

AUDITION & PERFORMANCE RESEARCH INFO

As actors, we must do great amounts of research to prepare for auditions/to create characters that are realistic and fit the given script setting. Contrary to popular opinion, actors spend much of their prep-time learning about history, language, dialect, culture, literature and psychology. When entering an audition, one must know these elements, as well as having already begun building characters. Keep in mind, actors are often asked to alter voice, posture and even character choices during an audition. You will be pushed to play openly with other actors and to take big risks! As this production is interactive, much of the audition (and performance) will be improvised.

DO YOUR RESEARCH! Here is a short list of films, documentaries and television shows that depict the roaring 20's, including mafia, bootlegging, pop culture and popular slang. There are many, many more not listed here. Please check with parents before watching these, as the content (even in a documentary) is strongly themed with gambling, drinking and violence, as well as how life changed for women, children and the American dream/culture. Most listed here are PG or PG-13. The Godfather 2 is rated R. Many documentaries are available via hulu, youtube and Netflix (among many other streaming sites). Check out films FROM the 1920's, as well. The better we know the history, the better we will be able to create that "world" for our audience. Remember: we want to transport the audience back in time. This takes WORK! You may also find you appreciate many of our modern privileges and civil rights after learning about this time in history. Even more important, you may find you appreciate your grandparents and great-grandparents much more, too!

- **SOME LIKE IT HOT (COMEDY; 1959; NR; themes include some bootlegging, murder, smoking, drinking)** This is a hilarious film (one of my all-time favorites!) and is rated one of the top ten comedies of all time (and yes, it IS in black and white). I HIGHLY RECOMMEND WATCHING THIS FOR INSPIRATION (or for fun)!!! Synopsis: *After witnessing a Mafia murder, slick saxophone player Joe (Tony Curtis) and his long-suffering buddy, Jerry (Jack Lemmon), improvise a quick plan to escape from Chicago with their lives. Disguising themselves as women, they join an all-female jazz band and hop a train bound for sunny Florida. While Joe pretends to be a millionaire to win the band's sexy singer, Sugar (Marilyn Monroe), Jerry finds himself pursued by a real millionaire (Joe E. Brown) as things heat up and the mobsters close in. Set in 1929.*
- **THE GREAT GATSBY (DRAMA; PG-13p; includes some violent images, sexual content, smoking, partying and brief language)** Synopsis: *Midwest native Nick Carraway (Tobey Maguire) arrives in 1922 New York in search of the American dream. Nick, a would-be writer, moves in next-door to millionaire Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio) and across the bay from his cousin Daisy (Carey Mulligan) and her philandering husband, Tom (Joel Edgerton). Thus, Nick becomes drawn into the captivating world of the wealthy and -- as he bears witness to their illusions and deceits -- pens a tale of impossible love, dreams, and tragedy.*
- **THE DROWSY CHAPERONE (COMEDY/MUSICAL; NR)** The story concerns a middle-aged, asocial musical theatre fan. As he plays the record of his favorite musical, the fictional 1928 hit *The Drowsy Chaperone*, the show comes to life onstage, as he wryly comments on the music, story, and actors. (great dancing and music in this comical story!)
- **ANNIE (COMEDY/DRAMA/MUSICAL; PG; drinking, smoking, mild violence)** *The film/musical is set in 1933, but the original Orphan Annie story began in 1924. The culture, slang and setting of the film work well for our production.* Synopsis: *An orphan in a facility run by the mean Miss Hannigan, Annie believes that her parents left her there by mistake. When a rich man named Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks decides to let an orphan live at his home to promote his image, Annie is selected. While Annie gets accustomed to living in Warbucks' mansion, she still longs to meet her parents. So Warbucks announces a search for them and a reward, which brings out many frauds.*
- **MISS FISHER'S MURDER MYSTERIES (MYSTERY; PG-13; murder mystery television series set in the 1920's includes drinking, smoking, murder...FYI, the costumes in this series are amazing examples of roaring 20's attire)** Synopsis: *Fledgling detective Phryne Fisher is known for her sharp wit and pearl-handled pistol, which she uses to fight injustice in Melbourne during the 1920s. The glamorous sleuth makes her way through the city's alleyways and jazz clubs while she fights crime as part of a larger mission -- making sure that Murdoch*

Foyle, who she believes is responsible for the disappearance of her younger sister, stays behind bars. She fights for justice for people who can't help themselves, including exploited workers and missing girls.

