo and Lore 1959

contact high noun
a vicarious, sympathetic experience caused by witnessing another person’s drug-induced experience US, 1955

• — J. L. Simmons and Barry Winograd, It’s Happening 1966

cook verb
1 to melt a powdered narcotic, especially heroin, in water, prior to injecting or inhaling US, 1952
The drug is ‘cooked up’ and ‘cooked down’.  
Angel watched him begin preparations again and didn’t move until all six caps were in the spoon, ready to be cooked.
— Hal Elson, The Golden Spike 1952
2 to prepare crack cocaine, heating a mixture of cocaine, lidocaine, baking soda and other chemicals to remove the hydrochloride US, 1992

• — Terry Williams, Crackhouse 1992

cooked adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1997

• — Anna Scotti and Paul Young, Buzzwords 1997

cooker noun
1 in an illegal drug enterprise, a person who tests the purity of a drug US, 1967

• — His father was a “cooker” – a tester who finds out how pure the imported heroin is before it gets ready to be cooked.
— John Gimenez, Up Tight! 1967
2 any object used to heat heroin preparatory to injecting it US, 1958

• — A gland in his neck was making the ducts in his mouth water at the thought of drugs: cooker, matches, needle, eye-dropper, and pacifier.
— Clarence Cooper Jr, The Scene 1960

cookie breath noun
the alcoholic fumes arising from someone who has drunk lemon extract or vanilla flavouring CANADA, 1999

• — He gets drunk any way he can... he has cookie breath all the time. — Lewis Poteet, The South Shore Phrase Book 1999

cooler noun
a stacked deck of cards used by a cheat US, 1935

• — Robert C. Prus and C.R.D. Sharp, Road Hustler 1977

cool water noun
strong, illegally manufactured whisky US, 1999

• — Star Tribune (Minneapolis) 31st January 1999

coon verb
to bet US, 1947

• — Say, “Why don’t you get you a deck of cards where I can coon you some?”
— Bruce Jackson, Get Your Ass in the Water and Swim Like Me 1962

Coop noun
in craps, a roll of 12 US, 1983
An abbreviated nickname of Gary Cooper, star of the Western film High Noon.

• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

coo’s arse; cow’s arse noun
a cigarette end over-moistened with a smoker’s saliva UK: SCOTLAND, 1988

• — OK, ye can have a drag a ma fag but don’t gie it a coo’s arse. — Michael Munro, The Patter, Another Blast 1988

copilot noun
a tablet of dextroamphetamine sulphate (trade name Dexedrine™), or any other central nervous system stimulant US, 1965

• — Jackie slipped me a couple of co-pilots in English when she passed out the test papers. — Anonymous, Go Ask Alice 1971

Corine noun
cocaine US, 1967

• — John B. Williams, Narcotics and Hallucinogenics 1967

corker noun
an inconsistent, unpredictable poker player US, 1988

• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

corn noun
a hard scar produced by repeated drug injections US, 1971
cotton noun
cotton used for straining a dissolved narcotic (heroin, cocaine or morphine) before injection; the bits of cotton saturated with drugs can be aggregated for an injection US, 1933

— Eugene Landy, *The Underground Dictionary* 1971

cotton mouth noun
a dryness of the mouth as a result of smoking marijuana or hashish US, 2003

— Nick Jones, *Spliffs* 2003

cotton shooter noun
a drug addict who injects residue aggregated from cotton swatches used to strain drugs US, 1951

— Geoffrey Froner, *Digging for Diamonds* 1989

— San Francisco News 5th December 1951

couch noun

on the couch
in gambling, without further funds US, 1996

— Kevin Sampson, *Powder* 1999

— Goldie Looking Chain, *Soap Bar* 2004

— Donald Gorgon, *Cop Killer* 1994

MARIJUANA AND HASHISH – AS IT COMES

Acapulco gold noun, US, 1965
golden-leafed marijuana from southwest Mexico
A popular, well-known strain of cannabis. The song ‘Acapulco Gold’ by the Rainy Daze was released in 1967 and had just begun its climb in the pop charts when programme directors figured out what it was about and pulled it off play lists.

• “Gold. It’s Acapulco Gold,” White Rabbit corrected the doctor, who was mixing up the slang names for different kinds of marijuana. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against* 1967

Aunt Hazel noun, US, 2001


blow noun, UK, 1996
marijuana

• Evenings spent on the steps, smoking blow, listening to the pirates[,] — Mark Pavell, *Snap* 2001

chronic noun, US, 1992
potent marijuana
A word popularised in hip-hop usage. ‘The Chronic’ by Dr Dre (1992) is one of the biggest-selling rap albums of all time.

• Beeitch, if you ain’t got no kinda chronic, yo punk ass gots to go! — Snoop Doggy Dogg, *A Day in the Life of Snoop Doggy Dog* [Cover art] 1993

devil’s herb noun, UK, 1994
hashish (cannabis resin or pollen)

• I stopped smoking the devil’s herb when I was oh... fourteen or fifteen. — Donald Gorgon, *Cop Killer* 1994

gage; gage; gages noun, US, 1934

• Three teenage boys had a fifteen-year-old girl inside, all blowing gage. — Chester Himes, *A Rage in Harlem* 1957

kutchie; kutchi noun, JAMAICA, 1972

• Pass the Dutchie was a reggae anthem, based on an old Mighty Diamonds’ song Pass the Kutchie. Kutchie was slang for marijuana, and so “dutchie” was substituted as a different kind of pot, this one for cooking in. — Paul Du Noyer, *Encyclopaedia of Singles* 1998

Mary Warner; Mary Warmer; Mary Weaver; Mary Werner; Mary Worner noun, US, 1933

Giving a feminine identity by mispronunciation.

• Here. Try one of these. This is the real Mary Warner. — Douglas Rutherford, *The Creeping Flesh* 1963

porn weed; horny weed noun, UK, 1999
marijuana with, allegedly, aphrodisiac properties


soap bar; soap noun, UK, 1996
a small block of cannabis resin, often heavily adulterated, especially with animal tranquillisers

• I’ll smoke soap bar till I fucking die.

— Goldie Looking Chain, *Soap Bar* 2004

— Geoffrey Froner, *Digging for Diamonds* 1989

— San Francisco News 5th December 1951

cotton fever noun

an intense illness sometimes suffered after injecting heroin leached from used cottons US, 1989

• But when I make that big sting, I’ll straighten you / If you’ll save me a little on the cotton. — Dennis Wepman et al., *The Life* 1976

• Down-and-out addicts are “cotton shooters.” They collect discarded cottons, soak out the narcotic residue and come up with an anemic shot.

— San Francisco News 5th December 1951

— Nick Jones, *Spliffs* 2003
count noun
the weight or amount of a drug US, 1967
- COUNT: The amount or purity of a drug.
  — Elizabeth Finn, Drugs in the Tenderloin 1967: Glossary of Drug Slang
  Used in the Tenderloin

-country straight noun
in poker, a hand consisting of four sequenced cards which can be converted into a five-card sequence with the correct draw at either end of the sequence US, 1978
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

-crab verb
in horse racing, to belittle a horse's performance UK, 1948
- — Rita Cannon, Let's Go Racing 1948

crabs noun
1 in craps, a three US, 1938
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987
2 by extension, in a deck of playing cards, any three US, 1981
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

crack noun
crystalline lumps of concentrated cocaine US, 1985
- When cocaine got too expensive for the 'hood, crack was invented. Now brothers with fourth-grade educations go down into their basements and become mad scientists. — Chris Rock, Rock This! 1997

-crack cooler noun
pieces of crack cocaine soaked in a wine cooler drink US, 1994
- — US Department of Justice, Street Terms 1994

-cracked out adjective
suffering symptoms of heavy crack cocaine usage US, 1988
- She was whispering it in his ear, scraping his neck, that hard, cracked-out voice croaking to him[.] — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

-crack house noun
a building or room where crack cocaine may be bought and consumed US, 1985
- Meanwhile, narcotics officers of the New York City Police Department have shut down a few of the so-called crack houses, the rough equivalent of heroin-shooting galleries, where sales are made and users gather for smoking binges that can last for several days.
  — New York Times 29th November 1985

-crack weed noun
marijuana laced with crack cocaine UK, 2001
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

-crack whore noun
a prostitute motivated by a desire to buy crack cocaine US, 1990
- A crack whore named Princess from the Forties House in South Jamaica had turned up dead in the grass near an exit ramp to Greenwich, Connecticut.
  — San Francisco Chronicle 19th August 1990

-crack noun
methamphetamine hydrochloride in powdered form; any amphetamine; methcathinone US, 1967
- I ain't trading no uptown crack for no downtown trash. — Drugstore Cowboy 1988

-crack verb
to use amphetamines or methamphetamine, central nervous system stimulants US, 1970
- — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

-crack bug noun
an insect that is seen by someone under the influence of methamphetamine but not by others US, 1977
- — Walter L. Way, The Drug Scene 1977

-cranked; cranked out; cranked up adjective
stimulated by methamphetamine or amphetamines US, 1971
- “There’s another worrier,” said my attorney. “He’s probably all cranked up on speed.” — Hunter S. Thompson, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1971

-cranking; cranking up noun
the act of injecting a drug UK, 2000
- [H]e’s got cranking down to a fine art[.] — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000

-crash verb
to return to normal perceptions after a drug intoxication; to experience post-intoxication depression US, 1967
crater noun
a deep sore caused by repeated injections
US, 1967
- I had cultivated a crater and always shot through the same hole. It sure looked awful, though. — Piri Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets* 1967

**crazies** noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1993
- — Peter Johnson, *Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms* 1993

**crazy Eddy** noun
high-quality phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1993
- — Peter Johnson, *Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms* 1993

**crib** noun
a gambling establishment UK, 1823

**crill** noun
crack cocaine US, 1995
- — Maria Hinojas, *Crews* 1995

**crink** noun
methamphetamine sulphate in powdered form US, 1977

**criss-cross** noun
an amphetamine tablet, especially Benzadrine™ (amphetamine sulphate) US, 1993
From the cross scoring on the tablet.
- — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* August, 1993

**cristina; cris; crist; christina** noun
methamphetamine US, 1971
A personification of CRYSTAL (powdered methamphetamine).
- And amidst all this Crist' poppin' and wristwatches / I just sit back and just watch[.] — Eminem (Marshall Mathers), *Marshall Mathers* 2000

**crooked** adjective
drunken US, 1917
- In the first place, they were both slightly crooked. — J.D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye* 1951

cross verb
to cheat a cheat US, 1950

crossroad noun
an amphetamine tablet identified by its cross-scoring US, 1980
- Less commonly heard than **cross top**
- — National Institute on Drug Abuse, *What Do They Call It Again* 1980

**crossroader** noun
an itinerant card cheat US, 1889
- [I]n a court of law, if a blackjack Dealer gets terribly unlucky and his table keeps losing fifteen nights in a row, there is no legal proof that he is cheating for the benefit of an “outside” man or “crossroader,” I that he is “dumping out.” — Mario Puzo, *Inside Las Vegas* 1977

cross top noun
a tablet of Benzedrine™ (amphetamine sulphate), a central nervous system stimulant US, 1971
From the appearance: white tablets with a cross cut into the surface.
- Actually, the cross tops from the early ’70s were sometimes decent-grade methamphetamines, not the early ’80s-style caffeine crap. — Don Bolles, *Retrohell* 1997

crown noun
a type of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
From the imprint on the pink pill.
- Oh, these Crowns beat Mizzis any time! — James Hawes, *Dead Long Enough* 2000

crow’s feet noun
A type of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2004
Specifically used of any tablet of MDMA stamped with an image similar to the single print of a bird’s track.
- — Harry Shapiro, *Recreational Drugs* 2004

crunched adjective
very drunken US, 2003
- — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* Spring, 2003

crutch noun
an improvised holder for the short butt of a marijuana cigarette US, 1938
The term of choice before ROACH CLIP came on the scene.

- She doubled the empty match cover over backward and put the butt of the cigarette up in the fold to make a crutch, and she brought the cardboard up to her lips and took three deep final drags off the short roach. — Thurston Scott, Cure It with Honey 1951

crying weed noun
marijuana US, 1953
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

crystal noun
1 a powdered narcotic, especially methamphetamine US, 1964
- But the three staples of the market are methamphetamine (usually called crystal, speed, or by the trade name Methedrine), marijuana (pot), and acid, as LSD is always referred to.
  — Nicholas Von Hoffman, We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against 1967
2 a type of marijuana, 2003
- Crystal may well be so named because of the clarity of the high it delivers.
  — Spliffs 2003

crystal meth; crystal meths noun
powdered methamphetamine US, 2001
- Every fucking fucker in the fucking band [Oasis] and crew had been up two days straight solid doing coke and crystal meths, right up to showtime.
  — Simon Napier-Bell, Black Vinyl White Powder 2001

crystal palace noun
an apartment or house occupied by amphetamine and/or methamphetamine abusers US, 1997

cube noun
LSD US, 1966
From the fact that LSD was often administered in sugar cubes.
- — Donald Louria, Nightmare Drugs 1966

cubes noun
1 dice US, 1938
- He lit a cigarette, exhaled, and said with hazel eyes ashine, “Say, Speedy, how’s your cube game?” — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Long White Con 1977
2 morphine US, 1980
- — Edith A. Folb, Runnin’ Down Some Lines 1980
cum noun
amyl nitrite US, 1992
A drug associated with sex.
cunt noun
to a drug addict, a vein used for injecting a drug, especially the vein found on the inside of the elbow US, 1960
- [It looks like a small purple cyst... into which she drives the needle each time she fixes. “That’s your cunt, Jody,” I said once[.] — Alexander Trocchi, Cain’s Book 1960
cups noun
- in your cups
drinking; drunk UK, 1406
- Well, Collie, is this part of your college training? Not to take advantage of a lady in her cups? — Jim Thompson, After Dark, My Sweet 1955
curse of Mexico noun
in a deck of playing cards, the two of spades US, 1949
- — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988
cut noun
an adulterant used to dilute a drug; a dilution of a drug US, 1966
- Buy four, bleed in a ounce of cut, make it five. — Richard Price, Clockers 1992

cut verb
1 in the drug trade, to dilute drugs US, 1937
- We bought the stuff for ninety dollars per quarter-ounce, cut it one-third with milk sugar and put it in one-grain caps.
  — William Burroughs, Junkie 1953
2 (of a drug) to take effect UK, 1998
- By the time the E really started cutting I was well into the dancing thing.
  — Ben Malbon, Cool Places 1998
cutter noun
in American casinos, twenty-five cents US, 1985
Playing on the sound of ‘quarter’.
- — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985
**cutting** noun
the preparation of cocaine for inhalation by chopping lines of powder with a razor blade or credit card, 2002
- — Nick Constable, *This is Cocaine* 2002

**cyclone** noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust *US, 1994*
- — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994
Dd

D noun
1 Dilaudid™, a synthetic opiate US, 1954
   • All right, we was just gonna shoot this little bitty bottle of D. — Bruce Jackson, *In the Life* 1972
2 narcotics US, 1976

DA noun
a drug addict US, 1946
   • I sure didn’t want to be classed as a junkie, no matter how many “D.A.’s” they stamped on my card. — Mezz Mezzrow, *Really the Blues* 1946

dab noun
a moistened finger-tip covered in powdered amphetamine UK, 2000
   • It ain’t no secret that I indulge in the odd dab myself. — Dave Courtney, *Raving Lunacy* 2000

dab verb
to ingest a powdered drug by sucking or licking the powder collected on a moistened finger UK, 2001
   • [Y]ew've necked two Es and dabbed a gramme-a whizz an smoked endless spliffs and necked a bottle of vodka[.] — Niall Griffiths, *Sheepshagger* 2001

dack up verb
to light or smoke (a marijuana cigarette) NEW ZEALAND, 1991
   • You all moved up the street and drank more piss, went outside to dack up with a few of the boys, back inside for more laughs. — Alan Duff, *One Night Out Stealing* 1991

dagga noun
1 marijuana SOUTH AFRICA, 1955
   • Dagga is the common name in South Africa for a relatively non-toxic herb.
   • In South Africa they call it dagga and it is laughing grass. It is very green and the best stuff comes from Durban.
2 a marijuana cigarette US, 1955
   • — American Speech May, 1955

dagoo red noun
inexpensive, inferior red wine, 1906

dama blanca noun
cocaine US, 1976
   • Spanish for ‘white lady’.

dame noun
in a deck of playing cards, a queen US, 1996
   • — Peter O. Steiner, *Thursday Night Poker* 1996

damnation alley noun
in roulette, the twelve-number column on the left of the layout US, 1979
   • So named because a dealer may not see a cheat place a late bet in the column, which is sometimes out of the dealer’s line of sight.

dance of death noun
a relationship or marriage between two addicts US, 1998
   • Used in twelve-step recovery programmes such as Alcoholics Anonymous.
     • — Christopher Cavanaugh, AA to Z 1998

dancing girls noun
in dominoes, the seven tiles with a five US, 1959
   • — Dominic Armanino, *Dominoes* 1959

dead fish noun
a gambler who places small bets to prolong the inevitable US, 1963

dead man’s hand noun
in poker, a hand with a pair of aces and a pair of eights US, 1888
   • Although it is the modern belief that this was the hand held by Wild Bill Hickok when shot to death in 1876 in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, early uses of the term (which also sometimes referred to three jacks with two red sevens) make no mention of Hickok.
   • In 1942, Damon Runyon wrote that the hand with jacks was sometimes called the ‘Montana dead man’s hand’.
dead on arrival noun
heroin UK, 1998
- [S]lang [names for heroin] draws on words associated with death (“heaven dust”, “dead on arrival”, “hell dust”).
  — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

dead soldier noun
an empty alcohol bottle or beer can US, 1899
- First toast: “May the war be over before this bottle becomes a dead soldier.”
  — *San Francisco Chronicle* 29th June 1966

deadwood noun
non-playing observers of gambling US, 1974
- — John Scarne, *Scarne on Dice* 1974

deal verb
to sell drugs US, 1958
- We are all outlaws in the eyes of America / In order to survive we steal cheat lie forge fuck hide and deal[].

dean noun
a skilled and experienced poker player US, 1979

death noun
paramethoxyamphetamine or 4-methoxyamphetamine (PMA), a synthetic hallucinogen AUSTRALIA, 1997
- I know Es are lethal and kill people, but not like this drug does. It’s nicknamed “Death”, for God’s sake.
  — Wayne Anthony, *Spanish Highs* 1999

definition benefit noun
in poker, money given to a player to complete a bet US, 1996

definition trip noun
heroin UK, 2002
- Ecstasy is “disco biscuits” and “happiness”, heroin is “death trip”.
  — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

definition wish noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1986
- — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

degennie noun
a degenerate gambler US, 1974
- Of course, you can get degennies who would like to stay in action right up until midnight by betting Sunday night hockey games[].
  — Gary Mayer, *Bookie* 1974

dehorn noun
denatured alcohol (ethyl alcohol to which a poisonous substance has been added to make it unfit for consumption) US, 1926
- [H]e lived on dehorn alcohol, mulligan, dayolds, misery[].
  — John Clellon Holmes, *The Horn* 1958

delicatsessen book noun
a betting operation where the odds are constantly cut US, 1947
- — Dan Parker, *The ABC of Horse Racing* 1947

delivery boy noun
in poker, any young, inexperienced, unskilled player US, 1996

demmie noun
meperidine, an analgesic best known by its trademarked brand name demerol™ US, 1956
- We call them demmies. If you can’t buy H or M, why, demmies will do the trick.
  — Jess Stearn, *Sisters of the Night* 1956

demo noun
a laboratory pipette used to smoke crack cocaine US, 1992
- — Terry Williams, *Crackhouse* 1992

Dennis the Menace noun
a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
From the similarity between the red and black stripes on the comic book character’s jumper and those on the tablet.
- Doves would make your head light and warm your emotions; Dennis the Menaces would make your legs heavy and blank your brain.
  — Dave Haslam, *Adventures of the Wheels of Steel* 2001

depth bomb noun
an amphetamine tablet UK, 1968
- [F]or five shillings you can buy enough pills – “purple hearts,” “depth bombs” and other lovelies of the pharmacological arts.
depth charge noun
a shot of whisky served in a glass of beer
US, 1956
- [A] “Coalminer’s Breakfast,” or “Depth Charge” (when a shot of whisky is dropped into a glass of beer. — Roger E. Axtell, The Do’s and Taboos of Hosting International Visitors 1990

designer drug noun
a recreational drug synthesised to mimic the effects of an unlawful drug US, 1985
- Designer drugs are drugs made underground, often in home based labs. The chemists making these drugs modify the molecular structure of certain types of illegal drugs to produce analogs. These analogs are what are termed “designer drugs”. — Gary L. Somdahl, Drugs and Kids 1996

deece noun
an arrest or conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol US, 1971
California Penal Code Section 502 prohibits driving under the influence of alcohol, hence the ‘two’ reference.
- I don’t wanna book a deuce right now. I wanna go get a hot pastrami.
— Joseph Wambaugh, The Secrets of Harry Bright 1985

deece-deal verb
to deal the second card in a deck US, 1965
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

deece-deuce noun
a 22-ounce beverage, especially beer US, 2002
- When driving down 17th street in Holland, it is not uncommon to see people on their porches drinking a deuce-deuce. — Dictionary of New Terms (Hope College) 2002

deques noun
dice that have been altered to have two twos, the second two being where one would expect to find a five US, 1974
Used in combination with ‘fives’, likely to produce a seven, an important number in craps.
- — John Scarne, Scarne on Dice 1974

devil noun
in craps, a seven US, 1993
- — Frank Scoblete, Guerrilla Gamblin 1993

devil's candy noun
cocaine US, 1999
- I hate cocaine. It’s the Devil’s candy. I just despite it. — James St. James, Party Monster 1999

devil's dandruff noun
cocaine; crack cocaine US, 1981
- [H]e “made love all night” after being introduced to the Devil’s dandruff by a lap dancer. — Q October, 2004

devil's dick noun
a crack cocaine pipe US, 1992
- — Terry Williams, Crackhouse 1992

devil's dust noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1992

devil's herb noun
hashish (cannabis resin or pollen) UK, 1994
- I stopped smoking the devil's herb when I was oh... fourteen or fifteen.
— Donald Gorgon, Cop Killer 1994

dex noun
1 dexedrine, a central nervous system stimulant US, 1961
- He said there would be two or three doctors on hand with B1 shots and Dex and penicillin to handle various things like hang-overs, fatigue and the clap.
— Dan Jenkins, Semi-Tough 1972
2 dextromethorphan (DXM), an active ingredient in non-prescription cold and cough medication, often abused for non-medicinal purposes US, 2003
- Youths’ nicknames for DXM: Robo, Skittles, Triple C’s, Rojo, Dex, Tussin, Vitamin D. DXM abuse is called “Robotripping” or “Tussing.” Users might be called “syrup heads” or “robotards.” — USA Today 29th December 2003

dexie; dexi; dexo noun
Dexedrine™, a central nervous system stimulant US, 1951
- “I feel miserable today. I’m really dragging.” SECOND WOMAN: “Here, take one of these Dexies.” — Lenny Bruce, How to Talk Dirty and Influence People 1965

dizzy noun
a diazepam tablet UK, 2001
No fucker ever died from a diazzy overdose mun. Methadone aye, but not diazepam. Mickey Mouse downer, diazepam. — Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

dig noun
an injection of a drug UK, 2000
I sorted myself out with a dig then washed out my works[.] — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000

Dilbert noun
in poker, a player with a strong grasp of the mathematics and probabilities associated with the game but a poor set of playing skills US, 1996
— John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

dilly noun
a capsule of Dilaudid™, a synthetic morphine used by heroin addicts trying to break their habit US, 1971
— Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

dime noun
one thousand dollars US, 1974
You owe almost eight dimes. You never shoulda got in so deep, but you did.
— Joseph Wambaugh, The Black Marble 1978

dime bag; dime noun
a packet of drugs sold for ten dollars US, 1970
The apartment is shadowy, sparsely furnished... a portable record player, two beat-up sofas, a couple of sprung loose easy chairs, a small coffee table, holding on its top a dime bag[.]
— Odie Hawkins, Ghetto Sketches 1972

dingbats noun
delirium tremens NEW ZEALAND, 1911
How are you treating him for the dingbats? — Arthur Upfield, Bony and the Mouse 1959

dingus noun
an eye dropper used in makeshift drug-injection equipment US, 1973
— David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

dinkie dow noun
marijuana, 1968
Originally used in the Vietnam war to mean ‘off the wall’ (crazy) – which was ascribed to marijuana, locally grown or imported by the soldiers. The US servicemen went home in 1975 and took the word with them.
— David Mazzerolle, ‘Avant Tu Take Off, Please Close the Lights’ 1993

dink pack noun
a six-pack of beer CANADA, 1993
The word ‘dink’ is so close to ‘dinky’ that it seems to refer to the six-pack as less than a ‘real’ box of beer: a twelve or a twenty-four.
— David Mazzerolle, ‘Avant Tu Take Off, Please Close the Lights’ 1993

dinky dau cigarette noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1977
Her competition were street boys, “Changee money,” “Boom-boom picture,” “Dinkydao cigarette[,]”
— Michael Herr, Dispatches 1977

dipso noun
a person who suffers from an uncontrollable urge to drink UK, 1880
An abbreviated ‘dipsomaniac’.
Consider this – my father canned me and my brother and my Mom for a twenty five year old dipso with fake tits. — Ferris Buehler’s Day Off 1986

dirt noun
marijuana US, 1995
Where can you get any dirt in this town? — Lois Stavsky et al., A2Z 1995

dirty bird noun
Old Crow™ whisky US, 1970
— Clarence Major, Dictionary of Afro-American Slang 1970

dirty smoke noun
marijuana UK, 2002
Why the delay? “It’s probably too much of that dirty smoke at night[.]” — Hip-Hop Connection July, 2002

dirty stack noun
in a casino, a stack of betting tokens of different denominations US, 1983
— Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

disco biscuit noun
the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™, a tablet of methaqualone US, 1993
From the popularity of the drug in the 1970s disco scene.

- Most of the local trade in these babies was controlled by speed-freak bikers, and these were dismissively known as disco bricks.

- CALL IT... Adam, brownies, burgers, disco biscuits, doves, eckies, tulips, X[.]
- And a bag of disco bricks — Lupine Howl, Vaporizer 2001

**disco brick** noun

**disco dust** noun

- [T]op DJs on the decks and lots of disco dust in carefully situated little stashes. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999
dish verb
> dish soup
  to sell cocaine US, 1995
  • — Mark S. Fleisher, Beggars and Thieves 1995: ‘Glossary’

dish rags noun
  in poker, poor cards US, 1996
  • — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

disch noun
  the antecubial vein inside the bend of the elbow, often used for injecting drugs US, 1968
  • — Current Slang Fall, 1968

djamba noun
  marijuana US, 1938
  A West African word, now in wider usage.
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

do verb
  to use US, 1967
  • Within three days, a homeless kid who finds himself or herself in Kings Cross [Sydney] will be sexually assaulted; within a week the kid will be doing drugs, and by 21 the kid will be dead. — The Catholic Weekly 23rd February 2003

DOA noun
  phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1993
  The abbreviation is for DEAD ON ARRIVAL — the results of a PCP overdose.
  • — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

Doctor Feelgood; Dr Feelgood noun
  any doctor who specialises in energy-giving injections US, 1973
  • Dr. Feelgood is, actually, a generic term. There are four of them in New York City, all frequented by the social elite, show business folk, and artists with money. — Jim Carroll, Forced Entries 1987

Doctor White; Dr White noun
  cocaine US, 1986
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

dog end noun
  a cigarette-end UK, 1935
  A corruption of ‘docked end’ (a partially smoked cigarette that is pinched off — ‘docked’ — and saved for later use) and still found as ‘dock end’.
  • [H]e began to roll one from some dogends which he had found on the floor of the bus. — Frank Norman, Bang to Rights 1958

dog it; dog verb
  to refuse to pay a lost bet or a debt US, 1950
  • — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

dog juice noun
  inexpensive alcohol, especially wine US, 1980
  • — Edith A. Folb, Runnin’ Down Some Lines 1980

dogtag noun
  a prescription for a narcotic, possibly legal or possibly forged or illegally obtained US, 1959
  • — J.E. Schmidt, Narcotics Lingo and Lore 1959

do-it fluid noun
  alcoholic drink US, 1980
  Based on the observed effect of alcohol on sexual inhibition.
  • — Edith A. Folb, Runnin’ Down Some Lines 1980

doll noun
  a barbiturate capsule; an amphetamine capsule or tablet US, 1966
  Coined by Jacqueline Susann, author of Valley of the Dolls.
  • — Richard Lingeman, Drugs from A to Z 1969

dolly noun
  a capsule of Dolophine™, known generically as methadone US, 1954
  • “Even without dollies,” Tom Tear said, “I could kick it in three days.” — Alexander Trocchi, Cain’s Book 1960

Dolly Parton noun
  in craps, a roll of two ones US, 1983
  Dolly Parton is a talented and popular American country singer and songwriter with big hair and big breasts; the single dots on the two dice suggested to someone her breasts.
  • — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987
domino noun
a 12.5 mg tablet of Durophet™, an amphetamine US, 1971
  • — Carl Chambers and Richard Heckman, Employee Drug Abuse 1972
dooob; doub noun
an amphetamine pill or other central nervous system stimulant UK, 1969
  • “Got any doubts (pills)?” “Too true.” “Spare?” — Ian Hebditch, Weekend, The Sharper Word 1969
doobage noun
marijuana US, 1985
  • So, Ahab, can I have my doobage.
    — The Breakfast Club 1985
doobie; dooby; doob; dube noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1967
The earliest identification is as ‘Negro slang for a marijuana roach’. A belief persists that the term was spawned from the 1950s American children’s television show, Romper Room, in which children were urged to be ‘good do-be’s’. Alternative spelling with a ‘u’ for ‘dubee’ and ‘dubbe’.
  • It is one thing to spark up a dubie and get laced at parties, but it is quite another to be fried all day. — Clueless 1995
dooby noun
marijuana UK, 2000
  • No more dooby for me today.
    — Ken Lukowiak, Marijuana Time 2000
door noun
1 a supplier of drugs CANADA, 2002
  • He was what we call a “door.” He was the guy who could make things happen. He had contacts at all the borders, the ports, the airports and airplane companies. He was recruited by organized crime. — Pointe Claire Chronicle 17th July 2002
2 a capsule of Doriden™, a trade name for glutethimide, a sedative US, 1992
doncard noun
in seven-card stud poker, a player’s first face-up card UK, 2003
  • — Dave Scharf, Winning at Poker 2003
door pops noun
dice that have been altered so that they will score a 7 or 11 more frequently than normal US, 1950
dope noun
1 a drug, drugs, especially if illegal US, 1900
  • [Janis Joplin] said to a reporter not long before she died: “I wanted to smoke dope, take dope, lick dope, suck dope and fuck dope.” But her mental frailty could not match her physical appetites.
    — Harry Shapiro, Waiting for the Man 1999
2 marijuana SOUTH AFRICA, 1946
  • [Kentucky] is also the home of the “Furry Freak Brothers”, whose famous motto is “Dope will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no dope.”
    — Mike Rock, This Book 1999
3 heroin US, 1891
dope verb
to use recreational drugs US, 1889
  • As usual the party was a whirl of boozing and doping. — Jamie Mandelkau, Buttons 1971
dope out verb
to become, or spend time, intoxicated on recreational drugs US, 1970
  • [G]o back the next day and dope out with the gang, grass, speed, reds, Romilar, who cares[] — Lester Bangs, Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung 1970
doper noun
a drug user US, 1922
  • All the animals come out at night. Whores, skunk pussies, buggers, queens, fairies, dopers, junkies, sick, venal. — Taxi Driver 1976
dopey; dopie noun
a drug user or addict US, 1929
  • The one thing about the Row was that it was filled with okies, weary old Wobblies, drunkies and dopers gone, whores on their last legs – they never judged you. — Clancy Sigal, Going Away 1961
dor; door; dorie noun
a capsule of glutethimide (trade name Doriden™), a hypnotic sedative and central nervous system depressant US, 1986
dose noun

a single experience with LSD US, 1967

Michael A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

I've never had a bad one and I've taken at least two hundred doses.

— Nicholas Von Hoffman, We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against 1967

dose verb

1 to introduce a drug, especially LSD, into a host substance; to give a drug to someone without their knowledge US, 1957

His eerily profound pictures of rocks and flowers and trees convey a concentration so intense that my first time through the book I remember feeling nauseous when I found myself tripping on the pictures to such a degree that I thought I had been dosed.

— The Last Supplement to the Whole Earth Catalog March, 1971

2 to ingest; to take a dose of US, 1971

D.R. didn't learn until later that Estelle had dosed herself heavily on downers[1].

— Gurney Norman, Divine Right's Trip (Last Whole Earth Catalog) 1971

dot noun

LSD; a dose of LSD US, 1967

Look, I've got blue dots I'm selling for $1.75.

— Nicholas Von Hoffman, We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against 1967

double noun

in gambling, a bet on two different events in which the total return on the first selection is automatically staked on the second UK, 2001

— David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

double carpet noun

in betting, odds of 33–1 UK, 1967

Dubious accounting 'doubles' the odds from a CARPET (3–1).

“Double Carpet” and all that!


double infinity noun

in poker, a pair of eights US, 1996

Turned on its side, a figure eight is an infinity symbol.

— John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

double net noun

in betting, odds of 20–1 UK, 1991

Literally, 'twice a NET (10–1).


double nickels noun

in craps, a roll of ten made with a pair of fives US, 1999

— Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999

double stacked noun

paramethoxyamphetamine PMA UK, 2001

A drug that is difficult to distinguish from MDMA (ECSTASY).

— Gilda and Melvin Berger, Drug Abuse A–Z 1990

Those who succeed are known as 'double winners'.

— Gilda and Melvin Berger, Drug Abuse A–Z 1990

double zero; zero zero; zero-zero noun

a high grade variety of hashish from Morocco; generally, marijuana UK, 1996
- Zero-zero is the stuff of legend. Only the very finest pollen is used in preparing it and true zero-zero will contain only the barest minimum of leaf material to bind the hashish.
  — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003

double zero rocky noun
cannabis resin UK, 1999
- Let’s start with a look at one of these soaps on our tour. For this we need to go to Morocco to find some Double Zero (00) Rocky, so called because that is the gauge size of the screen used to sift it. — Mike Rock, This Book 1999

dove noun
da tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, identified by an embossed dove-based motif UK, 1992
VARIOUSLY known, often depending on its appearance, as ‘love dove’, ‘double dove’ or ‘white dove’.
- “Here y’are...” It was a little plastic packet, with a couple of white pills inside. “... in case you get bored, later. Original formula Doves. Eighty mgs of MDMA,” he added proudly, and made off into the crowd. — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

down noun
1 a mixture of codeine-infused cough syrup and soda US, 2000
- In Houston, Elwood said, it has a variety of nicknames – Lean, AC/DC, barr, down, Karo and nods. “Lean because after you take it you will be definitely leaning and losing your coordination,” Elwood said. — The Commercial Appeal (Memphis) 9th July 2000
2 any barbiturate or central nervous system depressant US, 1971
- I’d make that trip in from the cabin at least every two or three weeks for a fresh supply of inhalers. Sometimes I’d pick up a few downs to go along with it. — Herbert Huncke, Guilty of Everything 1990

down and dirty adjective
 descriptive of the final card in a game of seven-card stud poker US, 1988
It is dealt face-down and it greatly affects the chances of a hand winning.
- — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988
downer noun
a barbiturate or other central nervous system depressant US, 1965
- Prisoners used to be allowed a couple of shots of whiskey in the old days prior to their execution; now they are offered downers and an all-American cigarette and coffee. — Ed Sanders, Tales of Beatnik Glory 1975
downtown noun
heroin US, 1983
- First I’ll put your Uptown on the spoon, then to make it more exciting I’m gonna add some Downtown. They call this thing a speedball, honey, but then you must know that. — The Bad Lieutenant 1992
dragon noun
heroin US, 1961
- — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996
drain pipe noun
in poker, a conservative player who slowly but surely accumulates winnings, draining money from other players US, 1996
- — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996
draw noun
marijuana; a marijuana cigarette UK, 1987
- The bush was in fine, grainy pieces, courtesy of his coffee grinder; somehow the draw seemed to last longer this way. — Diran Abedayo, My Once Upon a Time 2000
dream dust noun
any powdered drug US, 1957
- And I keep getting off the subject of the rumor I picked up today from a traveling merchant into smuggling mostly... Red Devil and Dream Dust.
  — William S. Burroughs, The Place of Dead Roads 1983
dreams noun
heroin UK, 2003
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003
dream tobacco noun
marijuana UK, 2003
- [A] pale and bleary-eyed Dave Edmunds swigs the dregs of a bottle of whisky and takes a long slow hit of dream tobacco. — Will Birch, No Sleep Till Canvey Island 2003
drill verb

to inject (a drug) US, 1970
• — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

driller noun

a poker player who bets very aggressively US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

drinkee noun

any alcoholic drink US, 1969
Mock pidgin.

driver noun

1 an amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1990
• — Gilda and Melvin Berger, Drug Abuse A–Z 1990
2 in poker, a player whose aggressive betting is dominating the game US, 1996
• — Peter O. Steiner, Thursday Night Poker 1996

droogs noun

drugs UK, 2001
An affected mispronunciation.
• Just because it’s only Nantwich or whatever, doesn’t mean the kids don’t want droogs. In actual fact, it means they double want droogs. — Kevin Sampson, Outlaws 2001

drop noun

LSD UK, 1998
From the verb sense.
• Street names... cheer, dots, drop, flash[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

drop verb

1 to swallow, to ingest (a drug) US, 1961
A favourite word of the LSD culture, but popular for other drugs of abuse before and since; if used without a direct object, almost certainly referring to LSD.
• Everybody dropped his acid in the kitchen and for the first half hour they sat around listening to music.
— Richard Alpert and Sidney Cohen, LSD 1966
2 to ingest US, 1961
• There wasn’t that much drug stuff then, and two of these are droggies.
— George V. Higgins, Penance for Jerry Kennedy 1985

drug monkey noun

a heavy user of drugs UK, 2003
• Do you get bored with your drug monkey reputation? — X-Ray October, 2003

drugstore dice noun

inexpensive shop-bought dice, not milled to casino-level tolerances US, 1962
• — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

drugstore race noun

in horse racing, a race in which a number of the horses involved have been drugged for enhanced or diminished performance US, 1960
• — Robert Saunders Dowst and Jay Craig, Playing the Races 1960

drum noun

in horse racing, reliable inside information AUSTRALIA, 1989

dry adjective

without money US, 1942
• The guys inside the counting room were all slipped in there to skim the joint dry. — Casino 1995

dry drunk noun

a person who behaves like an alcoholic even though they are abstaining from drinking US, 1998
A term used in twelve-step recovery programmes such as Alcoholics Anonymous.
• Whether George W. Bush is or was an alcoholic is not the point here. I am taking him at his word that he stopped what he termed “heavy drinking” in 1986, at age 40. The point here is that, based on Bush’s recent behavior, he could very well be a “dry drunk”. — American Politics Journal 23rd September 2002

dub noun

1 the last part of a marijuana cigarette that is possible to smoke US, 1989
• Take a head of this Skunk / Twist up a big bomb of this serious dope / Smoke it down to tha dub or roach tip / So much damn resin it’s startin’ to drip[.] — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

2 a marijuana cigarette that is possible to smoke US, 1989
— The dub is that joint that's left over / The dub is the joint that's left over. — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

3 a marijuana cigarette that is possible to smoke US, 1989
— Toss up the last jaw / Got the dub or roach tip / A joint as big as a spool of thread. — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

— The dub is the part of the cigarette / Which is not smoked / And is left over. — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

drugie; druggy noun

a drug user, abuser or addict US, 1966
duck noun
in a deck of playing cards, a two US, 1988
— George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

duck bucket noun
in poker, a poor hand that wins a pot, especially a pair of twos US, 1996
— John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

duck’s arse; duck’s ass noun
a cigarette end that is over-moistened with a smoker’s saliva UK, 1993
— Roddy Doyle, Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha 1993

Dudley noun
a beginner gambler US, 2003
— Victor H. Royer, Casino Gamble Talk 2003

due noun
the residue left in a pipe after smoking crack cocaine US, 1989
— Terry Williams, The Cocaine Kids 1989

duffy noun
a spasm feigned by a drug addict in the hope of eliciting sympathy from a physician US, 1973
— David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

duji; doogie; doojie noun
heroin US, 1960
— Claude Brown, Manchild in the Promised Land 1965

dump noun
an intentional loss of a game US, 1972
— Robert Byrne, McGoorty 1972

dumper noun
an athlete who dumps a game, intentionally losing US, 1951
— C.C.V.N.Y.’s Ed Warner (right, rear) one of the dumpers, had soft job waiting on tables. [Caption] — Life 5th March 1951

dump off verb
(used of a casino dealer) to overpay a bet made by a confederate US, 1985
— Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

Durban poison noun
a variety of marijuana SOUTH AFRICA, 1996
— Some of the best African grasses include South African known as Durban Poison. This is a straw green colour, where as what is sold more commercially is darker green. It is sticky and smells of ammonia. — Mike Rock, This Book 1999

dust noun
1 a powdered narcotic, especially cocaine or heroin US, 1916
2 phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1977
An abbreviation of ANGEL DUST.
— The carpeted lobby was littered with fallen rainbows, dexis, bennies, ludes, speed, even some dust, though it had a bad rep these days. — Joseph Wambaugh, The Glitter Dome 1981

dusted adjective
drug-intoxicated US, 1959
Originally of cocaine, then less and less discriminating.
— Bitch, I don’t sell crack, I smoke it / My brain’s dusted; I’m disgusted at my habits. — Eminem (Marshall Mathers), Weed Lacer (Freestyle) 1999

dusted out; dusted adjective
under the influence of phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1983
— The trucker was dusted out on PCP and it was only Jane’s choke hold that saved the life of a foot-beat cop who was nearly beaten to death with his
own stick by the duster. — Joseph Wambaugh, *The Delta Star* 1983

dust hawk **noun**
a horse driven in sulky races **CANADA, 1971**
- I wasn’t off my feed, nor hadn’t lost my head neither. I wanted that dust hawk and he knew it; but I got it on him with the harness and the sulky. — Sir H. Gilbert Parker, *The World for Sale* 1971

dusty **adjective**
under the influence of phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust **US, 1998**
- Someone “dusty” is always dangerous, because you never know what the next puff can lead to. — Nelson George, *Hip Hop America* 1998

dutch **verb**
▶ **dutch a book**
in an illegal betting operation, to accept bets with odds and in a proportion that guarantees the bookmaker will lose money regardless of the outcome that is being bet on **US, 1911**
- We copped off that stud from New Yawk who came over with that dynamite every now and then. — Nathan Heard, *Howard Street* 1968
- Addicts sometimes blend heroin and cocaine in a mixture called dynamite. — Harry J. Anslinger, *The Murderers* 1961

Dutch book **noun**
in a bookmaking operation, a horse race in which the odds are such that the astute bettor can bet on any horse and win **US, 1912**
- In such situations the bookmakers said they were “in Dutch.” Hence the name “dutch book.” — Toney Betts, *Across the Board* 1956

dutchman **noun**
a drug dealer **US, 1992**

dyke; dike **noun**
dipipanone, an analgesic opiate used for recreational narcotic effect **UK, 1996**

dynamite **noun**
1 powerful alcohol or drugs **US, 1919**
- We copped off that stud from New Yawk who came over with that dynamite every now and then. — Nathan Heard, *Howard Street* 1968
2 any central nervous system stimulant **US, 1980**
- — National Institute on Drug Abuse, *What Do They Call It Again?* 1980
3 a blend of heroin and cocaine **US, 1937**
- Addicts sometimes blend heroin and cocaine in a mixture called dynamite. — Harry J. Anslinger, *The Murderers* 1961
E noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1992
Generally from the initial letter of ECSTASY, specifically in reference to any MDMA tablet stamped with the symbol.
- — Pulp, Sorted for E’s and Wizz 1995

e verb
to take MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
- [T]he lads that used to E with him regularly were E’ing the next weekend after he died. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

each-way all each-way noun
in multiple and accumulator betting, a method of settling each-way bets by dividing the total return from one stage of a bet into equal parts to be wagered on the next stage UK, 2001
- — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

E and T; ET noun
in craps, a one-roll bet on eleven and twelve US, 1983
The bet was originally known as ‘E and T’; with the popularity of the film E.T., the terminology quickly changed.
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

earl verb
to vomit US, 1968
A rhyme with ‘hurl’.
- — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Spring, 1987

ear’ole noun
in betting, odds of 6–4 UK, 1991
From the TICK-TACK signal used by bookmakers.
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

east and west noun
complementary doses of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, and amphetamine, both in powder form, inhaled via different nostrils UK, 1996
‘East’ is signified by ε (MDMA), ‘west’ extends from an initialism of WHIZZ (amphetamine).
- So it’s E up one nostril and whizz up the other. East and West, which is best. I snort hard, one after the other. — Ben Graham, Weekday Service (Disco Biscuits) 1996

eat verb
- eat cards
in blackjack, to draw more cards than you normally would in a given hand in order to learn more about what cards are remaining unplayed US, 1991
- — Michael Dalton, Blackjack 1991

ecker; ecky noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy; a tablet of MDMA UK, 2002
Based on the first syllable of ECSTASY (MDMA).
- I’d like a Smarties tube full of eckers for me birthday. — Niall Griffiths, Kelly + Victor 2002

eckied adjective
intoxicated with MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
From ECKER; ECKY (ecstasy).
- Leave her alone, she’s eckied oot her brain. — Michael Munro, The Complete Patter 1996

ecstasy noun
methylene-dioxymethamphetamine, MDMA, a mildly hallucinogenic empathogen and/or entactogen, a drug of empathy and touch US, 1985
Easily the most recognisable slang name for this widely popular recreational drug; it derives from the senses of well-being and affection felt by users. Originally synthesised by German pharmaceutical company Merck some time before 1912. Since the 1980s the drug has been inextricably linked with ‘rave’ culture.
- The long-term effects of ecstasy use are not known, although there’s no shortage of guinea pigs. — Ben Osborne, The A–Z of Club Culture 1999

E’d; E-ed; E’ed up; E-ed up adjective
intoxicated with MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2001
Under the influence of ε (ecstasy).
- Still half E’d up. Buzzinn. Mam wants to know why I keep huggin her all
edge work noun
the alteration of dice by rounding off the edges to affect the roll US, 1950
  • — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

Edison noun
in horse racing, a hand battery used illegally by a jockey to impart a shock to his horse US, 1947
  • — Dan Parker, The ABC of Horse Racing 1947

educated currency noun
in horse racing, bets placed on the basis of what is believed to be authentic, empirical tips US, 1951
  • — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

egg noun
a billiard ball US, 1988
  • — Mike Shamos, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Billiards 1993

egg; green egg; wobbly egg noun
a capsule of branded tranquilliser Temazepam™ UK, 1996
  • Temazepam are called “green or yellow eggs”, “jellies” and “jelly babies”[.]

eight noun
heroin US, 1997
  ‘H’ is the 8th letter of the alphabet.
  • — Providence (Rhode Island) Journal-Bulletin 4th August 1997

eight ball noun
1 one eighth of an ounce US, 1988
  • Tony would... come in and start doing up the eight-ball he seemed invariably to have with him as a chemical security blanket. — Mick Farren, Give the Anarchist a Cigarette 2001
2 Old English 8oo™ malt liquor US, 1992
  • — Michael Small, Break It Down 1992: ‘Hip-hop dictionary’
3 a mixture of crack cocaine and heroin US, 2001
  • I’m busy crankin’ off an eight-ball, dude. — Stephen J. Cannell, The Tin Collectors 2001

eighter from Decatur noun
in craps, a roll of eight US, 1950
  • “Eighter from decatur, eighter from Decatur.” He tosses the dice again and loses, a four and a three. — Darryl Ponicsan, The Last Detail 1970

elevator noun
a pound (0.45kg) of marijuana US, 1997
  A phonetic rendition of the abbreviation ‘lb’ (pound).
  • Fay allegedly asked for an “elbo,” or street slang for a pound of marijuana.
    — Times Union (Albany, New York) 26th July 1997

elevator-bending noun
immoderate consumption of alcohol US, 1934
  • Leave it to the 20-somethings to break in Arizona’s extra hour of elbow bending. While millions of Arizonans slept, thousands of young bar warriors strapped on their beer goggles until 2 a.m. Wednesday[]. — Arizona Republic 26th August 2004

elevator-bending adjective
drinking to excess US, 2002
  • Western bands twang happily in the St. Charles Saloon as elbow-bending good old boys raise a little harmless hell.
    — Don W. Martin, The Best of San Francisco 2002

electric adjective
augmented with LSD US, 1967
  • I checked my bag – one Yippie film, ten copies of Fuck the System; Mao’s little red book; recipes for Molotov cocktails, electric Koolaid and digger stew[.]
    — Abbie Hoffman, Woodstock Nation 1969

electric soup noun
a mixture of methylated spirits and cheap red wine UK: SCOTLAND, 1985
  • Le soup electrique! Chateau d’paralytical! — Ian Pattison, Rab C. Nesbitt 1990

elef noun
eleven; in betting, odds of 11–1 UK, 1991
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

elef a vier noun
in betting, odds of 11–4 UK, 1991
  A phonetic slurring of elef (11) and ‘four’.

eleven noun
in betting, odds of 11–1 UK, 1991
elephant juice noun
the drug etorphine, a synthetic morphine
1,000 times more potent than morphine
AUSTRALIA, 1989

embalmed adjective
very drunk US, 1934
• Oh and your mother's pickled, Evan. I mean I've seen her drunk before, but this is different: she's embalmed.
  — Richard Yates, Cold Spring Harbor 1986

embalming fluid noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1992
• But “embalming fluid” is an old street slang term for PCP, Lawrence said. “There is some confusion about what people are really doing,” Lawrence said. — Cincinnati Enquirer 4th December 2003

embroidery noun
the punctures and sores visible on an intravenous drug user's body US, 1973

ECSTASY

Adam noun, US, 1985
Almost an anagram.
  • CALL IT... Adam, brownies, burgers, disco biscuits, doves, eckies, tulips, X[.] JUST DON'T CALL IT... MDMA – too scientific
  — Drugs: An Adult Guide December, 2001

burger noun, UK, 1996
• [Y]ou'd give him your twenty quid and he'd give you a plastic burger box with a bun inside, and when you opened the bun there was a special filling – a little E called a Burger. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy

Dennis the Menace noun, UK, 1996
From the similarity between the red and black stripes on the comic book character's jumper and those on the tablet.
  • Doves would make your head light and warm your emotions; Dennis the Menaces would make your legs heavy and blank your brain. — Dave Haslam, Adventures of the Wheels of Steel 2001

ecker; ecky noun, UK, 2002
Based on the first syllable of ECSTASY (MDMA).
  • I'd like a Smarties tube full of eckers for me birthday. — Niall Griffiths, Kelly + Victor

hug drug noun, UK, 1996
From the affectionate feelings roused by the drug.
  • [A] kind of winters night, mug-of-Horlick's feeling, "the hug drug". — Simon Napier-Bell, Black Vinyl White Powder 2001

love drug noun, UK, 1998
Descriptive of the effect that ECSTASY has on your emotions; widely used.
  • I participated in the popping of the old love drug, as they called it, and got my boy scouts badge in cuddling everyone[.] — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

magic bean noun, UK, 1996
From the fairystory Jack and the Beanstalk.
  • But what he forgets to do, right, is buy enough magic beans for everyone. — Kevin Williamson, Heart of the Bass (Disco Biscuits) 1996

New Yorker noun, UK, 1996
A play on apple (a variety of MDMA) and 'The Apple' (New York).
  • Street names... M25s, New Yorkers, rhubarb and custard[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents' Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

space pill noun, UK, 2000
• Those space pills, I want to buy them, how much? — J.J. Connolly, Layer Cake 2000

XTC noun, US, 1985
Pronounced 'ecstasy'.
  • Pamphlets promoting the use of the drug include such titles as “How to Prepare for an Ecstasy Experience,” “Flight Instructions for a Friend Using XTC[.]” — States News Service 31st May 1985


elephant juice | embroidery

— Michael Dalton, Blackjack 1991

eleven from heaven noun
a roll of eleven in a craps game US, 1957
  • “Natural eleven!” the stick man sang. “Eleven from heaven. The winner!” — Chester Himes, A Rage in Harlem 1957
emergency gun noun
an improvised method to puncture the skin and inject a drug US, 1973
  • — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973
endo noun
marijuana US, 1997
  • — Judi Sanders, Da Bomb 1997
energizer noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1986
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986
enin noun
nine; in betting, odds of 9–1 UK, 1859
Backslang.
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991
enin to rouf noun
in betting, odds of 9–4 UK, 1991
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991
esra; esrar; esar noun
marijuana US, 1982
A Turkish word now in wider usage.
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986
essence noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1998
  • Street names... E, Edward, essence, fantasy[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998
euphoria noun
a combination of mescaline, crystal methadrine and MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2003
  • — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003
eva noun
a pill marked with E on one side and A on the obverse, sold as MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, actually containing a mixture of MDMA and amphetamine UK, 2002
  • — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002
Eve noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1985
A play on ADAM, itself almost an anagram of MDMA.
  • It will be supplanted – already there is a new variation, MDE, Eve.
    — Washington Post 1st June 1985
exacta noun
in horse racing, a bet on first and second place US, 1991
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991
exes; exis noun
six; in betting, odds of 6–1 UK, 1951
Backslang.
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991
exes and a half noun
in betting, odds of 13–2 UK, 1991
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991
exes to rouf noun
in betting, odds of 6–4 UK, 1991
A combination of EXES (six) and ROUF (four).
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991
eye-opener noun
1 a strong drink, especially early in the morning US, 1817
  • Tomorrow I’ve got enough for my eye opener of wine. — Willard Motely, Let No Man Write My Epitaph 1958
2 a drug addict’s first injection of the day US, 1959
  • To wake up without an eye opener has only happened to me twice in all the time I’ve been on junk. — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973
eyes noun
  ▶ the eyes
in craps, a roll of two US, 1999
An abbreviation of SNAKE EYES.
  • — Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999
**face** noun

1 a professional pool player who is well known and recognised, making it impossible for him to make a living betting unsuspecting amateurs US, 1990
2 in betting, odds of 5–2 UK, 1991
   From the **tick-tack** signal used by bookmakers.

**faded** adjective

**drunk** US, 1998
   - — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* Fall, 1998

**fairy dust** noun

phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as **PCP** or **angel dust** US, 1993
   - From the drug’s perceived or imagined popularity in the gay community.
   — Peter Johnson, *Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms* 1993

**famine** noun

a lack of availability of an addictive drug US, 1992

**far out** adjective

**drug-intoxicated** US, 1961
   - I smoked three in a gas station lavatory but they did nothing. I was not at all far out, or unattached. — Clancy Sigal, *Going Away* 1961

**fast pill** noun

in horse racing, a stimulant given to a horse US, 1947
   - — Dan Parker, *The ABC of Horse Racing* 1947

**fast stuff; fast; go-fast** noun

amphetamines, speed UK, 1996

**fat one** noun

1 a substantial marijuana cigarette UK, 1996
   - I just shrug and roll a fat one[.] — Kevin Williamson, *Heart of the Bass (Disco Biscuits)* 1996
2 a generous line of powdered cocaine UK, 2002
   - Brandon [Block] chopped out a fat one behind the decks[.] — *Ministry* January, 2002

**fatty; fattie** noun

an extra-large marijuana cigarette US, 1969
   - I was just – you know – smokin’ a fatty. — *Jackie Brown* 1997

**feather** verb

in horse racing, a light jockey US, 1951
   - — David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack* 1951

**feather merchant** noun

a timid, conservative poker player US, 1996
   - — Peter O. Steiner, *Thursday Night Poker* 1996

**feed** verb

1 when gambling on a slot-machine, fruit machine or one-armed bandit, to put a coin or coins into the machine's slot UK, 2000
   - In Rio's casino, a carnival salsas away in galleons sailing over your head as you mindlessly feed the slots.
   — *The Guardian* 1st July 2000
2 to use psychoactive drugs US, 1970
   A phrase immortalised by the Jefferson Airplane in the 1967 song 'White Rabbit', with Grace Slick's commanding vocal of 'Remember, what the door mouse said / Feed your head, feed your head'.
   - We took to smoking grass in Van Cortlandt Park on upper Broadway, a nice place to feed your head[.]
fen-phen noun
a combination of fenfluramine and phentermine, used as a diet drug and/or central nervous system stimulant US, 1996
• American Speech Summer, 1997: ‘Among the new words’

fever noun
1 in craps, a roll of five US, 1950
Sometimes embellished to ‘fever in the South’.
• The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950
2 a $5 note US, 1961
• George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

fiddler noun
a bookmaker who will take only small bets UK, 1991
• It’s cockle [19–1] with the fiddlers. — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Fifth Street noun
in seven-card stud poker, a player’s third face-up card (the fifth card dealt to the player) UK, 2003
• Dave Scharf, Winning at Poker 2003

fifty-two noun
in craps, a roll of five and two – a seven US, 1973
• I faded his bet / and to my regret / and watched him throw fifty-two. — Lightnin’ Rod, Hustlers Convention 1973

Fillmore noun
a potent mixture of alcoholic beverages US, 1993
• Sidney Hil, 24, says he stayed wasted on “Fillmores” – street slang for a mixture of Olde English, St. Ides, gin and orange juice – before hitting bottom and coming to Recovery House. — San Francisco Chronicle 3rd June 1993

fills noun
dice which have been weighted for cheating US, 1950
• The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

finger horse noun
in horse racing, the favourite US, 1951
• Argot of the Racetrack 1951

fingerprint noun
in poker, a player’s signature move US, 1996
• Albert always raises Big Maxx in early position. It’s his fingerprint. — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

fire verb
1 to light up a cigarette or a marijuana cigarette US, 1950
• All that’s left to do now is fire it up and get off your face. — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003
2 to inject a drug intravenously US, 1936
• Ever fire when you were in the joint? — Joseph Wambaugh, The Blue Knight 1973

firebug noun
in poker, a player who bets and plays in a reckless fashion US, 1996
• John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

firewater noun
1 strong alcohol US, 1817
A term associated with native Americans, often pronounced with an ambiguous accent approximating an accent used by Indian actors in old cowboy movies.
• Firewater brings out the real brownness of this buffalo. — Oscar Zeta Acosta, The Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo 1972
2 GBL, a drug that is nearly identical in molecular structure to the recreational drug GHB US, 1999
• Another case involved a 14-year-old Bernalillo County boy whose heart rate slowed after drinking bright red “Firewater.” — Santa Fe New Mexican 29th January 1999

fish noun
1 a heavy drinker US, 1990
• Judi Sanders, Cal Poly Slang 1990
2 in poker, an unskilled player who is a likely victim of a skilled professional US, 1996
• Peter O. Steiner, Thursday Night Poker 1996
3 in on-line poker, the weakest player in the game, 2003
• FHM June, 2003

fish and chips noun
in poker, a group of unskilled players with a lot of money to lose US, 1996
fish scale noun

crack cocaine US, 1989

From the appearance.

- The kids out here don’t know a flake from a fish – if you asked them what fishscale is, they wouldn’t know.

[Fishscale is high-grade cocaine powder with few rock-like chunks.] — Terry Williams, The Cocaine Kids 1989

five and dime noun

in poker, a hand with a five and a ten and three other unpaired cards in between US, 1968

- Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

five-way noun

a powdered-drug cocktail of cocaine, heroin, flunitrazepam and methamphetamine ingested nasally whilst also drinking alcohol UK, 2002

- Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

fivezies noun

in poker, a pair of fives US, 1988

- George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

fix noun

an injection of a drug, especially heroin US, 1936

- I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked, / dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn looking for an angry fix[.] — Allen Ginsberg, Howl 1956

flag noun

1 while injecting a drug into a vein, the flow of blood up into the syringe, indicating that the vein has been pierced US, 1989

- Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

2 in gambling, a wager of 23 bets consisting of four selections UK, 2001

- David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

flake noun

cocaine US, 1961


flam noun

fake heroin US, 1971

- He also knew that a flam wouldn’t do / And that he would have to come up with the real thing. — Michael H. Agar, The Journal of American Folklore April, 1971

flame cooking noun

the process of smoking freebase cocaine by placing the pipe over a flame UK, 1998

- Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

flamer noun

an alcoholic drink which is briefly set alight – the fumes are inhaled before the drink is enjoyed; an alcoholic drink which is set alight in the drinker’s mouth in the hope that swallowing puts the flame out UK, 2001

- Ben, 24, says: “Flamers make your head go a bit doolally – it feels like it won’t fit through doors!” — Sky Magazine May, 2001

flannel-mouthed adjective

thick-tongued, especially as the result of drinking to excess US, 1973

- Sherman Louis Sergel, The Language of Show Biz 1973

flash noun

1 a sudden onset of drug-induced effects US, 1946

- He’s gonna get a flash, let me tell you. — Richard Farina, Been Down So Long 1966

2 LSD US, 1994

- Street names... dots, drops, flash, Gorbachovs[.] — James Kay and Julian Stevenson, Tom Stevenson’s Champagne and Sparkling Wine Guide 2002

3 any central nervous system stimulant UK, 1983
  — Tom Hibbert, Rockspeak! 1983

flash verb
1 to vomit after injecting heroin or while withdrawing from heroin use US, 1957
  I gave her a hypodermic. She “flushed” — to use the slang expression; barely made it to the sink before she started vomiting. — Jim Thompson, The Kill-Off 1957

2 to inhale glue or industrial solvents for the psychoactive effect US, 1970
  — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

flashback noun
a relapse into a hallucinatory drug experience long after the effect of the drug has worn off US, 1971
  The myth of the flashback was widely promoted by the media and government as one of the severe dangers of LSD. — Cam Cloud, The Little Book of Acid 1999

flatliner noun
in poker, an unskilled and uninspired player US, 1996
  — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

flats noun
dice, the surfaces of which have been altered for cheating US, 1950
  The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

flea noun
in American casinos, a gambler who places very small bets US, 1985
  — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

flea powder noun
weak and/or diluted heroin US, 1956
  American Speech May, 1955: ‘Narcotic argot along the Mexican border’

floater noun
the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™ US, 1997
  SOUTHERN: [C]hicks love Quaaludes – makes them less self-conscious, I suppose, about fucking. The druggist says it’s a great favorite with hookers. With students and hookers. They must have something in common.

floating adjective
moving; not settled in a definite place US, 1951
Almost always applied to an illegal crap game that moves from location to location.
  Up in the Bronx, a Negro held up some Italian racketeers in a floating crap game. — Malcolm X and Alex Haley, The Autobiography of Malcolm X 1964

floats noun
dice that have been hollowed out to affect their balance US, 1950
  The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

flop noun
in a dice game, a roll of the dice US, 1962
  — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

floptrips noun
in a game of on-line poker, a three-of-a-kind after the flop (the initial deal of three cards) UK, 2003
  — FHM June, 2003

flowered up adjective
intoxicated on drugs, especially marijuana, possibly MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1999
  Flowered Up having their video banned by the BBC for being too pro-drug — Harry Shapiro, Waiting for the Man 1999

flube tube noun
a cardboard tube filled with scented cloth that masks the smell of exhaled marijuana smoke US, 2003

fluffed adjective
cocaine-intoxicated UK, 1999
flush verb
▶ flush the john
in a casino, to play slot machines US, 1979
・— Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

flutter noun
a small bet UK, 1874
Originally meant ‘a good try’.
・Around 70 per cent of adults in Britain like a flutter and some twenty million do the pools[] — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

flying adjective
experiencing the euphoric or mind-altering effects of a drug US, 1942
・— Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

flying saucer noun
a morning glory seed, thought to have psychoactive properties US, 1971
・— Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

foamer noun
a glass of beer US, 1959
・— Swinging Syllables 1959

football noun
1 a tablet of Dilaudid™, a central nervous system depressant manufactured by the Knoll Pharmaceutical Company US, 1972
・So I had some footballs, some Dilaudid. I think it’s a full grain. I gave this girl some. She got mad because I broke a football in two; she wanted the whole thing. — Bruce Jackson, Outside the Law 1972
2 a tablet of dextroamphetamine sulphate and amphetamine sulphate (trade name Diphetamine™), a central nervous system stimulant US, 1966
・— Donald Louria, Nightmare Drugs 1966

foreign adjective
(used of a betting chip) from another casino US, 1982
・— Thomas F. Hughes, Dealing Casino Blackjack 1982

forty-pounder noun
a 40 ounce bottle of liquor CANADA, 1998
・In Canada, a 40-ounce bottle of liquor is known as a forty-pounder. — Toronto Globe and Mail 30th May 1998

forty-rod noun
strong, cheap whisky US, 1861
・It [hootchinoo] was sometimes referred to as Forty-Rod Whisky because it was supposed to kill a man at that distance. — Pierre Berton, Klondike 1958

forty-weight noun
beer, especially Iron City™ US, 1976
・— Dictionary of CB Lingo 1976: ‘Elementary electronics’

forward noun
any amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1966
・— J.L. Simmons and Barry Winograd, It’s Happening 1966: ‘Glossary’

four by too’s noun
in twelve-step recovery programmes such as Alcoholics Anonymous, used for describing why recovering addicts don’t attend programme meetings – too busy, too tired, too lazy or too drunk US, 1998
Used in US construction.
・— Christopher Cavanaugh, AA to Z 1998

fourex fever noun
a state of drunkenness caused by XXXX™ lager AUSTRALIA, 1996

fours and dors noun
a combination of number four codeine tablets and Doriden™ sleeping pills, which produces an opiate-like effect on the user US, 1989
・— Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

four-trey, the country way noun
a roll of seven in a craps game US, 1957
・“Four-trey, the country way,” the stick man sang, raking in the dice. “Seven! The loser!” — Chester Himes, A Rage in Harlem 1957

four-twenty noun
1 marijuana US, 1969
Also written as “4:20”. False etymologies abound; the term was coined by teenagers in Marin County, California, and does not refer to any police code.
・“Four-twenty” – once an obscure Bay Area term for pot – is showing up nationally in the advertisements and business names of concert promoters,
travel agencies, even high-tech companies. — *Los Angeles Time* 20th April 2002

2 any time that is considered the appropriate time to smoke marijuana *US*, 2004

Also written as “4:20”. Coinage is credited to California students in the 1970s then, via the scene surrounding the Grateful Dead into wider usage.

• — Steven Wishnia, *The Cannabis Companion* 2004

**foxy-methoxy** **noun**

the drug 5-methoxy-N, a synthetic hallucinogenic drug in the tryptamine family *US*, 2005

• 5-MeO-DIPT, also known as “Foxy-Methoxy.” — *Microgram Bulletin (DEA)* March, 2005

**fraho; frajo** **noun**

marijuana *US*, 1952

Originally a ‘cigarette’ or ‘marijuana cigarette’.

• — *American Speech* February, 1952: ‘Teen-age hophead jargon’

**frazzled** **adjective**

drunk *US*, 1906

• — Ramon Adams, *The Language of the Railroader* 1977

**freak** **noun**

a habitual drug user, 2001

Usually suffixed to a defining drug.

• [W]hen Roger Daltrey sang “My Generation” with the stutter of a pill freak, it made The Who the figureheads of the Mod movement. — Simon Napier-Bell, *Black Vinyl White Powder* 2001

**freak-out** **noun**

1 a celebratory event, a gathering together of counterculturists to enjoy music and drugs *US*, 1967

• [T]hey were enjoying the sort of bacchanalian freakout usually the preserve of mushied-up drongos invading Stonehenge for the Solstice. — Kevin Sampson, *Powder* 1999

2 a temporary loss of sanity and control while under the influence of a psychoactive drug *UK*, 1966

• Besides the freak-out in the bathroom they are expecting a psychiatrist to look at Bob. — Joan Didion, *Slouching Toward Bethlehem* 1967

**freak out** **verb**

to lose sanity while under the influence of LSD or another hallucinogen *US*, 1967

• [Y]ou can go out into the country free so you can straighten your head out or freak out among true friends.

— *The Digger Papers* August, 1968

**freddy** **noun**

an amphetamine tablet, especially a capsule of ephedrine *US*, 1992

• — Providence (Rhode Island) Journal-Bulletin 4th August 1997: ‘Doctors must know the narcolexicon’

**freebase** **noun**

nearly pure cocaine alkaloid which can be obtained from powdered cocaine hydrochloride and is then burnt and inhaled *US*, 1977

• CAROLINE: What is this, like freebase?

SETH: Not like. It is. — *Traffic* 2000

**freebase** **verb**

to remove the impurities from cocaine to advance and heighten the effect *US*, 1980

• Besides, the idiot uses a blowtorch to freebase. — Bret Easton Ellis, *Less Than Zero* 1985

**freeze** **noun**

cocaine *US*, 1984

• — R.C. Garrett et al., *The Coke Book* 1984

**French blue** **noun**

a manufactured combination of tranquilliser (methaqualone) and stimulant (amphetamine) taken recreationally *UK*, 1964

• I see Harry and get my tabs from him – thirty “French” Blues at sixpence a time. — Ian Hebditch, *Weekend, The Sharper Word* 1969

**French fries** **noun**

3-inch sticks of crack cocaine with ridged edges *US*, 1993

• — Peter Johnson, *Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms* 1993

**French inhale** **verb**

to draw cigarette smoke into the mouth and then allow it to drift out and upwards for inhalation through the nose *US*, 1957

• She lifts up her sunglasses and then French-inhales while she stares at Mrs. Williams’ hair. — Rebecca Wells, *Little Altars Everywhere* 1992

**Frenchy; Frenchie** **noun**

a fundamentally honest gambler who will cheat occasionally if the right opportunity arises *US*, 1961
GHB

blue nitro noun, US, 1998
- Three young people were treated at Southwest Washington Medical Center on Thanksgiving and released apparently after taking a drug called GHB or “Blue Nitro.” — The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington) 27th November 1998

cherry menth; cherry meth noun, US, 1995
- Police have identified a substance that left three people unconscious and close to death on a Fillmore sidewalk last month as a legal yet potentially dangerous drug known as “Cherry Meth.” — Los Angeles Times 4th November 1995

GBH noun, UK, 1996
- By May 1994 200 people has [sic] been hospitalised in the UK after using GBH and there has been one reported death. — Ben Osborne, The A–Z of Club Culture 1999

GBH noun, US, 1990
- a pharmaceutical anaesthetic used as a recreational drug
Gamma hydroxybutyrate is a foul tasting liquid, invented in the 1960s by Dr. Henri Laborit, who swore by its powers as an aphrodisiac. The drug has been marketed as an anaesthetic and a health supplement, but it is a heightened sense of touch, sustained erections and longer orgasms that make it popular with ‘up-for-it clubbers’.  
- And although losing your inhibitions may lead to the shag of the century, it can get you into potentially dangerous situations – hence GHB being dubbed a “date rape” drug. — Sky Magazine July, 2001

goop noun, US, 1999
- Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GBH, Goop), flunitrazepam (Roofies) and ketamine (Special K) are new additions to a long list of substances that have often been encountered in these settings. — Testimony of Terrance Woodworth to the United States Congress 11th March 1999

liquid ecstasy; liquid e noun, US, 1993
- Backstage, spirits were high and liquid Ecstasy flowed freely. “I got completely and utterly fucked up on the first night.” — Uncut May, 2001

liquid X noun, UK, 1993
- GBH has been marketed as a liquid or powder and has been sold on the street under names such as Grevious Bodily Harm, Georgia Home Boy, Liquid Ecstasy, Liquid X, Liquid E, GBH, GBH, Soap, Scoop, Easy Lay, Salty Water, G-Riffick, [and] Cherry Menth. — Morbidity and Morality Weekly Report 4th April 1997

scoop noun, US, 1993
- Health officials say mixing the drug, known on the street as “Georgia Home Boy” or “Scoop,” with alcohol or other drugs can cause nausea and life-threatening breathing problems. — Atlanta (Georgia) Journal and Constitution 15th April 1993

Frisco speedball; Frisco special; San Francisco bomb noun
- a combination of cocaine, heroin and LSD
- I learned, with the advent of the “Bennie God” to make an acceptable “bennie machine” out of aluminum foil,
and use it on the flat back porch every afternoon during the spring semester to “catch a few rays” while downing some frosties. — John Nichols, The Sterile Cuckoo 1965

**fruit salad** noun

a pooled mix of different types of pills contributed by several people and then consumed randomly US, 1969

— William D. Alsever, *Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People* December, 1970

**fry** noun

- crack cocaine US, 1994
- US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994

**fry** verb

of a drug, to destroy or impair the mind by extreme intoxication; of a drug-user, to experience the consequences of LSD US, 1996

— Unfortunately, by the time Brian was recording these songs his mind had really been fried by acid. — Barney Hoskyns, *Waiting for the Sun* 1996

**fry stick** noun

a marijuana cigarette laced with embalming fluid or phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust UK, 2003

— Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

**fucked** adjective

- drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1965
- And with tunes bouncing round off the walls and attacking you on every side you didn’t even need to be fucked on acid to enter another dimension.
— Dave Courtney, *Raving Lunacy* 2000

**fucked up** adjective

- drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1944
- “Were you that drunk?” “I was pretty fucked up, yes.” — Doug Lang, *Freaks* 1973

**full** adjective

- drunk US, 1844
- Another pub? Too early to get full.
— Eric Lambert, *The Veterans* 1954

**full moon** noun

- a large slice of peyote cactus US, 1970
— William D. Alsever, *Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People* December, 1970

**fumed-up** adjective

- marijuana-intoxicated UK, 2002
- Carboot Soul [by Nightmares on Wax] and it’s lazy, fumed-up charms will win you over lickety-split. — Ministry May, 2002

**funny cigarette** noun

- a marijuana cigarette US, 1949
- What kind of funny cigarettes have you been smoking? What kind of Texas Moonshine have you been pouring down your esophagus? — Rock, *The Rock Says* 2000

**funny fag** noun

- a marijuana cigarette UK, 1998
- Formed on ‘fag’ (a cigarette).
— You can let the coppers have a drag on your funny fag while we’re there.

**fuzzy** noun

- 1 in horse racing, a horse that is seen as certain to win a race US, 1956
— Toney Betts, *Across the Board* 1956
- 2 in a deck of playing cards, the joker US, 1988
Gg

G noun
1 a gram UK, 1997
Used mainly in a drug context.
• [W]hen they said a line they meant half a g for starters. — James Hawes, White Powder, Green Light 2002
2 one grain (of a narcotic) US, 1966
• — Mr. April, 1966: ‘The hippie’s lexicon’

Gabber noun
any central nervous system stimulant US, 1987
• The pills are actually nothing but rounded bits of plastic with a yellow dust of pure meth. One simply takes thirty or so of these little gabbers, leaving them in their little pill bottle. — Jim Carroll, Forced Entries 1987

Gack verb
in poker, to fold holding a hand that would have won had the player stayed in the game US, 1996
• — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

Gack; gak noun
cocaine UK, 1997
• [W]e do a couple more dabs of gak from Nood’s bag. — Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

Gack-blowing noun
the process of anally ingesting cocaine UK, 2002
• — Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

Gack-nag; gak-nag noun
a cocaine user UK, 2002
• [T]he previously cuddly [Jason] Donovan was outed as a gak-nag of near unparallelled proportions. — Ministry, January, 2002

Gack scab noun
a crusting of damaged mucous membrane that forms around the nostrils as the result of inhaling cocaine UK, 1999
• He watched the systematic trickles water the gack scabs around James’s nostrils without judgement[.] — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

Gaff noun
a cheating device US, 1893
• On the midway, he learned the art of “cake cutting,” or shortchanging customers, using “sticks” – carnies posing as customers pretending to win a big prize – and “gaffs” – concealed devices such as magnets used to ensure that the house always won. — Kim Rich, Johnny’s Girl 1993

Gaffs noun
dice that have been altered for cheating US, 1950
• — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

Gage; gayge; gages noun
marijuana US, 1934
• Three teenage boys had a fifteen-year-old girl inside, all blowing gage. — Chester Himes, A Rage in Harlem 1957

Gage out; guage out verb
to become, or be, sleepy as a result of marijuana intoxication UK, 1996
• [W]e’d mong and guage out. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

Gagers; gaggers noun
methcathinone US, 1998

Galloping dominoes noun
dice US, 1918
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

Gangster noun
marijuana US, 1960
• Just go on and smoke that gangster and be real cool. Drink that juice and smoke that gangster and keep them needles outta your arm. — Clarence Cooper Jr, The Scene 1960

Gangster pill noun
any barbiturate or other central nervous system depressant US, 1994
• — US Department of Justice, Street Terms August, 1994

Ganja noun
marijuana, notably from Jamaica JAMAICA, 1972
Hindi word for ‘cannabis’.
• “Yeah, feeling good, huh?” Louis said, getting close to the man’s face.

**gank** *noun*

*a substance sold as an illegal drug that is actually fake* **US, 1994**

• [P]olice checked it out and found Smith in possession of the gank, which Dallavia said is a wax or soap substance that sometimes can be passed off as crack. — *Buffalo (New York) News* 19th January 1999

**garbage head** *noun*

*an addict who will use any substance available* **US, 1970**

A term used in twelve-step recovery programmes such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

• — William D. Alsever, *Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People* December, 1970

**Gardena miracle** *noun*

*in a game of poker, a good hand drawn after a poor dealt hand* **US, 1982**

Gardena is a city near Los Angeles where poker rooms are legal.

• — David M. Hayano, *Poker Faces* 1982

**Gary Cooper** *noun*

*in craps, a roll of 12* **US, 1983**

From Cooper’s starring role in the western film *High Noon*.


**gas** *verb*

*to inhale glue or any volatile solvent for the intoxicating effect* **US, 1970**

• — William D. Alsever, *Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People* December, 1970

**gas-head** *noun*

*an abuser of industrial solvents for their psychoactive effects* **UK, 1996**

• We all tried solvents, but none of us were serious “gas heads”.
  — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, *The User* 1996

**gassed** *adjective*

*tipsy, drunk* **US, 1919**

• They play the juke box circuit and get gassed on beer, but New York has few such emporiums and even beer is expensive. — Lee Mortimer, *Women Confidential* 1960

**gate** *noun*

*a vein into which a drug is injected* **US, 1986**

• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**GBH** *noun*

*the recreational drug GHB* **UK, 1996**

• By May 1994 200 people has [sic] been hospitalised in the UK after using GBH and there has been one reported death. — Ben Osborne, *The A–Z of Club Culture* 1999

**gear** *noun*

*marijuana; heroin; drugs in general* **US, 1954**

• It takes a hell of a long time to come when you are on gear and it was great when the chick didn’t know you were stoned. — Shaun Ryder, *Shaun Ryder... in His Own Words* 1996

**gee** *noun*

*any device used to secure a needle to an eye dropper as part of an improvised mechanism to inject drugs* **US, 1960**

• They pulled out two spikes, laid out two hypes / And rolled some one-dollar-bill gees. — Dennis Wepman et al., *The Life* 1976

**gee head** *noun*

*a frequent Paregoric user* **US, 1970**

• — Eugene Landy, *The Underground Dictionary* 1971

**geek** *verb*

*to display severe anxiety when coming off cocaine intoxication* **US, 1993**


**geeze; geaze** *noun*

*heroin; an injection of heroin; narcotics* **US, 1967**

• We had just finished geazin’ / when the bitches started teasin’ / for us to split and lay. — Lightnin’ Rod, *Hustlers Convention* 1973
• “I could use a little geeze right now,” Pelon says. — Oscar Zeta Acosta, *The Revolt of the Cockroach People* 1973

**George** noun
a gambler who tips the dealer or places bets in the dealer’s name *US, 1974*
• Sitting there with people that are Georges, which means a good toker, you want them to win – even though you’re a house person. — Edward Lin, *Big Julie of Vegas* 1974

**George Smack; George** noun
heroin *US, 1967*
• — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

**Georgia homeboy** noun
the recreational drug GHB *US, 1993*
• — *American Speech* Spring, 1995: ‘Among the new words’

**Germans** noun
drug dealers from the Dominican Republic as perceived by African-American drug dealers competing for the same market – the enemy *US, 1992*
• — Terry Williams, *Crackhouse* 1992

**get-high** noun
**crack cocaine** *US, 1990*
• She says, “I was by Darius’ house, and he said y’all just left. You got any get-high?” — Chris Rock, *Rock This!* 1997

**get off** verb
to use a drug; to feel the effects of a drug *US, 1952*
• We got a free bag, and he asked me if I ever got off before. — Jeremy Larner and Ralph Tefferteller, *The Addict in the Street* 1964

**GHB** noun
a pharmaceutical anaesthetic used as a recreational drug *US, 1990*
Gamma hydroxybutyrate is a foul tasting liquid, invented in the 1960s by Dr. Henri Laborit, who swore by its powers as an aphrodisiac. The drug has been marketed as an anaesthetic and a health supplement, but it is a heightened sense of touch, sustained erections and longer orgasms that make it popular with ‘up-for-it clubbers’.
• And although losing your inhibitions may lead to the shag of the century, it can get you into potentially dangerous situations – hence GHB being dubbed a “date rape” drug. — *Sky Magazine* July, 2001

**ghost** noun
1 a blank stop on a casino slot machine *US, 1993*
• — Frank Scoblete, *Guerrilla Gambling* 1993
2 in poker, a player who frequently absents himself from the table *US, 1996*
• — John Vorhaus, *The Big Book of Poker Slang* 1996

**ghostbust** noun
to search in an obsessive and compulsive way for small particles of crack cocaine *US, 1992*
• — Terry Williams, *Crackhouse* 1992

**Gianluca Vialli; gianluca** noun
cocaine *UK, 1998*
Rhyming slang for Charlie (cocaine); based on the name of Gianluca Vialli (b.1964), a famous Italian football player and manager.
• CALL IT... Basuco, gianluca, blow, Percy, lady, toot, white[.] JUST DON'T CALL IT... Charlie – too Eighties[.] — *Drugs: An Adult Guide* December, 2001

**giggle juice** noun
alcohol *US, 1939*
• — Judi Sanders, *Kickin’ like Chicken with the Couch Commander* 1992

**giggle weed** noun
marijuana *US, 1937*
• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**GI gin** noun
cough syrup *US, 1964*
• I reached into the pocket of my loose jungle fatigues for the bottle of GI gin. A good slug of this 80 proof terpin hydrate elixir guarantees an hour free of coughing. — Robin Moore, *The Green Berets* 1965

**G.I. marbles** noun
dice *US, 1950*
Because of the love for dice games displayed by American soldiers, especially during World War 2.
• — *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* May, 1950

**gimmel** noun
in betting, odds of 3–1 *UK, 1991*
Probably coined by a Jewish bookmaker with a sense of humour, from gimel (the Hebrew letter which, in Judaic teaching, symbolises a rich man running after a poor man) which,
in turn, derives from Hebrew *gēmul* (the giving of reward and punishment).


gimmick noun
the actual device used to rig a carnival game US, 1968

- The device used to gaff a game is the “gimmick” and is not to be confused with something one might pick up at the dime-store. — E.E. Steck, *A Brief Examination of an Esoteric Folk* 1968

gimmicks noun
the equipment needed to inject drugs US, 1967

- He had his gimmicks with him, and he began his regular procedure of turning on. — Emmett Grogan, *Ringolevio* 1972

gin mill noun
a bar US, 1866

- At three-thirty the word went out in the back of gin mill off Forty-second and Third. — Mickey Spillane, *Kiss Me Deadly* 1952

ginned adjective
drunk US, 1900

girl noun
1 cocaine US, 1953

- She had taught me to snort “girl,” and almost always when I came to her pad, there would be thin sparkling rows of crystal cocaine on the glass top of the cocktail table. — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), *Pimp* 1969

2 heroin US, 1981

- — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002
glass dick noun
a pipe used to smoke crack cocaine US, 1995

- [B]ut he always been one boned-out nigga, spen’ way too much time suckin’ da glass dick. — Stephen Cannell, *King Con* 1997
glory seeds noun
seeds of the morning glory plant, eaten for their psychoactive properties US, 1992


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gluehead noun
a person who inhales glue or any volatile solvent for the intoxicating effect US, 1970

- The city let the Pagoda rot and punks and drunks and whores and glue-heads started getting up inside of it, doing things that made the paint peel. — *Sun (Baltimore)* 10th July 1994

gluapot noun
a racehorse that performs very, very poorly US, 1924

- — *San Francisco Call-Bulletin* 2nd April 1947

goat noun
in horse racing, a poor-performing racehorse AUSTRALIA, 1941

- “Best hoop in the country, the old Darb.” “I seen ’im ride goats. Cooky too.” “Cooky don’t take on too many goats. Sharp as a tack, Cooky.” — Nino Culotta (John O’Grady), *They’re a Weird Mob* 1957

go-down man noun
in an illegal betting operation, the employee designated to identify himself as the operator in the event of a police raid, accepting risk in place of the actual operator US, 1951

- — David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack* 1951

God’s flesh noun
psilocybin, a hallucinogenic mushroom US, 1970


God’s medicine; God’s own medicine; GOM noun
morphine; opium US, 1925


go-fast noun
any amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1993

- I can let you have a quarter a go-fast for twenny bucks. This special sale can’t be repeated. — Joseph Wambaugh, *Finnegan’s Week* 1993
go-juice noun
alcohol US, 1968

- — Collin Baker et al., *College Undergraduate Slang Study Conducted at Brown University* 1968
golden brown noun heroin UK, 1981
An elaboration of brown (heroin).
• What do you think it is, little girl? It’s heroin, that’s for sure, golden brown, like in the song. — Ben Elton, High Society 2002

golden leaf noun marijuana of excellent quality US, 1925
• Man, this is some golden-leaf I brought up from New Orleans, it’ll make you feel good, take a puff. — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

golden spike noun a hypodermic needle US, 1955
• — American Speech May, 1955: ‘Narcotic argot along the Mexican border’

goldfish noun a strain of marijuana, also known as ‘orange bud’ UK, 2001
• It’s this orange bud, man. No wonder they call it goldfish. It knackers your memory. — Ed Allen and Johnny Vaughan, ‘Orrible 10th September 2001

gold rush noun in hold ‘em poker, a hand consisting of a four and a nine US, 1996
An allusion to the California gold rush of 1849.
• — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

goliath noun a multiple bet, gambling on eight horses, combining 247 bets in a specific pattern UK, 1991
• — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

golly noun a half gallon jar of beer NEW ZEALAND, 1999
• — Harry Orsman, A Dictionary of Modern New Zealand Slang 1999

golpe noun heroin US, 1980
From Spanish golpe (a blow, a shot).
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

good hitter noun in pool, an excellent cue stick US, 1990
• “Hitter” is never used in reference to a poor stick, so the only time you’ll hear someone speak of a “bad hitter” is in a predominantly black poolroom, where the expression is synonymous with “good hitter.” — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

goof noun an alcoholic beverage US, 1964
Found only in Ontario.
• “Here comes that old juicehead, Tiger, luggin a jug of goof.” — Hugh Garner, The Intruders 1976

goof verb to enter what appears to be a near coma as a result of drug intoxication US, 1951
• I was goofing so bad, I couldn’t hold my head up and just kept going into my nod. — Piri Thomas, Down These Mean Streets 1967

goofball noun 1 a barbiturate used for non-medical purposes US, 1939
• Much more potent is a sleeping pill or “goofball” dissolved in a glass of beer. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, Chicago Confidential 1950
2 a mixture of heroin and cocaine US, 1966
• She was a goofball addict and Helen explained that her wild behaviour while she was high, which was most of the time, had created such havoc. — James Mills, Panic in Needle Park 1966
3 a habitual smoker of marijuana SOUTH AFRICA, 2004
• Pete is such a goofball. He’s always pulling goofed actions — Surfrikan Slang 2004

goof butter; goof-but; goofy butt noun a marijuana cigarette US, 1938
• And marijuana has legal standing, so the next time some fifteen-year-old sucks a goof butt and walks through a glass patio slider, me and the other old hippie selling nickel bags are defendants in a gigantic class-action lawsuit[.] — Mike Gray, Busted 2002

goofed; goofed up; goofed-up adjective experiencing the effects of drugs, especially barbiturates or marijuana; drunk US, 1944
• [T]hese guys ain’t gay, they’re goofed up[.] — Lester Bangs, Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung 1972

goofer noun 1 a central nervous system stimulant US, 1967
KETAMINE

cat tranquilizer noun, CANADA, 2002
• I do identify with 2.5 bumps of cat tranquilizer. — Suroosh Alvi et al., The Vice Guide 2002

K noun, US, 1996
Ketamine hydrochloride is an anaesthetic used recreationally for its hallucinogenic properties.
• It is widely known that drugs like cocaine, the amphetamine derivative Ecstasy, and ketamine, an anesthetic often called “K,” have become an integral part of the Morning Party[.] — New York Times 17th August 1996

ket noun, AUSTRALIA, 1996
• There are, however, possibly tens of thousands of young people here who have already unwittingly swallowed “K” or “Ket.” — The Herald (Glasgow) 4th April 1997

kit kat noun, AUSTRALIA, 1996
• Dr. Refsauge, warned that Ketamine – known by various street names such as Special K, Vitamin K, K, Ket and Kit Kat – was primarily for veterinary use and was potentially fatal if taken with other drugs, such as alcohol. — The Weekend Australian 24th February 1996

Special K noun, US, 1993
Kellogg’s Special K™, a well-known breakfast cereal, is the inspiration for this variation on k (ketamine).

techno smack noun, UK, 2005
Combines techno, which locates the usage in the club/rave scene, with SMACK which is more generally used for heroin.
• “This is a strange party Reg! They all look like Zombies.” “Oh fuck, it’s Jason & the psychonauts on techno smack.” — Peanut Pete Disappearing Up His Own K-Hole in Planet Ketamine July, 2005

vitamin K; vit K noun, US, 1989
• The drug became known as “Vitamin K” when it emerged in underground gay clubs in the 1980s. — The Record (Bergen County, New Jersey) 5th December 1995

goon noun
phenyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1977
• — Ronald Linder, PCP: The Devil’s Dust 1981

goop noun
the recreational drug GHB US, 1999
• Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GBH, Goop), flunitrazepam (Roofies) and ketamine (Special K) are new additions to a long list of substances that have often been encountered in these settings.
— Testimony of Terrance Woodworth to the United States Congress 11th March 1999

goose noun
in poker, an unskilled player who is a likely victim of a skilled professional US, 1996
• — Peter O. Steiner, Thursday Night Poker 1996

go-pill noun
any amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1957
• I gave her two “go” pills and took her to the street for the cut into Phyllis and Ophelia. — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Pimp 1969

goric noun
a paregoric, an opiate-based medicinal syrup US, 1982
• — Ralph de Sola, Crime Dictionary 1982

gorilla biscuit noun
any strong central nervous system depressant or stimulant US, 1972
• Everybody was walking on their knuckles from marching powder, whiskey, and gorilla biscuits.
— Kinky Friedman, Blast from the Past 1998
go-to-whoa noun
in horse racing, the entire length of a race
AUSTRALIA, 1971

gouch noun
a period of drug-induced exhaustion UK, 2000
  I’m just on a gouch, that’s all. I wish you’d leave me alone! — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000

gouch; gouch out verb
to become exhausted as a result of drug-use UK, 1982
  Tell yew what, let’s go an play a few games a-pool, eh? Wont fuckin gouch out if we’re doin somethin like. — Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

gourd noun
➤ out of your gourd
extremely drug-intoxicated US, 1967
  He’d come in his mohair suit and his attache case, trying to play electronics executive, but he’d be stoned outa his gourd. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against 1967

gow noun
a drug, especially opium US, 1922
  [W]hite women learned where they could get a “belt,” a “jolt,” or a “gow.” — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, New York Confidential 1948

gowed up adjective
drunk CANADA, 1977
  Ralph Kappel, gowed up on the wine he’d bought that morning with a lone ten-dollar bill from an old lady’s purse he’d snatched the night before on Dundas, made his way along Carlton Street in the 9 p.m. darkness. — Hugh Garner, The Intruders 1977

graduate verb
to begin using more powerful drugs, or to stop taking drugs completely US, 1992

grammy noun
one gram (of a drug) US, 1992

grandma’s peepers noun
in dominoes, the 1–1 piece US, 1959
  — Dominic Armanino, Dominoes 1959

grandpa’s dozen noun
a twelve-pack of inexpensive beer US, 1994
  — Judi Sanders, Mashing and Munching in Ames 1994

grape noun
wine US, 1898
Often used in the plural.
  The wine bottle, the reefer, or Jesus. A taste of grape, the weed or the cross. — H. Rap Brown, Die Nigger Die! 1969

grass noun
marijuana US, 1943
The term of choice during the 1960s and 1970s.
  WYATT: No, man – this is grass. GEORGE: You – you mean marijuana? WYATT: Yeah. — Peter Fonda, Easy Rider 1969

gravy noun
a mixture of blood and drug solution in a syringe US, 1966
Perhaps from ‘gravy’ as ‘blood’ in C19 boxing slang.
  Addicts call this “shooting gravy”. “Because that’s what it is – right? Cooked blood?” — James Mills, The Panic in Needle Park 1966

grey noun
a white betting token usually worth one dollar US, 1983
  — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

great army noun
in horse racing, the body of regular betters AUSTRALIA, 1989

great white hope noun
crack cocaine UK, 2003
  — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

greefa; grifa; griff; griffa; griffo noun
marijuana US, 1931
Originally border Spanish used in English conversation by Mexican-Americans.
  Grefa was kid-stuff to me, but opium meant dope and I was really scared of it. — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

Greek shot noun
in dice games, a controlled roll with a controlled result US, 1962
“In the old days, I used to skip-roll the dice,” he said as he worked. “Perfected my Greek shot. That’s a controlled roll where the dice hit the rail one on top of the other so the bottom cube doesn’t roll over.” — Stephen Cannell, Big Con 1997

green noun
1 marijuana, especially with a low resin count US, 1955
  • [H]e got hold of some bad green, as it’s called in the trade – green, uncured marijuana, quite by mistake, and smoked too much of it. — Jack Kerouac, On the Road 1957
2 the recreational drug ketamine US, 1986
From the drug’s natural green colour.
  • — Richard A. Spears The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

greena noun
marijuana UK, 1998

green burger noun
a blend of amphetamine and caffeine marketed as MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
  • — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

green dragon noun
any barbiturate or other central nervous system depressant US, 1971
  • — US Department of Justice, Street Terms August, 1994

green fairy noun
absinthe, a French gin UK, 2001
  • After being banned for a century, the 70 per cent proof French loopy juice, aka The Green Fairy, has become a UK staple — Sky Magazine May, 2001

green hornet noun
a central nervous system stimulant US, 1997
  • At dusk I gave each American a “Green Hornet,” a powerful SOG-issue amphetamine, which, like the old OSS “B Tablet,” ensured twelve hours’ stamina[.] — John Plaster, SOG 1997

green man noun
a bottle of Balantine™ ale US, 1965
  • “The Regs’ll take a grasshacker (lawnmower) and the fuzz (head) off a little green man (Ballantine Ale),” Schoons said. — John Nichols, The Sterile Cuckoo 1965

green meanie noun
any green amphetamine or barbiturate capsule US, 1981
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

greens noun
marijuana, 1998
  • [H]is good hand manoeuvred the greens with a deftness born of necessity[,] — Diran Abedayo, My Once Upon a Time 2000

green snow; green tea noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1978
The colour reference is to the parsley or mint on which the drug is often sprinkled.
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

green thumb noun
in pool, the ability to make money playing for wagers US, 1990
  • — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

green triangle noun
a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2002
From the colour of the tablet and the embossed motif.
  • Green-triangle pills containing only DXM (dextromethorphan, a drug that cause audio hallucinations). — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002

grievous bodily harm noun
the recreational drug GHB US, 1993
  • GHB has been marketed as a liquid or powder and has been sold on the street under names such as Grievous Bodily Harm, Georgia Home Boy, Liquid Ecstasy, Liqiud X, Liquid E, GHB, GBH, Soap, Scoop, Easy Lay, Salty Water, G-Riffick, [and] Cherry Menth. — Morbidity and Morality Weekly Report 4th April 1997

grind joint noun
a casino dominated by slot machines and low-limit tables US, 1991
  • — Michael Dalton, Blackjack 1991

grind store noun
an illegal gambling operation where players are cheated as a matter of course US, 1985
G-rock noun
cocaine; a one gram rock of crack cocaine
UK, 1998
— Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

groggery noun
a disreputable bar US, 1822
— Eighth Street runs into Sailors’ Row proper, a line of groggeries and lunchrooms that hit bottom. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, Washington Confidential 1951

grog shop noun
a cheap tavern UK, 1790
— Along the muddy alley at the side of the station was a block of grog-shops[.]
— Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, Chicago Confidential 1950

ground controller noun
a non-intoxicated person who cares for a ketamine user during a period of intoxication UK, 1967
Appropriated from the jargon of space exploration.
— Reg should have had his own ground controller. — Peanut Pete Disappearing Up His Own K-Hole in Planet Ketamine July, 2005

groundlark noun
a bookmaker who illegally conducts business at a horse race track AUSTRALIA, 1989

growler noun
a beer can US, 1949
— Captain Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

guinea red noun
cheap Italian red wine US, 1933
— “What’s the matter? You think I can’t talk?” Felita said. “I ain’t a pair of shoes or a jug of guinea red.”
— Robert Campbell, Alice in La-La Land 1987

gum noun
crude, unrefined opium US, 1956
— American Speech May, 1956: ‘Smugglers’ argot in the southwest’

gun noun
a hypodermic needle and syringe US, 1899
— Said, “Let’s have a party, have some fun / for God’s sake, fellas, don’t forget the gun / ’cause man, I want some two in one.” — Bruce Jackson, Get Your Ass in the Water and Swim Like Me 1964

gun from the gate noun
in horse racing, a racehorse that starts races quickly US, 1951
— David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

gunk noun
any industrial solvent inhaled for its psychoactive effect US, 1982
— Ralph de Sola, Crime Dictionary 1982

gunner noun
the person shooting the dice in craps US, 1930
— He never paid back loans, would stand at the edges of a crap game and bet his dime or quarter on the gunner if he was on a hot roll. — Gilbert Sorrentino, Steelwork 1970

gun-shot noun
a single measure of chilled After Shock™ cinnamon or peppermint liqueur imbibed through a straw in a single action UK, 2001
— Widespread use of drugs means we’re happy turning the bar into a chemistry set. People are creating their own mixes and methods (gun-shots, snorting or mouthwashing anyone?)[.] — Sky Magazine May, 2001

gurn verb
to distort your facial expression as a result of intoxication by MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2000
— From the similarity between the distorted faces pulled by ecstasy users and the ugly faces deliberately pulled by gunners in traditional gurning competitions.
— Brendan on the sofa gurning for England[.] — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

gutter noun
a vein, especially a prominent one suitable for drug injection US, 1994
— US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

guzzle guts noun
a glutton or a heavy drinker UK, 1959
— Iona Archibald Opie, The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren 1959
Hammered adjective
drunk US, 1960
- [F]irst we hammered out a peace treaty, then we all got hammered and laughed about the end of the war. — Ralph ‘Sonny’ Barger, Hell’s Angel 2000

Hand noun
five; in betting, odds of 5–1 UK, 1991
- From the tick-tack five; signal used by bookmakers.
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Hand and a half noun
in betting, odds of 11–2 UK, 1991
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Hand jiving noun
the exchange of illegal drugs for money in a secretive fashion US, 1975
- [T]hey observed known drug users and addicts approaching the two men and going through the motions police call “hand jiving.” — John Sepe, Cop Team 1975

Hand mucker noun
in gambling, a cheat who switches cards US, 1979
- Besides dice tats and 7UPS, there were volumes for nail nickers and crimpers (card markers), hand muckers and mit men (card switchers), as well as card counters and shiner players.
- — Stephen Cannell, Big Con 1997

Hands and heels adjective
in horse racing, used for describing a ride in which the jockey did not use his whip AUSTRALIA, 1989

Hand to rouf noun
in betting, odds of 5–4 UK, 1991
A combination of hand (five) and rouf (four).
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Hanyak noun
a smokable methamphetamine UK, 1998
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

Happiness noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2002
- Ecstasy is “disco biscuits” and “happiness”, heroin is “death trip”.
- — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002
happy cigarette noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1982
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

happy drug noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2003
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

happy fag noun
a marijuana cigarette UK, 2002
• They used to throw the old happy fags at me in India. — Phil Tufnell, They Think It’s All Over 8th February 2002

happy juice noun
any alcoholic drink; any mood-elevating drug US, 1921
• It turned out Bill didn’t need anything to cheer him because Bill was shot up with painkillers and happy juice for the ride home. — Janet Evanovich, Metro Girl 2004

happy meal noun
a mixture of chemical stimulants and depressants UK, 2001
A Happy Meal is more usually a product of McDonalds™ fast-food restaurants.
• Ecstasy dealers have taken to branding their tablets with famous logos: there is Big Mac E, Purple Nike Swirl E, X-Files E, and a mixture of uppers and downers called a “Happy Meal”[]. — Naomi Klein, No Logo 2001

happy pill noun
1 an amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant UK, 1956
• They upped her dose of happy pills. — Jeremy Cameron, Brown Bread in Wengen 1999
2 a Prozac™ tablet UK, 2001
• CALL IT... Spikers, prozie JUST DON’T CALL IT... The “happy” pill[]. — Drugs: An Adult Guide December, 2001
3 a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2003
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

happy powder noun
cocaine UK, 1998
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

happy stick noun
a marijuana cigarette enhanced with phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1999
• While the Detroit house scene was relatively drug-free, in Chicago it was different. Cannabis was often dipped in angel dust to create “happy sticks”; poppers, cocaine and LSD were all popular — Harry Shapiro, Waiting for the Man 1999

hard adjective
(used of drugs) powerfully addictive US, 1955
• I read him the riot law – if I find out you’re using hard shit I’m gonna pull your tongue out yo’ ass, etc. — Edwin Torres, Carlito’s Way 1975

hard candy noun
heroin US, 1970
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

hardcore noun
amyl nitrite UK, 1996
• — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

hard stuff noun
alcoholic drink other than beer or wine AUSTRALIA, 1832
• “I normally don’t touch the hard stuff, but damn, look at those prices,” says Billy. Above the mirror behind the bar is a line of signs listing the kinds of whiskey that can be had, two shorts for forty-five cents. — Darryl Ponicsan, The Last Detail 1970

Harlem tennis noun
the game of craps US, 1983
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

harpoon noun
a needle used to inject drugs intravenously, especially a hollow needle used in an improvised contraption US, 1938
• — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

Hart, Schaffner and Marx noun
in poker, three jacks US, 1988
An allusion to a men’s clothing manufacturer.
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

hash noun
hashish (cannabis resin or pollen) US, 1948
Derived from the Arabic word for ‘herb’ or ‘grass’.
• He’d done what you usually only see in those films with Hollywood party
hashcake noun
a confection that has marijuana or hashish as a major ingredient UK, 2000
- Bits uv cheese an onion an stuff are tryin tih slither up the hair towards er face, but that could just be thuh hashcake. — Niall Griffiths, Grits 2000

Hawaiian head noun
a strain of marijuana US, 2002
- [A] strain that had once been called Thai Buddha, then went to Hawaii for a while and came back with the name Hawaiian Head. — Brian Preston, Pot Planet 2002

Hawaiian sunshine noun
LSD US, 1982
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

hawk noun
1 a racetrack scout US, 1985
- We usually reached the drivers through “hawks,” back-stretch regulars who lived and drank with the drivers and trainers. — Nicholas Pileggi, Wise Guy 1985
2 LSD US, 1966
- — Donald Louria, Nightmare Drugs 1966

hay noun
marijuana US, 1934
A play on GRASS.
- At the Mexican’s we could at least get loaded on good hay[]. — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

hayburner noun
a horse, especially a poor-performing racehorse US, 1904
- I reckon His Honour has three hayburners in work. No hope of paying for their feed far as I can see. Pity, since you’ve been strapping two of them, Persian Pat and Beehive. — Wilda Moxham, The Apprentice 1969

haze noun
a variety of marijuana UK, 2002
- [T]he Real McCoy, which is a Haze-Skunk cross[]. — Brian Preston, Pot Planet 2002