- **FRANKIE DRAKE MYSTERIES (MYSTERY; NR, PBS/OVATION TV SERIES)** Synopsis: This drama series, set in stylish 1920s Toronto, follows the female-only agency Drake Private Detectives, led by the eponymous Frankie Drake and her partner Trudy Clarke. Incorporating a brand of justice that doesn't always follow the law, Frankie and Trudy investigate mysteries and crimes that either the police refuse to take on, or that their clients cannot take to the police at all. Against a backdrop of social change, radical politics and jazz music, the series is immersed in both the real Toronto of the 1920s and the world of mystery and suspense.
- **MIDNIGHT IN PARIS (COMEDY/MELODRAMA; PG-13; some sexual references and drinking/smoking; my 14 year old liked this film, though it deals with the adult themes of marriage/career)** Synopsis: Gil Pender (Owen Wilson) is a screenwriter and aspiring novelist. Vacationing in Paris with his fiancée (Rachel McAdams), he has taken to touring the city alone. On one such late-night excursion, Gil encounters a group of strange -- yet familiar -- revelers, who sweep him along, apparently back in time, for a night with some of the Jazz Age's icons of art and literature. The more time Gil spends with these cultural heroes of the past, the more dissatisfied he becomes with the present.
- **THE GODFATHER 2 (CRIME DRAMA; R rated for violence; is set in both the 1920s and the 1950s) For those who have not seen it, here is what common sense media has to say:** Parents need to know that while this is a cinematic masterpiece, the themes and events of this film may not be suitable for young teens. Graphic violence (murders are not unnecessarily gory or lengthy, but their startling abruptness and the expressions of horror on the victims' faces make these images strong. The violence always has gravity and is not gratuitous), in this film is interspersed with long discussions about mafia strategy and the organization of the family. Example: In the opening scene, a mother begs the local don to spare her only son's life at her husband's funeral. The son/mother are shot soon after. Synopsis: The compelling sequel to "The Godfather," contrasting the life of Corleone father and son. Traces the problems of Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) in 1958 and that of a young immigrant Vito Corleone (Robert De Niro) in 1917's Hell's Kitchen. Michael survives many misfortunes and Vito is introduced to a life of crime.
- **DOWNTON ABBEY (DRAMA; seasons 3-6, as they are set during the changes of post WW1/jazz age in England)** I added this as there are a few scenes set in clubs and speakeasies, as well as a look at how culture was changing drastically around the world (especially for women).

DOCUMENTARIES:

- **PROHIBITION (a documentary by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick (Originally a 6 part series documentary aired on PBS, includes the two episodes "a nation of hypocrites" and "a nation of scofflaws"))** Synopsis: The story of the American activist struggle against the influence of alcohol, climaxing in the failed early 20th century nationwide era when it was banned.
- **HISTORY'S MYSTERIES: (TV Series documentary) 1920's Episodes include:- Born Killers: Leopold and Loeb (2006), The Legacy of Al Capone (2006), Five Points Gangs (1998)**
- **1920's: THE JAZZ AGE (documentary)**
- **THE ROARING 20's Documentary, A WORLD HISTORY PROJECT (youtube)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ud_xU3wit-8
- **TO LIVE IN THE 1920's: a video/photo documentary with great footage!**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=684n8FO68LU>
- **AMERICA IN COLOR: THE 1920's (Smithsonian Documentary series)**
<https://www.smithsonianchannel.com/shows/america-in-color/the-1920s/1004516/3437453>
- **THERE ARE MANY, MANY OTHER DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT THE JAZZ AGE, PROHIBITION, AL CAPONE, and more!!! Here is a link to a UC Berkeley Page that lists many wonderful documentaries about the era with various focus (for ex., women's rights/the modern woman, boom to bust, prohibition, the coming depression, WW1-WW2, etc.)** <https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/mrcvault/videographies/genre/documentaries-1920s>