H bomb noun
heroin mixed with MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2002
- — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

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head noun
1 a habitual user of drugs US, 1953
- Take hippies and straights, heads and narcos, put them together for 36 hours — under a church roof. — Berkeley Barb 25th February 1967
- off your head
2 in a state of mental confusion; drug-intoxicated UK, 1999
- I got proper fucking off my cake, I did. Right off my head. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

-head suffix
a habitual user of the indicated substance; hence an enthusiast, a fan US, 1953
- Florence and I both didn’t want to be invaded by amphets heads. — Herbert Huncke, The Evening Sun Turned Crimson 1980

heart noun
an amphetamine capsule, especially dextroamphetamine sulphate (trade name Dexedrine™) US, 1965
From the shape of the tablet.
- I suspect she knows a little about drugs, because she’s given me hearts a couple of times when I’ve been really low. — Anonymous, Go Ask Alice 1971

heater noun
in poker, a period of good luck for one player UK, 2003
- “Paul sure got on a heater last night.” You will also hear that a player is “hot,” meaning that he is on a heater. — Dave Scharf, Winning at Poker 2003

heaven dust; heavenly dust; heaven flour noun
any powdered drug; cocaine; heroin US, 1933
Perhaps a positive alternative to HELL DUST.
- — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

heavenly blues noun
morning glory seeds as a psychoactive agent US, 1982
- — Ralph de Sola, Crime Dictionary 1982

heaves and squirts noun
symptoms of heroin withdrawal US, 1973
- — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973
AMPHETAMINES AND METHAMPHETAMINES

crystal meth; crystal meths noun, US, 2001
powdered methamphetamine
  • Every fucking fucker in the fucking band [Oasis] and crew had been up two days straight solid doing coke and crystal meths, right up to showtime. — Simon Napier-Bell, Black Vinyl White Powder 2001
dab noun, UK, 2000
a moistened finger-tip covered in powdered amphetamine
  • It ain’t no secret that I indulge in the odd dab myself. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000
French blue noun, UK, 1964
a manufactured combination of tranquilliser (methaqualone) and stimulant (amphetamine) taken recreationally
  • I see Harry and get my tabs from him—thirty “French” Blues at sixpence a time. — Ian Hebditch, Weekend, The Sharper Word 1969
Lou Reed noun, UK, 1996
amphetamine
  • Rhyming slang for SPEED. Based, perhaps, with more than a hint of irony, on rock singer and song-writer Lou Reed (b.1943).
  • These guys are on a bonus, on Lou Reed as well, driven to get the round done and get away. — J.J. Connolly, Layer Cake 2000
mother’s little helper noun, UK, 2003
amphetamine
  • — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003
prat powder noun, UK, 2002
powdered amphetamine
  • From the power of the powder to make you behave like a ‘prat’ (a fool).
  • Speed, see. Prat powder. I’m not always a toser, honest. — Ben Elton, High Society 2002

speed noun, US, 1966
an amphetamine, especially Dexedrine™, which is a central nervous system stimulant
  • When he meets pushers of smack and speed, as he does not infrequently in his profession, he attempts to convince them that it is a vile and murderous act to peddle chemicals which can ultimately only destroy their imbibers. — Tom Robbins, Another Roadside Attraction 1971

tab noun, UK, 1961
a tablet, usually one taken as a recreational drug; a single dose of LSD
Originally medical and pharmaceutical jargon, added to the vocabulary of drugs users in the 1950s.
  • He’s got some acid. We can have two tabs… for 1, man. That’s good, they’re usually a pound each, but he knows me. — Robin Page, Down Among the Dossers 1973

up noun, US, 1979
a tablet of amphetamine, methamphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant
  • “Ups” all day and “downs” at night. — Beatrice Sparks (writing as ‘Anonymous’), Jay’s Journal 1979

whizz; wizz; whiz noun, UK, 1993
amphetamine
  • A pun on SPEED.
  • Now this geezer was always asking me for a dab of whizz[.] — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

heavy paint-work passers noun
in a dice cheating scheme, dice that have been altered by drilling the spots and filling them with heavy metallic paint US, 1963
  • — John S. Salak, Dictionary of Gambling 1963

hehe adverb
without betting US, 1972
  • I don’t play hee-haw. I’m looking for somebody who wants to make it interesting. — Robert Byrne, McGoorty 1972

hee-jeebies noun
symptoms of withdrawal from an addictive drug US, 1987
  • The thing is, I’m still fighting back the hee-jeebies from this drop in my dose of mojo juice [methadone]. — Jim Carroll, Forced Entries 1987

Heinies noun
Heineken™ beer US, 1982
  • — Dr. Lillian Glass with Richard Liebmann-Smith, How to Deprogram Your Valley Girl 1982

Heinz noun
a multiple bet, combining 57 bets UK, 1983
Based on the advertising slogan for the products of the food company H.J. Heinz. A ‘super heinz’ combines 120 bets.
• The Canadian, also known as a Super Yankee, combines five Heinz 57 varieties – get it? — John McCririck, *John McCririck’s World of Betting* 1991

**hell dust** noun
any powdered drug; heroin; morphine *US*, 1953
> — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

**hemp** noun
marijuana *US*, 1883
> When the bang of the hemp wears off, cocaine is the only thing that can take its place. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, *Washington Confidential* 1951

**hen** noun
in a deck of playing cards, a queen *US*, 1988

**henry** noun
an eighth of an ounce (three and a half grams) of a drug, especially marijuana or cocaine *UK*, 1998
Cutting *Henry the Eighth* down to size.
> A mate bells me to borrow money. I got two henries and a dealer to pay. — The Streets (Mike Skinner), *It’s Too Late* 2002

**Henry** noun
heroin *US*, 1953
From ‘heroin’ to H to Henry.
> All that good Henry and Charley. When you shoot Henry and Charley, you can smell it going in. — William Burroughs, *Junkie* 1953

**Henry the Eighth** noun
eight grams of cocaine *US*, 1993
> — Peter Johnson, *Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms* 1993

**Henry the Fourth** noun
four grams of cocaine *US*, 1993
> — Peter Johnson, *Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms* 1993

**herb** noun
marijuana *US*, 1962
> A pocket full of money and head full of herb / A Cadillac coupe parked at the curb. — Dennis Wepman et al., *The Life* 1976

**herbal ecstasy** noun
a substance that is not restricted by drug control legislation and is claimed to be a natural substitute for MDMA *UK*, 2004
> Herbal ecstasy has been sold freely at raves, clubs, concerts, and festivals. — Harry Shapiro, *Recreational Drugs* 2004

**herbals** noun
marijuana *US*, 1995
> — Lois Stavsky et al., *A2Z* 1995

**Herb and Al; Herbie and Al** noun
marijuana and alcohol *US*, 1981
> — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**herbs** noun
marijuana *UK*, 2000
> Yeah, man. No problem. I'll have the herbs. — Ken Lukowiak, *Marijuana Time* 2000

**herbsman** noun
a marijuana smoker *JAMAICA*, 1970
> A herbsman is a righteous mon who enjoys the sweetness of the earth and the fullness thereof. Him just smoke herb like the bible say, and commit no crime. — Jabberrock [quoting Bob Marley, 1975] 1997

**High** noun
Miller High Life™ beer *US*, 1967
> — American Speech February, 1967: ‘Soda-fountain, restaurant and tavern calls’

**high** adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated *UK*, 1627
> [He] seldom touched anything stronger than brown ale. I've only known him get high twice. — Charles Raven, *Underworld Nights* 1956

**high beams** noun
the wide open eyes of a person under the influence of crack cocaine *US*, 1994
> — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994

**high hat** noun
opium *US*, 1896
From an earlier sense (a large opium pill).

**high noon** noun
in craps, a roll of twelve *US*, 1982

**high wine** noun
a mixture of alcohol and flavoured water *CANADA*, 1957

**hillbilly craps** noun

craps played on the sidewalk or otherwise as a private game *US*, 1950


**hillbilly heroin** noun

the synthetic opiate oxycodone used recreationally *US*, 2001

When dissolved in water and injected, or crushed and inhaled, it has a similar effect to heroin. The drug's popularity in the rural Appalachian Mountains region led to the ‘hillbilly’ reference. It came to the forefront of the American national conscious in late 2003 when radio entertainer Rush Limbaugh was reported to be addicted to OxyContin™.

• In one missive, Limbaugh pushed Cline to get more “little blues” – code for OxyContin, the powerful narcotic nicknamed hillbilly heroin, she said. — *(New York) Daily News* 2nd October 2003

**Hinckley; Hinkley** noun

*phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust* *US*, 1984

• This summer, one brand of PCP is available as “Hinckley” (referring to John W. Hinckley Jr., who shot President Reagan) or “the Keys to St. E’s” – both references to the “craziness” induced by the drug. — *Washington Post* 29th July 1984

**hippie-flipping** noun

using an inorganic drug immediately after an organic drug, especially ecstasy after psilocybin mushrooms *US*, 1997

• I have no experience with the other drug combos you mention. Hippie flipping (MDMA + shrooms) is the most ecstatic thing that I have ever experienced. — *alt.drugs.mushrooms* 4th April 2000

**hit** noun

1 a single inhalation of marijuana, hashish, crack cocaine, solvent fumes or any drug’s smoke *US*, 1952

• If somebody hands you a joint and you don’t take a hit off of it, it’s like sticking out your hand and not having someone shake it. — Leonard Wolfe (Editor), *Voices from the Love Generation* 1968

2 a dose of a drug *US*, 1952

• The only concern she had at the moment was whether or not she could get a hit. — Donald Goines, *Dopefiend* 1971

3 an intravenous injection of a drug, usually heroin *UK*, 1996

• I’d just got back from London with an ounce of gear [heroin] in my pocket, so I was dying for a hit. — Lanre Fehintola, *Charlie Says...* 2000

4 in the eastern US in the early 1990s, prescription medication with codeine *US*, 1993

• JAY: I got hits, hash, weed, and later on I’ll have ‘shrooms. We take cash or stolen MasterCard and Visa. — *Clerks* 1994

5 a winning bet in an illegal lottery *UK*, 1818

• Them’s my last two dollars, Francie, so you bring me back a hit tonight, you hear? — Louise Meriwether, *Daddy Was a Number Runner* 1970

**hit** verb

1 to guess correctly the day’s number in an illegal lottery *US*, 1947

• Here I been playing for years and the first drop of the bucket you hits for that kinda money. — Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* 1947

▶ **hit the hop**

2 to use drugs, especially heroin or opium *US*, 1963

• Maybe you’ve taken a couple of raps for hitting the hop over there[.]


▶ **hit the pipe**

3 to smoke crack cocaine *US*, 1992

• People against drugs say it all starts with beer. ADDICT: “Ahh, man. I’m hitting the pipe. Can’t fuck with that beer no more.” — Chris Rock, *Rock This!* 1997

**hit and run** verb

in poker, to play for a short time, win heavily and quit the game *US*, 1982

• — David M. Hayano, *Poker Faces* 1982

**hit kiss** noun

the exchange of crack cocaine smoke from one user to another through a kiss *US*, 1989
• Another example is the “hit kiss” ritual: after inhaling deeply, basers literally “kiss” – put their lips together and exhale the smoke into each other’s mouths. — Terry Williams, The Cocaine Kids 1989

hit or sit verb
used for describing a player’s two choices in blackjack or twenty-one: draw another card or not US, 1962
• Who’s got five bucks they want to lose? You hit or you sit[.] — Ken Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest 1962

hits noun
a pair of dice that have been altered so that they will not roll a total of seven US, 1962
• — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

hit up verb
to inject a drug intravenously US, 1969
• We’ll go out later, soon as you’ve hit me up. Oh yes, that is fucking fantasti... — Ben Elton, High Society 2002

hobo bet noun
in craps, a bet on the number twelve US, 1985
From the number’s association with boxcars.
• — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

hocus pocus; hocus noun
cocaine, heroine, morphine or opium; also marijuana UK, 1938
Best remembered as a stage magician’s incantation.
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

hogs hog noun
1 a drug addict who requires large doses to sustain his habit US, 1952
• — American Speech February, 1952: ‘Teen-age hophead jargon’
2 phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1971
• — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

hogs leg; hog leg noun
a large marijuana cigarette US, 1997
• — Jim Emerson-Cobb, Scratching the Dragon April, 1997

hold verb
to be in possession of drugs US, 1935
• I’m afraid to go to my pad, ’cause I think some of these cats in here know what I’m holding. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against 1967

holy city noun
in poker, a high-value hand US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

Holyfield noun
fine-quality marijuana UK, 2000
A neat pun using the name of three-time world heavyweight champion boxer Evander ‘Real Deal’ Holyfield (b.1962).
• [H]e’d sold some nastiness [inferior drugs] instead of the Holyfield[.]
— Diran Adebayo, My Once Upon a Time 2000

holy oil noun
an oil applied to the skin or clothing in the belief that it will bring the better luck in an illegal number gambling lottery, US, 1949
• — American Speech October, 1949

home noun
the vein into which an intravenous drug user injects a drug US, 1973
• — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

homegrown noun
marijuana, cultivated locally US, 1974
• [S]moking my way through a biscuit tin of wicked home grown. — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000

homers noun
home-brewed beer AUSTRALIA, 1970
A gift to the slang of the South Pole from its Australian visitors.
• — Bernadette Hince, The Antarctic Dictionary 2000

homicide noun
heroin or cocaine mixed with prescription drugs, such as scopolamine or strychnine UK, 1998
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

honeymoon noun
the first few hands played by a new player in a poker game US, 1996
• — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

honk verb
to inhale drugs, originally through the nose US, 1968
- The slight scratching-sounds of bankers writing checks and cocaine honked through ivory straws on yachts.
  — Ed Sanders, Tales of Beatnik Glory 1975

**hooch; hootch** noun

**alcohol** US, 1915
- He's got himself all jammed up with some floozy and a bottle of hooch.
  — Raymond Chandler, Little Sister 1949

**hoof up** verb

to sniff up, to inhale through the nose, to snort UK, 2002
- The majority of their evening will have been spent hoofing up coke in the bogs.[.] — Ministry January, 2002

**hook** noun

in pointspreads established by bookmakers in sports betting, half a point US, 1991
- — Bay Sports Review November, 1991

**hook** verb

to addict US, 1922
- I knew that the first shot could not hook you physically. — Jeremy Larner and Ralph Tefferteller, The Addict in the Street 1964

**hooked** adjective

addicted to drugs US, 1922
- GEORGE: Oh, no, no, no, no. I – I – I couldn’t do that. I mean, I’ve got enough problems with the – the booze and all. I mean I – I can’t afford to get hooked. WYATT: Oh, no – you won’t get hooked. — Easy Rider 1969

**hoptoads** noun

any dice altered for cheating US, 1950
- — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

**horn** noun

a pipe used to smoke crack cocaine US, 1994
- — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

**horrors** noun

sickness associated with withdrawal from alcohol or drug addiction US, 1839
- I’m not staying, Sticks. I got the horrors. — George Mandel, Flee the Angry Strangers 1952

**horse** noun

heroin US, 1950
- Ain’t nothing a greater blast than “horse.” It’s your privilege to wake up slow if you want. “Horse” is what puts the ice in a pimp’s game. — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Pimp 1969

**hooovering sesh** noun

a period of time spent inhaling cocaine UK, 2006
- The price of coke is falling – prompting a hooovering sesh that’s bigger than ever. — Mixmag February, 2006

**hop** noun

a narcotic – opium, morphine or heroin US, 1886
- I wasn’t high on the hop; I was high on withdrawal tone-up. — William Burroughs, Junkie 1953

**hophead** noun

1 an opium addict, or, less precisely and more commonly, a user of marijuana or other drug US, 1901
- — Dan Parker, The ABC of Horse Racing 1947

2 in horse racing, a horse that performs well only when under the influence of a stimulant US, 1918
- My friend F. used to say in his hopped up fashion: We’ve got to learn to stop bravely at the surface. — Leonard Cohen, Beautiful Losers 1966

**hopped; hopped up** adjective

under the influence of drugs US, 1918
- — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950
horsed adjective
heroin-intoxicated UK, 1962
  • [A] negro called Mr. Jaggers comes on really horsed and steps into a routine with a few cartwheels[.] — Derek Raymond (Robin Cook), *The Crust on Its Uppers* 1962

horses noun
dice that have been altered for cheating by omitting key losing combinations US, 1964
  • — Dr. R. Frederick West, *God’s Gambler* 1964: ‘Appendix A’

hosed adjective
drunk US, 1987
  • The parents aren’t home, and the boy hosting is as “hosed” as his guests. The teens are chugging cheap beer, coolers, and vodka – drinking to get crazy, crawling drunk. — *Toronto Globe and Mail* 22nd June 2002

hoss noun
heroin US, 1960
In colloquial US speech, ‘hoss’ is a shortened form of *horse* (heroin).
  • She went back in her purse and wrapped her fingers about her hoss. — Clarence Cooper Jr, *The Scene* 1960

hot and cold noun
heroin and cocaine combined for injection US, 1970
Based on the initials.
  • — William D. Alsever, *Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People* December, 1970

hot box noun
a small room or enclosed space where marijuana is being smoked US, 2001
  • — Pamela Munro, *U.C.L.A. Slang* 2001

hot cakes noun
crack cocaine UK, 1998
  • — Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

hot dope noun
heroin UK, 1998
  • — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

hotels noun
in bar dice games, a roll from the cup in which some dice are stacked on top of others, invalidating the roll US, 1976
  • — Gil Jacobs, *The World’s Best Dice Games* 1976

how’s-your-father noun
cocaine UK, 2000
  • I gotta nice bitta how’s-your-father. Come over and meet me there. — J.J. Connolly, *Layer Cake* 2000

HRN noun
heroin US, 1959
  • — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

hubba noun
crack cocaine US, 1988
  • — Geoffrey Froner, *Digging for Diamonds* 1989

huevos noun
a variety of Morrocan hashish SPAIN, 2003
From Spanish for ‘eggs’, named for its shape and texture.
  • Like virtually all the hashish in Spain, huevos comes from the Rif mountains. — Nick Jones, *Spliffs* 2003

huff verb
to inhale household or industrial chemicals for recreational purposes US, 1969
  • Others commonly amuse themselves by inhaling assorted materials such as glue, gasoline and Lysol. Here they call it “huffing.” — *Los Angeles Times* 15th June 1986

huffer noun
a person who inhales household or industrial chemicals for recreational purposes US, 1969
  • The brothers were among seven young men who repeatedly “huffed” or inhaled lacquer thinner to get a brief “high” as part of a small group of huffers in the Tampa Area. — *San Francisco Examiner* 19th November 1974

hug verb
  ➤ hug the bowl
to vomit US, 1997
  • — Pamela Munro, *U.C.L.A. Slang* 1997

hug drug noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
From the affectionate feelings roused by the drug.
huggie noun
a styrofoam or plastic cylinder that slips over a beer can, serving as insulation US, 2000
  • — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Fall, 2000

hump verb
  ► hump it
in poker, to raise the maximum bet allowed US, 1988
  • — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

humpty dumpty noun
an extreme reaction to MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
A probable reference to the fate of the nursery rhyme character.
  • I had what is termed a “Humpty Dumpty”. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

hunt verb
  ► hunt rabbits
in a game of poker, to go through the cards that were not played after a hand is finished in search of what might have been US, 1951
  • — American Speech May, 1951: ‘The vocabulary of poker’

hurt verb
to crave a drug UK, 1996
  • — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

hustler noun
a person who makes his living by playing pool for wagers, feigning a skill level below his true level to secure bets US, 1967
  • The poolroom hustler makes his living by betting against his opponents in different types of pool or billiard games, and as part of the playing and betting process he engages in various deceitful practices. — Ned Polsky, Hustlers, Beats, and Others 1967

hustling noun
the practice of dealing drugs UK, 2000
  • He told me once that this was the first hustling he’d been involved in where he didn’t feel the need to rip off something for himself. — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000

hydro noun
marijuana which is grown hydroponically US, 1996
  • Barbarella never smoked, insisting that grass, hash and hydro had no effect on her. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

hydroponic noun
marijuana that is cultivated hydroponically US, 1989
  • Two weeks ago when I was writin’ this rhyme / I had some hydroponic, Boy that shit was fine[.] — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

hyke noun
hydrocodone, a synthetic codeine US, 1970
  • — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

hype noun
1 a hypodermic needle US, 1910
  • They pulled out two spikes, laid out two hypes / And rolled some one-dollar-bill gees. — Dennis Wepman et al., The Life 1976

2 a needle-using drug addict US, 1924
  • He’s a hype but he is very down with the current scene. — Eldridge Cleaver, Soul on Ice ‘(letter dated 19th September, 1965) 1968

hypo noun
1 a hypodermic syringe US, 1905
  • You dissolve all the tablets – five grains – and fill the barrel of the hypo. — Philip Wylie, Opus 21 1949

2 a needle-using drug addict US, 1904
  • If some hypo finds out that another hypo is a stool pigeon they give him what is called a hot shot. — Willard Motley, Let No Man Write My Epitaph 1958
ice noun
smokable amphetamine or methamphetamine US, 1989
• Sort of a cross between smack, E and ice. You’ve got to smoke it in a little pipe. — Will Self, The Sweet Smell of Psychosis 1996

ice cream habit noun
the irregular consumption of drugs by an occasional user US, 1970
‘Ice-cream eater’ and ‘ice-creamer’ are obsolete slang terms for an irregular user of opium, an earlier application based on the notion that ice cream is an occasional pleasure and not an everyday diet.
• — Richard Horman and Allan Fox, Drug Awareness 1970

iceman noun
in horse racing, a jockey who rides without using the whip or vigorous kicks AUSTRALIA, 1989

idiot juice noun
any alcoholic beverage brewed in prison, especially a nutmeg/water mixture US, 1974
• — William K. Bentley and James M. Corbett, Prison Slang 1992

idiot pill noun
a barbiturate or central nervous system depressant US, 1953
• — Donald Wesson and David Smith, Barbiturates 1977

if cash noun
in gambling, a type of conditional bet: an instruction to re-invest all or part of a winning return on another bet UK, 2001
• — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

if-lose; if-win noun
in gambling, a type of conditional bet: a bet is required only if the prior selection loses/wins or is a non-runner UK, 2001
• — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

ignorant end noun
in poker, the low card in a five-card sequence US, 1990
• — Anthony Holden, Big Deal 1990

ignorant oil noun
alcohol, especially cheap and potent alcohol US, 1954
• That’s pennant fever for you. And ignorant oil. — Bill Cardoso, The Maltese Sangweech 1984

illy noun
a cigarette infused with embalming fluid US, 2001
• American buzz chasers are buying cigarettes dipped in embalming fluid in their search for a new high. The “wets” or “illys” are $20 (£13) and are said to induce a feeling of invincibility.
— Mixmag December, 2001

in betweens noun
amphetamine tablets; depressant tablets; a mixture of amphetamines and barbiturates US, 1975
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

incense noun
amyl nitrite or butyl nitrite US, 1980
• — Maledicta Winter, 1980: “Lovely, blooming, fresh and gay”: the onomastics of camp’

Indian hay noun
marijuana US, 1936
• — Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

Indian hemp noun
marijuana US, 1986
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

Indo noun
marijuana cultivated in Indonesia US, 1993
• Rollin down the street, smokin indo, sippin’ on gin and juice[]. — Snoop Doggy Dogg, Gin and Juice 1993

inside work noun
any internal alteration of dice for cheating US, 1963
• — John S. Salak, Dictionary of Gambling 1963

Irish pop noun
a shot of whisky and glass of beer US, 1982
• — Bill Reilly, Big Al’s Official Guide to Chicagoese 1982

Irish waterfall noun
a manner of cigarette smoking in which smoke is drawn into the mouth and then
allowed to drift out and upwards for inhalation through the nose UK, 2003

iron cure noun
the sudden and complete deprivation of a drug to an addict in jail who suffers intensely US, 1973
- David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973


ivory soap noun
in dominoes, the double blank piece US, 1959

TRANQUILLISERS

A train noun, US, 1975
any central nervous system depressant
- Only thing i know is that you been fucking with them A trains, again. — Miguel Pinero, Short Eyes 1975

big red noun, US, 2001
secobarbitol, a sedative-hypnotic drug marketed under the brand name Seconal™
- He'd also legally scored far more interesting dope called secobarbital and sold as "Big Reds". These actually produced a slice of long-lasting silent giggles. — Howard Marks, The Howard Marks Book of Dope Stories 2001

calmer noun, UK, 1999
a barbiturate or other central nervous system depressant
- Fuck it. I got a few calmers off Jimmy and steadied down. — Jeremy Cameron, Brown Bread in Wengen 1999

diazzzy noun, UK, 2001
a diazepam tablet

egg; green egg; wobbly egg noun, UK, 1996
a capsule of branded tranquiliser Temazepam™
- Temazepam are called "green or yellow eggs", "jellies" and "jelly babies"[]. — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

jelly noun, UK, 1996
a capsule of Temazepam™, a branded tranquiliser; any central nervous system depressant; in the plural it refers to the drug in general
A term embraced by US youth after seeing the film Trainspotting.
- I can do a trip [on LSD] or some jellies and it’s just a quick trip to Disneyland y’know? — Shaun Ryder, Shaun Ryder... in His Own Words 1997

mandy noun, UK, 1970
a tablet of Mandrax™, a branded tranquilliser
- Another thing with Sandy / What often came in handy / was passing her a Mandy / she didn't half go bandy — Ian Dury, Billericay Dickie 1977

nebbie; neb noun, US, 1963
Nembutal™, a branded central nervous system depressant
- Not even a nebbie. He could have given me one at least. — Hubert Selby Jr, Last Exit to Brooklyn 1957

sleeper noun, US, 1961
a barbiturate capsule; a sleeping tablet
- Even though the sleeper had only done half its job, Leo was still groggy. — Emmett Grogan, Final Score 1976

yellow jacket noun, US, 1952
a barbiturate or other central nervous system depressant, especially Nembutal™
- Movie broads gobbled up yellow jackets like they were jelly beans[,] — Malcolm Braly, On the Yard 1967

ivories noun
dice US, 1962
- Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

ivory flake noun
cocaine US, 1983

- Dominic Armanino, Dominoes 1959

IZM; ism; izm noun
marijuana US, 1992
- Spread the ism around until the ism reach each end[,] — Redman How to Roll a Blunt 1992
J noun

a marijuana cigarette US, 1967

‘J’ is for joint.

- And a fat ass J, of some bubonic chronic that made me choke. — Snoop Doggy Dogg, *Gin and Juice* 1993

jack noun

a homemade alcoholic beverage, usually applejack or raisinjack US, 1894

- Since that time they had been into a jug of Jack together a few times. — Odie Hawkins, *The Busting Out of an Ordinary Man* 1985

Jack; Jack’s nickname

Jack Daniels™ whisky US, 1972

- Pull me down a bottle of Jack. I’m gettin’ tanked tonight. — Quentin Tarantino, *From Dusk Till Dawn* 1995

Jack and Jill; Jack-and-Jill; jack noun

a pill UK, 1992

Rhyming slang.


jack benny noun

in hold ‘em poker, a three and a nine as the first two cards dealt to a player US, 1981

Comedian Benny perpetually claimed that he was 39 years old.


jacked up; jacked adjective

drunk, drug-intoxicated, exhilarated US, 1935

- Yeah we’ll show her what it’s all about / We’ll get her jacked up on some cheap champagne[] — Scissor Sisters, *Take Your Mama* 2004

Jack-in-the-black noun

black-labelled Jack Daniels™ whisky US, 1990


jackleg noun

a gambler who cheats US, 1949

- — Vincent J. Monteleone, *Criminal Slang* 1949

jack-up noun

an injection of drugs UK, 1996

From the verb.


jack up verb

to inject drugs US, 1975

- A sensitive and gentle guy. If he could not get junk he would jack up aspirin, he even jacked up in the fingers which had once made music. — Paul E. Willis, *Profane Culture* 1978

jag noun

1 a drinking or drug binge US, 1892

- It was past midnight, and Frank was coming out of the marijuana jag and feeling lousy. — Irving Shulman, *The Amboy Dukes* 1947

2 a state of alcohol or drug intoxication UK, 1678

- [T]aken two or three at one time with coffee, they gave a wonderful jag. The capsules were blue so we called them blue boys. After we got jagged we found no one would know what we were talking about when we said blue boys. — Chester Himes, *Cast the First Stone* 1952

3 an act of solvent abuse UK, 1963

- The child becomes dependent on a regular “jag”. — *New Society* 20th June 1963

jag off verb

to manipulate the injection of a drug such that the drug enters the blood stream slowly US, 1958

- Extra Black Johnson, like so many of them, likes to jag off. — Willard Motley, *Let No Man Write My Epitaph* 1958

jag up verb

to inject drugs UK: SCOTLAND, 1996

In Glasgow slang, presumably a variation of JACK UP.

- — Michael Munro, *The Complete Patter* 1996

jail bag noun

heroin and crack cocaine UK, 2006

- Everyday [in Strangeways] I got offered heroin and crack. Kids call it a jail bag; it takes the walls down. — *Uncut* June, 2006
Jake noun
1 methylated spirits as an alcoholic drink  
UK, 1932
- Jake is meths, in the language of the Row. — Geoffrey Fletcher, *Down Among the Meths Men* 1966
2 a vagrant alcoholic addicted to methylated spirits  
UK, 1966
- I came up with a Jake in Charing Cross, and gave him five bob to go and get a meal. — Geoffrey Fletcher, *Down Among the Meths Men* 1966

Jaked adjective
drunk  
UK: SCOTLAND, 1988
- This is the most jaked I’ve felt in years[,] — Ian Pattison, *Rab C. Nesbitt* 1988

Jakey noun
1 Jamaica ginger, a fruit flavoured alcoholic drink  
CANADA, 1999
- “Jakey,” or Jamaica ginger, fruit-flavoured and alcoholic, is intended for food preparation but consumed as a crude cocktail along the South Shore. — Lewis Poteet, *The South Shore Phrase Book* 1999
2 a person who drinks methylated spirits  
UK, 2001
- Her hand’s tremblin like a jakey’s reachin for his first pint of the day. — Niall Griffiths, *Kelly + Victor* 2002

Jakey adjective
alcoholic  
UK, 2002
- [] Jakey lowlife bludgeons fellow jakey lowlife after three-day drinking binge. — Christopher Brookmyre, *The Sacred Art of Stealing* 2002

Jam Cecil noun
1 cocaine  
US, 1975
- — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986
2 amphetamines  
UK, 1977
- — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

Jaws noun
in dominoes, the 6–6 piece  
US, 1959
- — Dominic Armanino, *Dominoes* 1959

Jazz noun
heroin  
CANADA, 1986
- — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

Jazz cigarette noun
a marijuana cigarette  
UK, 2001
- The “Jazz cigarette” prevails on the very scene after which it’s named[,] — *Drugs: An Adult Guide* December, 2001

Jeegee; jee gee noun
heroin  
US, 1971
- Possibly plays on ‘gee gee’ (a horse) and horse (heroin).
- — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

Jelly noun
1 a capsule of Temazepam™, a branded tranquilliser; any central nervous system depressant; in the plural it refers to the drug in general  
UK, 1996
- A term embraced by US youth after seeing the film *Trainspotting*.
- I can do a trip [on LSD] or some jellies and it’s just a quick trip to Disneyland y’know? — Shaun Ryder, *Shaun Ryder... in His Own Words* 1997
2 cocaine  
UK, 1998
- — Nick Constable, *This is Cocaine* 2002

Jelly baby noun
a tablet of Temazepam™, a branded tranquilliser  
UK, 1998
- Temazepam are called “green or yellow eggs”, “jellies” and “jelly babies”, “rugby balls” or “temazzies”. — James Kay and Julian Cohen, *The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs* 1998

Jellyhead noun
a habitual user of crack cocaine  
UK, 1999

Jenny barn noun
the ward for women in a narcotic treatment hospital  
US, 1955
- — *American Speech* May, 1955: ‘Narcotic argot along the Mexican border’

Jersey lightning noun
inexpensive, inferior whisky  
US, 1848
- — Vincent J. Monteleone, *Criminal Slang* 1949

Jesse James noun
1 in craps, a nine rolled with a four and a five  
US, 1985
- Jesse James was shot with a 45 calibre handgun.
- — Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985
2 in hold 'em poker, a four and a five as
the first two cards dealt to a player US, 1981
  — Thomas L. Clark, _The Dictionary of
Gambiling and Gaming_ 1987

Jesus and his brothers noun
J & B™ whisky SOUTH AFRICA, 2005
Scamto youth street slang (South African
townships).
  • Fancy some Jesus and his brothers[?] — Rebecca Harrison, _Reuters_ 8th
February 2005

Jesus juice noun
white wine US, 2004
Allegedly coined by singer Michael Jackson.
It was also claimed, in a _Vanity Fair_ article,
that Jackson called red wine 'Jesus blood'.
Within months the term was widespread.
  • Michael Jackson plied young boys with
wine he called “Jesus Juice”, a former
business adviser claimed this week.
— _Sunday Times_ (South Africa)
1st February 2004

1 a mixture of grape juice and gin US, 1981
  • [H]er comrades learned they could drop
in, sit on the floor, exchange ideas, and
sometimes drink beer or “Jesus juice,”
their own concoction of grape juice and
gin. — Emily Toth, _Inside Peyton Place_
1981

jet fuel noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known
as PCP or angel dust US, 1994
  • — US Department of Justice, _Street
Terms_ October, 1994

Jewish deal noun
dealing cards left-handed US, 1949
  • “Look at the Jewish deal,” Louie
marveled, for the punk dealt left-
headed. — Nelson Algren, _The Man
with the Golden Arm_ 1949

jiggy swiggy noun
the current drink of popular choice UK, 2000
‘Jiggy’ (fashionable), plus a play on ‘swig’
(to drink).
  • [I]t's the jiggy swiggy at garage clubs[.]
— _Sky Magazine_ May, 2001

Jim Jones noun
marijuana adulterated with cocaine and
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known
as PCP or angel dust UK, 1998
Named for James (Jim) Warren Jones,
1931–1978, self-proclaimed messiah of the
People’s Temple. On 18th November 1978,
Jones commanded cultists to drink a punch
adulterated with cyanide; their mass suicide
(‘the Jonestown Massacre’) took 913 lives.
This marijuana cocktail is a metaphor for
that poisoned dream.
  • — Mike Haskins, _Drugs_ 2003

Jimmy Boyle; jimmy noun
foil (used in the preparation of heroin) UK, 1996
Rhyming slang, based on the name of Jimmy
Boyle (b.1944), a convicted murderer turned
sculptor and novelist.
  • [P]ipes made from water bottles, burnt
Jimmy Boyle, lemons, squeezed, hairy
and grey[.] — J.J. Connolly, _Layer Cake_
2000

Jimmy Hicks; Jimmy Hix noun
in craps, a roll of six US, 1919
From the rhyme.
  • — _The Annals of the American Academy
of Political and Social Sciences_ May,
1950

jimmy jar noun
a demijohn, or container of alcohol
CANADA, 1977
  • We samples the jimmie-jar [of rum] and
the sampling steadied our nerves.
— W.J. Bursely, _Undaunted Pioneer_ 1977

jive noun
1 marijuana or a marijuana cigarette US, 1963
  • I mean, the main studs could have
called a conference and set down and
worked the whole thing out over a few
sticks of this mellow jive. — Ross
Russell, _The Sound_ 1961

2 heroin or, less often, opium US, 1946
  • Boy, leave me tell you one thing, if you
knew like we know, you’d leave this
jive alone[.] — Mezz Mezzrow, _Really
the Blues_ 1946

jive stick noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1945
  • — _American Speech_ May, 1955:
‘Narcotic argot along the Mexican
border’

Joe noun
Schlitz™ beer US, 1979
From the full name, the Joseph Schlitz
Brewing Company.
  • — Connie Eble (Editor), _UNC-CH
Campus Slang_ March, 1979
Joe Chink noun
a heroin addiction US, 1973
A further personification of the older CHINAMAN (a heroin addiction).
- And Stoney, believe me, I’m gonna git Joe Chink off my back. — A.S. Jackson, Gentleman Pimp 1973

Johnny Black nickname
Johnny Walker™ Black Label whisky US, 1990
- Buster was trying to look jaunty but his hands were shaking. “Gimme a Johnny Blc,” he said. “Neat.” — Joseph Wambaugh, The Golden Orange 1990

Johnson noun
1 a marijuana cigarette UK, 2002
- Gimme a toke on that Johnson, man. — Nick Brownlee, This is Cannabis 2002
2 crack cocaine UK, 1998
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

Joint noun
1 a marijuana cigarette. US, 1942
For 50 years, the top of the slang pile, easily deposing its predecessors and fending off challengers.
- Enrique rolled enormous Indian joints, laughed at my American sticks I rolled. — Jack Kerouac, Letter to Allen Ginsberg 10th May 1952
2 a syringe US, 1953
- She hit the joint [hypodermic syringe] and knocked it out of the vein and by the time she got herself in, I’m already into a thing. — Bruce Jackson, In the Life 1972
3 in horse racing, a battery-powered device used illegally by a jockey to shock a horse during a race US, 1951
- Frank Wolverton of Santa Rosa, Cal., “a track follower,” today was suspended by the Lone Oak Racing Track Board of Stewards for manufacturing electrical “coaxers” allegedly used to stimulate horses in two races. The gimmick is a “joint,” or an electric battery held in the palm of the jockey’s hand. — San Francisco News 7th September 1951

jolly noun
in horse race betting, the favourite UK, 1991
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Jolly Juice noun
alcoholic drink UK, 2001
- [O]ut to drown themselves in one huge, gut-bloating cascade of fermented jolly juice. — Garry Bushell, The Face 2001

jolt noun
1 a strong and bracing alcoholic drink US, 1904
- The Juicehead Kid was a’ takin’ a jolt. — William ‘Lord’ Buckley, The Ballad of Dan McGroo 1960
2 an injection or dose of a drug US, 1907

jolt verb
to inject a drug US, 1953
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

Jonah noun
a superstitious gambler; a gambler perceived by other gamblers to bring bad luck US, 1849
- — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

Jones noun
1 an addiction US, 1962
- Carmen explained she had a jones and since she spoke Spanish, could cop all the stuff Ralph needed very easily. — Babs Gonzales, I Paid My Dues 1967
2 heroin US, 1970
- Then I heard a knock on the door so I placed a New York News over the Jones and got up to answer the door. — A.S. Jackson, Gentleman Pimp 1973

Jones man noun
a heroin dealer US, 1972
- “Everybody wanta be the Jones man,” he said. — Vernon E. Smith, The Jones Men 1974

Joog noun
in Newfoundland, especially of alcohol, a small amount, a drop CANADA, 1968
- When he put the bottle back on the table, there wasn’t a joog in it. — Virginia Dillon, Anglo-Irish Element in Speech of Southwest Coast of Newfoundland 1968

Joy bang; jolly noun
an injection of a narcotic, especially heroin, without succumbing to the drug’s addictive nature US, 1953
- Nick also scored for some respectable working people in the Village who
indulged in an occasional “joy bang.”
— William Burroughs, Junkie 1953

joy flakes noun
a powdered drug, especially cocaine or heroin US, 1942
— Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

joy girl noun
in a deck of playing cards, any queen US, 1973
— Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

joy juice noun
any alcoholic beverage, especially whisky US, 1907
— Babs Gonzales, Movin’ On Down De Line 1975

joy pop noun
an injection of a drug into the skin, not a vein US, 1922
— Herbert Huncke, The Evening Sun Turned Crimson 1980

joy powder noun
any powdered drug, especially cocaine, heroin or morphine US, 1922
— Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

joystick noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1962
— Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

J-smoke noun
a marijuana cigarette; marijuana US, 1969
— Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

juice noun
1 methadone, used to break an opiate addiction US, 1981
In many US clinics, the methadone given to recovering heroin addicts is mixed in orange juice so that it cannot be injected.
— Seth Morgan, Homeboy 1990

2 interest paid to a loan shark US, 1935
— A hundred a week juice for as long as the loan is out. — Vincent Patrick, The Pope of Greenwich Village 1979

3 in sports betting, the bookmaker’s commission US, 1975
— All you are betting is the “juice,” the one point to win twenty. — Jimmy Snyder, Jimmy the Greek 1975

juiced; juiced up adjective
drunk US, 1941
— One stud got juiced and played the flunky, to a very surprised old Brazilian monkey. — Dan Burley, Diggeth Thou? 1959

juices noun
in poker, a pair of twos US, 1951
Probably a corruption of ‘Deuce(s)’.
— American Speech May, 1951

jumper noun
a small amount of stimulating liquor CANADA, 1988
— Not a jumper did we take, / Through the d. / No sir not a single cup, / To conjure the monster up, / Not addicted to the cup / In that way. From a poem by Oscar Dhu, Scotstown, Quebec.
— Donald Morrison, Gold Prospecting and Panning 1988

jump juice noun
anabolic steroids US, 1997
— He alternated between four-hundred-pound dead-lifts, shots of jump-juice, and the great Italian cuisine.
— Stephen Cannell, Big Con 1997

jump-steady noun
1 strong, illegally manufactured whisky US, 1923
— It is called corn liquor, white lightning, sugar whiskey, skully cracker, pops kul, bush whiskey, stump, stump hole, ‘splo, ruckus juice, radiator whiskey, rotgut, sugar head, block and tackle, wildcat, panther's breath, tiger's sweat, Sweet spirts of cats a-fighting, alley bourybon, city gin, cool water, happy Sally, deep shaft, jump steady, old horsey, stingo, bluye John, red eye, pine top, buckeye bark whiskey and see seven stars.
— Star Tribune (Minneapolis) 31st January 1999
2 a drink of gin US, 1950
   • Nine or ten jump-steadies and a couple of muggles and up goes your gage.
     — Hyman E. Goldin et al., Dictionary of American Underworld Lingo 1950

jungle juice noun
1 alcoholic drink AUSTRALIA, 1942
   • He was... chain-smoking and sipping a tumbler of the cheapest Empire port, the kind that is known as Jungle Juice.
     — Charles Raven, Underworld Nights 1956

2 any improvised alcoholic beverage US, 1947
   • — American Speech February, 1947: ‘Pacific war language’

junk noun
heroin; morphine; cocaine US, 1918
   • Gribbs got twenty years just because he said hello to some fuck who was sneaking around selling junk behind his back. — Goodfellas 1990

junker noun
a heroin addict US, 1922
   • In one small town while we were making a check I found a junker and had him arraigned before a county judge for commitment to take a cure.
     — William J. Spillard and Pence James, Needle in a Haystack 1945

junkie noun
a drug addict, specifically one addicted to heroin US, 1922
   • There were wild Negro queers, sullen guys with guns, shiv-packing seamen, thin, non-committal junkies, and an occasional well-dressed middle-aged detective[.] — Jack Kerouac, On the Road 1957
Kk

K noun
1 a kilogram, especially of an illegal drug US, 1974
- I know people who wanta get rid of some Ks, you dig? — Vernon E. Smith, The Jones Men 1974
2 the recreational drug ketamine US, 1996
Ketamine hydrochloride is an anaesthetic used recreationally for its hallucinogenic properties.
- It is widely known that drugs like cocaine, the amphetamine derivative Ecstasy, and ketamine, an anesthetic often called “K,” have become an integral part of the Morning Party...
3 leaves of catha edulis, a stimulant also called ‘qat’ UK, 1996
Originates in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian peninsula, legally available in the UK and similar to amphetamine in effect when chewed. Also known as ‘khat’ and ‘kat’.
- — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

K2 noun
a hybrid-marijuana UK, 2003
Named after the second highest place on earth.
- — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003

Kabayo noun
heroin US, 1977
A phonetic approximation of Spanish caballo (horse); HORSE (heroin).
- — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

Kali; kali weed noun
marijuana from Jamaica JAMAICA, 1982
Rastafarians consider the smoking of ‘kali’ to be a religious act. This spirituality is apparent in a number of Hindi words adopted into their lexicon. Conventionally, Kali is the Hindu goddess of time, mother and creator of all things, the personification of cosmic force.
- Small well run farms produce the finest Jamaican Kali Weed — Mike Rock, This Book 1999

Karo noun
a mixture of codeine-infused cough syrup and soda US, 2000
- In Houston, Elwood said, it has a variety of nicknames — Lean, AC/DC, barr, down, Karo and nods. “Lean because after you take it you will be definitely leaning and losing your coordination,” Elwood said. — The Commercial Appeal (Memphis) 9th July 2000

Kashmir noun
pungent and very powerful hashish originating in Kashmir, northern India UK, 1999
- Kashmir comes in two forms[...
— Mike Rock, This Book 1999

Kate Bush noun
marijuana UK, 1996
Named after British singer Kate Bush (b.1958), disguising KB (KIND BUD) and gently punning on BUSH.
- — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

Kaya noun
marijuana; a marijuana cigarette JAMAICA, 1978
- Excuse me while I light my spliff[...
— Bob Marley, Kaya 1978

KB noun
high-quality marijuana US, 1997
- Initials for kind bud or killer bud. — Jim Emerson-Cobb, Scratching the Dragon April, 1997

K-boy noun
in a deck of playing cards, a king US, 1943
- — Peter O. Steiner, Thursday Night Poker 1996

Kee noun
a kilogram (especially of drugs) UK, 1997
Alternative spelling for KEY.
- Nood bags up two kees of weed[...
— Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

Kentucky blue noun
marijuana grown in Kentucky, ‘the Bluegrass State’ US, 1969
A play on GRASS (marijuana).
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

Ket noun
the recreational drug ketamine AUSTRALIA, 1996
- There are, however, possibly tens of thousands of young people here who have already unwittingly swallowed “K” or “Ket.”
— The Herald (Glasgow) 4th April 1997

Key noun
a kilogram US, 1966
From the first syllable of ‘kilogram’; the one unit of the metric system that at least some Americans have grasped.

Coming to Los Angeles / Bringing in a couple of keys / Don’t touch my bags if you please / Mister Customs Man[] — Arlo Guthrie, *Coming in to Los Angeles* 1969

the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust *US*, 1984

A phencyclidine user in Washington might well find himself at St. Elizabeth’s hospital for treatment.

This summer, one brand of PCP is available as “Hinckley” (referring to John W. Hinckley Jr., who shot President Reagan) or “The Keys to St. E’s” — both references to the “craziness” induced by the drug. — *Washington Post* 29th July 1984

a potent variety of marijuana *US*, 1997


— Anna Scotti and Paul Young, *Buzzwords* 1997

a state of extreme intoxication with the recreational drug ketamine *US*, 2002

For about forty-five minutes he was doing really bad. He was in K-hole, a Kgrave.

— Suroosh Alvi et al., *The Vice Guide* 2002

amphetamine; methcathinone; MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy *US*, 2003

From the common name for the African plant that contains the stimulant cathinone as its main active ingredient.


a state of intense confusion induced by use of the recreational drug ketamine *US*, 1993

Ann said she’s never experienced anything like this K-hole before and said she could see 360 degrees around her[]. — Wayne Anthony, *Spanish Highs* 1999

the sudden onset of the effects of a drug *US*, 1912

There is nothing quite like a kick on dexedrine. — Clancy Sigal, *Going Away* 1961

1 to defer the gratification of a drug injection by slowly injecting the drug while drawing blood from the vein to mix with the drug in the syringe *US*, 1952

He was waiting anxiously but she took her time, as if dazed, then began to kick it, mixing her blood with the drug and then watching the syringe with eyes that never blinked. — Hal Ellson, *The Golden Spike* 1952

2 to smoke opium *US*, 1952

I was beginning to feel drowsy in a sort of half sleep like when we kicked the gong around at the Chinaman’s. — Harry Grey, *The Hoods* 1952

any potent alcoholic drink *US*, 1952

Coined by comic strip writer Al Capp.

Christ, this stuff is strong, it’s real kickapoo juice. — Willard Manus, *The Fighting Man* 1981

in horse racing, a horse heavily favoured to win a race *US*, 1951

— David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack* 1951

a marijuana cigarette *US*, 1967

A combination of Kick (an intoxicating effect) and Stick (a cigarette).

Joints are pulled out of the brims of hats and soon there’s no noise except the music and the steady hiss of cats blasting away on kick-sticks. — Piri Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets* 1967

marijuana *US*, 1952

New Orleans fags in Mardi Gras drag (“You, Georgette, are absolutely stunning,” they had cooed and teased each other), stoned out of their fucking skulls on bennies and kef. — Larry Heinemann, *Paco’s Story* 1986

a large marijuana cigarette *IRELAND*, 2000

A regional variation of the CAMBERWELL CARROT.

He leans forward, proffering the Killarney Carrot. “So do you want to light this, or

**Kill City** *noun*

a ‘branded’ variety of heroin *UK, 2002*

- [N]ames that are designed to appeal to the target consumer group by drumming home the dangerous outlaw status of the product: Homicide, Poison, Kill City, Last

**acid head** *noun, US, 1966*

a habitual user of LSD

- What they'll do is arrest the blacks, the acid heads, and the vagrants. — *Berkeley Barb* 30th December 1966

**Alice** *noun, UK, 1972*

A phonetic pun on the first two letters of LSD, influenced by Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, 1865, and *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*, 1871, which were considered inspirational works by the hippy sub-culture of the late 1960s.

- — Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

**blue cheer** *noun, US, 1970*

a type of LSD (usually mixed with Methedrine™) supplied in blue pills or capsules

- From Blue Cheer™, a branded detergent.
- In the package, 250 caps of Blue Cheer, so I thought I would give a party. — Richard Neville, *Play Power* 1970

**flash** *noun, US, 1994*

- Street names... dots, drops, flash, Gorbachovs[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, *The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs* 1998

**mike** *noun, US, 1998*

a microdot (of LSD)

- Here was some dude, not even a chemistry major, coming on to you with mikes, grams, bricks, kilos and hundredweights[.] — Robert Sabbag, *A Way with the Spoon [The Howard Marks Book of Dope Stories]* 1998

**Owsley; Owsley acid; owsley** *noun, US, 1967*

high quality LSD

- From the name of legendary LSD manufacturer Augustus Owsley Stanley III.
- The Owsleys are also given away as free samples. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against* 1967

**Pink Floyd** *noun, UK, 1999*

a potent type of LSD

Honouring the rock group Pink Floyd, from their early days in the late 1960s when they were considered avant garde and psychedelic.

- [A] secret compartment held some original super-strong Pink Floyd acid tabs[.]
- — Wayne Anthony, *Spanish Highs* 1999

**Sandoz; Sandoz’s** *noun, US, 1967*

Named after Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, the original Swiss manufacturer of the drug.

- Once, once, I had a white Sandoz. Oh, oh, I can’t tell you. Such acid! — Nicholas Von Hoffman, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against* 1967

**trips** *noun, US, 1969*

- [T]here was a boom in ecstasy [MDMA], speed [amphetamine], trips, the lot.

**windowpane; window** *noun, US, 1975*

a dose of LSD on a tiny, clear piece of gelatin

- He sold mediocre grass for ten dollars a lid, coke for fifty a gram when you could get it and a hit of windowpane acid for two bucks. — John Sayles, *Union Dues* 1977


2 phencyclidine mixed with marijuana or another substance in a cigarette *US, 1978*

- They were in Snake Alley selling homemade killer weed, parsley flakes sprinkled with PCP, telling a gay couple in jogging suits and headbands how the dust would stretch their minds, their bodies,

**LSD**


**kind** *noun*

marijuana, especially high-quality marijuana *US, 1997*

As is the case with many drug slang terms, ‘kind’ is a bit amorphous, at times referring to a marijuana cigarette, at times to the smoker, at times to the drug itself.

Payday, Body Bag, Lethal Injection, Silver Bullet. — Robert Ashton, *This is Heroin* 2002

**killer green bud** *noun*

a potent strain of marijuana *US, 1997*


**killer weed** *noun*

1 marijuana *US, 1967*


2 phencyclidine mixed with marijuana or another substance in a cigarette *US, 1978*

- They were in Snake Alley selling homemade killer weed, parsley flakes sprinkled with PCP, telling a gay couple in jogging suits and headbands how the dust would stretch their minds, their bodies,
kind bud noun
potent marijuana UK, 1997
A combination of kind (marijuana) and bud (marijuana) that suggests twice the normal potency.

- Which is higher in CBD (cannabidiol)? A) Kind Bud B) Imported hashish[.]
  — Brian Preston, Pot Planet 2002

King Kong noun
1 cheap and potent alcohol, usually illegally manufactured US, 1940
- On the second floor was a King Kong speakeasy, where you could get yourself five-cent and ten-cent shots of homebrewed corn[.]
  — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

2 a powerful drug addiction US, 1970

King Kong pill noun
any barbiturate or central nervous system depressant US, 1977
- — Donald Wesson and David Smith, Barbiturates 1977

king’s habit noun
cocaine UK, 1986
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

kink noun
in a deck of playing cards, a king US, 1951
- — American Speech May, 1951

kiss verb
- kiss the toe
to drink a shot of Yukon Jack™ whisky in a single gulp, in a glass containing a pickled human toe CANADA, 2002
- A pair of premiers have kissed the toe. Manitoba’s Doer and BC’s Campbell became members of the Sourtoe Cocktail Club in Dawson City. The tradition began in 1973, when a Dawson resident found a rumrunner’s frostbitten, mummified toe and made the drink.
  — Toronto Globe and Mail 7th June 2002

kit kat noun
the recreational drug ketamine AUSTRALIA, 1996
- Dr. Refsauge, warned that Ketamine – known by various street names such as Special K, Vitamin K, K, Ket and Kit Kat – was primarily for veterinary use and was potentially fatal if taken with other drugs, such as alcohol.
  — The Weekend Australian 24th February 1996

K land noun
the catatonic intoxication experienced when taking the recreational drug ketamine US, 1995
- It reportedly resurfaced as “Special K” last year at Manhattan “rave parties,” taking users to mental territory called “K Land” and the “K hole.”
  — The Record (Bergen County, New Jersey) 5th December 1995

knackers noun
- off your knackers
drunk or drug-intoxicated UK, 2001
- [G]etting up to no good in the pursuit of getting off their knackers on drugs.
  — Ministry January, 2002

knock verb
to disclose that a pool player is a professional US, 1990
- — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

knockers noun
dice that have been loaded with mercury that shifts when the dice are tapped US, 1950
- — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

Kojak noun
in hold ’em poker, a king and a jack as the first two cards dealt to a player US, 1981

The sound of ‘king-jack’ suggests the name of a popular police television programme (1973–1978) starring Telly Savalas.
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

kokomo noun
crack cocaine UK, 1998
Plays phonetically on ‘coke’ in the same way as the earlier sense as ‘cocaine user’.
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

koutchie; cutchie; kouchie; couchie noun
a pipe for the smoking of marijuana JAMAICA, 1975
Celebrated in song by the Mighty Diamonds ‘Pass the Koutchie’. This in turn inspired Musical Youth’s UK hit ‘Pass the Dutchie’: the name was presumably changed so that the BBC censors would miss any reference to drugs.
- — The Reggae Crusaders, Bring the Couchie Come 1975
krills noun

- crack cocaine US, 2000
- When [Detective Anderson] Moran went over to Dorismond, he asked whether Dorismond had any “krills” – street slang for crack cocaine. — *New York Post* 28th July 2000

kuf noun
cocaine UK, 1997
- He pushes a little bag of kuf over the desk an’ Kingsley starts rakin’ up lines on his mirror. — Nick Barlay, *Curvy Lovebox* 1997

kutchie; kutchi noun

- marijuana Jamaica, 1972
- Pass the Dutchie was a reggae anthem, based on an old Mighty Diamonds’ song Pass the Kutchie. Kutchie was slang for marijuana, and so “dutchie” was substituted as a different kind of pot, this one for cooking in. — Paul Du Noyer, *Encyclopaedia of Singles* 1998

KY nickname

- the federal narcotic treatment hospital in Lexington, Kentucky US, 1962
L noun

1 LSD UK, 1969
  • Street names... hawk, L, lightning flash, Lucy.[] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

2 marijuana US, 1993
  • Rap and hip-hop slang.
    • If you smoke L, you’ll enjoy listening to it more[]. — The Source December, 1993

laddie noun

in a deck of playing cards, a jack US, 1988
  • — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

lady noun

cocaine US, 1974
  • Street names... gold dust, lady, snow, white. — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

lakbay diva noun

a dark leafed marijuana, 1998
  Diva is ‘goddess’ in Latin; ‘lacbay’ is pig Latin for BLACK; this marijuana is a ‘black goddess’.
  • — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

lamp habit noun

an opium addiction US, 1949
  • — Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

langered; lengers adjective

drunk IRELAND, 1982
  From Scottish langer (weariness); ultimately conventional English ‘langour’.
  • — Bernard Share, Slanguage 1997

large noun

in betting, the largest wagering unit AUSTRALIA, 1989

lash noun

  ► on the lash
  engaged in a hedonistic, alcohol-inspired quest for pleasure UK, 2002

  • [A]n ingenious short video clip function: perfect for capturing those priceless moments in the office or out on the lash. — Rated June, 2002

late night line; late night noun
cocaine UK, 2002
  • — Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

LA turnabout; LA turnaround noun

a long-lasting amphetamine US, 1970
  • From the image of driving from the East Coast of the US to Los Angeles and back again without resting. — Montie Tak, Truck Talk 1971

laughing grass noun

marijuana US, 1954
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

laughing tobacco noun

marijuana US, 1981
  • There were big bonfires all over the place and numbers were being passed like they were trying to get rid of their laughing tobacco before it went out of style. — Robert Lipkin, A Brotherhood of Outlaws 1981

laughing weed noun

marijuana US, 1925
  • Reefers, the so-called “laughing weed” were described as a far greater menace than opium. — Redmer YSKA, New Zealand Green 1990

layback noun

a barbiturate, a central nervous system depressant US, 1970
  • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

layout noun

collectively, the equipment used to smoke opium US, 1881
  • Mike and me grabbed our layout and out into the airshaft we climbed[]. — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

LBJ noun

1 LSD, especially when combined with some other drug US, 1982
  • — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

2 heroin UK, 1998
  • — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002
3 phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust UK, 2002
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

leaf noun
marijuana US, 1961
• It’s a cryin’ shame they outlawed the leaf. — Ross Russell, The Sound 1961

lean noun
a combination of syrup, codeine and alcohol US, 1998
At best you ‘lean’ after drinking any.
• — Ethan Hilderbrant, Prison Slang 1998

leaper noun
any central nervous system stimulant, especially amphetamine US, 1961
• So no pussy, no money (Gypsy had spent it buying a shotgun in Ely, Nev.) no leapers, etc., etc. — Neal Cassady, The First Third 30th August 1965

leapers noun
wads of cotton soaked in BenzedrineTM (amphetamine sulphate, a central nervous system stimulant) extracted from an inhaler US, 1967
• The wads of charged cotton were known as leapers because of the energy and optimism they released in the men who choked them down[]. — Malcolm Braly, On the Yard 1967

Leb; Lebanese noun
hashish from cannabis plants cultivated in the Lebanon UK, 1997
• There’s a sixteenth of personal which is a piece of leb I been savin[]. — Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

Lebanese gold; gold Lebanese; gold leb noun
golden-hued cannabis resin from the Middle East UK, 2002
• [A] small, rounded piece of Lebanese gold with outer sacking still attached. — Tony Wilson, 24 Hour Party People 2002

left-handed cigarette noun
marijuana US, 1991
• When we got in their car, Marvin pulled out one of those “left-handed cigarettes” and lit it. — Odie Hawkins, The Life and Times of Chester Simmons 1991

legal high noun
any substance that is not restricted by drug control legislation that mimics (or is claimed to mimic) the effect of an illegal drug UK, 2004
• Some legal highs are quite hallucinogenic[]. — Harry Shapiro, Recreational Drugs 2004

legs noun
the duration of the intoxication from a central nervous system stimulant US, 1989
• Either the speed “has good legs” or it “doesn’t have legs.” — Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

lemon noun
in pool, a person who loses intentionally US, 1990
• — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

lemonade noun
poor-quality heroin US, 1957
Often shortened to ‘lemon’.
• — Francis J. Rigney and L. Douglas Smith, The Real Bohemia 1961

lemonade verb
in poolroom betting, to miss a shot or lose a game intentionally US, 1967
• By “stalling” (deliberately missing some shots, leaving himself out of position, etc.) and by “lemoning” or “lemonading” an occasional game in the session (winning in a deliberately sloppy and seemingly lucky manner, or deliberately losing the game), the hustler keeps his opponent on the work. — Ned Polsky, Hustlers, Beats, and Others 1967

levels noun
legitimate, square, unaltered dice US, 1950
• — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

Lex nickname
the Federal Narcotics Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky US, 1960
• I think Lex did that for me. — Bruce Jackson, In the Life 1972

lick noun
an intoxicating experience with crack cocaine UK, 2000
• I remember the first lick I ever had, it was brilliant. — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000

lick verb
lick shit
to lick crack cocaine for a short-lived sensation of intoxication UK, 1996
lick the rock to use crack cocaine UK, 1996
I know people who lick the rock and, like Es, I've seen what it can do.
— Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

lick your lid 2 drug-intoxicated UK, 2003
They were speeding out of their lids.
— Will Birch, No Sleep Till Canvey Island 2003

line noun
1 an approximate measure (variously twenty-two grams, or one to two ounces) of loose, uncleaned marijuana US, 1966
The kidnappings were nothing fancy: a young surfer at the Pompano Pier, lured to a waiting Cadillac with a lid of fresh Colombian red.[— Carl Hiaasen, Tourist Season 1986

light up verb
to share drugs with others US, 1922
I couldn’t refuse to light my friends up.
— Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

line noun
1 a vein, especially in the context of injecting drugs US, 1938
I bit down on my bottom lip waiting for the stabbing plunge of the needle. He said, “Damn! You got some beautiful lines.” — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Pimp 1969

2 in sports betting, the points or odds established by a bookmaker that govern the bet US, 1977
Even when they’re being real generous with the line, I think can beat the spread, I lay off. — John Sayles, Union Dues 1977

3 to inhale a measured dose of a powdered drug, especially cocaine US, 1979
— Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

line work noun
the addition of fine lines or other markings on the design of a card to aid a cheat US, 1979

liquid courage noun
the bravado produced by alcohol US, 1942
What are you waiting for, run outta liquid courage? — Kill Bill 2003

liquid ecstasy; liquid e noun
the recreational drug GHB US, 1993
Backstage, spirits were high and liquid Ecstasy flowed freely. “I got completely and utterly fucked up on the first night.” — Uncut May, 2001

liquid gold; LG noun
amyl or butyl nitrate UK, 1996
Street names... Amyl, liquid gold, locker room.[— James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

liquid sky noun
heroin US, 1987
— Carsten Stroud, Close Pursuit 1987

liquid X noun
the recreational drug GHB UK, 1993
GHB has been marketed as a liquid or powder and has been sold on the street under names such as Grievous Bodily Harm, Georgia Home Boy, Liquid...
lit | locker room


**lit** adjective
**drunk** US, 1899

*Like I said, he was always pretty well lit back in New York.* — Raymond Chandler, *The Long Goodbye* 1953

**little blues** noun
capsules of the synthetic opiate oxycodone used recreationally US, 2003

*Extracts reproduced in the tabloid show Limbaugh referring to “small blue babies” and “the little blues.”* — *Broward Business Review* 18th November 2003

**little bomb** noun
an amphetamine capsule or tablet UK, 1998

*Possibly a direct translation of Spanish bombita (an amphetamine capsule).*

* — Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

**little D** noun
a tablet of hydromorphone (trade name Dialudid™), a narcotic analgesic US, 1986

* — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**little Dick; little Dick Fisher** noun
in craps, a four US, 1957

*A borrowing from the early C18 language of the game of hazard. A 4 is “Little Dick” or “Little Joe from Kokomo”.* — Sidney H. Radner, *Radner on Dice* 1957

**little Joe** noun
a roll of four in craps US, 1890

*Often elaborated with a rhyming place name, in the pattern ‘little Joe from Kokomo’ (or Chicago, Idaho, Lake Tahoe, Mexico, Ohio, Tokyo).*

*There for a while all I could hear was “snake eyes,” “little joes,” and “carp out, Lord.” It was lovely.* — Guy Owen, *The Flim-Flam Man and the Apprentice Grifter* 1972

**lit up** adjective
**drunk or drug-intoxicated** US, 1899

*We were both lit up pretty well when we staggered up from the table that morning.* — Donald Goines, *Whoreson* 1972

**livener** noun
**dose of cocaine** UK, 1999

*Abbreviated from conventional ‘enlivener’, ascribing to cocaine the bracing attributes of a pick-me-up; an earlier (late C19) use was as ‘the first drink of the day’.*

* — Kevin Sampson, *Powder* 1999

**loaded** adjective
**drunk or drug-intoxicated** US, 1879

*I was getting Nicholson loaded [he laughs] ... really good pot... he was really ripped.* — Peter Fonda, *Shaking the Cage* 1999

**loader** noun
in American casinos, a blackjack dealer who carelessly exposes his down card while dealing US, 1985

* — Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985

**loadie** noun
a drug user US, 1979

*Loadies generally hang out on the grassy knoll there.* — *Clueless* 1995

**loadies** noun
dice loaded with weights that affect the roll US, 1997

*Them metal slugs would take my loadies straight to the bottom of the glass.*

* — Stephen Cannell, *Big Con* 1997

**lob** noun
in a gambling establishment, a hanger-on who runs errands for gamblers US, 1979


**lobster** noun
in poker, an unskilled and/or inexperienced player US, 1988


**loc’d out** adjective
psychotic from drug use US, 1993

* — Ken ‘Naz’ Young, *Naz’s Dictionary of Teen Slang* 1993

**locker room** noun
amyl or butyl or isobutyl nitrate as a recreational drug US, 1998

*Street names... Amyl, liquid gold, locker room, poppers[.]* — James Kay and Julian Cohen, *The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs* 1998
locksmith noun
1 in pool, a betting professional who only plays games that he is sure of winning US, 1990
   • — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990
2 a poker player who only plays excellent hands US, 1966

loco noun
marijuana US, 1982
An abbreviation of locoweed.
   • You know I’m like a loco man[.] — Busta Rhymes, Get Out 2000

locoweed noun
marijuana US, 1930
Directly from the name given to several species of poisonous parts of the genera Astragalus and Oxytropis which may cause frenzied behaviour in grazing stock; ultimately from Spanish loco (mad).
   • If Horatio Alger had been born near a field of locoweed his story might have been a lot different. — Hunter S. Thompson, Hell’s Angels 1966

log noun
1 a marijuana cigarette US, 1977
   • — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986
2 the counter surface in a bar US, 1967
   • I saw him pound the bottom of his glass against the log. — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Pimp 1969

lollapoloosa noun
in bar dice games, a roll that produces no points for the player US, 1971
   • — Jester Smith, Games They Play in San Francisco 1971

DRUG COCKTAILS AND BLENDS

B-40 noun, US, 1998
a cigar laced with marijuana and dipped in malt liquor
Possibly named for the appearance and/or effects of the B-40 grenade launcher used by the Vietcong during the Vietnam war.
   • — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

Belushi noun, US, 1998
a combination of cocaine and heroin
In memory of the SPEEDBALL mix that killed movie actor John Belushi, 1949–1982.
   • — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

CK1 noun, UK, 2001
a mixture of nine parts cocaine and one part the recreational drug ketamine
The brand name of a popular fragrance by Calvin Klein.
   • Meanwhile in London, a ready-mixed wrap of powder called CK1 is doing the rounds.
   — Sky Magazine July, 2001

dynamite noun, US, 1937
a blend of heroin and cocaine
   • Addicts sometimes blend heroin and cocaine in a mixture called dynamite.
   — Harry J. Anslinger, The Murderers 1961

eight ball noun, US, 2001
a mixture of crack cocaine and heroin
   • I’m busy crankin’ off an eight-ball, dude.
   — Stephen J. Cannell, The Tin Collectors 2001

happy meal noun, UK, 2001
a mixture of chemical stimulants and depressants
   • Ecstasy dealers have taken to branding their tablets with famous logos: there is Big Mac E, Purple Nike Swirl E, X-Files E, and a mixture of uppers and downers called a “Happy Meal”[.]
   — Naomi Klein, No Logo 2001

jail bag noun, UK, 2006
heroin and crack cocaine
   • Everyday [in Strangeways] I got offered heroin and crack. Kids call it a jail bag; it takes the walls down.
   — Uncut June, 2006

Marvin K noun, UK, 2005
a recreational drug cocktail comprising two parts MDMA (better known as the recreational drug ecstasy) mixed with one part ketamine
   • [D]iscerning drug hoovers are now choosing Marvin K.
   — Popbitch 15th September 2005

royal temple ball noun, US, 1978
hashish and LSD formed into a ball
   • In the center are a dozen hand-pressed balls of Royal temple balls.
   — Peter Stafford, Psychidelic Encyclopedia 1992

splaff noun, UK, 2003
a marijuana cigarette laced with LSD
   • ‘A’ for AC0 substitutes the ‘i’ in SPLIFF (a marijuana cigarette).
   • Splaff: cannabis joint with a hint of LSD.
   — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

A Happy Meal is more usually a product of McDonalds™ fast-food restaurants.
   • Ecstasy dealers have taken to branding their tablets with famous logos: there is Big Mac E, Purple Nike Swirl E, X-Files E, and a mixture of uppers and downers called a “Happy Meal”[.]
   — Naomi Klein, No Logo 2001

locksmith | lollapoloosa
lopped; looping adjective
drunken US, 1934
Descriptive of the inability when drunk to maintain a straight line.
• [W]e were more than pretty well looped – we were blind. — John Nichols,
The Sterile Cuckoo 1965

lose verb
► lose it
to lose touch with the reality beyond the rave UK, 1998
• It was neat that I could see the DJ at Drum Club as he was totally losing it back there and getting us all going too. Plenty of smoke – yeah. — Ben Malbon, Cool Places 1998

lost-it noun
a person under the sway of drug intoxication UK, 1997
• She was more or less able to control her buzz and was contemptuous of lost-its – guys walking around with gormless, grinning faces[,] — Colin Butts, Is Harry on the Boat? 1997

Lost Wages nickname
Las Vegas, Nevada US, 1951
• Las Vegas, or “Lost Wages,” as it’s known in Westside, is off limits to all Negroes – except entertainers and janitors. — Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris, The Green Felt Jungle 1963

Louisiana lottery noun
an illegal numbers game US, 1949
• — American Speech October 1949: ‘The argot of number gambling’

Lou Reed noun
amphetamine UK, 1996
Rhyming slang for SPEED. Based, perhaps with more than a hint of irony, on rock singer and songwriter Lou Reed (b.1943).
• These guys are on a bonus, on Lou Reed as well, driven to get the round done and get away. — J.J. Connolly, Layer Cake 2000

louse book noun
an illegal betting operation that accepts only very small bets US, 1951
• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

love affair noun
cocaine; a mixture of heroin and cocaine UK, 2002
• — Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

love boat noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1983
• Asked how many knew about the drug “Lovely” or “Loveboat” – street slang for PCP – nearly all raised their hands. — Washington Post 20th November 1983

love drug noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1998
Descriptive of the effect that ecstasy has on your emotions; widely used.
• I participated in the popping of the old love drug, as they called it, and got my boy scouts badge in cuddling everyone[,] — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

loved up; luvdup; luvved up adjective
under the influence of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, and experiencing the emotional need to share the boundless affection that is associated with the drug UK, 1996
• Johann and Jorgi enter the yard. They are both loved-up and very touchy, touchy. — Guy Ritchie et al., Lock, Stock... and Four Stolen Hooves 2000

love heart noun
a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, possibly mixed with the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™, identified by an embossed heart; a decongestant sold as MDMA UK, 1996
These variously coloured tablets are named after a sherbertly children’s sweet.
• — Gareth Thomas, This Is Ecstasy 2002

lover’s speed; speed for lovers noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2003
MDMA is an amphetamine derivative that encourages empathy that is often confused with feelings of love.
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

Lowies noun
Lowenbrau™ beer US, 1982
• — Lillian Glass with Richard Liebmann-Smith, How to Deprogram Your Valley Girl 1982

LSD noun
► new LSD

LSD noun

Vicodin™, a prescription painkiller taken recreationally. *US, 2001
- Courtney Love has also told of getting stuck into the pills, wittily dubbing them “the new LSD – Lead Singer’s Drug”. — *Drugs: An Adult Guide* December, 2001

**lubed** *adjective*
**drunk** *US, 1979
- He buys me drinks up the ying yang, gets me righteously lubed, then splits. — James Ellroy, *Because the Night* 1984

**lubricated** *adjective*
**drunk** *US, 1911
- “Breda,” he said, “we’re both still a little lubricated. We shouldn’t try to communicate right now.” — Joseph Wambaugh, *Fugitive Nights* 1992

**lucky 15** *noun*
a multiple bet, based on a yankee, combining 15 separate bets. *UK, 1991
- If you add four singles (A,B,C,D) to your Yankee, that is Lucky 15[.] — John McCririck, *John McCririck’s World of Betting* 1991

**lucky 31** *noun*
a multiple bet covering five selections to ‘31 win stakes or 62 each-way stakes’. *UK, 2001
- — David Bennet, *Know Your Bets* 2001

**lucky 63** *noun*
a multiple bet covering six selections to ‘63 win stakes or 126 each-way stakes’. *UK, 2001
- — David Bennet, *Know Your Bets* 2001

**Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds; Lucy** *noun*
*LSD UK, 1967
One of the Beatles’ most psychedelic songs, ‘Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds’, 1967, has always been seen as a (not very discreet) LSD reference.

**lude; lud** *noun*
a tablet of the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™. *US, 1973
Quaalude™ was a brand name for methaqualone, a muscle relaxant and barbiturate substitute introduced in 1965 and made illegal in the US in 1984.
- All right, Just relax. Take a lude. Take a lude. — *Manhattan* 1979

**lug** *noun*
an inhalation of marijuana smoke, especially from a water pipe. *UK, 1996
- [T]ake a lug, feel the buzz[.]

**lugger** *noun*
a person who physically transports players to an illegal poker game. *US, 1979

**lumber** *noun*
1 the stems of a marijuana plant. *US, 1982
2 a non-playing, non-betting observer of a game of chance. *US, 1961

**lunchmeat** *noun*
in poker, bad cards or a player who proceeds with a bad hand. *US, 1996

**Lunenburg champagne** *noun*
rum. *CANADA, 1999
Lunenburg, on the Nova Scotia South Shore coast, is long known for its fishing and trading, and the nickname comes from the old three-cornered trade with England and the West Indies – salt fish, rum and lumber.
- — Lewis Poteet, *The South Shore Phrase Book* 1999

**lush** *noun*
1 alcohol. *UK, 1790
At one time deemed obsolete slang, but revived.
- From the way I was holding up you would have sworn I was immune to the lush. — Louis Armstrong, *Satchmo* 1954
2 an alcoholic. *US, 1851
- Nobody can make that shot and you know it. Not even a lucky lush.
- — The Hustler 1961

**lye** *noun*
marijuana. *US, 1995
- Buy a nickel bag / Smoke a little lye / Get high tonight[.]
Mm

M noun
1 morphine US, 1914
- Heroin got the drive awright – but there’s not a tingle to a ton – you got to get M to get that tingle-tingle.
2 marijuana US, 1955
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

M25 noun
a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
Named for London’s orbital motorway, the M25, which played a pivotal role in early (often illegal) rave culture.
- — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

macaroni noun
in betting, odds of 25–1 UK, 1991
From rhyming slang for PONY (£25).
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

machinery; mach noun
marijuana US, 1977
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

madam noun
in a deck of playing cards, a queen US, 1988
- — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

mad bastard noun
a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1997
- “What did you take?” “Mad Bastard,” said Tom.“Oh, they’re mental[.]” said Maddy smiling. — Colin Butts, Is Harry on the Boat? 1997

mad dog noun
any cheap red wine US, 1974
Originally applied to Mogen-David wine, later to any cheap wine.
- — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang April, 1978

madman noun
a pill of pure MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy; MDMA in powdered form UK, 2002
A playful disguise of MaDMAn.
- — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002

mad out of it adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated IRELAND, 2001
- It gets you mad out of it, have a good time with it. — Ann Hope et al., The Impact of Alcohol Advertising on Teenagers in Ireland 2001

madwoman noun
a pill of pure MDEA, an analogue of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2002
Probably as a variation of madman (MDMA).
- — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002

maggie noun
marijuana US, 1959
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

magic bean noun
a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
From the fairy story Jack and the Beanstalk.
- But what he forgets to do, right, is buy enough magic beans for everyone.
  — Kevin Williamson, Heart of the Bass (Disco Biscuits) 1996

magic mushroom noun
any mushroom with an hallucinogenic effect – the most commonly grown and used in the UK is Psilocybe Semilanceata or Liberty Cap mushroom US, 1968
- [A] nice cup of liberty-cap tea... the name summed it up... magic mushrooms sounded better as liberty caps[.] — John King, White Trash 2001

mahogany noun
the counter in a bar US, 1896
- If your timing is good, you are likely to see Chuck Coggins, bartender extraordinaire, behind the mahogany.
  — Gary Regan, New Classic Cocktails 1997

mahoot noun
in bar dice games, a roll that produces no points for the player US, 1971
mail noun
in horse racing, information about a horse or race useful for wagering AUSTRALIA, 1989
- Jester Smith, *Games They Play in San Francisco* 1971

main line noun
1 any large blood vein, especially the median cephalic vein US, 1931
- After that it was nothing but the mainline, the high of highs. — Hal Ellson, *The Golden Spike* 1952
2 a major vein used for the injection of narcotics, usually heroin US, 1931

mainline noun
- ride the mainline
to inject drugs intravenously US, 1957
- Dammit, Scar, I told you about riding the mainline. — Herbert Simmons, *Corner Boy* 1957

make-up noun
the final result of any event that is the subject of spread-betting UK, 2001
- Settlement is based on the difference between the "make up" (the number of runs, goals, minutes, votes or points at the conclusion of the event) and the spread when the bet was placed.[..]
- David Bennet, *Know Your Bets* 2001

malt sandwich noun
a beer AUSTRALIA, 1968

mama noun
in a deck of playing cards, a queen US, 1988
- George Percy, *The Language of Poker* 1988

man; mandy noun
in a deck of playing cards, a king US, 1988
- George Percy, *The Language of Poker* 1988

M and M noun
any tablet drugs used for recreational purposes: amphetamine, barbiturate, MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1977
Named for M&Ms (branded in the US since the 1940s), the candy-coated chocolate sweets which, in appearance, are similar to multi-coloured pills.
- Street names... love doves, M and Ms, MDMA[,] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, *The Parents' Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs* 1998

mandrake noun
a tablet of the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™ US, 1985
From Mandrax™, the trade name for a synthetic non-barbiturate sedative.
- By 1972 it was one of the most popular drugs of abuse in the United States and was known as love drug, heroin for lovers, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, sopors, sopes, ludes, mandrakes and quacks. — Marilyn Carroll and Gary Gallo, *Methaqualone* 1985

mandy noun
a tablet of Mandrax™, a branded tranquiliser UK, 1970
- Another thing with Sandy / What often came in handy / was passing her a Mandy / she didn't half go bandy[..]
- Ian Dury, *Billericay Dickie* 1977

Manhattan silver; Manhattan white; New York City silver; Subway silver noun
marijuana US, 1975
Originally, ‘a flight of fancy’, a genetic variation cultivated from seeds which, having been flushed into the New York City sewage system, were white or silver. A highly potent and purely fictional urban myth; now, also, just another synonym for ‘marijuana’.
- American Speech Winter, 1982

manicure verb
to prepare marijuana for smoking, trimming the leaves and stems and removing foreign objects US, 1938
- Eugene Landy, *The Underground Dictionary* 1971

man in Kokomo noun
in horse racing, any mysterious source of inside information on a horse or race US, 1951
- David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack* 1951
man of the cloth noun
in pool, a skilled player who makes a living betting on his ability US, 1990
- — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

marbles noun
dice US, 1962
- — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

marching powder noun
cocaine US, 1984
- A boatload of Marching Powder might get you through this ordeal. — Jay McInerney, Bright Lights, Big City 1984

Maria noun
in a deck of playing cards, the queen of spades US, 1950
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

marihooch; marihoochie; marihootee; marihootie noun
marijuana US, 1971
- [I]t was an ace bomber of absolutely atomic North African marihooch[.]
  — Lester Bangs, Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung 1971

marijuana martini noun
marijuana smoke blown into, and then inhaled from, a chilled glass US, 2001
- — Simon Worman, Joint Smoking Rules 2001

mariweegee noun
marijuana US, 1994
A jocular mispronunciation.
- — Clarence Major, Juba to Jive 1994

marjoon noun
a sweet confection with marijuana as a major ingredient ALGERIA, 1970
- Special recommendation: Marjoon – a fudge, blended with the leaves – not the buds – of the plant and which sometimes contains opium as an extra taste treat. — Richard Neville, Play Power 1970

marker noun
in a casino or gambling enterprise, an advance with an IOU; by extension, any debt or obligation US, 1887
- You signed markers for a hundred and a half, you’re over sixty days past due and you haven’t told anybody what the problem is. — Get Shorty 1995

Marley noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1997
From Bob Marley, Rastafarian and marijuana-lover.
- — Jim Emerson-Cobb, Scratching the Dragon April, 1997

Marvin K noun
a recreational drug cocktail comprising two parts MDMA (better known as the recreational drug ecstasy) mixed with one part ketamine UK, 2005
- [D]iscerning drug hoovers are now choosing Marvin K. — Popbitch 15th September 2005

Mary-do-you-wanna-dance noun
marijuana UK, 2000
- [A] few dollars’ worth of the cheapest but finest Mary-do-you-wanna-dance in the whole wide world[.]
  — Ken Lukowiak, Marijuana Time 2000

Mary Jane noun
marijuana US, 1928
From the disputed presumption that marijuana is formed of two Mexican Spanish names: Maria and Juan or Juanita, hence Mary Jane, and many variants, such as Mary J, Mary Jonas, Mary Juana and so on.
- Can’t get enough of sweet cocaine / Get enough of Mary Jane[.]
  — John Martyn, Over the Hill 1973

Mary Warner; Mary Warmer; Mary Weaver; Mary Werner; Mary Worner noun
marijuana US, 1933
Giving a feminine identity by mispronunciation.
- Here. Try one of these. This is the real Mary Warner. — Douglas Rutherford, The Creeping Flesh 1963

Masarati noun
an improvised pipe for smoking crack cocaine, made from a plastic bottle US, 1992
- — Terry Williams, Crackhouse 1992

mash noun
any homemade liquor US, 2002
- — Gary K. Farlow, Prison-ese 2002

mashed adjective
marijuana-intoxicated, 1997
- [H]e woz mashed, and he did have de munchies[.]
Maui wowie; Maui wauie; Maui wowee; Maui noun
a potent marijuana cultivated in Hawaii US, 1977
• When Pattie Mae returned, she put her hand surreptitiously into Philo’s coat pocket and said breathlessly: “One’s Colombia Gold, the other’s Maui wowee.” — Joseph Wambaugh, The Black Marble 1978

Maui-zowie noun
a strain of marijuana UK, 2001
• [A] couple of Thinnies of Maui-zowie sinsemilla dope[.] — Stuart Browne, Dangerous Parking 2000

mayo noun
cocaine, heroin, morphine US, 1949
• — Captain Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

mazzie noun
Temazepam, a branded tranquilliser UK, 2005
• Is this the result of too many Mazzies and Merrydown [cider] in front of daytime TV[?] — Lee Quick and Darren Pike, A–Z of White Trash 2005

mean green noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1981
The ‘green’ is from the parsley or mint on which the drug is at times sprinkled; the ‘mean’ is reduplicative yet accurately describes the behaviour of most users.
• — Ronald Linder, PCP 1981

meanie noun
Copelandia cyanescens or panauelus cyanescens: a mushroom with potent psychactive properties UK, 1999
A shortening of ‘blue meanie’.
• Tarzan pulled out a money bag filled with Meanies and poured them into the kettle. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

meat ball noun
in horse racing, a combination of cathartics administered to a horse US, 1951
• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

mechanic noun
in gambling, a cheat who manipulates the cards or dice US, 1909
• I mean, all of Nicky’s half-assed mechanics, they were all real signal happy. — Casino 1995

mellow adjective
mildly and pleasantly drunk or drug-intoxicated UK, 1699
• [T]he gauge they picked up on was really in there, and it had them treetop tall, mellow as a cello. — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

mellow yellow noun
1 fried banana skin scrapings, sold for their nonexistent psychoactive effect US, 1966
• At this printing, mellow yellow is legal and United Fruit Company sales are still climbing. — Mary Lay and Nancy Orban, The Hip Glossary of Hippie Language June, 1967
2 LSD US, 1971
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

menali noun
potent hashish originating in the Himalayas, 1999
• Menali is reported to have the highest THC content of any hash in the world. — Mike Rock, This Book 1999

merry widow noun
in pool, a cue stick with a butt made with a single, unspliced piece of wood US, 1983
• — Mike Shamos, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Billiards 1993

mersh noun
marijuana that is commercially produced for a mass-market US, 2004
• — Steven Wishnia, The Cannabis Companion 2004

mesc; mezcz noun
mescaline US, 1970
• “Poor Chessman” – he muttered, still slight zonked from a late night mesc drop[.] — Ed Sanders, Tales of Beatnik Glory 1975

messed up adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1963
• Strike’s father had never been a heavy drinker, and whenever he did get a little messed up, he’d never do anything mean or violent. — Richard Price, Clockers 1992
meth noun
1 methamphetamine hydrochloride, a powerful central nervous system stimulant, brand name Methedrine™ US, 1966
- Give me Librium or give me Meth. — Mart Crowley, The Boys in the Band 1968
2 methadone (a drug prescribed as a substitute for heroin) US, 1980
- And some of that time I was using heroin on top of the meth, which was making it double hard. — Shaun Ryder, Shaun Ryder... in His Own Words 1997
3 marijuana US, 1994
An abbreviation of METHOD (marijuana).
- All right, y’all get ya White Owls, get ya meth, get ya skins (cigarette papers).] — Method Man (Clifford Smith), Method Man 1994
meth freak noun
a methamphetamine addict US, 1967
- He is called a speed freak or meth freak. — Martin Haskell, Crime and Delinquency 1970
meth head noun
a habitual user of methamphetamine US, 1966
- She’s a meth head and an ex-con and stir crazy as hell. — Joseph Wambaugh, The Blue Knight 1973
meth monster noun
an amphetamine addict US, 1967
- — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970
meth mouth noun
diseased gums and decayed teeth brought on by sustained methamphetamine use US, 1998
- The condition, known to some as meth mouth, has been studied little in dentistry’s academic circles.] — New York Times 11th June 2005
method; method murder noun
marijuana US, 1995
- You can smell the method from across the hall. — Los Stavsky et al., A2Z 1995
Mexican jumping bean; Mexican red noun
a capsule of barbiturate, especially Seconal™, manufactured in Mexico US, 1971
Named for the capsule’s appearance, not its effect, which is sedative.
- The only way we made it was with a great big old bag of Mexican reds and two gallons of Robitussin HC [a branded cough medicine]. Five reds and a slug of HC and you can sleep through anything. — Butch Trucks of the Allman Brothers, Jabberock 1997
Mexican mud noun
brown heroin that originates in the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico; heroin US, 1977
- [I]t brushes up against the competition, including Mexican-produced Black Tar, known derisively as Mexican Mud because of its poor quality; the more superior Mexican Brown in powder form; and especially high-grade Colombian White, its biggest rival. — New York Times 23rd June 2002
Mexican standoff noun
the quitting of a poker game when a player is slightly ahead, slightly behind, or even US, 1958
Mexican straight noun
in poker, any hand, a knife and a threat to use the knife US, 1979
- — Maledicta 1979: ‘A glossary of ethnic slurs in American English’
mezz noun
marijuana, a marijuana cigarette US, 1937
An eponym honouring Milton ‘Mezz’ Mezzrow, a jazz musician who was better known for his missionary work on behalf of marijuana than his jazz, and who is better remembered for his writing than his jazz.
- New words came into being to meet the situation: the mezz and the mighty mezz, referring, I blush to say, to me and to the tea both. — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946
mezzroll; mezz roll; Mezz’s roll; meserole; messorole; mezzrow noun
an extra-large marijuana cigarette US, 1944
- [M]ezzroll, to describe the kind of fat, well-packed, and clean cigarette I used to roll (this word later got corrupted to meserole and it’s still used to mean a certain size and shape of reefer, which is different from the so-called panatella). — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946
mickey noun
1 a flat pint bottle of alcohol US, 1972
“Danny,” he said, “you gotta get me a mickey. I need a mickey awful bad.”
— Robert Byrne, McGoorty 1972

**Mickey Finn; Mickey Flynn; Mickey’s** noun
an alcoholic beverage that has been adulterated with a strong tranquilliser; the narcotic that is so used US, 1928

I got back to the base a day late and told my C.O. that I’d been given a mickey finn and couldn’t wake up until Monday. — Oscar Zeta Acosta, The Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo 1972

**microdot; mic; micro; mike** noun
a small tablet of LSD UK, 1996

We share a microdot between us. Her face smudged like a Francis Bacon.

**midnight** noun
in dice games, a roll of 12 US, 1919

— Gil Jacobs, The World’s Best Dice Games 1976

**midnight toker** noun
a person who smokes marijuana before retiring to bed US, 1973

I’m a smoker / I’m a midnight toker[.]
— Steve Miller, The Joker 1973

**mighty mite** noun
a marijuana variety with large buds CANADA, 2002

“Heh.” “Mighty Mite seeds.” “California Girl cross Durban.” “Same.” — Brian Preston, Pot Planet 2002

**mike** noun
1 a microgram (1/1,000,000th of a gram) US, 1967

The unit of measure for LSD doses, even in the non-metric US.

I had one woman that took four hundred mikes of LSD. — Los Angeles Free Press 14th–20th August 1970

2 a microdot (of LSD) US, 1998

Here was some dude, not even a chemistry major, coming on to you with mikes, grams, bricks, kilos and hundredweights[.] — Robert Sabbag, A Way with the Spoon [The Howard Marks Book of Dope Stories] 1998

**Mikey** noun
a person who is willing to sample an illegal drug before others use, buy or sell it US, 2003

An allusion to a long-running breakfast cereal commercial in which the youngest brother, Mikey, tries what the older brothers won’t try.

The tablets were seized during a probation check from a local drug user who is a so-called “Mikey” (a volunteer “guinea pig” who is willing to “test” (by self-administration) illicit drugs and drug mixtures of virtually any type.)
— Microgram Bulletin (DEA) November, 2003

**milk** verb
► milk a rush
while injecting a drug, to draw blood into the syringe and slowly release the drug into the vein, controlling the immediate effect of the drug US, 1986

— Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

**Miller time** noun
hours spent drinking beer after work or play US, 1981

An advertising slogan by the Miller Brewing Company, expanded to non-product-specific ironic usage.

Every night the sun goes down and the guy that drives the bulldozer around goes back to the shack and gets his jacket on and goes home for Miller Time. — George V. Higgins, The Rat on Fire 1981

**Milwaukee goiter** noun
a big belly produced by excessive beer consumption US, 1941

The second guy is gigantic with a huge Milwaukee goiter, red suspenders, a piggly crew cut and an oversize silver-and-gold rodeo-campeen belt buckle.
— Richard Ford, Independence Day 1992

**mindblower** noun
a hallucinogenic drug US, 1973

I’m talking about drugs and alcohol and their use and and abuse as mindblowers and leg-openers. — Xaviera Hollander, The Best Part of a Man 1975

**mind candy** noun
any ‘harmless’ recreational drug UK, 2005

On the other hand some say I’m talking out of my arse and ketamine is just
mind candy, a toy! — Peanut Pete
Disappearing Up His Own K-Hole in Planet Ketamine July, 2005

mini-tanker noun
a small mobile beer tank hired for social gatherings NEW ZEALAND, 1977
  • JOHN: Must have been some party. JIM: Great, until someone drove off with the mini-tanker. — Rogere Hall, Glide Time 1977

mintweed; mint noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1981
  • — Ronald Linder, PCP 1981

misses noun
dice that have been weighted, either to throw a seven less (for the opening roll in craps) or more (for subsequent rolls) than normal US, 1962
  • — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

Miss Green noun
marijuana US, 1952
  • By the way, boy, I am of course indulging in a perfect orgy of Miss Green & can hardly see straight right at this minute, whoo! 3 bombs a day. — Jack Kerouac, Letter to Neal and Carolyn Cassady 10th May 1952

Mississippi flush noun
in poker, any hand and a revolver US, 1999
  • — Jeffrey McQuain, Never Enough Words 1999

Mississippi marbles noun
dice US, 1920
  • — Captain Vincent J. Monteleone, Criminal Slang 1949

Missouri marbles noun
dice US, 1962
  • — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

mist noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1977
  • — Drummer 1977

Mister Nice; Mr Nice noun
one of the most powerful hybrid-strains of marijuana UK, 2002
Named in honour of Howard Marks, a campaigner for the legalisation of cannabis. ‘Mr Nice’ was one of forty-three aliases Marks used in his former career as marijuana smuggler and the one by which he is publicly recognised.
  • Mr. Nice from Sensi Seeds[,] — Brian Preston, Pot Planet 2002

mitsubishi; mitsi noun
a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2001
From the Mitsubishi car manufacturer’s logo embossed on the tablet.
  • Our weapons of mass elation contain warheads made up from bags of late-90s Mitsis. — Mixmag June, 2003

mitt noun
in poker or other card games, a hand of cards US, 1896
  • — John Scarne, Scarne’s Guide to Modern Poker 1979

mitt man noun
in gambling, a cheat who switches cards US, 1997
  • Besides dice tats and 7UPS, there were volumes for nail nickers and crimpers (card markers), hand muckers and mit men (card switchers), as well as card counters and shiner players. — Stephen Cannell, Big Con 1997

mizzi noun
a type of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2000
  • Oh, these Crowns beat Mizzis anytime! — James Hawes, Dead Long Enough 2000

mofa noun
marijuana US, 2001
  • — Simon Worman, Joint Smoking Rules 2001

moggie noun
MoGodon™, a brand name tranquilliser UK, 1998
  • Loves his fuckin downers, Ljjr does. Moggies, temazzies, mathadone.
    — Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

mohasky noun
marijuana US, 1938
Variants include ‘mohaska’, ‘mohasty’ and ‘mohansky’.
  • — Kenn ‘Naz’ Young, Naz’s Underground Dictionary 1973

mojo noun
hard drugs, especially powdered drugs: cocaine, heroin, morphine US, 1935
From the sense ‘a kind of magic’; first recorded in this sense as applying to ‘morphine’.

— Haldeen Braddy, American Speech May, 1955: ‘Narcotic argot along the Mexican border’

mojo juice noun
liquid dolophine, a drug commonly known as methadone, used for the rehabilitation of heroin addicts US, 1987

— Mrs. Toto at the door gives me a polite shove and tells me I can start tomorrow morning on the mojo juice.

— Jim Carroll, Forced Entries 1987

Molson muscle noun
the rounded belly of the habitual beer drinker CANADA, 2001

Molson is one of the two largest breweries in Canada.

— Not a drink itself, but the potbelly one gets from drinking too much beer.

money from home noun
any money won easily, betting US, 1951

— David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

mong; mong out verb
(of drugs) to intoxicate; to become intoxicated UK, 1996

Derives from the conventional sense of ‘mongol’ (a person affected by Down’s syndrome) and can mean ‘stupid’.

DRINKS

antifreeze noun, US, 1953
alcohol

[S]pent the evening knocking back the anti-freeze.[] — Andrew Nickolds, Back to Basics 1994

blue noun, UK, 1966
methylated spirits as an alcoholic drink

The usual practice is to extend it [metal polish] with lemonade or a shot of blue.

— Geoffrey Fletcher, Down Among the Meths Men 1966

electric soup noun, UK: SCOTLAND, 1985
a mixture of methylated spirits and cheap red wine

Le soup electrique! Chateau d’paralytical!

— Ian Pattison, Rab C. Nesbitt 1990

ignorant oil noun, US, 1954
alcohol, especially cheap and potent alcohol

That’s pennant fever for you. And ignorant oil.

— Bill Cardoso, The Maltese Sangweech 1984

Jesus juice noun, US, 2004
white wine

Allegedly coined by singer Michael Jackson. It was also claimed, in a Vanity Fair article, that Jackson called red wine ‘Jesus blood’.

Within months the term was widespread.

— Michael Jackson pld young boys with wine he called “Jesus Juice”, a former business adviser claimed this week. — Sunday Times (South Africa) 1st February 2004

money ball noun
in pool, a shot that if made will win a wager US, 1990

— Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

monarch noun
in a deck of playing cards, a king US, 1988

— George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

money from home noun
any money won easily, betting US, 1951

— David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

mong; mong out verb
(of drugs) to intoxicate; to become intoxicated UK, 1996

Derives from the conventional sense of ‘mongol’ (a person affected by Down’s syndrome) and can mean ‘stupid’.
monged-out; monged adjective
intoxicated with MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, or, occasionally, another drug, 2000
- [W]ith a girl either side of him – one monged-out, one merry, both in trouble. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

monkey noun
1 an addiction, especially to heroin or another drug US, 1949
- The only way anyone can help me is that they give me some money to get some shit and get that monkey off my back. — Claude Brown, Manchild in the Promised Land 1965
2 in horse racing, a $100 bet US, 1951
- — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951
3 in card games, a face card US, 1985
- — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

monkey dust noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1981
- — Ronald Linder, PCP 1981

monster noun
1 in poker, a great hand or large amount of money bet US, 1982
- — David M. Hayano, Poker Faces 1982
2 any powerful drug; cocaine US, 1975
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

monte noun
a potent marijuana from Mexico; marijuana from South America; marijuana US, 1980
From the Spanish for bush (marijuana) – or clipping of ‘Montezuma Gold’.
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

moon noun
illegally manufactured alcoholic drink US, 1928
An abbreviation of MOONSHINE.
- Fellow out in the western part of the state was using it to transport moon.
  — George V. Higgins, The Friends of Eddie Doyle 1971

moonshine noun
privately and illegally distilled alcohol UK, 1782
- [T]hey just talked and drank some of the Southern moonshine I left in the compartment. — Jack Kerouac, On the Road 1957

moose milk noun
an improvised alcoholic mixed drink, especially a homebrew Yukon cocktail made of milk and rum US, 1957
- Up north, moose milk is homebrew or rum and milk; a more piquant potion is concocted in the Maritimes – sometimes emulsified fiddlehead [ferns], clam juice, and cheap wine. — Bill Casselman, Canadian Words 1995

moota noun
marijuana US, 1926
From the Mexican Spanish slang mota.
- Rapp smoked his muta while he played the new guitar. — Mezz Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

mop-squeezer noun
in a deck of playing cards, a queen US, 1949
- — American Speech May, 1951

morale-raising flour noun
cocaine UK, 2002
A play on the name and appearance of self-raising flour.

Mormons noun
in hold ’em poker, a king and two queens US, 1996
An allusion to the practice of plural marriage.
- — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

morning glory noun
in horse racing, a horse that runs well in early morning workouts but not during races US, 1904
- — Robert Saunders Dowst and Jay Craig, Playing the Races 1960

mota; moto noun
marijuana US, 1933
The Mexican-Spanish slang mota (marijuana) was smuggled north with the drug.
• We wandered off campus to get a pint of rum, something to keep our mota strength at a peak ’til 10. — Odie Hawkins, Men Friends 1989

**motherfucker** noun
methamphetamine hydrochloride, a powerful central nervous system stimulant
*US, 1993*

• — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

**mother nature** noun
marijuana
*US, 1969*

• Hey you smoking Mother Nature! / This is a bust[.] — The Who, We’re Not Gonna Take It 1969

**mother of pearl** noun
cocaine
*US, 1983*

• Then I remembered the two grams of pure crystal cocaine I had stashed somewhere in the lining of my jacket – two grams of mother of pearl! — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000

**mother’s little helper** noun
1 any tranquilliser; meprobamate (trade names Equanil™, Meprospan™ and Miltown™), a habit-forming anti-anxiety agent
*US, 1977*

• Mother needs something today to calm her down / And though she’s not really ill / There’s a little yellow pill / She goes running for the shelter of a mother’s little helper / And it helps her on her way, gets her through her busy day[,] — Jagger and Richards, Mother’s Little Helper 1996

2 amphetamines
*UK, 2003*

• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

**motorway draw** noun
marijuana
*UK, 2001*

• [G]oing over to the pinball machine and rolling a big chunky spliff [joint] on the glass... going out front to smoke his motorway draw on one of the benches[,] — John King, White Trash 2001

**mountain dew** noun
rum, distilled illegally
*TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1926*

• — Lise Winer, Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago 2003

**mouthwashing; mouthwash** noun
a non-conventional method of drinking Cointreau™ (a branded liqueur)
*UK, 2001*

See citation for detail, also used as a verb.