RESEARCH/GET TO KNOW SOME OF THE REAL STARS OF THE ROARING 20's and THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **RUDOLPH VALENTINO** – Heart throb and famous actor
- **HARRY HOUDINI** – Famous illusionist and escape artist (Handcuff Houdini)
- **F. SCOTT FITZGERALD** -- Self-proclaimed "Flapper King" & Author of *The Great Gatsby*
- **CLARA BOW** – The "IT GIRL"; famous actor who made the difficult transition from silent to "talkies"
- **GRETA GARBO** – Actor and Hollywood Icon
- **CHARLIE CHAPLAN**-- "The most famous person who ever lived" (at least in the 1920s)
- **JACK DEMPSEY** --Boxer
- **BABE RUTH**-- Baseball Player and unofficial King of New York
- **BUSTER KEATON** – Actor and comedian; known for his amazing and daring stunts
- **AL JOLSON**-- Entertainer and Movie Star
- **LOUIS ARMSTRONG** –Musician and actor; still popular today!
- **JOSEPHINE BAKER** ---- Entertainer, "The most famous woman in the world" (at least in the 1920s)
- **CHARLES LINDBERG**-- Famous Aviator and adventurer
- **ALBERT EINSTEIN** –Famous Scientist
- **AMELIA EARHART** – American aviation pioneer and author; first female to fly across the Atlantic Ocean; disappeared trying to circumvent the earth at the equator; spy
- **COCO CHANEL**--Celebrity Fashion Designer
- **DUKE ELLINGTON** -- Musician and band leader at "The Cotton Club"
- **WALT DISNEY** – Animator and Entrepreneur

WATCH FILMS MADE IN THE 1920's

Examples:

- *The Kid*
- *Steamboat Willie*
- *Steamboat Bill Jr.*
- *The Speedy*
- *The Jazz Singer*
- *Safety Last*
- *Sherlock Jr.*
- *The Mark of Zorro*
- ...AND MANY, MANY MORE! GOOGLE 1920's films and dive in! Some of the physical work is really amazing during this era, as films were silent at the start of the decade and the emotions of characters had to be "shown" rather than "said". All stunts were real (no CGI) and performed by the actors themselves (Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplan)!

20's Gangster Slang/Popular Slang

Do you have the [moxie](#) to learn a little 20s gangster slang? They were called the roaring 20s because the jazz age was a fast time when juice joints were filled with molls and gold diggers in glad rags. So quit lollygagging and get started speaking like a 20s gangster. Whether you're planning a [flapper](#) party, want to get more out of old gangster movies, or are just up for a laugh, 20s gangster slang will make you the niftiest sheik or Sheba at the speakeasy.

Popular 20s Slang

The slang of the 20s, like the slang of any generation, was conceived in the hives of counter-culture. It wasn't so much a code to keep the police in the dark, as many movies and legends would have you believe, but a special code among those who wanted to appear as insiders.

Some of the most popular slang words of the 20s included:

- Babe, Bim, Broad, Doll or Dame - A woman
- Moll - A gangster's girlfriend
- Bearcat - A fiery woman
- Dumb Dora - A stupid woman
- Sheba - A woman with sex appeal
- Stool-pigeon - A person who informs the police
- Peaching - Informing
- Finger - Identify
- Bulls - Plainclothes police
- Gum-shoe - Detective
- Copper - Policeman
- Bracelets - Handcuffs
- Big House or Can - Jail or prison
- In Stir - In jail
- Blow - Leave
- Bop, Bump or Clip - To kill
- Chopper Squad - Guys with machine guns
- Pack Heat - Carry a gun
- Goon - Thug
- Grifter - Con man
- Meat Wagon - Ambulance
- Chicago Overcoat - A coffin
- Big Sleep - Death
- Bean-shooter or Gat - A gun
- Packing Heat - Carrying a gun
- Can-opener - Safecracker
- Glomming - Stealing
- Bent - Stolen
- Cabbage or Scratch - Money
- Ice - Diamonds
- Boiler or Bucket - A car
- Cake-eater - A lady's man
- Dewdropper - Unemployed man who spends his days sleeping
- Shylock - A loanshark
- Sheik - An attractive man
- Bangtail - Racehorse