• People are creating there own mixes and methods (gun-shots, snorting or mouthwashing anyone?)... Swill it around the mouth for 10 seconds, swallow and then immediately suck in a huge breath. One to only do sitting down! — Sky Magazine May, 2001

**muck** noun
in poker, the pile of discarded cards
*US, 1990*

• — Anthony Holden, Big Deal 1990

**mud** noun
unprocessed opium; opium; heroin
*US, 1915*

• — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

**mudder** noun
any athlete who performs well in rainy conditions; a racehorse that performs well on wet or muddy track conditions
*US, 1942*

• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

**muggle** noun
a marijuana cigarette
*US, 1933*

• Me he charged a buck each – maybe these muggles were fatter, or maybe it’s just he knows I’m ready and he’s taking advantage. — Bernard Wolfe, The Late Risers 1954

**mug money** noun
in horse racing, money bet by uninformed betters
*AUSTRALIA, 1989*


**mula** noun
marijuana
*US, 1946*

• Hey Milton did you bring any mula? — Milton Mezzrow, Really the Blues 1946

**mule’s ear** noun
a hidden mechanism used to control the spin of a roulette wheel
*US, 1982*

• — Ralph de Sola, Crime Dictionary 1982

**mule teeth** noun
in craps, a roll of twelve
*US, 1999*

• — Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999

**mull** verb
to break up marijuana buds in preparation for smoking
*AUSTRALIA, 2004*

• — Steven Wishnia, The Cannabis Companion 2004
mullered adjective
  drunk or drug-intoxicated  UK, 2000
  • [R]esting his skull in snot, mullered by
    half-eight[.] — John King, Human Punk
    2000

multi noun
  a multiple bet covering seven selections to
  ‘120 win stakes or 240 each-way stakes’
  UK, 2001
  • — David Bennet, Know Your Bets
    2001

munchies noun
  a sensation of hunger experienced when
  smoking marijuana  US, 1959
  • I got the munchies in a big
    muthafuckin’ way! — Menace II Society
    1993

mung-pusher noun
  a poker player who habitually plays hands
  that have no chance of winning  US, 1966
  • — John D. Bell et al., Loosely Speaking
    1966

murder one noun
  a mixture of heroin and cocaine  US, 1994
  • — US Department of Justice, Street
    Terms  October, 1994

murder weed; murder noun
  marijuana  US, 1935
  Anti-marijuana propaganda adopted into
  regular slang usage.
  • — Lois Stavsky, A2Z 1995

Murray noun
  in horse racing, to bet on credit  AUSTRALIA, 1989
  Rhyming slang from ‘Murray Cod’ (a
delicious inland fish) to ‘on the nod’ (on
credit).
  • — Ned Wallish, The Truth Dictionary of
    Racing Slang 1989

mushie noun
  an hallucinogenic mushroom, a magic
  mushroom  UK, 1996
  • [S]tuff yewer face full a mushies during-
a season like, just trip yewer fuckin life
away on a hillside just for something to
fuckin do. — Niall Griffiths,
  Sheepshagger 2001

mushed-up adjective
  intoxicated by hallucinogenic mushrooms
  UK, 1999
  • [A] bacchanalian freakout usually the
    preserve of mushied-up drongos
    invading Stonehenge for the Solstice.
    — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

mute noun
  in horse racing, a pari-mutuel betting
  machine  US, 1942
  • — Dan Parker, The ABC of Horse Racing
    1947

MX noun
  Mandrax™, a sedative drug  UK, 1978
  • Did a burglary after eating too many MX.
    — Paul E. Willis, Profane Culture 1978
nabe
noun

a tavern US, 1950
• These work about as the nabe joints do, which will be set forth as fully hereinafter as our stomachs will allow.
  — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, Chicago Confidential 1950

nail
noun

a hypodermic needle US, 1936
• — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

nanoo
noun

heroin UK, 1998
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

narco
noun

1 narcotics US, 1954
• [T]wo offays stopped them and informed them they were “Narco” (Narcotics) detectives.
  — Babs Gonzales, I Paid My Dues 1967

2 a narcotics detective US, 1955
• Take hippies and straights, heads and narcotics, put them together for 36 hours – under a church roof.
  — Berkeley Barb 25th February 1967

3 the Lexington (Kentucky) Federal Narcotics Hospital US, 1955
• — American Speech May, 1955: “Narcotic argot along the Mexican border”

nastiness
noun

poor-quality drugs UK, 2000
• [H]e’d sold some nastiness instead of some Holyfield[.] — Diran Abedayo, My Once Upon a Time 2000

nasty
noun

► the nasty
heroin UK, 1996
• — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

natch
noun

► on the natch
withdrawing from drug addiction without medication to ease the pain US, 1969
• — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

Natty Bo
noun

National Bohemian™ beer US, 1990
• — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang November, 1990

naughty salt
noun

cocaine UK, 2006
• [T]he fine dusting of naughty salt that was showered over baking trays and work surfaces as he bent over them.
  — Popbitch 6th April 2006

Nazi crank
noun

methamphetamine UK, 2004
• — Harry Shapiro, Recreational Drugs 2004

near-beer
noun

a beer-like product with a very low alcohol content, legal during Prohibition US, 1909
There is some dispute about who said the cleverest thing ever said about ‘near beer’ – ‘The guy who called that near beer is a bad judge of distance’. Thomas A. Dorgan, Phlander Johnson and Luke McLuke have all been given credit for the term.
• Ahern said the banning is part of the current drive on “waterholes,” those nonalcoholic bars serving near-beer, soft drinks, and sex. — San Francisco Examiner 9th March 1976

nebbie; neb
noun

Nembutal™, a branded central nervous system depressant US, 1963
• Not even a nebbie. He could have given me one at least. — Hubert Selby Jr, Last Exit to Brooklyn 1957

nederhash
noun

any or all varieties of hashish produced in the Netherlands NETHERLANDS, 2003
• A nederhash confection[.]
  — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003

needle
noun

► do the needle
to inject drugs, especially heroin UK, 1996
• “You shoot up?” I ask. “Yeah, but I ain’t done the needle in a long time.”
  — Neil S. Skolnik, On the Ledge 1996

► on the needle
using or addicted to drugs injected intravenously US, 1942
• — Ralph de Sola, Crime Dictionary 1982

needle freak
noun

an intravenous drug user US, 1969
• “Gypsie’s a needle freak, too,” someone said to him one day, while he
was geezing. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, 
_We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against_ 1967

**needle park** noun

A public park or public area where drug addicts gather and inject drugs _US, 1966_

Brought into the idiom by the _Panic in Needle Park_ (1966), referring to a traffic island at 74th and Broadway on Manhattan’s Upper West Side, where heroin addicts congregated.

- Back-pocket bookies get their pockets picked, hookers and Cadillac pimps get herded off the street, the needle parks and shooting galleries get swept. — Robert Campbell, _Juice_ 1988

**nembie; nemby** noun

A barbiturate, especially _Nembutal™ US, 1950_

- This night, Herman was knocked out on “nembies” and his head kept falling down onto the bar. — William Burroughs, _Junkie_ 1953

**Nep; Nepalese** noun

Potent hashish cultivated in _Nepal UK, 1999_

- [I] skinned up in the Gents. The Nepalese hit before take-off[.] — Howard Marks, _The Howard Marks Book of Dope Stories_ 2001

**Nepalese temple balls; Nepalese temple hash** noun

Hashish from Nepal, originally prepared for religious use _US, 1989_

- To use in the temple, Buddhist Monks roll the hash into balls which are generally about the size of a football and look really rough with bits of twigs, seeds etc. within them. This hash can be mildly hallucinogenic — Mike Rock, _This Book_ 1999

**net** noun

Ten; in betting, odds of 10–1 _UK, 1851_

Back slang.

- Give me a chance to nick a few quid on the horses[.] — Jimmy Stockin, _On the Cobbles_ 2000

**net and bice** noun

In betting, odds of 12–1 _UK, 1991_

A combination of _net_ (ten) and ‘bice’ (two) adds up to twelve.


**net and ex** noun

In betting, odds of 16–1 _UK, 1991_

A combination of _net_ (ten) and a slurring of ‘six’, adding up to sixteen.

- — John McCririck, _John McCririck’s World of Betting_ 1991

**Nevada lettuce** noun

A one-thousand-dollar bill _US, 1962_

Nevada, formerly the only state in the US with legal gambling, is still the most popular gambling destination in the US.

- — Frank Garcia, _Marked Cards and Loaded Dice_ 1962

**Nevada nickel** noun

A five-dollar gambling token _US, 1979_

- — Thomas L. Clark, _The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming_ 1987

**neves; nevis** noun

In betting, odds of 7–1 _UK, 1991_

- — John McCririck, _John McCririck’s World of Betting_ 1991

**neves and a half** noun

In betting, odds of 15–2 _UK, 1991_

- — John McCririck, _John McCririck’s World of Betting_ 1991

**new jack swing** noun

Heroin and morphine in concert _UK, 1998_

- — Robert Ashton, _This is Heroin_ 2002

**New Yorker** noun

A variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy _UK, 1996_

A play on _apple_ (a variety of MDMA) and ‘The Apple’ (New York).

- Street names... M25s, New Yorkers, rhubarb and custard[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, _The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs_ 1998

**nick** verb

To win a gamble, possibly by taking an unfair advantage or cheating _UK, 1676_

A variation of earlier obsolete senses: ‘to cheat at cards’, ‘to defraud’.

- Give me a chance to nick a few quid on the horses[.] — Jimmy Stockin, _On the Cobbles_ 2000

**nickel bag** noun

Five dollars’ worth of a drug _US, 1966_

nickel game noun
a game of craps in which the true and correct odds are paid US, 1950

• — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

nickels noun
in craps, a roll of two fives US, 1983

• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

nickels and dimes noun
in hold 'em poker, a five and ten as the first two cards dealt to a player US, 1981

• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

niebla noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1994
Spanish for 'cloud'.

• — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

nieve noun
cocaine US, 1993
Spanish for 'snow'.

• — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

nigger bet noun
an uncommon amount wagered US, 1968

• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

nigger pennies noun
an illegal lottery game US, 1977

• There's what's his name, Wee Willie. Hustling them numbers. Nigger pennies. — John Sayles, Union Dues 1977

nigger pool noun
an illegal numbers gambling lottery US, 1949

• — American Speech October, 1949

Niki Lauda; Niki noun
cocaine UK, 1985
Rhyming slang, Lauda (pronounced 'looder') for 'powder', based on the name of racing driver Nikolaus Andreas Lauder (b.1949).

• It's at times like this I could really handle a bit of Niki. — www.LondonSlang.com June, 2002

nimby noun
a capsule of pentobarbital sodium (trade name Nembutal™), a central nervous system depressant US, 1962

• — Richard Lingeman, Drugs from A to Z 1969

Nina; Nina from Carolina; Nina from Pasadena noun
in craps, a roll of nine or the nine point US, 1939

• — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

ninebar noun
nine ounces of cannabis UK, 1996

• — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

ninety days noun
in dice games, a roll of nine US, 1909

• — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

ninety-weight noun
any strong alcohol US, 1976

• — Lanie Dills, The Official CB Slanguage Language Dictionary 1976

nip noun
a small drink US, 1736

• You're just in time to join me in a nip. — Chester Himes, If He Hollers Let Him Go 1945

nod noun
1 a drug-induced state of semi- or unconsciousness US, 1936

• Other opiates are on the market in bottles, each one strong enough to get you into a fairly nice nod, or at least make things comfortably blurred around the edges. — Julian Keeling, Drugstore Cowboy [The Howard Marks Book of Dope Stories] 1996

• on the nod
2 lost in mental stupefaction brought on by heroin or other narcotics US, 1951

• We all three got really stoned and sat talking or simply going on the nod until the early hours of the morning – finally dropping off to sleep – awakening much later in the day. — Herbert Huncke, The Evening Sun Turned Crimson 1980

nod verb
to enter a near-coma state after drug use US, 1958

• There were only moments to cop and moments to use and moments to nod and cop again. — Clarence Cooper Jr, The Scene 1960
nods noun

a mixture of codeine-infused cough syrup and soda US, 2000
- In Houston, Elwood said, it has a variety of nicknames – Lean, AC/DC, barr, down, Karo and nods. “Lean because after you take it you will be definitely leaning and losing your coordination,” Elwood said. — The Commercial Appeal (Memphis) 9th July 2000

no-go pill noun

any central nervous system depressant; a sleeping pill US, 2003
- The military has long prescribed amphetamines, termed go pills, and its counterpart no-go pills to control sleep deprivation in combat. — David Ross, Some Among Them Are Killers 2003

noise noun

heroin US, 1928
- — Ralph de Sola, Crime Dictionary 1982

noise pollution noun

in poker, excessive chatter at the table US, 1996
- — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

nordle noun

marijuana UK, 1997
- The nordle from Thailand, Thai sticks, is some of the best in the world. — Howard Marks, Mr Nice 1997

northern lights noun

a superior variety of hashish produced in Holland from northern lights marijuana pollen NETHERLANDS, 2003
- Northern lights is one of the legendary sensimillas, so it takes a while to get your head around the idea of a northern lights hash – probably about the time it takes to smoke a joint of the stuff. — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003

nose noun

1 cocaine US, 1980
- Nadeau’s wife, Helena, beautiful broad, had a disease, too. Cocaine. Two-hundred-dollar-a-day nose. — Robert Campbell, Juice 1988
- on the nose
2 recreational time spent under the influence of inhaled drugs UK, 1996

Compares with ‘on the tiles’ (having a good time under the influence of alcohol).
- [Opiates] will also soothe your nerves after an E too many or a night on the nose – at least that’s what my friends tell me. — Julian Keeling, Drugstore Cowboy [The Howard Marks Book of Dope Stories] 1996

nosebag noun

1 a plastic bag used for solvent abuse UK, 1996
- — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996
2 cocaine UK, 1999
- 20-odd bottles of champagne, untold pills and a good ounce or so of nosebag. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

nosebleeder noun

a heavy user of cocaine by nasal inhalation UK, 2002
From a physical side-effect experienced by users.
- So obviously being a nose-bleeder from way back I was convinced that this was a sting, right? — Ben Elton, High Society 2002

nose-burner; nose-warmer noun

the still-lit butt of a marijuana cigarette US, 1973
- — Victor H. Vogel and David W. Maurer, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

nose candy noun

cocaine or, rarely, another powdered drug that can be snorted US, 1925
- We’ve been doing nose candy all night. — Armistead Maupin, Babycakes 1984

nose ningle noun

cocaine UK, 2006
- Divorced, living in the Four Seasons, itching for some nose ningle[]. — The Word June, 2006

nose powder; nose stuff noun

cocaine, or any other powdered drug that has been powdered for inhalation US, 1936
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

nose-up noun

cocaine-taking as a cultural activity UK, 2000
- You ain’t out spunkin your dough down the clubs trying to impress some old sploshers, pissed and on the powder,
number noun

- a marijuana cigarette *US, 1963*
  - [W]e both went to the “john” [lavatory] and knocked up a couple of numbers, which we put to good use before we hit the streets. — Ken Lukowiak, *Marijuana Time* 2000

nurse verb

- in a card game, to nervously fondle and adjust your cards *US, 1988*

nursery race noun

- in horse racing, a relatively short distance race for two-year-olds *US, 1976*

nut noun

- in horse racing, a horse picked by a racing newspaper to win a race *US, 1951*
  - — David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack* 1951
- a bankroll *US, 1951*

- crack the nut
  - 3 in gambling, to make enough money to meet the day’s expenses *US, 1961*

nut mob noun

- a group operating three-shell games in carnivals *US, 1950*
  - — American Speech October, 1950: ‘The argot of outdoor boob traps’

nuts noun

- in poker, the best possible winning hand at a given moment *US, 1977*
  - It’s tough to beat that character since he won’t bet unless he has the nuts.

nutted adjective

- drug-intoxicated *UK, 1997*
  - The Victorians were, in fact, stoners who liked to get nutted, go stumble dancing and have illicit sex with people they barely knew. — Ministry January, 2002
Oo

O noun
opium US, 1933
• [O]n the floor a drunken snoring soldier who'd just eaten some O after lush.
  — Jack Kerouac, Letter to Allen Ginsberg 10th May 1952

oatburner; oatmuncher noun
in horse racing, a racehorse that does not perform well US, 1916
• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

oats noun
➤ on his oats
(used of a racehorse) racing without the benefit of a stimulant US, 1994
• — Igor Kushyshyn et al., The Gambling Times Guide to Harness Racing 1994

OBE
(used of a better in debt) owes bookies everywhere AUSTRALIA, 1989

OC noun
the synthetic opiate oxycodone used recreationally US, 2001
• “Hey, I was getting OC’s prescribed to me in Pennsylvania; I’m going to get them in Las Vegas,” he said. — The New York Times Magazine 29th July 2001

OD noun
a drug overdose US, 1959
• About this time the OD’s started.
  — Herbert Huncke, Guilty of Everything 1990

OD verb
to overdose, to take an excessive dose of a drug, usually heroin US, 1966

OE noun
Old English™ malt liquor US, 1997
• — Judi Sanders, Da Bomb 1997

office noun
any secret signal used by gambling cheats to communicate among themselves US, 1950
• — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

off it adjective
drug-intoxicated UK, 1998
A variation of off your head.
• Alaskan weed... was – and is – the strongest puff I’ve ever smoked, or am ever likely to. I was off it. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

ogoy noun
heroin US, 1977
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

oil noun
1 a potent distillate of marijuana or hashish US, 1996
• We used to bong up on oil after that[.]
  — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996
2 heroin UK, 1998
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003
3 in horse racing, confidential and reliable information about a horse AUSTRALIA, 1989

oil verb
to inject yourself with a drug, especially heroin US, 1981
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

oil burner noun
a serious drug addiction US, 1938
• You better cut down on your blows, Terry, or you’re going to end up with a oil burner. — Donald Goines, Dopefiend 1971

oiled; oiled up adjective
drunk US, 1737
• “Sit down, Holden,” Mr. Antolini said. You could tell he was a little oiled up.
  — J.D. Salinger, Catcher in the Rye 1951

OJ noun
a marijuana cigarette dipped in liquid opium or heroin US, 1970
In other words, an ‘opium joint’. Popular with US troops in Vietnam.

- The O-Js were thin, perfectly rolled marijuana cigarettes soaked in an opium solution. Fifty O-Js to a deck. — John Del Vecchio, *The 13th Valley* 1982

**old lady white; old white lady** noun

- a powdered drug: cocaine, heroin or morphine US, 1942
- How long have you been on old lady white? — Douglas Rutherford, *The Creeping Flesh* 1963

**Oldsmobile** noun

- in hold 'em poker, a nine and an eight as the first two cards dealt to a player US, 1981
- An allusion to the Oldsmobile 98, a popular model.

**on** adverb

- drug-intoxicated US, 1946
  - “I’m on”, Diane announced after four gentle hits. — George Mandel, *Flee the Angry Strangers* 1952

**on** preposition

- (used of a drug) under the influence of US, 1925
  - You don’t sound too goddamn sane yourself. What are you on, anyway? — Gurney Norman, *Divine Right’s Trip* (Last Whole Earth Catalog) 1971

**one** noun

- on one
  - in a state of intoxication as a result of use of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1999
  - He was like some garish Ebeneezer Goode, in your face the whole time, driving everybody on – on one, up for it, mad for it, top one. Heaven knows. He’d be having it large before the night was out. — Kevin Sampson, *Powder* 1999

**one-armed bandit** noun

- a slot-machine gambling device US, 1938
  - The night we were there, we saw three fancy one-armed bandits whirring and swallowing. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, *Washington Confidential* 1951

**one for the boy** noun

- in horse racing, a bet placed on a horse by the owner and given to the jockey before the race US, 1951
  - — David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack* 1951

**one hitter** noun

- a device designed for holding a single inhalation worth of marijuana US, 2003
  - — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* Spring, 2003

**one-skinner** noun

- a marijuana cigarette made with just one cigarette paper UK, 1999
  - [He] started to wrap a one-skinner.[ ] — Kevin Sampson, *Powder* 1999

**one toke no joke**

- powerful marijuana UK, 2000
  - One toke no joke – all bud and no fucking seeds! Cowboy’s honour, man! — Stuart Browne, *Dangerous Parking* 2000

**one to one** noun

- in betting odds, evens UK, 1991

**one-two-five; 125** noun

- cocaine UK, 2001
  - Rhyming slang, from the Inter-City 125, the nearest thing the UK has to a high speed train.
  - [A]s the 125 kicks in to everyone and everything[. ] — Lupine Howl, 125 2001

**open at both ends** adjective

- in poker, four cards in sequence that could form a five-card straight with a draw at either end of the sequence US, 1988

**orange bud** noun

- marijuana UK, 2001
  - It’s this orange bud, man. No wonder they call it goldfish. It knackers your memory. — Ed Allen and Johnny Vaughan, ‘Orrible 10th September 2001

**orange cube** noun

- a dose of LSD given on a sugar cube US, 1975
  - — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

**orange sunshine** noun

- a type of LSD US, 1988
  - I finally unwrapped the miniscule tablets and looked them over. Mere spots of orange lay on the wrinkled silver paper – “orange sunshine” it was
called – labeled by a counterculture that had the Yankee business sense to use a catchy brand name even then. — Sean Hutchinson, Crying Out Loud 1988

orphan noun
in craps, a bet on the table that a gambler has forgotten belongs to him US, 1981


ossified adjective
very drunk US, 1901

— Edward Lin, Big Julie of Vegas 1974

ouija board noun
in horse racing, the official odds board at the racetrack US, 1951

— David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

outers adjective
drug-intoxicated UK, 2000

From a number of phrases that commence ‘out of’.

— [T]hey were so fuckin untogether,outers all the fuckin time.
— J.J. Connolly, Layer Cake 2000

outfit noun
the needle and syringe used to inject a drug US, 1951

— Anybody got an outfit up there?
— Drugstore Cowboy 1988

outhouse noun
in poker, a full house (three of a kind and a pair) that is inferior to another full house hand US, 1996

— John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

INTOXICATED

beaked adjective, UK, 2002

— He’s beaked out of his brains. — Niall Griffiths, Kelly + Victor 2002

blitzed adjective, US, 1966

— Every time we got together we wound up blitzed out of our skulls on booze or speed or both[.] — Lester Bangs, Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung 1977

buzzed up adjective, UK, 2000

— We milled around in a buzzed-up but aimless fashion[.] — Diran Abedayo, My Once Upon a Time 2000

fluffed adjective, UK, 1999


fucked adjective, US, 1965

— And with tunes bouncing round off the walls and attacking you on every side you didn’t even need to be fucked on acid to enter another dimension. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

bollocks noun, UK, 2005

— I’ve written some great songs when I’ve been off my bollocks. — Uncut January, 2006

trolleyed; trolled adjective, UK, 1996

Derives from OFF YOUR TROLLEY.

— Didn’t mind him lying trolleyed on my lap.
— Gavin Hills, White Burger Danny (Disco Biscuits) 1996

twatted adjective, UK, 1999

— Hang in there. It’s just a pill. You’re just a bit twatted. — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

tweaked adjective, US, 1985

— I’m just about tweaked to the max all the time. — Los Angeles Times 4th June 1985

out of it adjective
in an advanced state of drug- or drink-intoxication US, 1963

— And when he got out-of-it it wasn’t falling on the floor out-of-it, it was talking absolute bollocks out-of-it.
— Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

out there adjective
in a state of extreme marijuana-intoxication US, 1977
He smokes a lot, and when he gets really out there on it makes with cartoon non sequiturs that nobody else can fathom. — Lester Bangs, *Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung* 1977

**over-and-under** *noun*

*a capsule containing both a barbiturate and an amphetamine* US, 1973

— David Maurer and Victor Vogel, *Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction* 1973

**overjolt** *noun*

*a drug overdose* US, 1959

— Finally, the next morning, he said, he drove her to a patch of grass near Mission Emergency Hospital and then tipped police that she’d had “an over-jolt.” — *San Francisco Examiner* 9th March 1962

**overland route** *noun*

➤ *to take the overland route*

*in horse racing, to race on the outside portion of the track because a horse prefers passing around a pack to accelerating through it* US, 1947

— Walter Steigleman, *Horseracing* 1947

**over-round** *adjective*

*used of betting when the probable or actual profit margin is entirely in a bookmaker’s favour* UK, 1991

— [T]he book for the 1991 Seagram Grand National, for instance, was over-round by 29 per cent[,] — John McCririck, *John McCririck’s World of Betting* 1991

**Owsley; Owsley acid; owsley** *noun*

*high-quality LSD* US, 1967

From the name of legendary LSD manufacturer Augustus Owsley Stanley III.

— The Owsleys are also given away as free samples. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against* 1967

**oxy** *noun*

*the synthetic opiate oxycodone used recreationally; a capsule of OxyContin™* US, 2000

— On the street, Oxys, as they are commonly called, fetch about $1 per milligram and usually are dosed in 20-, 40-, or 80-milligram tablets. — *Bangor Daily News* 14th June 2000

**OZ; oh-zee** *noun*

*an ounce of marijuana or other drugs* US, 1933

— I had managed with financial assistance to breathe a little life into the scene – had an O.Z. of good amøhents to use and sell enough of to make up the cost and possibly even realize a little profit. — Herbert Huncke, *The Evening Sun Turned Crimson* 1980

**ozone** *noun*

1 *a state of drug or alcohol intoxication* US, 1971

— [T]he book for the 1991 Seagram Grand National, for instance, was over-round by 29 per cent[,] — John McCririck, *John McCririck’s World of Betting* 1991

2 *phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust* US, 1994

— US Department of Justice *Street Terms* October, 1994
Pp

P noun
pure or nearly pure heroin US, 1971

Pablo noun
cocaine UK, 1996
• There had been some calls for a trip to a restaurant, but Marns – whose party, after all, it was – had already had dinner with Pablo... and couldn’t be bothered[.] — Will Self, The Sweet Smell of Psychosis 1996

pack noun
a package of illegal drugs, especially heroin US, 1952
Also variant ‘packet’.
• I been feeling boogy ever since this morning. I didn’t do but a five-dollar pack when I woke up. — Donald Goines, Dopefiend 1971

packie noun
an off-licence US, 1991
From US states where off-licences are known as ‘package stores’.
• — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Fall, 1991

paint noun
1 the inside rails of a horse-racing track AUSTRALIA, 1965
• Just as he spoke, the leaders swung wide and Magger goes through along the paint and dashes three lengths clear. — Frank Hardy, The Yarns of Billy Borker 1965
2 in card games, a face card or a ten US, 1985
• — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

painter noun
a card cheat who marks cards for identification in another player’s hand US, 1993
• — Frank Scoblete, Guerrilla Gambling 1993

Pakistani black; paki black noun
a potent, black-brown marijuana cultivated in Pakistan UK, 1998
In other contexts the use of ‘Paki’ may be seen as derogatory, in this case it is attached to a high-quality product.
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

palf noun
Palfium, a heroin substitute IRELAND, 1996
• [B]ut if Squirrel had gone to drama classes instead of spending his evenings casing gaffs, perfecting handbrake turns in stolen cars and developing an unhealthy appetite for palf[.] — Howard Paul, The Joy 1996

Panama red; Panamanian red noun
a potent variety of marijuana cultivated in Panama US, 1967
• But when things get too confusing, honey / You’re better off in bed / And I’ll be searching all the joints in town for / Panama Red. — Peter Rowan (New Riders of the Purple Sage), Panama Red 1971

panatella noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 1944
• The cigarettes come in three qualities: saras-fras, the cheapest kind, sold to thousands of school children at about ten cents each; the panatella, or messerole, retailed at twenty-five cents[,] — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, New York Confidential 1948

pane noun
a dose of LSD on a tiny, clear gelatin chip US, 1994
A shortened form of WINDOWPANE.
• — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

panic noun
a widespread unavailability of an illegal drug US, 1937
• This was the Panic: people dying unseen, scraping the sugary bottoms of cookers, licking the bitter taste away with their tongues, frightened and cursing the unknown torment within their intestines. — Clarence Cooper Jr, The Scene 1960

panther piss noun
illegally manufactured, low-quality alcohol US, 1971
• Everywhere there were steam baths, massages, girls, Panther Piss, opium
pantzilla noun
Sildenafil citrate marketed as Viagra, an anti-impotence drug taken recreationally for performance enhancement, in combination with other chemicals that stimulate the sexual appetites UK, 2001
A jocular reference to the monster in your underpants. The monster, of course, is Godzilla.
  • — Sky Magazine July, 2001

party verb
to use drugs US, 1999
  • RICKY: Hey, do you party? LESTER: I'm sorry? RICKY: Do you get high.
    — American Beauty 1999

party favors noun
drugs US, 1989
  • — Pamela Munro, U.C.L.A. Slang 1989

party pack noun
a packet of ten rolled marijuana cigarettes for sale in Vietnam during the war US, 1991
  • — Gregory Clark, Words of the Vietnam War 1991

party powder noun
cocaine UK, 2003
  • I've lost my nasal septum through excessive use of party powder. Does this make me trash? — Trash July, 2003

passers noun
dice that have been altered so as to roll a seven less often than normal US, 1950
  • — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

paste noun
crack cocaine US, 1994
From an intermediary step in the production of crack.
  • — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

pasteboard noun
in horse racing, a dry track in good condition US, 1971
  • That horse is a dud on pasteboard, she's strictly a mudlark. — San Francisco Chronicle 21st April 1971

patent noun
a multiple bet, gambling on three different horses in separate races in a total of seven bets UK, 1991
  • A 1 patent casts 7, with double that each way. — John McCririck, John McCririck's World of Betting 1991

patico noun
crack cocaine US, 1994
Spanish slang used by English-speakers who would not know what the word means in Spanish.
patsy noun
a half-gallon jar filled with beer NEW ZEALAND, 1998
A fairly complicated rhyme: Patsy Riggir is a country music singer, and her last name evokes RIGGER, which is another term for a half-gallon jar of beer.
• — David McGill, David McGill’s Complete Kiwi Slang Dictionary 1998

PCP noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug also known as angel dust US, 1969
• She takes PCP and jumps out the school window, falls two stories, gets up, runs around, dies. — Dave Eggers, A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius 2001

Peace Pill; peace noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1977
A rather clumsy back-formation from the initials.
• — Ronald Linder, PCP 1981

peace tab noun
a tablet of psilocybin, a mushroom-based hallucinogen US, 1971
• — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

peace tablet noun
a tablet (of any description) with a drop of LSD on it US, 1982
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

peak freak noun
a casino blackjack gambler who consistently tries to see the dealer’s down card US, 1981
• — Ken Uston, Million Dollar Blackjack 1981

peanut butter noun
low-quality, impure amphetamine US, 1989
• — Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

pearl noun
1 an ampoule of amyl nitrite US, 1971
• — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971
2 cocaine US, 1984
• — R.C. Garrett et al., The Coke Book 1984

pebble noun
a piece of crack cocaine US, 1989
The rock metaphor used again; the plural means crack generally.
• Crack is also known as PEBBLES, SCUD, WASH, STONE and ROCK. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

Pedro noun
cocaine UK, 1999
Given a Spanish name (Peter) to suggest a South American nationality for the supplier.
• “Do you know Pedro?” he twinkled, tiny dimples puckering his cheeks. He was quite a honey. “Alas, I know him well.” “And are you a friend of Pedro?” “Not too close, just at the moment. Sorry.” — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

peeper noun
a card player who tries to see another player’s cards US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

peeties noun
dice that have been altered with small weights to produce a desired number when rolled US, 1962
• — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

pee wee; peewee noun
in craps, a roll of three US, 1999
• — Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999

pencil noun
in a casino, the authority to give a gambler complimentary drinks or meals US, 1977
• Only a few Hosts have the awesome authority of “the Pencil” which authorizes a completely free stay in Vegas. The Pencil is strictly controlled. — Mario Puzo, Inside Las Vegas 1977

pen yan noun
opium; heroin US, 1922
Originally used of opium only and thought to be from a Chinese term for opium. Many variants, including ‘pen yang’, ‘pan yen’, ‘pen yen’, ‘pin yen’, ‘pinyin’ and ‘pin gon’.
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

pepper and salt punter noun
a better who places bets by telephone from home AUSTRALIA, 1989
pep pill noun
a central nervous system stimulant in a tablet form US, 1937
A deceptive yet accurate euphemism that persisted for several decades, especially with students.
  • “You know where I buy pep peels?”
    The Mexican laborer says, inquiring of the coffee-sipping dealers in the House of Do-Nuts on Stanyon Street.
    — Nicholas Von Hoffman, We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against 1967

Pepsi habit; Pepsi Cola habit noun
the occasional use of a drug, short of an all-out addiction US, 1970
  • — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

Percy noun
cocaine UK, 1999
  • CALL IT... Basuco, gianluca, blow, percy, lady, toot, white[,] JUST DON’T CALL IT... Charlie – too Eighties[,] — Drugs: An Adult Guide December, 2001

perdue noun
in poker, an unplayable hand abandoned by a player US, 1988
From the French for ‘lost’.
  • — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

perk; perc noun
a tablet of Percodan™, a painkiller US, 1971
  • Pop a Perc and have a beer and that’s it, sweetness all evening. — Suroosh Alvi et al., The Vice Guide 2002

perp noun
wax and baking soda made to look like crack cocaine US, 1994
  • — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

Peruvian lady noun
cocaine US, 1994
  • — US Department of Justice, Street Terms August, 1994

Peruvian marching powder noun
cocaine US, 1995
A variation of BOLIVIAN/COLOMBIAN MARCHING POWDER.
  • The dressing room after the show was crowded with fans, celebs, shirttail cousins, groupies, and purveyors of Peruvian marching powder. — Kinky Friedman, Kinky Friedman’s Guide to Texas Etiquette 2001

Peruvian pink noun
a type of cocaine originating in Peru UK, 2002
  • Needless to say, it wasn’t Paxo inside the hens, it was 10 kilos of finest Peruvian pink. — Ministry May, 2002

Pfizer riser noun
sildenafilcitrate marketed as Viagra™, an anti-impotence drug US, 1998
Viagra™ is manufactured by Pfizer, and ‘riser’ is a convenient rhyme that suggests the drug’s power to stimulate an erection.
  • But men of all ages are swamping doctors’ offices, claiming flaccidity and begging for that little blue pill dubbed the “Pfizer Riser.” — New York Times 26th April 1998

p-funk noun
1 heroin UK, 1998
After the drug-driven music of George Clinton’s Parliament-Funkadelic.
  • — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002
2 crack cocaine and phencyclidine mixed for smoking US, 1994
  • — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

PG noun
paregoric elixir, a flavoured tincture of opium designed to assuage pain US, 1953
  • Now he had no money for junk. He couldn’t even raise the price of PG and goof balls to taper off. — William Burroughs, Junkie 1953

pharmies noun
prescription medication US, 2003
  • — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Spring, 2003

pharming noun
the mixing and then consumption of the mixed prescription drugs US, 2001
  • In ever-increasing numbers, federally sanctioned, totally licit prescription medications, everything from Adderall to Zoloft, are finding their way onto the streets and into the digestive tracts and nasal passages of the unprescribed, as college students locally and nationwide pop prescription pills for practical and recreational purposes. They call it “pharming”.
  — The Hartford Advocate 19 April 2001
pharm party noun

A party at which celebrants exchange and consume prescription drugs US, 2005

• Nowadays, there are so-called "pharm parties," where teens gather and get high off pills. — The Courier-Journal (Louisville) 9th August 2005

phase 4 noun

A pill of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, mixed with sufficient amphetamine for a four-hour effect UK, 2002

Similarly, a 'phase 8' has an eight-hour effect.

• — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002

pheasant noun

In a gambling cheating scheme, a victim US, 1974

• — John Scarne, Scarne on Dice 1974

phet freak noun

An amphetamine addict US, 1975

• Within fifteen minutes, the A-heads began to flock, and the sound of the trilling flute was heard in the hallway of 28 Allen Street, 'phet-freaks banging most urgently on the door. — Ed Sanders, Tales of Beatnik Glory 1975

Phoebe noun

In dice games, a roll of five US, 1945

• — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

phony noun

A deck of playing cards that is either stacked or marked for cheating US, 1979

• — John Scarne, Scarne's Guide to Modern Poker 1979

phucked adjective

Drug-intoxicated UK, 1999

Deliberate misspelling of FUCKED (intoxicated) inspired by widespread use of 'phat' (excellent).

• — Ben Osborne, The A–Z of Club Culture 1999

phy noun

Methadone UK, 1971

A shortening of Physeptone™, a branded methadone hydrochloride.

• If you're trying to get off heroin and go into a clinic, they'll put you on methadone – phy – as a substitute[]. — Donal Ruane, Tales in a Rear View Mirror 2003

Picasso noun

A card cheat who marks cards for identification in another player's hand US, 1993

• — Frank Scoblete, Guerrilla Gambling 1993

pick 'em noun

In sports betting, a game in which neither team is favoured and the better must pick the winner US, 1991

• The odds were 10 to 11 pick-em that the fight wouldn't go ten rounds[]. — Edward Lin, Big Julie of Vegas 1974

pickle noun

In horse racing, a regular but uninformed better AUSTRALIA, 1989


pickled adjective

drunk UK, 1633

• I figured they were reeling pickled. — S.E. Hinton, The Outsiders 1967

pick-me-up noun

1 An alcoholic drink US, 1982

• He picked up the drink Moran set before him. "Thank you, I believe I will. Little pick-me-up." — Elmore Leonard, Cat Chaser 1982

2 A dose of a central nervous system stimulant US, 1984

• She's at the point of bolting when you ask her if she needs a little pick-me-up. — Jay McInerney, Bright Lights, Big City 1984

piece noun

An ounce of drugs US, 1936

• The dealer-in-weight sells by the piece (about an ounce) to street dealers. The street dealer (or dealer) buys the piece and then steps on it. — Burgess Laughlin, Job Opportunities in the Black Market 1978

pie-eyed adjective

extremely drunk UK, 1904

• With the late Senator Karl Mundt, he "used to invent drinks and get
pie-eyed.” — Bill Cardoso, *The Maltese Sangweech and Other Herbes* 1984

**pig** noun

a racehorse that is not likely to win *US, 1973*

- The horse he had was a stiff, a real pig from Canada. — Vincent Teresa, *My Life in the Mafia* 1973

**piggyback** verb

in casino blackjack, to place a bet in another player’s square *US, 1996*

- — Frank Scoblete, *Best Blackjack* 1996

**pig killer** noun

phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust *US, 1981*


**piker** noun

a rank amateur or beginner; a gambler who makes small, cautious bets *US, 1872*

- I winked at the mark and said, “What makes you think we’re pikers? We’re not afraid to bet even as much as ten dollars or more.” — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), *Trick Baby* 1969

**pilgrim** noun

a newcomer to a game of poker *US, 1988*


**pill** noun

a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy *UK, 1996*

- Es are often referred to simply as “pills”. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, *The User* 1996

**pillhead** noun

a habitual user of amphetamines, barbiturates, or MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy *US, 1966*

- Whilst pillheads hold hands and sing happy songs, pissheads are out the back having a punch-up. — Wayne Anthony, *Spanish Highs* 1999

**pilot** noun

1 a person who remains drug-free to guide another through an experience on an hallucinogenic drug *US, 1966*

- Psychedelic adventurers in San Francisco who are on a bad trip can call in a friendly pilot to bring them down safely. — *Berkeley Barb* 9th December 1966

2 in horse racing, a jockey *US, 1983*


**pimp** noun

in a deck of playing cards, a jack or knave *US, 1988*


**pimp dust** noun

cocaine *US, 1980*

Before the era of crack cocaine, cocaine was an expensive drug enjoyed only by the wealthy, notably by pimps.


**pinch and press** verb

to cheat at gambling, secretly taking back chips from your bet when dealt a bad hand and adding chips when dealt a good hand *US, 1985*

- — Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985

**pinch hit** noun

a single inhalation of marijuana *US, 1993*

- — Peter Johnson, *Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms* 1993

**pinch pipe** noun

a small pipe designed to hold enough marijuana for a single inhalation *US, 1993*

- — Peter Johnson, *Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms* 1993

**pinhead** noun

an amphetamine user *US, 1971*


**pink** noun

1 a casino gambling token worth $2.50 *US, 1991*


2 in horse racing, a track police officer *US, 1947*

Derived from the Pinkerton Agency.

- — Dan Parker, *The ABC of Horse Racing* 1947

**pink champagne** noun

1 methamphetamine with a pinkish colour produced by the presence of the stimulant pemoline *US, 1989*


2 a mix of cocaine and heroin *UK, 1996*

pink eye noun
1 cheap, low-grade whisky CANADA, 1953
   • At Bender's joint, the price of a pint of
     pink-eye was a day's hard labor in a
     mine-head. — William Mowery, Tales of
     the Mounted Police 1953
2 special contact lenses worn by card
   cheats to see luminous markings on the
   back of cards US, 1988
   • — George Percy, The Language of Poker
     1988

Pink Floyd noun
a potent type of LSD UK, 1999
Honouring the rock group Pink Floyd, from
their early days in the late 1960s when they
were considered avant garde and
psychedelic.
   • [A] secret compartment held some origi-
     nal super-strong Pink Floyd acid tabs[.]
     — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

pink heart noun
an amphetamine tablet US, 1997
   • Also black beauties, pink hearts, et
     cetera, advertised in the back of
     magazines like Creem, High Times,
     Hustler. — Laurel Stems, Retrohell 1997

pinkie noun
in Newfoundland, cheap wine CANADA, 1958
   • Pinkie [in St. John's] is a cheap wine
     highly regarded by waterfront
     connoisseurs, a chaser for screech.
     — Maclean's 27th September 1958

pink lemonade noun
cleaning fluid injected intravenously US,
   1971
An often lethal substitute for methedrine.
   • — Eugene Landy, The Underground
     Dictionary 1971

pink robots noun
a type of LSD US, 1998
   • — The Flaming Lips, Yoshimi Battles the
     Pink Robots 2002

pink speedball; pinkie noun
a mixture of pharmaceutical cocaine and
dipipanone, an opiate marketed under the
brand Diconal™ UK, 2001
   • [']The notorious "pink speedball". This
     is the most dangerous, yet most
     intensely euphoric hit known to man...
     I never knew pinkies to be anything
     else. — Peter McDermott, The
     Immaculate Injection [The Howard
     Marks Book of Dope Stories] 2001

pinned adjective
addicted to drugs US, 1997
From 'pin' (a hypodermic syringe).
   • They collected eighteen hundred
     pesetas in all denominations of coin,
     including a five-hundred from James.
     "They'll go mad on that," he laughed.
     "They'll be pinned on smack [heroin or
     cocaine] before we get the engine
     running." — Kevin Sampson, Powder
     1999

pipe noun
1 any large vein, well suited for drug
   injection US, 1952
   • But keep off, better, because if you like
     junk you keep shmeckin and shootin,
     then the skin pop goes to the big
     pipe[.]. — George Mandel, Flee the
     Angry Strangers 1952
   ► do the pipe
2 to smoke crack cocaine US, 1996
   • Yeah, but I ain't done the needle in a
     long time. Lately I been doing the pipe.
     — Neil S. Skolnik, On the Ledge
     1996
   ► on the pipe
3 addicted to crack cocaine US, 1991
   • The kids around the pool table and
     video game were mostly here by
     default, half of them living on the
     street or with mothers on the pipe.
     — Richard Price, Clockers
     1992

pipe verb
1 to smoke crack cocaine in a pipe UK,
   2000
   • We'd been piping and fooling around
     with each other most of the night.
     — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000

pipe up verb
1 to smoke crack cocaine UK, 1992
   • Girl wants to pipe up, it's a free
     country. As long as she's got ten
     dollars. — Richard Price, Clockers
     1992

piranha noun
a poker player who bets aggressively on
any hand with any chance of winning US,
   1988
   • — George Percy, The Language of Poker
     1988

piss artist noun
a heavy drinker AUSTRALIA, 1968
   • Oh cripes if anything's happened to
     mum I'll strangle that old piss artist!!!
     — Barry Humphries, The Wonderful
     World of Barry McKenzie 1968
pissed adjective
drunk UK, 1929
- I really stuffed myself, boy, and I'm pissed to the ears, too, on top of it.
  — Lenny Bruce, *The Essential Lenny Bruce* 1967

piss-up noun
a drinking session UK, 1952
- [T]hree parties took place in Foolgarah on the same night. Not political parties
  (though they could be called that) but grog parties, dings, chevoos, happenings, piss-ups.
  — Frank Hardy, *The Outcasts of Foolgarah* 1971

piss up; piss up large verb
to drink beer or other alcoholic beverages NEW ZEALAND, 1998

pit noun
the vein at the antecubital site, opposite the elbow, commonly used for drug injections US, 1964
- He hasn’t even used his pit, which is what they call the original mainline to the heart and one of the best veins to hit.
  — Jeremy Larner and Ralph Tefferteller, *The Addict in the Street* 1964

pixie noun
an amphetamine tablet US, 1994
- — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* August, 1994

planet noun
▶ on another planet
very drug-intoxicated UK, 1999
- [T]hey were very tight amongst their own, whacked out on another planet but still aware of their like-minded buddies.[] — Wayne Anthony, *Spanish Highs* 1999

plastered adjective
drunk US, 1912
- I took the pieces out of my coat pocket and showed her. “I was plastered,”
  I said. — J.D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye* 1951

Playboy noun
a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2004
- I only took half a Playboy and Connor was saying they’re not all that strong.

player noun
a drug user or drug seller US, 1971

plonk noun
cheap wine AUSTRALIA, 1930
Alteration of French blanc, from vin blanc (white wine).
- Beer’s the only drink fer a workin’ man. Whisky makes yer silly. An’ plonk’ll rot yer boots.
  — Nino Culotta (John O’Grady), *They’re a Weird Mob* 1957

ploppy noun
an unskilled gambler who describes his systems to all around him UK, 1996
- — Frank Scoblete, *Best Blackjack* 1996

plowed adjective
drunk US, 1974
- “It gets better the more you drink,” said Joey, on his third. After a while,
  everyone was plowed. — Richard Price, *The Wanderers* 1974

pluck noun
wine US, 1964
- We went and got some “pluck” (wine) and I told him I was in college.

plug noun
a poker player with a steady, competent and predictable style of play US, 1988

pocket rocket noun
an improvised syringe filled with a drug and ready for injection US, 1989

pod noun
marijuana US, 1952
- Sometimes he [Jack Kerouac] lapses into pages of terrifying gibberish that sound like a tape recording of a gang bang with everybody full of pod, juice and bennies all at once.
  — *The Nation* 23rd February 1957

pogo stick noun
in poker, a player with wildly fluctuating play and success US, 1996
poison noun
a narcotic or an alcoholic drink, especially a person’s favourite US, 1805
Used in a jocular tone.
- He sat beside me and said, “See, Honey, I remembered your poison: gin

- Pokie addiction has led to hundreds of Australians committing crimes[.]. — Max Daly, The Guardian 12th February 2003

policeman noun
in horse racing, a horse entered in a claiming race solely for the purpose of

and soda.” — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Mama Black Widow 1969

poison shop noun
a pharmacy US, 1988
- We gots to find out first just what poison shops in this town are holding. — Drugstore Cowboy 1988

poke noun
an inhalation of marijuana or opium smoke US, 1955
- Then some lame was puffing on a joint one night, got next to a kitty and said she had to take a poke. — Edwin Torres, Carlito’s Way 1975

pokie noun
an electronic poker machine NEW ZEALAND, 2002
- Pokie addiction has led to hundreds of Australians committing crimes[.]. — Max Daly, The Guardian 12th February 2003

USERS

drug monkey noun, UK, 2003
a heavy user of drugs
- Do you get bored with your drug monkey reputation? — X-Ray October, 2003

gack-nag; gak-nag noun, UK, 2002
a cocaine user
- [T]he previously cuddly [Jason] Donovan was outed as a gak-nag of near unparalleled proportions. — Ministry January, 2002

herbsman noun, JAMAICA, 1970
a marijuana smoker
- A herbsman is a righteous mon who enjoys the sweetness of the earth and the fullness thereof. Him just smoke herb like the bible say, and commit no crime. — Jabberrock [quoting Bob Marley, 1975] 1997

jakey noun, UK, 2001
a person who drinks methylated spirits
- Her hand’s tremblin like a jakey’s reachin for his first pint of the day. — Niall Griffiths, Kelly + Victor 2002

junkie noun, US, 1922
a drug addict, specifically one addicted to heroin
- There were wild Negro queers, sullen guys with guns, shiv-packing seamen, thin, non-committal junkies, and an occasional well-dressed middle-aged detective[.] — Jack Kerouac, On the Road 1957

and she knew how easily she could relinquish that sense of responsibility with which she had this time gone to Carter, how simply she could become a Viper again and laugh at the meaning of days. — George Mandel, Flee the Angry Strangers 1952

pot pig noun, UK, 2001
a marijuana user who takes more than a fair share
- Didn’t leave much on that Ianto, aye? Fuckin pothead yew. — Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

roidhead noun, UK, 2001
a habitual user of steroids
- ‘Roid’ is an abbreviation of ‘steroid’.
- She hated all them roid-heads[.] — Kevin Sampson, Outlaws 2001

space cadet noun, UK, 2002
a drug user
- Not surprised he wants to legalize everything if his own daughter’s a bloody space cadet, eh? — Ben Elton, High Society 2002

toker noun, US, 1973
a marijuana smoker
- I’m a smoker / I’m a midnight toker[.] — Steve Miller, The Joker 1973

viper noun, US, 1938
a marijuana user
- But she knew how easily she could relinquish that sense of responsibility with which she had this time gone to Carter, how simply she could become a Viper again and laugh at the meaning of days. — George Mandel, Flee the Angry Strangers 1952

permitting the owner to claim another horse in the race US, 1951
- — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

polisher noun
an alcoholic who drinks metal polish UK, 1966
- He sucked at a tin of metal polish. The polishers are an interesting branch of the alcohol seeking fraternity. — Geoffrey Fletcher, Down Among the Meths Men 1966

Polish martini noun
a shot of whisky and a glass of beer US, 1982
- — Bill Reilly, Big Al’s Official Guide to Chicagoeese 1982
polluted adjective
drunk US, 1976
Jon was well beyond tipsy. A few minutes later, and with help from his friends, the bottle was empty. Jon was polluted. — Elissa Stein and Kevin Leslie, Chunks 1997

polvo noun
powdered drugs; heroin; cocaine UK, 1980
Directly from Spanish polvo (powder): powder (heroin). Also variant ‘polvito’.
— Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

poly noun
marijuana of a supposedly Polynesian origin UK, 1997
Look: you was after the boom poly an’ I got two kees. — Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

pony noun
1 in betting, odds of 25–1 UK, 1991
— John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991
2 a racehorse US, 1907
Used especially in the phrase ‘play the ponies’.
He played the ponies, got his tail, smoked cigarettes incessantly, despite his bad lungs, drank, sat up at all-night poker games. — James T. Farrell, Saturday Night 1947

pool shark noun
an expert pool player who makes a living by feigning a lack of expertise and convincing strangers to play against him US, 1908
Why, you’re a pool shark. A real pool shark. — The Hustler 1961

pop verb
in poker, to raise a bet US, 1951
— American Speech May, 1951

poorboy noun
a small bottle of alcohol US, 1952
I get in my double bed with bop on the radio, a poorboy half-bottle of Tokay wine, the shades drawn[.] — Jack Kerouac, Letter to John Clellon Holmes 12 October 1952

pop noun
1 a drink, usually at a bar US, 1977
I seen a couple of guys I know, had a couple of pops, got something down on it. — John Sayles, Union Dues 1977
2 cough syrup containing codeine US, 1970
— William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

3 an injection of a drug US, 1952
You make it wit me, Diane? If I take a pop, you make it? — George Mandel, Flee the Angry Strangers 1952

► on the pop
4 drinking alcohol UK, 2000
[As soon as we’d dropped my bag off at his flat, out on the pop we did go, big time. — Ken Lukowiak, Marijuanna Time 2000

poppy noun
heroin UK, 1998
— Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

popsie noun
an ampoule of amyl nitrate or (iso)butyl nitrate inhaled as a stimulant US, 1967
When I use a popper, I feel as though I had ten assholes and I wanted them all filled at once. — Angelo d’Arcangelo, The Homosexual Handbook 1968

poppy noun
heroin UK, 1998
— Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

popskull noun
strong, homemade whisky US, 1999
It is called corn liquor, white lightning, sugar whiskey, skully cracker, popskull, bush whiskey, stump, stumpumph, ’splo, ruckus juice, radiator whiskey, rotgut, sugarhead, block and tackle, wildcat, panther’s breath, tiger’s sweat, Sweet spirits of cats a-fighting, alley bourbon, city gin, cool water, happy Sally, deep shaft, jump steady, old horsey, stingo,
blue John, red eye, pine top, buckeye bark whiskey and see seven stars.
— Star Tribune (Minneapolis) 31st January 1999

pop-up noun
any mushroom with an hallucinogenic effect
UK, 2000
• I’d once before had a third of a microdot of acid, but that had been nothing compared to what thirty of these little pop-ups were now doing to me. — Ken Lukowiak, Marijuana Time 2000

porch climber noun
homemade alcohol or cheap British Columbia wines CANADA, 1989
• “Porch climber” either as homebrew or cheap wines in gallon jugs, caused one to do all kinds of crazy things like shinney up the verandah posts. — Tom Parkin, WetCoast Words 1989

porn weed; horny weed noun
marijuana with, allegedly, aphrodisiac properties UK, 1999

Portagee beer noun
any beer in a quart bottle BERMUDA, 1985
• — Peter A. Smith and Fred M. Barritt, Bermewjan Vurds 1985

posh adjective
being in possession of drugs UK, 2002
• Oh, and did you say you were posh tonight, darling? No? Oh, that’s a bore. — James Hawes, White Powder, Green Light 2002

postman noun
in horse racing, someone who can be counted on for inside tips on horses and races AUSTRALIA, 1989
A term built on MAIL as ‘inside information’.

pot noun
1 marijuana US, 1938
The most popular slang term for marijuana in the 1950s. No agreement on the etymology, with competing conjectures and little supporting evidence.
• Marijuana will be legal some day, because the many law students who now smoke pot will some day become Congressmen and legalize it in order to protect themselves. — Lenny Bruce, How to Talk Dirty and Influence People 1965

2 heroin US, 1999
• [Charlie Parker] always had a crowd around him and he gave different jobs to each one. “You go and get my horn. You get me some pot. You do this. You do that.” And they would jump. — Kenny Dorham, recalling the late 1940s, quoted in Waiting for the Man Harry Shapiro 1999

potater juice; potato juice; potata juice noun
vodka US, 1976
• Well, maybe after this Russian potata juice ferments I’ll relax more. — Joseph Wambaugh, The Golden Orange 1990

potato noun
marijuana UK, 1999
An elaboration of POT.
• I warily put my stuff on the bonnet, leaving the lump of Moroccan potato in the pocket of my jeans. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

potato soup noun
vodka US, 1970
• — Current Slang Summer, 1970

pot pig noun
a marijuana user who takes more than a fair share UK, 2001
• Didn’t leave much on that Ianto, aye? Fuckin potpig yew. — Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

pound verb
to drink (alcohol) US, 1995
• We get there, we pound booze till Carlos shows up[.]. — Quentin Tarantino, From Dusk Till Dawn 1995

poverty poker noun
a style of poker in which a player who loses their bankroll may play for free until they win a hand US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

powder verb
> powder your schnoz
to inhale cocaine UK, 2000
• [D]rink too much and powder her schnoz too regularly. — James Hawes, Dead Long Enough 2000

powder monkey noun
a cocaine user UK, 2002
• What is it about being on telly that turns seemingly straightforward people... into rampaging powder monkeys. — Rob Fitzpatrick, Ministry January, 2002

pox noun
marijuana; hashish UK, 1996
• He laid the block on the bed, then sat next to it, looking at it closely. Hashish. Cannabis. Ash. Rocky. Pox. Call it what you like. — Courttia Newland, Society Within 1999

PQ noun
a half-pint of rum TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1987
An abbreviation of ‘petit quart’.
• — Lise Winer, Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago 2003

prat powder noun
powdered amphetamine UK, 2002
From the power of the powder to make you behave like a ‘prat’ (a fool).
• Speed, see. Prat powder. I'm not always a tosser, honest. — Ben Elton, High Society 2002

pray verb
pray to the porcelain god; pray to the enamel god
to vomit into a toilet US, 1980
• — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Fall, 1980

prayer meeting noun
a private dice game US, 1949
• The next night the boys was having a little prayer meeting when I came by. I didn't have no mind for dice so I didn't get in on it. — Hal Ellson, Duke 1949

praying John noun
a gambler who believes that he can influence the fall of the dice by uttering the right, magical words US, 1950
• — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

prellies noun
Phenmetrazine, a chemical stimulant marketed as Preludin™, used in the US as a diet drug UK, 2002

• [The Beatles] kept going by using uppers supplied by the clubs — particularly “Prellies”. — Uncut February, 2002

Presbyterian poker noun
low-key, low-limit, friendly poker US, 1996
• — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

pride of Deadwood noun
in poker, a hand consisting of aces and eights US, 1988
From the belief, true or legendary, that when Wild Bill Hickok was shot and killed in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, he was holding a hand consisting of aces and eights, all black.
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

prime time noun
cocaine; crack cocaine UK, 2003
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

primo noun
1 a very high grade of marijuana, consisting of a high degree of potent flowering tops of the plants US, 1971
• — Ernest L. Abel, A Marihjana Dictionary 1982
2 marijuana mixed with crack cocaine US, 1995
3 a conventional tobacco cigarette laced with cocaine and heroin UK, 1998
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002
4 heroin UK, 2002
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

producer noun
a serious gambler who, like most gamblers, usually loses US, 1963
• During his stay, hieroglyphics are secretly appended to his name on the hotel register, which catalogue him as a “dropper” (businessman and heavy loser), “producer” (businessman), or “nonproducer” (professional gambler).
— Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris, The Green Felt Jungle 1963

professor noun
a skilled and experienced poker player US, 1979
• — John Scarne, Scarne’s Guide to Modern Poker 1979
prop noun
in casino gambling, a casino employee who poses as a player to draw interest to a game US, 1996
An abbreviation of ‘proposition player’.
 — Frank Scoblete, Best Blackjack 1996

prozie noun
a branded antidepressant Prozac™ tablet UK, 2001
 — CALL IT... Spikers, prozie[..] JUST DON'T CALL IT... The “Happy” Pill[..] — Drugs: An Adult Guide December, 2001

pruno noun
a potent, homemade alcohol, often made with fermented prune juice US, 1990
 — After Lights Joe uncapped a Maxwell House coffee jar of pruno, as prison hootch was called. — Seth Morgan, Homeboy 1990

pub-crawl verb
to move in a group from one drinking establishment to the next, drinking at each UK, 1937
 — They pub-crawled through the night and wound up in a twenty four hour restaurant that was Spain’s version of Denny’s. — Odie Hawkins, The Life and Times of Chester Simmons 1991

pub pet noun
a two-litre plastic container for draught beer NEW ZEALAND, 1988
 — Depending on regional expressions [draught-beer containers] are variously known as a “jar”, “peter”, “half-gee” (half-gallon) or the more modern “pub pet” two-litre plastic bottle. — Pacific Way July, 1988

puff noun
marijuana UK, 1987
 — Most gangsters thought drugs was drugs was drugs, meaning that they thought that smoking puff was the same as injecting heroin in your eye. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000
don’t give a fuck side of society anyway. — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000
 — puff the dragon; puff the magic dragon 1998
 ‘Puff, The Magic Dragon’, 1963, a song by Peter, Paul and Mary, is, according to a popular myth, about smoking marijuana or a weapon of war – nothing in the lyric sustains this but nevertheless the song inspired this term.
 — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

puggy noun
a kitty in a card game; a one-armed bandit; an ATM cash dispenser UK: SCOTLAND, 1985
From a Scots word for ‘monkey’.
 — Puzzles, from activating lifts to access new areas, to punching a puggy machine to line up health-boosting hamburgers or V-Medals, help keep the action fresh and let you catch your breath. — Dundee Evening Telegraph 5th November 2003

pulling time noun
in an illegal numbers gambling lottery, the time of day when the winning number is drawn or selected US, 1949
 — American Speech October, 1949

pump verb
1 to sell drugs, especially crack cocaine US, 1989
 — You be pumping that rock, Tre? — Boyz n The Hood 1990

2 in poker, to increase a bet made by another player US, 1983
 — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

punk noun
1 in horse racing, a mildly talented jockey US, 1951
 — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

2 marijuana UK, 2003
 — Got the Skunk, got the Punk, we got the Sess, it’s Blessed. — Julian Johnson, Urban Survival 2003

punt verb
to gamble UK, 1873
 — anyone who wants to punt on the identity of the Conservative leader at the next election. — The Guardian 20th March 2003
**punta-rosa** noun
a hybrid marijuana from Mexico *MEXICO, 2003*
- If you've got the space, punta rosa is easy to grow and consistently delivers bumper harvests — Nick Jones, *Spliffs* 2003

**punter** noun
1 a gambler *UK, 1873*
- But nothing has so infuriated punters as high minimum stakes[.]. — John McCririck, *John McCririck's World of Betting* 1991
2 a drug dealer's customer *UK, 2000*
- rushing to and from punters, setting up deals. — Lanre Fehintola, *Charlie Says...* 2000

**puppy** noun
a small bottle of wine *US, 1980*

**puppy paws; puppy feet** noun
in craps, a ten rolled with a pair of fives *US, 1981*
- — Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985

**pure** noun
pure, unadulterated heroin *US, 1967*
- Musta' shot some “pure,” cause a lookout on the sidewalk heard him mumble before he croaked, “Well kiss my dead mammy's ass if this ain't the best smack I ever shot[.].” — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), *Pimp* 1969

**purple** noun
the recreational drug ketamine *US, 1994*
- — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994

**purple death** noun
inexpensive red wine *NEW ZEALAND, 1987*
- The Purple Death has scored a few hits over the festive season. It's a wine with a difference, recommended as “rough-as-guts” drinking. — *Sunday News* 4th January 1987

**purple haze** noun
1 LSD *US, 1967*
Whether the drug inspired the song – ‘Purple Haze all in my brain’ (Jimi Hendrix, ‘Purple Haze’, 1967) – or the song inspired the branding is uncertain.
- They'd arrive in a Purple-Hazish condition and play a song a few times[.]
- Frank Zappa, *The Real Frank Zappa Book* 1989
2 a potent variety of marijuana *UK, 1996*
Named after the 1967 song by Jimi Hendrix.
- Other types include Purple Haze, Sumatran Red, Durban Poison and skunk. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, *The User* 1996

**purple heart** noun
a tablet of amphetamine Drinamyl™ used as a recreational drug *US, 1967*
From the lilac colour of the pill; playing on the US military decoration awarded to any member of the armed forces wounded by the enemy. Also shortened to 'heart' or 'purple'.
- [A] schoolboy's financial gain from the sale among his chums of purple hearts (containing dextedrine but no longer purple nor heart shaped). — John MacQuarrie, *Dictionary of Christian Ethics* 1967

**purple Jesus** noun
an alcoholic drink based on grape juice *CANADA, 1991*
- He introduced her to a few other couples, danced her perfunctorily around the floor, and proceeded to get very drunk on a mixture of grape juice and straight alcohol that the fraternity brothers called Purple Jesus.

**Purple Nike Swirl E** noun
a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, with a Nike logo *UK, 2001*
- Ecstasy dealers have taken to branding their tablets with famous logos: there is Big Mac E, Purple Nike Swirl E, X-Files E, and a mixture of uppers and downers called a “Happy Meal”[.]
- Naomi Klein, *No Logo* 2001

**purple ohm; purple om** noun
a type of LSD *UK: NORTHERN IRELAND, 2001*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>push verb</th>
<th>pusher noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to sell something, especially drugs US, 1938</td>
<td>a drug dealer US, 1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Frankie has been dealing for six years without a bust. When I first met him he was pushing the stuff out of a hot-dog pushcart on St. Mark's Place. — Abbie Hoffman, <em>Woodstock Nation</em> 1969</td>
<td>• Everyone down on the pusher, but he don’t push nobody, he only push the dope. He provides a service, that’s all – somebody got to do it. — Edwin Torres, <em>Carlito’s Way</em> 1975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Qu

Q noun
1 of drugs, generally marijuana, a quarter of an ounce UK, 1997
• How many [ecstasy tablets] was you wantin'? – Ten... An' a q. — Nick Barlay, *Curvy Lovebox* 1997
2 the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™ US, 1977
• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986
3 in American casinos, a $25 chip US, 1983
An abbreviation of 'Quarter'.
• — Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985

qat; khat; kat noun
1 methcathinone US, 2003
2 leaves of catha edulis, a stimulant also called 'K' UK, 1996
Originates in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian peninsula, legally available in the UK and similar to amphetamine in effect when chewed. Also known as 'qaadka'.
• — Angela Devlin, *Prison Patter* 1996

quack noun
the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™ US, 1985
• By 1972 it was one of the most popular drugs of abuse in the United States and was known as 'love drug', 'heroin for lovers', 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde', 'sopors', 'sopes', 'ludes', 'mandrakes and quacks'. — Marilyn Carroll and Gary Gallo, *Methaqualone* 1985

quad noun
the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™ US, 1980
• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

quadrupelets noun
in poker, four cards of the same rank US, 1979

quart noun
in poker, four cards of the same suit in sequence US, 1979

quartz noun
methamphetamine that is smoked UK, 1998
• — Mike Haskins, *Drugs* 2003

quat noun
in betting, odds of 4–1 UK, 1991

quay; quas noun
the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™ US, 1997

queer beer noun
weak, watery beer US, 1976
More commonly reduplicated as ‘near beer’.
• — Elementary Electronics, *Dictionary of CB Lingo* 1976

quinella noun
in horseracing, a bet on the first two to finish in either order US, 1991

quinine noun
in the game of craps, the number nine US, 1950
• — *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* May, 1950

quiver noun
cocaine UK, 1999

quiz noun
a roadside sobriety test US, 1976
• — Wayne Floyd, *Jason's Authentic Dictionary of CB Slang* 1976
rabbit ears noun
in a casino Keno game, the two clear plastic tubes through which the number balls are blown US, 1993
  • — Frank Scoblete, *Guerrilla Gambling* 1993

rabbit tracks noun
in craps, a six rolled with a pair of threes US, 1985
  • — Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985

race bird noun
an enthusiastic fan of horse racing US, 1971

rack noun
1 a foil-wrapped package of amphetamines US, 1997
  • [Cross Tops] were sold by the $1 unit called a rack in tightly foiled increments of four, five, or ten, depending on the quality of the drugs or the dealer. — Don Bolles, *Retrohell* 1997

2 a six-pack (of beer) US, 1991
  • — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* Fall, 1991

rack up verb
to prepare lines of cocaine UK, 1997
  • He pushes a little bag of kuf over the desk an’ Kingsley starts racin’ up lines on his mirror. — Nick Barlay, *Curvy Lovebox* 1997

rag noun
in poker, a useless card in the dealt hand or a drawn card that does not improve the hand US, 1978

rail noun
a line of cocaine or other powdered drug, laid out for snorting US, 1984
  • You followed the rails of white powder across the mirror in pursuit of a point of convergence[.] — Jay McInerney, *Bright Lights, Big City* 1984

railbird noun
1 in horse racing, an enthusiast who watches morning workouts, carefully clocking performances US, 1931
  • — David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack* 1951

2 in American casinos, a thief who steals chips from inattentive gamblers US, 1985
  • “Guy’s acting a little shifty,” Roger said. “Could be a railbird, waiting to grab a few chips”. — Elmore Leonard, *Glitz* 1985

railroad bible noun
a deck of playing cards US, 1976

rainbow noun
a capsule of amobarbital sodium and secobarbital sodium (trade name Tuinal™), a combination of central nervous system depressants US, 1966
  • The carpeted lobby was littered with fallen rainbows, dexis, bennies, ludes, speed, even some dust, though it had a bad rep these days[.] — Joseph Wambaugh, *The Glitter Dome* 1981

rainbow hand noun
a poker hand with cards of all four suits US, 1950

rainbows noun
LSD UK, 1998
Presumably from the pictures printed on the blotting paper dose.
  • Street names... penguins, rainbows, smilies[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, *The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs* 1998

rainy day woman noun
marijuana US, 1982
This seems to have been inspired by the following lyric: ‘Everybody must get stoned’ by Bob Dylan, ‘Rainy Day Women #12 & 35’, 1966.
  • — Ralph de Sola, *Crime Dictionary* 1982

raisin jack noun
a potent and vile alcoholic beverage brewed by letting raisins ferment, usually in prison US, 1986
  • [W]atching mentally impoverished lowlifes get fucked up on raisinjack[.] — James Ellroy, *Suicide Hill* 1986
POKER

dead man’s hand noun, US, 1888
in poker, a hand with a pair of aces and a pair of eights
Although it is the modern belief that this was the hand held by Wild Bill Hickok when shot to death in 1876 in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, early uses of the term (which also sometimes referred to three jacks with two red sevens) make no mention of Hickok. In 1942, Damon Runyon wrote that the hand with jacks was sometimes called the ‘Montana dead man’s hand’.

fingerprint noun, US, 1996
in poker, a player’s signature move
Albert always raises Big Maxx in early position. It’s his fingerprint. — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

heater noun, UK, 2003
in poker, a period of good luck for one player
“Paul sure got on a heater last night.” You will also hear that a player is “hot,” meaning that he is on a heater. — Dave Scharf, Winning at Poker 2003

Mexican straight noun, US, 1979
in poker, any hand, a knife and a threat to use the knife
— Maledicta 1979: ‘A glossary of ethnic slurs in American English’

Mississippi flush noun, US, 1999
in poker, any hand and a revolver

muck noun, US, 1990
in poker, the pile of discarded cards
— Anthony Holden, Big Deal 1990

nuts noun, US, 1977
in poker, the best possible winning hand at a given moment
It’s tough to beat that character since he won’t bet unless he has the nuts. — Robert C. Prus and C.R.D. Sharper, Road Hustler 1977: ‘Glossary of terms’

pokie noun, NEW ZEALAND, 2002
an electronic poker machine
Pokie addiction has led to hundreds of Australians committing crimes. — Max Daly, The Guardian 12th February 2003

pride of Deadwood noun, US, 1988
in poker, a hand consisting of aces and eights
From the belief, true or legendary, that when Wild Bill Hickok was shot and killed in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, he was holding a hand consisting of aces and eights, all black.

rag noun, US, 1978
in poker, a useless card in the dealt hand or a drawn card that does not improve the hand
— Edwin Silberstang, Winning Poker for the Serious Player 1992

randan noun
a spree of wild, debauched, hedonistic behaviour, especially if heavy drinking is involved UK: SCOTLAND, 1985

— Jeffrey McQuain, Never Enough Words 1999

— Anthony Holden, Big Deal 1990


— Max Daly, The Guardian 12th February 2003

— George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

— Edwin Silberstang, Winning Poker for the Serious Player 1992

— Harry Shapiro, Recreational Drugs 2004

— Stephen J. Cannell, The Tin Collectors 2001

— Michael Munro, The Original Patter 1985

Rastafarian noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2004
Specifically used of any tablet of MDMA stamped with a stylised image of a dreadlocked head.

Rastafarian
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy
Specifically used of any tablet of MDMA stamped with a stylised image of a dreadlocked head.
**ratboy noun**  
Among a group of drug users, a person who will sample any drug before the group uses it US, 1987  
An allusion to the rat as the subject of laboratory experiments.  
— Carsten Stroud, Close Pursuit: A Week in the Life of an NYPD Homicide Cop 1987

**ratted** adjective  
Drunk UK, 2002  
She committed professional suicide that last time she was on that show, absolutely ratted. — The Guardian 1st October 2002

**rave drug noun**  
Any chemical or ‘designer’ drug associated with dance and club culture UK, 2003  
I’ve smoked dope; I’ve done rave drugs, but I’ve never tried heroin or cocaine. — Loaded June, 2003

**razor edges noun**  
Dice that are true to an extremely minute tolerance, approximately 1/1000th of an inch US, 1950  
— The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

**reader noun**  
1 A prescription for a narcotic US, 1950  
You can’t work a cartwheel or a bug to get a reader because the butcher’s gimpitous to all that[.] — The New American Mercury 1950

2 A marked card US, 1894  
He sees through his “reader” eyeglasses Hicks’ hand; space ace in hole with ten showing. — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Doom Fax 1978

3 Special tinted eyeglasses used for reading marked cards US, 1985  
— Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

**ready rocks; redi rocks noun**  
A form of cocaine prepared for smoking US, 1989  
Readymade: cocaine and blow (heroin) can usually be purchased from the same street drug dealers[.]  
— The Emergence of Crack Injection June, 1995

**red noun**  
1 Any central nervous system depressant, especially a capsule of Seconal™ or another barbiturate US, 1966  
What in the world ever became of sweet Jane / She lost her sparkle you know she isn’t the same / Living on reds, vitamin C and cocaine[.] — The Grateful Dead, Trucking November 1970

2 Marijuana US, 1969  
A generic term for golden-red marijuana, clipping Panama Red etc.  
— Ernest L. Abel, A Marijuana Dictionary 1982

3 In American casinos, a five-dollar betting chip US, 1982  
— Thomas F. Hughes, Dealing Casino Blackjack 1982

**Red Bull** nickname  
Black Label™ beer SOUTH AFRICA, 2005  
Scamto youth street slang (South African townships).  
Black Label beer became tomato and then Red Bull – nothing to do with the energy drink. — Rebecca Harrison, Reuters 8th February 2005

**red devil noun**  
1 A capsule of secobarbital sodium (trade name Seconal™), a central nervous system depressant US, 1959  
[A] barbiturate, called Red Devils, so called because of the color of the capsule and because they are reputed to possess a vicious kick[.].  
— Eldridge Cleaver, Soul on Ice 1968

2 A type of amphetamine tablet UK, 1997  
I’ve got some powder [cocaine] turning up tomorrow, but all I’ve got for now are speed pills called Red Devils.  

3 Heroin UK, 2003  
— Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

**red dirt marijuana; red dirt noun**  
Uncultivated marijuana US, 1960  
“That aint no ordinary loco-weed,” said C.K., “... that there is red-dirt marijuana, that’s what that is.” — Terry Southern, Red-Dirt Marijuana and Other Tastes 1967
red dope noun
wild cannabis that has been sprayed with a bright red herbicide US, 2001
The colour plus dope (marijuana).
- The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics And Dangerous Drugs has issued a warning, advising people to stay away from “red dope”. — Mixmag September, 2001

red-eye noun
fermented ketchup US, 1976
A prison concoction.
- — John R. Armore and Joseph D. Wolfe, Dictionary of Desperation 1976

red flag noun
when injecting a drug into a vein, the practice of drawing blood up into the syringe to verify the finding of a vein and to control the pace of the injection US, 1987
- — Carsten Stroud, Close Pursuit 1987

red Leb noun
hashish with a reddish colour produced in the Lebanon UK, 1982
- It’s called Red Leb. From the Lebanon. Red and soft. Feel. — Tony Wilson, 24 Hour Party People 2002

red Mitsubishi noun
PMA (paramethoxyamphetamine) or PMMA (paramethoxymethylamphetamine) when taken as a recreational drug UK, 2000
- They had the Mitsubishi [Japanese car manufacturers] logo, were red, 7mm in diameter and 5mm thick and weighed 230mg. They were sold as “red Mitsubishi” or “killer” (!). — London Toxicology Group February, 2002

red rock opium noun
a mixture of heroin, barbital, strychnine and caffeine UK, 2002
- — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

red rum noun
1 a variety of heroin UK, 2001
An allusion to the qualities of the legendary racehorse (steeplechaser Red Rum won the UK Grand National a record three times). Also rhyming slang for ‘dumb’ and ‘muder’ spelt backwards.
- He overdosed on a cocaine and heroin “speedball” made with a particularly lethal strain of heroin nicknamed Red Rum. — Uncut May, 2001
2 a mixture of heroin, barbital, strychnine and caffeine UK, 2002
- — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

redskin noun
in a deck of playing cards, any face card US, 1967

red snapper noun
in blackjack, a dealt hand of two red cards that add up to 21 US, 1996
- — Frank Scoblete, Best Blackjack 1996

reefer noun
1 a marijuana cigarette US, 1931
Almost certainly from the Spanish word meaning ‘to twist’. Still used, with a nostalgic air to it.
- Shorty talked to me out of the corner of his mouth: which hustlers – standing around, or playing at this or that table – sold “reefers,” or had just come out of prison, or were “second-story men.” — Malcolm X and Alex Haley, The Autobiography of Malcolm X 1964
2 marijuana US, 1931
- We could sell them for about three or four dollars and buy a bag of reefer. We’d roll up and get high and then go do something crazy[.] — Claude Brown, Manchild in the Promised Land 1965

reekstick noun
a conventional tobacco cigarette laced with cocaine UK, 2003
- — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

reindeer dust noun
any powdered drug; cocaine; heroin US, 1942

Rembrandt noun
in poker, a hand of face cards US, 1988
- — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

rhubarb and custard noun
a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
From the red and yellow colour of the pill.
ribbon clerk noun
a poker player who withdraws from a hand at any sign of serious betting US, 1988
  — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

rich man’s drug noun
cocaine US, 1972
Because of its high cost. Although the phrase sounds a bit literary, it was used by those without any particular literary background.
  — Cocaine is prestigious to use because it is so expensive; they call it the “rich man’s drug.” — Christina and Richard Milner, Black Players 1972

rig noun
a hypodermic needle and syringe US, 1969
  — “Sweets for my sweet,” Rooski softly crooned withdrawing the spent rig.
  — Seth Morgan, Homeboy 1990

rigger noun
a half-gallon jar of beer NEW ZEALAND, 1988
  — David McGill, David McGill’s Complete Kiwi Slang Dictionary 1988

righteous bush noun
any potent variety of marijuana US, 1946
  — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

rim-jag verb
to make an indentation on a playing card with your fingernail or thumbnail to identify the card later in another player’s hand US, 1988
  — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

ripped adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1969
  — JAY: Now I’m gonna head over to Atlantic, drink some beers, get ripped, and – please God – get laid. — Clerks 1994

ripper noun
an amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1986
  — Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Glossary of Drugs / Drug Language 1986

river noun
in a hand of poker, the final card received by a player UK, 2003
  — Dave Scharf, Winning at Poker 2003

roach verb
to smoke a marijuana cigarette UK, 2004
  — I’ll roach a spliff watching the TV throughout[.] — The Streets (Mike Skinner), Wouldn’t Have It Any Other Way 2004

roach; roche noun
the butt of a marijuana cigarette US, 1938
  — Twist up a big bomb of this serious dope / Smoke it down to tha dub or roach tip / So much damn resin it’s startin’ to drip[.] — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

roach clip noun
a device, improvised or manufactured, designed to hold the butt of a (marijuana) cigarette and make smoking the final portion possible US, 1997
  — [Y]ou hear dat? says Shitsky attachin’ a roach clip to his spliff.
  — Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

roached adjective
under the influence of Rohypnol™ (flunitrazepam), popularly known as the ‘date-rape drug’ US, 1996
From the name of the manufacturer, Hoffman-La Roche.
  — American Speech Summer, 1997: ‘Among the new words’

road dog noun
in sports betting, a team picked as the underdog playing away from home US, 1989
  — Wayne Alan Root, Betting to Win on Sports 1989

road map noun
in craps, the dice placed before the shooter with the point needed to win face up US, 1983
  — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

robo noun
dextromethorphan (DXM), an active ingredient in non-prescription cold and cough medication, often abused for non-medicinal purposes US, 2003
  — Youths’ nicknames for DXM: Robo, Skittles, Triple C’s, Rojo, Dex, Tussin, Vitamin D. DXM abuse is called “Robotripping” or “Tussing.” Users might be called “syrup heads” or “robotards.” — USA Today 29th December 2003
robo verb
to drink Robitussin™ (branded cough medicine with codeine) US, 1993
  • — www.addictions.org 2004

Roche; La Roche; rochie noun
Rohypnol™ (flunitrazepam), popularly known as the ‘date-rape drug’ US, 2004
Because Roche Pharmaceuticals markets the Rohypnol™ sleeping pill.
  • — American Family Physician 1st June 2004

rock noun
  crack cocaine US, 1983
  • Looky here, you want the bitches to really fly high, make your rocks with Cherry Seven-Up. — True Romance 1993
  
  a small bet UK, 1991
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

rocky noun
  a hypodermic needle and syringe US, 1989
  • — Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989
  
  hashish UK, 1999
  • He laid the block on the bed, then sat next to it, looking at it closely. Hashish. Cannabis. Ash. Rocky. Pox. Call it what you like[.] — Courtitia Newland, Society Within 1999

2 crack cocaine UK, 1998
  • An eighth of Charlie [cocaine], five pills [MDMA] and an ounce of rocky. If it’s any good we’ll be back. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

rock star noun
  a crack cocaine dealer US, 1988

rocky hash noun
  a type of marijuana UK, 1997
  • What was you after? — Es an’ some rocky hash, says Baggy. — Nick Baclay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

rocky Mountain Kool Aid noun
  Coors™ beer US, 1977
  Once available only in Colorado, where it is brewed.
  • — Bill Davis, Jawjacking 1977

rocy noun
  any variety of hashish from Morocco UK, 2003
  • Sitting in a deep sweat / thinking / I got to get some rocy for the weekend[.] — Goldie Looking Chain Soap Bar 2004

roidhead noun
  a habitual user of steroids UK, 2001
  ‘Roid’ is an abbreviation of ‘steroid’.
  • She hated all them roid-heads[.] — Kevin Sampson, Outlaws 2001

rojo noun
dextromethorphan (DXM), an active ingredient in non-prescription cold and cough medication, often abused for non-medicinal purposes US, 2003
Spanish for ‘red’, which is the colour of the cough syrup.
  • Youths’ nicknames for DXM: Robo, Skittles, Triple C’s, Rojo, Dex, Tussin,
Vitamin D. DXM abuse is called "Robotripping" or "Tussing." Users might be called "syrup heads" or "robotards." — USA Today 29th December 2003

rof verb
to vomit US, 1982
- — Mary Corey and Victoria Westermark, Fer Shurr! How to be a Valley Girl 1982

roller noun
a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 2002
- Tablets of the rave-party drug ecstasy are called "rollers," he added, explaining that ecstasy users often describe their high as "feeling like they're rolling." — Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 9th February 2002

rollers noun
dice with rounded edges US, 1950
- — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

rollie noun
1 a marijuana cigarette UK, 1999
- [He] felt an incurable urge for a smoke. Nothing too heavy, just a couple of nice pure-grass rollies to set him right. — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999
2 a tablet of Roypnol™, a brand name for flunitrazepam, a sedative NEW ZEALAND, 1989
- — Harry Orsman, A Dictionary of Modern New Zealand Slang 1999

roll-up noun
a type of bet where the amount won on one event becomes the stake for the next event UK, 2001
Better known as an ‘accumulator’.
- — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

roofer noun
Rohypnol™ (flunitrazepam), popularly known as the ‘date-rape drug’ US, 1997
- This drug, flunitrazepam, or Rohypnol (known on the street as “roofies” or “roffers”) is a powerful sedative[.]
- — Teen Magazine July, 1997

roofies; ruffles; roples noun
the recreational drug RohypnolTM (flunitrazepam) US, 1997

rooms noun
mushrooms US, 1969
- — John D. Bell et al., Loosely Speaking 1969

rope noun
1 marijuana; hashish; a marijuana cigarette US, 1944
Conventional ‘rope’ is often made from Indian hemp; it is likely that the sense as ‘a marijuana cigarette’ is influenced by appearance.
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986
2 Rohypnol™ (flunitrazepam), popularly known as the ‘date-rape drug’ US, 1995
- On the street the drug has many nicknames; teenagers know it as rope, ribs, or roaches. — Texas Monthly September, 1995

rofie noun
Rohypnol™ (flunitrazepam), popularly known as the ‘date-rape drug’ US, 1993
- One rofie salesman says his connection sells them by the thousand, at one dollar per tablet. — Miami New Times 14th July 1993

Rosa Maria; rosa maria noun
marijuana US, 1938
In the early twenties, marijuana, muggles, muta, gage, tea, reefer, grifa, Mary Warner, Mary Jane or rosa maria was known almost exclusively to musicians. — Harry Shapiro, Waiting for the Man 1999

rose noun
a tablet of Benzedrine™ (amphetamine sulphate), a central nervous system stimulant US, 1967
- — John B. Williams, Narcotics and Hallucinogenics 1967

rotgut noun
any unwholesome alcohol UK, 1633
- Want some wine? I got a jug of rotgut your granny left behind. — C.D. Payne, Youth in Revolt 1993

rouf noun
four; in betting, odds of 4–1 UK, 1851
Back slang; pronounced as ‘loaf’.
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991
rouf and a half noun
in betting, odds of 9–2 UK, 1991
  • — John McCririck, John McCririck's World of Betting 1991

roundabout; rounder noun
a conditional bet on three selections UK, 2001
  • — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

round robin noun
a wager of ten conditional bets on three selections UK, 2001
  • — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

round-the-clock noun
an elaborate conditional wager on a minimum of three selections UK, 2001
  • — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

rowdy noun
a person who inhales glue for the psychoactive effect US, 1971
  • — Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

Roxanne noun
cocaine; crack cocaine US, 1994
  • — Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

royal temple ball noun
hashish and LSD formed into a ball US, 1978
  • In the center are a dozen hand-pressed balls of Royal temple balls. — Peter Stafford, Psychedelic Encyclopedia 1992

royal wedding noun
in hold 'em poker, a king and queen, especially of diamonds US, 1996
  • — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

rubby noun
a derelict who drinks rubbing alcohol US, 1962
  The word is not to be confused with 'rummy'.
  • A “rubby” drinks rubbing alcohol. He can buy it in drugstores on Sunday, when Canadian liquor stores are closed. — Bill Casselman, Canadian Words 1995

rub of the brush noun
a beverage made from the remnants of drinks in a bar US, 1950
  • Each got a tin-cup of this. It was called “a rub of the brush,” because that was how it felt going down. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, Chicago Confidential 1950

ruckus juice noun
strong, homemade whisky US, 1999
  • It is called corn liquor, white lightning, sugar whiskey, skully cracker, popskull, bush whiskey, stump, stumphole, 'splo, ruckus juice, radiator whiskey, rotgut, sugarhead, block and tackle, wildcat, panther’s breath, tiger's sweat, Sweet spirits of cats a-fighting, alley bourbon, city gin, cool water, happy Sally, deep shaft, jump steady, old horsey, stingo, blue John, red eye, pine top, buckeye bark whiskey and see seven stars. — Star Tribune (Minneapolis) 31 January 1999

rugby ball noun
a capsule of Temazepam™, a branded tranquilliser UK, 1998
  From the shape.
  • Street names... “rugby balls” or “temazzies”. — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

rug joint noun
a well appointed, even luxurious gambling operation US, 1964
  • — John Scarne, Scarne on Dice 1974

rum blossom noun
a red welt produced from excessive consumption of alcohol US, 1976
  • [H]e’s the kind of guy that doesn’t exactly blend into a crowd, with that big nose of his all decorated with rum-blossoms and that scar he got on his cheek[] — George V. Higgins, The Judgment of Deke Hunter 1976

rumdum; rum-dumb noun
a drunk US, 1891
  • We get up there and sure enough there’s the rumdum, some old panhandler who when not mooching used to hang around the lions in front of the Public Library feeding the pigeons. — Bernard Wolfe, The Late Risers 1954

rummy noun
an alcoholic US, 1851
  • At this rate, I’ll end up being a fuckin’ rummy, he warned himself. — Donald Goines, Never Die Alone 1974

run noun
a period of extended amphetamine use US, 1967
• Speed runs can extend to several months, but usually they are self-limiting and last from 2–3 days.
  — Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

runway noun
a generous dose of powdered cocaine arranged in a line for snorting UK, 1999
• The girls sat me down and chopped up two huge runways on a mirror.[
  — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

rush noun
1 a capsule containing vapors of amyl nitrate or butyl nitrate inhaled as a stimulant US, 1988

• “May I have some rush first, mistress?” “Oh, you have rush?” I said. — Dolores French, Working 1988

2 the sudden onset of drug intoxication US, 1966
• I don’t get strung out on any speed; there’s no chemical I need. I like the buzz. I like the rush. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against 1967

Rushina noun
in homosexual usage, a personification of amyl nitrite or butyl nitrite US, 1980
From rush, a popular name for amyl nitrite.
• — Maledicta Winter, 1980: “Lovely, blooming, fresh and gay”: the onomastics of camp’
safe noun
the rectum US, 1992
Referring to the rectum as a depository for drugs to be smuggled into prison.
- William K. Bentley and James M. Corbett, Prison Slang 1992

sais a ching noun
in betting, odds of 6–5 UK, 1991
A slurring of ‘six’ combined with CHING (five pound).
- John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

salad noun
a mixture of two or more drugs US, 1970
- William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

salt and pepper noun
marijuana, especially if of poor quality; marijuana adulterated with oregano US, 1946
- Also known as doodley-squat, salt and pepper, and “male twigs,” this female-impersonator a/k/a Headache Mary is sometimes advertised as “good commercial”[]. — Hi Life 1979

salty water noun
the recreational drug GHB US, 1997
Caustic soda mixed with industrial cleaner gamma butyrolactone produces a salt which is dissolved in water to produce the clear solution GHB.
- GHB has been marketed as a liquid or powder and has been sold on the street under names such as Grievous Bodily Harm, Georgia Home Boy, Liquid Ecstasy, LiquiX, Liquid E, GHB, GBH, Soap, Scoop, Easy Lay, Salty Water, G-Riffick, [and] Cherry Menth. — Morbidity and Morality Weekly Report 4th April 1997

Salvador Dali; salvador noun
cocaine UK, 2000

Rhyming slang for CHARLIE (cocaine).
- We can’t bring Salvador Dali through airport security. — James Hawes, Dead Long Enough 2000

Sandoz; Sandoz’s noun
LSD US, 1967
Named after Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, the original Swiss manufacturer of the drug.
- Once, once, I had a white Sandoz. Oh, oh, I can’t tell you. Such acid! — Nicholas Von Hoffman, We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against 1967

sandwich verb
in poker, to surround a player with two confederates whose collusive betting tactics relieve the middle player of his bankroll and drive him from the game US, 1973
- Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

Santa Marta; Santa Maria noun
potent marijuana with a reddish-gold colour, originally cultivated in northern Colombia US, 1979
- Over the past few years in New York, the magic moniker has been successively, Chiba-Chiba, wacky, red, red wacky, gold and Santa Marta. — Hi Life 1979

satin noun
Italian Swiss Colony Silver Satin wine US, 1980
An inexpensive wine.
- Edith A. Folb, Runnin’ Down Some Lines 1980

Saturday night noun
in dominoes, the double blank US, 1959
- Dominic Armanino, Dominoes 1959

sauce noun
any and all alcohol US, 1940
- But the first thing you have to do is cut down on the sauce and build up your health. — William Burroughs, Junkie 1953

sauced adjective
drunk US, 1985
- Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Fall, 1985

sawdust joint noun
an unassuming, barebones gambling operation US, 1963
- Some of the names of the sawdust joints are as direct as their actions.
scag; skag noun
heroin; cocaine US, 1967
- I was snortin’ scag / while other kids played tag / and my elders went to church to pray. — Lightnin’ Rod, 
Hustlers Convention 1973

scaggy adjective
addicted to heroin UK, 2002
- Fuck off you scaggy twat. — Tony Wilson, 24 Hour Party People 2002

scare cards noun
in poker, the strongest cards in a player’s hand, exposed to other players accidentally on purpose US, 1996
- — Peter O. Steiner, Thursday Night Poker 1996

scat noun
heroin US, 1949
- — John B. Williams, Narcotics and Hallucinogenics 1967

scenic route noun
in horse racing, running outside the pack on turns US, 1978
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

schitz verb
to behave in an abnormal fashion because of sustained methamphetamine use US, 1993
From ‘schizophrenia’.
- — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

schoolboy draw noun
in poker, a draw in a highly unlikely attempt to improve a hand US, 1988
- — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

schwag; shway noun
marijuana, especially low-quality marijuana US, 1995
- Can you tell the low-THC schwag from the good pot? — Dana Larsen (editor), 
Pot Puzzle Fun Book 2000

scooby-doo; scooby; scoob noun
a marijuana cigarette US, 2000
Scooby Doo, a popular animated cartoon character produced by Hannah Barbera since 1969, disguises booby.
- We... went for a stroll along the early evening seafront to smoke some more Scooby-Dooby Doo, where are you.
- Ken Lukowiak, Marijuana Time 2000

scooby snack noun
a drug that acts as a depressant or relaxant, usually Valium™ US, 1995
- Running around robbing banks / all wacked off of Scooby Snacks! — Fun Loving Criminals Scooby Snacks 1995

scoop noun
- the recreational drug GHB US, 1993
- Health officials say mixing the drug, known on the street as “Georgia Home Boy” or “Scoop,” with alcohol or other drugs can cause nausea and life-threatening breathing problems. — Atlanta (Georgia) Journal and Constitution 15th April 1993

scoot noun
- on the scoot
on a drinking binge AUSTRALIA, 1916
- But when he got on the scoot in town he was a bloody pest. — Sam Weller, Old Bastards I Have Met 1979

score noun
1 a sale, especially of drugs or something else illegal US, 1914
- Divine Right paid the man with cash he’d got from a big grass score that morning[.] — Gurney Norman, Divine Right’s Trip (Last Whole Earth Catalog) 1971
2 in betting, odds of 20–1 UK, 1991
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

score verb
to obtain something, especially drugs and especially dishonestly US, 1914
- Alvy, listen, while you’re in California, could you possibly score some coke for me? — Annie Hall 1977

Scotch noun
in betting odds, even UK, 1991
- — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Scotty noun
crack cocaine; the intoxication produced by crack cocaine US, 1989
Taken from the catchphrase ‘Beam me up, Scotty’, first heard in cult science-fiction television series Star Trek (1966–1969).
- — Terry Williams, The Cocaine Kids 1989

scramble noun
adulterated heroin US, 1984
scrap iron noun
a potent and dangerous alcoholic concoction made from wood alcohol, mothballs and chlorine US, 1992
— William K. Bentley and James M. Corbett, Prison Slang 1992

scratch verb
➤ scratch your monkey
(used of a drug addict) to satisfy your drug habit with an injection or other ingestion of the drug US, 1992
— William K. Bentley and James M. Corbett, Prison Slang 1992

screech noun
dark, strong Jamaican rum imported into Newfoundland CANADA, 2001
—the Newfoundland-Jamaican relationship goes back a long period of time, i.e. when the Newfs had tons of fish to trade [for screech]. — Emily Way, An American’s Guide to Canada 10th November 2001

screwed up adjective
drunk US, 2004
— If you ask me, getting screwed-up and making love are just about the two most fun things in the entire world.[.] — Marty Beckerman, Generation S.L.U.T. 2004

script noun
a prescription for a narcotic, especially a forged prescription US, 1936
—from this croaker up on 76th Street. He used to write for me, you know, scripts, prescriptions. I turned a trick with him. — James Mills, The Panic in Needle Park 1966

scruffy and dirty noun
in betting, odds of 100–30 UK, 1991
Rhyming slang.
— John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

scud noun
-crack cocaine UK, 1996
— Crack is also known as PEBBLES, SCUD, WASH, STONE and ROCK[.]
— Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

seagull noun
a person who watches what bets are being made by big spenders and then makes a small bet on the horses favoured by the big spenders US, 1966
— San Francisco Examiner 13th September 1966

seccy noun
a capsule of secobarbital sodium (trade name Seconal™), a central nervous system depressant US, 1969
— She turned on once in a while; preferred doriden nembutal, seccies, any of the barbituates and most of all, heroin. — Herbert Huncke, The Evening Sun Turned Crimson 1980

second nuts noun
in poker, a good hand that is bested by a better hand US, 1976
— Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

second-story man noun
a skilled card cheat who deals the second card in a deck US, 1988
— George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

seller noun
a gambler who bets on a result lower than the bookmaker’s favoured spread UK, 2001
— Brian is optimistic about Arsenal’s chances and decides to be a buyer (bets higher) at £10 per point. Sally, on the other hand, is pessimistic. She is a seller (bets lower), also at £10 per point. — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

senator noun
in a game of poker, a dealer who does not play US, 1988
— George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

send verb
to produce a drug intoxication US, 1950
— They are sufficiently strong to “send” the kids. — Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, Chicago Confidential 1950

sense; sens noun
marijuana US, 1984
— Cause it seems a lot of times, I’m at my best / After some methical or a bowl of sense. — Tone Loc, Cheeba Cheeba 1989

sensi; sensee noun
marijuana JAMAICA, 1983
sensimillia; sinsemilla; sinse noun
a very potent marijuana harvested from a hybrid cannabis plant with seedless buds
JAMAICA, 1982

serenity, tranquility and peace noun
STP, a synthetic hallucinogen that appeared on the drug scene in 1967
US, 1972
Because of its claimed psychedelic powers, the drug was named STP after the engine oil additive (scientifically treated petroleum), with this trinity of virtues produced through back formation.
— Carl Chambers and Richard Heckman, Employee Drug Abuse 1972

sergeant from K company noun
in a deck of playing cards, a king
US, 1988
— George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

serial speedball verb
to use cocaine, cough syrup and heroin in a continual cycle over a 1–2 day period
UK, 1998
serial speedballing – doing cocaine, cough syrup and heroin continuously over a couple of days — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

service stripes noun
bruises, punctures and sores visible on the skin of an intravenous drug user
US, 1973
— David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

sess; sces; sezz noun
potent marijuana
US, 1982
Variations on SENSIMILLIA.

seven-eleven noun
a small amount of money given to a gambler who has lost all their money, either by a casino or fellow gamblers
US, 1950
— Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

shebang verb
to ingest cocaine by spraying a solution of cocaine and water up the nose
UK, 2002
— Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

she noun
cocaine
US, 1958
— The She. Yeah, S-h-e. Because if you take cocaine you have no need for a woman. — Willard Motley, Let No Man Write My Epitaph 1958

sham dunk noun
in poker, a poor hand that wins a pot as a result of successful bluffing
US, 1996
— John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

sharp noun
in gambling, a cheat
UK, 1797
— At fifteen, he was an accomplished card sharp, pickpocket and ravishing female impersonator baiting tourist tricks for muggers in the French Quarter. — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Doom Fox 1978

sharpschooter noun
an intravenous drug user who usually hits a vein on the first attempt to inject a drug
US, 1986
— Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

shake noun
marijuana, especially the resinous matter that is shaken to the bottom during transit or what remains after the buds have been removed
US, 1978
— Once stoned on the low-grade green shake, it seemed much safer to stay home. — Sean Hutchinson, Crying Out Loud 1988

shake-up noun
a mixture of wine and corn whisky
US, 1973
— Kenn ‘Naz’ Young, Naz’s Underground Dictionary 1973
PLAYING CARDS AND CARD PLAYERS

bullet noun, US, 1807
in cards, an ace
• The banker spread his hand. A flush. “Four bullets,” Rick said joyously, slapping them down. — John D. McDonald, *The Neon Jungle* 1953

cold deck noun, US, 1857
in card games, a stacked deck of cards
• Was back in thirty-two when times were hard / I had a sawed-off shotgun and a cold deck a cards. — Bruce Jackson, *Get Your Ass in the Water and Swim Like Me* 1964

hand mucker noun, US, 1979
in gambling, a cheat who switches cards
• Besides dice tats and 7UPS, there were volumes for nail nickers and crimpers (card markers), hand muckers and mit men (card switchers), as well as card counters and shiner players. — Stephen Cannell, *Big Con* 1997

Jewish deal noun, US, 1949
dealing cards left-handed
• “Look at the Jewish deal,” Louie marveled, for the punk dealt left-handed. — Nelson Algren, *The Man with the Golden Arm* 1949

mechanic noun, US, 1909
in gambling, a cheat who manipulates the cards or dice
• I mean, all of Nicky’s half-assed mechanics, they were all real signal happy. — *Casino* 1995

mitt man noun, US, 1997
in gambling, a cheat who switches cards
• Besides dice tats and 7UPS, there were volumes for nail nickers and crimpers (card markers), hand muckers and mit men (card switchers), as well as card counters and shiner players. — Stephen Cannell, *Big Con* 1997

readers noun, US, 1985
special tinted eye glasses used for reading marked cards
• — Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985

snapper noun, US, 1980
in blackjack, an ace and ten-point card dealt as the first two cards to a player
• — Lee Solkey, *Dummy Up and Deal* 1980

suicide king noun, US, 1988
in a deck of cards, the king of hearts
• It appears that the king is plunging a knife into his head. — George Percy, *The Language of Poker* 1988

work noun, US, 1963
dice or cards that have been altered for the purpose of cheating
• — John S. Salak, *Dictionary of Gambling* 1963

2 marijuana US, 1946
• Sitting on the couch smoking shit and enjoying yourself? — Lenny Bruce, *The Essential Lenny Bruce* 1967

3 crack cocaine UK, 1996
• I was licking shit. — Angela Devlin, *Prison Patter* 1996

4 narcotics; drugs in general US, 1967
• Some kids call all dope “shit” or “junk,” terms that were once synonyms for heroin. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against* 1967

sherm noun
• a marijuana cigarette that has been supplemented with phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1982
From Shermans™, a cigarette brand.

• This is a Blood hood. Amber live here with her baby and her mother. Her mother be smokin’ Sherm all the time. — *Rolling Stone* 12th April 2001

sherm noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1981
• — Ronald Linder, *PCP* 1981

shine noun
alcohol US, 1933
• Some of Roland Crowe’s buddies were still sloshing around back there in the swamp, driving air boats, guiding hunting and fishing parties, poaching alligators, making shine[,] — Elmore Leonard, *Gold Coast* 1980

2 marijuana US, 1946
• Sitting on the couch smoking shit and enjoying yourself? — Lenny Bruce, *The Essential Lenny Bruce* 1967

3 crack cocaine UK, 1996
• I was licking shit. — Angela Devlin, *Prison Patter* 1996

4 narcotics; drugs in general US, 1967
• Some kids call all dope “shit” or “junk,” terms that were once synonyms for heroin. — Nicholas Von Hoffman, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us Against* 1967

shitfaced adjective
drunk US, 1968
• I hope it isn’t going to be one of those nights where they get shitfaced and take us to a pasture to tip cows.
— Heathers 1988

shmeck; schmeck; shmee noun
heroin; cocaine US, 1932
From German schmecken (to taste), but note an assonant similarity to SMACK (heroin).
• Then one night zonked out of my mind on schmeck – pot – benzedrine and seconal – I met a cat I had become friendly with who was a kind of John or mark. — Herbert Huncke, The Evening Sun Turned Crimson 1980

shnookered adjective
drunk US, 1985
— Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Fall, 1985

shoot verb
1 to inject a drug intravenously US, 1914
• This was earlier, all the junkies in Ross’s room tying up and shooting[] — Jack Kerouac, The Subterraneans 1958

• shoot an air rifle; shoot an air gun
2 in pool, to bet without money to back your bet US, 1990
• When betting an air barrel, or “shooting the air rifle,” follow the stewardess’s advice and take some time to acquaint yourself with the emergency exits around you. — Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

• shoot gravy
3 to inject a mixture of blood and drug solution that has been reheated after failing to make a direct hit on the vein US, 1973
• — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

shooting gallery noun
a place where addicts congregate to buy and inject drugs US, 1951
• We’d drive in with Bull for groceries and Hassel’d disappear. We’d have to go looking for him in every shooting gallery in town. — Jack Kerouac, On the Road 1957

shortcake verb
to shortchange someone US, 1961
• “Curly,” he says, “that Greek gentleman back there shortcaked me.” — Guy Owen, The Flim-Flam Man and the Apprentice Grifter 1972

short dog noun
a half pint bottle of alcohol; cheap wine US, 1968
• Tooner Flats is the area of gangas who spend their last dime on short dogs of T-Bird wine[]. — Oscar Zeta Acosta, The Revolt of the Cockroach People 1973

shortstop noun
a gambler who makes small and conservative bets US, 1950
• She was shot in the head by Smitty Cocaine / A notorious shortstop and a practical lame[]. — Dennis Wepman et al., The Life 1976

shot noun
an injection of drugs UK, 1929
• Oh can’t you see that I’m fading fast? And that this shot will be my last. — The Rolling Stones, Sister Morphine 1971

shotgun noun
1 a pipe with air-holes used for smoking marijuana US, 1977
• The shotgun was a tube of seven Coca-Cola cans taped together end-to-end. Grass, bulk marijuana which could be purchased by the sandbag for ten dollars MPC, was burned in the second can. — John Del Vecchio, The 13th Valley 1982

2 a ritual of drinking beer, forcing the beer out of the can into the drinker’s mouth by opening the down-facing top after puncturing the up-facing bottom US, 1988
• — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Fall, 1988

shotgun verb
to share marijuana smoke with someone else in the following manner: you blow through a lighted joint or blunt which is held with the burning end in your mouth, while your fellow-smoker inhales the stream of smoke that is produced US, 1974
• — Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang March, 1974

shoulder noun
in betting, odds of 7–4 UK, 1991
From the TICK-TACK signal used by bookmakers.
• — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

shoulders noun
• on the shoulders
in betting, odds of 9–2 UK, 1991
From the **tick-tack** signal used by bookmakers.