More About Gangster Slang/Jazz age slang

In the 20s, no one was more [counterculture](#) than gangsters. Gangsters were off-color, played by their own rules, and didn't give a hoot about what anyone thought of them, (i.e., everything your parents didn't want you to be.)

Even though everybody knows that 20s mobsters often acted like monsters, there's something charming about the seedy [underbelly](#) of the jazz age. The slang of that time is infused with nostalgia, that thing that gives people the notion of a better time.

When one hears the slang of times long gone, it's easy to forget that alcohol was illegal and unsafe, that corruption in government ran rampant, and that minorities and immigrants were more marginalized than ever.

What seemed dirty or off-color a hundred years ago seems rather tame by today's standards. Using the slang of yore can add character and charm to your [idiolect](#) and make the obscene less so. BELOW IS A MORE DETAILED DICTIONARY OF SLANG FROM THE ROARING 20's

A ROARING 20's DICTIONARY

A

Alderman: A man's pot-belly.

Ameche: Telephone

Ankle: (n) Woman; (v) To walk

B

Babe: Woman

Baby: A person, can be said to either a man or a woman

Bangtails: Racehorses

Barber: Talk

Be on the nut: To be broke

Bean-shooter: Gun

Beef: Problem

Bee's Knees: An extraordinary person, thing or idea.

Beezer: Nose

Behind the eight ball: In a difficult position, in a tight spot

Bent Cars: Stolen cars

Big Cheese, Big Shot - The boss: Someone of importance and influence

Big House: Jail

Big One: Death

Big Sleep: Death

Bim: Woman

Bindle: the bundle in which a hobo carries all his worldly possessions

Bindle punk or bindle stiff: Chronic wanderers, migratory harvest workers, and lumber jacks.

Bing: Jailhouse talk for solitary confinement

Bird: Man

Bit: Prison sentence

Blip off: To kill

Blow: Leave

Blow one down: Kill someone

Blower: Telephone

Bluenose: A prude.

Bo: Pal, buster, fellow.

Boiler: Car

Boob: Dumb guy

Boozehound: Drunkard

Bop: To kill

Box: A safe or a bar

Box job: A safecracking

Brace (somebody): Grab, shake up

Bracelets: Handcuffs

Break it up: Stop that, quit the nonsense

Breeze: To leave, breeze off: get lost

Broad: Woman

Bruno: Tough guy, enforcer

Bucket: Car

Bulge, The: The advantage

Bulls: Plainclothes railroad cops; uniformed police; prison guards

Bum's rush, To get the: To be kicked out

Bump: Kill

Bump Gums: To talk about nothing worthwhile

Bump off: Kill; also, bump-off: a killing

Burn powder: Fire a gun

Bus: Big car

Butter and egg man: The money man, the man with the bankroll, a yokel who comes to town to blow a big wad in nightclubs

Button: Face, nose, end of jaw

Button man: Professional killer

Buttons: Police

Butts: Cigarettes

Buzz: Looks person up, comes to persons door

Buzzer: Policeman's badge

C

C: \$100, a pair of Cs = \$200
Cabbage: Money
Caboose: Jail
Call copper: Inform the police
Can: Jail, Car
Can house: Bordello
Can-opener: Safecracker who opens cheap safes
Canary: Woman singer
Carry a Torch: Suffering from an unrequited love.
Case dough: Nest egg
Cat: Man
Cat's Meow: Something splendid or stylish
Cat's Pajamas: term of endearment as in "I think you are really really cool".
Century: \$100
Cheaters: Sunglasses
Cheese it: Put things away, hide
Chew: Eat
Chicago lightning: gunfire
Chicago overcoat: Coffin
Chick/Chickie: Woman
Chilled off: Killed
Chin: Conversation; chinning: talking
Chin music: Punch on the jaw
Chinese squeeze: Grafting by skimming profits off the top
Chippy: Woman of easy virtue
Chisel: To swindle or cheat
Chiv: Knife, "a stabbing or cutting weapon"
Chopper squad: Men with machine guns
Chump: person marked for a con or a gullible person.
Clammed: Close-mouthed (clammed up)
Clean sneak: An escape with no clues left behind
Clip joint: In some cases, a nightclub where the

prices are high and the patrons are fleeced

Clipped: Shot
Close your head: Shut up
Clout: Shoplifter
Clubhouse: Police station
Con: Confidence game, swindle
Conk: Head
Cool: To knock out
Cooler: Jail
Cop: Detective, even a private one
Copped, to be: Grabbed by the cops
Copper: Policeman
Corn: Bourbon ("corn liquor")
Crab: Figure out
Crate: Car
Croak: To kill
Croaker: Doctor
Crush: An infatuation.
Crushed out: Escaped (from jail)
Cut down: Killed

D

Daisy: None too masculine
Dame: Woman
Dance: To be hanged
Dangle: Leave, get lost
Daylight, as in "fill him with daylight": Put a hole in, by shooting or stabbing
Deck, as in "deck of Luckies": Pack of cigarettes
Derrick: Shoplifter
Dib: Share (of the proceeds)
Dick: Detective (usually qualified with "private" if not a policeman)
Dingus: Thing
Dip: Pickpocket
Dip the bill: Have a drink
Dish: Pretty woman

Dive: A low-down, cheap sort of place
Dizzy with a dame, To be: To be deeply in love with a woman
Do the dance: To be hanged
Dogs: Feet
Dope fiend: Drug addict
Dope peddler: Drug dealer
Dough: Money
Drift: Go, leave
Drill: Shoot
Drop a dime: Make a phone call, sometimes meaning to the police to inform on someone
Droppers: Hired killers
Drum: Speakeasy
Dry-gulch: Knock out, hit on head after ambushing
Duck soup: Easy, a piece of cake
Dummerer: Someone who pretends to be deaf and/or dumb to appear a more deserving beggar
Dump: Roadhouse, club; or, more generally, any place
Dust out: Leave, depart

E

Egg: Man
Electric cure: Electrocutation
Elephant ears: Police

F

Fade: Go away, get lost
Fakeloo artist: Con man
Fella: a man
Fin: \$5 bill
Finder: Finger man
Finger, Put the finger on: Identify
Flaming Youth: Male counterpart to a flapper.
Flapper: A stylish, brash young woman with short skirts and shorter hair.

Flat Tire: A dull-witted or disappointing date.
Flattie: Flatfoot, cop
Flimflam: Swindle
Flippers: Hands
Flivver: A Ford automobile
Flogger: Overcoat
Flop: Go to bed or fallen through, not worked out
Flophouse: A cheap transient hotel where a lot of men sleep in large rooms
Fog: To shoot
Frail: Woman
Frau: Wife
Fry: To be electrocuted
Fuzz: police

G

Gal: Woman
Gams: A Woman's Legs
Gasper: Cigarette
Gat: Gun
Get Sore: Get mad
Getaway sticks: Legs
Giggle juice: Liquor
Giggle Water: Liquor
Gin mill: Bar
Glad rags: Fancy clothes
Glaum: Steal
Goofy: Crazy
Goog: Black eye
Goon: Thug
Gooseberry lay: Stealing clothes from a clothesline
Gowed-up: On dope, high
Grab (a little) air: Put your hands up
Graft: Con jobs or cut of the take
Grand: \$1000
Grift: Confidence game, swindle
Grifter: Con man