**shout** verb

► **shout at your shoes**

to vomit *US, 1987*

**show price**; **show** noun

in gambling, the betting odds displayed by a bookmaker at a point in time *UK, 1976*
- During the run-up to a race... the broadcasting service gives... a “show” on that race... the prices being offered at that time on the various horses taking part. — *Ladbroke’s Pocket Betting Guide* 1976

**shroomer** noun

a recreational drug user who takes hallucinogenic mushrooms; also, more innocently, a person who gathers wild mushrooms *US, 2003*
- High times in magic mushroom business – and it’s perfectly legal... “The response has been amazing. We’re seeing the same groups of shroomers every week.” — *The Guardian* 29th October 2003

**shrooms** noun

**psychoactive mushrooms** *US, 1987*
- JAY: I got hits, hash, weed, and later on I’ll have ’shrooms. We take cash, or stolen MasterCard and Visa. — *Clerks* 1994

**sick** adjective

suffering the symptoms of withdrawal from a drug addiction *US, 1938*
- Up to Lexington, 125 / Feel sick and dirty, more dead than alive. — *Velvet Underground I’m Waiting for the Man* 1967

**side-roader** noun

a rural marijuana thief; a person who grows marijuana in a remote outdoor garden *NEW ZEALAND, 1990*
- The drug barons now squared off against the “side-roaders” in shadowy and ruthless turf wars that fed off regional farm economies and spiralling unemployment. — Redmer Yska, *New Zealand Gree* 1990

**sideways** adjective

of a sum of money being gambled, split each way (to win or place) *UK, 1960*
- Racing slang.
- Saucepan [1], sideways, Lanternjaw. — *Mark McShane, The Straight and Crooked* 1960

**silk and satin** noun

any combination of central nervous system stimulants and central nervous system depressants *US, 1980*
- *Edith A. Folb, Runnin’ Down Some Lines* 1980

**silly dust** noun

a powdered drug *UK, 2003*
- You hoovered up some silly dust back in the club, entered a K-hole and don’t know what happened. — *Mixmag* June, 2003

**silver** noun

**marijuana** *UK, 2000*
- Based on the colour of the leaves.
- [T]hat gummy silver at one hundred and eighty. Indica and sess two hundred plus[.] — *Diran Adebayo, My Once Upon a Time* 2000

**silver bullet** noun

**a martini** *US, 1988*
- Five hours, he must’ve had twenty silver bullets. — *Elmore Leonard, Freaky Deaky* 1988

**simple Simon** noun

**psilocybin**, a hallucinogenic mushroom *US, 1970*
- William D. Alsever, *Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People* December, 1970

**Singin’ Johnny** noun

**homebrew** *CANADA, 1998*
- Singin’ Johnny is made by putting ripe black currants and sugar into a liquor bottle in July, filling it with gin, and letting it ferment until Christmas, [to be] served to holiday visitors. — *Bill Casselman, Canadian Food Words* 1998

**single-stakes-about** noun

in gambling, a type of conditional bet *UK, 2001*
- A bet consisting of two singles, each with an any-to-come [a type of conditional bet] single at the same stake on the other selection. Sometimes denoted by a cross or a series of
crosses between the selections (eg £2 A xxx £2 B). — David Bennet, *Know Your Bets* 2001

**sister hix** noun

in craps, a six *US, 1983*


**sixer** noun

a six-pack of beer *US, 1993*

— Deek killed his bottle, slipped it back into the sixer, and patted his belly with a satisfied sigh. — Jess Mowry, *Way Past Cool* 1992

**sixie; sixie from Dixie** noun

in craps, the number six *US, 1985*

— Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985

**six-packs** noun

in craps, a roll of twelve *US, 1999*


**sixty days** noun

in dice games, a roll of six *US, 1962*

— Frank Garcia, *Marked Cards and Loaded Dice* 1962

**sizzurp** noun

a mixture of codeine-infused cough syrup and soda *US, 2002*

— Comparable to a Southern Nat Dogg, Moe and assorted Texas MCs sound off about ladies, weed, and sizzurp-sipping. — *Eat Bay Express* 27th November 2002

**skagged up** adjective

intoxicated by or addicted to heroin *UK, 1993*

— We’re meeting half the arseholes in the business and I’m skagged up. — Shaun Ryder, *Shaun Ryder... in His Own Words* 1993

**skied** adjective

drug-intoxicated *US, 1989*

A play on ‘sky’ not ‘ski’, as ‘high in the sky’.

— Most of these sneaker bitches is looking to get skied, not looking for knowledge. — Terry Williams, *The Cocaine Kids* 1989

**skin habit** noun

a drug addiction based on intramuscular, not intravenous, injections *US, 1972*

— It was a skin habit, see, which I got in the last part of ’43. — Bruce Jackson, *In the Life* 1972

**skinny Dugan** noun

in craps, any combination of seven *US, 1985*

— Steve Kuriscak, *Casino Talk* 1985

**skinny end** noun

in horse racing, a third place finish *AUSTRALIA, 1989*


**skin-pop** verb

to inject a drug into the skin or muscle, not into a vein *US, 1952*

Usually practised in the early stages of drug use.

— I got back to Lino next day and told him what he wanted to hear, that the kid was only sniffin’, not skin-poppin’, and that he was straightened out. — Edwin Torres, *Carlito’s Way* 1975

**skin up** verb

to roll a marijuana cigarette *UK, 1998*

— The only way we could really find out if it was kosher dope was to skin one up and have a puff or two. — Ken Lukowiak, *Marijuana Time* 2000

**skittles** noun

dextromethorphan (DXM), an active ingredient in non-prescription cold and cough medication, often abused for non-medicinal purposes *US, 2003*

— Youths’ nicknames for DXM: Robo, Skittles, Triple C’s, Rojo, Dex, Tussin, Vitamin D. DXM abuse is called “Robotripping” or “Tussing.” Users might be called “syrup heads” or “robotards.” — *USA Today* 29th December 2003

**skull cracker** noun

strong, homemade whisky *US, 1999*

— It is called corn liquor, white lightning, sugar whiskey, skull cracker, pops skull, bush whiskey, stump, stumphole, ‘splo, ruckus juice, radiator whiskey, rotgut, sugarhead, block and tackle, wildcat, panther’s breath, tiger’s sweat, Sweet spirits of cats a-fighting, alley bourbon, city gin, cool water, happy Sally, deep shaft, jump steady, old horsey, stingo, blue John, red eye, pine top, buckeye bark whiskey and see seven stars. — *Star Tribune (Minneapolis)* 31st January 1999

**skunk beer** noun

inexpensive, bitter, poor-quality beer *US, 1997*
• We listened to Black Flag, formed bands, tried chewing tobacco, threw up from chewing tobacco, got grounded for swilling skunk beer. — News and Observer (Raleigh, North Carolina) 3rd August 1997

skunked adjective
drunk US, 2001
• — Don R. McCreary (Editor), Dawg Speak 2001

skunk weed; skunk noun
an extremely potent variety of marijuana which will produce an hallucinogenic effect;
also, good-quality marijuana US, 1982
• A small dose of the skunk weed, like it’s supposed to be[.]. — Cypress Hill, Stoned Raiders 1995

slang verb
to sell drugs, especially crack cocaine US, 1991
• His brother is gonna go down, he’s steady slangin’ outside the apartments. — Rick Ayers (Editor), Berkeley High Slang Dictionary 2004

slapper noun
a drug dealer US, 1997
• — Judi Sanders, Da Bomb 1997

sleeper noun
1 a barbiturate capsule; a sleeping tablet US, 1961
• Even though the sleeper had only done half its job, Leo was still groggy. — Emmett Grogan, Final Score 1976
2 heroin UK, 1998
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002
3 in betting, uncollected winnings; a stake that is illegally retained by the bookmaker when a bet is won UK, 1956
• Wally (motto: Wally pays with a smile), had just tried to keep a sleeper for the book, i.e. had omitted to return winning clients their stake-money. — Charles Raven, Underworld Nights 1956

sleigh ride noun
the use of cocaine or heroin; cocaine or heroin US, 1973
Building on the snow metaphor.

slied adjective
(said of playing cards) waxed for identification in a cheating scheme US, 1952

Slicked aces were being used. They were so thoroughly waxed it was surprising no one wised up. — Harry Grey, The Hoods 1952

sling verb
to sell illegal drugs US, 2001
• When they sling – street slang for selling drugs – they do it alone or maybe with a friend. — St. Louis Post-Dispatch 29th March 2001

slippery Anne noun
in a deck of playing cards, the queen of spades US, 1950
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

slots noun
slot machines US, 1975
• He said the family had five hundred slots in a warehouse[.]. — Joseph Pistone, Donnie Brasco 1987

slow boat noun
get someone on a slow boat
to win all of a person’s money by luring them into making ill-advised bets US, 1951
• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

slugger noun
a casino cheat who tries to play slot machines with objects other than the proper coin US, 1985
• The really hard-core “slugger” will counterfeit actual casino dollar tokens, a few of which look almost like the real thing. — Jim Regan, Winning at Slot Machine 1985

smack noun
heroin US, 1942
Derives, possibly, from Yiddish shmeker (a sniffer of drugs).
• He’s got more money than God and twice as much coke, crank and smack. — Boogie Nights 1997

smacked out adjective
in an extreme state of heroin- or cocaine-intoxication UK, 1983
• Ficken smacked-out gobshite! Get your head together! — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

smackhead noun
a heroin addict US, 1972
A combination of smack (heroin) and head (user).
● “Want some saki?” he asked once. “No thanks.” “Oh, excuse me, I forgot you were a smack head.” — Cleo Odzer, Goa Freaks 1995

smack up verb
to inject oneself with heroin US, 1995
● Monica and I made daily trips to smack up at Neal’s. Heroin cured cocaine frazzle. — Cleo Odzer, Goa Freaks 1995

smarties noun
tablets of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2001
From a branded multi-coloured confection.
● One of it [MDMA]'s early nicknames, “disco biscuits”, was a reflection of how sweet and safe the drug was considered, like “Smarties” (another nickname). — Dave Haslam, Adventures of the Wheels of Steel 2001

smash noun
wine US, 1962
● — Anthony Romeo, The Language of Gangs 4th December 1962

smashed adjective
1 drunk US, 1960
● [H]e would get smashed on two and a half pints of Worthington E from the wood. — Doug Lang, Freaks 1973

2 drug-intoxicated US, 1967
● Then I turned around and one of the men passed me a joint and that was it. I wanted to be ripped, smashed, torn up as I had never wanted anything before. — Anonymous, Go Ask Alice 1971

smiley noun
1 a tablet of LSD with the smiley icon printed or etched thereon UK, 1998
● Street names... rainbows, smiles, stars[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

2 a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, identified by the smiley motif embossed on the tablet UK, 2002
● Smiley – White with acid house face. — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002

smoke noun
1 marijuana; heroin; opium; any drug that may be smoked US, 1946
● [T]here’s definitely a line in the music where they [the Beatles] changed from smoke to acid. — Paul E. Willis, Profane Culture 1978

2 a marijuana cigarette US, 1967
● Buy you a pound of grass and just put it there on the table, roll a smoke any time you want one. — Bruce Jackson, Outside the Law 1972

3 crack cocaine when smoked; heroin mixed with crack cocaine when smoked US, 1991
● — William T. Vollman, Whores for Gloria 1991

4 toxic, potentially fatal solvents used as substitutes for alcohol for the truly desperate US, 1955
● If we wanted to make a more legitimate type buck, we could always sell smoke to the bums down on the Bowery. We picked up the pints of smoke – which was alcohol cut with water and some “spirit” pills added – from the neighborhood guy who mixed it in his bathtub. — Rocky Garicano (with Rowland Barber), Somebody Up There Likes Me 1955

smoked out adjective
extremely intoxicated on marijuana or crack cocaine US, 1993
● The basehead is completely smoked out. — Menace II Society 1993

smoothie noun
a skilled gambling cheat US, 1964
● — Dr. R. Frederick West, God’s Gambler 1964: ‘Appendix A’

snake eyes noun
1 in dice games, a roll of two ones US, 1929
A visual metaphor.
● Snake eyes! Hooeee, Cheswick, where does that put you? That don’t put you on my Marvin Gardens by any chance? — Ken Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest 1962

2 in dominoes, the 1–1 US, 1959
● — Dominic Armanino, Dominoes 1959

3 in poker, a pair of aces US, 1988
● — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

snake room noun
a bar CANADA, 1912
● Drinking and curling are synonymous and many a good rink has lost a crucial Brier game or two in a hotel snake-room. — Maclean’s 7th January 1961

snap noun
1 amyl nitrite; an ampoule of amyl nitrite UK, 1962
From the sound/action of breaking-open the ampoule.

- I feel in my pocket and bring out a darling little snuff box which I keep my snap in. I crack the ampoule and breathe in hard. — Derek Raymond (Robin Cook), The Crust on Its Uppers 1962

2 a mouthful of liquor, or a drink taken in one gulp CANADA, 1988

- Have a snap, a quick drink: “He had a few snaps before I got home.” Whatever you can get out of the bottle in one try. — T.K. Pratt, oral citations from the Dictionary of Prince Edward Island English 1988

snapped up adjective

very drunk CANADA, 1999

- In Nova Scotia, someone “all snapped up” is very intoxicated. — Lewis Poteet, The South Shore Phrase Book 1999

snapper noun

1 in blackjack, an ace and ten-point card dealt as the first two cards to a player US, 1980

- — Lee Solkey, Dummy Up and Deal 1980

2 amyl nitrite; an ampoule of amyl nitrite US, 1967

- “Amy” is a nickname for amyl nitrate (sic). Better known as “poppers.” Sometimes called “snappers.” — San Francisco Examiner 15th December 1976

sneaky Pete noun

1 any potent, potentially fatal, alcoholic concoction, favoured by those whose need outweighs their ability to pay US, 1947

- They drink wine – sneaky pete, so called because it sneaks up behind and hits you when you don’t expect it. — Harrison E. Salisbury, The Shock-Up Generation 1958

2 in pool, an expert player’s custom cue, designed to look like an ordinary cue US, 1993

- — Mike Shamos, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Billiards 1993

sneeze and squeeze noun
cocaine and sex US, 1984

- A little too early for Odeon, but once we’re downtown, it’s happy hunting ground for sneeze and squeeze. — Jay McInerney, Bright Lights, Big City 1984

sniff noun

1 cocaine US, 1990

- After some of the fellas would step away from the blackjack table, and the bar, and get ready to buy a fiddy or a hundred dollars’ worth of sniff.[j]

2 any solvent that can be inhaled for its psychoactive effect US, 1974

- — Paul Glover, Words from the House of the Dead 1974

sniffed-up adjective

under the influence of cocaine UK, 1999

- Also, according to sniffed-up logic, the pyramids were built using ancient magic.[.] — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

sniffer noun

an ampoule of amyl nitrite US, 1970

- — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

sniffing snow noun
cocaine UK, 2000

- This pocket is full of sniffing snow and I’m one generous son of a bitch. — Chris Baker and Andrew Day, Lock, Stock… & Spaghetti Sauce 2000

sniffer noun

a single inhaled dose of cocaine US, 1930

- Following the sniffer, he began preparing a nice skunk spliff.[j]

- — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

snoozer noun

in a poker game using the joker, the joker US, 1950

- Perhaps related to the earlier sense of the word as ‘a thief’.

- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

snoozer noun

marijuana US, 1969

- Yeah, they got stoned on giggle-weed, zonked on grifa, zapped on yerba, bombed on boo, they were blitzed with...
snort noun
a drink of an alcoholic beverage US, 1889
- There’s a pint in the glove compartment. Want a snort?
  — Raymond Chandler, Playback 1958

snort verb
1 to ingest drugs by nasal inhalation US, 1951
- He’s putting a thumb over each nostril and snorting like fuckin’ mad to drag up any stray powder that’s hangin’ around. — J.J. Connolly, Know Your Enemy [brit pulp] 1999
2 to take a measure of alcohol nasally UK, 1999
- [A]nyone who came to the villa had to snort alcohol, or they wouldn’t be welcome. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

snot noun
the residue produced by smoking amphetamine US, 1993
- — US Department of Justice, Street Terms August, 1993

snout noun
tobacco; a cigarette UK, 1885
From ‘snout’ (the nose), mainly prison use. ‘The word originates from the days when smoking was prohibited in prison. When smoking, the lag cupped his hand and pretended to rub his nose[.]’ (Paul Tempest, Lag’s Lexicon 1950).
- “Have you got any snout on you?” asked the screw with a smile. — Frank Norman, Bang to Rights 1958

snow noun
a powdered drug, especially cocaine but at times heroin US, 1914
- [T]he hemp makes me limp and I’m ready to go when the cat bombers slow. Like I’m not lame in the brain from a snort of cocaine. — Dan Burley, Diggeth Thou? 1959

snowball noun
1 a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
- Snowballs – Rough-edged, almost spherical pill; don’t eat the yellow ones. — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002
2 a mixture of cocaine and heroin UK, 2000
- I continuously stick my arm out for more, for yet another snowball[.] — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says… 2000

snowbird noun
a cocaine user or addict US, 1914
- My mother sells hops to the snowbirds. — James T. Farrell, Saturday Night 1947

soaked adjective
drunk US, 1737
First recorded by Benjamin Franklin in 1737.
- Again Rocco thought ahead to the possible trial, the defense bombing out his only witness for being soaked on the night of the murder. — Richard Price, Clockers 1992

soap noun
the recreational drug GHB US, 1995
- The drug’s street name is GHB, or “soap,” or “liquid ecstasy.” — Dallas Morning News 20th December 1995

soap bar; soap noun
a small block of cannabis resin, often heavily adulterated, especially with animal tranquilisers UK, 1996
- I’ll smoke soap bar till I fucking die. — Goldie Looking Chain Soap Bar 2004

So Co noun
Southern Comfort™ whisky US, 1997
- — Pamela Munro, U.C.L.A. Slang 1997

soft adjective
denotes all recreational drugs that are loosely categorised as less harmful or addictive UK, 2001
- Soft drugs were the ones you took to make life more fun, to have a happy moment or boost the party – marijuana, amphetamines and coke. — Simon Napier-Bell, Black Vinyl White Powder 2001

soldier noun
a bottle of alcohol; a can of beer US, 1945
- Schoons stood up and chucked his can between two trees into the river. “Look at that old soldier go,” he mourned. — John Nichols, The Sterile Cuckoo 1965

sopor; soper; soaper noun
a tablet of the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Qualuade™ US, 1973
From a brand name, ultimately from ‘soporific’. 
• “Sopors” are both a powerful aphrodisiac and a strong sleep inducer. — Jay Saporita, Pourin’ It All Out 1980

sorted adjective
provisioned with sufficient drugs UK, 1996
• Round at Becca’s, well sorted. Her brothers dealing so we can always get hold of something tasty. — Cath Staincliffe, Trainers 1999

soup noun
cocaine US, 1995
• — Mark S. Fleisher, Beggars and Thieves 1995: ‘Glossary’

sourdough noun
in Alaska, homebrew alcohol US, 1915
• — Russell Tabbert, Dictionary of Alaskan English 1991

soused adjective
drunk US, 1932
• “I think I’m a little soused.” So he had been drinking. — S.E. Hinton, The Outsiders 1967

South American snowflakes noun
cocaine, 1999
• The boys’ antidote for feeling rough... was to inhale South American snowflakes. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

South Austin suitcase noun
a brown paper bag used to conceal a beer you want to drink on the street US, 2001
• Another factor these guys consider is the so-called South Austin suitcase, the small brown paper bag the beer should be put in before it leaves the building. — Austin American-Statesman 4th November 2001

space cadet noun
a drug user UK, 2002
• Not surprised he wants to legalize everything if his own daughter’s a bloody space cadet, eh? — Ben Elton, High Society 2002

space cookie; space cake noun
a sweet confection with marijuana in the recipe UK, 1998
• Roger’s brought his idea uv a spacecake (uh Spar-bought Swiss roll sliced down thuh middle with resin sprinkled intuh it)[.] — Niall Griffiths, Grits 2000

spaced adjective
in a state of drug intoxication, especially as a result of hallucinogen use but loosely of any drug US, 1967
• I was just spaced. I became paranoid at everything. — Bobby Womack, quoted in Waiting for the Sun 1996

spaced out adjective
drug-intoxicated; disoriented US, 1970
• [W]e were both sort of really spaced out, the room was swirling and I couldn’t tell where I began or anything else[.] — Paul E. Willis, Profane Culture 1978

space pill noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 2000
• Those space pills, I want to buy them, how much? — J.J. Connolly, Layer Cake 2000

spacker noun
a hallucinogenic recreational drug UK, 1971
• [H]e’s a walking cornucopia of drugs; downers and lifters and speeders and freaked-out spacers. — Alex Stuart, The Bikers 1971

Spanish curse noun
in dominoes, the 3–3 piece US, 1959
• — Dominic Armanino, Dominoes 1959

sparkle plenty noun
an amphetamine tablet US, 1969
Named after a character in the Dick Tracy comic strip.
• — Richard Lingeman, Drugs from A to Z 1969

Special K noun
ketamine hydrochloride, an anaesthetic used as a recreational drug, in powder, capsule or tablet form US, 1993
Kellogg’s Special K™, a well-known breakfast cereal, is the inspiration for this variation on k (ketamine).

specs noun
in horse racing, blinkers on a horse US, 1951
• — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951
speed noun
an amphetamine, especially Dexedrine™, which is a central nervous system stimulant US, 1966
- When he meets pushers of smack and speed, as he does not infrequently in his profession, he attempts to convince them that it is a vile and murderous act to peddle chemicals which can ultimately only destroy their imbibers.

speed bomb noun
amphetamine powder rolled in a cigarette paper (for the purpose of swallowing) UK, 2000
- He’s sitting on his waterbed doing speedballs with some naked Dutch hitchhiker he picked up at the bus stop. — Kenneth Lonergan, This is Our Youth 2000

GAMBLERS

buyer noun, UK, 2001
a gambler who bets on a result higher than the bookmaker’s favoured spread
- Brian is optimistic about Arsenal’s chances and decides to be a buyer (bets higher) at £10 per point. Sally, on the other hand, is pessimistic. She is a seller (bets lower), also at £10 per point. — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

degennie noun, US, 1974
a degenerate gambler
- Of course, you can get degennies who would like to stay in action right up until midnight by betting Sunday night hockey games. — Gary Mayer, Bookie 1974

George noun, US, 1974
a gambler who tips the dealer or places bets in the dealer’s name
- Sitting there with people that are Georges, which means a good toker, you want them to win – even though you’re a house person. — Edward Lin, Big Julie of Vegas 1974

piker noun, US, 1872
a rank amateur or beginner; a gambler who makes small, cautious bets
- I winked at the mark and said, “What makes you think we’re pikers? We’re not afraid to bet even as much as ten dollars or more.” — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Trick Baby 1969

producer noun, US, 1963
a serious gambler who, like most gamblers, usually loses
- During his stay, hieroglyphics are secretly appended to his name on the hotel register, which catalogue him as a “dropper” (businessman and heavy loser), “producer” (businessman), or “nonproducer” (professional gambler). — Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris, The Green Felt Jungle 1963

punter noun, UK, 1873
a gambler
- But nothing has so infuriated punters as high minimum stakes. — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

railbird noun, US, 1985
in American casinos, a thief who steals chips from inattentive gamblers
- “Guy’s acting a little shifty,” Roger said. “Could be a railbird, waiting to grab a few chips”. — Elmore Leonard, Glitz 1985

seagull noun, US, 1966
a person who watches what bets are being made by big spenders and then makes a small bet on the horses favoured by the big spenders
- — San Francisco Examiner 13th September 1966

shortstop noun, US, 1950
a gambler who makes small and conservative bets
- She was shot in the head by Smitty Cocaine / A notorious shortstop and a practical lame. — Dennis Wepman et al., The Life 1976

stooper noun, US, 1947
in horse racing, a better who examines discarded tickets on the ground in the hope of finding a winning bet
- — Dan Parker, The ABC of Horse Racing 1947

— Tom Robbins, Another Roadside Attraction 1971

speedball noun
a mixture of a central nervous system stimulant (especially cocaine) and a narcotic (especially heroin) US, 1936

— Niall Griffiths, Grits 2000

speed bump noun
a red bump on the skin sometimes suffered after injecting impure amphetamines US, 1989
• Signs of long-term use: hair loss, open sores and “speed bumps,” or areas on the skin that the user constantly picks.
  — The Post-Standard (Syracuse, New York) 6th February 2004

speedfreak noun
  a person who is addicted to or compulsively uses amphetamines or methamphetamine
  US, 1967
  • We were turning into a nation of Speed Freaks and Nixon, the used-car dealer from Whittier, California, was becoming the biggest pill pusher of them all!! — Abbie Hoffman, Woodstock Nation 1969

speed jaw noun
  an aching jaw which is a symptomatic after-effect of amphetamine use
  UK, 2992
  • If you get speed jaw, use up some of the excess adrenaline by either chewing gum... or sucking a lollipop.
  — Mixmag February, 2002

speedy adjective
  of drugs, displaying stimulant qualities; of a person, under the influence of a central nervous system stimulant
  UK, 1995
  From speed (amphetamines).
  • “Come on, a nice toot of coke will make you feel better.” “I’m too speedy as it is”. — Cleo Odzer, Goa Freaks 1995

spike noun
  1 a syringe and needle; a hypodermic needle
  US, 1936
  • Cause it makes me feel like I’m a man / When I put a spike into my vein.
    — Velvet Underground, Heroin 1967
  2 in a deck of playing cards, an ace
  US, 1988
  • — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

spike verb
  to inject a drug
  US, 1935
  • [Chet] Baker admits that most of the musicians he played with were on junk [heroin] and that “spiking myself became a gesture as automatic as lighting a cigarette is with you.”
    — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002

spiker noun
  a (branded antidepressant) Prozac™ tablet
  UK, 2001
  • CALL IT... Spikers, prozie[.] JUST DON’T CALL IT... The “happy” pill.[] — Drugs An Adult Guide December, 2001

splaff noun
  a marijuana cigarette laced with LSD
  UK, 2003
  • ‘A’ for ACID substitutes the ‘i’ in SPLIFF (a marijuana cigarette).
  • Splaff: cannabis joint with a hint of LSD. — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

splash move noun
  in cheating at dice, a switch of the dice
  US, 1997
  • The old man nodded. “I’m gonna start with a ‘splash move’,” indicating he was going to rehearse the switch of the dice first without actually playing them, to see if the Pit Boss would spot it.
    — Stephen J. Cannell, Big Con 1997

spliff noun
  1 a marijuana cigarette
    JAMAICA, 1936
    • Smoking a spliff of high-octaine chronic (street talk for pot) in the back room, he explains his bond to Dre. “He’s the bomb,” says Snoop. — People 23 May 1994
  2 marijuana
    UK, 1967
    Also used in the variant ‘Splif’.
    • Blonde birds with their mums’ faces toking on dodgy spliff peddled by Trevor’s mate Tiny Tony[.] — Greg Williams, Diamond Geezers 1997
  3 a state of marijuana intoxication
    UK, 2001
    • That ain’t on the spliff[.] — BBC TV Paddington Green 13th February 2001

spliffed; spliffed out; spliffed up adjective
  in a state of intoxication as a result of smoking marijuana
  UK, 1994
  • I must be mad, or pissed or spliffed out my fucking brains! — Donald Gorgon, Cop Killer 1994

spliff up verb
  to prepare a marijuana cigarette; to smoke marijuana in cigarette form
  UK, 2000
  • Emyr and Col were in the corner spliffing up for a change[.] — John Williams, Cardiff Dead 2000

spliff wine noun
  marijuana wine
  UK, 2002
  • “No. It’s home-grown and home-made!” And that’s how I found out about spliff wine. — Duncan MacLaughlin, The Filth 2002

splivins noun
  amphetamines
  US, 1970
  • — Ralph de Sola, Crime Dictionary 1982
splonk noun
in horse-race betting, the favourite UK, 1967
• [T]he favourite is occasionally known as the “splonk”[.] — John McCririck, John McCririck's World of Betting 1991

spook noun
in casino blackjack, a player who can spot the dealer's down card US, 1991
• — Michael Dalton, Blackjack 1991

sporting life noun
cocaine US, 1978
• “Sportin' Life,” said Mona. “Happy dust. This stuff is an American institution.” — Amistead Maupin, Tales of the City 1978

spot noun
in a deck of playing cards, an ace US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

spots noun
dice UK, 2000
• [T]he groom and his guests crammed into the gents and rolled spots.
  — Brian McDonald, Elephant Boys 2000

spotting it
a method of consuming cannabis resin: pieces of hash, cut to the approximate size of match-heads, are picked up on the end of a lit cigarette; once the drug is burning the smoke given off is inhaled by means of a hollow tube, such as the empty body of a ballpoint pen UK, 2000
• [T]hree small pieces of hash, which wouldn't have made a quarter of a joint, were pushed in front of me. I was passed the lighted roll-up and empty ball-pen case and off I went. Apparently the name for what I was doing was “spotting it”[.] — Ken Lukowiak, Marijuana Time 2000

spread-betting noun
a form of gambling against a bookmaker's predicted result US, 2001
• The “spread” in spread-betting is a pair of values, usually a point or two apart, which represent the bookmaker's favoured outcome. The investor has two choices: to bet higher, known as “buying”, or bet lower, known as “selling” — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

spud juice noun
a potent homemade alcoholic beverage produced by fermenting potatoes US, 1977
• I got some good spud juice lined up, but it takes five packs to cop.
  — Donald Goines, Black Gangster 1977

spun adjective
very drug-intoxicated US, 1997
• — Jim Crotty, How to Talk American 1997

sputnik noun
a mixture of marijuana from Pakistan and opium; marijuana UK, 1998
• Street names... shit, skunk, sputnik, wacky backy[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

square pair noun
in craps, an eight rolled with a pair of fours US, 1985
• — Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999

squam piss noun
beer with a low alcohol content US, 1968
• — Current Slang Summer, 1968

squirrel noun
a drug addict who hides drug portions for future use US, 1957
• Provident junkies, known as squirrels, keep stashes against a bust. — William Burroughs, Naked Lunch 1957

stag noun
amyl or butyl nitrite UK, 1998
• Street names... snapper, stag, stud, thrust[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The Parents’ Complete Guide to Young People and Drugs 1998

stagger soup noun
whisky US, 1977
• — Ramon Adams, The Language of the Railroader 1977

stardust noun
cocaine US, 1967
• — John B. Williams, Narcotics and Hallucinogenics 1967

Starship Enterprise noun
a marijuana cigarette UK, 2001
In the cult television series Star Trek (1966–1969) and sequels, the Starship Enterprise is a means 'to boldly go'
exploring space – simply a ROCKET for the next generation.
  • [S]kin up the next Starship Enterprise.[.] — Sky Magazine May, 2001

stash noun
a hidden supply of drugs, usually marijuana; the hiding place itself US, 1942
  • He didn’t shoot me, because I had a stash like you wouldn’t believe. — Apocalypse Now 1979

stay-awake noun
amphetamine sulphate or any other central nervous system stimulant US, 1993
  • — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

steam noun
in sports betting, a flurry of betting on one side of a bet US, 1991
  • — Michael Knapp, Bay Sports Review November, 1991

steamboat noun
a cardboard tube or box with a hole for a marijuana cigarette and a hole for inhaling, used to trap the smoke US, 1967
  • This little contraption is called a steamboat because the roach looks like the smokestack in a steamboat. — Newsweek 24th July 1967

steamer noun
in horse racing, a horse that attracts heavy betting on the morning of a race, at a time before the odds being offered by bookmakers are reduced UK, 1991
  • [T]he trouble with steamers is that for success you need to get on at those fancy morning line prices, and often this is not possible. — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

steel and concrete cure noun
the sudden and complete deprivation of drugs to a jailed drug addict, who suffers intensely US, 1950
  • The steel and concrete cure is the only cure I recommend for stool pigeons. — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973

steinie noun
da bottle of Steinlager™ beer NEW ZEALAND, 1998
  • — David McGill, David McGill’s Complete Kiwi Slang Dictionary 1998

stella blue noun
a variety of marijuana UK, 1995
Possibly named after a 1973 song by the Grateful Dead.
  • A Cannabis Cup prize winner in 1995, Stella blue has since gone the distance and established itself as a firm favourite in many of Amsterdam’s most discerning coffee shops. — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003

stem noun
a laboratory pipette used to smoke crack cocaine US, 1992
  • — Terry Williams, Crackhouse 1992

stenographer noun
in a deck of playing cards, a queen US, 1988
  • — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

stew bum; stewbum noun
an alcoholic derelict US, 1902
  • He was back in Morning Sections sitting on the bench in the fenced-off section with the stew bums and colored hookers waiting to go before the same judge. — Elmore Leonard, The Big Bounce 1969

stewed adjective
drunk US, 1737
Another drunk synonym, first recorded by Benjamin Franklin.
  • I was suddenly tired. Not stewed or even excited or lonely; just plain tired out. — Clancy Sigal, Going Away 1961

stick noun
1 a hypodermic needle US, 2004
  • “A cop would not hand out sticks, right?” I whisper. — J.T. LeRoy, Harold’s End 2004
2 a cigarette INDIA, 1979
Indian English.
  • So why are more women smoking? Ruchira Bose finds reasons to quit the stick[,] — The Times of India 31st May 2002

stick verb
to inject a drug US, 1946
• Stick your arm for some real fun.[.] — Alice in Chains, *God Smack* 1992

**sticks** noun

**good-quality marijuana** UK, 2000

• Low grade, you’re talking bush at one hundred and twenty, sticks and that gummy silver at one hundred and eighty. — Diran Adebayo, *My Once Upon a Time* 2000

**sticky-icky** noun

**marijuana** US, 2002

• [Amsterdam] a city where you can window shop for sex and sticky-icky. — *The Source* March, 2002

**stiff** noun

1 a *non-player in a gambling establishment* US, 1979


2 a *poor tipper* US, 1974

• A stiff is a guy who comes down with a hundred or two hundred, whacks you for $1,000 or $1,500 and won’t give you a tip. — Edward Lin, *Big Julie of Vegas* 1974

**stiff** adjective

**drunk** US, 1737

• I’ll talk to you when you’re not half stiff. — Jim Thompson, *The Nothing Man* 1954

**sting** verb

**in horse racing, to shock a horse with an electrical device during a race** US, 1951

• — David W. Maurer, *Argot of the Racetrack* 1951

**stingo** noun

**strong, illegally manufactured whisky** US, 1999

• It is called corn liquor, white lightning, sugar whiskey, skully cracker, pops skull, bush whiskey, stump, stump hole, ’splo, ruckus juice, radiator whiskey, rotgut, sugar head, block and tackle, wild cat, panther’s breath, tiger’s sweat, Sweet spirits of cats a-fighting, alley bourbon, city gin, cool water, happy Sally, deep shaft, jump steady, old horsey, stingo, blue John, red eye, pine top, buckeye bark whiskey and see seven stars. — *Star Tribune (Minneapolis)* 31st January 1999

**stinko** noun

**alcohol, especially wine** AUSTRALIA, 1958

• This is a little bottle of stinko to go with it. — D’Arcy Niland, *Call Me When the Cross Turns Over* 1958

**stoat** verb

(of a bet) to *win* UK: SCOTLAND, 1988

• If this line stoats Ah’ll get ye a doner kebab. — Michael Munro, *The Patter, Another Blast* 1988

**stocking stuffer** noun

**in poker, money bet by a player who has withdrawn from the hand** US, 1996

• — John Vorhaus, *The Big Book of Poker Slang* 1996

**stogie** noun

**an extra-large marijuana cigarette** US, 1980

Derives ultimately from Conestoga, a town in Pennsylvania, and the name given to a horse-drawn freight wagon originating in that region in the C18. Conestoga was abbreviated to ‘Stogy’; ‘Stogy drivers’, apparently, smoked a course cigar which became known as a ‘stogie’, and by the late C19 a ‘stogie’ was a generic cheap or roughly made cigar.

• One matchbox of pot for five bucks, and man, you were really hold; you had a lot of marijuana! We used to roll them in brown paper, three or four of us smoking these stogies as we made our way down the street. — Ralph ‘Sonny’ Barger, *Hell’s Angel* 2000

**stone** noun

**crack cocaine; a piece of crack cocaine** UK, 1996

• [S]he looked pretty good, turning herself on with that stone. — Lanre Fehintola, *Charlie Says...* 2000

**stoned** adjective

**intoxicated on a drug, usually marijuana** US, 1952

• With each week of work, bombed and sapped and charged and stoned with lush, with pot, with benny[.] — Norman Mailer, *Advertisements for Myself* 1955

**stoned out** adjective

**in a state of drug intoxication** US, 1952

• You stoned out motherfucking hippie piece of shit! — Stuart Browne, *Dangerous Parking* 2000

**stonehead** noun

**a regular user of marijuana** UK, 2002

• [W]e’re more disorganized than most people because we are all
stoner noun
a regular or habitual user of marijuana; a drug user US, 1988
- I couldn’t tell if he was a drinker, a stoner or a straight. — Howard Marks, Mr Nice 1997

stones noun
dominoes US, 1959
- — Dominic Armanino, Dominoes 1959

stoofer noun
in horse racing, a better who examines discarded tickets on the ground in the hope of finding a winning bet US, 1947
- — Dan Parker, The ABC of Horse Racing 1947

stop noun
sufficient marijuana for a single joint or pipe; hence, marijuana SOUTH AFRICA, 1949
- — Penny Silva, A Dictionary of South African English 1996

stop-at-a-winner noun
in gambling, a conditional bet: an instruction to the bookmaker to halt a series of bets when a winning result is recorded UK, 2001
- Each-way stop-at-a-winner bets continue until one of the selections either occupies or dead-heats for first place. — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

STP noun
a type of synthetic hallucogen US, 1967
Probably coined as an abbreviation of ‘serotonin triphosphate’ and as an allusion to the trademark name of a motor oil additive, and later de-abbreviated to ‘serenity, tranquillity and peace’.
- STP: free; this is given away, but you have to know somebody. — Ruth Bronsteen, The Hippy’s Handbook 1967

str8 draw noun
a move in an on-line game of hold ‘em poker, when the player gambles on making a straight with the final card UK, 2003
A variant spelling of a conventional term.
- — FHM June, 2003

straggler noun
in horse racing, a winning bet that is not cashed in immediately after a race but, unlike an out ticket, is cashed in before the end of the day US, 1982
- — Bob and Barbara Freeman, Wanta Bet? 1982

straight adjective
1 not currently drug-intoxicated; no longer using drugs UK, 1967
- The terror of facing their daily grind “straight” was unimaginable. — Lanre Fehintola, Charlie Says... 2000
2 under the influence of drugs, or at least not suffering from withdrawal symptoms US, 1946
- I don’t get high anymore. I just get straight; I take a cure. I’m just normal, that’s all. — Jeremy Larner and Ralph Tefferteller, The Addict in the Street 1964

strawberry noun
a tablet of mescaline US, 1971
From the colour of the tablet.
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

strawberry shortcake noun
amphetamine; MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1970
- — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

strawberry tablet; strawberry noun
a variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy UK, 1996
From the pink colour of the tablet.
- — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002

stripper noun
a playing card that has been altered in a manner that facilitates its extraction from a full deck US, 1962
- — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

strung out adjective
addicted to a drug; in a poor state of physical and mental health as a result of drug addiction US, 1958
Used as a participial adjective.
- Carmelita, hold me tighter, I think I’m sinking down / I’m all strung out on heroin on the outskirts of town. — Warren Zevon, Carmelito 1976

stud noun
amyl or butyl nitrite UK, 1998
- Street names... stag, stud, thrust[.] — James Kay and Julian Cohen, The
student tobacco noun
marijuana UK: SCOTLAND, 1996
From a perception that those undergoing higher and further education are drug users.
• The wee brother hardly ever takes a drink. He’s more into the student tobacco, ye know? — Michael Munro, *The Complete Patter* 1996

stuff noun
a drug, especially heroin US, 1929
• I worked there for four months and during that time the only customers allowed in were musicians, singers, prostitutes, pimps, and the stuff peddlers. — Babs Gonzales, *I Paid My Dues* 1967

stumbler noun
any barbiturate or central nervous system depressant US, 1977
• — Donald Wesson and David Smith, *Barbiturates*

stumphole whiskey noun
strong, homemade whisky US, 1971
• Once the preacher got limbered up good he set in to telling about what a mortal sinner he’d been all his life and had made and sold stumphole whiskey all his grown days[]. — Tom Robbins, *Another Roadside Attraction* 1971

submarine noun
a gambling casino scheme in which a stolen chip is slipped into the thief’s trousers US, 1977
• They would use this as a drop by slipping a hundred dollar chip inside their trousers. This was called a “submarine.” — Mario Puzo, *Inside Las Vegas* 1977

subway tickets noun
in a card game, cards that did not come off the top of the deck because of cheating in the dealing US, 1988
• — George Percy, *The Language of Poker* 1988

suds noun
beer US, 1904
• Purveyors of hard booze (who also sell beer), and beer bars which depend on draft or tap beer for about 25 cents, the occasional aristocratic drinker of bottled suds, and a hell of a lot of potato chips[]. — Roger Gordon, Hollywood’s *Sexual Underground* 1966

sugar cube noun
LSD US, 1967
From the method of ingesting a dose of the drug dripped onto a sugar cube.
• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

suicide king noun
in a deck of cards, the king of hearts US, 1988
• It appears that the king is plunging a knife into his head. — George Percy, *The Language of Poker* 1988

suitcase verb
to conceal drugs inside a condom or balloon inside a body orifice US, 1987
• — Carsten Stroud, *Close Pursuit* 1987

sulphate; sulph noun
amphetamine sulphate UK, 1996
• We start laughin’ with the sulph workin’ overtime on my guts an’ my teeth an’ stretchin’ my laugh “cross both ears. — Nick Barlay, *Curvy Lovebox* 1997

super C noun
ketamine hydrochloride, an anaesthetic used as a hallucinogen US, 1994
• — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994

SuperCool noun
a cigarette dipped into phencyclidine, the drug popularly known as *angel dust* US, 1988
• One of the popular ways to get “dusted” is to dip cigarettes, specifically the Sherman brand, into a liquid form of PCP, allowing it to dry before smoking it. It is known as “SuperCool” or “Sherm.” — James Vigil, *Barrio Gangs* 1988

supergass noun
good-quality marijuana; phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust; a combination of the two US, 1977
• — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

super joint noun
phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1982
• — Ralph de Sola, *Crime Dictionary* 1982

superskunk noun
an extremely potent marijuana UK, 1999
We've been smokin for fuckin hours, mun. Liam Herlihy's superskunk as well. — Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

**super Thai noun**
an 'everyday' variety of marijuana UK, 2003

- One minor drawback of the super Thai is that it is a dead giveaway – your eyes go bloodshot. — Nick Jones, Spliffs 2003

**super-yankee noun**
a multiple bet, gambling on five different horses in a specific combination of 26 win stakes or 52 each-way UK, 2001

Also known as a **Canadian**.

- — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

**sure pops noun**
dice that have been heavily weighted and are likely to produce the desired results US, 1950

- — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

**surge noun**
surgical spirit as an alcoholic drink UK, 2000

- They [vagrant alcoholics] subsist on a diet of methylated spirits (jake or the blue), surgical spirit (surge or the white) and other forms of crude alcohol. — Peter Ackroyd, London: The Biography 2000

**surprise party noun**
in poker, a hand that should not win, that is not expected by its holder to win, but that wins US, 1996

- — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

**swami noun**
a poker player with the annoying habit of coaching other players US, 1996

- — John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

**sweater noun**
in a casino or other gambling establishment, a person who observes but does not participate in a game US, 1968

- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

**sweetie noun**
an amphetamine or MDMA tablet UK, 1994

- Just a few sweeties – don’t mean anything. — ID 1994

**sweet Jesus noun**
morphine; heroin US, 1967

- — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

**sweet Lucy noun**
1 any cheap wine US, 1973

- He started walking away from the short dog, which was rolling around on the sidewalk spilling sweet lucy all over the pavement. — Joseph Wambaugh, The Blue Knight 1973

2 any cheap wine US, 1997

- — Anna Scotti and Paul Young, Buzzwords 1997

**swill cup noun**
a combination of leftover alcoholic beverages US, 2003

- “Swill cup” is street slang for any random, potent and invariably nasty potion of alcoholic beverages – whiskey, gin, Purple Puckerr, jug wine, backwash dregs of a warm Tequila, whatever – blended in a single container and then chugged. — Denver Westword 17th July 2003

**swimmer noun**
in horse racing, a horse that performs very well on wet track conditions AUSTRALIA, 1989


**swish noun**
weak alcohol made by letting water stand in old screech barrels CANADA, 2001


**syrup noun**
prescription cough syrup, used recreationally US, 1995

- — Mark S. Fleisher, Beggars and Thieves 1995: ‘Glossary’

**syrupped up adjective**
intoxicated by cough syrup taken for non-medicinal purposes US, 1970

- — Current Slang Fall, 1970
tab noun
a tablet, usually one taken as a recreational drug; a single dose of LSD UK, 1961
Originally medical and pharmaceutical jargon, added to the vocabulary of drugs users in the 1950s.
- He's got some acid. We can have two tabs... for 1, man. That's good, they're usually a pound each, but he knows me. — Robin Page, Down Among the Dossers 1973

Table manners noun
in poker, a player's mannerisms, which may provide clues as to the relative strength of his hand US, 1981
- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

Table talk noun
in poker, idle chatter that does not rise to the level of intentionally distracting talk US, 1979

Take-homes noun
a several-day supply of methadone US, 1989
- Usually clients must come in every day for their dose; if they do not show evidence of illicit drug use for a certain period of time, between 6 months and a year depending on the program, they are eligible for take-homes. — Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

Take off verb
to use a drug, especially to inject a drug US, 1952
- Hip stayed at a rented room with a junkie girl with whom he'd taken off, after using her spike and giving her a share of his stuff. — Nathan Heard, Howard Street 1968

Talk verb
- talk to Ralph Beukler
to vomit CANADA, 2002
- — Bill Casselman, Canadian Sayings 2002
- talk to Ralph on the big white phone
to vomit US, 1989

- — Pamela Munro, U.C.L.A. Slang 1989

tampi; tampee noun
marijuana JAMAICA, 1975
- Some call it tampee / Some call it the weed[.] — Peter Tosh, Legalize It 1976

tanglefoot noun
strong, homemade whisky US, 1860
- Well, I slurped up another sample or two of the tanglefoot while I was about it — then I decided I'd better take some back home for home consumption, in case I felt a cold coming on[.] — Guy Owen, The Flim-Flam Man and the Apprentice Grifter 1972

tank noun
► in the tank
drunk US, 1975
- It was a refrain often heard at MacArthur Park choir practice when Spermwhale was almost in the tank, a fifth of bourbon or Scotch in the huge red hand. — Joseph Wambaugh, The Choirboys 1975

tap out verb
to run out of money, usually as a result of gambling US, 1939
- “Five'll get you fifty he's tapped out before the next track season's over,” Heath said. — Robert Campbell, Juice 1988

tappers noun
dice that have been loaded with mercury that shifts when the dice are tapped US, 1962
- — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

tar noun
crude, dark, gummy heroin, usually from Mexico US, 1992
- The tar, or goma, as the Mexicans called it, looked like brown window putty and smelled like vinegar. — Joseph Wambaugh, Fugitive Nights 1992

taste noun
a small sample of drugs, especially heroin US, 1952
- Okay, so you're off it, but a little bit won't hurt. Just a taste. — Hal Elson, The Golden Spike 1952

tats noun
dice, especially loaded dice or dice marked for cheating UK, 1688
**HORSE RACING**

**banana race** noun, US, 1967

* a fixed horse race
  - New England tracks are famous throughout the United States for their so-called “banana-races,” in which the winner is known in advance to a select few.
    — Saturday Evening Post 18th November 1967

**Bill Daley** noun, US, 1932

* on the Bill Daley
  - in horse racing, having taken the lead at the start of the race and held it for the entire race
    - Tod [Sloan] got his horses away from the post fast and put them out in front. He was “off on a Bill Daley.” — San Francisco Examiner 28th June 1949

**boat race** noun, US, 1917

* a fixed horse race or other competition
  - I bet crooked horse races – “boat races” we called them. My two detectives at the track would hear of a fix. They’d telephone me. I’d say get down a hundred for me. I made about $50,000 on “boat races” when I was chief of detectives. — San Francisco Examiner 16 November 1950

**bug** noun, US, 1941

* in horse racing, a weight handicap
  - They’ve got Imarazzo on her. He gets the five-pound bug and she’s running against stiffs, except for Green Grip. — Vincent Patrick, The Pope of Greenwich Village 1979

**buzzer** noun, US, 1942

* in horse racing, a battery-powered device used illegally by a jockey to shock a horse during a race

**drum** noun, AUSTRALIA, 1989

* in horse racing, reliable inside information

**dust hawk** noun, CANADA, 1971

* a horse driven in sulky races
  - I wasn’t off my feed, nor hadn’t lost my head neither. I wanted that dust hawk and he knew it; but I got it on him with the harness and the sulky. — Sir H. Gilbert Parker, The World for Sale 1971

**goat** noun, AUSTRALIA, 1941

* in horse racing, a poor-performing racehorse
  - “Best hoop in the country, the old Darb.” “I seen ’im ride goats. Cooky too.” “Cooky don’t take on too many goats. Sharp as a tack, Cooky.” — Nino Culotta (John O’Grady), They’re a Weird Mob 1957

**go-to-whoa** noun, AUSTRALIA, 1971

* in horse racing, the entire length of a race

**hayburner** noun, US, 1904

* a horse, especially a poor-performing racehorse
  - I reckon His Honour has three hay-burners in work. No hope of paying for their feed far as I can see. Pity, since you’ve been strapping two of them, Persian Pat and Beehive. — Wilda Moxham, The Apprentice 1969

**tea** noun

* 1 marijuana US, 1935
  - “You’ve been selling marijuana to my kid,” he said. Flute showed no emotion, “Who’s your kid?” he said calmly. “I sell tea to a lot of people.” — Atlantic Monthly August, 1948

  * 2 in horse racing, a drug (especially cocaine or strychnine) which will stimulate a horse US, 1951
    - — David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

**tecate; tecatos** noun

* a user of marijuana US, 1949
  - [T]he scattered junkies, the smalltime pushers, the teaheads, the sad panhandlers, the occasional lonely exiled nymphos haunting the entrance to the men’s head[.] — John Rechy, City of Night 1963

**T-bird** Thunderbird™ wine US, 1973

* Tooner Flats is the area of gangs who spend their last dime on short dogs of T-Bird wine[.] — Oscar Zeta Acosta, The Revolt of the Cockroach People 1973

**tecate; tecatos** noun

* Directly from Mexican Spanish.
  - — Ralph de Sola, Crime Dictionary 1982
techno smack noun
the dissociative anaesthetic ketamine when
taken as a recreational drug UK, 2005
Combines techno, which locates the usage
in the club/rave scene, with SMACK which is
more generally used for heroin.