Grilled: Questioned
Gumshoe: Detective
Gumshoeing: Detective work
Gun for: Look for, be after
Guns: Pickpockets, Hoodlums
Guy: a man

H

Hack: Taxi
Half, a: 50 cents
Hard: Tough
Harlem Sunset: Some sort fatal injury caused by knife
Hash House: A cheap restaurant
Hatchet men: Killers, gunmen
Have the Bees: To be rich
Head doctors: Psychiatrists
Heap: Car
Heat: Police
Heater: gun
Heebie-Jeebies: The jitters.
Heeled: Carrying a gun
High-Hat: To snub.
High Pillow: Person at the top, in charge
Highbinders: Corrupt politician or functionary
Hinky: Suspicious
Hitting the pipe: Smoking opium
Hitting on all eight: In good shape, going well
Hock shop: Pawnshop
Hogs: Engines
Hombre: Man, fellow
Hooch: Liquor
Hood: Criminal
Hooper: Dancer.
Hoosegow: Jail
Horn: Telephone
Hot: Stolen

Hotsy-Totsy: Pleasing.
House dick: House/hotel detective
House peeper: House/hotel detective
Hype: Shortchange artist

I

Ice : Diamonds
Ing-bing, as in to throw an: A fit
Iron: A car

J

Jack: Money
Jalopy: An old car.
Jam: Trouble, a tight spot
Jane: A woman
Java: Coffee
Jaw: Talk
Jerking a nod: Nodding
Jingle-brained: Addled
Jobbie: Man
Joe: Coffee, as in "a cup of joe"
Johns: Police
Johnson brother: Criminal
Joint: Place, as in "my joint"
Juice: Interest on a loan shark's loan
Jug: Jail
Jump, The: A hanging

K

Kale: Money
Keen: Attractive or appealing.
Kick off: Die
Kiss: To punch
Kisser: Mouth
Kitten: Woman
Knock off: Kill

L

Lammed off: Ran away, escaped
Large: \$1,000; twenty large would be \$20,000
Law, the: The police
Lead: "fill ya full of lead": the term used for bullets
Lead poisoning: To be shot
Lettuce: Folding money
Lid: Hat
Line: Insincere flattery.
Lip: (Criminal) lawyer
Looker: Pretty woman
Look-out: Outside man
Lousy with: To have lots of

M

Mac: a man
Made: Recognized
Map: Face
Marbles: Pearls
Mark: Sucker, victim of swindle or fixed game
Maroon: person marked for a con or a gullible person.
Meat wagon: Ambulance
Mickey Finn: A drink drugged with knock-out drops (mentioned in *Annie*)
Mill: Typewriter
Mitt: Hand
Mob: Gang (not necessarily Mafia)
Mohaska: Gun
Moll: Girlfriend
Monicker: Name
Mouthpiece: Lawyer
Mugs: Men (especially refers to dumb ones)

N

Nailed: Caught by the police
Nevada gas: Cyanide

Newshawk: Reporter
Newsie: Newspaper vendor
Nibble one: To have a drink
Nicked: Stole
Nippers: Handcuffs
Noodle: Head
Number: A person

O

Off the track: said about a person who becomes insanely violent
Op: Detective
Orphan paper: Bad checks
Out on the roof: To drink a lot, to be drunk
Oyster fruit: Pearls

P

Packing Heat: carrying a gun
Pal: a man
Palooka: Man, probably not very smart
Pan: Face
Paste: Punch
Patsy: Person who is set up; fool, chump
Paw: Hand
Peaching: Informing
Peeper: Detective
Peepers: Eyes
Pen: Penitentiary, jail
Peterman: Safecracker who uses nitroglycerin
Piece: Gun
Pigeon: Stool-pigeon
Pinch: An arrest, capture
Pins: Legs
Pipe: See or notice
Pipes: Throat
Plant: Someone on the scene but in hiding, Bury
Plug: Shoot

Plugs: People

Poke: Bankroll, stake

Pooped: Killed

Pop: Kill

Pro skirt: Prostitute

Puffing: Mugging

Pug: Pugilist, boxer

Pump: Heart

Pump metal: Shoot bullets

Punk: Hood, thug

Pushover: A person easily convinced of something.

Puss: Face

Put down: Drink

Put the screws on: Question, get tough with

R

Rags: Clothes

Ranked: Observed, watched, given the once-over

Rap: Criminal charge

Rappers: Fakes, set-ups

Rat: Inform

Rate: To be good, to count for something

Rats and mice: Dice, i.e. craps

Rattler: Train

Red-light: To eject from a car or train

Redhot: Some sort of criminal

Reefers: Marijuana cigarettes

Rhino: Money

Right: Adjective indicating quality

Ringers: Fakes

Ritzzy: Elegant.

Rod: Gun

Roscoe: Gun

Rub-out: A killing

Rube: Bumpkin, easy mark

Rumble, the: The news

S

Sap: A dumb guy

Sap poison: Getting hit with a sap

Savvy: Get me? Understand?

Sawbuck: \$10 bill (a double sawbuck is a \$20 bill)

Schnozzle: Nose

Scram out: Leave

Scratch: Money

Scratcher: Forger

Send over: Send to jail

Shamus: (Private) detective

Sharper: A swindler or sneaky person

Sheba: A woman with sex appeal

Sheik: A man with sex appeal

Shells: Bullets

Shiv: Knife

Shylock: Loan shark

Shyster: Lawyer

Sing: Make a confession

Sister: Woman

Skate around: To be of easy virtue

Skid rogue: A bum who can't be trusted

Skirt: Woman

Slant, Get a: Take a look

Sleuth: Detective

Slug: a bullet or to knock unconscious

Smoked: Drunk

Snap a cap: Shout

Snatch: Kidnap

Sneeze: Take

Snitch: An informer, or to inform

Snooper: Detective

Speakeasy: An illicit bar selling bootleg liquor.

Spiffy: Looking elegant

Soak: To pawn

Sock: Punch

Soup: Nitroglycerine
Soup job: To crack a safe using nitroglycerine
Spill: Talk, inform
Spinach: Money
Spitting: Talking
Square: Honest
Squeeze: a female companion or girlfriend.
Squirt metal: Shoot bullets
Step off: To be hanged
Stiff: A corpse
Sting: Culmination of a con game
Stool-pigeon: Informer
Stoolie: Stool-pigeon
Stuck On: Having a crush on
Sucker: Someone ripe for a grifter's scam
Sugar: Money
Swanky: Ritzy
Swell: Wonderful

T

Tail: Shadow or follow
Take a powder: Leave
Take on: Eat
Take for a Ride: Drive off with someone in order to bump them off
Take the air: Leave
Take the bounce: To get kicked out
Take the fall for: Accept punishment for
That's the crop: That's all of it
Three-spot: Three-year jail term
Throw lead: Shoot bullets
Ticket: P.I. license
Tiger milk: Some sort of liquor
Tighten the screws: Put pressure on somebody
Tin: Badge
Tip a few: To have a few drinks
Tomato: Pretty woman

Tooting the wrong ringer: Asking the wrong person
Torpedoes: Gunmen
Trap: Mouth
Trigger man: Man whose job is to use a gun
Trouble boys: Gangsters
Twist: Woman
Two bits: \$25, or 25 cents

U

Under glass: In jail

W

Weak sister: A push-over
Wear iron: Carry a gun
Wise head: A smart person
Wooden kimono: A coffin
Wop: derogatory term for an Italian
Worker: as in "She sizes up as a worker": A woman who takes a guy for his money
Wrong gee: Not a good fellow
Wrong number: Not a good fellow

Y

Ya Follow: do you understand?
Yap: Mouth
Yard: \$100
Yegg: Safecracker who can only open cheap and easy safes

Z

Zotzed: Killed