- “This is a strange party Reg! They all
look like Zombies.” “Oh fuck, it’s Jason
& the psychonauts on techno smack.”
— Peanut Pete Disappearing Up His
Own K-Hole in Planet Ketamine July,
2005

teddy noun
a bottle of alcohol, legal or otherwise
CANADA, 1986

- “I left the teddy in the toilet.” “Brew it
and bottle it, put it in teddies.”
— Frank Ledwell, North Shore of Home
1986

teenager noun
cocaine UK, 2002

- — Nick Constable, This is Cocaine 2002

teener noun
one sixteenth of an ounce US, 1993

- My brain got fried from snortin all that
crank. Used to do a teener every night.
— Joseph Wambaugh, Finnegans Week
1993

teenth noun
a sixteenth of an ounce (of drugs) UK, 2001

- Smoked me last before, like. Brought a
teenth up yer [here] with me an it’s all
funkin gone. Smoked away. — Niall
Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

telephone booth noun
in poker, a player who regularly ‘calls’
(matches the bet of the previous player) US, 1988

- — George Percy, The Language of Poker
1988

telephone numbers noun
in horse racing, a winning bet at high odds
US, 1934

- — Robert Saunders Dowst and Jay
Craig, Playing the Races 1960

temazzies; temazies; temmies; temazes; tems
noun
Temazepam™, a branded tranquilliser UK, 1998

- [T]he fucking joyriders burning the
hillsides – the temazes stuck on
tongues[,] — Patrick Jones, Everything
Must Go 2000

temple balls; temple bells; temple hash noun
potent hashish shaped as small balls,
claimed to originate in Nepal US, 1971

- [T]emple ball on a jet plane[,] — Lupine
Howl, Vaporizer 2001

ten-cent pistol noun
da dose of heroin that is either adulterated
with a poison or contains a more pure
heroin than usual, sold or given to
someone with the intent of injuring or
killing them US, 1966

- Addicts call this type of hotspot a
“ten-cent pistol” because the poison
costs a dime but is as effective as a
gun. — James Mills, The Panic in
Needle Park 1966

terps; turps noun
cough syrup containing elixir of terpin
hydrate and codeine, abused for non-
medicinal purposes US, 1971

- “You got terp?” “I quit.” — Robert
Deane Pharr, Giveadammn Brown 1978

Texas mickey noun
a very large bottle of alcohol CANADA, 2001

- A mickey is a small bottle of booze. A
Texas mickey, on the other hand, is a
ridiculously big bottle of booze, which,
despite the name, is still a
Canadianism. — Will Ferguson, How to
be a Canadian 2001

Texas sunflowers noun
in craps, a roll of two fives US, 1983

- — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of
Gambling and Gaming 1987

Texas tea noun
marijuana US, 1938

- Do you go for Chinese needlework,
reindeer dust [powdered drugs], Texas
tea [marijuana] – that kind of stuff?
— Douglas Rutherford, The Creeping
Flesh 1963

TH noun
in betting, odds of 8–1 UK, 1991

- It’s T.H. over there. Have £50–6. On
your bike! — John McCririck, John
McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Thai stick noun
marijuana cultivated in Thailand, soaked in
hashish oil, wound on short thin sticks of
bamboo which are bundled for sale; a
cigarette rolled from marijuana cultivated in
Thailand US, 1975

- [S]he kept her honor intact for several
thousand miles by suggesting that they
smoke a paralyzing Thai stick every
time he wanted to make love.[] — Hi
Life 1979

Thai tabs noun
sweet-tasting tablets that are a mixture of
methamphetamine and caffeine US, 1997
• The Source Determination Program of the DEA Special Testing and Research
Laboratory (Dulles, Virginia) recently
received some “Ya-Ba” tablets (also
known as “Thai Tabs” heatsealed in
what appeared to be plastic drinking
straws.— Microgram Bulletin (DEA)
January, 2004

Thai weed; Thai noun
marijuana cultivated in Thailand; marijuana
from Thailand soaked in hashish oil UK,
1982
• What happen to the hydro Thai or even
de Thai stick or de lunatic Durban?]— Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

thick adjective
of a bet, large UK, 1991
• — John McCririck, John McCririck’s
World of Betting 1991

thigh opener noun
a vodka gimlet US, 1985
• — American Speech Spring, 1985:
‘The language of singles bars’

thing noun
cocaine UK, 2002
• — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

thinny noun
a very thin hand-rolled cigarette or joint UK,
2000
• [A] couple of Thinnies of Mauie-zowie
sinsemilla dope and a tab of window
pane acid[] — Stuart Browne,
Dangerous Parking 2000

third rail noun
inexpensive, potent liquor US, 1962
• — Joseph E. Ragen and Charles Finston,
Inside the World’s Toughest Prison
1962

thirteen noun
marijuana; a marijuana cigarette US, 1966
Because ‘M’ is the 13th letter of the
alphabet.
• Among the first to be exposed was the
numeral “13” (indicating a marijuana
smoker). — Hunter S. Thompson, Hell’s
Angels 1966

thirty dirty miles noun
in a game of poker, a hand with three tens
US, 1963
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of
Gambling and Gaming 1987

thirty miles of railroad track noun
in poker, a hand consisting of three tens
US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker
1988

thirty-thirty noun
a central nervous system stimulant other
than amphetamine packaged to look like
and sold as amphetamine US, 1993
• — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street
Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

thrill pill noun
a central nervous system stimulant in tablet
form US, 1953
A reduplication that never really caught on;
too true for a euphemism and too
euphemistic for the street.
• And he prescribed an amphetamine,
which I believe is the generic term for
Dexedrine, Benzedrine, Byphetamine,
and the base for most diet pills, mood
elevators, pep pills, thrill pills, etc.
— Lenny Bruce, How to Talk Dirty and
Influence People 1965

throne noun
the most coveted position for a bookmaker
at the track AUSTRALIA, 1989
• — Ned Wallish, The Truth Dictionary of
Racing Slang 1989

through-the-card noun
a wager that bets on all the races at a
meeting UK, 2001
Commonly used when gambling on
greyhound racing.
• — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

thruster noun
an amphetamine or other central nervous
system stimulant US, 1969
• — Richard Lingeman, Drugs from A to Z
1969

thumb noun
• with the thumb
in betting, used for indicating that the
current odds will not continue to be offered
for long UK, 1991
From the tick-tack signal used by
bookmakers.
tick-tack; tic-tac noun  
a system of hand signalling used by racecourse bookmakers UK, 1899  
- When Ladbrokes send it [off-course money] down, their identity in tic-tac is like drawing a circle over the head – the “Magic Sign” that alerts layers that this is Ladbrokes money. — John McCririck, *John McCririck’s World of Betting* 1991

tick-tacking noun  
an illegal system of sign language used between bookmakers and touts on a racecourse AUSTRALIA, 1899  
- Two well known characters were Tick-tacker Tom and Ron the Runner. They worked for Murphy, the bookmaker. But when tick-tacking was banned, they became unemployed and fell on bad times. — Frank Hardy and Athol George Mulley, *The Needy and the Greedy* 1975

tic-tac noun  
1 a person who signals betting information by tick-tack UK, 1990  
- “Watch out, they’ve bitten two punters’ legs...” shouted one tic-tac as they [false teeth] rolled merrily on their way! — Raceform Handicap Book 17th March 1990

2 phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1994  
- — US Department of Justice, *Street Terms* October, 1994

tiddly; tiddley adjective  
mildly drunk UK, 1905  
- Mary-Ann got tiddly on snaps and, all in all, I was right. — Gore Vidal, *Myra Breckinridge* 1968

tie verb  
-**tie on one**  
to get very drunk US, 1996  
- The bars close at two in Detroit and Sunday you can’t buy any booze till noon. Give everybody a chance to go to their place of worship before they tie one on. — Elmore Leonard, *Out of Sight* 1996

tiger stripe noun  
a scar from intravenous drug injections US, 1958  
- Ain’t no marks to show. No tiger stripes. — Willard Motley, *Let No Man Write My Epitaph* 1958

tiger sweat noun  
strong, illegally manufactured whisky CANADA, 1999  
- It is called corn liquor, white lightning, sugar whiskey, skilly cracker, pupskull, bush whiskey, stump, stump hole, ’splo, ruckus juice, radiator whiskey, rotgut, sugarhead, block and tackle, wildcat, panther’s breath, tiger’s sweat, Sweet spirits of cats a-fighting, alley bourbon, city gin, cool water, happy Sally, deep shaft, jump steady, old horsey, stingo, bluye John, red eye, pine top, buckeye bark whiskey and see seven stars. — *Star Tribune (Minneapolis)* 31st January 1999

tight adjective  
tipsy; drunk US, 1830  
- It happened, and it was not at all what the group or even Mother would have imagined, not a bit sordid or messy, in spite of Dick’s being tight. — Mary McCarthy, *The Group* 1963

tiles noun  
dominoes US, 1959  
- — Dominic Armanino, *Dominoes* 1959

timber noun  
in poker, the cards that have been discarded US, 1951  
- — *American Speech* May, 1951

time noun  
 a five-dollar unit in betting US, 1974  
- [W]hen a bettor used the expression “a time” it meant $5, as in, “give me Green Bay thirty times,” which even I understood meant $150. — Gary Mayer, *Bookie* 1974

tin noun  
one ounce of marijuana US, 1946  
Probably from a pipe tobacco tin as a measured container.  
- — Richard A. Spears, *The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink* 1986

tips noun  
in betting, odds of 11–10 UK, 1991  
tissue odds; tissue noun
a betting forecast used by bookmakers UK, 1942
From the flimsy paper originally used for this purpose.

- John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

tits noun
- off your tits
drunk or drug-intoxicated UK, 2000

- [S]ome of the best pieces of work I’ve ever done have been when I’ve been off my nut. But you can’t be off your tits absolutely all the time — Q May, 2001

toasted adjective
drunk US, 1980

- Connie Eble (Editor), UNC-CH Campus Slang Spring, 1980

toke noun
1 an inhalation of marijuana smoke US, 1962

- Just a plain old cigarette. Hee hee, yes. You want a toke? — Ken Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest 1962
2 marijuana UK, 2001

- Jesus. Selfish cow. Last bit a toke yew get off me, mun, I’ll tell yew that for nowt. — Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001
3 a dose of a drug US, 1994

- I doubled up on my coke toke. — Odie Hawkins, Lost Angeles 1994
4 in casino gambling, a gratuity either in the form of betting chips or in the form of a bet made in the name of the dealer US, 1981
An abbreviation of ‘token of gratitude’.

- [H]e considered a ten-spot as nothing more than toke money for the bellman, waiters, bartenders, and cocktails waitresses who had their mitts out when they saw him coming. — Gerald Petievich, Money Men 1981

tokey verb
to inhale smoke from a tobacco cigarette, a marijuana cigarette, a crack cocaine pipe or other drug US, 1952

- [P]attin’ his thigh to some beat or tokin’ hard on his cigarette[,] — Nick Barlay, Curvy Lovebox 1997

toker noun
a marijuana smoker US, 1973

- I’m a smoker / I’m a midnight toker[,] — Steve Miller, The Joker 1973

tolley noun
toluene, a paint solvent inhaled by the truly desperate abuser US, 1997

- — Jim Crotty, How to Talk American 1997

tonsil paint noun
whisky US, 1977

- Ramon Adams, The Language of the Railroader 1977

tooie; tuie; tooey; toolie; toole noun
a capsule of amobarbital sodium and secobarbital sodium (trade name Tuinal™), a combination of central nervous system depressants US, 1966

- Donald Louria, Nightmare Drugs 1966

tools noun
the syringe and other equipment used to prepare and inject drugs US, 1966

- The rest of the tools were already in use by other addicts. — Donald Goines, Dopefiend 1971

toot noun
1 a dose of a drug, especially cocaine to be snorted US, 1971

- After the well wishes were over, we rapped, we smoked, and we took a toot of boy and girl. — A.S. Jackson, Gentleman Pimp 1973
2 an inhalation of marijuana smoke UK, 2004

- I suppose Tommy [a rock-opera by the Who] lasted the same length as a good toot on a joint. — Uncut April, 2004
3 cocaine; heroin UK, 1977

- “So,” he said, winking extravagantly, “you two fancy a little toot?” — John Williams, Cardiff Dead 2000
4 butyl nitrite US, 1984

- Want some toot, dude? — Repo Man 1984

tooter noun
a (improvised) tube for inhaling cocaine into the nose US, 1981
top dog noun
in poker, the highest pair in a hand US, 1996
— John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

top of the head noun
in betting, odds of 9–4 UK, 1991
From the tick-tack signal used by bookmakers.
— John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

top stick noun
the best regular player in a pool hall US, 1990
— Steve Rushin, Pool Cool 1990

torbo noun
the veterinary drug butorphanol, an analgesic and antitussive abused by humans US, 2003
From the trade name Torbutrol™ under which the drug is marketed.
— According to Dr. Williams, butorphanol is colloquially referred to by the students as “Torbo.” — Microgram Bulletin (DEA) January, 2003

torch up noun
to smoke marijuana; to light up a joint US, 1955
— But first The Wolf stepped into the toilet and torched up. — Willard Motley, Let No Man Write My Epitaph 1958

torpedo juice noun
any improvised liquor onboard a submarine US, 1948

toss verb
to gulp a drink down, 1992
— I just tossed a fifth of gin / I’m going to dizz knee land. — Dada, Dizz Knee Land 1992

totalled; totalled out adjective
drunk US, 1966
— Current Slang Summer, 1966

tough verb
to inject a drug into a vein on the underside of the tongue US, 1986
— Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

toughies noun
in craps, the proposition bets (bets that a number will be rolled in a pair) US, 1983
— Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

tout noun
in horse racing, someone who sells generally worthless advice with the promise of inside information bound to help betters win UK, 1865
— David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

town dollars noun
in horse racing, money bet at a betting operation away from the track US, 1951
— David W. Maurer, Argot of the Racetrack 1951

tracked up adjective
scarred from regular intravenous drug injection US, 1971
— Eugene Landy, The Underground Dictionary 1971

tracks noun
bruises, punctures and sores visible on the skin of an intravenous drug user US, 1960
— Old needle marks – tracks – where she had tried to hit her veins and missed. — Herbert Huncke, The Evening Sun Turned Crimson 1980

tragic magic noun
crack cocaine dipped in phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as pcp or angel dust UK, 1998
— Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

trank; tranx noun
any central nervous system depressant US, 1971
— Fuckin horse tranks or some such shite. — Niall Griffiths, Kelly + Victor 2002

tranked adjective
sedated; under the influence of tranquillisers US, 1991
— Tranked out of her mind is more like it. — Carl Hiaasen, Native Tongue 1991

trap door noun
a scab under which a drug addict injects drugs US, 1992
— The trapdoor hid the fresh needle marks from the cops. — Joseph Wambaugh, Fugitive Nights 1992
trashed adjective

very drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1966

“...I’m getting trashed.” Isn’t that what you’re supposed to say at a party?
— Ten Things I Have About You 1999

tripped adjective

hallucinatory UK, 2001

Don’t as a rule like mushies [magic mushrooms] much like, but this is alright. Not too trippy like.
— Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

trees; tree noun

marijuana US, 1995

An exaggerated BUSH.

The Lost Boys, yeah, that’s who I be’s with, / That’s who I runs with, who I smoke trees with.
— Lost Boys Jeeps, Lex Coups, Bimas and Benz 1995

tres noun

in betting, odds of 3–1 UK, 1991

A variation of ‘trey’.

— John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

trifecta noun

in US horse racing, a bet on the first three in the correct order US, 1991

— John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

trims noun

playing cards altered for cheating by slightly trimming off the edges of certain cards US, 1979


trip noun

1 a hallucinatory drug experience US, 1966

Uncertainty surrounds the first slang usage of the term. US slang lexicographer Peter Tamony argued in American Speech (Summer 1981) that the term was first used in a slang sense by Jack Gelber in The Connection, a 1957 play dealing with heroin addicts. Tamony privately conceded that the usage was not ‘a smoking gun’, and in retrospect it appears more figurative than slang. The Oxford English Dictionary points to Norman Mailer’s 1959 Advertisements for Myself, in which Mailer wrote of taking mescaline and of ‘a long and private trip’, but there is no evidence that Mailer’s use reflected a colloquial understanding and was not simply literary metaphor. Similarly, in a 1963 article about LSD in Playboy, Allan Harrington used the term ‘trip’, but again the context suggests metaphor, not slang. The slang sense of the word is indelibly associated with Ken Kesey and his LSD-taking Merry Pranksters. In 1964, Ken Kesey bought a soon-to-be-famous International Harvester school bus in the name of Intrepid Trips, Inc., suggesting an already current, if private, slang sense. In September 1999, Kesey wrote about his recollection of the first use of the term: ‘I think it came from our bus trip in 1964, when Cassady said “This trip is a trip”’.

Judge Karesh than asked the much-traveled defendant [Ken Kesey] to teach him what the word “trip” really meant. Kesey said it was a happening “out of the ordinary” when induced by a psychedelic drug (such as LSD or mescaline). — San Francisco Chronicle 12th April 2000

2 a dose of LSD, usually in the form of a blotting paper tab UK, 2000

Derived from the sense as ‘a hallucinogenic experience’ that follows ingestion.

Spiking people with trips was a favourite little trick of Glen’s. I’d seen him roll up a trip and push it down a Ribena straw.
— Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

trippin verb

to experience a drug-induced hallucinogenic euphoria US, 1966

Also ‘trip out’.

Casper’s crew loved tripping – and I don’t mean nature rambles.
— Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

trippy adjective

hallucinatory UK, 2001

Don’t as a rule like mushies [magic mushrooms] much like, but this is alright. Not too trippy like.
— Niall Griffiths, Sheepshagger 2001

trips noun

LSD US, 1969

[T]here was a boom in ecstasy [MDMA], speed [amphetamine], trips, the lot.
— Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, The User 1996

troxie noun

a multiple bet, gambling on three horses in four combined bets UK, 1991

A £1 Trixie would cost £4.
— John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Trojan horse noun

in poker, an unexpectedly strong hand held by another player whose betting has successfully masked its strength US, 1996

— John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996
trolleyed; trollied adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated UK, 1996
Derives from ‘off your trolley’.
● Didn’t mind him lying trolleyed on my lap. — Gavin Hills, White Burger Danny (Disco Biscuits) 1996

trough noun
a bar, especially at a horse racetrack AUSTRALIA, 1989

truck driver noun
an amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1967
● — John B. Williams, Narcotics and Hallucinogenics 1967

trumpet noun
cocaine UK, 1999
● In one session I’d been known to blow a grand’s worth of trumpet up my noble hooter. — Wayne Anthony, Spanish Highs 1999

tug verb
tug on
1 to inhale smoke from a cigarette UK, 2000
● “Yeah, a bit,” I says, tugging on Lowey’s spliff. — Jimmy Stockin, On the Cobbles 2000

tumblers noun
dice with rounded edges US, 1950
● — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

tune noun
a tablet of Tuinal™, a branded barbiturate UK, 1996
An approximate abbreviation, usually in the plural; probably also as a pun on Tunes™, a branded medicated sweet.
● — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

turbo noun
marijuana mixed with crack cocaine US, 1994
● — US Department of Justice Street Terms October, 1994

turkey noun
1 the turkey
an act of withdrawing from addictive drugs; the time period of that withdrawal (without direct reference to the symptoms) UK, 2002
A variation of COLD TURKEY.
● “You really done the turkey... in a brothel?” “That’s right. Ah did it.” — Ben Elton, High Society 2002

twist verb
1 to use a drug US, 1953
● A droopy-eyed Negro hands me a tiny joint, offers what is hardly a roach now: “Turn on?”. — John Rechy, City of Night 1963

2 to introduce someone to something, especially drugs US, 1961
● Have to find a place though, maybe men’s room in the house. Turn Pamela on later. Won’t dig it probably. — Richard Farina, Been Down So Long 1966

tuss verb
to abuse for non-medical purposes non-prescription medication containing dextromethorphan (DXM) US, 2003
● DXM abuse is called “Robotripping” or “Tussing.” Users might be called “syrup heads” or “robotards.” — USA Today 29th December 2003

tussin noun
dextromethorphan (DXM), an active ingredient in non-prescription cold and cough medication, often abused for non-medical purposes US, 2003
From the branded cough syrup Robtussin™.
● Youths’ nicknames for DXM: Robo, Skittles, Triple C’s, Rojo, Dex, Tussin, Vitamin D. — USA Today 29th December 2003

twatted adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated UK, 1999
Hang in there. It’s just a pill. You’re just a bit twatted. — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

tweak; tweek noun
methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant US, 1985
● [A]mid an indescribable clutter of trash on the floor, which includes the glassine envelopes used for methamphetamine. The officers confiscate a syringe. “He’s a tweak freak,” the blond says spitefully. — San Francisco Chronicle 26th April 1985

2 crack cocaine US, 1986
● When you go out to buy cocaine, you’re on a “tweek mission.” — San Francisco Chronicle 2nd July 1986

tweak; tweek verb
1 to experience the effects of crack cocaine use; to use crack cocaine US, 1989
● Then there are wounds inflicted with knives, baseball bats and other
weapons when drug users are “tweaking,” the street jargon for the volatile behavior that accompanies crack. — New York Times 6th August 1989

- The boomers sell crack, the tweakers smoke it and the survivors stay out of the way. — San Francisco Chronicle 19th September 1988

**BETTING**

double carpet noun, UK, 1967 in betting, odds of 33–1 Dubious accounting ‘doubles’ the odds from a carpet (3–1).
- “Double Carpet” and all that! — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

Dutch book noun, US, 1912 in a bookmaking operation, a horse race in which the odds are such that the astute better can bet on any horse and win
- In such situations the bookmakers said they were “in Dutch.” Hence the name “dutch book.” — Toney Betts, Across the Board 1956

Murray noun, AUSTRALIA, 1989 in horse racing, to bet on credit Rhyming slang from ‘Murray Cod’ (a delicious inland fish) to ON THE NOD (on credit).

show price; show noun, UK, 1976 in gambling, the betting odds displayed by a bookmaker at a point in time
- During the run-up to a race... the broadcasting service gives... a “show” on that race... the prices being offered at that time on the various horses taking part. — Ladbrooke’s Pocket Betting Guide 1976

steamer noun, UK, 1991 in horse racing, a horse that attracts heavy betting on the morning of a race, at a time before the odds being offered by bookmakers are reduced
- [T]he trouble with steamers is that for success you need to get on at those fancy morning line prices, and often this is not possible. — John McCririck, John McCririck’s World of Betting 1991

telephone numbers noun, US, 1934 in horse racing, a winning bet at high odds
- — Robert Saunders Dowst and Jay Craig, Playing the Races 1960

Union Jack noun, UK, 2001 a multiple bet on 9 selections Named after the Union Jack flag which a schemata of the wager resembles.
- The Union Jack covers only eight of the 84 possible trebles in nine selections so there is plenty of scope for disappointment in this bet. — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

2 to experience the effects of methamphetamine; to use methamphetamine (US, 1989
- I tweaked for days. I liked all the weight I was losing – I lost about 30 pounds just like that – and I liked the high, being very much there. — Phoenix New Times 18th December 1997

tweaked adjective methamphetamine-intoxicated (US, 1985
- I’m just about tweaked to the max all the time. — Los Angeles Times 4th June 1985

tweaker; tweeker noun
1 a user of methamphetamine or amphetamines (US, 1989
- Typical highs last from four to eight hours. Users call themselves “tweakers.” — Los Angeles Times 8th October 1989

2 a crack cocaine user or addict (US, 1988

tweed; tweeds noun marijuana (US, 1995
- Contraction of ‘the WEED’, thus ’tweed’, ‘tweeded’.
- E, crack, tweed, shit, it’s give ’n’ take[.]
- Q, The Sparrow (Disco Biscuits) 1996

tweek and freak verb to engage in kinky sex after injecting methamphetamine (US, 1989
- — Geoffrey Froner, Digging for Diamonds 1989

twennie noun a twenty-dollar dose of crack cocaine (US, 1989
- I don’t put but a few twennies [$20 packets] in foil anyway ’cause if you sweat too much it cakes up.
- — Terry Williams, The Cocaine Kids 1989
twenty-four-hour hootch; 24-hour hootch
noun
• The recipe for “24 hour hootch” came out of the Queen Charlotte Islands, where delay of the supply boat is a major non-event for serious drinkers. It was for fast relief: a 48oz can of apple juice, a packet of yeast, and six aspirins. — Tom Parkin, WetCoast Words 1989

twenty-one days in the county jail noun
in poker, a hand consisting of three sevens US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

twenty-two; 22 noun
• I had to buy a 22 at the grocery store since I no longer had my girl to split a 40 with. — Michelle Tea, Valencia 2000

twig noun
in sports betting, a half-point increment in the pointspread US, 1984
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

twin fins noun
in craps, two fives US, 1983
• — Thomas L. Clark, The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming 1987

twist noun
1 a marijuana cigarette US, 1920
The paper end is twisted to prevent the loss of its contents.
• Marijuana cigarette, also referred to as a ‘stick’, ‘reefer’, ‘weed’, ‘muggles’, ‘rocket’ and ‘twist’. Usually hand-rolled, it is about half as thick as an ordinary cigarette. — Allen Geller and Maxwell Boas, The Drug Beat 1970
2 a small bag or paper wrap of heroin US, 2002
• — Robert Ashton, This is Heroin 2002
3 a multiple bet, gambling on three different horses in separate races in a total of seven bets UK, 2001
More popularly known as a PATENT.
• — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

twist verb
• twist a dream to roll a marijuana cigarette US, 1949
• — Ernest L. Abel, A Marijuana Dictionary 1982

twisted adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1958
• Very soon, I knew, we would both be completely twisted. — Hunter S. Thompson, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1971

twist up verb
to roll a marijuana cigarette US, 1997
• SOUTHERN: I’ll just twist one up [takes out pink papers] using these clitoral pinks to give it zest. BOCKRIS: Why don’t you twist up another one?

two bad boys from Illinois noun
in craps, a roll of two US, 1985
• — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

typist noun
in a deck of playing cards, a queen US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988
Uncle Charles; Uncle C noun
cocaine UK, 2002
- I was just wondering if Uncle Charles was about today? ... – Uncle C is not only about, but today, for you, he is at home and sitting on the roof [on the house]. — James Hawes, White Powder, Green Light 2002

Uncle Junk noun
heroin US, 1985
- The first time he saw Carl, Lee thought, “I could use that, if the family jewels weren’t in pawn to Uncle Junk.” — William Burroughs, Queer 1985

under adjective
a state of sobriety when measured against drug-intoxication UK, 2003
- I was already fucked on pills and tripping out, but that sent me under and I started screaming at him to get the dog off me! — Mixmag, April 2003

undertaker noun
a bookmaker who will only accept bets at odds under those offered by his compe-
tition AUSTRALIA, 1989

Union Jack noun
a multiple bet on 9 selections UK, 2001
Named after the Union Jack flag which a schemata of the wager resembles.
- The Union Jack covers only eight of the 84 possible trebles in nine selections so there is plenty of scope for disappointment in this bet. — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

United Parcel Service noun
any amphetamine, methamphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1976
A forced formation: the initials UPS represent stimulants as ‘ups’ (see upper).
- — Robert Sabbag, Snowblind 1976

up noun
a tablet of amphetamine, methamphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1979
- “Ups” all day and “downs” at night.
  — Beatrice Sparks (writing as ‘Anonymous’), Jay’s Journal 1979

up adjective
under the influence of a drug, especially LSD and, later, MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1966
- Comin up, Paulie? – Oh am up, am fuckin way, way up[.] — Niall Griffiths, Grits 2000

-up suffix
used to form adjectives and verbs with the meaning ‘to be under, or put someone under, the influence of a drug’ UK, 2000
- So that would be my first job as the Drug Tsar – E-up the Old Bill.
  — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

up-and-down noun
in gambling, a type of conditional bet: a single-stakes-about or a double-stakes-
about UK, 2001
- — David Bennet, Know Your Bets 2001

uphills noun
dice that have been altered in a fashion that produces high numbers when rolled US, 1962
- — Frank Garcia, Marked Cards and Loaded Dice 1962

upper noun
an amphetamine or other central nervous system stimulant US, 1968
- I mean is it an upper or a downer?
  — Oscar Zeta Acosta, The Revolt of the Cockroach People 1973

up tight adjective
addicted to a drug US, 1967
- I was a stinkin’ no-good junkie, twisted out of my mind. Up tight. Bound by dope. A chronic addict.
  — John Gimenez, Up Tight! 1967

uptown noun
cocaine US, 1980
Uptown is expensive and glamorous, as is cocaine.
- First I’ll put your Uptown on the spoon, then to make it more exciting I’m gonna add some Downtown. They call this thing a speedball, honey, but then you must know that. — The Bad Lieutenant 1992
used beer department noun
a toilet US, 1995
Modified to 'used coffee department' and the like for office settings.

• The used beer department is down those steps over there. — Theodore Sturgeon, *When You’re Smiling* 2002
valet noun
in a deck of playing cards, a jack or knave
US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

valley noun
the antecubital vein at the inside of the elbow, a prime site for intravenous drug injections US, 1970
• — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the Establishment and Other Uptight People December, 1970

velvet noun
gambling winnings US, 1974
• — John Scarne, Scarne on Dice 1974

Viaggy noun
a Viagra™ tablet UK, 2002
• But if he wants a Viaggy he’s double come to the right place. — Kevin Sampson, Clubland 2002
• But if he wants a Viaggy he’s double come to the right place. — Kevin Sampson, Clubland 2002

vice president noun
in poker, the player with the second best hand US, 1988
• — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

vig noun
interest owed on an illegal loan US, 1990
A shortened form of ‘vigorish’.
• He wants three points over the vig. From me? — Goodfellas 1990

vikes noun
the prescription drug Vicodin™ US, 1996
• “You give him the Vike,” former defensive lineman John Jurkovic is quoted as saying in Return to Glory. — Chicago Sun-Times 7th August 1996

vino noun
wine, especially cheap wine AUSTRALIA, 1919
From Spanish and Italian vino (wine).

viper noun
1 a marijuana dealer US, 1958
• She has gone [to] the viper gets [sic] the weed and packs it solid into the Durex[.]. — Frank Norman, Bang to Rights 1958
2 a marijuana user US, 1938
A term of the 1930s with some lingering use until the 1960s.
• But she knew how easily she could relinquish that sense of responsibility with which she had this time gone to Carter, how simply she could become a Viper again and laugh at the meaning of days. — George Mandel, Flee the Angry Strangers 1952

vitamin A noun
LSD US, 1997
From the common term ACID.
• — Anna Scotti and Paul Young, Buzzwords 1997

vitamin B noun
beer US, 1990
• — Judi Sanders, Cal Poly Slang 1990

vitamin C noun
cocaine US, 1984
• — R.C. Garrett et al., The Coke Book 1984

vitamin D noun
dextromethorphan (DXM), an active ingredient in non-prescription cold and cough medication, often abused for non-medical purposes US, 2003
• Youths’ nicknames for DXM: Robo, Skittles, Triple C’s, Rojo, Dex, Tussin, Vitamin D. DXM abuse is called “Robotripping” or “Tussing.” Users might be called “syrup heads” or “robotards.” — USA Today 29th December 2003

vitamin DB noun
Dominion Breweries draught bitter NEW ZEALAND, 1998
• — David McGill, David McGill’s Complete Kiwi Slang Dictionary 1998

vitamin G noun
the drug gabapentin, used medically to control pain US, 2004
• Neurontin rarely is encountered as a diverted pharmaceutical; however, law
enforcement reporting indicates that the drug (sometimes referred to as Vitamin G) increasingly is being abused. — Microgram Bulletin (DEA) September, 2004

**vitamin H** noun
haloperidol, a potent tranquilliser *US, 1989*

**vitamin K; vit K** noun
ketamine hydrochloride, an anaesthetic used as an hallucinogen *US, 1989*
- The drug became known as “Vitamin K” when it emerged in underground gay clubs in the 1980s. — The Record (Bergen County, New Jersey) 5th December 1995

**vitamin M** noun
Motrin™ *US, 1994*
- Sally Williams, ‘Strong’ Words 1994

**vitamin P** noun
the game of poker *US, 1996*
- John Vorhaus, The Big Book of Poker Slang 1996

**vitamin Q** noun
the recreational drug methaqualone, best known as Quaalude™ *US, 1982*
- Vitamin Q indeed. They were Quaaludes, what the young people called “downers.” — Armistead Maupin, Further Tales of the City 1982

**vitamins** noun
drugs in tablet or capsule form *UK, 1996*
- Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

**vitamin T** noun
marijuana *US, 1997*
- Anna Scotti and Paul Young, Buzzwords 1997

**vitamin V** noun
valium *US, 1994*
- Sally Williams, ‘Strong’ Words 1994

**vogue** noun
a cigarette *UK, 1992*
- Polari.
- She has a permanent vogue in her screech [mouth] and her droje [clothing] is mega ribena on toast [awful], daughter. — the cast of ‘Aspects of Love’, Prince of Wales Theatre, Palare (Boy Dancer Talk) for Beginners 1989–1992
wacky baccy; wacky backy noun
marijuana US, 1975
  • It’s a tuppenny ‘a’penny gaff... full of
twelve year olds smokin’ waccy baccy.
  — Bernard Dempsey and Kevin McNally,
  Lock, Stack... and Two Hundred
  Smoking Kalashnikovs 2000

wad noun
a rag saturated with glue or any volatile
solvent that is inhaled for the intoxicating
effect US, 1970
  — William D. Alsever, Glossary for the
  Establishment and Other Uptight People
  December, 1970

wake and bake; wake-n-bake verb
to smoke marijuana as one of the first acts
of the day US, 1997
  • I don't wake and bake like I used to.
  DEAN WEAN, Wean, refuting the rumour
  that he smokes excessive amounts of
  marijuana, 1995 — Jabberrock 1997

wake-up noun
1 the day's first dose of a drug taken by an
addict US, 1954
  • This is his “wake-up,” a morning shot
to hold off the anxiety and sickness of
withdrawal and get him “straight”
  enough to start the day. — James Mills,
  The Panic in Needle Park 1966
2 any amphetamine or central nervous
system stimulant US, 1972
  — Carl Chambers and Richard
  Heckman, Employee Drug Abuse 1972

walking money noun
in gambling, a small amount of money
given by the house or other players to
someone who has just lost all of his money
US, 1961
  • Jay shook his head as he peeled off
two hundred in walking money for the
four losers. — Iceberg Slim (Robert
  Beck), Airtight Willie and Me 1979

warp noun
a bent card used by a card cheat to identify
the value of the card US, 1996
  — Frank Scoblete, Best Blackjack 1996

warped adjective
drug-intoxicated US, 1979
  • Yeah, they got stoned on giggle-weed,
    zonked on grifa, zapped on yerba,
    bombed on boo, they were blitzed with
    snop, warped on twist, gay on hay, free
    on V. — Hi Life 1979

wash noun
crack cocaine UK, 1996
A shortened form of ‘readywash’. To
manufacture crack cocaine, hydrachloride is
washed in a solution of baking soda and
water.
  • [M]ost cocaine use in the UK is in the
    smokeable form of “crack” cocaine
    (“base”, “rock” or “wash”). — Simon G.
    Gowers, Adolescent Psychiatry in
    Clinical Practice 2001

wash rock noun
crack cocaine UK, 1997
Combines two separate terms for CRACK.
  • I need the fuckin’ wash rock yeah.
    Wha’ y’ gonna do? — Nick Barlay,
    Curvy Lovebox 1997

washwoman’s gig noun
in an illegal numbers gambling lottery,
a bet on 4, 11 and 44 US, 1949
  — American Speech October, 1949

wasted adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1964
  • I’d be too tired or stoned or wasted to
    get up in the afternoon to even go out
    and sit beneath the umbrellas in the
    hot sun at the beach club with Blair.
    — Bret Easton Ellis, Less Than Zero
    1985

watering hole; watering spot noun
a bar or club where alcohol is served;
a public hotel US, 1955
  • I first met Lance at the outside bar of
    the Island Hotel, the local watering
    hole also featuring great food. — Jimmy
    Buffett, Tales from Margaritaville 1989

waxy noun
in horse racing, an enthusiast who can’t
help shouting in the ears of those near him
AUSTRALIA, 1989
  • — Ned Wallish, The Truth Dictionary of
    Racing Slang 1989

webfoot noun
a racehorse that performs well on a muddy
track US, 1951
weed noun
1 marijuana US, 1928
The preferred slang term for marijuana until the 1950s, and despite the success of its successors it has never completely vanished from the lexicon.
    • Rules of the Black Panther Party No. 7: No party member can have a weapon in his possession while DRUNK or loaded off narcotics or weed. — The Black Panther 15th January 1969
2 a marijuana cigarette US, 1958
    • If you dig two-for-a-nickel weeds like this, then don’t let me talk you out of anything. — Morton Cooper, High School Confidential 1958
3 tobacco UK, 1606
    • But for the 80 per cent of us for whom it’s a case of “smoke or go bonkers”, it’s a lie exposed by our repeated inability to stay off the weed. — The Observer 29th December 2002
weed of wisdom noun
marijuana UK, 1994
    • Dis one goin’ out to ah oonu dat search fe inspiration, from de weed of wisdom. — Donald Gorgon, Cop Killer 1994
weights noun
loaded dice US, 1977
    • — Robert C. Prus and C.R.D. Sharper, Road Hustler 1977: ‘Glossary of terms’
west coast turnaround noun
any strong central nervous system stimulant US, 1971
Powerful enough to keep a truck driver awake for a trip to the west coast and back.
    • — Montie Tak, Truck Talk 1971
wet noun
a conventional cigarette infused with embalming fluid US, 2001
    • American buzz chasers are buying cigarettes dipped in embalming fluid in their search for a new high. The “wets” or “illys” are $20 (£13) and are said to induce a feeling of invincibility.
    • — Mixmag December, 2001
whacked adjective
drunk or drug-intoxicated US, 1967
Also used with ‘out’.
    • [I]f I’m in luck, they’ve just picked up a new shipment from uptown, and he’s been too whacked-out from his taste test to step on it. — Jim Carroll, Forced Entries 1987
whacked out adjective
drug-intoxicated US, 1973
    • Nobody else seemed to notice, but they were so whacked out of their heads on grass that they couldn’t care less if we were on Candid Camera.
    • — Xaviera Hollander, The Happy Hooker 1972
whandoodles noun
in poker, a temporary increase in the betting limit after a player wins a hand with a rare hand US, 1967
wheel noun
1 a betting operation US, 1054
    • There are about thirty books or wheels going in Chicago alone. — Alson Smith, Syndicate City 1954
2 the game of roulette US, 1993
    • — Frank Scoblete, Guerrilla Gambling 1993
whipper noun
a small cartridge of nitrous oxide US, 1986
Designed for use in making whipped cream, but often abused for the psychoactive effects of the gas.
    • “Whippers” come in ten-packs for eight bucks, and are ostensibly used as charges for whipping cream. — Josh Alan Friedman, Tales of Times Square 1986
whippets; whippits noun
capsules of nitrous oxide used as a recreational drug US, 1980
    • Whippits have taken on a mythical status since the 1960s when some weirdo first stuck a can of frozen dessert topping up his nose.
    • — Suroosh Alvi et al., The Vice Guide 2002
whips and jingles noun
symptoms of heroin withdrawal US, 1973
Refraining to the physical pain and frayed nerves suffered.
    • — David Maurer and Victor Vogel, Narcotics and Narcotic Addiction 1973
whirlies noun
extreme dizziness experienced when drunk US, 1966
white noun
1 a caspule of Benzedrine™ (amphetamine sulphate) or any other central nervous system stimulant US, 1966
• And if you give me weed, whites and wine / And you show me a sign / Then I'll be willin' – to be movin'. — Little Feat, Willin' 1988

white devil noun
cocaine US, 1972

white eye noun
illegal alcohol smuggled from the French islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon CANADA, 1998

white noun
1 US, 1999
in dice games, a rolled one
• Three crap three, ace-deuce, no use.
  — Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999

African dominoes noun, US, 1919
• Then the colored gamblers set in to pleading with the African dominoes.]

bones noun, UK, 1400
The term has journeyed from colloquial to standard English and now to slang.
• And I'd take some loaded craps down there, some bones, and I would beat the paddy boys out of all their money. They were the only ones who were dumb enough to shoot craps with bones. — Claude Brown, Manchild in the Promised Land 1965

casino perfects noun, US, 1997
high quality dice used in casinos
• Besides letter "imperfections," the Sabre Bay casino perfects probably also have black-light marks or some other identifying device. — Stephen Cannell, Big Con 1997

condominiums noun, US, 1976
in bar dice games, a roll from the cup in which some dice are stacked on top of others, invalidating the roll
• — Gil Jacobs, The World's Best Dice Games 1976

cubes noun, US, 1918
• He lit a cigarette, exhaled, and said with hazel eyes ashine, "Say, Speedy, how's your cube game?" — Iceberg Slim (Robert Beck), Long White Con 1977

dice noun
in dice games, a rolled one
• They [vagrant alcoholics] subsist on a diet of methylated spirits (jake or the blue), surgical spirit (surge or the white) and other forms of crude alcohol. — Peter Ackroyd, London: The Biography 2000

DICE

2 heroin, cocaine or morphine US, 1914
From the colour of the powdered drug.
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

3 crack cocaine US, 1995

4 surgical spirit as an alcoholic drink UK, 2000
• The liquid is clear but ‘white’ differentiates this from blue (methylated spirits).
  • They [vagrant alcoholics] subsist on a diet of methylated spirits (jake or the blue), surgical spirit (surge or the white) and other forms of crude alcohol. — Peter Ackroyd, London: The Biography 2000

white devil noun
cocaine US, 1972
• [W]hite eye or “whisky-blanc,” manufactured in France and smuggled through the islands to New Brunswick and Gaspe coast where locals get “boary-eyed drunk on white-eye”[.]
  — Bill Casselman, Canadian Food Words 1998

white girl noun
  cocaine US, 1971
  • Many of us called it “girl” or “white girl” then. It helped to be in a movie studio setting to do cocaine. — Odie Hawkins, Lost Angeles 1994

white lady noun
  a powdered narcotic, especially cocaine or heroin US, 1968
  The shortened form ‘lady’ is also used.
  • Only woman I need is the White Lady that rides through my veins. — Nathan Heard, Howard Street 1968

white light noun
  LSD UK, 1969
  • And she said that she had some white light / And she said that she had some morphine[.] — Jim Carroll, Lorraine 1982

white lightning noun
  strong, if inferior, home-made whisky US, 1921
  • I’m drinkin moonshine cocktails or punch made with orange juice, ice, ginger ale & white lightin. — Jack Kerouac, Letter to William Burroughs May, 1955

white missy noun
  a glass of cheap white rum BARBADOS, 1965
  • — Frank A. Collymore, Barbadian Dialect 1965

white mule noun
  an illegally manufactured whisky, colourless and powerful US, 1921
  • [H]e drank an entire Mason jar of white mule and danced the two-step with every lady present, bar none. — Max Shulman, Anyone Got a Match? 1964

White Owl noun
  a branded White Owl™ cigar remade to contain marijuana US, 2003
  • I was instrumental in introducing Phillies Blunts to the UK... It was LL Cool J who taught me how to roll a Phillies. I can roll Phillies, Dutch Owls and White Owls. — Mixmag April, 2003

whiz; whizz noun
  whisky US, 1953
  • And I knew how bad the whiz was for me – I’d been told not to drink it at all – but I have to have it. — Jim Thompson, Savage Night 1953

whizz verb
  to use amphetamines UK, 2000
  • How can you slow dance when you’re whizzing off your tits? — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

whizz; wizz; whiz noun
 amphetamine UK, 1993
  A pun on speed.
  • Now this geezer was always asking me for a dab of whizz[.] — Dave Courtney, Raving Lunacy 2000

whizzer noun
  in poker, a successful play of an inferior hand, or the person playing it US, 1988
  • — George Percy, The Language of Poker 1988

whore house cut noun
  cutting a deck of cards by removing a section from the middle of the deck and moving it to the top or bottom US, 1951
  • — American Speech May, 1951: ‘The vocabulary of poker’

wife-beater noun
  any alcoholic drink, especially beer UK: WALES, 2004
  • [T]wo bulky gentlemen, half-cut on wife beater knocking the life out of each other[.] — Buzz February, 2004

wildcat noun
  methcathinone mixed with cocaine US, 1998
  An elaboration of cat (methcathinone).
  • — Mike Haskins, Drugs 2003

windowpane; window noun
  a dose of LSD on a tiny, clear piece of gelatin US, 1975
  • He sold mediocre grass for ten dollars a lid, coke for fifty a gram when you could get it and a hit of windowpane acid for two bucks. — John Sayles, Union Dues 1977

wings noun
  1 any powdered drug, especially cocaine, heroin or morphine US, 1953
  • — Joseph E. Ragen and Charles Finston, Inside the World’s Toughest Prison
1962: ‘Penitentiary and underworld glossary’

**get your wings**

2 to use heroin for the first time US, 1989

A nod to aviation terminology.

— Geoffrey Froner, *Digging for Diamonds* 1989

**winners** noun
dice that have been altered so as to roll numbers other than seven, useful to the shooter in craps US, 1950

— The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

**wino** noun
a lowly drunk US, 1913

— He spent hours upon hours in the old public library at Bayfront Park, amid the snoring winos and bag ladies.[.]

— Carl Hiaasen, *Tourist Season* 1986

**wired** adjective
intoxicated on amphetamines or cocaine US, 1966

Also used with ‘up’.

— Magoo is a pill freak, and when he gets wired up he does a lot of talking.

— Hunter S. Thompson, *Hell’s Angels* 1966

**wobbly egg; wobbly; egg** noun
a capsule of Temazepam™, a branded tranquilliser; any central nervous system depressant UK, 1996

From the characteristic nature of gelatine, the original method of manufacturing the capsules.

— Its street name is JELLIES because in one of its forms it looks like gelatine jelly babies. It is also called WOBBLIES or EGGS. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, *The User* 1996

**wood** noun
in a casino or other gambling establishment, a person who watches without playing US, 1950

An abbreviation of DEADWOOD.

— John Scarne, *Scarne on Dice* 1974

**wooden Indian** noun
a poker player who does not talk or display emotion US, 1996


**Woody Woodpecker** noun
a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, embossed with a representation of the popular animation character UK, 1999

— Soon enough, though, the Woody Woodpecker started to take effect and I felt like I was going to be sick.

— Wayne Anthony, *Spanish Highs* 1999

**woof** verb
to vomit US, 1978

— Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* April, 1978

**woolla; woolas; wooly; wool** noun
crack cocaine or phencyclidine sprinkled over marijuana which is then smoked in a cigarette; a hollowed-out cigar filled with marijuana and phencyclidine US, 1995

— [T]he teen / Who was a fiend / Started smokin’ wools at 16[.] — Raekwon of Wu-Tang Clan, *C.R.E.A.M.* 1994

**Woolworth** noun
in hold ‘em poker, a five and a ten as the first two cards dealt to a player US, 1981

Woolworth’s was the most famous five and dime store in the US.


**work** noun
1 cheating in gambling, especially in craps US, 1950

The statement ‘There’s work down’ means that altered dice or cards are in play.

— The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences May, 1950

2 dice or cards that have been altered for the purpose of cheating US, 1963

— John S. Salak, *Dictionary of Gambling* 1963

**workingman’s weed** noun
marijuana UK, 2000

An allusion to the 1970 album ‘Workingman’s Dead’ by the Grateful Dead, a band well known for the use of recreational drugs.

— I have a little buzz on me from some workingman’s weed[.] — Stuart Browne, *Dangerous Parking* 2000

**works** noun
the equipment used to prepare and inject drugs US, 1934

— The others couldn’t get works. I had to steal my spike out of the hospital.

— Jeremy Larner and Ralph Tefferteller, *The Addict in the Street* 1964
**wounded soldier** noun
a bottle or can of beer that has been partly consumed *US, 1991*
Playing on **DEAD SOLDIER** as ‘an empty bottle’.
  ● — Connie Eble (Editor), *UNC-CH Campus Slang* Fall, 1991

**wrap** noun
a small paper-wrapping containing powdered drugs *UK, 1996*
  ● I stayed up all the night before, boshed two wraps, had a line [of cocaine] before going in. — Macfarlane, Macfarlane and Robson, *The User* 1996

**wrap; wrap up** verb
to roll a marijuana cigarette *UK, 1999*
  ● [He] started to wrap a one-skinner[.]
    — Kevin Sampson, *Powder* 1999

**wrestle; rassle** verb
to play a game of bar dice *US, 1971*
  ● — Jester Smith, *Games They Play in San Francisco* 1971

**wrist** noun
in betting, odds of 5–4 *UK, 1991*
From the **ticker-tack** signal used by bookmakers.

**writer** noun
a doctor who writes prescriptions without an excess of questions asked *US, 1954*
**Xx**

- X is often described as less disturbingly “trippy” than LSD and more serene than cocaine.[4] 
  — *Newsweek* 6th December 1993

**XTC noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1985**

Pronounced ‘ecstasy’.

- Pamphlets promoting the use of the drug include such titles as “How to Prepare for an Ecstasy Experience,” “Flight Instructions for a Friend Using XTC[.]” 
  — *States News Service* 31st May 1985

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**X noun
MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy US, 1988**

Generally an abbreviated ‘ecstasy’ specifically used of any MDMA tablet stamped with a symbol that may be read as an X.
Yy

yaba noun
paramethoxyamphetamine, PMA UK, 2002
A phonetic approximation (perhaps Thai or Burmese), literally ‘crazy medicine’, by which name it is also known.
• With a profit mark-up of 1100% over raw materials and over 400 million yaba pills crossing the border from Burma to Thailand every year, it’s not surprising that an estimated two-thirds of Bangkok crime is thought to be yaba-related. — Code January, 2002

yabba noun
methamphetamine in pill form when taken as a recreational drug UK, 2001
• Experts fear that Yabba is being sold as cheap E in the UK. — Mixmag December, 2001

yahoo noun
crack cocaine US, 1994
• — US Department of Justice, Street Terms October, 1994

yankee noun
a multiple bet, gambling on four different horses in a specific combination of eleven bets UK, 1967
• “Yeah. My first yankee.” “I done hundreds of them.” “Me too – but this is the first I’ve won.” — Anthony Masters, Minder 1984

yaoh noun
cocaine UK, 1999
• I zapped your yaoh last night. You was out of it, lar. Couldn’t wake you. — Kevin Sampson, Powder 1999

yay; yayoo; yeah-O; yeyo; yeo noun
crack cocaine US, 1995
• That girl couldn’t say nay to yay. — Lois Stavsky et al., A2Z 1995

yellow jacket noun
a barbiturate or other central nervous system depressant, especially Nembutal™ US, 1952
• Movie broads gobbled up yellow jackets like they were jelly beans[.] — Malcolm Braly, On the Yard 1967

yen pock noun
an opium pellet US, 1934
• If you want an introduction to Herbert Hoover, or a few yen pock of opium, speak up. — Bernard Wolfe, The Late Risers 1954

Yenshee baby noun
an extremely constipated bowel movement that is the product of opiate addiction US, 1938
‘Yenshee’ is Chinese for ‘opium residue’.
• And then came ripping down his intestines that glacial fecal boulder compacted by months of bowel paralysis, and through gritted teeth he cried, “Christ! The Yenshee baby.” — Seth Morgan, Homeboy 1990

yerba noun
marijuana US, 1967
A Mexican Spanish word that means ‘herb’ or ‘grass’.
• — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

yesca; yesco noun
marijuana US, 1949
Directly from Spanish yesca (tinder).
• Tea. Grifa. Yesca. Marijuana. Whatever you want to call it. — Thurston Scott, Cure It with Honey 1951

yin-yang noun
a well-known variety of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy, identified by the yin and yang symbols embossed on the tablet UK, 2002
• [T]ake the form of tablets that forge “reputable” ecstasy brands... Yin-yang pills containing only MDE. — Gareth Thomas, This is Ecstasy 2002

yo; Yolanda noun
in craps, a roll of eleven US, 1999
• — Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999

yoke noun
a tablet of MDMA, the recreational drug best known as ecstasy IRELAND, 1998
This usage is an extension of the Hiberno-English use of the term for ‘something whose name does not spring immediately to mind’.
A male voice asked the Garda for some "yokes" – which he took to mean the supply of ecstasy tablets. — Irish Times 9th May 1998

**yum-yums** noun
any illegal drug in capsule form **US, 1980**

Z
noun
an ounce of narcotics US, 1975
- We’re buying a Z for a thousand dollars. — Kenneth Lonergan, This is Our Youth 2000

zig-zag noun
cigarette rolling papers US, 1968
A brand name that acquired a generic meaning.
- — Edward R. Bloomquist, Marijuana 1968

zinger noun
an amphetamine tablet US, 1993
- — Peter Johnson, Dictionary of Street Alcohol and Drug Terms 1993

zipper ripper noun
in craps, a roll of ten US, 1999
Evolved from the more common BIG DICK (a roll of ten).
- — Chris Fagans and David Guzman, A Guide to Craps Lingo 1999

zombie noun
in poker, an expert player who shows no emotion, no matter how good or bad his hand is US, 1979

zonk; zonk out verb
to fall asleep, especially as a result of drugs or drink US, 1970
- Once we got up to my room, he zonked out in my bed. — Amy Sohn, Run Catch Kiss 1999

zonked noun
the recreational drug GHB US, 2000
- Liquid X, Grievous Bodily Harm, Easy Lay, Georgia Home Boy, Soap, Cherry Meth, Nature’s Quaalude and Zonked are just a few. — Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle 16th April 2000

zonked; zonked out adjective
intoxicated on a drug, especially marijuana; drunk US, 1958
- You must be zonked out completely. — Terry Southern, Flash and Filigree 1958

zook noun
a marijuana and tobacco cigarette; may also contain crack cocaine UK, 2000
- “D’you puff?” I said, holding the zook out to her. — Diran Adebayo, My Once Upon a Time 2000

zoom noun
marijuana laced with phencyclidine, the recreational drug known as PCP or angel dust US, 1982
- — Richard A. Spears, The Slang and Jargon of Drugs and Drink 1986

zoot noun
a marijuana cigarette UK, 1996
- — Angela Devlin, Prison Patter 1996

zuke noun
in American casinos, a gratuity US, 1985
- — Steve Kuriscak, Casino Talk 1985

Zulu noun
a large marijuana cigarette US, 1973
- While standing at the rear of the hotel taking long pulls on the Zulu, a car pulled up with New York tags on it. — A.S. Jackson, Gentleman Pimp 1973